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New immigration policies make schools vulnerable to ICE raids

By Geneva Huang
Business Manager

The Trump administration updated policies to allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to make criminal arrests at sentistive locations including churches, hospitals, and schools like Costa.

Federal judicial warrants for arrest or search and seizure give ICE officials the right to enter schools and are issued based on probable cause. School leaders are prohibited from physically stopping immigration officials from entering a school's campus.

"Schools are supposed to be a safe place for students," sophomore Ava Panah said. "It's disheartening that five-year-olds in this day and age have to go to school with copies of their documentation in their backpacks in big migrant communities."

California schools have seen a decline in attendance rates as families continue to worry about student safety. Mira Costa, being located close to Los Angeles' large immigrant population, faces potential I.C.E. raids itself; 33 percent of L.A.'s population– 4.4 million people– are immigrants.

California state senator Sasha Renee Perez is trying to pass Senate Bill 98, which would require all schools to use emergency response systems and notify parents if ICE is on campus. Without such protections in place, the current situation renders students vulnerable in an environment meant to be comforting and safe. Instilling fear in children and driving them away from school is a "major breach of civil security," said junior Miles Campbell.

Recent protests against ICE raids have occurred around the country. On President's Day, Los Angelenos took to the 101 freeway, protesting the new and aggressive policies by gatheirng at City Hall. "I think that all students should have access to education no matter their documentation status," Panah said.

READ MORE AT LAVISTA.COM



CONCERNED CITIZENS: Protestors gather at an anti-deportation rally at City Hall in Los Angeles on Sunday, Feb. 2. Thousands of citizens waved signs and Mexian flags. *Photo courtesy of Jacqueline Ramirez*



Graphic by Geneva Huang/La Vista

Costa welcomes transfer students displaced by wildfires

By Zoe Mellinger
Staff Writer

The Costa population grew by over 100 new students in 2025. Most new students were affected by last month's catastrophic wildfires.

Costa has enrolled 118 new students, a significant increase from the usual five to ten students who typically enroll in the spring semester.

"The school is now working diligently to integrate these new students into its community while maintaining the same high academic standards," said Principal Dr. Jennifer Huynh.

To accommodate the influx of students Costa has had to adjust its operations, including opening additional class sections. "Despite the challenges, everyone has gone above and beyond to make sure new students feel welcomed," Huynh said.

Teachers have taken on new sections of classes in response to the growing number of students. The English department in particular gained three new sections. Some teachers have had to change their teaching styles in order to accommodate the varying levels of subject knowledge in their classes.

"Because I have an entirely new section of English made up of 30 new students, I had to make some pretty big adjustments," said English and Link Crew teacher Maddie Hutchinson. "Challenges include combining the curriculum from both semesters, but also simply finding a way to support people through such an intense experience, especially when I don't entirely know the specific ways each person was impacted."

The district is working to manage the new students by adjusting class sizes and schedules according to Huynh. While this has presented logistical challenges, the Costa community has united to tackle the task.

"Our staff has truly stepped up with empathy and flexibility," Huynh said. "Our counselors and office teams have been exceptional in guiding families through the enrollment process, and we've adjusted class sizes and schedules to accommodate the increase."

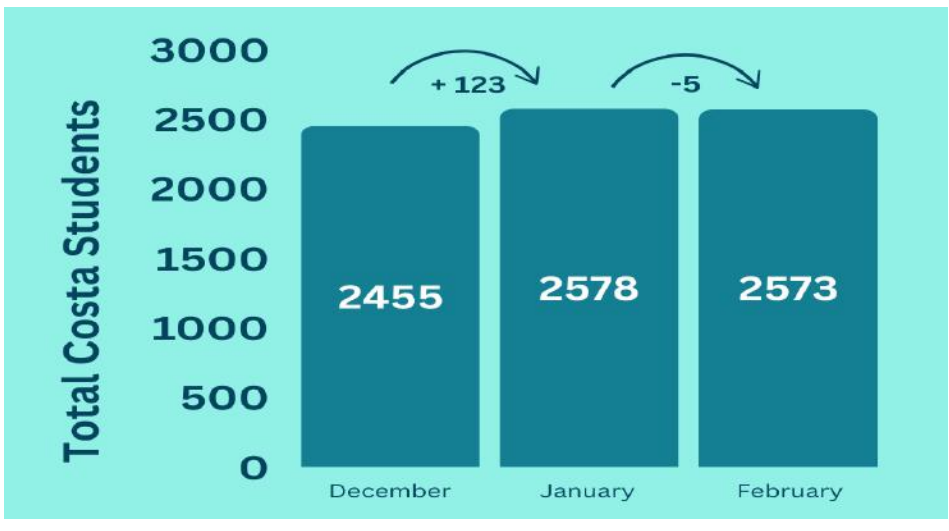
To help the new students adjust, the school's Link Crew and ASB leaders have provided campus tours, welcome signs, school-necessity gift bags, and emotional support to all students and staff. Link Leaders are also setting up a study buddy systems for the new students. "I really like Costa so far," said sophomore and former Palisades High School student Chloe Rouanet. "Teachers, students, and the community have all been really welcoming."

In addition to the new study buddy system, "Link Leaders stepped up and participated in Costa Cares, running booths, donating, and attending the events that fundraised money for wildfire relief programs," Hutchinson said.

As the semester progresses, Rouanet described how new students are finding their place in the Costa community, and becoming a part of the Mustang family.

"The students have been incredibly resilient," Huynh said. "They've faced so much loss, but they're coming together with the help of our staff and the welcoming spirit of our school. It's amazing to see the community rally around them."

READ MORE AT LAVISTA.COM



COSTA COMMUNITY: 2025 has shown a significant increase in Costa's student body which can be attributed to the wildfires. *Graphic by Zoe Mellinger*

In This Issue: The Highlights of La Vista



Features 6-7
La Vista highlights the Aerospace Engineering Club on page 8



Theme 8
Learn about the way Costa honors and celebrates various cultures

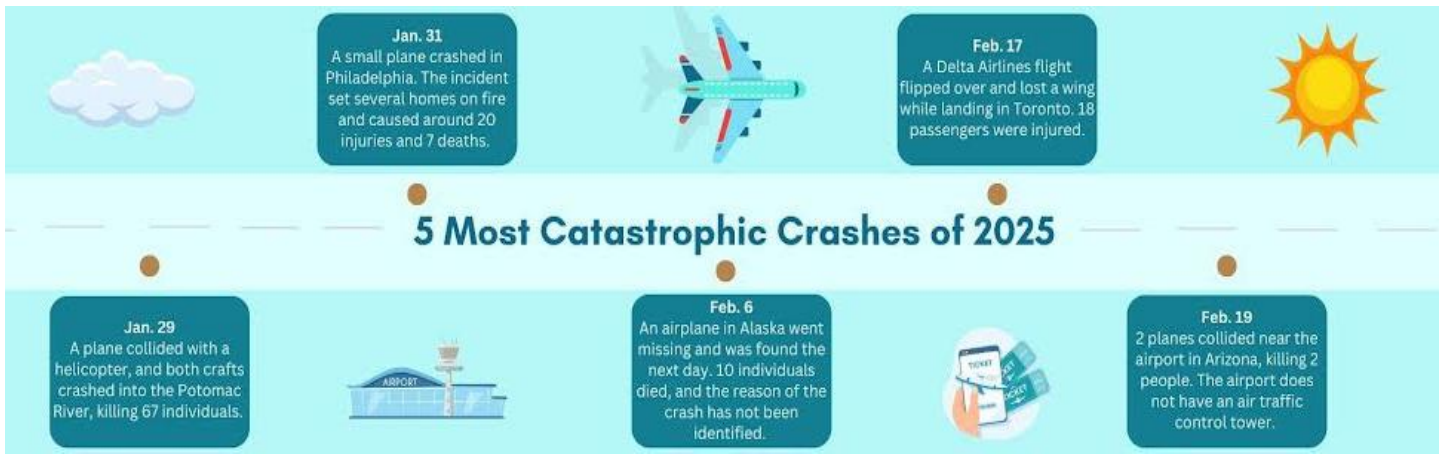
Arts 10
Read about Marvel's new Captain America movie on page 10.



Sports 15
Flip to page 11 to check out La Vista's opinion on the new NIL Law

Recent plane crashes create fear of air travel

By Landen Braunstein
News Editor



FLIGHT FAILURES: A timeline of plane crashes in 2025. These accidents mark the first fatal commercial plane crashes in the United States in 15 years. *Graphic by Landen Braunstein/La Vista*

Statistics show that planes are the safest form of transportation, but is that really true? We are barely two months into 2025, and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) announced that 13 fatal airplane accidents have occurred so far. It is evident that we are experiencing a turbulent start to the new year.

The first fatal crash of the year occurred on Jan. 29. An American Airlines flight collided with an Army Black Hawk Helicopter transporting soldiers. Both aircrafts fell into the Potomac River and all 67 passengers and pilots died. Licensed commercial pilot and flight instructor Tanya Steele believes that this crash occurred due to pilot error on the helicopter's part.

"The air traffic control warned them about the plane and told them to stay away," Steele said. "The helicopter pilot said that they saw the plane but ended up hitting it."

On the American Airlines flight were a group of elite figure skaters, including world champions Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov, returning from a developmental skating camp. The NTSB is currently conducting an investigation of the crash, though neither of the flights' black boxes were recovered, creating difficulty determining a cause.

"A black box is a recording device in every commercial airplane," Steele said. "It is critical that they find the black box so they have the story of what happened. They are built in indestructible boxes so if the plane is submerged in water the black box will probably stay intact and it has a GPS and can be located."

Just two days later on Jan. 31, a plane crashed in front of the Roosevelt Mall in Philadelphia. Seven individuals lost their lives in the crash and several houses in the neighborhood were set aflame. Six of the people killed were aboard the medical jet, and one person was killed on the ground.

"Generally chains of events cause crashes, not one thing," Steele said. "When they do investigations, it is generally deemed as the pilots fault. But all of these other things happen too. The news doesn't tell you everything."

The NTSB released minimal information regarding the cause of that crash, suggesting that the cause has not yet been identified.

"It can take the NTSB 1-5 years to disclose information as to what happened," Steele said. "We will have to wait for answers. They are collecting the wreckage, listening to the black box, talking to the air traffic controllers, and so on."

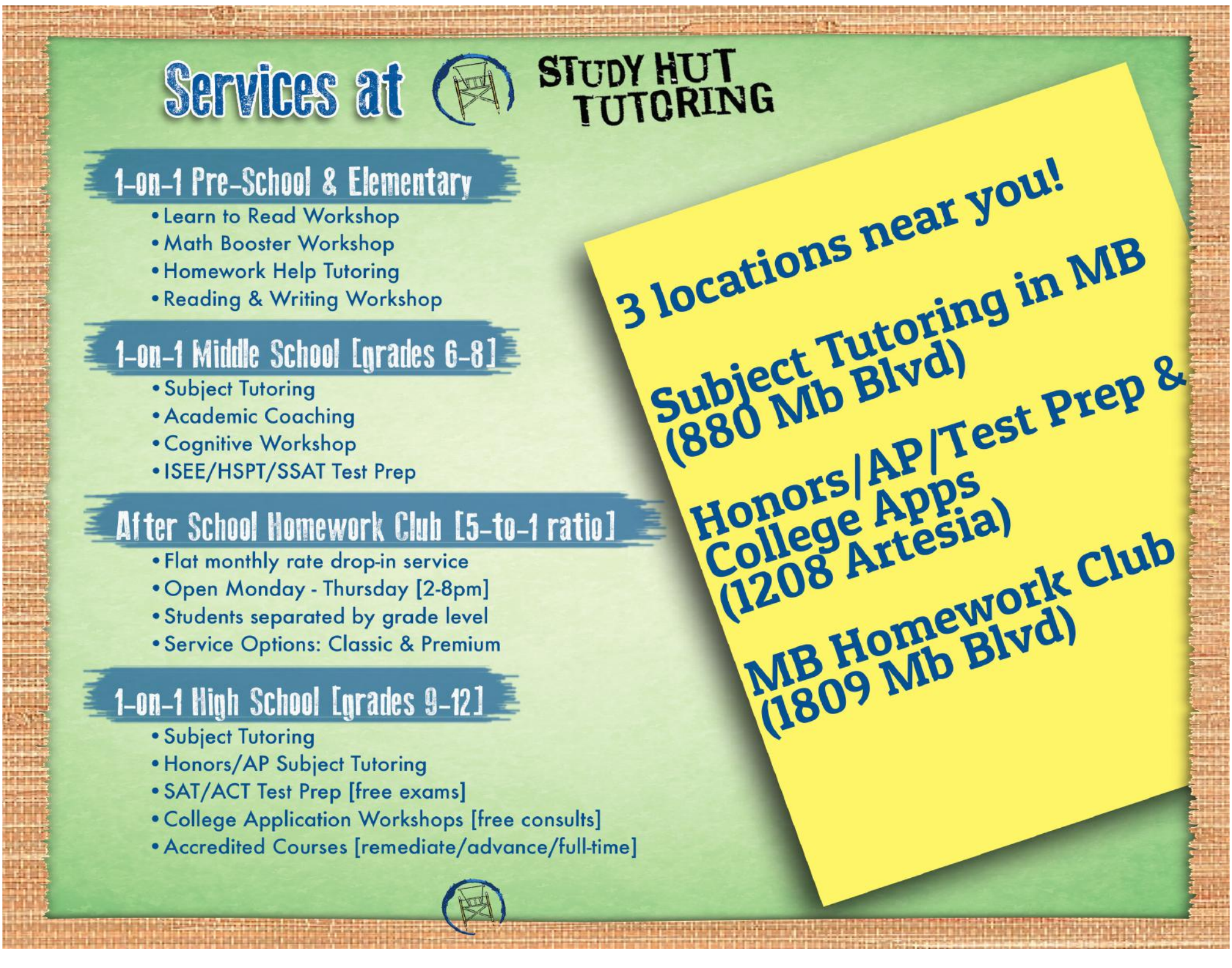
On Feb. 17, a Delta Air Lines flight flipped upside down and lost a wing while landing at the Toronto Pearson International Airport in Canada. At least 21 people were severely injured, but no lives were lost.

"They did a perfect approach to landing and everything was normal until they touched down," Steele said. "On touch down, one of their tires could have exploded, which is something out of anyone's control. A gust of wind could have raised the wing and caused the crash. An engine could have failed causing the wind to go out. The pilot could have done a bad, hard, or crooked landing. They could have slipped due to the ice and snow. A lot of things could have happened there."

In the midst of these nerve-wracking events, president Donald Trump has begun firing hundreds of employees of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Those who lost their jobs held positions such as maintenance mechanics, aviation safety assistants, and management administrators.

With spring break coming up, the uncertainties surrounding air travel may impact peoples' traveling plans. Steele, however, feels confident that flying is still the most reliable mode of transportation.

"Recent uncertainties surrounding air safety is making me rethink my flight over spring break," said senior Talia Ehrlich.



New Costa scholarship promotes English studies while honoring late teachers

By Riya Kalra
Online Editor

This year, retired department chair Pamela Jennings has introduced a new award, the Mira Costa English Faculty Memorial Scholarship, to commemorate the legacy of former teachers' dedication to literature and student growth.

The scholarship honors the memory of late English teachers John Heideman, Mike McAvin , and Lianne Kneisel. This scholarship celebrates their legacies by giving scholarship funds to graduating seniors who plan to major in English.

"Pam's scholarship idea was a brilliant way to memorialize the educators who made an indelible mark on Costa by supporting the next generation of English scholars," said English teacher Diana Sieker. "It's a beautiful way to honor both the future and the past."

The scholarship not only a tribute to these teachers' contributions to the Costa community but also encourages future generations to pursue their passion for literature. It highlights the lasting impact of commited teachers and aids students who want to carry on their love for storytelling and learning.

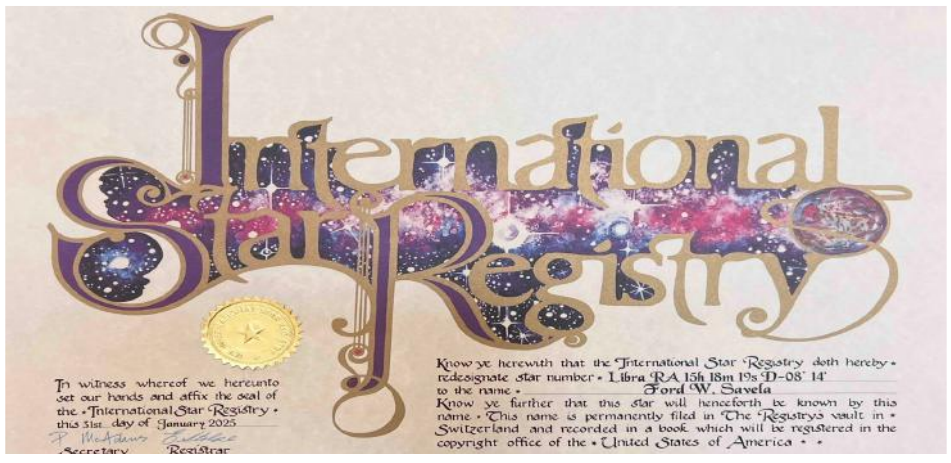
"Mr. McAvin showed me that English was about understanding stories, not just reading them," junior Dev Prema said. "His passion for literature inspired me, and I'm grateful for his impact on me."

Applicants must submit a 500-600 word essay reflecting on their personal relationship with literature and their reasons for pursuing English at the college level. The application deadline is March 15, 2025. For more information and to apply, students can visit the College and Career Center.

"This [scholarship represents] a meaningful connection between the passion and expertise of those teachers who have passed [away]," said Jennings.



INSPIRING STUDENTS: The late teachers honored by the scholarship include Mike McAvin (left), John Heideman (middle) and Lianne Kneisel (right). Their passion for English can be passed down to students through this scholarship. *Photos by Kelsey Mcavin and Hoofprints*



STARRY NIGHT: Astrophysics teacher Ford displays Savela's star registry in her classroom. Students can view the plaque in room 248. *Photo by Natasha Randeniya/ La Vista*

Ford Savela's legacy continues at Costa

By Natasha Randeniya
Executive News Editor

Ford Savela's legacy shines brightly through astrophysics teacher Rebecca Ford's star dedication and the Ford W. Savela legacy of kindness scholarship.

Ford purchased a star in memory of late senior Savela, a symbol of his campus and community impact. Ford came up with the idea of dedicating a star after speaking with Savela's parents at his memorial who shared how a trip to Joshua Tree, where he went stargazing and sparked his love for astronomy.

"I hope the star in the sky provides a way for people to remember [Ford Savela] in a touching way, " says Ford. "It also is a way to show his family that people care about him."

To honor something close to Savela's heart, Ford chose to name a star after him. The star, located in the Libra constellation, Savela's zodiac sign, is best viewed during the summer. It comes with celestial coordinates, allowing anyone with a compatible telescope to find it and remember Savela through the night sky.

"I helped collect money from fellow peers to buy the star," said senior Sloane Gasperov. "It was touching that Ms. Ford wanted to do this and so many of her students helped."

To preserve Ford's academic legacy, Costa parent Jhoanna Torres organized a GoFundMe on behalf of his mother Ashley Savela, to create the Ford W. Savela Legacy of Kindness Scholarship. The fundraiser has surpassed its $25,000 goal, now reaching $36,540.

The Gofundme reads, "The [scholarship] honors Ford's memory and his love for family and friends by supporting students who embody his core values of kindness, empathy, high character, and community involvement." You can donate at https://shorturl.at/l4onT

MARCH 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4 This Is Costa Part 2	5 All-District Choir Build-A-Bridge-Concert @6pm (Auditorium)	6	7 Comedy Sportz HSL Match @7pm (Small Theater)	8
	ASB 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament (Lunch) & SEL Week					
9	10	11 Late Start	12	13	14 Evening of Eclectic Ensembles @6pm	15
	ASB 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament continued (Lunch)					
	CASP Testing Week #1 & SEL Week Continued					
16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Womens History Month Assembly & Band and Orchestra Festival Concert	21 3rd Quarter Ends	22
	Midterms & Scholar Quiz (lunch)					
23	24	25 Scholar Quiz Final (Auditorium)	26 Club Day #4 (lunch) 8th Grade Parent Meeting	27	28 ASB Fun Friday	29
	CASP Testing Week #2 & Random Act of Kindness Week					
30	31 MB Legacy Open Golf Tournament (Old Ranch Country Club)	1	2	3	4	5

mira costa's la vista

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Mission Statement: LA VISTA is committed to providing only the highest quality reporting while maintaining a strict standard of journalistic integrity and providing its readers with relevant content.

"The Governing Board desires to provide a safe school environment that allows all students equal access and opportunities in the district's academic, extracurricular, and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying, targeted at any student by anyone, based on the student's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, nationality, ethnic group identification, ethnicity, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information, or association with a person or group with

Trump's first month in office brings chaos

By Vanessa Masterson
Staff Writer

On Jan. 20, President Donald J. Trump was sworn into office as the 47th President of the United States. Since then, he has put into action his plans to radically reshape American society and government. With recent shifts in the federal government toward a populist brand of aggressive protectionism, Americans should expect a serious alteration of their country over the next few years.

On his first few days in office, Trump signed a flurry of executive orders. These included revoking American membership from global agreements and groups such as the Paris Climate Accord and World Health Organization, rescinding various Biden-era policies, and pardoning nearly every defendant involved in cases related to the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Many of these choices from the executive office will harm both America's place on a global scale as well as its domestic situation. Leaving the Paris Climate Accord, for example, damages our status as global leader on climate change. America now lacks the authority to pressure other nations to adhere to a higher standard for use of clean energy and lessening of carbon emissions. Trump pardoning and commuting the sentences of the insurrectionists that broke into the Capitol and attacked law enforcement on Jan. 6 damages America's reputation and vacating past executive orders that dealt with issues such as gun violence, racial equality, and climate change sets back progress on core issues.

Trump is also pursuing economic policy that hinges on tariffs, which are taxes on goods imported from other countries. Economic experts have long concluded that tariffs are an inflationary measure, and will raise costs for consumers on everyday items.

Trump began his tariff agenda by threatening Mexico and Canada with 25% tariffs on every import, an unprecedented step against our two largest trading partners that border the United States. Trump later backed down on this decision, after negotiations with Mexico for increased border security and Canada's threats to match Trump's tariff plan. However, he insists that these are temporary pauses, and has decided to move ahead with a 10% tariff on China, an inexplicably lower import tax for a country that is a direct competitor to the United States compared to ally trading partners like Mexico and Canada.

> "American citizens should expect a serious alteration of their country over the next few years."

Additionally, Trump is cracking down on immigration with increased deportations and arrests. Trump's administration has pressured U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to substantially raise the amount of arrests of those suspected of illegal entry into the country. This has led to a rise in coordinated raids by ICE, many of which are reported to have occurred without a warrant or a high enough level of probable cause. The pressure that Trump has put on ICE has also raised questions about the veracity of the arrests being made, as those who do not have a criminal background are being questioned and apprehended simply to meet quotas.

In another controversial step, President Trump has granted a billionaire with zero government experience, Elon Musk, the title of Head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). This position gives Musk increased access to personal information of Americans and certain information within the Treasury Department. The administration also recently established the goal of shutting down the U.S. Foreign Aid Department (USAID) that coordinates funding to fight starvation and poverty overseas. As of 2025, USAID had planned to spend almost $60 billion on international assistance programs, yet the Trump administration is moving more agressively to reduce this funding. The rebuking of this organization will cause significant issues for the less fortunate, making even a simple meal, difficult to obtain.

President Trump has taken a stark and bold approach to reshaping the government in his (and Elon Musk's) vision, with little regard to rule of law or the long-term effects of his policies. How his administration will respond to the failures of his policies and their inevitable legal challenges remains unclear, but a period of chaos seems to be certain.

Cannabis is now more accessible to teens in Redondo

By Geneva Huang
Buisness Manager

Draft language was approved in a 4 to 1 vote by the Redondo Beach City Council last month in efforts to open up a second cannabis dispensary in Redondo Beach. Councilmember Scott Behrendt expressed disdain for the opening of a dispensary particularly in District 5, which he claims is already crowded with liquor stores and smoke shops.

Opening a cannabis store near high schools sparks debate over student accessibility, though strict regulations and ID requirements are designed to prevent underage use. While some worry about potential exposure, legal dispensaries provide a safer, regulated alternative to unlicensed dealers, ultimately reducing illicit access and ensuring product safety. Responsible cannabis policies can shift the conversation toward education and harm reduction rather than prohibition, which has historically failed to curb youth drug use.

"People will do drugs regardless, so these dispensaries will just make cannabis safer," says junior Veronica Couture.

Those in support of new cannabis operations pointed out that properly-managed legal shops help reduce illegal operations in cities where the licensed stores are introduced, while those opposed highlight that increased accessibility could lead to greater youth exposure and potential regulatory challenges. The stores are expected to generate between $200,000 and $450,000 tax dollars in profit per location annually, contributing to the city's $121 million current budget.

"Restricting legal dispensaries does not eliminate youth access to substances: it just shifts it to unregulated and potentially more dangerous sources," sophomore Savine Nguyen pointed out. "With or without easy drug access, students are always going to get [drugs]."



Graphic by Sadie Lee & Noki Lam

Proponents who continue to push the fact that the dispensaries and its effect of normalizing youth use are unaware that Costa's student population is already deeply engaged in drug use, with substances readily available through social circles and unregulated sources. If people truly want to address the drug problem, focusing on education and harm reduction strategies would be far more effective than restricting legal, regulated dispensaries.

Behrendt proposed locating a store north of Manhattan Beach Blvd. That way, the dispensary would be positioned away from residential areas and schools, while being close to freeways to attract customers from neighboring cities. The dispensary's primary focus isn't to capitalize on student consumers, but rather on serving adults and out-of-town customers in a regulated environment.

While Behrendt reaffirms that his "residents are against it, for good reasons," he neglects the fact that weed dispensaries continue to be much more expensive than the underground economy, and therefore underaged students who are drug users will continue to seek out unregulated sources, where there are no age restrictions or product safety measures in place.

Those who oppose dispensaries are addressing the student drug problem in the wrong way, focusing on restricting legal access rather than tackling the real issue of unregulated supply. It is ironic that by resisting dispensaries, they may actually be pushing students further toward the black market, where access is easier, products are unregulated, and risks are far greater.

ICE school raids cause student panic

By Kelsey Mcavin
Executive Arts Editor

President Donald Trump's new executive order, titled "Protecting the American People Against Invasion", states that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is now allowed to invade schools and make arrests. Up until now, schools have been off-limits for immigration enforcement, and the decision to legalize it threatens the safe and nurturing environment that schools are meant to provide.

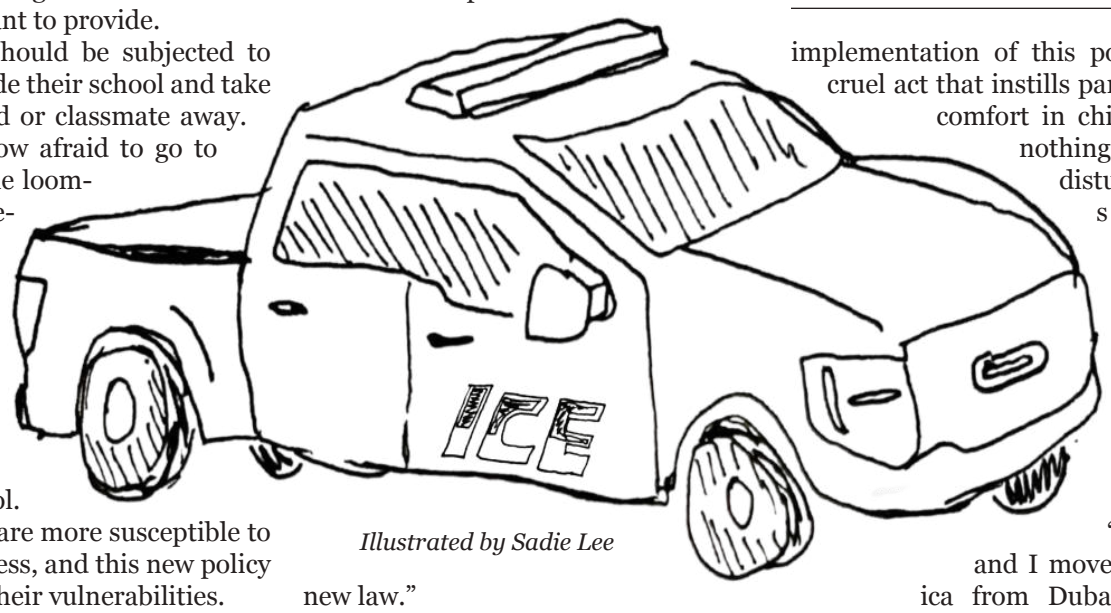
No student should be subjected to watch ICE invade their school and take their best friend or classmate away. Students are now afraid to go to school under the looming threat of being taken from their home.

The new directive is especially damaging for younger students in elementary and middle school. These children are more susceptible to emotional distress, and this new policy only amplifies their vulnerabilities.

"School should be a safe space and place of learning," said senior Carter Gentry. "Young kids shouldn't have to be scared of going to school because of this new policy."

According to USA Today, student attendance has already dropped significantly due to the threat of ICE raids. Parents, terrified of potential invasions, are choosing to keep their children at home, which further damages their education.

"I'm absolutely terrified of sending my kids to school with everything going on," said Costa parent Veronica Randeniya. "I feel terrible for all the families that have lost their homes and have been separated because of this new law."



Illustrated by Sadie Lee

Allowing ICE jurisdiction in schools is fostering a generation of students that will forever associate school with trauma rather than education. The implementation of this policy was a cruel act that instills panic and discomfort in children. It is nothing less than disturbing that students now have to worry more about their safety rather than their schoolwork.

> "I just can't imagine what it would be like coming home from school and my little sister not being there."

"My family and I moved to America from Dubai a couple years ago," said senior Gia Dionisio. "I just can't imagine what it would be like coming home from school and my little sister not being there."

Editor's Note

Charlotte recognizes Costa staff support

By Charlotte Levy
Editor-in-Chief

Just as students have finally settled into their first semester classes and Costa's counselors experience a semblance of relief, scheduling arrangements for the second semester have brought about a new wave of chaos. The often hectic beginning of the new year has been amplified by the influx of students fleeing the Los Angeles fires.

During moments like these, we owe a huge thank you to the counselors, who are dedicating their days to help our community in these devastating times.

Over 100 new students have become members of the Mustang family over the past month, adding more than 100 new schedules for the counselors to manage. What is arguably more important than the technical help provided by the counseling staff is their emotional support and transitional guidance. Providing the new Mustangs with these trusted adults has helped them balance their academic endeavors and personal struggles.

This responsibility has not only fallen on the shoulders of our counselors, but of our teachers as well, many of whom have felt this same weight as they have taken on new classes to accommodate the increase in students.

Other teachers have added extra students to their individual classes. All of the extra grading, lesson-planning, and work from these teachers has not gone unnoticed. They have played a pivotal role in uniting our community to provide relief for those in need and for that we are extremely grateful.

The Los Angeles fires have served as a wake-up call for all of us, having affected the homes of our friends, families, and loved ones. The locality of the devastation has evoked fear amongst the Costa community, leaving many wondering what we would do if we were hit with the same disasters. Instead of lingering in uncertainty, we should search for hope, knowing that we have set an example of empathy by rallying to assist affected Angelenos.

In the wake of this darkness, I urge everyone to consider showing empathy and appreciation for our Costa staff. Even small gestures like saying "Hi" during office hours, writing a handwritten note, or giving a small token of appreciation can brighten up someone's day by helping them remember the good in humanity.


Illustrated by Sadie Lee


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Lucy's Hot Take

By Lucy Hansen
Executive Features Editor

Allow me to share an analogy with you:

Say you inherit an old house. The house is ugly from the outside, so you decide to make some renovations. You paint over the walls and cover up the old floors with carpeting, but soon begin to notice that the drywall on your ceiling is cracking.

You call an expert to come and look at it, and they tell you that the cracking isn't your fault since the house is old and expected to have some issues. However, considering that it's your house now, it is your responsibility to repair those problems so that they dont get worse over time.

The house is America, and we have inherited a nation covered in cracks: systems rooted in racism and inequality. The problem is that we've spent years applying "paint" over the cracks and hoping they'll just go away. If we don't start addressing these issues from their root, the structure of our nation will eventually collapse.

The problem is that we, the people inheriting the house, aren't even trying to fix it at all. We see this all across the country but also on a local level. Here at Costa, another series of antisemitic taggings occurred back in November, however, the administration did not share this information with teaching staff until January.

This highlights a key issue that is contributing to prejudice on our campus: the lack of communication between administration, teachers, and students. If the student body doesn't know that problems like this are happening, the lack of awareness will allow for more issues to happen because people will think that it's okay.

Personally, I dont want to be a part of a school that is widely known for having students who publicly commit acts of hatred and don't even feel bad about it.

On a larger scale, America's ideology swings like a pendulum between progress and regression, growing more severe with each shift. Right now, it's swinging back into regression, or conservatism. We've watched this cycle happen for years and we can predict the consequences, but society keeps focusing on the effects instead of addressing the causes.

We need to be okay with addressing the ugly parts of our history. Even if it makes you uncomfortable, learning about why things happened and why they are wrong is an important step in fostering progress. What people don't understand is that you don't have to feel guilty about what happened in our history, but you should feel motivated to make a change because if things keep going the way they have been, systemic issues will inevitably worsen.

Love,
Lucy

CANDID

Kit and Sophia list Valentine's favorites

By Kit Humbarger and Sophia Luckey
Managing Editors

Hello and welcome to the end of February. Known as the month of love, Valentine's celebrations take over the majority of people's focus. In honor of this lovely holiday, we would like to share our favorite Valentine's classics. We're leaving space for you, beautiful readers, to share your picks.

Fave Flowers
Kit: Daisies
Sophia: Tulips
You:

Fave See's Candy
Kit: MILK CHOCOLATE Butterscotch Square (who likes dark chocolate?)
Sophia: Molasses Chips are THE only answer
You:

Fave Rom-com Line
Kit: "And when my eyes are closed, I see you for what you truly are, which is UGLY"
Sophia: "You have a cocktail dress in your trunk?"
You:

Red or Pink
Kit: Red (especially dark red - cue song by Steve Lacy)
Sophia: Pink, the color and singer
You:

Fave Love Song
Kit: "My Girl" by The Temptations
Sophia: "Like Real People Do" by Hozier
You:

Stay In or Go Out
Kit: Staying in with a movie and snacks is my ideal night
Sophia: Go out (please buy me food)
You:

Best Pick-Up Line
Kit: Are you a Sharpie? 'Cause you're looking extra fine!
Sophia: I wanna wrap you up and make you my bae-rrito
You:

Love V-Day or Hate It
Kit: ...it's okay
Sophia: ...love
You:

We hope you all, single and taken, had a Valentine's Day full of love and chocolate. If you don't like chocolate, then please stop reading this column.

Costa's Aerospace Engineering Club aims high at national competition

By Lucy Hansen
Executive Features Editor

Costa's Aerospace Engineering Club is an inspiring community where students from all grades collaborate to explore the world of rocketry. Physics teacher Jonathan Lewis oversees the club, founded in 2022. They meet weekly to learn about advanced topics and create designs for aerospace competitions.

Senior Noah Weiss is the current president. Inspired to take on this role, Weiss found that concepts often omitted in commom core classes could be applied in real world challenges through the club.

"What began as a small group [of students] sharing ideas about model rocketry soon evolved into a team working on more sophisticated projects," said Weiss. "Serving as president has allowed me to harness our collective passion, leading us to participate in national competitions and develop complex [designs] in-house."

The club is managed very carefully by both Weiss and his vice presidents, seniors Shane Sheth and Tesla Pratt. The three work together to break down their bigger goals into smaller milestones that everyone in the club can work on together.

"We hold weekly meetings to review progress, discuss setbacks, and plan next steps," said Weiss. "Open dialogue is encouraged, and we view failures as natural parts of the engineering process. By emphasizing the excitement of exploring new frontiers. We keep motivation high even in the face of challenges."

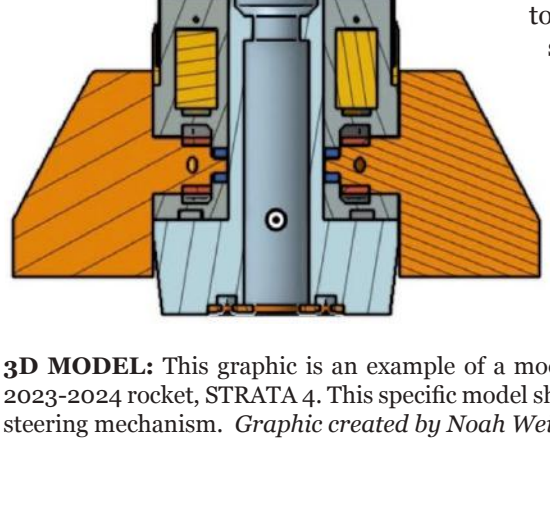
Because students of all levels are welcome to the club, there are often concepts that many have not learned yet. To counter this, Weiss and other knowledgeable members hold lectures during club meetings to teach interested students about complex subjects like aerodynamic principles, computer-aided designs, and calculation methods. According to Weiss, this shared knowledge helps break down communication barriers and build cohesion.

"I really enjoy Aerospace because it taught me how to apply the physics we were learning in class [to the real world]," said junior club member, Jett Purser. "It made me want to learn more. I also really enjoyed learning about 3D fabrication and designing our own nose cones that would be used for the rockets."

The team's goal is to compete in the American Rocketry Challenge. The project that they will entering in the competition is a model rocket featuring an active canard guidance system—a technology rarely seen at the student level.

"A notable aspect of the design is our custom printed circuit board (PCB), which integrates multiple sensors, including accelerometers, gyroscopes, and barometric pressure sensors, all feeding data into our flight control algorithms," said Weiss. "We also employ lightweight yet durable materials, such as carbon fiber–reinforced 3D printing filament, to achieve the necessary balance between strength and weight.

The objective of the competition is to build a rocket that can reach exactly 820 feet in the air. The club's first year competing was last year, when they built their rocket, STRATA. According to Weiss, despite some malfunctions, the rocket was a good introduction to rocketry competitions. This year, the team is competing with a similar design, but they have made some major improvments.



3D MODEL: This graphic is an example of a model from the club's 2023-2024 rocket, STRATA 4. This specific model shows the rockets fin steering mechanism. *Graphic created by Noah Weiss*





AIMING FOR THE SKIES: Costa's Aerospace Engineering Club combines concepts learned in the classroom and scrap materials to create competitive aerospace designs. (Top, from left): Students Mason Barrett, Noah Weiss, Luc Kolczak, Laszlo Maisonnueve-Godec, Shane Sheth, and John Tian sort through scraps. (Bottom, from left): Mason Barrett, Jin Park, Jett Purser, Ethan Schwab, Luc Kolczak, Laszlo Maisonnueve-Godcec, John Tian, Noah Weiss, and Charles Hiatt pose for a group photo. *Photos courtesy of: Noah Weiss*

"Although we faced setbacks along the way to our current design, these experiences taught us the importance of rapid iteration, effective troubleshooting under pressure, and maintaining thorough documentation," said Weiss. "The lessons learned from these competitions have contributed to our preparation for future challenges."

> "I strive to foster a culture of innovation and teamwork."

Co-vice president, Sheth, has been a member for three years and has witnessed the club's growth from the beginning. Sheth says he is grateful for the experiences that being a part of the club has offered.

"I've learned so much about rocketry and engineering as a whole," said Sheth. "From designing rockets for the American Rocketry Challenge to listening to lectures about interesting aerodynamic principles, to building cardboard boats to practicing building under material constraints. The Aerospace Club has been some of the most fun I've had at Costa."

By participating in competitions, writing reports on projects, and posting YouTube videos, the club aims to champion student-led aerospace initiatives and demonstrate that innovative breakthroughs can emerge from Costa clubs. Offering regular updates, behind-the-scenes looks, and educational content, the club's Instagram (@mchs_aerospace) has amassed over 16,000 followers.

"We see our club's influence extending far beyond the campus," said Weiss. "By documenting and publishing our research, we aim to contribute to the broader body of knowledge in student aerospace projects. Sharing both our successes and setbacks helps other teams learn and accelerates progress across the field."

It's worth emphasizing that despite the club being very focused on STEM, it still explores areas outside of engineering. Such as a marketing competition the club facilitated where members could submit a video showcasing the aerospace program for the chance to win $3,000. With ambitious plans for the future and a thriving community of passionate students, Costa's Aerospace Engineering Club isn't just launching rockets—it's launching futures

"I strive to foster a culture of innovation and teamwork, ensuring that every member—regardless of background or experience—has the opportunity to learn, experiment, and contribute," said Weiss.

@mchs_aerospace

Scan to join Aerospace Engineering Club GroupMe!

Wave of positivity: Crossing guard brightens her corner of the world

By Katie Anderson
Features Editor

In a world where rushing through life has become the norm, there is one street corner where there is always time to spread kindness. On 2nd and Peck, crossing guard Nicole Mitchell's welcoming wave and radiant smile turns her small intersection into the beacon of support and community spirit.

Mitchell began working as a crossing guard in Compton, feeling motivated to take action after hearing about tragic incidents of children being struck by cars on their way to school. Determined to make a difference, Mitchell began spreading positivity by greeting every passer-by with a warm, "hi." Eventually, her father suggested she try waving at people as a different approach.

"I just started waving at everyone!" Mitchell said. "When I wave to people, I try to make eye-contact with them. Now, I can wave at every car because I know how the traffic gets at the corner. I know that when cars come a certain way, other cars are going the other way. So I am able to wave at each car."

Mitchell applied for a crossing guard position that she found online, bringing her to Manhattan Beach. In preparation for the role, Mitchell attended meetings at Starbucks, had her fingerprints scanned, and participated in a three-hour training session.

"And after that, Rita, [my employer], called us to let us know where our assignments were going to be. I came early and she remembered me and that I called three times, thanking me for my interest in the position," Mitchell said. "She said that she knew exactly where to put me: in the area her mother lived before getting sick. When school started, she showed me the two corners where I was going to be and that is where it all started."

Mitchell continued her tradition of waving at every person going by after moving to the corner of Peck and 2nd. Her radiant positivity has touched the lives of not just Costa students, but the community as a whole.

"In high school, things can get pretty difficult and it can be hard to stay positive, but Nicole is always a consistent role model of positivity," senior Sadie Jun shared. "Every time I drive past her she always makes an effort to share an act of kindness by simply waving. This never fails to uplift my day, and makes me motivated to be kind to others."

In addition to serving as a crossing guard, Mitchell works two jobs to take care of her mother, and prior to that she was a foster parent for eight years. Her current night job, run by a regional company, is working with women in group homes who have behavioral problems.



SPREADING KINDNESS: Peck and 2nd street's crossing guard, Nicole Mitchell has worked in Manhattan Beach for two years, smiling and waving at every person that goes by. *Photo by Katie Anderson/ La Vista*

"I work at night from 10 P.M. to 6 A.M., and am off on Mondays and Tuesdays. When I get home at 6 o'clock, I come home, change my mother, and get ready to go to my post at the school at 7:30 A.M., leaving at 8:30 A.M. After, I come home, get my mother up, feed her breakfast, give her insulin, and I rest until I go back out to my post," Mitchell explained. "When I come back, I get my mother prepared for dinner, rest, and then get myself together for my night job at 10 o'clock. On the days that I have off, I pick those two days to take my mother to her appointments."

A couple of months ago, Mitchell experienced financial strain taking care of her mother. With help from a friend, she created a Gofundme with the goal of raising $5,000 to help with rent and costs for her mother. Within a few days, donations poured in. Now, she has been able to raise more than $8,000.

"I was just so overwhelmed," Mitchell shared. "Then, I thought, I need to tell these people "thank you" because I was just so surprised, it really helped me. So in this community, I do anything I can to give back, because they came through at a time where I wasn't even expecting it at all. And it really helped me with my mother, because I take care of my mother."

Although Mitchell doesn't always get a friendly wave in return, she continues to smile and spread positivity. According to senior Henry Michael, Mitchell's gestures have boosted morale around the community.

"Waking up early to drive to school, and driving home from a hard day at school can be tough, but I can always look forward to a constant source of enthusiasm and positivity on the corner of 2nd and Peck," said Michael. "As I pass by her station, I can see that Nicole never misses a car, extending a welcoming hello to everyone at the Costa community and beyond. It is so warming to know that someone is consistently making an effort to brighten the day for others."

Mitchell hopes to leave with people throughout the community with the idea of believing in themselves. Although it may seem difficult to keep going at points, she hopes that people continue to have faith and never give up.

"I love everyone in the community, I love the kids," Mitchell expressed. "And I tell everyone, I'm not just a crossing guard out there. I know these kids' parents, I know these kids' grandparents. I try to get to know everyone, and I just enjoy everyday getting to see my kids and their parents. I just love it, and I wouldn't change it for anything in the world."

Journey of compassion: Senior Marca's mission to deliver dental care in Jamaica

By Jenna Brodkin
Excecutive Sports Editor

Driven by a commitment to making a difference, senior Athena Marca traveled to Jamaica to bring vital dental care to hundreds of people in underserved communities.

Marca's passion for dentistry began when she interned for South Bay Dental Smiles this past summer. Marca has been interested in health care since she was young, and has always had an itch to combine her love for science with her desire to help others.

"Through my internship this past summer, I quickly learned that through this career path that I would get to work hands-on daily." Marca said. "I realized dentistry is not just for cosmetics, but improper oral hygiene can have serious effects."

According to Marca, her aunt and uncle have been participating in the trip yearly since 2003. The trip is sponsored by Health Care International Reach Out, with the goal of providing critical dental care for communities all around Jamaica.



SAY CHEESE: Senior Athena Marca smiles with students in Jamaica. *Photo courtesy of Athena Marca*

"The second my aunt offered for me to join her on the trip, it was an immediate yes," Marca said. "I couldn't wait to go out there and practice my passion."

Each day of the five-day trip, Marca drove to different communities around the island. The group would set up a mini clinic either in a school or church. The volunteers would divide into teams for fluoride treatments, sterilization, exams, and extractions. According to Marca, there was no way to save the teeth of most of the patients. the that they could only be treated with extractions.

"Personally I enjoyed helping with the extractions the most," Marca explained. "I was able to see up close and experience the hard work dental students put in every day. I even got to pull the teeth out myself and perform a stitch in one of the patients mouths. It was disheartening to realize that these communities had no real concept of oral hygiene and I was glad I was able to help. Additionally, they don't have fluoride in their water, so I was able to provide fluoride treatments for hundreds of kids."

According to Marca, after her three-to-six hour work day, she had time to hang out with all the children. Marca taught them to play lacrosse, and she shared she was able to learn about their traditional Jamaican schoolyard games.

"This was a highlight of my trip because it was an amazing experience being able to make connections with these kids," Marca said. "I quickly learned that despite the poverty and challenges they endure, they are full of joy and fun in their loving communities. I loved seeing them laughing and running around with their friends."

Marca shares that this trip was a confirmation that she wants to work in the healthcare field. She plans to visit her aunt and uncle's oral reconstruction practice in Florida this summer to learn more about the densitry field and their work. According to Marca, she is excited to take these experiences into the following years in college as she starts down the pre-dental and premed tracks.



SMILE: Senior Marca engages with local children, spreading smiles and dental care. *Photo courtesy of Athena Marca*

"This trip was life changing and I will forever be grateful for the memories I made and the skills I learned," Marca explained.

Compiled By Kiera DelMonte/Executive Theme Editor, McKinlee Rainey/Theme Editor, Riley Campion/Theme Editor

CULTURES OF OUR COMMUNITY

YEAR OF THE SNAKE CELEBRATION

The Chinese New Year celebrations wrapped up on February 12, with the vibrant Lantern Festival, a tradition marking the end of the 15-day festivities.

This festival is filled with colorful lantern displays, dragon and lion dances, and the tradition of eating tang yuan–sweet rice balls, usually eaten for dessert, symbolizing unity and family togetherness. Another traditional Lunar New Year treat is the moon cake, symbolizes longevity, prosperity, and fortune.

People hang lanterns from New Year's Eve until the last day of the festival, lighting up the streets with bright colors. Lion dances are performed and fireworks are displayed, while many reflect on the new year and what the future holds.

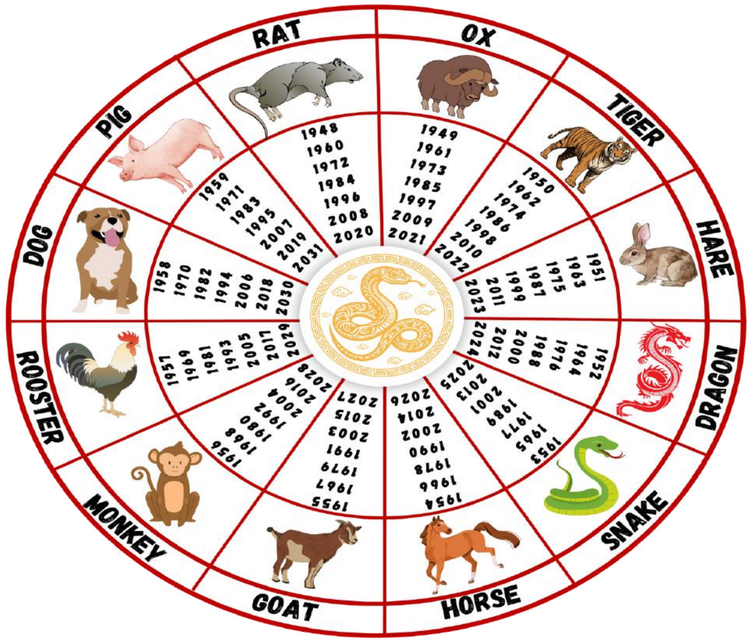
This year's Lantern Festival also marks the beginning of the Year of the Snake according to the Chinese zodiac. People born in this year are said to be graceful, wise, and charming, with a tint of mystery. The Snake is the sixth animal in the zodiac cycle, and those born under its sign are believed to have strong intuition and an analytical nature.

As the sixth animal in the Chinese zodiac, the snake carries deep symbolic significance, representing wisdom, transformation, and flexibility. This year is viewed as a period of renewal, growth, prosperity and good fortune. Like the snake shedding its skin, the year of the snake is a chance for personal transformation and new beginnings.

The Lantern Festival is not only a time of celebration, but also offers time to reflect on family, unity, and hope for a prosperous year ahead. The festival brings the community together as lanterns light up the sky.



Illustrations by Riley Campion and McKinlee Rainey



UNDERSTANDING YOUR ANIMAL

Chinese zodiacs first appeared in the 5th century B.C., but they were officially identified during the Han Dynasty.The zodiac was originally used to track the years, months, days, and even hours in the calendar. There are twelve animals that correspond with the Chinese zodiacs: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. Each animal represents a year in a 12-year cycle, a day in a 12-day cycle, and 2 hours within a 24-hour cycle. A few myths suggest that the the animals and their order in the cycle were picked from the results of a race.

This system is sometimes used to determine if two people are compatible or to determine people's interests, possibly influencing a person's career. It is known that someone's personality traits will typically correspond to their animals characteristics.

For example, if your animal is the snake, you are known to be wise, or if your animal is the monkey, you are known to be curious. A person's Chinese zodiac animal depends on their birth year, and each year the animal rotates, going through a cycle of 12 different animals.

RAT
Adaptable, Social, Expressive

OX
Diligent, Patient, Honest

TIGER
Calm, Courageous, Passionate

Rabbit
Calm, Peaceful, Artistic

DRAGON
Powerful, Intelligent, Ambitious

SNAKE
Wise, Sensitive, Intuitive

HORSE
Energetic, Cheerful, Active

GOAT
Empathetic, Kind, Helpful

MONKEY
Curious, Self-Assured, Clever

Rooster
Meticulous, Aggressive, Hardworking

DOG
Loyal, Brave, Strong

PIG
Honest, Caring, Considerate

ST. MICHAEL'S CLUB CELEBRATES HOLI

Mira Costa's St. Michael's Club helps bring the vibrant celebration of Holi to the Manhattan Beach community through an annual after-school event. Holi, a widely celebrated Indian holiday, is known as the festival of colors and is often associated with the arrival of spring, as well as the triumph of good over evil.

"Holi is one of my favorite events of the year," said St. Michael's Club president Karishma Dhawan. "Ever since I was younger, my family and I would always go to the beach or attend a party to celebrate Holi. It's a lot of fun, and you make a ton of memories from it."

In previous years, the St. Michael's Club hosted Holi celebrations on campus, allowing students to participate in the traditional color-throwing festivities. However, this year, Costa is bringing the celebration to the beach, giving students and



locals the chance to experience the cultural significance and joy of this event. The celebration is set for March 15, one day after Holi.

"In the past, we put on a Holi event where everyone could participate and throw color on each other at Costa. This year, the St. Michaels Club is hosting an after-school event on the beach where anyone who wants to participate can come and just have a lot of fun!" said Dhawan.

Holi is a simple celebration, but it still brings much excitement and exhilaration with its essence being rooted in color, music, and community.

"It's really simple and fun to play. You just need some friends or family to play with, packs of color powder to throw on them, and a loudspeaker to play music!" said Dhawan.

The St. Michael's club hopes that this celebration will leave a lasting impact on those who attend. The event is aiming to help promote cultural awareness alongside being a fun activity.

"This celebration brings attention to the importance of community and cultural significance to Indian holidays," said Dhawan.

Holi is not just about throwing colors—it is about bringing people together, celebrating unity, and appreciating the vibrancy of Indian traditions.

The St. Michael's Club's Holi celebration promises to be an impactful event for Mira Costa students and the Manhattan Beach community. Whether you're partaking in the festival for the first time or not, this event will be an unforgettable experience.

"We hope other people in the Manhattan Beach community can take away just how fun Indian celebrations are," said Dhawan. "Indian culture is not regularly touched on, so just experiencing one aspect of it would be special."







COLOR BOMB: Students come together to celebrate Holi on Costa's baseball field. *Photos Courtesy of Karishma Dhawan.*

COSTA HONORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Costa's annual Black History Month assembly on Feb. 20 brought students and faculty together to celebrate Black culture and history. The event was held in the quad during office hours and included educational booths, an interactive scavenger hunt, and live music.

This event encouraged students to explore the campus while learning about Black history and culture. There were stations spread across the school, highlighting significant Black historical figures, cultural contributions, and social movements.

Students worked in teams to solve clues and answer questions. After finishing all 20 clues, the prize for students consisted of a series of gift cards to Starbucks, Amazon, and California Pizza Kitchen.

Following the hunt, students





could go to an art gallery booth where they could color influential African Americans in history, such as Bayard Rustin and Michelle Obama.

On Feb. 21, Costa's Black Scholar Union presented the "Sounds of Hope," a gospel concert from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M. in the auditorium.

This concert was the first one of its kind in 15 years, and was another celebration of Black American history and music, with a special guest Stephan Terry and S.O.U.L along with Costa Jazz Band and Costa Vocal Ensemble, where entry was twelve dollars for students and twenty for adults.

In addition to the Outdoor Assembly and Gospel Choir Concert, Costa honored of Black History Month with other creative events. Yesterday, where many students recited impactful poems in a slam Poetry contest held during office hours in the small theater. Many classrooms have decorated their doors for a contest recognizing various historical Black figures in labor.

Costa has truly honored Black History Month. From the Gospel Choir Concert, scavenger hunts, arts and crafts, slam poetry, and door decorating, our community has made it a priority to celebrate this month in a special way.

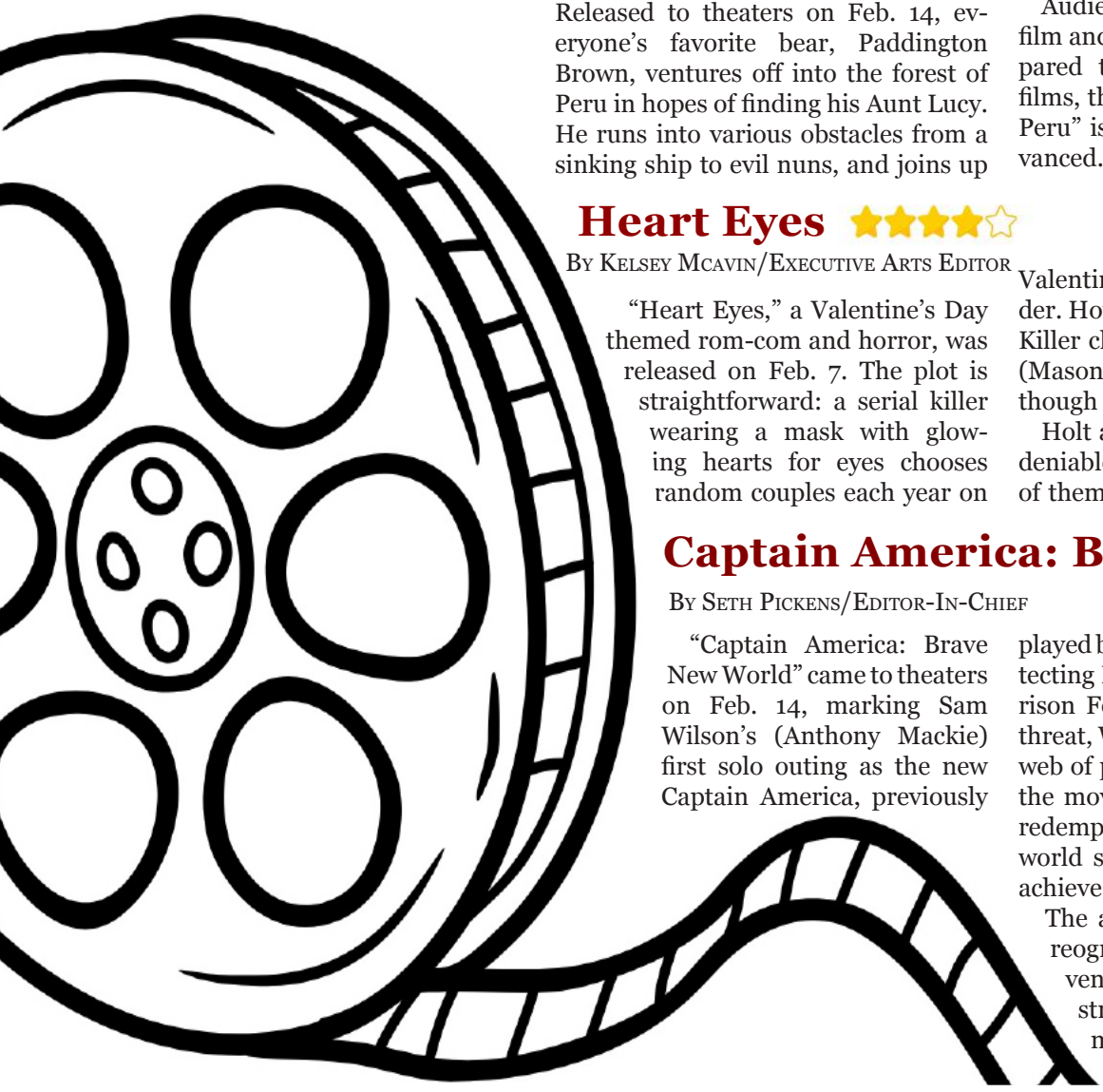
"We decided this year to try to do more not only at school but to branch out to people outside of school," said BSU President Donné Ward. "We've never really had people participate and get into the events as much as we did this year."



CELEBRATION: Students celebrate Black History Month at Mira Costa by setting up engaging booths and a scavenger hunt. *Photos by Riley Campion and Kylie Wooward/La Vista.*

Now Playing

La Vista Reviews February New Releases



Paddington in Peru ★★★★★

By Kelsey Mcavin/Executive Arts Editor

"Paddington in Peru" is the third addition to the "Paddington" series. Released to theaters on Feb. 14, everyone's favorite bear, Paddington Brown, ventures off into the forest of Peru in hopes of finding his Aunt Lucy. He runs into various obstacles from a sinking ship to evil nuns, and joins up with river captain Hunter Cabot (Antonio Banderas) to help find his missing aunt.

Audiences of all ages can enjoy this film and its humorous moments. Compared to the previous "Paddington" films, the animation of "Paddington in Peru" is stunning and much more advanced. The intricate colors, shading, and artistic detail make the bears look realistic and visually appealing. Audiences are guaranteed to feel a sense of childhood, warmth, and magic while watching.

"Paddington in Peru" is a must watch and will blow the audience away with its phenomenal cast, creative filmmaking, and heartwarming story.

Heart Eyes ★★★★☆

By Kelsey Mcavin/Executive Arts Editor

"Heart Eyes," a Valentine's Day themed rom-com and horror, was released on Feb. 7. The plot is straightforward: a serial killer wearing a mask with glowing hearts for eyes chooses random couples each year on Valentines Day to gruesomely murder. However, this year the Heart Eyed Killer chose Ally (Olivia Holt) and Jay (Mason Gooding) as the targets, even though they are not a couple.

Holt and Gooding's chemistry is undeniable as they try to save the lives of themselves and other couples while fighting against the masked killer. Although the movie seems wildly predictable at first, the reveal of the killers identity serves as a major plot twist. The film, although gory, is worth the watch. "Heart Eyes" perfectly balances themes of horror and comedy, while still tying in a love story.

Captain America: Brave New World ★★☆☆☆

By Seth Pickens/Editor-In-Chief

"Captain America: Brave New World" came to theaters on Feb. 14, marking Sam Wilson's (Anthony Mackie) first solo outing as the new Captain America, previously played by Chris Evans. Tasked with protecting President Thaddeus Ross (Harrison Ford) from an escalating global threat, Wilson finds himself caught in a web of political intrigue. Thematically, the movie attempts to explore power, redemption, and America's role on the world stage, but its execution fails to achieve this.

The action sequences are well-choreographed, if not particularly inventive; however, this new film struggles to define itself, feeling more like a checkmark on the list of MCU obligations rather than a compelling standalone story.

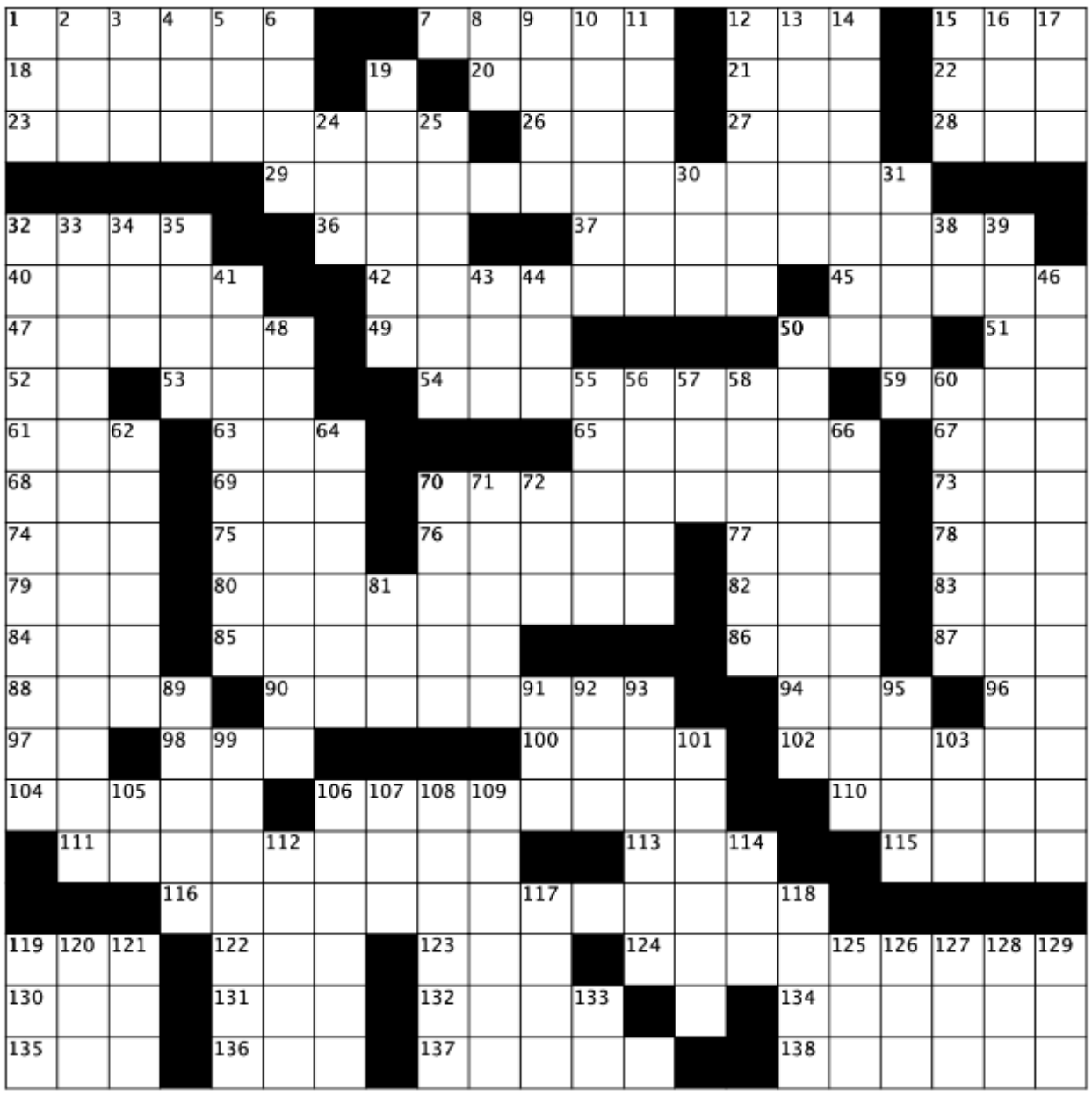
One of the film's biggest flaws is the degree to which the movie relies on the audience's memory of past projects. Rather than feeling like a fresh start for Mackie, it instead highlights Harrison Ford, taking the spotlight off of its supposed protagonist. This, paired with an overstuffed script credited to five writers, results in a story that feels both dense and undercooked. "Captain America: Brave New World" will disappoint Marvel fans.



Costa Crossword

Created by Rachel Khoddam and Veronica Escopete

Solutions can be found at lavistamchs.com



ACROSS

1. 12 in a year
7. "What's the _____ that can happen?"
12. a type of lipid
15. ___squeak, bear from the Lorax
18. men's bathroom staple
20. where premature babies go
21. ___ Wan Kenobi from Star Wars
22. something expensive might cost this and a leg
23. the ocean's full of it
26. objective response rate (abbr)
27. opposite of pro
28. College Board equivalent to FAFSA
29. worst day to be single (for some people)
32. 4.0 or 2.5, for example
36. eldest child of Peter and Lois Griffin
37. the geocentric model of the universe
40. annual income from capital investment
42. type of lichen the grows on flat surfaces
45. famous animals at SeaWorld
47. heart or liver for example
49. food made from soybeans, often used in vegetarian dishes
50. figgy or bread ___ ding
51. μ pronunciation system for short
52. collab by Gracie Abrams and Taylor Swift
53. casual agreement
54. hypothesized tunnel from one place in space to another
59. what Armstrong did on the moon
61. at the present
63. Real Flight Simulator (abbr)
65. what mustangs are doing during lunch
67. "We ___ Penn State!"
68. double stranded molecule
69. "Golly ___!"
70. medical term for lazy eye
73. benchmark score in golf
74. possesses
75. antibodies produced by the immune
76. small baby that shoots arrows of love
77. Mesopotamian god of the sky
78. population in spanish- "___lación"
79. "hello" in portuguese
80. a mammal of the major group Eutheria
82. What does the snake say?
83. different blood types in alphabetical order
84. a plate of metal or other material machined to hold other parts in place
85. largest hot desert in the world
86. endoscopic ultrasound (abbr)
87. short for New South Wales
88. Defense Technical Information Center (abbr)
90. slumber with rapid eye movement
94. hard to twist off of a pickle jar
96. counterpart to Na in salt
97. chat gpt or gemini for example
98. Head of Department (abbr)
100. Q: Why are elephants such good listeners? A: They're all ____!
102. second-largest city in Denmark
104. need 3 of these to win on AGT
106. authored Peter Pan
110. country in the middle of Oceania
111. something that is spread out in different directions
113. finish
115. gradually phase out
116. day honoring Washington and Lincoln
119.adjacent/hypotenuse
122. what you text someone you haven't seen in a while
123. one might order pie ___ mode
124. shallow wave caused by ocean tides
130. ___ de Armas
131. consumer price index (abbr)
132. help! I'm trapped in a box! (silently)
134. closer
135. something old, something ___
136. the sun or ovens perhaps?
137.They are not wants, they are ____
138. your home and car that you own

DOWN

1. ketchup and ___ tard
2. famous Rita married to Taika Waititi
3. a score of zero in soccer
4. explosive initials
5. ___thorne Blvd.
6. someone from Slovenia or Belarus
8. opposite of off
9. underground feminist punk movement in the 90s " ____ grrrl"
10. what a thespian might follow
11. I'm sorry I came here, I had no one else to ____ __.
12. forward deck of the ship (short for forecastle)
13. a humble home
14. only living group of palaeognaths able to fly
15. yellow character that eats dots ___-Man
16. might track you down if you don't pay your taxes
17. before your period
19. choose
24. young Sheldon's best friend
25. what the trees in Thneedville need to do
30. lip balm in an egg shaped container
31. there are 100 on a football field
32. celebration for Punxsutawney Phil
33. ENTP and ISTJ for example
34. Actress Jolie, familiarly
35. song by Rihanna ft. Mikky Ecko
38. suffix meaning having the character of
39. phenomenon in which the rays of light passing through a small hole into a dark space result in an inverted and reversed projection
41. kinetic, potential, or thermal for example
43. vehicle for aliens
44. Spanish south
46. most popular day for football of the year
48. to protect
50. PV High rivals
55. "plumeria" in Hawaiian
56. famous Austrian composer Joseph
57. "I think M___-M___ likes you"
58. enzyme that digests lipids
60. art gallery on Melrose
62. don't mistake it for avocado at a sushi restaurant!
64. "____ _____ line where the sky meets the sea? it calls me!" -Moana
66. bell shaped curve used in statistics
70. technology company that sounds like a playing card
71. art by Banksy, likely
72. College Basketball Power Index
81. might eat it in a sandwich with cheese
89. not expensive
91. at any point, in poetry
92. someone might talk your ___ off
93. father in a church
95. sketch
99. largest bird in the world
101. to submit something like an application
103. shade of color in other words
105. college for the Trojans
106.a characteristic of schools like Notre Dame, LMU, and Boston College
107. might get one to check on your brain
108. Jefferson when he found out Hamilton was on his side " I'll __ ____ed"
109. the littlest species of penguin in the Antarctic
112. rhythm
114. father in a home
117. Beyonce wants you to say hers
118. Ms. Russia 2016, Dobrovolskaya
119. repeat it twice and it's a popular French cabaret song
120. English for uno, eins, un, and uma.
121. horror movie with the Jigsaw killer
125. Childish Gambino's hit song
126. past tense of is
127. plural of is
128. dog's doctor
129. urgent hospitals
133. famous redhead who is friends with Taylor Swift, __ Sheeran

Literary fallout: America's book ban explosion

By Kelsey Mcavin
Executive Arts Editor

Movements to ban literature in school curriculum over the past few years are direct threats to our country's democracy and the art of storytelling. On Jan. 24, Florida's Department of Education published it's own list of books banned within the state. Utah is continuing to add more books to a "No Read List," which now contains 15 books.

In red states, attempts to ban books have been particularly extreme: In Iowa 3,400 books have been removed from schools. Since fall of 2021, PEN America has counted over 10,000 book bans in schools across the country.

Manhattan Beach has been no stranger to attacks on literature in the past few years. During a MBUSD board meeting on Oct. 6 2021, speakers discussed Critical Race Theory (CRT), the idea that racism is imbedded in American society and more than the result of individual bias and prejudice. Another speaker, Alvin Mitchell came out against CRT, claiming that children should not be seen the same as they are not all the same race, and that CRT gives false ideas that America as a whole is racist.

Manhattan Beach City Council member Susanne Hadley spoke at a board meeting on Feb. 24, 2022 about of the novels "Lawn Boy" and "Gender Queer," which are both novels that contain topics about the LGBTQ+ community. Hadley referred to these novels as propaganda rather than literature and "almost unreadable," and "garbage." Hadley made the comparison of the novels to junk food, saying "Our district prohibits serving Twinkies, Red Bull and pot edibles on campus. In the same vein, our librarians and teachers should exercise similar discernment in books." She then began to read sections from the novels that contained curse words and sexually explicit content, even after being asked to stop various times. Hadley was eventually shut down both by the board and audience members.

In the face of calls to censor books, the Costa English Department lobbied for the novel "The Catcher in the Rye" to be replaced with "Slay" in the curriculum in 2021 The "Catcher in the Rye" tells the story of a teenage boy being expelled from his prep school and shows his journey as he has to grapple with adulthood and its struggles. "Slay" follows the story of Kiera Johnson, a Black high schooler who creates a multiplayer online game for Black gamers, while getting bullied for "anti-white discrimination." The speakers in the board meeting wanted "Slay" to replace "The Catcher in the Rye" to provide more diversity and inclusion to the curriculum.

In the face of threats to free reading, the curriculum at Costa offers many books that have been banned in other places. The number one banned book of all time, "1984" by George Orwell, is taught in English 10. The novel represents a dystopian society that manipulates truth and history in order to control citizens. The concept of "Big Brother is always watching" reflects how the real government uses surveillance to monitor people through daily life, for example through their electronics, and even the recent TikTok ban. This novel serves as a cautionary tale of government control and overreach, and when governments ban books like "1984," it prevents people from being able to recognize patterns of control in their own society.



Graphic made on Canva

"Persepolis," by Marjane Satrapi and taught in the English seminars, tells the story of Satrapi's life following the Iranian Revolution. This novel has been banned in some Chicago public schools, and in all of Iran and Lebanon. The book is banned because it offers a view of history that the government doesn't want the people in their country to learn.

"Fahrenheit 451" is a dystopian novel about information being controlled by the government and books being outlawed and burned by "firemen," and it was inspired by the book burnings in Nazi Germany. "Fahrenheit 451" is an option to read in English 9 and reflects the idea of the suppression of knowledge, which can be seen as a direct challenge to authority. "Fahrenheit 451" has faced multiple censorship and banning attempts throughout the years, because of the words "hell" and "damn," but it's obvious that concerns about the book's message runs deeper than that.

Various other books such as "Animal Farm" (George Orwell), "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" (Stephen Chbosky), "Sold" (Patricia McCormick), and "All Boys Aren't Blue" (George M. Johnson), have been either banned or challenged all over the United States. All of these books have the same thing in common: they contain information that the government doesn't want us to know. Readers should continue to read these literary classics and fight the bans.

Netflix revamps dystopian genre with two new movies

The Sand Castle

By Riley Campion
Theme Editor

"The Sand Castle," released on Jan 24. marks Matty Brown's debut directing a feature film.

This psychological thriller examines the harsh impacts war can have, especially on children, through a storyline that blurs the lines between reality and fiction.

The plot follows a family of four– Nabil (Ziad Bakri), Yasmine (Nadine Labaki), and their two children, Adam and Jana (Zain and Reman Al Rafeea)— find themselves stranded on an Mediterranean island. The family seeks shelter in a lighthouse on the island, but then quickly discover the dark secrets this island holds, creating a haunting experience for the viewer. As time passes by the family's hopes of being rescued dwindle, leaving them to face difficult realities and make tough choices.

One of the film's biggest strengths is its ability to explore trauma and survival through a personal lens. The film is quite ambiguous, leaving most of the plot up to interpretation. Although this makes for a thought-provoking film, its complexity and lack of answers may cause viewers frustration and confusion. Additionally, the pace of the film is fairly slow, making it a film that requires full attention from its audience.

Despite the film's slow burn, the actors and actresses do an outstanding job conveying deep emotion through the screen and evoking empathy in the audience. The topics being examined throughout the film itself spark conversations about the effects of war within viewers, which increases awareness about real world events. With everything going on in the world currently, it is sure to raise questions about what will happen if these events will escalate further.

"The Sand Castle" is a film that is sure to linger in one's mind long after the film has ended itself. It may not be for everyone, but its complexity of psychological horrors layered with storytelling is admirable. This is an unsettling and mind-bending film and is well-worth the watch.

"The Sand Castle" is available for streaming on Netflix.

2073

By Lucy Hansen
Executive Features Editor

"2073," directed by Asif Kapadia, is a film set in a dystopian future in San Francisco. Inspired by Chris Marker's 1962 film La Jetteé, the film debuted at the 81st annual Venice Film Festival in Sept. 2024 and was officially released in the United Kingdom on Dec. 27.

The lead character, portrayed by Samantha Morton, is mute and nameless, symbolizing the common experiences of the American population in 2073. The film alternates between her story and segments of political commentary from current-day journalists, alongside impactful real-world footage that highlighting global injustices.

In concept, the film was terrific; however, The movie was very poorly made. "2073" struggled in production and marketing because what was labeled as a dystopian sci-fi film was more of a reel of political commentary and social media videos.

The film failed to provide any coherent plot or explain the actual cause of the destruction depicted. The nameless character felt incomplete and unnecessary, especially more modern-day footage than the actual filmed portion of the movie.

The film's lack of success at the box office also proves the director's point: people aren't listening and don't care. The movie is disguised as a fictitious dystopian drama and filled it with current events and contemporary ideas to prove the point to the audience that if political leaders keep running the world the way they have been, the world will experience the same sort of dystopia shown in the movie.

Kapadia was able to successfully capture many of the pressing issues in today's developed nations as well as highlighting the problematic affairs between leaders and social higher-ups. This makes it a period piece on modern-day issues and a warning of what they could lead to. There are no redeeming qualities of the plot, however it is a good film to spread awareness about what could potentially happen to society.

"2073" is available for streaming on Netflix.

‘$$$4U’ receives more hate than it deserves

By Seth I. Pickens
Editor-in-Chief

“$ome $exy $ongs 4 U,” Drake and PartyNextDoor’s latest collaborative album, dropped on Feb. 14. The album is a collection of fun yet degenerate love songs that toe the line between smooth-talking and outright misogyny, just in time for Valentine’s Day. Listeners had been waiting since fall 2024 for the rumored project, but it wasn’t until Feb. 3 the project’s name was revealed.

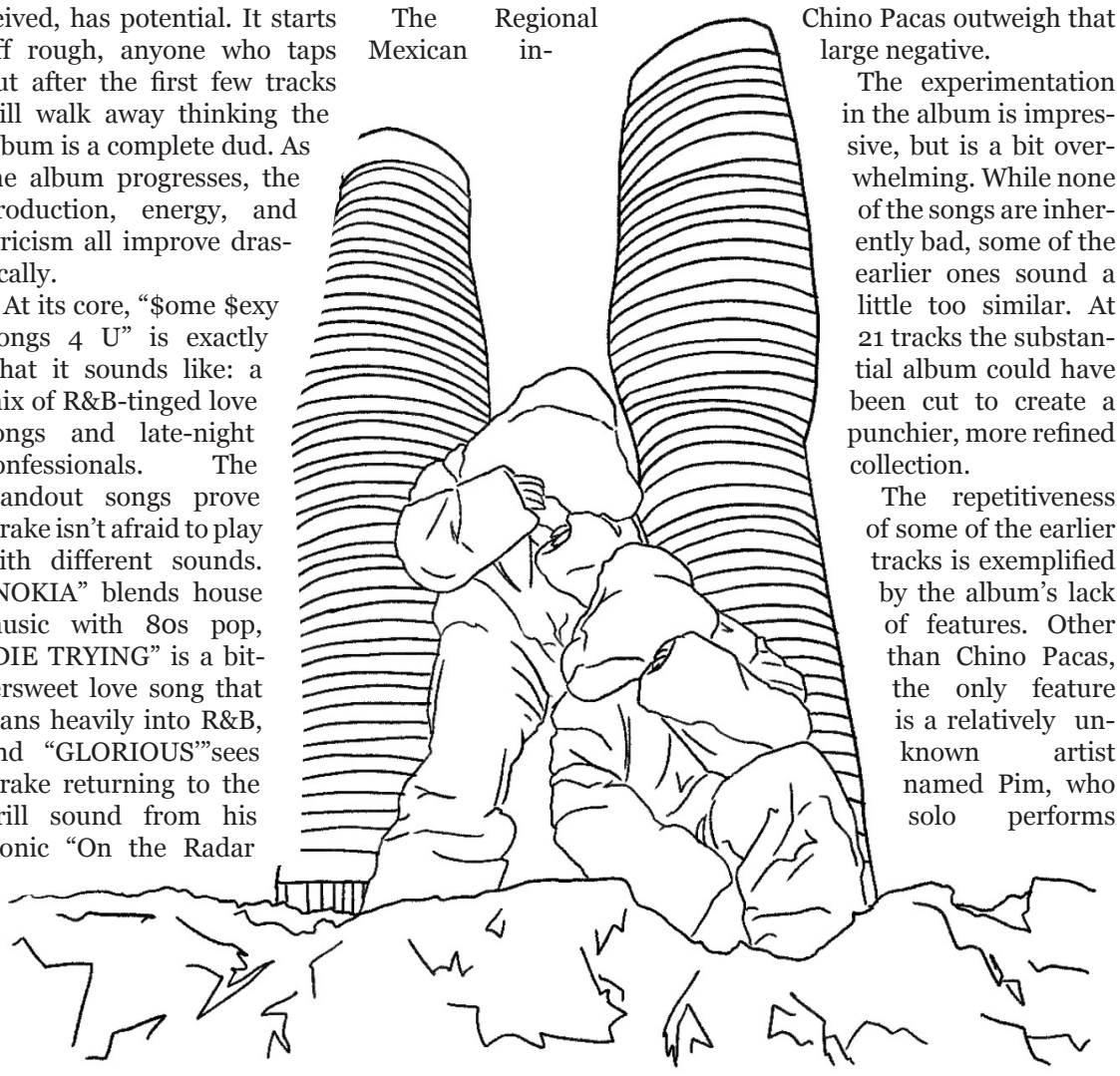
During the release week, Drake received significant media attention, not just because of the upcoming project, but because of his prolonged beef with rapper Kendrick Lamar. Lamar took a resounding victory lap during his Super Bowl performance on Feb. 9, where he delivered diss-track “Not Like Us” to the biggest audience in the event’s history. The internet was set ablaze, and the unfortunate timing of Drake’s album release felt like an afterthought amidst the ongoing rap feud.

Drake clearly wants to pivot away from the rap beef, addressing it only once on “GIMME A HUG” with the line, “F- a rap beef, I’m tryna get the party lit.” This lyric signals him leaving behind his devastating loss to Lamar and moving towards creating original music content.

Setting aside the noise, the album, for all the hate it’s received, has potential. It starts off rough, anyone who taps out after the first few tracks will walk away thinking the album is a complete dud. As the album progresses, the production, energy, and lyricism all improve drastically.

At its core, “$ome $exy $ongs 4 U” is exactly what it sounds like: a mix of R&B-tinged love songs and late-night confessionals. The standout songs prove Drake isn’t afraid to play with different sounds. “NOKIA” blends house music with 80s pop, “DIE TRYING” is a bittersweet love song that leans heavily into R&B, and “GLORIOUS”’sees Drake returning to the drill sound from his iconic “On the Radar Freestyle.” Drake and PartyNextDoor are able to experiment with such an incredibly wide array of sounds without ever losing the project’s cohesiveness.

The Regional Mexican inspired “MEET YOUR PADRE” almost drops the ball with Drake’s cringe-worthy attempt at spanglish rapping. However, the song’s stellar production and solid features from Chino Pacas outweigh that large negative.



Illustrated by Yuzu Bynon

The experimentation in the album is impressive, but is a bit overwhelming. While none of the songs are inherently bad, some of the earlier ones sound a little too similar. At 21 tracks the substantial album could have been cut to create a punchier, more refined collection.

The repetitiveness of some of the earlier tracks is exemplified by the album’s lack of features. Other than Chino Pacas, the only feature is a relatively unknown artist named Pim, who solo performs “Pimmie’s dilemma,” a slower somber song similar to “Yebba’s Heartbreak.”

One of the biggest complaints from haters and fans alike is the weakness of PartyNextDoor’s presence. For someone who is supposed to be a collaborator, he feels more like a feature. “DEEPER,” his only solo track, is a standout, but it’s the only moment where he really makes his presence known and doesn’t sound like a background singer.

Despite the mixed reception, Drake fans will find a lot to love here. Songs like “SPIDER-MAN SUPERMAN’” deliver that classic mix of rap and melody, while “GIMME A HUG” stands out as a peak moment, combining gospel-esque samples with an infectious beat. The second half of the album carries most of its strength, offering some of the best moments of Drake’s recent catalog.

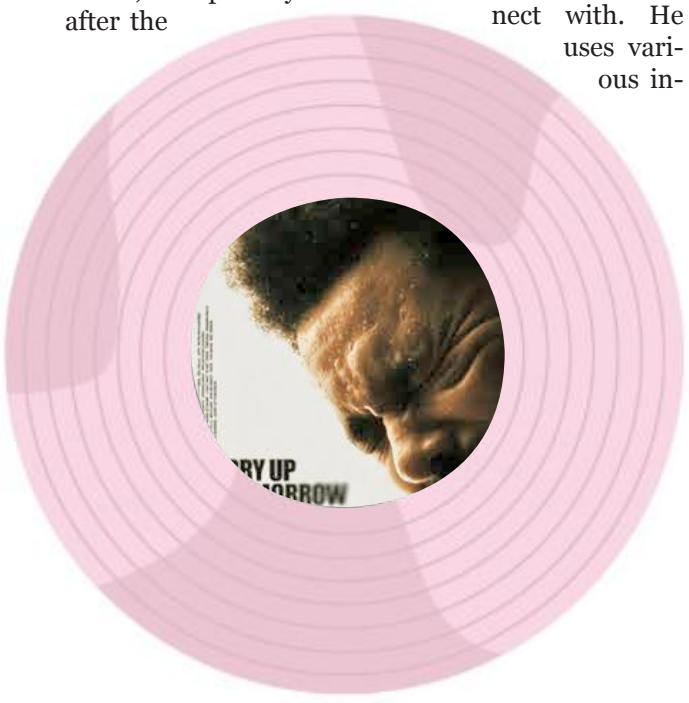
Is this an album of the year contender? Probably not. Is it groundbreaking? Not really. But it’s a solid addition to Drake’s discography, one that might be unfairly dismissed due to its weak start and the current climate. As always, time will tell how it holds up, but for now, “$ome $exy $ongs 4 U” is an album that rewards anyone willing to stick with it.

The Weeknd’s final musical chapter ‘Hurry Up Tomorrow’

By McKinlee Rainey
Theme Editor

The Weeknd’s newest album, “Hurry Up Tomorrow,” released on Jan. 31, focuses on self acceptance and redemption, and has so far met the high expectations of fans.

Released through XO and Republic Records, “Hurry up Tomorrow” is the sixth studio album The Weeknd has dropped, and possibly the final album under his studio name. Due to the popularity of his R&B music, especially after the release of his innovative 2020 album “After Hours,” his expansive fan base has been looking forward to this album for a while.



The album features iconic artists, including Lana Del Rey, Giorgio Moroder, Playboi Carti, Future, Travis Scott, Florence + the Machine, Anitta, and Justice. Seven of the album’s 22 tracks feature other artists, with only 15 solo songs, allowing for The Weeknd’s voice to shine in different styles.

The Weeknd tells an important story that the listeners are able to connect with. He uses various instruments, including the synthesizer, guitar, drums, keyboards, bass, strings, and a number of others to create emotional music paired with his raw and vulnerable vocals.

When The Weeknd announced this to be his last album under his studio name, he said that “Hurry Up Tomorrow” will connect together his last two albums, “After Hours,” and “Dawn FM.” Listeners can clearly hear how the music represents a story, with the end of the first track blending into the start of the second track, and with the whole album containing farewell messages to his fans and his musical career.

The album ends with the title track, “Hurry Up Tomorrow,” which features peaceful and gentle melodies to express The Weeknd’s bittersweet feelings regarding the end of his career. This album is more than a collection great songs, it is a genuinely transformative experience. The success of this album leaves fans hoping The Weeknd will continue music under his actual name, Abel Tesfaye.

Bruno Mars’ new song ‘Fat Juicy & Wet’ tarnishes his image

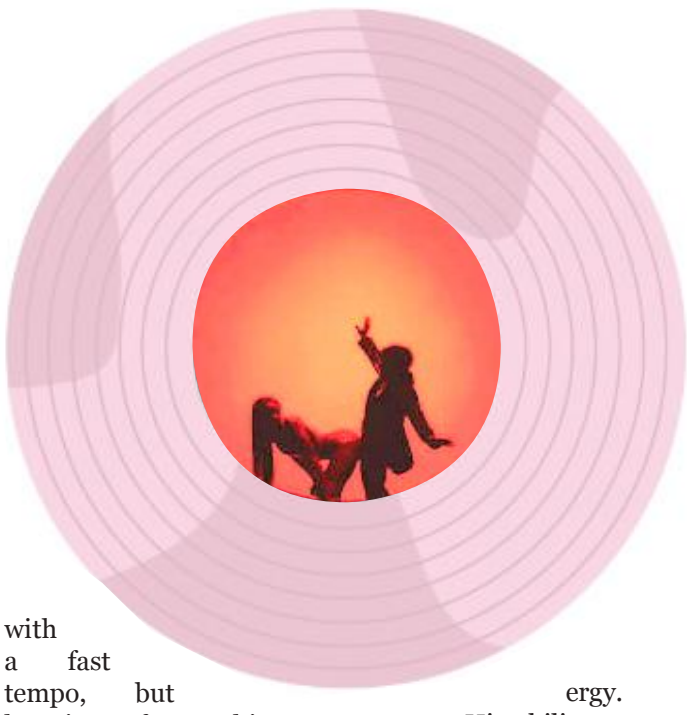
By Kelsey Mcavin
Executive Arts Editor

“Fat Juicy & Wet” was released by Bruno Mars and Sexxy Red on Jan. 24. Mars is known for his heartfelt lyrics, however this new single brings nothing but disgust to his fans. Collaborating with rapper Sexyy Red for this song, it’s much more explicit and degrading to women than the rest of his discography.

The lyrics of “Fat Juicy & Wet” talk explicitly about sex and body parts in a more visual and obvious way than Mars’ typical suggestive lines. The song demonstrates a shift in his style, from focuses on love and heartbreak to solely sexual content. It’s evident that Mars is trying new things, however this does not align with the preferences and age-range of his fanbase.

Sexyy Red adds her own unique touch to track with her bold style. She is known for her confident and explicit rap songs, and she uses this energy to push Mars’s boundaries towards extreme profanity.

To new Bruno Mars fans, this song is catchy with a fast tempo, but longtime fans, this song is repulsing and lacks respect and dignity.



Mars’s typical songs feature pop, R&B, funk, soul, reggae, and rock. This, paired with his engaging lyrics, makes it easy for his music to be universally appealing. Some of his hit songs such as “Grenade” and “Just The Way You Are” highlight his ability to produce heartfelt songs with emotional depth, whereas songs like “Uptown Funk” and “24k Magic” prove his talent for creating songs with high energy.

His ability to switch between heartbreak and regret to upbeat moods is one of the many reasons for Mars’ widespread success. Bruno Mars has rightfully won multiple Grammy Awards because he a versatile and talented artist, but his new song raises doubts about that.

“Fat Juicy & Wet” contains crude content, that strays far from his classy and elegant music. Listeners are tempted to to turn it off the second it turns on, and this single is a huge step backwards in his career.

All-Star disappointment

By Noki Lam
Online Managing Editor
and Wyatt Davis
Staff Writer

All-Star games used to be the highlight of the sports world, but they've lost their appeal over the years. These events, meant to showcase the best athletes in professional sports, have become more focused on profit-making than actual competition. Whether it's the NFL, NBA, or MLB, All-Star games have become less exciting and meaningful. In recent years the numbers have dropped; the 2025 Pro Bowl averaged 4.7 million views across platforms, a 18% drop from the season before. This has been the lowest audience for the all star game ever.

A key issue is that these games don't give the audience what they expect. People watch these games hoping to see their favorite athletes competing at the highest level, but they often see half-hearted performances. Players are more worried about avoiding injuries than giving it their all on the field or court. This was clear for high level players such as Lamar Jackson, a two time NFL MVP, choosing not to participate in the 2025 Pro Bowl, leading to QB Russell Wilson filling in for him.

The NFL tried to make their Pro Bowl more interesting by adding a skills competition and flag football game, but fans were not impressed with it. Viewership declined even more, losing over a million, even changing the format to appeal to the fans failed. The NBA has tried different formats, such as a playground style draft and target scores, but these changes haven't created the same excitement in the audience.

According to Costa junior and varsity basketball player, Jayden Kainsinger, the NBA all star game holds fond memories from his childhood, but he was disappointed to see the excitement of the event dwindle over time.

"Every year as a kid , I marked when NBA all star weekend was coming," Kainsinger said. "One of my favorite childhood memories was attending the 2018 game. It just seems like the vibes are not the same and the competition is much worse."

The NHL, who replaced their traditional all star game with their Four-Nations Face Off event, saw an immense amount of success with their change up. The event was an Olympic-style competition in which teams composed of all star players from a certain country played against other countries. The event garnered attention beyond its sport and had people who never had watched hockey tuning in.

"It was much more competitive and exciting than an all star game," Costa junior Josh Farbman said. "When fighting for your nation you fight much harder than you would for any all star team. I am Canadian myself, and I was super invested."



CHAMPS: Canada's captain Sidney Crosby holds the trophy after their win. Canada beat USA 3-2 in the Four Nations championship game. *Photo courtesy of @nhl*

Basketball books championship ticket

By Wyatt Davis
Staff Writer



LOCKDOWN: Senior forward Jacob De Armas looks for a man on defense. Costa's defense was a major part of their win. *Photo courtesy of @miracostaball*

In last Saturday's CIF Division 1 semifinal against Santa Barbara, Costa's strong defensive pressure was shown as the Mustangs held the Dons to a 61-40 win. The Mustangs, with a record of 29-3, will face Los Alamitos in the Division 1 Final at Toyota Arena in Ontario tomorrow.

Costa set the tone early with aggressive defense, forcing turnovers and limiting the Dons' scoring opportunities. By halftime, the Mustangs had built a comfortable lead, allowing their defense to take control of the game.

"Our game plan was to trap everything and get the ball out of the hands of their best player," senior forward Eneasi Piuleini said. "We knew Santa Barbara couldn't operate without their best player."

According to junior forward Jayden Kainsinger, the team spent a lot of time in practice working on preventing shots, especially in doubling players in certain moments.

"We made sure to go over our game plan and specific coverages to limit their threes," Kainsinger said. "We tried to keep the ball out of the point guards' hands and we were successful in shutting them down, holding them to 40 points".

The Mustangs went on a 12-0 run in the third quarter and focused on keeping constant pressure on the Dons during the second half. According to Piuleini, Coach Perlmutter challenged them with the mindset that they are the best defensive team in the state.

"We showed that we are elite on defense." Piuleini said. "We got them tired in the second half which led to them taking bad shots."

In the fourth quarter, senior forward McCarthy Bedner got fouled on a three point attempt leading to him making all three free throws. Later, he made a transition three-pointer to add to the lead of 52-32.

"My teammates were able to get open looks for me," Bedner said. "I was able to get to the line and make those shots giving us a bigger cushion. The students definitely gave energy when we got tired and it was great to see the fans support us and cheer us on the whole game."

MUSTANG RECORDS

	WINS	LOSSES	TIES
BASEBALL	2	2	0
BOYS LACROSSE	2	1	0
GIRLS LACROSSE	4	0	0
SOFTBALL	1	0	0
BOYS VOLLEYBALL	9	0	0
GIRLS BEACH VOLLEYBALL	2	0	0

Boys Volleyball hosts annual alumni game

By London Gregery
Staff Writer

Costa hosted the annual alumni volleyball game, where the boys varsity team won 3-0 against the alumni on Feb. 6. The Mustangs won all three sets with scores of 27-25, 25-21, and 25-20.

"Playing against the alumni was a great experience," junior libero Justin Warner said. It was fun competing with them, especially getting to play against one of our coaches. It was also a good test for our team."

The alumni team fought hard in the first set, with both teams neck and neck for the lead. Ultimately the boys' varsity team held their ground winning 27-25.

"Mira Costa is well known for volleyball and having a lot of volleyball talent, so being able to play against some Division 1 college graduate players, and some who went pro and played on the national team is an awesome experience and kept us on our toes," senior setter Andrew Chapin said.

According to the players, the alumni game brought a lively atmosphere to the Costa gym, with a large crowd of students, parents, and past players filling the stands to cheer on both teams. The energy in the gym was high, and the cheers and chants echoed throughout the match.

"The atmosphere was exciting with all of the friends and family that showed up to celebrate the start of the season," junior outside hitter Colby Graham said.

The game wasn't just about the actual competition, but also showed Costa's volleyball's lasting bonds between past and present players. The alumni, many of whom had played on the varsity team in previous years, took the opportunity to reconnect with old teammates and relive their glory days.

"It was really cool to play against people that I had met before like some old coaches and friends of my parents," Graham said.

The alumni game gave the Mustangs a chance to build momentum and set the tone for the upcoming season.

"I'm really excited for this upcoming season. We've been working super hard, and I think we have a strong team this year." Warner said.

New NIL laws transform college sports into a professional system

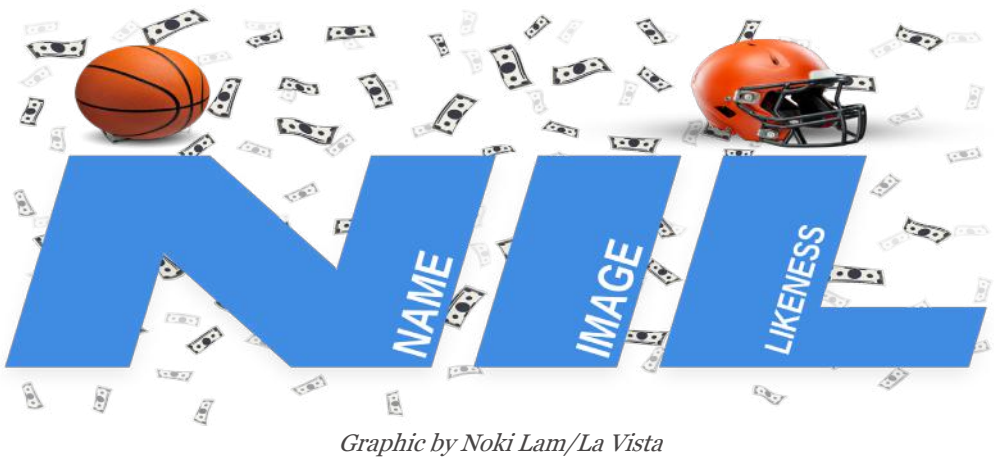
By Madison Young
Subscriptions Manager

California's new Name, Image, and Likeness law isn't just a shake up, it's a complete dismantling of the outdated system that has defined college sports for decades. Signed by Governor Gavin Newsom, this legislation forces schools to compensate their athletes directly, changing the NCAA's long-held belief that college sports are at an amateur level.

"This is a long overdue correction," Costa's athletic trainer Ryan Kunihiro said. "Colleges have been profiting off athletes' labor for too long, and it's about time the players see their fair share."

For years, college athletes have been cash cows for their schools, bringing in millions in TV deals, ticket sales, and merchandise, all while being told that a 'free education' was adequate compensation. In reality, these athletes are employees dedicating their entire lives to their sports, while universities increase their profits. One of the most publicized cases of this exploitation is Reggie Bush, the former USC star running back who is suing the school for using his name without compensation.

"This case is not just about seeking justice for Reggie Bush; it's about setting a precedent for the fair treatment of all college athletes," Bush's attorney Evan Selik said in a statement. "Our goal is to rectify this injustice and pave the way for a system where athletes are rightfully recognized, compensated and treated fairly for their contributions."



Graphic by Noki Lam/La Vista

Not everyone is thrilled about this change. Athletic departments, many of which already operate on thin margins, are now faced with the task of figuring out how to pay players while still keeping smaller sports afloat. Football and basketball programs might be able to handle the financial strain, but what about swim teams, gymnastics, or otherless popular college sports?

"The introduction of NIL has shifted the environment between college and professional sports as college sports are now being viewed more as a business for these athletes rather than a school," journalist Brandon Allison said. "Some argue that college sports will lose its unique feeling as we move into the NIL era."

There's also an issue with recruitment. With California being among the most profitable NIL states, its possible the nation's top athletes go to the Golden State, leaving other programs that don't have the money to pay them in the dust, unless other states follow suit.

"Many athletes may leave their current schools to get better NIL opportunities at a school that can offer more," journalist Jason Zielinski said in a recent blog post on 2aDays on August 30, 2924. "Smaller schools often lose their best players to bigger schools looking to sweep away their best athletes."

Even if other states implement similar laws, questions about fairness remain. Will all athletes be paid equally no matter their school? Is a star quarterback worth the same as a golfer? These are uncomfortable, but necessary questions.

"Not every athlete generates the same revenue," Costa's athletic director Mike Rosenthal said. "It's not realistic to think a football player, and a tennis player will be valued the same way financially."

Some argue that paying college athletes ruins the "amateur" spirit and turns schools into feeder systems for professional teams. However, that transition has already happened. The NCAA's huge TV deals and profits from events like March Madness have already commercialized college sports.

"If you still believe college sports are about the love of a game, then you haven't been paying attention," Kunihiro said. "This was inevitable."

At the end of the day, the law isn't just about money, it's about justice. College boards have been a $1 billion industry built on unpaid labor, and this legislation finally forces schools to see the reality of the modern sports economy.

"This isn't just about compensation, it's about fairness," Rosenthal said. "Athletes deserve a share of the revenue they generate, plain and simple."

Like it or not, California has kicked the door open for NIL laws, and the rest of the country will have to respond. One thing's for sure: the days of pretending college athletes are just students playing sports are over. The line between student athlete and professional athlete has officially blurred and college sports will forever be changed.

Mustang Athletes of the Week



Track & Field

FRESHMAN
ALEXA ALMODOVAR

"I can't wait to make new friends on this team and to continue to train so I can get new personal records."



Boys Volleyball

SOPHMORE
MATEO FUERBRINGER

"I'm very excited to continue to play top teams this season and to play for a CIF title this season."



Boys Lacrosse

JUNIOR
GAVIN TURNER

"I'm most looking forward to beating Loyola this year because we have lost to them the past few years and they are one of our biggest rivals."



Girls Lacrosse

SENIOR
KATE DONNELLEY

"I can't wait to play our biggest rivals Redondo this season, it's always a very fun competitive enviorment. "

SPORTS RECAP

Seasons change but Costa athletics stay on top

Boys Lacrosse

Jenna Brodkin
Executive Sports Editor

Boys lacrosse defeated the Palisades during their Home opener on Tuesday at the Waller Stadium, with an ending score of 20-7. After finishing 4th in the Southern Section last season, the Mustangs took the field ready to fight and looking to start their season on the right foot.

"We were super pumped that we were able to secure the win at our home opener," senior midfielder Dylan Fenton said. "As a senior this season I'm really looking forward to making the most out of each home game and hope we can make it all the way to the CIF Championship for two years in a row."

In the first quarter the Mustangs quickly asserted dominance and took the lead. Senior attacker Nick Marsh took charge and scored the first two goals of the game, a momentum the Mustangs maintained throughout the game.

"We quickly learned how their defense functioned," Marsh said. "Once the offense communicated on that, we were able to make some great plays."

Going into halftime, the Mustangs were leading 13-4, and even though the Palisades team put up a tough battle, it wasn't enough to stop the Mustangs. Costa had two players score three or more goals in this game alone, and the defense was working all night to make sure the Mustangs came out on top.

"Palisades was a tough team, they fought really hard throughout the entire game," senior defender Dash Seiffer said. "However, I knew as soon as we got in the groove it would be hard to slow the offense and defense down."

The Mustangs played Westlake yesterday at Westlake, and will battle against Loyola on Mar. 5 at Waller Stadium.

"Unfortunately we lost pretty badly gainst Loyola last season," Fenton said. "We are hoping we have prepared enough in the off season to secure the win this season."



LEADERS: The senior captains huddle up with the Palisaides athletes beofore the game and exchange a brotherly handshake. These leaders led the Mustangs to an outstanding victory.
Photo by Eric Brodkin/La Vista

Girls Lacrosse

Geneva Huang
Business Manager

Girls lacrosse had a decisive victory over Peninsula in Palos Verdes on Wednesday, setting the tone for the game early on. The Mustangs, scoring within the first 12 seconds, were met by Peninsula responding with a quick goal of their own. From there, Costa took control, maintaining both offensive and defensive for the rest of the game.

The Mustangs continued to build their lead, ultimately securing a commanding 24-6 win. Despite the defiant win, Peninsula played hard throughout the entire match. According to Brown, Costa's success was driven by strong individual performances across the field, with several players stand-outs.

"Kate Donnelley, Peyton Malone, and Lizzie Witherell all played well," said Costa sophomore and varsity player Mia Brown. "They were all over the field and stepped up into the positions we needed them in."

The Mustangs' ability to adapt helped them take control of the game. Brown highlights that it was the Mustangs' teamwork and resilience that factored into their success. Their ability to stay connected on the field and support each other proved to be a key advantage.

"Heading into the game, we were all pretty confident in our abilities and knew we would come out on top if we worked together and worked hard," said Brown. "We worked as a team and lifted each other up. And while there were minor areas for improvement, there were small things here and there, but nothing major."

With this strong win under their belt, the Mustangs are eager to continue their momentum and push for Bay League title. Costa is finishing off the week with a home game today against Edison High and an away match against Torrey Pines on Saturday.

"I definitely think we have a strong chance to win Bay League," says Brown. "As a team we are talented enough and have all the skills."



MAKING PLAYS: The Mustangs worked together to secure the win over Peninsula. Senior Lizzie Witherell played a huge role in the victory, scoring three goals for Costa. *Photo courtesy of @costagirlslax*

Track and Field

Dempsey Clancy-Symond
Staff writer

Costa Track & Field triumphed in their first meet on Feb. 22, against LB Millikan and West Torrance.

In the Men's Varsity 100 Meter, sophomore AJ McBean took first, and his junior teammate Luke Leonard followed close behind, both setting their own personal records. In the Varsity Women and Men 200 Meter run, junior Leoni Biegert placed first, with her sophomore teammate Isabella Verela placing third for Costa. Leonard placed first in the men's division, followed by junior Caden Enright and McBean, placing third and fourth.

"I'm really excited for this season," Sophomore Aidyn Bajer said. "So far it's been really fun with all of my teammates."

In Men's Meter Varsity 110m Hurdles, 39". Senior Mac Lamkin and sophomore Mateo Loo placed the highest, beating the other schools tremendously. The Women's Varsity 100 meter Hurdles, 33" was also a huge success for Costa, senior Ava Crowley placed first and senior Marin Goodfriend placed second.

"I think this meet went very well for our first of this season," freshman Alexis Cusato said. "I'm excited to see what this team will bring in the upcoming events of our season."

Next was the Men's 4x400 Meter Varsity Relay, which finished with Loo, Leonard, Enright, and Lamkin in first place.

"This year will be a great year for track with all the new freshmen and incoming soccer players," sophomore Keeley Maloney said. "I'm really looking forward to our future meets."

Finally, in the Women's Varsity High Jump, Ava Schauwecker, senior Remy Chen, and senior Stella Traylor all placed top 3. In the Women's Varsity Long Jump, Marin Goodfriend placed top of the event, followed by Chen.

"We are all looking forward to our upcoming meets," said Cusato. "We can't wait to build of of this initial success and also get back to practice to work on all of our mistakes as a team and individually."



TEAMWORK: Costa athletes pose for a photo together after a well deserved victory. They look forward to the rest of their season and to prove all the hard work they put in during the offseason.
Photo by London Gregrey/La Vista