

# ORACLE

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## The bird has been set free: Elon Musk’s Twitter is now official

With Elon Musk’s recent purchase of Twitter, he has enacted a series of changes that will change the platform forever. Is his new ownership just what Twitter needed? Read more to find out.



Compiled by Audrey Na, OPINION EDITOR, article by Brett Larsen, STAFF WRITER, graphics by Daniela Herrera, GRAPHICS EDITOR, and Sophie Chen, GRAPHICS, visuals courtesy of Jae C. Hong and Icons8

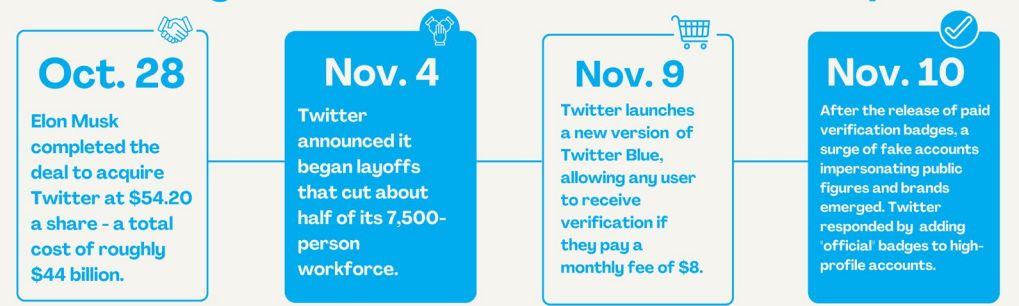
By Brett Larsen  
STAFF WRITER



Elon Musk’s Twitter buy marks a new era for the social media service. On Oct. 27, Musk officially acquired the popular social media company Twitter, implementing a series of sweeping changes that are set to permanently affect the platform for years to come. Musk announced the implementation of a “pro-free speech” policy alongside his goal of making Twitter a “digital town square.” Since Musk’s takeover, Twitter has ultimately grown more chaotic due to his management decisions. However, Musk’s unorganized leadership style, while needing improvement to keep Twitter afloat, will ultimately benefit Twitter due to his experience as a CEO. Although Musk’s initial Twitter Blue subscription service resulted in failure, users should have confidence that the next implementation of the service will improve the quality of Twitter. Musk’s new plan to verify accounts assigns unique colors to corporations, members of the government and individuals, allowing users to distinguish between authentic accounts and fraudulent accounts. Furthermore, Musk has pledged to create equal authentication for Blue subscribers and celebrities. Musk’s overall goal to improve the quality of Twitter is both commendable and a step forward in the fight to return Twitter back to the masses. However, in order to completely give power back to users on Twitter, Musk must allow all of Twitter to participate in the decision

making processes that take place on the platform. One method Musk utilizes to make important Twitter decisions is yes-or-no polls. While Musk has spearheaded the growing movement in the tech industry to allow users to participate in decision making processes, the polls are generally only viewed by his followers, delivering a skewed result. If Musk wishes to make Twitter a true democracy, the first step towards achieving this would be to make polls site-wide, allowing for universal participation. Furthermore, if Musk wishes to prolong Twitter’s lifespan while ensuring freedom of speech, the platform must root out individuals who use their popularity to

### The History of Elon Musk's 2022 Twitter Acquisition



incite violence and attack other users. Musk’s current policy rightfully bans commentators such as Alex Jones and Nick Fuentes, along with Ye West. However, much more can be done to improve the Twitter Trust and Safety Team, who suspend accounts that violate platform guidelines. With Twitter’s rapid growth in users, Musk must improve this team in order to keep Twitter stable. If Musk

fails to bolster a division that is crucial to Twitter’s longevity, then hate and distrust will run rampant on his service, doing irreparable damage to the platform. Even though many have criticized Musk’s decision to lay off more than half of Twitter’s 7,500 employees, the move was necessary in order for Twitter to survive. Musk claimed that the company was losing \$4 million per day; consequently, drastic action needed to be taken to cut down costs. While unfortunate, these layoffs are due to overhiring that took place during the pandemic and are necessary as Twitter continues to lose money. Moreover, all laid off employees were given severance pay. As such, Musk’s decision to lay off employees is completely justified. Musk’s Twitter takeover, while largely feared by many, marks a new era of beneficial change for Twitter. His goal to return Twitter to the people is admirable but leaves room for much more improvement. If Musk stays true to his word of making Twitter a digital town square, he must eventually stand back and let the people hold the power.



Tweet

#### NEWS

Learn about how the Warrior Hope 4 Athletes club hosted a fun Christmas event with the special education department!



#### FEATURE

Meet senior Sean Kim, the latest rapping sensation. Read on to learn about his musical talent and his newest single, “By Your Side.”



#### ENTERTAINMENT

Read Oracle’s thrilling review on the newest retelling of the Addams Family, “Wednesday,” now streaming on Netflix!



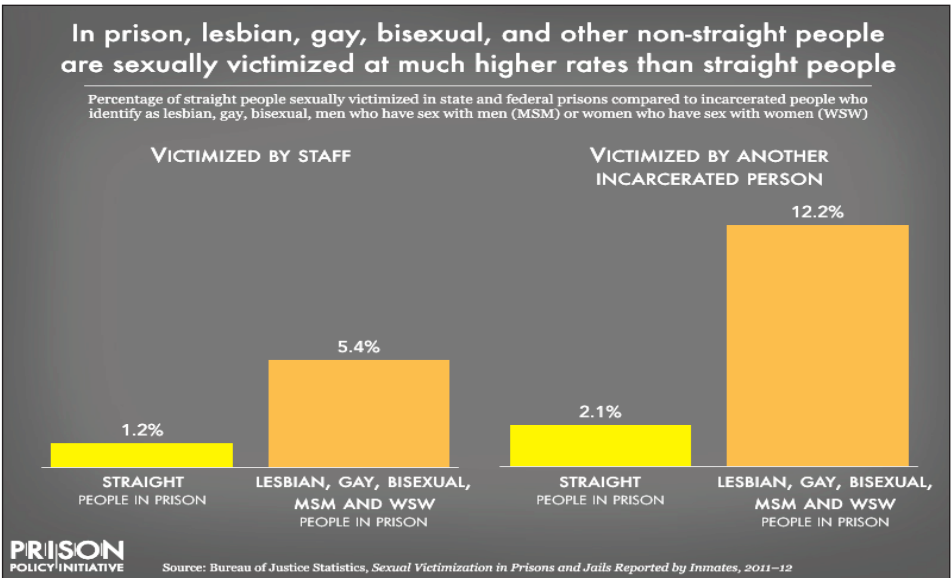
# Human rights is not something to be taken lightly, especially by the government

By Shailey Patel  
STAFF WRITER



No one should have jurisdiction over anyone’s human rights. On Nov. 7, beauty YouTuber and influencer Nikita Dragun was arrested in Miami, Fla. and apprehended for alleged disorderly conduct and felony battery of a police officer. A recording of Dragun’s virtual court proceedings went viral on the internet, revealing that Dragun was placed in a men’s correctional facility despite her identity as a transgender woman. While the Florida correctional facility claims that Dragun was never placed into a men’s facility, the situation promotes a necessary discussion about transgender rights and why the American jail system needs to acknowledge human identities and rights. Because the American jail system systematically targets and misgenders transgender people, they face high rates of abuse and neglect from inmates and guards. According to a 2015 survey by the National Center for Transgender Equality, transgender people are 10 times as likely to be assaulted by other inmates

and five times as likely to be sexually assaulted by the staff. By misgendering incarcerated transgender people, America prisons are intentionally exposing them to greater harm. Knowing such information, officials should make every effort to ensure that these transgender people are sent to the correct facilities for their own protection. The criminal actions provide no valid reason to place transgender people in an unsafe or insecure situation. Not only is failing to respect Dragun’s rights a violation of human rights, but it is also a violation of the U.S Constitution. In 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Eighth Amendment grounds that failing to protect transgender people in custody is unconstitutional because it qualifies as cruel and unusual punishment. Yet, states continue to risk these individuals’ lives and divide transgender people based on their assigned sex at birth, effectively belittling an identity that expresses their true selves. While America has started to recognize transgender rights, no real change has been made to secure the safety of incarcerated transgender people. Although the Senate has passed The Transgender



PRISON POLICY INITIATIVE

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF PRISON POLICY INITIATIVE

Respect, Agency and Dignity Act states that incarcerated transgender people can request to be housed and searched in a manner consistent with their gender identity, it has failed to be implemented in all jail systems, as seen by the continuous misgendering of transgender people when incarcerated. Real change greater than the feeble attempts of the past need to be enforced to make the country a safer place for transgender people. Standards regarding transgender rights need to be executed on a stricter basis, taking action in considering housing assignments on a case-by-

case basis rather than “genital status” and serious consideration of an incarcerated person’s own views regarding their safety. The support gathered behind Dragun in light of her recent situation displays the need for change in these institutions. Transgender people need to be put into jails according to what they identify as in order to prevent further aggression and acts of violence against them. Human rights are not something that can be taken away from the transgender population, even if they are incarcerated. No one should be put in danger simply due to government custody.

## mark my words

Warriors speak out on campus issues

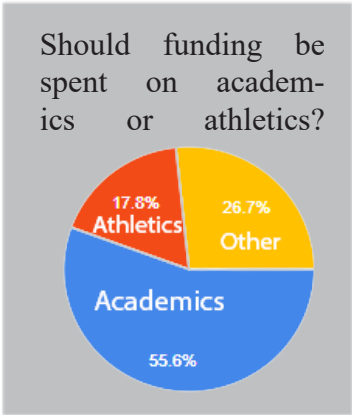
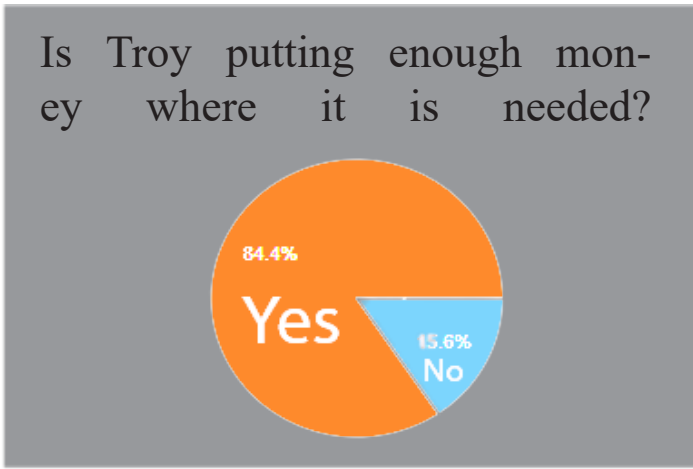
Read what our Warriors have to say regarding funding and programs at Troy High School

“The orchestra needs funding because it lacks instruments. Renovate the restrooms and get new soap dispensers.”  
- anonymous sophomore

“In this situation, the parents and student athletes don’t always actively donate. This results in lower funding and less quality materials. For example, volleyball equipment has been broken and has yet to be replaced.”  
- anonymous sophomore

“Troy is a school that centers on and grows because of good academics. Money to[wards] academics is the best way for the school to grow.”  
- anonymous junior

“Money spent on athletics leads to more output than money spent on academics. You can be poor and [smart] but not poor and athletic.”  
- Owen Katz, junior



“Help the computer labs! We need more disk space and processing power for extracurricular activities. Some monitors still have Windows 7 stickers on them.”  
- Justin Lo, senior

“I think that Troy has spent a lot of time spending money on things like gates and fences around lots instead of tools for students and programs like cross country or the arts and humanities.”  
- Salisha Knox, senior

“Troy’s entire identity revolves around academics, so naturally more resources should be focused on said academics”  
- anonymous freshman

“The past year, I noticed the school’s efforts to place a smartboard TV screen in every classroom. While some teachers really enjoy the new addition, other took a more traditional route with teaching without the smartboard. I am not opposed [to] the school’s decision as the integration of technology into academics can prove beneficial to learning. But, I felt that the school should have asked which teachers would actually benefit from the board.”  
- Nathan Wang, senior



# Troy students need to realize that high school is more than just grades

By Joelle Cheeseman  
STAFF WRITER



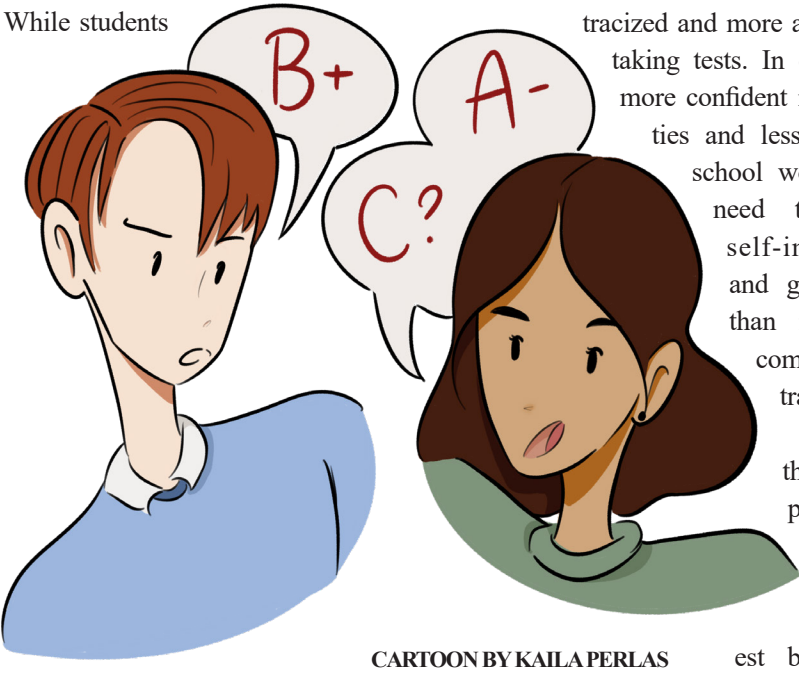
Troy High School needs to fix its toxic competitive culture. As of September, Troy is ranked as the second best public high school in California by popular school review website, Niche. Troy has long been recognized for its academic excellence with hundreds of students applying from outside districts to take part in the Troy Tech Magnet program, IB program, Cambridge AICE diplomas and many more unique opportunities offered here. While students

are performing above and beyond academically, Troy’s competitive atmosphere ultimately causes more harm than good as the overwhelming amounts of pressure to succeed worsen students’ livelihoods. The prevalence of social comparison at Troy creates a toxic environment for students. Following exams, students often rush to exchange scores with one another and are excessively hard on themselves for losing points and take on self-deprecating attitudes despite receiving above average grades. Many are made to feel that grades are connected to their intelligence and value; subsequently, those who receive less than above average feel ostracized and more anxious when taking tests. In order to feel more confident in their abilities and less anxious by school work, students need to prioritize self-improvement and growth rather than ranking and comparing arbitrary numbers. Moreover, the extreme pressure to succeed promotes dishonest behavior and

cheating among students. A study from the American Physiological Society found that high achievers taking competitive courses are more likely to cheat on their exams, and 60% of university students who committed academic misconduct had grades of over 80% in the class. Despite the severe punishment for academic dishonesty, including receiving a “0” on the assignment or test and admin referral, the immense academic pressure can outweigh students’ moral judgment. Troy’s cut-throat environment makes it more likely for students to feel that it is necessary to copy homework, share test answers or cheat in order to stay competitive. Only by changing our school culture and reducing peer pressure to perform well can integrity be promoted among students. Furthermore, the need to pursue higher education pushes students to prioritize academic merit over their well-being. For many students, the importance of maintaining grades is amplified as they enter high school and anticipate college applications. Especially at Troy, where, according to Troy’s 2022-2023 school profile, 99% of students go on to attend college or university compared to California high

schools’ average of 61.8% college enrollment, the pressure to perform well in school in preparation for college absorbs students’ time and energy. As students’ lives are consumed by studying, it is hard to find time to explore passions or engage in extracurricular activities that can act as healthy stress-relieving outlets. While it is true that strong grades are important when applying to college, it’s important to realize that a perfectionist approach to school can take away from a high-achieving student’s true potential. Students need to recognize the harmful attitude toward education present at Troy. Changing habits of pressuring classmates to share scores or shaming people for academic performance and disconnecting human value from grades will encourage a healthier relationship between students and school. High school should not just be focused on academics, but also on building character, finding interests and forming social connections. By focusing less on receiving the perfect GPA or taking as many AP classes as possible, Warriors will be able to grow into a more well-rounded and engaged student body.

“While it is true that strong grades are important when applying to college, it’s important to realize that a perfectionist approach to school can take away from a high-achieving student’s true potential.”



CARTOON BY KAILA PERLAS

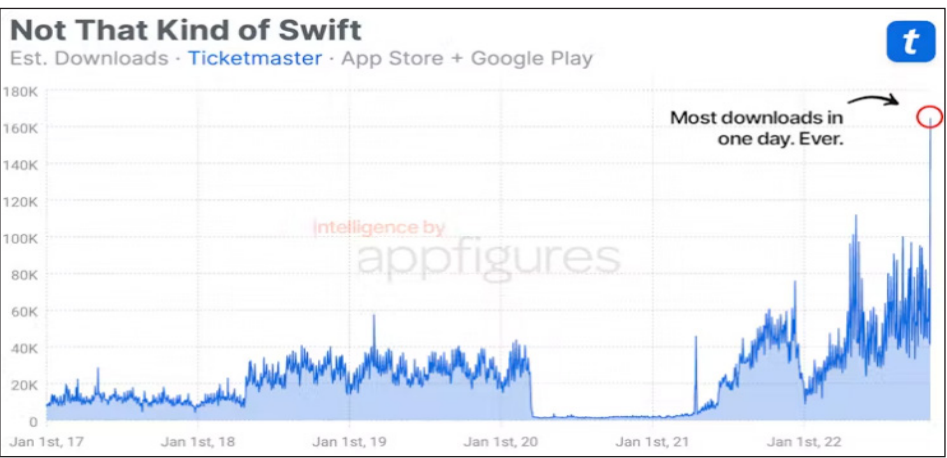
# Ticketmaster must properly regulate its website pricing to guarantee fan enjoyment

By Edyn Mai  
STAFF WRITER



Ticketmaster is hurting its users and its brand by not monitoring fees. On Nov. 1, Taylor Swift announced her United States “Eras” Tour. Swift’s fans, also known as “Swifties,” were elated with the news. Unfortunately, the joy was quickly cut short when fans could not get tickets due to website crashes and exorbitant prices from resellers on Ticketmaster. While this incident is not the first time that the website has disappointed fans, it indicates that Ticketmaster needs to implement new restrictions on its site to create a better buying experience for fans. To improve Ticketmaster’s ticket-sale process, a fan should be able to use presale codes to enter the ticket-purchasing queue rather than using them during checkout. Ticketmaster has a presale process called

Verified Fan, which acts as crowd control for notable artists, but because codes are only used on the checkout screen, fans without codes can access the ticket queue. Due to this, Ticketmaster has immense volumes of fans in the queue without codes, breaching the expected number of fans by millions. Greg Maffei, the CEO of Liberty Media and chairman of Live Nation, mentioned on CNBC the company expected 1.5 million fans compared to the 14 million that would crash the site. Ticketmaster’s Verified Fan service needs to be updated to stop website crashes and reduce the number of disappointed fans. Moreover, there are other issues besides an unexpected volume of fans during Ticketmaster’s presale process; tickets are resold for outrageous prices. To prevent this, Ticketmaster should have a programmed limit concerning reseller prices, especially for prevalent artists such as Swift. Tickets for Swift were as low as \$49 for general admission. However,



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

when actual fans could access the site, resellers sold tickets from \$200 to \$20,000. Ticket prices on Ticketmaster are raised or lowered according to demand, inflating ticket prices when higher. If Ticketmaster is already going to raise prices based on demand, it needs to control how resellers react. Fees should never be able to reach 400 times the price, just as Swift’s did. Furthermore, Ticketmaster needs to reduce its additional fees and increase advertisements. The New York Vulture claims that fees can contribute to 78% of concert ticket prices. Smaller sites such as Tickpick, profit solely from advertisements, revealing

that ticket-selling sites do not need to charge customers additional fees to survive. Instead of increasing fees, the company should be increasing paid advertisements. As the largest ticket corporation, Ticketmaster can replace money made with fees with money from advertisers. Ticketmaster’s irrational pricing is highly unappealing to users. Many other competitors, such as Tickpick, offer lower fees and pricing. As a result, the pockets of fans are hurting, but Ticketmaster’s may soon follow. If Ticketmaster does not change to improve its pricing and sales, the future of its brand could be at stake.



UPDATES BAR

ACS Club Donut Fundraiser	2022 Senior Elf Dance	GLI Explores Racial Justice	Korean Culture Club Noraebang	Adopt A Tree Initiative	AP CS Webinar Panelists
In an effort to raise funds for cancer research, the American Cancer Society held a donut fundraiser after school Nov. 17 in the quad. The club additionally hosted two events on campus featuring guest speakers, including nonprofit bone marrow donation organization Be The Match’s community outreach manager Chris Chen Nov. 29 and lung cancer researcher Professor Lohuwa Mamudun from Cal State Fullerton Dec. 6.	Warrior Associated Student Body hosted the annual Elf Dance for seniors in the winter rally Dec. 16. In pairs, students dressed up in holiday outfits and learned a choreography from members of the Red Hots dance team during lunch over four days. In 2021, the dance took place outdoors in the quad due to the coronavirus pandemic social distancing district regulations, but in 2022, the performance returned as an indoor winter rally.	With a mission based in racial equality and social change, the Girls Learn International Club organized a two-part event exploring racial justice. GLI held a community forum Nov. 9 followed by a strategy and work session Dec. 3. At these events, club members discussed and analyzed the consequences of the Assembly Bill 256 Racial Justice for All Act and how to advocate for equality in the Warrior community as a club.	To immerse club members in Korean culture, the Korean Culture Club organized an event featuring Noraebang, a Korean word meaning karaoke, Nov. 15 in room 322. The karaoke event featured a range of Korean music including rap, K-pop, and ballads along with pop songs. Students had the opportunity to sing and dance to various songs with friends and voted on a winner for a prize of one hour of community service.	In collaboration with Omnia, the library hosted the Adopt A Tree initiative for Warrior clubs. According to library technician Iliana Garcia, clubs had the opportunity to claim and decorate one of six Christmas trees top to bottom with holiday and club-themed ornaments until Dec. 8. The clubs then displayed their trees at the library. Clubs that adopted a tree participated in an Omnia interview to promote their club.	Through a virtual series, College Board held an information webinar about Advanced Placement computer science courses, college credit, and future career goals Dec. 6 and Dec. 7. Selected high school and alumni students participated as panelists in the webinar. Seniors Coco Gong, Sahana Anand and Cheryl Wang served as high school panelists and shared their personal experiences in the courses and the field of computer science.

# Hope 4 Athletes collaborates with special education to host a Christmas event

The club encouraged Warriors in special education programs to participate in sports events, including basketball activities.

By Neya Jakan  
STAFFWRITER

Encouraging special education students to become involved in the Warrior athletes community, the Hope 4 Athletes club organized a Christmas-themed sports event Dec. 7 in the South Gym. As part of a monthly series, the event consisted of five Christmas-themed physical activities, including bowling, reindeer ring toss and limbo, for special education students to engage in. Approximately 50 students rotated among the stationed activities dispersed around the gym. During their offseason, Warrior athlete volunteers on the junior varsity and varsity teams taught the general rules of their respective sports to the students at the event. In an effort to ensure accessibility for special education students with wheelchairs or walkers, members incorporated ramps within the event to accommodate the requirements for participation. The club also created stations with alternate activities for students who were not able to participate, adaptive physical education teacher Patricia Stack said. “For instance, [with] the peer basketball [activity], the club lowered the baskets in the South Gym for the special education students to shoot with during the event,” Stack said. “[Also], we had various tabletop activities such as ping pong so that the students in wheelchairs or in walkers



PHOTO BY TIFFANY VO

**SPORTS FOR ALL WARRIORS:** During the activity, the Hope 4 Athletes club members and special education students engaged in a variety of athletic activities such as ring toss and basketball.

would be able to participate as well.” According to club president Anabel Im, the club aims to facilitate an inclusive environment for special education students on campus and encourage them to include athletic activities in their daily activities. The event enabled the students to improve their communication and strong social skills, Anabel Im said.



CARTOON BY KAILA PERLAS

“Our club hopes to create a bond with students in special education and assist them in becoming more social in the near future,” Im said. “Our club’s main focus was to create good relationships

because in our club, most of the students are all members of athletic groups on campus and able to teach [the students] benefitted [volunteers] at the same time.” In the future, the club plans to partner with special education programs of other schools to organize after-school events and lunch activities. Through the events, the club aims to facilitate a welcoming environment for all participants, junior Izzy Mors said. “The activities were super fun [and exciting for everyone],” Mors said. “I liked bowling and bean bag toss, and I enjoyed all of the [activities].”

Oh. Finals. by Pearl Yoon




# Two Warrior musicians selected for nationally recognized ensemble programs

With an early interest in music, Sung grew from at-home piano lessons to playing the cello in the All-National Honor Ensembles.

By Nathan Chao  
STAFF WRITER

Recognized as third chair in the symphony orchestra, senior Joseph Sung qualified for the All-National Honor Ensembles Concert July 15. Founded in 1907, the National Association for Music Education Honor Ensembles aims to foster music education on the national level. In order to apply, prospective high school musicians must be a member of their school's choral or instrumental ensemble during the current school year that corresponds with the section they are applying for. Applicants must also receive a recommendation from a school ensemble director who is a current member of NAFME. According to Sung, he earned his acceptance in part by first being a member of the All-States Ensembles. Prior to the start of his competitive musical career, Sung grew up in a musical household. Starting at age five, he began to learn piano and explored music throughout his childhood.

"Growing up, I enjoyed listening to classical music, specifically the cello," Sung said. "I think that exposure when I was young is what drew me towards the cello." As one of the 540 students selected to perform in the All-National Honor Ensembles, Sung planned to audition for his final year of high school. "I first heard about this program because of my other friends in orchestra who were applying," Sung said. "I ended up trying out, and I did not really think much about it. However, I suddenly got an email on my phone a couple months later congratulating me." The program ended with a three-day concert at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in Maryland. There, students rehearsed a repertoire under the guidance of six of the most prominent conductors in the United States: Frances Fonza, Nobuyoshi Yasuda, Todd Stoll, Chuck Hulihan, Bryan Powell and Raina Murnak. Following the conclusion of the program, Sung advises prospective applicants to persevere through hardships. "I applied to many competitions and student groups where I got rejected," Sung said. "It is always about putting yourself out there and not being afraid to try something new."



AN UN-SUNG CELLIST

PHOTO BY TIFFANY VO

MUSIC-LEE BUILT




PHOTO BY TIFFANY VO

Selected from applicants around the world, Lee earned his spot as a finalist in the Honors Performance Series through his clarinet playing.

By Nathan Chao  
STAFF WRITER

With his acceptance to the Honors Performance Series Nov. 3, junior Andrew Lee looks forward to improving his clarinet skills and furthering his repertoire in an exclusive performance at Carnegie Hall, New York City. Established by educational travel company WorldStrides, HPS seeks to build confidence and strengthen musical skills in student musicians. The organization offers students the opportunity to perform on renowned global stages, such as Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House, Australia. Lee will play the clarinet in the symphony orchestra next February in New York City. In order to qualify for the program, Lee recorded and submitted two pieces for his audition. One piece was required for all applicants, and the other piece was Lee's choice: "Solo de Concours" by Henri Rabaud. Lee developed his passion for music over time. "Although my mom coerced me to play, I grew to love the clarinet," Lee said. "I fell in love with the sound and I think that is the main reason why I connected with it and why I have been playing ever since." After six years of playing the clarinet, Lee chose to apply to HPS for an opportunity to display his skills on a global level. "Other than the prestige of this program, I saw it as an opportunity for me," Lee said. "I thought about a hypothetical scenario where I never would have the chance to participate in this again, so I did it." Prior to his acceptance, Lee joined the Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble in tenth grade, where he first noticed his potential after being promoted to second chair. It is important for prospective applicants interested in improving to practice and be willing to set aside time for practice in order to improve their skills, Lee said. "Although the process seems daunting, you have to be set on what you want," Lee said. "You have to be determined and realize that the work you put in will pay off."


# Doctors Without Borders club crafts care packages for families and physicians

The spirited club members created the holiday care packages in an effort to show their appreciation for the health care workers.

By Rachel Kang  
STAFF WRITER

The Warrior Doctors Without Borders club hosted an event where members crafted holiday care packages for pediatric staff members and families at the Orange County-Anaheim Kaiser Permanente Pediatric Department Dec. 6. Founded by French doctors and journalists in the wake of war and famine 1971 in Nigeria, Doctors Without Borders is a non-governmental organization that aims to deliver emergency medical aid globally. In addition, the organization has made a commitment to also call attention to the larger problems driving medical emergencies. In an effort to educate club members, the board utilizes presentations to promote neutrality, humanitarianism and ethics during every meeting. The board also hosts fundraisers to support the mission of Doctors Without Borders and provides volunteer opportunities to show appreciation for healthcare workers. As part of one such opportunity, club members assembled holiday care packages for doctors in the oncology and hematology departments at the Kaiser Permanente medical center. Using the club's budget, the board members bought supplies from Amazon and Walmart to include in the packages and added personalized handwritten thank-you cards. To embrace the holiday season, members filled glass jars with hot cocoa and other assorted holiday themed items in the packages, club co-president Brianna Vu said. "With over 70 families and around a dozen staff members in the department, spreading joy through the hospital was a grand project," Vu said. "We wanted to show them that we are here for them and to spice up their holiday a bit with some bundles of kindness, especially for the little children." During the pandemic, club members crafted virtual gratitude cards for hospital staff and held fundraisers to support the people of Ukraine when the war against Russia began. In response to these events, the care package projects marked the transition to more hands-on activities. According to Vu, the collective urge to act and make a difference in the world manifested in the decision to introduce more engaging projects.

"Members learned and began to adopt a global perspective," Vu said. "Now, we have proven that we are ready to take on larger initiatives and contribute to our community."



CARTOONS BY PEARL YOON



# A Merrier Me

## A GUIDE TO HOLIDAY SELF-CARE

As skies turn grayer and winds grow colder, fragile leaves wither into monotonous grays and critters take refuge in their burrows. Even though California’s weather stays tame, a blizzard’s worth of studying and holiday preparations await students as December ramps up. Here are some pointers on how to have a fun and balanced holiday season!

Compiled by Kira Chen, LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Zoey Bahng and Joey Kelly, STAFF WRITERS, cartoons by Daniela Herrera, GRAPHICS EDITOR. Images courtesy of Canva.



Thick jackets and fluffy blankets are not the only items keeping people cozy this time of year. The holidays are a time to treasure your loved ones more than ever, so get comfy with close friends, rekindle connections with holiday postcards and invite distant family to celebrate a Californian Christmas. As the final days of 2022 flutter away, special events like the OC Winterfest emerge for seasonal fun. Running all of December and New Year’s Day, this enchanted celebration allows students to connect and enjoy each other’s company while relishing an abundance of exciting attractions. At the center sits the Alpine Village, an attraction covered with real snow that allows guests to unleash their inner child by throwing snowballs, building snowmen and reveling in the wintry atmosphere. In the spirit of thrilling rides, the festival’s snowflake summit slide, towering above the grounds at 150 feet high, whirls up to eight people at a time down a frosted slope, revealing a glimpse of the scenic county skyline right before plummeting passengers straight downwards. As guests explore the winter wonderland, holiday treats to delight in are also available throughout various locations.

HOLIDAY FUN

With the endless consumption of indulgent seasonal treats, it can be difficult to find time to exercise and take care of your body during the holidays. Thankfully, there are opportunities to celebrate the season and be active at the same time. The Irvine Spectrum is helping spread holiday cheer by hosting an outdoor skating rink that will be open for the entire month of December through Jan. 8. It is easy to feel cooped up while dragging through the last week of school, but tracing across the shimmering ice is a perfect way to enjoy the splendor of the season while giving our stiff legs a much-needed stretch. Sweeping away the humdrum of everyday routines, skiing can also be great way to stay active during a time that tends to focus on being in one of two places: school or home. Located just an hour away, Orange County’s Mountain High Ski Resort allows students to blow off steam from their hectic schedules by absorbing all of the season’s joy. The adrenaline rush of gliding down mountains freshly powdered with fallen snow is an excellent way to forget about the pressure of exams and deadlines as students drift through their very own winter wonderland.

STAYING ACTIVE

Replete with photo opportunities, winter can be stressful for those trying to endure the chaos of finals. The “most wonderful time of the year” provides a perfect occasion to boost mental health by not holding the season to curated standards of perfection. Instead of filtering the holidays, look inwards and embrace one of wintertime’s most heartwarming traditions: giving. In a season where there is much to be thankful for, one of the most fulfilling things students can do is share their lives’ abundance with someone less fortunate. Students can also refresh their minds by rewarding themselves with small motivators. Even simple sparks, such as replacing water with warm tea or bringing out cozy hoodies, can be effective. Another option, already loved by many, is retail therapy. Buying a gift for yourself in the name of self-care can relieve stress, especially when paired with casual strolls observing Christmas displays at the local mall and humming along to nostalgic Mariah Carey melodies.

STRESS LESS



Sugar Cookie Latte ▶

Cranberry Bread ▶

**TREAT YOURSELF**  
*Oracle's Christmas Favorites*  
Starbucks’ Sugar Cookie Almond Milk Latte offers a hint of vanilla with subtle notes of the toasty, buttery flavor of a golden cookie. Smooth and creamy, this drink blends classically comforting flavors and is topped with green and red sprinkles, satisfying a wide range of seasonal cravings.

Putting a holiday twist on your daily toast, Costco’s seasonal cranberry bread pairs a crispy crust and deliciously fluffy center with pockets of sweet cranberries. Whether smeared with avocado or neatly arranged on a charcuterie board, this cranberry bread can be savored and shared with the whole family.



# Warriors' Takes

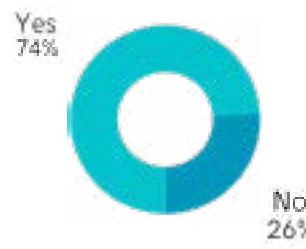
Students speak out on how they destress during the holidays.



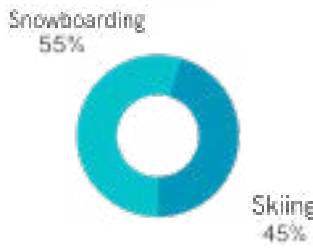
anonymous senior

“I try to catch up on some sleep since I miss so much of it studying. I also try to draw something because I love art, but hardly have time for it. I started a skin care routine, and I find it very relaxing.”

DO YOU TAKE TIME TO INTENTIONALLY DESTRESS?



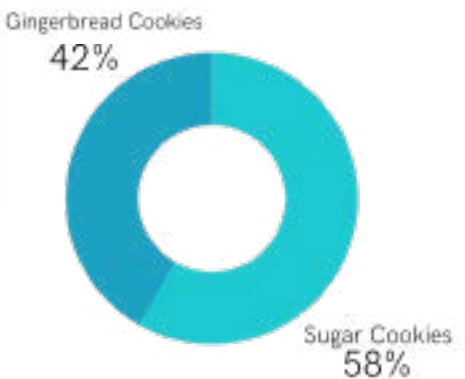
SNOWBOARDING OR SKIING?



Joshua Kim, sophomore

“[I] blast music and take a chill hike through a forest.”

GINGERBREAD OR SUGAR COOKIES?



Heta Mody, junior

“I make an effort to skate, surf, watch TV, eat snacks and hang out with friends as much as I can.”



Anirudh Govada, freshman

“I practice mindfulness and do activities that I enjoy, [such as] reading books to calm my mind down.”



anonymous sophomore

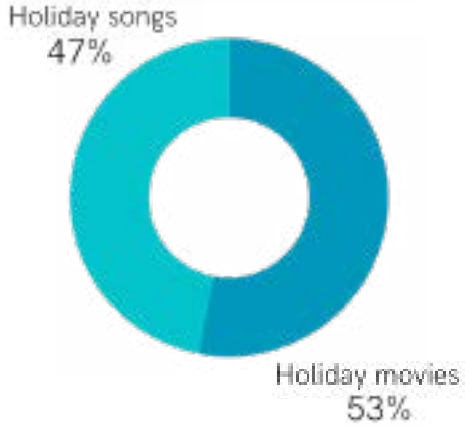
“I maintain a certain routine which involves self hygiene in order to build more self confidence. I also attempt to exercise daily. My routine creates something concrete—something I always know will be consistent.”



anonymous freshman

“I exercise such as running and lifting weights.”

HOLIDAY SONGS OR HOLIDAY MOVIES?



Jessie Wang, junior

“Getting enough sleep is my favorite way to [destress], and doing things I enjoy like watching a movie or playing video games always helps me refuel after a long week.”



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# SPARTAN WARRIOR

With extraordinary strength and stamina, competitors are no match for senior Karissa Francisco. From marathons to weights, Francisco amazes all who watch her. Read her inspiring tale below!

Compiled by Mary Kim, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Julie Liu, **STAFF WRITER**, graphics by Daniela Herrera, **GRAPHICS EDITOR**, photos courtesy of Karissa Francisco

As the sun beams down upon the dirt track, eager racers flock toward the starting line. While the dust swirling through the air portrays nothing unusual, this is no ordinary race. When the chatter dies down, a voice calls out, “Who am I?” and the crowd responds “Spartan!” With that, the Spartan race begins and senior Karissa Francisco takes off, flying over six foot walls, trudging through muddy waters and shouldering heavy weights. Every obstacle tests a different strength, every challenge making her stronger. While Francisco’s performance might appear effortless, Spartan racing requires extraordinary perseverance. Through intense physical and mental training for each course’s rigorous obstacles, Francisco excels at Spartan races proving her phenomenal physical stamina and mental endurance.

Francisco’s Spartan journey began last summer after catching sight of her family pouring their hearts and souls into training. This sparked her interest in Spartan races and together, Francisco and her family learned different techniques to complete obstacles. They also took on weekend 10-mile runs, disciplining their bodies and building stamina. From requiring specific techniques to rigorous training, the difficulty of Spartan races makes completing them especially rewarding. Francisco feels that more effort that goes into achieving a goal, the more gratifying it feels when that goal is achieved. Competing in Spartan races has allowed Francisco to experience not only the victory of winning, but also the triumph of conquering challenging obstacles through hard work and determination.

“I feel stronger about myself and have more self confidence because I know I am very capable of any Spartan race,” Francisco said. “Holding that strength with me has helped in a lot of aspects of my life.”


Despite their competitive nature, Spartan races also emphasize companionship and camaraderie. Throughout the race, Francisco helps fellow racers up if they have fallen and encourages them if it looks like they might give up. By virtue of its difficulty, Spartan races often bring racers together to conquer arduous obstacles. In fact,

Francisco’s main motivation stems from the joy she experiences competing with her family. “Really, it’s been a lot because I’m doing it with my family,” Francisco said. “It’s a sort of special companionship with them.”

Francisco encourages others to give Spartan racing a try, no matter how difficult it may seem. After competing several times, she earned the Spartan Trifecta, a selective badge of honor awarded to those who complete three different races within a year. Though a fear of failure may prevent many from pursuing their dreams, Francisco shows that with perseverance, one can achieve anything. She hopes that others are able to find the confidence that she found in Spartan racing.

“Don’t doubt yourself and stop doing what you want,” Francisco said. “Everyone is so capable, so don’t let your fears stop you.”





# A MODERN RAP-SODY

Lights, cameras, rap! Senior Sean Kim’s interest in rapping recently culminated in his feature in reality show “Show Me The Money 11.” Read more to learn about his new single, “By Your Side!”

Compiled by Mary Kim, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Eileen Um **STAFF WRITER**, graphics by Daniela Herrera, **GRAPHICS EDITOR**, photos courtesy of Sean Kim

The hum of rhythmic vocal warmups fills the stage’s air as rows of rising artists surround senior Sean Kim. Blinding production lights flash down on the rappers as jet-black cameras zone in on each stickered contestant. Here, Kim’s interest in the rapping TV show “Show Me the Money” became a reality, landing him in the first LA round of the competition. Kim’s growth in rap music has come from hours spent crafting lyrics, exploring new artists and broadening his musical horizons. With a spontaneous spark, rapping entered Kim’s life, sustained by a passion that bloomed past his fears. Kim’s emerging enthusiasm towards rapping began at the end of his sophomore year, during the COVID-19 lockdown. His music taste had never included rapping, but after he watched “Show Me the Money,” Kim started to mimic the musical styles of the contestants. Once Kim became familiar with the genre, freestyling to his favorite beats became a new pastime. Kim quickly reached for the next milestone in his rapping journey: writing lyrics. Reflections from years past and personal beliefs, such as his relationship with God, were compiled into songs. The first endeavor of Kim’s songwriting began with his role as a member of Troy High School’s ASB when he created his first music video for his senior class president campaign. The process of writing, editing and producing the video was a deeper wade into the world of music production for Kim, opening a window into future projects.

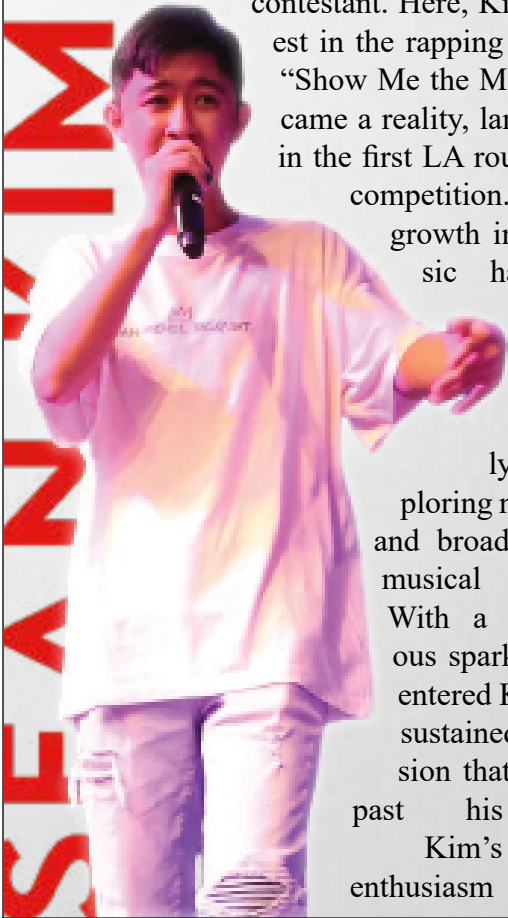
“Just getting a beat, then being able to write lyrics, and then having that actually turn into a whole music video, was a really long process,” Kim said. “I’m very, very proud of how it came out.”


Kim continued to grow in musicality, glean-ing inspiration from artists Jay Park and pH-1. On a whim, Kim submitted an application for this year’s season of “Show Me the Money” with no intention of winning due to intense competition. But to Kim’s surprise, he was accepted into the first LA round. Although Kim wondered if missing a school day was worth it, he believes that it pushed him. Even though he was unable to progress to the following round, his family’s constant support allowed him to truly enjoy the challenge.

“You might only have one opportunity,” Kim said. “I think that whether or not you’re good at something, you should just do it.”

Rapping is woven into Kim’s life, offering a safe place to organize his thoughts and take a break from stress. The artist recently expanded his discography by releasing the single, “By Your Side.” Dropped on Nov. 23, “By Your Side” displays Kim’s lyrical abilities, put together with the help of friends and family. Reflecting on his faith in God and relationships, “By Your Side” encompasses Kim’s advancements with skill and confidence.

“With rapping, I am the most confident version of myself,” Kim said. “You have your youth right now, right in front of you.”







# Warrior boys soccer team cedes a difficult loss to the Los Amigos Lobos

Despite its first loss, the boys soccer team plans to build their teamwork before the season starts.

By Tyler Cordova  
STAFF WRITER

The Warrior Varsity boys soccer team lost their first game of the season 1-4 against the Los Amigos Lobos Nov. 29. Critical to the Warriors’ strong starting defense, senior goalkeeper Samuel Miller exhibited great composure and reflexes, easily blocking a goal attempt from a Lobos’ forward. On offense, midfielder senior Joshua Park used a burst of speed to bypass the Lobos’ defense, creating an opening for him to deliver the first goal of the game at 15 minutes. However, the goal was called offside by the referee, and the game resumed 0-0. Active movement and communication between center back junior Marcos Garcia and junior Adam Abbassi helped fend off a run by the Lobos in what could have been a dangerous offensive play. Demonstrating great positional awareness, right winger junior Dean Koos found a great scoring chance in front of the



PHOTO BY LAUREN SONG

**ALL ATTACK:** *Rotating full gears in his head, senior Joshua Park carefully considers the opponent in front of him before dribbling at full speed.*

Taking advantage of Park’s pass, Koos dribbled the ball through the Lobo’s defense, bouncing off the post into the goal net. Although the Warriors had managed to score and maintain themselves on the field against the Lobos, they ended up with a final score of 1-4. Despite the loss for the Warriors, the match was an opportunity for the team to learn to strengthen their teamwork for future games. With several new juniors and sophomores, the team is working to incorporate the teammates adjusting to the varsity level, Head

Coach Lester Maldonado said. “We have a lot of new players in our program and I’m trying to get the guys to play together,” Maldonado said. “Some passes connected well and were looking good, but beyond that, we’re still new and fresh and there’s a lot of work to do.” The match also helped the team identify areas of improvements and figure out their strengths and weaknesses, Maldonado said. “[The team and I] talked a lot about getting more numbers going forward when we’re attacking and about incorporating our center forwards more in the buildup of the attack,” Maldonado said. “We weren’t able to follow through with these tactics during this game.” According to Miller, the members plan to work on bonding and improving chemistry with each other. The team has the capacity to play well, and everyone looks forward to competing in league as well as CIF, Miller said. “We have a lot of potential. If we just work together a little more we’ll be able to score more goals, work better as a defense and play better overall in future games,” Miller said. “Communication and cooperation could really help improve our team to play better.”

STARTING TO SPIKE

By Finley Dalley, STAFF WRITER, cartoon by Kaila Perlas, CARTOON EDITOR, image courtesy of Unsplash

Spikeball Club, a first in Warrior history, offers students access to a unique and trending sport. Contrary to many of the academic clubs popularly advocated for on campus, the club proposes a new way to be active and allow members to get out of their comfort zones without the confinement of academic pressures. Spikeball is set up similarly to a mixture of volleyball and four square. Four players separated into two teams take their stances around a net in the middle. Starting with a serve, the game continues until a team reaches 15 points, which are gained by bouncing the ball on the net until a player fails to receive it. With meetings every Wednesday in Room 420, Spikeball Club consists of 36 members. The club meets outside where they will either practice or play a set of their tournament. At the beginning of the year, Finley White, the founder and president of the club, sent out a Google Form in which the members chose their teammates. She then

created a bracket system using these predetermined teams. White created the club after being inspired by her brother, who started a Spikeball club at Sonora High School. The two clubs are developing schedules together in hopes of future collaborations. They are organizing a beach day where the clubs could play games and bond. “[The beach day] is going to be one big social event where everyone can meet each other,” White said. “Everyone can branch out and meet new people that enjoy competitive games like spikeball.” White introduced spikeball to the Warriors in hopes of crafting a relaxing mental outlet for her fellow peers. The goal is to build a community which would lift each other up and help each other grow, White said. “I want [spikeball] to be a friendly competition, a place where people can meet other students and build relationships with other people, and just have fun,” White said.

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TROY HIGH SCHOOL



# A Splash of Representation

Can the legend of Wakanda truly live on forever? Read more to find out Oracle’s take on the latest marvel of the Marvel Cinematic Universe!

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Ishaan Arya, STAFF WRITER, graphics courtesy of 2UrbanGirls

“Wakanda Forever!” Famed director Ryan Coogler welcomes us back to the majestic African kingdom Wakanda, delivering a sophisticated film with stunning visuals and groundbreaking representation of the Latinx and Black communities. Miles above the usual Marvel flick, “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” is not just a fantastic superhero film but an awards worthy one as well. And with its poignant message, the spirit of the Black Panther is “Born Again.”

Coogler succeeds in creating an all new world that impressively represents another culture. Viewers dive into Talokan, a fictional Mayan kingdom 20,000 leagues under the sea, led by Prince Namor (Tenoch Huerta), whom the subjects hail as their god and protector. The Talokan are a solitary people who lead rich and beautiful lives in the ocean, until the threat of invasion poses great danger to both Talokan and Wakanda, throwing the two nations into war. The plot is both innovative and engaging, as Coogler weaves an intricate sci-fi storyline that’s rooted in reality. The Latinx community gets some long awaited representation with this new addition in a manner that is respectful but also creative.

Dressing these talented actors is Oscar winner Ruth E. Carter, who provides a bounty of exotic styles and jewelry, from Namor’s killer throne room look to Talokan warrior garb. Carter elevates Talokan’s personality with culturally appropriate styles that double as visual characterization. Talokan represents a kingdom brutally colonized South America, a similar piece of commentary to how Wakanda represents the same for the black community. Talokan itself is a sight to behold, from its entrancing visuals to its rich culture and lore that are all part of the film’s worldbuilding. The film’s casting of indigenous actors is a welcome change of pace for the Latinx community.

Hollywood is now entering the next stage where characters of color transcend just being representational figures. Queen Ramonda (Angela Bassett), Shuri, Okoye, and Nakia are all fully fleshed out characters who are shown to grow throughout the film. It’s an important moment in Hollywood to put forward such fully empowered female characters whose characterization surpasses what they represent, but rather who they are.

Shuri (Letitia Wright) is far from the tech-focused, comedic character she was in the first film.

The Shuri in this film is put in high-stakes situations while having to face some incredible losses. Her character is the focus point for the film’s themes about grief and vengeance, and what they could drive someone to do. T’Challa’s death looms large over the movie, and the overwhelming nature of that grief permeates the journey Shuri embarks on. Namor’s character works best to challenge the values upheld by those who have come before Shuri, and whether she will be strong enough to follow them. Namor shows what could be for Shuri if she let vengeance consume her and drive her to violence in the name of protection. With the added perspective that both of these characters are leaders, their actions hold even more weight, a lesson that Shuri learns all too well.

With the directorial genius of Ryan Coogler, a killer soundtrack from Ludwig Goransson and Oscar worthy performances, “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” is a powerful sequel with a potent message and unique voice. Preserving the top-tier action that helped make the first installment so memorable, the film finds a way to instill a message about grief and moving forward that is true testament to the legacy of Chadwick Boseman.

# MEDIA MADNESS

Some things are too mean for the screen. Read more to get Oracle’s take on the Tiktok sensation North West, and how mass audiences have handled her presence.

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Jessica Chin, STAFF WRITER, graphics courtesy of National Today, Teen Vogue, and Similiar PNG

From sharing her latest skincare routine to mocking her famous mother Kim Kardashian, North West is one of the youngest starlets on TikTok. Amassing 10.8 million followers and 236.9 million likes on the platform, West’s loyal following comment, repost and react to her funny videos. However, despite her popularity, internet critics are concerned about her growing presence on the app.

In the spotlight since birth, West is accustomed to the flashing cameras and media attention that come with fame. Yet, TikTok has become a creative outlet for the young Kardashian. Serving as a digital video diary, West documents an unfiltered version of her family’s affluent life. From in-depth slime reviews to her unabashed love of music from her dad, Kanye West, she neither flaunts nor acts ignorant of her wealth. Instead, she departs from most influencers, infusing her videos with youthful liveliness stemming from genuine happiness to share her life with others. Unlike the egregiously photoshopped and air-brushed photos proliferated by her family online, West has become a pioneer of more down to earth representation in the Kardashian clan.

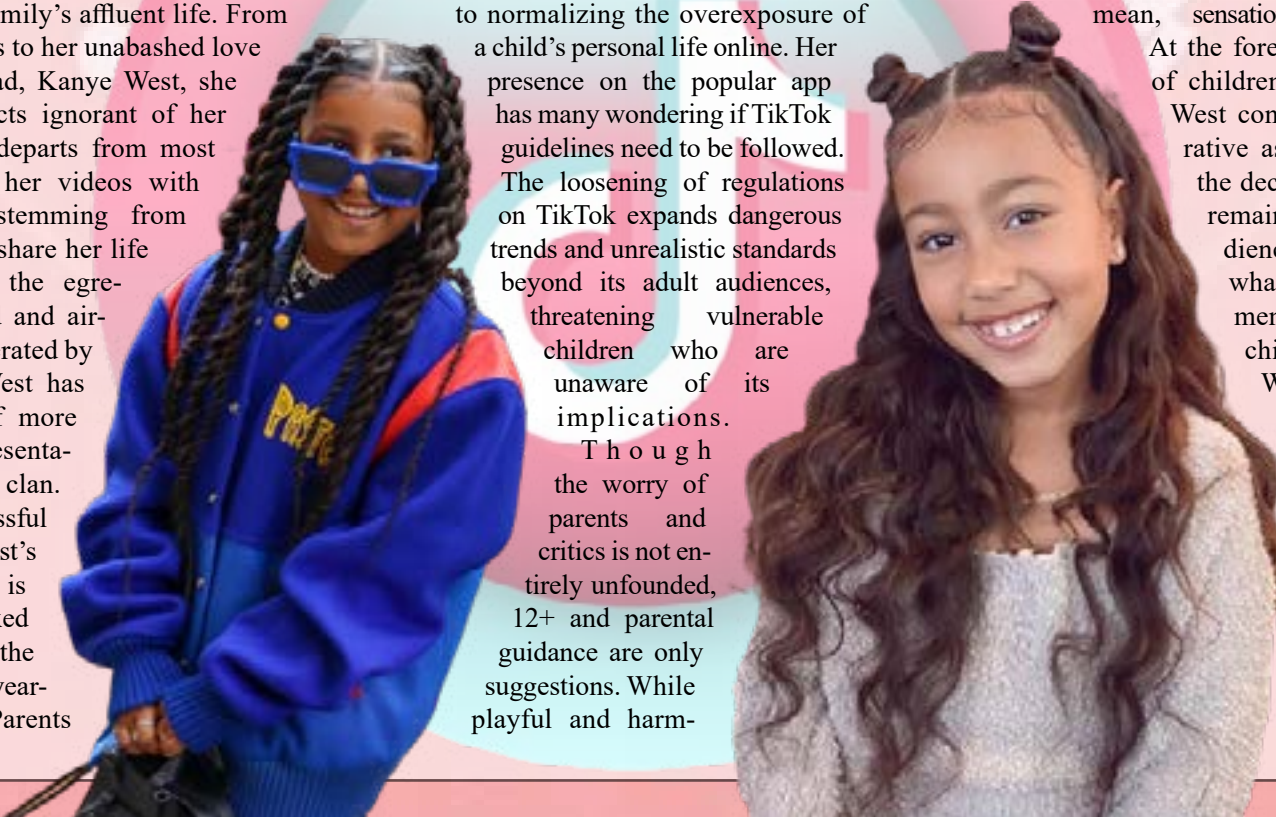
Although successful on TikTok, West’s commentary section is a battlefield of mixed opinions, reflecting the polarizing topic of a 9-year-old on social media. Parents

and internet sleuths question the acceptability of a 9-year-old having an account on a platform with a 12+ in the Apple Store. While listed under the parental guidance recommended in Google Play Store, West appears to have complete control of the account, although she claims her account (@KimandNorth) is shared with her mother. Understanding the influence of the Kardashians, and therefore West’s influence, critics are concerned about the normalization of children on social media platforms that expose them to internet bullying, online predators and disturbing content. Many are claiming that West’s attempt to represent herself online is a precarious situation that can easily lead to normalizing the overexposure of a child’s personal life online. Her presence on the popular app has many wondering if TikTok guidelines need to be followed. The loosening of regulations on TikTok expands dangerous trends and unrealistic standards beyond its adult audiences, threatening vulnerable children who are unaware of its implications.

Though the worry of parents and critics is not entirely unfounded, 12+ and parental guidance are only suggestions. While playful and harm-

less, her videos humanize celebrities and their children on platforms that create division and unhealthy idolization. West’s experiences capture the similarity between people with an uncensored discography of childlike innocence that is rare online. Her videos encourage understanding between fans and their idols, as some celebrities on the platform attempt to create the same connection. Under the videos, her commentary section often has hate comments, but the comments reflect the adults on the platform rather than her own actions. Her account highlights the irresponsibility of other adults and the culture created that rewards mean, sensationalistic comments.

At the forefront of a new era of children on social media, West controls her own narrative as she posts. While the decisions of West still remain her own, her audience has control over what kind of environment they surround a child with. Whether West should or should not have an account is up for debate; however, whether or not a 9-year-old child should be getting hateful comments is not.







# A Show to Die For...

Gruesome killing spree, a monster on the loose and one obsessive investigator are all it takes to revamp “The Addams Family.”

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Kaitlyn Zhang, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Kaila Perlas, CARTOON EDITOR, graphics courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes, Elle and Hollywood Life

She has a closet devoid of color, a dark sense of humor and tortured mind of a writer. This is Wednesday Addams, and accompanied by her trusted right hand, Thing, she is out to solve a deadly mystery. Released Nov. 23 on Netflix, “Wednesday” is the latest resurrection of the “The Addams Family,” focusing on the daughter. In collaboration with Tim Burton, the eight-episode series retains the classic gothic allure but is hardly black and white. With horrific elements, complemented by teenage angst in a riveting spiral of betrayal and love triangles, “Wednesday” cleans up to be perfectly binge-worthy.

Situated in a cliché highschool, “Wednesday” is able to build a relatable yet unique coming-of-age fitting for such an eerie protagonist. After a piranha pool “accident,” Wednesday is sent to her parents’ alma mater and quickly swallowed by Nevermore Academy’s grotesque charm. Bringing a contemporary flare to the show, a realm of high school monster drama is drawn between cliques. This is incorporated with a dash of mysterious murders and a grave obsession by Wednesday.

Enhancing the original rendition of

“The Addams Family,” “Wednesday” still exceeds expectations of portraying the gothic and ghastly. The original Addams’ mansion is reflected in renovated, grand glory and the iconic “The Addams Family” theme song referenced in unlocking Nevermore’s secret society lair under the school grounds. Jenna Ortega’s performance as the daughter of the Addams family has hypnotized audiences with her cold, deadpan, Kubrick stare. Her originally morbid role has been transformed into a witty casket of sarcasm, understandable for her newfound maturity in “Wednesday.” Captivated by her creepy movements, never breaking intense eye contact with the camera, Ortega draws the attention of all monsters roaming Nevermore Academy’s halls.

Despite the mysterious appeal of “Wednesday” and impeccable balance of gore and high school drama, critics have claimed the show lacks depiction of the grim and the writing is out-of-touch with modern humor. Critics point out how Wednesday is immediately separated from her family, losing the charming interactions between the morbid family in the original “The Addams Family.” However,

the production intends to focus on teen audiences who can embrace the kookiness of reinventing the show in predictable yet enjoyable clichés. The colorful cast drags Wednesday into a spiral of newfound emotions as she undergoes her first love triangle between her local coffee shop barista and Nevermore’s infamous tortured artist. “Wednesday” also delves into realistic danger that threatens Wednesday at every turn of her investigation, keeping to the original by truly fleshing out each character’s relateable human struggles. Without overwhelming viewers with embarrassing dialogue, the show is an interesting balance between serious topics like identity, the realism that “The Addams Family” lacked and typical teenage angst.

“Wednesday” is a satisfying escapade to add to “The Addams Family” series. As a new twist on the classic coming-of-age teen flick, “Wednesday” opens a new realm to the macabre investigation, casting a spell on its audience. It was a truly genius idea to reinvent “The Addams Family” to modern entertainment. “Wednesday” is the perfect teen dramedy to complete anyone’s moody weekend.

## Tyler

Meet Tyler Galpin, your favorite “normie” barista who makes a killer cup of coffee. From taking you on your first crypt picnic date to driving you around to local crime scenes, there’s nothing he wouldn’t do for his lover. With a seemingly dark past, his soft gaze and chivalry are sure to thaw over any cold heart.

## Xavier

Expert painter Xavier Thorpe is Nevermore’s moody heartthrob, attracting the attention of all outcasts. With the ability to bring his artwork to life, his mystique charms every monster clique. He creates such beautiful portraits of you that you can’t help but picture yourself with him. Will you take the chance on Nevermore’s number one bad boy?