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BIDEN NEEDS TO REVISE HIS STUDENT DEBT PLAN

President Biden has announced a plan to forgive up to \$20,000 in student debt. Will his plan truly help students?

Compiled by Audrey Na, **OPINION EDITOR**, article by Shailey Patel, **STAFF WRITER**, graphic by Daniela Kristen Herrera, **GRAPHICS EDITOR**, and Sophie Chen, **GRAPHICS**, cartoon by Pearl Yoon, **CARTOON EDITOR**, visuals courtesy of Dreamstime

By Shailey Patel
STAFF WRITER



Joe Biden’s new loan relief policy will demolish America’s economy. On Aug. 24, President Biden announced his new three-part plan to relieve student loan debt, which includes loan forgiveness anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for individuals who earn less than \$125,000 annually and for households who earn less than \$250,000 annually. According to the White House, the bill would erase around \$300 billion for 8 million students in debt. Although the Biden administration may have good intentions in passing the bill, it fails to consider minorities and the general public.

While student loan relief is a step in the right direction to alleviate student debt, it contributes to income disparity. According to CNN, four years after graduation, Black students typically end up paying 6% more than what they initially borrowed, while white students usually owe around 10% less than they initially borrowed. Loan forgiveness would

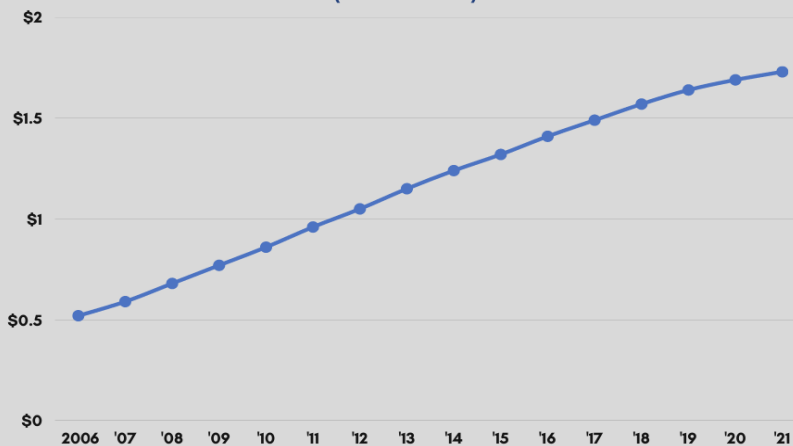
allow white students to almost fully pay off their debt; however, it would not make a large difference for Black students. With the inability to pay off loans, it is difficult for Black families to establish themselves in America, and find equal educational opportunities.

Throwing \$10,000 at student debt hoping that it will help these students is highly unrealistic—it barely makes a difference when looking at the big picture. In order to make a meaningful impact on student debt, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People calls for a minimum of \$50,000 in debt relief per student, which would remove the debt of 95% of student loan borrowers. This would

allow them to live free of the burden that comes with student debt. While Biden has already rejected that dollar amount, the very least the administration can do is find a way to distribute the funds in a way that makes an equal difference to everyone. Instead of giving everyone equal amounts of money, students should be given debt relief based on their income.

Additionally, even though the plan could help wipe out the debts of one-third of loan borrowers, it could end up making college more costly for future generations of students. Biden’s plan

Historic Total National Student Loan Debt (in trillions)

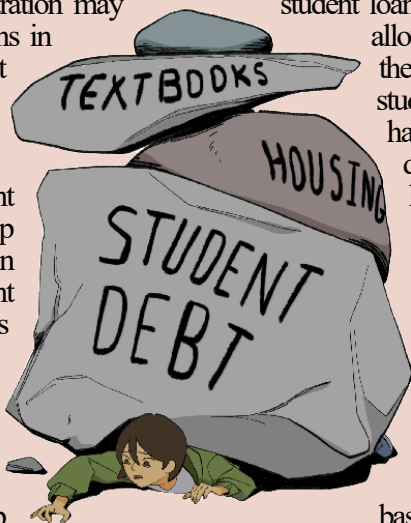


Data Source: U.S. Federal Reserve

includes changing the income-driven repayment system—a system that defines students’ monthly loan payments based on income and family size, no matter the size of the loan. Because students would be able to take out larger loans, universities would be incentivized to charge higher tuition in order to make a greater profit. Current college tuition prices are already expensive, and increasing the price will make college education unattainable for many future generations of students.

Furthermore, the government does not have the funds to support a loan relief of this magnitude. A May report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office warned that the current federal

spending is at an unsustainable level, putting the country’s financial health at risk. If the plan is pursued, vital government programs and regulations such as free and reduced lunch may be cut. The passing of this bill would hurt everyone, from the students it aims to help, to the government passing the bill, to everyday taxpaying citizens. Rather than passing a bill that negatively affects all parties involved, regardless of their relation to the relief, a new plan should be discussed. The potential advantages of student debt forgiveness do not outweigh the cost; people who do not benefit from the relief should not have to pay for it.



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FOCUS

The new school year brings several new teachers to the Troy family. Read to learn more about them!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Learn about how the hit K-drama “Extraordinary Attorney Woo” redefines neurodiveristy through its touching storyline and characters.

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SPORTS

With a score of 49-0, the Warrior football team has shattered its competition. This season will be its best yet!

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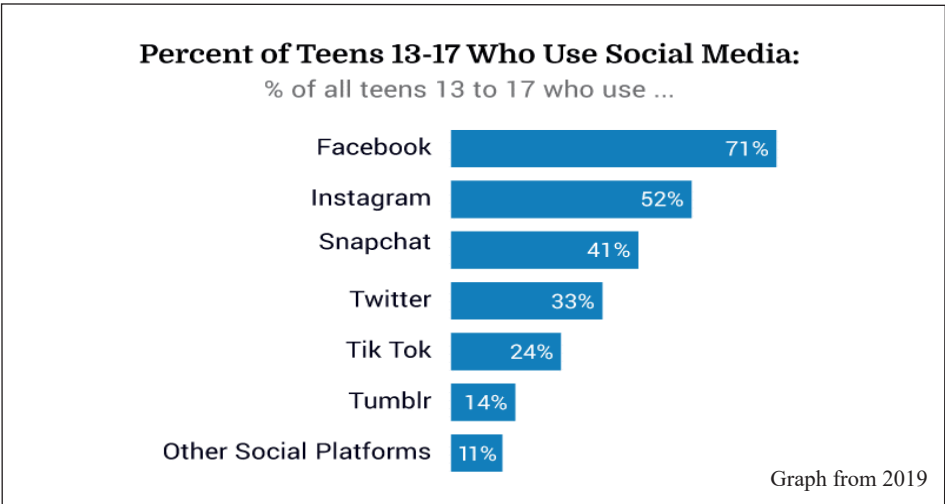
Managing personal social media is not the liability of the companies and platforms

By Joelle Cheeseman
STAFF WRITER



Parents should be responsible for their kids’ screen time, not the government. On Aug. 11, the California legislature rejected the Social Media Platform Duty to Children Act, a bill that would allow parents to sue social media platforms over their children’s addiction. This proposal would prohibit large social media companies like Facebook, Instagram or Tiktok from including features that harm children’s mental or physical health, such as algorithmic search pages or bottomless scrolling. However, the government’s involvement in people’s recreational lives raises concerns for kids and adults alike since the harsh laws restricting social media can potentially lead to censorship of sensitive content and limit people’s freedom of expression. Despite the possible risks posed by social media, a child’s on-line activity is ultimately not the responsibility of companies but that of parents. Although restrictive social media laws may appear to prioritize children’s safety online, they instead contribute to content censorship. The Social Media Platform Duty to Children Act prohibits social media platforms from using “a design, feature... causes child users to become addicted to the platform.” As a result, without specific guidelines to follow, social media platforms are encouraged to

enact broader restrictions over the entire platform, ultimately over-censoring content deemed inappropriate for children and severely limiting access for minors. Some may argue that Instagram perpetuates unrealistic beauty standards for young girls, but this is a consequence of the content people choose to share and consume, not the platform itself. The new bill frequently references a Wall Street Journal report highlighting the significant connection between Instagram’s explore page and body image issues in teenage girls in contrast with other social media platforms. While Instagram focuses on their users’ lifestyles and bodies, platforms such as TikTok, which are centered around entertainment, do not perpetuate body image issues to such a severe degree. The solution to harmful content shared on social media should not be enacting harsh restrictions on social media companies but instead promoting education for youth regarding thoughtful media consumption. By framing social media as dangerous to children, these companies will be unfairly punished for having controversial or negative content accessible to children. In addition, increased legal enforcement on social media platforms will encourage harsher authentication policies, threatening user privacy. Apart from requiring users to input their birthdays, many websites use a variety of tactics to detect underage users. For example, Youtube uses artificial intelligence to automatically censor certain videos for children. Those suspected



COURTESY OF ADDICTION CENTER

of being under 18 are required to provide a valid ID or credit card to verify their age. As social media restrictions increase, such invasive practices will become commonly used to separate minors from adults, creating risk for leaked credit-card information and personal documents. Furthermore, such harsh legal restrictions on social media platforms neglect the beneficial factors of social media for children today. In a 2018 nationwide survey, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry reported that 90% of teens aged 13 to 17 have social media. Given the significance of social media in teenagers’ lives in staying updated on popular social and school events, parents and their children should be given choice to be on these platforms. While certain aspects of social media are harmful, students should be given the freedom to consume their desired content. Rather than restricting children from social media, parents and schools should encourage education on online safety and appropriate media consumption. Although certain aspects of social media negatively influence children, enforcing legal restrictions is not the way to go. In the virtual world, online networking is becoming an essential part of teenage lives and relationships. The content that minors consume on the internet is not up to the government to decide, but for minors and their parents. To protect minors, laws should promote safe, educated behavior online rather than taking away people’s freedom of expression.

The outreaching voices of the minorities cannot be silenced by the government

By Edyn Mai
STAFF WRITER



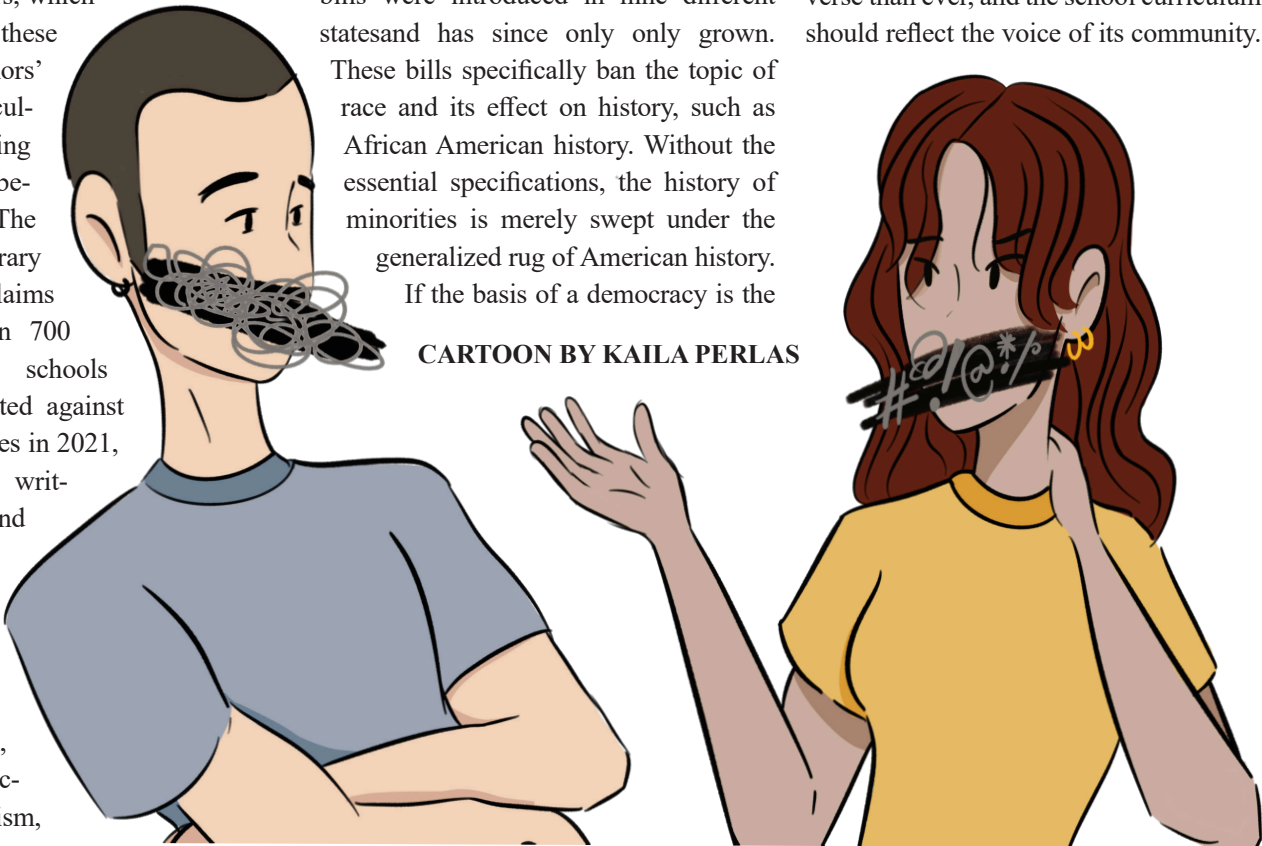
Censorship in schools pushes America against its core democracy. For the past year, state governments have debated the future of education; precisely, what they think students should be taught in school compared to home. As a response, educational gag bills are set by the governments to silence the teachers and staff. For example, the Arizona House Bill 2439 requires school districts to inform parents of the library titles and notify them of what their child checks out from the library. Schools are being threatened with fines, loss of funding, criminal charges, and staff being fired for rejecting these requests. State governments need to reconsider these bills because they remove the stories of minorities from history. These bills will only hinder the fight against homophobia. Oppression is based on misunderstanding and the inability to understand how others live. We need schools to educate children on these topics to prevent future misunderstandings. In a study by the Thomas Reuters Foundation, 99% of LGBTQ+ students from 13 to 21 years of age have faced insensitive comments about their identity. Of these students, a staggering 92% feel distressed. For the those in the minority,

LGBTQ+ students need equal representation in schools, so they think their identity is equally as valid in comparison to other students. Furthermore, the students who say insensitive comments and slurs must to be educated about their harsh words and attitude towards the LGBTQ+ community to prevent hate in the future. By the same note, the bills result in students becoming ignorant regarding social issues. The bills primarily target works by minority authors, which means that these minority authors’ experiences, culture and writing are slowly being diluted. The American Library Association claims that more than 700 challenges to schools were documented against scholarly sources in 2021, most of these written by Black and LGBTQ+ authors. Students cannot read books on any form of oppression, such as racism or sexism,

and are forced to search for books that reflect their own experiences. Minority students growing up will now feel less understood because they will see less representation in classrooms and libraries. Additionally, the history of African Americans is not a subject to be “revised.” Students need to know about the mistreatment of minorities to prevent it in the future. The removal of Black history is not unheard of. In November of 2021, new bills were introduced in nine different states and has since only grown. These bills specifically ban the topic of race and its effect on history, such as African American history. Without the essential specifications, the history of minorities is merely swept under the generalized rug of American history. If the basis of a democracy is the

word of the people, we cannot let our future be inept. Students must know how oppression affects the world and how to fight against it, or else we cannot make any change. Although the extent of the bills is not that far, that is where they are headed. Educational gag bills may not ban conversation on significant historical events, but they still silence the voices of the authors who have their stories to share on oppression. Student bodies are more diverse than ever, and the school curriculum should reflect the voice of its community.

CARTOON BY KAILA PERLAS



Teachers must be appropriately paid for the work and impact they create

By Brett Larsen
STAFF WRITER

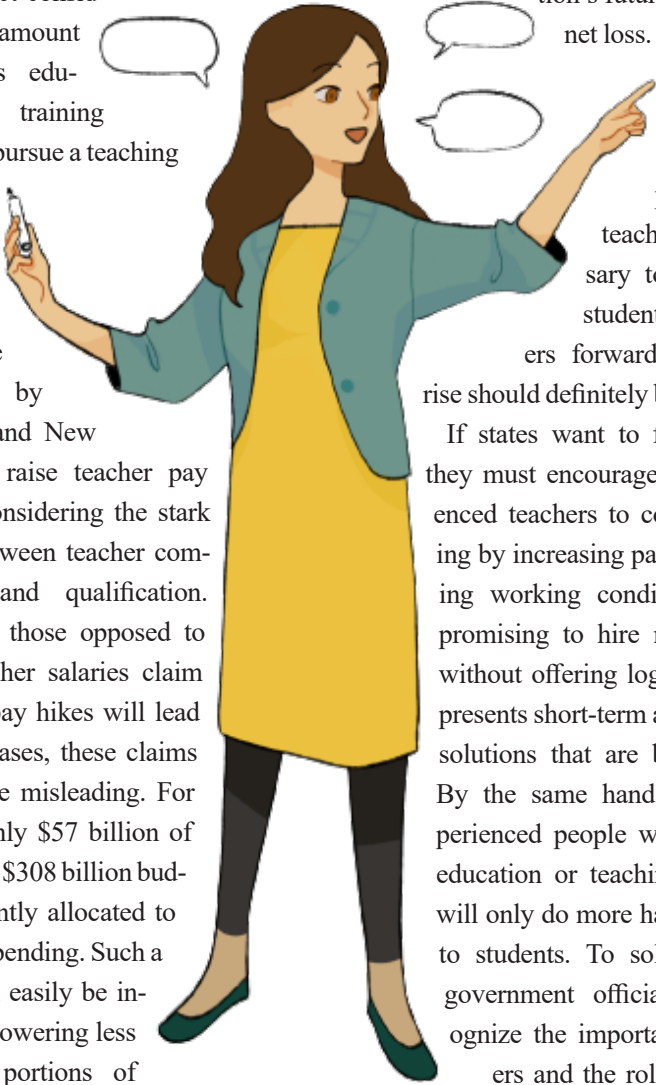


Investing in an educated teacher means investing in a brilliant student. With the school year heating back up nationwide, many schools face a new challenge: a lack of teachers. According to the National Education Association, about 300,000 teachers across the country have left the workforce altogether, forcing schools to prepare for the worst. This has led a number of states across the country to plan accordingly, albeit each with radically different plans. While states such as California aim to raise teacher pay outright, other states like Florida plan on lifting a number of requirements that are currently necessary to become a teacher. Although both approaches represent an admirable attempt to fix the crisis, experienced teachers should be prioritized above all else to secure a high-quality education. Without competent teachers, students will fail to receive the quality education that they deserve. According to the California Department of Education, approximately 17% of K-12 teachers in California do not hold the credentials necessary to teach their given course. This is bound to be prob-

lematic as studies such as those administered by the Scholars Strategy Network consistently show that teachers who are inexperienced negatively affect a child’s education. Only a knowledgeable teacher can properly engage a student and create a healthy learning environment. By failing to fill vacancies with qualified teachers, students will only be hurt in the long run. Aside from income, working conditions should also be improved to make teaching positions more appealing. The National Education Association states that 92% of educators are unsatisfied with the current amount of support staff at schools, positions including but not limited to counselors, campus supervisors and in-house psychologists. The lack of in-house mental health professionals leaves a tremendous burden on teachers, who already are tasked with the education of their students. As such, teachers are morally obligated to take on such a role to ensure that their students are emotionally stable. With proper training, or support staff ultimately leads to a more efficient teaching environment. The solution to address the lack of teachers in the workforce is to raise minimal starting salaries. According to ZipRecruiter, the national median entry-level pay for teachers currently stands at \$34,546. In contrast, a

grocery store clerk makes about \$34,921-roughly \$400 more than a teacher- a shocking fact considering the amount of rigorous education and training required to pursue a teaching position. In response, plans such as those proposed by California and New Mexico to raise teacher pay are ideal considering the stark contrast between teacher compensation and qualification. Although those opposed to raising teacher salaries claim additional pay hikes will lead to tax increases, these claims can often be misleading. For example, only \$57 billion of California’s \$308 billion budget is currently allocated to education spending. Such a number can easily be increased by lowering less significant portions of the state budget. Spendings on education

should be viewed as our most important expense and as an investment in our nation’s future rather than a net loss. As a response, if \$10,000 more in minimum pay per teacher is necessary to propel both students and teachers forward, such a pay rise should definitely be entertained. If states want to fix this crisis, they must encourage more experienced teachers to continue teaching by increasing pay and improving working conditions. Simply promising to hire more teachers without offering logical strategies presents short-term and ineffective solutions that are bound to fail. By the same hand, hiring inexperienced people without college education or teaching credentials will only do more harm than good to students. To solve the issue, government officials must recognize the importance of teachers and the role they play in raising a new generation of leaders and citizens alike.



CARTOON BY PEARL YOON

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TROY HIGH SCHOOL

Hey Seniors!

Applying to college this fall?

Before submitting your app,
have it critiqued by a
former Admissions Officer
from top universities.

parkadvising.com

Administration installs new signages and murals for the new school year

The administration aims to provide an improved classroom experience and visual guidance to the Warriors through the new campus makeover.

By Rachel Kang
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to boost school spirit as well as improve visual appeal and guidance, the school administration worked with the Associated Student Body and Fullerton Joint Union High School District on campus renovations over summer break.

The 300 building entrances and the top of the overhanging roof on one side of the quad now feature stenciled room number ranges and labels for the breezeway and Wellness Center. Alongside the directional signage, the west student parking lot has repainted lines for easier student parking and fencing for separation from the athletic fields.

According to the administration, the new signages and renovations helped guide students and family members to classrooms during Back to School Night.

“It was easier for staff to guide the families around campus with the new room numbers,” said Assistant Principal Lance Bletscher, “Instead of [giving step-by-step instructions] we could tell them which hallway had which room numbers, and they found it more helpful.”

Along with visual guidance and structural improvements around campus, the renovation helped raise school spirit, Bletscher said.

“Trying to get some of that school culture back was part of what inspired us,” Bletscher said, “[Administrators] tried to get past these weird years where students could not experience what Troy was really like and make us all proud of our school.”

While most changes have been finalized, Warriors can expect more improvements this school year such as better acoustics in the North Gym to improve sound quality for all events, Bletscher said.

“We will continue to explore ways to revamp our campus through this school year,” Bletscher said, “[The administration] is excited to get students excited about these changes that bring back the Troy culture we all love.”



PHOTO BY LAUREN SONG

NEW YEAR, NEW CAMPUS: Over the summer break, the administration attached signages on the Breezeway to guide students to classrooms.

Troy Cyber invites elementary school students to participate in its program

Selected Orange County elementary school students will practice and compete alongside Warriors during the new competition season

By Nathan Chao
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to promote early learning, the Warrior Cyber program expanded its team for the 2022-2023 school year to include elementary school students for the upcoming fall competition season.

Established in 2016 with a few dozen Warrior students, the cyber program has grown to a few hundred participants. With six years of experience qualifying for national competitions, the program began experimenting with younger students as a result of a fourth grader, a member of the cyber program the previous year whose middle school team made the national semi-finals.

With over 75 elementary school students registered, the program prepares to compete this fall. The program puts an emphasis on collaboration, with curriculums designed by students for instructors to review. Competing annually in the U.S. Cyberpatriot competitions, students engage in hands-on learning centered around the protection of Windows, Linux and Cisco computer systems from internet disclosure.

The collaboration with elementary school students began with Warrior cyber instructor Christian Nguyen, who enrolled his two children in the Warrior cyber program out of curiosity. Although the addition of elementary school students was



PHOTO COURTESY OF ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

CYBER MINIS: Elementary school students visited the computer labs on campus to learn cyber skills from Warriors and staff. The students explored various areas of the Troy Cyber program such as Linux, Cisco and Windows.

initially a test run, Nguyen quickly noticed the students’ passion for the program.

“We [originally] started with high school and middle school, and the past couple of years, we tried it out with elementary school kids ranging from fourth to fifth grade. We were so impressed by how much these students are dedicated to learning about hacking systems,” Nguyen said.

In order to accommodate the new age demographic, the program instructors added

new lessons to the curriculum. During the summer, the elementary students received a virtual image, which is a simulated computer on a physical computer system. Students experimented with the host machine without repercussions, allowing them to practice and improve their skills.

As the competition season begins, elementary students can compete in a competition hosted by Troy in order to simulate a proper competition setting.

Despite the adjustments, Nguyen is hopeful about the future of the Warrior cyber security program.

“It will be a learning experience for us to incorporate students this young,” Nguyen said. “Learning takes place at a very young level. That’s why our students are knowledgeable going into their senior or junior year. It is because once they move onto high school, they will already have five years of cyber security experience.”

Welcome Back! by Kaila Perlas and Pearl Yoon

Gov. Newsom announces statewide plan for student mental health

Under the new state plan, Troy High School will create a new Wellness Center for students.

By Neya Jakan
STAFF WRITER

Governor Gavin Newsom announced a statewide plan on Aug. 18 to increase access to mental health and substance use services for Californians up to age 25.

With a budget of \$4.7 billion, the plan’s objectives are to destigmatize mental health support for students, rebuild California’s mental health system, and develop a workforce of psychologists and specialists to aid children. The plan also offers services such as CalHope and the Children’s Mental Health Resources Hub for parents and schools to provide treatment and suicide prevention for students.

In an effort to expand the mental health workforce, G. Newsom plans to provide training for 40,000 behavioral health professionals in an on-line platform for mental health assessment and intervention. Through the online training program, G. Newsom aims to double the number of counselors and specialists in schools.

In accordance with the state plan, the Warrior administration

aims to implement better access to mental health services on campus. Accessible starting October, the new wellness center called The Lounge will have a specialist available throughout the school day in room 413, Assistant

issues within students is the most difficult task for teachers and parents. By increasing the number of counselors and health professionals at schools, students who suffer from mental health issues will be able to receive help they need to resolve

“Mental health is one of the greatest challenges of our time. The plan is premised on a very simple belief: every kid deserves to have their mental health supported.”

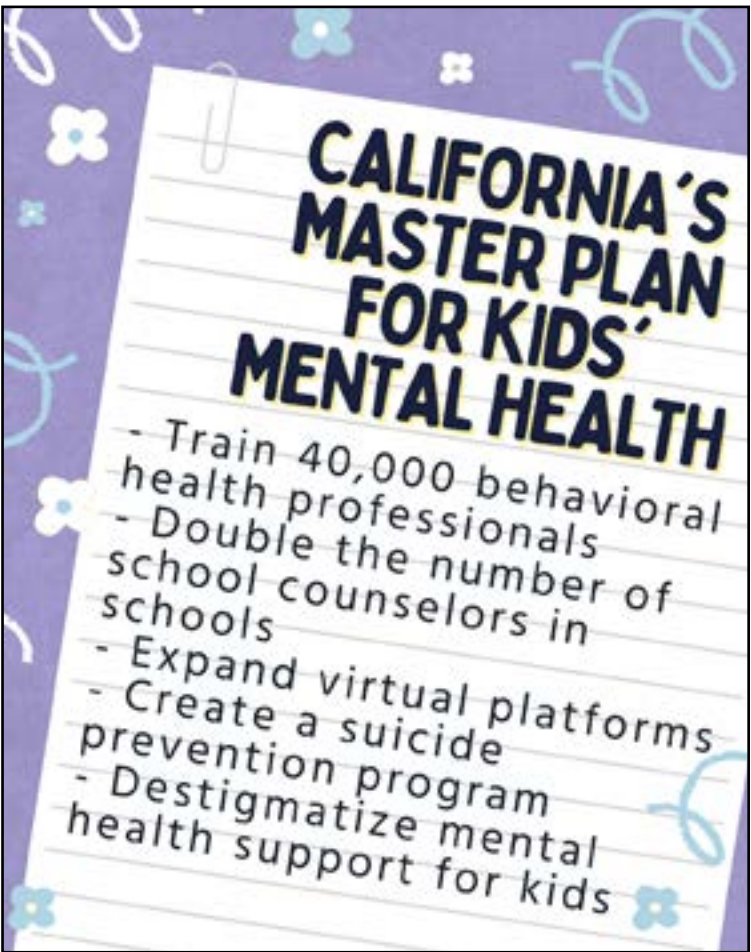
Gavin Newsom
Governor of California

Principal Tina Wilde said. “[The administration] is working off of a grant from the Orange County Department of Education and Children’s Health Orange County along with mental health specialists who create calming spaces at schools,” Wilde said. “We want to improve the mindset of students in terms of coping skills and strategies to help de-escalate students and how they’re feeling.”

According to California First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, recognition of mental health

their struggles, J. Newsom said in an interview with ABC News.

“As a parent, there is nothing worse than seeing your child in pain and feeling powerless to help, which is the case for many families with children struggling with serious issues, such as anxiety and depression,” J. Newsom said. “[The government] is taking the mental health and wellbeing of children seriously, and is tackling this problem head-on with significant investments in the infrastructure of the state’s mental health system.”



GRAPHIC BY SOPHIE CHEN

According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, depression is a risk for older children and teens, and signs of depression and anxiety among students are at historic levels nationwide. In order to address this issue, teachers and parents will be able to utilize

the plan’s new mental health services, G. Newsom said. “Mental and behavioral health is one of the greatest challenges of our time,” G. Newsom said. “The plan for kids’ mental health is premised on a very simple belief: every kid deserves to have their mental health supported.”

University of California offering free tuition for Native American students

The plan aims to address the underrepresentation of Native Americans in college and other socioeconomic disparities.

By Iman Babiker
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to close the education gap for California’s Native American students, the University of California will provide free tuition for eligible Native UC students starting in fall 2022.

With a budget of \$2.4 million, the UC Native American Opportunity Plan covers the tuition of UC students who are California residents from federally recognized Native American or Alaskan tribes. Students must provide documentation of tribal enrollment such as certification, a membership card with the tribal seal or leader’s signature, a Certificate of Indian Blood or a tribal identification card with the enrollment number.

Prompted by Native American underrepresentation, UC,

federal and state financial aid programs provided scholarships for students who do not already qualify for free tuition. According to the UC website, 0.5% of the 300,000 students who enrolled in fall 2021 were Native. Post Secondary National Policy Institute reports 24% of Native students are enrolled in college, while the US national average is 41%. As reported by the National Community Reinvestment Collection, the Native American demographic also has the highest poverty rate of 25.4%. Native Americans experience some of the highest poverty rates as well as the highest dropout rates.

The plan is crucial to counteract the consequences of a grueling past, UCLA sophomore Camryn Roland said in an interview with Spectrum News 1.

“A lot of things have been taken away from us, not only our land but our family members,” Roland said. “So for our generations now being able to get some more benefit and kind of make up for what we have



GRAPHIC BY DANIELA KRISTEN HERRERA

lacked for so long is important.”

Due to legal restrictions, members of non-federally recognized tribes must rely on external organizations for scholarships. Proposition 29 states that UCs cannot admit students for financial aid by racial classification, opening the plan for political classification, such as legal membership of a federally-recognized tribe.

In an effort to address the wrongs Native Americans faced, the plan confronts the consequential socioeconomic disparities by making education more accessible, UC President Michael Drake said in a letter to UC chancellors.

“I am proud of the efforts the University has made to support the Native American community, including the creation of the UC Native American Opportunity Plan,” Drake said. “I am hopeful this new program will benefit our students and continue to position the University of California as the institution of choice for Native American students.”

Welcoming New Teachers

Many new faces appear on campus this year, all coming from unique backgrounds with various aspiring goals. What will they bring to the Troy family? Read more about their stories below!

Compiled by Coco Gong and Vivian Lee, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF, article by Julie Liu, STAFF WRITER, photos by Tiffany Vo, PHOTO EDITOR, and Lauren Song, PHOTOS, graphics by Sophie Chen, GRAPHICS



Mr. Sean Dachtler
Science

Sean Dachtler’s earnest heart for his students shines through every conversation and question asked. Through taking time to build personal relationships, Dachtler demonstrates the sincere care he has for his students. In his first three weeks at Troy, Dachtler has already committed each of his students’ names to memory, greeting every student like a friend. From helping students with class content at lunch to teaching them communication and organization skills, Dachtler embodies his values of empathy and respect. After all, Dachtler’s students are the source of his motivation and he cherishes each individual deeply, always willing to lend a listening ear to any questions. “There is always somebody to talk to,” Dachtler said. “Don’t stay to yourself. Reach out for help. Even though you may not think it’s true, people do care.”



MSgt Nile Yocke
NJROTC Instructor

In the NJROTC room, Master Sergeant Nile Yocke molds students into solid future leaders by helping them strengthen their leadership skills, develop good citizenship and build self-confidence. Following NJROTC’s strict rules requires diligence and discipline, requiring students to possess unwavering control and perseverance to thrive. Learning alongside the students, Yocke has mastered the ins and outs of teaching NJROTC. The additional excitement of students engaged and ready to learn trickles into Yocke’s own enthusiasm to teach. As well as driving a motorcycle, it comes as no surprise that students revere him. “Always work your hardest,” Yocke said, “and put everything you have into what you’re doing.”

Ms. Amy Hernandez
Special Education

After working in Los Angeles for the past five years, Amy Hernandez has returned to her Orange County roots and is giving back to the community that raised her, teaching special education at Troy. She has always dreamt of coming back home and being closer to her family and friends. Having heard of Troy’s outstanding reputation, Hernandez jumped on the opportunity to work here. However, her journey has not always been this optimistic. While earning her teaching credentials, Hernandez faced self doubt, overcoming this difficulty by surrounding herself with supportive family and friends. Hernandez encourages students to do the same and seek her in room 527 where she awaits, eager to provide as much guidance as she can. Every individual must venture on their own path, and Hernandez is there to aid each of her students. “I want [students] to learn that their education is a very powerful tool,” Hernandez said. “I want them to learn that it’s okay to make mistakes and that if you don’t get it right now... it doesn’t mean that you’re not going to get it.”



Ms. Cynthia Trinh
English

Stepping into Cynthia Trinh’s classroom feels like opening a good, heartwarming book. Her splendid smiles and exuberant expressions foreshadow an exciting year ahead. Trinh loves to chat and build relationships with students, hoping that they will be more eager to learn from a teacher they are comfortable with. Trinh’s mission as an English teacher is to cultivate her students’ interest in English. It delights Trinh whenever a book has captivated her students. Trinh also encourages perseverance by allowing her students to redo assignments. And with a corgi named Gatsby, how could her classes not be great? “Sometimes it takes more than one try to get it right,” said Trinh. “So if at first you fail, try again... if anything were to come into [your] way, either in my class or in life, don’t give up.”



Mr. Dylan Bloxham
Social Science

Joining the Troy family’s history department this year is Dylan Bloxham. Having grown up in the area, Bloxham has a special connection to the Fullerton Joint Union High School District. His mom and hero taught at Sunny Hills High School for 21 years, changing a number of students’ lives for the better and inspiring Bloxham to pursue a career in teaching. He aspires to impact the lives of his students the way his mom did. Bloxham hopes that, above all else, his students leave his class at the end of the year understanding how to behave with respect and dignity. He also strongly encourages students to reach out and brighten others’ days. “Be kind to one another and take care of one another... make sure everyone’s doing well,” Bloxham said. “It’s important to... ensure that everyone feels welcome and... like they’re part of the community.”



Please also give a warm welcome to:

Ms. Sharon Hwang - Mathematics, Mr. Diego Gonzalez - Social Science, Ms. Arielle Gates - Athletics, Mr. Cody Takkinen - Special Education, and Mr. Dan Galluccio - Special Education

NEW JEANS

They went looking for attention and they got the wrong kind. Read on to see our take on the dark culture of K-pop idols and the industry as a whole with popular

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Jessica Chin, STAFF WRITER, photos courtesy of Ars Technica

Bright smiles and flawless dance moves, New Jeans look like the ultimate K-pop girl group. However, despite their new found popularity, the girl group may not be as innocent as their youthful appearance.

Under the music label Ador, Minji, Hanni, Danielle, Haerin and Hyein make up the dynamic girl group, expertly mixing their vocals to create hype worthy songs. But even as the catchy rhythms and relatable lyrics attract new fans, the album has come under scrutiny from many critics. As a whole, the album is perfect for their targeted demographic, however the song “Cookie” is extremely troubling. Featuring suggestive metaphors involving cookies and love, the song is anything but innocent. The chilling combination of their fresh faced looks and mature lyrics, makes for a confusing image. The problem can be further scru-

tinized when realizing the youngest member, Hyein, is merely 14 years old. With Haerin being 16, Danielle at 17, and both Hanni and Minji being 18 years old, over half the group are minors. It spotlights the problem that the song is sung by minors to minors.

Though irresponsible, the behavior displayed is not unusual within the K-pop industry. It’s an unsettling pattern that reoccurs throughout K-pop groups, with both Leeseo and Jang Wonyoung from IVE being 14 when they debuted. With constant objectification of minors in the media, music has become a youth-oriented industry, creating a dangerous environment for those in the industry and purchasing from it. The provocative, performative aesthetics of K-pop denies minor idols room to be a child. But it does normalize a harsh industry’s wrongdoings. With South Korea’s loose regulations for minors in the entertainment industry and music labels’ ironically strict regulations for idols,

industry giants have the power to keep abusing their young stars.

It’s undeniable that the entertainment industry has to change. This treatment of minors is not limited to K-pop, and a change is necessary to protect all minors in and out of the industry. So, while New Jeans attracts more attention, we should be much more concerned with how their label and industry have failed to protect them. The ramifications of their fast rising popularity point to huge problems within the industry and community of K-pop.



THE SANDMAN

Dreaming of the new Netflix show to watch? Read more to get to know our take on the sleep inducing show, The Sandman

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Ishaan Arya, STAFF WRITER, photos courtesy of Flickering Myth

The fantastical show The Sandman may be able to stand out in the endless shows on streaming platforms, however the journey to the dream world has many viewers falling asleep. With stunning visuals, creative worldbuilding, and some stand-out characters, the Sandman manages to suck you into the vortex of its mythology. This new Netflix series follows Morpheus’ return to power through the different realms of the Endless, seven avatars that each represent a different force of the universe. Among these are the Sandman himself, Dream, Death, Desire, Despair, Destiny, Destruction, and Delight. This highly artistic and sophisticated take on the classic folk character has no intention of being anything less than a fantasy epic, down to the same irksome problems of pacing and lack of energy.

Where The Sandman falls short is in

its execution of its excellent ideas. Though interesting and very inventive, certain aspects of the show’s lore fall flat, as viewers are asked to sit through long and drawn out sequences of conversations or exposition. The style of storytelling is very low energy and sophisticated, something that proves to be a lot less engaging than a traditional comic-book show. The exploration of the different realms and Endless follows a more episodic approach, where a new area or encounter will take up only one episode. The show frequently makes the decision to skip past or rush any sort of action sequences, favoring conversations and drawn out displays of magic. In the end, the experience is very exhausting and not at all rewarding when reaching the end of plot lines.

The aforementioned Endless become much more of an afterthought in a show that doesn’t have the gripping plot or striking cast to replace them with. While the audience would much rather be running around places like hell or the entrancing realm of Desire, we’re stuck in either dreary London or indoor areas

of the Dreaming. The show dangles cinematic locales in front of us without going further than a glimpse. This leaves us always dreaming for more, never really feeling satisfied with the storyline we’re supposed to be invested in. Instead of impressing us with its various locations and set pieces, the show just comes across shallow and having no real substance.

Buckle-up for yet another streaming show that takes its time to kick into high-gear, because The Sandman is no exception when it comes to the usual problems that plague the superhero shows of today. But if frequent glimpses of a much better show are enough for you to push past the initial set-up, you’ll definitely be able to enjoy this show’s admittedly stunning visuals and fairly decent characters. What’s for sure is that far from any regular light-hearted fantasy show like you’ve seen before, The Sandman’s dark and long form of storytelling makes it stand on its own in the comic-book adaptation space.

EXTRAORDINARY ATTORNEY WOO

Do you dream of living the seemingly perfect lifestyle as seen on Instagram? Lights...Camera...Action...It's time to shine some light on the world of influencing.

Article by Isabelle Liang, **STAFF WRITER**, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, **CARTOON** and Ella Moon, **CARTOON EDITOR**

Raising few objections to its popularity, “Extraordinary Attorney Woo” rises to popularity with a beautifully illustrated claim on neurodiversity. Starring Park Eun-Bin as South Korea’s first attorney with autism spectrum disorder, Netflix’s latest trending K-drama introduces the unfriendly reality of neurodivergent lives in a charming manner. Park has provided a wide variety of audiences with the representation that those with ASD deserve. Just graduated summa cum laude from Seoul National University, Attorney Woo-Young Woo is ready to face her new job at one of Korea’s largest law firms, Hanbada. However, beyond the innocence of Attorney Woo’s world, “Extraordinary Attorney Woo” serves as a big step towards achieving ASD awareness.

“Extraordinary Attorney Woo” brings awareness to the hostile environments many people with disabilities suffer from and their unique attributes. Our neurodivergent protagonist displays many common characteristics of ASD, ranging from minor echolalia to difficulty understanding emotions. Her hyperfixation, a common characteristic of those with ASD, on aquatic mammals manifests each episode when she is filled with joy from finally cracking a difficult case. The neurodivergent portion of audiences are filled with hope by finally seeing a relatable and optimistic depiction of ASD, supported by positive reviews from around the world. Attorney Woo’s journey creates a positive future to look forward to in which people with ASD are able to adapt and live in high-functioning society without the social stigma. Despite its sincere attempt at appropriately representing individuals with ASD, many have criticized “Extraordinary Attorney Woo” for creating a stereotypical depiction of neurodiversity. Much of the audience finds themselves relying solely on the light-hearted depiction to educate themselves with a narrow view of ASD. Woo represents a small portion of those with ASD, being portrayed as an individual with Savant Syndrome – an extremely rare condition in which a member of the ASD community has a “prodigal talent.” Although she does continue facing struggles in her prejudiced environment, she is forced to live up to the unfair standards of those without mental disabilities. Her value in society is defined by her capabilities to solve complex cases because of her perfect memory and innovative thinking. The child-like portrayal of whales within Attorney Woo’s life adds only onto the innocent charm of her world, causing fans with ASD to feel as if the drama undermines their daily struggles. During her time with coworkers at Hanbada, Attorney Woo is subject to misfortunes even in her idealistic world. Harsh critics often forget they are watching a K-drama meant to entertain wide ranges of audiences, rather than a documentary educating on the finest details of ASD. Attorney Woo’s life is still visibly filled with representation of the stigma autistic people face. The microaggressions of her co-workers or just simple strangers on the street plague her daily life, already creating more difficulty for Woo to live out her life. Clients doubt her ability to perform in court, and the accused blatantly direct their prejudice towards her in the courtroom. The stigma in Woo’s world is toned-down for a general audience in order to entertain and bring awareness towards broader audiences. Even with the misrepresentations within Woo’s journey, “Extraordinary Attorney Woo” contributes to painting the bigger picture in representing those with ASD.

By openly dealing with the prejudice surrounding neurodiversity, “Extraordinary Attorney Woo” creates the necessary foundation to normalizing diversity within the entertainment industry. It is a heartwarming journey that creates a positive depiction of ASD to all audiences and a place of comfort for those who can relate to Attorney Woo’s life. “Extraordinary Attorney Woo” is one of the first dramas to create a vivid and engaging representation of neurodiversity. Woo’s superiors and coworkers often refer to her as bizarre and unorthodox with her unique quirks. Regardless of how others may perceive her, Attorney Woo understands her qualities aren’t bad, rather she recognizes how her unique quirks make her extraordinary.



Fashion
feature

Article by Zoey Bahng and Joey Kelly, **STAFF WRITERS**, photo courtesy of Ahsha Jones.

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A fearless combination of the '90s, her brothers' wardrobes and the freshest looks on Pinterest, senior Ahsha Jones' style is nothing short of glorious miscellany. Bringing a rich blend of cultures to the forefront of her image, Jones enjoys playing around with the geometry of her ensembles, finding the right shapes and fabrics to accentuate her features. Since she was a freshman, Jones used her pursuit of fashion as an outlet—a way to refocus and vitalize her individuality. To power through stressful test days, the senior often opts for her beloved bell bottom jeans and leather platform boots to keep spirits and morale high. Instead of feeding fast fashion and clinging to dated trends, her eccentric style and aesthetic blossoms from finding pieces at department and thrift stores. Jones swears by the benefits of shopping at Burlington or Uptown Cheapskate, where hidden gems are not only more affordable, but timeless. If you strive to become as vividly iconic as Jones, take her simple yet stylish advice: “dress for yourself, not everyone else.”

Blessings In Disguise

A discouraging fog of overwhelming emotions and stress can overtake many students. Read below to see how Warrior teachers dedicate their days to ensure positive classroom culture.

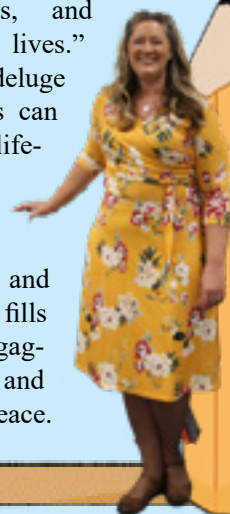
Compiled by Kira Chen, **LIFESTYLE EDITOR**, article by Joey Kelly, **STAFF WRITER**,
cartoons by Pearl Yoon, **CARTOON EDITOR**, photos by Tiffany Vo, **PHOTO EDITOR**.

Through the implementation of

various classroom interventions, Troy faculty hope to curb stress, countering negative thoughts linked with high-stakes exams. History teacher Olga Oropeza has a special pre-test ritual to get her students in a good headspace. “We practice affirmations to focus on our breathing,” Oropeza said. Snipes has a more routine approach, conducting mindfulness exercises every Monday. “When I tell students to scan their bodies, to slow their breaths, they sink in and are more present—it calibrates them into a different mindset.” For French teacher Will Fritz, promoting student-teacher rapport is vital to a healthy class environment. “Getting to know their names and making sure they walk in and know that [my classroom] is a safe space instills confidence,” Fritz said. These teachers’ methods were met with extraordinary positivity, and the student body encourages other instructors to place emotional well-being at the forefront of their

teaching. When someone like Oropeza models patience and puts in the effort to recognize one's situation, communication and understanding blossoms, facilitating a much smoother learning experience. "Being empathetic, trying to put myself in their shoes, that's the best place to start," Oropeza said. Mr. Fritz also realizes the monumental value of communicating. "The important thing is paying attention when students talk—it's realizing that they're blooming adults, and that they have lives."

Through the deluge of tests, teachers can be much-needed lifelines. The roles these unsung heroes play often go unnoticed, and it is their care that fills each day with engaging excitement and much needed peace.



Thinking of You a Latte

Distant relationships with family and friends not your cup of tea? Read below to see how many are strengthening bonds and finding solace by enjoying a virtual cup of “Cappuccino.”

Compiled by Kira Chen, **LIFESTYLE EDITOR**, article by Zoey Bahng, **STAFF WRITER**,
cartoons by Kaila Perlas, **CARTOON EDITOR**.

Rise and shine. Every day, disharmonic sounds of alarms beeping and cars honking jerks students from their restful sleep. In search of more tranquil awakenings, many have turned towards podcasts, a form of entertainment that engages listeners in media without the need to stare at a screen. Cappuccino—an app that allows people to brew short podcasts—takes this trend a step further, immersing users in a friendly and uplifting environment. While a pleasant morning message is wonderful, the last thing students need is to feel burdened with yet another chore. With Cappuccino, listening and recording is hands-free, allowing users to perform daily tasks as they tune into it. Users can also create audio messages called “beans,” and from there, incorporate background music to lighten the ambiance. The app takes the concept of listening to influencers talk about their lives and reverses its stance so that users share

intimate snippets of their lives. With their latest update, people can answer fun prompts such as favorite conspiracy theories or tell their craziest stories, a feature that can help podcast newbies struggling to get started.

The cultivation of happiness in human bonds does not solely stem from thrilling moments. Casual conversations surrounding seemingly trivial matters can mean everything. As the joyous days of summer slowly fade away, so can the relationships between friends and family. Cappuccino's short, pressure-free podcasts simplify essential verbal connections, allowing friends to keep up both communication and the busy nature of Troy. But this app is not simply a heap of meaningless voice memos—it is a heartwarming compilation of carefree and thoughtful conversations from those who mean the most. Through listening to a childhood best friend's school crush or a sibling's college lifestyle, the energy between

two people can develop to be more relaxed and loving. Though technology is often deemed as the main culprit of dull lifestyles, it can also give people portable access to tools that improve mental well-being. With this in mind, Cappuccino is designed to construct an atmosphere free from the expectations of social media. The app focuses on fostering intimate experiences, eliminating follower counts and public stories altogether. Cappuccino's sole purpose is to synthesize private messages specifically tailored to cultivating new friendships.

Offering a refreshing start to our days and deeper connections with loved ones, this network can be a more appealing option than mindlessly scrolling on Instagram and Tik Tok. Through its flexible features, the app certainly shows students how tiny, shared joys can greatly elevate the happiness of their lives. So, let's all seize our days with a pleasant cup of Cappuccino.



The Warrior boys football team dominates the Anaheim Colonists

After celebrating their victory, the football team works to set more goals for an undefeated season.

By Tyler Cordova
STAFF WRITER

The Warriors football team dominated their first home game against the Anaheim Colonists. They produced major offensive plays as well as turnovers from the defense, emerging victorious with a final score of 49-0. The Warrior offense immediately began the game with a large engagement towards the Colonists, holding them at bay. Senior quarterback Ryan Maturo threw a quick screen pass to junior Declan Healey, splitting the two Colonist receivers and scoring the first touchdown of the game on a 27-yard run. All night, the Warrior trenches attacked the Colonists front seven relentlessly. The physical line drove the Colonists yards off the ball, opening holes and allowing the backfield to run for explosive touchdowns. Senior Kieran Klingsberg, back from injury, blazed through the Colonist defense and scored two



PHOTO BY LAUREN SONG

PULLING OFFENSE: *Snatching the football in front of the opposing team, Warriors consistently maintain a strong defense as the offense makes a fast run for the touchdown.*

more touchdowns, making the Warrior sidelines go wild. Senior Fisher Huss capitalized on the trenches’ success as he dashed towards the goal line and spun into the end zone, sending three tacklers flying past him. The game was made out of reach for the Colonists by the end of the first half with a score of 42-0. Towards the end of the second half, senior Anthony Santoro took a five-yard stop route, outrunning the Colonist defense. Sophomore Hayden Sanchez sprinted down the field, and Santoro slung the ball far into the sky, placing just the right amount of spin so that it fell right into the hands of Sanchez for a touchdown. The Warriors extinguished any flicker of hope for the Colonists, ultimately ending with a score of 49-0. Dependent upon a strong offensive line and an active

backfield, the football team’s trust for one another has definitely grown throughout the past weeks. According to Coach Michael Echaves, the team is demonstrating unparalleled grit and toughness, forging an identity as true Warriors. “I’m very proud of our posture and mentality,” Head Coach Michael Echaves said. “We are constantly correcting [our expectations] either through discipline or communication.” As wins keep piling up, the Warriors focus on cohesivity. “This week’s motto was all about trusting our teammates,” co-captain Daniel Everest said. “There was a definite emphasis on coming together as a team and it helped us out a lot.” With their new drive for success, the California Interscholastic Federation and Freeway League championship is certainly attainable this year, co-captain Maturo said. “Every week, our coaches plan for us to be successful, so trusting our team and our coaches is important,” Maturo said. “We definitely want to win League and go undefeated. We just do everything in our power to do our job and trust our coaches every day.”

DUSTIN-ED TO CHEER

Give me an M! Give me an A! Give me an I! Make sure to lookout for Dustin Mai on the cheerleading team.

Compiled by Erin Jang, SPORTS EDITOR, article by Finley Dalley, STAFF WRITER, and photos by Tiffany Vo, PHOTO EDITOR

Becoming the first male cheerleader in 10 years, junior Dustin Mai broke the barrier for male Warriors. Mai has reminded the male student body of their potential and established a newfound sense of confidence and courage within himself. Once joining the team, he was greeted with kindness and excitement from his peers and teammates. Although he had wanted to be a cheerleader since he was young, Mai never considered making it a reality until this year when he decided to join the currently female-orientated activity. He put his worries behind him and tried out for the team, once again, breaking the stereotypes for some sports, particularly cheer. He never looked back after taking this radical step. He felt like he was where he belonged, and his eyes were opened to a world of self-confidence and appreciation. “I think I’ve definitely gotten more confident this year,” Mai said. “I’m more loud and boisterous, and I feel more comfortable being

myself and being with my friends.” Forming respectful and kind relationships with the coaches, Mai describes the team as a place of comfort to him where he gets to have fun and let loose. The team is a non-judgemental zone where his opinions are listened to and appreciated. According to Mai, his experience in cheer has been all positive. He enjoys the kind feedback he received from his teachers, who encouraged him to maintain his role on the team and to lead the way for other boys to join. “My history teacher, Mr. Maldonado, said that 10 years ago when he first started teaching at Troy, there were five guys on the cheer team who were also on the soccer team,” Mai said. Reflecting on his experiences, he believes people had differing opinions when they first head him trying out. However, he immediately felt as though everyone was happy to have him there, and that he belonged on the team. “I kind of stood at the back and everyone was staring at me,” Mai said. “Some people looked a little

apprehensive, but I was there to have fun. But then eventually, I had some friends I was laughing with and stretching with.” When prompted with the question if more boys should join cheerleading, Mai looked at it as less of a question of gender but more so as a question of their interests and hobbies. Looking back on his very beneficial experience, he expresses that he believes anyone should and could join if they desire because it is a worthwhile experience surrounded by amazing people. “I have so much fun at the games, at the rallies and at practice. I have the most fun at practice because it’s just us talking and dancing to music,” Mai said. “I haven’t really faced that much opposition or anything. So I feel if anybody wants to join or is interested in cheer, then they should just do it.”



From Oracle to the LA Times...

Never losing focus, Brandon Choe, Oracle alumnus, becomes the newest up-and-coming entertainment and photo editor for the Los Angeles Times. Read more about his growth and development below!

Compiled by Mary Kim, FEATURE EDITOR, article by Eileen Um, STAFF WRITER, and Mary Kim, FEATURE EDITOR, graphics by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON EDITOR, and photos courtesy of Brandon Choe

A plastic strip of film lifts from a dark workbench, emitting a rustle that melts into the hushed blackroom, its shadowed features barely visible in the muted vermilion lights. Photographer Brandon Choe twists a few knobs, sets the image on a white porcelain sheet, and sashes it through chemical developers, allowing a grayscale photograph to appear. With many years of perfecting this craft under his belt, today, Choe is the LA Times Entertainment and Photo Editor, a contrasting perspective from his first introduction to photography through his father's blackroom craft. Though Choe first viewed photography as an entertaining hobby, it soon blossomed into a full-fledged passion through his time in the Oracle.

Choe's memories in Oracle can be traced back to late hours in the production room spent fine tuning photos and tweaking paper formatting. Amongst the large crowd of students, identifying with a group of people proved difficult. But as Choe encountered different writers, photographers and editors in Oracle, his voice became louder and self-assured. Choe ultimately found his home in this community, a safe place from stress and expectations. Without this community of creative thinkers, Choe wouldn't have been able to interact with a unique variety of peers. His interpersonal skills were strengthened through

years of analyzing diverse photography options with his teammates. Choe's photos at Troy can be recognized by flipping through decade-old issues, the black-and-white images showing years of thoughtful work.

"If it weren't for Oracle, I wouldn't have understood this place for people like us where we're very intellectually driven," Choe said. "We're not able to be put in these molds like a doctor or a lawyer."

Photography is the apple of Choe's eye, his innate career path. But the decision to pursue photography was never quite so black-and-white. Near the end of his high school years, Choe was faced with the decision to pursue his passion of photography or to search for a more traditional occupation. Deciding to keep his options open, Choe spent two years in community college, after which he transferred to UCLA to complete his degree in Applied Mathematics while simultaneously being a part of the Daily Bruin publication. Despite photography's economic uncertainties, Choe wanted to see through to the fruits of both choices. Taking a dive into the unknown, he experienced a wide range of photo editing positions, spanning from Getty Images to Deadline Hollywood. Nonetheless, his decision to join the LA Times was directly impacted by his previous exposure to the publication style of work in Oracle. Instead of leading a nomadic lifestyle as

a photographer who books the next flight for his client, Choe was drawn to the consistent system that he was accustomed to.

"I kept seeing this innovative thinking where I knew, yes, this boy can become a professional photographer because he has the thinking and the creativity for it," former Oracle adviser Ana Link said. "He was very much driven by what he was passionate about, and that's what differentiated him from all of the other photographers. He approached it as a craft, not just something to do."

A picture is said to capture a thousand words, but to Choe, it clarifies the audience's understanding of the subject. Each photograph taken by Choe, from the black-and-white pieces in his father's blackroom to the freshly edited photos in the LA Times is a testament to his undying determination to hone his craft. Filled with challenges, Choe's journey has been a constant climb to ignore pressure to achieve immediate success his career. Though this mindset has been so prevalent in high school and college environments, he has continued to battle these harmful habits many fall into, replacing constant comparisons with confidence and determination.

"You get daunted by impressive feats by other people," Choe said. "But you forget it took them heartbreak and history. There's so much stuff behind the scenes that if you knew, it wouldn't make you jealous at all."



MEMORY LANE: This lively collection of photos ranges from Choe's high school projects (bottom-left,) to his college days at the Daily Bruin, to his more recent work at the LA Times (top-right).

