

ORACLE

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CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES: CAUSES AND IMPACTS

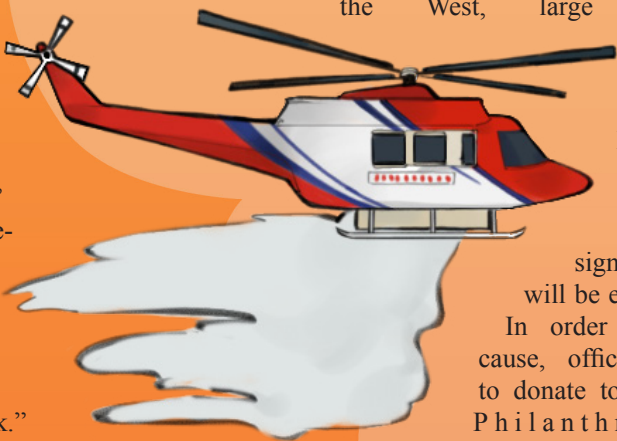
In alignment with scientists’ predictions, the growth in wildfires resulted from California’s native climate and is accelerated by the global warming projections.

Compiled by Kathleen Zhang, NEWS EDITOR, article by Mai Omoto, STAFF WRITER, graphics by Cassidy Chang, GRAPHICS EDITOR, cartoons by Ella Moon, CARTOON EDITOR, and Pearl Yoon, CARTOONIST

Urging citizens to support the wildfire victims, Philanthropy California hosted a webinar session to educate viewers on the nature of the wildfires and methods of support Sept. 24. Spurred by high temperatures and dry winds, over 8,000 fires have destroyed over 3.6 million acres in California to this date. From August 15, dry lightning and extreme heat waves sparked the surge of fire activity. With over 18,200 firefighters, first responders worked to contain 25 major wildfires throughout the state. Since the sudden rise in fires, California experienced the destruction of over 6,600 structures and 26 deaths. Due to the more intense dry and wet periods, officials predict that the subsequent increase in rainfall will accumulate fuel for the next dry season. Recorded on September 30, Los Angeles had the 38-worst air quality in the world as a result of the smoke. Along with the pandemic, the current events pose additional risks for many citizens’ physical and mental health. Smoke pollution may increase susceptibility to the novel coronavirus, Center for Disease Control researcher Sarah Henderson said. According to Columbia University bioclimatologist Park Williams, the combination of anthropogenic climate

change and California’s natural dry and windy climate caused the growth in wildfires. The record heat and burned acreage reveal an acceleration in the global warming trend, Williams said. “While the magnitudes of the current heatwave and the resultant wildfires have been shocking, they are consistent with what scientists have been predicting for decades,” Williams said. “This climate-change connection is straightforward: Warmer temperatures dry out fuels. In areas with abundant and very dry fuels, all [that is needed] is a spark.” Along the West Coast, the total burned acreage of 2020 broke the record, with a previous record of fewer than 2 million acres. In the wake of the recent heatwave and fire weather, human-made global warming exacerbated the drought’s severity, U.S. Forest Service research ecologist Eric Knapp said. As the fires traveled over ten states, the United States committed every wildfire resource to the current fires and sought assistance from international partners. Officials speculate that the prolonged seasonal winds will

initiate a delayed wildfire season as winter approaches, the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) said. “Following a brief pause in activity in California and cessation of seasonal activity elsewhere across the West, large fire potential is expected to increase in October and November in the wind prone areas,” the NIFC said. “The expectation of drier than average conditions suggests that significant large fire potential will be elevated until December.” In order to assist the wildfire cause, officials encourage citizens to donate to the Center of Disaster Philanthropy California Wildfires Recovery Fund. Aimed for those interested in supporting fire-damaged communities, donors can choose to loan money to reconstruct homes and contribute to local agencies that assist more vulnerable populations and fund drought mitigation efforts.



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LIFESTYLE

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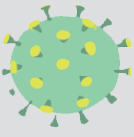
Check out our best tips on how to support the Black community through Black-owned businesses.



OPINION

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Expectant of the COVID-19 vaccine? Read our take on why it should be thoroughly tested before its distribution.



SPORTS

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Read about how Warriors participate in sporting events despite the new regulations posed by the pandemic.



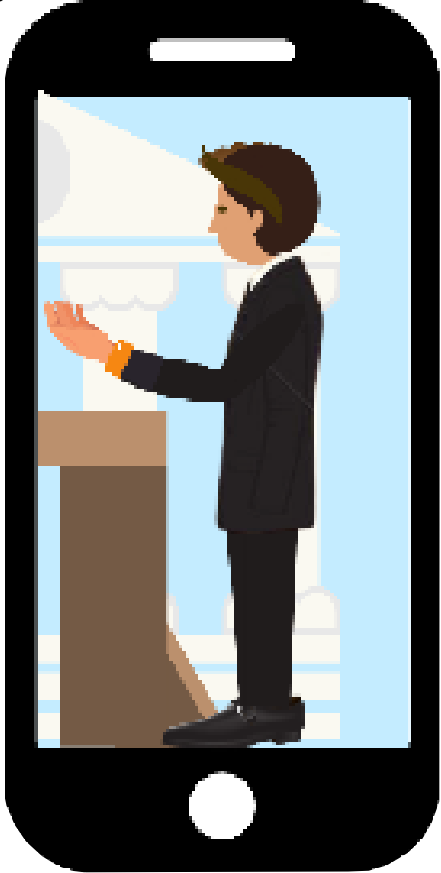
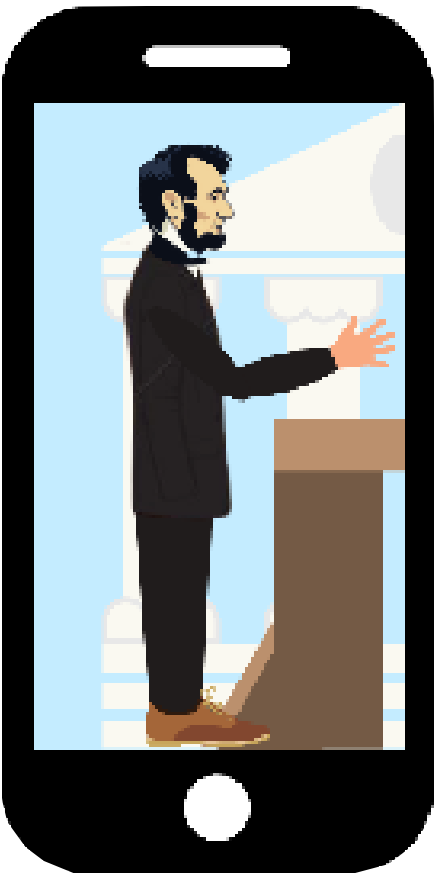
Speech and Debate Team attends virtual Jack Howe Tournament

Returning members of Speech and Debate Club competed with over 200 teams from across the country.

turning members to attend this tournament. Appropriate by the amount of experience, juniors and seniors registered for varsity and sophomores for novice. Varied across local and national levels, the Speech and Debate Club attends tournaments every few months, such as the Orange County Speech League and the Claremont Wolfpack Invitational. Actively part of the club, members consistently compete in diverse formats of speech and debate. Warriors participate in impromptu speech, Lincoln-Douglas debate, parliamentary debate and public forum debate. With representatives across the country, the tournament expanded to have over 200 teams per division, which is double the average number of teams for past competitions. The tournament's new online format offered students outside of California the ability to practice speech and debate in a competitive environment, Co-President Eileen Chen said. "A virtual competition opens up many more opportunities," Chen said. "[The tournament] was able to take many more people this year, which definitely makes tournament a lot more competitive and each round higher in quality." In order to strengthen their presentation techniques, speakers focused on different methods to improve engagement with the audience. Due to new adjustments suited for at-home competitions, members could not apply skills in the same way as previous competitions, Chen said. "There is a really big difference between speaking over Zoom and speaking in-person," Chen said. "People have to adapt, whether it is having to slow down so people can hear you better or having to speak louder or making eye contact." According to Chen, the club remained in constant communication to prepare each competitor for the tournament. Resumed in early August, the participants met virtually via social media throughout the week to practice individually and together, Chen said. "[Competitions] make us really good at communicating with each other, which [helps improve] teamwork much better," Chen said. "Our goal is to help our members develop good public speaking skills and logical thinking skills to apply to the rest of their lives."

By Erin Jang
STAFF WRITER

Reigniting their public speaking skills, the Speech and Debate team participated in the 28th Jack Howe Memorial Tournament Sept. 19-20. As the first competition of the year, the Jack Howe Memorial Invitational is one of the top ten largest tournaments hosted by California State University Long Beach's Beach Forensics. Speakers for Speech deliver three to four rounds each day whereas students on the Debate team complete six preliminary rounds to enter the finals. Modified to accommodate COVID-19 regulations, the event shifted to a virtual setting via Zoom. Amid online practices, the club qualified only re-



NEW

PSAT

Safety Regulations

By Diya Patel
STAFF WRITER

Accommodating the hybrid learning model, junior students will have the opportunity to take the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) Oct. 17. In order to maintain safety precautions, the PSAT will only be available to juniors. Adult chaperones will proctor the exam in individual classrooms and regulate a six-foot distance between test-takers. Students are required to wear masks at all times. To prepare for students' return to campus, California adopted a tier system to gauge the risk of COVID-19 transmission per county. California regulations require each county to avoid widespread transmission for a minimum of two weeks to qualify for in-person education. According to Principal William Mynster, the school will expect roughly half of the Warrior population to return to campus through Cohorts A and B. The empty

classrooms allow proctors to safely administer the PSAT exam under social distancing regulations, Mynster said. "The school has plenty of room in terms of students on campus," Mynster said. "Hopefully next year, if we are out of this scenario, Troy will be able to provide PSAT for 10th and 11th graders like we always have." Projected to open by early October, the school will welcome students in Cohorts A and B onto campus for the first time in the 2020-2021 school year. "While students may be a little nervous when they return, the staff is doing everything we can to make school as safe as possible," Mynster said. "Going down the road with hybrid learning schedule, we are hopeful that conditions will get better."

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4U'S

Delivery Service

By Diya Patel
STAFF WRITER

Shedding light on the effects of isolation in nursing homes and hospitals, 4U Project will deliver letters to Mau Sin Lau senior home Oct. 3. Accepting letters across the globe, the organization encouraged individuals to include submissions beyond hand-written notes in Mandarin. Promoted through their Instagram page, the contributions included artwork and video clips of students dancing or playing instruments. Founded in May, The 4U Project is an organization that serves to increase awareness on the effects of Alzheimer's Disease and create a positive impact on senior adults. With ambassadors and participants in three different countries, the organization is connected with nursing homes throughout California and Taiwan. In preparation for their first delivery to Emerald Corps Nursing Home, the participants wrote letters composed of words of encouragement, jokes and short stories. The collective effort enabled The 4U Project to deliver 59 hand-written letters to the home July 1. Through the development of two-way relationships between the partners and the seniors, The 4U Project hopes to establish a thread of letter exchanges. Each letter helps to create long-term ties with seniors from different homes. "It was nice when we got an email from an Activities director saying that one of the residents responded to a participant's letters," Young said. "[We enjoyed] seeing the seniors engaging and appreciating these little efforts. According to Co-President Tessa Young, The 4U Project hopes to inform students on the impacts of Alzhiemers through worldwide fundraisers and social media posts. During quarantine, the organization worked to unite individuals across the globe to the common goal of spreading kindness among seniors. "When someone is isolated it is nice to know that there are people out there caring for them," Young said. "Especially during the pandemic, it is important for the organization to build a [global] connection with seniors in nursing homes and hospitals."

FJUHSD enacts new safety protocols for hybrid schedule

The district will mandate free bimonthly COVID-19 testing for staff members to ensure students’ safety.

By Kaelyn Kwon
STAFF WRITER

Acclimating to California’s updated reopening guidelines, Fullerton Joint Union School District (FJUHSD) administration plan to reopen schools in early October. On August 28, Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled a new four-tier plan to reopen businesses and schools, which is categorized by the spread rate of COVID-19. As California counties’ businesses and schools are able to open within place-enforced social distancing regulations, Orange County moved from tier one to tier two Sept. 8, which allowed schools to reopen at a 25 percent capacity Sept. 22. In order to accommodate public health guidelines, FJUHSD strongly advises schools to implement social distancing regulations. Students and staff will be required to wear masks, stay six feet apart and use hand sanitizer in between classes. FJUHSD also suggests that schools regularly disinfect high-traffic areas because the virus can stay viable in the air for three hours according to national institutes of health scientists. Prior to arrival on campus, stu-

dents and staff will complete an online screening application called Qualtrics. At school, signs will direct students toward thermal cameras at two different locations. Students whose temperatures are lower than 100 degrees will be issued a wristband for the day. At no cost to the employees, personnel will be tested for COVID-19 once every 60 days in an effort to ensure student and staff safety. Administration will ask any students and teachers who show symptoms or test positive for the virus to remain home. In addition, teachers who fall in the increased risk category or have household members who qualify for the increased risk category will not be required to teach on campus. When the hybrid schedule begins, administration expects

Troy High School’s Updated Hybrid Schedule Protocols and Guidelines

Screening and Control Measures:

- Passive screening to all staff, students, and guests prior to arrival of campus
- Thermal imaging cameras at school and office entry points for daily temperature checks located with specific locations
- Issued wristband daily upon clearance of active screening
- Must wear a face covering at all times
- Use hand sanitizer when entering or leaving rooms

Social Distancing:

- Stay 6 feet apart
- Directional walkways identified; floor markings and stickers for social distancing and traffic
- Clear plastic dividers for use on desks for staff and students
- Troy will be a closed campus during lunch to minimize outside exposure for students
- Use of 2 additional mobile food carts to spread out student lunch lines.
- Students will not be allowed to eat inside classrooms unless otherwise permitted and supervised by said teacher.

For more information: fjuhsd.org/domain/1480

GRAPHIC BY CASSIDY CHANG

Senior Emily Wang attends Bank of America summit

The leadership program provided participants with the opportunity to build connections with influential people from various fields.

By Isabelle Liang
STAFF WRITER

In light of her representation of Troy High School, senior Emily Wang was selected for the Bank of America Student Leadership program July 15. As one of four students from Orange County, Wang took part in an eight-week program including a one-week leadership summit. As a part of their goal, the Bank of America Student Leaders program promotes students to learn about taking ownership of individual and community empowerment. Wang received \$5000 from her paid internship, in the application process she submitted five essays about her leadership experience, community involvement and personal challenges. In partnership with the non-profit organization United Way, Wang supported the campaign of fostering literacy within youth in

order to increase general reading proficiency. Known for charitable work, United Way is an organization focused on resolving urgent community issues worldwide. Wang and her group created a survey regarding family situations in COVID-19 and used the results in a presentation showcased to the board of committee and United Way leaders. As a follow-up from the program, Wang attended the virtual summit where a select amount of students met active leaders in the world. Introduced as mentors of the event, Petrie-Norris and Brian Moynihan shared their stories about the paths they took to success, said Wang. “[The program presented] a lot of experiences that most high school students probably would not have,” Wang said. “The summit mentors reassured how [we] do not have to have everything planned out, what you do will come to you.” Modified into an online format due to COVID-19, the conference moved forward allowing leaders to connect virtually and discuss world issues. The student leaders

collaborated in smaller, more personal groups in order to get a better understanding of each individual’s approach to create change within communities, Wang said. “The people we spoke to [broadened] my perspective of what people our age are doing,” Wang said. “Many of the leaders were so involved in their communities, and I realize that it is really important to stay informed.” The program served as a foundation for participants to learn and grow into future leaders, Wang said. “Go out

of your comfort zone, meet all the people you can, talk to all the people, and just expose yourself to all the opportunities and situations,” Wang said. “I am so glad when I take a look at all these amazing people that I met and all the amazing experiences I have had.”

ASPIRING LEADER:
Senior Emily Wang sports her Bank of America T-shirt.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY WANG

TROY TODAY New ruling on UC admissions

In an effort to provide students with equal opportunities in the admissions process, Judge Brad Seligman ruled that University of California (UC) schools can no longer use Statutory Assessment Test (SAT) or American College Test (ACT) scores for student admission Aug. 31. Although scores can not be used in student admissions, students’ SAT and ACT scores can still be used to determine course placements. Prior to the judge’s ruling, UC schools had a test-optional policy for fall 2021 and 2022 enrollments, which allowed students to choose whether or not to submit SAT/ACT scores and still receive full consideration.

According to the injunction, most non-disabled students received a second look in admissions, which was denied to students with disabilities who were unable to access the tests. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the current availability of test sites exacerbated challenges for those with disabilities and limited test-taking opportunities for all students.

G.I.V.E Club holds charity concert

Give Inspire Volunteer Educate (G.I.V.E.) Club will hold a live benefit concert on YouTube Nov. 7. In support of youths who are negatively affected by the pandemic, the benefit concert will donate a portion of the proceeds to Covenant House. The organization aims to provide housing, food and other essential services to children with inadequate shelter security. The donations will also fund the foundation’s initiative to purchase musical instruments for underprivileged children who do not have the opportunity to learn music. Recorded by a professional sound engineer on Oct. 31, the concert will feature an ensemble performance, as well as eight solo pieces. Club members of the Warrior chapter aim to spread publicity for the concert through social media platforms. “During these difficult times, G.I.V.E. Foundation hopes to make a difference in the community,” G.I.V.E Vice President Alicia Lee said. “We want to support children who may not have access to resources for them to pursue their dreams.”

SINGING SENSATION

Tired of hitting repeat on your “chill” Spotify playlist? Meet senior Reanne Bangsil, a fellow Warrior who’s produced her own bangers. Don’t just check out her music though; check out her story below.

Compiled by Hannah Adams, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Coco Gong, **STAFF WRITER**, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, **CARTOON**, and Ella Moon, **CARTOON EDITOR**, and image courtesy of Reanne Bangsil



MUSICIAN IN THE MAKING: With two singles (“Better Now” and “My Broken Rule”), a collaboration and numerous covers, Bangsil is developing her style as a singer.

As a hypnotic sound drifts from the guitar, a soothing, husky voice begins to accompany it. The melody floats through the air as senior Reanne Bangsil creates meaning beyond lyrics through her songs. With over 28,000 streams and 773 monthly listeners on Spotify, her music strikes a chord with her audience. Through her euphonious notes, Bangsil expresses her own inner thoughts and connects to the emotions of others.

The last Warrior Idol competition sparked Bangsil’s musical journey. Despite being shy, Bangsil took a leap of faith and explored the edges of her limits by performing in front of a crowd. The enchanting charm of singing led her from hatching confidence to flourishing pride. When quarantine kept everyone in their homes, Bangsil saw an opportunity rather than a disadvantage. In her time alone, she let her emotions and thoughts run

free with her imagination. With a guitar and a ukulele, she transforms these ideas into harmonious melodies. For Bangsil, expressing herself with words is difficult, so she uses flowy tones and dreamy beats to speak in her own language.

Bangsil’s rich tunes are more than an abstract manifestation of her emotions. The ebullient composition also connects her to the ones close to her. “It’s every single thing, including a breath, that literally will show emotion towards whatever you’re singing,” Bangsil said. “Or the beat. If it’s faster, then it’s exciting, groovy music, and if it’s slow, then it feels like a heart beating.”

In her home, a special sanctuary called the “piano room” is a place where her family comes together to make music. Rhythmic beats pulse from her brother’s drums, lyrical chords fly from her mother’s guitar, and Bangsil adds in her own

heavenly voice. Anyone could start a lonely melody on the piano, but as soon as another person enters the room, the whole family joins in with the harmony. Here, the family members resonate with one another by translating their thoughts and warmth into rhythms and notes rather than words.

“I just really love when people listen to it and they feel whatever I’m feeling,” Bangsil said. “So I guess the most important thing is getting my translation right into the music and helping other people feel that same emotion.”

Bangsil’s compositions extend far beyond self expression and leisure with her family; they also bring light to her friends and even strangers. Frequently, Bangsil’s circle of supporters show their warm support and spread Bangsil’s musical stories even further through social media. Through this melodic language, Bangsil grew from

singing to herself to performing for crowds and collabing with other artists. Upon hearing her covers on YouTube, senior Steven Vu, a fellow musician, invited her for a collaboration. With each other, they wove together a fine tapestry of angelic sounds, called “Everytime,” that sang of sunsets and picnics. The magic of their music allowed new people to learn its language. For artists who are already fluent in this mellow language, they were able to tell greater stories. Through this, Bangsil took her tunes to Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, and more, further spreading her lyrical emotions to others.

“I guess music shows that if people can relate to this [music], then everyone is experiencing the same thing,” Bangsil said. “It just shows me that we’re all in the same boat no matter what, and it’s very comforting to me.”

B is for... Black-owned businesses

What can we do to support the Black Lives Matter movement? Start small by including Black-owned businesses into your everyday spendings. Read below to learn about your local Black-owned eateries and trendy Depop shops!

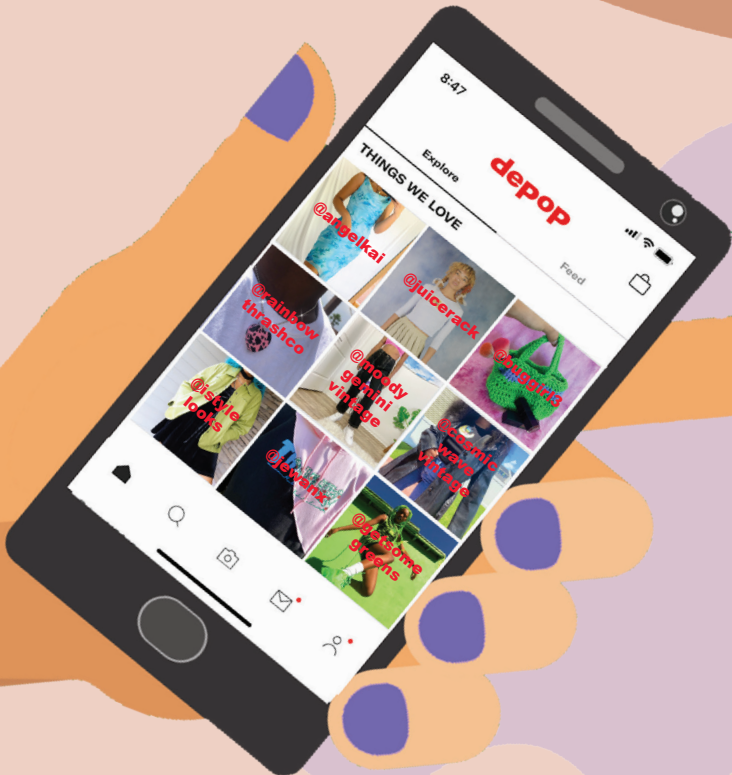
Compiled by Jade Bahng, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Sean Warren, STAFF WRITER, graphics by David Lee, GRAPHICS, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON

aoSA Coffee Shop

Tucked into a corner of Huntington Beach lies AoSA Coffee, a quaint cafe full of rustic wood finishes, irresistible scents of freshly brewed coffee and smooth rhythms of indie music. With its aesthetic interior design, delicious snacks and sweet refreshments, this Black-owned coffee shop is the perfect place to recharge one's depleted energy while enjoying the warm breeze of Huntington Beach. Though characterized by its minimalist wooden crockery and decorations, these simplicities are nonexistent on the ample menu, which offers a variety of replenishing dishes. Customers can enjoy a perfectly silky chai latte or indulge in a refreshing Coconut Dream Açaí Bowl. For those who need more energy to fight systemic racism, opt for the classic avocado toast. AoSA's version of the avocado toast features fresh microgreens and sweet tomatoes layered atop a creamy avocado spread—surely an upgrade from the typical burnt toast and mushy avocado duo. From its pleasant ambiance to the delectable assortment of dishes, this coffee shop is proof that supporting the Black Lives Matter movement can start small: by enjoying a nice cup of coffee!

Thru the Ages Vintage

Spicing up one's wardrobe with unique pieces from Black-owned businesses may be the solution to revamping one's style. Creating a time machine back to the nostalgic styles of the 90's, Black creatives are selling one-of-a-kind clothing collections that trump the ubiquitous styles of fast fashion titans. Reselling apps like Depop eliminate geographical barriers, making it easier than ever to support Black sustainable fashion businesses. Apsu, the curator of Depop shop Thru the Ages Vintage, fuses her fashion expertise and her goal of empowering female creatives to sell quirky garments. Bold animal prints, psychedelically striped dresses, vividly color-blocked windbreakers and oversized knit sweaters are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Apsu's collection. Her keen eye for integrating retro styles into a contemporary aesthetic makes customers' fingers drift instinctively towards the "purchase" button. The next time you're shopping for a new look—and looking to support Black-owned businesses—make sure to check out the avant-garde collections of Depop's Black-owned fashion shops.



Georgia's Restaurant

Distant memories of hunting for tasty eateries at the Anaheim Packing District bring back the savory aromas of the traditional Creole flavors from Georgia's Restaurant. This eatery features a wide array of timeless American soul food, a product of owner Gretchen Shoemaker's very own traditionally passed down recipes for delicious southern delicacies. As the surging Black Lives Matter movement shines a spotlight on local black-owned businesses, supporters have made their way into Georgia's line. Customers can either dig into a filling plate of crispy fried catfish or stuff themselves with the scrumptious spicy crispy chicken sandwich. These gourmet flavors can be acquired for a somewhat pricey \$15, but the jovial exuberance of Shoemaker's hospitality is nothing short of priceless. Her congenial efforts to spark casual conversations with her customers permeate the warm and welcoming aura of the restaurant. Georgia's endless supply of mouth watering dishes ensures that one's support of Black-owned businesses shines through with every last bite.



THANK
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Compiled by Sarah Sor

2nd Chance Trading
7-Eleven
A&L Certified Public Accountants, APC
ACM Resources
AI For Anyone
Aidtree
Aireps, Inc.
Alameda Elementary School
Alexus Home Healthcare
Altogether Healthcare and Referral Agency
Amada Weld Tech
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Angeles Construction
Aquatics Sports Performance
Arborland Montessori Children's Academy
Asahi Intecc USA
ASTR Institute
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BAM Fitness
Bang Zoom
Bank of America Student Leaders Program
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Beverly Hills Ambulatory Surgery Center
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Bio-Path Medical Group
Boeing
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Carson Toastmasters
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Chan Young Architects
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Cherish Care Staffing and Caregiving Services
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Comfort Keepers #208
Comic Book Hideout
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Flamenco Flavor

For the Love of Learning
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Fullerton College Math Lab
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Just 4 Kids Preschool
JZ Interior Designs
Kaddy's Computer Repair
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Kaiser Permanente
Keimyung University Dongsan Medical Center
Kern Medical
King's Sign Watch
Kitchen & Cookware Inc.
Ko & Associates, A Professional Law Corporation
KSK Michael
La Habra Children's Museum
Lan Yang DDS

MEET YOUR TECH MENTORS

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UCI Engineering
UCI Ethics Center
UCI Physics & Astronomy
UCI Social Sciences Computing Services

UCLA Biology
Unis Company
Unity Project California
University of Illinois, Hypersonics & Entry
Systems Studies
USC Brain and Creativity Institute
USC Engineering
USC Keck School of Medicine
USC Marshall School of Business
USC Psychology
USDA Foods
Vagabond Group
Veritone
Verizon Wireless
Veterans Legal Institute
ViewSonic
VISTAM Inc.
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Wesco Computers Corporation
WKE, Inc.
Wurl.com
XPower
Yes I Can! - Occupational Therapy
Yes Sales Inc.
Young Kim for Congress
Young’s Art Studio

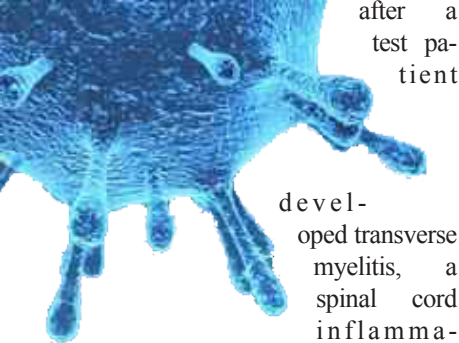
Considering trust and effectiveness, the coronavirus vaccine must not be rushed

By Cage Hawley
STAFF WRITER



Rushing the coronavirus vaccine is not worth it. During the Republican National Convention Aug. 24, President Donald Trump guaranteed that coronavirus vaccines would become available in the United States by the end of the year, if not sooner. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) corroborated Trump’s claim when it announced to the states that the target distribution date could be as early as Nov. 1. As numerous medical experts, including Baylor College of Medicine’s Dean Peter Hoetz, warn against accelerated vaccine development, Trump should heed his own advice when he tweeted Mar. 22 that we cannot let the cure be worse than the problem. If the US government continues to push for rapid production of vaccines, it can only expect doses that would likely be ineffective and widely distrusted by American citizens.

Creating and distributing vaccines within a rushed schedule will no doubt be a dangerous process with a lack of adequate testing and proper trials. Vaccines normally take around 10 years to develop, so shortening that period to less than a year may lead to some dire consequences. In 1976, when the government developed the swine flu vaccine in seven months, the vaccine was eventually linked to hundreds of cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome and stopped from distribution. More recently, AstraZeneca, one of the several companies that may eventually supply the US with COVID-19 vaccines, announced that its phase three trials were put on hold after a test patient developed spinal cord inflammation. Another example of the importance of proper testing is AstraZeneca, a modern medicine company that may eventually supply the US with COVID-19 vaccines. While their first and second phase trials went seemingly fine, AstraZeneca’s phase three trials, which monitor the side effects and viability of a vaccine, were put on hold



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ABC NEWS

after a test patient developed transverse myelitis, a spinal cord inflammation. It is good that AstraZeneca’s trials are stopped for now, but the situation shows that the rapidly developed vaccine might contain more problems than usually expected by trial three. If the US government continues to speed up approvals of vaccines, then it may overlook harmful side effects and endanger public health. Properly conducting every trial is vital in ensuring that a coronavirus vaccine is ready for public use. Beyond the effectiveness of the vaccine itself, another major threat to the success of a vaccination campaign is current politicization of a cure for coronavirus. The Harris Poll found that nearly 80 percent of Americans see the haste to approve a coronavirus vaccine as politically motivated,

which corresponds with 83 percent of Americans, including both Democrats and Republicans, that worry about the safety of a hastily approved coronavirus vaccine. With the presidential election fast approaching, distrust is already prevalent even though no vaccine has been confirmed for release yet. However, Trump’s selfish scramble to authorize a vaccine worries scientists and average citizens alike and further contributes to skepticism among the general public. The vaccine is one of the most crucial tools against COVID-19, so its development process must remain independent of selfish, political motives. Even if this year’s vaccine campaign is successful, too many Americans already distrust the vaccine’s safety for the vaccine to be effective in our nation’s fight against COVID-19. An Aug. 28 poll from the Kaiser Family



Foundation found that 54 percent of respondents would decline to take a free COVID-19 vaccine even if it was fully approved. According to Tufts University’s Department of Community Health professor Jennifer Allen, between 60 and 70 percent of the population would need to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity. In an effort to assure the skeptical public, pharmaceutical companies Moderna and Pfizer published information this month about the conduction of their vaccine trials and protocols. While the transparency from these companies during the COVID-19 vaccine development is admirable, the released data reveals certain problems—individuals with mild cases of COVID-19 were counted along with severe cases and minority groups were largely underrepresented among the participants. The accelerated vaccine development schedule essentially puts pharmaceutical companies in a situation where cutting corners is the only way to keep up, and tests are lacking in diversity and accuracy as a result. Even a fully tested vaccine would likely fall flat if Americans weren’t confident and willing to take it. With that in mind, general lack of confidence and the shortcuts taken by Moderna and Pfizer go to show that the way forward is full, thorough testing. The doubt and health risks that come with releasing an untested vaccine into America are made clear by polling data, vaccine research and historic evidence. Speeding up the vaccine development is too dangerous with little to be gained. To secure the safety and trust of Americans, our government should keep politics out of vaccine development and ensure thorough testing before the vaccine is released to the public. For the time being, you should do your part by continuing to practice social distancing guidelines.

U.S. Adults Opinions on COVID-19 Vaccine

% of U.S. adults who say if a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were available today, they...

	Would Get Vaccine		Would Not Get Vaccine	
	Definitely	Probably	Probably	Definitely
September 2020	21%	30	25	24
May 2020	42	30	16	11

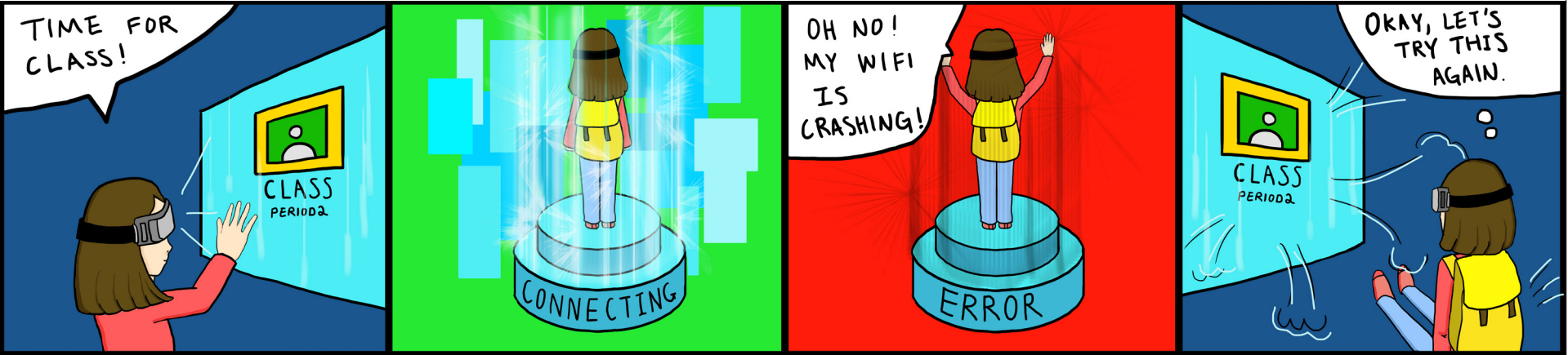
% U.S. adults who say they have _____ of confidence that the research and development process in the U.S. will produce a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19

19%	45	35
A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much/None at all

NOTE: Respondents that did not answer are not shown
SOURCE: Paw Research Center

GRAPHICS BY CASSIDY CHANG

Internet, WI-FI(ght) the Students? by Ella Moon



Don't expect Facebook to police the Internet, that is not its responsibility

By Andrew Sung
STAFF WRITER



Facebook is a social media platform, not a fake news surveillance machine. In March 2018, Facebook fell into its biggest crisis yet when the largest known leak in Facebook history was uncovered. The social media company not only allowed misinformation to run rampant on its pages, but it also allowed Cambridge Analytica, a political consulting firm, to harvest millions of users' information for 2016 United States election campaign.



FACEBOOK ON A TRIAL: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg defended his company during the 2018 Senate hearing after the Cambridge Analytica scandal was reported.

paings. Now, with only two months left before another election, Zuckerberg announced Sept. 3 the company's new initiative "New Steps to Protect the U.S. Elections." The plan is to reduce political misinformation on Facebook by blocking new political ads in the week leading up to the Election Day and label posts that contain misinformation. Since Facebook is a social media platform where people can freely share what is on their minds, the company should not be held responsible for the impacts of misinformation campaigns conducted by third parties. To expect Facebook to verify all the information on its platform is not reasonable because Facebook is a platform to share opinions, not necessarily facts. With over one billion active users per month and 1,500 new posts eligible to appear in a Facebook user's feed every day, Facebook should not be expected to individually check and verify every post. Facebook has already implemented proactive measures such as partnership with independent third-party fact checkers and artificial intelligence algorithms to combat the

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN



Mark Zuckerberg 
about a month ago



The US elections are just two months away, and with Covid-19 affecting communities across the country, I'm concerned about the challenges people could face when voting. I'm also worried that with our nation so divided and election results potentially taking days or even weeks to be finalized, there could be an increased risk of civil unrest across the country.

This election is not going to be business as usual. We all have a responsibility to protect our democracy. That mean... [See More](#)

118K 32K 7.9K

unceasing spread of misinformation. We must not misconstrue the original intent of Facebook. Its purpose has always been to provide a space for people to communicate and network. It was never to provide a reliable stream of factual information like a news outlet. If social media companies are held accountable for everything that gets posted on their services, the lines between fact and opinion may begin to blur when labeling posts. Since opinions are subjective, increased censorship might wipe out certain fringe opinions from public view and restrict freedom to voice one's opinions. As a result, the democratic nature of social media could disappear. Thus, users should be responsible for conducting their own research with reliable sources and double checking everything they see or hear if they choose to use Facebook as a news source. Let's not forget that ultimately, misinformation still spreads through people, intentionally or not. However, if people begin to take initiative to verify and make informed judgements on presented information, this would make for a better informed population and stay truer to the nature of democracy far more so than what would be possible by directing all blame to Facebook. There is an unrelenting spread of misinformation over social media that must be combatted. However, blaming Facebook will not resolve the issue. It is easy for misinformation campaigns to gain exponential traction through the Internet, but it is up to users whether to accept or reject the misinformation. We must be vigilant about what we accept as truth online, especially in the modern age of technology.

No to preferential treatment and discrimination, no to Proposition 16

By Vivian Lee
STAFF WRITER



The fight for fairness is on the ballot. This November, Californians will be voting on 12 propositions, including the controversial Proposition 16. If Proposition 16 passes, it will repeal Proposition 209, which prevents government and public institutions from discriminating or giving preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, ethnicity or national origin. Although Proposition 16 doesn't mandate affirmative action, it will permit it during public college

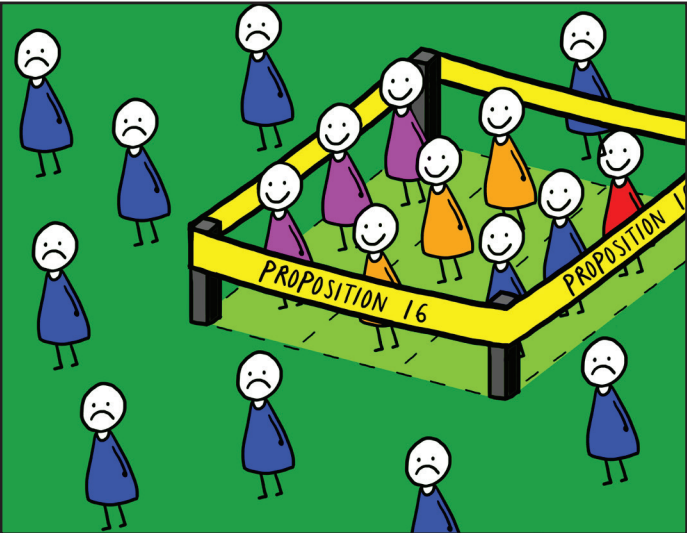
PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE



VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 16: Opponents of Proposition 16 protest outside a Netflix office after Patricia Quillen, the wife of the Netflix CEO, gave financial support to the Yes campaign for Proposition 16.

admissions, making it a palpable concern. To ensure unbiased admissions practices, Proposition 16 should not be passed because it justifies discrimination based on immutable factors. Supporters of Proposition 16 argue that the amendment will allow for better representation of marginalized groups, but they fail to take into consideration that the proposition could potentially discredit merit. The UC Board of Regents recently noted that the proportion of underrepresented minorities has not kept pace with the diversity of California students, implying that if Proposition 16 were to pass, they will try to make their admitted student population reflect the makeup of the state population. The regents do not blatantly call this a quota system because the United States Supreme Court has already deemed this practice illegal. However, Proposition 16 will allow them to create something similar to quota systems by directly taking into consideration race and gender, allowing discrimination in the name of diversity. The passing of Proposition 16 could decrease the current diversity within UC

campuses. Contrary to statements saying Proposition 209 hinders representation of minorities, UC classes have become more diverse in the last several years. For the first time, Latinos are the largest ethnic group to be admitted into the UC system, according to the 2020 admissions data. UC Berkeley accepted the largest number of Black and Latino students in three decades, more than a 40 percent increase since last year. Public colleges are already successfully ensuring diversity in their undergraduate population, making Proposition 16 unnecessary. Although race-conscious admissions is trying to give certain minority students more opportunities by helping them get accepted to outstanding colleges, being admitted into a university does not ensure that those students will successfully graduate. A study conducted by University of San Diego reveals a 43 percent dropout rate among their affirmative action students in contrast to a 27 percent dropout rate for their non-affirmative action students. The gap in the percentages can be attributed to the differing levels of childhood education between affirmative action students and those accepted based on merit. If



CARTOON BY ELLA MOON

schools in minority neighborhoods receive more funding for rigorous classes, they would be able to better prepare their students to not only get accepted into colleges but thrive in them. To properly equip minority students with knowledge and skills necessary for future successes, the state legislature should support measures that would offer strong childhood education to minority students. The efforts from the state government to increase the representation of minorities in public colleges and workspace are commendable, but making affirmative action legal is not the right approach. Proposition 16 is unnecessary when diversity is already present in many public colleges and it could lead to unwarranted disadvantages for certain groups.

VOICES OF THE WARRIORS

Read about what our Warriors have to say about different social, political and personal issues.



Healthcare for Patients, not Profit by Anonymous Senior

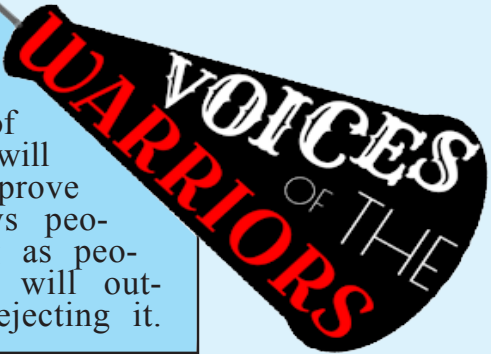
Privatizing healthcare is an assault on members of the lower class and racial minorities in this country. The rushed Republican healthcare bill passed in 2017, the American Health Care Act, leaves about 24 million Americans without insurance. Republicans can argue that publicizing healthcare will lead to a decrease in the quality of our hospitals. When comparing the US's privatized healthcare system to the public Canadian one, however, the data shows this point is completely unfounded. Though the cost of healthcare in the US is twice of that in Canada, the US also has a life expectancy 2.5 years shorter than Canada. I encourage anyone who would like to see the data for themselves to read "Privatizing health care is not the answer: lessons from the United States" by Dr. Marcia Angell. In the words of

Dr. Angell, "[the US] is the only industrialized country that treats health care like a market commodity instead of a social service...those with the greatest need are those least able to pay. Although markets are good for many things, they are not a good way to distribute health care because that is not their primary purpose." Patients cannot continue to be treated like profit, because it is at this point where we begin to put capitalist greed over real lives. And, to anybody with a shred of moral intellect, it should be clear what matters more.

Social Media is Society's Asset by Anonymous Sophomore

Many people seem to believe that social media is automatically bad. However, the benefits social media provides to society outweigh the harms. media has connected the world in ways that have sible before. With this new communication tool, everything can be completed faster, more efficiently, and more productively. Social media has been used to spread awareness about a wide variety of issues to keep people informed about important events going on around the world, such as LGBTQ+ discrimination. The rise in popularity of social media has also made it much easier to track the activities of politicians so that there is always recorded evidence of their activities and statements. Because social media can keep politicians accountable, voters will be more informed about who they are really voting for. Additionally, social media can improve mental health. Being able to talk to people regardless of where they are allows people to spend time with others without having to plan a physical meeting. As long as people are using social media safely and responsibly, the benefits of social media will outweigh any harms. We should embrace this as a new tool to help us instead of rejecting it.

Social never been possible



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Andre Gonzalez
advisor

Danielle Chow
management

Cassandra Flandre-Nguyen
Joseph Oh
ads & business

2200 E. Dorothy Lane
Fullerton, CA 92831

Phone: (714) 626-4518
Email: oracle.troy@gmail.com
Website: www.troyoracle.com
Instagram: [@troyoracle](https://www.instagram.com/troyoracle)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/oracle.troy/

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THE BTS BREAKTHROUGH

BTS has made history yet again by topping the Billboard Hot 100 with their new single “Dynamite.” Read further to see how they’re redefining K-Pop and transforming the Western music industry.

Compiled by Amy Kim, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE
EDITOR, article by Brianna Vu, STAFF WRITER, and photos courtesy of Google

With the release of their most explosive single to date, BTS has blown up on the Billboard Hot 100. Released on August 21, “Dynamite” immediately skyrocketed to the top of the chart for an unprecedented number one debut, making it the first K-Pop song in music history to achieve this feat. Even many of their successful English-speaking counterparts, such as One Direction and Twenty One Pilots, have never managed to top this prestigious chart. The disco-inspired tune, the pulse of the lively beat and the mellow lyrics of this single invite many fans to sing along—completely in English. By interweaving an 80s retro vibe with funky hip hop to create a catchy beat demanding to be replayed, this South Korean boyband has been able to defend the coveted number one position for three weeks.

Though they seemingly conquered the world out of nowhere, BTS’ groundbreaking rise to stardom didn’t happen overnight. The beginning of K-Pop, or Korean Pop, dates back to 1992 with Seo Taiji and Boys. However, K-Pop’s acceptance into the global mainstream was hindered by PSY’s 2012 one-hit wonder, “Gangnam Style.” Though it became the first YouTube video to garner over one billion views, it inadvertently led to the general public misunderstanding K-Pop. Due to the comedic dance and repetitive, amusing lyrics, the average American perceived the single, and consequently the entirety of the genre, as a joke. Rather than being appreciated as a substantial form of artistry, K-Pop was reduced to a fatuous genre. Eventually, the second generation of Korean idol groups, spearheaded by Big Bang and Girls’ Generation, gradually expanded K-Pop into the United States in a favorable light. As the first few groups to hold concerts and sell records outside of Asia, they steadily established a quiet, yet mighty, foundation of international supporters, which set the stage for BTS’ explosion onto the global music scene.

By discovering a unique balance between adhering to established K-Pop customs and emphasizing personal craftsmanship in music,

BTS has redefined what it means to be a K-Pop artist. Though they’ve garnered global attention through their flawlessly executed choreography and vi-

brant music videos, these features are characteristic of nearly every group in South Korea. Instead, the seven superstars have distinguished themselves from their predecessors by personally playing a significant role in the production of their own music and the development of the messages they want to spread, rather than allowing company executives to manufacture a stringent concept for them. By touching on their personal struggles and the lessons they’ve learned throughout their lives in an artistic manner, BTS’ emotional storytelling is able to resonate with their fans, who call themselves the ARMY, or Adorable Representative M.C. for Youth. Though BTS have successfully capitalized on the ever-increasing globalization of social media to expand their base, it is ultimately their authenticity and vulnerability that allows for such a personal connection with their fans. In fact, their songs are a musical manifestation of their love for their artistry and supporters. Not only was “Dynamite” written to bring a message of hope to their fans all over the world during these unprecedented times, but previous hits such as “Fake Love” also underscore the importance of loving oneself to be able to love others.

Through BTS’ increase in popularity, K-Pop has ultimately revolutionized the future of music, laying the foundation for a multicultural community in the Western music industry. Collaborations with American artists, like Halsey and Nicki Minaj, and numerous awards at the Billboard Awards ushered in a new era of Asian representation in music. As BTS catalyze a wider acceptance and appreciation for this blending of Western and Korean culture, they empower other K-Pop groups, such as Blackpink, to make their mark in music history as well, with their own Coachella performance and late-night talk show appearances.

Despite paving the way for future generations of K-Pop, BTS still has obstacles of their own to overcome as they continue their global conquest. As “Dynamite” was their first single to be sung in complete English, their number one doesn’t signify that the language barrier they faced is now obsolete. On the contrary, it reflects how BTS has to accommodate for the homogeneity of the Western music industry. So while appreciating how far they’ve come with their chart-topping single, let’s also hope that BTS brings the fire and sets the night alight for a future that holds a more accepting music industry.

K-POP GONE GLOBAL: *Bangtan Sonyeondan, more commonly known as BTS, continues their trailblazing conquest of the Western music industry with their latest hit “Dynamite.”*

PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG HIT ENTERTAINMENT



Girls Cross Country set to run in the first race of the new season

The Lady Warriors open up this year’s season running in their first competitive race; explore their perspective leading up to the race.

By Jacqueline Liu
STAFF WRITER

The implementation of social distancing policies has definitely put a damper on the Warrior experience, and high school athletics is no exception. With the indefinite postponement of major sports events, many sports teams find it very difficult to conduct normal activities such as team practices. However, the girls cross country team is an excellent example of persevering through the strain of Covid-19. Not only has the team held consistent practices throughout quarantine, but the lady Warriors will also be participating in a virtual race Sept. 28-Oct. 3, marking the first competitive sports event of the 2020 school year. A total of seven varsity cross country runners will compete in this year’s annual Woodbridge Cross Country Classic. During the virtual race, competitors will track their own mileage and report their times to the coaches. The team’s scores will then be submitted through athletic.net, the platform used by the Woodbridge Invitational to compile runners’ times. In preparation for the invitational, the team maintained a steady practice schedule while also accounting for social dis-

tancing guidelines. When practicing on school days, the team holds a Zoom at the start of sixth period, then goes to school to practice. During on-campus practices, the coaches conduct daily temperature checks and runners stay six feet apart at all times. On Saturdays, the team also goes on runs early in the morning where students run several miles at different locations like the beach or a park. “A lot of the people on the team have been improving, and I know that if we had our regular race schedule, we would all be doing really well,” said junior Kayla Estrada. “The training has been tough but we’ve all been getting stronger.” Even though social distancing has made bonding more difficult between the runners and has had an impact upon team chemistry, these practices have played an important role in maintaining a focused mindset for the team. As practices are no longer in person, athletes are struggling to stay motivated in their rigorous routines. However, the girls cross country team has found practicing a lot more enjoyable with the schedule that the coaches have established. The practices allow for a safe environment where the teammates and coaches encourage each runner to do her best, junior Kayla Sim said. “Running is mainly a mental sport and a lot of it depends on who you’re running with,” Sim said. “Sometimes it can get really exhausting when you’re running by yourself because you have no one to motivate you. But it’s a lot easier when you have teammates to talk to.

These practices have definitely played a major role in keeping me accountable.” For a last bit of preparation prior to Woodbridge, the runners tied their laces and took to the course to run a timed trial. The trial enabled the runners to gain a sense of their placement and also served as a practice to gauge running pace and timing. As a result of their established training schedule along with their trial times, the team is feeling extremely confident going into the Woodbridge invitational. Because Woodbridge is a large meet that has teams all over the nation competing, the team is able to view their progress from a different perspective, said Sim. “Rather than seeing it as

a competition,” Sim said. “Our team sees it more as a fun race to get us excited and pumped up for our season in store and our future races.”



Photo by GISELLE FERNANDEZ

STEADY PACE: Junior Rylee Garner (left) and freshman Neya Jakan (right) run in their first competitive timed trial at Cal State Fullerton in preparation for the Woodbridge Classic.

Warrior eSports begins preparations for the year’s upcoming gaming season

Amidst the pandemic, eSports remained relatively normal in comparison to other sports, delve into their preparation for the season.

By William Song
STAFF WRITER

One of the fastest growing sports in the world, eSports adds a new dimension to sports and entertainment. In addition to its explosive growth, its rise has also inspired a new generation of athletes. Rather than wielding a racket or ball, these players utilize their talents on the joystick, mouse and keyboard. At Troy, students can satisfy their competitive spirit and share their love of gaming with others through the Warrior eSports team. Troy’s eSports organization was created in 2017 and includes League of Legends teams, Overwatch teams and several NHL Hockey teams. It is a part of the NASEF (North America Scholastic Esports Federation) and is a member of the Orange County High School Esports League created in partnership with the Orange County Department of Education, the University of California at Irvine eSports and the Samueli Foundation. One unique feature of Warriors eS-

ports is the girls League of Legends team. Troy is one of the first high schools in the nation to have an all girls eSports team. In addition to making history, the girls also aim to empower women and show that girls can also play competitively at a high level. Along with making history with the girls team, Troy’s eSports team has amassed many outstanding achievements shared between the Overwatch, League of Legends and NHL Hockey teams. One notable alumnus is professional gamer Eugene “Pobelter” Park of Counter Logic Gaming who is a three time champion of the League of Legends Championship Series. Despite the pandemic and the problems it presents to many sports teams at Troy, eSports managed to quickly adapt to the situation. Teams set up practice times and trained together online. However, compromises were made in order to carry out practice safely. “Obviously we do not get to see each other,” junior Matthew Back of the Overwatch team said. “But being able to talk with each other when we are playing is enough.” Since Troy’s esports team has several teams that play different games, teams compete at different times of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLOS ALDACO

GAMING PRODIGIES: Members of the Girls’ League of Legends Team and the Overwatch Team attend a freeplay event.

year. The Overwatch team will start competing in October, while the girls League of Legends team will start competing in the spring of next year. As the fall season approaches, members of all teams are growing in anticipation for the chance to compete once again. Senior Katrina Mizuo, who competes on the girls’ League of Legends team has high hopes for the season.

“I am excited to meet people,” senior Katrina Mizuo said. “I want to meet other girls who are interested in esports and are passionate about it.” General manager Carlos Aldaco has similar goals for the season. “[I want to] encourage more female students to join,” Mr. Aldaco said. “For the eSports team, play and win. We treat our eSports team as any other sport.”