

# ORACLE

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## Spirit of Service

Freshman Peyton Wu reflects on the acts of service her family received, continuing a cycle of compassion with the children she teaches in Hsi Lai Temple. Read more to learn about her service journey!

Compiled by Eileen Um, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Emma Gong and Kathleen Hong, **STAFF WRITERS**, cartoons by Hanh Dinh, **CARTOON**, photos courtesy of Peyton Wu

Warm, bright laughter erupts through the classroom, carrying with it a nostalgic wave of youthful joy and mischief. Freshman Peyton Wu laughs along with her students, expertly guiding them through their academic struggles and pursuits. As a volunteer in the Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple, Wu invests her full efforts in the temple’s afterschool program, aiming to create a colorful and lively home for her students to thrive in. Wu takes each day as an opportunity to spread an appreciation for childhood fun and self-expression.

Wu’s story with Hsi Lai began many years ago, with an unexpected community and act of kindness in a difficult time. On a vacation to Taiwan, Wu’s grandfather unexpectedly fell sick with pneumonia, jeopardizing his safety in a foreign country with no resources or family to support him. In that desperate time, the Wu family found Hsi Lai, their local temple. Hsi Lai reached out to another branch in Taiwan, who provided Wu’s grandparents with a warm place to stay, food and money to afford medicine. Now, Wu is determined to give back to the community that helped her family and spread the compassion that she had once received. She is actively involved as a teacher’s assistant for the afterschool classes, closely interacting and working with kids to create a safe space centered on aiding their schoolwork. She also participates in the various clubs that Hsi Lai offers, organizing different events and designing shirts,

sweaters, and thank-you gifts for new visitors. “Volunteering means a lot,” Wu said, “I have a really big [community], and we’re all just there for each other.”

In her pursuit of connecting with her students and faculty, Wu realized the importance of self-expression and communicating her feelings. She reflects on struggling with setting boundaries with her students, being overwhelmed with the negative emotions of others when they cried, and get hurt or upset over something, as well as keeping up with club proposals, event planning, and project deadlines. However, through mindful practice and taking inspiration from the adults around her, Wu learned to overcome these obstacles. She learned to adopt the dynamic discipline and compassion of her teacher, Ms. Jo, while studying under her club advisor, Mr. Kevin.

As Wu experienced business and proposal-related endeavors, she was able to practice maintaining positivity and enthusiasm under high-pressure situations. She hopes

to pass on these lessons to her students as well, maintaining a life motto that everything happens for a reason and that it’s okay to be upset; what matters is the preservation of kindness and faith above all. She expresses these life values through her daily actions, setting herself on the same level as her students and interacting with them as equals.

“I like normalizing those kinds of emotions,” Wu said, “I want them to find ways they can deal with the stresses that they will overcome.”

A little more than two years later, Wu is still going strong in her volunteering endeavors. She’s currently planning a Hotel Transylvania-themed Halloween event, with colorful decorations and party games based on various characters like Blobby the Slime Monster. Wu is also endeavoring to start a new club of her own, based on her passion for dance and the arts. She hopes to expose them to the art form and spread her own experience and appreciation for dance, providing an outlet for self-expression and a way to have fun to the kids. As she reflects on her growth as a person and as a leader of a larger community, Wu wishes to remind others to appreciate a little bit of color and fun in their everyday lives.

“Everything happens for a reason,” Wu said, “It’s okay [to be] sad [or] stressed; if anything life goes on. Don’t let these big setbacks stop you from the greatness you can be.”



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FOCUS

Thank you to the countless 2024 Troy Tech Mentors and Internship Sites that guided Warriors this summer.

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Read about Nikocado Avocado’s shocking return to social media and the impact it has on society’s internet culture.

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Come take a look at wave to earth’s new album, “play with earth! 0.031!” and the “stereotypical SoCalAsian” trend.

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# Speech and Debate club designs new coaching system for members

Speech and Debate plans to begin implementing the system for its student speakers starting this school year.

By Anastasia Efremova  
STAFF WRITER

After being student-ran for 10 years, Troy Speech and Debate club developed a new coaching system for its members this school year.

Speech and Debate is a student-led club that aims to help students train their leadership and public speaking skills. The club is open to all Warriors regardless of previous experience. New club members are trained by experienced members in events such as parliamentary, impromptu and platform.

Speech and Debate Club Vice President of External Affairs Reva Sobti and Senior President Noemi Maciel partnered with Advantage Communications this summer. Advantage Communications is an organization that partners with schools across the nation to provide speech and debate programs with no extra cost to its students. The programs include hosting tournaments for elementary and middle schoolers, which require volunteer judges.

According to Sobti, Advantage

Communications founded the Alumni Association, a program made available to experienced speech and debate students and alumni, in order to provide judges for its tournaments.

“In this program, students can volunteer to judge elementary or middle school competitions in exchange for group sessions with professional coaches from Advantage Communications, volunteer hours and National Speech and Debate Association points,” Sobti said. “These points are earned through competitions and service activities. [Members] need enough of them to qualify for NSDA qualifier tournaments, so [speakers] can go to Nationals.”

Sobti first reached out to Advantage Communications to discuss the plan in March 2024. Sobti and Advantage Communications held the first trial run on August 30, where Warriors got their first coaching session if they signed up to judge a tournament in the near future.

For every five rounds a Warrior judges, they will receive 45 minutes of coaching. The NSDA points a student receives will be discussed with students based on the situation. For now, members can sign up for Saturday coaching, Sobti said.

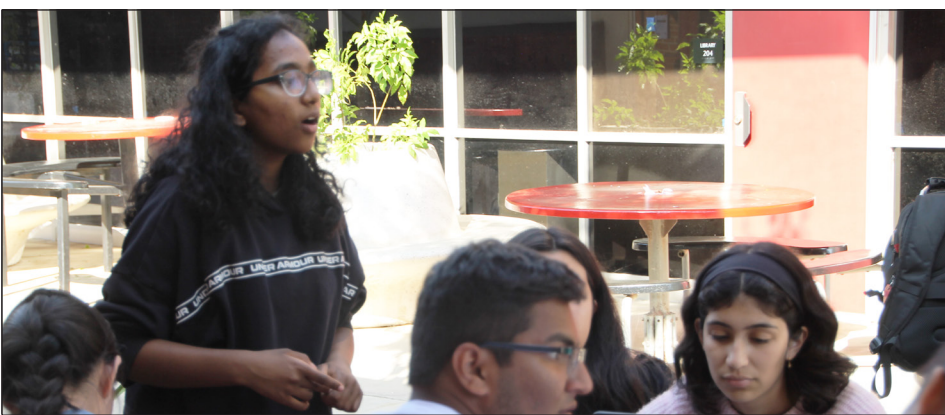


PHOTO BY AIDEN CHONG

**LIVELY LEADERSHIP:** *Warrior Speech and Debate Junior President Avni Patil speaks to club members during the first practice of the year.*

“There are many dates upcoming in the future,” Sobti said. “The first 2024 semester will be a trial run to see how well the program works, and next semester the Speech and Debate club can improve and implement the program into the official curriculum.”

The Alumni Association is available to everyone who is interested in it. While experienced speakers may find judging easier as they are more familiar with competing in tournaments, anyone who wants coaching can judge, Maciel said.

“The coaches will be doing sessions and they will be helping anyone of any [level of] experience,” Maciel said. “We will teach you everything you need to know,

and the new coaches will give new advice and expertise which will be beneficial to everyone.”

Alumni Association aims to help Warriors receive feedback for their work at no extra cost. In the future, Warrior Speech and Debate would like to get personal professional coaching for the entire team without having to volunteer, Sobti said.

“[The program] will create a sense of community and add more support for members of the club,” Sobti said. “If we have some outside help from experts who have a lot of experience in coaching and managing school speech and debate programs, it will allow both incoming and returning students to feel more confident going into the club.”

# Warrior sports implements new California Interscholastic Federation heat policy

The new policies aim to protect student athletes from heat illnesses when exercising outside in extreme temperatures.

By Kylie Tien  
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to prevent athlete heat injuries, California Interscholastic Federation responded to the growing trend of heat waves by implementing new heat policies in California schools, effective since July 1.

CIF’s new heat policy, which aims to prevent heat illnesses in extreme temperatures when athletes practice or compete, mandates the usage of WetGlobe Bulb Temperature readings to determine the severity of heat.

The WGBT measures heat stress in direct sunlight with temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and cloud cover. Different cities in California have varying WGBT thresholds to dictate practice activity levels. These levels range from shortening practice duration to stopping all athletic activity. According to CIF, the WGBT

reading accurately assesses the risk of heat-related conditions.

“Safety is top priority when acclimating high school athletes to hot weather conditions,” CIF said. “Given the extreme heat issues typically experienced at the start of the Fall sports season, [the policy] is crucial for athletes to help them adapt to hot weather and reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses.”

The policy requires schools to increase break duration during practices and games, provide more water for athletes and reduce the amount of protective gear worn. Guidelines vary depending on the sport.

Fall sports such as football and cross

country are among the first to adapt to the adjustments. According to Warrior Cross Country coach Derek D’Amelia, the WGBT and more water breaks have been introduced between practices.

“We now use a WGBT to figure out the heat index [in our area],” D’Amelia said. “I try to go out where the kids are while they are

running so that I can make sure everyone is staying hydrated and feeling okay while we are trying to fight [the heat].”

During the heatwave around Sept. 3, temperatures in Fullerton reached the high 90s and low 100s, prompting the district to put the policy into effect.

Elevated temperatures makes conditions

unfavorable for exercise. According to Warrior Cross Country athlete Venika Kasva, extreme heat circumstances can impact running times and overall athlete performance.

“Before the policy, heat was a really big issue when running because you get tired a lot more easily, and it slows down your time,” Kasva said. “I have seen a lot of people wait [to compete] because of the heat during a race.”

Fully implementing the policy requires schedule changes. To avoid the heat, coaches switch practices times if necessary.

Student athletes commute from several cities, arriving at school at different times. Holding practices in the morning brought up challenges, D’Amelia said.

“We did six AM morning practices, but [lost] attendance because it is harder for Troy kids that live somewhere [farther away],” D’Amelia said. “By trying to make sure we have enough time before school to get our workouts [and] full runs in, we can get everything we need to get us prepared for our meets.”



CARTOON BY HANH DINH



# CLUB COMPILATION

Troy clubs are starting off the year strong! From a record number of blood donations at Warrior Red Cross Club to Troy National Honor Society receiving an award of excellence, read all about Warrior clubs and the impact they are making.

Compiled by Samantha Luo, NEWS EDITOR, articles by Paulina Lee and Salman Waheed, STAFF WRITERS, graphics by Audrey Liang and Olivia Won, GRAPHICS, cartoon by Hanh Dinh, CARTOON

## Warrior Red Cross hosts record blood drive

Setting a record for the amount of blood collected during a Warrior blood drive, Troy Red Cross obtained 125 pints of blood Sept. 18 in the South Gym. The blood donation effort received over 150 signups. Red Cross distributed all collections of blood or platelets to hospitals within the Los Angeles and San Bernardino County area. After completing a donation, blood donors received a \$15 gift card of their choice, a T-shirt, a breakfast burrito and pizza. Individuals who donated through Power Red, giving away two units of blood cells without platelets instead of the regular one



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY RED CROSS

pint donation with platelets, received an additional \$10 In-N-Out Burger gift card. According to Warrior Red Cross Co-President Syna Grover, blood donations are of utmost importance during the ongoing national blood shortage.

## Troy NHS receives Service Award

Troy National Honor Society received the Service Award of Excellence Sept. 17 from National Honor Society, recognizing their contributions to the community. The award highlights a chapter's role in community service and its impact within the school and local area. Warrior members participated in the Lunch Recycling Program, collecting unused and unopened food throughout the year to reduce waste. In the future, NHS plans to expand the recycling program and collaborate with other clubs in volunteer events. According to Warrior NHS President Anh Nguyen, the award will motivate members to continue their efforts in both community service and environmental initiatives. "We aim to provide ample opportunities for members to gain volunteer hours while also contributing to the community," Nguyen said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY NHS

## LEO club volunteers at Silverado Days fair

FJUHSD Leadership Experience Opportunity Clubs will be serving fair-style food at the Silverado Days event Oct. 18 to 20 to raise funds for local charities or community grants. Warrior LEO Club plans to sell food to approximately 200 fair visitors and all clubs will be serving corn or cotton candy to attendees. During the event, each LEO Club is given a designated booth to sell snack items with proceeds going towards charity foundations, grants for schools, city projects or park constructions. According to Warrior LEO Club President Cyanne Kim, the Silverado Days event will help entice fairgoers to join LEO Club and support its aspirations. Through participating in the fair, members can also get more involved with the club and learn to work well with others, Kim said. "Participating in events like the fair helps students learn to integrate themselves into a larger community," Kim said.



## Warrior Key Club hosts clean-up and fundraiser

Warrior Key Club attended a coastal clean-up day at Brea Creek Sept. 21 and a Pediatric Trauma Program fundraiser at their Divisional Council Meeting Sept. 28. The club worked with coastal commissioners to organize an all-day cleanup of the Brea Creek Channel, where members picked up trash and debris. Warrior Key Club is a part of Division 30 North, along with 13 other local Key Club chapters. The division came together to raise funds for the Pediatric Trauma Program via a slime fundraiser, raising \$130. Each container of slime sold for \$3 each and slime decorations sold for \$1. According to Key Club Editor Nicole Lyn, what makes events like the DCM or the coastal clean-up beneficial is the opportunity for students to raise money for various charity programs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAITLYN ZHANG

## Warrior club Love Through the Lines expands

Love Through the Lines, a student-run organization founded by Warrior Phoebe You, has recently expanded to 10 chapters across various schools. In early July, You publicized the opportunity to start chapters through the organization's main Instagram page. New chapters will largely follow the same guidelines as the original chapter at Troy, with some adjustments based on the specific chapter's president. Chapters are required to participate in Love Through the Lines' monthly initiatives, such as book drives and fundraisers focused on supporting underprivileged children. You hopes each chapter will build its own community and contribute to making an impact. In the future, You plans to expand the organization to middle schools. "I really hope that with more people, we can help larger populations of underprivileged children," You said.



## Club Rush makes changes for the 2024 year

Warrior ASB made several changes to this year's Club Rush, organized by Warrior Interclub Commissioner Eshani Deshpande. This year, returning clubs were approved in May, while new clubs received approval in August. The adjustment allowed Club Rush to take place earlier, giving clubs the flexibility to start meetings sooner. ASB also introduced the 5-star system for tracking student attendance in clubs, where students check in using the 5-star QR code. The recent heat wave throughout Southern California led ASB to postpone the event by a week to ensure student safety. Deshpande states that postponing the event allowed for better organization and a comfortable environment for students, and the decision was made after lots of discussion with administrators and ASB.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY ASB



# Awesome Athletes

Follow September’s Athletes of the Month and their journey to success with the Warriors!  
Then, learn about the blood, sweat and tears put into Connor McDermott’s hockey career, as he prepares for competitions.

Compiled by Kusuma Kothamasu, **SPORTS EDITOR**, articles by Tejas Konka, **STAFF WRITER**, and Seungwoo Lee, **STAFF WRITER**,  
photos courtesy of Connor McDermott and Troy Athletics, graphics courtesy of Canva



Hearts pound in sync with the rhythmic thud of the volleyball. With every serve, spike and dive, the tension escalates. In all this chaos is senior Varsity volleyball player Lilly Michael. The sport of volleyball offers many things. Michael’s favorite thing from girls volleyball is the community. The bond the team

shares shows not only in games, but also throughout school. “I love seeing my teammates across school and we just have a special bond,” Michael said. Being a part of a sport helped her make new friends and bring her closer to the Troy community. Since she is now a senior, she looks forward to introducing every new player to the ropes and providing them with a good grasp of volleyball. One of Michael’s favorite memories was when she and her teammates won against Fullerton Union High School. “It was a very tight game but the win felt amazing,” Michael said. Michael recalls being nervous and scared about the games as a freshman. However, as she grew into a better a player between freshman and senior year, she became more confident and less anxious. “Before, when I would make mistakes, I would be nervous and now I’m kind of able to just shake it off, and I don’t really get nervous,” Michael said. “I just get excited to get out and play and show everyone what I can do.”

In the pool, athletes become Warriors, battling for supremacy with each splash and goal. In the middle of it all is Varsity Captain senior Alton Chang. His interest first spiked when he was in seventh grade. From there, he went on to play for the Junior Olympics over the summer, and looks forward to leading the team to CIF this year. “The varsity water polo team is like a second family to me,” Chang said. “Those people are the reason for my growth as a player.” When he was a freshman, Chang said he wanted to be like the seniors. The people who helped him when he first started the sport were the stepping stones in his improvement as a player. He looks forward to helping his teammates grow just as he did. “As a freshman, I remember being nervous and scared. But now, I like to just play and be the best I can,” he described. Being in a sport often helps get away from the constant academic pressure as well as maintain a healthy body. Chang says that the sport is very unique because it combines swimming as well as defensive and offensive plays. The sport helps him learn key life



skills such as discipline and also makes him resilient. He defines playing water polo as a safe space from everyday life. “The sport has made me a more resilient and disciplined person, [able] to push through all physical and mental challenges.”

## Masterful McDermott

In the midst of the icy cold rink, the sound of skates echoes. With the clattering noise of sticks hitting and sliding across the floor reverberate within the stadium. A shadowy figure glides speedily through the rink, searching for a goal. But in the line of defense is junior Connor McDermott defending against any puck coming his way. Ice hockey, popularized in Canada, is an intense sport with many prerequisites, such as a full fledged gear and the mastery of skating. McDermott’s love for hockey began when he was in first grade and he continued to play since then, now marking ten years on the rink. After joining the Californian Wave, his current hockey club, he is now competing in the 16U AA, the sixteen year old age bracket with the double A, signifying the second highest level to compete in.

McDermott tried other sports like soccer and baseball, but it was ultimately hockey that he fell in love with because of his talent for the sport. Hockey became a core memory for him through pivotal competitions, like his state championship. “The most memorable moment was when I scored in the state championship game when I was ten and we ended up winning that game by one point,” McDermott said. The state championship empowered him to make hockey a main focus of his life. “Ice skating definitely makes it more difficult and the speed and physicality of the game also makes it a more demanding sport to learn,” McDermott said. “I train three times a week with my team for two hours and then I shoot pucks at home when I can.” McDermott constantly puts effort into hockey through his

daily practices. From having late night practices at his club on the weekdays to having games on Sundays, McDermott makes it a goal for him to shoot 200 to 400 pucks at home each week. Every single day of his practices mean more to him now since he is setting foot into a national league from a state league. Preparing for a new and higher level of players across the country is critical for him to grow as a hockey player. However, this is not the first time McDermott is playing outside of the state, for he has been to many different locations like Canada, Connecticut, Austin and Rhode Island for competitions. All his dedication and effort has been in hopes of reaching his dream of playing in the National Hockey League. McDermott’s goal is to play for the University of Mississippi, home to a Division 1 hockey team. While various prep schools from

across the country have already reached out to McDermott, he is not yet committed to any of them as he is still fixated on his goal of getting into a Division 1 college team. “I have learned how to carry pride in what I do. I learned my work ethic,” McDermott said. “You are never going to get anything else in life. You always have to go the extra step. The extra step that someone else wants to take you on.”





# ALUMNI ADVICE ON COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

The fall semester is a challenging time for upperclassmen, especially seniors preparing for their college journey. Read for advice from Troy alumni on all things college.

Compiled by Zoey Bahng, **LIFESTYLE EDITOR**, article by Kailey Reichman and Bianca Naranjo, **STAFF WRITERS**, cartoons by Hanh Dinh, **CARTOONS**, photos courtesy of University of Southern California and Canva

The final year of a warrior’s time at Troy is both a sentimental and tiresome experience as seniors prepare for their exciting entrance into college. This imperative chapter of a student’s life sparks new questions. Luckily, Troy’s very own alumni are here to answer them.

As winter draws nearer, the looming stress of applying to college creates a tense atmosphere amongst Troy’s senior class. However, with a thoughtful goal and an open mind, application season can feel less like an anxiety-inducing exam and more like an exciting era preceding your college journey. While Stanford junior Andrew Sung was narrowing down which colleges to apply to, he found that it was in his best interest not to search for colleges based on their prestige. Alternately, he found joy in

exploring the lifestyles that the various colleges offered. For example, during a tour of Stanford’s campus, Sung discovered the school’s friendly environment of student bikers, flowering trees and beautiful buildings; for him, that was the kind of campus he ultimately wanted to continue his studies at. Another thing to consider while researching potential dream colleges is to “look not only at the programs, but at the essay questions as well,” Sung said. Andrew advises that you should consider applying to colleges with prompts that come “naturally to write an essay about,” as they often prove your genuine interest in that college. Overall, remember that your personal priorities come before the prestige of the colleges that you are applying to.

Once seniors make their way into their dream colleges, they will face a whole new diversity of opportunities through college extracurriculars. University of California Berkeley sophomore Vivian Lee found her passion for science at Troy and centered her college extracurriculars around it—currently, she is working on a research project on the gut microbiome. Lee is also double majoring in molecular cell biology and public health, aptly tying her science

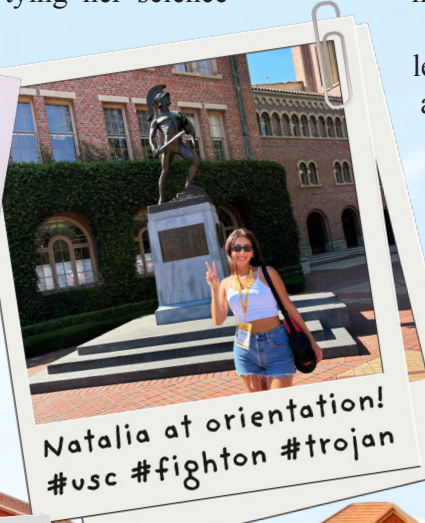
extracurriculars into her field of study. This integration of Lee’s passion project into her major allowed her extracurricular activities to become a productive pursuit for her future career. Similarly to Lee, it is beneficial for new college students to consider how their high school interests and college extracurriculars can be a foundation for their studies and passions.

It is important to keep in mind, though, that not everyone will go straight into their dream colleges. Attending community college, then transferring to a 4-year university is a great alternative plan. Prior to her acceptance into the University of Southern California, sophomore Natalia Fierro-Gomez made sure to spend a year taking full advantage of the amenities offered at community college. “Fullerton College has so many [great] opportunities,” Fierro-Gomez said. For her, these opportunities included the college’s journalism program and multimedia courses. By taking this path for her first year out of high school, Fierro-Gomez was able to branch out during her time in community college and better prepare for attending a 4-year university. Students who want to continue exploring a large range of subjects before they decide their major may benefit from transferring.

By keeping track of which colleges align with your preferences and utilizing college as a means of advancing your studies and passions, you can tailor your college experience to be the best fit for your personal journey. Once you take the time to plan for your future, you will be able to explore the diverse opportunities and exciting joys that college has to offer.



Cal Bear Vivian  
#ucberkeley #cal



Natalia at orientation!  
#usc #fighton #trojan



Coder Andrew! #stanford

## Fashion Feature

Check out the Oracle’s inside look at the stylish students representing this season’s campus chic!

Compiled by Zoey Bahng, **LIFESTYLE EDITOR**, article by Bianca Naranjo, **STAFF WRITER**, photo by Aidan Chong, **PHOTO**



As falling leaves and spontaneous rain showers take their place in the ever-elusive autumn, senior Ariana Chen displays her own passion for fashion by representing this season’s snugly styles. “I think I stick to acubi, simpler outfits at school,” Chen said. She embraces acubi’s distinct pairing of simple clothes with unique accessorizing. In preparation for the chilling winds, Chen has mastered the art of layering tops without looking bulky. Some of her favorite pieces this season include her Mary Jane shoes and dark-washed, low-waisted jeans. Like all good fashion hobbyists, Chen sought inspiration from many sources for her style journey: “I think it helps to see [influencers] try silhouettes or try to put pieces together—I’ll sometimes try to emulate that,” Chen said. Chen’s style influences include content creators Julia Ma, lilrotini and bestdressed, who all emphasize feminine silhouettes with a hint of eccentricity. This fall, Chen is sure to turn heads with her comfy, cool-girl looks.



# Thank You to our Sea-sational 2024 Troy Tech Mentors

Thank you to our 2024 Troy Tech Mentors and Internship Sites for waving in the new generation of professional Warriors!

Compiled by Edyn Mai and Kaitlyn Zhang, EDITORS-IN-CHIEFS

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|--|--|--|--|--|---|



# Traffic problems and how to solve them: Troy High School needs solutions

By Ethan Ferrer  
STAFF WRITER



Troy commuters can all agree—the traffic problem must be solved. For drivers, there are two routes for student drop-off around Troy. First, they can drive down Dorothy Lane—a street only two lanes wide with constant congestion, and only one junction where cars can enter the drop-off zone. Hale Avenue is another choice, next to the baseball fields and student parking lot—a road also packed daily. With hundreds driving through Dorothy and Hale at the same time, these routes are unpredictable. Although little can be done to address the crowded drive, it can still be fixed—having a traffic officer regulate the flow of cars, among other solutions, could alleviate these issues. In short, a solution must come quickly, and soon.

In U.S. schools, traffic is a widespread safety concern. In Troy, senior Tanish Basu says that “it’s terrible [and] the traffic definitely got worse this year,” sharing the opinion of many other students across campus. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, over a third of public school leaders state that their schools suffer from issues with traffic patterns and transportation, with many concerned about student safety. This is a valid stance:

traffic is not only a matter of convenience but also a concern for student wellbeing. Several months ago, The Daily Titan wrote about how three crashes near Maple Elementary at Lemon Street and Valencia Drive called for a reevaluation of the intersection’s safety—something which, similar to Troy’s traffic problem, was long overdue. Students cannot wait until after tragedy for change—the district and local leaders should act now, to prevent accidents in the future.

Countless vehicles come through Troy each day. With many of the over 2,500 students commuting, traffic agents could help drivers with the flow of traffic. Note that traffic agents aren’t crossing guards—traffic agents conduct vehicle movement, rather than pedestrians. As such, various places exist around campus that need an agent. The three-way junction on Dorothy frequently experiences congestion, with drivers often abiding by instinct rather than the law. There, someone could act as a stoplight, allowing different cars to enter at balanced intervals. If possible, Troy could work with the Fullerton Police Department to manage traffic in this way—police officers have been on campus before, and their help would be beneficial in preventing accidents and potential collisions. Solutions like these already exist for various schools. According to the Safe Transportation Research and

Education Center, 47 California schools lowered incidents by 75 percent through plans and initiatives. If other schools have addressed their problems, why doesn’t Troy do the same?

Still, Troy High School does not bear all responsibility for solving the traffic pains. Parents and students should know they are not the only people on the road. Although it is practical to depart as timely as possible, some students choose to linger around, scarcely moving fast enough

to allow other cars breathing room. During drop-off, students must think ahead and have everything in one place to make for an orderly departure. Sticking around won’t do anyone any favors.

The clogged drive of morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off at Troy has barely changed over the years. Though no severe accidents have occurred recently, solutions must be installed to prevent future incidents. Overall, change needs to happen sooner than later.



PHOTO BY AIDEN CHONG

# Nikocado Avocado forces us to re-examine society’s internet culture

By Jayden Beaumont  
STAFF WRITER



Nikocado Avocado’s social experiment exposes the hypocrisy and gullibility that fuels the online communities in our society. Google Search results of “Nikocado Avocado” yield thumbnails of an overweight man consuming alarmingly vibrant blue meals. In 2016, Nicholas Perry, originally a violinist and vegan lifestyle blogger, began filming mukbang videos, a viral trend in which creators eat excessive amounts of food. Through these videos, Perry rose to popularity under his culinary pseudonym. He received criticism to the extent of

bullying for his excessive eating habits and weight, but in his most recent YouTube video, “Two Steps Ahead,” Perry pulled off a panda mask and revealed himself 250 pounds lighter. He claims that as he became one of the most hated social media personalities, he had been conducting a “social experiment” of great magnitude. While releasing pre-recorded mukbang videos following his usual style, for the past two years, he had been secretly losing weight, waiting to see how willing the internet would be to believe his ploy and how high he could stoke the flames of their hatred. Perry exposed troubling flaws in social media by proving society’s eagerness to consume any and all media and willingness to accept any narrative that occupies our screens.

Perry’s discomforting content is, in a way, the fault of none other than his haters. He was only able to perform his social experiment because the public was inclined to watch his mukbang content, giving him the views in the first place. Since he has risen to the title of internet personality, people have been commenting on his videos that he is “disgusting” or that he is harming himself for attention and likes. But his critics are the same people that make up his four million plus followers and give his videos hundreds of millions of views.

“I am the villain,” he states in his most recent video, “because I made myself the villain.” But maybe he got it wrong. He is the villain because society wanted a villain and created a platform for one to shine.

For two years, he sustained an entirely false persona by releasing pre-recorded videos while losing weight and planning his big reveal. Perry created his own timeline and the public completely bought it. His viewers berated him for his weight, calling him desperate for popularity, but they really knew nothing about him. This trend of accepting fabricated online realities has played out constantly in the age of the internet—and sometimes to detrimental effects. For example, phishing and misinformation still pre-

vail on social media no matter how many times we are told not to trust what we find on the web. It is undeniable that the internet is a place for fake news and predators to thrive, and Perry’s social experiment should remind consumers that they can never truly know what goes on behind their screens.

Perry’s mukbang videos may end up only a regrettable blip in YouTube and social media culture, but it would do us well to remember its implications. While the audience criticizes Perry, they are increasingly contributing to the existence and his content and those similar. The hatred he so effortlessly collected from his audience only reflects Americans’ own hunger for a villain. “Two Steps Ahead” serves as a reprimand to the too often ignorant internet.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NIKOCADO AVOCADO



# Violence is not political; the underlying issues of Trump’s assassination attempt

By Scarlett Clark  
STAFF WRITER



Trump points fingers at his opponent, but political extremism is what’s really doing the damage. Presidential candidate Donald Trump suffered his second assassination attempt of the summer on Sept. 15 while playing golf at one of his resorts. Regardless of political opinions, an assassination attempt is an unacceptable threat to our democracy. Following the attempt, Trump and his campaign have been spreading the narrative that his opponent, Kamala Harris, and her supporters are to blame for these threats to his life. Violent extremism is absolutely an issue in America. However, it is far from something that the Harris campaign can be blamed for. The assassination attempt was a shock and a failure to our nation. It is horrendous that politics have adopted a polarized and extreme backdrop. Violence has no place in politics. Surely, violent rhetoric in politics didn’t start with Trump’s campaign. However, the root cause of violent political crises is the turn towards extremism which

has been normalized across the nation. Seeking out extreme efforts to manipulate the outcomes of elections is not the right way to solve political disputes. In order to preserve our democracy and the strength of our nation, this election needs to be free from uncivil violence or threats of it. It is absolutely unacceptable that the upcoming presidential election has become laced and consumed with hatred and violence, and for the sake of preserving the core values of our nation, it needs to stop immediately. It should be noted that the Harris campaign was entirely unassociated with the assassination attempts of former president Trump, thus his blaming on his opponent for this event is baseless and ridiculous. Neither shooter who made attempts at Trump’s life were in any way affiliated with Harris’s campaign; one of them even was a previous Trump voter. Clearly, Harris’s campaign is not in any way connected, even indirectly, to this tragedy of political violence. Allegations regarding liberals causing violence are somewhat ironic coming from the Trump campaign. Provocative claims regarding the Democrat’s campaign followed the second assassination attempt: “Their rhetoric is causing me to be shot



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLOOMBERG

at,” Trump said to Fox News, “they are the ones who are destroying the country.” The flaw in Trump’s arguments is the hypocrisy with which Trump accuses the left for inspiring violence; especially since he has encouraged violence in the past. Consider the raid of our nation’s capitol on January 6, 2021, during which a mob of Trump loyalists breached security, caused significant damage to the capitol building and threatened many of our political officials. This disastrous and offensive event was spurred by Trump’s disproven and groundless claims of election fraud in the 2020 presidential election. Because of these instances, it is illogical to blame Harris for inspiring political violence when the blame

does not rest on just one side. However, regardless of these disputes, the issue which is more culpable for these violent offenses to our nation is outrageous extremism fraying the edges of political parties and blurring the lines between advocacy and chaos. An attempted shooting of a former president and current presidential candidate is a tragedy for the sake of our nation’s values. But in terms of using it as a tool for political gain, Trump is wrong and nonsensical to use Harris as a scapegoat for the event, considering her and her followers have had nothing to do with extreme instances of violence. The real issue here is extremism motivating individuals to turn to radical upheaval to express their voices in politics.

# Instagram’s new protection plan for teens is ill-conceived and doomed to fail

By Chelsea Engelhardt  
STAFF WRITER



Instagram is introducing its new policy of protected teen accounts. As of Sept. 17, the social media app announced its plan to implement a special teen account on its platform. This means that the communication, publicity and screen time for social media accounts registered to users under the age of 18 will be monitored and limited. The plan is to limit the amount of people minors can contact and to create screen times for said minors on this platform. This new implementation is an outrageous and ill-conceived one. Consequently,

Meta’s attempt to protect its teen users after facing backlash at a conference dedicated to online safety earlier this year is not going to succeed in protecting its users in any way. First of all, this new policy would be an unnecessary attempt to take over restrictions already put in place by parents. According to Deseret News, over two-thirds of American parents already have restrictions on their children’s social media use whether it be content limitations or direct reduction of private messaging and screen time. With parents already educating their children on the importance of online safety and protection, this Teen Account Policy will already be deemed unhelpful. Additionally, the one third of the parent population that does not monitor their child’s online

presence should be a point of concern for Instagram. Clearly parents know how to teach their kids what is right and wrong, and they have a right to do that in their own way. Essentially, parents should be parenting their children on social media, not the social media companies themselves. Additionally, Meta’s motives

“Clearly parents know how to teach their kids what is right and wrong, and they have a right to do that in their own way. Essentially, parents should be parenting their children on social media, not the social media companies themselves.”

for creating this policy can be greatly attributed to a desire to clean up their image, not necessarily to protect their young users. In January, many of the big tech companies, such as Meta, X, Snapchat, Discord, X and TikTok, were brought to a Congressional hearing at which they were reprimanded for their lack of precautions when it came to safety on their platforms for young impressionable people. Many young minds have been tainted by social media platforms like Instagram, so this conference was supposed to limit the amount of harmful content on these platforms. With Instagram, there have been many reports of suicide rates going up for their young audience. This policy is a direct result of that conference, and of the backlash, Instagram and Facebook received. With this in mind, the new policy seems less like a protection policy for minors but more for protection for the companies themselves. Even with strict restrictions, teenagers will be able to get around the protections put in place, proving its redundancy. According to the BBC, Instagram worker Matt Navarra states that “they will find a way around the

blocks.” There is no point in implementing this policy in the first place. Not only that, but their methods of enforcement can consequently be harmful to users and their business. The use of artificial intelligence to verify age was mentioned, which is not only concerning for privacy but also confusing. The verification of this process can be very faulty and could end badly, and its success rates are deficient because many companies have tried and failed in the past. The consequences for this action are intense and include further restrictions which are ridiculous without an accurate success rate. Overall, the implementation of this policy will fail because of its lack of proper and necessary enforcement. Essentially, the need for more protection plans involving online platforms and impressionable young minds is there, but the use of teen accounts is not the way to do it. Parents deserve the chance to regulate the way that their children use social media and teach what is acceptable. This policy takes that chance away from them. In regards to the screen time restrictions, it is an outrageous and unreasonable thing to try to limit. So, although protection is needed, Instagram is going about it in an undesirable way, with the wrong policies and contingency plans. Instagram also has the wrong motivations for implementing these plans in the first place. These Teen Accounts will do nothing but harm Instagram itself.



PHOTO COURTESY OF META



# mark my words

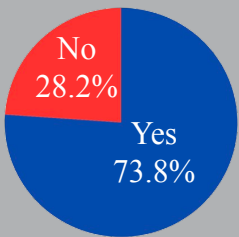
Warriors speak out on campus issues

Read what the Warrior population has to say about school mandated screen time.

“Online assignments are easier to manage, grade, and reduces paper use on students and teachers.”

- Gabriel Gonzalez, Senior

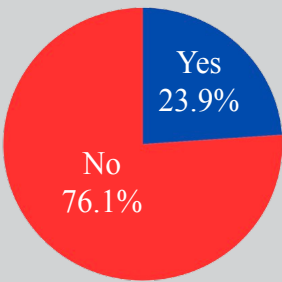
Do you think digital assignments are more convenient than paper?



“I think that it’s important that we are able to take as much time as we can away from the screens in order to preserve our mental health. Looking at a computer all day, especially for such things like doing homework, isn’t good for your eyes, and can put a lot of stress on the brain with the constant light.”

- Sophia Liang, Sophomore

Do you think that all school assignments should be digitized?



“Computers are useful and make it easier to do work but they aren’t ideal for certain subjects.”

- Cruz Ginter, Senior

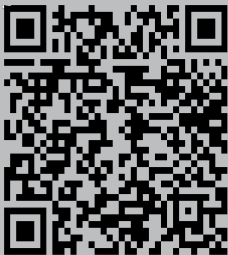
“Looking at screens makes me more susceptible to clicking on other tabs to watch videos or play games. I get distracted when work is on my computer.”

- Sami Neill, Senior

“It is much more convenient to check for what assignments still need doing when everything is in the same place.”

- Dorian Aleman, Junior

See the full list of responses here!



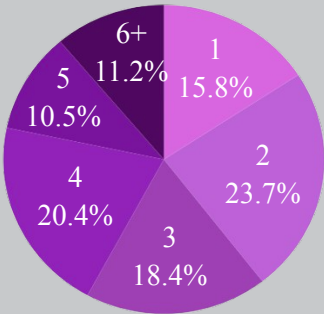
“I think notes are better when they are on paper, but assignments like essays are a lot better when they are digitized.”

- Hayden Saunders, Senior

“I think that we should limit screen time and do more of our work on paper as we already are on devices most of the day.”

- Katelyn Park, Senior

On average, how many hours do you spend daily on a device completing school-related work?



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# wave to earth



Come take a look at wave to earth’s vibrant new album, “play with earth! 0.30!” along with the “stereotypical SoCal Asian” trend that has taken over the internet.

Compiled by Kate Berger, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Riddhi Arora, STAFF WRITER and Celeste Hollingsworth, STAFF WRITER, graphics courtesy of Spotify and Canva

Wave hello to the vibrantly versatile album, “play with earth! 0.03.” From wave to earth’s humble beginnings to the recognition of their worldwide hit “seasons,” wave to earth is now touring nationwide. This indie rock band consists of lead vocalist, Daniel Kim, along with drummer Shin Dongyu and bassist John Cha. Their creative music style appeals to a variety of listeners, spanning from South Korea to the United States. By resembling the soft, captivating sounds of a waterfall or a velvety soft birdsong, “play with earth! 0.03” brings its naturalistic name to life. “Play with earth! 0.03” is packed with a lyrical depth hidden just beyond the surface. Lyrical elements are a vital component to creating a one-of-a-kind experience, and wave to earth achieves just that. Through their relatable lyrics detailing the ups and downs of romantic relationships, wave to earth delves into the deep layers of these experiences. However, the album

just limited to romantic lyrics, which is demonstrated in “slow dive” where they sing, “Cause it turns me to light but isn’t bright, shows me after all the things broken.” These lyrics speak to those who are in the process of healing, and encourages fans to be unapologetically themselves. The spectrum of stories packed into one album brings forth a versatility that highlights “play with earth! 0.03!”’s thoughtful lyrics and irresistible melodies. The vocals and production of “play with earth! 0.03” rightfully earn the spotlight and prove why wave to earth has taken the center stage of music. Kim’s smooth voice takes the form of a soft whisper or a powerful resonance in his music. When his voice builds in volume toward the climax of each song, it becomes an enticing feature its control and expressiveness. However, Kim’s voice does not stand alone, as it is accompanied by multiple layers of vocals

ground, creating a multidimensional feel. This is where the title track, “play with earth,” and the fourth song, “pueblo,” take the spotlight. They are stark contrasts to their mellow and ambient counterparts, truly engaging listeners in its upbeat and lively nature. Regardless of the vibrant production of “play with earth! 0.03,” lyrical components of the softer tracks are frequently neglected because of how Kim melds his words together to match the music’s mood. Despite such imbalances of production and lyricism, the majority of wave to earth’s songs rejuvenate a fun and playful spirit. Wave to earth cultivates a dreamy feel with “play with earth! 0.03.” Along with the incredible amount of lyrical depth this album possesses, the album announces its presence with every note and strum, exemplifying a tremendous amount of variety while bringing to life its naturalistic name. The album’s indie feel lets listeners take the essence of nature wherever they go with just the tap of a “play” button.



Striding away from stereotypes

The trend of stereotyping Asians living in Southern California, or “SoCal Asians,” has taken over social media, adding to the preexisting stereotypes that damage young minds today. These trends point out SoCal Asians’ obsessions with boba or music artists like wave to earth, which SoCal Asians have deemed “essential” to their identity. The overwhelming amount of Stussy and Essentials gear found when walking the streets of SoCal hubs Seaside or Irvine Spectrum demonstrates the “SoCal Asian identity.” Online trends like, “pov: trying to talk to a SoCal Asian” involve the creator pointing out common things that all SoCal Asians do, like playing Valorant or listening to bands such as wave to earth. These trends often have the hashtags #boba or #keshi in the caption, and the millions of videos under such hashtags demonstrate the extent to which these harmful trends have spread. Although these trends may seem entertaining at the moment, they contribute to Asian stereotyping, which can be harmful to the already generalized community. In younger generations, the overwhelming popularity of such trends may negatively influence the younger population to stick to the norm and not explore other interests. To avoid further stereotyping, we must “wave” goodbye to the “SoCal Asian” trend and let it dissolve into the ever-flowing whirlpool of forgotten trends.