

## Editors Column

## College Touring Over Spring Break: Five Schools, Four Days



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Although I had resided in the United States for most of my life, by the time I reached my junior year of high school, I had never visited a college campus. To make up for my lack of campus visits, my parents and I decided this year's spring break was the ideal time to discover new insights regarding my future after graduation.

My mother and my younger brother accompanied me on the compact schedule to check off colleges of interest on a road trip beginning in Virginia and heading all the way down to Tennessee. We left on a Monday and drove up to William & Mary (W&M) first. Founded in 1693, it is the oldest higher education institution we explored and prizes its liberal arts education and Public Ivy reputation. I had known that W&M was very traditional, but I had not expected the complete switch of scenery as soon as we entered the campus. Following the tour, we headed over to Buckroe Beach since it had been so long since we had been there. It was too cold to enter the water, but it was a beautiful sight nevertheless.

After returning to my house on the first day, we started fresh on Tuesday morning to tour sev-



During my Spring Break college tour vacation, I was mesmerized by the antique architectural features of Vanderbilt that could be viewed from afar, making it an exciting place to visit. [Source: Author, Kaylyn Yu]

eral more colleges within Virginia. We began with the University of Virginia (UVA): a top-five ranking public university with Jeffersonian architecture features. The architectural design amazed me, and the campus was vibrant and

lively, as the school had a comparably larger student body than W&M. Next, we headed to Washington and Lee University—a private liberal arts college with a historic campus. It seemed very snug, tucked within a mountain

area, but the grounds were too small for my liking. My family resided in a hotel for the night to prepare for the long trip to Tennessee the following day.

Before beginning the ride, we stopped by Virginia Tech briefly. There were even more students, so it was exciting to view life on the campus. Then, for the highlight of the trip, we drove numerous hours to Tennessee to explore Vanderbilt University, a selective research institution in Nashville. We slept at another hotel on Wednesday night and rose early for Vanderbilt. I was instantly mesmerized by the antique architectural features of the buildings as well as the serene nature surrounding the grounds. Viewing the campus in real life made the travelling worth it. With the spree of touring over, we finally settled in to return home.

Though it had been a chaotic mess of college visits every day, I believe it was necessary in order for me to grasp a sense of what kind of colleges I want to attend post-graduation, especially regarding the size of the college. I would suggest every junior should drop by a few colleges over their next break!

## Student Reporter

## Inside Noah's Ark: From Trash to Treasure



Heesue Shin

Grade 10  
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Recently, I had the special opportunity to visit the Noah's Ark museum, located in the Skirball Cultural Center, with my church. The museum was interesting and fun to explore, and it had many unique features that I found very interesting.

This museum is located in the Skirball Cultural Center, and it is a permanent venue. It is more oriented toward young children because there are a lot of play areas and interactive spaces. The animals displayed here are made out of recycled materials and everyday objects, such as mops and keyboards. It was very interesting to see what all the animals were made from, and it displayed a great deal of imagination on behalf of the creators.

Something I found special about this museum was that it is interactive, so everything is open for anyone to explore, unlike typical museums that have signs telling visitors not to touch anything. I have never been to an exhibit like this before, so I found it very engaging and fun.

For those who do not know



The playground in the Noah's Ark museum allows individuals of all ages to have fun and learn about the story of Noah. [Source: Author, Heesue Joy Shin]

about Noah's Ark, it is a story from the Bible. In the first book, Genesis, the Earth was filled with people who sinned greatly and disobeyed God, so He sent a flood to wipe out all humans. However, there was one holy man, named Noah, whom God told to build an ark to protect himself and his family. God also instructed him to bring a pair of every animal onto the ark. The flood lasted for 150 days, and after it ended, when Noah was able to leave the boat, God created a rainbow to symbolize His promise to never again flood the Earth in that way again. The Noah's Ark museum

pays homage to this Bible story, and I think it is a great way to get little children to interact with the story while imagining what it would be like. It also reflects the peacefulness that the animals exhibited toward each other while on the boat.

Inside the museum, there was a replica of Noah's Ark, a playground, and a reading center. In general, the exhibit was a very large space. My personal favorite part was the playground, because even though it is built for little kids, some teens and adults can fit in it. It was very creative

and fun to look at the decorations, and it had little details all throughout.

Aside from Noah's Ark museum, there were also other museums on display in the same building. As we were looking around, we came across a Jewish museum, which was interesting. There was even an art gallery to look at after visiting Noah's Ark museum. This was a very fun experience, and I recommend this place to people of all ages, but especially little children, because this can help to encourage their creative side!

## Student Reporter

## Trader Joe's New Release: Ranch-flavored Rolled Tortilla Chips



Katie Choe

Grade 9  
South High School

Trader Joe's is known for its creative snacks and loyal fan base, and its newest product is already generating a buzz among shoppers. The grocery chain recently introduced ranch-flavored rolled corn tortilla chips, offering a savory twist on one of its most popular snack items. The new chips are designed to capture the familiar taste of ranch dressing while maintaining the crunchy texture that fans of the rolled chips have come to expect.

Trader Joe's rolled corn tortilla chips first gained widespread attention with their chili and lime flavor, which became a favorite among customers for their bold combination of spice and citrus. The ranch version takes a different approach, replacing heat with a creamy herb flavor profile. The seasoning blend typically associated with ranch includes ingredients such as butter/milk powder, garlic, onion, and dried herbs like parsley and dill. These elements combine to create a tangy, savory taste that is widely enjoyed in dips, dressings, and snacks.

The structure of the rolled chips also contributes to their appeal. Unlike traditional flat tortilla



New ranch-flavored rolled corn tortilla chips hit shelves at Trader Joe's. [Source: Author, Katie Choe]

chips, these are tightly rolled into small cylinders, creating a thicker, crunchier bite. This design gives them a sturdy texture that many snackers enjoy both on their own and when paired with dips. The ranch seasoning coats the outside of the chips, adding a noticeable natural taste of the corn base.

Early reactions from shop-

pers have been mixed but enthusiastic overall. Some customers appreciate the creamy, tangy flavor and say the chips capture the essence of ranch seasoning in a satisfying way. Others feel the seasoning could be stronger, noting that the flavor is milder than they expected. Despite these differing opinions, many shoppers agree that the crunchy texture

and snackable shape make the chips hard to put down once the bag is opened.

The release of the ranch-flavored rolled corn tortilla chips reflects a broader trend in the snack industry, where companies are experimenting with new flavors and variations on familiar products. Ranch remains one of the most popular seasoning styles in the United States, appearing on everything from potato chips to popcorn and pretzels. By combining that classic flavor with the rolled corn chip format, Trader Joe's is tapping into a flavor profile that already has a strong following.

As with many Trader Joe's products, it remains unclear whether the ranch chips will become a permanent fixture on store shelves or remain a limited-time offering. The company often rotates items in and out of its lineup based on customer demand. However, the new ranch-flavored rolled corn tortilla chips provide shoppers with another unique snack option and demonstrate Trader Joe's ongoing effort to keep its snack aisle fresh and exciting.

Student Reporter

## KISC 7th Annual Korean History and Culture Camp



**Elizabeth Kim**  
Grade 9  
Beckman High School

In the month of March, Korean schools all around Southern California meet up for the long-awaited, annual KISC Korean History and Culture camp. Each year, there is a specific theme that leads the focus of the camp, and this year, the theme was Korea's UNESCO-designated heritages.

During the weeks leading up to the camp, each participating school set aside time every Saturday to learn some background about UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) and its importance in preserving both natural and cultural heritages. Each school picked a specific heritage to focus on for the presentation during the camp. Many preparations were needed, including creating props and backdrops for photo opportunities, researching, writing, and rehearsing presentations on the school's given topic.

The day of the camp started early, with students setting up the photo areas they had prepared with a variety of props, backgrounds, and frames. Next, all participants were seated for



For Fullerton's presentation, students dressed up as the five dancers in Cheoyongmu, adding a fun, visual aspect that showed a great appreciation for Korean history. [Source: Author, Elizabeth Kim]

the opening ceremonies. There were inspiring speeches given as well as great performances of Talchum, a traditional Korean masked dance, and Samulnori, a genre of Korean percussion music. With an energized and motivated start to the day, the activities of the camp began.

Specifically, the camp activities involved students participating in various UNESCO-designated heritages. Most of these activities were cultural heritages, named for being "living" tra-

ditions without tangible form. One of the most popular activities was Gimjang, the traditional process of making kimchi. It was a fun experience to directly make some delicious kimchi that I eat every day. Another activity was Talchum, giving students an opportunity to learn the dance that was performed earlier in the opening ceremonies: we were taught some of the essential, basic moves of Talchum. It was more taxing than I initially thought, and I developed an even deeper appreciation for

the art form. Even though I only participated in these two activities due to the time limit, they were both incredibly immersive and educational experiences that deepened my respect for Korean culture.

Lunch was another memorable time during the camp. We were served delicious bibimbap, which is rice topped with a variety of seasoned vegetables, meat, and an egg. There was also a Nongshim food truck where we could try out incoming ramen flavors and answer questions to get free food and snacks. It was great to see the widespread influence of K-culture, even in America.

Following the great lunch, it was time for each of the schools' presentations on a specific UNESCO heritage. The variety in topics, from the folk song "Arirang" to Cheoyongmu, made each presentation new and exciting. Many students also added interactive elements to the presentation, like quizzes or shows. It was amazing to see how students from all over Southern California put in time and effort to inform one another about Korean history and culture.

Student Reporter

## Behind the Tech: Innovation at LA Abilities Expo



**Helena Lee**  
Grade 8  
Talbert Middle School

The little girl rolls her wheelchair breathlessly to a woman running a booth, and they embrace each other in a tight-squeezing, heart-felt reunion over animated conversations about original technology. The joy radiating from this greeting and many other earnest interactions is infectious at the Los Angeles Abilities Expo. Expositions like these, held by Abilities, are all over the United States, organized and contributed to by hundreds of eager and innovative community members. This year, the three-day Los Angeles Expo was held at the Long Beach Convention Center, with unique solutions, workshops, and experiences for participants to enjoy. These events don't just serve as exposure for products and services; they serve as opportunities for community engagement that create authentic connections.

Booths line the convention hall, each showcasing innovation that expresses the contemporary spirit of creativity shaping the latest technology. At one particular booth, Omni-Cuff by Reachable Technology utilizes a cuff that goes on the user's hand,



Artist Daniel Grussi combines exhilarating superhero comics with disability representation to create characters that empower and inspire readers. [Source: Author, Helena Lee]

attaching to items such as forks, smartphones, and toothbrushes via magnets for individuals who struggle with grasping. At another booth, an artist named Bailey Hikawa displays her ergonomic phone cases, each product

with strikingly expressive colors and designs. Mattie Martinez, an individual helping the artist run the booth, commends the innovation for being "Something functional that is super cool and unique." These phone cases help people with accessibility issues, such as arthritis or carpal tunnel, to live easier day-to-day lives using a smartphone.

Besides all the fascinating ingenuity presented at the Expo, what continually stands out are the stories behind each interaction, display, and invention. One booth exhibits Courageous Comics by artist Daniel Grussi. Grussi talks about how his own personal story inspired the creation of comics that now inspire individuals with disabilities using representation, "I grew up with a learning disability, a speech impediment, and an anxiety disorder. I loved superhero stories—that's how I found my voice. I said, well why are there

no heroes with people with disabilities? Well then, I'm going to have to make them." Daniel Grussi and his excellently illustrated inclusivity-centered comics aren't the only meaningful stories that bring people to the Abilities Expo. Through technology that allows individuals with disabilities to participate in sports, such as fencing and rock climbing, as well as the development of playgrounds for children with disabilities, there are opportunities for everyone to create lasting memories at the event.

For many attendees, recalling their experience at the Expo doesn't just remind them of cutting-edge automation, but also the memories and interactions that came with it. The Los Angeles Abilities Expo changes perspectives and challenges misconceptions about the disability community. Curiosity and participation aren't quiet; expression isn't limited to advertisement. Paired with hard work and creativity, the overflowing aroma of community announces to the world that the magic behind these events lies not just in the products, but in the people.

Student Reporter

## Gangnam Youth Center Kicks Off "Star: Teen"



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Grade 10  
Seoul International School

From March 28th to March 29th, Gangnam's Youth Center in Seoul, South Korea, held an overnight event to welcome members from their various youth programs. The event "STAR: TEEN" brought students together to interact, have fun, and officially declare the beginning of the youth programs for 2026.

The Gangnam Youth Center offers programs such as cooking and sports for students of all ages, where they are able to engage in fun activities of their interests. Additionally, the center also provides policy monitoring programs around the youth center and the Gangnam district itself, providing opportunities for students to represent the center and Gangnam. New programs such as digital art were also introduced this year, bringing a more variety of students to participate. Students who were accepted into these programs in late February of this year were able to celebrate, come together, and interact through STAR: TEEN as an official beginning activity. Although the Gangnam Youth Center hosted such programs for over a decade, STAR: TEEN was a brand-new event that was developed this year. This marks the first time



The orientation for STAR: TEEN is about to begin! A fun-filled evening was in the works, and everyone was excited for it to begin. [Source: Author, Soomin Ryu]

the youth center has ever held an overnight event for students to interact, and it was extremely successful.

The main purpose of STAR: TEEN was to remove tension between students who joined the program and provide everyone with a chance to get to know each other better through fun activities

that were provided. From playing games to participating in recreational activities, STAR: TEEN brought the representatives of Gangnam's youth center closer. As a member of the Youth Participation Committee, the program in charge of monitoring Gangnam district's policies, and a participant of STAR: TEEN, I had so much fun first-handly experiencing the

joy and excitement that filled the center all throughout the event.

The first event on the schedule was the orientation, where introductions to each program were presented, along with a brief overview of the entire schedule. Students were also given the chance to compete against other programs through games such as relay races and other sports activities. From singing and dancing to brain-teasers, students further engaged with each other by playing amusing games and activities during recreational activity periods. Everyone was given the option to either stay for one day or sleep overnight at the center, and those who decided to sleep over experienced the late-night joys of laughter and interactions. Poster designing and art activities the next morning marked the end of STAR: TEEN, where students said goodbye after a successful event.

This event opened up Gangnam's new youth programs, and despite it being the first time an overnight event was hosted, it was a huge success that brought all the students so much closer. It undeniably brings the tension for what comes next for these programs.