

Terra Nova Times

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Terra Nova High School

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Paper.co comes to save the day

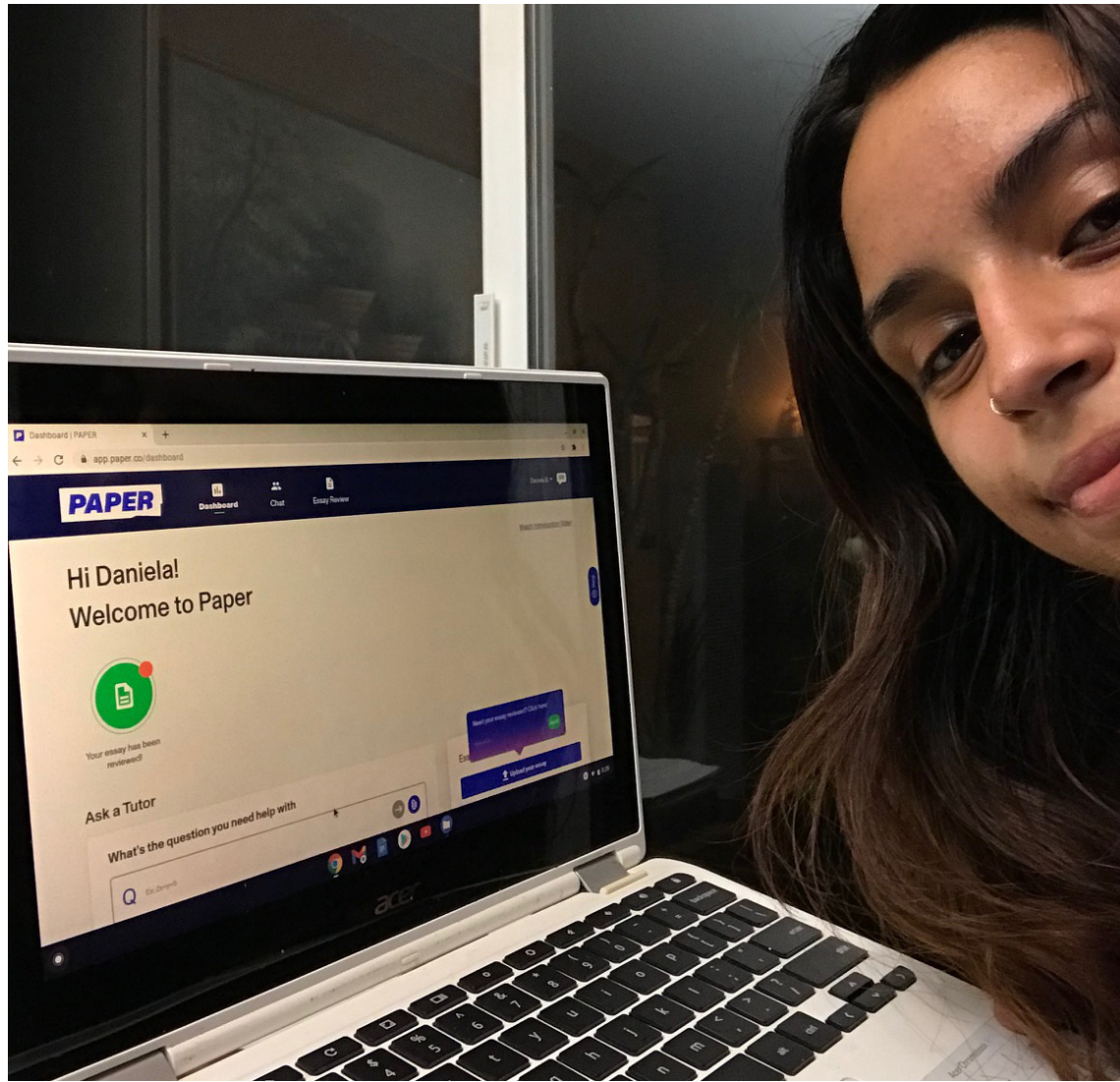
By Sophie Phelps
Times staff writer

Recently, the Jefferson Union High School District, and thus Terra Nova, have partnered with Paper, a tutoring company that specializes in helping provide a platform that will support and personalize learning.

Paper provides services for students such as live feedback from certified educators and feedback on written work and essays within twenty four hours. The option of having feedback on rough drafts is a useful resource because it saves teachers from having to spend hours giving feedback, and it gives students a faster turn around period in which they can edit and revise their work.

"I am beyond impressed with the service so far," said English Department Chair Mrs. Jenkins. "Paper's tutors are incredibly knowledgeable and patient, and it is such a relief to know that my students can get help from an on-demand service. I am so grateful to our district for recognizing this incredible need," she added. For teachers, Paper can help assist them by creating useful reports of their classes, as well as giving intervention tools when needed.

Paper's goal is to "meet part-



Daniela Barajas

Daniela Barajas (12) was one of the first students to use Paper.Co to revise her essay.

ners' [each individual school] needs, no matter what they are." Their flexible design can

be used as additional support to help fill the gaps between online learning and in person learn-

ing. Terra Nova student Lauren Ryan (10) has already taken advantage of the service. "I think

Paper is an amazing program that I will definitely be using for the rest of the year," she said. "The tutors are amazing and super sweet. I am so glad that I have this free opportunity... especially since teachers are running low on time and sometimes fifteen minutes after class just isn't enough." In addition to helping students become as successful as they can, they aim to close opportunity gaps between their fellow classmates.

In explaining the district's rationale for contracting with Paper, JUHSD Associate Superintendent Kareen Baca said, "The F rates from the first progress report increased about 5% from last year." With the increase in students struggling, Baca said that it was important that the district found a way to help these students thrive as best as they could in light of At Home Learning.

One aspect of Paper that the district found particularly appealing is that they cater to a variety of students and can help provide a more equitable learning environment. Baca further elaborated on this, saying, "This online tutoring service, available in both English and Spanish, is available 24/7, so students who are not able to at-

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California is now back to its old restrictions

By Samantha Guerrero
Times staff writer

After California's substantial surge in COVID cases during the summer, cases began to drop, and counties gradually moved towards less restrictive plans in order to reopen the economy; progress was slowly, but surely being made. However, things have taken an abrupt turn for the worse in recent weeks. Governor Gavin Newsom stated in a press release on Nov. 16 that "California is experiencing the fastest increase in cases we have seen yet — faster than what we experienced at the outset of the pandemic or even this summer." What does this mean for Californians, and what will new restrictions consist of?

In the first week of November, California experienced a 51% increase in new cases — the previous highest rate increase was 39.2% in June, said Newsom. Furthermore, he said cases in the state doubled in the last ten days. Dozens of California counties, including San Mateo County, have re-entered Tier 1 (purple/widespread) of California's four-tier color-coded plan. Currently, nearly 95% of the state is in the

most restrictive purple tier. "We have a lot of questions on what this looks like, and what that doesn't look like," said Newsom. However, he and other state officials have taken steps to prepare the state for the worst surge of cases yet.

According to the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, "The state has developed additional testing capacity to allow cases to be quickly identified, recently opening a new laboratory in Valencia that is already processing thousands of tests a day. The state is averaging 164,345 tests over the last seven days." The statement also asserted that the state has also been working in partnership with "hospitals, clinics and physicians on the COVID-19 response. To support California's health care delivery system, the state has an additional 1,872 beds available at alternate care sites outside of the system that can be made available quickly if needed to respond to a surge in cases."

The California state government is also strengthening its face-covering guidance. "Personal decisions are critical, and I am imploring every Californian to stay home if they can, wear a mask whenever they leave their homes, limit mixing, practice physical distancing and wash their hands," said California Health and Hu-



Ashley Ng

Local businesses are facing another round of closures due to COVID.

man Services Secretary, Dr. Mark Ghaly.

Most important to note, on Nov. 19, the California Department of Public Health issued a limited stay-at-home order for counties under Tier 1 (purple/widespread) "requiring that all gather-

ings with members of other households and all activities conducted outside the residence, lodging, or temporary accommodation with members of other house-

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One Warm Coat helps one more

By Katalina Huazano
Times staff writer

Winter is fast approaching, and warm coats are a must in order to get through the cold weather, so from Monday Dec. 7 to Friday Dec. 11, Terra Nova will be participating in the One Warm Coat Drive. All donations will count towards spirit points, except those made on Friday, but still be sure to donate because they are going towards a great cause no matter what.

Anyone can drop off new or gently used coats in a bin that will be located in front of Terra Nova's main entrance, from 8 am to 4 pm on the selected dates. Terra Nova will only be accepting coats, sweaters, and jackets, no other form of clothing. They can range from any size, gender, or age group, and any amount big or small will be greatly appreciated. At the end of the drive, the collected coats will be sent to St. Anthony's, a non-profit organization based in San Francisco.

TN leadership student Leila Vuskovic, who is in charge of outreach said, "I picked this location because it is in downtown SF, and the jacket donated will be given to a lot of people who are in need. St. Anthony of-

fers a lot of services to those in need."

St. Anthony Foundation is no stranger to providing for the community. On Oct. 5, 1950, Friar Fr. Alfred Boeddeker started St. Anthony Dining Room, where meals were served to homeless and low income families at their location in the Tenderloin. Today, they provide shelter during the winter (not provided this year due to COVID-19), tech labs, rehabilitation centers, medical help, and of course, food and clothing for people in need. All of these programs are free. To get clothing, people wait in line, sign up, and are given time to enter the "boutique," which is what the volunteers like to call the area where clothes are located. Once they arrive at their specific time, they are free to grab (donated) clothing that is arranged as if it were in a shop (like a boutique), and then "check out."

St. Anthony's is funded largely by donations and helps thousands of underprivileged San Francisco residents. St. Anthony clothing program has served 10,000 San Franciscans and 2,500 of which were children, 350,000 pieces of clothing are donated every year, with the help of a hundred Bay Area schools, companies, and etc.. Come donate to help make a difference.

Interested in books? Come and join Book Club

By Shayla McCann
Times staff writer

You might not have heard about it, but Terra Nova finally has its own Book Club. Formed this year by club president Anna Steinberg (12) and club vice president Victor Wu (12), they got the idea this summer when they would read books and talk about them together. Steinberg said, "Over the summer, Victor and I loved talking about the books we were reading together, and we initially were thinking of a book club just with our friends, but then we realized that we didn't even have a book club at school. We thought others would like to read good books and have some good conversations as well."

Ms. Bosinoff is the advisor of the Book Club. The advisor of this club is responsible for hosting the meetings and welcoming members. Since this year

has been so crazy, and everyone's doing school from home, all club meetings are hosted on Zoom. Ms. Bosinoff said, "I imagine we will all get together on Zoom and discuss the books we read. I think we will talk about what we liked/disliked about the books and maybe our favorite parts. As the advisor, I plan on mostly listening and let the students do the talking."

The two books that the club is currently reading are called "The Vegetarian" by Han Kang, and "An Elderly Lady is Up to No Good" by Helene Tursten. "The Vegetarian" is set in Korea and is about a woman who has a series of nightmares related to slaughtering animals and decides to stop eating meat, separating herself from society. "An Elderly Lady is Up to No Good" is about an 88-year-old woman who has no family or friends and commits a mysterious murder.

Reading for your English class can be a lot to handle,

especially balancing books for the book club on top of all the schoolwork. Anna and Victor get to choose the books the club reads, so the books are easy to read. Steinberg said, "The books for book club are books that I want to read, so it's easy to read them in my free time."

Steinberg described how book club will choose their books in the future. "Victor and I picked the first two books, but after we plan to collaborate with everyone and make a list," she said. This system gives every member a chance to read a book that appeals to them.

Book Club now has 10 members thanks to the book fair as well as the same love and dedication for reading. They meet for about 45 minutes discussing and analyzing their book. If you want to join the club, join their zoom meeting on Dec. 7. To join the Book Club's Google classroom for more updates, use this code: N347RM7.



Mia McCann

Kindle and Audible make it easy to read more from home.

If you are looking for change, join Beyond the Bomb Club to do more

By Eleanor Jonas
Times staff writer

If you're looking to make a real difference in the world, join one of Terra Nova's newest clubs: Beyond the Bomb. Advised by Mr. Willemse, this club is an extension of the Beyond the Bomb organization, which strives to prevent nuclear warfare.

The BTB organization is currently attempting to pass the No First Use Act, which would ban the U.S. from launching nuclear weapons without being attacked by one. The club is contributing

to this agenda by writing letters to California's representatives, including Jackie Speier, Dianne Feinstein, and, for now, Kamala Harris. Even as students, we have the ability to convince our government representatives to support legislation and sign on to the No First Use Act.

The U.S. and other powerful nations have enormous stockpiles of these weapons; the Beyond the Bomb works to convince the U.S. to decrease its number of weapons from the thousands to the hundreds. Though nuclear testing in the U.S. is banned as a result of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1996, politicians like President Trump are

pushing for the return of testing similar to that of the 1940s, which would pose a huge danger to the environment and public health. Nuclear waste is already detrimental to indigenous communities, such as those on the Marshall Islands, where the surrounding water is polluted by radioactive material.

The Beyond the Bomb club joins the fight against nuclear weapons, and the club also helps students address issues they feel passionate about, such as gender and racial equality, climate change, and national security. Beyond the Bomb provides amazing opportunities to become involved in mean-

ingful activism and helps open doors for the future of its participants.

Additionally, BTB does not entail a huge time commitment. Meetings last an hour on Fridays, starting at 1:30. Mr. Willemse and Tristan Guyette, the National Field Manager at Beyond the Bomb, help students write letters, apply to internships, and make an impact. Mr. Willemse said, "Volunteering with Beyond the Bomb is great for any student's future because 1; the threat of nuclear weapons affects us all, and 2; you'd learn some incredibly valuable career and academic skills from a solid nationwide network of activists, organizers, and politicians."

What awaits Trump after Jan. 20?

By Elliott Song
Times staff writer

This past month's election craze has been exhausting for everyone, but we now have a clear projected winner and new president-elect, Joseph R. Biden Jr. Though publicly denying his loss and supplying a plethora of reasons to delay the inevitable, President Trump seems to have been privately preparing for his life after presidency. It seems that though he is maintaining a solid stance in the public eye, he knows his odds of being reelected are close to nil. So what exactly would he do? Well, Trump himself has said that he wants to remain a head figure in the GOP, but there are a number of issues that he has to sort out first.

President Trump came into office with more than a few lawsuits to his name in the courtroom, with a variety of alleged crimes ranging from possible insurance fraud, tax evasion, to even accusations of rape and sexual assault. Though it goes without question that many of the higher ups in the history of our country have made questionable decisions, for Trump these decisions have been a little more defining of his presidency than he would have liked. The real question, however, is if any of these possible criminal offences could actually result in jail time.

During his Presidency, Trump's lawyers heavily relied on the "immunity" of a sitting president to bail him out of many sticky situations. This policy stems mainly from the 1982 *Nixon v. Fitzgerald* Su-



Jenson Ho / Terra Nova Times

Donald Trump may face imprisonment for numerous court cases during his presidency.

preme Court Case in which the court ruled in a 5-4 decision that the President "is entitled to absolute immunity from damages liability predicated on his official acts." This is because of the "constitutional tradition of separation of powers." As the president represents the ex-

ecutive branch, any act made against him could be taken as undermining the power of the executive branch. However, there is a system put in place to make sure the President doesn't abuse his powers, that being the impeachment system. Seeing as impeachment

already failed, for those seeking to indict Trump, his exit from the office is their best chance. In a two year long ongoing criminal investigation of Trump, district attorney Cyrus Vance for the Southern District of New York, who has been seeking the tax records of the Trump

Organization had subpoenaed tax documents. A subpoena is basically an order or summons for someone to come to court, and Vance suspected that the tax records could provide evidence of possible criminal activity by Trump and his organization. Trump's lawyers fought this case all the way to the Supreme Court, where a ruling is yet to be made. Yet, in a previous ruling, it was stated that, "No citizen, not even the President, is categorically above the common duty to produce evidence when called upon in a criminal proceeding." Despite this, with the backing of the Justice Department, Trump has managed to stall any further progress in this case.

Due to his loss of the election, the Justice Department can no longer be used as a means to shield Trump from legal scrutiny. In the words of Professor of Political Science Martin D. Carcieri of SFSU, "Once he's out of office, he will be a regular citizen without the immunity from legal process that necessarily and appropriately attaches to a sitting President."

That being said, the biggest threat that any potential case poses to him would be from the aforementioned subpoena of his tax returns and other documents. If they actually hold any incriminating information, he could very well go to jail for them. One thing is for certain, though: President Trump certainly won't be experiencing the vacation filled post-presidency Obama did, but Trump will instead be facing long days and nights filled with lawyers and possibly even visits to the courtroom.

The Senate majority comes down to Georgia

By Matthew Lim
Times staff writer

For the last several years, the Senate has been in Republican control, but that hangs in the balance, as two seats in Georgia, both of which are headed to a runoff in January, could shift the Senate to a Democratic majority.

Runoffs occur when no candidate receives a majority vote, which happened in both of the races in November. The Democratic candidates in the runoff are Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, while the Republican candidates are incumbents Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue.

If the Democratic candidates win both seats, the Senate will become Democrat-led; the surprising occurrence of two seats being fought for in a runoff comes because of the recent retirement of Republican Johnny Isakson. With one less Republican in the seat, it leaves a spot open for Georgia to have two concurrent races within the same election.

If the Democrats were to take control of the Senate, there would likely be a major shift in terms of pandemic response and healthcare laws. In an MS-



Matthew Lim

The Senate majority hinges on the Georgia Senate runoff in January.

NBC interview with Democratic Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, she stated,

"There's so much at stake... who's going to be fighting for... healthcare, to

reduce prescription drug costs... to address the pandemic... It's the Democrats working with the Biden administration."

On the other hand, Republicans fear submission to China and possible tax hikes in a Democratic Senate. A member of the Republican National Committee, Steve Guest, addressed these fears and stated, "Chuck Schumer threatened America... That sentiment should send chills down the spine of every American who doesn't want to defund the police... their country sold out to China... the Green New Deal enacted, and a government takeover of health care implemented."

As the pandemic continues in the U.S., mail-in voting is especially relevant in relation to the runoffs. A CBS article predicts that absentee voting will be an integral part of the Democratic strategy, citing that in "November, like other states, they broke mail voting records, successfully requesting and returning 1.3 million absentee ballots."

It's also likely that most of the voters will not switch sides on who they're going to vote for, the same article predicts, but with only two choices instead of three or four as there were in the primaries, anything could happen. Welcome to 2020.

Opinion

Perspectives: Police Brutality

The intense focus on police brutality in the news and on social media has increased tension between the communities and law enforcement. The Black Lives Matter Movement gained massive support following the murder of George Floyd, another innocent black man who was killed during a poorly handled police encounter. This man's death brought up many questions regarding de-escalation techniques, law enforcement funding, systemic racism, the flaws in our justice system and of course, who is able to slip through the cracks. With more shootings still occurring, people have developed strong opinions. To open up the floor, I talked to Captain Bill Glasgo, Terra Nova Class of 1995, of Pacifica PD and the Social Unity Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to working towards an anti-racist community.

Pacifica PD...

In your experience, have you witnessed a lack of accountability amongst law enforcement? Do you believe police unions help perpetuate this, or do they tend to advocate more for fairness?

"No, I haven't witnessed any lack of accountability, If anything, I've witnessed a more robust accountability for police officers' actions, and again, I can only speak to what's going on in our community. We hold our officers accountable for their mistakes. Do I think larger police unions that have the funding to be able to support a robust legal defense? Some unions have that ability.. But I also think the community has to take accountability for their behaviors and being held accountable for their actions. So I think it's a two-way street when it comes to accountability. We also look towards the justice system to hold accountable those who are alleged or accused of committing crimes, and society has to accept the fact that accountability is a two-way street."

Do you feel that our justice system favors certain groups more than others?

"Again, we are in San Mateo County, and I think there is perception from other various other groups in other communities that absolutely might feel that, but in my years of experience, I see that individuals that have the means to have strong and can afford a legal presence tend to be able to defend themselves more and better versus other individuals who do not have the means to provide a robust legal presence."



Do you feel that you received sufficient training on how to de-escalate potentially violent situations? How about your training regarding racism in law enforcement and cultural sensitivity?

"As far as the Pacifica Police is concerned, our training is very rigorous. Our training can actually be located on our website www.pacificapolice.org. And we actually post all of our training and all of our requirements that the state mandates, not to mention the training that our police department requires, which is above and beyond a minimum that California requires. So as far as the Pacifica Police is concerned, we encourage and we involve de-escalation techniques in lots of our training. De-escalation typically is done through your ability to communicate to de-escalate the situation, And that is also based on the officer's training and experience during a given situation. We definitely offer our employees and our officers with de-escalation tactics and our use of force as it relates to defensive tactics, crisis intervention training. So we go above and beyond the minimum. Since the narrative of a lot of the de-escalation concerns have come up...since the Floyd incident, we have increased the amount of training...This was a recommendation by many of our community members. Our city held a special session for our community, and this was one of the areas our department realized we could probably have more frequent training in the area of de-escalation and diversity training. "

How do you suggest we best tackle the inequities in these institutions?

"I think the best way to tackle it is to have a dialogue and recognize that some of the inequalities or inequities exist. Because if you aren't able to have a fair and honest dialogue regarding what those inequities might be, you'll never be able to accomplish whatever you're trying to accomplish, in any profession or any job... and what's the best way to do it. In my personal opinion, listening and having a fair dialogue to address those inequities."

What inspired you to work in law enforcement?

"At a very young age, I knew I wanted to help people. Growing up in town I thought it would be really cool and police work has always fascinated me. I always wanted to help people. Law enforcement came to me at a very young age, I started my career when I was twenty years old. And I'd like to think that I was very helpful and helping a lot of people that I grew up with in this community. And that I established a reputation that people trust me because of my reputation. I think law enforcement is a very noble profession despite what a lot of the national narrative is as it relates to police. The City of Pacifica, I personally feel and I strongly feel that overwhelmingly the large amount of our community supports our police department...I don't want to say that it can't happen in Pacifica because it definitely can, but overwhelmingly the police department is supported by this community because we have established that line of trust and communication with our citizens. Unfortunately that's not happening to other law enforcement agencies to other communities who unfortunately don't have that dialogue to address and level of communication to address a lot of the issues that are going on in their communities."

What do you believe are the main causes for the overwhelmingly black population in prisons?

"Well I think a lot of it has to do with the socioeconomic status of a community which correlates with the opportunity for various crimes. I can't say for a fact whether its one ethnic group more than another, or the reasons for it, but I have some assumptions as to what may cause it. It could be a break down of the family, are parents present? It could be income level and their ability to provide for their families. You know schooling, the community in which individuals are brought up in. Those are all factors that potentially could bend someone to participate in criminal activity. But as far to the main causes, I don't have a direct answer to the main causes. But I think a large part of it has to do with the break down of families and the absence of parents whether its male or female in any ethnic background."

Opinion

Perspectives: Police Brutality

Now I talked with executives from the Social Unity Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to working towards an anti-racist community and the fight to end oppression towards people of color, who is primarily based in the Bay Area.



Social Unity Project

In what ways do you feel systemic racism still lives in our country?

“Systemic racism is alive and well in this country. The systems that were put in place at the inception of this country were solely for the white man, not the Black or Native people. You don’t hear about how many European immigrants come into the nation each day and take the jobs of Americans? I would guess the numbers are much higher than we realize. Racism is a concept used to create a false sense of superiority, and the systems in place are used to uphold it. Systemic racism has been evolving in this country since before its beginning. Whenever a system of oppression has been dismantled, it has been reborn, each time becoming more covert, adaptable, and ingrained in our society. We see examples of this in Jim Crow laws of the South, voter suppression, and perhaps most glaringly, mass incarceration.

Mass incarceration is intrinsic linked systemic racism, beginning with the school-to-prison pipeline. Our American society assumes that certain demographics of people will commit crimes, and this bias leads to unequal access to education, police in schools, children being criminally penalized for poverty and bias in teachers and administrators.

As a result, the United States has the highest prison population rate in the world (almost 6 times higher than our neighbors to the North). Our criminal justice system is one of control; it purposefully bars its victims (primarily BIPOC) from participating in mainstream society and thriving economically upon release. This has created a caste system, which is the newest reiteration of the same system that fueled slavery and Jim Crow laws. A system that purports to be just, fair, and color blind, but in reality creates and maintains racial hierarchies as much as earlier systems of control.

Systemic racism also lives on in each of us, individually. We are all conditioned in a society and educational system that was designed by men and women who had a desire to maintain their power and wealth. The best way (for them) to accomplish this, is to divide and pit us against each other. Through no fault of our own, we have all internalized racism as implicit bias, covert and overt racial discrimination. It is our individual task to root and heal this trauma, to de-colonize our minds and use our voices, hearts and minds to dismantle oppression.”

Are there some other institutions besides law enforcement that you feel perpetuate systemic racism?

“The medical system, banking system, housing, hiring, immigration, prison system, educational system, marijuana industry, 2nd amendment, 1st amendment, sports system, entertainment, media, etc...the list goes on. The people that brought slaves over did not intend for them to ever be free, I don’t think they intended them to even survive, much less thrive, so that is what you see across the board and unfortunately you will not find it in written policy these days, but it is in the practices.”

Do you feel threatened by law enforcement? What kind of experiences have you heard about or experienced first hand?

“Law enforcement has changed to the threat of death at the hands of the law. Unfortunately, the law enforcement system has become less about the law and more about power. I don’t think I would use the word “threatened” in how I feel about the police. I feel upset that we are not able to look at police as a safe entity in our communities like we used to. I feel disappointed that we no longer have a sense that things will calm down when the police arrive to a situation. I feel let down because their oath to uphold the law does not include amongst themselves and that they don’t feel like their primary duty is to make sure everyone they work with is there for the right reasons. I don’t like that the police force has become just as, if not more dangerous, than any gang in this nation”

What do you think are the best ways to remove racial inequities from law enforcement and the criminal justice system?

“That’s a big question because we need total reform. We need to weed out all the criminals that are acting as though they are upholding the law. We need a comprehensive look at our prison system and abolish the privatized prison sector. We need to end qualified immunity for Police so they are held responsible for bad policing that caused unjustified harm or death. We need stricter requirements of LEO officers and higher educational requirements. There needs to be a system in place that addresses the mental health issues that can be experienced by LEO, and there needs to be consistent assessment of their fitness to be LEO. Judges need to be replaced, and there needs to be an overhaul of the justice system to be more representative of the people of this nation, not full of insecure weak white men that only get satisfaction out of upholding the racist ideologies of this nation.”

Do you support de-funding the police, reallocating funding, or increasing funding for law enforcement? Why?

“We support reform at SUP. We understand there is a need for a type of law enforcement, but what we have now is not that. It is focused on the criminals, not on community well-being. There has been such an increase in violence due to police involvement, and we know there has to be a change in how LEO officers operate. It is not their job to kill innocent people. Unfortunately, there is no easy answer. It is going to take all of us, working together to build bridges between communities, creating space for equitable/restorative justice and healing, before the true path forward and be discovered.”



Among Us takes internet by storm

By Elliott Song
Times staff writer

This past year has been the cause of much stress and anxiety, so what better way to relieve that stress than mass murdering your friends? All online, of course—please don't actually hurt people. However, this is the premise of one of the most popular games of this year: Among Us.

Among Us started off as a small indie game, costing \$5, that went relatively unnoticed for a long, long time. First released in 2018, the game suddenly started gaining popularity this summer and eventually rose to the top of the gaming scene. Among Us was created by InnerSloth, a game studio that also created the Henry Stickman series, a popular "pick your adventure" series of games.

In terms of gameplay, Among Us is very simple. There are two roles in the game: Crewmate and Imposter. Crewmates are given a list of tasks to complete across the map, while Imposters have to try and blend in while picking off the crewmates one by one. Following a simple majority-based voting sys-



Elliott Song / Terra Nova Times

The colorful collection of crewmates and imposters in "Among Us."

tem, crewmates have the ability to vote off people whom they deem suspicious. So what makes this seemingly simple game so entertaining to the masses?

Terra Nova junior Terence Zhou said, "I like Among Us because it is a game of deception where you can lie to your friends while bonding with them at the

same time." Kaitlyn Menjivar (12) similarly commented, "I like Among Us because it reminds me a lot of Mafia, which I used to play with some of my friends before the pandemic! Another thing that makes it fun is when you're the imposter and have to find different ways to make people think that you're innocent."

A unique part of the game is that players are only allowed (or strongly encouraged) to talk during voting phases of the game, otherwise the game is played in dead silence. With no one to actively talk to, the tension often rises, and people find themselves wracking their brains to figure out who the Impostor is. Additionally, players can customize their characters as they please with multiple color options and accessories that they can equip to make their in-game selves a little more unique. Among Us currently supports a maximum of 10 players per game. This is pretty much the perfect amount of space for you to gather your friends and carry out a gaming session full of betrayal, murder, and 5000 IQ deductions.

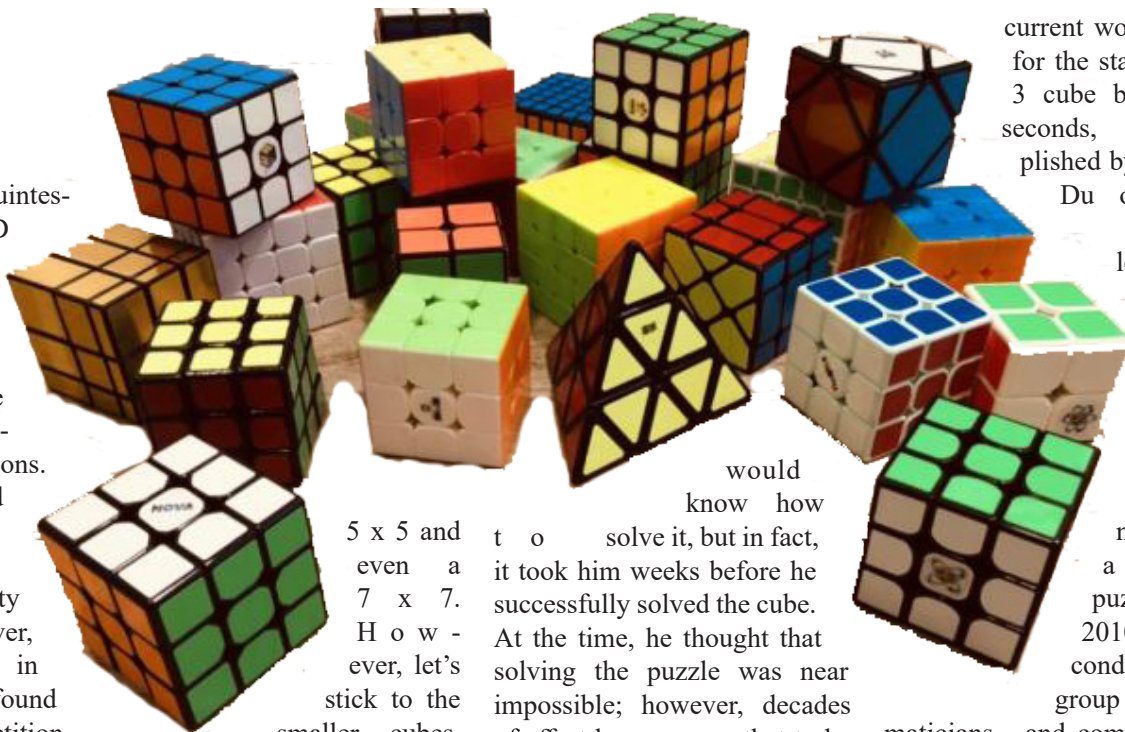
People all around the internet have been playing this game. Among Us has created possibly some of the most diverse collaborations between internet celebrities and influencers that we have ever seen. Some of these include K-Pop stars playing with Twitch streamers, and even Congresswoman, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, otherwise known as AOC, playing Among Us with popular streamers to promote voting before the election.

More than meets the eye with Rubik's Cubes

By Elliott Song
Times staff writer

Rubik's cubes: the quintessential example of a 3-D puzzle. Famous for being difficult to solve, but not impossible. In fact, even Chris Pratt knows his way around the cube, which he's demonstrated on multiple occasions. More recently, he posted a video of himself solving a Rubik's cube in under one minute, a pretty impressive feat. However, as with everything else in the world, people have found ways to make it a competition.

All around the world, people compete to see who can solve the cube not only the fastest, but also in unorthodox ways such as blindfolded or one handed. There isn't only the normal 3 by 3 cube, but also variations such as a 2 x 2 all the way up to a



5 x 5 and even a 7 x 7. However, let's stick to the smaller cubes. There are over 43 quintillion different ways to scramble the normal 3 x 3 cube (that's 43 with 18 zeros after it). The original Rubik's Cube was invented by Hungarian professor Ernő Rubik in 1974. One would think that the creator of the cube

would know how to solve it, but in fact, it took him weeks before he successfully solved the cube. At the time, he thought that solving the puzzle was near impossible; however, decades of effort have proven that to be very wrong. In fact, one of our very own Terra Nova students, Luka Goncharov said, "When I was at my best, I could solve a cube in around 21 seconds." As impressive as this is, there are people who have pushed the limits even further, with the

current world record for the standard 3 x 3 cube being 3.47 seconds, accomplished by Yusheng Du of China.

Regardless of the progress made in solving the cube, it is by no means a simple puzzle. A 2010 study conducted by a group of mathematicians and computer programmers proved that the cube can be solved in 20 moves from any configuration. Many of the best in the world are able to average speeds of 11 turns per second. In theory, that would mean people could solve the cube in under two seconds. If this is the

case, though, why hasn't the world record gotten any lower?

Even though something might be possible in theory, physically accomplishing the feat is another story. To actually solve a cube within the aforementioned 20 moves, you would need to literally calculate the possible solutions and pretty much predict the entire solution. For a human brain, that is basically impossible. However, for a computer, it's not. Last year, a robot developed by two MIT students set the world record for a non human solve with an astonishing time of 0.38 seconds.

Ex-world record holder, Max Park said, "The fastest a human can push is to get 2.80 to 2.90." So why hasn't this happened? Well there's a simple answer. Luck. In all of the 43 quintillion different situations, there are some that are definitely easier than others. It is with those easier cases, and the perfect mixture of intuition, speed, and skill, that a time like 2.8 would come out.

The most amusing prizes in the world of science

By Elliott Song
Times staff writer

The Nobel Prize: perhaps the most prestigious award in the scientific world. Many people who earn one get their names recorded to be remembered as a part of history, but what if I told you that the Nobel Prizes have a slightly more satirical cousin? The Ig Nobel Prizes, a play on the word "ignoble," are awards that focus less on significant human benefactors and more on things that make you laugh, then think.

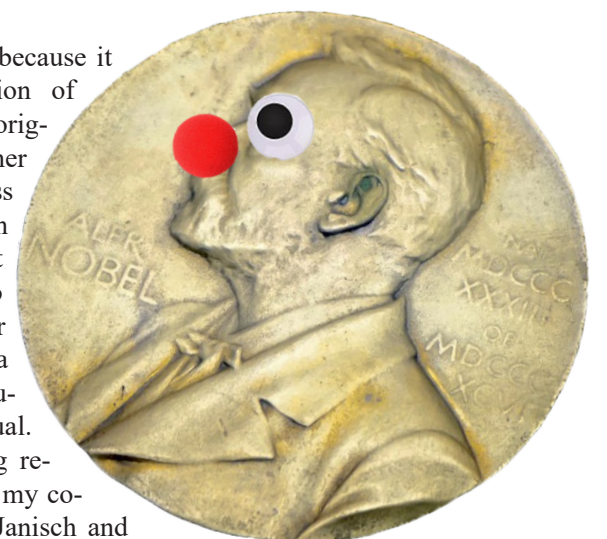
Founded by Marc Abrahams in 1991, co-founder of The Annals of Improbable Research, a magazine that writes about the more humorous occurrences in the scientific world, the Ig Nobel Awards have become a source of inspiration and entertainment in the scientific world every year. Ten prizes awarded at a ceremony at Harvard University. One ironic element of this ceremony is that the awards are handed out by real Nobel Prize recipients.

With how rough this year has proved to be for everyone, the 2020 Ig Nobel Prizes were somewhat of a break to those in

the scientific community. One of this year's winners, Stephen Reber said, "At first, I did not believe it. 2020 was not the year of good news after all. When I started to realize it, I was extremely happy. I always followed the Ig Nobel Prizes, and I am thrilled to be part of it now." Reber was awarded a Prize along with some other colleagues for conducting a research study on how helium affected a female alligator. Just imagine that, an alligator squeaking in a high pitched voice.

When commenting on its significance, Reber stated, "Firstly,

it is an honor because it is a recognition of creativity and originality by other scientists across every field in academia. It allows us to present our research to a much larger audience than usual. And for young researchers, like my co-author Judith Janisch and me, it is also a way to get noticed



See Ig Nobel on page 8

The sad truth behind vegan leather

By Katalina Huazano
Times staff writer

With climate change worsening day by day, many people have become more environmentally conscious in hopes of making a difference. However, not all changes are beneficial, such as vegan leather.

“Paraphrasing Henry David Thoreau, for the thousands hacking at the branches of evil, there is one who strikes at the heart. Making clothes out of plastic is a branch hacker effort that actually contributes to the problem of plastic waste and pollution rather than solving it,” said Bruce Olszewski, a lecturer at San Jose State University who specializes in sustainable materials management and sustainability.

Despite the name sounding eco friendly, vegan leather is just a form of greenwashing by corporations to increase sales. Vegan leather is also called pho or faux leather, and most commonly, pleather.

The product is seen as an alternative for vegans who don’t want to support the meat industry with the intention of lowering their carbon footprint. The irony is that they are doing the opposite when purchasing vegan leather. Olszewski said, “We are already faced with the huge problem of textiles being made of multiple materials, primarily the addition of plastic products, that makes them virtually impossible to recycle.”



Courtesy of Isabel Morrow

Thrifting to find a cute bag is ecofriendlier than any “vegan” leather.

The plastic that the product is made from is polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polyurethane (PU), which originates from fossil fuels. According to a new study by Nature Sustainability, “In the case of PU, hazardous substances, such as methylene diphenyl isocyanate

(MDI) and toluene diisocyanate (TDI), are required during fabrication. The end-of-life options for synthetic leathers are also problematic as they are not biodegradable and take centuries to break down in the natural environment.”

Not only are the plastics in the clothes adding to our waste problem, but they are also adding to the amount of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. The Nature Sustainability study said, “Incinerating these synthetic materials is associated with production of toxic gases, such as hydrogen cyanide from PU, and hydrogen chloride and carbon monoxide from PVC.”

Luckily, there are substitutes to avoiding pleather in order to help the environment while not harming animals. The fashion industry has launched vegan leather made from pineapple leaves, apples, and mushrooms. Each option is 100% biodegradable, except for the finishing used on the pineapple leather to make it water and abrasion resistant. If you want to take your sustainability a step further, there is always the option of reusing. Thrift shopping is a great way to buy real leather while steering clear of promoting the meat industry and adding more plastic waste to the environment.

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Brace yourself: old school vs. new school

By Leila Eliares
Times staff writer

Say cheese! Until 1997, braces were the only option to fix any flaws or imperfections in a smile. The invention of Invisalign and other clear aligners have proved to be an effective alternative to braces. Both kinds of aligners shift teeth, but each has its own pros and cons.

Braces are made of metal or ceramic brackets that are glued to teeth. Wires connect the brackets together to put pressure on the teeth to move them into a certain angle or spot in the mouth. About once a month, you have to go to the orthodontist to have braces tightened. With clear aligners, there are no brackets or wire to put pressure on teeth. Instead, they are plastic trays that are made specifically to the shape of one’s mouth and teeth.

According to Invisalign, “In-

visalign treatment is the process of wearing a series of clear, removable aligners that gradually straighten your teeth.” Every 1-2 weeks, the current aligner tray needs to be swapped for a new tray to keep teeth shifting to the correct position.

Clear aligners are perfect for people who want to fix their smile discreetly. They are able to be removed, which makes it easier to brush, floss, and eat without getting any food trapped. Greta Bogren (10), who has had both metal braces and Invisalign said, “I really like how easy it is to keep your mouth clean because you can take Invisaligns out. Also, with braces, my mouth used to get all cut up inside, and I don’t have that with Invisaligns.”

There are different downsides to choosing clear aligners over braces. Marlene Crow, a general dentist, said, “The cases you can do Invisaligns on are limited... not everyone can have them.”



Greta Bogren

This cat approves of Invisalign.

Because they can be removed, clear aligners can easily be misplaced or dropped, which will throw off the schedule of replac-

ing them. It may also be tempting to not wear clear aligners when they feel uncomfortable; this will also disrupt the sched-

ule of getting new aligners. “For me, the only downside is that they would taste more like plastic over time,” August Wilson-Thornton (10) said. Bogren added, “From an environmental perspective, I don’t think it’s very good because of the amount of plastic used.”

Unlike clear aligners, braces do not come out, so there is no fear of losing or dropping them. However, having braces makes it difficult to brush and floss, allowing plaque and bacteria to easily become trapped and harder to scrub out. Although braces are not clear, there are ceramic brackets that can make them less noticeable. Ceramic brackets have a more clear color that blends in with the teeth rather than typical metal brackets.

Both braces and clear aligners have benefits and disadvantages, but some things are similar between the two. Pain and discomfort are inevitable whether braces or clear aligners are used.

Losin’ the COVID-19lbs

By Luke Avery
Times staff writer

COVID lockdowns have put a pause on our regular routines and activities, but staying inside makes it inconvenient to do many things, and many have resorted to binge-watching shows, playing video games, or Doordashing their favorite Ben and Jerry’s ice cream (Half-Baked, obviously). In a poll from Fox news, reporter Cortney Moore recorded that 76% of Americans stated they have gained weight since the beginning of lockdown in March. Another 42% of Americans have had a problem staying physically fit during this time. That’s why it’s espe-

cially important to go over some at-home workouts and other ways people are trying to stay healthy during lockdown.

The first thing you have to do is clear up your schedule and find the motivation to work out, which can often be the most daunting step. A great start involves creating a schedule; things like agendas and phone reminders throughout the day can keep even a procrastinator on track. Working out also has mental health benefits, as it can get you in the “zone” or more commonly known as the flow state, a sharp concentration on your workout. When in the flow state, you are only concentrating on the task at hand, and everything else blends to the background, which lowers blood pres-

sure, provides a sense of clarity, and altogether good feelings. Terra Nova point guard Justin Milch (12) raved, “I love shooting hoops after school, as it really puts me in a good headspace and lets me destress after online class.”

Now that you have time to workout, what should the routine be? Indoor workouts such as stationary biking and YouTube workouts have been the trend with Americans, young and old. Anna Martinez, a fitness and health reporter, found that stationary bikes were at an all-time high and were almost impossible to purchase because of that. So if you can get your hands on one, great, but if they are all sold out, YouTube workouts might just be your style. Trained kick-

boxer Vari Avery said, “YouTube workouts are so addicting, it’s almost like you have your own personal trainer, and once you start you almost can’t stop. They’ve been teaching me so many new things that have been keeping me in shape.”

Other people have had the same reaction, with YouTubers like Pamela Reif and AllBlanc TV bringing in tens of millions of subscribers each during quarantine. You can see for yourself in the comment sections just how much people love these workouts, so you are on the right track following one of their routines. However, these are just two of the many ways one can lose the pesky COVID-19lbs. The most important part is finding the motivation to become healthier.

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Paper

Continued from Page 1

tend office hours after class would have access to tutors in the evening/night/weekend.” In addition to their availability, tutors at Paper “are trained in the Socratic method, meaning that they guide with questions, never providing direct answers,” said Laurie Robinson, Director of Curriculum for the district.

“A number of my students have already used Paper, not

just for essay review, but for math help, too. The cool part is that as their teacher, I can see transcripts of my students’ tutoring sessions, as well as the comments that the tutors leave on their essays, so I feel extremely confident in saying that this is an amazing service, and every student should take advantage of it,” said Mrs. Jenkins.

If you would like to learn more about Paper, you can watch a video by the company that explains their program You can find this video by clicking [here](#).

Ig Nobel

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by other scientists and the general public.”

Another one of this year’s winners, by the name of Ivan Maksymov, who won his prize for vibrating a worm’s body at a high frequency to see what happens, said, “This prize is very important for explaining the importance of scientific re-

search to the general public, especially to young people . . . Speaking about myself, this prize is an honour and it is likely to help me in my career. For example, it should help me attract more research funding.”

These prizes allow many scientists to broadcast to a larger group of people what they are researching; in doing so, it allows many people to continue making advancements in their work and can inspire others to research.

COVID

Continued from Page 1

holds cease between 10:00pm PST and 5:00am PST, except for those activities associated with the operation, maintenance, or usage of critical infrastructure or required by law.” This curfew has been put into place because, according to Newsom, “Activities conducted during 10:00pm to 5:00am are often non-essential and more likely related to social activi-

ties and gatherings that have a higher likelihood of leading to reduced inhibition and reduced likelihood to adhere to COVID-19 preventive measures.”

The order took effect on Nov. 21, at 10:00 pm PST; counties that moved into Tier 1 after this date must abide by the curfew two days after the county is assigned Tier 1. San Mateo County began their stay at home order on Monday, Nov. 30. The order will be in effect until Dec. 21; however, it may be extended or revised if needed.

Continued from Page 5

What does the acronym ACAB mean to you? Do you support it?

“ACAB means that someone out there has this experience; there are people that have been forced to see this as their reality because they have not come into contact with good cops. I support that this is how it feels right now, I don’t feel that it is the absolute truth. It is a general statement. All cops are not bad; however, there are a large number of police officers that are racist and unwilling to change. There are also far too many officers who know what is happening and choose to do nothing for fear of losing their careers and personal safety. The combo of those two groups is why we are where we are now. It is the ones who can do something and choose not to, but also the higher ups that retaliate when the good ones stand up. The system has lost its honor and integrity in the eyes of the people. The social contract is broken, and it is going to take humility, hard work and an honest reckoning to repair the relationship between community and police.”

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