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ORACLE

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WELL BALANCED WARRIOR

Warriors participate in the first Challenge Success survey to determine a healthy balance for students' well-being.

Compiled by Sky Jung, NEWS EDITOR, article by Kathleen Zhang, STAFF WRITER, graphic by Phoebe Um, GRAPHICS EDITOR

In an effort to generate a productive learning environment, Warriors collaborated with the Challenge Success organization to launch "The Well Balanced Student" initiative Oct. 21.

Introduced to promote emotional and mental health within the Warrior population, Challenge Success is an expansion of the Stressed-Out Students Project from Stanford University whose coordinators aim to improve the atmosphere at highly competitive and academically-driven schools. The campaign's directors utilize surveys as a tool to collect baseline information, which helps to identify potential areas of growth and sources of stress on campus.

Following the completion of the anonymous survey, Challenge Success representative Margaret Dunlap held two meetings in the library to present a project based on the organization's core philosophy.

At the conference, Dunlap educated parents with interactive skits and scientific statistics to establish an understanding of what constitutes a well-balanced student.

According to English Department Co-Chair Ana Link, the presentation of "The Well Balanced Student" to the Warrior staff helped educators to develop a clearer perception of how students react towards probable stressors and where they originate.

"Challenge Success [wants individuals] to see the situation through the perspective of the other person," Link said. "In this case, [educators] need to see the situation through the perspective of the students to give them a better understanding of where students are emotionally and what they are experiencing."

After the Challenge Success conference held Sept. 28, Math Department Chair Paul Rodriguez recognized the imbalance between the amount of time many Warriors allocate for school work and the time they set aside to pursue their passions.

"A lot of students here at Troy High School get involved in things not because they're interested in it, but because they think it's going to look good on a resume for college," Rodriguez said. "Well-balanced students know what they are good at and like to do and focus their energy on that."

Through a strong sense of school-wide connection, participation in the program will pave the way towards effective progress that benefits the Warrior population as a whole, Link said.

"[Challenge Success] will give us an opportunity to have an open and honest discussion about our needs as students and teachers, in addition to how we can help each other thrive," Link said. "One thing that separates us from other schools is that we are a strong community, and when we come together, we can create some meaningful change."

Alongside the improvement of students' mentality, Challenge Success gives the faculty a gateway to create positive change and an enriching experience for Warriors, Rodriguez said.

"Once we start stripping away that stress, students challenge themselves and become more engaged in their learning," Rodriguez said. "[Challenge Success] allows us to become a better version of Troy than we are today."

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Read about why Californians should be pressuring their electric companies to improve infrastructure as a protective measure against wildfires.

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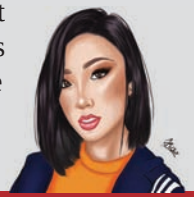
Meet some of the most creative digital artists on campus who use graphic design tools to produce unique artwork.



ENTERTAINMENT Page 8

Check out one of 2019's highest grossing Indie films "Jojo Rabbit," which tells a satirical World War II story of a German boy.

TROY TODAY

Ladies First organizes choir festival

Ladies First members hosted a choir festival at Fullerton Junior College Nov. 13. At the event, high school choir groups sang in front of a qualified panel of judges and received different plaques based on their performance. Additionallu, the Warriors showcased renditions of "Cantate Domino," "Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep" and "Juego a Que me Quemo."

Warriors participate in Sensus Reach Conference

Troy Tech juniors in Computer Science IB-SL classes attended the Sensus Reach Conference at the Anaheim Marriott Nov. 3. Students met Xylem company employees and participated in a hackathon. Along with students from Fairmont Prepatory Academy, the Warriors were invited by Valor Water Analytics, as a part of their mission to expose future generations to engineering and computer science.

Red Cross Club attends Orange County meeting

In a collaborative effort to develop bonds between members, the Warrior Red Cross Club attended the Get Involved With Teens meeting in Orange County Nov. 2. At the event, participants listened to discussions regarding the upcoming year and plans for local contributions.

Kindness Club completes challenge

Fulfilling their first challenge of the year, Kindness Club distributed motivational notes to students on campus Oct. 28. The club began promoting their mission through an Instagram page in 2018 and became an official organization in August. By distributing the notes, the club aimed to spread positivity amongst the Warrior population.

Surfriders Club host beach cleanup

Surfriders Club participated in a beach clean-up day at Bolsa Chica State Beach Oct. 26. The event is a monthly clean-up for the club members and is a collaborative effort with the official Surfrider Foundation. The students plan to continue these volunteer events with the Huntington Beach Surfrider chapter, along with fundraisers and other campaigns to raise awareness for the protection of oceanic creatures.

Library finishes new interior renovations for student body

Troy Support Organization funded the library's new furniture and collaborative resources to the Warrior population on campus.ss

By Diya Patel
STAFF WRITER

GISELLE FERNANDEZ

SILENT STUDY: *Sophomore Jacob Wong completes a homework assignment on his chromebook while sititng in a private cubicle.*

Promoting an educational atmosphere that supports relaxation, the Warrior library completed renovations Oct. 28.

Over the past two years, Troy Support Organization (TSO) fundraised more than $200,000 to recondition the library. Assistant Principal Lance Bletscher collaborated with TSO to pool half of the furniture budget from the state's annual education fund. In an effort to complete the financial needs for the renovations, Warrior families donated the remainder of the sum at TSO events and parent nights.

During the spring semester of the 2018-2019 school year, the Warrior administration purchased furniture from the furnishing dealership Blue Space Interiors. To determine a spending method, Bletscher and volunteers from TSO visited California State University, Fullerton, and other colleges that made recent developments to their libraries. Based on recommendations from the universities, the group reserved one-third of the library budget to spend on preferred furniture from recent renovations.

After four months of selection, high-rise tables and swivel chairs replaced the former wooden desks and roundtables. In addition, the purchase included loveseats, whiteboard conference tables and private cubicles. Elton B. Stephens Company (EBSCO) research databases, charging stations and touchscreen smart televisions completed the technological improvements to the library.

According to Bletscher, the new EBSCO research tool installed on library computers will give Warriors access to reliable information and will display progression towards technology over traditional resources.

"A lot of universities have been moving towards [technology], and we want our kids to be prepared," Bletscher said. "The new library is a tool we need to embrace because it gives us the ability to move toward [digital] learning.

The library improvements integrate advanced technology that offers students resources available in university libraries and research centers, Bletscher said.

"Updating the library will help students to feel like we are a collegiate campus," Bletscher said. "The reason to emulate a college is to prepare students for what university libraries might look and feel like."

Similar to projects such as the Dorey Madrid Reading Nook and the outdoor classroom, the improved library will create a space where students can relax in an academically-driven environment, Bletscher said.

"We wanted a place that was comfortable so students could study, but also a place they wanted to be in," Bletscher said. "If students want to lounge around and be a kid for just a moment, there should be an environment where it feels supportive to do that."

StemUp4Youth begins program for children with special needs

The recently opened StemUp4All club chapter allows members to present a variety of scientific and technological concepts to children with disabilities.

By Cathy Chen
STAFF WRITER

Introducing the scientific world to children with special needs, StemUp4Youth Club members volunteered under the StemUp4All division for the first time at the Fullerton Community Center Nov. 15.

Launched by Vice President Andrew Hsu last December, StemUp4All is the newest branch of StemUp4Youth that aims to encourage future generations to pursue fields in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). StemUp4All serves to provide hands-on extracurricular programs for children who receive special education.

Before the official establishment of the StemUp4All branch, Hsu organized multiple STEM events that welcomed children from across North Orange County. For this event, volunteers taught children who have different disabilities, including learning disorders, language impairments and developmental delays.

In order to better fit the children's needs, StemUp4All classes adjusted the pace of the curriculum and had a higher volunteer-to-child ratio than those conducted by StemUp4Youth. During the class, volunteers also constructed stomp rockets with the children and taught the basic physics concepts behind the procedure.

Throughout the preparation period, the club's development committee discussed the specific activity procedures and suggested methods of adapting the tasks for the children. To publicize the event, StemUp4All partnered with the Regional Center of Orange County, a non-profit organization that coordinates services for individuals with disabilities.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 14 percent of all public school students from ages three to 21 receive special needs education. As the modern education system places heavy emphasis on the cultivation of STEM skills, StemUp4All strives to familiarize the children with knowledge of these fields, Hsu said.

"Our education is moving more and more towards STEM. As a result, we are leaving out a lot of the special needs students [in those areas]," Hsu said. "In the future, we will have a lot more technology-related jobs. Often, special needs education is left out of this movement, so StemUp4All aims to ensure that all children are prepared for this shift in our society."

Along with guiding special needs children to learn STEM concepts, StemUp4All events also help volunteers to cultivate bonds with their students and to develop communication skills unique to each child, Hsu said.

"This event is a great opportunity for us to be better members of our community [because it teaches] volunteers to interact with special needs children," Hsu said. "Many students find it rewarding to be able to learn how to communicate with [the children]. We are excited to be able to provide opportunities and additional learning support outside of school for these special needs children."

Model United Nations Club attends first conference of the year

Warriors participated in a political simulation with club members from different high schools in Southern California.

By Angelica Sano and Mai Omoto
NEWS EDITOR AND STAFF WRITER

Welcoming new members to the art of public speaking, Model United Nations (MUN) Club competed in the San Gabriel Valley MUN conference at Walnut High School Nov. 9.

Organized by the Walnut MUN team, the conference is an educational simulation in which students learn about a variety of international and diplomatic issues. At the event, competitors assumed the position of delegates from different countries in the United Nations to present their perspectives on different global problems. The top student within each committee received a certificate, while the Best Delegate overall earned a ceremonial gavel.

In preparation for the conference, the club members participated in public speaking exercises and revised the position papers of their fellow peers.

According to President Danielle Palacpac, MUN Club encourages students to enhance their public speaking skills in an atmosphere that requires responsibility and teamwork. Through this conference, the participants gained the opportunity to collaborate effectively, Palacpac said.

"This club is important because unlike most academic clubs, MUN is focused on collaboration and teamwork instead of competition," Palacpac said. "[The club] encourages people to listen to others with an open mind in order to find common ground and compromise."

Following participation in the conference, the club members hope to expand their knowledge on global affairs through frequent public speaking practices. The event allowed the novice members to strengthen their communication skills with their teammates, Palacpac said.

"For most of the people attending, this is their first conference," Palacpac said. "[The event] will benefit [the participants] by allowing their confidence to grow in public speaking and communicating with peers."

COURTESY OF DANIELLE PALACPAC

SAVVY SPEAKER: *Freshman William Qian exhibits his public speaking skills as a Netherlands representative during the conference.*

As the opening event of the school year, the conference allowed more members to become accustomed to the nature of the competition. Through this event, the students were able to exercise the talents they attained throughout the prepatory period, such as critical thinking, teamwork and leadership, Palacpac said.

"The conference will benefit members by giving them more experience in MUN so that they are more confident," Palacpac said. "I hope that [the participants] will learn the importance of compromise as well as teamwork and realize that through this conference, they are capable of creating change."

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TROY HIGH SCHOOL

Toy soldiers should also represent the brave women who serve our nation

By Amber Wang
STAFF WRITER

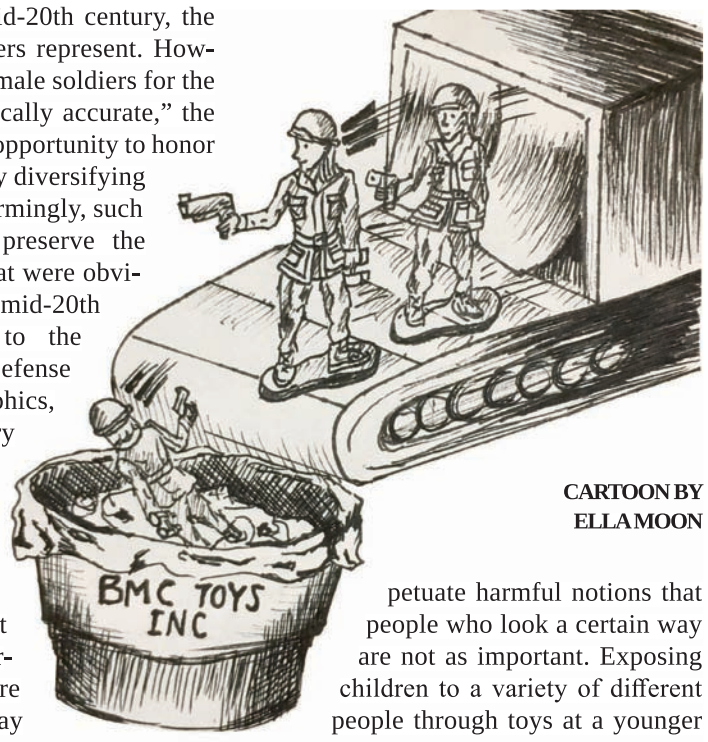
Since the 1930's, toy soldiers have always been small, green, and, most importantly, male. Noticing the lack of gender representation in these military toys, 6-year-old Vivian Lord sent a letter of complaint to three different toy companies in July, asking for accurate female toy soldiers along with the male ones. In response, President of BMC Toys Jeff Imel announced in September the production of the "Plastic Army Women" collection set to be released in the year 2020. Although Imel's terribly delayed decision has been met with some opposition regarding the historical accuracy of female toy soldiers, it is an optimal opportunity to represent the women that defend our country with just as much honor and courage as men do.

Since the debut of toy soldiers, TimMee, one of the many companies that manufacture toy soldiers, has produced ridiculously feminized male soldiers that are painted pink. Although pink toy soldiers were originally produced in 1968 due to an anti-war sentiment, their production continued presumably to compensate for the lack of female soldiers and to appeal to girls. It is disappointing that the company believed a color change on its own could account for gender inequality. Moreover, the fact that the company had chosen to continue manufacturing pink male soldiers in lieu of female soldiers is problematic, as this color choice contributes to the gender stereotypes and divisions that children are subconsciously exposed to since birth. This choice assists in maintaining the socially constructed notions of femininity and masculinity that have long been associated with gender-assigned colors.

Furthermore, the amount of time it took for at least one company to manufacture female toy soldiers is unbelievable. Imel admitted that countless customers, including a retired Navy sailor, have already asked him about female toy soldiers, but he brushed them off by claiming that the company didn't have those in stock. It wasn't until toy companies received public pressure following Lord's letter that BMC Toys finally decided to do something that should've been done long before: representing our female troops. Unfortunately, many people argue that female toy soldiers would be inaccurate, as women were not allowed in front-line combat during the mid-20th century, the era that the toy soldiers represent. However, by neglecting female soldiers for the sake of being "historically accurate," the company gives up an opportunity to honor our military women by diversifying toy soldiers. More alarmingly, such an omission would preserve the gender perceptions that were obviously present in the mid-20th century. According to the 2010 Department of Defense Military Demographics, over 200,000 military women courageously serve our country. They deserve to be represented as much as men do.

> "After all, femininity does not always refer to beauty, delicacy and timidity; it can also entail fierceness, courage and passion."

Although it may not be noticeable, diversity in toys have more impact than people may think. According to psychologist Dr. Amber A. Hewitt, toys give off subtle messages that will subconsciously impact children and their outlook. The phenomenon is best exemplified by the Doll Test in the 1940s, which revealed that children, regardless of race, all exhibited white bias—the consequence of predominantly white dolls. Saddeningly, these results have remained consistent throughout the years. A child's sense of identity and self-worth can possibly be altered through diversity in toys. Lack of representation may potentially perpetuate harmful notions that people who look a certain way are not as important. Exposing children to a variety of different people through toys at a younger age may minimize prejudice and cultivate an understanding for all types of people, thus reducing the deep divisions established between different groups of people. As a result, it's commendable that BMC Toys is taking the initiative in implementing more diversity in their toys.



CARTOON BY ELLA MOON

Considering the impact of toys, the BMC Toys' new release of a collection dedicated to female soldiers may positively influence children's perspectives on femininity. After all, femininity does not always refer to beauty, delicacy and timidity; it can also entail fierceness, courage and passion.

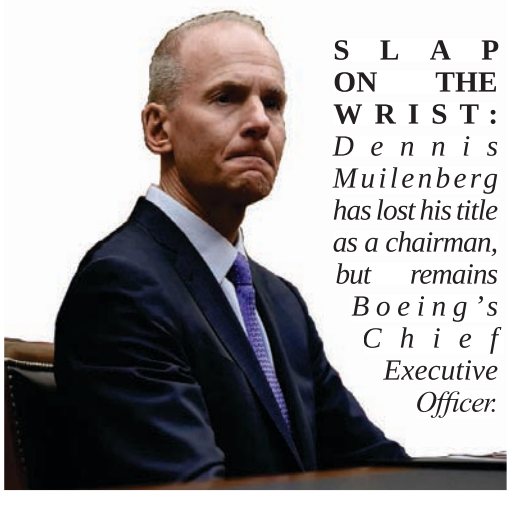
Boeing's faulty planes point to an even bigger issue within the company

By Miseok Kim
STAFF WRITER

Nobody is above the law, not even a $26 billion company.

Once a respected aerospace company, Boeing is now scrambling to salvage its tarnished reputation after its faulty 737 MAX planes caused a total of 346 deaths in two separate crashes. Kevin McAllister, formerly the head of its commercial jet manufacturing division, resigned Oct. 22, becoming the first executive to do so after the crises.

Boeing should enforce strict aviation safety, especially as the producer of more than 10,000 commercial airplanes worldwide. However, recent investigations by international and federal law enforcement agencies have revealed a serious systemic problem in the Boeing plane production process. Boeing's lack of accountability in the wake of an alarmingly consistent pattern of faulty plane productions demonstrates its shockingly nonchalant attitude towards human life.



SLAP ON THE WRIST: *Dennis Muilenberg has lost his title as a chairman, but remains Boeing's Chief Executive Officer.*

With numerous issues found in several other Boeing plane models, the company has demonstrated not only its technical incompetence but also its moral failure. Several other models like the KC-46 and Dreamliner had to be grounded and banned from further production in 2011 and 2013. More recently, about 50 737 NG models were grounded as of Oct. 31 in at least three countries due to detected cracks. These faulty models all serve to demonstrate that Boeing has prioritized speedy productions and high profit margins over safety. The lack of integrity from Boeing is shocking, but even more shocking is the fact that the company was able to shield its problems from public scrutiny for years.

The main reason Boeing's administration could ignore the problems in its planes was because it had almost full control of government oversight over the company's manufacturing process. Among the vast evidence brought up during the congressional testimony of Boeing's chief executive Dennis Muilenberg Oct. 30, numerous communications among pilots, engineers and managers within the company showed that the Boeing's administration knowingly continued the production despite raised concerns. One of the discussed issues was the existence of only one sensor trigger for a plane to be put in a nosedive, which later caused both crashes mentioned previously. By allowing the corporation to take over government inspections, the Federal Aviation Agency, along with Boeing executives, is responsible for hundreds of lives lost and millions at risk.

> "Boeing must provide viable solutions to end its systematic negligence and carelessness in its plane designs and productions."

Rather than terminating the productions and fixing the problems, as well as alerting airlines who have already purchased and were using 737 MAX planes, Boeing selfishly decided to cover up its findings in order to maintain its trustworthiness. Now that the truth is revealed, the company's leadership needs to stop hiding. Instead, Boeing must provide viable solutions to end its systemic negligence and carelessness in its plane designs and productions. It needs to make sure that similar tragedies will never happen again. It owes a complete and viable resolution to the families of the crash victims and the eight million passengers flying everyday.

But the company board needs to intervene and take necessary actions to transform Boeing's harmful attitude of indifference. The problems in the company's plane productions span over a decade and prove that the company's leadership lacks the fundamental conscience to take accountability for their mistakes. The only consequence that Muilenberg, who is supposed to be responsible for Boeing's operations, has faced as a result of the scandals is the loss of his title as a chairman. Despite all logic pointing to his resignation, Muilenberg still remains the company's chief executive with the board actually supporting him.

Apologies to the families and promises to do better mean nothing at this point. The government needs to conduct a thorough investigation of Boeing and start identifying everyone who is responsible. Following the government's conclusions, the company board must then replace those individuals with candidates that have more experience and core morals.

Within the next several months, the Boeing administration needs to put aside its monetary interests and its goal of getting the MAX back in the air. Instead, it must first ensure that the company's culture prioritizes safety above all else.

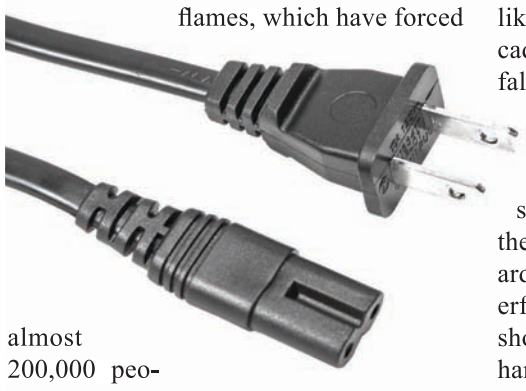
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ABC NEWS AND SLASHGEAR

To add fuel to fire, electric companies are powerless to address their problems

By Kaitlyn Han
STAFF WRITER

As fires rage and power outages continue throughout the state, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Southern California Edison (SCE) are in the hot seat.

After a week of desperate attempts made by California firefighters to tame state fires, Gov. Gavin Newsom finally declared a state of emergency Oct. 27. From the Kincade fire in Northern California to the local Getty and Coyote Hills fires, firefighters have been struggling to control the massive flames, which have forced almost 200,000 people to evacuate their homes.



Many Californians have pointed their fingers at PG&E and SCE as the main perpetrators of the problem due to their infamously old and faulty power lines, which have been cited as the primary cause of all the state-wide fires. Both companies have issued power outages in areas that affect over three million frustrated households in a last-ditch preventative effort. Of course, these electric companies should take most of the blame for the fires and power outages; however, Californians must be aware that they could have been more persistent in pressuring those companies into removing their fire hazards sooner.

> "If Californians really wanted this issue resolved earlier, they should have pressured PG&E and SCE into changing their power lines long before."

There is no doubt that electric companies should be held accountable for their role in our state fires. Although investigations are still underway, PG&E has acknowledged that their equipment most likely caused many of the fires. Their decades-old electrical conductors can easily fall to the ground due to high wind speeds, sparking a destructive fire. PG&E even self-reported that its towers were on average 68 years old, with some even more than a century old. Yet, they did nothing to address these fire hazards. For being such prominent and powerful electric companies, PG&E and SCE should have taken matters into their own hands by replacing their old power lines for the safety of millions of Californians.

To exacerbate the situation further, electric companies not replacing or updating their old equipment is not a new phenomenon. From June 2014 to the end of 2017, SCE was found guilty of starting 347 equipment-related fires. PG&E was also responsible for the 1,552 fires that broke out at that same time. Additionally, according to Cal Fire, the number of fires started by power lines have drastically increased from a five-year average of 296 to 408. Evidently, PG&E and SCE should not be easily forgiven and must answer for all the destruction they have caused in our state. However, as much as any customer would like to direct all blame towards the electric companies, Californians also should have made an early effort to help prevent the massive fire outbreak.

If Californians really wanted this issue resolved earlier, they should have pressured PG&E and SCE into changing their power lines long before. After receiving lawsuit after lawsuit for the damage done from their equipment-triggered fires, PG&E was forced to file for bankruptcy in January 2019. The whole reason why the company is shutting down all of their electricity lines in the first place is to allot time for them to sort out their financial problems so they have the means to address the electricity concerns. By all means, customers with burned-down homes and injured family members are entitled to file lawsuits against the electric companies for their faulty and destructive power lines. Still, they should understand that the power outages are a necessary measure the companies need to take to prevent more fires from occurring, given the dire state of their organizations.

Going forward, California companies and customers should be more attentive to making early investments for their own protection. Whether this is completed by pressuring negligent companies to resolve similar problems or advocating for more protective legislative measures, both companies and Californians should be more active in taking such issues into their own hands.

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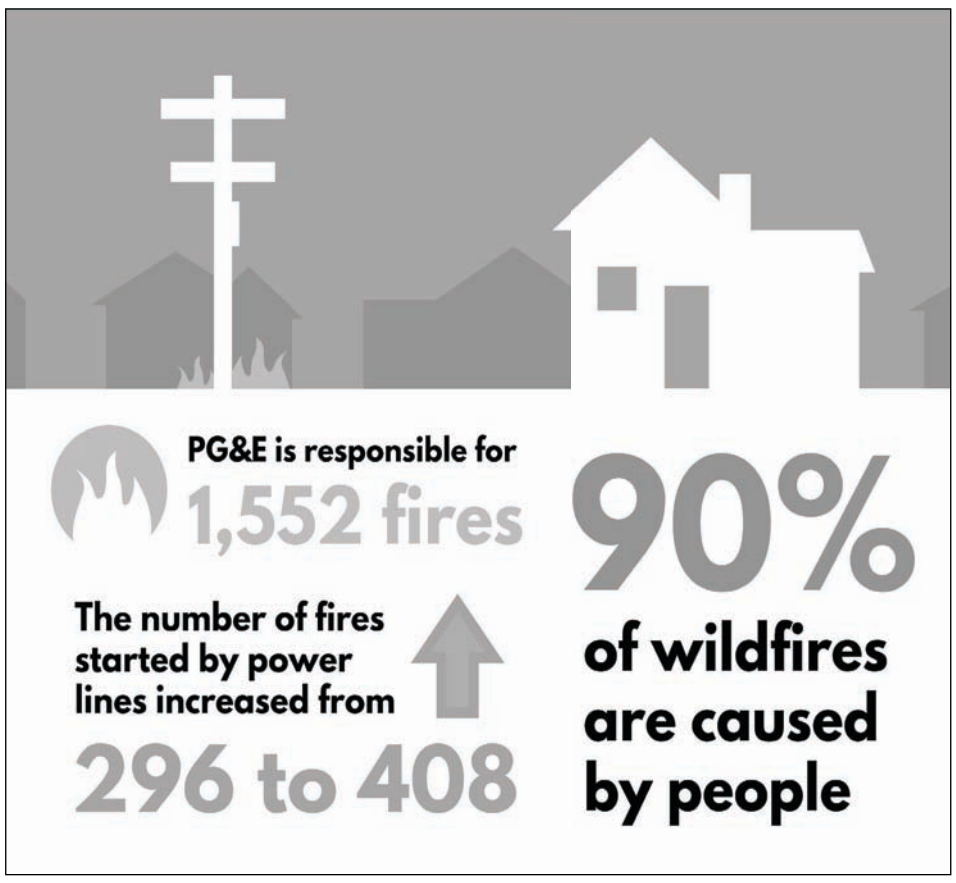
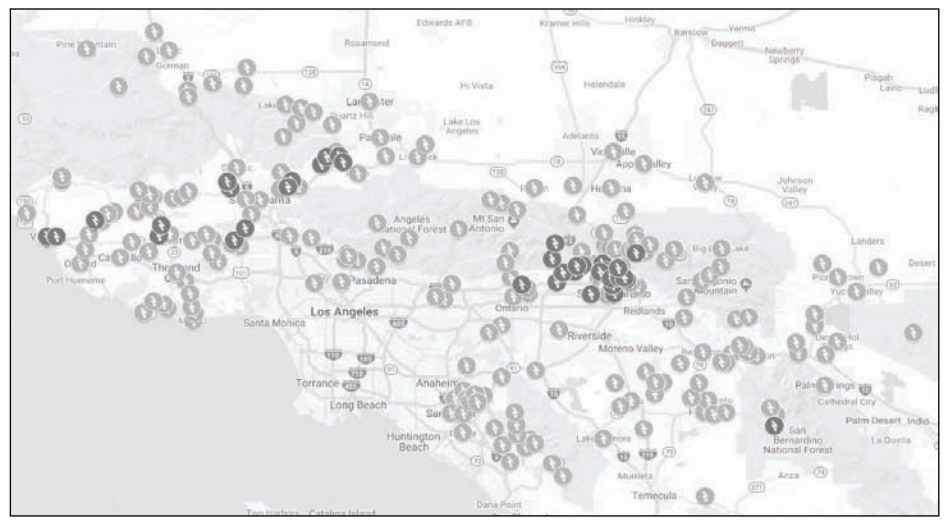
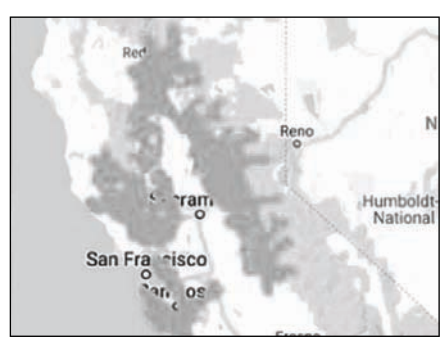


GRAPHIC BY CASSIDY CHANG

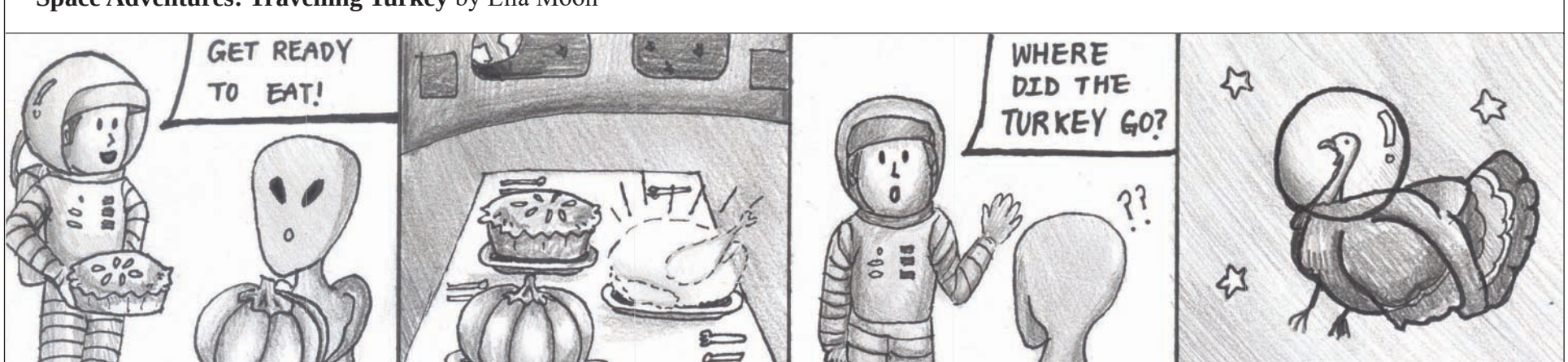




PHOTOS COURTESY OF CNN, GOOGLE AND LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

CERTAIN REGIONS OF THE GOLDEN STATE PLUNGE INTO DARKNESS: *Both the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Southern California Edison have cut the power sources of millions of California residents across the state this autumn in a desperate measure to prevent against wildfires sparked by faulty power lines.*

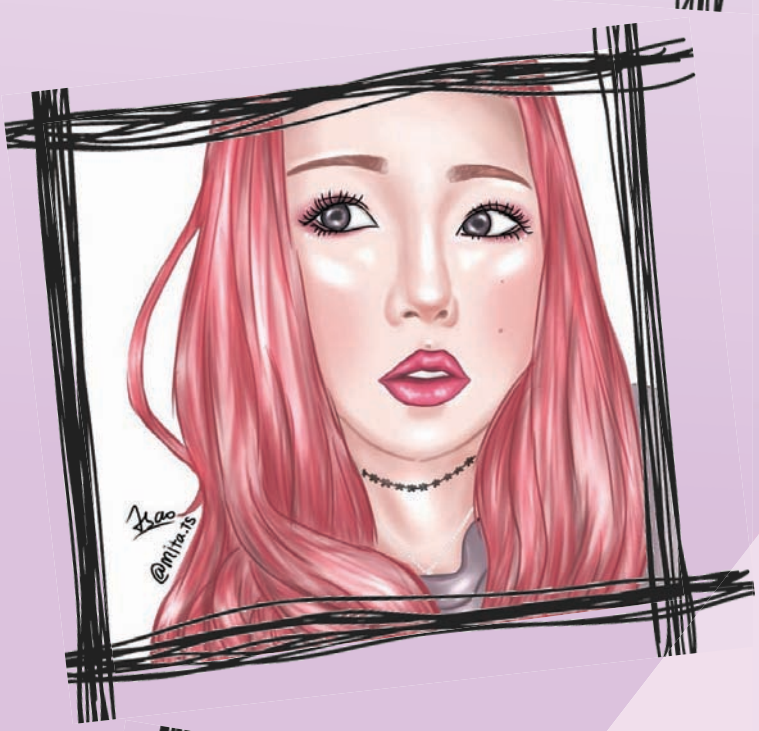
Space Adventures: Travelling Turkey by Ella Moon



pageant of the masters

Saying "all digital art is the same" really doesn't cut it. Meet Mita Tsao, digital artist and aspiring fashion designer; Steven Akiyama, the mastermind behind the gorgeous posters advertising Troy Theatre's latest performance; and Bea Rosete, the talented graphic designer whose works decorate the apparel of many Warriors on campus.

By Amber Huynh, **FEATURE EDITOR**, and photos by Isaiah Pro, **PHOTO**



mita tsao

Continued on page 11

steven akiyama

Every few months, a new theatre production is announced, and soon after, gorgeous posters advertising the play are plastered around campus.

The mastermind behind these posters is no other than senior Steven Akiyama. Spending between eight to 15 hours outside of school on each piece, Akiyama changes his art style to suit whichever show he's been designated to draw for. In his most recent works, for the theatre production of "Night of the Living Dead," Akiyama's style is a frightening combination of old-school, stylish and realistic, whereas his style for their production of "A Midsummer's Night Dream" was painted and dreamy. He chooses his subjects carefully: for their production of "Hello Dolly," for example, he chose to draw a significant character, whereas he featured the whimsical, surreal setting for their production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." With input from the cast and crew, Akiyama's final product always ends up embodying the spirit of the play, as well as the cast's vision.

"I do art because it's something that I can express myself through," Akiyama said. "[But for this,] I like it, but I do it for Troy Theatre. It's a balance of doing it for them and for myself."

bea rosete

There's a story behind every design splashed across the T-shirts and hoodies that club members and competitors wear.

There's a person behind every design, too. Ever since her first bout designing Nike jackets for Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC)'s Team Red two years ago, senior Bea Rosete has devoted hours upon hours to using her graphic design and artistic talents for various clubs and teams around campus. Among those she has designed for are NJROTC's Team Black and Team Red, the Red Cross club, the NOW club and the 2019 IB seniors.

A self-taught artist, Rosete has a long history of applying her passion and creativity to her school life, from her thrice-won yearbook design contests to her simpler T-shirt designs in middle school. Once she reached high school, though, she lost touch with her artistic side—only to rediscover it in her junior year, when she tried graphic designing for the first time.

"[Now,] whenever I get the chance, I always try to think about [my latest design], even if it's just during class," Rosete explained. When designing her newest piece, Rosete pours lots of thought into both the aesthetic and symbolic aspects of her design. Her inspiration can come from anywhere: Pinterest, Dribbble—a place for graphic designers to congregate—or even her travels. For this year's Team Black design, after traveling to Japan, Rosete incorporated the color red, inspired by its significance of good luck, pride and victory. Her creative process takes place over weeks, with her total work hours numbering around three whole days. While Rosete might not be financially compensated for her labor, she's found that her graphic design work has given her other rewards.

"Sometimes, I like to imagine how in the future, my team members who kept their shirts will look at my design and remember the memories they made while being on the team," Rosete said. "It makes me feel really good inside that I can make a lasting memory for them."

FOR THE RECORD

By Jillian Warren, **ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR**

"Jesus is King" ◂ *Kanye West*

Kanye West's latest album "Jesus is King" is a nauseating 27 minutes of pure religious devotion that almost nobody saw coming. The record opens with a harmonious gospel choir but quickly transitions to a series of catchy hip-hop anthems. The tracks are admittedly entertaining and even harken back to the good'ol days of Kanye's rap. Yet, whether or not West's religious declarations should be taken seriously is left up to the listeners.

"Pony" ▸ *Rex Orange County*

Rex Orange County has long been regarded as a driving force in the indie pop scene, and his first full album, "Pony," proves nothing different. Filled with tales of romance and self discovery, Rex's lyrical work makes for a rather sentimental listen, as each song is an introspective look into his microcosmic life. Pops of brass, retro synths, and even bird chirps litter the album's instrumentals. Listeners won't have trouble finding something new around each corner.

"Now and Then" ◂ *khai dreams*

"Now and Then," the latest EP from rising indie artist khai dreams is a feel-good trip down his idyllic musings. Elements of surf rock grace the majority of the EP's tracks, but the sonic variation does not stop there. In "Smokescreen," elements of hip-hop are interlaced with the track's flowing melodies, a direction not previously taken by the young songwriter. Though some may consider the record's lyrics to be overly saccharine, the songs themselves are inherently charming—perfect for the hopeless romantic in all of us.

JOJO RABBIT

Blind nationalism, anti-Semitism, barbaric bombings—is it all too much for a coming-of-age film? Check out this take on the anti-hate, World War II satire, "Jojo Rabbit."

By Amy Kim, **STAFF WRITER,** and photos courtesy of Google

Searching for a glimmer of humor in the darkest corners of history is a high-risk venture. Despite the controversy surrounding this dramatic comedy, "Jojo Rabbit" garnered a total of $350,000 its opening weekend—a laudable debut, especially for the indie box office. Nevertheless, this impressive number doesn't necessarily indicate that this movie is the successful satire it was intended to be.

"Jojo Rabbit," directed by Taika Waititi, is neither a typical coming-of-age story nor an ordinary World War II chronicle. Roaming through the war-torn streets of Austria in 1944, ten-year-old Jojo is blissfully ignorant to the abhorrent immorality of the Nazi regime. As an ardent member of the Hitler Youth, this protagonist's side kick happens to be none other than Hitler himself—albeit an imaginary, incompetent one who makes for effective comic relief. However, when Jojo discovers that his mother has been hiding a Jewish girl in their home, his world turns upside down. Confronted with the cruel realities of the Nazi regime, he is forced to come to terms with the atrocities of his idolized childhood role models.

As an anti-hate satire, what made this film memorable was its outlandish atmosphere. Even dreary scenes of bombings were punctuated by playful nods to the foolishness of bumbling Nazis. Aficionados of dark humor may find it crudely satisfying, yet others may find the juxtaposition of ferocious battle scenes with playful banter far too jarring. With his absurdist humor, Waititi treads a thin line that often goes unexplored in the mainstream cinematic scene. This movie employs humor that plays on Jewish stereotypes, yet most viewers seems to have been put at ease by Waititi's own Jewish background. Most people seem to believe that laughter is acceptable if the victims of the jokes are chuckling alongside them.

Societal pressures have catalyzed a series of stringent limitations on comedy as decades have come and gone. Although these limitations may simply be attributed to the public's over-sensitivity to contentious references in pop culture, they are nonetheless necessary. Perhaps the satire's downfall is its lack of insight into the actual denunciation of Nazi policies. Though the film lightheartedly pokes fun at the idiocracy of Nazis falling for clearly exaggerated Jewish stereotypes, that portrayal oversimplifies the fundamental inhumanity of the Nazi party. In a political climate where the return of factional fascism and violent nationalism looms on the horizon, dismissing the palpable threat of Nazi-inspired ideologies is disturbingly alarming.

Despite the film's inherent cultural blemishes, one of Waititi's more sensible decisions was to utilize children as the catalysts for plot development. From the perspective of a child that has yet to come to terms with the barbarity of the Nazi party, the movie is able to open with a buoyant spirit. In no context—other than Hitler being a bumbling imaginary best friend—would it seem appropriate for an audience to be doubled over in laughter at the sight of such an evil figure. This childhood innocence also melds seamlessly into the film's overarching sentiment of unadulterated hope for the future. The exploration of self-discovery laced throughout concocts a touching coming-of-age story in an anomalous setting.

Regardless of one's personal opinion on Waititi's bold comedic decisions, his satire was admittedly well-intentioned and deserves praise for tackling a controversial topic in an unconventional way. The film left audiences walking out with smiles plastered on their faces; unfortunately, it also left room for further condemnation of Nazi policies beyond repeated slapstick jokes. His simplistic criticisms of Nazis through overused punchlines and the disconcerting contrast of antithetical tones could easily have left audiences more confused rather than entertained. If not executed properly, perhaps criticisms of Hitler should be left to the history books.

PRESENCE

Through a collection of colorful canvases, Fullerton College's "Presence" art exhibition paints society in a new light. Immerse yourself in the lives of numerous people of color—before the exhibition comes to a close.

By Jade Bahng, **STAFF WRITER**, photos courtesy of the **EDITORIAL BOARD**, and cartoons by Kristen Perez, **CARTOON EDITOR**

Somewhat ironically, it's easy to miss the simple posters reading "Presence Art Gallery," that are posted across Fullerton College's campus. As visitors step into a world of color within the showing room, however, they are lost in the beautifully arranged harmony of the pieces. Through the stories of numerous racially-diverse artists, Fullerton College takes on the challenge to explore the meanings—both the obvious and the underlying—of the word "presence" in American citizens' everyday lives.

"Untitled," *Sadie Barnette*

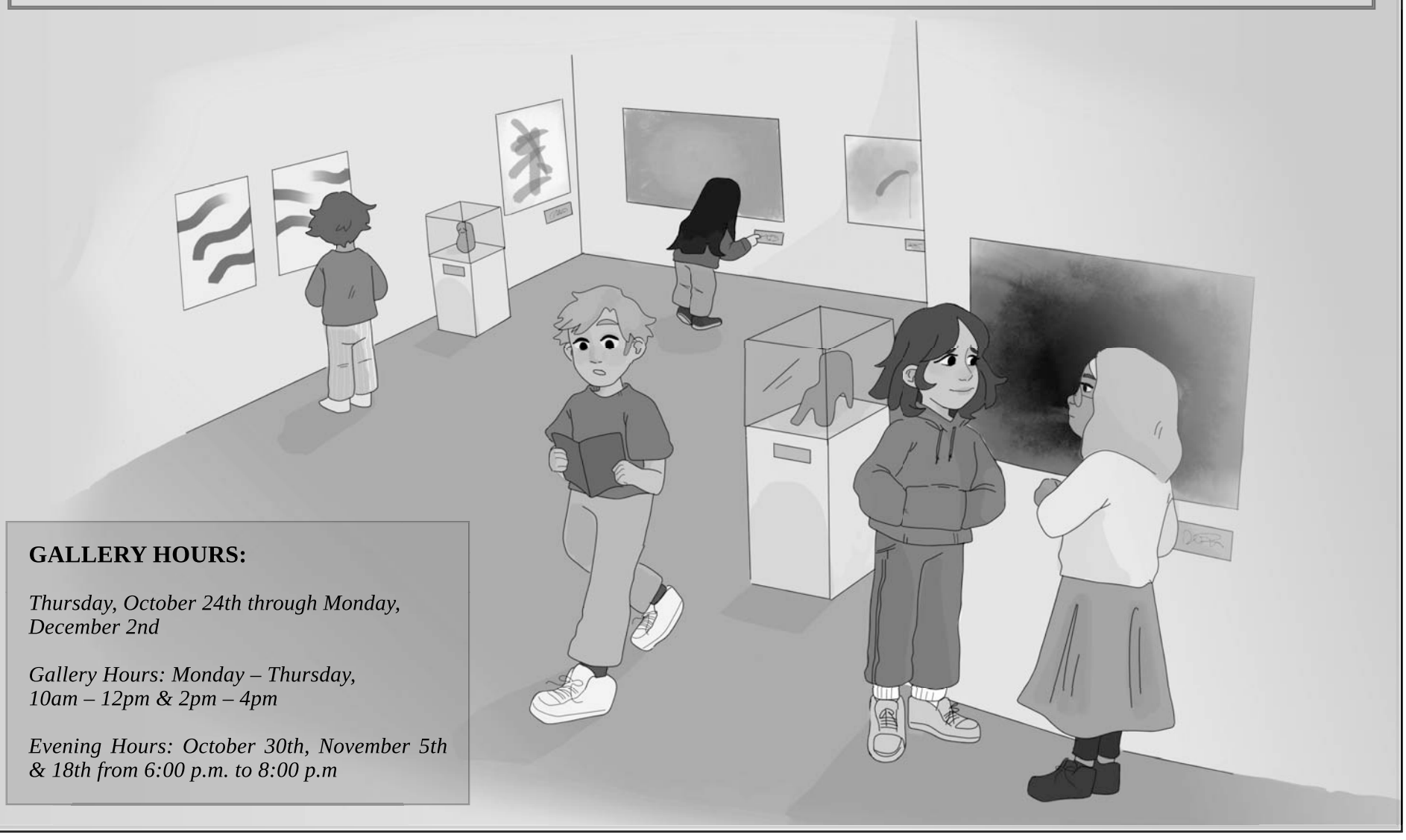
Co-curators Dee Kerrison and Carol Henke traversed through countless pieces of artwork to select not the finest, but the authentic pieces.

Trailing along the walls, soft brush strokes and intense neon paints become windows into the artists' minds, spilling memories and never-ending trains of thought onto canvas. Juxtaposing the vibrant sea of colors and patterns, the simplicity of retro-style film photos serves as a strikingly beautiful representation of nostalgic family life. Artist Sadie Barnette reveals her father, Rodney Barnette, as a family man in a postal uniform, despite his notable reputation as a Black Panther Protection member. With pieces that grasp the heart with glimpses into intimate family life, the gallery shows a more realistic, raw and relatable side to these artists.

At first glance, it's difficult to make out a connection among the artworks. The paintings seem to immerse viewers in unique worlds of art, but more importantly, they also serve as a representation of the genuine diversity of all different types of artists and their backgrounds. Whether it be an oil painting, pencil sketch or mixed media collage, each artwork plays an important role in featuring the stories of people of color. In "All American Class of 2016," artist Patrick Remirez transforms older generations' symbolic PeeChee folder into an exposition of police brutality. Through ragged scribbles of stark black sharpie, round brushstrokes of oil paint and mixture of pastels with neon, the beauty of contrast serves as a metaphor for people of color that continue to endure society's relentless efforts to assimilate their existence.

"All American Class of 2016," *Patrick Remirez*

Presence Art Gallery features artworks that diverge from the overglorified expectations. These artworks advocate for more than romanticized ideals; they allow visitors to realize that the lives of people of color candidly portrayed in the artworks aren't just reflections of America, but the people in it.



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SHE'S IN THE CROWD

Boys run onto the field, hooting and shouting from the adrenaline rush—your typical high school football players. Running amongst them is a unique sight: freshman Trinity Stirdivant, the only girl on the team.

Compiled by Sarah Son, SPORTS EDITOR, article by Jacqueline Liu, STAFF WRITER, photo by Jenna Sabile, PHOTO

Through shouts of surprise and widened eyes from the audience, freshman Trinity Stirdivant confidently strides onto the football field amidst the crowd of towering boys. Her chin pointed up and her eyes narrowed, Stirdivant is the image of focus and determination.

Having played rugby for four years, Stirdivant is no stranger to high intensity sports. But after years of participation, Stirdivant decided to venture into its American counterpart: football. Supporting her decision to engage in the new sport, Stirdivant's father urged her to participate in the Troy football summer camp before her freshman year of high school.

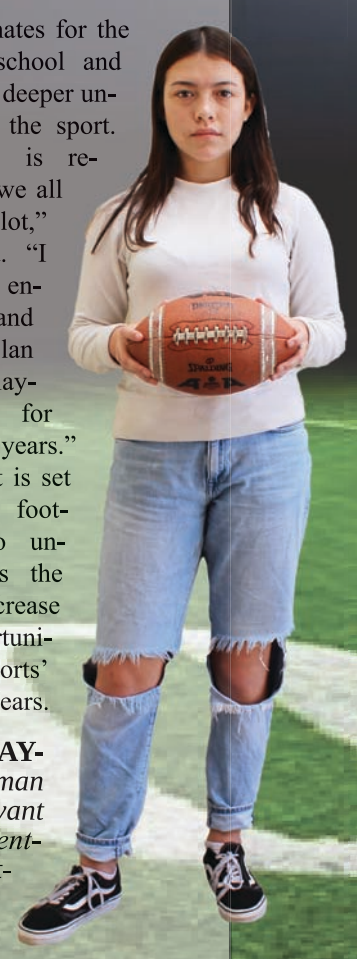
Yet the typical image of American football is not one of a girl sprinting across the field dodging boys twice her height. As the only girl on the freshman football team, Stirdivant naturally worried about being treated differently by the coaches and the boys in a sport that is traditionally all-male. However, with her family's encouragement to attend the camp, Stirdivant's worries eventually faded as she grew attuned to the sport and her teammates. Now, she feels comfortable being on the field and maintains strong relationships with the rest of the team.

"I'm always a little bit nervous when I first enter the field because everyone is so much taller than me," Stirdivant said. "But the nervousness goes away because I just get caught up in the adrenaline and I forget about all my other worries."

For Stirdivant, some of the best parts about being on the team is working with her friends and receiving helpful instruction from the coaches to develop her game. She enjoys being able to work with all the members on the team without judgement. Her coaches treat her like any other member and play a major role in helping her improve her skills. Stirdivant has plans to continue her involvement in football alongside her teammates for the rest of high school and hopes to gain a deeper understanding of the sport.

"[My team] is really close and we all joke around a lot," Stirdivant said. "I really like the energy we have and I definitely plan to continue playing football for the next few years."

As Stirdivant is set on continuing football, she also unknowingly sets the stage for the increase in girls' opportunities in 'male sports' in the coming years.



POISED PLAYER: *Freshman Trinity Stirdivant stands confidently with a football in hand.*

art & fashion

Behind every great outfit is a great designer. Explore senior Mita Tsao's story, from her adventures in digital art to her future aspirations in fashion design.

By Lois Lee, STAFF WRITER

As the iPad clicks open, reality fades away to reveal a glimmering digital world.

When transported to this realm splashed with colors ranging from elephant grey to royal violet, senior Mita Tsao can stay immersed in it for hours on end. She gives definition to the colors with her lineart, elegant and precise, and connects them to draw stitched hems and soft creases. After about three hours, Tsao's screen shows a masterful, lifelike portrait of a young girl with a charming gaze, her golden waves curling over her oversized, robin blue sweater. With every delicate stroke, Tsao expresses her truest self as she explores her passion for art.

Tsao has dabbled in art since her childhood, but her interest started to fully blossom when she entered high school. She started with a few pencil sketches here and there, but in her junior year, Tsao began venturing into the world of digital art. With this new way of drawing, Tsao's world expanded: she has wielded new tools. Now, without the limits of pencil and paper, Tsao ties in more of her personal style when drawing her subject's facial features, adding different colors, from the peachy skin tone to the chartreuse jacket.

"For me, there are two different worlds," Tsao said. "There's reality and I'm just a normal student. But in the art world, I'm the queen and I can just draw and focus on my art piece."

Like the seemingly limitless tools and colors at her disposal, her portraits display an unending variety in brow shapes, jawlines, and eye curvatures. Inspired by her friends' portrait requests and by images of her favorite singers, Tsao's art portrays a realistic style whether in body shapes or colors. By giving attention to each of the intricate details in her piece, Tsao draws out her feelings in the moment to create a visual portrayal of her inner self.

"When you draw, don't try to be perfect," Tsao advised. "In art, there isn't a definition for 'perfect.' Just let it be. Draw whatever you want. Express your feelings."

With every finished piece, Tsao's passion for art grows stronger, and has recently even ventured into another beloved world combining both of her loves: fashion design. Her fashion pieces feature confident posed models wearing striking outfits from a midnight black blouse with puffed shoulders to bright scarlet dress cinched at the waist. As Tsao continues to hone her art skills, she also works towards her dream of becoming a fashion designer. Her practice designs range from tight, buttoned blouses that appeal to her professional side to flowly, striped pants that show off her more modish style. Tsao hopes, in her future, to design a brand combing both of her personal styles—the trendy chic aspects with the classic, sophisticated charm.

"As an artist, I feel like I don't have to care about anything around me because I can just draw anything I want to draw," Tsao said. "I can be myself. There are no rules."

2019-20 NBA fantasy basketball season's drafts and implications

Excitement ensues among fans as fantasy basketball rolls around with promise for a heartracing season and drafting process.

By Lucas Santos
STAFF WRITER

With this year's new National Basketball Association (NBA) season now in full motion, fans are eager to witness flying dunks, deep threes and dominant blocks from their favorite teams and players. For the fans who seek a more interactive experience than simply witnessing the new season on TV or even from the stands, fantasy basketball is readily available to the millions of NBA supporters around the world.

For those who are unaccustomed to fantasy sports, here is a brief description: leagues are set up where each "coach" drafts players. Points are then awarded to the teams based upon the real-life performances of the drafted players. Even though all leagues have unique methods of scoring, winners are usually chosen based on the amount of points or wins that their players earn.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of fantasy basketball is the draft. Over the course of the selection process, banter arises from the often intense process of choosing the right players. But the true fun of fantasy basketball commences when friends begin compete for bragging rights.

The fun continues as the participants embark on season-long quests for points and engage in debates that can earn respect and glory for the winner within their league and friend group.

Take, for example, the debate of the NBA's Pacific Division this season. After the infamous Golden State Warriors dynasty seemingly ended after last year's finals loss, three of the division's teams are serious playoff contenders and have enormous potential for the season. The Los Angeles Lakers, Los Angeles Clippers and surprisingly the Phoenix Suns all seem to be on course to paint the playoff picture in the Western Conference.

A topic of argument regarding these teams is rooted in their rosters. The Lakers have what is arguably the best duo in the league: Anthony Davis and LeBron James. The Suns have a promising young core led by superstar scorer Devin Booker; and the Clippers have yet another superstar duo with defensive stars Kawhi Leonard and Paul George leading the charge. Clearly, all of these teams have the assets and players to perform well this season, but the question begs to be asked: who will have the best season?

Over the course of the season, casual fantasy players and hardcore fans alike eagerly await the answer.

But what is probably the most appealing aspect of fantasy basketball is its free-to-play nature. Although some leagues require an entrance fee, the majority don't involve money at all and are rooted in pure fun.

Yet, the overall premise of fantasy sports may sound abstract and even nonsensical to those who aren't familiar with the game. Still, contrary to this perspective, fantasy sports is much more than brainstorming drafts to pair the 'right' players in hopes that they would perform well together. In fact, fantasy sports create a season-long amiable competition that allows friends to bond over memories that can last a lifetime.

DOMINANT DUO: *Anthony Davis (left) and LeBron James (right) are the Los Angeles Laker's star offensive players this season.*