

# THE NUEVA CURRENT



Photo by Robin Loznack

## NEWS

Arishka J. '26 is one of 18 youth plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency. [P 4]



Photo by Aaron H.

## ARTS & CULTURE

For students with open-campus privileges, check out these local restaurants for the best off-campus budget lunches. [P 7]

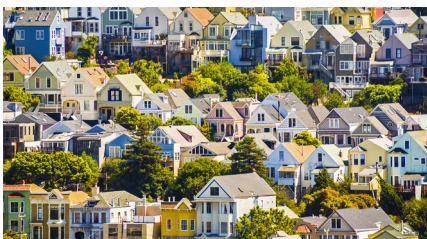


Photo by Ed Robertson

## FEATURES

Upper School faculty share their experiences as renters and homeowners in the Bay Area housing market. [P 12]

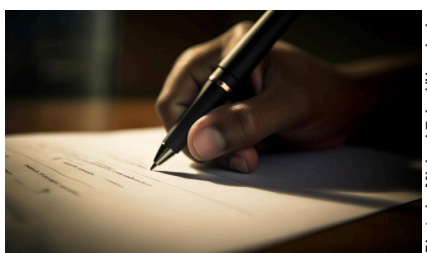


Photo by Mishaal Zahed/Unsplash

## OPINION

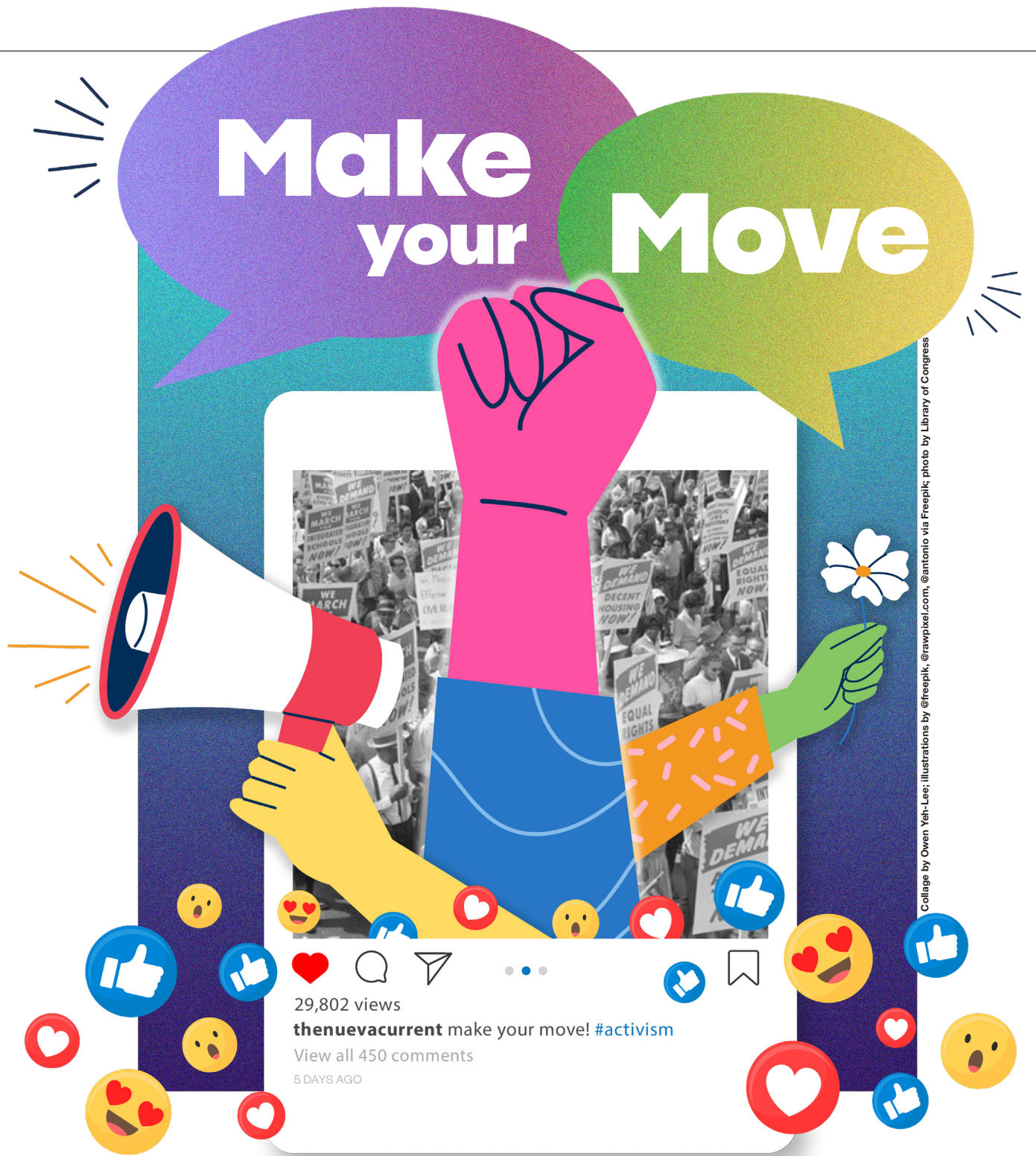
Female and non-binary STEM faculty in the Upper School pen an open letter reaffirming their commitment to combatting sexism at school—and sharing some of their personal stories experiencing sexism. [P 13]



Photo by Niam K.

## SPORTS

Best Dressed: The JV boys basketball team has leaned into their tradition of wearing suits and ties on game days. [P 19]



Collage by Owen Yeh-Lee; illustrations by @freeplik, @rawpixel.com, @antonio via Freepik; photo by Library of Congress

## Activism unplugged

### How has social media changed the way the Nueva community—and the world—views and engages in activism?

By Owen Y-L. & Josie B.

By the time she reached her freshman year of high school, Anjali M. '25 had grown weary of pre-made Instagram templates. Yet, each time a petition about climate change appeared on her feed, a nagging voice urged her to share it.

Anjali has long suffered from climate anxiety—a chronic fear of climate change's impacts on the planet and human existence. The condition is growing among young people today; according to a 10-nation study published in *The Lancet*, over 40% of 16-to-25-year-olds suffer from daily distress due to climate-related worries.

For many, Anjali included, social media seems like the answer to these daily worries. It's quick and accessible. It's very public. But for Anjali, it wasn't enough. While posts and petitions kept piling up, she still felt powerless and isolated.

"I wanted to go to climate rallies; I wanted to meet people," Anjali said.

Activism on social media is more widespread than ever. According to a 2023 survey by Pew Research Center, 46% of social media users in the U.S. have participated in some form of activism on social media in the past year, including

changing their profile picture in support of a movement, using activist hashtags, and joining online activist groups.

Yet, it is only the latest chapter in a long history of humans yearning to resist oppression, disrupt the status quo, and drive change.

### "THERE IS NO ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL APPROACH"

According to the Online Etymology Dictionary, the word "activist" first appeared in 1915 when Swedish activists—coined as the opposite of "pacifists"—pressured their government to end its neutrality in World War I. However, the first recorded instance of organized revolt can be traced back to the first century BCE, when some 120,000 slaves rebelled against their Roman oppressors.

In the U.S., dissent has defined national identity ever since American colonists began to resist British colonial rule, said Upper School history teacher Tom Dorrance.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to activism. Throughout history, he explained, the most effective activist movements have been those that adapt to their specific contexts and goals.

For example, Dorrance said, factory workers demanding better working

conditions and wages in the 1930s organized strikes and sit-ins, disrupting operations and dealing direct economic hits to their employers. On the other hand, Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders used non-violence as a form of resistance and critique of the violence perpetrated by white supremacist power structures.

Identifying and targeting these "pressure points," as Dorrance calls them, has historically been key to maintaining an effective activist effort. Dorrance himself has participated in marches, including for the international Occupy movement in 2011, and has led "teach-ins"—workshops about activist causes.

Younger generations are now beginning to follow in their activist predecessors' footsteps. That can come with a burden, Brenna A. M. '25 said.

"I think that our generation feels more pressure to fix things in society because of the lack of action taken by older generations," Brenna said. "I know a lot of people our age who are deeply empathetic to issues going on worldwide."

As aspiring changemakers search for ways to contribute, many turn to a familiar tool: social media.

[ CONTINUED ON P 10 ]