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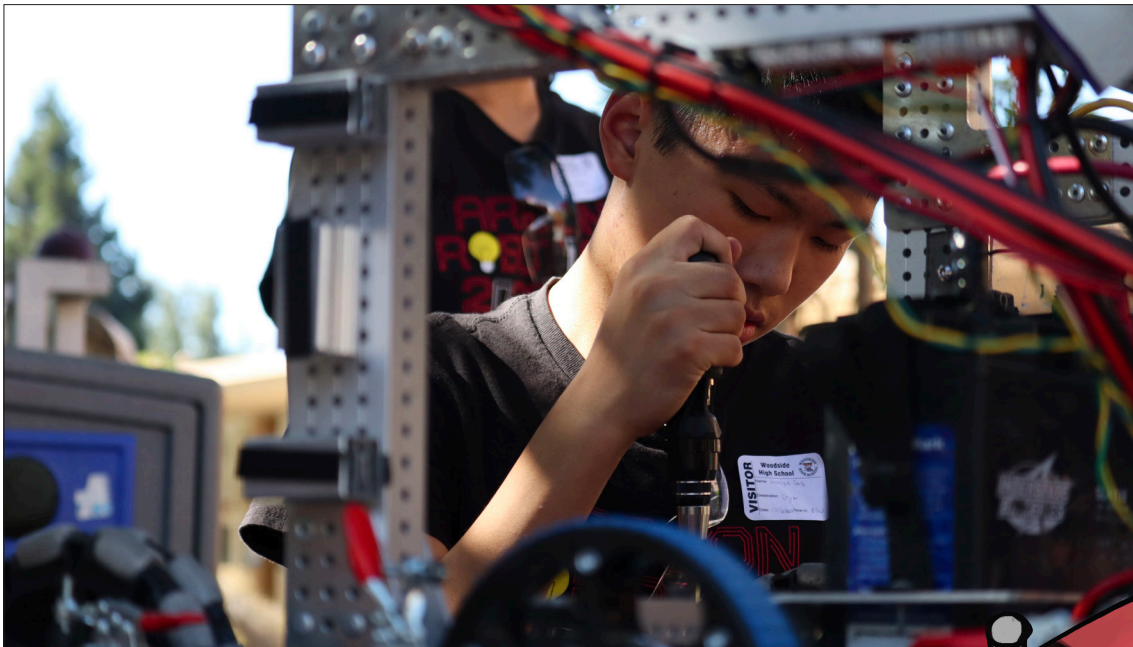
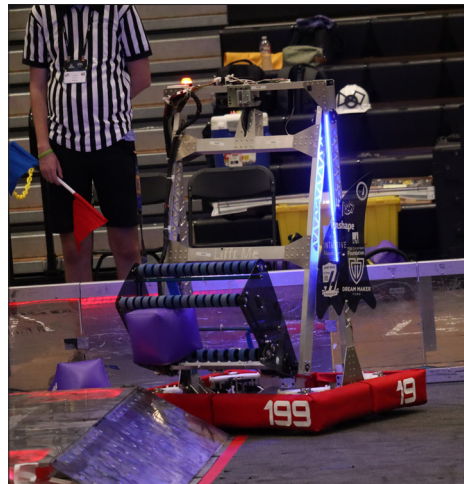
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900 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 94402

Aragon High School



Aragon Robotics makes playoffs



Members of Aragon Robotics working on robot for CalGames

JORELL SAKAMOTO

Chase Rokala
NEWS WRITER

From Oct. 6-8, the Aragon Robotics team attended CalGames at Woodside High School. The three-day competition featured 42 teams from high schools across California, each employing a robot designed the previous year. This was the first offseason competition of the year for the FIRST Robotics Competition subteam, which placed 17th.

During the competition, Aragon won half of the matches they played. As a result, they entered the playoffs as a first choice team. This is the first time this has happened since 2013. During the playoffs, Aragon won their first match against two teams, and lost their second by one point. Their second and third games put them out of the playoffs.

"The performance of our bot this year was really good,"

said senior and fabrication lead Luke Phillips.

Every game consists of three stages where each team's robot performs various tasks in order win points. The first 15 seconds of a game is known as the autonomous period, when each robot functions via a pre-programmed code. The next two minutes and 15 seconds are the teleoperation period, when the drivers of each team manually control the robot. The final 30 seconds of the teleoperation period is named the endgame period.

The Aragon team succeeded during the teleoperation period due to the performance of their drivers, sophomore George Tao and junior Adam Richter. However, their robot's programming malfunctioned in the autonomous period, giving the team a scare.

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Pride rally

BTQ+ student to be on campus, feel very unrepresented, [and] struggle with finding the right place to belong."

The pride rally also highlights the diversity of Aragon.

"[The rally] specifically helps to raise awareness because a lot of people in this school who are cisgender and heterosexual might not pay attention to the diversity of this school," said sophomore and GSA treasurer Brody Friedeberg. "It definitely helps bring awareness to this campus' diverse community and stamp out homophobia."

This year, the rally included activities such as a relay race. There was also an activity on Oct. 2 and Oct. 4 where students could tie-dye shirts to wear to the pride football game and rally. In place of the usual dance performance, GSA held a tri-cycle race on the bridge connecting the north and south wing, with rainbow designs drawn in chalk.

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Naomi Kotani
NEWS WRITER

On Oct. 6, Aragon's Gender and Sexuality Alliance club worked with Leadership to organize its annual pride rally in Center Court during lunch in honor of LG-BTQ+ History Month.

Many believe that it is important for the school and district to recognize and celebrate queer pride to help raise awareness of the community.

"Oftentimes, the LGBTQ+ community gets trampled [on] by various authority figures," said senior and GSA club president Amit Shilon. "It can be really disheartening as an LG-

Adderall and ADHD

Hannah Li and Christine Choi
FEATURES WRITER AND NEWS WRITER

Over six million children in the United States have ever been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, according to a 2016-2019 Center for Disease Control survey. ADHD is often characterized by impulsive behavior, a difficulty retaining focus and excessive activity. To combat these symptoms, pharmaceutical scientists developed Adderall, a stimulant used to treat ADHD.

"When I'm doing things with people, I jump to conclusions a lot less," said sophomore Asher Bode, who has been prescribed

Adderall for her ADHD. "I'm a lot more, 'let's communicate, let's slow down.' When I'm not on my medications, I can be a lot more direct, [and it's] a lot easier to get on my nerves."

Due to its capacity to improve focus, some are tempted to use Adderall without a prescription.

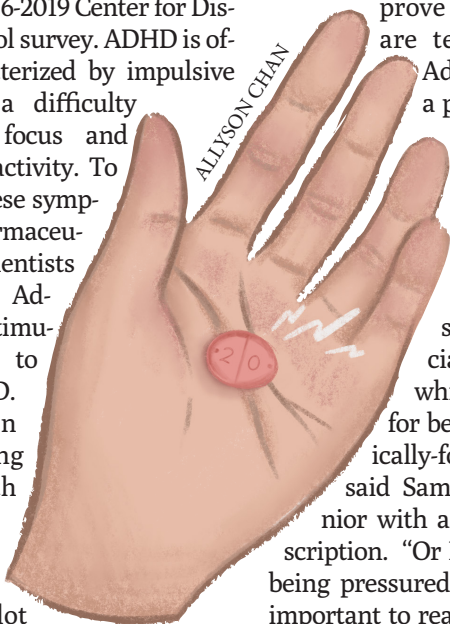
"I can think of quite a few reasons [why people will use Adderall without a prescription] especially at Aragon, which is known for being an academically-focused school," said Sam Gulchin, a junior with an Adderall prescription. "Or I can see people being pressured into it. But it's important to realize that people with ADHD brains are wired differently. Adderall and all these

other stimulants affect people without ADHD differently, and it could cause negative side effects."

In terms of non-prescription usage, users may disregard these potential side effects in favor of momentary pleasure, due to Adderall's connection with dopamine.

"People have this underlying baseline level of dopamine in their brain, so [those with ADHD] use stimulants like Adderall to help bring it up to a normal level," said Erika Moskewicz, a junior diagnosed with ADHD. "But if a person [without ADHD uses Adderall] is going to spike [their dopamine levels] and give them a pleasure high, as opposed to people who just [use Adderall] to bring them up to a baseline."

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ALLYSON CHAN

CalGames

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“Our [autonomous functions] wouldn’t work for a little bit, but we took a breath, worked our way through it,” said fabrication lead and sophomore Giovanni Viglienzi. “[We] figured out what was wrong [with our functions] and fixed the issue.”

In preparation for CalGames, the FRC team met for six and a half hours each week to practice and prepare. Co-captain and junior Marco Strassia elaborated on their efforts during this time.

“Currently we’re working on our programming, which means getting it to do more tasks autonomously,” Strassia said. “That way we can score more points. Another essential aspect which the team trained was their driving, which contributed to their success during the teleoperation period.”

The competition also included awards that Aragon Robotics could apply for. These rewards required applicants to prepare essays and give a presentation. Co-captain and senior Jake

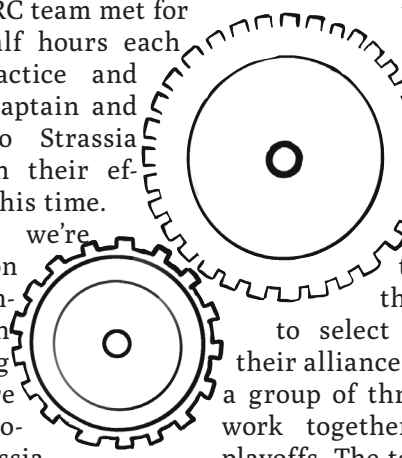
Sakamoto discussed FRC’s award goals.

“We also have an awards team who are currently working on getting awards from the competition, such as the Founders award, the Outstanding Mentor award and possibly a finance award,” Sakamoto said.

During the event, many teams engage in scouting — a process where teams elaborate on their efforts during this time. “Currently we’re working on our programming, which means getting it to do more tasks autonomously,” Strassia said. “That way we can score more points. Another essential aspect which the team trained was their driving, which contributed to their success during the teleoperation period.”

CalGames was also a chance to showcase the work of last year’s team, who constructed the robot entered into the competition.

The FRC team’s build season begins in January, with their first competition of the season happening in March.



ADHD & Adderall shortage

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As a controlled substance, there are a number of regulations on Adderall that restrict its prescription and distribution, including a requirement for a new prescription before each refill. Since it cannot be purchased over-the-counter, many that engage in non-prescription usage will attempt to find a supply from those with a prescription.

“Very jokingly people have [asked me], ‘Oh, can I have some of your medication,’” Bode said. “A lot of people are like, ‘... It’s fine, because it’s prescription medication.”

I have ADHD, I just never got diagnosed, so it’s okay, I can have some.”

As of Oct. 12, 2022, however, both those with and without a prescription may have found themselves struggling to acquire Adderall. The Federal Drug Administration officially declared an Adderall shortage on that day, and nearly a year later, the end is nowhere in sight.

“If this shortage continues, it could be hard for people with ADHD to get a prescription and to actually be able to focus in class and do work,” said sophomore Pippa Read-

ing, who has an Adderall prescription. “I think that would be really frustrating for me if I wasn’t able to get that medication, because [although] there’s other kinds, [they] also have other side effects.”

According to the FDA, the 107 companies in the U.S. that produce the drug are experiencing shortages of mixed Amphetamine salts, a key ingredient in the making of Adderall and other ADHD medication. Until there is a sufficient supply, there will continue to be a shortage, affecting both prescription and non-prescription usage.



“Sparky,” FRC’s robot, at CalGames COURTESY OF JORELL SAKAMOTO

Aragon hosts pride rally in Center Court

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The pride rally is unique because it includes activities that specifically celebrate Aragon’s LGBTQ+ community.



COURTESY OF MARTIN ZHENG

“What’s special about this rally is the rainbow road and the games that we have included really emphasize and celebrate our pride community,” said senior and Rally Commission co-head Cody Chen.

GSA and Rally Commission collaborated to plan activities.

“We met up with leadership and discussed a couple of new events,” said junior and GSA Vice President Samirah Field. “We kind of just bounced ideas back and forth. We did end up settling on some of their ideas and ours.”

There have also been some changes made to the playlist played at the rally, with the GSA officers adding a fresh selection of songs.

“[In these] past years, it’s just been the same couple of songs over and over,” Field said. “We’re

trying to expand the playlists to incorporate different songs.”

Overall, students at the rally enjoyed the event.

“It’s really nice that people from the LGBTQ+ community are gaining more representation,” said sophomore Maria Medina Dussan. “My favorite part [of the Pride rally] was [seeing] people being able to express themselves.”

Although Aragon holds some events and raises the pride flag every October to acknowledge LGBTQ+ History Month, some believe that there is still room for improvement regarding promoting inclusivity and recognition of LGBTQ+ people. GSA advisor Vincent Bravo elaborates on this.

“What’s even more important is for our community to continually engage in discussions about

LGBTQ+ people’s contributions to history, mathematics, science, our district [and] our state,” Bravo said. “Exposure to LGBTQ+ history is one of the surest ways to fight homophobia.”

Another concern is the continued use of insensitive language at Aragon.

“There’s a lot of hateful language used on campus that I’ve noticed,” Field said. “The GSA

members [have] discussed what we could do, but it feels like nothing is really ever done about it. It’s just a slap on the wrist.”

In addition to the pride rally, Aragon hosted the pride football game the day before, on Oct. 5. Throughout the rest of the school year, the Rally Commission is hoping to hold two indoor rallies in addition to more lunchtime rallies.



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SAT goes online

Angela Nguyen
NEWS WRITER

Starting 2024, the College Board will be shifting the SAT and related tests to a digital format. Students will also be able to take the Preliminary SAT digitally beginning fall of 2023.

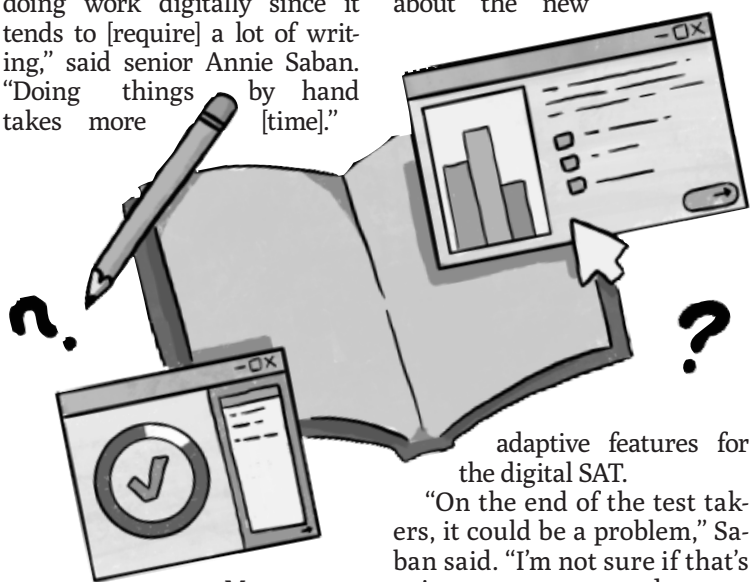
The SAT is a standardized test consisting of two main sections across three different subjects: Math, Reading and Writing. The sum of each section is 800, and the sum total of points a student can earn is 1600. Many colleges allow students to submit their scores as part of their college application.

The College Board's decision to switch to digital is part of a growing trend. Although some academic components are more convenient online, many students still prefer doing work on-paper out of habit. Despite returning from online school, most assignments and exams from classes are still completed online through Canvas.

"What you do online versus on paper, [can be] limiting," said junior Alessandra Hernandez. "Some people just interpret information better when they're writing it down rather than looking at a screen. It's harder for me to focus and really take in the information."

On the other hand, some students are more comfortable doing work digitally.

"For the most part, I prefer doing work digitally since it tends to [require] a lot of writing," said senior Annie Saban. "Doing things by hand takes more [time]."



What you do online versus on paper [can be] limiting

version to be less overwhelming than the paper test.

The digital SAT has many differences compared to the traditional on-paper test. Instead of taking three hours of testing time, it will only take a little over two hours.

The test uses a multistage adaptive testing design, which adapts to one's answers in the previous question. Based on how one performs in the previous set of questions, the next set will be determined. Additionally, every student will receive a unique set of questions to minimize the possibility of students cheating.

When doing the math section, students are allowed to use a built-in Desmos calculator throughout the entire section. In the Reading and Writing section, the passages will be shorter and more closely resemble college level work. Students will also receive their scores far sooner than the paper test.

While taking the test, students are allowed to use either a school issued laptop or their own personal device. If a student does not have a device, the College Board will provide them with a device to take the test. If there are internet issues and students lose their connection, their answers will automatically be saved.

Saban expressed her feelings about the new

adaptive features for the digital SAT.

"On the end of the test takers, it could be a problem," Saban said. "I'm not sure if that's going to set some students up for failure later on [the] SAT. I don't exactly know what it's like, if you happen to do badly on the first few problems, [if] it's going to change the trajectory of your whole test."

In addition to improving the student experience, it will also be a more efficient process for administrators. The grading and work will be done online so shipping test materials are not needed. As stated by College Board, this new format will give schools a more flexible schedule to conduct the test.

"[I] wonder what's going to happen in the future with technology and with these kinds of tests," Taylor said. "It's very interesting that a test so traditional like this is going digital. It's scary where it's going with AI but we'll see what happens."

With the new SAT format, students are hoping that standardized test taking will be a more efficient and streamlined experience.

All Bark, all bite: our student privacy policies need to be more transparent

This editorial represents the unanimous opinion of all 15 Outlook editors.

After a rise in hate speech incidents, the San Mateo Union High School District implemented the Bark alert system in spring of 2020. Principal Valerie Arbizu described the application as a "Google sniffer" — utilizing artificial intelligence to scan through data in students' G-Suites (Google Docs, Slides, Photos, Gmail and more) for certain keywords associated with harmful content. According to the SMUHSD website, the algorithm identifies mentions of "cyberbullying, suicidal ideation, sexual predators, threats of violence, and more" and immediately notifies the District's Student Services. After verifying the contents of the alert, the district passes it off to the administrative team to be addressed at the involved student's school.

When asked about the privacy issues surrounding tracking student data, both Arbizu and Director of Student Services Don Scatena compared students to the workforce. Employers are legally able to surveil employees' activity when they use corporate accounts. However, the comparison fails on one key point: awareness. The editors of the Aragon Outlook believe that Aragon, as well as the SMUHSD needs to increase transparency regarding their use of Bark.

Awareness at Aragon surrounding Bark is concerningly low. Arbizu reported that about 25% of Bark alerts flag content students thought was private,

such as diary entries written on Google Docs. Unaware of the extent of the district's monitoring, students often utilize their SMUHSD Google accounts to express personal emotions or connect with friends. It is the district's responsibility to better educate students about how Bark works.

When Bark was first implemented, former superintendent Kevin Skelly sent a memo on March 2, 2020 to notify families that student activities were going to be monitored; however, the memo failed to mention the methodology or extent of the surveillance.

Beyond brief overviews of Bark that insufficiently describe the methodology on the district and Mills High School websites, and a singular slide during grade-level assembly presentations at the beginning of the year, Aragon students and families are left uninformed about the service and its capabilities. While Aragon students obviously cannot expect complete privacy, they do have a right to informed consent.

Bark is not mentioned anywhere on the Aragon website. Bark is also not mentioned in the Responsible Use Policy or the Student Technology Acceptable Use Policy, the documents students and parents sign that outline expectations for appropriate use of school devices and online services.

This follows a broader trend of administrative failures to fully inform students and families of potential infringements on privacy policies. The district uses

Anonymous Alerts, a system for students and parents to report "suspicious activity, bullying or other student related issues to a school administrator(s)." However, Scatena explained that despite the name, these alerts are in fact not anonymous.

"If it's an alert made to harm somebody, those things can be tracked if needed," Scatena said.

Beyond that, when students are using the district Wi-Fi (a Cisco-Meraki system), the district is able to see the name of the device, IP and URLs and APIs of every website they open.

However, unlike Bark's active alert system, the Wi-Fi data is only viewed by the district under necessary circumstances if the district chooses to parse through it, like during investigations. Wi-Fi tracking had helped catch previous campus hate speech investigations.

The systems the district implements are meant to keep students safe. Since its implementation in 2020, Bark has analyzed over 129.2 million student activities and flagged 2,200 alerts to review districtwide. Within this, Bark has prevented two suicides and stopped one student from bringing a weapon onto campus, according to Scatena.

But the ultimate goal should not be to catch students in the act, but instead to encourage them to seek help and support when they need it. It is imperative that students and staff collaborate in order to foster open communication, which can only be done if students are awarded basic transparency regarding their privacy rights.

The ARAGON OUTLOOK

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First graduating class alumni reunite after 60 years

Emma Shen
NEWS WRITER

From Oct. 6-8, Aragon's class of 1963 hosted a joint reunion with San Mateo High School, including a cocktail party the first two nights and a dockside brunch farewell party on Sunday morning. Approximately 140 attendees flew in from across the country to attend.

"Everyone loved it, [and] I did not hear one complaint," said alumnus and reunion chair Phil Abrams. "Everybody said Friday night was fun, seeing old friends. We had a band that played all the Kingston Trio songs, which are folk songs of the '60s. My friend Harley is a collector and had all this memorabilia, [so] we had a table 30 feet long with all [these] things that were made in 1963."

Alumni spent the weekend catching up with old classmates, sharing their life stories and reminiscing about history and old memories from Aragon.

When Aragon first opened in 1961, the school only consisted of freshmen and sophomores, from San Mateo and Hillsdale high schools. Many students were initially hesitant to leave their former schools, especially since they had to transfer midyear.

"It's hard to leave a school in the middle of your sophomore year," said alumna Diane McClain. "We were crying, but we had no choice. Those years, people didn't really fight things; you just did what you were told, and so off we went. But when I look back, that was one of the best things that ever happened: we got to create a school from scratch."

Other alumni echoed this idea of developing school spirit and a sense of identity over time.

"As we were there and we were building our own school, and [being] the upperclassmen the whole time, it felt like, 'this is our home, our school, we own it,'" Abrams said. "And as the first class, everybody after us was following in our footsteps. [We felt like] it was really our school, and it was a part of us from that point on."

Moreover, many alumni discovered their passions at Aragon. Carole Donahoe, for instance, pursued a career in city planning after participating in student government. Kathy MacDonald started her own bakery later on after taking a home economics class, and McClain became an English and journalism teacher after joining the school newspaper.

Alumni also reflected on the changes since high school: both in the world, with so many technological advancements, but also in Aragon. Many described instances of classism and sexism during their time at school, as well as a lack of racial diversity.

"Someone was telling me how there was a boundary between certain types of students, like those who lived behind the freeway in Shoreview versus the people who lived in Hillsborough," said senior Gaby Ejercito, a volunteer at the event. "She was telling me that people would make fun of [others] for taking the bus because they didn't have a car [and] they would hang out in two different areas of the school."

Abrams shared a similar perspective.

"When we went to Aragon at that time, it was [about] 95% Caucasian," Abrams said. "I lived in the Baywood area, [which is] a little more expensive. [I had] some friends [who] used to joke that when they lived in Shoreview, there was a dichotomy of 'haves' and 'have nots.'"

Besides the racial divide, one other major difference was the strict dress code of the 1960s.

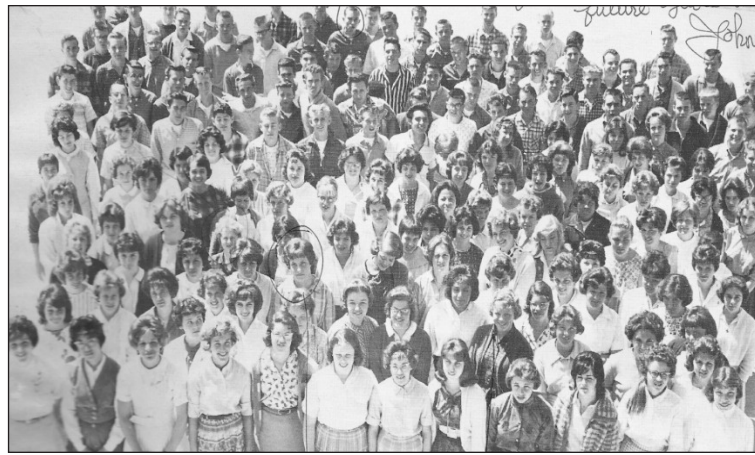
"Girls had to wear flat shoes, dresses below our knees and we had to wear our hair a certain way," MacDonald said. "There were a lot of rules, and when we finally graduated, it was in the boys' gym."

Despite this, Aragon's class of 1963 largely cherished their high school memories, with some maintaining close-knit friendships throughout the years.

"The real thing that you take away as you get older are the relationships and connections that you made when you were young," Abrams said. "So many [of us] have kept those same friends, and I think that's a little unusual. [It] might be because we were the first class, [or] because we went from one school to another together [and] lived [through] that change."

Reflecting on their lives, many found that attending Aragon was an integral experience because of those relationships.

"I'm 77," Abrams said. "If [you] had to wave a magic wand and say what would you want for the rest of your life, you would want to keep old friends, people you've respected [and] people you've liked, with you. And in the case of Aragon, we have those friends from [our] school and San Mateo."



First class pictures

COURTESY OF GABY EJERCITO

Colleges give presentations on higher education

Darshan Bal
NEWS WRITER

From Aug. 30-Oct. 30, colleges and universities from Menlo College to Scotland's University of Dundee have been visiting Aragon students on campus, to teach students about their options for higher education.

The presenters aim to expose students to more colleges so they can figure out which places they'd best fit in.

"[Colleges] talk about their sports programs, housing and any kind of news that's big in their school," said College and Career Adviser Laurie Tezak.

"They give [students] all the updates that they might need: [what's] new about the school... what the school is looking for, like what kind of GPA [and] which courses."

Tezak set up these presentations with a software called RepVisits, which allows her to post dates and times for college visits. From there, colleges interested in presenting at Aragon signed up.

"Now we have schools from Canada, Japan [and] France coming to present," Tezak said.

These presentations help students gain an understanding of the college application process.

College presentations are typically open to grades 10 to 12.

"Once in a while I have a freshman that'll come in and say, 'Can I attend?'" Tezak said. "Of course I would never turn them away."

Senior Janus Sucharitakul attended the University of Southern California's presentation on Sept. 11.

"It was very informative," Sucharitakul said. "They used our 20 minutes very well, in my opinion, [talking] exactly about what you want to hear: what they want to see in admissions."

For students, college presentations have been an alternative to going in person.

"I liked the efficiency of it," Sucharitakul said. "It's really hard to like a college without going to see it because, outside of really heavy research, all you see is a name. If I can see a glimpse into [a school's] life or into what they consider [and] what they value, that allows me to decide better, and that's probably why USC is on my list now."

Occasionally, student attendance has been a problem. Senior Anelise Ostrowski was the only attendee at Seton Hall's presentation.

"I think not enough people know to sign

up early, because they cancel if they don't think enough people are going to be going," Ostrowski said.

When it doesn't seem like students will attend, Tezak makes an effort to ensure the representative's time isn't wasted.

"If I see that [students] haven't signed up through Naviance to come and visit, I will email the [representative] in advance and say, 'we don't have anybody signed up,'" Tezak said. "They'll always say 'I'll leave [behind] information if students come by.'"

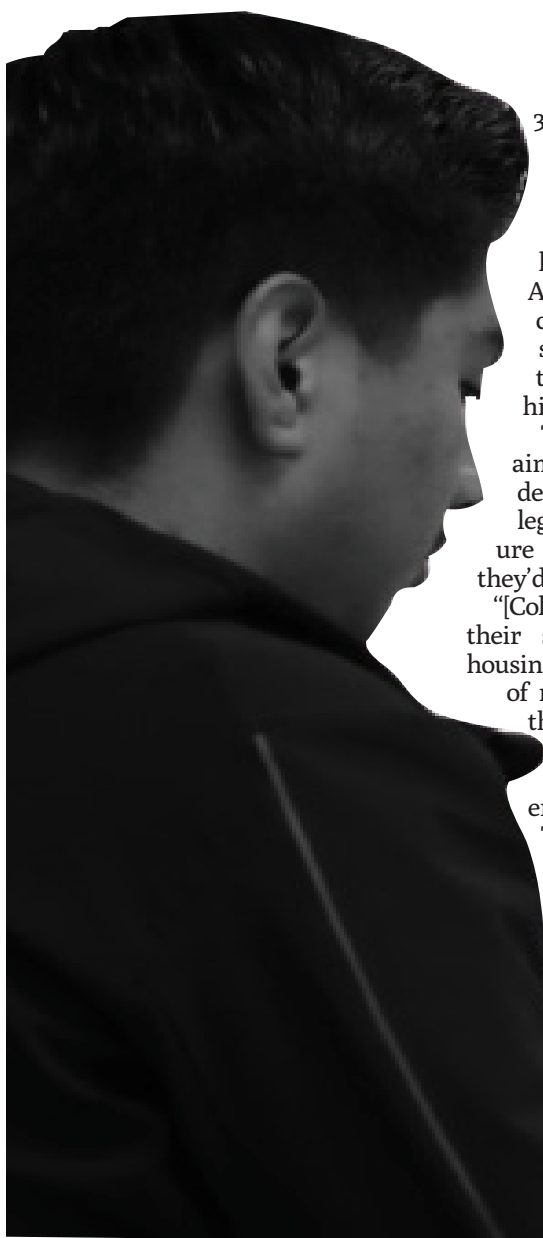
Aragon's financial aid and scholarships advisor Caroline Moala acknowledges the conflicts students have with the timings of these presentations.

"This is a great opportunity that no student should miss out on," Moala said. "But I understand it's during class time sometimes, and it's hard for students."

Some propose solutions for this inconvenience.

"If you check in Naviance, a lot of the colleges are [ones] you've probably never heard of, which is good—that means they increase in publicity—but because it's during the school day, it's hard to get students to attend," Sucharitakul said. "So, if you want more students to attend, you would need to carve out some time."

Still, these presentations are a resource for students to help them navigate the many options after they graduate. Presentations will continue until the end of October.



Faces & Places: student opinions on global events

Reporting by Helen McCloskey and Anushka Punjabi

Russia-Ukraine war continues

"I'm a second generation Ukrainian, and my great uncle had to flee Ukraine because of the war. Russia is invading because they want Ukraine to be part of their control [again, especially because it] has a lot of natural resources and is the second biggest country in Eastern Europe. A lot of people have died from the war, and 5.9 million Ukrainians are refugees. 50% of the power grid is damaged, and 16 million

people are without [access to] clean water. If we don't know what's going on in the world, we can't help out the countries that are impacted by conflict. America has helped a lot [by] getting supplies and making sure Ukraine can go back [and recover from the war]. I used to say I was Russian, [but, now] I'm more proud to be Ukrainian."



Reese Pavolotsky (11)

Lack of age diversity in elected officials



Annie Donnellan (9)

"There isn't much age diversity in the Senate, House and in the White House. Everyone is really old. [Former U.S. Rep.] Jackie Speier [D-Calif.] is running for a seat on the county Board of Supervisors after serving in the House of Representatives for [over a] decade, and [U.S. Senator] Dianne

Feinstein [D-Calif.] who recently passed was definitely declining [in health] more and more the past couple of years. [When elected officials are older], younger people don't get their voices heard as much, despite the fact that we'll be here longer. The people who aren't going to be here get to make decisions on climate change and [decide what world] we will be left with. Older people may want more immediate responses [to problems], but younger people want to think more about the [consequences in the] future. There should be more age limits or term limits for elected officials and health concerns should be looked into."

Fires devastate Maui



Francez Santos (9)

"I have grandparents and an uncle in Hawaii [and their] house burned down. Now, they are living in a shelter. Many of the locals and tourists in Hawaii as of right now [are affected by the fires], which started because of fallen power lines [and] mainly affected Lahaina and western Maui. Many of the houses [and other buildings] were

destroyed, and almost all sorts of communication were lost. Over a hundred people [have died], and the death toll is still increasing. I'm worried about the living conditions of the people there. Many people are suffering from loss of homes and loss of food sources."

Ongoing conflict affects Sudan

"[The war in Sudan is] an ongoing conflict between a paramilitary group and the [military-controlled government] of the country. Both sides have been accused of atrocities, [such as a] systematic removal of people from their homelands. In the past, the international community hasn't paid due attention to conflicts

in Sudan, and as a result, there's been refugee crises, famines and thousands of deaths. America has an outsized world influence [that] we should be able to use, so the citizens of Sudan can have the help and assistance that they deserve. In any world event where people are getting hurt, Americans should know about it so that we can possibly do something about it."



Toby Harris (12)

The consequential impact of climate change on Earth

"This past summer I went on a trip to Glacier National Park [and learned] about how the glaciers have shrunk [by] about half over the last decade. Climate change will destroy our Earth as we know it. It will cause some animal species to become extinct, especially those that are already at danger. [And it will impact humans], like the bad air quality [from] the amount of wildfires that we're seeing right now. Humans have played a role in climate change, such as [using] gasoline and all the harmful chemicals that we're releasing into the air. People should consider

taking the bus or getting an electric car instead of using gasoline [and] try to limit the amount of trash they produce. [We should choose the] better option for Earth [because] it's the only home that we've ever known."



Ashley Cheng (9)

Racism in America



Maria Medina (10)

"I'm Latina and an immigrant from Colombia. For hundreds of years,

brown people [have been told that] no matter how much you try, or no matter what capabilities that you have, you still won't be as good as white people because of your skin color. I've been told I'm not smart enough just because I'm an immigrant or from South America. We could do a much better job accepting not only

race and sexualities, or people who have disabilities. We really need to show more diversity in every type of way. And while Aragon does a great job by promoting diversity, we should have harsher punishments to those who bring others down because [of their] skin color, sexuality, or for any other reason."

The journey after Aragon: notable alumni

Reporting by Allinah Zhan



ONITSUKA TIGER

Hannah Jo Flynn, class of 2019, model

Hannah Jo Flynn is currently working as a model. Flynn began filming TikToks with their brother during the pandemic and amassed over eight million likes on TikTok, giving them a gist of the world of modeling. They ended up signing with a mother agent and later expanded their career to include work in New York, Spain, Italy and London. While modeling, Flynn also majored in film and media at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

"My philosophy with the [modeling] industry is to go in

and be yourself," Flynn said. "Because in reality, [you] don't want to change yourself for a job. And people tend to like you for being yourself."

At Aragon, Flynn was a student-athlete who played water polo, soccer and lacrosse.

"[Water polo] just felt like a second home to me being in the pool, my teammates, my coaches," Flynn said. "I had just started the sport in high school, so I didn't know much about it, [but] I ended up being on varsity a couple years later and being one of the captains of the team. It was my favorite thing to do."

This athletic background carried over to their profession and landed them one of their first shoots, which was for a spring-summer collection for a French fashion house called Chloé.

"The shoot itself was right up my alley," Flynn said. "During my self-tape ... I talked about [water polo and swimming], and that's what stuck out to the photographer and the casting director. The shoot was in a pool and it was this beautiful dress. It was so elegant [in] the movement of it, and the water was equally stunning."

Flynn truly enjoys working with a diverse range of people from their agency.

"[It's] really cool to be able to bring someone's creative vision and direction to life in front of the camera," Flynn said. "And I think that so many photographers have so many different styles and ideas that it's like something new every time."

Flynn is currently learning Italian in preparation for an upcoming business trip to Milan, Italy in February.

Sabrina Imbler, class of 2012, author and science journalist

Sabrina Imbler was the editor-in-chief of The Aragon Outlook in 2012.

"The Aragon Outlook and [Scott] Siltan obviously were wonderful influences in teaching me how to write and report, which is what I do full time now as my job," Imbler said.

In their senior year, they were accepted and committed to Brown University in Rhode Island.

"I wanted to leave California," Imbler said. "I had spent my whole life in California,

and I think I had a very romantic idea of what it would be like to go to school on the East Coast and go to classes in a beautiful brick building that has been around for hundreds of years."

After graduating from Brown, Imbler worked as a journalist at The New York Times. Later, they joined Defector, a worker-owned media company which is a subscription-based sports and culture blog. Their writing career focuses on science, aquatic crea-

tures and technology inspired by childhood visits to Half Moon Bay and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

"It felt like a natural way to combine my two interests to pursue a career in science journalism," Imbler said. "I talked to scientists all the time, and I interviewed them about their work."

Imbler is also a successful author of two books: "Dyke (geology)," "How Far the Light Reaches: A Life in Ten Sea Creatures."

"I was learning about ... [dendritic cell] biology," Imbler said. "I knew that I wanted to continue writing about these topics, and with a more personal lens."

"Dyke (geology)" was selected for the National Book Foundation's Science and Literature program, and "How Far the Light Reaches" won a 2022 Los Angeles Times Book Prize. The book weaves stories of Imbler's own family and coming of age with marine biology.



BEOWULF SHEEHAN

Victoria Villacorta, class of 2015, learning & development specialist

Victoria Villacorta, pursued her passion for life science and studied neurobiology, physiology and behavior and minored in Chicana Studies at the University of California, Davis.

"[At] Davis, I loved the science classes, but I really liked balancing it with the humanities classes, and my studies at Aragon really helped prepare me to do well in college," Villacorta said. "While I was at Davis, I had the opportunity to also study abroad ... in Oaxaca, Mexico. I was there for about three months, and I did

a clinical healthcare internship while I was there."

In Villacorta's sophomore year at UC Davis, she was a resident adviser for the freshmen and worked at a nonprofit clinic called Clínica Tepati.

"[We] served the underserved and underrepresented folks in Sacramento," Villacorta said. "They were mainly Latinx folks who didn't have health care insurance ... I was a co-head for health education."

After college, Villacorta was originally going to pursue medical studies but changed her mind.

"I was like, 'I'm going to be a doctor,'" Villacorta said. "Then I graduated, and ... [I wanted to] try something different. I decided to make the pivot into the business world and consulting, and I really enjoyed it."

Villacorta started working at Slalom, a global business and technology consulting company, and became one of HabLab's project managers — an extension of Slalom. The laboratory collaborated with the University of Pennsylvania to study the effects of virtual back-to-back meetings.

"[This] was one of the first studies that we were doing with [electroencephalography] headsets," Villacorta said. "I created the training on it [and] helped them record the data."

Villacorta was one of the co-authors on the research article titled "What Our Brain Activity Reveals About Improving Workplace Culture," which has recently been published in the University of Pennsylvania's business journal Knowledge at Wharton.



COURTESY OF VICTORIA VILLACORTA

Helen Lu, class of 2019, software engineer

Helen Lu was once the president of Aragon's Math Club. She followed her passion for Science Technology Engineering Mathematics and studied math and computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a journey that began with the seeds of curiosity planted in her early years.

"I just started doing math in middle school as part of the Math Club," Lu said. "It just seemed

interesting to me, so I just kept doing it."

Lu's achievements are a testament to the foundation she built during her high school years. She has many memories and experiences from her time at Aragon.

Through lots of effort, Lu has reached where she is today. She graduated from MIT this summer and is now a software engineer. While Lu prioritizes academics heavily, she also believes in having

a good work-life balance to help one pursue their dreams in a more engaging way.

"For me, it's work hard, play harder," Lu said. "Life is so short. I think it's good to have fun while you work towards your dreams."

Lu followed this life philosophy by trying out skydiving in her senior year at MIT.

"I'm the person in the friend group who holds

everyone's bags while they go on roller coasters," Lu said. "I can't even ride roller coasters, so skydiving for me seemed ... incredibly terrifying. [But] I would actually never know if I liked it or not unless I tried it, and it turned out to be fun [and] unforgettable."

Working as a software engineer, Lu continues her endeavors in mathematics and computer science.



COURTESY OF HELEN LU

Pumpkin spice: carving out a consumer niche

Kyra Hsieh
FEATURES WRITER

As Spirit Halloween stores begin to pop-up and pumpkin spice lattes return to Starbucks, people know that fall is approaching. There are many people who may feel the pressure to participate in fall trends.

“My wife is a big Halloween person,” said chemistry

and AVID teacher Max Von Euw. “And I’ve just taken the Halloween pill.”

Some people like Von Euw mainly partake in these fall traditions because their close family or friends are fall enthusiasts. However, this is not the only reason that people begin buying fall-themed items.

“I just bought two cans of pumpkin puree last week,” Von Euw said. “When I see it on the shelves ... I [feel] targeted.”

Although there is a time range when companies begin putting fall

fall items early, including Halloween candy and pumpkin pies. This is a commonly-used marketing practice that stores use to ‘target’ consumers.

However, not everyone buys fall items because of stores’ fall-themed marketing.

“When I see things and I buy them, it’s usually because I like them or because I want [them],” said freshman Mya Nguyen.

Nguyen adores stockings, coats and fleece-lined clothing.

“It’s aesthetically pleasing, like it’s trendy,” Nguyen said. “And you still look good and it’s like you can be warm and then you’re not like, looking like a bundled-up marshmallow.”

Similarly, sophomore Sylvia Demeule leans into the fall accessories.

“I like wearing fall-themed earrings,” Demeule said. “I have a pair of glow in the dark skeleton earrings.”

Buying fun accessories or clothes to keep warm during the season is one way that people participate in fall trends and buying items due to fall-based marketing.

For many people, pumpkins are a part of their fall activities, whether it be making pumpkin pies, drinking pumpkin spice lattes or visiting pumpkin patches.

“Not as much as before, but I do go to

Pumpkin carving is such a trend that in 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy estimated 1.5 billion pounds of pumpkin waste in the U.S. during that pumpkin season. Some of the best ways to reduce pumpkin waste is to compost or roast the seeds.

“We usually ... make [excess pumpkin and pumpkin waste] into pies,” Nguyen said. “And we give it to people.”

Von Euw also uses pumpkins thoroughly throughout the season.

“[My family]

stocks up on our cans of pumpkins to make pumpkin muffins or pumpkin bread,” Von Euw said.

However, not everyone is a fan of the pumpkin flavor.

“Pumpkins taste gross,” Demeule said.

As fall continues, people in the Aragon community continue to celebrate in a variety of ways and partake in fall-based consumerism by buying fall accessories, clothes, pumpkins and more.

1.5 billion lbs

of pumpkins grown in the US in 2020

4/5

of pumpkins are not used for food

LIPIKA GOEL



ALLYSON CHAN

Aragon celebrates fall with cultural holidays

Jonathan Wong
FEATURES WRITER

Throughout the year, the Aragon community celebrates holidays with religious or cultural significance. While holidays are celebrated all year round,

many holidays are celebrated in the fall. One such holiday is Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, which senior Mia Weinberger celebrates with her grandparents. Rosh Hashanah follows specific traditions, such as eating apples and honey to signify the sweetness of the new year.

“We would light the candles and my grandfather would [say] prayers,” Weinberger said. “[On] my first Rosh Hashanah, ... when [my grandmother] dipped her bread in honey, I was just eating the bread plain.”

For some holidays, such as Rosh Hashanah, students must miss school to celebrate.

“I’m not allowed to work or do anything that takes away from thinking about the holiday and spending time with family,” said junior Eli-

ana Rose. “When I was younger, [missing school] was my favorite thing because I was able to leave. ... Over time I’ve missed less days. My mom has gotten less strict on how many days we miss because there’s so much work to make up.”

Holidays that do not have days off force a balance between working and celebrating the holiday. One of these holidays is Diwali, or the Festival of Lights, a Hindu festival celebrating the victory of good over evil.

“It’s easier to celebrate on a weekend,” said ju-

nior Anish Dara. “Otherwise, I usually try to finish my work early because [most of the] celebrations happen during nighttime. Some days are more like a festival, but sometimes you [celebrate] at home by praying.”

The Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival takes place on the 15th day and eighth month of the Chinese Calendar, celebrating the end of the Autumn Harvest with a full moon. A food eaten during the Mid Autumn Festival is the mooncake, a confectionery filled with sweet bean paste, lotus or winter melon with a soft crust on the outside.

“I gather with my cousins, aunts, uncles and my grandpa,” said junior Melody Chen. “We enjoy watching the moon, eating mooncakes and when I was younger I would have crackling fireworks that I would throw on the ground.”

For those who celebrate them, cultural holidays can be important for maintaining one’s cultural

identity, especially when someone is living elsewhere from the origin of their culture.

“A lot of times I do feel distant from the Chinese side of me,” Chen said. “I don’t have the experience of a Chinese person, and my parents grew up in a different culture so we’re really different. Sometimes I wish I could live a full Chinese experience, which is why having the Mid-Autumn Festival here is really nice.”

The most popular holiday celebrated in America during this time is Halloween, where students both enjoy giving and getting candy when participating in Trick or Treating. Other Halloween traditions include dressing up in costumes for Halloween or participating in pumpkin carving.

“I make plans to go trick or treating around my neighborhood because everyone in my neighborhood put out really good candy,” said sophomore Gwen Johnson. “There’s also

someone that gives out ice cream instead of candy, so I’m planning to head there first. If I’m tired on [Halloween], I stay home and give out candy because I love giving candy to kids because I love seeing their cute costumes.”

The day after Halloween, many celebrate Día de Los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, a holiday originating from Mexico to bridge together the living and the dead. Families set up altars to give offerings for ancestors, consisting of the ancestor’s favorite foods or sentimental items such as charms, jewelry and sugar skulls. Senior Ariana Gavidia, who celebrates this holiday, believes in not only preserving one’s own cultural identity, but passing on the tradition between generations.

“It’s nice to honor people who have passed away, especially by keeping the memory of them alive,” Gavidia said. “Telling [younger generations] that didn’t know the ancestor ... more about their family is important to help connect the past and present.”

With so many fall holidays, students have plenty of opportunities to connect with their culture.

Sometimes I wish I could live a full Chinese experience



ALEXA STERRY

FROM TREE TO OUTLOOK

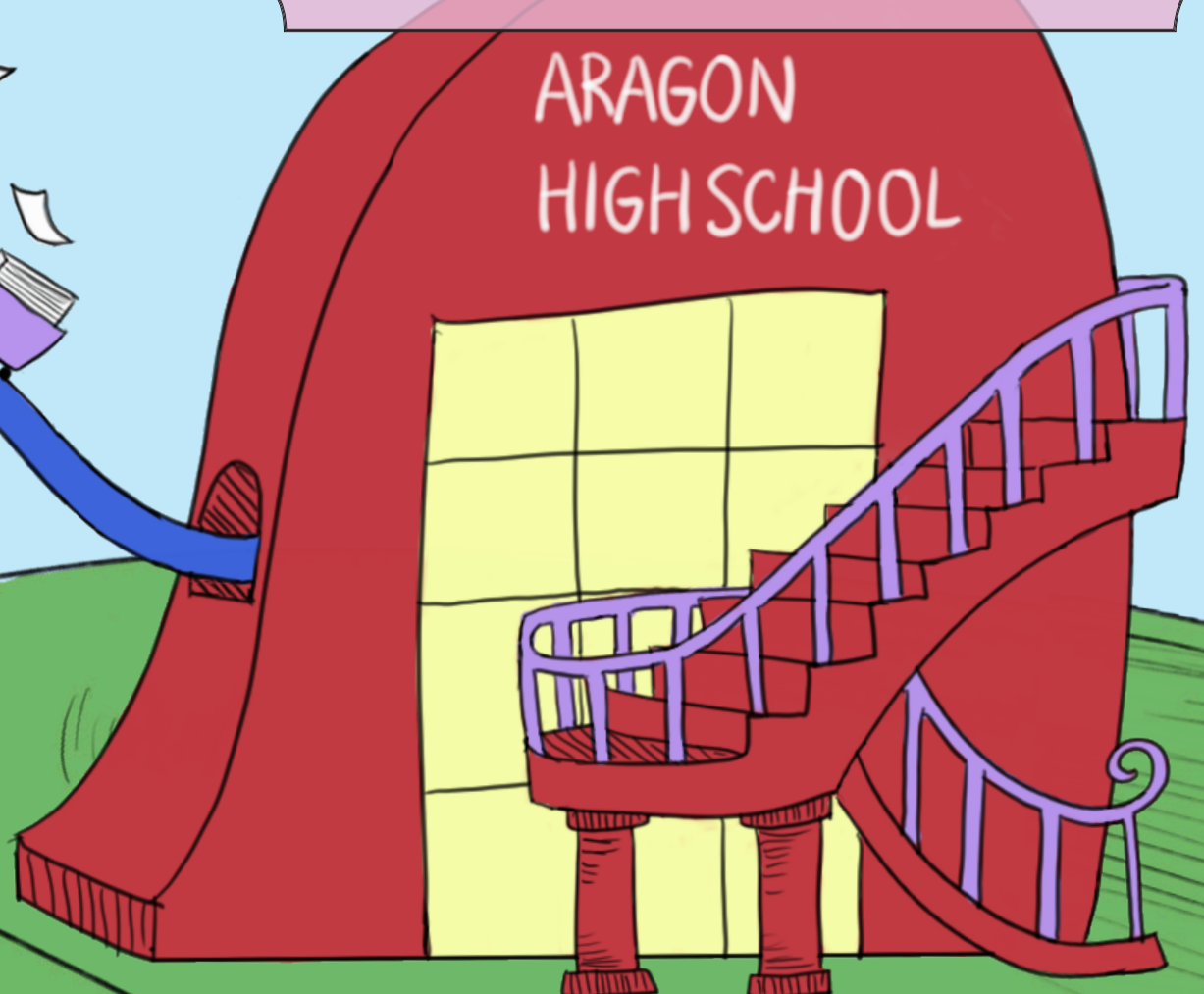
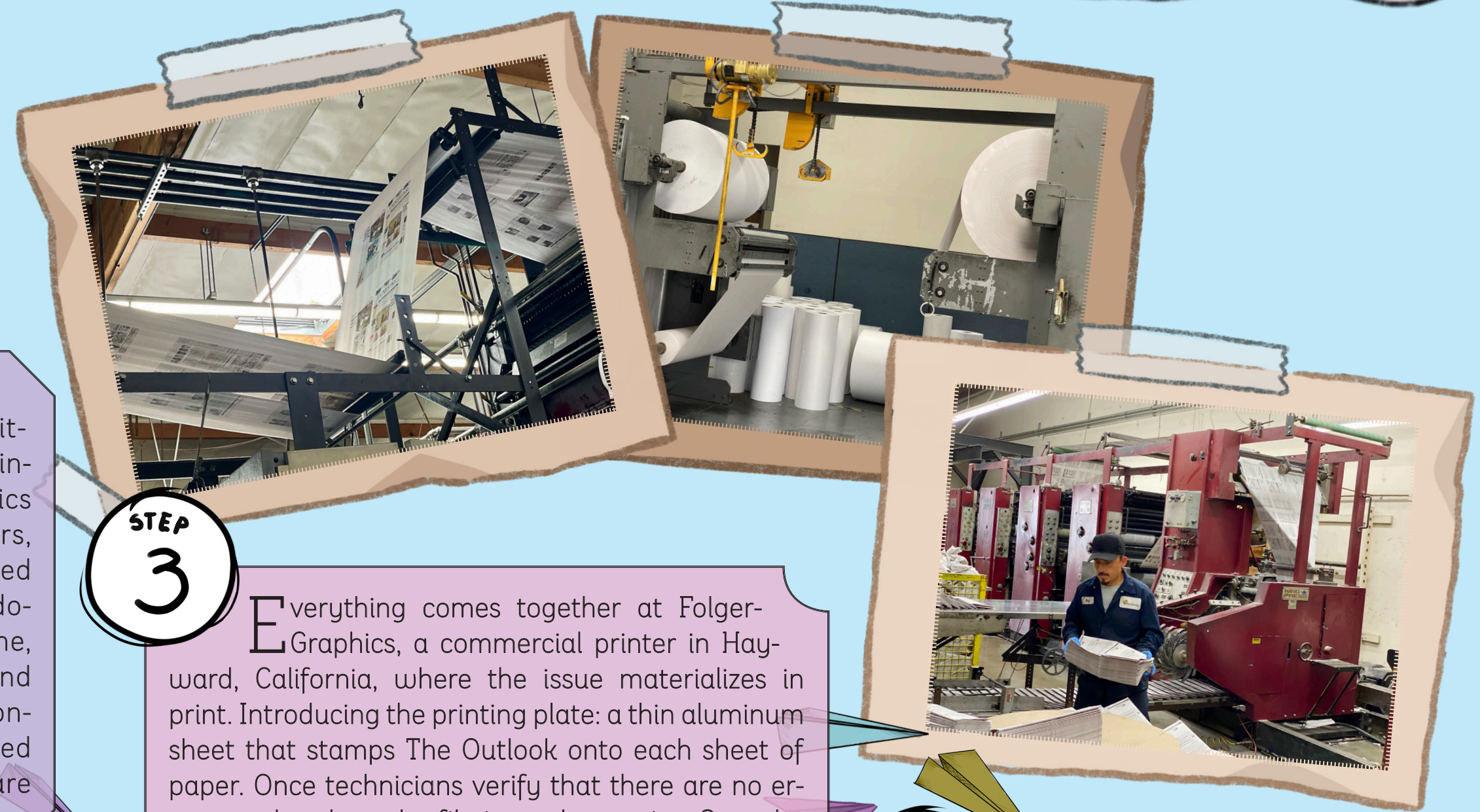
STEP 1
The story of The Outlook begins in the Pacific Northwest and Canada, at the paper mills responsible for fabricating the paper that becomes the print edition. While some local trees are used, a large portion of the paper is made sustainably from recycled material broken down into a fine pulp. Once the pulp is cleaned, refined and bleached, it is spread into thin layers, and dried to form the very paper sheets you're reading this on. From there, the mill presses the sheets thin, packages and ships them to printing facilities, where our journey continues.

STEP 2
Reporting on the latest from Aragon, our 47 writing and visual staffers research, interview, take photos, draw graphics and craft articles for you, our readers, before the final assembly is handed off to the editors. Armed with Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and caffeine, the editors proofread the articles and lay out the paper before the Monday deadline. Everything is finalized by Monday night, and our files are sent to the next stop: the printer.

STEP 3
Everything comes together at FolgerGraphics, a commercial printer in Hayward, California, where the issue materializes in print. Introducing the printing plate: a thin aluminum sheet that stamps The Outlook onto each sheet of paper. Once technicians verify that there are no errors on the plate, the file is ready to print. Over the next two hours, FolgerGraphics runs rolls of newsprint through a web offset press, churning out hundreds of sheets per minute. These newspapers, quite literally hot off the press, are folded into 1,700 copies of our 16-page edition. After a total of three hours, the papers are delivered across the San Francisco Bay to Aragon by Wednesday afternoon.

STEP 4
Each day before distribution, Outlook editors head to the main office to pick up seventeen bundles of one hundred newspapers each. These bundles, bound by twine, measure 5.6 inches tall and weigh just over 13 pounds each. The editors haul them over to the publication office, and pick them up the next morning at 8 a.m. before walking off to seven distribution points around campus. From there, The Outlook finds its way into the hands of Aragon's student body, faculty and you!

Finished reading? Gift this Outlook to a friend or toss it in the recycling bin. From Washington to Hayward to the pub office to your hands, who knows where this Outlook will end up next?



Want to revisit the paper? All The Outlook's published content and even exclusively-digital midcycle articles and full-length sports recaps can be found on The Outlook's website: aragonoutlook.org

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Band members Dane Kenyon, Phoenix Seevers and Cole Mannick COURTESY OF PHOENIX SEEVERS

“Out of the Red” into fame

Meilin Rife
FEATURES WRITER

The name “Out of the Red” comes from “Everlong” by the band Foo Fighters, a song that screams with crashing instrumentals, as a gritty voice cuts through singing, “And out of the red / out of her head, she sang.” Creating a sound they describe as a mix between the Foo Fighters and The Vines is the trio Out of the Red, consisting of Aragon senior, lead singer and drummer Phoenix Seevers, Aragon senior and guitarist Dane Kenyon and San Mateo senior and bassist Cole Mannick. The band has released two singles, “Spacing Out” and “Bones,” alongside their album “The Side Project.”

The members have been creating music from a young age, starting from small opportunities that eventually grew into larger projects.

“My dad bought me a cheap electric guitar about five years ago and I started taking lessons—I’m still taking those lessons today,” Kenyon said. “Then I got involved with this program called School of Rock, which is for kids to learn music ... and perform as a group.”

Kenyon finds that being in a band is a more rewarding way to make music.

“[Playing] with others ... is not easy to do if you’re not in a band,” Kenyon said. “You can get a feel for an entire song ... The guitar part by itself can be underwhelming. Being a part of the entire thing feels better.”

For Seevers, his parents served as inspiration.

“Music has always been a part of our lives since we were really young,” said Seevers’ sister and freshman Wynter Seevers. “My parents were in bands when they were ... in their early twenties, so we grew up with punk, ... rock [and] all sorts of music.”

Out of the Red was formed at the beginning of last summer. Before that, the members were in another band, Frame the Youth.

“A lot of [Out of the Red’s] songs are more personal to me than the last band,” Phoenix Seevers said. “[We started

over] because some of the songs I was working on didn’t fit the previous genre ... of Frame the Youth.”

The band has tried to improve their visibility, especially through social media presence, which has mostly been relegated to their manager, senior Sacha Perlson.

“We really want to spread their music and get more engagement within [and outside] Aragon,” Perlson said. “The band [is] trying to book shows and get their names out there because that’s the most important thing if we want their music to be heard.”

Something the group does to promote fan interactions is hand out custom stickers to people who might be interested.

“Phoenix stopped me in the hallways since I’m a fan, and reminded me [that ‘Bones’ came out],” said senior Devika Mehra. “He appreciates people that he knows are listeners of his music, which is really great because he builds a community off of it.”

Out of the Red does the recording themselves, as they feel it contributes to the ambiance of their band.

“We have a family friend that lent us some recording equipment,” Phoenix Seevers said. “Part of the reason this album feels so intimate and personal is because we did all

of the recording ourselves. ... We [were] in the garage, playing our tracks and holding our breaths so that it doesn’t show up on the microphones.”

For people who are already fans of rock, Out of the Red’s music is a welcome addition. Sophomore Kabir Sulur, a rock music enthusiast, describes the song “Bones.”

“I really, really liked the mix between the first and second vocals,” Sulur said. “The drums ... pushing through the whole song is very nice. ... The guitar lines are [also] really cool, ... going from the clean sound to then the hard, more heavy punk sound. I really liked the interweave between the two.”

For Phoenix Seevers, being in a band creating music is an activity he can pour his heart into, morphing into a potential career path.

“My mindset right now about music is that it’s just something I love doing,” Phoenix Seevers said. “We could put out the album and two people could listen to it and I would still be satisfied because now it’s just about doing what I love and being able to finally release everything I’ve been working on.”

Out of the Red is currently focusing on expanding their local presence, with an upcoming performance in Half Moon Bay on Oct. 31.



COASTSIDE RECORDS

School spirit through the grades

Chloe Chen
FEATURES WRITER

Spirit days give students the chance to dress up in fun outfits, heading to class in floral shirts, cowboy hats or neon vests. Many upperclassmen understand that spirit days allow students to get involved and connect with each other.

“We were taught this model to look backwards and [ask] ‘what does the student body need and how would the majority dress up or participate?’” said senior and Spirit Commission head Antonio Tejada. “Our goal as Spirit [Commission] is to make sure everyone is included, feels safe and [is] [connected] as a community.”

Seniors, with four years worth of memories, view Aragon as a welcoming place, and see spirit days as a fun side of the high school experience. For the past two years, those years’ seniors have won the ‘Don baton’ at the end of the school year, gaining the most spirit points in their respective years.

“Seniors [typically] show the most spirit because it is your last year and you actually start getting a sense, ‘Okay, you know what, let’s start showing spirit,’” Tejada said. “[As] underclassmen, you feel afraid that you’re [going to] be the only one, but then as seniors ... it’s a bit

Tejada said. “If that’s from getting [something] minor, like bandanas for Western Day, a feather boa for my class color or even just red for our school.”

Fresh into high school, many underclassmen are still adjusting to the new system and finding out about high school traditions.

“Upperclassmen are inclined to participate more because they’ve been at this school for longer,” said sophomore and Spirit Commission member Jayla Abdellatif. “They enjoy the spirit weeks

and know what they’re about. Underclassmen, especially freshmen, they’re not really used to high school, and it’s really new to them, so they look up to the upperclassmen and see how they do [it].”

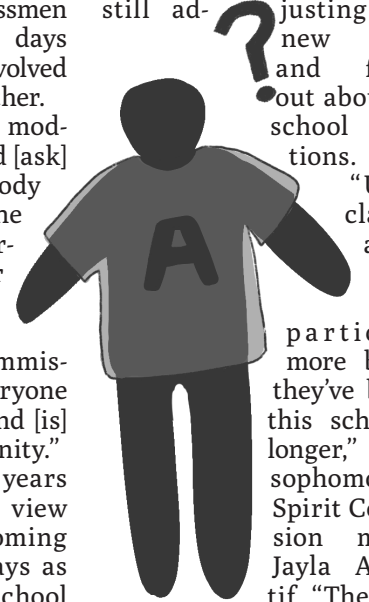
Of the classes, freshmen currently have the least amount of spirit points, with 198 in total.

“A lot of underclassmen are still adjusting to everything about high school,” said sophomore Dahlia Selig. “There’s the ‘I need to be cool’ [mentality] ... [and] a fear of [being] the only one dressing up.”

However, as of now it appears that some underclassmen are more inclined to dress up. Currently, sophomores have the most spirit points of the four classes, holding 291 points.

“Dressing up for spirit days makes me feel proud to be representing my class and being an example for others,” said leadership student and freshman Louis Riviere. “Being at a new school and a new environment actually incites me to dress for spirit days, because back in middle school, I never did. In fact, no one did. It’s nice to see more school spirit here.”

Underclassmen will have the chance to experience more spirit days. The next spirit week will be Spine-Chilling Spirit Week starting Oct. 30.



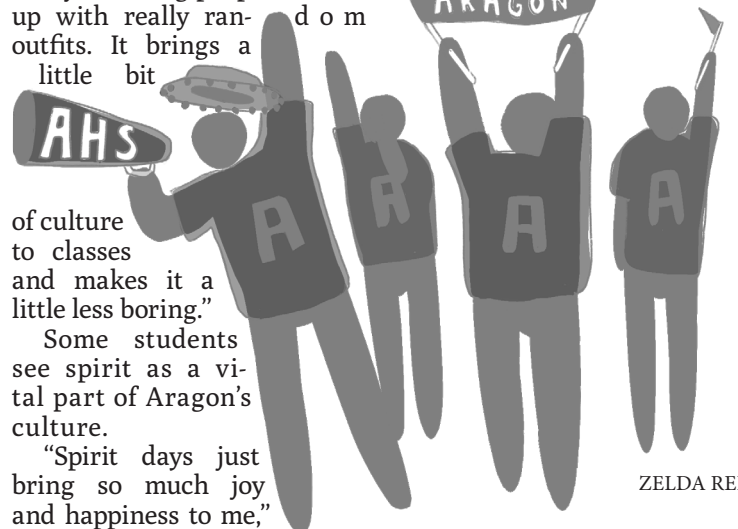
According to students, spirit days bring levity to a stressful school day. Senior Talal Ayoub talks about his favorite spirit day so far: airport day.

“[I] saw a few people in every class with suitcases [or] neck pillows,” Ayoub said. “It’s cool just seeing people dressed up with really random outfits. It brings a little bit

of culture to classes and makes it a little less boring.”

Some students see spirit as a vital part of Aragon’s culture.

“Spirit days just bring so much joy and happiness to me,”



ZELDA REIF

Mitski explores emotional decay, numbness

Seona Srivastava
FEATURES WRITER

On her most soulful and stripped-back album yet, singer-songwriter Mitski delves into themes of isolation, self-destruction and transformation through “The Land is Inhospitable and So Are We,” released on Sept. 15. Her stark lyricism and intro-

spective, emotional style aid her in exploring the total human condition.

On “The Deal,” a self-loathing Mitski yearns to give away her soul, and heavy percussion builds up to drown out her layered vocals, which eventually fade out – a callback to her 2016 song “Your Best American Girl.” Similarly, she utilizes

synths on “Star” to construct an atmosphere that captures the delicate dynamics of reflecting on a past relationship that finally crescendos into a glistening climax.

Nearing the end of “I’m Your Man,” Mitski incorporates the sound of barking dogs, embodying the communication challenges and feelings in Mitski’s complicated relationship: “You’re an angel, I’m a dog / Or you’re a dog and I’m your man.”

Mitski has been constructing a ‘sad girl’ persona her entire career, which she takes a step further on this album. A lonely Mitski believes that the best course of action following her abandonment is death: “I’ll destroy you like I am / I’m sorry I’m the one you love...It’s just witnessless me,” Mitski sings about her nothingness on “The Frost.” She believes her presence to others is unnoticed, and she cannot stand being alone. On “I Don’t Like My Mind,” she devastatingly details her self-destructive behavior cycles, including binge-eating and overworking, in an attempt to distract

herself from her isolation. Accompanied with a strumming guitar on “Bug Like an Angel,” Mitski laments the effectiveness of her coping strategies: “sometimes a drink feels like family.”

Earth and nature are motifs Mitski uses to discuss her vulnerable state throughout the album, which can be seen through the songs heaven “Heaven,” a country ballad where Mitski’s love is a Willow and a river, and “Star,” where she compares her memories to stars in the sky; beautiful, yet painfully unrecoverable and out-of-reach. In “My Love Mine All Mine,” the track that captures the essence of the album, Mitski manifests her love in the form of the moon, a celestial being that has witnessed humanity, to express her desire to reciprocate all the love she has received. The soft percussion, bass, guitar, choir and piano on this track cre-

ate an intimate and heartfelt experience. Its comfortable lyrics and gentle tune help it function as a lullaby, almost ushering the listener into a state of tranquility.

The themes of this album permeate throughout every lyric. Mitski does not express melodrama or gut-wrenching pain, but instead the empty void of emotion.

This is her most mature album, to date, and is made from reflection of years of lived experiences. It’s emotionally raw and sometimes ugly, uncomfortable and personal. In just 11 tracks and half an hour, Mitski advises the listener to make a shift in perspective; while the land might be inhospitable, our attitudes do not have to be, and that is why this album deserves five stars.

she devastatingly details her self-destructive behavior



COURTESY OF DEAD OCEANS

OUR OUTLOOK
★★★★★

Sizzling Lunch: a unique fusion experience

Ashley Tsui
FEATURES WRITER

Sizzling Lunch, an Asian fusion restaurant, brings a fresh concept to central Foster City. The menu consists mainly of Japanese dishes, along with some Western and Korean-reminiscent selections — but there’s a twist. The food is served

chicken). The eight pieces of gyoza cost \$8. They have a nice crunchiness to them and the sweet sauce balances the savory dish very well. The flavor is rich and worth the price. The chicken karaage came with about nine pieces and cost

and the pepper gave it a little kick of spice.

Moving forward, the kimchi pepper rice was surprisingly delicious and flavorful. This dish comes with beef, kimchi, white rice and other assorted toppings. The spice level is very mild and serves as more of an accent to the overall flavor of the dish. The beef, once cooked, isn’t too chewy and has a distinct taste. The rice paired well with all the toppings and while there were a lot of flavors in this dish, they blended well together.

The shrimp glass noodles were also nicely seasoned. Glass noodles aren’t typically found in restaurants, so it was a delight to eat them, especially combined with the tasty shrimp and carrots.

Due to their unique consistency, they may taste odd to those who haven’t tried them before, but I still found them to be delicious.

Finally, the last thing we ordered was the Mango Sunshine Hana-bi Cake, which cost \$10.50—expensive for such a small dish. It is composed of five layers: a vanilla chiffon cake, mango mousse, mango puree, coconut mousse and mango whipped cream, and is topped with coconut flakes. The flavors blended well and had a tropical feel.

All in all, a couple of the dishes are expensive, but the quality is fantastic. While this might not be a place to frequent, it’s definitely worth checking out and experiencing the unique opportunity it has to offer. The entrees

all have a unique flavor and the desserts & drinks bring a refreshing taste to the table. I enjoyed the balance of sweet and savory in all the items and was satisfied after finishing my food. It is a fun place to go with a group of friends to celebrate a special occasion, making it a solid 4.5 out of five stars.

OUR OUTLOOK
★★★★★

on a hot plate and the customer is given the ability to ‘cook’ the food themselves.

On the outside, Sizzling Lunch looks like any other establishment in the Foster Square complex, but the interior is decorated with traditional Japanese lanterns and a neutral color palette, emitting a bright and modern atmosphere. Though small, the area can fit many people, with tables ranging from pairs to groups of six or more. As I walked in, I was cheerfully greeted by staff and seated quickly. Instead of physical menus, there is a tablet on the end of the table I used to order digitally.

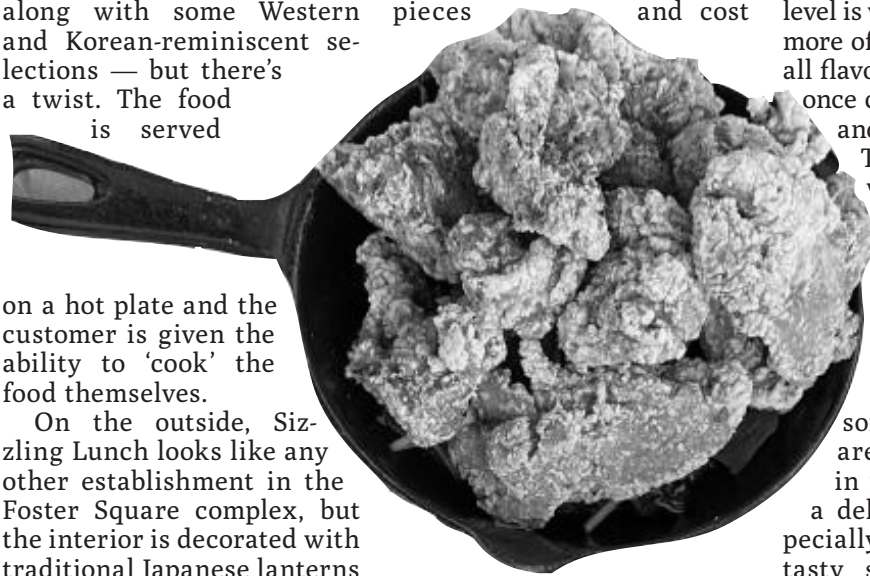
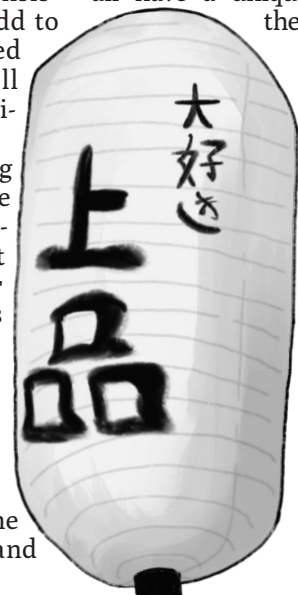
The menu itself consists of different sections, each boasting a wide variety of unique dishes, making it difficult to choose between the expansive menu. However, my family and I decided on seven items to try.

The two appetizers we ordered were the gyoza (potstickers) and the chicken karaage (Japanese fried

\$8.50. It was well-cooked with a delicious flavor, but some of the smaller pieces were a little dry.

For entrees, prices range from \$15 to \$18 and there are a variety of dishes to choose from, including pepper rice, glass noodles, curry sauce and udon.

The salmon udon had a lovely presentation: green onions, corn and garlic butter decorated a bed of udon noodles with the salmon placed along the sides of the plate. The plate itself is iron cast and very hot, encouraging the customers to cook the salmon themselves. The noodles stick to the bottom of the plate while mixing, or easily get too soft. The salmon tasted rich and flavorful

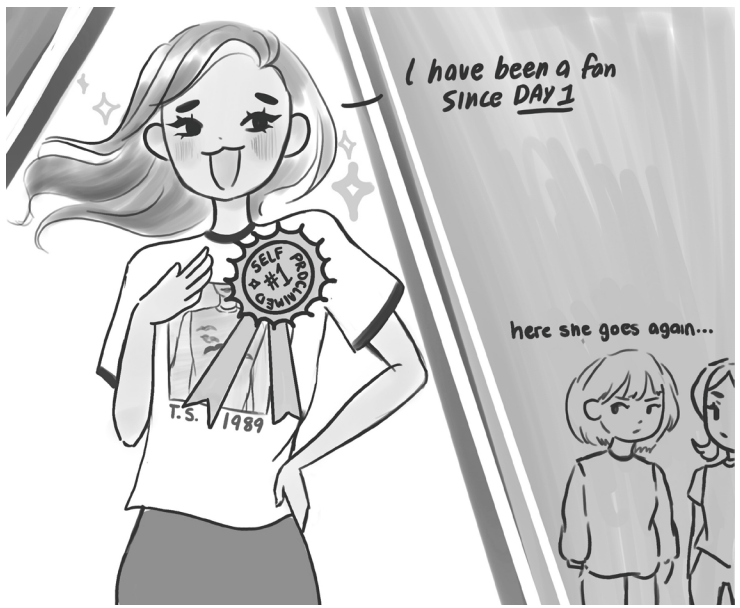


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ALLYSON CHAN

Fanbases: crossing a line



Matthew Grabow
FEATURES WRITER

There's no denying it: online fan bases play a major role in internet culture, manifesting themselves in several ways. Fandoms, a group of enthusiastic fans, are the most accessible yet flawed source for new members of a community to join.

Recent showings of fandoms in public and online have people around the world shaking their heads at the extremity of 'fan behavior,' or the actions fans perform when trying to get the attention of and or show their appreciation for a certain celebrity. While not all fan behavior is negative, there are instances where these actions push beyond the boundaries of what should be acceptable. Oftentimes, it seems as if consequences don't apply to fans. The lack of accountability for their actions because it's "fan behavior" continues to enable toxic behavior.

Fanbases and communities typically form online, where anonymity gives people freedom to act in toxic ways undeterred. It's easy to discover long threads where fans antagonize others for voicing an opinion for or against an artist. People have been doxxed by hardcore fans for giving constructive criticism to popular figures. The normalization of cyberbullying in and out of fandoms is a rising concern among many communities.

Fans have also brought their toxic, parasocial behaviour into the real world. "Swifties," Taylor Swift's fans, are notorious for crowding places or events Swift is found at, such as crowding producer Jack Antonoff's wedding.

Also, sport fans have a reputation for their intense emotions when their favorite sport team wins or suffers

defeat. After the Seattle Seahawks won their first superbowl, 3,000 Seattlietes joined the celebration, taking over intersections, smashing champagne bottles and lighting small bonfires. The extreme contrast between publicly acceptable behavior and fan behavior is enormous. With public filming and public stunts increasing due to rising social media use, it is important to start defining what is socially acceptable for fans in public.

Another seemingly ignored issue is the elitist mindset of being the 'best' or 'truest' fan. This mindset has people forcing sets of expectations new or current fans must meet in order to be considered 'real' fans. An example is the "name three songs" phenomenon, where supposedly dedicated fans ask newcomers to name three songs from an artist to gauge whether a person is a "real fan." If the person fails to name three songs, it indicates that they can't be a "real true fan." Additionally, if the fan responds with songs that are considered more 'mainstream,' they are often shamed and discredited for not knowing the 'deeper' songs and made to feel as though their liking of the artist is lesser. These ridiculous prerequisites need to be eliminated, the arts are for all eyes and ears, not a selective group. The enjoyment of arts has turned into a competition to know and do the most for an artist. Everyone should be able to love and appreciate music and art without shame, whether they're a casual fan or a die hard listener.

Fanbases have been a breeding ground for toxicity. However despite their shortcomings, fanbases do not need to be terminated, they need to be reformed. Fans and fan bases are not inherently bad due to the community they bring, and fan bases are not inherently bad due to the community they bring. People can be fans in healthy and positive ways, but this pressure-based culture to be a superfan encourages people down the wrong path. When we are able to remove the intense pressure, I believe arts and music can be appreciated as truly they should be. Beautiful spectacles for all ears and eyes to grow fond of.

The dangers of romanticizing abuse in media



Charlotte Gregory
FEATURES WRITER

For centuries, domestic abuse has impacted people around the world. It is rarely called out due to its often quiet, unsuspecting nature — acts of violence between loving partners can easily be dismissed as harmless arguments.

But in recent decades, people have begun to hold abusers accountable by spreading awareness about its consequences. Help hotlines are easily accessible for victims, and domestic violence can often result in criminal charges placed on the abuser.

With the available resources, it's easy to believe we have come a long way. However, domestic abuse is still glorified across media and in real life, making it impossible to identify, even when it's in front of us.

Within the past few years, New York Times bestselling author Colleen Hoover's novels have gained massive readership after going viral on social media. "It Ends With Us," the most popular of her books, has received harsh criticism from readers for romanticizing abuse.

Ironically, I find that this is one of the few Hoover books that doesn't glorify abuse, but instead portrays abusive relationships as harmful situations that victims should escape. However, the same

cannot be said about Hoover's other novels.

"Ugly Love," another Hoover bestseller, follows the toxic, destructive romance between main characters Tate and Miles. Throughout the book, Miles repeatedly manipulates Tate, who, as a result, becomes void of happiness and self-confidence. However, Miles' horrible actions are excused because of his past trauma. The difference between "Ugly Love" and "It Ends With Us" is that Tate does not even realize she was abused. In fact, she and Miles end up getting married and having a child together.

ably more impressionable. Del Rey has pushed back against this criticism, arguing that artists should be able to say "whatever the hell they want" in their music.

This raises a question that applies to books, movies, and music alike: Is it up to creators to protect their audiences from potentially harmful themes?

Artists have the freedom to share their raw, honest experiences, but if they describe said experiences in a dramatized way, are they romanticizing them? Where is the line between self-expression and glorification? Of course, the answers to these questions

"Where is the line between self-expression and glorification?"

Films have also been criticized for romanticizing abuse. Female characters are often portrayed as submissive to their male love interests, like the dynamic between Bella and Edward in the "Twilight" franchise. However, many viewers find this toxic dynamic protective, and oftentimes even attractive. Perhaps these portrayals stem from the toxic masculinity that society expects from men. Often, men are criticized for showing emotion; so the cold, possessive exteriors male characters exhibit in films might be a representation of the behaviors society praises men for.

The glorification of abuse is even present in the music we listen to. Singer Lana Del Rey, describes an abusive relationship as complex and addictive in the song "Ultraviolence." "He hit me and it felt like a kiss," she sings.

Del Rey has received criticism for her music's abusive themes, especially since many of her listeners are young people, who are argu-

are not black and white.

It is true that all people have the right to share their experiences and express themselves however they see fit, and no individual's voice should be censored. However, when harmful thoughts and experiences are glorified, it is important to raise questions, and have conversations about them.

Also, films or books with domestic abuse should be prefaced by trigger warnings, giving viewers the option to avoid potentially harmful content. Nothing is being censored, but viewers can experience books and movies knowing what they are walking into.

It's important to recognize domestic abuse for what it is: Violence that should never be tolerated, let alone glorified. It might be impossible to avoid it in various forms of media, but when it is present, it should be portrayed in a negative light. If it is not, people will be unable to call out domestic violence in their own lives.



JESSICA XIA

Sports fanatics create community

Antonio Mangano
SPORTS WRITER

Sports are a big part of Aragon, from teachers who have an everlasting love for sports to outstanding student athletes.

Physics teacher Steve Ratto is an avid fan of all sports but is especially fond of the San Francisco Giants. Ratto has had season tickets for around seven years.

"I look forward to seeing how [the Giants] improve," Ratto said. "I like to see if my thought process is similar to their thought process, I like to see their approach and I always like to be entertained."

Sophomore Alex Nuñez is a fan of the Mexican soccer club C.D. Guadalajara, nicknamed the Chivas.

"I started watching with my dad when I was about six but I really became interested after going to my first in person game," Nuñez said.

The Chivas often play games in the San Jose Earthquakes stadium, opening up chances for Nuñez to watch them play live.

"Even though I sometimes get to witness the Chivas win

on TV, I am really looking forward to when they win a game that I watch in person," Nuñez said.

With the unpredictability of sports games, fans may not always have the best experience rooting for their favorite

team, especially when the team performs poorly.

"Emotionally, it's been high and low but mostly low," Nuñez said. "I don't mind that the team isn't

very competitive because I get most of the enjoyment from watching the games."

Being a sports fan allows Ratto to identify with others on campus who share a love for sports.

"Sports give me a chance to hang out with some teachers from the other side of the school that I don't see too often because

Many students also attend sporting events with others, creating memories and friendships through sports.

"I have a good friend who is also a Chivas fan but before we started watching soccer with each other, we weren't very close," Nuñez said. "We've become closer friends since starting to go to games together."

However, history teacher Scott BonDurant doesn't feel the same way, as most people at Aragon root for the local Golden State Warriors rather than his favorite team—the Sacramento Kings.

"I'm surrounded by Warriors fans," BonDurant said. "However, since I am also a Giants fan, I can catch a break and talk to some teachers about baseball."

Sports extend beyond mere entertainment, often influencing one's identity. Not only does being a fan of a certain team allow a person to experience the emotions of victory and defeat, but also the opportunity to make connections and build friendships with similar minded fans around campus.



MELODY LIU

Chin-yi Kong's fencing career reaches new heights

Quinn Shirley
SPORTS WRITER

Aragon senior Chin-yi Kong is one of the few athletes who can say she wields swords on a regular basis. As a fencer, she credits her dad for getting her into the unique sport.

"My dad fenced for the Johns Hopkins [University] team when he was an undergrad there," Kong said. "He [asked] 'why not try fencing?' So here I am."

Aside from her dad's initial influence, what kept her interested in the sport was the exhilarating aspects of competition and her peers' support.

"I enjoy the feeling of when you're in the zone, and you can feel all the hard work is paying off," Kong said. "You just know what to do before you even have to think about it. I [also] built an amazing community of people to support me with the coaches and my friends."

Her sister, sophomore Chin-ray Kong, is one of those supporters.

"We're pretty close," Chin-ray Kong said. "She's [been] taking care of me since I was younger. She would make me meals if my mom wasn't available, take me out to get something to eat a lot of the time, play video games or watch TV together, so she is very responsible."

Chin-yi Kong's proudest achievement, competing at the 2022 Junior World Fencing Championships in Dubai, was a product of years of honing her skills at practice.

"I [practice] Tuesdays through Saturdays, and then I sometimes go Mondays," Chin-yi Kong said. "[Practice on] Saturdays are usually about three, four hours and Tuesdays and Fridays are two to three [hours.]"

Chin-ray Kong commends her sister on her independence and commitment to fencing.

"She always drives all the way down to San Francisco by herself," Chin-ray Kong said. "She's very diligent."

In a typical practice, Chin-yi Kong works on sharpening her skills for competition.

"I'll have a private lesson working one on one with my coach beforehand, which is about 40 minutes," Chin-yi Kong said. "For group classes we do running and then we do some physical exercises, sometimes stations and then we suit up and fence."

Fencing requires a multitude of different skills, including technical maneuvers as well as timing and distance. In addition to utilizing those, Kong uses her own strengths to gain a leg up in competitions.

"I think when I'm in the zone, I have a really good feel

for what I did wrong. It just feels more fulfilling."

Chin-ray Kong also notices the time and effort her sister puts into the mental aspect.

"She definitely just became more independent [and] responsible as she went," she said. "[Chin-yi] started caring more about her mental state for fencing competitions, since fencing has been very stressful for her."

With such a packed schedule, Chin-yi Kong has had to learn to use her time wisely.

"I really, really try not to procrastinate," Chin-yi Kong

said. "If I have time in class, I'll try to get some other work done or if I'm flying somewhere over the weekend for a tournament, I'll do it on the plane but it's just really about using the time

that I have to get things done."

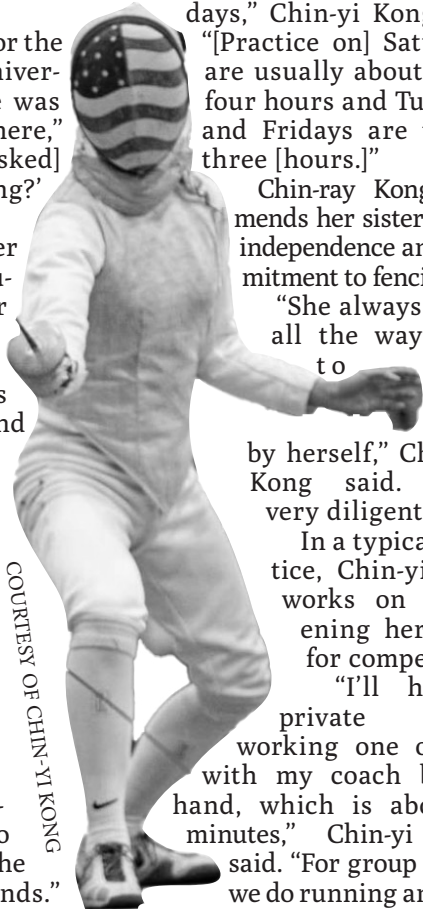
Chin-yi Kong's fencing success inspires the people around her.

"I'm really proud that she's done so well," said Chin-ray Kong. "She inspires me to try harder to

do the same thing."

Chin-yi Kong plans on continuing to fence at the collegiate level, and hopes to pursue any opportunities that may arise after.

It's really just reminding myself I'm doing this because I love it



COURTESY OF CHIN-YI KONG



Chin-yi Kong competes at a fencing tournament.

COURTESY OF CHIN-YI KONG

College recruitment season looms over student-athletes

Caroline Harger
SPORTS WRITER

For most student-athletes at Aragon, the end of high school can mean the end of their competitive athletic career. But for a handful of students, with hopes of competing in college, the work to continue their journey has just begun. June 15 marks the beginning of the college recruiting season for athletes in their junior year of high school.

While many believe that getting recruited is relatively easy for high-level athletes, the recruiting process takes a lot of work to stand out to coaches.

"You have to collect a lot of videos from training, get a lot of emails ready and organize all of your grades and transcripts," said junior and prospective college gymnast Gianna Thompson.

Staying on top of emailing college coaches is a major part of what athletes are expected to do in order to get, and stay, on coaches' radars. Once or twice a week, athletes send emails that can include game film, highlights and any other updates that they have to schools they are interested in playing for.

Oftentimes, however, coaches don't respond to emails that are sent to them, but athletes are expected to continue sending them frequently.

"It's just a waiting process," Thompson said. "You have to be really patient and see where the wind takes you."

Aside from sending emails and game footage, athletes have to maintain their grades in order to stand out. With several great athletes aiming for very limited roster spots, athletes with good GPAs tend to be more appealing to coaches.

"There's a lot of stress around making sure you are ... communicating with coaches and also getting your application done [for] the early decision deadline," said senior and long jumper Pia Cho.

High levels of stress are not uncommon for athletes who are going through their recruiting process, which can cause their performance to take a hit.

"I was really stressed out," said senior and University of Illinois women's gymnastics commit Eden King. "It actually caused me to have a really bad season sophomore year."

Furthermore, athletes feel the need to act in certain ways to impress coaches, often changing their true personalities to better appeal to others. This adds anxiety to an already

stressful process, because not only is one's play being judged, but also their quality of character.

"You kind of have to gauge how [coaches] think of you and what you think about them," Cho said. "And then there is the pressure of finding a place where you think you will fit in well."

College coaches often have specific standards for people they are interested in joining their team as they look for those who add to the preexisting team's community.

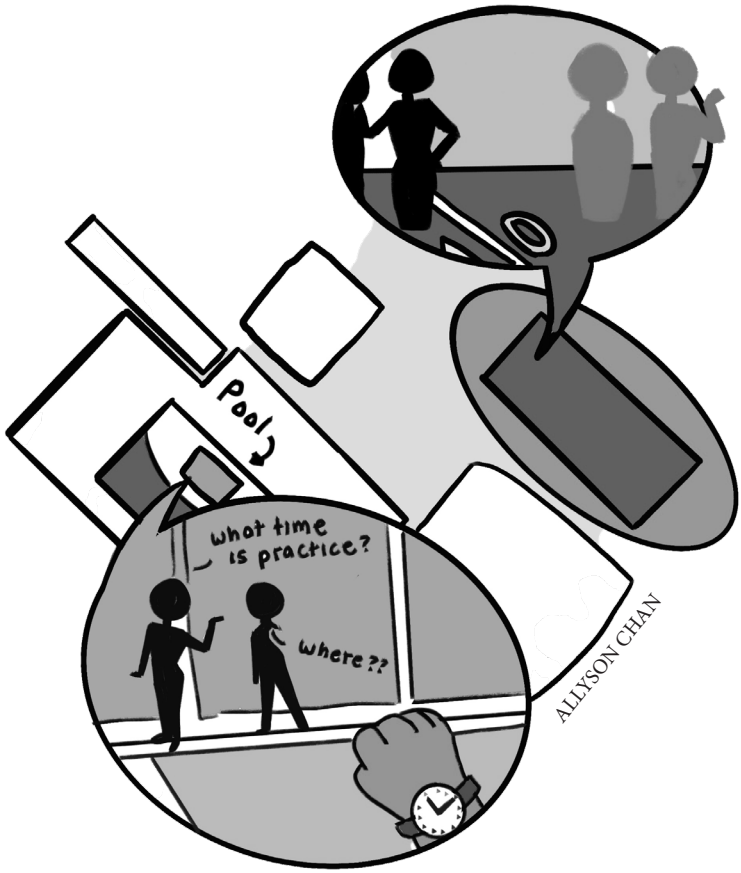
"It was really hard for me to determine what type of person each school and coach wanted me to be, and then try and fit into that mold," said senior and UC Davis girls golf commit Lequan Wang.

At the end of the day, most coaches recognize that the recruiting season takes a toll on young student-athletes. They often look to see if and how these athletes will overcome these tough times, as it can tell a coach a lot about that athlete's resilience. Pushing through despite adversity and

always continuing to be a good teammate, even in the face of personal struggles, can set apart good athletes from great ones.

The reward is when the time finally comes that a coach emails back or gives that athlete a call.

"It feels like all of the hard work you've put in has finally paid off," Wang said.



Teams juggle facility issues

Jack He
SPORTS WRITER

The Aragon athletics department is steadily expanding, although the same cannot be said for its facility space. Different sports are forced to share training spaces, leading to scheduling conflicts. Meanwhile, conflicts for other sports largely stem from factors such as delayed construction.

The flag football team is the newest addition to the athletics department, and the flag football players play on the same field that football players usually use.

"This is the first time we had to share the field with someone while we practice," said junior football player Zachary Floresca. "But [it] hasn't changed much besides when the practice happens."

However, head football coach Steve Sell views this potential setback as a learning opportunity for the football team.

"[Sharing a field] is a super positive thing for our football players," Sell said. "Especially to see how serious [the flag football girls] are, and to see how hard they practice and compete."

Sell also indicates that a second field will be beneficial for the students.

"Next year we'll have a second field at the old baseball field," Sell said. "[One team] can practice on the upper field, and [the other] can practice on the lower field ... so nobody will have to go [home] late."

While the football team adjusted easily to the introduction of flag football, the water polo teams had to put up with multiple construction delays, first for the resurfacing of the pool tiles and then for construction involving the filtration system. The repairs were not completed until the first week of September, well into the water polo season.

"We had no idea what was happening until the parents went to a board meeting and requested the district be more communicative," said girls varsity water polo coach Kielan Crow. "It was extremely frustrating for everybody: the coaches, the teams and especially the parents, who were frustrated with having an inconsistent schedule."

Senior boys water polo player Aryah Oztanir echoed Crow's sentiment regarding the pool situation.

"Earlier this year was quite difficult because ... we used different pools from other schools," Oztanir said. "We ended up having to bounce back from Mills to San Mateo for different days of the week. It was [especially] difficult for our JV members who didn't have a car to drive themselves, and traffic [was also an issue]."

The various issues that the water polo teams have had to work through have taken a toll on the amount of practice time and overall performance this season.

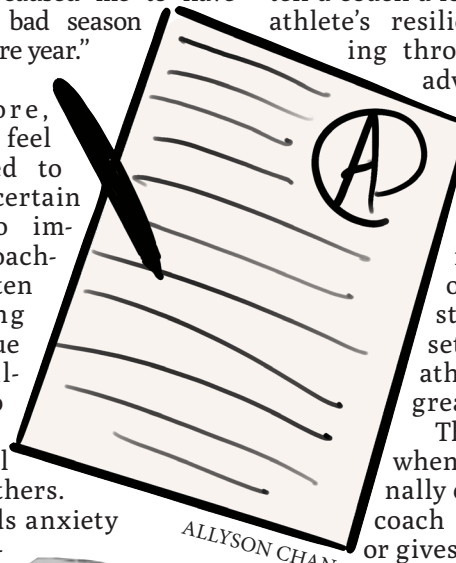
"On all fronts, it's essentially put us back by a month, out of the three months of the season," Crow said.

Despite the setbacks, both water polo teams expressed their strong resolve.

"We love water sports, otherwise, we wouldn't do the sport," Oztanir said. "The team is really tight with each other and we're a really close-knit community, so it wasn't as big of a deal in terms of how we practiced and how excited we were to practice. We were a little disappointed that our pool wasn't ready in time, but we got around it and we practiced nevertheless."

Aragon is reconstructing and refining parts of sports facilities, as seen with the flex field and the pool construction to avoid conflicts in the future.

You have to be patient and see where the wind takes you



ALEXA STERRY

Aragon football defeats Milpitas

Sora Mizutani
SPORTS WRITER

On Oct. 13, the Aragon varsity football team (6-1 overall, 3-0 Peninsula Athletic League) won with a comeback 36-20 against Milpitas (4-3 overall, 1-2 PAL) at home. Senior running back and outside linebacker Ivan Nisa, as well as the solid defense turned the tide of the game.

Head coach Steve Sell expected to struggle against Milpitas.

"Milpitas is tough, they've got a long history of playing good football," Sell said. "They're a dangerous team. They've got a similar record like ours 4-2, and they've got a really athletic quarterback, a good wide receiver, a good back and so they're gonna be a handful."

As expected, the Dons had a tough start with Milpitas scoring a touchdown at the end of the first quarter 7-0.

The second quarter opened with a great start, a 43-yard touchdown pass by senior quarterback Sean Hickey right into the hands of junior wide receiver and cornerback Josh Jacobs to tie the game.

Within two minutes, Milpitas answered with a long touchdown pass, retaking the lead 14-7.

Despite being behind, Nisa kept on carrying the ball, and Jacobs later made a tough mid-air catch with two Milpitas players colliding into him. Finally, the Dons were able to score a touchdown, and a penalty was called on Milpitas. The Dons decided on a two-point conversion, in which senior fullback Amaziah Tanielu scored with an inside zone drive (rush), giving the Dons their first lead in the game 15-14.

However, the Dons excitement did not last for long. With only 44 seconds left in the second quarter, Milpitas took excellent field position, scoring a touchdown from the 30 yard line. Aragon fell 15-20 going into halftime.

Entering the second half of the game, Aragon was unable to break through in the run game.

However, the Dons persistent attempts caught Milpitas's defense off guard. With Hickey scoring on a run with two minutes left in the third quarter, the Dons retook the lead 22-20.

"We've been getting really good play out of Ivan Nisa and Sean Hickey," Sell said. "Sean is playing a very good quarterback position. Very much a dual threat ... run the ball, throw the ball."

Their momentum continued to build in the fourth quarter,

with junior wide receiver and defensive back Conor Reidy catching a 23-yard pass at the edge of the sideline.

The Dons' defense forced a turnover at the 23 yard line directly led to another rushing touchdown by Nisa, separating the gap to 29-20 with seven minutes left in the game.

As Milpitas started to panic, they continuously forced their passes, leading to minimal advancements. At last, the Dons finished them off 36-20 with another touchdown by Nisa.

Although huge plays from the key players like Nisa and Hickey certainly contributed, small improvements also had great contributions.

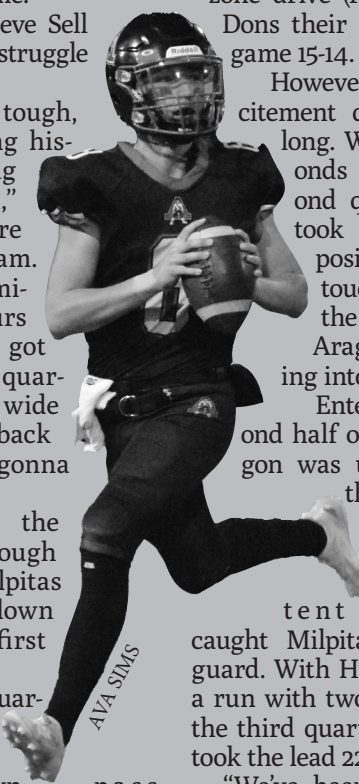
"I [hoped] that we could play a game that we could keep from making mistakes," said assistant coach Joseph Olive. "Simple mistakes that we've done in the past, and they actually preceded that, like on offense, jumping off sides. [Tonight,] we really cut down on our penalties ... [which] I was hoping for."

After a huge comeback, the Dons were already thinking about their upcoming matchups immediately after the match.

"Right now what is going through my head is Capuchino," said senior guard Fotumai'afe Taufa. "They're undefeated."

Aragon is currently tied with Capuchino for first place, with a crucial game against Capuchino on Oct. 26.

Their next game is Oct. 19th at 7 p.m. away against Terra Nova.



AVA SIMS

Volleyball triumphs

Phoebe Harger
SPORTS WRITER

On Oct. 10, the Aragon girls volleyball team (6-3 overall, Peninsula Athletic League) defeated Hillsdale (1-8 overall, PAL) in three sets at home on their Dig Pink night.

Despite getting the first point of the match, Aragon struggled to keep up with the Knights at the beginning of the first set. Midway through the set, the Dons trailed 10-16 before accurate kills from junior Sophie Rubinstein helped bring Aragon back into the game. Hits from freshman Caitlyn Robertson and sophomore Gabriella Xiao, as well as blocks from junior Shannon Bullard, helped secure

Aragon a close first set victory of 25-23.

"We definitely have to focus on starting the game off strong because it usually takes us a full set for us to settle in," Xiao said after the game.

Aragon went down in the first minutes of the second set before quickly making a comeback. Once again, Rubinstein carried the team with kills while blocks from Bullard and senior Leah Nai, who has a total of thirty blocks this season, stopped Hillsdale's hits from getting over the net. Despite strong balls from the Knights, the Dons' back line, including senior libero Kathleen Suayan, kept the ball off the floor with their aggressive

dives and digs. The Dons easily defeated Hillsdale in the second set, winning 25-12.

"In between sets I told the girls to come with a little bit more energy and be more focused and intentional on where they were hitting the ball," head coach Annette Gennaro-Trimble said.

In the third set, Aragon went down 4-0 before coming back after a fast five-point streak. The score stayed close for the majority of the set before the Dons scored eight consecutive points. With a score of 23-17, Rubinstein finished the game with two kills and Aragon won the third and final set 25-17.

The win against Hillsdale was rewarding for the team.

"It felt really good to beat Hillsdale again because they are our rivals and we put in a lot of hard work to prepare us for the game," Nai said after the game.

Players agreed that their teammates' energy helped them stay focused throughout the match.

"We were all cheering for each other especially when we were doing really well during the game," Bullard said. "I just love the sense of teamwork and the energy we have."

Gennaro is very proud of the girls, especially their close relationship.

"We're like a second family," Gennaro said. "The girls are very supportive and dedicated to each other."

Their next game is Oct. 19 against Sequoia at 5 p.m.



JORELL SAKAMOTO



Flag football comeback versus Burlingame 21-6

Charlie Henderson
SPORTS WRITER

The Dons varsity flag football team (6-1) defeated the Burlingame Panthers (3-4) 21-6 on Oct. 7 on Aragon's senior night. They celebrated their seven seniors, Angelina Alvarenga, Maya Yoo, Janelle Jee, Arianna Ventura, Nuria Lopez Adorno, Maya Pappas and Caroline Harger.

The Dons got off to a slow start, as in their first possession their drive stalled out in the red zone after a long completion from Harger to Ventura. On the ensuing drive by the Panthers the Dons let up a couple completions that situated the Panthers just outside the red zone. From that distance the Panthers struck on a 24 yard touchdown pass. After a failed point after attempt, the Panthers led 6-0.

The Dons' next possession looked promising, behind a few chunk plays by Yoo the Dons were marching right back into the red zone. But just like their previous drive they left the red zone empty handed. The Panthers got the ball back with just under three minutes left in the first half, and through the first few plays of their drive it looked as if they would put up points again. Inside the red zone with under a minute left Yoo came up with a

massive interception that kept the Panthers out of the end zone. At halftime the Dons trailed by six points and their red zone offense was stagnant.

Aragon wasted no time in their first possession of the second half. After a couple short gains the Dons scored on a 53 yard strike from Harger to sophomore Annalise Krause tying the game at 6. On the extra point attempt Harger connected with Yoo, giving Aragon a one-point lead over the Panthers.

The defense shone in the second half, and it all started with an interception by freshman Amelia Ortiz. The interception gave the Dons possession on the Panthers' half, and set up a short drive for the Dons that ended in a touchdown run by Yoo. The Dons, up seven points, later extended the lead to eight after Harger and Pappas connected on the extra point attempt.

On the next Panthers possession the Dons clamped up on defense again. An interception by junior Quinn Shirley put the Dons in Panthers territory for the second straight time. With a one possession lead and the ball, the Dons needed to put more points on the board. Again, the Dons turned to Yoo, who ran into the end zone off of a short yardage pitch play to extend the Dons lead to 14. Another pass from Harger to

Pappas resulted in a successful extra point attempt and put the Dons up 21-6.

After the score, Burlingame got the ball back with a small sum of time left on the clock. But for the third time in a row the Dons' defense picked off the Panthers quarterback, the interception was Ortiz's second pick and the Dons' fourth of the game. The Dons then ran the clock down and walked away with a 21-6 comeback win over the Panthers.

The Dons are 6-1 overall, an impressive record for a team playing a sport together for

the first time ever. Adjusting to the sport has been surprisingly easy for the Dons, and after their week one loss to Carlmont the Dons are on a five game win streak.

Coach David Yoo attributes their quick adaptation to the game of flag football to their athleticism and intellect.

"They're all athletes, every single one of them," David Yoo said. "They also all ... can learn anything quickly that has helped them pick up the game."

The team joins thousands of female athletes across the state in the California Interscholas-

tic Federation's inaugural girls flag football season.

"We feel really proud of our school and proud that we're making history," Maya Yoo said. "We just want to set the tone for younger players and inspire younger girls coming up after us."

The Dons look to extend their win streak through their last three league games, and hope for a second shot at the undefeated Carlmont Scots in the playoffs.

Their next game is Oct. 25 at 5:15 p.m. against Wodside at Sequoia.



Senior Caroline Harger prepares to throw the ball.

VICTORIA SANTANA

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Girls water polo



Daryn Schell (12)

52 GOALS
11 ASSISTS
26 STEALS

Boys water polo



Olin Gawel (12)

LEADING SCORER
AND DEFENSIVE
PLAYER

Golf



Hannah Lin (10)

SCORED
LOW SCORE
(39) IN PAST
FOUR GAMES

Boys cross country



Luke Novak (10)

3RD FASTEST
AHS VARSITY
RUNNER

Girls cross country



Dylan Lee (10)

1ST OUT OF 115 AT
RAM INVITATIONAL

Tennis



Lian Wang (11)

MOST WINS IN
LEAGUE
80% WIN RATE

Flag football



Kate Ramseyer (10)

EXCELLENT QB
LEADING TEAM
TO SUCCESS

Football



Amaziah Tanielu (12)

VERSATILE
TEAM PLAYER
SCORER

CHECK OUT MORE ON
OUR WEBSITE
[ARAGONOUTLOOK.
ORG/SPORTS](http://ARAGONOUTLOOK.ORG/SPORTS)



Photos courtesy of respective athletes