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Anonymous Confession Accounts Unmask the Very Worst in Us

Anonymous confession accounts have plagued the social lives of Warriors for many years. But is it the accounts themselves that are causing the damage, or is it the contributors? Read below to find out.

Compiled by Edyn Mai, OPINION EDITOR, article by Victoria Yang, STAFF WRITER

 **trxy_secrets**

no one likes u lol  

Anonymous confession accounts are not problematic—the people are. High schools throughout the country have seen a rise in anonymous social media accounts. Despite often starting with good intentions, most turn into toxic platforms for bullying. Even a school like Troy has its fair share of problematic anonymous accounts. Since at least 2018, numerous confession accounts have come and gone, one getting shut down this year. However, the anonymous platforms are not the problem, it is the people abusing them.

Anonymous confession accounts are meant to be open and positive platforms for students to communicate without fear. The early confessions were harmless, ranging from seeking advice to ask a crush out to ranting about classes or teachers. Amid student complaints about the homecoming theme, a confession stood up for school spirit and called for more excitement for the dance. Confession accounts are supposed to be a place for the activities that complete the high school experience, an inherently good intention.

Contrary to what many schools have seen, the success of confession pages is not just a utopian fantasy. After complaints about mice and bedbugs on a University of California, Berkeley Facebook page, local media caught wind of the story and the school addressed the issue. At Gunn High School in Palo Alto, Calif., anonymous indignation at the school's response to sexual assault assembled like-minded students in person for further advocacy. These are clear instances where anonymous platforms brought beneficial outcomes. It is difficult to publicly propose

unpopular opinions or complaints against the school. Often, issues lay dormant because nobody dares to speak out. If they do, it is difficult to ensure those. Even if issues will reach powerful people. Anonymous pages address these concerns—everyone can voice their concerns and opinions.

Granted, the moderation of anonymous confession pages often presents difficulties. However, effective filtering can establish a healthy environment. At Gunn High School, owners of an anonymous Facebook page reported a school shooting threat. The student was promptly apprehended and put under mental health evaluation. Erin Vetter, one of the administrators, disclosed to Palo Alto Online that there is no set rule, but she tries her best to filter out harmful material: "If it's about someone else, I think, 'If it was about me, would I want someone to say it?'" Despite voices encouraging these pages to post every single comment, owners must understand that these are public forums seen by a lot of students. Successful censorship by the owners is the key to a healthy confession account.

The consequences following failed moderation are often severe and demand action from the student population. There is a distinctive difference

between censoring students from speaking the truth and protecting targets of confessions from cyberbullying. The anonymity of these accounts only makes the bullying worse. Although authors of abusive posts are almost impossible to identify, there are still steps students are encouraged to take. If enough users report an account within a geographical proximity, it can be shut down. When accounts cross the line, it becomes just as deplorable as any other type of bullying. All students who witness cyberbullying on those platforms have a responsibility to report and block the account.

Anonymity is nothing more and nothing less than a tool. When abused, anonymous pages can become cesspools of torment hiding under the pretense of free speech. But when used responsibly, they can be effective tools to fill in the gaps of a high school experience, especially in pressure-cooker environments like Troy. It is time to stop blaming the knife for the murder—the accounts themselves did not cause their demise. All the abusive students and the lack of moderation of their comments did.



#attentionseeker

no one likes u lol 

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Schools should provide students with a safe space rather than violating their privacy

By Shailey Patel
STAFF WRITER



Parental rights should never come at the expense of those of the student.

Following the start of the school year, some public school districts have been looking into policies regarding students, their identity and the extent to which schools are liable to notify parents of a student's pronoun change. In July, the Chino Valley Unified School District became the first to adopt a policy requiring schools to inform parents if a student publicly identifies as transgender or gender-nonconforming, which was later also adopted by both Murrieta and Temecula Valley. Under this policy, school staff are required to contact parents within three days if they observe a student using names, pronouns, or facilities that differ from their biological sex. Although many policymakers believe this to be a sound decision considering parental rights over their children, this new guideline in schools is a direct violation of a student's right to privacy.

Students do not give up their natural rights by attending public schools. According to the California Department of Justice, all citizens have the right to keep their sexual orientation, gender identity, or

the fact that they are transgender private. A choice in a student's place of education should not make this constitutional right void, as doing so sends the message that being transgender means that one does not deserve the simplest human rights. This requirement of disclosure to parents of their student's identities is an infringement of the basic rights of students and removes a school's ability to make their students feel safe and secure.

Schools are put in a direct line of danger when they are permitted to give a students' private information to their family without their consent. Many transgender youth face the risk of being rejected or hurt by their parents or guardians following a change in their identity due to family values clashing with such changes. According to a 2021 study done by the American Academy of Pediatrics, 73% of transgender youth have reported abuse, 39% have reported physical abuse and 19% had reported sexual abuse. Although schools may think they are helping students by reporting identities to parents, they are directly putting students in a situation where they are more vulnerable to abuse or instability in the household. Schools need to respect students' reasons for keeping such private



PHOTO COURTESY OF KTLA5

information from their parents, as ignoring their needs exposes them to imminent danger.

This new policy instills a feeling of fear in students to be who they are. School serves the purpose of providing a location in which a student can be themselves without having to worry about their lives at home. A study from the Trevor Project found that fewer than 1 in 3 transgender and nonbinary youth feel that their home is gender-affirming. For these students, their school is the only place they can go to be themselves and be called whatever they wish. Rather than creating situations that

force a student to hide their identity both at school and at home, California schools should be making an effort to give their students more support as they transition.

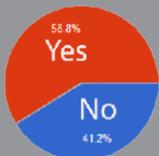
This unfair mandate puts transgender students who have already faced challenges in their gender transition at greater risk. The rights, wants and needs of the student should always be considered before making a decision that could completely change their lives. Instead of focusing on what the parents of these students would want, the California Board of Education should focus on the respect that their students deserve.

mark my words

Warriors speak out on campus issues

Hear what Troy Warriors have to say about the inclusion of new clubs for the 2023-2024 school year!

Should the creation of clubs become easier?



I believe it should be harder process to help limit the amount of clubs along with the fact that most people create clubs to help boost college apps. When application season is over clubs begin to stop being active.
- John Francis Santiago, senior

I feel like there is still a lot of repetitive clubs and some useless ones ...ASB INTERCLUB TRIED TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CLUBS... WE HAD 250 SOMETHING APPLICATIONS
- Grace Shin, senior

Do you think Troy has too many clubs?



Should Troy introduce a limit on the number of clubs?



Like Team Korea and Kpop Club, I think there can be potentially more merging clubs. Having a limit on the amount of clubs can streamline the club offerings and ensure that resources and student interests are focused more effectively...
-Reena Choe, senior

Since club creation is its own regulation on the number of clubs Troy has, the difficulty of it keeps the large number of clubs in check. Therefore, it should stay as it is.
-Alex Wang, sophomore

Creating a club should not be a stressful matter. While it is important to make sure that a club has a clear purpose and isn't simply a joke, it is also important to acknowledge the fact that people have very busy schedules and may be unable to find the time to complete a long report on their club.
-Eddie Chein, sophomore

Some clubs are just unnecessary and most people only create clubs for college applications.
-Vanisha Chaturvedi, sophomore

Just because clubs overlap on some topics does not mean they should be asked to merge. However, if there are topics that are exactly the same, then of course, the club should merge. But if the problem deviates from this, then there really should not be a limit in the number of clubs. A person who is interested in culture may not necessarily want to be in a club that focuses on dancing. Every club has a purpose and there is a high chance that a group of people will match that.

- Hanim Seok, junior

Problematic YouTube channels spread false expectations of a “perfect” family

By Kate Berger
STAFFWRITER

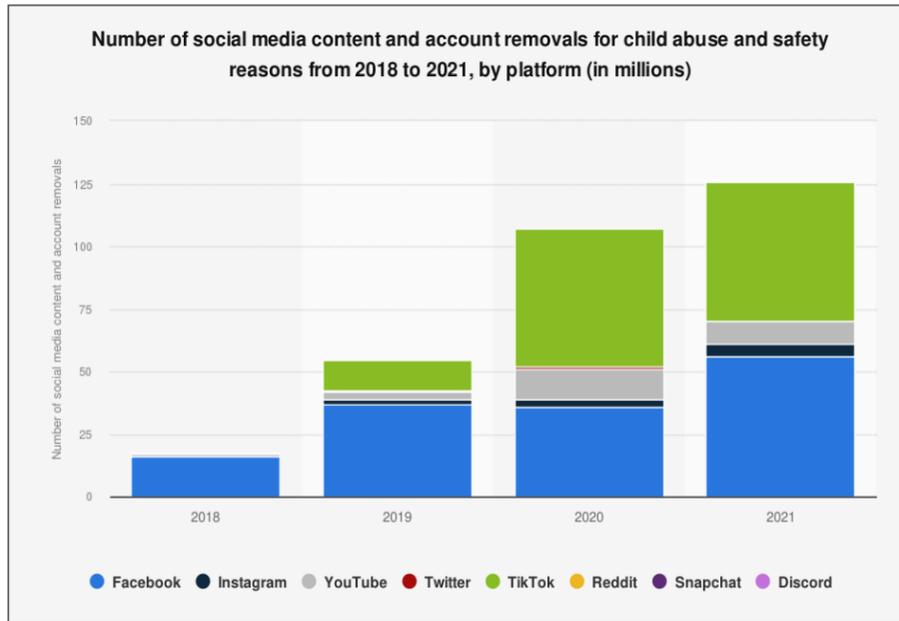


Infamous YouTube mom Ruby Franke was arrested for child abuse on Aug. 30, shining a light on the problematic nature of family YouTube channels. While Franke’s YouTube channel, 8 Passengers, was brought to a deserved end in August, countless other notable family accounts exploit their children for money and fame. The rise of social media has provided new ways for individuals to achieve fame, although some of these family accounts abuse that privilege through negligence, starvation and breaches of privacy for followers and views. These problematic channels must be shut down in order to prevent further exploitation and abusive behavior.

The popularity of such channels perpetuates false expectations of a “perfect” family by normalizing abusive parenting styles. The behavior displayed on the 8 Passengers’ channel and other abusive family platforms has the potential to influence their countless viewers into believing that the behavior is acceptable. Sebastian Cahill, a writer for Insider, states that Franke forced her oldest son, Chad, to sleep in a common room for seven months, devoid of privacy, or

an actual bed, as punishment for pranking his younger brother. The publicized exploitative behavior found on family YouTube channels is not only normalized, but also supports a tolerance to abusive behaviors. Since the behavior is publicly posted on social media, it is interpreted as socially acceptable and the depiction of “perfect” behavior within a “perfect” family. Influential family channels can promote abusive behavior, demonstrating why they need to be shut down immediately.

Another problematic aspect of these accounts is that often children may not have given their consent to have their lives documented on social media. Children who are born into the spotlight have no choice but to participate in public videos and display private moments of their lives to the world. On the 8 Passengers channel, Franke’s two daughters’, Julie and Abby, first time bra shopping was posted publicly. Demonstrating a clear act of exploitation, the post was a severe breach of their privacy, and also had the potential to ruin their social lives. Especially, teenagers who go to Julie and Abby’s school and viewed the video do not know any better may have felt inclined to tease them or make fun of the fact that a private moment of their lives was made public.



GRAPHICS COURTESY OF STATISTICA

In a now deleted video, Julie and Abby admitted that they had no friends, which could certainly have been impacted by the fact that every aspect of their lives is on the internet. The lack of friends and privacy has detrimental effects on children’s mental health, potentially leading to depression and anxiety. Such accounts must be taken down to prevent further breaches of privacy and impositions on children’s mental health and safety.

Problematic family YouTube channels need to be taken down to prevent

the normalization of abusive behaviors. Naive viewers of such channels could be negatively influenced as they watch parents physically and mentally abuse their children. The focal points of family YouTube channels, the children, see their mental health, privacy and social lives destroyed thanks to their parents’ selfish needs. YouTube channels that model the abusive behavior Ruby Franke exhibited must be taken down so that children are not exploited and viewers are not negatively influenced.

The media should not shame working moms

By Chelsea Engelhardt
STAFFWRITER



Recent news of the divorce of Sophie Turner and Joe Jonas has brought up rumors about their alleged bad parenting. According to People, Jonas, a member of the boy band the Jonas brothers and Turner, an actress known for her role in “Game of Thrones”, married in 2019. Following their divorce in September, allegations of bad parenting have appeared. Furthermore, Jonas’ public relations team has been helping to display the persona of a good father, displaying how easy it is for the media to immediately label someone a good or bad parent. The media demonizes women celebrities, which sets a harmful precedent.

Mothers should not be harassed for having their own life on top of motherhood. Whilst being away on a job, Turner was pictured in a British bar while Jonas was back in the U.S. watching the kids. The media used these photographs to portray Turner as an irresponsible mother and Jonas as a devoted father, leading to misogynistic criticism towards Turner. It is unreasonable to believe that a mother can not work, take care of her

kids and have her own independent life.

In a world influenced by the media, the absurd double standards in the media are clear-cut, because if it were the dad in Turner’s place he would be praised for providing for the family. Just like in the 1950’s when a working dad and a stay-at-home mom was the standard. The only reason the media is spinning this story is because a bad mom sells more than a “workaholic” dad, because that is the current standard. These are old and outdated standards of parenthood that “don’t exist” anymore and yet continually pop up in the media.

Dads are praised for the bare minimum when it comes to hanging out and taking care of their children. Joe Jonas was praised for acting like a father, while Turner was shamed for living her life. There are double standards with child care in the eyes of the mother versus the eyes of the father. In the views of the media, the mother is considered the main caretaker in the household. The duty of parenthood should not just be the burden of the mother and the media needs to start to see this too. Overall, mothers are constantly harassed for trying to fit all the standards thrown at them by the media as well as continuing to live for themselves.

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TROY HIGH SCHOOL

New classrooms to be added near the 900 buildings with recent ongoing construction

Eight new buildings adjacent to the 900 buildings are projected to be completed by early Spring 2024.

By Samantha Luo
STAFF WRITER

FJUHSD started construction of new classrooms near the 900 buildings Sept. 12 to address the need for more classrooms.

To initiate plans for construction, Principal William Mynster, Assistant Principal Lance Bletscher and members of the district facility met in October 2022 to discuss replacing the portables throughout campus.

Of the six portables, four have been in place for 12 to 14 years, while the other two were added about eight years ago. The plan for construction aims to replace all six portables with eight new adjoining classrooms, which will be numbered 1001-1008.

An increased demand for the addition of new classrooms was created on campus following the COVID-19 pandemic. After school resumed in-person, many spaces on campus such as the Wellness Center were created to prioritize students' mental health and were assigned to campus psychologists. This led to a lack of space for teaching.



PHOTO BY LAUREN SONG

DIGGING DEEP: A Hitachi excavator clears surrounding rubble as previously leased portables are being transported to make way for further construction.

Compared to the portables, which were roughly 900-960 square feet, the new rooms will be a third larger, at 1200-1280 square feet. The construction is predicted to end by early Spring 2024, and instruction will begin in Fall of 2024.

The original blueprint planned to move data lines, fiber optics and metal plates that covered

power lines for an additional \$180,000. Due to the added costs, the formatting of classrooms was later changed in the planning process, to seven classrooms in a row with the eighth classroom behind the seventh.

Due to the fact that Troy is still renting a few of the portables, it was more fiscally responsible to build a permanent

set of classrooms, Bletscher said.

"The district board found an opportunity to make something that is an investment for the future," Bletscher said. "It is a lot of money upfront, but in the long run, it will be a better financial investment."

Though not yet finalized, at least two of the new classrooms will be dedicated to the science department, while NJROTC could potentially receive another room close to where their squad bay is, Bletscher said.

"Most of the science department does not have their own [classroom], [so] it is a huge improvement to get two new spaces when we have been running out of space," Bletscher said. "[This will] benefit everyone, from students across the board [to] a few teachers who will not have to be traveling as much."

Following the construction, the road near the 900 buildings will likely be repaved and the overhead lines will be trenched and put under the street as an extra safety precaution, Bletscher said.

"We are excited to have [the portables] cleaned up, and that will give us an opportunity to make the campus look a little nicer," Bletscher said. "These are things that we are looking at to try and give the campus a little bit of a facelift."

Team Korea danced their way to the cultural Mid-Autumn Festival for the first time

In celebration of mooncake season, Team Korea performed at the Mid-Autumn Festival at Mt. San Antonio College.

By Paulina Lee
STAFF WRITER

In celebration of the Mid-Autumn Harvest, Warrior K-pop dance team, Team Korea performed at the Mid-Autumn Festival at Mt. San Antonio College Oct. 1.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is traditionally celebrated by many East and Southeast Asian cultures. While music, attire and cuisine vary by culture, the festival typically features food vendors, shopping stalls and live cultural performances.

Traditional Chinese mooncakes are often eaten in celebration of the Mid-Autumn moon.

Following the merge of Team Korea and the former Warrior Kpop Club, club members attended the festival under one name. Team Korea dancers performed while other members distributed Korean snacks and aided senior citizens attending the festival.

Team Korea performed two songs, "DM" and "Stay This Way," by Korean girl group fromis 9. According to Team Korea Co-President Yujean Jeung, the team collectively chose these songs for their upbeat tempo as well as their casual and fun melodies.

"I am excited to make memories by enjoying the performance," Jeung said. "[Since] the songs we are performing next month are more fitted for a festival vibe,



PHOTO BY REAGAN LI

dancing to it with pretty outfits on would be fun for all of us."

In preparation for the performance, the dancers practiced twice a week after school and on weekends. Planning practices were challenging due to their different grade levels and commitments. To maintain team dynamics, members needed to communicate extensively and coordinate their schedules.

Despite the struggles to find a balance, Team Korea persevered for their first-ever Mid-Autumn culture festival performance. According to Jeung, the group was excited about their performance being later in the evening as it was their first evening performance.

"Our [past] performances were usually from two to six p.m. [The Mid-Autumn Festival] is at six, but we are one of the closing performances," Jeung said. "We are the second to last act to perform."

The festival was hosted by Panana Events, which is known for its large-scale outdoor events. Most of their events feature hundreds of attendees. According to Jeung, the team was initially nervous about being invited to such a big event by such a popular organization.

"Also since it is a festival we are going to, we are likely to stay after the festival and enjoy other performances, vendors and other activities provided by the Panana Market," Jeung said.

The difficulties and hardships the team went through made the group stronger and confident.

"We grew a lot as a team," Jeung said. "Although we still have some [aspects] that we still do not understand and might still not like, we are now up to a point where we can understand each other and make some sacrifices for the better of our team."



PHOTO BY REAGAN LI

Warrior interns produce documentary about city road conditions featured by the Fullerton Observer

The documentary aims to inform viewers about the low quality of Fullerton's streets.

By Jenny Huang
STAFF WRITER

Warrior filmmakers had their documentary "The Road to Ruin: A Documentary of Fullerton's Failing Infrastructure" published by the Fullerton Observer Sept. 1.

As the only independent Fullerton newspaper, the Observer informs Fullerton citizens about local news and events. In an effort to raise awareness about the state of Fullerton's roads, student interns for the Fullerton Observer created a documentary about the history of the city's streets.

The documentary discusses the poor quality of Fullerton's roads and explores ways to improve them. According to co-director Jason Hwang, the production team originally underestimated the amount of research the topic necessitated.

"We thought [the filmmaking process] would [be] a lot shorter, but we realized how much of an important problem this was to the community," Hwang said.

After his internship mentor Adrian Meza proposed the idea, Hwang expressed an interest in making the documentary. With five other interns, Hwang began working on the film in early

June, finishing six weeks later.

To collect different perspectives on the topic, the interns interviewed a variety of Fullerton residents. After reaching out, interviewers were able to speak with the Fullerton mayor, several city council members and California state senator Josh Newman.

The interview process helped the students develop their interpersonal communication skills, Hwang said.

"[In] some of the impromptu interviews we had to do, we had to go up to random people on the street and ask them [questions]," Hwang said. "We would get a lot of [refusals], but sometimes we would get a few interesting answers."

According to communications director Krish Gupta, the team faced difficulties during production. Interviewers struggled to line up schedules, and writers initially lacked sufficient research to fill the script. Seeing the finalized product published and receiving attention made the challenges worthwhile, Gupta said.

"I really enjoyed working with my coworkers and everyone that worked on the documentary...it was fun hanging out with them everyday," Gupta said. "After [the documentary] got published, it was rewarding to see that it became the most viewed video on the Fullerton Observer YouTube channel."



PHOTO COURTESY OF FULLERTON OBSERVER

DOCUMENTARY DEVELOPMENT: Senior Krish Gupta acted as the Head of Communications on the documentary production team. The team worked around scheduling challenges and initial lack of script material, attending meetings to coordinate and collaborate effectively.

With seven people collaborating on the film, the production process largely involved teamwork. Directors, writers and editors collaborated to put each part of the project together. Everyone on the team contributed and effectively communicated, Gupta said.

"Our dynamic as a team was amazing, and everyone complemented each other so well that it worked," Gupta said. "We also took field trips to different locations in Fullerton, and I saw places I had never seen before."

While conducting research, the team commonly encountered dead ends. After spending hours looking for information, it was gratifying to find it and receive support from friends, Hwang said.

"The most important thing I learned is that no matter how long [it takes], if you have people around you supporting you, then you can get anything done together," Hwang said. "Even if you face some challenges and setbacks, if you push hard enough, you are going to get it done."

Warrior Red Cross hosts blood drive to address national blood donation shortage

Warrior Red Cross members collected blood to relieve the national blood shortage crisis.

By Salman Waheed
STAFF WRITER

To combat the ongoing national blood donation shortage, Warrior Red Cross collected over 112 units of blood at a blood drive Sept. 15 in the South Gym.

Following the pandemic, blood drive collection numbers gradually decreased. Many locations shut down their drives during the pandemic, resulting in an increased demand for blood in hospitals throughout the country.

Storms like Hurricane Idalia further contributed to the strain on blood supply. The obstruction of travel in the Southeast due to the tropical storm forced the cancellation of blood drives and the collection of blood and platelet donations. Amid this nationwide emergency, all active blood drives hosted in the U.S. are sending out their donations to hospitals faster than they are being received.

Since young adults are considered the most viable donors for blood, the American Red Cross hosts most of its

donation drives at high schools. Each school year, Warrior Red Cross aims to coordinate at least four major blood drives and one mini-blood drive toward the end of the school year.

Warriors must meet certain requirements to donate blood at the drives. Needed most during the ongoing crisis, the Red Cross particularly looks for type O donors. Students 17 or older may only be eligible to donate depending on their weight and height.

According to Red Cross Vice President Ellie Huang, months of planning go into coordinating blood drives, especially when dealing with a blood shortage. Organizing drives requires constant communication with the county and organizational resources, Huang said.

"We have to communicate with the OC Chapter and the American Red Cross for resources, assign tasks to the younger members of the board and teach them how to do check-ins and sign-outs and how to do call slips and send them out," Huang

said. "We are also responsible for the more significant part of planning, which is to coordinate with the office and our advisor Mrs. Kirkpatrick."

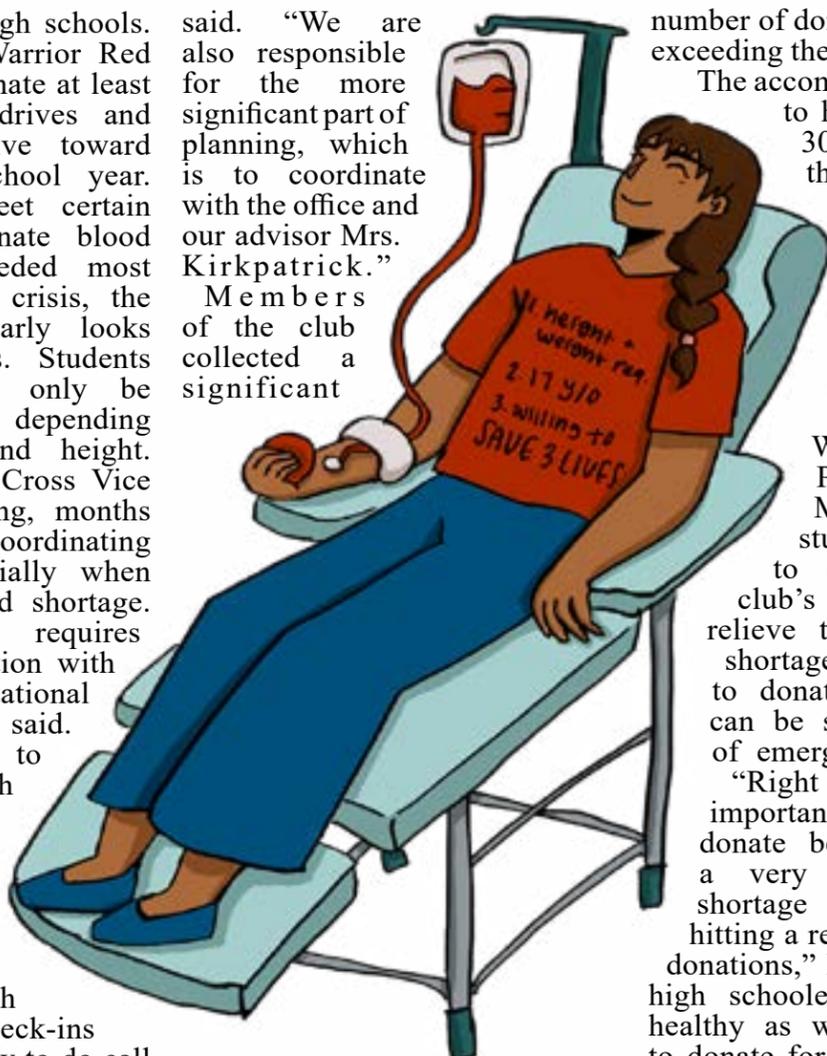
Members of the club collected a significant

number of donations at the drive, exceeding their goal of 100 units.

The accomplishment was said to have saved roughly 300 lives, given that one donation can save three lives. As the year continues on, the club will increase their goals for every blood drive.

According to Warrior Red Cross President Trisha Mehta, every student who chooses to contribute to the club's cause will help relieve the nation's blood shortage. By choosing to donate, countless lives can be saved in this time of emergency, Mehta said.

"Right now, it is very important for students to donate because we are in a very critical, national shortage and have been hitting a really low amount of donations," Mehta said. "Being high schoolers, as young and healthy as we are, being able to donate for those in need is a crucial necessity right now."



CARTOON BY ALICIA YOON

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL 2023 TROY TECH MENTORS!

Compiled by Mary Kim and Kira Chen, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Abbott Labs
Aidtree
AIH Lab Matrix Solutions
Alexus Home Healthcare
Amador Motorcars
Amen Clinics
Americo Builders
Amighini-Herrero
Ampersand Capital
Anaheim Healthcare Center
Anaheim Public Works Department
Angeles Contractor
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Arc Animal Hospital
Aream Cargo Transport System Inc.
Arki LLC
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AstroAI
Athletes In Motion
Atlas Assembly Inc.
Austin Commercial L.P.
Bach Diagnostics
Balcaceres Bros Tow
Beomni AI
Biola University Engineering Department
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Blast Athletics
Bloom
Boeing
Boys and Girls Club of La Habra
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CrystalLyte
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Fullerton Arboretum
Fullerton Express Pharmacy
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Get Safe
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Google
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Henry Kaw M.D.
Hoag Health Center
Horizon Brands
Horizon Manufacturing Industries Inc.
Howard Johnson Anaheim
HTT Machine Shop
Hummingbird Tek
I-Mar
Independent Car Specialists
Infectious Disease Clinic
Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center
Ishkaster Media
ISO Elite Basketball
ISYS Solutions
J & F Headwear Inc.
Jenny B Floral Design
Jesus Hands Montessori School
JH Real Estate Partners Inc.
Ji Y. Park DDS, MS Inc.

K & D Graphics
K-POP Center
Kaddy's Computer Repair
Kairos A.T.I. Inc.
Kaiser Permanente
Keck Graduate Institute
Kerr Floors
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Kumar Corp.
LA District Attorney's Office
LA Metro Transportation
La Palma Nursing Center
Lam Optometric Group/Lenscrafters
Law Offices of Perez and Perez
Law Offices of Yohan Lee
Lim Rehabilitation and Chiropractic
Little Nalu Pictures
Los Alamitos Medical Center
Loving Dental
Lundquist Institute
MacGinnis Orthodontics
MacGroup and Associates
Maersk
Marshall B. Ketchum University
Maverick Theater
McKenna Labs
Memry
Metrocell Construction, Inc.
Minuteman Press
Monere Security Solutions
Morgan Stanley
Mosier Eye Center
Multicultural Family Children Center
Musical Theatre West
MX Graphics Inc.
MyCardiologist - Heart Specialists
of Orange County
Nicos Automattizari
NOC Selpa
Northrop Grumman
Northwestern University Materials Science
NuVation Pain Group
O Arch Inc.

O'Neill
OC Elder Law
OC United
OCLA Events
Oldham Architects
Orange County Telescope
Orangeview Junior High
Orlando Spring
Pacific Rim Capital
Pedal Barn Bikes
Peraton
Preferred Excellent Care Pharmacy
Premium Health Solutions, Inc.
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Prosperity MD
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SAGE Holistic Health & Wellness Center
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STAR Pharmacy
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Stephen Chou DDS
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Surflife
T-Z Enterprises
Taekwon Story
Technology Mechanics
Thakur Law Firm, APC
The Nauheim Straus Charitable Foundation
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UCI Informatics Department
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Workspan
Yale School Of Medicine
Youth on Course



Melodic Muses

This fall, highly anticipated music has been coming out left and right! Get in the mood to rock out by exploring the meanings and melodies behind these albums.

Compiled by Kaitlyn Zhang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Bianca Naranjo, STAFF WRITER, photos courtesy of Vogue

Olivia Rodrigo



Spill your guts out with this musical whirlwind of emotions! “GUTS” by Olivia Rodrigo waves in a second era of Rodrigo’s individual pop career, following her angsty, heartbreak-focused album “Sour.” “GUTS” continues this story with a quick shift into a womanly perspective while still holding notes of her teenage naivety. Rather than focusing on a “first love” narrative, Rodrigo elaborates on casual relationships, dating around and experimentation from a more experienced account. As she enters a less restrictive part of her youth, she embraces her naivety and faces adolescence with a new sense of confidence. However, in contrast to this more exploratory perspective, Rodrigo also defines the limits of adulthood, specifically women’s societal expectations that abruptly breach into her life. With slow, melancholic songs like “Lacy,” the soft acoustic strings claw at the audience’s own heartstrings and allow them to feel the despair behind self-consciousness. Alternately, impassioned songs with punk-rock style vocals like “Ballad of a Homeschooled Girl” portray a reaction more akin to feminine rage, weaving in a range of emotions that reflects the profuse impact of prejudices that women are expected to cooperate with. Rodrigo speaks not only for herself, but for the teenage girls and women around her when she creates this tapestry consisting of the vivid experiences that accompany adolescence.

Mitski

As days grow colder and falling leaves become a tribute to what once was summer, the slower, softer melodies of Mitski’s latest album are guaranteed to strike a chord in ballad-loving hearts across the world. Mitski’s “The Land is Inhospitable and So Are We,” released Sept. 15, marks a milestone in her career as her seventh studio album. The album discusses her experiences and past emotions, shifting to a more reflective perspective in contrast to her previous dense, in-the-moment songs with more fluctuating harmonies. Her stabilized sound also indicates a stabilization in Mitski’s life, portraying how she has matured and flourished outside of her music. Country and folk influence is prevalent throughout the album, contributing to the peaceful, dreamy harmonies and bittersweet undertones that line the music. The album’s dream-like sound perfectly intertwines the harmonies with her lyrics. She is never quite “in the moment,” but rather, is an observer of her own life, in a constant state of examination. In the song “When Memories Snow,” Mitski contemplates what has occurred in her life, then gently gathers inspiration for what she believes the future can hold. Her music is a peaceful unification; Mitski does not seek to establish a structured narrative, but rather, she softly swoons all of her audience into falling into a surreal, speculative journey through the beauty life has to offer.



Doja Cat

When does red-hot confidence cross the line into a red-handed scandal? Doja Cat’s new album

“Scarlet” has emerged amidst the influence of new controversies, shifting to individualistic themes in her music and inciting more negative reactions from her audience. Recently, she discussed her past albums in a condescending tone, stating that her fans were idiotic “falling for the cash grab,” a label she has assigned to her past music. However, with what may seem like an empowering, individualistic embrace of her identity, Doja Cat has disregarded the impact of her listeners. She owes nothing to her general pop fans, but actively devaluing their contributions comes across as pretentious on her part. Their support is essential to her career, and she is not entitled to antagonize them for being displeased with her statements. In newly released songs like “Paint the Town Red” and “Attention,” Doja Cat implies that she found comfort in her individuality, allowing her to push aside doubts related to her audience’s enjoyment of her music. Along with these themes of personal identity and image, Doja Cat embraces a more masculine style in “Scarlet,” opting for lengthy raps and shifting to a more laid-back vocal intonation, in contrast to her well-known spunky, flamboyant and high-pitched vocals. Yet, with all of these changes, she remains resistant to acknowledge her role in her own controversies. She brandishes a free-spirited, careless alter-ego, but fails to consider the consequences of the blissful ignorance that comes with it. New audiences and new commentary regarding her music have flourished as a result, but a profound dent has been engraved in her reputation.



RHAM UNITY LEADERS

Learn more about Red Hots and All Male's newest leadership team and their goals for the year. Follow the Warrior's dance teacher, Mrs. Gates, on her journey to inspire!

Compiled by Tyler Cordova, SPORTS EDITOR, articles by Finley Dalley and Kusuma Kothamasu, STAFF WRITERS, photos by Lauren Song, PHOTO EDITOR, graphics courtesy of Canva

The new school year began with changes made to the Red Hots and All Male dance teams. With the newly selected Captains, Co-Captains and Unity Leaders, the teams have become more organized.

The Unity Leaders consist of sophomores Olivia Won, Michael Coglianese, junior Claire Blume and seniors Alana Alvarado and Brooklyn Slizer. This leadership was created to build team dynamic through different group activities.

"Our job is to make sure that there are no conflicts, everyone's happy, and if there are any issues, they should come to us, just [for] a peer perspective," Won said.

This year, senior David Lee was appointed All Male Captain and junior Hanseo Kang was appointed Co-Captain. Seniors Paige Starr and Summer Siddiqui were appointed Red Hots Captains and junior Sofia Borromeo was appointed Co-Captain.

The Captains, Lee described, are expected to lead the team when the Coach is unavailable. Similarly, the Co-Captains step up when the Captains are not available to guide the team.

"There's a lot more organization because having the person in charge of a certain topic or job helps to be more organized rather than having every-body just figure it out," Lee said. All the leaders were selected through an application and interview

process in which only returning dance team members were allowed to participate in. The applicants answered questions including why they wanted the position, and what that responsibility meant to them.

Following applications, they were interviewed by the coach, where they reiterated their answers from the form.

However, the majority of the changes were made to the dance teams' schedules. They began practicing earlier in the summer, giving them a head start, allowing for the hope of better performances this season.

More rules, including strictness with punctuality, have been enforced to ensure the hard work put into the team stays consistent.

"We're off to a great start and moving a lot faster than last year because we're emphasizing on these changes a lot more," Lee said.

In terms of competition, Won believes these changes would help them become more unified as a team, allowing them to perform better, considering the Red Hots' change in competition schedule with the team going to a different nationals than last year.

"Nobody wants to come into 7:00 a.m. practice with people that they're uncomfortable with," Won said. "Being able to grow closer and have those new changes really



MOVING WITH CONFIDENCE: Red Hots and All Male show off their stunning synchronized dance moves at the Homecoming Rally Oct. 6.

helped us feel more together as a team, which affects our performances and how much we want to be here."

Lee believes the team has a big advantage due to their early practice and could win first or second place

during competitions this year.

"A big value that we set this year is to be sure that once we get off that stage, we feel that we performed our best, and that it's not about the titles or trophies that we win," Won said.

Driven to Dance

One of the Warriors' many remarkable teachers, Mrs. Arielle Gates, brings to her dance students an immeasurable work ethic of kindness and passion for the sport. Having begun to dance at only 6 years old, Gates was immediately hooked by the captivating pastime. Gates danced competitively her entire childhood and by highschool, knew she wanted to pursue

it in the long run. She came to this exciting realization after encouraged from her highschool dance teacher.

"My highschool dance teacher had a big influence on making me want to take that step," Gates said. "She was always supportive of the fact that I loved to dance and encouraged me to follow my passion."

Prior to teaching for the Warriors,

Gates went to California State University of Long Beach, where she competed on their team while majoring in dance. Following this dancing pathway she had passionately paved for herself, Gates went on to join the all star dance team, Pace Elite, after college. With this team she experienced one of the most unforgettable moments of her dance career, making it to and performing at World Championships.

"All different groups from all over the world would compete together," Gates said. "I won three world titles with that team, which was a very memorable experience."

After making it to world championships twice, Gates began her first teaching career at Santa Margarita High School. She taught dance there for 6 years before eventually joining the Warriors. Through teaching at Santa Margarita, Gates discovered many different teaching techniques in which she now applies when working with the Warriors.

Gates describes her first year with the Warriors to be one largely focused on building connections with her students, in which she quickly formed bonds that made both the team and classes incredible places to be.

She worked hard to create a balanced environment in her classroom, trying her best to be firm while simultaneously fueling her students' passion for dance. Her hard work and dedication towards her students paid off when they performed their spring show, "RAI23 THE FLOOR!" which she described as her favorite memory from her first year with the Warriors.

"My most memorable moment would probably be our end of the year spring show," Gates said. "And being able to see not only the team, but all the classes come together and see what they've been working on all year."

After having such an incredible introduction to the Warriors, Gates wants all of her teams and classes to leave every performance or competition feeling as though they did better than the previous one. Striving for everyone to be able to learn from dancing, regardless of whether they dance because they are trying to fulfill a graduation credit, or because they are passionate about it.

"In general, I'm big on committing and putting in the effort," Gates said. "You don't have to be perfect, I really try to instill in them that it's about committing to something and giving it your all, even if you make mistakes along the way."



THOUGHTFUL TIPS: Mrs. Gates gives advice to her dance students on poses, preparing for their group dance performance.

ABHI NEET



The Science Guy

Senior Abhineet Maini shines through his contributions to the scientific community. Don your lab coat and read more about his journey of perseverance and passion below.

Compiled by Eileen Um, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Helen Fang, **STAFF WRITER**, photograph courtesy of Abhineet Maini, graphics by Canva

The computer screen emits a soft periwinkle glow as the bedside clock chimes 3 AM. Into the early morning, senior Abhineet Maini remains perched at his desk, typing away at his genetics history report for a course halfway around the world at Cambridge University. The 17-year-old scientist and author grinds through the late nights, driven by an inextinguishable resolve to better the world through science. Between managing The Maini Research Foundation, completing his university course work and collaborating with college associates, Maini knows from experience that every great achievement comes from years of hard work and dedication.

Maini's fascination with neuroscience began with his sixth grade unit on brain anatomy. Growing up in India, Maini had taken biology, chemistry, and physics every year, but one particular lesson on the prefrontal cortex kindled a blazing passion within him. Despite neuroscience's infamous complexity, Maini devoted himself to uncovering the brain's inner workings. His curiosity in the nuances of the human mind drove him to write his first research paper in 6th grade. Despite being unpublished, it ignited the confidence needed to step into the scientific world. Maini continued to reach for the next publication through middle school and into the 9th grade, honing his analysis and refining his research. His ingenuity enlightened the field of neuroscience and piqued the interest of the undergraduate neuroscience program at Harvard University. Having to balance Troy's substantial workload and the rigor of one

of the most prestigious universities in the world presented a challenging juggling act, pushing Maini to new limits.

"The [work] puts you in a spot where you feel like [asking] 'What am I doing?' But this is life," Maini said. "I know internally I'm going to get it done; that's enough motivation for me."

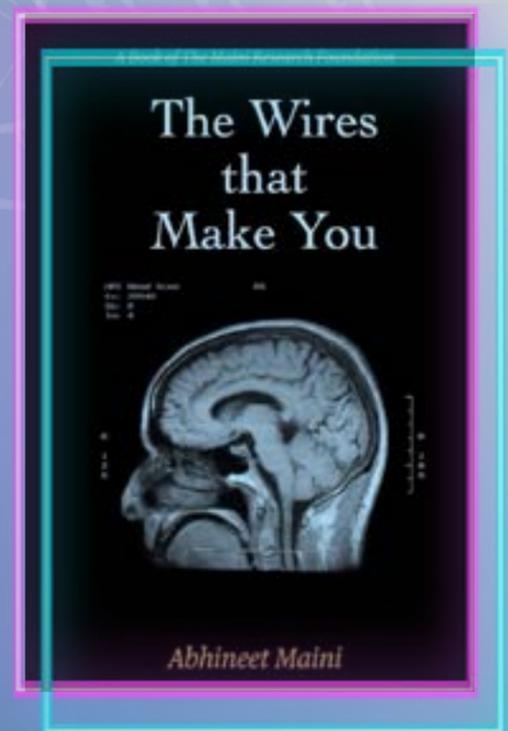
Equipped with a greater understanding of his own capabilities, Maini had a spark of inspiration for his most ambitious project yet: a research organization with the mission of promoting scientific excellence in the world. With the support of his loved ones, Maini filed the necessary paperwork, created a website, and established the headquarters for The Maini Research Foundation his junior year. Since then, his organization has passed on the torch of scientific advancement to others, providing a platform for aspiring researchers to publish and peer review papers on neuroscience, organic chemistry, and quantum mechanics. Each small detail needs to be delegated and accounted for, expanding Maini's skills in leadership and communication. The founding of his research foundation did not quench Maini's ambition, instead, fueling it.

He recognized that one of the most pressing issues in the field of research was its inaccessibility to the general public. Elaborate syntax and domain specific jargon often scares people away from valuable research, Maini believes. Dedicated to his cause of making higher level research understandable, Maini traded his lab equipment for pen and paper and began to write his first book,

The Wires That Make You. The drafting process was far from smooth, filled with writing blocks and strikethroughs, with Maini often questioning why he took on such a lofty goal in the first place. But with the steadfast support of his loved ones, Maini persisted through bleak moments of frustration by once again finding light in his limitless mentality.

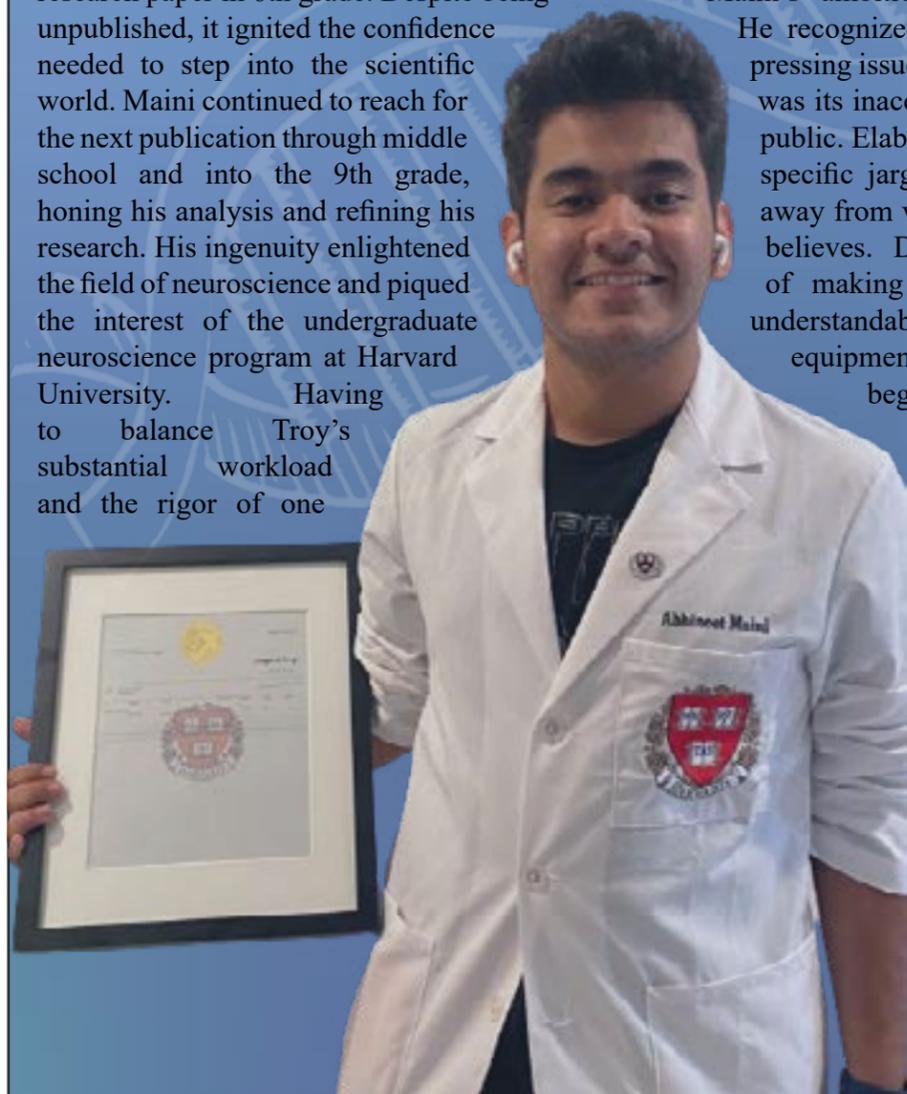
"There's absolutely nothing I can't handle," Maini said. "I just took a break and got back to working."

When his book was finally published in June, Maini was initially taken back by the onslaught of critical judgments he received from his much larger audience of everyday people. Accustomed to writing exclusively for academia, readers would send emails or approach Maini at school to point out flaws in his work, which Maini originally met with surprise. Overtime, he grew to value such feedback as a testament to his mission,



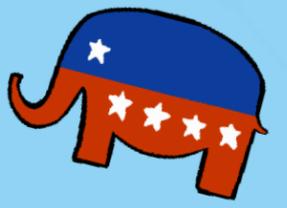
allowing him to become more open-minded and aware of places for improvement. Despite having accomplished much by the young age of 17, Maini is not one to burnout and rest on his laurels. Currently, Maini is writing the final installment in his upcoming book series and completing his genetics diploma at Cambridge University. He hopes to attend Harvard and complete his general education before pursuing pre-med and becoming a neurosurgeon. With graduation in sight and three years of Troy behind him, Maini reflects on the importance of appreciating the unique light within oneself, despite the hardships of academically challenging environments.

"There is no standard way to success," Maini said. "My ways of success were this, but everyone has different times of success. There is no point in comparing yourself to someone else because you're a different human being; you work differently."



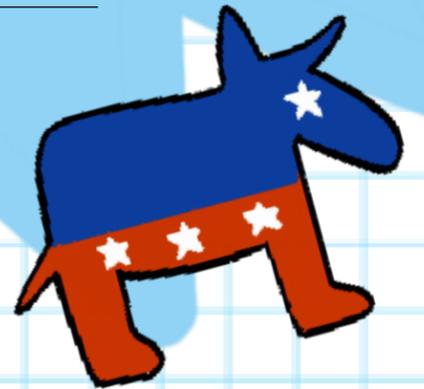
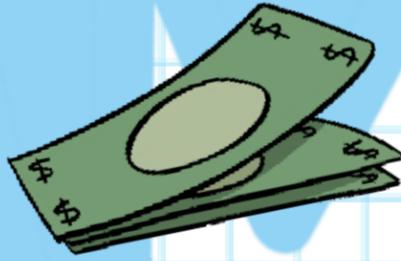
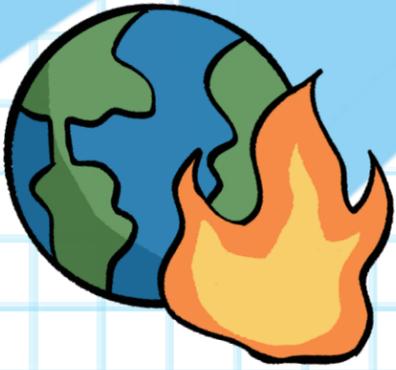


CON TROVERSY CON SCIOUSNESS



At the root of every heated controversy is a deeply important aspect of someone's life.
Learn how we can collectively bloom a fruitful change of approach!

Compiled by Zoey Bahng, LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Celeste Hollingsworth,
STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Alicia Yoon, CARTOONS, graphics courtesy of Canva



Through the turbulence of these past few years, all aspects of teens' lives have been battered by rampant controversies. So much so, that people have become desensitized to the chaos of raging arguments—online or face to face—between friends, strangers and even celebrities. Because of this concerning norm, it is crucial to make a deliberate effort to reverse the damage by maturely approaching these conversations. When confronted with caution and empathy, productive discussions can lift important issues into the much needed societal spotlight to redefine this generation's approach to social activism.

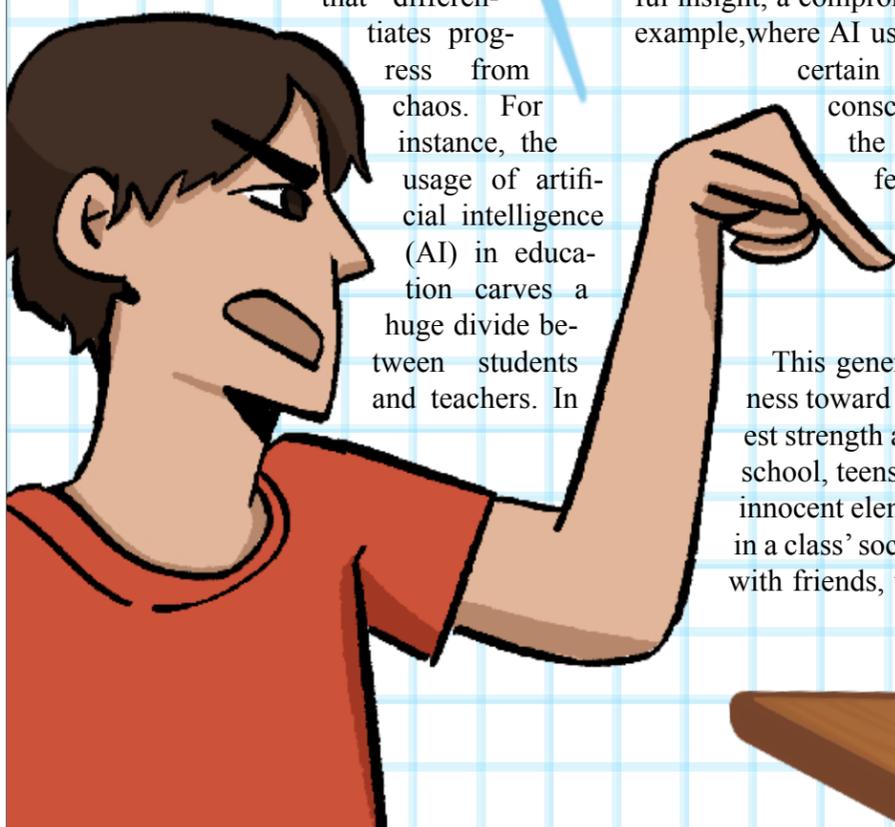
The tendency to erupt without first trying to acknowledge differing perspectives takes the purpose of problem solving and distorts it into rash impulses. When matters deeply concern the societal, economic and personal lives of millions, diverging viewpoints are inevitable. It is how we approach these variances that differentiates progress from chaos. For instance, the usage of artificial intelligence (AI) in education carves a huge divide between students and teachers. In

a positive light, AI learning tools such as ChatGPT or Mathway help facilitate learning in ways previously inaccessible to students who cannot afford expensive tutors. Many students have fervently defended the software systems, taking full advantage of their resources, prompting AI to write their essays and solve their math worksheets. On the other hand, the temptations of completing a two-week assignment with one click becomes nearly impossible for teenagers to resist, which is why some people caution that the easy access lures students toward laziness and academic dishonesty. Teachers have even gone so far as to entirely ban the usage of AI in their classrooms. Split by the conflicting conveniences granted by AI's accessibility, one must zoom out to see multiple perspectives and recognize the gravity of this situation. Like most controversies, it reaches beyond just our small problems of homework, but bleeds into careers and livelihoods too. Instead of impulsively attacking, one should take a moment to detach their personal emotions and rationalize the situation. Through thoughtful insight, a compromise can be reached—for example, where AI usage is permitted only for certain assignments. Without consciously practicing reason, the habit of disregarding different opinions can spread like wildfire, billowing a thick smoke that blurs reason and poisons intentions.

This generation's impressive openness toward diversity is both its greatest strength and worst caveat. In high-school, teens begin to step out of their innocent elementary bubbles. Whether in a class' socratic seminar or a conflict with friends, they must learn to accept

that their values will be challenged and changed by the constant evolution of the world around them. Especially with Gen-Z's overwhelming social media presence, teenagers can take controversies at a breakneck pace. This is proved by a social phenomenon known as 'cancel culture,' where influencers are socially battered at even the slightest deviations from a perfectly righteous life. While this spotlight brings important issues to the forefront, such extreme backlash often does more harm than good, as it normalizes a disregard of context and empathy. A crucial, but often forgotten point is that the purpose of conversations is not to change the other person's mind, but to validate the others' points while reflecting on their own positions and adding to the conversation in a respectful fashion. Mutually attentive, truthful discussions make for a positive environment where teens can expand their scopes and further develop their individual stances to be more prepared for future controversial conversations.

In this era of challenging conventional thoughts in social media, the diversity of opinions will grow exponentially, so our maturity must grow too. Learning how to approach controversial conversations and practicing them habitually will transform Gen-Z into a highly empathetic, progressive generation that actualizes great change.



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