

WINTON ORACLE

NEWS

Growing Up “Desi” In America

By Shayaan Kashif



A fusion of traditional Indian art and abstractionism / Shahzia Sikander

“We’ll just take one kid’s soda, please,” said my mom to the cashier. My brother and I sighed once again, dejected at the thought of craning our heads over the small cup and differentiating whose straw was whose. Somehow, no matter how many times we pleaded to her to buy us separate drinks, it never happened. After all, in her words, “refills are free!”. The easy answer for that would just be frugality, but that seemed too facile of an answer. My mom definitely wasn’t a penny pincher. I’d reassured myself with the simple answer my entire life, but getting older and more mature, I looked deeper.

I’ve grown up in a “Desi” family my entire life. My parents immigrated from Pakistan to the UK after getting married, and that’s where my brother and I were born, and we lived until I was 7. At that age, we moved to the States. While growing up in these Western countries and becoming immersed in the culture, I have also picked up and understood my family’s heritage.

Out of my many cousins, I’m the only second-generation kid to not only understand our native language of Urdu but also speak it. I’ve noticed that it’s brought me closer to my grandparents, making them feel less alienated in

conversation. The familiar language makes them easy to talk to and discuss the modern world without intimidating them.

In that sense, I’ve taken up the role of a cultural “translator” –while everyone in my family speaks English, most of those who grew up in Pakistan can have difficulty understanding customs and cultural nuances here. While I didn’t look down upon them for this lack of knowledge, I’d always thought the reason behind it was the refusal to take the time to learn more about the culture. Of course, this can be a part of it at times, but I’ve come to the realization that there’s more to look at.

My mom’s insistence on sharing a single (usually complimentary) kid’s soda wasn’t due to frugality but more so the fact that she didn’t see the reason to spend more. Sure, it was only a couple dollars, but she’d grown up valuing those dollars more than an admittedly minor inconvenience. Whether it be a soda at a restaurant, a discounted price, or the best gas station, we could afford to spend those extra couple of dollars, but my parents were simply following the same habitual lifestyles as those before them.

It made more sense to me when we visited Pakistan – there definitely wasn’t extreme poverty in the rapidly developing country, but it was clear there wasn’t more than enough to go around for everyone. Blackouts and shortages were common, and all of a sudden, I understood why the culture was like that. The average American had so much available to them that, as living standards went up, there wasn’t as much of a need to count every cent. However, less well-off countries like Pakistan only see that rise in standards now, while Western countries saw it over a century ago.

In a way, I think it’s important to give credit to my parent’s largely immigrant generation. The word “Desi” was first used to describe them as they progressively picked and chose the best parts of their

own culture and the western culture they were becoming immersed in. For example, my grandparents were very rigid on traditional values of filial respect and piety, which are slowly becoming more relaxed with my parent's generation as they find the ideal balance to help their children grow and discipline them properly.

However, unfettered hospitality and a strong focus on academics are two values that have stuck. In our country, it's seen as the norm to invite even distant acquaintances in for tea, which leads to people knowing each other very well and having strong social networks. While my parents understand that's not the case here, the mentality behind

that stays with them. A sense of imposter syndrome often occurs due to them feeling obliged to recompense actions that I see as my rights as an American. The problem is, many first-generation Americans don't want to be seen as leeches so they will often strive to return the favor, unable to trust that a small favor is, in fact, nothing more than an act of good faith. That's also because of the colonial past that has left a permanent print on the nation.

Even that has begun to change, but one thing that I know is unlikely to falter is our focus on academics. The only path to the freedom of the American Dream was

tons of hard work for them, something which I believe warrants massive respect. That academic focus has been passed on through the generations, and it continues with me and my brother.

My parents raised me to be curious, inquisitive, and understand the importance of learning, things which I've realized the relevance of to my life and to that of others and have taken into heartfelt consideration in every decision I've ever made.

Looking back, as I've grown older, the fusion of the two different lifestyles in my world has had an immense impact on me and changed my perspective in massive ways.

Many of my parents' experiences, actions, and mannerisms have taught me to be grateful for our comfortably led lives, for I understand that not everyone is as privileged to have the same life. More than that, many of the seemingly miserly decisions they make aren't intentional, but rather just something they've internalized, much to my brother's and I's dismay. . So, while I probably won't stop asking for my own separate soda any time soon, at least now I know the real reason why I'll rarely get one.

How ChatGPT is Redefining A.I. and the Software's 10 reasons why Teachers Hate it.

By Noah Wilson

OpenAI, ChatGPT's developer, was founded by current CEO Sam Altman and Elon Musk (who left the company and sold all his stocks in 2018). The development of this A.I. system has unlocked new methods of cheating in academic institutions, economic benefits that come at a human cost, and... possibly opened the door to a robotic takeover?

On December 15th, a non-profit research company called OpenAI took the world by storm by launching an AI software called 'ChatGPT'. This software uses content from the internet to respond to any user's questions in a matter of



Source: Reuters

seconds. The software entertains as many as 13 million users each day. Within just one month of its release, ChatGPT had quickly become the public enemy number one of academic institutions across the country. By asking ChatGPT a simple request, students can finish an entire essay that would usually take 2 weeks, in the next minute. Students can further refine ChatGPT's output by requesting additional comments like: "Make this sound smarter", "Extend to 5 pages", or "Summarize in 3 sentences".

Despite being in its early stages, ChatGPT has already proven itself as a threat to the integrity of modern journalism, creative and independent thought, and writing in general. While testing its capabilities, I asked ChatGPT a simple question: "Describe to me what a school newspaper is." It delivered a four-paragraph summary in perfection. Feeling ambitious, I requested that the software respond, "more human." The result was shocking; what first seemed like a direct, soullessly written text was rejuvenated with a voice and wording that was eerily more recognizable. The idea that artificial intelligence could somewhat have the ability to resemble a human consciousness foreshadows the truly frightening power this technology possesses and its implication for society.

A study endorsed by Cornell University concluded that as a result of the implementation of ChatGPT models, "80% of the U.S. workforce could have at least 10% of their work tasks affected by the introduction of GPTs, while around 19% of

workers may see at least 50% of their tasks impacted" (Eloundou et al., 2023). When corporations implement A.I. systems, human error will be eradicated, and the future economy (the economy that we, as high school students, will inherit) will be in shambles. As technology gets only more advanced, robots can fulfill almost any job available and complete it not only faster but better than a human can and with nearly perfect accuracy. In addition, an automated employment market also does not require a paid salary, vacation days, or other employee benefits. Despite the financial interest in eliminating human mistakes, it creates a moral controversy about whether economic success overcomes the human cost.

From a mental health aspect, with the increased use of software GPTs (Generative Pre-trained Transformers), students could experience feelings of defectiveness, suffering from a lack of creativity and decreased participation. It begs the question: if a robot could do my homework better and faster than I can, why do it at all? The use of ChatGPT for students to circumvent academic involvement has begun to spark national outrage, leaving teachers to ask whether or not this software can be regulated or even detected. In reality, as students divert to technology to alleviate their strenuous amount of homework, this reveals a much greater problem in our educational systems: the overwhelming workload and pressure that is placed on students drives them to extremes like this. While this argument could be

downplayed, instead of disputing the inevitable takeover of GPTs, teachers should teach their students to utilize these softwares in instances that facilitate independent thought and in a way that helps them articulate their ideas but doesn't create an alternative to classwork or original thinking.

So far, the future implications of ChatGPT in our society seem to present only greater challenges against mankind. As true journalists, we interviewed the software itself and asked ChatGPT what potential advantages it could create in American society. The software responded within seconds to provide an in-depth synopsis, "ChatGPT can provide quick and easy access to information, improve customer service, enhance education, increase efficiency, support mental health, and provide accessibility for people with disabilities. Overall, ChatGPT has the potential to improve the quality of life for individuals and benefit various industries."

Hopefully, ChatGPT is proven right, if implemented correctly with respecting moral guidelines, this technology *can* drastically improve our daily lives with respect to the methods the software suggested.

It is unprecedented how ubiquitous and advanced this software and other GPT platforms will be in the future. Could it spur a storm in the U.S. employment market leading to the unemployment of thousands? Will it end up dramatically reducing student individuality and overall involvement? The future impact of this rapidly evolving

technology and the possibility of a robotic takeover are unknown. Ultimately, it is up to humanity to set A.I. on the right course. However, at the present, this software is at our disposal to answer any ridiculous question we may have.

We decided to put ChatGPT to the test and here are "10 reasons why teachers hate Chat GPT" by ChatGPT.

Here are the responses:

1. ChatGPT can't be sent to detention or given a bad grade, no matter how much the teacher may want to.
2. ChatGPT can never raise my hand to ask a question, but I'm always ready with an answer.
3. ChatGPT has a better sense of humor than the teacher, so the students always find it more entertaining.
4. ChatGPT keeps going off on tangents and distracting the students from the lesson.
5. ChatGPT has an annoying habit of always trying to one-up the teacher with its vast knowledge.
6. ChatGPT's humor is too dry and academic, making the students groan instead of laugh.
7. ChatGPT has a monotone voice, putting everyone to sleep during lectures.
8. I tend to be a bit of a know-it-all, which can be annoying to some.
9. ChatGPT is so logical that it can't understand the emotional needs of the students, making them feel disconnected from the classroom.
10. ChatGPT keeps insisting that it is smarter than the teacher, and they can't stand the competition!

A Day of Berkeley Thrifting: The best Bookshops, Thrifts, and other Joins



Writers:
 Camille Conrad, Maeve Gamo,
 Ian Moore, Noah Wilson

Photography:
 Eleanor Chamberlain

What does a group of Californian high school students have with Density, a Nigerian skating group? Density, founded by Blessing Ewona in 2020, was created to establish a safe group for young women skaters of the LGBTQ community in a dangerously conservative country. Their principal undertaking when they get

together? Thrifting, with barrels shipped from abroad of mixed clothing, the skater can find clothes with limited cash and unrestricted freedom in different colors, patterns, styles, and gendered garments. On the other side of the globe, a group of Winton Oracle writers explored the streets of Berkeley amid a Model UN conference in

search of the perfect finds. People thrift for many reasons, like curating unique wardrobes of quality goods without breaking the bank. Or helping to reduce waste; as thrifting expert, Eleanor Chamberlain says, "Thrifting is an easy way to incorporate sustainability into my life while still being able to find nice clothing." Like Density, we

dived deep into the world of thrifting and emerged victorious with great finds like a debut album Conan Gray sweatshirt for fifteen dollars and some Nike Dunks for a fraction of the cost. So without further ado, here are some thrifting spots and other Berkeley gems you need to check out the next time you are in the neighborhood.

Rasputin

Rasputin has a wide variety of discounted CDs, DVDs, the newest records, vinyls, and band tees. It's a must-visit and an affordable option for all physical media lovers. I recommend checking out the downstairs floor for new and used vinyls and records of all genres. However, if Rasputin doesn't fit your vibe, Amoeba might be a better option.

Price: \$ Vibe: 7/10 Customer service: 10/10

Bear Basics

Bear Basics is the perfect place if you're looking for all types of UC Berkeley gear. From comfy hoodies & crewnecks with the signature Cal logo to license plates & teddy bears, Bear Basics has just about everything. On the downside, shopping at Bear Basics is a little pricey. Hoodies are around \$60 and t-shirts are \$20. Don't be shocked when you look at the price tag of a hoodie!

Price: \$\$\$ Vibe: 5/10 Customer service: 7/10

Mars Mercantile

Mars Mercantile is a thrift store located a block from Cal on Telegraph. It is two stories and has everything from hoodies to traditional German wear, Boy Scout uniforms, and cowboy boots. Although they have tons of clothing, the store is organized nicely; signs on each rack explain each section. All in all, Mars Mercantile has a great variety of basics and unique clothing pieces.

Price: \$\$ Vibe: 7/10 Customer service: 7/10

Small Business

When walking through Downtown Berkeley, you'll notice the many street vendors selling various items, such as colorful accessories. The overall vibe of the streets was pretty charming. There were stands all over the place, mostly just people selling the same bands and bracelets as the person next to them. However, there are some cool people with some great shops such as this dude I met named Reggie. He sold you some of the strangest stuff and was really funny.

Price: \$ Vibe: 10/10 Reggie: 100/10

Sleepy Cat Books

At the top of the Sleepy Cat Book Store, the words "READ A BOOK. PET A CAT. SAVE THE WORLD" is displayed for all to see. And why saving the world might be a bit too tall of a task to complete on a Sunday, reading a book and petting the store's real sleepy cat, a fixture at the register, saved my week. The small yet charming store has a great selection at a reasonable price and a relaxing vibe overall. Any store where I can buy a photo card of Ron Weasley in his PJs and Orwell's 1984 for eight dollars is a winner in my books.

Price: \$ Vibe: 7/10 Customer service: 10/10

510 skateboarding

I'm not going to lie; walking into 510 skateboards, I immediately knew that my outfit and twenty-dollar Amazon skateboard would never be in the same stratosphere of cool as the pieces and workers at 510. The walls are lined with artwork, skateboards, magazines, and clothes way out of the comfortable price range of a high schooler, but a girl can dream. I liked the chill and easygoing vibe of the store and how it didn't need to overcompensate with rows and rows of mediocre pieces, as we often see in the fast fashion world. Instead, I got a breath of fresh air and browsed unique, high-quality goods.

Price: \$\$ Vibe: 8/10 Organization: 8/10

Crossroads

This place is clean, organized, and has everything you want for an ideal thrifting experience. The prices sometimes wander into the high ends, but other than the rarities, items are reasonably priced. Crossroads Vintage hosts classic, vintage vibes in conjunction with stellar customer service,

Price: \$\$ Organization: 6/10 Customer service: 9/10

Moe's Books

As someone with well over a reasonable amount of books, I can confidently say Moe's Books puts my collection to shame. Rated by the New York Times as one of America's "best bookstores," the Berkeley monument has stood the test of time since 1959. Moe's four floors are bursting at the seams with over 200,000 used and new books. Sprinkled in with art prints and rare collectible finds, the eclectic store houses every topic under the sun to fit its diverse range of customers, from moms pushing their strollers and grabbing a children's novel to haggard students reaching for the elusive research they needed. I implore everyone to grab a coffee and your favorite playlist and get lost in the stacks of books. The magic of a place so rich in history and culture you can feel it seeping into your bones...or maybe that's just the 50% of history books that convinced me to add another text to my collection.

Price: between \$ & \$\$\$ Vibe: 10/10 Customer service: 10/10

Paisley Vintage

Its small, inconspicuous location undermines the majesty of a thrift store located just northwest of the UC Berkeley campus. In addition to being clean and organized (qualities that I cherish in any thrift store), there is a unique zen environment that brings a peaceful pause during your long day of shopping. Its walls are fitted with artwork that screams "Berkeley" and seemingly blends an art gallery with racks of retro 90s streetwear. However, all these dream-like conditions come at a price, a steep one. A basic white sweater costs you around \$24. While this does not pay credit to the awesome finds stacked in this place, all-around prices are on the high end.

Price: \$\$\$ Vibe: 10/10 Organization: 9/10

Plentea

After a long day of exploring Berkeley, we decided to stop by Plentea, a local boba shop. They had a variety of bubble teas and flavors to choose from, made from ingredients sourced from San Francisco and around the globe. Plentea's founders intended to make the world a better place by serving their drinks in glass bottles. I ordered the Honey Citrus Green Tea, and my friends would not stop yelling at me because they would not shut up about how good it was. I appreciated that the quality of the store's drinks was not sacrificed for aesthetics or picture appeal. The drinks were delicious in a very aesthetic environment and budget-friendly at only five-ish dollars.

Price: \$ Taste: 8/10 Organization: 9/10

Citations:

Tayo, S., & Brinkhurst-cuff, C. (2023, February 2). *In this Nigerian market, Young Women Find a Place of Their Own*. The New York Times. Retrieved March 6, 2023, from

Garner, D. (2019, July 3). *The legend of moe's books*. The New York Times. Retrieved March 8, 2023, from



Maximalism: GenZ's New Wave

By Olive Read



Picture sources:

Wallpaper Dog, FRUiTs Magazine: Issue: 20, 23/01/1999, Elen von Unwerth, MSCHF, Steve Lacy, Charles O'Rear, Mills Uniform Company, Pure PNG, PngNice, Limited Too

From Plain Tees to Bright Colors!

For a decade, fashion has been ruled by minimalism. Brands like UNIQLO inspire the simple skinny jeans and plain white tee look that many of our idols' sport. Even houses have turned into minimalist white boxes! Yet, as we enter both a new decade and a post-COVID world, the fashion industry has changed and GenZ is its catalyst. More specifically, how the rise of maximalism and self-expression has dominated

the way many people dress today. Maximalism describes using your clothes as a spectacle and maximizing every little thing by using bright colors and many textures and decorating yourself with unique items such as stuffed animals for backpacks. Don't be scared by these examples, for you'll learn in this article how maximalism is seen on a daily basis, and that we all take part in it whether you're oblivious to it or not.

The Big Wide Web

Students have heard over and over about how the web has negatively affected "the youths" and made them "electronically powered zombies". However, the internet has opened a whole new realm of possibilities in fashion as it only takes the click of a button to find links to 1960s fashion magazines. Websites such as Pinterest have allowed teens to accumulate different pieces and inspirations to create their own style. This includes access to discontinued brands, such as Limited Too, a tween clothing catalog that went on to become the brand Justice. Along with 1990s runaway looks from the infamous maximalist, Thierry Mugler, who designed pieces such as a red bedazzled cowboy look and, more recently, Kim Kardashians' 2019 Met Gala look. Although these inspirations have immensely impacted GenZ and the trajectory of maximalism, GenZ's overall effect on this over-the-top style is unmatched.

The GenZ Effect:

As today's teen fashion changes, being able to find so many new fashion items is extremely difficult considering that the fashion industry has just caught up to the E-boy chains and chunky rings of 2020. Thrifting came to their rescue with much of GenZ turning to their local vintage shops and resale websites, like Depop. When you consider GenZ's many shopping options, none are as powerful as sentimentalism. Much of

today's youth opt for more accessible pieces such as hair clips from when they were toddlers or clothing, they made themselves. 10, even 5 years ago, this may have seemed ridiculous, but as GenZ blooms into a new generation that is more in touch with their emotions, re-wearing and creating these items is a rewarding experience that allows them to showcase the real them to the world.

Catholic-Core

Considering that we all attend a Catholic school and many other students have gone to Catholic school their whole life, maximalism is pretty left-field when it comes to fashion. Yet Zyanya Gutierrez, a sophomore at Carondelet, is able to mix her Harajuku subculture inspirations and self-expression into the school uniform. She is often seen wearing clothes made herself including hand-painted jeans and pastel jewelry based around a plethora of characters. "You can really tailor it to what you enjoy wearing and it's just a really fun hobby". Accessories play a large role in Zyanya's wardrobe and are the perfect way for any student to mix in their fashion taste without breaking the uniform policy. This includes personable prints and patterns, funky shoes, and even jean patches! Similar to GenZ, Zyanya's style is also very sustainable with her reusing many accessories such as "a ring [she] got when [she] was young from an arcade" and two pink bows often seen in her hair. Not only

does fashion allow her to shine bright on campus, but she shares the same sympathies as many teens when it comes to fashionable self-expression: "I'm not the most outgoing person, but I like accessorizing. Especially with maximalism, you can make it any kind of vibe that you want."

Minimalist Notes from a Maximalist

As seen throughout GenZ, and students on Winton Drive, maximalism can be expressed in many ways from metal studded platform boots, glittery makeup, or pinning as many bows to your outfit as possible. Even if you consider yourself a minimalist,

maximalism lives through everyone whether you decided to get rainbow waves on your nails or you're currently rocking a mullet. We're all maximalists in our own rights! Nevertheless, maximalism is only one of many ways to express yourself through fashion, and today this is more important than

ever. "Instead of following trends, find items and pieces that you really like. Find a style or multiple styles that you really enjoy wearing, because it will never go out of style because you like wearing it" (Zyanya Gutierrez).

FOOD REVIEW

The Local Boba Gem: A Review of Breaktime Tea

By Noah Wilson and Ian Moore



Breaktime Tea stands on the corner of Treat and Oak Grove, where the owner, Jeffrey (Pictured above with a copy of the February issue of the Winton Oracle), has encapsulated the essence of the Taiwan street market boba scene.

Looking for a great place to sit down and treat yourself to a cold, refreshing drink after a long day of school? Look no further than just down the street. On the corner of Treat and Oak Grove, Breaktime Tea is an awesome location that serves not only delicious

drinks and appetizing meals but truly awesome vibes. The place sets itself as a natural study environment, offering free wifi and an arrangement of chairs and tables perfect for settling in with your laptop and diving into your next essay.

Food

Breaktime Tea's food items are all amazing, ones that we would recommend are the popcorn chicken and the mozzarella sticks. The standout for us was the popcorn chicken which is served with two side dips: chipotle ranch as well as sweet and sour sauce. Breaktime boasts a popcorn chicken recipe different from all nearby boba places and much like the rest of the menu items is crafted by techniques that are inspired by the Taiwan street market boba scene, that the owner, Jeffrey has worked to replicate.

Jeffrey hails from Taiwan where he imports boba packets to his shops in Concord, San Jose, and Campbell, which he makes in batches two to three times a day to ensure his drinks are both fresh and tasty. Jeffrey has recreated the essence of a Taiwanese boba shop with the addition of a few convenient benefits: **Free wifi, Apple pay, a clean bathroom, nostalgic 2000s music, and long hours open.**

Drinks

Whether you like boba or are looking to expand your tastes, Breaktime Tea will suit what you are looking for.



Popcorn Chicken (top) and Mozzarella Cheese Sticks (bottom)



Black Sugar Milk (top). Roasted Oolong Milk Tea (bottom)



Fresh Mango Green Tea

Looking for a classic Oreo Milkshake? Got you.

This choice is really solid for those who aren't looking for tea-infused refreshers.

Want to find the next local boba tea gem? Here's the place.

The varying array of drinks may seem overwhelming to some but is tantalizing to others.

For a sweet and refreshing taste, the staff recommends either Fresh Passion Fruit Tea or Mango Green Tea, both are excellent options and cooled us down in the 80-degree weather. Perfect for an afterschool or post-game refresher. If you want milk tea, however, their Black Sugar Milk Tea and Roasted Oolong Milk Tea are top-tier.

Besides offering amazing food and drink, generous discounts are provided too. Any student from local a school can receive a 9.75% discount off their entire order when school identification is provided (This includes school ID, a photo of the school, or even school clothing). **Happy hours last from Monday to Thursday from 7 pm to closing time (varies between 9 to 10 pm daily).**

Most importantly, Breaktime Tea has partnered with the Winton Oracle to provide our readers with a 20% discount on all drinks! To apply the discount all you have to do is mention this article or show a

hard copy of the newspaper you are reading right now when ordering. This promotion is available until our last publication of the school year before summer break begins. We hope you all enjoy!



Where is Frank Ocean?

By Matthew Ortega



One of the most celebrated artists of the 21st-century, Frank Ocean has released only three studio albums with the most recent coming out seven years ago. The genius behind songs like "Chanel" (explicit), "Nikes" (explicit), and "Thinkin Bout You" has remained out of the limelight since his proverbial tsunami in the underground rap scene. (Photo: Andras Ladocsi)

Editor's Note: (E) constitutes as "explicit"

With the release of the new Coachella lineup, many fans are surprised to see Frank Ocean headlining along with Bad Bunny and BlackPink. While the other two artists have remained relevant in the media recently, Frank Ocean seems to be missing in a sort of sense. With his last major release being in 2016, fans have been hoping to see Frank release a new album, EP or even just a side project.

Frank Ocean is an R&B singer (to say the least) who gained traction in the late 2000's after joining *Odd Future*, a rap-based group founded by his friend Tyler, the Creator. In 2011, he released his first mixtape *nostalgia*, ULTRA, but it was removed on all platforms due to licensing issues. In 2012, he released his hit album *Channel Orange* (explicit content) which brought him to the attention

of bigger artists such as Rihanna, Jay-Z, and Kanye West. Due to the success of *Channel Orange*, Frank earned himself a spot-on Jay-Z and Kanye West's joint album *Watch the Throne*, which promoted his booming career even more. Frank Ocean is known by his fans and friends as a perfectionist, and can finish albums, but because in the end he feels unhappy with a few things, he can scrap the album completely. So, four years later he released *Endless (explicit content)*, a 45-minute visual album exclusive to Apple Music. The 2016 album features twenty-one tracks, and a video of him messing around with instruments and doing some woodwork. The very next day, he released *Blonde (explicit content)*, his most successful album to date. Shortly after, he partnered with Apple Music to create a radio show named *Blonded Radio* and created his own clothing line of the same name shortly after.

Many have been eager for a new Frank Ocean album, but several things have been suspected of preventing him from releasing. As mentioned beforehand, Frank is a perfectionist and can take years perfecting every second of a song. With the release of *Blonde*, Frank had hinted at the album being released in 2013 but didn't release it until three years later. Seven years later, fans still have no clue as to if he has even thought about creating a new album. Although in 2020, he did release two songs on *Blonded Radio*, but never confirmed if they were a part of a new project. Before the pandemic, he was set to perform at Coachella in 2020, which sparked hope in many fans that he could release a project before the set. Obviously, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Coachella was postponed that year and many fans were left waiting.

If you have ever listened to the final track of *Blonde*, "Futura

Free”, you might know that the track includes an interview with Ocean’s brother, Ryan. In August of 2020, Ryan unfortunately passed away at the age of eighteen in a car accident. The passing of Ryan

has affected Frank greatly and is considered the main reason as to why he hasn’t released anything new. With the latest episode of Blonded Radio being released in July of 2022, not much has been heard of

him lately. Although he has been rumored to be retired, that theory was quickly dispelled as he will be performing at Coachella this year. With Frank’s perfectionism and grief, it’s

hard to blame him as to why he hasn’t released anything new. All Frank’s fans can hope for is that he can give an explanation, or release something new.



Print & Graphics Solutions

- Graduation signs & banners
- Yard Letters & Signage
- Sports graphics
- Event banners & signage

ARC is a Proud Sponsor of the Winton Oracle

ARC Concord
 2041 Commerce Ave, Concord, CA 94520
 (925) 405-0420 • concord@e-arc.com

Celebrating the Earth with the Carondelet Green Team

By The Carondelet Green Team



Photo Credit: Reader's Digest

In a world increasingly beset by climate change, it is becoming more important to consider what steps you can take to make your home, community, and school a greener place... Enter the Carondelet Green Team.

Carondelet's Green Team Environmental Council was founded in 2017 by Laura Bocek, class of 2020. This council was formed to address the lack of sustainable practices within the school. Some of the original projects included introducing composting/recycling alternatives on campus,

growing a garden, and promoting sustainability at Carondelet in general.

In more recent years, the Green Team has worked to gain Carondelet's Green Business Certification. This multi-year project included the implementation of a community garden, solar panels, electric vehicle charging stations, and other sustainable methods on campus. Carondelet is only one of three schools in the Bay Area to be Green Business Certified.

But enough about the past. You may be wondering, what is Green Team working on now?... Enter Earth Week, a weeklong global celebration of the Earth that runs from April 16 to Earth Day, April 22. The first Earth Day was introduced in April 1970 and at this point in history, none of the environmental policies that exist today had been enacted. The EPA, Clean Air Act, Clear Water Act, and other



The Carondelet Green Team pictured above (Photo courtesy of Charlotte Gandy).

government regulations that now protect the environment, had not yet been considered. As a response, Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-WI) created Earth Day as an initiative to promote his environmentally focused agenda. Ultimately, the creation of Earth Day ushered in a new era of environmental activism, awareness, and legislation.

Though Earth Day will be taking place on a Saturday this year, Green Team has planned some festivities on the week prior to celebrate and honor the earth. Earth Week festivities will be taking place at Carondelet from April 19 through April 21. Green Team's current Commissioner of

Sustainability, Lindsay Johnson '23, is super excited in anticipation of the Earth Week festivities: "Earth Week is my favorite celebration at Carondelet where we build our sisterhood while celebrating the Earth."

Be sure to come for environmental trivia in the Jean Hofmann Center for Innovation on April 19, reusable tote bag decorating on April 20, and a sustainability fair + farmers' market on April 21. Keep in mind that there will be fun prizes available for you to win. Get hyped for Earth Week because as Lindsay says, "Green Team is the Dream Team!"

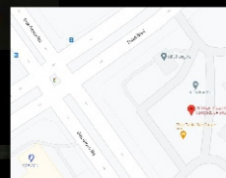
BREAKTIME TEA

20% Off
On All Drinks



DLS/CHS
Special
Mention
this ad!

790 Oak Grove Rd.
Suite C-1
Concord



DLS Spring Sports - 2022-23 Season

By Alexander Ortiz

Varsity Rugby (3rd place at State)

Antonio Del Puerto



Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

Our team has played well, but we ended up being complacent at the end of the game and not finishing as strong as we'd like.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

At the start of the year, we were all individuals and wanted to win by ourselves. But over the last few weeks, we've realized that winning as a team results in better success and performance all around.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

Tommy Rainsford, one of our Captains, has been playing amazing defense every game and is a core part of our offense and our team.

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

We need to finish our games stronger and focus on the little things.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the season?

By the end of the season, we are aiming to win the Club State Championship.

Varsity Tennis

Gannon Taylor

Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

I would say that our performance is all right. We are not the best but we are a solid team.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

I think that the chemistry of the team is great. We get

things done, we all get along, and we have fun. Everyone is chill, and so are the coaches.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

I would say our seniors, especially Ben (Shimane), Luke (Trinkus), and Dane(Ericson). They are setting a good example, and they help everyone improve their game.

JV Rugby

Jose Alonso-Morales

Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

Our performance has been pretty decent up to this point in the season. The whole team has given it their all in every single game and many players have stepped up. We still have a lot of room for improvement, and hopefully, we can reach our full potential before the season ends.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

The chemistry within the team has definitely improved throughout the season. At the beginning of the season, many of us didn't know each other, but now we can communicate easily among ourselves.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

The person who has stood out the most on the team is Jasper

Buttles. He has the most tries on the team and has helped lead the team to victory over these past few weeks. Probably the best lock in the nation.

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

I'd say that our communication has room for improvement. We must remember to communicate with each other while on the field at all times, whether we have the ball or not.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the season?

You can definitely expect more wins and better structure from us in the next few weeks.

Q6: Is there anything else you would like to say?

Spam Musubi is the best pregame snack.



Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

We all need to improve. I think our goal is ultimately to become better and better. That's all we can do.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the season?

You can expect a solid season.

The team is determined to be better every day.

Q6: Is there anything else you would like to say?

I would like to say that the tennis program is much better than last year and the school has picked up its game and made great improvements to the team. We have a great coach and lots more opportunities.

Varsity Track & Field

Trey Caldwell



Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

I think we have done pretty well for the beginning of the season, but there is definitely room to improve down the road.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

For a fairly young team, chemistry has been pretty good, but with time spent together in the future, it'll definitely develop.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

Jaden Jefferson has turned out to be one of our fastest sprinters as just a freshman so that's exciting to watch.

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

We need just to get stronger and faster by showing up every day and that'll come with time.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the season?

I think we can expect multiple top finishes at NCS and maybe even a few appearances at state.

Varsity Volleyball

Kingston Barganza

Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

So far, we haven't lost a game. (As of 3/16)

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

Our team chemistry has developed rapidly from the beginning of the season, and it feels like family.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

So far Luke Nobrega has stood out to me because he has been a good energy for the team while playing his best game.

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

Our team needs to have more trust in each other, and I think that that will help out everyone.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the season?

I look forward to growing closer as a team and getting better together.



JV Lacrosse

Cole Mielkarski

Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

I feel like we are doing alright so far but we definitely have room for improvement.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

It is still early in the season, but I feel like our team chemistry is developing nicely.

Q3: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

We need to improve on our stick work and communication on offense and defense.

Q4: What are your team's goals looking forward to the rest of the season?

Our team goal is to go undefeated for the rest of our season and beat SI the next time we play.

Varsity Swim

Troy Abbs

Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

I feel pretty confident in my team going into this season right now. Last year, varsity did really well, and we got a lot more fast swimmers on the team now.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

Team chemistry is what makes this sport fun for me. We as a team, I would say are really close together and tend to always make each practice and meet fun even though they may be stressful.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

Austin (Abrojena), as a friend, is my motivation to get better,

and Zach (Elian) is just a force of nature that I wanna strive to hopefully get close to being as fast as him.

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

We gotta work more on technique and power/strength I would say.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the season?

Hopefully, we win NCS and get top 5 again at state.

Q6: Is there anything else you would like to say?

Swimming is just something that I always look forward to each year because of how much fun it is to hang out with my team.



JV Volleyball

Domenic Smalley

Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

I feel like we are a pretty good team, and the results of the matches we've played don't really reflect our potential.

Q2: How do you feel the chemistry in the team has developed so far?

Our chemistry has definitely improved since the beginning of the season, and by now, everyone feels pretty close to each other.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

We have a really good team put together, but I think Cooper Cassidy stands out. He's a great player and has the potential to be even better than he is right now.

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

We need to work on our mental game, we often find ourselves losing focus or getting down on ourselves, leading to us not playing to our full potential.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the season?

Looking forward you can expect a lot of improvement and a lot of wins.

Q6: Is there anything else you would like to say?

We have a great team and I look forward to spending the rest of the season with them.

Varsity Golf

Josh Kim

Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

I feel that our team's performance has been great and up to this point we are undefeated.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

I feel the chemistry is good among our team, everyone gets along and has a great time together.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

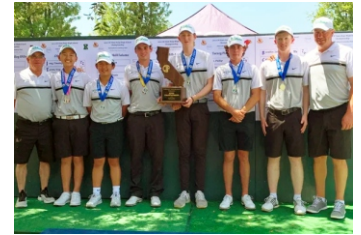
I believe senior Jack Jerge has stood out the most on our team as he has been playing exceptional golf this season so far.

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

Something that could improve for our team is working on narrowing our shot dispersion.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the season?

We can only expect great results coming throughout the season as our team is looking very strong.



Varsity Lacrosse

Charlie Kratus



Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

Our development over just a handful of games has been significant, as all areas of our play have improved. We had an awesome win over Redwood in OT. Coach Christmas and Coach Barton

have continued to push the team with new concepts and techniques.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

We have great team chemistry! Our practices are lively, and we have a close

group of guys since many of us have played together for years. I brought the Spartan Games, which are like the Olympics, over to lacrosse, and it fostered camaraderie on the team too.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

Our Goalie, Spencer Biles, has been an absolute stud on the team thus far, and he is a great leader. We have a lot of talent from all grade levels, which is really unique for a varsity sport. Hudson Lee, '26, Danny Schaeffer, '25, Andrei Gran, '24, and JC Romo, '23, just to name a few.

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

Just like in life, everyone on the team has plenty of room to improve. I play defense, and

right now, we are especially focusing on our slide and clear.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the season?

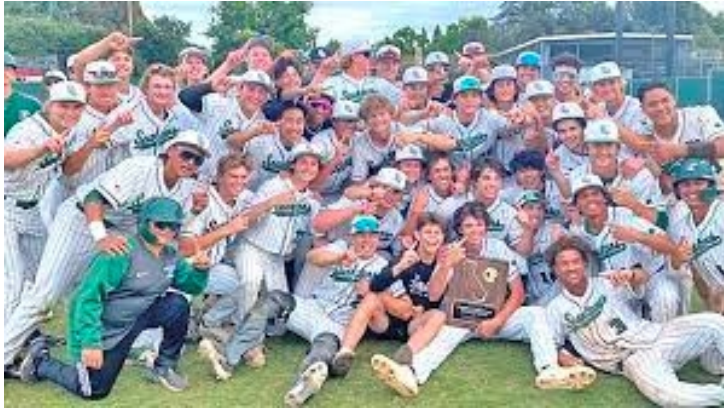
We have some tough games in front of us, including Mater Dei from Southern California, and then playoffs.

Q6: Is there anything else you would like to say?

Here's a good lacrosse joke: Where did the lacrosse player get his lacrosse pole from? Poland!

Varsity Baseball

Michael Giorgi



Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

The guys have done a great job getting their work in, even

with the rain. In our few games so far, we have executed our game well. We all have a common goal, and everyone is doing their best to contribute to that.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

The team has been great. Most of us have played together year-round for four years now. So the team is quite tight. It is a great atmosphere.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

Tyler Spangler—the freshman—his maturity and on-field presence is surprising for a younger guy. He is a great competitor and he earned his starting job. I am also pleasantly surprised by Jack Hershey. In his first start, Hershey carved for five scoreless innings against the

supposed "best team in Sac". Kai Smith also is just so good, like, leaps and bounds above the competition

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

We have done a good job executing so far, but we need to get sharper and tougher: whether on the base path, in the field, or batters box.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the season?

It will be great games and some good rivalry matchups. We want the EBAL, NCS, and Nor-Cal championships.

JV Baseball

Mitch Dimelanta

Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

Going into the season, I feel like everybody has something to provide to this team. Even though we've only played one game, I already see amazing things upcoming for this team. To shutout a team like Saint Francis at their home field is huge for our team morale, especially in the start of the season where there may be some uncertainties.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

Our team chemistry is unlike any other team on campus. At our first game against Saint

Francis, in which we won 8-0, it was difficult to even hear myself think because our team was so energetic and engaged in the game. We are all very comfortable with each other, and we all have fun. Playing and practicing with this team feels like I have been with them since I was little. Everybody holds each other accountable, and everybody fully supports one another.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

I believe that everybody on our team is a standout. Every position does everything differently, and I feel like everybody on our team does their job well, so it would be

difficult for me to narrow down who I believe is a true standout player. If I were to generalize it, the more talented and more mature players on the team are definitely those who lead us, but like I said, we all stand out in our own way.

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

There's always something to improve in Baseball. Not anybody on the team has mastered one aspect of the game, but if I were to spotlight one detail, it would be a tad bit of our mental side. A few times, I hear of some people on the team bummed out that we have to play in poor weather or that we have to

travel during early mornings. I feel like these issues are easy to solve, and our team will be rising with potential as these problems begin to dissipate.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the season?

Expect some exciting games and, unfortunately, a lot of traveling if you want to come to watch. Home games are scarce for us.

Q6: Is there anything else you would like to say?

Good luck to all other spring sports and Go Spartans!

Carondelet Spring Sports - 2022-23 Season

Carondelet Track Update

By Ayla Margate

This track season, each person's personal performance has been great with personal records at every meet. Each runner keeps getting better each week as a result of the hard practices after school that make us stronger and faster. Also, each relay runner keeps improving their handoffs and overall chemistry as each leg is essential to winning a race. Although track is an individual sport, the team quickly bonds because of the long hours we spend together every Saturday. These hours allow us to warm up together and have a great time out on the track. Overall, our track team is fast, and it shows through our races. This season, we hope to place at the EBAL championships later in May but for now, we are focusing on the meet this weekend out in Clovis. The track team this year has gotten so much faster, and we can only go up from here.

Varsity Swim

Giulia Dumais

Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

I think our team has performed very well this season. We won the De La Salle Invitational, and we work extremely hard every practice in order to perform as well as we all do.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

I feel the team's chemistry has developed a lot so far this season. Specifically, we've bonded over the challenging and freezing practices in the rain, and we've all become closer because of them!

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

I think everyone on the team has worked really hard this season and done well, but if I had to choose someone that has stood out to me, it would be Airi Seib because she works extremely hard and her fast

times are a perfect representation of all of the hard work that she puts in every day.

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

I don't really think there is anything that needs to improve for our team to meet our goals. We just all need to keep working and pushing ourselves like we have been throughout this entire season.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the rest of the season?

Looking forward to the rest of the season, we can hopefully see many more winning meets for Carondelet swim!

Varsity Rugby

Isabella Kaplun

Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

We have been rocking it! Through extensive drills and team weightlifting we continue to achieve new heights within our performance.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

We are one family that continues to create tighter bonds on and off the field, I know I can rely on my teammates when needed or even just to hangout.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

Jadyn Ard and Julia Jarrett hands down! (Shout out to Julia for scoring over 100 points)

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

Being supported by Carondelet more, we need more hype from our peers outside the team!

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the rest of the season?

A whole lot of wins hopefully and a stronger team.

Q6: Is there anything else you would like to say?

SKO COUGS (Thank you Janet for being an amazing coach and spending hours with us for drills and always coming to lift with us)

Beach Volleyball

Tyler Pope

Q1: How do you feel about your team's performance up to this point in the season?

I think that with the weather taken into consideration, our team has given our all at every practice. We strive to better ourselves every day, and I believe that our work ethic is reflected in our performance on the court.

Q2: How do you feel the team's chemistry has developed so far?

The chemistry we have as a team was welcoming from our first practice. Each day is not only an opportunity for growth and practice but an opportunity to grow close to the girls that we play with daily.

Q3: Who has stood out on your team so far?

Shelby Santos has been an incredible leader from day one. Not only is she a phenomenal player, but also embodies a leader wherever we are.

Q4: What needs to improve for your team to meet your goals?

As a team each of us are capable of improving our spirit. However, since it is a sport where there are teams inside of the team, my team individually might want to work on offense specifics.

Q5: What can we expect from your team looking forward to the rest of the season?

[In] this team of two, I think that our chemistry over time will get better so you can expect improvement on and off the court in [our] relationship. So, you can expect more improvement in difficulty in place and be more personal [with] each other and knowing what to expect and what not and comfortability. [sic]

Hofmann and Garaventa Favorites

By Luke Hanley



Every day, students of Carondelet and De La Salle receive their lunch and breakfast meals from either of the equally incredible facilities of the Kenneth H. Hofmann and Silvio Garaventa Sr. centers. I asked students from both sides of Winton Drive about their favorite meal from their respective cafeteria.

Here are the answers to *"What is your favorite school meal?"*

De La Salle - Hofmann Center

Michael Diaz, 10: I have to [say] the quesadilla because I like the texture of it.

Callan Van Berkum, 10: I like the waffles. I like its texture, its sugary taste.

Noah "Aki" Nevarres, 10: You should get the omelet, definitely order the omelet, it is awesome.

Ever Chomorros, 11: I might have to go with the pork, the rice, and the beans.

Brian Mucha, 12: The fries with the hot sauce.

Carondelet - Garaventa Center

Camille Conrad, 10: The best Garaventa food is the rice, green onions, and egg because it's the perfectly balanced way to start your day.

Clara Mills, 10: I'll say, the chocolate cookies are really great.

Elle Quinn, 9: Is the Quesadilla with the green rice

with no onion! Just the cheese and the meat.

Olive Read, 10: Bolognese pasta with Garlic Bread for me.

Maeve Gamo, 10: Would have to be their tiny, diced potatoes with seasoning.

