

Terra Nova Times

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Terra Nova High School

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Deep freeze causes disaster in Texas



Rex Lualhati

For a state familiar with heat waves and hurricanes, the recent snowmageddon set off a chain reaction of terrible events for the state of Texas.

By Leila Eliares
Times staff writer

On Feb. 14, snow fell in Texas for the first time in years. However, the snow quickly lost its beauty and became deadly. Temperatures dove below freezing in multiple parts of the state — the

weather was about 40°F below the average temperature for this time of year. Celia Lualhati, a resident in Cibolo, Texas, said, “The night of February 14 the temperature was 9 degrees.” This winter storm also caused power outages as well as water issues for Texas residents.

With the extreme cold, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) shut

down power to 4.5 million customers by 10 PM on Feb. 15, most of which were homes. According to CNN, “The deep freeze caused demand for power and heating to skyrocket even as it knocked out the state’s natural gas, coal, wind, and nuclear facilities, which were not ready to function in such cold weather.”

Most states would import power from

the power grids of neighboring states, but most of Texas runs on an independent power grid that is separated from the rest of the country with ERCOT in charge, a decision made long ago to avoid federal regulation of Texas’s energy industry. This means that energy from other

See Texas on page 9

Vaccine roll-out speeds up; teachers get vaxxed

By Sophie Phelps
Times staff writer

As current events would have it, COVID-19 vaccines have indeed been approved, and locally in the Bay Area, there are a number of mass vaccination sites that are opening up that will be able to administer vaccines at a rapid rate that is obviously dependent upon supplies. Currently, these sites are vaccinating anyone over 65, anyone working in the education and childcare sector, and anyone working in the food and agriculture sector. Additionally, some counties are already vaccinating emergency services workers such as EMTs and law enforcement.

Of the many vaccination sites that have opened up in and around the Bay Area, the three larger ones are the Oakland Coliseum, Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco, and Levi Stadium in Santa Clara, which impressively enough is the largest vaccination center currently open in California. The requirements for receiving a vaccine are pretty much the same in all of them. Most of these sites allow you to sign up for a vaccine online, as long as you meet the conditions.

As per the state of California’s Vac-



Jenson Ho / Terra Nova Times

Vaccinations at Moscone Center are available by appointment only, but to those who meet the requirements.

ination Plan, we are well into Phase 1B, having completed Phase 1A, which included healthcare workers and long-term care residents. The most exciting thing for our school community is

that teachers and school staff are starting to get vaccinated. Already, a significant number of Terra Nova staff have gotten their first shot, most of them at the Oakland Coliseum site.

You may think that this means that all teachers will be vaccinated soon, but that is not entirely the case. According

See Vaccine on page 9

A new vaccine may be on its way

By Luke Avery
Times staff writer

A new vaccine may be approved as soon as this weekend. The Johnson & Johnson's new revolutionary one-shot vaccine. The Johnson & Johnson differs from the vaccine model that Moderna and Pfizer use, and according to Jen Christensen of CNN health, this new type of Johnson dose is ready to hit the United State's vaccine pool after just recently succeeding all global Stage 4 clinical trials. So, why is the Johnson vaccine so important?

It's cheap, it's easy to store, and it only requires a single shot. Johnson & Johnson's vaccine uses DNA instead of m-RNA as its chief means for the weakened adenovirus 26 that scientists

use for immunity. J&J's vaccine uses a harmless corona-like virus (Adenovirus-26) with the same protein makeup as the more serious COVID-19, so that the body can build immunity for the virus without the negative effects. This new DNA method



works more quickly and can be stored in warmer places. Unlike Moderna and Pfizer that both require two spaced-out shots to have their patients fully vaccinated, Johnson and Johnson only requires one shot. The J&J vaccine is also much less expensive. United States's

Coronavirus recovery team Operation: Warp-Speed spent \$1.95 billion and \$1.5 billion for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines respectively for 100 million, whereas they only spent \$1 billion for the cheaper J&J vaccine that takes half as many shots. Because the vaccine that can be held in room-temperature storage, it's also less expensive and easier to deliver. Both vaccines we use right now require extremely low cold carrying capacity in order to keep the vaccine stable and working, specifically -20 degrees Fahrenheit for Moderna and -70 degrees for Pfizer. This restriction greatly increases the cost of vaccine transportation, whereas the J&J vaccine can be stored at an average fridge temperature storage. So far, J&J's vaccine has

about a 66% efficiency rate in clinical trials against Coronavirus strains, where Moderna and Pfizer boast a 95%. However, according to their website, J&J posts an impressive 85% prevention of moderate to severe cases of the disease. Additionally, J&J was tested in the United States, Latin America, and Africa against many of the variants that have arisen now, whereas the two original vaccines were not.

Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, told NPR's "All Things Considered" this week, "And even if you just look at the U.S. data, the Johnson & Johnson number then starts getting much closer to the Moderna and Pfizer numbers."

Although J&J's vaccine may not hit the 95% rate of the others, it more than makes up for it in what it offers to hard-to-reach regions or demographics within the United States. This was their intention, as Alex Gorsky, Board CEO of Johnson and Johnson, strongly reaffirmed: "Our goal all along has been to create a simple, effective solution for the largest number of people possible, and to have maximum impact to help end the pandemic." Judging by the new 100 million dose deal they have just recently procured with the federal government along with other vaccine companies such as Moderna and Pfizer, they will clearly be making a great positive impact in the U.S's and world's vaccination success in the near future.

Mythbusting COVID-19 vaccines

By Naomi Sanft
Times staff writer

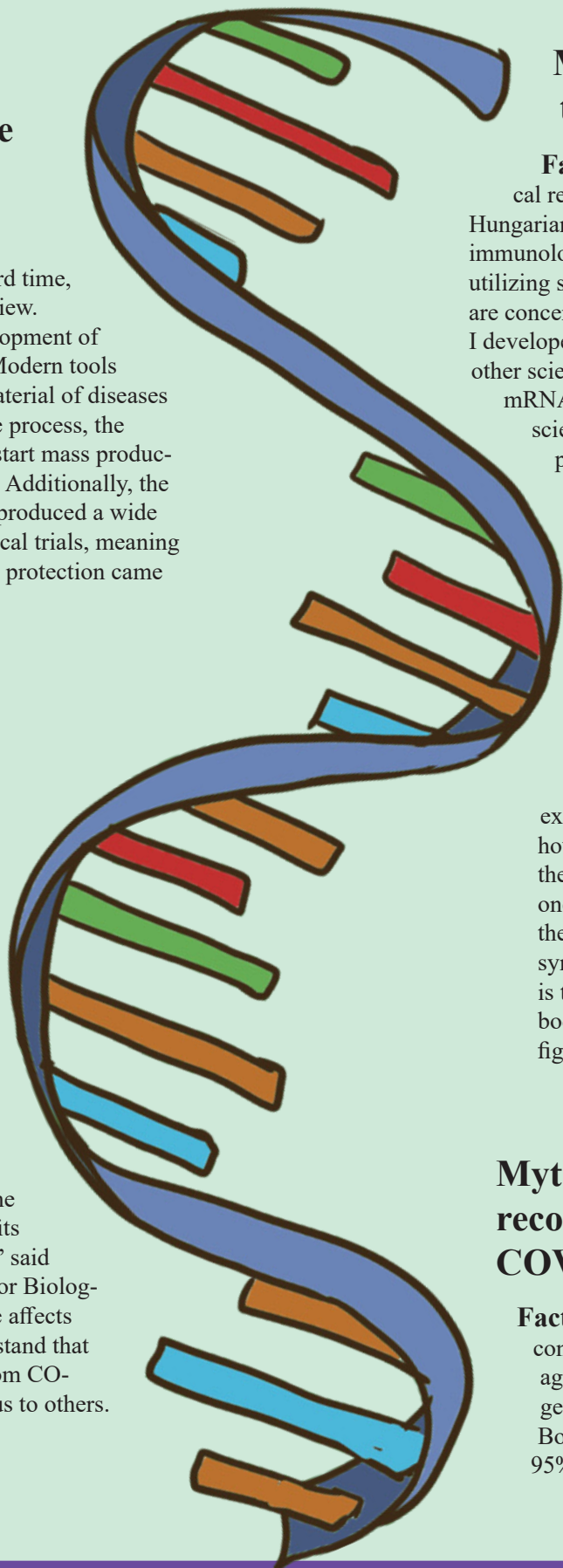
Myth: The COVID-19 vaccine is not safe because it was developed too fast.

Fact: While the vaccine was approved in record time, it still went through all steps for testing and review. With the help of scientific advancements, development of the vaccine was much easier than prior years. Modern tools have allowed scientists to "read" the genetic material of diseases in mere days instead of months. To expedite the process, the government has paid companies in advance to start mass producing vaccines while the clinical trials took place. Additionally, the danger of the COVID-19 virus produced a wide turnout of volunteers for clinical trials, meaning research regarding safety and protection came much faster than usual.



Myth: More people will die as a result of side effects to the COVID-19 vaccine than would actually die from the virus.

Fact: Globally, over two million people have died from this virus, over 500,000 of those in the U.S. "The vaccine's known and potential benefits clearly outweigh its known and potential risks," said Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. While this disease affects some more than others, it is important to understand that getting the vaccine is not just about survival from COVID-19, it's about preventing spread of the virus to others.

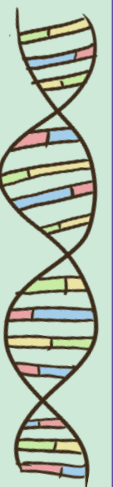


Myth: mRNA is a new substance that we know nothing about.

Fact: Messenger RNA became a subject of medical research 30 years ago and has been studied ever since. Hungarian Biochemist Katalin Kariko with the help of American immunologist Drew Weissman were able to develop a method utilizing synthetic mRNA to fight diseases. "We understand there are concerns the vaccine was developed quickly, but [Karikó] and I developed our enabling technology fifteen years ago, and we and other scientists have been working on how to use it to develop mRNA ever since," Weissman said. "This isn't brand new—scientists have been studying vaccines using this mRNA platform for at least six or seven years."

Myth: The COVID-19 Vaccine will alter my DNA.

Fact: According to the CDC the messenger RNA "never enters the nucleus of the cell" which means it "cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way." Messenger RNA is exactly as named — it's a messenger. It tells cells how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the COVID-19 virus. The mRNA is temporary; once cells make copies of the protein, they destroy the genetic material from the vaccine. The flu-like symptoms that people experience once vaccinated is the immune response to the protein. Then the body builds defenses that will remember how to fight if infected in the future.



Myth: I already had COVID-19 and recovered, so I don't need to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Fact: Cases of COVID-19 reinfection have been confirmed, meaning it is possible to contract the virus again. While these cases are rare, early evidence suggests that natural immunity may not last very long. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine are between 94-95% effective in preventing COVID-19.

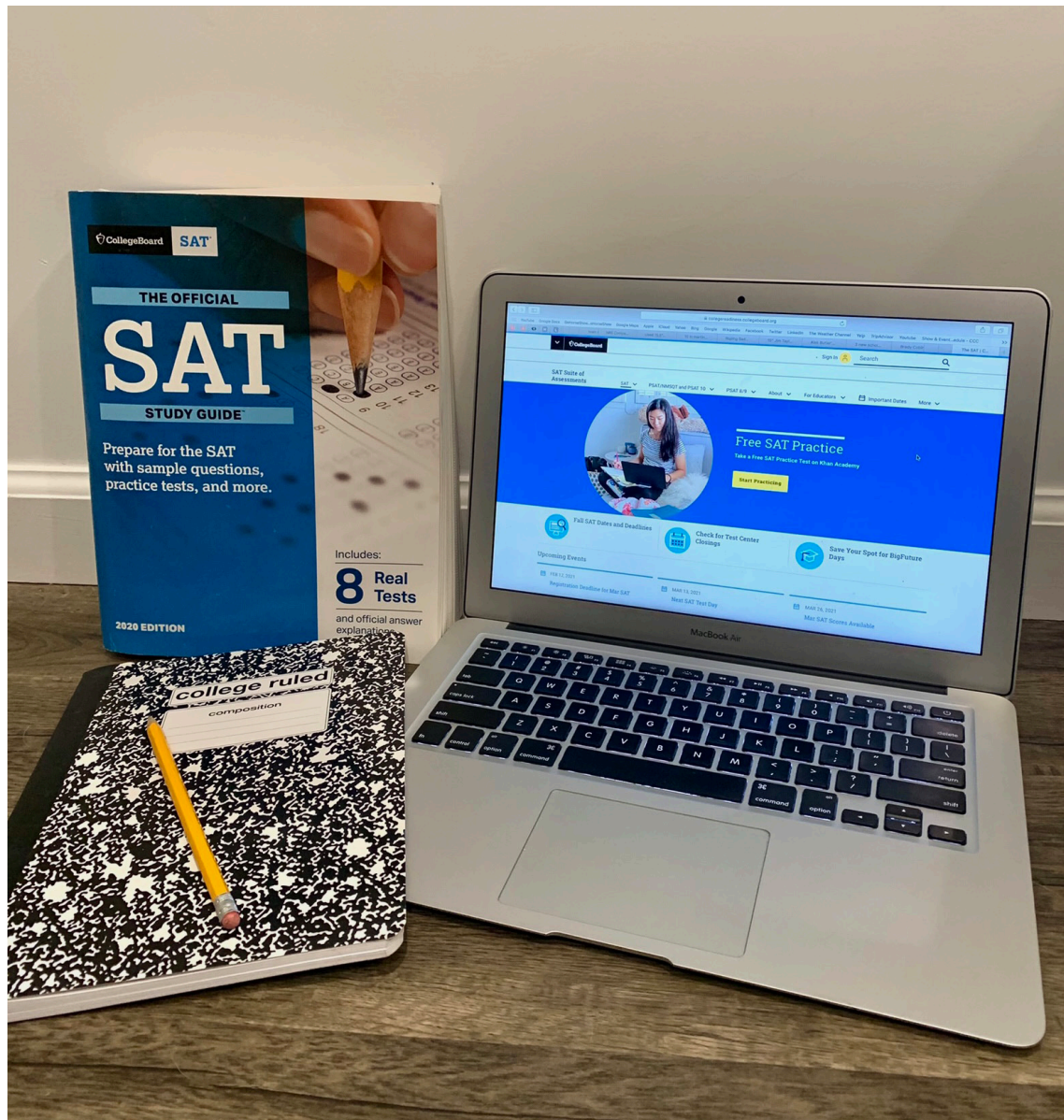
SAT subject tests, essay now gone

By Sophie Phelps
Times staff writer

2020 brought a lot of change, including what colleges look at when accepting students. There are currently some schools going “test blind,” meaning they do not look at any SAT/ACT test scores when accepting students. However, there are other schools, such as any of the Ivy League schools, that are still accepting standardized tests, causing some confusion. In addition to changes made by colleges, including completely eliminating or making the SAT optional, the College Board is also altering the SAT. Earlier in January the College Board announced that they will be getting rid of the essay and subject test portions of the SAT. They made this decision in hopes of easing the pressure on students, especially during the pandemic.

These changes are to be effective after the June 2021 registration. The College Board has clarified on their website that “Students who are currently registered, or plan to register, for an upcoming SAT with Essay will still be able to test through the June 2021 administration ... After June 2021, the Essay will only be available in states where it’s required as part of SAT School Day administrations [SAT School Day administrations are when a high school hosts the SAT, making it available for all juniors and seniors attending that school].”

With this recent change in mind, many universities have yet to solidify if they will still



Sophie Phelps / Terra Nova Times

Although the SAT is now all multiple choice, studying is still essential for those taking it.

require the essay before the June deadline. The College Board has also stated that any student who had signed up for the essay portion of the SAT before June can cancel that portion and receive a full refund. For colleges that consider the Subject Tests scores, students should check in

with their college websites about their applications processes.

The California UC system is going test blind for the Fall 2021 admissions cycle. “The UC system does not consider SAT or ACT test scores when making admissions decisions ... furthermore, the UC system uti-

lizes an admission process that considers both academic and non-academic factors,” stated the UC Santa Barbara office of admissions. Discussion of continuing the test blind method of admissions is currently underway and is looking promising that universities will no longer

look at test scores when determining acceptance. SAT or ACT scores may, however, be used to grant scholarships or to be placed in a higher level class.

Another factor that played into this decision was the decrease in students who signed up for the essay and subject tests. In 2017, more colleges required the essay portion of the SAT, and approximately 70% of test takers also took the essay; however, in 2019-2020, the number of students who took the optional essay dropped to 57%. Additionally, the number of subject tests administered has dropped approximately 45% since 2010.

The essay portion has been fraught with controversy since it was first introduced in 2005. In May of that year, MIT professor Dr. Les Perelman found a strong correlation between the length of the essay and its score, regardless of the quality of the essay’s content. After looking at a number of the samples from the College Board, he found that he could predict an essay’s score just based on its length. “So being from MIT, where numbers are very important, I counted the words, put the number of words and the scores into an Excel spreadsheet and discovered that the correlation was the highest I’ve ever seen in test data,” he told NPR’s Linda Wertheimer.

Other critics of the essay portion complained that it emphasized formulaic writing and presented students with an unrealistic task, as college classes do not ask students to write in a timed setting on materials that they have never seen before; instead, it’s the opposite.

College Board releases AP testing schedules

By Luke Avery
Times staff writer

This article is for all you Advanced Placement students, whether you’re taking the test or know someone who is. AP tests changed drastically last year because of the COVID-19 virus, and as we are still recovering from the pandemic, the College Board is not pulling punches on AP tests this spring. However, is offering three different ways for schools to administer the tests come this May.

Vice President of the AP program at College Board, Trevor Packer, assuaged fears of the upcoming AP tests by affirming, “We’re committed to helping students earn college credit, despite COVID-19. An updated AP Exam schedule will have two contingency testing dates for each subject. We’ll also offer schools the option of full-length, at-home, digital contingency exams.”

There will be three different administrations, reflecting both in-person and at-home exams. The first administrations will take place from May 3-17 and can be taken as paper-and-pencil exams in person at school only. The second dates will take place from May 18-28 and will of the exams offered will be in school and



Courtesy of Pierce Chu

The entire Senate majority hinges on the Georgia state Senate election.

half will be offered at home. The third dates will take place Jun. 1-11, which will have most subjects digital and can be all taken at home or in school. However, the decisions for in-school AP test taking will be determined on a school-to-school

basis, leaving administrators and teachers scrambling to figure out how their students should take the exams. One of the school administrators overseeing Terra Nova AP, vice principal Mr. Pofahl, says that the situation is still uncertain.

He confirmed, “Terra Nova and the rest of the district are working closely with the College Board to determine exactly what AP testing will look like at Terra Nova this year” and that for the students, families, and faculty members, “More information will be available soon.”

Although people may have mixed feelings about what type of testing is best, the decision is up to the school. When asked what method of testing he would prefer, TN Student Pierce Chu (12), when asked what method he would rather use, confided, “Online testing is the way to go. I got solid scores last year doing the virtual, it’s a lot less stressful at home, and you don’t have the risk of spreading COVID-19.”

Teachers are also anticipating a vastly different AP test. One test in particular, AP Calculus, has an online testing date after school ends, and many worry that students won’t be as motivated as they would be otherwise. However, AP Calculus teacher Mr. Walker will continue teaching the College Board’s standards and believes his students will be adequately prepared, confirming, “Each student is unique and is dealing with the current state of affairs in their own way. All I expect from my students is to do their best, be confident in their problem-solving abilities, skill, and ingenuity to earn a 5.”

If it's time for a new ride, read on

By Danrick Jamora
Times staff writer

2020 was an intriguing year in the mountain-biking world. With the massive sales increases over the year, there were many new and exciting bikes coming to fill the market.

One of these new bikes included the Giant Stance 29 1. The "29" in the name indicates the 29-inch wheels. These wheels have become more and more popular over the years for their ability to flatten the rockiest terrain and for their fast-rolling nature. The Stance 29 1 is fully loaded at \$2050, with RockShox suspension. The drivetrain is handled by Sram Eagle 1x12, which means there is no loud front shifter that constantly needs to be adjusted. The braking is handled by Shimano 4 piston brakes. The Stance also has a dropper post, which is a pneumatic seatpost.

The Stance is an aluminum alloy bike, using Giant's ALUXX



Danrick Jamora / Terra Nova Times

What matters most is the rides you take on the bike.

technology. Ansh Kapadia (11), who is looking for a new bike, stated, "The bike is well priced. And while there might be better bikes out there, they aren't gonna be close to this level of value." Overall this bike is a great option for those who want

a more capable and comfortable ride than a hardtail, but still staying close to their budget.

This next option is a well rounded trail bike, pricier than the Stance listed before, but still not top-of-the-line. The Forbidden Druid SLX is a high-pivot

trail bike with an extra sprocket to keep the chain snapping when it goes through its suspension travel. It's pricey, at around \$5050, but it is full carbon and lightweight. With Fox and Marzocchi suspension, this bike is more adjustable. The parts are suited for tackling wilder terrain and worse conditions. As the "SLX" in the name suggests, the drivetrain is handled by Shimano SLX 1x12, and the brakes are SLX 4-piston. I spoke with a lead mechanic from a local bike shop who asked not to be named who told me, "The suspension design may seem like marketing, but it does make a tangible difference in terms of comfort and speed."

The Canyon Strive CFR LTD is one of the most technologically advanced bikes ever. This long-travel Enduro bike has lots of suspension handled by RockShox on both sides. This bike is built to absolutely crush any obstacle on its way up or down. With a carbon-fiber frame, you don't have to struggle bringing

it up a mountain. The most revolutionary part on this bike is the Shape Shifter linkage in the rear suspension, which allows you to adjust the geometry of the bike on the fly. There are two modes for this bike. The first is the climbing mode, which raises the angle of the seat on the bike and lowers rear suspension travel to 135mm. This makes for an efficient, yet grippy ride. The downhill mode brings the bike back down and gives the rider access to all 150mm of rear wheel travel. The shifting is Sram yet again, but this time, it's their electronic wireless AXS shifting. Courtesy of an XX1 Eagle drivetrain, a dropper post, and Sram Code RSC brakes to drag this rocket to a stop. All this comes at a cost, though, with this model sitting at \$8499.

In total, these bikes make up a small section of the massive array of new mountain bikes, but they all have something special about them. No matter what you ride, it's the rides that bike takes you on.

The history behind the pussy bow blouse

By Natasha Valdez
Times staff writer

A lavallière, most commonly known as a "pussycat bow," is a women's style of neckwear structured as a bow. It has a great deal of history, from the founding of the pussy bow to the origin of the name, to the many important women such as VP Kamala Harris styling it as their own.

Pussy bow blouses were originally blouses made by popular high-end fashion designers Coco Chanel and Yves Saint Laurent. The inspiration bloomed from the late 19th century Gibson Girls. Pussy bow symbolizes demureness, femininity, and power — Gibson girls were essentially the ideal American women: slender but curvy, athletic but feminine, educated, and talented.

As funny as the name sounds, the "pussy bow" has no correlation with what you would think. The term simply came from the fashion description of a cat's bow tie. There are many different styles of pussy bows, ranging from different patterns, colors, and styles to wear this garment. There are pussy bow blouses



Jenson Ho / Terra Nova Times

Women across the decades and social classes have worn the pussy bow.

that are primarily a blouse with the neckwear structured on, as well as the pussy bow itself where, you can put it on and style it yourself with any top you desire.

Present day, you may see a lot of business women wear this style of neckwear. Many older women use these styles of clothing to go to events and business meetings. Men and women essentially wore these neckties in the 18 and 19th century until Coco Chanel and Yves Saint Laurent popularized them in

the 50s. In the 1950s, women would feel the need to dress like men, in this case wearing the neckwear structured as a bow to be taken seriously in a workplace. However, the bow would end up giving a much more feminine look, and it now it symbolizes power and demureness. The pussy bow blouses and dresses were also popular back in the 80s, and they were a favorite with high-end designers. These neckties were considered a softening accessory for wom-

en in high-powered business roles.

Nowadays, you see many women in office wearing these blouses, starting off with Kamala Harris, who wore this type of blouse on the day her election as the U.S. vice president became official. She wore a crisp white pantsuit and a champagne-hued silk blouse with a pussy bow at the neck. In 2016, Melania Trump wore a vivid pussy bow blouse to the second debate between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

There are many ways to dress it up and dress it down. For a professional look, straight cut bottoms and skirts paired with either a satin or silky tops are the way to go for women who work in a professional work space. For a casual look, a pussy bow top with leather and denim pants or skirts with any casual sneaker would make a cute outfit for hanging out with friends and family. According to an article in Ellemuse, "Pussycat bow" appeared for the first time in a newspaper called St. Petersburg Times describing a dress pattern featuring a convertible bow that can be tied in different ways. The style itself became a symbol of female empowerment and progress.

What is your favorite childhood TV show?



"The Suite Life of Zach and Cody."
-Daisy Derby (9)



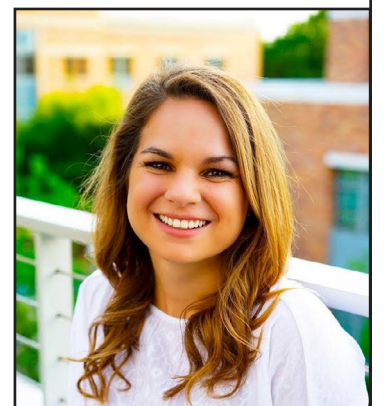
"'Scooby Doo' without a doubt."
-Ayva Mould (10)



"'Spongebob' was my favorite."
-Dominic Gordon (11)



"Family Guy."
-Justin Stoltz (12)



"Wild Thornberrys."
-Ms. Smith

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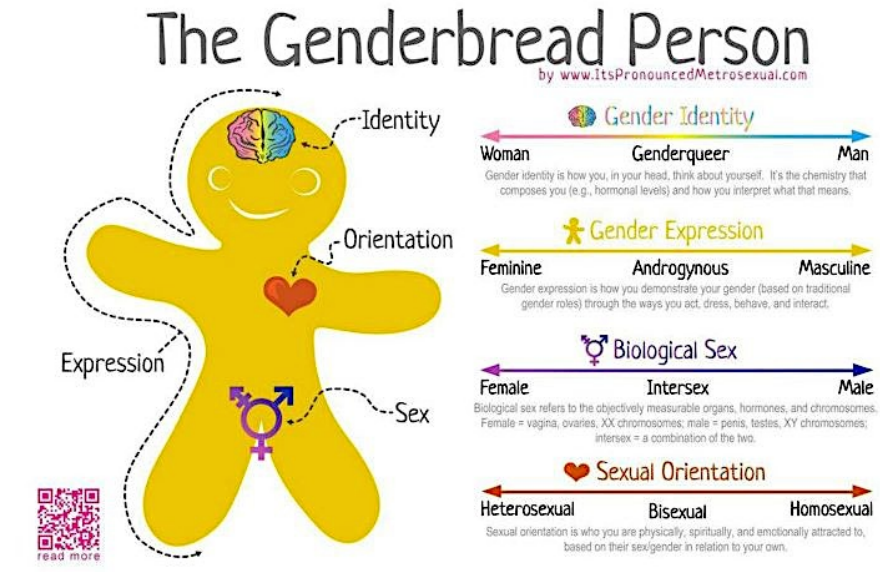
LGBTQIA+ terminology

By Kaitlynn Lamb
Times staff writer

Whether you are an ally or identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, it is always important to stay educated on the many terms used. Staying educated means reading up on terminology and respecting people's boundaries and identities. Even if you do not identify as a member of the community, you can always be an ally, which means being an advocate and supporting those in the LGBTQIA+ community.

LGBTQIA+ is an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and more. These terms are used to describe people in regards to their sexuality and identify.

When someone who identifies as a woman has romantic/emotional feelings towards another woman, they would be described as lesbian. When someone who identifies as a man has romantic/emotional feelings for another man, they would be described as gay. Someone who has romantic/emotional feelings for both men and women is considered bisexual. "Transgender" (or trans) is a term commonly used for people whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. The "Q" in "LGBTQIA+" could mean



one of two things: "Questioning," which is simply exploring your place in the LGBTQIA community or "Queer," which was once a slur used to portray hate against the community, but has since been reclaimed by community members. This term should not be used by those who do not identify as LGBTQIA+. Intersex individuals are born with a combination of male and female biological traits. Being asexual is defined by not feeling a sexual attraction towards others; however, asexual people

can still have romantic relationships. "Pansexuality" is defined by having a romantic/emotional attraction to people regardless of their sex, gender, or identity, whereas "demisexual" people only feel a sexual attraction towards those they have an emotional bond with. "Genderfluid" is used to describe an individual who identifies as more than one gender. There are dozens of sexualities, but these are just a few under the "+" part of the LGBT+ acronym. Maureen McCarthy from the Boston

Children's Health Blog wrote about the importance of gender identity and pronoun use. "Regardless of a person's sex assigned at birth, a person may identify as a woman, a man, both, neither, or they may be gender fluid (switch between genders)," she explained, continuing to stress the importance of respecting an individual's identity in workspaces and public settings, specifically in healthcare. "In a healthcare setting, respecting a patient's gender identity and asking about the name and pronouns they use is a crucial element of good health care," she explained.

Hyacinth Sandagata (she/they, 12) is a member of Terra Nova's Gender Sexuality Alliance club. When asked what they wish people knew about the community, they said, "Something I wish people knew about the community is that everything is just a spectrum. Just because you are bisexual and have a preference doesn't mean your feelings are invalid."

It's also important to create a safe environment and space for others, as they emphasized, "My friends make me feel safe. School is a little scarier because there are people from so many different backgrounds." To prevent others from using the wrong terminology, Hyacinth advised, "Honestly, just ask someone you trust. I will honestly answer any questions as long as someone is learning from it."

dcps.dc.gov

Understanding different racial terminology

By Katalina Huazano
Times staff writer

As groups seek to identify themselves in a changing society, terms and definitions change. I am here to help you understand the difference between Black, African American, BIPOC, and POC.

Many people are hesitant to refer to people as "Black," but referring to someone as Black is not racist. "Black" is capitalized since it is referring to a race. (Views on whether "white" should be capitalized are mixed.) "Black" is used for anyone who is of African ancestry, no matter their nationality. When asked how she identifies, 33-year-old Kania Tucker said, "I identify as and prefer to be called Black. 'African American' would mean I immigrated from Africa. Since I was born here in the United States, I am Black."

"African American" refers to Black Americans whose lineage takes them as far as the transatlantic slave trade, when Africans were stripped of their culture, humanity, and ancestry, and forced into slavery in



Gina Lee / Terra Nova Times

America. Because of this, it is much harder to track their roots to a specific country in Africa. Justin Jones said, "I prefer 'African American' from the choices above [Black, POC, BIPOC]. It refers to my African descent, which is unknown to me, yet the glory that we have

in America impacts me today on how I live, how I speak, what I listen to and where I have come from. 'American' because we are true Americans, I am a true American, born on this soil and my ancestors couldn't bear it, so I'm proud to, for them." If you want to know if some-

one prefers one term over another, just ask. Much as we ask people their chosen pronouns, it is respectful to give people the opportunity to tell you how they want to be referenced. "POC," which stands for People of Color, is much broader than either Black and African

American because it refers to anyone who is not white, which includes Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, and more. BIPOC ("Black, Indigenous and People of Color") is similar to POC, but magnifies Black and Indigenous people to honor the fact that Black and Indigenous Americans have had the longest and greatest suffering in America.

Tucker said, "I understand the use of POC or BIPOC, but I also feel that those terms are dismissive of my Blackness. I am a Black woman and not a woman of color or a colored woman. I believe there is pride in being Black, and it is all encompassing of my culture and heritage."

Jones had a different take, saying, "If I could honestly be called anything. It'll just be 'American.' Because I'm American. In America, we have an issue with race and color, and I'm not down with that cause. In Asia, they don't call anyone by their color, they're just Chinese or Japanese or Cambodian. In Africa, they're 'Africans,' so on so forth. The divide is only here, and that's why we can't get along because everyone wants to be separate."

#diversifyournarrative grows

By Justin Arnaudo
Times staff writer

#diversifyournarrative is a relatively new term created by students and educators to change what and who students learn about in history. Terra Nova and other schools in the Bay Area may decide to take this movement and adopt it. The question now is, do people like the idea, and if so, what changes should be made to the curriculum? But first, what is #diversifyournarrative? Do teachers and students think the idea will benefit the school, and what group of people should the students at Terra Nova learn about?

First, #diversifyournarrative is a movement to get the school system to teach about different people and cultures typically overlooked. It's not a big secret that the American education system has historically favored white culture over others. English classrooms used to mostly teach literature by white people, and instead of world history, people learned about "Western Civilization" (European history), even as our country is increasingly diverse. On #diversifyournarrative.com, they say their mission is "to fight to be anti-racists and encourage a productive dialogue on race and identity among our student



Jenson Ho / Terra Nova Times

Potential subjects that students could see in the near future.

bodies through the inclusion of racially diverse, anti-racist texts in USA schools; to work towards racial justice, educational equity, and community power."

The 5,000+ students who support this movement believe in changing school curricula to teach more about other cultures and races. The move-

ment is growing fast, and they already have deals with organizations such as the NFL. It is safe to say that many schools in the Bay Area will likely adopt this idea because it was founded in the Bay Area by Stanford students and is popular throughout this region.

If Terra Nova is to adopt this program

of curricula redesign, it is important to ask for teacher input. TN art teacher Mrs. Scarbrough said, "Of course it will create a positive change. But that's not to say it won't be met with push back... But it will have to place its bearings to show why it is beneficial to represent to our students. Which it almost seems strange to think in that way, but not uncommon to the struggle of POC (people of color) to the Americas. As for a specific group, the TN and Pacifica, Daly City and surrounding communities are extensively diverse, with I believe Filipino being the largest ethnic group in the region and for our district. The diversity of Filipino culture and heritage is to be celebrated and represents their influence and imprint to the Bay Area."

Students also find value in the movement. Donovan Potter (11) said, "I think it will be good for students to learn about people of other cultures, it would be a good improvement to the school curriculum. I think learning about Black culture would be interesting especially with all that is going on right now."

#Diversifyournarrative clubs have already sprung up at other schools in our district and around the Bay Area. If you are interested in starting a club to support this movement, contact Ms. Meskin or Mrs. Jenkins.

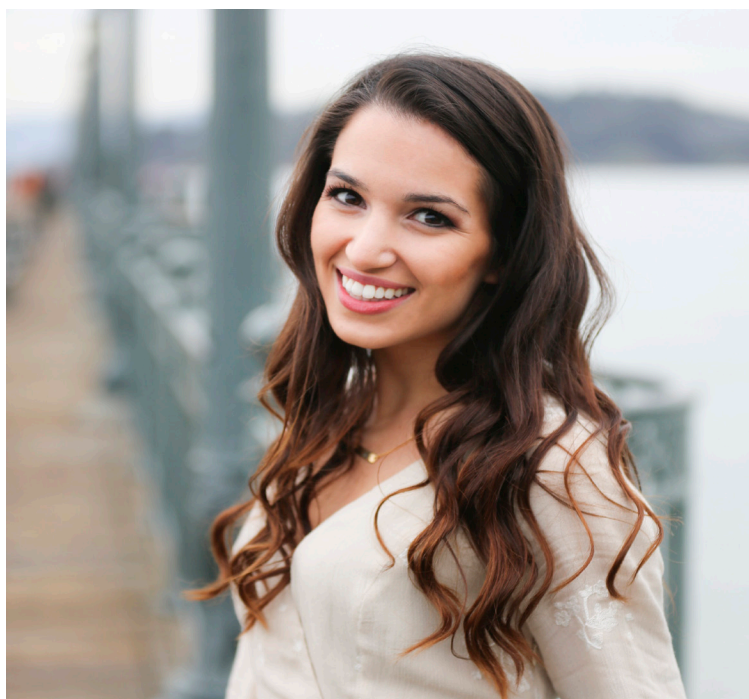
Meet wellness counselor Jacqueline Warner

By Shayla McCann
Times staff writer

Since we aren't in school, it is hard to familiarize yourself with new staff members. We have a new wellness counselor intern; let's give a warm Terra Nova welcome to Ms. Warner!

Not every student knows what Ms. Warner does as a wellness counselor. "My work at Terra Nova so far has been mostly helping individual students with their mental health. This includes talking students through crises, assisting with coping strategies, providing resources, and helping students with overall mental health and wellness," she explained. She mostly works with the freshman class and helps them deal with the pandemic and their adjustment to high school.

Some people don't have a passion for their jobs, but Ms. War-



Courtesy of Jacqueline Warner

Ms. Warner has enjoyed meeting TN students over Zoom.

ner definitely does. When asked about why she wanted to be a wellness counselor, she said her

high school experience interested her. "I've been intrigued by my own high school experi-

ence. I just feel like it's a very crucial time in a person's life. At least it was for me, and I wish I had more support as a high school student. Instead, I felt like it was sort of this realm of heavy discipline and not a lot of checking in and 'how are you.' I never got that as a high school student, so I think the idea of a wellness counselor was really intriguing to me," she said.

In an interview, Ms. Warner went into more depth about herself and her background. She she grew up in Millbrae California, and her childhood was full of sports and fun. "I started off when I was like three [years old], doing ballet, I did ballet until I was like 12 or 13, and then I started in high school doing cheerleading and gymnastics. Those have been the most prevalent I guess sports if you want to call ballet a sport." (We do — if football players can use it to train in the off season, it

qualifies as a sport!)

Ms. Warner still remains very active and enjoys running and working out in her free time. She said, "I really like to run. I don't as much in the winter because my joints are getting elderly. I used to run everyday 6-7 miles every morning. I had to cut down on that because I feel like my joints are screaming. Now I usually like to do something with my body whether it's like a workout video or something to get my heart rate up."

Overall Ms. Warner would love to lend a helping hand and is someone who could help a number of people, so, if you need someone to talk to her email is jwarner@jeffersonunion.net and her google voice number is (650) 451-5209 (available M-F, 8am-3pm). To make an appointment click [here](#). If you have an emergency please contact the StarVista 24/7 Crisis Hotline: (650) 579-0350.

New freshman seminar class coming to Terra Nova this fall semester

By Elliott Song
Times staff writer

Everyone who's gone to Terra Nova High School since freshman year has gone through the mandatory World Geography class. However, it seems that next year, Terra Nova might have something different in store for our up-and-coming freshman, something a little different from every other class. The Terra Nova administration has proposed a new class: Freshman Seminar.

Staying true to its name, this class

wouldn't follow the traditional class format of in-class lectures paired with homework. Instead, this class would be focused more on helping students adjust to high school. Freshman Seminar hopes to achieve this through multiple methods, such as smaller group discussions, all in hopes of making Terra Nova more comfortable and accepting for freshmen.

Some of you may be asking, "Why introduce this class now?" In Principal Carey's words, "We at Terra Nova have been, and are constantly exploring different ways to support freshman." Although looking back on it now, as sophomores,

juniors, or seniors, freshman year may have been the easiest when comparing workloads, the adjustment to high school alone is a large enough factor to make freshman year feel that much harder.

Being able to work through the stress that comes with the transition is difficult, and Terra Nova hopes to alleviate that stress with Freshman Seminar. The jump from middle school to high school is often a jarring experience that leaves many students confused and overwhelmed. The newly proposed "Freshman Seminar" would be focused on teaching freshmen the skills they need to succeed in

high school and in higher education.

From fundamental study strategies, college career exploration, and basic high school strategies such as proper time management, this class would be covering all the bases needed to help students adapt to high school. Classes would also focus on helping students form relationships with their peers. Oftentimes, a student may feel left out, especially when coming into high school, simply because they didn't know anyone. This class hopes to counteract that feel

See Seminar on page 9

SKI WEEK

Where our TN Tigers went over the break...



J.T. Nickelson (9) went skateboarding at Pacifica Skate Park



Hyacinth Sandagata (12) taking pictures with her friends at San Pedro Park



Alexis Nguyen (12) celebrated her birthday over the break



Sierra Chaplin (9) took a trip up to Oregon



Jayden Fernandez (12) in his Valentines Day photo shoot

...and more TN Tigers



Cate Reiker (10) Crystal Melton (11) went out to go snowboarding



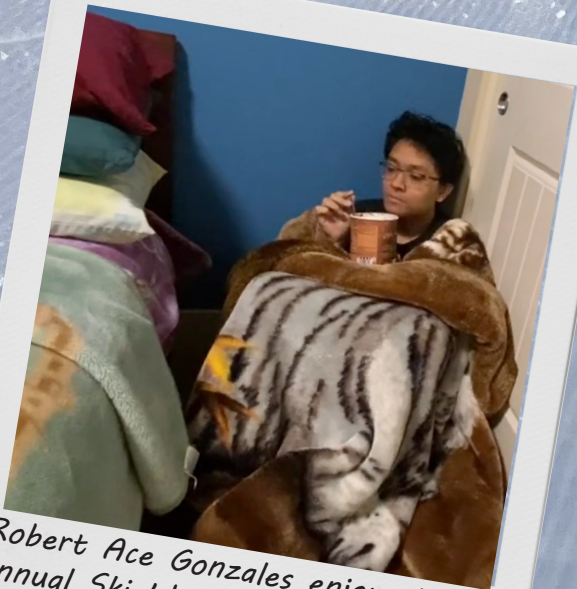
Tyler Yumiwada (10) went to Delores Park in San Francisco



Crystal Yip (12) went skiing in Lake Tahoe



Maya Besedin (11) and Zoe Kapp (11) went out for a Polaroid photo shoot



Robert Ace Gonzales enjoys his annual Ski Week rocky road ice cream



Karina Roman (10) relaxes at Lake Merced

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Vaccine

Continued from Page 1

to the Executive Director of the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management, Mary Ellen Carroll, “The limiting factor is still the vaccines [the amount available], and that is really just a supply issue, and also approval. So as more vaccines get approved, we will be able to open up more to people in the 1B category.”

In fact, it was only last week that San Mateo County teachers could get their first shot, while San Francisco teachers had to wait until this week to start trying to get an appointment. Currently, most vaccination centers are focusing on providing vaccines for those 65 years and older, since those of that age are in the demographic most at risk. As for students and teens, if you work in any forward-facing food industry like a grocery store or a bakery and are 16 or over, you



Courtesy of M. Gutierrez and R. Colvig

Ms. Gutierrez (left) and Mr. Colvig (right) get their turn.

are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine with parental permission; in fact, a number of Terra Nova students who work in childcare or food service have already gotten their appointments. For everyone else, though, don't expect to be vaccinated yet. We are basically at the end of the line, and as of yet, the only vaccine approved for people of our age is the Pfizer vaccine, and that's only for those over 16.

However, Pfizer has already finished enrolling a large clinical trial for teens 12-15, and data from that trial will determine if all of Terra Nova will have a shot at a shot. For those who are eligible now, have your parent go to myturn.ca.gov to check eligibility and make appointments, but be patient — demand for appointments is high.

With more vaccinations, San Mateo County has been able to

finally move out of the dreaded Purple tier. Carroll said, “As more and more people get vaccinated, our infection rates will go down and our hospitalization rates will go down, which are all factors in determining our tier. Right now, though, I can only speak for San Francisco, we're looking to move into the Red tier by the end of the month. However, vaccines are just one factor, and if people do not continue to practice masking and social distancing, we will see ourselves back [or still in] more restrictive tiers. It's a combination of vaccinations and continued compliance with public health recommendations.”

If you are lucky enough to get a vaccine, this is not time to start slacking off. Always remember to stay masked and practice social distancing. Vaccines alone will not allow us students to return to school again. They are simply one step in the right direction, and hopefully, we can keep going that way.

Texas

Continued from Page 1

states cannot be used because Texas generates its own power separate from other states. Additionally, an ongoing issue was ERCOT's equipment was not prepared for the low winter temperatures, leading to generators and gas pipes freezing, a situation which could have been avoided had the state winterized its power structure after its last catastrophic freeze in 2011.

The blackouts forced desperate residents to keep warm by burning wood, keeping stoves on, bundling in blankets, sleeping in running cars, or even going into shelters that have power. Dozens of Texans lost their lives due to hypothermia, carbon monoxide poisoning, and other events related to the storms.

“Our power was kind of on and off but not completely out. The water was only dripping in small amounts and I assumed that it was because of frozen pipes but I'm not completely sure... I had my sweatshirt and

sweatpants on the whole time. When the power came on, I had set the heater to 65-70 degrees so that it's not too cold when the power goes off again,” Lualhati added. The power outage also put a strain on those who depend on electric medical equipment like oxygen tanks to help recovering COVID-19 patients, and some residents who didn't lose power are now facing electricity bills as high as \$16,000 due to the state's deregulated market where providers can raise prices sky-high when demand goes up.

Getting clean drinking water has become another problem for Texans. The power outages caused cities like Austin to be under a boil-water notice, a warning to boil any water that would be used for drinking. Power outages at water treatment facilities meant that water coming from a tap could potentially still be unclean with bacteria. For some homes, water isn't even accessible because of frozen pipes, some of which have even burst and caused water to come gushing out in a flood. Without running water, some

have resorted to melting the snow or using pool water just to flush toilets. Others have found public water faucets or have had to buy water from stores who are rationing out water bottles.

Recently, the weather has started to become warmer and

power is coming back on. Lualhati said, “The power completely came back on Wednesday at 11 in the morning... But I heard that other places have no power or water.” Snow has also begun to melt in some places, but the weather is still under 50 degrees.

Seminar

Continued from Page 7

ing. Social-emotional lessons and skills are crucial — Freshman Seminar hopes to encourage freshmen to branch out and break out of their shells.

When asked about the class, Madeline Madsen (10) said, “I believe that this class would be helpful for some students, but not all...I think that this class should be optional for the students who want to take it. This would teach them a great life lesson: If they want success, then they should choose the path to success on their own.” Caprice Robinson (10) said, “In my opinion, this class would be extremely helpful to incoming

freshmen. My freshman year experience wasn't good when I first came to Terra Nova, not only because I wasn't from the area, but also I didn't talk to anyone for a month and didn't make friends. It was difficult to meet new people. Having a class to help you with your academic work and helping you be social with your peers lifts a lot of weight off new freshmen.”

This class is currently going through the process of being proposed to the district by our school administration — the curriculum was presented to the board this week; however, Terra Nova hopes to be the first school to pioneer this idea in our area. If all goes well, we'll likely be seeing something new on schedules for freshmen next year.

Guerrero's Taqueria

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