



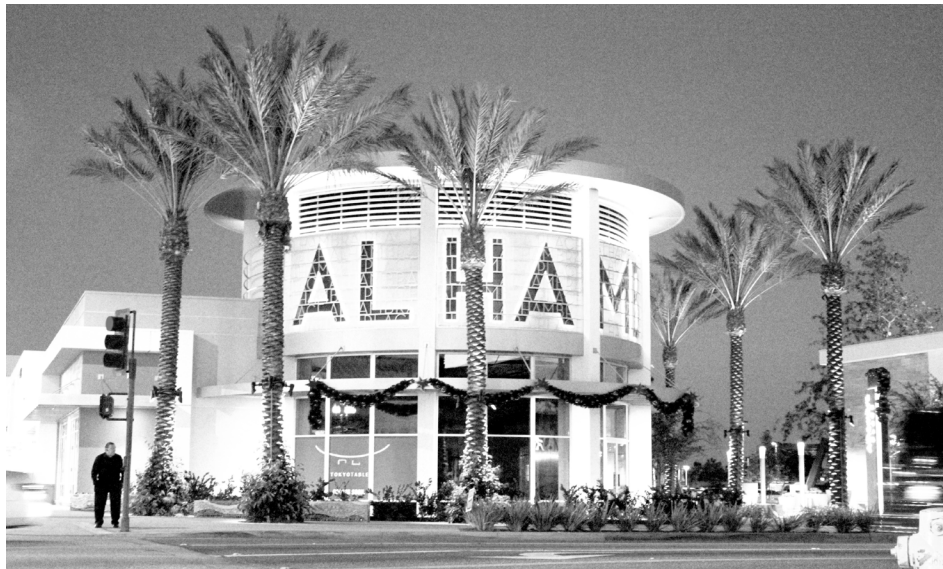
Business Additions to Main Street Welcome Alhambrans

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Staff Writer

For the past year, Alhambra residents and students have awaited the opening of Alhambra Place. What used to be Mervyn's and Cha for Tea has now been replaced by two fast food restaurants, Blaze Pizza and The Habit Burger Grill and a clothing store called Burlington Coat Factory. Since then, Alhambra has been identified as the "Most Business Friendly City in the LA County," according to the San Gabriel Valley Tribune.

"High school students like to eat all kinds of food. Now that the plaza is open, it will attract a lot of people from other cities which will make Main Street very popular and more money spent around Alhambra," freshman Tristan Phan said.

Sprouts Farmers Market, an organic grocery store, as well as other businesses including Maido Stationery and Clear Sight Optometry, are set to open in Alhambra Place next year or later this year, according to Alhambra Chamber of Commerce.



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA
A NEW BEGINNING At the heart of city, Alhambra Place is located on the corner of Main and Garfield where new businesses are set to emerge.

"Alhambra [Place] is beneficial for Main Street because it [offers] students a bigger

variety of food and [another place where] students are able to hang out after school.

[Also], the reasonably sized snacks [allow students to get] something to eat before going back to school for practice or rehearsals," junior Alex Illingworth said.

Shea Properties, a diversified real estate company, purchased the 10.6 acres of land. The company is also building a four-story residential complex with apartment homes while offering its own clubhouse, gym, pool and spa as part of the plaza. According to the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, many efforts were put into enhancing Alhambra's population in the years before which had caused more population in the city, this redevelopment of the Alhambra Place has brought more diversity on Main Street.

"The plaza will [definitely] add on to the wide array of restaurant choices; however, there aren't as many restaurants [offered] in the plaza. [This] wouldn't have much of an impact on the selections of places for extracurricular fundraisers although I do see it as a benefit to our city as it revives the spirit," senior Rachel Lee said.

CalState LA Receives One of Highest Employment Rates

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With the recovering economy, various students are left to wonder whether attaining a college degree is worth it. According to U.S. News, because of low employment rates, college students have to consider how their student debt will add up to the likelihood of them getting a job.

According to the Patch, a social media network offered to specific communities, of Agoura Hills, California, nonprofit Educate to Career Inc. (ETC) has recently released the rankings of nearly 1,200 universities and colleges. These rankings pertained to employment outcomes in relation to the total cost of higher education. Ranking first is the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Private institutions such as Occidental College, ranked 492, and Claremont McKenna College, ranked 259, were included in the list. Public universities also made the list, with UC Irvine and UC Los Angeles ranking second and 10th respectively; Cal State Los Angeles placed 17th.

In compiling the list, ETC considered

qualities such as the percentage of graduates employed in occupations that matched their field of study, the average salary earned by recent graduates, and the percentage of people employed within one year of graduation. ETC also considered the number of years it takes to graduate, the net cost of in-state tuition, and loan default rates.

"I would consider going to [universities and colleges] even if they aren't popular or well known because of the opportunities that they have. I think it is important for a school to help me get a job in the future," freshman Joe Chen said.

For some students, the list is encouraging them to reconsider the types of schools they will want to attend after high school. With ever-increasing tuition rates and expenses, students are contemplating whether it is worth it to attend a big name school with a high tuition as opposed to a cheaper alternative such as a CSU.

"I definitely would attend a [lesser-known] college. To me, education serves the purpose of future success. College is only a ladder to the top. It doesn't matter what ladder you use, as long as you can get to the top, college would be a small factor in life," senior Zi Feng Zeng said.

AHS Earns Silver Medal for College Readiness

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Alhambra High School is currently ranked by the U.S. News and World Report at No. 1,207 out of the nation's 19,753 public high schools. AHS also was named a silver medal school, meaning that it meets the U.S. News criteria in aspects including college readiness in the form of students taking and passing Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes and exams. AHS was named a silver medal high school because it offers AP classes, which students take and pass.

Schools in the evaluation were scored in

three different areas: overall student performance on state tests, disadvantaged students' performance on state tests compared to the state average, and performance on college-level AP or IB exams.

AHS has a current College Readiness Index (CRI) of 35.7, above the national CRI median of 19.42. This year, a school's CRI was rated based on the number of 12th graders from the 2012 to 2013 school year who took at least one AP or IB test before or during their senior year divided by the number of seniors and how well the students performed on the tests.

"I see that the school is doing more college-related activities such as having workshops for college applications, [which is helpful]," sophomore Lynn Zhang said.

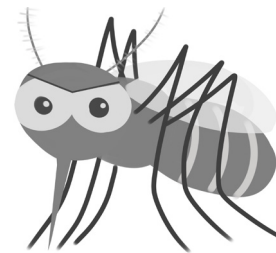
Meddlesome Mosquitoes in LA Area

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Recently, California health officials have announced that they have found unusually aggressive and extremely hostile mosquitoes in southern California, more specifically the Los Angeles and Orange counties.

According to the Los Angeles Times, the arrival of these invasive mosquitoes have been discovered to be carrying infectious and potentially fatal diseases.

Because of California's severe drought, these mosquitoes have been rapidly spreading across Southern California and have the potential to transfer deadly diseases such as chikungunya, dengue and yellow fever. Although there have been no cases reporting the transmittal of these lethal diseases, health officials fear it will be only a matter of time before these viruses will



begin to spread, according to LA Times.

"[Although] these mosquitoes may not be a serious issue right now, we need to start being more cautious and aware of our surroundings," senior Cally Duong said.

The aggressive mosquitoes include the Asian tiger mosquito and the yellow fever

mosquito, which have black-and-white stripes and cannot be easily swatted away. These mosquitoes can even bite during the day unlike the more common mosquito species seen in California. According to the California Department of Public Health, it is highly advised for people to wear mosquito

repellent as well as long-sleeved shirts and pants when outside. According to LA Times, these mosquitoes also readily enter buildings, so it is extremely suggested for people to refrain from opening windows.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

New York City to Administer SAT for Free

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The New York City School District announced last month that starting with the 2016-17 school year, 11th graders attending public school will be allowed to take the SAT for free. Along with this, the exam will also be administered during the week rather than on the traditional Saturday. This breakthrough for NYC can have the potential to spark interest from other states, which could possibly make future SAT tests free in California as well.

According to the International Business Times, more than 2 million people take the SAT each year, with a great number of test-takers submitting their scores along with their college applications. Only 56 percent of the NYC class of 2015 took the SAT at least once, according to the NYC Education Department.

NYC aims to raise the number of students who take the exam and encourage them to apply for college. By eliminating the time and money barrier from

students and the SAT, the NYC school district seeks to make taking the college entrance exam more routine; with all students taking it at least once their junior year, according to the New York Times.

Although NYC high schools will not see the effects of these changes until early 2017, it will cost NYC \$1.8 million annually. However, New York is not the first to make recent changes to their test taking routine. NYC trails behind South Carolina, Wisconsin, Kentucky and Connecticut who have all made changes to their test requirements; all of them trying to limit the amount of tests students take. Due to all these recent changes, who is to say California will not change theirs as well. In light of recent changes such as California eliminating the CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam), a free SAT may not be far.

"I think it's good that New York has decided to make the SAT free for high school students. [I'm] also really hoping that California does the same, because not everyone can afford to pay for the exam," sophomore Audrey Ma said.