

ORACLE

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Zecto PERFECTO

Troy alum Matthew Hanna is making chicken history with the opening of family shop Zecto Hot Chicken. Read more to learn about his finger-licking chicken journey!

Compiled by Eileen Um, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Kathleen Hong and Emma Gong, **STAFF WRITERS**, photos courtesy of Matthew Hanna, graphics courtesy of Canva

The aroma of juicy Nashville Tenders and crispy Zecto fries washes over the expecting customers. As the restaurant opens, Troy alum Matthew Hanna greets the guests with a smile, ready to serve them chicken fingers to their signature Nashville Sando. Zecto Hot Chicken, the thriving family business, is known for their consistently spicy, never frozen, certified halal, and hormone-free chicken, attracting people from all walks of life. Hanna’s flaming hot passion for this restaurant has helped Zecto Hot Chicken flourish into both a successful business and a vibrant community.

Hanna’s hot chicken journey first started with his love for spice. As a hot chicken lover, Hanna would be found in multiple hot shops across California, for the shop with the perfect recipe.

However, he noticed that the restaurants he visited became lackluster over time. His leftovers would pile up, sparking the Hanna-family idea for Zecto Hot Chicken. After graduating from Troy in 2019, Hanna attended UC Riverside and Ross University School of Medicine to pursue a medical degree. But eventually, Hanna recognized that medicine didn’t bring him joy or purpose and decided to discontinue his studies. In December of 2023, he moved back to Southern California to work at Zecto Hot Chicken as their handler for social media, advertising, and graphic design. As soon as he joined, he became strongly invested in his family’s pursuits.

“After studying, volunteering and going to medical school for a year, I wasn’t enjoying it,” Hanna said. “And that led me to go back home and work on our hot chicken shop.”

Building a business is challenging, but Hanna and his father wanted to do it right. Once his family began to expand on their grand idea, Hanna felt a sense of unfamiliarity in working in the food industry, as he had spent most of his life studying. Despite his new situation, Hanna became a major part of the hiring process, because he and his father wanted employees who shared their restaurant’s values and followed their protocols. Trial and error perfected Zecto’s recipes, and consistent testing with countless iterations

improved the restaurant’s standard procedures or functional efficiency. To help them stand out from their competition, Zecto Hot Chicken is certified halal, hormone-free, as well as never frozen, helping people with religious dietary restrictions enjoy spice and consistent quality in their menu. As Zecto Hot Chicken’s popularity grew, the Hannas turned towards helping their local community. They partnered with the Fullerton Boys and Girls Club, handing out food for public works volunteers during the Love Fullerton 2024 event. Alongside their booming business, Hanna gained a great sense of pride from recognizing more regulars and watching the Zecto community thrive.

“What matters is the guests,” Hanna said. “I love to see regulars and the growth of our community.”

Zecto Hot Chicken is continuing to thrive, growing and expanding at a rapid pace. Hanna aspires to be a national chain, and is striving towards that future goal. Hanna believes that he’s grown thanks to this venture, learning discipline, sacrifice and self-drive. Despite the initial growing pains of the new restaurant, Hanna knows that both he and Zecto Hot Chicken will continue to flourish.

“We’re putting in a lot of work, we’re putting in a lot of time and effort,” Hanna said. “And there’s no way that what we’re doing won’t pay off in the end. It’s inevitable that we [will] progress and grow.”



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FOCUS

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Farewell to our Oracle seniors, our favorite Teen Titans ready to take on the world!



LIFESTYLE

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Read more to brighten your aesthetic with inspiration from the hottest warrior summer styles!



ENTERTAINMENT

Page 11

Take a look at Oracle’s favorite AAPI music artists, including Conan Gray, Saweetie and more!



Cambridge English sophomores create books for elementary school students

Over the course of two months, students wrote and illustrated their own children’s books.

By Anastasia Efremova
STAFF WRITER

Gaining experience in creative writing, Warrior teacher Deliana Park’s Cambridge English classes wrote and read personalized children’s books for Acacia Elementary School second graders Feb. 29 to April 24.

Park began coordinating the project in 2021, and since then it has expanded from 30 second graders to 81. According to Park, the project provided sophomores with more liberties in reading because students often do not get to choose what they read in class.

“I wanted to empower high school students to become writers,” Park said. “[The project] was a synthesis of Cambridge’s requirements as well as my desire to create a community of readers.”

In 2022, Park received a grant for a nonfiction literature circle from the Education Foundation for California Schools, which allowed her to purchase contemporary nonfiction novels such as Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela and Educated by Tara Westover for her classes.

Sophomores began the project by choosing a memoir to read independently. Park then assigned



PHOTO COURTESY OF DELIANA PARK

WARRIOR WORDSMITHS: *Sophomores pose with the second graders after gifting them their books.*

each sophomore to a second grader, and Warriors interviewed the second graders about their hobbies and interests in late February.

Based on the responses, Warriors wrote and illustrated children’s books, personalizing them to their second graders while incorporating the themes of the novels they read. Students made creative choices while adapting their books, Park said.

“Cambridge writing is [read by] adults with professional lives, but students [now] had to factor in a different audience that was younger,” Park said. “[They had] to change their lexicon, as well as use simple sentence structure.”

Students who read novels with heavier themes faced challenges while incorporating them in their books. Writing a story that a

second grader could understand was tricky, sophomore Avni Patil said.

“Us older students learned a lot of things from [the project], like how hard it is to put mature themes in our books,” Patil said. “For example, my nonfiction book was about perseverance through World War II, and I tried to instill that into my book.”

Both of Park’s Cambridge English classes participated in the project, with each sophomore class initially assigned a second grade class to meet with. When some students heard that several second graders in a combination class felt left out, they voluntarily wrote a second book, Park said.

“A lot of the time, [people] will not [go] out of their way [to] do something if it costs them their time and resources,” Park said. “It

touched my heart and made me so proud of the type of individuals that [the sophomores] are because they were willing to sacrifice their time to give back to the second graders.”

Warriors presented their final books to the second graders on campus in the library April 24. The sophomores explained their creative choices, read their books aloud and watched the elementary schoolers’ reactions. Seeing the positive impact the books had on the second graders made all the work leading up to the moment worth it, Patil said.

“My favorite moment was giving my second grader the book and [watching her] reacting to and reading it,” Patil said. “All of the effort and time that [built] up to that moment was paid off in such a great way.”

The Associated Student Body raises prom ticket prices for the school year

The Warrior Associated Student Body made the decision to raise the price of prom tickets for several reasons.

By Paulina Lee
STAFF WRITER

Troy’s 2024 prom saw an increase in price compared to previous years due to both inflation and plans for a more grand prom event.

The process behind determining prom prices involves various factors, including how the Warrior Associated Student Body manages and raises funds. Student activities such as fundraisers and ticket sales raise these funds. ASB and staff members work together to manage these funds to benefit the student body.

During this year’s process, 58.8% of Warriors in the Mark My Words of Issue 9 expressed concerns about the increase in prom prices and the limited availability of ticket sales. Ticket sales are conducted weeks before prom during break

and lunch at the activities office.

According to Troy High School’s activities clerk Courtney Shirk, the activities office sold tickets during these times because it is the only period both students and Shirk had no mandatory school duties.

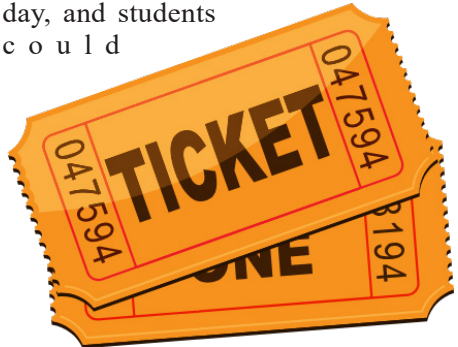
The increase in prom prices is due to various factors, such as the location of the event, the size of the

student population and inflation. This year, ASB hosted prom at Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center, causing higher prices compared to previous years, Shirk said.

“I have managed retail stores before, and it is important to me that the students making purchases are treated with respect and kindness because my position is one that includes some aspects of customer service,” Shirk said. “I look at the students as patrons of the Activities store and I want them to have a good experience. Students should reach out to ASB to discuss prom and prom pricing.”

In response to student feedback, the school has

made arrangements in hopes of accommodating students, such as extending the deadline and offering special pricing for any inconveniences. This year, ASB extended the initial prom ticket price of \$90 an extra day, and students could



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CANVA

purchase tickets after school for two days, which is longer than they are usually sold for. Ensuring student satisfaction is always a priority, Shirk said.

“It is not always a quick and smooth process,” Shirk said. “When issues arise that are beyond my control, I will always make arrangements to extend deadlines and special pricing to make amends for the inconvenience.”



CARTOON BY HANH DINH

UPDATES BAR

Film Festival

Warrior Film students submitted an independent short film to the Student Young Artist Feedback Festival to receive feedback from attendees of the Canadian film festival. The students based the film’s story around the song Selfish by Tiffi, aiming to elicit a sense of nostalgia and awareness of mental health.

Poetic Philanthropy

Spreading an appreciation of literature, Warrior poetry club Poétique donated poetry kits for pediatric patients to the Children’s Hospital of Orange County. Poetry kits consisted of journals, pencils and stickers. The club donated kits last summer and has since updated the poetry kits to appeal to pre-teens and teens. Poétique hopes to bring the beauty of poetry to pediatric patients at CHOC.

FBLA students place 3rd in State Sweepstakes at State Leadership Conference

Warriors ended the conference with five state champions, seven state runner-ups, 32 top 10 finalists and 24 national qualifiers.

By Salman Waheed
STAFF WRITER

In order to gain a realistic view of business career paths, Warrior Future Business Leaders of America attended the annual State Leadership Conference at the Anaheim Hilton Hotel April 11 to 14. Operating as a branch of the nationwide FBLA organization, Troy FBLA’s objective as a club is to integrate leadership and business-related concepts into their curriculum. FBLA aims to help students learn how to become business leaders and form their own businesses. The SLC is an annual conference that brings together all state chapters of FBLA and provides students with the opportunity to showcase



PHOTO COURTESY OF HAEUN RHO

their business knowledge. The conference provides students with the opportunity to form connections and network with various FBLA chapters and listen to pitches given by companies or government institutions that attend the conference every year. Students can compete in two main event categories during the conference, objective events and performing events. In the objective events, students receive rankings based on their score on a 100-question multiple choice exam either taken with a team or individually. Performance events call for students to perform a business presentation on a topic of their choice to several judges. FBLA members are eligible to sign up and choose from over 90 different events. Tryouts may be held for events in which there are more than 30 individuals in order to determine who can attend the conference due to participant limit constraints. According to senior state champion and Warrior FBLA Director of Activities Haeun Rho, the event helps students test themselves on their coursework and see how well they can apply it to make a pitch about a real-world solution. The conference acts as a way to congratulate students for their efforts in FBLA, Rho said. “The event acts as a recognition [for] all of the dedication our business and FBLA students put into their work throughout the entire



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARRIOR WEEKLY

STAR STUDENTS: *Warrior FBLA will attend the National Leadership Conference next in Orlando, Fla. over the summer.*

school year,” Rho said. “It really helped us utilize the skills we learned about business tactics and leadership and put it into practice.” Troy FBLA occasionally organized after school study sessions in order for students in various activities to find fellow team members and prepare for testing. Students also performed mock presentations and received critiques from computer science and business teacher Luke Laubhan and computer science teacher Deborah Henniger. According to junior state champion and Warrior FBLA Director of Competitions Soham Kulkarni,

students often view the SLC as chance to win an accolade rather than reflect on the more valuable interpersonal skills it helps students develop. These particular annual events are what truly help students in FBLA maintain a strong sense of community with each other, Kulkarni said. “The event helped students learn grit, perseverance and resilience through their challenges,” Kulkarni said. “The SLC gave us all a chance to socialize and connect with each other better in the Troy High School chapter. Overall, it helped our FBLA community sustain and uphold its culture of excellence and success.”

Principal Mynster advocates for Senate Bill 1171 at the California Legislative meeting

Bill 1171 aimed to recognize and expand participation among high schools in the Cambridge program.

By Kylie Tien
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to bring recognition and spread awareness about the Cambridge program, Warrior Principal William Mynster and Superintendent Steve McLaughlin attended the California Legislative meeting in Sacramento April 17. The Cambridge program is an academic program internationally recognized by institutes of higher education. Part of the legislative meeting focused on addressing Senate Bill 1171, which aims to expand the Cambridge program across California high schools. According to LegiScan, the bill extends the definition of an educational counseling program to include participation in Cambridge International AS and A Level programs. In 2020, Troy became the second school in California to implement the Cambridge program. According to Mynster, in the United States, Cambridge classes and the Advanced International Certification of Education diploma are not as well known as the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs, but still provide courses for students who want to challenge themselves academically.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARRIOR WEEKLY

SENATE HEARING: *Superintendent McLaughlin and Principal Mynster spoke in support of passing Senate Bill 1171.*

“Worldwide, the program is far larger, [yet] it is not as recognized in the United States,” Mynster said. “I think from the standpoint of how colleges and universities were looking at it [compared to] how they were [viewing] IB and AP, it was not quite the same. However, [when] looking at college and career readiness, [Cambridge] courses have the same impact on students as AP or IB [programs].” Cambridge students take AS and A level classes to earn college credit and pursue the AICE diploma. According to freshman Cambridge student Kyle Kao, the AICE diploma provided flexibility within his class schedule

compared to the IB program. “I noticed that I had already basically taken all the classes that were planned on my four year plan for Cambridge,” Kao said. “[However], a lot of colleges don’t recognize the AICE diploma, which is what I’m going for. Although they recognize individual college credits, [they] do not necessarily recognize the entire diploma.” California Senate Bill 1171 states that student achievement in the Cambridge program would be measured by the percent of scholars who passed the Cambridge International A Level examination with a score of E or higher or a Cambridge

International AS Level examination with a score of E or higher. The bill aimed to encourage participation in Cambridge International AS and A level programs by including Cambridge Assessment International Education courses as a way for students to earn post-secondary credits. During the meeting, Mynster and McLaughlin presented student demographics and test statistics to the Legislative Committee. All the data and charts they presented showed the rising trend of students taking Cambridge, Mynster said. “All we had to do to prepare was to say, ‘Look, this is a globally recognized program,’” Mynster said. “[In] colleges or universities in this state, the benefit of the AICE is often not there. [For example], if you are in Florida [and] you get the AICE diploma, you can get automatic admission to state schools [that] you are not going to get in California.” After McLaughlin and Mynster’s presentation, the Legislative Committee voted seven to zero in favor of Senate Bill 1171. According to Mynster, Senate Bill 1171 is now one step closer to becoming a law. “It is an affirmation that all the work that [Cambridge students] are doing should be treated every bit as equally as the AP or IB programs,” Mynster said. “The Cambridge program is another opportunity [and] way to exercise your brain and prepare you for college.”

Student Speech vs. Campus Safety—What should be prioritized?

By Ethan Ferrer
STAFF WRITER



Colleges need to balance free speech and public security to create a more expressive environment. In the face of recent conflict in the Gaza region, protests have erupted around the nation’s college campuses. With this, colleges have taken measures to ensure public safety. USC valedictorian Asna Tabassum was denied the opportunity to speak during her May 10 graduation ceremony due to concerns regarding her support for Palestinians in the Israel-Hamas war, in which administrators feared backlash from pro-Israel supporters. Although no threats were specified, it was implied that the reaction to Tabassum’s selection as valedictorian was hostile. Regardless, many believe the university’s denial of Tabassum’s opportunity to speak violates her right to free expression, and protests thus followed. Although it is right to maintain campus security, colleges cannot deprive students of their freedom of speech, and must seek an appropriate balance between civil liberties and safety. In a number of cases, the general will against student expression across colleges in response to campus turmoil has gone too far. Individuals such as Jack Petocz

of Nashville’s Vanderbilt University were expelled for staging a 21-hour sit-in against the school’s policy, displaying a belligerent environment towards activist pursuits. Throughout the sit-in, Petocz stated that students were refused food, water, restrooms and medical attention—nevertheless, they continued to remain at the administrative office, in protest against the school’s prohibition of funding towards the pro-Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. Afterward, disciplinary hearings resulted in at least two expulsions, with more than 20 students issued probation, furthering the negative atmosphere. This environment cannot be sustained—colleges and universities, as places of learning, should also serve as venues of free expression. Administrative staff must recognize this and acknowledge student demands. Still, the issue of free speech within colleges isn’t new, and the need for change on campus environments is long overdue. According to a 2021 survey conducted by Heterodox Academy, 63.5 percent of students believe their schools either openly or discretely restrict their freedom of expression—a statistic that is likely to have increased with recent turmoil. Ultimately, if students cannot learn to be outspoken in schools today, then they may not comfortably partake in other vital activities, such as voting. Colleges must recognize this and enact measures to ensure

students feel comfortable in expressing themselves—allowing students such as Tabassum to speak may be a start. However, there are exceptions to this, especially in direct threats to campus safety. In a CNN report, student journalists at UCLA were assaulted and gassed, with one even having to be taken to emergency care. Although the identities of those responsible for the attacks were never directly stated, the violence was the result of confrontations between pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian demonstrators. In this, colleges may be justified in restricting student activism to a certain degree—however, campuses cannot overextend this rationale, especially by prohibiting

their right to free speech. Ultimately, some distance must be maintained between the pursuits of student demonstrators and college administrators. College students nationwide have taken stances on the Israel-Hamas war, staging support for either side. Such protests have inevitably resulted in violent confrontations, and some campuses have chosen to deny the rights of activists in the interest of sustaining campus security. However, campuses cannot restrict the basic freedoms of their students. Colleges should reevaluate the environment they have created for their students, and work to establish less hostile mediums of expression on school grounds.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP PHOTO

Though recent lockdown was unsettling, Troy’s was well-handled

By Scarlett Clark
STAFF WRITER



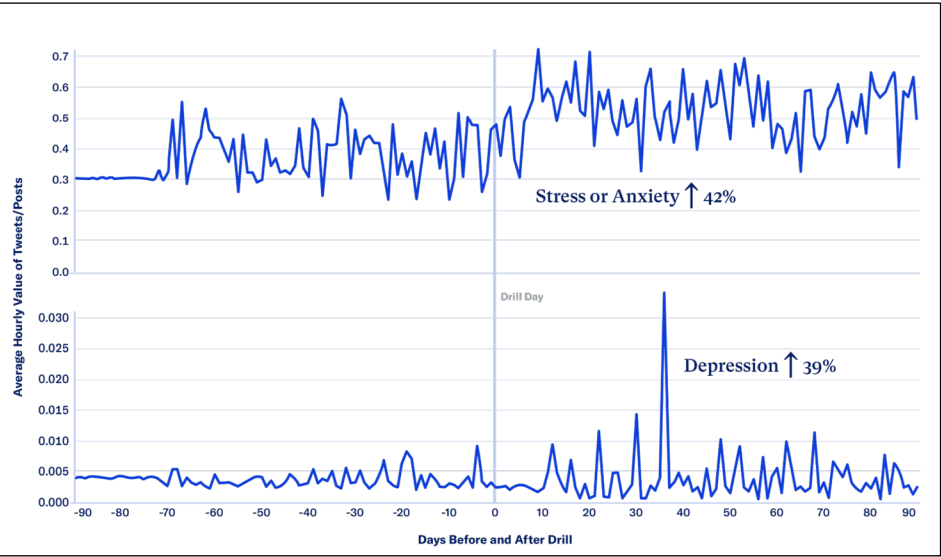
Despite some controversy regarding a recent lockdown, Troy’s administration went above and beyond to ensure the safety of the student population. On April 22, Troy High School was put on lockdown during fifth period. Most teachers, as instructed, turned off lights, locked doors, and told students to get on the floor and keep quiet. The lockdown ended after about an hour. Although post-incident communication was somewhat lacking, administration’s immediate handling of the crisis was admirable, and the school is already trying to improve upon their protocol.

The situation was managed in an effective manner. Following a threatening call to the administration office, an announcement was immediately sent out school-wide, commencing lockdown procedures. In their announcement, school officials attempted to keep their tone calm so as to not upset the Troy population further. Teachers were emailed promptly, informing them of the situation. Police arrived quickly. Had the threat been genuine, students would have been as safe as possible. Some administration members even patrolled the campus themselves, collecting stray students and ensuring every person’s safety. Administration took the threat very seriously. The school succeeded in doing everything that it could to keep each individual safe during the lockdown. Following the

crisis, school officials attempted to learn and grow from the event as much as they could. In an interview, Lance Bletscher, Assistant Principal of Instruction Operations, outlined the actions taken to ensure Troy is as prepared as possible for potential future threats. A staff meeting was held the morning after the lockdown to reflect on the incident. Aiming to make the school safer in the future, potential safety issues were evaluated, such as Troy’s interior door locks. Indeed, the school plans on spending thousands of dollars this upcoming summer in order to make the interior doors as safe as possible. Administrators are trying to do anything and everything in their power to learn from this crisis and better protect the safety of the Troy population. Despite the many positive aspects of the incident handling, one area which particularly needs improvement was communication between administration and students afterwards. Granted, administration did attempt to help students through this time; crisis counselors were available in the office, and the wellness center was accessible the day after the lockdown. Despite this, these opportunities were not announced to all students through, for example, a mass email. Troy perhaps should review how this information is communicated to make sure every student receives it. The American

Psychiatric Foundation found that after a lockdown, students report “feeling unsafe, scared, helpless, or sad.” Though the school did seem to acknowledge this potential issue to some extent, many Troy students likely would have appreciated some reassurance, or at least some discussion of what happened. For instance, administration staff, counselors and the school’s mental health specialist could have visited classes to talk about the event. More information about where to access help could have been sent out. The priority of the school was the safety of its students, and justifiably so, but more could have been done in regards to the mental well-being of the student population. Nonetheless, it is certainly respectable that physical safety was ensured. Administration’s response to the threatening situation was overall positive and well-handled. No crisis can be addressed perfectly, and the focus on protection of students from physical threat was a great success on the part of the school. The few flaws in Troy’s system regarding crisis handling are actively being worked out, which displays the great care the Troy administration has for its students. The lockdown at Troy was, of course, distressing for many students, but the Troy population can take comfort in the fact that the adults handling the situation had their back.

The priority of the school was the safety of its students, and justifiably so, but more could have been done in regards to the mental well-being of the student population.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF EVERYTOWN AND GEORGIA TECH

The Department of Education’s Title XI trades one form of discrimination for another

By Jayden Beaumont
STAFF WRITER



Transgender athletes can now play on gender-affirming teams—unless they are too strong, fast or talented. Fifty years ago, Title IX was passed to eliminate sex-based discrimination in federally funded schools and on April 19, the United States Department of Education released revisions to it. These changes strived to create a safer environment for all students by redefining sex discrimination to include gender identity. As there has been an increase in debate on whether trans women should be allowed in women’s sports, this amendment is particularly timely because it would make it illegal to ban trans people from athletics. However, the final rule, while prohibiting a universal ban, states that trans women can be excluded from high school and college sports in certain situations based on what the school deems best. Although the Title IX changes seem to be a step toward acceptance for trans athletes, the act cannot make a significant difference when it

“What is most concerning about this leniency is that it lets education programs legally discriminate against specific athletes for objective and ambiguous characteristics.”

only protects some students and enables different political ideologies to determine each person’s acceptance in sports. The Title IX reforms are dangerous because they only allow some trans students to participate on sports teams. Section 106.31 of Title IX rules that in limited circumstances regarding athletic teams, a person can be prevented from participating, yet does not specifically define what those circumstances are. In the Department of Education’s proposed rule from 2022, they acknowledge that fairness and safety in competition will play a role in the inclusion of trans athletes and that there will be eligibility requirements that must be met by the individual. The final rule, however, does not include the criteria, but considering the terms “fairness” and “safety,” the size, strength, or even skill level of the participant can determine whether they will be allowed on a gender-aligning team. This means that rather than creating a general criteria for trans inclusion, these athletes will be assessed individually. What is most concerning about this leniency is that it lets education programs legally discriminate against specific athletes for objective and ambiguous characteristics. True equality cannot be reached by picking and choosing



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK

which people to protect. The Title IX changes masquerade as pioneering and progressive while completely missing the point. The Title IX final rule on trans students in sports cannot enforce any change when it allows the political standings of different states to influence the inclusion of trans athletes. The reforms assert that the law will grant flexibility to schools so that they can individually determine what is best for their athletes and that should be frightening. Historically speaking, conservative states will deny queer students of rights and representation, like they did with the “Don’t Say Gay” law which banned sexuality and gender identity as discussion topics in the classroom. Florida, Alabama, South Carolina and Georgia have already begun filing lawsuits in response to the possibility of trans women on sports teams. These states are not concerned with the varying factors of each athlete’s situation, and they would support the blanket ban that Title IX supposedly defends against. The change legally deems trans inclusion optional. Schools that do not support trans rights will always find a way to prohibit trans athletes from playing on gender-affirming sports teams, and these changes make it easier for them to do so. While Title IX may protect students in liberal communities, in other parts of the country, children will continue to be denied rights as basic as participating in school sports. For years Title IX has been an emblem of equality, but the most recent changes have undeniable shortcomings. Whether the purpose was only to appease liberals or to truly fight discrimination, trans athletes deserve more than the bare minimum. In the continuous battle for LGBTQ rights, Title IX has proven to be a disappointment.

Asian discrimination has become far too common and needs to be discussed

By Chelsea Engelhardt
STAFF WRITER



The media has been used to spread harmful stereotypes about Asian people. With May being AAPI month, discussion on the overwhelming normalization of Asian hate is long overdue and a necessity. In recent years, the media has allowed for continued racism and derogatory stereotypes towards Asian communities. In 2022, in Dallas Texas, there were multiple shootings in Koreatown that have been linked together and are believed to

be hate crimes against the Korean community. Many other events have happened in similar contexts but have been denied as hate crimes, even with the presence of direct evidence to support the Asian discrimination. Additionally, in 2020 the uprising of COVID-19 had allowed for even more Asian discrimination and irrational blame. Overall, the discrimination and racism towards Asian Americans has become overly normalized and needs to stop. Hate crimes against Asian Americans have become appallingly common. In 2022, there were three separate violent acts against Korean Americans in Koreatown inside Dallas, Texas. Although there have been no reported deaths,

the outstanding issue is the mere occurrence of these events in the first place. According to a survey by AAPI Data and Momentive, 1 in 6 Asian American adults reported experiencing a hate crime in 2021. These outstanding numbers prove the standardization and commonness of Asian hate in America. Especially since there are currently over 17.8 million Asians living in America, this type of discrimination is representative of

the severity of the events and the attention that they received. For example, in March of 2022, eight Asian people were shot and killed. However, in response, there was limited media coverage that shared a biased perspective, to make the event not seem like a racially motivated

“In all, the increasing numbers of reported Asian hate have become a sickening part of America and it needs to be shut down immediately.”

crime, even going as far as to mention the shooter’s faith and excusing the actions under the pretense of a “really bad day” according to the Cherokee County Sheriff’s Department. Not only is there a lack of representation of social discrimination against Asian Americans issues in the media, the overall percentage of people of color totals to only 9% in journalism. This lack of new and diverse perspective and awareness to issues inside the Asian community allows for the overlooking of Asian discrimination in the media. Overall, these acts against Asians communities have been going on for far too long. For centuries even, American citizens of Asian descent have been treated as if they are inferior and that misconception needs to be put to an end. Asian discrimination is far too common and needs to be fixed immediately. The mere existence of said hate crimes following America into the 21st century is proof enough that these crimes and discrimination against races needs to be prevented. Many stereotypes and uneducated misconceptions have placed false ideals about Asian people that are harmful to the community. The need for more talk about the normalization of Asian discrimination can no longer be denied.

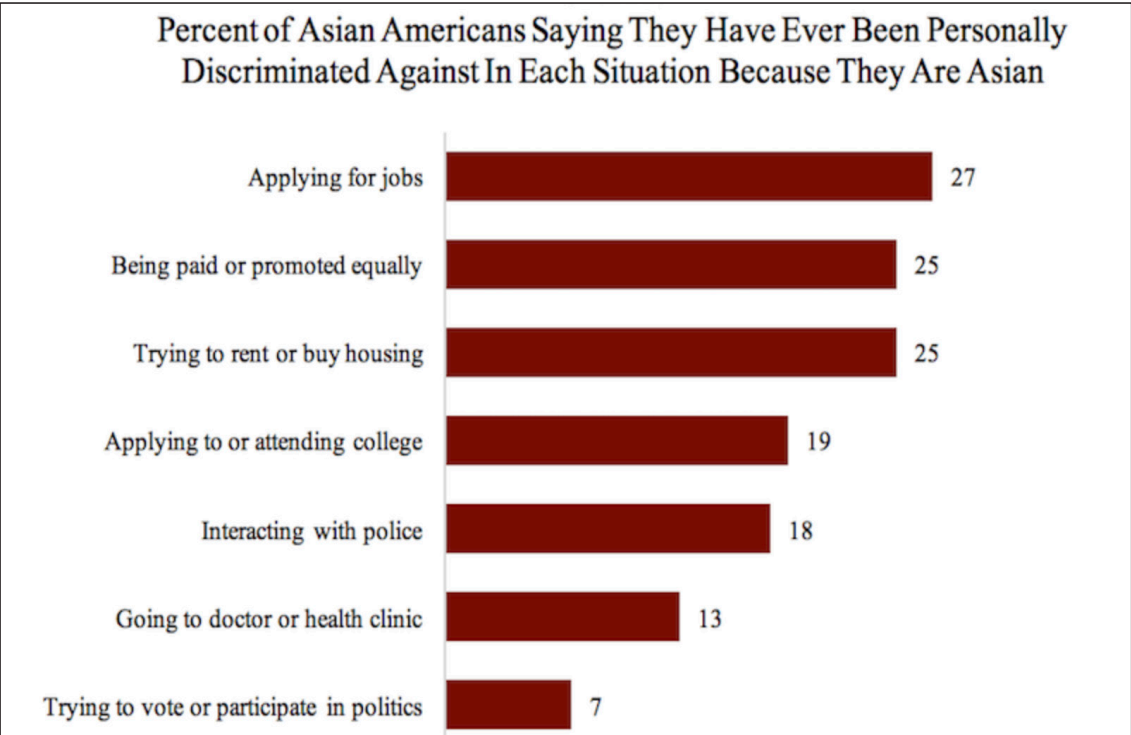


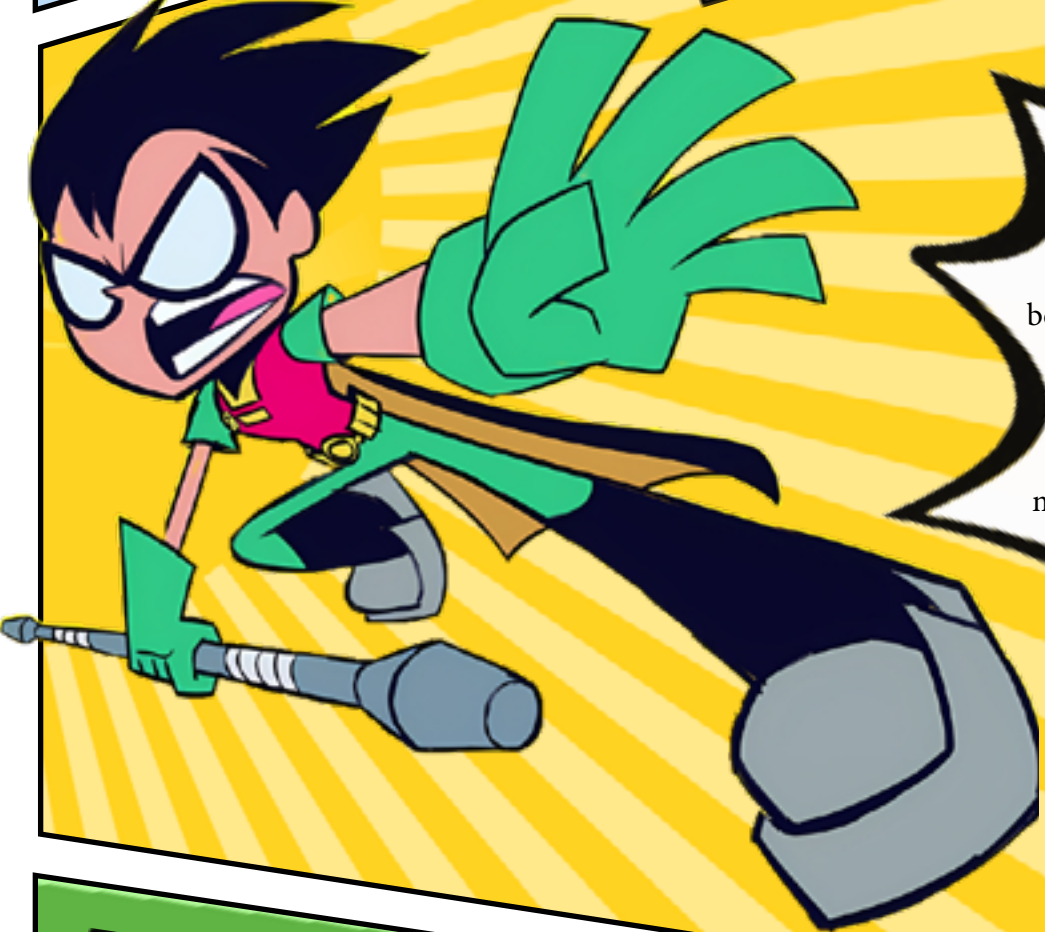
PHOTO COURTESY OF HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SENIOR SPREAD 24

Booyah! The class of 2024 is finally embarking on solo missions across the nation. These pages are dedicated to our Oracle seniors who are finally retiring from high school heroism. Thank you all for your hard work, and we wish you the best of luck!


Compiled by Edyn Mai and Kaitlyn Zhang, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF, images courtesy of Cartoon Network

KIRA CHEN AS ROBIN



K i r a , your hard-working nature and fun-loving personality make you the perfect Robin for the team. You put so much care into everything that you do, whether that may be golf or Oracle. Robin is a fearless leader, and you definitely earn the title of fearless after countless car rides with Tyler. Your careful and methodical work ethic makes you the the most reliable person to go to for Oracle matters, but your comforting aura also makes you the perfect person to go to for more light-hearted and less serious matters. Your leadership skills never fall short, giving us tough love when we need it, but also uplifting us to improve the publication. While we have amazing memories with you, we are so happy that you will make new memories as you move on to the next chapter of your life. You look so good sporting green and gold, have so much fun at SLO, go mustangs!

NEYA JAKAN AS STARFIRE



The words that come to mind when one thinks of Neya Jakan are: perceptive, powerful and magical! Whenever we needed a good laugh or a dash of precious wisdom, you were always there for us, listening with your lunch in your hands. Just like Starfire, your bright smile uplifts the entire Oracle room, while your authenticity keeps it real amid all the ruckus. You're dependable in every way, amazingly efficient in every task you take on. Whether you are breaking school records for the 3200 meter (like an absolute extraterrestrial), or finishing up your English homework in Oracle, Neya, you are out of this world. Thank you for being a great senior we can all rely on. We know for a fact that you will do amazing in college, with everyone recognizing who you are: a gem!

TYLER CORDOVA AS RAVEN



Despite his quiet, collected demeanor, you don't truly know Tyler unless you've heard his snarky side comments. Just like Raven, you, Tyler, always protect your peace and choose to live life your own way, one cooking recipe and niche hobby at a time. Behind the monotone exterior and lack of enthusiasm for everything except food, we all know you care for every member of Oracle in your own unique, cranky uncle kind of way. Oracle will always miss the sweet treats you made for us, and we will miss your silly focus beats even more. Have fun embracing your inner peace at UCSB!

MARY KIM AS BEAST BOY



Mary, despite your small size, you have the biggest personality and brightest heart. Whether you need someone to keep it real with a controversial take, or an encouraging shoulder to lean on, Mary is there. Like Beast Boy, you are the life of the party, always ringing with light-hearted laughter. But, you also have a soft side that cares deeply about your friends and classmates. Beast Boy can transform into any creature, just like how you can bring so many different skills and mindsets to the table on-demand. Your greatest strenght is your flexibility, because it lets you thrive regardless of your environment or circumstances. Your larger-than-life character will take you so far, and we cannot wait to cheer you on from the very room where it all started. From Troy Warrior to USC Trojan, fight on!

BRIAN WOO AS CYBORG



B r i a n Woo - the dad friend we all love. Sometimes we wonder how your hair is alive after dying it so much - every picture of you in the yearbook features a different hair color. Behind the metal exterior, Brian is the most out-going friend when you get to know him. Just like Cyborg, he's protective over his people and passionate about his views. Despite always bickering with your friends, we know we can always count on you for support. Whether it be Pokemon card unboxing or a guitar talent show, you love and enjoy life with crazy intensity. Don't ever lose your fierce excitement for the world. Have fun at CMU, and we'll miss you dearly.

Volleyball’s Frosh-Soph Team Becomes League Co-Champions as the Season Ends

Following an extremely successful season involving multiple wins in league, the boys Frosh-Soph volleyball team and Coach Terry Lendeen reflect upon their work and dedication.

Compiled by Kusuma Kothamasu, **SPORTS EDITOR**, article by Seungwoo Lee, **STAFF WRITER**, and Kusuma Kothamasu, **SPORTS EDITOR**, graphics courtesy of Troy HS Boys Volleyball

Kicking off the season with rough beginnings due to a loss to Sunny Hills, the Frosh-Soph volleyball team brought home a revenge victory and finished the season as co-champions in the league. Frosh-Soph Captain freshman Daniel Cho described the team’s success and journey as a road of constant improvement. “For a summary like our team, working hard at practices, really dialing in, helped us improve a lot as a team,” Cho said. “We learned that it’s not anyone’s fault for making a mistake, and we have to learn as a team.” Due to the majority of the team playing volleyball for the first time with the Warriors, this season proved to be a learning experience. Players improved throughout the season; from not prioritizing the sport, to dedicating themselves to their practices and games. Attending every practice, winning in tournaments and becoming co-league champions is the reflection of their grit and passion. “When we beat Sunny Hills,

it was a super intense and really close game,” Frosh-Soph MVP freshman Troy Arenas said, “And once we got that final point, we were all screaming and huddling together, for which even the JV and varsity players jumped in.” The first loss to Sunny Hills meant that the team had no chance of getting first in the league. It was the hardest experience for the team as a whole, but that did not stop the volleyball team from desiring a comeback against their loss. In the second match against Sunny, the team won an extremely close game, securing their place as co-league champions. From not being able to hit the volleyballs properly and the defense failing first at the beginning of the

games, the Frosh-Soph team continued to improve throughout the season while building their team chemistry. “I expect hard work, commitment and just like being kind to each other as players. And just like all the support that you can get from any team in any sport.” Arenas said, following a hard-working season. Envisioning the team as constantly improving and thriving in this sport of volleyball for the upcoming seasons, Cho said, “We learned that it is not anyone’s fault for making a mistake and you have to realize



Winning Warriors: The boys Frosh-Soph team picture.

Laudable Lendeen

As the time on the clock ticked—indicating the incoming start of the game—the boys Varsity volleyball team scurried to step in for absent players. Despite the sudden changes, the team’s hard work pushed to prove the strong dynamic of the Warriors.

Starting off his journey as a four-year Varsity volleyball player in



high school, Coach Lendeen helped start La Sierra University’s first volleyball team, where he played for four years. Following his graduation at the university, Coach Lendeen worked as Orangewood Academy’s Head Girls Varsity Volleyball Coach for five years, Boys Varsity Volleyball Assistant Coach for four years, and Boys Varsity Volleyball Head Coach for one year. During that time, he was named the CIF-Southern Section Coach of the Year. After his hard work and dedication, Coach Lendeen moved to work as the Girls Varsity Assistant with the Warriors, while coaching the Girls Varsity and Junior Varsity teams at Rosary Academy. Fast forward eight years, Coach Lendeen now coaches the Boys Varsity Volleyball team at Troy. After assisting the Warriors for almost a decade, Coach Lendeen

still managed to learn more as he continues to teach himself and the team the best of the sport. “What I learned as a coach is that no matter how long you’ve been coaching, there’s always going to be different obstacles for the team,” he said. Following a successful volleyball season, Coach Lendeen believes that the Warriors are a strong team, because of their positive attitude and their priority to focus on their weaknesses rather than their strengths while balancing athletics with academics. “But their focus is always more than sports, and I love that about it. [Even though] that’s all a slight challenge, I wouldn’t give that up because the kids, I know they’re going to be something more after volleyball, and it’s great to see, great to know.”

“I’m just a stepping stone for something more. I do care and wish them the best, both if they decide to play volleyball or not.”
Terry Lendeen
Coach

Senior Spotlight



Reagan Hsu



Samuel Ahn



Joaquin Ilagan

DIVE DEEPER

Varsity: 19-16
Junior Varsity: 26-4
Frosh-Soph: 13-4

Volleyball Nations League Scores:

Brazil vs. Serbia: 3-0
Poland vs. Japan: 3-0
USA vs. Dominican Republic: 3-0
France vs. Turkey: 0-3

Did You Know?

The average volleyball player jumps 300 times in a match.



Not So Good-etama

Drastically differing from the modern minimalism of most cafes today, the new Gudetama Cafe in Buena Park takes a bold, perhaps misaligned approach to their egg-citing grand opening. Find out more about the highs and lows of this unique cafe.

Compiled by Zoey Bahng, LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Bianca Naranjo, STAFF WRITER, graphics courtesy of Sanrio and Patch.

Egg-enthusiasts from all over Orange County are scrambling to see Sanrio’s new character restaurant, the Gudetama Cafe. The entirety of this novel attraction is inspired by Sanrio’s popular “lazy egg” character, Gudetama, who became a hit for his relatable mindless pondering, unconcerned attitude and fondness for delicious food. This uniquely themed cafe officially opened on May 4 in Buena Park, extracting winding, long lines of customers. Entering the lively, bright yellow building, cafe-goers encounter an interior packed with Gudetama statues, posters and plushes. While its visuals are certainly captivating, the cafe’s menu falls short of expectations for many anticipating diners. The Gudetama Cafe lacks variety in their menu, almost exclusively offering bland breakfast sandwiches and dry tater tots. While their signature A(meh)zing Double



Egg and Cheese sandwich is adorably stamped with a Gudetama face on the bun and egg yolk, a single disappointing bite into the flavorless meal breaks the bubble. Not to mention, the haphazard plating of these dishes on single-use plastic and paper plates also ruins the immersive experience. To look on the sunny side of the dining experience, though, the

sparkling mango and passionfruit smoothie drinks add a much needed pop of flavor. Unsurprisingly, Gudetama is not the only character victimized by the pattern of disappointing themed restaurants. The famous Hello Kitty Cafe at the Irvine Spectrum mall boasts beautiful displays, yet consumers here are also left unsatisfied with the homogeneity of flavors. Additionally, complaints about long waits and steep pricing for subpar quality continue to undermine the excitement of the Hello Kitty Cafe’s aesthetic. Both of these cafes have the potential to become crowd-pleasers, with excellent design and marketing strategies, but their underwhelming foods hinder them from truly prospering. While Sanrio will continue to garner customers at these locations thanks to their huge popularity, they should take the time to genuinely enhance the quality of their dining experiences instead of recklessly relying on cute aesthetics.

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SUMMER STYLING

Sandy beaches on sunny days, the long awaited summer break is just around the corner! Brighten your aesthetic this year with inspiration from the hottest summer styles of these warriors.

Compiled by Zoey Bahng, LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Kailey Reichman, STAFF WRITER, photos courtesy of Zoey Bahng and Wallpaper Cave

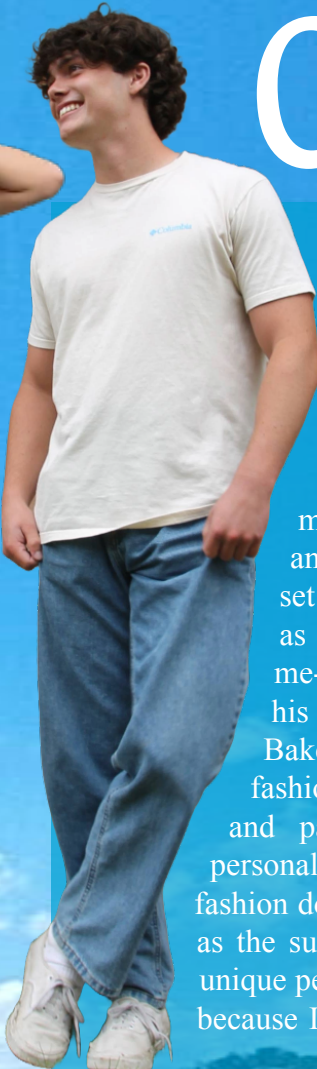
AVARY

Junior Warrior Avary Joe brings a sun-soaked, relaxed summer style with her coastal chic aesthetic. Taking inspiration from the trendy and stylish fashion influencer, Demetra Dias, Joe uses the overall aesthetic highlighted on Dias’ page and adds her personal hues. This styling strategy helps Joe embrace a naturally effortless look on the daily, while still showing off her stylistic personality. Especially during the summer, Joe turns to dainty gold accessories to capture the youthful radiance of the season. Often pairing a Kendra Scott necklace with classic hoop earrings, Joe enjoys incorporating her favorite pieces of jewelry to help elevate each of her summer outfits. For Joe and many teenage girls, fashion is the perfect, lighthearted way to bond with friends and find aesthetic identities. Whether someone wants to buy the popular Samba shoes or experiment with their own, timeless styles, clothing is a perfect medium of self-expression that can be as drastic or as subtle as the individual desires.



CAMREN

Picture a sunny day out in nature, trekking through beautiful mountain views with your family. This refreshingly relaxed, family-oriented lifestyle is the core of junior Camren Baker’s fashion aesthetic. While the ideal summer outfit for Baker might seem basic, it represents more than just a classic pair of blue jeans and a white tee. His closet essentials subtly set him apart from the average teenage boy as he brings deeper meaning into his hand-me-down shirt or borrowed cap. Transforming his family’s closet to fit his own aesthetic, Baker emphasizes the importance of using fashion to represent the bond with his siblings and parents. Fittingly reflecting his laid-back personality, Baker believes that truly meaningful fashion does not have to be excessively loud, as long as the subtle, intentional accents show the wearers’ unique personalities. “I try to be fashionable as a guy because I try to make things pop out,” Camren said.



CIELO FINLEY

Dancing between delicate spring and adventurous chic, senior Cielo Hollingsworth dives headfirst into experimenting with adding her own twists to day-to-day basics. Although she tends to follow trends rather than particular people, one influencer Hollingsworth derives her main source of inspiration from is Emma Chamberlain. Chamberlain’s casual, vintage and contemporary streetwear lays the perfect base for Hollingsworth to build her outfits off of. Her style takes simple foundations, such as Levis jeans and Brandy Melville tops, and elevates them with statement accessories—like a fun pair of socks that match the color scheme of her hoodie. She proves that the smallest details in an everyday outfit can help take functional summer style to another level. “I love socks because they can be so funky and unique and you can still incorporate them into your outfit,” Hollingsworth said.



Amidst the chaos of the fashion world, junior Finley White stands out with her refreshing and clean active style, effortlessly blending comfort and chicness. Focusing on light textured and bright colored athleisure, White’s practical wardrobe reflects her dynamic lifestyle and summertime hobbies, such as running and hiking. Whether trailing the mountains with friends or leisurely biking on a beachside road, her hobbies always revolve around being outdoors. To White and many other student athletes, the summer season is the best time to have the most fun with their modes of exercise. This excitement can be further enhanced with a cute workout outfit; for White, a reliable pair of Lululemon spandex shorts and a cute exercise top from Aerie is the cherry on top for her daily movement. White’s vibrant aesthetic is an iconically Californian representation of a carefree, spontaneous day in the sun. “I [am] ready to do anything at any moment,” said White.



Admirable Artists & Passionate Innovators

Read about Oracle’s favorite AAPI musicians to celebrate AAPI Heritage month!

Compiled by Kate Berger, **ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR**, article by Celeste Hollingsworth, Emily Yoon, **STAFF WRITERS**, graphics courtesy of Teen Vogue, X and Talent Recap

This month, America shines a bright light on the contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) to our rich culture. These different groups have shaped the entertainment and music industry despite setbacks caused by institutional boundaries. Some shining stars who have recently risen to fame include Saweetie, Iam Tongi, and Conan Gray. From melodic tunes to rhythmic beats, these artists captivate a variety of audiences, reflecting the diversity within the AAPI community.

Conan Gray took over our TikTok feed four years ago, and has been making headlines ever since. Gray is a Japanese-American who was raised in a small town in Texas. From the young age of 15, he started constantly posting covers of songs, daily vlogs and other content. Gray’s prolonged social media presence maximizes interaction with his fans, as his TikTok page showcases his quirky humor along with his catchy songs. His hit single, “Heather,” struck a

chord with Gen-Z, fully encapsulating how unhealthy comparison mixed with rejection can feel. He relates to his audience by disclosing his raw emotions in songs about parental relationship struggles, romantic partners and more. Gray is currently expanding his horizons from indie soundtracks to disco-pop from his latest album “Found Heaven.” In some tracks, he creates harmonies similar to Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody” and mixes them with synth pop of the 80’s. With the album’s bright colors and party atmosphere, Gray ventures out of his comfort zone as he revives the party atmosphere of 80s music.

William Guy “Iam” Tongi was recently titled the first Pacific Islander to win an American Idol competition. Tongi was born in Kahuku, Oahu, Hawaii, but now resides in Seattle, Wash., after touring across the globe. At only five years old, he began exploring the ukulele and was inspired to pursue music by doing so. From that moment on, he promised to always live his dream of music. Not only does he play the ukulele, but Tongi also plays the piano and guitar, making him a multi-instrumentalist. His music incorporates Mele Hula Pahu, a Hawaiian chant that is typically accompanied by cultural dancing, as well as Reggae, the Hawaiian form of reggae folk. He continued to rise in fame when he released his first single, “I’ll Be Seeing You,” which became a roaring success and hit the Billboard charts. His ethereal singing captivates the hearts of his audience, and when asked about his love for singing, Tongi claims that he just enjoys the

presence of being on stage. Tongi and his large fan base are excited to see the release of new music as he continues to debut powerfully. Grammy-nominated rapper Saweetie has come to take the title of this generation’s best female rapper. Born and raised in California, she explored the production of music through writing at 13 and releasing her songs onto Soundcloud at 15. Her music, which portrays femininity and self-confidence, circulated across the Internet almost immediately, and hit the Top 20 list on the Billboard charts. She embraces her cultural diversity by showcasing Filipino cuisine in her music video and Tagalog. When interviewed, Saweetie talks about the cultural figures that influence her music and have taught her to appreciate being mixed-race of Filipino and Chinese descent. Her image of being undividedly devoted to her music and culture is what also led her to reach Forbes 30 under 30. Saweetie’s self-made fame and urge to advocate for Asian voices show how she is an important figure in the AAPI community. The acknowl-

edge-ment of the AAPI and their influence on music culture can help us push through systematic barriers set within the entertainment industry. Conan Gray, Iam Tongi and Saweetie represent what it means to be a part of the AAPI community, but are only a speck of glitter in a nation of sparkling musicians.





BACK TO

BLACK

“Back to Black” falls flat! Check out Oracle’s review of Amy Winehouse’s biopic!

Compiled by Kate Berger, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Riddhi Arora, STAFF WRITER, graphics courtesy of The Sun

Amy Winehouse’s biopic by director Sam Taylor-Johnson, “Back to Black”, hits all the wrong notes, leaving fans to sigh, “I told you it was trouble.” English singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse’s performing career boomed after the release of her album, “Frank,” in 2003. As her popularity grew, Winehouse took a n interest in former music video assistant Blake Fielder-Civil, which ended devastatingly. The tragedy of their relationship led to the release of “Back to Black” in 2006, which soon became Winehouse’s most popular album. Due to her music’s prominent impact on the jazz community, the movie “Back to Black” was produced, which r e -



visited Winehouse’s career and completely shifted fans’ perception of her. Though the movie was an astonishing watch, consisting of eye-catching shots and editing styles, Amy Winehouse is incorrectly portrayed, leading to a flawed replica of her life of “black.” Portrayed as a struggling artist, “Back to Black” diminished Winehouse’s spark, as she was so much more than that. The biopic failed to capture Winehouse’s talent and charm, and instead focused solely on the addictions she experienced. A notable example in the movie is a five-minute montage of Winehouse recording her hit album “Back to Black” looking particularly shattered. The camera panned in as she softly whispered, “he killed me” in reference to her ex-lover, Blake. Instead of delving into the creative work of Winehouse, the movie focused more on her self-destruction, as shown through the five-minute montage. The director had the opportunity to demonstrate why Winehouse is so loved as an English singer-songwriter, but she spends no time displaying her talent. The movie is entirely centered around Winehouse’s drug and alcohol struggles, categorizing her as an emotional wreck rather than a talented star who deserves to be recognized. An actor can completely alter the experience of a movie, and the actors in “Back to Black” certainly do not pull through. Amy Winehouse is played by actress Marisa Abela, who physically does not

resemble Winehouse. Along with her distinct appearance, Abela’s voice is unlike Winehouse’s, resulting in the excessive use of autotune to match their voices. The abundance of autotune is notable, especially in scenes of Winehouse performing on stage, as it makes the movie feel disingenuous. The distinct difference between the actress and the musician steals away from the movie’s magic, disconnecting viewers from the story of Amy Winehouse and her career. “Back to Black” also consists of misleading scenes that greatly affect the timeline of Winehouse’s life. Such an ambiguous event is demonstrated when Amy Winehouse leaves to receive rehabilitation for her substance addictions. The movie shows Amy resting along a tree, scribbling in a notebook while her famous single, “Rehab,” plays in the background. From what is shown, an obvious assumption is that she wrote the single while fighting her addiction in rehabilitation, however, this is not the case. “Rehab” was written while Winehouse was still in a relationship with her ex-boyfriend. The skewed timeline in the movie engenders various interpretations of “Rehab,” plunging Amy Winehouse’s life into further confusion. The single was extremely significant to Winehouse because it demonstrates how she did not improve through rehabilitation. The misleading scenes in “Back to Black” provoke varied interpretations of Winehouse’s life, contrasting the overall purpose of the movie. Director Sam Taylor-Johnson has done an excellent job creating an entertaining movie with captivating scenes that hook the viewers into wanting more. However, in terms of depicting the short-lived life of Amy Winehouse, the movie does not do her justice in the amazing talent she possessed. “Back to Black” presents a flawed storyline that feels tone-deaf, like a broken record over Amy’s vibrant legacy.