

ORACLE

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Tick-Tock, TikTok

Known for its addictively short videos, the social media platform TikTok has been banned on Orange County government-issued devices over national security concerns. Is time running out on the clock for TikTok? Read more about how a possible ban hangs in the balance.

Compiled by Kaelyn Kwon, NEWS EDITOR, Iman Babiker and Rachel Kang, ASSISTANT NEWS EDITORS, article by Rachel Kang, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON EDITOR, images courtesy of VectorStock and Canva



STUDENT OPINIONS:

“I hope it doesn’t get banned because even if TikTok is bad, isn’t every other social media platform? It’s also like a way of communicating, for me, with friends who don’t have other platforms to text on. I also used to post a bunch of TikToks even if they were cringey so i really wouldn’t want those to get deleted.” -anonymous freshman

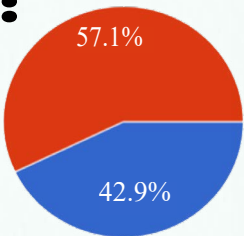
“I think that a ban on TikTok would be a very beneficial action, preventing the possibility of a foreign government to spy on us. However, the issue I have lies with the current bill to ban TikTok. The bill includes much more stipulations, allowing the government to essentially ban any website they deem to be a ‘threat’ to national security. This could open the doors to the gross restriction of our liberty to share our thoughts and opinions with each other.” -anonymous junior

“I understand that a ban on TikTok would lead to protests since it silences a major platform that people have to speak up against specific issues and has allowed for people to gain popularity for either content creation or music composition, but I do think that eventually, TikTok should be discontinued for better or for worse.” -Alexander Torres, senior

WARRIOR DATA:

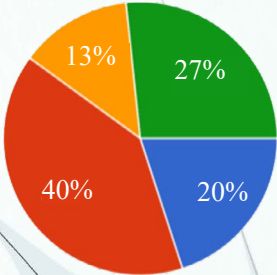
Do you use TikTok?

- Yes
- No



If so, how often do you use TikTok?

- Less than 30 minutes a day
- 30-60 minutes a day
- 1-2 hours a day
- 2+ hours a day



In light of developments in the debate over a ban of the social media platform TikTok, the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted March 14 to approve a proposal that will ban the app from all county government-issued devices.

Launched in 2016, the app’s user count grew significantly to over one billion active users with more than 100 million in the U.S. As the app’s popularity increased, so have the concerns of security experts. Much of this unease stems from the possibility of the Chinese government employing user data to track location and browsing history to potentially drive misinformation efforts.

The ongoing discussion over the future of TikTok escalated after the Biden Administration threatened to impose a ban unless the app’s Chinese parent company ByteDance divests itself from the platform. The ultimatum presented by the U.S. Committee on Foreign Investment marks a new climax in negotiations between federal officials and the company’s Beijing-headquartered owner.

Largely led by Republican lawmakers in Congress, the push to ban TikTok resulted in an initial smaller-scale ban of the app from government-issued devices. This removal will block any attempts to access sensitive data from federal employees privy to classified information, Texas Representative Michael McCaul said in an interview with Time Magazine.

“Anyone with TikTok downloaded on their device has given the CCP a backdoor to all their personal information—it is a spy balloon into their phone,” McCaul said. “It is too dangerous [for the app] to be on our phones as members of Congress [or] our children’s phones. That is

the whole point of this bill.”

Throughout the drafting of this proposal, the company remained adamant that the demand for major Chinese stock owners to sell to Americans as a transfer of influence over TikTok will not effectively address security concerns. Rather than resorting to extreme measures, such as a universal ban or divestment, more emphasis should be placed on transparency and strengthening of safety measures, a TikTok spokesperson told Time Magazine.

“If protecting national security is the objective, divestment does not solve the problem: a change in ownership would not impose any new restrictions on data flows or access,” the spokesperson said. “The best way to address concerns about national security is with the transparent, U.S.-based protection of U.S. user data and systems, with robust third-party monitoring, vetting, and verification, which we are already implementing.”

With political pressure mounting, TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew testified March 23 on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers confronted him over the threats to security his app poses. Amid uncertainty over the app’s future, TikTok users began sharing both honest and satirical grievances, counting the days until one of their main sources of entertainment, social media-based income, sponsorships and publicity disappears.

Although the materialization of such dramatizations may remain far in the future for now, experts suggest users should take this time to review privacy settings and make sure they feel comfortable with the impact TikTok has on their lives.



Fullerton College invites students to 12th annual French Film Festival

The festival immersed Orange County citizens in French culture through festivities, art and cinema.

By Iman Babiker
STAFF WRITER

Providing an immersive experience in French language and culture, Fullerton College hosted its 12th annual French Film Festival March 27-29 for college and high school French learners.

Sponsored by the Humanities Division, the festival engaged students with various aspects of French culture including music, food, art and games. Festival attendees enjoyed jazz interludes and a choir performance, along with a variety of food from local vendors including Crepes Bonaparte. Participants also played Joue A La Pétanque, a French game similar to the game "bocce" in which players attempt to roll a ball closest to a given target on the ground, typically marked by a smaller ball.

An hour into the festival, attendees were brought to the campus theater to watch a French film with English

subtitles to follow along. Each day of the three-day festival featured a different film open to the entire community. The first day of the festival showcased "Blackbox," a suspenseful drama which tells a mystery about a motor black box analyst who utilizes his expertise in sound engineering to investigate the cause of a deadly airplane crash.

According to Warrior French teacher Will Fritz, the benefits of exposure to visual and audio media for language learning transcends the film festival. These films also broaden student horizons beyond language learning, Fritz said.

"I thought it was interesting to see an aspect of the aviation industry [in 'Blackbox']," Fritz said. "We do not [usually] think about a career as specific as someone who sits there, listens to the recording and really analyzes the sound down to the level of the hertz and the megahertz."

With various genres to choose from, the audience decided on the passionate romance film 'Eiffel,' in which French engineer Gustave Eiffel's long-lost love inspires the Eiffel Tower design



PHOTO COURTESY CATHERINE REINHARDT-ZACAIR

FEATURING FRENCH MUSIC: *Organized by the opera professor, Fullerton College students and faculty performed French tunes while singing and playing their instruments.*

under the intense pressure of Paris' upcoming World Fair. The last night of the festival, designated as High School Night, screened "Hawa," a coming-of-age story of a young girl who attempts to meet and convince Michelle Obama to adopt her.

According to the French professor Catherine Reinhardt-Zacair, the festival requires 12 months of planning beginning

with choosing three films from a selection of about 50 films. With planning led by a collaborative effort across the college, the stage manager and opera professor helped organize the singing, while the campus French club created games and painted various backdrops for the attendees. In addition, the administrative staff handled the tents, lights and set-up.

"Students in high school can see the culture they are learning in action and Fullerton College students are deeply involved in the planning process," Reinhardt-Zacair said. "My favorite part about the festival is being [there] when everybody is enjoying the celebration and hanging out with friends and meeting new people. It is a gathering time and place around culture."

PSST showcases club members' talent at annual Pilipino American Culture Night

The club exhibited their Filipino culture through songs, dances and a skit.

By Neya Jakan
STAFF WRITER

Warrior Pilipino Sharing Smiles Together performed in their 25th annual Pilipino American Culture Night at the La Habra high school theater April 1.

PSST is a cultural club that aims to share its members' heritage through various events and performances throughout the year. While many other branches host Pilipino Culture Nights focused primarily on Filipino cultural performances, the Warrior PSST aims to integrate American culture and modern elements into the production.

Over the summer break, club directors Riley Diaz, Ryan Nguyen and Samanth Quijano started writing the skit and planning out the logistics of PACN. After the Warrior club rush, PSST hosted auditions for the skit, choir and dance before beginning after school practices in October.

In the weeks leading up to PACN, the club held practices on weekends for up to 12 hours to run through the entire show. Additionally, members participated in a spirit week each day by wearing formal dresses, Filipino



PHOTO COURTESY OF PSST

CELEBRATING FILIPINO CULTURE: *During the Pilipino American Culture Night the club members performed a traditional Filipino dance called tinikling to share their culture through various creative outlets.*

colors and club merchandise.

On the night of the event, members performed a skit, songs, and modern and traditional dances that depict Filipino culture. With over 50 participants, all the songs and dances shared a theme that correlated with the skit titled "The Hearts Left Uncaptured." The plot revolves around two students who meet in college and the lasting impact of the unexpected

death of one on the other.

According to Diaz, PACN is a rewarding experience for all members to participate in regardless of their performance level. In order to rehearse for the show, the cast dedicated numerous hours every week after school and on weekends, Diaz said.

"People that want to participate do not have to be good at dancing or singing to take part. [Students]

can just join and it is all about connecting with everyone," Diaz said. "Overall, the show unites everyone as a family and [fosters an environment in which] everyone creates bonds that many people have never experienced before."

Prior to the week of performance, many students among the audience were unaware of Filipino heritage and customs that are exhibited in the show. Through their performances

during PACN, the club continues to expose their culture to new audiences and attendees, Choir Director Ysabelle Kate Lao said.

"This event is a really good opportunity to showcase our culture and rich Pilipino history that is not all that commonly known," Lao said. "It is a great way to just have fun and socialize with everyone while telling [the audience] what it means to be Filipino."

EARTH
DAY
CLUB
CORNER

Botany Club

Founded for the purpose of spreading an interest in gardening amongst the Warrior community, the Botany Club advocates for the welfare of California’s endemic plant species. Currently, the club is partnered with the outdoor classroom, a multi-purpose, greenhouse workspace. With meetings held every Tuesday in Room 906, club presidents Lance Yeh and Audrey Her organize gardening sessions in the outdoor classroom with the club members.

Environmental Club

The Warrior Environmental Club aims to encourage members to contribute to green sustainability through community service and presentations on different subjects. During meetings held every other Wednesday in Room 401, club president Aditya Peddi covers different topics related to the environment such as sustainable power sources and unique inventions created in an effort to maintain ecological balance in Earth’s natural environment.

District names Warrior teacher James Kirkpatrick as the teacher of the year

James Kirkpatrick received the 2022 District Teacher of the Year Award for his dedication to students.

By Nathan Chao
STAFF WRITER

Known for his dad jokes and passion for teaching AP and IB Biology, Warrior teacher James Kirkpatrick received the 2022-2023 District Teacher of the Year Award Feb. 8 and is currently competing for the Orange County Department of Education Teacher of the Year Award. From a young age, Kirkpatrick knew he had a passion for helping others. After a brief stint working as an operating room technician, Kirkpatrick realized that he wanted to pursue teaching. The philosophy of making a positive difference in a young person’s

life remains one of Kirkpatrick’s current, key mindsets towards life fulfillment. Although he teaches the same subject every year, Kirkpatrick claims that the diversity of students he meets continues to spur his passion for teaching. “I love the different classes I get and the variety of students I get every year,” Kirkpatrick said. “The different students I get each year make it interesting since they arrive in my class with different questions, expectations, interests and passions. Being able to answer each question and pique a student’s interest in any field of biology excites me.” To become eligible to receive the District Teacher of the Year Award, colleagues of a candidate must vote for them. From there, candidates submit a written application with their personal philosophy, which outlines a candidate’s

approach and mindset towards teaching. The school district then selects the teacher of the year through a holistic process. Following this year’s round of selecting candidates for the award, Kirkpatrick reflected on his gratitude towards being recognized by his peers. “This award validates me and makes me feel valued,” Kirkpatrick said. “Just being able to represent all of the great teachers on campus means a lot to me, and I hope I can take this opportunity to celebrate the quality of education Troy provides.” After notifying Kirkpatrick with an update to his application, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District sent a bouquet of flowers along with a pen to commemorate his accomplishment. The district then named Kirkpatrick as one of the nominees to compete for the OCDE Teacher of the Year



PHOTO BY LAUREN SONG

BIOLOGY SUPERSTAR: Kirkpatrick motivates students to find enjoyment in biology through his interactive lessons.

Award. At the end of the contest, the candidates are honored at an annual recognition banquet hosted by the SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union. As Kirkpatrick waits for the final results of the county award, he remains humble about his recent recognition. “I never expect to win these types of awards,” Kirkpatrick said. “Although it was a bit shocking, I want to dedicate this award to the effort all teachers devote to their students. If we think of ourselves as a family and we respect that, I think that we can do great things.”

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with *Troy Oracle* in the Subject Line

A Fur-ever Home

Everyone can use a furry friend of their own, and local shelters have plenty to go around! Rescue an animal in need and bring brightness into your home. Read about National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day below.

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

After a draining day, nothing feels better than coming home to a happily wagging tail or purring furball. As anyone with a pet of their own can attest, these little creatures carry a rejuvenating energy everywhere they go, brightening days and soothing anxiety. Now is a great time to adopt a fur baby of your own because April 30 is National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day!

Rescues, shelters and pet cafés like OC Animal Care and Crumbs and Whiskers are some accessible places to find the newest member of your family. Those interested in adopting can visit the OC Animal Care website to view all available pets—dogs, cats, rabbits, birds and more—and call the shelter to schedule a time to bond with a prospective pet. Once pets and parents choose each other, only a

quick trip to the adoption desk is needed before heading home together. Even in the excitement of adoption, it is essential to make the commitment only after understanding how much change that bringing a new life into your home will require.

While local shelters do all that they can, a lack of space still threatens animals with euthanasia. Perhaps nobody at Troy understands the harm of puppy breeders more than the President of the People 4 Animal Welfare Society Liam Jones. “Breeders are not obligated to spay or neuter when they sell animals...as a result, many of these animals end up in high kill shelters,” Jones said. Breeders’ “pure-bred” pets are also notoriously more expensive than shelters’, pocketing money that could have been used to feed in-need animals. These issues are not

applicable at shelters, which responsibly care for their animals, including pure-breds. Unfortunately, many have the wrong impression of shelter pets, dismissing them as rabid simply because they have yet to find homes. Inaccurate associations with beasts behind metal bars can pollute the idea of shelter pets. Though behavioral quirks can manifest in mistreated animals, a majority are simply sweet companions in need of homes.

National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day is the perfect reason that these pets have a warm bed and a loving family. So, this April 30, venture out to the nearest shelter and find the newest (and most likely furriest) member of your family!

WARRIORS' TAKES

Students speak out on pet adoption.

“Adoption not only rescues animals from possible euthanasia, but also saves the owners by giving them a best friend.” - anonymous sophomore

“Pet adoption saves lives and brings joy and companionship to both pets and owners.” - Pali Jain, junior

“Pet adoption provides a second chance for animals in need, giving them a loving home and the care they deserve.” - Priya Pandit, junior

“So many dogs need homes, and often, our preconceived notions and prejudices toward certain dog breeds are wrong.” - anonymous freshman



Did you shop or adopt?



Up to the Taste Task



Wondering where to grab a flavorful bite? Check out @tessatastes_ on Instagram! Senior Tessa Lapradez has everyone covered with Fullerton-based restaurant reviews that display her love for food and cooking. Read more about Lapradez below!

Compiled by Mary Kim, ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, and Eileen Um, ASSISTANT FEATURE EDITOR, article by Julie Liu, STAFF WRITER, photos courtesy of Tessa Lapradez

The scent of spicy miso wafts up from the ceramic plate, steam clouding the camera’s lenses. Angling her camera to catch the vibrant hues of golden turmeric and crimson spices, senior Tessa Lapradez captures the flavor profile of the dish in a single Instagram photo. A scroll through her online page reveals both popular and hole-in-the-wall eateries deserving of attention. At the smell of these delicious creations, Lapradez draws on her fine palate to concoct attentive appraisals. Behind Lapradez’s online presence detailing niche, scrumptious foods lies her long standing devotion to sharing culture with her loved ones and to her online community.

The birth of Lapradez’s Instagram account (@tessatastes_) can be traced back to the summer of 2022, but Lapradez credits the origin of her culinary passion to her family members. From a young age, Lapradez’s father introduced her to Filipino cuisine, refining her taste for unique and fresh flavors. Years of visiting countless Asian markets and formulating new recipes with her father made cooking an authentic, familial interaction. Lapradez’s experience trying cuisines developed her eye in discovering restaurants to feature on her

Instagram page. In the wake of the pandemic, Lapradez continues to raise awareness for restaurants struggling to recover, posting detailed reviews and mouth-watering reels of dishes. Drawing from a range of Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Italian and French cultures, she maintains an original online presence.

“I really enjoy getting to meet owners of restaurants and hearing their background,” said Lapradez. “I also post some of my own recipes or my family’s recipes. It’s just something I’m interested in and passionate about doing.”

Overcome with an appetite for trying delicious new dishes, Lapradez began posting food reviews more consistently. She wanted to share her love of food with a wider audience. From local eateries to luxurious restaurants abroad, Lapradez has tasted cuisines from all types of restaurants. She often highlights locally-owned Asian restaurants in her food blog, where stories commemorating these enjoyable dine-in experiences are told. Lapradez especially favors fusion cuisines, such as Ini Ristorante, a Japanese-Italian fusion restaurant. There, a charming ambiance paired with a selection of Japanese-Italian plates satisfied her craving for both Japanese and Italian tastes. Unafraid

of novel recipes and always eager to discover new locations, she frequently tries hole-in-the-wall restaurants that others may overlook. Lapradez rarely focuses on the popularity of a restaurant, rather, she favors the quality of the food, valuing authenticity in her blog.

“I think it’s important for me to post stuff that I genuinely find interesting and I know people close to me will enjoy seeing,” said Lapradez. “[And] not just posting to get likes.”

As Lapradez prepares to embark on her college journey alongside many of her friends, she hopes to continue documenting the delectable foods that she encounters on her blog. With a new car and the freedom to visit more restaurants of her choosing, Lapradez steps into a world of infinite possibilities. Since her heart forever lies in the search for exquisite cuisines, she plans to continue posting despite her relatively small audience. Lapradez encourages students to try niche restaurants and new foods to discover what they truly love.

“It’s important to genuinely love what you’re posting,” said Lapradez. “When you invest your time in things that you love, and things that you really enjoy doing, you can never really go wrong.”



 Pictured: Savory salt and pepper squid (local farmers market in Great White Venice)

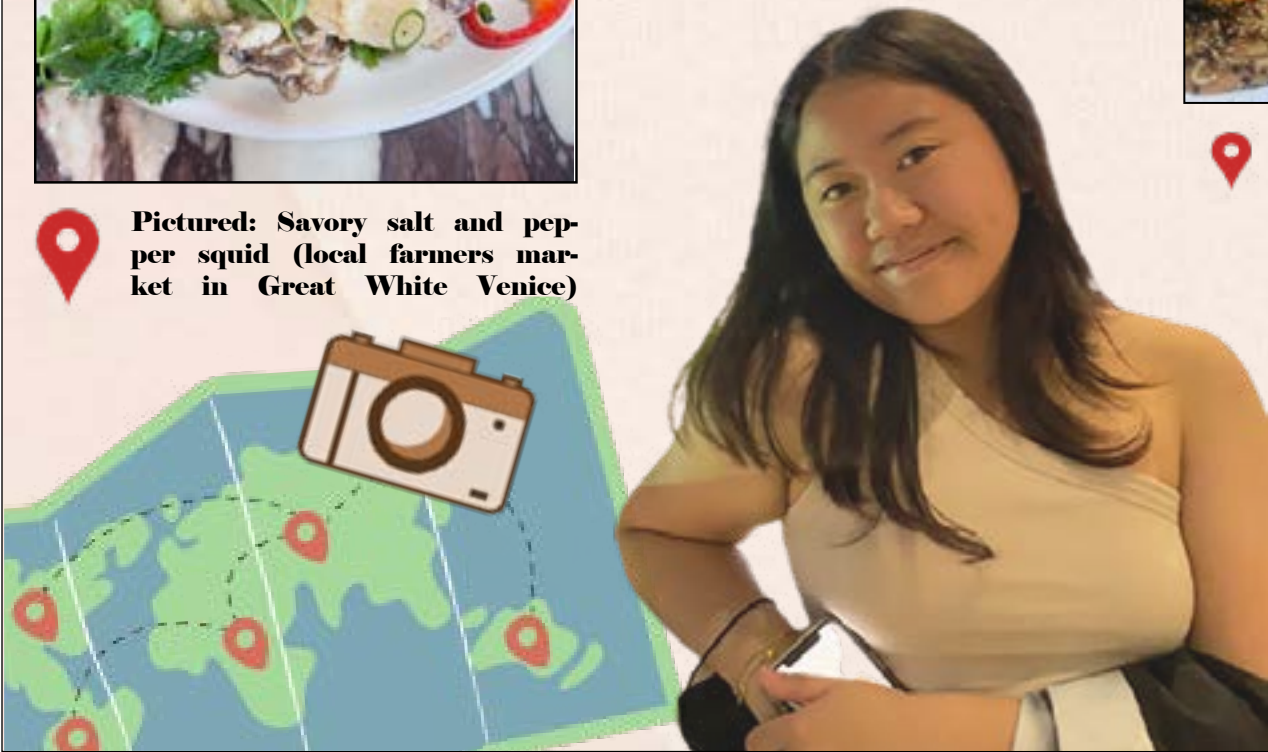
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Featuring a delectable blend of chili, scallions and lemon aioli, this salt and pepper squid is the perfect Sunday lunch! Stop by for a tasty meal at the Great White Venice!

@tessatastes_ 



 Pictured: Uni Pasta, Miso Carbonara and Frutti di Mare from Ini Ristorante



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The perfect lunch for any special occasion, Ini Ristorante perfectly melds Japanese and Italian cuisine. Uni complements the pasta with a seafood tang, while the Mentaiko pizza adds a Japanese twist on the traditional Italian dish. Stop by this hub for a guaranteed 5 star meal!

@tessatastes_ 



SENDING OUR WARRIORS OFF



The Warrior athletes of the 2022-2023 year finalize their commitments to different universities across the country to play on the collegiate level. Read more below to learn about their future plans!

Air Force Academy
UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE ACADEMY



When Nadia Kojonroj stepped onto a tennis court for the first time, she was completely unaware that the sport would quickly become her life’s passion. Playing an average of 16 hours of tennis per week, Kojonroj practices both before and after school and on the weekends. By sticking to a strict and intense training regime, Kojonroj has been able to perfect every swing, serve and technique, so much so that the Air Force Academy recruited her to play for them. As Kojonroj had been wanting to attend the prestigious military college for a while, the admission process was fairly simple since she received the invitation, giving her plenty of time to reflect on her years spent as a Tennis Warrior. Kojonroj believes that her freshman experience with being on the Troy team and winning the CIF quarterfinals set her up for success. By giving her a taste of a professional tennis career, the tournament inspired her to continue exploring both her athletic and academic goals. Kojonroj is an impeccable Warrior-Athlete and owes her strong grade point average to her time on varsity tennis, where she learned not only how to balance sports and academics, but how to succeed in them. As an Air Force Academy Falcon, Kojonroj wishes to carry her high school work ethic with her. With this mindset, she is determined to become the strongest, most valuable tennis player she can be in the years ahead.



UCI University of California, Irvine



At the young age of 4, Elijah Juge was introduced to the world of soccer by his father. Fastforward 14 years, Juge is now recruited to play Division One soccer at the University of California Irvine. Although this is his first year on the Warrior team, Juge reflects on his time on varsity with great pride and appreciation. Juge commemorates the first goal he scored, believing that being on the team set him up for a successful senior year. Being alongside his fellow Warrior teammates inspired him every day to work harder both in his classes and his team. He is grateful for the kind coaches who advised him throughout the admissions process, as the guidance they have offered considerably reduced the level of stress during the season. In taking this impressive step towards furthering both his academic and athletic careers, Juge wishes to maintain a high grade point average, while simultaneously becoming one of the most impressive freshman soccer players at his conference. According to Juge, being a Warriors prepared him well. With immense gratitude for his improvement, the senior praises his father’s dedication in keeping him motivated and directed towards his goals. Determined that UCI will open the doors to many more opportunities, Juge looks forward to his upcoming years at the university, striving to become the best soccer player he can be and vowing to make his father proud.



 **CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY**



Starting only in freshman year, Fischer Huss signed up for football because of his friends and his desire to try out a new sport. To catch up to the other players, Huss spent the majority of his time in the weight room for strength training and drills. “I’ve always had a sense of strong work ethic, but being on a team where you have 10 other guys on the field depending on you, you really discover this new sense of determination to be the best version of yourself that you can be,” Huss said. He decided to contribute to the team by acting as a mentor to younger Warriors and teaching the importance of believing in the underdog. Being named Captain, Scholar Athlete and Offensive MVP for Troy and of the Freeway League, Huss put in much time and effort to give the Warrior team a reputable name. Chapman University was the perfect fit for his dedication to his schoolwork and athletics. Managing classes, practices and games since high school, Huss feels that Chapman will be a great experience, challenging him to his fullest potential. Committed, he hopes to be part of the growing community while still playing football. Huss is excited to be able to explore his own academic path and be a part of the Panther football program because of its closely knit team and familial bond. At Chapman, he hopes to become a starter on the team by the end of his freshman year and use the next four years to become a trainer or physical therapist.



 **UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND**



Anthony Santoro had always been inspired to play football because of his family at a young age. Throughout his years in high school, Santoro gradually worked on his skills in the sport, trusting the process knowing that he will reap the benefits of his hard work. According to Santoro, being able to grow with the Warrior football team for the last four years was memorable for him. “I hope that the way I view the game of football and the process will leave a lasting impact on Troy Football. Canceling out the noise and believing in yourself is the best way to approach this game,” Santoro said. The preparation for the games and practices had made him into someone who was willing to make sacrifices for his teammates and coaches. As a result of his efforts, Santoro received the honors of Team MVP and First Team All League. When the University of Rhode Island asked Santoro to commit, he happily signed immediately. According to Santoro, with family in Rhode Island, the journey across the country would be easier. Additionally, he admires the connection that the players and coaches have for each other and the overall spirit of the team at the university. As a future Ram, he is excited to show his abilities to the next level in college football and to become more independent as he grows on a new campus. He hopes to try his hardest regardless of the outcome so he can look back on the experience as a time of personal growth.



Americans must understand that the Willow Project is not black and white

By Edyn Mai
ASSISTANT OPINION
EDITOR



The Willow Project is a vital and necessary evil for America’s future. On March 13, President Joe Biden and his administration approved energy company ConocoPhillips’ Willow Project, a highly controversial, large-scale oil drilling plan set in Alaska. The project will build three oil pads in the Alaskan North Slope and collect around 600 million barrels of oil in 30 years. After approving the plan, Biden faced a massive wave of warranted backlash from climate change activists and Native Alaskans due to its proximity to indigenous land and neighborhoods. However, the extent of this backlash has gone too far. Though the approval of oil drilling in Northern Alaska poses many threats to surrounding nature, the American populace must understand the potential financial problems that will follow if the project is canceled. According to CNN, the courts cannot legally nullify the Willow Project since ConocoPhillips had already prepared the land for the project under the Trump administration. Forcing the company to rescind its prior arrangements would result in heavy fines and legal actions, such as a possible five-billion-dollar lawsuit. Regardless, popular websites and social media accounts such as change.org spread a narrative that makes stopping the project look much more black and white than it actually is. With many people falsely believing that cutting the project would have no financial repercussions, the entirety of the

Willow Project should be projected to a broader audience. Activists must also recognize the changes and amendments that were made to lessen the harmful effects of the initial project. The Alaska Public Media reported the initial approval of the Willow Project from the Trump administration, which would begin with three drilling pads and extend to five drilling pads later in the process. Since then, more climate conscious changes, such as decreasing the project’s size, were made to retain its economic benefits while lowering its ecological footprint as much as possible. The shortened number of oil pads lessens the project’s acreage, causing less damage to the surrounding land and minimizing the amount of oil produced from the Alaskan North Slope area. This is not to say that there will be no harmful emissions, but compared to the initial project approved under President Trump, a small change is better than none. Additionally, the project is crucial for the Alaskan economy. The Willow Project is set to create 2,500 construction jobs and 300 permanent ones, employing a quarter of



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEMAL COUNTESS

the Alaskan North Slope area. With many areas of Alaska still depressed by the COVID-19 shutdown, this massive wave of new jobs is vital for many communities. Fox Business reported that the project is meant to produce between 8 billion and 17 billion dollars in revenue on a federal, state and local level. The stream of revenue from the project will also allow many indigenous communities more financial independence versus reliance on government aid. The Willow Project is needed to support the surrounding neighborhoods. While the approval of the Willow Project harbors many ecological issues, the American government’s other efforts to fight climate change cannot be ignored. The media tends to overlook the great strides the Biden administration made in the fight against climate change. For instance, it hosted the Leaders Summit on Climate, which gathers world leaders to address the climate crisis and re-entered the Paris

Agreement, which is a treaty that binds different nations in agreement to fight climate change. His administration also targets greenhouse gasses, claiming its goal is to reduce them by about 50% by 2030. Unfortunately, the approval of the Willow Project contradicts these goals, but plenty of other actions are being taken to make up for an increased carbon footprint. The U.S. government’s dedication to fighting climate change must also be spotlighted. The government’s fight against climate change must not be underappreciated despite the harm of the Willow Project. Although the plan is detrimental, it is a necessary evil for America. Even with the project’s approval, the Biden administration continuously attempts to make the most efficient choices for the people. Though the administration is not without any fault for authorizing the project, the media must not lose all trust in the government and its decision-making processes.



CARTOON BY PEARL YOON

A Nice Daydream by Pearl Yoon



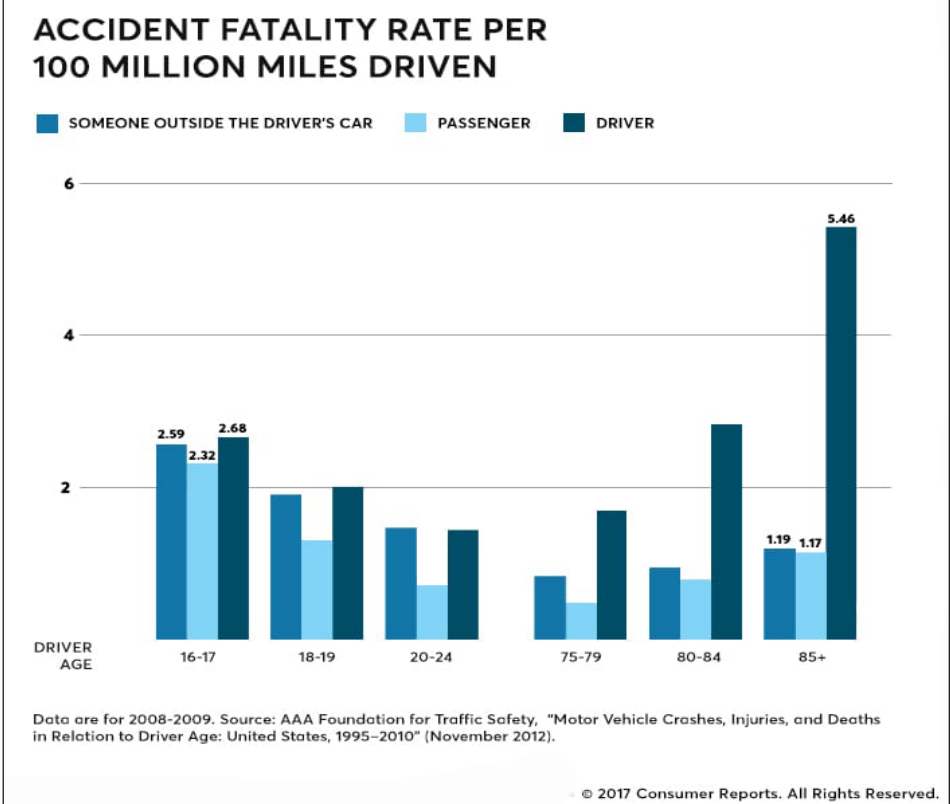
Keeping risky older drivers off the roads demonstrates the potential to save lives

By Brett Larsen
STAFF WRITER



Driver safety laws prevent unnecessary injuries and fatalities. Actor Dick Van Dyke, famous for his roles in movies such as “Mary Poppins” and “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang,” was left with minor injuries after a car accident on March 22. Because of this, the debate over whether older drivers should be allowed on the road has reemerged as a point of contention. A sizable number of elderly drivers have voiced their opposition to California law requiring those aged 70 years and older to take eye and knowledge exams. However, it is critical that laws that are designed to keep potentially dangerous elderly drivers off the road remain in place. So-called “age discrimination” is not a valid argument against driver safety laws. Many elderly drivers claim that some driver safety laws target them, such as 75-year-old San Jose resident Suzanne Arnaud who told the Los Angeles Times that the law amounts to age discrimination. However, this argument fails to hold up when it is made evident that “age discrimination” is commonplace in our society. After all, the government does prohibit children from drinking alcohol or driving a car. Clearly,

enforcing laws based on age is common sense—as a society, we must acknowledge that age discrimination is logical. Additionally, more incompetent older drivers on the road puts everyone at risk. According to Oxford Academic, “aging of the nervous system” impacts hand-eye coordination and reaction time, meaning that as you get older, it is more difficult to focus and remain coordinated, increasing the likelihood of a car accident. As such, it is important that older drivers demonstrate that they are cognitively capable so that they do not put others in danger. While critics of elder-driving laws cite lower car crash numbers among older drivers compared to those aged 30 years old or younger, it is important to understand why that is. The Los Angeles Times reports that drivers older than 70 represent roughly 10% of all licensed drivers in California, yet they were only involved in 7.2% of fatal crashes in 2019. On the other hand, drivers aged 20 to 24 years old made up about 8% of licensed drivers in California but were involved in 11.9% of fatal crashes. At first glance, it is a fact that younger drivers are more likely to be involved in an accident compared to older drivers. However, the reason for this is that younger drivers drive much



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CONSUMER REPORTS

more. According to the U.S Department of Transportation, with an annual average of 15,098 miles compared to about 7,646, those who are younger drive nearly twice as much. As the data shows, it is safe to say older drivers are actually underrepresented in real crash statistics, and are responsible for more wrecks than they should be given the amount they drive. Ultimately, older drivers must

demonstrate that they can drive safely by participating in driver safety courses. This is necessary for a variety of reasons: age causes a decline in the sharpness of mental faculties and that a higher age corresponds to a higher crash fatality rate. At the end of the day, the facts paint a coherent picture: laws which prevent incompetent older drivers from gaining access to the wheel make our roads more safe.

Skittles consumers should “taste the rainbow,” not its numerous toxins

By Joelle Cheeseman
STAFF WRITER

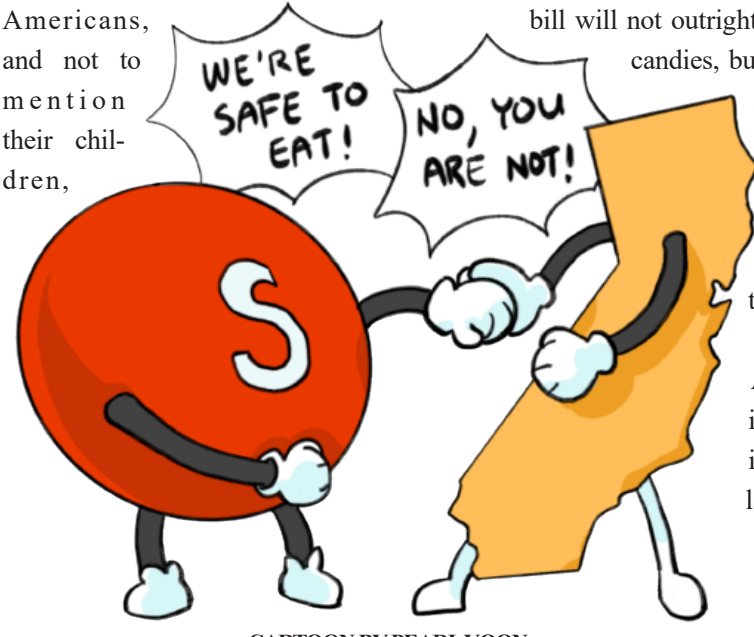


There should be no debate to ban toxins in our food. On March 16, California lawmakers introduced Assembly Bill 418, which would ban five toxic additives found in many popular candies Skittles and Nerds. Many of these chemicals such as red dye No. 3 and titanium dioxide are linked to cancer and have been deemed unsafe for human consumption by other countries. If this bill is passed, foods containing the chemicals red dye No. 3, titanium dioxide, potassium bromate, brominated vegetable oil or propylparaben could be banned in California. While even the thought of losing these delicious candies is truly heartbreaking, this bill is a necessary advancement in prioritizing people’s health and safety over profit. The regular use of these toxic additives poses a severe threat to American health. In 2016, Mars Incorporated was sued for their unsafe use of titanium dioxide in Skittles. Mars stated that the additive had no known risks to human

health and that the “use of titanium dioxide complies with FDA regulations.” However, in 2021, the European Food Safety Authority’s expert Panel on Food Additives and Flavourings found titanium dioxide is no longer considered food safe due to its potential to damage genetic material of cells and to cause respiratory issues. While many of the chemical additives mentioned in AB-418 are banned in other countries, the United States’ standards of food safety are clearly outdated and the new legislation is crucial to restrict the use of such dangerous toxins. Many are concerned that this bill would outlaw these popular candies. However, in reality, it does not ban the products, but encourages ingredient changes for better overall safety. For instance, Canada, Europe, the U.K. and Brazil all have Skittles manufactured without titanium dioxide as it is only being used in small amounts to brighten the color of the candy. These additives are unnecessary to the flavor or consistency of the food, have no nutritional value and have equally effective alternatives. When given the choice between aesthetics and safety, it is obvious that these

candies ingredients should be changed. Banning these toxic chemicals will establish new and improved industry standards for public safety. One of the largest opposers to the bill, the National Confectioners Association, claims that no reasonable evidence has been given to show that these additives are harmful. However, the NCA is also the largest U.S. trade association for confectioners, generating \$42 billion in sales per year and which Mars Incorporated is also a member of. Millions of Americans, and not to mention their children,

continue to consume large amounts of harmful chemicals in candy, yet billion-dollar corporations are simply concerned with the loss of profit that comes with being labeled as “toxic.” The lack of appropriate food regulation perpetuates corporate power over American livelihood. Outlawing these harmful additives will improve the safety of American products. Other countries have already banned these chemicals and the lack of similar laws in America only represents a gap in industry standards. Moreover, this bill will not outright ban these iconic candies, but hold companies accountable for the products that they feed to the people. There is a blatant lack of consideration for American health in legislation, and it is essential that lawmakers begin prioritizing people’s wellbeing.



CARTOON BY PEARL YOON

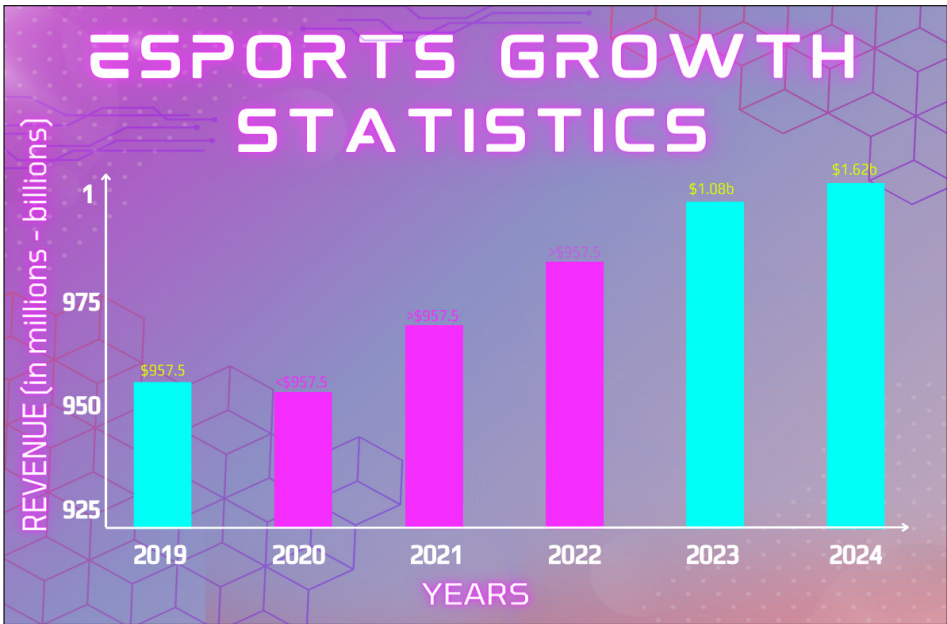
Immediate attention needs to be given to the Esports industry before it is too late

By Shailey Patel
STAFF WRITER



Current upheavals in the Esports industry cannot be taken lightly. On March 30, Counter Logic Gaming, an Esports company, informed its employees of mass layoffs in the coming weeks and its plan to sell all of its Esports teams, including its distinguished League roster. However, CLG is not the only organization that has faced economic downfall this year. 2023 has been a brutal year for the Esports industry, with it facing three main obstacles: sponsors dropping out, overhiring and investors losing confidence. If the Esports industry wants any chance to become successful again, the structure of these platforms must be changed in an effort to better monetize aspects of the game and a stable source of income that attracts investors. Esport’s current growth-before-profit model is one that investors will not be able to support because they are not gaining anything from their investment. This can be seen through 100 Thieves, one of the most valuable Esports teams in the world, who was forced to lay off a sixth of its workforce due to investors, heavily composed of owners of sports teams

losing faith in any monetary payoff. After almost five years since the industry had been established, many investors who have spent millions of dollars in the industry have not made enough profit to continue investing in Esports. With the growing lack of confidence among investors, many of whom have experience investing in actual sports teams, the industry is fighting a battle it cannot afford to lose. The benefits of Esports makes it an industry worth saving. Esports does not limit or discourage people based on their age, race, gender or athletic ability, making it appealing to people who have been discouraged by biases in traditional sports. As a result, many are able to express their voices through Esports and gain a sense of self through newfound passions that they are able to share with the world. Being able to communicate on this platform connects millions around the world, both allowing people to have a fun time and meet new friends and learn new things. Despite current hardships that the industry is facing, it is one worthy of an economic revival. Rather than feeling disadvantaged by the differences in industries, Esports should take advantage of its online platform to profit. In order to recover from the current recession Esports has faced,



GRAPHIC BY DANIELA HERRERA

publishers could share revenue for things like in-game purchases related to Esports. For example, Esports should follow Riot Games, who created a Valorant Champions skin bundle, a deal that would offer a portion of revenue sales to Esports teams that are franchised to the league. This small change could enable the teams to further grow within the league and as an organization. If game companies and Esports teams prioritized sponsorships and brand deals, the industry would be able to reestablish the prominence that it once had. Failure to do so could result in damage beyond repair. The Esports industry must act fast in changing their business model to be more profitable before it collapses to a point where it can no longer recover. The complete reliance of the industry on investors has heavily contributed to its current downfall. The benefits the industry provides to people should be the motivation behind fighting for its survival. In an attempt to recover, it is imperative that teams focus on creating an effective and stable source of income to be more self-reliant and appealing to investors.

mark my words

Warriors speak out on campus issues

Read what our Warriors have to say regarding overall campus safety and school gates.

Should Troy always close their gates at certain hours regardless of campus activities?



“I think Troy is pretty safe...but I feel like some may be too open...like the access road or stuff....I’m not sure if that’s entirely safe due to the fact that anybody can come and go.”

- anonymous freshman

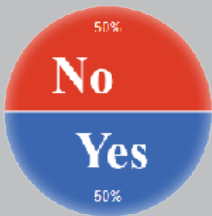
“If people are doing something [after school, then] the school should remain open.”

- anonymous freshman

“My parents can easily walk onto campus. And while that’s annoying to me, they could easily be someone dangerous and there is nothing preventing them from walking onto campus after school during sports, or after sports.”

- anonymous junior

Do you think Troy has adequate safety during non-school hours?



“There is no need to restrict people. Although there could possibly be the danger of people entering, it will be more annoying than anything.”

- anonymous freshman

“A lot of things I see as safety aren’t ‘visible.’ You always have to be careful because even fellow students can threaten your safety.”

- anonymous sophomore

“I think we have excellent staff and security provided with the police officers and several staff members present at all times during Break and Lunch.”

- Jacob Lozano, junior

Do you think Troy has adequate safety on campus during school hours?



“There are always 1 or 2 police officers walking around so it’s fine. However, I think that the roaming around makes them an easy target. A school shooter could easily plan out their location and attack them before anyone else. It would be smarter to have them in an undisclosed office or something where they can respond to threats from.”

- anonymous freshman

Pointless “Paint”ing

Painting over the legacy of Bob Ross, “Paint” continues to misuse the name of the greatest artist.

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Ishaan Arya, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Kaila Perlas, CARTOON EDITOR, graphics courtesy of MovieMaker Magazine

Bob Ross’ ’80s television show “The Joy of Painting” centered on his wholesome and heartfelt optimism as he taught viewers how to paint scenic landscapes, leaving a legacy of warmth and positivity that highlighted the natural beauty of our world. Nearly 30 years later, a new film with a questionably similar protagonist hits theaters. “Paint” follows Carl Nargle (Owen Wilson), a famous painter who ran Vermont’s top painting show. When his station hires a fresh faced replacement to take his place, Carl’s fears about his career are brought to the forefront as he competes for his job. Along the way, Carl’s hot-headed nature serves as the main source of emotional conflict for the film. Instead of a respectable, standalone film with its own story, “Paint” seems like a knock-off of the Bob Ross brand for a completely different film inconsistent with its origin. The argument could be made that “Paint” cannot be labeled as a Bob Ross film since it does not appear to focus on him at all with a completely different backstory and name. However, the film clearly takes from Bob Ross,

simply just switching out the name of the main character. In the film, Carl has a television program wherein he paints natural landscapes with a wet-on-wet technique, speaking in a soothing and calming tone. The movie is undoubtedly using Bob Ross’ iconic look and style as a film equivalent of clickbait, reeling in viewers with the idea of a Bob Ross biopic. “Paint” does not make any effort to be faithful to Ross’ legacy. Throughout his career, Ross emphasized the importance of growth and positivity. His wholesome image and persona is part of what makes him so well known. “Paint,” instead, focuses on a downtrodden protagonist who has to come to terms with his irrelevance. Carl goes through a primarily negative emotional arc and is characterized as both foolish and vain, something Bob Ross was not. For instance, Carl is characterized as a playboy with a habit of seducing his co-workers. Ross was nothing of the sort, so this portrayal does not connect at all with someone who held the reputation as the happy go-lucky dad of painting. This misuse of Bob Ross’ legacy relates

to a larger question the entertainment industry faces today relating to the posthumous use of personas. In situations similar to Ross’, there is a moral dilemma regarding the approach to the portrayal of celebrities and actors after their passing, since the portrayed cannot give their consent and input for their depictions. This can lead to disrespectful, inaccurate portrayals. Nowadays, the entertainment space has been populated with biopics of popular musicians and public figures, from Elvis to “Weird Al” Yankovic. When consuming these films, it is important to take the information presented on the screen with a grain of salt, because these portrayals may fall prey to inaccuracies and misinterpretations.



Devastatingly Del Rey

A couple of years since her last album release, Lana Del Rey is back at it again with “Did You Know That There’s a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd.” Read more to find out if her new album is worth the hype.

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Jessica Chin, STAFF WRITER, graphics courtesy of Pitchfork and Target

Soothing, heart wrenching and unbelievably realistic, Lana Del Rey’s new album, “Did You Know That There’s a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd,” is easily one of her best albums. Whether you know her for the album “Born to Die” or her notoriously realistic interviews on the red carpet, Del Rey has always been an elusive enigma. However, with her 2023 album, she pulls back the curtain, creating her ninth studio album that hits all the right notes. Maintaining a unique, personal brand of honesty, Del Rey does not shy away from any of the feels in her album. She features 16 tracks comprising 14 songs and two interludes that flow with a cinematic quality that explores tragic romance, glamor and melancholia. From “The Grants” to “Grandfather Please Stand on the Shoulders of My Father While He’s Deep-Sea Fishing” and “Kintsugi,” these melodies are Del Rey’s reflection of grief as she questions the afterlife and illustrates the horror of watching a loved one die. Refusing to let tragedy define her, she

sends prayers to her father, asking for a sign from the divine. Del Rey makes the artform of kintsugi a theme of putting broken pottery pieces back together to highlight the beauty of embracing flaws. Hidden within the head bopping melodies, Del Rey finds meaning in accepting herself and forgiveness for the fractured world she sees. As the most personal of all her albums, her self-examining deep dive is hitting all the right cords from critics to fans. Critics appreciate the creative risks of Del Rey furthering herself from her very well established sad Hollywood girl persona, as she proves herself far beyond it. Even so, some fans do miss her old sound, but with a deeper sense of authenticity and references to her previous works, it is easy to fall in love with the relatable topics included in the album. Though the themes Del Rey explores in her new album are not unusual, the distinctly quieter feel in her introspective album that emphasizes her artistic growth is. Still sticking with a mixture of surrealist poetry with dance music production that leans heavily on

the somber piano notes, Del Rey’s lyrics, which normally feature references to lust, escapism and violence are replaced. Instead, she embraces her own personal development with an undercurrent of heartbreak and self-evaluation, a completely new topic for her. Hope is integral to this album as a product of grief from losing family members and close friends. Her new hope carried by her genuine emotion is relatable for the many who wish to reunite with lost loved ones instead of mourning them. Although there is a spark of classic Del Rey glamor, it is a fragile facade created from multiple failed relationships and the simultaneous conflicting desire to be in-and-out of the public eye. Self-evaluation is not a new aesthetic, but a reflection of a continuously growing artist. “Did You Know That There’s a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd” is an album that stuns in creative direction, whether you’re making a night drive playlist or constructing a new crying over your grades remix, one of Del Rey’s new songs deserves a spot on the list.

MARVELING WITH MARIO!

Revisit your favorite childhood video game as it jumps from screen to theme park! Read more on Oracle’s take on all of the new trending Super Mario Bros. content.

Compiled by Kaitlyn Zhang, ASSISTANT ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Kaitlyn Zhang, graphics courtesy of Nintendo

It is impossible to forget the feeling of bouncing through Mushroom Kingdom hills with our favorite red-capped plumber on a quest to rescue his beloved princess. The Super Mario Bros. franchise is a permanent memory of youth for multiple generations and an ever-present reminder of simpler days. Jumping back from the past, childhood Nintendo dreams can be relived best at the grand opening of Super Nintendo World at Universal Studios Hollywood.

Filled with the shiniest gold coins and most vicious piranha plants, the Mario Bros’ vivid world is unmistakable. Though Mario’s perfect mustache has solidified his perpetual presence throughout the times, his simplicity weaves itself with the rest of his animated cast. From Luigi’s timid demeanor to Yoshi’s adorable squeal, there is room for everyone to fit in the spotlight. Making his way from the screen of your childhood 3DS, Mario and his friends make a leap to their very own world at Universal Studios Hollywood.

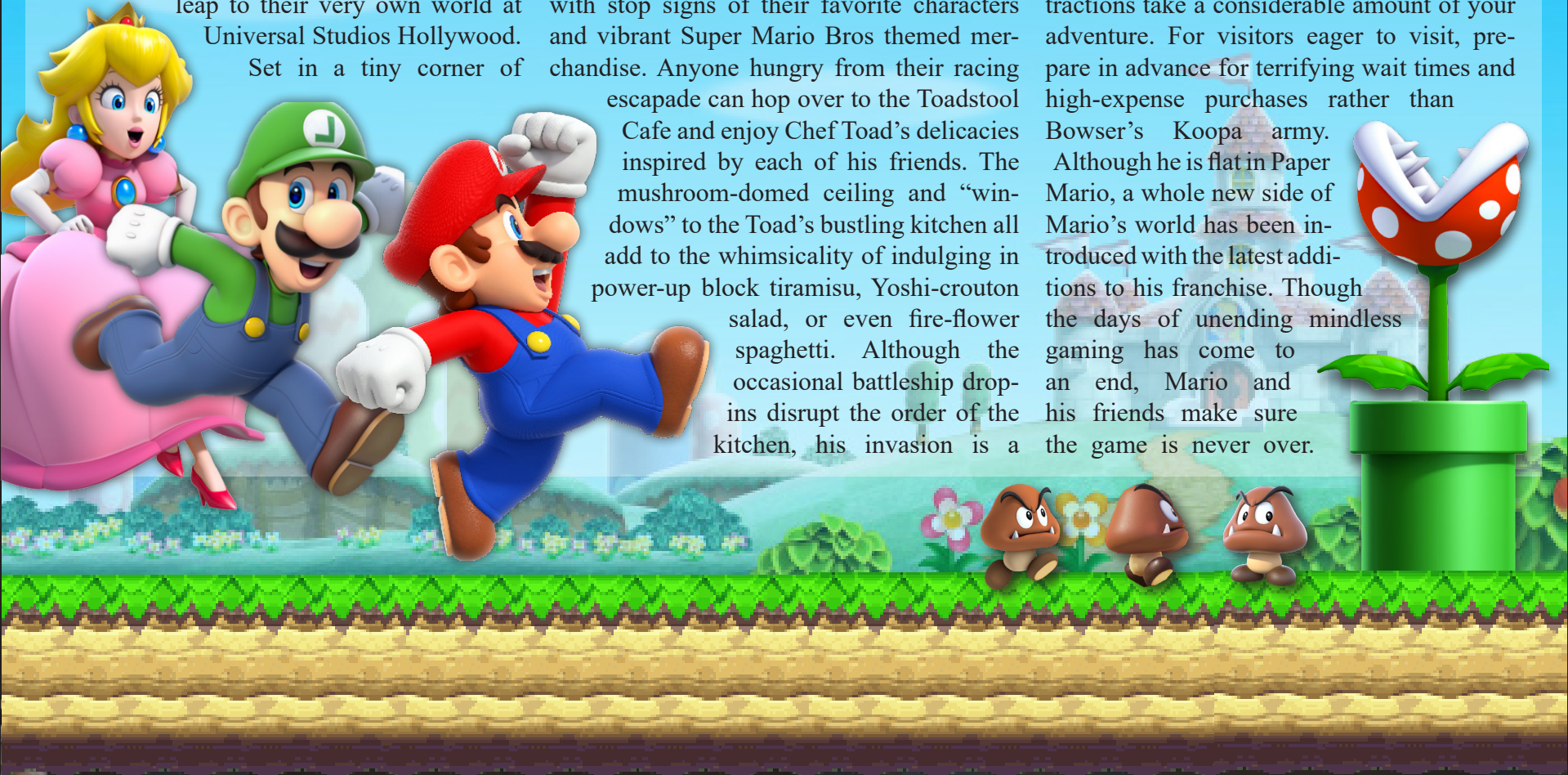
Set in a tiny corner of

Universal Studio Hollywood’s lower lot, players are transported through a green warp tunnel to a land of vibrant green hills. Mushroom Kingdom motifs are quick to greet visitors who have just waltzed through Princess Peach’s Castle. At every turn is a pixel of nostalgia, with floating cloud platforms dotting the skies and piranha plants lurking out at the players.

Towering at the heart of Mario Land is Bowser’s Castle, housing their newest ride: Mario Kart: Bowser’s Challenge. Based on the beloved racing game, Universal’s ride incorporates the latest augmented reality technology into visors for players to completely immerse themselves in a race between Bowser and Mario. Players speed through Piranha Plant Cove and Cloudtop Cruise, knocking shells into the other team, and collecting coins along the way all through their racer headsets. The ride passes in a flash, leading riders straight into the 1-Up Store, filled with stop signs of their favorite characters and vibrant Super Mario Bros themed merchandise. Anyone hungry from their racing escapade can hop over to the Toadstool Cafe and enjoy Chef Toad’s delicacies inspired by each of his friends. The mushroom-domed ceiling and “windows” to the Toad’s bustling kitchen all add to the whimsicality of indulging in power-up block tiramisu, Yoshi-cROUTON salad, or even fire-flower spaghetti. Although the occasional battleship drop-ins disrupt the order of the kitchen, his invasion is a

small part of the complete dining experience.

Despite the lively aura of sentimentality throughout the entire park, the entire experience is only truly unlocked with a purchase of a \$40 Power-Up Band. With Universal’s special Power-Up Bands, downloadable content comes to life by unlocking the storyline-based minigames around the park such as Goomba Crazy Crank, Koopa Troopa Power Punch, Piranha Plant Nap Mishap and Thwomp Panel Panic. These games build the 3D universe which lead visitors on their way to defeat Bowser Junior. Without these special accessories, users are unable to keep track of their collected coins by beating various games and interacting with special power-up blocks. Furthermore, the immense popularity of the park renders even reservation-based entry completely ineffectual, with crowds quickly filling every pixel of the park. Plagued by inefficient queue organization, lines for dining and attractions take a considerable amount of your adventure. For visitors eager to visit, prepare in advance for terrifying wait times and high-expense purchases rather than Bowser’s Koopa army. Although he is flat in Paper Mario, a whole new side of Mario’s world has been introduced with the latest additions to his franchise. Though the days of unending mindless gaming has come to an end, Mario and his friends make sure the game is never over.



ON THE BIG SCREEN

The “Super Mario Bros Movie” released on April 5 transports fans behind the Mario Bros’ onscreen cheerful exterior. With Bowser’s imminent plans for world domination, Mario must travel alongside Princess Peach to rescue his brother Luigi and thwart Bowser’s plans. Compelling in its nostalgic aspects, the movie pays homage to easter eggs over the years ranging from the beloved Mario Kart map Rainbow Road to iconic variations of the Mario’s theme song. Although staying safe within the realm of kids’ films, the film falls just short of being perfect. Though the painstaking detail of the film illustrates the world in all its glory, too little screen time is used to build any character beyond their default facade. However, enough personality is present to entertain and allow audiences to fully waltz down memory lane with their favorite characters in excellent quality.

