

ORACLE

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Meant to Bee

Do not bee scared away by the stings! Come by the honey farm and bee-hold the buzz. Freshman Gavin Gibson is the bee’s knees with a hobby you won’t bee-lieve and a journey full of self-discovery.

Compiled by Eileen Um, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Helen Fang, **STAFF WRITER**, photo courtesy of Gavin Gibson



The hum of worker bees rides a breeze in undulating waves, filling the air with a murmuring lullaby. Freshman Gavin Gibson carefully slides out a frame from a pastel-colored beehive, inspecting his bees with an attentive eye and experienced ease. Gibson has been bustling around fields and land plots for years, helping his family business blossom into the success it is today. The Orange County Beekeeping Supply and Hapa Honey Farm, owned by the Gibson family, are producers of award-winning Hapa honeys and suppliers for hundreds of beekeepers and several universities in California. Each jar of honey is a sweet victory, filled to the brim with Gibson’s commitment to his craft. Moving outside of his comfort zone, Gibson learns firsthand the effort that goes into caring for other living creatures, a flourishing venture nourished by his willingness to learn. The seeds for the family business were planted decades ago by Gibson’s father, a singular hive growing into acres of land dedicated to pollination and beekeeping. From as young as seven years old, Gavin Gibson would don his protective suit and watch his parents tend to the beehives. Gazing from the sidelines, Gibson removed

himself from the bustle because of his fear of bees. However, his initial phobia was uprooted with the support of his parents, who encouraged him to gradually undertake more hands-on tasks, nurturing an appreciation for these insects as he overcame his original inhibitions. “It took me a while to build up the courage,” Gibson said. “But I found out that the bees don’t really want to sting. They’re not really vicious creatures. They’re just interesting.” Following in his father’s footsteps, Gibson learned how to maintain his hives, a critical process involving the observation of various details. Under the patient instruction of his parents, Gibson was taught to inspect key components of a colony’s health, including the queen bee, food, eggs and larvae. For Gibson, the most rewarding part of beekeeping is found in honey extraction. Once the comb is filled with nectar, the bees seal it with beeswax, removing the moisture and transforming the nectar into honey. Gibson removes the filled frames and uncovers layers of hard work to reach the amber treasure within. After extracting the wax, the final product oozes clear out, filling

jars proudly labeled “Hapa Honey Farms.” “It’s really satisfying when you get all the honey out,” Gibson said. “It’s like you earned your reward.” After telling classmates about his business, the eager responses prompted Gibson to sell his honey at school. Through word of mouth, the Gibson’s family business gained a reputation as a trusted supplier for beekeeping equipment and high quality organic honey. Having won first, second, third, numerous honorable mentions, Judges Award, Division Winner and even a Best of Show for their honeycomb at the OC Fair, the thriving Gibson business has been recognized as one of the best in Orange County. The Gibsons have also been featured on the Netflix series, “Waffles + Mochi’s Restaurant,” featuring former-lady Michelle Obama. For the episode “Honey,” the Gibsons explain how bees produce honey and showcase their beehives. After a resounding turnout at the OC Fair, the Hapa Honey Farm is preparing to enter their honey in the upcoming state fair. Reflecting on both the growth of the business and himself, Gibson encourages others to follow their hearts. “If you think something’s cool, just try it out,” Gibson said. “A lot can go just from a little bit of interest at the start.”



Love Through the Lines club hosts book drive on campus to donate to public libraries



The club hopes to empower readers and raise awareness on the importance of education through an on-campus book donation drive.

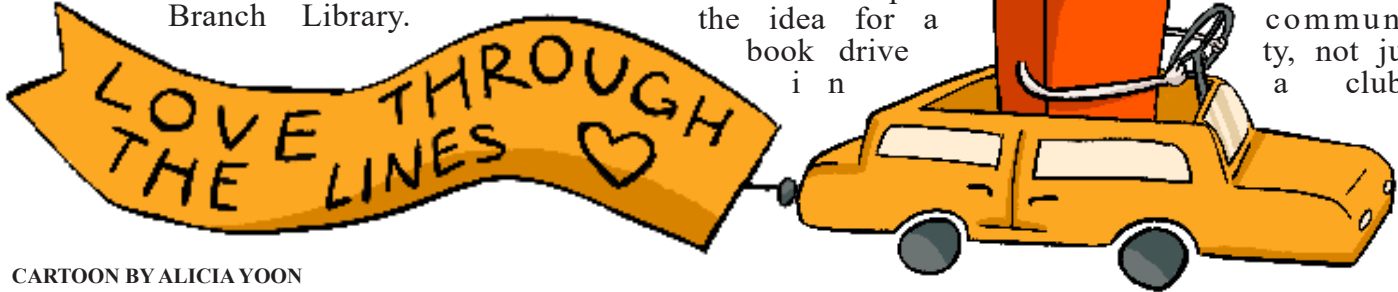
By Samantha Luo
STAFFWRITER

Beginning a new chapter in the club’s outreach, new Warrior club Love Through The Lines hosted its first book drive on campus Oct. 20 to Nov. 20. Founded 2023 by President Phoebe You, Love Through The Lines aims to empower younger generations through education and reading. The club plans to host monthly projects dedicated to achieving this goal, beginning with the book drive. Before launching the drive, club members helped construct and decorate boxes to be used for book collection. Members

then placed the boxes into the classrooms of various teachers for students to donate books. With a target goal of 150 books, one teacher incentivized book donation by offering participation points. The club also devised a member point system. Members who donated books could earn points to win prizes in an upcoming raffle. Though the club does not have a set donation site yet, the donations will likely be made to a library such as the Yorba Linda Public Library or the James S. Thalman Chino Hills Branch Library.

As most of the donated books are unused, the club hopes that the libraries will be able to have more books that are in good condition or books that have been recently published. Recently, nationwide tests administered in 2023 by the National Center for Education Statistics show that reading scores dropped to their lowest level in decades. According to Peggy Carr, commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics (NPR), data has shown that reading and math scores are largely declining, due in part to the pandemic. “There was this expectation that perhaps we would see some movement back to the performance level that we picked up in the fall of 2019, but nothing,” Carr said. “It is really historic. The declines are just as stark as they were before.” According to club Vice President Niyati Godha, board members developed the idea for a book drive in

an effort to share a passion for reading. The club aims to relocate books from people who may not use them as much to people who would, Godha said. “[We] are actively working to find [organizations] that we can partner with to help spread our message and spread what we are trying to do,” Godha said. “We both love reading ourselves, and we wanted to share that with others.” In the future, the club plans to host more community events in order to foster a love of reading and education in children. The book drive was a logistically simple thing to do for a new club on a mission to spread access to education, You said. “Access to education is not only a privilege but it is also a problem that many people face, and we really hope people are motivated by seeing that,” You said. “We want to foster a community, not just a club.”



CARTOON BY ALICIA YOON

California community colleges to adopt new education plan without formal grades or lectures

In this model, students earn their degrees by proving their competence in their field of study rather than attending regular classes.

By Jenny Huang
STAFFWRITER

Eight community colleges in California are implementing a new model of education based on skill level rather than grades for the 2024-2025 school year. Currently, college students receive credit based on how much time they spend in classrooms. By attending lectures, taking tests and working on projects, students earn a grade that determines whether they receive a degree. The new education model, known as Competency-Based Education, will allow students to earn a degree by taking exams to test their level of knowledge in their field after a period of self-study instead. Instead of attending in-person classes for a semester, students in the new program receive materials to teach themselves over a given period of time. According to director of innovation and special projects at Shasta College Buffy Tanner, the college plans to ask students a variety of questions regarding their work habits to ensure they can succeed in

the new model before they enter. “We have to make sure students fully understand what they are getting into,” Tanner said. Without obligatory lectures, students who work while attending school have equal opportunity to earn a degree. According to Madera Community College President Ángel Reyna, this model targets working adults as California faces a shrinking population of high school graduates. With more independence, students can decide the time frame for their self-taught curriculum and seek help from teachers or counselors as needed. This grants college students more opportunity to grow than the current education model, Competency-Based Education Network Executive Vice President Amber Garrison Duncan said. “In the current model, you can only learn this much in [a semester]. And if you learn all the content, you have to stop,” Duncan said. “In a CBE program, we let [the students] keep going, giving them all the room they need to flex forward as much as they can or want to.” One complication that arises from the CBE model is that colleges must come up with a payment system independent of the amount of time teachers spend in the classroom. According



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADERA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CBE MODEL: Madera Community College is one of eight community colleges in California to adopt the new competency-based education model. to Shasta College Faculty Association President Elizabeth Waterbury, teachers are concerned about how their pay could be affected by the new system. “Teacher load [and] teacher contracts [are] all connected to time in the classroom [and] lecture hours,” Waterbury said. “This whole framework is going to have to break or change and nobody really knows how to go about doing that.” Similar programs are now being implemented at community colleges nationwide. Program coordinators hope its initial success will inspire more schools to adopt the model, despite the potential difficulties reworking policies may bring. CBE reconstructs the old system in favor of one that makes education more accessible for all students, Coastline College’s dean of innovative learning Shelly Blair said. “For so long, we have asked students to adapt to our system. [Now] we have decided we are going to break the system, and we are going to rebuild it,” Blair said. “We are going to put students at the center of it instead of trying to make it work the other way around.”

Warrior Autism Youth Ambassadors attend TACA National Autism Conference

AYA members learned about new autism research and have planned for therapy implementations at Troy for students with autism.

By Salman Waheed
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to engage in autism awareness, Warrior Autism Youth Ambassadors attended The Autism Community in Action National Autism Conference Oct. 20 to Oct. 22 in Costa Mesa. As the parent organization of AYA, TACA hosts conferences which keynote speakers, researchers and parents can attend to read about the latest research on autism. Some main speakers of the event included best-selling author and professor at California State University Temple Grandin and professor at University of California San Diego Dr. Robert Naviaux. Through featured presentations, speakers introduced new research pointing to cell regression as the cause of autism in youth. As for new therapies, several nonverbal autistic speakers discussed the use of computers to simplify communication for those dealing with autism. As an abatement for stress, the administration of medicine was also discussed as a technique for soothing autistic children. To learn more about how autism

functions in the body, club members observed several panels and booths at the conference where they spoke with researchers and established connections with other attendees. Members also conversed with speakers at the event, gathering inspiration for ways to make the Troy campus more autism-friendly for students. During the question and answer sessions led by TACA, AYA members learned about some events they can host to make the lives of autistic children easier at Troy. Within the 2023 to 2024 school year, AYA plans on coordinating these events and implementing these new adjustments. The club now aims to lead more meetings discussing how students can make autistic students feel included in school. AYA also plans to host workshops where experts will demonstrate several methods of therapy for autism. According to President Bhavna Malladi, peers need to recognize how autism is very common in society now and not an anomaly. Schools also need to educate their students on the condition and what it means to be autistic as many teenagers tend to misinterpret it, Malladi said. “Now 1 in every 33 children are autistic in the state of California, so it is important that we become educated about it and learn to be accepting of it in society,” Malladi said. “There is so much stigma



PHOTO COURTESY OF BHAVNA MALLADI

AWE-INSPIRED AUTISUM YOUTH AMBASSADORS:
Sophomore Manisha Bosam, juniors Bhavna Malladi and Sophia Peng, and seniors Jaslyn Wang and Zoe Yang engaged in discussion with keynote speakers as some of the only high school student attendees.

behind the condition, as many think autism refers to people being dumb or nonverbal, when in reality, that is not true at all.” Surrounded by parents and analysts, AYA members were the only teen-aged attendees. The club received a \$1300 donation towards their cause at the conference as well. AYA intends to put this prize money toward a non-profit organization in the near future. Supervised by professionals, AYA learned how to present themselves with respectability at the event. The conference

also made the club feel confident about their cause and why they do what they do, Malladi said. “All our members learned to assert themselves in a formal way conversing with adults during the event,” Malladi said. “The conference also sort of gave us a renewed sense of purpose... I think a lot of us usually think that we need to be a part of some widely known organization to do something great or respectable, but this event helped us realize that what we are doing now is going to make a great difference in the world.”

Alzheimer’s Association Club participates in Walk to End Alzheimer’s at Huntington Beach

Members of Warrior Alzheimer’s Association gathered at Huntington Beach to spread awareness about the incurable disease.

By Paulina Lee
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to raise awareness, Warrior Alzheimer’s Association members joined over a thousand other participants in Walk to End Alzheimer’s at Huntington Beach Nov. 4. Recognized as the leading non-profit organization in Alzheimer’s care and research, the Alzheimer’s Association hosts an annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s in numerous cities across the nation. As the world’s largest fundraiser dedicated to spreading awareness, it aims to gather support for this incurable disease. In cooperation with the non-profit, Warrior Alzheimer’s

Association members attended the event to support walkers. Walk to End Alzheimer’s invites school chapters, family members of individuals with the disease, awareness campaigns and sponsors. At the event, Warrior club members cheered on participating attendees. As part of the cleanup crew, the club was responsible for helping the association prepare for and clean up after the walk. According to club Co-President Michael Ham, attendees carried posters and



Alzheimer’s Association merchandise during the walk. The streets along Huntington Beach were covered in their signature color, purple, as the parade of walkers walked, garnering financial support for patients and research. “I felt like [the event] went great because we got to meet [different] people living with Alzheimer’s and it was a warming experience watching them smile as they heard us cheer,” Ham said. “100% of the proceeds were given to the Alzheimer’s Association and used for all sorts of different things to help patients, and caregivers, and to find a cure.” In preparation, club members created posters and held fundraisers to donate to the Alzheimer’s hotline. According to Warrior Co-President

Umar Ahmed, the club fundraised by sending their members and other supporters links to the team fundraising page. “The money raised for the walk will go into research for Alzheimer’s Disease and will also support the 24/7 hotline that the Association has for people struggling with Alzheimer’s disease,” Ahmed said. “The hotline provides instant care for anyone who dials in the hotline, causing tremendous relief to those who struggle from the issue.” To create new connections through the event, the club looked forward to networking and meeting other individuals at these events. Members encountered other students who shared similar goals. Attending the Walk to End Alzheimer’s offered students the opportunity to engage in the community, fulfill their volunteering hours and raise awareness about Alzheimer’s disease, Ahmed said. “The event went really well. There were over 2,000 people that showed up to the event from all over Southern California,” Ahmed said. “We were so grateful to be part of this great event [and raise] awareness about a prominent cause.”

Boys Water Polo defeats La Habra Highlanders, becoming League Champions

Dive into the exciting process the Warriors went through to attain the title of League Champions.

By Finley Dalley
PUBLICITY

As the beginning of the League Finals game approaches, varsity boys water polo Head Coach Jason Wilson scouts out the competition. Attempting to assess their strengths and weaknesses, Coach Wilson watches the other team as they warm up, and finally, calls in the Warrior players before the game begins. After giving last-minute words of advice on how to approach the game with his newfound knowledge, Coach Wilson gives the floor to the team captain, senior Jonathan Chien. Chien uses these last few minutes to reassure the team of their goals, how hard they have worked, and how hard they should continue to. “We were definitely prepared, we knew we’d played them before and beat them before, but it wasn’t complete confidence,” Chien said. “We knew there was a chance they could win, so we just came out hard, and we played, and it all worked out.” As the intense game against the La Habra Highlanders begins, the players make their way into the

pool. The players line up, parallel to the players on the other side and begin to swim towards the other team, signifying the beginning of the game. Standout players junior Josh Ang, junior Alton Chang and senior Jonathan Chien prepare themselves to give the game their all. Ang and Chang are recognized by Chien for stepping into their roles this year, working hard every practice and playing harder every game. “Josh Ang was a junior varsity player last year, we brought him up to varsity this year and he has the third biggest role on the team now,” Chien said. “Alton Chang went from being just a shooter on the left side to becoming an offensive leader on the other side, and that was a big role for him too.” After destroying the Highlanders with an incredible score of 12-9, the Warriors collectively jumped into the pool along with their coaches, celebrating the amazing win that they had prepared for all year. Wilson reflects on the players’ hard work throughout the year, and how it paved the way for them to win league finals. After working hard all summer, the Warriors felt like they wanted to set goals of winning the League. “By the time we hit August, I thought we were

pretty even with everyone, if not better,” Wilson said. The boys threw themselves into their three-hour practices every day after school and two-hour practices every Saturday, with the clear intent of finishing off the season strong. During their practices, they focused on perfecting structure, planning, dedication and teamwork as opposed to individual skill. Wilson chooses to focus on these aspects of the game, recognizing that at the level they are playing at, it is only the force of the team as an entirety that can lead

them to win. Chien believes this teamwork and brotherhood that exists within the team was a great contributor to their success as League Champions and their future success in CIF. As they reflect on the triumphs and challenges of the current season, the team is gearing up for a transformative off-season. The pool of possibilities is vast, and with a dedicated focus on refining areas of development, the Warriors are set to dive into the future with renewed vigor and a shared goal of reaching new heights in the sport they love.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMER DRIESSEN
STRATEGICALLY SHOOTING: Senior Captain Jonathan Chien calculates his next moves, attempting to score a game-winning goal for the Warriors.

Girls Golf dominates League as Co-Champions preparing for upcoming CIF games

Look back on girls golf’s triumphant season this year, from winning the co-championship in League to playing at CIF.

By Kusuma Kothamasu
STAFF WRITER

Varsity girls golf made a big comeback this season with all six of their individual players qualifying for CIF from League Finals, making the Warriors the only team with all their players advancing to CIF. Winning 15 out of 18 games, the team has significantly improved from previous years. “I can distinctly remember three losses’...” varsity senior Miranda Cervantes said. “And then one of them, unfortunately, was a league loss against Sunny Hills, and that is why we ended up tying for the co-league [championship].” Securing a League championship for almost 11 consecutive years and qualifying for CIF very often, the girls golf team this season had a big legacy to hold up. After school practices, Coach Scott Blake details, are a testament to their own independent motivations that they prove without someone watching them or telling them what to do because of the individuality of the sport. Closing a tough season, Cervantes recalled the reason



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT BLAKE
WARRIOR WINS: Senior Miranda Cervantes, juniors Cyanne Kim, Amy Won, Selina Yang, senior Victoria Ditching and junior Alison Soewito finished in the top 10 at Recreation Park GC in Long Beach Oct. 18, qualifying for CIF.

for their strong team, “We are so tightly bonded. A lot of us just hang out with each other because we are all friends, we are all bonded with each other, and that is really important in any sport.” In preparation for tournaments, the Warriors would take time off from the weekends to play practice rounds on their own or with teammates on the days leading up to competitions. Working long hours almost every day, the athletes continued to work on improving their technique and game play. “The culture of the team—pushing each other to improve individually—is what allows us to improve as a team,” Blake said. With their high regard for individual rankings

and the competitive nature of the team, Cervantes adds, all the athletes were driven to outperform one another. The drive aided the team in being efficient with their practices. Their consistency with practice schedules and hard work allowed players like junior Allison Soewito to finish tied eighth for the best score as an individual in the final CIF match. Golf’s matches against Sunny Hills, Diamond Bar and San Clemente allowed them to secure a co-championship in League. “We have a more consistent group of players,” said Blake. “We have seven or eight very, very good players. We are more consistent in our scores, and

that makes us a dangerous team, because we’re more reliable in terms of what we can do.” Revealing the team’s secret to success, Cervantes disclosed that the athletes do their best to get as much information about their game as they can and make a game plan for every hole they play. This season, with the coaches often away at games, golf became a seventh period sport in which the athletes practiced individually. The rare occurrence of team meetings is something Coach Blake intends on changing for the next season. “It has just been a continual process of practice and improvement for them. Individual weaknesses,” Blake said.



Enter the world of haunted animatronics and read Oracle’s take on the “Five Nights at Freddy’s” film.

Compiled by Kaitlyn Zhang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Celeste Hollingsworth, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Alicia Yoon, CARTOON, graphics courtesy of Five Nights at Freddy’s

Full of killer animatronics and unmatched lore, “Five Nights At Freddy’s” sounds like a night of exhilaration, but this film adaptation of the beloved video game is fatally disappointing. With frightfully fun beginnings, the original “Five Nights at Freddy’s” game involves the player working as a nightguard trying to escape demise from lifesize animatronics. In a realm of suspense, possessed animatronics roam the halls of Freddy Fazbear’s Pizza, where a jumpscare awaits at every turn. Missing the tense atmosphere and in-depth narrative present in the original game, “Five Nights at Freddy’s” is the picture of an undeniable letdown.

Luring us in with killer acting and eerie music, “Five Nights at Freddy’s” is not always a complete malfunction. Mike (Josh Hutcherson) is a caring brother desperately trying to provide for his little sister. Transcending the character’s depth in the games, Hutcherson performs with a nuance that adds a new layer to Mike. Another highlight of the film is the emphasis of music and sound that intensifies the feelings

of dread and suspense otherwise lacking. Low reverberations of drums and worn down tones perfectly encapsulate the feeling of Freddy Fazbear’s Pizza. More than just this aspect of the score, the film prioritizes mixing in songs from the games, selling the nostalgia that keeps FNAF so close to our hearts. Regardless of the times that this movie fails to catch the viewer’s eye, there are other trade-offs that make this film bearable.

While the movie is enjoyable for most fanatics, the replacement of original lore from the game makes it difficult for unfamiliar viewers to escape from boredom. Finding solace from the dullness of the film, fans familiar with the electrifying lore of FNAF can survive the movie because of their previous adoration for the franchise’s intricacies. For newcomers, the movie lacks a captivating plotline. In the games and books, the nightguard is actually William Afton’s son, the psychotic creator of the animatronics. While fans are used to a variety of storylines, the film misses a wonderful opportunity to bring the complexity of this relationship to the big screen. Instead, we are pained

with a dragged-out narrative of Mike finding his little brother’s kidnapper. This random, strained storyline has no connection to the movie’s ending and fizzles out just like the viewer’s interest.

Putting the audience in danger of falling asleep, the jumpscare in the film are completely neglected. The original game’s ingenious use of jumpscare creates an adrenaline rush that cannot be found elsewhere. Jeopardizing the ground on which the franchise was created, every jumpscare in the film can be seen from miles away, causing more laughs than shudders. Any of the creepy atmosphere originally associated with the game is nowhere to be found. Those with no tolerance for terror tentatively step foot into the movie theater, but come face to face with a film that is a dull waste of time.

Although fans can appreciate the extension of this fantastic franchise, more yawns than yelps are to be expected. Entering the world of animatronic nightmares is convincingly better off of the big screen.



SEASONING FOR THE SEASON

Celebrate Thanksgiving this year with a fresh set of cooking skills! Read up on this beginner’s cooking guide and impress your family with some of Oracle’s exclusive recipes.

Compiled by Zoey Bahng, LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Bianca Naranjo, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Alicia Yoon, CARTOON, cartoons courtesy of Canva

Intro

Embracing annual autumn celebrations, Thanksgiving brings in a familiarly rich assortment of sweet and savory flavors to harmonize on our plates. As the kitchen gets busy, have you longed to contribute to the cooking? Or maybe you have been struggling to get started at all? This year, there is no need to worry; Oracle is here to teach you the simplest fundamentals of cooking so that you can get your hands dirty in the fall festivities. For complete cooking beginners, this guide will walk you through the basics rules of the kitchen.

Recipe for Safety

First and foremost, safety should always be the highest priority in the kitchen. Let us start with the starting step of preparing and cleaning your ingredients. Fruits and vegetables can be run under cold water and scrubbed carefully with a soft brush to ensure dirt, pesticides and waxes have been removed. While handling varying foods, cross contamination should be avoided when preparing food, especially between produce and meats, so make sure to wash your hands and utensils thoroughly as well. The cutting board should be made of nonporous materials—like plastic, ceramic and acrylic—especially when handling raw meat. Porous materials such as wood or cork can be a breeding ground for bacteria and mold, which can become very harmful. When working on your cutting board with a knife, always use a “claw grip” to prevent cutting yourself: curl your fingers like claws and place your fingernails on the object being cut, ensuring that your fingertips are not visible. Next, your chopped ingredients need to be boiled, steamed or sautéed, calling for even more caution from the cook. You should always keep flammable items such as cooking oils or towels away from open flames. While your food is cooking, take caution not to underestimate the billowing steam, which is much hotter than boiling water. Steam can easily inflict severe burns in the blink of an eye. Equipped with these safety fundamental tips, you are prepared for the kitchen.

Savor the Flavor

As for the food itself, nothing is more crucial than the harmony of flavors. Taste is highly subjective, which makes experimentation with different combinations of spices the best part of cooking. However, with all this freedom for creativity, there are always some reliable seasonings to follow before jumping into recipes. Obviously, there is the classic salt and pepper that cooks of all levels can find their tastes in. But these are not the only approachable spices; some accessible and tasty herbs include dill, rosemary, sage, cilantro and parsley. Once you have learned the flavors of individual recipes, you can go a step further to learn how each of your dishes fit together. They can all be delicious in their own right, but if your side dishes do not pair well with your main dishes, it can disrupt the flavors of the overall course. Some reliably mouth-watering combinations to try are light salads with filling pastas, red meats with leafy greens and flavorful fish with steaming vegetables.

Cornbread Recipe

Cornbread is a nostalgically delightful balance of flavors and textures. It is rich yet crumbly while melting in your mouth, and sweet and buttery, yet salty enough to make it a “savory” dessert. Try this deceptively easy recipe and make some of your dinner guests wonder how you became a chef so quickly.

Ingredients

- 1 cup (120g) fine cornmeal
- 1 cup (125g) all-purpose flour (spooned & leveled)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (113g) unsalted butter; melted and slightly cooled
- 1/3 cup (67g) packed light or dark brown sugar
- 2 Tablespoons (30ml) honey
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 1 cup (240ml) buttermilk at room temperature

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 °F. Grease and lightly flour a 9-inch square baking pan.
2. Whisk the cornmeal, flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt together in a large bowl.
3. In a medium bowl, whisk the melted butter, brown sugar, and honey together until completely smooth and thick.
4. Whisk in the egg until combined, then the buttermilk.
5. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and whisk until combined. Pour batter into prepared baking pan.
5. Bake for 20 minutes, or until golden brown on top and the center is cooked through. Check if fully baked with toothpick.
6. Serve cornbread with honey, jam or whatever you like.


KEEPING UP
with the
OPINION
EDITORS

Why
frustrations
a

Troy
reality

students'
need
check

By Edyn Mai
OPINION EDITOR



Troy students are expecting perfection in an imperfect process. Throughout the school year, there has been many internal improvements made on the Troy campus. As a result, there have been many complaints about their lackluster implementation. Although students could be better informed about these improvements, they must keep in mind the administration's intentions and the extensive process that goes into making improvements.

Students must understand the thought process that goes into making internal improvements. One of the most popular complaints has been the size of urinal dividers in the boys' bathroom. However, the spacing has to conform to an array of requirements. One of these requirements is from the Americans with Disabilities Act, which ensures that new campus additions are accessible for people with disabilities. These requirements must be adhered to make the changes that the students want. Students must realize that their requests cannot be executed perfectly.

Students could be better informed of internal improvements. The construction results in disrupting noises, so many that students have wished for more information to avoid the loud noise. However, the goal is to create 8 more classrooms, 6 to replace the previous portable classrooms, and 2 additional classrooms to make up for other lost rooms such as the dance room. The uncomfortable aspects of the construction are worth the betterment of the Troy campus.

Students are too critical of admin and their efforts to better the Troy campus. After immense requests for certain changes, students must understand that the administrators are only trying to make the campus better.

Troy counselors are not accessible enough to the general student population

By Victoria Yang
STAFF WRITER



Counselors at Troy are overburdened with extensive workloads. This past quarter deadline, counselors at Troy were swamped with work. Students are finding it harder to talk to their counselors, let alone build relationships with them. While counselors make constant efforts, their heavy workloads make meeting every demand difficult. Although there are barriers, the school and district should make lightening counseling workloads a priority.

Troy counseling strives to cover multiple facets of students' lives—an inherently good goal limited by staff resources. "We have three domains... academic planning, college and career planning...then social and emotional health," Sarah Saleen said, one of two counseling department co-chairs at Troy High School. With five counselors, the department tries its best to fulfill all three domains—but it is simply too extensive. For example, the counseling calendar featured more than twenty separate tasks in October alone. Counselors are responsible for everything from reaching out to struggling students' families to staffing the wellness room. While the addition of a full-time mental health specialist and two guidance technicians is a step in the right direction, the counseling team could use further assistance. Specialization and further division of tasks can allow for more time

spent working directly with students. With the current system, the counselors have too much on their plates. The student-to-counselor ratio at Troy adds further pressure on counselors and often hinders the cultivation of personal relationships. While the American School Counselor Association recommends a student-to-counselor ratio of 250 to 1, Troy sits at 504 to 1 in 2023, more than double the recommended proportion. The counselors agree that not only Troy but any school with an above-average ratio could benefit from more staffing. "For me, sometimes I think about, gosh, if I did have less students, think about the more services and more outreach that we can do," Saleen said. Despite the counseling website stating the "restructured guidance program allows students to develop a relationship with their assigned counselor," they cannot take time to know each student with such a high workload. With a more personal counseling approach, every student can have their unique needs filled to maximize success. The current ratio makes this type of personalized counseling extremely challenging.

For now, students should take full advantage of existing counseling resources. For example, the counselors have started counselors and candy days, an attempt at connecting with students outside of a strictly school-related setting. Furthermore, despite the counseling website listing counselors as available only during first period,

break, lunch and after school, some counselors are also available before zero period. On a rotated schedule, counselors' specific office hours are posted on the office doors. While a student may not find their assigned counselor in-office due to meetings or schedule fluctuations, they are welcome to ask other counselors for general questions. "If they have a quick question, they can email their counselor...maybe it's a longer in-depth discussion...so we might in the email respond 'why don't you drop in to see me?'" Saleen said. While there sometimes can be long lines for counselors, especially during the first quarter, attempts are made by the department for additional accessibility. These attempts, although they do not solve the issues from the root, should not be overlooked by students.

Counselors are the cornerstones of a school's support system. However, the overwhelming work Troy counselors have limits their ability to connect with and impact students. It is time for Troy to consider changes such as making new hires to lower the burdens on existing counselors. "We want a deeper connection and some students need more and we want to be able to service those students... regardless of our sizes and what's going on, that's always our goal," Darren Varieur said, counseling department co-chair. While Troy has a dedicated team of counselors, more resources will better serve both the Warriors and the counselors.



CARTOON BY ALICIA YOON

Keep An Eye Out by Alicia Yoon

A cartoon illustration showing students celebrating winter break. On the left, a student looks at a calendar with a 'break' highlighted. In the center, students are cheering with their arms raised, with text saying 'thanks giving break!' and 'Winter Break!'. On the right, a student is looking at a 'finals' sign with a warning 'Watch out for me...'. A roasted turkey and a gift box are also visible.

Thanksgiving would be more sustainable if Americans donate their leftover meals

By Kate Berger
STAFF WRITER



On every fourth Thursday in November, families gather together to prepare a feast, celebrating what they are grateful for and spending quality time together. However, as Thanksgiving swiftly approaches, it is time to consider how sustainable the holiday really is. Almost a third of all food wasted nationally comes from one day alone, Thanksgiving, which could go to millions of people in hunger and poverty. Despite the holiday’s benevolent origins, Americans need to be more aware of their own contributions to Thanksgiving’s unsustainable nature and remember that this is a time to be grateful, not gluttonous.

Thanksgiving is a massive contributor to the staggering amount of food wasted yearly. A more concerted effort to donate extra food will mitigate such staggering amounts. While some Thanksgiving leftovers may be enjoyed a second or third time, an article from KTLA5 reported that 305 million pounds of Thanksgiving food valued at about \$400 million will still rot away in the

fridge until it is inedible. Such massive amounts of wasted food pile up in landfills, decomposing and releasing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that has detrimental effects to our environment. In addition, Feeding America, a national organization involved in reducing hunger, has shown that 1 in 5 children and over 44 million citizens suffer from hunger yearly. The sheer amount of Thanksgiving food wasted that could be going towards other citizens who are fighting for even one meal each day, in addition to the money going down the drains exemplifies why people need to take action. Instead of letting such copious amounts of food go to waste, Americans need to take their leftovers, go to their nearest food bank and donate.

Along with the immense amount of food wasted, the extensive traveling done during Thanksgiving also contributes to the holiday’s unsustainability. An integral and positive aspect of Thanksgiving is spending time with one’s family, although the negative impacts that come along with doing so must be recognized and amended. Americans need to cut back on the amount of traveling they do, or at least carpool when the opportunity arises.

Researchers at Carnegie Mellon have found that four people flying a 600 mile trip produces 10 times the emissions of carbon than a Thanksgiving meal. The stark difference between the carbon emissions involved with traveling in comparison to the carbon emissions of the meal demonstrates why Americans need to take the environment into consideration when traveling. College students, for example, who are traveling to a similar destination as one of their friends for Thanksgiving should make plans to carpool, so that less fuel is used and carbon emissions are decreased. Traveling needs to be cut down in order to make Thanksgiving a holiday of gratefulness and sustainability rather than a holiday of waste and negative contributions to our carbon footprint.

Thanksgiving originated as a holiday full of spirit and thankfulness, but America’s massive waste of food is taking away from its positive origins and intentions. Hundreds of millions of pounds of Thanksgiving meals go to waste, and extensive traveling to celebrate causes detrimental carbon emissions that negatively impact our environment. In order to return Thanksgiving to its wholesome origins, Thanksgiving must be celebrated more sustainably.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MAGGIE STOUT

With conflicts and money caused by probation, the system is no longer effective

By Chelsea Engelhardt
STAFF WRITER



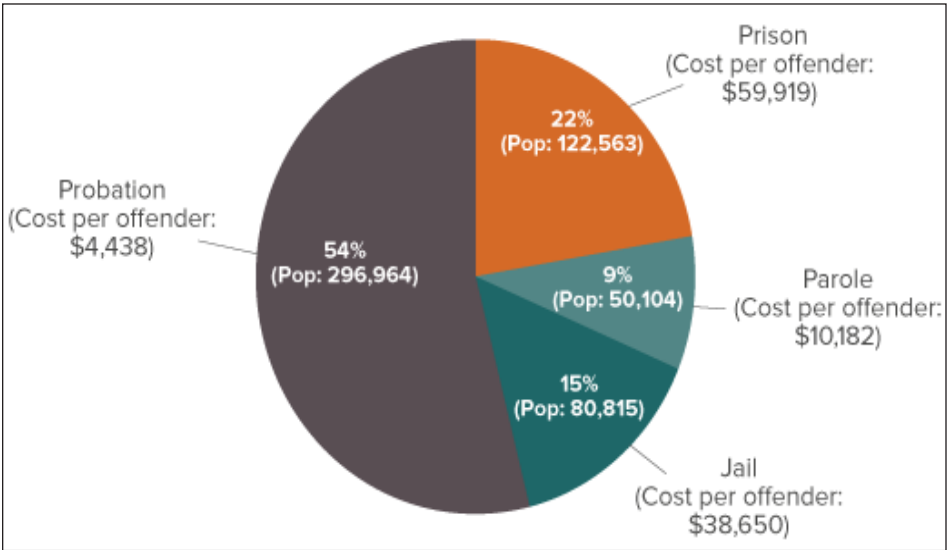
Virginia’s Department of Elections incorrectly removed previously eligible voters from voting on mistakes involving classifying their probation sentences as felonies. With this new mistake, more disadvantages have been brought to light on the problems of probation. Although the goal of probation is to rehabilitate and work off sentencing while still being integrated in society, other motives with money and voting have questioned the integrity of the probation system. Since then, other countries have also adopted similar probational systems. However, the whole system and its purpose have failed. Although probation was originally used as a way to acclimate ex-prisoners and current prisoners to the workforce, it has since been used as an abuse of taxpayer money towards unreasonable crimes.

The use of a probation system wastes U.S. taxpayer money, climbing to the millions. In the 1970’s, populations of prisoners and probationers were increasing. Following such, taxpayer

money was continually being used on officers of probation and various prison staff. By violating rules of probation while not committing new offenses, people were being sent to prison with felony charges, costing taxpayers over \$2.8 billion dollars every year. The money spent on an ineffective system is pointless and raises concerns for the future of the government.

Instead of probation used as a way for rehabilitation into society, it has been used as an abuse of power. Those who have abused substances in the past are due for weekly drug tests and house searches. These searches can be surprise visits and cannot be refused. When taking into account quality of life, it seems that being in prison can allow criminals to be better off. The conditions of probation and prison are very similar and question the necessity of probation in the first place. Probation seems like a waste of time and resources for a worse lifestyle. Violations of these can result in more prison time which is just a waste of funding. This amount of restrictions shows how being in prison might be no better than being in prison in the first place.

Additionally, there has been a dangerous shift in those who



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

are eligible for probation. At the beginning of the 21st century, high level criminals were beginning to gain probation privileges like those with mental illnesses or serious crimes involving substance abuse. According to the Austin branch of NBC, in 2018, a Texas man was originally charged with murder but got out on only probation. Although his hearing and charges are irrelevant to this cause, the implication that one can be charged with murder and still be allowed on the streets is a frightening example of how threateningly far court systems are now going. The leniency at which probations are given

out raises concerns for the society at which these people are living. Having such dangerous people out on the streets is a foolish way of trying to rehabilitate serious criminals.

Overall, the use of probation as an effective tool for rehabilitating criminals has become a flawed effort. With the abuse of funding and the invasions of privacy, the benefits are nil.

The increase of eligibility for criminals to gain parole and probation is alarming for the safety of the surrounding areas of these parolees. The flaws in probation outweigh the benefits and are becoming ridiculously redundant.

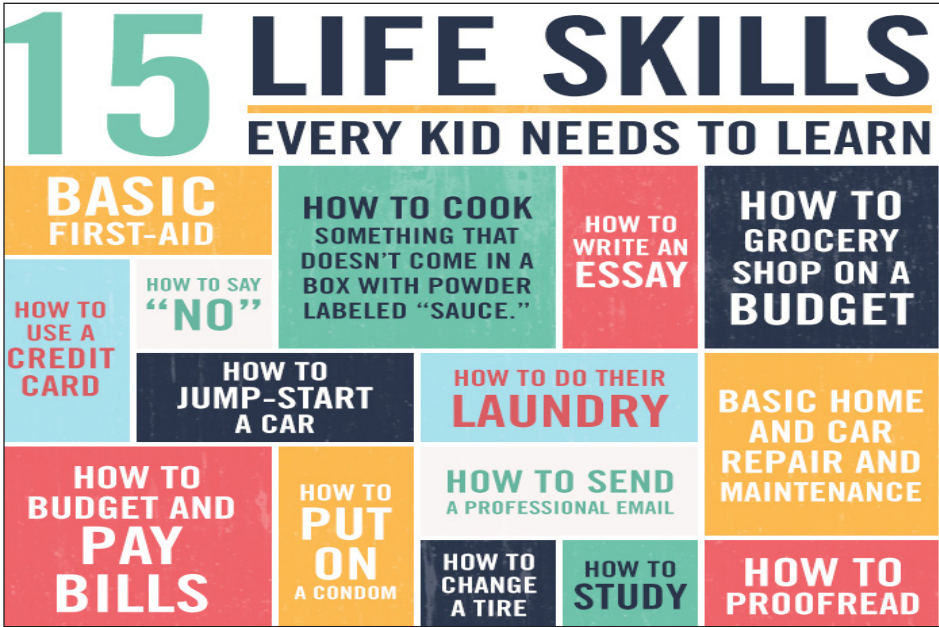
High schools need to do more to ensure their students are prepared for life in college

By Shailey Patel
STAFFWRITER



Teaching basic life skills needs to become a priority in high school curriculums. With high rankings, Troy High School provides a variety of academic classes to help its students excel. However, even with such high prestige, students may leave and go out in the world unprepared. To fix this issue, high schools should provide life lesson classes that not only help prepare a student for life after college, but also allow them to be independent, productive and successful members of society. High schools should make it a priority to provide students with classes oriented towards teaching students basic life skills such as financial literacy and networking. Following their graduation, many students would benefit from knowledge regarding taking out student loans to pursue higher education. This year, statistics from Forbes show that there are about 45 million borrowers in the US with a total student loan debt of \$1.56 trillion dollars. Knowing that many students will apply for these loans following graduation, students should be taught how to properly apply for a loan, learn

how to budget, maintain a good credit score and understand basic finance terms like interest rates. Although it may be a drastic change to include a class completely dedicated to basic finance knowledge and budgeting, it would allow students to make better financial outcomes that result in less debt and a higher quality of life. The transition after high school is immense, leaving many students to fend for themselves as they apply for colleges and jobs. Having the ability to create immediate connections with others is a skill valued highly, especially when applying for jobs. According to a 2016 study done by LinkedIn, 70% of workers were hired at a company where they had a personal connection to someone already working there. Above all else, it is evident that having the skills to build relationships with others is valued above all else in the adult world. Knowing this, high schools should make it a priority to help students develop skills that will better equip for future success. Additionally, a successful job search comes from the ability to market oneself in the form of a resume. A 2018 study done by TheLadders found that job recruiters only spend approximately 7.4 seconds reading over a resume. It is crucial that students are able to create an appealing resume



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF KAREN COX/SHE KNOWS

in a professional way to make sure they stand out from others. Although Troy has worked towards creating workshops to help students create resumes in the Troy Tech program, the lessons and knowledge shared should be accessible to all students. It is imperative that students have the guidance of teachers who have already navigated the job market to be able to get advice on matters as simple as creating an appealing resume. While it is important to recognize that the core subjects such as math, English and science are crucial in a student’s academic education and knowledge, basic life skills can no longer be ignored in high schools. They help foster students’ personal and social growth, allowing them to better navigate the world. The cycle of sending high school graduates unprepared for finances and applying for jobs needs to end by putting a greater priority on making sure students are well-versed in finances and relationship building. By adding such imperative classes, these classes in high school are a step closer to ensuring students’ well being following their time in school and future in adulthood.

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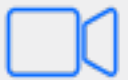
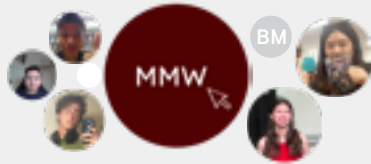
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| Response | Percentage |
|----------|------------|
| YES | 62.2% |
| NO | 37.8% |

☒ yes

☐ no


I think collecting phones does stop students from using phones and it does decrease phone usage in class.

No, I could just as easily not put my phone in the phone holder. Or, I could stick a calculator in there and he/she wouldn't even notice.

I think that having phones physically away from students removes the temptation for a student to use their phone to chat or cheat on a test.

People are more worried about how much time is left until they can get their phone. I understand that the teacher's want the students to be focused about the lessons, but the method isn't really effective.

It only benefits us by not letting us use the phone during class. The students will never learn how to work with their phone at beside them at all times.



| Response | Percentage |
|----------|------------|
| YES | 57.5% |
| NO | 42.5% |

☒ yes

☐ no

Some students feel that it's against their rights for teachers or staff members to collect their phones without permission.

If it truly becomes a problem and is harming students' educations, then a teacher should be able to collect the problem phone.

They should have the right, but I don't think they should abuse that power to enforce them not to use their phones

It prevents students from using phones during class. Most of the time, students are willing to do it if most of the class does it.

Well, they are teachers... If they do not look at personal info and do it for the sole purpose of trying to focus students, I believe this is a reasonable right to have. However, students should be able to use it in emergency times.



**Want to see
all of the
responses?**



Would you like to submit your own letter to the editor?

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

A mesmerizing blend of femininity and charming coziness, sophomore Laura Lo bewitches with her effortless enchanting style. Come rain or shine, Lo enhances her style with her favorite skirts and timeless Mary Janes all year round. As Troy's Fashion Club Secretary, Lo's penchant for organization is reflected by her color coordination in her graceful, Vivienne Westwood pearl-adorned outfits. Taking style inspiration from her muse Laufey, Lo's outfit simplicity and complementary classy accessories unapologetically romanticize her life with coquette details. Her dainty charm is naturally perfected by her knack of finding clothing that suit her body type, with her favorite dress stops including thrift stores, Aritzia, and Brandy Melville. To Lo, fashion is merely a word, her style truly stems from her feelings and confidence. Lo's outlook on life is tinted by the rosy shades of her style, making her a truly charming presence. Embracing her cozy wardrobe, Lo advises, "Find a style that suits you, confidence is a lot [when it comes to] dressing."

A headturner even on Harajuku's glamorous streets, Junior Hudson Kang is the epitome of cryptic edge. Dressed in dark colors from head to toe, Kang's unpredictable style allows him to craft a unique outfit every single day with layers of black. The spitting image of old retro games' characters, his style is the perfect subject for filtered Y2K digital cameras with his oversized jeans and arm warmers. Kang is quick at snatching the perfect pair of Tripp NYC jeans off online thrift stores. He finds inspiration within experimental, alternative rap—his style perfectly exemplifying a classic Bladee fan. His shining silver accessories and comically large DC shoes accent his otherwise monochrome outfit, hinting at the playful personality behind the cold fit. Kang believes fashion delves deep beyond the first glance and utilizes it as an ever changing reflection of his mentality. Fearing no judgment of his bold, detailed outfits, Kang advises others to do the same, "If other people give you that look or say that your outfit is 'strange,' you know your outfit is absolutely stunning and mind blowing."



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