

# CITYLAB TIMES

## STOP ASIAN HATE

Racism has been around from the beginning of this nation starting with the segregation of African Americans and other ethnic groups, and leading up to present day we still face these problems with racial injustice. In the wake of the Global worldwide pandemic (Covid 19), there has been a lot of hate towards Asians and Asian American. The recent surge of this mass hate has been through racist stereotypes saying that Asians caused Covid 19 and have spread it everywhere. This is supposedly because Covid originated in China and people blame Asians for it. It is simply wrong because now there have been attacks on people because they look Asian and people correlate that with Covid.

It hasn't gotten a lot of attention recently because we in America have mostly only seen racism with African Americans. Multiple stories have reached the news of Asians being assaulted and attacked. Recently an elderly woman was attacked in San Francisco by a complete stranger who yelled and screamed racial slurs while assaulting her. She was injured but she fought off the attacker. All around the internet are stories of Asians being told to "go back to China" or "you don't belong, and these innocent people are being attacked for something in which they had no part. The family of the elderly woman who was attacked started a GoFundMe for her medical expenses. The total from the fundraiser was around \$900,000, crushing the \$50,000 debt. She decided to donate the rest of the money to help stop Asian hate.

There are so many stories of hate and many wonder when will it stop. Racism is never picky. Brown, pink or purple, racism is a disease; and it attacks all. The future of this nation's success relies on us as Americans being united together as human beings, not divided simply by the way we look or the color of our skin. You can contribute to stopping racism's impact on our country by spreading awareness and speaking up. - Sebastian Brown (10th)





# A WORLD WITHOUT MISQUOTES

As mosquito season approaches this year, I've started to wonder if mosquitoes are truly just a nuisance, or if they play an important role that can't be filled by any other animal. I've always been told that every animal is important in some way; and that if one goes extinct, it can bring down an entire food chain. So, I just assumed that mosquitoes are somehow important. I had never really cared enough to look up why; but this year, I wanted to finally get an answer. What would happen if we completely eradicated mosquitoes? Of course, that actually happening is unlikely because there are so many that killing all mosquitoes is nearly impossible. Still, it was an interesting question.

Let's start off with what roles mosquitoes play in the world. Many fish eat mosquito larvae, but it isn't a main food source. So, if there were no mosquito larvae, the fish would just eat what they normally do. A large amount of animals eat mosquitoes; but again, it isn't their primary source of food. I found it surprising that mosquitoes are most important in the Arctic, where they thrive and are one of the primary insects in the area. Because of this, some scientists believe that mosquitoes are critical to the diet of birds in the Arctic. However; some disagree, claiming that native midges are more important. Some species of mosquitoes are able to pollinate, but the plants they pollinate would be able to survive without them.

So, if mosquitoes were to go extinct, what would happen? Well, nothing that would completely devastate an ecosystem. It would be likely that other animals would take the place of mosquitoes. There would, of course, be advantages. Since mosquitoes are a primary cause of deadly diseases such as malaria, the rate of infection would drastically decrease. This would prevent the deaths of millions and improve the lives of those living in areas where many die because of mosquito-spread diseases.

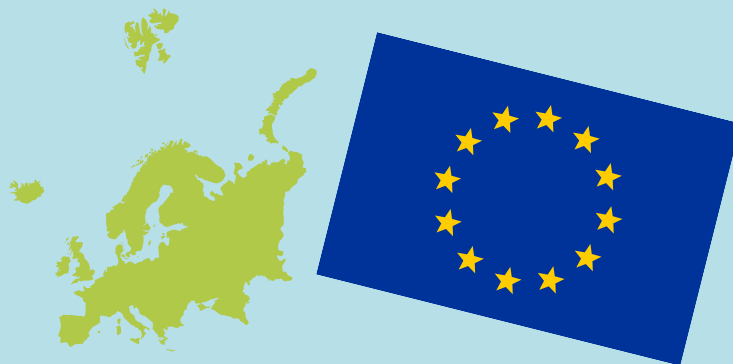
I just hope that one day scientists can come up with a way to get rid of mosquitoes and I won't have to worry about mosquito bites anymore.

Wiping off the gloss is dedicated to exposing the issues that have been glossed over by other news sources, even if there is absolutely no evidence the allegation is true. The articles are complete satire, and not meant to offend anyone. - Devin Krieger (11th)

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## 2021 EUROPE TRIP

Do you want to go to Europe? Do you want to spend a week seeing the world with your fellow CityLab Rats? During this trip, we will see the great cities of London, Paris, Florence and Rome. We'll see great sights like Big Ben, the Colosseum, and the Eiffel Tower. Students will have the option to visit surrounding cities (like Versailles), eat new foods, and be immersed in new cultures. We will be gone for a week during spring break, and maybe a couple of extra days. Please contact Mr. Rivera for more information.-



# THE OSCARS ARE COMING, THE OSCARS ARE COMING

On April 25th, 2021, the Oscars will be premiering. Unfortunately, like everything this year, the nominations are more limited than other years. Favorable opinions about the Oscars this year are also limited. Almost a month before the premier, the Oscars will not back down from requiring every acceptance speech to be in person. Many of the actors and directors have requested to give prerecorded speeches and have those recorded, but to no avail.

However, is this hatred of the Oscars a new thing? When asked about it, Luis Torres said “The Oscars never pick from streaming unless a big classic Hollywood director makes it.” This was clearly something that bugged him. And it has been bugging people for a while. A lot of people who watch a lot of movies bring up this same complaint. Many movies that people think should be nominated do not get any nominations. Of course, you can’t please everyone; but isn’t the Oscars about telling people what they should watch? According to Luis, “It’s for general audiences, so you only get stuff general people watch, like the Grammys...it’s just for general audiences not actual movie fans.”

When asked about how the Oscars should improve, Luis said “Specialize it... there are decade-long gaps between when horror movies get nominated.” Chris Carrera had some opinions on it too. “Best foreign film shouldn’t be a thing. It’s kind of disrespectful. Also, we shouldn’t give awards to people who have allegations towards them, like Polanski”

Now what should you watch, nominated or not? Both Chris and Luis say “Possessor” and “I’m Thinking of Ending Things” were some of their favorites of this year. While there may be a dislike for the Oscars, the nominations for Best Picture this year are pretty solid. Most people agree, while some stuff was left out, most people do like the Best Picture nominees. So should you watch the Oscars? Luis says “Yeah, don’t watch the Oscars, go watch a movie instead.” - Grayson Bolding (11th)



# SENIORITIS OR SELF CARE?

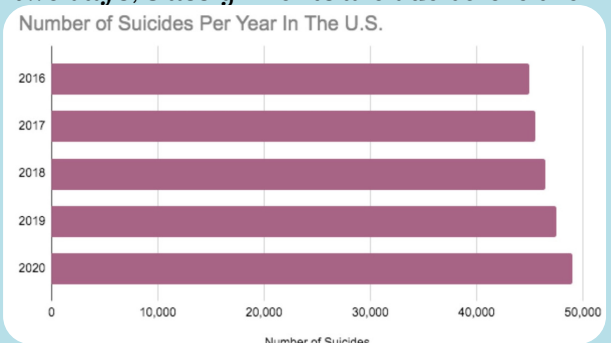
It seems as if I have been checked out of school since the first 9 weeks, and many other students feel the same. Personally, the days feel repetitive and I feel disconnected from teachers and classes. Being in front of the screen almost every day for 8 hours straight is unnatural. Humans were made to be naked, eating berries in a field or something. Computers were not widely used until the 1970's and laptops were not invented until the 1980's. Humans haven't been able to fully adapt to using these new pieces of technology. A 2020 study has linked prolonged screen time (more than 2 hours a day) to causing depression. So why are teachers so surprised when students aren't learning anything?

When I'm not participating in class, I'm usually doing something that benefits me like exercising, cooking, making art, skating or spending time with my pets outside. I would rather be doing something to lessen my anxiety and save schoolwork for a better time, than giving school work my very divided attention with a likely chance of still not getting it done. Doing group projects through a computer makes it difficult for me to get in touch with my creativity. Being online makes my classmates distant and communication harder. Creativity motivates students to make things worth seeing. Not creating something that we are proud of makes the task feel pointless and like a waste of time.

Our bodies were made to constantly be on the move, so sitting for an excessive amount of time can cause harm to us in the long run, creating back problems, greater chance of dementia, increased risk of diabetes and more. Too much screen time can affect those around me as well. If I spend all day on my laptop, my dogs stress from not getting the attention they need, causing them to shed more, making my environment messier, leading me to feel more anxious. Stress worsens my mood and makes me irascible. Being easily irritated puts a strain on relationships with my parents and siblings and may even cause me to distance myself from friends, all of whom I should be keeping closer in difficult times.

When teens don't want to deal with their sentiments; or if they don't know how to cope with the overwhelming amount of emotions, they often turn to drugs as an escape. It's not uncommon for teens to get Adderall from peers. Adderall is known to help students relax and focus during crucial times, like finals week or when schoolwork piles up. Unfortunately, this addictive drug can create negative long-term effects like hallucinations and anxiety attacks. One of the most commonly used drugs amongst youth is Marijuana. It's always shown in movies and rapped about in songs. Ironically, Cannabis is smoked to reduce stress generated from school and personal matters but increases chance of depression and thoughts of suicide, caused by those same stressors. The numbers for suicide were steadily increasing by 700 on average each year, but in 2020, when the pandemic and online school started, that number spiked to 1,400, doubling the average suicide increase per year in the United States alone. Depression can't always be recognized by teachers and parents. In a 2020 survey, it was found that Gen-Z showed the most signs of depression than any other generation. 91% of Gen-Z adults, ages 18-23, report feeling at least one symptom of depression when under stress. On the other hand, our generation is infamous for being a little too light-minded. We made memes out of WWII, bullied our president on social media, and started burning down cities when we felt our voices weren't being heard. Oddly enough, this is how we cope with our mental illnesses. Finding humor in everything we should be taking seriously and making impulse decisions have become a new norm, and we are often criticized for it.

The only downside to putting ourselves first is that the school schedule isn't made to benefit students and their personal lives. Whenever we feel mentally stable enough to work on assignments, we get overwhelmed and still fail to complete them. A new assignment every day for every class adds up quickly, especially for students who have jobs and need to help their family financially through this pandemic. In only two days, 8 assignments are due before the start of next class. It seems as if we can't catch a break. - Xoë M. (12th)



# ARE YOU APART OF THE 97%?

Do you remember slap (you can fill in the blank) Friday? Would you consider that as sexual harassment since you had no consent to touch anyone the way people would on that day? Girls would pull their backpack straps all the way down just so that no one would touch them. If you said "I wouldn't consider that as sexual harassment", then you are a part of the problem. "Women shouldn't be scared. "There's nothing to be afraid of", but just enough for a woman to be scared to walk down a street alone, walk out to their car alone, being cat called just because we show a little bit of skin. Women have gotten so traumatized from hearing these stories they started buying self-defense weapons such a pepper spray, tazers, self-defense key chains and much more. In 2019, over 60% of women have bought pepper spray for their own safety. The 97% study shows that women from the age of 18-24 have experienced sexual harassment in public areas. More than 70% of women of all ages have experienced any type of harassment from men. 40% of women have not reported sexual harassment due to no action being done. Doesn't that make you sick to think that it's most likely happened to your friends or your sister(s) even your own mom? So next time you see a man harassing a woman, don't sit back and watch or turn a blind eye. Do something to help these women who are traumatized to just be alone around men. - Isabela Andrade (11th)

## CITYLAB UIL GOES TO REGIONALS!

CityLab High School's UIL team is heading to the Regional Competitions! This is after the team competed in the DISD UIL competition. CityLab competed in over 10-15 subjects and placed in one of the top ten spots in 9 of those. UIL stands for University Interscholastic League. This is a unique Texas program that tests students of all grade levels in different types of subjects ranging from athletics to musical ensembles. The UIL competition is sponsored and overseen by Laurie Fuentes, Mirshish Boyd, Mary Nunley and Nicholas Seawright, who focused on the Mathematics, Science and Journalism/English competitions. Mirshish Boyd, one of the sponsors, explains that this was the inaugural year of UIL at CityLab and "what an amazing year it has been." "I am very proud of and thankful to the students who joined our efforts as we were trying to get the program up and running." The Regional Competitions will certainly be a challenge, but that is what drives the students at CityLab. -Yair Renteria (12th)

The students who placed in our school were the following:

**Current Issues:** 6th Place- William Larkin  
**Copy Editing:** 1st Place- Nevena Cail  
 3rd Place- Lizbeth Saucedo  
 4th Place- Guerin Honeycutt  
**Editorial Writing:** 3rd Place- Estrella Fuentes  
 4th Place- Guerin Honeycutt  
 5th Place- Yair Renteria  
**Feature Writing:** 4th Place- Estrella Fuentes  
 6th Place- Guerin Honeycutt  
**Headline Writing:** 2nd Place- Yair Renteria  
 3rd Place- Guerin Honeycutt  
 4th Place- Stephanie Jimenez  
**Literary Criticism:** 5th Place- Nevena Cail  
**News Writing:** 1st Place- Estrella Fuentes  
 2nd Place- Yair Renteria  
 4th Place- Guerin Honeycutt  
**Ready Writing:** 3rd Place- Estrella Fuentes  
 4th Place- Guerin Honeycutt  
 5th Place- Yair Renteria  
**Spelling and Vocabulary:** 1st Place- Nevena Cail



# CITYLABS FIRST SENIOR DAY

The first ever senior day for CityLab high school took place earlier this month after uncertainty of whether we would ever have all seniors on campus again. By getting together, students and staff experienced some sort of normalcy to what our lives used to look like. It was a great opportunity to see old and new faces, and a chance to connect outside of a computer screen while staying safe and mindful of each other's health.

Mary Nunley is head teacher at CityLab High School and helped organize the event. "Seeing all of the seniors together was AMAZING! I could not stop smiling. It was honestly one of the best days that I've had as a teacher in a long time." Nunley says.

Students were able to catch a break from school work and enjoy time with peers and staff that hadn't seen each other in a little over a year. They also had the chance to take care of important graduation related tasks such as Senior quotes, cap and gown measurements, payments and much more. "There were a few goals including providing time and space for students to interact, reviewing information and logistics for graduation, and team building/reconnecting as a grade." Nunley says.

The whole day was dedicated for seniors to interact and engage while also recognizing each other for accomplishments. Students shared college acceptance letters and scholarship awards and got updated ranks and more. Students were not the only ones getting in on the fun as staff were also enjoying their time with the seniors. Nunley says "Seniors were engaging with each other and catching up, and that all of the CLHS teachers and staff were smiling and excited to have students back on campus."

Everyone was able to participate in Jumbo Wars where there were games such as giant chess, checkers, Connect 4, Ping-Pong and many other games. Both students and staff were actively involved, and even some teachers stopped by to play games with students. Some of the bigger news of the event was the announcement that Ms. Nunley had been chosen as a DISD Teacher of the Year finalist, and also the news of Mr. Goldstein retiring. "I was really happy to be able to celebrate with the senior class as one of their founding teachers. This honor is just as much for them as it is for me- I would not be the teacher I am today without the CLHS class of 2021," Nunley says.

Even as COVID is still pushing more restrictions on large gatherings, the staff and team were still able to deliver an amazing experience despite all the setbacks. All students and staff were very compliant with the rules as all were safely social distancing and continuing to wear their masks. "I do want to shout out to the team that planned the event as they did a great job with all of the constraints in place," Nunley says when asked about how the event had gone.

Many students were happy to see each other for possibly the last time before graduation and created memories to fill in the ones lost when quarantine began. With such a big task at hand, the staff really delivered an experience for seniors to take with them after high school and help spur the excitement towards their graduation this summer. We hope that future graduates will continue to celebrate senior day and share memories with those who helped and guided them throughout their CityLab careers

- Christian Gotcher (12th)

