

ORACLE

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It’s a classic “Who dunit?” with a twist. Follow detective Poirot as she attempts to expose the murderer on the infamous Orient Express.

Compiled by Diya Patel, NEWS EDITOR, article by Brianna Vu, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON

Warrior Theatre Arts presented Murder on the Orient Express as their first post-pandemic play at the Thomas Moore auditorium Nov. 3-6. Inspired by Agatha Christie’s novel, the play follows detective Hercule Poirot through a murder case on the train Orient Express. While Christie’s tale is categorized as a thriller mystery, Warriors took a different approach through the use of humorous dialogue. With intentions to either aid or misguide the detective’s final decision, each character made multiple assumptions on who they thought the murderer was. In preparation for the show, the students first auditioned through sides, or short monologues and scenes from the script, and received call backs for different roles. After the finalization of the cast, the theater classes prepared for the show with daily rehearsals after school and continued the construction of the set. As the date of the play approached, students rehearsed the entire show in full on Saturdays and had dress rehearsals afterschool.

Set in the 1930s, the play took place on a moving train built by the theater classes and theater tech after school. The students designed the train to physically open up and display different passenger rooms such as the dining cart room and balcony. Through the guidance of drama teacher and director Joe Hufferd and his blueprint of a train, the students built an operative set that showed the crime scene in order to help the audience follow the plotline. According to Lead Costume Designer Madison Avey, costumes played a vital role in characterization. Inspired by European fashion of the 1930s, the costume for characters like Countess Adrenyi featured a fur coat which allowed for the actress to step into her role as a rich, stand-up woman, Avey said. “Ultimately, costumes get students more into character and more comfortable when making jokes,” Avey said. “Because the students are dressed as someone else and are not seen as themselves, they feel safer saying

things they do not normally say and being silly. It is a stepping stone for actors and actresses to get into character, making the audience laugh and bringing the Warrior students and family closer together.” In contrast to the original play, the Warrior production features a male lead played by two females. Poirot showed sympathy towards others but still controlled the scene of the show which allowed for the role of his character to be open to both males and females, lead actress Angelina Kharrat said. “By having a gender bent role, it is not only captivating as the actress but to the audience as well,” Kharrat said. “With female leads, we had the ability to experiment with different voice commands and hand gestures in order to capture Poirot’s dominance. The difference in volume and hand movement eventually became a running joke throughout the play that the audience members found to be both memorable and hilarious at the same time.”

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Warrior Key Club participates in annual Fall Rally social

The Rhino tradition gathers members from branches around the world at Six Flags amusement park to celebrate their club spirit.

the clubs will also hold a large-scale spirit battle in which the members of each division compete against each other as they attempt to cheer the loudest to exhibit their spirit. At the end of the battles, the executive board awards the division with the loudest and most spirited chants with the spirit stick.

representing their division and make new friends from inside and outside of our division.”

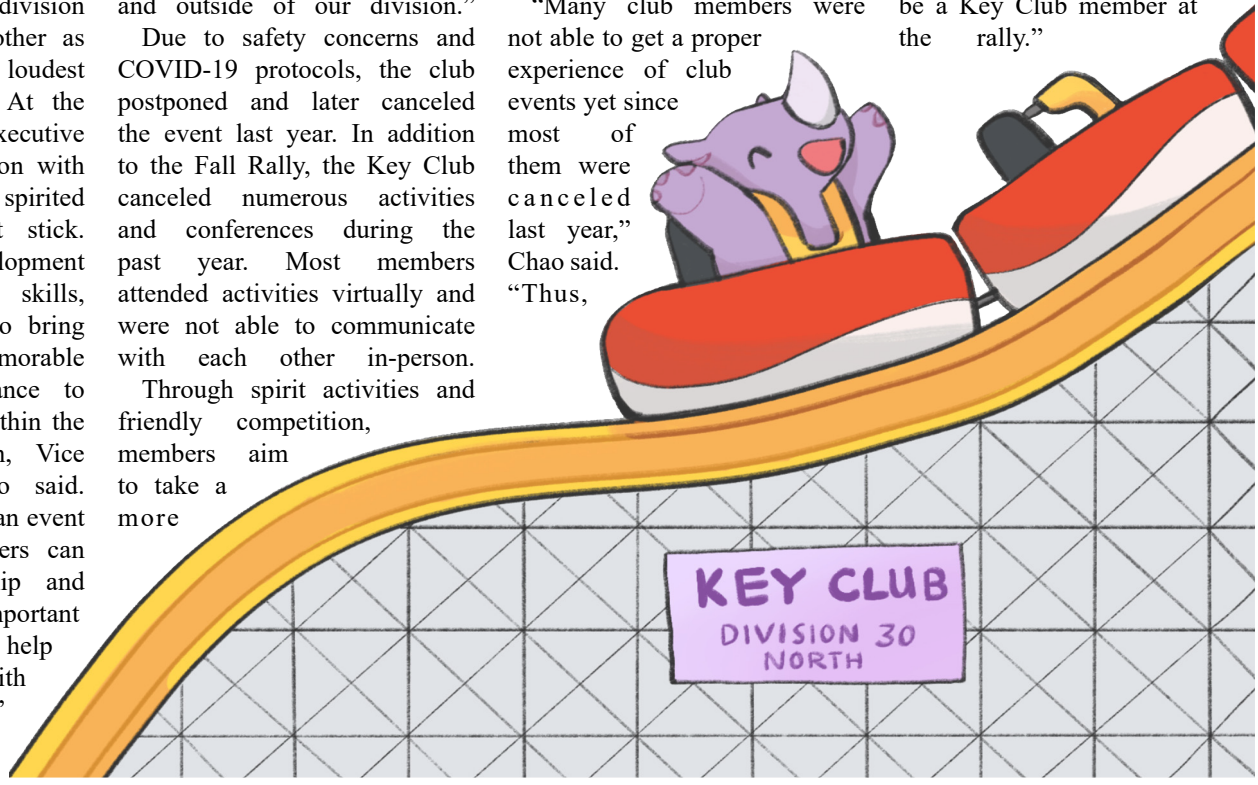
active role in the larger organization, Chao said. “Many club members were not able to get a proper experience of club events yet since most of them were canceled last year,” Chao said. “Thus, we hope that they will have truly experience what it is like to be a Key Club member at the rally.”

By Jamie Lee
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to connect with regional branches, Warrior Key Club will attend the Fall Rally South at Six Flags Magic Mountain Nov. 13. Held annually, the Fall Rally welcomes clubs from across California, Nevada and Hawaii to participate in the team-building event. Throughout the day, members will hold mini spirit battles between the small groups through club chants to showcase their division’s spirit. Members can go on rides and explore the park during the event in small groups. As a central club tradition,

Along with the development of essential leadership skills, the board also hopes to bring to members a memorable experience and a chance to expand their network within the Key Club organization, Vice President Nathan Chao said. “Although the rally is an event where key club members can develop their leadership and social skills, another important purpose of the event is to help the members have fun with other key club members,” Chao said. “We hope that the members will have a great time

Due to safety concerns and COVID-19 protocols, the club postponed and later canceled the event last year. In addition to the Fall Rally, the Key Club canceled numerous activities and conferences during the past year. Most members attended activities virtually and were not able to communicate with each other in-person. Through spirit activities and friendly competition, members aim to take a more



CARTOON BY PEARL YOON

Musical Marvels

By Kaelyn Kwon
STAFF WRITER

Senior Rami Boutaam and sophomore Nicholai Matias attended the first rehearsal for the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade Nov. 7.

A part of the Warrior Band, Boutaam plays the baritone, and Matias practices the bass trombone. After Music Director Joseph Castillo advertised the event, the students auditioned in-person for the Tournament of Roses Honor Band.

Established in 1891, the Tournament of Roses features marching bands and equestrian shows to celebrate the New Year. Along a 5.5-mile parade route, the event provides high school students from Southern California the opportunity to perform before a live audience.

In order to qualify for the band, students submitted an application and completed an in-person audition. Organizers required students to perform a piece of

self-chosen solo repertoire, an excerpt from the parade program and a passage to sight-read. Throughout November and December, the organization offers tickets for each activity on the event website. Individuals can purchase tickets for prices between \$60 to \$110 based on the seating area.

At rehearsals, musicians will practice moving in unison and playing while marching. The rehearsal schedule consists of long hours, but the performance’s success will bring recognition to the Warrior Music Program, Boutaam said.

“Other than becoming a better musician and improving endurance, the parade will help students develop and work with people around them even better,” Boutaam said. “Hopefully, the event encourages people in our music programs to audition in the following years.”

Perfect 5's

By Erin Jang
STAFF WRITER

Seven Warriors received email notifications from the College Board about their achievement of perfect scores on the 2021 Advanced Placement exams Oct. 17.

Following a year of distance learning, Cheryl Wang completed the AP Computer Science A exam in person May 6. Centered on the Java programming language, the test consists of 40 multiple-choice questions and four free-response questions. Students must analyze the behavior and conditions of different code segments and identify the outputs of specific algorithms.

Along with Wang, juniors Yonghoon Han, Jay Shim and Johnathan Yoo also obtained perfect scores for the AP Computer Science A exam. After completing the test in-person, junior Anuj Patel received the maximum score for the AP Language and Composition exam. For the AP Computer Science Principles exam, 335 students achieved perfect scores, including sophomore Zhenhua Yuan. On the AP Chinese Language and Culture exam, senior Henry Tang earned the highest possible score.

According to Wang, practice tests and group study sessions helped her master the content. Repetitive familiarization with the Java language was also helpful for the test, Wang said.

“I enjoy computer science because I find it really interesting that code is able to create visuals and function,” Wang said. “In the future, I would love to remain in the technological field to continue working with computer science in engineering careers.”

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Schools mandated to provide free menstrual products

The bill was approved in hopes to alleviate financial pressures created by period product expenses.

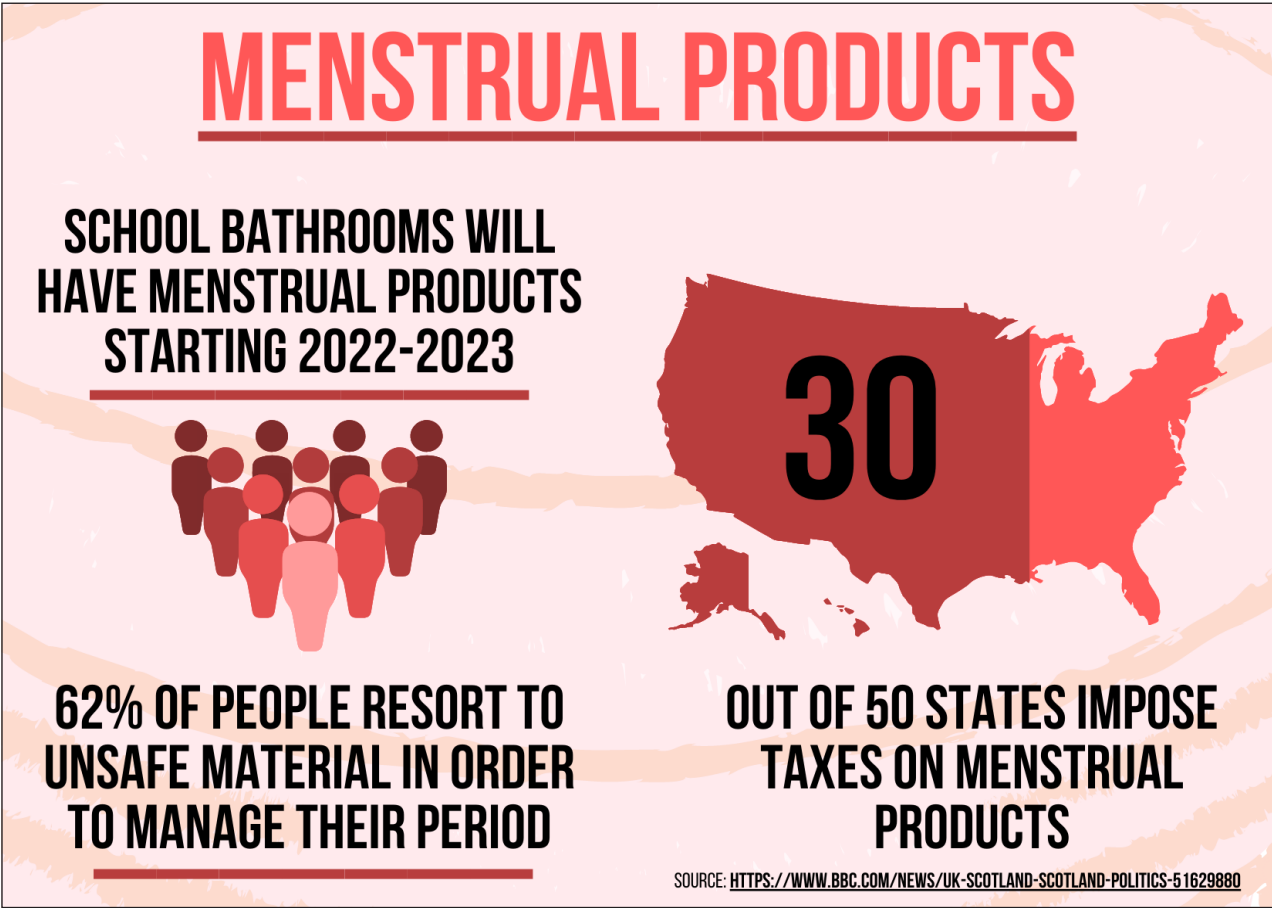
By Neya Jakan, Kathleen Zhang
STAFF WRITER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Governor Gavin Newsom signed the Menstrual Equity for All Act that requires free menstrual products to be supplied to students who attend public schools and colleges in California Oct. 8. Effective 2022-2023 school year, the state government will mandate all public school and college bathrooms to be equipped with menstrual product dispensers with aims to provide convenient access to proper hygiene products. Based on the Menstrual Equity for All Act of 2017, the recently signed bill expands efforts to supply menstrual products beyond just areas of low income to all public schools and colleges across California. Known as the pink tax, the high cost of menstrual products is a result of their classification as luxury

items. In 30 out of 50 states in the US, the pink tax subjects menstrual products to standard tax sales. Due to inaccessibility to menstrual products worldwide, approximately 62% of people resort to unsafe materials in order to manage their periods. The Menstrual Equity for All Act Alliance for Period Supplies Chief Executive Officer Joanne Goldblum said. “All people who menstruate require period products in order

to fully participate in daily life,” Goldblum said. “The Menstrual Equity for All Act recognizes that period poverty is a public health issue, and that equitable access to period supplies would ensure that millions of people can work, learn and participate in our society knowing they have the material basic necessities to thrive.” According to assembly member Cristina Garcia, the normalcy of convenient access to proper hygiene products in bathrooms

should be established. The supply of hygiene products in bathrooms will allow students to direct their attention to their priorities and limit distractions due to their menstrual cycle. “Just as toilet paper is provided in virtually every public bathroom, so should menstrual products,” Garcia said. “It is time we recognize the biology of half the population by prioritizing free access to menstrual products and eliminating all barriers to them.”



CLUB CORNER

Doctors Without Borders

Providing humanitarian care globally, Doctors Without Borders is an international medical organization that helps over 70 countries with their urgent medical issues. Medical emergencies include treatments for Ebola, COVID-19 and measles. The Warrior club discusses the different projects the organization has supported and aims to bring awareness to each countries’ disadvantages. Club members meet in room 517 every other Tuesday and hope to raise funds front line workers’ medical supplies.

Care Mission

The Warrior Care Mission chapter strives to contribute to the community through their humanitarian services to the homeless community. Club members organize weekly meal distributions to homeless individuals and deliver basic living necessities such as blankets and socks to local impoverished communities. Past events the club held include blanket drives where students collected donations and materials to make homemade blankets for the winter.

Compassion International

As a certified nonprofit organization, Compassion International raises money to sponsor children in need of financial support. The club members holds fundraisers to provide resources such as education, supplements and health care for young students worldwide. The club sets their focus to increase the rates of college graduation and job acceptance. With meetings in room 324 every other Friday, club members will have numerous volunteer opportunities to increase their hours.

Operation Smile

Reaching out to the younger generations, Operation Smile commits to provide cleft lip and palate repair surgeries, psychological services, speech therapy and other essential mouth treatments. The organization’s training and educational programs increase local surgical standards and aids in safe surgery. The club holds meetings on Thursdays during lunch in room 520 to create service projects and raise funds for high quality surgeries for children.

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CHAPPELLE CARELESS TO CANCELLED

Dave Chappelle’s history of provocative comedy has put him at the mercy of critics for his whole career. Read further to see his latest controversy explained.

Compiled by Sean Warren, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Jessica Chin, STAFF WRITER, and photos courtesy of Google

While looking for standup comedy on Netflix, one thing is clear: stay away from Dave Chappelle’s new show “The Closer.” As a stand-up comedian and actor, Chappelle’s creative sketches and parodies that explore the nuances of race and culture have often put him in deep waters with critics. But this time, Chappelle’s new comedy series may be enough to push him over the edge of humor and into the realm of flat out insults.

In Chappelle’s latest special, “The Closer,” the comedian bases his humor on the mockery and degradation of transgender communities. Chappelle himself controversially states that he is team TERF, a group of trans-exclusionary radical feminists who argue that trans women are not women and undermine the struggles trans people deal with. Adding insult to injury, he compares being trans to wearing blackface, insinuating that trans people are portraying a mockery of gender by simply trying to be themselves. Chappelle even ignores the entirety of black LGBTQ+ communities, acting as if they only consist of white people. Yet, Chappelle’s most outrageous claim is that he supports trans people, but his malicious references to the trans community as “the alphabet people” definitely say otherwise.

However, many viewers were perceptive of Chappelle’s entirely transphobic sense of humor and directed their discontent to Netflix. In a disappointing display of ignorance, Ted Sarandos, the co-CEO of Netflix, defended Chappelle’s second-rate comedy. He ironically claimed that Netflix was a platform that did not allow titles that incite hate or violence, although Chappelle essentially champions hate-speech in “The Closer.” Sarandos’ defense of Chappelle triggered a walk-out of the company’s trans employee resource group, in which participating staff created a list of demands for boosting trans and nonbinary content on the platform. Though Netflix did issue a statement of support in regards to the walkout,

they still have not stated if demands will be met, furthering the disappointment felt towards the streaming service. By actively supporting a show that harasses the trans community and ignoring the concerns of their employees, Netflix is now at the center of violent criticism, as the streaming service should never have promoted a production that degrades and humiliates a marginalized community.

While it’s surprising that a series that targets the trans community could be created for such a large platform, the production is a reflection of our culture and society that marginalizes and excludes trans people. Chappelle boldly uses his misconstrued sense of humor to justify violence and harm to the trans community. However, it is even more alarming that Netflix has allowed the toxic remarks disguised as comedy to be promoted to the public. Despite Netflix’s attempts to fix their mistake, their apology remains inauthentic as the series has only been moved to the same category as other highly controversial Netflix releases. Yet, while Chappelle may argue that his special is an expression of his artistic license, he carelessly crosses the boundaries of acceptable comedy numerous times with his demeaning jokes towards the trans community. Comedy should never come at the expense of another group’s degradation, and it should especially never be allowed to be publicly promoted on a streaming service with the magnitude of influence as Netflix.

Chappelle is in denial of the harm he has caused, claiming that his harsh remarks were simply jokes. Yet, he is blinded in ignorance if he is unable to see the pain and suffering he has created. However, the series was successful in exposing the underlying controversies surrounding the portrayal of transgender issues in the media. So as you scroll through the endless rows of Netflix content, shows like Chappelle’s “The Closer,” are better left unwatched.





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ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

- INITIAL SCREENING DUE JAN. 21

BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

- INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION ENDS DEC. 22

Note to Self
Sign-up to competitions

MBTI: Which plant are you?




The period of quarantine has trapped students and staff alike in their homes, but this experience also led them on a journey of self-discovery. The Oracle invites you to join our exploration through these Myers-Briggs personalities and their symbolic flora. Check out the plant representing your type and read about the teachers and famous figures just like you!



Articles by Coco Gong, **FEATURE EDITOR** and Mary Kim, **STAFF WRITER**, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, **CARTOON EDITOR**, graphics by Daniela Kristen Herrera, **GRAPHICS**, and photos courtesy of 16Personalities

INTJ

The INTJs never cease their search for knowledge and wisdom. Independent and determined, these types are capable individuals who tend to set high performance standards for both themselves and others. Math teacher Sam Kim is an example of an INTJ, and some other familiar faces of this type are entrepreneur Elon Musk and Cho Sang-woo from Squid Game.



Purple Waffle Plant

INFJ

The designated “therapist friend,” INFJs are the compassionate caretakers of every community. Imaginative dreamers with boundless visions, they always see the best in the world and other people. ASB Adviser Alexandria Williamson Gillespie also highlights her value for sincerity and honesty from others. Other staff include special education teacher Jenny Redmond and business teacher Luke Laubhan.



Philodendron

ISTJ

If a staggering task is ever at hand, it is time to look for the most reliable individuals on campus: the ISTJs. These organized and rational types can always be counted on to complete their tasks with flawless accuracy, never once slacking off. Special Education teacher Justin Link is one such individual and other well-known ISTJs include actress Natalie Portman and Zhongli from Genshin Impact.




Snake Plant

ISTP

Known for their originality and authenticity, the ISTPs can always impress with their unique mannerism. As natural creators, ISTPs enjoy a quiet environment where they can freely experiment through first-hand experiences, never bound by rules or any standard of “normal.” Recognizable ISTPs are actor Tom Cruise and Levi Ackerman from Attack on Titan.




Florida Sunshine



INTP

Hailing from a history of brilliant philosophers and scientists, the INTPs are the embodiment of inventiveness. Deeply abstract, their duality allows them to easily comprehend both simple math homework and theories of the mysterious universe itself. Geophysical teacher Aaron Eide is one such INTP, and other famous figures include scientist Charles Darwin and Master Yoda from Star Wars.


Devil's Ivy



INFP

The most imaginative on campus are the idealistic, curious and adaptable INFPs. Always kind hearted, they thrive in compassionate positions as writers, artists and musicians. The Oracle's adviser Andre Gonzalez expresses his strong empathy and love for the ones around him. Other INFPs include Princess Diana of Wales and “Chat Noir” Adrien Agreste from Miraculous Ladybug.


Green Calla Lily



ISFJ

There are rarely any others in this world who are more friendly, responsible and considerate than the ISFJs. Despite their introversion, they often strive to share their kindness and warmth in harmonious relationships. School counselor Sarah Saleen expresses that, although she prefers alone time, she is also very social. Singer Selena Gomez and Nezuko Kamado from Demon Slayer also represent the ISFJs.

Pilea Peperomioides



ISFP

Born to explore profound ideas and philosophies, the worlds of ISFPs are certainly colorful. Their minds always overflow with eloquence and creativity when they pursue their inner passions. In their relationships, they offer a thrilling journey as both bold risk-takers and guardians of harmony. Some familiar ISFPs are artist Frida Kahlo and Harry Potter from the Wizarding World.

Black-eyed Susan

ENTJ


Charismatic and confident, ENTJs represent the strong-willed leaders here at Troy. This personality constantly strives for greatness, as business teacher Deborah Henniger and special education teacher Zachery Hazard embody. With their commanding presence, ENTJs are the entrepreneurs and powerhouses of society, like chef Gordon Ramsay and Apple founder Steve Jobs.



Rubber Plant

ENFJ


Warm and forthright, ENFJs have earned their reputation as positive and inspiring. With their magnetic leadership and mesmerizing way of speech, it's no surprise that ENFJs are found among the most notable of individuals. Here at Troy, counselor Dionne Evans has been an ENFJ since her high school days, and dance coach Alison Wills expresses a direct correlation between her personality type and her doctoral dissertation.



Gerbera Daisy

ESTJ


Representing tradition and order, ESTJs are often community-oriented, taking pride in bringing people together. Like former president James Monroe, they are excellent administrators, unsurpassed at managing things with a strong sense of right and wrong. They embrace honesty and dedication, like well-known ESTJs Judge Judy and Dwight Schrute from The Office.




Fiddle Leaf Fig

ESTP

The life of the party and the eye of a storm, ESTPs are perceptive, smart and energetic. With a knack of entertaining those around them, this daring type enjoys living on the edge while also keeping a rational mind. Well-known ESTPs are Marvel characters Ant-Man and Rocket with their blunt humor and talkative personalities.




Yellow Lilies



ENTP

Possessing great mental agility, ENTPs embody Troy's curious thinkers, always willing to take on an intellectual challenge. ENTPs are articulate with their words and flexible in their learning, combining knowledge and originality into a harmonious balance. Some influential and familiar ENTPs include inventor Thomas Edison and writer Mark Twain.


Aloe Vera



ENFP

The true free spirits on campus, ENFPs, are sociable, enthusiastic and creative. Featuring vibrant energy and an open heart, they can always find a reason to smile. These social butterflies seek deep emotional connections with others while maintaining their easygoing exterior, like ENFPs Robert Downey Jr. and RM of BTS.


Green-flowered Orchids



ESFJ

Extraordinarily caring and social, the ESFJs spread peace and instill harmony in their circles. These altruists try their best to benefit others around them with a warm mindset, always eager to help. Counselor Jacquie Morck and Troy Tech coordinator Laurie Downun-Bonnett exemplify core traits of ESFJs alongside popular celebrities Taylor Swift and Steve Harvey.

Pothos Plant



ESFP

Living up to their reputation as vibrant and bold, ESFPs are full of colorful emotion. Spontaneous and energetic, life is never boring around these passionate individuals. ESFPs skillfully balance their social personalities with their sensitiveness to emotions, like biology teacher Charlotte Kirkpatrick. Recognizable ESFPs include Adele and Marilyn Monroe.

Sunflower



Oil companies should not be slick. We need stricter government policy now

By Audrey Na
STAFF WRITER



Birds drenched in oil and fish flopping on the shore—the government cannot ignore the atrocities committed by oil companies.

An underwater pipeline connected to oil rig “Elly” burst Oct. 2, spilling an estimated 144,000 gallons of crude oil into waters near Huntington Beach. Authorities believe that a large ship’s anchor may have struck the pipe and cracked the concrete casing, which caused environmental experts to believe that this spill and others in the future could have deadly consequences for marine life. Oil is an essential aspect of California’s economy, but the government needs to enforce stricter guidelines on companies as well as repurpose old rigs to protect our marine ecosystems.

Stricter guidelines are needed to regulate oil companies, such as requiring all offshore oil companies to regularly update their equipment. Some of the oldest oil rigs in the Pacific Ocean were built in the 1960s. Over time, pipes deteriorate due to corrosion, ship collisions and earthquakes. Since faulty pipelines are more susceptible to leaks, they should be regularly maintained and replaced. According to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, from 2001 to 2020,

“Stricter guidelines are needed to regulate oil companies, such as requiring all offshore oil companies to regularly update their equipment.”

as many as 5,750 pipeline incidents occurred onshore and offshore. Companies must be held accountable for keeping their equipment up to date; otherwise, oil spills will continue to poison our oceans.

Above all, the government should enforce penalties for companies that violate working guidelines. Federal inspectors have issued over a hundred violations to Beta Operating, the company that owns oil platform “Elly”. On several occasions, the company employees’ safety has been jeopardized, resulting in an accumulation of \$85,000 in fines during 2013 and 2014. However, these fines are not enough to enforce current federal

guidelines. Because the federal government controls the leases of oil companies in the Pacific Ocean, if companies fail to comply with national guidelines, the government could shut down the oil rigs.

Despite calls to dismantle oil rigs, they have become a home for some marine species. For instance, the Natural Academy of Sciences stated in 2014 that the oil platforms on California’s coast were one of the most ecologically diverse marine ecosystems in the world. For example, the rigs became habitats for bocaccio rockfish, a critically endangered species; the population of bocaccio rockfish increased by 3% in the Pacific Ocean. Removal of these structures could result in mass death



IMAGE COURTESY OF GOOGLE

of marine animals, leaving gaps in the food chain and damaging the ecosystem.

Furthermore, there is a better alternative to dismantling oil rigs: converting them into manmade coral reefs. Because complete removal is costly—approximately \$1.6 billion dollars to remove the 23 platforms in the Pacific Ocean—transforming old rigs is the best option to protect the environment and save money. Other states with large numbers of oil rigs, such as Texas and Alabama have successfully converted over 500 oil and gas structures into artificial reefs. Fourteen percent of the world’s natural coral reefs have been destroyed by human activities; this is our chance to coexist with nature and repair

the harm that we have caused over the years.

The cause of the Huntington Beach oil spill remains unclear, but one thing is for certain: the government must make substantial changes to oil company guidelines. These companies pose a threat to the environment, yet the government is doing little to stop them from poisoning our oceans. California has taken steps to reduce the amount of offshore oil rigs by preventing any more offshore leases, but the government needs to monitor the rigs that already exist. We have already acknowledged the harm that oil rigs have caused. It is time for us to start focusing on conserving our aquatic ecosystems, one oil rig at a time.

Unpaid interns should be compensated, not exploited, in the workplace

By Brian Woo
STAFF WRITER



Students, beware of unpaid internships.

The Troy Tech Magnet Program has begun preparing its juniors for summer internships. Most students look for internships to find work experience in a professional environment but oftentimes find themselves at the short end of the stick—most internships are unpaid, restricting both those who look for internships and those who offer them. Businesses and workplaces should offer paid internships to support students in their pursuit of work experience.

Not all students can work for free. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 36% of high school students work throughout the school year. Some low-income parents may not be able to provide for their families with just their jobs, so for many of these students, working is necessary to contribute to the family income. As such, students are unable to have the luxury to give up the benefits of a paid job and work at unpaid internships. Thus, unpaid internships are seized by students from higher income families that can support themselves. Paid internships would allow students to

support their families of all backgrounds in their daily lives and give everyone an equal opportunity to gain experience.

Understandably, interns are not as qualified for certain jobs as full-time employees are; however, they should still be paid for their time. Most internships can last between 10 to 20 hours a week during the school year, while summer interns can spend up to 40 hours a week, according to the National Environmental Health Association. In a wider view, unpaid internships are legal, but they are unethical.

Interns are told that their payment comes in the form of experience and skills that may assist them later on in their careers. However, considering that interns and regular employees work similar hours, this is clearly unethical in the world of fair exchange. Internships should pay their interns for their time and work to gradually shift toward more ethical conduct.

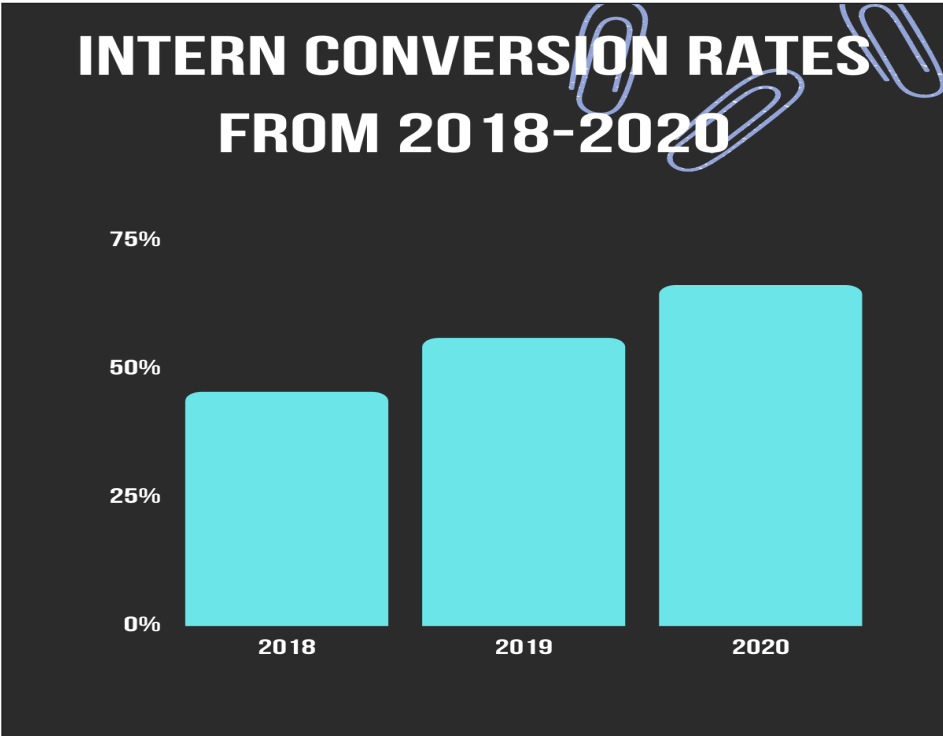
Although internships should be more ethical with their treatment of interns, the responsibility also falls upon schools to assist students with their internship-related problems. For example Smith College provides each of the 400 students in its Praxis Program a \$2,000 grant to compensate for unpaid summer work. Simi-

larly, University of California Los Angeles has offered academic credit for students as compensation for their unpaid internship.

While such efforts are commendable, these should only be considered a start toward paid internships. Academic credit does not provide the same financial stability that paid internships would, and colleges should not feel the burden to pay for these internships as they do not host them. Rather than just standing by, high

schools and colleges should push for more paid internships and better mediate conversations about paid work between the students and their internship advisers.

Students deserve to be paid for the labor and dedication they exhibit during their internships. Rather than continuing unpaid internships, corporations should offer their interns monetary compensation in recognition of their work. Students should take this opportunity to reevaluate their



GRAPHIC BY DAVID LEE

It is time to break free from gender stereotypes in children’s toys

By Manal Ahmed
STAFF WRITER



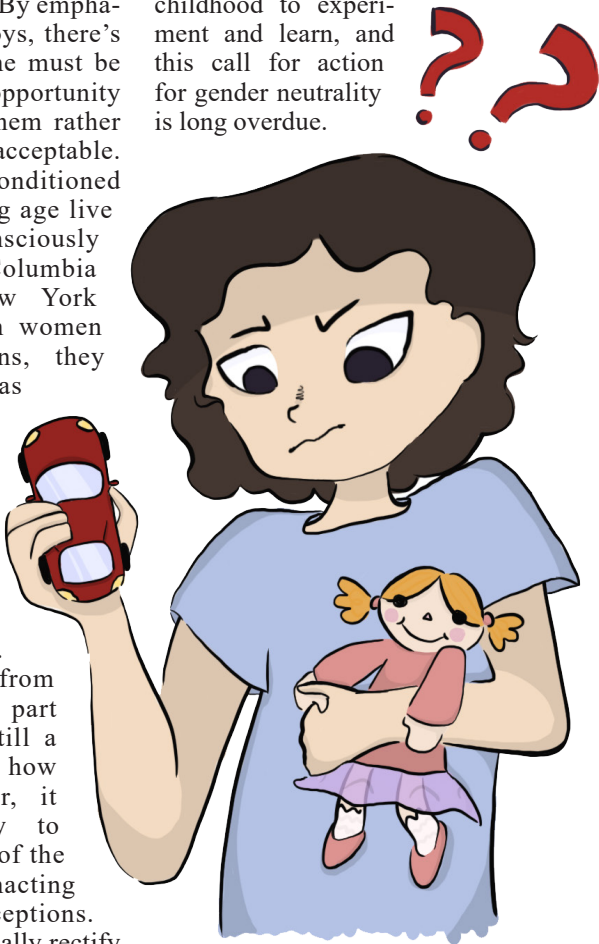
We must remove sexist prejudice, one toy aisle at a time. Assembly Bill 1084 was passed Oct. 9, and starting 2024 it will mandate that all retailers with more than 500 employees provide non-gendered toy sections. California’s new law is a step towards ending the sexist commercial divide between toys. Although some companies have attempted to remove gendered spaces, like Target’s 2015 decision to remove gendered toy aisles from its stores, California’s law is novel because the government is placing fines on stores that don’t comply. California’s legislative action advocating gender neutrality will help society advance toward increased gender equality through both economic and societal means. The required introduction of more unisex toys provides motivation for companies to prioritize gender neutrality, which will finally address the long history of marketed gendered products. Toys were unisex before the 19th century, but as the 1940s emerged, toys became manufactured specifically for a gender. This divide impacted the function of toys, as social toys like dolls became assigned solely to

“The required introduction of more unisex toys provides motivation for companies to prioritize gender neutrality, which will finally address the long history of marketed gendered products.”

girls while tactile and science-focused toys such as building blocks and cars were assigned to boys. Toys segregated by divisive gender lines limited the opportunity for boys to engage with social opportunities, and limited the ability for girls to engage with technological and mentally challenging toys. This systemic discrimination of gender has long influenced our culture, and it is imperative to combat these ingrained biases. Removing deeply rooted divisions in toys ensures more opportunities for children to engage in both social and intellectually challenging toys. Gender divisive toys stunt children’s social perceptions of gender. A 2017 study analyzing Lego products found that toys marketed towards girls imply passivity and superficiality, whereas toys marketed towards boys emphasize building, creativity and dominance. This affects how children appraise certain values—the 2020 Good Childhood Report found 44% of girls viewed beauty as their most important trait as opposed to boys viewing being tough. Girls’ emphasis on appearance places an undue burden on young girls, most of whom feel pressured to adhere to conventional beauty standards, as opposed to finding intrinsic values. On the other hand, boys’ expectations of strength and projection

of authority often contribute to the ideas of toxic masculinity that pervade our society. The constant emphasis on violence and roughness can negatively affect their psyche and lead to the repression of emotions and inability to express vulnerability in their futures. By emphasizing gender neutrality in toys, there’s no clear division of what one must be and allows children the opportunity to choose what appeals to them rather than what society deems acceptable. Children who have been conditioned to sexist norms from a young age live up to these standards unconsciously in adulthood. A study by Columbia Business School and New York University found that when women are in leadership positions, they are often discredited as unlikeable, bossy and shrill. On the other hand, male leaders are seen as authoritative, reliable and official. The stark difference is attributed to the typical submissive and patient representation of female leaders in media. This narrative builds from childhood, and toys are one part of the puzzle. As there’s still a divide in the perception of how gender influences behavior, it is society’s responsibility to correct its characterizations of the different genders and start enacting change toward societal perceptions. California’s new law will finally rectify previous stereotypes and issues associated

with gender. Toys may not seem like much now, but they are an instrumental tool in shaping the social and mental growth of children, who carry those societal perceptions to adulthood. Children deserve a clean slate in their childhood to experiment and learn, and this call for action for gender neutrality is long overdue.



CARTOON BY KIRSTEN DINGSON

mark my words

Warriors speak out on campus issues

Read what the Warrior population has to say about protests during school and walkout demonstrations.

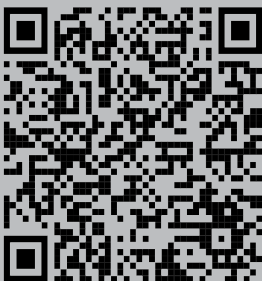
“The first amendment specifically identifies our freedom to protest. It is very important that we keep this freedom, no matter how much we disagree with what is being protested.”

- Joey Kelly,
Freshman

I think that if a cause is important enough to someone to be worth class time, they should be allowed to go and support it- but I also think classes shouldn’t pause specifically to allow students to protest.

- Emilee Winberg
Junior

See the full list of responses here!



“I don’t agree with the mask walkout at all, because the masks aren’t a personal attack on people’s freedom.”

- Anonymous junior

Legally speaking, you have the right to protest. Punishing students for something that is protected by law shouldn’t be allowed, whether I or you agree with it or not.

- Phong Vo,
Freshman

Students should be fully prepared to face the consequences of missing school if they are truly passionate about the protest. Otherwise, students would all leave class using protests only as an excuse and it would get out of hand.

- Zoey Bahng,
Freshman

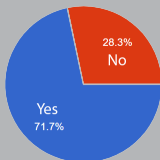
When done with the right intention, walkout protests can shine light on social issues than need immediate attention. It highlights the weight and urgency of the situation.

- Anonymous
Sophomore

“While a student should be allowed to walk out, they must acknowledge that it is their decision to do so, and be able to make up for the classwork that the protest obstructs. Detentions, however, shouldn’t be necessary”

- Anonymous Junior

Should students be allowed to leave their class as a sign of protest?



“I believe it depends on the circumstances. If the protest resulted in a positive change to the school, then the students should not be punished, because they stood up for what was right. By punishing them, we are simply enforcing the mindset that no one is allowed to think outside the box or have beliefs outside of what society tells us. Still, those students should be responsible for making up the work they missed. However, if the protest resulted in no actual change or a negative change (ex. It’s not a reasonable cause or the protest only encouraged MORE bad behavior), then the students should be punished. I think the decision whether or not to punish the students should be made after an executive party or the school collectively discusses whether or not the protest was for a reasonable cause that needs to be acknowledged.”

- Mary Annaleise, Junior

Blame the government for the national debt: what do we do now?

By Mai Omoto
STAFF WRITER



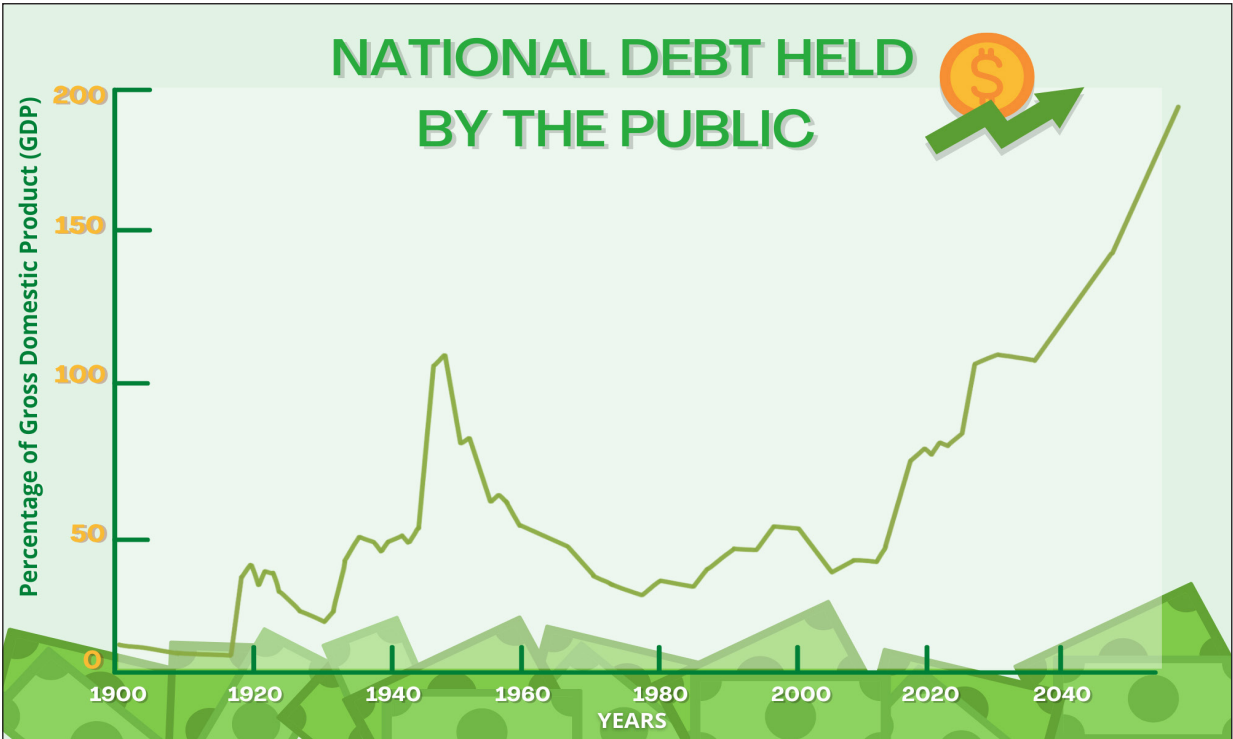
We must work to stabilize the national debt in order to prevent economic collapse. President Joe Biden signed legislation to raise the U.S. government’s debt ceiling, the maximum amount the U.S. government can borrow cumulatively without issuing bonds, by \$480 billion Oct. 14. As a way of storing debt, the U.S. government offers securities in exchange for citizen investment in bonds, which lends the government money that they are guaranteed to get back. By December, the federal government expects to surpass the adjusted debt ceiling, whereupon officials will vote again on whether to raise the ceiling even higher. Irresponsible spending has resulted in an excessive amount of national debt, but defaulting is much worse.

The ease with which the government spends trillions of dollars is irresponsible for our nation. One contribution of irresponsible spending is the war on Afghanistan, the longest war that the U.S. has ever fought. This 20 year war was ultimately futile and left generations of Americans with a massive national debt. The fact that President Bush cut taxes coupled with the excessive financing for the war, resulted in the government debt-financing over \$2 trillion. However, this number is not the actual amount that the U.S. must pay off: the government will have to pay up to \$6.5 trillion in interest and another \$2 trillion for veteran welfare. These tremendous costs are the result of irresponsible government spending. The government should have considered the ramification before entering into needless military expenditures such as the war in Afghanistan. If the U.S. continues this needless spending, raising the debt ceiling will be inevitable,

ultimately leaving future generations trapped trillions of dollars of irreparable debt that threatens the state of our economy. Although it seems irresponsible for the government to continue raising the debt ceiling, defaulting could result in disaster for a global economic disaster.

“If the U.S. continues this needless spending, raising the debt ceiling will be inevitable, ultimately leaving future generations trapped with trillions of dollars of irreparable debt that threatens the state of our economy.”

ment could no longer provide the government programs that many citizens rely on, such as Medicare or Medicaid. The default would also result in a stock market crash and massive inflation as a result of skyrocketing national interest rates triggering a recession and causing the credit market to freeze. Ultimately, this recession would produce a spike in unemployment without the safety net to provide these citizens with the resources they need to provide for their families. Americans will have less income for goods, which will negatively impact global trade. Many first world countries are currently raise



GRAPHIC BY DANIELA KRISTEN HERRERA

Reverting to default would mean acknowledging that the U.S. is unable to repay its fiscal promises to bondholders. If this happens, the federal government's debt ceiling without having to resort to a default. Nevertheless, policymakers must strive to stabilize our national debt. The government should implement a balanced approach to addressing the nation’s long-term fiscal problem through a combination of reductions in federal expenditures, and increases in federal tax revenues. It is impossible to shrink the

spending on Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. However, by decreasing spending on other programs, we can decrease the debt in the future. The current demographic requires the government to appropriate much of its funds to these programs, but this is projected to shrink in the future. Policymakers must also be cautious before promoting future tax cuts. With a culmination of these changes, the government should be able to decrease the national debt.

As a nation, it is impossible to ignore the growing debt, and we must work to mitigate it. For the sake of future generations, the government must be cautious of irresponsible spending to avoid the recurring question of defaulting or increasing the debt ceiling.

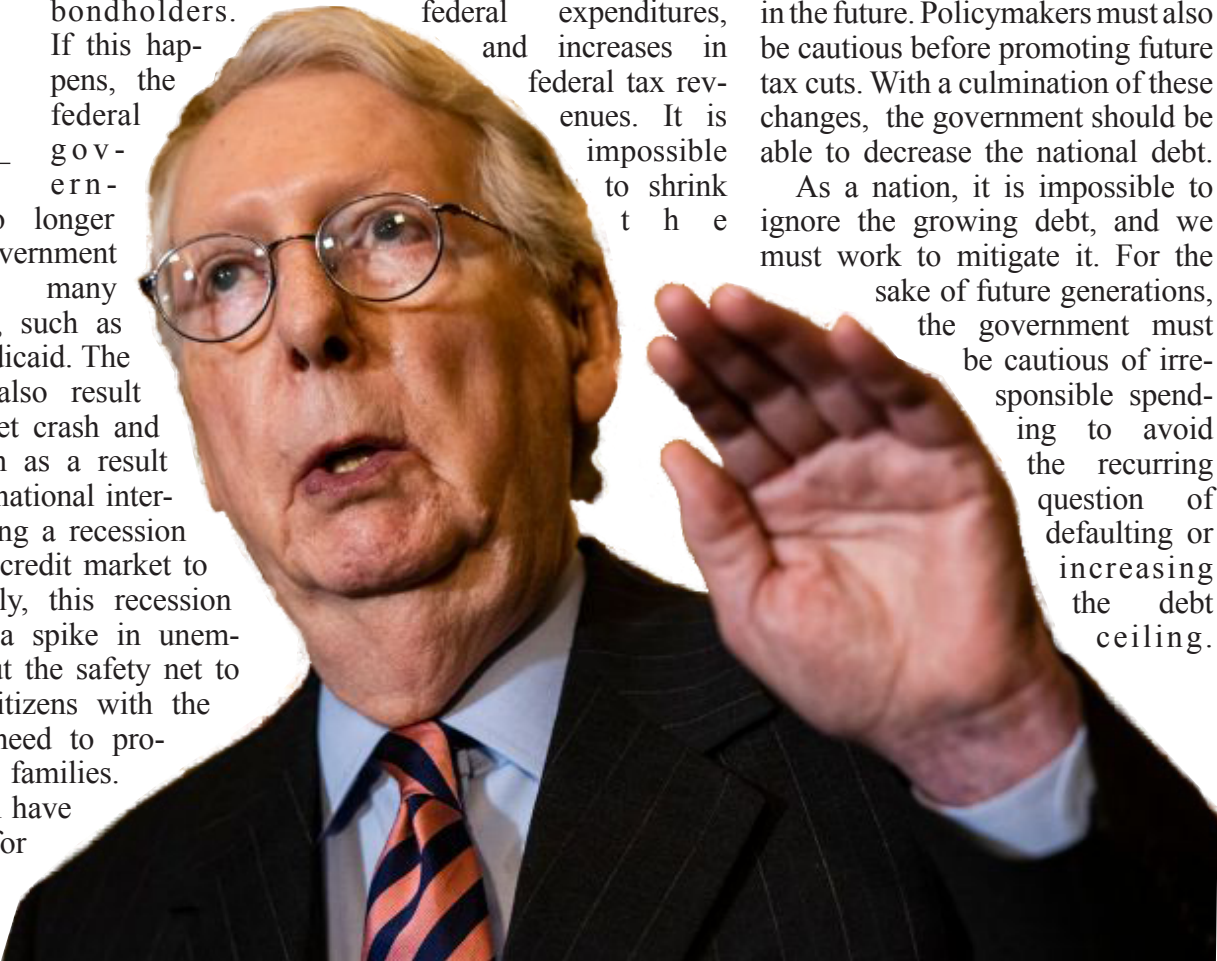


PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

DODGING DEBT DISASTER: Republican Senator Mitch McConnell insists that the Democratic Party must increase the debt ceiling without assistance from other parties.

College Catastrophe by Kirsten Dingson

The Warrior orienteering team makes its entrance at the Tahquitz 2021

The NJROTC orienteering team attended their first event at the Tahquitz 2021 competition.

By William Song
STAFF WRITER

Demonstrating grit and resourcefulness navigating on unfamiliar terrain, Troy's NJROTC orienteering team competed at the Tahquitz 2021 competition Oct. 24.

Organized by the Los Angeles Orienteering Club, Tahquitz 2021 marked the first competition for Troy's orienteering team this year. The Warriors found great success with

Assistant Orienteering Commander Dimitri Kouloumbis, sophomore Eric Hong and sophomore Miles Chew taking first place in the orange, yellow and white categories respectively. The team also placed in the top four for each category they competed in.

Similar to scavenger hunts, orienteering is an outdoor sport recognized at both a national and international level. During the competition, the Warriors re-

ceived a map, compass, hints and a list of points that they had to reach. Their goal was to navigate through their assigned course in the least amount of time.

There were seven different categories of courses that the participants could compete in: white, yellow, orange, brown, green, red and blue. Starting from white, the complexity and distance of these courses progressively increase.

Freshman and new members are encouraged to start in the white category, while experienced members generally participate in more demanding courses such as yellow or orange. A total of 11 orienteering members from Troy's team competed at Tahquitz 2021.

"We had a good turnout," Kouloumbis said. "It's been almost two years since the last competition so it was great to get back out there and compete."

Reflecting on the event, Lieutenant Robert Fronek is pleased with the progress and achievements of the team. He commends their dedication and encourages members to continue to improve.

"Not having done anything in the last year and a half or so, for them to get out

and do really well speaks volumes to the practice and time they are putting in," Fronek said. "I am very happy with that."

Requiring both mental and physical endurance, orienteering can pose a great challenge to competitors. The team must continuously look for checkpoints, while running at a fast, constant pace for up to three hours throughout the competition.

"It is a physical and mental battle," Kouloumbis said. "You have to fight a mental battle when you are running and lost. You have to keep your mental state calm."

To build endurance and prepare for competitions, the orienteering team holds conditioning practices after school every Tuesday and Thursday. Training consists of running miles around campus and full body exercises, which are essential for the members to stay in good physical condition.



CARTOON BY KAILA PERLAS

"We make sure to cover every single part of the body," Kouloumbis said. "We want to have the endurance to run for three hours almost nonstop."

The team looks forward to their next competition in November and aims to build on their success. Above all, Fronek hopes that the team enjoys orienteering and makes lasting relationships with each other and other competitors during the events.

"I think we will see improvement because everyone enjoys orienteering so much," Fronek said. "Mostly though, I want them to have fun. That is what it comes down to. Going out and having fun."

WONDER WARRIOR

She's a runner, she's a trackstar and she's a tennis player! Check out Annette Lee's phenomenal sports career.

Compiled by Jacqueline Liu, SPORTS EDITOR, by Jacob Ballon, STAFF WRITER

Many high school athletes aim to letter in one sport (say football, basketball or baseball) by the time they graduate. Achieving the ability to play varsity in just one sport as a senior is no mean feat. Yet Warrior Annette Lee plays varsity in three sports—and she's only a freshman.

Lee began playing tennis almost a decade ago at 5 years old, following in her older siblings' footsteps. With rapt attention, she would watch her older brother maneuver across the court, swinging his racket with artful dexterity. These childhood practice sessions with her brother got her hooked. Since then, Lee has only gotten better in tennis, ranking in the top 50 in California and the top 250 nationally.

Contributing further to her athletic career, Lee's older brother also introduced her to cross country. After seeing her dominate the tennis court with impressive speed, he suggested cross country and track. These newfound athletic loves have served as emotional outlets, a welcome break

from the intensity of her tennis career.

"He always told me that I would be good at [cross country and track]," Lee said. "But I didn't really consider it until I started feeling burnt out over tennis tournaments."

Lee competes for varsity in these sports while taking on rigorous academic coursework. To lighten her load, she completes assignments ahead of time if she is anticipating a late practice or tournament. Lee also avoids procrastinating, striving to finish her work immediately after practice. Her coaches also accommodate Lee's demanding schedule by allowing her to practice independently when necessary. In her efforts to manage her busy schedule, she has greatly improved in terms of time management over the years.

"Inexperience was somewhat of a factor because I wasn't used to the lack of sleep and amount of work that school requires, especially after the pandemic," Lee said. "I was able to overcome this by working in advance and trying to be more time efficient."

Lee takes all of her sports quite seriously. For tennis, Lee will practice various techniques with her friends and teammates. In cross country and track, her training comes mostly outside of practices when she runs separately from the team. Sometimes, practicing each sport individually is not possible, so Lee adapts by training her speed while also playing tennis. Whether practicing tennis every day, or running extra miles after cross country practice, one thing is clear: her dedication is unmatched.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNETTE LEE

QUICK TAKE: Annette Lee (right) poses with a teammate after a run.

"I play tennis everyday by setting up hits with my friends or people I know," Lee said. "For track and cross country, I try to run whenever I can find time after school."

In the future, Lee sees herself playing sports at the college level. Given how far she has come in such a short period of time, these dreams might one day become a reality for this precocious student-athlete.

"My goal is to run at least D3 cross country, but if I get fast enough, and improve each year, maybe I could run D1," Lee said.



STELLAR STARGAZING

Wishing on a star for a bright idea? Read more to find out about the secrets of up above!

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Kira Chen, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Kaila Perlas and Kirsten Dingson, CARTOON, and Pearl Yoon, CARTOON EDITOR, and photos courtesy of Google

The stars are aligning: it is time to pick up a new hobby. With hectic schedules keeping many inside, students may be on the lookout for a bright idea to follow. With no space travel necessary, individuals can touch the stars in a blink of an eye by stargazing — all one has to do is look up. Taking on any new endeavor can be expensive, and for many beginners, the daunting price of telescopes may be what keeps them from a galaxy of possibilities. People may be surprised to learn that anybody can stargaze as the only tool needed is one we are already born with: our eyes. Those who wish to go above and beyond however, can purchase a planisphere, which will help students identify what they are observing in the sky by matching the date and

time of the constellations. Amateur astronomers might gravitate towards the simple star map and pair of binoculars. With these lightweight and user-friendly tools, individuals can take their next stargazing adventure anywhere their heart desires. The overhead view of stars is never dull, allowing students' passions to shine bright. Whether it be gazing at the planets or observing the phases of the moon, individuals can pick up their cameras or pencils to capture the beauty that surrounds them every night. Those more in informative types of hobbies may pique interest in apps such as *SkySafari* and magazines like *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy*, which will help narrow down the scope of what they would like to pursue. While stargazing may seem like another activity to add to students' already overwhelming lists, they do not have to worry about advancing beyond any personal level. They can map out their journey one step at a time. Unwinding from busy school days, stargazing provides a mental retreat that leaves students feeling more refreshed from the tranquil environment. Although the grandeur of the sky only momentarily dissipates worries, they at least make the day-to-day troubles fall to the wayside. The educational

hobby provides an abundance of information about the billions of stars that surround our planet, making it perfect for students looking to stay busy both mentally and physically. Individuals who wish to broaden their astronomical knowledge and share their passion for the stars can attend star parties or workshops. Forming relationships with other enthusiasts, students may connect and forge friendships closer than the constellations. Stargazing truly redefines seeing the bright lights, transporting individuals to a world that cannot be replicated by the bustling city. Although many things weigh us down, it is important to remember to look up and relish in the true beauty that lies above. If you are looking for something out of this world, why not start stargazing picking up a telescope? It's not rocket science.

