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Fake University by ICE

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The New York Times reports that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) created a fake university in Michigan in order to make arrests for immigrant violations.

The University of Farmington Hills claimed to be an accredited university specializing in STEM fields. However, it was not actually a real university. It was created by ICE and the Department of Homeland Security. The university offered no classes; it was an undercover operation designed to catch those guilty of fraud.

Foreign students enrolled in the university, even though they apparently knew it was fake, in order to get student visas without having to actually do any school work.

Recruiters for the school were arrested after enrolling more than 600 students in the scheme. "Students" from more than four states, including California, have been arrested.

"It seems to be a nationwide ICE action as we speak," Atlanta-based immigration lawyer Ravi Mannam said.

Mannam and others have criticized the operation as misleading.

Student Poets Speak Out at Get Lit Poetry Slam

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The Get Lit Classic Slam is an annual poetry competition in which students choose and memorize classic poems and then write their own poems in response. They then recite both poems at a poetry slam. According to their website GetLit.org, the nonprofit's message is to use poetry to increase literacy, empower youth and to inspire communities.

Most Get Lit competitions begin in the classroom. Top poets from each class go on to perform at a school competition where the poetry team is formed. That team goes on to perform at a district competition and then in downtown L.A.

AHS English teachers Kristen Keenan, Nicole Hamilton and Lori Naylor have their students participate in Get Lit every year. Keenan, the Alhambra Moors Poetry Society (AMPS) adviser, picks the members for the Alhambra team. She encourages people to get more involved in literature.

"I mainly do Get Lit for the students; it gives kids connections to people who work in the film industry and allows them

a chance to get scholarships," Keenan said.

Alhambra was one of the first schools to participate in the Get Lit Competition, having continued for eight years. Keenan explained that the classroom participation has several benefits for the students.

"Creating a poem provides an inter-

esting, challenging curriculum; when students create their poem it creates a really close environment," Keenan said.

AMPS meets every Tuesday in C124 where they recite poems and

prepare to speak on stage. They are coached by former club members along with the help of senior members.

This year's Get Lit School Slam took place on Feb. 20 in the little theater. Out of about a dozen students who performed, the winner was sophomore Chinatsu Uyemura from Hamilton's class. She performed the classic poem "Bullet Points" by Jericho Brown and her own response poem titled "Guns and Letters." Second place also went to a student in Hamilton's class, sophomore Sabrina Tang. She performed the poem "Mountain Dew Commercial Disguised as a Love Poem" by Matthew Olzmann and "The Morning" a response poem she wrote herself.

"[The Competition] was stressful at first, but it became enjoyable when we arrived at the competition and experienced it firsthand," AMPS President Daniel Flores said.

Get Lit was founded in 2006 has now expanded to over 100 schools throughout California.



SLAM Junior Daniel Flores performs the poem "Guidebook to Nowhere" by Jeffery Daniels

More Nurses Needed

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According to Los Angeles News, nurse practitioners across California need to gain more authority and more opportunities to study their field in order to avoid a predicted healthcare crisis in the state. Due to Gov. Gavin Newsom wanting to expand healthcare to lower-income and immigrant communities, a report by the California Future Health Workforce Commission established a \$3 billion plan. Currently, however, one-third of the nurses and doctors are nearing retirement age. An Emerging California Health Leaders Scholarship program is willing to pay the full tuition for 3,810 low income students and first generation students who are willing to enroll in the health field. While this is an incredible opportunity for some, others view the deal as unfair.

"I think this scholarship is not the best since all students would want their tuition to be paid full," Rosie Guerra said. "It would only be applied to students in the health field."

The California Medical Association (CMA) is against the proposal that would allow nurses to work independently. California is one of the 28 states that requires nurses to work under a doctor's supervision. The CMA also recommends that the state hire healthcare workers from diverse communities.

Those students who participate in the program will be committed to working at an underserved community for three years.

Gavin Newsom Aims to Take Action on Gun Control

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Gavin Newsom, California's new governor, began tightening gun control regulations in his first term. In his first state budget plan, released a few days after his inauguration in January, Newsom suggested to fund an extra \$5.6 million for gun seizures from people with criminal records or mental illnesses, which is 50 percent more than former governor Jerry Brown proposed to pay in his budget. Underfunding in the gun seizure program in the past has resulted in firearms being purchased by 10,000 people, who later got diagnosed with a mental illness. Newsom proposed to redirect money to the California Department of Justice Bureau of Firearms and the Firearms Violence Research Center at University of California, Davis.

"We have expanded Democratic majority in both houses," state Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel said. "We have a bright and ambitious new gov-

ernor with a real track record on this issue who wants to make this a priority."

Newsom's campaign for gun control may also alter statewide school security. In 2016, Governor Brown vetoed an expansion of the 'red flag' law that would have allowed non-relatives, such as education employees and mental health professionals, to suggest confiscation of one's firearms if the suspect is considered to be violent or suicidal. Nikola Cruz, the young man accused in the 2018 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, had a history of mental health issues and access to weapons, like the assault rifle he used to kill 17 individuals.

"Parkland would never have happened if Florida had a red flag law," Linda Beigel Schulman, the mother of the late M.S.D. teacher and coach Scott Beigel, said.

In California alone, 189 gun violence restraining orders were granted - 177 of which were filed by law enforcement of-

ficers - in 2016 and 2017, according to the San Francisco Chronicle. Many citizens had no knowledge of this red flag law, and gun control activists hope that this expansion of the law will be granted under Newsom. However, critics of his changes claim that he is merely garnering support for the proposals he advertises on his campaign. For example, gun rights activists justified Brown's veto of the red flag law by saying it denied gun owners their right to own a firearm under the Second Amendment.

"Gavin Newsom has demonstrated he has little to no understanding of firearms and firearms policy," Craig DeLuz, a representative of the Firearms Policy Coalition, said. "For him this is a [public relations] issue, meaning he will probably sign whatever is in front of him."

While Gavin Newsom is quickly becoming a favorite of gun safety activists and an enemy of gun rights campaigners, his policy changes have the potential to change student safety.

Southern California Experiences Severe Weather

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Recently in Southern California it has been pouring rain for weeks, leading to some flooding from the blocking of storm drains.

"The weather in California has been very surprising, with the rain and the cold weather we are experiencing," senior Violet Estrada said. "This could be because of climate change and could have consequences on the Earth."

The flooding is mainly due to litter and debris thrown or washed up into

storm drains. Some of the debris even travels down into the ocean unfiltered.

The environmental damage that is caused by the debris can cause harm to animals and the ecosystem. Some of it sinks into the water, leading to poor quality water and making ocean water harder to clean. Other forms of debris float on the surface causing more damage.

Due to this, several beaches advise for people not to swim or stay in the water due to pollution.

Marine life can also be harmed as some animals may

eat it and choke or even to die.

There are volunteer groups that try to prevent or clean up the damage, but because there is extensive waste, more cleanup work is needed.

Save Our Beach is one such group which wants to come up with a long term plan to help stop the pollution.

The tax parcel has to pay roughly about \$300 million a year to help fund projects to collect and clean the water.

The stormwater also affects businesses, as they have around a month to prepare for stormwater regulations.

IN OTHER NEWS

- Massive Spill at German Chocolate Factory-
- Thief Steals a Shark and Puts it in Stroller-
- Gold Hunter Trapped in Mine-
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- Food Museum Displays Sheep Eyeball Juice-
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