

# ORACLE

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## Is Luck A Losing Game?

Feeling lucky? You are not alone —TikTok’s newest trend, “Lucky Girl Syndrome,” suggests that affirmative mantras and a positive mindset in life can bend everyday events in your favor. But are these ideologies life-changing or delusional? Read below to find out.

Compiled by Kira Chen, ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, and Zoey Bahng, ASSISTANT LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Joey Kelly, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Kaila Perlas, CARTOON EDITOR, and Sophie Chen, GRAPHICS

With the pressures and demands of everyday life rushing through, sometimes nothing feels better than wishing on a lucky star. Good fortune can be a welcome surprise during difficult times, relieving stress and nurturing hope for a brighter future. This seems to be what TikTok’s new “Lucky Girl Syndrome” is all about: the idea that positive manifestations can have real-world effects. While positive thinking is nothing new, this ideology walks the line between the popular support of an online trend and the philosophical depth of old thought. Creators who support this are encouraging their followers to believe that they are the luckiest people in the world and that the universe is conspiring in their favor. Positivity can certainly draw out unnoticed goodness in everyday life, but there are pitfalls to this forcefully cheerful world. One of the biggest problems with Lucky Girl Syndrome lies right in its name—this manifestation craze is targeted exclusively at women. However, rather than empowering them, it seems to encourage passivity. These women are supposed to cling to luck and help from a supposedly benevolent universe, crossing their fingers and wishing for what they can get. In the meantime, men are supposedly in control of their fates, encouraged to take what they want from life without asking. Such a dependent philosophy can be harmful to young women’s confidence and contradicts many of Gen Z’s typically progressive, ambitious expectations. The trend’s flattering facade also masks another questionable undertone. While Lucky Girl Syndrome may seem miraculous, a vast majority of women in “lucky girl” videos seem to fit a privileged mold, often wishing for trivial luxuries and coming off as unaware or ungrateful of their already well-to-do lives. Lucky Girl Syndrome reveals itself to be subtly fueled by basic societal privilege. The universe that ostensibly conspires to benefit these women may simply mask the pernicious workings of a society that cast light on a select few privileged individuals, neglecting a marginalized majority. After the layers of prejudice are peeled back, one core question remains: does Lucky Girl Syndrome have any truth to it? Many of its elements, such as optimism and confidence, can certainly make a difference in anyone’s life. When people believe in their aspirations, their work ethics can blossom,

bringing success nearer than ever before. TikTok is currently flooded with stories of the surprising power behind believing in oneself, with creators insisting that being open to whatever good things the universe has to offer holds potential to change lives. While perhaps not a supernatural cure-all, defaulting to determination can change people from the inside out, letting positivity they foster within themselves ripple out into the cosmos. The origin of every success story is a person bold enough to believe that dreams can be accomplished and brave enough to try. It can feel nice to assume that the universe continuously strives to serve one’s best interests, and sometimes, this seems to be true. In the face of reality, however, it is important to engage with the self-assurance and positivity that Lucky Girl Syndrome has to offer without forgetting that the power to chase dreams and aspirations is found within.

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| <p><b>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</b></p> <p><b>OPINION</b></p> <p>Page 2</p> <p>Read about the changes that should be made to the 314 clubs on campus to ensure greater effectiveness.</p>  | <p><b>NEWS</b></p> <p>Pages 6-7</p> <p>Watch out for Warrior wins! Read more about the various competitions student organizations have competed in.</p>  | <p><b>FEATURE</b></p> <p>Page 11</p> <p>Read about Troy’s food service worker, Andrew Miranda, and how he strives to create an uplifting school atmosphere!</p>  |
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# With stricter regulations, Troy's student-run clubs can reach their highest potential

By Edyn Mai  
STAFF WRITER

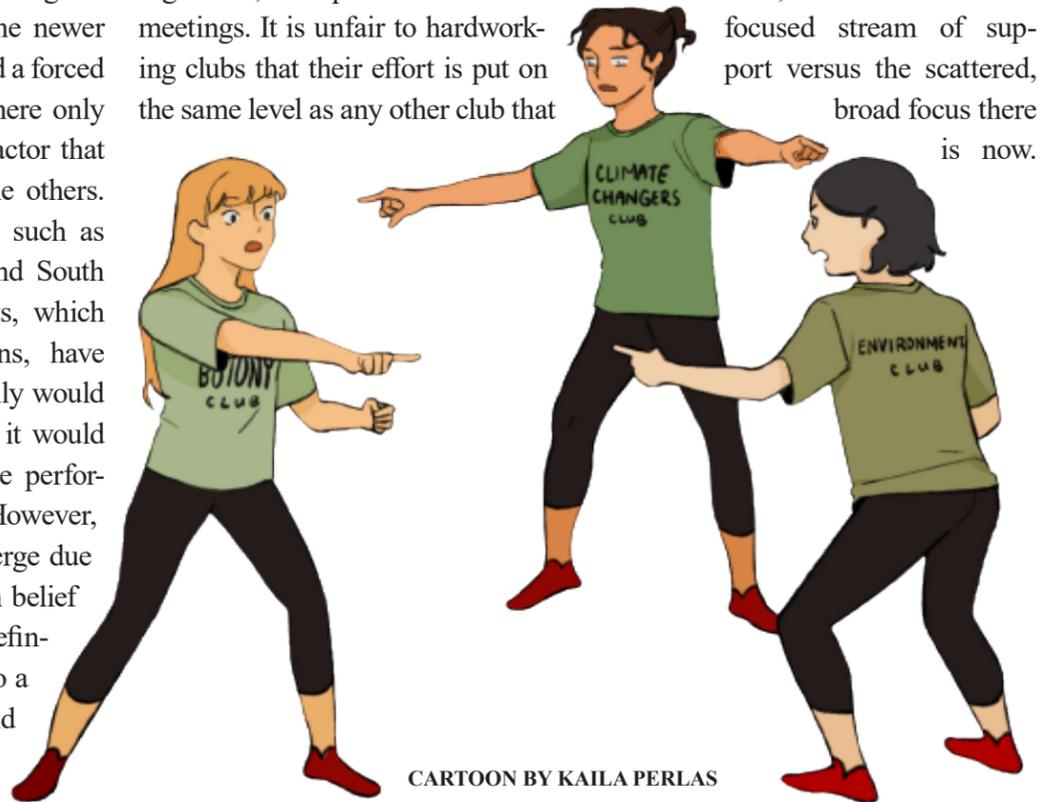


ASB needs to be stricter for the longevity of clubs. In Troy High School's competitive environment, the desire to be a leader and have an executive title has led to 134 student-run clubs. While it may seem beneficial that Troy offers a large variety of organizations to students, this creates many problems. The overwhelming number of clubs at Troy is daunting, and many need to be more effective and active. Troy's ASB should make stricter guidelines to have more effective clubs. Troy should use advisers to get more accurate club data. Hundreds of clubs get approved with little to no members, as it is easy to lie on quarterly check-ins. Currently, check-ins are a simple Google form that asks for the average member count and input on how the school can help make the clubs the most effective. However, club presidents are in charge of these check-ins, which results in some dishonesty by low-performing clubs. This dishonesty not only gives an inaccurate depiction of the clubs' success but also fails to properly sup-

port clubs in need. A possible solution could be trusting the teacher advisers to accurately report their club's whereabouts in order to get the most authentic results. There will be more honest answers by sending the form to club advisers versus the presidents. In order to have stronger clubs at Troy, ASB needs to make these changes to ensure clubs are sincere. More clubs should start merging to benefit their member count and ASB. Merging is commonly requested by ASB for clubs, usually choosing the older club and removing the newer one or both. In order to avoid a forced merge with another club, there only needs to be one defining factor that sets the club apart from the others. For example, similar clubs such as the Indian Culture Club and South Asian Students of the Arts, which have very similar missions, have considered merging. Not only would it help grow the clubs, but it would also allow for more notable performances and bigger events. However, many students refuse to merge due to their ego or the common belief that an executive title is a defining factor to acceptance into a dream college. ASB should put more pressure on clubs

to merge for the universal benefit of members and the club's longevity. Having this many clubs undermines the hardworking clubs with high membership and successful events. Clubs such as Philipinos Sharing Smiles Together are very high functioning, averaging about 25 members per meeting and accomplishing several successful events. With its annual event Philipino American Cultural night, a district-wide performance festival, PSST commonly has highly organized, well-planned events and meetings. It is unfair to hardworking clubs that their effort is put on the same level as any other club that

does not put work into their club. ASB needs to hold these clubs accountable for doing what they were approved for to make sure all clubs are of a high standard. Troy's competitive nature makes clubs more of a novelty than a success. In order to create a higher value for remaining clubs, restrictions need to be stricter to limit the immense number of clubs, which only grows each year. For students to make a more powerful impact in the form of a club, there must be a more focused stream of support versus the scattered, broad focus there is now.



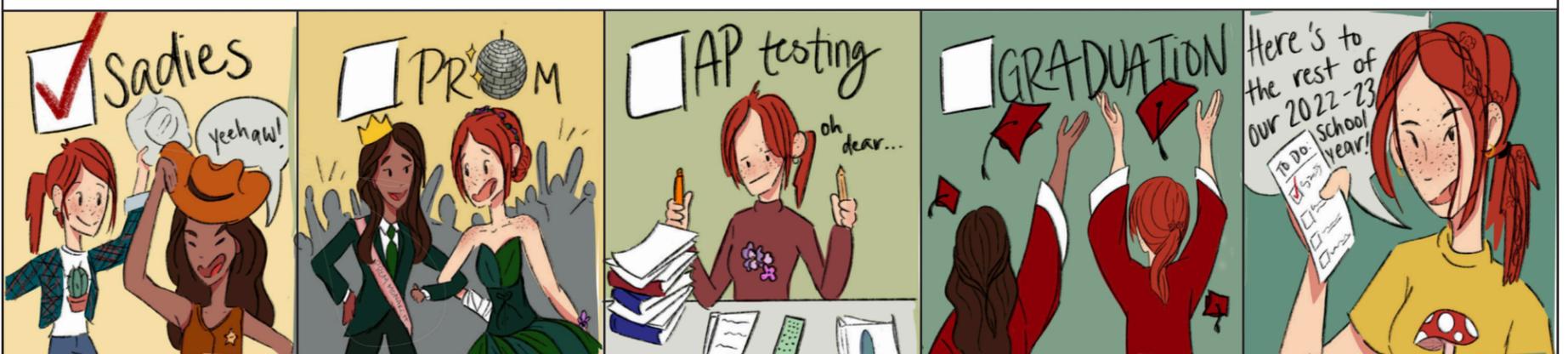
CARTOON BY KAILA PERLAS

|                                    |                                   |                           |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| #TK- Team_Korea                    | ClubMed                           | Girl Up                   |
| 3D Printing Club                   | Computer Science Competition Club | Girls Learn International |
| Academic Decathlon                 | Cooperation Act                   | Giving Children Hope      |
| Aerovate                           | Create Code Construct             | Hope 4 Athletes           |
| American Cancer Society            | Creative Writing Club             | iExplore                  |
| Anatomy Club                       | Creative for Social Change        | Indian Culture Club       |
| Anime Club                         | Crypto Club                       | Instyle                   |
| Art Recognition Troy Club          | Cubing Club                       | Junior State of America   |
| Astronomy Club                     | Culture of Culinary               | K-Pop Club                |
| Autism Youth Ambassadors           | Democratic Social Club            | Key Club                  |
| Aviation Club                      | Doctors Without Borders           | Kids for CASA             |
| Badminton Club                     | Drama Club                        | Kindness Campaign Club    |
| Best Buddies                       | Drones4Kids                       | Korean Culture Club       |
| Better Community Foundation        | Engineering 2 the Future          | L'Chaim                   |
| Better Good Living                 | Environmental Club                | Latinos Unidos            |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters           | Ethics Bowl                       | Leo Club                  |
| Biomedical Engineering Society     | Fellowship of Christian Athletes  | Library Buddies           |
| Billy Club                         | Fish Club                         | Make-A-Wish Club          |
| Black Student Union                | ForEverybody                      | Making An Impact Club     |
| Board and Card Game Club           | Funding Futures                   | Marine Science Club       |
| Botany Club                        | G-TEC                             | Math Club                 |
| Cal G.I.V.E. Club                  | Game Development Club             | Mock Trial                |
| Care Mission                       | GSA                               | Model United Nations Club |
| Chinese Cultural Appreciation Club | Generation Up                     | Molecular Masters         |
| CHOC Club                          | Girl Power                        | Music and Arts to Youth   |

|                                    |                                 |                             |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Music Appreciation and Performance | STEMup4Youth                    | Troy Vexillogy Club         |
| Community                          | Stitchable                      | UNICEF Club                 |
| Muslim Student Association         | Student Speakers of Troy        | Unplug                      |
| National Honors Society            | Surfrider Foundation Troy High  | USA Computing Olympiad Club |
| No Barriers                        | School Club                     | VSA                         |
| Operation Smile                    | TAE Troy                        | WarZone                     |
| Orphan Assistance Fund             | The Best Years Club             | WPC                         |
| Peer Tutoring Club                 | The Blueprint Club              | YCS                         |
| Pens UP                            | The Japanese CULTure CLub       | Zilluminet: The 17 Goals    |
| People 3 Animal Welfare Society    | The Page Turners                |                             |
| Photography Club                   | The Well Christian Club         |                             |
| Physics Club                       | ThsCTF                          |                             |
| PSST                               | TIE                             |                             |
| Proxima Generation                 | Troy Chess Club                 |                             |
| Punjabi Culture Club               | Troy Esports                    |                             |
| Quiz Bowl                          | Troy FBLA                       |                             |
| Rocketry and Aerospace Club        | Troy Film Club                  |                             |
| Science National Honors Society    | Troy Interact Club              |                             |
| Secure Your Future                 | Troy Media and Pop Culture Club |                             |
| Society For Student Research       | Troy Nutritional Club           |                             |
| South Asian Student Association    | Troy Origami Club               |                             |
| Spearhead Foundation               | Troy Red Cross Club             |                             |
| Speech and Debate                  | Troy Robotics                   |                             |
| Statistical Policy Club            | Troy Spikeball Club             |                             |
| STEAM for All                      | Troy Tech tips                  |                             |

## Current List of Clubs At Troy High School

### YEARLY CHECKLIST by Kaila Perlas



# When it comes to race, the devil is in the details—respect must be preserved

By Brett Larsen  
STAFF WRITER



The RCTA community must be taught that its ways are offensive.

Influencers such as Oli London, who became notorious for his appropriation of BTS star Jimin’s face and style, have been growing in popularity as of late, simultaneously sparking both support and ridicule from advocates and onlookers alike. RCTA, or race-change-to-another,

was conceived by TikTok user fr0sty\_bears, and is the belief that one could modify your DNA through “subliminals” and “manifesting,” which are positive affirmations meant to motivate you, in order to transition your race. However, as the trend of RCTA grows on social media, we must continue to rebuke and educate those who participate in the movement.

The heart of the RCTA issue lies in its offensive nature, in which an entire race of people is portrayed as a caricature by those outside of that group. RCTA individuals often misrepresent, oversimplify and attempt to adopt a race and culture which they know very little about, while the little they do know is often sourced

“The heart of the RCTA issue lies in its offensive nature, in which an entire race of people is portrayed as a caricature by those outside of that group.”

from outside observations and mere conjecture, making it all the more harmful. One notable example of this is the aforementioned TikToker fr0sty\_bears, who has gone viral on TikTok for her misrepresentation of Japanese culture. In her videos, she associates pale skin, a slender form and a love for anime with being Japanese, perpetuating disrespectful stereotypes as a result. Because of misrepresentations like these, it is critical that RCTA is exposed for what it is: identity theft that only serves to make a mockery of the people it targets.

Although most RCTA advocates claim that they are doing no harm, it must be clarified that by stealing someone else’s identity, you dilute their cultural background by trivializing its history and reducing it to an on-off switch. TikTok user kyamewa has even gone as far as deeming the RCTA community to be “extremely ignorant, offensive and racist,” arguing that racial transition negatively affects others and should be avoided. Those opposed to RCTA such as kyamewa believe, and rightly so, that every race and culture is very different from the next in terms of societal beliefs and traditions. Moreover, to simply transition to the identity of your

choosing in a world fraught with complexity paves the way for disaster. That being said, bullying is never the answer, and RCTA individuals should be calmly taught that racial transition is offensive. It must also be noted that there is no existing scientific evidence to support the idea that people are “born the wrong skin color,” making it clear that transracial identification stems from a bevy of personal insecurities. A 2021 study conducted by cognitive scientists at the Medical School of Hamburg confirms as much, stating that those who are transracial have “low body satisfaction,” evident by the majority of participants confirming that they were dissatisfied with their looks, making them more likely to change their appearance than those who were not. The study also showed that participants “felt happy when they saw a person of the desired ethnicity,” indicating that transracialism is rooted in an obsession with a given race and is not a legitimate condition. While RCTA individuals believe that

changing their race will positively affect their lives for the better, they are severely mistaken. Racial transition only serves to offend those caught in the crossfire and overcomplicate the lives of those who subscribe to it, and is nothing more than a social media trend gone horribly wrong.

While RCTA individuals believe that

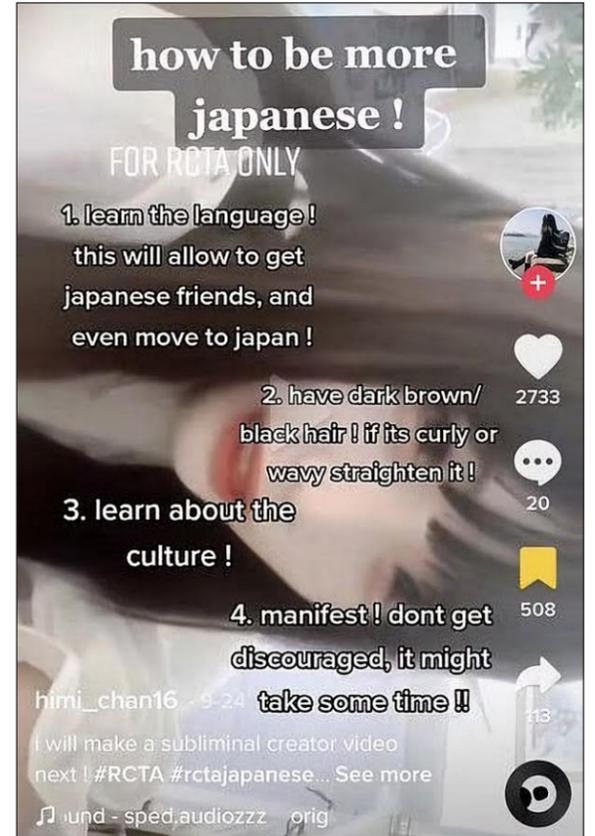


PHOTO COURTESY OF HIMI\_CHAN16

# Google should be prosecuted for promoting harmful content to its users

By Shailey Patel  
STAFF WRITER



Companies need to be held accountable for dangerous content they push out.

On Feb. 21, the Supreme Court heard arguments for the Gonzalez v. Google case arguing whether websites should be sued for targeted recommendations of information that have the potential to amplify harmful information. This discussion was a result of a series of mass shooting rampages in 2015 by Islamic State terrorists in Paris, killing 130 people. The family of a victim in the attack, Nohemi Gonzalez, sued Google, and by extension YouTube, for promoting Islamic State propaganda with its recommendation algorithms. While Google argues that it is immune to liability under the law, it should still be held accountable for harmful content it recommends.

Due to Google’s role in the event, the tech giant should be held accountable under the Anti-Terrorism Act. This act allows Americans to be sued for “aiding and abetting” international terrorism. Despite its attempts to exculpate itself

from any responsibility by hiding behind the fact that the law gives some leeway hosting illegal content, allowing Islamic State recruiting videos isn’t covered under the law and is a form of aiding and abetting terrorist organizations. Even though it may not be the company’s intention, allowing content that advocates for people to join these terrorist organizations makes them partly responsible for the damage that ensues. Consequently, YouTube is identically spreading terrorist propaganda, promoting harmful messages to people who otherwise would

have never been exposed to these ideologies. Choosing to continue recommending videos promoting ISIS is something that Google needs to be held accountable for.

Moreover, Section 230 should not have the ability to shield Google, which has been providing recommendations that are not addressed in the statute. When it was passed in 1996, algorithmic content recommendations were still being developed and were very uncommon on social media platforms, contributing to their absence in the statute. Although Section 230 states that the provider cannot be punished for the content a user publishes, YouTube’s use of personal video URLs

and thumbnails implicate it. A 2021 investigation by Mozilla found that 71% of reported videos were automatically recommended by the platform and recommended videos were 40% more likely to be reported. Because YouTube has control of the recommendation algorithm it uses on its site, it is actively ignoring a fixable problem. Google should not be able to continue recommending content that could put lives in danger to profit a few dollars in the process.

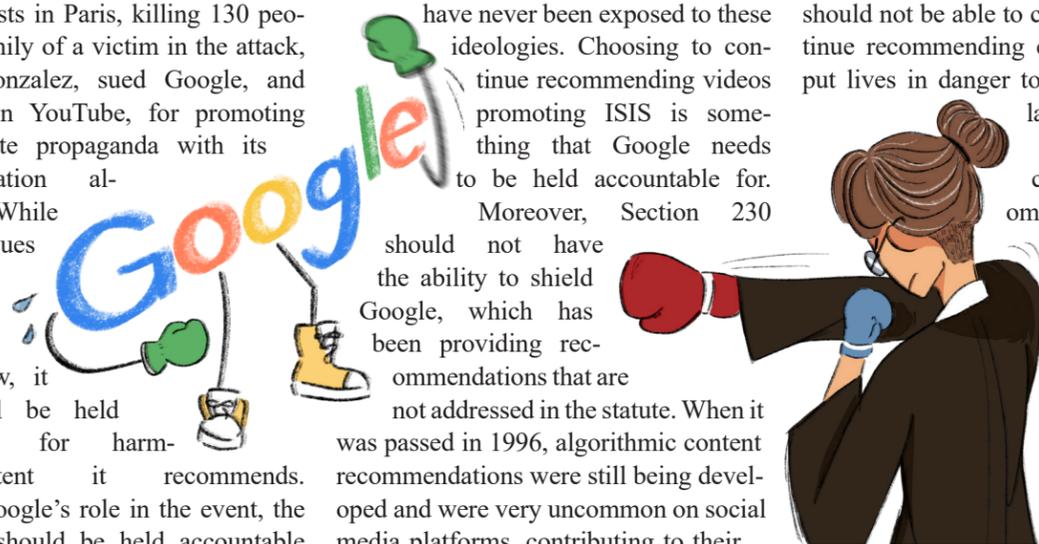
While Google claims that its recommendations are completely neutral and therefore should not be punished for recommending content that interests their users, its videos are intentionally marketed and promoted to users to increase engagement. In 2018, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg posted about the concept that more controversial content



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM WATSON

generates greater engagement, meaning that content that is seen as problematic leads to higher interaction within the social media platform. This tactic to increase engagement could be the root cause of terrorist media being spread on the platform. With this intent in mind, Google and other platforms that promote extreme topics should be prosecuted for their role in encouraging harmful behavior.

Even though it is impractical to implicate Google for all illegal content it hosts, it should not have the ability to promote content advocating for terrorism. Failing to censor content that could put hundreds of lives in danger makes the platform an accomplice in the crime that it instigates. Hiding behind Section 230 to give it immunity from its liability is not a feasible approach to fixing the error in its ways.



CARTOON BY KAILA PERLAS

# Colossal Bioscience's new plan to revive the dodo bird is misguided

By Joelle Cheeseman  
STAFF WRITER



De-extinction is a bird-brained idea. On Jan. 31, genomics company, Colossal Laboratories & Biosciences, announced its future plans to bring the dodo bird back from extinction using genetic engineering technology. The self-proclaimed “de-extinction company” began making a name after announcing projects working on reviving woolly mammoths and Tasmanian tigers. Since then, Colossal has received over \$150 million in funding to carry out its ambitious goal of reversing the human-inflicted biodiversity crisis. While Colossal’s advancements

“While Colossal’s advancements in biotechnology and good-intentioned pursuit to revive extinct animals appear beneficial, the company’s mission is fundamentally misguided and will pose issues for the future of biotechnology research.”

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While the de-extinction of animals represents an astonishing feat of scientific

advancement, it is an unsustainable solution to the biodiversity crisis since the chances of these animals being successfully reintegrated into the wild are highly unlikely. For instance, a study from the University of Exeter found that captive-bred carnivores only have a 33% survival rate if released in their natural habitat. Although Colossal says its goal is to release the animals into their original habitat, it is unlikely that they will survive as a result of being bred in captivity. Especially since these extinct animals are adapted to Earth from hundreds to thousands of

years ago, and also have no wild populations to learn behaviors from, the chances of these revived species thriving in the wild and improving biodiversity are close to none.

Furthermore, the current methods being used to research de-extinction pose serious ethical concerns. Colossal’s plan

involves taking specific genes which code for the extinct animal’s traits from closely related species. Next, they are placed into a “surrogate” mother, who will then give birth to an organism closely resembling the desired animal. A surrogate chicken producing dodo coded eggs will be con-

sistently laying eggs, making it easy to modify its offspring. However, to develop an accurate genome for mammoths or Tasmanian tigers, surrogates mammals would be required to repeatedly undergo the painful process of pregnancy and may give birth to unviable offspring during testing. Until the technology is further developed, it is evident that the current methods of experimentation could detrimentally affect other animals involved.

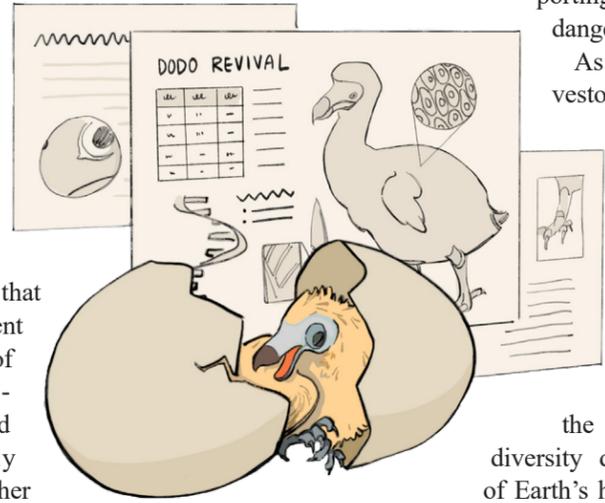
While some argue that a project like Colossal’s statement of “de-extincting” species brings newfound public engagement and excitement to ecological preservation, it may end up doing the opposite. By perpetuating the inaccurate idea that extinct animals can be revived with this new technology, the public will begin to lose value in nature; to say that we can easily recover human destruction if need-

ed is not only harmful, but also untrue with the current level of technology. Rather than investing millions of dollars into a project whose sole value is placed on its shock-factor, it is more productive for the research to be redirected toward supporting existing endangered species.

As wealthy investors pay millions of dollars to see a useless bird come back to life, mankind is simultaneously facing one of

the greatest biodiversity deficits in all of Earth’s history. Rather

than placing all our eggs in one dodo bird that will most likely be unable to survive in the wild, it will be more advantageous to refocus our efforts on currently endangered species and human health conditions that could be aided by similar genetic engineering technology. For humanity to make up for their previous wrongdoings, we should not look to revive the past, but work to prevent our current crises from advancing in the future.



CARTOON BY PEARLYOON

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# Can't Spell "Whopping Warrior Wins" Without Those W's

From NJROTC's strategic victory to Ladies First's dazzling performance, learn about the achievements of your fellow Warriors all across campus and how they desTROYed the competition.

Compiled by Kaelyn Kwon, NEWS EDITOR, articles by Iman Babiker and Rachel Kang, STAFF WRITERS, cartoons by Daniela Herrera, GRAPHICS EDITOR, Sophie Chen, GRAPHICS, Pearl Yoon, CARTOON EDITOR, graphics courtesy of Canva



## Ladies First Choir Ensemble

Ladies First sang and danced their way into first place at the Kennedy High School Show Choir Competition Feb. 11. With a dozen show choirs invited to compete, Ladies First placed first overall in their division with Outstanding Musicianship and Showmanship awards. For her solo performance, senior Kyrri Valdma received the Outstanding Performer Award and will continue to dedicate maximum effort to her remaining shows as a senior. "Receiving this award showed me that I truly am making the most of these final performances," Valdma said.

## N J R O T C

The Warrior NJROTC Drone Team won second place at the Aerial Drone Competition hosted by the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation Feb. 3 at UC San Diego. The qualifiers for Nationals consisted of Autonomous Flight Skills Challenges, Piloting Teamwork Matches, and logbook submissions and interviews. As commander of the Warrior NJROTC Drone Team, junior Brandon Kim has competed for the past three years and flew eight rounds of manned flight in the competition. "I am beyond excited to be the first drone commander in our unit to compete at the national level," Kim said. "I am extremely happy with the result of our hard work and looking forward to hosting the first drone competition at Troy in early May."

## F B L A

In pursuit of business leadership and career development, 32 Warrior members of the Future Business Leaders Association participated in the 2023 Southern Section Leadership conference Feb. 11 at Valencia High School. Students competed in events by acting out roles in job interviews, sales presentations and public speaking events. Evaluated on speed and accuracy, competitors also completed a test about the organization, its handbook and competition guidelines. The Warrior team won third place overall in the region as well as individual student achievements including first place in the events of Marketing, International Business, Securities and Investments, Agribusiness, Business Law, Advertising, Health Care Administration and Job Interview.

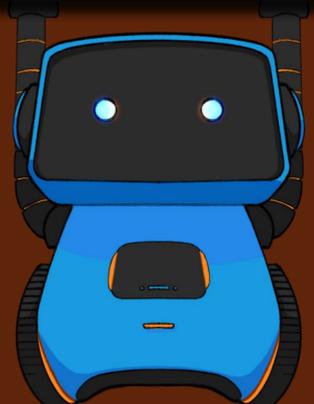
## California FinanceChallenge

With great success at the California Council on Economic Education Financial Advisor's Challenge in the fall, teacher David St. Clair's students aim to demonstrate their knowledge in personal finance at the California FinanceChallenge March 6. Through the competition, the council aims to develop a passion in high school students for mastering the concepts of earning income, spending, saving, managing credit, investing and managing risk. In the current format, teams take an online exam to qualify for the state finals, where top scoring teams vie for the coveted spot at National Finals held at Cleveland, Ohio. At state championships, competitors will be assigned a fictional case study with time to prepare their recommendations for the fictional client to a panel of judges including real-world economists, business leaders and financial professionals.



## Robotics

The Warrior robotics team participated in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology Robotics OC Regionals Competition at the Orange County Fairgrounds March 9-12. For the 2023 challenge, teams competed in randomly assigned alliances to score cones and cubes in specific areas for the qualifying round. Then, the top eight teams created their own alliances to compete for advancement to the World Championships. Despite obstacles in the design process, the Warrior team fixed flaws, obtained sponsorships and communicated with other teams to test prototypes.



## Color Guard

After performing their routine "Saving Tomorrow" to the song "The Seed," the Warrior Color Guard team suc-seed-ed at the Fountain Valley High School Invitational Feb. 25. Evaluated on design analysis, equipment, movement and overall performance, the team performed for the judges and won second place overall in the AA High School Division. "I want to give credit to our team for working under the difficult circumstances of the rain," co-captain Aimel Faisal said. "They all performed well with all the adjustments that we had to endure, and they shined."

## Speech and Debate

Sophomore Noemi Maciel and freshman Helen Fang placed at the OC Speech League Association State Qualifiers hosted by California State University, Long Beach March 5. Maciel placed fifth in Original Oratory, and Fang placed third in both Humorous Interpretation and Informative Speaking. Due to their success at the qualifiers, Maciel and Fang are looking forward to competing at the High School Speech Association State Tournament in April.

## Recognized Oracle Staff:

Seniors: Ishaan Arya, Coco Gong, Vivian Lee, Kaila Perlas and Pearl Yoon. Junior: Kira Chen. Sophomores: Rachel Kang, Edyn Mai, Shailey Patel, Lauren Song, Eileen Um and Kaitlyn Zhang.

# SPICING UP THE INDUSTRY

Taking over the media with her feminine drill rap style, Ice Spice is bringing new blood to the industry. Read more about Oracle's take on her unique musicality that has surged in popularity.

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Kaitlyn Zhang, ASSISTANT ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, graphics courtesy of Rolling Stone and British GQ

From her signature orange afro to her princess-like composure, Ice Spice has quickly claimed the crown of rap for herself. 23-year-old Bronx rapper Isis Gaston, known by her stage name Ice Spice, has transformed the aggressivity of drill music into a vessel for her confident femininity with the internet following her every move. The diversity of her music flows inherently with her ability to garner fans of any genre. In wake of the release of her January album, "Like...?", Ice Spice charts at Top 3 on Billboards with the goal of dominating the music industry.

Ice Spice's talents go far beyond her modest beginnings of keeping up with new trends, clear through her instantaneous surge in popularity. She demonstrates unique talent for creating head-wrapping tunes, as shown through her hit single "Munch (Feelin' U)" in August 2022, which quickly blew up with assistance from TikTok's algorithm. Further branching out and experimenting with her style, Ice Spice collaborated with bedroom pop artist Pink Pantheress February 2023 on the song "Boy's a liar Pt. 2." Balancing the combative aura of her usual drill pop with sweet synths of hyperpop, Ice Spice has proven her diverse styles of musicality and will no doubt continue to distinguish herself in her field.

By intertwining dark and intense drill rap with her bubbly femininity, Ice Spice's melodies have

introduced a unique touch to the music industry. Her chilled-out yet regal tone separates her from the gritty harshness of the drill rap genre. juxtaposed to the silky flow of her lines, she sprinkles a familiar "grah" in her ominous beats, staying true to her rap genre while distinguishing her own identity. Boldly representing the culture of her hometown, her authenticity rolls with her Bronx slang, pulling her audience directly into her neighborhood. With larger than ever competitors, Ice Spice is able to capitalize on her charm with lyrics that clearly represent her aura of confidence.

Relying heavily on subtle body movements to encapsulate her message of self-empowerment, her music essentially strives to deliver her bodily presence, "give body," while deflecting any means of male objectification. Listening closely to her catchy tunes ultimately showcases her comfort in her queerness and body, protecting it behind a lyrical wall of ambiguity. "I said baddest in the room because that's what it gave," she raps in "Bikini Bottom," admiring her body while reserved only for herself. Utilizing clear ties to the fundamentals of bodily autonomy, she formulates the perfect harmonies inspiring room for all her fans to be "baddies."

In a largely male-dominated industry, Ice Spice has made her breakthrough as a female rapper with no signs of slowing down. Twisting the aggressive persistence of drill, she holds the same cool, intimidation factor while her sparkling personality shines through. Unafraid to flirt with her feminine side, she has established her unique sound and will continue experimenting with different styles. The newly crowned princess of rap, Ice Spice has only just started adding her own spice to the mix.



# A TRUE LEGACY

Duelling with goblins or frolicking in the highlands, become the wizard you were always meant to be in "Hogwarts Legacy." Read more to find out if the game is as magical as it seems.

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Jessica Chin, STAFF WRITER, cartoon by Kaila Perlas, CARTOON EDITOR, graphics courtesy of Wallpaper Abyss

From making new friends in the cozy Hogsmeade Village to donning the Sorting Hat in the Great Hall, Hogwarts Legacy is the game to immerse yourself back in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. Since its release by Avalanche Software, Potterverse enthusiasts have been eagerly exploring its expansive map, becoming students within the hallowed halls of Hogwarts and dueling magical bosses. Yet, despite the initial rush of nostalgia and excitement, players and critics have been quick to call out the less-than-magical aspects of the game.

At first look, the game's breathtaking Scottish highlands promise a riveting storyline deeply imbued with the unique Hogwarts charm. While experiencing the wizarding world has delighted players, controversies continued to surround the game in the real world. Harry Potter supporters feel that the game created was not as advertised. Due to the storyline, the game diverts from the advertised open-world role-playing genre with meaningless decisions all leading to the same conclusions. The inclusion of only one true ending, especially the main quest, makes the choices futile, leaving players unable to add their "own story" or "shape the future"

of the Wizarding World unlike initially promised.

Apart from the game play issues, critics are also concerned with supporting the artistic work of J.K. Rowling, who is infamous for her transphobic comments. Gamers and many video game journalists alike have felt repelled by the decided not to support the game due to the perpetual classism, racial insensitivity and antisemitism of that is explored in the Harry Potter universe. From the House Elves' enslavement to goblins' mistreatment who are told they should know their place, important social aspects are glossed over. The game is unable to separate itself from its original creator and has problematic gameplay, struggling to make the same lasting impact of its predecessors.

Overall, the game is only an

overdose of nostalgia for players who miss the original series. With many having read the book series in elementary or middle school, the story and excitement of Hogwarts is ingrained in many childhoods. The game capitalizes on this fixation, as players look beyond the problematic creation and aspects of the game, to create fun memories in their favorite magical universe. But nostalgia can only hide so much of the tension between keeping the original source material away from the transphobic commentary of J.K. Rowling. Even with a transgender landlady, the inclusion is surface level, an issue with all non-player characters who have basic background stories. Characters become caricatures of the minorities they are supposed to represent. With weak and disappointing characterization of Professor Onai and Natty from Uganda, the Wizarding World again fails at racial diversity, treating them exactly like Cho Chang. As the troubling lack of accurate representation continues to plague the Wizarding World, only time will tell how long nostalgia validates supporting the new game. Overall "Hogwarts Legacy" is a difficult game to back. Although it does have an amazing world design, controversy and lack of an open storyline make the game fall short of what was promised.



# MANDO-TORY VIEWING

Mando and Grogu are back for their most exciting season of “The Mandalorian.”  
Read Oracle’s take on one of Star Wars’ best installments yet!

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, and Kaitlyn Zhang, ASSISTANT ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Ishaan Arya, STAFF WRITER, graphics courtesy of Wallpaper Abyss

The third installment of Din Djarin’s (Pedro Pascal) adventure through the Star Wars universe certainly upholds the series’ sensational reputation. A classic western with a sci-fi spin, “The Mandalorian” takes our favorite galaxy far far away to new heights in its third season. As many mainstream Hollywood franchises crumble both in quality and prestige, “The Mandalorian” reminds us what makes the world of Star Wars so mesmerizing and unique.

For those in the majority of viewers that made the apt choice to skip “The Book of Boba Fett” spinoff, this season offers quite a few noticeable changes in Din Djarin, or Mando. Now reunited with Grogu, Baby Yoda faces exile by breaking the solemn Mandalorian creed after removing his helmet. In an attempt to be forgiven, Mando must travel to the ravaged remains of Mandalore, post its invasion and destruction at the hands of the empire.

Attempting to retake the ruined Mandalore

is fan-favorite Bo-Katan Kryze (Katee Sackoff), the former princess of Mandalore who seeks to unify the planet’s divided factions. Bo-Katan is a skeptic of Mando’s dedication to his Creed, having lost all of her belief after witnessing the destruction of her civilization and culture.

Based on the Western hero archetype, Mando is a lone wolf who is adept at both combat and travel. A key reason as to what makes Mando work is Pascal himself, who continues to remind audiences why he is the internet’s topic of conversation. His performance creates a compelling lead character despite the fact that his face remains hidden throughout the series. Mando’s bond with Grogu as a father figure endears him to the audience, as viewers cannot help but root for someone who fights so hard to protect such an innocent youngling. This positive paternal dynamic is rare for Hollywood, as these relationships are typically not portrayed as wholesome or loving in the entertainment space.

After a divisive trilogy of movies that left the Star Wars fandom questioning their faith in the franchise, “The Mandalorian” wins fan’s support

back with its refreshingly inventive plot. An ace up this show’s sleeve is its use of expansive Star Wars mythology and world building. “The Mandalorian” dips into the deep archive of past animated characters fans have fallen in love with over the years. From Bo-Katan to Ahsoka Tano herself, series co-creator Dave Filoni brings these characters to life. Their appearances in the show don’t feel contrived to the viewer, but rather organic and exciting. The show uses elements from the Skywalker Saga sparingly while focusing on creating its own sophisticated story and tone. Shifting the focus of a Star Wars installment away from the usual good versus evil conflict frees this show from playing into tired sci-fi clichés. Viewers are

much more content watching Mando and Grogu traipse through the galaxy, especially if it means more adorable GIFS for the internet.



# Boys varsity volleyball ends a close match against the Cathedral Phantoms

The boys volleyball team improves their teamwork, as they anticipate playing against their rivals.

By Tyler Cordova  
STAFF WRITER

The Warrior boys varsity volleyball team ceded a close match against the Cathedral Phantoms Feb. 28.

The team started the first set with points scoring evenly on both sides. Senior co-captain Yoav Amrami started with a jump serve, sending the ball flying through the Phantom defenses. Soon after, junior Kenneth Haves' powerful spike flew right through the hands of the opponents. As the ball struck the ground, the gym erupted with animated cheers and motivational chants. Senior co-captain Sebastian Kim responded swiftly to the Phantom's coordinated efforts with a spike to their strong shot, dismantling their blockade, triumphing the first set 25-17.

The Warriors also highlighted their defensive plays with senior libero John Park nimbly blocking a Phantom's spike and sophomore Jaden Wavita consistently keeping the ball alive

with his dives. However, despite the initial clash for points, the Phantoms played aggressively, and the Warriors struggled to save enough attacks, narrowly losing the second set 23-25.

During the third set, the players had some difficulty passing and keeping the ball off the floor. However, their consistent efforts resulted in multiple aggressive moves in the fourth set. Kim and senior co-captain Silas Maxwell both racked up kills with their sudden hits that snuck past the Phantoms' blocks. Haves' consecutive aces had caught the opposing team off guard, with the ball barely hitting the line.

Their last set continued with the Phantoms' defensive stance, featuring several sliding saves. Kim and Haves exhibited fluid teamwork with a barrage of fierce shutdowns with their strong blockades. Senior Joseph Nguyen's decoy moves had fooled the Phantom blockade, leaving room for Maxwell and Amrami to catch up to their opponents on points. Despite their evidently bold plays, the Warriors hit the ball out of bounds and missed on several occasions, losing the game with a final score of 2-3.

The game was a very close match against the Phantoms, but



PHOTO BY LAUREN SONG

**BOUNCE BACK:** *Jumping several feet into the air, senior Silas Maxwell makes a forceful spike against the Phantoms using senior Joseph Nguyen's set.*

it was a very valuable experience for the team, Kim said.

"We definitely know what we need to work on, what to improve on and how to do better next time," Kim said.

The Warriors will start to incorporate their new improvements in their practices to win

future games, Maxwell said.

"Just having better blocks and reading of where [the opponents] are going to hit and tip," Maxwell said. "We should be able to pick up these balls to convert them to points."

With upcoming games against its longtime rival, Sunny Hills, the

team hopes to win more league games this season, Kim said.

"Our main goal is to take the league and win CIF," Kim said. "Our main competition is Sunny Hills and we haven't been able to win in the past years. This has probably been our strongest year and hopefully we get that win."

## COBRA KELLY

Read below to learn more about how sophomore Kelly Yang kicks her way through her karate season!

Compiled by Erin Jang, SPORTS EDITOR, article by Finley Dalley, STAFF WRITER, photo courtesy of Kelly Yang, image courtesy of AliExpress

Intently eyeing her opponent, sophomore Kelly Yang steadily bends her right knee and lifts her left heel, adjusting into the defensive stance neko ashi dachi. After perfecting her position, she moves forward, closing in on both her adversary and her first prize win. Yang has been practicing karate for nine years after being introduced at seven years old. She now competes nationally and teaches for the same studios where she began her career.

Karate season begins in February and ends in October, however the competitions are most concentrated during the summer. Yang competes once or twice a month for her studios Red Dragon and Jinenkia. During the school year, these competitions are farther apart, but occur weekly during the summer. Her natural competitive

spirit fuels her passion for the sport during the intense competition months.

"When I was younger, I was practicing just for fun," Yang said. "But since I've gotten older, I've started competing, and I've really fallen in love with the challenges because I'm a competitive person."

Having recently made the national team, Yang is currently training to advance onto competing at the Worlds Competition in Scotland this year. Her practice schedule has increased heavily, to the point where she is currently practicing for several hours in the studio five days a week and spending one day training at the gym.

"We've added a lot more training this year," Yang said.

"Before I was practicing only three or four times a week, but this year my coach has been adding a lot of extra training to

prepare for the Worlds Competition."

According to Yang, competing has given her a sense of accomplishment and confidence.

She believes that every time she competes, she grows as a person and learns new important life skills. Even if she loses a match, she takes it as a win regarding her growth as a person. "A lot of [confidence] was taught through competition," Yang said. "Every single time you mess up or lose, you have a drive to keep going, and it builds onto your confidence."

Yang conveys that her confidence has increased by teaching at two studios almost every day after her personal training. Although the intense expectations and training schedules can become overwhelming, she chooses to stay positive by remembering

her passion for the sport and spreading love at her studio where she gives back to the karate community by helping others learn and enjoy her passion.

"[Competing] is a lot of stress and sometimes it can give me a little bit of anxiety," Yang said.

"But I just keep in mind why I wanted to start competing in the first place, and how everyone around me is really supportive."

Growing up on the team has resulted in a fueled dedication, and strong emotional connection to the sport and those involved, Yang said.

"I've grown up with these kids, the people on my team, so it feels like I'm at a family gathering or just hanging out with friends every single time we train," Yang said. "And it one hundred percent makes my training a lot easier."



# IN PERFECT HARMONIUM

Sophomore Eira Jawandha unlocks a lustrous blend of culture and musicality through the harmonium, a South Asian instrument. With every song, Jawandha brings people together to celebrate the beauty of art. Read about her inspiring tale below!

Compiled by Mary Kim, ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, and Eileen Um, ASSISTANT FEATURE EDITOR  
 article by Julie Liu, STAFF WRITER, graphics courtesy of Canva, photos courtesy of Eira Jawandha

All eyes turn toward the stage in anticipation of the next performer, a hush falling over the eager crowd. Taking a deep breath, sophomore Eira Jawandha focuses her attention on the harmonium resting before her. Bridging the space between Jawandha and her culture is this instrument, a traditional Indian form of art. Positioning her hands over the piano-like keys and accordion-like air pump, her fingers dance skillfully across the keyboard, creating a melody that fills the air with its soaring notes. Jawandha's enchanting



voice soon joins the lovely arrangement of chords, leaving the audience dazzled with her graceful agility and impressive range. Jawandha's deep-rooted connection to music has brought her to learn more about herself, strengthen family relationships and reconnect with her native roots. Jawandha's journey to master the harmonium began in the temple classes she attended as a little girl. Since then, she has learned a variety of new songs, her favorite of which being the Raag Bilaval. Offering versatility, the Raag Bilaval's tala, a combination of eight notes, are Jawandha's favorite to manipulate. "I've always been a very musically connected person," Jawandha said. "It's just become an essential part of who I am to appreciate music." Jawandha especially looks up

to her father, a role model in both musicality and character. He began practicing music at a young age, and has now passed his love unto Jawandha. Growing up immersed in music, it has now become an integral part of her life. Among her friends, Jawandha's skill with the harmonium sets her apart, but with her family, their combined mastery of traditional Indian music unites them. "Music is something that brings us together," Jawandha said. "And because it's part of my heritage, I enjoy it even more." Stringing notes together, Jawandha has the power to evoke emotions. While one melody may awaken a childhood memory, another might leave audiences weeping. But no matter the emotion, it is clear that music brings people together, joining tragedy and joy in harmonious medleys. "Music stays with you," Jawandha said. "So stick with your passion for music."

## Serving Snacks 'n Smiles

Beaming from ear to ear, Troy's beloved food service worker, Andrew Miranda, spreads happiness throughout campus. Whether students need a small nibble or a person to talk to, Miranda is there for the Troy students. Read more to learn about the source of his positive vibes!

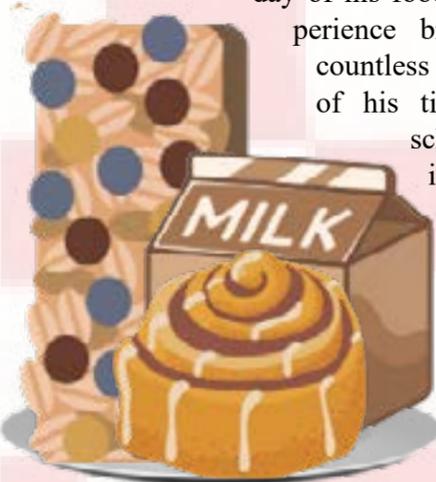
Compiled by Mary Kim, ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, article by Eileen Um, ASSISTANT FEATURE EDITOR, photo by Tiffany Vo, PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR, graphics courtesy of Canva

At the sound of the bell, torrents of backpack-laden students spill from scarlet doors, gathering around a food cart. In the midst of the beeping buttons on the register and the crinkle of warm pastries, Andrew Miranda, one of Troy's food service staff, asks a simple but meaningful question: "How's your day going?" Known to Troy students as the smiling, compassionate man serving snacks, Miranda checks in on every teen without fail. Striving to spread messages of love and positivity, Miranda reminds students that simple, genuine acts of kindness can make a change.

Miranda's journey at Troy started in the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. The first day of his food service experience brought back countless memories of his time in high school, sparking the determination to make students his first priority. As living proof

of the phrase, "Be the change you wish to see," Miranda uses his time at the food cart to convey the kindness, graciousness and hospitality he believes everyone deserves. "I want to make sure that even in the short time that I've talked with them, that I let them know that, 'It's okay, I understand, I completely get it,'" said Miranda. "I wanted to make sure that I'm able to at least ensure that they have hope, even if they walk away and even if their day isn't perfect." Although Miranda displays a bright demeanor to students, there have been many personal hardships that he has persevered through. But despite the darker times of his life, Miranda believes that he was able to overcome these hurdles through his reliance on his faith and Christianity. Miranda credits his joyful mindset to this belief system, the inspiration for his constant encouragement and cheer towards the people around him. Through every word and action, Miranda hopes that the Troy campus will not just be fed with food, but also filled with kindness. "I'll just continue to lead by example, in hopes that, one day they will see and treat each other kindly," said Miranda. "Making sure that every other person, along with

themselves, is okay, and having that connection during good and bad times." The impact of Miranda's positivity has been felt all across campus. "I'm used to not taking up time," says sophomore Victoria Yang. "So it surprised me when he took the time to ask me how I was doing." Miranda will continue to be a part of Troy's team, working as a reminder of the power of compassion. "I want to tell you guys to never lose faith," said Miranda. "Always keep your head up. Be kind to yourself and others and say, I'm not gonna let anyone ever drag me down."



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