

Editors Column

Albuquerque, New Mexico: What, Where, and Why?



Isleen Lee
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On the first day of qualification, I was at target 66, where archers in my division shot a distance of 70 meters. [Source: Author, Isleen Lee]



On the day of eliminations, my clubmate and I took a picture together before going our own ways to compete. [Source: Eliana Kim]

Have you ever heard of or been to Albuquerque, New Mexico? With a complex-looking name, Albuquerque is a city in the state of New Mexico, which borders Arizona, Colorado, and even Texas. I didn't know of Albuquerque until this year when it was announced that the annual Junior Olympic Archery Development Target Nationals competition, more commonly known as JOAD, would be held here. For context, the JOAD Target Nationals competition is among the many esteemed na-

tional-ranked competitions held by USA Archery every summer. To competitive archers like myself, this competition is often the largest of the year and has great value to our rankings.

The previous season's JOAD Target Nationals was held in Des Moines, Iowa, whereas other national competitions have been held at Chula Vista, California, or Phoenix, Arizona. Every year, this event receives archers, young and old, experienced and inexperienced, from all across the coun-

try. Compared to other national competitions that don't rotate locations every few years, this competition forces archers to travel to states that would usually not be visited, due to a lack of popularity among tourists. When people think of vacation spots within the country, most would think of New York City or Orlando, not Des Moines or Albuquerque.

Before this competition, I had never been to New Mexico. However, I was upset when that was the state that was announced. For starters, the location for this competition rotates every 2 or 3 years, and the previous year's location (Iowa) only lasted one year. I preferred Iowa because of how peaceful and calm the overall environment had been. More importantly, I was irritated that the new location was chosen to be in New Mexico, since the weather in mid-July there is known to be scalding. It turned out to be just that way, with the heat reaching up to 106 degrees and staying around the low to mid 90 degrees the entire time we were there.

I personally do not perform the best in the heat, but seeing that I had no other option, I viewed

this opportunity as a chance to prove to myself that I could push through the heat and still do my best. I arrived on Tuesday, the hottest day, and on the next day, I began officially practicing and joined my club for our traditional team dinner at Texas Roadhouse. On Thursday and Friday, I had two days of qualifications, both of which were blazing hot, leading me to depend on Liquid IV, an electrolyte drink powder. Mixing it with my ice-cold water seemed to alleviate some of the immense heat. Along the way, I chatted with my teammates, and I especially enjoyed the team dinner, where all of my teammates, coaches, and parents had a fun bonding experience. On Saturday, during eliminations, I lost a match by one point, which prevented me from moving on. I was initially very disappointed, but I had given the week my best, and that gave me much confidence for my future season. Overall, I wouldn't recommend visiting New Mexico during the summer, but think I would have loved the mountains and the world-famous hot air balloons New Mexico has to offer at a cooler time of the year!

Student Reporter

Apple's "Find My" System - Is It a Controversy?



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On July 22nd, one Korean citizen issued a petition on the Korean parliament webpage. The petition criticized the discrimination of the company named Apple. For every other country, Apple's "Find My" function is utilized for registering and finding their lost devices. However, due to this function being disabled within Korean Apple products, consumers are deeply unnerved by their lack of ability to recover stolen devices.

According to the petition, "1 in 4 smartphones are iPhones, and numbers of Apple Products increase when MacBooks... are included." Regardless of Apple's prevalence in the market, Korea is well renowned for technological and geographical advancements, which shows that Apple's explanation for the absence of "Find My" is untrustworthy. Another issue we



The "Find My" on Korean-registered Apple products is disabled... why is this? [Source: Jeongwoo Lee]

see is that foreign-registered devices can use the "Find My" option in Korea, whereas devices registered as 'Korean' are prohibited. This leads to the larger question: Why does Apple stop products registered in Korea from using this feature?

As we move on towards answering this question, Apple did refute the petition. They argue that intelligence about the Korean map is comparably low compared to

other countries. However, a foreign registered Apple device can generate a very thorough 3D map using "Find My." If "technological incompetence" and knowledge of the land is not the real issue, what is it then?

If the issue is not a technological one, is it then caused by "regional legal reasons?" Although Apple strongly disputes this point, it is unlikely to be the case. Google Maps includes the 'Blue House,' which was hidden on Korean maps due to it being the president's residence. As Apple is an American business, they do not require much adjustment in Korea. Therefore, now we know that the justification for the absence is poorly developed.

As Apple did not respond thoroughly to the questions, it is best to examine two potential causes of the

discourse, evaluating the possibilities of Apple being the main factor or the Korean government being it.

If Apple aims to be the sole leader of the industry in Korea, it is mysterious for them to limit their own productivity via limiting technology. To succeed in the market, regulations are unlikely to be a profit-seeking decision in order to compete with technology firms. On the other hand, the Korean government may aim to hide information and locations that can be exposed through this process.

Either way, it seems apparent that Korean users are the ones who are marginalized without any clarification for the handicaps. As the petition is getting a large amount of support, both the Korean government and Apple must formulate and respond to the users.

Student Reporter

Empowering Future Leaders: My Experience at CASC Leadership Camp



Jacob Won
Grade 11
West Ranch High School

As a member of the Region 9 Outreach Committee, I recently had the privilege of attending the California Association of Student Councils (CASC) leadership camp, a four-day camp held annually at UC Santa Barbara. This transformative experience not only honed my leadership skills but also opened my eyes to the power of student advocacy and collaboration.

From the moment I arrived at the camp, I was struck by the energy and enthusiasm of my fellow delegates. Students from diverse backgrounds across California had gathered with a common goal: to become more effective leaders in their schools and communities.

The camp's curriculum was both challenging and engaging. We participated in workshops covering various topics, from public speaking and conflict resolution to project management and team building. One session that particularly resonated with me focused on making changes in one's commu-

nity. In groups of six, we passionately discussed problems we had observed, methods to implement change, and the importance of advocacy.

Perhaps the most impactful part of the CASC experience was when keynote speaker and Olympic runner Sarah Wells gave a heartfelt and motivational speech to the delegates of CASC. This moment touched the hearts of everyone as she passionately spoke about her journey as an Olympian runner and the trials and tribulations that she went through.

Another valuable aspect of the CASC camp was the chance to network with like-minded peers from across the state. One thing, in particular, is when I attended a workshop that focused on how to make a positive impact in your community through legislation. Through group activities and informal discussions, I forged friendships that will last well beyond our time at camp. These connections



Keynote and former Olympian speaks to all CASC summer delegates. [Source: Author, Jacob Won]

have already proved invaluable as we continue to support each other in our leadership extracurriculars back home.

Reflecting on my time at the CASC leadership camp, I'm grateful for the experience and excitement for the future. The skills I've gained, the friendships I've made, and the inspiration I've received have equipped me to be a more effective leader in my school and

community.

I return home with a renewed sense of purpose and a toolkit of strategies to make a positive impact. The CASC leadership camp has shown me that when passionate young leaders come together, there's no limit to what we can achieve. I'm eager to apply these lessons as I continue my work with the Region 9 Outreach Committee and beyond.

Student Reporter

Stepping into the Workforce: My First Job Experience



Summer Park
Grade 10
Harvard-Westlake School



5th graders are attentively listening to a scientific lecture about sprouts.
[Source: Author Summer Park]

Beakers are breaking with screaming echoing throughout the classroom. Kids are running and slipping on the floors covered with dangerous solutions. Bunsen burners ignite the students' clothes - every nightmare you can imagine happening right there in the science lab. These thoughts were racing through my head about what I would experience working with students; however, they all turned out to be needless worries.

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a teacher? Fortunately, I was able to get a sneak peek of being one while working as a Student

Cohort at my school's summer program for elementary students. With my former math teacher being the head teacher, I and another Student Cohort helped assist the Science-Cooking class. For two weeks, I came to campus at 8:40 A.M. and worked until 12:45 P.M. Although the job was a little tiring initially, I gradually began to find joy in working with students.

In addition, I also learned many new recipes myself! For example, along with the students, I learned how to make marshmallows, cheese, boba, pickles, butter, rock candy, gummy bears, ice cream, and more things, all from scratch!

"I think this [Cooking science] class is pretty cool because you can cook everything from scratch but learn about the science behind it. Science is my favorite subject at school, and I'm also getting interested in cooking," a 5th grader exclaimed. There are two important factors behind all of the cooking. First, there is the science involved in cooking, with all the chemical reactions. For example, there is a scientific reason why apples turn brown after a while when you slice them. Second, there is the excitement and passion involved in the process of cooking. "One of my favorite hobbies to do is cooking. I especially love to do it [cooking] with my kids. When I heard about a cooking science class at the Harvard Westlake summer program, I was more than happy to teach the class," my 9th-grade math teacher said.

Being a student cohort has taught me many things. First, it taught me to have patience. Although there were instances where I felt like a hot tea kettle about to explode, I always stayed calm even in the midst of all the

chaos. This experience also taught me the importance of responsibility. It is very crucial to make sure that students are safe, especially in a science lab, where students are exposed to dangerous chemicals and tools. I always made sure that students wore goggles and tightly tied their aprons. For the kids with longer hair, I made sure they tied their hair or tucked it tightly in the back. Trying to be a good model, I always had my hair tied, had all my gear on, and gave my teacher my full attention. Also, I learned the importance of discipline. My personality makes it difficult to scold kids. However, with all the risks associated with being in a lab, I felt it was my responsibility to reprimand the students if they did anything that could get them hurt. Of course, I never loudly upbraided the kids, as I was always calm and reasonable with my words. Fortunately, everyone was always thoughtful and listened very well. The most rewarding part of being a Student Cohort was all the first pumps, hugs, or even the simple words of "thank you."

Student Reporter

Kode With Klossy Part Two: Back in Business!



Reanna Lee
Grade 10
North Hollywood High School

Kode With Klossy is back with more engaging news! For the second and final week of camp, scholars were distributed into groups of three based on the interests they share, and then began the awaited—building our very own AI chatbot. My group was categorized by the "Games and Creativity" topic, so luckily, we had a variety of options to work with. Our initial idea was to develop a minigame involving AI and characters of our own. However, we realized that it would not use the machine learning aspect. Therefore, we decided to scrap it and continued brainstorming. After much-needed thought processes, we settled on a bot that could generate playlist names for music! Our peers and instructors seemed to enjoy that idea, so we got started right away.

Most of the information we would be inputting included datasets of genres and the vibe of a song. One of the members in our group was an artist, so she worked to create a mascot for the bot as



My group posing with the Kode With Klossy certificates on Demo Day!
[Source: Min Lee]



The Kode With Klossy team on Decades Theme Day posing in a group picture.
[Source: Kode With Klossy staff]

well. After many hours of inputting data, fixing bugs, coding, and testing, we had an amazing final product. Fillira is the name of our bot, and it comes from Greek origins, meaning "lover of music." We chose this name because we felt that it would suit both the purpose of the bot and its users well. My group and I made sure to program Fillira as friendly and enthusiastic so that people can feel comfortable with both the user interface and experience. Our project was ready for presentation!

Demo Day, the day of our presentations, came by quicker than expected. With all the fun and work piled up preparing for the final event, the rest of the scholars, instructors, and I dreaded the goodbyes. However, it wasn't over yet! On the day of the demos, family and friends were invited to view the impressive projects all of the scholars completed. Other bots made by our peers included a dog care bot, a healthy ecosystem bot, a phone finder bot, and a literature bot. All of them looked so interest-

ing, and I really enjoyed watching my newly made friends go up on stage to present. I couldn't believe we had come such a long way in just two weeks.

I am glad I can say that Kode With Klossy has been and will always be a special part of my life. It was incredible getting to meet all these new people, and I am forever grateful to the instructors and instructor assistants for being there for us and always willing to lend a hand. See you next year, Kode With Klossy!

Student Reporter

City Tours with the San Fernando Valley Youth Leadership Academy



Angel Song
Grade 10
Harvard-Westlake School

Summer is not just a time for respite after a long school year; it is also an opportunity for students to go to summer camps and pursue their interests! As someone interested in law and politics, I decided to spend two weeks of my summer touring Los Angeles city departments with the San Fernando Valley Youth Leadership Academy.

I was in Cohort 2 of this program, which took place from July 29th to August 9th. While participating in this camp, students were given the opportunity to tour key locations in Los Angeles, including fire and police departments, NBC Universal, and the Los Angeles Zoo. While at these places, students were able to tour these locations with an expert, learning about the different kinds of jobs employees are expected to handle.

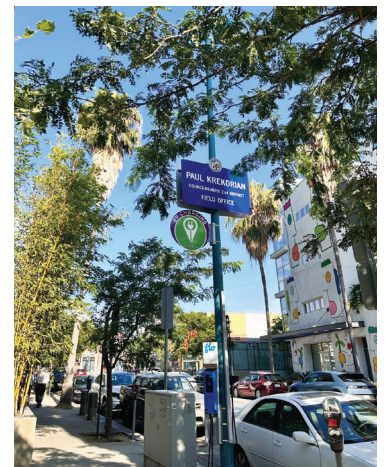
So far, I've seen a variety of cool sights that I would've never seen

if I hadn't been a part of this program. I saw fire trucks head out to 911 calls directly from the North Hollywood fire station, talked to news anchors and reporters at NBC Universal, and watched a police officer give a demonstration on how to use their police training simulator, which is used to prepare police officers for real-life situations that require quick thinking. This summer opportunity helped widen my worldview and enrich the types of experiences that I've had.

One of the most meaningful parts of this experience was that I got to learn new things about all the different places I visited directly from the people involved in these activities and sectors. There were many pieces of information about each location that wouldn't come up from a rudimentary Google search. For instance, I never knew that there were many protocols

and policies that police officers had to follow when physically coming in contact with suspects or suspicious people. At the same time, I also was amazed by the hard work that went into preparing for the broadcasting of a program at NBC. I realized that there were many intricate processes that occurred behind the scenes of almost any city department or company and that they all differed depending on what they resulted in.

Summer camps are opportunities for students to learn about the things that they are truly interested in. Since many of us are busy high school students during the majority of the year, summer is the best time to pursue activities that align with our interests! As someone interested in politics and law, I was fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to tour key Los Angeles facilities with the San



Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office, where students participating in the San Fernando Valley Youth Leadership Program meet every day before leaving for tours
[Source: Author, Angel Song]

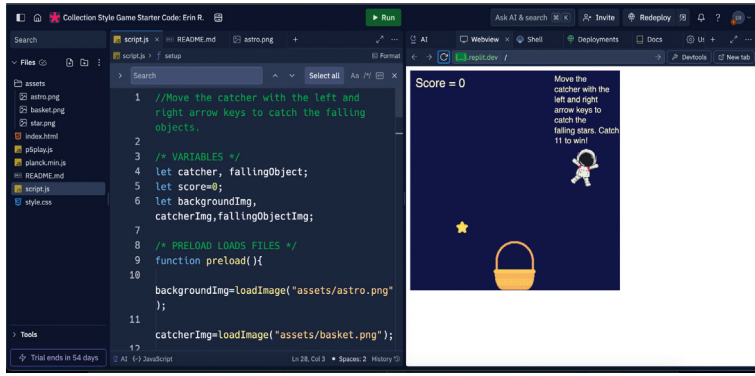
Fernando Valley Youth Leadership Academy. From this experience, I've learned a lot about some key sectors that make up our city, and I am glad that I've spent my summer meaningfully in this way.

Editors Column



Erin Ryu
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Advocating for Female Empowerment: Girls Who Code



One of the games I coded was a "collection style game," where the players need to acquire points to win. [Source: Author, Erin Ryu]

Despite the male-dominated landscape of the computer science field, there is change burgeoning. Numerous programs are steadfastly dedicated to nurturing the talents of young, curious women, providing them with the support and resources they need to thrive. Recently, I took part in a two-week virtual program called Girls Who Code, where I learned the basics of game design, forged connections with talented, brilliant women, and was exposed to a plethora of future job opportunities.

Going into the program, I knew next to nothing about coding, let alone creating games. It seemed that many of the girls already had a programming background, which left me feeling wary after the first day. This feeling worsened when I was faced with the task of creating an interactive game for homework, a difficult task for someone with no experience. However, I quickly learned the importance of persistence and problem-solving as I worked through the assignment. Though

I was intimidated by the challenge at first, I started to realize how exciting programming was, which made me look forward to the following classes. Every day, I learned different styles of games and how to code them, like collection-style games and the Choose Your Own Adventure style.

Out of the many unique facets of Girls Who Code, the "partner engagement" opportunities set the program apart. Girls Who Code consists of several cohorts of fifty students, each sponsored by a third-party company, like Bank of America, Deloitte, and BlackRock, to name a few. Around three times every week, representatives from the company visited the class, presenting information about what the company did and the role of programmers in their institution. Pfizer, a leading pharmaceutical company, sponsored my group. As part of my learning experience, I heard about data analysts' and engineers' roles in the

marketing and production phases of vaccines and medicinal products, which are often overlooked by people who think of Pfizer solely for its medical components.

Aside from the informational aspect of the program, Girls Who Code also placed a heavy emphasis on sisterhood and uplifting each other. Every day, I was able to meet new people all around the country and work with them on either code or a bonding activity. Though we could only communicate through Zoom, the sense of camaraderie and pure encouragement made me forget about the barrier.

Overall, my time with Girls Who Code was extremely positive, as the new skills I gained opened my choices of possible career paths and is an activity I am eager to share with others. I believe this program is perfect for anyone who is willing to learn, connect, and, most of all, take risks with the goal of personal growth.

Student Reporter

What Music in the Park at La Cañada Offers



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The city of La Cañada, California, is a small, tight-knit community in which most people have grown up together. Being a small community allows the members to connect with their neighbors on a personal level. However, as people grow and develop, relationships can grow distant and become mere memories. To help build an even tighter community, the city of La Cañada hosts a weekly event known as Music in the Park, in which the city invites a musical band to perform for the community.

The event takes place every Sunday afternoon at Memorial Park in La Cañada. The event serves as a place where people can connect or reconnect with each other in the cool afternoon breeze. It has a very easy-going, relaxing mood that allows everyone to truly enjoy their time. Many bring beach chairs and blankets along with snacks and dinner items to accompany them for the duration of the event.



The community members can be seen gathering at the park to attend the Music in the Park event. [Source: Author, Joanne Kim]

The purpose of Music in the Park is to help the community members of La Cañada have a fresh start to a brand new week. It acts as an invitation to set everything aside for a moment and focus on your surroundings. Music in the Park welcomes people of all ages, as the park includes two play structures, perfect for children to play while parents are conversing with others. With the addition of the music, each and every moment

spent at the event is memorable and soothing.

The concert is performed by a different musical group each week, and the genre of music differs, too. One week may offer sweet ballads, while the next can provide a boost of energy with country rock music. The diverse range of genres ensures a unique experience each time you go.

In addition to all the opportunities to build community, there

are also booths run by local high school teams, such as band, orchestra, pep squad, and the engineering club. Each booth sells treats ranging from cookies to snow cones to chips in a fundraising effort. There are often bake sales at the booths, where all goods are made by the students themselves. All funds raised go to the group hosting the booth, giving the event attendees an opportunity to support the local high school as well.

Music in the Park is a great introduction to the city of La Cañada as it reveals the calmness of it as well as the strong communion with one another. Many describe the event as a "relaxing way to stay grounded and reconnect with old neighbors." As a community member of La Cañada myself, I would highly recommend those in the area to stop by and take a moment to relax with our community in preparation for a new week.

Student Reporter

Casting Away My Fears at CASC Summer Camp



Emily Lee
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Sunny Hills High School

In a world where fiery political debates, environmental concerns, and social tensions dominate national and international discussions, society needs strong leaders to help navigate through such tumultuous events. The questions now are how and where these individuals can be found. Fortunately, the California Association of Student Councils (CASC), a non-profit student-led leadership and advocacy organization, offers a summer camp that produces skilled, ethical, and empathetic leaders from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

From June 29th to August 1st, I attended CASC as a returning delegate. When I exited the bus, I was immediately greeted by swarms of counselors welcoming delegates and helping them check in. There was also a large circle of staff members dancing and singing upbeat, energizing songs. This pandemonium triggered my internal intro-

version rather than making me feel at home. In fact, the first day was a combination of awkward interactions, nervous mumbling, and loneliness, which I thought would be for the entirety of what lay ahead. However, desperate to break out of my shell, I persisted with an open mind.

These four days were filled with team-building exercises designed to break barriers and foster camaraderie among group members. One memorable activity was when my peers and I had to build a life raft with a plank, two cartons, and rope in order to get across a volleyball court without touching the ground in under twenty minutes. Despite the initial disorganization, my group collected our composure and worked together to reach the goal successfully. I learned how to delegate tasks based on individual strengths and support my peers in overcoming obstacles while dealing with lim-

ited resources and a time limit.

On the final night, all camp attendees gathered on the grass to discuss their experiences. Listening to these testimonies comforted me, knowing I was not the only introvert struggling to take bold leadership positions. After exchanging deep affirmations, a counselor lit one candle and, with that single flame, lit everyone else's candles. This profound activity taught me that by taking the initiative, a leader can share their ideas with other people and potentially inspire them to do the same. At that moment, I truly understood the large-scale effects that strong leadership has and decided that I desired to exhibit the same influence.

Reflecting on my time at CASC camp, I realize how profoundly it shaped my understanding of leadership and personal development. The courage, communication, and humility skills I have acquired



CASC delegates collaborate to produce a poster. [Source: Author, Emily Lee]

are invaluable assets I strive to utilize for the remainder of my life. More importantly, this experience instilled confidence that encouraged me to pursue future leadership opportunities. Based on this, I can confidently say that each individual from the camp, whether a delegate or a counselor, will lead society into a successful and productive state.