

Student Reporter

Fascinating Finds in the Flea Market



Audrey Park
Grade 8
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Personally, my favorite example of an interesting flea market find would be this wooden, handcrafted table. [Source: Author, Audrey Park]

Signs promoting a yard sale are common to many, but an individual living in a populated area will come to find that flea markets are a similar, but larger-scale genre that has popped up more recently. When thinking about a flea market, the goods that typically come to one's mind include items at a retail price, usually resting on a display table with several similar products nearby. This general knowledge personally came from the student-operated markets that my elementary school hosted; however, walking through columns of students' shops in-

spired me to visit my local flea market. Fortunately, my visit there sparked a fascination with homemade crafts, secondhand goods, and distinct items for anyone who visits flea markets abroad.

Because the first flea market that assuaged my curiosity was unavailable at the time, I drove my fascination with homemade items abroad and attempted to visit as many flea markets in other countries as I could. These market visits were possible under the condition that they'd be taken during my family trips and would

happen soon. The prolonged duration between trips made the process recognized as a small tradition amongst family members. One summer we'd visit Mexico to walk through booths loaded with homemade "calavera" charms, and the following winter we'd go to Vancouver and be presented with tiled, homemade furniture. Once the small tradition became familiar to family friends, their steady participation became evident through friendly diaries. Sunny Han, an avid traveler and family friend, reached out to me to explain the various experiences she had in Korea's flea markets. She says, "While the trend in most of the flea markets is selling retail products, I've become increasingly fond of decorations or accessories crafted from home. My room has started to display a variety of homemade pots and vases because of this."

Moreover, as the ban on traveling was lifted after the pandemic

measures declined, my fascination with homemade items collectively recontinued in the form of second-hand goods. This news promised the reopening of my city's flea markets and I was able to grasp a recollection of visiting similar locations a few summers back. With the inclusion of a few booths with homemade items, I recorded a handful of stands that sold used books. I had not been used to products like this in other markets, but frequently visiting this location allowed me to accept second-hand goods, such as books, as a noteworthy find.

Throughout the years, I have undoubtedly acknowledged that visiting flea markets has been a casual getaway, become a beloved summer tradition and a reminder that many people are unaware of the unexpected experiences that opportunities have in store for them. I encourage you to visit a local flea market, as you just may be surprised by what you find.

Student Reporter

FIRST Robotics Competitions Regional Competitions

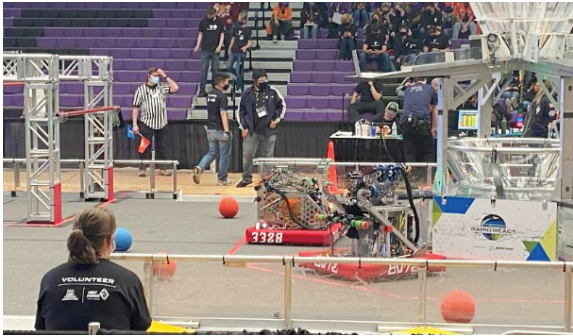


Jacob Kwon
Grade 10
North Hollywood High School

After finishing two regional FIRST Robotics Competitions (FRC) in March and April, our team #3328 is finally in the off-season. Even though we didn't qualify for playoffs or win awards, we had an enjoyable experience at both comps. These competitions were bonding experiences between our members and I got to really experience the essence of teamwork by building, fixing, and deploying our robot.

Both competitions followed a similar schedule: practice matches on the first day, qualifying matches on the second and third day, and finally the playoff matches to decide the regional winning teams. In our first competition in March, the regional FRC competition was held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds Arena, a fairly large stadium with approximately 5000 seats located in Southern California. The actual arena inside the stadium hosted the playing field for the robots and the different pits from each team, which were essentially little

squared-off sections designated for working on the robot. Most of our time during the competition was in the pits, where we fixed the various issues with our robot and did some pit scouting to assess the different capabilities of each FRC team. We also had a lot of fun talking with the other teams and collecting various trinkets/pins that teams handed out for free in their pits, a common tradition in FRC. In our second competition, which was in Eastside High School located in Lancaster, California, the schedule and pit situations were practically the same.



During the FRCR, student-made robots competed against each other to win the main prize. Source coming tonight [Source: North Hollywood High School Robotics]

The theme for FRC in 2022 was Rapid React. The playing field had a large structure called the Hub, consisting of a lower and upper hub that robots had to shoot balls into in order to score points. The upper hub was worth more points than the lower, but it required more meticulous planning and programming for the robot to shoot at the right angle. The field also had a climb section, which was essentially rungs of different elevations, comparable to a diagonal monkey bar set up. Each match started with robots (preloaded) shooting balls

by themselves and scoring even more points with the balls laid out all over the field. Once the autonomous period was over, the robot now entered teleoperated mode, which meant the drivers had to manually control the robots. Robots were also free to enter into the climb section, which rewarded a lot of points based on the rung they hung at. The climb was especially tricky because teams had to balance a heavy robot with arms, and in some teams, attempt to traverse all four rungs using complex mechanisms.

Although our team didn't perform as well this season as we had previously, we have high hopes to prepare harder for the next competitions. Even though we are entering the off-season, our student-led team leaders are trying to train some of our underclassmen (including myself) as much as possible before they graduate. My teammates hope to work even harder for the next season to do much better than our 2022 season.

Student Reporter

La Canada High School's Spring Assembly



Elie Kim
Grade 11
La Canada High School

La Canada High School had its second in-person assembly since COVID-19. Before COVID-19 spread, the assemblies were usually in the gym, and during quarantine, the assemblies were filmed and students were able to watch them online. Now, the school has begun its in-person assemblies again, but outdoors.

La Canada High School's assemblies are always grand and impressive. The spring assembly of 2022 was held on the football field, and it had many different and exciting performances. It began with the school's band walking through the school hallways alerting students that the assembly had started. All the students walked onto the football field and sat on the section of the bleachers assigned for their grade. There were performances from all the cheerleading squads including, the Junior Varsity and Varsity

Songs, Flaggies, and the Pep Squad. Each of the cheerleading squads had its own unique performance with different music and cheers.

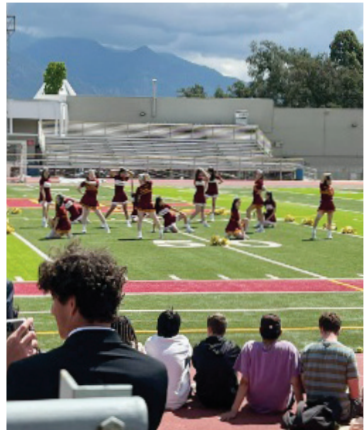
There were also entertaining performances from different sports teams. For example, the swim team played a water balloon game with some of the teachers, the track team played a three-legged race after choosing one person from each grade, and the baseball and softball team did a slip and slide.

Aside from all the performances from students, there were also acts from teachers and administrators, including a lip-synch battle. The winner was chosen through how loud the students' cheers were. The teachers won with their lip-synch of "Baby" by Justin Bieber.

Furthermore, La Canada High

School recently had an event called Mr. LC, where senior boys were voted for from different categories, such as being funny or most likely to be an influencer. After one senior boy was chosen from each, there was a show where each of the boys showed off their talents and their charms. Students voted for who they believed should be Mr. LC at the show. Then, at the spring assembly, Mr. LC was introduced along with all of the other people who were candidates.

Besides all the fun and entertaining performances, important announcements were also made. The assembly lasted about 40 minutes, and not one moment was wasted. A student from La Canada High School, Katherine Kim, stated: "Although the assembly was outdoors making it was a little hard to hear and see what was going on, it was



La Canada High School's cheerleading squad, the Varsity Songs, performing at the spring assembly. [Source: Author, Elie Kim]

really fun to watch and I loved it so much which made me forget about the downsides of it being outdoors."

To many of the students' luck, the school is planning on doing their next and last assembly for the year back indoors, and many students are excited about this.

