

50 ORACLE

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Warrior VSA members volunteer at Tet Festival

The student-run Tet Festival will enrich Vietnamese students' understanding of their historical background and culture.

By Lisa Mattson
STAFF WRITER

Immersed in the heart of Vietnamese culture, once familiar-faced Warriors will be unrecognizable in a vibrant sea of dangling lanterns and dancing dragons.

Aiming to preserve their heritage, the Warrior Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) members will help manage the annual Tet Festival at the Orange County Fairgrounds Feb. 20-22.

The event celebrates the holiday Tết Nguyên Đán, which marks the beginning of both the Lunar New Year and spring for the Vietnamese. Organized entirely by a coalition of local VSA clubs, this festival is the largest of its kind in the world, welcoming numerous visitors from all cultural backgrounds. Warrior VSA

members will be helping out behind the scenes, role-playing as traditional villagers in the festival's centerpiece and participating in various events ranging from traditional pageants to pho-eating contests.

One of the main goals of the festival is to teach visitors—especially those unfamiliar with Vietnamese traditions—about the country's history and customs, Intercollegiate Council Member

“By hosting this festival, we hope to make our culture more prevalent for not only Vietnamese people but others as well.”

David Ngo
Intercollegiate Council Member

David Ngo said.

“Many Vietnamese-Americans today may not understand our culture,” Ngo said. “Their parents may not teach them because they are busy, and our language and culture are lost. By hosting this festival, we hope to make our culture more prevalent for not only Vietnamese people

but others as well.”

The guests can also feel the authentic Vietnamese atmosphere without having to visit the country itself, Co-president Ivy Nguyen said.

“[I attended the festival] freshman, sophomore and junior year, and it was great,” Nguyen said. “It was a really nice opportunity for me because I’ve never been to Vietnam before. It’s a good chance for people like me who have never been there, or people who are descendants of immigrants, to get in touch with their roots.”

Student volunteers who will assist in running the event are focusing more on sharing the significance of Vietnamese heritage rather than making a profit, Ngo said.

“[Our festival] is different from other festivals because none have a cultural village like this,” Ngo said. “[For others] it’s more about marketing and revenue. Our village’s purpose is to attract and preserve our culture.”

As an integral aspect of the Southern California Vietnamese



RENEE SUSANTO

COSTUMES AND CUSTOMS: Sophomores help fellow Warrior button her traditional Vietnamese dress called áo dài. This attire is commonly worn during formal occasions such as weddings.

community, this celebration allows VSA members to encourage the rest of the student body to attend, Nguyen said.

“[This year], I hope that we have more members getting in-

involved,” Nguyen said. “The whole purpose of VSA is for people to experience Vietnamese culture, and the Tet Festival is a really big event, so I hope that more people can experience it.”

Speech and Debate competes in OCSL tournament



LAUREN KIM

A WAY WITH WORDS: Juniors of Speech and Debate engage in the public forum debate against the participants from El Modena High School on the subject of the United Nations peacekeepers.

Live debates readied the team for the upcoming district tournament.

By Tiffany Hall
STAFF WRITER

Helping members to reach their individual goals, the Warrior Speech and Debate team attended the Orange County Speech League (OCSL) tournament at Sonora High School Jan. 31.

Participation in this league-level tournament served as a stepping stone for the members who are advancing to the higher level National Speech and Debate Association District Tournament Feb. 21. In the OCSL competition, debaters and speakers participated in a variety of events, such as the Lincoln-Douglas debate, public forum, interpretation and

impromptu speech. By practicing their speeches, using briefs and meeting together outside of school hours, club members made their way to success at the tournament. In fact, sophomore Noella Park won first place in the Lincoln-Douglas debate and other members placed as finalists in their respective areas.

The OCSL tournament provided members an opportunity to explore other diverse events in speech and debate before the more difficult district qualifications, Co-president Emily Wang said.

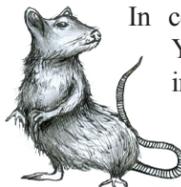
“A lot of students have decided to do both speech and debate events for this tournament, just because they want to try it out and see if they like it or do well in that event,” Wang said. “Then they might pursue it for the state-qualifying tournament. There are definitely a lot

of students doing a lot of different events [in] this tournament because this is the last chance before they really go into tough competition [and] for them to experiment.”

Through extensive preparation for the OCSL tournament, participants were able to take part in a less stressful experience, Wang said.

“We make sure [members] realize how much work [and] how many hours they need to be putting in,” Wang said. “Ultimately, why we push them so hard and why I ask them to come after school twice a week [or] three times a week is because when you go to a tournament, you are more prepared, [and] you have a lot more confidence in yourself. You feel like you are able to give a better speech and be a

Continued on page 2

<p>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</p> <p>FEATURE</p> <p>Follow the ballroom siblings, freshman Alton Lee and sophomore Lavie Lee as they glide across the dance floor.</p> 	<p>LIFESTYLE</p> <p>Page 10</p> <p>In celebration of Lunar New Year, predict what 2015 has in store for you by reading a few of Oracle's Chinese horoscopes.</p> 	<p>SPORTS</p> <p>Page 11</p> <p>The Warrior wrestling team (4-1, 4-1) pinned its way to victory against the Sunny Hills Lancers Feb. 3.</p> 
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ASB freshmen run iMatch campaign

Students participated in a survey that assessed personality compatibility.

By Kyle Patel
STAFF WRITER

Engaging the student body through an interactive fundraiser, the Warrior Associated Student Body (ASB) freshmen released the results of an iMatch survey beginning Feb. 11.

Freshmen Rachel Tseng, Shine Kim, Sean Kim and Jason Lee organized the fundraiser, which was last offered four years ago. A 32-question personality-based survey categorized over 300 student participants. The results included two lists with 30 names on each. One list named the females with the most similar and least similar characteristics compared to the participant; the other list revealed the males with the most and least well-matched characteristics. The \$2 fee that each student paid to view his results contributed to the freshman class ASB fund.

Traditionally, iMatch surveys have been conducted in conjunction with prominent events and holidays to increase student participation, teacher Aaron Mason

said.

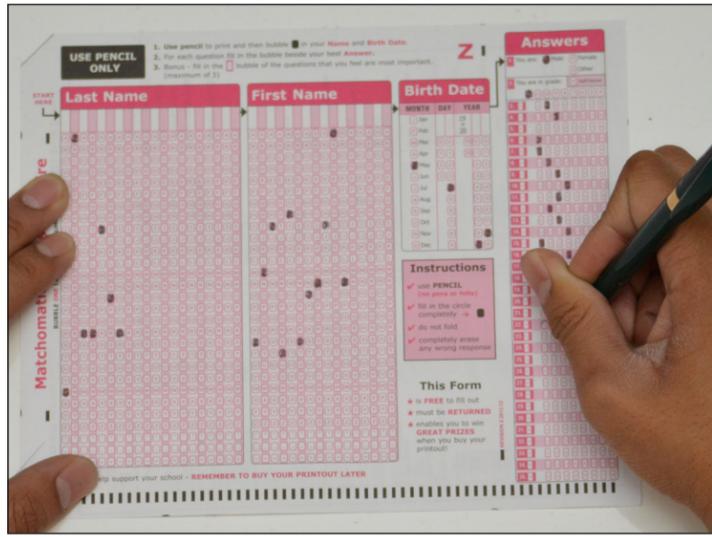
“I remember iMatch coming to Troy when I was in high school,” Mason said. “It was a popular thing among students, especially when it coincided with Valentine’s Day. This year, iMatch falls around Sadies time, so that worked out in our favor. [iMatch was] the perfect way to carry out a fundraiser that the students would have fun with.”

Because iMatch connects students according to their personalities, it creates the opportunity for them to meet new peers, Tseng said.

“On campus, we [tend to] separate into cliques based on intelligence, looks or extracurriculars,” Tseng said. “With this personality test, people who might not normally talk to each other could get paired up. In that way, having a fundraiser like iMatch can promote friendships that are based on personality, not these other [traits].”

Although many Warriors believe iMatch serves solely as the starting point for potential romantic relationships, it actually indicates the affinity between personality types, Shine Kim said.

“What iMatch tells you is that you are compatible with a person,



RENEE SUSANTO

A MATCH MADE IN SCANTRON: To determine personality clashes and complements, the questionnaire evaluated political beliefs and text-shorthand literacy among other qualities.

and that may start a friendship or maybe a relationship,” Kim said. “A lot of people think iMatch is supposed to be used for romantic ideals, [but] it’s not meant to be solely romantic.”

To maintain its originality, the ASB freshmen do not intend to make the fundraiser an annual tradition despite its current popularity among the student body, Kim said.

“Because we held iMatch this year, [students may] not be interested in it again next year,” Kim said. “Most likely, they will have the same answers and be paired with the same people, so it would become repetitive. The goal is to raise money, but also have interactive ways for students to participate in the process. We are always trying to put a creative spin on everything we do.”

Continued from page 1

better debater.”

The board members have observed an overall rise in club dedication and participation, Co-president Irena Huang said.

“At the beginning of the year, we had about 60 to 80 people come to the first meeting, and then people started trickling out,” Huang said. “The ones who stayed were the dedicated ones who came to practices after school, sometimes with a coach or sometimes without a coach. That is impressive seeing how just a year ago we only had three or four teams going [to competition].”

Although speech and debate events are predominantly individual activities, the club members have befriended each other and eliminated barriers between the upper and lower classmen, freshman Fang Liang said.

“I have actually met a lot of friends in speech and debate,” Liang said. “I guess it is because all the stress just puts us together. I am really happy because I get to make a lot of upperclassmen friends, which I definitely would not have been able to.”



Dancing with the Staff provides support for Dorey Madrid Fund

The Warrior faculty united to revive the Warrior tradition after a six-year-long hiatus.

By Nicole Kuntjoro
STAFF WRITER

Joining forces on stage for the fourth production of Dancing with the Staff (DWTS), over 80 staff members presented their dancing skills to a sold-out audience in Plummer Auditorium Jan. 26.

Inspired by teacher Dorey Madrid’s perseverance against breast cancer, teacher Tamra Donnelly and junior Daniel Flanagan arranged the performance, which began with an opening number featuring 60 teachers and culminated in a music video. Both students and faculty collaborated to choreograph dances in various styles, ranging from flamenco to hip hop. All profits from the night

were donated to the Dorey Madrid Fund.

To create a memorable performance and show their support for the Madrids, staff members took a break from their roles as teachers, custodians and administrators, Donnelly said.

“The staff wanted to do something really special for [the Madrids],” Donnelly said. “We wanted not only to raise money for their fund, whether it be for medical or travel expenses [Dorey] may incur in the future, but also so that they could choose to donate the money to [organizations] they see it doing the most good in the area of cancer research. Without the cause of the Madrids, we would not have had the same amount of staff participation that we did.”

The support of the student body further bolstered the success of the event, teacher Natalie Harper

said.

“We were still really anxious because of all the people watching us,” Harper said. “But the crowd was amazing. The students were encouraging, so when we actually got up [on stage] we felt that we could do it. [Their support made] it possible.”

The large student and faculty presence at DWTS demonstrated the strength of Warrior solidarity, Harper said.

“It is amazing and humbling as a teacher to think that the students would come out on a Monday night, in the rain, and support an incredible cause for Mrs. Madrid and also come and cheer on all of their teachers, the people who provide all their support on this campus,” Harper said. “They’re willing to give up their time and energy to come and be completely engaged. That’s incredibly special and unique.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EZEKIEL LEVIN AND RYAN MICKLE & BY LAUREN KIM

DANCE DANCE EDUCATION: Top left: Teacher Mike Thomas, Principal Will Mynster, Commander Allen Stubblefield, teachers Rich Liem, Jesse Knowles, Kent Goodman and guidance technician Carlos Aldaco move to “YMCA.” Middle left: Teacher Tamra Donnelly and a senior perform a hip-hop piece. Bottom left: Chief Terrik King, Commander Allen Stubblefield, First Sergeant Warren Barnes and First Sergeant Steven Lyon salute teacher Dorey Madrid. Bottom center: Teachers Gabrielle and Joe Huffard perform a rendition of “Singin’ in the Rain.” Bottom right: Teacher Alice Mack dances a traditional Spanish flamenco.

Celebrating **50th** **BACK TO THE PAST**

Travel down memory lane with Oracle as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. This issue features five snippets from past papers published from 1991 to 1995.

Compiled by Ariel Liu and Angela Zeng, EDITORS IN CHIEF and cartoons by Ariel Liu and Hanbi Ko, CARTOON EDITOR

Realizing that anxiety and stress is a part of the testing process, Mary said that her life seems to be one long procession of tests.

"The stress generated by tests never ends. It's constantly there; before, during and even after. It's like I can't ever escape from it," Mary said.

"Even after one test is over, there's another after that and then another and so on. It seems like I'll be stressing out during tests for the rest of my life."

From 1995

Kennelly said the risks of mountain biking are insignificant in comparison to the excitement he always experiences. This adrenaline rush and the many things he has learned about himself through mountain biking makes the sport a permanent part of Kennelly's life.

"I push myself, and I might think I could be at home right now watching TV. Then I realize that I am doing all this work because I like it, and I get a sense of reward by knowing I did something that I liked," Kennelly said. "I've gained a lot of things from [mountain biking]. I feel more confident about myself; it's enjoyable, relaxing and exciting at the same time. There might be times when I don't want to ride, but when I look back, I feel good about what I have done. It's just too much fun to give up."

From 1994: "Mountain Biking"

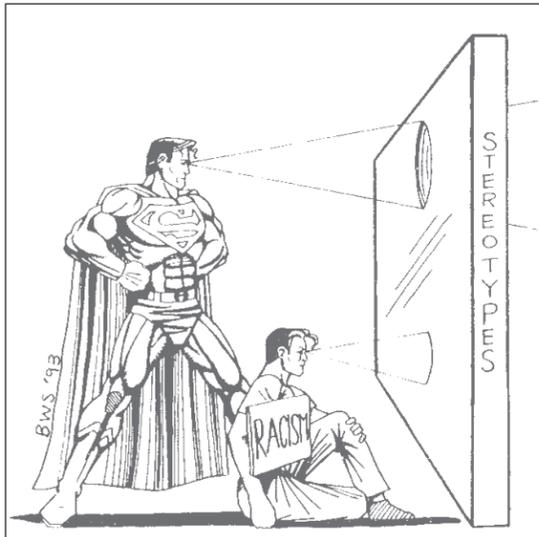


From 1992: "Reggae inspires unity"

As expressed in the band's name, which means a positive turn from negativity, Lysek's band incorporates the basis of reggae and its powerful message into its own music.

"Reggae spreads the positive message of racial identity, peace, love and world unity. It's (reggae music) basically based on Christianity, but we believe that Ras Tafari is the living god," Lysek said.

From 1992: "Reggae inspires unity"



From 1993

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STAFF EDITORIAL



HANMIN KO

Community college stigma is unfounded

We've been too easily carried away with the herd mentality.

President Obama recently proposed a new vision in which community college tuition would be free for all students who attend at least half of their classes and maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average. Even though a reasonably-priced community college education is currently available, many high school students do not consider it an option partly because of the praise and attention lavishly heaped onto 4-year universities. Widespread misconceptions, such as the idea that 2-year colleges are only for lazy students with little potential, further increase our estrangement from community colleges. In the end, these misbeliefs harm students by closing off opportunities and shaming students who are currently attending or considering attending community colleges.

Much of the stigma surrounding 2-year institutions is undeserved. Community college students are not lazy; many chose community college for reasons such as being unable to afford costly college tuitions for general education or needing more time for extracurricular activities and exploration. These students, who work hard to transfer into California State University and University of California schools, often face backlash from peers and online communities which label them as unambitious. Because many high schools stress that academic success is synonymous to attending a top university, many students feel pressured by their peers, counselors and family to stay away from 2-year universities despite the schools' merits.

The expectations on students considering community colleges ultimately push them away from 2-year universities and various other educational and extracurricular options.

Moreover, community colleges do an excellent job of allowing students to explore activities outside the classroom. In a society where students are rushed to choose their major as early as high school, 2-year colleges can serve as vital stepping stones to a higher level of education for students who are unsure of what they want to commit to. Unlike 4-year universities, community colleges give students time to explore completely different career paths and academic interests. Filmmaker George Lucas, for example, attributes some of his success to his community college, which gave him the chance to experiment with different fields and focus on his education after he suffered a near-fatal car wreck. Many 2-year colleges also have competitive athletics programs which allow athletes to hone their skills and still receive a quality education. Providing a different pathway, community colleges prepare their students for higher education while also giving them time to make informed career decisions.

Ultimately, there is no one right choice when it comes to education. By cutting community colleges out of the picture, students may discard an option that is a perfect fit for them. Warriors need to be more open minded to possibilities and alternatives other than the "Top 10" list of universities that they assume would be best for them. At the end of the day, we all deserve to find our home away from home, regardless of whether that is a community college or a university.

Vaccinations are a must

By Yannie Hoang
STAFF WRITER

Vaccines can eradicate a viral disease without any measly side effects.

Recently, measles carried by infected tourists from abroad broke out at Disneyland and spread as far as Washington and Colorado, with 121 confirmed cases recently reported. Of the 34 infected patients in California, 28 were unvaccinated against the highly contagious disease. Considering the life-threatening consequences, it is essential that people vaccinate for their own benefit and for the safety of others.

Vaccination against measles is a must for those who do not want to risk infection. The disease spreads whenever an infected person coughs or sneezes, and it can live up to two hours on contaminated surfaces. For protection against the contagion, immunization has continually proven to be an effective weapon. According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), before the introduction of vaccines in 1963, about four million measles infections occurred regularly in the U.S. However, modern-day

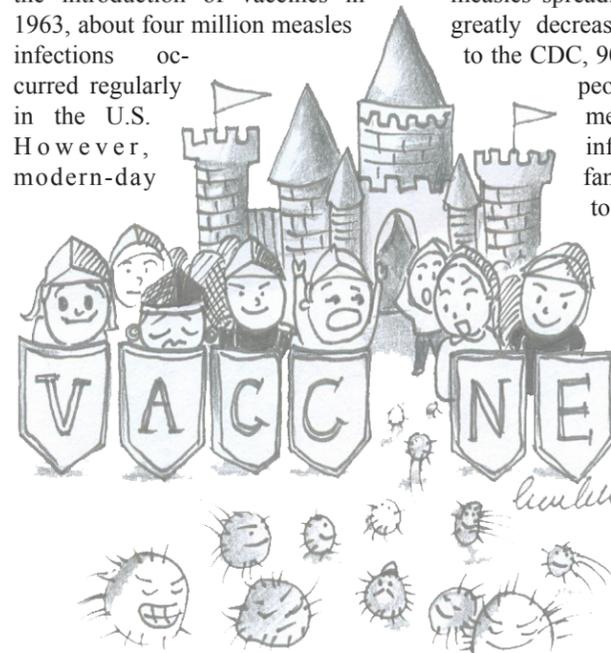
America has contained incidents to under 100 cases thanks to widespread vaccinations.

Many who opt out, however, claim that vaccines cause unwanted side effects. Most claims are based on Andrew Wakefield's 1998 study, which concluded that vaccines cause autism. Yet, the spurious scientific study has been disproven by multiple experiments, such as those conducted by the Institute of Medicine and Journal of Pediatrics that showed no relation between vaccine ingredients and autism. Wakefield's fabricated study has since been publicly retracted and his medical license revoked. Other rumors suggesting that thimerosal preservatives in vaccines affect development and overwhelm the immune system have also been proven false by multiple studies. In the future, people should first refer to authoritative sources such as the CDC and *Snopes.com* before committing to a belief.

Most importantly, it is in the public's best interest to build up herd immunity. Communal protection can exist only if those eligible for vaccination have themselves immunized. When a greater majority of people vaccinate, the chance of measles spreading to susceptible victims greatly decreases. Otherwise, according to the CDC, 90 percent of unimmunized

people in the vicinity of a measles patient will become infected. Because some infants are not strong enough to receive measles vaccines themselves, one out of 1,000 children infected by measles will become deaf or mentally retarded after contracting encephalitis.

The measles virus is a nationwide concern, yet there are still many who value pseudoscience over vaccines scientifically proven to be effective. Now is the time to start moving forward, not backward.



HANBI KO

Film industry needs to reflect increasing diversity

By Jamie Xie
STAFF WRITER

"Whiplash" for Best Picture? More like whiplash for minorities.

If you line up this year's Oscar's acting, directing and screenwriting nominations side by side, you will definitely

notice a lack of ethnic diversity. In fact, out of 35 people, only one person of color has been nominated. According to its website, the Academy regards itself as "the world's preeminent movie-related organization" of "the most accomplished men and women working in the cinema." But even with such an esteemed reputation, there is still an obvious underrepresentation of minorities in the Academy. However, the lack of diversity in this year's nominations is not

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Once Upon A Troy: Troy High and the Seven Warriors by Hanbi & Hanmin Ko





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purely the Academy's fault. It lies within the film industry as a whole, which has failed to give voice to all of our nation's ethnicities.

There is no doubt that the absence of minorities in Hollywood has been an ongoing issue for decades. In fact, a recent study conducted by the University of Southern California revealed that "no meaningful change has been observed in the frequency

of any racial or ethnic group on screen in popular films between 2007 and 2013." Although the percentage of whites did drop 3.5 percent, other ethnicities hardly saw any improvements. For blacks, the number rose only 1.1 percent, for Hispanics, 1.6 percent, and for Asians, one percent. Even though "12 Years a Slave" and "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" were highly praised last year, most prominent films are still strictly homogenized. The cinema should be a place for all types of stories, not

just a single one. Because different perspectives need to be vocalized, the people who can bring about those new stories should be recognized.

The fact that this year's Oscar nominations are the least diverse in 17 years screams minority underrepresentation loud and clear. An even more deafening reality is that 94 percent of Academy voters are white, according to a 2012 study conducted by the Los Angeles Times. The overwhelming majority of white voters seems to attest to the lack of diversity in nominations over the years. According to the Washington Post, since 1927, only 24 people of color have won in acting categories—that is less than seven percent. If anything, the Academy itself needs to diversify.

Nevertheless, even if Hollywood becomes more diverse, one dogma needs to stand strong. We have to recognize people of merit in the film industry, whether they be white, black, Latino or Asian. The award season is supposed to recognize talent, not

race, in the cinema. While minorities deserve to be fairly represented in the film industry, we need to refrain from giving them an advantage just because of their color. We must retain the mindset that people who should be recognized are those who deserve to be recognized.

Not everyone can win an Oscar—that's the point. However, it is saddening to see that people of color are at a distinct disadvantage because they have long been underrepresented in the film industry. But long-awaited recognition is not about nominating minorities. It is about nominating people of color because they deserve it.



HANBI KO

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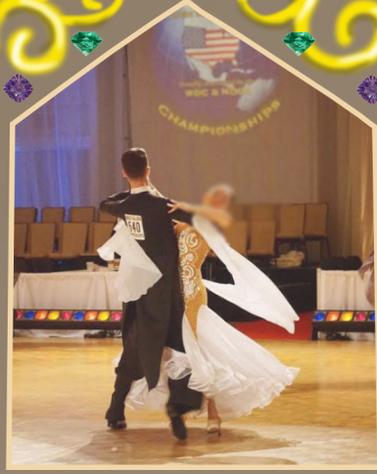
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**TROY
HIGH
SCHOOL**

Correction: In the Dec. 5 issue, the quote wrongly attributed to senior Matthew Sherman in "Warrior seniors will celebrate last winter rally with Elf Dance" was actually given by senior Katherine Dolbear.



A WALTZ TO REMEMBER: Freshman Alton and sophomore Lavie Lee keep the audience engaged with their lively performances during the Embassy Ballroom Championship.



STRICTLY BALLROOM: Lavie and her competition partner Andres End dominate the floor, displaying both subtle technique and effortless grace.



MAKE YOUR MOVE: Though still relatively new to dancesport, Alton shows tremendous artistry as he guides partner Bianka Zubrowska.



DANCING QUEEN AND KING: Alton and Lavie sweep the boards, winning 1st place in all 15 International Bronze standard ballroom dances.

Sharing the Spotlight

Take a look into the lives of freshman Alton and sophomore Lavie Lee, amateur dancesport participants who have taken the ballroom dance scene by storm. With their zeal and dedication, the siblings are gliding past competition and expanding the audience for the uncommon sport.

Article by Grace Lee and Yuri Ceriale, **STAFF WRITERS**
Photos by Lauren Kim, **PHOTO** and courtesy of Lavie Lee
Graphic by Hanbi Ko, **CARTOON EDITOR**

The room is dark, the floor is lit and the music begins to play. Hidden in the crowd of performers stand freshman Alton and sophomore Lavie Lee, with an array of brightly colored dresses surrounding them. Their every step, dip and twirl are flawlessly synchronized to the melody as the siblings effortlessly float across the dance floor with their respective partners. With their own viewpoints and personalities, the ballroom experience is unique for each of the Lee siblings.

Carrying out their uncle's tradition of excellence in ballroom dance, the Lees dedicate many hours outside of school in order to hone their skills. Maintaining their grades, a multitude of extracurricular activities and a stable state of mind may be challenging at times, but the siblings manage to find a healthy balance between all of their undertakings, L. Lee said. "If it is right before a competition, I go [to dance] everyday and practice for two hours," L. Lee said. "I can't practice too much because I have homework, drill teams on ROTC, fencing and dance, but in the end I try to balance it all out. Before I came to Troy I was actually pretty bad at time management, but coming here actually helped me prioritize things I wanted to do." Their dedication to the sport has helped them to improve remarkably, earning them international titles and victories at national competitions. During these events, the siblings have distinctive methods for securing the judges' attention, A. Lee said. "There are usually about eight judges and about 15 to 18 couples on the dance floor, so that means the judges will only have a few seconds to look at you," A.

"My partner and I like to keep the same amount of flair throughout the routine so we're capturing [the judges'] attention the entire time."

Alton Lee
freshman

Lee said. "Generally, I've noticed [Lavie and her partner] go for the more subtle kind of movements and then — when they know they've got your attention — they go all out and bust out the big guns. My partner and I like to keep the same amount of flair throughout the routine so we're capturing [the judges'] attention the entire time."

Though each sibling's perception of ballroom dance is personalized, the Lees match one another in their passion and willingness to learn from one another. Observing the other's variances in technique allows the siblings to continually adapt their own dancing styles, A. Lee said.

"As a male, my role is really important because I guide my partner around the dance floor," A. Lee said. "Sometimes, that requires some jerky movements. But no matter what, you have to still make it look like part of your routine. Looking at my sister allows me to see the movements of the ladies and how I can make it easier for [my partner] to execute those actions and make it look really beautiful altogether."

Between gorgeous costumes and rhythmic dance routines, there is certainly no lack of beauty in the Lees' dancing careers. What is just as beautiful as the siblings' maneuvers, however, is the brotherly-sisterly bond persisting throughout their work, L. Lee said. "Sometimes my uncle and family teases, 'Oh who's better? Alton or Lavie?'" L. Lee said. "It's friendly competition. It's always fun. We definitely support each other. We don't have that big of an age gap and we see each other all the time. We grew up together. We do a lot of things together. We're always going to cheer each other on."

“Fresh Off the Boat” Sets Sail



STUCK IN THE SAME BOAT: Packed into the family van, Jessica (Constance Wu), Grandma (Lucille Soong), Eddie (Hudson Yang), Emery (Forrest Wheeler), Evan (Ian Chen) and Louis Huang (Randall Park) move to their new home in Orlando, Florida.

With its predominantly Asian cast, “Fresh Off the Boat” is a fresh take on the modern American family, bringing humor and representation to a minority often slighted by media.

By Adrija Chakrabarty
STAFF WRITER
Photos courtesy of ABC

Diversifying a racially homogeneous industry, “Fresh Off the Boat,” ABC’s newest comedy about a family of Taiwanese im-

migrants, features an all-Asian American cast, something more foreign to America than the characters in the show themselves.

Based on celebrity chef Eddie Huang’s memoir by the same title, this series features the Huang family: Louis (Randall Park), Jessica (Constance Wu) and their three sons—Eddie (Hudson Yang), Emery (Forrest Wheeler) and Evan (Ian Chen), who have migrated from Chinatown, D.C. to suburban Orlando. Each character has a unique vision and chases the American dream with his or her own signature flair.

Louis attempts to run a failing Western-themed restaurant, Jessica struggles to fit into the rollerblading clique of neighborhood ladies and Eddie tries to charm the alpha males at his school with his hip-hop knowledge and exaggerated swagger.

Poking fun at common stereotypes such as the Asian tiger moms and straight-A students, the show deftly employs humor to lighten the hardships of the Huang family. And with each character’s responses to certain events, the show further illustrates each of the Huangs’ per-

sonalities in a witty and relatable way.

In one scene, Eddie’s determination to earn street cred results in a violent run-in with an African-American child at the cafeteria. In another, Jessica obsessively micro-manages the restaurant in an effort to keep her family financially sound. While the situations are vastly different, both make for excellent satires, with characterizations so over-the-top that they are laughable.

But even if the jokes are hilarious, the circumstances they arise from are not always as funny. Probably the most striking and unique aspect of “Fresh Off the Boat” is the realism that grounds each of the punchlines.

Although we laugh when Eddie is sent to the principal’s office for unleashing obscenities and punching the African-American student who insulted him, we must also consider how it must have felt to be in his black Air Jordans.

Teased for being a Taiwanese outsider in a Caucasian-dominated school, Eddie faces the sort of bullying that many immigrants suffer.

In the same sense, we must see through the veneer of comedy and stereotypes to truly understand Jessica’s situation. Separated from her family and financially

unstable, Jessica has many real-life problems that make her cynicism understandable.

This expert blend of comedy and tragedy is what makes “Fresh Off the Boat” a pleasure to watch. Both Eddie’s and Jessica’s circumstances, if devoid of humor, could potentially be quite depressing; however, the show-makers achieve a perfect balance of comedy and reality that adeptly paints the Huang family’s life without coming off as melodramatic. At the same time, the jokes are executed skillfully, drawing laughs without being campy or offensive.

However, the main attraction of this series lies beneath the comical stereotypes and punchlines. In an industry where Asians are forced into typecast roles, such as the kung-fu master or the nerdy valedictorian, this show is one of the first to portray Asian Americans three-dimensionally.

In short, “Fresh Off the Boat”

“In an industry where Asians are forced into typecast roles, such as the kung-fu master or the nerdy valedictorian, this show portrays Asian Americans three-dimensionally.”

is the perfect sitcom for those craving droll humor with a generous helping of social awareness.

In an age when minority populations make up over a quarter of America but barely a tenth of the entertainment industry, “Fresh Off the Boat” is making waves bigger than those Eddie made on his first day of school.

Meet the Huangs

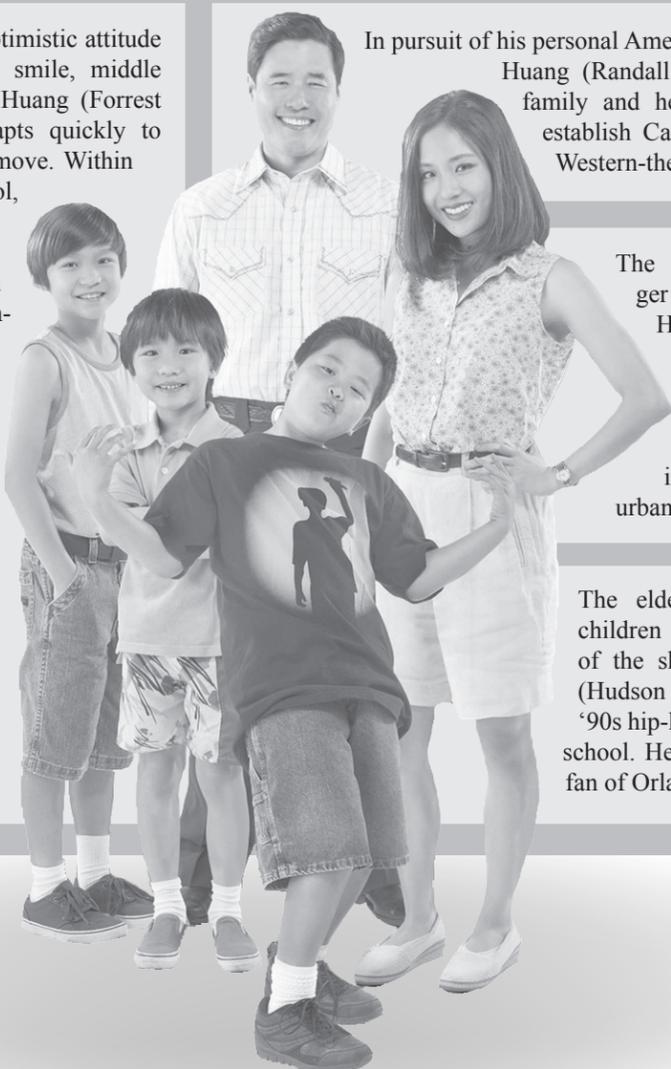
With his optimistic attitude and indelible smile, middle child Emery Huang (Forrest Wheeler) adapts quickly to the family’s move. Within a day of school, he has a girlfriend and an invitation to an upcoming birthday party.

Mama’s boy, Evan Huang (Ian Chen), learns that he has allergies when his body rejects “white culture”—cheese from a friend at school.

In pursuit of his personal American Dream, Louis Huang (Randall Park) uproots his family and heads to Florida to establish Cattleman’s Ranch, a Western-themed steakhouse.

The prototype for Tiger Moms, Jessica Huang (Constance Wu) aggressively monitors her children’s education while trying to adjust to suburban life.

The eldest of the Huang children and the protagonist of the show, Eddie Huang (Hudson Yang) is a fan of ‘90s hip-hop and fitting in at school. He is not, however, a fan of Orlando, Florida.



IN SEARCH OF “WHITE PEOPLE FOOD”: At Eddie’s request, Jessica braves the frontier of American supermarkets.



FRESH PRINCE OF ORLANDO: Eddie arrives at school dressed for success in a Notorious B.I.G. t-shirt.

2015 Zodiac Horoscopes

For Lunar New Year Feb. 19, Oracle composed the following horoscopes for the six zodiac years applicable to Warriors. An accuracy of at least 2 percent is guaranteed.

By Leanne Ho, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR
Cartoons by Hanmin Ko, CARTOON

LEGEND OF THE ZODIAC

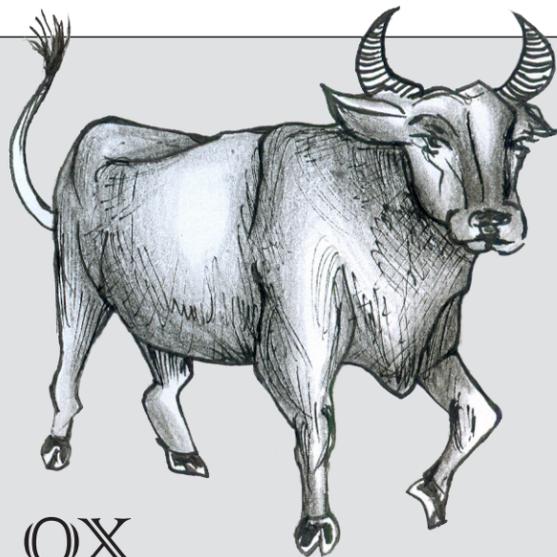
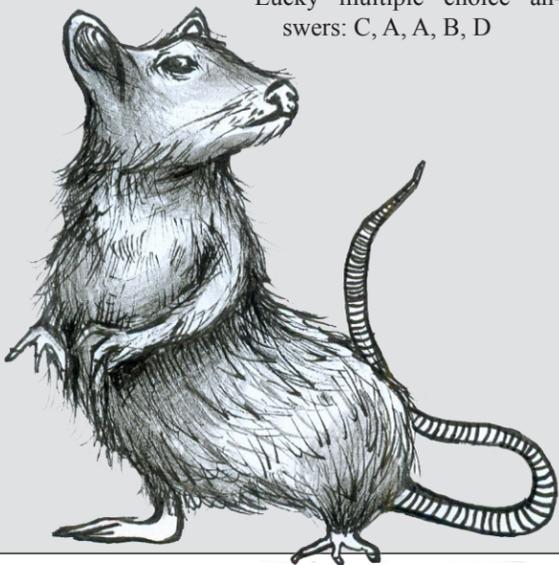
One day, the Emperor in Heaven declared that he would create a calendar and that the first twelve animals to arrive at the palace the next morning would become symbols in the 12-year cycle. At the time, Cat and Rat were neighbors and good friends. Both wanted to be the first, but Cat, much like Troy students on Late Starts, had a habit of sleeping in, so Rat promised to wake Cat in the morning. But the next day, Rat left without a word and began his journey to the palace (much like certain cutthroat students who shall not be named). On the way, he recruited the help of the earnest Ox, who promised to carry him there. Upon arriving at the palace, Rat jumped in front of Ox to become the first animal in the zodiac. This is why all other animals follow the Rat and why to this day, Cat still hates Rat.

RAT

born Feb. 19, 1996 – Feb. 6, 1997

The Rat is creative and ambitious. When properly harnessed, these traits will contribute greatly to financial and social success. This year, change is on the horizon. Prioritize the things that matter to you and let go of the things that don't. Evaluate the relationships in your life; it is likely that someone is hindering your progress. Success is dependent on your vigilance. Do not take unnecessary risks in the first half of the year. Avoid the breezeway.

Lucky multiple choice answers: C, A, A, B, D



OX

born Feb. 7, 1997 – Jan. 27, 1998

The Ox is patient and honest, although occasionally hot-tempered. This year, set concrete objectives and plan to achieve them. Your hard work in the past year has paid off, but don't be caught unawares; nothing is set in stone. Prepare for a great upheaval in your life. An opportunity may arise for you to explore new settings and gain new experiences. You will form a meaningful relationship. A person or event will call your beliefs into question; stand firm, but be open-minded. Be on your guard against post-lunchtime seagulls.

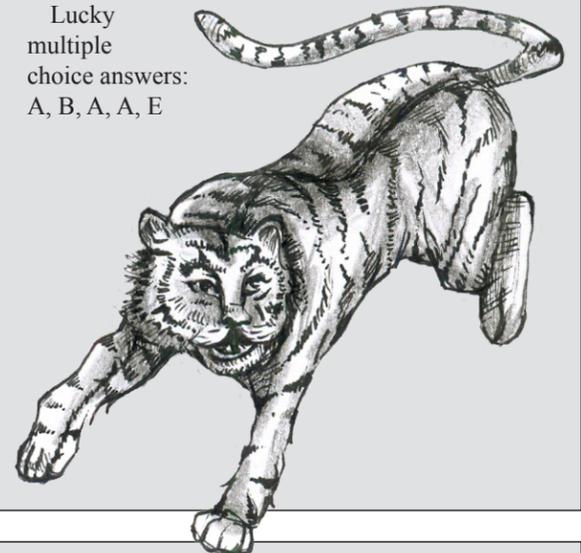
Lucky multiple choice answers: C, A, A, C, D

TIGER

born Jan. 28, 1998 – Feb. 15, 1999

The Tiger is courageous and sensitive. This year, don't shy away from risks that might prove profitable. Set aside time to reflect. You will be presented with difficulties and periods of uncertainty, but if you persevere, you will end the year with a windfall of good news. Express gratitude to someone close to you, and you may reap the appreciative benefits. Conditions are not favorable for your health this year; relieve stress as often as possible to maintain harmony. Time spent with your friends is always well spent. Keep spare calculator batteries on hand.

Lucky multiple choice answers: A, B, A, A, E



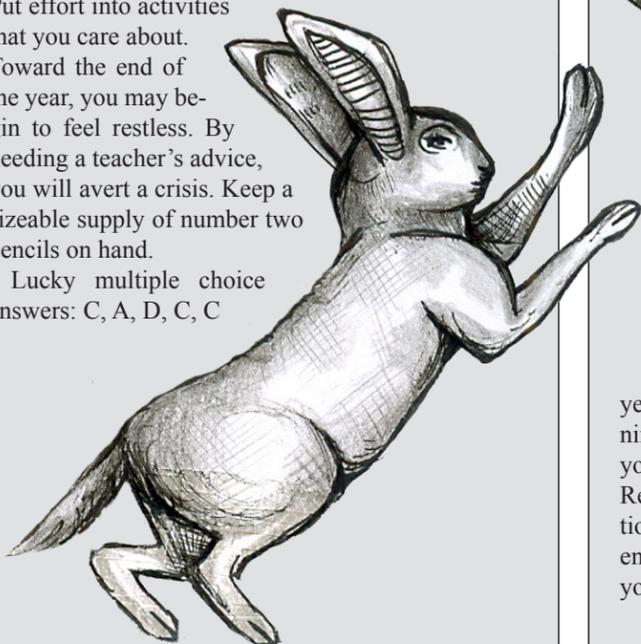
RABBIT

born Feb. 16, 1999 – Feb. 4, 2000

The Rabbit is talented and amicable. This year holds many more struggles than the previous year, but an optimistic spirit guarantees triumph. Persistence is key; your efforts may appear futile at first, but be patient and you will observe tangible results. In the first half of the year, you will seek love in the wrong place. Put effort into activities that you care about.

Toward the end of the year, you may begin to feel restless. By heeding a teacher's advice, you will avert a crisis. Keep a sizeable supply of number two pencils on hand.

Lucky multiple choice answers: C, A, D, C, C



DRAGON

born Feb. 5, 2000 – Jan. 23, 2001

The Dragon is energetic and enthusiastic. This year is favorable for new projects and new beginnings. A risky investment will pay off. Be proud of your accomplishments, but do not grow arrogant. Resolve conflicts quickly and strengthen the relationships that are important to you. Attempt a new endeavor this summer. An elusive treasure awaits you near the sewer grate by squad bay.

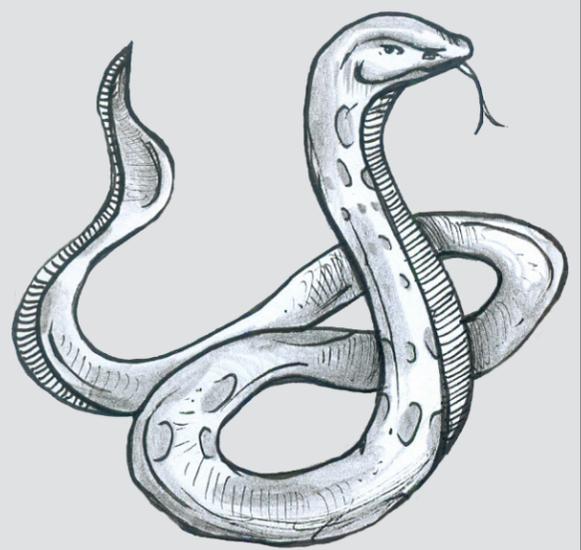
Lucky multiple choice answers: B, C, E, A, E

SNAKE

born Jan. 24, 2001 – Feb. 11, 2002

The Snake is wise and crafty. This year, you will attract notice and praise. A sharp mind is valuable, but do not neglect good character. Do not meddle in the affairs of others. Adjust your views in an unexpected situation. Be careful not to romanticize the past or overestimate your abilities. It is important to stay focused; this year presents many opportunities for you to digress. Avoid rolling backpacks.

Lucky multiple choice answers: A, E, E, C, E



Warriors vanquish the Sonora Raiders 48-34

The Warrior girls basketball team (9-0, 18-8) continued its clean league sweep after taking down the Sonora Raiders Feb. 4.

By Evan Lewis
STAFF WRITER

Expanding upon their record-setting victory from two weeks prior, the Warrior girls basketball team (9-0, 18-8) pummeled the Sonora Raiders 48-34 Feb. 4.

The opposition opened the game with a quick three followed by a long two-pointer to lead 5-0. Countering immediately, the Warriors went on a 12-0 scoring run led by co-captain Cori Okada, who scored on back-to-back fast breaks. However, the Raiders answered with a buzzer-beating three-pointer to end the first quarter 14-13. Junior Rebecca Lee launched a run in a then-scoreless second quarter with a deep three followed by an explosive lay up from co-captain Barbara Sitanggan, ending the first half 23-15.

Continuing the momentum into the second half, Sitanggan launched a three in quick succession with free throws from Okada to increase the score to 28-17. The Raiders cut into the Warrior lead with three pointers of their own, but Sitanggan responded with a spot up three to dash any hope of a Raider comeback. Sophomore Hope Kakihara sealed the Warrior win by drawing a foul and sinking free throws, leaving the scoreboard 48-34.

This victory comes after the Warriors

broke the state record for consecutive league wins in their game against La Habra, which has only further boosted the Warriors' confidence, senior Danielle Aiu said.

"Breaking the record really opened our eyes to what we can do as a team," Aiu said. "We're confident in our ability to beat anyone in our league. It's not like we weren't before, but now this just solidifies us as a team people will talk about. Games like this one against Sonora are still important, but they get sort of downplayed because of the La Habra game."

The state record, previously set at 183 wins, is a culmination of talent and hard work spanning over a decade, Okada said.

"It's really impressive to accomplish this feat as a program," Okada said. "Our team broke the record, but we couldn't have done it without the success of all the teams before us, and their success stems from the coaches and time put into practice. All of that coming together under the guidance of our coaching staff is really special."

Although this is a historic season of achievement, the Warriors continue to maintain the same aggressive mentality from previous seasons as they finish league, Okada said.

"It's easy to get caught up in all the commotion," Okada said. "It's a huge win for us, but at the end of the day we need to remember that we have other league games to win. Winning league is something that's really important to us, and we can never just assume it will be handed to us. We have to earn it by working hard and taking it game by game."



RENEE SUSANTO

EYE'VE GOT THE BALL: Fending off Raider defense, a Warrior athlete looks for an opening to convert an aggressive play. The team's narrow victory over the Sonora Raiders follows a record-breaking league performance against the La Habra Highlanders two weeks prior.

Wrestling eclipses Sunny Hills Lancers

A commanding performance by the Warriors (4-1, 4-1) led to an additional league victory.

By Dallas Nguyen & Austin Shin
SPORTS EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

Benefiting from the addition of underclassmen captains, the Warrior wrestling team (4-1, 4-1) trounced the Sunny Hills

Lancers in a blowout league wrestling meet 52-16 Feb. 3.

The Warriors started the meet by ceding the first match, placing them behind at a score of 0-3. Junior Thomas Trinidad closed the deficit by keeping a tight hold on his opponent, quickly evening out the score at 3-3. The Warriors then seized a sizeable lead after three unhindered matches, setting the score at 21-3. Increasing the ad-

vantage, co-captain Jacob Alderson repeatedly took down his opponent and secured a victory by major decision. Following two more uncontested matches, the half ended with the Lancers trailing 37-3.

Junior Adrian Diaz faced off against an evenly matched opponent to start off the second half. However, Diaz managed to pin his opponent only 30 seconds into the third period, bumping the score up to 43-3. Senior Kevin Niu followed suit, earning himself another pin as he reversed his opponent's hold. Although the Warriors capitulated the next three matches, their early advantage allowed them to emerge victorious with the final score of 52-16.

Leading up to the Warriors' decisive victory, the possibility of having younger captains have provided leadership opportunities for talented individuals regardless of age, Alderson said.

"We used to have seniors as our captains, but this year the coaches decided to allow sophomores to be captains," Alderson said. "There are currently two this year, [myself and Tommy Hoover]. [The coaches] wanted to show that even though you may be young, you can still earn a good spot on the team. Just because you're new doesn't mean you can't be a vital part of the team."

More accessible relationships among the team members have also developed as a result of the narrowing age gap, co-captain Garrett Granger said.

"I think that [having sophomore captains] is a good thing due to the fact that the [younger athletes] have captains closer to their age and they can relate to them," Granger said. "It's not a senior ordering them around; it's one of their peers in an authoritative role."

While younger leaders may enhance the team's outward performance, undertaking a captain position goes beyond the training room, Granger said.

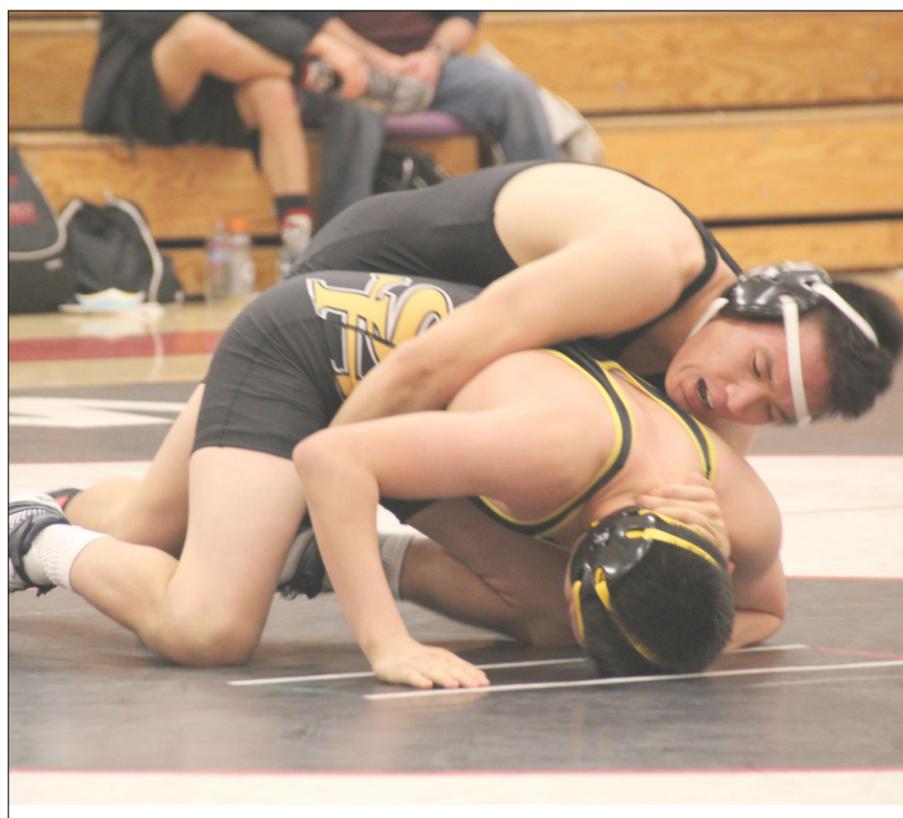
"I think that [being a captain] is a major responsibility because the way you handle yourself shows your character," Granger said.

"To be a captain, you have to be in charge in the room, but outside of the room, you have to keep that same heart and

drive because you represent Troy wrestling. You won't see me doing something I'm not supposed to after school; I try my best to keep up on grades and I make sure my image is clean."

Despite the increased responsibilities, the introduction of underclassmen captains will allow the Warriors to establish an improved player base for future seasons, co-captain Daniel Sanchez said.

"You can tell that they have a lot of potential to be good, but we're trying to get them to the best they can," Sanchez said. "They definitely get everyone excited because they're talented, and we all know they're going to be good in their [later years]. The next couple of years, we're going to have a strong team."



LAUREN KIM

TAP OUT: Pinning down his opponent into submission, a Warrior athlete secures the Warriors' domination against the Sunny Hills Lancers Feb. 3.

Coyotes fall to girls water polo 13-3



LAUREN KIM

THOU SHALL NOT PASS: Bolstering the Warrior momentum, sophomore athlete attempts to intercept her opponent's pass and prevent a Coyote comeback.

The girls water polo team (9-0, 21-7) triumphed over the Buena Park Coyotes.

By Angie Won
STAFF WRITER

Dominating league matches through improved camaraderie and endurance, the Warrior girls water polo team (9-0, 21-7) swept the Buena Park Coyotes 13-3

Feb. 5.

In the first half of the match, a faltering Warrior defense allowed the Coyotes to steal a 0-1 advantage. Responding to the deficit, junior Celest Solis slammed a shot past the goalie to even the score. The Warriors gained offensive momentum as co-captain Quinn Turner passed through Coyotes to sophomore Claire Schade, who blasted the ball 4-1. Junior

Makayla Parks bolstered Warrior defense, deflecting the opponents' corner shots to leave the Coyotes trailing 7-1 at halftime.

Riding into the second half with an aggressive game plan, the Warriors maintained their lead 9-3 as sophomore Ava Mattis took advantage of a foul to drive a point through the net. The Warriors widened the gap as junior Alex Dowell converted a turnover, lob-

bing a ball over the Coyotes to snatch a goal. Co-captain Marissa Vaccher followed suit with a long pass to Mattis who fired the ball across the court 11-3. Bursting through a weary Coyote defense, Dowell whipped a shot into an open net, clinching the win 13-3.

Although the Warriors have yet to lose a match this season, the team initially struggled with communication between new and returning players, Vaccher said.

"We are a pretty young team right now," Vaccher said. "That's one thing we've had to overcome. In the beginning of the season, everyone was a bit rocky. But as the season progressed, the juniors and even the sophomores have stepped up and been working really hard. We've all learned how to work together in the pool. The teamwork has really helped us bond and play well."

The team has strengthened unity and enhanced speed by training rigorously and expanding its offense to incorporate all players, Turner said.

"We swim a lot everyday for about an hour, and it's definitely made us faster," Turner said. "Our speed has kept us ahead of other teams in league. Our offense includes every single person in the pool. In the past, it's always been two girls who did everything. This year, it really

helps to be close because we all have a big contribution. I think that it's important that we all have teamwork and really enjoy each other's presence."

With a combination of teamwork and speed, the Warriors are able to last longer physically and play together more cohesively than other teams, Vaccher said.

"In the middle of a game, communication is key," Vaccher said. "Whenever we play and everyone is combined, it's easier to come out on top. Also, near the end of the game when the other team is tired, we're able to keep up and continue playing strong and fast."

Despite being undefeated in league, the Warriors rely on increasing camaraderie among players, rather than the traditional incentive of CIF, to carry the team through the season, Turner said.

"I think right where we are is perfect," Turner said. "As long as we are having fun, doing our best and working hard, we are where we need to be. I'm not really looking for anything more than that. I don't think we need to win CIF to be a good team or to be a happy team. I think we are exactly where we should be. One goal we would have is to really bond closer together both inside and outside of the pool. We are working on relying on each other and trusting each other as a team."

Dear Troy,

On May 12, 2014, I broke horrible news to my students and colleagues—that I had been diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer. I returned on Friday to a school I almost didn't recognize. Gone was the Warrior red and black; what welcomed me was an ocean of pink. Never have Glenn and I realized more profoundly that we are a Warrior family. The emotional boost of that day readied me for the fight of my life—the fight for my life.

What can I do as an English teacher of twenty years when I want to say thank you, but words fail? Whatever I write to you on this page will never be enough. Our gratitude pales next to every glimmer of love, every encouraging word, the entire spectrum of colors in blooming flowers delivered to our front porch, every hug, prayer, pinkie promise, card, phone-call, text, email, gift, pink t-shirt, donation, and DANCE that you have given us—it is endless. If you could feel its warmth, you would feel it for centuries.

The culmination of your love and support came on January 26th at Plummer Auditorium for Dancing with the Staff. Those amazing dancers, simply masquerading as Troy teachers during the day, were led by the brilliant Tami Donnelly, who gave so much of herself to make it happen (not to mention her exquisite hip-hop moves), and by the unbelievably talented Daniel Flannagan. The over eighty staff members who danced to make a difference and the Troy students who devoted their time and brilliance made it one of the most spectacularly beautiful nights of my life. As the beauty exploded throughout the auditorium, it confirmed everything I have ever felt about being a Warrior.

I floated away from that night thinking "Isabelle and Jack Henry, my children, experienced this." It will forever give our family strength. The unflinching spirit of Troy, the tenacity of your love, the selfless desire to give in order to help me fight and live—again, words are not enough. The past eight months have been a miracle. No matter what happens tomorrow, you have granted us a priceless gift. I see it with astounding clarity. . .

I am surrounded by love, I am embraced by family, and I am uplifted by warriors—we all are.

Thank you, Troy.

Love,

Dorey, Glenn, Isabelle, and Jack Henry Madrid