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CARTOON BY IRENE YOO

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

Warriors Weigh In

Are current gun laws adequate?

Yes	13%
No	82%
Excessive	5%

Should the government regulate guns?

Yes	81%
No	11%
To an extent	8%

GRAPHIC BY TU-AN NGUYEN

By Amy Weng
STAFF WRITER



Dear President Trump,

On a seemingly normal Monday morning, Oct. 4, I opened up my phone to the terrifying news that a concert in an open and supposedly safe area had turned into a bloody nightmare. But what may be even more horrifying is how commonplace shootings are in the U.S. On Nov. 2, a shooting in a Colorado Walmart took the lives of three innocent people. In the same day, a high school student in Florida shot another student at a bus stop dispute. Three days later, the Sutherland Springs church shooting in Texas took the lives of 26 more people. On Nov. 11, a gunman shot four people, two of which were elementary school students, and wounded at least 10 in Northern California. I cannot help but worry: Am I safe from gun violence? Will any of my own friends or I, myself, become another victim in a growing list of them?

When Stephen Paddock murdered 58 people and injured 527 at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said that discussing gun policy is “premature”—that it is “not the place that we’re in at this moment.” I must respectfully disagree. Avoiding the gun debate does not alleviate fears about my safety, the safety of my school, my community. Our country must take action against gun violence, and the first step is to discuss gun policy. While we stay silent, shootings have continued happening.

Before this topic fades into the background again, let’s talk about it. We, as Americans, are desensitized to these shootings in part because of our government’s dismissive attitude. I am chilled to know that in many parts of the country an individual can buy military-grade firearms on the internet without a background check, that countless Americans—like Stephen Paddock—own dozens of guns. I am terrified knowing that Congress is considering loosening restrictions on gun silencer sales, that the U.S. has a homicide by firearm rate of about 31 per million, which far exceeds that of any other developed country. I am saddened that just earlier this year, two students at my school were detained on suspicion of plotting a school shooting. Laws may not stop all crime, but the consequences are much worse when the laws are loose.

What guarantees safety in public spaces in America today? As one of 50.7 million students in unprotected, vulnerable American public schools, I am concerned about the safety of our learning environments. Many students at my school agree; over 80 percent who responded to a survey said that current gun legislation is inadequate. You once criticized the Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990, arguing that teachers should be allowed to carry guns in school. But who wants to go to school every day in the presence of lethal weapons? I want to go to school feeling safe, not compelled to practice self-defense.

Public spaces, especially schools, must be safer. So, Mr. President, for how long does the White House plan on dismissing gun policy—along with the fears of students? What will you do to ensure our safety?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEWS
Read about marching band’s recent competitive performances at El Modena High School, as well as the developments within the program itself.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Explore the Japanese animation studio, Studio Ghibli’s fantastical animations and the recurring themes of the nostalgia-inducing films.



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SPORTS

Meet junior Joshua Groll, a junior Anaheim Ducks player with a promising future in the world of professional ice hockey.



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Warriors succeed in first round of cyber defense event

Thirty-three cyber defense teams from Troy achieved many top scores ahead of a second qualification round.

By Malika Pandey
STAFF WRITER

Applying their skills in cybersecurity, the Warrior Cyber Defense Team participated in the first qualification round of the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition at Troy Nov. 3-5.

At the event, which marked the beginning of a four round series that includes an additional qualification round as well as state and semifinal rounds, teams from throughout the region competed to secure a computer in six hours.

Following the rounds, top scoring teams will advance to the National Finals Competition, where they will have the opportunity to win scholarships.

Twenty Open Division teams, which were open to all Warriors, and 13 National Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) teams of five or six members each participated in the round. Of these teams, 18 Open Division and all NJROTC teams scored in the top 20 percent nationally, and in total, 11 Warrior teams achieved perfect scores at the event.

Attendees engaged in regular after school practices to be-

come accustomed to operating systems Windows, Ubuntu and Cisco and practice with scenarios similar to those used in the competition. Warrior Cyber Defense teams hoped to improve upon last year's performance by better organizing their team practices to include a set curriculum, NJROTC Cyber Defense Co-Team Commander Brandon Shin said.

According to Shin, student participants were able to interact with and learn from other students passionate about cybersecurity. Shin hopes the event will inspire team members to pursue cyber defense in the future.

"I want the members of the team to [consider cybersecurity for] their career, because we need more people [in the job market]," Shin said. "Fostering this kind of passion within students prepares more people to fill those [jobs]."

For Open Division team member Jared Flores, the cybersecurity program's expansion over the years is a strong indicator of its continued success in motivating Warriors to explore new passions.

"[The cybersecurity program has] gotten bigger," Flores said. "We've definitely been inspiring a lot more people to [become] interested in the program and in the cybersecurity field."



ASHLEY BRANSON

BATTLE OF THE BANDS: Conducted by Drum Major Ahmed Abdalla, Warrior Marching Band performs a sequence of musical pieces before a panel of judges and a cheering crowd in the California State Band Championships semi-finals at El Modena High School Nov. 11.

Marching Band competes at state championships

The student instrumental music group is growing in popularity, resources and success.

By Tiffany Kim
STAFF WRITER

Warrior Marching Band participated in the California State Band Championships (CSBC) semi-finals at El Modena High School Nov. 11.

The Warrior Band, consisting of over 150 members, competed in Division 6A against 30 other high school bands. Each band was scored by seven judges on its musical performance, visual performance, percussion and auxiliary. At the event, Marching Band received a score of 76.75.

The group also participated in the 11th Annual Circle City Classic Field Tournament at Centennial High School Oct. 21 and San Clemente High School Field Tournament Nov. 4, where they placed first with a score of 79.1 and fifth with a score of 80.1, respectively. Their score at the Circle City Classic Field Tournament was the highest out of all

er size, Warriors competed in a newly formed Division 6A.

Additionally, following various fundraisers, the program has hired a new assistant conductor to help run practices, repair dilapidated equipment and purchase new instruments as well as trailers to hold them.

Ultimately, Warrior Instrumental Music Program Director Joseph Castillo attributes the marching band's improvement to its members' attitudes.

"The general attitude of the group is positive," Castillo said. "[At competitions], we compete with ourselves to see if we

"[At competitions], we compete with ourselves to see if we performed better [than we did at previous competitions] regardless of what [our] placement was."

Joseph Castillo
Program Director

divisions that day.

Warrior participation in the events comes at a time of change in the Warrior Band program. This year, as a result of its large-

performed better [than we did at previous competitions] regardless of what [our] placement was. If we approach it that way, we are successful every time."



ASHLEY BRANSON

COMPUTATION COMPETITION: Sophomores Alina Sfatcu and Charity Cheng work on the computer at the first qualification round of the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense competition at Troy Nov. 3-5.



IDA KAZERANI

MODELS FOR THE WORLD: Senior Ah-Yeon Kwon, sophomore Charles Cheng and junior Prince Wang plan their presentation before their participation in the Tustin High School Model United Nations conference Nov. 18-19.

MUN club attends Tustin conference

The student group is forging an alliance with nearby regional schools to improve cross-school collaboration.

By Alina Choi
STAFF WRITER

Following recent club reorganization, the Warrior Model United Nations (MUN) club attended the Tustin High School MUN conference Nov. 18-19.

At the event, 20 members, each representing a country in the forum, debated a variety of real world topics, such as climate

change mitigation and the promotion of women in government. Novice delegates, who have less than a year of experience, participated in the first day of the conference, while advanced delegates attended both.

MUN at Troy is distinct in that it is not offered as an academic course. As part of its efforts to compensate for this disadvantage, the club decided to hold practices after school, allowing members to have more time to prepare for conferences, Treasurer Prince Wang said.

“By [giving] delegates more experience giving speeches, we

can better critique their writing and [delivery of] information,” Wang said.

Members, many of whom have never attended an MUN event, also participated in a mock conference at California State University, Fullerton Nov. 8, to become accustomed to the competition format.

At present, the Warrior MUN club is also looking to foster a collaboration with MUN teams from nearby schools Diamond Bar, Walnut and John A. Rowland High Schools. In what is tentatively being called the Tri-High MUN conference, members

hope to learn from other schools to improve their performance at conferences.

According to Wang, students who participate in MUN conferences and practices improve their public speaking skills and gain a deeper understanding of international issues, a skill especially relevant in today’s rapidly evolving world geopolitical situation.

“MUN not only [teaches] students to have an inner eye into how global politics works, [but also how to] research different topics [in world affairs],” Wang said. “It’s educational for every [participant].”

Macroeconomics students advance to final round of financial literacy event

Two Warrior teams will demonstrate their understanding of this often undervalued skill.

By Katie Nguyen
STAFF WRITER

Two Warrior teams will compete in the final round of the Personal Finance Challenge at the Los Angeles Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Nov. 29.

Started by the California Council for Economic Education in 2008, the challenge is designed to assess high school students’ knowledge and expertise in using financial resources.

In the first round, which took place online in October, teams of four worked together to complete a five hour, multifaceted assessment. Two Warrior teams, both composed of seniors, advanced to the next round.

The upper division team includes Hayley Amo, Alisha Sehgal, Annette Ketsiri and Stephen Nguyen, and the lower division team includes Alexander Tsao, Ahmed Abdalla, Patrick Cai and

Timothy Li.

In the second round, after individual examinations, teams will complete an hour-long challenge in which they will help a hypothetical person successfully invest his or her money. They will then present their financial plan to a panel of judges who will assess their proposal on a series of criteria.

Teams that place in the top three at the event will win monetary prizes of varying amounts.

According to macroeconomics teacher David St. Clair, competitors will gain not only experience but also practical knowledge from having the opportunity to speak with business leaders who supervise the event.

Additionally, participants have a unique opportunity to apply what will be an important life skill, Amo said.

“Personal finance should be important to everyone,” Amo said. “[Adults] need to know what interest rates [are], how [to] get a home [and] what mortgage [is]. They don’t teach [personal finance] in school, so it’s important to [understand].”

UPDATES

Girls Golf players honored for athletic achievements

Juniors Kaylee Sakoda and Mylan Hirata, sophomores Isabel Sy and Sherilyn Villanueva, and freshman Kamille Dimayuga and Elyse Kim were crowned back-to-back California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Champions, Southern California Champions and State Runners-Up.

Key Club attends rally to fundraise for pediatric trauma patients

Twenty-three Key Club Warriors, members of Division 30 North, dressed up in spirit wear and made decorations to raise money for the Pediatric Trauma Program during their annual Fall Rally at Six Flags Nov. 11.

Speech and Debate gets third at major league tournament

Speech and Debate team placed third in sweepstakes for the first time in two decades at the Northwood High School event Nov. 11. Both new and returning members competed in anticipation of the upcoming state tournament.

Drawing and Painting students create art installation

With assistance from teachers Mike Thomas and Christian Nguyen, Drawing and Painting students have created several large art displays each composed of 40 individual works of art made with charcoal that combine to form a quilt-like masterpiece.

Warriors reflect on their gratitude with interactive PTSA poster

Over a week, students wrote about what they were thankful for on a large poster in the quad that was hosted by Warrior Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)’s Student Leadership Club.

ASB launches annual Troy Drive

In its annual holiday drive, Warrior Associated Student Body (ASB) aims to raise \$6,500 in funds and donations. Each second period class has been assigned a wish list from a person in need, and donations are being collected through Dec. 1.

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN AN ECON STUDENT?

Test your understanding of personal economics and money management with these sample questions!

#	True or false?
1	Surveys indicate that a high proportion of Americans feel financially insecure. This insecurity is primarily because the incomes of Americans are low.
2	Financial success is primarily the result of setting long-term goals and developing a plan to achieve them.
3	If you have \$50,000 of outstanding debts and the market value of your assets is \$30,000, your “net worth” is negative \$20,000.
4	The purpose of a budget is to increase awareness of how funds are spent and to help the individual or household develop a plan to control spending more effectively and save for the future.
5	It makes sense to allocate funds regularly into a special savings account so you will be better able to deal with future surprise expenditures.
6	Corporate stock investments are a particularly attractive method to save funds for unexpected future expenditures such as those associated with auto repairs and health problems.

Answers: 1. False, 2. True, 3. True, 4. True, 5. True, 6. False

COURTESY OF COMMON SENSE ECONOMICS

Discussion of sexual assault must continue after #MeToo hashtag

By Sophie Byerly
STAFF WRITER



"I was 13, he was 19."
"I was a child, too scared to speak."
"I was told it was normal, [and] not to cry."

These are just a few snippets of what women have been tweeting since the rise of the new Twitter trend #MeToo. After the recent flood of sexual assault allegations against film producer Harvey Weinstein and other high-profile men such as Kevin Spacey, George H.W. Bush and Mark Halperin, thousands of women have posted their own experiences with sexual assault and harassment under this hashtag.

Since its inception, the #MeToo movement has been invaluable in demonstrating how heartbreakingly common sexual harassment and assault are. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 400,000 Americans were sexually assaulted in 2015 alone. However, many victims feel vio-

lated, ashamed, and compelled to remain silent: only one-third of sexual assault crimes in 2015 were reported to the police.

Although #MeToo has reflected the magnitude of this issue, it has not fostered real progress in how our society treats sexual crime. Raising awareness may be the first step to change, but it certainly

is not the only step. In order to create a lasting change, we must continue the conversation about sexual misconduct beyond the Internet.

In fact, #MeToo is not the first hashtag raising our awareness of sexual harassment, gripping the nation's short attention span. In May 2014, #YesAllWomen coalesced in response to the Isla Vista killings, a shooting rampage perpetrated by a man who felt rejected by women. Like #MeToo, the hashtag prompted thousands of women to come forward with their experiences of sexual harassment and sexism.

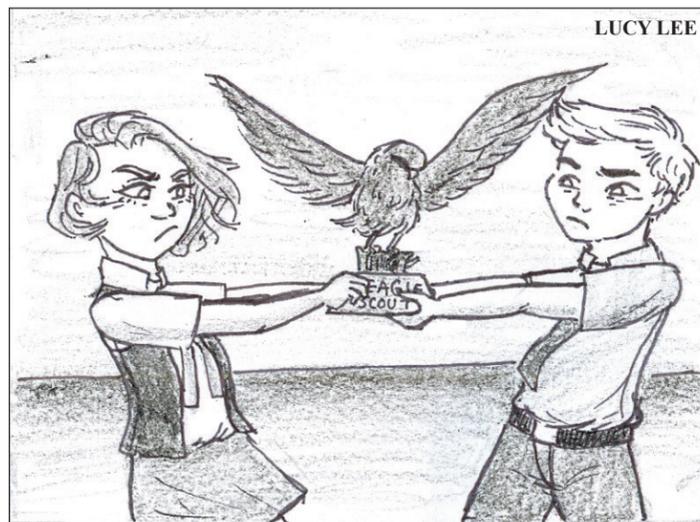
Many people praised the movement for catalyzing change in how society talks about sexual crime. However, #YesAllWomen lost steam several days after its peak without making any noticeable impact offline. Here we are, three years later, with an almost identical movement—and like #YesAllWomen, #MeToo threatens to fade into obscurity just as quickly as it rose to fame. Google searches for the hashtag have already dropped to three percent of their peak level, according to Google Trends.

"#MeToo has started the conversation about dealing with sexual misconduct, but we need to take it offline to keep it going. We must not dismiss the discussion along with the hashtag."

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Viewers of the #MeToo movement have already dropped to three percent of their peak level, according to Google Trends. #MeToo has started the conversation about dealing with sexual misconduct, but we need to take it offline to keep it going. We must not dismiss the discussion along with the hashtag. Victims of sexual misconduct deserve to be listened to for more than the short lifespan of a mere hashtag.



Girls join Boy Scouts: What is the benefit?

By Faith-Carmen Le
STAFF WRITER



not been completely receptive to BSA's sudden announcement.

In fact, Girl Scouts of Orange County released a statement Oct. 12 claiming that girls should stay in Girl Scouts because the "developmental needs for boys and girls are different. However, while GSUSA might provide a more constructive environment for girls, the two organizations should not perpetuate sex segregation because in doing so, they ultimately ignore their shared goal of promoting equality among youth.

Rather than arguing with each other about BSA's inclusion of girls, BSA and GSUSA should work towards their common goals. Some treat integrating co-ed scouting as an impossibility, but really it's nothing new. Venturing, a more inclusive branch of Boy Scouts in which boys and girls engage in unique outdoor activities together, demonstrates that the two organizations can scout together.

This change can be an opportunity for the two to consider uniting under a single scouting organization. After all, both want to foster responsibility and provide a supportive environment for students.

On Oct. 11, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) announced it would finally allow girls to become Boy Scouts. Now, girls may get more access to exclusive Eagle Scout scholarships and activities that are not offered by Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA). Though this change may seem progressive, BSA's historically traditional thinking and recent fall in membership may indicate that this decision was not made solely with girls' interests in mind.

Given BSA's conservative past, this change was clearly unexpected. Boy Scouts has been known for its exclusivity and its affiliation with conservative churches that oppose atheism and homosexuality. Furthermore, whereas GSUSA has openly supported LGBTQ communities, BSA opened membership to gay scouts only four years ago. Since membership has declined by nearly a third since 2000, BSA may have realized that it might need to reform some traditions in order to attract today's youth and maintain financial stability.

Even the New York Times has implied that there might be financial motivation in allowing girls to become Boy Scouts. If girls decide to join, BSA would enjoy a deluge of merit badge orders and revenue while also improving its public image.

Understandably, GSUSA has



When I was in graduate school one of my university's most lauded (and feared) leaders preyed on my fellow female students. He is still there. #MeToo

Sexual assault and rape isn't just prevalent in politics and media. It's also in your local schools, home churches, and even in your beloved civic organizations. #MeToo

COURTESY OF GOOGLE



The Wizarding World of Troy: A Truly Magical Thanksgiving by Irene Yoo



mark my words

Warriors speak out on social issues

On Oct. 3, America witnessed the Las Vegas shooting: the largest mass shooting done by a single shooter with 59 dead and over 600 injured. Over the following weeks, gun violence remained rampant in our country. As a result of these tragic events, the debate over gun control was once again brought to national attention. Read what Warriors have to say about the government's gun policies.



"Guns are great tools for sport and defense, but *when they become weapons*, guns should be heavily controlled."

With Strings Attached, freshman

"Gun control needs to be more strictly enforced."

I have already lived through two of the *largest mass gun shootings in history.*"

Witnessing the Worst, senior



"[It's] too easy for unqualified buyers to gain access to guns."

Why do normal citizens even *need so many guns?*"

Questioning and Cynical, freshman



"It really scares me how much [the government] neglects gun control especially after seeing what has been going on."

I think self defense is becoming an old excuse.

When has someone really used a gun to stop violence?"

Out with the Old, senior

"Laws are constantly reviewed throughout history."

Instead of taking the Constitution, a 300 year old document, word for word we should reevaluate what the 2nd [Amendment] *actually means to modern society.*"

Loose Constructionist, senior

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Technology

Technology, in its ubiquity in modern life, has become so commonplace that its advancement is often considered an obvious objective to further mankind. And though the development of humanity is without a doubt a noble purpose, time and again people have sought progress without considering the consequences. In contrast, many Studio Ghibli films try to remind its watchers that there are times to slow down and remember that there is a cost to every step forward. Two of their most well-known and significant feature films — “Castle in the Sky” and “Princess Mononoke” — focus on this delicate balance of technology and humanity.

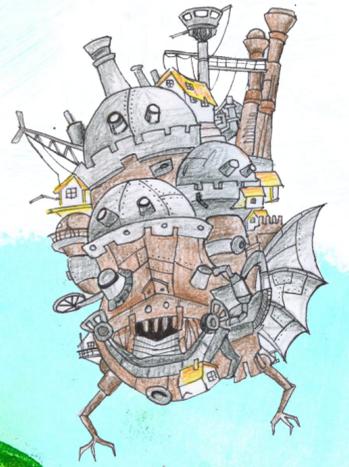
“Castle in the Sky” revolves around a fantastic floating castle named “Laputa,” which was abandoned, along with all of its advanced Laputan technology, when the Laputans realized they had strayed too far from their earthen home. “Princess Mononoke” is even more direct, where the clash between a callous mining town leader and the forest gods leaves everyone a loser. Perhaps people should take a page from Studio Ghibli’s book and remember to think before blindly chasing progress for the sake of progress. - Christopher Lee, **ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR**

Magic Realism

Magical realism, a narrative type that incorporates aspects of surrealism to naturalistic storytelling, is a common thread that connects many of Studio Ghibli’s films. “My Neighbor Totoro,” “Howl’s Moving Castle” and “Spirited Away” are a few of the most famous Ghibli features to use this mode of storytelling, bringing elements of the supernatural into seemingly ordinary stories.

In fact, this theme occurs so often that it has become a particular hallmark for director Hayao Miyazaki’s filmmaking. However, Miyazaki’s use of magic sets him apart from many of his Western counterparts. While Western cinema often creates expansive universes centered around magic, often sacrificing character development for world building, Miyazaki uses magic as a framing device rather than a focal point. For example, though the world in which Howl and Sophie exist is without a doubt phenomenally interesting, “Howl’s Moving Castle” wouldn’t be the celebrated film that it is today without the stellar narratives and character arcs.

Miyazaki’s movies evoke a sense of nostalgia and sentimentality, where the integration of magic is a natural part of the characters’ stories. As a result, Ghibli films feel emotionally powerful, a significant factor in their lasting popularity. - Caroline Zhu, **STAFF WRITER**



Coming of Age

Though Studio Ghibli films work their magic on children and adults alike, there’s no question that they contain elements of childlike imagination that works best with coming-of-age stories featuring bright, young protagonists.

“Spirited Away,” for example, follows the fantasy-filled journey of Chihiro, a human girl who stumbles across a hidden spirit world. Faced with new friends and foes, Chihiro finds that she must sometimes set aside her personal problems in order to help those who really need it. By the end of the film, she re-emerges in the human world with newfound clarity about her identity.

Keeping up with the magical and otherworldly characters that frequent the Studio Ghibli universe, “Kiki’s Delivery Service” features a young witch who sets out for training at age 13. Finding herself lonely and confused in a big new city, she slowly loses her magical powers to fly. This film shows that even a witch’s power derives from everyday human needs, such as feeling appreciated and accomplished. As in many Studio Ghibli films, a positive role model guides the protagonist to find her confidence again and regain her powers. - Ashley Fan, **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Studio Ghibli

If you thought that animation was all about visuals, think again.
Explore Studio Ghibli’s expansive set of themes, morals and life lessons.

By Oracle Editorial Staff

Anti War

In Western culture, war films are typically glorified tributes to the “good” side’s virtuous bravery and noble camaraderie pitted against a one-dimensional evil force. Through anti-war undertones in many of its works, Studio Ghibli presents a contrasting perspective on the underrepresented consequences of war, such as the destruction of unsuspecting towns and children’s loss of innocence.

For an animated movie written for families, “Grave of the Fireflies” does not shy away from the horrifying realities of war. Though director Isao Takahata has denied the tearjerker classic’s characterization as an anti-war film, the story of Seita and Setsuko’s tragic struggle against starvation, family death and public neglect undoubtedly questions the “end justifies the means” philosophy of war. Miyazaki presents the dangers of this philosophy in “Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind,” representing the destructive nature of war fever through the two kingdoms’ obsession over a weapon of mass destruction and political exploitation of the Ohmu, a third party. Interestingly, Ghibli protagonists, like Seita of “Grave of the Fireflies” and Ashitaka of “Princess Mononoke,” are haplessly caught in the middle of war, rather than skewed toward one conflicting side. Perhaps this intentional angle on wartime atrocities rather than the wars themselves is what shapes the powerful anti-war sentiment of iconic Ghibli films. - Hannah Ro, **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Nature

Studio Ghibli films such as “Totoro” and “When Marnie Was There” are chock-full of lush green landscapes and vividly painted wildlife. However, beyond these beautiful backdrops, Studio Ghibli films make a greater statement about environmentalism and the noxious impacts humans have on nature.

“Princess Mononoke” features a clash between nature spirits and humans as villagers destroy the spirits’ homes in search of iron to mine. As an infectious black ooze, symbolic of technology’s wildlife contamination, deranges wild animals, it is evident that too much industrialism and too little respect for nature causes a worldwide imbalance. In “Spirited Away,” Chihiro’s encounter

with a grimy Stink Spirit, who contaminates the otherwise impeccable bathhouse, mirrors the debilitating effects of pollution. When Chihiro wrenches a key piece of sewage out of the Spirit’s overflowing form, it reveals its true identity as a River Spirit who had been bogged down by human trash and pollution. Even the heartwarming “Ponyo” routinely included monologues of Ponyo’s father lamenting about the greed of man and how dirty today’s oceans are. Miyazaki’s message is not subtle in this film; grubby, brown garbage aimlessly float alongside the billowing jellyfish and curling seaweed Ponyo swims in. - Julianne Kim, **OPINION EDITOR**



RABID FANDOMS

Fandoms have existed for as long as people have shared interests, but lately, the internet has allowed them to take on a more malicious form. From fans of “Rick and Morty” to “Homestuck,” the worst offenders earn the title of a rabid fandom.

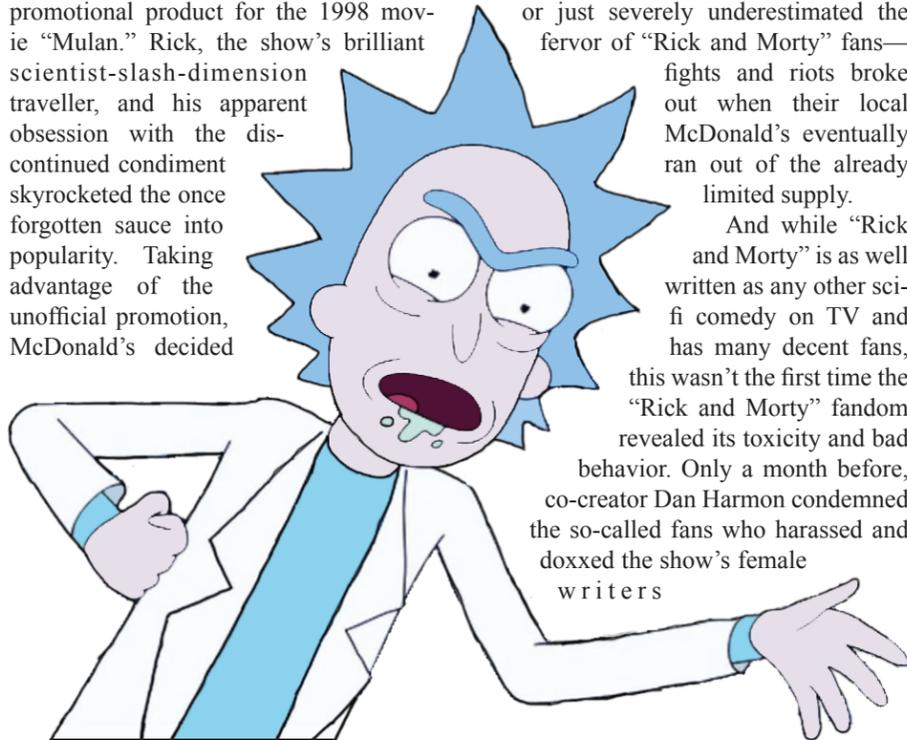
By Jois Talla, STAFF WRITER

For a sci-fi comedy show so suffused in esoteric pop culture references and shock value, it wasn't particularly surprising that “Rick and Morty” kicked off its third season premiere with a joke about Szechuan sauce, McDonald's temporary promotional product for the 1998 movie “Mulan.” Rick, the show's brilliant scientist-slash-dimension traveller, and his apparent obsession with the discontinued condiment skyrocketed the once forgotten sauce into popularity. Taking advantage of the unofficial promotion, McDonald's decided

to bring back the sauce for one day, only it didn't work out exactly in their favor.

On Oct. 7, “Rick and Morty” fans stormed McDonald's all over the U.S. in search of the sauce. But whether McDonald's purposefully kept stocks low or just severely underestimated the fervor of “Rick and Morty” fans—fights and riots broke out when their local McDonald's eventually ran out of the already limited supply.

And while “Rick and Morty” is as well written as any other sci-fi comedy on TV and has many decent fans, this wasn't the first time the “Rick and Morty” fandom revealed its toxicity and bad behavior. Only a month before, co-creator Dan Harmon condemned the so-called fans who harassed and doxxed the show's female writers



for seemingly taking all the credit for some episodes and ruining the series, despite the teamwork put into all the writing.

Their reputation as a highly obnoxious and elitist fandom was spurred on by the “To Be Fair You Have to Have a Very High IQ to Understand Rick and Morty” block text meme. The cospasta originally aimed to emulate Rick's superiority and supposed rejection of sentimentality, but it eventually became a mockery of the fandom's general attitude toward outsiders.

Although this one incident is admittedly hilarious, such examples of toxic fandom culture aren't limited to the “Rick and Morty” fandom. For example, “Homestuck,” a webcomic that ended in 2016, was known for its ridiculous length and particularly annoying fandom. While most fans were welcoming, a large facet of the fandom was known to act egotistically for having read the entirety of “Homestuck” and under-

standing its inside jokes—a kind of behavior similar to that of the self-proclaimed SuperWhoLock fandom (“Supernatural,” “Doctor Who” and “Sherlock”). This combination fandom has become notorious for switching the topic of any post to something SuperWhoLock related, often with the use of gifs and obscure references.

Of course, to some extent, a fan of almost anything will be a little (or a lot) annoying to a non-fan. A person who has never seen “Game of Thrones” or listened to BTS or read “Harry Potter” could understand the feeling of discouragement from liking something because of the people associated with it. But a large part of modern fandom culture is waiting for people to find a way to ruin what we like, and arguments on how pop culture should be consumed will continue far beyond “Rick and Morty.” At its best, fandom culture shouldn't be something to avoid but something to collectively enjoy.



ASK THE ORACLE

What's the Oracle without an Oracle?

By Ashley Fan & Hannah Ro, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Q: I feel limited to in-state colleges because I don't want to leave my dog. Should I?

A: Pick up Issue 2 of this year's Oracle for the solution to your dilemma! The lifestyle page features a variety of colleges with pet-friendly dorms.

Both in-state and private universities across the United States have unique pet policies. Some allow only fish and small animals like hamsters. Others allow students to bring their family dog or cat with them to campus! For example, MIT has four cat-friendly student dorms.

Bringing your dog to college with you can also help with stress relief and home sickness. So don't leave your dog alone at home wondering where you are—share the next four years with your beloved pet.

Q: I disagreed with one of Oracle's articles. How can I make my opinion heard?

A: As journalists, we do our best to inform the Warrior community about the latest events and trends while allowing writers the freedom to express their own voices and opinions. Although we respect the diversity of thought on our campus, we also respect our writers' personal opinions on their assigned stories by publishing them with their preferred stance on an issue. However, the opinions projected in an op-ed do not represent the opinions of the entire Oracle staff.

You are welcome to email us a letter to the editor to oraclestroy@gmail.com, and we will consider publishing your writing if space permits. We are looking forward to hearing back from you!

Q: How do I survive being a conservative while surrounded by liberal ideologies?

A: You owe it to yourself to not stay quiet and not feel limited by what other people say. Being different is not necessarily a bad thing; you can spur conversations and debates while contributing to healthy discourse. You may even be able to inspire others to broaden their own perspectives.

The world will not always agree with you. But just because the environment around you is mostly liberal does not mean that one side is right and the other side is wrong.

That being said, it is also not productive or positive in any way to practice intolerance towards people who are fundamentally different from you. Stand by your beliefs but remain open-minded and cognizant of the facts.

Viewpoints expressed by the authors do not necessarily represent the opinions and policies of Oracle.

Calligraphy

Not everyone is blessed with beautiful handwriting. But with just a little practice you can totally fake it. Calligraphy is an enterprise anyone can take on—artistic or not.

By Angelica Sano, STAFF WRITER, graphic by Phoebe Um, GRAPHICS, and images courtesy of Google

In the digital era, the traditional art of calligraphy has been frequently overlooked. Many aspiring artists aim to perfect their craft of curved serifs and soft spirals but are often stumped. Still, with some knowledge in history and technique, learning calligraphy can be far more entertaining and simple than many may realize.

Before getting into more detail, let's establish what calligraphy even is. While its Merriam-Webster definition is "artistic, stylized or elegant lettering," what distinguishes calligraphy from standard handwriting is its emphasis on varying line thickness. Dots and downward strokes are typically thicker than upward and horizontal strokes, making the text appear more natural and dimensional. Likewise, the alignment of letters, whether it be bouncy, balanced or mixed, also has an effect on overall appearance of the writing. The subtle intricacy of calligraphy is very rarely recognized because the act of writing itself is so natural. Yet, in reality, it's far more complex than just composing fancy words—it's an art people learn and practice to express themselves creatively.

While calligraphy may seem to be a recent trend, it actually goes back thousands of years. Its rich history has contributed to its popularity as a novel hobby today. You may be familiar with the concept of the bullet journal, which has recently garnered a huge following on social media. Aside from combining to-do lists and scrapbooking, it's no secret that the "customizable and forgivable organization system" is also remarkably suited to calligraphy. But bullet journals aren't the only places where calligraphy can be spotted. Yearbooks, brand marketing, the back of someone's math homework—the pervasive nature of calligraphy allows it to be found almost anywhere. Classic calligraphy usually requires special writing instruments, the most popular of which include brush pens and fountain pens with italic (blunt) or flex (split)nibs. For more options, Jetpens and Tokyo Pen Shop feature a wide variety of Japanese calligraphy tools—including the familiar Kuretake Fudebiyori brush pens and the sophisticated Waterman Hemisphere fountain pens. For beginners, the Tombow Dual Brush pens, Kuretake Zig Clean Color pens and Sakura Pigma calligraphers are great basics to use for easy learning.

Calligraphy's popularity has soared since satisfying calligraphy posts have made their way onto the Instagram explore page. Experts like Kelly Klapstein (@kellycreates) and Younghae Chung (@logos_calligraphy) post fascinating videos of themselves writing with colorful cult brush pens. With Klapstein's website providing practice worksheets and Chung publishing a set of copperplate calligraphy practice pads, amateur calligraphers can now find more support from seasoned experts online. Potential inspiration

and aid are everywhere, so don't be afraid to get out there and try it. Still unsure about experimenting with calligraphy? Just remember that there are many alternatives to the traditional brush pen and paper. Expensive calligraphy pens aren't essentials; basic Crayola markers, ballpoint pens and even pencils should suffice. And if utilizing physical utensils isn't particularly appealing, digital apps such as "Calligrapher" and "Calligraphy Name" are perfect for savvy technology fans. Although calligraphy may be challenging at first, it is a relaxing pastime that many people enjoy.

With the many guides that can be found online, there's no harm in trying the trend. Who knows? You may just discover a new hobby. Don't be afraid of messing up on one difficult stroke; all it takes is a little practice to do the trick. So even if you feel like your creation is going to go completely awry, just brush it off and give it a go!



Fashion Feature

Check out Oracle's inside look at the most stylish kids representing campus chic.

By Ariana Chow, ENTERTAINMENT & LIFESTYLE EDITOR, and photo by Ida Kazerani, PHOTO



AARON VILLAREAL 11TH

All Male member and fashion icon Aaron Villareal is somewhat of a novel on campus for his trendy yet upscale designer streetwear. Fond of high fashion giants Rick Owens and Raf Simons, Villareal largely maintains a minimalist, monochromatic look with his clothing and typically centers his ensembles around neutral black and white shades.

Inspired by his stylish vogue? It may then come as a surprise that Villareal actually takes a fairly laidback manner in planning his everyday outfits.

"The way I choose my outfits is more based on how I feel rather than what the weather predicts, which I think may seem a little strange," Villareal said. "On lazy days I typically just throw on an oversized hoodie and some sweats. When I feel like looking cleaner I'll pick out a shirt with a pair of chinos."

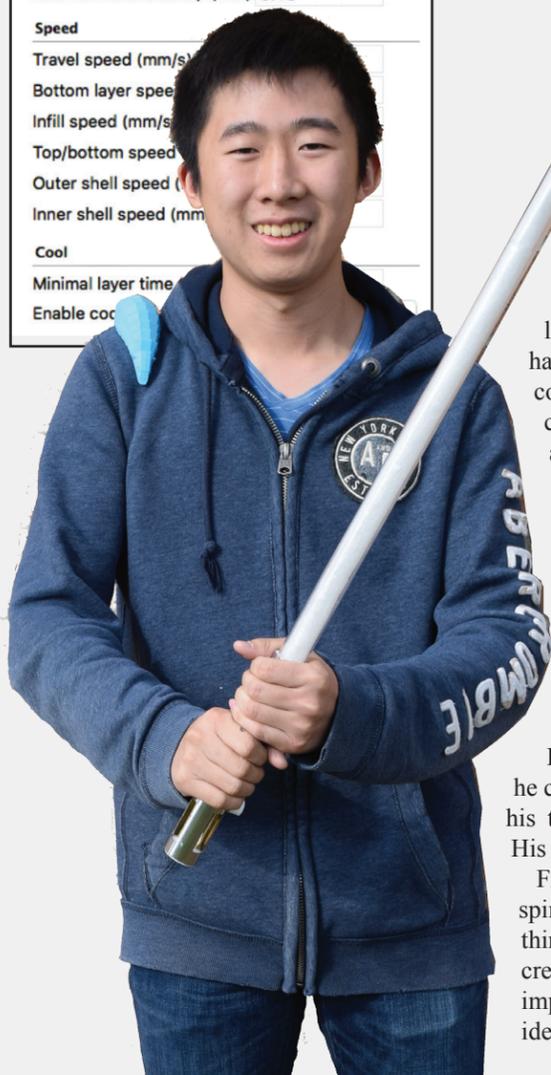


TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

With a special talent for molding plastic, senior Matthew Tran uses his 3D printer to bring scenes from science fiction to life. Follow Tran as he transforms algorithms and patterns into a unique form of creativity.

By Charlisce Clark, STAFF WRITER, and photos by Michael Zhang, PHOTO

Basic		Advanced	Plugins
Quality			
Initial layer thickness (mm)	0.3		
Initial layer line width (%)	100		
Cut off object bottom (mm)	0.0		
Dual extrusion overlap (mm)	0.15		
Speed			
Travel speed (mm/s)			
Bottom layer speed			
Infill speed (mm/s)			
Top/bottom speed			
Outer shell speed			
Inner shell speed (mm)			
Cool			
Minimal layer time			
Enable coc			



How can a pangolin be blue? For senior Matthew Tran, the answer is quite simple: he makes it so. Reaching for a coil of blue plastic, he patiently waits for his 3D printer to work its magic. Just five hours later, a sky-blue pangolin figurine rests in his hand. His idea, which had started as a simple and spontaneous question, had resulted in a very realistic, bona fide creation. Even as a child, Tran was constantly working with his hands. His collection of completed projects includes LEGO crossbows and electrically charged coil guns. But when 3D printing surged in popularity in 2009, he felt that a whole new world had been opened to him. Trading in his LEGO pieces for a more flexible kind of plastic, he moved beyond the confinement of premade blocks. Layer by layer, he found that he could bring his ideas to life with his trusty ROBO 3D R1+ printer. His only limit was his imagination. From pangolins to fidget spinners, there's always something new to make. Every creation, no matter how impromptu, begins with a simple idea. Once he has one in mind,

Tran puts it to paper, or in his case, software. Using a Computer Aided Design model, he creates a three-dimensional design as a basis for his prototype. From there, Tran chooses the color of his plastic, and the printer does the rest. But unsatisfied with rudimentary materials, he occasionally incorporates newer compounds such as carbon fibers, a lightweight composite that is five times stronger than steel, and color-changing plastics into his

be able to buy a ticket to a Star Wars premiere, Tran—an avid fan of science fiction—decided to browse through an online forum instead. When he happened across a post featuring people who had created their own lightsabers, the thought occurred to him: Why not give it a shot? The resulting series of three weapons, which are amalgamations of both printed and non-printed parts, are as fun to play with as they are to look at. They've got bright lights, sound effects—even their very own crystal chambers! With all of these fancy gadgets, it's no wonder that they remain as Tran's favorite projects. "[When I create something], I obtain happiness that comes from making it myself and seeing it come to life before my eyes," Tran said. Each object Tran creates is clearly the work of a man who isn't afraid to be different. He's the man who built a fidget spinner months before they were popular; he's the same man who printed a bright blue pangolin on a whim. Tran has built, and continues to build, a reputation for his fun-loving personality through the wacky things he makes. When asked why he does what he does, Tran smiled wryly and replied simply: "It's fun to stand out."

"[When I create something], I obtain happiness that comes from making it myself and seeing it come to life before my eyes."

Matthew Tran
senior

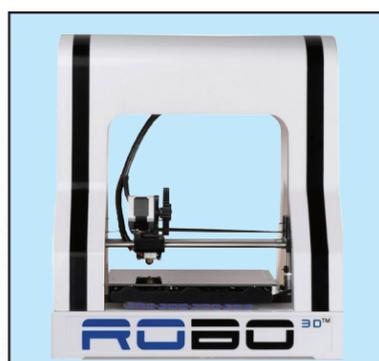
designs. And just like these revolutionary materials, Tran's fantastic creations excite all who see them. To Tran, however, the process of creating is just as fulfilling as seeing others' reactions. "The end product is good, sure," Tran said. "But the journey is important too. I get to see how all of my work comes together. The most rewarding thing is when I'm prototyping and I suddenly think, 'This is going to work.'" Through his quirky projects, Tran reveals himself to be someone who prefers to live in the spur of the moment, and he doesn't let the barrier between fiction and reality dampen his creativity. When he found that he wouldn't

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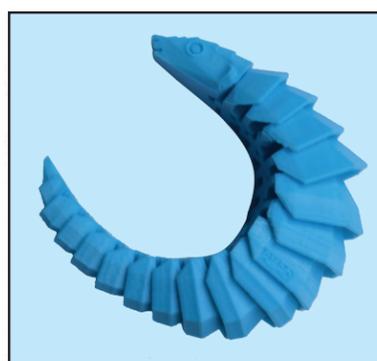
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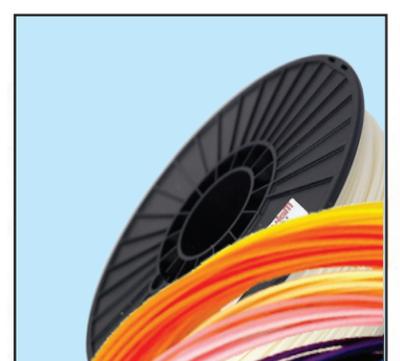
Coining the Trend



ROBO for a Pro



Lovin' a Pangolin



Fantastic Plastic

MANUFACTURING MASTERMIND: With his ROBO 3D R1+ printer (second from left) and plastic cords (far right), senior Matthew Tran uses his knowledge of engineering to create unconventional pieces such as a fidget spinner with souvenir coins (far left) and a movable blue pangolin (second from right).



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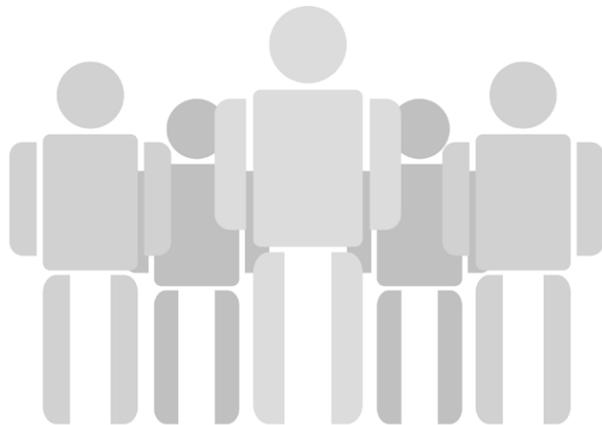
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GUTS, GLORY, GROLL

Junior Joshua Groll has captivated scouts with his stellar athleticism.

By Joshua Kim & Hannah Ro
SPORTS EDITOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Aspiring to join the University of Michigan Wolverines, junior Joshua Groll travelled to the Czech Republic to play at the Under-17 Five Nations tournament, a national hockey competition among teens around the world, Aug. 23-27.

Like any renowned athlete, Groll broke the ice with baby steps. He donned his first pair of skates at age four to master a skill that would later be foundational to ice hockey, which he took up at his father's urging.

"I started skating when I was [around] four, but I didn't actually start playing hockey until I was 7," Groll said. "My dad played college hockey, so he got me and my brother into the game. [We] liked it and grew up around the sport, so that was pretty fun. At the beginning, I mostly played with my brother, and developed a passion for the sport; I learned to like and enjoy it."

As his baby steps expanded into long strides, Groll started competing with youth travel teams, like the San Diego Ice Arena Oilers. Under the guidance of his first coach, Noah Babin, Groll fine-tuned his wrist shot, slap shot and stick handling. His next coach brushed up Groll's technical skills to develop spatial awareness on the rink and communication with the team.

"I started getting more serious about the game when I was 11 or 12, because

I really enjoyed it and thought I could go somewhere with it," Groll said. "I started playing competitively. This year, Coach Alex Kim [helps] me understand the game at this point, because skill development is in the past. It is just about understanding the game, and become better as a team."

Groll's growing passion for hockey was matched by a more demanding time schedule, and high school inevitably became a slight obstacle. Unlike common high school sports like soccer or basketball, ice hockey requires expensive facilities and management [not offered] by many public schools. Few high schools boast an affiliated hockey team; and even fewer offer schedules that facilitate Groll's travelling and competitive obligations.

"There weren't many high schools [affiliated with] teams, because it is not really popular," Groll said. "So I played [with] extracurricular teams like travel teams and club teams. Missing school is a big part of it; I think I [have] missed 25 days of school so far because of travel, so it gets hard. Another [difficulty] is communicating with your teachers [and] staying on top of everything at school. You just have to [use] all the time you have, [whether] in the car or between games."

Yet Groll's persistent practicing and competitive experience were evident in success at his tournament participation. For the past two years, he has contended alongside the nation's



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSHUA GROLL

CENTER OF ATTENTION: Under the scrutinizing eyes of scouts, junior Joshua Groll glides past a defender at the Five Nations Tournament in the Czech Republic.

top 200 players at the Independent National Festival. His involvement in competitive play culminated when he joined Team USA to compete at the Five Nations Tournament, where he drew the attention of college scouts.

"The hardest part is playing in California because it is difficult to get exposure," Groll said. "Division One colleges [for hockey] are out East, and we are here in the West, so we have to travel a lot. Before, I [had] played for San Diego no one knew who I was; but now, I have non-verbally committed

to Michigan. When I played for Team USA at the Five Nations tournament in August, this put my name on the radar."

Groll's success can be attributed to two things: a genuine pas-

sion and enjoyment of the sport.

This passion has propelled him to play in notable leagues, such as Tier 1 Hockey with the Junior Ducks and the California Amateur Association (CAHA). As the center, Groll provides the ever-critical "ice vision," tracking the puck with an eagle eye. "I [play] because I enjoy it; it's all about staying dedicated to the sport and enjoying it," Groll said. "I think playing fast, [managing] the pace of the game, being physical, and scoring strong goals are my [strong suits]."

Despite hockey's time commitment and competitive pressure, Groll attributes his success to his unwavering passion and unyielding determination. For Groll, his goals, in life as in hockey, encourage him to persevere no matter how great the challenge.

"I wouldn't have gotten this far if I had given up," Groll said. "No matter how hard or impossible or ludicrous my goals seemed, I pushed through, and ended up where I am now. Never give up trying, no matter how hard or insane your situation seems."

"I wouldn't have gotten this far if I had given up. No matter how hard or impossible or ludicrous my goals seemed, I pushed through."

Joshua Groll
junior

tion and enjoyment of the sport. This passion has propelled him to play in notable leagues, such as Tier 1 Hockey with the Junior Ducks and the California Amateur Association (CAHA). As the center, Groll provides the ever-critical "ice vision," tracking the



TOP 200
in the nation

TIER 1
hockey league
w/ jr. Ducks

scouted by
the

NHL

PAST 12 GAMES

11 goals

13 assists

GRAPHIC BY TU-AN NGUYEN, PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSHUA GROLL

DEFENSIVE DUCK: Donning his junior Ducks uniform, Groll takes steps to achieving in his lifelong dream of competing on the professional level.

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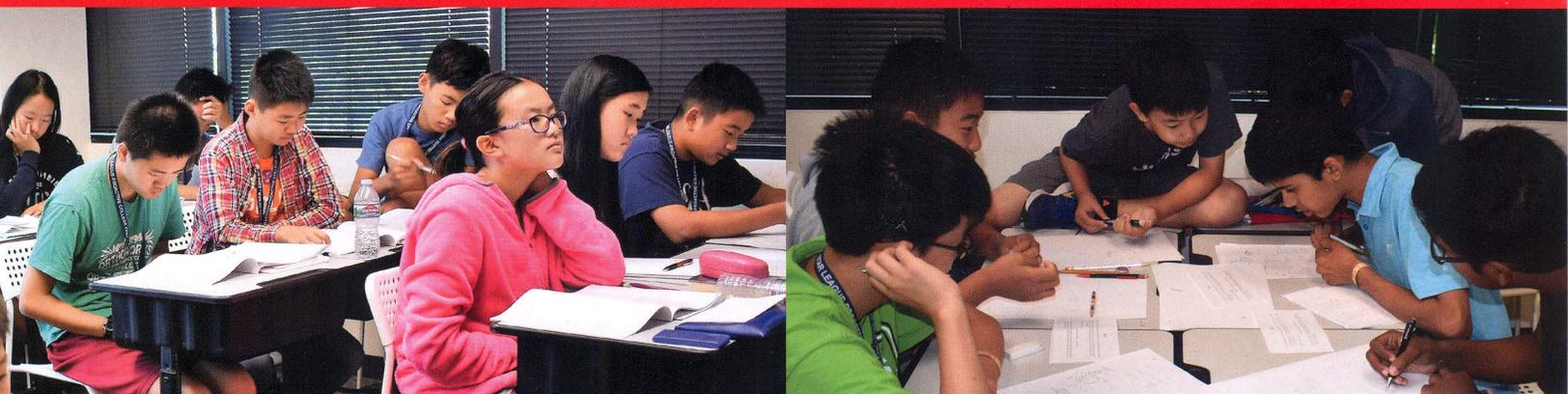
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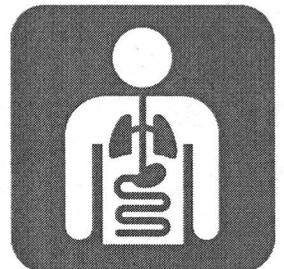
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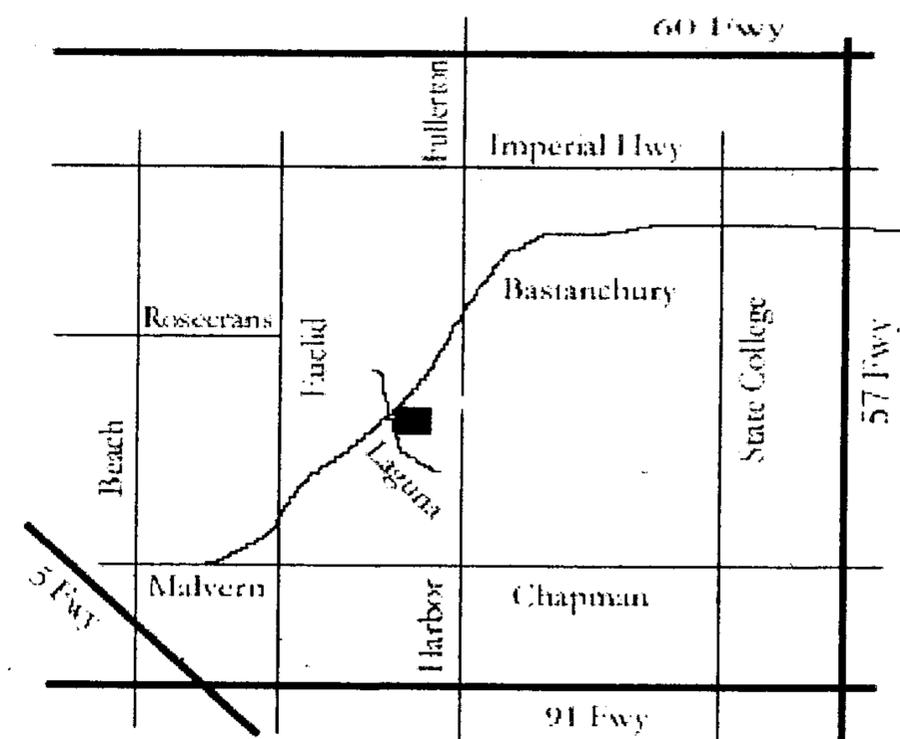
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