

ORACLE

2200 E. DOROTHY LANE, FULLERTON, CA 92831

Given a voice: AB 261 grants student board members preferential voting rights



Recent educational code changes enhance student representation on the FJUHSD board.

By Caroline Zhu
STAFF WRITER

Following the passage of new state legislation, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHSD) board will take into consideration Student Advisory Council (SAC) members' formal opinions on official votes starting Jan. 1.

Prior to the introduction of the new laws, the California Education Code provided guidelines for school districts to assemble and govern. Regulations required SAC members to attend board meetings to provide school reports and act as representatives of FJUHSD students but not as full board members.

In early September, Assembly-member Tony Thurmond, 15th Assembly District of California, authored Assembly Bill (AB) 261, which proposes that student board members be given for the first time preferential voting rights and nonsubstantive votes. At the district level, this would require FJUHSD board members to consider the opinions of SAC members in cases they discuss at monthly meetings.

Following a vote, the California State Legislature passed AB 261 with unanimous bipartisan support in late September. According to Thurmond, the bill gives student board members much needed representation in district matters.

"Students should have a voice on decisions that impact their education," Thurmond said in a press release Sept. 5. "This bill empowers students to get more engaged in their education, because they are active participants at all levels—not just in the classroom, but in the decision-making process as well."

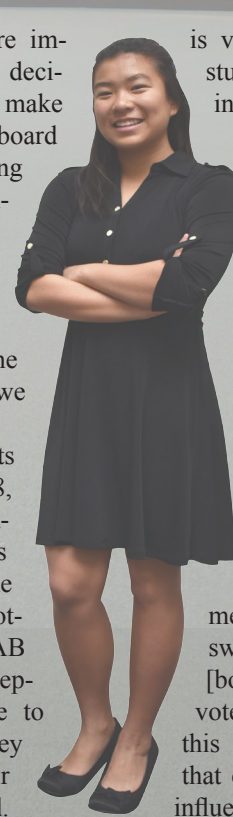
According to SAC Vice Chair Rachel Tseng, the bill adds weight to student opinions and helps SAC members represent the district's student body.

"We have a lot to say, and the things we have to say are important," Tseng said. "The decisions that the school board make pertain to us. Everything [board members] vote on, including where the money goes, [impacts] us. Having me and [the other SAC member] present and be involved is crucial. Without [student involvement], how can [the school board] know what we need?"

The new law supplements the recently passed AB 468, which requires that attending student representatives receive a list of all of the cases the board will be voting on at each meeting. AB 468 also stipulates that representatives must be able to present any comments they have on the subjects under review by the school board.

Speaking with administrators and district representatives is vital to keeping students involved in district affairs, Tseng said.

"Being able to represent [the students] is the most important part of the process," Tseng said. "We have the right to give our opinion prior to [each] vote, which means we have sway in how [board members] vote. In the future, this is something that could be [very] influential in [deciding] the [changes] that happen at our school."



IDA KAZERANI

Best Buddies celebrates at holiday party



COURTESY OF SARAH JEONG

BEING BEST BUDDIES: *Sophomore Carter Won and freshmen Kyle Phan and Evan Tallant enjoy a fun toilet paper wrapping activity at Best Buddies club's Fall Festival Nov. 9.*

Members reflected on the group's impact on creating unique student-to-student bonds.

By Tiffany Kim
STAFF WRITER

Warrior Best Buddies club held its annual holiday party in the 500 building afterschool Dec. 15.

At the event, over 90 students from both the Best Buddies club and special education classes decorated sugar cookies, made miniature candy cane reindeers and cut out paper snowflakes. They also watched a holiday-themed movie, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and participated in the club's annual paper snowball

fight.

To cover the celebration's costs, local grocery store chain Stater Bros. donated food items, and club members donated many craft supplies, Meeting Coordinator Simran Sandhu said.

The party was held as the club celebrates growing student interest in Best Buddies, which has allowed more special education "buddies" to be paired with "peer buddies." Compared to previous years, average member attendance to monthly events has increased by nearly 20 members, Co-President Punit Patel said.

"It makes me happy because our attendance is growing, and [members of the club] are a lot more active," Patel said. "[Club

members and their buddies] are truly enjoying being a part of Best Buddies."

Ultimately, growing interest in Best Buddies, whose events are also open to non-members, has allowed students who otherwise cannot interact with special education students to form unique emotional connections, Sandhu said.

"[The club has been] a platform for people to make friends and get out of their comfort zone," Sandhu said. "Students have seen how important the bond of friendship is and [the importance of having] someone to be there for you, to laugh with, to hang out with, to cry with and to talk to. I think it's beautiful."

UPDATES

PTSA and TSO to host first ever Great Gatsby Gala to support Troy student programs

On Feb. 9, 2018, the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and Troy Support Organization (TSO) will host its Great Gatsby Gala at the Richard Nixon Library and Museum in Yorba Linda. The event will start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 11:00 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy a dinner as well as participate in a silent auction. Participants are encouraged to wear 1920's themed attire.

Individual tickets are \$125, and several corporate sponsorships are available. Tickets and other information are available at **thetroydifference.org**. All proceeds will directly support initiatives such as longer library hours and new equipment.

Vocal Ensemble performs in Disneyland's Candlelight Holiday Festival

Warrior Vocal Ensemble performed in the 63rd annual Candlelight Holiday Festival at Disneyland on Saturday, Dec. 2. The event is a historic, two-day park tradition that is a major part of the holiday programming at Disneyland. It includes a 550-member Candlelight Ceremony mass choir, which the Vocal Ensemble was part of. To audition for the event, Troy's Vocal Ensemble, led by choir director Mark Henson, was evaluated by Disney representatives who reviewed audio and video footage of the group.

Warriors receive first place award in Congressional App Challenge

Seniors Calvin Yoh and Neil Prajapati placed first in the High School Division of the 2017 Congressional App Challenge Monday, Dec. 4. The students worked together to create an app named "APPacus" that teaches students to visualize arithmetic calculations with a virtual abacus. The award marks the second consecutive year Prajapati has received first place in the competition. The students were honored at a ceremony hosted by United States Congressman Ed Royce, 39th District of California.



MICHAEL ZHANG

A HEART FOR ART: Two pieces from the Warrior Drawing and Painting classes' art installation, each made of 40 individual sheets of paper shaded with charcoal were on display in the 500 Building.

Students install art in 500 building

The annual Warrior display celebrated the communication of emotion through art.

By Katie Nguyen
STAFF WRITER

In a showcase of their creative skills, Warrior Drawing and Painting students created art installations that were displayed in the 500 Building until the first week of December.

Completed at the end of Oc-

tober, the month-long project included four pieces each made from 40, 12-inch by 18-inch sheets of paper that formed large quilt-like pieces. All four works depicted images of the elderly who each portrayed a different emotion which, according to art teacher Christian Nguyen, follows the class's theme this fall: teaching students to convey emotion through art.

In their artistic process, students rescaled pieces of a photograph and used charcoal to recre-

ate the shades of each individual image. To accommodate the project's large size, students worked with their peers to ensure that contour lines and shading were consistent throughout the overall work.

Because art is usually an individual endeavor, the collaborative effort of the project made it interactive and distinctive, sophomore Kayden Chan said.

"[For this art installation], it was more fun to collaborate because we could learn from each

other and see [each] other's art styles," Chan said.

According to junior Brenden Kiernan, the project also exposed students to innovative art forms and media.

"There are ways I can draw something I didn't think about before, [such as] how I can use charcoal or pastel to create pictures without having to use a pen," Kiernan said. "[I'm also now] more open to asking people for help and [engaging in] collaborative efforts."

Warrior members

The hands-on event allowed club members to learn more about local marine life.

By Alina Choi
STAFF WRITER

Exploring local oceanic biodiversity, Warrior Marine Biology club members attended their first fishing trip at the Huntington Beach Pier Nov. 25.

Eight students, accompanied by several parent chaperones, caught approximately 15 fish of various species, including fish native to the California coast such as the spotted bay bass and Pacific sardine. From the specimens they collected, members practiced identifying the physical attributes of each family and learned more about fish classification, secretary Sky Jung said.

A student group in its inaugural year, the Marine Biology club

Marine attend

aims to teach students about the diverse characteristics and habitats of marine life as well as taxonomy and the ecological niche of different species. Each week, board members engage students in learning about several marine species through presentations and group discussions.

According to Jung, events like the fishing trip reflect the club's mission to promote greater student interest in local wildlife. The club aims to raise awareness regarding the need to preserve the rich biodiversity of the ocean amid pollution and other environmental hazards that threaten it, especially off the coasts of urbanized areas like Southern California.

"We have to maintain the natural biodiversity [of fish] because [they're] all part of the ecosystem and the biosphere," Jung said. "[By] learning to identify fish, we can better [protect] our resources."

Biology Club first fishing trip



COURTESY OF SKY JUNG

UNDER THE SEA: Warrior Marine Biology Club members cast their lines at their first fishing trip at the Huntington Beach Pier Nov. 25.



ASHLEY BRANSON

NOW Club members wear dresses for “Dressember”

Students aim to raise awareness and help victims of sexual exploitation.

By Malika Pandey
STAFF WRITER

To support victims of sex trafficking, members in the Warrior chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) are wearing dresses as part of their first ever “Dressember” campaign through the end of the month.

As part of their initiative, participants wear dresses every day in December to raise awareness and raise money to support the victims of sex trafficking. The club aims to raise \$1000 in donations during the month-long campaign. Proceeds will go toward supporting the Dressember Foundation, which awards grants to anti-trafficking organizations that rescue victims and educate the public in an effort to end human trafficking.

Through Dressember, club members aim to increase student awareness about the exploitation of women and bring discussion of the struggles women experience to the forefront of public dialogue. According to Vice President Loraine Ho, the campaign’s requirement for participants to wear a dress every day symbolizes sex trafficking victims’ lack of control in their lives.

“Wearing a dress every day brings into perspective the struggle that those [who experience] sex trafficking go through,” Ho said.

In light of recent news regarding sexual harassment allegations against prominent public figures, Dressember’s impact has been magnified by the public’s increasing awareness of sexual crimes’ pervasiveness in modern society, senior Rea Joshi said.

According to Joshi, the Dressember initiative is also a way for women to show unity and support for victims of sexual exploitation. “We’re wearing dresses to

show that we are a team [and] show solidarity,” Joshi said. “To all of the people who have been abused, we are here for you, we stand for you. You’re not alone.”

Students can donate to the Dressember Foundation at www.dressember.org/donate.

FACT FEATURE: HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Fullerton has been identified as one of the state’s top 10 hometowns for human trafficking victims, alongside cities like Los Angeles and Anaheim.

Those seeking help should call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at (888) 373-7888. Assistance is available 24 hours in 200 languages.

COURTESY OF ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

YEA hosts first League of Legends championships

The competition is the group’s first major event this semester and occurs amid growing interest in eSports.

By Caroline Zhu
STAFF WRITER

After their successful inaugural season, the Warrior chapter of Youth eSports of America (YEA) will host its first League of Legends championship in the North Gym Dec. 16.

The event marks YEA’s first invitational this season. The competition, which will allow participants to meet face-to-face, contrasts with past club events that have taken place entirely online.

According to President Justin Jia, who also serves as YEA’s National President, students will compete in League of Legends, a relatively “clean” online multiplayer game, to comply

with school regulations on screen violence and gore.

YEA launched its first competitive season in May, hosting 38 high schools from Southern California in online gaming tournaments. In each competition, teams were eliminated until four remaining high school teams qualified to battle for the state title at a championship event.

The organization is sponsored by companies such as Intel and

members prepare to join ever expanding collegiate eSports teams and even pursue gaming professionally, especially as eSports become increasingly popular with educators.

In fact, the Orange County Department of Education is planning to launch its OC eSports League for High Schools initiative in the near future, which will allow school administrators to act as general managers for their respective school eSports teams. There have even been proposals to create eSports classes that would be complemented by a curriculum for game-oriented students.

According to Jia, the significant increase in interest in eSports recently has been surprising but has shined a light on an often overlooked student activity.

“[I] never thought that schools would support [eSports],” Jia said. “We’re trying to open opportunities for students to get involved within the community.”

“We’re trying to open opportunities for students to get involved within the community.”

Justin Jia
YEA National President

GSI Environmental, which provide financial support and prizes for competitions. Warrior YEA members are also working with the University of California, Irvine and Scholarships for Gamers to offer outstanding competitors awards worth up to \$5,000.

According to Jia, YEA helps

Behind the scenes: Seniors prepare for the annual Elf Dance

Get an inside look at how seniors are preparing for the beloved school tradition at the Winter Rally Dec. 15.

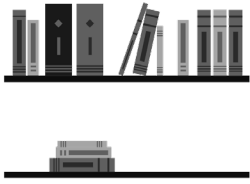



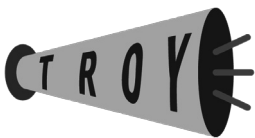


Photos by Ida Kazerani, PHOTO EDITOR



2017 Semester Report

From school sports to student spirit, Oracle evaluates various aspects of the Warrior campus for the 2017-2018 school year.

Articles by Lex Park, **OPINION EDITOR**, and Faith-Carmen Le, **STAFF WRITER**
Graphics by Tu-An Nguyen, **GRAPHICS**

PER	COURSE	GRADE	Citizenship GRADE	COMMENTS
0	<div>Library</div> 	B-	N	Despite the removal of bookshelves, the library still remains a place for students to study before and after school. However, many computers and printers have been taken away to make more open space on tables. By removing desktops and printers that had been available for student use in the past, printing has become much more difficult for Warriors. Perhaps students should regain access to the unused computers stored in the back of the library so that printing is not as inconvenient as it is now.
1	<div>Chromebooks</div> 	A-	S	Our Chromebooks are the most frequently used devices in many classes. Although students are frustrated because some educational resources such as Crash Course are still restricted, the Chromebooks and Google Apps Suite have become helpful tools for classroom activities. However, when our campus Wi-Fi crashed, and Google Drive was down on Nov. 15, many classes could not complete planned exercises. Students may want to have textbooks and other school supplies on hand in case the Wi-Fi crashes again in the future.
2	<div>Morning Announcements</div> 	B	N	Although definitely an improvement from last year, the new morning broadcasts are still rather awkward. Also, the announcements are barely audible, especially in classrooms filled with dozens of rowdy teenagers. Furthermore, the delivery tends to be rather inconsistent and confusing. While entertaining, the livestreamed videos do not add significant content, raising the question as to why it is broadcasted. However, it's clear that ASB students are putting in time and effort to improve the quality of the morning announcements.
3	<div>Renovations</div> 	A+	O	First, many teachers are restructuring their classrooms by using various types of desks including long tables and pod desks. Both types of desks facilitate peer collaboration and group activities, especially in humanities classes where they are most useful. Moreover, the new pool has been a great asset to the aquatic sports teams. South Gym renovations will be finished mid-March, at which point North Gym renovations will commence. Overall, school administration has done a commendable job renovating our school in recent months .
4	<div>School Spirit</div> 	C+	U	Although Meme Day was a relative success, the other spirit days lacked student participation. For example, the Senior Sunrise was a flop with low attendance. Despite ASB's extensively promotion of these events, most students were either unaware of events or unwilling to participate. On a special occasion, seniors dressed in black were offered free In-N-Out burgers for a spirit day and as a result, many participated. Continuing to provide incentives for classes and students who participate the most in school events may increase school spirit.
5	<div>School Dances</div> 	A	O	Though the dance was delayed to late October, ASB was still able to present the Homecoming theme outstandingly. Ticket sales increased in comparison to last year with more than 1,100 attendees. The decorations and indoor activities including billiard tables and wall art were great additions. However, many avoided dancing because the DJ did not play current songs. ASB should consider hiring a different DJ to encourage students to dance rather than recruiting one who unsuccessfully tries to hype students up by throwing dollar bills in the air.
6	<div>Sports</div> 	B+	O	Warrior fall sports—football, golf, tennis, volleyball, cross country, and water polo—performed consistently compared to last year. Disappointingly, the varsity football team lost the homecoming game, shortly after ceding to rivals Sunny Hills Lancers. However, girls tennis, girls golf and boys water polo vanquished the Lancers in their league matches. Additionally, the Warrior boys water polo, girls tennis teams and girls golf teams once again emerged as league champions at the end of the season.
<div>TOTAL WEIGHTED GPA</div> <div>4.12</div>				<div>CLASS RANK & SIZE</div> <div>3 of 1510</div> <div>2018 Best Public High Schools in California</div> <div>Courtesy of Niche</div> <div>A=5.0 B=4.0 C=3.0 D=2.0 F=1.0 O = Outstanding S = Satisfactory N = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory</div>

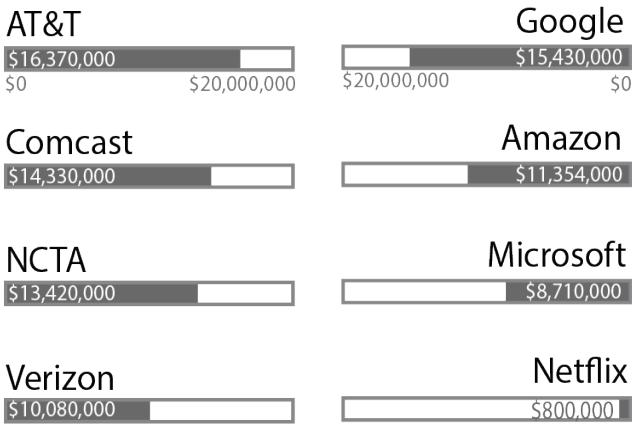
Stats on Net Neutrality

BIGGEST LOBBYISTS

in 2016

opponents

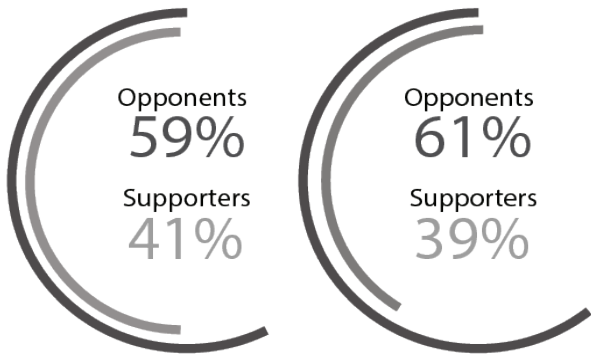
supporters



BIPARTISAN POSITIONS

Republicans

Democrats



COURTESY OF THE FCC & OPEN SECRETS TU-AN NGUYEN

Net neutrality: what could happen to the internet?

By. Sophie Byerly
STAFF WRITER



What if your internet service provider had the power to restrict access to your favorite websites? That nightmare could soon become a reality. On Dec. 14, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) repealed regulations preventing internet service providers (ISPs) from stopping or slowing down access to certain content. This means companies such as AT&T and Comcast may have full control over who can visit which websites. The FCC’s vote ended net neutrality, the principle that ISPs should allow equal access to all internet services regardless of their content. Opponents of net neutrality argue the government has no role in managing the internet. However, granting ISPs power over the distribution of online information is an unwise alterna-

tive endangering the freedom of internet users nationwide. Allowing ISPs to govern the accessibility and speed of web services leads to a slew of problems. For instance, providers may censor blogs or even news sources that contain views the owners of ISPs disagree with. They may discriminate socio-economically by offering better network packages only wealthy people can afford. Popular services such as Facebook or Reddit may have extra fees attached. The internet may even devolve into a corporate battleground, with ISPs deliberately siphoning business from companies by slowing or blocking their content. Without net neutrality, nothing stops ISPs from making the Internet as profitable as possible—even if that means sacrificing users’ freedom. Because it is so widely used, Internet access should be treated like any other public utility. Millions of Americans depend on the internet, and the number is only

growing. According to the Pew Research Center, the percentage of American adults who regularly use the internet increased from 52 percent in 2000 to 88 percent in 2016. With education, commerce and even transportation becoming more reliant on the worldwide web, the internet is almost indispensable. Americans should have unrestricted access to such a necessity regardless of how they use it, just as they have access to other public services. In short, removing net neutrality may jeopardize the freedom of Americans to use the Internet’s valuable resources. By handing over control of the Internet to greedy corporations, the FCC’s decision to repeal net neutrality spells disaster for Internet users nationwide. However, under the Congressional Review Act, Congress has a 60-day window to override the FCC’s decision. The battle is not quite over yet—contact your local Congressmen to save net neutrality.

Let’s rethink holiday season shopping

By. Amy Weng
STAFF WRITER



Ka-ching!—the season for shopping has arrived. According to the National Retail Federation, holiday sales have greatly increased every year since 2008, and this season, holiday sales are expected to grow four percent after Cyber Monday sales reached a record high. We are immersed in a consumerist culture, and materialism seems deeply entwined in our DNA. It can be difficult to control our shopping habits when sales abound during the

IRENE YOO

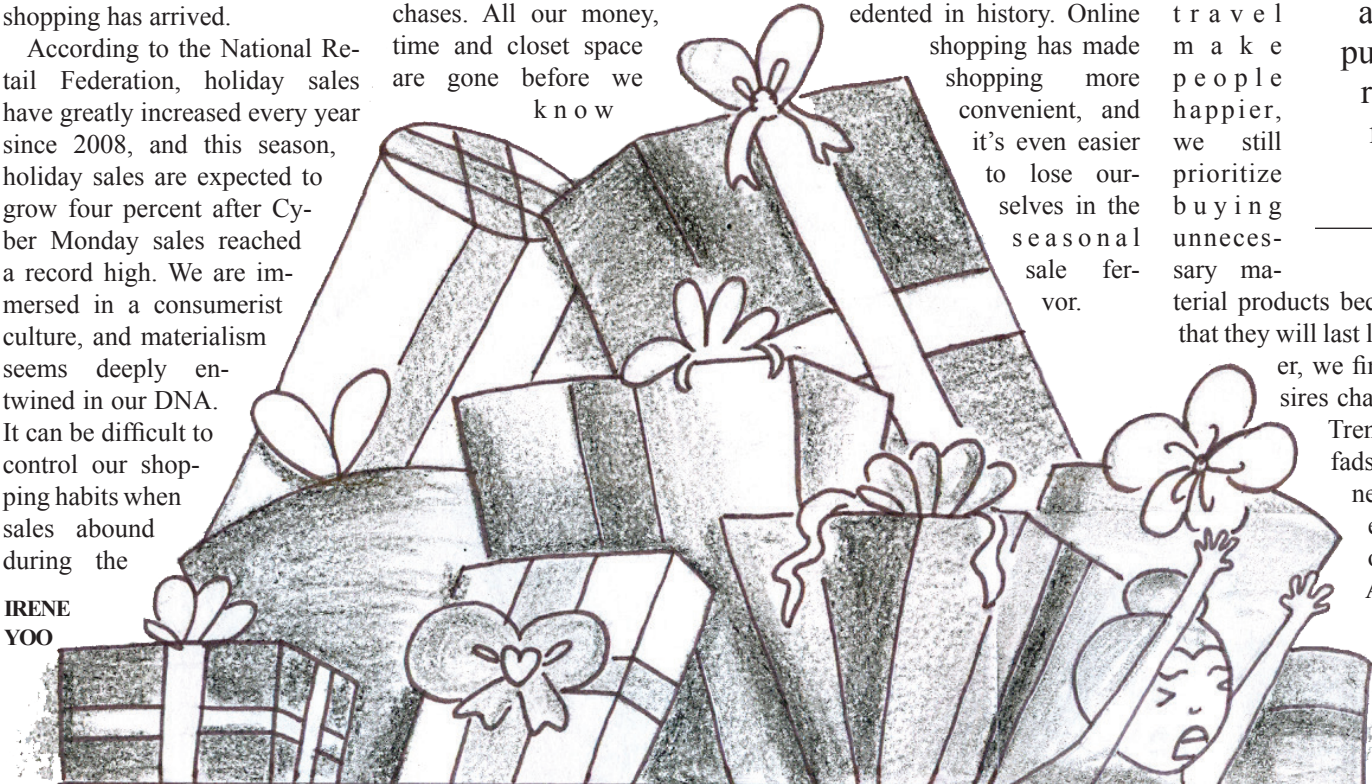
holiday season. After all, money can buy happiness, right? Unfortunately, the answer’s no. Our email boxes, radio channels, websites and phone calls are all cluttered with advertisements aiming to lure us into guilty purchases. All our money, time and closet space are gone before we know

it. Remember those extra jeans buried in the back of your closet? Or those expensive boots that you don’t have any occasion for? The games gathering dust on your shelves? The scale at which we buy things today is unprecedented in history. Online shopping has made shopping more convenient, and it’s even easier to lose ourselves in the seasonal sale fervor.

Although extensive research has shown that donating toys drives and spending money on experiences such as travel make people happier, we still prioritize buying unnecessary material products because we think that they will last longer. However, we find that our desires change over time. Trends evolve, fads die out and new tech devices are pumped out each year. As a result, we cannot rely on objects for our long-term happiness.

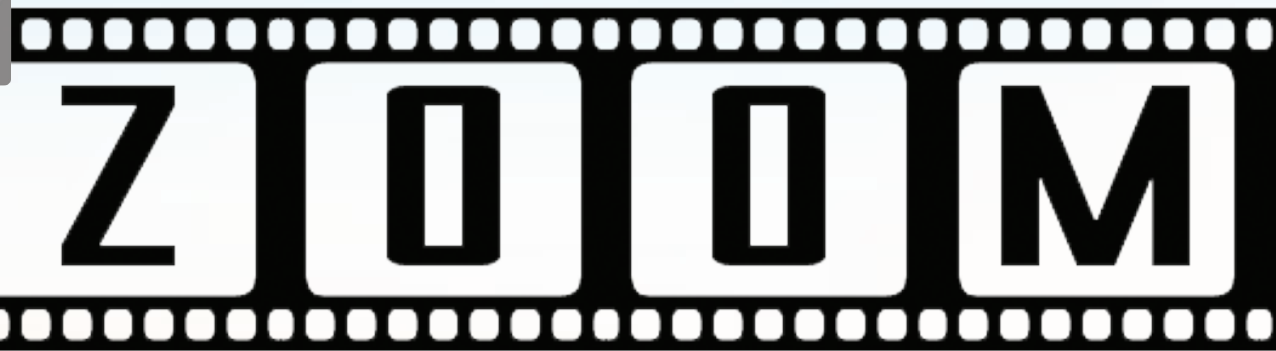
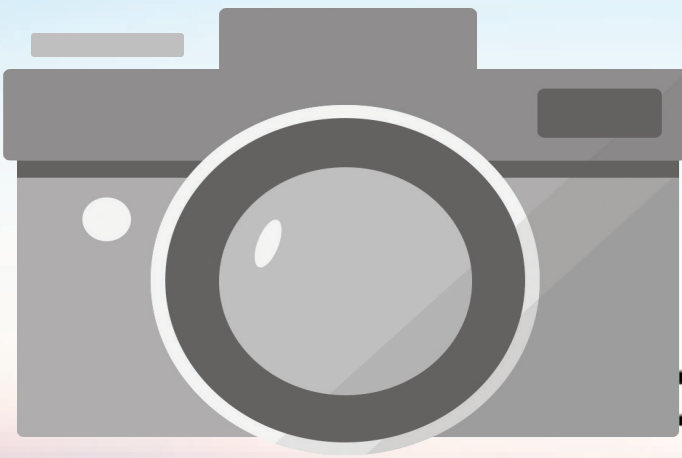
As we become immersed in holiday season sales, we should realize that immoderate shopping can also dampen holiday spirit. We may fail to acknowledge the deeper sentiment of the holidays as they become increasingly marred with overconsumption and commercialization. So, instead of going to the mall or shopping online for ourselves, we should spend time and money what is most important to us: friends, family and life experiences. Go on vacation somewhere interesting, make DIY holiday accessories, wear those neglected jeans, buy tickets to a concert, watch a holiday movie, visit a national park, send a magazine or newspaper subscription to a friend—we shouldn’t spend all our time shopping.

“Trends evolve, fads die out and new tech devices are pumped out each year. As a result, we cannot rely on material objects for our long-term happiness.”



The Wizarding World of Troy: The Final(s) Quest by Lucy Lee





Finding inspiration in commonplace objects and neighborhood scenery
Their camera lens reflect ye

Photos by Ashley Branson, PHOTO, and courtesy of Ryan Chen

Ryan Chen

By Charlissee Clark, STAFF WRITER



“Sometimes it feels like I’ve got a war on my mind. I want to get off, but I keep riding the ride.”

This photo caption, lyrics from Lana Del Rey’s “Get Free,” accompanies a monochromatic photograph, a nostalgic moment captured on film. Though his model is not moving, the well-framed backdrop creates the illusion of a figure caught in the midst of a frozen world.

This picture is just one of many portraits that can be found on senior Ryan Chen’s Instagram (@ryanmchen). Ever since his sophomore year, he has taken professional photos for school events. But in his free time, he snaps personal and emotion-

filled shots of his friends. Over the years, Chen has incorporated timeless magic into his photos through his use of antique cameras. Preserving the images of those dearest to him allows him to create memories that are forever cemented in his mind.

To Chen, there is something special about catching a personal moment on film. Rather than seeking the high-tech features of newer gadgets, he was drawn to the softened nature of old-fashioned cam-

eras. Their vintage charm, absent from modern cameras, creates an intimate relationship between the photographer and the person in front of the lens. He currently owns three of these antique treasures and is always on the hunt to expand his collection.

“I got into film photography because it’s more personal and organic than digital photography,” Chen said. “It’s a lot more sentimental.”

From solemn grays to arrays of spirited colors, Chen’s pictures convey strong feelings through their unique hues. To strengthen these emotions, he uses lyrics from songs he is listening to as photo captions. Doing so links his photographs to specific points in his life, deepening the connection he shares with them. In every picture is a piece of himself.

“Photography is my way of documenting my life and preserving my memories,” Chen said. “[Every photo I take] is from my perspective, so even though I take pictures of other people, it’s a form of self-expression.”



OH SNAP! A seemingly casual portrait of a model takes countless hours of preparation and a gallon of milk to set the scene.



ING ON

y, seniors Ryan Chen and Daniel Kim capture moments of everyday life.
ars of high school memories.

en and Daniel Kim, and graphics by Phoebe Um, GRAPHICS



DANIEL KIM

By Jenny Tran, STAFF WRITER

Three. Two—*Snap!* Before the countdown ends, just when the model is smiling naturally, senior Daniel Kim quickly snaps a photo in the best light.

What began as appreciation for the camera itself inspired Kim to learn how to use his new gear. With years of experience in *Ilium*, he polished his candid style and eventually earned the title of Photo Editor.

As the co-owner of HASH Photography, a professional photography business created by previous Yearbook editors-in-chief, Kim shoots posed portraits for Homecoming and Prom. When he isn't taking pictures for his business, he runs a photography blog with senior Alyssa Goh and shares his peers' stories through candid photos. Forging bonds during his photoshoots, Kim soon became an expert at capturing people's best sides—their natural expressions.

What sets Kim apart from other photographers is his ability to turn his photoshoots into a social bonding experience. During the shoot, Kim cracks jokes and chats with his models to keep the atmosphere lighthearted and natural.

"Sometimes I have moments where I capture a person in their most unprepared state," Kim said. "I want to show this side of them that they haven't seen before, as an outside perspective."

By getting to know the person, Kim is able to capture a more genuine angle.

"It's not just about clicking the shutter button. It's about getting comfortable with them so that they get more comfortable with you," Kim said. "In that way, they're more naturally themselves."

In the blur of scenery outside his car window, Kim is able to draw inspiration from anything from blooming flower patches to abstract murals. Matching the locations with the personalities of his subjects, he fully accentuates the person's unique traits. The light highlights their emotions, and the shadows emphasize the multiple facets of personality.

"I feel motivated to explore different approaches to photography," Kim said. "It's uplifting, rewarding and motivating to look at different angles of a person."



WE CLICK: *Steering away from the typical camera smile, Kim plays with light to emphasize his models' true emotions and natural expressions.*



TAKING THE NEXT STEP

Acceptance. Deferral. Rejection. For early admissions applicants, those three words carry incomparable weight, but we hope to provide some insight into how early applicants can take the next step toward their college careers.

By Jois Talla, STAFF WRITER, cartoon by Lucy Lee, CARTOON, and graphics by Tu-An Nguyen, GRAPHICS, and images courtesy of Google

Fashion Feature

Check out Oracle’s inside look at the most stylish kids representing campus chic.

By Ariana Chow, ENTERTAINMENT & LIFESTYLE EDITOR, and photo courtesy of Julia Mitchell



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Blogger, WarZone co-president, fashionista and self-proclaimed Selena Gomez devotee, Julia Mitchell is one of the most iconic fashion figures in the senior class. Her personal blog, “@itsjuliamitchell,” details the daily intricacies of her colorful life, from her everyday fashion to her photography and lifestyle tips. Fashion-wise, Mitchell seems to have mastered the elusive art of stylizing the classic t-shirt and jeans combo. Mitchell elevates her casual looks with boho-chic or Southern-inspired elements and chooses her colors precisely, sometimes starting with white, grey or black tones and sprinkling in bright splashes of yellow and pink. “I think what you wear is a branch of your personality,” Mitchell said. “When it comes to first impressions, what you’re wearing is a representation of your personal brand. Getting dressed in the morning sets the tone for my whole day. If I’m feeling excited and confident in what I’m wearing, I know I’m going to have a great day. I want to represent myself well and feel the best I can.”

Accepted

The feeling that accompanies the arrival of a college acceptance can only be described as, at the very least, an exhilarating relief. But after celebrations and a well-deserved pat on the back, it’s important to know that now is not the time to slack off. More often than not, a student’s notion of his or her dream school can change over time. Early action applicants are free to compare financial aid offers, college cultures and locations when choosing the college that best fits them. On the contrary, accepted early decisions typically obligate students to attend the school they applied to, although exceptions do exist. At any rate, all accepted early applicants can fall back upon the shared comfort of having secured a place in college. Succumbing to senioritis by cutting class and bombing finals, however, isn’t the smartest

plan. Some early acceptance programs can tolerate slight grade drops, but significant academic transgressions are a red flag that may cause colleges to rescind acceptances, as well as financial aid offers and merit awards. Sometimes, early acceptances come with insufficient financial aid offers that still fail to cover enough of the tuition for students to attend. Students can contact the financial aid office and write an appeal for better aid packages, but if the cost remains too high, a student might have a case for release from the early decision agreement. Even after being accepted by a university, students still need to remain conscious of their options and their actions to ensure the best possible college experience. There is still much to be done before the real ride begins.



Not Accepted

Whether the application was carefully prepared throughout the summer or barely finished three days before the deadline, the sting of rejection from a first choice college can be brutal. And even though it is certainly acceptable to grieve over the rejection, students shouldn’t relinquish their hopes yet. Applicants who receive a deferral letter, as opposed to a rejection, will automatically be entered into the regular admission process later in the cycle and may still be granted an acceptance in the spring. If the college is still the applicant’s first choice, he or she should first send a deferral letter expressing continued interest in attending the school and succinctly reiterate why the college best suits them. Regardless of whether

students were rejected or deferred from their choice colleges, the next step for them is to consider their remaining options. Students who were rejected should consider updating their personal essays and editing their applications. Applicants can demonstrate their interest in other colleges with campus visits and face-to-face meetings with admissions representatives. Depending on a university’s deferral policies, students who applied early may still have the opportunity to send new recommendation letters and fall semester grades, indicating continued interest to the admissions office. A student’s willingness and enthusiasm to continue trying after a difficult start displays adaptability and resilience—valuable qualities for both prospective students and future adults.





Troy Parents,

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- ★ Bring in silent and/or live auction items. Please contact tso@thetroydifference.org for donation and sponsorship opportunities or pick up the form at the school office. We are seeking items such as wine, tickets or suites to sporting events or concerts, access to vacation homes, gift certificates for learning centers or spas, etc.
- ★ Fundraise for your booster club! If a booster club brings in a silent and/or live auction item, 60% of the proceeds will go back to the club. (Must have a completed donation form for the donated item.)



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2017 IN REVIEW

It’s been a tough year, but here are some moments that made us smile.

Compiled by Ashley Fan and Hannah Ro, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Images courtesy of Google



January 1 - Hollyweed
The iconic “Hollywood” landmark was vandalized with tarps as a homage to the passage of Proposition 64, shocking hikers and residents alike.



January 21 - Women’s March
A sea of pink pussyhats filled the streets of Washington, D.C., when activists marched to advocate for human rights. It was the largest single-day protest in U.S. history.



April 7 - End of Drought
At long last, California’s five-year drought came to an end. Governor Brown’s executive order lifted drought emergencies in most California counties.



May 31 - Covfefe
While the President’s tweets are often criticized for being too blunt, the ambiguous “covfefe” left the Internet puzzled, even igniting conspiracy theories.



June 13 - Beyoncé’s Twins
The birth of Beyoncé’s twins, Sir and Rumi Carter, was celebrated with much gusto on the Internet. Her maternity photos racked up over ten million likes on Instagram.

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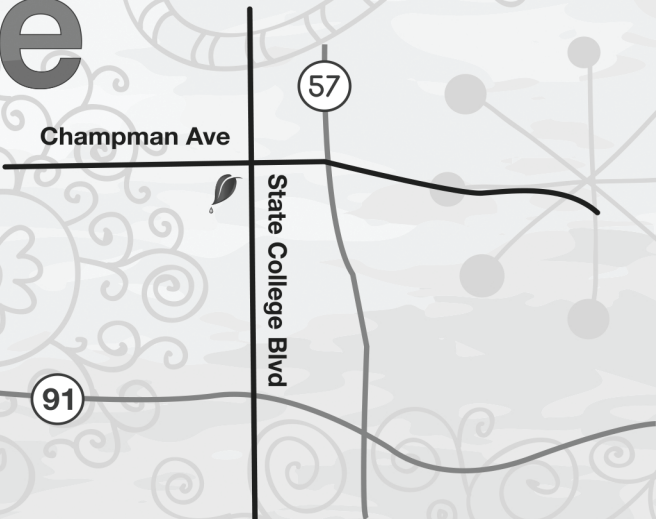
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Lady Warrior soccer team outlasts Comanches for season opener victory

Lady Warriors scored last-minute goal to inch past the Canyon Comanches.

By Jason Choi and Joshua Kim
STAFF WRITER & SPORTS EDITOR

Exercising skilled coordination to dictate the pace of the game, the Warrior girls soccer team (1-0-0, 0-0-0) chalked up their first

victory of the season against the Canyon Comanches in a 2-1 match Nov. 28.

In the first half, the Lady Warriors rapidly asserted their dominance with relentless attacks. Streaking across the field, senior Megan Balderas outran her opponents to seize possession of the ball and relay a long pass to sophomore Bethany Arabe, who side-stepped multiple opponents

to nearly score an early first goal. While Warrior strikers continued their attack, the team’s backfield rallied around goalie Sara Valencia. Valencia’s split-second reactions, coupled with superb hand-eye coordination, allowed her to fend off Canyon attacks and feed the ball to teammates. A formidable Warrior offensive effort yielded no goals and an impenetrable defensive hold resulted in

a scoreless first half.

In the second half, the Comanches overwhelmed the Warrior defense and claimed the first goal of the game. Despite losing momentum, the Lady Warriors countered by controlling the pace of the game, forcing the Comanches into defense. Senior Brianna Diaz exploited the Comanche goalie’s mispositioning for a remarkable goal to tie the score. In a spectacular moment of coordination, Diaz darted towards the goal, dodged around defenders, and shot a flying pass to Arabe, who took advantage of the undefended net for the game-winning, second goal.

A deciding factor in the Warrior’s victory was their seamless coordination, which allowed them to control the pace of the game, captain Brianna Diaz said.

“Once we got our first goal to tie up the game, we got fired up and believed we were still in the game to win,” Diaz said. “We began to speed the game up and started attempting more shots.”

Beginning the season earlier and focusing on team bonding exercises enabled the team to mesh well, coordination that was espe-

“We are really good at pushing ourselves and going the extra mile; we are very disciplined.”

Sierra Foster
sophomore

cially integral to a successful offense, senior Camryn Hurst said.

“We started practicing earlier in the season: a few weeks during the summer and [since] second week of school,” Hurst said. “Everyone on the team is committed and [friendly], which makes it fun and easier to play. I think we did really well increasing the intensity; we were able to [score] two goals [quickly], and our motivation increased our intensity and [ability] to score.”

The team’s collective determination has allowed it to push past the rare misplay and strive for the league title, sophomore Sierra Foster said.

“I think we are really good at pushing ourselves and going the extra mile, because we are very disciplined and [believe] we have to work hard to win,” Foster said. “I think the idea of being champions, especially the thought of the league title, helps drive everyone.”



IDA KAZERANI

BODY BLOCK: Expertly protecting the soccer ball, sophomore Katelyn Malachi grapples with an opponent in an intense face-off.

W2W MANON

VARSITY SWIM

M I U R A

“Being in a high school team was an experience that I will not forget. All the cheering for my teammates and the whole team’s will to win was extraordinary.”

PERSONAL RECORDS

200 Freestyle

1:44.97

200 Butterfly

1:55.91

500 Freestyle

4:36.54

1000 Freestyle

9:43.14

WORDS TO LIVE BY

“When you think you’ve reached your limit, that is only 40%”

GRAPHIC BY PHOEBE UM, PHOTO COURTESY OF MANON MIURA

JANUARY

game calendar

Assume all games are held at Troy, unless specified otherwise.

girls basketball

6-7:30

date location/opponent

1-09 Buena Park

1-12 @La Habra

1-16 @Sunny Hills

1-19 Fullerton

1-23 @Sonora

1-26 @Buena Park

1-30 La Habra

boys basketball

7:30-9

1-09 Buena Park

1-12 @La Habra

1-16 @Sunny Hills

1-19 Fullerton

1-23 @Sonora

1-26 @Buena Park

1-30 La Habra

boys soccer

3-5

1-10 Buena Park

1-12 @La Habra

1-17 @Sunny Hills

1-19 Fullerton

1-24 @Sonora

1-25 @Buena Park

1-31 La Habra

girls water polo

(times vary)

1-09 Buena Park*

1-11 La Habra

1-15 @Claremont

1-17 @Sunny Hills

1-24 Fullerton

1-30 Sonora*

wrestling

5:30-8:30

1-11 @La Habra

1-18 @Sunny Hills

1-24 Fullerton

1-30 @Sonora

*@Sunny Hills

GRAPHIC BY TU-AN NGUYEN