

# ORACLE

2200 E. DOROTHY LANE, FULLERTON, CA 92831

## Our Town Production

Emulating their typical indoor sets, Troy Theater Arts created an outdoor stage with light stands and a full sound system in the quad.

Compiled by Diya Patel, NEWS EDITOR, article by Kaelyn Kwon, STAFF WRITER, graphics by David Lee, GRAPHIC EDITOR, cartoons by Kirsten Dingson, CARTOON

Starring in person and online involvements, Troy Theater Arts presented its production of the play "Our Town" in the Warrior Quad April 28-May 1.

Through a hybrid preparation schedule, students contributed to the play's production in a blend of in-person workshops and online collaborations. Volunteers constructed sets in class, during student support and on weekends. Over the course of five weeks, students assembled an outdoor stage complete with light stands and sound system.

In order to participate from home, students in Cohort C designed fliers, banners, program covers and social media advertisements. After the director determined the final publication designs, students distributed the banners and fliers on campus and posted social media advertisements on Instagram. In addition to the publication plans, students submitted three-dimensional set designs and video commercials to promote the play.

Written by Thornton

Wilder in 1938, "Our Town" is a three-act play that tells the story of a fictional American small town called Grover's Corners in the early 1900's. Narrated from two different perspectives, each act highlights a significant event in a person's life. The show explores a view of life in its simplest form and invites the audience to ponder the implication of death.

According to Theatre Director Joe Hufferd, "Our Town" examines the aspects of daily life that are taken for granted and was chosen as a way to reflect on the past year's events. The show enabled students to perform in person and presented a safe way to enjoy theatre in person, Hufferd said.

"I want everyone to be safe and healthy and to provide an opportunity for students to invest in something artistic," Hufferd said. "The students are eager and enthusiastic. They have been in their own roles." In an effort to ensure performer

and audience safety, the school administration tested actors for COVID-19 twice during the week of the performance and spaced seats four feet apart. Masks were optional for cast members during the performance, but the actors maintained social distancing.

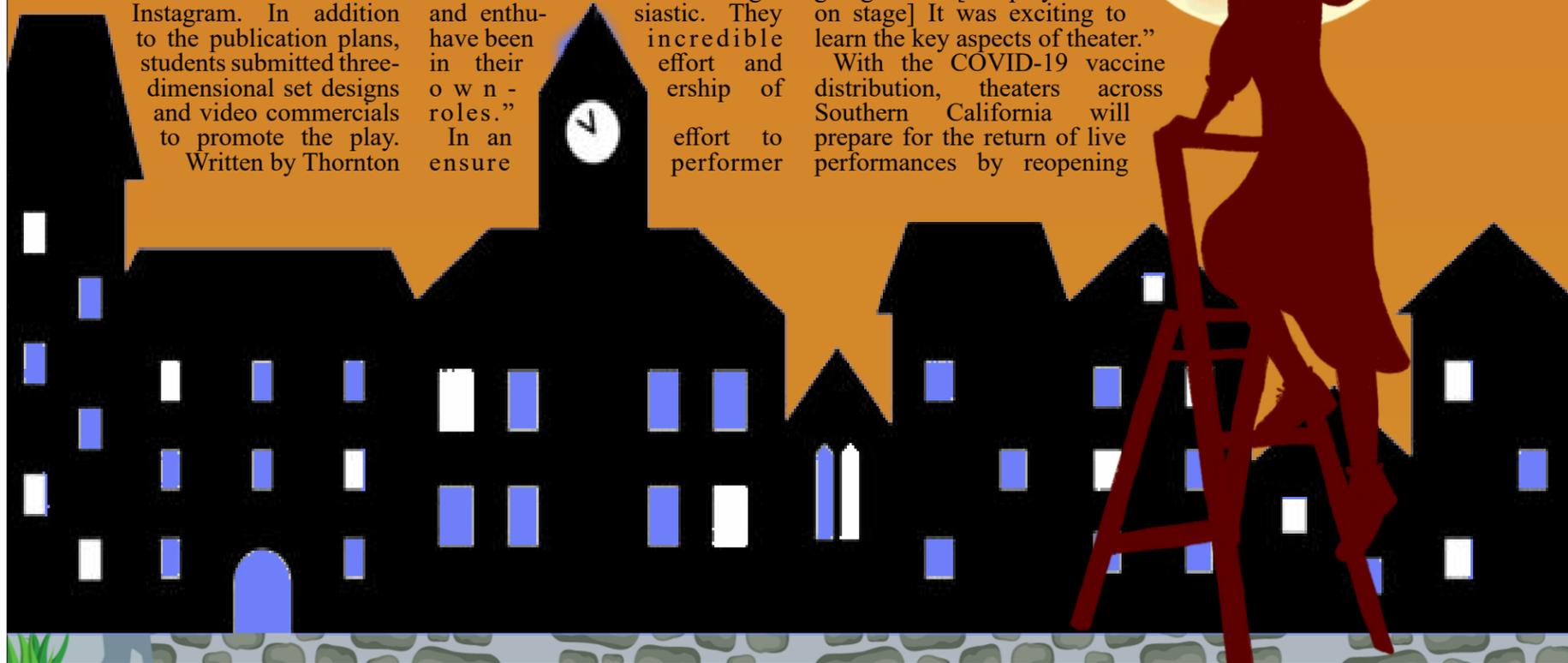
For two to four hours, students rehearsed every day after school and on weekends. In the rehearsals, actors practiced specific scenes, and the director provided advice on areas where students should improve, senior Ariana Hartman said.

"Rehearsals were pretty long, and the time limit was a bit [stressful]," Hartman said. "[However,] Mr. Hufferd was very encouraging and taught us a lot about what is going on in [the play and on stage] It was exciting to learn the key aspects of theater."

With the COVID-19 vaccine distribution, theaters across Southern California will prepare for the return of live performances by reopening

June 15. At the beginning of the school year, the actors did not believe that there would be a show, Hartman said.

"[An in person play] is a way to bring us all together during this time," Hartman said. "It is amazing to see [classmates] in person since we have been on screen. There is something really special about being able to communicate with everyone [in person]."



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Explore the aesthetic of light strips that mimic the sunset, rainforest, and other outdoor settings.

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# PSST produces film “Break in the Clouds” for annual PACN event

In place of the traditional in-person showcase, club members compiled a series of performance clips of songs and dances for PACN.

By Jamie Lee  
STAFF WRITER

Reflecting on the impact of the pandemic, Pilipinos Sharing Smiles Together club presented their first film entitled “Break in the Clouds” April 24.

Entirely directed by club members, the film was a 30-minute long tribute to the annual PACN event. The film featured mini skits, modern dances and choir performances. Members intended for the film to show their adaptability to new environments and their ability to stay connected during the pandemic.

Through short skits, the club portrayed the first day of lockdown and the first day returning to school with COVID regulations. PSST included a rewind video composed of clips and photos from various events during the past school year. At the end of the film, the club honored the Filipino frontline workers through a montage of the names and pictures of each of the workers.

Inspired by the members’ experiences with the pandemic, the choir performances featured pop songs such as “The Scientist” by Coldplay and a popular Filipino song called “Mahal



PHOTO COURTESY OF PSST CLUB

**VIBRANT VOCALS:** PSST members perform the beloved traditional Filipino song “Mahal Kita Kasi” as a virtual choir performance made possible by combining the individual

clips and photos from various events during the past school year. At the end of the film, the club honored the Filipino frontline workers through a montage of the names and pictures of each of the workers. Inspired by the members’ experiences with the pandemic, the choir performances featured pop songs such as “The Scientist” by Coldplay and a popular Filipino song called “Mahal

Kita Kasi” by Toni Gonzaga. PSST also showcased modern dance performances that were choreographed by the members to songs including “Chilly” by NIKI. According to senior Julian Ayusa, the club members reunited during the preparation process through active collaboration. The members held brainstorm sessions and incorporated new ideas into their performances, Ayusa said.

“The most exciting part was the

in-person practices that we were able to have,” Ayusa said. “I was able to meet a lot of the members who I couldn’t see for almost a year. It was also really fun to film the video performances since we could get creative with them.” Despite the pandemic, PSST members stayed connected through virtual social events and meetings. As Warriors adapted to the new environment together, club members built a stronger

bond as a family, Ayusa said. “The title of our film represents our current situation with the pandemic and connects to how the sky looks gloomy when it rains but when the rain stops, there is finally a break in the clouds,” Ayusa said. “[The film] is about forming and strengthening bonds with friends and adapting to new situations during the pandemic.” In order to help Warrior foster a deeper understanding of the

Filipino culture, members hoped for the film to convey customary themes in the Filipino culture that might not be familiar to non-Filipinos, Ayusa said. “The film is a fresh approach to non-Filipinos in educating them about our culture,” Ayusa said. “[The film] allows others to also be familiar with our traditions, not simply the dances but also the language, the food, and other aspects of the Filipino culture.”

# iExplore club performs in musical showcase at local seniors center

As one of the first on-site events of the year, club members organized musical performances to create positive brain stimulation.

By Neya Jakan  
STAFF WRITER

Providing care for seniors, iExplore club members volunteered at the Brea Silverado Memory Care Senior Center April 24.

During the volunteer event, Warriors played board games with the seniors, organized material around the facility, and participated in a variety of other activities including the musical performance hosted by the senior center. In order to spend time with seniors who have Alzheimer’s and dementia, eight iExplore members attended an orientation to familiarize themselves with the facility.

Prior to the pandemic, senior center employees conducted music therapies to stimulate their brains, but were halted due to COVID-19. In order to con-

tinue the musical therapies for the seniors, iExplore club offered to perform in the showcase.

Held March 27, members took part in their first musical performance for the seniors, with additional performances planned for the upcoming months. For an hour and a half, club members played a variety of instruments including the piano, cello, and violin, while others chorused to songs such as “Dance Monkey” by Tones and I.

According to junior Ivette Chen, club members aimed to ensure that the seniors enjoyed their evening while they listened to music that will benefit their health. In order to create an optimistic atmosphere, the performers produced music that created a positive environment at the senior center, Chen said.

“[Our] main goal for the event was to perform to the seniors and provide a fun experience for them,” Chen said. “We hoped to create a lively atmosphere and fully express the music to the seniors.”

Aside from the volunteers’ growth in sense of responsibility and awareness of cognitive



PHOTO COURTESY OF IEXPLORE CLUB

**CHARMING COINCIDENCE:** Performers capture the moment as they discovered that one of the audience members was former Warrior Vice Principal George Fisk.

decline diseases, the event also provided the seniors with a sense of belonging in the community, President Ryan Kern said.

“Through this event, we wanted to tell the seniors that they are not forgotten and that their community cares about them,” Kern said. “This event gave us a sense

of responsibility, knowing that we have the ability to help alleviate the difficulties of this pandemic and its impacts on our seniors.”

Among the group of seniors was former Warrior Vice Principal George Fisk. Through discussions with Fisk, students gained valuable insight, Kern said.

“It is a great feeling to be able to bring joy to the seniors because of how much they have done for us throughout their lives,” Kern said. “I am also very proud of our iExplore club members who devoted their time to help our seniors and other members of the community.”

# iSierra Academy to offer online learning programs

With three distinct plans available, students are able to select the course combination best suited to their individual needs.

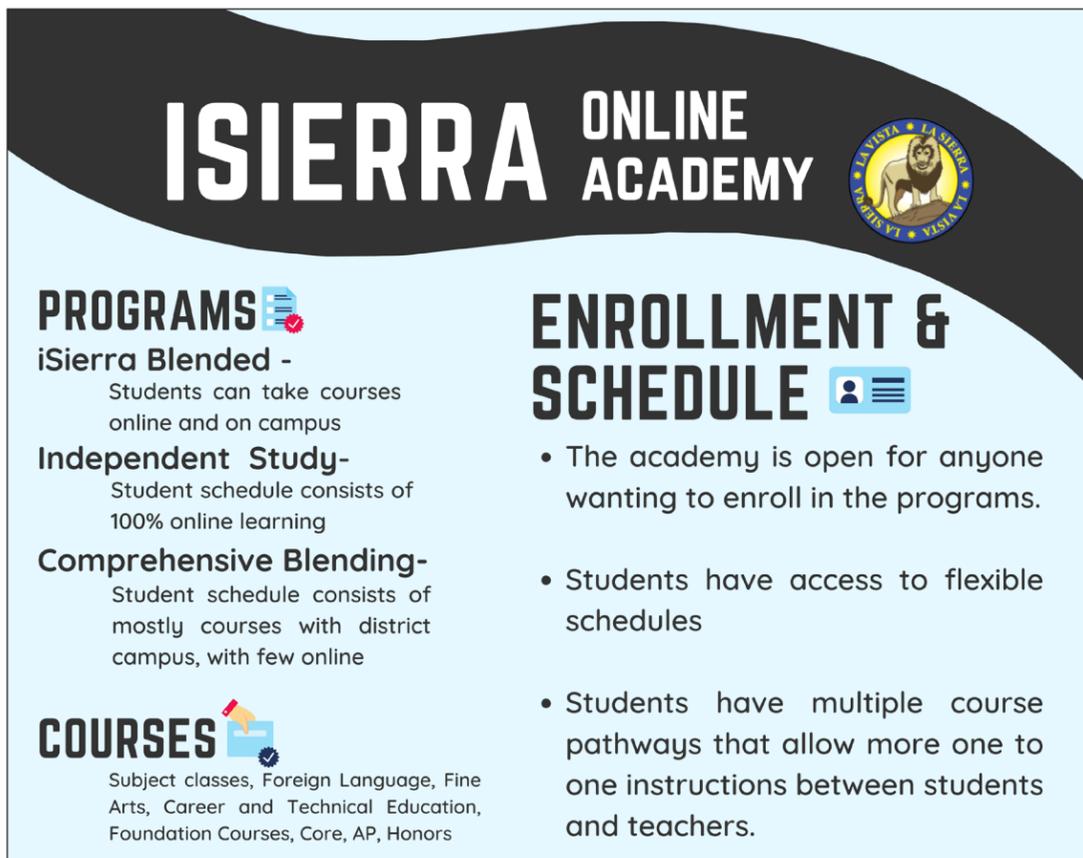
By Erin Jang  
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to provide flexibility for students, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District will offer an online learning platform called the iSierra Online Academy in the 2021-2022 school year.

Created in 2010, the iSierra Online Academy consists of diverse courses and flexible schedules for students in the virtual environment. In alignment with the Apex Learning digital curriculum, students who prefer to continue online education during the next academic year are able to enroll in the new system in April.

In order to fit student course schedules, the online academy blends traditional high school and independent study into three distinct programs. Students in the iSierra Blended Program take the majority of classes online and a maximum of two courses on campus for hands-on activities, such as lab science and physical education. Aside from the iSierra Blended, the Independent Study Program sets students in only online courses while the Comprehensive Blended Program places students in mostly on-campus courses with one or two classes online.

Through student-centered instruction, the program allows participants to progress at their



**ISIERRA ONLINE ACADEMY**

**PROGRAMS**

- iSierra Blended -**  
Students can take courses online and on campus
- Independent Study-**  
Student schedule consists of 100% online learning
- Comprehensive Blending-**  
Student schedule consists of mostly courses with district campus, with few online

**COURSES**

Subject classes, Foreign Language, Fine Arts, Career and Technical Education, Foundation Courses, Core, AP, Honors

**ENROLLMENT & SCHEDULE**

- The academy is open for anyone wanting to enroll in the programs.
- Students have access to flexible schedules
- Students have multiple course pathways that allow more one to one instructions between students and teachers.

GRAPHIC BY DAVID LEE

own pace and experience a personalized alternative to the traditional in-person system. Certified by the Western Association of Schools, the virtual education system provides students with foundation, core, Honors and Advanced Placement courses.

Along with a teacher for each course, students have one supervisor in the online environment for weekly conferences. As the program promotes student-teacher interaction, the one-to-one instruction enables students to receive separate sup-

port, Principal Sandi Layana said.

"Instead of busy classrooms, students who prefer and excel in individual instruction can learn more efficiently," Layana said. "Because the class is one-on-one, the students have the opportunity to receive more attention and assistance."

With more freedom for customization, staff members can design courses specific to the students' learning styles, Layana said.

"There are students who prefer to learn without the distracting noises in the classrooms," Layana said. "Although other students

need more structure and activities that involve engagement, some select independent study as the best option to improve"

Compared to the hybrid system, the online program offers more flexibility, Counselor Sonia Diaz said.

"[iSierra] is a whole different program, and many students who needed it were successful since they were able to manage their schedule," Diaz said.

"As the online program is attached to a public school, students can receive quality education without the heavy tuitions."

# Student Advocates for Mental Health club hosts seminar

The club partnered with the Department of Education in order to provide accurate information and resources.

By Brianna Vu  
STAFF WRITER

Offering effective methods to cope with mental struggles, Student Advocates for Mental Health organized a live webinar about stress and anxiety April 23.

As personal pressure on students increased throughout distance learning, the advocates decided to address the challenges of the general struggle. The committee invited Fullerton Joint Union High School District Mental Health Coordinator Carlos Alcantara to explain de-escalation tools. SAMH also released a recorded video of

the webinar for students to refer to when in need of help.

As an introduction to the webinar, Alcantara distinguished that stress is the response to a difficulty while anxiety is a thought-driven emotion. The participants practiced techniques, such as the butterfly hug and deep breathing activities, to control emotional breakdowns. In an effort to interact with the students, the team

supportive behavior among high school students. Partnered with the Orange County Department of Education, the committee is composed of leaders from various on-campus clubs. Through OCDE's partnership, the department held a training session on psychological health from representative Stephanie Loscko and will provide funds and materials for mental health activities.

According to social media coordinator Sehar Lohawala, SAMH held a webinar in hopes for students to process the information and apply the anxiety tips in the future. Through the development of this committee, mental

health has grown to become a more open topic to express realistic emotions, Lohawala said.

"I hope the attendees see from this event that it is okay to be vulnerable about stress

and acknowledge our anxiety," Lohawala said. "Attimes, we place such a high value on our grades that we undervalue our health. Through SAMH, I am hoping that we can change the common perception that a letter grade is not as important as our health."

With over 100 participants, the committee split the students into breakout rooms to discuss the effects of stress alongside their peers. After a brief conversation, many students discovered that they all felt emotionally similar to one another, sophomore Sean Kim said.

"The webinar was such a great way to reset myself from the struggles in life and relate to other students," Kim said. "I understand that everyone does not like to reveal how confused or panicked they can be, but it was a very heartfelt moment. Being able to talk to others and vent how we are feeling is what made the webinar so special to me."

## TROY TODAY

### Modified Hybrid Schedule

In an effort to increase attendance for in-person instruction, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District modified the hybrid schedule to combine Cohorts A and B April 19. With Wednesday continued completely virtual, students in-person can meet with their teachers four days a week. Students will remain in the same cohort until the end of the year.

### Seniors' Under the Stars Event

In an attempt to celebrate the senior's final year, ASB will host the "Under the Stars" event on campus May 15. Similar to school dances, seniors are welcome to wear prom outfits and take polaroid pictures. However, dancing will not be allowed. At the end, the Warrior Oscar Nominations and a slideshow will be presented.

### Annual Rotary Ceremony

Recognizing scholar achievements, students will attend the Rotary Top 100 Banquet at the Quad May 10. The event will present the top 100 students in the sophomore, junior and senior classes for their academic record and accomplishments. For support, participants have the opportunity to invite two additional guests to the ceremony.

### Virtual Troy Tech Fair Presentations

Showcasing the seniors' summer internships, the annual Troy Tech Fair featured a student's internship experience on each slide for the virtual slideshow April 29. Most students completed their internships online while others found an on-site internship with COVID protocols. Traditionally displayed with poster boards, families received a link to the slideshow through Aeries Communications.

### ASB Holds Instagram Spirit Week

Encouraging school spirit from home, ASB hosted a spirit week April 19-23. With a different theme each day, students posted photos on their Instagram stories to participate. Themes included dynamic duo, meme day, Earth Day, and flashback Friday. After students tagged ASB in the post, students were featured on the ASB Instagram page.

"I hope the attendees see that it is okay to be vulnerable about stress and acknowledge our anxiety."

**Sehar Lohawala**  
Social Media Coordinator

also created a jamboard to explore positive language scenarios and the participants' emotions.

SAMH is a student-run committee that aims to destigmatize mental health and encourage

# LAVISH LIGHTS

Ready to turn your room inside-out? Brighten up your day by bringing the beautiful skylines and sunsets to your bedroom walls. Read on to find out more!

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Kira Chen, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON EDITOR and Kirsten Dingson, CARTOON, graphics by David Lee, GRAPHICS EDITOR

“Glowing up” from the viral light-emitting diode strip lights, sunset and window projections have warmed up social media pages with their dreamy chromatic display. Not only do they offer a perfect escape from reality, but students can completely alter the ambience of their space. By turning their rooms inside out, individuals can bring the exotic and glowing sunsets into their very own bedrooms.

As the school year draws to a close, sunset projections provide a taste of the long-awaited summer sun, transforming any hour into golden hour. The yellow and orange undertones give off a revitalizing glow whose brightness encourages students to work in their rooms. These sunset lamps also come in hues of blues, setting a tranquil vibe and aiding sleep. Similar to this is the “fake window” trend, where projectors are used to display scenic images on the walls to replicate feelings of being outside. With many travel plans halted this year, individuals may not be able to

escape the confines of their rooms, but a flip of a switch can temporarily transform their bland rooms into dreamier destinations. With just a projector, students can virtually travel wherever they like—from the Amazon Rainforest to the Bahamas. Projection lights send students on a journey that can add new dimensions to their rooms and transport them to a new world of color.

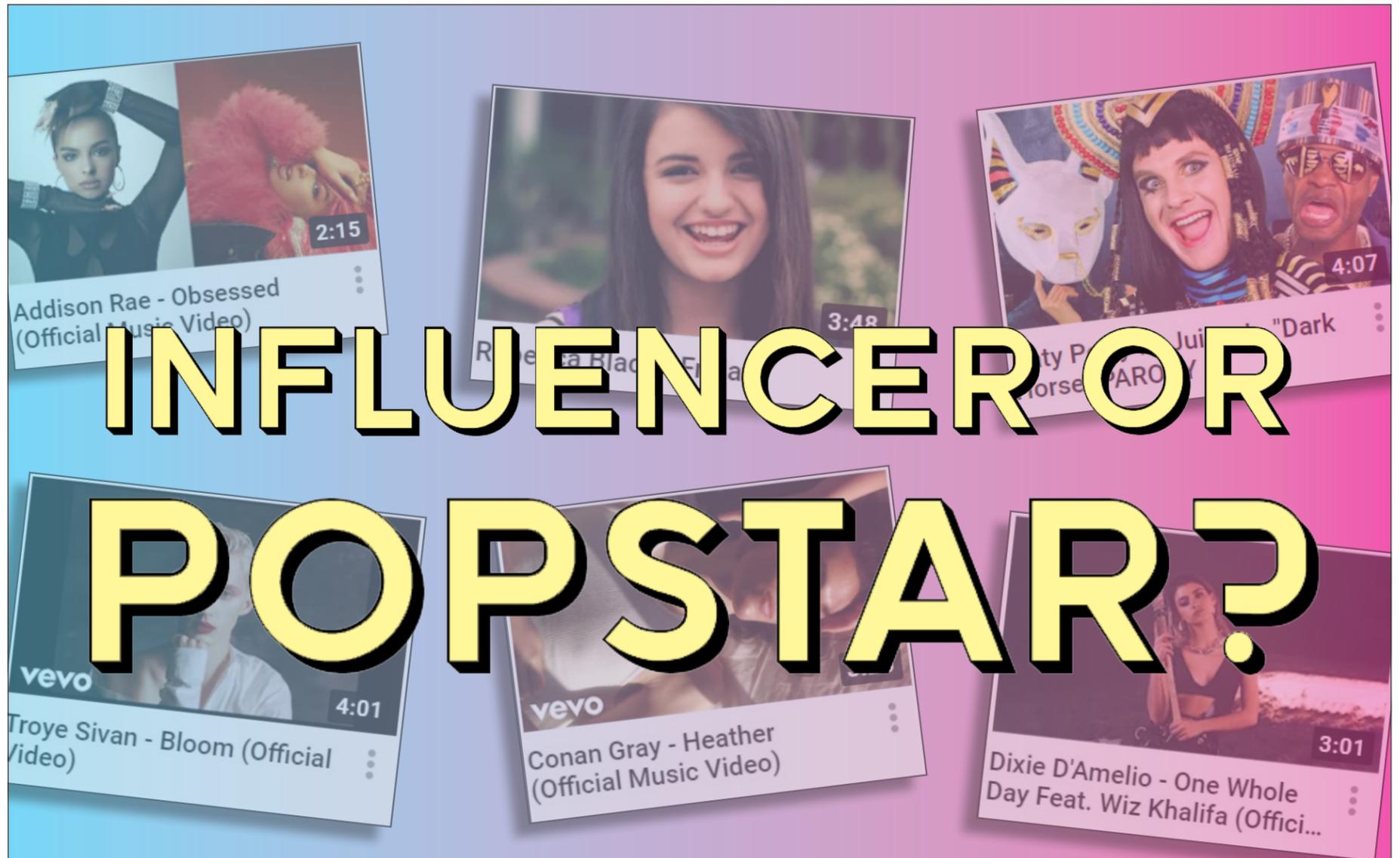
With radiant hues reflecting off their bedrooms, students may find their mindset reflecting the liveliness of their walls. The vibrant colors from sunset projections are often associated with positive feelings, leading to boosts in serotonin levels. The yellow light emanating from these lamps exude optimistic energy and exposure to it on a regular basis can increase self-confidence. With the blend of hues, individuals are reminded that it is perfectly okay to experience more than one “color” as this contributes to a student’s uniqueness. Resembling sunset lights, window projections can also transform any gloomy room into a vivid escape. Much like how Alice in Alice in Wonderland stares through a looking glass, the fake-window trend can bring an unexplored world within hand’s reach. The refreshing visual that comes from the sunset and window projections excite admiration that leaves no beauty undiscovered.

Like the endless sky, there is no limit to what students can explore when it comes to their creative freedom. Individuals who take on the fake window

trend may find that combining a variety of scenic views with auditory aids can enhance the immersive experience. From pairing lofi with a rainy backdrop to even projecting anime scenes, students are able to live in their own imaginary bubble and drift into their own reveries. Though sunset projections can also induce daydreaming, the colorful hues allow students to find their ideal aesthetic and discover what reflects their personality best. Through the medium of light, individuals can display their creativity and let their true selves shine from within.

The ambient balls of honey and the breathtaking scenery left by these light projections will certainly liven up bland walls. While students go on to discover the potential of color and how much it can strengthen their mental health and creativity, they can also work on shining a spotlight on the positive aspects of life. Don’t be afraid to plug in and bring the tranquil outdoors into your living space.





When social media influencers acquire enough fame and notoriety, becoming a musical artist seems like the next step in their careers. Read further to learn about the evolution of influencer music.

Compiled by Sean Warren, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by By Mary Kim, STAFF WRITER, and photos courtesy of Google

The doors leading to musical success are open wider than ever before, as the rise of platforms like YouTube and now TikTok have made a seemingly unreachable career become much more attainable to the common person. Rising artists and singers now have the ability to largely influence American culture, simply because of their ability to gain loads of followers through social media. These platforms have cultivated the creation of influencer music, as previously famous Internet stars are taking a step into the music industry to pursue a career. But, don't expect much when it comes to these aspiring artists—the rise of influencers turned musicians across all media platforms has led to disapproval from fans, with the rare exception of those with true musical prowess.

The earliest version of influencer music began on YouTube, with channels such as The Key of Awesome and Bart Baker making cringe-worthy parodies of popular songs at the time. Though first meant as a joke, the genuine appeal for parodies was evident as views and likes skyrocketed on YouTube. While this mockery of music was generally seen as offensive, the humorous lines found within these parodies provided a large sense of entertainment to many viewers. Soon, various YouTube stars began seriously considering becoming a musical artist, as fans seemed to enjoy their musical content. Since their popularity had already been established on YouTube, transitioning into the music industry came easily for these creators. Current artists like Conan Gray and Troye Sivan, who both began their musical careers on YouTube, are praised and loved for their unique talents. But, transitioning to the music industry was not as easy as it seemed, as most were ridiculed for their lack of skills or poorly-crafted music.

YouTuber Rebecca Black, who is notorious for her uninspiring song “Friday,” received boatloads of harsh criticism, raising questions from the world about the current state of the pop music industry.

While YouTube was home to the very first influencers turned musical artists, the music industry has become much more widespread among all social media sites, especially TikTok. As TikTok sounds are repeatedly used by thousands of people, audiences hear the same mainstream songs over and over, creating a sense of advertisement for various artists. Unlike YouTube, music is an integral component of TikTok's culture. Because Tiktokers have a higher chance of being accepted by the music industry with their ability to stimulate music popularity, many like Dixie D'Amelio and Addison Rae have tried launching their very own music careers. But, these stars have faced severe criticism, as D'Amelio's song teaser “One Whole Day” was deleted after backlash from the public about the song's production and lyrics. Likewise, Rae's newest single, “Obsessed,” features shallow and cringey lyrics, and the amount of autotune used only succeeds in disguising her lack of talent to sing.

With the rise of TikTok influencers, changes in dynamics concerning materialistic

issues have arisen. The rapid increase in commercialization of music has led to rising unpopularity, with songs produced by career songwriters and sold to singers, releasing them under their own names. Stars with platforms are essentially using their fame and notoriety to reap the benefits of a spontaneous music career, even when they may not be truly invested in the profession. As music production becomes more accessible, these stars find ways to pay producers to make music instead of producing their own heartfelt ballads. With this, audiences have found dissatisfaction with TikTok stars unrightfully claiming fame in the music industry.

While there are influencers chasing superficial desires like money and prestige, social media platforms have undoubtedly fostered the evolution of music among big social media stars. Of course, no one can know for sure influencers' true intentions, and with the money and means to create a well produced song, people like Addison Rae and Dixie D'Amelio could be trying to use their pre-existing platform to inspire others to pursue a desirable career. The music industry has evolved, especially with the rise of influencers jumpstarting musical careers. Whether influencers are actually trying to make meaningful music or if these are superficial attempts at increasing fame, influencer music is here to stay.





# ORACLE CLASS OF 2021

To all our seniors, know that you're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think!

Compiled by Amber Wang and Kathleen Zhang, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF, images courtesy of Google

Joseph is nothing without his ideas. Each and every day, he tirelessly works towards one of his many goals; calligraphy, mental health, and more. When you talk to him, you clearly see the purest passion for everything he does. Don't believe me? Ask nearly everyone he has ever interacted with. He strives to explore out of his comfort zone and is someone who doesn't let anything hold him back, which is why we placed him in Frontierland. He truly emulates all qualities of this land, and inspires others to do the same. Good luck Joseph, we're all rooting for you!

**JOSEPH**  
FRONTIERLAND, CA

Armed with a preppy uniform of quarter zip, low-rise shorts and platform sandals, she swiftly and confidently strides into the classroom, signalling the start to a busy day. Danielle, you are the guiding light of Oracle, conquering any and all tasks you set your mind to. With your quick thinking and firm judgement, you always made sure that Oracle was breaking new barriers while also driving in the right direction. Thanks to you we are able to look to new horizons. We'll miss you, Danielle. As you go on to meet new frontiers, don't forget to look back on us once in a while!

**DANIELLE**  
FRONTIERLAND, CA

With booming energy from day one, our amazing photo editor, Jenna Sabile, carefully takes as many photos as she can throughout the year with such skill, applying all the photography principles we learned. You never fail to make us smile and laugh, through all of your hard work and dedication to Oracle, and sometimes your hilarious jokes! As you reach for the skies in embarking your new journey, we will be down here watching proudly as you achieve unimaginable goals. Good luck at West Point! We can't wait to see the things you do.

**JENNA**  
FRONTIERLAND, CA

Who is that? Is it a bird? A plane? No, it's just our senior photo editor Giselle. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to Oracle, and for making the independent study periods a bit more entertaining. You make us smile, even through your SAT study sessions and we will never forget your thrifted outfits that only look good on you and your words of encouragement through the tough and stressful times. You are a crucial part of Oracle and we will miss you as you go on to do greater things. Have fun and we are rooting for you!

**GISELLE**  
ADVENTURELAND, CA

Gently taking our hands, our feature editor Hannah Adams quietly sweeps us away. Your words burst with vision and artistry as you help unlock another lively story of a person and another magical journey of a lifetime. Entrancingly, a new world is being created from our drafts. Your discussions bring endless inspiration and you always deliver them with energy equal to a thousand golden shafts of sunlight. Never afraid to explore the unknown, you fearlessly breeze through whatever storm of new concepts and challenges flowing our way. The Oracle learns the tale of yet another stunning adventure... and it is thanks to you, Hannah, and your boundless insight and easygoing personality. As you embark on a new quest in your own journey, we'll be here cheering you on! Good luck on the college chapter of your story!

**HANNAH**  
ADVENTURELAND, CA

Although the year was filled with unprecedented events, your guidance, leadership and understanding has made it enjoyable and unforgettable. Your keen suggestions, advice and willingness to get involved has helped many in their growth as a person and a writer. Thank you for all that you have done for the Oracle. We truly appreciate the time and effort you put into making each issue and will miss your outgoing and free nature. Wishing you all the best at Merced!

**LUCAS**  
ADVENTURELAND, CA

Sky - our sharply-dressed, assertive, and sometimes intimidating Editor-in-Chief. Donning a stoic expression of professionalism, you walk through the tight aisles of spinnny desks with gravitas and purpose. Your pair of vigilant eyes are capable of catching minute grammar and spacing errors from a mile away. Oracle will not be the same without your dependable presence that keeps us moving forward, but go on now, as we know that you will achieve even greater things in the future. The world is your oyster, Sky! Good luck at Harvard, and everyone here in Room 315 will be cheering for you as you take on all the possibilities of tomorrow.

**SKY**  
TOMORROWLAND, CA

Cassidy Chang, imaginative, artistic, unique and supportive. You always provided Oracle with the most intricate and exceptional pieces of graphic design to fill the atmosphere with color and creativity. Cassidy, you were always there to help whether it was with the complex features of photoshop or illustrator. Even through the obstacles you consistently gave the greatest efforts and inspiration. You deserve this. You have worked hard, and everyone is proud of you. We wish you so much luck and success!

**CASSIDY**  
FANTASYLAND, CA

From your thought-provoking editorial cartoons to your aesthetically pleasing designs, you have never failed to awe those who read our newspaper, including us. Through your wide variety of styles and your ability to flawlessly translate articles into art, you have truly made the pages of Oracle shine! Although a bit quiet, you never hesitate to share our heavy workloads or help us out of a creative block. Ella, thank you for being such a kind, empathetic, and sincere cartoon editor. We can only hope to continue the powerful legacy you've started as you prepare to end this chapter of your life. Wherever you go, your limitless creativity and imagination will take you far! Just don't forget our Oracle family!

**ELLA**  
FANTASYLAND, CA

To the most easy-going and humbly intelligent entertainment editor, you, Amy, have truly blessed the Oracle team with your creative expertise. Much like Fantasyland, your imaginative ideas and ever-so clever instances of word play always manage to bring out the inner child within all of us. Your endless flow of creative expression will be greatly missed, but we know that you will continue to use your ingenious knowledge to take down any endeavors that may arise. Thank you for all your contributions to the entertainment team, and we are wishing you all the best in what will come in the future.

**AMY**  
FANTASYLAND, CA

Her loud voice and fierce determination makes our strong Opinion editor stand out in any room. Miseok, thank you for the neverending words of encouragement and reminders to put forth our full efforts. You shared with us not only your knowledge on writing but also your drive to work towards the future, making you a perfect fit for Disney's Tomorrowland. Thank you, Miseok, for always pushing us to our limits and helping us reach our fullest potentials. We will always be rooting for you and your endeavors at Johns Hopkins. We wish you nothing but success in your future!

**MISEOK**  
TOMORROWLAND, CA

Cutting through the voices of the other students, your bright laughter can be heard across the room as you make jokes while finishing your homework days ahead. Often equipped with a beautifully drawn study guide or a thorough quizlet, Sarah, your affinity for biology always came through to save the day. Whether it be science, english or history, your quick mind and sound judgement never failed to bring you success. Just as how you've flourished these past four years of high school, you'll be sure to thrive in all your future endeavors at Berkeley. We wish you all the best!

**SARAH**  
TOMORROWLAND, CA



# The government should implement restrictions on the use of arms for police officers

By Manal Ahmed  
STAFF WRITER



Police violence is an epidemic that must immediately be addressed.

Daunte Wright, a 20-year-old Black man, was murdered over a traffic violation April 11 after an officer fired her gun instead of her taser. This event, which followed the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests for unlawful police killings, further emphasizes the importance

“The police cannot claim to serve and protect the people when they deliberately harm the citizens who need the most help.”

of discussing the role of the police and their power in society. Many states have taken several measures in response to the BLM protests. The state of New York increased transparency between the police and the public by repealing a law that previously concealed discipline records of police officers. Other measures have included lengthier police training and more removals of police officers who break the code of conduct. However, these procedures aren't enough, considering 1,128 citizens were killed by the police in 2020 alone. To restore trust between citizens and law enforcement, the government must implement more regulations for armed police officers.

The constant abuse of weapons by the police has led to a societal disconnect between them and American citizens. Brooklyn College sociology professor Greg Smithsmon states that guns create a violent divide and show intent to resort to unnecessary violence. In addition, a 2019 Gallup

poll showed that 48 percent of people distrust the police, making the overall population less likely to comply with police orders. Guns are the factor of fear through which officers exploit to subdue others. It promotes a hierarchical concept, where the police assert dominance over citizens through intimidation. Citizens are left on edge in the presence of violent weapons because, as demonstrated by Wright's murder, police can be flippanant and deadly in their gun usage.

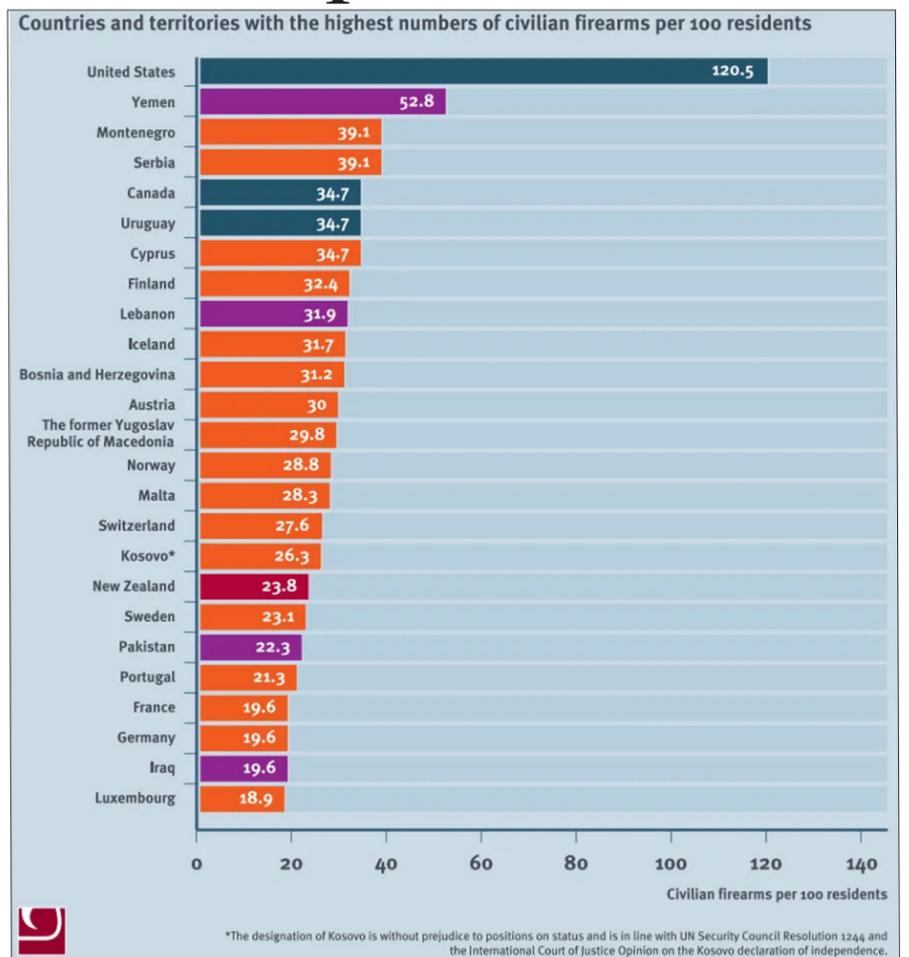
Police funding for weapons should be redirected towards mental health

sensitivity training for officers. Police officers are often the first responders and therefore should have compassion for the citizens

who require their immediate attention. Currently, the Treatment Advocacy Center found that people with mental illness are 16 times more likely to die at the hands of the police. If police are trained to recognize symptoms of mental illness such as erratic behavior and hallucinations, they will be able to help those who are struggling.

The police cannot claim to serve and protect the people when they deliberately harm the citizens who need the most help. Bryce Couthino is a devastating example of the police's ignorance towards the neurodivergent. The police received a call November 2012 about a fight involving Couthino. He had a history of substance abuse and suicide attempts which made it understandable for Couthino to not instantly comply with the police. However, instead of understanding and working with him, the officer perceived his refusal to drop his weapon as a threat and immediately shot him. Unless all police are trained in de-escalation techniques, police's inexperience in dealing with mental illnesses will result in further casualties.

A more balanced approach would be the concept of “policing by



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE SMALL ARMS SURVEY

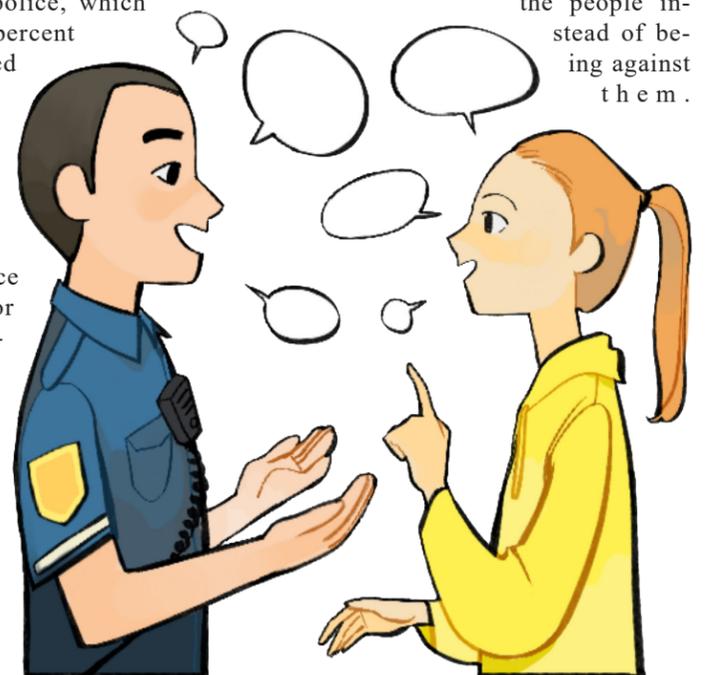
consent,” which comes from Robert Peel's 9 Principles of Policing. Policing with consent seeks the approval and community trust between the police and its citizens, and both parties will benefit by focusing on the public. Policing with consent provides the police with greater knowledge of communities and structure and improves the trust and relations on both sides. In 2019, a United Kingdom Crime Survey found that 75 percent of its citizens trusted the police, which is a nearly 25 percent increase compared to its American counterparts, due to the policing by consent principle present in the United Kingdom. Lawrence Sherman, Director of the Police Executive Program at Cambridge, states that relations of police and communities are better in Britain due to the emphasis on keeping the peace by removing the inherent power

imbalance between the police and the people. The police must increase their focus on the communities if they wish to better help their citizens.

By implementing mental health training and creating a greater focus on the community, the police can become a force that Americans fully support. Redirecting money for guns to mental health better supports the community as a whole. It provides reason once again for the police to be working for the people instead of being against them.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS



CARTOON BY PEARLYOON

## Distraction by Kaila Perla



STAFF EDITORIAL

# Students should reflect upon this digital year and look forward to the reopening

This year, to say the least, was different.

With the introduction of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, students were forced to give up a year of their precious high school careers and adjust to the difficulties that came with online classes. And although it took a while, eventually, both administrators and students became com-

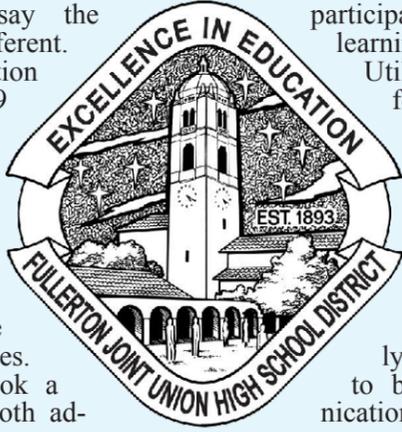


PHOTO COURTESY OF FJUHSD

fortable teaching and learning the curriculum on an online platform. However, as coronavirus rates are dropping and vaccines are gradually distributed, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District plans on fully reopening for the next school year. Rather than feeling animosity towards the idea of going through change and adjustment once again, students and staff should reflect upon the experiences of this unique year and be excited to return to normalcy.

Taking online classes posed a challenge for many. One of the most difficult problems for teachers was how to engage students and improve

participation in an online learning environment.

Utilizing online platforms provides students with options to mute themselves and turn off their cameras, of which many have been taking full advantage. Consequently, this contributed to building a communication barrier between students and teachers, making it difficult for students to speak up and ask for help immediately.

Distance learning has also taken a toll on students' mental health; students have reported increased feelings of exhaustion, anxiety and stress, an impact often referred to as "Zoom fatigue." According to Stanford researchers, these feelings are highly attributed to the dramatic reduction of mobility and the increase of close-up digital eye contact with others. These challenges make it difficult for students and teachers alike to stay focused the entire school day, affecting the quality of education both given and received.

But despite the difficulties of being completely online, it is also important to identify some positives of this experience. Being online allowed students to fully appreciate teachers and staff efforts of transitioning from in-person to online schooling. Counselors created Google Classrooms and communicated regularly with the students, updating them on district policies and presenting opportunities to engage in clubs and programs. Teachers also accommodated for challenges at home, including unstable Wi-Fi connections and family distractions.

Another benefit of the digital school year was that students were given more time for themselves. This year, school ended an hour and 30 minutes earlier than usual, and the absence of the need to commute provided extra time. Students were able to utilize this gift to study more, exercise and take naps throughout the day; they will miss these perks of online learning once school is held again in person.

Although this extraordinary year provided additional comforts, students and staff should still look forward to the reopening. Going back to school presents more opportunities to bond with peers and teachers,

potentially alleviating the mental toll the pandemic took on everyone. According to Merccare, social interaction has proven to better a person's mental health by promoting feelings of belonging and security through communication. Attending school in person will also allow for school events and activities, most of which had been canceled this year due to the pandemic. Student-athletes will experience normalcy in their sports seasons, with spectators in attendance. In addition, dances essential to high school tradition such as Homecoming and Prom, accompanied by the normalcy of rallies and spirit weeks, are highly anticipated. Many students look forward to experiencing these social events. While it was a shame that the coronavirus pandemic put a halt to these activities, students now have another reason to be excited for the next school year.

All in all, this year was filled with many obstacles, but it came with some positives too. We were all united in our struggles, and were able to empathize with teachers, staff and each other. Now that we have fully experienced the effects of learning from home on a digital screen, we can remember this unique year and be hopeful of what is to come.

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*ads & business*

2200 E. Dorothy Lane  
Fullerton, CA 92831

Phone: (714) 626-4518  
Email: oracle.troy@gmail.com  
Website: www.troyoracle.com  
Instagram: @troyoracle  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/oracle.troy/

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# Neuralink's progress makes it undeserving of its place in the media's spotlight

By Brian Woo  
STAFF WRITER



Neuralink, unfortunately, has fallen short of its expectations.

Elon Musk, the founder of Neuralink, released a video April 8 of a monkey playing Pong using a

Neuralink chip embedded in its head. Neuralink intends to treat neurological conditions such as paralysis by creating a technology

that directly connects the brain to a device, and in the long term, will allow coexistence between artificial intelligence and the human brain. The release of the video garnered mass media attention, allowing Musk to rave about the medical advances that Neuralink will soon be capable of. However, Neuralink, in its current state, does not deserve the popularity it is receiving and has a long way to go before it proves its capabilities in the medical and technology fields.

Although Neuralink has announced its purpose in the medical field, it has

“Neuralink is neither a new concept nor is it the only company striving to expand the capacity of the brain and technology, therefore making it underserving of its place in the spotlight.”

yet to provide evidence of its abilities to treat neurological disorders. Neuralink will supposedly allow brain signals to reach other parts of the body in order to maximize movement for the paralyzed while also treating neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's. Although Neuralink has proven its ability to record neuron transmissions, it doesn't provide enough assurance that the Neuralink chips will be able to cure neurological conditions.

In contrast, a similar technology, Synchron's Stentrode, is currently being developed to enable patients to send emails and write documents simply with their thoughts. Stentrode has provided ample evidence of its capabilities in its clinical trials and voluntary program with results to prove so. Following Stentrode's example, Neuralink needs to provide evidence such as data or an update of their work and current status.

Considering Neuralink's current progress, it does not rightfully deserve the attention it is receiving in its industry. Paradromics is another company focused on improving ca-

pabilities between the brain and technology. As of July 2020, Paradromics has been able to carry neural signals into and out of the brain with 65,000 electrode channels, each of which can record electric signals. When compared to Neuralink's 3,072 channels, it is clear that Neuralink is not yet as advanced as Paradromics and other neurotechnology companies. Neuralink is neither a new concept nor is it the only company striving to expand the capacity of the brain and technology, therefore making it undeserving of its place in the spotlight.

Neuralink does not live up to the promises it has made and lacks in its present development. Although the concept of brain and AI communication is relatively new, making it understandable for progress to experience a few delays, Neuralink has experienced too many for it to be justified. The company has only been focused on how to study monkeys' and pigs' brains without an external wire and less risk of infections.

Such advancement is quite disappointing, given that Neuralink has been working for the last four years

to develop such brain chips. Even the technology used by Neuralink is quite antiquated. Freehand, a technology innovation introduced in the 1970s, was able to stimulate movement in paralyzed muscles, demonstrating that neurotechnology to help the paralyzed existed even then. With no technological innovation and lack of progress, Neuralink needs to produce more results and development.

Without a doubt, the development of the Neuralink has yet to put up its reasons for praise.

Neuralink has shown itself to be a repetitive technology that has yet to reach the capabilities it boasts of. Neuralink must soon provide proof of better progress in order for the public to continue its support for its technological advancements.



PHOTO COURTESY OF US NEWS

# Online newspapers must eliminate paywalls and make information accessible to all

By Audrey Na  
STAFF WRITER



The only wall blocking people from accessing information is paywalls.

Reuters, a prominent online news outlet, announced April 15 that they would now operate under a paywall. This digital feature blocks users from accessing the website unless they pay a fee. As the demand for printed news declines, online news sites are increasingly implementing paywalls

lications should eliminate paywalls and should instead rely on voluntary donations and advertiser revenue.

Even though paywalls seem beneficial, they create echo chambers, which occur when people are constantly fed information that only appeals to their own beliefs. Most readers in the United States only pay for one news publication subscription, according to Reuters. To keep subscriptions, writers will feel pressured to write articles that appeal to their audiences, resulting in potentially biased information. While this may not seem

to be an issue, it reinforces online echo chambers and robs readers of multiple perspectives. More alarmingly, paywalls reduce the impact of news publications, in turn damaging the community. Paywalls disincentivize people from staying on a website. After the New York Times implemented a paywall, their number of regular visitors decreased by 57.2 percent, and the number of casual visitors decreased by 11.3 percent. When losing visitors, news publications also lose influence, leading to uninformed citizens. Communities rely on journalist companies to relay essential information, but by putting up a pay-

wall, sites will lose visitors, decreasing their overall publicity and impact.

negatively affect their income by putting up a paywall. Paywalls are not

necessary for publications to survive—they are simply obstacles that restrict people from reading news. For instance, The Guardian, a London-based newspaper, expressed its desire to keep news free for all by not implementing a paywall. Consequently, from 2018 to 2019,

the news publication announced

that they had earned over a million dollars from solely donations and advertising revenue. Despite concerns surrounding the success rate of donations, The Guardian proves that they are an efficient way of making revenue that is not only beneficial for readers, but also for news organizations.

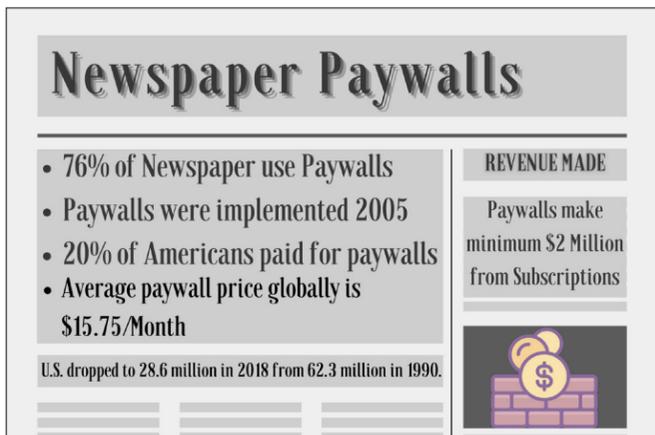
All things considered, journalist companies create more problems when they implement paywalls. Journalist companies must consider that limiting information to the public for the sake of profit is unethical, since the purpose of journalism is to educate and inform society as a whole. The concept of paywalls severely contradicts this idea, because it directly limits who can access information. Ultimately, publications should replace paywalls with voluntary donations to keep news accessible to everyone, not only those with a larger wallet.



CARTOON BY KAILA PERLAS

Furthermore, the implementation of paywalls forms divides between those who can afford news and those who cannot. By forcing users to pay to access news, companies inherently withhold information from casual readers. The American Press Institute reports that 70 percent of daily newspaper websites implemented a paywall, suggesting that as information becomes less accessible, readers are deterred from consuming news. Consequently, a large percentage of readers are restricted from reading news that could affect their lives. In a society where users are charged exorbitant prices to read news, an informational gap will form between socioeconomic classes, resulting in the spread of misinformation.

Although some argue that paywalls are necessary in order to secure writers' financial stability, journalists



GRAPHIC BY DAVID LEE

to stay in business. Although the idea of paywalls is initially appealing because they seem to provide extra revenue to both writers and newspapers, they cause more problems than one may believe. In the interest of keeping journalism profitable while maintaining accessibility for all readers, pub-

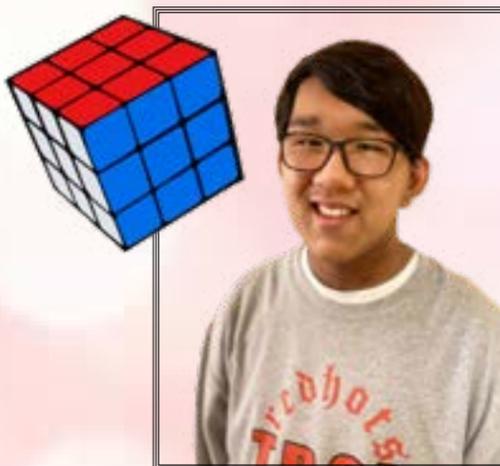
# ~ Reminiscence ~

What a crazy year it's been! Despite the pandemic restrictions, these Warriors found their unique paths to an adventure of passion and self-growth—read more below!

Compiled by Coco Gong, FEATURE EDITOR, article by Jessica Chin, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON, photo courtesy of featured students

## Flourishing Freshman: David Lee

A voice emits from the chromebook counting down, “5, 6, 7, 8.” As if brought to life from the words, all the dancers on the screen begin a series of smoothly rehearsed movements. Thoughtful and driven, freshman David Lee focuses on his connection with others through the All Male dance team and as well as the bright and colorful tiles of Rubik’s Cubes. In the newly-founded Cubing Club, Lee explores the inner workings of Rubik’s Cubes in a process called cubing, and works hard to share his passion with club members. Lee’s thoughtfulness, openness and care is truly exemplary in his dedication to others through dance and cubing.



“It’s really fun, dancing with people that also share the same interests and want to get better,” Lee said.

“I think having the time to be able to find out who I am for myself, and what I can do, like my individual prowess and ability,” Lee said.



## Soaring Sophomore: Daniel Lee

Connected through zoom, the students patiently wait for their teacher in overwhelming silence. However, when they start playing, delicate harmonies are crafted, swirling together to form a symphony of notes that entrap listeners. Clarinet in hand, sophomore Daniel Lee is immersed in his orchestra class. Similar to the harmonies of orchestra, Lee works to create balance between school, orchestra, ROTC, and in particular, his time dedicated to the Spirit Foundation club. In this Troytech-focused club, Lee helps freshmen choose pathways by educating them on each pathway from a student perspective. Deeply introspective, Lee expresses how this year’s unusual circumstances gives him more time to focus on the balance of his schedule as well as personal growth.



## Jubilant Junior: Jenna Crum

All around is a set being built, from panels of the flooring to backdrops created by paint and wood, a new world is stitched together in the fresh air of the quad. Standing six feet apart, young actors begin their lines, filling the missing gaps in their imaginary world with mere words. Standing behind the light board, junior Jenna Crum confidently waits to contribute. Tasked with creating the moods and atmosphere of an upcoming production, Crum’s determination to perfect her light board skills is a testament of her dedication to theater. Much like the importance of the expressive lighting, the immersive set, and the creative actors, community and friendship are as vital to theater as they are to Crum.



“Theater is less of a class and more of like an atmosphere... And so having people, a bunch of people in person is kind of cool, because you’re giving that community feel,” Crum said.

“I get to focus more on me and my happiness or quality time with people I do want to hang out with,” Wang said.



## Serendipitous Senior: Madi Wang

The sky is dark but the lights from the pool are bright, illuminating the swimmers as they race toward their last lap. Encouraging and cheering on her teammates is Varsity swim captain, senior Madeleine Wang. Dedicated to her teammates, Wang worked hard to plan socially distant events to bond with her team. Favorite memories with her teammates are their lively karaoke nights filled with happy and carefree singing. She also fondly recalls playing Crazy Eights with her friends during lunch, warmly laughing about how office attendants scolded them for the excess noise. Wang values the experiences with close friends the most with some of the most memorable moments on Troy.

# Boys volleyball returns to the court

Gaining valuable insight on their team dynamic, the Warrior boys volleyball team concedes to the Sunny Hills Lancers in their first game together this year.

By Jacob Ballon  
STAFF WRITER

After a year-long delay, the Warrior boys volleyball team finally made their court-side debut against the Sunny Hills Lancers April 16. After a tough battle, Troy fell to Sunny with a score of 3-0.

The Warriors clutched their first point when they skillfully returned the Lancers' forceful serve. In the next play, the Lancers fumbled while initiating a serve, which resulted in another point on the Warriors' side. From there, a back-and-forth rally continued throughout the entire first set until the Lancers spiked the ball far from any Warriors' reach, increasing their lead by two. In spite of their best efforts, the Warriors could not recover from this deficit, and the first set went to the Lancers with a score of 25-22.

Set two began shakily for the Warriors when junior co-captain Jack Madrid could not return the Lancers' opening serve. Redeeming himself in the next play, Madrid exhibited intense focus as he jumped high above the net, obtaining a point with a powerful spike. Following this point, another long rally followed for the majority of the set. When the team reached 11 points, the Lancers went on a seven point win streak, ending the game by a score of 25-23. The team's momentum drastically slowed in set three. In their last set, consistently trailing the Lancers by five



PHOTO COURTESY OF COACH LEDEEN

PHOTO DESCRIPTION: The team showcases their strength as they line up together before the first game of the season.

points or more, the Warriors lost 25-16.

As the Lancers' lead widened, the Warriors' spirit waned. Although the sets were close for much of the match, the team's morale flagged towards the end which is why they lost these otherwise competitive sets. Whenever the Lancers increased their lead by two or more, the Warriors could not rally enough strength to retaliate. They played below their potential as a result of this lack of energy.

"We went into it with a mindset that we're gonna win and we don't have to try

hard," Madrid said. "We lost our motivation and that was reflected by the scores."

Keeping these setbacks in mind, the Warriors held a retrospective chat after the game to discuss what went wrong. The players agreed that their energy had to improve, and a new fire ignited within them. More motivated than ever, the boys tried to overcome the bitter taste of defeat by practicing with intensity and focus. The captains paid particular attention to improving morale and confidence. "We need to learn how to recover from

losses quicker," co-captain Austin Petitjean said. "One of the ways we can do that is just by playing with intensity."

With a humbling loss under their belt, the team is eager to play again. They now understand the danger of mental lapses, and are practicing to better their mental game.

"We learned a lot more about the mental game of volleyball," co-captain Austin Petitjean said. "We saw what it meant to crumble firsthand, and we now know that we have to bring the energy and be aggressive in our future games."

## Under the Spotlight

Learn about how joining Red Hots helped senior Emery Park embrace a more confident version of herself.

By William Song, STAFF WRITER, Photo courtesy of Emery Park

Moving gracefully under the spotlight, senior Emery Park, captain of the Red Hots, leads her group through coordinated twists and turns as they perform onstage.

Park's relationship with dance began 12 years ago after her parents convinced her to try the sport in hopes of getting her to come out of her shell. Their plan succeeded as Park was able to become more adventurous and open. Now, dance has become one of Park's favorite pastimes and ways to express herself.

"Whenever I felt stressed, sad, or even happy, I always poured it into dancing. I tend to bottle up emotions and dance gives me an outlet to pour it all out," said Park. "It's cool to see how I can portray my own emotions to tell a story or make the audience feel emotional through a performance."

Park joined the Red Hots when she was a fresh-



man and immensely enjoyed her four years with the team. In addition to performing in high stakes national competitions, she formed valuable and long-lasting relationships with her fellow Red Hots.

"Red Hots became my second family at Troy and the people I became closest with throughout my high school life," said Park. "The team has always been there for me through thick and thin."

The Red Hots compete in national competitions every year. This year's season is not over yet, and the team is currently preparing for their video submission to the California Association of Dance/Drill Team Directors States Competition as well as for their virtual spring show. As a senior, Park wants to make the most out of the remainder of the year with the team.

"My goal for the rest of senior year is to just have fun," said Park. "I want to make the best of what I have and savor every last minute."

## WARRIOR TO WATCH | MARIBEL FLORES

Graphic by David Lee

Meet sophomore Maribel Flores, soccer extraordinaire.



STATS  
GOALS: 9  
ASSISTS: 6

TOURNAMENTS:  
- FLORIDA ICC 2019  
- ENCL NATIONALS

TEAMS:  
- LAFC SLAMMERS  
- US NATIONAL TEAM  
- MEXICAN NATIONAL TEAM