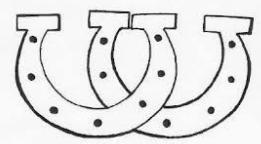




The Woodrow Wilson High School
HITCHING POST
 March 17, 2023



LAUSD HACKED!!

500GB of Stolen Data Released on Dark Web



Photo by Elizabeth Moreno

By Xochi Ortega

On September 3, 2022, the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) network database was hacked by a ransomware gang called Vice Society, who claimed responsibility for the cyberattack. The group accessed approximately 500 gigabytes of LAUSD's data, then later published sensitive information onto the dark web when LAUSD denied the group's ransom demand. [CONTINUES, A7]

Mules Football Team Plays Championships



Photo via Bridget Quinones

Exclusive Interview with Varsity Captain!

See: Sports, D1

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Mr. Halle's Journalism Class

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From The Leadership Team:

“For those who weren’t even aware of The Hitching Post and are reading an edition for the first time, I hope you find the variety of selections informative and interesting. Having the opportunity to read this wouldn’t have been possible if it weren’t for the committed staff and producer who put effort into this paper. Each article is a representation of the team’s determination, as we wish to provide information that is accurate. Make sure to alert students and staff about what’s occurring in their community and worldwide, as news holds transformative power!”

-Elizabeth Araw, Copy Editor

From The Producer:

“Whether you’re a long-time fan or a first-time reader, thank you for opening this new edition of the Woodrow Wilson High School Hitching Post! These articles were written for students, by students, about the topics and trends that these intrepid young journalists felt were the most important for YOU to know about. Putting this newspaper together has been a long labor of love for us all, so please take your time and enjoy!”

-Mr. Halle, Journalism Teacher

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INFLATION BATTERS NATION

Why Is Everything Suddenly More Expensive?

By Genevieve Meza

The COVID-19 pandemic is finally gone. Staying inside all day, virtual work, and online school days seem so long ago, now. However, just because things are getting “back to normal,” does not mean that all the effects of the pandemic have left. Ever since the “COVID era” ended, a major issue has been rocking the Wilson community as well as the entire country: inflation.

During the pandemic, many people lost their jobs and stopped spending money, since everyone was quarantined at home. The United States tried to get the economy moving again by giving out “stimulus checks,” which were essentially like free money. These payments helped people survive the pandemic, but an unintended consequence is that there is now too much money in circulation, so the value of a dollar has gone way down. In an attempt to correct this, the Federal Reserve has increased the interest rate to borrow money so that people will stop spending so much. However, this has not had much effect in most markets, since people are so eager to enjoy their new-found freedom that they have been going on spending frenzies, with massive amounts of products being bought. All of these factors have resulted in high inflation for our country. Now, places like markets, merchandise stores, and even house prices are through the roof and do not seem to be coming down anytime soon.

Trader Joe's is one of the many companies that has been hit with high prices. One Trader Joe's market in Eagle Rock has been raising their prices slowly since February 2022, trying to keep up with the economy.

“We've raised the prices of really loved Trader Joe's items for our customers and it's [sad] to see our customers not buying as much anymore,” Eagle Rock store manager David said. He went on to talk about how inflation has made the store see less people. “Because of inflation, we have to raise our prices and keep our prices up as long as inflation is up... We see less customers as well,” he claims.

Another reason why prices have been so high post-COVID is because with everyone buying and buying, companies are running out of material to make their products. One example is the auto industry, where a shortage of microchips has led to a dramatic shortage of new cars. In fact, companies like Toyota and Hyundai currently have waitlists of over a year for some of their models! In order to make up for this, companies must make their prices higher. The balance between supply and demand is off and so long as it cannot be reconciled, companies must make their goods more costly.

Prices on meats, dairy items, and other produce have been hit especially hard by inflation. At Trader Joe's, meat patties are almost seven dollars, while rib-eye steaks are about nineteen dollars! Prices like these have made some customers try to find a cheaper alternative than spending about \$100 for just a few items.

Manager David reflected that Black Friday would not be as crazy as previous Black Fridays for Trader Joe's or any store. “The prices will go down to little below the regular prices they used to be before inflation hit at any store really,” he predicted. “Prices for a shirt, for example, may go down a little lower than its original price by maybe five dollars. A shirt that was \$14 may rise to \$19, then go back to \$12 or \$10, for example. It's prices like these that really make people not want to spend as much as they used to.”

“Seeing supermarkets that used to be filled with customers shrinking day by day because of price raising is a shocker to many people,” Manager David said, sighing. As the manager he looks over the store and makes sure everything is running smoothly, but has little control over the prices set by corporate headquarters.

The future of inflation is unknown, but many stores and people, including many in the Wilson High School community, hope to see prices go down as soon as possible.



Photo: BusinessInsider.com

HARVARD UNIVERSITY SUED FOR DISCRIMINATION

Future of Affirmative Action At Stake in Historic Lawsuit



Photo: DiverseEducation.com



Photo: NewYorker.com

By Siannah Gomez

Last October, the prestigious Harvard University was forced to defend itself in a lawsuit before the United States Supreme Court. It was alleged that the university discriminated against Asian-American students by evaluating specific character attributes according to arbitrary criteria. According to court documents filed, Harvard University has a pattern of giving Asian-American candidates lower ratings on personality attributes, including "likability." The documents were submitted as part of a well-known litigation in which Harvard was charged with discriminating against Asian-Americans, which has been ongoing since 2014. The plaintiffs in the case were the "Students for Fair Admissions," an organization connected to Edward Blum, a contentious conservative who opposes affirmative action.

Asian-Americans outperformed other racial groups in terms of test scores, according to a Students for Fair Admissions survey of over 160,000 applicants who sought Harvard admission over six cycles from 2000 to 2015, but did less well in terms of personality assessments. When it came to qualities like "likeability," "compassion," and "positive personality," Harvard regularly gave Asian-American applicants lower ratings than other races. The plaintiffs stated in court records that there is "no defense for this, and Harvard cannot give a single exculpatory reason that a rational factfinder might accept." They went on to proclaim that Harvard applicants who identify as Asian-American are equally "helpful," "courageous," and "friendly" as white applicants.

"The racism and stereotypes that Harvard used to justify placing quotas on Jewish applicants in the 1920s and 1930s are still present today," says a Wilson High School student. Although Harvard rejects the vast majority of undergraduate applicants, the rejection rate for Asian-Americans is disproportionately high, so the Students for Fair Admissions describe their legal action as an effort to defend the rights of Asian-American applicants to Harvard. However, the effects of this lawsuit may stretch far beyond Harvard and just those of Asian origin. When the Supreme Court finally returns its decision, it may affect the entire practice of affirmative action in the United States!

Nobody disputes the fact that race is a factor in Harvard's admissions selection. A remarkable African-American or Latin-American student is more likely to be accepted than an equally exceptional White or Asian-American student, despite the fact that Harvard only accepts a minuscule proportion of its applicants (in 2019, it received 35,000 applications for only 1,600 spots in its freshman class). However, the case raises important issues regarding what it means to live in a pluralistic society and what function elite institutions should serve in promoting such a society. Future presidents, judges, CEOs, and scholars will probably be less Black and less Latin without affirmative action. Furthermore, if affirmative action is abolished, the men and women who do graduate from elite institutions are likely to do so in more sheltered environments and with a lower chance of thriving in a diverse society. [CONTINUES, A6]

QUEEN ELIZABETH II IS DEAD

Prince Charles Assumes The Throne



Photo: NationalReview.com

By Kathleen Valdez

LONDON - Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, better known as Queen Elizabeth II, died at the age of 96 on September 8, 2022, ending her 70-year reign over the British Empire. She peacefully passed at the Balmoral Castle in Scotland, the large estate residence of the British Royal Family. Her declining physical health and old age were the assumed cause of her death, as stated in her death certificate published by the National Record of Scotland. Following the queen's death, the eldest among her 4 children, Prince Charles of Wales, immediately took over the throne. Under old succession laws, the heir to the throne is usually the first-born son of the monarch. On September 10, 2022, an official proclamation took place announcing Prince Charles III as King Charles III, though his coronation ceremony will not take place until next May.

Less than 2 weeks later, the funeral for the Queen took place on September 19, 2022, at Westminster Abbey. Thousands attended and flooded the surrounding streets of the Abbey to mourn the queen. Her coffin was escorted by the Royal Guard through the streets of London, where thousands of citizens gathered to watch the procession. The Queen was entombed within a vault with the rest of her deceased loved ones at the King George VI Memorial Chapel at Windsor Castle.

Elizabeth Windsor was born on April 26, 1926 in London, England to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth I. She ascended to the throne on February 6, 1952, after her father, King George VI, passed away from lung cancer. On June 2, 1953, her formal coronation took place, after which she forever became known as Queen Elizabeth II. At the early age of 25, she assumed the royal throne and served from 1952 to 2022 as the monarch of the United Kingdom. She is the longest reigning monarch in British history, having served her country for 70 years.

On social media, many spoke out in support, to give condolences, and to commend the queen for her impact. Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon tweeted via Twitter, "her life was one of extraordinary dedication and service. On behalf of the people of Scotland, I convey my deepest condolences to The King and the Royal Family."

Contrarily, many took this substantial event as an opportunity to speak out against the harmful impact and history of the British monarchy. Famous author Amina Akhtar tweeted via Twitter, "if you're upset that people from colonized countries -- whose families were impacted directly by the British monarch -- aren't being 'respectful,' maybe just stop and read why people hate them. This wasn't stuff that happened a long time ago. My parents were born under colonial rule."

The Queen's passing has created many changes within the Royal family and it has prompted many different opinions worldwide, both good and bad. The public has yet to see what other changes and plans are in store for the United Kingdom in the future.

AVIAN FLU INFECTS FARMS

New Pandemic Threatens North American Birds



Photo: Popsugar.com

By Mario Gonzalez

An outbreak of Avian Influenza (also known as “Bird Flu”) has made its way into U.S. Poultry Farms. Now, many farmers are at risk of getting their turkey, chicken, and other birds infected and later culled (killed in the most humane way). This virus managed to survive the summer heat, which is the season when most influenza viruses die due to heat. Now that winter has come, Bird Flu is having a major spike.

Back on February 9th, 2022, a new viral strain of “Bird Flu” infected a commercial turkey flock in Indiana, resulting in 29,000 of the turkeys being humanely culled in order to prevent any further spread. Then, after the turkeys were killed, a second flock of 26,473 were infected, leading to those turkeys being killed, as well. It is important to note that while Avian Influenza does infect birds, it does not affect all types of birds equally.

So far, about 52 million birds have been infected by the Avian Flu in 46 states, surpassing the Avian Flu outbreak of 2015, which only had 21 states and neared 50.5 million birds. In the current pandemic, over 200 or more farms have reported being infected by Avian Flu throughout Canada and over 382 farms have been infected.

Often Bird Flu originates in waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans) and then spreads into domestic poultry such as turkeys and chicken. Markets are also a major risk of spreading this disease, selling eggs and birds that originate from crowded and unsanitary conditions. Undercooked meat or eggs can transmit the disease into your body, so to avoid this, cook the meat or eggs at 165°F in your oven.

How can this affect you, your friends, and your family members? This Bird Flu pandemic could possibly lead to human infection by this new outbreak of the virus. The symptoms of Avian Flu are muscle aches, headache, and shortness of breath. Similarly to the COVID-19 virus that struck the world in 2020, you can also experience pneumonia, pink eye, kidney dysfunction, and heart problems due to the Bird Flu virus.

To protect yourself and lower your risk of catching Avian Flu, a vaccine is available to provide an immune response. Also, avoid touching your mouth, nose, or eyes after contact with birds until you have sanitized your hands or washed with soap and water. Following the same protocols as how you avoid seasonal influenza and COVID-19 will also work to protect you from the Bird Flu.

Harvard Fights Discrimination Lawsuit

[From “HARVARD,” A4] Harvard's response to these allegations is to defend its admissions procedures, claiming that Harvard College does not discriminate against applicants from any group. The administrators of Harvard will continue to zealously defend not only Harvard but other colleges' and universities' right to pursue the educational advantages of a diverse class, including its capacity for academic excellence and its ability to foster a campus community that allows each student the chance to learn from peers with a wide range of academic interests, perspectives, and talents. Harvard claims that the lawsuit against them would limit students' opportunities to study and live in a varied campus community if it were to be successful, depriving them of the kinds of encounters that are essential to Harvard's educational purpose and necessary for success in our diverse society. Harvard University prevailed in federal trial courts, and a federal appeals court upheld the university's victory. Now, the entire country is waiting to see what the Supreme Court's final decision will be.

LAUSD REELS FROM CYBER ATTACK



Photo: Skillcast.com

[From “HACK,” A1] The Russian-speaking hacking organization is believed to have used internal login credentials that were leaked on the dark web prior to the attack to access LAUSD’s Virtual Private Network (VPN). Access to a VPN creates gateways to sensitive network regions where a software program by hackers can be installed to infiltrate the network. Vice Society encrypted the breached network so that it could only be accessed with an encryption key, which they then offered to LAUSD for an undisclosed amount of money.

In a press conference, the superintendent of LAUSD, Alberto Carvalho, gave details on the attack. He optimistically highlighted that the hackers released only a relatively tiny portion of data, 500 gigabytes, out of the 16 million gigabytes of data the district’s system stores. He also said that the most damage was caused to the Facilities Services Division, which is responsible for maintenance and construction, as well as the system that archived data about students and their classes. This archival system did have social security numbers, names, and addresses of LAUSD students and staff.

That same day, Carvalho confirmed the LAUSD’s data release through a tweet, writing “...data was recently released by a criminal organization. In partnership with law enforcement, our experts are analyzing the full extent of the data release.” In an LA Times article, Carvalho said, “even though there is a lot of information, very little of it is absolutely critical or confidential,” which he attributed to the fast response of the district to shut down the network soon after the breach.

The days immediately following the data breach were unlike anything most LAUSD employees or students had ever experienced. In order to mitigate the hack, the entire LAUSD computer network was locked down, which meant no Wi-Fi on campus, and even if community members could find their way online, there was no access to critical sites like Schoology. Teachers had to find a way to conduct lessons using totally physical methods—essentially the exact opposite of the leap to full-digital school that had occurred during the pandemic. This was extremely frustrating for most, though some teachers did seem to enjoy a brief return to “simpler times.” Of course, everyone was still highly anxious about what was to become of the stolen data. One law enforcement source for NBC Los Angeles cautioned that the leaked data also includes “...confidential psychological assessments of students, contracts and legal documents, business records, and numerous database entries.”

Although it is not clear which groups of people were victimized by the attack, taking steps to protect against identity theft for those whose information was in the LAUSD system definitely would not hurt. Keeping a watchful eye on emails, changing passwords, and checking your credit score are all ways to guard against identity theft. LAUSD also created a hotline number, 855-926-1129, which is answered from 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on weekdays, where parents, staff, students, and contractors can call for any concerns or questions about the attack.

Local News

TEACHER UNION TENSIONS RISING

Faculty Protests Outside Wilson High School



By Elizabeth Araw

On the morning of October 19th, 2022, Woodrow Wilson High School students getting dropped off were greeted with teachers protesting outside on Multnomah Street. Teachers were seen wearing red as a representation of fighting for the public education they believe students deserve. As they stood united, they walked back and forth holding signs and megaphones. One of the signs read "Smaller Class Sizes," which is just one out of many demands they have for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Protesting is one of the best tools teachers can utilize to bring awareness and see that change is created. [CONTINUES, B3]

GAS PRICES SORE

Local Families Struggle to Cope



By Giselle Stacy Cruz

Gas prices in the U.S. have been going up little by little for years, but in February of 2022, there was a massive increase that shocked everyone. The event most responsible for these prices was Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which caused economic crashes around the world. The price of a gallon of gas in California is now above five dollars! These rising increments have affected the lives of people in many ways.

The members of the Wilson High School community are worried about whether they will be able to afford the cost of gas. Alicia, the mother of a Wilson High School student, expressed how she feels about the gas prices going up. "Since the prices are getting higher, [she] has to work overtime to be able to... [CONTINUES, B2]

Tragic Shooting at Lincoln Heights Fair

Two Teenage Lives Lost

By Mark Roberts

On Sunday, September 11, 2022, at the Lincoln Heights Fair, two teenagers were shot dead during an altercation. Javier Mejia and Winfield Lee were victims of the shooting at the Lincoln Heights Annual Fair.

The shooting apparently occurred after a brawl at an ARCO gas station about an hour earlier. Police believed it was gang related. Louise, a local resident who attended the fair said, "I heard the shots go off close to me and I felt adrenaline rush. All I was focused on [was] to get my friends out of there." Angel, another fair attendee, mentioned a fight earlier in the night prior to the shooting. "You could already tell the atmosphere was very heavy. There's a lot of violence going on, there was a fight earlier," he said, adding that he recalled hearing at least five shots. Additional details about what led up to the shooting are not available.

The beloved carnival was organized by the neighborhood Boys & Girls Club. This was the sixth year for the weekend family festival. The street was packed with families enjoying the rides, games, and food. Then the shooting happened.

"I think it's a real setback for the community because people really enjoyed having a way to bring their families out, their children, have something fun, special without worrying about this kind of thing happening," said Carlyn Oropeza with the Boys and Girls Club.

Police say they have spoken with witnesses, but so far, they do not have a suspect in custody. They are hopeful that surveillance footage and tips from the public will help them find the person responsible.

As the investigation continues, friends of the victims dropped off candles Monday morning at a growing memorial on the sidewalk nearby. Lincoln Heights police asked residents to keep a look out for the suspect in order to help bring justice for the two young souls that were lost.

Pump Prices Pressure Wilson Community

[From "GAS," B1] ...afford the [price of] gas," reported her daughter, who went on to explain how she is struggling and that she thinks that she "will not be able to do it, because she has [kids] to feed at home." As a result of the gas prices, Alicia's family no longer uses the car. Instead, they use the bus, walk, or call somebody so they can give them a ride. A prediction that another community member shared is that they do not believe that gas will ever go lower and that they eventually will need to get another job so they can be able to afford gas, with the last option being that they will never use their car again.

When Russia invaded Ukraine, gas prices started to go up because the war affected the industrial production and farming of the oil. Not only did the Russian invasion affect the price of gas, but the price of crude oil itself, because prices were already going up before Russia's invasion. Before February 2022, the price of crude oil was below \$80 per barrel and after January 7th it drifted above \$90, reaching over \$130 when the invasion happened, but what is becoming more expensive is the transportation and farming of the oil.

Currently, the lowest gas in the United States can be found in Arkansas and Alabama where it is about \$3 dollars or lower per gallon. Unfortunately, here in Los Angeles, customers will have to adjust to paying \$5 or more for the foreseeable future.



Photo: LATimes.com

Teacher Union Makes Demands To District

Both Sides Hope to Avert Strike



[From “UNION,” B1] “This is just one action that we’re taking to raise awareness, to build support with our community, with our families,” explained William Chavez, the Chapter Chair at Wilson High School, adding, “the district needs to fund every school properly.”

A “Chapter Chair” is a representative at the school for the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) labor union, who has responsibilities such as organizing union events and informing teachers about union business. The Chapter Chair also gets to be part of the local leadership council where the “big decisions” get made for the union. This allows them to be the voice that advocates on behalf of the teachers at their school. Chavez further explained the reason why UTLA continues to strive so hard to improve schools. He emphasized that when the teachers are negotiating, “if you look at everything we [teachers] are bargaining for, it’s for our communities, our families, and our students.”

One of the biggest demands of the union right now is having there be a lower “student-to-teacher ratio.” This would allow teachers to have the time to offer and provide their students with more individual interactions. This would greatly benefit students as they are better able to ask for clarification or concerns about the material being taught. Other major issues include a teacher pay increase, more funding for classroom supplies, and the addition of more support personnel at the school, such as counselors, nurses, and student aides.

Currently, there are ongoing negotiations with the district. In order for these negotiations to go in favor of the union, more pressure needs to be put on the district. It is the hope of many that this pressure will be a factor in serving the teachers the respect that has been long overdue and improving the quality of education for everyone at Wilson.



Arts & Entertainment

THE FALL OF KANYE WEST

Career in Tailspin Following Series of Controversies



Photo: FashionMagazine.com

By Nicholas Flores

Famous rapper and celebrity Kanye West (also known as “Yeezus” or “Ye”) was involved in some controversial events recently that have caused him to lose many fans. Some of these now-infamous moments include anti-Semitic remarks about Jewish people and racist remarks against African-American people. Many believe that West has been on a downhill spiral with numerous controversial comments, offensive pieces of clothing, issues surrounding his ex-wife, and overall troubling behavior that is tarnishing his reputation. [CONTINUES, C2]



Photo: Express.net

ELON MUSK BUYS TWITTER

By Jesus Sanchez

After many months on end, Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla and Space X, purchased the social media giant Twitter on the 26th of October, 2022. Musk bought the company for \$44 billion dollars and marched into Twitter global headquarters in San Francisco, California carrying a large porcelain sink so that he could say in his first Tweet as CEO, “let that sink in!”

Elon Musk stated that the reason he purchased this social media site was to “help humanity” and also claimed he did not do it for money. He put out a statement on his own Twitter page saying he did not do it to boost his ego. However, many suspect that the “real” reason Musk bought Twitter was so that he would not lose the lawsuit against him. Musk initially agreed to buy Twitter last April, but when he tried to back out of the deal it hurt Twitter’s stock... [CONTINUES, C3]

How Low Will Kanye Go?

Wilson Students Weigh Question of “Art vs. Artist”



Photo: Dailymail.co.uk

[From “WEST,” C1] Many believe that West’s downward spiral has been happening for years, but it is only recently that he has hit rock bottom. West sparked some controversy by declaring himself a Donald Trump supporter in the election of 2016 and began wearing a red “Make America Great Again” cap to events. He further alienated his core fanbase a couple years later when he appeared to defend American slavery by insinuating that it was the slaves’ “choice” to remain in bondage for 400 years.

West’s gradual decline slipped into a full free-fall last October when he proudly wore a “White Lives Matter” t-shirt to his performance at Paris Fashion Week. Shortly after, West began to attack Jews and Judaism on Twitter, writing that he was going to “go def con 3 on the Jewish People.” Rather than apologize for his comments, West seemed to double-down when he literally said “I do love Hitler” and “I don’t like the word ‘evil’ next to Nazis” on a radio show with right-wing conspiracy theorist, Alex Jones

In the wake of these controversies, West lost many of his greatest supporters and sponsors, including Adidas, the company that used to produce his extremely popular “Yeezy” shoe brand. On top of that, his wife, Kim Kardashian, divorced him for “irreconcilable differences” last November. As a result of all these losses, West’s total net worth has dropped from \$1.8 billion to about \$400 million.

A Woodrow Wilson High School student had something to say about all of these issues with Kanye West, stating, “I think Kanye has made some controversial comments, but I still think he’s the reigning music creator and what he says should be taken with a grain of salt because of his mental issues.” This student continued to explain that while he would choose to continue listening to West’s music, he would no longer be supporting Kanye West himself because of his actions. This student brings up the idea of “separating the art from the artist,” which is something everyone who has ever enjoyed Kanye West’s music has had to grapple with, recently. This concept asks the question: to what extent can someone’s art still be enjoyed when that person has done something wrong? This particular Wilson student is able to see Kanye West’s music and Kanye West the person as two separate things, so they are able to hold two contrary opinions at the same time. However, not everybody feels this way. There have been some big disputes among West’s fans recently between those who choose to still support him and those who are against him.

How did West let these controversies spiral out of control? The Wilson student mentioned earlier explained that it might be because of his mental health issues. Kanye West has been very outspoken about how he has stopped taking medication because he believes he was “misdiagnosed” with bipolar disorder. Another theory for West’s behavior is about his car accident in 2017. Many fans have speculated that ever since that accident his mental health began to decline, which could be the cause of the recent downward spiral of his career.

Regardless of the reason behind his actions or whatever excuses people can create, every fan must now reconcile their own feelings towards this self-proclaimed “God of Rap.”

TWITTER TAKEOVER!

Big Changes and Controversies Under New CEO, Elon Musk



Photo: LiveMint.com

[From “MUSK,” C1] ...so badly that the company sued him, and since there was virtually no way he could win that lawsuit, he had no choice but to complete the deal.

Once Musk became the owner of Twitter, he immediately transformed it from a public to a private company, which means there is no Twitter stock anymore. Now, one of the most powerful platforms on the internet, a site that many influencers use as their main source of income and a tool that many politicians use to communicate with their constituents and influence elections, rests solely in the hands of just one man.

Musk generated a lot of controversy in his first few weeks of CEO, such as by firing most of the top executives at Twitter. When sources asked Musk to comment, he had “no comment.” Musk then went on to lay-off hundreds of workers with little warning. As a result, some Twitter employees criticized him for what he did, and shortly after Musk apologized via Twitter.

Despite claiming to restore “freedom of speech” to Twitter, Musk has turned out to be a pretty sensitive CEO. Big Tech reporter Gergely Orosz said that Twitter employees should watch what they say about Elon Musk, because they could be the ones who get fired. He discovered that about ten Twitter employees who “made sassy or critical remarks about Twitter’s current leadership on a Twitter internal Slack channel [had] been terminated overnight.” Musk has also banned many journalists from Twitter for making critical comments about him and his decisions.

Another decision Musk made as CEO that many consider to be a huge mistake was allowing people to buy a “blue checkmark” next to their profile name for only eight dollars a month. The “blue checkmark” used to be a symbol that someone’s account had been “verified” by Twitter, meaning that that person or company was who they said they were. In the weeks after Twitter let just anyone buy their “verification,” hundreds of fake accounts popped up, causing great confusion and conflicts. One such scandal occurred when a fake account pretending to be the big pharmacy company Eli Lilly tweeted that it was giving away “free insulin,” which caused the real company’s stock to immediately drop by over 4%- about a \$15 billion loss!

Twitter continues to be a major force in American culture and around the globe. With nearly 400 million daily users, it is a vehicle for celebrities, politicians, and just ordinary people to communicate and share their thoughts. For many it is their entire livelihood and even the government uses it to share critical information. With such an important part of America’s cultural backbone now in the hands of just one man who has made some dubious decisions so far, many are now feeling very nervous about the future of Twitter.



Elon Musk 
@elonmusk

Entering Twitter HQ – let that sink in!

Sports

MIGHTY MULES PLAY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Photo via Bridget Quinones

By Bridget Quinones

On November 25, 2022, the Wilson High School Varsity Football Team played in the championship game of the LA City Division III Tournament. After a hard-fought season, the "Mighty Mules" went head-to-head against the Crenshaw High School Cougars. The Mules played a fair and hardworking game, but unfortunately the overall score ended in 49-14, having the Wilson Football Team place second in the championship game.

Concluding the 2022-2023 football season for Wilson High School, it is important to take a moment to recap this year's season. New challenges definitely arose this year for the football team and its three captains, Alexander J. (senior), Alexander G. (senior), and Anthony H. (junior). Each captain has led their team well as the season has come to an end.

When the "Mighty Mules" made playoffs last Fall, the first round pitted them against San Fernando High School, with an overall final score of 18-12. Their winning streak did not end there, as the Mighty Mules went up against Jordan High School, ending that game with the score of 35-18. For the Semi-Finals, the team traveled to Chatsworth High School, where they ended their game with the winning score of 28-27, earning them a spot in the championship game.

The Mighty Mules were overjoyed with their season and had everyone cheering them on through the semi-finals and finals, regardless of the outcome. Their stellar performance this season brought great pride to their school and community. [CONTINUES, D2]

Mules Varsity Captain Praises Stellar Season



Photo: @whs_lausd

[From “FOOTBALL,” D1] As the sun set on this glorious season, I got the chance to sit down and interview captain Alexander J. about the team and the season overall:

Hitching Post (HP): “As one of the Captains, this season was full of ups and downs... Could you describe to me what you feel was the strongest element to bring to every game when it came to the field for your team and yourself?”

Alexander J: “Like you said, it was a bumpy season with a lot of ups and downs. Every game we just needed to have the right mindset and all have the common goal, which was for all of us to do our part individually in order to get the team win. Me, as a captain, it was just making sure the team felt comfortable in different positions and scenarios.”

HP: “With the amount of wins, there were unfortunately a few losses- how were you able to keep your team motivated after a loss?”

Alexander J: “Here in football, we have a saying that nothing is always perfect and neither was our record. We did unfortunately have our losses, but after every loss it just motivates us as a team to work harder the following week at practice. For me, it was just texting the team after a game telling them to keep their heads up, shout out all the guys that had a really good game even if the score was not in our favor. Most important, I would text our quarterback, Dario P., after every game, who is a first-year player. Making sure he is good and letting him know, ‘Hey leave this game in the past, and onto the next.’”

HP: “If you were able to give advice to someone who wants to join the Wilson football team later on in the future, what advice would you give them to go for that opportunity?”

Alexander J: “Doesn’t matter how big, fast, or talented you are. Every day just come in ready to work and give it your all. As for the team, it is a great experience to have in high school. You will create and be a part of a brotherhood which is Wilson Football. You will make memories that you will carry on even after your time at Wilson.”

HP: “How would you describe your experience being on the Wilson Football Team as you come to the end of your senior year?”

Alexander J: “One of the greatest experiences of my life. I made a lot of memories as a football player and also created a bunch of friendships with people I now consider brothers to me. Considering that this was my last year, my last ride, it was one last ride that I would not trade for any other. Now, all I can do is look forward into my future and [to] coming back to support Wilson Football as a proud alumni.”