

ORACLE

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AFGHANISTAN: WAS IT TIME TO LEAVE?

After two decades of combat in Afghanistan, Americans have finally evacuated. Was it the right decision?

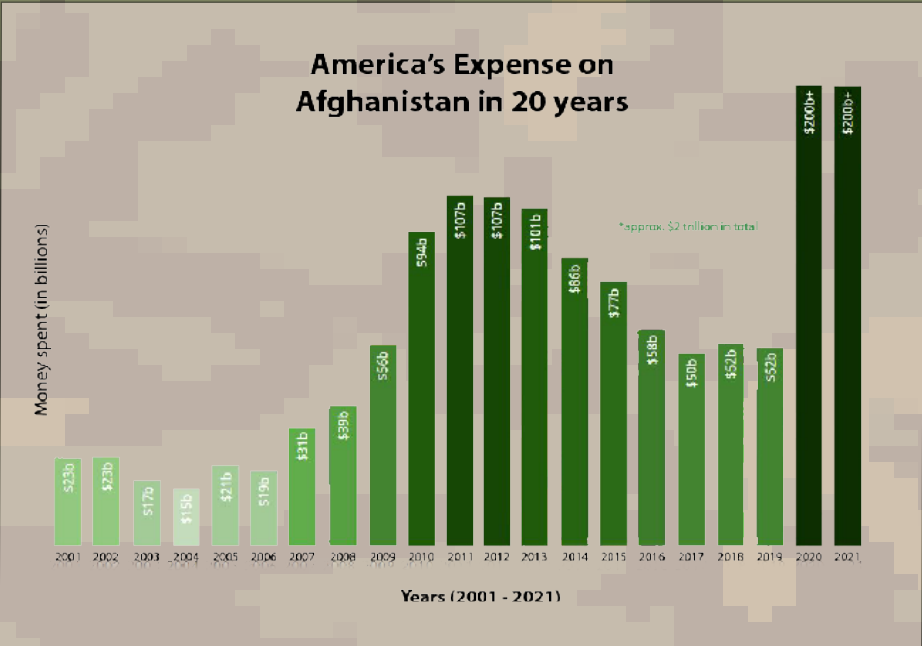
Compiled by Andrew Sung, OPINION EDITOR, article by Audrey Na, STAFF WRITER, graphics by David Lee, GRAPHICS EDITOR, and Daniela Kristen Herrera, GRAPHICS, cartoon by Kaila Perlas, CARTOONIST, photos courtesy of Google

By Audrey Na
STAFF WRITER



Nearing the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, it is right to finally take a step back. Abiding by the Aug. 31 deadline, President Joe Biden finally evacuated American troops out of Afghanistan. When former President George W. Bush sent troops to Afghanistan in 2001, the public stood behind his decision; according to a Gallup poll, 88% of the American public approved military action in Afghanistan, a stark comparison to the 61% who now believe that the Afghanistan war is not worth it. The American public is correct: pursuing an endless war against the Taliban is senseless. When the Taliban rose to power, they imposed a harsh interpretation of Islamic rule on citizens, forcing women to wear burkas, outlawing education for young girls, and implementing cruel punishments. During this time, Osama bin Laden orchestrated the horrific 9/11 attacks, killing 2,996 and wounding over 6,000 U.S. citizens. After this national tragedy, we invaded the country with the intention of eliminating any traces of al-Qaeda, who were hiding in Afghanistan with Taliban aid, and finding bin Laden. A year after the initial invasion, we started to build Afghanistan, which never should have happened. The U.S. chose to divert their attention to building excessive infrastructure, even though bin Laden had not yet been found at this time. According to Forbes, we spent \$300 million per day building highways, roads and bridges. This was an extremely expensive and foolish investment, since Afghanistan does not have the means to maintain such large infrastructure themselves. The Afghan Ministry of Public Works reports that 20% of roads that were built then have been destroyed in battle, while the other 80% are now in states of disrepair. Because of our misjudgement and Afghanistan's unstable economy, we fell into a never-ending cycle of payment and repair.

By finally leaving Afghanistan, the U.S. government will be able to allocate more money to developing and building our own nation. Overall, more than \$2 trillion was spent on Afghanistan, which is excessive when compared to the \$800 billion allocated to the U.S. COVID-19 stimulus checks. This is unacceptable—\$2 trillion could have been spent helping American citizens in need. The Department of Education estimated that waiving tuition from all private and public colleges would cost approximately \$79 billion, which is affordable compared to the Afghanistan bill. Every sum spent helping the American public pales in comparison to the \$2 trillion spent in Afghanistan. The fact that the government would rather spend American tax dollars on foreign issues than at home is severely disappointing. Moreover, the human cost of the war was tremendous. Over the onslaught of 20 years worth of war, the U.S. lost 2,488 troops, 3,846 contractors, 444 aid workers and 72 journalists. Additionally, the Aug. 26 attack at the Kabul airport left 13 more U.S. service dead. If we continued to stay in Afghanistan, more of our troops would have been put in peril. We cannot keep sending troops to Afghanistan to fight a war that has no visible end. The extended war was nothing but bloodshed and unnecessary loss for American troops and their families. Although critics of the withdrawal say that the U.S. should've stayed, it was clear that issues ran deeper than what we could fix. For instance, corruption ran rampant in the Afghanistan government; officials often stole army salaries, which caused Afghan forces to lose motivation to fight. Also, many citizens did not approve of their government and distrusted their officials. Unfortunately, regardless of American interference, inhumane



practices such as executions, forced labor and torture will continue to exist in Afghanistan. Despite the country's desire to help, the U.S. simply is not equipped to handle these issues. The resources poured into Afghanistan in the last 20 years show that, regardless of how many troops we send, the money we offer, or the weapons we purchase, fighting these injustices is a losing battle. Now, with the formal withdrawal of American troops, the future is uncertain. However, we cannot

view the withdrawal as a defeat—it's a step in the right direction. Spending trillions of dollars on rebuilding and reforming Afghanistan was not our job, yet we chose to make it our burden. Even though our nation's involvement in the war is over, the grieving families' struggles are not. By choosing to responsibly leave Afghanistan, the U.S. ensures that both American troops and its citizens are prioritized and looked after.



INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE

LIFESTYLE

Read up on some of our top picks for the latest places to grab food with your friends in Fullerton.

Page 4



OPINION

Weigh in on both sides of the effectiveness of free lunches provided by the Fullerton Joint Union High School District.

Page 8



ENTERTAINMENT

Learn about Disney's latest aggressive price hikes and the implications this poses. Is Disney abusing its power?

Page 12



Student Advocates for Mental Health hosts a friendship bracelet event

The friendship bracelet event allowed for students to take a break amid the second week of in-person school

By Neya Jakan
STAFF WRITER

Emphasizing the importance of self-care to Warriors, Student Advocates for Mental Health hosted a friendship bracelet making event during lunch Aug. 25.

Established to raise mental health awareness, SAMH hosts events such as staff-training workshops, parent presentations, and mental health lectures that are open to all Warriors.

With hopes to reduce anxiety on campus, committee members strive to provide resources for any students who experience academic or personal stress.

At the event, approximately 60 participants created friendship bracelets while listening to calm-

ing music. In addition, committee members introduced the club and passed out mental health stickers

In preparation for the activity, committee members conducted meetings over summer to discuss the details of the event. Through their Instagram page, committee members advertised the bracelet making event in order to promote student attendance.

As their first event of the school year, the SAMH committee wanted to create a strong impact on students, committee member Jillian Capul said.

“We want to help students to know that there are people around who are willing and able to talk to them about mental health and eventually create a culture on Troy’s campus that promotes mental well-being.”

Jillian Capul
club member

“Our main goal is to break the stigma of mental health in this environment,” Capul said. “The purpose of the event is to spread the word regarding mental health and for more people to be aware of our club and join our events.”

According to club advisor

Alexandria Gillespie, members hope for students to understand that mental health should be destigmatized. Club members aim to actively advocate for the mental well-being of students and work to create a positive environment where all students feel comfortable to express their feelings, Gillespie said.

“When people think about mental health, they think about mental illnesses as their initial response, but when we think about physical health, we don’t think about things that are broken,” Gillespie said. “We think about being strong and healthy, and so we want to create a conversation where students don’t immediately think about stress, they think about ways to be healthy.”

Due to stress from the pandemic, club members collaborated together in order to establish a positive environment and support system for students, Gillespie said. Through this event, the board wants to encourage students to openly discuss their mental health.

“Our ultimate goal is to create a space for students to slow down,



GRAPHICS COURTESY OF SAMH

and reconnect their mind and body through an activity,” Gillespie said. “We want to help students to know that there are people around who are willing and

able to talk to them about mental health and eventually create a culture on Troy’s campus that promotes mental well-being holistically and not just academically.”

Warrior cafeteria partakes in free lunch program due to surplus educational government funds

The Warrior cafeteria distributes free lunches at various carts to approximately 800 students per school day.

By Jamie Lee
STAFF WRITER

Supporting students and their families during the pandemic, school cafeterias throughout the district serve free lunches to Warriors for the 2021-2022 school year.

Committed to providing proper nutrition to students, the district distributes free lunches to students from the cafeteria and multiple carts deployed around the school. The lunches consist of prepackaged food items that contain a balanced ratio of essential nutrients including fibers, protein, and carbohydrates.

Due to budget surplus, schools in California initiated a free lunch program and all students can receive free lunches. California set no restriction on who can receive

the free lunches. Students are not required to fill out a form to receive free lunches and all students can receive their lunch.

Along with supporting families financially, the free lunch program helps maximize students’ lunch time since students spend less time getting their lunch, junior Justin Zheng said.

“In previous years, I was reluctant to get the school lunch since the checkout process took time out of my lunch,” Zheng said. “However, since students are not required to pay for the lunches, I found myself eating school lunch more often.”

As a result of the program’s success, the district administrators plan to hire more cafeteria members. The cafeteria distributes approximately 800 lunches to students daily. The admin-

istration noticed a strain on the program caused by the low-staffing of the cafeteria.

Initiated last summer, the cafeteria served free meals to students and families in a drive-through fashion due to social distancing regulations. The district allowed families to take multiple lunches home to help Warrior families consume proper nutrition despite financial hardships that many families faced during the pandemic.

Through the free lunch program, the board hopes to improve the students’ overall health during the pandemic, Vice Principal Lance Bletscher says. “The free lunches can help students feel better and healthier both physically and mentally,”

Bletscher said. “By taking in healthy calories, students can perform better at school. The athletes, who constitute nearly half of the student body, can feel more energized while playing their sports.”

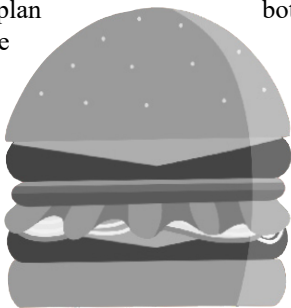
Along with the free lunches, students who sign



GRAPHIC BY DAVID LEE

up for the “More Than a Meal” program can receive various benefits and financial support. The program is a district-wide program that applies to all high school students who are attending a high school the the Fullerton

Joint Union High School District. Once deemed eligible, applicants can receive waived college application fees, internet access and utility bills, free or reduced testing fees and school meals.



GRAPHIC BY DANIELA HERRERA

Various state and national awards Warriors can explore

Recognitions available to students include the Congressional Award and Scholastics Award.

By Kaelyn Kwon
STAFF WRITER

Honoring individuals’ artistic and literary talent, the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers opened applications for the Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards Sept 1. In order to encourage an interest in the humanities, the organization offers awards for original works in 28 different categories of art and writing, including ceramics and glass, comic art, journalism, poetry, and dramatic script. A panel of professional artists and authors examine submissions’ originality, technical skill and vision. After all student entries are evaluated for the regional awards, recipients of the Gold Key award automatically qualify for national award considerations and Scholastic scholarship eligibility. In addition to the Scholastics Arts and Writing Award, the Congressional Award also encourages students to explore extracurricular activities. As the United States Congress’ highest honor for students, the Congressional Gold Medal recognizes students who achieved self-improvement goals and provided community service. In order to qualify, participants must record a minimum of 400 hours of public volunteer service, 200

CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS		
		
BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
VOLUNTARY SERVICE HOURS 100	VOLUNTARY SERVICE HOURS 200	VOLUNTARY SERVICE HOURS 400
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT 50	PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT 100	PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT 200
PHYSICAL FITNESS 50	PHYSICAL FITNESS 100	PHYSICAL FITNESS 200
EXPEDITION 1 NIGHT/2 DAYS	EXPEDITION 2 NIGHTS/3 DAYS	EXPEDITION 3 NIGHTS/4 DAYS
MINIMUM MONTHS 7	MINIMUM MONTHS 12	MINIMUM MONTHS 24

GRAPHIC BY DAVID LEE

hours of personal development, 200 hours of physical fitness and an expedition trip plan. Established in 1979, the program strives to provide opportunities for people between the ages of 13 and a half to 24 to focus on personal goal achievement. After participants register and launch their start date on the organization’s website, contenders must complete their activities before their 24th birthday to qualify for an award. Under non-competitive circumstances, the program of-

fers students the opportunity to earn certificates and medals at varying levels of accomplishment. Recorded hours for the certificates is cumulative towards medal qualification. As the nation’s oldest science and mathematics competition, another program available to students is the Regeneron Science Talent Search. In an effort to empower young scientists, the competition requires students to submit original research on a chosen topic. From a selection of the top 300

submissions, a national jury of professional scientists determines 40 finalists. After the final selection, the competition provides the finalists opportunities to present their research to the public. According to the National Center for Education, there are 750,000 scholarships open to students. Applications and award information is listed on the designated association’s website. Scholarships are available through state universities, private companies and public organizations.

TROY TODAY
Break time fashion show rally
Showcasing a variety of outfits to wear for Homecoming, Associated Student Body organized a break time rally fashion show in the quad Sept. 3. From cocktail dresses to crisp suits, students are free to dabble from elegant to artistic for the theme Night at the Met. With quite a crowd that attended the show, ASB hopes that students feel inspired for their own homecoming ensembles.

Homecoming: Night at the Met

Inviting Warriors to join the Troy Met Gala, ASB will host this year’s homecoming dance Night at the Met Sept. 18. The formal event welcomes all students to dance, play games and eat snacks from 7-10 p.m. In preparation for the first dance, ASB encourages students to participate during spirit week Sept. 13-17.

Mock Trial hosts introductory session

In order to introduce incoming students to Mock Trial, two meetings were hosted by members Aug. 23 and 24. Divided into two days, the first meeting consisted of the basic proceedings of mock trial and the attorney, while the second meeting revolved around the witness and other basic positions. In hopes to encourage students to join the team, board members provided details regarding tryouts.

Annual Club Rush

In an effort to promote school spirit and student involvement, ASB will host Club Rush Sept 23-34. Held during lunch, club rush enables students to explore a variety of club booths set up in the quad. In order to sign up for a club, students can provide their contact information on paper or on a Google Form.

Key Club night market themed meeting

To train the key club members and potential club leaders, the Warrior Key Club attended the August Divisional Council Meeting held at the Garden Grove Park Aug 27. The theme of August’s DCM was 430 Night Market, inspired by the 626 Night Market. The key club members participated in various DIY activities and service projects as they ate food provided at the DCM.

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TROY HIGH SCHOOL

The district implements modified safety protocols for new school year

New safety precautions include the indoor mask requirement, deployment of sanitizer stations and morning temperature scans.

By Brianna Vu
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to ensure Warrior safety on-campus, the administration implemented a variety of precautions for the return to full in-person learning school Aug. 16.

Given that masks are no longer required outdoors, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District follows recommendations from the California Department of Public Health to help control the spread of COVID within the school. New safety measures include universal indoor masking, daily symptom checks, morning temperature scans, deployment of sanitizer stations and daily deep cleanings. Every morning, students must complete a qualtrics survey about their symptoms and present proof of eligibility to come on site.

As the pandemic gradually improves due to vaccines, the administration may implement new or reduced precautions. After a thorough sanitation, the water fountains were recently reopened for students to use due to last year’s quarantine. The district will also consider releasing a form to each student about their vaccination status in an attempt



PHOTO BY ISAIAH PRO

NEW NORMAL: *Warriors abide by the new protocols as they complete the daily Qualtrics survey and show the proof of eligibility to a staff member before entering campus.*

to remove the mask requirement. According to Principal William Mynster, administrators hope that the safety regulations limit as many cases as possible. However, to continue the social aspect of in-person school, social interactions among Warriors should also be acknowledged to compensate for distance learning, Mynster said. “There was a social toll

that took on all of us during quarantine, to the point where there was no way around not being able to see one another,” Mynster said. “I am fortunate that [students and staff] are now here together. We should just remind ourselves that things are going to get better and hopefully get back to normal by Thanksgiving, Christmas, or even next June.”

For those who received the vaccine, contact tracing for COVID-19 on campus will also be more manageable compared to the requirements during hybrid school. In the event of a positive case, vaccinated students with direct exposure to COVID who are symptom-free would still be permitted to attend school. The governor will require all school

staff to be vaccinated or take a weekly COVID test Oct. 15. “Our students should definitely keep their hopes up for a normal school year,” Mynster said. “We are all together and doing things we were not able to do last year. As we become more successful at keeping cases low, we hope to revert back to the good old days soon.”

OC Board of Education lawsuit rejected by California Supreme Court

The Board of Education claims that the mask mandate is detrimental towards students’ physical and mental health.

By Erin Jang
STAFF WRITER

The Supreme Court of California dismissed the Orange County Board of Education’s lawsuit against the mask mandate Aug. 19. In response to new safety updates, the OC Board of Education voted to pursue a legal challenge to Gov. Gavin Newsom’s school mask mandate Aug. 3. A similar case occurred during fall of 2020 when the board filed legal actions directly with the Supreme Court. The lawsuit petitioned to give parents the option to choose whether their students could attend in-person learning. As United States civilians followed nation-wide guidelines, the number of reported cases decreased from a weekly average

of approximately 250,000 to 10,000 between January and June. With cases on the rise again, Newsom announced July 9 that K-12 students in the state will need to wear masks indoors in school regardless of vaccination status. Due to the new Delta variant, OC reported an average of 626 new cases a day, an increase from 72 cases a day in the past month. Masks are an effective and simple safety layer to support full time in-person instruction in schools, California Department of Public Health said. “Universal masking in K-12 schools is an important and scientifically-based strategy to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and their families,” CDPH said. “The increased transmissibility of the Delta variant makes this common-sense public health mitigation strategy in K-12 schools all the more important.” Given students are in school for an average of seven hours, 28 OC school districts opposed the implementation of mandatory face masks to help students. The board claims the mask re-

quirement brings further harm to students’ health. Through a closed-session meeting, the board voted 4-0 in favor of eliminating the mandate for students. According to the Board of Education, an important part of their role is to recognize the new policies in order to analyze their effects.

“The board will fight to protect the health and welfare of our county’s kids at school,” the board said in a statement. “Unfortunately, the Governor’s most recent actions force the county’s children to endure an academic year covering their faces, the time to fight has come again.” Contrary to the board’s stance,

the Centers for Disease Control emphasize that masks are vital for protection. Public health officers claim masks ensure student safety, as children are still susceptible to COVID. The final dismissal of the petition allowed Newsom’s mask mandate to continue to be in effect for all students in California.



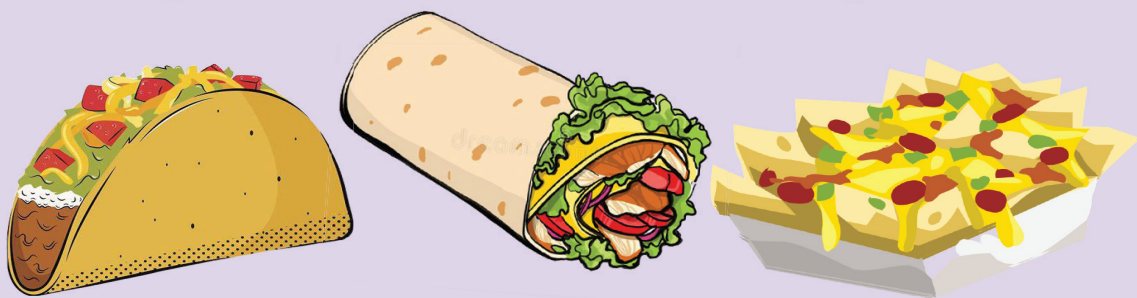
COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

BOARD HEARING: *Members of the OC Board of Education presents their arguments against the county-wide mask mandate for students.*

FRESH FULLERTON

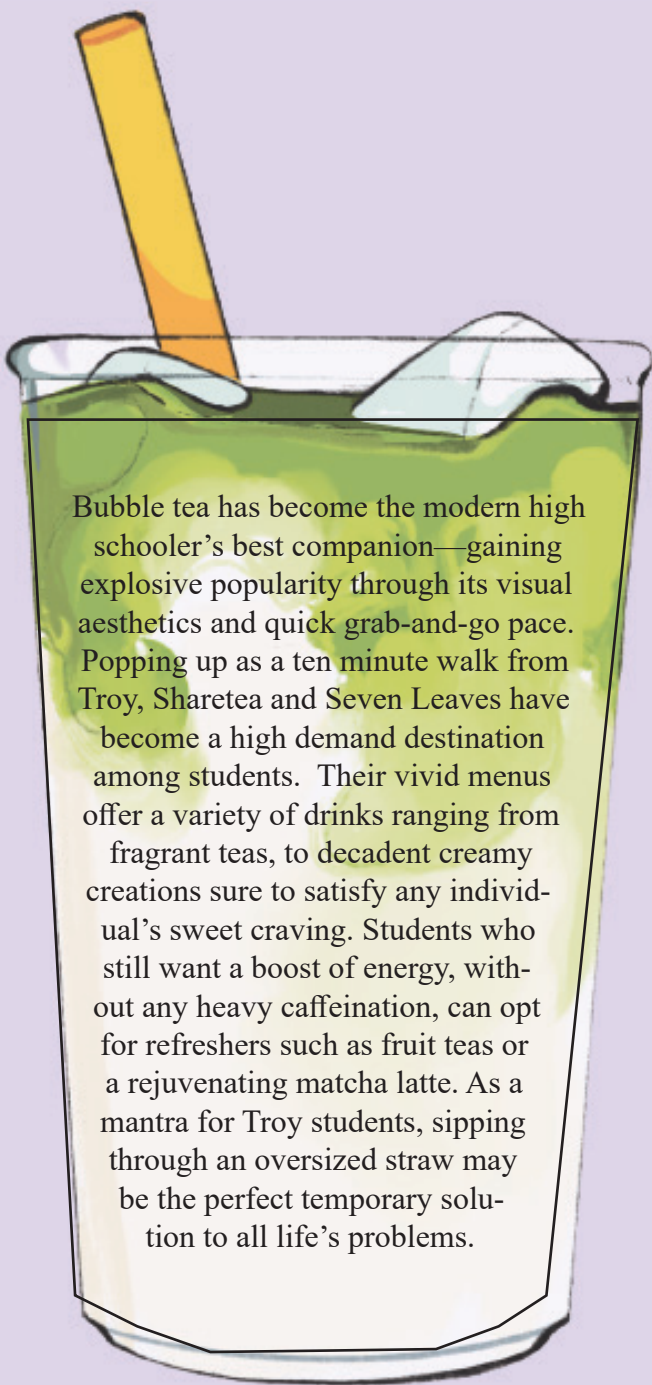
What’s brewing in Fullerton recently? It’s time to cook up a good time with friends by visiting the new additions to the Fullerton community. Read more to learn about the tastiest places in Fullerton.

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, LIFESTYLE EDITOR, Article by Kira Chen, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON EDITOR, and photos courtesy of Google



Serving up ultimate Mexican-American staples, Chicana Vegana adds a fresh twist to Troy’s community. With neon pink and purple walls adorned with Latina cartoon characters, the lively space hardly speaks vegan. From offering indulgent foods, such as loaded fries and savory craft burgers, this eatery is the perfect place for students to begin their venture into the plant world. Even though the unfamiliarity of soy-protein may throw some individuals off, Chicana Vegana’s dishes are nothing short of mouth-watering. Though some still remain slightly apprehensive about giving vegan food a taste, it will certainly be an adventure for the mouth—an experience students will forever taco-bout.

Sharetea and 7 Leaves



Bubble tea has become the modern high schooler’s best companion—gaining explosive popularity through its visual aesthetics and quick grab-and-go pace. Popping up as a ten minute walk from Troy, Sharetea and Seven Leaves have become a high demand destination among students. Their vivid menus offer a variety of drinks ranging from fragrant teas, to decadent creamy creations sure to satisfy any individual’s sweet craving. Students who still want a boost of energy, without any heavy caffeination, can opt for refreshers such as fruit teas or a rejuvenating matcha latte. As a mantra for Troy students, sipping through an oversized straw may be the perfect temporary solution to all life’s problems.

Korean BBQ and Korean Fried Chicken



Korean BBQ has become seemingly irresistible, bringing a kick of spice to the Fullerton district. Two of Troy’s favorites are Mr. BBQ and Gen Korean BBQ, both of which feature bold and crave-worthy flavors that are catching on with American consumers. The common misconception that BBQ only lies within the meat can be broken with Korean BBQ, which encompasses a large variety of dishes—from tangy kimchi to a refreshing potato salad. With the average student drowning in homework, students can grab a quick bite of a Korean take on a classic American dish. Korean fried chicken gives new meaning to the letters K-F-C, but unlike Colonel Sander’s recipe, the ingredients are no secret. While the American-style chicken calls for a buttermilk dredge, Korean fried chicken reflects an Asian frying technique that allows for a lighter and crispier texture. Coating this crunchy perfection is a spicy sauce called “yangnyeom,” which adds bold flavor without any soggiess. Through the euphoric moments of munching on this snack with a plastic glove, this Korean dish will be a comfort food that



Sky's the Limit

Many wonderful new faces are joining the Troy faculty this year! Alongside our new freshmen and sophomores, these teachers are ready to soar into the clouds—read more below!

Compiled by Coco Gong, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Mary Kim, **STAFF WRITER**, cartoon by Kaila Perlas, **CARTOON**, photo courtesy of Isaiah Pro, **PHOTO EDITOR**, and Tiffany Vo, **PHOTOGRAPHER**

Stepping onto the Troy campus, Assistant Principal Jeffrey Padgett marvels at the cheerful excitement shining among the student crowds. So far, his greatest satisfaction arises from seeing Warriors from all over Orange County gathering at Troy, their passionate pursuits of interests sparking his own sense of eagerness. Though he's spent 16 years in education, nowhere else shows the same dedication as the students, teachers and parents of Troy. Outside of school strategy and game plans, Padgett is eager to share life lessons of perseverance and diversity, and to be a positive role model. "[I am] trying to provide you all with the experience that you deserve as a high school student," he says. "I'm inspired by working with the young people and doing what I do for them."

Rejuvenated by the hustle and bustle of campus, retired United States Navy Lieutenant Cecil joined the Troy family this 2021-2022 school year. The Senior Naval Science Instructor has a unique bond with his students: he keeps up with the Gen Z trends and often fuses niche video game and anime references into his classes. His vivid lectures with mentions of Attack on Titan create a learning environment in which the students learn as freely as the Scout Regiment flies. Cecil's teaching style reflects his heartfelt wish to make relatable imprints with his students. "There's not a legacy or anything," Cecil said. "If I can make that impact on just a few students, then that's [all] I want."

A Troy alum with a heart full of care, meet Zachary Hazard, one of our new special education teacher. He first encountered the compassionate, caring world of special education during his four years in Best Buddies as a student. Hazard recounts the importance of being present in every aspect of life, memories fresh as if yesterday. Whether that be attending dances, dealing with stress or joining new clubs, Hazard's greatest wish is simple: he hopes to watch young freshmen grow into wise seniors, both as students and as citizens. "If I can build genuine connections with my students and [actually] build a relationship with them," he said, "There's no monetary value that captures that."

Reminiscent of when she first arrived at Troy, recently returned teacher, Mrs. Laurelin Varieur awaits in Room 517 with a warm smile. Varieur encounters students eager to learn with one another, thrilled to be on their quest for knowledge. In this adventure of learning new things, she hopes that her students can explore the world of their interests without being consumed by it. It is her greatest hope to inspire, ignite, cultivate and share the joy of discovering knowledge, as opposed to just locating correct answers. "Discovering knowledge is a whole different [concept]," Varieur said. "That's what I would want to communicate to my students."

With a personality as warm as her name, meet the motivated, wholehearted new teacher, Summer Driessen. A young teacher with a bright future, Driessen's motivations are honest and relatable. Her journey to be a teacher is made up of sweat and tears, but Driessen has been a living example that hard work pays off. Just like Troy students, she worked through long nights, tireless studying and fierce competition. After getting to Troy, through focusing on personal mental health and well being, by recognizing her limits, Driessen has set challenging, attainable goals, something Troy kids can imitate. But no matter how stretched, pulled and battered they may feel, every student has a say in who they are, because they know themselves best. "You can do anything you set your mind towards," Driessen said. "But remember to enjoy the little things along the way."

Words of wisdom taking flight:

The new staff have some uplifting messages for the Troy community!



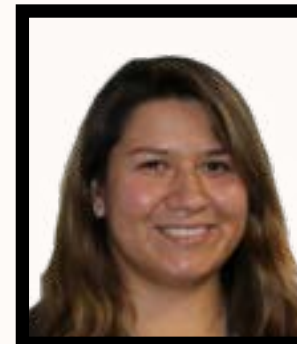
You're the best students in the world. You're already exceptional. Just go be you.

-Mr. Luke Laubhan, Business



I am very excited for the year ahead and look forward to building relationships with more of you!

-Ms. Jordan Echaves, Math



Everything you have overcome so far is to set you up for the next step or chapter your life has.

-Ms. Abigail Contreras, Math



Remember, YOU are capable of anything that you set your mind to. YOU are important as a learner and as a human being.

-Ms. Angela Tseng, Math



Your true happiness will come when you find your purpose. Learn from everything, both bad and good because there is always something to learn if you have the heart to find it.

-Mr. Kyle Devin, Science



I encourage students to: always try their best, to find a good balance with school and their personal lives and to enjoy high school as much as they can.

-Ms. Natasha Pelligrino, Spanish

Although we were unable to feature them, please welcome:

Mr. Ron Singzon, Special Education
Mr. Matt Watts, Special Education
Mr. Trevor Barnes, Social Science

KEEPING UP
WITH THE
OPINION
EDITORS

By Andrew Sung
OPINION EDITOR



Discrimination based on gender identity cannot be condoned. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games was a historic event for the advancement of transgender inclusion. As one of the largest sporting events yet to highlight openly transgender athletes in their games, the Olympics offered a powerful message to the world regarding LGBTQ acceptance. As society continues to adapt and adjust its norms to embrace the LGBTQ community, it is of utmost importance to clear up misinformation and accept others regardless of their identity.

First and foremost, transgender athletes do not pose unfair advantages in sports. Many opponents of transgender rights point to hormonal differences in their arguments for transgender exclusion. To begin with, assuming physiological and hormonal differences in transgender people is largely inaccurate and a blatant form of stereotyping. Furthermore, biological diversity in hormones and other traits, such as height and muscle mass, is already prevalent in sports. While these physiological differences may pose an athletic advantage for some athletes, they do not ensure elite athletic performance. Finally, transgender people, who make up less than 1% of America's population, are still disproportionately underrepresented across all levels, especially the most advanced levels of sport.

On a broader scope, including transgender athletes in competitive sports would benefit all. Inclusion would discourage the mindset that there is a particular body type or appearance that defines gender. In addition, inclusion would also send the message that no person is limited in what they can do just because of their identity.

Embracing transgender athletes is rooted in an issue far deeper than winning or losing games—it is an opportunity to combat transphobic sentiment and actively support the transgender community. True fairness is to provide equal opportunity for everyone, regardless of identity.

mark my
words

Warriors speak out on campus issues

Read what the Warrior population has to say about Troy's back to school COVID-19 regulations.

"I feel there is no safety for me and my fellow classmates."
- Sofia Duarte,
Freshman

"We are wearing masks but the vicinity makes me a little uncomfortable."
- Anonymous
Senior

"I would not be surprised if there became an option for distance learning."
- Joey Kelly,
Freshman

"The more students and staff we have vaccinated, the safer we are."
- J. Bennie Zhu,
Freshman

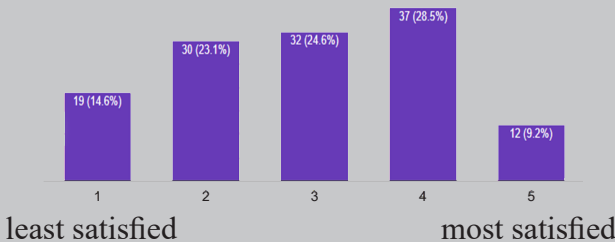
"I don't think it'll blow over well if we make vaccines a requirement. Just like how flu shots aren't required, I think the vaccine shots can't be mandated."

- Ethan Wei,
Junior

"Let us be honest, where is the social distancing?"
- Anonymous
Senior

"Troy doesn't live up to what its messaging suggests."
- Anonymous
Sophomore

How satisfied are you with Troy's current COVID safety measures?



Tesla must be held responsible for its misinformation about autopilot

By Manal Ahmed
STAFF WRITER



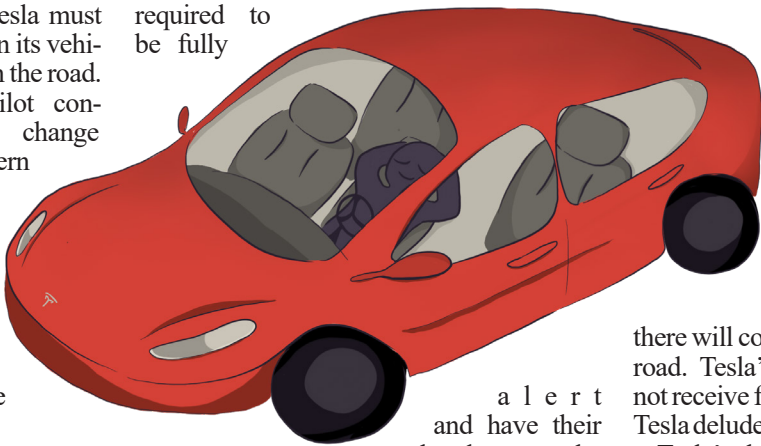
Tesla's scientific breakthroughs in autopilot are marred by their deception of consumers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration conducted a formal investigation Aug. 16 over Tesla's autopilot feature, which, in the past seven years, has been the culprit of at least 17 injuries and one death. The investigation will observe the autopilot feature in approximately 765,000 cars. Due to the magnitude of casualties, Tesla must reevaluate the safety of autopilot in its vehicles to prevent further deaths down the road.

Regarding the current autopilot controversy, Tesla's reluctance to change foreshadows a dangerous pattern for their consumers. Other autonomous vehicle innovations, such as General Motors' "Supercruise", utilize monitoring technology to track whether a driver is being attentive, better ensuring the fundamental safety of everyone on the road. Since 2016, Tesla has been warned by the National Transportation and Safety Board and others to include more safety measures. However, many of the safety measures have yet to be implemented. Last year, the NTSB recommended Tesla to restrict usage of their vehicles to highways, a recommendation that's been ignored time and time again. Tesla's reluctance to implement such safety measures in its vehicles speaks volumes to its lack of prioritizing consumers' safety.

Tesla's public statements regarding autopilot have created a false perception of what is safe. Tesla CEO Elon Musk stated that Tesla's cars would be able to fully function without human intervention within the year, which is a misleading statement as Tesla's cars are still well below the ability to function completely autonomously. Presenting the cars as far more developed and capable than it is creates a false sense of security for misled consumers. Musk's fallacious claim also follows Tesla's dangerous pattern of misinformation. According to Tesla's driving manual, drivers are required to be fully

alert and have their hands on the steering wheel at all times. However, in an interview with "60 Minutes," Musk took his hands off the wheel, contradicting the instruction manual. Considering the importance of safety while driving, companies should avoid providing blatantly incorrect demonstrations and should be policed more aggressively. The absence of safety measures feeds into driver misconceptions about autonomous driving and creates a far more dan-

gerous driving experience than in manual mode. Proponents often tout the increased safety of autonomous driving, but multiple other safety features, such as forward collision avoidance, often contribute to the safer numbers. A Forbes analysis of miles driven in manual mode versus in autopilot shows that cars go 30% longer without accidents in manual mode, showing how drivers being aware of their surroundings ultimately is most important in preventing car accidents. Autopilot takes away from the driver's cognizance, and their lack of awareness is ultimately what will lead to far more fatalities down the road. Consumers are easily swayed by Tesla's misinformation and suffer the consequences. A Gallup poll found that 48% of drivers assumed they did not need to have their hands on the wheel or pay attention to the road when using Tesla's autopilot feature. Tesla's denial of the effects of misinformation ensures that there will continue to be liable drivers on the road. Tesla's misinformed victims should not receive full blame for car accidents when Tesla deludes consumers of road safety rules. Tesla's lack of care for the safety of its users undercuts any potential technological breakthrough it could offer. Ultimately, allowing autonomous vehicles on the road with a misinformed public will cause further casualties among drivers. Although the government has opened investigations into autopilot, Tesla itself should focus more on its advertisement of autonomous cars and further educate the naive perceptions of autopilot it has instilled into its consumers.



CARTOON BY KIRSTEN DINGSON

FJUHSD should continue its free lunch program even after the pandemic

By Brian Woo
STAFF WRITER



Fullerton Joint Union High School District introduced free lunches for all students in the 2021-2022 school as a response to COVID-19. With the implementation of this program, schools throughout the district now guarantee their students a free breakfast, lunch and supper. Even after the pandemic, the district should continue to provide free meals as it provides a much-needed aid for students. For students who normally would not qualify for reduced price school meals, a free lunch relieves an unnecessary financial burden. COVID-19 has seen many families taking a financial toll and in need of government assistance. Around 88% of adults 18 and older were eligible for the stimulus check in 2020 as according to USA Today. With so many families in a dire situation after COVID-19, free lunches were able to provide families support. During this time, federal guidelines for the 2019-2020 school year stated that students from families of four making less than \$48,470 are eligible for

free or reduced-price school meals. However, families that have income close to the limit, such as \$50,000, find themselves in a predicament where a reduced price meal would have close to the same impact but would not be able to be given. Now, the free meal program provides families to feed their children meals everyday without worrying about costs. Free meals show themselves as a boon to families who would find a great relief in free meals because they provide the extra monetary support to provide for other needs in life. A meal should not be the main concern for a family who would have other worries such as water, electricity, and housing costs. Looking past COVID-19, free lunches can continuously provide the same support it did during the pandemic, and now as the US slowly re-opened. Evidently, free lunches are needed for students who may find themselves in such situations. The free meal program protects students who are normally lunch shamed and ostracized for receiving a free lunch. Lunch shaming, the act of harassing students over their unpaid lunches, has resulted in schools threatening parents over meal costs. As described by Crystal FitzSimons, Director of School

and Out-of-School Time Programs, from the Food Research & Action Center, lunch shaming can cause stigma, and decreased lunch participation. Already in California alone, free meals ensure that students will not go through such health conditions and deteriorating aspects. As stated by Healthy Food Choices In Schools, meals also allow students to receive benefits, including increased focus while studying, improved cognitive functions, and increased test scores. Students are also relieved from being ostracized. The review shows that students may experience bullying from their peers with a third of them choosing to skip lunch than to be embarrassed. Allowing students from all economic backgrounds to stand in line and

wait for a free lunch allows students to feel more comfortable with their own situation, by allowing them to feel as a part of the crowd, and can bring about positive emotional impacts such as reduced obesity rates and poor health, according to the Food Research and Action Center. This free meal program bridges the gap between those who need school lunches and those who do not need them. Free meals benefit students across the board, regardless of financial situation. Troy, as well as the rest of FJUHSD, should continue to implement the free meal program post-COVID, which presents itself as a must have for the school district. Free lunch is here to stay and must continuously be implemented.

NUTRITIONAL VALUES		
BREAKFAST	CALORIES	FOOD GROUPS
	100-400	1-4
LUNCH	CALORIES	FOOD GROUPS
	100-800	1-5
SUPPER	CALORIES	FOOD GROUPS
	100-800	1-5

*Suggested calorie intake/food groups per meal
GRAPHIC BY DAVID LEE

The free lunch program is a severe waste of food and money

By Mai Omoto
STAFF WRITER



Fullerton Joint Union High School District announced all students, regardless of economic status, will be eligible for free breakfast, lunch and dinner through the 2021-2022 school year. Families are no longer required to fill out the traditional Free and Reduced Price Lunch forms, to prove their eligibility for district-provided meals. Although free meals may be a great resource for families who have been strongly affected by the pandemic, it would be unwise for the district to continue this program after this year.

While these free meals are beneficial for less fortunate students, the amount of food waste is increasing as a result. A considerable number of students throw away the free lunch even after waiting in line to receive one. While the district's attempt to aid students during this time is commendable, continuing this program will lead to a huge waste of food that could go to people who really need it, such as the 315,000 people in Orange County who do not have enough to eat. In addition, the district provides an unnecessary excess of meals. About 50% of the students in FJUHSD

have consistently received free or reduced-price meals since 2017. However, to account for the additional students who may choose to receive free lunches, the district roughly doubles the amount of food it orders. Undeniably, providing meals to students at this excessive waste is a waste of resources for the district. Instead of offering free meals to all students, the district should allow a wider economic group to qualify for the program. This would allow the schools to offer more meals to students who need it but also control the amount of waste that is produced. With the amount of food going to waste, the current plan is not sustainable. Instead, the district should allow a wider economic group to qualify for the program. California plans to invest \$650 million of ongoing funds by the next school year to permanently offer two free meals per day to all public school students. Although these funds may be very beneficial for those who struggle with food insecurity, it is impossible to determine what the financial state of California

will be two years from now, so the government should not hastily invest so much money into this bill. After this school year, the district should revert back to its original meal plan, requiring students to prove that they need this financial assistance. It is understandable that schools want to support students and parents during the pandemic by providing free meals. However, there are more impactful ways to support families during this time. Rather than an excess amount of food, the district could allocate money to improve student resources, such as new technology, and more funding for clubs. These projects would benefit all students—not just those who can't afford lunches. Once the number of coronavirus cases in Orange County significantly decreases, the district should return to the original meal plan, which helped students who needed financial aid without wasting food or resources. Moving forward, we must consider what is the most beneficial for both the student population and the district in the long run.



PHOTO BY TIFFANY VO

Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo by Kirsten Dingson

i need to spice up my HOCO fit.

touch this up...

fix this up...

aaaaaand...

perfect

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHTS

Welcome to Troy! Here are some of the major spots on the Troy campus that you can check out.

Compiled by Amber Wang and Kathleen Zhang, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF, and Jade Bahng, MANAGING EDITOR, photos by Isaiah Pro, PHOTO EDITOR, and graphics courtesy of Google



Need to pay club dues or purchase dance tickets? The activity's office is where it's at.



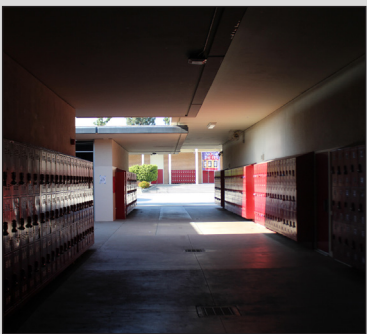
Next to the main gate, the north gym is the place to go for rallies and sports games!



Next to track and field? Go to the South Gym to freshen up in their hidden restrooms.



Visit our student-created Zen garden where flowers are springing off the walls.



Contrary to its name, it's most certainly not a breeze to get through the breezeway.



Enjoy lunch with a breath of fresh air under the shade in the outdoor classroom!

TUTOR (ONE-ON-ONE AT YOUR HOME)

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- *PRE CALCULUS *ALGEBRA
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Water polo trounces Canyon Rattlers in the first meet of the year

The boys Warrior water polo team strikes a knock-out victory (15-3) against Canyon Rattlers.

By William Song
STAFF WRITER

The Warrior boys varsity water polo team recorded a blowout victory against Canyon in their first preseason game 15-3 Aug. 24. The Warriors set the tone early with senior Henry Sanders scoring the first point of the match. Junior Kamran Lim-Hanna and junior Nicholas Saucedo contributed shortly after with shots from close distance. Canyon was able to gain some momentum late in the period with two goals, but the Warriors rose to the occasion and ended the period 4-2. In the second quarter, Lim-Hanna and Saucedo found the back of the net once again with a penalty and a powerful shot from point-blank range. The Warriors pressed upon their advantage with great saves from goalkeeper senior Winston Loh and another penalty by Lim-Hanna. The Warriors dominated the quarter on both offense and defense, ending the half at 7-2. The Warriors continued to add to their sizable lead in the third quarter with two consecutive goals from senior Shahriar Tabibzadeh. Great team defense and three blocks from Loh kept the Warriors firmly in control while a goal from Saucedo

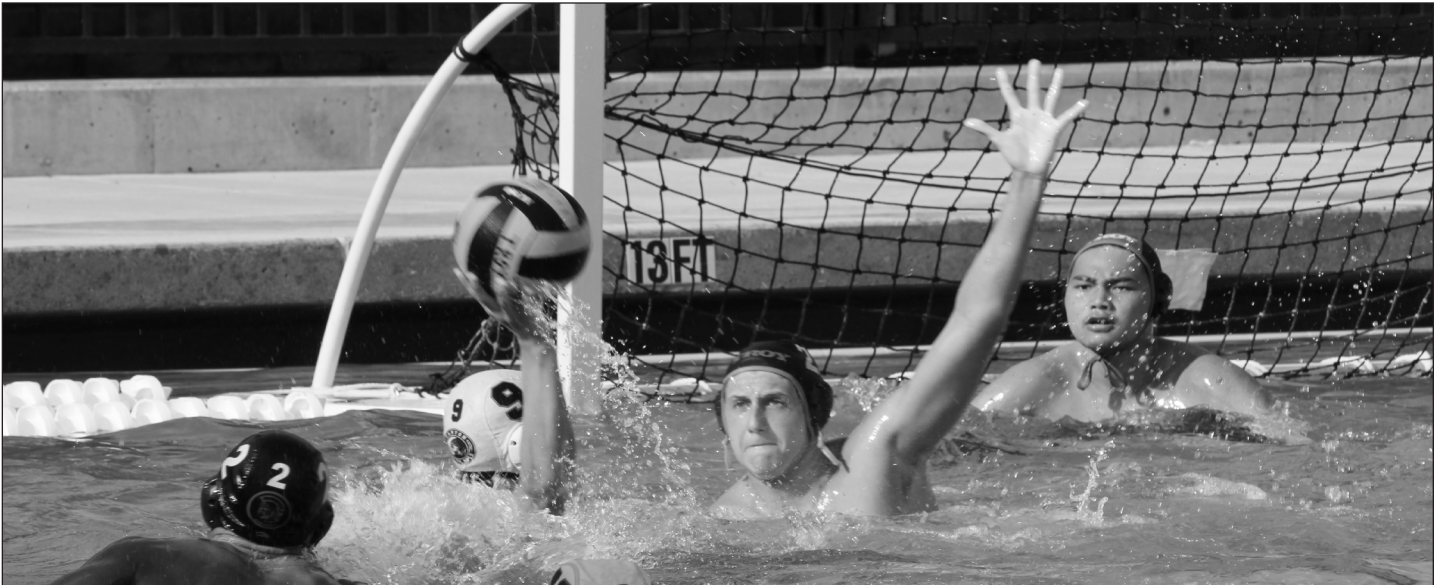


PHOTO BY TIFFANY VO

READY DEFENSE: Two Warriors take the defensive side, preparing themselves to block an incoming shot from the opposition.

do rounded out the third quarter 10-2. Tabibzadeh continued his streak into the fourth quarter when he threw home a penalty, which Canyon matched with a goal of their own. The score at 11-3, the Warriors narrowly avoided conceding another goal thanks to junior Silas Maxwell’s defensive efforts. After a time-out by the Warriors, the team came back fighting with junior Ryan Kern and Lim-Hanna adding to the scoreboard. Both assisted by Loh, two goals from Maxwell and Tabibzadeh ended the game with a victory of 15-3. Team communication, passing and great effort on the defensive end were

aspects of the game the team executed well, coach Jason Wilson said. “We played good team defense in the last three quarters of the game,” Wilson said. “Some of our passes and shots were really strong and I felt we did a good job on communicating in the game as well.” Determined and focused during the game, the Warriors’ passionate cheers rang around the pool and sidelines. The team’s high energy and cohesiveness were visible throughout the match. “We did a pretty good job at working together as a team,” Kern said. “We had quite a few good opportunities that we did not cap-

italize on as we usually do, but our team’s overall effort was unified and strong.” The dominance displayed by the Warriors against Canyon was by no means an accident. The team practices two to three hours from Monday to Saturday. This intensity has been crucial in the Warriors’ success and future aspirations as they look to continue their winning streak in the upcoming season and CIF competitions. “I look forward to a strong season with many exciting games,” Wilson said. “We are looking for a strong showing in the league and are looking to be ranked high in Division 3 of CIF.”

NCAA News

Get the latest update on NCAA rules for college athletes.

By Jacob Ballon, STAFF WRITER, PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

College athletes can finally earn the pay they deserve. Under new NCAA guidelines, which took effect July 1, athletes are now permitted to profit off of their name, image, and likeness. Prior to these new regulations, athletes could not monetize their name, image and likeness to protect “amateurism”, the idea that college athletes are amateurs rather than professional athletes. Athletes could be suspended, lose eligibility, or even expelled if they violated these rules. In 2009, Georgia Bulldogs wide receiver AJ Green was suspended for selling his game jersey because previous rules prohibited athletes from receiving any form of payment off of their name, image and likeness. Under these rules, players faced suspension for the mere act of selling their personal jersey. California was the first state to challenge these strict NCAA rules

by passing the “Fair Pay to Play” act in September 2019. Under this act, student athletes attending California state schools such as UCLA would be eligible to profit off of their name, image and likeness as soon as 2023. Many other states followed in California’s footsteps and now allow their athletes to get paid too. The NCAA’s rules would become obsolete in states that adopt “Fair Pay to Play” guidelines. Consequently, the NCAA adopted these new rules so that states allowing athletes to receive pay did not have an unfair advantage during the recruiting process over states that did not. Looking forward, some observers speculate that the next battle between the NCAA and college athletes will be over whether schools should pay student athletes a wage separate from name, image and likeness sponsorships which would support all athletes, sponsored or not.



September Varsity Schedule

Check out Troy’s varsity sports schedule for September.

Sport	Date	Time	OPP
Football	Fri. 9/10	7:15 pm - 10:00 pm	Rancho Alamitos
Girls Volleyball	Mon. 9/13	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Buena Park
Boys Water Polo	Tue. 9/14	3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	Walnut
Boys Water Polo	Wed. 9/15	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Valencia
Girls Volleyball	Wed. 9/15	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Sonora
Football	Fri. 9/17	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Cerritos
Girls Tennis	Tue. 9/21	3:15 pm - 5:30 pm	Buena Park
Boys Water Polo	Wed. 9/22	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Buena Park
Girls Volleyball	Thu. 9/23	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Fullerton
Tennis Girls	Thu. 9/23	3:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Sonora
Tennis Girls	Tue. 9/28	3:15 pm - 5:30 pm	Sunny Hills
Girls Volleyball	Tue. 9/28	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	La Habra
Boys Water Polo	Wed. 9/29	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Sonora
Tennis Girls	Thu. 9/30	3:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Fullerton



DESPERAPE DISNEY

Disney’s attractions have always come at extravagantly high prices, yet recent changes have had consumers up in arms. Read further to learn about Disney’s latest price schemes.

Compiled by Sean Warren, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Jessica Chin, STAFF WRITER, and photos courtesy of Google

Enchanting fantasies and a fairy-tale-like ambience are something only brought to life by Disney magic. This magic flourishes in an abundance of forms, whether it be Disney theme parks, Disney+ or ESPN+. Disney thrives off of this uniquely branded happiness perpetuated by its services, however, this magical facade does not warrant the questionably high prices that Disney consumers are willing to pay.

Implemented in mid August, Disney replaced their previous line skipping app and Fast Pass system in favor of Disney Genie, their newest navigation system. This new app features Genie+, which charges \$15 for front of the line passes at Disney World and \$20 at Disneyland. In what was almost an unnecessary change, Disney transformed a previously free feature into another expense, a costly effect for avid park goers. Unsurprisingly, the Walt Disney Company continued their questionable price raising campaign through the markups for their various streaming services. Subscriptions for Disney+, a hub of classic Disney shows and movies, increased their

monthly prices from \$1 to \$3 worldwide, with ESPN+ implementing a similar change.

Though it is not unusual for corporations to increase their prices, Disney’s price increases have created a cloud of unhappiness while also exposing their price schemes to their traditionally loyal fan base. For park goers, Fast Passes were the only aspect of Disney theme parks that were not an extra fee in addition to an already-expensive outing. Moreover, both Disney+ and ESPN+ price increases also sparked uproar online as users were notified of the changes. Consumers were surprised at the price increase as no major improvements were implemented in either platform. Disney is slowly distancing themselves from some of their targeted demographic and making their services unaccessible for lower income Disney fanatics. The corporation exudes an overwhelming influence over their consumers, exercising their power to raise prices to customers who they know will continue to indulge in their services.

Nevertheless, it is also the visitors and consumers who are partly at fault for Disney’s aggressive price pushing. Continuously purchasing the skyrocketing subscriptions and tickets, consumers have prioritized entertainment at any cost, therefore enabling Disney to get away with their rampant price increases. Inevitably, Disney’s manipulative power over their fans continued after the loosening of COVID guidelines. People who experi-

enced lockdown boredom were met with Disneyland’s reopening, a dangerous combination that had people flocking to the park without care of prices, only thoughts of short term happiness. Though some consumers were conflicted and unhappy with Disney’s actions, enough are continuing with their purchases. This behavior lines the pocket of the Walt Disney Corporation while further encouraging and justifying Disney’s exorbitant prices. Although minuscule when compared to the price uptick and exploitative nature of the Walt Disney Corporation, Disney Genie does have free features such as GPS navigation, destination suggestions, current attraction wait times and mobile food ordering. Ironically, Disney claims that these features are for visitor satisfaction, yet the price surges accompanied by four small additions claim otherwise.

Disney has always been expensive, but now they are truly testing the limits of their power. Disney’s ploys have only created a more narrow following while also increasing the number of critics who will stray away from excessively high prices. As long as there are people who will pay the outrageous prices and participate in the changing systems, Disney will also continue to charge higher prices. Fairytales filled with magical lands and extravagant castles always have happy endings, but in reality, endings are far less simple.