

# Totan Echo

STUDENT PUBLICATION OF GRAND TERRACE HIGH SCHOOL



*Thank you Coach!*



Cover Design by Dashawn "Dax" Williams, who spent many hours speaking with Coach Strauss at study hall.

Mr. Strauss

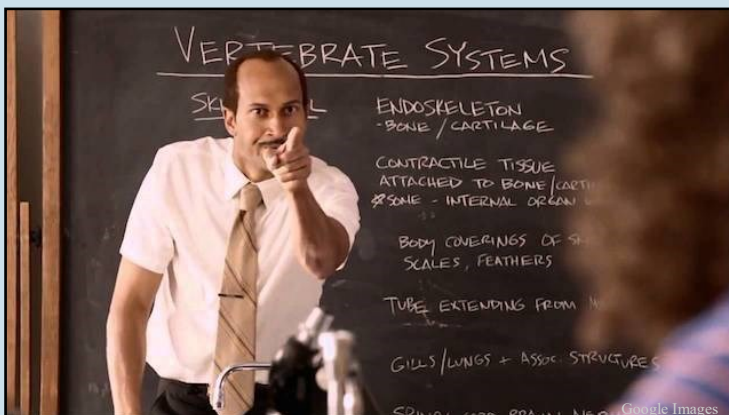
# Level of Leeway Given to Substitutes is Unclear: Makes Class Tense

By Sakinah Storks (2020), Editor-in-Chief

Every student knows that, apart from the general school or district rules, every teacher has their own standards and preferences that create a unique environment in their classroom. This is best described as an unspoken rhythm in which the classroom just works. This rhythm is expected. The teacher-student relationship, whether its fun or rigid is formed and students tune their behavior in accordance to this pace. However, this pace can be severely disrupted when substitute teachers take over, making the class as edgy as the first day of school.

In anticipation of being absent, most teachers leave their temporary replacements with instructions (lesson plans) so as to keep the students on schedule. I am not sure what the exact policy is, but; it seems that is up to the discretion of a substitute teacher to decide whether to execute the lesson plans to the best of their ability, or to disregard the instructions and run the class as if it were their own.

Unfortunately, when the teacher's sub plans are taken as a mere suggestion, one of two things can happen: the students may act in a way that is far more disorderly than they would if their teacher were there, or the substitute may abuse their power and be harder on the kids than the teacher would. As a result, a student's day could become riddled with uncertainty and maybe even anxiety. One question that seems to always be on the minds of students is are substitute teachers allowed to punish students for not following *their* rules? It remains unclear.



Students are not informed of the level of authority given to their substitutes and perhaps they should be.

This situation became my reality one day. I was doing a project in class which required me to leave class. I advised the substitute and she said nothing to stop me. I did what I needed to do and got back to class promptly. Out of nowhere, she started being very rude to me, telling me that I needed to sit down and be quiet, that I wasn't allowed to go anywhere, and that I couldn't be trusted. I kept my composure but I was genuinely bothered.

Let me be clear. I am not placing culpability. It would be unfair to expect substitute teachers to seamlessly fit in with a classroom without holding students accountable for their actions. It can be hard for substitutes to get control of a rowdy class if students do not put in the effort to be patient and respectful. After all, even students take more than one day to get used to the groove of a class. How can we expect a substitute to do so on the first try? The most we can expect is an attempt to understand the way the class works. In addition, our teachers are just people. They have lives outside of work, and sometimes life has to come before work. We can not expect teachers to have 100 percent perfect attendance. Nevertheless, it would be a lot easier for students if teachers and their substitutes were on the same page.

## AGREE or DISAGREE?

Respond in a letter to the editor and get your voice in the next edition of the Titan Echo!

Email all submissions to victor\_morales@cjusd.net

THE TITAN ECHO *Established in 2012*

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Please submit all letters to victor\_morales@cjusd.net.



7:14 a.m.— Students hang out, waiting for the first bell.

*Photo by Amy Bartels*

# California Passes LATER START LAW; Potentially Affects Freshman and Beyond

By Amy Bartels (2020), Campus Writer

Emily Wallace (2020) says she gets about four to six hours of sleep. She doesn't sleep very long because she has to work, help with the family, and do homework. If she were to start school later, she said "I would be more motivated and ready to get my day going."

The senior will never get that luxury, but the Class of 2023 might as California Governor Gavin Newsom signed a law Oct. 13 that mandates most high schools in the state start at 8:30 a.m. or later. Schools have until July 1, 2022, to put the new start time into effect. That means that seniors, juniors, and sophomores will not benefit from the law, but; freshman may be the first to enjoy the later start time. The class of 2023 may have an 8:30 start time or later for their senior year. So, that's something freshmen can brag about.

"I feel relieved that we will have later start times. I can get more sleep and I am fine with staying after school later," said freshman **Aaliyah Barrios**. The new law can be a good or bad thing, however. It may be good because students may be able to get more sleep. That is the belief. But, common sense tells us that with a later start time comes a later bed time. You do the math.

Research done by doctors shows teenagers sleep patterns supports a later start time. The National Sleep Foundation reported a study conducted by Dr. Mary A. Carskadon of Brown University. In the study she found that teens have a later "circadian rhythm timing, based on melatonin secretions in saliva samples." Melatonin is a hormone that regulates the sleep. The research shows that melatonin secretion happens at a later time in teenagers as they mature. This then makes it strenuous for teenagers to go to sleep earlier. Melatonin secretion also makes it arduous to get up early in the morning because it turns off later. In short they have more melatonin at 7:19 a.m.. (our start time) than they need.

Not all freshman feel the same way. "I feel starting early and getting out later is a bad thing. It's going to be hot during most of the day and I like the cold in the morning. I will also have less time in the afternoon for free time and I won't get home until very late," says **Eleazar Arreguin** (2023).

## Short, Red, or Blonde: Students Ride Popular Hair Trends

**By Amy Bartels (2020), Campus Writer**

There is a growing pattern of students cutting and or dyeing their hair in various styles, depending on what is trending and what looks are in style.

Hair dye first made it into the market back in 1947 and has since blown up to become a multi-billion dollar industry. Some students are influenced to switch it up by celebrities who have decided to sport a new look. Some decide to cut and or dye their hair in a moment of spontaneity. Others plan it out and prepare for the big change. After all, it can be very dramatic.

The trend seems to be extra popular amongst seniors. It might just be a classic case of wanting to conclude their high school career with something that differs from past years.

One of the trends that is making a comeback from early as the 1920's is the short style haircut known as the "bob."

One senior, **Jessica Thunquest** cut her hair short over the summer. Thunquest said, "I chose to cut my hair because it's something new. I have never had short hair so I wanted to try it. I was planning on doing it for about a year. I also donated it to 'Hair We Share' so I really enjoyed that." Jessica shows that some students prefer to plan out their new hair styles, even for as long as a year.

Another popular trend on campus is dyeing hair bright and

vibrant colors. One senior who chose to dye their hair (which she



has been keeping short since eighth grade) is **Emma Glaze** (2020). "I had actually been wanting to dye my hair for like all of high school, but after being told 'no' by my parents so many times, I put it in the back of my mind. By the time they were finally okay with it, it felt more like a spontaneous decision," Emma said.

In addition to the trends of hair dyeing and cutting, is dyeing your hair to create highlights. The kinds of highlights that are seen today date back to the early 1900's. The trend hasn't lost its spark yet. It is very common to see students with highlights, whether they be subtle or dramatic. When asked about her decision to get highlights, **Daniela Hernandez** (2020) said, "Throughout junior year I didn't feel good about myself and just the thought of dyeing my hair instantly raised my self esteem. I definitely prepared myself for it since it was such a big change for me, so it was really a mental preparation for me." Hernandez made the change in her hair to feel better about herself, which is a perfectly valid reason to make a change.

*Photos by Amy Bartels*



# TBaseball Loses Founding Coach

By Jaycee Valadez (2020), Sports Editor

TITAN TOWN- GTHS Baseball Team said goodbye to Mr. **Michael Reh**, the school's very first coach dating back from the opening year of the school in 2012.

"He taught us more than just baseball. He taught us life lessons that I will always live by," said senior **Sal Gonzalez**.

Reh's work did not go unnoticed by his players. They said they noticed him putting work off the field, like maintaining the baseball diamond. He mowed the grass himself. Coach Reh is also Mr. Reh to his students in the Special Education Department.

It is unclear his reasons for leaving. He declined to comment on his departure.

Recently **Jesse Holguin** has been named the new head coach. His late hire means that the baseball team may be required to work harder.



Sal Gonzalez

## MONEY *An Inside Look of the Growing Sneaker Resale Biz*

By Anthony Cervantez (2021), Style Writer

The sneaker resale business is projected to become a 6 billion dollar business globally by 2025, said Cowen & Co. Cowen & Co. says "From increasingly casual offices to the streets of major cities across America, rare and high-quality sneakers have more cachet today than ever before."

The growth is seen mainly in Europe, China, and North America where sneaker culture is thriving. Rare sneakers and limited releases play a big part in the resale business. Sneaker resale not only helps sites like Stock X and GOAT but it brings communities together. People from all over go to events for shoes.

The sneaker resale business standpoint is supply and demand, industry leaders say. Those words are the key of an ever growing industry that brings tons of revenue. Many retailers have one common goal, money. The money to buy shoes that are seen as the "Holy Grail" of shoes and re-sell it for three to five times the price. Or one can get a full size sweep of a singular shoe. Some people choose to sell in person whereas, others like to do the online selling.

A perfect example of one who is driven by both business and passion is high school student, Benjamin Kapelushnik aka "The Sneaker Don." His love for sneakers came with the release of the "Big Bang" edition of the Nike LeBron 9. He is estimated to have made \$1-million in sneaker sales.

His goals for his branding is to eventually open physical store locations for his shoe re-selling business. He has collaborated with top tier celebrities and artists with the latest sneakers, such as Chris Brown, Drake, DJ Khaled, and P Diddy.



High school student, Benjamin Kapelushnik aka "The Sneaker Don," has sold \$1-million in resold sneakers.

Google Images

## GT TO PLAY IN THE ARROWHEAD CONFERENCE :



**TITAN TOWN-** Grand Terrace sports are gearing up to say our last goodbyes to the Sunkist League and that means teams such as Kaiser, Bloomington, Fontana, Summit, and cross-town rival Colton. GT will be part of the new conference, the Arrowhead Conference, starting next fall. This will consist of 13 teams and two divisions.

The move was challenged by some schools. GT Athletic Director **Tiffany Gordon** said, "This was not the choice that I picked but majority rules." Although this wasn't the choice that all schools agreed on, it is still something to look forward to in the future that the athletic teams will no longer play the same teams every year. A significant change is that GT may not be playing cross town rival, Colton High every year.

Grand Terrace will be in Division I of the Arrowhead Conference while Colton will be in Division II. It appears now that the only way GT will play Colton is in the conference playoffs or preseason.

This upsets some parents and others involved with the change. The last time the Colton Yellowjackets played the Grand Terrace Titans was on Oct. 25 and the Titans defeated the Yellowjackets 37-14. This will go down in history as the last regular game between the two. So, that October victory was more significant than previously thought.

"I feel better now. Everybody said we didn't do that good this year but at least we beat Colton and that's all that mattered. But in the end it was still an honor to play against them," said senior **Thomas Gale**.

The Arrowhead Conference teams are Arroyo Valley, Bloomington, Carter, Colton, Eisenhower, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Jurupa Hills, Kaiser, Rialto, Rim of the World, San Geronio, and finally Summit High School. The conference will also rearrange the teams every two years depending on their win-loss records in order to make games more competitive. Some athletes vary in opinions about this topic. "It would be challenging but who doesn't love a good challenge," said Junior **David Gusta**.

# HOW IT WILL CHANGE THE BIG RIVAL COLTON GAME

*Story by Jaycee Valadez*



## OVERALL RECORD VS. COLTON HIGH SCHOOL 5-3

<b>Date/Coach</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Grand Terrace</b>	<b>Colton</b>
<b>10/12/2012 / Strauss</b>	<b>48-18</b>	<b>(L)</b>	<b>(W)</b>
<b>10/25/2013/ Strauss</b>	<b>28-6</b>	<b>(L)</b>	<b>(W)</b>
<b>10/30/2014/ Smalls</b>	<b>40-28</b>	<b>(L)</b>	<b>(W)</b>
<b>11/6/2015/ Smalls</b>	<b>34-13</b>	<b>(W)</b>	<b>(L)</b>
<b>10/7/2016/ Smalls</b>	<b>54-7</b>	<b>(W)</b>	<b>(L)</b>
<b>10/13/2017/ Smalls</b>	<b>58-6</b>	<b>(W)</b>	<b>(L)</b>
<b>10/12/2018/ Smalls</b>	<b>34-20</b>	<b>(W)</b>	<b>(L)</b>
<b>10/25/2019/ Smalls</b>	<b>37-14</b>	<b>(W)</b>	<b>(L)</b>

Source: MaxPreps

# SELF-DEFENSE, SPORT COMBAT FIGHTING: *WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?*

By Mia Rose Segura (2020), MMA WRITER

*Mia is a blue belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and trains in Muay Thai*

There are many mixed martial artists that specifically train to compete in sport competitions. Many, however, train in various disciplines solely to defend themselves.

Combat sport fighting and self-defense are completely different attitudes. They both serve different purposes and while they may look similar there are stark differences between the two. Sport fighting has rules. There are weight classes in combat sports and an expected amount of discipline and regimen. Sport fighters train, eat, and sleep like athletes.

Self-defense techniques focus on situational awareness and recognizing potentially dangerous situations and avoiding them before they escalate. Kempo and Self-defense instructor Charlie Lee from Rancho Cucamonga says, "the art of self-defense is focused on your mental state or awareness." The classes mainly teach on developing solid awareness skills, following your intuition, and making yourself undesirable as a target or how to be a "hard target."

Combative self defense is an intense and technical hunt for survival. In a martial arts "fight" or "sparring match" you could lose. Your mind and body are at risk of terrible harm or death.

In combat sports your training partners and your opponents are all going to be live figures. They will resist and make you work for position, and usually your opponent is an experienced fighter that knows what's going on, or they have an idea of what is about to come next. In combat sports there are rules. Grand Terrace High School Senior, **Corey Young**, says that he would rather "train in combat because it prepares you for more situations."

In a practical sense, the difference lies in the goals of the participants. In a combat fight, the goal is usually to defeat the other person, and continue until one person wins or the other gives up or cannot continue. In self-defense, the goal is to stop the conflict. Self-defense relies a lot on your common sense and ability to adapt to the situation. Drilling self-defense techniques will certainly be better than nothing and it's possible with enough experience and training one can pull them off without having used such techniques in sparring. For anyone starting in a martial arts discipline, they may see both types at any martial arts dojo.



Jujitsu professor Javier Vasquez (Left) with student at Gracie Jiu Jitsu in Rancho Cucamonga. Photo by Mia Rose Segura



# Drake Gets Booed Off Stage

By Eric Bustamante (2021), A&E Writer

**LOS ANGELES** — At one of Tyler The Creator's annual Flog Gnaw concert in Los Angeles, Tyler brought surprise guest Drake on stage. But, fans were not happy. As soon as the Canadian rapper appeared he was met with loud boos and the fans screamed they wanted Frank Ocean.

Drake responded saying, "I'm here for you tonight if you want me to stop I'll stop," a YouTube video showed. The fans continued to chant "Frank." Drake ended his set early and thanked the fans.

The incident happened after the lineup included a mystery performer. Fans believed it would be Frank Ocean. Ocean recently released a couple of singles, DHL and In my Room. The fans believed the releases was a sign that he would perform because Ocean is known to release songs then later perform them, but this wasn't the case this time.

Tyler was not happy with the reception, tweeting, "I THOUGHT BRINGING ONE OF THE BIGGEST ARTIST ON THE PLANET TO A MUSIC FESTIVAL WAS FIRE! BUT FLIPSIDE, A LIL TONE DEAF KNOWING THE SPECIFIC CROWD IT DREW.SOME CREATED A NARRATIVE IN THEIR HEAD ACTED OUT WHEN IT DIDN'T COME TRUE." He also wrote on his Tweeter bio, "ashamed of my fans."

Other rap personalities spoke out. J.I.D tweeted, "I thought we collectively loved Drake, wat y'all doing?" Drake got the last word, tweeting, "Plot twist ...just signed a 10 year residency at Camp Flog Gnaw sorry kids see you EVERY SINGLE YEAR till you are 30."



Drake at the Flog Gnaw.

Courtesy of the Los Angeles Times

## HAS KANYE FALLEN OFF?

By Eric Bustamante (2021), A&E Writer

Kanye West is a well known artist for his many hits, his bold and eccentric personality, fashion and his family life with Kim Kardashian. He is loved by hundreds of thousands of fans. He has 29.5 million Twitter followers. However, in recent years he's been somewhat questionable since announcing a gospel album called "Jesus is King."

Many fans were unsure if he would really release the album since he announced an album called "Yandhi" to be released in 2018, but it has never been released. Kanye said "Jesus is King" would release on Sep.27 2019 at midnight. But most were confused why it is a gospel album. The artist had recently converted to Christianity and has been performing impromptu performances called Sunday Service where he would do shows and perform songs and make beats for the people.

Kanye's wife Kim Kardashian-West announced the track list for the album along with the name of the album to her Twitter followers. But when the release day came, there was no album. In addition to the album coming out so would a short film by Kanye with the same name as the album. The film is directed by Nick Knight and will feature clips of Kanye's Sunday Service.

The album was released on October 2019 with the featured movie. All the songs on the album made the Billboard 100 for that week following the release.

Still, the album and film left some fans confused about the religious theme. "Yeah Kanye fell off. It wasn't good compared to 2018. All the good albums like "Kids See Ghost." ...but this wasn't so good , but it was funny maybe he's a new man," said **Nick Lozano** (2021).

## FOREVER 21 CLOSES ITS DOORS AMID ARIANA GRANDE LAWSUIT

By Candace Wyatt (2021), Staff Writer

Many of you might shop at Forever 21, and would say it's your favorite place to get your t-shirts, pants, and accessories. Well that all may change now. Forever 21 planned on filing bankruptcy on Sept. 20, according to Fox News.

Signs of their decline is apparent at the Inland Center Mall in San Bernardino.

Recently the store had a huge online shopping sale from 60-70% off throughout the whole store. The reason for going out of business points to a celebrity.

According to CBS News popstar Ariana Grande plans to sue the clothing retail Forever 21 for hiring a look alike model to demo their new seasonal trend. Grande claims Forever 21 stole ideas off of her big hit music video, "7 rings."

Grande is looking to sue for about \$10 million. Recently, however, she has put a pause on the case to give the retailer a chance to offer a settlement, according to the New York Times.

Forever 21 is a very popular store for teenagers and adults. The company has more than 800 stores in 57 countries. More stores have been opened in the year of 2016. Over the years Forever 21 has tried to come up with their own new trends. But recently people criticized the company for some of their concepts. Not too long ago Forever 21 had a trend that was based on the chip brand "Hot Cheetos." This made everyone confused and surprised. A lot of people have complained about their clothes not being "buyable."



The Forever 21 at the Inland Center Mall in San Bernardino is synonymous with the city's skyline. It is most likely to close. Courtesy of Flickr.com



Did Forever 21 try to make buyers believe that Ariana Grande (left) endorsed their brand by hiring look-a-like models?

Google Images

"I don't really care to be honest. A lot of their clothes are ugly, but I do like their pants," said Annabelle Flores (2021). Another student said "I'm a little upset they're filing for bankruptcy because they have cute and affordable clothes," said Alyssa Umphress (2020).

The store is known to have varieties of sizes, including plus sizes, and clothes for all ages. Of course their clothes are made for both genders and have affordable ranges. They are also known for being affordable. Forever 21 has a \$10 and under section located in their stores. Prices tend to range from under \$10 and some vary in a higher price sometimes.

"I do feel like the clothes are affordable because they have sections where you can find clothing in your price range and they're cool designs," said Gianni Peña (2021).

## How The Brand Blvck Paris Came To Be

By Anthony Cervantez (2021), Style Writer

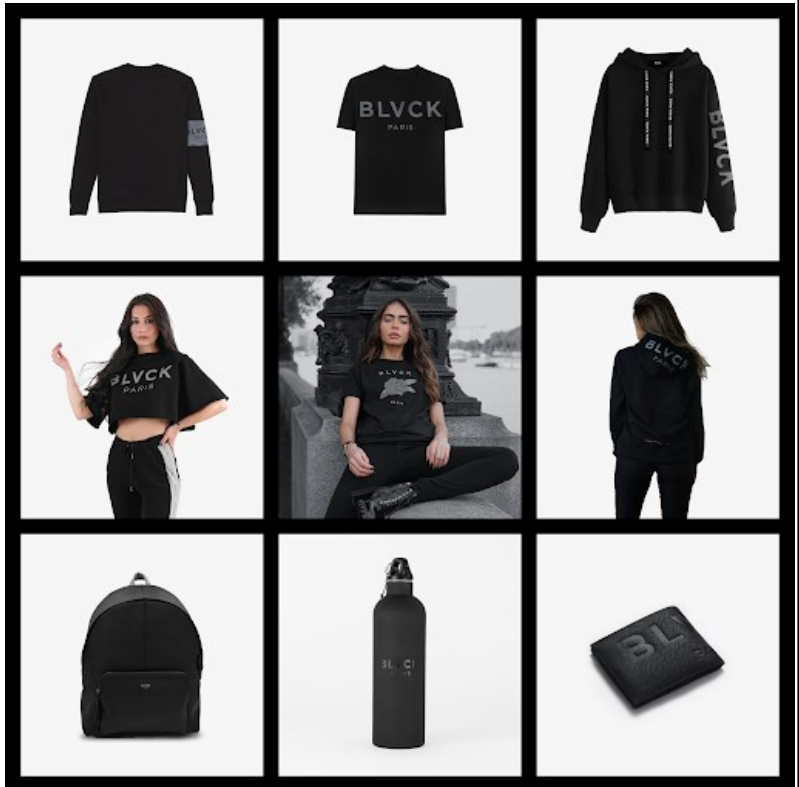
Founded by Julian O’Hayon and Thomas Johnston in 2017, Blvck Paris is a luxury brand that produces all types of goods from Photography, clothing, accessories, and leather goods for both men and women. The brand is known for its “All Black lifestyle” which provides a slick but minimalistic look. They describe their brand as “a ‘culture shift’ to live life on your own terms free from vanity.” They provide high quality and new designs because “traditional fashion has become obsolete.” As Blvck Paris says, “It’s time to Blvckout your life.”

Both of the creators started business when they were little. O’Hayon was only thirteen when he started working for clients. He was a skilled piano player and quickly gained a following. By the time he was twenty he had one hundred clients at his agency, Anckor, where he shared his ideas of design and entrepreneurship.

Johnston was fourteen when he began his social media marketing. He started social media marketing after he did a web design job for a client and it inspired him to keep going. Through his quality work and perseverance he attained a reputation and acquired some work for larger brands.

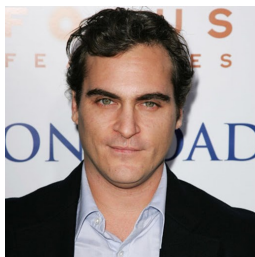
They met through their similar lines of work. They then became friends and started to come up with ideas. O’Hayon then came up with the “Blvckout” project.

The idea of it was to completely black out well known objects and brands such as iPhone cases and even M&M’s. O’Hayon’s goal was to show the minimalist lifestyle of the color black. Their brand was reaching success because they were compatible. O’Hayon overlooks the design, social media, business development, and collaborations and Johnston handles all of the technical work. Still today they are successful with their brand with about half a million followers on Instagram and tons of sales of their clothing and goods.



## How did Joaquin Phoenix become The Joker?

By Candace Wyatt (2021), A&E writer



Many people heard about the hit movie, “The Joker,” starring Joaquin Phoenix. The movie is directed by Todd Philips, and he focuses the movie based on acts of real life violence, and brutal nihilism. The Joker himself has an ego of a lonely damaged man eking out an abject living as a clown. The Joker is also a failed comedian who tries to seek connection with himself and the city he lives in. With a painted face as a clown he is isolated, bullied, and disregarded by society.

The Joker is played by Phoenix. “I had a lot of mixed feelings knowing I was going to be playing such a messed up person,” Phoenix said to the media in sit-down interviews with him and Philips. One of the most insightful questions asked was, “How did you perfect The Joker?” Phoenix talks about how he wanted to feel just like the joker, going on extreme diets to be skinny. He lost 52 pounds. It took months of studying the condition of PTSD and a laughing condition called the Pseudobulbar affect.

Grand Terrace High School acting teacher, Mrs. **Kimberly Guadagnoli** said it takes most actors months to study their roles and if their character is based off a real person or cartoon, they must study their backgrounds. Things such as how they presented themselves, their daily routines, their conditions, and basically their whole life routine. Most of the actors can never fully catch on to their personalities. So, The Joker was a very difficult movie for Phoenix to master, he said.



# Americans Spend a Trillion Dollars on Christmas

*By Amy Bartels (2020), Campus Writer*

During the holidays, loads of gifts are given to our loved ones. Presents can be fun and exciting to give and receive. There are so many different options of what you can get for your friends and family. There are also all the fun and festive decorations to hang around your home. There's the tree with the ornaments, the wreath, table decor and so many more. Another way to spend money during the holidays is through food and drinks. You might have to get a turkey, eggnog, potatoes and all the other things that you make for a holiday feast. With all these different items, there comes some pretty big price tags. So how much does holiday spending really cost?

In the U.S., the total amount spent on holiday-related items, from food to decorations to presents is more than 720 billion dollars, according to the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

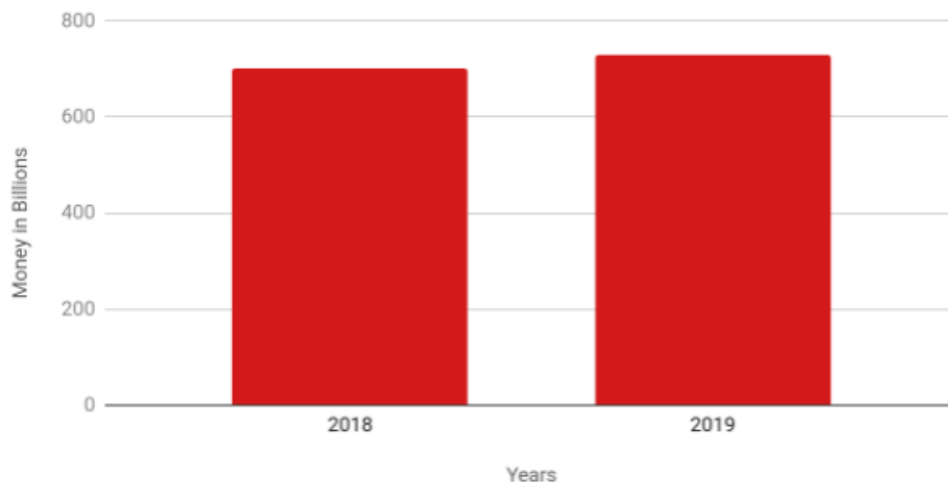
Statista reports that in 2019 Americans spent 729.3 billion in retail alone, an increase of 23 billion.

So how much did Americans spend this year for the Holiday season? Well according to the finance news website "Fortunly," Americans were projected to spend more than 1 trillion dollars on holiday goodies for friends and family. Included in that trillion dollars, it is an average American expenditure of \$1,536 in gifts and holiday-related items.

**Ms. Jamie Megee**, the school business department chair, said consumers are persuaded by marketing. "There is so much marketing to it. It is mostly fake advertisement too. For example they show cars driving on the beach. When are you really going to drive on the beach? It's just for show to make the car seem more appealing."

**Christmas Retail Sales**

Source: [www.statista.com](http://www.statista.com)



**Graphic by Amy Bartels**