

# ORACLE

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## The CAT and the CANARY

Surprising the audience with a modified ending, Warrior Theatre Arts performed its version of the 1927 film "The Cat and The Canary."

Compiled by Jamie Lee, NEWS EDITOR, article by Neya Jakan, STAFF WRITER, cartoon by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON EDITOR

With a twist on a classic murder mystery, Warrior Theatre Arts performed "The Cat and The Canary" in the Thomas Moore Auditorium Oct. 25 - 29.

Set in 1901, the play revolves around the death of Cyrus Camby West, owner of the Glen Cliff Manor estate, and Annabelle West, the heir to Cyrus's wealth and property. The plot unfolds 20 years later in 1921 when all of Cyrus West's heirs gather at his estate to read his will. The will states that Annabelle is the sole heir to the inheritance, but the estate will go to a secondary heir in the will if she is proven insane or dies.

After the reading, strange events that only Annabelle sees take place, which leads to the other heirs questioning her sanity. In one incident, Annabelle encounters an old man wearing a trench coat and a mask who reaches through her window to remove her necklace. At the end of the play, the antagonist Paul Jones reveals he controlled these events by posing as Annabelle's lover in an attempt to seize the estate.

In order to participate in the play,

theater students auditioned for a role of their choice with short monologues of their characters. After director Joe Hufferd selected the cast, students rehearsed their lines with other members for two hours after school. Prior to the performance, students built the set and designed costumes for the cast members.

According Hufferd, the Warriors took inspiration from John Willard's original tale but modified the ending of the play to misguide the audience from the original plot. In order to decide on the play's ending, the cast voted for their choice among different endings and performed the most popular option.

"The ending of the play originally ended with a very sappy, sugary conclusion where the two romantic leads got together and had a very corny exit line, and we felt that it was too simple," Hufferd said. "So, [the cast members] decided that they wanted to spice it up and make it a true murder mystery as to who it was that was responsible for the killing. That is when we decided that the focus would be on the love interest of Annabelle."

Along with the modified ending, the cast also added the mute character of Jamie, the child of Zelda Pleasant who is the mansion's servant, into the script. Jamie's character enhanced the frightening persona of the play, cast member Eleanor Yaune said.

"Jamie is very creepy in the opening scene. [She] opens the door for people, takes their coats and their bags, and most importantly talks to the spirits," Yaune said. "Jamie is not in the script, but her character really added a lot to the show. Even without lines, you can do a lot to build a whole character."

The adjustments enabled the Warriors to present their performance in an atypical and suspenseful manner, Hufferd said.

"The changes we made to the script [resulted in] a bigger surprise for the audience because the storyline looked as though Paul and Annabelle were romantically linked and were trying to survive together," Hufferd said. "But when we made Paul the killer, the surprise was that much greater and a lot more entertaining."



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Read our take on the dangers imposed by free-speech social media platforms like Parler and their lack of censorship.



# Senior Lance Yeh presents research at virtual Global Health Leaders Conference

Yeh's research on atrial fibrillation focuses on the effects of the disorder and its prevalence.

By Iman Babiker  
STAFF WRITER

Inspiring a new generation of leaders in public health, the Global Health Leaders Conference featured senior Lance Yeh as one of the event's student speakers on atrial fibrillation in August 2022.

Organized by the student academic organization Glohea, Johns Hopkins University hosted one to two weekly events through Zoom from late June to the end of August. In order to attend the conferences, students completed a primary application that required demographic and academic information, extracurricular activities, short essays, and a letter of recommendation.

Selected attendees submitted a second application to present their research on a topic related to public health in the program's Student Speaker Series.

Established in 2019, the educational program accepts high school students from around the world. The conference provided participants the opportunity to learn from a community of renowned JHU professors, global educators, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention division directors, and Nobel laureates.

In an effort to share facets of global health, the conference featured several speakers including Khan Academy founder Salman Khan and White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx, Yeh said.

"It was a fun experience to see how somebody could innovate such a revolutionary idea and put it towards global health," Yeh said. "Dr. Ritz

went over more of the political side of global health. It was interesting to see the nuances and everything people have to go through to pass legislation."

According to Yeh, the conference enabled participants to connect with students and professors with similar interests in intricate scientific topics.

"The main thing I wanted to get out of the [conference] was health literacy. I want to be able to tell people what global health is and why it is important," Yeh said. "I also have a fondness for biomedical engineering, so in the future I hope to couple these two interests and be able to innovate something that solves disorders globally."

After an internship with the pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson and biotechnology company AbbVie, Yeh pursued research in atrial fibrillation, a dangerous cardiac disorder. Past mentors provided guidance in preparation



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERS CONFERENCE

for the presentation, Yeh said.

"After I got the news that I was going to present, for three weeks, I [started] researching. I contacted past mentors for some resources I could use," Yeh said. "It was fun reconnecting with my old mentors, and they got pretty excited knowing I was presenting on atrial fibrillation."

In his presentation, Yeh discussed the underlying causes of AFib, its rapid growth, and its undertreatment and mistreatment. The presentation also

detailed the emerging biomedical solutions in developed and developing countries, Yeh said.

"Most of the speakers I listened to emphasized that global health was more about the collaboration of groups," Yeh said. "My presentation focused on the effects of a disorder in undeveloped countries, but [also] cross-compared these countries with a first world country like the U.S. to show that the AFib epidemic is prevalent everywhere in the world but is still so obscure."



**The Global Health  
Leaders Conference**  
at Johns Hopkins  
University

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERS CONFERENCE

# Eleven senior Warriors compete in Financial Adviser's Contest hosted by the CCEE

One team won second place with unique tax calculations and a business plan.

By Nathan Chao  
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to expand their financial literacy outside the classroom, three Warrior teams competed in the California Council on Economic Education's Financial Adviser's Contest at Glendale Nov. 16.

Founded in 1959 as part of the California State University Foundation, the CCEE aimed to integrate a standards-based curriculum in economics throughout California schools. In accordance with this mission, the Financial Adviser's Contest provides California high school students the opportunity to learn economic curriculum not included in school courses. Prizes for each student and teacher include \$750 for first place, \$500 for second place and \$350 for third place. In

order to qualify, the three Warrior teams completed a multiple-choice exam centered around financial literacy.

Using the contest as an opportunity to gain financial awareness, participants chose to compete in order to understand microeconomics, senior Sahana Anand said.

"I perceived the contest as a way for me to learn economics beyond what is taught in the classroom," Anand said. "I want more knowledge about personal finance as it is not something usually covered in school."

To prepare for the event, the CCEE assigned a financial adviser mentor and a fictitious case study to each team. Teams collaborated with their mentor over Zoom to create a nine minute presentation unique to each case study. Simulating real-life scenarios, the contest requires students to advise clients on taxes, investments, student debt, savings accounts or life insurance. Along with the financial presentation, each team completed

a multiple-choice exam revolving around personal finance.

In addition to learning financial literacy skills, students had the opportunity to network with financial companies and firms. Some par-

ticipants secure unexpected internships and jobs each year, teacher David St. Clair said.

"Internships and jobs have bloomed from this contest multiple times," St. Clair said. "I have had students

secure internships [through] investment bankers and financial advisers reaching out to my students because of how impressed they were."

At the event, 17 teams were divided into three separate rooms. Each team presented to a panel of judges and answered questions regarding the team's economic plan. After the evaluators selected one winner from each room, the semi-finalists moved on to the next round. The final three teams delivered their original presentation to the entire group of judges, who determined the contest winners.

Participating in the contest enabled competitors to help out loved ones and their future selves, senior Katie Pak said.

"Although I have never done anything like [financial advising] before, I want to help out my parents with their financial forms like taxes or retirement plans in the future," Pak said. "I am excited to gain better financial skills that I can use for the rest of my life."



**PREPARED FOR PRESENTING:** Teacher David St. Clair with seniors Ashley Ayala, Elizabeth Shum, Jean Wan, Coco Gong and Audrey Her (back row), Katie Pak, Krizha Maramba, Shayde Cano, Natasha Liu, Cheryl Wang and Sahana Anand (front row).

# Vocal Ensemble to perform in Disney Candlelight Processional

Disney selected the Vocal Ensemble from hundreds of high school, university and church choirs in California.

By Rachel Kang  
STAFF WRITER

With an exclusive invitation, Warrior Vocal Ensemble will perform on Dec. 3 and Dec. 4 in the Candlelight Processional at Disneyland to spread holiday cheer across the theme park.

Initiated in 1958 in appreciation of the company's sponsors and local community, the Disneyland Candlelight Processional has grown into an annual tradition. The event features mass choir, live orchestra, fanfare trumpets and celebrity narrators in its musical retelling of the First Christmas. The celebrity narrator, whose identity is kept secret until the first procession, will weave the story through classic hymns sung by the choir accompanied by Walt Disney Symphony Orchestra.

After a pause due to the pandemic, Vocal Ensemble began preparations for the audition by recording months in advance. Students perfected the required carol "Ding Dong Merrily On High" in four-part harmony and included the

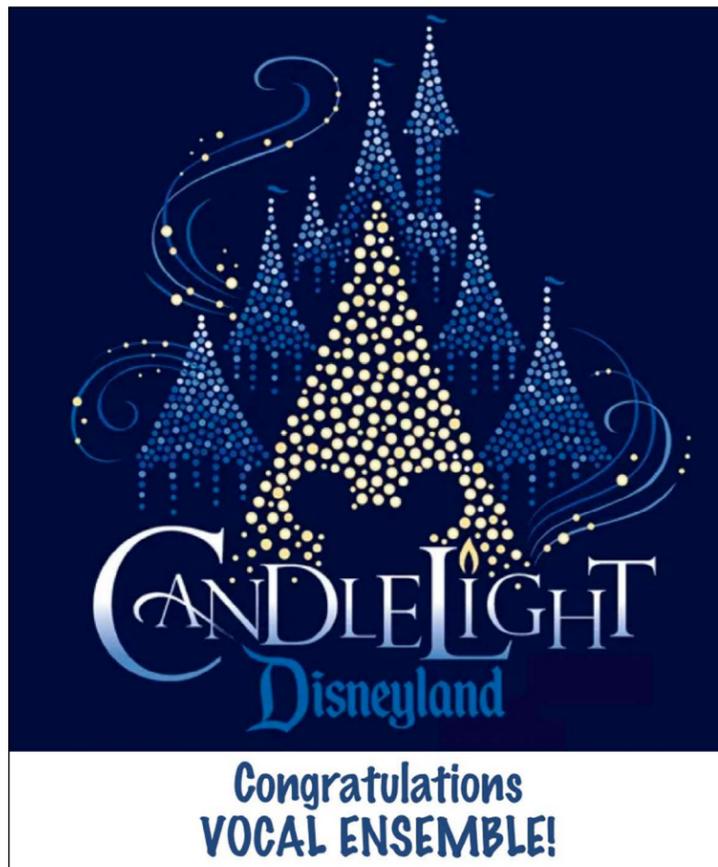
Italian madrigal "Bonzorno Madonna" as their choice selection to showcase each section's vocal prowess.

On the days of the event, the ensemble will be one of the 12 chosen choirs to arrive early at Disneyland for a rehearsal. The combined choirs will work together to produce the sound of a coordinated ensemble under the guidance of Caltech choir conductor Nancy Sulahian, Vocal Music Director Mark Henson said.

"Sulahian is an old mentor of mine and a very skilled conductor who will work with these groups to fine-tune the carols and make some last minute vocal flourishes," Henson said. "Being able to collaborate with other choirs to produce such amazing music is really an enlightening experience."

Following the rehearsal, the mass choir will receive gold robes and candles as they begin the procession from Small World to Train Station platform on Main Street. Upon arriving at the station, the choir will start the ceremony with 12 complex multi-part carols.

Candlelight fans, known to wait all day for the limited standing-room-only spaces behind the reserved seating area, can hear the ceremony along Main Street, Henson said.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VOCAL MUSIC DIRECTOR MARK HENSON

"Many of the students find it thrilling to sing for an audience of somewhat famous higher-ups from Disney," said Henson. "But the really fun part is when they pass by crowds of people gathered through the park who cheer for them and sometimes sing along."

For Salisha Knox, the 2022 event will be her first and last

experience participating in the Candlelight Processional.

"I heard that the Candlelight Processional is a really special event since we get to sing in a large choir with a full orchestra and share the stage with a celebrity," Knox said. "It definitely highlights the values of community, sharing of the holiday spirit and tradition."

## UPDATES BAR

### Caffeinate Advocate Coffee Delivery

Created to build work experience within the adult transition special education class, senior students brew and sell coffee to all staff on campus. Initiated in October, the coffee delivery program runs during second period on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Supplies for the program are provided by ABLE Coffee Roasters, a company dedicated to creating an inclusive work environment for individuals with disabilities.

### Presidential Cyber Education Award

On Oct. 17, the U.S. Department of Education, White House Office of the National Cyber Director and the National Science Foundation announced teacher Robert "Allen" Stubblefield as one of two recipients for the 2022 Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award. Presented each year to two impactful teachers, the award recognizes leaders for inspiring passion and building strong pathways in the field of cyber.

### Return of Winter Fest Orange County

Recognized as Southern California's largest winter festival by Attractions Magazine, Winter Fest OC returns to Costa Mesa from Nov. 25 to Jan. 26. Event attractions include outdoor ice-skating, a snowboard simulator, a trackless train ride, carnival rides, live tribute band performances and a holiday market. The festival also features a new walk-through experience called North Pole Journey filled with music, holiday sights and interactive activities that aim to help Santa.

### Statewide standardized test scores results

With a downward trend in all schools nationwide, California schools are reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately two out of three California students did not meet the state math standards, and more than half did not meet the English standards on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress testing taken spring 2022.

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# TROY HIGH SCHOOL

# MID-NIGHTS

As the clock strikes “Midnight,” a new Swift album sets records in the top 10 hits. Read more to find out about Oracle’s opinion on the let-down album!

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Kaitlyn Zhang, STAFF WRITER, pictures courtesy of Style Castor, Dork, Variety and Today.

The world’s most adored popstar makes her comeback by putting the “mid” straight into her new album “Midnights.” Taylor Swift introduced her album on Oct. 21 as a collection of experiences intertwined with her midnight musings, deepest fears and delicate fantasies. From her country origins to her tender lockdown albums, Swift has repeatedly reinvented her musical style up until “Midnights.” This album is one-dimensional, and her colorful feelings are lost in a flurry of promised earnest reflections. Among her collection of award winning albums, “Midnights” sticking out with its blurred and muddled identity.

Swift paints her picture of late night reminiscing with muted melodies, contrasting her usual pop and country rhythms. Her music creates a tale of self-reflection with an ambience of sophistication and velvety finishes. Although Swift clearly attempts to bring deeper themes to the table, she plays it safe, relying on the facade of her newfound maturity. Swift lacks the courage to experiment with her art, making her work unmemorable with only rare moments of intimacy. Despite the immense potential to explore unspoken thoughts, her nighttime distractions are reduced to the shallow self-reflections, giving worldwide audiences only a surface-level grasp at her feelings.

Swift’s fan base eagerly awaited the arrival of the album, quick to repost screenshots of the title track on their Instagram story as the clock counted down to midnight. However, plenty of opportunities to deliver evolved music were missed by her mundane album. The sonically repetitive pieces do not disappoint, but rather fail to impress. “Snow on the Beach,” a collaboration with Lana Del Rey, had many fans excited for a duet between both popstars. Instead, fans were disappointed by Del Rey being casted as solely background vocals. Contrastingly, “Anti-Hero” has staked its claim as her most popular track with the trending lyrics, “It’s me/ Hi!/ I’m the problem, it’s me.” Proudly intertwining her self-loathing and almost silly chorus, “Anti-Hero” makes an awkward attempt to mix a song of deep thought and a hit pop single, ending up as a lukewarm intermediate. However, it remains the most noticeable track as it tries to achieving a deep self reflection.

Her other tracks follow suit as numb harmonies that blend together into an unmemorable blur. Even with the chance to make this era shimmer with more

profound topics, Swift leaves listeners with an anticlimactic final product. Despite her fame, Swift’s new album loses the midnight dream aesthetic, instead flooding the radio as any other track. As a casual listener, Swift’s work is easy to jam along to, but as you listen deeper you will slowly see the superficial truth. Her success is rooted in the dedication of her fans who have followed her since she was able to just “Shake it Off,” leading her to chart the top 10 spots on Billboard Hot 100. Despite the effort Swift put into track, her fans have definitely put in more dedication to bring it to succeed.

The album leaves fans to experience lazy hallucinations instead of dreamy, philosophical moments. The expectations for her album were set high, but as the clock struck midnight we were left with an album

that could only fall flat. Swift’s image will forever be preserved in the music industry as iconic, just not for her dream-like album.

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## Taylor Swift Midnights

*Anti-Hero*



*Vigilante Sh\*t*



*Mastermind*



# DOWN FOR DAHMER

To what extent can a villain be liked? Read more to find out Oracle's take on the dark fantasies surrounding "Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story."

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Ishaan Arya, STAFF WRITER, pictures courtesy of Spiel Times

"Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story" debuted on Netflix to a chart-topping audience, and it met with as much criticism as it did praise. Depicting the life of a notorious serial killer is no easy task, especially one as twisted and deeply disturbing as Jeffrey Dahmer. But as the entertainment industry continues to create these depictions of real life serial killers, the actual purpose of these shows begins to blur. With the casting of what is usually an attractive and popular male celebrity in the role of a murderer as a our main character, the question is raised around whether or not these shows responsibly portray their source material. Unfortunately, it seems like this and many more shows failed in this respect, and the concerning response that some have had to the show might leave viewers uneasy.

In an attempt to dive into the psyche of the perverted, yet titillating, mind of Dahmer, this streaming show makes a grave mistake. Instead of accurately portraying his murders and actions for the

sick and demonic deeds that they were, the creators humanized, glorified, and romanticized Dahmer's life. His victims come and go in the series, treated with insufficient sensitivity. Instead of making the morally sound decision to focus more on the victims in a more honorable and respectful fashion, their role in Dahmer's eyes as objects of sexual desire, even post-mortem, is valued more. The show uses victim's stories as props in the storyline, with the show portraying Dahmer's method to lure his victims in a tone inconsistently adventurous with the impending tragic events that follow. The show misses the opportunity to spotlight the victims of Dahmer in a positive and respectful tone, forgetting to make their condemnation of Dahmer a priority.

The casting of Evan Peters, as well as other actors like Zach Efron and Darren Criss, from "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile" and "The Assassination of Gianni Versace", respectively, draws an unhealthy pattern of attractive actors being cast to humanize these criminals to audi-

ences. Using these actors as a new face to appeal to audiences has a negative effect of creating parasocial attachments to these serial killers through their shows. Creators of these shows need to be careful to have these unintentional consequences on viewers that distract from the point of these stories being told. It diverts the audience's attention to the criminal themselves, forming a somewhat positive association with the fabricated version of these criminals.

With the popularity of true crime shows such as this, Dahmer needs to be portrayed for the horrible person he was, and the important components surrounding his story must be displayed and brought into the conversation. Most importantly, the story of his victims need to be treated with utmost respect and careful consideration, which falls upon the writers of the show. The consequences of this are no laughing matter because of the effect this can have on impressionable audiences.

## Distracting Adapting

Do fairytales hold the same magic whether they are on the screen or the page? Read more to see Oracle's review of "The School for Good and Evil."

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Jessica Chin, STAFF WRITER, pictures courtesy of ShowBiz Junkie

An intriguing tale about female friendship with a mischievous dose of evil, "The School for Good and Evil" lives up to its fantastical origins. An adaptation of the book by Soman Chainami, Netflix audiences follow the journey of best friends Agatha and Sophie as they attempt to navigate their very own fairytale story. Though remaining on the top 10 of Netflix, the film struggles to find its own happily ever after, as it continues to receive mixed reviews by both die hard fans of the book and film critics. Living a bleak existence in Galvador, Sophie and Agatha are treated like outsiders by their small village. Sophie, desperate for more, ventures out into the woods, leading to both of them attending the School for Good and Evil. With Agatha in the School for Good and Sophie in the School for Evil, the students, teachers and the girls are confused because while Sophie was known for her beauty, Agatha was belittled for her looks. Deciding that Tedros, the crown prince of Camelot, is her prince, Sophie attempts to make him fall in love with her. Yet, unbeknownst to everyone is the real identity of the schoolmaster and how Agatha and Sophie's story has already started to be written.

Although the CGI is necessary for some scenes, the contrast of the highly stylized whimsical costumes to the edited backgrounds pushes audiences out of the film, instead of inviting them to imagine a

world where the School for Good and Evil exists. Practical effects could have grounded the wondrous landscapes of the magical school, but its current design makes the supposedly rich environment feel cheap. At two and a half hours, "The School for Good and Evil" is too long to hold the attention of most audience and attempts to get audiences to care about characters with little or no development. The film is far from perfect, as fans of the books have also been quick to recognize the lack of character development of the main characters. The focus of the books and film, Agatha and Sophie, remain relatively unchanged, only developing a new sense of appreciation for their friendship. In the books, Chainami highlights more nuances in character development such as realizing beauty

comes from within, actions characterize you as good or evil, and that characters aren't set.

Missing the depth of character, "The School for Good and Evil" is lackluster in its message about friendship and the characteristics of good or evil. The film replaces Agatha's self-deprecating sense of humor and rule breaking shenanigans with a version that is confident and advocates for a more morally gray view of the world. Book Agatha had to first learn how to love herself, slowly accepting that others could also love her. In the books, Sophie is also similarly endearing to readers, but for different reasons. Book Sophie initially used Agatha as her "good deed," a person who she aspired to help to ensure that she got into the School for Good, but in the end realizes that she was the one who truly needed the friendship. Through Sophie, lessons of burgeoning love and self sacrifice are imparted. In the film, she is depicted to be manipulated by the School Master to betray her friend and given blood magic. This addition takes away from Sophie's role in the events, blaming the School Master for decisions that she made. The only redeeming quality of the film is in its ending, where the girls return to Galvador together. Identical to the book, it illustrates that happily ever afters aren't only found in romantic interests, but can be found in fulfilling friendships.

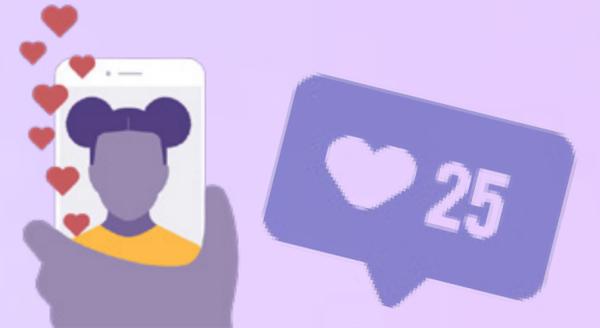


# Hit Or Miss: Are Influencer Products Worth It?



Celebrities seemingly have it all—looks, fame, money and products. Lots of products. But just because they slap their names on a shirt or makeup product, does that mean we have to buy it? Read below to discover which ones are worth purchasing and which ones are just cash grabs.

Compiled by Kira Chen, LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Zoey Bahng and Joey Kelly, STAFF WRITERS, graphics by Sophie Chen, GRAPHICS, images courtesy of Business Insider, Cosmopolitan, Forbes, Fenty Beauty, Rare Beauty, Rhode Skin and TODAY



Every day, phone screens are illuminated by hundreds of notifications, alerting students to new crazes through a torrent of likes and shares. In an era drawn by rapid media and consumerism, celebrities and influencers hold more power over the world than ever before, igniting everything from fashion trends to social justice movements at the press of a button. Public figures who leverage their commercial influence by utilizing their popularity to develop products or endorse existing ones, can skyrocket the sales of even the most unremarkable products. Sparkling in the limelight of popular culture, celebrities are embracing their own lines, often collaborating with popular retailers and oversaturating markets with limited edition products and specialty deals.

Many peaking celebrities rush to milk as much profit as they can, while they can. When influencers are thrust into the spotlight, every camera, eye and finger points to them. They utilize this catapult to experiment with product creations, viewing them as business ventures that add a pretty penny to their pockets. But of course, the guaranteed success of their start-up is not earned through credentials in entrepreneurship or a degree in dermatology—it is granted by the skyscraping pedestal of fame. When flawless celebrities publicize a self-curated product, there is almost a guarantee that fans will flock to get their hands on the latest release. Blinded by appealing packaging and grand promises, many often fail to consider the real quality of the products. When expectations are not met, some fans find themselves scavenging for excuses to defend their favorite stars.

Shimmering titans of new-age industry are creating mainstream merchandise that can be sold at a higher-than-average price. However, once the whirlwind of a celebrity's brand settles, an obvious question remains: what difference does celebrity endorsement make to a product?

Flashy new brands may be a pretense for raising costs on products that might have achieved average sales at more conventional retailers such as Amazon or Target. Beyond tempting, there seems to be a certain risk associated with buying celebrity-endorsed products. Though the verification of a social media account symbolizes reliability, the commercialization of our modern society brings about questionable partnerships left and right. Kylie Jenner's Kylie Swim, for example, was flamed for the lack of integrity in product sales. Cheap materials paired with incomplete construction of bathing suits caused the immediate collapse of her short-lived brand. Other brands crumble from absurd price demands, cutting off the average buyer and severely limiting demographics. As consumers, students should take the initiative and educate themselves on the truths behind influencer brands. First off, check the price tag. While some lines may increase prices to compensate for aesthetic packaging, others cross the line. Kim Kardashian's skincare company SKKN BY KIM, for instance, displays no considerable difference between a more mainstream brand like Glossier. But with products averaging \$75, Kardashian's name appears to be the only significant selling point. It is important for students to differentiate between a genuine product, versus a cheap scam with a fancy name slapped on it.

Nonetheless, this does not mean that all celebrities exploit their status to mass produce low quality products. After all, the pressure to excel in quality is still present, and some fans will not hesitate to spread brutally honest reviews. Thanks to fame, the best of the best resources are accessible. Working with the most renowned dermatologists and trustworthy production lines, influencers aim to produce top-notch media content. While it is vital to look over a myriad of product reviews, students must remember that some are sponsored—aimed at swaying a buyer's opinion. Consumers should also consider what they are really interested in buying: the product or the label. Fancy packaging can bolster a product's appearance, but it is important to prioritize individual beliefs as well. Many brands are being eco-friendly, tracking carbon emissions or using recycled materials. One such brand is Selena Gomez's Rare Beauty, which donates one percent of all sales to various charities and foundations. When students know what to look for, they can pick out trustworthy brands with ease, expertly skipping over the cheap and ineffective.

In a world blurred with clickbait news and false advertising, it can be difficult to navigate the chaos of the hundreds of brands out there. Hidden behind pretty advertising and celebrity status, some collaborations are nothing more than overpriced items lacking the quality or conscience of smaller businesses. Before approaching a celebrity product, take a moment to look beyond its flamboyance and check the ingredients, visit websites and read reviews. Consider the reality of what is in the box, not on it.



Rare Beauty by Selena Gomez

In a world of filters and oppressively heavy products for skin and appearances, Rare Beauty works to break down unrealistic expectations of perfection built up by society. The company specializes in light, water-based products that work with consumers' natural beauty, rather than trying to change them into something they aren't. On top of hydrating and illuminating skin, Rare Beauty also works to rejuvenate and assist the planet, as its products are 100% vegan and cruelty free, arriving at your doorstep in eco-friendly packaging. Affordability is another upside, with products typically ranging from \$15-30.



Rhode by Hailey Bieber

Founded by legendary artist Rihanna, Fenty Beauty stands as one of the most successful celebrity beauty brands in the world. She targets the lack of shade range in most popular beauty brands by offering accurate matches to universal skin colors. Considering unique undertone temperatures and spectrums of darkness, Rhianna has created 50 different foundation options—a never-seen-before feat. Some of her most loved products include the Matcha Sixx Contour Skinstick and Gloss Bomb, famed for their smoothness and convenience.

Fenty Beauty by Rihanna

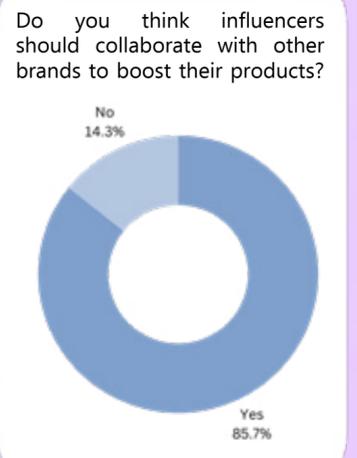


With clean, simplistic looks on the rise, Hailey Bieber took a chance to launch her own skin care line, Rhode. Reflecting her down-to-earth personality, Bieber's products are kept uncomplicated in terms of ingredients, packaging and even pricing. Bieber claims that in order to keep her products as accessible as possible, she keeps all her prices below \$30. So far, the brand only features three products—Peptide Lip Treatment, Peptide Glazing Fluid and Barrier Restore Cream—all of which incorporate dermatologist-approved ingredients like niacinamide, peptides and shea butter.

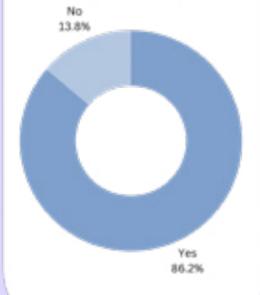
## WARRIORS' TAKE

Warriors speak out on influencer products

**Anonymous sophomore**  
"A customer should buy it because they want to and believe the quality of the product is legit—not because a person with a seemingly high social status says to or has their name on it."



Do you think celebrities or influencers should be selling products such as makeup, skincare and clothing at all?



**Milenna Choy, freshman**  
"Like other brands, celebrity companies should be put at a regular price basis."

**Michael Arzubiga, sophomore**  
"If a product's sales rely on celebrity endorsements and not its effectiveness, it's simply a bad product."

**Anonymous senior**  
"Having collaborations between influencers and brands can be beneficial toward both companies."

**Bianca Naranjo, sophomore**  
"Influencers should be allowed the opportunity to advertise and sell, just like anybody else. However, we should acknowledge that the extent of celebrity influence can quickly get out of hand. For example, plastering a celebrity as the face of supplements or any other product that has varied effects for each person is counterintuitive—it bases advertisement solely on the idealized result of one celebrity, as opposed to suggesting the possibility of different results for different people."



# Free-speech social media apps like Parler are dangerous to the public

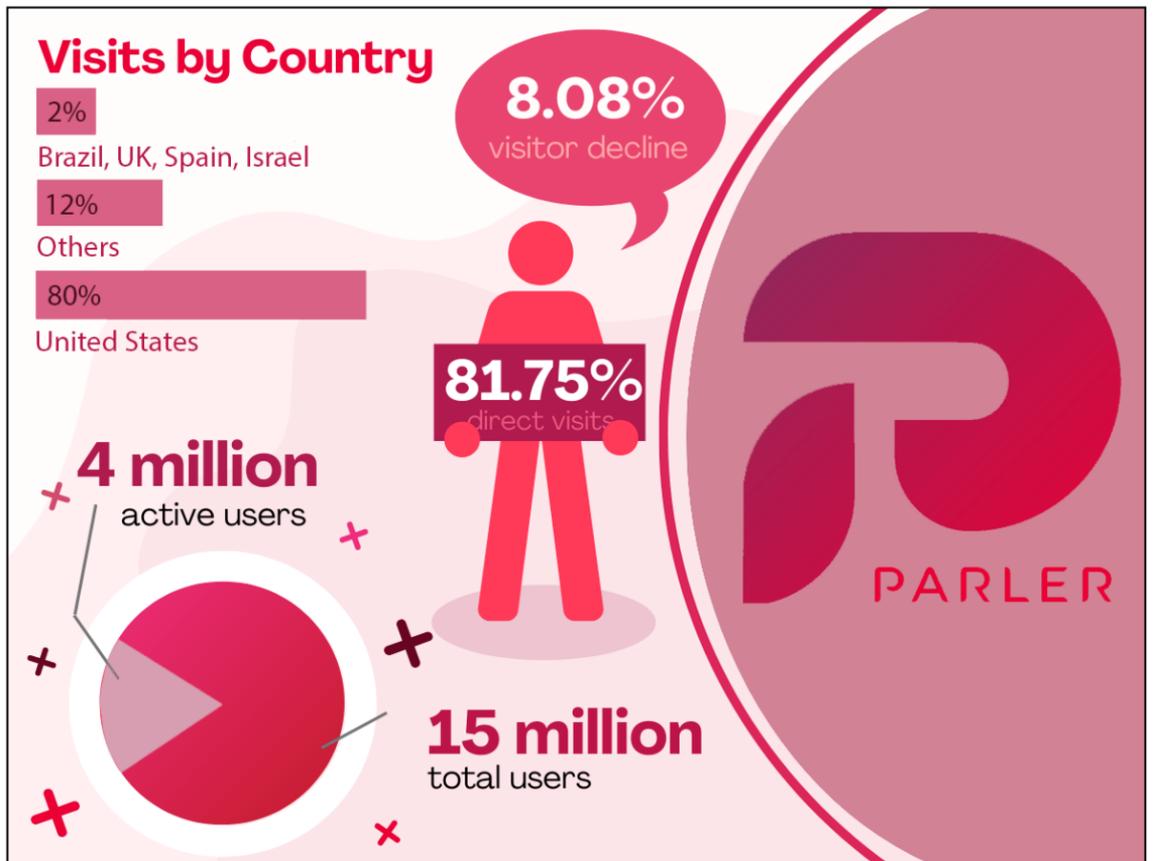
By Edyn Mai  
STAFF WRITER



On Oct. 8, Kanye ‘Ye’ West, a famous rapper and fashion designer, posted anti-semitic remarks on Twitter after receiving backlash for posting pictures himself wearing “White Lives Matter” merchandise. West has been dropped by his talent agency and brands that once worked with him, such as Adidas and Balenciaga, causing him to lose about \$1.1 billion in net worth. He has also been banned from several social media platforms, leading him to show interest in purchasing Parler, a social media forum focused on free speech. However, unlike Twitter or Instagram, Parler does not monetize any content, a policy that allows media companies to ensure that their content is appealing and safe. Social media services that lack monetization, such as Parler, should be removed from digital platforms due to their harmful content.

Though free-speech enthusiasts claim that social media needs less censorship, monetization policies are needed to ensure the safety of its users. While the First Amendment technically protects hateful speech, all 50 states have laws against cyberbullying and hate crime-related speech. All social media platforms still contain hate speech, but sites like Parler do not punish users as harshly as other social media sites. Because Parler turns a blind eye to hate speech, it unintentionally creates an online environment that perpetuates cyberbullying, hate

speech and other negative interactions. In addition, Parler’s “free-speech” guidelines create environments for online extremism. Because Parler promotes freedom of speech, it creates a space for people with dangerous ideologies to gather and communicate. Parler, and another free-speech site, Gab, played a crucial role in the 2021 U.S. Capitol riots. Though Parler submitted 50 referrals for violent content to the FBI before the event, the app’s lack of censorship throughout the conspiracy is concerning since the app could have easily shut down multiple conversations regarding the riot.



GRAPHIC BY DANIELA KRISTEN HERRERA

Compared to Twitter, who banned over 70,000 accounts affiliated with the Capitol riots, effectively destabilizing numerous discussions concerning the event, Parler’s inaction proves that free-speech-directed social media platforms pose a malicious threat to general safety because they lack censorship of harmful content. Furthermore, Parler has no security measures to prevent child users. Young children can be exposed to sexual, hateful, and violent content, all of which are inappropriate and unsafe. Parler has a minimum age limit of 18; however, there are no age verification services on the app itself, which means that impressionable minors can easily access Parler’s content. Titania Jordan, a prominent parental author and child protection app creator, claims that the app is inappropriate for even older kids. With how easily accessible the app is and its lack of security, minors

can be easily pulled into its facade of a new niche social media platform. Consequently, because Parler lacks age verification, children could be exposed to hateful content. A study by the Taiwan Times assessed that children ages 11 to 17 idolize celebrities, and 30% feel they take inspiration from and mimic their idols. If the idols they look up to are hateful and spread misinformation, children are more likely to copy their actions. Since Parler has no censorship guidelines regarding hate speech, youth on the app are exposed to normalized hate. Consequently, this exposure would lead many children to mimic hateful things they see online, which could escalate into drastic actions in the real world.

In short, free-speech media’s atmosphere does not benefit anyone; they hurt the majority. In some circumstances, moderating content is needed to have a safe online and offline environment. Most moderated social media platforms have legitimate reasons for banning certain users, especially those who participate in hate speech. Though free-speech media platforms may seem appealing, reality proves these platforms are dangerous and can lead to real-life consequences.

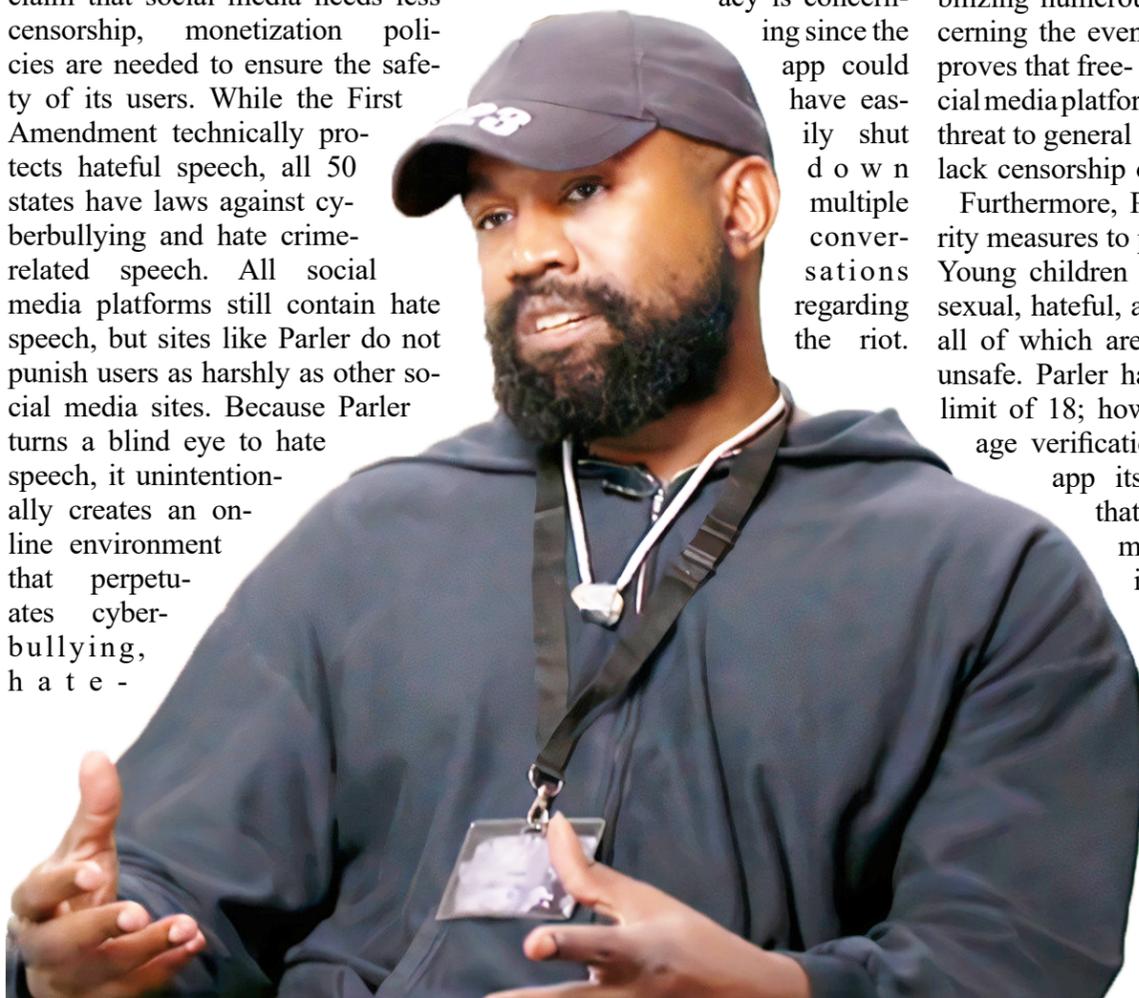


PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX NEWS

## Friendsgiving by Kaila Perlas



# Juvenile punishment is needed to ensure justice for the legal system and for victims

By Brett Larsen  
STAFF WRITER



When a victim is harmed, a criminal's punishment must be fitting for the crime.

On Oct. 24, a 16-year-old who killed four students and injured seven more in a school shooting at a Michigan high school pled guilty to charges of first-degree murder and terrorism. The perpetrator's parents were also charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter each, after prosecutors determined that they gave their son easy access to the weapon he used to commit the crime. Some opponents of harsh juvenile convictions argue it is unfair to sentence adolescent criminals, and by extension their parents, to life in adult prison due to their age. However, failing to do so subverts American ideals of law and order and proper punishment of criminals, and must be addressed. Parents and their children complicit in a felony criminal act must be punished in the name of justice.

In order to give victims the basic decency they deserve, teenagers who commit felony crimes must be tried as adults. Although juvenile justice-advocates, those who believe in reintegrating young criminals back into society, claim charging young criminals is unjust, they fail

to recognize that two sides—not one—are present when it comes to a crime. Contrary to these advocates' beliefs, the justice system must prioritize the victim and not the perpetrator. A victim should both have a seat at the table and hold all the cards at the same time. When a harmless victim is stripped of their life, as is the case in 7% of violent juvenile crimes, according to the Department of Justice, then we must give victims the justice they deserve. If an offender chooses to actively harm someone, jail time is a direct consequence of their actions, and should be their punishment for committing said crime.

Parents of teenage criminals should also be charged if they are found to be negligent. In the case of the aforementioned 16-year-old who killed four of his classmates, it must be made clear that he didn't act alone. Prosecutors determined that his parents supplied him with the weapon he used during the shooting, ignored obvious signs that he was planning to commit a crime, and even took him to a gun range just three days before the attack. Although his parents weren't directly involved in the act, they must be sentenced appropriately for failing to stop it.

While juvenile justice-advocates often cite a minor's developing brain as a reason for not carrying out the proper pun-

Most serious offense	2020 arrests	Percent change	
		2010–2020	2019–2020
<b>Youth (0–17) arrests</b>			
All offenses	424,300	–74%	–38%
Violent crimes	32,070	–56	–26
Murder	930	–8	0
Robbery	12,000	–56	–24
Aggravated assault	19,140	–57	–29
<b>Adult (age 18 and older) arrests</b>			
All offenses	7,208,180	–37%	–23%
Violent crimes	429,470	–6	1
Murder	11,510	13	14
Robbery	55,900	–34	–5
Aggravated assault	362,050	0	1

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ishment, such claims can often be misleading. Unfortunately, most adolescents, or teenagers ranging from ages 13 to 19, are often excused for their actions, even if they commit a crime. However, Laurence Steinberg, a psychologist who specializes in adolescent development at Temple University, notes that even minors utilize similar cognitive strategies that adults do, and even overestimate risk in some aspects. Because of the maturity shown by minors, it is completely reasonable to charge adolescents as adults for felony crimes.

Justice is a fundamental value that must not be overturned or revised in order to please the masses. It is a value that is inherently concrete, not fluid, and must not change on a whim. Punishing adolescents and their parents for heinous crimes that are entirely preventable is a step in the right direction for victims and their families. When it comes to criminal acts, the needs of the victim must trump those of the offender in order to guarantee a fair and stable society.

# Art vandalism is justified and needed to garner widespread public attention

By Joelle Cheeseman  
STAFF WRITER



Art vandalism has given climate change the attention it deserves.

Throughout October, videos of climate protesters defacing famous paintings circulated the internet, sparking outrage around the world. These demonstrations included activists pouring tomato soup over Van Gogh's "Sunflowers", throwing mashed potatoes at Monet's "Haystacks" and gluing themselves to Vermeer's "Girl With a Pearl Earring". Though the paintings were behind glass and ultimately unharmed, many felt that the lengths these people went through to spread their message were excessive. While these protesters' actions may appear destructive, such extreme demonstrations are necessary to bring attention to the impending climate disaster.

The continuous misinformation surrounding climate issues demands greater public awareness. A 2021 poll from the University of Chicago found that 10% of Americans believe climate change is not happening and 45% of Americans would not actively support Congress passing a clean energy bill. With social media's influence rapidly increasing, false information continues to be

magnified on the internet. These viral public protests play an essential role in spreading awareness to a larger audience and countering online misinformation.

Although the protests may seem irresponsible, the costs of the protesters' actions are miniscule in comparison to the life-threatening issues being brought to light. Just Stop Oil, the organization behind many of these demonstrations, aims to end fossil fuel production in the United Kingdom and promote the use of more efficient and environmentally friendly renewable energy. The organization promotes the use of offshore wind generators that would save consumers an estimated \$1.7 billion annually, a stark contrast to the value of the vandalized paintings at \$100 million. Because the threat of global warming is ever increasing, people must recognize that the costs of fossil fuels, climate change, and millions of starving people should far outweigh the cost of any painting.

While many criticize the protesters' actions for being unnecessarily reckless and seemingly unrelated to the climate crisis, public demonstration has been historically effective in amplifying climate activism. For instance, Just Stop Oil takes inspiration from the organizations Extinction Rebellion and Insulate Britain, who advocate for the use of non-violent civil disobedience, tactics proven

to enhance the legitimacy of the movement and encourage broader participation. Moreover, with the Van Gogh soup stunt making the front page of the New York Times and a video of the event from The Guardian reaching over 50 million views, it is evident that the sensationalist nature of these protests play an essential role in reaching a wide audience. Although at first, climate change appears unrelated to the artwork, the popularity of the works and scandalous production was necessary to engage people's attention. Climate change has been ignored for far too long and without these extravagant forms of protest, people will

continue to ignore the damages posed by global warming. Furthermore, while also acknowledging the risks and costs of public disturbance, the use of nonviolent, but eye-catching protest should be encouraged to spread awareness for global issues. If people continue to remain inactive and uneducated in the fight against climate change, more than just a painting will be at stake, but billions of lives and planet Earth itself.



CARTOON BY KAILA PERLAS

# Immigrants deserve a fair chance in America's competitive employment cycle

By Shailey Patel  
STAFF WRITER



Being an immigrant does not make anyone less American than others. As immigrants have come to California looking for opportunities and a safe haven, the state has fallen short by inadequately providing an ability to establish lives. In response to the rising number of immigrants, the University of California has been considering hiring immigrants who lack work authorizations. While some federal laws prohibit employing undocumented immigrants, these universities could change thousands of lives for the better. To fix the widening gap between undocumented immigrants and stable jobs, the California government needs to take bold action in permitting the employment of undocumented immigrants in universities as teaching assistants and paid interns. Due to the false belief that immigrants are inferior in their capabilities, many immigrants have been stripped of achieving the American Dream. While these immigrants are not distinguishably different from others who spent their childhoods in American neighborhoods, they are singled out due to their immigration status. For instance, Keng Wong, director of the UCLA

Labor Center describes many of these immigrants as the "finest students in his career" and how he is discontent with the fact that universities cannot hire any of them as researchers or assistants. These immigrants are just as capable as all others who hold working jobs, and should not be forced to work under-the-table jobs such as nannies and construction workers.

Moreover, arguing for the illegalities associated with hiring these immigrants is not a valid excuse—the California government has disregarded this law multiple times in the past. California has a history of resisting federal immigration laws, such as issuing driver's licenses to all state residents regardless of immigration status and offering

in-state college tuition to undocumented students. While allowing universities to hire these immigrants would be a radical step, it is a feasible request considering past flexibility.

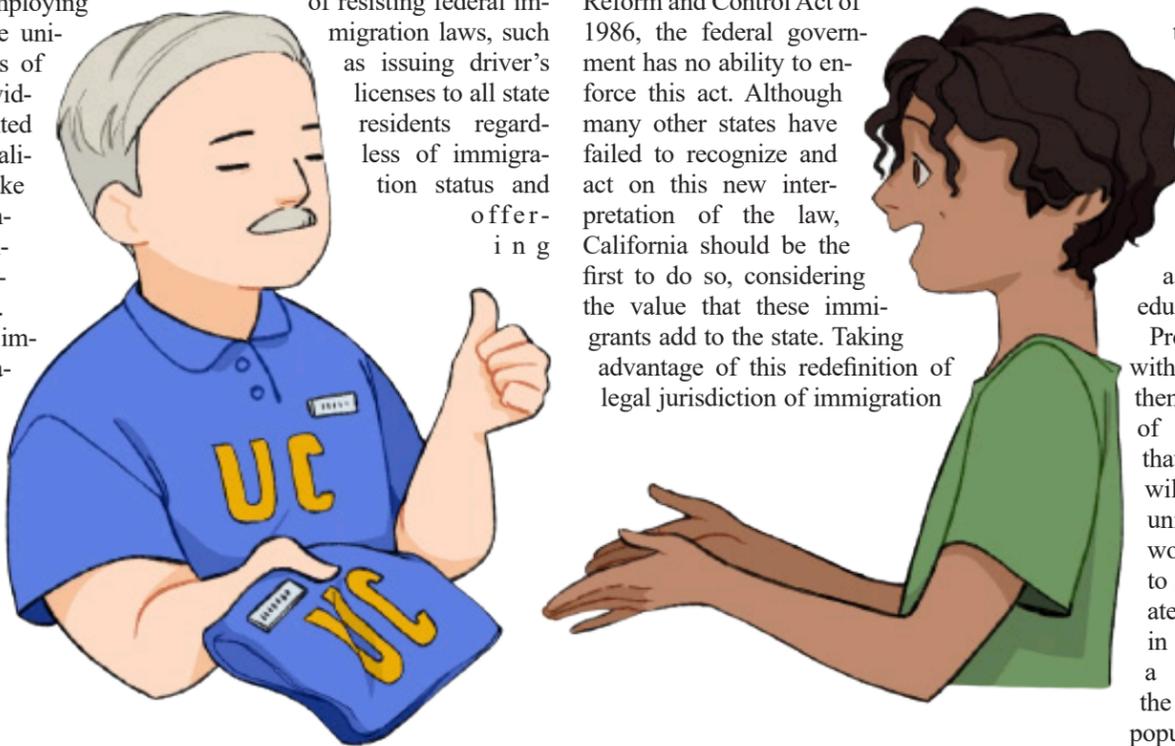
Additionally, a new technicality proposed by scholars and deans of various universities makes hiring these undocumented immigrants simple, leaving no question to these immigrants being hired. While states have operated under the impression that federal courts have the ability to regulate employment under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, the federal government has no ability to enforce this act. Although many other states have failed to recognize and act on this new interpretation of the law, California should be the first to do so, considering the value that these immigrants add to the state. Taking advantage of this redefinition of legal jurisdiction of immigration

status under federal law, California and its universities should persevere in its mission to provide real lives for their immigrants.

Hiring undocumented immigrants will become more effective than Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, a program set to grant work permits and protection to young, undocumented immigrants. The program was shut down five years ago, leaving around 27,000 Californian high school students and 44,000 college students without any legal benefits from

DACA. With no ability to join the workforce, these immigrants will never have the same opportunities as their classmates. With our government continually failing to provide sustainable living to its immigrants, California universities need to take their own initiative in creating a strong willed and highly educated immigrant community. Providing these immigrants with the ability to make lives for themselves is worth any amount of opposition or controversy that California's government will face. Allowing California universities to hire immigrants would provide them with a way to achieve their dreams and create a fulfilling life. This change in the state's policies could set a precedent that will ensure the prosperity of its immigrant population in years to come.

CARTOON BY PEARLYOON



## mark my words

Warriors speak out on campus issues

Read what our warriors have to say regarding tipping and tipping culture as a whole at Troy High School.

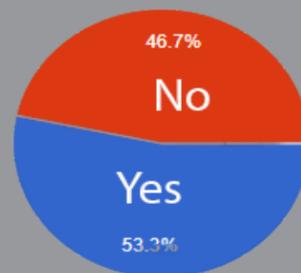
"It is courtesy in America, since minimum wage workers are expected to receive a percentage of the cost of the meal."  
- Anonymous sophomore

"Not everyone needs to tip, but their shouldn't be a policy where tipping in mandatory in only certain parts of an area."  
- Milenna Choy, freshman

"Maybe but I would cut down the percentage based on the price of the total because they are expected to be tipped."  
- Anonymous freshman

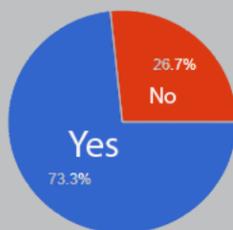
"Tipping is for a certain person and it shouldn't be expected if you weren't treating people right."  
- Anonymous freshman

Do you frequently eat meals outside of the house?



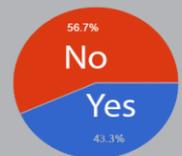
"My family and I usually tip servers, baristas, and cashiers since they are busy all day. We also tip hair stylist since they do improve your life by the style stand point."  
- Ian Lim, freshman

Do you tip frequently if not at all?



"What should be expected is companies paying their employees a living wage. Not me having to subsidize their laziness."  
- Michael Arzubiaga, junior

Would you tip if it was expected of you?



"When you go to restaurants or are being served by a waitress, but if you order at the counter, I don't think you should be expected to give a tip."  
- Anonymous senior

# Girls varsity tennis team finishes its season as undefeated league champions

The girls tennis team celebrate its successful season in league, finishing in Division 2 of CIF.

By Tyler Cordova  
STAFF WRITER

With its earned title as undefeated League Champions, the Warrior girls varsity tennis team advanced to Division 2 of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section.

Through extra practice and supportive team members, the team was able to win every game before CIF. Along the way, one difficult game for the lady Warriors was the match against Sunny Hills on Oct. 18. The lady Warriors had a rough time in their doubles and singles, leading up to a tie of 9-9, but they eventually won by game count.

Although the lady Warriors have succeeded in League in the past, the team is planning on advancing in the CIF rankings this season. This season, the players expected to place first in CIF.

Playing sets against each other during practice has helped the Warriors develop their skills and experience by putting themselves in the competition mindset,



PHOTO BY LAUREN SONG

**SWIFT SERVE:** *Swinging the racket with strong focus, junior Andrea Bogdan jumps to start the game with a powerful serve against Murietta Valley.*

senior captain Reese Angulo said.

“The best way to practice is by playing like how you play in sets. We play a lot of sets, since they are what you play when you’re in season,” Angulo said. “Getting those points and picking yourself up if you’re down to make a comeback is important.”

Additionally, Angulo showed how the team succeeded by playing with the same team members in doubles and not adjusting their lineup against players, as most have had experience trusting each other for over a year.

“We go to a lot of teams like Sunny Hills and they’ll change up

their whole lineup for when we play against them,” Angulo said. “We just do the same thing every game and it’s what works for us.”

During the first CIF game against Murrieta Valley on Nov. 2, the number one ranked school in their division, the lady Warriors had won against the

Nighthawks with relative ease, senior Nadia Kojonroj said.

“The game was fairly not that difficult because we were pretty confident in our singles and our doubles were doing pretty well,” Kojonroj said. “Hopefully we’ll be a bit more pumped up about [our next game], since overall we’ll be tired from the two hour drive to Palm Desert.”

With the addition of their new freshman Michelle Tan, the Warriors have found immediate success as she has been a huge asset to the team.

“This season was a good experience for me as it was really fun meeting everyone and playing with them,” Tan said. “I’m glad to have been a freshman on the varsity team to learn and grow more as a tennis player.”

Even though the lady Warriors had lost their second CIF game against Palm Desert 7-11 on Nov. 4, the team still felt proud of themselves for placing second in CIF, Angulo said.

“Although we had lost against Palm Desert in our final game, I personally feel proud of our team for making it this far,” Angulo said. “The game was very close since we had only lost by two points, but I’m glad we tried our hardest to place this high in the brackets.”

## Wicket Cricket

There are no crickets when it comes to this sport! Read below to learn about Manav Patel’s experience with cricket.

Compiled by Erin Jang, SPORTS EDITOR, article by Finley Dalley, STAFF WRITER, photo courtesy of Manav Patel, image courtesy of RacketRampage

A shiny gold coin is tossed in the air as two teams take to the grassy oval field. Landing flat on the captain’s palm, the coin decides which team will bat first, and the players head toward their respective positions. The field goes quiet as the batter takes his stance, and all of the players ready their form. Suddenly, the loud crack of the bat sets off an exciting game of cricket.

Sophomore Manav Patel grew up watching cricket with his father, who introduced him to the sport and signed him up to play. Since six years old, Patel has been playing cricket as the top-order batsman and wicketkeeper for the Southern California Cricket Association. Working hard towards perfecting his role in the team, Patel dedicated his weekends to practice and play with his team for five to eight hours, and many late nights and early mornings to practice privately.

“When I play cricket, the atmosphere is very competitive, so my senses are really aware, [and] I am always trying to be super

focused.” Patel said. “[But] there’s also another side of cricket where it’s just like I get to play with my friends, so it’s just very fun.”

Similar to baseball, cricket’s main objective is to score as many runs as possible against the opposing team. However, cricket is still its own unique sport, consisting of wickets, eleven players to a

team, and two to three innings.

Averaging one to two innings per game, which lasts two to three hours, cricket tournaments span over the course of multiple days. As a result of nine years of rigorous training, Patel won several awards and helped his team bring in a multitude of team wins.

“We win at least one or two tournaments a year,” Patel said.

“And then I’ve won multiple man of the matches, and the best position of a tournament.”

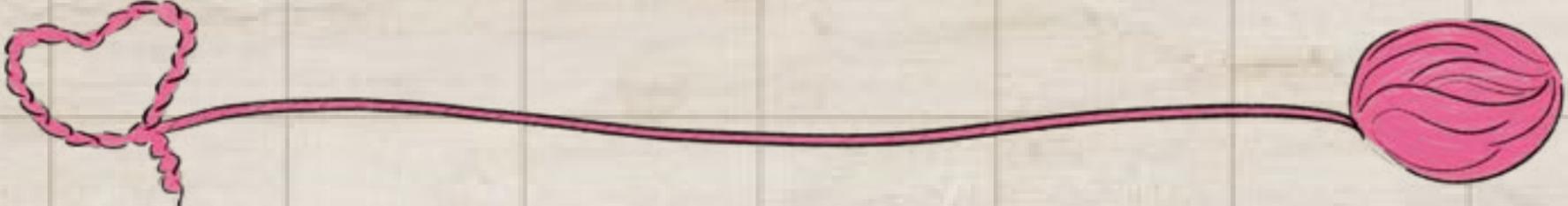
Patel registered cricket as an important part of his life that helped him grow mentally and physically. He believes that the sport led him to become a stronger team player due to playing with multiple teams within the association, and his role as captain increased his sense of responsibility.

“I’ve learned how to work well with other people because I have to interact with a lot of different people,” Patel said. “I have to interact with a lot of different people [because] sometimes I play for different teams.”

While the atmosphere during games can be incredibly intense due to high pressures, Patel simply takes it as a challenge to test his focus, stamina and social skills to come out on top.

“Anybody should join if they want to,” Patel said. “It’s an experience that has helped me grow as a team player on and off the field. If they need help joining, they can contact me and I can help.”





# The Way to Crochet

Utilizing her creative talents, sophomore Vivian Lee is a master of crochet. Hand-making beautiful accessories and clothes, Lee weaves together detailed masterpieces. Read more about her journey below!

Compiled by Mary Kim, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Eileen Um and Julie Liu, **STAFF WRITERS**, and photos courtesy of Vivian Lee and Canva

STUNNING

Streaks of bold magenta and glitzy shades of azure decorate the shelves as sophomore Vivian Lee browses the aisles of her local craft store for the perfect spool of yarn. The rhythmic loops and ribbons of yarn enchant Lee's fingertips as she crochets until an article of clothing is born—one that both warms and reflects the wearer's personality. For as long as she can remember, crocheting has been woven into Lee's identity, offering a unique path of creative expression for herself and for those wearing her pieces.

Lee's first loops of yarn can be traced back to her mother, who had introduced the craft during Lee's childhood. While stitching techniques came easily to her, Lee's studies soon pushed crocheting into the backdrop of her life. Nevertheless, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced everyone indoors, Lee was given an opportunity to pick up her crocheting hooks once again. Without the noise of in-person school to distract Lee, she started to appreciate crocheting's creative process. Lee's skill sets bloomed, pushing past the basic projects she had

completed to reach for the creation of new bags, dresses and tops. Each day's creation was a new skill learned and goal met, every pattern more detailed and beautiful than before. On top of her technical mastery of this craft, customization came naturally to Lee, and experimentation allowed for her personal aesthetic to materialize in her crochet looks.

"I just did it as something to pass time, but I got better as the time passed," Lee said. "It's a part of me now and I'll never let go of it."

Soon after re-discovering her passion for crocheting, Lee unearthed a new way to expand the impact of her handiworks: by creating accessories for cats in her local animal shelter. During Lee's time as a volunteer there, she noticed that the older cats were struggling to appeal to the visitors due to their more reserved personalities. Equipped with her strands of yarn and her knowledge of each cat's personalities, Lee translates their mannerisms into small, colorful trinkets that highlight each cat to the visitors.

"I first started making accessories

because I heard from the shelter that I volunteer at that adult cats have a lot of trouble getting permanent homes compared to kittens," Lee said. "It's more brightening, more unique for the cats."

Through Stitchable, Lee's crochet club, she also hopes to inspire others. As vice president, Lee leads club members step-by-step through the process of crocheting. First, she instructs them in wrapping pieces of yarn around the hook, then pulling the strands through to create beautiful designs. She highly encourages others to crochet and find their own relaxing outlet through exploring this talent. Lee believes that having full reign on the sizing, style, and design of her products is a contrast from today's fast fashion. Her passion for the clothes she makes testify that crocheting is here to stay.

"Your boundaries are nonexistent in crocheting," Lee said. "You can literally make anything, as long as you have the idea, you can do anything with the yarn."



**STUNNING SUNFLOWER:** Vivian Lee's decorative sunflower displays her attention to detail in crocheting.

