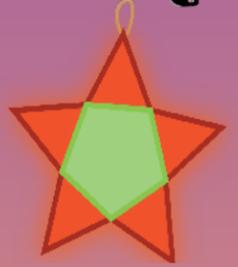
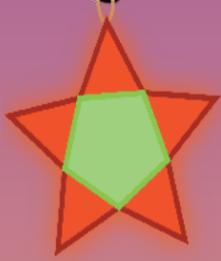


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Filipino - American History Month



In honor of Filipino-American history month, PSST shared various informational graphics that educated their audience on different phrases and cultural food.

Compiled by Kathleen Zhang, NEWS EDITOR, article by Diya Patel, STAFF WRITER, graphics by Cassidy Chang, GRAPHICS EDITOR, cartoon by Ella Moon, CARTOON EDITOR

Commemorating their culture, the Philipinos Sharing Smiles Together Club celebrated Filipino American History month through October.

Dedicated to Filipino American activism, PSST is a cultural club that encourages members to indulge in Filipino heritage. In an attempt to develop close relationships, club members participate in ice breaker games and promote Aking Pamilya, which means "My Family" in Filipino. Over weekly meetings, participants share their heritage by practicing traditional Tinikling dance performances and skits for their annual Filipino American Cultural Night event.

In light of Filipino American History month, PSST shared weekly cultural posts on their Instagram account. Each story highlighted historical facts including a "Filipi-know word of the day" and a "Filipi-know fact of the day."

Over the first week of the month, the club posted an infographic about how to eat balut, a traditional Filipino street food. In recognition of ancestral respect, the second week



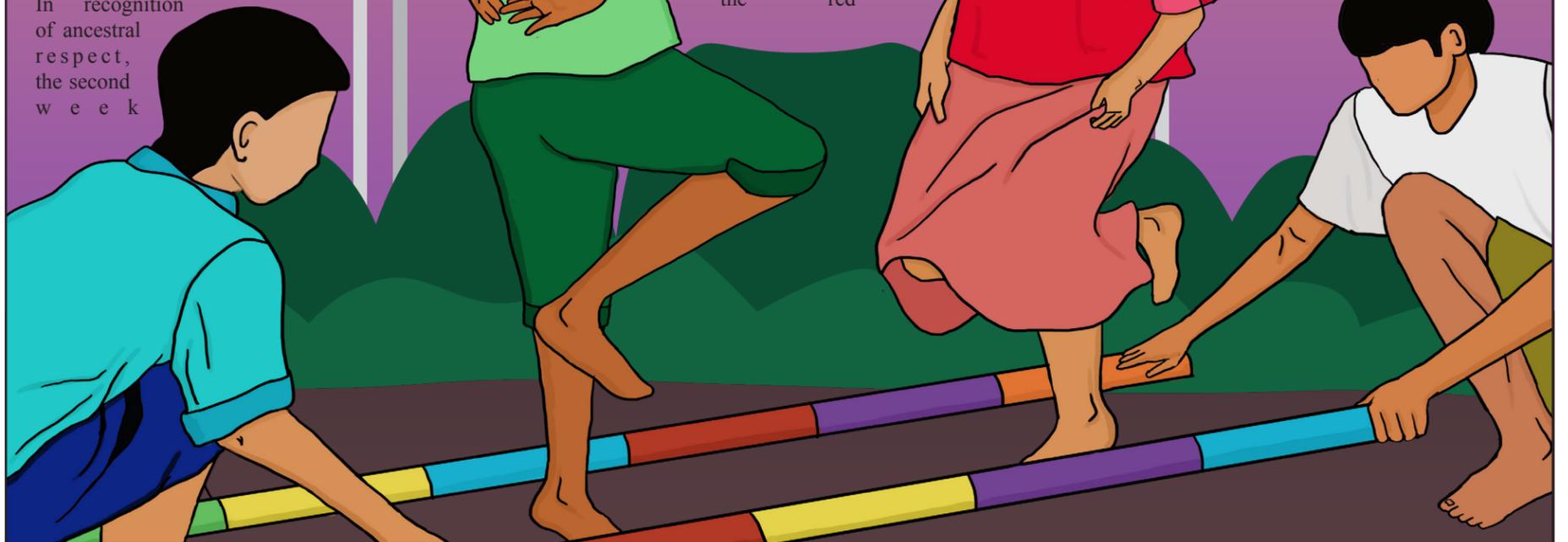
featured "mano po," or the action of placing an elders' hand on the forehead as a symbol of respect. The post clarified the difference between the formal "thank you" expression, "Salamat Po" and the informal phrase "Salamat." The final post explained the significance of the different colors within the Philippine flag. Representative of Independence, the flag's blue stripe indicates patriotism, the white stands for peace and the red

symbolizes the blood spilt for freedom. During club meetings, members of PSST tell traditional stories from different regions of the Philippines. The club empowers participants to develop a strong relationship with their families and fellow Filipino communities, Angeles said.

"At home, we encourage members to cook Filipino foods and spend time with their families," Angeles said. "It is important for us to spread cultural awareness so that our culture stays alive and our stories get passed down through future generations."

Prior to heritage month, Publicist Micaela Angeles researched about Filipino culture and asked her family to share traditional stories. PSST hopes that the infographics will help members learn about the history of their ancestors beyond familial customs, Angeles said.

"Usually if you are a Filipino American, you have a big family, have family gatherings and sing karaoke," Angeles said. "We try to show our members there is more to their culture by teaching them why they are close to their family."



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Read about assorted fall 2020 hairstyles that have flooded various social medias platforms.



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Have burning concerns about in-person instruction? Learn about the pros and cons of the newly implemented hybrid schedule.



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FEATURE

Delve into the mind of a Warrior who utilizes TikTok to express her creativity and display renditions of memorable cartoon characters.



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ASB coordinates the first virtual Warrior Idol competition

The three-week event invites all students to cast a vote towards their favorite singers through a Google Form survey.

By Erin Jang
STAFF WRITER

Shining a spotlight on remarkable talents across the Warrior population, Associated Student Body organized a virtual Warrior Idol Nov. 2. Advertised weeks prior to the event, a total of 17 students auditioned via a video submission Oct 19-22. Composed of two students and two teachers, the four-person

voting committee narrowed down the first round of the competition to 12 participants. The judges panel scheduled two more rounds with six contestants for the second and three for the third match before the last winner.

Over social media platforms, ASB shared a Google Form that gave students the opportunity to vote for two contestants of their choice each round. Throughout the three-week period, viewers received links to each individual's performances. Revealed Nov. 20, the final winner of Warrior Idol will have the chance to participate in future virtual rallies and events such as a performance at a drive-in movie event. Without the traditional live audience, the virtual

contest allows participants to have heightened confidence in their performance due to the freedom to record many times before their finalized video, ASB Intramural Commissioner Olivia Guerra said.

"Being online gives people who are more on the shy side a way to express more easily [their talents]," Guerra said. "[ASB] is grateful to the participants because many people might be uncomfortable sending in a video, but it is great that these students are putting themselves out there." Alongside performances at school productions,

the winner will receive a new gift basket filled with various small surprises. By newly designed opportunities for the Warrior Idol, ASB wanted to help showcase their talents and provide more recognition, Guerra said. "Although the situation is not ideal, this is a special time for everyone," Guerra said. "Our job as the student leadership team is to lift up the school, bring up the spirit and make life at Troy a hap-

py one to the best of our abilities." According to Guerra, ASB hopes to maintain an engaging school spirit amidst the implementation of the hybrid schedule. With the knowledge of many students' challenges, ASB believes that the continuation of the annual Warrior Idol competition was an important step to create a sense of normalcy during distance learning, Guerra said. "[ASB] wanted to provide some consistency to make student life as best as it can be," Guerra said. "We in the process of organizing events that students can participate in, and Warrior Idol was a way for students to show the school what they are capable of."



GRAPHIC BY CASSIDY CHANG

Model United Nations Club participates in online conference

As more competitions switch to a virtual format, MUN members hope to compete with teams from across the country.

By Brianna Vu
STAFF WRITER

Impacting student's public speaking skills, Model United Nations Club members will attend their first virtual conference Nov. 21.

Due to new regulations, MUN's conferences no longer take place in a debate-style format, but instead in a seminar environment. Warriors will compete against high schools in the Berean Christian district via Zoom. The

conference will feature a learning stimulation where students debate and discuss international issues such as the conflict of Somalia and the Philippine drug war. MUN is a club that encourages their members to advocate

for peace through negotiation and compromise. The club aims to mimic the procedure of the United Nations through conferences and public speaking events. Competitors portray delegates from different countries within the United Nations to discuss their perspectives on the problem.

In preparation, MUN held weekly practices for members to research information to write their position paper. Position papers,

ognition for notable resolutions.

According to President Danielle Palacpac, MUN aspires to strengthen student's confidence and collaboration skills through the experiences the club provides. By splitting MUN members into a novice, intermediate and advanced division, less experienced speakers are given the opportunity to practice publicly speaking and negotiate, Palacpac said.

"What makes MUN different from the academic clubs at school is that it is not really competition based," Palacpac said. "It really is about negotiation and teamwork, and the whole point is to work with other countries to find solutions and compromises."

MUN aims to take advantage of the current situation as it provides the opportunity for the club to attend virtual conferences. Social distancing allows members to participate in vast organizations to guide members towards better

"[The conference] is about negotiation and teamwork, and the whole point is to work with other countries to find solutions and compromises."

Danielle Palacpac
president

which are research documents explaining compromises on issues, become factual evidence where feedback is given from other members. Based on the final execution of their speech, participants will be given awards in rec-



professional etiquette,

Palacpac

said. "We would like to experience different conferences that we could not physically go to," Palacpac said. "For example, this conference would normally be in Northern California, but we can attend it this year because it's online. I hope to participate in bigger conferences this year."

As the pandemic alters traditional club practices, MUN plans to combat these challenges through effective teamwork and thor-

ough communication.

Board officers hope to create an productive experience for all members despite the year being virtual.

"We aim to combat any challenges we may face through clear communication with our members and board," Palacpac said. "Although it may be difficult at first, we hope to still give our members a valuable experience this year that will still benefit them in the long run even if we are not together in person."

District implements hybrid model for school reopening

New changes in the hybrid schedule include shorter class periods as well as an earlier start time.

By Mai Omoto
STAFF WRITER

Reconnecting students to in-person instruction, Fullerton Joint Union High School District implemented the Hybrid Instructional Model Nov. 2.

With 48 minutes allocated for each class, instruction takes place between 6:51-1:30 p.m., and student support is scheduled at 2:00. Students with free periods or remote teachers are able to study throughout the campus socially distanced from peers. All remote students must be screened in order to enter campus.

For the safety of all Warriors, district board members created a system to screen students at the entrances by the North Gym and front office. All students receive an email with the Qualtrics screening survey in order to verify their health, as well as a wristband to indicate the Warriors' completed scans.

Throughout campus, the administration taped arrows along internal and external hallways in order to indicate the flow of foot traffic. In each classroom, teachers provide foot-powered hand sanitizer stations and spray bottles to clean workspaces and frequently-touched areas.

With the Hybrid Model, the district offers free meals for all



ISAIAH PRO

SAFETY FIRST: Adhering to hybrid regulations by wearing a mask, a Warrior receives her wristband that indicates normal body temperature at the front gate entrance.

students and will continue regular meal services until the end of December. For students who participate in virtual instruction, administration offers Grab-and-Go meal service in the parking lot.

In an attempt to ease the multiple changes of the transition, Principal William Mynster held weekly meetings through Zoom called Lunchtime with Luna and the Principal for students and parents with concerns. Mynster answered any related questions on issues such as the transition itself, safety requirements and the bell schedule.

According to junior Erica

Lodenquai, the Hybrid Model provided the opportunity for students to resume social interaction and become more familiar with their teachers. For after school activities, the program enables parents to drop off students in the morning without disruption to their work schedules, Lodenquai said.

"I am looking forward to seeing teachers and seeing our peers that end up going [on campus] again," Lodenquai said. "I am returning to school, because it's harder when there are drop-off times in the middle of the day when parents have work,

so for them to just be able to drop off once in the morning will be much more convenient."

As students return to campus, the Hybrid Model allows teachers to better gauge the students' understanding of the curriculum, math teacher Kyle Rogers said.

"I thought [the cohorts] were going to be more 50-50, but I believe it is the first necessary step to go back," Rogers said. "I can judge the body language and understanding, just from the few students that are here. Everything happens much more organically and naturally, and I am able to get a read on the situation."

Four seniors place in top ten at Xylem Hackathon

The team's three-minute submission video proposes a solution to the challenge of tracking water supplies.

By Kaelyn Kwon
STAFF WRITER

Developing innovative solutions to solve water-related problems, a group of four seniors placed in the top ten teams at Xylem Reach 2020 High School Hackathon Oct. 16.

At a virtual conference Oct. 10, Xylem Incorporated announced that seniors Ethan Wu, Madeleine Wang, Matthew Wu and Aaron Yang placed in the top ten teams. The company honored top-placing teams at a separate global conference. Hosted over the course of four days, the worldwide competition presented students with different water-related challenges and prompted them to come up with solutions to improve water access and hand-washing station maintenance.

For their submission video, the team chose the COVID-19 challenge as the prompt, which asks students to develop innovations that help healthcare workers track water supply levels in handwashing stations. The group's three-minute video summarizes the team's inspiration, blueprint, application concept and additional features for the future. Based on car fuel gauges, the hackathon project design incorporates a floating transmitter that reports data about the water tank's level to an app.

In partnership with Amazon Web Services, Xylem Inc. hosted webinars before the event about water sustainability, global water challenges and data descriptions. The company develops water accessibility and affordability solutions through smart technology. In an effort to give participants additional support, Xylem Inc. provided students with access to software developers, product managers and marketing professionals.

In order to divide the workload, two students attended the seminars, and the other two students worked on the technology portion of the project and programmed a functioning app. The two students who went to the seminars applied information they learned when they drafted the project's concept, Yang said.

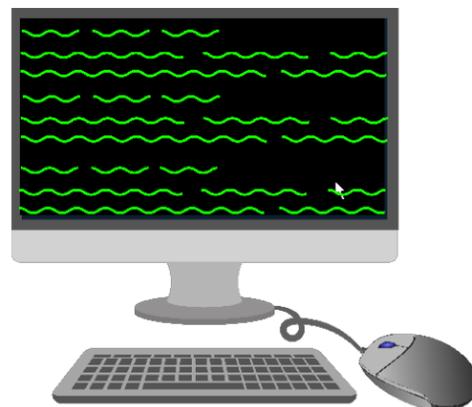
"[As a team,] we learned how to work together as a group and come up with a project on a really short time notice," Yang said.

"We also learned how to integrate technology and what we learned in tech and science classes to real-world issues."

According to Wang, students interested in future hackathons can prepare and reach out to other students in advance. Hackathon contests encourage participants to further explore science and

expose students to science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields, Wang said.

"There are opportunities all over the place. My advice would be to get together a group of friends who are passionate about that subject and to educate yourself and your peers about what you are entering," Wang said. "Sign up for things even if you do not know where it will take you. Give it your best shot, and something good can come out of it."



GRAPHIC BY DAVID LEE

TROY TODAY

Virtual College Fair

Illuminating different academic pathways, Fullerton Joint Union High School District hosted a virtual college fair Oct. 29. With over 180 universities, admission officers held live Q&A sessions for students and parents. The event also included workshops about the University of California Application, scholarships and financial aid options.

World Kindness Day Event

Fostering the growth of a positive environment, Kindness Campaign Club celebrates World Kindness Day Nov. 13. The week prior to the event, members collected kind messages from participants to send to the administration and the collective student body. Adjusted for the hybrid schedule, students submitted their messages through a Google form.

ASB Alumni Takeover Event

In an attempt to bring Warriors some clarity about the road ahead, Associated Student Body hosted an alumni takeover event on Instagram throughout the month of October. Each week, ASB posted clips of graduates who shared their past high school activities and college endeavors. Each alumnus offers words of advice and encourages students to ask any relevant questions.

Halloween Costume Contest

In an effort to spread Halloween spirit amidst quarantine, Associated Student Body held a costume contest Oct. 30. ASB asked students who are interested in the event to send a photo of themselves in costume to the official Instagram account or email. Separated by category, one costume was chosen to be the winner for the scariest, funniest, most unique, best overall and best teacher costumes.

Learnist Club Initiates New Program

Reaching out to the kinesthetic learners in the community, Learnist Club launches online classes that promote hands-on activities Oct. 21-30. As a nonprofit organization, Learnist Club encourages Warriors to teach elementary school students with interactive activities. The club recently introduced new curriculums that includes lessons on constellations and fossils.

CHOP OR DROP?

As the seasons change, we may start craving a change of our own. What better way to explore our freedom of expression than through our hair? Keep reading to learn about the hottest hair trends of fall 2020.

Compiled by Jade Bahng, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Isabelle Liang, STAFF WRITER, graphics by David Lee, GRAPHICS, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON

Lately, many of us find ourselves admiring the endless posts of daring hair transformations plastered all over the Instagram explore page. When craving excitement and change, what better place to start than with hair?

As many activities become independent responsibilities during the pandemic, individuals take up the role as their own hairdresser. A collection of hair trends have blossomed as trademark looks of the popular video sharing app, TikTok. A fan favorite is dyed face framing strands of hair that adds a pop of brightness to accentuate one's features. For a more mild approach, the "Peek-a-boo" hair is a great way to start a hair dye journey. Coloring only the underlayers of the hair, this style allows people to experiment without committing to a full head of color. Whether it's a little peek or bold statement, hair dyeing allows individuals to wear their colorful confidence. Although regular appointments to the salon have stopped, hair growth does not. As time whittles away through quarantine, a great deal of people find themselves curious for dramatic cuts. A classic yet drastic way to change one's look is to ditch long locks for a cute bob, or shave one's head entirely for a fresh buzz cut. A multitude of "DIY bangs-gone-wrong" scenarios may discourage one from trying to cut their own bangs, but the recently trending curtain bangs style is a game-changer that allows people to experience the satisfaction of fresh cut bangs without the commitment. This cut can be styled to frame the face like an elegant drape, or swept to the side as if it were never there in the first place. With curtain bangs, you can experience the best of both worlds.

A good haircut rarely shows its full potential without some styling as the cherry on top. The comeback of the 2000s aesthetic has rebirthed hairstyles such as baby braids: thin braided stands that frame the face. For boys, growing out their locks has revealed many new styles to experiment with, such as the classic man-buns. To emulate the look of young Leonardo Di Caprio, boys can style their hair in a simple yet popular middle part or they can grow it out into a mullet which has been repopularized thanks to BTS member Taehyung. Boys, too have realized that longer hair means longer care, but the freedom of styling seems to be worth the effort.

Hair has become the newest medium to practice building confidence during quarantine. Whether it's through vibrant dyeing or drastic chopping, this season's hairstyles represent an unparalleled level of freedom and creative expression. Not every hair transformation has to look like the perfect Princess Diaries makeover. Sometimes, the end result may not be luscious locks combed to perfection, but rather a rainbow mane not unlike a

Rainbow Dash's. Fall hair trends are teaching us that we can shed the shackles of societal expectations by flaunting our individuality with every inch of our bodies—starting with our hair.



Top celebrities from all over the world have been making bold statements with their hair, changing their style to match their newest album release or even just their mood swings.

FASHION FAVORITES



Brown Aesthetic

This fall, try replacing your black hoodies with brown sweaters, knits and jackets. In whatever shade, brown can be a cozier basic color alternative than black.



Knit Sweater Vests

Perfect for the cool-not-cold California fall and winter season, these versatile pieces can be layered with a simple tee shirt or a button-up shirt.



Leather Details

Leather pieces can spice up a fall outfit in the form of boots, jackets or baguette bags. Experiment with unique colors and textures but don't forget to go faux!

CAREEFREE CREATOR



With a few strokes, senior Madeline Tran brings her favorite cartoons to life. To her, art is an escape from the stresses of everyday life—learn more about what art means to her below.

Compiled by Hannah Adams, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Coco Gong, **STAFF WRITER**, cartoons by Ella Moon, **CARTOON EDITOR** and image courtesy of Madeleine Tran

ALL-AROUND ARTIST: *Outside of painting, Tran also indulges in other forms of art, such as jewelry-making and embroidery.*

With a soft flick of her wrist, a wave of pine green washes over the bottom of the shoes. Another sweep of her fingers, and the top is covered in apricot orange. After a few more gentle taps, the vamp of the Vans shoes transforms into a field of sunflowers with a sky of bees overhead. Before senior Madeleine Tran sets down her newest artwork to join countless others, she films a quick video of the vivid paints and posts it on TikTok. Through the soft strokes of a paintbrush, Tran overcomes her own self-doubt and spreads the happiness and joy of cartoon characters to her friends and family.

In Tran's mind, art is less like an expression of emotion and more like a style of life. When schoolwork gets too stressful, Tran falls back into the fantasies of Power Puff Girls and Ratatouille. With 17.4 thousand followers on TikTok and several thousand views on her videos, Tran loves to share her colors with her community. When Tran paints, she uses a flurry of geometric shapes to assemble her artwork piece by piece. Applying the same concept to her life, she focuses on the building blocks that create

the whole picture. Whether she is figure skating or practicing martial arts, both activities become a masterpiece of her smaller technical movements and mental attentiveness.

"Instead of looking at it in terms of the small details first, you need to take a moment and break it down into the basics and build up from there," Tran said. "There is no right or wrong."

Tran's style of art is cheerful and dynamic, but behind the playful cartoons are long periods of hard work. Tran has a fascination to explore every piece of the canvas, but also a desire to perfect every immaculate detail. With sketches that spotlight the character, paints that illuminate their smiles with color, and linearts to top it all off, Tran is careful to put in her best effort for every step of the way. However, she soon realized that it was necessary to take a step back and simply enjoy the process of creating art.

"Even if it's not perfect, it's still okay that you put in the effort and tried your best and at least made an effort," Tran said.

Tran's life motto is that we should live life to the fullest with the time that we have left. Through this mindset, Tran

overcomes her self-doubt and desire for perfection. From the constant honed concentration, this unique philosophy allows her to gently withdraw and freely enjoy her cartoons and paints. Sharing the same carefree liveliness as her cartoon characters, Tran decides to simply let her art take her away, and enjoy whatever process and outcome that the paints create. This opens her cheerful world of animated pigments as her own imagination is filled with vibrant hues.

"This is kind of a way to take a step back from that typical mindset that I have by being more optimistic and more positive," Tran said.



Battling Bigotry With Books

As advocacy for racial equality sweeps the nation, people are hitting the bookshelves to educate themselves about the discrimination rooted in America's history. Read further to explore the novels we recommend.

Compiled by Amy Kim, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Sean Warren, STAFF WRITER, and photos courtesy of Google

For countless centuries, racial conflicts have continually plagued our nation with turmoil and hatred. With the recent resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement, racial advocacy has proliferated all throughout the nation, garnering mass media attention. Protests and petitions have encouraged more involvement in drawing attention to racial injustices, but those seeking deeper knowledge on the issue have turned to something rather rare in today's culture—books. Numerous best-seller lists have been flooded with novels that dive deep into the seemingly bottomless pit of racism and discrimination that pervades the United States.

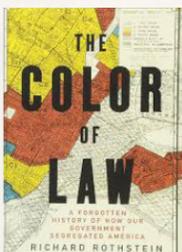
White supremacy, arguably the most controversial topic in the realm of racism, still lingers in parts of the American psyche. Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* discusses the mechanisms some white people use in personal conversations surrounding race. Rather than actively recognizing the structural advantages that white people have in our society, the author argues that individuals often twist the direction of the conversation to rid themselves of guilt by establishing that they themselves aren't racist. This avoidance is rooted in the concept of "white fragility," as DiAngelo explains. Emotions such as anger or fear are elicited in some white individuals when confronted about racism, causing them to resort to silence when worst comes to worst. According to DiAngelo, it's submissive behaviors like these that inhibit our ability to converse across races—an essential step in beginning to mend the racial wounds inflicted on our country. Rather than scrutinizing what problematic behaviors they may unknowingly perpetuate through their denial, these individuals refuse to admit to their shortcomings in hopes of preserving their fragile egos. DiAngelo emphasizes that this insecurity is rooted in "the good/bad binary." Racism is often perceived as an evil that can only be perpetuated by utterly wicked people through direct acts of violence. This causes some white individuals to perceive accusations of racism as personal attacks on their character, rather than as cautionary warnings about how they might be unconsciously promoting or benefitting from systemic racism.

In a hard hitting, yet reader friendly, examination of race in America, Ijeoma Oluo emphasizes the disastrous effects of racism in her novel *So You Want to Talk About Race*. Oluo bluntly acknowledges the severity of both discrimination and classism in society, which likens her novel to that of DiAngelo's. Nevertheless, she dives beyond mere surface-level theoretics and carefully details vulnerable, yet relevant, instances in her own life when conversations around race have spurred tension. Whether it be her "black-sounding name" limiting her job opportunities, or past arguments with coworkers on welfare for people of color, Oluo sheds light on the widespread propagation of implicit bias and racist microaggressions, which captures the very essence of racism in America. She also doesn't shy away from breaking down controversial topics, from affirmative action to cultural appropriation. It's imperative that we recognize the nation is dealing with systemic racism that has been ingrained into the institutions that govern us, which can manifest into individual acts of discrimination. Whether one considers themselves racist or not, Oluo asserts that we are all part of a racist system—and failing to push towards a solution only exacerbates the issue.

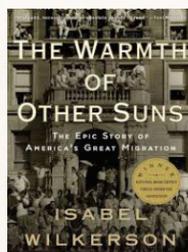
DiAngelo and Oluo's novels are only glimpses into the plethora of knowledge to be gained from reading books regarding racism. Rather than merely looking towards traditional news sources or social media platforms, we can incorporate a diversity of mediums to inform ourselves about how to effectively combat racism. Moreover, it's important to recognize that Troy students must actively strive to become politically and socially aware, beyond signing petitions and reposting infographics on Instagram. Novels are an unexpected, yet integral, component in beginning this long awaited journey.

With the ever-increasing popularity of novels discussing racism, it's evident that this issue remains at the forefront of society. Mere books may seem minuscule in the grand scheme of nationwide movements, but making an effort to educate oneself on racism is a step in the right direction. Perhaps we could all benefit from delving into these books ourselves, so that America can begin to turn the page on this disquieting chapter of its life.

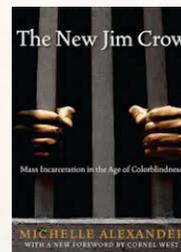
BROWSE THE ORACLE BOOKSHELF



Rather than focusing on the individual instances of racism in America, Rothstein explores how local, state and national laws, through *de jure* segregation, have caused racism to be systemically interwoven into our housing policies. From racial zoning to segregated public housing, the racist residential patterns of America are clearly by design.



In *The Warmth of Other Suns*, Wilkerson chronicles the story of the six million African Americans who fled the South in search for a better life during the Great Migration. Through this poetically written work, she urges us to never forget the social and cultural impact of their migration on the northern and western cities they found homes in.



Although the abhorrent "Jim Crow" laws of the Civil War era may have been legally struck down, Alexander asserts that they've merely taken on a new form in the policies that have led to the current mass incarceration of African Americans. To this day, the U.S. criminal justice system continues to disproportionately target black communities.

VOICES OF THE WARRIORS

Read about what our Warriors have to say about pumpkin spice and favorite pies!

COMPILED BY MISEOK KIM AND AMBER WANG | Photos Courtesy of Clipart Library, Illustoon and Starbucks

Pumpkin Spice—The Good and the Bad

By Bethania Dagim

The Pumpkin Spice latte remains popular during the autumn season despite its cons. The Pumpkin Spice Latte, produced by Starbucks in 2003, is a staple in fall culture. It originally contained only pumpkin spice, but now includes caramel and toffee (which definitely won't give you type 2 diabetes). A short (8 fl oz) latte contains about 26 grams of sugar?! That's over 70 percent of what men should consume daily (36g, according to the American Heart Association)! And it exceeds the amount women should have (25g)! Maybe there's a reason it's been declining in popularity. The fall-flavored (and extremely unhealthy) beverage has been losing its followers over the years.

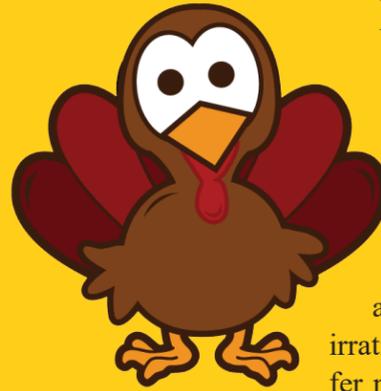


Is it the calories? The cash? Maybe, but the primary reason is that pumpkin spice is simply a comfort drink! You sip the warm, overly-sweet drink for the experience, not the flavor! And due to it only being available in the fall (unless, if you make it yourself? Nah), it's easy to forget about it. While the drink may be losing its fame, it will always be a fall favorite.



Pi is better than a pie

By Anonymous Sophomore



During the Thanksgiving season, we see shelves of pies, ranging from pumpkin pies to apple pies. But what I never see is my favorite pie, π , also known as 3.14159... You may think this is irrational. Why would someone prefer numbers over a sweet filling contained in a flaky crust. The answer is simple. π is unique and endless. Unlike traditional pies where happiness disappears after a few slices, π will go on forever, maintaining a continuous flow of joy. Additionally, with no repeats, π will never cease to amaze with its complex flavors and experiences. For example, after eating several slices of apple pies, you feel the flavor dulling out and get no variety. Each slice just becomes the same sugary and cinnamony apples. And I know not a lot of people think of π as the higher tier flavor, but once you think about it, your views will do a full 180 and your happiest days will be infinite in the years ahead.



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Is hybrid learning worth it?

By Vivian Lee
STAFF WRITER



Hybrid is the best option. All Fullerton Joint High School Union schools, including Troy High School, reopened under the hybrid model Nov. 2, allowing students to return to campus for in-person learning. However, to ensure safety, the Warrior population has been split among three cohorts. Two groups, referred to as Cohort A and Cohort B, physically attend school for two alternating school days, while the remaining group learns remotely at



CARTOON BY ELLA MOON

home every day. With the extensive measures put into place to protect everyone's health, the hybrid model at Troy offers students a flexible and safe option to return to school.

Although it is understandable for students to be concerned about their health, contracting the coronavirus will be unlikely for students due to the thorough health measures that have been put in place. According to the "Troy High School Opening and Safety Plan" released Sept. 1, Troy implemented protective measures, including enhanced sanitation practices, six feet social distancing guidelines and the mandatory usage of masks. The school will also be using thermal imaging cameras to check the temperatures of students coming onto campus. In addition, about 40 percent of Troy's students are physically attending school, indicating that there will be more than 20 percent of the student body on campus at a time. The small population size and the health measures will likely limit the risk of contracting the virus, decreasing the severity of the concern for safety. Although Cohort A and B students come to school only twice per week,

the model is beneficial because there will still be an increase in the quality of education. The Center for International

Research and Educational Systems observed a 25 drop in math retention and ten percent decline in English learning when studying remotely compared to learning in the classroom. This decrease in learning can be attributed to many at-home distractions; for instance, family situations where multiple children share rooms may also make it hard for students to focus in class. Being at school provides a more stimulating environment by holding students accountable for producing a higher quality of work and paying attention. In addition, many teachers are making an effort to generate

a classroom environment for Cohort A and B students by allowing discussions and group work that does not require the students to join zoom. Ultimately, physically attending school will allow students to focus better in class and maximize their learning.

Aside from severe declines in learning capacity due to distance learning, quarantine students also experience a decline in overall mental health. Many individuals in quarantine may experience heightened mental health problems, including stress, insomnia, and emotional exhaustion. According to a study cited in Science News, 34 percent of

quarantined people reported high levels of psychological distress, including anxiety and depression, compared to the 12 percent of non-quarantined individuals. Attending school will allow students to communicate with peers, which will decrease the exhaustion many people are experiencing due to a lack of interaction. Going to school and following the hybrid model exposes students to fresh air between classes compared to

being cooped up at home, improving overall mood. Talking to teachers and friends and exercising by walking to and from classes boosts overall student morale and mental health.

The hybrid model allows students to access the benefits of being in person while protecting their health. The school has taken months to prepare extensive measures to ensure the safety of all students and staff members. However, physically attending school is not mandatory, and if some students not yet feel comfortable to come back, they can choose to stay home. For students who do return, the school will be ready to welcome everyone, keep everyone safe and provide opportunities to learn efficiently in person.

"The hybrid model allows students to access the benefits of learning in person while protecting their health."

YES TO HYBRID

NO TO HYBRID

By Andrew Sung
STAFF WRITER



The hybrid model is by no means the best of both worlds. Since Nov. 2, Troy has operated under the hybrid model in which students can either stay at home or return to school. Those who decide to attend school physically will go twice a week in either Cohort A or B and learn remotely for the other three days. Meanwhile, Cohort C students would stay at home every day for distance learning. While this reopening plan has been in the works for months, the hybrid schedule is not yet a viable alternative to full remote learning.

Especially when the pandemic shows no signs of slowing down, reopening now is risky. Recently, we have continued to break new records of cases per day. According to the New York Times, the United States recorded nine million coronavirus cases on Oct. 30, meaning that the latest spread of infection has been the fastest since the beginning of the pandemic. Just a week later, Nov. 6, the United States had over 9.7 million cases with a new record of over 100,000 cases in a day, the highest single-day COVID-19 infection rate ever recorded. Many states also

continue to report record-highs in cases of COVID-19, whilst the nation enters its third wave. As the temperature drops, the flu season approaches. Facing both a flu season and a coronavirus pandemic would potentially be catastrophic as contracting both viruses would be devastating to immune systems. According to epidemiologist Dr. Seema Yasmin, director of the Stanford Health Communication Initiative, contracting just one of the two viruses could make you more vulnerable to contracting the other. The spread of the pandemic is only continuing to accelerate, and it is simply not a safe time to reopen schools.

Even with all the health precautions that Troy has promised to take, there is no way to fully guarantee the students' safety. Any potential exposure to the virus, especially with current situations, is not a risk worth taking. It is important to note that the daily implementation of thermal cameras has its limits to detect those infected. Thermal cameras cannot detect asymptomatic carriers; however, of those aged 20 years and younger who contract COVID-19, over 80 percent tend to be asymptomatic to a study conducted by the American Thoracic Society. It is also very difficult to ensure that social distancing will be maintained on campus, beyond just the entrance. Students have reported that social distancing in the quad is not executed as well as it should and that

"Any potential exposure to the virus, especially with current situations, is not a risk worth taking."

social distancing measures are neglected completely in the restrooms. Furthermore, the implementation of one-way directions to get to classes has been frustrating for students and teachers alike, especially when it means walking around the entire school just to get to a classroom or the restrooms. Sometimes, the one-way walkways are just ignored completely. The current safety measures being implemented are commendable attempts at safety. However, they are not perfect, and the potential risk for spreading COVID-19 at school, especially during one of the peak times of the pandemic, is not an optimal setting to attempt a hybrid reopening. In the best interest of safety for all, full distance learning ought to be continued over a hybrid schedule.

Even if we are able to execute all health procedures well enough to prevent the spread of the virus, simultaneously teaching to both in-person and online groups decreases the quality of learning for all students. Regardless of how many students are in each cohort, the new hybrid schedule inevitably causes a divide in attention, since each learning environment calls for different ways of teaching. Trying to achieve the best from both the remote and in-person model also requires double the effort. This puts teachers in a position where they are either physically forced to split their focus, or just have all the returning students join zoom. Both scenarios may result in students feeling that they are not receiving as much at-

tention and instruction as they should. Considering that teaching is already no simple task even without the additional challenges presented by the pandemic, it is wiser to just keep everyone on the same page with a full distance learning model.

We must accept that we are not ready to reopen yet, and while there is no ideal option given the circumstances, full remote learning is the best route available. Rather than continuing after months to inefficiently spend far too much effort on a flawed hybrid schedule, the district should instead refocus more resources to improve the already viable remote learning model.

THE DOWNSIDE OF HYBRID LEARNING MODEL

CONS

- 1 Shortened class periods can take away from student's learning.
- 2 Some teachers favor in-person students more than students who are distance learning from home. This causes more discussions to happen in physical classrooms with the students in-person, making students at home feel left out.
- 3 Classes starting earlier can be difficult to adjust to and some students may forget.
- 4 Students who go back to school may feel isolated because of the small class sizes.
- 5 Inconsistent learning environments for those in cohort A/B

GRAPHIC BY CASSIDY CHANG

California state government failed to protect Los Angeles from Exide

By Cage Hawley
STAFF WRITER



California needs a solid solution. Judge Christopher Sontchi of Delaware ruled Oct. 16 that multinational battery manufacturing company Exide Technologies can legally abandon the cleanup of its defunct recycling plant in Vernon, California, just a few miles south of downtown Los Angeles (LA). Conse-

quently, many LA residents remain concerned about the site's poor handling of waste, which has been causing hazardous and volatile pollutants such as lead dust and arsenic to spread across several California communities for over 30 years. Ulti-

mately, the ruling is unacceptable because it allows a private entity to harm the public health of southern California with minimal repercussion. In light of Exide evading its ecological responsibilities, California government agencies must enforce environmental regulations more effectively.

Sontchi must first acknowledge that Exide's pollutants have caused irreversible damage to vulnerable LA communities. He supported his ruling with the laughable defense that lead already exists in human bodies and cannot be harmful. This claim is easily debunked by the alarming results of a University of Southern California study, which found unusually high amounts of lead in all 50 baby teeth collected from neighborhoods near the Exide plant. Considering that lead is a neurotoxin, proven to inhibit children's mental growth and physical development, the inordinate pollutant rate near Exide could prove detrimental to lo-

cal children's health. Furthermore, experts estimate that 10,000 properties in southeast LA County may contain poisonous levels of lead within their soil, a startling statistic that's corroborated by records of hundreds of former LA Exide workers contracting serious lead poisoning during their employment. Each scientific investigation into Exide's effects on LA's ecosystem and public health shows that the company has created entirely unlivable conditions. Sontchi's ignorance may prevent residents from leading healthy

lives, an unacceptable outcome which warrants action from California's environmental agencies.

However, with constantly changing deadlines and unsatisfactory results, a publicly-funded solution is clearly not effective. Currently, Sontchi's ruling forces

California taxpayers to finance efforts to clean up Exide's mess. The cleanup led by the state Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has already burned through \$270 million with disappointing results—over the course of five years, only 1,754 of the planned 3,200 residences have been cleaned, leaving residents wondering when the remaining homes will be addressed. Furthermore, the current lack of funding means that the task of cleaning another 4,700 contaminated houses is even more daunting. Overall, the lack of government oversight has significantly worsened LA's situation, which could easily have been resolved if California's environmental agencies were better funded. The DTSC is unable to effectively remedy LA's pollution problem, but not for lack of trying. In fact, Assembly Bill 995 seeking to increase DTSC funding and create an oversight board was vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, who found

“The state government must better support its agencies in order to facilitate a dynamic in which companies can be held accountable for perpetuating environmental disaster.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC7 LOS ANGELES



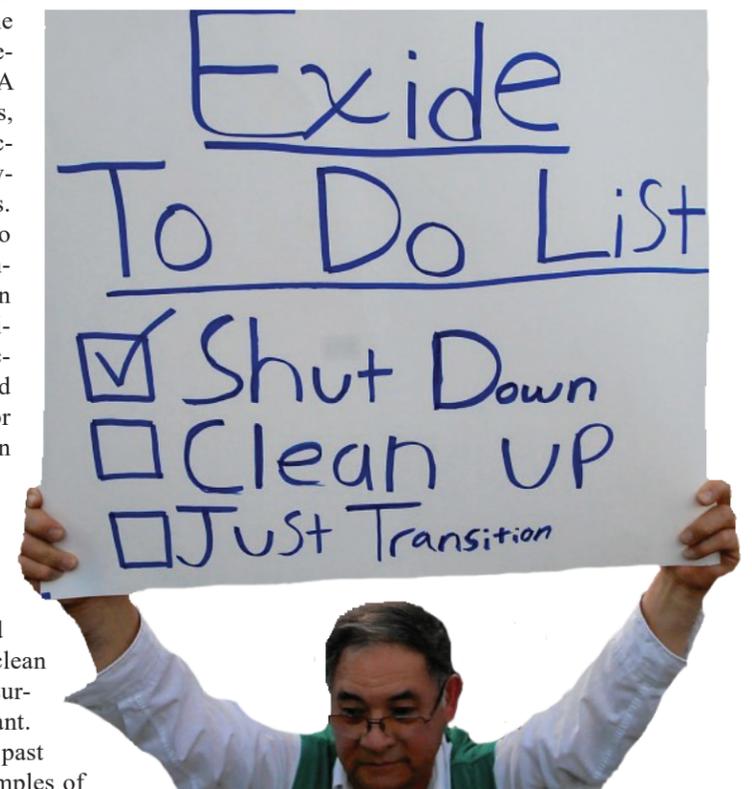
the bill to not be comprehensive enough. Newsom has since pledged to work on reforming the DTSC next year, but in light of the current cleanup results (or rather the lack thereof), a strengthening of the California government's environmental safety division is immediately necessary.

Previously closed Exide locations were handled in a much more reasonable and tactful manner. Those properties saw Exide's environmental toll extend far beyond that in the LA location. In fact, the company released over 227,275 pounds of toxic pollutants into Muncie, Indiana and violated 27 environmental quality regulations in just over a year at the Frisco, Texas plant. Government investigations into both plants found similar results to those observed in East LA—severe lev-

els of lead in surrounding areas. The key difference between Exide's LA site and the others, however, is the action taken by government officials.

With regards to Exide's irresponsible actions in Muncie, the Environmental Protection Agency fined Exide \$820,000 for violating the Clean Air Act in 2015. Likewise, the city of Frisco reached a \$45 million agreement with Exide and required the company to clean 180 acres of land surrounding its plant. Not only do the past fines serve as examples of reasonable recompense for Exide's devastation of communities nationwide, but they also show how swift action from government agencies can effectively help those affected by pollution. Overall, the ruling which allowed Exide to elude cleanup of its disastrously toxic battery plant in LA lets unsustainable damages continue to harm LA residents. Counting solely on the underfunded DTSC to handle years of mismanaged conduct while expecting CA citizens to pay millions in lieu of Exide proves entirely unreasonable, especially when considering that Exide's actions are at the expense of Southeast LA's low-income families. The state government must better support its agencies in order to facilitate a dynamic in which companies can be held fully accountable when they perpetuate environmental disasters.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BUSINESS INSIDER



SICK OF WAITING: In 2015, with many community members diagnosed with chronic health problems, Southeast Los Angeles residents protested for a thorough cleanup after the Exide plant finally shut down.



GRAPHIC BY CASSIDY CHANG

Returning to Hybrid Reality by Pearl Yoon



Golfing Genius

Golfing phenom, magazine star—what can't senior Kamille Dimayuga do? Read into her experience being featured on Golf Digest this year as she competed in the Pinehurst National Invitational.

Article by Jacqueline Liu, STAFF WRITER, photo courtesy of Golf Digest and Kamille Dimayuga

Striding confidently out onto the green, senior Kamille Dimayuga prepares for her putt after landing a spectacular shot from the fairway to impress onlookers.

Appearing alongside famous golfers from across the world, Dimayuga was featured by the Golf Digest magazine in an article covering the Pinehurst National Invitational, a new golf competition in North Carolina. With a significant section dedicated solely for Dimayuga, subscribers of the magazine can find her picture in the October issue titled: October 2020 Masters Preview - The Untold Stories of Tiger's Greatness.

The article itself was written for the purpose of giving more exposure to the newly established competition, but the article followed Dimayuga's process as she competed in the tournament. As the defending Girls Overall champion, she was specifically sought out for this article to gain a player's perspective of the competition. Despite being approached just moments before the tournament, Dimayuga immediately warmed up to the idea and was excited to work with the magazine.

"As I was checking in for the tournament, the tournament director told me that he was going to have someone from Golf Digest follow me around this week while I was competing," Dimayuga said. "I honestly had no idea what was going on at the time, but I took the opportunity because who knows when something like this could ever happen again?"

Throughout the tournament, a Golf Digest writer followed Dimayuga around the course and took note of her plays. After the second round of the invitational, Dimayuga was addi-

With the many major wins under her belt, it's no surprise that Dimayuga was considered for this prominent magazine. Her main accomplishments include winning two American

Junior Golf Association Championships, one in 2017 and the other in 2018, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) State Team Championship title in 2018 and the National High School Invitational in 2019. As a result of her abilities in golf, Dimayuga earned a golf scholarship to play Division 1 golf at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo University.

As she graduates high school and moves on to the next chapter of her life, Dimayuga plans to focus her efforts on training for professional golf while earning her college degree. Though her future in competitive golfing is not certain, she hopes that her hard work will guarantee the success of her ambition. She believes that her perseverance on the golf course has allowed her to grow as both a player and a person



tionally asked to participate in a professional photoshoot with several other accomplished players from across the nation.

"The photographer told us all his stories about doing shoots with Tiger Woods ever since he was 13 or 14," Dimayuga said. "He has been following Tiger practically his entire career, and it was super cool to talk to someone that closely connected with him."

and has opened many doors during her high school career.

"It's crazy to see where golf has taken me throughout all these years. I've traveled across the country to play the most beautiful and amazing golf courses," Dimayuga said. "Over the years, I've come to appreciate this game and all the challenges I've faced. I know that this is still the beginning of my career and that there is so much more for me to learn."

PAC-12 football restarts with COVID-19 regulations in place

Following the restart of college football across the country, the PAC-12 stayed closed; that is until this past weekend as play restarted in exciting fashion as USC and UCLA took the field.

By William Song
STAFF WRITER

Football fans can now rejoice. National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Pacific-12 Conference Football or PAC-12 football is finally back after a six month shutdown with its first game on Nov. 6. The decision to restart came in late September and overturned a previous decision made by the PAC-12 to suspend the season until at least 2021.

Established in 1959, the PAC-12 Conference has members in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. The PAC-12 Conference competes in 24 sports at the NCAA Division One level and has become a football powerhouse over the years, with top schools such as Oregon and USC competing in the conference. Its football teams are split into a north and south division with six teams in each one.

Although there have been some medical experts and officials who question the safety of a season restart, other leading conferences such as the Big Ten have already started their season. The Big Ten imposed strict testing and other rules in

order to fight the pandemic, but has so far been left with mixed results. Some teams resorted to quarantining mid-season as outbreaks amongst teams became common. Led by PAC-12 commissioner Larry Scott, the PAC-12 has resorted to testing athletes daily in order to protect players and staff, while continuing the season.

"[It is] a game-changer in enabling us to move forward with confidence" said Scott. "We can create a safe environment for our student-athletes while giving them the opportunity to pursue their dreams."

Additionally, the PAC-12 Conference created minimum health standards for play. These standards along with all local standards will be upheld in order to try and provide a safe and healthy environment for all those involved in football. As updates on the pandemic come, the PAC-12 plans to modify the health standards with guidance from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and the PAC-12 medical board.

The season restart will not only benefit college football fans and athletes who want to play, but will also impact schools in a positive way. Thanks to the restart, schools across the country will be able to profit from broadcasting rights and sponsorships. Even without income coming in from ticket sales due to the pandemic, schools will be able to make millions of dollars.

The PAC-12's football schedule will be a shortened season that consists of seven games. All games will be held within the conference. The schedule will begin on

November 7 and end on the weekend of December 18-19 with the PAC-12 Football Championship Game. In the event that the pandemic prevents games from occurring, the PAC-12 has created game cancellation guidelines and tiebreaker rules.

This year's favorite team to win it all remains the defending champion, Oregon Ducks, according to a preseason media poll. However, our local team, the University of

Southern California Trojans (USC) remain a close second and are also the overwhelming selection to win the South Division.

While the return of PAC-12 football is great news to fans and athletes alike, teams and the conference must remain vigilant to make sure that the season does not end prematurely. With COVID cases on the rise again, safety for all those involved must be the highest priority.



CBS SPORTS

CATCHING A WIN: USC wide receiver Drake London catches an incoming pass in the team's first game of the season amidst a backdrop of empty seats.

HOW TO SPEND A PRODUCTIVE WEEKEND

Do you feel like your weekends are passing by like an indifferentiable blur? Try following this weekend guideline to ensure you a fun and productive three days!

Compiled by Sky Jung, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, article by Sarah Son, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's half-past eight on a Sunday night and you wonder where all your time has gone. Tomorrow marks the beginning of a new school week, yet your homework lies untouched and your tests, unstudied for. The events of Friday after school, all of Saturday and even the earlier half of Sunday are hazy in your mind. You might just have to stay up late to finish up your procrastinated work. Familiar story?

FRIDAY

To prevent having another dull, blurry weekend, follow this loose schedule. It'll guarantee you enough time to catch up with your friends, indulge in some self-care activities and (the best part) finish your homework early!

- Plan your weekend schedule
- Do something with friends



☆ Netflix Party



☆ Play Among Us

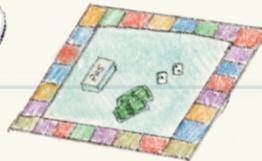


☆ Take a virtual tour

☆ Bake a dessert



☆ Play a fun board game



SATURDAY

- Take a walk outside
- Tidy up your work space
- Do a fun activity
- Start homework assignments
- Self-care time



☆ Take a relaxing bath



SUNDAY

- Try a mindful activity
- Spend time with family and friends
- Finish homework assignments
- Prepare for school

☆ Read a new book

☆ Check emails



☆ Create a weekly agenda

