

TROJAN TIMES

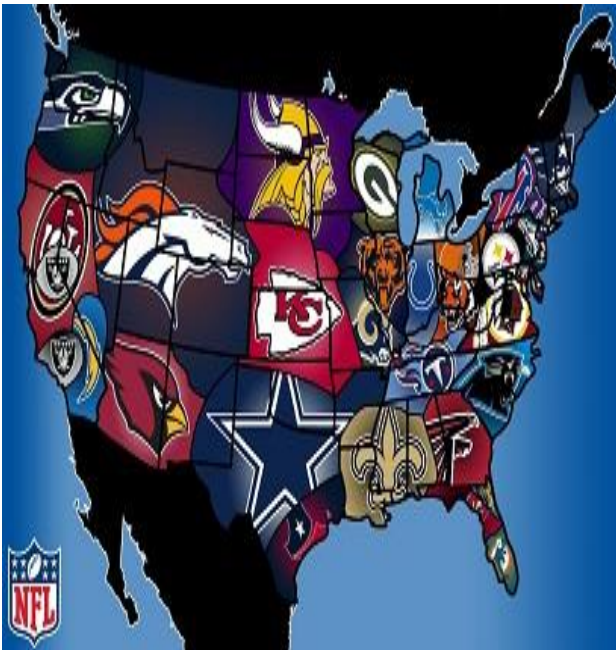
STUDENT NEWS & PERSPECTIVES



Masks

MATTHEW BEEHLER

My relationship with my mask... Well, it is a love-hate relationship. I have a lot of masks, they are different colors, some are handmade and some tell a story. I have an athletic mask that helps you breathe while running and playing a sport. I have masks that illustrate a hobby like fishing. I have masks that tell a story like my school masks. I feel like I'm hiding under my mask. I'm hiding from the world and disease. I know that masks are a necessity, however I still hate them because they make me hot and no one can understand me when I'm talking. I'm not going to say I love the masks but I'm thankful that they are keeping me safe. I do not like that I was told that I must wear a mask. I would like to think that I would wear a mask even if I was not told to do so, but it is so easy to forget your mask. I have forgotten my mask so many times. I have had to wear extra masks that are in the car or in someone's pocket. These masks are not my first choice but it is a necessity. I cannot wait for the day we can put our masks in the trash and go back to normal. But, until that time comes we don't have to worry about how our smiles look in pictures or that we have braces.



Covid & the NFL

By Madison Karney

With the National Football League coming back to the television, COVID-19 has taken some protocols to the NFL. When NFL came back, players had to take precaution when it comes to playing the game. NFL players are required to wear masks before and after entering the football stadium and the players also have to get tested before going into working facilities and training centers. Employees that work on the football field have to get tested two days before Sunday the day of the game. My dad, who is a television coordinator for the Buffalo Bills has to get tested two days before home games and is required to wear a mask on the field at all times. With NFL coaches and equipment staff they also need to wear a mask at all costs. Recently, a few weeks ago the Tennessee Titans had an increasingly amount of COVID cases in their facilities. Due to the fact of having 23 positive COVID cases, their organization had to be shut down for over a week which meant no practices in facilities and no coaches allowed on property. This caught a lot of attention in the NFL organization and the whole country. For having so many positive cases the Tennessee Titans had to move their 2 games against the Pittsburg Steelers and the Buffalo Bills. After moving those two games, it also caused games that weren't involved with Tennessee to change their games too. How this is affecting people and even teenagers is how much COVID-19 really changes everything and for everyone in particular. This goes to show how COVID-19 really changed the world and how it could even affect sports in their perspective. Having sports active right now is very risky when it comes to this pandemic, and how close in contact players are with another player playing with no masks and basically breathing on one another. Being an NFL player could be a big risk when it comes to having a family also. Making sure your family is healthy and not wanting it to affect your loved ones or even their children is a big concern.

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COVID

BLACK LIVES MATTER

POLITICAL CLIMATE

My Perspective on Covid 19

RHIANNON BLAKESLEE

When we went into quarantine, I wasn't affected too much at the beginning. When the pandemic got worse, my dad's coworkers caught Covid. As a result I wasn't allowed to see my dad for a bit. My friends and I didn't see each other in person for a while, instead we'd do zoom calls and hang out on Minecraft.

Being stuck at home was pretty boring but I ended up developing an interest in some hobbies. I started writing stories, drawing, I tried to play keyboard but it didn't go very well, I tried to sculpt something out of air dry clay, and I got better at special effects makeup, which I'd been interested in for a bit before the pandemic. When I could go see my dad again, we watched a ton of horror movies and even made a plot for one that I am determined to create.

At one point, my parents got sick and we thought they had Covid, so I went to stay with my dad for a week. They got tested and it came back negative.

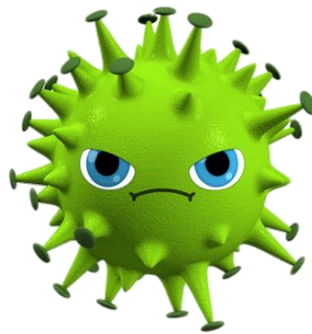
My friends and I have started watching shows at the same time so we have something to talk about since not a whole lot is going on.

We ended up hanging out a few times, usually either sitting in my backyard, swimming, or going for walks.

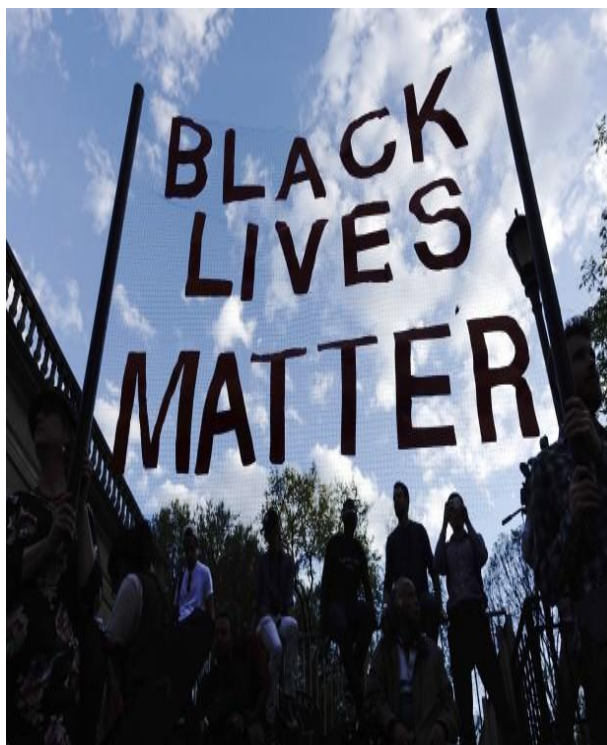
Doing online school is a bit weird because I've never done something like this before. It has its perks though. For example, I don't have to wear shoes and I get to wake up later. However, I get distracted a lot easier.

Sometimes my little brother comes into my room because he doesn't understand that I'm in school, he turned three during the summer, but my step-dad usually takes him for car rides or goes to the dollar store with him so we don't usually have to worry.

I've been thinking a lot more during this pandemic, some good things but mostly negative things. Honestly, my family and I are all tired of each other. With time, we've adapted to this situation, it's less exciting now, but we've found ways to distract ourselves and deal with it.



The Actual Face of Covid 19



As Black Lives Matter, we recognize and affirm the sanctity of all Black lives everywhere in the world. Following the murder of an unarmed civilian by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) unit of the Nigerian police, young people across Nigeria have held protests denouncing years of brutality, torture, abductions, and killings. The demonstrations mark one of the largest Nigerian protest movements in generations.

All Lives Don't Matter Until Black Lives Matter

CAMERON BRIGGS

Black Lives Matter is a movement that started in 2013 and has gotten way more popular especially this year in 2020. The movement is for civil rights for people of color to win their basic human rights. The whole BLM movement started because of the injustice in the justice system just because of the color of their skin. The whole system is corrupt. The death of George Floyd was no accident. The police officer, Derek Chauvin, who was a white man is known for kneeling on the neck of George Floyd for 8 minutes until he couldn't breathe anymore and died. Even after pleads of George Floyd saying he cannot breathe, the officer still didn't lift his knee. Also, the other three officers standing around didn't do anything, they just let it happen. George was being arrested for possibly a counterfeit bill and ended up dead. The four of the police officers were fired but that's not enough to serve justice to George. They should be convicted.

In my opinion, the Black Lives Matter movement shouldn't even have to be a movement. It is ridiculous that it is 2020 and anyone who is not white has to fight for basic human rights. It's disgusting and cruel. Under the presidency of Donald Trump it has been a lot worse, too. Trump has said many racist and sexist things. "Laziness is a trait in blacks." said Trump. With Trump being our president, I believe that people think it's now okay again to also discriminate against anybody that's not white. You can almost guarantee that if someone supports Trump, they are not too fond of black people, Mexicans, or even anybody a part of the LGBTQ+. People try to come back at people who say or stand with BLM by saying "All Lives Matter" but then don't want immigrants in our country who will literally die if they don't stay in the states. All lives include black lives, immigrants, and anyone who is of color. All lives don't matter until black lives do.

BLM

Trump or Biden?

KORI ZUNIGA MEJIA

What Are We Doing??

This election should be a wakeup call from both the democrats and republicans that they both need to change their ways and do inside reform. Not only have both sides been polarized to the point where there isn't really a middle ground candidate anymore, the candidates they pick are horrendous. Both parties need to stop using seniority as the only determining factor in picking the candidates for their party. The democrats had so many winning plays and they picked Joe of all people. This election wouldn't even be a race right now if they would have picked a moderate and "younger" candidate such as Tulsi Gabbard or Cory Booker. Their views weren't polarizing and they could become great young leaders. That's just my opinion though. If they would've picked a winner instead of just "good enough", this election could have been a landslide. Maybe just maybe, it would've united the nation with a leader that doesn't disenfranchise others or go against others instead representing America instead of factions inside of America.

-Anonymous



I'm too young to vote but if I could it would be for Biden. Over the course of the last 4 years of Trump's presidency, this country has really been going down. From the beginning of his presidency, there was a sudden surge of open racism and homophobia. Hate crimes started happening more and more because the American people believed it to be alright with the blatant racism of their president. He took 72 hour holding cells for children that were forcibly taken from their parents for no particular reason other than the fact that he does not care for the lives of others. They are being abused, mistreated, and relocated and lost somehow. Those children are dying and he isn't doing a single thing about it. With this Trump has been showing more and more signs of unsavory motives that could point in a direction of fascism.

He claims America to be the best and anyone who disagrees with that is anti-American and they are the enemy. That is a fascist tactic disguising itself as unity and nationalism. He also claims a master race and calls eugenics by another name. He is constantly telling his followers of 'the racehorse theory' and how that makes them better than anyone who isn't his follower. When it comes to promoting America itself, he does it in such a theatrical manner it's reminiscent of Stalin, Hitler, and Mussolini.

He also has a complete disregard for the American people during the pandemic. Over 233k people have died because of his lack of response and his spread of misinformation. He doesn't believe in science and claims 'Science doesn't know'. With that, he also began to militarize cities with the spark of the Black Lives Matter movement. It is our right, if not our duty, to protest the government if we feel we are being mistreated. He called anyone who was protesting antifa terrorists, thugs, and radicals. He began to classify antifa as a terrorist organization but refused to reprimand white supremacy groups like the proud boys.

There is only one kind of person who dislikes antifa and that's fascists. As a minority in more ways than one with immigrant parents, I feel obligated to voice these concerns for the other people who cannot or the people who choose to ignore the obvious. I am absolutely dumbfounded by the people who openly support such a racist, misogynistic, heinous person. Personally I would classify myself as an anarchist and am not particularly in favor of Biden but with the possible re-election for Trump, which would be us as a country taking multiple steps backwards and a death of our democracy. He wants to take a lot of the people's rights away and it pains me to watch this happen. It also aggravates me when I'm told to be open minded when someone's opinions directly correlate with the oppression of another's existence. Racists are not my friends. Fascists are my enemy.



SOCIAL MEDIA

TikTok Famous

ALYSSA NEIDL

What is the world of TikTok? Well, the world of TikTok is many things. It is fun, informative, at times very toxic and so many more things. TikTok brings many opportunities to express yourself as well as you can, but in doing that, you also get all the hate. There are people on TikTok that just don't accept many things. If you become "famous", people are jealous of you and try and bring you down in the worst ways. If you're not "famous", you're not good enough or pretty enough or funny enough. TikTok is toxic as much as it isn't. If you are a big influencer, you have to set the perfect example for all of your fans. You can't mess up once or you will get, as we call it, **cancelled**. Some influencers have made this their career, so to them, social media is everything. I can't imagine how hard it is for these top influencers to have to be perfect all the time and to deal with so much hate when they are only teenagers. Being well known has its perks. You get to go places you would only dream about going to and meet so many people that you would only dream about meeting. It also has its downfalls. You are not just dealing with normal teen drama, you have to do it on social media. There is no privacy, and everything you do and say is everywhere. For some people, TikTok is an escape, you can be whoever you want to. You can be completely yourself and just have fun. It's not all about the views or the likes, it's about expressing your true self and not caring about what anyone thinks.

**The Vote** By Cameron Richlmayr

This year's presidential election is a major one. It is between President Donald Trump, and Vice President Joe Biden. Each candidate is very opposite from the other. Joe Biden is democratic, and Donald Trump is republican. Donald Trump is pro-life, pro-gun, in support of the police, and for legal immigrants, but strictly against illegal immigration. Joe Biden is pro-choice, against the second amendment, for defunding the police, and is open to freely immigrating legally or illegally. This year's election is the most expensive election at \$14 billion. If Biden wins, Kamala Harris will be the first female U.S. vice president. If Biden wins, he will also be the oldest president to be in office by 8 years. President Trump is holding rallies with thousands of people attending them, where Biden is holding few, with few people attending. This year is also a big year for mail in voting. This tends to worry people because votes can be lost or compromised to benefit of one of the two parties. Democratic voters are two times more likely to mail in votes than Republican voters. As of Wednesday, Nov. 4th, 2020 Biden is leading by 34 points. He is at 248, and Trump is at 214. We will not know the actual winner for another week or longer due to mail-in votes.



President Trump: A legacy of Controversy at Home and Peace Overseas

By Bryant Leddon

After 4 long years it is time for the next presidential election and what comes with that is a retrospective on Donald J. Trump's first, and potentially last, term as president of the United States. During his time as leader of the free world, Mr. Trump achieved a multitude of accomplishments ranging from peace deals in the Middle East, peace negotiations on the Korean Peninsula and convincing foreign nations to pay their fair share of the NATO defense budget. In addition to his historical achievements elsewhere, President Trump had an extremely positive impact on America via reforms to the prison system and creating record low unemployment rates prior to the spread of COVID-19.

In his final year of his first term as president, Donald Trump managed to broker monumental peace deals between Israel and 3 major Muslim nations: The United Arab Emirates, The Kingdom of Bahrain and Sudan. For the first time since the formation of Israel in 1948, multiple powerful Muslim nations recognized Israel as a nation and pledged to maintain peace in the area, this is a feat that according to President Trump himself was "something which nobody thought was possible, certainly not in this day and age" and according to the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, began a "new dawn of peace." These peace deals between Israel, the UAE and Bahrain are pivotal steps towards creating lasting peace in the Middle East and now due to these peace deals, Palestine finds itself in a much more precarious situation and according to CNN "the list of options available to the Palestinians is shrinking. The Palestinians have the support of Iran, Turkey, and a few others, but its traditional Arab partners are moving closer to Israel." According to BBC Palestine isn't the only country being weakened by these deals, in fact sanctions imposed by the Trump Organization are "causing real economic pain" to Iran and "Now they have a strategic headache too" after the peace deals. It has become exceedingly clear that due to Donald Trump's strong leadership, the Middle East is becoming a much safer place for the next generation of Middle Easterners and the world as a whole..

Meanwhile on the other side of the planet, Donald Trump has been busy forming peace between two nations that have been at odds with each other since the 1950s: North and South Korea. After numerous lengthy summits between the leaders of both nations and Donald Trump, tensions in the Korean peninsula have lessened and the two sides are making progress towards ending the decade long conflicts on their border. According to an article written by CNN the two sides have "committed to an era of peace" with North Korea stating it would "close a key missile test facility" and "potentially destroy its primary nuclear complex." Just recently the two Korean leaders, Kim Jong-un of the North and Moon Jae-in of the South, have been sending cordial letters to one another to express "well wishes over COVID-19 and recent storms" and after an incident in which a North Korean soldier murdered a South Korean citizen, Kim Jong-un publicly apologized to Moon claiming that "the "disgraceful affair" should not have happened." Hopefully peace negotiations between these countries can continue into the future and they can form an everlasting agreement for the well-being of their citizens.

In addition to his peaceful affairs in unstable regions on the planet, President Trump has also made efforts to strengthen peace between America and its allies by working to get other nations involved with NATO to shoulder the price more equally instead of relying on US spending, something no other president has managed since the formation of NATO in 1949. Over the course of NATO's existence the US has previously contributed 22% to the budget but after negotiations the US and Germany will now "equally pay 16% of NATO's central budget" and in 2019 "defense spending across European allies and Canada increased in real terms by 4.6%" which according to NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg is "unprecedented progress and it is making NATO stronger." Thankfully due to Mr. Trump's urging these other countries have started contributing more to NATO and our defenses as a whole

against Russia.

Now the true measure of an American president isn't based solely on their foreign affairs but their activities at home as well. If you were to ask many Americans to name something Trump has done that benefitted them they would draw a blank but those who pay attention to the news know different. During Trump's first term the US reached record low unemployment rates among not only the entire population but "The jobless rate for Hispanics hit a record low of 3.9% in September, while African Americans maintained its lowest rate ever, 5.5%" in 2019 as reported by CNBC and according to BBC "Under Trump, in the three years prior to the pandemic, there were an additional 6.4 million jobs." In addition to lowering the unemployment rate, Trump has also helped reform the US prison system to shorten the sentences of, or free, those who are incarcerated. In fact according to NBC "More than 3,000 inmates have been released and another roughly 1,700 people convicted of crack cocaine offenses have seen their sentences reduced" and "roughly 16,000 federal prisoners have enrolled in drug treatment programs created by the act" the fact that in 2020 people who had been previously given life sentences are free and able to turn their lives around is simply inspiring and it's all thanks to Donald Trump's leadership.

After 4 long years, innumerable amounts of criticism, a Nobel Prize nomination and impeachment, it is almost time to see who will be the next president. No matter who wins this election nothing will change the fact that the Trump administration will go down in history as one with many momentous achievements and important milestones paving the way for lasting peace in the near future. According to USA Today 56% of Americans "said "yes," they were better off than 2016" due to actions taken by the Trump organization, so i know i speak for at least 56% of Americans when I say that Donald Trump has been one of the greatest presidents since the birth of the great nation that is the United States of America.

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