

The Westword

2024-2025 Staff

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Note from the Editors November 2024

Dear Readers,

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the Westword. We're honored to be a prominent voice in the Westhill community.

We come into this school year with a renewed focus on the sole purpose of the Westword: to serve the Westhill community. Our staff has grown to the largest size since 2020, and our social media presence has steadily increased, with our Instagram account (@thewestword) growing to 1,100 followers in September. We are so proud of these accomplishments, and we thank our unbelievably dedicated management team and staff from last year for getting us back on track.

However, at the end of last year, Mr. Wooley, a co-adviser, who had been with us for over 20 years, departed from his position at Westhill. We are immensely grateful for his unwavering support and dedication to our publication and wish him the best at Penn State, where he is now working in the School of Education.

In light of his departure, we welcome English teacher Mr. James Laber to the publication as a co-adviser alongside Mr. Michael von Wahlde, who returns for his 21st year with The Westword.

We're so excited to publish the first issue of the 2024-25 school year, where we have worked hard to delve into a variety of topics that affect the Westhill community.

Our News section focuses on Ms. Berkley's AP Government and Politics class and their tradition of holding a quadrennial "mock election", replicating the actual election taking place in the United States on November 5th. We also cover the "That's Amore" Italian festival and the "Garba" Indian festival that both took place at Westhill.

Following our News section, our Feature section focuses on the best way for students to balance extracurricular activities with academics: a struggle that affects many at Westhill.

Our Viewpoint section tackles two issues that affect many students at Westhill. The first article focuses

on the controversial district dress code and the ways it affects students, particularly minorities and females. The second article covers the new attendance policy at Westhill, speaking at length about the clashing opinions of teachers and students.

Our Limelight section focuses primarily on "BookTok" and the rise of romance media, along with articles on Westhill fashion culture, binge-able movies, and the strange tendency of *The Simpsons* to predict future events.

The Sports section focuses on seniors who have committed to colleges and features a collage of some of the best pictures taken by our photography staff.

We encourage any readers with comments, questions, or concerns to contact us by emailing us at westwordwhs@gmail.com. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Westword.

Sincerely,
Eugene Caibal & Mritika Omkumar
Editor-in-Chief & Associate Editor-in-Chief

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If you have an announcement or an advertisement you would like published in the next issue, please DM us on Instagram at @thewestword

Editorial Policy

The Westword will be guided in the publication of material by a concern for truth, human decency, and human benefit. It is published during the school year by The Westword staff, along with the Communications and Journalism classes. Letters to the Editor, advertising requests, comments, criticism, or suggestions are always welcome. The views expressed in Viewpoint do not necessarily represent the opinions of *The Westword*.

Announcements

The Westword has no announcements.

Front cover contributed by **Marybel Aguirre** / Reporter.
Back cover photos by **Eugene Caibal** (top/bottom left) & **Jamie Dasilva** (bottom right) / Editor-in-Chief & Contributors.