

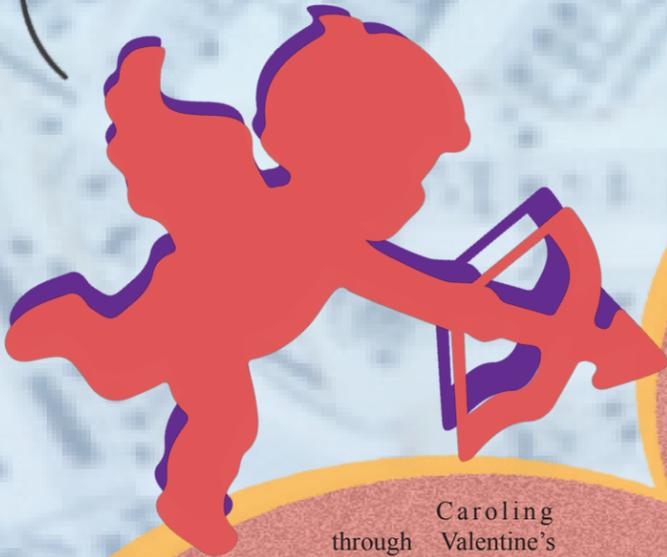
ORACLE

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Singing Valentines

Spreading spirits of love and friendship, Vocal Ensemble members deliver heart-warming renditions of classic songs for their annual Singing Valentines fundraiser.

Compiled by Cathy Chen, NEWS EDITOR, article by Diya Patel, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON, graphics by Cassidy Chang, GRAPHICS EDITOR, and David Lee, GRAPHICS



Caroling through Valentine's Day, Vocal Ensemble delivered virtual musical Valentines grams Feb. 12-14. Open to students and families, the Valentines grams included a greeting and a video of one of Vocal Ensemble's musical performances. The Vocal Music program board sold each gram for \$5 and all proceeds went towards entrance fees for future choir competitions and showcases. Vocal Ensemble provided customers with a choice of 12 songs including "Can't Help Falling in Love" by Elvis Presley, "Stand By Me" by Ben E. King and "True Love" by Bing Crosby. In previous years, Vocal Ensemble traveled to different classrooms on campus and performed the songs live for the recipients on Valentine's Day. Due to the barriers of online instruction, Vocal



viewers with a brief overview of the event, a link to purchase the greetings and the price of the grams. During each rehearsal, Vocal Ensemble sings warm-up drills for their voices, practices rhythm patterns and reviews their song lists. While the transition to online school demanded many adjustments, Vocal Ensemble delivered a high-quality performance despite the challenges, Henson said. "I have tried to make our classes as close to a regular rehearsal period as it would be in person," Henson said. "Online school is different in that there are more steps involved in the preparation process, but students are able to complete everything as they would in person." Prior to COVID restrictions, the students sang as a group and adjusted their voices to fine-tune the performances. Through the

Music Director Mark Henson instructed members to record and submit different segments of each song based on the students' vocal range. Henson and Vice President Nannette Lee edited and compiled the clips into short videos for individual songs. In an effort to promote purchases, choir advertised the Valentines grams through the school website and their Instagram account. Henson posted a teaser clip that featured Vocal Ensemble's performance of "Heart and Soul" by Hoagy Carmichael. The animated video provided

digital setting, members learned how to trust their own vocal ability and rely on their peers to assist them, Lee said. "In choir, you do not just sing alone, you have to sound good with other people," Lee said. "If we are practicing and need help on some parts of a song, we ask each other how to do it, so the event definitely brought us closer." With an emphasis on audience engagement, Vocal Ensemble attempted to bring a festive atmosphere to their performance clips. The group hopes that their voices and song choices will help to set Valentine's Day mood, Lee said. "When we record ourselves, we try to record the videos while being lively and putting in all of our efforts," Lee said. "The songs are all the classic songs so we want our performances to lift students up and bring the Valentine spirit."



In continuation of their artistic endeavors during distance learning, Vocal Ensemble will perform along with Ladies First and Concert Choir in the district-wide virtual choir festival March 11.

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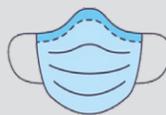
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Sophomore Associated Student Body hosts Artist of the Month event

Established in distance-learning, the competition aims to divert recognition towards students interested in the arts and their work.

By Kaelyn Kwon
STAFF WRITER

Promoting student engagement in the arts, the Associated Student Body announced the first Artists of the Month Feb. 26.

Open to the sophomore class, the event aims to increase student participation in ASB activities and will continue until the end of the school year. In hopes of receiving a variety of artworks, the sophomore ASB class listed sketches, paintings, music, poetry and 45-second videos as acceptable entries. Students submitted their artworks through a Google Form listed under the class of 2023 ASB Instagram account from Feb. 10-19.

At the end of each month, ASB will feature five pieces of art in an Instagram post. For the next Artists of the Month, the organizers will consider any artworks that remain from the previous month in addition to next month's submissions.

According to sophomore Anvita Bhav, artists submitted artworks created via a variety of techniques to express their passion for art during distance

learning. The Artists of the Month event helps artists improve their skills through the comparison of different artworks, Bhav said.

"[My submission] took me a total of about three months to complete from start to finish," Bhav said. "I saw the ASB Instagram, and I felt like I had a chance to win [the competition]. From what I have seen, [the artists] are all very talented and have diverse styles."

After the February Artists of the Month, ASB learned that several artists who participated plan to submit artworks for the competition throughout the rest of the school year. The Artists of the Month event gives student artists the opportunity to gain recognition during distance learning, sophomore Jack Coker said.

"Submitting [art] for ASB and publicizing it gives me a lot of practice," Coker said. "I paint shoes and submit my own photos [for] my company, which gives me more experience. I want to make Troy a better place by trying to express myself [and participating] in the amazing things ASB puts out there."

Inspired by talented artists on campus, ASB hopes to increase sophomore student participation in ASB activities through the Artists of the Month project. Due to the pandemic, ASB's plans for this school year take into consideration that

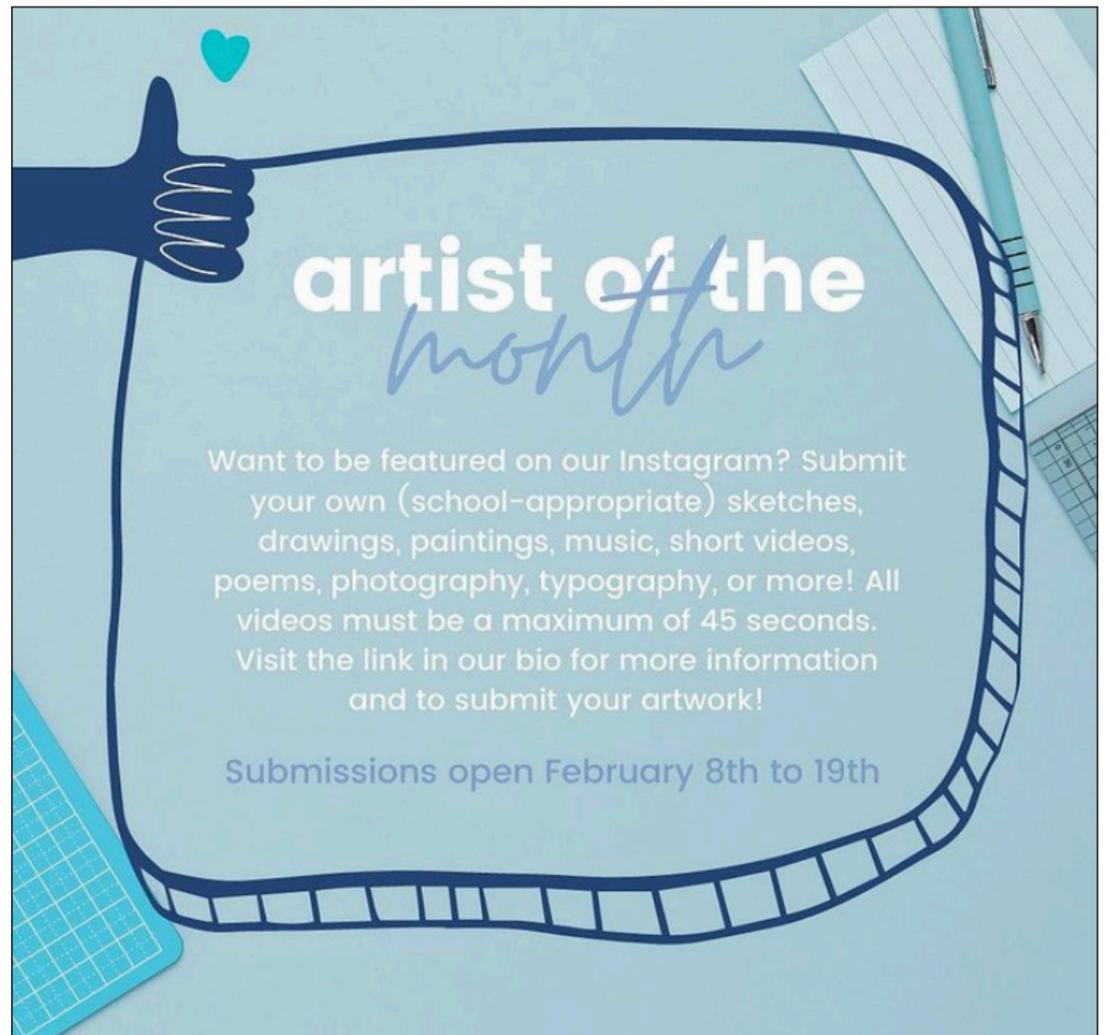
distance learning interrupted previous on-campus ASB activities, ASB President Ahsha Jones said.

"[ASB] wants to create some

mutual understanding that it is here to help [students] enjoy their school year from home," Jones said.

"[The Artists of the Month] event will increase stu-

dent participation by showing the student body that it is fun to engage in our ASB activities since they can express themselves and showcase their talents."



COURTESY OF ASB

Virtual 2021 Mr. Troy High School Competition nominees announced

The organization of Mr. THS was prioritized by ASB in order to preserve a traditional senior experience during the pandemic.

By Brianna Vu
STAFF WRITER

Broadening the perception of beauty, Associated Student Body will announce the candidates for the 9th annual Mr. Troy High School March 5.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, ASB intends to proceed with their senior tradition through pre-recorded videos to conclude the seniors' final year. Established in 2013, Mr. THS began when Warriors wanted to alter the idea of beauty through a competition for men to exhibit

their qualities. Mr. THS is a contest created for male seniors to fight against the stereotype that beauty is feministic.

In an effort to narrow down the possible candidates, the seniors are nominated first by their classmates to qualify for the competition. Inspired by Vogue, a video of the nominated boys will be released on Instagram to inform seniors of the

participants. Through appearance and charisma, clips of the contenders will reveal the boys' motivation to become Mr. THS.

For the finale, ASB will release a premiere video in which the nominees will showcase their talent and answer interview questions March 19. After the video is launched, the seniors will have a set date and time to vote for their favorite candidate with the winner of Mr. THS announced the following day. To distribute the work effort, ASB senior girls cooperated with a candidate to obtain school-appropriate video footage, take photos and collect interview information with their candidate.

According to Senior ASB President Natalie Nguyen, the inability to interact with the candidates face-to-face has

been difficult to gather information.

Unfortunately, the freedom to film freely was not an option for the ASB senior girls, which provoked more trouble, Nguyen said.

"It is so crucial to have something for the senior class to look forward to," Nguyen said.

"ASB senior girls have met in many Zoom meetings to spread out the effort. It has been pretty hard since we do not have the capability to have in-person communications, but Mr. THS will still have our best effort and will definitely be worth it in the end."

While the se-

niors would typically attend a school rally for Mr. THS nominations, ASB brought the contest to the students virtually. In an attempt to follow

the traditional conclusion to the senior year, Mr. THS has been a priority on ASB's list since the beginning of the year, Nguyen said.

"I am very excited to show the student body what we have been working on," Nguyen said. "Closing off the year, I know that it is difficult to stay optimistic during these difficult times. I hope that Mr. THS will bring a sense of normalcy and shows seniors that we are all getting through this together."

CARTOON BY ELLA MOON



College Board reports 2020-2021 examination measures

Due to the constraints of virtual testing, nine of the 38 subject tests will only be available in-person.

By Erin Jang
STAFF WRITER

Adjusting procedures to accommodate safety and health regulations, College Board announced that the 2021 Advanced Placement Exams will provide in-person and online options Feb. 1.

In order to create flexibility, College Board will offer different examination approaches for high schools in distance learning, hybrid and in-person formats. All AP tests will resume the full-length structure instead of the previous 45-minute test. Nine of the 38 subject tests, including world languages and music theory, will only be available in-person.

Adapted from spring 2020, the new College Board digital exams will have redesigned features to prevent glitches and internet disruptions. Given amplified security within online browsers,

students who choose online exams will need access to a fully charged laptop computer with a reliable internet connection. College Board plans to post additional technical details and the AP Digital Testing Guide March 2.

With the discontinuation of SAT Subject Examinations and SAT I Essay, universities will begin to emphasize AP exam scores for college applications. In preparation for the tests, students can review course content and strengthen their strategies through AP Course Pacing Guides

and AP Daily: Live Review sessions released April 19.

Divided into groups between May and June, the new AP Exam schedule will open three testing dates for each subject. While the in-person exams will start in early May, digital exams taken at school or at home will open after May 18. Although each school will choose one mode, students can utilize the second and third dates for makeup tests as well as after mid-June if needed.

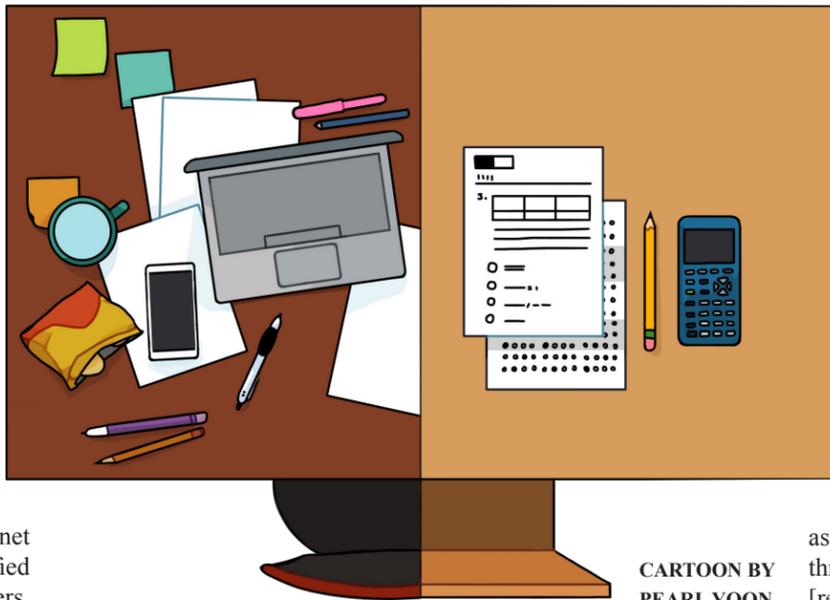
According to College Board, the digital exams will test the

same knowledge and skills as traditional paper exams. From the start of the pandemic, College Board coordinators felt the need to offer students normalcy and a chance to earn college credit, AP Program Senior Vice President Trevor Packer said.

“Experts will account for minute differences [between digital and paper exams] to ensure each test is statistically equated for difficulty levels,” Packer said. “Having learned from experiences [last spring], College Board is announcing more changes in an effort to provide flexibility in the age of pandemic-era testing.”

Regardless of paper or online structure, students have a higher opportunity to show their knowledge of a subject through full-length tests, junior Victoria Choi said.

“[Students can] easily mark up documents or excerpts and visualize the questions by flipping back and forth with paper tests,” Choi said. “Even if it is longer, the full-length format fairly tests every aspect of the subject’s content through multiple strategies [required to complete the test.]”



CARTOON BY PEARL YOON

Contest awards 10 Warriors for computing achievements

The organization encourages participants to stay informed about the computer science field after the event.

By Mai Omoto
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to highlight female achievements in computer science, 10 Warriors received the Aspirations in Computing and National Center for Women & Information Technology Awards Jan. 29.

Through prizes and opportunities, the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing honors female, genderqueer and nonbinary high school students for their computing-related achievements. Evaluators selected award winners based on the students’ computing expertise, computer science-related activities, leadership experience and tenacity in the face of challenges and future education plans.

In order to receive the award, students must submit an endorsed application that demonstrates past achievements and knowledge in technology. The award categories include Winner, Honorable Mention, Rising Star and Certificate of Distinction designations at National and

Regional Affiliate levels. The Regional Affiliate and Honorable Mention Award Winners receive recognition at a Regional Affiliate Award event, access to NCWIT resources and an engraved award.

Completion of the application process involves four essays about the student’s interest in computer science and future career goals. Computer science teachers encouraged applicants to demonstrate the skills and knowledge acquired in their classes. Warriors illustrated their experience with involvement in the Troy Tech Computer Science and Cyber Security pathways and Troy Tech Internship.

According to senior Katrina Mizou, the AiC strives to provide women awards, scholarships and internships to overcome the barriers of limited technological opportunities. The organization encourages female students to join social media platforms that offer support and guidance for fellow females in the field of information systems, Mizou said.

“This award is important to get girls involved in technology,” Mizou said. “[Recipients] get introduced into this community of girls, so they have a support system to help them stay

involved in technology instead of just a one-time program.”

Represented by a rich diversity of students, the NCWIT community drives applicants to stay informed of upcoming technological opportunities and to network with others. With the widespread recognition of the prize winners, the award urges students to pursue their passions and use the resources available to work toward a career in this field, senior Rachel Xin said.

“Receiving this award helps build self-confidence,” Xin said. “It has encouraged me to con-

tinue to pursue computer-related interests in the future. This award is very motivating as it provides a sense of validation.”

Despite the digital divide, the NCWIT Award inspires more students to get involved in technology through job opportunities, Xin said.

“I hope my recognition can encourage others, especially other Troy females, to seek computer science opportunities,” Xin said. “Despite the severe underrepresentation of women in this field, I hope they will not be discouraged by this gender gap and continue to explore their passions.”



CARTOON BY ELLA MOON

TROY TODAY

Key Club Color-A-Smile Project

Illuminating rays of sunshine for the community, the Warrior Key Club constructed a month-long service project to spread positivity in February. As a nonprofit organization, Color-A-Smile encourages volunteers to create colorful drawings with markers, crayons and colored pencils. Participants can utilize printable templates to color or a blank piece of paper to draw with their creativity.

Troy Kindness Campaign hosts positivity event

Advocating for universal positivity, Troy Kindness Campaign Club began an Instagram campaign through posts about positivity Feb. 22. During the week, a new theme will be announced daily that encourages members to post a picture of their accomplishments.

Warrior Club leaders host cardiothoracic and robotic surgery seminar

Educating members about the surgery field, the Club of Future Medical Doctors will host a seminar with guest speaker Dr. Luis Godoy Feb. 25. At the end of the seminar, Godoy will offer a question and answer session. Godoy is a cardiothoracic surgeon who also works in robotic surgery at UC Davis.

Warrior Team advances to the CyberPatriot National Round

With three completed preliminary rounds, two teams from the Warrior CyberPatriot team will advance to the CyberPatriot National Round March 12-22. Due to COVID-19, the 2021 CyberPatriot season experienced a reduced number of preliminary rounds and new guidelines for Nationals. In order to prepare for the national round, teams collaborated virtually, and coaches provided students with easily accessible online resources.

Change in Mental Health at Troy High School

In an effort to destigmatize mental health, Orange County Department of Education partnered with Warriors to create the Student Advocates for Mental Health program. With members from different clubs, the program hopes to spread their message to diverse groups on campus, parents and staff members through interactive events.

Home with Houseplants

It's time to wake up from hibernation and get busy! Read below to learn about a new quarantine hobby: growing indoor houseplants.

Article by Isabelle Liang, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON

Rewatching the Lorax is perhaps the closest some of us have gotten to gardening. Many quarantined students are starting to resemble the Once-ler, occasionally peeking through the blinds as their mundane walls beg for a hint of life. Amongst the list of new hobbies to try, gardening is one that contains much more than what is revealed above the soil. Maybe quarantine is the perfect time to uncover these rooted secrets and find your green thumb.

With this new hobby of daily gardening springs many surprising health benefits. The unexplainable sigh of relief and peaceful smile that brightens our faces when we are in nature can actually be attributed to the power of plants. According to the Gateway of Mental Health Services, any contact with plants triggers a release of serotonin—a mood booster. Moreover, plants are a natural source of oxygen and can give you a breath of fresh air to disconnect from technology. They can soothe the stressful work environment and bring out the feeling of “walking on sunshine.” In addition to freshening up your workspace, plants can also help build a positive mindset. Paired with the improved environment, the practice of nurturing a plant serves as the constant reminder that growth is slow and steady. The plants themselves are also a physical affirmation of dedication and hard-work. This daily practice helps us retain a sense of purpose because your own baby Groot is relying on you for support and survival. Building up a routine that is full of positive habits is the key to creating a setting for self-love. For many,

gardening will help sow the seeds of healthy habits that will blossom into a happier lifestyle. Students will find that creating their own haven filled with plants allows the space to be a reflection of their own peace of mind.

The growth that comes with gardening is not just limited to self improvement—but it can also foster creativity. These days, many students are yearning for something new to break away from the endless cycle of drab days. Whether it be a short, plump succulent or an overflowing, luscious pothos, plants can add a pop of color and freshness to a dull workspace. There are many different aesthetics to pursue depending on the type of plant displayed in a room: plants in terracotta pots placed between the books on your shelves are the easiest to maintain and create a simplistic, boho-chic look. On the other hand, the unique pothos plant resembles a delicate chandelier that instantly brightens the room for a more elegant look. The only limit is your imagination; any room can transform from a barren popcorn-walled cage to an untamed garden reminiscent of Tarzan's jungle.

Now—more than ever before—people have time to focus on their physical and mental wellbeing. This is the perfect time to go on a journey that allows you to grow and reap the fruits of your labor. Delve into the world of gardening, and you may find your inner botanist becoming the tonic to cure your dreary days. As the ancient Lorax once said, take a chance and “Let it Grow.”

Best Houseplants for Beginners



Snake plants are best known for thriving on neglect. They can survive without water for weeks and can remove toxins from your home!



Pothos are great for people who are too busy for houseplants, as they can thrive in low light and humidity while helping purify the air.



Pilea are perfect to share with friends because they grow quickly and are so easy to propagate. No wonder they're the most popular plants in the US!

TWOFOLD PHILANTHROPIST

When you think of a hero, plastic may not be the first thing that comes to your mind. Meet junior Anthony Kharrat, a 3D designer who improves the wearability of masks while raising money for a Lebanese school for children with down-syndrome.

Compiled by Hannah Adams, FEATURE EDITOR, article by Coco Gong, STAFF WRITER, cartoon by Ella Moon, CARTOON EDITOR and image courtesy of Anthony Kharrat

A hospital bustles with busy streams of weary healthcare workers, desperate for some form of relief. Suddenly, junior Anthony Kharrat appears, holding some curious-looking pieces of plastic. Doctors and nurses alike stroll cheerfully over to Kharrat and his plastic mask extenders. The sight of the pain-relieving gadgets was alleviating, and thousands of miles away, children in Lebanon were sharing the same vibrant smile. The funding from the mask extenders opens the doors of a school that is home to these children. Kharrat's project continuously flourishes as money from each mask extender is raised for the sanctuary that guarded the children's future.

Kharrat's project started small. With a goal of one thousand dollars in mind, he began a GoFundMe campaign in November. For every dollar donated to the school of children with down-syndrome in Lebanon, Kharrat brings a mask extender, crafted by his engineering skills from the Troy Tech program and 3D printing, to healthcare workers on the frontline. So far, Kharrat has exceeded his goal twice. He printed over two thousand mask extenders for hospitals like the Saint Jude Medical Center and UCI Health from his home. Alongside the growth of his project, Kharrat's passion to help others continues to blossom. "Whether it's a representative or a nurse, they're so appreciative and they're so grateful," Kharrat said. "The school in Lebanon has sent many videos and those have also been some great memories."

These efforts all originated from Kharrat's first-hand experiences. As a person of Lebanese and American heritage, Kharrat has always visited Lebanon every summer. A major nuclear explosion in August 2020 as well as economic and political instability had caused chaos in Lebanon before, and the coronavirus pandemic brought heavier winds to the already-raging storm. The children's school and home faced shutdown due to a lack of funding. Struggles of the pandemic expressed themselves in the

healthcare workers of hospitals as well: when Kharrat had an emergency appendectomy in November 2020, he witnessed the toil of doctors and nurses as they worked endlessly to help their patients. Driven by thoughts of the children's closing safe haven and memories of a nurses' ear pain from twelve-hour shifts of wearing masks, Kharrat knew he had to use his talents to help.

"We're just stuck at home," Kharrat said. "And this was a way for me to use my high school experience and my knowledge to help the medical community and people abroad at the same time."

Thus far in his journey, Kharrat helped many people, but has also learned much from himself. The contact of various hospitals, management of the 3D printers and organization of rigorous Troy classes of this project has been humbling to Kharrat. Upon seeing first-hand the struggles of the healthcare workers and the children, he has organized a spirited project that helps both issues while exploring the limits of his own talents. In the beginning, he was unfamiliar with the logistics, leadership and organization that the project needed. However, with each step of learning more about the subject and finding connections through friends and family, Kharrat climbed the mountain of challenges he faced.

"If you really think about what your talents are, what your passions are; if you take the time to think about the situation and what you can do given your circumstance, there's always a way that you can help out and make a difference," Kharrat said.



Yes or No: Standardized Tests

By Cage Hawley
STAFF WRITER



College Board's conclusion may cause students confusion. Nonprofit educational organization College Board made a controversial announcement that it will permanently eliminate SAT Subject Tests as well as the SAT essay Jan. 19. The announcement followed a steady decrease in the number of colleges requiring SAT subject tests for admission. For decades, students depended on

the recently removed sections of the SAT to exhibit their passions and capabilities to colleges. College Board's unfavorable choice to discontinue SAT subject tests and SAT essay protects its financial interests while leaving students to

struggle in a new, unfamiliar environment. The decision to suddenly discontinue both the subject tests and essay will lead to an immediate scramble among students as they are forced to make new preparations. To add insult to injury, the announcement became effective immediately. College Board eliminated the tests rather than maintaining them temporarily for May and June administrations, which indicated a lack of care for students who have been preparing for their SAT subject tests. The previously registered students have spent their high school careers studying for the tests, counting on being able to take an essay portion and subject tests to show-

case their talents to colleges. Clearly, College Board's actions will result in a rough transition which may unfairly harm a significant number of otherwise prepared students. The choice to introduce formidable confusion into students' lives by canceling

unprofitable tests is an unfitting solution to an ostensibly temporary problem, considering extenuating circumstances surrounding COVID-19. According to an August 2020 report from College Board itself, about 45 percent of high school students who registered to take SAT subject tests on Aug. 29 were unable to do so due to sudden shutdowns of testing locations during national lockdown measures. The pandemic clearly played a major role in test cancellations and colleges loosening admission requirements. Seeing that the pandemic probably won't last beyond this year, the profit trends that have

been dipping due to the pandemic are momentary. As the pandemic dies down, students will once again be able to take subject tests and the SAT essay while colleges would likely begin recommending them again, effectively making College Board's rash decision for naught. While stopping subject tests will surely open opportunities for some students, doing so may also block opportunities for many other students. According to Catalina Cifuentes,

chairwoman at the California Student Aid Commission, hundreds of her students who speak a second language at home took SAT subject tests in foreign languages to fill coursework requirements when applying to their desired colleges. Similarly, low-income students were able to take SAT subject tests for free if they have Free

and Reduced Lunch plans. Unlike extracurriculars that usually don't offer financial aid, SAT subject tests served as chances for low-income students to demonstrate their understanding of a variety of subjects and their passion for school. Now, however, students who have had the option to utilize subject tests unfairly lost those chances to stand out to colleges. All things considered, the elimination of subject tests strips multilingual and low-income students of crucial academic opportunities. Ultimately, College Board's move away from standardized testing immediately stands to disadvantage American students. Acting in its own monetary interests—which are seemingly impermanent—College Board has introduced formidable confusion into students' lives. Decisions which greatly affect students' futures should not be dependent on which tests are profitable, but instead which tests are most beneficial for students.

“Decisions which greatly affect students' futures should not be dependent on which tests are profitable.”



CARTOON BY ELLA MOON

PRO

VS

CON

By Vivian Lee
STAFF WRITER



The empire of standardized testing is falling, and rightfully so. College Board announced Jan. 19 that it will no longer offer SAT Subject Tests or the SAT essay. As a result, American students who were registered for subject tests automatically had their registrations refunded. Last fall, College Board turned away thousands of students who registered for the SAT due to pandemic-related test site closures. Therefore, a vast majority of colleges are now test optional or test blind. Because standardized testing inaccurately measures a student's academic capabilities and future success, College Board's decision to discontinue the SAT subject tests is ultimately a positive development.

Standardized tests evaluate students' abilities without considering uncontrollable external factors that could negatively affect their performance. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 11 percent of American children have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, which prevents them from being able focus for long periods of time, especially for tests like the SAT which lasts three hours. Additionally, according to the American Test Anxiety Association, 16 to 20 percent of all

American students are “bad test takers,” meaning they are academically capable of producing good outcomes on tests, but they usually underperform due to immense pressure. The ultimate objective of standardized testing is to compare student performance and identify areas of weakness, but inaccurate results due to such conditions impede upon this goal.

Another negative aspect of the standardized testing system is that it puts students of low socioeconomic status at a significant disadvantage in college admissions. Data from College Board reveals that the average score on the SAT increases relative to the family income level. Students from wealthier families generally have access to better education because they attend better funded

schools and can hire tutors if needed. On the other hand, students coming from a lower socioeconomic bracket may have additional responsibilities such as working a job to support their families, reducing the time that could otherwise be used to study for these tests. Because socioeconomic disparities disproportionately impacts test performance, terminating the subject tests was a step in the right direction towards eliminating unfair barriers for low income students. Standardized tests often misrepresent student growth, so it is important to find a new tool that can more accurately reflect it. One alternative to standardized tests is

game-based assessment, which uses digital games, puzzles and simulations to test students' mastery of content in math, science and reading. Although this method is still undergoing research, scientists predict that because this method comes in the format of games, students will be less stressed and will therefore perform better overall. Another option is portfolio-based assessment, which measures student progress based on projects, presentations, reports and papers collected over time. This method forces students to reflect on their work. Unlike most multiple-choice standardized tests, students will be graded more on the quality of the portfolio, making the results more accurate and detailed. In addition to eliminating the time, cost and anxiety that accompanies traditional standardized testing, these assignments are also given to all students under similar circumstances and are graded under the same criteria, making them viable and possibly more effective replacements.

It is essential that schools fix the existing faults of current testing methods. These tests blatantly disregard the fact that students may have disabilities or difficult circumstances at home that make it unlikely for them to perform as well as other students. This issue can be fixed by eliminating standardized tests and replacing them with better approaches that better reflect what students are learning. This would not only help students produce the best results possible but also allow schools to create the most accurate representation of their students' abilities.

“Terminating the subject tests was a step in the right direction towards eliminating unfair barriers.”

THE DOWNSIDE OF STANDARDIZED TESTING

CONS

- 1 Standardized testing only measures how a student tests and does not show a student's performance in school
- 2 Does not consider external factors that could affect student's performance
- 3 It is not a good predictor for future academic success
- 4 There are class and racial bias with standardized testing
- 5 Students may not be as prepared as they should be because teachers are not preparing them enough

GRAPHIC BY CASSIDY CHANG

Financial literacy classes should be required for graduation in high schools

By Andrew Sung
STAFF WRITER



GameStop®

When hype precedes literacy, financial investment becomes a dangerous roulette.

At the start of the year, GameStop stock was just valued at about \$17 per share. With the help of the WallStreetBets Reddit forum, the stock surged to \$483 per share Jan. 28. But the craze quickly died down when Robinhood halted the buying of

these stocks on its platform. Robinhood received great frustration and harsh criticism for contradicting its mis-

sion to “democratize trade,” and smaller investors were forced to wait powerlessly as they witnessed the huge crash of the GameStop stock. Unfortunately, many people, with a false notion that the frenzy was a way to punish the wealthy and would act as a quick avenue to riches, invested more than they could afford to lose. Instead of treating investments like a game,

individuals must first equip themselves with the proper financial education to drive wise decisions.

Social media platforms, including Reddit, have built momentum to ignite a growing trend towards stock market investing, but the content posted on social media regarding

“Equal access to financial education through high schools, rather than overbuying stocks, is the first step towards “democratizing finance for all.”

finance often creates fantasies of easy money. Financial content on social media tends to be more focused on which stocks are good

to invest in, rather than teaching viewers how to understand why. By impulsively hopping on bandwagons without proper self-research and analysis, too many individuals pour in more money than they can afford to lose without fully considering possible repercussions.

With the rise of Reddit forums and TikTok accounts focused on

the stock market, it is important for people to understand that the stock market is not simply a shortcut to get rich, nor is it a lucrative meme. According to Dave Gillham, Chief Analyst at Wealth Within, about 90 percent of people fail to make money when trading in the stock mar-

ket. Simply put, too many people are not finan-

cially literate before investing in the stock market.

To tackle this issue of overall financial illiteracy, personal finance should be taught in high school curriculum as a graduation requirement. According to Forbes, nearly two-thirds of Americans agree that financial education should be taught in schools. US News states that 30 percent of all college students in the United States drop out their first year. This means that these people will need to be equipped with knowledge of how to manage living expenses. Thus, it is a logical move to educate high school students with personal finance.

In addition to the individual, financial education is important for the economy as a whole. The financial crisis of 2008, for example, was largely caused by the accrument of mortgage debt, and the lack of financial preparedness during the

COVID-19 crisis put many families in very difficult positions economically. With over 44 percent of millennials reporting that they have an overwhelming amount of debt to pay off, financial literacy is an issue that defi-

nitely needs to be further addressed.

If people cannot effectively manage their daily expenses and practice good financial habits, the

stock market is not something they should be diving into. Equal access to financial education through high schools, rather than overbuying stocks, is the first step towards “democratizing finance for all.”

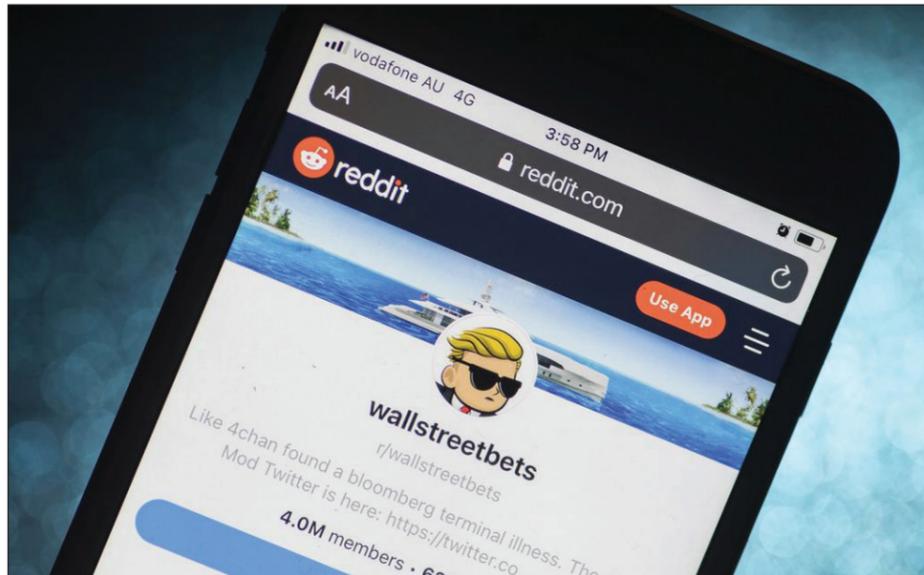
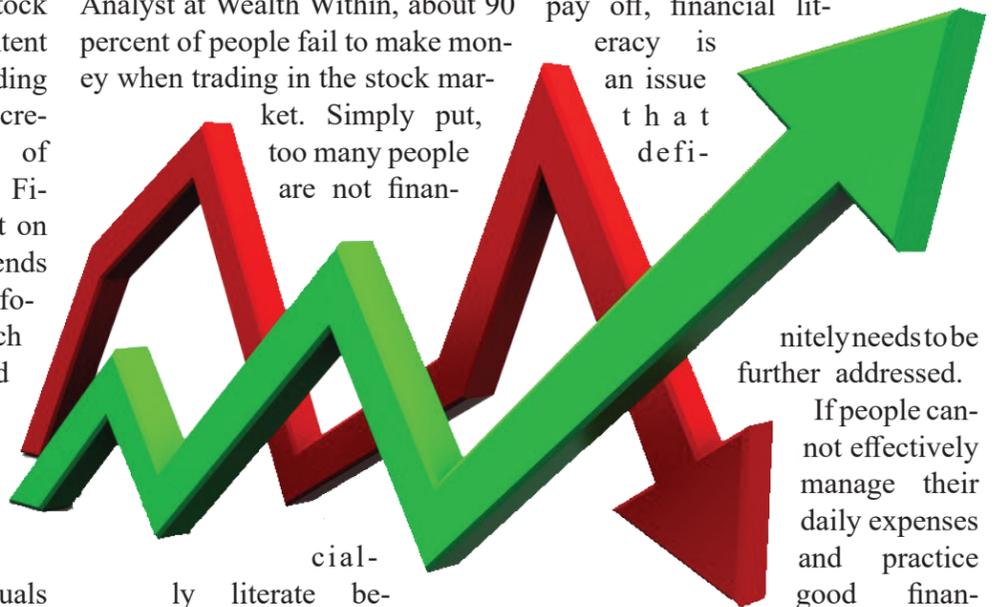
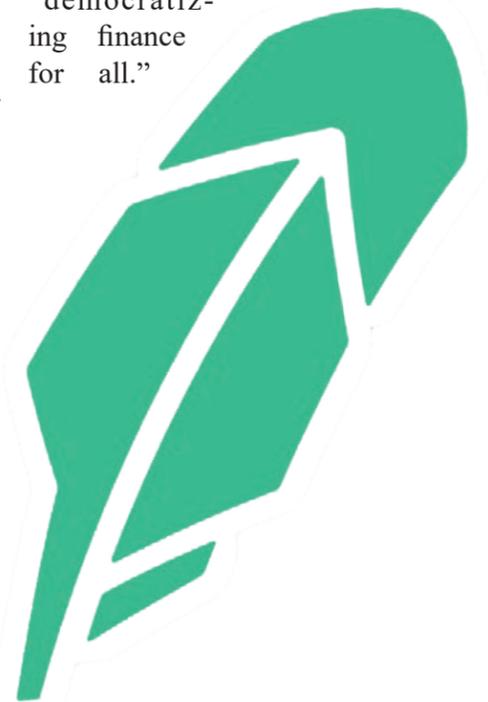


PHOTO COURTESY OF WALL STREET JOURNAL

BRINGING DOWN BIG CORPORATIONS: An energetic group of retail traders gathered on the WallStreetBets forum on Reddit and invested in Gamestop stocks in massive amounts. As a result, Gamestop stock jumped by more than 14,300 percent in a week and big hedge funds who betted against Gamestop lost billions.



VOICES OF THE WARRIORS

Read what our Warrior thinks about the new coronavirus vaccines!

COMPILED BY MISEOK KIM, CO-OPINION EDITOR

The new coronavirus vaccine is safe. Science says so.

By Anonymous Sophomore

As the anniversary of the day that school went virtual gets closer, it is quite amazing how many people are still skeptical of the coronavirus vaccine. In fact, 30 percent of Americans indicated that they are unlikely to get the vaccine for reasons ranging from believing there are brain-controlling microchips inside the vaccine to scientific ignorance. Everyone not in a group at a high risk of severe side effects should get the vaccine to build herd immunity, stop overfilling hospitals and eradicate this pandemic.

The science is clear on this issue. The vaccine injects mRNA into the upper arm. The mRNA codes the spike protein of the coronavirus, which is used to gain entry to lung cells for viruses to inject harmful DNA. By injecting the mRNA, human cells will

produce only the spike protein without viral components, which will be recognized as an antigen for an immune response to occur. The second vaccine shot boosts the amount of circulating antibodies against the spike protein so that the antibodies can render the spike ineffective.

Instead of being praised for their genius effort, the scientists who developed these vaccines are being criticized for having a 95 percent efficacy rate. Although this is a very high number, it should come as no surprise to anyone. The measles vaccine has a 97 percent efficacy rate. The flu shot has a much lower efficacy rate because researchers have to do the extremely difficult task of predicting which strains of the influenza virus will be the most virulent months before the actual flu season to have enough time to pass regulatory requirements. There are still no great methods

of predicting that. However, the mechanism of action of all variants of the novel coronavirus is dependent on the spike protein which the vaccine targets. There is no need to try to predict which strains are the most virulent because the pandemic makes that very obvious.

People are also skeptical due to the seemingly short amount of time it took to make the coronavirus vaccine. The technology for mRNA vaccines has been in development for decades. Thus, the vaccine is actually not completely new. In fact, it was originally researched and developed to be a SARS vaccine (also a coronavirus) but was repurposed when the pandemic hit. About a decade of research went into this vaccine.

The vaccine was able to pass through regulatory requirements fairly quickly because it had no problem recruiting volunteers

for trials. In a study published in the leading medical journal *New England Journal of Medicine* which has been peer reviewed and cited 177 times, almost 50,000 people participated in the Phase 3 study. With this large sample size, the margin of error is very minute, and the results are statistically acceptable by the scientific community.

Now is the time to trust our scientists to guide us out of a public health crisis. People must take the vaccine if available. This will prevent overflowing hospitals, build herd immunity and get the country to open up to begin a road of economic recovery. The worst thing to do right now is to avoid getting a necessary vaccine when the evidence to prove its safety and effectiveness is readily available, and many scientists confirm the results.

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AN ABOMINATION OF NOMINATIONS

Even before the official ceremony set for this Sunday, the Golden Globes has sparked unprecedented levels of anger with their nominations. Read further to see which particular blunders have fans up in arms.

Compiled by Amy Kim, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Sean Warren, STAFF WRITER, and photos courtesy of Google



Riding on the recent wave of Korean movies surging in American media, “Minari” has been widely accepted as a strong contender for prestigious recognition this awards season. However, director Lee Issac Chung’s heartwarming film about a Korean family’s difficult search for the American dream has been snubbed of the Best Drama award, leaving film buffs on Twitter and Reddit infuriated. Thanks to a contentious Hollywood Foreign Press Association rule, “Minari” does not qualify for this category because more than half of its dialogue is spoken in Korean, rather than English. However, not only is Chung himself an American-born director, but also the entirety of the film was produced on American soil. As a matter of fact, “Minari” could not be anymore American, as it is quite literally the story of an immigrant family pursuing the American dream. The antiquated HFPA rule, which only succeeds in reinforcing the already prevalent marginalization and underrepresentation of non-white groups in the film industry, has ironically not always been a part of the Golden Globes. In the past, films such as “Babel” or “Inglourious Basterds”—both of which mainly consisted of non-English dialogue—were allowed to receive nominations under the Best Picture category. Unsurprisingly, these two films just so happened to prominently feature white actors, like American movie star Brad Pitt, which was certainly a factor in their unquestioned nomination. As the US film industry continues to grow more diverse, one thing is for certain: “American” needs to be re-defined as something beyond “English-speaking.” At its core, being American is about cultural and societal experiences, both of which transcend the barriers of language.



MINARI

I MAY DESTROY YOU

However, critics are up in arms about this nomination for one reason: Barry Glickman is a gay character, while Corden himself is straight. Corden’s role as Glickman was already puzzling enough, since the film’s director, Ryan Murphy, is known for providing stage opportunities for actors in the LGBTQ community—yet he chose Corden for this role. What’s even more appalling is Corden’s performance, which is essentially a mockery of the stereotypical mannerisms typically associated with gay individuals. He often struts in an overly sassy manner, while his fake lisp only manages to heighten the discomfort and offense that viewers may feel. In a film that was designed to shed light on the importance of more acceptance of the LGBTQ community, Corden’s execution is cringeworthy at best and a downright travesty at worst.

His nomination exposes just how shallow the Academy’s recognition for the LGBTQ community is, especially since gay individuals are rarely awarded or even represented in the mainstream media. The backlash Corden has faced for his performance should be a wake-up call for all directors to more carefully cast their films, and a warning to those who refuse to do so.



THE PROM

The omission of “I May Destroy You” from this year’s nominations seemingly has fans wanting to destroy the Golden Globes instead, as this snub sparked more outrage than any other nomination rejection has in recent years. Michaela Coel’s emotionally striking limited series is based on her own experiences with sexual assault, which allows her to explore the emotional intricacies that are inevitable when dealing with trauma. To many critics, the empowering themes developed in Coel’s show made it a shoo-in for nomination, as it allowed her to cope with her past hardships while simultaneously connecting with viewers who have endured similar life-changing experiences. Yet as shows like “Emily in Paris” were graced with numerous nominations, fuel was added to the already burning fire among critics. The widespread outrage was rooted in the fact that “Emily in Paris” is a show that arguably lacks cinematic and emotional substance, as it only offers a simplified version of life in Paris that is represented by white people and lavish lifestyles. It’s maddening that the Academy repeatedly fails to reward shows like Coel’s that are created by and star black women, especially since they are often overlooked in favor of vapid shows that can’t move people in similar ways. Even Deborah Copaken, one of the writers on “Emily in Paris,” admitted that “I May Destroy You” deserved the nomination over her own work. Her outrage is concrete evidence of the profound emotional impact that this show had on sexual assault survivors like Copaken herself. The bottom line is that shows and films should not be created with the sole purpose of impressing the Academy or collecting as many nominations as possible. Continuing to praise shows that offer little to viewers will only further silence the powerful messages that more meaningful shows have to offer.

Watch out James Corden, your comedic charm can’t save you from the critical commentary of today’s entertainment lovers. Corden’s performance as Barry Glickman in Netflix’s musical film, “The Prom,” has earned him a chance at securing Best Lead actor in a Musical or Comedy at the Golden Globes.

Cross Country makes its debut as the first Warrior sport to return to full competition

Warrior athletics are finally back as the boys and girls Cross Country teams took to the course for the first time in over a year.

By Jacqueline Liu
STAFF WRITER

Leading the way as the first sport to return to competition at Troy, the Warrior boys cross country team seized a second place finish while the girls took a third place finish during the dual meet with Sonora Feb 3.

Undeterred by the abrupt start back into competition, co-captain Jacob Shiota led the boys and raced steadily at the side of the lead runner, snagging the second highest finish time for the boys varsity race with a 15:48. Not far behind, junior Zachary Wallace kept steady pace and clutched a fourth place finish at 16:07 with Sonora runners at his heels. Leading a cluster of Warrior racers in the middle of the pack, co-captain Tyler Coker finished at 16:37 bringing in a seventh place.

Leading the way for the Lady Warriors, sophomore Makenna Henkhaus rushed to third place with a time of 18:47, keeping close pace with the head of the pack. Following close behind, junior Rylee Garner and sophomore Neya Jakan snagged fifth and sixth place, powering past the bevy of lagging competitors.

With the immense changes in the environment of cross country meets, the

team needed to adjust to a lackluster atmosphere in their first race back from quarantine, co-captain Kayla Sim said.

“When we first get there, it’s really strange, almost quiet, especially during the warm-ups before the race, Sim said. “It didn’t even feel like a race. It just felt like people running next to each other because there’s really not that much of a crowd.”

Although the quiet atmosphere weighed down on the Warriors as they were racing, the runners persevered through the change in the environment by maintaining a focused mindset and supporting their teammates to make up for the small crowd.

“It’s not as loud as it typically is, and that’s usually a big motivator when you’re running because you’re hearing all your teammates cheering you on,” co-captain Ernesto Rivera said. “The team is still motivated to do well though, because we get the chance to set new personal records and we still have our coaches and teammates cheering on the side.”

The reduced crowd is not the only change the runners saw at the race. Meets now occur every single week with only one other school in presence, Rivera said.

“There’s no league finals, so there are a lot of dual meets,” Rivera said. “It’s a lot harder knowing you have to race every single week, compared to every other week before, which gave us a little more time for recovery.”

Despite having dialed down practic-



KAYLA SIM

RACE TO THE FINISH: A group of Warrior runners rounds a bend as the athletes look to best the Sonora runners during the dual-meet at Troy.

es towards the beginning of the school year due to the cancelation of their season, the team continues to plow through these difficult changes, looking to re-amp their practice regimen and strive towards future victories, Sim said. “The coaches had us taper down a little bit

towards the beginning of the school year due to the modified season schedule,” Sim said. “Now that we’re racing again, our coaches have been trying to transition us more into tougher workouts. A lot of personal records are being set by the team, so we’re glad that everyone is steadily improving.”

Jeremy Lin receives signature sneakers in first shoe deal

“Linsanity” recently made history as he received his first signature sneaker; delve into the inspiration for the shoes and his journey in professional basketball.

By William Song, STAFF WRITER

One few players of Asian descent in the history of the National Basketball League (NBA), Jeremy Lin recently made history as the first Asian-American player to ever have his own signature shoe. His new shoe - the XStep ‘Jlin One’ comes after 11 years of professional basketball and a NBA championship with the Toronto Raptors.

In an interview with B/R Kicks Unboxed, Lin revealed that the main colorway of his shoes, “Water”, was inspired by his favorite parable of Peter walking on water. The passage helped Lin when he was a struggling rookie in the NBA and stayed with him until his rise to stardom, dubbed “Linsanity” in 2012 where he took the world by storm by leading a struggling New York Knicks team to 10 wins in 13 games and becoming one of fifteen players in NBA history to record at least 20 points, seven assists, and a steal through six consecutive games.

“That passage came to me, and the point of the passage is when you focus on God, you can do supernatural things like walking on water,” said Lin. “It was a great example to me that when you’re focused on God, he can do anything, he can do miracles, miracles as big as Linsanity.”

To Lin, the shoe represents his unwavering mentality and determination. His slo-



NEW KICKS: Lin drives to the basket wearing his ‘Jlin Ones’ in an NBA G-League game.

gan, “Nothing Stops Me” is a testament to his perseverance in difficult times of his career. “The ‘Nothing Stops Me’ mentality is about the persistence and the perseverance that maybe you have to wait longer than expected, maybe you have to work a little bit harder, or maybe at times it doesn’t look like it’s gonna happen, but if you stick with it, it can,” Lin said.

Devoted to his faith and his craft, Lin is a barrier breaker who has become a role model for many young athletes. He is currently playing with the Santa Cruz Warriors, a G League affiliate of the Golden State Warriors and is looking to get back into the NBA.

SUPER BOWL LV RECAP

The 55th edition of the annual Super Bowl kicked off as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers faced the reigning champion Kansas City

By William Song, STAFF WRITER

Super Bowl LV ended Feb. 7 with the underdog Tampa Bay Buccaneers besting the reigning champions Kansas City Chiefs 31-9. The game was dominated by the Buccaneers who scored a total of four touchdowns and prevented the Chiefs from scoring a single touchdown. The win marked quarterback Tom Brady’s seventh Super Bowl title and the second Super Bowl title in Buccaneers history.

The first points of the game were scored by Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker, who converted a 49 yard field goal to put the Chiefs up by three. Bucs tight end Rob Gronkowski answered back with less than a minute left in the first quarter with an eight yard touchdown to make the score 7-3.

In the second quarter, Gronkowski caught his second touchdown, widening the lead to 14-3. Butker then hit another field goal in the last minute of the quarter to bring the score to 14-6. However, the Bucs were able to score another touchdown seconds before the end of the half via an Antonio Brown touchdown catch. The first half ended 21-6.

The second half of the game started with the Chiefs once again converting a field goal. From then on, the Bucs took complete control of the game with a touchdown from running back Leonard Fournette and a 52-yard field goal courtesy of kicker Ryan Succop. The third quarter of the game ended 31-9 and both teams were not able to score again in the fourth quarter.

Despite having nearly the same amount of minutes of possession and the same total yards, the Chiefs missed out on many opportunities, while the Bucs were able to capitalize and score on many. Thus, Super Bowl LV concluded with the Bucs taking home the coveted Vince Lombardi Trophy and their first Super Bowl win in over 18 years.

MOVIE MENU

Whether it's an animation or a childhood movie, there are countless films that use close-up shots of various culinary masterpieces to capture the audience's attention. Though the lights and camera may give these dishes a dazzling appearance, a simple recipe is all you need to recreate the food you see in movies!

Compiled by Sarah Son, **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**, article by Sky Jung, **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

It's safe to say that almost everyone has come across a movie that uses food as more than just a prop. Even if the film is not specifically about cooking or food, there are memorable scenes that use mouth-watering dishes to appeal to the audience. Although the food that is seen on screen may appear extravagant or complicated to handmade, it is actually quite simple to bring these delicious meals to life. By acquiring the right ingredients and following a recipe, you can experience the diverse flavors of seemingly fictitious culinary creations right in your own kitchen!

MAIN

RATATOUILLE

• from the film, *Ratatouille* •

veggies

• 2 eggplants, 6 roma tomatoes, 2 yellow squashes, 2 zucchinis •

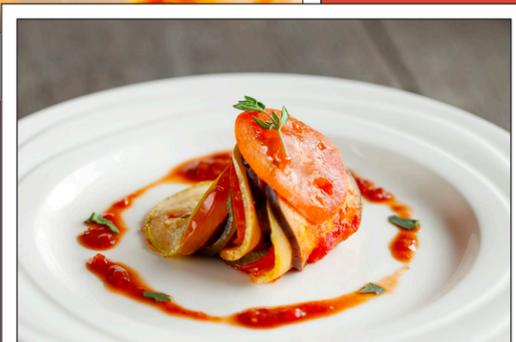
sauce

• 2 tablespoons olive oil, 1 diced onion, 4 minced cloves garlic, 1 diced red bell pepper, 1 diced yellow bell pepper, salt, pepper, 28 oz can of crushed tomatoes, 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil (8-10 leaves) •

herb seasoning

• 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil (8-10 leaves), 1 teaspoon minced garlic, 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley, 2 teaspoons fresh thyme, salt, pepper, 4 tablespoons olive oil •

• [CLICK TO OPEN INSTRUCTIONS](#) •



DESSERT

CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE

• from the film, *Matilda* •

cake

• all-purpose flour, 1 package Devil's Food cake mix, 1 (3.9-oz.) package instant chocolate pudding mix, 1 cup plain Greek yogurt, 4 large eggs, 1/2 cup water •

frosting

• 1 pt. heavy cream, 24 oz. semisweet chocolate chips •

• [CLICK TO OPEN INSTRUCTIONS](#) •



DRINK

BUTTER BEER

• from the series, *Harry Potter* •

• 2 cups milk, 1/4 cup butter, 1/4 cup brown sugar, 2-3 tablespoons hot butterscotch topping, 1 cup cream soda •

• [CLICK TO OPEN INSTRUCTIONS](#) •

