

# ORACLE

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**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE**
**FEATURE**

Sophomore Sophie Davis has mastered the art of cosplay, designing costumes from well-known anime, video games and manga.


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**ENTERTAINMENT**

Amid evolving genres of modern music, classic rock has remained a prominent style—thanks to bands such as Violent Femmes and Savages.


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**SPORTS**

Learn about the newest Warrior Color Guard routine as the team continues its winning streak during the Winter Guard season.


**Page 9**

## NOW club holds its first annual Menstrual Monologues luncheon

The campaign encourages Warriors to rethink common sentiments associated with menstruation.

By Zina Patel & Tiffany Hall  
STAFF WRITERS

Warrior National Organization for Women (NOW) club hosted its first Menstrual Monologues forum in Room 413, March 24.

Throughout March, members organized NOW's second annual Menstrual March campaign. The movement included a drive to collect feminine hygiene products, providing underprivileged women with sanitary supplies. To further destigmatize menstruation, board members have added a new event: The Menstrual Monologues.

Open to all students, the event granted student speakers an opportunity to share their own poems and anecdotes about their experiences. Afterward, attendees took part in a roundtable discussion about the stereotypes surrounding menstruation.

Board members hoped that the monologues would allow participants to share humorous struggles or incidents they have had with menstruation. By presenting

menstruation in a lighthearted manner, members might regard it more positively and naturally, Project Manager Loraine Ho said.

"When people share their stories, they help get rid of the stigma that menstruation is a taboo process that should not be mentioned in public," Ho said. "The Menstrual Monologues help people bond with others who share similar experiences and feel the same way as they do."

Accurate information is a key component in spreading awareness about periods in order to change society's preconceptions, Treasurer Sherry Xu said.

"It is necessary [for people] to be educated about menstruation so that everyone can become more open to talk about it," Xu said. "It's important for students to be comfortable when discussing menstruation with others."

Because menstruation does not occur only in women, students of all gender identities were invited to attend the event, Publicist Rea Joshi

*Continued on page 2*



DAVIS PARK

**IT'S A BUG'S LIFE:** A project unique to the Warrior campus, the bug project has been removed from Honors Biology lesson plans for the current school year.

## Bug project cancelled for curriculum changes

To accommodate new course guidelines, insect collections are suspended.

By Brendan Brzycki  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

After over 20 years of swinging butterfly nets and the biting smell of acetone, one of Troy's most established traditions has dropped like a fly.

Warrior Honors Biology teachers have decided against assigning the controversial bug project, which in years past required freshmen to capture and pin between 15 and 40 insects. The project was discontinued in order to grant teachers more time to focus on specific subtopics within biology, following the implementation of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

The installment of NGSS, a new set of guidelines for scientific education, has led teachers to reevaluate the current biology curriculum. This ultimately spurred the abandonment of the bug project. In Sept. 2013, the California State Board of Education formally adopted NGSS due

to unsatisfactory student performance in science and mathematics. The new curriculum framework emphasizes a three-pronged approach toward science education: engaging in scientific inquiry, merging concepts spanning different scientific domains such as the physical and life sciences, and learning core ideas bearing importance across multiple scientific and engineering disciplines.

"The bug project was a really big [assignment], and it devastates me that we're not doing it this year."

Nga Ngo  
teacher

Introduction of the new standards system clashes with the timing of the bug project due to teachers needing to devote significant attention towards gradually incorporating NGSS into existing lesson plans.

Traditionally worth 100 points, the project served as a means for Warrior freshmen to improve their grades in the Honors Biology class. Additionally, merits of

this project reached far beyond affecting immediate tangibles such as students' grades. It provided Warriors with important exposure to hands-on scientific procedures and organizational skills that cannot be substituted with increased academic studies, teacher Nga Ngo said.

"The bug project was such a valuable experience," Ngo said. "It's fieldwork. It got [students] into nature and out of the typical learning style. It also taught them long-term goals and time management. The bug project was a really big [assignment], and it devastates me that we're not doing it this year."

This assignment may be reinstated in future years despite its cancellation in

the current school year, Ngo said. "With these new learning objectives coming in, we are trying to evaluate all of our lessons right now to see if they are following NGSS standards," Ngo said. "We have to do what the state wants us to do. For [future] years, however, we might bring the project back for freshmen depending on what we see as our [possible options]."



JEANETTE DE LA TORRE-DURAN

**STEMMING THE STEREOTYPES:** Warrior participant delivers an informative monologue about common negative connotations of menstruation.

“NOW” continued from page 1

said. “The NOW club did not want to limit the event to just women,” Joshi said. “Menstruation is such a broad issue that society needs to open it up to males, [people who are] transgender and people who do not conform to the binary gender roles set in place by society. It should be discussed and shared by everyone.”

It is especially important for people in positions of authority to be better informed about

women’s health in order to make better decisions for society, Joshi said.

“It is critical at a school where we foster future leaders that we provide them with the knowledge necessary to make educated decisions,” Joshi said. “Once we start educating people at a basic level, we can establish a more informed community that nurtures leaders who are more educated and who can make better decisions for women’s health as a whole.”

## Block Schedule

APRIL				
mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22

warning bell	6:55	warning bell	6:55
period 0	7:00 - 7:57	period 0	7:00 - 7:57
period 1	8:02 - 10:02	period 2	8:02 - 10:02
break	10:02 - 10:14	break	10:02 - 10:14
period 3	10:19 - 12:19	period 4	10:19 - 12:19
lunch	12:19 - 12:54	lunch	12:19 - 12:54
period 5	12:59 - 2:59	period 6	12:59 - 2:59

ALEX VAZQUEZ

# Misplaced PSAT scores jeopardize juniors’ ability to qualify for scholarship

Juniors who did not receive their PSAT scores on time were required to submit their SAT scores instead.

By Caroline Zhu  
STAFF WRITER

Over 200 juniors whose Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) went missing in Oct. 2015 are experiencing difficulty applying for the National Merit Scholarship (NMS) after counselors discovered the tests in a storage closet in Feb.

The tests were submitted three months late for evaluation and scored by College Board. The scores were released on Feb. 28 and March 3; however, the organization has refused to consider the scores for the NMS award. Although some students have protested the decision, it is fully within the College Board’s right to deny the scores on the grounds that they may have been tampered with.

Students affected by the situa-

tion were told by Warrior counselors that in lieu of a valid PSAT score, they could alternately submit their Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores for consideration instead.

However, many students’ current SAT scores were ineligible for NMS because of the limited time frame in which the test could be taken, junior Jenny Jeh said.

“The National Merit Scholarship is worth a lot of money, and I know a lot of people have the potential to become finalists. There is a lot at stake for us here.”

Jenny Jeh  
junior

“[College Board officials] said that they were accepting SAT scores from Oct. 2015 to June 2016,” Jeh said. “I took my SAT Nov. 2014, so even if I applied through alternate entry, my score wouldn’t be eligible. I would have to retake the SAT just to qualify for NMS, so I would have to pay an additional \$55.”

Furthermore, many students’

SAT scores did not meet the projected NMS state cutoff although their PSAT scores did, Jeh said.

To follow up on the situation, principal Will Mynster scheduled an early March lunchtime information session with the juniors and an after-school meeting with their parents. According to Jeh, most students left angrily before the scheduled question-and-answer session with the counselors.

Warrior staff members repeatedly declined to comment on the situation beyond the confines of these meetings.

Junior Thanasi Bakis said the counselors mentioned that they would take measures to prevent similar problems in the future but did not specify what those changes would be.

Because the scholarship assists many students financially, it is important that their scores be reported accurately, Jeh said.

“The National Merit Scholarship is worth a lot of money, and I know a lot of people have the potential to become finalists,” Jeh said. “There is a lot at stake for us here.”

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STAFF EDITORIAL

# Warriors should cure their ailing attendance

Discrepancies between student illness and attendance plague the Warrior campus.

As the flu season reaches its apex, every Warrior classroom has had its fair share of students with sniffles, coughs and migraines. While an increasing number of sick students are

attending school to avoid makeup work, ironically, more healthy students are faking illnesses to avoid taking important tests. However, sick pupils should not feel compelled to attend school simply because they fear taking more challenging tests. Conversely, healthy peers should not

skip school to study more, since this imbalance forces teachers to administer more difficult makeup tests. Warriors should attend and miss school only when appropriate to avoid long-term negative consequences for all students.

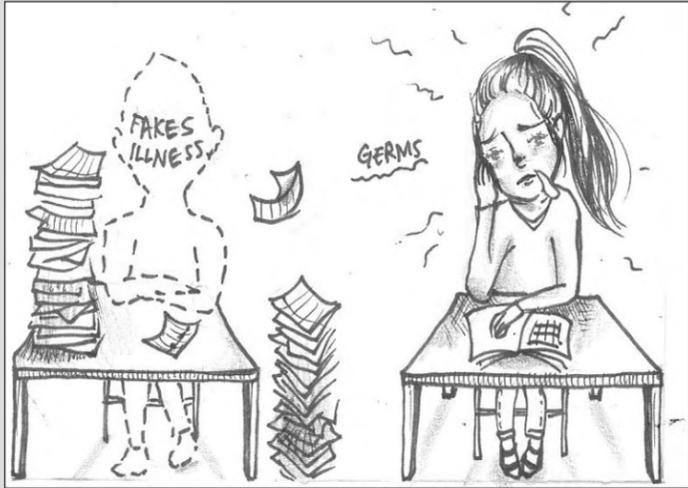
In fact, students who feign illnesses to study for exams begin a vicious cycle that inevitably leaves them unprepared for future tests. Warriors initiate the cycle when they claim to be sick and stay home, giving themselves an extra day to study. However, teachers recognize this trend and create more demanding makeup tests to compensate. Since teachers cannot verify students' illnesses, harder makeup assessments most easily guarantee fair testing for students who take exams as scheduled. Contrarily, these tests can unintentionally hurt the grades of students who were genuinely sick and unable to study. Although they may get ex-

tra time to study, healthy students who skip generally neglect other equally important lectures and notes in turn. Procrastinating and deprioritizing other classwork only perpetuates stress and hurts study habits, beginning the cycle all over again.

Alternatively, other students insist on coming to school with symptoms such as burning fevers and persistent coughs to avoid taking more difficult makeup exams. However, since fatigue and headaches are common symptoms of the flu, unhealthy classmates may compromise their own test grades. Likewise, Warriors should recognize that coming to school with visible symptoms could lead to the infection of others. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people can spread the flu and common cold as far as six feet away simply by coughing, sneezing or speaking. Thus, a few

symptomatic individuals could spread their illnesses to a large number of students. Attending school when sick also hampers a speedy, effective recovery and worsens symptoms. Quick recuperation is the only way to prevent more makeup work and the spread of disease in the long run.

Overall, students should follow school protocol and come to school when healthy and stay home when ill. Faking sickness gives teachers no choice but to impose more difficult exams to ensure fairness. On the other hand, coming to school when sick produces mediocre results and furthers the cycle of disease around campus. Rather than complaining about difficult makeup exams and illnesses, students should realize the root of their problems: their own dishonesty and unhealthy behavior.



HANMIN KO

# Model minority myth masks face of Asian discrimination

By Brandon Ann  
ASSISTANT  
OPINION  
EDITOR

Asian American citizens across the nation are up in arms following the conviction of New York Police Department (NYPD) Officer Peter Liang Feb. 11. Liang was sentenced 10 to 15 years in prison for second-degree manslaughter after discharging his gun in a stairwell and killing Akai Gurley, an unarmed African American man. Regardless of whether Liang is truly guilty or not, many Asian Americans feel outraged because officers committing similar or worse offenses, such as white NYPD Officer Daniel Panatelo, have been acquitted. Panatelo received little more than a temporary suspension for suffocating Eric Garner, an African American male. The glaring inequality between Liang's and Panatelo's punishments calls attention to the discrimination that Asians experience. However, due to overgeneralized economic and social success, many have labeled Asians as a model minority unaffected by the racism that other ethnic groups face. Yet, in reality,

the false concept of the model minority leads society to turn a blind eye to discrimination against Asians.

Notably, not all Asian ethnic groups experience economic success, especially considering the discriminatory practices that they face in the job market. For instance, according to a study conducted by Ohio State Professor Robert Jiobu in 2009, whites earn \$522 more than Asian Americans despite both groups having the same level of education. This demonstrates that, despite equal qualifications, Asian workers are paid significantly less than whites because of their employers' racial bias. According to the U.S. Census Public Use Microdata Samples, per capita income for whites is \$3,340 more than that of Asian groups such as Indians, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Pacific Islanders and Vietnamese. As a result, Asian Americans must struggle much harder to offset the disadvantages that this discrimination creates.

Furthermore, racial bias causes mainstream media to misrepresent or largely ignore Asian American culture. For example, Asians typically only play stereotypical roles, such as martial arts

experts or anti-social nerds, that represent a small fraction of their cultural identity. For instance, most people only know John Cho, a relatively high-profile Asian actor, as the nerdy accountant Harold in the "Harold and Kumar" movie franchise. Yet not many viewers recognize Cho's starring role in the critically acclaimed "Better Luck Tomorrow," which portrays rebellious Asian teenagers, a refreshing step away from the Asian stereotype. This illustrates how most individuals lack understanding of Asian struggles because of the media's limited Asian representation. To make matters worse, Asian American roles that even slightly diverge from these stereotypes fall prey to whitewashing. Oftentimes, directors and producers of American movies will shamelessly cast white actors for Asian roles because they feel that Asians would not be successful in more prominent parts. For example, Emma Stone, a white actress, portrayed the one-quarter Chinese, one-quarter Hawaiian Allison Ng in "Aloha." This whitewashing distorts the public perception of Asians and reinforces Asian stereotypes by limiting the roles that they play.



KATRINA CHEN

Finally, society at large refuses to acknowledge the discrimination that Asians face. For instance, following the #oscarssowhite scandal, many African American actors were invited to the Oscars to promote racial equality. However, host Chris Rock made a racist Asian joke playing on the stereotype that Chinese people excel at mathematics and use child labor in sweatshops. Rather than breaking down racial barriers as intended, Rock used Asians as the butt of a crude and racially insensitive farce. If Asians were truly a model minority, this type of prej-

udiced behavior would not even exist. Many choose to believe that Asians have somehow outgrown discrimination, but in reality they have simply closed their eyes to the ever-present racial bias.

All things considered, Asians experience financial and social obstructions that make their positions and opportunities in society insignificant. In other words, Asian American struggles practically serve as a textbook example of traditional ethnic discrimination. It is time to expose the model minority for what it truly is: a myth.

## Teacher Feature: Mrs. Hufferd's Art History by Hanmin Ko



# FBI poses a threat to Apple security

By Christina Meyer  
STAFF WRITER

Cracking the iPhone code will only break users' security.

Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook finally took a public stand against the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) court order Feb. 16. The controversy began in Dec. when the FBI obtained the work iPhone of one of the two shooters involved in the San Bernardino terrorist attack. Although the FBI had the phone, no agents could circumvent its security to retrieve the potentially helpful information inside. Apple denied the FBI's requests to create a backdoor to open the phone, so the FBI issued a federal court order to force Apple to unlock the phone by creating a new backdoor to its iPhone software. Apple has since contested the order, leading to the current legal debates. Even though these measures are intended to help Americans, mandating Apple to create a new method to bypass security would be an unprecedented attack on privacy rights.

According to the FBI's own sources, it is unlikely that the re-

covered phone could provide any information relevant to the case. Although the San Bernardino Police Department insists that pivotal information regarding terrorism is likely on the iPhone, FBI director James Comey has yet to take a clear stance, even directly stating that the phone may have little information of value. Verizon, the shooters' phone carrier, has already given the FBI access to both of their phones and text histories. In all likelihood, any links to terrorism would have been found on their personal devices, where usage and activity are not monitored. Furthermore, the FBI has conceded that the shooters were homegrown radicals unaffiliated with any known terrorist networks, so finding links to other terrorist plans would be unlikely.

However, even if the phone has evidence, the legal precedent this new software would set, as well as the security threats it would pose, outweigh any benefit. According to companies such as Microsoft and Google, a new way of accessing information by remotely disabling passcodes would compromise the security provided by a passcode lock. Hackers would inevitably take advantage of this weakened passcode security to steal personal information with

greater ease through backdoor methods, even if it were guarded by Apple. Furthermore, the FBI's citation of the All Writs Act, a law that allows the government to access information by any means necessary for overall public safety, should not be merited in this case, as this only furthers unwarranted monitoring that already hurts many people worldwide. Senator Ron Wyden, alongside other representatives, has suggested that if this backdoor is created, it would allow officials worldwide to monitor people through phones much more easily. Repressive countries, such as China and Russia, would also be able to demand Apple to provide them the same software for spying on their own citizens, only now they would have the legal justification for avoiding international criticism.

In the end, no relevant information would likely be uncovered, and, even if it were, the standards set by this new code would only allow for many innocent Americans to be hurt by needless gaps in security. The time for action against terrorism may be now, but the place is not in this case. The FBI needs to address the real terrorist threats facing our nation instead of following this dead-end.

## 2016 ELECTION UPDATE

I think we've had enough debates. How many times can you answer the same question?



DONALD TRUMP AFTER PULLING OUT OF THE FOX NEWS GOP DEBATE MARCH 21

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### UPCOMING DATES

MARCH 25

Republican Caucus:



WYOMING

MARCH 26

Democratic Caucuses:



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HAWAII



WASHINGTON

APR. 5

Primary:



WISCONSIN

COMPILED BY YANNIE HOANG, OPINION EDITOR AND GRAPHIC BY ALEX VAZQUEZ

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# The Magic Continues

Explore the new magic of an old favorite by reading our overview of the ever-expanding world of wizardry.

By Ryan Fawwaz & Anthony Kim, ASSISTANT ENTERTAINMENT & LIFESTYLE EDITOR & ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR  
and cartoon by Katrina Chen, CARTOON



## Wizarding Hacks

### BUTTERBEER



Craving some good ol' butterbeer? Bring Hogsmeade to your kitchen by conjuring up this delicious, non-alcoholic beverage that requires

simple ingredients found at a grocery store near you. Simply follow this recipe to concoct this wizarding favorite.

To start, mix a quarter-cup of butter-scotch and sweetened condensed milk into a bowl. Once the mixture becomes a golden brown syrup, add two table-spoons of whipped butter at room temperature. Finish off by pouring this syrup into a half-cup of cream soda. Watch as your drink magically transforms into refreshing, creamy butterbeer.

### TOM RIDDLE'S DIARY



You, too, can transfigure a diary into a Horcrux without sacrificing a fragment of your soul.

The materials needed include a black notebook, a brush, gold paint, a picture of Riddle's diary (for reference) and a cup of black tea. First, paint the top corners of the book with your own designs. Next, grab a brush and dip it into the tea. Avoiding the cover, gently brush the liquid onto the side pages of the diary. Now set the notebook down for a while and wait for your pages to take on an antique look. Your book of black magic is now ready to be customized with spells—or math notes.

## THE CHOSEN ONE RETURNS

Attention all Harry Potter fanatics: stop mournfully watching those ABC marathons for the millionth time. The Chosen One is back.

Last year, J.K. Rowling officially revived the iconic franchise when she confirmed the release of the play "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child," regarded by many as the eighth of her original series. Premiering July 30 in London, the production will follow Harry and his son Albus Severus Potter 19 years after Harry defeated

Voldemort. Can't pay thousands of dollars to fly across the world? Time to save up, because the play won't premiere in the United States any time soon.

If you're not into stage performances, watch "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," a spin-off film set to release Nov. 18. A prequel of sorts, the movie is set in 1926 and will feature writer Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) as he attempts to repair the relations between wizards and No Maj (Muggles) in New York City.

Setting the scene for this film is Rowling's "Magic in North America," a series of writing found on her website "Pottermore." This new publication can help you better understand the magical world, as it traces the origins of wizardry in the United States, a setting not previ-

ously mentioned in her past works.

To further expand the Harry Potter universe, Universal Studios Hollywood will open The Wizarding World of Harry Potter April 7. This feature deserves the most anticipation, because after years of construction, the park is finally ready for visitors. At The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, you'll get an experience found only in two other locations: Florida and Japan. Make

sure to take advantage of this opportunity. It's a Potterhead's delight, where you can explore the dungeons of Hogwarts castle, taste some sweets

at Hogsmeade and fly like a wizard on rides such as Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey and Flight of the Hippogriff.

While many may argue that Rowling is needlessly drawing out a finished story with these projects, I commend the author for resurrecting a series near and dear to the hearts of millions. No doubt, the story of Harry Potter crossed generations, appealing to both children and adults with an imaginative, complex plot. Although Harry and his friends are grown now, these new additions to the Harry Potter universe guarantee that Hogwarts will always be there to welcome us home.

## Which House are YOU in?

### GRYFFINDOR

The lion, the symbol of Gryffindor, represents courage and perseverance. While some may believe wizards of this house are reckless, they are essentially immovable and adamant. In short, Gryffindors are brave at heart, determined to achieve a goal and ready to conquer all foes.

### RAVENCLAW

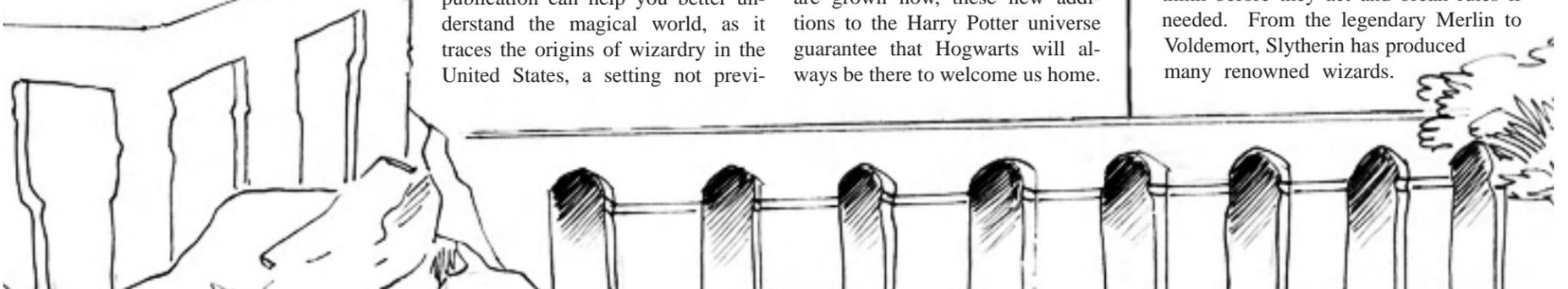
Symbolized by a golden eagle, Ravenclaw welcomes those who are as sharp as the talons of a raptor. Wizards of this house have keen intelligence and an unwavering will to succeed. Primarily valuing academics, Ravenclaws learn to fill the voracious appetites of their curiosity.

### HUFFLEPUFF

Like their house animal, the badger, Hufflepuffs like to lie low and stay humble, but once they are provoked, they can put up a fight like no other. Known as the kindest house, Hufflepuff is home to the most tenacious, loyal and trustworthy enchanter of the wizarding world.

### SLYTHERIN

The Slytherin serpents certainly don't have the best reputation, but don't let misleading stereotypes turn you away from these resourceful wizards and witches. They think before they act and break rules if needed. From the legendary Merlin to Voldemort, Slytherin has produced many renowned wizards.



# CHIKKUPEA *the* COSPLAYER

Sophomore Sophie Davis has not one separate identity, but several. With the help of her sewing machine, some imagination and lots and lots of fabric, Davis transforms into chefs, Pokémon trainers and school idols. She is a semi-professional cosplayer, known to her fans as "Chikkupea," and is quickly rising to fame in the world of cosplay.

By Ashley Fan, ASSISTANT FEATURE EDITOR  
Photos courtesy of Sophie Davis, Taylor Hobbs, Ivy "Doomkitty" and Kelen Ord

## SO YOU THINK YOU CAN COSPLAY?

No matter your gender, age, ethnicity or size, cosplay-ing gives everyone a chance to show off their inner and outer beauty. Here are just a few famous cosplayers breaking stereotypes!



**COURTESY OF TAYLOR HOBBS**  
Taylor Hobbs has often been criticized for "cosplaying while black," but has responded with maturity and has inspired other minorities to cosplay.



**COURTESY OF KELEN ORD**  
Males and older people are often discouraged from cosplay because it is deemed "childish" and "girly." Kelen Ord has proven these naysayers wrong.



**COURTESY OF IVY "DOOMKITTY"**  
Self-conscious about her body in high school, Ivy "Doomkitty" found confidence through cosplay, and has led conferences to end the stigma against body size or shape in cosplay.

## PREVIOUS CONVENTIONS

- Anime Expo 2014 & 2015
- Wondercon 2015
- Otakon Vegas 2015
- Anime California 2015
- Anime Los Angeles 2016



**SWEET COSPLAY SKILLS:**  
Davis attended *Anime Los Angeles 2016* dressed as *Megumi Tadokoro*, a shy but hardworking chef from the popular anime, "Food Wars!"



**TROY HIGH SCHOOL IDOL FESTIVAL:** Adopting the poses and outfits of Umi Sonoda from the rhythm game, "Love Live! School Idol Festival," Davis displays her ability to take on the personalities of her characters.



If you've never been to Anime Expo, you're missing out on an enchanting experience. Wearing anything from spiked armor to unicorn onesies, anime enthusiasts gather at this annual celebration of all-things-anime to socialize, take pictures and admire each other's rainbow-colored hairdos. This is the world of cosplay—shortened from the term "costume play"—where people of all shapes and sizes dress up as their favorite fictional characters. A glimpse into this unique activity reveals a thriving culture of color and imagination.

Well acquainted with cosplay culture is sophomore Sophie Davis, known by her cosplayer name "Chikkupea," who first discovered cosplay at Anime Expo 2014. Dressed as her favorite anime character, Princess Tutu, she fell in love with the fun, social atmosphere and decided to continue experimenting with this unconventional art form. She has since made a name for herself as a seasoned cosplayer, with multiple conventions tucked under her obi belt.

For Davis, cosplay opened the door to a new realm of social connection and a stunning expression of creativity. Those who know Davis at school may be surprised to learn of her hobby. The down-to-earth Red Hots dancer is almost unrecognizable from the ethereal, crystal-eyed characters she portrays.

This gap between reality and fantasy is a fun aspect of cosplay for Davis, but she also recognizes that it helps people overcome anxiety and shyness. Simply dressing up in beautiful costumes can transform everyday people into confident and powerful characters, Davis said. "I know cosplay helps a lot of people feel better about themselves and make new friends," Davis said. "When you put on a costume, you feel like you can do anything—especially when you feel good about what

you are wearing. I'm more social because of cosplay." This positivity reflects in an open and inviting cosplay community. Evident at conventions is the harmonious sense of camaraderie between anime lovers—it's common to see even strangers chatting and taking pictures together. Sometimes, those strangers can become close friends, as Davis can attest to. Davis and her group of cosplay friends have strengthened their bonds through their common passion and late-night costume sewing hangouts.

"When you put on a costume, you feel like you can do anything—especially when you feel good about what you are wearing."

Sophie Davis  
sophomore

"I met my two best friends, Sophie and Hayden, through cosplay!" Davis said. "They're very close to me now. We plan costumes together, collaborate and have similar interests. We're positive, and we all love each other." By working together with friends, Davis tackles one of the most im-

portant parts of cosplay: costume making. Davis puts a lot of planning, hard work and dedication into making her costumes flawless and accurate, down to the last sparkly sequin. The handmade costumes take anywhere from eight hours to five months to complete, and each costs between \$100 and \$200. Davis could just settle for store-bought costumes, but she values quality and authenticity above all. She invests painstaking effort into each seamless, Swarovski-crystal-studded outfit.

"I like to challenge myself with construction," Davis said. "The most complex costume I've ever made was the contest idol version of May from Pokémon Alpha Sapphire, because the skirt is squiggly and gravity-defying. I had to engineer that."

Davis's impressive collection of costumes makes it easy for her to share her enthusiasm and style with the world. Davis updates her YouTube channel and Instagram (@chikkupea) with anime dance covers, how-to's and pictures for her 3,000+ followers. She had never imagined that her involvement with cosplay could lead her to such success and fulfillment. Davis had picked up cosplay as a casual hobby, but now thousands of anime lovers and cosplay hopefuls are familiar with the name "Chikkupea."

"I know that I was definitely not the best when I started cosplaying two years ago," Davis said. "But looking back at my experience, I'm really proud of how much I grew by learning all these things and meeting incredible new people."

## UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

- Wondercon 2016 (March 25-27)
- Anime Expo 2016 (July 1-4)

## ATTITUDE

"In the cosplay community, you want to be positive and welcoming. We are all here to share our interpretations of our favorite characters, so it's definitely not a competition. Cosplay is all about your effort paying off."

## HAIR

"A wig can bring a whole costume together. Synthetic hair photographs better than natural hair and better achieves a lot of the unnatural hairstyles of anime and video game characters."

## CHARACTER

"A lot of people who cosplay feel pressured to be a certain character because they look like them or because the character is popular. Instead, they should cosplay someone they will enjoy being."

## ACCESSORIES

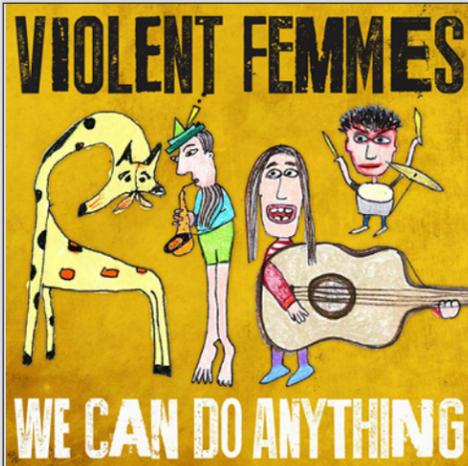
"Accessories are just as important as the main costume. Having careful detail in your accessories goes a long way. The overall result will look 10 times better."



## POKÉMON IN PINK:

Davis's most time-consuming and complex costume to date, the contest idol version of May from Pokémon Alpha Sapphire, was especially difficult to make because of its gravity-defying skirt.

## Album Reviews



## "We Can Do Anything"

Artist: Violent Femmes  
Label: PIAS America  
Price: \$9.99



Having made an enduring piece of art as angst-ridden adolescents, Violent Femmes has since been pressured to create something as enjoyable as its critically acclaimed eponymous debut "Violent Femmes." Following a 16-year hiatus, the band makes another attempt at staying relevant, but it's hard to view the album charitably. "We Can Do Anything" sounds like a blatant imitation of "Violent Femmes" without the emotional depth or the songwriting chops. Instead, the band remains in its comfort zone, featuring Gordon Gano singing with the twitchiness of a guilty teenager, Brian Ritchie snapping strings with crisp sharpness and Brian Viglione smacking a single drum with attitude. Although "We Can Do Anything" is a welcome return to Violent Femmes' original sound, you're probably better off just listening to its debut.



## "Adore Life"

Artist: Savages  
Label: Matador Records  
Price: \$9.99



The typical love song doesn't have guttural, down-tuned guitars roaring alongside heavy drumming that blast your ears out. But Savages has never been about convention. Musically, the band wears its influences on its sleeve. Guitarist Gemma Thompson exudes power in a heavily distorted wall of sound that cries out Swans, which isn't as bad as it actually sounds. "Adore Life" is a collection of love songs, but frontwoman Jehnny Beth isn't singing painfully saccharine lyrics; her powerful voice soars above the dense instrumentation and explores a darker side of love. But at its core, the album is positive: Beth's repeated shouting "I adore life" and "love is the answer" emanates unorthodox optimism. Despite the chaos and mayhem, "Adore Life" is essentially a celebration of love at its most confusing and its most vital stage.



# SAVER & R

With the release of Violent Femmes' classic rock album "We Can Do Anything" March 8, discover how rock and roll has continued its legacy into the current generation.

By Christopher Lee, STAFF WRITER and photos courtesy of Free Digital Photos

"Rock is finally dead." Two years ago, KISS frontman and rock legend Gene Simmons uttered the infamous words that no one wanted to hear, attributing the genre's death to the popularization of file-sharing websites. Although the "death of rock and roll" has long been a popular topic in the music scene, the recent passings of many classic rock figureheads have given the phrase an even more painful, literal meaning. With the loss of glam rock legend David Bowie, Mötörhead bassist extraordinaire Lemmy Kilmister and Eagles founding member Glenn Frey, rock and roll of the Feel Good 70's appears to be doomed to obscurity.

However, the problem is that too many people focus exclusively on the deaths and the tragedies instead of celebrating the rock music that is still here. We obsess over the loss of iconic singers and forget the musicians that remain to carry on the genre. Everybody and his mother had something to say about David Bowie's legacy, but "Blackstar"—his last album, released three days before his death—did not receive half the attention it should have. The death of an artist does not mean the death of his music. In fact, in response to Simmons' claim, many popular rock artists argue that rock is still alive and kicking. To keep the heart and soul of rock and roll beating, we must stop being distracted by trivial matters and simply start enjoying the music.

Compared to its heyday in the 70's, rock and roll has become much harder

to find on popular radio channels. Nonetheless, discovering rock, both old and new, is not an insurmountable task. The easiest way to uncover new music is to explore the discography of established classic rock bands and then move on to more recent artists: from the heavy riff-driven Led Zep-pelin

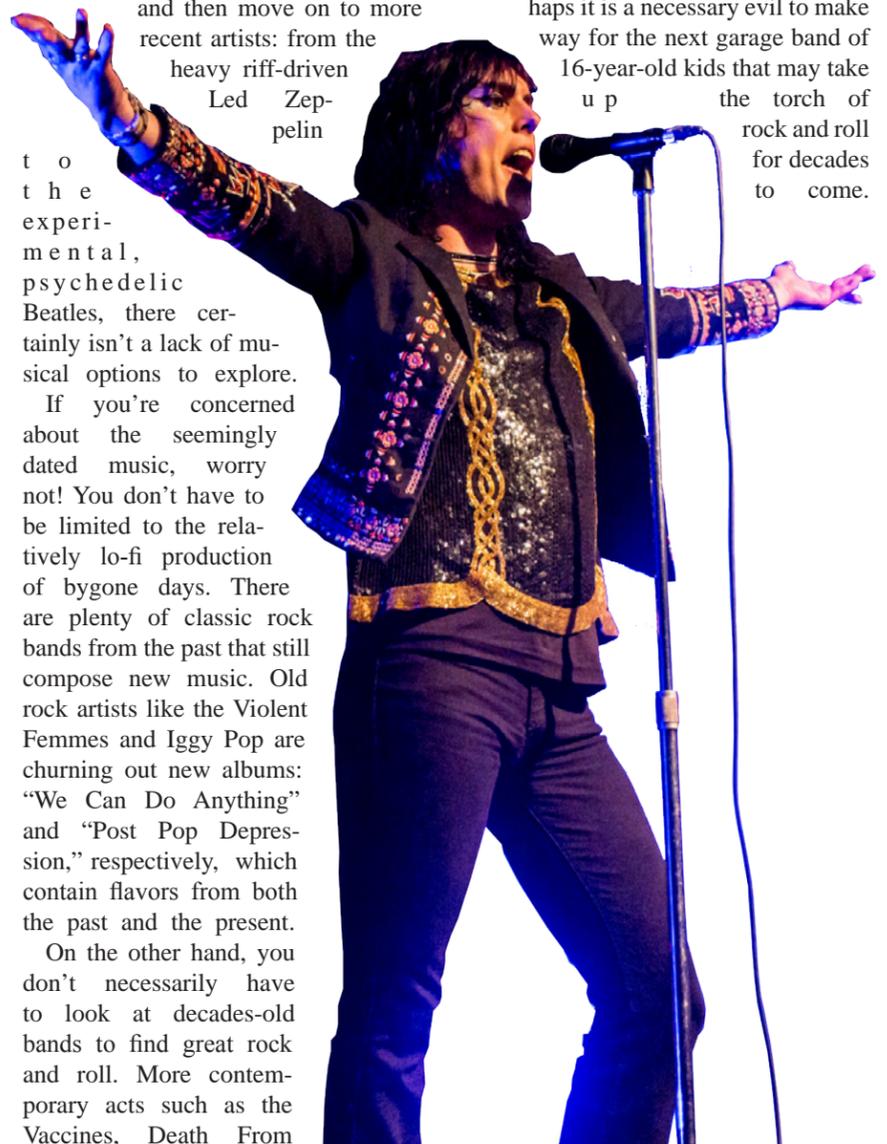
t o  
t h e  
e x p e r i m e n t a l,  
p s y c h e d e l i c  
Beatles, there certainly isn't a lack of musical options to explore.

If you're concerned about the seemingly dated music, worry not! You don't have to be limited to the relatively lo-fi production of bygone days. There are plenty of classic rock bands from the past that still compose new music. Old rock artists like the Violent Femmes and Iggy Pop are churning out new albums: "We Can Do Anything" and "Post Pop Depression," respectively, which contain flavors from both the past and the present.

On the other hand, you don't necessarily have to look at decades-old bands to find great rock and roll. More contemporary acts such as the Vaccines, Death From

Above 1979 and most recently the Struts, with its debut album "Everybody Wants," showcase heavy guitar tones and exciting riffs that appeal to the beginning listener from the 21st century and the veteran classic rock enthusiast from decades past.

Although the passing of rock legends is undeniably tragic, perhaps it is a necessary evil to make way for the next garage band of 16-year-old kids that may take up the torch of rock and roll for decades to come.





# With Flying Colors

Experimenting with a new science-themed routine, the Warrior Color Guard looks forward to the rest of its winter guard season.

By Dominique Pillos, ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, cartoon by Hanmin Ko, CARTOON EDITOR and photos by Ida Kazerani, PHOTO

Among the twirling of six-foot flags, the spinning of three-pound rifles and the maneuvering of two-foot sabers, the Warrior Color Guard incorporates its flare for showmanship in each routine. As the team prepares to compete at a Winter Guard Association of Southern California competition at Canyon High School Apr. 1, the Warrior Guard members continue to experiment with high-energy routines that contrast the lyrical nature of typical color guard performances.

The Warriors' ability to deviate from conventional Winter Guard performances could not have been possible without their recent increase in members. Since its rebirth in 2014 with the arrival of coach Rhonda Choat, Color Guard has grown each year—not only in the complexity of its routines, but also in its numbers. In just two years, the team grew from a group of five girls to a team of 30, Choat said.

"My first year here was just rebuilding the program," Choat said. "Last year involved shows that focused on basic technique and skills. This year, we're trying to up our skill set and performance quality."

With a larger team, the Warrior Color Guard is able to execute routines that focus on storylines portrayed with high-energy dance moves and novel props. The Warriors' dynamic performances stand out from other teams' Winter Guard choreographies, which are set to the slow ballads, junior captain Shea Sullivan said.

"Our show is different because our coach always has a theme and that's entertaining," Sullivan said. "[The other schools' routines are] more abstract, but when you listen to Adele 27 times in a day, that gets old. It matters more that we're entertaining,

and that our audience doesn't get bored."

During their March 13 competition at Costa Mesa High School, the Warriors debuted a new routine. The team depicted an accident in the Old Spice laboratories which transformed the scientist Lady Warriors into femme fatales who fell head over heels for the boys on Color Guard. Accompanied by the tunes of today's pop hits, the Warriors' performance embodies their contemporary choreography, Sullivan said.

"Hopefully, [the routine] will [continue to] make judges laugh and be entertained, and those two things get us more points," Sullivan said.

"When we get more points, [it shows] we are doing something well."

In addition to their third place finish at the Orange County Invita-

tional at Long Beach High School March 5 and a first place finish at Costa Mesa High School March 13, Color Guard members are impressing not only judges but also the Warrior campus with their energy-packed routines, Choat said.

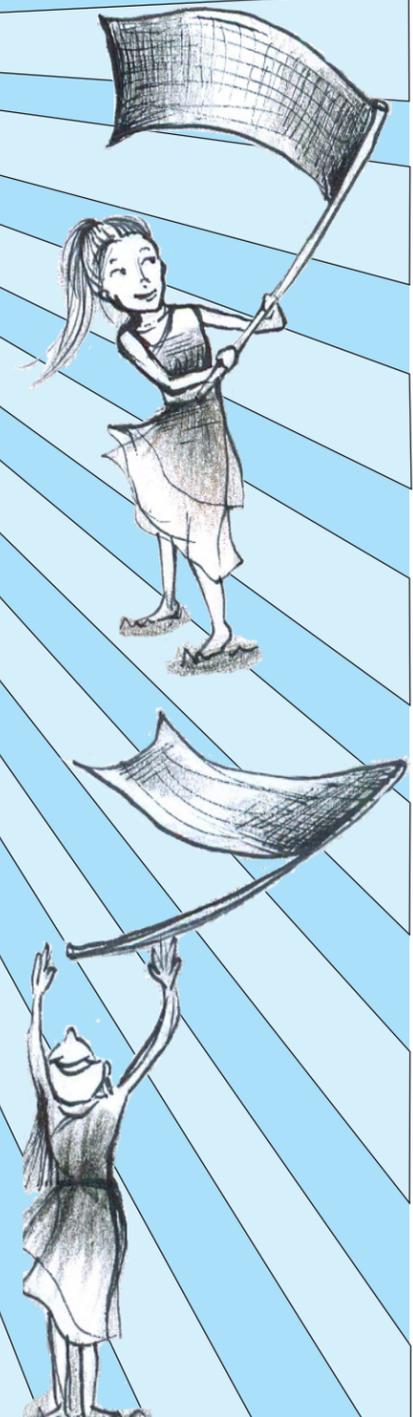
"The student population has really begun to embrace the program," Choat said. "When [the team has] a whole student body behind [them] saying, 'You can do it,' it makes the kids want to work harder."

The Warrior Color Guard has high hopes for the rest of its season after consecutive top four finishes. As the team continues to experiment with more animated routines, it aspires to continue its trend of success, Sullivan said.

"We have grown in the quality of work that we do," Sullivan said. "We are always trying to build each other up, and we're a lot happier as a team. It's validating that we're improving so much."

"Last year involved shows that focused on basic technique and skills. This year, we're trying to up our skill set and performance quality."

**Rhonda Choat**  
Coach





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