

Student Reporter

Traveling with the Virus



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At ICN airport safety measures are taken to help contain the spread of COVID-19 and its variants..
[Source: Author, Angel Song]

The COVID-19 pandemic changed many aspects of our daily lives, including traveling internationally. In fear of spreading the virus, many areas placed travel restrictions such as entry bans and quarantines, making the process of entering a country tedious. These regulations also apply to an individual's vaccination status. Currently, the Center for Disease Control, CDC, recommends people who are not fully vaccinated should refrain from traveling internationally.

Before Covid-19 traveling was simpler, because individuals only

needed their passport or other items, such as visas. Entering a country required actions such as baggage checks and immigration processes. After completing those steps, travelers were allowed to go to their destination. These days, to board an airplane, a negative covid test result is often required. For travelers entering the United States, either a negative covid test result or proof of full recovery from COVID-19 is required, according to the CDC. The negative test proves the traveler did not contract COVID-19 during a certain timeframe, making sure other travelers are as safe as possi-

ble. Also, to detect the newly introduced Omicron cases at airports, the CDC is adding surveillance at four airports: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, John F. Kennedy International Airport, Newark Liberty International Airport, and San Francisco International Airport. These measures help contain COVID-19, especially as the Omicron variant is highly contagious compared to the other variants. Due to the worsening pandemic, the timeframe for a negative test result may differ from country to country, making it difficult for travelers to be made aware of these changes and obtain a negative test result in the given time.

After arriving in another country, travelers should be aware that their destination may have different rules about vaccination statuses. Countries either require physical proof of vaccination status, such as a vaccine card, while others require digital proof. In South Korea, for example, the

government implemented a rule that requires people to check in to public spaces using QR codes with their vaccine information embedded or call a given number to leave a record of where they were, making it easier for contact tracing. Furthermore, rules about private gatherings were enforced in South Korea after the introduction of the Omicron variant, according to Reuters on December 3, 2021. A recent traveler, Elisha Park, stated, "these steps can be annoying as we are unfamiliar with it, but they are necessary for the safety of travelers visiting an area." Familiarizing oneself with a country's guidelines will allow travelers to visit countries safely.

Through the pandemic, we experienced numerous changes, and one giant change was the international traveling restrictions. These rules were created to ensure travelers' safety and contain the virus. We should do our part by learning these different travel policies and respecting them.

Editors Column

A Vacation Better Than Disneyland



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Seconds after shoving my flip-flops into my luggage, I was out the door; Anaheim, here I come! Despite many initial assumptions, I wasn't going for the city's notorious Disneyland Resort. Instead, I was going for a 3-day business conference.

From January 7th to 9th, I attended a DECA conference, where students are trained and inspired to become entrepreneurs of the business world. North Hollywood High School was one of the ten schools that attended, and it is safe to say that this "vacation" was the highlight of my winter break.

Competing in a DECA conference generally consists of two parts: a written and oral exam. Both focus on performance indicators (PI's), which are clusters of business-related knowledge and skills. Generally, there are specific sets of PI's that are tested in each competitive event, which include business management & administration, entrepreneurship, finance, marketing, hospitality & tourism, and personal financial literacy.



On stage at the DECA conference to collect my medal for my performance!
[Source: Clarissa Uytiepo]

The written test is a 100-question exam that addresses the different facets of business, although each student receives a test specialized to their event. After taking these tests on the first evening of the conference, students then attended the traditional DECA opening ceremony, where the competition is officially introduced by the district's student representative.

Now that competitors' retention of DECA-related information had been assessed on paper, it was time to see if they could apply it to the real world. In these oral tests, bet-

ter known as roleplays, students are given a business scenario with objectives and a number of PI's. They are then expected to create a 10-minute presentation concerning the case study with 10 minutes of preparation. Then, students present their work to judges who give points based on a rubric that ultimately demonstrates how well-rounded a student's entrepreneurship skills are.

Because students are given the rest of the day off after finishing roleplays, my friends and I walked to a nearby boba shop for celebratory drinks. We had made it through three tough exams! As we grabbed food and headed back to the hotel to hangout, the sun quickly set, and it was already the next morning. Although sad the last day of competition had come, our spirits were slightly lifted when we attended the morning award ceremony and many NOHO students won medals and plaques for their exemplary performances.

After packing my luggage, I

headed home with a heavy heart but rejuvenated mind. A part of me was dejected that the competition had already ended, and I quickly became discouraged by the looming start of the spring semester. However, another part of me promptly found solace in remembering all the adventures I went on with my friends over the previous three days. Through this competition, I was not only able to test my academic abilities and win a first-place medal for my roleplay, but I was also able to create precious memories. As a junior, I only have so many breaks before becoming buried in college applications, and soon, starting a new chapter of my life by going off to college without my high school friends. Thus, I am so grateful I was able to go grocery shopping at Target, eat my heart out at the Pho restaurant, try new, exotic boba tea flavors, and jump into the freezing pool at 9 PM with my friends one last time.

The Disneyland Resort has nothing on the 2022 DECA competition.

Student Reporter

Don't Look Up! Even if the World is Really Ending



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Uncertain times of political angst and social conflicts compels us to think about how we would respond to a world-wide catastrophe. Is society coordinated enough to stop such an event or would it simply end as we fight and argue amongst ourselves? With eerily realistic political commentary, the film Don't Look Up examines a world-ending scenario that is met with mixed reactions from citizens of Earth.

The film begins as a college student and her professor observe a strange comet flying towards Earth. Panicked, they seek to gain immediate attention from higher authorities, but fail to convince the President to take the problem seriously. Desperate, the two go to the media to report the potentially catastrophic comet, but the outing results in disaster, and people are

now more divided than ever. During a time of hysteria that is confronted with conflict after conflict, it makes me wonder: are we as a society really like this?

The namesake of the movie holds significance to the political commentary illustrated throughout the film. The phrase "Don't look up" refers to the skeptics of the comet who think that it is a hoax, and not looking up will simply get rid of the issue. This expression begins with the average denier, but eventually works its way up to people of higher power. Soon, the phrase's definition changes to, "don't ask questions and if you trust us, everything will be fine."

Both meanings of the expression closely relate to the news we see today in our own world. Major

news events and scientific discoveries are being denied everyday, and blind trust in the government has proved to be dangerous. Merely denying the existence of a situation won't make it go away. Society must look up and face the reality of the issue in order to start finding solutions.

While the political and social commentary is fascinating, the flaws in the film cannot be overlooked. The most crucial feature of a movie is the editing. The quick and choppy editing of the film did not fit with the pacing or rhythm. There was even a moment where a cameraman was visible in the shot. Major blunders in post production of the film prevented an immersive and engaging environment.

The film was unique for its plot,



Interior photo of Los Feliz Theater in East Los Angeles, where the audience watched Don't Look Up.
[Source: Author Junny Jung]

but director Adam McKay told the story in a messy and unpropitious way. The film is recommended to others, but it did not meet my expectations. Perhaps they should have taken notes from one of their own lines, "You're just telling a story. Keep it simple. No math."

Student Reporter

Sky Rocketing COVID-19 Testing Lines in 2022



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Wait Lines Wrapping Around the Whole Block [Source: Author, Aspen Lee]

The new year has begun; 2021 is finally over. As 2022 displayed its qualities, the new variant, also known as Omicron, started to write its own story. The COVID-19 testing sites are starting to get busy again, particularly one in San Marcos, California. On the first of January, the free testing area had lines through

the trees and up the streets. The particular San Marcos location opened at 10:30 am, but families waited at the front gate from as early as 7am. With beach chairs, umbrellas, coats, and more, students and adults stood in the cold for a COVID test. In less than an hour, the whole parking lot was flooded with cars, and the college

parking area nearby had to make extra space for everyone. From the traffic signal to the neighborhood across the street, people were lining up, hoping to get their test done before 3pm. Friendly people started conversations to keep each other company, then began sharing their experiences on how they ended up there. Some were just staying safe, while others were going on trips. Although many people had been exposed to the virus, there were just as many that hadn't been.

calling out when someone could come over. As the clock moved, it inched closer to 3pm, so worried families started to hurry those in front who seemed to be taking too long. Not only was waiting in line frustrating for all, but it was a Sunday, and this was the last way anyone would want to spend their weekend. There were some pre-register links and QR codes to help everything move faster, but there were no guarantees that anything would make the line more rapid.

As 10 o'clock came closer, the lines got longer, and more people ran to keep their spot. The tents unexpectedly opened at 10:15am, and the lines became more tight as chairs were folded up. Testing had started. The eight stations quickly but calmly took in one person at a time and checked them in. Security guards stood at the stations,

My brother had shown mild symptoms, so our family waited for the COVID testing site to open. We all got tested after approximately three hours of standing in line. Those who came at 10:30 may not have gotten tested due to the early and unusual closing time at 3pm, but hopefully everyone was able to stay safe and return with negative test results.

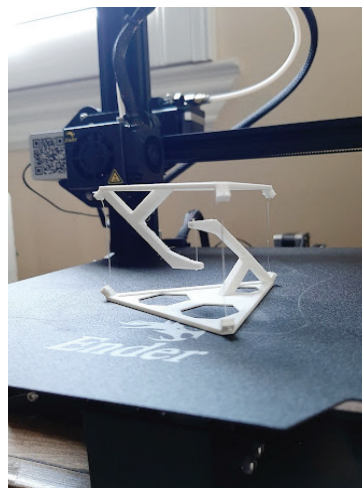
Student Reporter

It's Time to Get Your 3D Printer



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3D printers have become more and more accessible through the last two decades. Today, one can pick up a 3D printer for around 100 dollars, which is cheap compared to the \$650,000k SLA Printer from the 80's. The accessibility of 3D printers has helped people to prototype and create items that would cost way more with traditional techniques. For instance, this technology can also help doctors by 3D printing organs and tissue. Alongside the advancements in the medical field, they have also been useful in construction. The first completely 3D printed house was constructed in Yaroslavl, Russia, and now a family resides there. Although the average hobbyist is not going



A printed "tensegrity structure" resting on a 3D printer [Source: Author, Noah Moon]

to print out organs or buildings with their printer, it still is a revolutionary device.

3D printing's real world applications, combined with its accessibility, helps to give anyone the ability to create a physical object from their minds. These days, you do not even have to know how to use CAD (computer aided design) and 3D modeling to use a 3D printer: a few clicks can get you a model off the web that another person made. Loading up a model to the printer is the same as plugging in a flash drive. 3D printing is not just for creating prototypes of complex inventions. It can also be used to create simple things, like a cup holder or a mini cabinet. Not only is it revolutionizing how whole companies operate, but it also can improve the quality of life for people

with a specific need.

I myself own a 3D printer, an Ender 3 Pro, one of the most popular hobbyist 3D printers for its price and modability. It is sold by Creality, a Chinese company that spearheaded relatively cheap hobbyist 3D printers. I have used it to make several useful items, like a toothbrush holder and a watch holder. 3D printers are not just for making useful objects, at least in my case. It has given the power of mass production and rapid prototyping to myself and others. We early adopters are on the edge of a 3D printing revolution, and I can't wait to see what is in store next in the realm of 3D printing.

Student Reporter

Looking Back at 2021's Most Popular Korean Dramas



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Starting with the new year, let's look back at some Korean dramas that have touched many people's hearts, including many non-Koreans. Favorites from this genre would be Squid Game, Vincenzo, and MyName. Of course there are so many other dramas that were outstanding last year as well. This is great news for Koreans to thrive and have others interested in Korean culture. 2021 was a hard year for everyone mentally and physically, but I personally think that these dramas cured our boredom while people were in quarantine and also taught some well worth life lessons.

Let's start off with the drama that aired first, Vincenzo. The main leads consist of all time favorite male actor, Song JoongKi and actress Jeon Yeobeen, accompanied by Ok Taecyeon, Kwak Dongyeon, Kim Yeojin, Jo Hanchul, and many other amazing actors and actresses. In this drama, there is an Italian mafia member who goes by the name of Vincenzo. He enters Korea to find some gold, but in his adventure he meets unwanted circumstances with a corrupt company. This company is named Babel and within

this drama you will enter and see the fight between Vincezno and Babel. There are many lessons to learn from this drama, but my favorite would be the strong pain of regret and trying to minimize it in the future.

The next big drama would be Squid Game. This cast contains Jung Hyeon, Lee Jungjae, Park Haesoo, Wi Hajoon, and many others. Squid Game is a drama that brought poor people to fight for money while putting their lives at risk. The members complete dangerous missions and die if they fail to complete them, while the last person alive wins, leaving with the money. The drama was people's favorite and had a high-watch rating. Not only was it very interesting, but shared a huge lesson that some people failed to see. The popular saying that money doesn't buy happiness is shown here, but the huge and sad lesson is that in reality, even if you try your hardest and you are a good person, you will not always succeed.

The last of the 2021 hits would be the drama called My Name. The cast consists of Han Sohee, Ahn Bohyun, Park HeeSoon, Chang



Squid Game pop-up in Los Angeles which came about due to the major popularity it was getting in America. [Source: Author, Sarah Pak]

Ryul, Yoon Kyungho, and others. This drama's main lead is Han Sohee, a woman who observes her father's death. She is boiling to get revenge on the murderer, which leads her to join a gang, and later gets a job as an undercover cop. In this drama we learn that we should let our revenge go and not continue on with it.

These dramas were not only so fun to watch, but really touched the audience's hearts, one of them being mine as well. I love that more people are showing interest in Korean shows and Korean culture as a whole, and I hope that they continue loving the shows that will be provided later on.