

ORACLE

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**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE**
FEATURE

As the holiday season nears, explore how various Warriors celebrate different cultural holidays from around the world.

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SPORTS

Discover Junior LA Kings hockey star Michael Maple and his aspirations of playing college-level hockey.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Read our review of the popular pacifist video game, "Undertale," which stresses negotiation rather than violence.

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Stoplight Dance moves to first semester

Balancing the number of dances per semester, ASB changed the stag dance's date to before winter break.

By Brendan Brzycki
STAFF WRITER

Giving a holiday touch to a familiar event, the Warrior Associated Student Body (ASB) will host the Stoplight Dance in the North Gym Dec. 18.

The stag dance, which begins at 8:00 p.m. and ends at 11:00 p.m., will feature the red and green attire of a traditional Stoplight Dance. According to ASB, the colors will help create a holiday atmosphere for the dance. To further the spirit of the winter season, this year's Stoplight will feature holiday-oriented decorations. Fairy lights and snowflakes will adorn the North Gym, with winter posters completing the scenery.

Bringing post-finals cheer to campus, ASB will hold the dance before winter break for the first time. In prior years, ASB held only two dances in the first se-



DAVIS PARK

ROCKIN' AROUND THE NORTH GYM: Warriors paint colorful holiday posters for the upcoming Stoplight Dance. The posters will hang on the North Gym walls to create a festive atmosphere.

mester—MORP and Homecoming—and four dances in the second semester—Stoplight, Sadie's, Prom and Last Chance.

To readjust the dance scheduling between the two semesters, ASB decided to move Stoplight earlier in the year.

Lately, ASB had noticed a trend of increasing participation. This upsurge in attendance can be attributed in part to the fact that

stag dances require less preparation than formal dances. The heightened number of attendees is important due to the role that stag dances play in the success of future dances, senior Joanne Mun said.

"We use the profit we make from stag dances to improve other dances," Mun said. "The [money] that we make from Stoplight goes into our budget for Sadie's. Since [the number of] people who show up affects the amount of money we raise, we're adding decorations to help increase [attendance]."

ASB encourages everyone, regardless of grade level or previous dance attendance, to go to this event and immerse themselves in the Warrior community, senior Maddie Wallace said.

"If you make the effort to come [to the dance] with your friends, you don't have to just dance," Wallace said. "You can talk and socialize with more people you don't necessarily see on a typical school day. It's a chance to meet new people and [relieve] stress from finals."

Model United Nations club attends Tustin conference

MUN club competes in Tustin conference with international students.

By Hannah Ro
STAFF WRITER

Engaging in debates about global issues, Warrior Model United Nations (MUN) club members participated in the Tustin MUN Conference Nov. 21.

Offering topics ranging from current and historical events to fictional movies and literature, the conference provided a diverse collection of committees, in which students represented individual countries. They showcased their skills by presenting position papers that discussed a given topic from the country's point of view. Specifically, the Warrior MUN club members discussed poverty and the environment as Namibia, a country that is experiencing an economic and environmental crisis. Warriors used this knowledge to strengthen their po-

sition for reform and contribute to their committee's resolution.

Unlike past events, the Tustin conference included international students who competed among over 2,000 attendees. These students from multinational schools shared their viewpoints on global issues that were discussed at the conference.

Proving their hard work paid off in the end, juniors Lauren Park and Austin Nguyen won Outstanding Awards, while sophomore Dalton Yu and freshman Prince Wang received Commendation Awards. All attendees, whether or not they received an award, experienced academic and professional growth, advisor Deborah Christner said.

"MUN is an international effort, [and] it teaches them about current issues in depth and how various countries respond to those issues," Christner said. "[The students] get an enormous amount of experience in a competitive environment that requires on-their-

feet thinking. [The Tustin conference] is a diplomatic situation, so they learn how to negotiate with people."

Participating in an international event, members expanded their goals beyond intercampus competition and took this opportunity to connect with a diverse student population, Head Delegate of Training Catherine Wang said.

"Many delegates overlook [the social] aspect of the conference because they are so focused on performing well, but the most important part [of the conference] is networking with students from other schools," Wang said. "[The international students'] presence confirmed the fact that MUN is not limited to our school and our chapter. It is a worldwide, international experience."

Although club members will continue to attend other conferences throughout the year that include global topics, the Tustin conference's large number of attendees and interaction with inter-



IDA KAZERANI

DEDICATED DIPLOMATS: A MUN member competes in the international conference as the country Namibia.

national students particularly emphasized the idea of multinational cohesion behind the actual United Nations, vice president Lauren Park said.

"[Simulating] the inner workings of the United Nations and looking through these global issues as concerned citizens help

us learn how to work and increase awareness," Park said. "We learn how to collaborate and negotiate with others, and I think those are crucial skills in many different subjects. This conference [brought] people from all parts of the world together in one area to negotiate diplomatic affairs."



JEANETTE DE LA TORRE-DURAN

BUILD-A-BENCH: Students begin the construction process, assembling various parts of the bench from recycled wood.

Robotics designs and builds ergonomic bench for campus

To prepare for upcoming competitions, the Robotics team reused old materials for its innovative bench.

By David Hou
STAFF WRITER

Engineering a design project, Warrior Destroyer Robotics team members are building a bench from recycled materials to practice for their spring competition.

In the project's initial design stage, team members disassembled last year's Pumpkin Launch trebuchet to salvage wood for the new project, and then brainstormed ideas before ultimately deciding to construct a bench. To research potential bench designs, members studied both ergonomics—the study of efficiency in a work environment—and anthropometrics—the study of human shapes and measurements. They

then measured team members for the basis of the bench's dimensions and finished their computer-aided design (CAD) drawings before beginning construction.

The bench will accommodate at least four students and will most likely be painted black to blend in with the other benches on the Warrior campus. According to Co-President Guilherme Jurgensen, the bench will be placed outside Mr. Goodman's room at the end of the semester.

The construction of the bench allows members to learn to work cohesively and use their skills to complete a project. This skill will help the team construct a robot efficiently in the six weeks that members are given to work on their spring robotics project, freshman Sarah Kung said.

"Teamwork in robotics is really important in that everyone builds off of one another," Kung said.

"The business [division] supplies the funds for the supplies the mechanics team needs, but in order for the mechanics team to build, they need the plans from the CAD team. The programming team helps program the robot, and the electronics team helps put in all the electronics together."

Additionally, building the bench imitates an actual engineering project; the process from conception to completion closely mirrors that of an engineer, enabling students to experience firsthand how engineers work, Mechanics Lead Morgan Buss said.

"Robotics is all about [simulating careers in] the real world," Buss said. "We encourage people to [work together] so they gain the experience they will need later in life."

OC Science hosts scholastic event at elementary school

Members combined education and science at their event for youth.

By Caroline Zhu
STAFF WRITER

Demonstrating a dedication to science and education, Warrior Orange County (OC) Science members held a Science Night to educate students at Santiago Elementary School Nov. 18.

The OC Science organization invited high school students to perform engaging experiments that teach children about both

behavioral and physical sciences. Students from University High School and Beckman High School

also joined Warriors for the more recent Science Night, preparing activities for the students.

At the Santiago Science Night, volunteers completed procedures such as strawberry DNA extraction and the apple juice taste test. These interactive experiments presented fundamental scientific concepts so as to encourage younger students to participate in the demonstrations.

The enthusiasm of children

who attended Science Nights inspired older students to expand their own scientific studies, Co-President Sherry Xu said.

"[OC Science] is so rewarding," Xu said. "The kids are amazing. [One fourth grader] came into the classroom and said 'I love science! I want to enter Science Fair when I'm older!' Because I am [more involved] in these events, I enjoy [the combination of science and teaching]."

As the school year progresses, the club will concentrate on the OC Science and Engineering Fair to be held in April 2016. This

"The mission statement of OC Science is to inspire interest in younger students as STEM fields [advance]."

Jessica Chen
Co-President

event will allow Warriors to focus on a particular topic and develop scientific research of their own.

OC Science teaches children an important lesson about the significance of science, Co-President Jessica Chen said.

"The mission statement of OC Science is to inspire interest in younger students as STEM fields [advance]," Chen said. "We feel that [it is] important for younger kids to have an interest in science. We teach them more about it so they have more [career] options in the future."

The Happiness Project serves local seniors

A new club on the Warrior campus, The Happiness Project held its first event to spread happiness throughout the community.

By Zina Patel & Kyle Patel
STAFF WRITER & NEWS EDITOR

Inspiring positive change within themselves and the community, members of the Warrior Happiness Project hosted the club's first volunteer event at Sunrise Senior Living of Fullerton Nov. 28.

A branch of The Shalin Happiness Foundation, the club is inspired by Warrior alumnus Shalin Shah, who passed away from terminal cancer in May. Shah viewed his diagnosis as an opportunity to impact the community by expressing gratitude for what was presented to him, especially sunsets, when he reflected on his appreciation for life.

Continuing Shah's legacy, The Happiness Project motivates members to build character by investing time in themselves and others through volunteer activities. During bimonthly Friday lunch meetings, students come together during bonding games that relieve their stress from schoolwork and instead focus them on improving emotional well-being. Also, participating in

volunteer events helps members instill joy in the community and show appreciation for the things that normally are overlooked, Co-President Evan Patel said.

"[The Happiness Project] puts life into perspective for me because not everyone has the ability to do activities that I can," Patel said. "A lot of people do not have the things that I take for granted. I have learned to go out and help others because, with that, you get happy as well. Ultimately, helping others helps yourself."

By assisting seniors, club members created a collaborative environment. Both Warriors and seniors sang songs, engaged in Zumba and played board games. Throughout the event, seniors individually approached club members to express thanks for their presence and companionship. These activities helped members create a personal bond with the elderly residents, Vice President Sabrina Tawfik said.

"Within just two hours of service, I was able to get more out of [this event] than I have gotten out of all my other volunteer activities because I established a strong relationship with the people I helped," Tawfik said. "The seniors stay in the nursing home all the time and do not have many people [to talk to]. Noticing the

members' enthusiasm when they walked in to help the seniors was really [rewarding]."

However, the club faced some difficulty in shifting the academic-centered Warrior culture. Because the club stresses individual happiness, some students may feel reflecting on personal accomplishments inhibits academic pursuits, Patel said.

"Students here are motivated to push themselves academical-

ly, which might take away from them being able to develop their own passions," Patel said. "The Happiness Project wants students to find their passions and attain personal happiness. We want students to reflect and really consider what happiness means to them."

The Happiness Project aims for youth to seek personal fulfillment and spread joy throughout the community by participating in both stress-relieving and vol-

unteer events, Warrior alumnus Frances Shah said.

"By helping others, you present your best self to the world," Shah said. "If you are doing your daily routine all the time, you do not get the opportunity to interact with other people in your community, that you never would have crossed paths with normally. Sharing valuable time is a great way to learn other people's stories about their lives and struggles."



DAVIS PARK

NEVER BORED OF BOARD GAMES: Warriors interact with a resident at Sunrise Senior Living of Fullerton by playing games such as Rummikub. Volunteers also sang songs with the seniors, including hits by Louis Armstrong and Frank Sinatra.

WARRIORS WEIGH IN

In light of the ISIS terrorist attacks on Paris Nov. 13, Warriors were asked: Did you change your Facebook profile picture to the French flag filter? Why or why not?

Compiled by Yannie Hoang, OPINION EDITOR and Lauren Kim, PHOTO



"I didn't change my profile picture to the filter because I didn't feel that it supported France that much because it was just a filter. And changing my profile picture won't change anything."



"Yes, I did change my profile picture to the French flag filter because...by sharing our sorrow for the Paris attacks, we are also expressing our sorrow for attacks that have happened around the world."

"I just want to show awareness to the Paris attacks...It's bringing awareness that we do care about the deaths that are happening in Paris. I wanted to show support to the people who lost people."



"To me, a lot of people would change it but it would only be temporarily...If changing the profile picture really helped then it wouldn't be something that would just temporarily be done."



STAFF EDITORIAL

Warriors face unfair consequences of ambiguously enforced dress regulations

As finals season quickly approaches, Warriors look forward to the Stoplight winter stag dance, to which students wear apparel ranging from neon tops to sparkly spandex shorts. The school dress code dictates the limits of these fashion choices, which can sometimes be considered too revealing by dance monitors. According to Warrior administration, the school dress code must be implemented at stag dances in order to create a safer environment. However, the ambiguity of the dress code leads to unfair enforcement.

With the current school policy, the administration fails to present detailed restrictions on suggestive clothing. Although the dress code places clear prohibitions on clothing that provokes violence, promotes substance abuse or poses a physical threat, it has not done the same for reveal-

ing clothing. School policy simply states, "Students with attire that is revealing or inappropriate for school, as judged by the principal or designee may be required to change, or be sent home." When compared to the extensive regulation of other inappropriate clothing, the policy regarding revealing apparel seems vague and worryingly open-ended.

Furthermore, the current dress code leaves too much room for personal interpretation by administration, making enforcement entirely subjective. Thanks to the clause enabling the principal or designee to deem clothes inappropriate, the responsibility of implementing a dress code at stag dances falls to the dance monitors. Since administration does not provide dance monitors with sufficient guidelines, dance monitors have the freedom to make decisions based on their personal inclinations. Such loose construction allows for bias and inconsis-

tent enforcement.

If the administration truly hopes to control student dress, it should create clearer guidelines and more explicit rules, instead of allowing monitors to make judgments based on personal opin-

ions. This would help students know what to expect as well, especially since student standards of dress may differ from administration's standards of dress.

With winter stag nearing, the Warrior administration should

formulate a specific stag dress code that prevents monitors from inconsistently penalizing students. If the Warrior administration does not want to see glowing tanks and glittery spandex, it needs to say so.



HANMIN KO

Teacher Feature: Mr. St. Clair and His Flair for Gifts by Katrina Chen



OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS

Is the holiday season overcommercialized by corporations?

PRO

By Christina Meyer
STAFF WRITER

It's the most commercialized time of the year again.

With some of the largest sales of the year from stores such as Walmart and Big Lots just around the corner, some question the necessity of expanding the presence of already-heavily advertised and materialistic events. Although some see corporations shutting down sales as a victory against the perceived over-commercialization of holidays, in reality, such concerns about the rapid cheapening of the holidays are unfounded. In fact, the materialistic quality of the holidays is no recent trend and can actually help both impoverished Americans and the economy.

Despite the popular misconception that the commercialization of holidays is a modern-day occurrence, this trend actually dates back much farther than expected. Up until the 19th century, Christmas was a private and rather unnoted holiday during which many laborers would not even take the day off of work. However, beginning in the early to mid-1800s, the invention of the penny press allowed for writers such as Clement Clarke Moore and Thomas Nast to publish Christmas stories for the public. By the 1870s, with the Market Revolution and expansion of capitalism, Christmas transformed into a fully advertised event with its own special niche in American stores beginning as early as October. Truly, this materialistic nature is nothing new, and neither is the criticism over the values of this practice.

Moreover, these profit-oriented events do not undermine family values; in fact, the latter can actually be bolstered by the former. Because of the societal focus on the exchange of gifts during the holidays, many poor families feel insecure because they cannot afford these luxuries. However, during the holidays, the oversaturation of the market with products and numerous sales make goods much more affordable for low-income families. This allows the approximately 50 million Americans living near or below the poverty line to give gifts

as well as purchase other necessities. Even something as simple as a heavier jacket in the winter can save someone's life, and a toy that a family previously could not afford may bring more joy into the lives of young children.

Furthermore, holiday commercialization also creates more job opportunities and can relieve some strain on low-income workers. During the holiday season each year, the economy experiences a temporary spike due to large sales. According to Business Insider, more than 212 million shoppers spent over \$45 billion on Black Friday shopping in



KATRINA CHEN

2014. This alone temporarily boosts the economy each year. When experiencing such a massive influx of customers, businesses also must hire as many as 50,000 new holiday workers. This puts more people in the workforce and more money into circulation. Previously unemployed workers can build their resumes and gain stable incomes, even if temporarily.

Ultimately, while some lament the commercialization of holidays, their anger is misguided. Not only do large holiday sales help individual families, but they also benefit the nation's economy overall. Instead of being concerned with how others may interpret the existence of profit-based events, families can instead self-reflect and ensure their own holidays are as family-focused as they desire.

CON

By Brandon Ann
STAFF WRITER

For many, the best gift to give may not necessarily be a present.

Over the past few decades, the commercialization of the holidays has opposed this lesson. This profit-oriented approach to the holidays places material

possessions at the focal point of society. As winter progresses and the seasonal celebrations draw closer, it is important to identify the harmful nature of this ongoing trend. Altogether, commercialization hurts families by damaging finances and limiting personal interaction.

In particular, commercialization damages the family unit by leading individuals into unforeseen debt. For instance, advertising during the holiday season causes many people to view the exchange of gifts as an obligation, leading to an accumulation of credit card debt. According to Durant Abernethy, president of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, consumer counseling agencies see a 25 percent increase in the number of people seeking debt management in the

months following the holiday season. In other words, a significant portion of shoppers forsake financial security because they feel that they need to buy presents, regardless of affordability. Robert Manning, a senior research fellow at the University of Houston, supports this assertion by stating that the retail industry has convinced Americans that caring for someone means spending more. In the end, this inclination to buy gifts does more harm to the intended recipients than good.

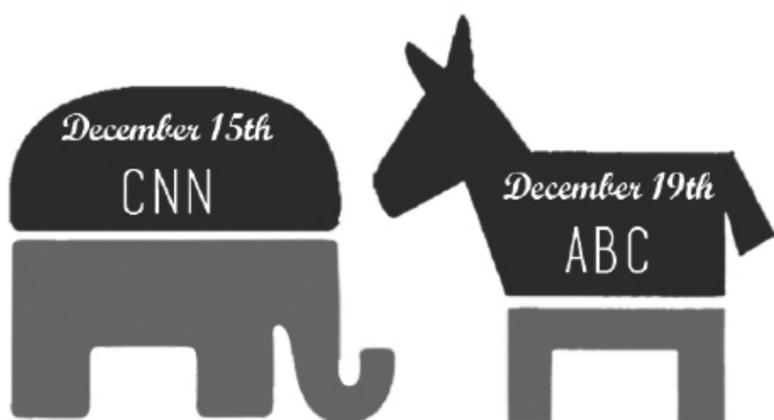
Furthermore, commercialization produces a more materialistic society, leading many individuals in an unfulfilling pursuit of possessions. This is a product of the retail industry distorting the holiday season, attempting to make presents and happiness synonymous. For example, businesses focus Christmas on Santa and his toy-making elves, portraying the holiday as a gift-oriented celebration. Psychologist and couples therapist Aline Zoidbrod posits that this materialism is detrimental. Zoidbrod believes that the pursuit of material goods takes away from family and friendship, sources of true happiness, according to her research. The new iPhone exemplifies a fitting illustration of the negative effect of materialism. Annually, millions of Americans rush to Apple stores to purchase updated iPhones, and, without fail, replace them the following year. As a result, these individuals constantly search for new possessions, leading to unending dissatisfaction.

However, Warriors can take steps to salvage the holidays. Big businesses and corporations will undoubtedly continue to commercialize the holidays, but students should not adopt a materialistic mentality. We must practice giving rather than getting. Fortunately, Warriors can participate in several different fundraisers and charities that benefit those in need this holiday season. For instance, the annual Troy Drive, hosted by the Associated Student Body, provides an excellent opportunity to spread the joy of the holiday season to children from lower-income families. Off campus, Warriors can also donate blood and save a life at local Red Cross locations.

The commercialization of the holidays creates a serious issue in our society today, but there is still ample opportunity for change. Perhaps the simple solution is to focus less on what to give and remember why we give.

2016 ELECTION UPDATE

UPCOMING DEBATES



CANDIDATES' STANCES ON SYRIAN REFUGEES

After the Paris attacks by ISIS Nov. 13, U.S. presidential candidates voiced their opinions about Syrian refugee resettlement in the U.S.

no refugees				Christian refugees		
				all refugees		

COLUMN

Together, we stand in solidarity

By Adrika Chakraborty
MANAGING EDITOR

To the Warriors of the Islamic faith:

I'm sorry. I'm sorry that a select few people have been given the megaphone and the stage to speak on behalf of a billion. People that do not deserve this voice, who have masqueraded their hate speech and brutality as religious belief. The events of the past few weeks have been absolutely horrific—my heart goes out to everyone who was affected by the atrocious acts in San Bernardino, Paris, Beirut, Kenya, and more. And I'm sorry that many have fallen into the trap set by these attackers and decided to punish an entire group for the actions of the few.

I'm saddened that we, as a society, have once again scrambled to find a scapegoat for these incidents. It's not fair that terrorism has become synonymous with Islam. It's not fair that those with darker skin are "randomly selected" at the airport so often that I doubt it is random at all. It's not fair that presidential candidates have the audacity to rally for the shutting down of mosques throughout the nation. How terrifying is it that a possible leader of this nation harbors such strong Islamophobic views that he is willing to actively persecute individuals of the faith? We pride ourselves on our commitment to the freedom of religion, but the recent acts of racism and discrimination are more than enough reason for me to doubt the truth of this statement.

To many, Islam is regarded as a violent or hateful religion, but tell me this, was the vandalism and defilement of a mosque in Texas following the Paris attacks an act of peace? What about the attempted murder of a Muslim cab driver in Pittsburgh? Please do not tell me that these actions are justified—they are not. What exactly are they proving? If we want to set an example of peace, if we want to set ourselves apart from these barbaric attackers, why are we fighting hate with hate? Every day, I hear someone else—a family member, an acquaintance, a stranger—assign the terror attacks to the doctrine of Islam. This is a label that is not deserved.

"We pride ourselves in freedom of religion, but the recent acts of racism and discrimination are more than enough reason for me to doubt the truth of this statement."



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COLUMN

Warriors should condemn rape culture

By Leanne Ho
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

An open letter to the person who complained that their test "raped" them:

What are you trying to say? "This test was so horrific and violating that I will struggle to feel safe again?" "I will never be able to take another test again without triggering a panic attack?" "Years of therapy still won't be able to heal the wounds left by this test?" Because those are all things that happen to actual victims of rape. And as rough as AP Physics can be, it's nowhere near as physically and emotionally damaging as sexual assault. According to a study at Medical University of South Carolina, rape victims are 5 times more likely to have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and 4 times more likely to con-

template suicide than people who have never been victims of crime. Clearly, rape has legitimate negative repercussions. Comparing it to a bad grade trivializes rape, ultimately validating rapists, dismissing victims and perpetuating rape culture on campus.

When you tell a rape joke, there are several different people in your audience. There could be some potential rapists. There could be some potential rape victims. There might even be actual rapists and rape victims. When you tell a rape joke, this is what people hear: "Rape's not a big deal. Look at me, joking about it."

The rapists and potential rapists feel validated. You clearly support them, right? You're equating sexual assault to a difficult exam, so it can't really be that bad, right?

"When you tell a rape joke,
this is what people hear:
'Rape's not a big deal. Look
at me, joking about it.'"

And the victims and potential victims feel dismissed. They might even be triggered. If you can treat rape so lightly, then why, oh, why would they ever trust you not to rape them? Why would they ever feel safe reporting sexual assault?

It's time to retire the R-word from our vocabulary. Using it to describe an exam undermines the seriousness of sexual assault. Your comments normalize sexual

violence, which contributes to the rape culture on campus. In the moment, you might think you're funny, but in the long run, you help create an environment that tolerates sexual assault, belittles victims, and vindicates rapists. If that's the sort of message you want to send, then by all means, make that rape joke.

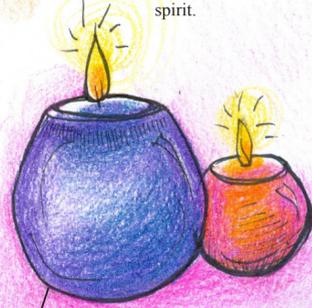
But I hope you know that the National Institute of Justice reports that 1 in 6 U.S. women and 1 in 33 U.S. men have experienced sexual assault, and that 44% of sexual abuse victims are younger than 18, according to the Bureau of Justice. I hope you know that a classmate, overhearing your remark, might decide never to trust you again.

I hope you know that you are part of the problem.

DIWALI

By Yuri Ceriale, FEATURE EDITOR

As autumn comes to a close, the Patels begin filling their household with clay lamps of deep red and orange, setting them on the doorstep and in ornate patterns on the floor. According to Hindu tradition, lighting such lamps, or diyas, allows the "light of knowledge" to clear darkness and welcome the gods into a home. This simple but powerful symbolism is a key concept of Diwali, the "Festival of the Lights," a seven-day celebration of the new year in some areas of India. Sophomore Soham Patel sees the holiday as an opportunity to bring closure to past events and begin the year with a renewed mind and spirit.



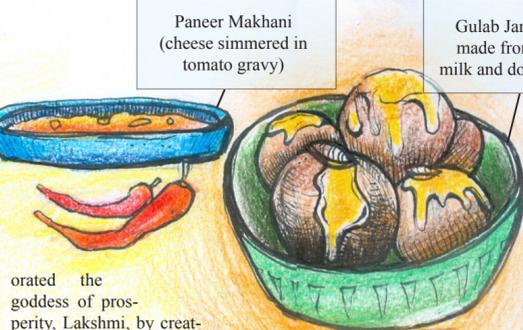
Diya (oil lamp made from clay)

Primarily a Hindu holiday, though people of other religions often join the celebration, Diwali usually occurs during the first two weeks of November. Because the holiday is interpretable, varying regionally and from person-to-person, Patel's way of celebrating Diwali is unique to his own family.

The first four days of Patel's Diwali are the last four days of the "old" year, and focus on spiritual cleansing and renewal. Agyaaras, the first day, ushers in this sense of revival as celebrators clean their houses from top to bottom. The second and third days, Vagh Baaras and Dhanteras, encourage charity and financial closure, respectively. On Kali Chaudas, the fourth day, families honor their loved ones by having a meal in remembrance of an ancestor. This year, Patel's family gave his grandfather's sweet tooth a nod, he said.

"My grandfather's favorite foods were all sweets, so instead of having a balanced meal with all our five food groups, our family had a bunch of sweets and Indian desserts," Patel said.

After wrapping up their last obligations, the Patel family finally welcomed the new year on the fifth day, Diwali, a day of feast and familial traditions. Patel himself commem-



Paneer Makhani (cheese simmered in tomato gravy)

Gulab Jamun (dessert made from powdered milk and doused in syrup)

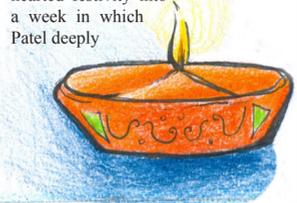
orated the goddess of prosperity, Lakshmi, by creating a rangoli, a colorful sand pattern meant to represent the lotus from which Lakshmi was born.

Following this joyful day are Sala-bahda, in which Patel gives thanks to the gods and prays for a bountiful year, and Bhai Dooj, in which sisters will invite brothers to their houses for a day of thankfulness and family bonding.

Although Patel loves every single day of his holiday, as he has matured, he has come to recognize the religious and historical significance of Diwali. It has transformed from a light-hearted festivity into a week in which Patel deeply

contemplates his culture's personal and ethical importance, he said.

"When I was younger, my favorite part of Diwali was eating sweets," Patel said. "Now that I've grown older, I've started to appreciate its more traditional aspects, like going to the temple. I appreciate how Diwali is a celebration for all Indians of all religions. To me, Diwali is down-to-earth and humbling. It is a reminder of my culture and roots."



HANUKKAH

By Ashley Fan, STAFF WRITER

"Hanukkah" means "dedication" in Hebrew, and the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah commemorates a miracle that exemplifies exactly that. Jews from around the world celebrate this joyous holiday with food and the lighting of the menorah, the famous candelabrum. Hanukkah celebrator senior Joseph Golombic views the holiday with a deeper perspective—as a symbol of the unity and perseverance of the Jews.

The tale of the Hanukkah miracle is one of survival under extreme circumstances. During a siege of Jerusalem, Jews

were forced to hide in a cave with few resources. There was only one little jar of oil for lighting candles, which at best should have lasted only one day. But somehow, the candle lit the cave for eight days, providing light for the Jews and allowing them to search for supplies. Eight thus became a symbol for Hanukkah: eight days of celebration, eight gifts and of course, eight candles on the menorah. A candle is lit each day of the holiday until every candle's flame glimmers.

Golombic and his family have not one but several menorahs to light on Hanukkah—each one with its own story. Some were handpainted during Golombic's childhood, and some were bought at stores or markets on a whim because of their beauty. His favorite, however, is a menorah that has been passed down from his

great-grandfather, Golombic said.

"This menorah holds meaning because it is an heirloom that has been passed down from generation to generation," Golombic said. "A big part of the Jewish faith is passing down things, so the menorah symbolizes a principle of Judaism."

Food, too, pays homage to Judaism, specifically its honoring of the miracle oil. Oily, fried foods nod to the miracle, such as deep-fried jelly donuts called sufganiyots and fried dough puffs called lokou-mades. On top of everything is the main dish, the latke, a mouth-watering fried potato pancake. It is Golombic's favorite Hanukkah dish of all, he said.

"I love latkes for the same reason people like shamrock shakes," Golombic said.

"In my family, latkes disappear for the year and come back every Hannukah."

But to Golombic, Hanukkah means more than the merriment of food and gifts. Throughout the Jews' tough history, they have been able to stay united and persevere as one. Hanukkah is a statement of that strength, Golombic said.

"Unity is the moral behind almost every Jewish story," Golombic said. "It shows how the Jews have survived. It says that we made it, and we're still here to celebrate every year. It provides a deeper meaning to Hanukkah, and it makes me proud to be Jewish."



Menorah (Hanukkah's candelabrum)



Dreidel (four sided-top with Hebrew characters that spell out: "A great miracle occurred there.")



Latkes (fried potato pancakes)

LAS POSADAS & THREE KINGS' DAY

By Yuri Ceriale, FEATURE EDITOR

The tantalizing smell of tamales reminds junior Mayte Garcia of the winter season, of that once-a-year tradition in which her extended family gathers in the kitchen to stuff warm tortillas with chicken and chili. Every year, just before Christmas, Garcia's family readies their home to

take in aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents for a few weeks of winter festivities. By celebrating her Mexican heritage alongside holidays influenced by American traditions, Garcia's unique holiday represents herself: a mix of two different cultures.

As Garcia's extended family arrives at their three-week home, preparations soon begin for Las Posadas, a Catholic remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ between Dec. 17 and 28. Rocking a doll representation of Jesus Christ to sleep, Garcia reflects on her religion.

Three Kings' Day takes place shortly after the New Year on Jan. 6, and though it originates from the Christian story of the three wise men, it has more familial significance to Garcia than

religious significance. The major tradition of the holiday is baking and serving rosca de reyes, a circular fruit cake with a plastic baby Jesus doll hidden inside. Whoever receives a slice of the cake with the doll inside then gets the job of cooking a feast for the next year. This delicious gamble accompanies a huge meal and a chance for Garcia to laugh and converse with her loved ones.

Alongside their Mexican traditions, the Garcias also enjoy Christmas and New Year's Day, staying up until midnight and opening presents together. The group finally parts ways early January, to meet again the next year. Garcia wishes that her vibrant and family-oriented holiday season will continue on for generations, she said.

"When I get older and get married, I want to pass the tradition on to my children," Garcia said. "Celebrating my holiday is how I get to know my culture."



Champurrado (a thick, chocolate-based drink made from corn flour)

Handmade tamales

Rosca de Reyes (circular cake pastry with plastic baby hidden inside)



A TABLE OF MANY HOLIDAYS

Warriors of diverse religions and cultures bring a variety of celebrations and holidays to the table. Delve into the yearly traditions of four of these unique students.

Cartoons by Hanmin Ko & Katrina Chen
CARTOON EDITOR & CARTOON

NOROZ

By Ashley Fan, STAFF WRITER

For some, New Year is a time of snowflakes and pine trees, but for Persians, it is a time of raindrops and daisies. Norooz, or the Persian New Year, marks the beginning of the Persian calendar on the spring equinox in March. It is widely celebrated by Persian people of diverse backgrounds. To sophomore Sara Ghanei, the holiday has a special meaning; it is a yearly acknowledgement of her connection to her culture and birthplace.

Ghanei was born halfway across the world in Tehran, the capital of Iran, and left soon after to live in Austria for two years before finally coming to America to settle in Fullerton. Although Ghanei's life has been largely shaped by American culture, Norooz is the special link to her Persian identity and birthplace, she said.

"From the time I was three, my life has always been American," Ghanei said. "I have always gone to American schools, where everyone shows their culture to me. In elementary school, I would do Easter egg hunts and make gingerbread men, but Norooz is a time when I have that special moment where it's just me, my family and

all the other Persians."

Ghanei's main Norooz tradition is arranging a decorative table setting called the Haft-Seen. It is covered with food items which have names beginning with a "s" sound in Farsi, Ghanei's first language. Each of the seven "s" foods symbolizes a positive aspect of the new year. Ghanei's favorite is the sabzeh, a grass sprout dish that represents rebirth because she can grow it herself and see it sprouting, she said.

"I really like setting up the sabzeh," Ghanei said. "Instead of buying the grass, I get a special type of bean, set it on a plate, water it every day and watch it grow. What I like most is that you can see the roots where the grass comes from."

Food is a big part of another of Ghanei's Norooz traditions—a social event at a local park. During this event, the local Persian community comes together to celebrate Norooz. Persian family and friends mingle, eat, chat in Farsi and otherwise enjoy themselves. The best part of the social is the Persian environment that reminds Ghanei of her hometown, she

said. "Going to the park is special because everyone speaks Farsi," Ghanei said. "Even though I don't really know my birthplace, I can still feel it in the Persian environment. Seeing people talk to their

kids in Farsi reminds me of how I grew up. Norooz connects me back to where I was born. It is close to my heart."

The Haft-Seen: The Seven S's

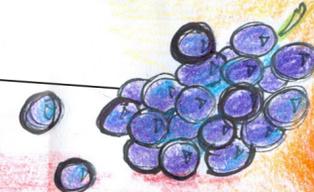
Each of the seven items on the Haft-Seen begins with the "s" character of the Persian alphabet. Learn about each item and the New Year wish it represents.

- Sabzeh (wheat, barley, mung bean or lentil sprouts): symbolizes rebirth
- Samanu (sweet pudding): symbolizes wealth
- Senjed (dried wild olive fruit): symbolizes love
- Seer (garlic): symbolizes medicine
- Seeb (apple): symbolizes beauty and health
- Somāq (sumac fruit): symbolizes sunrise
- Serkeh (vinegar): symbolizes old-age and patience



Seer (garlic)

Somāq (sumac fruit)



Serkeh (vinegar)



King of the Rink



Senior Michael Maple is taking over the rink in hopes of attracting the attention of college recruiters.

Article by Dominique Pillos, **STAFF WRITER**, graphics by Alex Vazquez, **GRAPHICS** and photos courtesy of Michael Maple

Striving to earn a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) scholarship, senior Michael Maple traveled to Detroit Nov. 21-23 with the Junior Kings ice hockey team for a Tier One Elite Hockey League tournament, a showcase of the sport's top athletic talent. College scouts from around the country attend this event to recruit players from the participating teams.

Although Maple has been playing the highest level of club ice hockey, AAA, for the Junior Kings since the age of 14, he wasn't initially interested in the sport. His mother sparked his passion for the sport with her zeal for the National Hockey League. As an avid fan, Maple's mother enrolled her son in ice skating classes in hopes that hockey would become a pastime they could bond over.

Maple eventually joined a roller hockey team, yet he

sought a sense of competition only ice hockey could provide. In ice hockey, he found that the thrill of the game fed his enthusiasm for the sport, Maple said.

"People who are more serious about hockey will play ice hockey," Maple said. "The game itself is fun [and] exhilarating. Hockey is really fast-paced, and when you score or when your team does, you can't really beat that feeling."

In each season, Maple grew more accustomed to the aggressive play of hockey. Maple rose in the ranks of club hockey, ultimately reaching the highest level. As Maple continued in high school, the prospect of playing in college or even in the NCAA became a realistic goal, Maple said.

"My first year, when I was 10, I played in an in-house league that wasn't very good," Maple

said. "But [as soon as] I was 11 or 12, I played AA. When I was 14, I played my first year of AAA; that's when I got really serious, and it's been that way until now. My parents influenced me to play, but ever since I started [liking] it, I motivated myself be-

"[I learned to] earn what I get, nothing can be taken for granted and work hard to be the best. Nothing should be handed to you."

Michael Maple
senior

cause I want to play in college."

The Junior Kings AAA team has provided Maple with the perfect opportunity to play at the level at which players are scouted by college recruiters. To work toward a scholarship, Maple spends a majority of his time sharpening

his skills after school at the Toyota Sports Center in El Segundo. By competing with his team, Maple aims to catch the attention of NCAA scouts at tournaments.

"We play in a [Tier One] League with teams across the country," Maple said. "They have the most scouts and the best competition, so it's the best place to get seen."

Because of his time commitment to hockey, Maple originally struggled to balance academics and sports. He then decided to complete his junior year through online schooling, which enabled him to both improve his grades and devote more time to training, Maple said.

"My grades were not good freshman and sophomore year," Maple said. "I missed two to three days a month easily [traveling for games] Online school during junior year really helped my grades

because [deadlines were flexible]. I'd have three workouts a week, so I'd have to take time off of school to train if I went to Troy [junior year]."

As Maple continues his pursuit of an NCAA scholarship, he is motivated to maintain the work ethic developed by his experience as both a Warrior and a hockey player, Maple said.

"Luckily this year I only have [periods] zero through four," Maple said. "This way I get out at noon and I can go to the gym right after school before I go to practices at night [I've learned to] do homework whenever I can, like if I am on a flight or even in the car when someone else is driving, just whenever I can [get work done] and make the best of my time. [I learned to] earn what I get, take nothing for granted and work hard to be the best. Nothing should be handed to you."





(JUST) two days without TECHNOLOGY

Do you ever wonder how it feels to cut out all social media from your life for an extended amount of time? Discover the stories of four of our Oracleans, who endured a 48 hour technology purge.

Graphics by Alex Vazquez, GRAPHICS

By Adrija Chakrabarty
ENTERTAINMENT & LIFE-
STYLE EDITOR

I think we can all agree that social media is our primary way of evading responsibility. Those five minutes we spend watching friends' stories on Snapchat allow us to momentarily escape the deluge of homework that we Warriors must power through every night. However, not many of us realize how paradoxical our habits are. While trying to avoid responsibility, we are actually burdening ourselves by trying to keep track of the lives of hundreds of people, including "friends" with whom we last conversed two years ago. By unplugging

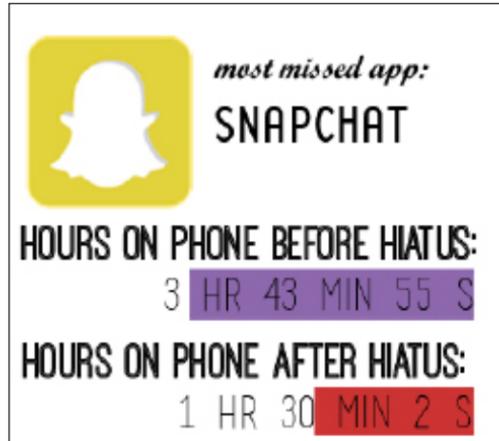
from technology for 48 hours, I realized that without the fettering duty of keeping up with others, I could realign my priorities and make time for meaningful social interaction and leisure.

The best example of my increased sociability could be seen during my volunteer shift at St. Jude Medical Center. Instead of liking Instagram posts

to pass the hours in the Oncology ward, I conversed with patients and staff about more than just work and the weather. I had the chance to talk to a nurse about my 18th birthday plans and to a patient about the upcoming El Niño. Such conversations aren't common during my two-hour shifts. And back at home,

the time I was not wasting on Netflix went into getting my homework done earlier, reading the last two issues of TIME Magazine and even joining my parents during their nightly exercise sessions—against my will. Liberated from the grasps of Internet dependency, I could concentrate on more valuable priorities such as social exchange, increased productivity and even health.

Although I had started the challenge constantly reaching for the phone that wasn't in my backpack, I emerged from the challenge realizing I don't need social media to be my escape hatch from real life. Without technology, I was able to shape a better life for myself that included everything from family time to sleep (I got eight hours!). Now that is a reality I don't need to escape from.



By Anthony Kim
STAFF WRITER

I have experienced a twenty-first century nightmare. I have survived, not one, but TWO days without technology! By depriving myself of cyber pleasures, including Youtube, social media, texting and even music, I discovered the despair that comes with technological deprivation.

Let's begin with the most painful loss during this period of self-restraint: my phone. I was unable to use the one device that I always have on me, my iPhone—a device near and dear to my back pocket and heart. When asked for the time, I had to actually look for a clock and distinguish

which hand was the hour and which hand was the minute. Still, I gave the wrong time. In addition, I had become so accustomed to having some piece of machinery within arms-length that grasping for my phone had become almost a muscle reflex, a somewhat shocking revelation.

Even though I told myself not to use my phone, I still caught myself subcon-

ssciously reaching for my pocket to grab it. During my technological drought, I definitely longed for the simple time-fillers the most. These are the aspects of a smartphone that shield me from many students' Number-One Enemy: Boredom. I missed the penny-short-of-a-dollar mobile games, the never-ending thumb scrolling

through Facebook, the ridiculous Snapchat stories and the laugh-out-loud Youtubers that post weekly videos. And yet, all of these setbacks could not even compare to the lack of music. Restricting myself from listening to music when I actually had the opportunity was extremely frustrating. Avoiding music, a necessity as vital as breathing, was aggravating to say in the least.

Simply put, setting aside these distractions gave me time to actually think—I mean THINK (crazy, right?) about how lost I am without technology. Those two days were like an attempt to climb Mount Everest: the pain of deprivation only worsened over time. How could this get any worse? Oh right, I now have six missed calls from my mom.



By Nicole Kuntjoro
ENTERTAINMENT &
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

For many, leaving the house without a smartphone tucked safely into their back pocket is like walking around without a small piece of their soul. So what happens when we go cold turkey from all of it for two days? I noticed my absorption in technology, but perhaps it also shed light upon the rather sad state of our society.

Admittedly, the first hours of consciously disconnecting from technology were odd. The most interesting aspect I noticed as the days progressed was how society quite

literally revolves around these flashing screens and entertaining apps. Phantom vibrations in my back pocket definitely brought to my attention how accustomed I am to being in constant contact with others. Even the typical conversation during lunch (when it isn't about class) usually involves what's trending online. Being unable to

look up what my friends were talking about made me feel as if I was just an onlooker to the conversation, not an actual participant. It seems that every aspect of our lives has been invaded by the influence of technology, extending as far as our schoolwork with the price-less commodities that are found on the

Internet such as research databases and Google Docs. Still, it is also a silent curse that has made us forget the value of simplicity. While other generations may have read a book under a tree or actually used the Dewey Decimal System, Generation Z will miss these meaningful life experiences.

During my voluntary isolation, I saw that we have our hands occupied with the latest technology to the point where it has become all we know. As the lonely person without a phone surrounded by friends that never bother to look up from a screen, I can attest that there is certainly something amiss in society because of technology. So am I glad I took this challenge? Yes. Would I do it again? Probably not.



By Ryan Fawwaz
STAFF WRITER

Almost all of our everyday activities, from interacting with friends to studying for exams, rely on technology. After accepting (or being forced to accept) an assignment that required me to live tech-free for two days, I soon realized that this dreaded challenge actually taught me an important lesson: with the seemingly endless benefits it offers, technology will never lose the importance it holds today.

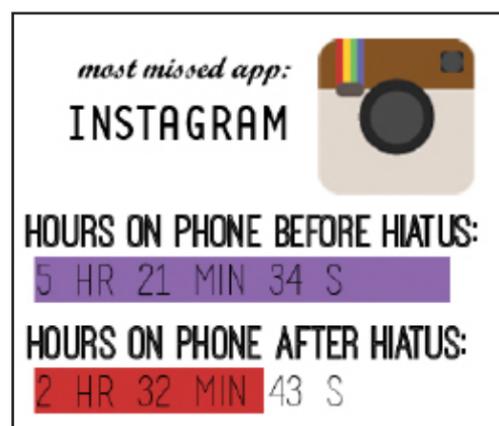
When I began my task, I felt as if I were one of the Flintstones. (A little dramatic,

but you get the point.) A world without cell phones, television and computers seemed so foreign to me that I had no idea what to do with myself. How was I supposed to spend my time without Netflix? Read books? Nonsense. They say you never appreciate something until it's gone, and technology was no exception. After complaining about

how unfair my assignment was, I couldn't ignore the positive impact electronics have on our lives. For example, technology can quickly give us crucial information via social media applications. I soon became aware of this benefit after the terrorist attacks occurred in Paris, my cousin Philip's

hometown. Shortly after the disaster, Philip contacted us through Facebook's "safety check" feature to tell us that he was unharmed. Even though this perk is simple when compared to other technological advances such as posting videos and chatting with friends, it still relieved my family of immense anxiety.

As a whole, my time without technology was not as horrendous as I had originally anticipated. I was able to enjoy the smaller things in life, such as walking my dog and playing hockey outside. However, the undeniable significance of electronics became clear to me. Technology is capable of connecting worlds together, creating an evolving global society with just a few clicks of a mouse.



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TROY HIGH SCHOOL

FINALS WEEK BINGO

As finals week approaches, see if you can spot these common sights around campus.

Compiled by Leanne Ho and Sarah Lee, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF and Adrika Chakraborty, MANAGING EDITOR

irresponsible consumption of caffeinated energy drinks	fuzzy pajamas or sweatpants	When did we learn <i>that</i> ?	a teacher that refuses to round up from an 89.49%	someone bragging about pulling an all-nighter
a blanket worn as a cape	Are the grades up?	someone studying while walking between tests	a Snapchat story posted between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.	#clutch
a mob surrounding newly-posted grades	an existential crisis	FREE SPACE	someone crying (bonus points if that person is you)	someone trying not to cry
#rekt	someone stress-eating	someone who hasn't eaten	How was the test?	a malfunctioning Illuminate or Scantron machine
calculations on RogerHub	What's the curve?	a class that has a potluck and movie on finals day	someone continuously refreshing Aeries	a backpack used as a pillow in hallways

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