

# ORACLE

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## senior sunset class of 2021

Seniors celebrate Senior Sunset with reception of lanyards, stickers and candy in order to reminisce about friendship and to commemorate their upcoming graduation.

Compiled by Kathleen Zhang, NEWS EDITOR, article by Brianna Vu, STAFF WRITER, and Kathleen Zhang, NEWS EDITOR, graphics by Cassidy Chang, GRAPHICS EDITOR, and David Lee, GRAPHICS, cartoon by Ella Moon, CARTOON EDITOR

Reintroducing campus grounds to in-person events, Associated Student Body hosted Senior Sunset as the first non-virtual social March 5.

At sunset, the seniors drove through the parking lot in front of the North Gym to collect swag bags prepared by ASB. The seniors took a polaroid picture and received care packages filled with lanyards, stickers, personal notes and candy. Inspired by Stüssy, seniors Nathan Zhang and Mia Pai collaborated on the design of the lanyards.

Created by former seniors, Senior Sunset is an event that celebrates student's accomplishments with their classmates typically at the beach. Organized by ASB Senior Board Members, Senior Sunset plans would be communicated traditionally from classmate to classmate. Based on the availability of the class, students selected between Senior Sunrise or Senior Sunset where individuals would meet at dawn to sing songs and arrive at school together.

With aims to introduce more interactive student activities, ASB coordinated Senior Sunset as an on-campus event for the senior class as a finale to their high school experience. During class meetings, the senior committee collaborated with past Senior Sunset coordinators to ensure the safety of the students. ASB officers also mandated that the cutouts were cleaned after each use and that ASB members wore gloves and masks throughout the entire event.

According to senior Doralyn Nguyen, most seniors reminisced about the friendships they made at Senior Sunset. As memories resurfaced upon discussion of high school, the event helps actualize the culmination

of the senior's high school experience, Nguyen said.

"Since I spent so much time at Troy, revisiting was very nostalgic and almost makes me homesick," Nguyen said. "I came to Senior Sunset with the same friends I made during my freshman year. Since I have not recently seen them, it was like a big wave of fun memories came crashing on me as we passed through the place we all met."

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, ASB required the administration's approval for each aspect of the plan for Senior Sunset to maximize safety. As the first class-wide in-person event of the semester, Senior Sunset still reunited many seniors as a family, Nguyen said.

"Being able to bring all the seniors together was a nice tradition to end off our year," Nguyen said.

"Coming in as a freshman, it was intimidating to see all the seniors be confident and happy in their final year. As a senior now, partaking in the activities that ASB has planned is an exhilarating way to live out what freshman-me has always wanted to experience."

Considered to be a model for future events, Senior Sunset symbolizes hope for the transition back to in-person events in the near future. With over 150 attendees at the event, the enthusiasm of the senior class continues to inspire ASB's future endeavors, ASB Vice President Kai Akamatsu said.

"It is super encouraging to be able to see familiar faces again," Akamatsu said. "Despite COVID, I am excited for a fun year because most seniors were also excited to be at Senior Sunset. With all the seniors showing support and living in the moment as best that they can, it makes me super hopeful for what is to come."



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### LIFESTYLE

Read about what it takes to become a digital influencer and tips and tricks to increase your audience.



Page 4

#### OPINION

Get our take on why Asian Americans deserve support from the community in their fight against race-related violence.



Page 8

#### FEATURE

Learn about junior Ernesto Rivera's journey towards his pilot's license and the origins of his passion for piloting



Page 9

# UNICEF club partners with startup website Bake Sale for fundraiser

Bake Sale allowed students to purchase goods from their favorite brands while showing support for UNICEF.

By Erin Jang  
STAFF WRITER

Advocating for youth support across a global community, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund Club collaborated with the Bake Sale organization to raise money for children in impoverished countries March 1-15.

In an effort to support adolescents in developing countries, UNICEF club board members initiated a website fundraiser through the startup Bake Sale. With a goal of \$100, the club will donate the money towards various countries to provide vital resources such as access to water, nutrition, education, immunizations and emergency relief.

Along with a direct one-time donation option between \$10-200, all participants were able to shop at different brands such as Macy's, Grammarly and Wilson to make a

donation. Through the fundraiser page, the club received five to 40 percent of the proceeds for every product purchased.

As a fundraiser-based association, the club works to provide humanitarian and financial support for children affected by natural disasters. Partnered with over 50 brands, Bake Sale helps campus organizations like the Warrior UNICEF club raise more money within

limited time periods.

Invited in early January, the club was one of three high school groups Bake Sale chose to collaborate with for their first fundraisers. When the company reached out to UNICEF, the board members continually cooperated to create an extensive website, Rim said.

"Since the invite we received, the opportunity was a stroke of luck," Rim said. "In order to

arrange the small details carefully, the entire board spent much time agreeing upon how many brands and narrowing down

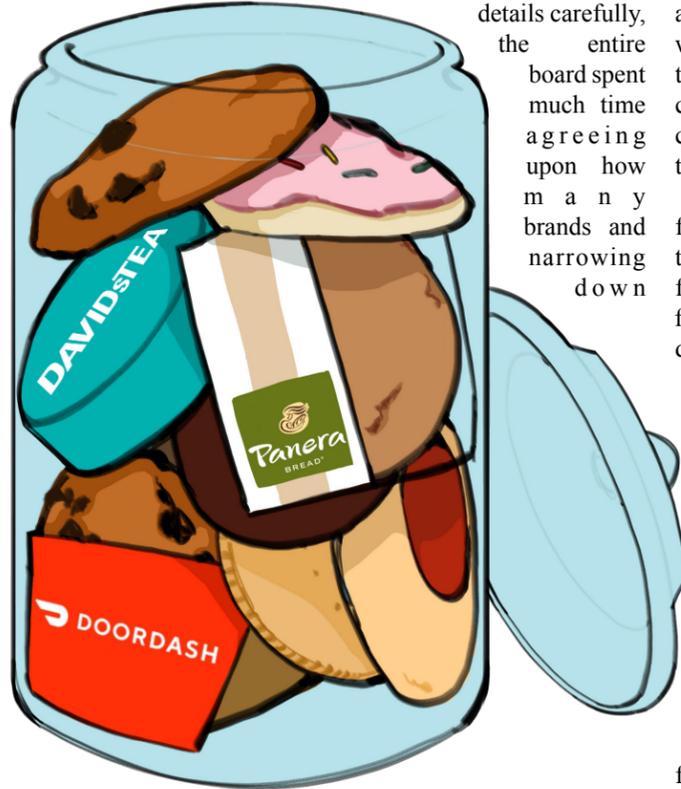
which brands to select."

According to Rim, the entire club aimed for each member to attract two to three people for the fundraiser. Amidst continuous efforts to post reminders across social platforms, the board members focused on the advantages to raise funds and engagement in a digital process, Rim said.

"The [online environment] gives the opportunity for the board to contact the members anytime," Rim said. "Our goal was for the news of this fundraiser to spread, because the fundraiser can reach great companies, which can provide more individuals to be aware and donate."

With a new approach to fundraise, the club hopes to continue and hold online fundraisers due to the greater flexibility and diversity of donate options, Rim said.

"Because it is not limited to only students at Troy, the online fundraiser is an opportunity for people in different communities to partake in and donate to support our cause," Rim said. "Although we are limited to only having online types of fundraisers right now, the website is an effective method [to raise money] because there is no limited time and range for people to make donations."



CARTOONS BY PEARL YOON

# Troy Support Organization produces virtual annual Warrior Showcase

TSO members will use a video montage of various club activities around campus in hopes to raise funds for future programs.

By Kaelyn Kwon  
STAFF WRITER

Highlighting school clubs and sports teams' activities, Troy Support Organization will host the annual Warrior Showcase April 17.

Through ticket sales, the virtual gala will raise funds for booster clubs and further TSO's mission to maintain, enhance and expand the academic and enrichment programs on campus. Organizers required clubs and sports teams to submit short films of their activities to be added to the event's ticket sale website. After the clubs send their videos, TSO's media team will edit the submissions into an hour-long movie that will be streamed on the school website.

When each club is designated in a transaction, the organization will keep 90 percent of the proceeds from the ticket purchase. Clubs will also have the opportunity to raise money through item donations to the TSO auction. TSO members encouraged clubs to provide gift certificates, event tickets or auction baskets for the virtual auction.

In an effort to ensure

to do everything from selling tickets to collecting donations to live streaming the event and hosting the silent auction itself," Bowman said. "[The software] is also a database, so TSO can keep track of donors and connect with them in the future."

With hopes of increasing attendance, TSO organizers lowered the ticket price to \$20 for the 2021 Warrior Showcase.

TSO's media department also created a promotional video that will be sent to past participants to increase exposure, said Bowman.

"TSO is reaching out to ASB to get the word out to more student clubs to get involved," Bowman said. "TSO is also seeking

"We're really excited for more student involvement, which this type of virtual format allows. Because of that, I think virtual is here to stay for our TSO program."

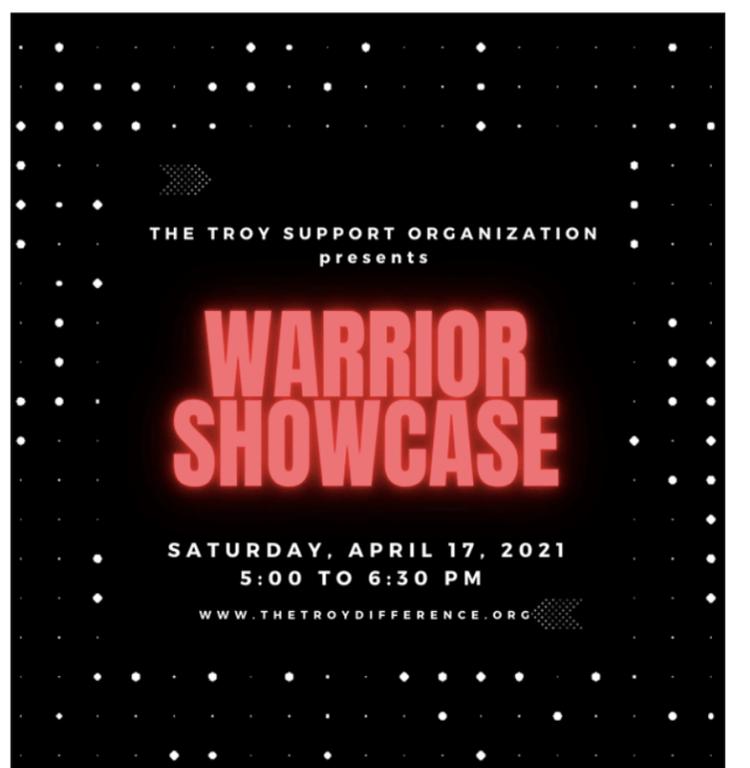
**Daryl Bowman**  
president

transaction security, TSO members set up a school auction software at the end of February. TSO staff researched different fundraiser softwares in advance in order to effectively transition the event to a virtual format, TSO President Daryl Bowman said.

"The software is an end-to-end solution that allows TSO

students to be in the actual production, and students will also be a part of the editing of the individual highlight videos."

According to Bowman, separate donations for TSO will contribute to a fund for portable recording equipment for the media department. In previous years, TSO members



COURTESY OF TSO

held the Warrior Showcase at banquet locations, which were limited to students due to age restrictions, Bowman said.

"[This year], there are more people who can attend and more student involvement overall," Bowman said. "The event is going to have student

microphone controllers, and the students participating during the production process of the whole thing. In the future, even if TSO goes back to doing an in-person event there will be components that are virtual because of this increased flexibility provided by virtual settings."

# Orange County expands vaccine access to educators

As educators are vaccinated through the following weeks, more students will be able to return to campus.

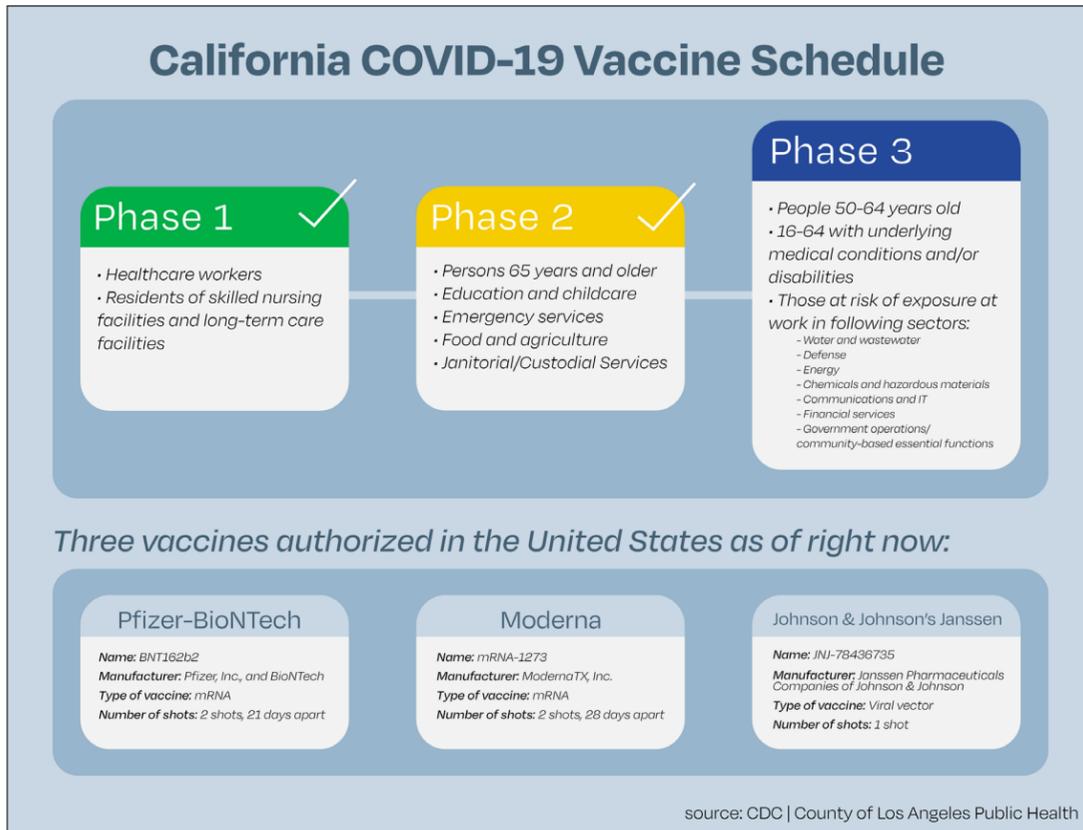
By Mai Omoto  
STAFF WRITER

Promoting the return to in-person instruction, Orange County designated doses of the COVID-19 vaccine for education and child-care workers March 1.

Due to the transition into the next phase, the county officials instructed vaccine providers to dedicate 70 percent of the vaccines to residents over 65 years of age and 30 percent to workers in the education and essential workers. Officials estimate that Orange County houses 450,000 seniors and 477,000 residents in Phase 1B, which prioritizes workers in education and child-care, food and agriculture and emergency services.

By means of approximately 75,000 vaccines available per week, teachers can sign up with the state's priority vaccine delivery system, MyTurn.ca.gov. The county offices of education will distribute codes that allow educators to make an appointment through the website.

Through access codes based on the district staff and local student population's size, the state will target districts where the pandemic heavily impacts students. Governor Gavin Newsom plans to accelerate safe school environments in communities with higher



GRAPHIC BY CASSIDY CHANG

portions of low-income students, English learners and foster youth.

Based on the priority of this phase, educators that return to classrooms within the next 21 days will qualify for an expedited appointment. The district mandated all teachers to be vaccinated in order for students to return to campus, Los Angeles Unified Superintendent Austine Beutner said.

"To vaccinate the people who work in these schools, we would need to vaccinate about 25,000 people," Beutner said.

"We must balance the learning needs of students, the support we provide to working families and the responsibility to protect the health and safety of all in the school community. We cannot, and will not, compromise on health and safety."

Supported by the new Johnson and Johnson vaccine rollout, epidemiologists work to fulfill California's goal of 3 million vaccinations per week. After a series of clinical trials, scientists discovered that the one-dose vaccine is 66.2 percent

effective after two weeks.

With over 6 million doses distributed, the state government strives to reopen schools by April, Gov. Newsom said.

"35 counties in the state of California currently are prioritizing vaccinations for teachers and educators," Newsom said. "We want to operationalize that as the standard for all 58 counties in the state. At the end of the day, we can do this now as we administer more doses, prioritizing our teachers, with more vaccines in people's arms."

# The Well Christian club hosts guest-speaker seminar series

Board members launched the series in order to create a sense of closeness between club members.

By Diya Patel  
STAFF WRITER

Venturing into the foundation of their faith, The Well Christian club hosted Fundamentals of Christianity seminars Feb. 24 to March 17.

Focused on the topic of salvation, the club invited Pastor Sarah Hwang to speak at their first event Feb. 24. Discussions will take place every Wednesday and will cover topics such as Evangelism, Fellowship and Spiritual Battles. Hosted through Zoom, the club extended invitations to Warriors and students from different schools within the district.

Inspired by previous guest speakers, President Hannah Ahn created the seminars in an

attempt to help club members learn about the connections between the diverse topics of Christianity. In collaboration with Publicity Manager Gina Hwang, Ahn promoted the event through a series of posts on Instagram that provided an overview of the discussion topics.

During their His and Hers Bible study sessions, the club members linked ten different bible verses to salvation. The bi-weekly meetings provided an environment for members to discuss passages and share thoughts on the new knowledge they gained at the seminars. In addition, the club connects with their faith through weekly worship videos that feature student's musical performances.

Through games like jeopardy and trivia, club members applied their knowledge and maintained interactions with each other, G. Hwang said.

"The board has been thinking of new ways to constantly

convert our meetings into a virtual setting," G. Hwang said. "The club tries to go through the same functions as we would in person by splitting into breakout rooms and making it feel as normal as possible."

According to Ahn, board members aim to create familial bonds with individual club members. The seminar allowed the students to form connections with each other through a deeper understanding of their religion, Ahn said.

"When Pastor Hwang asked us if we wanted to share anything, it was a good bonding moment because we could be open and vulnerable with each other," Ahn said. "I realized that the knowledge we gain at these seminars is where we can find common ground."

In an online setting, the club has noted an increase in participation from students at

different schools. The digital environment allows the club to reach a larger audience compared to the past, Ahn said.

"One thing that is amazing is that we are seeing a diverse range of students that may not be from our club," Ahn said. "Having [virtual meetings] has been a big help, both in terms of publicity and also because we are able to share what we learn together to a bigger audience."



COURTESY OF THE WELL CLUB

TROY TODAY

ASB initiates Pen Pal program

Building friendships virtually, Associated Student Body held a pen pal event that connects the underclassmen and upperclassmen March 12. To pair the two students, ASB provided the participants a questionnaire about their hobbies and passions. Based on their similar interests, the underclassmen and upperclassmen would write letters to each other about their day or give advice to one another.

Cross Country League Finals

Concluding the 2020-2021 Cross Country Season, Troy High School hosted the Cross Country League Finals race March 10. OMNIA live streamed the race on their YouTube channel in order to allow Warriors to view the race. Sophomore Makenna Henkhaus was able to set the school record with a time of 17:40.8.

Student Advocates for Mental Health

Fostering a relaxing environment, the Student Advocates for Mental Health Committee hosted a Student Self-Care Night March 12. Held over Zoom, the virtual event covered topics such as breathing techniques, journaling and positive affirmations. Students also followed an instructional presentation to make origami crabs and heart bookmarks as a keepsake.

ReUS Club holds Q&A webinar

ReUS Club hosted the QUAD for high school students to have discussions with professionals in various fields March 11. As the fifth episode of the series, the club invited Whiting-Turner Contracting Company Vice President Nancy Briseño-Rivera for a question-and-answer webinar session.

Boy's Bathroom Stall Fundraiser

In an effort to improve campus safety, the Associated Student Body is hosting a fundraiser for the 500's Building Boys' Bathroom through March and April. With a goal of \$1300, the efforts will go towards the purchase of stall dividers. Students can scan a Quick Response code posted on the ASB Instagram page to make a donation.

# So, you want to be a DIGITAL INFLUENCER?

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

Heavy is the head that bears the crown, especially if the crown comes with a million followers. Since the rise of the first generation of digital influencers with creatives such as game reviewer Pewdiepie and lifestyle blogger Alisha Marie, much of the influencer culture has changed. Once ridiculed as an unrealistic dream, the meaning of "influencer" has changed to represent a legitimate career option with an entrepreneurial flair. Splashed across the explore pages of millions, digital influencers live the fantasy life many of us dream of. It is time to peel away the glamorous makeup that masks the reality of the influencer lifestyle.

The main goal of an influencer is to stay "current," surfing the wave of trends that are constantly washing in and out of style. Despite what the explore page may tell you, influencing is not all glamour; it is a business that can manifest into a lucrative career. Other than taking pictures and writing glowing reviews about products, an influencer is also responsible for researching the reliability of the brands they work with, marketing themselves to potential clients, and maintaining the "right image." Although influencers may seem like just a pretty face, many even partner with businesses to curate their own products and establish their own brand to further expand their digital

influence. Like any other job, there are definitely demanding and even stressful aspects to this influencer lifestyle; one must not be quick to gloss over the responsibilities of this unique career.

Going viral overnight is like winning the golden ticket to Willy Wonka's chocolate factory: seemingly attainable but almost impossible. However, influencers have started sharing their influencing career path online, opening new doors for a more inclusive and supportive digital community. Welcoming new creatives into the scene sparks more versatility and creativity online, which is the first thing all influencers must find—their niche. Finding a focused niche for your content attracts an engaged and loyal audience. The infamous algorithms of both Instagram and TikTok have been notable roadblocks for micro-influencers. However, this obstacle can fortunately be combatted through interaction: liking, commenting and sharing content boosts your chances of being exposed to a larger audience. As each influencer paves their own path, it is important to remember that there is no instructions manual for success; rather, one must embrace and showcase individuality and uniqueness.

It's no secret that there is a constant dark shadow looming over the world of influencers. The perfect, photoshopped bodies plastered on the internet sets unrealistic body standards and

has been known to trigger eating disorders and a decline in self confidence. Not to mention, the lack of distinction between personal and professional life for influencers can lead to burn out and stress. Perhaps the most daunting aspect of this career is the debilitating effect of cancel culture, which can ruin one's platform in the blink of an eye. In the grand scheme of things, however, the tension caused by cancel culture helps hold influencers accountable for their actions. Recently, Danielle Bernstein, a fashion blogger turned fashion icon was "canceled" for stealing a microinfluencer's content on multiple posts without so much as a tag in the comments. Unfortunately, cases like these where influencers with larger platforms exploit smaller creatives' ideas abound. The irony lies in how only a small fraction of "canceled" cases are cherry-picked to be exposed for drama and gossip despite influencers constantly being in front of the camera.

The job of an influencer has the potential to live up to the fame and glory that we have all dreamed of. However, we should not condone the ignorance of the problems of the media, nor should we romanticize the stress of the lifestyle. As alluring as it all sounds, are you willing to strive for the crown even if it could drag you down?

Sharing and saving posts are the most helpful for growth. Build a community of supportive influencers who will not only help boost your content but also become your new friends!

Consistency is key! Influencers advise posting at least once a day during the beginning of one's influencer career. This will help an account "ride the algorithm" and get more exposure on the explore page.

Use these hashtags!  
#bloggersunder10k  
#gettingsomewhere  
#postitfortheaesthetics  
#campustrendsetters  
#discoveredunder10k

TIPS  
&  
TRICKS

for Instagram growth



# ASPIRING AVIATOR



Up, up and away! Unlike most high school students, junior Ernesto Rivera is working his way towards getting his pilot's license. Read his story below to follow his journey so far.

Compiled by Hannah Adams, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Coco Gong, **STAFF WRITER**, and photos courtesy of Ernesto Rivera and Google

A void-like atmosphere with embroideries of stars and constellations spans endlessly overhead. Faint puffs of white float under this blanket of outer space, and junior Ernesto Rivera's head is deep within these clouds. Alongside him, his family keeps him grounded as they begin a new adventure. Combining his love for traveling, his passion for aerospace and skill in engineering, Rivera embarks on the journey of earning his pilot's license.

Rivera's family loves to travel; they have traversed through ten different countries and took small vacations to visit other family members or national monuments. An especially memorable trip was a vacation to Alaska. Despite the cold weather in a foreign land, his family brought him a warm sense of home. Each trip is filled with joy and Rivera hopes to take his family journeys onto a new level with wings. So far, he worked through the seventeen-hour ground school course and began the process to find a small airplane as well as a sponsor to coach his flying passion. For Rivera and his family, countless adven-

tures await them in the future, and the piloting license just may take them higher.

"If I could help in any way to make it easier on my parents, maybe piloting would be a small thing that could help our family just become a little bit more of a traveling family," Rivera said.

Most students at Rivera's age are trying to get a driver's license, which made his journey for a pilot's license stand out even more. While Rivera has received many questions and skepticism regarding his passion, with many friends and family supporting his wildest dreams, Rivera pours his time and heart into the adventure of flight, steadily continuing onwards in the turbulent winds of doubt.

"It's [piloting] added to my growth as a person because it showed me that no matter what I wanted to do in life, I can pursue it," Rivera said. "If I have the ambitions, I can push myself to pursue them."

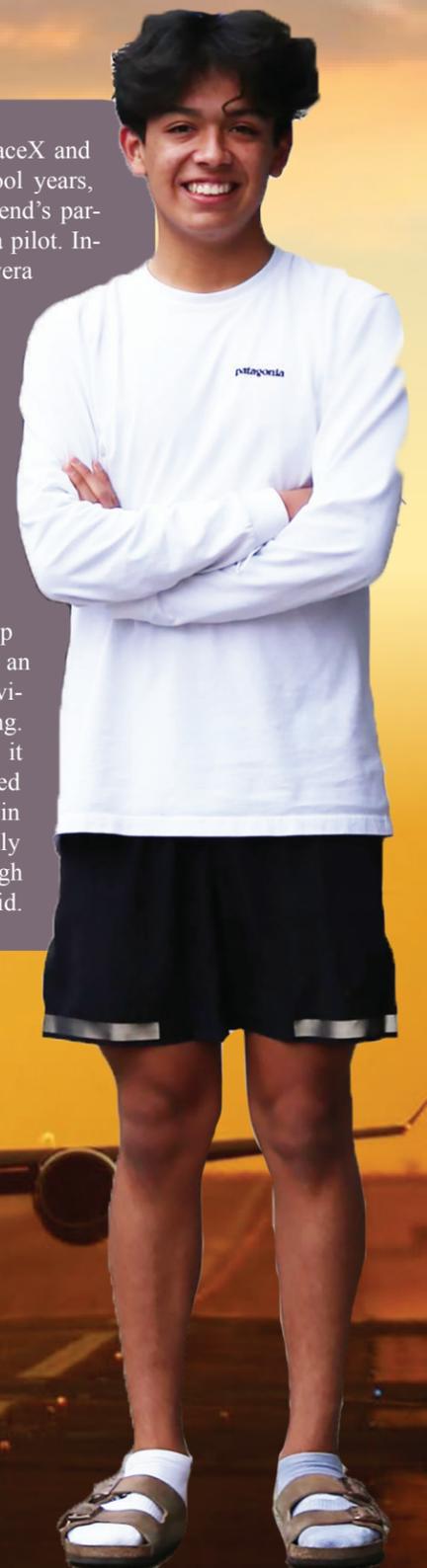
The piloting license is more than a door to exciting ventures; it is also a combination of Rivera's dreams and skills. Ever since he was a child, Rivera held fascination for the astronomical and hoped to explore as

a part of organizations like SpaceX and NASA. In his elementary school years,

Rivera heard a story of a friend's parent who traveled the world as a pilot. Inspired by their adventures, Rivera decided to follow his interests.

He began to weave his school life with his passion: the perseverance as the cross country league champion, the love for aerospace and traveling, and the diligence to pursue it via the rigorous courses that Troy offers—all became a tapestry of his vision. With fortitude, skill sets and passion, Rivera's piloting license is a leaping step towards his dream of making an impact in the aeronautical and aviation field of software engineering.

"I am proud of making it this far, being able to succeed alongside some of my friends in these classes at Troy and truly finding our passions through these hard times," Rivera said.



# Asian Americans deserve support in their fight against race-fueled violence

By Vivian Lee  
STAFF WRITER



Vichar Ratanapakdee, an 84-year-old immigrant from Thailand, was violently shoved to the ground Jan. 28, resulting in his unfortunate death. A video of his murder immediately circulated online and became a rallying cry for Asian Americans, many of whom have endured an increased amount of racist taunts or threats since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

The 2020 Black Lives Matter movement highlighted the rampant discrimination against Black people, inspiring participation from millions of people nationwide. However, the lack of the same energy and anger for Asian victims is disappointing. In order to bring about justice, Asian Americans and fellow people of color must stand together and work to eliminate unjust racism towards minorities.

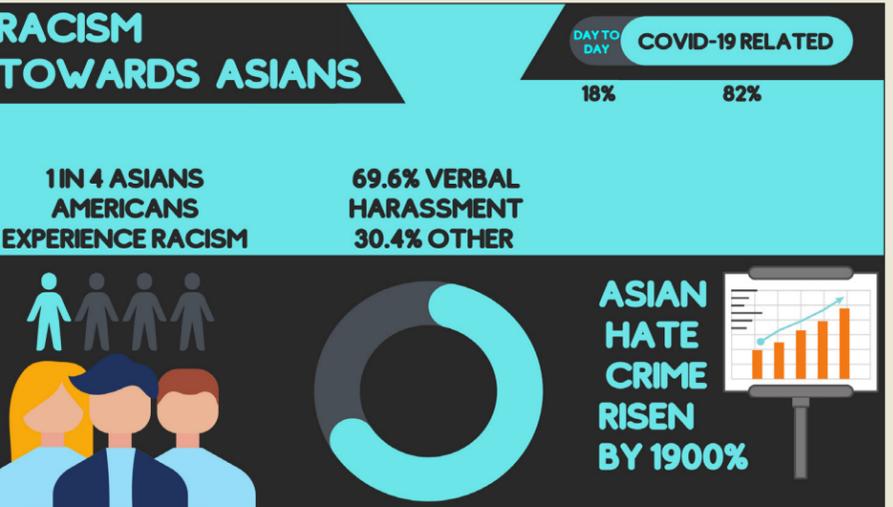
“This fight against racial violence and hate crimes cannot be won with efforts from only the victimized race.”

Given the need for cooperation, it is concerning that many people are not aware of the increased racism and hate towards Asian Americans. With higher graduation rates and income, Asian Americans are often perceived as the “model minority,” and, therefore, a community of people immune to racism. However, as demonstrated by the New York Police Department’s data, which reports a 1900 percent increase in Asian hate crimes since the beginning of

the pandemic, Asians are most definitely a victimized group. If we are

to address the recent violent crimes, we must rid ourselves of the harmful notion that Asian Americans do not face racism.

It is commendable that Asian celebrities have begun to step up in support of these efforts. The recent spate of violence prompted Asian American actors Daniel Dae Kim and Daniel Wu to offer a \$25,000



GRAPHIC BY SUNG JUN LEE

reward for any person who could provide information leading to the arrest of the attackers. However, media coverage can only go so far in reducing racism against Asian Americans. Although this helped encourage investigations on the perpetrators of current anti-Asian attacks, this is not going to decrease racism towards Asians in the long term, especially if a monetary reward was the primary motivator.

It is necessary for anti-violence procedures to be adopted by every city in the US in order to help protect future victims from the ongoing hate crimes. Several agencies have phone numbers to report abuse or neglect of the elderly, who have been the main target of recent Asian American violence. In New York City, a volunteer program called the Chinatown Block Watch patrols and reports incidents of anti-Asian crimes. Similarly, the East Bay Toishan Association in Oakland created a foot patrol group to walk the streets of Chinatown and protect the community’s minority residents and businesses. These ef-

forts are laudable, and partaking in these procedures will help to reduce the amount of violence in the US.

Until the issue of racial violence and hate crimes are rightfully addressed, BIPOC and their supporters must stand together. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s 2019 hate crime statistics, 57.6 percent of hate crime incidents are motivated by race, ethnicity, ancestry or bias. The report also states that recent US hate crime rates are the highest it has been in more than a decade. We should all be enraged about the massive influx of race-fueled violence in our country, and we should all be eager to contribute to achieving justice in any way that we can.

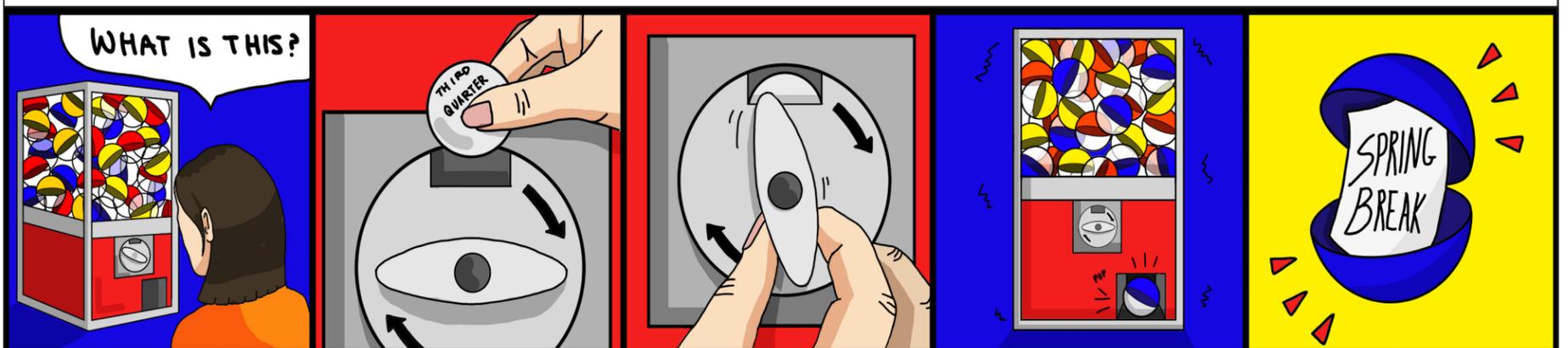
This fight against racial violence and hate crimes cannot be won with efforts from only the victimized race. Before the impacts of biases and prejudices become more prominent, it is crucial that we advocate for more participation and engagement from society on this issue. We must encourage and support Asian Americans and other minorities to speak up and demand equality from their fellow Americans.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VOX



The Wonderful Gift of Spring Break by Ella Moon



# Non-IB students should also be able to take IB philosophy classes

By Cage Hawley  
STAFF WRITER



I think, therefore I am...unable to take Philosophy classes.

Two highlights of the Troy High School International Baccalaureate Diploma programme are Philosophy and Theory of Knowledge classes. In an IB Philosophy class, students are given the opportunity to learn a comprehensive history of philosophies from varying backgrounds. Currently, these courses are offered only to students enrolled in the full IB programme. This means students who want to broaden their worldview but are not full IB diploma candidates are unable to take these classes. Philosophy and TOK are beneficial for students looking to challenge their beliefs and think more critically about their surroundings; therefore, non-IB students should be able to take these courses just like their full-IB peers.



The fact that Philosophy and TOK classes are exclusive to students pursuing IB diplomas unfortunately discourages students who are interested in those classes. Committing to full IB is extremely limiting and inflexible. For example, some classes must be taken

for both years of the IB Diploma programme, leaving less room for students to explore other electives and eliminating students' freedom to opt out of difficult classes. As a result, the pool of IB candidates is usually around 60 students per year. The qualifications inherent to full IB enrollment are decidedly difficult, which dissuades passionate students.

Using Philosophy and TOK classes to incentivize IB diploma enrollment is unnecessarily limiting. It makes sense that the school staff would want to encourage students to pursue IB diplomas—after all, if many students graduate with IB diplomas, it reflects well on the school and the teachers. However, TOK is only one of nine IB Diploma requirements, three of which are already exclusive to the diploma programme. Considering that the IB Diploma programme consists of several other prestigious requirements such as the Extended Essay, community service, and the diploma itself, the school can afford to lift the restriction placed on Philosophy and TOK classes without compromising the prestige of the program.

Philosophy and TOK classes provide a plethora of personal and academic benefits which all students should have the opportunity to enjoy. Doing so would open up an engaging, high-demand elec-

tive, positively influencing more students than before while also bolstering the school's image. Like most Troy electives, Philosophy is a topic for which many students hold passion, and for good reason. By studying philosophy, one can learn more about how they should act and the nature of the world around them.

While the knowledge that comes with Philosophy and TOK classes may seem esoteric at first, the opportunity to take classes which emphasize critical thinking would be invaluable to students in and out of a high school setting. According to a 2016 study from the Education Endowment Foundation, students who were formally taught philosophy outshined their peers in math, reading and critical thinking. Indeed, the skills taught in Philosophy and TOK courses would cultivate independence and influence

students to think in a unique, refined manner.

Rather than ask, "why should non-IB students be offered Philosophy and TOK?" the school staff and students should ask, "why shouldn't they?" Ultimately, the decision to restrict enrollment for Philosophy and TOK courses to IB diploma candidates narrows student opportunities. Opening the courses to all interested students is a choice which would encourage intellectual development and prepare more students for life after high school.



CARTOON BY PEARL YOON

# Biden is making slow progress on the United States immigration reform

By Andrew Sung  
STAFF WRITER



Biden is headed in the right direction, but still falls short.

In regards to the complex issue of immigration, President Joe Biden's new bill, introduced to Congress Feb. 18, signifies the first steps towards positive progress. The United States Citizenship Act of 2021 will provide an estimated 10.5 million

undocumented immigrants a quicker way to achieve citizenship. According to a 2018 CBS poll, 74 percent of Americans are in favor of granting permanent

"For the sake of these immigrants, we should continue advocating for positive change."

legal status to undocumented children brought into the US, which indicates that many Americans want immigration reform. The new bill is a good first step towards solving this deep-rooted issues, but further emphasis should be placed on improving the conditions at detention centers.

With the new bill, Biden successfully acknowledges the core issue of immigration: the fact that it takes too long and difficult to attain citizenship. Currently, it takes 13 years for undocumented immigrants to apply for legal citizenship, which is simply ridiculous. The new bill would reduce that time to eight years and allow people to apply for citizenship for other reasons besides employer-based immigration, family-based

immigration or asylum. Overall, the new bill is a welcome step towards rectification.

Unfortunately, Biden's plan still falls short on immigration reform in regards to detention centers. Immigration detention centers are places where undocumented immigrants are held in custody while they await permission to enter the country or be deported. The main concern with these detention centers is that they do not provide adequate conditions for the welfare of the people that reside there. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, there

are no enforced regulations for medical treatment, mental health care, access to telephones, nor free legal services in these detention centers. Furthermore, Time Magazine also reports that some immigrants have been detained in cramped cells, with no access to soap, toothpaste, or other hygienic necessities. As a result, there have also been disease outbreaks of flu, lice, chicken pox and even scabies. It is crucial that all human beings are provided at the very least with humane conditions in these centers, regardless of how much time they spend there.

Especially in the pandemic, the Biden Administration's choice to reopen detention centers is questionable. The Biden administration reinstated detention centers to allow more migrant children to enter the US during the pandemic, with the stated reason that social distancing restrictions still need to be abided by. However,

the current small and cramped conditions of these detention shelters disregards the purpose of reopening them during the pandemic, which is why we need to prioritize creating better shelters before trying to admit more people. CBS reports that the Biden Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services are working to rapidly expand space for these shelters and provide more beds, which is far better than the overcrowded, caged warehouses where children had to

sleep on the concrete with nothing but a blanket. Until these detention centers are reformed to protect the human rights of immigrants, we as the American people should not be completely complacent.

All in all, the new immigration bill is an improvement from the current state of immigration policy in the US. However, there is still work to be done, especially with the harsh conditions of the detention centers. For the sake of these immigrants, we should continue advocating for positive change.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

**TAKING A STEP FORWARD:** President Joe Biden is currently trying to push for the immigration reform that he promised as president-elect to pass in Congress as soon as possible.

# VOICES OF THE WARRIORS

Read what our Warrior thinks about the IB philosophy classes.

Compiled by Miseok Kim, CO-OPINION EDITOR

## Knowledge is power. Share the knowledge.

By Anonymous Junior

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme aims to create well-rounded students who are able to cope with more demanding workloads. The program requires students to take two years of TOK classes, write an extended essay of 4,000 words and complete a project that relates to creativity, activity or service. Although not all students can partake in the IBDP due to its rigor, the TOK classes should not be limited to the students in the program.

The class should be open to students beyond the IB program because the TOK curriculum is new to many and exposes them to a new type of thinking. TOK classes provide students with a higher level of guidance through the material that would not be available for them if they wished

to pursue philosophy at a university level. Studies have shown that the study of philosophy promotes clear speaking and writing skills, with close attention to detail. A study by Harini Navoda De Zoysa at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, has proven that philosophy classes not only offer students an insight to the theory of knowledge but also teaches students how to think critically and solve issues.

Especially since other IB courses such as English IB-SL are offered to students, the TOK classes should be open to all interested students. The program stresses the importance of exposing students to these topics, as the ability to think critically is relevant in all fields of study. If the school is concerned about the number of students who will be interested in taking these classes, administration can set prerequisites in order to take the course.

One of the biggest concerns with offering TOK classes is that these teachers require a certain amount of experience to properly teach and grade the material. However, more experienced teachers can provide resources and advice needed to train fellow educators to teach this course. Additionally, the administration could slightly expand the size of the current TOK classes, as well as limit the amount of non-IB students that are able to the course. This would allow the IB program to offer a reasonable amount of non-IB students the opportunity to take philosophy.

Since the IB program is a huge time commitment, it should not be the reason that prevents non-IB students from taking philosophy classes. Many students do not have time or resources to partake in this pathway. Some students may not be as high-performing as their peers, but they should not be

restricted from learning philosophy. There should not be a total reservation of this class for IB students, as they are not the only people who could benefit from this course. While the program is suitable for some students, some may wish to focus on other aspects of their high school career. This, however, should not prevent students. The opportunity to experience this class should not come with a requirement of an essay, project, and the involvement of other activities.

Ultimately, it is unreasonable to require students to be in the IBDP in order to take a philosophy or TOK class. All students have the right to take this class and should have the opportunity to pursue any field of study. This rigid rule that the IB program has should be changed in order to expand students' knowledge.

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# GAINS FOR GIRLS WHO GAME

“Valorant” is paving the way for more opportunities for women and other marginalized genders in the realm of esports. Read further to see how they’re changing the game.

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

The cutthroat, first-person tactical shooter known as “Valorant” has taken the gaming world by storm, but its recent impact on the competitive gaming scene has been more than stormy. Riot Games, the developer of this exhilarating game, has announced the newest addition to their Valorant Champions Tour competition: VCT Game Changers. This initiative supplements competitive play by creating a new category for women and other marginalized genders, which allows them to gain exposure and more opportunities in the world of Valorant esports. However, this vital and arguably overdue implementation to increase gender diversity in the gaming industry has actually birthed a wave of rampant criticism towards Riot Games.

Riot’s new initiative was clearly established to shut down the misogyny within competitive gaming, yet its critics have seemingly turned a blind eye to the forward-looking intentions underlying this decision. Directly after Riot announced their Game Changers series, Reddit users within the community were quick to accuse the developers of trying to further divide the genders, and even went as far to claim that Riot was just searching for more content to put out to fans. These Reddit users’ staunch refusal to accept Riot’s newest program is rather disappointing, as a central purpose of Game Changers is to actually alleviate an immense amount of abuse and harassment that would have otherwise been thrown at female gamers.

In a thorough response, Riot assured critics that their intent was not to worsen the gender gap in the competitive scene, but rather to create a safe environment for disadvantaged groups to showcase their talent without being burdened by the fear of receiving toxic or discriminatory remarks. Fortunately, the Valorant team is unhindered by the backlash, as they are managing to stay true to their efforts to mitigate the relentless slurs, jeers and insults that plague male competitive gaming culture. In fact, Riot Games’ very own Insights and Strategies Director, Coleman Palm, specified that Valorant was working to increase inclusivity when it comes to competitions, revealing the company’s own acknowledgement of the urgent need to counteract the ram-

nant sexism in its gaming community. Game Changers would be the first step in giving a platform for more players to be celebrated within the community, as women and other historically disparaged genders could play to their potential without being dominated and antagonized by their male teammates.

Though Riot’s attempt to spread inclusivity does offer some hope, the issue of unequal opportunities for women and other minority groups is still continuing to poison the competitive gaming scene. “League of Legends,” Riot’s most popular game, has historically been notorious for housing some of the most toxic players, who consistently discriminate against women. Almost 32 percent of female players have reported receiving some form of sexual harassment in the game, while only three percent of their male counterparts have been victim to this type of mistreatment. As a matter of fact, the entirety of the gaming field is stereotypically seen as a man’s world, leading women to feel unwelcome and unmotivated to play. When a female player climbs to an admirable rank in a video game, male players are quick to invalidate their skill level, accusing them of being “carried” or even cheating. Even more unfortunately, women are completely aware of the negative treatment they’ll be victim to when gaming, which only reinforces the lack of gender diversity as women feel obligated to avoid the activity altogether. Riot Games’ initiative to incorporate new ways for marginalized groups to be fairly recognized in competitive gaming is indicative of sluggish progress, but more developers desperately need to start making similar accommodations.

With the surge of new games that will inevitably continue to be released, it is imperative that all genders are given the opportunity to compete equally at the highest levels. Riot Games has paved the way for promising progress with their VCT Game Changers initiative, but the criticism they have received still shows a reluctance among the community to accept meaningful change. The gaming community must start actively acknowledging and combatting the sexism that it has directly enabled, or it will be game over soon.

# Contact sports make a return after COVID-19 regulations are lightened by CIF

With COVID rates looking promising by the week, CIF lightened regulations, allowing Warrior teams to take the field

By Jacqueline Liu  
STAFF WRITER

Clearing the path for contact high school sports in the state, the weekly coronavirus report released by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Tuesday Feb. 23 allowed counties whose adjusted daily rate case reached 14.0 or less per 100,000 to start outdoor sports Feb 26.

Orange County is included in the list of counties reaching the threshold for this stipulation. Now, sports are able to resume playing with contact as long as it is permitted by the respective schools, districts and counties.

Although the status of the return to competition is subject to change at any time, outdoor sports teams are allowed to return to play regardless of changing figures unless a new stay-at-home order is issued by the state or a county decides to impose a stricter guideline.

To ensure that proper precautions are taken for high-contact sports, weekly testing of all athletes and coaches is required for football and water polo, with results available within 24 hours of playing in a game. This means that



RICHARD ARENAS

**DANCING THROUGH DEFENDERS:** Senior Andrew McGee splits two defenders in Boys Soccer's second game back after getting the go ahead to restart play.

sports competitions that have been on hold for about a year can now once again begin their competitive seasons as long as proper testing is conducted.

In addition to mandatory testing, the state has also enacted strict guidelines for inter-school competition. The conditions require that both have to be located in the same county or the opponent is located in a bordering county where the sport is authorized to be played. Tournaments also cannot involve more than two teams. This is a guideline that the CIF hopes can be revised because it would prevent

playoffs from taking place this spring.

Indoor sports have also been cleared to resume competition March 4 by the CDPH as long as the sports teams follow the same protocols as those of college sports. Although conditions for indoor sports are still uncertain as of right now, they appear to have a pathway toward competition similar to football and water polo, except with more testing.

This report has opened the gate for many high school sports whose seasons were canceled after the pandemic emerged. Despite the short notice that the sports season is now

resuming, the Warrior sports teams are thrilled that athletes are permitted to play contact once again.

Ever since leaving the field in 2020, the Warrior football team has been eagerly waiting for the chance to play the game again and are extremely excited to be practicing in full pads once again, coach Michael Echaves said.

"A year and a half ago was the last time we stepped on a football field. And ever since then, we have literally never stopped working," Echaves said. "We've been preparing for this for so long, so the opportunity for the kids to get out and play the game that they love is a huge benefit."

Intense preparations for the season now resume for the Warrior boys soccer team, as the ability to play contact now allows the athletes to refamiliarize themselves as a team, coach Lester Maldonado said.

"We're so excited for our seniors to be able to play in their last year," Maldonado said. "Being able to play soccer again in their senior year will hopefully give them a sense of normalcy or accomplishment. We also are glad to get games in the season for our underclassmen who are new to high school sports. Over the next few months, our focus for this season is preparing and challenging other teams in the freeway league."

# Girls tennis narrowly defeated by Yorba Linda away from home

Following a long-awaited restart in their first match last week, girls tennis conceded to Yorba Linda in a close match on opposing ground.

By William Song  
STAFF WRITER

The Warrior girls varsity tennis team ended their second game of the season in a close 8-10 loss against Yorba Linda March 4. Games were played in a best of four setting with a tiebreaker match in the case of a draw, two sets shorter than normal best of six set games. Masks were worn all throughout and proper COVID-19 precautions including social distancing were taken on and off the court.

Sophomore Nadia Kojonroj played an integral part in the effort against Yorba Linda. She not only won all of her singles matches but also managed to win despite starting off her second match with a two point deficit.

"I was down by two and there were some points where my opponent could have won the match, but I'm glad that I pulled it out," Kojonroj said.

Senior and standing captain of the team, Shreeya Jayabharathi and

her doubles partner, sophomore Reese Angulo also triumphed over Yorba Linda. Their teamwork, skillful play and communication resulted in them winning two out of their three doubles matches.

Like many other sports teams, the girls varsity tennis team experienced immense and numerous difficulties because of the pandemic. Masks and social distancing became mandatory all throughout practice and there were times where it seemed as if there would not be a season. Changes in the structure of tennis matches were another challenge that the team had to overcome. The faster pace of the games meant that there was less time to rest and recover between matches. However, the team pulled through and concentrated on improving together.

"We always have to wear masks and socially distance so it can be tiring after a rigorous match, but overall, it was not too bad of an adjustment to make," Jayabharathi said. "I am grateful to even have a season and a chance to play with my teammates."

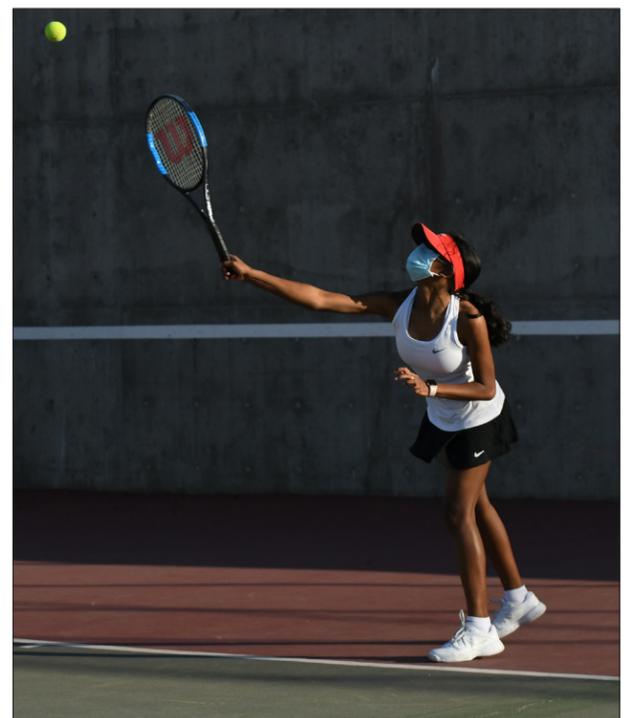
Although the result was a loss, the match against Yorba Linda did not end without a gain. The loss remind-

ed the team about the importance of competing with team spirit, high energy and good communication.

"I think we can have more team spirit and play with more energy as a team," Kojonroj said. "I think I can work on encouraging my teammates and being more supportive on the team."

As it is still is very early on in the season and Yorba Linda is known to be one of the tougher opponents that the team will face this season, Jayabharathi remains optimistic on the team's ability to improve in the coming weeks.

"Overall, I was really happy with how we played as a team and how I played personally. Given that this is only our second game and we usually play Yorba Linda later in the season, I think we can improve chemistry between



JENNA SABILE

**SWINGING WITH INTENTION:** Freshman Neya Jakan serves the ball with her concentration on the

doubles and learn more about how we work together as a team," Jayabharathi said. "I'm really proud of how our team is doing this year and I want to have the best league campaign possible that we can while under these circumstances."



UPGRADE

My Profile



PLAYLIST

# Spring Playlist

Oracle • 7 likes • 15 songs, 55 min 23 sec



Springtime has rolled around again, so enjoy the sunshine and blossoming flowers—along with a selection of season-inspired songs approved by Oracle’s Editorial Board.

Compiled by Sky Jung, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF




**Glitter**  
BENEE







**Good Days**  
SZA







**Listerine**  
Dayglow







**telepatía**  
Kali Uchis







**Mariposa**  
Peach Tree Rascals







**7PM**  
Lilacs, Lizzy Alpine







**Lost in Paradise**  
ALI







**Loving is Easy**  
Rex Orange County







**Haruka**  
YOASOBI



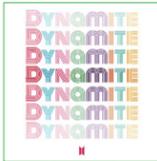




**36.5**  
SHAUN







**Dynamite**  
BTS







**Home**  
Luke Chiang







**Blinding Lights**  
The Weeknd







**Therefore I Am**  
Billie Eilish







**Sunflower**  
Post Malone, Swae...



