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### Increasing tuition is not the solution

UC regents should vote against tuition hikes

By Kaitlyn Han STAFF WRITER



Students are already coughing up thousands for college tuition; don't expect them to be happy paying more.

Members of the University of California (UC) governing body, otherwise known as regents, met Jan. 22 to discuss a possible tuition hike for all their UC campuses. Regents claim that the purpose of the tuition increase is to supplement financial aid programs and account for the annual cost of inflation; how-

ever, the issue has garnered lots of public outrage from student protests to state government opposition, which has successfully pushed the regent's decision meeting back. The regents should take the lack of support as a fair warning to

vote against this innately unfair and ultimately unnecessary tuition increase.

Of the two plans regents proposed, neither of them can be implemented in a way that would be fair to all students. According to the LA Times, the proportion of state funding for the UC universities to down to 42 percent; so regents are clearly desperate to find a new source of money. For their first plan, they would set a new tuition fee that is 2.8 percent higher—\$348 for in-state students, \$1,226 for out-of-state—than its predecessor. As a result, those already attending or committed to attending a school would be forced to play an inflated fee they never signed

up for. For their second plan, the regents would raise tuition rates for each incoming class by 4.8 percent—\$606 for instate students, \$2,100 for out-of-state—and keeping those costs flat for their time at university. In that case, students entering school later would unfairly have to pay a higher tuition. Clearly, there is no easy way to implement this tuition

increase, so the obvious answer is to not go through with it at all.

What's worse is that increasing tuition won't make a considerable dent in the financial aid issue.

On paper, the plan seems logical: charge more and use the

money for additional financial aid. But, many forget that most of the additional money would go towards offsetting the cost of that initial tuition increase. With the first plan, there would only be enough money to provide each student who qualifies for financial aid with an additional \$488, of which 70 percent would already go towards counteracting the increase. When the benefits are so minimal and the additional money won't cover large expenses, the regents must find another means to receive substantial funds.

If the UC regents really want the

extra money, they should search for it somewhere other than their students' pockets. As a system of public universities, the UC schools are entitled to more state funds. The regents should not condone the state's lack of support by simply redi-

recting their financial shortages back to their own students. Gov. Gavin Newsom also recently announced that next year's state budget would include a \$217.7 million increase in permanent funding for the UC system. If the state government is finally willing to do their share, there should



be no need to pun-

ish the students with a higher tuition. As the US student loan debt issue has grown and gained more political traction, it's critical that public universities, especially the UC schools, learn to combat it effectively. Students are already trying to get out of college debt-free or with minimal debt, and raising tuition prices is not the answer to the schools' financial problems.

















GRAPHICS BY PHOEBE UM AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE INTERNET

### NSIDE THIS ISSUE

### **SPORTS**

On Jan. 26, the world lost a legend. Take at look at Warriors' commemoration of basketball hero Kobe Bryant.



### FEATURE

Admire the dedication of junior Ethan Lee, a budding firefighter who aspires to protect his community from disastrous flames.

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### ENTERTAINMENT

Time to be swept away into the complex social and cultural dynamics of another country through mesmerizing foreign films like "Parasite."



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### Film class students take field trip Animation Studios Disney

Warriors visited the set of an ongoing television series and met the crew of "The Mandalorian" on a three-hour studio tour.

By Cathy Chen STAFF WRITER

Exploring the abundance of career opportunities in the film industry, the International Baccalaureate higher level (IBHL) film classes toured Walt Disney Animation Studios (WDAS) in Burbank Jan. 15.

During the visit, Warriors engaged in discussions with em-

"Seeing the actual sound stages and

for film students like me."

**Thomas Everest** 

senior

sets was really mind-blowing

ployees from each branch of WDAS, including the sound engineering and animation

departments. Participants also explored the set of American Broadcasting Company television show "Black-ish" and spoke with crew members from television series "The Mandalorian."

Guided by Disney talent manager Shannon Reid, Warriors toured the cinematography building, a live production set, a viewing room and international language department. As part of the threehour field trip, students dined in the Disney Studios Commissary purchased souvenirs

from the employee store.

Throughout the year, IBHL film classes focus on projects that mirror professional film production. Inspired by the field trip, the students' most recent class assignment involves combining experimentation with sound effect recreation.

According to film teacher Jim Falletta, the tour expanded the students' knowledge about the wide range of jobs offered in film studios. Participants obtained a more accurate gauge of the careers beyond the fundamental ones introduced in class, Falletta said.

"[The representatives] talked about the set of Black-ish where

> about 160 people work on the show," Falletta said. "Participants who want to go into

the film industry look at jobs like writers, editors, cinematographers, directors or actors, but on this set, there are a lot more."

As the highest level film course offered on campus, the IB Film class engages students in advanced assignments that help to prepare them for future careers in the film industry. Through the exposure to WDAS's production process, students applied the skills that they learned during the school year to a more realistic setting, Falletta said.

"Students gained a better



**COURTESY OF PHOEBE UM** 

STUDENTS AT THE STUDIO: Film students spent a day at the local Disney Animation Studios to learn more about future film careers.

understanding of the work that goes into filmmaking, the time that crews spend and the respect that people have for the process," Falletta said. "It was inspiring to see all of the different opportunities there are and all the ways to be involved in the movie industry."

In addition to the deepened familiarity with the crews' tasks, the students also caught a glimpse of the professionalism inside one of the world's most renowned film companies, senior Thomas Everest said.

"The trip was definitely a very enlightening experience that broadened my horizons," Everest said. "I was excited to see the professional quality of everything. In the film program at Troy, we are, in essence, amateurs. Seeing the actual sound stages and sets they had [at the studio] was really mind-blowing for film students like me."



By Cathy Chen STAFF WRITER

Featuring artwork from students determine the showcase's top three Joing Union High School District Student Art Showcase will present student artworks in the Muckenthaler Cultural Center Jan. 30 to Feb. 16.

As the 28th annual exhibition, the event showcases pieces by students from Buena Park, Fullerton Union, La Habra, La Sierra, Sonora, Sunny Hills and Troy High Schools. Teachers from each school selected the top 20 pieces submitted by art students for the exhibition, including drawings, paintings, digital artwork, photography and three-dimensional art pieces.

> During the showcase, art professors and professional artists

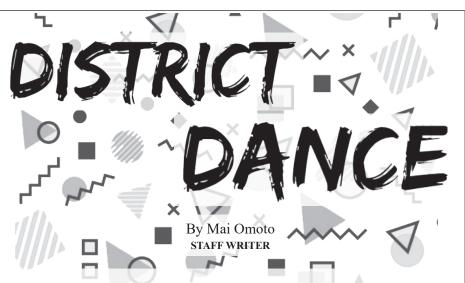
> > will

in the art program, the Fullerton winners and the honorable mentions, all of whom will receive monetary prizes.

In preparation for the showcase, students spent months of class time to complete their artworks. In addition, the students attended the reception for the event Jan. 29.

According to art teacher Mike Thomas, the showcase highlights the participants' skills in areas aside from traditional academia. Through hard work and dedication, the students earned the opportunity to present their artworks to the public, wider Thomas said.

"This event shows that Troy students are not one dimensional, because we are so talented in the visual and performing arts as well," Thomas said. "The students work so hard on their artwork and pour so much love and talent into making the pieces. [The exhibit] shows the students' artistic sides, which we don't always see."



Fostering a greater interest in appreciation and enjoyment of dance. dance within the local community, Red Hots and All Male participated in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHSD) District Dance Festival at the Plummer Auditorium in Fullerton Jan. 31.

Open to all FJUHSD dance teams, the festival featured performances from six high schools across the district. The Warrior Red Hots performed the Large Jazz, Large Lyrical, Large Female Hip Hop and All Male routines at the showcase. Each of the participating schools will use the festival's proceeds to improve their respective dance programs.

In preparation for the event, members rehearsed the routines used throughout the ongoing competition season. Through participation in the festival, the dance teams hope to spread the

The current Red Hots team consists lyrical, jazz, contemporary and hip hop groups. For Warriors interested in joining the team, the

tryouts will take place on May 19-20.

According to Red Hots Co-captain Justeene Panganiban, the dance festival provided a space for the participants to form bonds with other teams within the district. In addition, the groups aimed to inspire prospective dancers to audition for the next season, Panganiban said.

"The [festival] gives the opportunity for our team members to meet other dancers from other schools nearby us and keep dance connections close," Panganiban said. "When we showcase our dance moves, we will hopefully get more exposure for our dance team, and get dancers to audition for our team in the near future."

NEWS 3 **FEBRUARY 7, 2020** 

# Senior Soham Bose recognized physics research project

Talent Search awarded Bose for his extensive physicsknowledge on informed neural networks.

### By Kathleen Zhang STAFF WRITER

In recognition of his laboratory research on computational neuroscience, senior Soham Bose qualified in the semifinal round of the 79th Regeneron Science Talent Search Jan. 8.

Launched in 1942, the Regeneron Science Talent Search accredits high school seniors for exploring ideas through independent science, math or engineering projects. For his application, Bose submitted a report which included his research and an essay about his inspiration for the investigation. In acknowledgement of his semifinalist placement, Bose and Troy High School each received a \$2,000 grant.

doctorate in a mathematical biology, Professor Russell Rockne assisted Bose in researching the usage of physicsinformed neural networks (PINNs) at City of Hope in Duarte, California. To alleviate the large data sets required for scientific experimentation, PINNs maintains accuracy of biological and engeineering systems in smaller pools of data. In an effort

The Regeneron Science to prove the viability of the PINNs approach, Bose attempted a simulation of the diffusion partial differential equation over time. His project titled "Application of Physics Informed Neural Networks to Diffusion Partial Differential Equations" explores the various implementations of PINNs in biomedical and mathematical biology systems.

After his freshman year, Bose's passion for physics arose from his research on the usage of computer science in cancer analysis. With the intention to finalize his report, Bose continued scientific investigation throughout his high school career.

During the summer of 2017, Bose attended the California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science at University of California, Irvine. His inspiration for the project emerged from applications of mathematics and computer programming to cancer research, Bose said.

"As I developed a matrix laboratory model for targeted cancer therapy, I learned how computational models can be built to predict disease prognosis," Bose said. "[The program] served as my introduction to the world of cancer treatment and the different ways it can be approached."

Combined with his years of investigation, the competition presented Bose with an opportunity to integrate his knowledge of cancer research. His work



JENNA SABILE

A MOMENT OF SCIENCE: Senior Soham Bose demonstrates his understanding of molecular biology concepts through his observation of an atomic model.

in the laboratory strengthened his desire to study biological or computer engineering with an application to cancer during his college career, Bose said.

"Over the past three and a half years, my initial fascination with neurology, exposure to cancer research and a developing interest in machine learning and

together for my current research project," Bose said. "Continuing to research cancer and enjoying it solidified my interest to pursue a career and a future that combines my interests in computer science and mathematical modeling with cancer and other biological phenomena."

mathematical modeling, all came

and a Tinikling dance.

In preparation for nationals, Science Olympiad traveled to Boston, Massachusetts, to compete at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Invitational Jan. 22-26. At the event, the team medaled in 14 events and placed first overall with a score of 134. Along with study sessions, the students also visited local attractions including the Harvard campus, the Freedom Trail

Welcoming parents and prospective implemented of Education Diploma.

# G-TEC begins cyber challenge



GISELLE FERNANDEZ

MISSION POSSIBLE: Sophomores Mishty Dhekial and Ashmita Kumar create a collaborative coding project.

The new challenge gave the all-female club an opportunity to replenish their cybersecurity skills.

By Diya Patel STAFF WRITER

Empowering females engage in the cybersecurity field, the Girls in Technology, Engineering and Cyber (G-TEC) Club participated in the Girls Go CyberStart Challenge Jan. 20.

Open to female high school students across the country, Girls Go CyberStart is a Capture the Flag tournament in which competitors use cybersecurity skills to defend against predesigned cyber threats and web attacks. Completion of each level enabled participants to extract the flag, a string of code, for points. The team from each school with the highest point total proceeds to the second round of the competition.

In preparation for the challenge, G-TEC board members used informative presentations in order to instruct newcomers on various cybersecurity concepts. During each session, members learned how to use different computer operating systems, such as Linux and Windows. Additionally, students practice the application of the programming language Python. Knowledge on the systems served as a foundation for members to participate in CvberStart tournament.

Founded this school year, G-TEC provides a platform for female students to establish their roles in a growing digital world. As the first all-female cyber team on campus, the club encourages members to develop their cybersecurity skills in the typically male-dominated field, President Ashmita Kumar said.

"The purpose of competing in the challenge is to make G-TEC's success a defining moment at some of our girls-only competitions,"

Kumar said. "Previously, females [were hesitant] to try out the field, so we gave them the tools to enter competitions."

According to Kumar, G-TEC strives to introduce cybersecurity to individuals who are unfamiliar with the cyber field. The club aims to create a positive atmosphere for both experienced and new members to further develop their passion, Kumar said.

"G-TEC aims to create a safe space for girls to learn cybersecurity skills they would not have previously attempted," Kumar said. "The club has a comfortable environment where no one will judge members for how much or how little they know."

With the mission to expand students' knowledge cybersecurity, the competition presents participants with over 100 challenges of varying difficulty levels. The practice simulations help to prepare members for technologyrelated career opportunities in the future, Kumar said.

"We hope for G-TEC to be known throughout the nation for our all-female CyberStart team," Kumar said. "Our goal is to ensure that females understand what they need to know to enter the cybersecurity field."

### **TROY TODAY**

### Speech and Debate attends spring tournament

Strengthening their argumentative and public speaking skills, Speech and Debate Club attended the Orange County Speech League tournament Feb. 1. Students competed in the Parliamentary, Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum debate categories. addition, the members also participated in Oratorical Interpretation and Original Advocacy speech events.

### Girl Up organizes first Valentine's social

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, Girl Up club will hold a Galentine's social Feb. 15. During the event, club members plan to organize a dessert potluck, coordinate team-oriented games and share stories about inspirational women. Open to all Warriors, the board hopes to spread love and appreciation through the club bonding activities.

### PSST performs at PACN

Sharing their culture with local communities, the Pilipino Sharing Smiles Together club will host the annual Pilipino American Culture Night showcase at the Plummer Auditorium Feb. 22. The event will feature club members in a variety of performances, including choir songs, skits, hip-hop numbers,

### Science Olympiad competes at MIT

and the MIT Museum.

### Troy hosts annual Open House

Warriors, Troy High School hosted Open House Jan. 22. Warrior Cheer, Choir, Colorguard, Dance and Orchestra performed in the quad. With the recent announcement of a newly academic program on campus, Principal William Mynster informed parents about the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate 4 SPORTS TROY HIGH ORACLE

# Kŏbe Bryai

Anonymous, sophomore

Warriors speak in remembrance of Kobe Bryant.

Arianne Kyle Leonen, sophomore

"His passing affected my entire family and the next day nothing felt real and it was hard to function for the rest of the week."

Anonymous, sophomore

"Prayers for his wife and daughter, and for the families of all the other people in the crash."

"They both Anonymous, junior I was one of those kids who had **so much** would always yell "Kobe" *life* ahead of when shooting a basket or them that was throwing something into the taken too trash can. Hearing his untimesoon."

Anonymous, sophomore

ly passing really shook me because he played an influential role in my development.

> "Gone, but never forgotten. His legacy will live on in the hearts of many."

Kobe Bryant was my brother's inspiration. When my brother and I figured out that he passed away, we were both devastated. It was as if his dream had died along with Kobe **Bryant.** I hope that Kobe Bryant is happier now and is resting in peace.

Anonymous, freshman

"I didn't know how to react at first. I stared at my Kobe jersey. The air felt heavy and my heart sunk. Kobe doesn't deserve this for all he had done to help and inspire people. His mentality will last forever."

Anonymous, sophomore

"Kobe was a symbol of nostalgia and growth of my family as a whole. When I heard of his passing, I was devastated at first, but grew to appreciate the impact he had on my life, rather than mourn."

Anonymous, sophomore



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TROY HIGH SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 7, 2020 FEATURE 5



6 TROY HIGH ORACLE

# GUIDEBOOK ETO THE PRIMARY

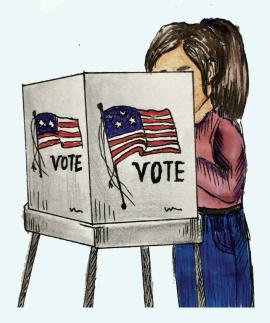
## ORANGE COUNTY VOTING CENTERS

Things to know about the voting procedures for the upcoming primary in Southern California

Compiled by Isaac Yang, OPINION EDITOR, Cartoons by Ella Moon, CARTOON, and photos courtesy of Google

By Miseok Kim STAFFWRITER





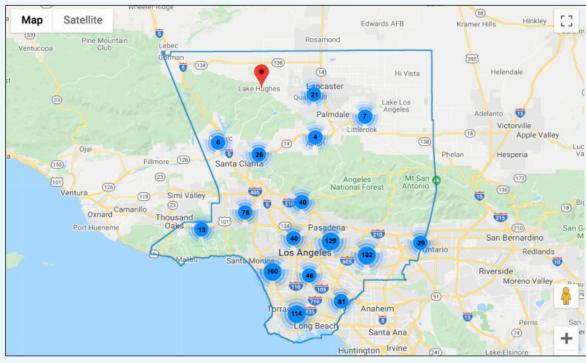


PHOTO COURTESY OF LAIST

Voting first means accuracy first. Seeking to encourage a higher voter turnout, Orange County (OC) Registrar of Voters Neal Kelley introduced last year a more efficient voting system for the upcoming presidential primary during Feb. 22 and March 3. Although Kelley sensibly focuses on improving voter experience, he still has to address the problems that arise from synced electronic records and numerous ballot options.

Due to misleading claims of voter fraud after the 2016 presidential election, many people are understandably concerned about potential manipulations. But when statistics are examined thoroughly, voter fraud is an exaggeration at best. After extensive research, News21 reporters found only one case of voter impersonation per 15 million eligible voters, an occurrence of less than 0.00001 percent. In contrast, more than 50 percent of eligible voters did not vote since the 2004 presidential primary. The election officials would better uphold democracy if they focus more on increasing the voter turnout rate. Thus, Kelley has made the right decision to make it easier for constituents to vote and faster for officials to collect results.

With the new voting model, Kelley has effectively streamlined the usually long and laborious counting process. In the past, most voters voted at their pre-assigned polling places. If they could not make it, they could cast a provisional ballot at a local OC polling place. These alternative ballots meant that election officials had to spend an additional few weeks to confirm each ballot's eligibility. Not only did the provisional ballots significantly delay election results, but they also deterred some residents from voting due to potential disqualifications. By reducing the 1,000 precinct polls to 188 vote centers and allowing constituents to vote anywhere, Kelley has saved millions of dollars and widened the voting field.

But Kelley and his team still need to fix some critical problems in the new model, especially the consequences of having several voting options. In the upcoming presidential primary in OC, the voters will have at least three ways to vote: they can mail their paper ballots or vote manually or electronically at vote centers. Another new policy ensures that all qualifying OC residents will get paper ballots in mail—before, residents had to personally request for them. Though Kelley cut election expenses by not buying thousands of new voting machines for the old precincts, he may lose those savings from the cost of sending paper ballots to all 1.6 million residents, in addition that of printing out a paper receipt for every vote.

Kelley also neglected to explain to the public how he will solve new problems that the electronic components could generate. Although he did state

that voter data between synced check-in tablets will be encrypted and prevent double-voting, he did not detail how he will respond to unpredictable malfunctions. In Illinois, a technical glitch caused over 500 non-citizens to become registered voters in the online records Jan. 22. To quickly discover and fix similar technical issues, Kelley should confirm the presence of teams who will constantly monitor and check the electronic records prior to, during and after the primaries. Kelley should also have plans for other technical difficulties such as machines refusing to scan ballots and thus online voter records not updated in real-time. As local and state officials increasingly rely on technology to facilitate elections and keep records, they need to remember that technology is still vulnerable to errors.

Electronic voting machines can only minimize potential fraud and counting errors in the election process. Election officials should avoid being entirely dependent on the machines, lest they create more problems. For the upcoming presidential primary in OC to go smoothly, Kelley and his team need to proceed with caution as they implement electronic voting devices and organize back-up plans. Meanwhile, eligible voters should vote and provide feedback. Only a high voter turnout will ensure further improvement of the new voting model.

**FEBRUARY 7, 2020** IION

### THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT: PRIMARIES

Primaries are elections in which voters can indicate their preference for their party's candidate. The goal of primaries is to narrow down the field of candidates and choose one candidate from each party to proceed to the general election. Primaries are critical to the United States' voting process because it is an important way for voters to get to know the candidates. Despite the importance of primaries, only 49.6 percent of Orange County residents participated in the 2016 presidential primary according to the Orange County Registrar of Voters. Luckily, the new voting centers in Orange County may potentially encourage more people to vote. On a state level, California voter registration for the 2020 presidential primary is currently at an all-time high of 80.65 percent. Although there is a large number of people registered to vote, the votes collected still will not represent the entire population like it should. Unfortunately, voting is not always an available option.

In some cases, parties have opted out of primaries. Therefore, voting results will not accurately represent the citizens of the entire country. As a result, the prevailing candidate may not necessarily reflect the wishes of the population, posing serious concerns regarding our election process. To avoid this, political parties should not be allowed to cancel primaries. After all, parties should not be allowed to silence the voices of American citizens by choosing not to hold primaries.

# CANDIDATES



POLLING NUMBERS COURTESY OF 270TOWIN

By Amber Wang STAFF WRITER



Joe Biden (27.2%): Joseph Biden, former Vice President of the United States, is passionate about defending America's role as a global influence and power. Due to many of his own family's tragedies, Biden places a special emphasis on health care in his presidential candidacy. His recently unveiled health care plan, Affordable Care Act 2.0 (ACA), intends to couple the best aspects of ObamaCare with some radical changes. Unfortunately, whether ACA will be successful is still questionable. After all, it includes many proposals that Congress has repeatedly failed to enact and many initiatives that are too expansive to stand a chance in Congress.

Bernie Sanders (21.8%): Like many other Democratic candidates' campaigns, Bernie Sanders' presidential candidacy is mainly concerned with economic issues. His proposals include Medicare for all, \$15 minimum wage and free tuition at public colleges. However, Sanders' ambitious proposals will definitely be costly. Questions to consider include not only whether Sanders can raise enough money for his programs, but also whether he will follow through with his promises.

Elizabeth Warren (14.2%): Elizabeth Warren's campaign is primarily centered around economic issues. In an attempt to combat income inequality, Warren proposed a wealth tax on the wealthiest 75000 families to fund "Medicare for All," student loan debt relief and many other programs. Despite the wealth taxation's potential, its constitutionality is in question due to two clauses that require "direct tax" to be apportioned among the states ly concerned with issues such as the opioid crisis and preschoolers, which may cost him the lowa Caucus votes.

based on population. Thus, it is likely that this plan will be shut down by our justice system, rendering it useless.

Michael Bloomberg (9.2%): Michael Bloomberg has been particularly outspoken about gun laws and climate change. On the topic of health care, he is critical of "Medicare for All" because he does not believe the federal government can afford it. Instead, he emphasizes preventive measures to reduce the amount of people going to hospitals. He suggests national smoking bans, calorie counts on menus and limits on the size of soda. However, his long standing support of aggressive stop-and-frisk police tactics angers many minority voters and may become a problem for his candidacy.

Pete Buttigieg (6.8%): Even as a more moderate candidate with less political experience, Pete Buttigeig has gained a lot of recognition throughout his campaign trail. In addition to being the first major openly gay presidential candidate, he is also the first to propose expanding the number of Supreme Court justices. Under his plan, the Supreme Court will have 10 permanent members and five rotating members. His plan may be successful in reducing the partisan biases that plague our justice system.

Andrew Yang (3.4%): The cornerstone of Andrew Yang's presidential candidacy is the Freedom Dividend, a universal basic income (UBI) of \$1000 per month per person over 18 years of age. According to Yang, improved automation will begin to displace many American jobs, developing a greater need for money. This UBI will give Americans the opportunity to create and develop while maintaining the basic necessities for life.

Amy Klobuchar (3.4%): Amy Klobuchar is main-

drug addiction. Because her own father struggled with alcoholism, these issues hold personal value to her. In an attempt to combat drug and alcohol addiction, Klobuchar released a \$100 billion plan to improve mental health care. Clearly, this proposal is very costly, and she has no definite plan regarding the methods she will use to gain the funding necessary. Thus, there is no guarantee that her proposal can come into effect.

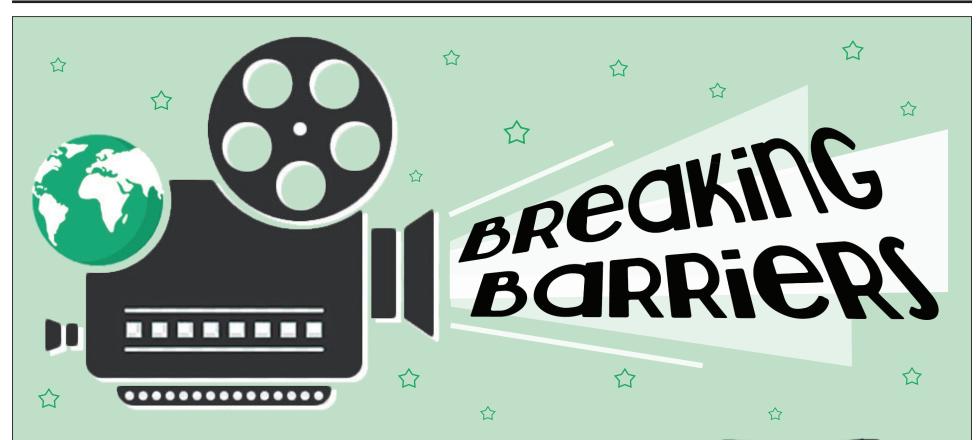
Tom Steyer (2.2%): Tom Steyer's top goals include breaking the undeniable influence of large corporations, as he believes that the hostile takeover of corporations will stunt the progress of our country. As a result, he embraces a "wealth tax" that is similar to the one that Elizabeth Warren had proposed previously.

Tulsi Gabbard (1.2%): As a veteran of the Iraq War, Tulsi Gabbard strongly opposes United States' military intervention overseas. In fear of a deadly nuclear arms race, she wants the United States to withdraw from foreign wars and focus on peacebuilding.

Deval Patrick (0.5%): Deval Patrick, former governor of Massachusetts, desires to renew the American Dream through better opportunities and reform. Unlike Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, he does not support "Medicare for All." He hopes to eliminate student debt and simplify the tax system.

Michael Bennet (0.4%): As a strong believer in better youth education, Michael Bennet has a presidential campaign that is mainly centered around all aspects of education. For example, Bennet supports the reduction of student loans and pay raises for teachers. However, his plans are more focused on younger students, such as





Emerging from halfway across the Globe, Bong Joon-ho's cinemaic masterpiece "Parasite" will make you wonder about all the great films born outside our native boarders. Check it out below.

By Jade Bahng, STAFF WRITER, and photos courtesy of Google

In a society where movies of all genres, plots and aesthetics blend into an indistinguishable mob, the revolutionary success of the South Korean film "Parasite" has taken the world by storm. Making its American debut last fall, the film is an attestation that extraordinary international films cannot continue to be overshadowed by frankly generic Hollywood blockbusters. Although "Parasite" may seem like an outlier that miraculously survived the competitive American film industry, perhaps it signifies the tipping point for international films to receive the recognition and praise they deserve.

Director Bong Joon-Ho's genrebending "dramedy" is teeming with surprises. The two central families of the film, the wealthy Park family and the destitute Kim family, are two sides of the same coin. However, the Kims soon find themselves worming their way into the Park household, deceivingly employing themselves as the housemaid, chauffeur and tutors. Their hopes of leeching off the wealthy family's lavish lifestyle is short-lived, for beneath the floorboards lies a chilling surprise. Jealousy, lies, hatred and even murder comprise a film that poignantly, yet comically portrays the issue of class differences.

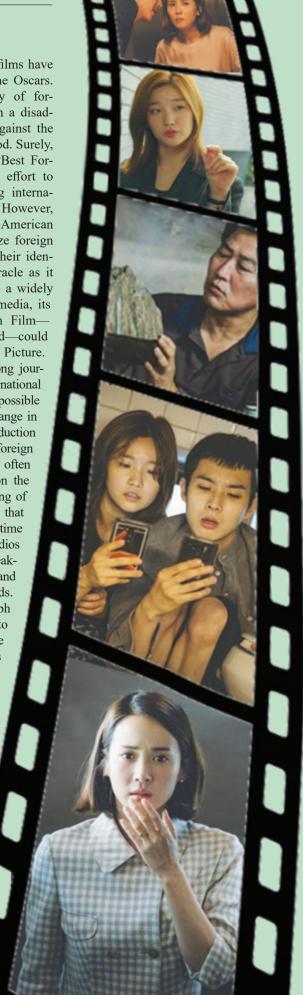
Although the "Korean wave" of famous movies such as "Old Boy" and "Train to Busan" has been present since the 90's, "Parasite's" success in Hollywood is a true testament to the changing tides of American media. With an international gross of over \$130 million, "Parasite" managed to snag the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film and even the SAG award for Outstanding Performance by a Castthe biggest award of that night. However, the greatest and truly historic honor is its six Oscar nominations, including the coveted best picture. Along with these three major awards, "Parasite" has broken international history and has become the first South Korean film to compete

tion the chances that foreign films have at major award shows like the Oscars.

Naturally, the unfamiliarity of foreign films already gives them a disadvantage in the competition against the well-known faces of Hollywood. Surely, the Oscar's addition of the "Best Foreign Film" category was an effort to crack open the door keeping international films out of the running. However, separating every single non-American film does little but marginalize foreign films and limit their title to their identity: foreign. As big of a miracle as it is that "Parasite" has become a widely acclaimed film in American media, its nomination for Best Foreign Filmthough an honorable award—could hinder its chance to win Best Picture.

Nevertheless, the movie's long journey into the limelight of international fame couldn't have been possible without the slow yet steady change in the attitudes of American production studios. When working with foreign directors, American studios often implement harsh regulations on the budget and even the final editing of films. However, the freedom that Bong experienced during his time producing with American studios was possibly the first step in breaking the tension between foreign and American cinematic masterminds. Without a doubt, the triumph of "Parasite" is impossible to ignore. With the gates once locked against foreign films finally open, the creative stories of culturally diverse films will start to grow on





FEBRUARY 07, 2020 LIFESTYLE 9

# NOT Everyday - Cafe

Across the Orange County area, numerous themed cafes have popped up in recent years. Between Calico cats and Hello Kitty galore, come see what these cafes have in store!

By Amy Kim, STAFF WRITER, and photos courtesy of Google

### Hello Kitty Cafe

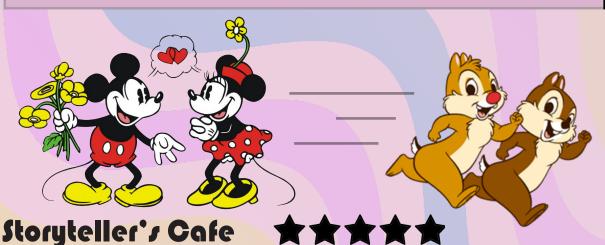


With its electric pink storefront against the otherwise beige buildings of the Irvine Spectrum, the Hello Kitty Cafe often has eager shoppers doing double takes. Though it was introduced as an Instagram-famous hub for photo opportunities in Sept. 2018, social media feeds are still flooded with snapshots of the picture-perfect Hello Kitty-themed sweets. Customers are instantly struck by a punch of bubblegum pink bows and rainbow sprinkles the moment they step foot into the cafe, but this colorful myriad doesn't just end with the interior design. Nearly every mouth-watering dessert and thirst-quenching drink compliments the flamboyant decorations and pink color palette that

individualize the cafe's identity. And if the main cafe's Hello Kitty-imbued macarons and espressos aren't enough for you, their hidden Bow Room even offers an exclusive experience for customers to privately savor steaming cups of afternoon tea. Unfortunately, this cafe's excessively tacky decor makes it feel much more like a gimmicky tourist attraction than a relaxing destination. Its startling prices may also have customers saying goodbye, for even a single-serve berry tart racks up a whopping \$11. As it stands, the Hello Kitty Cafe earns four out of five stars—perhaps lowering the prices to be as friendly as everybody's favorite childhood kitten herself could earn the owners the remaining points.



Hello Kitty History: Since her debut on a Japanese coin purse in 1975, Hello Kitty has since become an \$80 billion franchise, second only to Pokémon in terms of highest-grossing franchises of all time (as per 2019). With an estimated annual revenue of \$6 billion, she has become a worldwide symbol of childhood.



Just a step away from Disneyland, walking into Anaheim's Storyteller's Cafe is like turning a page back to your favorite childhood memory. Mickey, Minnie and even Chip and Dale accompany you to not only a vast land of stories, but also to a kingdom of hearty food. This buffet-style restaurant offers classic American comfort food, kindling a certain coziness that comes with nostalgia-inducing cuisine. The wooden engravings adorning every inch of the architecture and the series of nature-inspired paintings contribute to the homey, cabin-like ambience that has become the selling point of this res-

taurant. Even the toasty golden light bathing the whole restaurant mimics the heartening glow of a fireplace, evoking the feeling of cuddling up with your favorite book next to a roaring hearth. With prices at \$40 for adults and \$22 for children, bills can unfortunately escalate in the blink of an eye, especially for this cafe's target market of large families. However, the remarkable atmosphere and off-the-charts customer service from cartoon characters straight out of our most treasured childhood movies reminds us of the pricelessness of Disney magic, and racks up five out of five stars for this cafe.





Forget about the stray calico kittens loitering in your garden—imagine bringing an entire cafe of cats to your own backyard! The Moon Cat Cafe has spearheaded its own path in a journey to cat-cafe stardom, reinvigorating the overdone concept with a modern twist. As a renovated van-turned-cafe, it hits the road to reach cat-lovers all over the Orange County and Los Angeles areas. The coffee shop's snug size is accentuated by the minimalistic yet contemporary aesthetic that allows for a casual aura—a rarity for cat cafes. Instead of the adoptable kittens overwhelming customers, they contribute to the sense of comfort and delicacy that this

cafe exudes. Frequenters can hop on in to adopt their own kitty while visiting one of the best sit-down coffee shops. Beyond the owner's heart-warming dedication to highlighting cats from regional animal adoption shelters, she also only sells locally made pastries and ethically sourced artisanal goods. Every product put on display is thoughtfully hand-selected to not only emulate the simplistic aesthetic of the coffee shop, but to also bring underappreciated artisans into the limelight through this cafe's broadening platform. Even coffee-haters will find themselves moved by this moving cafe, a feat only achievable by a five out of five star establishment.



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

By Hannah Adams, ENTERTAIN-MENT & LIFESTYLE EDITOR, and photo by Jenna Sabile, PHOTO



### MERCY LEE 11<sup>™</sup>

Donning everything from monochrome color clothes to "obnoxiously" patterned garments, junior Mercy Lee diverges from mainstream trends and explores the depths of the fashion world with her eccentric outfits. Above everything, comfort and cohesion dictate her wardrobe; her go-to articles of clothing are comfort-oriented. "I have a vintage cardigan from when my dad was my age and I also have a pair of flared wrangler jeans that I would wear every day if I could," Lee said.

By mixing a variety of shades and patterns to create unique color schemes, Lee believes her style to be very personal to herself. She strives to maintain a style that will represent who she is, regardless of what's popular. "When buying clothes, (I) look for things that will outlive current trends," Lee said.

**10 SPORTS** TROY HIGH ORACLE

### By Lucas Santos STAFF WRITER

The Kansas City Chiefs succeeded 31-20 in a thrilling match against the San Francisco 49ers in Superbowl LIV Feb. 2. The 54th rendition of the world famous game provided an excitingly late comeback under the bright lights of Miami's Hard Rock Stadium.

The Chiefs received the opening kick but were shut down and held to a three and out on the first drive of the game. The 49ers soon took advantage of the early defensive stop and utilized their running game to drive up the field and drain a field goal to earn the first lead.

With the 49ers seemingly dominant, the Chiefs pushed down the field with their star quarterback Patrick Mahomes, who capitalized on the next drive with a two yard rushing touchdown. The extra point was converted and the first quarter came to a close with the Chiefs leading 7-3.

The ensuing drive was a steady one with no huge plays from either team, but the Chiefs capped it off with a field goal that extended the lead to 10-3 Outraged, the 49ers offense responded with a dominant offensive push that ended with Garropolo dishing 15-yard touchdown pass to Kyle Juszczyk to tie the game going into the halftime break.

San Francisco opened the second half with a field goal, and the subsequent Chiefs drive led to an awful Mahomes interception, which was then converted into a Raheem Mostert rushing touchdown that put the 49ers up 20-10 at the conclusion of the third quarter.

A promising Chiefs drive started the fourth quarter, but Mahomes was intercepted Tavarious Moore.

That would turn out to be the last of the positives for the 49ers, who collapsed after a Travis Kelce touchdown reception that reduced the lead to three. From that point, the 49ers had no offensive punch, and Garropolo was picked off yet again. Chiefs running back Damien Williams exploded in the fourth, rushing for two touchdowns that led the Chiefs' miraculous fourth quarter comeback that saw them win Superbowl LIV.

# Warrior girls soccer emerged victorious against the Indians

The undefeated girls soccer team triumphed in a complete blowout game against Fullerton.

### By Lucas Santos STAFF WRITER

Dominating in all aspects of the game, the Warrior girls soccer team (13-1, 8-0) opened the second half of league play with a resounding 9-0 win against the Fullerton Indians Jan. 21.

The first half of the game was eventful as eight of the team's nine goals came before the halftime whistle blew. Freshman Maribel Flores led the scoresheet with five astounding goals while senior Isabella Ales added a hat-trick of her own to pile onto the already dominant scoreline.

Flores exploited the Indians' poor defense and continuously made through runs into the space behind the backline where her teammates could find her in stride. The striker's knack for finding passing lanes allowed for her outstanding offensive performance against overwhelmed defense.

Her tenacious energy also

contributed to her goal tally as the Warriors' high press had the Indians in shambles as they conceded a pair of goals as Flores tackled the ball away from the last defender and slotted in an easy one-on-one finish.

The Warriors' aerial game was on display as well, as they bombarded the Indians with an array of crosses into the box. Ales was able to turn these opportunities into goals as the team kept the pressure on the Indian defense even after a comfortable lead was built.

At the start of the second half, the Indians were already visibly defeated by the scoreline, and the Warriors soon took advantage, cruising into a half in which the team kept an overwhelming percentage of possession over the opponents. The Warriors' final goal came in the waning moments of the second half as iunior Savannah Arabe hustled to slide away a finish for a rebounded goal after a save from the opponent's keeper.

Although the match seemed to be nothing but a blowout, the Warriors utilized the game to their advantage, treating it as a learning experience



ISAIAH PRO

MAD DASH: Freshman Maribel Flores sprints across the midfield to help her teammates in action.

easy win. rather than an "Fullerton is a team that helped us gain momentum," Flores said. "[That team] helped us get more reps in and grow, which is important as the league season comes to a close."

The Warriors' girls soccer win gave them their ninth straight and retained their undefeated record in the league play. Despite these successes, head coach Mike Silzer remains unfazed in his mentality towards every match.

"All the league games have the same value to me," Silzer said. "[Each] result is another step towards our goal of winning another league title and hopefully even making it to state."

# Meet the Dream Team

For years, they waited to become an official team. 2020 marks the start of a dream come true; the start of the boys volleyball team.

### By Jacqueline Liu, STAFF WRITER

The bright lights illuminate the two opposing teams standing in formation. On the brighter side of the net, the Warriors stand proud and focused, a unified front with brows furrowed and eyes intent on taking victory. As the Warriors look around the entirety of the volleyball court, they're drenched in prethat their long-time dream has Mynster. From there, the finally become a reality.

The boys volleyball team originally started out as a group of boys who created a club that would allow them to practice the sport at school. There had not been a designated space for the boys interested in volleyball to practice and compete with others. With the goal to create a club set firmly in their minds, the Warriors brought their plan to the attention of Mrs. Madrid, their club advisor, who worked tirelessly with the students to bring their idea to life.

"The club was a huge success. There were about 90 boys who attended the first meeting, and

we've all wanted volleyball to become an official league sport since then," sophomore Jack Henry Madrid said.

With the club established for several years, the boys became interested in the idea of boys volleyball as a league sport. The club thus proposed their new idea to their club advisor

teachers communicated with the district and the other high schools to work towards making boys volleyball a league sport.

"Our practices for the club were unorganized. Since a lot of the guys play volleyball outside of school, we wanted to be able to have an environment where we could regularly practice," game adrenaline and enthused as well as Principal William said junior Austin Petitjean.

However, creating the team

was a lengthy process. In order for boys volleyball to be a league sport, at least three other schools in the district also needed to create a team. Although this was a longwinded task, the volleyball teams were eventually made. Mynster and the superintendent were incredibly supportive with the process as more boys gained interest in the team. The students

never lost hope and ensured the establishment of boys volleyball as a California Interscholastic Federation approved league sport.

The budding team already has great team chemistry. With the influx of new members and unfaltering support from parents and teachers, the new boys volleyball team is developing strong connections on the court.

"I'm very happy that boys volleyball is an official sport because it feels like what we've been working for for years has finally paid off," senior Callan Carajas said. "I'm excited to participate in the first boys volleyball league."



JENNA SABILE

**FAMILY PORTRAIT:** The members of the boys volleyball team *smile brightly for the camera as they radiate outstanding synergy.* 

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12 FOCUS TROY HIGH ORACLE

# H(0)R(0)S(6)P)E



### CANCER

This is the month for open-mindedness, Cancer. Listen to the advice and encouragement of your friend group, and harness this newfound inspiration to acquire some new skills.

Secretly an astrology addict? Check out your horoscope forecast for the new month. Don't take it to heart, though!

Compiled by Alina Choi, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, article by Jois Talla, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, and graphics by Phoebe Um, GRAPHICS EDITOR

**PISCES** 

Be sure to take action when the moment

seems right, Pisces. However, watch for un-

pleasant surprises in your future as Mercury

goes into retrograde, pop quiz-

zes might be unusually difficult or alarms might not go off.

### **TAURUS**

Tauruses, it's the time to give back! Don't be afraid to voice your opinion in front of others. Remember, being assertive isn't the same thing as being aggressive.





Aries, you may get a crush on that classmate that sits across the room this month. Visionary ideas are swirling around your mind, so feel free to indulge yourself!

### ARIES

### CAPRICORN

That big issue that's on your mind? Follow your instincts: they're totally right. When Mars moves in on the 16th, you're going to get pretty efficient at work, so take advantage of that.



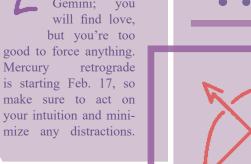
### LIBRA



Take that long-awaited break and pay more attention to personal hobbies or recreation at this time of year. The full moon on the 9th is a great time to share and connect with others. Don't be afraid to lend a helping hand if somebody needs it in February.

### GEMINI

Don't let your impatience get the better of you, Gemini; you good to force anything. Mercury is starting Feb. 17, so make sure to act on your intuition and mini-



Be wary of putting your foot in your mouth. Your brash quips have a greater chance of being taken the wrong way this month. Try to keep your ego in check and avoid making controversial statements.



### SAGITTARIOUS

Time to get wild! February's going to be a pretty awesome month for you, Sag. Reach out to friends and family to plan some meet-ups: since Mars is chilling in your sign, it's the perfect time to go out and have fun!

### AQUARIUS

Get ready, my dear Leo, big op-

portunities and changes are coming your way. You'll have little trouble

achieving your goals as long as you

focus on work that leads to recogni-

tion rather than recognition itself.

It's your birthday month, Aquarius, and it's your time to shine. Expect subconscious bursts of genius and inspiration. However, beware of pessimistic feelings and keep an open mind during the month of February.

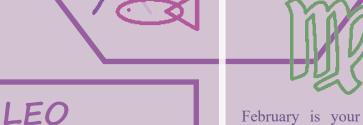
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### **CARTOON BY KRISTEN PEREZ**







February is your time to make amends. Whether it be friends you haven't talked with in a while or a class you've neglected to study for, now is the moment to get on it! With your busy schedule, we all know how quickly things get crazy. But even something as simple as weekly meal prep can make your life more



seamless and stress-free.