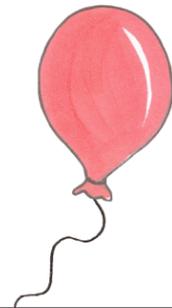




ORACLE



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Warrior orchestras perform Festival Concert

To prepare for the upcoming competition season, the orchestras will put on their annual spring concert.

By Kyle Patel & Joshua Alcantara
STAFF WRITER & NEWS EDITOR

Refining both their instrumental and team-building skills, the Warrior symphony and string orchestras will perform the annual Festival Concert in the Thomas Moore Auditorium March 6.

In previous years, Instrumental Music Director Joseph Castillo organized the spring concert as the culmination of the annual Festival Competitions, at which the Warrior orchestras were ranked by a panel of judges. However, this year's concert will precede the competitions so that instrumentalists can master challenging compositions such as "Swan Lake Theme," "Hopak" and "Overture to Nabucco."

"My philosophy is that Festival [should] help supplement our concerts," Castillo said. "With the new calendar, our concert will now supplement our Festival performance. I try not to make music a competition. It is an art form that should be appreciated for aesthetics and internal gratification."

The demanding pieces present avenues for students to fine-tune their technical skills and improve their attention to detail, Castillo said.

"[The advanced string orchestra] is playing advanced high

school and college music," Castillo said. "To actually hear them develop the sounds on these advanced pieces of music is awesome, and the maturity of their sound is very impressive."

Students collaborate with their

peers to strengthen the collective sound of the orchestra, junior Nick Choi said.

"In an orchestra, you cannot play by yourself," Choi said. "You have to be listening and communicating with the other

players, just like a basketball team. If you put random people together, they will not play well. Over time, once they play more, they [sound better together]."

Though the instrumentalists are often occupied by their academic pursuits, the success of the concert depends on their commitment to orchestra, senior Angela Shin said.

"We are already busy with our academic, social and personal lives, and to fit long hours after school in that schedule is hard," Shin said. "We only meet three times a week, and we are usually not always all there. Around concert time, though, more people show up, so it really helps us."

In addition to being a reprieve from social and academic pressures, orchestra serves as a starting point for students' interest in music, Castillo said.

"Here, at this school, [music] is an anchor for a lot of [people]," Castillo said. "How we approach it is very important because we want music to be a part of people's lives. Whether it is this upcoming concert or the one at the end of the year, students are extrapolating from their positive experiences. [The goal is for students to] engage themselves and understand what it takes to make music."



RENEE SUSANTO

LOOKING SHARP: Warriors play their violins at a rehearsal in preparation for the upcoming Festival Concert.

Troy Tech program introduces Computer Science Principles

As College Board implements its new course, the Tech program keeps pace.

By Nicole Kuntjoro
STAFF WRITER

Creating more diverse opportunities for incoming freshmen in the Troy Tech program, the Computer Science Department will pilot the class Computer Science Principles (CS Principles) beginning next fall.

Blending aspects of Computer Logic and Algorithms (CLA) with coursework from Fundamentals of Programming (FOP), the new year-long course will replace both classes as the introduction to Troy Tech. CS Principles emphasizes theoretical computer concepts while also encouraging student appreciation of techno-

logical advancements and the cultural impact of those advancements. Though the class begins next year, the corresponding Advanced Placement exam will not be offered until May 2017.

Freshmen interested in other pathways such as business and media will be better prepared through the broadened scope of the new course, Troy Tech Coordinator Laurie Downum said.

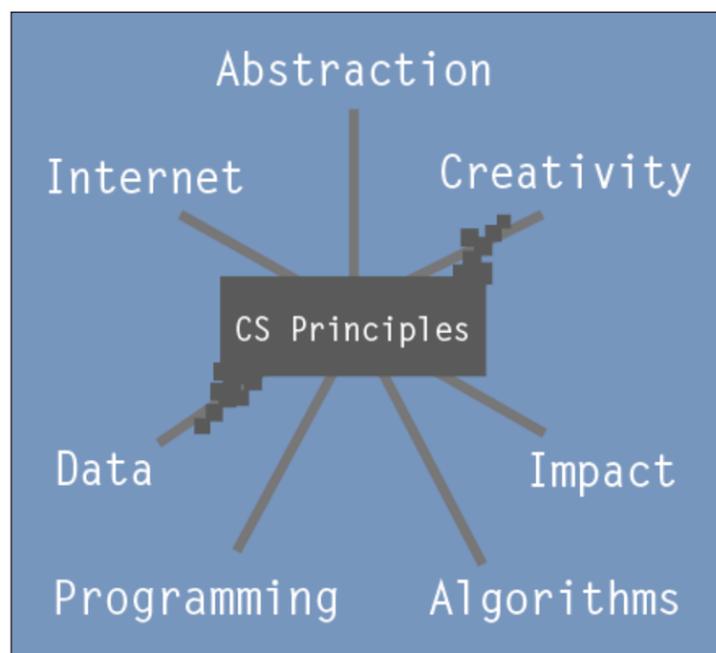
"[The course] gives you a hardware and software background that can be applied to film, business or any other direction," Downum said. "It is going to have a broader curriculum and so it would not be as in-depth in specific FOP and CLA topics. Our goal is to try and pull the best lessons learned in those courses and place them into this class to support the curriculum."

In addition, units exploring topics such as the Internet will educate students about real-world applications of modern technology, Downum said.

"These topics definitely apply to our culture and time," Downum said. "Cybersecurity and the impact of social media on our culture are not currently represented in any of our course work. I think it is going to be great to actually address some of those things and discuss them with our incoming students."

With the curriculum still in developmental stages, the department is collaborating to ensure the quality of the class, teacher Mike Reid said.

"It is a work in progress," Reid said. "There is no substitute for that group discussion. We all have ideas, and some are better



RACHEL LEE

THE THEORY OF CODING THINGS: Next fall, the technology course will introduce student programmers to seven "Big Ideas" that address the real-world applications of computing.

than others. With [the whole department] in the same room, we can pick and choose the best ideas

and try to make this program the best in the country. That is our ultimate goal in everything we do."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Explore the infinite selection of comics newly available on Scribd and be transported from the streets of Fabletown to the back-alleys of Gotham.

LIFESTYLE

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Start OC Restaurant Week March 1 with Slater's 50/50 and Cha Cha's Latin Kitchen.

SPORTS

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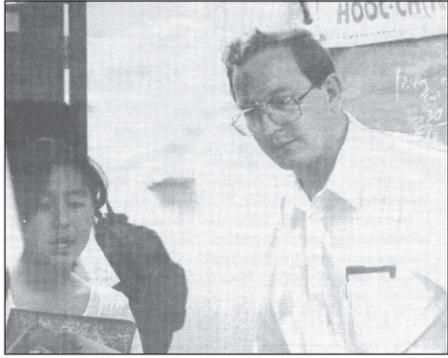


Warrior boys soccer team (5-9, 5-5) was trampled by the Rancho Verde Mustangs in the second round of CIF Feb. 25.

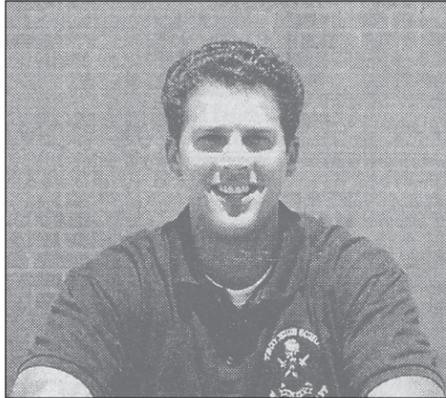
Celebrating **50**th **BACK TO THE PAST**

Travel down memory lane with Oracle as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. This issue features five snippets from past papers published from 1996 to 2000.

Compiled by Ariel Liu and Angela Zeng, EDITORS IN CHIEF and cartoons by Ariel Liu and Hanbi Ko, CARTOON EDITOR



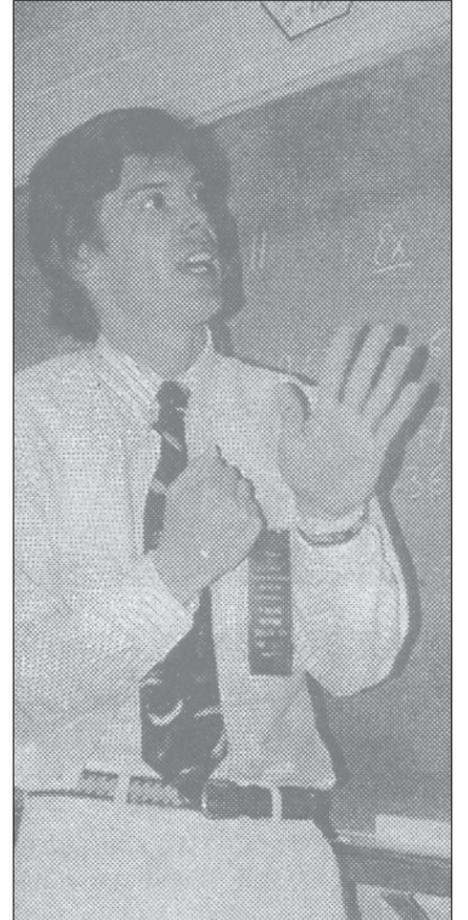
From 1996: Teacher Thomas Mosig



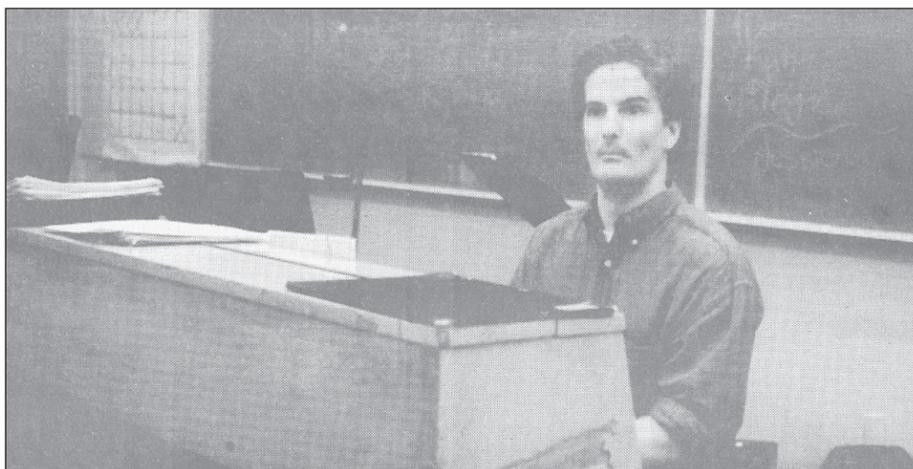
From 1999: Teacher Glenn Madrid



From 1998: Teacher Rich Liem



From 1998: Teacher Lindsay Knox



From 1997: Teacher Jesse Knowles

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Once Upon A Troy: School of Fish by Hanbi & Hanmin Ko



Three-parent babies should be welcomed by legislation

By Christina Meyer
STAFF WRITER

Recently, gene therapy took a giant leap forward in the United Kingdom (U.K.) when the House of Commons passed a new measure that will allow in vitro fertilization (IVF) for “three-parent babies.” The measure, expected to pass soon in the House of Lords, will reduce the risk of mitochondrial disorders that affect one in 6,500 babies in the U.K. These disorders typically lead to heart, brain and liver disease, muscular dystrophy and even early death. However, even though the procedure would save lives, opponents argue that the bill’s passage will induce a snowball effect. From eugenics to “design-your-own-baby” trends, many fear the future consequences of this technology. Yet, despite criticism, three-parent IVF is a significant development in the fight against severe genetic diseases, and it is one worth supporting.

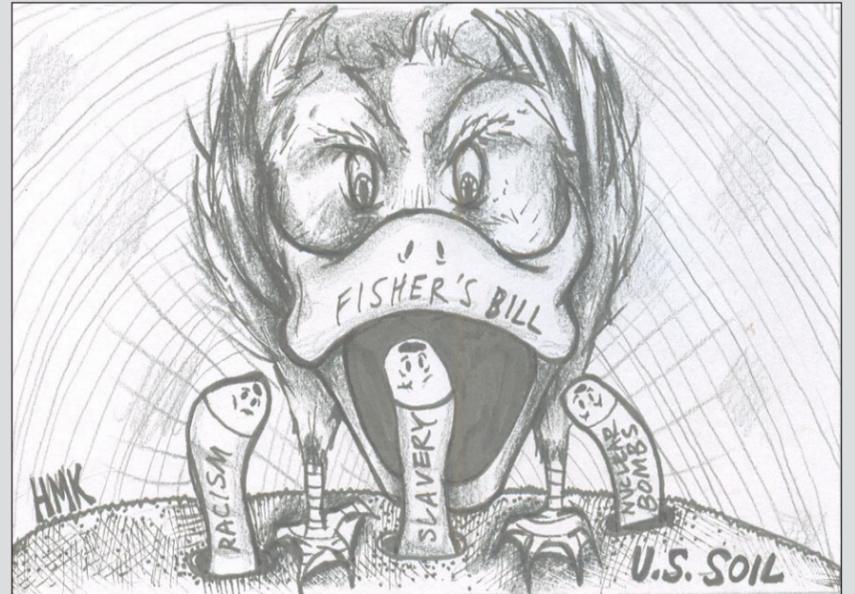
Despite its obvious benefits, this treatment remains illegal in the U.S. based on unjustified fears. Naysayers cite fears of social engineering, a Brave New World of designer babies or castes of Betas, Gammas and Alphas. However, there is no way to prove how the new IVF method might be misused, but there are already concrete estimates about how many lives could be saved. The New England Journal of Medi-

cine approximates at least 150 babies in the U.K. and at least 770 in the U.S. could be born disease-free annually. Ultimately, immediate benefits outweigh futuristic what-ifs. Saving lives is more important than idly debating whether or not this technology could someday be abused.

Contrary to popular opinion, three-parent babies are not a sign of rampant gene alteration. The proposed law specifies that this procedure is to be used only to prevent mitochondrial disorders by introducing a third party’s mitochondrial DNA. Unlike nuclear DNA alteration, this method does not affect any physical traits such as hair or eye color. Rather, the method simply replaces the donor nucleus with the mother’s nucleus and leaves the healthy mitochondria intact in the donor cell. Afterwards, the new egg can be fertilized using standard IVF. According to geneticists, mitochondrial DNA affects only about 37 non-nuclear genes—equivalent to a mere 0.054 percent of the entire human genome. With these statistics in mind, fears about selectively tailoring genes to change certain physical features are unfounded, as mitochondrial replacement IVF cannot be used to change anything in an individual other than the mitochondria itself.

Ultimately, this three-parent IVF technique is a huge step in the right direction. With the legalization of this treatment, the thousands of people affected by mitochondrial disease can now have hope. The limitless possibilities to improve human life should no longer lie dormant in our genes.

STAFF EDITORIAL



HANMIN KO

Fisher’s bill attacks AP United States History curriculum

Fisher’s bill is more than just fishy; it reeks of senseless ideology.

Once again, conservatives are taking a swing at Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH). This time around, Oklahoma Republican Representative Dan Fisher collected enough votes to bring his bill against APUSH to a vote on the House floor. If passed, it will bar the use of state funds to support the instruction of APUSH in public schools across Oklahoma. Preaching the need for “American exceptionalism,” Fisher claims that the class emphasizes “what is bad about America” and illustrates the U.S. as a “nation of oppressors and exploiters.” However, in response to public outrage, Fisher now only plans to ask the state Board of Education to conduct a review of the curriculum, not to remove it entirely. As students ourselves, Warriors can hopefully appreciate the holistic education and historical truth that have been preserved in our classrooms.

Our public schools have seen efforts to suppress the teaching of controversial ideas previously, from the Scopes Monkey Trial to sex education. Now, states such as Georgia, Texas, South Carolina and Colorado have joined Fisher’s efforts to declare war on the APUSH curriculum on the grounds that the class is not patriotic. The flaw in these efforts is that it centers on what we should not teach. The idea of “American exceptionalism” is idealistic, but not when it involves de-emphasizing major events

such as racial segregation or the dropping of the atomic bomb. Turning a blind eye to our past will only undermine years of progress in improving the quality of our education.

All this talk about “American exceptionalism” can easily paint those who oppose the current APUSH curriculum as patriots. However, claiming that our country is superior should not mean that everything we do is automatically right. And disagreeing with this nationalistic sentiment does not make us unpatriotic. National allegiance should not be about covering up mistakes in order to glorify ourselves. If anything, it should be about recognizing our wrongs and learning from them.

The caliber of our nation’s education will suffer even more if we squander money to obscure historical facts. According to Fisher’s bill, substituting the APUSH curriculum would cost at least \$3.85 million. Not to mention, the effort it would take to retrain teachers would be astronomical. As it is, restructuring APUSH to include fewer truths is hardly patriotic of Americans; it is completely the wrong way to be spending tax dollars.

Setting ceilings for what students are allowed to learn is completely illogical and even unethical, especially if those ceilings are drawn with ideological biases. If we ignore or cover up the mistakes of our past, we will not learn from them. And that will only make us all the more likely to repeat them.

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A READER'S GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSE(S)

Comic books have undergone a resurgence of popularity as series are rebooted, movie adaptations are made and e-book editions are released. Explore the world of comic books for yourself with these recommendations. Whether you prefer fairy tales or superheroes, comic books have something for everyone.

Cartoons by Hanmin Ko, CARTOON

COMICS: AN ORIGIN STORY

By Leanne Ho
ENTERTAINMENT & LIFESTYLE EDITOR

A few weeks ago, Scribd, one of the world's leading digital libraries, added thousands of comic books to its archives. For fans of the subscription service, which has been described as "Netflix for booklovers," this change could not have arrived at a more opportune moment.

The truth is, we live in an era when comic books are cool again. They weren't always this appreciated; as late as the 1970s, books with pictures in them were considered childish and unsophisticated. The larger-than-life characters, with their chiseled jaws and unparalleled superpowers, appealed only to a niche market of "geeks" and "nerds." But toward the end of the 20th century, something changed. The word "geek" became a badge of pride instead of an insult. Comic-Con, a convention for comic enthusiasts, became a tourist attraction. And comic books? They became a recognized art form, sought after by avid adult collectors and imaginative children alike.

Some of this popularity can be attributed to a cultural shift, specifically in technology and science. It's weird to think that there was a time before the Internet, but the World Wide Web became publicly accessible only in 1991. For the first time, geeks were seen as innovators rather than social outcasts, and the Internet provided open forums for comic book enthusiasts to gather and share their passion. Science bled into the world of comic books as well. In the past, characters acquired superpowers from magical, supernatural sources. In the new age, heroes were the unfortunate victims (or successes!) of science experiments. From the technological origins of Green Lantern to the serum-induced transformation of Captain America, comics incorporated just enough science to feel more grounded, realistic and perhaps suitable for adults.

Around the same time, comics grew darker and more substantial than ever before. Storylines such as that of "Batman: The Dark Knight Returns" did away with picture-perfect superheroes and explored brooding, flawed antiheroes and sympathetic villains instead. Social issues, taken straight from the front page of the newspaper, were woven into the comic book universe. For example, Black Panther, Marvel's first African American superhero, emerged in 1965 and became a powerful symbol for the civil rights movement. A few years later, Alan Moore's "Watchmen" provided complex political commentary on the Vietnam War. Parallels such as these made comic books more relevant to older audiences.

From their popularity in the early 1900s to their recent return in blockbuster superhero movies, comic books have always delighted readers of all ages. The migration of comic books to the e-book platform marks yet another era. With thousands of series available at the touch of a button, it's a marvel to see how comic books have come full circle.

FABLES

By Maggie Deng
MANAGING EDITOR

Fairy tales bring to mind two-dimensional characters resolving their lives in picturesque happily-ever-after's. However, "Fables" by Bill Willingham reinvigorates these familiar faces by placing them in modern day New York City.

These characters, who call themselves "Fables," have fled their original realm, Homelands, and established a community called "Fabletown" within the city. In the Homelands, the sinister Adversary brutally conquered the many fairy tale kingdoms, forcing the Fables into this world.

The series progresses through various arcs, first focusing on the Big Bad Wolf, who goes by the name Bigby.

Teaming up with the stern Deputy Mayor, otherwise known as Snow White, the duo keeps the motley Fable citizens in line as best as possible. Eventually, the pair faces even greater challenges, such as an uprising in which a faction of Fables hope to overrun Fabletown and return to the Homelands.

Not only does "Fables" have a unique premise that makes for an engaging story, but it also offers elegant visuals to match. Though not ornate, the art portrays the familiar characters with a renewed grace that sets its style apart from those of other comics of the same genre.

Still, perhaps best of all is the way this urban fantasy never fails to keep you on your toes with new developments of politics, war and budding romance in the midst of all the chaos.



INFINITY GAUNTLET

By Anthony Kim, STAFF WRITER

When an extraterrestrial supervillain gains control over the multiverse, heroes must band together to save the universe. However cliché this plot may sound, "The Infinity Gauntlet" is a Marvel comic that takes this storyline and masterfully builds upon it. Even an outline of the "The Infinity Gauntlet" exemplifies its grandiose synopsis: Thanos, a supervillain featured in over 40 years of Marvel comics, mounts the six Infinity Gems on his left glove to form the almighty Infinity Gauntlet, a glove that gives the wearer God-like powers.

After Thanos erases half of all life in the universe, the surviving heroes on Earth are down to their last resort; they must find the only person able to stop Thanos: his alleged granddaughter, Nebula. Will the heroes ever find Nebula? Will Thanos remain all-powerful? As the heroes venture off on their quest, "The Infinity Gauntlet" enters its critical stages.

Although the plot and artwork for this comic have a tendency to appeal heavily to children, the writing seems to be geared more toward young adults. Many speech bubbles in the comic sound like lines from a Shakespeare poem, with their lengthy structure and deeper themes. And yet, this prose is what makes "The Infinity Gauntlet" an ideal comic for high school students.



DARK KNIGHT RETURNS

By Anthony Kim, STAFF WRITER

They say crime never takes a break. Neither does Batman. With this in mind, DC comics decided to continue where it had left the Batman saga with "The Dark Knight Returns," in which Batman—55-year-old billionaire Bruce Wayne by day—has retired from crime-fighting. You would think that after years of foiling the plans of numerous villains, Batman would have made Gotham City a better place. That is not the case; crime levels have continued to rise as helpless civilians cry for help from the Dark Knight himself. After much thought (10 years, to be exact), Wayne has a breakthrough. He realizes that retirement is against his instincts and once again takes up his cape, belt and black-on-black superhero leotards to resume his role as Batman.

Along with Batman, other renowned DC characters make an appearance throughout this comic, including Batman's trusted butler, Alfred; his 13-year-old female sidekick, Robin, frequently mistaken for the former "Boy Wonder"; the man of steel himself, Superman; and even Batman's archenemy, the twisted supervillain, Joker.

"The Dark Knight Returns" contains a well-scripted "beginning to the end" of Batman, in which he and his fellow superhero companion, Superman, engage in a final confrontation to the death. Rendered in stark black and white with the occasional splash of primary color, this decisive scene, along with numerous others, is captured by the details that come with the absence of rainbow colors. These two aspects of "The Dark Knight Returns," an excellent script and amazing visual details, come together to create a captivating comic series.



CIVIL WAR

By Anthony Kim, STAFF WRITER

"Whose side are you on?" That's the question posed by Marvel's "Civil War," in which former superhero companions go head-to-head, fighting for their beliefs of justice. The story starts with a bang as the New Warriors, a motley crew of superheroes, are accused of being involved in an explosion that killed 600 civilians. This incident initiates the Superhuman Registration Act, which requires anyone with powers and superhuman abilities to reveal his or her identity, register with the government and train with government-approved heroes if he or she wants to continue using his or her powers.

Ultimately, this government-derived problem leads to a schism in justice, with Iron Man leading the pro-registration law enforcers and Captain America leading the anti-registration rebels. As the two factions go all-out in a superhero civil war, the balance of power is shifted in the Marvel superhero world.

In the face of a powerful plot like this, one should expect aesthetics of a similar quality. "Civil War," once again, does not disappoint. The extraordinary details of this comic's illustrations bring to life the clash between the two factions. These carefully-crafted drawings, combined with the straightforward movie-like writing in the comic, are what make "Civil War" a memorable comic, capturing the action of a war between superheroes.



WATCHMEN

By Maggie Deng, MANAGING EDITOR

Unlike most superhero series, "Watchmen" dares to explore the less-than-pretty aspects of society without providing a single, championing hero. Set smack dab in the thick of the Cold War, this Hugo Award-winning series written by Alan Moore takes place in an alternate history where costumed crimefighters, referred to as "superheroes," rise to mainstream popularity by bringing the United States to victory in the Vietnam War. However, after the war, most of these vigilantes are forced to retire or to become government-sanctioned agents. It is the murder of one such agent, Edward Blake (also known as The Comedian), that sets the plot into motion. Rorschach, the last freelance superhero, suspects that his fellow crimefighter's death is a part of a larger scheme to eliminate all former superheroes. He warns his former comrades and together, the group works to unravel the potential conspiracy.

This whole setup sounds like the perfect formula for a tale about justice and redemption, right? Think again. "Watchmen" sugarcoats nothing for its readers. In fact, it turns the noble, courageous superhero trope right on its head. The supposed heroes are far from role models; they are paranoid, selfish and conceited—but human nonetheless. Even so, you will find yourself drawn into a gorgeous mosaic of individual storylines merging into a powerful narrative.

Trigger warning: an attempted rape occurs in the second issue.

Schoolwide symphony

Celebrate Music in Our Schools Month and learn about the various campus music programs that add variety to Warriors' everyday lives.

Article by Yuri Ceriale, **STAFF WRITER**, and photos by Lauren Kim, **PHOTO GRAPHICS** by Rachel Lee, **GRAPHIC** and Adrika Chakraborty, **FEATURE EDITOR**

Every aspect of music is dynamic: from classical ballads to modern hip-hop songs, music is constantly evolving. So too are songs themselves, as a piece can naturally shift from an easy, soft melody to loud bursts of staccato. Similarly, Warrior music programs are distinctive and flexible, offering all musicians creative liberty in an otherwise structured school day.

On campus, Warrior music-lovers can get involved in a wide range of instrumental groups, including two orchestras and a huge marching band. For students interested in more nontraditional courses, the jazz band's brass-based, interpretational style offers musicians a chance to sprinkle some of their own flair into soul-soothing jazz compositions. Students enrolled in guitar class strum to tunes of all genres and learn to read music at their own pace. All these programs are extremely accommodating, welcoming both the guitar newbie and piano aficionado alike into their families.

Orchestrating this entire department is Instrumental Music Director Joseph Castillo, who took up the conductor's baton in 2000. As a high schooler, Castillo witnessed the healing power of music first-hand. Now, Castillo hopes to extend that same lifeline out to Warriors, he said.

"Growing up in Pasadena, I had friends on both sides of the tracks," Castillo said. "When music stopped for them, that's when they started joining gangs and doing drugs and alcohol. I stayed in band and orchestra. In that sense, music saved my life. I found that music can be there for anybody and for everybody. That's why this program exists."

Making time for creative endeavors can be difficult when attending a competitive, STEM-oriented high school, where the large workload and stress can take up big portions of the day. For some Warriors, music class serves as prime-time to wind down and rejuvenate, senior Philip Kamei said.

"It's nice in the middle of the day to not have to learn about the Pythagorean Theorem," Kamei said. "When I'm playing music, I'm in a bubble. Any tests that I have the

"I found that music can be there for anybody and for everybody. That's why this program exists."

Joseph Castillo
Instrumental Music Director

ALL THAT JAZZ: Members of the freshmen band, Megan Hsu and Ashley Deptula hone their musical talents.

SOUNDS OF MUSIC: Freshman Benjamin Walsh rehearses a piece on his tuba.

next day or any problems I have outside of band just disappear. It's really nice to have a time like that."

Sharing a love of symphonies and sonatas, Warrior instrumentalists often find their niche among fellow musicians. As their interpersonal relationships strengthen through rehearsals, trips to Disneyland and countless games of Cards Against Humanity, so does their harmony during performances, junior Jonny Choi said.

"It's a nice little community in orchestra," Choi said. "When we play music together, it's like we're connected on some plane. When you get to know how other people sound and how other people are, it's a lot easier to make music together."

The culmination of the musicians' collaboration—a final concert—always ends the year on a high note. Despite often being criticized as inapplicable in the working world, music programs promote teamwork and teach students the importance of dedication and perseverance, junior Nicole Leung said.

"You get to be with your friends, play and have fun making music," Leung said. "You can always hear progress, from our first concert to the end of the year concert. You can tell how much different we are. We go from a disorganized orchestra with all these new players to this sophisticated, amazing orchestra at the end of the year."

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Boys soccer succumbs to Mustangs in CIF



LAUREN KIM

FOAL PLAY: *Vying for a spot in the CIF semifinals, Warrior athletes contest an aggressive Mustang for possession of the ball.*

The Warriors (5-9, 5-5) surrendered in the second round of CIF to the Rancho Verde Mustangs.

By Evan Lewis
STAFF WRITER

Despite a boost in confidence from its first round CIF victory, the Warrior boys soccer team (5-9, 5-5) submitted to the Rancho Verde Mustangs 2-4 in the subsequent round of CIF Feb. 25.

Hitting the ground running, the team started the game with a burst of aggressiveness that led to an early blast from senior Kevin Schulte, pulling the Warriors ahead 1-0. However, their lead was short-lived as the Mustangs stormed back with consecutive shots on goal, finally scoring to equalize the match 1-1.

The momentum continued to swing in favor of the Mustangs in the second half as they scored three quick goals in succession to diminish the chances of a Warrior comeback. A susceptible Mustang defense, however, allowed the Warriors to respond with an explosive shot from junior Ryan Kim and cut the deficit to 2-4. Nonetheless, the Mustangs reinforced their goal defense and held their ground against the Warriors until the end of the match, leaving

a final score of 2-4.

This loss follows the first round upset against the Anaheim Colonists, last season's champions and this season's favorite, senior Daniel Alvarez said.

"We were riding high into this game against Rancho Verde because of what we did [against] Anaheim," Alvarez said. "We are taught that a win is a win, and we have to take it each game at a time, but to do what we did against the reigning champs was really special. It's nice to start the playoffs with a win, regardless of

"We didn't let our foot off the gas because you can't take any breaks in CIF."

Kevin Schulte
senior

the team you beat. But to win in that fashion is something else. It was a huge confidence boost for us going into the second round."

However, the Warriors did not lose sight of their goal with their victory against the Colonists and instead maintained a strong focus on the Mustangs to prepare for their game, Schulte said.

"It's exciting to win a game like that," Schulte said. "But that was only round one. The players and coaches understand that we have to focus on what's next, and that's what we did for round two. We

still had practice the next day. We didn't let our foot off the gas because you can't take any breaks in CIF. The competition is high here because it's win or go home. Unfortunately this time around, we didn't win, but it certainly wasn't because we didn't prepare."

Despite losing, the team's CIF stint marked one of the few times the Warriors had reached the second round, Schulte said.

"We haven't been able to make it past the first round in years," Schulte said. "It's really unfortunate that our run died in the second round, but looking at the bigger picture, we are happy that we could be part of the team that advanced to the second round."

Recognizing the significance of this match, the Warriors will carry the momentum from

this breakthrough season into the future, Alvarez said.

"We're leaving behind something great here," Alvarez said. "For a lot of us seniors, we came into the program as freshmen, and to see how far we've come since then is pretty amazing. The program has grown so much under our coaching staff, and it's really special to be part of such a big and beneficial change to boys' soccer. As unfortunate as it is that our season ended this way, I know the program will bounce back and do even better next season."

Warriors yield to Tigers 2-16 in preseason match

The Tigers shut down the boys tennis team (1-2, 0-0) in a blowout game.

By Austin Shin and Angie Won
STAFF WRITERS

For the Warriors (1-2, 0-0), the preseason is served as an ace in disguise.

Despite developing its range of skill and cooperation through a rigorous preseason training regimen, the Warrior boys tennis team fell to the Valencia Tigers 2-16 Feb. 26.

Junior Rainier Martin led the Warriors into the match, rallying solidly against his opponents before falling to a shower of slices, ending both of his rounds 1-6. Pushing his opponent to the baseline with driving approach shots, junior Terry Jo began his first match with a 2-0 advantage but then faltered, netting the majority of his shots and eventually ceding to a 3-6 defeat. Sophomore Joseph Yoon's powerful but stunted groundstrokes also could not clear the net, costing him two defeats at 0-6.

The Warriors tallied their only victories on the doubles side, with co-captains Enoch Peng and Ryan Kawano recovering from two losses to bombard their opponents with a stream of overhead shots in the third match, 6-4. Adding to the total, freshmen Jonathan Lee and Ricky Sherb fired a barrage of volleys to cut through their opponents' defenses in their final match in order to clinch a 7-5 victory. However, the team eventually relinquished their momentum to the Tigers as sophomore Elliot Stahr and senior Vahig Gamsarian failed to return shots consistently, leading to three straight defeats and a final score of 2-16 for the Warriors.

Though the Warriors struggled in this match, playing challenging teams during the preseason familiarizes them to a more competitive atmosphere, Kawano said.

"The teams we play during preseason are definitely tough," Kawano said. "A lot of the schools outside our league tend to be on a higher level than what we're used to. It helps us understand that there are players out there who are going to challenge



RENEE SUSANTO

DOUBLE FAULT: *Attempting to rebound the dominant Tiger offense, Warrior tennis players work in tandem to return a crosscourt shot.*

us mentally and physically. We have to play our best tennis in order to beat them."

As they implement an enhanced training schedule and take on formidable opponents, the Warriors are also able to reveal areas of needed improvement in the team's roster, Peng said.

"We try to get more experience and more exposure," Peng said. "We also try to use these games as a benchmark for adjusting the lineup. Some of the doubles teams might not work out, so since it's

only preseason, we can fix the roster before the regular season starts and that's really helpful."

New team building exercises work in conjunction with the Warriors' demanding preseason to build unity and raise morale, Peng said.

"[The drills] build team spirit," Peng said. "We try to make it a team effort. [In the drills], we're faced with a scenario and we have to overcome it by using everyone's strengths and weaknesses. As a team, we have to work to-

gether to find a solution."

The Warriors aim to utilize what they have learned in the preseason to prepare for league play, Kawano said.

"We usually do focus a lot on our preseason," Peng said. "I would say that this year it's been the most intense with the most matches and playing against a lot of harder teams. Preseason is a really good learning experience for the whole team, and we can use what we learn here to help us during league."