

# TORRANCE NEWS TORCH

*Lighting the Way to Torrance High School Since 1922*

## THS WELCOMES SPRING WITH CHARITABLE SPIRIT

### EARTH DAY REMEMBERED

BY ASHLEY MERCURIO  
*Club Writer*

The 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Earth Day was recognized on April 22. The inculcation of Earth Day was prompted by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson along with environmental activist and national coordinator Dennis Hayes in 1970 after witnessing the effects of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill. Celebrants participate in rallies, conferences, volunteering, and other activities to educate and inspire people to be more aware of the environment.

The legacy of Earth Day has led to the development of the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, in December 1970. This resulted in a variety of legislative efforts, including: the Clean Air Act of 1970, which allowed the EPA to monitor atmospheric emissions and toxic pollutants; the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1970 gave the government more authority over water quality standards and water polluters; and the Endangered Species Act in 1973 protected endangered animals and their habitats.

In 1990, Hayes brought Earth Day to international awareness organizing events in 141 nations to mark the 20th anniversary. Two groups were formed to help

host the events in 1990: the Earth Day 20 Foundation, by Edward Furia, who was the Project Director of Earth Week in 1970; and Earth Day 1990, with Hayes and Nelson chairing both groups.

At the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Hayes included global warming and clean energy into his activism. In 2008, the campaign Call for Climate challenged people to make one million calls to Congress for climate change legislation. A Billion Acts of Green, a project to reach the goal of planting one billion trees, was achieved in 2012. In 2016, the United Nations picked April 22 to bring climate change mitigation and adaptation to the Paris Accord, which was signed by a record 175 world leaders.

With the restrictions of COVID-19 present, the in-person activities for both 2020 and 2021 were cancelled. However, over 100 million people used social media to show their appreciation for the earth and educate others of the pressing issues of the environment. Both years held online livestream events with global speakers, international leaders, and celebrities.



A government initiative that rewards farmers for engaging in sustainable forestry and environmental protection has driven Costa Rica to be recognized as the first tropical country to put an end to and reverse deforestation. Photo courtesy of CNN



Paso Pacifico, a U.S.-based conservation group working in Central America, has developed decoy sea turtle eggs fitted with SIM cards and GPS transmitters in efforts to track stolen eggs and combat trafficking. Photo courtesy of CNN

### NO FOOL LIKE AN OLD FOOL

BY JOSHUA FLORES  
*Staff Writer*

At the beginning of every April, people celebrate April Fool's Day by pranking and teasing their friends and families with innocent tricks, like a whoopee cushion on a chair or a fake spider on the dinner table. This begs the question how the concept of a day filled with jokes and grins come to be celebrated as a holiday.

The exact origins of April Fool's Day are disputed. Some historians, according to history.com, speculate it started in 16th century France as a way to make fun of those who still used the Julian calendar when France officially switched to the Gregorian. Other historians speculate that it originated from the Roman festival for joy, Hilaria, which was celebrated at the end of March.

April Fool's Day began to be popular in the 18th century when it spread throughout Britain. In Scotland, it became a two-day event, with the first day being about people being sent on phony errands and the second day, Tailie Day, being about playing pranks on people, such as putting "kick me" signs on them or by pinning fake tails to their persons.

There have been a plethora of large jokes pulled on April Fool's Day that many people have fallen for. Todd Leopold for sldtoday.com writes about some of the biggest pranks pulled on April 1st. In 1957, the BBC TV show

"Panorama" had a segment dedicated to Swiss spaghetti harvesting and showed a video of people harvesting the pasta from trees.

In 1989, a Seattle comedy show reported the Space Needle had fallen down and showed pictures as proof. But a personal favorite was when in 1996 Taco Bell put out newspaper ads saying they had purchased the Liberty Bell in order to help alleviate the national debt. This of course was a clever prank and instead the fast food chain donated \$50,000 for the bell's care.

Unfortunately, some people may take pranks too far and end up hurting someone in an effort to garner laughs. Just remember that levity is subjective and what you might find funny may not be funny to others. So if you are going to prank someone just remember how you would feel if someone did that to you.

Hopefully your April Fool's was filled with pranks and jokes this year, whether they were played upon you or others considering we need to have some levity in our lives. Sometimes we focus too much on the serious things in life when we need a good laugh to remind ourselves bad things do not last forever.

### THS CELEBRATES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DONATION DRIVE

BY VERONICA GARZA  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Torrance High School's ASB held a hand sanitizer and wipe drive from Monday, April 19 to Friday, April 23 with donation drop-offs scheduled for every school day of that week with the exception of Wednesday, April 21. Students were told to make their donations from 8am to 9am before classes began. Drop-off stations included: the auditorium, student parking lot, Plaza Del Amo entrance, and C-building.

ASB asked that all donations be either 40 count 70% alcohol-based wipes and eight ounce hand sanitizer bottles if possible. In addition to select teachers offering extra credit in exchange for donations, ASB gave out spirit points. An eight ounce bottle of hand sanitizer and 40 count pack of

wipes accounted for one spirit point each. Much like November's canned food drive, students were required to bring a note with their name, grade, the teacher and period they wish to receive extra credit for, and the total number of items in their donation.

In total, an outstanding 2,120 donations were collected, a number well above ASB's established goal. In first place, the juniors were awarded with 698 spirit points. Following them were the sophomores with 634, the freshmen with 346, and the seniors with 316. ASB thanks Tartars for continuing their charitable nature, and looks forward to stocking THS classrooms with donated supplies.



**TACO BELL BUYS THE LIBERTY BELL**  
IN AN EFFORT TO HELP THE NATIONAL DEBT, TACO BELL IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE AGREED TO PURCHASE THE LIBERTY BELL, ONE OF OUR COUNTRY'S MOST HISTORIC TREASURES. IT WILL NOW BE CALLED THE "TACO LIBERTY BELL" AND WILL STILL BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR VIEWING. WHILE SOME MAY FIND THIS CONTROVERSIAL, WE HOPE OUR MOVE WILL PROMPT OTHER CORPORATIONS TO TAKE SIMILAR ACTION TO DO THEIR PART TO RESOLVE THE NATIONAL DEBT.



The above ad appeared in The Philadelphia Inquirer and five other daily newspapers on April 1, 1996, to announce Taco Bell's purchase of the Liberty Bell. Photo courtesy of The Philadelphia Inquirer

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