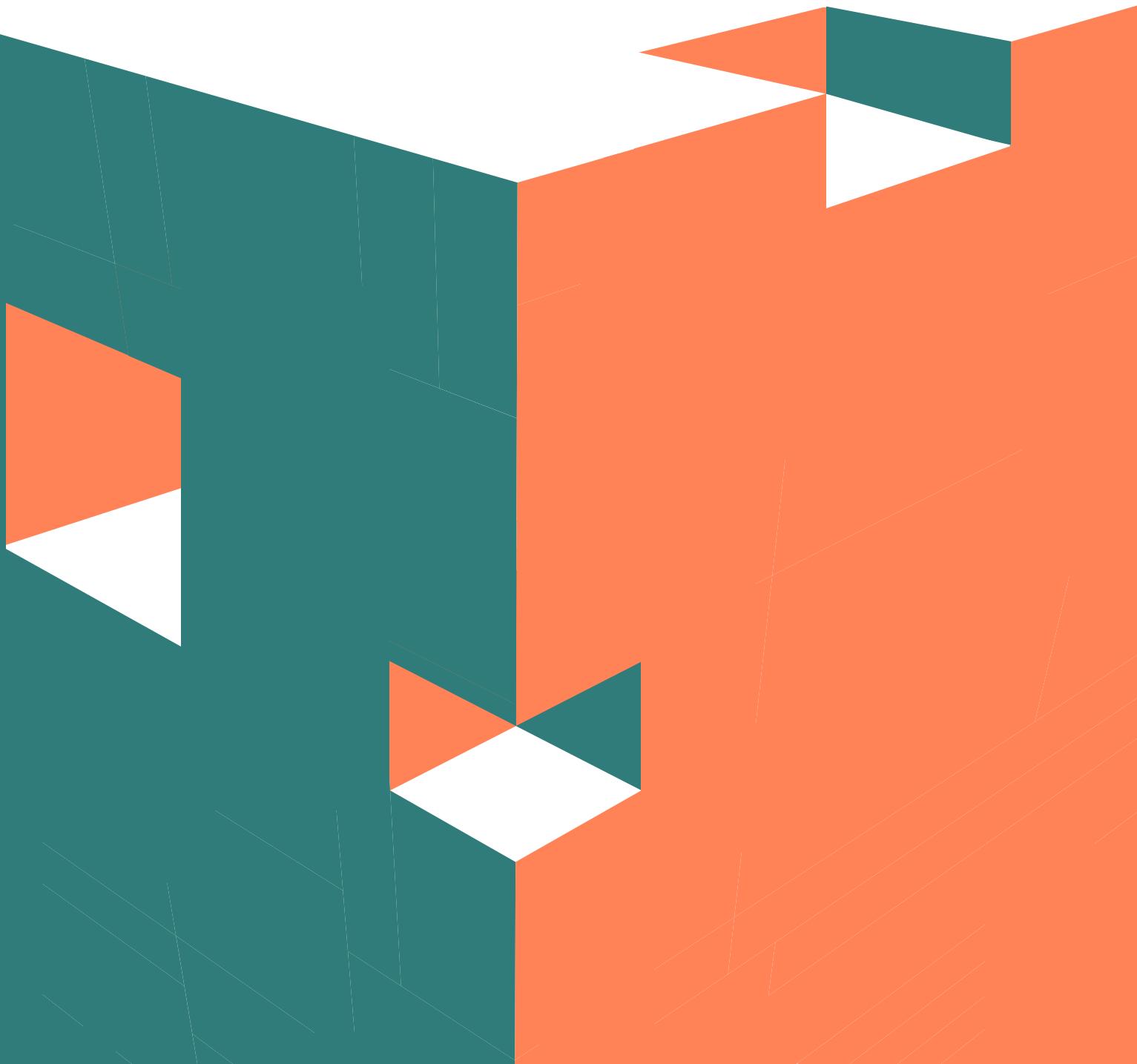


THE MARK

MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL 555 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD, ATHERTON CA | VOL X ISSUE III | MAY 2019



THE MARK

Issue No. 3 | May 2019

Policy

The Mark, a feature magazine published by the students in Menlo-Atherton's journalism class, is an open forum for student expression and the discussion of issues of concern to its readership. The Mark is distributed to its readers and the students at no cost. The staff welcomes letters to the editor, but reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, grammar, potential libel, invasion of privacy, and obscenity.

Submissions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all M-A students or the staff of The Mark. Send all submissions to submittothemark@gmail.com

About the Cover

This issue was designed to incorporate several serious topics with the playfulness and excitement of summer. As we move towards the end of the school year, it is important to celebrate and reflect on our successes and shortcomings as a local and global community. We hope that you will find both entertainment and inspiration for further questioning within these pages.

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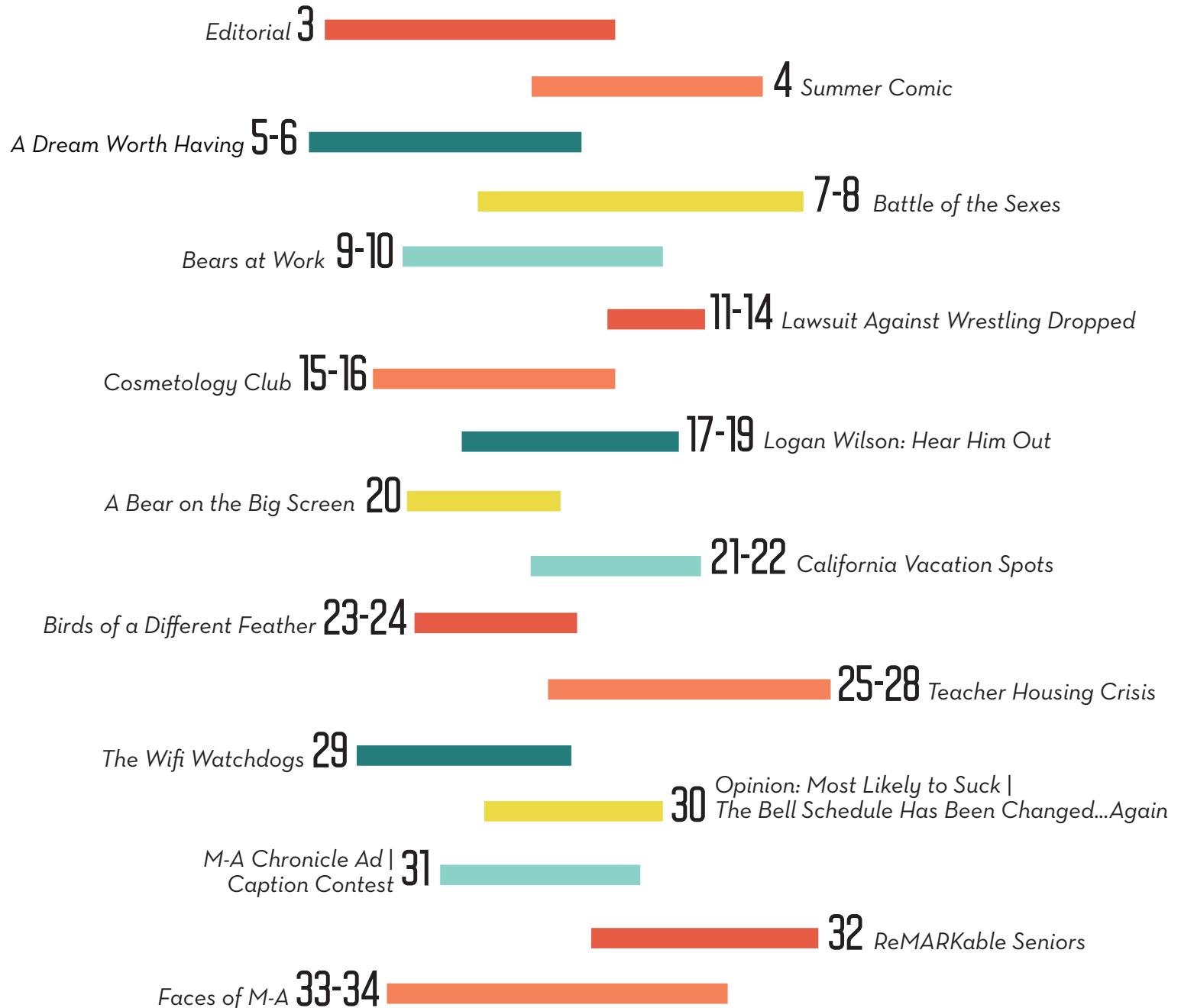


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18-year-old students can theoretically get married, vote, and live alone, but at M-A they cannot sign themselves out of class.

According to attendance clerk Adriana Gonzalez, the district notified the school in February that 18-year-old students are “no longer able to excuse themselves from absences or sign out early.” However, this policy defies section 46012 of the California Education Code.

The law states that students 18 years or older “shall have all of the responsibilities and powers which, in the case of a minor, would be charged to the parent [or] guardian” for procedures verifying their own absences.

The prior policy already stretched the law. As stated in the 2018-19 student handbook, 18-year-old students were “allowed three ‘personal’ sign-outs per semester,” given that they provided

a note from their doctor.

However, a student can still pass a class if they miss 18 class

sessions with two or fewer cuts. And parents are not required to present doctors’ notes to excuse their student’s absences and early dismissals, regardless of their age. Adult students should not have extra requirements.

Given that a person gains many of the rights and responsibilities of adulthood on their 18th birthday, such students should — and are legally able — to excuse all of their own absences.

Although 18 may seem young for some responsibilities, the age of majority will always be somewhat arbitrary. This age is meant to mark adulthood, and the school

should respect this.

Some 18-year-olds do not live with their parents, as they no longer legally must. In fact, four to five percent of Americans 18 to 24 live alone and about one to two percent of those under 18 do the same. It is not unheard of to move out as a legal adult. Others are simply not on good enough terms with their parents to get permission to stay home ill.

Some students receive contraceptive, psychiatric, or psychological counseling that their parents do not — and need not — know about. Studies have shown that requiring parental consent for these things deters teens from accessing them.

Others do not want to bother their parents with the need to excuse doctors and dentist appointments.

For these students, the ability to excuse

their own absences is especially crucial, and for all students who can serve on a jury and go to jail, the responsibility of attending school should rest on their own shoulders.

Even if a student chooses to excuse themselves for a less valid reason, like simply not wanting to sit in class, a few such absences are better than the alternative: never coming. For 18-year-olds, it is a legally viable option to drop out.

It should not be solely the responsibility of an attendance policy to deter skipping school. That responsibility should be shared by the maintenance of an engaging and supportive campus.

The Editorial Board

18+ only

SUMMER!

By Karina Takayama



A Dream Worth Having

Submitted Anonymously

The following is based on a true story. All names were changed to preserve anonymity.

In a country where poverty and gang violence is hitting its highest peak, where there are parents that don't have any money to feed their families, there was one family that was struggling a lot to have food on their table. One day the dad of this family, John, heard about a dangerous journey to a place called the United States. This was the first time John had ever heard of this place. He heard the town members saying that there were a lot of jobs and opportunities, but the journey there was very hard. That day, John went to tell his wife about this place and what it had to offer their family. His wife, Lauren, told him that she did not want to leave their home because her whole family was there. They had a big argument about leaving their country to go find new opportunities. His wife finally decided that she wanted to leave her hometown and family.

John knew that their journey was going to be hard. John, his wife, and their daughter had arrived in Mexico and were almost ready to cross to the United States, but his daughter was not feeling good. However, their guide told them if they did not leave that day there would be fewer chances of crossing the border. John decided to wait until the next day when his daughter was feeling better, so that their guide could help them cross the border without problems. Once they arrived at the border of Mexico, they had to go through the desert so that they were less likely to be caught by border patrol. Their journey through the desert was very hard: there was intense heat, and a lot of other people who crossed had heat stroke and were left behind. They were taken to a house in the middle-of-nowhere, where they were asked to stay the night.

John was still in the desert with his family, but they ran into a problem: their guide was having trouble

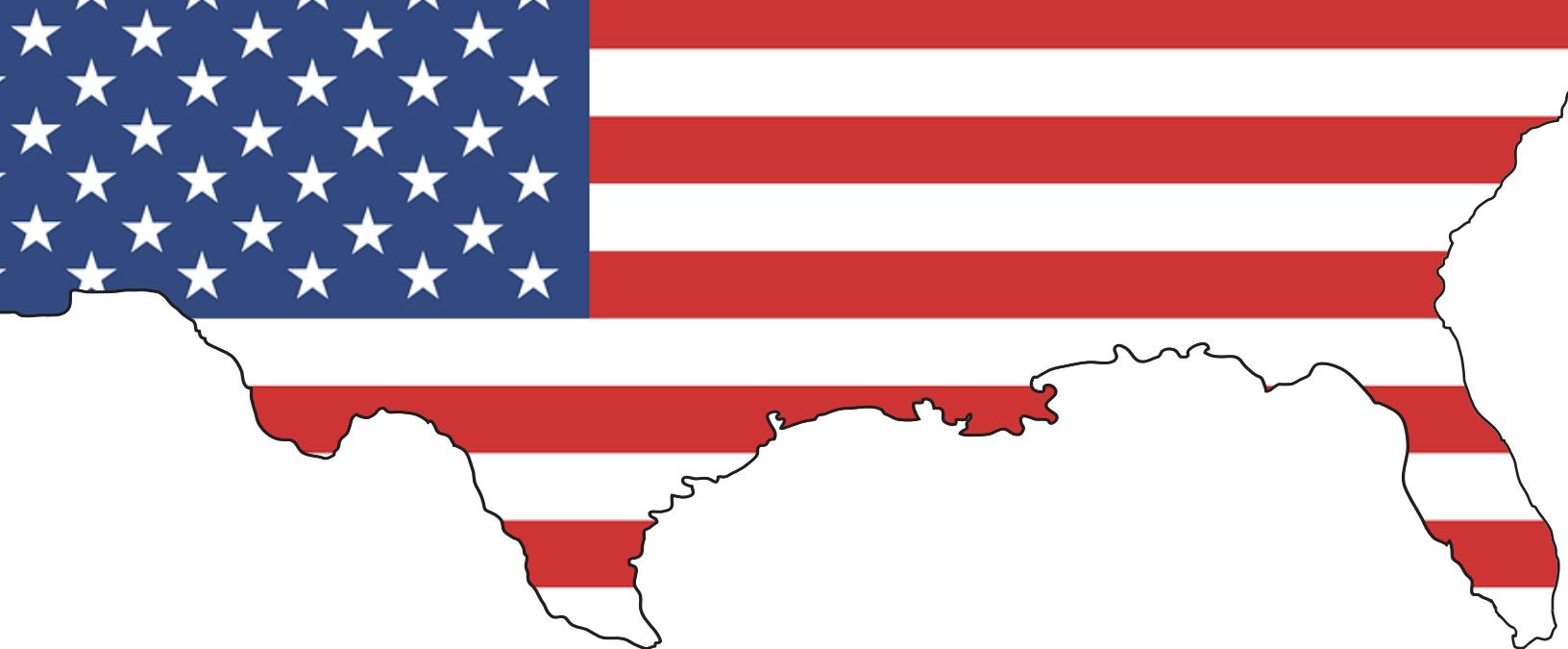
bringing them across the border into the United States. Their guide was in trouble because there was a lot of immigration police on the lookout for incoming immigrants. John thought that his American Dream was coming to an end. Later that day, John and his family were caught by immigration police and deported back to El Salvador, where they had to start their journey all over again.

John and his family arrived back in their hometown in El Salvador. They were very upset to have been caught by the immigration police and forced back to the poverty and gang violence after being so close to making it to the States. John and his wife had to decide between staying home and taking another chance to make it to the States. His wife told him to wait a week or so before trying to cross again. But he told her to get ready, and that they would leave the next morning—his friend had told him that they were also going to risk traveling to the United States because they had nothing left to live on. The next morning, Lauren got their daughter ready to go to Mexico. They left on a bus to where they would meet their new guide. John's friend told them that this guide was one of the best: he would always get people across without a problem. When they arrived in Mexico and met their new guide, he told them they would have to wait one more month before making the journey because of a family problem he had to sort out. John was very upset that his American Dream had been delayed for a second time.

After one month of waiting, their guide finally called to tell them that he was ready to cross. They took another bus and arrived at a hidden location in the middle-of-nowhere. When they asked where they were, they got no response. John was getting very worried because he did not know where he was, but still trusted the guide because of what his friend had told him. They were in the hidden location for three days without going anywhere, which made John more

worried. He went to ask the guide why they had been there for three days. He replied that there had been a lot of immigration lately, and that he was just waiting for it to calm down before crossing John and his family. John felt relieved knowing that he was in good hands...or so he thought. The next morning the guide told them to get ready to go. John agreed, and woke up Lauren and his daughter. They got into a van and were blindfolded. He and his family got dropped off on the street somewhere in Mexico, and their guide left them. Once John took off his blindfold, he knew that they had been scammed for their money.

After John and his family were abandoned by their guide, he went to look for some food to feed his wife and daughter. On his search, he found himself in a supermarket. He asked the cashier that was working whether they had any food that he could have for free so that his family wouldn't go hungry. The cashier asked him where he was from and what he was doing here. John told him that they had been scammed and left for dead on the street. The cashier told John that they might have some extra food in the back for him. The cashier, named Jose, also gave John his phone number. He told him to call back later in the day because he might be able to help John and his family on their journey. John later called Jose, who told him to get his family ready because he was going to help them cross the border. John reminded him that they didn't have any money to pay him. Jose said, "Don't worry, I'll get you there for free for all the troubles you guys have been thrown." John's face lit up, and he started crying over the phone: he was so happy to finally have a good chance of making it over. The next morning, Jose drove them to the border in a van. He was going to cross there, but then had to change plans because the police were looking for him. So Jose had to hurry to get out of the city with John and his family. Jose



drove himself, John, and John's family into the desert, where they hid for a couple of days with food and water. John was very happy with the journey so far, and felt very confident that they would finally make it to the States. Jose then brought them to a different house in the desert. John and his family were three weeks into their journey and finally, it was almost coming to an end. Jose told them that in approximately two days, they would be on American soil. The last couple of days were very tough for John and his family because they had to walk through the hot desert at night, where there bushes with lots of thorns that got stuck to their clothes and made the journey very painful. After walking for miles, they got on a bus, hiding in the luggage compartments. They went over the border in the bus and were able to avoid being detected by immigration police. The bus was headed to Los Angeles, but on their way they were stopped at an immigration checkpoint. The officers asked for all the passengers' passports and demanded to open the luggage compartment, but luckily they opened the wrong one and didn't find John and his family. The bus finally dropped them off in Los Angeles, where their life was going to change completely.

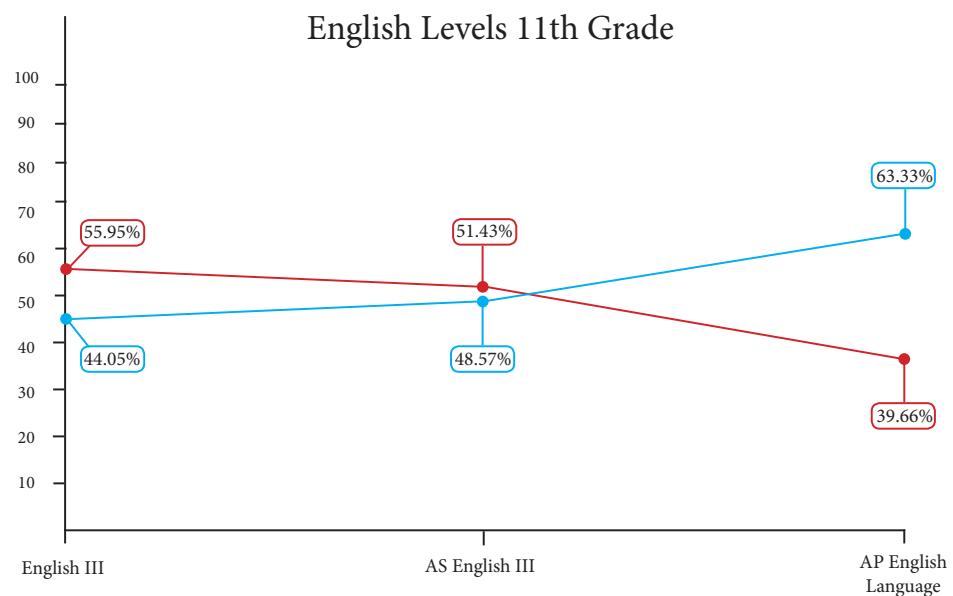
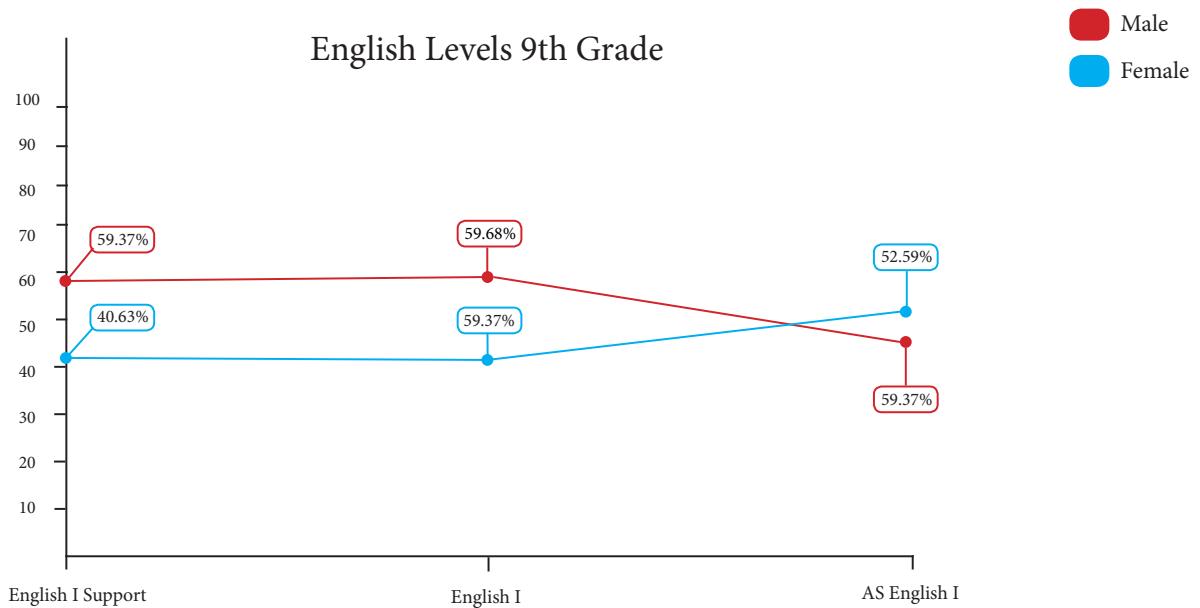
John's eyes lit up when he saw the difference between his home in El Salvador and Los Angeles. He was amazed at the all the lights and big structures that he saw. Jose told him that he had a house that they can stay in while they settle down and get jobs. John was so grateful for what Jose had done to help his family. His family spent the night at Jose's house and the following morning John went around the city looking for a job anywhere he could find one. John went up to a guy that he found on the street and asked him if he knew of any places that were hiring. The guy asked John what sort of work he could do, and John said anything. The guy told him that he might have a job for him in construction. John took the job, and couldn't believe how much money he had earned at the end of the week. John then went home to his wife and showed her the money, and they both started crying in disbelief that they were finally going to be able to support their daughter.

Since John now had a job, he started saving up for a house so that he and his family could get their own place to live in. He had been working very hard for the past three months to also save up for a ring for Lauren. He wanted to marry his wife again because back

home they did not have enough money to arrange a wedding and buy a ring for her. John wanted to surprise his wife by proposing to her again, and to give her a real wedding. When the day came, John went to the jewelry store and bought her the most beautiful ring that he could find. When John showed up to their new home, he gave the ring to his daughter and told her to go give it to her mom, and then John would get on his knee and propose to her again. The wedding was set for the following week, and they would invite friends and family members.

John and his wife's struggles to be financially stable finally came to an end after their journey to the United States and working hard every day for a couple of months. They now own a house and John and his wife both have good jobs. They got remarried and held a reception with their friends present. The next month John was surprised with the news that he was going to be a father for the second time. He was so excited to have another child, but said that he wanted a boy so that he could play soccer and sports with. John, his wife, and daughter could finally live the life they always wanted without any gang violence or poverty around them. They made their "American Dream" come true.





Battle of the Sexes: Achievement Gap

Despite the national trend of males dominating math fields, there is only one math class at M-A where males represent the majority. Multivariable Calculus is the only advanced math or English class where males dominate the classroom demographics at 57.89% and females represent only 42.11%. As a nation, female students earn higher grade averages and take more rigorous classes than their male counterparts as a result of faster and earlier brain development. Author of a 2013 study published in *The Cerebral Cortex*, Sol Lim, contends “the brains of females are further along in the reorganization process and, for at least a few years, may be working more efficiently than a male’s.” While there are exceptions, females are more motivated in academics and earn slightly higher grade averages than males because their brains are working more efficiently until the males catch up during late teenage years, according to Lim.

M-A junior Jill Byers contends that “girls are more motivated because people are constantly trying to force stereotypical gender roles on us by saying, ‘are you sure you can handle the workload?’. Boys and girls [score] pretty equally, but I think girls care more and are more mature than boys at this point in our lives.”

In addition to the faster female brain development during adolescence, males are more likely to have learning disabilities. Boys make up two thirds of the population with specific learning disabilities and twice as likely to have

ADHD according to National Center for Education Statistics. Restlessness can be one of the underlying causes of acting out among adolescents, which may result in suspensions or expulsions. The national average for expulsion in males is 74% whereas the national female average is 26% according to U.S. Department of Education. At M-A, over 125 students were suspended at least once from Kindergarten to 12th grade in the 2017-2018 student population. While neither men nor women are more intelligent than the other, the motivation and maturity in the classroom can significantly impact a student’s academic rigor.

M-A’s rigor gap between freshman males and females is drastically wider than the rigor gap between junior males and females.

Advanced English II and ELD teacher Leia Asanuma recalls that at times she receives “less respect from some of [her] male students and [has] to be more firm with them.” Similarly, an anonymous senior stated that “the classroom is

noisier with boys and a little more focused with majority girls.” As males ‘catch up’ in brain development and maturity during the later years of high school and college, academic achievement also rises illustrated in a study conducted by Susan Golombok, a Professor of City University.

M-A’s rigor gap between freshman males and females is drastically wider than the rigor gap between junior males and females. Freshman females represent 40.32% of the English I classes whereas males represent 59.68%. However, in the more rigorous freshman AS English I classes, females make up 52.59% and males make up 47.41%. This rigor gap shrinks as one progresses towards 11th grade. English III is 44.05% female and 55.95% male whereas AS English III is 48.57% female and 51.43% male. The rigor gap shrinks by 7.46% in regular English classes and shrinks by 8.04% in advanced classes, thus demonstrating that as teenagers grow older they also take more advanced classes. Although males do reach the same brain efficiency and development towards the end of their high school careers, men account for just 44% of undergraduate college students whereas females represent 56% of undergraduates according to *The Atlantic*.

Despite higher grade averages and added rigor in female academics as a result of earlier brain development and faster maturation, the two sexes do end up reaching similar achievement after high school.

by Ellie Shepard

Bears at Work

Katie Derrough Alex and Ani

"I work at Alex and Ani, a jewelry store at the Stanford Mall. I started working during my junior year, once I was 16 and therefore legally eligible to work. Sometimes it can be hard to balance school and my job, especially because I have to request my work schedule way in advance, but I can't always predict how much homework I'll have. Sometimes I have a shift that I've had scheduled for a month, but I'll end up having a huge math test the next day that I wasn't expecting at the time. However, it's definitely helped me manage my time and sleep a lot better. I love keeping myself busy, and I try to work at least 12 hours during the week combined with volunteering 10 hours a week. I've learned a lot in my job, so much about making conversation with strangers in a professional manner. I've learned how to manage money, especially since I'm earning it. I've realized that sometimes working for eight hours is equivalent to one pair of shoes I want, and it really puts budgeting into perspective. I've also learned a lot about the retail industry as a whole, and things like how important organization is for inventory checks, because one misplaced item can cause a huge price loss. I've also definitely learned a lot of patience, because some times are much more busy than others, like around the holidays I might sell around \$2000 worth of merchandise, but on the 4th of July I might have no sales."



Katherine Garibay Bare Bowls

"As a shift lead you have to be on top of all of the employees and make sure that they're doing the right thing. We have to be really quick, because on weekdays, business is slow, but on weekends, it's really bad. We have door dashers who are really tough on us — you have to learn to manage being relaxed, and not get annoyed. Being the young shift lead, it's really difficult to have to tell coworkers what to do. I've learned how to save my money, as half of my paycheck goes into savings. That savings account is literally the best thing I've ever had. I just really love my job."

Miranda Mueller Starbucks



"I started working at the Starbucks on Sharon Park Drive and Sand Hill Road over the summer, in June. I found that working there over the summer helped me create a schedule amid the unstructured nature of summer. But as the school year started, it definitely became more difficult. I should have reduced the number of hours and days I worked, but tried to keep up a grueling schedule of working 30-45 hours a week—way too much, considering I was also trying to tutor kids, work a secondary job at a Palo Alto nonprofit, and finish up college applications while maintaining decent grades in four AP

classes. As a result, my parents chose to revoke my work permit at the end of October. I turned eighteen in December, and returned to Starbucks in January. Currently, I only work Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and during breaks, and spend weekdays at the Palo Alto nonprofit. Working has definitely taught me a lot. My job is not mandated by any dire financial circumstances; my parents would be able to subsidize my cost of living regardless if I were not able to [earn money]. Many other students at M-A do not face such a fortuitous decision. I thought that incidents at Starbucks would not affect me once I punched out. But like school, simply walking through a door does not erase emotion and history. They manifest in different ways: swollen feet, an aching back, homework, and friendships. The most distressing events replay in my mind on a repeat: a disgruntled customer threatening to call the district manager, frustrated at the miscommunication between us, accidentally shaking an open container of soy milk and coating myself in a layer of sticky discomfort, and other routine humiliations suffered remind me of the displeasing aspects of this job."

Karina Cervantes Arteaga Bare Bowls

"I blend and top açai bowl (smoothie bowls), but we also serve fresh coffee and salads. Depending on what days and time I work, I have different tasks. If I'm closing I have to clean everything and make sure everything is in order for the next day. When I open I start the morning with blending bins of our two most popular flavors to make it easier for us throughout the day. I chose to start working to learn some responsibility when it comes to money. Also, it helped my dad stress a lot less because he now doesn't have to worry about giving me money for things that I need or want. I also love having my own money that I work hard for. It makes me feel much more independent when it comes to buying things. Working with food has definitely helped me learn to practice patience toward myself and

others. You also meet lots of new people and create a bigger network, as my boss has written me many recommendations for college applications. I recommend finding a job that is willing to work around your time, as my job does. I also recommend not to over work yourself or you'll definitely start losing track of time in school and even your social life. I try to limit myself to work only one day of the weekends because I like to make sure I do have a day off of school and work to worry about myself and my self care.”

Edwin Cabrera *Abercrombie and Fitch*



“I usually always go to work after school. I do get out kind of late. On Fridays, I get off at 11:00 sometimes, but I still have to manage to do homework afterwards. I try to have a steadier schedule for homework and stay up late to finish homework.”

Haley Abarca *Bianchini's Market*

“I bag people’s groceries, and do little, tiny tasks here and there. I have to face the shelves, which basically means organizing them, lock up the back when it’s time to get locked up, bring in the carts whether or not it’s raining, and restock the grocery bags once customers are gone at night. I usually close the store as well, so I do things like taking out the trash cans, bringing in produce from the outside, and covering the rest of the produce that stays outside overnight. Given that it’s our senior year and we’re working on scholarships and trying to bring in money for college, I know that I need the job, but it is hard to prioritize

my schoolwork, and also try to find ways to get money for college. I think learning how to manage my schoolwork and my job is going to be very beneficial, especially since I am going to college and I’m going to have to get a job. Learning how to manage my time so that I’m able to get everything done is nice. My favorite part of work is that my mom works at the same store.”

Jake Miranda *Stanford Dining Halls*

“I work on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 9:30. They’re very flexible for students and will accommodate you with your hours most of the time. On a typical day at work, I carry foods, drinks, and clean. An important skill from working a job is learning how to be able to do things on your own without someone holding your hand. If they tell you you need to do something, just find a way to do it yourself.”

by Brynn Baker and Greta Hoffman



Lawsuit Against Wrestling Coach Dropped

by Sarah Lehman
photos by Ken Calhoon

For the third year in a row, under the tutelage of coach Phil Hoang, the M-A girls wrestling program earned the title of Central Coast Section (CCS) champions and achieved top-10 finishes at CIF State Championships, finishing second in the state this year. Hoang has coached wrestling at M-A for eight years, the last three years as head coach of the girls wrestling team, creating what the San Mateo Daily Journal called a “golden age of wrestling” for the girls team at M-A.

This year’s success comes despite a distracting and complicated lawsuit involving the girls wrestling program. The lawsuit, filed by M-A senior and former girls wrestling team member Kiernan Dunn, alleged that the District and its representatives discriminated against her because her father, Kevin Dunn, was not allowed to be a wrestling coach at M-A. However, court documents filed in opposition to her claims allege that rather than being a valid complaint about discrimination, the lawsuit was an attempt by a parent to get Hoang fired and seize control of the team.

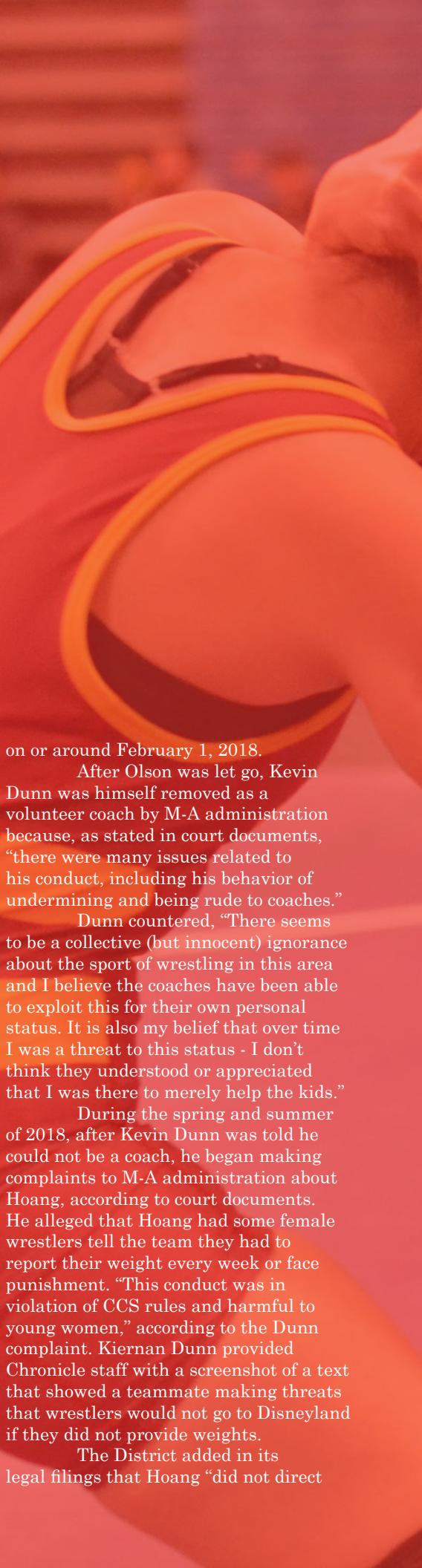
The lawsuit implicated Hoang, the Sequoia Union High School District, Superintendent Mary Streshly, M-A’s Principal Simone Rick-Kennel, Vice Principal Stephen Emmi, and Athletic Director Steven Kryger. The lawsuit was ongoing from November 2018 until

January this year, but the story of this legal dispute really starts in 2017.

Back in 2017, Hoang asked Kevin Dunn, whose daughter Kiernan was on the team, to be a volunteer coach since Dunn had wrestled in college and trained wrestlers at all levels. As Kevin Dunn said, “I’ve been involved in the sport of wrestling for over 40 years; as a collegiate wrestler and as a coach. I have coached Olympians and All-Americans. I have helped middle schools and high schools.”

Shortly thereafter, Dunn complained to Hoang that assistant coach Cliff Olson was making the teams complete dangerous moves while blindfolded that allegedly led to one wrestler fracturing his neck, as claimed in court documents.

Court documents also state that ‘around October 2017,’ Kiernan Dunn said that she complained to her father about Olson; she said he was making sexist statements towards girls on the team. The amended complaint notes that “in or around October of 2017” Kevin Dunn observed Olson making racially inappropriate remarks, which he reported to Hoang and assistant coach Daniel Williams, along with Kiernan’s complaint. Dunn then made a complaint to Athletic Director Paul Snow, an investigation was conducted by the district, and Olson was let go as a coach



on or around February 1, 2018.

After Olson was let go, Kevin Dunn was himself removed as a volunteer coach by M-A administration because, as stated in court documents, “there were many issues related to his conduct, including his behavior of undermining and being rude to coaches.”

Dunn countered, “There seems to be a collective (but innocent) ignorance about the sport of wrestling in this area and I believe the coaches have been able to exploit this for their own personal status. It is also my belief that over time I was a threat to this status - I don’t think they understood or appreciated that I was there to merely help the kids.”

During the spring and summer of 2018, after Kevin Dunn was told he could not be a coach, he began making complaints to M-A administration about Hoang, according to court documents. He alleged that Hoang had some female wrestlers tell the team they had to report their weight every week or face punishment. “This conduct was in violation of CCS rules and harmful to young women,” according to the Dunn complaint. Kiernan Dunn provided Chronicle staff with a screenshot of a text that showed a teammate making threats that wrestlers would not go to Disneyland if they did not provide weights.

The District added in its legal filings that Hoang “did not direct

correspondence to the girls' team regarding recording their weight," but rather "the wrestlers and parents... requested the information so the wrestlers would know which weight classes were open."

Despite the success of the girls wrestling program both before and after Dunn's involvement, in an email to Vice Principal Stephen Emmi of April 4, 2018 that is part of the public record of this lawsuit, Kevin Dunn wrote, "The coaching staff are credit hogs and intimidating, even disrespectful to those who have knowledge of the sport. Phil took 100% credit for the girls' success this year even though I coached them more in terms of teaching technique than all of the coaches." He went on to call Hoang a "fraud" and an "opportunist," as well as "incapable of bringing in good coaches because he himself is not."

Kevin Dunn again complained to Steven Kryger and Vice Principal Stephen Emmi, and allegedly Kryger "admonished" Dunn for making these complaints. According to her legal statement, Kiernan Dunn "had seen Phil Hoang commit assault and battery against her father," and was so uncomfortable with Hoang's conduct by this point that she told her father she would not wrestle if he was coaching; Kevin Dunn met with Emmi and Kryger, who promised they would set up a meeting with Hoang to resolve the issue, which allegedly never happened.

As a result, court documents say, "Kiernan and Kevin Dunn filed a retaliation complaint with the district alleging misconduct by Phil Hoang and Steven Kryger" on August 22, 2018, that accused them of violating Title IX provisions prohibiting discrimination based on sex for institutions receiving federal funds. Under Title IX, retaliation against individuals who complain about sex discrimination is considered intentional discrimination, and that is what the Dunns said happened.

Kiernan Dunn also alleged that Athletic Director Steven Kryger, along with the district superintendent and M-A principal, issued a press release in "an attempt to intimidate Kiernan and Kevin Dunn" for their Title IX complaint. That press release, issued in the fall of 2018, announced a new boys' coach and that Hoang would be the coach for the girls wrestling team for the 2018-2019 season. The District's attorneys said in their court documents, "The decision to issue a press release praising Coach Hoang had nothing to do with the Title IX complaint. Instead, [it] was to announce the hiring of the new boys' wrestling coach and, per standard

procedure, celebrated the girls' wrestling team's success the previous year."

The Title IX complaint was an administrative complaint filed by Kiernan and Kevin Dunn with the District against Phil Hoang and Steve Kryger. Court documents allege that after Olson was fired, Dunn "was immediately retaliated against by Phil Hoang" because Dunn was told he could not coach the girls wrestling team anymore, and Hoang allegedly told wrestlers to stop participating in group lessons that Dunn had been conducting at his home. This caused Kiernan to become isolated from her teammates, according to the complaint.

However, other team members have said that Kiernan Dunn was welcome at any team events they hosted, and chose not to participate. John McDonnell, a father of a female wrestler and an attorney representing interested parties in the case, stated in court documents that some students stopped going to Dunn's practices because their parents told them to; they were uncomfortable with sending their daughters to the sessions late into Saturday evenings where the girls were encouraged to watch ultimate fighting.

While the administrative complaint was pending, on October 26, 2018 the District informed Kevin Dunn that he would not be allowed to coach for the 2018-2019 season, stating in a letter to Kevin Dunn that, "Due to your conduct, the District has received employee concerns regarding safety. Therefore, you may not coach the Menlo-Atherton High School wrestling teams" or "be present during wrestling team practices." At public events, the letter continued, Dunn was "not to make contact with Coach Phil Hoang, [...] and not interfere with Mr. Hoang's coaching duties or wrestling team activities."

Several days later, on November 6, 2018, Kiernan Dunn filed a lawsuit in state court, making substantially the same allegations as those made in her administrative complaint filed with the District, alleging violation of Title IX. However, there were legal flaws with the complaint because it did not properly assert any actionable legal claims, so Dunn's lawyer had to submit a "First Amended Complaint."

McDonnell, who filed court documents in the case on behalf of interested parties, said that Kiernan's initial Complaint for Title IX violations was not valid. He explained that the original Complaint made claims against individuals — Hoang, Emmi, Streshly, and others — that can legally be made

only against institutions. So the Dunns' lawyer had to amend the complaint to drop the individuals from the allegations, which he did when he filed a "First Amended Complaint." But in the amended Complaint the Dunns' lawyer also asserted different legal claims based on the same allegations of discrimination and retaliation against Kiernan Dunn.

McDonnell said, "The amended Complaint was just as flawed as the original Complaint — both legally and factually...Not only did it include the same lies as the original Complaint, it failed to assert any actionable legal claims. For example, it alleged violations of a variety of laws without actually alleging any facts to support a violation."

He added that, "The 'retaliation' discussion in the Complaint was about how Kevin Dunn – not Kiernan Dunn – was allegedly harmed," and the complaint was "based on the same allegation of discrimination against Kiernan—but without any allegation of any facts showing how she had been discriminated against." The complaint also alleged that Coach Hoang changed the girls practice time from afternoons at 3:30 p.m. to early mornings at 5:30 a.m. to deliberately prevent Kevin Dunn from coaching, and that changing the practice time "deprived [Kiernan Dunn] of necessary sleep and made it difficult for [her] to concentrate in class," said her lawyer.

But other wrestlers had been following this schedule without issue since the previous year, before Kiernan Dunn became a student at M-A; in addition, morning practice is commonplace for high school sports, like basketball and swimming. The District and members of the wrestling team also contend that the time was moved simply because there was not adequate space for the girls and boys teams to practice in the afternoon, and that this decision was made before any issues with the Dunns. As members of the girls wrestling team informed the Chronicle, the team had scheduled early morning practices for that same reason the previous year.

A key allegation of the amended Complaint involved an altercation at the CCS championship tournament in February of 2018 where Kevin Dunn physically threatened Coach Hoang. According to Kiernan Dunn's amended Complaint, Hoang allegedly told Olson to sit with wrestlers at the CCS tournament, though he was no longer a coach, and Kiernan Dunn called her father to complain. Dunn eventually came to CCS and told Hoang to remove Olson, which allegedly he did not. Dunn later sat in a wrestler's corner during a

match—where a coach would sit even though Dunn was not an authorized coach for the tournament—and, as Kevin Dunn alleged in court documents, “Phil Hoang approached me from behind and pushed me in the back” and “Hoang was threatening me with physical violence.”

After the CCS altercation, Kevin Dunn reported this to Athletic Director Steven Kryger, but according to Dunn’s lawyer, M-A failed to take action “against Phil Hoang for his assault and battery on Kevin Dunn.” However, video taken from the altercation shows a distinctly different scenario: Hoang approaching Dunn and asking him to leave without yelling, and Dunn threatening Hoang and cursing in response. In commenting on the District’s decision to not allow Kevin Dunn to be a coach for the 2018-2019 seasons, the District’s counsel referred to the video in court papers, stating that, “The concern expressed by the District stems, in part, from Mr. Dunn’s threat to coach Hoang that he would ‘fuck [him] up.’ ...Mr. Dunn acknowledges making this threat, probably because he was captured on video making [it].”

However, the video was taken by Hoang after the alleged incident, and according to Kiernan Dunn, was thrown out as evidence by the judge.

The dispute came to a head after the District lawyers had the case transferred from state court to federal court because Kiernan Dunn’s claims involved federal law. Immediately after the transfer, Kiernan Dunn filed a motion with the federal district court in San Francisco under the auspices of a temporary restraining order (TRO) to have the court order the District and M-A to appoint her father as her coach at M-A and as a coach for the boys team. She requested that in the alternative she be allowed to compete for the girls team of Fremont High School where her father was a coach, despite not being a student at that school and contrary to express CIF rules.

The District lawyers and McDonnell filed separate opposition papers to the Dunns’ motion. In describing the case to the court, the District’s counsel stated that “this unfortunate situation arises from the conduct of Kevin Dunn, who [...] seeks a Court order to seize control of the interscholastic wrestling program at Menlo-Atherton High School. In so doing, Mr. Dunn has placed himself in conflict with the school’s administration, including the girls’ wrestling coach, Phil Hoang. Kiernan Dunn has not been prohibited from wrestling at Menlo-Atherton; rather, [she] has chosen not to wrestle with the girls’ wrestling team

this season.”

McDonnell’s opposition papers stated, “[Kiernan Dunn] and her father would have this Court believe that Phil Hoang is a terrible person and terrible coach who was out to get them and retaliate against them, and...that all of this was somehow an effort to harm and or retaliate against [Kevin] Dunn and [Kiernan Dunn]. In fact, the opposite is the case: [Kevin] Dunn has taken every possible effort to attack, harass and intimidate Phil Hoang, including filing dubious claims and by asserting demonstrably false allegations to this Court.”

Commensurate with its filing of TRO opposition papers, the District’s lawyers also filed a “Motion to Dismiss” to have Kiernan Dunn’s amended Complaint dismissed. According to the District’s filing, the amended Complaint failed “to state a claim against Defendants upon which relief can be granted.” The Motion to Dismiss had been scheduled to be heard by the same judge for early March of 2019, but the Dunns dismissed the case before this hearing occurred.

McDonnell, who attended the TRO hearing, noted, “The judge rather quickly saw through the Dunns’ baseless allegations and told Kiernan’s lawyer in no uncertain terms that the District’s Motion to Dismiss would likely be granted at the March hearing, that the case ‘sounded like a beef between a dad and a coach’ that did not belong in federal court, and that it was definitely not in Kiernan’s best interests in the first place.”

The judge then summarily denied the TRO, and Kiernan Dunn’s lawyer then filed his own motion to dismiss the case a few days later, thereby ending the entire legal dispute. McDonnell pointed out that had the District’s Motion to Dismiss been heard by the court, the court not only would have likely granted it, but would have likely had the Dunn family pay the District’s legal fees.

In commenting on the dismissal, McDonnell said, “The judge got it right: this case was about Kevin Dunn, not about Kiernan, and should never have been brought in the first place.” When asked for further elaboration on his views, McDonnell referred M-A Chronicle staff to his court filings. In those court filings McDonnell stated, “I have never seen a parent — or anyone — behave in such a reprehensible manner and demonstrate so little self-control or self-awareness of the appropriate time, place, and method to resolve disputes, as has [Kevin] Dunn.”

Kiernan noted that under the circumstances, a quick emergency hearing was necessary, as she had already missed two weeks of the wrestling season. Kevin Dunn said, “Regarding why we dropped the suit... the school was protecting the coaches, the district was protecting the school and the only way we believed we would get an equitable result was to take a long shot at an emergency hearing. We had to file a lawsuit based on the overarching issues we were confronted with in order to do so.”

When discussing the decision to drop the case that would allow her to wrestle for another school or install her father as a coach, Kiernan Dunn said, “The judge explained that he wasn’t willing to change the way a school district operates in an emergency hearing where he didn’t have the chance to study and understand all of the issues. Since our motion was denied and our only objective not fulfilled we had no reason to keep going and we dropped the suit.”

Kevin added, “We have never been involved in a lawsuit before and never intended this to go public.”

When asked how the lawsuit affected his experience this season, Hoang said, “The lawsuit was meritless, my primary concern was with how the lawsuit could affect the team. I was focused on running a program and all the usual things a coach should be doing — recruiting, hiring assistant coaches, working with students on academic eligibility, letters of recommendation, keeping the team focused on their goals. I owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to our parents, wrestlers, and school administration for providing their continued support. It helped me stay focused on our goals.”

A senior wrestler voiced similar support for Hoang, and said, “The amount of dedication and sacrifice Coach Hoang has put into this team over my past four years is incredible. He has made us stronger physically, mentally, and emotionally. He has helped us build the team culture we have today and it is one of the reasons we have achieved this amount of success.”

Chronicle staff reached out to all current varsity girls’ wrestlers. All who replied agreed with this sentiment. One senior wrestler said, “I can’t say enough good things about him [Hoang]. He is a person in my life, and in my family’s life, and in so many other wrestlers’ lives where he’s been a life mentor, a coach, someone who is just supportive of us, respects us, I just can’t say enough good things. When I think of good people in this world, he is on that list.”

She went on to say that she was devastated by the attack on Hoang's character, but according to she and other wrestlers, the team remained close and focused. They called a meeting at the beginning of the season to discuss the tension surrounding the case, which allowed them to move forward.

The team had their best season in recent memory despite the conflict, and one wrestler said that she believes their team became even more closely bonded as a result of going through this turmoil together.

Hoang attested to the strength of the team, saying, "Have you seen this team? I was told they were doing pull-ups in their prom gear. Nothing phases this group."

Another senior agreed, saying, "As a team I don't think we let the lawsuit deter us from our goals or distract us in practices and competition. The wrestling room is a safe space and like a home to many of our wrestlers so we didn't want to bring that negativity into the room."

A freshman on the team said that she barely heard anyone discuss the lawsuit. "At first, I only heard it from other people asking me about it," she said, "Initially, the only information I had about it was from the Almanac."

She went on to praise Coach Hoang, saying, "I've done a lot of sports, but wrestling is really the only one that is a family, and Coach Hoang creates that...When I first heard the claims I was already skeptical, because I knew his personality...You'll always see Coach Hoang super calm [at tournaments], always super supportive. The most emotional and worked up I've seen him is when one of our girls won. I've never seen him in the way he was described by the Almanac."

Indeed, other wrestlers agreed, and one said, "It saddens and angers me that someone would make false accusations towards someone who is just trying to make a positive impact on a group of teenagers."

Hoang noted, "There are outcomes you can control and there are outcomes you can't control. You can waste a lot of energy on outcomes you can't control. I had the full support of the school administration and the district to run a program; I focused my energy on providing the best possible experience I could for our team."



Photo credit Ken Calhoon



When looking at the lack of diversity within sports teams and classes at Menlo-Atherton, it is clear that as a community, we sometimes fail to live up to our motto of "Strength in Diversity." However, the Cosmetology Club may be one place where the motto rings true.

The Cosmetology Club provides a safe space for all students to express themselves in a way that benefits the M-A community and helps them build self-confidence. As 11th grader Crystal Cruz put it, "Being able to be part of the club is like a family. We bond; we all support one another. We put on events during the year, which included

"Being able to be part of the club is like a family we bond."

Hairspray the musical, ILS Prom, M-A Prom, Senior Fashion show, the Black Student Union's Black History event, and The Diamond Project," members of the club are able to "build self-esteem and become more comfortable with their own flaws."

According to the club's advisor, Mrs. Sledge, "the club focuses on loving yourself from within, and sharing your love and passion with others," but the benefits of taking part in the cosmetology club go beyond high school for many

students. Since the start of the club, "four girls went on to get their cosmetology licenses." Mrs. Sledge believes that "creating a pathway for our students is what drives this club. No matter what path these young women take, they have a special gift they can offer to others. The ability to help someone brings out their natural beauty and the pure gift of giving back to others."

As an alumni of M-A, Mrs. Sledge has always aimed to use the club as a means to give back to the M-A community. This focus on giving back has created a strong sense of school pride within the club. This pride was evident in their recent clothing collection "Dripping in Pride," which was modeled at the 2019 Senior Fashion show.

One of the most recent events the club put on was an event made to help students get ready for prom. This event where students got dresses and learned about makeup was part of a larger effort called "The Diamond Project." After hearing that many students were struggling to pay for expensive prom dresses, Mrs. Sledge "cleared [her] schedule at the salon [she] works at." She recalls how she "went out to a bunch of stores and asked for dresses and got a lot of no's, but I asked them to hear me out. I talked to managers and showed them pictures of the events we had done. Then they would go and get me

a couple dresses. Then I just kept going to stores until I got about 80 different dresses in various sizes."

With the enthusiasm of members of the cosmetology club, Mrs. Sledge's effort to find prom dresses for girls at M-A turned into an entire event now known as The Diamond Project. Along with receiving free dresses, students were provided with "makeup consultations where we showed girls how to create the look themselves. We put together makeup bags with supplies they would need for the specific look. We literally showed girls how to do the look they wanted for prom. We let them borrow supplies from our club to make it happen without any cost."

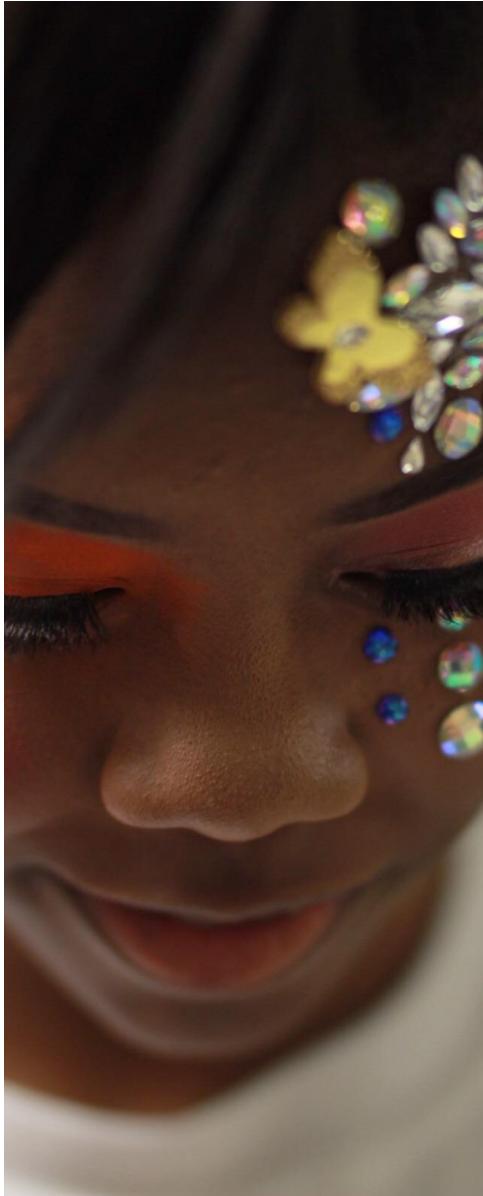
Mrs. Sledge's goal for the future of this project is to expand it across the M-A community. She wants to "get more students and teachers involved through helping out with events or doing fundraising." While leadership can help students who cannot afford prom tickets, it is the responsibility of the whole M-A community to make sure the various aspects of prom are accessible to all students.

by Ava Honerkamp



Cosmetology Club Finds New Ways to Shine

A safe space for all Menlo-Atherton students to learn about themselves, serve their community, build self-esteem, and explore future career options.



Logan Wilson: Hear Him Out

by Bella Montoya

Senior Logan Wilson is a debate team captain, the 36th ranked parliamentary debater in the nation, and legally deaf. He has profound hearing loss with cochlear implants on both sides: surgically implanted neuroprosthetic devices that provide a sense of sound. We asked him and his debate partner, Andrew Fahey, about his journey through high school, debate, and dealing with the stigma of his disability in a competitive space.

How did you get into debate?

Logan: In sophomore year, Mr. McBlair, my English teacher, had a debate unit and I thought "This is really cool," and he said, "You should join the debate team," and I decided, "OK. I'm in. Let's do this."

What do you love about debate and how has it helped you?

I love debate because it's a combination of an individual and a team sport. Of course, you want to help develop your team and learn more about the world and become better at arguing, but also you can sort of get your competitive edge out, your thirst for blood, and dominate people.

I'm passionate about it, because one, I'm very competitive. And two, it's helped me build a ton of really great relationships and tutor people, influence

people, in a way that I would not have been able to [otherwise]. When I started high school I was doing theater, and I was just kind of behind the scenes, the sort of tech person, and then I sort of fell out of that, and felt directionless for a while.

Debate really helped me get a good sense of who I was and who I wanted to be...that I had something important to contribute and something that people wanted to listen to, which really helped me develop my self-confidence.

How does debate give you purpose and how does that translate into other areas of your life?

Logan: Debate has really helped me contribute to a community. The community is the most important thing above all else. Contributing to a group of people that are working towards a common goal and working to improve themselves is the most important thing you can do. Becoming a more worldly person, becoming a more well-spoken person is a really good goal, and working towards that goal is exactly what makes life worth it.

Has hearing been a big obstacle in round?

Logan: It has lost us some rounds. If they're going too fast, which is very common in debate,

they'll be speaking at 300 words per minute, then it becomes very difficult for me, because I have auditory processing issues. There have been some rounds where the background noise has been too loud, and I can't write stuff down fast enough. On top of the hearing, I also have ADHD, so those two factors together make it extremely difficult to follow really, really fast speaking.

Mostly, the debate community has been really nice about it, but some people either aren't aware, or speak really weirdly, or won't do something in particular, and the biggest obstacle is often me feeling too awkward to ask them to change what they're doing, which is sort of a big access issue.

Andrew: Do you want to tell them that story about the time your hearing aid died in a round?

Logan: Oh! Yeah, so this was in December, and it was really late at night, like 9-9:30 at night, and my [hearing aid] batteries only last 12-14 hours, and so if I get up at 7, it's going to run out at 9.

So, during the middle of the round, after the second speech, it just goes off, and, I can only hear out of half of my head, and it was terrible. We lost the round because I completely lost my composure after that, obviously, and part of it was that I should have said "hey can you give me a moment to regain my composure, I just lost half of my hearing", but yeah, it's stuff like that that will lose me rounds, but nevertheless, we're pretty successful, and people are really nice and accepting about it, so for the most part it's not an issue.

"Contributing to a group of people that are working towards a common goal and working to improve themselves is the most important thing you can do."



Does it ever affect you? Is it ever awkward to say, “even though this is a super advanced round, would you mind slowing down?”

Logan: I mean, I've been thinking and talking about it more recently, so I've gotten a lot more bold. As time goes on I'm getting more self confident and able to say, “Can you stop please? This is not what I want to do right now.”

What challenges have you faced and what changes do you want in the debate community?

Logan: I think the real insight is that people are really selfish, and they are, ultimately, only going to do what you ask them to do. That's where it's really hard for disabled people; you constantly have to be asking for accommodations, because people aren't mindful of that. I mean, I'd love to live in a society where people are mindful of that, and would ask if you need anything, but that's not the world we live in.

People are in their own headspace. The change that we need to make is to be more bold and ask more. People aren't going to

refuse it, because, you know, does anyone want to say, “I want to speak fast against the deaf kid. I want to exclude him?” No. So being more bold and asserting yourself is the solution there.

What does the future look like for you?

Logan: McBlair is encouraging me not to do debate in college and to do something with my life instead. [laughs] Plus, the college I'm going to doesn't have a debate team, so I'll probably end up doing something else. But I will always take away these lessons of self-confidence and self-advocacy from debate and try to apply them to my life.

What is the biggest takeaway from this experience?

Logan: The biggest takeaway for me is that people are complex, situations are complex, and that nothing is ever black and white. I remember in middle school, I thought “oh, the world is so simple. Why don't people just do the right thing? It's obviously so straightforward.” But, in reality, nothing is straightforward.

What is one thing you would have told your younger self?

Logan: I would have told myself that “You are right. It is going to get better, and you just have to believe in that, get through these dark times where you don't really believe in yourself, because it does get better. You just have to keep improving and keep doing the right thing and eventually you will get there.”

Now that you've worked with a lot of people, what do you think is, as a leader, the most important that you've learned?

Logan: The most important thing I've learned is that you shouldn't always be so righteous about your point of view. Your point of view is just as important as someone else's point of view. Obviously, your point of view is going to be more important to you, but

everyone has their own perspective, and recognizing that is the best way to lead a team and make sure that you can effectively navigate the world.

If you're feeling aimless, because I definitely did feel aimless, do what you like. Don't do what other people are doing.

*I mean, that's very
c l i c h é*

advice, but the practical application is that you shouldn't do stuff because your friends are doing it. Make friends because you're doing what you like. Those bonds and those friendships last much longer than bonds that you're just trying to maintain by doing an activity. Making sure that you are truly passionate about the thing that you do, besides school, is the most important recipe for success.

"If you're feeling aimless, because I definitely did feel aimless, do what you like. Don't do what other people are doing."





Bear on the Big Screen

Ben Sakamoto

Sophomore Ben Sakamoto recently appeared as Hawkeye's (Jeremy Renner) son, Cooper Barton, in *Avengers: Endgame*. Sakamoto first portrayed Cooper Barton in *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (2015), when he was ten years old. *Endgame* is currently the highest grossing film of all time, reaching over 2.5 billion dollars in the box office, surpassing *Avatar* and *Titanic*.

What was the casting process like?

Well, I was living in England at the time (it was for my dad's job for a few years), and I was doing drama club, so I was into acting. Then, a casting agent came to our school and talked to my teacher and interviewed some of us about a role in a movie. We had to send in a video saying our name and stuff like that to a casting company. It was an American school and they wanted American kids to be in the movie. I went through an interview, sent in a video, and then they told me I needed to go through auditions because they wanted me for this part. After two or three auditions, I had to go to London. A few weeks later, after the last audition, they selected me for the role.

Do you remember what you felt like when you first got cast?

I think my mom was more excited than me. She got the phone call and was freaking out because I was going to be in this movie. It was pretty insane. I didn't know what to say. I remember I was really speechless.

How much of the plot were you allowed to know?

They didn't tell me anything. Not even for *Endgame*. They were like, "Here's the scene."

What is it like for people to come up to you and talk about it?

It's pretty surreal. I think the craziest part of it was that people I don't know at all would come up to me and say, "Oh, you're in this movie." It's pretty crazy. I think that's the best part about it all.

What do you do to prepare for a scene (makeup, wardrobe, etc.)?

I had makeup and hair. I had to get there a couple of hours before filming the scene because they had to do hair and makeup for my role. And on top of that, I had to do three hours of school everyday, so that took some time.

If you had the chance, which Avenger would you like to play? Why?

Yeah, I actually thought a lot about this one. I think I would be Hawkeye. I would just be my dad, because of loyalty. I'm not the biggest superhero fan, but definitely Hawkeye.

To see the extended version of this interview, visit

MACH Chronicle

at www.machronicle.com



Sakamoto, while filming *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, peering out of his trailer.



Sakamoto moments before shooting a scene in *Avengers: Endgame*.

"Anything can happen, you just have to take the opportunities you can get , and you really never know."



Who have you met?

I think the first person I met was Jeremy Renner, the guy who plays Hawkeye in the movie. I remember, when I was filming *Age of Ultron*, they walked me over to all the actors, Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Captain America (Chris Evans), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), and Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson). It was really crazy 'cause I think the night before I watched the first movie. And then seeing them the next day was insane.

Who were your biggest inspirations on set?

I think, Mark Ruffalo, the guy who played Hulk. I think that all of them are such good actors, and they're all super nice too. I remember him [Ruffalo] coming up to me and my mom and he said: "Oh, I remember you guys! We talked a lot." So I thought that was pretty crazy that he remembered me from before.

by Izzy Leake and Amelia Wu

California Vacation Spots

Point Bonita Lighthouse: A mere twenty-minute drive across the Golden Gate from San Francisco, the Point Bonita Lighthouse offers unique views of San Francisco and the Pacific Ocean. Constructed in 1855, it was first built to alert incoming ships of the perilous rocky cliffs near the Golden Gate.



Bodie Ghost Town: Located near the California-Nevada border in the Eastern Sierra, Bodie is an authentic ghost town from California's gold rush era. Visitors can see Bodie nearly unchanged from its 1800s condition, including the original furnishing and contents of the town's buildings.



Peninsula Coastline, Highway 1: Unlike many parts of the Central Coast and Southern California, the San Mateo and Santa Cruz County coastline has been, for the most part, protected from large-scale development. Scenic beaches including Montara, Martin's, Greyhound Rock, County Line, Davenport Landing (pictured), and Natural Bridges State Park in Santa Cruz make this highway one of a kind.





Big Sur: The pride of California's Central Coast, Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, draws visitors with its undeveloped coastline, hiking, and backpacking opportunities in the Santa Lucia Mountains. Most striking is McWay Falls at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, an impressive 80-foot waterfall and turquoise-blue cove.



Kings Canyon National Park: Less popular than Yosemite or Sequoia, but no less impressive, Kings Canyon has everything a nature-lover could wish for: some of the highest peaks in the Sierra, the deepest canyon in California, and a congregation of skyscraping sequoia trees.



Channel Islands: Virtually untouched by human development, this national park is a rare exhibition of Californian ecology. These five islands are surrounded by a national marine sanctuary, making it one of the most popular snorkeling and scuba diving destinations in the US.



Santa Barbara: The oceanside city of Santa Barbara offers numerous historic attractions, such as Stearns Wharf, Old Mission Santa Barbara, and a lively downtown. In Santa Barbara and neighboring Montecito, picturesque cliffside neighborhoods create ocean views unique to the California coastline.



by Heath Hooper

Birds of a Different Feather



To find one's own style, in an art world that values creativity over all else, is no easy feat. Jane Kim, co-founder of Ink Dwell, an art studio in El Granada, Kim works as a muralist, primarily depicting wildlife, with uncanny realism. A former artist-in-residence at the deYoung, and boasting fifty thousand Instagram followers, Kim has garnered her fair share of critical success. Beyond that, however, her art provides viewers with an intimate connection to the natural world which surrounds them.

In your own words, how would you describe your art?

[Ink Dwell's] art is built around accurate depictions of the natural world, which tell allegorical stories about people, culture, and humanity as a whole. With that being said, my work is



heavily inspired by the discipline of scientific illustration.

As an extension of that, how has your particular training contributed to your art style?

I have a background in printmaking from the Rhode Island School of Design, and I have a masters in scientific illustration from [Cal State] Monterey Bay. The style is definitely more technical, but, compositionally, there's influence from my background as a fine artist.

Did anything, in particular, make you want to pursue scientific illustration?

I was really attracted to the role that scientific illustration plays in communicating. It's kind of a universal language, which has the ability to communicate both ideas and responses, and can incite reflection. It's just a nice skill set to have.

Typically, scientific illustrators go and work for textbook publishers, scientific periodicals, or something else of that effect. Why go in this unconventional direction?

I went in this direction with the hopes of having a greater impact. You need artists for textbooks, museums, signs, and so on; but, in the more public

realm which my art occupies, there is a greater capacity to engage more, to reach people who otherwise would not have been seeking out that particular information or image. To be able to bring nature to a community or to the public, in this way, is incredibly appealing to me, and more importantly, incredibly effective in the way of reaching a wider audience.

Could you explain the idea behind the "migrating mural?"

The migrating mural is a flagship project for Ink Dwell that is ongoing, and will hopefully continue to be ongoing. Essentially, it is a series of art installations painted along certain migration corridors of wildlife, that they share with people. Our first series was around Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which is a pretty localized population in the eastern Sierra. It runs along on highway 395 from Lee Vining, to Lone Pine—about 120 miles—and there are six unique external murals that celebrate the bighorn sheep.

We have now moved on to our second species, the monarch butterfly, which is really special, as we get to connect practically the entire country through this insect. Currently, we are in year two of that campaign, and we hope to create new monarch murals in San Francisco this summer.

Is your work fine art, scientific illustration, -both, or neither?

It is sort of neither, as it isn't one or the other, and I don't know if it really falls into a category that can be described with a single label. So, when I do talk about my work, I introduce myself as a visual artist, and as a science illustrator. I can kind of take on many roles, as there are times that lend themselves to me wearing a scientific illustrator hat, and then times where the opposite is true. My favorite place to be, though, is when I get to wear the two hats simultaneously, though I don't know exactly what that descriptor is yet.

Any long-term plans for Ink Dwell?

As I mentioned, we are going to be doing two murals in San Francisco—one highlighting the monarch butterfly, as well as steelhead trout. Hopefully, over the course of the year, we can continue the monarch butterfly project southwards, into the Central Valley and San Diego. We are also working with an organization called Sutro Stewards, and plan on putting up signs at the summit of Mount Sutro Open Space, and the inner Sunset. There's also some more science illustration oriented projects, and private commissions, so a really mixed bag. That's the exciting part of Ink Dwell, that we have our hands in as many things as possible at once.

Is there any greater message you are trying to spread, through your work?

People, I think, have so much to learn about themselves, and they can do that through the natural world. For me, art can be a vehicle to connect people to those ideas, and a new understanding of themselves. Everything we do, as a studio, is catered towards being able to give people a deeper understanding of nature, and similarly, themselves.

by Nat Gerhard

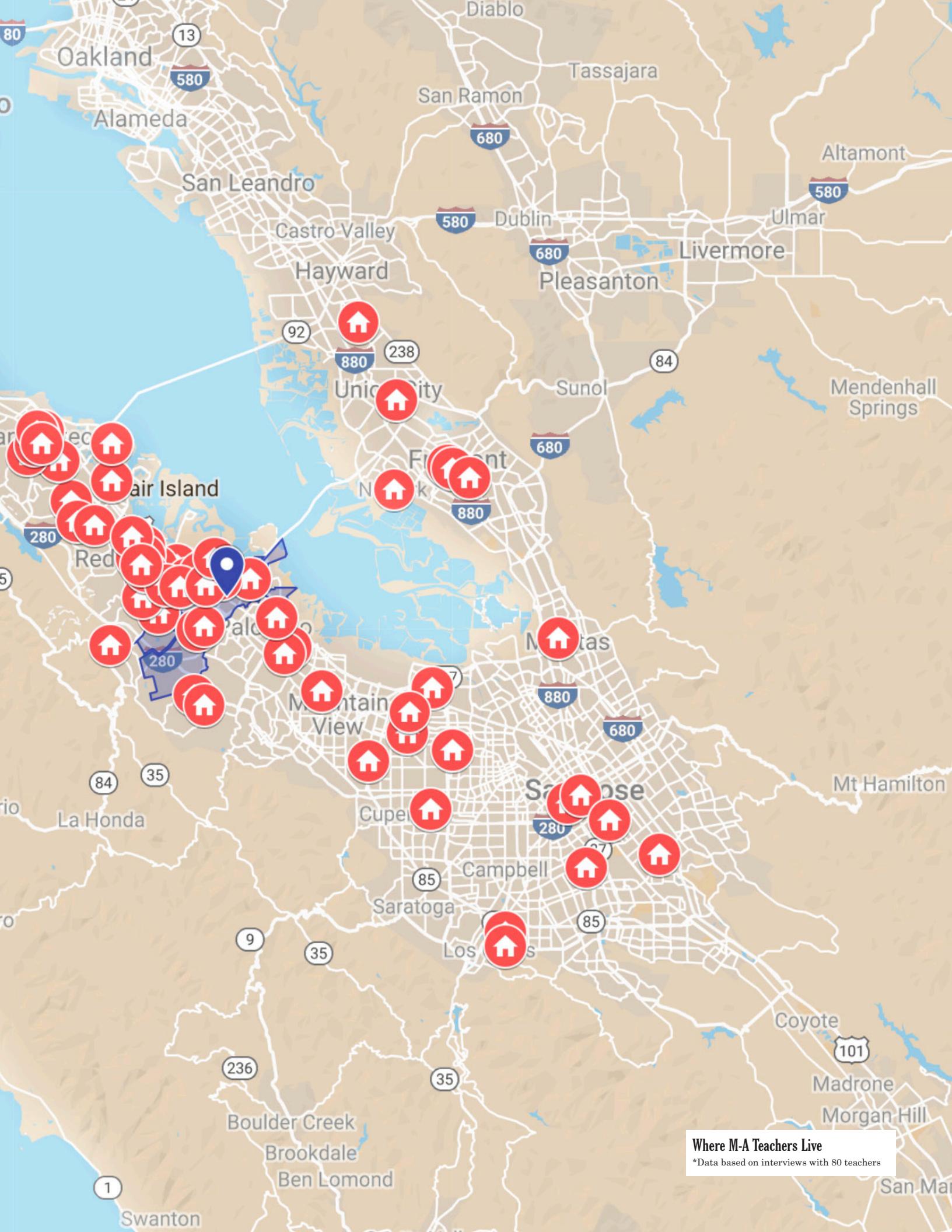
To learn more about Ink Dwell, or to see more of Jane Kim's work, visit them on Instagram @inkdwell.





Teacher Housing Crisis: A Breaking Point?

by Nate Viotti



Where M-A Teachers Live

*Data based on interviews with 80 teachers

The Teacher Housing Crisis at M-A:
*Data based on interviews with 80 teachers



14.03 miles

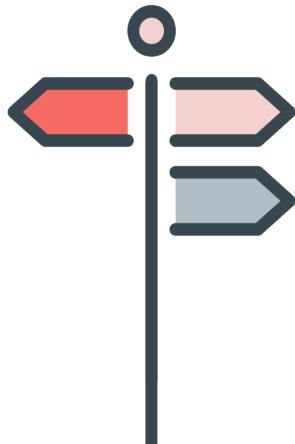
average
distance
from M-A.

11% live within
M-A's
boundaries.

38% live within
SUHSD's
boundaries.

35 - 60 minutes

average
commute
range.*



\$49,500

teacher
starting salary
(post tax)**

** Figure based on \$64,800 starting salary for SUHSD teachers and accounting for typical state and federal taxes

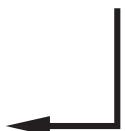


\$320,000

down
payment
needed for

median
sale price ***
San Mateo Cty.

\$1.6 million



\$3,800

average
monthly rent for
2 bedrooms***



\$45,600 /year

How the Crisis is Affecting Teachers:

*Quotes from February 13 teacher town hall

"I've noticed that the way we [teachers] are living is fundamentally different. We have changed our living styles. More people are living within the homes. Dining rooms aren't dining rooms—they're potential bedrooms. Living rooms aren't living rooms—they're potential bedrooms. The back of the garage with a bit of sheet rock is a potential bedroom too."

"We have lost several teachers over these last couple of years because of the cost of housing. They couldn't afford it. They had permanent status in our school district. They left. They went to Colorado, Southern California, and to Texas. The current teachers who couldn't be here today are commuting from Antioch, Discovery Bay, and Modesto every single day. They are getting rundown and eventually they are going to give up. These are extremely dedicated teachers—they're missing out on time with their families in order to service all of the students here."

"A few years ago, I was living in San Leandro. I had a roommate and, with my eldest daughter—we shared a room—commuted from San Leandro to Menlo Park. In the beginning, the commute wasn't that bad—it was 35 minutes. So it was manageable; it was a far distance but doable. But year after year, the traffic increased so our commute got upwards of an hour and 15 minutes, and that was terrible for our family. I know my daughter had to eat on the run—I was no longer cooking breakfast for her in the morning. So in a day's time, that was basically three hours on the road for us."

"I was tight for money. I decided that living paycheck to paycheck—having two degrees—didn't feel great. So I started taking up some odd jobs. I started working for my landlord. Next thing you know, I am fixing toilets and doing landscaping... I [drive for] Uber. I've [picked up my former students] not once but three times. In English, we call this low ethos for becoming a teacher — my students don't need any convincing after that... Again, nothing shameful about it. But I am tired. I've come to understand that if your parents didn't pay for your college education, if you didn't get here 15 years ago, if you don't have a spouse [with a lucrative career], you're out of luck as far as doing anything but renting."

Organizations Leading the Charge:

Landed

A startup, Landed seeks to help teachers make down payments on homes closer to their respective schools. Recognizing the barrier that high down payments can pose to teacher homeownership, Landed promises to pay half of the required twenty percent down payment for teachers. The company is in part funded by the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative and has a special focus on Sequoia Union High School District teachers. Landed has already helped eleven SUHSD staff members purchase homes to date and will continue to host homebuying workshops.

Support Teacher Housing

Founded three years ago, Support Teacher Housing is hosting teacher town halls to raise awareness for the housing crisis. The organization seeks to develop housing for the "missing middle," referring to workers who make too much to be considered for traditional affordable housing models but who don't earn enough to afford homes. The organization promotes a model wherein communities convert underutilized land into moderate-income housing, thus allowing teachers to eventually save up for down payments. So far, the organization has successfully lobbied the Palo Alto and Los Altos city councils to set aside funding and land for teacher housing.

Bay Area Forward

Alongside Support Teacher Housing, Bay Area Forward is hosting teacher town halls in an attempt to build a coalition of educators, local officials, and community members devoted to solving the teacher housing crisis. At these town halls, teachers share stories of their struggles with the housing market. The meetings also serve as a platforms for community members—some elected, some parents, and some from the private sector—to brainstorm potential solutions.



We're Being Watched.

"How do I get a gun?"

By typing this, there is a good chance that we just unleashed Bark, a tech monitoring system, and the administration probably just received a notification. Alerts to the administration from Bark occur more often than you might think, and if you have ever watched a YouTube video about gun violence or done research for a debate on the legalization of drugs, chances are high that you have triggered the monitoring system as well. Any keywords regarding sensitive or potentially harmful topics that are typed using the Sequoia Union District Google Domain can flag the system and alert the school.

Sequoia Union District began monitoring students' school accounts through Bark around October of this school year. Robert Fishtrom, director of technology for Sequoia Union High School District, explained that Bark monitors the "Google domain," including "Gmail, Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Youtube, etc."

unsure whether they want to continue using Bark specifically. A second tech monitoring system, gaggle, from the google domain, is also in consideration. They will decide once they get data on the amount of alerts the assistant vice principal office receives each day.

According to Fishtrom, students' Google accounts are broken up into "organizational units; Menlo-Atherton 9th graders, Menlo-Atherton 10th graders, etc. are all their own unit, and [the district] routes any flags within Bark to the school's Administrative Vice Principal." Whenever there is a "severe flag caught within Bark," Stephen Emmi, Brenda Bachechi, and Janelle Bugarini get an email notification. Even if just one keyword flags Bark, the district has access to the whole "conversation, the whole Google Doc, anything that comes through youtube, etc."

Fishtrom remarked that "especially with games like Fortnite, students look at things" that relate to violence, which "could be construed as violence towards the school, so we look at those but don't take action on them."

< p > The Wifi Watchdog </ p >

and sends an alert when keywords involving "cyberbullying, self-harm or violence, profanity, and sexual content" flag the system.

Although this is the first time student content on the Sequoia Union District is actively monitored, Fishtrom said that when students sign the "acceptable use policy for technology" every year at arena check-in, whether they remember signing it or not, they are acknowledging that the district owns their "Google account within the district and can at any time go into your account if there is objectionable or unsafe behavior online."

Recently, Bark started to allow the school to adjust the intensity of the filter, which Fishtrom said the district recently changed about a month after implementation, which "lessened the filter, so it doesn't flag profanity as much." The district made this decision because "papers on reproductive health or legalizing marijuana, and that kind of stuff was being flagged," and Fishtrom acknowledged that "most of the things being flagged on Bark were extremely legitimate, academic projects across the Google Domain." Even with the more passive filter, the district is still

In regard to the monitoring of teacher accounts, Fishtrom said the district "wouldn't have time to monitor teacher accounts to this extent, but if there is a personnel situation going on," they have the right to access their accounts, adding that the district "owns the teacher accounts; even [his] own account can get flagged at any time."

While the district has access to everything through the Sequoia Union District Google suite, text messages or anything done on a personal account cannot be monitored or accessed, even if done while connected to school's internet. Eric Trice, the district's programmer, added that "the Tech Use Agreement says [information on the Google suite] will be monitored and can be accessed at any time," agreeing with Fishtrom that Bark is not meant to change students' behavior but is rather used primarily for safety. Fishtrom said technology monitoring serves as a teaching tool, helping students "understand the digital footprint they're leaving behind" as well as reminding students to "abide by the Acceptable Use Policy of the district."

*By Aashka Popat and
Greta Hoffman*

Opinion: Most Likely to Suck

For almost four years, every time I've received my yearbook, I get to the senior superlatives page, where I ultimately glance at it for five seconds before quickly skipping over it, uninterested and bored. The idea of senior superlatives has become a dry tradition in the yearbook, where the majority of the time, only popular and white students are voted for stale titles and pose in cheesy stances.

Yearbook advisor Sarah Frivold says, "Every year I say, 'Do we wanna do superlatives?' and it's the students' choice. They want to do it every year. I think it's this idea that when they're seniors they want to have it, so they don't want to be the year who takes it out of the class." She also comments on the lack of diversity, "As a yearbook class, we talk about it all the time. We want to have diversity, and it comes down to my students doing their best. We talk about [how to] get more involvement. Maybe senior superlatives aren't something students want to buy into, and that's

okay." In past years, voting took place on the green where it was convenient for certain students to cast their votes. Frivold changed this policy when she took over the class by sending emails and surveys to students to try to close the racial gap in participation.

On top of underrepresenting a portion of our population, another problem is the boring and generic titles. Looking back at my mother's M-A yearbooks, I am jealous of the different senior quotes I see under the students' names because they add personality, even if I've never met them. When I look at my yearbooks, I squint in disapproval at the students posing for "Most Likely to Get Famous." I don't know these students, and I'm sure some seniors in their own graduating class don't even know them. The point is superlatives are a popularity contest. This isn't necessarily a bad thing. Voting should be based on who we know and trust. Titles, such as "Most Likely to Fall Asleep in Class," and "Most Athletic," show no

personality when we realize that many seniors at this time of year fall asleep in class and play a sport.

While I understand the complex task of getting school-wide involvement in the yearbook, on a surface level, superlatives appear to be an exclusive popularity contest for only certain seniors on campus. It's an obsolete tradition that should be replaced with something else to celebrate the departure of the graduating class. Frivold states, "This year, I made the announcements [to vote] in Spanish, so each year we are trying to fine-tune this process." Senior quotes is my ideal suggestion in the yearbook, but gathering everyone's desired quote and double checking to make sure it is school appropriate would require more time and money spent. Even if the next yearbook staff doesn't get rid of superlatives altogether, suggestions for more interesting titles and more pushes for diversity are needed.

by Izzy Villa

The Bell Schedule Has Been Changed ... Again

The Issue:

The current bell schedule violates the teacher union contract because many teachers do not have any prep period during Thursdays. According to the contract, "full-time classroom teachers shall have a minimum of one preparation period per day" (Article IV, section 2.4).

Changes Made:

- No announcements on Thursdays
- Five minute passing period instead of ten minutes after lunch
- Slightly shorter meeting time for teachers

The Alternative:

The alternative on the table was to have zero period every day, including Thursday, for a shorter period of time, which the teachers were not in favor of. Whatever you were doing during your block period, zero period would have to be divided. This would have resulted in a 40 minute zero period on Thursday.

by Aaron Zheng

Thursday		
Staff Meeting	7:45	8:38
Prep	8:38	9:25
1	9:25	10:50
Brunch	10:50	11:00
3	11:05	12:30
Flex Time	12:35	1:05
Lunch	1:05	1:35
5	1:40	3:05

Caption Contest



"Subs when they're supposed to teach math"
- Alexandra Ornes, Junior

"Have you ever heard wonderwall?"
-Devin McNerney, Senior

"A live look at second semester Senior Year."
-Lucas Giarrusso, Junior

M-A Chronicle



Student built, student written, student voices.



The Big Bear Run is Done



Four Kittens Recently Born on M-A's Campus

May 14, 2019 56



Stressed Out? So Are Teachers.

May 13, 2019 100



Lawsuit Against Wrestling Coach Dropped

May 10, 2019 261



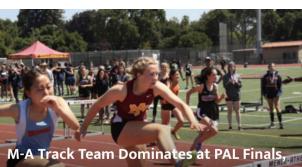
New Election Software Will Ensure Voting Security

May 9, 2019 94



We Can't Believe Udon Know About Taro San

May 8, 2019 88



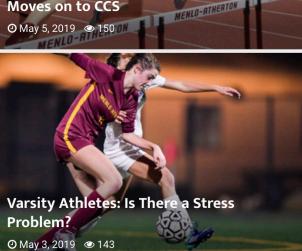
M-A Track Team Dominates at PAL Finals, Moves on to CCS

May 5, 2019 150



Neeraj Rattehalli Makes M-Ath History

May 3, 2019 403



Varsity Athletes: Is There a Stress Problem?

May 3, 2019 143



The Battle of the Bay... in Sandwiches

May 2, 2019 116

ReMARKable Seniors

And their favorite memories from journalism...

Russell Ives - Reed College

My favorite thing about journalism this year has been the opportunity to gain a better understanding of how the news functions and what a journalist goes through day to day.

Heath Hooper - Cal Poly

I've enjoyed getting to know my fellow classmates and collaborating with them on projects throughout the year. Above all I've valued the freedom to work on a broad spectrum of stories and to pursue topics I'm passionate about.

Greta Hoffman - University of Michigan

My favorite memory from journalism was going to Chicago to participate in the NSPA convention and learning about the importance of news distribution!

Lucida Fu - Carnegie Mellon

My favorite memory from journalism was getting to interview students and teachers to hear their perspective on school news.

Maxine Moss - UC Berkeley

My favorite thing about journalism this year was getting the opportunity to talk to and interview people around campus that I would not normally interact with.

Mitra Pezeshki - Scripps College

My favorite memory was going to Chicago and getting to attend the NSPA conference.

Aaron Zheng - Santa Clara University

My favorite thing this year was discovering a lifelong passion and finding a major that I might pursue through the next four years.

Mia Angioletti - Syracuse University

My favorite memory is passing out copies of the first MArk of the year and seeing people read something we had worked on for months.

Lauren Fuller - University of Vermont

I've enjoyed learning about journalistic ethics and the importance of holding the school community accountable. Also, getting Giordano's pizza in Chicago..

Aashka Popat - University of California, Los Angeles

My favorite memory was our trip to Chicago to attend the NSPA conference!

Daved Garcia Lopez - Riverside City College

One of my favorite things about the class was how everyone would help each other out on stories.

Derek Golob - Pepperdine University

My favorite thing about journalism was writing with the intelligence and motivation of those around me.

Aditya Srinath - Indiana University

Working on an Animal Personality Quiz for The Mark. My plan for next year is to study Animal Behavior and Geology.

Isabella Montoya - New York University

My favorite memory was interviewing passionate students and teachers about their efforts to serve the community in different ways.

Sarah Lehman - Stanford University

My favorite journalism memories are listening to a New York Times reporter talk about her experience and meeting so many people I never would have talked to otherwise.

Isabela Villa - Adelphi University

My favorite memory is getting chicken and waffles on the Chicago trip with Sarah Marks.

Sarah Friedman - Springfield College

My favorite memory was when some of us got to leave class early to go buy a burrito for a burrito review.

Elliot Schena - Occidental College

I've really enjoyed being able to hold the school accountable and also forge closer relationships with my peers.

Emilie Mueller - University of Michigan

My favorite part of journalism has been hearing so many different perspectives and stories from the M-A community that I would not have known about otherwise.





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