

Terra Nova Times

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Terra Nova High School

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Ruth Bader Ginsburg dies at 87

By Sammy Guerrero
Times staff writer

In spite of adversity and gender-based discrimination, Ruth Bader Ginsburg spent a lifetime fighting for equality before becoming the second female justice of the U.S Supreme Court. Her efforts towards justice have had a great impact on America; however, our nation found itself in a state of sorrow after the Supreme Court issued a press release on Sept. 19 regarding her death the previous day. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. stated, "Our Nation has lost a jurist of historic stature. We at the Supreme Court have lost a cherished colleague. Today we mourn, but with confidence that future generations will remember Ruth Bader Ginsburg as we knew her — a tireless and resolute champion of justice." As the country continues to mourn, it is important to look back on the countless number of accomplishments Ginsburg made and the influence she will forever hold on America.

Ginsburg attended Cornell University, where she graduated at the top of her class. Shortly after, she enrolled in Harvard Law school, becoming one of 9 women in a 500-person class,



Library of Congress

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an icon to many Americans, and her presence will be missed.

and the first female member of the Harvard Law Review. She went on to complete her years of law school at Columbia Law where she unsurprisingly graduated at the top of her class in 1959. Although her academic record was outstanding, she faced a great amount of gender discrimination in the work place, posing obstacles for her success; nonetheless, she was offered a job by U.S. District

Judge Edmund L. Palmieri as a clerk and was there for two years. Afterwards, she worked at multiple law firms, but always had a much lower salary than her male counterparts. She also became the first tenured female professor at Columbia.

During the 1970's, Ginsburg administered the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union where she conducted the fight for gender

equality and was able to present six landmark cases before the U.S Supreme Court. In 1980, 39th President, Jimmy Carter appointed her to the U.S Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. 13 years later, President Bill Clinton appointed Ginsburg to the U.S Supreme Court.

Ginsburg once described the struggle of being the only female justice by saying, "The image to the public entering the

courtroom was eight men, of a certain size, and then this little woman sitting to the side. That was not a good image for the public to see," but she excelled in her judicial duties. Ginsburg wrote opinions on gender equality, one of the most remarkable being the United States v. Virginia in which she declared Virginia's exclusion of women from the Military Institute as unconstitutional. Ginsburg also worked with President Obama to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, the first piece of legislation he signed in office.

During her tenure, she became known as the Supreme Court's feminist icon who was clear-eyed about the struggle to advance justice and equality; moreover, she was able to pave the way for women's success across the country. She fulfilled her duties through all sorts of challenges and never backed down. Before her passing, Ginsburg told her granddaughter Clara Spera, "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed." The question now is whether or not her wishes will be fulfilled, as we await a nominee. In the meantime, she has been given the honor of being the first woman to lie in state in the capitol.

UCSB revises COVID-19 policy amid outbreak

By Sophie Phelps
Times staff writer

With the start of a new school year during the COVID-19 pandemic, most schools have made the decision to remain at home and engage in distance learning. However, UC Santa Barbara was one of the few schools in California, along with UC Irvine, UCLA, and UC Riverside, that was planning on hosting in person classes this fall and allowed their students to come back to school and live in the dorms in preparation for attending some in person classes at the start of the fall quarter.

Despite their efforts to preserve a normal school year, they faced an outbreak within their community of students, forcing them to reconsider their outlook on the current school year. Due to the recent spike in cases in the Isla Vista neighborhood, a popular housing community where nearly 10,000 UCSB students normally reside, the school made the decision

to end all in-person classes and limit the on campus housing that would be available. Since in the month of August alone, the number of cases in Isla Vista jumped from 50 to 143, according to the Santa Barbara County Health Department. UCSB Chancellor Henry Yang cited these statistics in his announcement last month to move nearly all undergraduate courses to online-only. While some students have made the decision to come home, other students have decided to remain in Isla Vista anyway, but are taking special precautions due to the high risk.

TN Class of 2020 alumna Sophia Aylward, who is attending UCSB, said, "I'm currently living in an apartment in Isla Vista with a few roommates. I knew it was a risk moving here because of the outbreak, but me and my roommates have been keeping to ourselves."

In an effort to ensure the safety of both students and staff, UCSB revised their protocol for the fall semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

Chancellor Yang stated, "After complying with the California Department of Public Health's COVID-19 requirements for higher education operations, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department guidelines, and the County's status on the State COVID-19 watchlist, very little is left of the traditional campus experience for our undergraduate students this fall."

The school's initial decision to proceed with some in-person classes was made by Yang, who based the decision on the low number of active COVID cases in Santa Barbara at the time. But with the increase in cases on campus, person-to-person contact was no longer a safe option.

This decision affects more than just the academic side of the college, as students who were relying on staying in dorms or campus apartments are now being told they have to move out and find a new place to stay, without many options. Students who had fall quarter housing contracts will be granted a full refund and will continue to



Sophia Aylward / Terra Nova Times

With students gone, the streets of Isla Vista are very quiet.

be refunded if at home learning continues past the current term.

For the students that have to stay on campus or access resources at the school, they

will be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival and then retested at regular intervals to ensure that they keep their community as safe as possible.

Clubs are almost back in action

By Sophie Phelps
Times staff writer

Despite current conditions with At Home Learning, Terra Nova is doing everything it can to keep students involved and engaged with one another. Clubs are starting up soon and will provide students with a way to be active in groups that share their same interests and passions. With AHL making it difficult to interact with one another, clubs will help students pursue their interests regardless of what COVID-19 throws at us.

Clubs this year will be trying new activities, and clubs such as Tiger News Network and Mock Trial are continuing to fulfill their normal duties, just via a different form of communication.

Distance learning brings challenges and benefits for clubs. Asian Club President, Jenson Ho (12) said, "Food plays a major role in culture, and in Asian Club, we try our best to explore different types of cuisines from different Asian countries. Even though we can't share our food, we can share how to cook it. Asian Club plans on having more demonstrations and cooking shows in the future. Additionally, Zoom allows us to have guest speakers from across the country to discuss culture, issues, and much more."



Ms. Z, Helena Achziger, Ms. Fil, and Khrislenn Garino

Club meetings like these will look a lot different this year over Zoom.

One concern with hosting clubs online is proper privacy and safety in regards to posting Zoom links and providing specific information. One major worry teachers have is that their Zooms could get hacked or messed

with, interfering with their clubs.

Asian Club advisor Ms. Gutierrez said, "We are concerned about our members' safety, so we want to make sure we don't get Zoombombed and members feel safe and at ease when they join our

Zoom sessions." In addition to concerns regarding privacy, there is also some worry that members will not take their work as seriously due to being all online, "the connection between everyone isn't going to feel the same, and I believe it won't feel as serious over Zoom," said Nick Fernandez of TNN. Both members and teachers share this concern and are hoping to create a similar atmosphere online as there would be in person.

Students are facing many challenges while navigating the unknowns of AHL, and with the limited communication and interaction between students and their teachers or fellow peers, it can be hard for students to feel engaged and socially fulfilled. Club advisors and officers hope the introduction of clubs will be an outlet for students to interact with their peers and be creative regardless of how much physical interaction is permitted, something that Mock Trial member and Tiger News Network secretary and special reporter Nick Fernandez values. "I really want to see them and not bring too much negative as these clubs were an escape for me," he said.

Tiger News Network and ASB have been collaborating on a project that aims to keep students informed and up to

See Clubs on page 6

Come donate to TN's canned food drive

By Kaitlynn Lamb
Times staff writer

Hey Tigers! In light of Terra Nova spirit, leadership is hosting a food drive to accompany the upcoming rally. Four large bins will be placed outside of Terra Nova's entrance, with each one corresponding with a different grade level. Each food donation will rack up spirit points for your grade, so the more donations, the more points you class will receive! Spirit week will take place from Sept. 28 to Oct. 1. Boxes will be outside of Terra Nova throughout spirit week between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. This drive is not limited to Terra Nova staff and students, so anyone in the community can feel free to stop by and donate to a class of your choice.

Terra Nova will be accepting a large variety of non-per-

ishable food items. Ideal foods to donate include canned meats, canned tuna, peanut butter, jelly, jams, baby food, powdered milk, granola bars, soup, beans, corn, lentils, canned chili, and canned tomatoes. Other foods with a long shelf life such as dry pasta, pasta sauce, condiments, beans, and rice, will also be accepted. All donations will be taken to the Pacifica Resource Center (PRC) to be redistributed to those in need.

In Paul Morello's article from the Feeding American Organization, Morello advised against donating items needing refrigeration, leftovers, expired food, food with packaging concerns, and baked goods. Morello stated, "A good rule of thumb is if you wouldn't consider buying it new, don't donate it." When donating food, it is also important to stay away from glass packaging to reduce the

risk of damaging items in travel. As previously stated, avoid donating foods that have exceeded their "use-by" or "sell-by" date, because those items cannot be given back to our community. Whether you plan on donating extra cans of food from your pantry or purchasing a couple of non-perishable food items from the supermarket, make sure to keep these guidelines in mind.

Food donation is crucial to our community and environment. Rather than wasting perfectly good and edible food into our landfills, these food items can be redirected to donation sites, such as the Pacifica Resource Center, to be appreciated by a variety of people.

With the pandemic and economic downturn that has followed it, more families are experiencing hunger and food insecurity than in the past, turning to the PRC for help.



Alana Heusser

Everyone is welcome to drop off their canned goods to TN.

Get ready, Freshman class elections are almost here

By Isabella Copeland
Times staff writer

It's that time of year again! Freshman class officer elections are just around the corner at the end of September. If you are interested in joining Leadership as a member or in a position, all applicants will be required to fill out a Google Form. Remember to regularly check your email and follow the Terra Nova Leadership page on Instagram @Terranovaprize for more updates about the elections. The four positions open for election are Freshman Class President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

All freshmen are welcome to run for a position. Candidates will be required to film speeches that are thirty seconds long and filmed vertically. These speeches will discuss the candidates plans, improvements, and ideas for the school year if they were to get elected. All speeches will be emailed to terranovaleadership@gmail.com and will be due by Sept. 23. These speeches will be displayed to all Freshman classes through YouTube or other social media platforms.

From Sept. 23-27 you will contact either ASB through Instagram or email Mr. Escalante to get your social media campaign approved for use. Campaigning through social media will begin on Sept.

28 and will end on Oct. 2. This essentially means that you only have three days to promote your plans to improve student life and what you will bring to the table if you were to be elected as their student body representative. On Oct. 1, all freshmen will be voting for their student body representatives. The day after on Oct. 2, a virtual rally will be held announcing this year's freshman class officers.

Additionally, if you are not interested in running for an elected position, do not worry, there's something for you too! You can still join Leadership as a regular member. All applicants have to do is fill out a Google Form and have an interview over Zoom with Mr. Escalante and

Leadership. Those who are not elected still have the opportunity to be interviewed at a later date to join Leadership as a regular member. These interviews will be held between Sept. 22-25. Watch for another opportunity in the spring.

Last year's Freshman class president, Alana Heusser, said, "Leadership is a great way to get involved. Even if you are scared about winning, I highly encourage you to run. You never know what opportunities could be waiting for you."

Additionally, Mr. Escalante said, "I think the most important guideline is to run because you want to show up, work hard, listen and be willing to be flexible in order to make a difference."

Some schools get waivers to open

By Kaitlynn Lamb
Times staff writer

This back-to-school season isn't like the usual transition from summer to fall. Due to COVID-19, many schools have begun this school year closed for in-person learning, but lately, there has been talk about reopening elementary schools in the Bay Area.

California has recently started accepting waivers for districts interested in opening back up, although these waivers are only for schools that teach grades K-6. According to the California Department of Public Health, an area's local health jurisdiction must be off the monitoring list for 14 days before a school can conduct in-person learning. For San Mateo County, which came off of the watch list just this week, in-person classes could start as early as the beginning of next month if a school is granted a waiver.

The Moreland School District is one of the few districts in the Bay Area that has submitted a waiver and was given direction to open back up this past Aug.



Lauren DeVry / Terra Nova Times

Local K-8 Cabrillo School is distance-only learning for the time being.

Mary Kay Going, superintendent of the Moreland School District, stated, "Currently, we are mostly in distance learning; however, since our waiver has been approved, we do have some children on campus in 'satellite' programs being supported by staff as they do their distance learning. We are also hav-

ing some special education students on campus during the day...We have an extensive guidance document on our website that details how we are going to handle all aspects of keeping children safe. This document was approved by the SCC Public Health Department."

The guidelines include continuous

testing amongst teachers, administrators, and other essential staff members. Staff members are being tested between two weeks to a month.

Dr. Going shared a look into what successes and struggles the district has encountered since the beginning of the school year. She said, "The constantly changing and competing guidelines has made it difficult for staff and families to know which ones we should follow."

Lynn Marie Glick, a kindergarten teacher at Joaquin Miller Elementary School in Oakland, has been teaching from home so far this year, and while there are challenges, teachers and students are adjusting.

"Writing is working fairly well over zoom, but reading is a struggle. It is hard to not watch the kids interact with a book. Being able to see them find the letters and or words they know in a book does not lend itself to zoom," she said.

Over these past few months spent during the pandemic, Glick and her fellow administrators have put together various

See Waivers on page 6

SAT is challenging for low-income families

By Leila Eliades
Times staff writer

While most students have a deep dislike for standardized testing, the SAT or the ACT are required by most colleges and universities. Both tests measure the tester's math and reading skills over a period of about three hours and an optional writing portion. The only significant difference between these tests is that the SAT is scored out of 1600 points while the ACT is out of 36, although there are many smaller differences. While most students are concerned about scoring well, others worry about the cost, as it usually takes a large amount of preparation time and money to get a high score, putting low-income families at a disadvantage.

These disadvantages begin in communities they live in; low-income families often live in poorer neighborhoods where schools don't have enough resources for their students. According to the National Public Radio, communities contribute to the amount of funding

school districts receive. Neighborhoods with higher property taxes (neighborhoods with larger and more luxurious houses) have better funding for schools. This means that richer students have more access to materials like textbooks, computers, and school staff members that can prepare them for standardized tests.

According to the College Board, during the 2019-2020 school year, students paid \$49.50 for the SAT or \$64.50 for the SAT with the essay. There are also SAT Subject Tests that focus on one school subject based on the test taker's choice. Although these tests are not mandatory, they make the student more desirable to colleges and takes \$26 to register and \$22 per test that they take.

When it comes to testing, students from wealthier families have a clear advantage. Poorer families may only be able to pay for a few tests. Alisa Hartz is the attorney leading the lawsuit against the UC system's requirement of the SAT or ACT. She told The Tide News, "These tests are incredibly sensitive to socioeconomic status and race and have



Courtesy of Jayden Fernandez

Jayden studies for the SAT.

nothing to say about the individual."

The most significant disadvantage for lower-income students is the cost of test preparation. The Daily Pennsylvanian wrote, "...the test prep industry itself

is valued around \$1 billion, with millions of students utilizing their services each year." According to CostHelper Education, online study courses cost between \$70 to \$500 and instructor-led courses are \$75 to \$1000, costs that high-income families can afford, while low-income families struggle.

Students are keenly aware of the high costs of test prep: Jayden Fernandez (12) said, "It's already hard enough with college being so expensive...\$50 is a lot for a low-income family." Sarah San Jose (11) added, "There should be an opportunity for everyone, especially for low-income families, to send their kids to college."

Although test preparation can be expensive, there are ways to get ready for the SAT and ACT for cheaper. Khan Academy offers free SAT courses on their website, and they assert that 20 hours of studying can lead to an increase of about 115 points and six hours can help scores increase by an average of 90 points. The College Board also has its own official study guide for the SAT for \$22.

Court rules that University of California cannot use SAT/ACT scores

By Justin Arnaudo
Times staff writer

In Dec. 2019, a collection of high school students and non-profit groups filed a lawsuit against the UC System, alleging that the SAT and ACT were economically and racially discriminatory, and seeking an injunction against the use of the tests. On Aug. 31 of this year, Judge Brad Seligman agreed with the plaintiffs, ruling that the UC system must cease its use of the exams for admissions, at least for now.

Those who filed the current lawsuit against the UC system are trying to get SAT and ACT removed permanently, claiming it is discriminative towards mi-

norities and students in low income households. The argument they present is that it is unconstitutional to give others an advantage based on economic and racial position, two factors which have been proven to negatively impact standardized test scores.

The fact that the UC system had already agreed to make the tests optional for this year did not sway the court. In his ruling, Judge Seligman wrote, "The question here is whether the inability of persons with disabilities to avail themselves of the test option, and thus the inability to take advantage of the 'plus factor' or 'second look' available to test takers is a denial of meaningful access to an opportunity or benefit that per-

sons without disabilities enjoy. In short, applicants with disabilities are denied meaningful access to the 'aid, benefit or service' that test takers have. They are denied a potential second chance at admission."

Due to COVID-19, the SAT and ACT will not be required for many college admissions in 2021 and 2022 as it is. This change is altering what colleges look at when reviewing potential candidates. With the SAT and ACT being optional or banned at many colleges, students are changing how they apply, colleges are changing the admissions process, and even some schools are looking for a permanent replacement of these standardized tests..

Normally, these scores are indications of one's probability of getting into a better school. For example, according to Prep-scholar.com, Stanford average SAT score is 1550, whereas UC San Jose averages 1260. This means that many students aimed for a certain score as a benchmark for their success. The change to test-optional shifts the focus for students to grades and extracurriculars when applying to college. For example, some may try to improve their GPA, do more volunteer work, try a new sport, or get a job.

Pierce Chu (12) said, "Since colleges don't look at SATs anymore, I just have to focus more on GPA, grades, APs, and extracurriculars. But even

though colleges don't look at SAT, ACT, and subject tests, I'm still going to take them because they can only help me."

The admission process is also changing. Without the SAT or ACT, colleges now have to focus on other student achievements.

College admissions counselor Chelsea Mooney at Humboldt University said, "The CSU system will be looking at GPA of the A-G college-preparatory classes as well as supplemental factors. Each campus will be able to determine the different supplemental factors as well as the accepted GPA." While it is still unknown what the UC system will do, they will most likely follow the format of the CSU system.

NBA playoffs captivate fans

By Miles Palmer
Times staff writer

The NBA Playoffs officially started Aug. 17, and are now well underway. The 16-team bracket with best-of-seven series now holds four teams, all battling for a spot in the prestigious NBA Finals. In the West, the Los Angeles Lakers and the Denver Nuggets are going at it, with stars like LeBron James and Nikola Jokic leading their teams. The Boston Celtics and the Miami Heat are in the East, with Miami's tough defense trying to stifle Boston's 3-point shooting barrage. All-in-all, these playoffs have been one of the most exciting things during this worldwide pandemic.

The four conference final teams each had different paths to make it where they are. The Los Angeles Lakers have been cruising, beating the Portland Trail Blazers and Houston Rockets four games to one in both series. LA's big man dominated lineup, with players like Anthony Davis and LeBron James, have been shutting down the typically high-scoring offenses of opposing teams. The Nuggets beat out the Utah Jazz and LA Clippers in their previous series, winning each series in Game Seven. Denver came



Joshua Ababseh

Josh is one of many fans who is enjoying the intense NBA playoffs.

back from a 3-1 deficit to win the series against the Clippers, a team that was thought to be a Final's contending team.

Jamal Murray's electrifying play as of late has helped fuel Denver's wins. Murray said, "Anybody that counts us out, it's fun to silence it. Especially when you play with no pressure, you just go out and play for each other." Boston swept the Philadelphia 76ers in

round one and edged out the Toronto Raptors in their thrilling Round Two series that went all seven games. The young talent in Jayson Tatum is leading the Celtics to their repetitive success.

The Miami Heat have had no worries during this playoff run, sweeping the Indiana Pacers and conquering the Milwaukee Bucks 4-1. NBA All-Defensive Second Teamer and Heat power

forward Bam Adebayo has been locking down every player he has been assigned to guard. Along with help from Jimmy Butler and the veteran presence of Goran Dragic, Miami is looking like a promising playoff team. Basketball enthusiasts like Dylan Uter (10) think they may even have a shot at winning the NBA Finals. Uter also likes some of Miami's young stars, as he said, "I like Tyler Herro, he's a good shooter." Uter was rooting for his team, the Utah Jazz, until they unfortunately lost in the first round to the Denver Nuggets.

The 2020 playoffs have had it all. Jamal Murray and Jayson Tatum are becoming the new faces of the association. Nonetheless, no matter where you go, the players who have been running the league for years are still performing like they are in their prime. LeBron is making a statement by showing fans he still comes in night in and night out and dominates the competition. As of Sept. 15, the Heat lead the Celtics 3 games to 1, and the Lakers are ahead of the Nuggets, which is currently a 2-1 series in LA's favor. These playoffs, with their nail-biting games and jaw-dropping endings have been giving everyone stuck at home a thrilling sports event, and the games will only continue to get better and better.

High school sports begin across the country

By Jack Gillen
Times staff writer

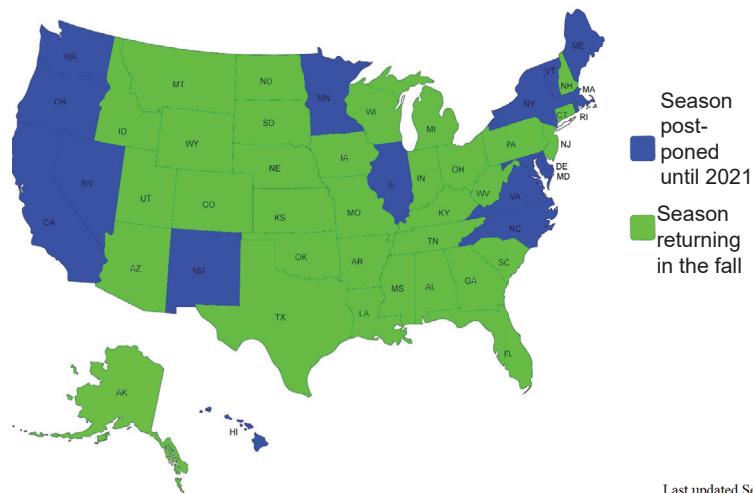
With high school season openers starting around the country and others still waiting until the winter, each state has decided what they will have to endure.

Athletics are a major factor in many high school students' experience, and for some, even a path to college. Each state has decided when they will proceed with fall sports, but most states have just slightly delayed their seasons by a few weeks, and the remaining have postponed all fall sports to the winter. Neither option is great. With the first choice, the safety of students is jeopardized by having fall sports so soon and with little preparation. However, the option of delaying fall sports puts them in conflict with winter and even spring sports, forcing

multi-sport students to make a choice about what to play.

With many season openers happening in September, the biggest question is how many student-athletes have contracted COVID-19. It can take up to 14 days to show symptoms for the virus, and with games taking place every week, the spread of the virus is still to be determined. However, since schools have reopened around the country, COVID-19 cases among kids have risen by 90%, and a similar outcome can be expected to people playing sports. If it is not safe for students to attend classes, is it safe for students to engage in competition against others?

Peter Weber, the executive director of the Oregon School Activities Association, said, "If we can't invite these students into our schools for a full day of learning, maybe we should really think hard about



Season postponed until 2021
Season returning in the fall

Last updated Sep

Jack Gillen / Terra Nova Times

As states reopen, high school sports look to start as well.

whether it's safe for them to be out there, especially with those full-contact sports."

Without the ability to test athletes like the NFL, MLB, NBA, and other professional sports organizations, no one

knows if high schools can keep their student-athletes safe.

For some student-athletes, the risk is worth the reward. Unless a person has an underlying health condition, COVID-19 does not impact young people nearly as

much as older people. In lots of cases, young people are asymptomatic, which means they do not suffer or show symptoms at all. With this in mind, it may be a low-risk, high-reward for some people, as their education depends on sports scholarships.

If sports are postponed until the winter, it will force many students to choose between one sport from the fall, winter, and spring seasons. Dimitri Fabiani-Wyatt (12), a three-sport and three-season TN athlete, said, "At first I agreed with the postponement of the season, but if other states can find a way to go to school and play sports safely and effectively, then there is no reason our district can't find a way to do the same."

No matter what decision districts make, there is no perfect answer, and that is something that student athletes will have to accept.

With the NFL back, so is the fan favorite pastime of fantasy football

By Miles Palmer
Times staff writer

Now that the NFL is back, so is fantasy football, the exhilarating, virtual game where football fanatics draft NFL stars to score them points, as they try to edge out their opponents and ultimately win the championship. Strategy and knowledge of players are key to success, but luck and unpredictability also add to the excitement. There are countless ways to take part in this affair, whether you put money on it, have crazy punishments for league losers, or just to enjoy the game. Fantasy football bonds friends, family, and strangers together as one community,

plus the game's camaraderie, frustration, and overall fun is a great way to safely spice up your quarantine life, something many fellow Tigers are already doing.

Tyler Parker (11) is an avid player, who has been in the game for five years. Parker feels that playing fantasy enhances how he watches football. "It's fun to compete against my [football] teammates, and I get to watch a lot of football," he said.

To try and beat out the rest, he seeks to select high-scoring players, like Baltimore Ravens Quarterback Lamar Jackson. Parker loves the friendly competition the contest has to offer, as he remarks that "Beating my friends" is his favorite part. Parker has high hopes for this season in his league, and men-

tions he is "For surely taking the dub" in the championship game this season.

Fantasy football's appeals to everyone, as teachers like to get in on the fun too, just like Terra Nova's very own Senor Vilchez. Like Parker, Mr. Vilchez has been participating in fantasy for five years, as his love for sports drew him to joining. "It's a fun way to see who's smarter when it comes to sports, you or your friends," he said. Vilchez enjoys the thrill of rooting for success in new players that his team holds. In fact, Mr. Vilchez enjoys the game so much, he has signed up for two separate fantasy leagues. He cherishes having "friendly wagers" to throw some value and competition in the season.

A strategy Vilchez says he uses to

conquer the competition and gain victory in his wagers is having good running backs in his lineup, like his personal favorite, Aaron Jones of the Green Bay Packers. Jones has now been a key position on Vilchez's squads for three consecutive years. Although Senor Vilchez is the reigning champion in a league of his, he is unsure about how his team will perform this upcoming year.

"I have it tough this year. I'm loaded on receivers this year, and I like being loaded on running backs," he said.

While we may all be distanced from each other, committing to a league is a safe, social way of trying to better the state of loneliness we all may be experiencing caused by COVID-19.

Opinion

The Trump war against LGBT+

Ever since the beginning of his presidency, President Donald Trump has given multiple promises to uphold LGBTQ rights. But behind all of these performative actions, there are lies and weightless claims. In fact, the Trump administration has not only failed to advance gay rights, but it has actively attempted to damage both gay and trans rights.

The current administration has undertaken actions directly harming LGBTQ workers. For example, Trump, the House, and the Senate repealed regulations that came with the Obama era, the Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces executive order in 2017. These two orders helped to force companies to comply with labor laws and disclose violations related to workplace discrimination, including discriminating against a person because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The repealing of this order effectively made it much easier for companies to get away with violations, as it's harder to force them to disclose what violations they have committed. This puts LGBTQ workers at risk, as even though the anti-discrimination laws are still in effect, many LGBTQ workers can be wrongly discriminated against without companies being punished for it.

The president's poor handling of discrimination laws runs even deeper. In 2019, the Trump administration openly opposed the Equality Act, with an offi-



Victor Wu / Terra Nova Times

It feels like Trump has declared an all-out war on the LGBT community.

cial statement issued to NBC stating that the act had “poison pills that threaten to undermine parental and conscience rights.” This statement is simply not true. The Equality Act, in reality, is an act that was proposed by Democrats in 2015 and reintroduced in 2019 that planned to move LGBTQ nondiscrimination laws from being simply state level to being introduced nationwide. In order to achieve this, the act would amend the already existing Civil Rights Act to include sexual

orientation and gender identity. It does not, in any way, impede on parental rights or conscience rights; it simply aims to provide LGBTQ protections nationwide. The administration's refusal to approve this act, in spite of its bipartisan support, indicates an utter disregard for equality.

Going further, one of the most egregious examples of Trump restricting LGBTQ rights was during the ban of transgender troops in the military. Now, Trump cites that the medical costs for

treating transgender people would be too much, but looking at this rationally, if a trans person has fully socially and medically transitioned, they wouldn't have additional medical costs while in the military. They've already gone through all the procedures and are fit to serve. The exclusion of trans servicemembers runs in direct opposition to the rest of President Trump's “law and order” messaging, indicating his deep disrespect for trans individuals. The Pentagon has claimed that this problem has to do with gender dysphoria, but even then, there are trans individuals with little to no dysphoria if they are post-transition. Medical consensus backs this up, too; a large meta-analysis done by Cornell University states that “The scholarly literature makes clear that gender transition is effective in treating gender dysphoria and can significantly improve the well-being of transgender individuals.” One possible compromise would involve allowing trans people the means to not only be medically transitioned, but to also have social support and aid in socially transitioning as well. Banning all transgender people is simply an ineffective strategy that does nothing to aid the military and is discriminatory towards trans people by effectively barring them from enlisting and socially inte-

See LGBTQ on page 6

Universities need to reduce their tuition

By Jack Gillen
Times staff writer

College tuition is one of the biggest concerns for many college students, but now while we are socially distancing, it is unfair for students to pay the same tuition for fewer benefits. Due to many schools moving towards online learning, students have lost access to campus facilities, like medical care offices, labs, and face-to-face office hours.

Although students lost the essential help that these programs offer to their learning experience, universities are refusing to reimburse them. Universities, especially well-known ones, have plenty of money that their students do not, so they should give students refunds for the previous semester and discounts on the current one.

Universities are facing several class-action lawsuits on this issue. Some are claiming

students should be refunded because online learning is a lesser form of education. Others are arguing that students should be reimbursed for housing fees and on-campus benefits.

College students around the US should not have to pay these tuition fees. They are almost being scammed to an extent because they paid for campus benefits and did not receive them. Some Harvard students are paying up to \$70,000, which includes charges for services that they are not receiving.

Universities have had to pay for fewer things during the pandemic, such as maintenance on campus, water bills, electric bills, internet bandwidth, and that should reflect the amount that students have to pay as they are paying for these services in their own home rather than using services provided on campus.

Going into the fall semester students are still facing a similar problem. Colleges such



Courtesy of Matthew Nuris

AHL-college has few of the perks of on-campus learning.

as Harvard, Princeton, Georgetown, Rutgers and more are using hybrid learning. With hybrid learning, a system where students attend campus part time, universities can charge full price tuition because they are offering some on campus benefits. This may sound like

a good idea, but some students do not feel safe, and given how many outbreaks are occurring at colleges throughout the country, you can see why.

Nick Arce, a student at the University of Massachusetts, is one of those who does not feel safe on campus. He said, “If

you test positive from going to school, who knows where it came from and how many people got sick, I wish everything was remote, it is not worth the risk.”

Students need money more than ever for basic necessities. Given how many people have lost their jobs due to Coronavirus and with students already struggling to survive before quarantine, it is more critical than ever that universities charge students only for the services they are offering instead of charging full price tuition to learn from home. Universities need to close their doors, do at home learning, and give students a major discount to make it fair for students attending college.

Dominic Tuiasosopo (11), whose family is paying tuition for his sibling, summed it up when he said, “It is unfair to have people pay for the stuff that is essential to them to then later find out they won't be needing to use it.”

Tiger Testimonials: New Year, New Perspectives

Victor Wu (12)

Heyo! Welcome back to the newspaper! I'm sure by this point you have seen the past three issues we have made so far — if you haven't, you should go check those out. Even though COVID-19 outlasted our expectations, the staff of the Terra Nova Times is still committed to providing the community with the stories that you need to see. As your opinion and news co-editor, I am looking forward to this new year and what we can achieve in Journalism, as well as to write the impressions we want to leave behind. Other than Journalism, I have been invested in the news, politics, games, virtual events, cooking, creating, helping, sharing, and creating my own opinions on everything. With so much going on, though, everything soon becomes sad and tedious. Many of us Seniors are looking towards our passage to adulthood; we are looking at this year with two possible perspectives: an easy year to get through classes or the hardest year to do work, where many fall in the latter category. As an optimist, I am strangely conflicted where I know things will eventually great while everything is slowly slipping out of the normal. Throughout this next year, I will definitely be whining like a baby, but I know I will come to appreciate this time or, at the very least learn from what has happened.

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Clubs

Continued from Page 2

date on announcements regarding clubs, as Fernandez stated: "TNN and ASB have been trying really hard to look for a way to bring the sense of community back with clubs, and I've been hearing the club advisors are really excited to have their clubs up and running soon." They are hoping to release their project before the end of this month, and are confident that it will help bring the Terra Nova

community closer together. Club meetings will take place on Mondays and Fridays after 1:15. Currently, ASB advisor Mr. Escalante has been collecting feedback from long-time advisors about whether their clubs would be meeting and on which days. Some project-based clubs like TNN and Mock Trial are already up and running, with TNN putting out weekly broadcasts and Mock Trial having received the case packet earlier this month. Stay tuned for when and how you can get involved at TN this year.

Waivers

Continued from Page 3

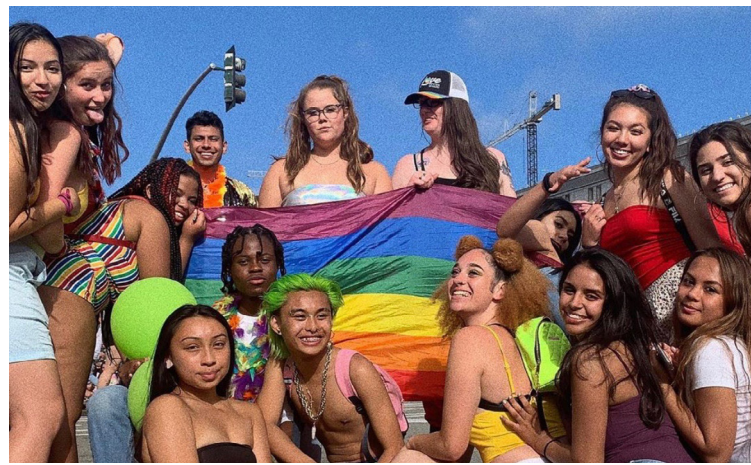
ways of learning. "The difference between last spring and fall is huge," she said. "First, my district actually came up with four weeks of lesson plans, with links, worksheets, etc. So I could focus on getting to know the kids and their families. I was able to visit every family and assess every student virtually." As many other teachers and administrators have expressed, Glick has found

working from her own classroom extremely beneficial, but she is not ready to open the doors to students just yet. "In regards to coming back to in person school, I would love to come back, but I am worried about being able to keep our masks on as much as we should... Also, I am not sure how we will keep five year olds six feet apart from each other. It would be nice if I could have only half of my students in person. -- I don't think I can do a hybrid model and maintain my own mental health," she said.

LGBTQ

Continued from Page 5

grating into a certain community that they are interested in. Even more outrageous is Trump's attempted reversal of transgender healthcare protections that were instituted under President Obama. These protections were originally inclusive of gender identity, but Trump's rollback makes it so sex discrimination in one's healthcare would only be determined by whether one is male or female, effectively removing gender identity from the definition. If enacted, it would've directly put the lives of trans people under



Kapua Wong Hin

healthcare at risk. By attempting to perform this rollback, what the president is effectively doing is making it easier for those who do not identify with the

gender they were given at birth to be discriminated against, basically putting non-binary and transgender people at risk. Thankfully, the Supreme Court

prevented this from happening, but the fact that the Trump administration moved towards removing these rights shows his true views of queer people. As of now, the administration continues to actively work to the detriment of LGBTQ (especially trans) people, and that is a problem that won't be fixed unless voters demand it. However, the vote doesn't just stop at presidential candidacy; it must extend to the state level and to county levels, too. By voting for candidates who work to ensure protections and equal rights for citizens of every gender identity and sexual orientation, we can move closer to true equality under the law.

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