

ORACLE

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With each pod containing the same nicotine concentration as a pack of 20 cigarettes, Juuls pose a serious threat to student health. Read about the drug epidemic targeting teens today.



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A Midsummer Night's Dream

Explore the magical world of Shakespeare with Theatre Ensemble's latest production: "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

By Cheryl Yang, **STAFF WRITER**, and cartoon by Kristen Perez, **CARTOON**

Blending fantasy and reality, Theatre Ensemble will perform English playwright William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" Oct. 25, 26, Nov. 1 and 2.

Set in ancient Greece, the play follows the adventures of four young adults who escape into the forest to evade parental control over their romantic affairs. There, the fairies of the forest entangle themselves into the humans' lives by administering a love potion. However, a mishap with the potion alters the characters' relationships with one another, leading to conflict over unrequited love.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" is the first Shakespearean play the ensemble has chosen to perform in several years. The rendition of the play adheres to the style of the traditional performance, from the dialogue to the setting. Prior to performing, students studied Shakespeare's style and the plot of the play in order to familiarize themselves with the characters and the era in which the story is set.

The play delves deeply into emotions and interactions between the lovers. Transformational themes from other classical stories such as "The Beauty and the Beast"

characterize the relationships between characters like Nick Bottom, a labourer, and Titania, the queen of fairies. The romantic storylines include certain sentiments to captivate the modern audience, director and instructor Joe Hufferd said.

"There's the theme of misplaced love, arrogance, desire," Hufferd said. "There is very much a look at the way we see the people that we are romantically interested in. Sometimes we miss an obvious choice for us in our misguided desires."

According to senior Kylie Powers, assistant director and actress playing the role of Titania, the fusion of comedy, resonant themes and visual effects offers entertainment suitable for everyone.

"There's a lot of physical comedy and intellectual comedy, and [the play] appeals to all audiences," Powers said. "It's one of those shows where even if you're not in love with Shakespeare you can sit back and enjoy it because the characters are relatable, the set is gorgeous and the costumes are coming along really well."

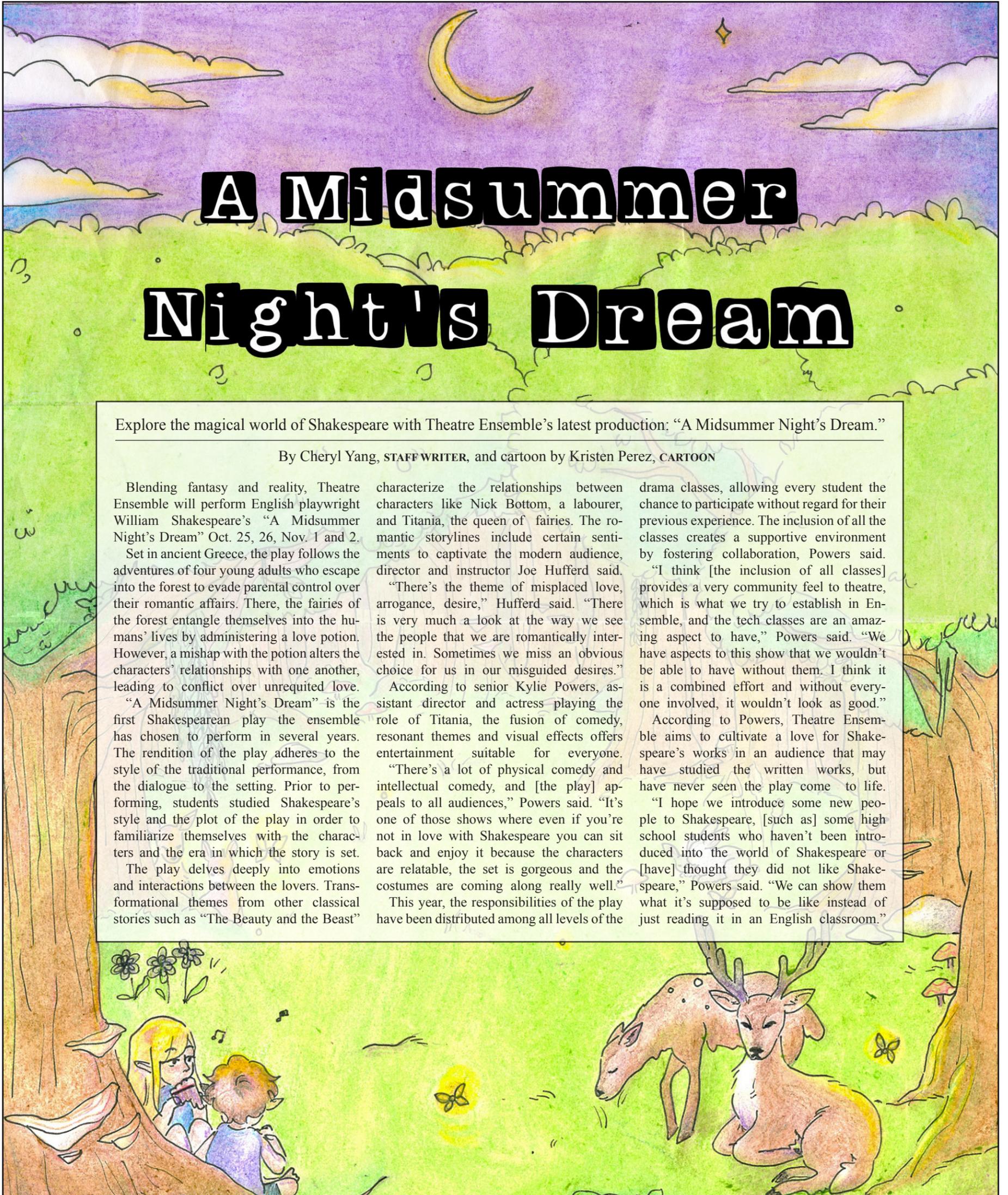
This year, the responsibilities of the play have been distributed among all levels of the

drama classes, allowing every student the chance to participate without regard for their previous experience. The inclusion of all the classes creates a supportive environment by fostering collaboration, Powers said.

"I think [the inclusion of all classes] provides a very community feel to theatre, which is what we try to establish in Ensemble, and the tech classes are an amazing aspect to have," Powers said. "We have aspects to this show that we wouldn't be able to have without them. I think it is a combined effort and without everyone involved, it wouldn't look as good."

According to Powers, Theatre Ensemble aims to cultivate a love for Shakespeare's works in an audience that may have studied the written works, but have never seen the play come to life.

"I hope we introduce some new people to Shakespeare, [such as] some high school students who haven't been introduced into the world of Shakespeare or [have] thought they did not like Shakespeare," Powers said. "We can show them what it's supposed to be like instead of just reading it in an English classroom."



NOW Club showcases female achievement in student-produced videos

The National Organization for Women Club will play films that feature females in Warrior STEM classes and clubs.

By Danielle Chow
STAFF WRITER

Highlighting female participation in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, the National Organization for Women (NOW) Club will present videos that encourage female leadership on campus beginning Nov. 1.

The videos include statistics on the gender ratios in classes on campus and follow female Warriors who are successful in the academic world. Through an open discussion of gender stereotypes, NOW Club wishes to foster a more inclusive atmosphere.

Club members collaborated on the videos with the intention of raising awareness about the need for more female engagement. NOW Club's mission includes increasing female participation in STEM, and their videos aim to spark discussion about relevant gender issues.

"We want to empower women in need or [those] who need support around campus," Vice President Lavanaya Garg said. "We want to discuss stereotypes, deal with them and work to change them."



ANGEL HALLACY

FILMING FEMINISM: Junior Lavanaya Garg films Kendall Smith speaking about female participation in engineering classes.

In creating the videos, club members also sought to include men on campus. Garg hopes the videos will allow men to become more aware of their actions towards women and better understand the discrepancies between societal treatment of men and women. With this understanding, men will join the effort to increase female participation in STEM, Garg said.

"We hope to inspire men to see

that they are probably not creating the most inclusive environment in the hopes that they can step up and create one," Garg said.

NOW Club strives to promote female achievement through videos, jogathons and a newsletter.

The club organizes several fundraisers to help women in need, including an annual feminine product drive known as Menstrual March. During the event, members collect feminine hygiene

product donations from students and give them to villages and communities where women have limited access to menstrual products.

Recently, in a partnership with Girl Up Club, members hosted a fundraiser in order to create a more supportive community for female Warriors, Garg said. All proceeds from the event will go to Empowering Women Period, an organization that helps women working in factories in India and Africa.

By informing students about gender stereotypes, NOW Club desires to convince more female students to speak up in class and around campus, Garg said.

"When you talk about the gender gap or the stereotypes women have to deal with, it's very out there where people know about it but not the expanse or how severe it is—what's actually happening," Garg said. "We want to have the difficult conversations."

CyTech Club presents cybersecurity exhibit at Girl Scouts STEM Expo

At the event, club members will inform Girl Scouts about the field of cybersecurity and their international organization.

By Sky Jung
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to educate students on the importance of cybersecurity, Cyber Youth Tech (CyTech) Club members will attend the Girl Scouts Super Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Expo at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) Oct. 28.

Hosted by CSUF's Association for Computing Machinery-Women organization, the Girl Scouts Super STEM Expo will be exhibiting a variety of STEM-related booths that highlight various fields of science, including cybersecurity.

CyTech Club will host a booth at the all-day event, attended annually by girls across Orange County. At the event, club members plan to explain CyTech's mission and their goals as a club.

Club members hope to teach the girls about cybersecurity

with hands-on activities and a presentation set up at the booth, Co-President Charissa Kim said.

As a new club on campus, CyTech aims to emphasize the threats cyber attacks pose for individuals. According to Kim, the members' main focus is introducing simple and applicable cyber protection skills to the local community.

CyTech Club's booth will also specifically feature the forensics division of cybersecurity through an invisible encoding and

"[This event] is a great opportunity for us to inform other students that may have a passion in cyber but may not know about it yet."

Kanin Liang
Co-President

decoding project. Essentially, participants will be using invisible ink to write messages and decrypt them using a grape juice formula.

"[This forensics project] is for the girls to understand cyphers and what different kinds of codes exist," Kim said. "We will also be having a curricu-

lum for the people who want to learn more [about cyphers]."

Exposing the girl scouts to different aspects of STEM will expand their horizons and encourage them to explore additional career paths, Kim said.

"The Girl Scout STEM Expo aims to [expose] the STEM field to girls," Kim said. "[Expositions] are helping people become more interested in STEM, especially females."

Co-President Kanin Liang hopes the club will attend the Super STEM Expo annually because it serves as a platform for CyTech Club to promote cybersecurity to the future generation of students.

"[This event] is a great opportunity for us to inform other students that may have a passion for cyber but may not know about it yet,"

Liang said. "It's a [way] to spread CyTech's mission."

CyTech Club hopes to inspire attendees to learn more about cybersecurity on their own, Kim said.

"Having this type of awareness club and organization will allow people to understand the actual major threats behind cyber secu-



CELIA KANG

TECH TALK: (From left to right) Junior Charles Cheng, freshman Timothy Kim and juniors Louis Wong and Brendon Won collaborate on their presentation for the upcoming event.

ity and how to defend yourself from it," Kim said. "By giving [people] the slightest interest,

we will be helping them possibly grow a passion for cybersecurity and pursue it in the future."

Speech and Debate Club goes to novice tournament

The club participated in a novice tournament in hopes of being inclusive toward new members.

Angelica Sano
STAFF WRITER

Unifying its members in the art of public speaking, the Warrior Speech and Debate Club attended the Orange County Speech League Novice Tournament at California State University, Fullerton, Oct. 20.

As the first event of the year, the tournament is specifically designed to allow new club members to adjust to the rigorous style of official Speech and Debate competitions. Each student participated in three rounds of both prepared and spontaneous performances. After 12 hours of challenging competition, participants attended the closing awards ceremony.

Speech and Debate Club reviewed the basics of impromptu and parliamentary debate, both of which were significant portions of the competition. During extensive preparation for the event, the club focused on presenting solid claims and

refutations, or formal responses to the opposition's claims. Club members aimed to build creative, original arguments, Co-President Chirag Singh said.

"We have been running practice rounds, giving the new members feedback and helping

tended the novice competition in the past, they decided to participate this year to help newer members grow accustomed to higher level Speech and Debate events. By participating in the tournament, students learned the skills necessary to succeed in future

said. "I hope they realize how rewarding competing is, not just for college applications but also for the skills they can gain from it."

While students joined the competition to develop their public speaking skills, the most important facet of the competition was that it allowed club members to grow closer as a team, Kim said.

"I think that [the competition] will promote club unity because, for the rest of the year, we're going to be spending a lot of time with each other at these tournaments," Kim said. "We encourage each other after losses, give each other tips on how to improve and cheer for each other when we're winning."

Because newcomers had to learn to become part of a team, the tournament brought club members together, Singh said.

"Every tournament [promotes team camaraderie] because we're spending time with each other in the club, especially with people who are new to the club and haven't really become a part of it yet," Singh said. "[The competition] is going to help the newer members of the team, so I think that's really the key to improvement."

competitions, Co-President Abigail Kim said.

"I hope that more than just winning something, [club members] will familiarize themselves with tournaments and gain experience and tips from competing," Kim

said. "I hope they realize how rewarding competing is, not just for college applications but also for the skills they can gain from it."



CELIA KANG

SAVVY SPEAKER: *Sophomore Jennifer Miao delivers her opening speech at the beginning of the competition, looking at her notes for reference.*

them to improve their skills and perform better," Singh said. "We want to see people have a stronger ability to deal with what [opponents] say and come up with their own cases."

Although the club has not at-

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TROY TODAY

NJROTC Color Guard presents at Ms. Veteran America competition

Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) sent the first all-female Color Guard team to present the national colors at the annual Ms. Veteran America competition in Hollywood Oct. 7. The event is a pageant that raises funds to house and support homeless female veterans and their children. Students were also given the opportunity to meet celebrities, such as actress Catherine Bach.

MUN Club brings most participants to Walnut High School conference

The Model United Nations (MUN) Club will attend the Walnut High School MUN Conference Oct. 27. With over 25 club members currently signed up, the Warrior club will have the most delegates out of all schools attending the Walnut Conference. The conference will be a learning experience for new delegates and it will expose them to proper format and conference procedures.

THS Volleyball and Best Buddies hold fundraiser

Troy High School Volleyball Club and Best Buddies Club will hold a joint Queen-of-the-Court volleyball tournament fundraiser Nov. 2. The event will be Halloween-themed. Teams of three or four are encouraged to dress up in costumes to celebrate, and several groups will collaborate on themed costumes.

LEO Club organizes Sight Night eyeglass drive

Leadership, Experience, Opportunity (LEO) Club will host Sight Night Oct. 31. Club members will mirror the Halloween tradition of trick-or-treating by collecting eyeglasses. The club will repolish and donate the collections to Lions Clubs International, an international service organization.

Science Olympiad team begins tryouts

The Science Olympiad team will hold tryouts from Oct. 29 to Nov. 15. In order to qualify for study event tryout exams, students must create a one-hour mock test on the subject matter. For building events, a model is required to qualify for tryouts, during which students test their models.

KEEPING UP
with the **OPINION**
EDITORS

**The Deception of
Smear Campaigns**

By Amy Weng
OPINION EDITOR



She said that she thought he'd give her a campaign contribution for sex or confidential political information. He said that it was all fiction.

In early May, Democrat Melissa Fazli publicly announced her sexual harassment allegations against California's 39th District Democratic congressional candidate Gil Cisneros. Later, she explained that it was all a misunderstanding. But despite the reality of the situation, in the era of the #MeToo movement, such he-said-she-said situations have been far too often brazenly manipulated for private political gains.

Fazli's story has been appallingly misrepresented, without her consent, by the opposing Republican political action committee Congressional Leadership Fund (CLF) as part of a campaign to maintain the current Republican majority in the House of Representatives. CLF launched two television advertisements Aug. 23 and Sept. 6 and countless other fliers to condemn Cisneros, deceptively labelling him a heartless serial rapist "demanding sex in exchange for campaign cash." Despite the fact that CLF has currently withdrawn the ads, the problem remains in that it should never have weaponized the woman's story in the first place to smear the character of another candidate.

Smear campaigns and mudslinging hurt all of the people involved, misleading voters and shamefully disrespecting innocents. The blatant inaccuracies of the two ads, which even Fazli has described as "vile," only undermine the integrity of this race, which is the one that Democrats are putting their hopes on to help them gain a majority in the House of Representatives.

For this Nov. 6 election, don't buy into smear campaigns; vote for who you think is best based on fact, not fiction.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OC REGISTER

E-commerce is not the primary cause of offline retail failures

By Miseok Kim
STAFF WRITER



How the mighty have fallen.

Until the rise of e-commerce, traditional street-side retailers dominated the consumer market. Now, these once-mighty retailers are declaring bankruptcies and shutting down their stores. Following this trend, Toys "R" Us, formerly America's biggest toy retailer, filed for bankruptcy in September 2017 and started closing all of its domestic stores in the summer of 2018.

Although it may be tempting to point fingers at e-commerce for the deaths of the beloved toy company and other retailers

like Sears and Macy's, customers should resist jumping to conclusions. The continued successes of vendors such as Target and Walmart debunk the theory that e-commerce is the predominant cause of the downfall of big-name retailers. In order to compete with the higher efficiency and lower prices of online retailers, such as Amazon and eBay, struggling big-box retailers must examine their internal operations and adjust their strategies to cater to a rapidly changing market.

Critically examining Toys "R" Us's operations reveals glaring issues that leave no wonder about its demise. Most prominently, the huge debt. Toys "R" Us was already struggling to keep afloat in 2005, even before Amazon was a threat. In the company's bankruptcy filing, the company admitted it had a debt of \$5 billion and had been spending \$400 million

per year to alleviate the deficit. According to CNN Business, this annual payment forced the company to withhold investments in new technology and strategies that could have made its operations more efficient.

An equal contributor to Toys "R" Us's failure was the lack of improvements in in-store customer experience. Even Toys "R" Us's CEO David Brandon acknowledged the importance of improving the customer experience in the bankruptcy filing; he proposed adding playrooms where kids can test toys and host birthday parties. Unfortunately,

the company had neither the funds nor time to save Toys "R" Us. In contrast, craft re-

"Brick-and-mortar retailers must incorporate efficient methods to their existing systems and entice customers with new, unique offerings to surpass the speed and affordability of e-commerce."

tailer Michaels promptly went on the defensive when it encountered decreasing store sales in the last few years. Just last year, Michaels introduced free classes and events that were not the usual knitting circles but included cake decoration and floral arrangement. The classes instantly became popular as numerous craft bloggers raved about them and encouraged their followers to also attend.

In order to fully earn the customers' trust and loyalty, the stores should also consider the performances of their employees. The level of customer satisfaction in store experiences is not solely defined by fancy displays or exciting events but also by treatment from the employees. Online retailers, even with 24/7 customer service and live chats, cannot completely replicate

the genuine face-to-face interactions between store employees and customers. Store employees that strive to fulfill the interests of the customers to be heard and

understood do more than directing the customers to items that they ask about. These employees initiate conversations to learn about the customers' preferences and make recommendations. If customers have complaints about the store's system, employees can immediately address the problems. Even the most advanced form of artificial intelligence or chat bots cannot match, let alone outdo, the expertise of a seasoned employee.

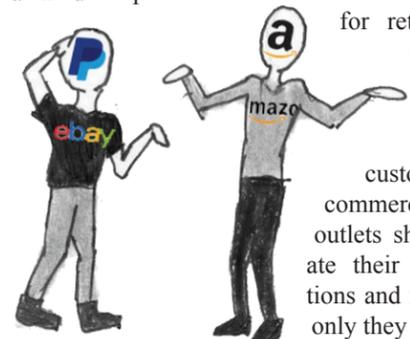
However, if the company does not have money to pay adequate wages, adept employees will drift away to better jobs. Meanwhile, the vacancies may be filled with people who could not care less about the customers' experiences. Since finding and training new employees can be time-consuming and futile at times, the companies should invest into their current employees as much as they do into new tools and methods. Making sure that the employees can afford adequate living standards with their wages and that they feel safe and content at stores will bolster the retail establishments in their competition with online retailers.

In essence, brick-and-mortar retailers must incorporate efficient methods to their existing systems and entice customers with new, unique offerings to surpass the speed and affordability of e-commerce. In the past few years, Target lagged in its performance, which was amplified by its exit from the Canadian market with \$5.4 billion in pretax losses. But instead of idly standing by and wallowing in its losses, Target invested in same-day delivery platforms like Shipt to compete with Amazon's shipping services. Currently, Target expects to provide the same-day delivery service to 65 percent of U.S. households in 2018 holiday season and has reported its best quarterly sales in 13 years.

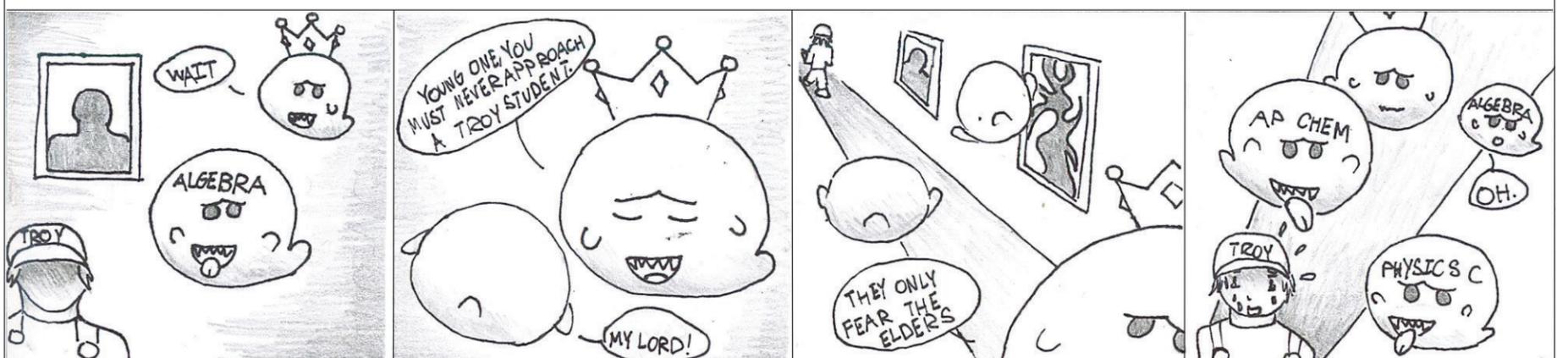
Taking one step backward to move two spaces forward should be the new strategy for retailers in the digital era. Instead of lamenting the loss of customers to e-commerce, the retail outlets should reevaluate their current positions and focus on what only they can offer.



CARTOONS BY LEX PARK



Troyendo: The Unspookable Warrior by Katie Nguyen



States' calls for net neutrality should not be ignored by the FCC

By Kaitlyn Han
STAFF WRITER



Net neutrality breaks the web again as California restores internet equality rules.

California passed a law to reinstate net neutrality regulations Sept. 30 after the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) repealed similar net neutrality regulations back in December 2017. Unlike its predecessor, California's new policy denounces zero-rate promotions, which allow internet service providers (ISPs) to offer free unlimited streaming to some consumers while charging others. The policy also prohibits ISPs from blocking content and charging consumers high rates for faster internet speeds. Although California's rules have been criticized by the Department of Justice (DOJ) for being the strictest net neutrality protections in the country, the state has correctly addressed

the net neutrality issue by taking a stand against the federal government.

Ironically, Attorney General Jeff Sessions has argued that states have no right to "frustrate federal law" when there is in fact no such federal law to frustrate because the FCC dismissed the problem entirely by merely repealing net neutrality regulations. California is not the only state that has issued net neutrality rules. In fact, California is the fourth state to restore the regulations, following

Oregon, Washington and Vermont. Those states were not sued by the DOJ because their laws were more moderate compared to California's; nevertheless the effort of multiple states to oppose the federal

"States should be allowed to oppose the federal government and reflect the requests of their respective populations."

government's policies is a progressive step towards reinstating national net neutrality laws. Attempting to silence California with a lawsuit, the federal government is unreasonably infringing upon states' rights and belittling regional opinions on net neutrality.

One major argument against California's policies is that they violated the supremacy law, which allows federal authority to override that of the state. Sessions sided with



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

the DOJ when he asserted that the FCC had the sole power over regulations imposed upon ISPs. However, California's decision to pass net neutrality rules pertains to the state alone and is not meant to be directly enforced nationwide even though California senators hope to encourage the federal government to reinstate national net neutrality rules.

Consumers are also speaking out against the repeal of net neutrality rules. According to a study released days prior to the repeal of federal net neutrality laws by the University of Maryland, 83 percent of Americans were in favor of net neutrality and sided with consumer groups and small tech companies. Appallingly, the central government disregarded the interests of the majority and still revoked net neutrality. States should be allowed to oppose the federal government and reflect the requests of their respective populations.

California should be commended for taking the correct strategy of calling the issue to national attention. The federal government cannot simply disregard states' calls for net neutrality.

KEEPING UP with the OPINION EDITORS

Erasure of People, Erasure of Rights



By Lex Park
OPINION EDITOR

In a memo from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), it was revealed that the Trump administration is seeking to redefine gender as determined "on a biological basis that is clear, grounded in science, objective and administrable," completely erasing transgender and intersex individuals. To do so would put over five million trans and intersex people in a gray zone of existence.

This attempt to quash non-cisgender identities not the Trump administration's first attempt at reducing transgender rights. In March, transgender people were banned from enlisting in the U.S. Armed Forces. In July, the Trump administration at-

"Even biological sex isn't necessarily binary, so to only define gender, an abstract social construct, as strictly male or female is severely inadequate."

Don't be fooled, Juul isn't cool

By Isaac Yang
STAFF WRITER



Juul isn't cool.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) wisely threatened Sept. 12 to ban the problematic Juul flavor pods unless Juul Labs could prove that it could keep its addictive products away from minors in 60 days. Additionally, the FDA performed a surprise inspection of Juul headquarters Sept. 28 and confiscated over a thousand documents.

No matter how the e-cigarette industry markets electronic tobacco pods as healthy alternatives to cigarettes, continued use of these products is extremely harmful. Studies by Stanford Medical School have revealed that the amount of nicotine in one Juul device equals that of a pack of 20 cigarettes.

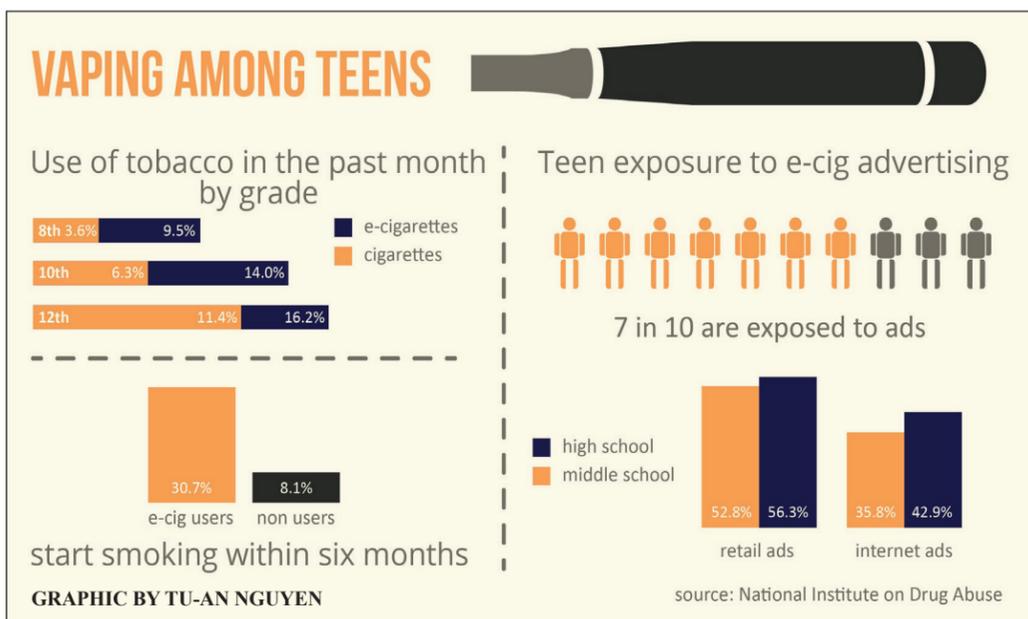
Juul's e-cigarettes are appallingly designed to target teenagers, advertising sweet flavors and emphasizing easy accessibility. Alarming, vaping devices are attracting teenagers who normally would not have smoked. According to the 2017 National Youth Tobacco Survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), e-cigarettes have become the most popular tobacco product as usage rates have skyrocketed from 1.5 to 11.3 percent since 2011. Research has proven that nicotine in-

take at a young age could lead to lifelong dependency on lethal drugs such as cocaine. Juul's devious marketing ploy ruins the lives of teenagers, whose adolescent brains are especially vulnerable to addiction. Because teenage vaping is becoming an increasingly serious problem, the government should ensure that Juul's target audience shifts to an older demographic.

Juul must reduce the amount of advertisements it produces and enforce its age restriction more strictly. Currently, the age restriction for vaping, which is 21 in California, is ignored by most stores. When Dmitriy Nikitin, a researcher at the University of California, Irvine, recruited three teenagers to purchase vaping products from 120 domestic online stores, all but four stores sold e-cigarettes to them despite the nationwide ban on teen access.

Although Juul is only one of many e-cigarette companies, fighting Juul can significantly reduce the industry's influence as Juul controls 75 percent of the e-cigarette market. The FDA must perform more surprise warehouse inspections like the one on Sept. 28 and impose more restrictive regulations, such as lowering the maximum amount of nicotine allowed in one e-cigarette.

Ideally, the FDA should apply restrictive laws to the entire tobacco industry. In reality, tobacco lies within the roots of America, and it is unlikely to be easily flushed out. Knowing that the main cause of America's obsession with smoking, which has evolved from the pipe to the cigarette and now to the e-cigarette, is the participation of the youth, the government must focus its efforts on preventing teenage tobacco use. Banning harmful Juul products is the first step.



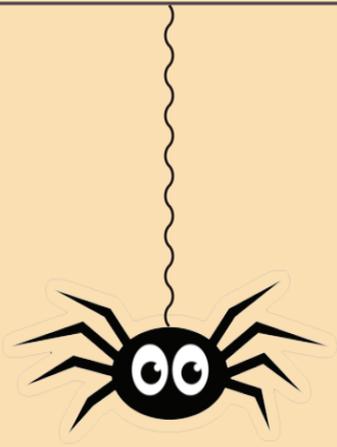
tempted to roll back health care non-discrimination regulation by legally challenging Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, which prohibits discrimination in health coverage and care on the basis of sex (as well as other criteria) in health programs that receive federal funding.

If the government wants to judge by "biological basis," where do intersex people stand in this criteria? Even biological sex isn't necessarily binary, so to only define gender, an abstract social construct, as male and female is severely inadequate.

Transgender people already face harsh hatred during their daily lives, and a lack of government protection only exacerbates the problem. This year has seen record highs in violence against transgender people; just in 2018, 22 people have been murdered for being trans. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, one in four transgender individuals have been assaulted for simply being trans.

The Trump administration's attempt at erasing transgender and intersex people as a whole is a disgusting move that blatantly disregards human rights. The narrow definition of gender provided by the DHHS is just one of many steps that the government has attempted to remove recognition and protections of transgender people under federal civil rights laws. Under Title IX, which protects against discrimination on the basis of sex, transgender people would no longer be protected.

The erasure of transgender individuals is neither scientific nor objective. It's bigotry.



Trick or

Teacher Spookification Recipe: Requires two families, six boxes of
cauldron and stir counterclockwise for three minutes. Perfe

Compiled by Ariana Chow and

COSTUME LEVER

By Tiffany Kim, SPORTS EDITOR, and photos courtesy of Kyle Rogers

Although most associate Halloween with ghoulish decorations and dark components, it's clear that the Rogers family brings a little light to the holiday.

Most families scramble the weekend before Halloween to gather costumes, but leave it to the Rogers to deck out impressive theme-based family costumes each year. Along with his wife and three kids, math teacher Kyle Rogers constantly leaves many awed by their quirky yet heartfelt Halloween projects.

What started out as a small family tradition over a decade ago eventually transformed into an annual "Rogers' Reveal" for friends, both offline and online. Initially, the elaborate outfits arose from constructions for group costume-coordinated parties, but after multiple years of dressing up together, the Rogers family had a new creative challenge to look forward to each autumn. But their captivating ideas

didn't just amaze their friends. In 2015, their photos gained over 9,000 likes online, and their recognition continued to

and bright makeup inspired by popular 80s movies, vintage circuses, characters from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, old-fashioned fast food diners, golden athletic trophies and mighty superheroes. This year, Rogers hints at a party-related theme.

"My wife is a party planner," Rogers said. "The five of us are gonna be one aspect of throwing a party. My son is going to be a birthday present. The rest, you guys will have to see."

Although the costumes can take as long as two hours to put on, the annual fascinating dress-up day is just one of the many family-oriented traditions the Rogers continue to keep.

"You can have good costumes without having to get all crazy and scary, even though that's what makes it fun for some people," Rogers said. "But I just think it's fun to dress as family, to get some friends together. My [oldest daughter] is getting a little old now, but she still wants to [participate]. It's harder to put the costumes together, but I think it's more fun for everybody."



multiply when several professional news sources featured them.

"[Our photos] just went crazy. Everyone was just like 'I saw you on Twitter,'" Rogers said. "ABC news contacted my wife from Arizona, so she was on an Arizona news show live. But it all started with Twitter."

With the efforts of Rogers' wife, the family's costumes constantly balance an accurate portrayal of a chosen theme and an artistic appeal. The individual pieces result from hours of handmade work and multiple trips to various shops. Their archive of costumes includes

a stunning collection of characters, foods and items. Previously, the family impressed the Halloween crowd with elaborate suits, colorful wigs



Teach!

of costumes, one eye-of-newt and unlimited imagination. Place in
ect to cast on your favorite drama, English or math teacher.

d Jenny Ji, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

THEATER THRILLS

By Ariana Chow and Jenny Ji, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF, and photos courtesy of Joe Hufferd

For a few hours, forgotten childhood dreams are brought once more to life. The clock strikes nine. Everything changes.

Castles disappear, dwarves scamper home and fairies head to sleep as the magic is locked up for yet another year. Just what kind of fantasy is this? Hufferd Halloween.

When English teacher Gabrielle Hufferd and theater teacher Joe Hufferd moved into the Old House district of downtown Fullerton in 2002, they immediately discovered that they had come upon a Halloween wonderland known for elaborate themed displays and generous handfuls of candy. Not ones to be outdone, the Hufferds amped up their own decorations and quickly gained a reputation for being the “Halloween House,” drawing thousands of trick-or-treaters to their display each year. With deep-rooted theater backgrounds, the Hufferds construct entire realms in their front yard, complete with fog machines, stage lighting, mood music, raised platforms, corresponding buildings and sets, actors in costume and char-

acter scenes based on the theme.

The Hufferds’ annual Halloween presentation is produced in collaboration with the Newells, another family with a fondness for theater, as well as with Warrior theater students. The themes are chosen based on what their sons are interested in each year, and preparation begins as early as summer and continues until the day of Halloween. Props and scenery are brought in or built gradually as the event nears, but the real attraction is set up just hours before the first wave of trick-or-treaters: the Warrior theater students who truly make the theme come alive with their acting.

Forget nightmarish witches; instead, the home-turned theatrical set opts to include childhood favorites like Dorothy and Harry Potter, plus their iconic theme songs. Visitors also delight in the interactive artifacts from the Raiders of the Lost Ark and volunteer student actors giving candy to passing trick-or-treaters. “[The students] add so much,” J. Hufferd said. “They are so good with the little kids that come up.”



Regardless of what theme they choose, their Halloween production always draws crowds of eager families. The hundreds of dollars spent on candy and days dedicated to set-up yield a uniquely family-friendly Halloween experience.

“[People] love it,” G. Hufferd said. “First of all, they love it because it’s wholesome. It’s not your typical scary Halloween; it’s a family thing.”

And truly, it isn’t an individual act. All elements are carefully woven into an elaborate night where imagination is revived, if just for a few hours.

“It is a lot of work, and it’s crazy,” G. Hufferd said. “The thing I really truly love about it is the kids from Troy that come over are having so much fun. And it’s not related to school, it’s just a bunch of kids who are really too old to trick or treat, and now they get to dress up and have fun and play.”

(Hint: This year, expect a classic favorite comprised of dwarves, elves, lovably hairy feet and overly sought-after jewelry this year.)

One does not simply celebrate Halloween—at least not without going to the Hufferd house.



Keeping Up with Kanye

Armed with a Make America Great Again hat and his own celebrity presence, rap artist Kanye West's controversies have fans and critics alike scratching their heads, asking, "What's up with Kanye?"

By Jillian Warren, STAFF WRITER

The recent political outbursts from musical artist Kanye West—or the self-proclaimed “Ye”—have led his fans to ask the question: What happened to the old Kanye? Throughout his career, West has had a controversial persona, one that is portrayed clearly in events like his notorious outburst at the 2009 MTV music awards. But while it isn't uncommon to see stars get political, the extreme shift in the nature of his recent political actions has left audiences thoroughly astonished and confused.

It all started a few months ago when West re-entered the social media scene with a tweet expressing his ardent support of President Trump. West's recent tweets have seemed to spiral into thoughtlessly incendiary remarks, one of which was a vague comment about how the Thirteenth Amendment should be overturned. His statement has sparked an enormous amount of backlash from people wondering why in the world he wants to revoke the abolishment of slavery.

In early October, the musician made an appearance on the sketch comedy show *Saturday Night Live* to promote his recently released track “I Love It.” However, it seems as though the performance was the only thing he came for, as right when the show began to conclude, West initiated his own impromptu political rant. Donned with his Make America Great Again cap—one frequently seen in his wardrobe—West left the audience as well as cast members dumbfounded after delivering his speech defending President Trump and claiming that the Democratic party separated black families with welfare.

Yet despite all of the controversy surrounding him, West continues to thrive in the entertainment industry. Due to the inflammatory nature of his political statements, it's hard to tell if West is actually authentic, or if it's all

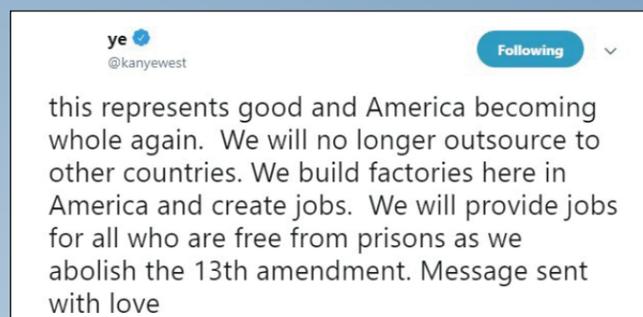
just one big publicity stunt. Looking back on his history of outbursts, it's not surprising that they seem to coincide with his album releases. Even now, West's questionable support of Trump is only building up more and more hype around the drop of his upcoming album “Yandhi” (Nov. 23). While they might not appreciate all of his political remarks, it's obvious West's devoted fan base still acknowledges him as a talented musician.

Throughout his entire relationship with President Trump, West has defended his rights to independent thought, and he has pushed people to redefine social norms. His views do hold validity to a certain point—it's his denial of history and method of execution, however, that may prompt people's reaction of disdain.

West is a perfect example of how people in our current society tend to dissociate the “art” from the “artist.” In the digital age, today's stars are constantly placed in the limelight for controversial things they do. Taylor Swift, for example, is diametrically opposed to the politics of West, and her recent expression of her political views on social media has caught the attention of liberals and

conservatives alike. Like all people, Swift has the right to express her political beliefs, but whether she is right or left leaning isn't the determining factor on whether audiences will like her music or not.

Fans will still listen to renowned artists like West



and Swift because they enjoy the artist's craft, even though they may hold opposing ideas. A piece of art, whether that be an album or movie, is meant to be judged solely by the experience it brings, not by the flaws surrounding its creator. That being said, artists can usually withstand the backlash they receive for their controversial beliefs. As for West, his radical behavior can be expected to return back to relative normality after his album drops. From Kanye's perspective, it seems as though the sweet taste of popularity makes all of the controversy seem worth it.

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CAN YA KEEP UP WITH KANYE?
For months, Kanye West's support for the ideals of the MAGA hat and his own controversially inflammatory statements act as a convenient publicity for his upcoming album.



Beauty in the Wild

California's wildflowers are in danger. Photographed by Nita Winter and Robert Badger, the Beauty and the Beast: Wildflowers and Climate Change exhibit demonstrates the importance of California's diverse ecosystems and the beauty found in the wild.

By Hannah Adams, STAFF WRITER, and cartoons by Kristen Perez, CARTOON

When I first stepped into the Beauty and the Beast: Wildflowers and Climate Change exhibit at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), my eyes danced across still life of white walls adorned with over 50 vibrant pictures of California's wildflowers. From a landscape of colorful, dappled slopes to a large portrait of a glowing orange California poppy, the individual beauty of each piece amazed me.

Amidst the breathtaking photos, there were diagrams, drawings and plaques that informed viewers of the labor-intensive process behind the photos as well as their creators, Rob Badger and Nita Winter. Undoubtedly, the individual beauty of each photo captures your attention from the moment your eyes meet the exhibit. Badger and Winter's main goal is to inspire you to create change.

"Rather than show depressing images of what is happening on our planet, we show beautiful images of what remains of the natural world to motivate people to protect it," Badger said.

Although California wildflowers are beautiful to look at, their main purpose isn't to decorate the backgrounds of our phones and computers. From the oceanic cliffs of the Pacific to cracked desert sands, each flower plays a vital role in one of California's 14 ecological regions. However, because of the damage of the wildflowers' ecosystems in recent years, it's harder for them to survive now than ever before.

While reading the plaques at the exhibit,



PERKS OF BEING A WILDFLOWER: *The Beauty and Beast: Wildflower and Climate Change exhibit shows the potential extinction of the most beautiful aspects of California as a result of the damage to California's ecosystems.*

I learned that the biggest threats to California wildflowers are climate change and the introduction of invasive species. Due to temperamental weather swings, drier regions such as Death Valley have been doused with an extra dose of water, consequently inviting the introduced species over for more than just a week's stay. Unlike the flowers of the exhibit, these flowers tend to favor the rain a bit more—to them a slightly damp Death Valley is a home away from home. In colder, more saturated places such as the redwoods, climate change swings by once again to drop yet another problem: rising temperatures. As a result of the warmer temperatures, wildflowers tend to get a bit excited and start to bloom an entire month before they're supposed to. While the enthusiasm is appreciated, it makes it a bit difficult for pollinators

to coordinate with the flowers, and so a rather conflicting schedule is born. If the pollinators can't catch the early bloomers, extinction and mass extinction will become two possible outcomes for the future.

As I exited the gallery of CSUF's campus, the two worlds aligned and, I realized that although the Beauty and the Beast exhibit's time has ended at CSUF, our efforts to protect what remains of our wildflowers should not. As suggested by Winter and Badger through the exhibit, by becoming citizen scientist and making crucial observations about surrounding nature, you can help create data tables for future decisions about our environment. So, if you decide to take a step outside to analyze nature for the sake of our futures, you won't just be smelling the roses: you'll be saving them too.

Fashion Feature

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

By Jois Talla, ENTERTAINMENT & LIFESTYLE EDITOR, and photo by Julianna Sabile, PHOTO

ROHAN CHUGANI 12TH



An aspiring actor and fashion trailblazer, senior Rohan Chugani is always the epitome of style, both on the stage and in the halls.

To Chugani, first impressions are key to his image, and he often centers his outfits around a stylish statement article—what he calls “the piece.” Boldly declaring the outfit's color motif, “the piece” is usually takes the form of a striking jacket or a modish pair of jeans.

Chugani, who is a member of Troy's talented theater program, feels that his own personal spirit is just another way to demonstrate his creative character and personality. His daily outfits are an amalgamation of his personal flair and trends from up-and-coming style icons. You can imitate his sense of fashion with his own help.

“Add me on snapchat if you have any questions @ro-rochugani.” said Chugani. “If I'm not famous by the time you add me I'm sure I'll respond and help. Thanks.”

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It opens with an upbeat, colorful melody that welcomes friends and strangers alike. Then, with practically audible grins, sophomores Aaron Bai, Ishan Patel and Dale Tran begin the newest installment of their podcast with the signature phrase, “Now, it’s time to fly high.”

Available on Apple Music, Soundcloud and Messy.fm, Flying High explores every aspect of high school life, from dances to academic struggles. Though they have an Instagram (@flying.high.pod) for marketing, the three hosts mainly spread their podcast by word of mouth, drawing in fellow students with their anecdotal humor and playful tic-for-tac banter. Though all three sophomores run

the podcast together, Bai manages the technical aspect, whereas Patel and Tran contribute heavily to the script. While they may not have post-graduation plans for the podcast yet, they presently have a clear goal in mind: connecting with their audience through common experiences while also forging stronger bonds with one another.

Hidden within a small nook of the library and concealed by towering bookshelves, the trio might be found snickering and crowding around a laptop and microphone. Although Bai, Patel and Tran had already been relatively close in the past, creating the podcast—and all the shenanigans along the way—brought them even closer together. With sheepish grins, they recall getting kicked out of the 300 building by custodians once it grew too late to record. They may spend hours together bouncing around ideas for their ever-changing podcast topics. Such cohesive, face-to-face dynamics easily translate to their podcast, adding a lighthearted and entertaining flare that keeps the audience engaged.

“It’s more like we understand each other,” Bai said. “We know what’s going on in our lives, and I think that makes our podcast so much more valuable to our listeners and to us.”

The podcast may contribute to their development as a group, but it also helps Bai, Patel and Tran grow as individuals. Constantly discussing their own experiences, interviewing their peers and listening to their audience’s feedback has helped them realize that people are shaped by their different experiences. As such, they began to understand they can’t make assumptions about others’ troubles without first learning more about them as individuals.

“I end up finding a lot more [things] that I didn’t really think about before, like relationships between certain people,” Tran said. “Sometimes we’ll interview other people at school, and that also allows us to hear their story.”

Such revelations frame their overall purpose of bonding with their audience through the common experiences they share on their podcast. From clashing with strict parents to balancing

busy academic and social lives, all of their chosen topics resonate deeply with the audience. Ultimately, they hope that sharing their stories will encourage and support their peers. After all, the name “Flying High” comes from the belief that everyone can excel and persevere through the struggles they may be facing.

“I want them to know that they’re not really alone,” Patel said. “I want them to know that ‘hey guys, you may be going through some tough times and you may find something about your high school life that’s really nagging at you or something that’s really hard, but we’ve all gone through it and we know that you can too, so keep on pushing and fly high.’”

Flying High

Push pause on your hectic schedule and press play on Flying High Podcast, a fresh take on student life. Its creators, sophomores Aaron Bai, Ishan Patel and Dale Tran, invite you to sit back, relax and let your troubles float away.

By Amber Huynh, STAFF WRITER, graphics by Phoebe Um, GRAPHICS, and photos by Angel Hallacy, PHOTO



Three Of A Kind: Sophomores Dale Tran (left), Ishan Patel (center) and Aaron Bai (right) possess a dynamic so welcoming and open, listeners feel like they’re sitting in the same room as them.

Boys water polo defeats Fullerton in final game before league finals

The team narrowly triumphed over the Fullerton Indians to secure the second place spot for league playoffs.

By Lucas Santos
STAFF WRITER

In the last league game before playoffs, the Warrior boys water polo team (14-10-0, 5-1-0) emerged victorious against the Fullerton Indians 8-7 Oct. 16.

Only two minutes in, following a great save from senior Wei Foo, the Warriors scored. After the block, Foo quickly advanced the ball to junior Colter Henkhaus, who chalked up another point while the opposing defense tracked back. However, all of the Warriors' attacking prospects ceased after the Fullerton defense started to press and allow no breathing room for the Warriors to execute their offense. The tide turned as Fullerton added on three goals. To end the quarter, senior Alexander Cheung caught the keeper by surprise with a high arching lob shot that reduced the goal difference to one.

Just as the second quarter started with the Warriors down 3-2, Cheung floated a chip shot



ANGEL HALLACY

STRONG SHOT: Gazing across the pool, junior Julian Lim-Hanna prepares to pass the ball to a teammate.

right over the keeper's outstretched hands only a mere minute and a half into the period. This aggressive attacking play would only last for a short time, as Fullerton roared back and scored three goals in the period, one of which occurred in the last seconds off of a botched free throw from the Warriors.

The Warriors surged in the third period and scored five times.

The first came from Cheung, who snuck a goal into the net after Lim-Hanna provided him with a perfect switch pass. Senior Jacob Chandler also contributed to the score after Warriors caught Fullerton off guard with a quick restart from a free throw. The team added on three more goals and gained a 7-6 advantage over the stunned Fullerton team that failed to score in the third quarter.

With momentum on their side, the Warriors attacked constantly to open the next quarter. While the Warriors implemented a boldly aggressive strategy on the offensive side, Fullerton took advantage and scored, bringing the game to a 7-7 tie. With just two minutes left, Foo executed a seemingly impossible block to keep the scores even. Only about a minute later, sophomore Jake

Ngo scored the winning goal at point-blank range, giving the opposing goalkeeper no chance to bar his shot. Fullerton narrowly missed a chance 20 seconds later, but the defense pulled off a vital stop and knocked the ball out of the shooter's hand to save a goal.

Although a strong comeback initially seemed unlikely, the Warriors showed great resilience throughout the game, coach Jason Wilson said.

"These guys have a lot of heart," Wilson said. "They've even been practicing in a pool that has not had a working heater for two weeks. During this game, they had good defense and made shots when it mattered."

Reflecting on the intense plays, Cheung attributed the exciting win to the Warriors' calm demeanor and positive change in attitude.

"Our [approach] at halftime helped us to give it our all during the second half and complete the comeback," Cheung said. "Our strength was our calmness under pressure. There were only three returning varsity players, so in truth, we did not think we were going to be good. However, we worked extremely hard to second place in league, and we aspire to win the playoffs and secure a league title."



TEACHER FEATURE



Transforming a passion for math into a useful one-of-a-kind hobby, this teacher finds a balance between fun and functional. Think you know who it is? Take a guess, let us know and you might just win a prize.

By Sarah Son, STAFF WRITER, photos courtesy of The Next HGTV Star



How much time and money would it cost to remodel a kitchen, taking into consideration the plumbing, lighting and dimensions of the room? The Next HGTV Star would know.

Referring to herself as The Next HGTV Star, the mother of two openly admits that she is a lover of math and building homes. Factoring in all aspects, she is able to multiply her assets to create her dream home.

The Next HGTV Star began house remodeling when she realized her home was too small to accommodate the needs of a growing family. After making multiple financial calcula-

tions, she and her spouse came to their final decision of remodeling their house instead of buying a larger one. The house was torn down and rebuilt from scratch with an extra bedroom. A year and a half later, it was put up for an experimental sale with a high price. When someone bought that house, The Next HGTV Star and her family moved to a new home to start the remodeling process all over again.

Complex calculus and even simple percentages may seem removed from real life, but The Next HGTV Star is here to prove that myth wrong. Wielding her passion for math as a practical

tool, she has no difficulty calculating finance and budgeting money for her house remodels. She designs her home, paying close attention to every inch of the wooden framing to make sure the total cost does not go over the budget.

"Math is everywhere; there's no way around it," The Next HGTV Star said. "If you don't think five steps ahead, and your measurements mess you up, then it's too late once [the workers start] building your house."

The house remodeling process is challenging and stressful, with many different aspects to acknowledge in a set amount of time: plumbing, electri-

cal, framing and architectural planning.

While The Next HGTV Star admits that she could've simply bought a nice house in the first place to avoid the troubles of remodeling, she explains that no home is perfect until you take the time and strenuous efforts to build it.

After all, careful trigonometric proportions and real-life derivations of rate problems can capture a dream home like nothing else.

"[I] have that sense of relief that all my hard work paid off," The Next HGTV star said. "Our hard work is done, and we have [a dream home] to show for it."

X = The Next HGTV Star. Find X.