

# THE SHAMROCK

May 24, 2021

Volume 50

each language and were able to try... Vol. XI, No. 8 Kennedy High School, La Palma, Calif. 90623 Friday, April 11, 1975



## The Shamrock

Vol. XI, No. 7 Kennedy High School, La Palma, Calif. 90623 Friday, March 14, 1975

### It's A Great Week for the Irish!

As you all know, the highlight of the year is Irish Week. Well, next Monday... Monday, March 17, is so... Tuesday's activities are... Wednesday's... Golbeck, and Sandy...



## THE SHAMROCK

Vol. XII, No. 6 Kennedy High School, La Palma, California 90623 Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1976

because an airplane is going to crash into it and many people are going to get injured and killed. students at JFK will be participating as victims. Mr. Maiville had troutys for the students that will be operated on; some will even get casts and bandages. The hospitals and rescue squads will be the most was the seriousness that was needed to have the drill come off well.

## The Shamrock

Vol. XI, No. 8 Kennedy High School, La Palma, Calif. 90623 Friday, April 11, 1975

### D.J. Speaks Out An Interview With Arnie McClatchy 'Fiddler' To Preview Soon

By Karen Pratt schools? So have a lot of other people. Arnie McClatchy... Did you ever listen to the radio? Ever wonder those disc jockeys, and you could become one. Well, if you are interested, keep on reading. March 4, went down to Anaheim...

### Have THE Shamrock Season!

Vol. X, No. 4 Kennedy High School, La Palma, California 90623 December 14, 1972

### Colleens 'Kick Off' P.P. Center Is One With Parade, Breakfast California's Largest

By Marsha Hodgson and Terri Halbach Tickets are \$1.00 for children under 12, and \$1.50 for adults. You can buy your tickets from any Band or Drill Team member. Buy your tickets now. After breakfast the Band and Drill Team members will parade through La Palma. After the parade there will be a parking lot sale at Kennedy High School. They are expecting a great turnout. The Drill Team is saving clean overused coats and both Band and Drill Team are saving newspapers. So any contributions will be greatly appreciated. You can give the Exploratory Work Experience program and explore the veterinary occupation. Terry now is exploring the field in a veterinarian's office, at the Walker St. Cat and Dog Hospital at Walker and Orangeforte.

### SAB Elects Two J.F.K. Students

Exploratory Work Experience program and explore the veterinary occupation. Terry now is exploring the field in a veterinarian's office, at the Walker St. Cat and Dog Hospital at Walker and Orangeforte. Terry Reutter prepares for another operation.

## THE SHAMROCK

Vol. XI, No. 3 Kennedy High School, La Palma, Calif. 90623 Friday, November 8, 1974

### School on Saturday?

Students are instructed to report to the conference room next to the main office for roll call and duty assignments. Mr. Gaymer and the other supervisors of the project are also active in the improvement of the campus. Each area of cement where there are sidewalks will be paved. "We will have a great looking campus."

## THE SHAMROCK

VOL. XII, NO. 1 Kennedy High School, La Palma, California 90623 Oct. 10, 1975

### FAUSTINA NEW PREXY

By Geleste Avdes The campaigning bag swept through the JFK campus as Kennedy's new breed of Fighting Irish chose class officers. The election began as the optimistic candidates had petitions signed by 103 fellow classmates. After their struggle to get the precious piece of paper in, they were advised and informed about the rules and regulations concerning the election. Pretty soon, posters were put up in the Sophomore court and specified areas around campus. Then the Sophomores class had a chance to

### P.S.A. Opens Doors

By Linda Wilson What is the P.S.A. test? How is it done? Who should take it? The P.S.A. test is a test in English, Latin, French, Biology and Math. Christiana, a sixteen-year-old member of Kennedy's Sophomore class, is planning to go out for Kennedy's Soccer Team. This is her first year on the team. Over here he is planning to go out for Kennedy's Soccer Team. This is his first year on the team. AUBSD, as of right now, has made no decision. When the bill becomes official, the local school district will have to decide if it will be a part of the curriculum.

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[TheJFKShamrock.com](http://TheJFKShamrock.com)

# District Delays School Reopening

SAMANTHA CARACOZA

CHANTEL CASTREJON

Staff Reporters

DEC. 18, 2020 -- On Tuesday, Dec. 1, the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) Board of Trustees voted to delay students' return to campus. The vote came as a result of Orange County returning to the purple tier on California's Blueprint.

Orange County's rising numbers of COVID-19 cases halted plans for students to return at the start of January 2021. Students are only able to return to campus if Orange County returned to the red tier, a recommendation by the Board of Trustees.

While some teachers are excitedly waiting for campuses to open, others are more apprehensive given current case numbers.

"It certainly would be wonderful to see (the students)," English teacher Kimberly Weir said. "But I know that the COVID cases have gone up again. I wish you all to be safe and take care of ourselves until we could all meet one on one."

Others, like math teacher Olivia Marinone are content with the current distance learning situation.

"I enjoy it!" Marinone said. "I'm able to work from home and still teach you all."

Since the start of the school year, teachers have been working non-stop either from home or school to normalize distance learning and provide the best education possible to their students. Starting in fourth quarter, teachers are scheduled to return and thus resume their normal on-campus school schedule.

However, for students to return to school, conditions would have to be as safe as possible.

"As the pandemic continues, we can't let fatigue fool us into dropping precautions to prevent the spread and stop the surge," County Health Officer and Director of the OC Health Care Agency Dr. Clayton Chau said.

The proposed plan to reinstate school, before its current cancelation, would have introduced a hybrid sched-

ule. The proposed schedule included one day per week when students would meet for live in-person instruction. The rest of the week would consist of one day of live online synchronous learning with three days of asynchronous activities.

While on campus, there would be rigorous safety arrangements including socially distanced seats, hand sanitizer stations, and masks to be requirement.

However, there are still parents who are on the fence about the idea of reopening in March.

"I think it's quite irrational," Kennedy parent Mizuky Santos said. "If the cases are rising then obviously the kids will be put in danger. It makes no sense to reopen school since they were closed based on COVID and the way to prevent COVID could possibly not even work."

Concerns like this are normal, but parents can rest assured that their children will be in safe hands when they do return to campus.

# Campuses to Remain Closed

CAMILA ACOSTA

Sports Editor

MARCH 8, 2021 -- On Thursday, March 4, the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) Board of Trustees reached a 4:1 decision against passing 11.1 reopening of school sites in a roll call vote. All schools within the district will continue with distance learning through the end of the 2020-21 school year.

AUHSD has remained in the purple tier since the last Board meeting on Thursday, Feb. 4, but the District expects to be in the red tier at the time when students were previously scheduled return to school sites.

The plan presented in the meeting remained the same as the last Board meeting, with a tentative timeline of staff returning to the district and school sites full time on March 8, 7th and 9th graders returning on March 31, and the remaining students remaining April 5.

The hybrid schedule included two synchronous days, Monday and Friday. The plan presented would have called for students to be split into three cohorts, where one cohort would be allowed to attend school on campus per day starting Tuesday through Thursday. All other cohorts not attending in person on a given day would work asynchronously while also attending a 2nd period check-in from

8:45-9:40 a.m.

The Board and students alike showed concern for the two additional asynchronous days each student would adapt to that began at the beginning of the second semester.

"Do we put the health of our students and their families at risk for eight days or less in person instruction?" Board Member Al Jabbar said.

He urged the rest of the board to join him in voting against the return to in-person instruction.

In a survey conducted by the District's student representatives, 66 percent of students agreed or strongly agreed that the current schedule allows more time for social activities.

"These are not just numbers. They're students who had real responses to how they are feeling," Student Representative to the AUHSD Board of Trustees Elizabeth Ochei said. "I hope you're influenced by facts and not fear, regardless of the decision made here tonight. I think all students and administration and parents need support."

There has been a bit of uncertainty surrounding the return to school and what it would really be like. Some are eager to get on campus to see friends and be able to socialize, but Board members clarified that the return to school would not have been what many were hoping for.

"I just want to put out there that this is not going to be everybody getting on campus and you know you hear the bell and everyone's high fiving as people have been saying," Board Member Annemarie Randle-Trejo said. "Students are going to have to stand apart from each other, they're going to sit apart from each other. It's not really going to be a social gathering, we're going to have to spend time... teaching and learning ...the protocols,"

Despite parent concerns the Board made the final decision to not return back to campus this school year, reminding AUHSD families that regardless of everything safety comes first.

Regardless of the Board's decision, in recent weeks special populations have been able to utilize the campus while following established safety protocols. Additionally, the District made it clear that the delayed return to campus will not interfere with plans to celebrate the graduating class of 2021.

"We as a district are committed to doing some type of modified in-person graduation," Assistant Superintendent of Education Dr. Jaron Fried said. "(We) don't know yet what that's going to look like, but just know that it is something we are committing to."

While there are no details yet, the in-person graduation will be in addition to a virtual graduation.



# Finding Mexico's Government Graves

**CHANTEL CASTREJON**

Staff Reporter

MARCH 12, 2021 -- Over the years, Mexican newspapers have been reporting on mothers looking for their lost children and finding secret graves. Now, for the first time, the federal government has revealed the number of underground locations where those who have died in Mexico's raging narco-violence have been found.

"If you're looking for a 17-year-old girl, you'll end up with a match for a 43-year-old woman," National School of Anthropology and History Yanet Juarez said.

In certain cases, the only information known on the missing is their names and ages, with no family DNA samples or other clues to help match them to remains. Just about 30 individuals were found after the state of Tamaulipas exhumed 265 cadavers and numerous boxes of bones from a public cemetery in 2018.

Since 2006, at least 40,000 inhabitants have vanished in Mexico. Officials claim the bulk of the victims were victims of organized crime. On the other hand, local or state officials may have been involved in many of these instances.

Some 80,000 Mexicans have since dis-

appeared in the last 15 years and have never been found. Many are now thought to be in government custody, among the thousands of corpses that pass through morgues each year without ever being identified, ending up in common graves. More than 28,000 bodies have been cremated or buried in public cemeteries, and another 2,589 donated to medical schools. The rest were still in morgues or could not be located.

"For years, the state abdicated its responsibility, not only to guarantee the safety of the people, but to give ... families the right to search and find and return home with their relatives," Top human rights official Alejandro Encinas said.

Until recently, the majority of the search had been carried out by victims' families, who banded together in groups to dig in desolate desert fields and on forested hills. They've been complaining for years that the government has failed to respond to their demands for assistance. Later when government officials unveiled a proposal in late 2019 to gather a team of national and foreign experts with the aim of recognizing all bodies and even bone

fragments, human rights activists applauded. However, the initiative has come to a halt as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recognition that the forensic problems are much greater than anticipated.

"Few cemeteries — almost none — have a good registry of the location and quantity of people who are buried there," founder of the Mexican Forensic Anthropology team said.

Any time a new corpse appears at a morgue, it is expected to be refrigerated so it can be autopsied and inventoried for

scars, tattoos, cavities, and other identifiable features. Samples of DNA are expected to be retained in case they're needed later.

The remains of the missing have been discovered in a variety of locations, including secret graves. As crime has risen in recent years, state medical examiners' offices have been overflowing with bodies. Thousands of corpses are believed to have been dumped in mass graves without being identified, we can only hope that in the future something more will be done about this.



SPENCER PLATT/The World

# Novdeep Kaur: The Imprisoned Activist

**HARSEERAT MANN**

Opinions Editor

MARCH 12, 2021 -- Navdeep Kaur, more commonly known as Novdeep Kaur, is a 23-year-old Dalit activist. She was arrested on Jan. 12 after protesting in front of Sharan Elecmech, a metal demolition company located in the Kundli Industrial Area of Haryana.

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris' niece, Meena Harris' tweet has drawn worldwide interest to the arrest and alleged



Courtesy of INK QUISSITIVE ART

sexual attack of a younger Indian activist.

Kaur is dealing with charges of attempted murder, extortion, and several other offenses and has two times been refused bail. She reportedly demonstrated near the new and old border, where thousands of farmers were protesting against the farm's rules. She also talks about the new and old frontiers.

"Weird to see a photo of yourself burned by an extremist mob but imagine what they would do if we lived in India. I'll tell you — 23-year-old labor rights activist Novdeep Kaur was arrested, tortured & sexually assaulted in police custody. She's been detained without bail for over 20 days," Meena Harris tweeted.

Kaur, a member of Mazdoor Adhikar Sanghatan (MAS), graduated 12 years ago and started working at a power station in Kundli, Noida. Kaur, as part of MAS, has strived to build solidarity between farmers and workers.

Rajveer Kaur, Dalit activist and sister of Novdeep, claimed her sister

was sexually assaulted by a male worker at a police station, as she was injured in her genitals. Their lawyer said the doctor's report confirmed the same.

"I met her (Novdeep) on January 13 only and realized she has been subjected to police violence, including assault on her genitals that can be termed sexual violence... They [Police] accuse her of extortions. I ask, will extortion be for mere Rs 5,000? Will extortion be done by holding a protest? They have accused her under 307 IPC?" Rajvir said. "The policeman is giving interviews saying Novdeep Kaur of Punjab is extorting money for laborers. These are all fake charges. They are framing her as if my sister attacked the police station. She was the one who was beaten and dragged from there."

In India's millennial caste system, Dalits are completely outside the building. They are called "untouchable" by a form of inherited family labor passed down from generation to generation. The Dalits have been held back for centu-

ries by culture and other Indian societies.

Novdeep Kaur claimed in her plea for bail that she was beaten, tortured, and officially detained by the police after several injuries during this period. She also claimed that she could not seek medical advice which violated Article 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Kaur was kept in Karnal prison, Haryana. Her case began to attract media attention after poet Rupi Kaur also announced her support on Jan. 30.

"As an Indian citizen Novdeep Kaur she had the right to protest but she was taken into custody for no reason. She was beaten and sexually assaulted by the police," Gahr High junior Gurpreet Kaur said. "The government of India tries to play with its own citizens isn't right at all. Novdeep Kaur was able to get out of jail with bail because of the awareness on social media."

Novdeep Kaur was released on Friday, Feb. 26 in the High Court murder trials in Punjab and Haryana. However, Dalit discrimination and human rights violations are still rampant in India.



# No Summertime Sadness

**ISABELLA LIGOR**

Staff Reporter

MAY 24, 2021--Summer is a time when schools are out and students are graduating which makes it perfect for vacations with friends or family. Due to COVID-19, a lot of attractions and vacation get-a-ways have been closed down, but now summertime is coming back better than ever.



Courtesy of EXPEDIA

## **Bask in the Beach**

Weather in the summer comes with ocean breezes and warm beaches that go for miles. Beaches are one of the most popular places for people to go during the summertime, so many beach resorts are opening their doors. Laguna Beaches Surf and Sand Resort is now open with ocean views from every room and the surf just a few steps away. The coastline and its very well known art scene.

## **Fairly Fun**

Summertime isn't always about going to the beach and getting a tan. It's also a popular season for fairs! While the Orange County Fair was cancelled last year, the local tradition is returning from July 16 to Aug. 15. This year's theme will be "Time for Fun," but for health reasons the fair's capacity will be very limited and getting your tickets in advance is required.

## **Run, Don' Walk**

Being outdoors during the summer is ideal. Being stuck inside just isn't the same! If you're travelling to Texas, check out San Antonio's River Walk! This is one of the city's best known attractions. Visitors can walk along the path or cruise in the river to explore the urban waterway that is 15 miles. Added bonus: People always enjoy Six Flags Fiesta Texas!

## **New York, Zoo York**

New York, also known as "The city that never sleeps" is now awakening from its many pandemic restrictions as its attractions are being reopened! As with most places during this time of reopening, capacity for humans may be limited. However, the Bronx Zoo has over 6,000 animals and 265 acres of forest located in the borough of the Bronx.

## **Pull-Up**

Go back to 1955 for a vintage cinematic experience. All you need is a car, friends, and a full tank of gas. Frida Cinema does pop-up locations around southern California and posts their movie schedule a month in advance. However, there are multiple drive-in theatre's if you can't find a movie you like there.

With summer approaching fast and quarantine fatigue running high, you still have time to book those get-a-ways and vacations you won't regret! Hopefully

Dear Reader,

This year has been tough for academic and elective classes alike. Despite this, the staff at The Shamrock has been consistently putting out articles and keeping students in touch with everything from school life to world news. Online work has not been ideal, but it has offered insight to something that Kennedy journalists have never experienced before: digital publishing. Since this year marks the 50th anniversary of The Shamrock, the staff decided to do something special for our one and only print edition of the 2020-21 school year.

The staff and editors wanted to do something exciting for the monumental anniversary. Alongside some of the best articles from throughout the year, we have included a collection of flashback articles dating as far back as the early 1970s as a way to look back on the life of the Fighting Irish from previous generations. We hope you will enjoy this unique perspective!

Our small but hard working staff took on a great challenge being in such a difficult class during such a difficult time. Of the 13 reporters on staff, only two have had any previous journalistic experience, and seeing everyone improve in their respective sections has been a great pleasure. Our resources were limited and the odds were against us, but we pulled through delivering the quality work that has become synonymous with 50 years of The Shamrock. We hope you enjoy a landmark edition of our school newspaper. Have a great summer!

With Respect,

*Freslicka*

Follow Kennedy on Social Media



@khigh4life



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## You are NOT Alone.

**\*\*\*Warning: This article addresses aspects of mental health.\*\*\***

**TYLER WHEATLEY**

Staff Reporter

MAY 24, 2021--The mental health of students is a very important topic and should only be treated as such. With everything going on in the world from the pandemic, school work, family lives, maintaining friendships or relationships, etc. students don't have anyone to talk with about what's on their minds besides friends or family, but not everyone has that privilege. What about the ones who desperately need someone? It's important students find a way to be able to talk about their issues free of judgment. Whether it's mental issues, issues at home, or even relationship issues, there have been a lot more students going through rough times and losing motivation. But it's hard to talk about that with their parents.

In the opinion of many students, our school doesn't do a good job at promoting Mrs. Stephanie Flores. Although we aren't on campus yet students should know about our school's social worker, Stephanie Flores. She is very important and there should be more light on her and her services.

"Honestly I've never heard of the whole mental health program the school had until my mom had to tell me," senior Nicole Del Castillo said. "Like I never heard any news about it anywhere and I feel like I still don't."

Students seem to either forget that each school has a school social worker or they just didn't know at all. Stephanie Flores is there to listen and help the students in any way she can. She's always there to talk to students, and make sure that they're doing well mentally and socially. Social workers are rarely used because many schools don't do a good job promoting them, or students feel uncomfortable talking to adults. However, everything talked about with the social worker is confidential unless it's a very serious topic in which you require help.

"My role as Kennedy's social worker emphasizes supporting students and families related to social/emotional/mental health challenges. (...) I individually support teachers with social-emotional learning strategies and work with our site team to develop systems that account for social emotional needs." said Social Worker Stephanie Flores.

Of course, there are numbers and resources along with social media accounts students have access to get the help they need whenever they feel lonely



Courtesy of thriveglobal.com

or just need to talk. If students still don't feel comfortable talking to Mrs. Flores it's highly suggested that they try to use one of the many resources like the hotline.

"I wouldn't really consider talking to the social worker because I have a lot of people I'm able to talk to but for anyone else I would highly suggest they at least give it a try." said junior California Tapia.

Students need to know they aren't alone. With everything going on in the world it's even more important that they know that. Everyone has different situations so students need to know whom

they can reach out to if they feel overwhelmed, anxious, or anything. Listed below are some numbers to call or text if you or someone you know is going through troubling times. Remember you're not alone and you are cared about.

**Crisis Text Line:**  
**Text HOME to 741741**  
**Suicide Prevention Lifeline:**  
**(800)273-8255**  
**Casa Youth Shelter:**  
**(800) 914- 2272**

## COVID 's Cheating Crisis

**KALIYA TRIAS**

News Editor

APRIL 23, 2021-- The recent virtual component to schooling has brought into question the honesty and integrity of students. Technological advancements have made it so practically all information is at one's fingertips making cheating on both assignments and exams more possible. Although students sign an academic honesty contract at the beginning of each school year, many faculty members have voiced their concerns and observations regarding the rising levels of plagiarism

"There seems to be many reasons for the increased cheating. First of all, I think students feel unprepared and are trying to get a good grade on an assignment, and the grade seems more important these days than actually learning or perfecting skills," English literature teacher Kimberly Weir said. "Students do not really know me, so it is much easier to be dishonest with someone you do not have to look in the eye everyday. I think students are depressed also, and they feel like the system has failed them, so they rationalize cheating."

A survey conducted by digital publishing and education company Wiley found that 93 percent of instructors believe students are more likely to cheat



DONGSEONG KIM/ Stock Photos

virtually rather than in person. Staff and students are unable to build a genuine relationship which would promote a more honest working environment. The major differences between the online learning environment and the in-person learning environment are factors in the distrust between staff and students when it comes to academic honesty.

"Based on my experience I've noticed that there has been an increase in cheating because students are just trying to pass rather than putting in the work due to their

lack of motivation," senior Alissa Carnes said.

After analyzing 79 research studies, Texas State University found a variety of motivational factors are driving the recent uptick in cheating which they published in the Educational Psychology Review. Whether the reason lies with the motivation to retain high grades or the lack of academic confidence, the key reason for cheating is currently 'motivation.'

"There's definitely been an increase in

cheating because it's much easier to cheat." Oxford Academy senior Briana Greeley said. "A lot of people I know just look up answers to tests, and teachers pretty much know this so they've stopped giving so many tests in general."

The accessibility to answers along with convenience seem to be two more driving factors in the increase students and teachers are observing when it comes to cheating on schoolwork. With multiple avenues available for students to use, such as Chegg, Quizlet, and Sparknotes, instructors are not always able to detect academic dishonesty which adds to the lessening of trust between student and teacher.

"While technology is an important tool in the detection of misconduct, I am concerned that entering a high-tech arms race with students will expend resources and good will that would be better spent toward improving student motivation and efficacy as learners," Microbiology assistant professor at the University of California, Davis Miriam Martin said.

Although instructors have the option of using plagiarism detection sites such as Turnitin.com, not all do.

The noticeable surge in the number of cheating students brings into question the reason behind their actions. Whether that be the unaccountability surrounding virtual learning or the overall lack of motivation, there has been a distrust between students and staff during distance learning.



# Don't Be Attracted to My Shoulders, Be Attracted to Good Grades

**ISABELLA LIGOR**

Staff Reporter

DEC. 18, 2021 -- These dress code experiences happen all over the country but are only a huge issue for women. Our generation has made all the wrong things the main focus, especially a school's dress code.

Let's say it is one of the warmest days of the year and you want to wear something that is appropriate, but also makes you feel good about yourself and keeps you cool throughout the day so you're not sweaty or uncomfortable from the heat.

When you step foot on your campus there are already administrators and a teachers eye-balling you because of how you are dressed, leading you to get in trouble, and forcing you to change into some embarrassing outfit that you obviously got because you were in trouble for dress code.

Female students regularly have to work around and compromise what they are wearing because it "attracts unwanted behavior" by male students. It is unacceptable and women shouldn't feel obligated to wear something they don't



Courtesy of FRESH DAILY

want just because men don't know how to control themselves.

On Friday, Oct. 9, a group of boys who attend Nouvelles Frontières College in Gatineau, Quebec decided to wear skirts as part of a movement to protest against sexist policies and toxic masculinity.

"I knew that it was going to be a big

movement, but not that big of a movement," one of the boys said when one hundred of their fellow classmates ended up arriving at school in skirts.

"I was pleasantly surprised," another one of the boys said.

Boys at Quebec high schools wore skirts that month to protest the double standard in dress code at schools. Schools

around the world should take part in this protest on the double standard issue to show how unfair it is that young girls and women have to dress how men say we should. Men never have to go through what women have to go through with deciding what is allowed or what does and doesn't attract attention in clothing alongside inappropriate and unwanted comments and cat calling. If young women are a disturbance to learning and everyday life of young men then maybe young men need to learn how to control themselves around beautiful, confident young women because without women being able to wear what they feel good in they will cover up and not see their true potential.

"We are restricted to wear all types of clothes that you see people wear everywhere you go," Kennedy senior Rebecca Perez said.

We need to change the narrative that the clothes women and young girls choose to wear "distracts" men and young boys as administrators and others say because it's genuinely upsetting to women who try to be body positive and don't get the chance to be.

# Are Caps and Gowns a Must Buy?

**CATRINA THOMEN**

Arts Editor

FEB. 12, 2021--Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most special senior events were cancelled, but one thing that cannot be taken away is graduation. Kennedy graduates must order their cap and gown before the deadline of Friday, Feb. 26 and with the deadline approaching, paired with the uncertainty of returning to campus, it's hard to determine why a cap and gown are necessary for the big event.

The idea behind graduation is walking across the field, accepting your diploma, and enjoying the event while creating memories. If you purchase a cap and gown now and the in person ceremony is unavailable when the time comes, then there will still be a virtual graduation.

"Though this year we may not be able to celebrate with friends and some loved ones we will still be able to celebrate with our families at home," Kennedy senior Samantha Jimenez said. "Many may have had doubts throughout the year but



Courtesy of BELO MEDIA GROUP

this is a symbolization that we did it and we got through our high school year."

While there may not be much reason in fulfilling a purchase of the cap and gown for an online event, there's still a cause for celebration of the milestone occasion.

"As much as I would like my own cap and gown, it really doesn't make sense to buy a set so I can take one picture and send it in for our online graduation which is more likely to happen" Kennedy senior

Leonardo Ponce said. "I'm just going to be using the cap and gown that my older brother used a couple of years ago."

After graduation many students tend to have a party. With the current COVID-19 Guidelines, a party may not be the brightest idea but there are alternatives to share the event with loved ones such as drive-bys, Zoom parties, and parking lot gatherings (staying inside your cars at a distance of AT LEAST 6 feet).

With such a small amount of possibilities, buying a cap and gown may not be worth the \$31 purchase. The possibility of a graduation ceremony held online means a cap and gown won't make a difference for the occasion and the milestone will be just as special. All that's needed for the commemoration is the graduate and the ones dearest to them.

"Students should wear a cap and gown to celebrate not just graduating but for the hard work that has taken place over the past 12 years to get to this point," Kennedy Assistant Principal Rafael Santiago said. "This is an important step for all of the graduates and it's a nice tradition that symbolizes that achievement."

With graduation approaching, the decision must be made whether or not a cap and gown is essential for the kinds of celebration to come. With many things not living up to the high expectations of senior year, graduation should be celebrated with full force as the occasion only comes once in lifetime.



# The Shamrock

*Classic Articles From the Past 50 Years*

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all we  
carry.**

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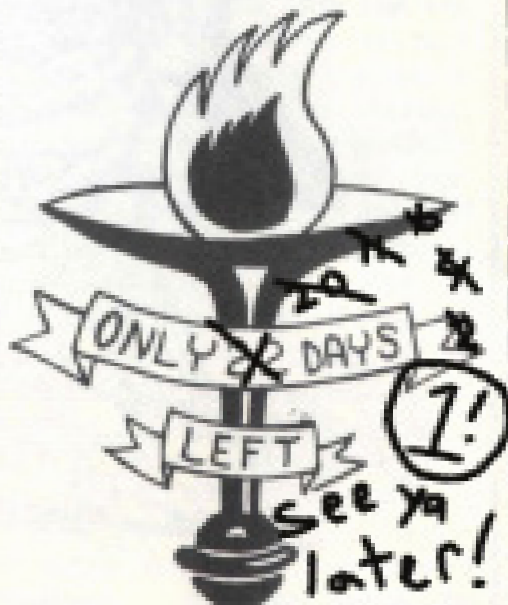


**Submit All  
Entries to  
Room 52.**

**Hurry! Deadline  
Is January 23**



**SENIOR  
COUNTDOWN**



**SPORTS**  
OF THE.....  
**IRISH!**



# God-speed to the Fighting Irish

**KENNETH P. MACPHERSON**  
Principal

JUNE 10, 1974-- I deeply appreciate the invitation extended to me by the Shamrock staff to bid farewell to my Fighting Irish.

I will always be proud and appreciative of the opportunity to have served as the Principal of the John F. Kennedy High School. It's a great school, not because of the faculty, staff and administrators who have worked with me - although they have contributed tremendously - but primarily because of the student body, from the Class of '66 through the class of '76.

I'm being repetitious but - "A school is as good as its student body, no better, no worse" - and Kennedy is the greatest. The end of 1974 marked great sadness for all those at J.F.K. because our first and only principal, Mr. Kenneth B. MacPherson, retired. He was a great man whose memory will never fade from the minds and hearts of those who knew him. His position was filled by Mr. Martin R. Martelli, who brought many new ideas with him.

I'm sure everyone is working toward retirement and the rewards it offers. But achievement of this goal carries an element of sadness for the retiree. This is largely true for me because of the wonderful experiences and associations I have



been privileged to have as your Principal - with students, teachers, and parents. For

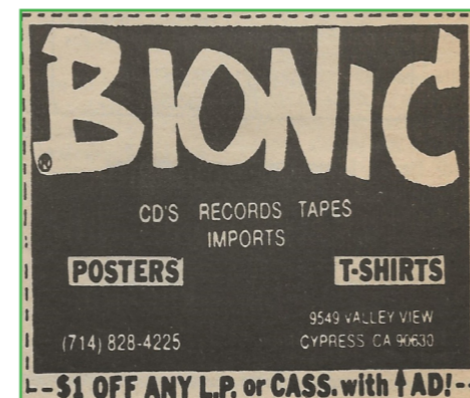
these I give you my sincere thanks. With all my heart I wish the school and all

the people associated with it, many, many years of success and fame. As wonderful as the achievements of the past decade have been, I urge you to not only equal but surpass the accomplishments of the Fighting Irish who have preceded you.

My hopes for you are best expressed, as they have been for the past ten years, by your Irish Blessing:

*"May the roads rise with you,  
And the wind always be at your back;  
And may the Lord hold you in the hollow  
of His hand."*

Sincerely,  
Ken B. MacPherson  
Principal



## Farewell to '75 Three Years of Memories

**LYNELL GRISSO**  
Editor-in-Chief

MAY 9, 1975-- As this school year nears its close once again it is time to bid farewell to another class. This year the class '75 is the tenth graduating class representing "A decade of Irish Spirit".

Many things have happened since this class started out of sophomores. The counselors, administrators, and teachers have helped turn a class of young, fresh-out-of-junior high students into mature young adults, ready (or almost) to go out and face the world.

During the past three years many exciting things or new experiences have also been shared. During 1972 on the 9th anniversary of the anniversary of the John F. Kennedy some of the students of our school appeared on the Eye Witness News doing

**It's Going to be  
Your Last Year!**

a special on his death. Our football team placed second in the Freeway League. It was also a year when Agnes Komaki was first girl to be appointed to the office of A.S.B president here at J.F.K. In 1973 our football team took another league championship and went onto two games in CIF. We won our last annual Clean Campus week against Savanna, and the basketball team for the first time in 9 years went to C.I.F.

Then early in 1974 came one of the most exciting things to ever happen to our school. Our band, drill team and color

guard were invited to perform in the St. Patrick's day festivities in Dublin, Ireland. There they took first place in Dublin and third in Limerick and brought great honor to all of those back home awaiting their return. The end of 1974 marked great sadness for all those at J.F.K. because our first and only principal, Mr. Kenneth B. MacPherson, retired. He was a great man whose memory will never fade from the minds and hearts of those who knew him. His position was filled by Mr. Martin R. Martelli, who brought many new ideas with him.

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We have also experienced the uncovering of the Watergate Scandal, the resignation of the Vice President Spiro Agnew and the resignation of Richard Nixon. Yes, the years at Kennedy will truly bring many a memory to all of us who have shared them. We bid a fond-farewell to the class of 1975, the tenth graduating class that has passed through the halls of John F. Kennedy High school and wish as many happy memories to the second decade classes who will share the same Irish Spirit and Pride that those who were here before us worked so hard to achieve.





# Accurate teacher evaluations NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT STUDENT INPUT

**MIKE SOLORZA**

Buisness Manager

NOV. 18, 1989-- In most professions, employees are evaluated in one form or another. The teaching profession is no different.

All teachers are evaluated several times during their careers. But due to the important position which teachers hold when it comes to molding young minds and preparing them for the future, it seems wise that teachers should be evaluated more stringently.

The teachers at Kennedy are evaluated by the administration. Unfortunately, the administration does not have the daily contact with each teacher which is necessary to make an accurate judgment of the teacher's skills.

This is where students could play a large role in the evaluating process. Most students face the same five or six teachers five days a week and nine weeks in a quarter. Students become attuned to a teacher's methods and skills. It appears reasonable that students be consulted when evaluating teachers' performances in the classroom. Teachers should concern themselves with both students and the

administration.

It seems there is no clear cut solution to the problem of bad teachers not being noticed until it is too late. But giving the students a say in evaluating the teacher's performance is a step in the right direction.


On the last day of every quarter, prepared evaluation sheets could be passed out to the students in every class. Taking no more than ten minutes from class time, students could fill out the evaluation sheets.

The administration could then look over the various comments and see if they are congruent with their own evaluations. In this way, the administration can obtain a more accurate depiction of a teacher's teaching skills.

Administrative evaluations alone do not come close to improving the problems of weak teachers. Student evaluations would also be in no way sufficient on their own. The two must work together to complement and add substance to each other so that appropriate action can be taken and every student can be guaranteed not only a quality education but also a quality teacher.



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## Winter Formal glitters for "One Moment in Time"

**CHRISTIE CHAMBERS**

News Editor

JAN. 27, 1989--Saturday night, January 21, 1989 ASB presented the 1989 Winter Formal. The theme for the dance was "One moment in Time" and the colors were sapphire blue, black, and silver. The dance was held at the Westin South Coast Plaza from 8:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m.

The winners of the Most Preferred Man contest are as follows: freshman, Jason Pasol; sophomore, Brian Kline; junior, Sean McKinney; runner-up Seniors, Brian Calloway and Greg Hansell; and most preferred Man was David Bonaventura. Much preparation and time had been put into this big event. Heading the committee was Lori O'Keefe, ASB social commissioner.

Unlimited soft drinks and a variety of foods were provided at the dance. Audio Tech Productions provided excellent music for an exciting night.

Many students expressed concerns over the highpriced tickets. Fund-raisers such as a hamburger bar were held by ASB to help keep the cost of the tickets down, but still the expenses are growing.

"Hotels are getting more and more expensive each year and soon the prices will be pushed into the \$60 range." ASB President Ryan Ito said. "People need to understand we're doing our best to make the Formal as inexpensive as possible."

"I think they spent too much money on the hotel and not enough on the entertainment," said DeAnne Bretz, junior.



# BLACK CLUBS MATTER

REICZEL BAEL  
JENNY TRINH

Editor-in-Chief & Features Editor

OCT. 6, 2016 -- The campus is full of eclectic organizations: LGBT club, Anime club, French club, LINK. With so many bodies of students uniting together with the same vision, it's easy to start a new club. Until it isn't.

This past summer, the Black Student Union (BSU), headed by co-presidents Breanna Robinson and James Carter, struggled to make its club a reality, facing obstacles as paperwork, meetings, and rumors mixed chaotically. After multiple emails surfaced regarding concerns about the formation of BSU, officiating of the club came to a staggering halt.

"It was told that maybe we shouldn't have the club, and that maybe the club was very controversial, and that if it was [the teacher], they would hold off because it would be hard to find an adviser and get people to join," BSU Vice President Tiera Barber said. "They said that it's so controversial and it's not even a club yet, and all these things are already happening."

Filing paperwork to start a club is fairly simple. A straightforward guide on the school website directs the following: find five to six students and an adviser, plan some events, write a constitution, and fill out an application. Once the district office approves, then the club is free to start calling itself an official club.

For BSU, however, instead of receiving a speedy approval as they had expected, the paperwork reportedly became missing.

"It felt like it was because of the club itself and what we were trying to do. It felt like that's why it was being delayed," BSU secretary Metrah Sadeghi said. "And that inflamed feeling that we had only intensified when we were told that it was controversial, because the faculty said that, all right, it's already problematic. And they even said it themselves."

There is no official conclusion whether or not the paperwork was received, or if the form was incomplete.

Prior to sending the form for approval, the proposed club needed the signatures of Kennedy principal Russell Earnest, the assistant principal in charge of clubs and activities (assistant princi-

pal Jack Jensen who has since transferred to Loara High), and the club adviser.

"I'm not quite sure what happened with the paperwork with Mr. Jensen not being here anymore," Earnest said. "The paperwork could have been sent off, but again, [the school] was the last to have the paperwork, so I apologized to the group about the confusion that happened."

BSU's first proposal to become an official club was filed in May of 2016. BSU initially had English teacher Jenifer Zinn as their adviser until miscommunication between herself, ASB, and BSU officers led to confusion and Zinn's departure as club adviser.

"The club was denied last year because [the paperwork] was filed late, and the deadline for me to get it to the board for approval is April," ASB adviser Sarah Anderson said. "I emailed Ms. Zinn in the beginning of this year asking her if she was still the adviser for the club, but she was confused too."

Club officers did not hear about the paperwork mix-up until two days before Club Rush: an event that encourages Kennedy students to join clubs and organizations. When BSU found out about the indignant emails, social media postings, and the delay of their club's approval in time to participate with the rest of the campus clubs, they were in shock.

Anonymous accounts created on Twitter meant to critique and antagonize the new "Black Lives Matter club" claimed to protest BSU's appearance at Club Rush, prompting faculty to preclude any official BSU campaigning on campus.

"Our entire image was presented as the 'Black Lives Matter superiority club,'" Sadeghi said. "And I wanted to clear the air on what the purpose of our club was, since it seemed as if everyone was misinterpreting it."

After the public's inflamed reactions in 2013 when George Zimmerman was acquitted of shooting and killing 17-year-old Trayvon Martin and the series of high-profile police killings of black persons nationwide that followed, the "Black Lives Matter" movement

(BLM), a chapter-based national group, rose in response with the goal of preventing systematic racism and brutality.

Support of the movement is singularly strong among the black community with 65 percent support, including 41 percent who strongly support it, and opposition at 12 percent; among whites, 40 percent reveal support while 28 percent say they oppose BLM according to Pew Research Center.

Those opposed to BLM respond with "All Lives Matter," a slogan that signals the notion that not only blacks, but all races should fall under the umbrella of recognition for more equality. Supporters of "All Lives Matter" are regularly criticized for minimizing issues of racism and police killings.

BLM highlights the effect of racism that induces widespread bias against blacks in the educational setting, job opportunities and security, and police brutality and violence; proponents stress BLM does not advocate the belief that other races do not matter. Instead, they focus on dismantling centuries' worth of systematic privilege and dangers affecting the black community.

"We're working to get rid of all these social taboos," Robinson said. "You shouldn't be afraid to talk about slavery. You shouldn't be afraid to talk about all the police brutality, because it's happening. It happened. It happened then, and it's happening now."

BSU aims to construct a generally open environment and forum for both black students and advocates to celebrate black culture and share opinions regarding issues impacting the African American community. During general meetings, an understanding of African American history will be developed and broad current events will be discussed.

"It isn't a political statement. It isn't a racist, anti-white gathering; it was simply created to both celebrate and support the African American community at our school and raise awareness about certain issues," Sadeghi said. "It isn't a 'Black Lives Matter ONLY' organization, which is a disturbing misinterpretation of the movement; if anything, it is a 'Black Lives Matter TOO.'"

The student diversity at Kennedy places

Hispanics (36 percent) at the top, followed by Asians (33 percent), Whites (21 percent), Blacks (4 percent), and other minority races (6.6 percent), according to usnews.com.

Nationwide, several schools and universities have established Black Student Unions and minority clubs including states such as California, Georgia, Massachusetts, Washington, etc. A national convention is held by the Office of National Black Student Union (NBSU) with primary focus to urge Black Student Unions to pursue graduate and professional study.

Only two other schools within the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD), Loara High and Western High, host a Black Student Union club.

"Loara barely started a BSU this year, and it did cause some controversy," Sam Cadondon, a senior of Filipino descent, said. "I feel that it is important for us to acknowledge and embrace the black culture as equally as we embrace our own. However, BSU shouldn't be an excuse to express anger or revenge. Rather, it should be used as an opportunity to build stronger relationships amongst blacks and other races."

Earnest and the BSU officers arranged a meeting on Sept. 9 where issues surrounding the delayed paperwork and alleged accusations of black supremacy as the focus of the club were addressed.

Despite arguments against the club, Earnest believes it would be a positive addition to the school in spreading awareness for topics not necessarily welcome for casual conversation.

"I think it's great," Earnest said. "Having an active Black Student Union...provides that same kind of diversity for us."

Officers submitted their application on Sept. 9. However, signing the paperwork stating BSU is official lies in the hands of AUHSD at their next board meeting on Oct. 13. Until then, acts as a formal club and processing of any donations are not authorized. Still, Kennedy allowed BSU to promote and gather members on the center stage during lunch from Sept. 14-16.

For now, this group of student activists must wait for the final word on the legitimacy of their club to be released.

## State of the Union

ORLANDO CABALO

Copy Editor

MARCH 4, 2019 -- On Feb. 5, the annual State of the Union was held in the U.S. House of Representatives. Being compelled to reopen the federal government after a 35-day shutdown, President Donald Trump was invited by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to deliver the national address after previously being denied the opportunity by the House leader.

Trump's speech focused on governing

through unity; however, he had also melded some contentious topics into his annual address such as the demand for a southern border wall, jabs at abortion rights, and a call to end investigations into his administration. These controversial topics resulted in a substantially divided room, with half of the chamber standing in applause while the other sat silent, even booing on occasion.

"An economic miracle is taking place in the United States — and the only thing that can stop it are foolish wars, politics or ridiculous partisan investigations," Trump said. "If there is going to be peace and legislation, there cannot be war and investigation. It just doesn't work that way."

Other than his calls for ending investigations and building a border wall, Trump promoted the economy as well as the increase of women in the workforce. However, many of the remarks made by the president have been claimed to be "partial truths" by various news organizations such as the Associated Press.

According to the Associated Press, "President Donald Trump exaggerated perils at the border, fluffed food stamp numbers and the length of wars and told partial truths on drug prices in his State of the Union speech."

In his speech, Trump championed females in the workforce where he was seen at one point

congratulating the newly elected women of Congress. All elected women of the Democratic caucus also wore white to pay homage to the suffragette movement of the early 20th century.

"No one has benefited more from our thriving economy than women, who have filled 58 percent of the newly created jobs last year," Trump said.

Although it has been customary that presidents receive a bump in popularity due to the address, many analysts have speculated the weight of his speech due to the government shutdown. Because of the stark polarization in the United States, one could only wonder what the future has in store.



## PUTTING THE STOP TO ASIAN HATE



**SAMANTHA CARACOZA**  
Staff Reporter

APRIL 9, 2021-- Since officials have speculated COVID-19 originated from animals in China, many have taken it upon themselves to choose to hate all Asians in response to these rumors. When the rumor that the virus had originated from falsified photos of a man eating “bat soup”, many had chosen to ridicule Chinese individuals. While it was confirmed the bat soup had no play in the coronavirus after all, this did not change people's opinions.

“The United States will be powerfully supporting those industries, like Airlines and others, that are particularly affected by the Chinese Virus,” President Donald Trump tweeted. “We will be stronger

than ever before!”

On March 16, 2020 ex-president Donald Trump talked about COVID-19 but using his own term, “Chinese virus” in a turn considered by some to be racist to Chinese individuals. Coincidentally a year later on March 16, 2021, eight Asian-Americans were killed in three Atlanta-area shootings by a man named Robert Aaron Long.

That same day, StopAAPIHate.org reported 3,795 racially motivated attacks against Asian-Americans from March 2020 to February 2021, noting that the number is likely a fraction of the attacks that occurred because many were not reported to the group. The statistics show that if a person with authority blames a country, then his followers will also blame them.

“Too many Asian Americans have been walking up and down the streets and worrying, waking up each morning the past year feeling their safety and the safety of their loved ones are at stake,” President Joseph Biden said at a speech at Emory University on March 19. “They’ve been attacked, blamed, scapegoated, and harassed.”

Things have gotten to the point



JEENAH MOON/Reuters

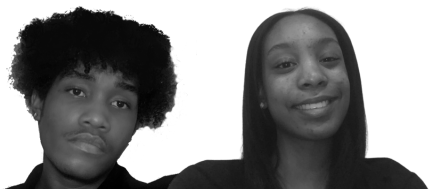
where the current president needed to intervene and comment on the recent spike in Asian hate crimes. Biden also called on Congress to pass the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, a bill that would require the Department of Justice to conduct an expedited review of hate crimes spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I think the people who are harming

Asians and other humans are not right in their mind,” local citizen Luis Caracoza said. “They just suddenly wake up and decide they’re gonna be other human beings. I just don’t get that.”

Hating on a race because you have nothing else to blame isn’t right. Everyone needs to stop hating and hurting Asians based on what the internet has told you.

## THE DANGEROUS DOUBLE STANDARD

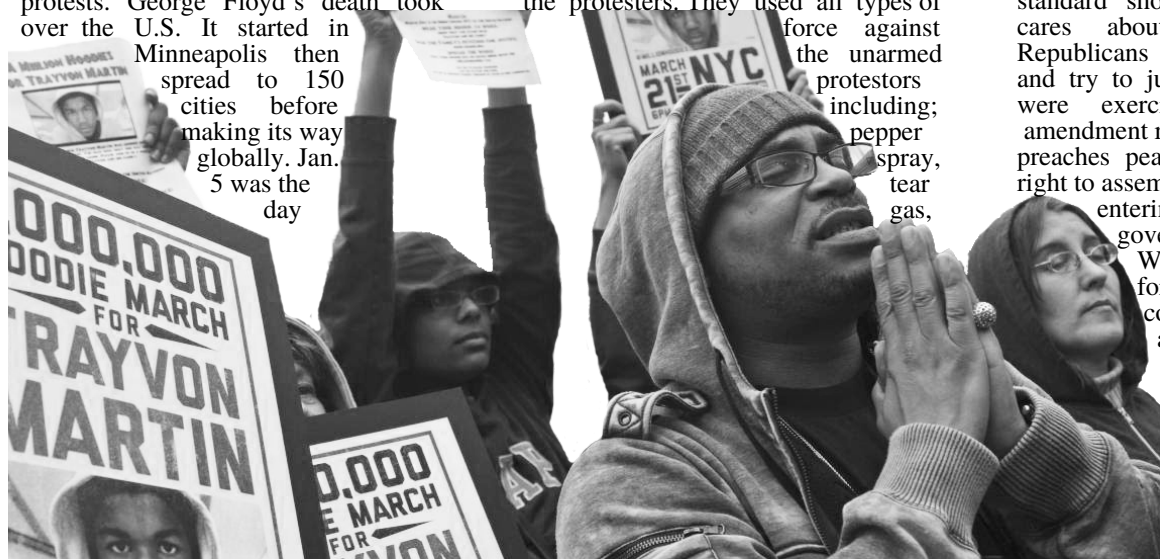


**ZYIAH TYLER**  
**TYLER WHEATLEY**  
Staff Reporters

JAN. 22, 2021-- On Feb. 26 2012, a 17 year old African American named Trayvon Martin was shot and killed by George Zimmerman. This sparked protest throughout the entire nation, with The death of Martin influenced many black people to stand up against the killing of their race. This was only the start of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The Black Lives Matter Movement (BLM) has been alive for almost nine years. Discussions on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram have endlessly talked about the different treatment due to skin color. Whether it’s unlawful arrests or unnecessary lethal force, it sparked the attention of younger generations. It only took eight

minutes and forty-six seconds for George Floyd to pass away. Floyd repeatedly stated he couldn’t breathe as the cop pinned him down by the neck using his knee. Bystanders who took videos shouted at cops and demanded they let him go. That was the firework, the video spread to several online media platforms which resulted in thousands of protests using the last words Floyd spoke before passing away. “I can’t breathe” became a popular slogan and hashtag during the protests. George Floyd’s death took over the U.S. It started in Minneapolis then spread to 150 cities before making its way globally. Jan. 5 was the day



MARY ALTAFFER/Associated Press

true colors were shown, not only from die hard Trump supporters and republicans but from the police.

“The difference between motives are completely different, 93% of BLM protests were peaceful and a majority of the riots were done by Trump supporters.” senior Conner Stoebe said.

The statistic is reported by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED). During the BLM movement, people noticed that law enforcement were very aggressive with the protesters. They used all types of force against the unarmed protestors including; pepper spray, tear gas,

and even go as far as using rubber bullets. However, The people who forced their way into the Capitol, who were armed and presumed dangerous, weren’t treated the same way. Instead they were allowed to march around the Capitol without being stopped. There was no use of rubber bullets or tear gas or any extreme force like there were with the BLM supporters.

Countless black lives have been lost due to racial profiling. The double standard shows how America truly cares about its minority race. Republicans break into the Capitol and try to justify it by saying they were exercising their first amendment right. The first amendment preaches peaceful protesting and the right to assembly not breaking and entering and destroying government property.

When people begin to stand for the BLM movement and correctly exercise their first amendment right, they get beaten arrested, and shot by the police. There’s a difference between peaceful and hostile, a difference between exercising a right and committing a crime.



# Fighting Irish Volleyball Rallies in COVID-Shortened Season

**CAMILA ACOSTA**

Sports Editor

MAY 17, 2021 -- Amidst the chaos of the rise in COVID-19 cases and the difficulty of distance learning, Kennedy High's boys varsity volleyball team put in the work and qualified for playoffs in a COVID-shortened season.

Despite having just four weeks to train before their first game, the team entered the season confident in their abilities and with their morale high.

"Once we got the season underway it really just felt like a normal season," Kennedy volleyball Coach Travis Warner said. "I really owe it to our players for their effort to commit to each other during an uncertain time."

Regardless of the complications that COVID-19 presented, the team put their best foot forward and ended the season with a 10-3 record to capture second place in the Empire League. The 2021 season consisted of thirteen games against eight



JOHN ADAIR/*The Eternal Flame*

schools. However, due to the effects of COVID-19 in the community, many players expected the season to be cancelled.

"Our team wasn't always a hundred percent sure if we were going to have a

high school season or not, but a couple of the guys including myself still worked on trying to get better despite the possibility of not getting a season," senior outside hitter Vincent Pham said.

"A lot of the guys on the team were

working out and (played on a club (team) during off season."

The team swept both Valencia High and Pacifica High twice along with wins against Crean Lutheran High and Garden Grove High. They faced tougher matches in games against Tustin High and Upland High, but still managed to come out victorious despite the obstacles which were presented by the unusual season.

"Volleyball has been difficult with all the restrictions including the constant testing and playing with masks on," senior defensive specialist Moses Chen said. "But I'm grateful to have a wonderful volleyball season with my friends and teammates."

The team will play Servite in the wildcard round of the playoffs at home on Tuesday, May 18.



# The Relationship Between School Sports & Mental Health

**KALIYA TRIAS**

News Editor

MARCH 17, 2021 -- Throughout the quarantine within California there have been mixed messages regarding the status of school sports. Some districts in the state have allowed for practice since the beginning of the school year, while others have allowed team sports for a short time before cancelling it entirely.

The risk of a more viral spread has been the main argument brought forth in the debate of whether or not schools should allow sports to open up to students. The amount of preparation needed for coaches and students, with equipment and space are also brought into question when discussing the topic as regulations need to be up to date for district officials to give the green light to play or compete.

"I would only promote returning with the proper safety precautions such as masks sanitizing spray and social distancing at all times," senior Sydney Tomooka said. "Being signed up for three sports this year has been a drastic change to what I'm used to, and I've found that exercise and social interaction is highly influential to my overall happiness."

Student involvement in school sports is primarily voluntary as it is not



MATTHEW CORCORAN/*The Shamrock*

a requirement made by the school or school district. Although there is influence with the adult or parental figures in a student's life, this choice promotes the betterment of mental health as it is not forced upon students.

"Sports are a very important factor for teenagers to be able to connect with

others and it helps with their self esteem," Kennedy High athlete parent Rocio Chicas said. "Student's uncertainty on whether they can play or if their season is cancelled harms them due to their hopes rising for a season which is usually met with the disappointment of it not happening."

The mental health of students versus the danger of spreading the virus is another topic brought to the table when discussing whether or not it is plausible for sports to resume. The differing situations between students and coaches home situations means there are different risk factors for each individual. With the constant state of change between the word of the district and the number of cases, the consistency of sport participation is sparse.

"There is a huge correlation between student athletes, the sport they play, and their mental health. I am also a firm believer in playing during the current state of the virus," boys volleyball coach and Kennedy High teacher Travis Warner said. "I believe people should have their own choice in whether they want to participate or not, and not have their choices dictated for them. Kids need that social interaction in sports... It helped to reduce things like anxiety, and stress... that's just not happening, and we are seeing the effects of it in our kids mental health."

The state continues to lessen the restrictive regulations within sports as teams such as Cross Country begin to race against other schools in the league. As each sport's season begins, students are given the choice to compete for one sport at the school.



# NBA Season Off to a Bumpy Start

KONRAD GONZALEZ

Staff Reporter

JAN. 22, 2021--The National Basketball Association (NBA) and its players knew the upcoming season was never going to be perfect and early on teams are already starting to show signs of trouble.

Players contracting COVID-19 and contact tracing led to the benching of multiple players for each team and forcing teams to play with eight players (instead of the typical fifteen). Games have been postponed and will continue to be if a team can't have the minimum eight active players required in uniform, a scenario that has already happened and seems to be lurking for more teams moving forward.

Players contracting COVID-19 and contact tracing led to the benching of multiple players for each team and forcing teams to play with eight players (instead of the typical fifteen). Games have been postponed and will continue to be if a team can't have the minimum eight active players required in uniform, a scenario that has already happened and seems to be lurking for more teams moving forward.



ALONZO ADAMS/USA Today Sports

"I think we are prepared for isolated cases," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said during a press conference. "In fact, based on what we've seen in the preseason, based on watching other leagues operating outside a bubble, unfortunately, it seems somewhat inevitable. We're prepared for all contingencies."

The Houston Rockets had a game postponed because they didn't have

enough available players to meet the minimum requirement. The Philadelphia 76ers also played just seven players in a Jan. 9 loss to the Denver Nuggets.

The Miami Heat was another team who also didn't have enough players for its recent game against the Boston Celtics, who barely had enough players itself, forcing the postponement of the game.

On Monday, Jan. 18, the league postponed two more games. New Orleans

vs Dallas and Chicago vs. Boston.

"It's starting to get janky," Orlando Magic forward Aaron Gordon said. "I'd be cool with a bubble if it was in the Bahamas or Hawaii and we got to bring our family/wife or girlfriend."

Silver made it very clear that the league won't skip the line or pay for its players and staff to get the COVID-19 vaccine early. The NBA will deal with non-ideal circumstances all season. That's the price of playing in a pandemic. The league, the teams, and the players know that.

"The concern is not COVID," 76ers Head Coach Doc Rivers said. "The concern is injuries because guys are playing so many minutes because we don't have enough guys. I'm looking at our stat sheet, we had one, two, three guys plus-40 (minutes) and couldn't be avoided. Now, we play again in two days and then we play again. That's my concern with this, we have to be very careful how we navigate next week."

Despite these unfortunate circumstances, the main takeaway is that league protocols are working as well as they can and most teams aren't being affected by COVID-19.

# Tommy Lasorda: A Hall of Fame Legacy

SAMANTHA CARACOZA

Staff Reporter

JAN. 22 2021 -- On Thursday, Jan. 7 2021, Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda suffered a sudden cardiopulmonary arrest and was transferred to the hospital where he passed away at 10:57 p.m. local time at the age of 93.

Lasorda made his major league debut in 1954 with the Brooklyn Dodgers, playing with them for two years and later playing for Oakland Athletics for a year. After his years as a pitcher, he started his career as a coach with the Dodgers Association.

"Words can not express my feelings, a friend and mentor for 52 years is no longer with us. Tommy— no one will ever fill the void you left. Thank you for everything. R.I.P." former mentee Bobby Valentine said.

Lasorda began as a manager in 1976 and won the World Series in '81 and '88 then soon officially retired in 1996 after coaching the Dodgers for 20 seasons.



GEORGE ROSE/Getty Images

His competitive attitude, energy, and determination is what lead him to become a minor league pitcher to Hall of Fame manager. After retiring from the Dodgers, he coached Team USA to gold

in the 2000 Summer Olympics, in Sydney, Australia. Many told him he wouldn't be receiving a gold medal, however he didn't care for himself, only for his team.

"He willed himself to live this long and to watch that world championship," former Dodgers pitcher Orel Hershiser said.

Tommy Lasorda was not a selfish man, although he was a boastful one. Once, teasing their number one rival, the Giants, by blowing kisses to the fans when his team was playing their final games in the Giants' new stadium.

He didn't coach for himself, but for the fame; he coached for his team's dreams. He had a true love for his team.

There's a rule for managers to not associate with the players, but Tommy made sure to always hug them, respect them, and to communicate with them.

"I bleed Dodger blue and when I die, I'm going to the big Dodger in the sky," Tommy Lasorda said.

Tommy Lasorda's death crushed many fans and rivals' hearts. He was a man you could not hate.

Tommy Lasorda did the things he loved while he was alive, which was others achieving their dreams while he achieved his by coaching them.



## Finding Different Ways to Harmonize!

CATRINA THOMEN

Arts Editor

MAY 24, 2021 -- On Mar. 13, 2020, the typical school experience switched from on campus to online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving teachers and students to figure out the virtual environment. Soon it became clear the transition was much more tricky for unique courses opposed to core subjects. With the struggle of the online platform, The Kennedy Singers Vocal Music Program was reinvented to fit the circumstances!

The Kennedy Singers offer five vocal music classes and one after school group. There are the two advanced classes (Executive Order and First Ladies), the intermediate class (Central Intelligence), and the two non-audition classes, (The Interns and The Ambassadors). Janae West, choir director, also runs an after-school men's group (The Secret Service).

"Last semester was a bit different because the district was very strict, the pressure we had, and how much time each assignment had to take a student," West said. "I didn't wanna do what these other groups were doing; a song a week, recording, learning, recording, learning, every week and I felt like that was too much pressure and it's just... we have to be understanding."

One of the things that called for the largest change was the grading curriculum. As stated in the syllabus, students are graded based on things such as participation, attendance, class rehearsals, and performances. The typical activities couldn't be properly graded over the online platform, causing West to have to come up with a wide variety of topics and activities to keep students engaged.

"The activities that have been going on since distance learning started have been a great way to stay connected to everyone even when it's a little difficult at times," Junior Selena Carillo said, "It gives us a moment to step back from any sort of stress and actually interact with people"

On May 3, West got the clearance from updated guidelines allowing the program to put on a live show just in time for the regularly scheduled end of the year Pop showcase.

"I finally get to perform in person and not through a screen," said Executive Order Dance Captain Christian Sanchez, "I missed being able to talk to people and felt like I was becoming introverted. It's also nice to see everyone before we say goodbye to High School."

As well as preparing a live show, West also has arranged a virtual show for the students unable to come on campus. This was



JOHN ADAIR/ The Eternal Flame

done by the on campus students having to rehearse twice a week and virtual students submitting choreography and vocal videos according to a schedule set up by West. After videos were submitted, she sends them to a professional editor in order to get the best in-group experience through the online platform. The live showing of 'Virtual Insanity' will take place on May 21., 2021 and the virtual show will be streamed on youtube on May 22., 2021 at 6:00 pm.

"The thing that really makes Kennedy Singers and show choir special is the

memories we create, the good times, the learning experience. I think that you learn something, but learn so much more when you get to see other people do what you do, you can be your own judge," West said.

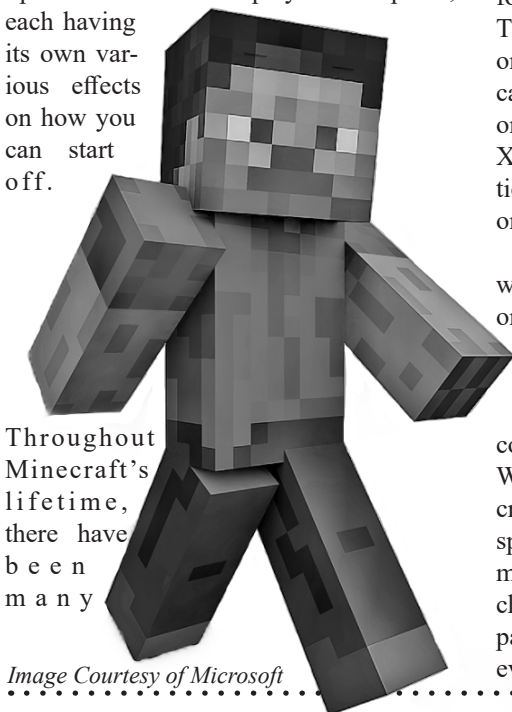
Though the transition has been difficult to navigate, the determination of West and her students and the love they have for the Kennedy Singers Vocal Music Program has kept the energy going despite the unpredictable circumstances, and brought this year's students to an Exciting end of the year live show.

## SEEDS OF UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

KAIDEN TRAN

Features Editor

FEB. 5, 2021 -- Minecraft is known for its vast worlds and unlimited possibilities of how to play. One of the largest factors in your gaming experience is the world you spawn. In Minecraft, there are multiple biomes that the player can spawn, each having its own various effects on how you can start off.



Throughout Minecraft's lifetime, there have been many

Image Courtesy of Microsoft

famous world designs or "seeds" as they are called in the game.

One of the most desired seeds to find is the Minecraft title screen. Since it is an image that every player has to see when they launch the game, many gamers have wanted to view the sight in their own Minecraft world. Finally after nine years, the seed for the title screen has been discovered. The seed(s) are 2151901553968352745 or 8091867987493326313 and the location can be found at the specific coordinates X=61.48, Y=75, Z=-68.73. X is the horizontal axis, Y is the vertical axis, and Z is the distance north or south of the origin point of (0,0,0).

"Everyone should be familiar with this world. It's the one that always appeared on Minecraft's main-menu (title-screen), blurred and slowly rotating around," Seed Discoverer Tomlacko said.

An infamous seed has also been discovered from fans, known as "Herobrine World". Herobrine was Minecraft's own creepypasta; a made up horror story that spread through the internet. He was very much akin to Steve, the default Minecraft character with a light blue shirt and blue pants that every new player starts as. However, Herobrine has piercing white eyes

but nevertheless is identical to Steve. The story extends further when fans began to state that Herobrine was actually Minecraft's creator Notch's dead brother reincarnated into the game. The Herobrine creepypasta spread like a wildfire from its origin video, "Herobrine Sighting!"

The very short video does not show much, but it did not stop avid fans from finding the seed. The seed is as follows, 478868574082066804 and its specific coordinates are X=5.16 Y=71 Z=-298.53. This Herobrine scare was debunked to be a myth, where it does not actually exist in the game and found that Notch never incorporated a dead brother into the world.

"Herobrine isn't real in any way, no. I never had a brother (well, there's a half brother I never met...), and he's not in the game," tweeted Minecraft Creator Markus "Notch" Persson.

In a successful Minecraft run, one would hope for a world with quick and fast access to the basic necessities such as iron, diamonds, and a stronghold (to travel to the End and finish the world). There are multiple quick Minecraft seeds that enable the player to find diamonds quickly, which is by far the strongest material in the Minecraft overworld. A quick seed to get dia-

monds is -7629372319681445308, where you will be able to obtain 13 diamonds at the start of your journey, if you are willing to explore through a ravine. The ravine is located at -402 69 -134, and you will be able to find an area consisting of eight diamonds at -385 11 -95, with another close-by area with five diamonds at -372 13 -91.

However that is not the extent of the diamonds on this seed! At a village, there is a mine in which there are more easily accessible diamonds. The entrance to this mine is at -268 42 -669. There is a patch of five more diamonds for you to mine at -261 15 -743 and two more at -271 11 -634. Additionally in this mine, there is a minecart that also contains diamonds at -293 20 -732. After following these instructions, you will be able to be rich in materials for the rest of your adventure.

"Starting my game out with a handful of diamonds is very fun sometimes", said player Dwight Campe. "It allows me to kind of do whatever I want for a while."

With these small adjustments to your Minecraft gameplay, it's possible to experience famous sights from the Minecraft community as well as give a small boost in power at the beginning of your adventure in a brand new world.





ZYIAH TYLER

Staff Reporter

MARCH 20, 2021 -- Many viewers are satisfied while others are left with questions after the conclusion of "WandaVision" on Disney+. In the wake of the finale, callbacks and discoveries were made along with further development of Wanda Maximoff in the blockbuster films. Since her introduction in "Avengers: Age of Ultron," her origins have been sitting in the shadows. However, Elizabeth Olsen's portrayal has brought a whole new level to Maximoff that audiences have never seen before.

In the seventh episode of the series, "WandaVision" takes on the trappings of a modern sitcom with handheld camera zooms and unstable camera movements. The episode, titled "Breaking the Fourth Wall," breaks the fourth wall often with

A Love Letter to

WandaVision

\*\*\*WARNING: SPOILERS BELOW!\*\*\*

Vision, the twins, and Agnes glancing at the camera as well as scenes cutting to confessional monologues. The talks with the camera aren't simply there for comedic relief, as they offer an insight to the character's thought process, including Wanda's mental state and the existential crisis she goes through. In addition, showrunners provide a twist with a catchy theme revealing Agnes as the villain all along.

As the show continues on, the story begins to drift to more serious topics of grief and pain, as the majority of Marvel fans and viewers know the fate of Vision in "Avengers: Infinity War" and Maximoff's powerful confrontation against Thanos in "Avengers: Endgame."

In the eighth episode, Wanda revisits her trauma with Agatha. A seemingly hopeless situation until Maximoff and the viewer stumble upon a memory of her and Vision. Paul Bettany delivered one of the most heart-warming and heart-breaking lines that has resonated with fans.

"It's all I've ever known," The Vision said in the episode titled "Previously On." "I've never experienced loss because I've never had a loved one to lose. But what is grief, if not love persevering?"

Not only does the series help the viewers understand Maximoff and Vi-

sion, they also introduce two new upcoming heroes named Billy and Tommy Maximoff, better known by their superhero names Wiccan and Speed. In "All-New Halloween Spooktacular!" Billy is dressed in his comic counterpart costume but he's dressed as a wizard while Tommy dresses like comic book Quicksilver.

"They began the day as children getting ready for their first Halloween, and ended it as superpowered pre-teens," journalist Daniel Chin said.

Though there is no character development for the twins besides the development of their powers as the Halloween night progresses into chaos, with a "Hawkeye" series in production Marvel seems to have plans to create a Young Avengers team or something close to that nature.

Olsen's performance in "WandaVision" speaks volumes to the audience. She's able to show her character's pain, emotional state, and a softer side that hasn't been shown in the films. Olsen brings realism to a character known for her strange abilities by channelling every era of sitcom from the 1950s to the 2000s. "WandaVision" is overacted in the sitcom world on purpose. People don't seem to understand that it's a sitcom but it allows some variety to the average su-

perhero flick which is refreshing to see.

"I can't believe some people are saying Olsen's performance in WandaVision was bad. Did we even watch the same show?" Said Twitter user @eolsenarchive.

Overall, "WandaVision" tells an amazing story of pain and love, and reveals Scarlet Witch's true origins setting her up for "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" (the sequel to Doctor Strange in which Olsen's character has been confirmed to have a role).

For award season consideration, Olsen delivered a worthy

performance, and the series as a whole contains the potential for a nomination. The show serves as a love letter to sitcoms, the beloved comic book characters, and Marvel fans alike.



MARVEL'S PROPAGANDA PROBLEM



JAYLYN PRESLICKA

Editor-In-Chief

APRIL 30, 2021 -- Marvel Studios made \$22.2 billion through box office revenue in 2020--during the most tolling economic depressions since the 2008 recession due to COVID-19.

These lavish films make billions, but they also cost billions to produce leading some to wonder how Marvel Studios has been able to stay afloat during these difficult times.

A popular theory is that the American military, as well as the C.I.A., supports and funds many of the "pro-America" Marvel Studios products such as "Captain American" and "Agents of SHIELD."

"Propaganda films are generally associated with faraway and destitute countries, made by tyrannical governments in scary-sounding places such as Soviet Russia, but they have a long history of being funded in America," student journalist Anna Banerjee said. "America so strongly with ideals of freedom and democracy,

it is often hard to admit that governments and political powers have strong hands on the mass media we happily enjoy and flock to in the hundreds of thousands."

Recently, the Flag-Smasher, an anti-nationalist advocate for global liberation, has been introduced into the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

The Flag-Smasher character made it's first appearance in Captain America #312 (December 1985) as the male figure name Karl Morgenthau. In the streaming show "The Falcon and the Winter Soldier," the character takes on a feminine role (Karli Morgenthau) as she collides with the two central characters Bucky Barnes (Winter Soldier) and Sam Wilson (Falcon).

The trouble is that Karli is presented as a villain. How is it possible that a character that advocates for freedom and anti-oppression is portrayed as an awful person when America prides itself on being "the land of the free?"

Morgenthau's values are those of a far-left ideology. America and its Western

allies chose to be isolationist in the means of foreign aid and having a character that opposes that is good bait for American audiences to disapprove of that as well.

Using anti-left propaganda has been a common trope in many pro-American nationalist tales, such as the in the film "Red Dawn." In the film, there are countless comparisons to Communists and Nazis such as in the scene when young girls are hidden under a floorboard so they wouldn't get raped by Soviet guards. In the case of Morgenthau, the same is done.

American propaganda uses a tool of anti-anti-Semitism in order to make it seem that Americans welcome those of the Jewish faith and continue the myth that Americans alone were the ones who won WWII. By portraying anything radical to the left as anti-Semitic, the American propaganda machine upholds the lie all the while hoping viewers don't realize the comparison in itself is anti-Semitic.

The comparison is just another subtle way how C.I.A.-funded Marvel propagan-

da perpetuates a white nationalist state.

"The Bush administration wanted to get Hollywood filmmakers to rally around the flag, reminiscent of the early days of World War One and World War Two," Digital Study and Communications Professor Tanner Mirrlees said. "A spokesperson for the Bush administration said: 'I have great respect for the industry and its ability to educate at home and abroad.' As if war films are about public education."

Marvel has smart marketing though, bringing in topics of racial justice while carefully ignoring true themes of Black liberation and other pro-socially left ideas. The casual LGBTQ+ member is thrown in to keep audiences happy and their problem is solved.

However, with these giant war movies, the narrative of pro-military is carefully calculated, sometimes criticizing small aspects of war while ignoring the bigger picture. Marvel chooses topics a general consensus would disagree with all while upholding the very strong American value system.

Images Courtesy of MARVEL STUDIOS



BOOK

# A BRAVE NEW WORLD

## Kennedy High Space Station Opens

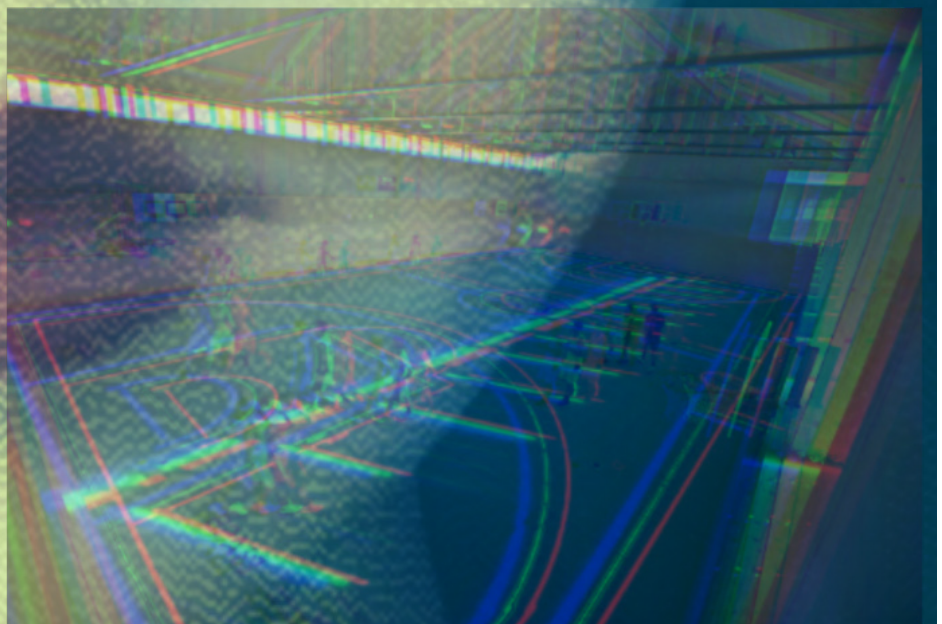
On Tuesday, Kennedy High officially launched the Centralia Celestial Compound. The state of the art space station will allow for Kennedy students to experience real-life training in astrophysics, solar robotics, and alien life forms. The station, opened in partnership with AUUSD and NASA, is the first of its kind for a K-12 educational institution. READ MORE.



## Sector 9 Weather



## Fighting Irish Siamballi Champs



Kennedy overpowers Cypress to earn it's fourth league championship in just five seasons of play. READ MORE.