

# ORACLE

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## Spectacularly Suzume

With a scenic tour through Japan and a mischievous cat to capture, Makoto Shinkai's latest film keeps viewers on the edge of their seats. Read Oracle's take on Suzume's remarkable journey!

Compiled by Kaitlyn Zhang, ASSISTANT ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Kaitlyn Zhang, graphics courtesy of CoMix Wave Films and Menglow

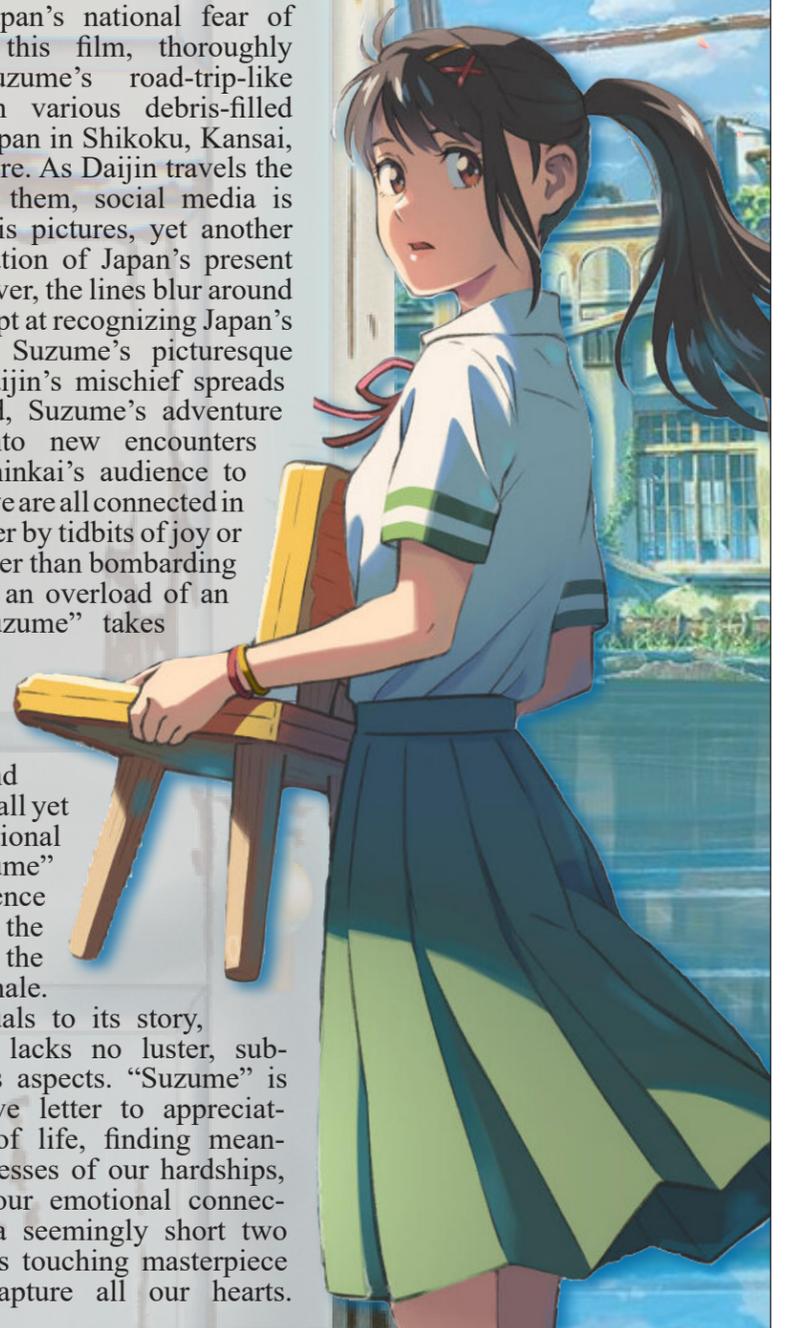
Captured by the glistens of a star-strewn sky and the serenity of autumn's fresh breeze, "Suzume" weaves catastrophe and starstruck love into the mundanity of daily life. Directed by Makoto Shinkai, the creator of stunning visual films "Your Name" and "Weathering With You," "Suzume" is another masterpiece once again focusing on the tragic natural disasters which strike Japan. Wonderfully illustrated, "Suzume" pulls viewers into its fast-paced portal of everyday charm through its surreal adventure.

Surrounded by cherry blossoms and the gleaming sea, the film follows its heroine, Suzume Iwato, through her ordinary yet scenic life. Haunted by memories of past natural disasters, her world is turned upside down by the resurrection of the portal doors to the realm of ancient mimizu, destructive earthworms responsible for the tremors that haunt Japan. By a chance encounter, Suzume meets Souta Munakata, a "closer" responsible for closing the portals and protecting the people of Japan. Moved by his attractiveness, Suzume follows him and interferes with his mission, removing a keystone statue disguised as a cat named Daijin. Officially opening the portals to immediate disaster, Suzume's luck runs thin as she curses Souta to turn into a three legged-chair in the process. As Daijin flees across the country, Suzume must travel with her new unconventional companion to prevent total destruction to her beloved home.

The secret to "Suzume's" beautiful on-screen storytelling lies within the animation and simplistic warmth of the film. Carefully manipulating each blade of grass and glimmer of sunlight, the film mimics that of a dreamlike remembrance following Suzume's journey with Souta through Japan. As seen in Shinkai's previous works, he paints each vibrant hue of the sky to reflect the emotions of the cast, allowing the scenery to do more than

just be a pretty backdrop. "Suzume's" waltz through catastrophe shines a ray of hope onto our own struggles and that of our world's unpredictable opportunities. Beautiful as both a coming-of-age tale and homage to a nation's distress, "Suzume's" true meaning shines through the mysteries entangling the otherworldly universe. Shinkai dives deeper into Japan's national fear of tremors with this film, thoroughly entangling Suzume's road-trip-like adventure with various debris-filled ruins around Japan in Shikoku, Kansai, Tohoku and more. As Daijin travels the land alongside them, social media is flooded with his pictures, yet another clever combination of Japan's present and past. However, the lines blur around Shinkai's attempt at recognizing Japan's mourning and Suzume's picturesque journey. As Daijin's mischief spreads across the land, Suzume's adventure throws her into new encounters and teaches Shinkai's audience to recognize that we are all connected in our lives whether by tidbits of joy or mourning. Rather than bombarding audiences with an overload of an adventure, "Suzume" takes its time on a winding path to truly build its meaning. Developing and weaving her small yet powerful emotional bonds, "Suzume" brings its audience to focus on the little things, all the way until its finale.

From its visuals to its story, Shinkai's film lacks no luster, sublime in all its aspects. "Suzume" is a romantic love letter to appreciating the pace of life, finding meaning in the processes of our hardships, recovery and our emotional connections. In just a seemingly short two hours, Shinkai's touching masterpiece manages to capture all our hearts.



INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE

### LIFESTYLE

With testing season quickly approaching, take a look at Oracle's favorite cafés to lock in and focus!



Page 6-7

### OPINION

Read our take on the recent transphobia toward Chris from MrBeast and what this could mean for Americans in the future.



Page 9

### SPORTS

Learn about freshman Helen Fang, figure skater, and her remarkable journey in becoming an exceptional athlete on the ice.



Page 11

# Behind the Beef

The frustration, anger and all-out hatred that stems from road rage has to start somewhere. Read more to delve into Amy and Danny's complex beef illustrated in the new Netflix show "Beef."

Compiled by Kaitlyn Zhang, ASSISTANT ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Jessica Chin, STAFF WRITER, graphics courtesy of Netflix

Meet cute? More like meet hate in the drama mini-series, "Beef." Unlike rom coms that begin with an adorable run in of the leads, A24 productions twists the well-known meet cute into the perilous meet hate. From their fateful meeting, audiences follow the rage induced shenanigans of Danny (Steven Yeun) and Amy (Ali Wong). Anxiety-inducing and captivating, "Beef" challenges the genre of comedy drama with a surprisingly deep take on road rage.

Beginning in an unassuming parking lot, Amy and Danny have their pivotal encounter. Backing out, Danny receives a long drawn-out honk and the bird from Amy. Frustrated, Danny drives

after her, leading him to memorize her license plate number and later desecrating her property. Seeking revenge, Amy also memorizes Danny's license plate, leaving a scathing review on his Yelp business. Their initiatives somehow become more deluded and manic, as they begin targeting the people closest to the other. The further they seep themselves into their malicious schemes, the wider the separation between their socioeconomic classes becomes apparent. Amy, who has married into a wealthy family, is individually successful with a bougie plant boutique, but ultimately unhappy preparing for a partnership with another wealthy business woman. On the other hand, Danny is a repair man living in a motel with his brother, struggling to make ends meet and to purchase a house for his parents. From opposite ends of the spectrum, they find their only connection: their hate.

Distinctly different from the hate in the show, critics and audiences love the antics in "Beef." Focusing on a nuanced but relatable issue, road rage, the mini-series offers a refreshing perspective about anger. Taking time to build a connection between audiences and the characters, the overwhelming hatred of both Amy and Danny feels validated. Yet, because audiences are aware of each character's entire perspective, neither character can justifiably be the protagonist. The tension of no real solution to Amy

and Daniel's beef emphasizes how both of their actions are overwhelmingly wrong. This is where "Beef" truly excels and entertains. Producers welcome the exploration of trauma and emotions, but refuse to validate actions that endanger others.

Stepping back from the road rage and the critics, "Beef" makes a startling statement about what it means to truly hurt others—hate only hurts the innocent. Danny wounds Amy by befriending her husband, becoming a fake friend who aids in the decision of ending his marriage to Amy. Also uninvolved in their spiteful relationship, Danny's brother is targeted by Amy, as she manipulates him against his own brother. With the comedic overlay and serious consequences to all of their actions, the creators simultaneously make a funny drama series and question audiences about anger. The dangerous antics of Danny and Amy are not highlighted as heroic or witty, but mocked for how ridiculous they are. The depiction of the vindictive dynamic duo not only targets the suspects of road rage and revenge, but also symbolizes the gap between their social economic classes. Contrasting the frivolous worries of the rich against the serious distress of the poor, producers analyze the root of anger and frustration from people of different social economic classes. "Beef" does not brush off feelings, bringing them to the center of the issue.

With an ending that perfectly embodies the series' message, "Beef" is a must-watch drama comedy. Trust us, you will have no beef with "Beef."



## LEGENDARY DISAPPOINTMENT

A new adventure awaits with the arrival of "Minecraft: Legends!" Dive into Oracle's take on the new journey.

Compiled by Kaitlyn Zhang, ASSISTANT ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Ishaan Arya, STAFF WRITER, graphics courtesy of Mojang

Eagerly anticipated by its diehard legions of fans, the half-baked nature of "Minecraft: Legends" is sure to disappoint many of the game's fans. The single best-selling video game to date, "Minecraft" is undoubtedly one of the world's most highly acclaimed video games. But unlike the main game's sandbox style of gameplay that the gaming community holds in astronomically high regard, the latest addition to the boundless Minecraft universe fails to capture the original game's magic.

Minecraft was first developed in May 2009 with the Java language by Notch, but did not become the household name it is today until the Alpha Updates. These updates came in rapid succession, each adding foundational features that players today could not live their best "Minecraft" life without. Today, it is inarguably the biggest video game in the nation today. From annual updates to Youtube videos, to the entirety of the Dream SMP back in 2020, Minecraft is only getting bigger. With "Minecraft," the possibilities of what a player can build are limitless. Over time, creator Mojang has tried to recreate this success, or at least capitalize on it with the addition of more Minecraft games. From "Minecraft: Dungeons" to "Minecraft: Story Mode," "Minecraft:

Legends" follows suit, only earning mild success.

In June of 2022, the trailer for "Minecraft: Legends" dropped on Youtube to much fanfare and excitement. Gamers happily pre-ordered and awaited the next entry of the Minecraft franchise with eager anticipation. The trailer looked stunning, with great visuals and an exciting story that brought the Nether into the Overworld, a never before seen event. Armies of mobs, from farm chickens to wolves, allied with the main character to fight the incoming forces of the Nether, the Minecraft version of the Underworld. It was a highly anticipated announcement, especially for a community hungry for content since its latest update.

The biggest mistake seems that instead of looking at the action-strategy game through the Minecraft lens as they should have, the creators attempt to force "Minecraft" into the campaign game mold. This results in a largely uninspired product that is certainly entertaining, but could have reached a greater potential. Many critics agree that while the visuals are stunning as always and the gameplay mechanics serviceable, the game is held back by its limitations on the player's freedom and control. These two aspects of gameplay are absolutely crucial to the success of "Minecraft: Legends." While, understandably, there needs to be boundaries placed and a provided storyline for this game to work as an action-strategy game, the creators should have taken a completely different approach.

Even with all of its shortcomings, "Minecraft: Legends" is sure to be a sufficiently fun playthrough. At the end of the day it is still a standard campaign game with the graphics and controls of "Minecraft," just without the details that make "Minecraft" special in our hearts. "Minecraft's" expansive online following deserves an installment on par with other popular action strategy games, not just a cute add-on to the Minecraft franchise players will eventually leave to collect dust.



# Warrior South Asian Student Association performs at Orange County culture show

This Warrior club exhibited South Asian culture through dances, songs and a fashion show.

By Rachel Kang  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Representing Troy for the first time, the Warrior South Asian Student Association participated in a cultural showcase hosted by Orange County SASA at Chinmaya Mission in Tustin April 23.

Newly formed in the 2022-2023 school year, Warrior SASA explores customs from throughout South Asia. The club introduces Warriors to different aspects of South Asian culture through various events centered around food, dance and art.

In a collaborative event with other schools, Warriors participated in the OC SASA Culture Show which featured dancing, singing and a fashion show with an intent to raise funds for initiatives to create change and reform through education in rural communities in Asia. A group of nine club members performed three dances to South and North Indian fusion songs “Saranga Dariya,” “Gulaabo” and “The Breakup Song.”

To prepare for the showcase, the team practiced twice a week led by student choreographers Avishi Bansal, Manasi Narsina and Prakruthi Praveen. Invited for the first time, the group wanted to demonstrate its skills through a flawless performance, club president Kaushik Kasturi said.

“Starting in early March, we have been practicing every other day to perfect our dances,” Kasturi said. “Although I felt kind of nervous since we really needed to make an excellent first impression, I was confident in our ability to perform when it counts.”

In order to compose the dances, the choreographers first divided the routines into two styles, classical Indian steps and modern Bollywood and hip-hop steps, to include elements of traditional South Asian dances with a modern twist for appeal. According to lead choreographer Manasi Narsina, the club formulated a storyline for the dance to “The Breakup Song” to engage the audience.

“It was very fun to work with [the storyline] concept and wrap the choreo around it,” Narsina said. “Working together with friends is always such an enjoyable experience as we are able to put our ideas together when we’re stuck and provide constructive feedback on each other’s choreography, and I look forward to continuing to dance and choreograph with them next year as well.”

Despite being a small group, team members came together and dedicated hours of practice to perfect their performance, Narsina said.

“There were not too many challenges in the dance preparation. However, working around our schedules and trying to involve more people can often be a struggle,” Narsina said. “We hope to get more members to join in the upcoming years to truly show off the vibrance and fullness of our culture.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF SASA BOARD

**DANCING TO DAZZLE:** Juniors Avishi Bansal, Shuvashree Basnet, Kaushik Kasturi, Manasi Narsina and Prakruthi Praveen; sophomore Soham Dev; freshmen Anisha Kumaarevelu, Piranavee Pirathiviraj and Jashvita Veeramalla.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF EVENTBRITE

# National Honor Society volunteers with Love Fullerton to clean Gilbert Community Center

The Love Fullerton service event in honor of Earth Day enabled students to give back to the community.

By Nathan Chao  
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to improve the exterior landscape of the Gilbert Community Center, the Warrior National Honors Society participated in the Love Fullerton service event April 22.

As one of the 100+ partner cities associated with the Love Our Cities non-profit organization, Love Fullerton seeks to inspire through environmentally-focused community service. Alongside other community projects, Love Fullerton hosts a project with the Gilbert Community Center each year.

While NHS has partnered

with Love Fullerton in previous years, this was the club’s first conjoined service event since the start of the pandemic. With shared values of giving back to the community and proximity to the Warrior community, NHS cooperated with Love Fullerton to provide club members with a service project with a real-world impact, co-president Ethan Wei said.

“When deciding whether or not to partner with a certain service organization, NHS considers how local the opportunity is as we try to be a grassroots organization,” Wei said.

“We believed that Love Fullerton would be a great way for our members to get in touch with Fullerton

and witness the tangible impacts of their service firsthand.”

During the planning process, NHS adviser Kasey Grant and co-presidents William Song and Wei rediscovered Love Fullerton through researching previously NHS-partnered service organizations. After conducting a brief lunch meeting in Room 309, the NHS board unanimously agreed to host the event for its members.

At the event, 30 volunteers built community garden planter boxes, filled garden boxes with dirt and mulched garden areas. Participants also trimmed bushes, cleaned the center’s perimeter and ramp. For their efforts, participants

received a free shirt as well as refreshments and snacks. At the end of the event, the Gilbert Community Center hosted an afterparty and provided everyone with a free lunch.

After noticing a complete transformation of the community center following the service event, participants felt satisfied with their efforts, Wei said.

“We all got to witness the difference that a few hours of work could make on our local community,” Wei said. “Realizing how simple it is to help others with even the smallest gestures inspires us to continue giving back.”

Since the organization provides a unique opportunity for students to help out directly with the local community, the club hopes to make the event an annual tradition, Wei said.

“After hours of cleaning the community center up and planting new plants outside, seeing everything improved upon by us was truly rewarding,” Wei said. “It makes me excited about the impact of NHS’s future service events with Love Fullerton down the road.”



CARTOON COURTESY OF ALICIA YOON

# Warrior Esport teams compete in playoff week for Overwatch, League of Legends and Valorant

Three teams played against other high schools in the Youth Winner's Circle Tournament and High School Esport League Spring Major.

By Iman Babiker  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LOGOLOOK AND WIKIMEDIA COMMON

## Overwatch 2

After placing in the top 32 teams in the western division, the Overwatch 2 team played in the qualifying round of the Overwatch 2 Youth Winner's Circle Tournament April 11.

Hosted by high school Esports company Generation Esports, the tournament invites high school teams from across the country to compete in a series of elimination rounds. Teams queue up virtually at specified times and undergo eight matches, after which the top 32 compete in the elimination round.

Navigating busy schedules and online scrimmages, the team worked hard to build a strong team dynamic while exploring various strategies. According to team captain Ronald Lac, the key to a well-played round is communication and the interpersonal skills that arise from the team experience.

"Being knowledgeable about the game is an important factor, but teamwork is definitely really [crucial]," Lac said. "At the end of the day, even if we [win] or lose, we have just become better friends."

## League of Legends

The Varsity League of Legends team competed in the Youth Winner's Circle Tournament April 12.

League of Legends is a multi-player online battle arena video game in which teams aim to strategically destroy the Nexus base of opponent teams before theirs is destroyed. In a match, two teams of five champion with unique abilities face off, each of which gain strength by gaining experience points, earning gold or purchasing items to help defend their territory and approach the enemy Nexus.

According to senior Matthew Chang, players must be familiar with how to play their specific character as well as effectively utilize the minimap. Communication and team coordination are also crucial to team performance, Chang said.

"The team has bonded pretty well. Everyone has gotten to know each other by playing together [throughout the season]," Chang said. "It is really fun to not just play a game you enjoy, but at the same time work with some amazing people who share the same passion."

## Valorant

After competing in the regular season for a month, the Varsity Valorant team competed in the quarterfinals of the High School Esport League Spring Major '23 tournament April 18.

In order to qualify for the tournament's playoffs, teams must place in the top 48 teams and win approximately six out of eight games during the regular season. The Warrior team placed in the top 40 teams, qualifying them for playoffs and allowing them to compete at the quarterfinals

after which they faced a loss.

Valorant is a tactical five vs. five first-person-shooter game where teams must defend or attack objectives to hold as many as they can for as long as possible. According to team captain Nathan Busbin, the team utilizes everyone as a leader of their respective responsibilities.

"[We] focus on playing the same way we practice," Busbin said. "[The team] focuses on improving every day. If you get one percent better every day, in a hundred days, you will be a hundred percent better."

# Warriors submit art in OLC initiative

The gallery enabled artists to explore new styles of painting as well as share their pieces with a wider audience under a common theme.

By Neya Jakan  
ASSISTANT MANAGEMENT

In honor of Earth Day, the Open Lid Collective collaborated with the Aquarium of the Pacific to host their first art exhibition event for the Teen Climate Fest- Earth Day Festival at the Aquarium of the Pacific Gallery April 22.

OLC is a youth artist collective founded by sophomore Zoey Bahng which aims to create collaborative spaces in order to empower youth creatives across Orange County. Through workshops, artists discovered resources, and shared artistic goals for the year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZOEY BAHNG

**SNACKS AND CRAFTS:** Warriors prepared for the OLC gallery while enjoying snacks in the art room.

In the weeks leading up to the exhibition, members created nature-themed artwork and attended a pre-gallery workshop April 14 to submit their work and create art labels. On the day of the event, artists visited the Aquarium of the Pacific to view their artwork displayed in the gallery from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Created by Warriors and other young artists in Orange County, 22 works of art were featured at the gallery with a variety of mediums such as acrylic and watercolor. According to junior Emily Oh, every work of art has a deeper meaning beneath the image it portrays on the canvas.

"A long time ago, I heard that parent crabs have to move on from shell to shell as they grow, so my drawing is supposed to symbolize the movement and development of humanity," Oh said. "Even though [my artwork] is just one piece, as more people submit to galleries, it helps them grow and it can be an outlet for broadening art styles."

For youth creatives who strive to showcase their artwork, the organization aims to bridge the gap between a formal gallery setting while maintaining an atmosphere in which students can express themselves and explore new art styles, Maghzi said.

"Any number of submissions into OLC inspires anyone who is willing to put their artwork out there," Maghzi said. "It is a really good way to get people, especially high schoolers, to take their work to the next level."

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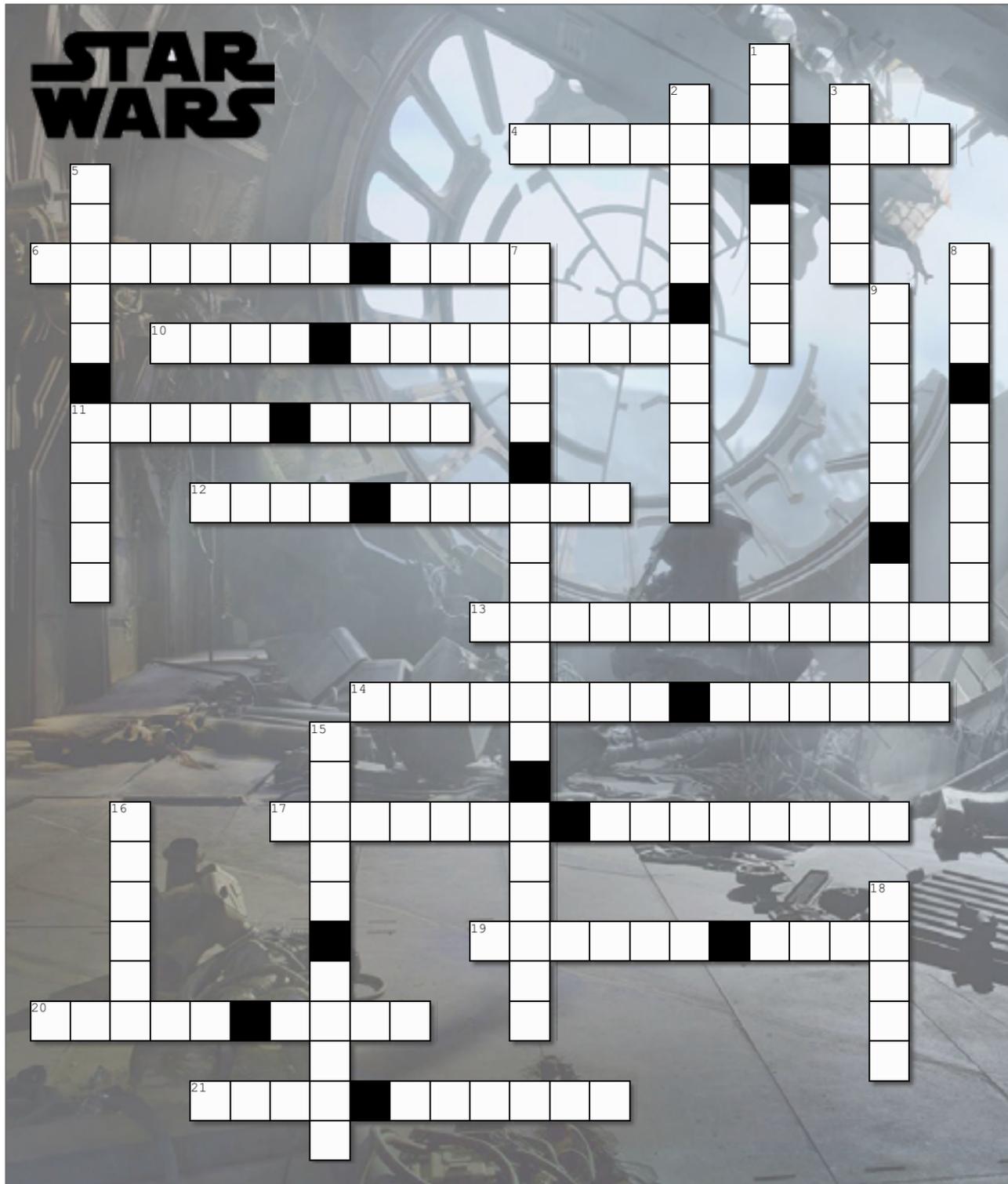
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# TROY HIGH SCHOOL



### Puzzle Hints:

**Across**

- 4. "In my book, experience outranks everything."
- 6. In "Star War Legends," a race hailing from the Unknown regions that fought against the New Jedi Order
- 10. Main protagonist of the Original Star Wars Trilogy
- 11. Mr. Gonzalez's favorite Star Wars character
- 12. Luke's Sister and the Leader of the Resistance
- 13. Anakin famously had 20,000 \_\_\_\_\_ per cell
- 14. On Tatooine, this stretch of land served as a proving ground for podracers and skyhopper pilots
- 17. The codename of the Death Star in "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story"
- 19. Character in "Star Wars Rebels," Mandalorian of Clan Wren
- 20. Sith Lord who created the Rule of Two
- 21. Savior of the Star Wars Franchise, directed, "Star Wars: The Clone Wars"

**Down**

- 1. Harrison Ford said "I know"
- 2. Previously a legends character from Knights of the Old Republic, this famous dark lord was canonized in Star Wars Episode 9
- 3. Baby Yoda's real name
- 5. One of the Lost Twenty, Jedi Master of Qui-Gon Jinn
- 7. Teased in episode 7 of "The Mandalorian" and the main villian of "Star Wars Rebel" season 3
- 8. Protagonist of the recently released game Star Wars Jedi: Survivor
- 9. Jedi apprentice of Anakin Skywalker, codename: Fulcrum
- 15. Antagonist of the Star Wars original trilogy
- 16. Mandalorian armor is famously made of this material
- 18. Homeplanet of the adorable ewoks



## SUDOKU PUZZLE

Have some spare time? Challenge yourself with these puzzles!

Compiled by Kira Chen and Mary Kim, ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEFS, and Brian Woo, OPINION EDITOR, puzzles courtesy of TheTeachersCorner, elcivics and Sudokuweb

5	1				4		7	2
4						6	1	
9	6			1			8	4
	8	1	4			5	2	7
		2	1	5			6	8
6		5	7		8	1	3	
1			2		5		4	
8					7	2		1
2			6		1	7		3

# SIPS AND STUDIES

AP tests and finals are coming fast, and there is nothing Warriors need more than a peaceful place to be productive. Read below to find out more about the best local cafés to find your next study haven.

Compiled by Zoey Bahng, ASSISTANT LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Joey Kelly, STAFF WRITER, graphics by Canva



## Made Coffee

The vibrant yellow accents and cheerful lights of Made Coffee speak for themselves—setting the scene for an impeccable study environment that buzzes with a focused flurry. This café is a true academic haven: free wifi for all patrons, well-kept restrooms and a perfect amount of background noise to help the studying process. With plenty of comfortable chairs, a variety of tables and a large window bathing the café in natural light, Made offers a spacious but cozy atmosphere for students to find their focus. Against a tastefully tiled backdrop, the menu boasts of specialty coffee, matcha and pastries, all of which are praised for the depth and richness of their flavors. The staff is accommodating and kind, willing to adjust orders according to the customer's preferences. Once students have their work finished, they can also explore the café's surrounding shops, thrift stores and restaurants.

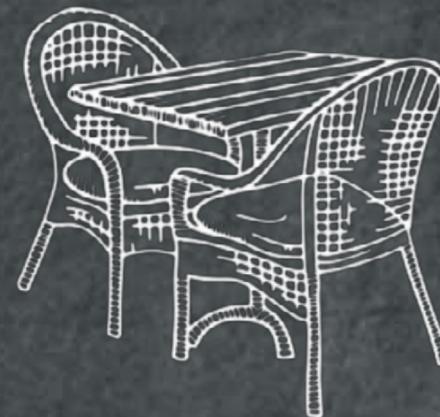
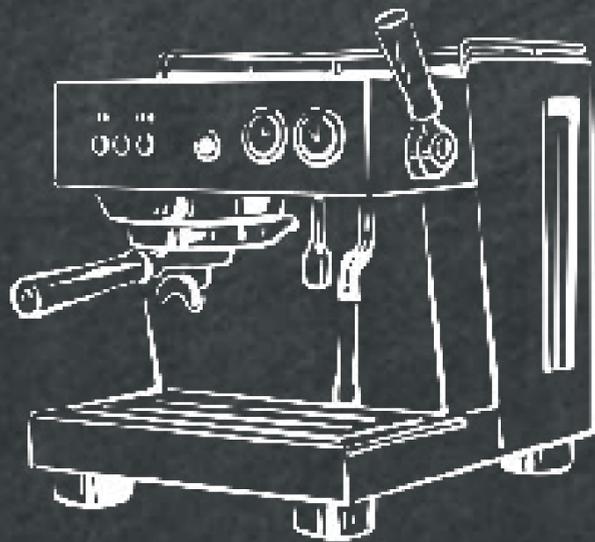
107 W. Amerige Ave., Fullerton, CA, 92832



## The Night Owl

Tucked in the of the Downtown Fullerton bustle, The Night Owl's softly humming productivity is a refreshing change of pace. The café's aesthetic has an alternative take on the typical minimalism of coffeehouse decor, with eccentrically patterned drapes and lamp shades complementing the well-worn wood tables and chairs. It has the perfect atmosphere for a group project or study group to meet, with several large tables and enough background noise to mask miscellaneous conversations. Living up to its name, The Night Owl has cozily subdued lighting, fostering a warmth that allows students to settle comfortably into their work, perhaps with a selection from the café's refined repertoire of cappuccinos, lattes, espresso and pastries. Due to a lack of WiFi, this spot caters best to those whose agendas are centered around writing, thinking or reading.

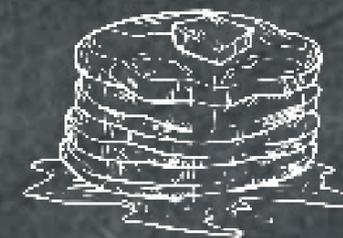
200 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton, CA, 92832



## The Mugs

One of the best focus-zones in town, The Mugs has an abundance of study spaces, with a cheerful atmosphere to boot. This corner coffee shop's atmosphere is bright and welcoming, with friendly baristas behind the counter and potted plants lining the shelves. An upbeat yet mellow background music swirls throughout the café as students persist through their studies. For satiated studying, their menu has a wide selection of lattes, tea and flavored milks, pairing well with their scones and cookies, all of which are made fresh every day. With a scrumptious snack in hand, students can pick their ideal study spot—for some, this can mean a cozy felt armchair near the sunlit window, while others might prefer a barstool with countertop space for optimum focus. The Mugs' atmosphere is an ideal place for students who need full engagement in their studies, and is a great spot to get in some conceptual work, especially for a science or foreign language class, as distractions are so minimal. Despite being a popular study spot, The Mugs is never overly crowded on weekdays, preserving a calm space for all scholars seeking serenity.

444 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton, CA, 92832



## Smoking Tiger Coffee Lab

With a crisp chill and the scent of matcha in the air, Smoking Tiger Coffee Lab takes the cake (or croissant) for the café with the most focused ambiance. Long tables with stools, cozy couches and outdoor patio seats give students the opportunity to choose from varied study spots based on their mood or scholastic needs, with several outlets spanning the walls to let them keep devices recharged for as long as their to-do lists demand. Smoking Tiger is also known for signature drinks like the Smoking Spaniard and the Fireplace Latte, adding to its productive and delicious studying experience.

106 W. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA, 92832



# The rampant transphobia toward Chris from MrBeast encourages dangerous misinformation

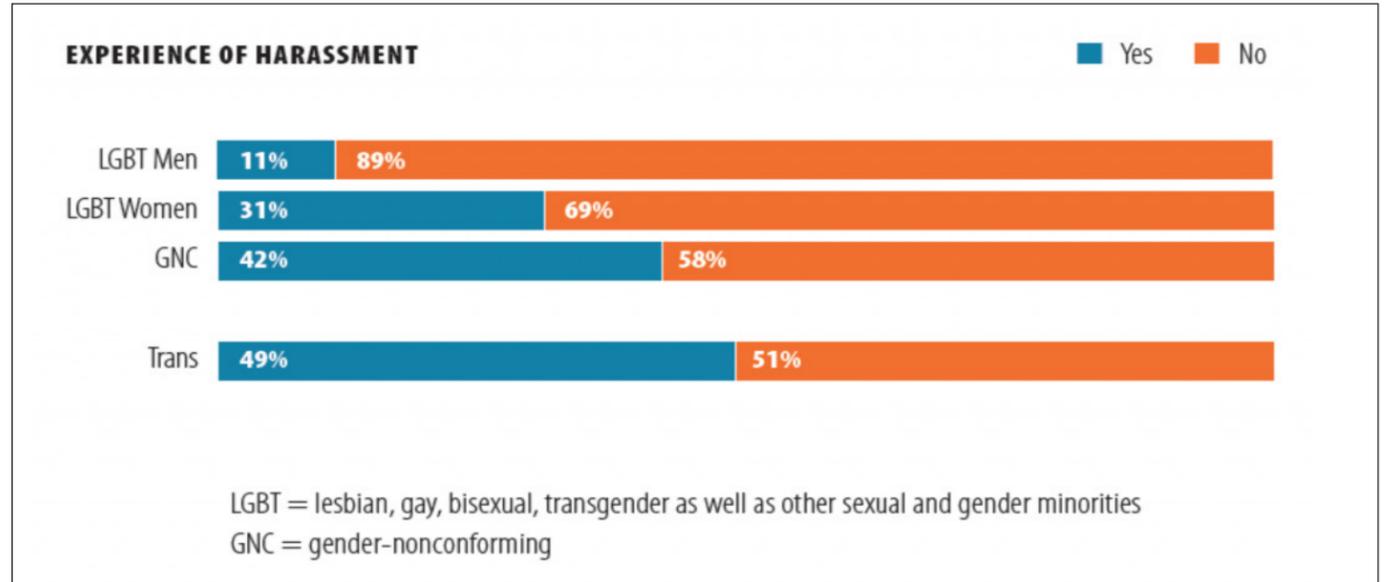
By Joelle Cheeseman  
STAFF WRITER



The erasure of trans people is being made visible like never before.

On April 5, well-known crew member of the MrBeast YouTube channel Chris Tyson tweeted that they are undergoing hormone replacement therapy. Tyson was immediately met with widespread transphobic comments and wild accusations of ruining MrBeast’s career, abandoning their family, grooming their son and much more. Along with the skyrocketing number of anti-transgender bills being introduced in America, the discouraging sentiment toward Tyson’s transition raises concerns for the livelihood of trans content creators. Although transitioning can be a drastic change for a person and their peers, the lack of respect for Tyson’s personal life and decisions perpetuates the dehumanization of trans individuals.

The insensitive responses to Tyson’s tweet uphold the constant disrespect toward queer influencers’ off-screen lives. YouTube controversy commentator, SunnyV2, gained widespread attention after posting a response video, “Why Chris Will Soon Be a



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Nightmare for MrBeast,” as the video speculated how Tyson’s transition is selfish in nature since their shift in character would be detrimental to the MrBeast YouTube channel’s viewership. While it is easy to perceive influencer personalities as crafted characters for entertainment, queer influencers like Tyson are not fictional Hollywood actors, but real human beings, and viewers cannot dictate what happens in YouTubers’ lives.

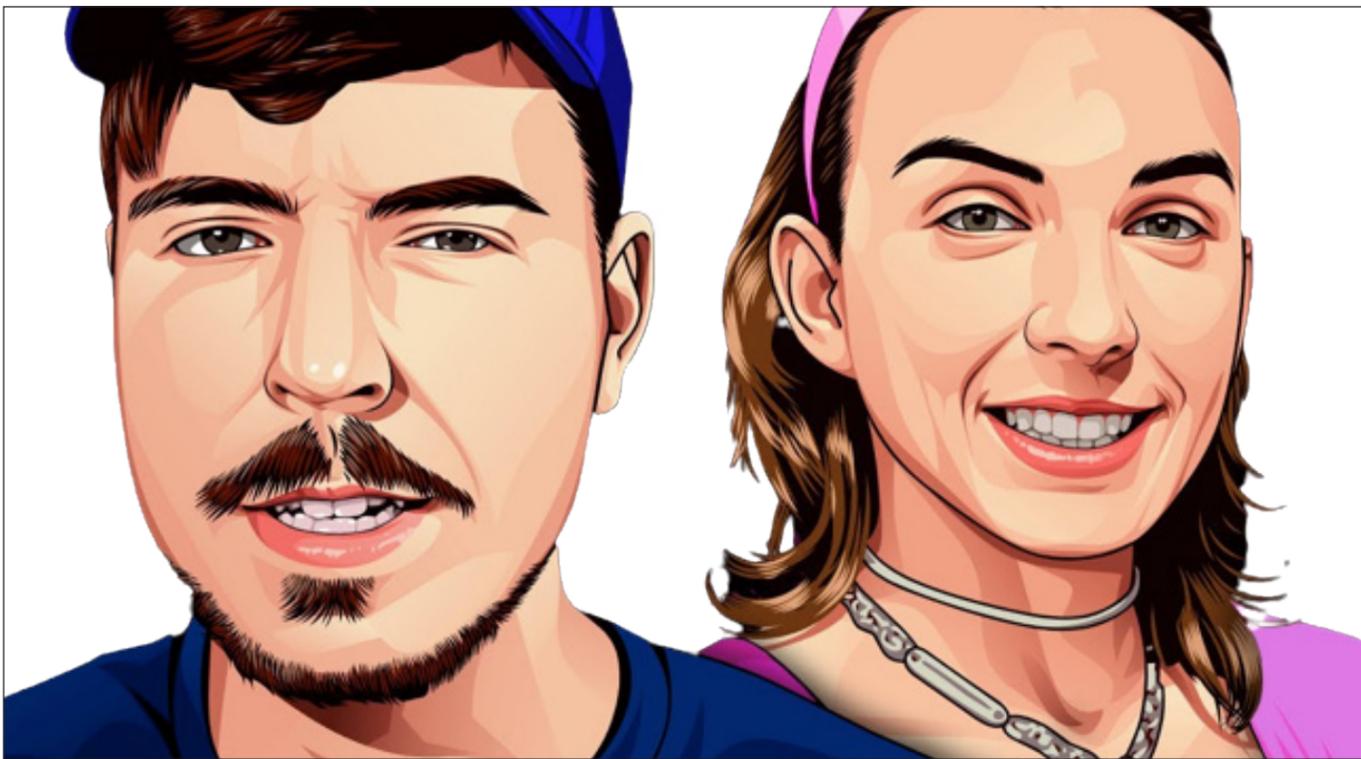
Moreover, many of the accusations toward Tyson are not only false, but also reinforce harmful stereotypes equating trans people as dangerous

to children. Under a photo of Tyson’s son dressing up in sparkly high heels, viewers accused Tyson of grooming their son. To compare “grooming,” which involves sexual assault to dressing one’s child in feminine clothing, is completely inaccurate. When queerness is considered inherently sexual, trans people are then considered dangerous, creating the slippery slope toward transphobia that we see now. Equating them to child abuse is deceptive and misinterprets what grooming actually means.

Although some may not see the harm in what appears to be

expressing one’s personal beliefs, as anti-trans sentiment finds its way into legislation, the spread of these slanderous stereotypes can seriously impact the freedom and safety of trans people. According to Trans Legislation Tracker, in 2023 alone, there have been 496 anti-trans bills introduced in the United States. For example, a California assemblyman recently introduced Assembly Bill 1314 which would require school districts to notify parents if their child identifies as a gender which does not align with their birth certificate, endangering students who do not have supportive parents. When witnessing the massive rise of anti-trans legislation, it is essential that lawmakers realize their votes translate to people’s lives. The public should not be complacent with the growing prejudice against trans people like Tyson since it ultimately supports life-threatening legislation.

Trans influencers deserve the same privacy and respect as anyone else. Furthermore, no matter what personal views someone holds about gender transitioning, false accusations and misinformation is not an appropriate or productive way to communicate one’s opinions. With dozens of new anti-trans legislation being introduced, restrictions toward trans people’s expression and freedom are quickly turning dangerous and transphobia should no longer be tolerated.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF YOUTUBER SUNNYV2

Farewell Readers by Kaila Perlas and Pearl Yoon



# Congress needs an age limit to end mental and physical drawbacks

By Edyn Mai  
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR



An age limit in the government is imperative to efficient progress in congress.

California Senator Dianne Feinstein was diagnosed with shingles, hospitalized in late February and released on March 7. As of April, Feinstein is still out for shingles; her recurring absences have prevented her from finishing her work properly, creating issues for the government. At age 89, Feinstein's aptitude is reasonably being questioned, as well as the topic of age limits on government as a whole. Feinstein and members in similar situations need to step down and recognize their age hinders their abilities. While seniority is usually associated with wisdom and respect, age limits must be added to Congress for an effectively run government.

Allowing older members to be in Congress poses possible risks to efficiency. Just as seen with Feinstein, older adults are undeniably more vulnerable to health complications and strain from work. Furthermore, these adults are high-risk individuals, and they are more likely to catch and spread

"America cannot spare the missed time and valuable hours that can be missed due to age-induced illness."

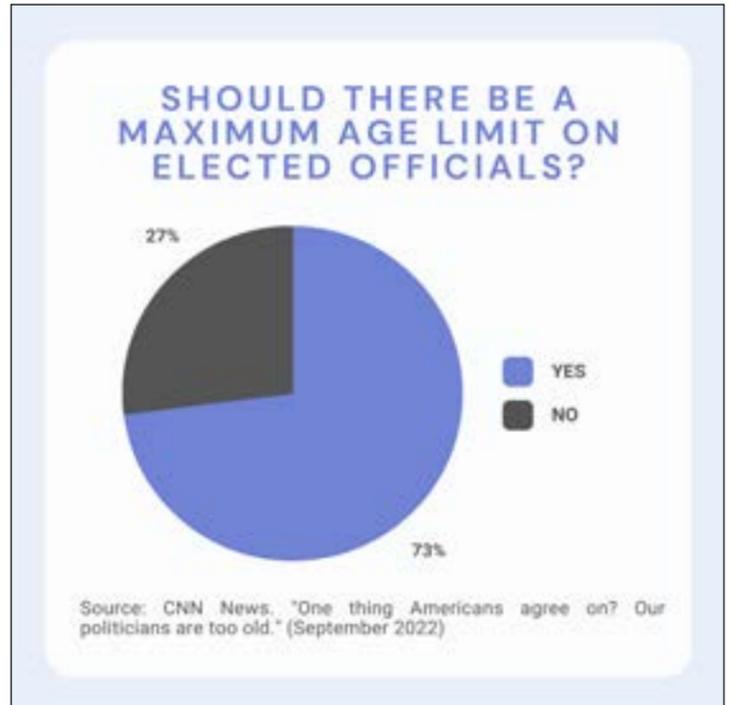
illnesses. The high possibility of hospitalization or bed rest threatens the work that can be done compared to a healthy, younger person with more stamina. According to The New York Times, Feinstein missed 58 senate votes due to her illness. But Feinstein is only one of the many examples of what can happen to any older congress member. America

cannot spare the missed time and valuable hours that can be missed due to age-induced illness. There must be an age limit in Congress to maximize productivity.

The lack of an age limit in Congress has caused outdated thinking in the government, creating an apparent bias. Even over the past few decades, thinking has changed significantly regarding everyday life. For instance, this can be seen from the congressional hearing revolving around TikTok CEO Shou Chew in late March. The speakers on the floor constantly asked Chew to repeat his answers when explaining what TikTok is and how the app works in elementary terms. Many younger viewers of the hearing described Congress members as ignorant and utterly oblivious to current culture and behavior. Their improper understanding of contemporary media and culture is exceptionally harmful, and Congress must have an age limit to prevent it.

Congress must also have an age limit to make room for new members in Congress. With an average age of 60 years old for Democratic members and 58 years old for Republican members, Congress underrepresents most younger individuals. Many Americans are losing hope in their incumbent

members, with only 21% truly believing their representatives deserve reelection, which is an all-time low for the U.S. Although many Congress members may have had plenty to add at the time of their election, what they have to offer ends as time passes. Unfortunately, the older, less competent members of Congress take up spots for any new members. It can only be assumed that the current, more senior members no longer satisfy America's wishes. Americans are waiting to elect new



GRAPHIC BY SOPHIE CHEN

blood into Congress, and the age limit would expedite this process. The possible damages that old age poses to the American government must be prevented by a set age limit for one's term. There is a significant skew in age, leaning towards the older generations, that must be fixed. Younger representatives are rising to the challenge, and the current older ones need to step down. Politics is very stressful, and there comes the point where age takes a toll on one's abilities.

# Trump's indictment shows that politics and justice do not mix

By Brett Larsen  
STAFFWRITER



Donald Trump is being indicted solely because he is a controversial figure.

Former President Donald Trump was indicted by a New York grand jury with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records on March 31, making Trump the first former president in history to face criminal charges. As to be expected, the event has sparked a wave of controversy from both Trump's political allies and rivals alike, with Trump defenders dismissing the case as a political witch hunt, while Trump opponents have labeled it a step in the right direction to restoring law and order. Regardless of your opinion of the former president, it is important to realize that the case brought against him is incredibly weak and marks a new low in American politics.

At its core, the case against Trump is nothing more than a political stunt contrived by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, the prosecutor bringing the case against him. The latter was made evident during Bragg's

district attorney campaign, in which he boasted about suing the Trump administration "more than a hundred times," the Washington Examiner reports. This extreme arrogance is extremely concerning, as his entire purpose seems skewed. He even pledged to hold Trump "accountable" in order to win over Manhattan voters. Now that he is the Manhattan DA, he is fulfilling his campaign promise. However, given that the focus of Bragg's campaign was more about the former president rather than his plan to serve the citizens of Manhattan, it is clear that his primary aim has always been to take down Trump.

Rather than serving Manhattan by enforcing local laws, Bragg is aimlessly focusing on a political ploy. It is obvious that Bragg has failed to get his priorities straight—a common trend among those in office at the moment. While promising to prosecute Trump for minor business record violations, Bragg has pledged not to prosecute other crimes such as prostitution, resisting arrest and trespassing without a stalking charge, according to a Jan. 3, 2022 memo provided by his office. According to the New York Times, major crimes rose by 22% in 2022 compared to 2021, demonstrating

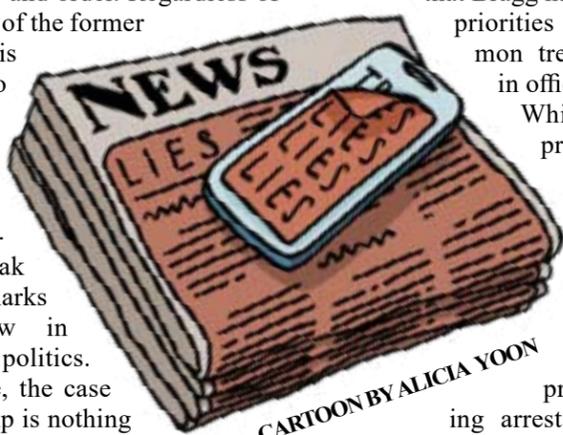


PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE ROSENBERG

that his actions, or inactions as district attorney for that matter, are extremely harmful to the entirety of the Manhattan borough and the entirety of New York City. All of this serves to prove that Bragg has work cut out for him in his sector and prosecuting Trump is a waste of valuable time.

Furthermore, unlike previous allegations against former president Trump, such as his Jan. 6 impeachment trial, this case is weak because it lacks substance. In New York, it is a misdemeanor to falsify business records. However, prosecutors allege that Trump did so with intent to conceal or commit another crime, meaning that he is officially being indicted on 34 felony counts. In spite of this, prosecutors have failed to

nail down the true intent of concealment of another crime, which truly is the crux of the felony charge. Alternating between intent to cover up crimes related to Trump's 2016 campaign and tax evasion, it is evident that prosecutors have no clear-cut case against him. In the end, the misuse of prosecutorial power against Trump is wrong and should be viewed as such even his opposers. It would be wise for Bragg to focus on serving his constituents rather than targeting Trump, a major figure within the Republican party and former president. Ultimately, justice must be taken much more seriously—simply targeting political opponents because you dislike them is not how the system should operate.



CARTOON BY ALICIA YOON

# Supreme Court Justices should not be able to receive incentivized gifts

By Shailey Patel  
STAFF WRITER



America deserves Supreme Court justices that are fair and impartial.

On April 6, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas was revealed to have been taking luxury vacations worth over \$500,000 with Republican mega donor Harlan Crow

for the last two decades. However, his failure to disclose this information has stirred up controversy, as receiving offerings of such degree is alarming to the impartiality of the Supreme Court. Supreme Court Justices should not have the ability to receive gifts that may affect their rulings without having to inform the general public.

Thomas' actions should demand restrictions on Supreme Court Justices in order to restore public faith in America's government. NBC news reports that Thomas described Crow as being a "dearest friend." However, Thomas should not be able to hide thousands of dollars in presents regardless of his relationship with Crow. The failure to disclose the exchange by Thomas shows just how inefficient

the current regulations are upon Supreme Court Justices and emphasizes an imperative need for a change.

Additionally, there should not be the presence of ambiguity in Supreme Court regulations that allows Justices to accept all presents without repercussions. While federal law

currently prohibits its Supreme Court Justices from accepting large gifts from citizens who could benefit from the interaction, the law does not specify what gifts are illegal under this rule. This ability for Justices to self interpret these laws protects them from any kind of liability in the public and allows them to continuously act in their best interests while putting their responsibility to America on pause. If this law is not altered to clarify what gifts and donations that justices are allowed to receive, America's judicial system will become controlled by the wealthy and powerful rather than the general public.

Supreme Court Justices should be held to the exact same standard as Congress members. While Justices like Thomas



PHOTO COURTESY OF DALLAS MORNING NEWS

**CLOSE FRIENDS:** On the left, Republican donor Harlan Crow, on the right, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

can receive gifts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, other officials are barred from accepting gifts over \$50 without pre-approval from an entire ethics committee. When the Supreme Court Justices are under their own moral jurisdiction, it sets a precedent to other branches regarding what gifts they can or cannot receive. This disparity should not be allowed in a system meant to eliminate all potential biases in the legal system. Such great responsibility comes with a code to uphold, and the current Supreme Court Justices need to be made accountable for their actions

that work against it. If they are openly allowed to accept and indulge in the pleasantries offered to them, there is no reason to regulate smaller courts that do not have a fraction of the same power. Thomas' recent scandal should be a wakeup call for the American legal system. Stricter regulations must be enforced upon Supreme Court Justices to make sure that they uphold the moral and ethical values and that they work to ensure are retained in courts. Americans cannot stand by and watch as the most impartial of their society are corrupted by power and wealth.

## mark my words

Warriors speak out on campus issues

Do you think teachers should use peer grading as a way to assess students?

"Peer grading leaves your grade in your classmate's hands and not the professional teacher. This leads to unreliable grades that could have many errors."  
-Daniel Ferguson, freshman

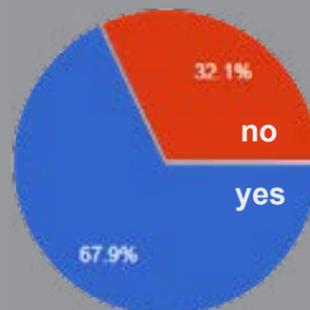
"I don't think that fellow classmates would necessarily have the best understanding of the topic that needs to be graded, making it not particularly accurate for grading."  
- anonymous freshman

Do you think that peer grading is accurate?



"I think peer grading is not fit for final grading as each student has different views and opinions and can grade something differently than another student would, which introduced some bias, which should never be applied into something like grades."  
- Yavor Kolev, freshman

Do you think that peer grading is beneficial for students?



"I think having a classmate's opinion of your paper is valuable, however I don't know if it should affect your grade directly."  
-Troy Francisconi, junior

"If your peer is bad, it does not help. peer grading is like a lazier way for teachers to get information across."  
- anonymous freshman

"Peers would not give an accurate assessment of the work reflected because nobody wants to read yet another essay. Students would most likely just award full points, or full points -1 so it looks as if they had made an effort to grade."  
- Ryan Vargas, senior

"Peer grading can be beneficial for students to get further insight on their writing or other assignments."  
- anonymous freshman

"Peer grading is essentially allowing an underdeveloped mind to completely determine the grade of another underdeveloped mind. Teaching is an elaborate process-- you need to develop all of your students' minds by correcting their work with precision (which is achievable because you are a professional adult, and not a maturing high-schooler), and furthermore incite productive interactions between your students. These interactions really shouldn't be producing final grades, but instead, be part of much steadier growth."

- Bianca Naranjo, sophomore

# FLAWLESS FIGURES

Jump, spin, glide! Follow Helen Fang's journey in becoming a figuring skater superstar and learn about her mentality while skating.

Compiled by Tyler Cordova, ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR, article by Finley Dalley, STAFF WRITER,



Gliding through the crisp air, freshman Helen Fang skates into numerous turns and spins, feeling all her worries dissipate into the cold tracks left behind on the ice. Figure skating, a sport blending lyricism and artistry, has been an integral part of Fang's life since she was 6 years old. After her first ice skating class, she fell in love with the sport because of its tranquility and calming attributes. Fang sees figure skating as an escape from the rest of the world, describing the practice to be incredibly liberating. Immersed in the relaxation it provides, she continues to improve her skills and advance her techniques at Glacier Falls Skating Club. Having skated for ten years, Fang placed fourth overall in regionals. "Skating helps me to de-stress,"

Fang said. "When you're skating, you can't think about anything else or you will fall on your face. [Skating] sets me in the zone, and the rush and energy always make my day a bit better."

With a strong passion for the sport, Fang continues her career in skating by making advancements through several evaluations. She works to prepare for her senior moves in the field test, a choreographed exam and her novice freestyle skating test while completing other extensive examination programs. The exams consist of performing a variation of jumps, spins and choreography.

The process, as Fang describes, is not easy. She skates five days a week on-ice and off-ice, stretches, conditions and practices ballet, all activities which help her achieve her ideal figure skating choreographies. Every time she practices, Fang works through her programs, completing them repeatedly and working hard towards reaching her assessment goals. She has set and reached difficult goals in the

past, one of which was completing the axel jump, a one-and-a-half rotation in the air that starts with a frontward takeoff and ends with a backward exit, lifting from the front of her skate and landing on the back. According to Fang, she is confident that she will pass these tests with enough practice and is excited for the feeling of accomplishment that will follow.

She remains motivated towards her ambitions by taking inspiration from her younger siblings, who skate alongside her at the skating club. As her brother and sister are still warming up to the rigorous sport, Fang is dedicated to becoming their role model and showing them the opportunities for improvement given through the club.

"There are certain days where I don't want to go skating," Fang said. "But I have to set a good example for my siblings, which pushes me to be better, as it's something we all share and can connect to."

Fang's motivation is elucidated in her academic life. Although balancing her rigorous skating

schedule with her demanding academics in school is nowhere near simple, Fang manages to maintain the equilibrium with remarkable grace. She believes that the lessons she has learned from skating openly translate into her school work, influencing her to be more gentle with herself regarding academic assessments.

"I'm often a perfectionist," Fang said. "[Skating] teaches me to be okay with my mistakes. I've gotten used to falling, being imperfect, and saying that I have tried my best."



# Beaming With Pride

Dive into Bryanna Padilla's gymnastics endeavors and see what it takes to reach the Junior Olympic level.

Compiled by Tyler Cordova, ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR, article by Tyler Cordova, photo courtesy of Bryanna Padilla, image courtesy of Adobe Stock

In a succession of elegant back walkovers on the beam, sophomore Bryanna Padilla's form and eloquence amaze the judges and audience members. Padilla is an accomplished gymnast for her studio, which sets her apart from most athletes. Having 10 years of gymnastics under her belt, she is an ace in her gymnastics studio's team, excelling in every event such as floor, uneven bars, vault and beam.

Padilla started gymnastics at five years old, having shown talent after learning about the sport during a friend's birthday party. Although she has not participated in too many national competitions, she has amassed several notable achievements. Being a level nine gymnast involved in the Junior Olympic Program, Padilla has not only competed in numerous competitions across the state, but has also won second in the state for beams and fourth for vaulting. For a gymnast to move up a level, the athlete must be proficient in a multitude of skills ranging from vault to bar. At the young age of 15, Padilla is preparing to become a level 10, a

task in which most gymnasts do not complete until the end of high school.

Through the sport, Padilla learns how to balance her hours at the studio, practice for competitions and keep up with her schoolwork. While prioritizing gymnastics and academics first, Padilla still puts in effort to spend time with her friends and family throughout the week.

"I usually practice every day after school for three and a half hours and

after that, I usually go home to study, do homework or hangout with my friends," Padilla said.

"I have learned to maximize my time at school and in the studio to get the most done." Padilla enjoys being able to interact with her teammates and coaches. With the help of her supportive studio, she is able to challenge herself

and reach greater heights in her athletic career. Gymnastics also allows her to express herself in a friendly and encouraging environment.

While Padilla gets support from her friends, family and coaches, she aspires to be like her favorite Olympic gymnast, Sunisa Lee.

"I look up to Sunisa Lee a lot because she's someone about my age who I can relate to," Padilla said.

"I admire her feats in gymnastics as a representation of the United States and the fact that she has won two gold medals at such a young age."

Though gymnastics is an escape from her everyday life, the sport does require tremendous strength and effort for an athlete to be successful. Among all the aspects of the sport, Padilla finds perfecting

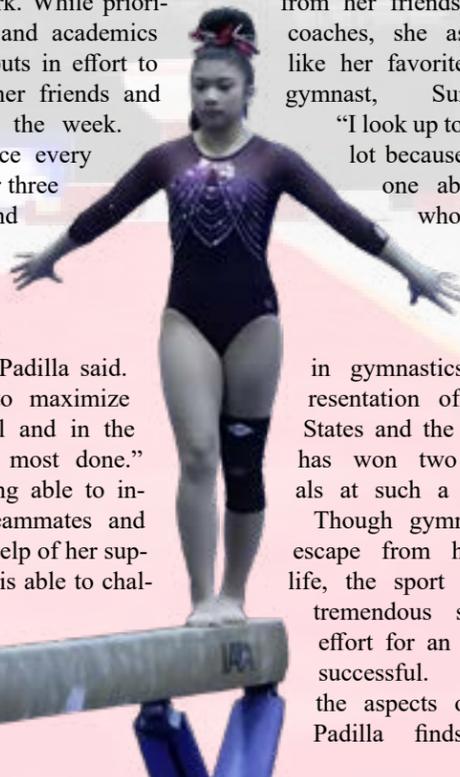
her techniques to be the hardest. "The hardest part of gymnastics is precision, because the judges carefully critique your every move from when you step on the mat to when you get off," Padilla said. "Gymnastics is more than just doing random flips in the air because a lot of strength is required to execute a routine perfectly."

Just like all other sports, having a strong mentality is key to achieving success. By having the right mindset, anything is possible, Padilla said.

"When you are on the mat, you just have to trust yourself," Padilla said. "If you do not trust yourself, then you are never going to get through."

As she is getting ready for a new season, Padilla looks forward to competing and is excited to work with other high-performing gymnasts.

"I really want to have fun and meet others," Padilla said. "I'm very passionate about gymnastics, and with my rigorous practice schedule and commitment, I hope that [gymnastics] will take me to the next level, and perhaps the national stage."



# BRUSHSTROKES OF BRILLIANCE

Breathtaking and thought-invoking, Junior David Ko's paintings communicate his innermost ruminations through surrealist pieces of art. Learn about Ko's artistic journey below!

Compiled by Eileen Um, ASSISTANT FEATURE EDITOR, article by Julie Liu, STAFF WRITER, and Eileen Um, graphics courtesy of Canva, and photos courtesy of David Ko

Splashes of vibrant color decorate the canvas, showering the room in rich purples, bright greens and bold reds. Carefully sketching delicate outlines of each shape onto a 11x12 inch canvas, junior David Ko translates his emotions into beautiful, thought-provoking art pieces. Each stroke of his paintbrush creates life on the canvas as mythical plants and creatures dance across patterned backdrops. Drawing from his own life experience, Ko's unique style conveys profound meanings and offers insight into his thoughts and emotions. Though at first glance, the objects in Ko's paintings may seem unrelated, a compelling reason lies behind each element he places on his canvas. With a touch of creativity, Ko works to discover his unique artistic style, allowing him to translate his inner monologue into captivating masterpieces.

Growing up surrounded by art, Ko developed a strong connection to the calming craft, enjoying the reprieve from the busy world it provided him. Unlike the stereotypical Asian family, Ko's mother supported his passion as she and his grandmother were both art teachers, giving Ko the advantage of artistic freedom and access to many mediums such as acrylic paint

and watercolor. With an assortment of paints and brushes always within reach, Ko fostered a love for art, beginning with rough sketches of shoes and continuing to develop his own personal style. He began truly learning art in his freshman year of high school. Like a brushstroke of fate, the COVID-19 pandemic locked everyone inside, providing Ko with the time and space to self-reflect and refine his skill. In the safety of his room, Ko focused on furthering his artistic skill throughout the pandemic, building confidence in his art and a determination to pursue art as a career.

"I've been drawing since I was young. I really liked it," Ko said. "I think I wasn't too bad at it as well."

Bolstered with his newfound drive, Ko began to use surrealism, a genre of art that depicts a dream-like reality, to express his emotions. In the introspective painting "Avoidant Person," Ko unveils themes of ignorance and naivete, addressing his personal academic struggles during his sophomore year. Blending the striking imagery of surrealism with teenage angst, "I Don't Even Know Me" depicts a crying, bald, clown. The appearance

of unearthly objects, locations and creatures function as Ko's artistic language, articulating emotions that are difficult to express with traditional art forms. The symbolism of the clown's silence, Ko recalls, is his personal reluctance to disclose his hardships to the world.

"That's like the situation I was in while I made that," Ko said. "My future was so full of doubt, dubious, like I didn't know what was gonna happen to me."

Each artwork is a step closer to discovering Ko's personal style, a primary reason why he prefers not to draw inspiration from other surrealist artists. Believing that viewing other people's work would be counterproductive to his personal artistic choices, Ko dedicates several hours per day to honing his craft. Looking to the future, Ko is interested in pursuing design as a motion graphic artist. Despite the artist's dynamic journey, one thing remains constant: Ko's persistent efforts and faith in himself.

"The first 30% of your art looks so bad that you think you already messed up," Ko said. "But I think the real important thing is not giving up on those processes and to just keep adding, just keep doing what you are doing."



## "Avoidant Person"

David Ko

Acrylic

"The horse is dancing with a knife, which is always dangerous. But it's also about realizing the dangerous situation while avoiding the reality through the [radio]. The pet is the inner me realizing that I'm not in a great situation."



## "Real People"

David Ko

Acrylic

"The clown, it's looking away since it doesn't have confidence to make eye contact. So it doesn't express like its feelings."