

# ORACLE

2200 E. DOROTHY LANE, FULLERTON, CA 92831

## ENVISION. EDUCATE. EMPOWER

Read about how Warriors aim to tackle typical student issues by leading the first Troy TEDx youth conference.

Compiled by Iman Babiker, NEWS EDITOR, article by Salman Waheed, STAFF WRITER, photos by Lauren Song, PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR, and cartoons by Alicia Yoon, CARTOON



# TEDx YOUTH

In an effort to highlight student voices, Troy High School hosted its first Warrior student-led TEDx event March 12.

TED is a nonprofit media organization that aims to share educationally enriching ideas through short seminars led by various keynote speakers. As a branch of the nonprofit, TEDx bring these lectures to local communities. TEDx events are coordinated independently by volunteer organizers who determine the topics and set design for each conference.

In order to join the event management team, student organizer Sunny Yu applied for a TEDx youth license and informed TED about plans for the event such as the theme and intent of the seminar. Prospective keynote speakers went through an application process in which they suggested ideas or angles for event topics. All speakers at the TEDx event

were Warrior club Presidents or Vice Presidents advocating for subjects that aligned with their club goals. Since the event focused on student discourse, event organizers decided to name the event theme "Idea Empowered." Featured event speakers included senior Shiya Jiang on body positivity, junior Victoria Cho on volunteerism, senior Brian Yuan on the art of speaking and senior Reagan Hsu on finding the difference between cultural awareness and competence.

Warrior administration as well as Site Tech Coordinator Jesse Knowles and Assistant Principal of Student Activities Jeffrey Padgett funded the TEDx event in purchasing camera equipment and getting production and stage design materials. The student organizer also allotted money towards purchasing refreshments and food items for attendees.

According to speaker Reagan Hsu, speakers aimed to properly

articulate their complex topics for the audience. Each presentation was crafted to convey the event subjects in an understandable way, Hsu said.

"I think putting these relevant emotions or uncomfortable topics that teens grapple with every day into words is something that the event did very well," Hsu said. "Even if attendees walked away with just a few simple and valuable lines from the discussion, I feel like that can make all the difference in their lives."

With a TEDx youth license, the organizing team contacted student speakers for the event in December 2023. After approving event speakers, Warrior faculty and Yu worked on arranging the event in the Troy Theater from January to late February 2024.

According to speaker Victoria Cho, it was gratifying to give advice to and empower student attendees. In addition to basic knowledge or facts, observers gained valuable life

insights from attending, Cho said.

"I think that students were able to not only immerse themselves in the knowledge presented during the event but also recognize all the student perspectives and voices," Cho said. "Students should use this as encouragement and inspiration in their everyday life to speak up for what they are passionate about and advocate for it."

According to Yu, coming up with the theme "Idea Empowered" was simple to figure out. The event was built on the basis of providing high school students with a platform to educate others on topics they were passionate about, Yu said.

"Knowing that this event would draw attention to our student speakers feeling empowered in their vocations, it was easy to formulate the theme," Yu said. "It proved to be a great opportunity for our students to spread ideas and impact their peers in an unforgettable way."

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Read about what Oracle has to say about our usage of artificial intelligence for our front cover last issue!



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#### LIFESTYLE

Learn how to search, apply, prepare and even dress for your first job as a high school student.



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#### FEATURE

Sink your teeth into the story of how juniors Audrey Yoo and Anh Nguyen change the lives of others through their sweet treats.



#### Page 10

# Warriors demonstrate mastery of Java in Dave Wittry Memorial Programming Contest

Warriors competed in a coding competition in honor of a former computer science teacher at Troy.

By Jenny Huang  
STAFF WRITER

In memory of former Troy computer science teacher Dave Wittry, Warriors competed in a programming competition March 3.

In 2004, Dave Wittry founded a programming contest for students. Following his untimely passing in 2008, computer science teacher Don Allen hosted the contest annually in Wittry's honor.

After Allen retired in 2023, computer science teacher Kristen Preston officially took over the competition, but the two continued collaborating on the event's setup. According to

Preston, the process was

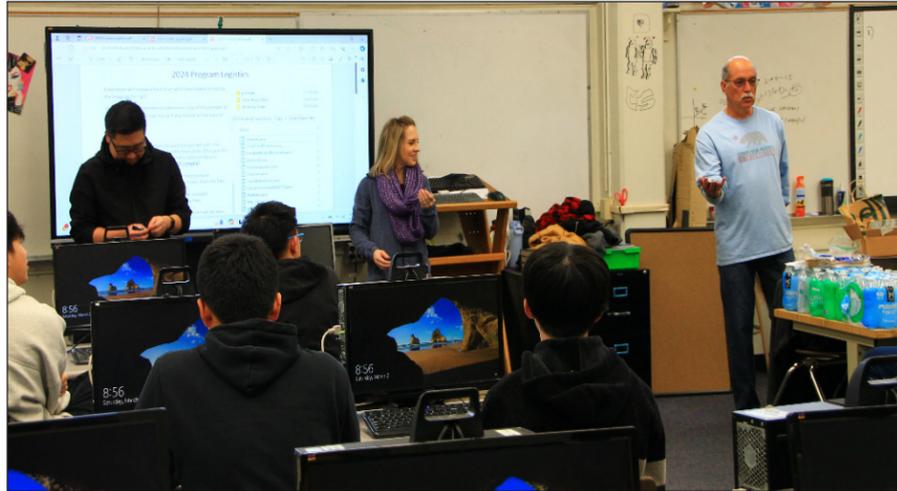


PHOTO BY REAGAN LI

**KINETIC KICKOFF:** Computer science teachers Kristen Preston and Don Allen give an inspirational speech to the programming contest participants.

rewarding although she felt pressure from hosting a contest in honor of a former teacher.

"It has been really interesting," Preston said. "Looking at all of the problems and prompts for this year, and working through some of them, it has been fun to contemplate how the students are going to tackle them."

During the competition, students

work in teams of up to five to develop code in Java. They are given a sheet of challenges and three hours to solve as many as they can. After the time is up, Preston and Allen run each script through a computer to determine how many problems each team solved.

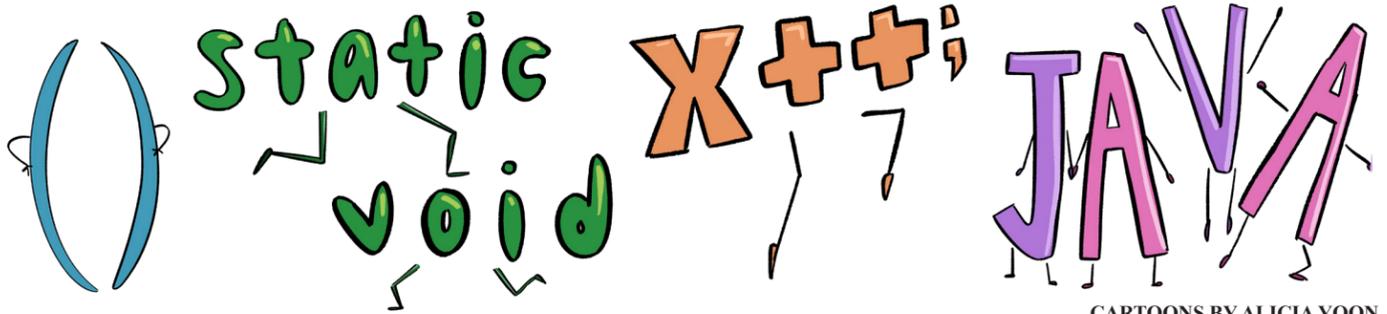
Preston and Allen source questions from job interviews and the Internet, sometimes deriving the problems

themselves. After they generate their prompts, a group of computer scientists gather to make sure all the code is appropriate for a high school level.

"It is an iterative process that we keep going through for about a year until the next competition. The biggest challenge is coming up with the prompts and making sure our test cases are valid," Preston said. "The most difficult part of setting up the competition is coming up with the problems and making sure we are testing them thoroughly."

The contest is unrelated to grades, and winners will receive gift cards as their prize. According to Preston, the contest is an opportunity for students to have fun without worrying about their grade.

"So often, students just want to get an A, so they do not take the time to learn or have fun. They just want to do exactly what is going to get the problem done so they can move on with life," Preston said. "Our goal with this is for students to attempt something challenging and see that they are capable of more than they realize when they ignore the grade and just do something for fun."



CARTOONS BY ALICIA YOON

# Class of 2030 mandated to take semester-long Ethnic Studies course

The new ethnic studies course aims to take a deeper dive into the experiences of marginalized Americans.

By Samantha Luo  
STAFF WRITER

For Warriors graduating in the year 2030 and beyond, the Introduction to Ethnic Studies course will be a graduation requirement.

California Assembly Bill 101 passed in October 2021 mandated the graduating class of 2030 to complete a semester-long ethnic studies course in order to receive a high school diploma. Following this mandate, FJUHS created a task force in order to develop a curriculum. Troy Social Science Department Chair Rich Liem was a part of this task force, which included at least one teacher from each high school.

Troy had previously offered a year-long Ethnic Studies course, but beginning next year the class will constitute one semester each of Ethnic Studies and Sociology. The Sociology semester is not a part of the California mandate. According to Mr. Liem, who is currently the sole teacher of the Ethnic Studies course at Troy, teachers across the district met to adjust the course length.

"We met ten times during the year

to evaluate how we are doing, what is going on, what we should add, [what] should we take away," Liem said. "We are being very careful and thoughtful about what it is we cut, to make sure that it does not take away from the representation of whichever group we're studying."

California legislation stated that the Ethnic Studies curriculum should focus on racial groups whose history has traditionally been overlooked. According to Assistant

Principal Lance Bletscher, Troy's course provides a look at history through different perspectives.

"Most of history is told through the lens of the victor," Bletscher said. "[This course] is taking a snapshot of different ethnicities and studying their history in a less commercial version. There are versions of history that are going to be really different."

The course can be taken during any year as long as it is completed before graduation. For students considering

the IB diploma or Cambridge pathway, it is important to plan as early as possible, Bletscher said.

"My advice is always to leave every door open as long as possible before you make a decision to walk in through one of them, then those other doors can shut," Bletscher said. "Start planning accordingly on what pathway, program, events, groups or things you are involved with so that you can find the best year to do it."

The Ethnic Studies course created two years ago covers four topics, and has recently been adapted to include theology. The four topics the course covers are Latino American, Native American, African American, and Asian American and Pacific Islander history and culture. Students have two weeks at the end of the course to dive deeper into any economic, political, social or cultural phenomenon that interests them.

The district task force did not rely on any textbook when creating the curriculum. Making sure not to get into any hot water with critical race theory was crucial, Liem said.

"We were very careful to make this be a celebratory, honest telling of the things that many of our students don't know," Liem said. "When we learn about those things and we learn the purposes and everything else behind it, it just brings us that much closer."



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CALMATTERS

**OC Journalism Education Association**

Recognized Oracle staff: Tyler Cordova, Iman Babiker, Zoey Bahng, Shailey Patel, Kaitlyn Zhang, Kate Berger, Helen Fang, Celeste Hollingsworth, Kusuma Kothamasu and Salman Waheed.



GRAPHICS COURTESY OF CANVA

**AP Exam Changes**

The AP Computer Science Principles exam will now include a student-authored Personalized Project Reference in lieu of a written response portion. This reference contains screen captures of students' codes and will be used during the end-of-course exam to help students answer questions about their project. For both AP World History and AP European History, students need four documents as evidence instead of six to earn the evidence point on the DBQ. For the analysis and reasoning point, students need a minimum number of two documents. College Board also introduced new ways to earn the complexity point on the DBQ. Students can now earn the complexity point by supporting their arguments with seven documents or by successfully exploring alternate perspectives. To earn complexity on the LEQ, students must use four pieces of outside evidence or write a counter argument. Overall, these new changes are expected to raise the pass rates on both AP History and AP Computer Science Principles exams.

**Return of Foodie Friday**

According to ASB campus coordinator Oscar Deniz, Foodie Fridays were warmly welcomed back. "Overall, our students liked the event as we are trying to do different things like coffee trucks and other creative food trucks," Deniz said. "Our next one will be a chicken and waffle truck followed by a funnel cake truck." Foodie Fridays made their anticipated return Feb. 16, marking their first event since February of the previous year. Warrior Associated Student Body reinstated this event, inviting a different food truck to campus once or twice a month for students to enjoy. A portion of the sales are used for future ASB-related events and activities. To kick off the first-ever Foodie Friday of the year, Warrior ASB welcomed Moonwood Coffee Company.



GRAPHICS COURTESY OF CANVA

**Speech League State Competition**

Troy's Speech and Debate Warriors competed at the Orange County Speech League State Quals at California State University Long Beach March 2. Most of the competing warriors qualified for the 2024 State Championships in Clovis, California. Warriors in Speech Helen Fang, Noemi Maciel, Samantha Luo, Sydney Wang, Anastasia Efremova and Reva Sobti will have a chance to compete at the championships. In debate, Kamila Rivera, Chloe Bulyaba, Jason Shi, Reanne Del Valle, Avni Patil and Celina Zhuo qualified for the event as well. To be allowed for nationals, the team also competed at the East Los Angeles District Tournament March 8, marking their return to the event after several years. Their preparations for these events differ from typical teams that depend on paid coaches and structured curriculums, as they are entirely student-run.



GRAPHICS COURTESY OF CANVA

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STAFF EDITORIAL

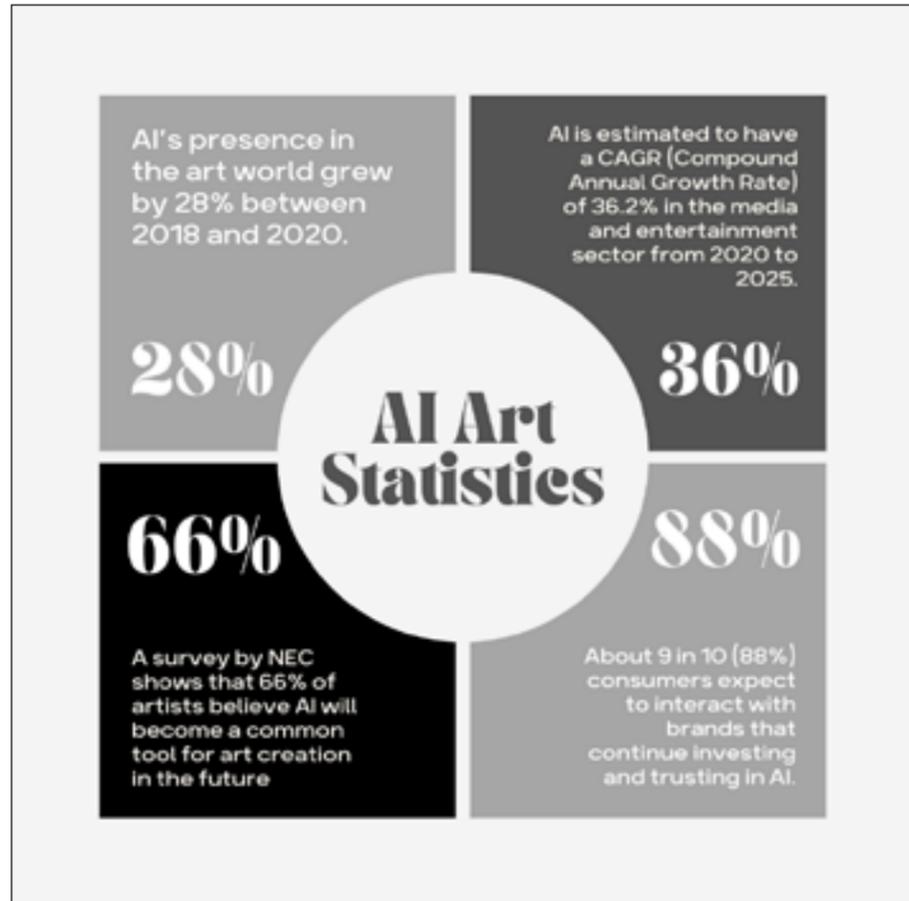
# To reject AI is to reject the future: the world must keep up with innovative technology

Troy has proven that AI generated art is a useful resource in times of dire need. In the previous issue, we decided to use generative AI to create the art on our front cover showcasing the creation of the girl's flag football team. We chose AI art because our artistic staff was pre-occupied and there were no substantial photos that we could take or be given. We wanted to be able to represent girls flag football to the best of our ability and an AI photo was better than no photos. Oracle's use of AI raises the question of whether or not AI art is a positive good or a killer of creativity. To neglect using AI is to fall behind as the world progresses—using AI art is justified as a tool to promote the whole of the newspaper. AI art was a last resort for the cover. The Oracle editors already knew that the creation of the girls' flag football team was the best article for the front page

of Issue 7. However, as the team had not started practice yet, there were no photos that could accurately represent the excitement of the new development. They were having weekly Friday meetings to discuss the future of the team but had not started practice and the general consensus was an engaging piece of AI art would be better than a stagnant photo of girls in a room. As the quality of the content outweighed the graphics involved, the Sports Editor decided to use AI art to fill in the gaps. To completely reject AI means falling behind the people who embrace and adapt to the software over time. An article from the NYU School of Professional Studies states that AI can become a "powerful ally for artists." It is not sensible for Oracle and the professional world to ignore the advantages that AI can supply in times of need. Being ignorant and blind to AI does not mean it will disappear—the technology is here



BY ADOBE FIREFLY AI, GENERATED BY EDYN MAI

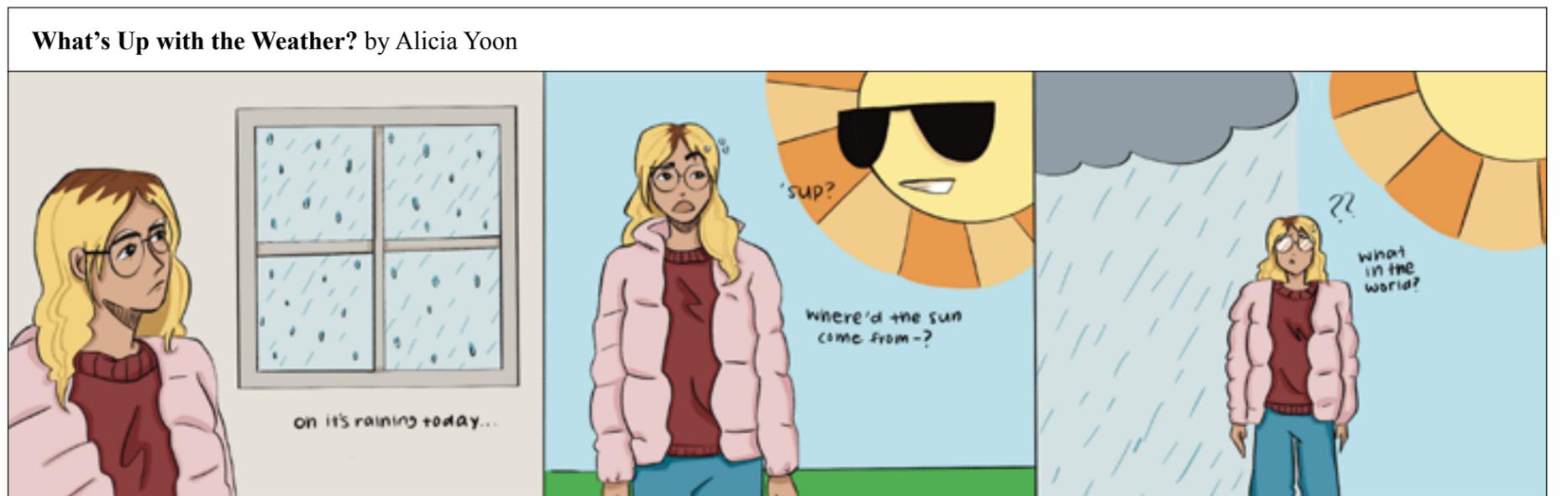


GRAPHIC BY EDYN MAI

to stay. Rather than stubbornly rejecting the idea altogether, Oracle chooses to explore responsible ways to utilize the powerful tool. Furthermore, AI is not here to replace any roles in Oracle—it is nothing more than a tool. We are by no means completely transferring to AI for all our artworks. Oracle still appreciates original human artworks for their endless possibilities and creativity—it will not be replacing our cartoonists or graphic designers. However, we would rather use readily available technology than overwork our staff or settle for less accurate graphics. In using AI art, the graphics and data supplemental to the article, may be accurate up to the second the article is published. By using it only as the last resort to ensure the quality of our issues, we are still respecting artists: their time, and their creations. All said and done, there are some flaws with using AI art: an easy answer is not always meant to be the solution to most prob-

lems. As a production that wishes to promote the artwork and talent of both our writers and cartoonists, we understand that it is odd to use technology as a means to justify an end. Similarly, the use of AI can be seen as a quick escape to provide information at the moment of seconds. However, to Oracle, AI is simply a last ditch resource and our use of it is not meant to hinder the talents and efforts of our staff members. Ultimately, our only goal is to ensure the best quality of production possible. This means using all the resources we have available, including AI. If we had not utilized AI this time, we would have had to settle for a less impactful front page or an irrelevant graphic. Using pictures from past seasons or other competitions outside of Troy would be misleading, and a different front page takes away from the excitement of the establishment of the girl's flag football team. Using AI was crucial in allowing us to produce the best issue we could.

"...we would rather use readily available technology than overwork our staff or settle for less accurate graphics."



# Embryonic rights should not be at the cost of women's reproductive rights

By Shailey Patel  
STAFF WRITER



Fetuses and embryos should not be given the full legal rights of a human being.

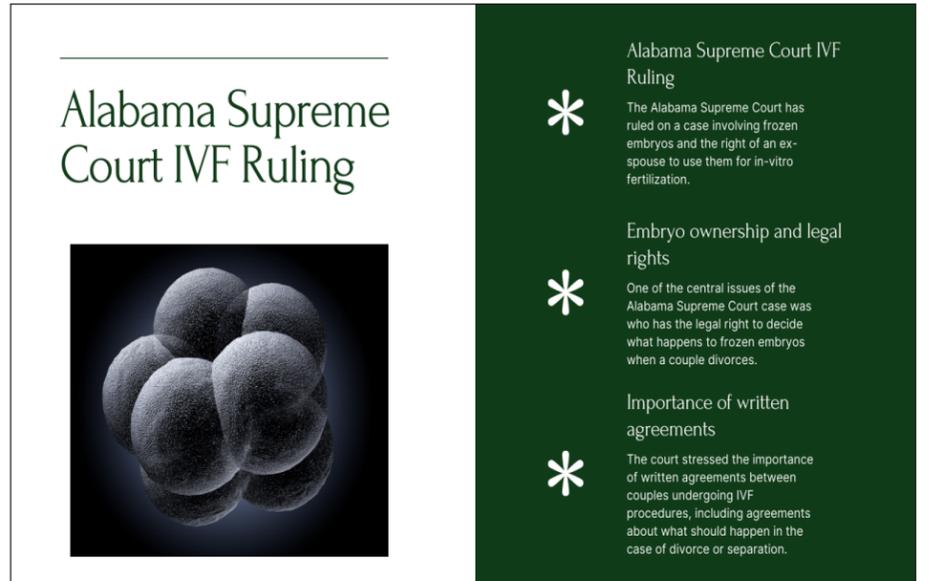
The Alabama Supreme Court ruled that frozen embryos would be considered children under state law on Feb. 23. This ruling was prompted by the mishandling and destruction of some embryos in an infertility clinic in 2020, in which the court ruled that a fetus or even an embryo outside the womb would hold constitutional rights. This ruling has the possibility to negatively impact infertility care in the state of Alabama as well as set the dangerous precedent that anyone in the nation who has an abortion may be committing a crime.

This new bill stops many prospective parents from being able to have children. By not only declaring the personhood of the embryo before birth but also applying the idea to embryos that have not yet been implanted into the uterus, it makes it impossible for infertility companies to be able to store and freeze embryos for future use, calling for the abandonment of in vitro fertilization, a process vital to many experiencing infertility. According to Barbara Collura, the CEO of the National Infertility Association, this new

bill is a “terrifying development for the 1-in-6 people impacted by infertility [who need IVF].” This will mean an even lower rate of success for Americans who already struggle in their attempts to start a family. A ruling on embryos and fetuses should not have the ability to shatter the hopes of millions of people to start families.

The decision also bolsters a broader anti-abortion effort to recognize a fetus in the womb as a person under federal constitutional law. The new recognition of fetal personhood helps those against abortion make the case that if states like Alabama have set such a precedent, constitutional law should follow in their footsteps. This broadens the scope of possibilities for anti-abortion policies across the nation, promoting the use of stricter laws and greater debates regarding the time period during which abortion is legal. Following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, 21 states across the United States have banned or restricted abortion earlier than the standard set by the case. This new ruling in Alabama has the potential to have further ramifications across the nation, inspiring a movement to tighten access to abortion. This change would continue to hurt those who need to perform abortions and those who need them.

It should be possible to recognize the



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF KRISHNAIVFCLINIC

value of embryonic life without punishing and criminalizing those who perform abortions or those who seek abortions themselves. According to a study done by the Guttmacher Institute, 930,160 women had a legal abortion in 2020. Seeing how essential the process is to such a large number of women, choosing to criminalize these women is not the answer. Instead, the government should advance its interest in something that does not limit reproductive liberty by protecting pregnant workers, delivering safer housing, and reducing the rate of maternal mortality. The criminalization of abortions should not be equated

with valuing fetal life, and innocent people who want to become parents should not be unfairly denied the right to do so.

The new Alabama ruling regarding fetal rights has unignorable consequences, taking away the ability of many families to reproduce while also criminalizing those who choose to take part in abortions. While it is important to recognize the opinions of those who believe that embryos should be given rights, it should not be done to the point where it infringes on the rights of the general public and takes away the right to have a family. Action must be taken to repair the damages of this new bill.

# The numerous attempts to regulate carbon emissions have failed and need to be replaced

By Chelsea Englehardt  
STAFF WRITER



The lawsuit against FollowThis clearly shows the control powerful oil companies have over the environment and other companies.

FollowThis, an investment group run by Arjuna Capital, was sued on Jan. 20 when they tried to propose a climate-related resolution of the oil company Exxon Mobil. These companies are ruining the environment through the continued and abusive use of limited resources and have no indication of dwindling down. Climate change activists have started to try to propose motions with money to companies like Exxon Mobil in order to try to limit their carbon emissions and therefore slow their impacts towards climate change. This is called investor activism where companies pay other companies as a form of enticement to slow climate change. After re-proposing a motion to Exxon Mobil, the executives of the company decided to fight back with a lawsuit that claims an “extreme agenda” to the activists according to Reuters. Climate investors are doing nothing to help their cause and rather just aggravating their opponent.

The actions done by climate change investors are proving to be a

counterintuitive approach to reduce the negative impact oil giants have on the environment. FollowThis was sued by Exxon Mobil for proposing a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, FollowThis was forced to drop the motion, but the suit continued. Exxon Mobil, who released a statement regarding this lawsuit on Feb. 26, claims that the suit is to scare off other investors from re-proposing ideas that were previously rejected. Exxon is simply bullying their investors with this lawsuit. There is no basis for law after the motion was dropped by Capital. Exxon is only interested in the money which has become abundantly clear through their shareholders only rejecting bills like this because it reduces fossil fuel usage and therefore revenue. Exxon prioritizes money over the environment and this scary fact is becoming abundantly clear with the continuation of this lawsuit.

The overall failing actions of climate change investors with the use of divestments is causing continuation of the abuse of the environment. Even with activist groups like this and the idea of divestment, a process of taking out investments for a certain industry, these oppressive industries are still thriving and destroying the environment. According to Statista, Exxon Mobil had the greatest carbon emissions against all other oil companies totaling 100 million



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2022. In the case of divestment, the sold shares by green investors are only going to less green intentioned holders. This creates the possibility of even more carbon emissions rather than the goal of less. In September of last year, Governor Newsom signed a climate bill in California that forced companies to reveal their roles in climate change. Bills like this, those that add to the transparency of large companies are a step in the right direction for change and less harmful usages of the environment. The use of money to fight money has failed continually and

investors and activists need to find more effective ways to combat climate change.

Instead of trying to regulate emissions at the company level, activists need to rise and promote changes at the government level to ensure effectivity. Since trying to encourage oil companies themselves to go green has proven ineffective, the need to go to the source has increased drastically. In order to get the most change involving the climate, activists should devote their time and resources to lawmakers and political leaders to get regulations and constraints. Companies will have no choice but to listen and to make change.

# BALANCING BOOKS AND BUCKS

From fostering responsibility to honing essential skills, delve into the transformative powers of early work experiences in shaping high school students for their future endeavors. Start here with Oracle's guide to the first steps of earning your first job.

Compiled by Zoey Bahng, LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Bianca Naranjo, STAFF WRITER, photos courtesy of Ava Alvarez, Gianni Lomeli and Carlos Resurreccion

Let's start from the very beginning; searching for your perfect job. While high school's academics and extracurriculars can be tricky to work around, there are always ways to find a job that balances with your schedule and introduces you to important life lessons. Especially for students without a sixth period, using the extra time can be a great opportunity to earn yourself some money and valuable experience. Entry-level, part-time jobs as a cashier or server can be excellent first steps for high school students since they do not require a large time commitment and are easy to learn. Aside from your schedule, it is also essential to consider how your personality fits with the job. While a starter job does not have to be a lifelong commitment, it should offer you a fun, productive learning environment. For example, if you enjoy socializing often, make sure to look for jobs with frequent customer interaction or collaboration with coworkers. Now, when looking for potential job opportunities, it is important to keep an open eye—literally

and figuratively. Often, stores will advertise employment opportunities with physical posters or social media posts on Facebook and Instagram. Once you come across a job you would like to apply for, the process of applications, interviews and training awaits. Make your first impression to employers impeccable with a perfectly package professional resume! Building a resume is not only a crucial first step of any job application, but also a way to organize your strengths and accomplishments for future college applications. Professional resumes should seek to be as formal as possible; this means no icons, bright colors or playful fonts. All of your information should be neatly organized on one page in black and white, with any artistic variables limited to one muted color in an easy-to-read font like Arial or Times New Roman. Although it may seem bland, this is the universal standard for creditable resumes, as shown by Harvard and USC Viterbi's templates. If you want to better gauge how your resume should be formatted, these sources

provide excellent examples of professional layouts. As for the writing itself, you should place your highest accomplishments at the start, and structure them following the "Google XYZ" method, which is characterized by the structure of "Accomplished [X] as measured by [Y], by doing [Z]." X is the experience or activity, Y is a quantifiable measure of your impact, and Z is how you carried out this activity. This method conveys information in a simple yet effective manner, allowing you to show off your accomplishments in the most efficient way possible without selling yourself short. Not only does the degree and format of your achievements matter, but their general subject plays a large role in how your application is evaluated. For example, if you were applying for a tutor position, relevant academic interests and awards should be noted to illustrate your capabilities. By utilizing these trusted resources and taking smart steps, managing school and a job can become great opportunities for growth in a student's life.

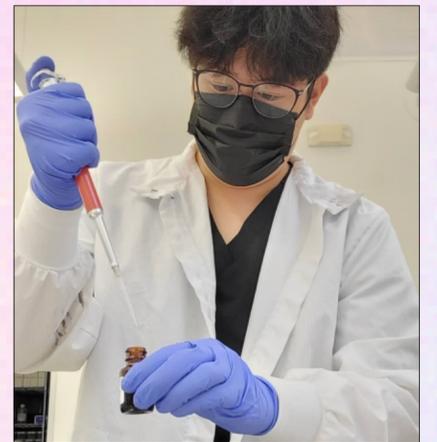


## AVA ALVAREZ PACSUN

For many high school students, working at their favorite fashion store to earn a wage and discounts is a dream come true. It is a common saying that if you do what you love, you will not work a day in your life. Junior Ava Alvarez feels this way with her part-time job at the well-loved retail company, Pacsun, commenting how fun and rewarding her job is. "I love working at Pacsun because of the work environment and how modern and trendy it is. It's super fun, it almost feels like I'm not working," Alvarez said.

## CARLOS RESURRECCION BACH DIAGNOSTICS

Carlos Resurreccion sparks his interest in pathology by working at Bach Diagnostics' laboratory. Attending the lab for long, weekly shifts, Resurreccion comments that the rigorous environment allows him to appreciate the hard work of health care workers and prepares him for a career as a scientist specializing in lab work. His job has also helped him find connections with doctors and research groups that will benefit him in his future STEM endeavors. Resurreccion emphasizes that a job can teach you competence and independence. "I think it's important to have a job in high school because it gives you that sense of accomplishment and responsibility," Resurreccion said.



## GIANNI LOMELI FRATELLINO'S RESTAURANT

Junior Gianni Lomeli works at his family's Italian restaurant, Fratellino's, operating as a jack-of-all-trades. He is adept in dishwashing, serving and hosting, which has established a thorough skill set for his future pursuits. Lomeli's schedule can get busy, as he is a student-athlete taking 2 APs, but he still finds time to balance his school, work and extracurriculars. In addition to these time management skills, Lomeli has learned how to value good communication and tap into a professional personality during his hours at work. "It is important to take pride in your work and what you do," Lomeli said.

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**EDUCATION**

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY** Cambridge, MA  
Bachelor of Engineering Expected May 2022  
Major in Computer Science, Minors in Mathematics and Psychology  
Cumulative GPA: 3.58/4.0, Dean's List 2018-2020  
Relevant Coursework: Software Engineering; Operating Systems; Algorithms; Artificial Intelligence

**HIGH SCHOOL** Boston, MA  
Memberships: National Honor Society, Key Club, Robotics Club  
May 2018

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**SOME ENGINEERING COMPANY** Los Angeles, CA  
Mechanical Engineering Intern Jun 2019 - Sep 2021

- Coordinated hydraulic testing of pumps to verify performance parameters such as total dynamic head, volumetric flow rate, and efficiency; directed post-test work instructions, increasing efficiency by 1-3%.
- Created pump quotation software using Excel VBA to configure and price vertical circulating water pumps; reducing the lead time of pump quotations by 80%.
- Analyzed \$10M of pricing data from domestic or overseas suppliers and determined supply chain decision making for pump components such as discharge heads, columns, casings, impellers, shafting, and bearings
- Designed \$3M in pumps from concept to production with CAD software such as Creo / ProEngineer

**ACTIVITIES**

**FORMULA SAE (SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS)** Cambridge, MA  
Chassis Design Sep 2018 - Present

- Founded the first ever engineering membership to design, build, and fabricate automobiles for 500 students
- Organized and advertised 10+ quarterly networking events with 300+ participants in 3 universities in Boston

**ENGINEERING HONOR SOCIETY** Cambridge, MA  
Committee Member Jan 2017 - Present

- Acted as general member of engineering honor society regarding top 10% in GPA; attended networking events, performed community service, and collaborate with other top performing engineering students
- Participated in 10+ quarterly networking events with 300+ participants in 3 cities in California

**UNIVERSITY PROJECTS**

**TENNIS RACKET** Feb 2020

- Designed a \$200 tennis racket into 3D CAD using SolidWorks through reverse engineering
- Performed Finite Element Analysis (FEA) on racket using operating conditions, resulted in an 98.7% accurate representation of the force being dissipated throughout the racket

**TRAFFIC SIGNAL** Jan 2019

- Designed and implemented optimal traffic stop light based on traffic data utilizing MATLAB
- Used various programming techniques to achieve completion of the project such as if/when statements and for/while loops to support city-wide intersection of 10,000+ vehicles daily

**ADDITIONAL**

**Technical Skills:** Advanced in CAD (SolidWorks, AutoCAD) JavaScript, HTML/CSS;  
**Programming Skills:** Proficient in MATLAB, Python  
**Languages:** Fluent in French, English; Conversational Proficiency in Japanese  
**Certifications & Training:** SolidWorks, AutoCAD  
**Awards:** Dean's List Multiple Semesters (2018, 2019, 2020)

### EX.) HARVARD

- Neatly structured with dividers between sections
- Categorized experiences
- 2-3 concise, efficient bullet points per experience
- All niche, relevant experiences for job

**Thomas Trojan**  
Los Angeles, CA • (123) 456-7890 • throjan@usc.edu • Linked In — Thomas Trojan

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**EDUCATION**

**University of Southern California** Expected Graduation May 20XX  
PhD in Environmental Science

**California State University, Los Angeles** May 20XX  
Master of Science in Environmental Science (GPA: 4.0)  
Concentration in Geospatial Science

**California State University, Los Angeles** May 20XX  
Certificate, Geographic Information Systems

**University of California, Irvine** June 20XX  
Bachelor of Science, Earth System Science  
Concentration in Hydrology and Terrestrial Ecosystems  
Minor in Global Sustainability

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**State Water Resources Control Board** June 20XX-Present  
Environmental Scientist

- Identify and investigate violations of the California Water Code, Clean Water Act, and permit requirements.
- Review Self-Monitoring Reports and other technical reports in accordance to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits, State Board's Sanitary Sewer System Wastewater discharge requirements, and other Regional Water Board orders.
- Conduct field and lab analysis in specimens to ensure compliance with regional water board orders and enforcement actions.
- Collect, process, and analyze field samples and conduct environmental research studies.
- Analyze physical, biological, and chemical factors relating to the control of water pollution and quality, and the management of surface and ground water.
- Prepare sampling documentation, materials, and supplies. Maintain sampling equipment.
- Prepare scientific reports and standard operating procedures.
- Organize and attend meetings with dischargers and all other government agencies.
- Investigate and monitor situations related to public complaints and inquiries.
- Write and update the Regional Water Board's Supplemental Environmental Projects.
- Assist the region's compliance team in developing and negotiating penalties and Supplemental Environmental Projects with dischargers.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory** June 20XX-September 20XX  
Intern - JPL Year-Round Internship Program

- Under the Aerosols and Clouds group, investigated the morphology of absorbing aerosols in the Southern California Troposphere focusing on aerosol vertical distribution and its relation to meteorological conditions.
- Compiled a climatological database of observations from Multi-angle Imaging Spectro-Radiometer (MISR), Cloud Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observations (CALIPSO), Aerosol Robotic Network (AERONET), and boundary layer height data from radiosonde balloons.

### EX.) USC VITERBI

- Selected broad experiences to further elaborate
- Effective explanations of accomplishments
- Easy to read, with professional font type and size
- Good organization of subheadings and dates

**JANE DOE**  
Graphic Designer

**ABOUT ME**

123-456-7890  
yourmail@domain.com

**EDUCATION**

(2000 - 2004) Lorem Ipsum Dolor  
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet  
(2006) Lorem Ipsum Dolor  
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet

**EXPERIENCES**

(2007 - 2008) Lorem Ipsum Dolor  
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**SKILLS**

Vector  
Branding  
Typography

### COUNTER EX.) GURU

- Lack of text substance and essential elaboration
- Multiple, bright colors that distract from text
- Ineffective "About Me" section
- Unprofessional, unsupported icons or graphics

# prom pic spots '24



1)



2)



3)



4)



5)

1) pirate's cove, newport beach  
 2) irvine heritage park  
 3) noguchi garden, costa mesa

4) panorama trail, fullerton  
 5) sherman library and gardens, newport beach

# Sugary Sweet Creations

Batter up! Juniors Audrey Yoo and Anh Nyguen are changing the lives of others through their sweet treats. Sink your teeth into their journeys and read below.

Compiled by Eileen Um, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Helen Fang, **STAFF WRITER**, photos courtesy of Anh Nguyen and Audrey Yoo

The chocolate aroma of brownies wafts through the air, interweaving with clouds of powdered sugar in an irresistible confectionery dance. Junior Anh Nguyen peers at her chocolate creations, face aglow with pride and the oven's light as she slides out her newest batch of sweet treats. With the constant support of her mother, Nguyen's baking passion has risen from its initial ingredients into her dessert company Perfect Sweets, a platform for her to give back to her community.



A love for food runs in the Nguyen family, beginning with her mother, owner of *Ti Dieu*, a Vietnamese street food business. Since she was a child, Nguyen recalls how her mother encouraged all of her creative endeavors, whether that

be slime or jewelry businesses in middle school. Through a cake course in Vietnam, Nguyen was introduced to the world of baking, a culinary craft she continued to hone during the pandemic by whisking together YouTube recipes and her ideas. Equipped with the experience from her past businesses, Nguyen founded Perfect Sweets, selling Cookie n Cream, Biscoff, Double Chocolate, Birthday Cake and customizable brownies to her customers.

"Trying recipes [allowed] me to see which ones I liked best," Nguyen said. "Over the years, I was able to perfect them, like the secret recipe in *Spongebob*."

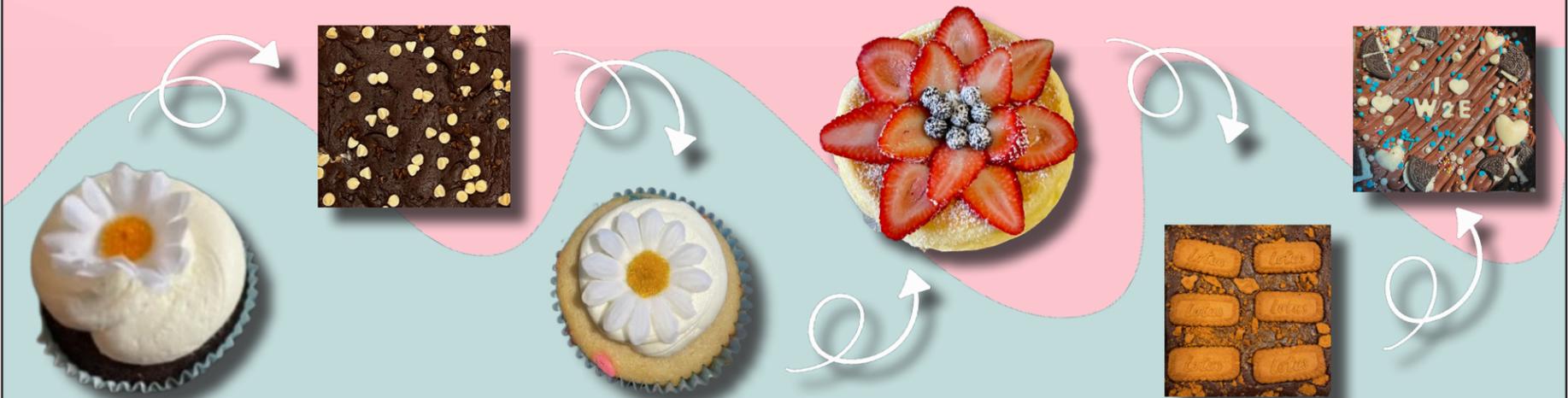
As she began making sales, Nguyen realized that her business could be used for social good. Determined to bring some sweetness into the lives of others less fortunate, Nyguen partnered with Temple Cam Phong in Vietnam through her business's Cakes for Compassion program sophomore year. Spending hours baking Japanese cheesecakes, through her batter, sugar and tears, Anh raised one thousand dollars in one week to donate to the orphans at the temple. Using the money to buy rice bags,

water, snacks and drinks, Nyguen was able to see the impact she was making firsthand as she interacted with the orphans and learned about the temple's history and humanitarian mission.

"Family means a lot to me," Nguyen said. "For these people without a family, they were able to build a community, and for me to give back was really meaningful."

Despite the lives that she has touched through Perfect Sweets, Nguyen feels that she still has room to grow. Although she will be busy with the Troy Tech internship this summer, Nguyen looks forward to spending more time baking. Nguyen is determined to give back locally, both through her brownie business and through farmers' markets or small vendor opportunities. Reflecting on the recipe of steps she took to arrive at where she is today, Nguyen urges others to pursue their interests, whether that may be their sweet tooth or simply, a hobby.

"Troy normalizes education and rigorous classes," Nguyen said. "But they tend to undermine the value of your passions. If you invest in them, they can become very important to you."



Swirls of frosting are piped onto freshly baked cupcakes, topped off with a signature daisy flower. Junior Audrey Yoo carefully packs each cupcake and ties a ribbon on with a flourish, ready to deliver a box of bliss to her customers. Co-founder of Daisy n Sugar, Yoo infuses each cupcake with her love for baking. Yoo's baking journey has flourished from a hobby into a business, an endeavor made possible by the constant support of her loved ones.

Throughout her childhood, Yoo enjoyed helping her mother in the kitchen. After watching her mother cook, Yoo began to experiment with different flavors and ingredients during quarantine. With a dream of opening her own cafe, the idea for a dessert business took root and eventually grew into Daisy n Sugar. Founded with her best friend Hailey Cho, they named their cupcake business after Cho's two dogs. While Cho excelled at management and marketing, Yoo honed her baking skills, balancing

just the right levels of sweet and buttery to create the perfect vanilla buttercream for her chocolate and Funfetti cupcakes.

"Food is such a nice way to share with others," Yoo said. "I love how relaxing it is and enjoy eating the results."

As the orders came in, Yoo began selling her baked goods about once every two months. Through firsthand experience as a business owner, Yoo learned where to buy high-quality supplies and the math behind each large batch of cupcakes. With the success of Daisy n Sugar, Yoo and Cho had the idea of using the profits to sponsor 12-year-old Munni in Bangladesh, who was born on the same day Daisy n Sugar was founded. Through the organization Compassion International, letters to Munni fostered gratitude in Yoo's own life, as she learned about the financial challenges children around the world are facing. Hoping to make even a small difference in Munni's life, Yoo donates about \$43 every month from her business's profit.

"Working as a business owner has prepared me for potential careers," Yoo said. "It showed me a little inside scoop into the industry and all the responsibilities you have to take on."

With the uncertainty of college looming ahead, Yoo is considering continuing the business during university breaks or passing the torch to underclassmen to maintain Daisy n Sugar. Happy with her business milestones, Yoo encourages others to take risks.

"I've always had ideas but never went after them," Yoo said. "Daisy n Sugar was the first idea that I pursued and it turned out really well. Whatever you want to do, just go after it."



# 降世神通 AVATAR THE LAST AIRBENDER

Despite our adoration for the original show, “Avatar: the Last Airbender” fails to take off in its latest revival. Read more to see Oracle’s take on Aang’s newest journey.

Compiled by Kaitlyn Zhang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Celeste Hollingsworth, STAFF WRITER, graphics courtesy of Netflix and Nickelodeon

Just as the Avatar is the last airbender, this should be the last attempt at recreating the acclaimed cartoon series, “Avatar: the Last Airbender.” In the fictional world of “Avatar: The Last Airbender” (ATLA), there are four nations, where each of which have the ability to control four different elements: fire, earth, water and air. At the start of the series, the fire nation is seeking complete control over the world. Aang, the Avatar who can control all elements, emerges from a 100 year slumber to beat the fire kingdom once and for all. Although this series is respectable compared to the previous widely panned live-action 2010 film, it falls short of replicating the essence of the original series. While the faithfulness to the source material makes for a tolerable watch, the remake is only a soft breeze compared to the whirlwind of emotions that left viewers hooked.

From the flash of flames at the hands of the enemy firebenders to the gentle flow of water guided by Katara’s hand, ATLA replicates the intricacies of the elements. The show excels at immersing the audience in a world where people can easily manipulate the elements. A huge piece of earth springs up out of the ground in less than a second, yet the transition between movements is seamless. The CGI develops the mystical ambience,

creating the familiar adventure feeling that is subdued in other aspects of the series. Regardless, the stunning CGI cannot bend the truth; every other aspect of the show is severely lacking.

The actors and writers could not meet the CGI half-way, leaving the remake struggling to replicate the aura of the original ATLA. A sharp contrast to the fantastic storytelling in the cartoon, the choppy, awkward phrasing creates peculiar dynamics between the characters. The original cartoon showcases a relatable sibling dynamic between Sokka and Katara, but they interact as though they just met. This takes away from the most beloved aspect of the series: the unreplicated feeling of childhood friendships. Rather than carefree exchanges, every word feels rigid, failing to convey the extent of the bonds between the characters. Although the writing quality puts the actors in a tough position, oftentimes their acting only amplifies their monotonous personalities. Even while trying to replicate Aang’s sunny disposition, Cormier comes off as ingenuine and robotic. As the actors struggle to fulfill their roles, the character depth that originally garnered admiration from audiences gets lost in the haze.

In addition to changing the character’s demeanors, the remake wipes out the nuances of each character’s personality.

Although Katara (Kiawentiio Tarbell) acts as a caretaker in the

original, she is still supposed to have a fiery personality. Coming off as one dimensional, she hardly shows any believable emotions in the remake. While she is still an asset to the mission, this passiveness in her personality overlooks her impact on the characters around her. Sokka (Ian Ousley), Katara’s brother, is significantly less conceited and belittling than he is in the first season of the cartoon. Under the guise of a positive change, the series neglects to convey to younger audiences the normality of character development. As Sokka doubts the abilities of women around him in an attempt to validate his masculinity, he finds himself surrounded by powerful, capable women. He becomes secure while getting rid of his outdated views. These complexities are what originally made this show more than just a ‘kids’ cartoon. Without the parallels to our own lives, the remake’s surface level character’s cause audiences to lose that special connection to the show.

ATLA will always hold a special place in fans hearts, and most will find themselves overlooking the weaknesses of the show due to the unique nostalgia it holds. Many fans have learned to appreciate this world and its unique spark. Even with the potential to make a brilliant recreation, this remake let the spark burn out.





LE SSERAFIM's international success did not come easy, but can they keep up the challenge? Read more to see Oracle's opinion.

Compiled by Kaitlyn Zhang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Kate Berger, STAFF WRITER, graphics by LE SSERAFIM

LE SSERAFIM did not meet their potential with "EASY." The k-pop girl group released their third extended play (EP) on Feb. 19, titled "EASY." In an effort to branch out, "EASY" discusses the false facade of effortless that the group takes on, and details how their rise to fame has not been "easy." The EP emphasizes the blood, sweat and tears that each of the five members has put into the band, along with how hard they have worked behind the scenes. "EASY" has positive intentions and lyricism, but the music itself is a definite downgrade from previous albums. As easy as LE SSERAFIM may make it seem, their admirable legacy is clearly difficult to uphold.

LE SSERAFIM has not been "SMART" with the new image they have taken on. The fourth track on the EP has been accused of being similar to Tyla's "Water," in that both songs use an afrobeat, a style of popular music that incorporates African jazz, soul and funk. The backtracks clearly stem from the same roots, down to the distinct drums and bold beat. Despite being comparable, the lyricism of the two songs are entirely different, and only the beginning of the songs sound alike. LE SSERAFIM's exploration of new genres should not call for plagiarism accusations as they traverse new styles to add to their discography.

Despite only having five songs, "EASY's" tracks are either a hit or miss with almost no room for an inbetween. Like their other albums,

"EASY" begins with a spoken-word interlude: "Good Bones," which is 2 minutes and 40 seconds too long. What sets this spoken-word interlude apart from LE SSERAFIM's previous ones, though, are the lyrics. Spoken in a unique blend of Korean, Japanese and English, the lyrics are heartfelt, but too repetitive and lacking in an interesting harmony to be an interlude. In contrast, the closing track, "We got so much," is an earnest song that pushes listeners into the throes of passion and self-growth. The lyrics explore the idea of breaking free from societal expectations and are the perfect example of "EASY's" lyrical genius. With polar opposite beginning and closing tracks, the album's inconsistency is clear.

Regardless of such negative aspects of LE SSERAFIM's "EASY," the EP does deserve to be recognized for its refreshing lyricism and positive intentions. "EASY's" refreshing lyrics are largely thanks to songwriting from the members themselves, a standout from their previous music. "Swan Song," the third song on the EP, showcases impressive and powerful diction. The contrast between the lyrics "black swan" and how imperfectly perfect LE SSERAFIM is emphasizes how the singers feel out of place, in the same way that a black swan may feel ostracized amongst a bevy of white swans. Following the chorus,

the second verse, "Countless days, countless nights, countless tears, sometimes I get anxious," pays homage to the title of the EP, "EASY," and its meaning. "Swan Song" is a triumph that discusses the countless struggles each member of LE SSERAFIM face, whether it is the spotlight, stress or anxiety.

Despite "Easy's" lack of flavor, the girl group deserves to be recognized for how they hid deep emotional meaning behind the inspirational EP that is "EASY."



concert  
updates

In addition to LE SSERAFIM's new releases, other music artists have been branching out and releasing new music as well, from popular, household names to lesser known, underground artists.



Olivia Rodrigo **guts**

**sweet boy**  
Malcolm Todd *pt. 1*



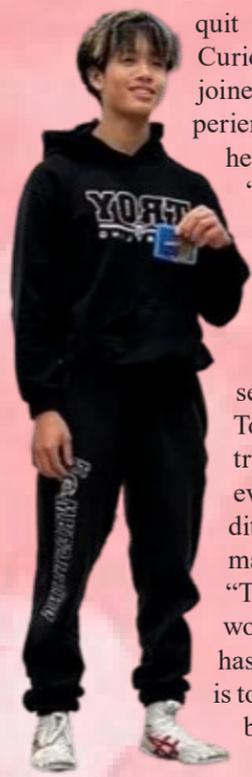
Drake **for all**  
*the dogs*

# WRESTLING WARRIORS

Learn about these record-breaking Warrior wrestlers and their journey to success!

Compiled by Tyler Cordova, **SPORTS EDITOR**, article by Kusuma Kothamasu, **STAFF WRITER**, photos courtesy of Ayden Pham and Mattrina Ifopo-Aisea

Struggling on the mat, attempting to pin opponents to the floor as the timer slowly clicks. After a tough fight, December's Athlete of the Month, sophomore Ayden Pham won League finals, earning him a fond memory—standing on the podium with his first place medal. Growing up indulging in various physical activities like jiu jitsu and travel ice hockey, Pham quit his sports due to their demanding hours.



Curious and in need of extracurriculars, Pham joined the wrestling team. With only one month experience at the time and weighing 116 pounds, he won against an 120 pound varsity wrestler.

"He leads by action," Coach Christian Nguyen commented. "He works hard. He'll push himself even on the days he doesn't feel like practicing, because that's the only way he could get better."

Winning first place in League and second place in the Ed Springs Holiday Classic Tournament, Pham set on his journey to become the best wrestler he could. To keep up with the demanding sport, Pham trains for three hours a day after school. However, when big tournaments are upcoming, he additionally runs four miles, and wrestles all-out matches with his teammates until he grows tired. "To succeed in wrestling, you have to be willing to work...[diligently] because the condition that your body has to be in physically [is] insane," Pham said. "The goal is to get as strong as possible relative to your weight, and because you have to put in so much work [to train], you have to be mentally willing to keep on going."

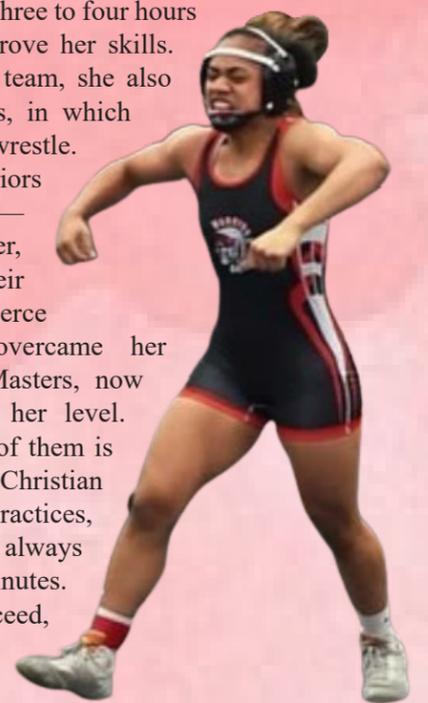
Senior Mattrina Ifopo-Aisea worked hard to earn her title as the first female wrestling CIF Champion in Warrior history. After joining wrestling by listening to school announcements about the team, Aisea struggled to improve in her sophomore year. However, after a tough fight, she began improving through her junior and senior years. "I think integrity, and accountability [are important to succeed at wrestling]," Aisea said. "Because at the end of the day, your team can help inspire you but it's up to you to put in the work to get better."

As a talented wrestler, Aisea works three to four hours a day in order to stay fit and improve her skills. Along with the Warrior Wrestling team, she also independently participates in clubs, in which she takes any given opportunity to wrestle.

Going into the season, the Warriors were aware of their competition—experienced teams. However, their token to victory was their mindset and effort. After a fierce competition last year, Aisea overcame her sense of not belonging at CIF Masters, now making her the best wrestler at her level.

"What separates her from the rest of them is that she always wants more," Coach Christian Nguyen said. "When we have our practices, she's always that one wrestler that always wants to squeeze in 10 to 15 more minutes.

She has that burn and desire to succeed, and that's a reason why she was able to be a CIF [Champion]."



# TARGETING SUCCESS

Junior Ella Li hits the bullseye in becoming an incredible archer. Read on to learn more about her, and the unique sport she competes in!



Compiled by Tyler Cordova, **SPORTS EDITOR**, article by Finley Dalley, **PUBLICITY**, photo courtesy of Ella Li

Junior Ella Li describes archery as a sport that involves both mental and physical training, strengthening her in every aspect of her life. Having begun in 2019, Li has grown up with the sport, and after taking a break during the COVID-19 pandemic, she returned to her bow and arrow more passionate than ever before. Li believes that, while she also likes other sports, she prefers archery because it is an athletic hobby that she enjoys while it simultaneously agrees with her other activities.

"I enjoy other sports, and I've done them before," Li said. "But I also play instruments, so archery is good because it's a safer option"

Li competes with HSS Sports Academy in Irvine. In this environment, she is surrounded by incredible, inspiring role models, including both her peers and her instructors, her coach being the 1984 Olympic Women's Individual Archery Gold Medalist, Hyang-soon Seo. Li finds this opportunity incredibly exciting and gratifying and feels as though it immensely improves how she trains.

"[Being coached by her is] really an honor, she understands all of us," Li said. "She knows exactly what we need to improve on."

Practicing consistently for about 10

hours a week, Li breaks up her practices into three different types, individual, private and team. In the individual sessions, Li repeatedly practices shooting. In the private practices she works one-on-one with her coach, and in the team sessions, she works alongside her teammates stretching, scoring, playing games and conditioning.

While archery is a year-long sport, Li's competition style changes based on whether she is competing indoors or outdoors. Li usually competes in four indoor tournaments and six outdoor

tournaments. These tournaments usually last two to three days, with about four hours of competition each day. She believes she has a good mix of travel and home competitions, destinations ranging from San Diego to Sacramento, although the national championships will often take place in different states, previously being held in Alabama and Ohio.

Li's past competitions have gone remarkably well. In her indoor national competition, she placed 12th out of 145 contestants. She celebrated not only this remarkable win but also the beginning of the outdoor season, her personal favorite between the two.

"Outdoors is a lot more fun than indoors because it is a further distance and you have all of the elements that go against you too," Li said.

With the upcoming season starting in April, Li looks forward to the incredible opportunities it presents, recognizing the incredible lessons it has taught her, and striving to continue to learn more.

"My favorite part about competing is the thrill. It's really a competition against yourself," Li said. "Each arrow is its own individual thing, if you mess up on one you can always do better on the next one, so it's really just a mental game."

