



Photo courtesy of Opinion Editor Erika Spargo.

500 Building Mural Showcases Artistic Diversity

OPINION EDITOR ERIKA SPARGO

During November of 2021, Digital Media and Design teacher and current CTE Department head Zachary Roper’s Advanced Graphic Design students at San Luis Obispo High School had the opportunity to make our school’s campus more colorful.

Coordinated by Roper, they used vibrant paint all along the inside of the hallway surrounding rooms 505, 506, and 507 to create a mural.

“We started the mural the week before Thanksgiving and worked on it for an hour every day, with some finishing touches the week we returned. Since the trimester ended, there are a few students who have moved on from the class, so we’re planning on finishing their panels very soon. Hopefully the whole thing will be done in early January,” said Roper.

The mural’s intricate and beautiful display makes it clear that the students who put their time into making it really paid attention to detail. In the mural, you can see unique art styles from different individuals and the parts that every student played in the creation of it. The mural reads, “Creativity is intelli-

gence having fun”.

The message is a famous quote by Albert Einstein.

“I love this quote because we often have a very narrow understanding of what makes someone intelligent. But some of the most intelligent people I’ve known and admired in my life have been the super creative ones— the artists, musicians, writers, and creators who are constantly looking at the world and trying to make sense of it with their art. I wanted to celebrate how fun that process is with the message of this mural,” said Roper.

The creation of this mural served as a mentally freeing activity for the students who participated in it as well.

“I really enjoyed working on this project. It was kind of stressful because we were in a bit of a time crunch but I liked it because it was a nice break from the usual graphic design stuff we work on, which is very digitally based,” said senior Linnaea Marks.

Roper agrees that the project gave his students an opportunity to have a deviation from the usually

computer-centered class.

“I love making digital art but there’s something so different about wet paint brushes and making lines by hand, and even though they were a bit reluctant when we started, I think they grew to like the process more and more as we worked on it,” said Roper.

Despite Measure D and inconveniences like the temporary hallway, Roper’s class made it an overall enjoyable experience.

“I think it’s a really inventive idea to take something that can be difficult or disadvantageous to some students, like the construction around school, and making it into something beautiful and diverse, with different colors, patterns, and designs made by the students. The students are the reason why the school is here in the first place, so it’s a great thing to have around campus,” said freshman Riley O’Connor.

When the weather clears and construction is over, the hallway will be taken down. Roper hopes to take the artwork to the SLO Farmers Market downtown and set it up on display for the public to enjoy.

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NEWS

EDITOR: OWEN SPARGO



The architectural plan for the construction you walk by daily. Photo courtesy of Assistant Principal Nathan Meinert.

What's Happening with the Measure D Construction on Campus?

REPORTER ELLIOT CHEN

The San Luis Obispo High School construction, currently happening next to the science and history building and the renovation of Holt Field, is part of San Luis Obispo Bond Measure D. Measure D was proposed 7 years ago in 2014, and allowed the San Luis Coastal Unified School District \$177 million in general obligation bonds. The project is stated to improve education by renovating classrooms and other facilities.

The construction on Holt Field began in the spring of 2021, and the estimated finish date is early summer of this year. The building next to science and history began in the spring of 2020. The estimated finish date for this project is January of 2023.

So far, the new Holt Field has made some very noticeable progress with bleachers and announcement box already completed. The new field will host events like track, football, soccer, and rallies.

Recently, the inner track and then outer track has also been laid, an upgrade from dirt to rubber. As for the building next to the 100's, progress is slower due to the size of the project.

The new building containing the library and cafeteria will be divided into two wings: the central wing, and the left wing, which will be where the old science building is.

According to Principal Rollin Dickinson, the second story of the middle wing will have "some classrooms including the multimedia labs." The first story of the middle wing is planned to have a "kitchen, cafeteria, and student commons." The library will be in the left wing of the building.

The new cafeteria will provide students with a more accessible place to eat their lunch. Students will no longer have to go off-campus every day, or eat in their cars or classrooms. The new cafeteria

will also replace the current one which will be a very large change, as the current cafeteria is a small portable that is usually overcrowded during break and lunch.

The new library will be a major upgrade from the current library, and will be in the left wing of the new building. The current library is only limited to one room which is somewhat crowded, whereas the new library will be much larger and spacious. It is even planned to have private study rooms.

The renovations coming to both the track and the new building will benefit San Luis Obispo High School students greatly. Though the construction may be distracting to classrooms in close proximity, the final result is promised to further advance students' education.

Be sure to check out the new building and new track when they open!

Do Students Like the Music Played at Lunch?

REPORTER HUDSON JONES

Many San Luis Obispo High School students are beginning to question the practicality of the speakers in their school's quad.

The quad is the center of SLOHS. Nearly every student walks through it at least once a day, and groups of students gather there during breaks. Facing the open quad is an active sound system.

"The speakers do the announcements, play music in the morning and at lunch for students because ASB wants students to enjoy our school," said ASB member and senior Andrew Nguyen.

Playing music at lunch successfully increases student enjoyment.

"Students can request the songs that they really want to play," said Nguyen. "Unless they request,

we play the music [on our] own. We have [our] own playlists on apps like Apple Music or Spotify."

Students can affect what song is played, but can't affect how the song is played. Music must be played loudly to make it audible at a far distance, but it can result in excessive volume within close proximity of the speaker. "The purpose of the speakers is to liven up the campus, and it works well," said junior Shannon Williams. "I just really wish it were quieter so I could hear better."

The music can be appreciated by a lot of people, but a majority of students don't consider selected songs to be better than passable. Passable songs can become worse than silence when exceedingly loud.

"I am very opposed to them," said senior Ben Var-

ni. "The speakers are uncomfortably loud."

The playlists and songs put through the system have to be monitored for explicit content. "If we hear [a] song that has an issue, we change [the song] immediately," said Nguyen. "We don't want to hear that in our [educational] atmosphere."

The speakers have been used for many years. The music playing may be generic or too loud, but it serves its purpose. Students need to hear announcements and any music playing is better than silence.

"The first time when we look at... Mr. Johnson's instruction, it's very complicated," said Nguyen. "But if you do it many times... it's not complicated." It's better to fix the current system people are used to than to enact a new one.

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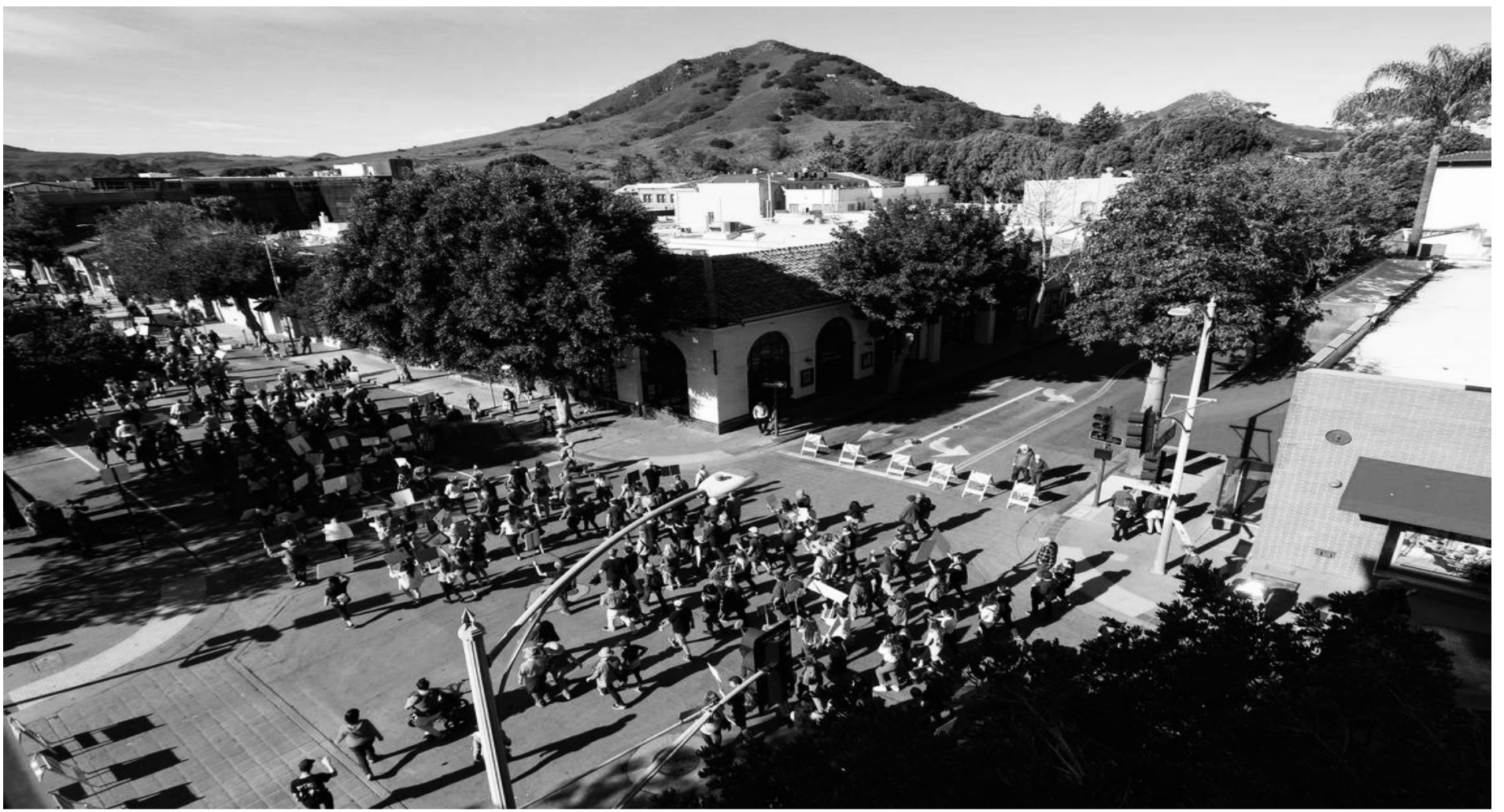
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2019 Women's march in downtown SLO. Photo courtesy of San Luis Obispo Tribune.

Women's March SLO Plans to March Towards Justice on January 22

OPINION EDITOR ERIKA SPARGO

With the recent uptick in discussion at San Luis Obispo High School surrounding women's rights and intersectional feminism, now more than ever, allies are looking to express their support for people who fall victim to such social and systemic issues.

"Although California is less likely to threaten women's rights to their own bodily autonomy, women all over the country are not afforded this same right. We must stand up for them and ourselves. We need all the support we can get in order to ensure that our voices will be heard and our rights will remain," said treasurer of Young Democrats Club and sophomore Alida Laursen.

2021 was an unforgettable year for most women; debate around the Roe v. Wade case and the withdrawal of reproductive rights in Texas caused controversy for people everywhere. COVID-19 only worsened violence against women due to the increase in socioeconomic struggles such as unemployment and food insecurity that disproportionately impact their communities.

During March, countless women came forward with their stories of sexual assault and harassment and admitted to being a part of the "97%", despite backlash that started the hashtag "Not All Men."

However, 2021 was also a year of progress.

Vice President Kamala Harris became the first wo-

man and non-white person to serve as vice president. Dr. Rachel Levine, four-star officer in the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, and Delaware state senator Sarah McBride both became the first openly transgender women to serve in such positions.

Women's March SLO plans to bring attention to women's issues and accomplishments. They will be hosting their fifth annual event on January 22, 2022. There will be a rally from 1:00 to 3:00 pm and a Call to Action Alley from 12:00 to 4:00 pm.

This is a family friendly event with current Cal Poly student DJ Felly Fell, performers, local nonprofit organizations, leaders of our community, and guest speakers.

This year's guest speaker list includes the following: SLO Mayor Erica Stewart, poet Dian Sousa, Northern Chumash Tribe member Wendy Lucas, Planned Parenthood Generation Action activist Gracie Elder, GALA Pride and Diversity Center coordinator Serrina Ruggles, and more.

"There's usually a lot of diversity within the guest speakers, and a lot of people with different experiences. For intersectionality, it's making people feel safe, making people feel seen, especially in a place like SLO that's so white. It's hard to see that and have women of color speak about their experiences," said

president of Young Democrats Club and senior Lil Daane.

The Call to Action Rally will focus on nonprofit organizations that hope to present ways in which people can get more involved in improving their community. These organizations include Allies for Immigration Justice SLO County, Tranz Central Coast, Peace Academy of the Sciences and Arts, SLO Legal Assistance Foundation, and more.

"Women's marches are usually huge, so it's just good to get more and more people every year. They've been getting bigger progressively, so as many people that want to show up, that'd be amazing," said Daane.

The fourth annual event, hosted last year during January of 2021, was virtual due to COVID-19 protocols and restrictions. However, this year's event will be in-person and outdoors in order to create a safer environment.

"The aspect of gender, race, and socioeconomic status all intersect. If this right of women can be revoked, what other rights can be taken from us? Where will it end? To show our solidarity with the women in Texas and women all over the country who have not been given a choice, we stand with the Women's March," said Laursen.

Come to Mitchell Park on January 22 and support their fight for justice!

How Do SLOHS Students View a Future COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate?

REPORTER OWEN BLACKWELL

As California's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for schools comes into effect this coming fall, other school districts in California have already imposed their own mandates. Students at San Luis Obispo High School are wary of the vaccine mandate and the conflict it might cause.

Expressions interviewed juniors Sabrina Slusser, Josiah McCarley, and Erin Garnsey on their views regarding a future COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate.

Expressions: Do you think implementing a COVID-19 vaccine mandate at SLOHS is a good course of action?

Senior Sabrina Slusser: I would, I don't want people to die. We don't want people to get hurt. We just want to keep each other safe and healthy and just look out for each other.

Junior Josiah McCarley: You would not get a positive response from a lot of people, and it could be more trouble than it's worth.

Junior Erin Garnsey: It's downright unconstitutional and takes away your rights and freedoms. It should be a choice for someone to get the vaccine.

Expressions: What do you think is an appropriate response to students who choose to remain unvaccinated?

Slusser: I think unvaccinated students should be doing online school or transfer somewhere else because we don't want more people to get sick. I think there can be some exceptions like, if you have a medical condition. I know that's a very small portion of the population, but it should be a choice for someone to get a vaccine.

McCarley: Technically, you can say it's a choice, but a lot of people don't have the ability to homeschool, or go somewhere else. They need public school, and if you put them in that kind of situation that takes away their free choice.

Garnsey: I don't think anything should happen

especially if they already have had COVID-19 and have antibodies.

Expressions: Do you think the vaccine mandate could have a negative effect on SLOHS students?

Slusser: I think the COVID-19 vaccine mandate will be really difficult. There would probably be a lot of protests, and possibly even riots, but I think that it's for the best that we mandate vaccines just to keep everybody safe.

McCarley: I feel like there'd be a lot of backlash from certain people who feel really strongly about that.

Garnsey: People would just get a fake vaccine card, or a lawyer and sue. A good group of people will protest.

So while most students at SLOHS view the COVID-19 vaccine as a force for good, many are hesitant of a mandate and the backlash from students, and parents it might bring.

Is College Being Pushed On to Students Too Early?

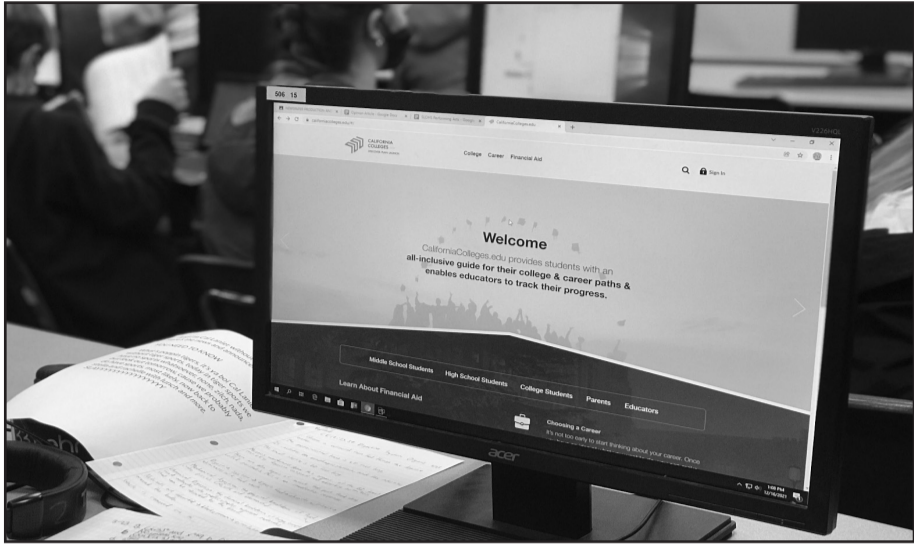


Photo courtesy of reporter and sophomore Maggie McKay

REPORTER MAGGIE MCKAY

College is the talk of the campus here at San Luis Obispo High School. Is it too early for underclassmen to begin looking into colleges?

The information available to students about life after high school can be helpful for those who seek guidance through their junior and senior years. However, students are being taught to begin their college search as early as seventh grade. It isn't until junior year that they begin to apply, if applying at all. Teens shouldn't have that element of stress pushed onto them when they don't need to yet.

In a recent survey by the website "Gallup," results showed that around 2 out of 3 teens in America feel pressured to get into a good college. Various additional surveys have shown that this stress on students can lead to poor academic performance.

"I think it is really good for students to be able to prepare for college as soon as they start high school, but I think pushing the idea of college on kids anytime before that just adds an unnecessary amount of stress and extra work that won't really help in the long run," said sophomore Zoe Elliott.

When kids are in elementary and middle school, life after high school should not be a focus. It is important for young students to be focusing on

their present life, instead of stressing about something so far ahead of them. Not to mention, too much pressure on kids can actually cause them to perform worse in school. The feeling that they need to succeed in everything in order to have a good career after high school is not the best factor regarding mental health and well-being.

"I know in seventh grade it felt far away so I didn't think much of the survey or about the questions," said Laguna Middle School eighth grader Clover Crockett when asked about the website "California Colleges."

Hearing from someone who has already gone through the process of college applications is a good view point to attend to, in order to know if that early preparation is really necessary.

"I think it's really damaging to try and prepare children that early for one of the biggest things in their lives. It creates a culture of high expectations, gifted kid burnout, and overworking oneself. Starting to prepare and decide things that early makes it scary to question them later. Not everyone knows what they want to do that young and with college being so geared around majors, you feel like you have to know exactly what you want when you're twelve," said SLOHS alumnus Maggie Zuniga.

SLOHS Construction Forces Students to Sit in Cars



Photo courtesy of junior Milo Skapinsky

REPORTER MIA CLIFFORD

Students sitting in their parked cars during lunch has become increasingly popular, especially as Measure D construction on campus picks up. Although convenient, this practice heightens our dependence on our cars, and limits the social connections students could be making.

Eating lunch in cars is a common practice shared by many San Luis Obispo High School upperclassmen.

"Because of the construction, there's just not that many places to sit. Everyone ends up sitting in their cars, which isn't really a great option" says junior Charlotte Sawyer.

Lunch should be a time where students can appreciate the food they have and connect with others through shared experiences. Food was not designed to be consumed within inches of the wheel.

Eating lunch in the car represents the epitome of American laziness. Our society has normalized wildly unhealthy habits such as drive-through restaurants and the regular consumption of fast food. Not only does much of the food SLOHS students eat lack essential nutrients, relying on the convenience of personal cars also reduces the quality of a meal beyond its ingredients. Alongside the nutritional benefits of a proper meal, the delivery should be considered.

For upperclassmen, the only available escape from on-campus lunch is sitting in their cars. Going to restaurants frequently is not financially realistic for most students. Freshmen have to stay on campus during lunch and are required to adjust to their surroundings. Sophomores face a similar struggle as many do not have the same access to cars upperclassmen do.

"I don't usually eat lunch on campus because there isn't much seating, especially in shaded areas," says sophomore Kiara Ambrose.

Freshmen do not have the choice to leave campus, and are forced to eat in unpleasant areas. The Measure D construction around school inhibits students' abilities to enjoy lunch where they choose. Lunchtime is an important part of the school day where students are able to share ideas and make social connections over a meal.

While Measure D construction will benefit students in the long term, it lowers the quality of social interactions students make on campus. The construction takes up space, creates noise, dust, and commotion.

San Luis Obispo High School should provide better on-campus lunch areas so students do not have to make the choice between convenience and valuable socialization.

Swifties, Armies, and Barbz: When is "Stan" Culture Too Much?

CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND A&E EDITOR SOFI SHAW

San Luis Obispo High School students follow loads of celebrities, musicians, and other creators on social media. Some would call themselves fans, but others would call themselves "Stans." The word is derived from recording artist Eminem's song "Stan." The song is about an obsessive superfan who died an early death because of it. Stan is a portmanteau of the words stalker and fan.

Despite the original definition, the word became popularized in 2017 on social media platforms such as Tumblr and Twitter as a way for people to refer to themselves when they are a devoted fan of a celebrity. One of the most popular groups to use the phrase stan is K-Pop fans. The most popular K-Pop group, BTS, is known for their "ARMY" who would ride or die for their "biases" or favorite members.

"I know many people who have participated in 'Stan culture,' and I myself have, but probably to a lesser degree. I see it most often with youtubers and musicians, as it is easy to feel deeply connected to their content, which speaks directly to the audience. I think that enjoying someone's videos or music or other media and feeling connected to it is not an inherently bad thing. However, I think it can also lead to a form of obsessiveness that is facilitated by constant access to content through social media" said junior Jane Culbreath.

Some other examples of fans who often refer to themselves as "Stans" are singer-songwriter Taylor Swift fans, or "Swifties," singer-songwriter Phoebe Bridgers' fans, or "Pharbs," etc. A lot of bullying happens in these communities due to gatekeeping and a sense of entitlement.

Simply enjoying and consistently consuming a person's content is a perfectly healthy activity. Young people who may not have as many social connections in their own lives, can connect with these musicians or content creators to fill the gaps. It's when a person is completely dependent on a person who doesn't know they exist for emotional support that it can fester into something harmful.

A parasocial relationship is a one-sided relationship in which a person devotes all their energy into a relationship with someone who doesn't know they exist, and they are most commonly with celebrities. This can transform into something very unhealthy, depending on the personality of an individual.

"I think posting something questionable about a celebrity makes them uncomfortable as well as their audience members. I'm pretty sure parasocial relationships are the one sided relationship of a fan obsessing over a celebrity who doesn't know they exist," said senior Nivashini Saravanakumar.

The lesson here is that students at SLOHS should monitor their own social media activity and the way that they are emotionally connected to celebrities. A good rule of thumb for SLOHS students is to not write anything about a celebrity that they wouldn't want to hear about themselves. Remember: digital footprints are forever.

It's perfectly okay to enjoy and consume content from these people, but it's vital to realize that they don't know who their fans are.

Math Homework is Optional: How do the Staff and Students Feel?

REPORTER SIENA BOSCARO

The not-so-new math homework policy at San Luis Obispo encourages math teachers to lighten up the homework load, or get rid of it completely. Many teachers have dropped it altogether, while some believe it's still important for their class to function.

"[The policy] was mainly motivated to help students with grades by reducing anxiety around daily homework and trying to encourage people to understand that the practice is for them to understand the material," said Math Department Instructional Leader and math teacher Ryan Perez.

The exception to this policy seems to be AP math courses, and even some honors classes.

"[Homework] is required. Students are supposed to go home and expand on the notes they were given. It's virtually impossible to cover every single scenario they may face in the notes. So I do leave them to go home and continue to work through the problem," said AP Calculus AB and Precalculus teacher Mitchell McDuff.

From a teacher's perspective, these policies can hurt the overall way a class functions. It's important to get through all the material needed. Sometimes the only way to do that is through homework.

Students are not completely homework-free, all other departments on campus still have homework policies, varying up to thirty percent of some students' overall grade.

It's not just teachers that have opinions on these policies, several students spoke out about their opinion as well.

"I like being held accountable for the homework that we have because it's a reasonable amount [...] having math homework helps me understand what's going on in class. I understand the concepts better when I have homework that acts as a review," said sophomore Juliana Inouye.

Other students have different opinions and like this policy.

"I learn way better when I don't have homework [...] I feel like it forces me to do more in class, and then proceed to ask questions," said freshman Emma Knight.

This policy seems to be something that the majority of students like. So can we expect to see this policy stay? From what I see, yes it's here to stay.

From my personal experience, I like this new homework policy and I feel that I learn better without the demand of busy work to do once I get home. There are many benefits to giving students a little slack on the endless hours of homework, and I think we can all appreciate it.

We Need Diverse Books at SLOHS

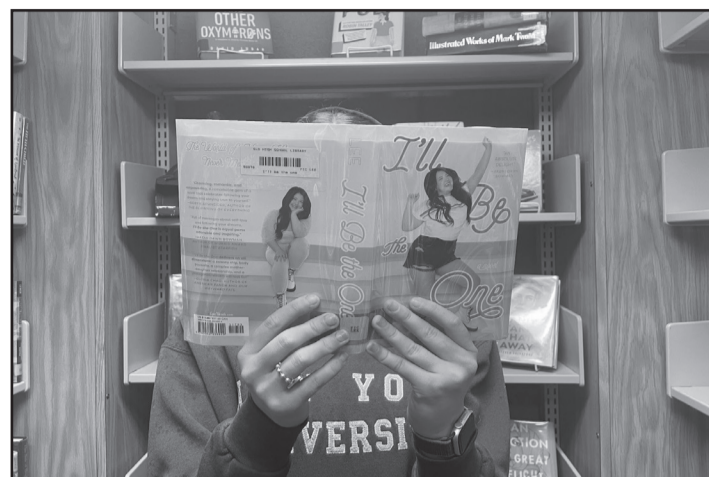


Photo courtesy of Health & Sports co-editor and senior Sonia McSwain

CO HEALTH & SPORTS EDITOR SONIA MCSWAIN

Whenever an English teacher at San Luis Obispo High School announces that the class will be reading a new novel, the classroom usually erupts with negative exclamations like, "Why are we reading this?," and "What's the point?." These exasperated groans are not signs of laziness or malice, but that of disinterest.

Only a small number of students will actually read what's required, while the rest seek the help of SparkNotes to give them a loose summary of works such as John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men." A large contributor to this fact is that the current English curriculum doesn't offer modern and diverse perspectives that high school students are excited to read.

"It's hard to get into a book that doesn't interest or relate to me. I don't see characters who look like me represented in what we are given to read, and nothing we are assigned addresses more current events," said sophomore Alexis Palmaymesa.

Currently, a large portion of the books used in classrooms do not explore nor include diverse points of view. Members of the LGBTQ+ community, people of color, different religious groups, or people with disabilities are mostly excluded.

"The literature that is being taught to us doesn't feel fully relevant to our current society. Sure, you can make a few connections between today and humanity in 'Brave New World', but I want the things that are happening today to be acknowledged. I want to read how others react to current events," said senior Josie Berryman.

The need for an updated English reading list has pushed the district to work towards adding new titles. In the coming years, the San Luis Coastal Unified School District will be adding at least two new books to the required reading list at each grade level. This also means incorporating an updated English textbook.

"It was really important that the district reached out to teachers to see

what types of books they'd want to see be taught in the classroom. We want to make sure that they are passionate about the content they teach, as well as get more kids reading. Students could start to see changes to the curriculum next year, but we aren't necessarily going to see full changes to the core novels until next year," said Language Arts Secondary Curriculum Coordinator Jane Hawley.

Providing future generations with more inclusive learning materials will help them become more aware of the multitude of viewpoints, and encourage others to explore different avenues of the world.

"I consider representing authors from diverse backgrounds in my classroom to be a moral obligation. Similarly, discussions and curriculum covering all facets of social justice are essential as well," said English teacher Brian Moss.

Moss, who teaches AP Language and Composition, taught Ta-Nehisi Coates' "Between the World and Me," a book detailing the life of Coates, and his experience with racism in America.

As students wait for new books to enter the system, they can spend time reading some staff recommended publications.

Moss encourages students to read his favorite book, "Anil's Ghost" by Michael Ondaatje, a historical and crime fiction novel that talks about the Sri Lankan Civil War.

English teacher Sholeh Prochello nominates Benjamin Alire Sáenz's "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe," which has great BIPOC and LGBT representation, while also being a coming-of-age story many people can relate to.

I recommend "Interior Chinatown" by Charles Yu, a novel that details the generalization of Asian culture in Hollywood, as well as the internalized racism people of color can develop over time.

Look forward to exploring different literary voices, Tigers!

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FEATURE

EDITOR: KARL KARSH & IZZY NINO DE RIVERA-KRIEGER

SLO Jam: A music club aimed at supporting student musicians



Photo courtesy of senior Owen Spargo.

NEWS EDITOR AND COPY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OWEN SPARGO

SLO Jam, a music club at San Luis Obispo High School aims to bring together musicians to support the school's music community through their meetings and various events.

The club meets at lunch every Tuesday, bringing students interested in music from various backgrounds together.

"It's basically a music club where people who like music can hang out at lunch and talk to other people who like music. Whether that be like jazz, pop, classical or whatever else you like," said SLO Jam club president and senior Colin Guan.

Lunch meetings also include planning what the club wants to do outside of school hours with their club events.

"During our meetings, we plan for upcoming projects and/or collaborations and learn to compose music. Some of our other ideas for the future include performing at the marketplace, senior homes, downtown, and elementary schools nearby," said club member and sophomore Erin Chae. One of these events the club planned was their concert, held at the school theater on

December 17. The concert's theme was centered around the Americas, including any music that comes from North, Central, or South America since 1935.

"There's kind of everything that comes from the Americas and migration and globalization. And it's just kind of as they say, a melting pot of things which represents our club because there are such diverse interests," said Guan.

For example, Guan and Chae played Héctor Villa-Lobos's "Assabio a Játe" or "The Jet Whistle" with Guan playing the cello and Chae on the flute.

"My partner and I chose this piece because we found the Brazilian, train-like aspect appealing. It was a new style of music that I wanted to expose myself to, and it seemed achievable for the short amount of preparation time we had," said Chae.

Another performance played by sophomore Patrick Shaw and freshman Treyce League was a tuba duet of "Theme of Onett," transposed by Shaw.

"I chose the 'Theme of Onett' because it's one of my favorite songs with a bass clef part similar to what a tuba would

play. With the clear connection I wanted to share my tuba version with everyone," said Shaw. "To prepare for the concert I rewrote the song to better suit a tuba while also teaching a freshman how to play the duet as well."

The concert featured pieces from multiple genres of music, making the selection perfect for any member of the audience. From a light-hearted flute duet to even a rock band playing Grenday and Blink-182 at the end of the concert, the show represented the diverse interests of music students at SLOHS.

Although the concert did not have tickets or a fee to attend, the event did have a suggested donation for attendees in order to fundraise.

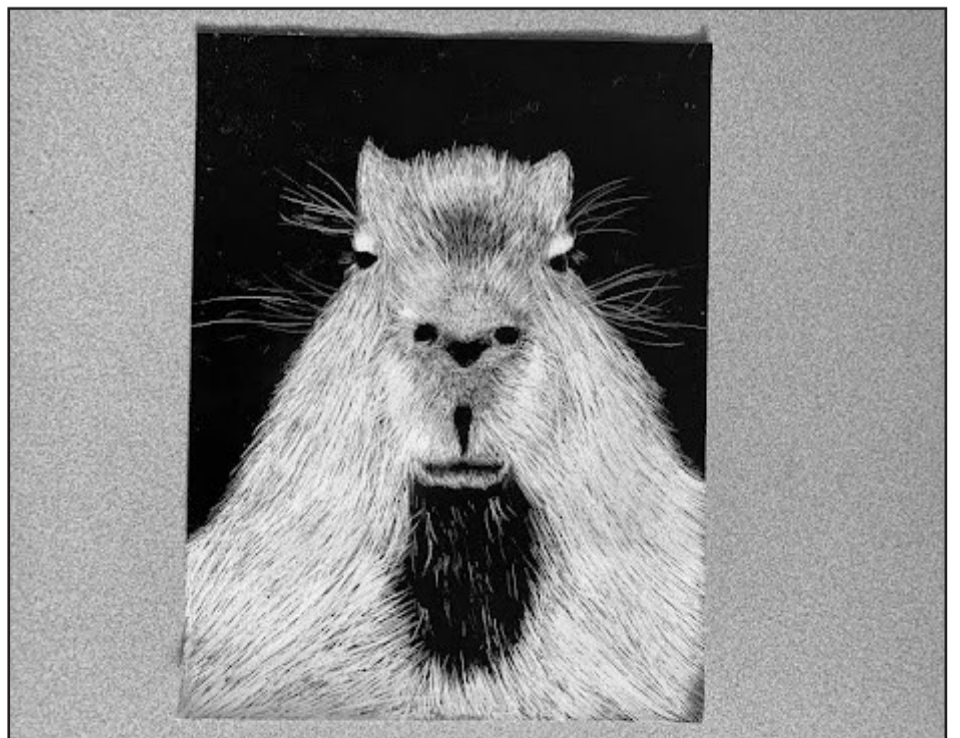
"The majority of donations will be going to Together with Classical, which is a music charity that gets grants to musicians with financial need. In addition, some of the donations will go towards funding future music club projects and events. We're thinking of ways to make the school community a better and more musical place," said Guan.

If you're a musician or even just like listening to music, stop by their meetings on Tuesdays outside of room P4!

Visual Showcase of Freshman Student Artist Fran Osgood



Illustration courtesy of freshman Fran Osgood.



MANAGING EDITOR KARL KARSH

Students at San Luis Obispo High School who were in art class last trimester worked on special drawings called scratchboards.

When working on the scratchboard drawings, many students channeled their creative energy into making beautiful art projects. One student in particular, freshman Fran Osgood, was working on a design of a capybara.

"The scratchboards start out as a white sheet that has a layer of black ink over it and then you scratch away the black. It's a subtractive process. All of these projects were outstanding, as all of the students were able to capture the light in this darker medium. Fran Osgood made a capybara, which was pretty fun. She's a very creative person," said Art I teacher

Amanda Bockelman.

Osgood was working on this project for about a week and had put a lot of effort into making it the best that it could be.

"I printed out a picture with the design I wanted to draw and then I put it over the paper with the ink and traced it with pencil. Then I went over the pencil with the pen. The project as a whole wasn't very challenging. The nose was the hardest part to perfect because I had to make tiny dots and it was pretty tedious," said Osgood.

In art class last trimester, students were able to make creative pieces of artwork and express themselves through their work. Osgood notably took her creative expression to the next level and was able to make a beautiful piece of artwork.

Come to the Film Club's Premiere Showing in February!

REPORTER ELLIOT CHEN

The digital film production and film club's collective films are going to be shown at a premiere on February 24, taking place at the San Luis Obispo High School Marketplace. There will be art, music, food, and more! The theme for the films is "Red Carpet."

Students in Digital Film Production have been given the opportunity to present their final films for the class at this premiere. Members of the SLOHS Film Club have been tasked to create a film involving popcorn. All of these student films will hopefully be presented at the premiere.

There will be a Q&A in addition to the films. Students who created the films will answer any questions the audience may have for them.

The film showing will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a Q&A from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

"There will be a red carpet leading to the entrance to the Marketplace where Fashion and Interior Design students will present a runway show of their designs from Trimester 2 and where guests can pose for pictures from the Digital Photography students under studio lights," said digital media teacher Zach Roper.

Mr. Roper plans for Culinary Arts III students to cater the event, with food items from their food truck prompt.

The food truck logos and menus will be designed by the Advanced Graphic Design students. They will also be selling their CTE pathway t-shirts. Attendees will be able to sample the food and fill out a feedback survey.

Students from Ceramics, Photography, Metal and Woodshop will also be able to sell their work at this event.

Student band Georgeroy will also be performing for the second time, along with two opening bands from Mr. Moss's Music Club. Merch and posters will be sold as well.

The premiere will not just be a showing of films, but also a wide variety of art, music, food and more. The Marketplace is located in the empty lot of the art building between rooms 510 and 511.

If you're interested in any of these subjects, or just want to have some fun, be sure to show up, all are welcome!

The SLOHS Performing Arts Company is Back on its Feet: What's New?



The "Clue" Cast; Photo courtesy of photographer Jennifer Shaevitz.

MANAGING EDITOR AND FEATURE EDITOR KARL KARSH

The San Luis Obispo High School Performing Arts Company (SLOHSPAC) is getting ready for new events in 2022, and students have a lot to look forward to. After COVID-19 put a pause on the company's annual events, theater is excited to get back to their favorite traditions, such as the "24-hour Musical" and Improv Club.

"We are putting a lot of effort into everything, and it's a lot of the heart and soul of the kids and our advisors and I think it's definitely worth the ten dollars or so to come to our show," said president of SLOHSPAC and junior Lindsay Smith.

The company recently announced that for the first time, they will be inviting middle school students to try out for the upcoming Spring musical "The Wizard of Oz."

"It gives them an opportunity to experience what theater will be like in high school, it gives them a sort of taste for what it's going to be like. It spreads awareness to them and their families, maybe even their friends and just gets our message out there that theater is fun," said Smith.

After Improv Club auditions took place in December, the team is getting ready to begin their practices. There will be Improv shows once a month starting this January.

"In the past, Improv shows had a lot of games where you pull ideas from the au-

dience, and I think we're going to do something pretty similar to that. We might do more just overall scene building, less structure in the game, and just kind of building a scene," said Commissioner of Improv and junior Mark Rourke. The annual 24-hour musical is finally happening again after it was cancelled due to COVID-19. Organized by seniors Ava Walsh and Zoe Bartholomew, this upcoming production in late January is an awesome way for students to get involved with theater. Anyone who auditions is also guaranteed a part in the play.

"It's a really good icebreaker and it brings everyone in theater together. You get to meet new people, you kind of bond over this common thing and it's just genuinely a really enjoyable thing to do," said treasurer of the SLOHSPAC and senior Ava Walsh.

"We work until nine to start, rehearsing, getting choreography, getting the numbers down, building some of the set, going over the lights and the tech stuff. And then Saturday, everyone comes back at nine, and it's from like nine to maybe eight o'clock at night. We work all day and then doors open that night and put on the show," said Walsh.

The Performing Arts Company is thrilled to begin these next events and be able to share the wonderful talent our students carry. Updates on shows and club meetings can be found on the SLOHSPAC website, the SLOHSPAC Instagram, and our Tiger News Network broadcastings.

SLOHS Cheer is Hype up the Crowd From Field to Courtside this Year

PEOPLE & CULTURE EDITOR ADDI WOODS

As the fall sports season has come to an end at San Luis Obispo High School, the cheerleading program has hung up their pom-poms; but they're not done yet.

Starting this year, the cheer team will be moving on from the sidelines of football fields and taking their school spirit to the basketball court.

"This is the first official year of basketball cheer at SLOHS! In the past, the cheer team came to a couple of basketball games, but there was no organized team," said SLOHS head cheer coach Lauryn Lee.

Since there was a whole new tryout process for winter cheer in December, students that missed tryouts in July for fall cheer can get another chance to join the team.

"I think a lot of people missed the fact that tryouts were happening for the fall season so it gives them another chance to be able to cheer," said senior cheerleader Nancy Ernstrom.

Returning cheerleaders will be able to notice a vast difference between cheering for basketball compared to football. For one, basketball is indoors, which makes it dangerous to accomplish some stunts that could safely be performed outdoors at football games.

"It'll be different because basketball is indoors so we can't do the same skills that we do. It would be more dangerous to do in the gym without a

mat," said Nancy Ernstrom.

Since there is no designated area for the cheerleaders, they will be in the stands with the rest of the crowd.

"There was more standing and jumping [for football] and for basketball there'll be more sitting and being involved with the crowd, rather than by ourselves; separated from the crowd," said junior cheerleader Kaycie Ernstrom.

The coaches are the same for both teams but the cheerleaders are not. Some of the fall cheerleaders aren't returning for the winter season due to schedule changes and other reasons; a few new members are joining the team.

"There are actually a lot of girls that did football cheer that aren't doing basketball cheer. It makes it fun to get to know new people," said Kaycie Ernstrom.

SLOHS cheerleaders recognize the considerable differences between cheering for the two sports but they are excited for the change.

"The differences between them make it fun because they're just so different. You get more involved with the crowd, it's a different sport, different people," said Kaycie Ernstrom.

Students can look forward to seeing the cheerleaders at the upcoming basketball games. Be sure to check out their new cheers and join them in supporting the basketball teams.

Shining a Light on SLOHS Athletic Trainer Brian Tuohy

REPORTER ETIENNE BRENNAN



Photo Courtesy of Reporter and senior Etienne Brennan.

San Luis Obispo High School Athletic Trainer Brian Tuohy is in charge of taking care of SLOHS athletes' health and safety. Tuohy is often underappreciated by the vast majority of SLOHS, but it is safe to say almost every athlete has seen him at least once. He does it all, from attending every home game, treating all sorts of injuries, or doing paperwork till 10pm he is an essential part of our athletics department.

Expressions: What do you do as an athletic trainer?

SLOHS Athletic Trainer Brian Tuohy: What I do as an athletic trainer is I help athletes, at the high school, college level, and other kinds of avenues for hospitals. I do injury rehab, injury assessments, administration, and I get people safely back on the field.

Expressions: What's the most common injury you see?

Tuohy: In basketball there are a few rolled ankles. Footballs all over the place. Track and Field would be a lot of hamstrings. And a lot of shin splints or overuse injuries.

Expressions: What can athletes do to make sure they don't injure themselves?

Tuohy: A good thing is an offseason routine. So talking to your coach will help. Asking what an athlete can I do in the offseason to kind of help strengthen from a previous injury. What you do in the offseason will help you in your inseason. A lot of people think that your offseason is just to sit

and relax. Well, it's not. So for football a lot of offseason stuff is being in the weight room, getting stronger and getting more conditioning when they're in season.

Expressions: Do you recommend a rest period after a sport?

Tuohy: Absolutely, I do. I'm a component of not playing sports year round. I think that playing multiple sports is better overall rounded for your body. Then just playing a certain sport all year. That prevents overuse injuries. Usually what I like to see is you pick a major sport, let's say your main sport is football. Football is what you need to concentrate on, but throughout the year you can still wrestle. Which is a good conditioning sport. then you go right into track, so it's that little rest and that will mean you can still condition and be active. I think about a month is a good rest period. A month is a good time to where your body is able to heal itself.

Expressions: What sport would you say gets the most injuries?

Tuohy: Ultimately, it's football. Football is the most intense sport out of all the sports. These types of injuries change everyday. It could be one person that had a toe injury and the next person was just a finger. The next day it was a dislocated hip that I had to reduce. That's why I'm mostly hanging out with the football players because it just changes every second every day.

The winter season is a little different. It's less impact and less injuries, but it's more hours. There's more sports, there's more games going on within the winter season. I'm staying here until 10 p.m. because of basketball. Monday and Tuesday or Tuesday and Thursdays and then Fridays are another basketball game.

Expressions: What's your educational background?

Tuohy: So when I went to school, it was a Bachelors of Science. It was a Kinesiology degree with an emphasis in athletic training. I went to Fresno State and at that time, it was called sports medicine. But other training they kind of go interchangeably. And then I went down to Santa Barbara City College. High school in the East Bay area. Amateur High School.

Expressions: Why did you go into sports medicine?

Tuohy: I've always been involved with sports. played them. I've always played with them. I played the big major sports, baseball, basketball and soccer. And, you know, I just like the camaraderie, I like the togetherness. I like the audit kind of just kind of written times.

Expressions: What does the administration position look like?

Tuohy: Administration is the worst part of my job. A lot of paperwork. Every athlete that comes in here that I do rehab with, I track. every person or every email that I write out, I track in what's called Sports Where. It's really nice for us because I input it into a system and then at the end of the year I run reports. Then I'll go to the coach and inform them "you had 40 Shin splints this year. What did you guys do differently than a couple of years ago when we only had five or 10." So there's that open communication of injury prevention. I like to be proactive, not reactive. Letting them know "you know, you have X amount of injuries. Why did that happen?" Maybe over the offseason, maybe we can try to change things up a little bit to kind of prevent this many injuries.

There is an Increase of Participation in Girls Wrestling at San Luis Obispo High School



Courtesy of Reporter Etienne Brennan

HEATH AND SPORTS EDITORS SONIA MCSWAIN AND CATE TUCKER

As the winter sports season kicks off, more and more female students are joining the wrestling program at San Luis Obispo High School. Participation in women's wrestling programs aren't just increasing in our county, but nationwide as well.

Women's wrestling programs have grown exponentially, as 21,000 female wrestlers in high school are involved in competitions around the nation, compared to the six thousand competing 10 years ago. The increasing interest in girl's wrestling can be tied to the idea that more girls want to learn self defense and new ways to empower themselves.

"I got involved with wrestling because I was dared to in eighth grade. At first I was really apprehensive, but I ended up falling in love with the sport, and it just really stuck with me," said girls wrestler and freshman Abigail Russell.

Wrestling has been a male-dominated sport throughout history. It's rough and tumble nature has been geared towards male students. Due to the lack of participation by girls, female students used to have to wrestle against the boys.

"You 100 percent get looked at differently from the guys, especially in the wrestling room because it's still a fairly new sport for women. It's really empowering to show that anybody can be a wrestler no matter who they are," said girls wrestler and senior Rebecca Rodriguez.

There is only one wrestling team at SLOHS that encompasses all 27 athletes. 22 athletes are male students, while the other five are female students. Despite there being a larger number of male wrestlers, the girls work extremely hard to improve their technique and strength. Female wrestlers want to have the same intensity of competition as the boys, but as the sport is still evolving, girls wrestling has not met the level of popularity that the boys program has.

"Wrestling has taught me to persevere when things get rough, but it has also taught me that I am powerful, and capable of throwing down. You just have to tell yourself 'don't give up, keep going.' The pain is only temporary," said Russell.

The girls who are currently on the team hope to inspire others to try out. Even if students don't end up liking the sport, getting more people involved will encourage growth in female wrestling.

"It's really exciting to actually see the program get bigger. My freshman year, there were only three girls including myself. Seeing more freshmen coming in and more girls becoming interested in wrestling is super inspiring. I can't wait to see how the program changes," said Rodriguez.

The SLOHS girls wrestling has a promising future, and will be a force to be reckoned with in the coming years. Good luck to all those who are, or will be on the wrestling girls team.

Source: Forbes.com

SLO Dance Companies Have Spun and Thrived Through the COVID-19 Pandemic

REPORTER MADI TORRES



Photo Courtesy of Freshman Chloe Stansel.

Since the start of COVID-19 in 2020, schools like San Luis Obispo High School and many businesses have gone through some difficulties. Restaurants, retail stores, and numerous small businesses have suffered through the pandemic, many having closed their doors forever. One company that is often overlooked at times are dance studios.

COVID-19 has drastically impacted dance studios, especially financially. Many studios don't have financial help outside of dancers paying for classes. Around the world, only 8% of the responding studios report that they have insurance to help outweigh the struggles of the pandemic.

With over ten dance studios in San Luis Obispo, many of the lives of SLOHS

dancers have changed over the course of quarantine. With some studios shutting down due to lack of financial aid, fewer people paying for classes, this meant that fewer kids were given the time to dance.

"Going back to the studio was probably the happiest everyone was to see their dance family, and I think we all felt kind of on fire for ballet again," said dancer at Ballet Theater San Luis Obispo Company, freshman Chloe Stansel.

Most dancers have a passion for dance and it's something that they practice daily. When the studios were closed dancers didn't get to have the same day-to-day devotion.

"The studio shutting down during COVID-19 definitely impacted the dancers. Dancing is the way we are able to let go of our stress and just put our souls into something; not having that release during one of the most stressful times was something that affected many of us," said Stansel.

Dancers have also been restricted in studios with the indoor mask mandates. Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth while engaging in physical activity is very restricting, making it more difficult for dancers to work on their skills and techniques.

"It can be weird to try to act with the mask on though during rehearsals; I've definitely had to learn to use my eyes while communicating feelings, and portraying certain characters. I think that that is ultimately something that can make the acting stronger on stage without a mask," said Stansel.

Although COVID-19 negatively impacted dancers, it also helped them build the strength and endurance they need.

Performances are a big part of the dance community. Bonds are created between new people, talent and skill sets are shared, and dancers get the thrill of being on stage in front of an audience.

During the pandemic, social gatherings and big events with lots of people in one place were not recommended. This made it hard and continues to challenge studios when trying to put on shows.

"It was all Zoom over. 'Nutcracker' was really great, and it was nice to be back. I think everyone missed performing," said dancer at The Academy of Dance SLO and freshman Lauren Fouhy.

During the spring of 2022, Ballet Theater San Luis Obispo will be hosting a special performance. Details are yet to be announced, so stay tuned so we can

“JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure: Stone Ocean” : What do Fans at SLOHS Have to Say?

REPORTER ALMA TINOCO JUAREZ

Several students at San Luis Obispo High School have been awaiting the Netflix release of “JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure: Stone Ocean,” and it’s finally here! On December 1, a portion of the long awaited sixth installment of the Joestar’s family tree hit streaming services with 12 episodes. While the anime adaptation has not yet been fully released, more episodes will be dropped at some point early this year. It has been long anticipated since its announcement in April, and at the end of “JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure: Golden Wind,” in 2018.

“You get through a good chunk of the story in those 12 episodes, but it doesn’t feel rushed even though you go through a lot of material. Also, there’s certain shots where you can see it’s exactly like the manga panel. So that’s pretty neat to see. I like that a lot,” said senior Ava Walsh.

“JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure: Stone Ocean” takes place in Florida, in the early 2010’s. When it seems it can’t get any more bizarre than Florida, the protagonist, Jolyne Kujo, is framed for a hit and run which results in Kujo being sent to prison. “Stone Ocean” is filled with references to early 2000’s music, similar to previous parts which also include musical references from the time they were written. The anime adaptation does its best to keep those references intact. However, copyrights remove many direct mentions. Despite its changes, the anime adaptation is still enjoyable to watch. With its early 2000’s references and subtle homages to its predecessor parts, The first 12 “Stone Ocean” episodes have been all fans could have hoped for.

“In my opinion, JoJo’s early part’s 3D openings defined a JoJo opening, and it’s amazing to see them returning with such an amazing one off the bat,” said sophomore Cal Lanier.

“Stone Ocean” brings new things to JoJo’s plotline, but it returns with nostalgia from its previous parts. The story ties itself back to the aftermath of a previous part named “Stardust Crusaders,” which focused on Kujo’s father, as well bringing back CGI openings which haven’t been seen in JoJo’s since 2015.

It has been three years since the last JoJo anime adaptation, and a bit over two decades since the initial manga release. With what has been released so far, it’s clear that “JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure: Stone Ocean” was worth the wait.

Sof’s Album of the Year

A&E EDITOR SOFI SHAW



Photo courtesy of pitchfork.com

San Luis Obispo High School students have enjoyed a wide range of new music that came out in 2021. One of the best, and most surprising, drops of 2021 was “Sling” by singer-songwriter Clairo.

This album, released in July, was a complete shift in direction from her debut album, “Immunity”, and frankly blows it out of the water. She collaborated with the very well known producer, Jack Antonoff. Antonoff is part of the band Bleachers and has done production for singer-songwriters Taylor Swift and Lorde. The new record draws inspiration from folk rock duo Simon & Garfunkel, singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell, and several other folk artists.

The opening track, “Bambi”, immediately hooks the reader with ethereal layered vocals from Clairo herself. Bass and light percussion backs Clairo’s voice, and is quickly followed by an occasional piano or guitar lick. She sings about the pressures of the music industry and how she was gui-

ded into it. The last lyric: “Once I make the choice to move forward, I’ll take a picture for your locker.” leaves a pit in the listeners stomach, as they consider the detrimental effects the industry has on musicians.

A third of the way through the album is the first and only single that was released off of the album, “Blouse.” This song is incredibly emotionally charged as it covers a touchy subject. The situation described is a conversation with a male coworker who she realizes is staring down her shirt midway through the serious discussion. In defeat she sings “If touch could make them hear, then touch me now” which is a gut-wrenching notion that is all too familiar to so many women. This is all played out over light acoustic guitar which amplifies the simplistic but devastating message.

Towards the end of the album is one of the most underrated tracks on the record, “Reaper.” This song is once again backed up by simple acoustic guitar and Clairo’s vocals are so pleasing to the ear. Several songs on this record have themes of motherhood and settling down, but this track is set apart by the symbolic nature of the “reaper.” Clairo talks about the fear of starting a family and having a child, which is represented by the reaper. The thought of bringing life into the world being represented by death itself is a very interesting symbol.

The last song, “Management” is a very fitting closing to the album. It’s a perfect coming-of-age anthem for the young adult who’s trying to create a life for themselves. “I’m doing it for my future self / The one who needs more attention” is one of the last lyrics of the whole album and is definitely a tearjerker.

Clairo truly outdid herself on this album, and the future looks bright for this ex-bedroom pop star.

“Me and Earl and the Dying Girl” - Is it Worth the Watch?

REPORTER MIA CLIFFORD

San Luis Obispo High School film studies class presented a movie to start the new trimester. “Me and Earl and the Dying Girl” was selected. Released in 2015, this film was directed by Alfonso Gomez-Rejon.

Film studies teacher Craig Stewart shows movies for his students and asks them to provide critical analysis of what they viewed.

“I am a fan of movies, and teaching this class is a great opportunity to talk about movies with smart, interesting people,” said Stewart.

Students are able to understand and grasp the meaning of films at a higher level with the support this SLOHS class has to offer. This class mainly targets upperclassmen interested in furthering their knowledge of film, such as junior Dylan Koch.

“So far, the class has been very interesting. I am excited to start taking on more challenging movies as the trimester progresses” said Koch.

Reviewing and critiquing movies demands an understanding of cinematography and structure. “Me and Earl and the Dying Girl” takes advantage of the use of unique camera movements. The portrayal of the main character, Greg, tied the work together and deepened the viewers’ understanding of the work.

In the film, Greg, a teen who is passionate about creating movie parodies, becomes friends with his classmate Rachel. She is ill with leukemia. Greg embarks on a journey of self discovery through his friendship with Rachel.

“It was an innovative addition to a classic genre of film” said junior Ellie Peterson.

After the film commenced, students were able to reflect on what they watched. While formulating opinions for the review, one common aspect was criticized.

“The soundtrack was unremarkable,” said Peterson.

The music choice did not resonate with the students who viewed the film.

“I honestly don’t even remember the soundtrack to the movie,” said Koch.

Despite the elevated use of camera angles and movement, Gomez-Rejon’s



Photo courtesy of goodreads.com

movie seems to be lacking in certain areas. The music did not impact viewers with the same magnitude the cinematography did.

“Although the soundtrack didn’t stick with me, I liked the unique take on a high school film. It’s more realistic because it doesn’t fall into the formulaic structure most high school movies do” said Peterson.

The camera shots captured Peterson and greatly impacted her view of the film. Even though the cinematography was well executed, Koch provided a different take on the movie.

“I especially enjoyed the amateur filmmaking aspect of the plot. It inspired me to want to make my own movies,” said Koch.

After taking Stewart’s film studies class, students are able to provide compelling insight towards select movies such as Rejon’s “Me and Earl and the Dying Girl”.

“This class puts a different perspective on watching movies,” said Peterson.

If you are interested in film analysis, be sure to check out Mr. Stewart’s film studies class.

Movies to anticipate in 2022

PEOPLE & CULTURE EDITOR ADDISON WOODS

There's nothing quite like reclining back with a bag of popcorn and watching a great movie. After the theaters were closed for so long due to COVID-19, San Luis Obispo High School students should make sure they're seeing a quality movie.

Luckily, many highly anticipated movies are being released this year.

"I'm excited to see new movies after we couldn't go to the movie theaters because of COVID. I'm especially excited to see 'Minions: The Rise of Gru,'" said freshman Ariel Gatti.

Starting off the new year, "Scream" will be released on January 14. This movie is the fifth in its series. It will feature the returning actors: David Arquette, Courteney Cox, and Neve Campbell.

On March 4, "The Batman" will be shown in theaters. Actor Robert Pattinson will star as Batman. Many students can recognize him from his role in "Twilight."

"Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" is set to release on May 6. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch will reprise his role as Doctor Strange and will be joined by actors Elizabeth Olsen, Benedict Wong, and Tom Hiddleston.

"Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore," will be released on April 15. It is a sequel to the 2016 film and is based on the novel written by J.K. Rowling.

Fans of the 1986 film "Top Gun" can set their calendars for the sequel on May 27. "Top Gun: Maverick" will star actor Tom Cruise who was 23 in the original movie but will be 59 in the sequel.

On June 10 "Jurassic World: Dominion" will come out. It will be the third "Jurassic World" movie and the sixth in the "Jurassic Park" series.

Following the four "Toy Story" movies, "Lightyear," will be released on June 17. It will focus on the origin story of the fictional character, Buzz Lightyear.



Photo courtesy of Movie Experience's instagram.

"Minions: The Rise of Gru," will be released on July 1. It will be the fifth movie in the "Despicable Me"/"Minions" series. The film will focus on 12-year-old Gru and his dream of becoming the greatest supervillain in the world.

The 29th movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe will be released on July 8. "Thor: Love and Thunder" will star actor Chris Hemsworth and will be his eighth time playing the character Thor.

People might recognize Harry Styles from his singing career, but they may not know that the English singer-songwriter is also an actor. Harry Styles will star in "Don't Worry Darling" which will be released on September 23. The film is a psychological thriller/horror set in the 1950s.

And "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," on November 11.

Start getting excited for these movies, Tigers.

COVID-19 Forces Concerts to Have New Protocols

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND NEWS EDITOR OWEN SPARGO

With increasing COVID-19 cases and recent incidents at in-person events, upcoming music concerts are implementing more protocols to ensure safety for attendees. San Luis Obispo High School students who are attending these concerts should be aware of these new protocols, and many plan to take cautionary measures of their own.

As the pandemic has decreased in severity since the height of the outbreak in 2020, many big music artists have announced international tours this year. Many of these tours will take place in locations across the world, though some artists like Olivia Rodrigo have had to cancel concerts or limit tickets due to safety concerns.

Senior Natalia Doane attended the local TV Girl concert on December 16, 2021 at the Fremont and noticed the concert had implemented some new protocols.

"I do believe that you have to be vaccinated or show proof of a negative COVID-19 test before you can go in, and also have to wear a mask at all times," said Doane.

Senior Berlyn Ellsworth who had a similar experience at The Garden concert on November 5, 2021 said that because of all this restriction it made the concert run less efficiently than normal ones did before the pandemic.

"Since you needed proof of vaccination, it definitely made the line super long and very slow, as it went almost all the way around the block," said Ellsworth.

This aligns with the restrictions that many concerts are putting out. In fact, Ticketmaster, a popular site for purchasing concert tickets, has a page with safety measures for customers who plan to attend live events.

Among these measures are mask requirements, social distancing, temperature checks, drive-in only experiences, and hand sanitizer stations. The site also now allows for contactless entry with digital tickets, representing the desire for music fans and artists to return to a normal concert experience.

Concert-goers thus now have to be more cautious and attentive to safety when attending.

"It's definitely going to be a lot different in the fact that I'm going to actually be aware of who I'm near and who is touching me," said Doane. "The TV Girl concert is indoors and a much smaller venue, which makes it a little scary. The last concert I went to was a country one, but it was all outside so it made me feel a little bit better. However no one had masks and I did isolate myself from my parents a little after just in case."

People are also becoming increasingly concerned due to recent incidents like at Travis Scott's Astroworld concert where 10 people were killed and almost 300 injured.

"In the wake of Astroworld I think festivals and concerts are going to be taking some extra precautionary measures. Ultimately, I think the most important thing for concert goers to keep in mind is to be considerate. If you see someone is hurt, or struggling, or being taken advantage of please speak up and help out, a human life is much more important than your concert experience," said Ellsworth.



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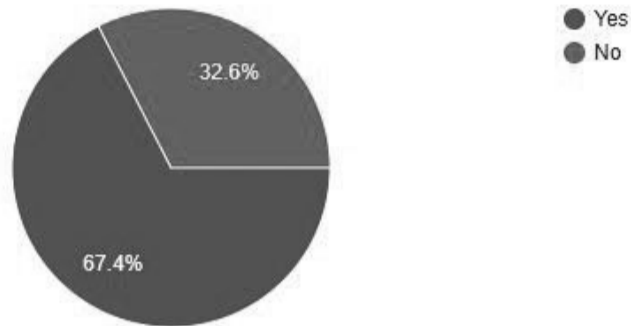
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New Survey Reveals The Shocking Truth About Cheating and Plagiarism at SLOHS

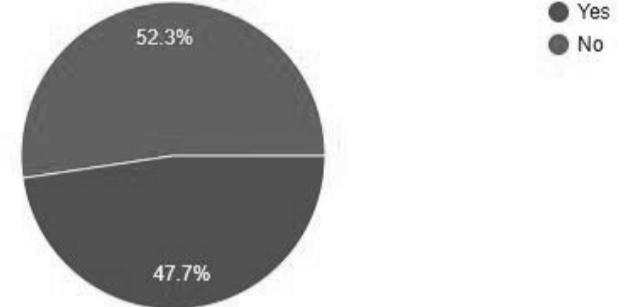
Have you ever cheated or plagiarized on an assignment?

129 responses



Have you ever cheated or plagiarized on a test?

86 responses



“Survey results” Photo courtesy of reporter and junior Owen Blackwell.

REPORTER OWEN BLACKWELL

San Luis Obispo High School is viewed as one of the best high schools in San Luis Obispo County, but pressure to get straight A's has potentially caused students to view cheating as the only way to be successful.

“It’s just so easy because the resources are right there. It’s BS when teachers complain about students cheating. How do they expect us not to??? The pressure is so high to get into a good college and have a 4.0 G.P.A.,” said a survey respondent.

Expressions ran a survey in the beginning of December asking SLOHS students about their experiences with cheating and plagiarism. There were 129 responses.

67.4 percent of students said they had cheated or plagiarized on assignments.

47.7 percent of students said they had cheated or plagiarized on a test.

Written responses to the survey offer insight into why academic dishonesty is so prevalent.

“It’s actually really rare to find people that have not cheated. The cutthroat environment prompts students to cheat in order to keep up with their high achieving classmates,” said a junior survey respondent.

“I’m going to do what I need to do to ensure my future. I don’t care if that means dishonesty. I’d rather be successful than honest. Honesty doesn’t get you anywhere,” said a survey respondent.

“During COVID-19, cheating was normalized, and now it’s accepted. It’s a normal conversation topic and is no longer a secret among peers or even frowned upon,” said a sophomore survey respondent.

“Most classes here are so hard that they don’t really care if the students are learning or not. Most students that I know are just trying to pass the class, they aren’t learning anything anymore,” said a survey respondent.

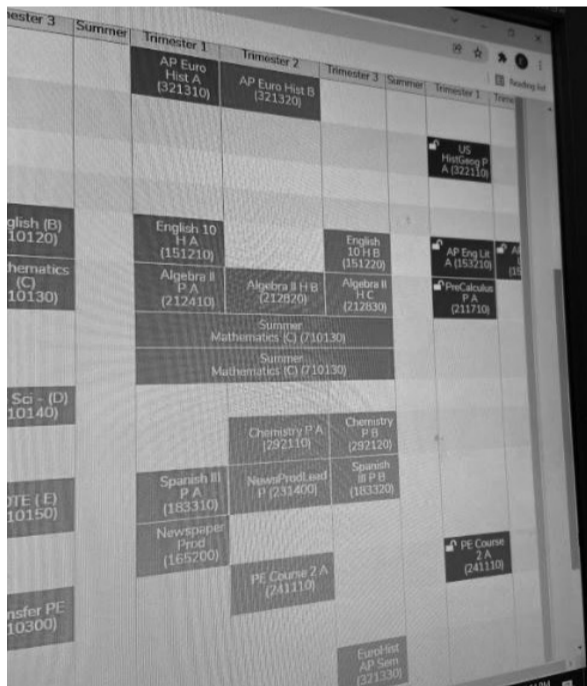
“Every single student does it. Anyone who says differently is lying,” said a survey respondent.

“It’s not cheating if you don’t get caught,” said a senior survey respondent.

“Administration needs to stop blaming students for their cheating. If your entire school is cheating or is tempted to cheat, you need to look deeper into your own education system, teachers, and resources,” said a survey respondent.

Telling students not to cheat is not enough, promoting honesty and integrity only goes so far when there is so much pressure put on SLOHS students to get straight A’s and get into a good college.

How Students Feel About The New Schedule Change System



“Aeries academic plan” Photo courtesy of Opinion editor and sophomore Erika Spargo.

REPORTER AHMEE SMITH

San Luis Obispo High School students have expressed frustration with how requesting a schedule change has been altered recently. Even though it seems simple, many complain about the wait time and uncertainty that comes with not knowing the available options.

This school year, the system of asking for schedule changes has been changed from email or in-person visits to using a google form. The school claims that it is easier on counselors, but students are ending up frustrated.

“I dislike the new system because it’s so slow and it takes so long just to get your schedule changed compared to if you email the counselor,” said senior Cyrus Balderama.

Some students think the excessive demand of changing schedu-

les is a product of choosing classes using the Aeries app last school year. Most returning students were used to using the PowerSchool app previously.

“Honestly, I didn’t know what I was doing,” said senior Cody Barriger when asked about how he felt while choosing classes last year. Since Aeries didn’t tell them what classes were required for their grade level or how many they had to put, students had no idea what to do.

In particular, students are frustrated with the speed at which their schedules get changed. This year we would usually wait at least three days or more before hearing from our counselor; whereas in past years students have gotten responses within one or two days.

The question is, is this sudden slowdown for schedule changes caused by the google survey sys-

tem, or are there more requests for counselors to get through this year?

“I can say that we have over 1750+ requests for schedule changes from August to December, and the old system didn’t allow us to share the huge numbers. The old ‘form’ went to each counselor’s individual email and we weren’t able to see each other’s requests, so this one is definitely more efficient and doesn’t get lost in the mass emails that we receive,” said SLOHS counselor Kerry Ingles.

The delay of getting a schedule changed is most likely due to an increased number of requests. Whether it be from using Aeries this year or simply from an influx of new students, the stress on counselors is greater than ever.

Remember to be kind and patient to your counselors, even if the wait is frustrating.

What Are SLOHS Students Wearing These Days?



“From left to right: senior Fiona Stevens, sophomore Shea Mercer, senior Sabrina Slusser” Photo courtesy of reporter and sophomore Siena Boscaro.

REPORTER SIENA BOSCARO

It’s no secret that there are many different forms of art around San Luis Obispo High School. It’s clear to see that one of these forms is students’ fashion. From goth to pajama pants, you can see it all around campus. *Expressions* interviewed some students about their style choices.

“Fashion is a way you visually express yourself everyday and what your interests are,” said senior Fiona Stevens.

“I take a lot of inspiration from gothic literature and cinema and punk icons from the 1980s and 1990s. And there’s a lot of Victorian style mixed into that,” said senior Sabrina Slusser. Slusser is well-known on campus for having a unique style unlike anyone else’s.

“My makeup is 100 percent part of my style and I like to coordinate the colors to go along with my outfit. If I don’t enjoy my outfit, then I don’t enjoy the day,” said sophomore Shea Mercer.

While interviewing, *Expressions* noticed an ongoing theme. They all shop at thrift stores. Thrifting is not uncommon with students at SLOHS, as many students do shop second hand. No wonder everyone’s style is unique.

While these students’ styles may be different, and everyone at SLOHS for that matter, style is a great way for everyone to express themselves. It doesn’t matter if it’s a skirt inspired by a movie or someone’s face plastered on a t-shirt.

Especially as a teenager, fashion is one of the best ways for teens to express their individuality. Fashion at SLOHS is one-of-a-kind.