

# ORACLE

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# ECHO'S GOT TALENT

Get ready to dance to the beat at the first public performance of the year by the Warrior Echo Foundation club.

By Diya Patel, STAFF WRITER, photos by Jenna Sabile, PHOTO and graphics courtesy of Google

Igniting a spark of musical interest within the Warrior population, the Echo Foundation club will hold the Echoes Through the Valley Concert at The Source Orange County Dec. 28.

At the showcase, the indie-pop Echo band will perform a one-hour set of 20 songs, including "Ain't It Fun" by Paramore, "Sick Feeling" by Boy Pablo and "Loving is Easy" by Rex Orange County. The band consists of lead guitarist and vocalist Liam Pinson, drummer Daniel Ortiz, pianist and supportive vocalist Annette Lee, bassist Alan Callejas, guitarist Riel Reynes and pianist and back-up vocalist Isabella Ilacad.

Inspired by the Well Club's concert in 2018, the Echo board began to organize Echoes Through the Valley to share the club's musical passions to a community outside the Warrior campus.

Early in November, Treasurer Isaac Chin contacted the event coordinator at the Source to determine the entertainment hub's availability. The Echo Foundation's Instagram page and promotional flyers

advertised performance slots open to the student body on campus.

As part of the club's goal to attract new talent, Warriors interested in the event will receive the opportunity to sing solo songs during the second act of the concert. Non-performing members will help the band with technological aspects of the show, such as sound system, lighting and equipment.

According to Ilacad, Echoes Through the Valley will enable the band to further establish themselves as an official musical group. By performing at an off-campus venue, the musicians will learn to step out of their comfort zones and develop trust during showcases, Ilacad said.

"The band is still trying to figure out how to work together, and performing in a foreign setting for people who are not from school will help," Ilacad said. "When we go out there, we are going to be forced to rely on each other, and that is going to be really good for teamwork within the band."

Through the show, the band will demonstrate their musical prowess in front of a larger audience. The concert will prompt students to learn from past challenges and to grow as performers, Ilacad said.

"The band's goal is to improve stage presence because in the past, every little mistake would keep us on edge," Ilacad said. "The concert will be a good learning

experience that will teach the band to just focus on the music."

Additionally, the musicians hope to introduce Warriors to the club's showcase events. Performances at the concert will strengthen the presence of the Echo Foundation on campus and inspire current members to spread their musical appreciation to different communities, Pinson said.

"The concert will definitely help the club be more active than we already are," Pinson said.

"Hopefully, [the concert] will motivate members to be more enthusiastic towards Echo and its activities so we can put on more shows and events for the community."

**THE SOUND OF MUSIC:** (from left to right) Senior Isabella Ilacad gracefully plays the keyboard while senior Liam Pinson effortlessly strums along on his electric guitar.



## TROY TODAY

**Warriors attend Ladera Vista Science Olympiad Invitational**

Inspiring children to find a passion for aeronautics, Aerovate Club attended the Ladera Vista Junior High Science Olympiad Invitational to assist in hosting the event Dec. 7. The members ran the ping pong parachute event, in which competitors had to design, construct and launch a parachute.

**Best Buddies hosts Christmas event**

With the festive season approaching, Best Buddies club hosted the Holiday Party in the 500 Building Dec. 6. Students and faculty members gathered for crafts, games and music in order to spread the holiday spirit across campus. During the event, Best Buddies club members organized a snowball fight and invited students to take photos with Santa Claus.

**Link Crew organizes library study session**

Contributing to an environment of comfort and relaxation, Link Crew hosted a De-Stress and Study Sesh in the library Dec. 6. The session also provided students with activities such as movies, games and ping pong. Additionally, Link Crew sold hot chocolate and snacks for participants to enjoy during the event.

**Girl Up sends care packages to shelters**

The Warrior Girl Up Club created holiday care packages for residents at the Wise Place women's shelter in Santa Ana Dec. 4. Assembled in groups of four, club members organized baskets of 25 items, which contained basic necessities such as menstrual products, toiletries and clothing. Members hoped to give back to the local community for the holiday season through participation in the event.

**AVID holds gratitude gram event**

Students had the opportunity to express their appreciation for the Warrior population through gratitude grams during lunch Nov. 14-22. The Advancement Via Individual Determination class, Challenge Success Team and Associated Student Body collaborated to organize this event for Warriors to write positive messages that will be displayed around campus.

# Mock Trial team competes at Superior Court of Orange County

Warriors participated in their first mock trial case of the year, which follows a fabricated spousal homicide case.

By Cathy Chen  
STAFF WRITER

Cultivating different skillsets in a courtroom setting, Mock Trial Club participated in the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County Competition at the Superior Court of Orange County Nov. 14, 16, 19 and 21.

In August, Mock Trial teams across Orange County received a briefing of a fabricated case for the students to analyze. In preparation for the competition, each team formed defense and prosecution sides. Students assumed the roles of attorney, witness, bailiff, clerk or journalist and carried out the tasks intended for each position.

Written by professional judges and lawyers, the case emulates a legitimate briefing that a real-world attorney may receive. The case covers a first-degree murder centered on a fictional defendant's involvement with his wife's death. Students on the defense side argue for the defendant's innocence, while students on the prosecution side attempt to prove the offense committed by the defendant.

After the trial, a jury of licensed attorney judges provides a verdict for the case. In addition to the verdict, the students also receive a score that determines the winner of the round based on their effectiveness of speech, strength of argument and presentation. According to Co-President John Pace, Mock Trial realistically

simulates a courtroom experience. The students enhance their ability to clearly communicate in a public forum through participation in the trial, Pace said.

## Red Cross Club attends ice skating social and fundraiser

Red Cross members from across the county spent a day at the rinks to fundraise for medical aid.

By Mai Omoto  
STAFF WRITER

Fostering an amiable environment through interactive activities, Red Cross Club attended the Orange County Red Cross Youth Services Ice Skating Fundraiser at the Rinks Anaheim ICE Nov. 22.

In order to promote unity among the participants, students joined other volunteers to ice skate and enhanced their interaction within the Orange County Chapter Red Cross clubs. The board members hosted the event to encourage participants to form new bonds with volunteers from different schools.

The Red Cross board also utilized ticket sales to raise funds for leadership development camp



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIYA PATEL

**COURTLY COMPETITIVE:** The Mock Trial defense team completes their final rounds after months of practice and preparation.

simulate a courtroom experience. The students enhance their ability to clearly communicate in a public forum through participation in the trial, Pace said.

“[Competitions] specifically improve our speaking skills and our argumentative skills,” Pace said. “In Mock Trial, students are speaking in front of an entire court of people and an actual judge. We are high school students standing up and making our arguments in front of real adults and being heard.”

Along with communication skills, Mock Trial competitions also allow students to effectively cooperate with fellow teammates, Co-President Charissa Kim said.

“For our club to be successful, we need to have a good working team [in which] everyone works well with each other,” Kim said. “The scores can drastically change from one person's performance, which is why Mock Trial is a very team-oriented sport. Everyone has to play the part.”

In order to build better argu-

ments and promote teamwork, students in Mock Trial accumulate experience and implement improved presentation through each competition, Pace said.

“The Warrior Mock Trial team is constantly evolving,” Pace said. “Each year, we learn a little bit more, and we apply what we gain. We have much more solid arguments and a much better understanding of the courtroom. At the end of the day, we are one team, and as Warriors, we work together to achieve a common goal.”

“[The fundraiser was] an event that we publicized for the club to help support a bigger goal of raising funds for scholarships,” Zhao said. “This event was for other members to feel like they have a connection to [an organization] bigger than what is just at school.”

“[Club members] get to see the positive outcomes of their work and are good role models for others.”

Eileen Zhao  
Co-President

Through collaboration with different schools, the event served as a reminder that the club is part of a larger organization beyond the Warrior chapter. The organization aimed to create a greater sense of community within volunteers

through collaboration with other Red Cross clubs, Zhao said.

“[Club members] get to see the positive outcomes of their work,” Zhao said. “[Participation] impacts them because they feel as if they are part of the community and good role models for others. The event gives members insight on how to be a more proactive volunteer in the community.”

Prior to Thanksgiving break, the ice skating fundraiser offered a holiday activity that members could enjoy with fellow Warriors. The event enabled the members to make connections

with those who are also interested in Red Cross, Zhao said.

“[The event was] a fun way to get together and meet new people,” Zhao said. “[The participants] met a lot of new friends that want to continue Red Cross in the future.”

# Warriors participate in Sensitive Santa

Students organized a local holiday festival for children with autism to promote inclusivity.

By Kathleen Zhang  
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to create a welcoming environment for children with autism, the Autism Youth Ambassadors (AYA) Club participated in Sensitive Santa at the Autism Spectrum Consultants office in Irvine Dec. 7. Established to further develop festive spirits among participants, Sensitive Santa is a carnival specifically for children with autism. The event

coordinators planned activities without excessive sensory triggers in order to celebrate the holidays alongside children on the autism spectrum. At the event, club members and volunteers participated in interactive arcade games and a photoshoot with Santa Claus.

With the intention to alleviate the social gap between the general public and children with autism, AYA strives to help volunteers develop appropriate communication skills through interactions with the children. In addition, AYA hopes to further educate the community on autism itself.

According to President Tina Xie, Sensitive Santa presented participants with an opportunity

to experience traditional festive activities within an environment tailored towards the needs of children with autism. During the carnival, the attendees were able to enjoy the event in a judgmental-free atmosphere, Xie said.

“[Sensitive Santa] helps create a situation where these children can participate in [activities] that all kids long to,” Xie said. “Many children on the spectrum cannot visit Santa in malls because of the sensory overload from all the people, the noise and the lights. [At the event], these children were able to be themselves in a safe space.”

At Sensitive Santa, the families of participants spoke about the misconceptions of the condition, while individuals

without prior experience had the chance to observe activities from the children’s perspectives, Xie said.

“As a community, families with [children with autism] were given the opportunity to come together and discuss the issues they run into daily,” Xie said. “Families who do not have a similar experience with children established an understanding of the challenges and gifts of individuals with autism, which can help us to be better friends, professionals, and family members.”

Through participation in Sensitive Santa, families had the opportunity to make lasting memories

and to share their knowledge about autism. Additionally, the event offered participants the opportunity to build relationships with other members of the community, Xie said.

“The students in our club and community members were able to participate in this event as volunteers and have a lot of fun,”

Xie said. “Sensitive Santa gave individuals a chance to meet new friends and to [better communicate with] children with autism.”



CARTOONS BY ELLA MOON

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## KEEPING UP with the OPINION EDITORS

No need to worry,  
Amazon will be fine

By Isaac Yang  
OPINION EDITOR



Amazon isn't going anywhere any time soon.

However, that doesn't seem to be the word on the street. Nike announced Nov. 12 that it would stop selling its sneakers and apparel on Amazon, ending a pilot program that began in 2017. Nike's decision has caused speculation regarding the fall of the retail business titan, as the public wonders whether other major companies will follow suit and leave Amazon to focus on managing their sales directly. While the departure may have potential implications for the technology company, Amazon is far from going out of business.

“While the departure may have potential implications for the technology company, Amazon is far from going out of business.”

First and foremost, the widely broadcasted split speaks to Nike's flourishing success, not Amazon's incompetence. Nike reported Sept. 24 that its revenue sales increased by seven percent in the first quarter to \$10.7 billion. The company also reported that it would be focusing on its own direct consumer business, in explanation of why they decided to leave Amazon. Clearly, Nike was not primarily motivated to split with Amazon because of problems with the resell site. It merely had a desire to explore different marketing approaches and the flexibility to do so.

Other companies will not follow Nike's lead by ending their partnership with Amazon simply because most cannot risk such a decision. Nike can afford to be selective about where its customers buy its merchandise because of its expansive reach and highly sought-after products. As only a select few companies can match Nike's success, most companies on Amazon do not have this luxury.

Admittedly, Nike's departure does point out a few concerns regarding the relationship between brands and Amazon. It may trouble a few of Amazon's partners by causing Amazon's brand registry program to lose a big name. Additionally, some brands have expressed frustration at Amazon, claiming it does not do enough to regulate counterfeit products.

Nonetheless, these problems are minor and by no means suggest a mass exodus of brands from Amazon. The online retail business is here to stay.

# We have to stop giving mass shooters exactly what they want

By Kaitlyn Han  
STAFF WRITER



People are shooting for fame, and the media's helping them.

News outlets revealed Nov. 14 that a 15-year old student killed two students and injured three at Saugus High School before turning the gun on himself. Nearly a week after the shooting, news outlets also reported that he used an unregistered “kit gun”—a “build-your-own” gun available online with assembling tutorials on YouTube. The media must stop revealing shooters' names and tactics, since doing so only glorifies their actions and encourages more violence.

By revealing shooters' names, the media is inadvertently handing them fame on a silver platter. According to the Los Angeles Times, 87 percent of mass shooters desire fame. The University of Oregon found that

photos of shooters are published 16 times more than those of their victims. As long as these shooters' names are cemented in history books, they will continue with their attacks. If Americans want to deter mass shootings, the news should deny shooters the fame they want so badly.

“By revealing shooters' names, the media is inadvertently handing them fame on a silver platter.”

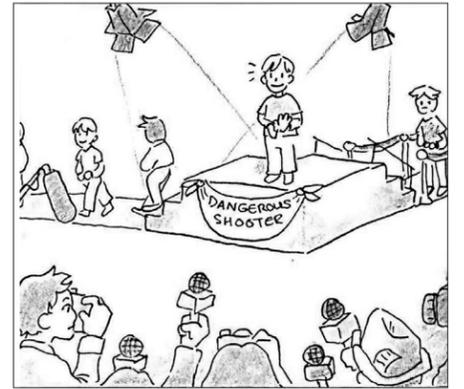
Continuing to unintentionally offer fame will inevitably lead to copycat crimes. Arizona State University found that there is a heightened chance of mass shootings for a 13-day period after one occurs. Evidently, releasing a shooter's plans only serves as inspiration for future attacks. A few laws from Congress—should they even pass—will not prevent those impassioned and determined few from obtaining firearms and starting a mass shooting. Rather, the media must stop reporting shooters' tactics, which serve as how-to-guides for future offenders.

Additionally, other countries have already started rendering shooters “nameless.” For instance, New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, refused

to disclose the name of the shooter responsible for a horrifying synagogue shooting that killed 50 people earlier this year. Instead, she urged the public to focus on spreading the names of

the victims. Whether it takes a group of citizens rallying together or the act of a president to establish this precedent, redacting a shooter's name is critical because mass shootings have plagued America for far too long.

Some argue that the media must in-



CARTOON BY KRISTEN PEREZ

form the public on everything. However, knowing a shooter's name or strategy is useless. Their motives matter more, especially since it's the one area in which the public can actually incite change. According to the Behavioral Analysis Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shootings are “planned, predatory acts” usually triggered by a combination of factors—interpersonal conflicts, financial strain, substance abuse and the like. As opposed to disclosing names or tactics, reporting motives will have a far greater effect on deterring future shootings.

Due to the stiff competition between media outlets, Americans should start demanding a change in precedent to see change. As the number of innocent lives lost in terrifying mass shootings continues to increase, our nation must act now to prevent that number from getting any larger.

# The United States must clean up its Marshall Islands mess

By Amber Wang  
STAFF WRITER



Our catastrophe; our culpability.

Between the years of 1946 and 1958, the US generated over 3.1 million cubic tons of radioactive debris on the Marshall Islands. To contain the waste, the US built the Runit Dome in 1977. However, rising sea levels are cracking the dome, and dangerous levels of plutonium are leaking into the Pacific Ocean. Marshallese officials have repeatedly turned to the US for help, but the US has claimed that the damage done on the Marshall Islands is the responsibility of the Marshallese. The US government's willful neglect of the damage they caused is unacceptable; it must take full responsibility for their actions.

During the nuclear tests, the US felt no remorse for the catastrophe they caused; instead, our government began to use the Marshallese as human guinea pigs. After the detonation of the powerful hydrogen bomb caused a radioactive fallout in 1954, 236 islanders suffered from radiation poisoning. In response, the US government shamelessly relocated these Marshallese to Rongelap Atoll so researchers could investigate the effect of radiation on humans. It's frighteningly hypocritical that the US, a nation that constantly chants for human rights, has treated the Marshallese like disposable lab rats.

Aside from their abusive treatment, the US government had also dishonorably withheld information from the Marshallese. It is

highly probable that our government downplayed the magnitude of the damage to entrap the Marshallese into an unfavorable deal, one that requires the Marshallese to manage their own affairs after the US government pays them \$150 million. In other words, our government unethically deceived the Marshallese to avoid further liability.

Now, the prospect of Chinese involvement has given the Marshallese leverage in negotiating more favorable terms for the contract renewal in 2023. However, this situation is far beyond a political issue: it is a moral one. If the US government changes the terms of the contract, they should not be doing so just because it's suddenly beneficial for them to. After deceiving the Marshallese and devastating their home, it should be the United States' moral duty to compensate properly with both money and waste disposal.

As of now, the US Department of Energy is unfairly expecting the Marshallese to relocate to parts of Enewetak, an atoll that was initially evacuated for nuclear testing. Yet, there is no certainty that the atoll

is safe for inhabitation, only false reassurances from the same people who have continually deceived the Marshallese. Our government needs to stop making excuses and start taking accountability.

Given the number of lives that were upended for US security, the US's negligent attitude towards the Marshallese is beyond ridiculous. In order to accommodate the United States' need for nuclear testing, over 167 people were exiled from their homes and 1500 others suffered the deadly consequences of radiation exposure. Yet, what they received in return for their sacrifices was not fair compensation, but deception.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BUSINESS INSIDER



A TEST OF US INTEGRITY AND RESPONSIBILITY: The Runit Dome, a 350-foot wide concrete container built by the US to contain nuclear waste, leaks plutonium.

# Free or reduced lunches should require manual applications

By Miseok Kim  
STAFF WRITER

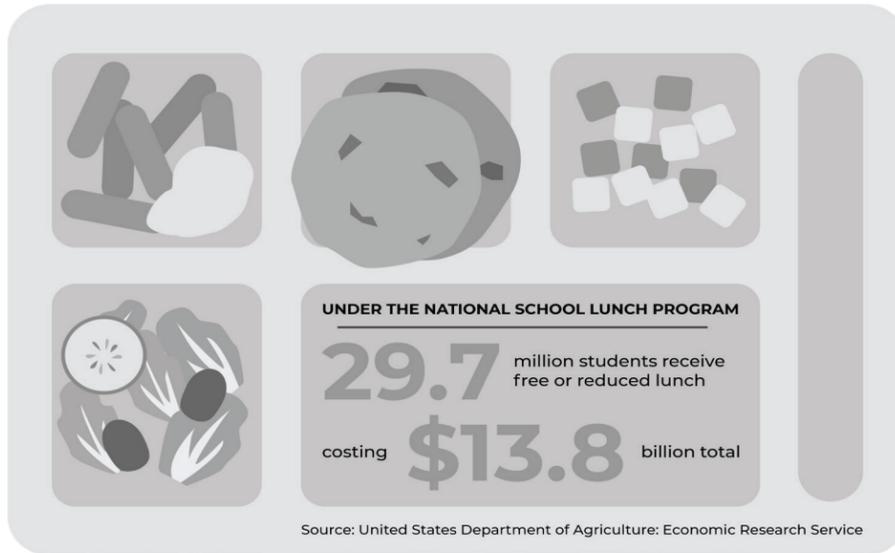


Stop exaggerating. 40 thousand is not even near one million. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced in July its draft reform for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The USDA's plan includes stricter eligibility requirements and the elimination of automatic qualification for free or reduced lunches with SNAP benefits.

Numerous students, parents and anti-hunger activists have attacked the proposal in their false conviction that the new rule could result in "one million children" losing their lunches. However, analysis from the USDA disproves the exaggerated number—only 40,000 students, or 0.1 percent of all students receiving discounted lunches, will lose the benefits for a valid reason.

At its core, the concept of automatic qualification with SNAP benefits is questionable and needs to be eliminated for the sake of fairness. As a steward of more than \$3.33 trillion paid in taxes by American citizens, the federal government should support students from low-income households with free or reduced lunches. However, some families have been able to obtain unnecessary aid due to the program's lax eligibility requirements. The new rule, if enforced correctly, will ensure that the federal government sufficiently meets the financially disadvantaged families' needs.

Therefore, the more logical process, which the new rule promotes, is students



qualifying for free or reduced lunches by first proving their households' necessity in separate applications. Although the opposition argues that the students' families are too busy to manually fill out those forms, other parents have always applied manually. The newly affected parents will soon do the same if they truly need those benefits. Once all factors are accounted for, about 40,000 children will lose their free or reduced lunches because their family incomes already exceed the eligibility limit set by Congress.

Considering how much the government puts into the program, SNAP certainly needs to eliminate all loopholes. In 2018, the federal government spent \$68 billion on SNAP and other food assistance programs. Currently, however, the states use broad-based categorical eligibility, which allows for some families who do not need additional aid

to still obtain it. But the states should not be this negligent with government funds provided by their constituents.

The federal government already has more than \$22 trillion in debt. Making sure the \$68 billion invested in food assistance programs is spent properly to the last cent is a good start on decreasing unnecessary expenditures. The new rule is projected to save the government \$4.5 billion, which can be used toward improving other programs or for chipping away the national debt.

Rather than immediately criticizing all the policies proposed by the administration, the public should truly evaluate the meaning of numbers touted in the news. The USDA's proposal already demonstrated how it will improve the integrity of government-funded programs, so the public should give it a chance.

GRAPHIC BY PHOEBE UM

## KEEPING UP with the OPINION EDITORS

Stop denying it; NATO's brain is dead.

By Amy Weng  
OPINION EDITOR



French president Emmanuel Macron's diagnosis is right: the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is becoming brain-dead.

Celebrating its seventieth anniversary this year, NATO played a pivotal role in the Cold War and has long survived its Soviet counterpart, the Warsaw Pact. In early December 2019, NATO leaders met in London, where President Donald Trump and Macron clashed over differing visions for the future of a military alliance once known to be the world's most powerful. In a summit where other world leaders' mockery of Trump was captured on camera, the chaos, disorder and disunity within the organization were plain to see.

"Our government's denial of NATO's current ineffectiveness and lack of purposiveness speaks volumes to the pervasive Cold War mentality still plaguing our nation today."

Our government's denial of NATO's current ineffectiveness and lack of purposiveness today speaks volumes to the pervasive Cold War mentality still plaguing our nation today.

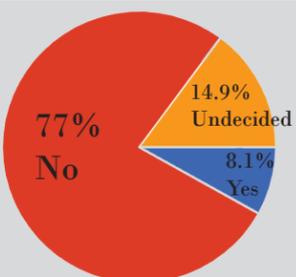
Over the years, NATO has conducted illegal invasions and bombing of civilians in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and Libya without approval from the United Nations, and America's NATO allies no longer trust the US to honor its mutual defense promises after so many instances of our government turning on our allies. Moreover, NATO is directly in conflict with European countries' ambitions of controlling their own military expeditions and destiny. Its prolonged existence will only induce further militarism and warmongering. Now that Russia, is no longer an earnest enemy of NATO, the organization will begin to look for and incessantly paint the picture of a new enemy: the China threat theory.

With our trillions of national debt, war is the last thing we need on taxpayers' shoulders. That NATO has not been disbanded yet also reveals the extent to which the many military-industrial complexes and multinational bureaucrats have prioritized their own purses over the world's prosperity and security. The Cold War is already over; we don't need a new one. In a time in which climate crises have been exacerbated and wealth inequality is increasingly rampant, NATO is an anachronism. NATO should have been disbanded decades ago in favor of more modern and functional economic alliances.

## mark my words

Warriors speak out on campus issues

Read about what our Warriors have to say about removing automatic access to free lunches.



Do you think that removing automatic access is a wise decision?

"Students like **myself** will go hungry and will have a harder time **concentrating** in school."

-Concentration, Junior

"It makes sense; [students] shouldn't be able to **exploit** the system to get free food designed for those who can't afford it."

-Prevent Exploitation, Freshman



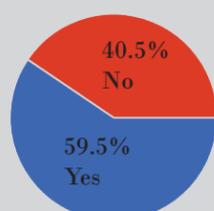
Thank you for all the responses! For the complete list of Warrior opinions, scan the code above.

"I feel like [removing automatic access is] slightly **unfavorable** to many because some of the people that **need** the automatic access to free/reduced school meals do not know about the access."

-Worried about access, Senior

"It will cut **access** to those who require financial assistance."

-Concerned Junior



Do you know anyone on the Free/Reduced Lunch Program?

"It should not be automatic access. The government should make sure that they **qualify** for it because if not, then it is not fair to the students that have to pay full price."

-Qualifications, Senior

"It's **understandable** for the government to try to cut their budget, but it will jeopardize many students who have serious financial needs."

-What's understandable isn't acceptable, Senior

"It would be **easier** for people if they did not have to **manually** apply for the lunches."

-Convenience, Senior



COMPILED BY AMY WENG; PHOTO BY JENNA SABLE

# Festive Friendsmas 2019



Tis' the season to be jolly! Whether it's participating in fun games or buying presents with friends, the holidays wouldn't be the same without those closest to us. Check out the article for ways to celebrate your Friendsmas 2019.

Compiled by Hannah Adams, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR, articles by Jade Bahng, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Kristen Perez, CARTOON EDITOR and graphics by Phoebe Um, GRAPHICS EDITOR



## Coal Krispies Recipe

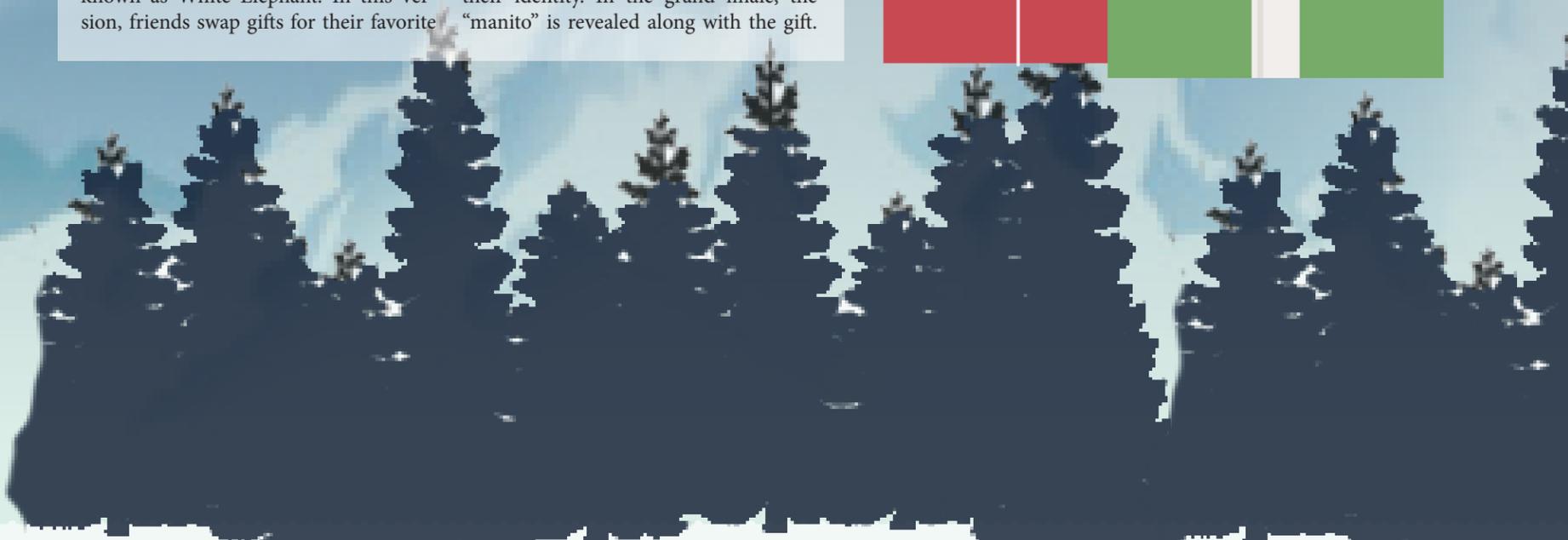
Friendsmas parties can't be complete without some holiday-themed treats. Adding to the joy of munching on yummy snacks is the pride and fun that accompanies making them with your friends. Rice Krispies are an easy, fun and delicious dessert for teens to make, and with a little holiday flair, they can be transformed

into marshmallowy lumps of coal. This recipe is almost identical to the traditional method, only calling for additional black food coloring and crushed oreos for a rich chocolate flavor. Mixing sticky marshmallows is definitely tricky, and if left unclean, one may find lumps of coal in their kitchen sink instead of their stockings.

## Secret Santa

For those of us with limited budgets, Secret Santa is the perfect way to give friends gifts without emptying the wallet. This game is suitable for both big and small friend groups as everyone is assigned to buy a present for one person. Over the years, Secret Santa has evolved into many other Christmas-themed party games; one of these variants is known as White Elephant. In this version, friends swap gifts for their favorite

one. Another twist to the Secret Santa game is called Manito. Unlike Secret Santa or White Elephant, this holiday event is a week long game where each "secret Santa" becomes their assigned friend's angel in disguise, so to speak. Throughout the week, each "secret Santa" must show kindness and helpfulness to their assigned person without revealing their identity. In the grand finale, the "manito" is revealed along with the gift.





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## Festive Frappuccinos

Holiday drinks don't have to stop at hot chocolate—especially in sunny California, it's nice to have an iced alternative. Starbucks frappuccinos are the tasty trophies of the holiday season, but can get pretty expensive for large groups of friends. However, there is an affordable solution: homemade frappuccinos! The base is made by blending one cup of ice, two-thirds cups of milk and two scoops of vanilla

ice cream. From there, the possibilities are endless. For chocoholics, substitute vanilla ice cream with chocolate ice cream to create a decadent delight. Add some peppermint extract for a chilly twist, or mix in crushed cookie crumbs to add fun texture to the beverage. To top off the Christmasy creation, add whipped cream, marshmallows or chocolate chips, and say cheers to the upcoming holidays.

## Candid Christmas

With the return of retro styles from the 90's, a flashback to the disposable camera trend has given rise to an activity called Candid Christmas. Rather than a game, Candid Christmas is more of an activity in which the usual holiday photoshoot session is swapped for a basket of disposable cameras.

People can take pictures to capture memories of the holiday, and at the end of the party, the host can collect the cameras and share the developed photos on a digital album. Disposable cameras are cheap and easy to use, yet produce aesthetic photos that an iPhone could only dream of recreating.

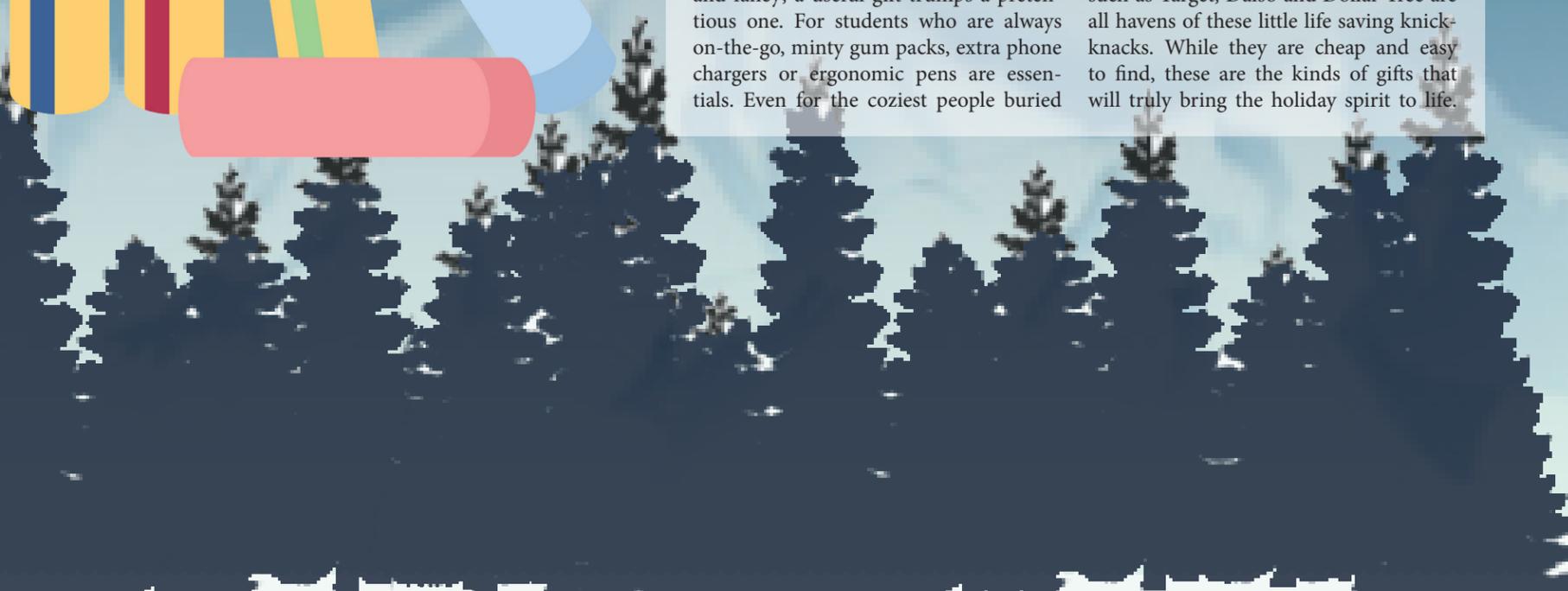


## Last-minute Lifesavers



Unfortunately, instead of snowflakes, finals fall on the week before Christmas. Rather than shopping for gifts, students find themselves cramming for impending tests. But there's nothing to fear, as last-minute presents can still be a success. Holiday gifts don't have to be elaborate and fancy; a useful gift trumps a pretentious one. For students who are always on-the-go, minty gum packs, extra phone chargers or ergonomic pens are essentials. Even for the coziest people buried

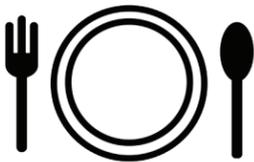
away under their blankets, skin care is a must, as the dry winter winds shrivel the skin and crack the lips. Fortunately, face masks are the universal skin savers, and coupled with some lip balm, teenagers will be looking dewier than ever throughout the cold winter season. Local stores such as Target, Daiso and Dollar Tree are all havens of these little life saving knick-knacks. While they are cheap and easy to find, these are the kinds of gifts that will truly bring the holiday spirit to life.



# 2019 Grade Report

From morning announcements to school spirit, Oracle evaluates some key aspects of the Warrior campus for the 2019-2020 school year.

Articles by Kaitlyn Han, Miseok Kim and Amber Wang, **STAFF WRITERS**, and graphics by Cassidy Chang, **GRAPHICS**

PER	COURSE	GRADE	Citizenship GRADE	COMMENTS
1	Morning Announcements 	A-	O	Good job! Omnia has really increased the variety of its content this year. Nonetheless, there are a few minor problems that could be fixed easily. The content can be a little disorganized at times, which results in an incohesive flow of information. Moreover, the volume sometimes lacks quality, and the words are hard to hear. With that said, Omnia has considerably improved. Thumbs up for guest anchors from the school staff. Thumbs up for the Friday kahoots. Thumbs up for the definite improvement in professionalism.
2	Lunches 	B-	N	For the past 11 years or so, Warriors are still waiting for better school lunch experiences. Unfortunately, the students are still waiting. It is ridiculous that some students have to stand in lines for 20 minutes to just get food. There is no order, so people just cut in, and lines become confusing. Worst cases, some of us have to give up fun club meetings or go to our 5th periods hungry. Word on the quad is that food quality did improve, but there is no point if we all cannot buy them within 10 minutes.
3	Dances 	B	S	Of the two dances we've had this year, Morp was better. Having a colorful and lively theme was a great way to start off the year. However, the Homecoming theme was underwhelming. "Casino Royale" was not only the same theme used for last year's gala, but also felt unfitting for a school environment. Nevertheless, the decorations were amazing, and the photobooth was an excellent touch. But, the poker tables were awkward, the snacks could have been better and the song playlist seemed limited.
4	Rallies 	A-	S	Associated Student Body (ASB) really outdid themselves this semester with our rallies. The videos they showcased may still have somewhat cliché plots, but the editing really makes up for it. The creative, fluid and entertaining way in which our dance themes were presented really gave Warriors something to look forward to. The games, on the other hand, are lacking. They are confusing to follow and aren't the most captivating; however, they deserve an A for effort for trying to be interactive and attempting to tie to the themes.
5	Library 	A	O	The new library renovations do not disappoint. The swivel chairs and loveseats are comfortable and offer relaxation in an academically driven environment. Additionally, the private cubicles increase productivity by blocking out outside noises. They also enable more private discussions, making it easier to do group projects at school. Although the sign-ins are a bit inconvenient, they discourage ditching. Ultimately, it's commendable that the school is putting effort into an environment that is conducive to students' studying and academic experiences.
6	School Spirit 	B	N	ASB continues to do well in promoting school spirit. Spirit day themes this year have been broader, allowing for more participation. However, ASB could make spirit days more competitive to encourage more students to participate. For example, ASB can try to incorporate spirit days into the Battle of the Classes (BOTC). Speaking of the BOTC, ASB maintained the successes from last year. By bringing back Super Smash Bros, ASB continues to appeal to the Warrior population, making them excited for future games.

**TOTAL GPA**

3.50

**CLASS RANK & SIZE**

35 of 2494

Total California high schools  
Courtesy of U.S. News & World Report

A=4.0

B=3.0

C=2.0

D-F=1.0

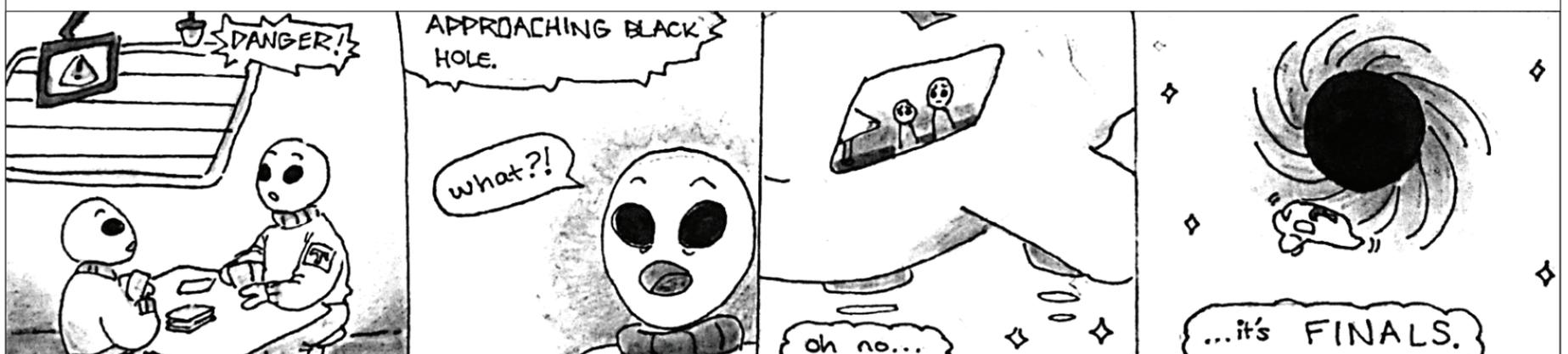
O = Outstanding

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

U = Unsatisfactory

Space Adventures: The Black Hole of Finals by Kristen Perez



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# Boys basketball subdued by Damien

In a highly exciting but unfortunate match, the Damien Spartans defeated the Warrior boys basketball team 51-77.

By Jacqueline Liu  
STAFF WRITER

Progressing from a challenging preseason, the Warrior boys basketball team (6-5, 0-0) lost to the Damien Spartans 51-77 Nov. 19.

Instantly bringing momentum to the Warrior side in the first quarter, junior Justin Trujillo successfully stole the ball from the Spartans to score a three-point shot. Continuing the aggressive energy, the boys demonstrated excellent teamwork as they pulled ahead of the opposition with back-to-back layups. However, the Spartans cut into the Warrior lead as they took advantage of a faltering defense to up their offense. Responding to the attack, junior Kyle Phan drained three-pointers in quick succession to bring the score to 20-22, bolstering the Warrior spirit. But the Spartans interrupted the Warriors' strength with unrelenting force, executing

multiple steals from the backcourt and creating a larger deficit between the scores. Despite the turning tide, juniors Pierre Haywood and David Ballester powered through the Spartan line of defense and managed to end the first half with a deep three to bring the score to 34-46.

The Spartans entered the second half with an aggressive game plan to maintain their lead with several layups. Holding out against the opposing team, Phan assisted senior Rheis Chang to score a long two-pointer. However, with size and speed on their side, the Spartans managed to block several shooting attempts from the Warriors and widened the score gap between the teams. Executing strategic steals from the Spartans, the boys continued to push back against the Spartan offense throughout the remainder of the quarter. Haywood contributed to the fight as he took advantage of a weak spot in the Spartan defense to guide the ball through the hoop. Nonetheless, the Spartans secured their win with an unfaltering offense to end the game with a score of 51-77.

Though the Warriors struggled in this match, playing challenging teams during the preseason helped familiarize them

with a more competitive atmosphere, senior Carter Won said.

"This game helped us get an idea of how we should practice in the future," Won said. "Playing with a stronger team allowed us to get a sense of our weaknesses and strengths that we can build upon."

The early loss against the Spartans introduced a new perspective to the Warriors, prompting them to consider reinforcing a more focused mindset throughout the entirety of the games, Phan said.

"We definitely took a lot from this game, and we learned that we need to compete for a complete 32 minutes, not just in the beginning," Phan said. "This game has strengthened the belief that over the course of the season, we need to focus on teamwork and strategy to get us through."

Recognizing the significance of the insight that this match provided, the Warriors will continue to strengthen their performance in the upcoming league games, Phan said.

"We came out with energy and intensity, and we kept it close with the open division caliber team," Phan said. "That's impressive to start, but I think that over the course of the season, we'll improve and learn."



JENNA SABILE

**ACTIVE DASH:** Junior Rohun Patel dribbles the basketball across half court, actively looking to pass to his team members.

## WELL-ROUNDED WARRIOR

He dabbles in a variety of activities, simultaneously broadening his knowledge and honing his skills. Read about jack of all trades junior Ishan Patel who shines in his athletic and academic endeavors, alike.

Compiled by Sarah Son, SPORTS EDITOR, article by Lucas Santos, STAFF WRITER and photos by Jenna Sabile, PHOTO

Shouldering heavy books spilling with homework and swinging a bag of wrestling gear over his back, junior Ishan Patel sprints down the school halls to his swim practice. Though handling a rigorous academic schedule with wrestling, jiu-jitsu and swim may sound nearly impossible to stomach, Patel bulldozes right through, quite clearly proving himself as a jack of all trades.

Patel's two main sports are jiu-jitsu and wrestling, but he also pursues swim. Despite playing three different sports, Patel finds a way to excel in all of them—even with each sport's unique physical demands. Luckily, jiu-jitsu and wrestling are similar in nature, enabling Patel to supplement each sport with the other. Yet he still puts in the work and effort to learn each sport's fine details and strategies.

"When I play a different sport, it isn't as if I have to relearn how to be an athlete, I have to adjust to a new technique, a new climate and new rules," Patel said. "However, the only way to truly acclimate to a sport is to try it and keep working at [it] and to develop the necessary skills."

Many students play sports, but excelling and leading as Patel does is quite a feat. Within his jiu-jitsu career Patel is a standout fighter, becoming a three-time Pan Ams Champion and a two-time Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation champion prior to high school. In high school, Patel commenced his focus on wrestling alongside his longtime sport of jiu-jitsu.

As for wrestling, Patel's consistent work ethic paid off and he is now captain of the Warrior varsity team. Impressively, in each of the past two years, he qualified for California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) competition. These past two qualifications serve as motivation for Patel, who is entering this season seeded fifth in the CIF Southern Section with hopes of state.

"Last year I missed out on advancing to the top eight of CIF by only two points," Patel said. "That tournament was notable because it flipped a switch mentality-wise for me. Now, I have more experience in CIF wrestling."

Like many student-athletes, Patel balances his academics along with athletics. He is a full International Baccalaureate student and is also in the Troy Tech program. In addition, he dedicates his little spare time to numerous extracurricular activities, most notably Mock Trial and Speech and Debate. Though this already seems like a maximum workload, Patel still finds the time to host his very own talk show: the Flying High Podcast. Along with two of his fellow peers, juniors Aaron Bai and Dale Tran, Patel aims to provide a fun and informative platform for high school students to relate and listen to.

"The [podcast] really came to fruition the summer before sophomore year," Patel said. "We wanted to give an outlet for ourselves and others, and the podcast

was a way for others to hear our stories."

Patel's ambition is unmatched not only on the wrestling mat, but also in the classroom. With both his academic prowess and outstanding athletic achievements, Patel draws his limit to the sky. He may not know what his future entails as of yet, but Patel is already aiming to leave a legacy at Troy.

"In the wrestling room, we have these frames that contain pictures of all the previous CIF placers, state qualifiers and masters qualifiers," Patel said. "I idolize them and hope to be amongst them one day."



**WARRIOR WRESTLERS:** Junior Ishan Patel engages in a little friendly competition with a fellow peer.



# INTO THE WILD

Rivers, waterfalls, cliffs and glaciers are only the tip of the iceberg. At an altitude of 15 thousand feet, junior Chris Gudmundsen trudges through snow with an ice axe on hand. He's backpacking in Sequoia National Park, with nobody but his father in sight.

By Lois Lee, STAFF WRITER, graphics by Phoebe Um, GRAPHICS EDITOR and photo by Giselle Fernandez, PHOTO

With a crystal-clear river burbling along its rocky base, a steep mountain stretches towards the clouds, casting a looming shadow over a small figure below.

Standing up to this mountain's daunting height is junior Chris Gudmundsen. Despite the heavy snow bearing down on him, his strides are unfaltering, leaving behind a trail of boot prints that mark his perilous, yet exhilarating journey. With a backpack loaded with essentials, from bottled water to canned food, he treks towards the peak with his father by his side. Through his backpacking explorations into the wild, Gudmundsen forms a lasting bond with his father as he finds a stronger sense of himself.

From serene national parks to obscure dusty trails, Gudmundsen explores the various rich landscapes of America. Each site offers a different backdrop, whether it be crashing waterfalls or still forests. In particular, Yosemite National Park holds

a special place in Gudmundsen's and his father's hearts, but not just for its colossal, sculpted boulders and brilliant, fiery red sunsets. For them, each of these breathtaking features is a sentimental reminder of the memories they formed during the many days they spent together. As he describes the scenery of one of his trips, Gudmundsen reminisces about hiking several miles to a hidden waterfall, spotting proudly posing mule deer and building hammocks that swing between the towering pine trees.

"Every natural thing you see is unique," Gudmundsen explained. "If you see a waterfall in one park, it's not the same as one in another park. They each have their own natural beauty to them."

As he backpacks amidst the natural sights, Gudmundsen surges past the imminent challenges standing at every bend. When he began backpacking, he often left out camping essentials from his rucksack, such as a cooking stove or bug spray. Now, having suffered through cold dinners and having battled mosqui-

toes, Gudmundsen prepares himself mentally, physically and with supplies to face even the worst possible conditions. His increased readiness once saved him and his father from an unexpected hail storm in Sequoia National Park, when they pulled out his waterproof tarp to cover and strengthen their tent. To survive the icy cold, he and his father stayed awake through the dark night, drying their soaked blankets and sharing memories from the week.

"I think the bond is greater because when you're backpacking, you're in a tent that's four feet wide," Gudmundsen said. "You're sleeping there two inches away, just talking and playing cards together."

During Gudmundsen's six year journey of backpacking, his hiking

for nature. While Gudmundsen's father was the one to truly show him the thrill and challenges of backpacking, one of his first introductions to the natural world was through his Boy Scout troop.

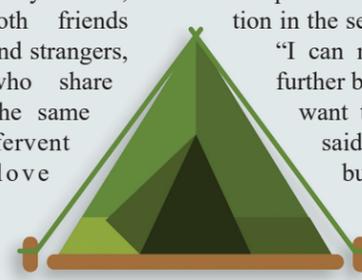
Although some of his fellow troop members disliked backpacking at first, Gudmundsen—like his father—passed his passion onto them as they spent time together during their strenuous 10 mile treks, telling wild stories and cracking jokes. His friends were not the only ones he bonded with, though:

even strangers took a moment out of their long journey to share advice and supplies with him. However, while his adventures with his friends never had a dull moment, Gudmundsen's time spent with his father not only helped them forge a strong bond, but also helped Gudmundsen grow as a person during their quiet moments of reflection in the serenity of nature.

"I can make myself go further because I actually want to," Gudmundsen said. "It's not easy, but [I have to] just push through the pain. It's worth it."



circle expanded to include many others, both friends and strangers, who share the same fervent love



**A BORN ADVENTURER:** From icy winds to sweltering heat waves, junior Chris Gudmundsen's braved through them all.



**LOOK WHAT YOU MADE ME DO:** *In an active battle with Scott Borchetta and Scooter Braun (left to right), Taylor Swift mobilized an entire army of rabid fans with a simple tweet.*

Taylor Swift's relationship with music executive Scooter Braun is definitely no love story. After months of copyright feuds and social media attacks, will the two be able to shake it off? Or will the blank space between them only grow?

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

Taylor Swift is no stranger to making enemies in the music industry. But this time, she's not ferociously feuding with Kanye West or crooning a melancholic melody about one of her ex-lovers. Instead, this drama involves a different man—record executive Scooter Braun.

Tensions initially sparked in June 2018, with Braun's purchase of Swift's former record label, Big Machine Label Group. Much to her dismay, Braun's acquisition of the label also granted him master recording rights to Swift's musical material preceding the release of her seventh studio album, "Lover," in June. Though the conflict seemingly dissipated as summer drew to a close, Swift recently rekindled the flames of their conflict with a scathing Twitter post.

On November 14, she took to the social media platform to enlighten her 85 million followers of the copyright feud that had been escalating behind the scenes. Despite Swift's wishes to

perform a medley of her top hits at the American Music Awards (AMAs) as the night's Artist of the Decade, Braun and label CEO Scott Borchetta were adamant on refusing her requests. On top of that, she was allegedly prohibited from incorporating her old music into an upcoming Netflix documentary, which only added fuel to the already blazing fire.

Swift's stirring outcry awakened a tempestuous fury amongst the army of "Swifties" at her disposal. Braun's Instagram comment section was flooded with a bombardment of insults and death threats. Regardless of Braun's actual guilt or Swift's prerogative to criticize him, it is indisputable that the pop star reigns on a nearly untouchable throne, wielding astronomical power among a fanatical fan base. With the scope and intensity of her influence in mind, it seems irresponsible to essentially mobilize her supporters in a brutal online retaliation.

However, Swift's impassioned call to

action might be justified on closer inspection. There is a jarringly disproportionate balance of power between a singular female figure and an omnipotent authoritarian corporation. Even as one of the best-selling artists in the age of contemporary music, she still lacks immunity to the dictatorial tyranny of big corporations in music, especially as a female in a historically male-dominated industry. Though it seems counterintuitive to oppose the wishes of their chief source of income—their artists' fans—music labels are often unwavering in their resolve to wield leverage over their own clients. In all honesty, even if Braun takes a few hits from this feud, his management of other renowned artists like Ariana Grande guarantees a hefty wallet.

This legal-turned-personal feud epitomizes the recurring dilemma of how one should grant artists musical freedom under the stringent copyright laws of corporations. Despite the protection that music labels promise, they often rob their art-

ists of creative ownership. Employing the momentum of this feud's rampant media coverage, Swift cautioned rising musicians to remain alert of record labels that will try to unequivocally profit off of the fruit of their hard labor. Over the years, Swift has given a voice to the unheard masses of artists being cheated by those in positions of power.

Swift ultimately reigned victorious against Braun, and the six awards she snatched up at this year's AMAs were just the icing on the cake. Her true triumph lied in the way she demonstrated her personal strength with a groundbreaking performance of her career highlights and an empowering acceptance speech. Nevertheless, the underlying tug of war of copyright claims seems to be an unceasing rivalry between artists and their music labels. Though the bad blood could be resolved, don't hold your breath—it'll only happen in your wildest dreams.

# FOR THE RECORD

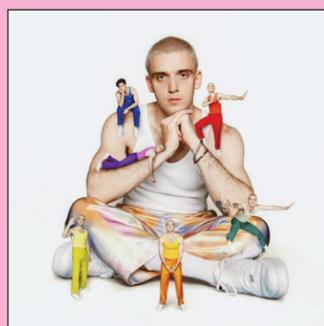
By Jillian Warren, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR



"Romance" ▲ Camila Cabello

Just like its title suggests, Camila Cabello's "Romance" is all about love. One can assume that the passion burning throughout the album was ignited by her newfound sweetheart, Shawn Mendes. There's a lavish sensuality that radiates throughout the tracks, as she wears her heart on her sleeve with each sappy lyric. Imbuing Latin instrumentals into a select few songs, Cabello also makes an attempt to stay true to her heritage.

Lauv's latest record "~how i'm feeling~" sounds as though it was pulled from a set of diary entries. The young songwriter explores a broad spectrum of emotions, including loneliness, love and frustration. Though the nature of his lyrics can be rather somber, the instrumentals are the exact opposite. The album's predominant vibe exudes enough pep to perhaps sustain an entire teenage rom-com.



"~how i'm feeling~" ▲ Lauv



"Who" ▲ The Who

The renowned rock-and-roll act, The Who, is back with their first full album in 13 years. "Who" is filled with the same vigor that the band brought to the table back in the 1960's. It has that familiar classic rock feel, but this time the band's age adds a level of musical maturity. With his characteristic raspy vocals, lead singer Roger Daltry belts out lyrics that comment on the members' experiences as they've gotten older.