

# THE TIDE

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## ***THE TIDE RETURNS!***

### **From the Tide Staff**

Thank you for reading The Tide this year! It's been amazing to transition back to pre-pandemic life, especially

with widespread vaccinations and the end of mask mandates. Furthermore, this issue of The Tide is one of our largest to date, largely in part to the many guest

writers that contributed articles to this issue. We thank LBHS for being supportive, and wish everyone a happy summer.

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## ***CHALLENGER BASKETBALL IS BACK***

**ANA RAMIREZ ANGULO and EMILY FEIL**  
STAFF WRITERS

*The annual Challenger Basketball season is back, with our head coach, Ms. DeVivio, and assistant coach, Ms. Ford! This amazing experience is seen throughout the state and has touched our community significantly. All participants felt rewarded after their four games against Lynbrook and Oceanside. To get a closer look at the details, we decided to interview the coaches, asking them the following questions:*

### **Q: How does this game compare to other games you have assisted before?**

Ms. Ford: This was one of my most memorable experiences as a coach because the students don't often get this opportunity to play in the events. The entire school was cheering and it really brought the whole community together.

Ms. DeVivio: It is different in the sense that working with an adaptive population of kids, so it is a bit more challenging as a coach to help them understand the concepts and the skills and the gameplay that is necessary to succeed on the court.

### **Q: Who came up with the idea? And how long has it been running?**

Ms. DeVivio: Mr. Epstein was the one that presented it to me. Challenger Sports have been going on as long as I have been teaching, at least 20 years. County wise and state wise it's its own thing. I have done challenger soccer and basketball. Mr. Epstein asked me if I would be interested in coaching this team and working with them since I am the adaptive physical education teacher.

### **How many other schools are participating in this activity?**

(Continued on Page 2)

# LBHS

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## ***CHALLENGER BASKETBALL IS BACK***

***(cont'd.)***

Ms. DeVivio: In normal circumstances, there are hundreds of schools; it is very popular. We would normally play Lynbrook, Oceanside, East Rockaway, and Freeport.

**Q: How and where did you practice?**

Ms. Ford: We practiced- we only had one practice, here at the school. There were a number of days where the TAs helped out, which was really fantastic.

Ms. DeVivio: Ms. Ford is a special education teacher and she volunteered to help me out. We also had all the TAs that would work one on one with their kids. In addition to many student-athletes that gave volunteer assistance, especially boys from the basketball team.

**Q: Did you have any cheers or morale boosters?**

Ms. Ford: We had students that volunteered to help out on the court, some varsity basketball players, and the cheerleading team at our home games. We had some kids from the wellness club come and volunteer as announcers. These students helped boost the overall energy of the games!

Ms. DeVivio: This year we had an unbelievable amount of support and cheer squads, more than we've ever had in the past. For a lot of that, I'd like to give thanks to Ms. Ford, for really spreading the word. The kids in the life skill classes made posters,

we made flyers, and Mr. Krywe gave an interview to the players for the morning show. The promotional aspect this year was huge. Coach Ray also brought the girls' lacrosse team down to fill the stands and bought us team headbands, as well as the wrestling coaches. As well as Mrs. Vella's dance team for the halftime show. Lastly, we also had the bulldog mascot, Matthew Corbett.

**Q: What do you feel is most important to remember during games?**

Ms. Ford: The best part about it was how many people came together to help out, especially the students and the teachers that were on the court and were assisting the students that needed it.

Ms. DeVivio: It's the smiles, the high-fives, and the glowing in the kid's faces. It puts them on top of the world: their moment to shine.

*The Challenger tradition has been a binding and inspiring part of the Long Beach community for over two decades. Its impact on not only the participants, but the supporters is remarkable, bringing together coaches, teachers, student volunteers, and athletes. The love was certainly felt by all members of this uplifting program, and we hope it continues to grow and prosper in the coming years.*

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# LBHS

## *SPRING MUSICAL AT LBHS*

**AVA STAVRIANEAS and AXL PINTO GREENBERG**

STAFF WRITERS

Are you familiar with the delightfully dreadful movie "The Addams Family"? If so, then you would love the Long Beach High School production of "The Addams Family - the Musical!"

This comical rendition of the spooky show follows a romance between young Wednesday Addams and Lucas Beinekie. Lucas' family is highly typical, contrasted with the ghastly mood that the Addams provide. Wednesday's mother, Morticia, strongly disapproves of their relationship. She doesn't see eye-to-eye with the Beinekie's more conventional way of life. Wednesday's father, Gomez, knew of the young cou-

ple's secret engagement prior to his wife. The basis of the plot revolves around the tension built by this secret. Antics ensue when the Beinekies visit the Addams for dinner. We take a journey of learning acceptance for others and rekindling love through understanding.

The show captures the musical talent at LBHS. It was three nights of engaging dance routines and enjoyable musical numbers. The catchy songs left the audience with an eerily essence. We wish luck to the many seniors in the cast who are graduating and undoubtedly going on to something great. We are also looking forward to all of the underclassmen that are pursuing theater throughout the rest of their high school careers.

The musical performance included the following actors: Patrick O'Neill (Gomez), Ava Lithgow (Morticia), Sammie Fales (Wednesday), Noah Robinson (Fester), Max Rosenzweig (Pugsley), Michelle Winderman (Grandma), Daniel Quick (Lurch), Jacob LoCascio (Lucas), Megen Meyer (Alice), Johnny Diamond (Mal). Each of these actors had a chance to showcase their talent in the many fantastic musical performances. The dance troupe consisted of Anna Aebley, Marysol Alvarado, Shay Brymer, Adrianna Guida, Sarah Heller, Nikki Kane, Gabriella Kouletsis, Stephania Robinson, and Ava Stavrianeas. These dancers represented the chief ancestors of the Addams and performed beautifully! Lastly, the ensemble played the ancestors.



PICTURES COURTESY OF THE LONG BEACH HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE COMPANY

## LBHS

***STUDENTS COMPETE IN CLASS OLYMPICS***

**AVA STAVRIANEAS and  
CHRISTIAN FACCILONGA**

STAFF WRITERS

Class Olympics is the Long Beach High School rendition of the Olympics. It consists of multiple events such as hallway decorating, t-shirt designing, a skit directed by the students, swimming, and games that are hosted in the gym. These events are judged by staff members. Each grade picks a clever theme that has a consistent theme for their class. Some themes over the years have been “Shipwreck Seniors”, “Just Dance Juniors”, “Sweet Shop Sophomores”, and “Frightening Freshmen”. The themes for the 2022 school year were “Fancy Freshman”, “Sophomores in the Circus”, “Jedi Juniors” and “Seniors in the Spotlight”.

In this battle of the classes, the different grades compete to acquire the most points possible in all events. Each class gets to choose participants in their grade to be involved. Foremost, each class is designated a hallway to

decorate. Preparations for this begin at 6:00 in the morning, as students have limited time to put up their decorations before the judges begin grading. Following this, decorations are brought to the auditorium and placed on the walls. Here, each class's skits will take place later in the night. Towards the end of the school day, the entire student body makes their way to the auditorium to watch their peers compete in competitions. During the games, points are tracked so that a winning class can be determined at the end of the night.

In addition, swimming events are held in the pool after school. Once again, each class selected students to participate in the pool games. After all these activities are completed, each class prepares for the biggest event of the night: the skits. Before the competition, each class wrote short plays to go with their chosen theme. The skits take place later in the evening at around 7:00. Parents and friends are welcomed into the auditorium to watch each of the acts.

The skits are worth 50% of the classes’ total scores, making them the most important event. While the classes perform, judges are observing every aspect of their play, from technique to artistic ability.

At the end of the night, each class waits nervously for the results. Points are added up from all the events throughout the day. Finally, the judges announced the winner of the Class Olympics. Emotions are always rushing through the audience as people are giggling with excitement and anticipation. This year, the “Seniors In The Spotlight” took first place. Following closely were the “Sophomores in the Circus”, then the “Jedi Juniors”, and lastly the “Fancy Freshman”.

This year was the first year that the Class Olympics was back due to covid restrictions. It was a success that filled the year after being back from the pandemic and an opportunity to unite the entire school.



PICTURES COURTESY OF AVA STAVRIANEAS AND THE LONG BEACH MVP

# LBHS

## LBHS ADVICE COLUMN

**ISABELLA GONZALEZ**

STAFF WRITER

The advice column at LBHS aims to establish a sense of community. If you're looking to submit a question, we encourage you to visit the google form by scanning the QR code at the end of this article. The form is easy to fill out and is divided into sections according to the questions you may have. Look for a response to your question in our next issue!

*"Lately, I have been overwhelmed with clubs and school in general. When I come home, I feel burnt out and exhausted, and I don't want to do my work. Is there any way to fix this? I've been feeling stuck."*

It seems like you've been very occupied with school assignments and school activities lately. You've been feeling exhausted and the reason for this may be that you don't have any time scheduled for yourself. It's important to create a balance between school and your personal life.

*"Hi! I'm a tenth grader with a big dilemma. I've been going to sleepaway camp since I was 9 years old. This year I have an opportunity to work as an intern in my uncle's accounting firm in the city. The pay is great and it would be a great experience, but I love camp and I miss my friends. I only have 1 more summer to be a kid. I don't know what I should do! Help!"*

It is your last year being a kid, so

you should cherish these moments and spend time with your friends. Spend your last year in summer camp, as more opportunities will be presented to you as you get older. Remember to take things one day at a time and have fun.

*"I'm having some issues with a messy co-worker, who never cleans up after himself and I'm left to fix it. I've pointed it out a few times but he just brushes it off. Is there any way I can politely (but effectively) get him to be better without going to my manager?"*

In order to get your coworker to comply with the rules, try being straightforward and honest. Present this in a nice tone, in order to communicate the way that you feel so that your coworker will listen. Communicate to your coworker about your belief in teamwork, this will help your coworker to understand what it means to be a team player so that you're not left to pick up after him. A good time to do this is when you're alone, in order to ensure that your coworker does not feel humiliated and so you can communicate your feelings clearly.

*"My friend has been making passive-aggressive comments about my weight and clothes. I'm too afraid to tell her it makes me uncomfortable. I've struggled with this kind of stuff in the past and I don't want a repeat. How can I tell her to stop?"*

When dealing with the comments that your friends are making about you, it is essential that you establish communication with this person. When a comment is made that hurts your feelings, and you're in an environment where you feel comfortable talking about your feelings, make sure to sit down with your friend and discuss how these comments affect you.

*"In school, I have this constant feeling of dread. It's not like anything is going to actually happen but it still scares me. It's distracting me from class and making me awkward around my friends. What should I do?"*

These feelings of dread appear to be disturbing your social life. It's important that you have a support system in order to communicate your feelings. Have you considered talking to a trusted adult? If not, then these feelings of dread that you have been experiencing would be a valuable topic of discussion to have with your guidance counselor. Scheduling appointments at the guidance office is an effective way to release these feelings in order to ensure that these feelings are properly dealt with.

Here is the QR code if you want to fill out the form:



# LBHS EDITORIAL / COVID-19

## *WE WANT MIDTERM WEEK BACK...AGAIN*

**JOE NAPOLITANO**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Midterm Week was a period in January in which students would come into school solely to take their mid-year exams, leaving once they had finished their tests. However, since the 2019-2020 school year, the school board has eliminated this luxury. The Covid pandemic hasn't helped either; with the Regents exams being canceled across New York State, Midterm Week was deemed unnecessary. Countless students have been vocal about their disappointment regarding this cancellation, as Midterm Week gave them ample time to study. However, what many kids fail to realize is why it was removed in the first place.

The cancellation of the New York State Regents in past years has been a leading cause of the elimination of Midterm Week.

Dr. Andy Smith, a vice-principal at Long Beach High School, sent out an email detailing these changes, stating "New York State has canceled the January 2022 Regents exams planned for the week of January 24th [...] As a result of these exams being canceled, we are required to have instructional days January 25th-28th and will have regular classes on those days." This may not be viewed negatively by the entire school community as, in sight of the lack of midterms in many classes, people may be excited that the week is being used for typical classes.

The state's decision to cancel Regents exams in January 2022 was made to ensure a safe environment for students and staff regarding COVID-19. As the Board of Regents Chancellor Lester W. Young, Jr. said, "Educators, school staff, communities, and families have taken

painstaking efforts to ensure a safe and healthy school year. Given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic, the recent acceleration in COVID-19 infections, and continuing upheaval the virus has caused in schools across the state, this decision is the right one. New York's students will continue to have access to high-quality coursework while allowing districts to prioritize the health and safety of our school communities." It is, therefore, reasonable that the Long Beach school board would use similar logic concerning Midterm Week. The pandemic is still taken very seriously by a large population of Long Beach; thus, this decision has provided relief to many. Additionally, those who advocate for Midterm Week might find pleasure in that they won't be taking hefty, stressful exams.

## *SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA POST-COVID*

**ANA RAMIREZ ANGULO and RANDAL ORDONEZ**

STAFF WRITERS

As we advance through 2022, nations globally are motivated to recover from the pandemic. South and Central American countries have proven remarkable stability in the adaptation process. The following analytics<sup>1</sup> exhibit how these countries have combat-

ed COVID-19 regulations released by their respective governments.

### Central America

Many of us have been exposed to the major changes induced by COVID and how large countries have progressed accordingly. Comparatively, smaller countries in Central America are not far behind.

Being a region that suffers from poverty, crime, and poor economics, Central America has been notably affected by the contagion. Considering the small populations of these countries, infections have spread moderately quickly.

<sup>1</sup>All analytics are based on 2022 unless otherwise specified.

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# COVID-19

## ***SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA POST-COVID***

*(cont'd.)*

**Figure 1** Impact of COVID on Central American countries, as measured by case numbers and fatalities

COUNTRY	CASES	DEATHS
Honduras	411,000	10,720
Guatemala	776,000	16,961
Nicaragua	18,004	224
Panama	755,000	8,073
Mexico	5,500,00	318,000
Belize	56,579	650
Costa Rica	802,000	7,999
El Salvador	148,000	4,062

Schools are currently dropping online learning and beginning to re-engage students with face-to-face classes. This, of course, includes many precautions such as disinfectants, masks, and social distancing. Fundamental companies, including supermarkets, banks, and res-

taurants, have fully reopened their doors, resulting in increased tourism.

### South America

Every South American country has recently reached a maximum number of cases reported in a single day. They each

show a pattern of rising cases, specifically in January. In response, no Covid-19 guidelines have been abolished in these countries. Rather, their governments have advocated for vaccination and the use of masks.

**Figure 2** Maximum Covid-19 cases reported in one day in South American countries

COUNTRY	DATE (corresponding to maximum case number)	CASES (recorded in one day)
Brazil	January 28	260,806
Argentina	January 20	129,709
Peru	January 27	99,645
Columbia	January 15	35,575

# COVID-19

## ***SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA POST-COVID***

*(cont'd.)*

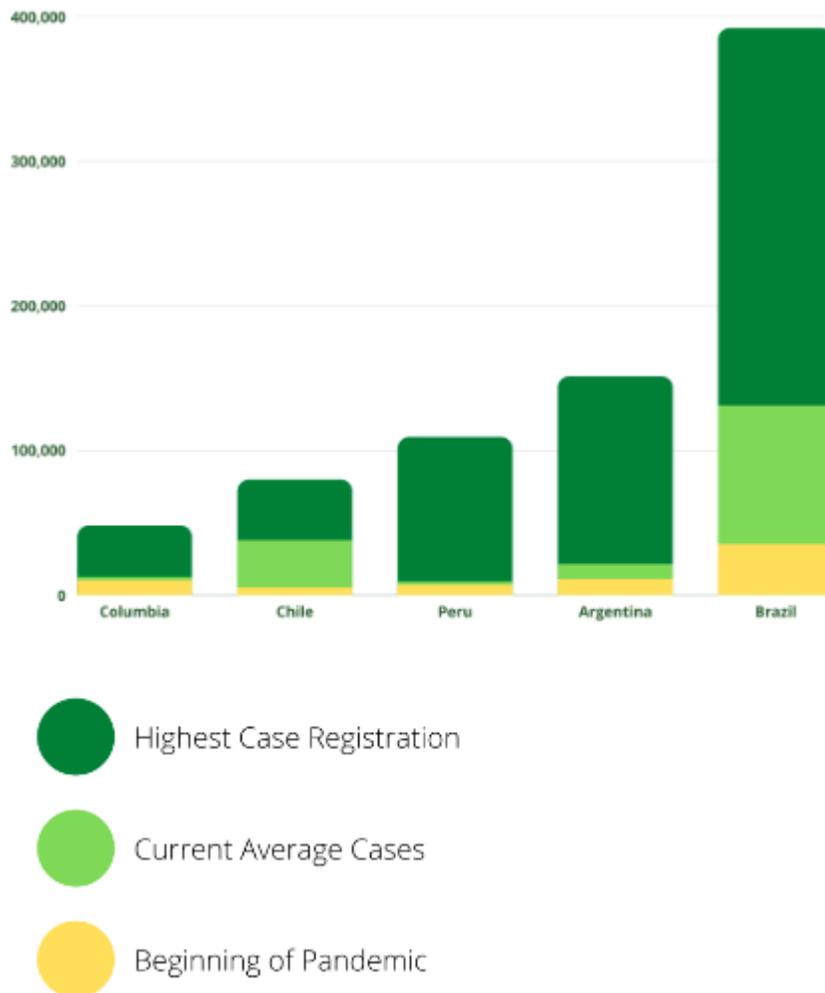
The numbers shown in Figure 2 are alarmingly high. This data can be compared to that of major countries to contrast their handling of the sudden rise in case numbers. Figure 3 compares the highest number of cases registered in one day, the average

number of cases being currently registered, and the average case registrant at the beginning of the pandemic.

The vast difference between the highest case registration and the current average shows that the number of cases

decreases over a short period. Such data can prove to the public that following guidelines is effective in decreasing spread, even with the reopening of business. This provides hope to many for recovery from the pandemic in 2022.

**Figure 3** The maximum case registration, current average case registration, and case registration at the beginning of the pandemic in South American countries



# SCIENCE

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## *GENE EDITING: IMPLICATIONS AND REPERCUSSIONS*

**EMILY FEIL**

STAFF WRITER

Tinkering with genetics has appeared in the media throughout past decades. From Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* to the film franchise *Jurassic Park*, it is clear the idea of reviving the extinct and transforming the human body is one that has been envisioned countless times. But what does gene editing entail? There are two types of gene editing: somatic gene therapy, which alters DNA to treat or cure a malfunctioning system, and germline gene therapy, which alters the human embryo. Germline editing affects not only the entire person but their descendants as well. More than 40 countries strictly prohibit germline alterations on human embryos, but could the discussion be reopened, and if so, what will its effects on our society be?

On November 25th, 2018, He Jiankui, a Chinese biophysics researcher, announced that he had helped produce genetically edited babies in an attempt to prevent HIV later in their lives. This unprecedented experiment led to international outcry among other biophysical scientists. In Shenzhen, a court found that he and two others used forged ethical review documents to mislead doctors into implanting the edited embryos into two women. These babies

are now regularly tested for gene abnormalities, leading to further controversy regarding their privacy and safety. He Jiankui was sentenced to 3 years in prison, in addition to a \$425,000 fine. He has not been seen in the public eye since his announcement.

What makes this experiment particularly troubling is the fact that germline gene-editing technology is not fully developed yet. In many cases, scientists found that when attempting to alter only one strand of DNA, the entire chromosome was removed. Around the world, scientists have called for a five-year prohibition period, until the mechanics can be proven safe. The long-term effects are still unknown, as generations would have to be observed to truly understand gene editing's influence.

On a broader scale, the ethics of 'designer babies' is controversial. Should parents have the right to choose embryos based on desired characteristics? Traces of this idea are becoming increasingly common. Couples using IVF (in vitro fertilization) can pay an extra \$4,500 to choose the gender of their baby. In addition, parents-to-be can calculate the likelihood of passing illnesses like diabetes and schizophrenia onto their child, and choose the healthiest embryos for pregnancy. While these instances are not gene editing,

they are harbingers of a rapidly growing interest in genetic engineering.

This doesn't mean all parents' gene preferences are morally wrong. In 2000, the first 'designer baby,' Adam Nash, was born. His embryo was tested for Fanconi anemia, a rare inherited blood disease that his sister Molly suffered from. Not only did his parents want him not to have the illness, but Molly needed a bone marrow transplant to live. The testing ensured that Adam would have the same tissue type as Molly, ensuring a compatible transplant.

Previously mentioned somatic gene therapy, specifically utilizing CRISPR, is expanding the frontiers of medicine. CRISPR was discovered by Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier and is the most precise form of somatic gene editing, which alters cell patterns to treat or cure diseases that were once untreatable. This does not affect the descendants of the patient. One use of CRISPR could be creating mosquitoes that are resistant to malaria, slowing the spread among the human population. Scientists have even begun testing this technology on human immune cells to make them better at attacking cancer.

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# SCIENCE/SPORTS

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## *GENE EDITING:*

### *IMPLICATIONS AND REPERCUSSIONS (cont'd.)*

**EMILY FEIL**

STAFF WRITER

He Jiankui was released from prison in April 2022, and it is unclear what his plans for the future are. Jiankui serves as a cautionary tale for experimenting with germline gene editing. The

ethicality of this form of gene editing remains controversial, as scientists look forward to the effects on our society. Sheila Jasanoff, a professor of science and technology at Harvard, said, "We don't require students to learn the moral dimensions of science and technology, and that has to

change. I think we face similar challenges in robotics, artificial intelligence, and all kinds of frontier fields that have the potential to change not just individuals but the entirety of what it means to be a human being."

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## *FAIR OR UNFAIR: NFL OVERTIME RULES*

**KAYLA SARAFIN**

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After 60 minutes of blood, sweat, and tears, the Bills and Chiefs' playoff game was sent into overtime. The teams collectively scored 25 points in the last two minutes, making NFL history. With a tied score of 36-36, players needed to put their hearts and souls in for the win. Despite being one of the wildest games this year, one coin flip determined who would take the victory and move onto the divisional round. For many years, fans have complained about the overtime rules, claiming that they aren't fair, especially in playoff games.

Following the Bills' loss, the team submitted to change NFL overtime rules. Other teams, including the Colts, joined the Bills in this debate. Many people, including myself, agree that a change must be made. The current rules are as follows:

There is a 15-minute

overtime period. Before the period begins, teams will pick either heads or tails, and the winner may choose to defer or keep the football. Whenever a touchdown is scored in overtime, the scoring team automatically wins, even if the opposing team didn't get to touch the ball. If they score a field goal on the first drive, then the other team gets a chance to score. Alternatively, if the first team doesn't score and the second team gets a field goal, the second team wins. During the regular season, if neither team scores by the end of the quarter, the game would end. A playoffs game, however, will continue until someone scores.

Why are these rules unfair? If two teams are going neck and neck all game, a coin flip should not determine who wins; they both deserve a chance to have the football, regardless of if the other team gets a touchdown. In postseason overtime games, teams that have received the ball first are 10-1 for winning the

game, representing a clear advantage. Danny Kanell, a former quarterback, stated "Josh Allen didn't even get a chance and that's why the NFL overtime is the worst overtime of any sport in the world." Additionally, the defense should be able to hold the other team to only a field goal rather than a touchdown. If they cannot, the offense of the other team fairly won the game.

I, along with many other fans and teams, believe that the overtime rules should be altered, specifically in the postseason. During the regular season, the overtime rules are not commonly deemed unfair. With consideration of how important playoff games are, however, both teams should have a chance to touch the ball. A game that would determine who has a shot at the Superbowl wasn't decided by talent, but by a coin flip.

# BUSINESS

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## *MODERN WAYS OF INVESTING*

**CHRISTOPHER LEHR**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Investing has been around since the beginning of mankind. Whether it's investing in a plot of land to farm, in gold to trade, or in the stock market to generate income, investment can be seen throughout history. But now, in our contemporary age, new ways to invest have been introduced. Founded in 2009, cryptocurrencies are a digital currency in which transactions are verified and records are maintained by a decentralized system using cryptography. The popularity of crypto-

currencies exponentially increased in 2020, with notable growth in coins such as Bitcoin and Ethereum. These currencies can be used to purchase everyday things. Bitcoin, for example, can be used to buy entertainment tickets, and Ethereum can be used to buy a different type of investment called NFTs. An NFT, also known as a non-fungible token, is a non-interchangeable unit of data stored on a blockchain, a form of digital ledger, that can be sold and traded. In simpler terms, they are unique tokens that exist on a blockchain and cannot be replicated. NFTs can represent real-world items

from artwork to real estate. Just like any other piece of artwork, the value of an NFT is based on the credibility of the artist, the nature of the artwork, the effort put into the creation of work, and the story behind the work. These tokens are indicative of the rapidly changing and expanding market. As the years go by, additional ways to invest will be continuously created, yielding large opportunities for profit. Those who are smart and patient may be in on the next big thing!

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## *DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN EMPLOYEE?*

**SAMANTHA KOLB**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Having money is something that all teenagers want. With the things they want to do, funds are a necessity. Going out with friends? Money. Late-night drives? Gas money. The list goes on. Parents rely on their teens to be responsible and earn an income for themselves. That's why so many teens can be seen working in local shops and businesses. Before working, however, they each had to meet specific requirements needed for the job.

I spoke to Rob Richards,

who owns a well-known restaurant in Long Beach, JJ Coopers. In asking about his employee requirements, it's clear that Richards is passionate about his job and is highly assertive about what he looks for in an employee. When hiring, the main thing he searches for is a good attitude and persistence. Like many other employers, he desires workers who can represent his restaurant well and stay on top of their work. Richards also said he looks for employees who are strong, both physically and mentally. "I won't lie. I'm very tough and strict with my workers.

I do it out of care and because I

know they are capable of doing what I ask. If they aren't strong, they won't be able to handle my necessities," he explains.

Other top qualities Richards requires among his staff are diligence and dedication. "Coopers is a very, very busy restaurant. I need my staff working their entire shift. It gets to be a lot, I know. But I wouldn't have hired them if I didn't think they were capable of doing what I need."

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## BUSINESS/COMMUNITY

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### *DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES*

### *TO BE AN EMPLOYEE? (cont'd.)*

He needs every one of his workers to be efficient. This ensures that all tasks are done on time, increasing business. Richards enjoys that his restaurant is known for good service and aims to maintain that status.

Positivity and attitude come a long way, no matter who you are or what you are doing. Richards knows the maturity level of teens varies among individuals. He looks for teens who

are mature enough to take directions and do exactly what needs to be done. "Maturity typically isn't high enough in teenagers, especially the guys. I get on top of my staff because I know if I don't, their immaturity will take over and not get things needed to be done, done," he stated. "In a restaurant like mine, I need maturity."

In the end, Rob Richards knows what he needs and re-

ceives it. J.J. Coopers is a popular and well-respected restaurant with its owner taking to these qualities, as well. Without the high standards Richards requires, his restaurant would "go down in flames." Now that you know what he looks for in an employee, do you have what it takes to work under his wing?

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## *LONG BEACH'S PREFERRED PIZZA SPOT*

**RYDER MOORE-  
LUKASZEWSKI**

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Everyone loves pizza. Even more so, we all have a favorite spot for a slice. To determine what the town preference is, I surveyed students and staff at LBHS, asking for people's favorite pizza places. A stratified sampling method was used to ensure the data was entirely controlled.

Among both faculty and students, the leading choice was Gino's, a mainstay in Long Beach since 1962. Favor for Gino's was clear as this destination took 40% of all votes. This begs the question, "what is responsible for Gino's popularity?" The restaurant's center-of-town location likely plays a

large role in this. It is near much of the town's activity and only a short distance from any point in Long Beach. Additionally, Gino's has received recognition outside of Long Beach. It appeared on popular figure Dave Portnoy's show, in which he rates pizza joints around the country.

Second to Gino's was East End Pizza. This restaurant received 26% of all votes, including that of our principal, Mr. Meyers. Similarly to Gino's, East End can attribute much of its popularity to its location. Being the closest pizza spot to the high school, it's an easily accessible hangout spot for teens looking for a cheap bite. East End's counterpart, West End Pizza, was the fourth favorite, with 11% of the votes.

Prior to surveying, my

expectation was that Sorrento's would be a clear favorite. In retrospect, this was likely due to personal bias. Many of those surveyed questioned whether Sorrento's was a valid option, as they serve only pies. This restaurant received 12% of all votes, placing it in third place. Sorrento's original place recently burned down but they have now relocated to the West End and have since varied the style of their pies.

The fifth most popular location was Francesco's, receiving 5% of all votes. Francesco's is the newest pizza place in town, having recently opened by the Long Beach Cinema. It's expected to gain much popularity in upcoming years.

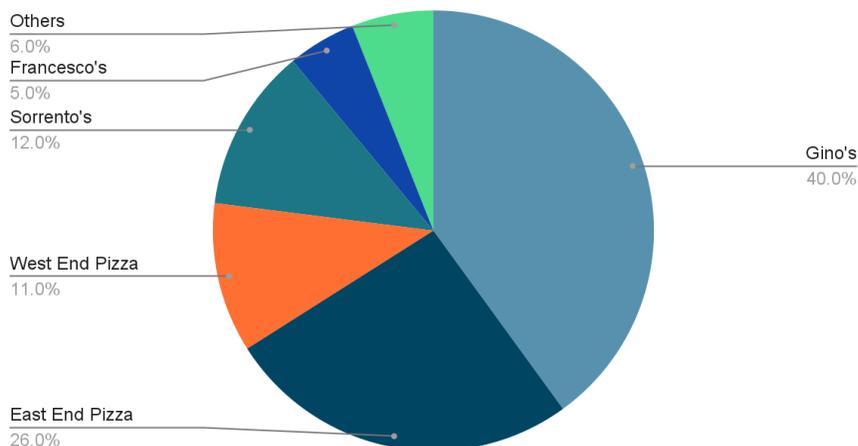
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# COMMUNITY/ENTERTAINMENT

## *LONG BEACH'S PREFERRED PIZZA SPOT*

*(cont'd.)*

Percentage of Votes



## *MOVIE REVIEW: ENCANTO*

**MIRANDA MANRIQUE**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Themes of love and family coupled with success and enchantment are shown in the recent Disney movie *Encanto*. *Encanto* is inspired by Latinx culture (Colombian) and is set in the 1950s. After being released on November 24, 2021, it won the Golden Globe Award for Best Animated Feature Film, was nominated for 3 Oscars, and received other notable distinctions.

The story follows The Madrigals, a family who lives in the mountains of Colombia. Their enchanted home is called the Encanto and is sourced by a blazing candle. The magic of the Encanto gives each member of the family a unique gift... except Mirabel. However, she soon

learns that the magic of her daily life is dying. Mirabel becomes their last hope and, along the way, learns more about her ancestry.

In addition to its strong storyline, *Encanto* provides the epitome of great music entertainment. The film's soundtrack is both catchy and emotional, enhancing the plot as well as overall engagement. I specifically enjoyed the popular song "We don't talk about Bruno". Many vocal colors were highlighted as each character had their own style, supported by varying background instrumentals. The lyrics tell the story of an unmentioned family member, Bruno, building up anticipation for his character. Another great song, commonly heard in the movie's trailer, is "Pressure". I previously assumed this song would be

annoying. Upon listening, rather, my expectations were beyond exceeded. At first, it was comical and energetic. This mood was contrasted by a relaxing bridge that quickly became dramatic and even dark. This number presents another problem to the plot. The song is about a character, Luisa, suffering from pressure to stay strong and meet her family's expectations. Similarly, Isabella, in "What Else Can I Do", confesses that her family's magic forces her to be perfect. Finally, "Dos Orugitas" is a saddening song about a character's past. The melody coupled with the scene evoked feelings of both sorrow and romance. It, fortunately, twists into a beautiful ending that reinforces themes of family and acceptance. Truly wholesome and heartwarming!

# ENTERTAINMENT/LITERATURE

## *SOCIAL MEDIA REVIEW: “BookTok”*

**MARYSOL ALVARADO**

STAFF WRITER

You've most likely heard of “BookTok”. If not, welcome to an avid reader and TikTok user’s paradise. “BookTok” is a section of TikTok where thousands of users post reading recommendations and reviews. The “BookTok” hashtag on TikTok had about 37.2 billion views as of February 2022, and it’s been growing ever since.

Being on “BookTok” 24/7 feels like living in Barnes and Nobles. You’re surrounded by millions of people online who enjoy reading as much as you do. There are even smaller communities for certain novels such as the *Harry Potter* series, *The Hunger Games* series, and *The Maze Runner* books. There are certain authors that have entirely gained their popularity via “BookTok”. Many Barnes and Noble stores even have a table or section dedicated to books that have gone viral on TikTok.

*Shadow and Bone*

We’re starting off dark with a fantasy novel called *Shadow and Bone*. This book is 338 pages and is the first in a trilogy, the Grishaverse books. The two succeeding books are *Siege and Storm* and *Ruin and Rising*. The books were written by New York Times bestselling author Leigh Bardugo.

*Shadow and Bone* starts off with orphan Alina Starkov, a soldier at the time, wondering if she’ll survive her troop’s trip. The trip crosses Shadow Fold, a deep cloud of darkness, swarming with monsters in every crev-

ice. During the journey, her ship is attacked by one of these monsters, hurting a close friend in the process. It is then, when her friend is on his deathbed, that Alina unleashes a power she did not know she possessed. Word gets out and, eventually, she will be taken from everything she knows (which is scarcity and poverty) to a new lavish life of royalty. Alina begins to train with Grisha, one of her country’s military elite, and meets the Darkling, their leader. The Darkling believes she has the capability of destroying the Shadow Fold and saving her beloved country from a war they’ve been fighting for years. As the kingdom falls into greater danger every day, Alina works to control and strengthen her powers in order to fight, while also unleashing dark secrets along the way.

*Shadow and Bone* was a very interesting book. It is hard to follow at the beginning as it’s challenging to grasp the concept of the situation right away. However, like most fantasy books, the storyline became much easier to understand once I got further into it. It was very compelling to see how Alina’s relationship with the Darkling evolved throughout the book, and there were definitely some parts I did not see coming. The entire story kept me on the edge of my seat; seeing everything unravel and begin to make sense at different points throughout a book is arguably one of the best parts. *Shadow and Bone* has plenty of this. I would give *Shadow and Bone* 4.5 out of 5 stars. While this book in itself was highly

suspenseful, I found myself getting bored with the succeeding novels in the series.

*Red, White & Royal Blue*

Our next book is bound to be a hit with all the hopeless romantics out there, because, you guessed it, it’s a romance novel! Furthermore, it tells the story of an LGBTQ romance. *Red, White & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston may be one of the most well-known books on “BookTok”. Its 418 pages are focused on Alex Claremont-Diaz, who is the First Son of the United States, and Prince Henry, who is the Prince of Wales. This book has an enemies-to-lovers relationship, which happens to be a favorite trope among “BookTok” users.

The book starts with Alex and Henry who have “beef” with each other but have been mostly civil. That is until they have an altercation at a royal wedding, which the press and tabloids absolutely drool over. Now you can imagine this does not look good for British/U.S. relations, so it is agreed upon that they would stage a truce between the two boys. What starts as an uneventful, insufferable fake friendship between the two soon evolves into a true friendship, and maybe something more. Alex soon finds himself struggling with everything happening around him as the First Son, and also his feelings for the Prince of Wales.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

# ENTERTAINMENT/LITERATURE

## ***SOCIAL MEDIA REVIEW: “BookTok”***

Red, White & Royal Blue might be one of my favorite books I have ever read as it's so heartwarming. It has a somewhat of a Romeo and Juliet-inspired plot, except their obstacles surpass those of warring families: they cannot be together because they're from different stigmas placed around the LGBTQ community. Henry specifically struggles with this because, being a prince, he has to

opinion but also what his traditional family might think. This book beautifully highlights the struggles of being a part of the LGBTQ community and figuring out who you are, while also being a public figure with a reputation and certain expectations to live up to. In conclusion, you can probably already tell that I'd give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

one, but it's important to highlight the positive things it has done for communities like the LBGTQ community, and for authors of color. It has created a platform for people to share their love for reading and has created an opportunity for representation in books at the same time.

BookTok may not be for every-



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*The views expressed in The Tide do not necessarily reflect the positions of the LBHS faculty and administration. Articles have been lightly edited for clarity.*