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LAUSD: AN END TO THE STRIKE

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

By Sky Jung and Angelica Sano
STAFF WRITERS

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) negotiated a contract to formally end the six-day union strike Jan. 22.

Since June 2017, UTLA leaders had been meeting with school officials to renegotiate contracts to include salary increases and working condition improvements. Following the district's refusal to fund their requests, UTLA workers rallied in front of the Los Angeles City Hall Jan. 18.

More than 30,000 teachers and parents went on strike in demand of class size reductions, a 6.5 percent salary in-

crease and the presence of nurses, counselors and librarians at all schools in the district. As the protest emerged, UTLA leaders and LAUSD representatives began negotiating an agreement to change existing district policies.

All elementary and secondary schools remained in operation during the union strike. Due to the significant absence of regular staff members, the school district called over 2,000 central office administrators and over 400 non-union teachers in an effort to replace the striking educators.

Several parents kept their children from attending school due to concerns about the quality of education given by the substitute teachers and student safety in the midst of riotous picket lines. As a result, student attendance decreased by 66 percent during the union strike.

In hopes of decreasing average class sizes of LAUSD schools, UTLA leaders emphasized the

correlation between class size and student success. On average, LAUSD public schools have an average class size of 37 students, which greatly exceeds the UTLA demand for a 24-student class size. With limited teaching staff, schools often fill classrooms to maximum capacity, which teachers claim results in a lower quality of education.

The new contract requires the district to gradually reduce class sizes and give teachers a six percent pay raise, addressing the two primary UTLA concerns. In addition, district reserve funds and state funds will provide at least 150 more full-time nurses and 41 additional librarians to LAUSD schools. After LAUSD and UTLA officially announced the settlement, all protesting educators returned to their classrooms Jan. 23.

"We welcome back with open arms and warm hearts our educators, and [we] look forward to

a new day of learning for all of our students," LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner said at a City Hall press conference. "Today and tomorrow when school opens begins a new chapter in every classroom and [in] every school in Los Angeles Unified."

Although the contract successfully ended the strike, district administrators have expressed concern regarding the financial costs needed to satisfy the union's demands. In addition to losing over \$15 million for poor attendance rates, LAUSD will have to invest \$403 million for class size reductions and additional support staff over the next three years. To prevent bankruptcy, LAUSD and UTLA members reached a tentative agreement to collaborate on future projects so as to maintain school funding.

The recent strike has urged the LAUSD to focus on school management and quality education. Additionally, the LAUSD

strike inspired teachers in other regions to protest for better working conditions and wages.

The teachers and parents who joined the walk-out and voted on the deal are hopeful for further negotiations in the future.

According to LAUSD parent and central committee member Kathy Kanter, the strike marks a first step toward improving school environments for all students.

"I'm glad that our county, our city and our governor are stepping up," Kanter said. "What I hope going forward is that the investments are ongoing, not just one-time, and policies will alleviate pressure teachers are facing in classrooms."

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You've seen the Red Hots and All Male dance teams at rallies. Read about your favorite dance groups and their recent preparation for competition season.



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#TECHFORLIFE

By Danielle Chow
STAFF WRITER

Encouraging children to nurture a passion for technology, Techtacular began a partnership with the Thomas House Family Shelter January 2019.

Techtacular is a volunteer organization dedicated to helping children adapt to an increasingly technology-based world. Techtacular members will be teaching classes every other week to adolescents at the Thomas House Family Shelter, a temporary shelter that provides housing for homeless families with children.

Techtacular members teach classes about different forms of programming, beginning with a basic block-based visual programming class and advancing to more specialized subjects, such as app development.

According to President and Co-Founder Shivana Anand, children living at the shelter often lack the resources necessary to pursue their interests in technology. Techtacular members hope their classes will inspire the children to develop an affinity for technology, especially considering its relevance in today's society and potential for application to every career.

"[Technology is] so prevalent in every field that they might want to go into," Anand said. "Our main goal is [to] give them the resources, the inspiration, the push that they need to be able to decide that technology is something that they're interested in."

Warrior PTSA student branch to attend Leadership Camp at Disneyland



JULIANNA SABILE

LEADERS IN THE MAKING: Seniors Livia Johan and Andrew Chang discuss plans for the upcoming leadership training trip.

Students participated in activities that foster servant leadership.

to take risks and bond with their teams, through fun team challenges such as blindfolded obstacle courses. Participants also set career objectives and will learn about steps they can take to realize their goals, including methods to pace themselves on their path to personal accomplishment.

According to President Justin Wang, the Creating a Leader-

ship Legacy event teaches skills that participants can use to lead events within the mostly student-run club.

Aside from the camp, the student PTSA plans recognition events and school spirit activities, including socials and spirit weeks. The organization partnered with the Orange County Department of Education to create the One Billion Acts of Kindness campaign, a project that seeks to improve school spirit and to promote positive student relationships. Future plans will include a wellness event targeting student stress.

The division is open to all high school students, with applications accepted at the beginning of the year. Events like the leadership camp help the new members establish bonds and integrate into the organization, Wang said.

"[The leadership camp] is one of the best ways to have the kids connect and actually talk to each other to communicate and break that ice," Wang said.

According to Wang, the leadership and communication skills participants will gain will not only benefit students in their club activities, but also in their individual futures.

"[The event is] for the others who are willing to step out to learn and connect with the other members," Wang said. "What I think is important is developing confidence so they can interact and, in the future, lead in their own paths."

By Cheryl Yang
STAFF WRITER

Cultivating leadership skills, the student division of the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) will attend the Creating a Leadership Legacy leadership camp at the Disneyland California Adventure Park Feb. 11.

The leadership camp, which is part of the Disney Youth Education Series, enables middle school and high school students to spend a day at the theme park and partake in activities aimed at developing team bonds and goal-oriented mindsets. According to Vice President of Marketing and Publications Maxwell Tsao, instructors will discuss the life experiences of Walter Disney, the founder of Disney, in hopes of inspiring participants to apply his leadership abilities to their own lives.

"We can take [Disney's] methodology back home after we've gone there and use it for any future projects we have. Because to plan out a project, we need short-term and long-term goals," Tsao said.

Throughout the event, program instructors will present techniques to manage the stress and commitments associated with leadership positions. Activities are aimed to encourage students

"We can take [Disney's] methodology back home and use it for any future projects. Because to plan out a project, we need short term and long term goals"

Maxwell Tsao
junior



CREATING A VISION: "Partners," a statue of Walt Disney and his magical character, Mickey Mouse.



LADIES OF LEAGUE

By Cheryl Yang
STAFF WRITER

Promoting inclusivity within the esports field, Warrior all-female esports team Troy Ladies competed in the League of Legends High School Scholastic Tournament beginning Jan. 28.

Hosted by the North America Scholastic Esports Federation, the competition is a season-long tournament involving the game League of Legends. Teams compete in a predetermined number of rounds, and the competitors with the highest aggregate score win. Winners are awarded exclusive prizes and a monetary grant that goes to their school esports program.

While the majority of the matches take place in the film room, the semifinals and finals are held in a designated arena.

The team is the first high school competitive squad to feature all-female starters in a field lacking in female participants. Major media outlets such as Syfy and Dot Esports have recognized the team for their unique starter lineup.

According to senior Alison Trinh, the team manager, the team strives to defy stereotypes and transform the field into one open to women in the esports community.

"[The team wants] to make a positive impact," Trinh said. "We want to make the community more open to females playing video games or [playing] at a competitive level [to show] that they [defy] the typical stereotypes."

SEndS Club launches a fundraiser to save turtles

Save Endangered Species Club held a fundraiser to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund.

By Danielle Chow
STAFF WRITER

Raising awareness for endangered species, members of the Save Endangered Species (SEndS) Club initiated fundraising efforts to help save bog turtles Feb. 4.

SEndS donates monetary savings to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), an organization that prioritizes wildlife conservation to reduce pressing threats to Earth's inhabitants, such as deforestation, water contamination, pollution and animal species endangerment.

The WWF strives to protect the planet's oceans and species, to curb climate change and to help preserve worldwide fresh water. The international organization allows donors to pledge funds to symbolically adopt endangered animals.

SEndS plans to adopt a bog turtle and contribute to WWF projects which preserve the bog turtles' territory, the Northeast-

ern coastal forests, and preserve local bog turtle habitats.

Hosting a fundraiser to support the bog turtles, SEndS members hope to call attention to endangered species and support the animals financially.

According to Co-Treasurer

have on plants and animals of the natural world, Hetts said.

"If everyone tries to contribute a little to saving endangered species, we could actually save endangered species, but if everyone [thinks] whatever little amount [they] contribute won't make an

Eunice Bae, SEndS's dedication to saving endangered animals extends to a general emphasis on being environmentally conscious. While SEndS intends to help preserve endangered species, the club also endeavors to help Warriors become more aware of the effect humans have on the environment.

"Environmental [issues] like habitat loss and poaching are some things that our club is against," Bae said. "We focus on endangered species, but we're also focused overall on an attitude of environmentalism throughout our school."

Co-President Julianna Sabile seeks to draw attention to environmental issues and the lesser-known endangered species through club fundraisers. Sabile aspires to unite people in helping the natural world and its inhabitants recover from issues such as habitat loss and hunting.

"Not a lot of people really pay attention to these kinds of issues in our world," Sabile said. "It's important for animal activists and people who care about the environment and animals alike to join forces and do some good in the world."



JULIANNA SABILE

SAVE THE SHELLED: Co-President Eunice Bae announces fundraiser to club members and presents information about bog turtles.

Sophia Hetts, the club's efforts to support the world's wildlife serves to bolster WWF's international efforts in order to make a global impact. Environmental awareness is key to reducing the negative effects humans

actual difference, then no one is going to contribute anything," Hetts said. "The world should work towards being more aware of our biodiversity and how what we do affects the species around us."

According to Co-President

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TROY TODAY

Speech and Debate attends Spring Tournament

On February 2, the Speech and Debate team sent Warriors to compete at the Orange County Speech League tournament. This is one of the key tournaments for the entire speech and debate season because it determines who can compete at state competitions. The competition is an all-day event and will be the last invitational that the Troy Speech and Debate team attends before state qualifications and possibly nationals.

JSA goes to Winter Convention

Warrior Junior States of America club will attend the annual winter convention Feb. 23-24. At the event, members will participate in a congressional simulation during which they will attend a committee meeting, propose amendments and pass legislation. In preparation for the meeting, students create bill proposals and research current controversial issues, including gun control, healthcare and immigration.

Ladies First attends first competition of the year

Warrior all-female choir Ladies First will attend their first show choir competition at Brea Olinda High School Feb. 9. Competing against other high schools in the area, the choir will sing and dance to pieces they have prepared throughout the year. Unlike previous choir festivals which featured classical pieces, this competition will showcase casual and upbeat songs, including a '20s medley.

Outdoor Classroom science teachers initiate pond construction

Biology teacher James Kirkpatrick completed efforts to create a pond and install a functioning fountain in the space reserved for the Outdoor Classroom Jan. 26. Kirkpatrick is hosting fundraisers to support construction of the pond, which will be tentatively completed by May.

Girl Up Club makes friendship bracelets

Providing a supportive network of girls at schools, the Girl Up Club hosted a friendship bracelet-making session Jan. 23. The event allowed club members to express their creativity and establish bonds.

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There is more to the opioid crisis than drug addicts

By Isaac Yang
STAFF WRITER



Multibillion-dollar pharmaceutical companies continue to get away with mass murder as America's opioid epidemic—the largest in the world—claims more lives.

Jan. 14, the danger of opioids, pain-reducing drugs, was brought to public attention when the National Safety Council declared that they caused more deaths than car accidents. With the goal of rehabilitating America, the government must realize that the causes of drug crises are far too nuanced to solely blame the individual.

Unnoticed by most, large pharmaceutical companies heartlessly exploit thousands of patients while the government focuses on prosecuting individual drug abusers. Michael Babich, a former Chief Executive Officer of Insys, admitted Dec. 26 during an ongoing trial that his pharmaceutical company had bribed doctors into prescribing Subsys. Although the U.S. Food and Drug Administration only authorized this pain management spray for cancer patients with severe pain, doctors deliberately prescribed the drug to individuals without cancer to raise sales on behalf of Insys. Considering that Subsys contains fentanyl, an opioid 100 times stronger

than morphine, Insys must take accountability for its atrocious actions. If the prolonged use of morphine has already been proven to cause respiratory distress and, in some cases, death, the even stronger fentanyl will likely exacerbate the opioid crisis by taking more lives at a faster rate. Simply put, money should never be prioritized over the livelihoods of unsuspecting patients.

Insys' callous crime also partly exonerates drug addicts, as the

“With the goal of rehabilitating America, the government must realize that the causes of drug crises are far too nuanced to solely blame the individual.”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that prescription drug abuse accounts for over half of all drug-related deaths in the country. Though prescription drugs are obviously legal, what Insys did was extensively corrupt and should prompt the government to enforce stricter regulations. Drug addiction is ironically resulting from medical organizations capitalizing on trusting citizens.

Although drug abuse should not be decriminalized, the government should acknowledge that there are other factors contributing to the drug problem and try to im-

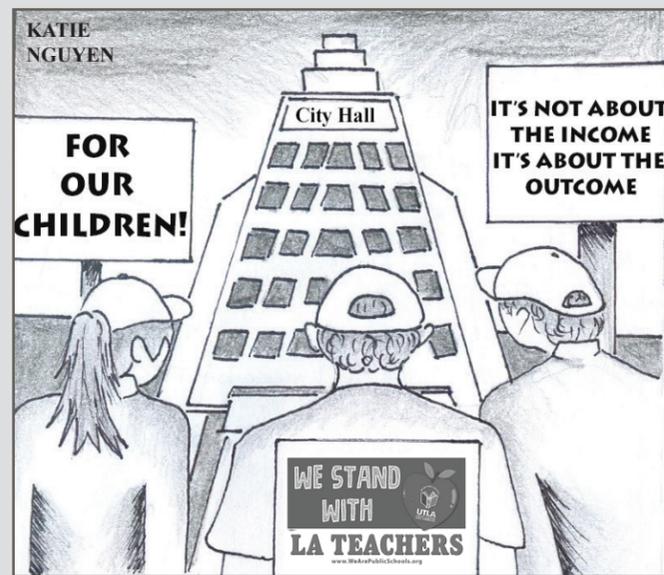
prove its faulty anti-drug program.

The opioid crisis highlights the inefficiency of the current U.S. anti-drug strategy, which tries to deter the individual through campaigns such as Red Ribbon Week, advertisements tailored to the youth and drug education through mandatory health classes. While this approach may be logical, it is simply not enough.

Despite the high success levels of drug education programs during the first six months, the National Center for Biotechnology Information admitted that behavioral changes were limited to a small amount of students and regressed over time. Furthermore, a study conducted by Ohio University and Pennsylvania State University suggested anti-drug advertisements could be detrimental by stimulating curiosity about drug use. At the end of the day, teenagers will not be swayed away from drugs by a 30-second commercial or a paragraph in an anti-drug unit. Of course, these approaches should be kept but they should function as aids in the fight against drugs, not the primary weapon.

If the government wants to cure America's drug problem, it must realize that drug companies are contributing to the epidemic by irresponsibly prioritizing profit. Ultimately, the government must start attacking all of the causes of drug addiction, which go beyond the drug addicts themselves.

STAFF EDITORIAL



The strike is only the first step

The recent strike by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) teachers marks a major step forward in improving the livelihoods of Los Angeles teachers and students, but the compromise is only the first milestone in a long, arduous road towards education equity.

Disrupting the second most populous area in the country, the United Teachers Los Angeles brought the problems plaguing the education system to the forefront of news media.

Nonetheless, the strike deserves much commendation for drawing attention to long-term issues that the district had previously chosen to ignore, including the alarmingly decreasing number in enrollment, lack of support staff and oversized classes.

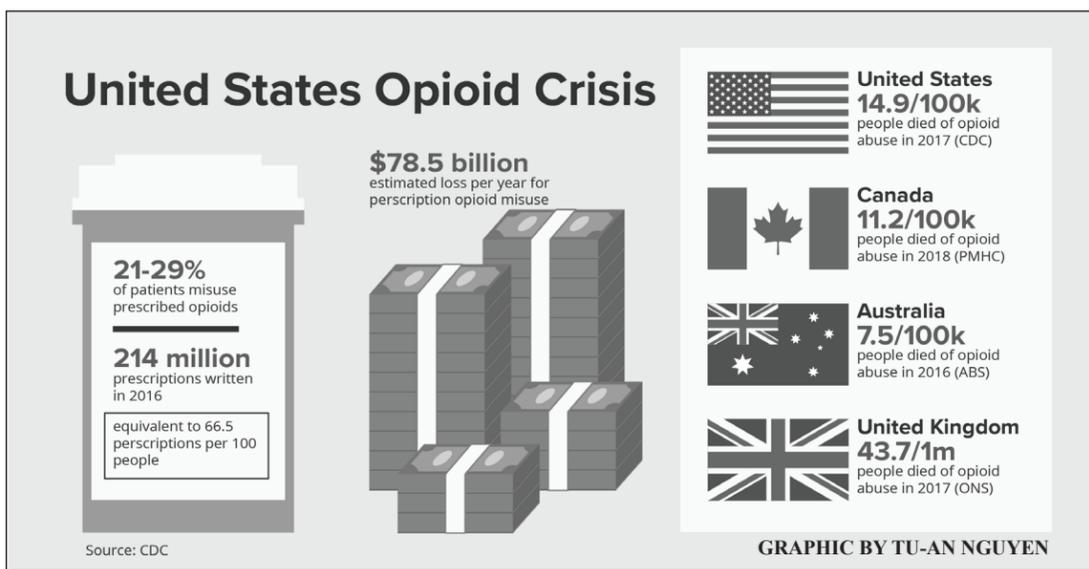
As such, the teachers' commitment to their students should be lauded, not overlooked. For all the problems that still persist in the school district, the teachers' efforts have imposed the much-needed pressure on the district to finally face its problems. Rewarding these hard-working heroes begins with reminding irresponsible school districts that they're being watched.

Although awareness is not an actual solution, it is still necessary. Media coverage has allowed for the community to be informed about the struggles of the teachers. Enduring through rain and uncertainty,

these teachers should be acknowledged for their valiant effort to project their voice nationwide after months of infuriatingly fruitless negotiations. They have demanded amenities for students that should have been a standard from the beginning: smaller class sizes for essential individualized instruction, a bigger support staff and better infrastructure.

The historic settlement, which ended the nine-day strike, faces the bitter reality of financial burden. Right now, the district's operations seem to have been restored to order, but this apparent stability may only be temporary. Though it is progress, one strike is not enough; the district's budget may have to be stretched thin to accommodate any further spending and fulfill its promises to the teachers. If the district actually pushes forward with class size reductions, it may have to scrounge the extra dollars from other vital funds, like those set aside to aid students from low-income families who constitute a large portion of the LAUSD population. With the difficulty in actually implementing reform, the current harmony in the district is only dubious at best.

Many teachers may be satisfied with the deal they got, but they should not stop their efforts to improve their schools. The fight is far from over, and complacency is not the solution.



Troytendo: Valentine's Day by Kristen Perez



RUN DOWN on the SHUT DOWN

Explore the causes and effects of the longest government shutdown in U.S. history.

Compiled by Lex Park & Amy Weng, OPINION EDITORS

The Cause: Excessive Party Politics

By Miseok Kim
STAFF WRITER



A fight between two kids has little effect on the world. Hostility between two major political factions has detrimental consequences—like 35 agonizing days of government shutdown.

President Donald Trump declared a partial shutdown Dec. 22 in retaliation to the Senate's rejection of the \$5.7 billion budget to construct a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. For three weeks, Republicans and Democrats in Congress sparred with no resolution. Meanwhile, Trump refused to bend on his demand for a border wall. Evidently, the political parties' selfish prioritization of their own agendas over the welfare of American citizens excessively prolonged the shutdown.

Instead of actively working together to end the shutdown, the Republicans and the Democrats wasted the first three weeks by ignoring each other's views. Trump's barely revised offer to the Democrats Jan. 19 highlighted the lack of collaboration between the two political parties. Upon reception, Democrats immediately denounced

Trump's new pledge to extend protection for the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals as a cheap tactic to reopen the government on his terms. Had Trump and Republicans genuinely sought Democrat opinion and incorporated it into the proposal, more Democrats may have approved it, thereby reopening the government sooner.

More disheartening to the Democrats than Trump administration's lack of inclusiveness is his perverse insistence on a border wall, which is against the Democrats' official stance on immigration. But with his approval rating in last December precariously hanging at its nadir of 38 percent, Trump probably realized that if he does not deliver his trademark pledge to "build the wall," he risks losing credibility among his supporters. Eyeing potential re-election in 2020, Trump likely strategized to use the government shutdown to present himself as a man of his words, unwavering under opposition for the border wall.

Unfortunately for Trump's ambitions, the shutdown only revealed to the nation the deep fractures within the government and highlighted his incapability of earning the respect of the opposing party. Recently reinstated Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi began to demonstrate her party's upper hand

in the House of Representatives against Trump.

Caught up in their personal war against Trump and the Republicans, Pelosi and the Democrats failed to consider the American people, many of whom were adversely affected by the shutdown. Instead of leading a bipartisan effort to reopen the government and resume negotiations, Pelosi relentlessly attacked Trump and sought to demean his authority by suggesting that he postpone his State of Union address. While healthy criticism of logically flawed ideas are necessary, simply bashing an opponent for differences in political views is unacceptable and akin to little children engaging in useless name-calling.

After four weeks of pointing fingers at each other, the Republicans and the Democrats finally peered beyond their bubbles and understood too late that the American people wanted the shutdown to end—wall or no wall. Extreme zeal for party ideas has proved dangerous this year as it blindsided Democrat and Republican leaders from their duty: to ensure freedom and prosperity of the nation. During the negotiations in early February, Democrats and Republicans, as well as Trump, should keep in mind that reaching a compromise is better than shuttering America again.

Tweetbuster

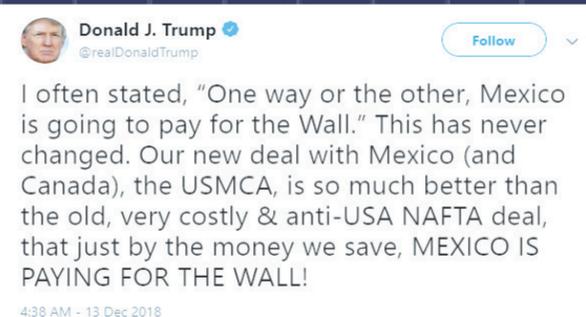
Replying to @realDonaldTrump



Yeah right—if by Mexico, President Donald Trump means American taxpayers. During America's longest government shutdown, he tweeted "MEXICO IS PAYING FOR THE WALL," with the money supposedly gained through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Yet, the agreement, which replaces the North American Free Trade Agreement, restricts trade between the three countries and results in an increase in tariffs that Americans will have to pay for. Clearly, Mexico is not paying for the wall; American taxpayers are.

The USMCA cannot even fund the wall if it has yet to be—and most likely will not be—passed by Congress and the Mexican and Canadian legislative bodies. If passed, the agreement would drive up automobile tariffs, which would force domestic companies to raise automobile prices on consumers. Even the \$5.7 billion Trump hoped to get for the wall's construction in the latest shutdown will come out of American pockets because the transaction is going through Congress. Still, \$5.7 billion is not enough for what Trump is asking for. According to the Department of Homeland Security, the construction of the wall would cost \$21.6 billion—which does not include the money needed to purchase non-government land, complete annual maintenance and fix unexpected failures. US taxpayers need to be wary of Trump's plans for the wall since they will have to pay every penny.

Reply





What is a government shutdown?

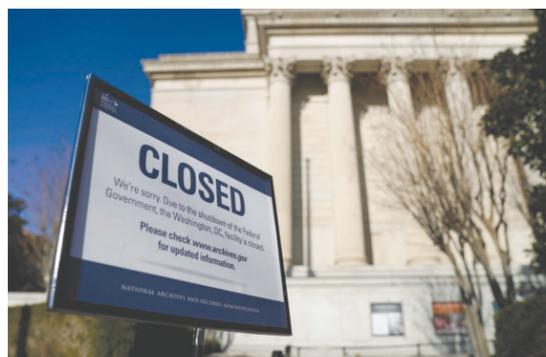


PHOTO COURTESY OF PBS

The US had a government shutdown Dec. 22 to Jan. 25 because President Donald Trump and Congress failed to reach an agreement on next year's federal budget, which would include allocations for a border wall.

A government shutdown refers to when the federal government temporarily halts the activities of non-essential agencies and continues the operations of essential agencies with unpaid workers. Non-essential agencies, like the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, are not necessary for the US to conduct federal affairs—so their workers are granted an unpaid leave of absence. Essential agencies, like the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Social Security, Medicare and the Transportation Security Administration, must continue operating; however, with no funds to support those agencies, its workers must work without pay for the duration of the shutdown.

All the workers of essential and non-essential workers have received retroactive pay—income owed for a previous work period. Still, many of these workers live paycheck by paycheck and were forced to take out loans or reap unemployment benefits to survive during the shutdown. With the shutdown over, these workers will not only have to pay back these loans in due time but also get back on their feet after living without pay for weeks.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PBS NEWSWEEK

JOSHUA TREE DISASTER: *In the 35 days of the government shutdown, visitors did irreparable damage to the park. According to a former ranger, it could take 200 to 300 years to recover.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIME MAGAZINE

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (TSA) FRUSTRATION: *Hundreds of TSA agents, including security screeners and air-traffic controllers, have called in sick rather than work without pay.*

The Effects: Devastation and Danger

By Kaitlyn Han
STAFF WRITER



After the end of the longest government shutdown in US history, many Americans are glad it is over, yet the shutdown's devastating effects will not go away anytime soon. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this shutdown has cost the country over \$11 billion dollars—including a permanent \$3 billion loss. Additionally, national parks, like Joshua Tree, claim that it would take over 300 years to recover from the environmental neglect during the shutdown. Clearly, all that the US has gained from the shutdown—which is just a funding extension—cannot compensate for how much the country has lost and damaged.

Government workers are no strangers to those consequences. Over 800,000 federal employees were forced to either work without pay or take furloughs during the shutdown. But without the paychecks, many of those employees had to resort to loans, unemployment benefits and other part-time jobs simply to make ends meet. Still, federal workers are not the only ones in trouble; the total cost of the shutdown cannot be quickly regained because of President Donald Trump's supposedly helpful tax cuts. The time the presi-

dent and Congress spent bickering during the shutdown was clearly a waste, given that it has amounted to nothing.

Yet, the government does not understand how necessary federal workers are—without them, many critical procedures, such as food regulation, cannot take place. The Food and Drug Administration sent 41 percent of its workers on furlough, so the country had little to no inspections of fruit, meat, seafood and vegetables. Dangerous contaminants, like E. coli, could be in nearly all the unexamined produce and shellfish. At this rate, another food virus outbreak is imminent. The government needs to sort its priorities and place the health of its citizens over a useless wall.

Federal workers are also needed to protect national parks for piles of trash, vandalism and unregulated trespassing. The National Parks Conservation Association even stated that the animals and plants could face centuries of lasting damage because all the neglect worsened the delicate environment;

but the parks do not even have enough money to preserve their wildlife. As of the end of the shutdown, the National Parks Service has lost over \$14 million on entrance fees alone. The government cannot simply close presumably non-essential agencies and not expect any problems to result from their closure; at the very least, they should broaden the definition of a non-essential agency.

With this shutdown over, the government needs to reconsider when a shutdown is truly necessary. Evidently, the shutdown hurts US citizens more than it helps them. The shutdown was clearly unnecessary and has forced the US to recover from the lack of employees, care for the facilities and regulations.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ★ WHITE HOUSE

GLASS

Director M. Night Shyamalan ties the gripping stories of his standout original films—2000’s “Unbreakable” and 2016’s “Split”—into one fascinating installment of this comic-book-inspired trilogy. However, this crossover might be too ambitious.

By Jillian Warren, **STAFF WRITER**, and graphics by Phoebe Um, **GRAPHICS**

19 years is a long time to wait for a trilogy to be completed, and after the release of “Glass,” audiences are left asking whether or not the wait was worth it. Released Jan. 18, “Glass” scrounged up a respectable \$47 million at the box office on opening weekend, a feat primarily expected due to the pre-release hype, but one that was possibly undeserved.

Back in 2016, when the psychological thriller “Split” was released, award-winning director M. Night Shyamalan threw audience members for a loop in the final minutes of the film, revealing it to be a sequel to “Unbreakable”—the blockbuster hit of the early 2000’s. With the two films, Shyamalan masterfully crafts two stories with concepts prominent enough to stand on their own.

The cinematic worlds collide in “Glass,” making for a rather chaotic plotline in the trilogy’s finale.

Right off the bat, the movie is packed with action, keeping audience members on their toes with a fierce fight between the astonishingly strong David Dunn (Bruce Willis) and his unpredictable adversary Kevin Wendell Crumb (James McAvoy). However, the excitement quickly dissipates, and the two spend the rest of the film in a mental institution along with the nimble-witted mastermind, Mr. Glass (Samuel L. Jackson). As the story decelerates, allowing for a surplus of exposition, the film struggles to regain momentum as it’s filled with monotonous dialogue and trivial flashbacks.

With its eccentric characters and a fascinating premise, “Glass” could very

well be considered an unconventional take on the superhero genre, while still staying true to a few classic hero film tropes. Considering the many superhero movies churned out each year, the message of the film redefines the concept of heroism that has been dominating the film industry. It emphasizes the fact that there are people with superhuman abilities walking in our midst—a promising concept that, if executed properly, certainly had the potential to leave a lasting impression. While this theme had already been beautifully established by Shyamalan in the first film, “Unbreakable,” in “Glass,” the idea is unfortunately muddled up by all of its extraneous plot details.

Shyamalan attempts to shove the stories from two individual movies into one. As a result, he juggles the development of the trilogy’s theme with the issue of constructing a new, interesting plotline. That in and of itself sounds like a calamity waiting to happen—and it was.

Each subplot within the overarching narrative isn’t allocated sufficient space in the film to be developed thoroughly. Instead, the film is crowded with choppy dialogue between characters and re-

petitive scenes that are cut too short, making the themes of the film more confusing rather than stimulating.

The same can be said about the ending; the final 15 minutes of the movie throw just about every plot twist you can think of at the audience all at once. Though it may have been expected of Shyamalan after the curveballs he threw in “Split” and “Unbreakable,” the contrived plot twists in “Glass” are rushed and poorly executed, not quite hitting the audience as hard as they’re intended.

“Glass” presented us with an intriguing concept that felt fresh in the age of

contemporary film. Unfortunately, it lacked the precision necessary to stitching two widely different movies together for a climactic finale. McAvoy’s impressive performance as Kevin does leave some room for forgiveness, however, as he seamlessly transitions from persona to persona, keeping the film captivating in times it would otherwise feel bland. Yet even with the stellar acting performance, the film couldn’t withstand the copious number of plot holes that arise within each scene. Perhaps Shyamalan’s script was cracked from the start, leaving the film itself to shatter in the end.



Fashion Feature

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

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

A pageant contestant and the crowned titleholder of Miss Teen Anaheim Regional 2019, senior Sarosh Syed considers fashion to be more than just one cute outfit. In fact, it can be a matter of vigorous competition.

Glamorous and flattering, Syed’s pageant outfits are meant to reflect her own personal confidence and poise. Her winning pageant dress was a brilliant white A-line gown lined with red, blue and yellow flowers around the lower half of the skirt. The gown was accented with white gemstones crowning the waistline.

Syed’s dress, while relatively simple in design, has a natural elegance that makes for a more sophisticated panache than another dress could have. The entire ensemble was only enhanced by Syed’s gleaming violet earrings accentuated by artful hair curls.

While she wears her pageant clothes with an enviable grace, Syed’s daily outfits are considerably less extravagant. In her daily life, Syed keeps up with current style trends, but she frequently picks and chooses the fashion fads that are best suited to her.

Ever practical, Syed almost always prefers comfort over glamour. Yet the beauty pageant in her cannot help but instinctively accessorize her simple outfits with delightfully functional scarves and outer layers, especially during the cold winter.

“Being in pageants has definitely made me a more confident person in all aspects of my life,” Syed asserts. “At the same time, it makes me appreciate being myself which sometimes means super casual and comfortable. It’s nice to take a break from all the makeup and pretty dresses and just be comfy!”



SAROSH SYED

MISS TEEN ANAHEIM REGIONAL

Tidying Up: the Magic of Marie Kondo

Keeping yourself organized can be the hardest job of a Troy student. But with Marie Kondo's methods you can experience a new adventure and learn how to be happy by keeping your room tidy.

By Hannah Adams, STAFF WRITER, and graphics by Tu-An Ngyuen, GRAPHICS

To Marie Kondo, "The space in which we live should be for the person we are becoming now, not for the person we were in the past."

As hard as it is to let go of the things we love, tidying expert and creator of the KonMari method, Marie Kondo, emphasizes that holding on to old memories is what ultimately keeps us from having a clean room. In her new Netflix series, "Tidying Up with Marie Kondo," she helps her clients tackle everything from harrowing heaps of clothes to impressive treasure troves of baseball cards. And despite the negative feelings associated with cleaning, Kondo's mission is to help her clients discover a newfound passion for tidying up while helping them get back to what makes them happiest.

Unlike typical organizational techniques, the goal of the KonMari method isn't to rapidly purge your house for short term results—it's about creating long-lasting spaces that are rich in sen-

timental value. It develops cleaning habits that will, in time, help you regain control. Rather than scrambling around from room to room with short bursts of energy, Kondo's method advises you to thoroughly evaluate the five classes of your cherished belongings: clothes, books, paper, sentimental items and "Komono." Komono essentially includes everything miscellaneous that doesn't classify as memorabilia, paper or books. Each lesson has its own set of guidelines, including clever folding and storing techniques. Altogether, the method is here to help you aesthetically store what matters and what will continue to benefit you in the future.

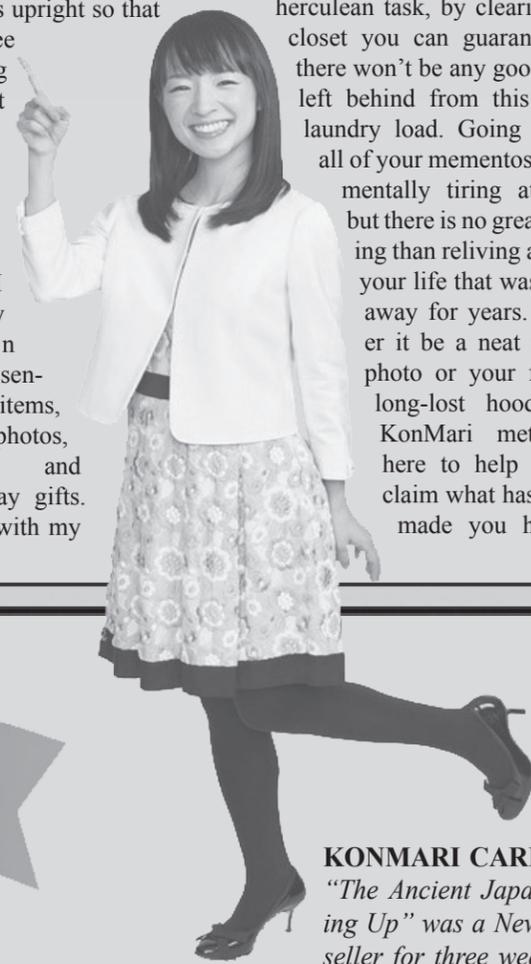
Feeling inspired, I decided to put Kondo's method to the test.

First, I set out all of my clothes on my bed, sorting them out by which ones sparked the most joy and had the most emotional appeal. If they lacked the "new clothes feeling" that I felt the first

time, I expressed gratitude for the memories to avoid any guilty feelings before I sent them on their way. After I was done with shirts and sweaters, I moved on to pants and other non-hangable items, repeating the same routine. For storing, the KonMari method recommends that you fold pants into thirds, placing them into bins and drawers upright so that you can see everything without digging around. Once I was finished with the clothes, I turned my attention towards sentimental items, such as photos, souvenirs and past birthday gifts. Like I did with my

clothes, I focused on the items that I had the strongest connection with, regardless of price and age. Although three hours of cleaning wasn't exactly exciting, it was freeing—no feeling can top having all of my clothes and keepsakes color-coordinated and kempt.

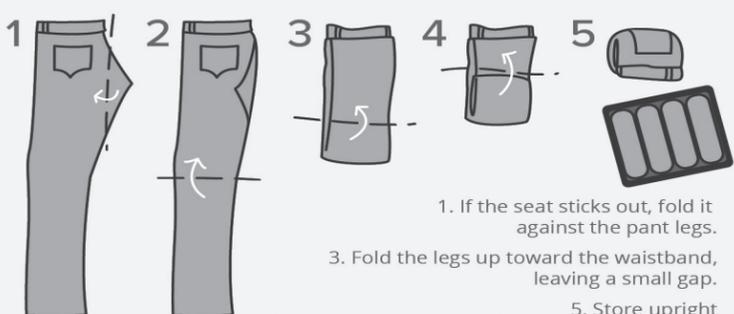
And while spending that much time cleaning may seem like a herculean task, by clearing your closet you can guarantee that there won't be any good outfits left behind from this week's laundry load. Going through all of your mementos can be mentally tiring at times, but there is no greater feeling than reliving a time in your life that was tucked away for years. Whether it be a neat room, a photo or your favorite, long-lost hoodie, the KonMari method is here to help you reclaim what has always made you happiest.



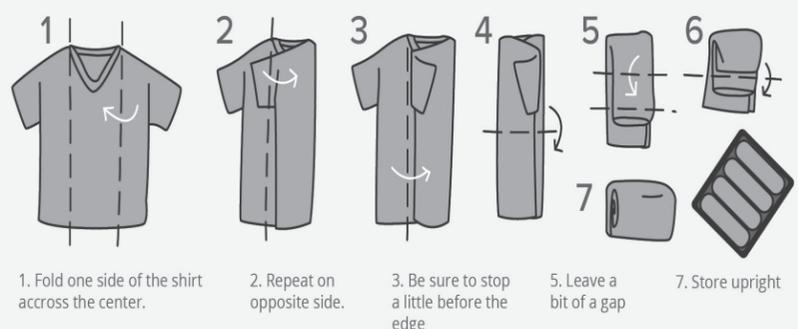
Do It Yourself!

KONMARI CARE: Marie Kondo's "The Ancient Japanese Art of Tidying Up" was a New York Times Best seller for three weeks in a row. Her new Netflix special only continues to spread the message of valuing the happiness an object can give us.

KONMARI PANTS FOLDING



KONMARI SHIRT FOLDING



A towering olive tree and a tiny, resilient fig tree are tested by the wind. As each group of children performs this skit with sweeping hand gestures and spirited voices, senior Judy Lee can't help but mirror their smiles. The performance is one of their monthly skits, easily found on a YouTube channel under the same name as Lee's storytelling program: My Bridge to the World. Beginning with only six other high school students as staff during her junior year,

the program has worked to enhance younger students' public speaking skills with activities ranging from vocal training to individual and group presentations. Now located at the Gospel YoungNak Church in Garden Grove, her program runs every Wednesday from five to six. Though it mainly spreads locally through word-of-mouth to surrounding cities, additional details can be found on its website, mybridgetotheworld.org. Through this endeavor, Lee aims not only to improve the children's public speaking skills, but also to create a warm, open space that encourages self-expression. When Lee speaks about her program, any bystander can easily discern the passion behind her words; a smile sneaks to her lips, her back straightens and her gaze doesn't waver. In this technology-ruled era,

Lee feels that people have lost essential parts of what she considers 'conversation,' such as hand gestures, eye contact and intonation. As such, she and her staff stress the importance of these elements so that the children can learn to express themselves more dynamically. The final product, a genuinely entertaining group skit or individual speech performed by smiling children without so much as a tremble in their voices, is rewarding for parents, kids and instructors alike. "There was a kid who didn't have a lot of confidence," Lee recalled. "Every time he talked, he would never look at me straight in the eye, [but] at the end of the summer session, he did a speech by himself. I literally almost cried when I watched him." However, simply improving the children's public

speaking skills isn't Lee's only goal—she wants to embolden them. Drawing inspiration from her parents, whose patience encouraged her to express herself, Lee tries to recreate the welcoming atmosphere of her childhood for the children. Slowly, the instructors' smiles, encouraging nods and listening ears yield bright grins, explosive chatter and honest thoughts. As the children's skills and confidence develop under Lee and her staff's guidance, they grow more open—just like Lee in her own youth. "Some of [the children's ideas] are really brilliant," Lee said. "I couldn't even imagine something like this coming from an eleven year old's mind. But then I realized that when I was eleven, I had a lot of stuff to speak about, too." Ultimately, while Lee refers to the program as a

'storytelling club,' it's a far cry from the traditional 'storytime' activities of monotonous reading. All of the high school volunteers are heavily involved; each one works with the children to help them develop self-confidence, public speaking skills along with creativity. "In this program, [students] won't just be bystanders and do it for the name," Lee explained. "[They'll] actually be purposeful. [For me,] seeing the kids change and seeing that my work is valuable is rewarding."

Shaking voices, unsure hands, nervous ticks—public speaking is a fear most people share. However, senior Judy Lee has a plan to inspire more confidence with her storytelling program, My Bridge to the World. So, speak up! Your words should be heard.

By Amber Huynh, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Katie Nguyen, CARTOON, and photo by Julianna Sabile, PHOTO EDITOR

CASTING CALL: *As the director of her program, senior Judy Lee is always looking for more people to help her bring more skits, represented by this wooden puppet house, to life. Potential volunteers may contact Lee at her email, crayj1718@gmail.com.*



Now Showing

Warrior boys soccer team trounces Buena Park Coyotes in a total shutout

Warrior boys grappled with opponents before triumphing over them.

By Sarah Son
STAFF WRITER

Displaying team unity, the Warrior boys soccer team (11-7-5, 6-3-1) defeated the Buena Park Coyotes 2-0 Jan. 23.

Following the Warriors' strong starting defense, junior Jordan Garcia skillfully took control of the ball, engaging in short and long passes across the field. Then, with a running start, junior Kade Mikkelsen stole the ball from the Coyotes to create numerous scoring chances. Adding on to the offense, senior Tye Hernandez pushed past the Buena Park defense, nearly scoring twice before opponents blocked his attempts. Rescuing the ball from flying out of bounds, Garcia and senior Eduardo saved time for additional plays.

The Warriors unceasingly challenged the Coyote goalkeeper, playing most of the game on the opposing side of the field. However, as a result of aggressive defense from both teams, the first

half ended in a 0-0 tie.

The second half kicked off with a multitude of scoring opportunities created by juniors Joe Martinez and Mikkelsen and seniors Jason Yoon and Arnold Gomez as Warriors came back with a stronger offense and defense. Senior Luis Garcia skillfully deflected all shots, achieving his third clean sheet in the league. After a foul by the Coyotes, Ramirez took advantage of the goal-scoring opportunity.

In the lead, the Warriors did

"We have good team chemistry, and winning the game was a collective effort. The players have really bought in and everyone just did their job."

Lester Maldonado
Coach

not back down and took a series of more unsuccessful shots. Ultimately, junior Trent Carillo made another goal, and the game concluded victoriously.

The Warrior success can be attributed to the developing teamwork, unity and harmony, coach Lester Maldonado said.

"We have eight returners on the

field; they understand each other and work well together," Maldonado said. "This senior class has been playing together for a few years now. We have good team chemistry, and winning the game was a collective effort. The players have really bought in and everyone just did their job."

In addition to the strong bonding among the upperclassmen, the new players' contributions strengthen the team synergy and skill, Gomez said.

"We do more activities [outside of soccer] together," Gomez said. "[Sometimes] we go to the movies or hang out during lunch. During the game, we played as a unit. We do anything we can to win every single game."

Their successful goals resulted from their thorough practices, Garcia said.

"We've been practicing very well," Garcia said.

"We train [with] shooting drills and the team defends and plays as a unit. This year, we brought out more players and firepower up front [with] a strong, fast attack to score [and] a solid defense—our communication improved and our chemistry as well. [Overall, the game] went really well. We did what we had to do and it paid off on the pitch."



JULIANNA SABILE

SWIFT FEET: Eyeing the ball, junior Jordan Garcia prepares to pass it to a teammate.

SHERILYN VILLANUEVA
JUNIOR GOLF

AVG. SCORE -1.7
5x TOP 5 FINISHES
7 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
CIF SOUTH. SECTIONAL WINNER

GRAPHIC BY PHOEBE UM, PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERILYN VILLANUEVA

FEBRUARY games calendar

	
<p>softball</p> <p>2-09 Savanna Showcase* 2-13 @Savanna 2-16 Savanna Showcase* 2-19 Segerstrom 2-20 @Brea Olinda 2-23 Savanna Showcase* 2-25 Coach Takk Classic 2-26 Coach Takk Classic 2-27 Coach Takk Classic 2-28 Coach Takk Classic</p> <p>* Tournament</p>	<p>baseball</p> <p>2-09 Warren 2-09 Warren 2-14 @Saddleback Valley* 2-16 Kennedy/La Palma* 2-18 Katella* 2-20 TBA* 2-22 TBA* 2-26 @Segerstrom</p> <p>* Tournament</p>
<p>girls' soccer</p> <p>2-06 CIF Round 1 2-08 CIF Round 2 2-16 CIF Semi Finals 2-22 CIF Finals 2-23 CIF Finals</p>	<p>boys' soccer</p> <p>2-07 CIF Round 1</p>
<p>boys' tennis</p> <p>2-20 Walnut 2-26 @Lutheran/Orange 2-28 Bolsa Grande</p>	<p>boys' golf</p> <p>2-28 Cerritos</p>
	<p>track and field</p> <p>2-20 @Don Lugo</p>

GRAPHIC BY TU-AN NGUYEN



MOVES ON FIRE

In light of the latest competition successes of the Red Hots and All Male dance teams, read about their recent preparations.

By Lucas Santos, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Kristen Perez, CARTOON, and photos by Julianna Sabile, PHOTO EDITOR

Twisting, leaping and stepping in unison with the beat, the Red Hots and All Male dance teams never fail to leave a lasting impression on the dance floor. While their performances are well-known around campus, far less is known about the hard work that they put in behind the scenes.

For the Red Hots, endless practice and refining of dances are essential to the team's outstanding routines that they put on at competitions and rallies, especially as they showcase numerous different dance styles.

Everyday, the teams practice during zero period, and additional practices are added as needed, said senior Mikayla Duncan.

"We perform jazz, contemporary, lyrical and hip hop routines," Duncan said. "We practice a lot so that we are able to execute all of the styles effectively."

Members of the Red Hots often practice outside of the team at other dance studios to better both themselves and the team as a whole, and the team consists of dancers who dedicate significant effort and exude high passion for the artistic styles, Duncan said.

"We need people who want to be a part of the Red Hots and are genuinely interested in dancing," Duncan said. "It isn't just something that you can add to your college application; it takes dedication."

To retain their high level of performance, Duncan and co-captain Samantha Kintzle lead the team both in practice and in competition.

The captains must prioritize the team and fellow teammates, Kintzle said.

"We have to make the Red Hots a priority and show that we care about the team and our danc-

ers," Kintzle said. "We also have to make sure that everyone is doing well."

On the other hand, the Troy All Male dance team also showcases routines on the dance floor and competes in numerous competitions throughout the season. Led by seniors Wonjun Seok and Aaron Villarreal, the team puts in work everyday to fulfill the potential of all of the talented team members.

The work is arduous at times, but it all pays off in the end, Seok said.

"For competitions we mostly just clean the dances," Seok said. "We also have to practice etiquette with other dancers from other teams, but other than that, it's mostly just cleaning the dance so that we perform well for the judges."

Despite their hard work, surprise setbacks can still hit the teams. At their first competition of the year, they did not place as well as expected, but Villarreal is confident that they can improve.

"We just have to let it slide and learn from what the judges say," said Villarreal. "We then focus on their critique and work on what is needed because we can always improve."

Both teams will be jumping into action in the West Coast Elite competition at Esperanza High School where they have aspirations to place Feb. 9. Highly confident, coach Alison Wills is sure that the teams can place extremely well at the regional competition to cement their qualifications for Nationals.

"Our main goal is to bring home a banner from state and nationals," Wills said. "I'm really excited for this team; there's a lot of heart and a ton of talent."

"We need people who want to be a part of the Red Hots and are genuinely interested in dancing... it takes dedication."

Mikayla Duncan
senior

