

ORACLE

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CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

The College Board awarded underrepresented students from rural areas nationwide to recognize academic excellence. Meet five Warriors who received the award.

Compiled by Jamie Lee, NEWS EDITOR, article by Rachel Kang, STAFF WRITER, cartoon by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON EDITOR, photos by Tiffany Vo, PHOTO EDITOR, and Lauren Song, PHOTOS, graphics courtesy of Medium Photos

As a way to acknowledge underrepresented students’ academic excellence, the College Board awarded 29 eligible Warriors through its National Recognition Program early September. Created in 2019, College Board National Recognition Programs aim to promote diversity in colleges by providing academic achievement awards to underrepresented students nationwide. Eligible students come from Latinx, African-American, Indigenous or rural backgrounds. In order to meet the requirements to apply, students must earn a score within the top 10% of students in their state on the PSAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test or PSAT 10 in sophomore or junior year. The College Board requires students to maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher through the end of junior year. Students must have also received a three or better on two Advanced Placement exams before junior year. Upon meeting all the requirements, students will be invited by the College Board to fill out the application form through an email. According

to National African American Recognition Award recipient Marilyn Logwood, the application does not necessitate substantial effort or time to fill out. “The application did not require any teacher recommendation letters and was just an easy individual process,” Logwood said. “The processes were unexpectedly very simple and only took me around five minutes.” As an opportunity to earn special distinction from colleges, the awards also held a larger significance of recognition and acknowledgement granted to underrepresented students, NAARA recipient Chisom Onuigbo said. “As a minority, it is not expected of you to be getting good scores, but because of the inherent double standard, if I do succeed, people look past it really quickly saying ‘She got in because of her race’,” Onuigbo said, “This award encouraged me to keep on trying and working hard and is proof that someone acknowledges how far I have gone and is proud of me.” Released with AP scores in late July, emails notified applicants whether or not they received

the award. The College Board rewarding these students proves a source of motivation and encouragement to continue pursuing academic excellence, NAARA recipient Beth Dagim said. “It is a good chance to be awarded for your work especially at Troy where you are expected to excel already,” Dagim said, “It is nice to be reminded that you are still exceptional in the grand scheme of things.” These Warriors intend to continue their journey of attaining academic merit in college then entering the workforce as professionals in fields ranging from computer science to aerospace engineering. The National American Indigenous Recognition Award recipient Troy Francisconi plans to balance his academic pursuits with self-reflection, valuing self-discovery the most in life. “I know that recognition is a big part, but the idea of success in my life and overall satisfaction truly drives me,” Francisconi said, “Finding your own purpose for your life and understanding yourself deeply is something I value most and hope to achieve in the future.”



James Lopez



Chisom Onuigbo



Troy Francisconi



Beth Dagim



Marilyn Logwood

California State University of Fullerton offers tech courses in collaboration with SkillStorm

By Neya Jakan
STAFF WRITER

In order to improve employment eligibility for students and alumni, California State University of Fullerton partnered with SkillStorm in August 2022 to offer online certification courses for various enterprise technologies. As an information technology services company, SkillStorm provides project management and consulting assistance for businesses and government agencies nationwide. Utilizing online courses, the company equips individuals with the necessary skill and experience to become certified for the technology industry. Through the courses, SkillStorm experts offer CSUF students opportunities to become certified in technologies utilized in the workforce, such as Salesforce and Pega. Upon completion, students may take an exam to earn certificates that increase the chances of employment after college graduation. Divided into two pathways, the course consists of the Accelerator Program and the Emerging Tech Program. The Accelerator program is an online and asynchronous course created to help students become certified. Designed to train advanced workers, the Emerging Tech Program prepares professionals for Fortune 500 companies, the largest corporations in the United States. According to the World Economic Forum, over 50% of all employees in the field of technology need to become recertified by 2025 due to new technologies and automation. By learning enterprise technologies, students are able to demonstrate their knowledge and become valuable assets to organizations, Associate Vice President for International Programs Dr. Debra Leahy said in an interview with CSUF News. “As the demand for technological skills continues to rise, it becomes increasingly imperative that higher education institutions remain cognizant and keep pace with labor demand needs,” Leahy said. “The partnership allows students to access the skills and credentials that today’s labor market demands while building a tech workforce that is more diverse, inclusive, and prepared to respond to an ever-changing economy.”

Students With an Interest in Future Technology provides hands-on cyber opportunities

By Iman Babiker
STAFF WRITER

Inspiring students to apply their knowledge in a professional setting, California Polytechnic State University’s club, Students With an Interest in Future Technology, aims to foster interest in cybersecurity careers for California Polytechnic students. Founded in 1993, SWIFT is a student organization that provides learning opportunities through hands-on experiences and challenges students in real-world scenarios. The club connects students with industry professionals and explores computer networking, cybersecurity, system administration, and automation. In order to establish a community, the club offers students opportunities to engage in student-led conferences, lectures and team competitions. After a prior partnership between SWIFT and Troy High School, the club is expanding its SWIFT-run flagship competition Red vs Blue to a wider audience. In order to test student’s technical skills and expertise, RvB simulates an active breach scenario in which students troubleshoot and respond to the efforts of board members, alumni, or volunteers’ attempts to compromise a given network. SWIFT encourages students to participate in a number of national cybersecurity competitions, such as the Collegiate Penetration Testing Competition. Participants must hack a simulated network to extract as much information as possible and present a detailed report to a panel of senior executives in the cyber industry. SWIFT club members also compete in the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, where students maintain network security by checking day to day operations and Linux or Windows systems. According to penetration tester Robert Tran, the club enables students to apply their cybersecurity knowledge, opens job opportunities for students, and serves as a guide for career and professional development. “I went from being a computer information systems student to landing a cybersecurity internship, becoming Director of SWIFT Labs, and being an accomplished penetration tester all within a year and a half,” Tran said on the club website. “The most important part of my time at SWIFT was seeing the hard work build up to something greater.”



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Hey Seniors!

Applying to college this fall?

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Warrior girls volleyball team cedes a close loss to the Sonora Raiders

Despite a tough game, the volleyball team showcases its determination to bring home a victory soon.

By Tyler Cordova
STAFF WRITER

Unable to trounce the assertive opposition, the Warrior girls volleyball team submitted to the Sonora Raiders Sept. 20. The team started the first set with points being scored evenly on both sides. Senior Eliza Coquia initiated with a jump serve, sending the ball flying through Raider defenses. Soon after, senior co-captain Omaina Abdalla’s powerful spike flew right through the hands of the opponents. As the ball struck the ground, the gym erupted with animated cheers and motivational chants. Senior co-captain Janae Lopez responded swiftly to a shot and dismantled the Raider blockade. The Warriors also highlighted their defensive plays with junior Liz Cresap nimbly blocking a Raider’s spike and senior Andee Rodil showcasing neck-on-neck dives. However, despite the initial clash for points, the Raiders played aggressively, and the Warriors struggled to save enough attacks. During the third set, the Warriors had difficulty passing and keeping the ball off the floor, but their consistent efforts resulted in multiple aggressive moves. Lopez and Abdalla racked up points with their sudden hits, and Cresap’s consecutive aces had caught the opposing team off guard. Their last set continued with the Raiders’ defensive stance, featuring several sliding saves. However, Abdalla and Coquia exhibited fluid teamwork with a barrage of fierce shutdowns with their strong blockades. Senior Braylen Bethune also struck a powerful spike which bounced off of the Raiders onto the floor. Despite their evident bold plays, the Warriors hit the ball out of bounds and missed on several occasions. According to Lopez, the Warriors struggled to see stability throughout all of their sets, which would have made a significant difference in the quality of their plays. “There are definitely a lot of ups and downs,” Lopez said. “We started off really strong and we had a lot of energy throughout the entire team and throughout the entire game. It’ll allow us to work hard for our future games.” Along with finding other ways to secure points, the team also has to improve on teamwork in various plays, Abdalla said. “We really need to focus on finding ways to score. Our back row is doing a good job of putting up some great balls and having great defense,” Abdalla said. “It’s on the hitters now to just find ways to score, not always swinging as hard as we can but tipping, rolling, shooting, mixing it up.” As the season progresses, the Warriors will focus on integrating and working well with the new players on their team, Abdalla said. “Our focus this season is to have fun and get better together,” Abdalla said. “We’re playing with fairly new people, and we hope to create a family.”



PHOTO BY TIFFANY VO

SETTING DEFENSE: *Forming a strong blockade up at the net, senior Omaina Abdalla and senior Eliza Coquia make a save against the opponent’s powerful spike.*

DRAGON BOAT WARRIOR

Hope this article floats your boat! Read the article below to learn about senior Matthew Chang participating in dragon boat racing.

Compiled by Erin Jang, **SPORTS EDITOR**, article by Finley Dalley, **STAFF WRITER**, photo courtesy of Matthew Chang, and graphics courtesy of Vecteezy

As the race began, the paddlers moved quickly, cutting through the water in a synchronized fashion and cheering each other on. This summer, senior Matthew Chang partook in dragon boat racing. During his experience, he explored

an extracurricular he had never heard of before, constructed new tactical ways to work with others and formed close bonds with many new friends. In dragon boat racing, multiple narrow, canoe-shaped boats line up on the water. They are extremely large, around 12 meters in length and 1500 pounds. The rows within them seat 20 paddlers who race across a 500 meter body of water, often in the ocean. The boat has a large dragon head on the front carved out of wood and painted in bright colors and a tail on the stern. Originating in ancient Southern China, these details symbolize excellence and divinity. When training for the

race, Chang had two different kinds of practices each week, one on water and one on land. The land practices, which took place on concrete, were used to build stamina and practice drill commands. The practices on water were used to enhance dexterity and prepare the participants for the reality of the race. These prepared the team for the competition, which is incorporated in the annual festival that takes place each lunar month, in Long Beach on July 1. According to Chang, the most difficult part of the sport was not building up the strength to paddle the boat with speed but rather the communication and synchronization needed in order to get the boat across the water. In this sport especially, teamwork is key to prevent the boat from flipping over and getting disqualified. This emphasis on teamwork differentiates the activity from other sports as the participants need to learn to rely on their teammates, Chang said.

“It’s given me a more positive outlook towards everyone in general. It’s not [who] you choose to work [with].” Chang said. “It’s more [so] you figure out how to work with everyone because everyone is different.” In dragon boat racing, people express themselves through their actions, mannerisms and reactions, allowing people to learn about each other without only needing to talk verbally. Through the enduring of the long practices, and excitement and constant cheering for each other during the races, tight bonds and memories are easily formed. The intense teamwork orientation helped everyone form close relationships with each other, Chang said. “The other participants are always talking and working together, especially when we are racing,” Chang said. “We would push each other, too, so overall it was a very encouraging experience. Dragon boat racing was the most fun thing I did over summer.”





Let's Club it Up!



Compiled by Mary Kim, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Nathan Chao **STAFF WRITER**, Eileen Um **STAFF WRITER**, Julie Liu **STAFF WRITER**, graphics by Pearl Yoon, **CARTOON EDITOR**

With over 120 clubs participating, the Warrior club rush recently took place over a span of two days Sept. 21 and 22. As a way for clubs to recruit members in person and online, the event preserved some online aspects for convenience. Due to the pandemic, the Associated Student Body adopted a virtual format during the 2020-2021 school year. In the form of a Google Slides compilation, each club provided their individual mission statement, yearly activities and a sign up link for prospective members. In order to become official, club representatives attended a required club interest meeting hosted by ASB. New and returning clubs

completed a mandatory application form, adviser signature sheet and a club constitution. All forms had to be signed by both the club president(s) and adviser, which were to be submitted to Mr. Liem in room 507. As clubs advertised themselves to increase membership, students registered for clubs of their interest. Many clubs offered gifts of candy, stickers and clothespins to new members. While students registered for clubs, dazzling performances featuring new and returning student groups entertained the crowds. On the very first day, an enthusiastic Team Korea performed “Love Dive” by Ive while Filipinos Sharing Smiles Together per-

formed a twinkling dance on the second day. With the variety of new clubs introduced, ASB Interclub Commissioner Sky Noh found this year to be diverse in the range of student opportunities, each with unique club goals. She hopes the year will be full of new and exciting plans. “One of the clubs I know is called Stichables, which is a crocheting club that donates everything they make to different organizations. There is also Kids for CASA, which is a club that helps students in the foster care system,” Noh said. “There is even a fish club on campus now that teaches fishing. I am glad to see different groups represented through each of the clubs.”



The Sky's the Limit!

Welcome, Astronomy Club!

Twinkling stars and planets strewn across the night sky have always captivated humanity. For millennia, many have sought to investigate the secrets of the stars; even now, the up and coming Astronomy Club has become a thriving haven for these questions. Astronomy Club's co-presidents, Sebastian Kim and Michael Chandler, have collaborated to delve deeper into the mysteries of astrophysics, exploring topics such as black hole spaghettification and the existence of extraterrestrial beings. Offering a safe space for prospective astrophysicists as well as the common hobbyist, the Astronomy Club has become as an outlet to share each other's passions and ideas. Kim and Chandler's interests in astronomy can be traced back to times in middle school, but Kim recalls falling in love after reading “Astrophysics for People in a Hurry” by Neil deGrasse Tyson. Through this eye-opening novel, Kim began to see astrophysics as more than just another scientific topic; instead, he saw a captivating route to becoming a scientist. Using this idea to fuel their club vision, Kim and Chandler joined forces to carve out a club dedicated to astronomy. Each meeting will be held in room 335, bursting with charismatic discussions regarding ongoing questions and hot topics. “One of my favorite things to discuss is the Fermi paradox. There could be civilizations that are millions of years old,” Kim says, “And why isn't there life? It could be that aliens do see us and they just decide not to interact with us.” Through weekly meetings at the Astronomy Club, diverse thinkers with a myriad of opinions can gather to decipher the mysteries of the universe. Even with students' busy academic schedules, Kim and Chandler hope to bring astrophysics out of the classroom and into engaging conversations. Although the Astronomy Club may not take their peers to the sun, weekly meetings are sure to take their members to the moon and back with their deep discussions. “There's a lot of interesting topics that make you ponder about this universe and the things that you are able to see,” Kim remarked, “There is so much going on there.”



Introducing Kids for CASA

Picture a lively household gathered close, their laughter and conversation ringing throughout a cozy home. This is what every child deserves: a family to support them and a home to cherish. Sadly, due to unfortunate situations, thousands of children end up in the foster care system and face difficult transitions at an early age. Striving to provide foster kids with a loving family and a healthy environment to thrive in, the non-profit Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) works directly with Kids for CASA to help raise awareness and funding for these children. Vice President of Kids for CASA Audrey Nguyen hopes to spread their mission through volunteering and fundraising activities, supporting every individual. Gifted with a compassionate heart and a determined mindset, Nguyen's desire to help drove her to help found Kids for CASA. After realizing that countless children lack the simple security often taken for granted, Nguyen's heart shattered for them. To raise awareness for these children, CASA hosts fundraisers such as the May Pinwheel Project, an annual event in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. The proceeds of the Pinwheel Project go towards providing children with the protection they lack. Through Kids for CASA, Nguyen shows those around her the joy of helping others. “Instead of being so caught up in our own lives,” Nguyen says, “I hope that we can become more conscious of others' needs, and find ways to contribute.” Nguyen is not blind to the challenges that Kids for CASA and many other new clubs on campus are bound to face, such as lack of participation and devotion to the club. Though many students at Troy have rigorous academic commitments leaving little time for extracurriculars, she encourages those with a sincere passion and genuine interest in helping children to participate in this club. Nguyen believes that every contribution, regardless of size, can make a difference. “The effects of helping through Kids for CASA snowballs,” Nguyen says. “And while many feel that there isn't much of an impact, it only takes one to make a great change.”



Don't Drama Darlings

Looking for the behind the scenes tea? Don't worry darlings, read more to get our take on the messy production of "Don't Worry Darling."

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Kaitlyn Zhang, STAFF WRITER, pictures courtesy of Interaksyon, Mount Vick Flicks and Grazia



With more controversies than content, “Don’t Worry Darling” has definitely left audiences worried. Just premiered in theaters on Sept. 23, Olivia Wilde’s psychological thriller is overflowing with mystery and drama, just like behind the scenes. In an idyllic dream-like neighborhood, Alice Chambers notices the houses are a bit too uniform, gardens are a little too meticulous, and something is clearly wrong. However, completely ignoring the unsettling realm

Wilde has created as the Victory Project, audiences have focused their attention towards the controversies that cloud “Don’t Worry Darling’s” production. High expectations have been set from the start for “Don’t Worry Darling” with its star-studded cast and thrilling trailers. Florence Pugh stars as doting housewife Alice Chambers, to her husband Jack, played by world famous popstar Harry Styles. Other seasoned actors such as Chris Pine and Gemma Chan fill the supporting cast, leaving the audiences surrounded by familiar faces. Wilde herself plays a supporting role as one of the Chambers’ cookie-cutter neighbors. The excitement for the film only builds with Wilde directing the production and making strides as a female director. However, the initial support deflates as the film loses itself in its own controversies. Contradicting perspectives have infected the media, but Wilde is quick to deny the rumors surrounding her cast. The unprofessional budding romance between Wilde and Styles alarms various fans. As speculated by fans, this created a rift between the director and Pugh. Rumors of a wage gap between the star, Pugh, and Styles further aggravates fans, believing Styles is receiving more pay due to his relationship with Wilde. Fans believe this act is perpetuating standards which directly disagree with the film’s message of fighting against male dominance. However, fans have allowed the drama to quickly alter their perception of the film, quick to idolize the cast or shun the director’s moral values. With an endless flow of drama, fans must learn to separate

their adoration for the cast and controversies apart from the film itself. Ever since the beginning of the production, backstage drama has been closed behind curtains. Originally, Wilde claimed she fired male lead, Shia LaBeouf, in order to promote a safer environment for Pugh. Quick to counter, LaBeouf provides video evidence of Wilde asking him to continue working on the production. Fans see Wilde’s behavior as contradictory after her video to LaBeouf referring to her as “Miss Flo,” where she indirectly puts the blame on Pugh for LaBeouf’s withdrawal from the film. Focusing on backstage drama, audiences have failed to consider the message of the film itself and the steps it takes towards achieving Wilde’s feminist ideals. As Pugh illustrates with her slow spiral into insanity, the film focuses on the tragedy of patriarchal systems, often believed to be reflective of Wilde’s own situation as a female director in her male-dominated industry. Wilde’s film challenges questions on the standard of whether all publicity is good publicity. The feedback critics have left on “Don’t Worry Darling” have clearly expressed their discontent with the production. The expectations for “Don’t Worry Darling” have seemingly been lowered even with a cast full of talent. Despite the brewing gossip, audiences are still drawn into theaters hoping Wilde’s production is more interesting than the drama surrounding it. “Don’t Worry Darling” has continued a mystery to audiences, keeping us buckled in for the ride as we analyze and worry over every cast interaction.

HOLLYWOOD HISTORY

Hacking up history for the screen? Read more to get our take on the latest movie “The Woman King” and the controversial history that has made it to the present.

Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Jessica Chin, STAFF WRITER, pictures courtesy of Popsugar and The Boston Globe

Empowering female heroines or glamorizing dark history, “The Woman King” walks a fine line between both. Focusing on the Agojie, an all-female group of warriors from Kingdom of Dahomey, the movie follows the journey of the warriors as they protect their people from enslavement by French conquers and the dominating Oyo Empire. With an empowering message about female power and action packed fight scenes, “The Woman King” is an epic that has people flocking to movie theaters. However, despite the dynamic storytelling, controversy is arising over the historical accuracy of the story . Within the Kingdom of Dahomey, General Naisca leads the powerful Agojie, an elite group of female warriors. After the Agojie liberate Dahomey women from Oyo Empire slavers, King Ghezo of Dahomey prepares for war against the empire. As the protectors of the kingdom, the Agojie begin training a new generation of warriors. Nawi, a rebellious teenager, joins after refusing to be married. Audiences follow her as she trains and develops a kindred sisterhood with the rest of the Agojie. Yet, as many critics boycott watching “The Woman King,” it’s clear that there are major problems with the plot and the content it was inspired by. The true Agojie are nothing like the ones portrayed in the film. Though they did rise in popularity under King Ghezo’s rule, they were brutal conquerors, taking people away from their homes, burning villages and beheading victims. Their religious ceremony, the Annual Customs of Dahomey, focused on offering hundreds

to thousands of human sacrifices. However, in the film, they are depicted to fight against the cruelty of slavery, a large part of Dahomey’s wealth was built from the slave trade, a market that continued until British intervention. The entire plot of the film erases the kingdom’s role in the transatlantic slave trade, the very issue they are portrayed to fight. The historical inaccuracy distorts the motivation of characters turning the supposedly empowering movie sequences into insincere bloodbath. There are many historically inaccurate films with white leads that completely rewrite history, often glamorizing the perpetrators as heroic figures to be admired. “The Greatest Showman” depicted a heartwarming story about the Barnum circus and the power of chosen family, ignoring the real life events of exploitation and abuse that the circus performers underwent. In “The Help,” a movie based on a fictional book written by a white woman, black women are empowered to speak up, but only through the sympathy and writing skills of their white savior, Eugenia Phelan. Ironically, historical accuracy is only required by critics when the film is built on the interpersonal relationships of a dynamic group of Black women warriors. A movie that challenges the notion of male supremacy and gives power to those typically ignored in the film industry, is also the movie that is penalized for something that is overwhelmingly common in Hollywood. The underlying prejudices still deeply ingrained in the movie industry prevents movies like “The Woman King” from being introduced to greater audiences. While historical inaccuracy is a serious

ethical problem, the more pressing matter is the discrimination that still exists in the film industry. It’s clear that “The Woman King” is held to higher standards than typical films. Hollywood has never been known for historical accuracy, rather for their epic storytelling and extraordinary adventures of fiction. The responsibility lies with audiences, picking between the ethical responsibilities of film watching or the injustices in the movie industry.



Thank you to our
2022 Troy Tech Mentors

Compiled by Coco Gong and Vivian Lee, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF, graphics by Sophie Chen, GRAPHICS

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Disney’s live-action “The Little Mermaid” does not deserve the immense hatred it receives

By Joelle Cheeseman
STAFF WRITER



Hating on Disney’s Black Ariel is not defending the integrity of the story, it is racist. On Sept. 9, thousands of families around the world watched in awe as Disney released the official trailer for the upcoming live-action remake of “The Little Mermaid,” set to be released in 2023. As the magical underwater kingdom is unveiled through captivating shots of crashing waves and coral reefs, many fans were surprised to see that Ariel looked slightly different from the 1989 animated film—shocked to see that Ariel, played by the singer Halle Bailey. While many criticize Disney’s casting for misrepresenting the nostalgic mermaid princess of their childhood, the decision to make the character Black does not disturb the original story, but

CARTOON BY PEARL YOON

empowers the next generation of young girls who feel represented in their favorite Disney movies. Although it is true that people are more familiar with the pale-skinned, blue-eyed mermaid, changing Ariel’s appearance does not affect her storyline. Many argue that changing Ariel’s race is dishonest to the identity of the original character that people have come to know and love. In contrast to Disney princesses like Tiana, an African American woman living during the 1920s in New Orleans, or Mulan, a praised soldier in imperial China, whose cultural identities are closely tied to their behaviors and stories, the setting of “The Little Mermaid” holds little significance in the plot. Rather, it tells a story of a rebellious, headstrong mermaid finding love. Ariel’s desire for independence and adventure in her life is not unique to any race or ethnicity. In addition, more diverse repre-

sentation in lead roles teaches children the positive qualities depicted in their favorite characters. For example, in 2016, a study from Brigham Young University found that high engagement with Disney princess media led both boys and girls to express more feminine qualities, including being more caring for others and in touch with emotions, but also greater confidence and independence. By increasing diversity among race, gender, sexuality and body type, children will not feel ashamed for being themselves and gain confidence in their identity. Moreover, just as children observe and learn positive behaviors, the obsession over Ariel’s race perpetuates racist stereotypes throughout younger generations. Since its release, the Youtube trailer of the live-action “The Little Mermaid” has accumulated over 1.5 million dislikes along with openly racist comments regarding Bailey’s appearance; one Twitter user even used artificial intelligence to change her features in the footage to appear white. Children learn from their parents’ behavior and discouraging representation of people of color, which in turn, sends a highly visible message to Black and white children. With the evolving society of the United States becoming more educated racist remarks should not be tolerated.

In combination with the misinformation from parents, the historical underrepresentation of Black leads in film and television takes away from children of minority groups. According to a 2020 report from the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, characters of color not only constitute fewer lead roles in children’s television, but also are more likely to be shown as violent than white characters. The skewed portrayal of non-white characters teaches negative perceptions of people of color to young children. After years of unfair media representation, children of color should be given more opportunities to see themselves on screen as protagonists. Even Disney should be held accountable for its racially insensitive history. Films such as “Peter Pan,” which includes derogatory language toward Native Americans, or “The Aristocats” where a siamese cat with stereotypical East Asian facial features sings in a mocking accent while playing the piano with chopsticks, are only two examples of Disney’s prevalent mistreatment of ethnic characters. Compared to the misrepresentation of minority groups in previous Disney films, “The Little Mermaid” casting will provide a positive role model and inspiration for young girls. Disney’s decision to cast a Black Ariel in the live-action remake of “The Little Mermaid” should not be considered progressive, but the bare minimum. Following decades of eurocentric representation in children’s media, the next generation of children deserve to see themselves in film. Disney princesses are an iconic part of young girls’ upbringing and they define standards of beauty, grace and confidence. In the new live-action movie, Halle Bailey’s casting as Ariel should be encouraged as she will change the lives for millions of girls who now know that they can be a princess too.



A Troy Teyvat Problem by Pearl Yoon

I don't wanna workkkkkkk

POP

DAILY COMMISSIONS

- Time Trial
- Adventure
- Story

I'm just taking a TINY break

TIME TRIAL

Right here, right now

Do your homework.

What?

REWARDS:

- 1st
- 2nd

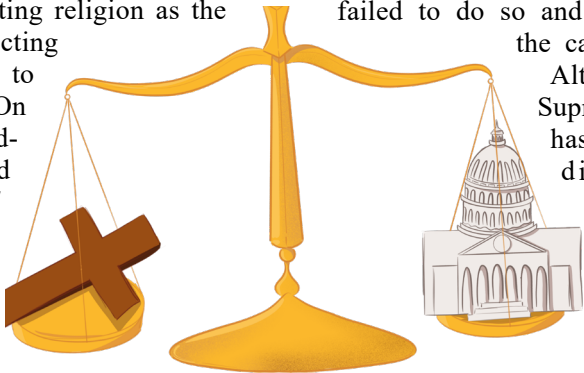
BEEP BEEP

5:00

A company’s right to endorse religion has precedence over government legislation

By Brett Larsen
STAFF WRITER

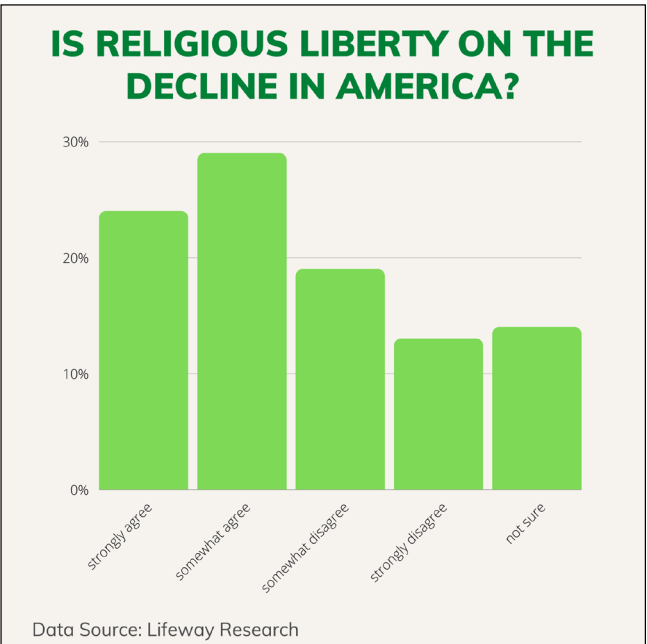
Religion is a private matter and should stay that way. Following the Supreme Court’s June 15, 2020 ruling that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender is prohibited under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, some businesses have begun to wage a legal war on the government, citing religion as the basis for restricting certain benefits to employees. On Sept. 7, a federal judge ruled in *Braidwood Management v. Becerra* that businesses reserve the right to deny employees of HIV-prevention drugs based upon a religious objection. Despite the government’s claims that imposing regulations are beneficial to all, it fails to justify the suspension of religious rights to achieve this outcome. Because the federal government fails to take on the costs of the regulations it imposes, the government is guilty of violating both state and federal laws. According to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act currently present with-



CARTOON BY KAILA PERLAS

in 23 states and the federal government, the government must first apply the Sherbert Test, a standard established by the 1963 Supreme Court ruling *Sherbert v. Verner*, prior to restricting a religious practice. The test requires that the government demonstrate whether it has posed the least restrictive way of furthering a governmental interest when forcing an individual to break from a religious practice. In the case of *Braidwood Management v. Becerra*, however, the government failed to do so and rightfully lost the case as a result. Although the Supreme Court has signaled that discrimination based upon gender identity and sexual orientation violates the Civil Rights Act, this does not mean businesses cannot discriminate for other reasons. For example, in the 2014 Supreme Court ruling *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, the court ruled that the government could not impose a contraceptive mandate due to it being restrictive and burdensome on corporations. By doing so, the court effectively set the precedent for specific religious exemptions provided that they are reasonable. As such, the ruling supports the idea that the federal government

should be prohibited from forcing individuals to violate their religious beliefs in cases that involve government regulation. Furthermore, the Constitution of the United States explicitly prohibits the government from restricting religious rights unless the practice infringes upon the rights of others. Only in instances where a religious objection can be classified as an illegal act, violating the rights of others should it be rejected. One such case came about in the 1990 Supreme Court ruling *Employment Division v. Smith*, where an individual claimed his religious rights were violated because he was fired for using a drug that was part of a Native American religious ritual. Due to the fact that the man violated a law that could potentially endanger his coworkers as a result of his drug use, the court ruled that the state could legally fire him from his position. As a result, the cases of religious objections being brought by businesses today are permitted by the law as they do not challenge the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Employment Division v. Smith*. Businesses are owned by the people,



GRAPHIC BY SOPHIE CHEN

not the government. Because of this, discrimination laws meant to be applied to the government should not be extended to businesses. An individual, and by extension a privately-owned company, reserves the right to endorse a religion and its beliefs while the government does not. Not only is the federal government failing to respect religious principles when denying a religious objection, but it is also regulating business in a manner that could be classified as governmental overreach. Allowing the government to determine how a business operates sets a dangerous precedent that must be prevented.

The lack of school spirit at Troy negatively affects all students on campus

By Edyn Mai
STAFF WRITER

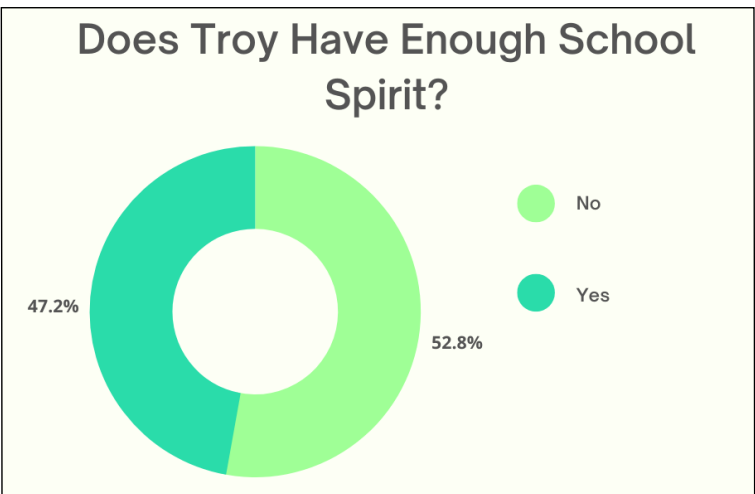
School spirit should become a higher priority for Troy. With Troy warrior football season in full effect, the stands should be packed with parents and students. However, the student section has been lacking in comparison to other schools within Orange County. Troy’s students section is significantly weak, barely filling the small portion of the bleachers in the students section. The Instagram page for OC student sections holds weekly competitions for the most spirited schools; Troy falls short each time, and is rarely included in the competition. Troy needs to prioritize school spirit to improve the school’s image and, most importantly, student well-being. Positive school culture is vital for students’ academic success. A poll conducted across



CARTOON BY PEARL YOON

1,016 high school students, 315 parents of high school students, and 150 high school principals in the U.S. recorded that 75% of students with high school spirit excel above average academically. Teachers should reward extra credit to students who show school spirit to urge the academically driven to fill up the stands and unify the school during spirit days or football games. Encouraging students to participate in school spirit will create school pride and unity. Moreover, Troy needs more spirit days to engage academically-focused students who may have missed the latest football game or dance. School spirit is a tradition that has cultivated a sense of community among students for hundreds of years. It not only gives students something to look forward to, but also provides relief from the many assignments and exams students have in the future. Due to the academic

rigor of Troy, many students skip school events to study for tests or to finish long homework assignments. Not to mention, increased school spirit would expand Troy’s appeal for incoming and current students with a negative outlook on the school. Additionally, school spirit must be increased to prohibit risky behavior. The Center for Disease Control claims that students who feel more connected to their school are less likely to engage in risky behavior, such as drug use. By rewarding spirited students with extra credit, other students will also feel inclined to show pride in their school. Likewise, school spirit reflects one’s confidence at school; increasing school spirit means increasing students’ confidence.



GRAPHIC BY AUDREY NA

A poll by Varsity Brands claims that 99% of school-spirit students feel confident, and 88% are more likely to be community leaders. Spirited students end up helping their communities outside of school, which in turn positively affects the school environment. Students’ confidence and leadership are increased as school spirit provides a sense of community and self. By representing their school, students can improve their self image and create a more positive environment. We need even more school spirit than considered “average” to relieve the stress of school. School spirit allows students to excel in their community, gaining qualities of leadership along the way. Troy has an overwhelming reputation for all students, and increased school spirit will create a more welcoming and nurturing environment for all.

Republican governors need to stop treating immigrants as political props during elections

By Shailey Patel
STAFF WRITER

A seat in office is not worth destroying the lives of hundreds of immigrants. On Sept. 14, Republican governors Ron DeSantis of Florida and Gregg Abbott of Texas relocated immigrants to more liberal states, encouraging tighter immigration policies. Two migrant buses were sent near Kamala Harris’s residence and a dozen more to Martha’s Vineyard, a luxury vacation destination for America’s elite. Critics claim that both governors used the stunt to gain publicity in light of potential presidential runs in 2024. Even though some Republicans are expressing that states do not have the resources to support the increasing immigrant population, disrupting the lives of im-

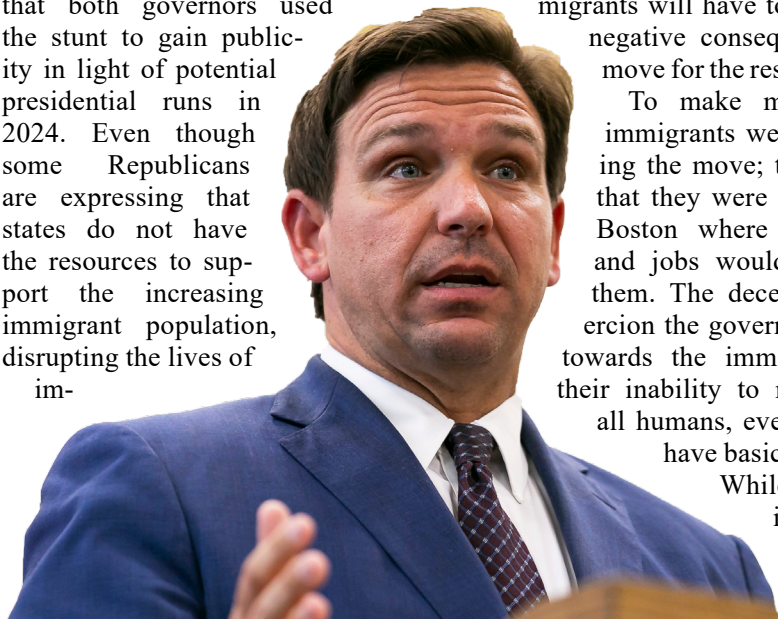


PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMI HERALD

migrants and using them as political props for votes is unacceptable. The relocation of immigrants makes it next to impossible for them to live legally in America. Because there are no records of immigrant location status, it is up to them to make sure that they attend their court dates. Relocated migrants such as those at Martha’s Vineyard become nearly impossible to track down, and are more likely to miss life-changing court dates, inevitably causing them to lose their chance at gaining citizenship. While the general public may forget about the intrusive relocation in a few days, these migrants will have to live with the negative consequences of the move for the rest of their lives. To make matters worse, immigrants were lied to during the move; they were told that they were on the way to Boston where food, money and jobs would be awaiting them. The deception and coercion the governors expressed towards the immigrants shows their inability to recognize that all humans, even immigrants, have basic human rights. While toying with immigrants may seem like an easy way to gain political

support, the practice is morally wrong and inhumane. No one should have the right to ruin the life of an innocent person simply to make a point. Even if the move was well intended by the governor, Martha’s Vineyard is not a place that provides immigrants the ability to build a stable life. With availability for only four to five employees per business, limited housing and an economy based purely on tourism, Martha’s Vineyard is not equipped to handle influxes of immigrants looking to settle. If forced to stay in an area like this, these immigrant families would be forced to work the lowest jobs of society, denigrated in a country that they hoped would provide opportunities. Although governors are correct in pointing out the need to improve immigration policies, there are better ways to bring attention to the situation. Instead of wasting time and money relocating these immigrants, southern



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAY EWING

states like Texas and Florida, which both have 12 million dollars in migrant relocation funds, should combine their resources to create infrastructure to house and support these immigrants. While right-leaning states are attempting to reform their immigration policies, they need to understand that they can be part of the solution, instead of passing on their immigration issues to other states. While immigrants may be new to the America, concepts of basic human respect and humanitarian aid should not be foreign to Republican governors. When considering what policies would make them look good in the public eye, governors must also consider the people they affect in the process. Human lives are not equal in worth to any position of power that America can offer.

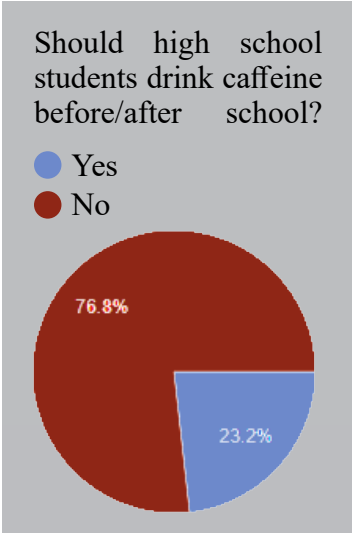
mark my words

Warriors speak out on campus issues

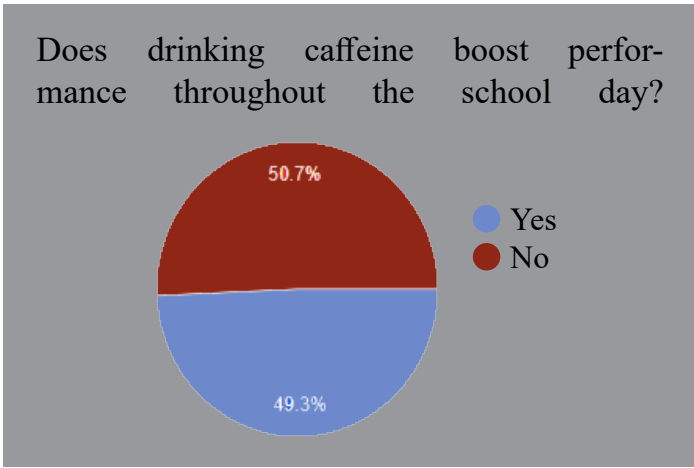
Read what our Warriors have to say regarding purchasing and drinking caffeinated drinks at Troy.

“It depends on the day. If I didn’t have time to make coffee in the morning then I would definitely purchase some from the school.”
- Cicely Norman, freshman

“My parents immigrated to the U.S. from Ethiopia, which is where coffee is from! So I grew up drinking black coffee (no creamer, sugar, etc.) for a long time.”
- Beth Dagim, junior



“I drink Diet Coke and Diet Dr. Pepper as well as black coffee at home or the occasional Starbucks latte.”
- Ruth Downum, junior



“I drink tea on a regular basis, coffee when I need an extra boost, and energy drinks when I know I’ll be pulling an all-nighter.”
- Ji Reyes, sophomore

“Personally, it helps me stay awake, but I don’t believe it’s very good for my health.”
- Anonymous freshman

“It doesn’t help me perform better academically, but it allows me to stay awake so that I can actually pay attention in class.”
- Anonymous senior

“As a student, it’s almost impossible to entirely avoid consuming caffeine.”
- Avni Patil, freshman

“I think that the problem isn’t caused by schools who sell caffeine; high schoolers really shouldn’t have a caffeine dependency to begin with. While caffeine is still less destructive than other drugs, it influences teenagers in a negative manner. Instead, the main problem with caffeine is that our school environment here at Troy creates the need for students to drink caffeine.”
- Michael Chen, junior

New Season, New Look

Fall fashion is waiting for no one—it’s time to transform our summer wardrobes. Read below to see how you can stay fashionable this season.

Compiled by Kira Chen, **LIFESTYLE EDITOR**, article by Ishaan Arya, **STAFF WRITER**, cartoons by Kaila Perlas, **CARTOON EDITOR**



Drawing from the season’s stunning foliage, the rich autumn colors that permeate the atmosphere flow right from the environment onto fall’s lush palette. Natural, earth and muted color schemes rule this time of year, as seen in pumpkin spice motifs that influence an avalanche of products, foods and clothing. Lean into these cozy aspirations by sporting outfits with homely harvest hues and golden undertones. Darker shades flow with the earthy color palette as well, ranging from maroons, dark olive and chocolate. Leather tones can assist any outfit, with decadent browns pairing perfectly with warm seasonal colors and refining style by providing everything from dark contrasts to sure-fire sunlit hues of dark mustard, camel and gray.



Winding down from the heat of the summer, the peaceful autumn weather brings a fresh season brimming with soothing colors and beautiful landscapes. As students start to dress for zero period rather than a Hawaiiin tourist, this time of year allows people to reach into the comfortable corners of their closets. Students can fall back onto the casual preppy aesthetic, where a thick knit sweater and jeans combination is just as much in style as a flowy long sleeve with knee-high boots. So, embrace the comfort of cozy sweatpants and plaid jackets in the welcoming warm atmosphere of the fall. Layering weather is upon us, and chic staples such as sweater vests, pleated skirts and collared shirts provide endless options to dress in vogue again this autumn.



Although some people tend to “fall back” to the tried-and-true fashion norms, this year’s trends take a fun spin in the fashion world. Off-duty work wear has secured its spot in this season’s runway, with chic yet refined looks consisting of vests, tailored trousers and even oversized blazers. Miles away from the easy-going nature of the season, this sleek and noir-centric style flaunts a strikingly different style that is sure to pop. Turn up the heat in your wardrobe and experiment with the new bohemian trend—a style that scores comfort points with its breezy and flowy fit. In a minimalist era of fashion, this look flips the traditional pairing of sweater and jeans upside down, inviting a whimsical splash of color with its lush and seasonal hues that saturate the most muted modern hues.



Fashion Feature

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

Article by Zoey Bahng, **STAFF WRITER**, photo courtesy of Edyn Lim.

EDYN LIM



As the days shorten and breezes whisper through fallen leaves, closets gradually shift from vibrant, jubilant hues to calmer, neutral tones. Aptly dressed, junior Edyn Lim’s uniquely relaxed sense of style blends seamlessly into the autumn aesthetic. Like tapestry weaved from Pinterest mood boards, Lim explores Y2K and dark academia styles, remaining unbound to particular brands or materials. Her spontaneous changes in hair color and aesthetics allow her to fully utilize fashion as a creative outlet, not only boosting her confidence but her overall mood as well. But this creativity and free-reign does not compromise the structure and harmony of Lim’s ensembles, as she has mastered the art of layering various knits, flare jeans and Dr. Martens to complement the features of her own body. Lim strongly advises the importance of breaking free from the chains of a “conventionally attractive” aesthetic and dressing based on your heart’s desire. Afterall, all that matters is that “you’re happy about what you’re wearing and it makes you feel confident going out into the world.”

Festivals to Fall For

Though autumn is short, the list of places to visit is chock full of events that will keep your weekends brimming with fun. Read below to learn about the fall festivities that will maximize this sweater weather season.

Compiled by Kira Chen, **LIFESTYLE EDITOR**, article by Zoey Bahng and Joey Kelly, **STAFF WRITERS**, cartoons by Kaila Perlas, **CARTOON EDITOR**

As verdian foliage bleeds into orange hues, the autumn spirits of SoCal residents are finally beginning to awaken. Cable knit sweaters emerge from storage boxes, piles of pumpkins stock grocery stores and hints of cinnamon trace the air—fall is finally here. Transitioning from the bright adventures of a Californian summer, the gentle season greets locals with warmth and gratitude, bringing communities closer with a united sense of comfort. To celebrate the passing of the seasons, families can dive into the fall spirit by enjoying October at various festivals and events in the county.

The first burst of autumn begins with the Tustin Tiller Days Festival. From Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, games ranging from wiener dog races to ice cream eating contests are sure to reflect Orange County’s unbounded spirit and enthusiasm. Not to mention, mouth-watering aromas of Philly cheesesteaks, Texan barbeques, tacos and cotton candy waft throughout the bustling festival. This cornucopia of festivities also promotes a melting pot of diversity, bringing together artisans around the world who feature one-of-a-kind goods such as woven baskets and bracelets. Make your day especially memorable by hopping on the numerous rides the festival has to offer, including its famous Ferris Wheel and Wave Runner. Thanks to the fundraisers and sponsorships of booths, contests and parades, Tustin Tiller Days is a wonderful way to appreciate the richness of the community. So, there is no reason to hold

back your fall spirit—indulge in the delicious foods, exhilarating rides and musical performances. It all goes towards supporting the community and its ongoing bounty anyway!

Packed with over 50 international cultures, featuring everything from Persian to Peruvian, the Irvine Global Village Festival in Great Park greets families with an illustrious blend of cultures and talents. Taking place on Oct. 8, this admission-free event expects to attract thousands of visitors county wide. A multitude of entertainment options are available to attendees, including a Kid’s Village full of activities like petting zoos, henna stations and puppet shows. Displaying its diverse charm, the festival also offers small group sessions and interactive performances such as Japanese sword dancing and Thai fruit carving. Those who prefer being part of the audience can immerse themselves in Bollywood dance or ukulele concerts. Step outside the world of entertainment and wander through a wonderland of scrumptious fragrances. Indulge in your cravings and devour some Piri Piri chicken from Mozambique or dive into an Argentinian Asado. Guests can let the gorgeous tapestry of diversity weave around them as they explore the row of booths filled with stunning handmade goods like African beadwork and dandelion art. Irvine’s festival immerses visitors in a setting in which they can not only experience a great day of music and food, but also appreciate the medley of cultures that surround them.

Do not limit the fun to only a few days of festivities because LA’s Haunt O’ Ween welcomes residents every single day of October. Originally created as a safe, socially distanced means for a pandemic Halloween, Haunt O’Ween is back in full swing as an on-foot adventure brimming with more thrilling scares and haunted fun than ever before. Beyond the entrance’s grinning jack-o-lantern arch lies an illuminated celebration of the spooky season, featuring hay bales, scarecrows and over 35,000 pumpkins. Taking up almost 40 square miles of tented outdoor space, the carnival is separated into nine distinct worlds of live character performances, face painting, dance-offs and, of course, a wicked block of trick-or-treating. Stay as long as you would like, and make sure to take plenty of photos and videos—you will remember the month of October for years to come. Haunt O’Ween, in all of its spooky splendor, allows friends and families to come together, turning fright and jumps into excitement and adventure.

Each season brings its own set of unexpected joys, but autumn seems to be the most anticipated of them all. Even the air smells different—crisper notes cut through summer’s humid air. This moment of the year is an ephemeral time, so enjoy the gift of autumn while it lasts. Whether you want to break out your cardigans or smear ghoulish fake blood on your face, fall festivals all around the county can fulfill your cravings for spooks and spices!

