

# 'DEVIOUS LICKS' STRIKES HHS

## Graffiti, dismantling property among damages

By Ritaja Subrahmanya

Devious licks, the TikTok trend, which has been accredited to encouraging the destruction of school property, has made its way onto the HHS campus, facilities manager Toby Mockler said.

Toilet seats, paper towel rolls and soap dispensers are just a few of the supplies stolen from schools nationwide, according to The Washington Post.

At HHS, the challenge has primarily consisted of graffiti and various damages to the school bathrooms, Mockler said. In the C building girls' bathroom, a sink was tipped over, Dean Maria Trejo said.

Throughout the district, damage has occurred in bathrooms with paper towel dispensers being taken off walls and bathroom partitions being broken, FUHSD director of facilities Erik Walukiewicz said. He said that in all his years with FUHSD, he has never seen a trend as destructive as "devious licks."

Administrators are also worried about the potential dangers of the trend, Trejo said. On Oct. 9, a light post collapsed in the middle of the quad as a result of someone unscrewing the bolts.

"We have to think of the worst case scenario, such as, 'what if

the post had collapsed during brunch or lunch?'" Trejo said. "That's definitely vandalism and we're lucky that when it did collapse, it was after hours, so no one was hurt."

The light post destruction cost \$8,000 to repair, Walukiewicz said. With the increase in supply breakage, schools are experiencing financial and efficiency setbacks, Mockler said.

"By the time you pull the broken paper towel dispenser off, drill for a new one, set and anchor it, it's been an hour," Mockler said. "The time it takes to clean and monetary costs adds up, especially districtwide."

Additionally, the school's initiative to implement menstrual product dispensaries into student restrooms was postponed due to an uptick in vandalism, Mockler said. He said he did not want to invest time installing the dispensers in case of defacement. Principal Greg Giglio said administrators are being extra careful by deciding to install the dispensaries in just two bathrooms to observe student reactions before expanding to all bathrooms.

As a result of vandalism, the facilities team faces obstacles on top of daily tasks, Giglio said.

"We try really hard to keep our school clean and serviceable," Mockler said. "Our motto is that we are here to support students. When vandalism hap-

pens, it's like nobody sees us and students don't see the impact [of their actions]."

Because of the pandemic, the custodial staff already has extra responsibilities to maintain a safe environment, Giglio said.

"My custodial staff is still trying to fix the HVAC filters and make sure they are replaced to keep us safe from COVID-19," Giglio said. "I would rather have them doing that than cleaning up after a stupid prank."

Currently, administrators have identified one student who has participated in the challenge, Trejo said. Due to the property damages being minor, the student was not suspended.

Consequences for other students found participating in the challenge will depend on the severity of the vandalism, Trejo said. Community service, suspension, expulsion, restitution and monetary compensation for the damages are all potential options. Police reports can also be filed for more dangerous actions.

The trend is extremely disrespectful to the school site and staff, Trejo said. Additionally, Walukiewicz said he hopes students will make wise choices that do not lead to the destruction of school property.

"School is where you should feel safe to go into a restroom," Walukiewicz said. "You hope all the restrooms are in working order. For students to be damaging their own school sites is really something we're not proud of."



**TIKTOK TREND TAKEOVER:** Recent vandalism can be attributed to the challenge, facilities director Toby Mockler said.

Photo illustration by Seoyoung Hwang and Mae Richardson