

ORACLE

2200 E. DOROTHY LANE, FULLERTON, CA 92831

LIP DUB 2022

Sports, clubs, groups and organizations all gathered to film Troy High's first lip-dub since 2019! Thanks to Omnia's leadership, Warrior team spirit truly came alive in this fun event. See some highlights below!

Compiled by Mary Kim, FEATURE EDITOR, photos by Tiffany Vo, PHOTO EDITOR, and Omnia Broadcasting



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LIFESTYLE

Read below to see how students can escape the binds of consumer culture by practicing minimalism.

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Take a look at the controversial leakage of Supreme Court Documents and its effects on citizens in this article below.

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Learn about the Leon Guerrero brothers from Guam, and their remarkable CIF championship journey in their first year.

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Members of Warrior choir perform with other high schools at Angels Stadium

Students also received the opportunity to explore parts of the stadium and watch the game after performing.

By Rachel Kang
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Warrior choir joined students from high schools across Orange County to sing the national anthem at the Angel Stadium Choir Night event May 6.

A tradition since 2015, the Los Angeles Angels has hosted high school choir nights and invited choir students to participate. Following a pause during the pandemic, the event resumed this year to provide the students with an opportunity to sing the national anthem in a large venue.

In order to rehearse the performance, the choir students arrived an hour and a half prior to the game and familiarized themselves with members from different high schools. According to junior Shahriyar Khaki, the ensemble could not contain the excitement in anticipation to take the field.

"It was a great experience, and it was an environment you will definitely not be in calmly at all," Khaki said. "It was so exciting. Everyone

took pictures as they were screaming and jumping around."

As the announcers welcomed the choirs, students walked onto the field and proceeded to sing the national anthem in a 45,000 seat stadium with a fireworks display behind them. In addition to performing, students received the opportunity to tour the different parts of the stadium usually closed to audience members, Troy vocal music director Mark Henson said.

"It is a thrill to be out on the field in the stadium, and [the announcers] do a professional introduction for the entire [performance]," said Henson, "If students have friends in other high schools, they can see them, and the students get to sit through the game after."

While a few dozen students from each of the other schools participated in the event, five Warriors represented Troy. Despite the performers' initial nervousness, members felt relieved as they stood with members from another school's choir, Shahriyar said.

"Troy only had five people, which was kind of sad," Khaki said. "But Mr. Henson arranged for us to sing with another group, so that problem got resolved quickly."

During the performance,



GRAPHIC BY KAEALYN KWON

the ensemble harmonized the national anthem as rehearsed before and demonstrated their vocal skills. Through this experience, the Warriors learned to value the collaborative

efforts of different individuals in order to make the event a success. The audience's energy connected the performers with each other and the listeners, said sophomore Alany Peraza.

"[Students] liked the energy from the audience [members], especially how they cheered us on," Peraza said. "All in all, it was an amazing experience and definitely worth going again!"

Khan Academy Junior Breakthrough Challenge application period opens

Open to middle and high school students, the challenge merged science with communication skills.

By Iman Babiker
STAFF WRITER

As a global initiative that encourages creativity in science, the Junior Breakthrough Challenge is accepting submissions related to science, technology, engineering, or math until June 25.

In a partnership between National Geographic, Khan Academy and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, the challenge aims to encourage students to communicate scientific ideas. Students ages 13 to 18 must submit a 90 second short incorporating originality and film that creatively explains a scientific concept, theory or principle. Applicants may explore subjects such as physics, mathematics or life science.

Students and professors will judge submissions based on engagement, illumination, creativity and difficulty. In order to determine first place, a committee of 13 members decides the

winner out of 30 finalists. The committee includes professors, chief executive officers, astronauts, entrepreneurs and authors.

In addition to a \$250,000 scholarship, the winner earns \$50,000 for their science teacher as well as a \$100,000 science lab for their school designed by the private non-profit Cold Springs Harbor Laboratory. Winners will also receive the opportunity to meet past winners in a call hosted by Khan Academy founder Salman Khan.

Along with promoting STEM among middle and high school students, the challenge aims to merge communication and presentational skills with science. Moreover, the competition encourages interaction among peers, Breakthrough Junior Challenge judge Lucy Hawking said in an announcement on the challenge's website.

"The challenge gives young people worldwide a creative, scientific mission, asking them to share their understanding, research and vision with others," Hawking said. "Who better to explain and illuminate difficult ideas and concepts to young people than their peers?"

In an effort to normalize open

participation, the challenge enables students to become more confident as active members of the scientific community. The competition promotes inclusivity to combat the confinement of scientific work and research to conventional experts, science literary expert Mae Jemison said. "When students are challenged to create videos that make scientific and mathematical concepts clear, relevant and engaging to the general public, science overall becomes more accessible to everyone," Jemison said. "This helps demystify the notions around who can and should be doing science."

In order to cultivate a new perspective, the challenge encourages students to communicate their ideas to others. The competition keeps younger generations involved and sets the stage for future scientists, Breakthrough Prize co-founder Pricilla Chan said.

"This project is about unleashing young people's capacity for fresh thinking and inspiring a new generation of scientists," Chan said. "The challenge encourages future scientists and leaders to help us see scientific principles in new ways."

**JUNIOR
BREAKTHROUGH
CHALLENGE**

- 90 second video
- students ages 13-18
- \$250k scholarship
- \$50k for teacher
- \$100k science lab for school

**APPLICATION DEADLINE
June 25**

GRAPHIC BY SOPHIE CHEN

Local events will return this summer following fewer COVID-19 restrictions

Los Angeles Pride Parade

By Nathan Chao
STAFF WRITER



After a two year hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Los Angeles Pride Parade will return in person to unite LA's LGBTQ+ community and allies June 12. Hosted in West Hollywood in previous years, the parade's route will begin in Hollywood, the original location of the parade this

year. In what would have been its 50th anniversary, the parade closed in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19. In an effort to adapt to the pandemic, the non-profit organization, LA Pride, aired the LA Pride 50th Anniversary Celebration show on June 27, 2020. This year, the Christopher Street West Association will manage the parade with a predicted attendance of 400,000 Angelinos. This year, the event will feature an "LGBTQ+ Night" at Dodger Stadium and the annual LA Pride Parade, where attendees can cheer for the LGBTQ+ procession on Hollywood Boulevard. The parade will also feature live performances by famous LGBTQ+ icons such as Christina Aguilera and Chika.

Brea SummerFest

By Nathan Chao
STAFF WRITER



As one of the largest community events in Orange County, Brea Summerfest will return to offer a three-day festival of food, live music and entertainment June 3-5. In celebration of the event's 33rd anniversary, the annual Brea Summerfest will invite all members of North

Orange County to the festival. At the fair, attendees can participate in a neon-themed ferris wheel, a carnival-esque swing ride and carnival games with prizes such as dolls and toys. For \$45 in advance, attendees can purchase an unlimited number of tickets for rides and carnival

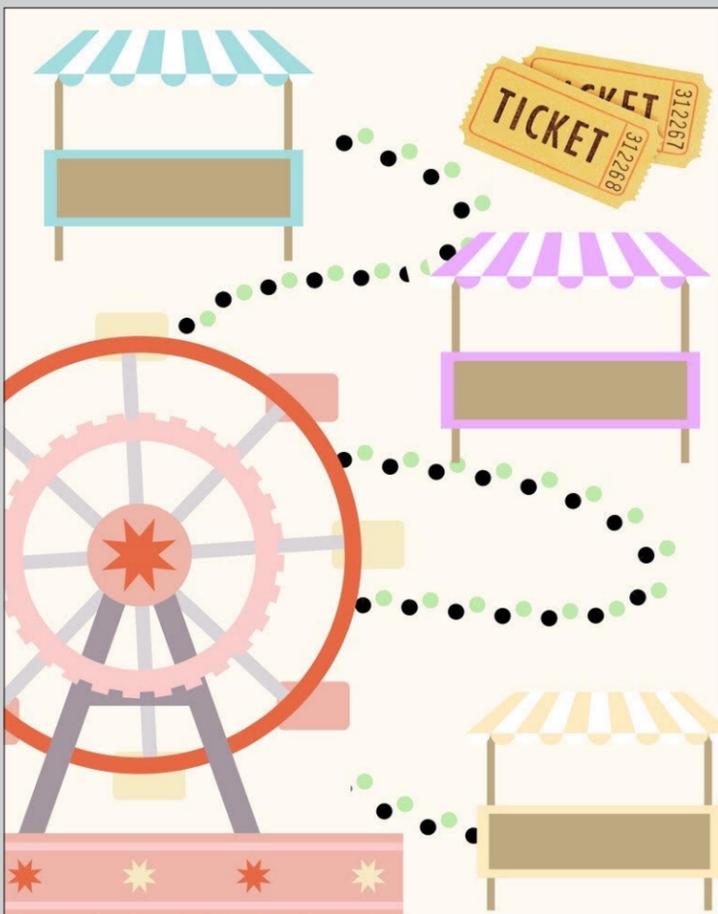
games. The organizers will donate all net proceeds from the sale of ride tickets, food and other attractions to the St. Angela Merici Parish School in Brea. Despite the additional fee for all rides and entertainment, the festival is free admission for all guests. As the festival provides a variety of foods and drinks to the visitors, the fair prohibits outside food or drink inside the gates. Without a reservation system, all venue seating will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. To provide live music for all ages to enjoy, the fair will feature music genres that include today's top hits to classic oldies. This year's lineup includes Jeff Lyons and Matt Mauser.

Orange County Fair

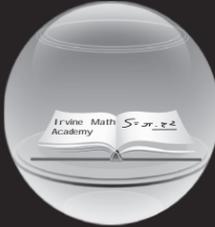
By Nathan Chao
STAFF WRITER

With an attendance of over one million guests annually, Costa Mesa's Orange County Fair will resume this year with relaxed restrictions July 15 to Aug 14. For entertainment, the fair will feature numerous rides including "Dream Wheel", "Scrambler" and "Zipper." In addition to rides, the fair offers food such as a jumbo turkey legs and deep fried oreos. With new sanitizing procedures in high-contact areas, the OC Fair requires unvaccinated guests to wear a face mask inside buildings. Although the county canceled the fair indefinitely in 2020 due to COVID-19, the

event returned in 2021 with limited capacity. Last year, the fair enforced mandatory face masks for all patrons regardless of vaccination status. Visitors also had to maintain a distance of six feet from each other. Showcased at the fair, Kool & the Gang as well as Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons will perform at the Pacific Amphitheatre on site. For individuals searching for a summer job, the fair will hire 1,500 employees 16 and up. If hired, employee perks will include free admission to the fair and the opportunity to win an employee scholarship.



GRAPHIC BY JOSELINE LY



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18 WEEK SESSION SPRING 2022 LIVE ONLINE CLASS

DAY	COURSE	GRADE	TIME	TUITION	DATE
Tuesday	Enhanced Math I	8th ~ 9th	5:45 p.m. ~ 7:45 p.m.	\$828	1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/19
	Elementary Math Olympiads	4th ~ 5th	9:45 a.m. ~ 11:45 a.m.	\$828	2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21
Saturday	Enhanced Math II & Algebra 2/Trigonometry Designed for APAAS students	9th ~ 10th	12:00 p.m. ~ 2:00 p.m.	\$828	
	Enhanced Math III & Pre-Calculus	10th~11th	2:15 p.m. ~ 4:15 p.m.	\$828	
	Math Olympiads AMC 10 & AMC 11	8th ~ 10th	4:20 p.m. ~ 6:20 p.m.	\$828	
Sunday	Math Olympiads AMC 12 & AIME	9th ~ 12th	6:25 p.m. ~ 8:25 p.m.	\$828	
	AP Calculus AB/BC	9th ~ 12th	10:45 a.m. ~ 12:45 p.m.	\$828	
	Math Olympiads AMC 9/MATHCOUNTS	6th ~ 8th	1:00 p.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.	\$828	
	Pre-Math Olympiads	5th ~ 6th	3:15 p.m. ~ 5:15 p.m.	\$828	1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22



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Live online courses will allow students to hear and see the lectures and ask questions. Please check our website for more details about our online courses.

Disney Aspire Program expands to Fullerton in new partnership

With monetary and advisory resources available to participants, the program aims to minimize student debt.

By Neya Jakan
STAFF WRITER

In order to offer free, in-person college education to employees, the Walt Disney Company announced a partnership with California State University Fullerton and Fullerton College on May 2 through the Disney Aspire Program.

With a broad network of schools, full-time and part-time employees will be able to choose their major from a total of 200 college degrees at the associate, bachelor's, and master's levels. Partnered with Guild education, Disney provides employees access to pursue 80 types of certificates in learning and trade programs. The program will cover the entire cost for tuition, fees, and books for employees to help them reach their educational goals.

Since Disney initiated the program in 2018, thousands of Disney employees enrolled in Aspire network virtual schools. Online programs include courses to earn degrees at the University of Arizona, University of Florida and University of Central Florida. Disney's new partnership with CSUF will enable in-person interactions



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY COMPANY

with professors and classmates instead of an online setting.

With access to personal advisors, Aspire students will receive individual support and assistance with opportunities involving recruiters and hiring managers. The company also provides health and savings benefits and additional educational opportunities through the program in order to encourage employees to pursue their career aspirations.

According to Aspire graduate Sean Fagan, Disney hopes to minimize high student loan

debt across the United States of America by aiding employees with the cost of education. Since the company covers the entirety of the tuition, the program allows students to pursue their educational goals without the constant stress of finance, Fagan said.

"Since student loans are some of the largest problems that the country faces today, it is wonderful to have a company [like] Disney that will pay for your education," Fagan said. "Cast members must work for the company for three months, choose a

program that they like, submit their application and wait for the school to get back to them."

In an interview with the company, senior executive vice president Jayne Parker stated that the program encourages employees to focus on goals they want to achieve.

"At the Walt Disney Company, we strive to empower and support Disney employees in their professional and personal lives," Parker said. "We are constantly looking at ways to help people realize their ambitions and fulfill their career dreams."

The Oracle thanks the retiring and leaving teachers and staff for their contributions at Troy High School and wishes them luck in their future endeavors.

Jerry Cowgill

After teaching at Troy for over 20 years, math teacher and golf coach Jerry Cowgill is concluding his teaching career and retiring this school year. Cowgill helped many students in the past to help achieve their academic and golf goals. According to Cowgill, coaching the varsity girls golf team to the California Interscholastic Federation championships was one of his most rewarding experiences at Troy. Cowgill is grateful for his time teaching, and wishes the best of luck to all students in high school and beyond.

Steve Lyon

Most notably known as the founder of the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Troy, First Sergeant Steve Lyon will be remembered as a man of humble beginnings. After a level five coma in the marines, Lyon began his teaching career at Troy. Twenty-seven years later, Lyon is grateful for the opportunity to guide members of the program. "I have seen cadets grow and go off to college. I am nothing but proud." During retirement, Lyon intends to begin a new chapter in his life, but plans to visit Troy occasionally in the future.

James Melton

Troy bids farewell to James Melton, a devoted Football coach, chemistry teacher and Avid 2 instructor. Moving with his family to Knoxville, Tenn., Melton intends to continue his passion for teaching. Emphasizing the importance of mental fortitude and consistent effort, Melton leaves Warriors with a reminder to stay enthusiastic and passionate even through stressful times. Students will remember him as a motivator and a leader constantly pushing students to stay positive and strive to do their best.

An additional thanks to former counselor Sonia Diaz, instructional aide Regina Hahn and football coach Josh Lomeli for their contributions to Troy.

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TROY HIGH SCHOOL

More With Minimalism

Stepping off the treadmill of consumerism, minimalism dares to pursue satisfaction through means other than material goods. Read below to see how you can maximize your happiness by embracing minimal details.

Compiled by Kira Chen, **LIFESTYLE EDITOR**, article by Zoey Bahng and Joey Kelly, **STAFF WRITERS**, cartoons by Kaila Perlas and Pearl Yoon, **CARTOONS**

With the tide of minimalism washing in, less is really becoming more. The days of hippy tie-dyes and flamboyant flare jeans of the 90s are long gone, as societal fashion gradually transitions to an era of chic simplicity. Though this art form seems to be limited to plain landscapes and dull hues, generational mindsets are redefining and maximizing the minimalist movement.

The serenity and simple beauty of any minimalist environment may seem effortless at first glance, but attaining this tranquil aesthetic takes more than arranging a few pieces of furniture against a white backdrop. Offering a stark contrast to the antiquated jam-packed interiors of the Victorian era, the minimalist philosophy swaps the ornate for the austere. Homes often feature open floor plans, accented with bohemian-chic elements such as stone, mahogany and glass. Rooms also celebrate architectural details by designing around them, often using very little decoration in order to preserve the peaceful ambiance of a space. Embracing the art movement's focus on simple geometric shapes,

many interiors highlight smooth surfaces and effortless structures like those of marble countertops and glass dining tables. While many enjoy a minimalist space's clean and crisp look, the dilution with other contemporary styles may force some designs to come off as cold and soulless. However, incorporating soft wool accents and unique tile patterns can give soothing warmth and visual intrigue. In the same pursuit of tranquility, color palettes are anchored by muted shades that are easy to work with including soft grays, light blues and snowy whites. Instantly recognizable for its visual calm, minimalism reduces homes down to their most basic and functional forms, transforming living spaces into comforting oases.

This form of art is not solely limited to wealthy celebrities as teenagers today have become minimalist movement drivers themselves. The emergence of neutral colors and plain patterns has allowed teens to follow cleaner and friendlier styles. Minimalist fashion has taken the world by storm—now more than ever, students are swap-

ping loud, flashy wardrobes for monochrome pieces like denim jeans, crisp, all-white Air Force 1s and black Jansport backpacks. Remaining on the front lines of fashion, the iconically minimalist Air Force 1's persist as one of the most conventional and convenient pairs of shoes for everyday wear. The crisp, all-white leather adds a taste of maturity, framing any outfit with an effortlessly elegant final step. The uncomplicated standards of minimalism contribute to the rise of sustainable capsule closets and thrifting, both of which help combat fast fashion culture. By decluttering their lives, students can escape the binds of consumer culture by purchasing the things they truly need. This form of fashion is fashion at its most efficient, and the unity is bringing our generation together silently, but surely.

A minimalist lifestyle is the antithesis of the modern consumerist narrative—and for good reason. As the perils of fast fashion continue to spread, more teens are backing their beliefs with everyday actions, prompting today's youth to push for change with greater zeal. Ethically diverse, many Gen Zers

prefer environmentally friendly alternatives that consume less energy and natural resources. Rather than spending hundreds on brand-new attires, many students are connecting with eco-minimalism—a campaign aimed at reducing ecological footprints and simplifying daily regimes. Second-hand platforms such as Depop and Poshmark allow shoppers to minimize consumption of unethically produced goods, further reducing waste. Other brands are also jumping on the environmental bandwagon, now opting for innovative fabrics made from organic and single-use fiber materials to ensure optimum recyclability. Ideas that were formerly considered eccentric have transformed into trends of activism, changes that are all chalked up to Generation Z.

This new wave of extraordinary plainness reflects the peace of mind that people of this tirelessly teeming world dream of. As students race through each day drowning in an endless sea of details, minimalism can serve as a way to simplify the mayhem—to stabilize foundations and achieve a cleaner state of mind.



KEEPING UP WITH SELF-CARE

Bullet Journaling



Rather than covering desks with sticky notes and setting reminders on phones, students can try bullet journaling—a combination of tasks in one organized book. Decorating blank pages and embracing wandering thoughts, journalers can tap into their creative outlets using washi tape and colorful pens.

EMMO



Relaxation is just a click away. An indispensable method of boosting mindfulness, EMMO allows students to doodle their own expressions and keep track of their day-to-day moods. Users can embellish their entries with a variety of stickers and EMMO's customizable emoji faces.

Lavender



Infusing rooms with verdant evergreen and light floral notes, students can fall into peaceful slumbers harnessing the therapeutic powers of lavender. To receive the plant's natural soothing benefits, students can spritz their bed linens with an organic spray mist or simply apply a few drops to their hands.

Oracle Class of 2022

Andrew

With a grin on his face and a scheme in his head, Andrew has never failed to bring excitement to the Oracle team. Just like Plankton, you always have quite a few chaotic antics up your sleeve to spice up the day. Andrew, as a mentor, friend and prankster, you always manage to bring laughter or momentary confusion to the team, one way or another. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Oracle. We were more than honored to have had you, and we wish you luck on your bright future at Stanford!

Amber

Always equipped with a witty remark or a bad math pun, you, Amber, have truly made Oracle a better team. The most logical and cool headed out of all of our editors, you never fail to point out the flaws in our reasoning or to fact check our information. Your constant presence as our voice of reason makes you the Karen of our Oracle. Amber, thank you for guiding us and always being someone we can turn to for advice. We are so proud of you and we wish you the best at MIT!



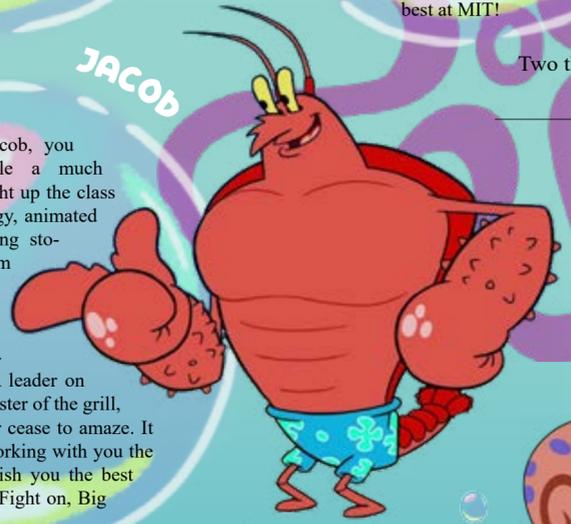
Cassandra

Cassandra, you may not know the Krabby Patty's guarded trade secret, but you certainly know the secret to managing Oracle's finances. Unlike Mr. Krab's stingy and cold-hearted character, your radiant smile and unwavering kindness are qualities that money could never afford. Your readiness to help and willingness to take on any challenge is truly admirable. We can't wait to see you leave your stamp on the world, Cassandra. Room 315 will always be rooting for you!



Jacob

From the outset, Jacob, you have made Oracle a much brighter place. You light up the class with your positive energy, animated conversation and engaging stories. A true friend and gym enthusiast, you are the Larry of Oracle. Steadfast and dedicated, you can always be counted on to deliver in all that you do. A leader on the football field and a master of the grill, your many talents never cease to amaze. It has been a pleasure working with you the past year and we wish you the best of luck at USC. Fight on, Big Man Grillz!



Two thousand (and 22) years later... Congratulations, you made it! These pages are dedicated to our Oracle seniors who are finally departing our Bikini Bottom. Thank you so much for the past year, and we wish you all the best of luck.

Compiled by Coco Gong and Vivian Lee, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF, graphics by Joseline Ly, GRAPHICS, images courtesy of Nickelodeon

David

His passion for design doesn't end at the cloth and cotton of his fashion, but is also heavily represented in his astounding graphics. Shoe style as slick as Gary's slime, David, you are somebody that anyone can rely on. You may be as cool-headed as Gary, but the timely completion of your graphic assignments is nowhere near the slowness of a snail. Thank you so much for your contributions as Oracle's graphics editor, and we hope UCR offers you more opportunities to show off that talented shell of yours.



Mai

Equipped with a kind smile and infinite patience, Oracle is a more welcoming place with you, Mai. Even during the most hectic days, we can always rely on you to brighten the mood. Laughter becomes easier around you. Your loyalty and compassion for those around you is endless, and we will wholeheartedly miss you. You always put your friends first and have a large heart. Like Patrick, you are an amazing friend and also a star! Thank you for being an outstanding writer and role model. Wherever you end up, know that Oracle is cheering you on!



Cathy

Warm-ing up the room with a smile more contagious than Spongebob's, you have made Oracle a safe space for us all. With your incomparable sense for edits and layout, you helped add color to every new article. Cathy, your positivity and sharp comments not only helped us become better writers, but also taught us what it takes to be a leader. As the Spongebob of Room 315, you gave us the biggest smiles and the warmest advice. Cathy, we were lucky to have you, and good luck at UCSD! Oracle's pineapple villa will always be open for you.

Jade

A well put together sense of fashion and a girlboss attitude are the only accessories needed for Jade to manage the entirety of Oracle. Jade, you are the Pearl of Oracle, always glowing with a bright smile and bubbly energy. Your creativity is boundless like the sea, whether you are meticulously putting together the Oracle website or managing all assignments. Like Pearl, you are Oracle's cheerleader, being a true advocate and supporter of everybody. Thank you for all the laughter and memories in Oracle. However, now it's our turn to cheer you on as you continue your journey at USC!



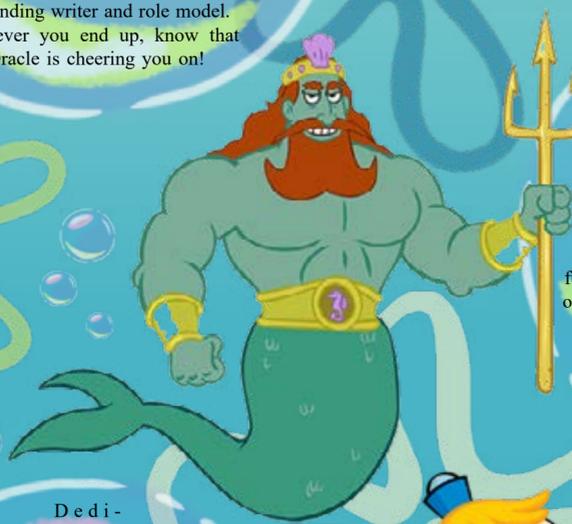
Diya

Always leaving a supportive and caring first impression, we can always rely on our kind-hearted news editor, Diya. Although you're not a squirrel in a wetsuit, your friendly (but sometimes strict) advice provides us with much-needed guidance like Sandy Cheeks. You will be greatly missed from Room 315, but we know that you'll touch others' lives the same way you touched ours. Thank you for all your contributions to the news team, and we wish you only the best in your future endeavors. Good luck at Chapman!



Jackie

Bring-ing a queen attitude along with some serious muscle to Room 315, you, Jacqueline, have always made second period a happier place. Despite your small stature, your overflowing strength and vigor reminds us of King Neptune with his mighty trident. We have always felt safe thanks to your super strength, and we are confident about what the future holds for you. With the crown of might on your head, we know you will power through every hurdle and kill 'em with K-pop wherever you go. We wish you the best of luck at Berkeley as you take on the world one arm-wrestle at a time!



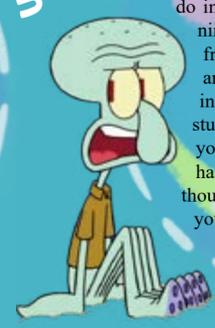
Isaiah

To the boy in one-half of the iconic duo, Isaiah, you truly bring a smile to our faces. You have always been a hero to us: whenever we are struggling, you're there to guide us or even do it for us. We admire your welcoming and helpful attitude, and it is also wonderful to see you mess around and make absurd jokes. Thank you for everything you have done for us. We wish you the best of luck for everything you have in the future. We know you'll make it far. Nothing but happiness for you!



Kirsten

Like the muscular Mermaid Man, the Oracle's sensational cartoonist, equipped with an iPad and volleyball, is filled with an array of talent. Kirsten, you are full of such charisma that it instantly brightens up any room. Thanks to your contagious smile and laugh, especially when paired with our bubbly Barnacle Boy, you are a hero to Room 315. Thank you so much for your contributions to the visual department of our newspaper. Kirsten, we are so proud of you and will always support you as you embark on your college journey at UCR!



Sean

Dedication rivaling Squidward's love of playing the clarinet, Sean, your hard work shines through everything you do in Oracle. You not only create stunning layouts, but also are a wonderful friend. Even without six tentacles, you are always ready to lend an arm to those in need by editing articles, helping us study for an upcoming test, and sharing your impeccable taste in music. Oracle has been so fortunate to have such a thoughtful and patient editor. We wish you the best of luck and the warmest of goodbyes as you leave our Bikini Bottom.



Kathleen

Hey Mom- ahem. Hey Kathleen! Thank you so much for being the driving force behind the Oracle. Through your meticulous leadership and motherly love, you have left all of us with new skill sets and fond memories. No detail ever escapes your eyes: we can always count on you to analyze our layouts to the pixel and treat us with your heavenly baking. Like how Mrs. Puff relentlessly teaches Spongebob boating, you are there for us always. Best of luck in college! We have no doubt that you will continue to imprint on the hearts of others with your brilliance and compassion.

Reptiles are at risk of extinction, and humans are only making matters worse

By Joelle Cheeseman
STAFF WRITER



Reptiles are going extinct and humans will have to pay for it.

On April 27, a groundbreaking study was published, revealing that 21% of reptile species are at risk of extinction.

With a severe lack of research on reptile conservation, this new analysis shows the weight of Earth's growing biodiversity crisis and has sparked urgency among environmental scientists. Hunting, animal trade and deforestation practices are taking an enormous toll on tropical reptile populations.

As declining biodiversity disrupts the balance of our ecosystems, we must take immediate action to counter human damages.

While at the surface, reptiles seem unappealing to human interests, they must be protected to maintain environmental stability. The Environmental Protection

Agency states that reptiles provide beneficial ecosystem services by altering physical habitats, cycling nutrients and stabilizing food web dynamics. Reptiles also regulate pest and disease outbreaks, which in turn prevents the overpopulation of several species, such as plants and rodents. Humans also depend on these locations for recreational activities, agriculture and air purification. If reptile

populations continue to decrease, ecosystems and its inhabitants, including humans, will be gravely affected. Protecting the rich biodiversity of these ecosystems should be of utmost importance.

Currently, human activity poses the greatest threat to biodiversity across the globe. The reptile conservation assessment noted

that agricultural development is one of the top threats to reptiles, affecting 65.9% of forest-dwelling reptiles. As the human population increases,

the demand for housing and farm land also grows, leading to detrimental habitat loss for reptiles. If we continue unsustainable farming practices, the health and prevalence of reptile species will severely decline. We must take accountability for the damages mankind has dealt to ecosystems across the globe.

While the effects of urbanization on animals are abundantly clear, there are also substantial economic consequences for such actions. The 2019 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Biodiversity Report estimates the services covering land degradation lead to a global loss of 6.3 to 10.6 trillion dollars per year. Flourishing biodiversity ensures successful crop and fishing yields while lowering economic losses from flooding. Exploiting natural resources and harming native species will only backfire on humans. Our current rate of deforestation is clearly unsustainable and if we continue to ignore this issue, it will severely harm wild animals and humans alike.

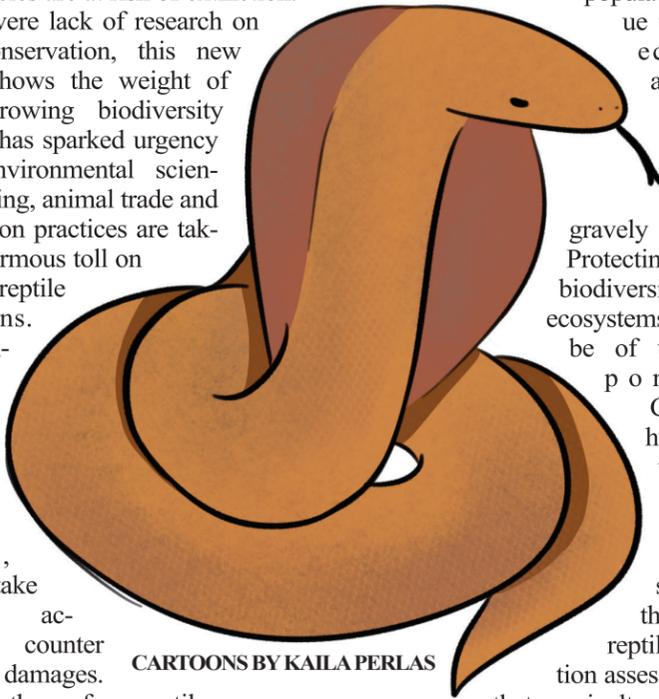
Illegal animal trade also heavily impacts reptile biodiversity. The reptile conservation assessment found that artificially introduced mammals threaten 257 species of reptiles on tropical islands.

When new animals are introduced, oftentimes through illegal animal trades, they dominate these new environments by competing with native species for resources. These invasive species may even push native species to extinction. Additionally, these animal trades often lead to the spread of new diseases, which can wipe

out native populations. As we learn more about the threats

to biodiversity, it is vital for us to incorporate additional restrictions on animal trade.

Amid growing concern over climate change, the impending biodiversity crisis is often swept under the rug. However, these issues are connected by their ultimate cause—human activity. With the growing demand for farming and housing land, people are destroying habitats that reptiles and other species depend on to survive. These species cannot keep up with human expansion. Increasing amounts of research show that a greater effort is needed to counteract the effects of urbanization and human disturbances. By staying informed of new policies, ensuring sustainable hunting and fishing, reducing pesticide and plastic pollution and decreasing government spending on fossil fuels, people can make a difference for the future of our planet.



CARTOONS BY KAILA PERLAS

America should not be prioritizing its livestock over its gray wolf population

By Shailey Patel
STAFF WRITER



America's environment is dying alongside its wolves.

On Nov. 3, 2020 the gray wolf was taken off of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services

Endangered Species List.

As a result, many states have enacted laws attempting to reduce the population, such as offering \$200,000 bounties and permitting hunters to use

snare traps to catch wolves. The new legislation showcases the nation's desire to rid itself of wolves and the false belief that wolves pose a real threat to game and livestock. Gray wolves, however, play a crucial role in America's society and environment and cannot be killed at the expense of the minor threat they pose to livestock.

The stance that hunters and ranchers take against gray wolves is structured on a minute disturbance in their livestock population—gray wolves are not the villain that they are made out to be. A study done by The U.S. Department of Agriculture found that in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, wolves killed one out of every 44,853 cows and one out of 7,193 sheep. In both cases,

livestock killed by wolves account for less than 1% of the livestock, showing that wolves do not threaten livestock. These states are pressing for the most anti-wolf legislation, and contain most of the livestock that are killed. Even though farmers may be concerned about losing cattle, statistics show that wolves are not to blame. Such low numbers do not present a valid case for the brutal killing of wolves.

Wolves are being killed at the expense of animals who are more harmful to the world than they are. The United States is home to more than 94 million beef and dairy cows, who produce one third of

the world's methane emissions. As this greenhouse gas is released into the air, it becomes oxidized into water vapor and carbon dioxide, which become trapped in the atmosphere and contribute to global warming. Climate change destroys habitats and leads to widespread species loss, which in turn negatively affects humans. The U.S. is selfishly promoting the safety of livestock that contribute to worldwide global warming over the safety of wolves who pose no threat to the environment. Rather than curbing the growth of wolves, Americans should be trying to find ways to stop the environmental pollution that their very own livestock produces.

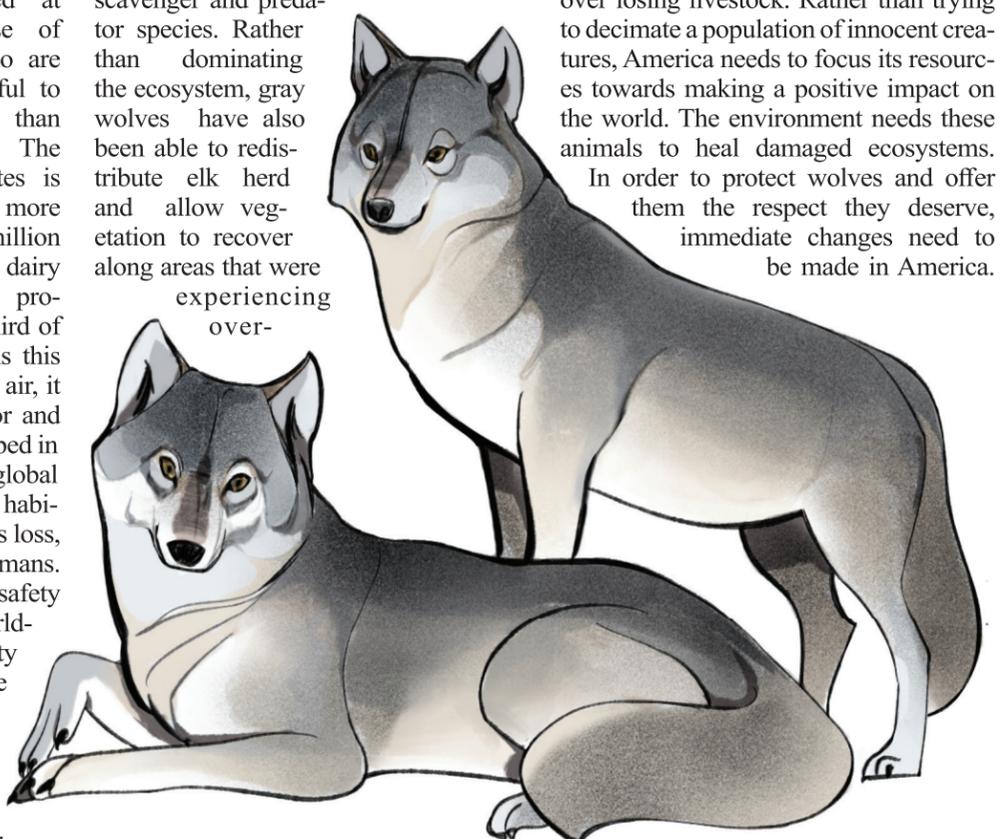
Instead of attempting to eliminate

populations of gray wolves, Americans should recognize them as a successful solution towards restoring their damaged ecosystems. When wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone Park in 1995, they triggered a cascade of positive effects among plants and animals. Due to the presence of wolves, elk were less likely to overgraze near rivers and streams, aquatic habitats improved tremendously and three times more food was available to scavenger and predator species. Rather than dominating the ecosystem, gray wolves have also been able to redistribute elk herd and allow vegetation to recover along areas that were experiencing over-

grazing and soil erosion. This rebound in ecosystem diversity allowed struggling species to increase their numbers. Wolves should be regarded as a blessing, and states should not continue to encourage the slaughter of animals that could help reverse the devastation of human expansion on America's landscape.

Wolves are the answers that Americans have been searching for and should not be discarded due to concerns over losing livestock. Rather than trying to decimate a population of innocent creatures, America needs to focus its resources towards making a positive impact on the world. The environment needs these animals to heal damaged ecosystems.

In order to protect wolves and offer them the respect they deserve, immediate changes need to be made in America.



CARTOON BY PEARL YOON

Menthol cigarettes need to be banned to halt drug addiction among teens and minorities

By Edyn Mai
STAFF WRITER



Menthol cigarettes are hurting our communities. On April 28, the Food and Drug Administration proposed a rule which would ban menthol cigarettes. Menthol has a minty flavor and aroma which masks the strong taste of ash from the burning paper and tobacco of cigarettes. While many argue that menthol cigarettes do not do any more harm than unflavored cigarettes, the ban must be put into place to protect youth and minorities.

“This is a problem because the menthol cigarette industry exploits not only young people, but minorities in low income neighborhoods as well.”

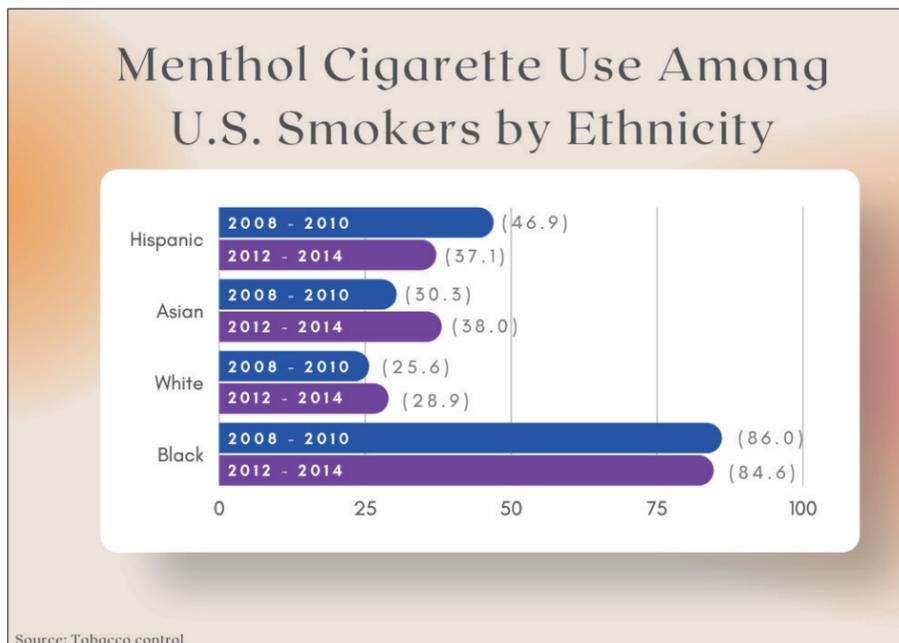
Menthol attracts young consumers and is harmful to our communities. The National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics claims that drug use has risen 61% among 8th graders between 2016 and 2020; this increase was due to a spike in flavored electric cigarettes and other flavored drugs. Menthol creates a short 10 to 15 buzz of euphoria by stimulating epinephrine and dopamine production. The high leads to crippling addiction, and if users do not satisfy their cravings for cigarettes, they may

undergo withdrawal. Flavors such as menthol not only draw users in, but also make smoking a more enjoyable experience, and add to its allure.

Additionally, banning menthol cigarettes would lower the rate of diseases, such as lung cancer. Most menthol cigarette smokers are minorities; as a matter of fact, black men have the highest rate of lung cancer in the United States. The FDA claims that about 85% of black smokers use menthol cigarettes, leading many people to believe that menthol makes cigarettes harder to quit. Additionally, studies suggest that many corporations target minorities and low

income areas for business ventures. This is a problem because the menthol cigarette industry exploits not only young people, but minorities in low income neighborhoods as well. Due to an individual's race, they may have a greater chance of becoming hooked on cigarettes, and developing diseases such as lung cancer. The ban on menthol cigarettes would help end the manipulation of the vulnerable and needs to be put into place.

Furthermore, flavored drugs are more likely to spark future addictions for kids. The Center for



GRAPHIC BY JOSELINE LY

Disease Control states that teens who used drugs before the age of 15 are 28.1% more likely to be addicted in the future. Flavors such as cotton candy, blue raspberry and strawberry ice cream make drugs seem harmless and are targeted towards young teens who may not know better. By downplaying the danger of smoking, companies can profit off of addiction. In 2009, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act banned all other cigarette flavors except for menthol. Banning menthol cigarettes would be the final nail in

the coffin to preventing addiction. Most young and minority smokers face consequences that can only be prevented by the ban on menthol cigarettes. Decreasing the likelihood of smoking induced lung cancer and addiction should be a priority. While some may say that the ban will have little to no effect, menthol cigarette smokers take up a majority of cigarette smokers. It is clear that flavored cigarettes do more harm than good. A world without menthol cigarettes is a world one step closer to eliminating drug addiction.

mark my words

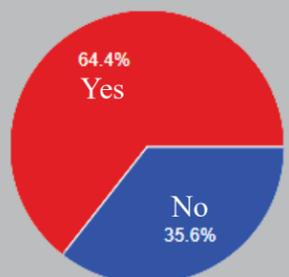
Warriors speak out on campus issues

Read what our Warriors have to say regarding the current classroom rules at Troy.

“Music is a great way to concentrate on homework or assignments throughout class.”
-Anonymous junior

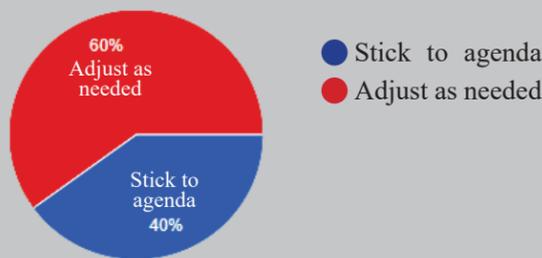
“Assigned arrangement can stabilize a new classroom environment in the first quarter, but doing so for longer will become restrictive to students.”
- Anonymous junior

Are teachers too strict with cell phone usage in class?
● Yes
● No



“A lot of the times, when teachers assign seats, that is how most friendships are formed.”
- Mary Castro, senior

Do you prefer teachers who stick to a structured agenda for the entire year or those who adjust throughout the year?



“Since we all have chromebooks at our disposal, if someone loses something, they can get in on google classroom, or print in library if needed..”
- Alicia Yoon, senior

“It's so nice when teachers shift the date of tests and homework to account for big tests in other subjects.”
- Anonymous freshman

“Not many of my teachers are quick to take away phones but they do warn students which is justifiable.”
- Anonymous junior

“I find it to be stressful when teachers make a sudden shift in their agenda.”
- Bianca Naranjo, freshman

“I think that some teachers are too strict when it comes to cell phone usage in class. Some teachers make students put phones in a phone storage in the beginning of class, which makes me feel like they don't trust us enough to have it without using it. I think that if teachers told us that we can use our phones at certain times, as long as we pay attention, then it is okay because they are giving us their trust.”
- Christine Tawfik, senior

For both sides of the political spectrum, leaking a drafted decision is wrong

By Brett Larson
STAFFWRITER



Politics aside, leaking a draft decision is wrong.

Both sides of the political spectrum are infuriated following Politico's leak of the Supreme Court draft that hinted at overturning Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 ruling that legalizes abortion. Proponents of the leak insist that it is necessary in order to maintain transparency, which they argue is a key aspect of American democracy. On the other hand, others suggest that the leak is a violation of the Supreme Court's privacy and could interfere with the court's decision-making process. Ultimately, Americans must come to terms with the fact that leaking a Supreme Court opinion before it is released is both dangerous and irresponsible.

Failing to condemn this leak is wrong and will only lead to more leaks in the future. Supreme Court opinions have been leaked in the past—even the original 1973 Roe v. Wade decision had been leaked prior to being announced. However, this is the first time a fully-

formed draft opinion has been released to the press without the consent of the court. This could prove problematic as those seeking to coerce Supreme Court justices into changing their vote now

have an opportunity to do so. Rather than the Court acting as a protector of the Constitution, justices would be unable to submit their

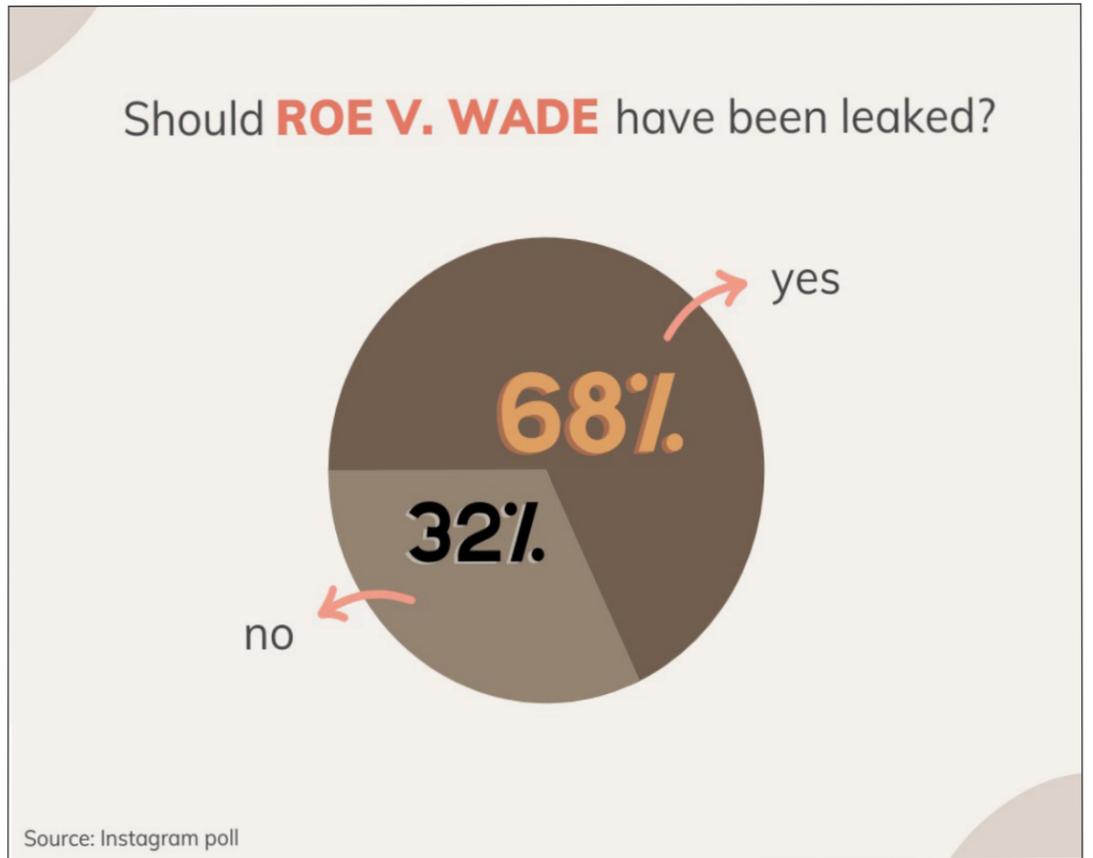
opinions without fear of retaliation from the public. Americans must acknowledge that an opportunity to attack the court is no different from an opportunity to attack the Constitution. By failing to act now, we set a dangerous precedent that puts the court's future at risk.

Although some cite the Supreme Court leak as a byproduct of democracy, it must be clarified that the Supreme Court is not a democratic system. Justices are not chosen by the American people, but instead are nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. This process safeguards the United States Constitution during times of crisis by ensuring a stable court:

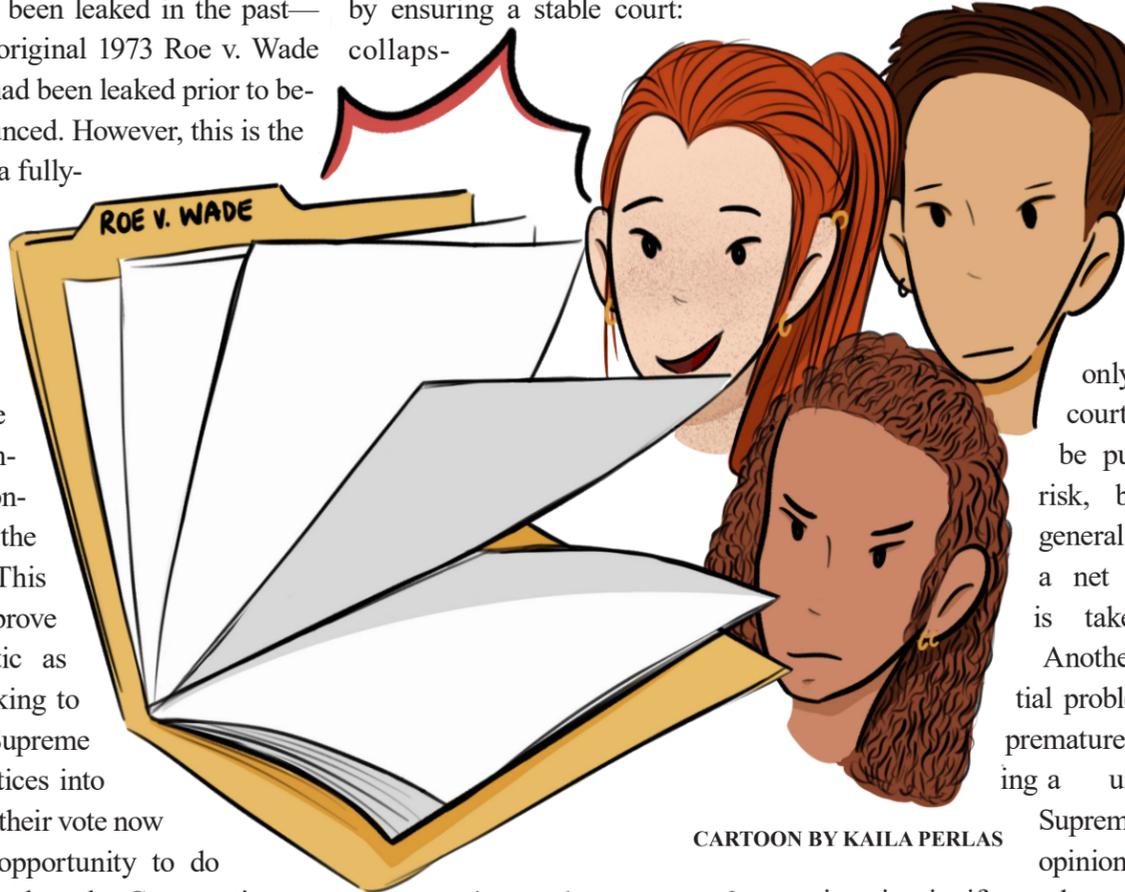
collaps-

ing under pressure from the public, many interpretations of the US Constitution would change

every election cycle. This, in turn, would lead to further government instability, putting the country in danger. As such, citing the leak as necessary to forward democracy is irresponsible. Not only can the court officials be put at high risk, but for the general public a net of safety is taken away. Another potential problem is that prematurely releasing a undisclosed Supreme Court opinion puts justices in significant danger. According to Deadline Hollywood, activists have gathered outside of the



GRAPHIC BY JOSELINE LY

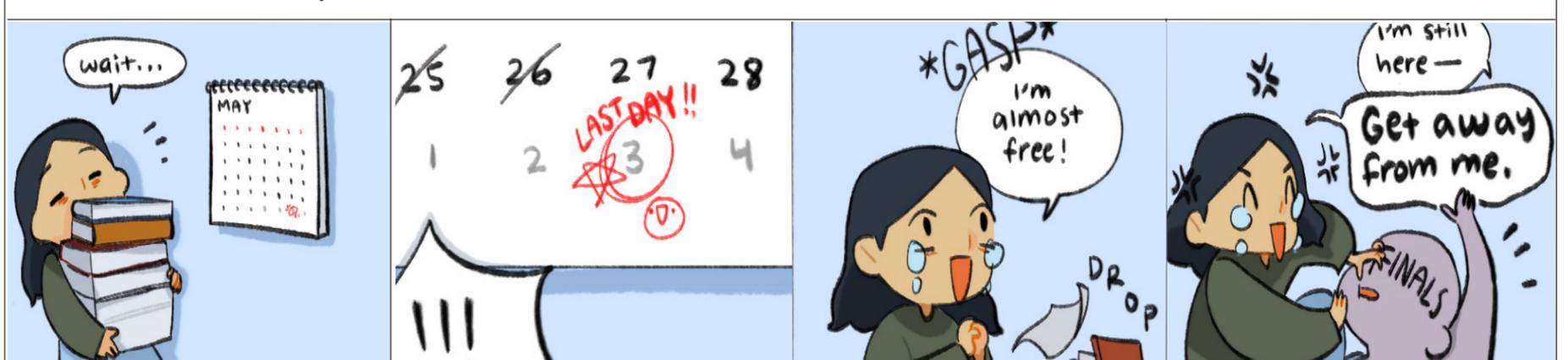


CARTOON BY KAILA PERLAS

homes of Brett Kavanaugh and John Roberts. These protests serve as nothing more than an attempt to sway the justices to make a decision. According to a 1950 federal statute, protests intended to influence a justice are illegal. This predicament also opens the door to violence against either Supreme Court Justice, which radically changes the outcome of the court's decision. Protesting outside of a justices' home is a fear tactic that definitely crosses the line.

Overall, the leaking of the Roe v. Wade decision sets a dangerous precedent and serves as a new low in American politics. Regardless of the fate of Roe v. Wade, Americans must recognize that leaking a draft is wrong. Problematic for both political parties, leaks will lead to threats justices and to inconsistent verdicts. Furthermore, by undermining the Supreme Court, the US Constitution is put at risk. In order to both put an end to the potential dangers of the current situation, Americans as must come together and condemn this accidental leak.

The "Final" Countdown by Pearl Yoon



THE END OF AN ERA?

Is it lights out for late night shows? Read more about the steady decline of talkshows a new generation of entertainment takes over.

Compiled by Isabelle Liang ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article Kaitlyn Zhang and Jessica Chin, STAFF WRITERS, images courtesy of Google

As time ticks closer and closer towards midnight, the classic late night talk show setting greets millions across America for their daily dose of entertainment. Under the glamorous studio lights however, hosts face intense media scrutiny with controversies aiding them in becoming as well known as the biggest celebrities they interview. Despite past success, viewers have steadily declined as if late night shows have lost their golden touch. It seems no amount of fame will prevent James Corden or Ellen DeGeneres from leaving their respective platforms, however the talk show industry faces issues that extend beyond replacing hosts.

Rising to relevancy by hosting “The Late Late Show” since 2015, Corden has created many iconic segments. Whether it is cruising through LA with “Carpool Karaoke” or getting the latest industry secrets from “Spill Your Guts,” Corden connected fans to their favorite actors or singers. Although not the first to delve into laid back approach with musical activities, Corden has established himself an industry regular of late-night-talk-shows. However, his contract expires after the 2022-2023 season, with Columbia

Broadcasting System making it clear that they are searching for a new host. Similarly marking the end of the talk show era, Ellen DeGeneres is also leaving “The Ellen DeGeneres Show.” Accused of creating a toxic work environment and allegations of sexual misconduct, DeGeneres is cancelling the show as it continues its pattern of plummeting ratings. Two of the best trophy hosts have long been through their golden era, and are now just sitting on the shelf collecting dust as general interest in talk shows declines.

While the quality of late night shows have clearly fallen, the main issue deals with the entertainment values of new audiences. Late night shows appeal to the “traditional” sense of humor that gets a chuckle from older generations. However, as irony and almost satirical humor has consumed most of the newer generations, late night shows have lost their appeal. Cancel culture currently dominates the media of younger generations as well, making late night shows the perfect target to “cancel” due to their off-hand jokes. As hosts run out of methods to entertain their guests, they have been known to make risky attempts at humor by victimizing celebrities or not-so-subtly flirting, casually creating offensive undertones of a joke. The

fine line between comedy and disrespect is easy to cross, and with the pressure to revitalize talk shows, many hosts fall victim to getting canceled for their ignorance.

Navigating a new era of entertainment, the talk show industry isn’t only changing hosts, but realizing that talk shows aren’t relevant. The idea of television has slowly been replaced with the more efficient method of streaming. Subscriptions services have given audiences the chance to easily access their favorite shows. Instead of the generic hour-long monologues that late night shows once provided, applications such as TikTok, Instagram and Twitter dish out humorous content, fine-tuned to fit users of all ages. Stumbling through misguided assumptions and not understanding current trends, talk show hosts are unable to connect, viewing the younger generation as cliché and carefree.

A dying industry in entertainment, there is no more chatter surrounding talk shows. Despite their significance in the history of entertainment, late night shows are unfortunately falling out of touch and simply a milestone to look back on.

A MULTIVERSAL REVIEW

Dive into the madness by reading Oracle’s riveting review of “Dr. Strange: Multiverse of Madness” and the strange new direction Marvel is taking.

Compiled by Isabelle Liang ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Ishaan Arya, STAFF WRITER, images courtesy of Google

The Marvel Cinematic Universe rips open the multiverse with their first horror film, “Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness”. With amazing and inventive new visuals, top-tier acting, and beloved characters, the second Doctor Strange seemed too good to be true. While it did receive high acclaim for its exciting new character developments and wish-fulfillment, it received an equal amount of criticism for “wasted potential”. The highly divisive reaction from fans continues the Marvel Cinematic Universe’s new trend of experimentation and creative risks with this sequel to the mildly received Doctor Strange.

“Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness” is an amalgamation of the evolution of the MCU, a great example of the new creative risks the brand is taking. Unfortunately, the downside of such drastic experimentation and bold decisions is the potential risk of throwing away mainstream appeal. Traditionally, Marvel shies away from overly scary or dark emotional themes that the film is chalk-full of. Returning from his wildly successful Spider-Man trilogy, Director Sam Raimi brings his bag of horror tricks to the table. Packaged in academy-award worthy visual effects, Raimi is able

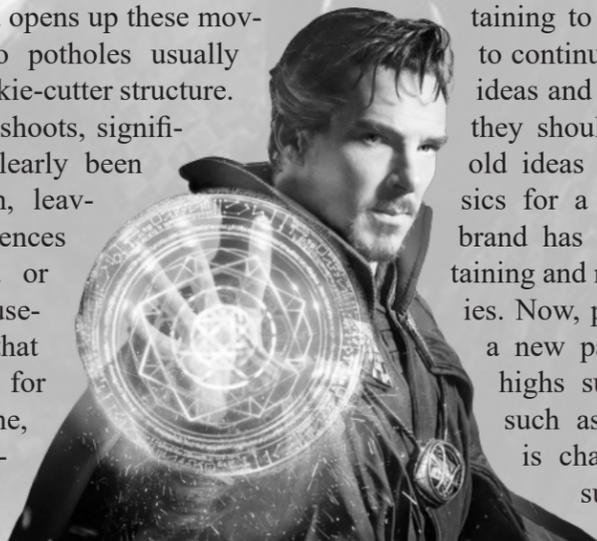
to deliver some jaw-dropping scenes ranging from grotesque to hallucinatory. On a scene-by-scene basis, the movie is spectacular, due to its highly stylized and detail-oriented nature. The intense combination of the visuals, mesmerizing sound-mix, and acting all create multi-faceted scenes to pick apart for hours. Raimi’s direction style works beautifully in representing the characters’ sorcery and witchcraft, elevating their powers in a way previous installments have not achieved. In an ever expanding superhero landscape, something new and different is a rare occurrence, something this movie definitely provides.

Stepping out of the admittedly very successful MCU mold opens up these movies to falling into potholes usually avoided by the cookie-cutter structure.

Due to multiple reshoots, significant parts have clearly been cut from the film, leaving lots of sequences feeling unfinished or just downright useless. In a movie that is clearly begging for a longer runtime, character development is a tragic

casualty. The audience can feel the character’s struggles and empathize, but these scenes don’t completely ring true due to the rushed pacing that permeates the film. Fans have accused the movie of not having enough action, with unsatisfactory third battle that lacked characteristic CGI-filled fights. It seems that emotionally moving climaxes aren’t good enough conclusions to superhero films for fans.

Regardless of anyone’s criticism of the movie, what it wasn’t was a lazy attempt at a superhero film, and it deserves credit for taking as many big and bold swings as it did. If it’s a mess, at least it’s entertaining to watch. If Marvel wants to continue down this path of new ideas and fresh execution of them, they should stick to a few of the old ideas that work, they’re classics for a reason. Marvel’s entire brand has consistently been entertaining and mostly lighthearted movies. Now, phase four is trailblazing a new path for the MCU, from highs such as “Loki”, to lows such as “Eternals”. The MCU is changing, and their future success will be based on

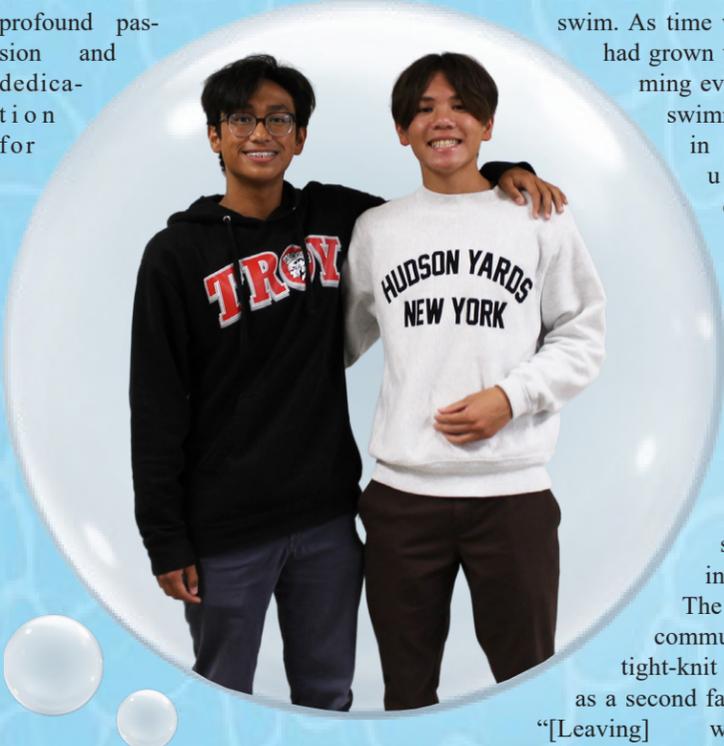


SWIM FROM GUAM

From the other end of the Pacific, brothers Ty Leon Guerrero and Luke Leon Guerrero take the Warrior crown in swimming.

Compiled by Erin Jang, **SPORTS EDITOR**, article by Tyler Cordova, **STAFF WRITER**, photos by Tiffany Vo, **PHOTO EDITOR**, images courtesy of Dlf.pt

As the loud buzzer blares through the pool deck, the swimmers swiftly dive into the water racing towards the other end of the pool. Unique to the Warrior boys swim team, brothers Ty Leon Guerrero and Luke Leon Guerrero were born and raised in Guam, until moving to California for high school. With their profound passion and dedication for



the varsity swim team, they qualified for CIF championships in their respective events during the Freeway League Finals April 28.

Freshman L. Leon Guerrero and sophomore T. Leon Guerrero started their swimming careers in Guam at the age of four. Their parents enrolled them in Tsunami Swim Club to learn how to swim. As time went on, they had grown to love swimming even though the swimming scene in Guam was underdeveloped with few clubs available.

For over half of their lives, the brothers developed a bond with the other swimmers in their club. The swimming community was tight-knit and served as a second family to them. “[Leaving] was tough

emotionally,” L. Leon Guerrero said. “Having been with [my teammates] for more than eight years was definitely a big challenge for me to overcome.”

Upon joining the Warrior swim team, the swimming scene was entirely different. The meets featured many more teams from around the state and varying amounts of facilities, differing from the two pools in Guam.

“The team structure and relationships were also different to get used to as small teams here in California would be by far the largest on Guam,” L. Leon Guerrero said.

Swimming with the Warriors and their swim club Fullerton Aquatics Sports Team, the swim teammates had helped the brothers adjust to the new environment.

“Having a lot of people around my age made me feel that I fit in and that I had a group of friends that I could easily hang out or talk with,” said L. Leon Guerrero.

Joining FAST was beneficial to the brothers as the goals of the team were aligned well with their goals of swimming professionally.

“We chose to swim with FAST in Fullerton as the facility was accessible to us and is centered around long distance swimming,” L. Leon

Guerrero. “Our practices are focused on endurance, speed and power, which really helps build us into better distance swimmers.”

As well as adjusting, T. Leon Guerrero was able to improve his skills to become a better swimmer by joining the Warriors.

“Despite [swimming] being an individual sport, I’ve found high school swimming to be very team-oriented,” T. Leon

Guerrero said. “I can definitely say that swimming with the Warriors has made me a better teammate.”

According to the two athletes, both brothers plan on improving their athletic abilities and fine tuning their techniques for better placements next season.

“Our goal is to place higher in the CIF championships and go to nationals next year. We plan on working hard this summer whenever we can since we have a lot to improve off of.”

All-Round Athlete

Meet freshman Vander Ploog who participates in four sports and joined two Warrior Varsity teams.

Compiled by Erin Jang, **SPORTS EDITOR**, article by Finley Dalley, **STAFF WRITER**, photos by Lauren Song, **PHOTOS**, images courtesy of Adobe Stock

At the age of two, freshman Vander Ploog put on athletic gear for the first time. Little did he know, he would be playing a variety of sports in the years to come. Throughout the past year, Ploog has become a key member on three Warrior sports teams.

Ploog tried out for three Warrior teams his freshman year. By the end of the year, he had been placed on Varsity basketball, freshman baseball and Varsity football. However, Ploog’s skill set does not refrain within just these sports, as he also plays golf recreationally outside of a Warrior team. As he continues to balance athletics and academics, he maintains a GPA of 3.3 and above and achieved the title of a “Warrior Athlete.”

Basketball will always be his favorite sport, but Ploog finds joy in each sport he plays. In basketball, he loves the aspect of the big crowd, the adrenaline that comes with dunking in front of the student section. In baseball, he loves getting strikeouts, and doing all he can as a pitcher to prevent the rival team from winning. In football, he loves the practice environment and how everyone pushes each other to new levels so they can grow as a player. In golf, he mainly enjoys the social aspect as well as being able to play a game

less competitively outside of school.

Growing up playing basketball and baseball, Ploog never felt intimidated by being placed on varsity teams.

Rather, he took it as a learning experience, finding the environment to be an incredible source of inspiration both physically and academically.

“Just getting out there and being with other people that enjoy what you do is awesome,” Ploog said. “It [football] was a great experience getting out there with guys [teammates] that are older than me and being able to absorb the knowledge that they’re giving off in the sport that I love.”

Inspired by his older teammates, Ploog continues to strive as he hopes to play D1 basketball in

college. Working towards his goal, he was the only freshman

to receive a varsity award,

also known as the “Warrior Award,” through his strong display of the true essence of a Warrior athlete.

The work ethic he learns on the field goes on to push him towards following in the

footsteps of his mother, Heidi Ploog.

A former college basketball recruit and Warrior athlete, H. Ploog’s athletic story empowers her

son’s drive and ambition towards his sports. Practicing up to five hours every day, he pushes himself to



continue his mother’s athletic legacy. Ploog continues to be impacted by sports off the field through the knowledge he gains as an athlete. The skills he learns from his coaches easily translate to the discipline he uses when it comes to balancing his family as well as his social and student life. He connects this general motivation back to the same yearning he feels for excelling at sports.

“[Playing sports] really creates a work ethic and creates a want for other things. In all aspects of life,” Ploog said. “Everything becomes relevant, including wanting to get an education and wanting to make a sports team.”

