#### TROY HIGH SCHOOL

# ORACLE

#### 2200 E. DOROTHY LANE, FULLERTON, CA 92831

## In the second se

Check out the controversy over the new legislation requiring public schools in some states to display "In God We Trust" signs.

**OPINION** 



#### LIFESTYLE

HERISHING CU

Do you even VSCO? Check out some of the popular VSCO girl stereotypes, ranging from hydroflasks to colored scrunchies.



#### **ENTERTAINMENT** Read about the latest so-

cial media trend, TikTok,

and some of the most pop-

ular TikTok stars on the

Warrior campus!

Page 11



Warriors showcase their musical creativity through a cultural performance at a local charity.

#### By Diya Patel, STAFF WRITER, photos by Giselle Fernandez, PHOTO

Exploring new avenues of featuring Fillipino culture, the Pilipinos Sharing Smiles Together (PSST) Club performed at the Realization of Dreams concert at Fullerton Junior College Aug. 17.

PSST is a Warrior cultural club that aims to share its members' heritage through various events and performances throughout the year. In collaboration with the Realization of Dreams Foundation, club members performed a contemporary and traditional Filipino dance called Tinikling for over 300 people to raise money for college students in financial need. Club members began preparation for the concert in July. Dance choreographers selected songs a month prior to the festival and practiced choreography weekly until the night of the concert.

Before PSST's performance, Realization of Dreams held a daytime festival that aimed to create a backto-school gathering for students in the community. At the festival, the charity helped prepare students for the upcoming school year by tude Test and American College Testing, scholarships and career options. In the evening, PSST opened the first act of the charity concert by performing a hip-hop number to "Forever" by Chris Brown and "Magic in the Hamptons" by Social House. The second act began with a dance of "Doo Wop" by Lauren Hill in Tinikling, the traditional folk dance involves two individuals rhythmically beating bamboo poles on the ground while dancers move between them.

At the event, PSST performed with popular artists such as the musical group Surface, R&B group Az Yet, R&B and soul singer JEJ Vinson and German-Thai vocalist Jannine Weigel. The opportunity to dance with professional musicians helped the club create a public platform that improved their image to the community, Vice President Brandon Castro said.

"We have been getting offers lately to perform at other events," Castro said. "The [concert helped] get our club out there, put us on the map and get more exposure so that we can perform "Our involvement is us beginning to reach out to the surrounding community," Abegunde said. "Seeing a performance like PSST's sparks this desire to do something for oneself and be a part of something more meaningful."

Prior to PSST's dance, many individuals asked club members about Tinikling and other traditional Filipino dances. Performing at the charity was a unique PSST experience that gave members the opportunity to answer questions about their culture and expose new audiences to Filipino heritage, Castro said.

"In the past, we focused mainly on doing [club activities] at Troy and our other social events,"

SHARING SMILES:



#### **TROY TODAY**

#### **Red Cross Club donates** blood to mass shooting victims

Red Cross Club will be holding a blood drive in the North Gym Sept. 20. The blood collected at this event will be donated to aid the victims of the El Paso mass shooting. In preparation for this blood drive, the club met with a member of the OC Chapter to acquire necessary materials and discuss recruitment strategies.

#### **Best Buddies Club** holds lunchtime *icebreaker* event

In order to publicize among a wider audience of Warriors, Best Buddies Club organized Break the Ice in the quad Aug. 22. Club members played music and distributed popsicles throughout the school. As a result, the campaign allowed members to enjoy the kickstart to club season.

#### Cyber Security competes at California **Cyber Innovation** Challenge

The Cyber Security team won second place in the California Cyber Innovation Challenge (CCIC) Aug. 19. The students competed in the first division alongside teams from across the state. CCIC is a real-world themed cyber competition that requires students to examine physical and digital data.

#### **Administration** hosts Safety Week

Students engaged in drills and listened to safety protocols during Safety Week Aug. 19-23. Multiple emergency exercises such as lockdown and fire drills were scattered throughout the week to help students learn necessary measures for each scenario. Through Safety Week, administraon aimed for students to gain a better understanding of self-protection in the case of disaster.

#### Lecture Hall to continue renovation until February

The auditorium 1Sundergoing its first official renovation since its 1962. establishment in

#### By Kathleen Zhang STAFF WRITER

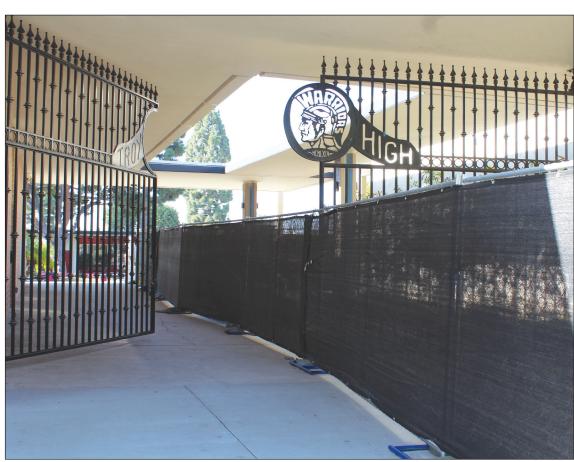
Broadening accessibility to student facilities, the Thomas Moore Auditorium is undergoing reconstruction from June to February.

The purpose of the auditorium's renovation is to replace the furniture and technological appliances first implemented since the hall's creation in 1962. The new plans for the facility include ramps and elevators to accommodate wheelchairs and disabled personnel in accordance with the American Disability Act.

Along with accommodations for disabled personnel, the new auditorium will also include an updated sound booth and lighting system. Additional dressing rooms will replace the original textbook room, allocating more space to the Theater Department for performances.

As a result of the hall's current unavailability, informational presentations such as the Troy Tech program meetings and classwide counselor conferences will be held in the North Gym and the library. The auditorium is set for completion in February, allowing for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams to take place in May.

Due to the inaccessibility of the auditorium, the Theatre Department will be showcasing its performances at the Maverick Theatre in Fullerton. In preparation for their upcoming plays, the theatre students will create their



JENNA SABILE

WORK IN PROGRESS: Reconstruction of the new auditorium hides behind the wall at the front entrance of the Warrior campus.

props in a temporary construction area near the pool and use the drama classroom as a rehearsal space.

"Not having access to the Thomas Moore Auditorium as a space for the tech classes to create the stage props or to bring rehearsals up to stage area is definitely a challenge," Theater Director Joe Hufferd said. "We are trying to do the best we can with what we have. We are attempting to make our productions different and unique this year based on the fact that we do not have access to the auditorium." According to Principal William

Mynster, the outdated furniture

urged administration to formalize plans for the auditorium's refurbishment. The staff aims to eliminate any safety hazards by implementing new architecture suitable for all Warriors, Mynster said.

"When you redo a building to this extent, all of the new requirements need to be put into the structure," Mynster said. "Within the auditorium, many rows had disappeared because the broken seats were being replaced. We also had issues with the air conditioning being loud and drowning out the [presenters]." Through this renovation, the administration hopes to implement new technological appliances that will update the facility's outdated equipment. These tools will enable the building to fulfill the needs of Warriors on campus at a higher standard for the future, Mynster said.

"When the auditorium's reconstruction is complete, it will have the most updated technology and will not be recognizable [following its completion]," Mynster said. "The Thomas Moore Auditorium is going to be a modern facility that includes all of the electronics, the lighting and the seats, and it will be ready to handle another 50 years."

## Troy Support Organization achieves fundraising goal

The Warrior organization

nonprofit programs, including \$70,000 dation, which granted \$4,995 to riors to promote this organization collected towards the library furniture the Music Department, and the to their family, Choi-Won said.

"It's definitely hard to get the word out. [Warriors] only stay at this school for four years and there is a big turnover rate, so we have to focus a lot of our energy in marketing and letting people know what we do." Choi-Won said. "Students can help us spread the word and the awareness of our mission." Despite this challenge, the substantial influence that TSO has on the campus makes the effort worthwhile, Choi-Won said. "I see the difference that nonprofit can bring. There is a positive impact that TSO can make in [the students'] life." Choi-Won said. "Troy students are great. They are very smart and hardworking. It's not an easy school, so I'm happy to do something for them."

#### Make-A-Wish Club visits OC headquarters

The Make-A-Wish (MAW) Club visited the foundation's Orange County and Inland Empire headquarters Aug. 3. MAW Youth Engagement Coordinator Michael Ergas reached out to the club to speak about future fundraising plans. Throughout the tour, club members learned about the foundation's origin, cultivated club managing skills and planned to implement activity ideas used by other high schools.

over \$100,000 in funds for student activities and resources on campus.

#### By Cathy Chen STAFF WRITER

Aspiring to make a lasting impact on Warrior education, the Troy Support Organization (TSO) raised funds for numerous programs on campus within the last school year.

TSO is a nonprofit organization managed by parent volunteers who coordinate fundraisers and donate the proceeds to provide funds in addition to the state budget. TSO runs under 501(c)(3), a federal code that allows for tax exemptions of public charities. Last year, TSO provided over

\$177,000 to finance different

upgrade and renovation project, \$10,000 to extend library hours, \$10,000 for Link Crew and over \$1,300 towards sports teams. TSO also granted \$40,000 to the computer labs and \$18,000 in funds to the Science Department. In addition, TSO traditionally holds the annual Warrior Gala, an auction event in March that invites parents, alumni and business partners to participate in activities such as casino-style poker games. During the fall, TSO organizes capital campaigns and flyer advertisements to encourage Warrior families to donate. Along with the money collected from fundraisers, TSO received donations from different corporate institutions, such as the Wilson W. Phelps Foun-

Parker Hannifin Corporation, which donated \$2,000 towards the Troy Tech program. The 11 corporate donors provided grants

"There is a positive impact that the Troy Support Organization can make in [the students'] life.

#### **Amy Choi-Won** Co-Vice President

totaling more than \$17,000 towards various departments. According to TSO Co-Vice President Amy Choi-Won, the organization needs more extensive publicity in order to make a substantial impact among the student body. TSO encourages War-

#### Administration establishes new program for students mental health

The staff will collaborate with various mental health associations for the student body within the upcoming school year.

#### By Mai Omoto STAFF WRITER

Highlighting the importance of student wellness, Warrior administrathe tion implemented a mental health program this August. In the program, a professional group of facilitators will lead student counseling sessions and encourage students to share their concerns in an effort to further educate Warriors on mental health. A mental health therapist will also be on campus daily to conduct individual sessions.

Last year, the administration collaborated with Phoenix House, a nonprofit drug and alcohol rehabilitation organization that provides residential and outpatient mental health services for the community. The staff hopes to broaden its mental health resources on

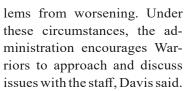
campus by creating partnerships with more mental health programs this year, including the Gary Substance Abuse Counseling System, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center that refers students to local facilities and support groups.

According to Assistant Principal of Student Services Jillian Davis, mental wellness issues often cause widespread problems among the student body and must be addressed immediately. With the increasing amount of Warriors requesting support, it is crucial to offer additional mental health resources and services on campus, Davis said.

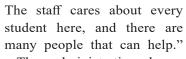
"It is a country-wide situation that we have more and more students dealing with mental health issues," Davis said. "We have more students asking for help regarding their mental health, and we understand what an important thing that is."

In addition, the staff believes that it is important for students to seek early support in order to prevent mental health prob-

mental healt of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14 and begin by age 24 **GRAPHIC BY PHOEBE UM** Sources: National Alliance on Mental Illness and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



"The Warriors should know that all the adults are here to support students," Davis said. "If anyone needs someone to talk to, it is not at all embarrassing or shameful.



Depression

12%

10

3-5 years

6-11

12-17

The administration hopes that this program will urge Warriors to learn the importance of self-care to better succeed in future endeavors, Davis said. "Our number one goal at Troy is student success and student learning," Davis said.

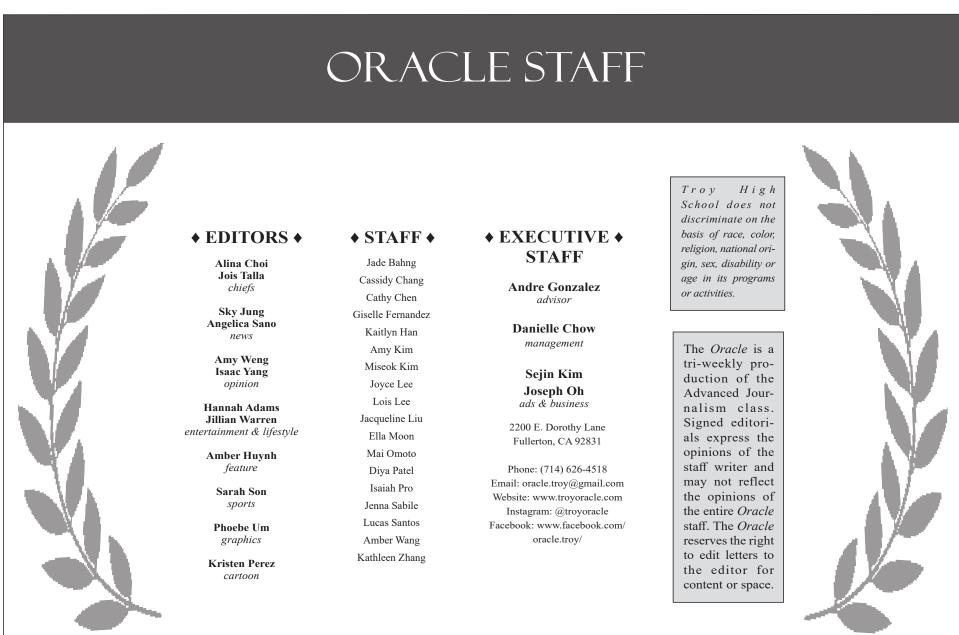
"Student success includes learning how to balance happiness and wellness with academic success. However, it's difficult to learn if you can't focus on your school work because you're having mental health issues. Having someone to talk to can encourage the students to be healthier, wellrounded and ready for college."

**Behavior Disorders** 

Depression, Anxiety and Behavior

Disorders by Age

Anxiety



#### TROY HIGH SCHOOL

#### **4** OPINION

## The Amazon is burning, and the efforts of social media users aren't helping

#### By Kaitlyn Han **STAFF WRITER**

In August, viral posts about the Amazon wildfires circulated across multiple online platforms. Whether users were posting tragic photos of the burning rainforest or calling for wildfire prevention, social media users held no restraint when divulging information that they believed to be true about the Amazon disaster. Professional news outlets began investigating the wildfires as the online posts gained more traction. However, the media focused on not only the worsening effects of the fire, but also on how misleading the social media posts were with their false information and outdated pictures. If

social media users genuinely want to spread wildfire awareness, they better watch their words to

ensure that their message is not branded misinformation. as By spreading farfetched information, social media users are diverting attention away from the fire and towards their inaccurate claims. As #PrayfortheAmazon continues to amass more followers, the wildawareness fire movement gains more support. But, if users want people worldwide to acknowledge the burning rainforest, they must

be aware that professional news outlets report on anything remotely trendy-in this case, their false wildfire facts. For example, social media users have dubbed the Amazon as "the lungs of the Earth," since the rainforest produces large amounts of oxygen. Yet, LiveScience reports that most oxygen comes from our oceans-not the Amazon. Additionally, Forbes states that the oxygen

"By spreading far-fetched information, social media users are diverting attention away from the fire and towards their inaccurate claims."

produced by the forests is consumed back by plants for cellular respiration. So-

> pected to be credible sources. They simply must be mindful that the overwhelming amount of misinformaspreading tion across the Internet will discredit their

mission of saving the Amazon. If online users truly want their cause to be taken seriously, they must be careful to not taint their message with doubt unreliability. and

Celebrities and politicians are even more guilty of diluting the severity of the Amazon fire. As impactful as the average social media user's voice may seem, it is a grain of salt compared to the words of a renowned celebrity. From Leonardo DiCaprio to French president Emmanuel Macron, influential figures have publicized their environmental concerns by posting photos of random wildfires that are clearly not of the Amazon and reinforced with the misleading statistics. For example, the aforementioned A-list actor attempted to raise awareness for the fires by posting a picture on Instagram that actually

dated back to February of 2018. Despite their good intentions, celebrities posts from careless and ignorant users.

have undermined the credibility of online information regarding the wildfire and jeopardized the effectiveness of the movement altogether by recklessly supporting false

#### PHOTO COURTESY OF EXPRESS NEWS

information. As public figures, influencers should be more attentive and use their fame to properly garner support, as opposed to invalidating their cause. Although some information on social media may be misleading, the platforms are still effective tools for quickly spreading opinions to a widespread audience. Evidently, professional news outlets have not been as successful in inciting public outrage about the ongoing climate crisis as much as social media. If social media users want their causes to gain public support, they must be wary to not spread misinformation so that when the time comes for professional news sources to delve deeper into the issue, social media will not be sidelined as a database of misleading and inaccurate



#### Liked by 3,830,196

leonardodicaprio #Regram #RG @lamNickRose: Terrifying to think that the Amazon is the largest rain forest on the planet, creating 20% of the earth's oxygen, basically the lungs of the world, has been on fire and burning for the last 16 days running, with

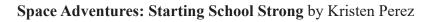
cial media users can absolutely be incorrect and are not ex-



SOCIAL MEDIA **MIXUP:** Leonardo DiCaprio attempts to raise awareness for the Amazon rainforest using a photo over a year old.

literally NO media coverage whatsoever! Why? View all 77,550 comments August 21

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### Blue Lives Matter: police and private citizens should work towards mutual trust

By Miseok Kim STAFF WRITER



Police: friend or foe?

Police brutality refers to the excessive and unnecessary use of police force. With victims of police brutality often appearing in the news, some communities

have come to perceive the police as enemies rather than trustworthy protectors. In response to these increasingly antagonistic sentiments, a group of enforcement law officers launched the #BlueLivesMat-

ter movement in 2014 to honor both serving and fallen police officers.

As enforcers of law, police officers often find themselves in life-threatening situations. In Philadelphia, the local police were attempting to serve an arrest warrant Aug. 14 when the suspect suddenly opened gunfire on them. Clearly, the issue of police brutality is complex-the police are not always the instigators of violence the media usually portrays them to be.

The case of Eric Garner in 2014 demonstrates that the lack of rapport between the two groups can perpetuate violence. In the midst of the protests for Garner, who died from a police officer's chokehold, an armed protester fatally shot two New York City Police Department officers who were sitting in their cruiser. With no direct conversation between the police and city residents, preexisting prejudices, distrust and hatred intensified and resulted in the loss of three innocent lives. The pub-

"To prevent further grievances, both the police and private citizens must recognize some truth in the other side's stance."

lic should understand that the action of one police officer does not accurately reflect the characters of other law enforceofficers, ment many of whom regard upholding the well-being of

their communities as their utmost duties. Unfortunately, mistreatment of police

officers has become pervasive nationwide, which causes the police to question the worth of their jobs. Today, some police officers are not only mocked and denied service at restaurants, but they also are prevented from carrying out their duties. In New York, a rowdy crowd pelted police officers with food when they tried to arrest a man Aug. 10. When people antagonize the law enforcement, they incite frustration from the officers and add fuel to the fire of distrust from both sides.

ing public safety, the police of the current era encounter ignorance, mocking and violent resistance. This unfair treatment of the police on the basis of their career choice is not just limited to the United States. Numerous media outlets have reported on the Hong Kong protests, but failed to show that the police are also victims. The global community has criticized the police for using tear gas and rubber bullets-but the police were trying to defend themselves from the increasingly violent protesters who were throwing bricks and firebombs.

Instead of receiving thanks for ensur- Clearly, the media does not always show the full picture.

To prevent further grievances, both the police and private citizens must recognize some truth in the other side's stance. The police should acknowledge that the manner and the conduct of the officers in certain arrests were wrong and that the involved officers must be disciplined. In turn, local community members should acknowledge that many police officers strive to protect them and thus deserve their respect. Mutual respect will unlock a more understanding society.



GRAPHICS BY CASSIDY CHANG

#### Compulsory 'I'rust'' God Ve patriotic patronizing, not signs are

#### By Amber Wang **STAFF WRITER**

Recently, Louisiana and South Dakota enacted a new law that requires all public schools to display "In God We Trust" signs. Required to be at least 12by-12 inches, the visual can take the form of student artwork, a mounted plaque, or other options deemed appropriate by

the school administration. Although law-



secular, which may be insulting to many people of the Christian faith.

In reality, the legislators are using patriotism to disguise the unconstitutional nature of the new law. The First Amendment secures the religious liberty of all Americans by creating the separation of church and state. Yet, when the "In God We Trust" posters marginalize the beliefs of non-Christian students, these students' constitutional right to religious freedom is violated.

> However, these new laws are particu

a bill that allows the use of religious beliefs to justify discrimination against the LGBTQ community, according to the New York Times. Although it specifically targets the LGBTQ community, it can easily be extended to all people who do not conform to their standards. Religion may once again be used to divide and discriminate.

While the completion of Project Blitz's three-step process may appear unlikely, the

laws in Louisiana and South Dakota prove that the nation is already taking a step in the wrong direction. Religion is a beautiful aspect of human life; it should not be weaponized to subject vulnerable school children to religious coercion and to stunt social progress.

makers claim that this new law was created to inspire patriotism, there is nothing patriotic about an exclusionary

aspect of human life; it should not be weaponized to subject vulnerable school children to religious coercion and to stunt social progress."

"Religion is a beautiful

law undermining constitutional rights.

Because "In God We Trust" is the official motto of the United States, legislators assert that it is patriotic to have it plastered all over public schools. However, by associating God with what it means to be American, legislators imply that non-Christians are unwelcomed outsiders.

However, lawmakers using patriotism as a justification is offensive to Christians as well. To Christians, God is a transcendent being. When lawmakers associate God with American patriotism, they are publicly treating God as

larly alarmbecause ing they actualize the goals of Project Blitz, a movement introduced by the Congressional

Prayer Caucus Foundation-a Christian right-wing organization. Project Blitz's initiative poses a threat not only to inclusive religious liberty, but also to social change. Its first two steps, aiming to implement "In God We Trust" posters and Christian education in public schools, shamelessly target the malleable minds of young children. They are exploiting impressionable students and using them to achieve their dream of a Christian America.

Project Blitz's final goal will stagnate society's progress towards acceptance of all types of people. It aims to pass



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRIENDLYA THEIST.PATHEOS.COM

BIBLE BLITZ: Project Blitz is the Christian Right's three-pronged strategy to impose their faith on laws. Their first step, implementing "In God We Trust" posters, has already succeeded in Louisiana and South Dakota.

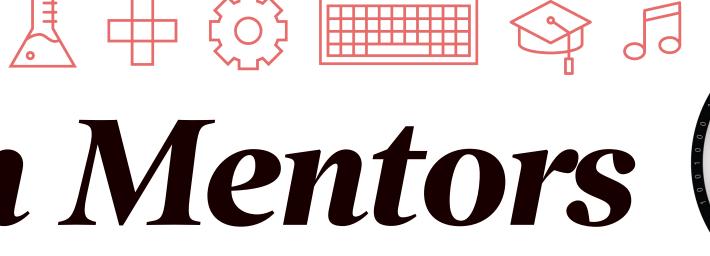
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compiled by Phoebe Um, GRAPHICS E

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DITOR and Jois Talla, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Who said adults can't have fun? With both his trusty bass guitar and his lifelong friends by his side, Assistant Principal Lance Bletscher's ready to rock out.

By Joyce Lee and Lois Lee, STAFF WRITERS, and graphics by Cassidy Chang, GRAPHICS

Tucking in his shirt and grabbing his sunglasses, Assistant Principal Lance Bletscher suits up for another day of work. What most students don't know about him are his plans for the weekend: meeting up and jamming with his band, The Mad Ones.

At first glance, the band's name may seem ominous, but it's much more than a throwaway, edgy name. It's a quote from Jack Kerouac's famous novel "On the Road" describing people who live with passion—just like all four members of the band. Bletscher, a bass guitarist, is joined by lead singer and songwriter Erick Bieger, guitarist Kevin Nguyen and drummer Scott Bourston. Together, they create rich, rock-androll symphonies mostly inspired by '70s music. The band entertains crowds at the annual Orange County Fair with both original songs and covers of songs from legendary artists,

such as Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath. The stereotype that adults can't have fun? Wrong. With their heart-racing melodies, rousing lyrics and wildly contagious energy, The Mad Ones are more than ready to make memories and showcase their passion to the world.

Each of the band members' love for music began from a young age—and that shared love for music was what brought them together. Bletscher practiced bass guitar from sophomore year of high school, often playing together with his childhood friend, Bieger. They met Nguyen and Bourston through high school and church, and the four began playing together at church events and paid gigs. With over seven years of teamwork under their belts, officially forming The Mad Ones in 2 0 1 5

was a piece of cake. Since then, they've made all sorts of memories together, both musically-related and not. Bletscher, in particular, treasures the moments his band has helped him form with his family. In particular, the Orange County Fair has become both a performance venue and a place of fond summer memories for all the band members.

"I'm pretty proud that we've been able to [perform there] for six or seven years," Bletscher said. "[Our families] come to the fair each year to watch...

> The M a d Ones fit together easily, with each member's creative and musical sides shining in each song. They fashion their melodies as a team; a riff here, a verse there, some quick pita-pats and some loud twangspiece by piece,

it's a fun yearly thing,

since none of us go

to the fair other-

wise. For me, it's

cool to have

our kids there

to celebrate

[with us.]"

their songs come together. Listed on their website (https://artistecard.com/ themadones) is Bletscher's favorite song, "The Oracle (Speak to Me)," the fruit of the band's combined efforts. With Bieger's haunting lyrics and the band's input, the song turned out to be an electrifying, addictive mix of metal and Black Sabbath inspired rock-and-roll. "There's no greater

rush than when you find people who have similar interests," spot, still caring

Bletscher explained. "Finding that connection and being able to create something together is an invigorating and fun process." Finding time for music is definitely easier said than done, but the band members make the extra time. They choose to keep music in their lives, even if it means finding a balance between family, work and music. Through trial and error—and his wife's unend-

ing patience-

Bletscher has

found that sweet

for his family and students without sacrificing his time with the band and neglecting his love for music. The Mad Ones are pullthrough, ing preparing for their upcoming debut album and searching for new venues and new opportunities. "It's a balance of a lot of failure and

tearful times sometimes," Bletscher said. "But you have to find a way to make your passions come true, so that's why we find a way to make it work."

#### **TURN UP THE MUSIC:**

POOTBALL B

From left to right, band members Kevin Nguyen (guitar, keys), Lance Bletscher (bass guitar), Erick Bieger (vocals, guitar) and Scott Bourston (drums) are captured mid-performance.

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By Amy Kim, staff writer, cartoons by Ella Moon, CARTOONIST and Hannah Adams, LIFESTYLE EDITOR

In a thundering stampede of Birkenstocks and low-rise Vans, VSCO girls have infiltrated Instagram feeds and have flooded TikTok charts. This trend has humble origins in VSCO, a photo-editing app that has somehow come to define an aesthetic that teenagers everywhere are emulating. The signature grainy filters themselves are an easily recognizable emblem of Generation Z. Whether this clear discernibility screams "trendy" or "basic" lies within the posts themselves.

No VSCO girl's morning routine would be complete without throwing on an oversized tee from Brandy Melville and snapping in some 90s-inspired hair clips. The golden pendant of her Pura Vida bracelet catches the sunlight as she contemplates which scrunchie to accentuate her wrist. For the final flourish, she grabs her Hydroflask and metal straw. Though not ill intentioned, these girls' often unnervingly energized ways of flaunting their material possessions as part of their personality can be overbearing. This has made them frequent victims of internet jokes that satirize their pretentiousness. More often than not, one will hear "VSCO girls" jeered as a mocking epithet rather than a respectable title. Though

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it can be entertaining to

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poke fun at the VSCO girls, their mantra of "saving the turtles" plays a pivotal role in paving the way for younger generations to unabashedly voice their

opinions on climate change. Long gone are the days of adults brushing off their children's sentiments with a scathing scoff. Whether they're fulfilling their aesthetic aspirations or moral motivations, even one less plastic bottle in the oceans seems to be a worthy cause for haul-

> ing metal canteens around. The fatal flaw of this rising trend is the far too evident exclusivity that it entails. VSCO girls are hardly ever those who don't fit the standard ideal of Western beauty. These young, impressionable girls should be seeing reflections of themselves in the media and in the influencers spearheading a trend that they subscribe to. Even further alienating are the hefty price tags. When a rudimentary Kanken backpack goes for \$80 a pop and the brand name triples the worth of a shirt, underprivileged adolescents can't always af-

> > ford the

luxury

TURTLES

of buying this trend's staples. Purely based on the contents of their bank account, they're barred from membership. It's a cruel cycle of feeling second-rate to those that are basking in the comfort of money. VSCO girls are reminiscent of the late 2000s Tumblr girls, who glorified pastel Polaroids and painfully lackluster quotes about heartbreak. Beyond their mutual

exclusionary enrollment and haughty vogue, both trends were also promptly established as the butt of the joke rather than the cream of the crop. When a mania's headlining features are rooted in materialism and consumerism tailored to the conformity of outwardly appearances, "fashion fad" seems to be a far more fitting label than "motivational movement."

Every corner one turns in the maze of social media only seems to loop them back to the inescapable endgame of Puka shell necklaces and Mario Badescu spritzes. Whether this trend will be short-lived or leave behind indelible shock waves for decades beyond remains both a mystery for this generation and a chief concern for turtles worldwide.

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		Have a pair of Birkenstocks
Care deeplu about marine life	Only wears Brandy Melville	Own a Kanken backpack
	Care deeply about marine life	Use metal straw(s)

#### **ENTERTAINMENT 11**



Featuring comedy, choreography, music, fashion and more, TikTok seems to have it all. Take a look at Oracle's perspective on the app that shows fame is just fifteen seconds away.

Article by Jade Bahng, STAFF WRITER, and graphic by Phoebe Um, GRAPHICS EDITOR

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Even as a teenager, it's hard to keep up with today's ever-changing code of comedy. With the rise of yet another social media craze, the quirky yet daring personality of the current generation is once again put in the spotlight.

Society's latest online obsession takes the form of a social media app in which users can film and share 15 second videos with the world. Like most rising trends, TikTok is challenged by its critics. Yet, many can't help but strive for TikTok fame by filming a few videos of their own and even quoting the iconic lines.

The video platform made its American debut in 2018, triggering a sensation of déjà vu for internet junkies and influencers alike. This app seemed almost identical to Musical.ly, a popular video creating app that flourished back in 2016. To everyone's shock, Bytedance—Tik-Tok's parent company from China—had merged their app with Musical.ly in an attempt to catalyze the growth of Tik-Tok on an international scale. Only in 2019 did this plan reach its full potential.

Commonly referred to as "Vine 2.0" or

In contrast to its predecessors, Tik-Tok extends not only to choreography and comedy, but to fashion, lifestyle and even political opinions. Although the app is guilty of retaining Musical.ly's boarderline cringeworthy lip syncing videos, this diversity is what separates TikTok from the plethora of social media apps.

Along with the rapid development of TikTok culture, the app has sprouted a variety of personas one is likely to encounter while scrolling through content. While sporting uniform-like '90s vintage clothing and excessively blushed cheeks, the notorious TikTok girl takes pride in the fact that she's unique. Not to mention, with his sharp jawline and carelessly curly hair, the TikTok boy exudes a confidence that screams he knows he's cute.

Although most people mock these teenagers, claiming that they're overrated and lack personality, they can't help but sit back and watch with envy. After all, who doesn't love a taste of fame? With TikTok's personas going viral left and right, the app's users are inevitably being forced to adopt TikTok culture. Especially for teenagers who relish in the attention gained through social media, hypocrisy is nothing if it means getting on the "For You" page. Despite the app's inescapable drawbacks, the majority of users actually join the community in order to escape the strict checklists of social platforms like Instagram. The easy-going culture of the app invites users to join without much pressure of fitting in. While the spontaneity of creative youth is often lost under the pressure to conform to standards of perfection, TikTok has become a sanctuary for teenage self-expression.



Go check out these #foryoupage worthy Tiktoks straight from our very own Warrior population.



even "Musical.ly's corpse," TikTok's popularity continues to skyrocket at an unprecedented rate. The X-factor responsible for TikTok's sudden fame seems to lie within the content of the videos themselves. After tirelessly binge-watching videos on the "For You" page, one realizes that this app cannot possibly be defined by one style or genre. Various acts coexist, including creator-made dances to throwbacks like Mariah Carey's 2009 hit "Obsessed," and even time travel comedy videos. Venturesome teenagers will even confess their love through the app, vlogging the days until their crush falls in love with them.



## Football concedes to Golden Hawks

The Warrior football team comes close to victory against the El Dorado Golden Hawks in a crowdpleasing overtime game.

#### By Lucas Santos STAFF WRITER

Showcasing tremendous fight and persistence in the second game of the new season, the Warrior football team lost 21-20 to the El Dorado Golden Hawks in an overtime thriller Aug. 30.

After forcing a punt just three minutes into the game, the Warriors found themselves pinned within their own 10-yard line on the first offensive possession. The looming 90 yards seemed daunting, but in the second play of the game, senior Matthew Frisbie found a gap within the line and took off on an explosive 93yard rush. Unfortunately, the Warriors fumbled in the endzone on the next play.

However, the sudden possession and momentum shift did not falter the team, and junior Shane Simpson forced a Golden Hawks fumble with a monstrous hit that gifted the Warriors the ball. Immediately, during the next set of downs, senior Roman Arriaga threw a 35-yard dime to senior Aiden Spaeder to put Troy up 6-0.

Even with an extra missed point, the Warriors stayed on top for the remainder of the half after an uneventful second quarter.

Troy opened up the second half with an 80yard touchdown throw. Possession reeled steadily between both teams until a Warrior fumble led to a Golden Hawks touchdown with five minutes left in the quarter.

After a low-scoring first three quar-



**GISELLE FERNANDEZ** 

**READY DEFENSE:** Three Warriors take the defensive side, preparing themselves for the opposition to hike the football.

ters, the teams treated fans to excitement in the final period when the Warriors recovered their own fumble on third and goal. The close call followed with a read option touchdown run by Arriaga on fourth down. To make up for the missed extra point, the Warriors scored a twopoint conversion that put them up 14-7.

Another Golden Hawks touchdown tied the score at 14, and the game carried on into overtime. The opposition scored first to lead 21-14, but the Warriors scored a touchdown on the subsequent drive from a Simpson

outside run. Rather than kicking the extra point, the Warriors opted to try a two-point conversion to win. Unfortunately, their efforts came back just a few yards short and the Golden Hawks came out on top 21-20. Despite the loss, the game's over-

time has made the players look forward to the rest of the season, head coach Michael Echaves said.

"This is the first time these core players were on the field for a varsity home game, let alone be in a position to win the game in overtime," Echaves said.

**USE CODE: HOCO19THSCA** 

With the league opener against the Fullerton Indians on Oct. 4 fast approaching, the Warriors are pursuing an enhanced record. Disappointed with the close loss, Echaves said that the Warriors simply need to work on small details and gain experience within their young roster.

"We are very disappointed we could not come out with a victory for our community," Echaves said. "Our mindset is fixed on getting better and correcting mistakes we've made. We are working ridiculously hard to remedy the loss."

HITTING THE TRAILS

Follow sophomore Cameron Guzman on his cycling journey.

By Jacqueline Liu STAFF WRITER, PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMERON GUZMAN

The ground trembles as sophomore Cameron Guzman veers down the narrow dirt trail, speeding past his competitors. His movements are swift and sure; he skillfully maneuvers around boulders and shrubs headlong into the brisk wind. Though the midday sun beats down on his back, the thrill of the race drives any hint of weariness out of Guzman's mind. Guzman's initial interest for the sport began when he became insphere mesmerized young Guzman, and he began to pursue biking.

Now, Guzman holds several regional titles: second overall in Southern California, third overall in states and sixth in the western United States as he competes for national cycling leagues. His biking success is from training every day after school with a variety of exercises, including riding on trails all over Orange



spired by his father's biking skills. However, Guzman's true recognition of biking as a competitive sport surfaced at

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race

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County. Typically, he'll train for a grueling 15-20 hours a week, alternating between biking, swimming and lifting exercises. Despite the hectic schedule, Guzman's passion for biking never trails away and, the age he maintains a positive mindset. of five, "Nothing really matters when when I'm on my bike," Guzman he atsaid. "I can go on [it] for several hours in the middle of nowhere-it's like complete bliss." For Guzman, biking offers tended a an escape from stress and reality. The happiness Guzman dehigh school rives from biking has definitely mounbike helped fully incorporate the sport with as an essential part of his identity. "Biking has morphed into a father. whole career [for me] and my life excitement of friendly revolves around it now," Guzcompetitors pervadman said. "Biking is not just a ing through the atmosport or hobby, but my lifestyle."

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