

REMEMBERING KOBE BRYANT • CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC • HUMANS OF KENNEDY

THE SHAMROCK

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THE SHAMROCK

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THE RETURN OF SADIES

FAITH NGUYEN

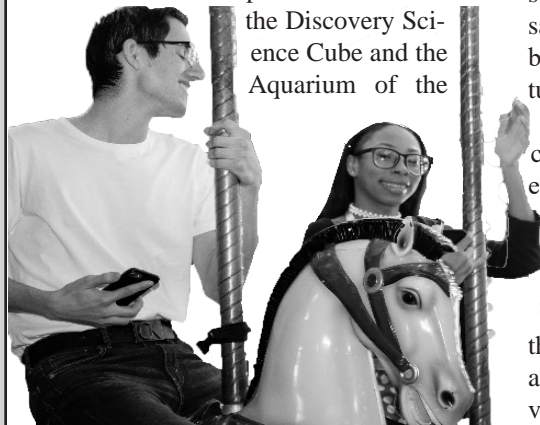
Copy Editor

After two years of successful Winter Formals, 2020 brought the return of the Sadie Hawkins dance. Led by ASB's junior cabinet, "Dancing through the Decades" marked the come back of the beloved dance, the last one being in 2016. The event took place at Boomers in Irvine with an overall turnout of approximately 560 people.

The switch from Winter Formal to Sadies brought many changes, the most notable being the venue and attire.

Formals of the past have been held at

the Discovery Science Cube and the Aquarium of the



Courtesy of JAYSON ANTONIO PHOTOGRAPHY
Students riding the carousel ride at Sadies.

Pacific, both of which included a more traditional school dance layout: a large, designated dance floor, very few low-profile activities, and photo opportunities. Sadies, however, brought a variety of arcade games, rock climbing, golfing, and most popular, go-karts.

Aside from activities, formals are known for being as the name suggests—formal. In prom-like fashion, students would arrive in floor length dresses or suits. This year's Sadies architects took a different approach to dress code.

"We [sophomore cabinet] wanted people to go all out in terms of the theme," sophomore class president Christian Seong said. "One way we motivated students was by posting a series of different inspo pictures for people to dress up as."

However, with the myriad of activities comes at a price higher than some would expect, the final sale being \$65 with or without an ASB card.

"The cost of the dance was figured by, not only the cost of Boomers itself but also by what my vendor brought in, [...] the desserts, and the drinks, and the DJ's and all the gear and all the light," ASB advisor John Hoganson said. "My per head cost was about \$47 per person and our total cost at the end was not a lot more than that."

All that money just gets rolled into depositing into the next dance."

The tradition of Sadie Hawkins begins before the dance even starts. Unlike Prom or Homecoming, Sadie Hawkins encourages girls to ask their dates to the dance. This derives from the Li'l Abner comic strip, in which the unmarried women of Dogpatch would chase around bachelors and marry the ones they caught. The somewhat outdated comic now brings the practice of grandiose askings. This tradition was encouraged by the junior cabinet, who hosted a proposal asking competition. The prize included two free Sadies tickets, a men's spa kit, and a \$50 Luminous Nail Bar gift card. The winners were Christine Lee and Joseph Umali.

"I'm glad I had an opportunity to hang out with all of my friends before AP testing," senior Shailen Patel said.

The main reaction to the comeback dance was positive. The go-karts fueled exhilaration through acceleration, many students challenged their peers to rock climbing competitions; many activities were provided that other dances simply lack. With the alternation of Winter Formal and Sadies every year, students will always be given the opportunity for a fun night.

Perseverance Mission

ISABELLA DOHERTY

Features Editor

Continuing the work of the previous Mars rovers, NASA's Mars 2020 Rover Mission Perseverance is expected to leave from Cape Canaveral between July 17 and Aug. 5 and is predicted to land on the red planet on Feb. 18, 2021.

This new mission is a continuation of the long-term robotic exploration and research of the accomplished Spirit (2004-10), Opportunity (2004-18), and Curiosity (2012-present) missions. Like the other missions, Perseverance has her own set of key questions that scientists and engineers hope will be answered in order for future human missions to Mars.

"The Mars rover missions have helped scientific research improve and the program has impacted many new discoveries," senior Zenaira Cursetji said.

The twin discovers, Spirit and Opportunity, had the job of proving that, at some point in the red planet's history, water existed there.

According to NASA's mission website, Curiosity's ongoing job is to answer if "Mars ever had the right environmental conditions to support small life forms."

Building off of these, the 2020 mission's goals are to find proof of past life,

characterize the climate and geology, and, mainly, prepare for human exploration.

"It's designed to seek the signs of life, so we're carrying a number of different instruments that will help us understand the geological and chemical context on the surface of Mars," deputy mission leader Matt Wallace said to Agence France-Presse, a worldwide news agency.

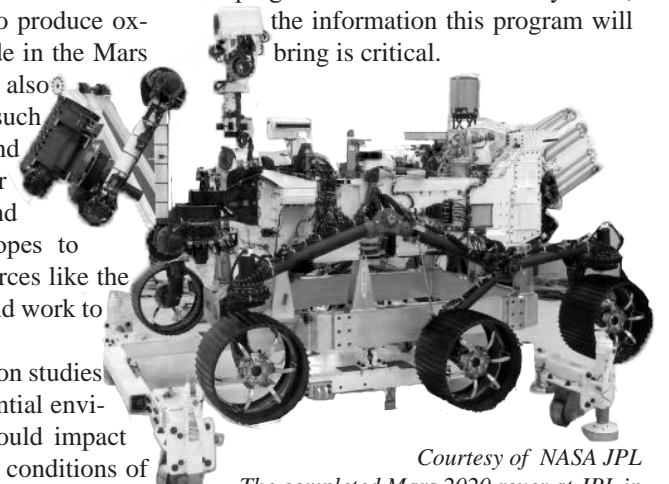
This mission marks an opportunity to gather as much knowledge as possible as well as test out technologies designed to target challenges future human expeditions might encounter. Along with 23 cameras, Perseverance will carry a tool named Moxie which will be used to produce oxygen from the carbon dioxide in the Mars atmosphere. The rover will also feature other instruments such as a miniature helicopter and the supercam, a laser blaster meant to investigate rocks and dirt. NASA additionally hopes to identify other possible resources like the potential subsurface water and work to improve landing techniques.

It's critical that this mission studies dust, weather and other potential environmental conditions that could impact the health, safety, and living conditions of any future astronauts living and working

on Mars.

"The JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) has always done wondrous work to explore our solar system and beyond... This is another small step to learn about our neighboring red planet and in time, perhaps the vastness of space itself," senior Joshua Li said.

The Perseverance mission offers an important conclusion to the rover discovery program at NASA and opens a multitude of doors for humankind's future. With NASA's next plan for the red planet being a 5-phase human mission in 2030 and Space X hoping to have humans there by 2024, the information this program will bring is critical.



Courtesy of NASA JPL
The completed Mars 2020 rover at JPL in Pasadena, CA.



CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC

MARIELENA MCDERMOTT
Staff Reporter

On March 6, President Donald Trump signed a bipartisan \$8.3 billion deal for aid in developing a coronavirus vaccine and slowing the spread of the disease. Just two days earlier, California had its first coronavirus death and state officials declared it a state health emergency.

The coronavirus (officially named COVID-19) was first discovered on Dec. 31, 2019 when China notified the World Health Organization (WHO) of pneumonia outbreaks in Wuhan, a central manufacturing city and tourist destination.

COVID-19 comes from a branch of the Coronaviridae family. These viruses are named after their spikey figure when seen under a microscope. Experts believe the virus is spread through close contact with others, namely coughing and sneezing. Symptoms of people who have contracted the virus have been noted as fever, coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath.

On Jan. 30, the WHO declared COVID-19 an international public health emergency. As of March 6, it has infected all continents except Antarctica. The U.S. confirmed its first case on Jan. 21 in Seattle, WA. The patient had recently traveled to the infected area of Wuhan, China where the disease began. Since then, there have been 14 deaths in Washington. As of Fri-



Courtesy of GETTY IMAGES
Doctor assists a patient with COVID-19 in a Chinese hospital.

day, over 250 cases have been recorded in the U.S.

“These developments in terms of the evolution of the outbreak and further development of transmission, these are of grave concern and have spurred countries into action,” Dr. Mike Ryan, a WHO official, said.

Many countries have taken action by evacuating their citizens out of areas near Wuhan. Japan and Australia have evacuated their citizens from the country. China has over 80,000 cases reported of the virus.

In comparison, influenza has a world-

wide death toll of 291,000 to 646,000 per year, while COVID-19 has an approximated death toll of 3,462 deaths as of March 6.

On Friday, 21 passengers on the Grand Princess cruise off the coast of California were diagnosed with the virus. This was revealed just two weeks after a passenger on the same ship died from the virus in California.

The presence of COVID-19 has also halted some activities at school. Kennedy was scheduled to have two weeks of Chinese foreign exchange students visiting campus again, but because of the virus, the

district was forced to pause the program for these students.

“While we had multiple precautions in place to ensure the well-being of all involved and families from China had invested much in this trip for their children, we felt canceling these trips from China was the right thing to do for our community,” Principal Adam Hernandez said in an email sent out to AUHSD members.

Some students around campus feel that the virus is a concern, but not a pressing issue. Even though not a lot is known about the virus, some students feel that it is not a cause to worry.

“I am not worried about being affected because just like with other viral infections, I have been made aware of the signs and will definitely report any of them if they occur to me,” senior Heidi Avalos said. “I feel that to some extent students are nervous but... our chances of actually attracting the virus is relatively low.”

Students can protect themselves against it by keeping good hygiene, washing their hands frequently, and covering one’s mouth when coughing or sneezing.

MINHAJ GUMMA
News Editor

NO PEACE FOR PALESTINE

On Jan. 28, President Donald Trump announced the political blueprints of the “Peace to Prosperity” plan he presented to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at a White House ceremony. Trump claimed that the plan will commence a pact between Israel and Palestine. Upon this news, Palestinian authorities decided to cut ties with the U.S..

Civil disruption in the region dates back to the 1920s when both Palestine and Israel claimed ownership over the British-controlled land. The animosity between the two self-determined establishments of Palestinians and Zionists stems from the ongoing conflict of mutual recognition, settlements, and right of return.

“Foreign ministers from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, among others, said there could be no peace without recognizing Palestinian rights and a comprehensive solution,” Reuters writer Omar Fahmy said. “[Palestinian President Mahmoud] Abbas also said he had refused



Courtesy of AL JAZEERA
Trump unveils his plan with the Middle East concerning Palestine.

to look at the plan or talk to Trump on the phone about it to avoid giving the U.S. president the ability to claim Abbas had been consulted.”

The “Peace to Prosperity” plan would allow Israel the benefit of proceeding with their settlements as well as appropriating Palestine. Palestinians were given inde-

terminate assurance of statehood that they were told would come at a later, unspecified date.

“While I do support Israel, I don’t think it is appropriate to cut ties with Palestine, as they are still a region governed by an autonomous state,” senior Nicholas Lopes said.

Many individuals who are directly affected believe that this plan will only perpetuate the ongoing issues concerning the Palestinian people.

“The so-called peace plan completely disregards Palestinian sovereignty. No plan that Donald Trump will make with Israel would ever benefit Palestinians,” senior Meriam Shanti said. “Any effect this plan would have would be disastrous on the Middle East and the relationship with Palestine.”

In response to this plan, Abbas has denounced any relations with the U.S., refusing to cooperate with any decisions that the U.S. makes.





MELISSA PERALTA
Editor-In-Chief

The 2016-17 freshman class was surprised to learn that they had a new graduation requirement previous years didn't have; they now needed 40 hours of volunteer hours in order to graduate in 2020. Despite the administration's lack of preparation for this new requirement, from the loss of students' hours to the absence of formal submission of hours, this requirement is still standing strong four years later. Required volunteer hours are ridiculous for the administration to demand of their seniors who didn't have the means to complete them from the beginning.

One big problem with the implementation of the volunteer hour requirement is the mere fact that there was no formal way to inform counselors that students had fulfilled their hours until the 2017-18 school year. Even then, many students did not know where to go until the 2018-19 school year. This means that students had to hold onto paperwork for their hours for nearly two years before they even knew where to

take them. Not only that, but the lack of an official form meant students didn't know how to properly verify their completion of hours.

While the district's goal may have been to encourage students to get involved in their community, required volunteer hours are not the way to go about it. When volunteering is required, it leaves a bad taste in students' mouths and can deter them from future volunteer work.

"I'm not opposed to [volunteer hours] or anything... but I feel like making it a requirement for [students] to complete hours kind of makes them not want to do it," senior Heidi Avalos said. "It's like chores. When you are in that cleaning mood, it's therapeutic... but once your parents tell you to do it, you lose your motivation."

The volunteer hour requirement diminishes the integrity of the act. Volunteering is not truly volunteering if it's not out of generosity. The entire motivation for volunteer-

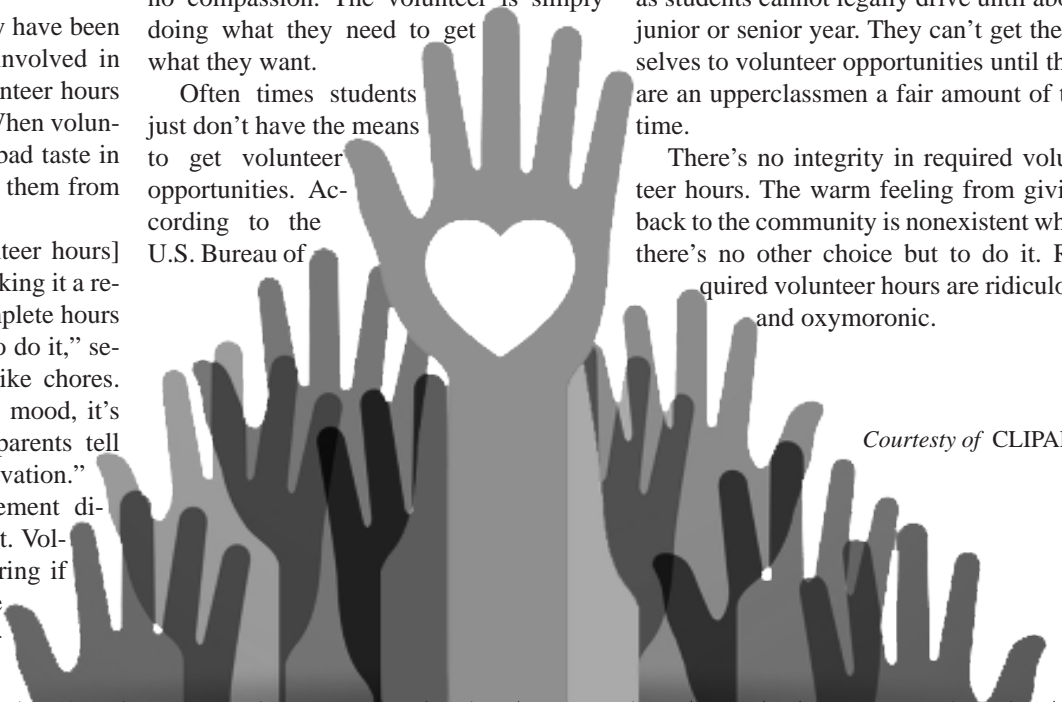
ing on its own is to give back to the community without any benefit or any gain. It's a selfless action. When it's required, there's no compassion. The volunteer is simply doing what they need to get what they want.

Often times students just don't have the means to get volunteer opportunities. According to the U.S. Bureau of

Labor Statistics, 61.1% of families have two working parents. This means many students are on their own for transportation as students cannot legally drive until about junior or senior year. They can't get themselves to volunteer opportunities until they are an upperclassmen a fair amount of the time.

There's no integrity in required volunteer hours. The warm feeling from giving back to the community is nonexistent when there's no other choice but to do it. Required volunteer hours are ridiculous and oxymoronic.

Courtesy of CLIPART



JAYLYN PRESLICKA
Staff Reporter

In 2019, The Healthy Youth Act (AB-329) was passed, promoting education on gender, sexual-orientation, and relationships. The bill changes the curriculum in California schools, with the changes being implemented starting at seventh grade and continuing to graduation. This new bill will positively impact straight and LGBT students alike by preparing the next generation for life outside of education.

In order to promote inclusivity and

THE NEW GENERATION OF HEALTH

fight ignorance, teaching a wide variety of topics without judgement is necessary, especially with the youth. To avoid repeating an epidemic such as AIDS, a non-discriminatory curriculum on all things to do with sexuality is needed instead of turning a blind eye and resorting to teaching abstinence alone.

"It's addressing the variety of students that are on a school campus and come through the classroom door," health teacher Ian Sabala said. "Though you may not agree with [the] LGBTQ lifestyle, the reality is that someone in your class does or they see themselves as a part of the LGBTQ community."

Although most parents reacted positively to the bill, Christian parent organizations have critiqued and even removed a book exploring the stated subjects. There is an understanding that the new changes are drastic and unlike anything taught before, but the shock value doesn't ex-

cuse attempts to silence the conversation.

With a supposed separation of church and state, there should be no issue. However, these issues stem further into the deep-rooted Christianity in the American government today. When it comes to religious right, parents have the opportunity to exclude their child from the sex-oriented talk under the bill, but prohibits exclusion during talks of sexuality and gender orientation. This allows for basic knowledge of the topics, but doesn't go into detail on sex-related manners. The bill itself wasn't written to target conservative families but is there to prepare and educate the next generation.

"As a gay student myself, I remember never really learning about sexual orientation and gender identity in my health class freshman year," senior Tristin Cozine said. "I had to resort to other sources in order to discover more about the broad world of LGBT relationships, and I wish I could have had more accessible resources in a time of personal discovery."

By working alongside Planned Parenthood to outline the lessons, bill makers incorporate inclusivity rather than encouraging the stigma tied to the 'taboo' topics.

With Planned Parenthood originating in 1916 and progressing throughout the years to adapt to the current generation, it would be a reliable source to collaborate with. The importance of using third-party organizations without any religious affiliations makes it so that all students feel included and none are alienated.

"I think it's nice because to stay ignorant on an important topic wouldn't be acceptable in today's society," sophomore Katelyn Todd said.

It is important for the outdated curriculum to get updated. To date, the only state to have a bill like AB-329 is California. That being said, multiple other liberal leaning states such as New York now require consent to be a part of the bill. As of now, there are only 24 states that require consent in the mandated curriculum. With bills like AB-329 spreading throughout the nation, important topics will be taught in an educational, judgement-free environment.



Courtesy of iSTOCK



Courtesy of MADISON PENNISI



HIGH SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH



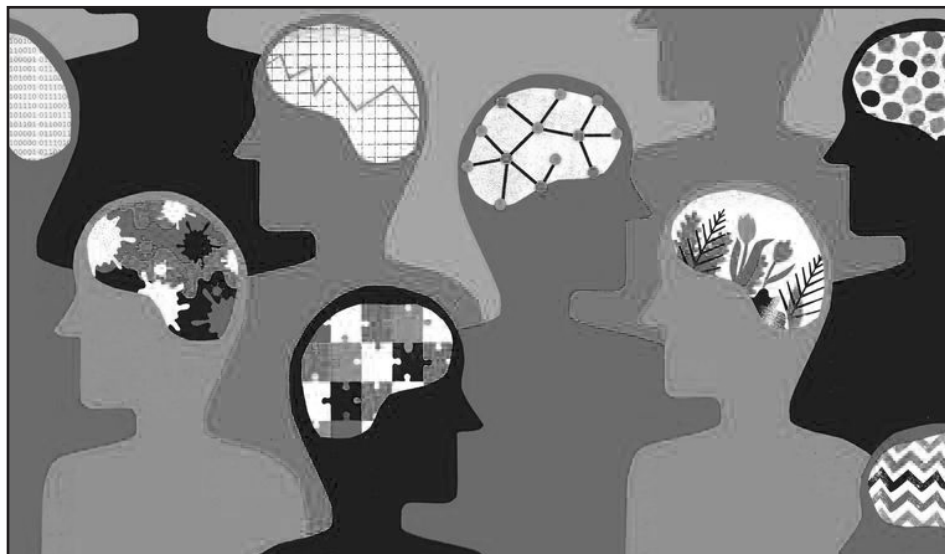
KYRA WEISS

Staff Reporter

The frequency of mental illness in adolescence has skyrocketed. Perhaps it's anxiety from an overwhelming influx of schoolwork, or an eating disorder influenced by societal pressures and surging hormones. One thing is certain, however, high school is a vital time to address mental illness and offer a helping hand. Even though the subject of mental illness is more talked about recently, high schools are still lacking the proper mental health resources to help those who need it.

Part of that problem comes from the lasting stigma behind mental illness. While clubs such as National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and movements like Smile Week seek to reverse this stigma, a lack of education about how someone could help or be helped with mental illness remains.

Resources for students struggling with mental illness remains limited. Students



GETTY IMAGES

Mental illness is prevalent among high school students. It is a vital time to take action.

are required to complete certain hearing and vision tests, but nowhere is mental illness even considered. It is often made to seem as if physical disabilities are the lone reason for intellectual difficulties, leaving out accessible mental health resources.

Compared to previous years, mental health resource accessibility has greatly in-

creased and given more students the ability to get the help they need. There is a school psychologist, Dollen Azzam, available on campus as well as additional resources that are readily available to students seeking help. Nowadays, many students at Kennedy feel as if they have much better resources than they previously did.

"Recently they're doing a good job with resources," junior Reyna Ontiveros said.

In theory students have the available resources on campus to combat mental illness, but more awareness is needed.

"I never thought that we had mental health resources until I found out we had a school psychologist," senior Shayla Steinhebel said.

If schools wish to truly be a provider of mental health resources then they must make sure that students are aware of the resources available to them. It is not enough for the resources to simply exist, students must be aware.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL HEALTH, VISIT TEENLINEONLINE.ORG FOR CONFIDENTIAL, FREE HELP. IF IN CRISIS, PLEASE CALL 1 (800) 273-8255 OR TEXT TALK TO 741741.

★ THE PROBLEM WITH THE POVERTY ★ DRAFT



PEYTON CLEAVER

Managing Editor

The term "poverty draft" was coined in the 1980s to describe the ranks of young people in the military who were believed to have joined because of their limited economic opportunities. Decades later, this term is still used as the military targets young individuals, often from poorer communities, to serve. For decades, the United States military has taken advantage of a system that offers extremely limited opportunities to the poor in order to boost the ranks of their volunteer-based army.

The number of soldiers has dramatically dropped since the 1970s and, to combat the lack of troops, the army has poured millions into advertising. According to Department of Defense estimates, the Army spends \$400 million dollars on advertising annually. This \$400 million goes towards targeting the young and disadvantaged to fill their ranks.

By targeting disadvantaged youth in recruiting, the military is able to lure in

young people with promises of better futures full of financial and educational benefits. It's easy to see why the military would be appealing to poorer individuals; signing a military contract means room and board on top of a salary. In addition to that, benefits are also promised once soldiers leave the military including reduced medical fees, pensions, and education.

While it is good to reward those who willingly risk their lives to serve our country, the fact of the matter remains that many who are laying down their lives do so because they believe it is the only way they can succeed.

"One of the national crises right now is student loans, so \$31,000 is [about] the average," Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, head of Army Recruiting Command told reports at the Pentagon in Sept. 2019. "You can get out [of the Army] after four years, 100 percent paid for state college anywhere in the United States."

In a 2017 survey conducted by the Department of Defense, 49% of the respondents indicated that if they were to join the military it would be to pay for future education. Crises with student debt feed more recruits into the military-industrial complex, the alliance between military corpo-

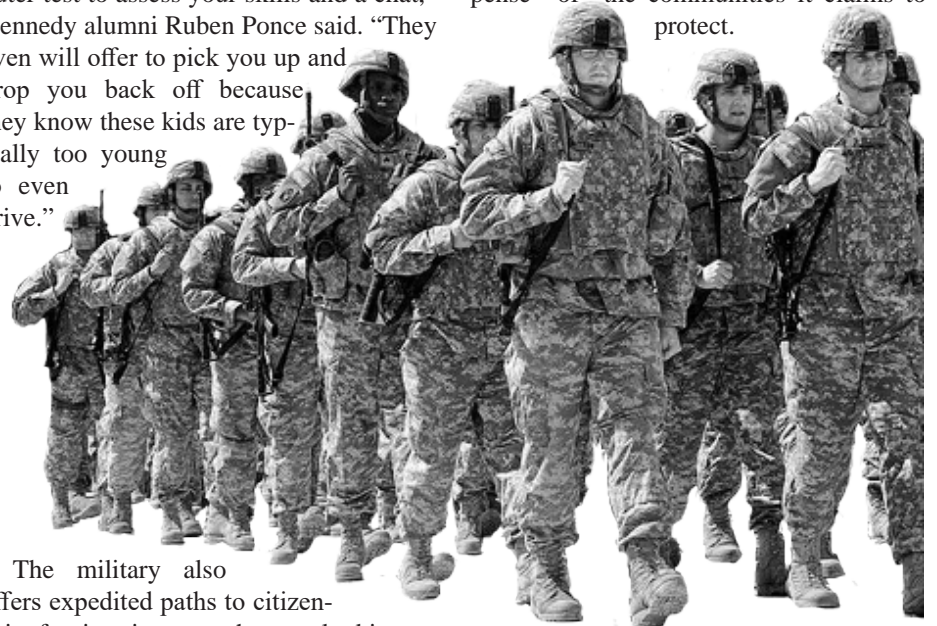
rations who profit off of the war and help drive this system that routinely exploits the desperation of members of poor communities.

"They first usually approach you by calling and introducing themselves and asking for a minute of your time then after a few phone calls... they ask if you're willing to go to a recruitment center for a quick computer test to assess your skills and a chat," Kennedy alumni Ruben Ponce said. "They even will offer to pick you up and drop you back off because they know these kids are typically too young to even drive."

The military also offers expedited paths to citizenship for immigrants who are looking to

move to the U.S. These pathways to citizenship, mainly targeted towards dreamers who came to the U.S. as children, once again reflect the way that the military targets the disadvantaged in recruitment.

While having a military is necessary, it is impossible to ignore how the military takes advantage of systemic injustice in the U.S. to boost its ranks of soldiers at the expense of the communities it claims to protect.



KAREN KOZUB/THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Soldiers march on in full uniform.



HUMANS OF KENNEDY

LOLA SOTO
Staff Reporter



I BELIEVE GOD doesn't put us through things we can't handle and overcome. I've had lots of trials and temptations in my life and I've always felt like there was never going to be a light at the end of the tunnel, but these situations only made me stronger and cherish life more. -I.R.

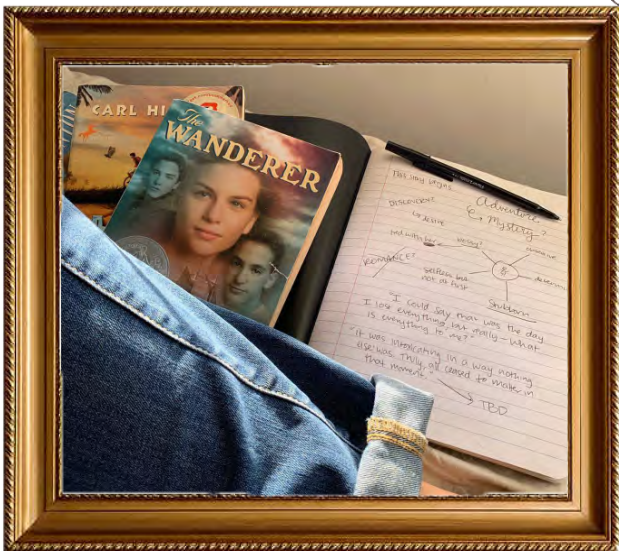


I THINK I'VE had several moments where I go through an epiphany after a hurricane. It's the chaotic, and uncomfortable experiences that make me change. For me personally, I found that my mom's passing was a dramatic turning point for me. Other than the grief, I learned my codependent tendencies were really present at that time. It took me a long time to feel myself after her passing. I felt like a part of my identity was in her, and I couldn't seem to understand my purpose anymore. Her passing is teaching me to find my own calling and to feel independent in my being. It made me realize how dependent I can be, and that leads to really intense feelings. I am now learning to detach myself from situations before I get into that mindset. -J.V.

I HAVE FOUND a great love for my friends and family, but only once I learned to love myself. I had a large portion of my life running away from things that I either was too afraid or did not want to acknowledge within myself. The summer of 2016 was an incredibly important part of my life, where I was no longer afraid of who I was. I wasn't scared of what I used to repress. Now, I am able to express myself in the truest form possible, and I have grown to further show my affection not only towards others but towards myself as well. -T.C.



I'M VERY PASSIONATE about music. I enjoy listening to music because it helps me cope with the things I go through. -M.M.



I AM PASSIONATE about writing because it gives me a chance to escape the real world and craft realities where I feel safe, and can have unlimited adventures. Writing has always been my way of venting emotion, and is what keeps me going. -H.A.



I WOULD SAY my passion for art and all things creative makes me who I am. I always try to include creativity in what I do. I find inspiration through decorating my room and creating a space I want to spend immense amounts of time in. I love to decorate any surface I own and make it my own. There's nothing I have that isn't decorated with stickers, pictures, or art of some kind. I also enjoy planning outfits, even if I'm not going to wear them. I tend to go for more unique articles; stuff I've never seen before. -D.M.



A PHILOSOPHY THAT I resonate with is 'bad company corrupts good morals' because it reminds me to be cautious about those that I hold dear in life. It helps me to realize sometimes that if someone in my life has toxic tendencies, those tendencies may begin to brush off on me. -I.B.

All Photos Courtesy of Subjects

ADMINISTRATOR OF-THE-YEAR

DEVYN GOMEZ
Staff Reporter

Q&A:

How does it feel being rewarded Administrator Of The Year?
"It is an honor to be recognized by my peers."

How was life like back when you had attended Kennedy?
"It was actually very similar to today."

What is your favorite part about being an Assistant Principal?
"The relationships that are formed with"

What is your next goal while being the Administrator Of The Year?
"The goal never changes - To help students and families through the educational process and to support teachers in meeting the needs of students and families."

Any message you want to say to Kennedy students?
"Take life one step at a time, one day at a time. The hard work you put in during high school will pay dividends in the future."



DEVYN GOMEZ/THE SHAMROCK
Howe happy to be at Kennedy High.

On Jan. 10, it was announced that Assistant Principal Jeffrey Howe was named the Administrator of the Year. As a Kennedy alumni, Howe was very honored to receive the title from the district and to be recognized by his peers.

"He was a Kennedy student, a Kennedy teacher, and now a Kennedy Administrator ..." Principal Adam Hernandez said. "...he truly lives out the motto: 'K-High 4 Life.'"

Howe attended Long Beach State where he received his bachelor's degree and teaching credential. He continued his education at Cal State Fullerton for his master's degree. Howe started working at Kennedy as a basketball coach in 1990, and then began teaching Government and Economics in 1996. He has become a beloved staff member since returning to Kennedy High in 2019.

All images courtesy of GOOGLE

—THE-GREAT-GALLEGOS—

LUKAS PONTE
Video Editor

Jose Gallegos started teaching at Kennedy High School in 1982, making 2020 his 38th year of teaching. In recent years, Gallegos has taught AP Spanish. Gallegos has seen many students in his day, and has even taught grandchildren of past students.

He has seen the campus, students, and community change in front of his eyes. To him, one thing remains the same: Kennedy's drive for excellence. Students want to be at Kennedy, and the faculty is amazing as they are always pushing students to do their best.

"He's always kind and helpful and constantly motivates us to do our best. When we struggle he helps us and when we improve and succeed, he recognizes and acknowledges our efforts," senior Zenaira Cursetji said.

Gallegos would not change anything about his time here at Kennedy. Throughout the years, he has been to former students' weddings and unfortunately to students' funerals. The connection Gallegos has with his students is incredibly strong, some have even become family friends. Gallegos never grows tired of teaching, waiting in anticipation every August for the new school year to start. He likes to see young teachers pursuing their dreams of teaching. In retrospect, Gallegos feels it has been a very nice ride, and he is looking forward to his future after teaching. He has retired friends in which he has dinner with every several weeks to reminisce. "Everytime we finish our dinners, and our conversations, it always comes back to the wonderful time working here, in the community of Kennedy," Gallegos said. Gallegos's career has made him such an influential part of the community. Hearing that he plans to retire is melancholic for some, but Gallegos will continue to leave his mark on campus in people's hearts, minds, and Spanish-speaking ability.

“ WORKING NEXT DOOR TO MR. GALLEGOS... HAS AN OPEN DOOR POLICY, WHICH MAKES IT VERY COMFORTABLE TO COME TO HIM FOR ADVICE AND EXPERTISE, HE IS BASICALLY A COLLEGE PROFESSOR WHEN IT COMES TO SPANISH, SPANISH TEACHER JOSE ALVAREZ SAID. ”



LUKAS PONTE/THE SHAMROCK
Gallegos in a dapper suit and matching scarf

2020 SERVATHON

BY THE SHAMROCK STAFF

On Jan. 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Kennedy High participated in the sixth annual AUHSD Servathon, where students from all over the district give back to their communities through volunteer work. Nearly 150 students came to campus on their day off to celebrate community service.

Key Club, NHS, Best Buddies, CSF - Kyra Weiss, Peyton Cleaver, Joshua Cheng

Members of Key Club, National Honor Society, Best Buddies, and the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) at Kennedy High all participated in a schoolwide cleanup.

"I believe I have to be the change our world needs," Key Club Vice President Tiffany Nguyen said.

Within just an hour, buckets and bags of trash filled up, making the campus cleaner. Their work was not over yet, however. They continued to work until noon to make their difference on the campus.

"What inspired me to participate in the Servathon was to give back to my community. I feel like it's my turn to give back on this day and make my campus a cleaner place," California Scholarship

Federation President Serena Trinh said.

Thanks to their hard work the school is a better, more beautiful place.

Educators Rising - Dominique Prado

For Servathon, Educators Rising wanted to give back in ways that reflected their purpose, so they spent their morning making little treats for teachers around campus to show their appreciation.

"It's more about the people who are interested in the field of education, it makes sense because it aligns with what we're doing," club adviser Kimberly Idio said.

The Kennedy Strong Podcast - Francis Munoz

While many were picking up trash during Servathon, the Kennedy Strong Podcast spent their hours documenting all the hard work that clubs did. The group went around interviewing different clubs participating in Servathon to share how students were helping the community.

As head of the social media team, sophomore Vanessa Iwaki took photos of the event. At the same time, juniors Reyna Ontiveros and Jacqueline Car-



PAULA MULROONEY/The Shamrock

Emergency Fund (UNICEF) participated in Servathon by preparing their annual hygiene kits for the homeless. The club aimed to put together a minimum of 150 bags filled with socks, feminine products, hand sanitizer, and granola bars.

UNICEF has turned the kits into somewhat of a tradition under the belief that it's the best way to achieve their goal.

"Our overall goal is to advocate for the voiceless and provide sanctuary for others," UNICEF President Minhaj Gumma said.

Once the supplies were gathered, they were brought on the day of Servathon to be separated by material and then organized in kits. The club did not deliver directly to the homeless, but instead donated the kits to shelters.

Mr. Howe - Melissa Peralta

Assistant Principal Jeffrey Howe has led the annual AUHSD Servathon since the tradition began. He was happy to lead the event another year.

"It's a worthy cause, it's getting to work with the students in a different light," Howe said. "You get to work with them and see the kindness and the charity that our students actually have."

ter bounced between the different organizations and interviewed the members and advisers.

TSA - Marielena McDermott, Jakob Salao

Technology Student Association (TSA) made lunches for runaway teens at Casa Youth Shelter in Los Alamitos.

"I feel like we're given so much, that it feels good to finally give back for once," junior Vince Hong said.

Within each lunch, the club members also put a hand-crafted origami creatures, ranging from dogs to "the Child," referred to by fans as "Baby Yoda," from the Disney+ show "The Mandalorian." The club members hoped that the little origami creations would bring a spark of joy to teens at the shelter.

UNICEF - Shayla Parker

United Nations International Children's

VOLUNTEER HOUR IDEAS

VANESSA CASTILLO

Staff Reporter

The class of 2020 is the first to be required to complete community service hours in order to graduate. Many seniors are currently struggling, rushing to complete them in the last days leading to the deadline to submit hours, April 30.

"I didn't receive a lot of information from the school on where and how to gain my volunteer hours, so I procrastinated and waited until my senior year and now I'm struggling to find places where I can volunteer 40 hours," senior Kyla Roxas said.

Clubs are most commonly used for volunteer opportunities. A lot of club members complete their hours quickly and efficiently, since they do not have to go out of their way to seek different volunteer opportunities. Instead, hours are handed to them.

"Being a president in a club is very rewarding knowing that I'm able to give those who can't find volunteer opportunities fast enough and that it will be effective



PAULA MULROONEY/The Shamrock
A group of students picking up trash around campus.

for them," Educators Rising President Mya Lynd said.

Animal shelters are also popular, although some shelters do not allow students to interact with the animals until age 18. However, in Long Beach, there are certain

animal shelters where minors can volunteer and read to the animals. It is a fun and easy way to fulfill hours while helping furry friends.

An easy place to volunteer is the local library. Many

libraries need assistance in organizing the books and helping with kids afternoon activities. Libraries help an individual get involved with the community while completing hours as well.

"It was a fun and a simple job I did over the summer to keep me busy where I gained 10 hours checking reading logs for the summer reading program and helped guide activities," senior Sofia Glitch said.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters is another amazing volunteer opportunity. It is an organization in Orange County that allows students to be a mentor for kids from age 6-16 up to twice a month for 90 minutes. The organization aims to increase the connection in youths who feel alone and help them realize the potential they have.

With these various community service opportunities, leaving it until senior year to finish volunteering could be avoided. Finish your hours quickly and enjoy the rest of your high school years without having to worry about completing 40 hours of community service in one semester. For more opportunities, visit the counseling website.



SOPHOMORES ON VARSITY BASKETBALL

JOSHUA CHENG

Staff Reporter

The Kennedy boys varsity basketball team ended their season with a stunning 14-11 record. In conclusion to their stellar lineup, this 2020 season, the team includes three young sophomores: Kyle Hoang, Joseph Yoo, and Ryan Soto.

Playing varsity basketball early in high school is challenging. As a varsity player, an athlete is expected to be on top of their game, not only during games but practices as well. These sophomores have to work just as hard, if not more, than their senior teammates just to keep up.

When it comes to practice, the boys are on a constant grind to maintain their winning performance and mentality. They practice for an hour and a half to two hours from Monday to Saturday. Their plays revolve around a five-man motion offense—the same offense that UCLA runs.

Playing varsity has a lot more physical contact than what Soto had anticipated last year. Standing at 5 feet 10 inches tall, Soto is well around the height of many varsity players on the court. He is a strong shooter and can knock down threes when needed.

“The court is very intense. It’s more intense than it has ever been before. I’ve been playing basketball my whole life and I never had to play against kids that are bigger, stronger, and taller than me,” Soto said.

On the other hand, Hoang stands at 5 feet 7 inches tall and plays point guard. He has great vision on the court and sets his teammates up for easy shots.

“Getting coached at a varsity level is for sure tough. There’s a lot of pressure, the standards are higher, and they don’t see you as a sophomore,

but as any other varsity player on the court,” Hoang said.

Yoo is the tallest of the three, standing at 6 feet 1 inch tall. Due to his height, he is able to guard taller players and play lockdown defense when the Irish need him. Yoo understands that he has to step up to the challenge of playing varsity basketball and be on top of his game.

“Playing varsity basketball is way more challenging than playing on JV. But I

like the challenge. I would not have gotten this far if it weren’t for my hard work,” Yoo said.

Aidan Kosaka is the varsity captain for the boys this year. Following the 2020 season, he will be leaving his remaining teammates to carry on the Fighting Irish’s legacy.

“I think that passing down the mantle to the sophomores and juniors is one of the most exciting things about high school basketball. It becomes their responsibility to step up and become a leader on and off the court regardless of all the tough challenges they will face,” Kosaka said.

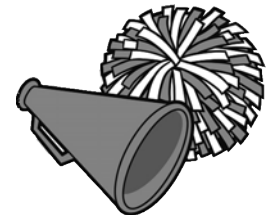
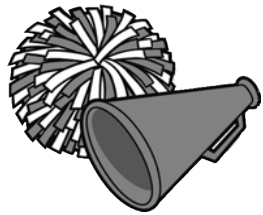
Although the team fell short in their CIF game against Oakwood, the boys ended the season as CIF semi finalists. This was the first time the Kennedy basketball team has made CIF since the 2016 season, and hopefully just the beginning of many CIF appearances to come. With all of the seniors leaving, it is up to the remaining sophomores and juniors on the team to carry on the leadership and hard work that their senior teammates have built up.



JOSHUA CHENG/The Shamrock
From right to left: Ryan Soto, Aidan Kosaka, Kyle Hoang, Joseph Yoo

CHEER & SONG

COMPETITION SEASON RECAP



SHAYLA PARKER

Arts Editor

With the addition of a (dance-based) song team, new coaches and adviser, and competing for the first time, the 2019-20 school year has brought a lot of change for Kennedy’s cheer and song program. Having lost their JV and varsity cheer coaches nearly right before competition season began, the teams also had to adapt to yet another new coach during a very critical time.

“I came to Kennedy High School in October with an extensive background as an all-star cheerleader, high school cheerleader, and high school cheer coach,” cheer coach Britany Hull said. “This is the first year that KHS has expanded into the competitive cheer world.”

Both teams were determined to push through the new circumstances, eager to win, and determined to master every new skill that was thrown at them. With Hull’s history in cheer and the help of varsity song coach Taylor Smith, the teams were challenged in many new ways.

“Being able to have the athletes be willing to work hard and grow really helped,” Smith said. “To each team I have both learned and have given knowledge back.”

The hard work and dedication ended

up paying off. Kennedy first competed at United Spirit Association (USA) Regionals on Jan. 11, in which varsity cheer won first place, varsity song took second, and JV cheer earned third—all teams qualified to move on to nationals.

“It’s such an amazing feeling watching

them try their hardest,” varsity cheer captain Sofia Glitch said. “They are putting so much effort into their routine.”

At their second competition, on Jan. 18 at CHEERpros California State Championships, varsity cheer and song both placed first and JV cheer placed fourth. Both varsity teams were titled State Champions as a result and

qualified to move on to the next competition.

“I think today’s win kind of showed us that we didn’t just get lucky the first time,” varsity cheerleader Kayla Jade Clark said.

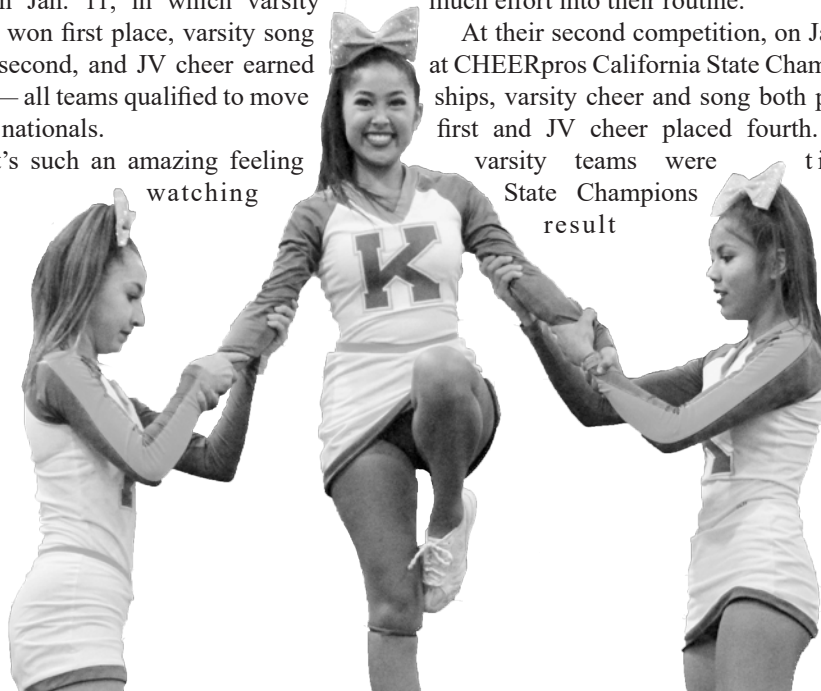
Varsity cheer and song were able to uphold the program’s winning streak in taking another first place at the Best of the West competition on Feb. 8. JV also earned their first winning title that Saturday.

USA Nationals took place Feb. 14-16 at the Anaheim Convention Center. JV ranked third in junior varsity non-tumbling novice, varsity cheer placed fourth in varsity non-tumbling novice, and varsity song earned fifth in varsity song small group.

“Competing for cheer this year was new for a lot of us, but we made the best of it,” varsity cheer captain Melina Meza said.

All three teams were able to finish the 2019-20 season by ranking first place in their prospective divisions at King of the Bleachers on Feb. 29.

“Comp season was extremely fun, but very tiring as well,” varsity songleader Camilla Raine Banez said. “Overall, it was a very successful season and I’m looking forward to next year.”



KRISTEN BENDA/KHS Cheer and Song
JV Cheer at CHEERpros.



Remembering Kobe & Gigi

In loving memory of:

Kobe Bryant, Gianna Bryant, John Altobelli, Keri Altobelli, Alyssa Altobelli, Christina Mauser, Ara Zobayan, Sarah Chester, and Peyton Chester

MEGAN SOTO
Staff Reporter

KOBE BRYANT

On the morning of Jan. 26, NBA legend Kobe Bryant (41) and eight others died in a tragic helicopter accident in Calabasas, California on the way to a basketball tournament.

Due to the dense fog and poor weather conditions that morning, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) grounded helicopter flights. Though there are conflicting sources, most say pilot Ara Zobayan was given special clearance by air traffic control to continue flying. Zobayan had trouble seeing the level of altitude because of the fog. This led him to crash into a hill, thus igniting the helicopter in a burst of flames, killing those inside.

Though Kobe's passing was tragic, the world will remember him in a light of graciousness and positivity. Kobe had endless accomplishments not only in his basketball career, but in impacting the entire world. Kobe was a five time NBA champion, 17 time NBA All-Star, two time NBA finals MVP, two time Olympic gold medalist, and so much more. Kobe was well known not only for his immense talent, but brilliant work ethic, infinite efforts, and persistent dedication. The NBA legend served as a role model for not only the rising youth, but adults as well.

Outside of basketball, Kobe produced several works of art. In 2015, he wrote a poem entitled "Dear Basketball," which he later turned into a short film as executive producer. Kobe won the Academy Award for best animated short film that same year. In 2018, Kobe published his own book entitled "The Mamba Mentality: How I Play," in which he shared his methods in dedicating himself to basketball.

Kobe took his success in basketball and applied it to helping people all over the world. Not only did he support numerous charities, but also started an organization of his own with his wife, Vanessa Bryant. The Kobe & Vanessa Bryant Family Foundation (KVBFF) is an organization solely dedicated to helping families in need, both domestically and globally, as well as encouraging the youth to stay active through athletics. The KVBFF branches out to multiple programs: Mamba FC, My Friends Place, Step Up on Second, and Homewalk.

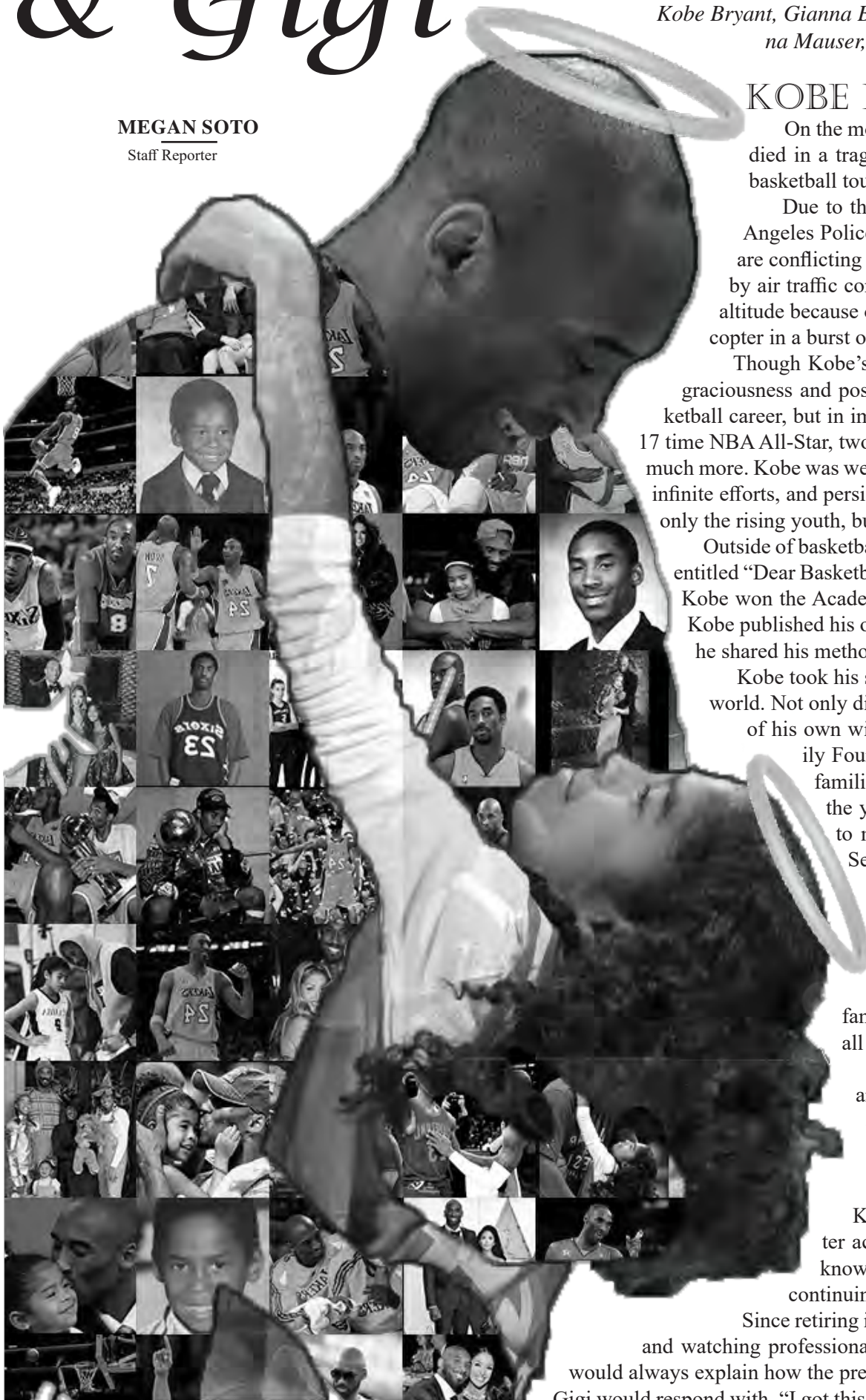
To honor Kobe, the All-Star Game MVP award has been re-named to the Kobe Bryant MVP award and the Staples Center held a public memorial on Feb. 24. Vanessa has promoted more awareness to Kobe's corporation, the Mamba and Mambacita Sports Academy, as she hopes to collect donations to support families affected by the tragedy. Vanessa seeks to empower athletes all over the world to carry on Kobe and Gianna's legacy.

Kobe impacted the world inside the basketball realm and out, and shall be remembered as a basketball legend, global influencer, and a loving father.

GIANNA BRYANT

Kobe's daughter, Gianna (13), also passed away in the helicopter accident. Just beginning her teen years, Gianna, more commonly known as Gigi, was beginning to develop a true passion for basketball, continuing her father's legacy by following in his footsteps.

Since retiring in 2016, Kobe began to spend more time coaching for Gigi's team and watching professional games with her, strengthening their irreplaceable bond. Kobe would always explain how the press would tell him he needed to have a boy to carry on his legacy. Gigi would respond with, "I got this," and Kobe knew she truly did. With the time Gigi had, she most definitely carried on Kobe's legacy as an exceptionally hard worker and dedicated basketball player.



*All Photos Courtesy of GOOGLE
Kobe Bryant embraces his daughter Gianna Bryant before the NBA All-Star Game basketball game in Toronto in 2016.*



"Circles" by Mac Miller

JASMINE PALACIOS

Staff Reporter

Malcolm James McCormick, professionally known as Mac Miller, was an American singer, songwriter, rapper, and record producer. Miller talked openly about

his mental health and depression, which made his music more popular as this increased relatability. He began his career at the age of 15 in 2007, releasing a total of 21 albums throughout his career. On Sept. 7, 2018, he was found unre-

Miller's family and Brion," The Heights Newspaper writer Gio Lavoile said.

This album was intended to complement his previous album, "Swimming." "Circles" was never completed, as he passed away and it was still being worked on. However, his family and producer Brion were able to work together and release it. It contains 12 songs, with a total length of almost 49 minutes.

"While it's hard to listen to him talking about self-deterioration and how he spends far too much time in his own head, it's a privilege to hear him share his innermost thoughts over a bed of sweeping, inventive sonics," NME author Will Lavin said.

Miller was one of few artists to address mental health through writing music and how it really takes a toll on a person's life as in depth as he did at the time.

"The album deeply talks about per-

"My ideology was, if I just make very happy music, very happy music, then people will forget about whatever their problems are. I will forget about my problems."

- Mac Miller

sonal growth, living with depression, and pushing through life's hardships," senior Savanna Weaver said. "Especially the songs 'Good News' and 'Complicated,' as they both talk about healing through past trauma and emotional experiences."

Many fans felt a deep connection to his music, especially teenagers. He had a way of making fans feel like they weren't the only ones going through mental health issues and addiction. Miller lives on through his music as his art continues to help people struggling with mental illness.

sponsive in his home and later passed away due to a drug overdose.

His family decided to release one of the albums, "Circles," he was working on before he had passed on Jan. 17. They saw this as a way to let his legacy live on.

"Unlike many posthumous releases that come across as shameless cash grabs on the part of record labels, this album was truly a labor of love orchestrated by

RICK KERN/WIREIMAGE



100 YEARS AGO TODAY

LOLA SOTO

Staff Reporter

The 1920s are considered memorable primarily for their booming economy, bo-dacious flappers, bouncy jazz music, and the unsuccessful prohibition. Be it so, the Roaring '20s were not all glitz and glam-or. A multitude of life-changing, ground-breaking events altered the trajectory of history, impacting modern society to this day.

Prohibition began in 1920 with the passing of the 18th amendment, banning all forms of manufacturing, distributing, and consuming alcohol. This was met with immediate backlash, influencing an entire generation to fight back with speakeasies, gang violence, and an overall rise in organized crime. Notorious throughout the prohibition was American gangster Al Capone, who dominated organized crime and the underground alcohol trade.

Ratification of the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote in 1920. This meant that every state west of the Mississippi river was finally required to allow women the opportunity to vote. However, this did leave some loose ends as women of racial minority backgrounds unfortunately fell victim to discrimination and attempts to prevent voting accessibility until 1965.

Following the violence of WWI, Euro-

pean artists and authors dubbed the era "the lost generation" introduced the concept of modernism to America. This primarily included death, a loss of meaning or purpose in life, disorientation, and a lack of belief in the concept of the American dream.

Some famous authors and artists included: Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Edward Hopper.

The Klu Klux Klan ravaged American neighborhoods, targeting and attacking anyone not of northern European descent. These violent attacks instilled fear amongst racial minorities, and their sporadic attack strategies made it unpredictable to infer when an attack would take place.

Radios were also introduced to the average American household at rapid speed in the 20s. For the first

time in history, people could receive radio broadcasts of music, comedy, and more from the comfort of their own homes. With easy access to news and entertainment, the nation united and formed lifestyle trends, fashion trends, and societal expectations.

The 1920s certainly roared in more ways than one. Hopefully, 2020 reflects only the most exciting parts of history and learns from past mistakes.

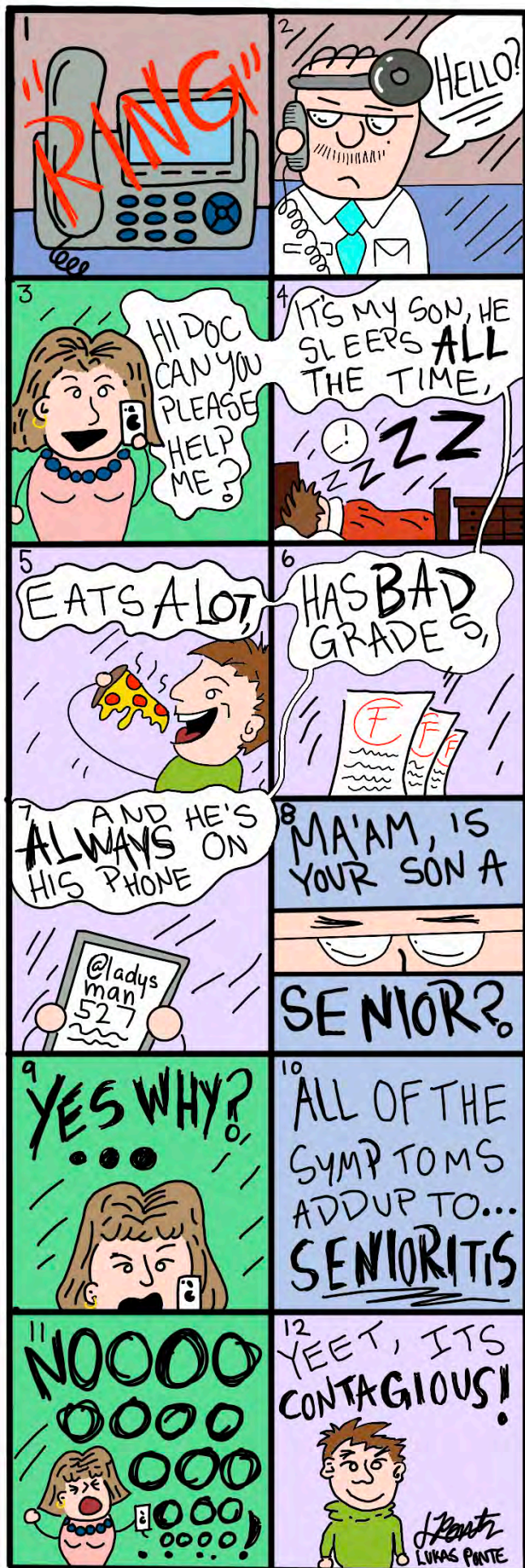


Courtesy of GOOGLE
1920s photograph of young men and women openly protesting the prohibition.



SENIORITIS

LUKAS PONTE
Video Editor



Louis Vuitton Fall Menswear Collection 2020

LOUIS VUITTON

JENNA KOO
Staff Reporter



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Men's creative director of Louis Vuitton, founder of Off-White, architect, and disc jockey, Virgil Abloh is a man of many talents. Abloh showcased the beauty of the familiar in the Paris Fashion Week Fall/Winter 2020 show on Jan. 16, giving a nostalgic touch of childhood with his dreamy looks and set design. The stage design by PLAYLAB, Inc., closely resembled the famous 1998 film "The Truman Show."

Finishing with the setting of the show, some of the top pieces from Louis Vuitton can be seen starting with the buttoned polo that's masterly done with stitchings that's being strapped from every angle and side. Rate each piece!



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Courtesy of LOUIS VUITTON

