

MAR 2021

# TORNADO

magazine

## Map to the End of Semester

• Follow this map as the end of the year comes increasingly close.

HERBERT HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL

EXCLUSIVE

**Ryan Ebrahhamian**

*a Hoover High Story*

## March 2021

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## Editor's Note

After the warm receipt of our first issue, we are excited to release our second issue of the Tornado Magazine. During these past few months, we have been working remotely alongside Hoover's journalism staff on curating a student-friendly publication. We are excited to again share new stories with you and excited for all the potential stories we have yet to tell as we approach the last quarter of the 2020-21 school year. We hope this issue continues to add to the legacy at Hoover and influence future students to join our Ohana. Thank you for reading and we will see you soon with our last issue coming later this spring! Stay strong and safe!

The Editors,

Nooneh Gyurjyan and Sebastian Guzman

# Two Sides of the Same Coin

by **Sebastian Guzman** • senior  
co-editor of Tornado Magazine

Freedom. It gives one the ability to do anything and everything so long as time allows it. Amidst this global crisis, it has become easier to control our freedom despite living in an uncontrollable world where our future is unknown.

During these past few months during our 2020-2021 school year, there has been growing support on both sides to reopen schools and to remain campuses closed. By staying home, students are more capable of managing their free time as opposed to driving back and forth to school as one did a year ago.

Although the Glendale Unified School District has not released any information for high school students regarding a return to in-person teaching, it seems as though the district will allow some form of the on-campus experience to return this spring.

For now, thousands in the district remain online, which means that students follow a schedule unlike any other they have gone through before. For some, it has been more stressful, and for others, it has been a blessing to receive so much free time.

"A pro of online learning is having a lot more freedom with your classes," said Abby Valle, a junior at Hoover. "I can grab a quick

snack in between classes whereas if we were at school, I would head from one class to the other."

With a lunch period that spans seventy minutes, students have the luxury to relax at home or study for a test, or complete homework.

Although it sounds like an absolute luxury, there are some downsides to an online learning method that has yet to be corrected or addressed.

"There are a lot of cons," said Valle. "It is so hard to look at a screen for 80 minutes straight, and then go and do your homework that is also on

a screen."

This idea of being drained from being online is not a new or random occurrence.

According to the New York Times, "the growth of online education is hurting a critical group: the less proficient students who are precisely those most in need of skilled classroom teachers."

As a result, there is a large gap between students who are failing and those who are excelling unlike ever before. Even for students, who are typically high achieving learners like Valle and Emily Bejanyan, a sophomore at Hoover, there is a hard time distinguishing the home environment and online

learning.

"The most stressful thing is that there are no boundaries between school and home environment," said Bejanyan.

*"The most stressful thing is that there are no boundaries between school and home environment."*

*"It is so hard to look at a screen for 80 minutes straight, and then go and do your homework that is also on a screen."*

Part of the stress is the forceful demands from teachers to have cameras on at all times.

“There are days where the last thing I want to do is turn on my camera,” said Allie Price, a senior at Hoover. “It would be nice if teachers allowed for students to sometimes turn off their cameras for a moment to calm themselves and stay focused.”

According to a study by NBC News, “The survey last fall of more than 10,000 students in 12 U.S. high schools, found that students who’d spent time in the classroom reported lower rates of stress and worry than their online peers.”

It may seem like a wonderful idea for some to return to school, but others worry about the logistics of having a worthwhile end of the school year.

For seniors, some find that there is no point in returning when graduation is less than three months away. Seniors at this point are taking what they can get, even though it is not as traditional as years past.

“Although we do not have a normal senior year, an option of an on-field graduation and prom would be nice,” said Luke Baneham, a senior at Hoover.

Other students also feel like there should be more communication between the Hoover administration regarding mental health issues and senior events.

“I wish there were better ways to express my thoughts about everything, a more direct way to tell the administration how we all feel,” said Nooneh Gyurjyan, a senior at Hoover. “Teachers used to do ‘Wellness Wednesday’s,’ but even then it’s not a convenient situation to be vulnerable in.”

There is a lot of conflict of opinions between administrative staff and district officials and students who find both pros and cons of continuing a school year virtually. Some might even question whether or not students can manage their freedom at-home in an online environment or if they desire in-person assistance from teachers.

But if there is one thing everyone can agree on it is this, in the words of Valle, “you don’t learn the same as you would in a classroom.”

*“I wish there were better ways to express my thoughts about everything, a more direct way to tell the administration how we all feel.”*



# Map to the End of the Semester

by **Nooneh Gyurjyan** • senior  
co-editor of Tornado Magazine

Hoover students are a third of the way through their second semester this school year, senioritis has thoroughly set in and freshmen have adjusted to their first year of highschool online. Follow this map as the end of the year comes increasingly close.

## SPRING BREAK

### MARCH

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### OPEN HOUSE

### APRIL

			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



## AP EXAMS

### MAY

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## LAST DAY of SCHOOL

### JUNE

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	

### FINALS

## GRADUATION



# Editor's List of Most Anticipated Movies of 2021

by **Sebastian Guzman** ■ senior  
co-editor of Tornado Magazine

As many theaters lay vacant in the dark, the film industry remains hopeful that soon the day will come when fans can fill those empty seats and the aroma of popcorn may fill the air. How soon? Only time will tell.

Whether you catch a film on Netflix or another streaming platform, it is evident that people crave entertainment, especially during these lonely times. Luckily Hollywood is taking note of that. Studios like Warner Bros. and Disney are finding innovative ways to make streaming the future for cinema. Although they understand the theatrical releases will NEVER go away.

Today I have compiled a list of MY TOP 10 MOST ANTICIPATED FILMS slated to release sometime this year either on a streaming platform or in theaters, along with my 5 HONORABLE MENTIONS (release dates expected to shift\*)

## **1. Spider-Man: No Way Home** coming December 17

Being the first Marvel film to be released post-Wandavision, along with the rumors of a Spidey team-up with past Spidermen Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield, makes this an exciting entry in the MCU.

## **2. Halloween Kills** coming October 15

Michael Myers lives. The third entry in the Halloween franchise will be the bloodiest yet. The film teases the return of characters from the 1978 original.

## **3. Space Jam: A New Legacy** coming July 16

New world, new basketball star. This film has been tightly kept under wraps but teases an exciting sequel to an original classic (Check out the November Issue of Tornado Magazine to see what executive producer Sev Ohanian had to say about the film.)

## **4. Eternals** coming November 5

Diverse cast. Representation. New heroes, new worlds, and new technology. This film has everything it takes to make a big boom in theaters come November.

## **5. Fast and Furious 9** coming May 28

Every installment in the Fast and Furious franchise delivers on all fronts. It has action, cars, explosions, new locations, and break-out songs of the summer. Who's ready?

## **6. Godzilla V. Kong** coming March 31

This film is a two-hour boxing match between an ape and a lizard. Who doesn't want to see that? The film will release simultaneously, streaming on HBO Max and in theaters.

## **7. Venom: Let There Be Carnage** coming June 25

Woody Harrelson transforming into a villainous red version of Venom is what everyone wants to see, along with more of Tom Hardy as Eddie and his monstrous Venom.

## **8. Candyman** coming August 27

A female director takes on massive horror property. I'm here for it! Plus the film looks horrifying and brings modern themes to a 1990's classic reboot.

## **9. A Quiet Place Part II** coming September 17

How long can you be quiet? The film is another entry into this elusive world built by John Krasinski, and we are eagerly waiting to see it in a theater.

## **10. Concrete Cowboy** coming September 17

Idris Elba and Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair in Stranger Things) riding horses through a city and looking bad-ass are all we need to know. It looks extremely promising.

### HONORABLE MENTIONS:

- Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings : coming May 28
- Cruella : coming May 28
- Nightmare Alley : coming December 3
- Black Widow : coming May 7
- The Suicide Squad : coming August 6



Top (left to right): Space Jam, F9, Cruella  
Bottom (left to right): Halloween Kills, Godzilla V. Kong, A Quiet Place II, Concrete Cowboy, Black Widow

# COLLEGE CORNER

## Ms. T's Updates

### WHAT TO DO NOW:

- Create your CSAC Account to claim your Cal Grant: <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov>
- Begin creating your school portals and check off any to-do list items.
- Share your financial aid award letters with me so that we can review how you should proceed!
- SHARE YOUR ACCEPTANCES WITH ME SO THAT I CAN FEATURE YOU ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA!



- Follow the counseling IG: @hooverhighcounseling



### BOOK AN APPOINTMENT:

[HTTPS://TGUIRAGOSSIAN.YOUCANBOOK.ME](https://tguiragossian.youcanbook.me)

# a Hoover High Story

*a conversation with*

## **Ryan Ebrahamian**

**R**yan Ebrahamian, a former Hoover student from the class of 2016 talks with current Hoover seniors, Nooneh Gyurjyan and Sebastian Guzman about his memories of high school, the importance of heritage, “My Big Fat Armenian Family,” and much more.

by **Sebastian Guzman** ■ senior

### **The Pandemic Era**

Despite having a positive and thrilling attitude towards life, Ebrahamian shares many of the emotions that others, particularly students, feel amid the global COVID-19 crisis.

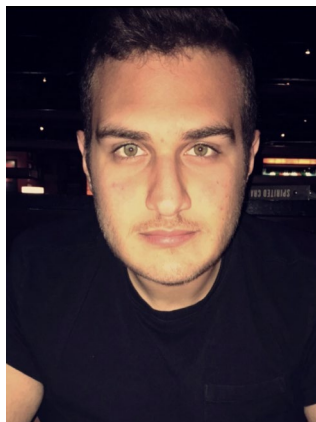
“I am not enjoying the pandemic,” said Ebrahamian. “I am not really a homebody since I like to go out and do stuff which we really cannot do right now.”

Fortunately for Ebrahamian, there are some benefits to being at-home: work.

“In terms of working in a pandemic, I love it,” said Ebrahamian. “It boosts the morale like having my dogs at home, being able to make my videos on my breaks.”

Ebrahamian works as an assistant editor for Hammer Creative, which currently does work, as he describes, “for video games, marketing, and trailers.” The company has been responsible for games such as Doom for PlayStation and more.

“I am basically in charge of editing smaller projects to work my way up to becoming an



editor, which is the reason I went to school for,” he said.

Although it has been an interesting experience, after testing positive for Covid-19 several months ago, Ebrahamian affirms that “staying positive” is the way to go.

### **Once Upon A Time At Hoover**

“I remember Ryan Ebrahamian fondly,” said Kari Vargas, an English teacher and ACSY advisor at Hoover.

Ebrahamian spent many of his years at Hoover getting involved.

“I was part of ACSY doing Relay For Life,” said Ebrahamian. “It is one of my most favorite memories ever because it was like a huge sleepover with your friends for 24 hours with activities.”

Vargas recalls Ebrahamian being “deeply passionate about Relay For Life.” As a member of the ACSY cabinet, he did not mind getting personal.

“He was always someone who wasn't



afraid to be vulnerable and prided himself on being someone who could use his creativity to help others,” continued Vargas.

Ebrahamian has since returned once to be a chaperone at Relay For Life, which now takes place annually at Hoover.

During his years at Hoover, he also sought to relieve his creative juices.

“I was in drama my sophomore year,” said Ebrahamian. Unlike other students, his love story with the performing arts came unexpectedly.

“I had a teacher named Mr. Saint, who sent us once on a scavenger hunt,” said Ebrahamian. “We would go to different classrooms and do different things and one of them was to go make a play, so I went to the theater room.”

It was then, after making his skit on-stage during a scavenger hunt when he met David Huber, the drama teacher at Hoover. Huber asked Ebrahamian if he would be interested in joining drama.

“So, I joined,” he said.

One of his first performances was during the One-Act Play Festival, an annual event for Hoover’s drama program.

“His quick wit and outrageous characters were a great addition to any improv game,”



Ebrahamian and Hoover Drama teacher Mr. Huber.

said Huber. “Ryan committed to this bit of physical comedy from the first rehearsal.”

Through the drama program, Ebrahamian was enlightened to make new friends. Although he was only in a drama for a short period of time, the next year he came back to audition for a Hoover drama production titled “Noises Off!”.

“It was a ton of fun,” said Ebrahamian. “It was a physical comedy so it was very physically challenging.”

Huber recalls “his character had to fall down some stairs.” Ebrahamian called one of the nights in which one of the steps of the stairs fell off “one of the best nights since the audience was so great.”

For Ebrahamian, comedy was a typical personality trait.

“A master in comedy!” said Huber.

Vargas recalls Ebrahamian “put a lot of energy and also a lot of humor into [Relay For Life].”

During junior year, Ebrahamian took pride in joining the yearbook class with yearbook advisor and English teacher Victor Mejia. He also participated once in a BGD skit.

“There are a ton of memories,” said Ebrahamian. “It’s crazy!”



Ebrahamian at his graduation from Hoover.

## **“My Big Fat Armenian Family” and Sev Ohanian**

“My thing back then was making videos with my friends,” said Ebrahagian.

Ebrahagian enjoyed watching and creating videos surrounding the Armenian culture. When YouTube was the only source of entertainment, Ebrahagian recalls the success of Sev Ohanian’s directorial feature, “My Big Fat Armenian Family,” amongst the local Armenian community in Glendale.

Before its success, Ebrahagian mentioned an unexpected encounter with Ohanian, who himself is a former Hoover student. At the time, Ohanian was in the editing process of “My Big Fat Armenian Family,” and many people, including Ebrahagian, were aware of it.

“He would put trailers and clips online saying, ‘Coming this July,’” said Ebrahagian. “The film eventually came out a year or so later.”

One day when Ebrahagian was alone, he heard the doorbell ring; it was Ohanian.

“Sev was standing outside and asked if my mom was home,” said Ebrahagian. “I had immediately recognized him from the videos he had been posting about his movie.”

Ebrahagian told Ohanian that she was not home and as a result, Ohanian gave Ebrahagian an envelope.

“I looked inside and it was a fat stack of movie tickets,” said

Ebrahagian. “I called my mom to see how they knew each other and she said that since his dad worked on tiles in our house, she offered to sell tickets for his movie.”

Ebrahagian and his mom eventually were able to sell out all the tickets to his family.

Although this occurred before Ebrahagian attended Hoover, they eventually met again when Ohanian visited Huber’s drama class. At this point, Ebrahagian was aware of Ohanian’s success, as he had graduated from Hoover several years before.

Ohanian was becoming a successful producer in Hollywood after

“Fruitvale Station” and attending the University of Southern California.

“The class started and Sev asked what we were doing,” said Ebrahagian. “Huber told him that we were doing pantomimes.”

The only issue was that Ebrahagian was selected to perform one after his class insisted.



Ebrahagian during his years at Hoover.



Ebrahagian and his girlfriend at his USC graduation ceremony.

"My sketch was about four guys in a bathroom stall and this one guy clogs the toilet and all four guys come and help the dude," said Ebrahamian.

After finishing the performance he left feeling embarrassed.

"He told the class after that as a producer, people like different types of films and it so happened that 'Ryan liked toilet humor,'" said Ebrahamian.

Although Ebrahamian noted that experience to be quite "embarrassing," he did not expect to meet Ohanian again several years later.

"I started at GCC while I was at Hoover for the jumpstart program," said Ebrahamian. "While at GCC, I knew that USC was the place I wanted to be for film since I was obsessed with it."

Upon being accepted to USC after transferring from GCC, he was aware of Ohanian's growing fame in the Hollywood film industry. By the time Ebrahamian had been accepted, Ohanian had graduated and was returning to USC to teach several classes as an adjunct professor.

"While I was teaching one of these classes the same kid who was obsessed with ['My Big Fat Armenian Family'] walked in and was one of my students," said Ohanian. "To be frank, he was one of my better students."

During his years at USC, Ohanian had taught Ebrahamian and his classmates the artistry of pitching films, email etiquette, and more.

Around the time Ohanian's film

"Searching" was released in 2018, Ebrahamian got an email from him.

"He emailed me something about 'My Big Fat Armenian Family,'" said Ebrahamian. "It was going to be the 10th anniversary of the movie in 2018 and he wanted to put it on YouTube since everyone was asking 'Where can we find this movie?'"

As a result, Ebrahamian took the offer to hardcode subtitles into the film and, with Ohanian's help, made it accessible to everyone. "My Big Fat Armenian Family" is still available on YouTube.

As time went by, their relationship grew stronger.

"When Sev was making 'Run,' I went to help out at screening and went to the editing room and made screening data and charts," said Ebrahamian. "For his next movie, [Space Jam: A New Legacy], I helped drop off some things at Warner Bros."

After years of growing this friendship and being able to help out with the filmmaking process, it all seemed to come to a halt with COVID-19, but that is simply far from the truth.

## Vahik, Anjel, Armond and Edmond

"When the pandemic hit, I was literally sitting at home and told my mom [jokingly] that 'if we got COVID-19 dad would blame us,'" said Ebrahamian. "She laughed and started mimicking what my dad would say."

It was then when Ebrahamian pondered the question, "Why not make a video?" and so he did. He has since made several. These



Ebrahamian's "beloved" cast of characters that he plays in his comical videos.

videos are tiny sketches, all in Armenian, that jokingly mocked his relatives.

After gaining popularity on Twitter, then on TikTok, he thought it would be best to make an Ebrahamian universe out of his videos. In other words, he created what-if situations that only his characters Vahik, Anjel, Armond, and Edmond, would encounter.

His characters were named and inspired by exaggerated traits of his family members.

"I posted a video and Sev sent me a [direct message] on Instagram since he had apparently seen it," said Ebrahamian. "And he told me that it just brought him back to what 'My Big Fat Armenian Family' was."

Although Ebrahamian was aware of the cultural impact of what Ohanian had created, he wanted to create something on his own.

"Then he asked me, 'Would you want to do a sequel [to 'My Big Fat Armenian Family'] with you doing the writing and directing, and I will produce it?'" said Ebrahamian.

For Ohanian and Ebrahamian, it would have been a full-circle moment. Fortunately, Ebrahamian said yes, and will be directing and writing "My Big Fat Armenian Family 2."

### **"My Big Fat Armenian Family 2"**

"I am glad to bring back this idea Sev had and what it was in 2008," said Ebrahamian. "It is a totally different generation where we have apps like TikTok and Uber and iPhones."

Ebrahamian added, "The number of jokes you can make with an Armenian dad and Siri

are endless."

Ebrahamian is in the very early stages of developing the sequel. He is currently revising beat sheets and storylines with the characters he has created. Although it is a sequel, it will mainly feature characters Ebrahamian has portrayed in the past.

"One of the difficult parts is creating a story that is worthwhile," said Ebrahamian. "We are still in the process of thinking and coming up with ideas."

This preproduction process has enabled Ebrahamian to come up with more ideas for his videos.

At this moment, Ebrahamian does not know what roles he will play in the film.

"I could play all four characters, but how long do you want to see the same person?" he joked. "Unless they were like wildly different like with Eddie Murphy and the 'Nuttty

Professor."

With streaming services and platforms like YouTube, iTunes, and Amazon, there are various routes Ebrahamian and Ohanian can go in distributing this sequel.

"My ideal situation would be to have screenings," said Ebrahamian. "I love it when I get to see people's reactions to my work, especially the videos I make."



Ebrahamian working on-set on a short film at USC.



# Grade Nite Canceled

by **Monet Nadimyan and Melia Movsesian** ■ staff writers

**M**agic Mountain announces the cancellation of their 2021 event, months after Disneyland did the same.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Magic Mountain announced on Tuesday that it had cancelled the 2021 Senior Grad Nite, three months after Disneyland made the same decision.

Each year, Disneyland and Six Flags host a Graduation Nite for seniors across the state to celebrate their accomplishments with their fellow classmates. Following the 2020 cancellation, park officials released statements explaining the difficult decision to cancel the event this year as well.

"I have the difficult task to share that Six Flags Magic Mountain's Grad Nite '21 has been canceled," William Hoh, a Six Flags representative, e-mailed in a statement. "Six Flags Magic Mountain is looking forward to the day when the park can re-open safely and resume normal park operations as well as special celebrations including Grad Nite."

Disneyland released a similar statement in November, claiming that state guidelines don't allow for the theme park's reopening.

The cancellation of in-person events, due to the pandemic, has left the senior class discouraged and upset.

"I feel that the cancellation of Grad Nite, along with the rest of our senior activities and sports seasons, is depriving us from any joy in our last year of high school," said Hayk Torosyan, a senior at Hoover. "I wish we could plan in-person events, but I understand that it is also important to follow guidelines associated with the pandemic to

keep us all safe."

Despite all the difficult decisions the pandemic has caused many to make, the senior student body is staying optimistic in providing the class of '21 a special senior year experience.

"ASB has been working hard to make the best out of the situation at hand," said Lucas Omori, senior class co-president. "Even though we have faced many challenges this school year, we hope to plan Covid-safe events for the remainder of the year to celebrate our seniors."

## What Students Think

■ We asked Hoover seniors about their thoughts on Grade Nite being cancelled.

### María Rodriguez, senior

■ "I remember my friends that were seniors [who were] so excited over Grad Nite even though it was months away. I understand why it was canceled, but it's sad to see that they aren't trying to do more events for us, they could really host a lot of things with the money that was supposed to go to those events."

### Jimmy Barrera, senior

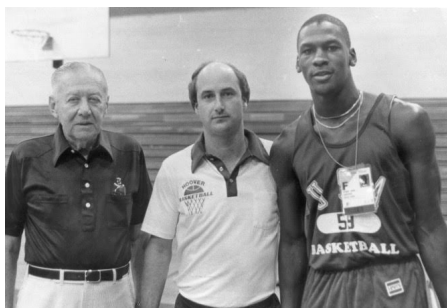
■ "I didn't really have high expectations for Grad Nite but it is still a disappointment. I want to have some memorable moments of my last year of high school and I hope we can go back even if it's just [for] a day."

### Lillian Safari, senior

■ "It's disappointing to not be able to experience all of the fun senior events that most of us have been looking forward to for years. However, I'm still hanging on to a little hope for an in-person graduation, it would be more doable compared to these other events. It hasn't been fun spending the last year of high school in my bedroom, so having an in-person graduation, would mean a lot."

# Michael Jordan's History at Hoover

by **Cher Pamintuan** ■ staff writer



**D**id you know that Michael Jordan and the 1984 USA Olympic basketball team secretly practiced at the Hoover gym?

Joe Hillman was a former basketball player for Hoover and then for Indiana University.

What's so cool about knowing this?

Well, Hillman's coach in Indiana, Bob Knight, was the head coach for the Olympic men's basketball team of 1984 that featured some great players like Michael Jordan, Patrick Ewing, Wayman Tisdale, and Sam Perkins, the team was considered to be "the strongest in U.S.A. 's history" to that time.

Cool, right? It gets cooler.

Did you know that Jordan and his teammates, because Knight knew Hillman, practiced in the Hoover gym during that time?

Knight, disliking the practice schedule the American Basketball Association set up for the Olympic teams, called Kirt Kohlmeier, Hoover's varsity boys' basketball and softball coach at that time. Knight asked Kohlmeier if the team could hold their practices in the Hoover gym, conveniently located near the Olympic Village in Los Angeles.

Was such an event publicized?

Of course... not.

No one knew of it. Kohlmeier explains that "Knight wanted total secrecy." He didn't want reporters, fans, etc., interrupting practice.

"It wasn't until the 14th day, after they won the gold medal, that Coach Knight allowed the Glendale News Press to come in and take some pictures," Kohlmeier said. The News Press called it the "best kept secret in Los Angeles." No one could figure out where the U.S.A. team was practicing.



**Top:** Former Olympic basketball Coach Hank Iba, left, with former Hoover Coach Kirt Kohlmeier and Michael Jordan  
**Bottom:** Michael Jordan and the 1984 Olympic men's basketball team practiced in the Hoover gym.  
Photos courtesy of Kirt Kohlmeier



**Top left:** The 1984 Olympic basketball team practicing at the Hoover gym.

**Right:** NBA Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing with then-Hoover boys' basketball Coach Kirt Kohlmeier.

Photos courtesy of Kirt Kohlmeier



Because it was such a well kept secret, Knight gifted the Hoover gym with new backboards and rims.

But here's an even bigger question than the ones previously asked: What happened in those two weeks at Hoover?

Kohlmeier got to witness the greatness of the team. He described it as a "magical time."

"[Knight] used me as one of the coaches in drills," Kohlmeier said. "And about every other day, a motivational speaker was brought in to talk to the team and get them going and keep them on the right track."

On days where the team didn't have games, Kohlmeier took them to the pool.

"You got all these guys that are multimillionaires jumping off the high dive pretending they're airplanes," Kohlmeier said.

On days where they did have games, the team took Kohlmeier to their games.

"One of the guys used to come back after every game and he would come up like he

was going to shake my hand but he would open up his hand and drop a pin from the other team in my hand," Kohlmeier said, "I still have all the pins from every game."

But one game in particular stuck to Kohlmeier.

"Right at half time, [Jordan] took a shot, he was at half court and the ball looked like it was in slo-mo and it went in," Kohlmeier said, "That was the most unbelievable shot I ever saw."

After the game, Kohlmeier had to ask Jordan how he made the shot, "He looked at me and he said, 'Yeah, I was giving it directions.'"

"Just to be with greatness, inspired me and I think it inspired a lot of people," Kohlmeier said.

# In the world...where are Latinos?

by **Sebastian Guzman** ■ senior  
co-editor of Tornado Magazine

In the world of politics, music, and film, Latinos are on the rise, proving that Latino voices are essential to our modern-day society. Although many studies would argue otherwise, it may be important to consider how recent events have changed the way Latinos are viewed in the world today.

## POLITICS

Compared to the 2016 Presidential election, Latinos voters were decisive in the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election. To be exact, according to a UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative, more than 16.6 million Latinos came out to vote in the past election.

Even in politics, Latinos seek to see themselves represented. Latinos in high-ranking positions in government will tend to cater to the underprivileged needs of average Hispanic Americans.

With 49.80% of Hispanics living in New York's 14th district, they were able to elect the youngest woman ever to serve within the

United States Congress, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

In 2009, former President Barack Obama saw the need for a Latino representative on the Supreme Court. He nominated Sonia Maria Sotomayor, who is the first Latina and Hispanic member of the Supreme Court.

Today, many Latino voters, according to Pew Research Center, view the economy, racial and ethnic inequality, and health care as the main issues in national elections.

## MUSIC

Over the last few decades, Latino music genres such as reggaeton, cumbias, and bachata have made their way into contemporary American music, paving the way for new upcoming artists such as Bad Bunny, Karol G, Rosalia, Ozuna, and more.

Previously, a select few, such as Jennifer Lopez, Shakira, Gloria Estefan, Selena Quintanilla, and Ricky Martin, have been capable of obtaining mass appeal in the American music industry. Although their roots strive from their native Latino countries.

Unlike politics and film, the popularity of Spanish music or songs composed by Latinos has been less a gradual climb.

In the 1950s, Ritchie Valens was one of the first Hispanic artists to have massive success after his hit song, "La Bamba."

Throughout the 1970s and 1990s, artists such as Santana, Juan Gabriel, Rocio Durcal, Los Tigres del Norte, and Luis Miguel broke records in Mexico and America, especially since many Mexican-born immigrants were



U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio Cortez delivering a speech to her supporters.





Jennifer Lopez and Shakira headlining the 2020 Pepsi Super Bowl Halftime Show.

coming into America around this time.

In the early 1990s, more American pop stars such as the late Selena Quintanilla and Gloria Estefan had hits that played predominantly on American radio stations. Gloria Estefan became so popularized that she has performed at the Superbowl Halftime show twice, once in 1992 and 1999.

Due to the success in both Latino and American markets, the music catalogs of Jennifer Lopez, Shakira, Enrique Iglesias, and Pitbull, have expanded to include more hybrid songs that include both the Spanish and English language. For example, “Despacito” by Luis Fonsi featuring Daddy Yankee.

Latinos have also performed in bigger arenas than ever including the Superbowl Halftime Show, which featured Jennifer Lopez and Shakira in 2020. The performance has since been the most-watched halftime show on Youtube ever.

Today, practically every music superstar from Beyonce to Billie Eilish has released songs featuring Latino artists, making more Latino voices feel heard around the globe.

## FILM AND TELEVISION

Although many theaters remain closed due to the global pandemic, the push for Latino representation on-screen continues. According to a study conducted by the Annenberg Inclusion Initiative at USC, during 2007-2018, only 3% of Hollywood films have a Latino lead or co-lead, which is ironic since Latino

countries make up most of the global box office.

In an article discussing the Annenberg study, the CNN Business stated, “Latinos were the only major racial and ethnic group that was underrepresented in on-screen speaking roles last [few] years.”

Films with an actor, director, or producer, who are Latinos are so far in-between. The last film centered on Latino culture to gross nearly a billion dollars at the global box office was Pixar’s “Coco.” The film quickly became the highest-grossing film in Mexico by making \$198 million.

Although no Latino-centered film has garnered the success of “Black Panther,” a film centered around an underrepresented community, Latinos have made film history elsewhere.

However, for nearly six years in a row, Mexican directors have won the Oscar for



Alfonso Cuarón wins three Oscars for his film “Roma”

Best Director. Alfonso Cuaron has won for “Gravity” and “Roma.” Guillermo del Toro has won for “The Shape of Water.” And Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu has won for “Birdman” and “The Revenant.”

The highest-grossing film actress is Zoe Saldana, who is of Dominican and Puerto Rican descent. She has appeared in three of the five highest-grossing films of all time.

Although a gradual process, Hollywood aims to put more Latino actors in films, including streaming.

Marvel will have America Chavez, a Latina superhero, in an upcoming movie called “Doctor Strange In The Multiverse of Madness.” Salma Hayek will play an imperative role in Marvel’s “Eternals.” In the DC superhero universe, Sasha Calle will play Supergirl for 2022’s “The Flash.” Filming sometime this year, “Blue Beetle,” another infamous Latino superhero, gets his debut.



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Latino hit “Gentefied” on Netflix.

Netflix will continue their hit series with Latino stars, Diego Tinoco, Jason Genao, Jessica Marie Garcia, and Julio Macias, titled “On My Block.” Netflix will release the second part of “Selena: The Series” in May 2021. America Ferrera will also direct episodes in the Netflix show “Gentefied.”

Hit Mexican star, Jenni Rivera, has an upcoming biopic in the works. “In the Heights,” a musical set in New York, will hit theaters in 2021. “Encanto,” a Disney animated film based in Colombia, will come out in November.

## **LATINOS UNIDOS**

- To learn more about the impact of Latinos in the world, join the Latinos Unidos club.

# **TORNADO**

magazine

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