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Lancers make the CIF-SS D1 Championship game.

# MARKETING MAKEOVER

*The Accolade investigates the ties between social media influencers and product marketing*



## KATE YANG

*Editor-in-Chief*

### The Alix Earle Effect.

According to foxnews.com, social media sensation Alix Earle, with 4.7 million TikTok followers, has been reportedly paid between \$40,000 and \$70,000 to entice followers to purchase the products of her lucrative brand partnerships — Tarte Cosmetics, Grubhub and White Fox Boutique.

Her flourishing financial transactions have led online users, like sophomore Jenna Forster, to cast doubt upon the integrity of

products peddled by sponsored influencers.

"Influencers really only tell you what you want to hear about a certain product because they're getting paid to promote it," Forster said. "I tend to buy products from people who aren't being paid to say good things and people who actually are trying the product for themselves."

Forster's latest "influenced" purchase, a Too Faced coverage concealer, incentivized her to look to authentic, genuine TikTok creators for reviews reflective of the product's quality.

Influencer marketing >> Page 8



# PROM SEASON

*Scheduled for April 15, the last formal dance of the school year has been reserved at an undisclosed location in Orange County*



theaccolade file photo

**THE ROYAL TREATMENT:** Before prom comes around again April 15, seniors will have a chance to vote for their king and queen. Last year, seniors Patrick Jimenez (left) and Abby Hahm took the honors.

## GISELLE SUASTEGUI

Feature Editor

With prom more than a month away, the Associated Student Body [ASB] plans to release its first teaser video promoting the annual event at the March 10 spring sports and election assembly, ASB officials said.

"The theme we chose is something that the prom committee, and I hope that everybody can enjoy as a whole, rather than appealing to certain students," prom committee member and junior class president Denise Bravo said. "We thought that the theme we chose was rather aesthetically pleasing, and if executed well, the decorations at the location can turn out pretty well."

Because the theme and venue won't be revealed until a March 28 lunchtime video on the jumbotron in the quad, ASB adviser David Fenstermaker told *The Accolade* the location would remain in Orange County.

For certain, the April 15 event will not be

held at the same location as last year, which was the Fullerton Airport's Hangar 21 South.

"There's room for hundreds and hundreds of people," Fenstermaker said. "Because it was picked during the pandemic, it had to be an area that we knew would be open, available, and wouldn't require a bunch of [COVID-19] mandates that you still see in some Los Angeles venues."

Tickets for Sunny Hills students and guest passes can be purchased on March 29 only through the SH webstore with a starting price that will gradually increase as it gets closer to the April event, he said.

No information was available at press time for the specific date the ASB will inform students about prom ticket prices.

Last year's formal spring dance — the first since 2019 because of the COVID-19 pandemic — attracted 748 attendees, Fenstermaker said.

With normalcy returning to students post-COVID-19, next month's event could draw numbers similar to last semester's homecom-

## NOTABLE NUMBERS

*The ASB has scheduled the following events counting down to the April 15 spring formal dance:*

- March 10 assembly: prom teaser video
- Starting March 27: prom court nominations
- March 28: prom theme release
- March 29: online ticket sales start
- April 6: prom fashion show in the quad
- April 15: prom at Orange County venue

Source: ASB prom committee  
Compiled by Susie Kim

ing dance.

"Hopefully it'll be as exciting to attend as homecoming was where we had 1,580 people," the ASB adviser said. "Expect it to be fun and have a good time."

Upon students' return from spring break, seniors can go online to nominate their peers for prom court. No specific details have been provided.

The ASB also plans to host a fashion show — the first in five years — on April 6 in the quad.

"We wanted to mix [up] the way the ASB advertised prom," Fenstermaker said.

Though the process for selecting who will sport the outfits hasn't been finalized, the ASB adviser said sign-ups will begin after spring break.

Senior Alyssa Galvez said she's in favor of bringing this event back.

"I think the fashion show would help students get an idea of what to wear and inspiration when picking an outfit and accessories," said Galvez, who spent around \$600 on her prom dress last year.

Junior Carlos Arguello said he has already decided on going.

"I have high expectations for the venue because I know last year's selection was limited due to COVID-19 restrictions, and now that restrictions have been lifted, I hope we can get a cool venue," Arguello said. "I'm excited to experience prom for the first time."

# Ethnic studies, music among new electives for fall



Image printed with permission from Hera Kwon  
**INTERESTED?:** A flyer in students' registration envelopes promotes the new Ethnic Studies class.

## JUSTIN PAK

Copy Editor

Two electives have been added to the course list for those registering for the 2023-2024 school year.

School officials decided to give students the option to take Ethnic Studies before the class becomes a graduation requirement starting with the Class of 2030.

"I think this is a class that we should've had a long time ago," said social science teacher Hera Kwon, who volunteered to be the Ethnic Studies instructor. "Teaching American history for all these years, there's a lot of parts of American history that I

can't really cover because of the limitations of time. Ethnic Studies opens us up to talk about it in more detail."

The coursework hones in on the cultural, historical, political, economic and social facets of African, Native, Latin and Asian Americans and features a research project on a group, not limited to one of the four, of the student's choice, Kwon said.

Another new elective, Music, Listening and Literature, will be taught by part-time choir teacher Aaron Duncan-Schwartz.

School officials said the number of periods both electives will be offered will depend on student interest.

"The Ethnic Studies class

doesn't seem like it's for me, but some people can enjoy it if they want to learn about different cultures," freshman Jacob Michaels said. "I think it's good that they're trying to promote people to learn about different ethnicities."

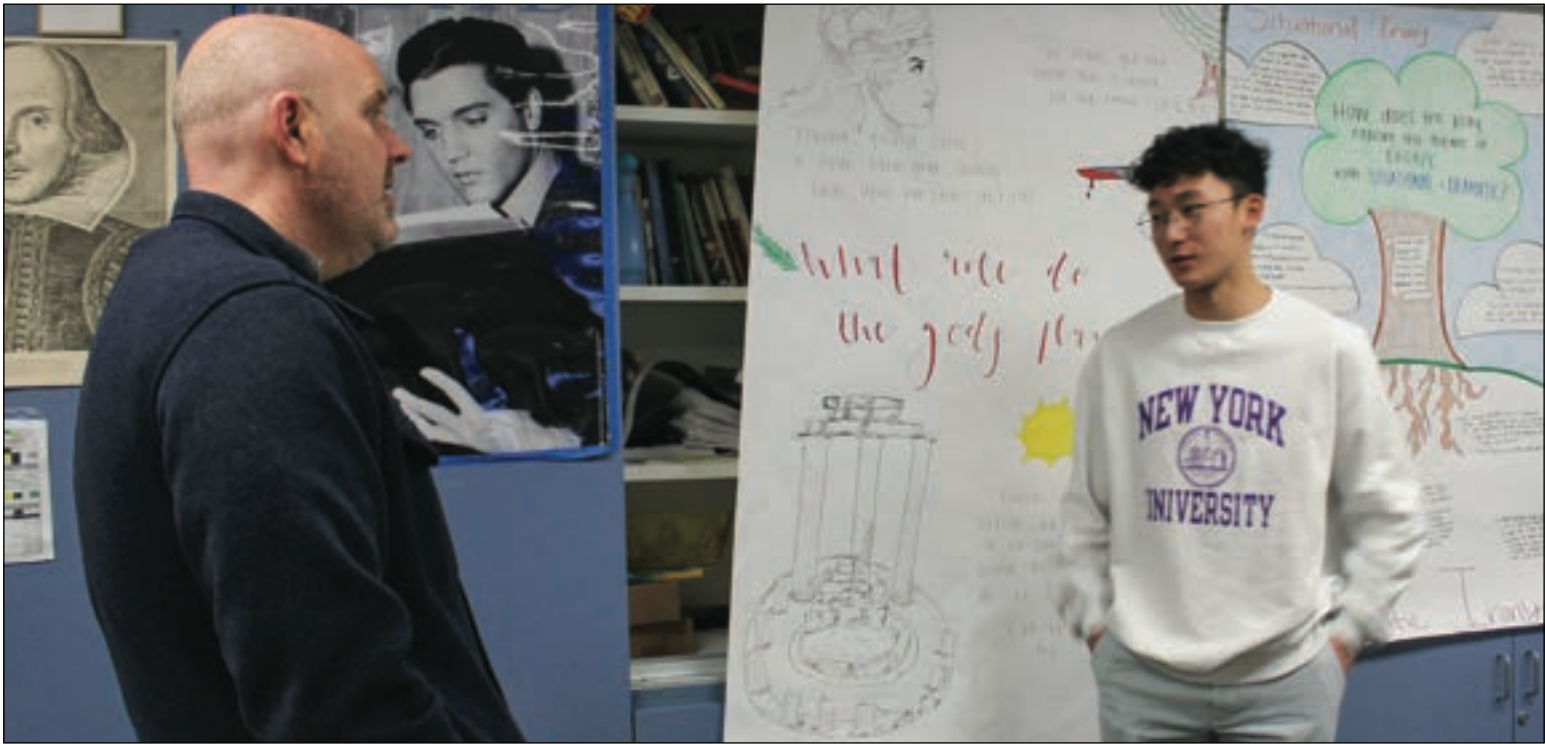
Junior Michael Amescua, who takes Duncan-Schwartz's guitar class, said he plans to sign up for the new music class.

"I listen to a lot of music, so I'm really excited for this one because it's right up my alley," said Amescua, who first learned about the class during a counselor's presentation on registration.



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)





CHLOE KANG | theaccolade

**LISTEN UP:** New International Baccalaureate coordinator and English teacher Scott Rosenkranz (left) clarifies sophomore Joseph Kim's concerns on an in-class essay during his zero period English 2 Honors class Thursday.

# English teacher appointed new IB coordinator

JIWOO HAN

Sports Editor

It was never a goal to begin with, but it was an opportunity to try something different: to become coordinator of Sunny Hills' International Baccalaureate [IB].



**Scott Rosenkranz**

"I kind of felt like this is a good time in my career to look for different opportunities, and [being an] IB coordinator was one of those," English department chairman and teacher Scott Rosenkranz said.

Principal Craig Weinreich personally informed Rosenkranz that he has been named as the replace-

ment for art teacher Brian Wall as IB coordinator on Feb. 17. After more than 15 years in that position, Wall has decided to retire at the end of this school year.

Weinreich officially announced the appointment in a subsequent Feb. 24 statement in his digital newsletter sent to students, staff and parents.

"I am looking forward to Scott being able to work alongside Brian throughout the rest of this school year as he begins his transition into this role moving forward and continues to maintain the strong IB tradition for our Lancers," according to the principal's email statement.

The announcement came more than a month after Weinreich reached out to the staff in a Jan. 19 email, informing teachers to con-

## ROSENKRANZ'S RESUME

Scott Rosenkranz's most notable achievements at Sunny Hills:

- 2000 - Began teaching at Sunny Hills
- 2006 - Joined the International Baccalaureate [IB] program and received his National Board Certification
- 2013 - Started instructing the IB Theory of Knowledge class
- 2023 - Appointed new IB coordinator

Source: Craig Weinreich's Feb. 24 email  
Compiled by Susie Kim

tact him if they are interested in applying to replace Wall.

Candidates participated in an interview with Weinreich, Wall, assistant principal Sarah Murrietta, math teacher Cristian Bueno and IB student junior representative Kasey Lee.

Lee said she was impressed with Rosenkranz's extensive resume

and his interaction with students.

"His ability to work with a variety of students, his dedication to the [IB] program and his experience as an IB teacher are only a few of the reasons why Mr. Wall and I chose him to be the next IB coordinator," Lee said.

The instructor said he hopes to continue Wall's positive influence

on the program.

"[Wall] is a good listener who listens to the students' needs, so they feel like they really have an advocate," Rosenkranz said. "He's a thoughtful, humble man and these are qualities I think are worthy of emulation, and I really want to strive to fill those roles."

Many of Rosenkranz's Theory of Knowledge students had only positive reactions to the new IB coordinator.

Junior Matias Perez doesn't expect the change to affect the program and looks forward to working with his new mentor.

"Mr. Rosenkranz is really caring and enthusiastic about his career, similar to Mr. Wall, so I think he is going to do great as the coordinator," Perez said.

## SH opts out of AP digital exams

NATHAN LEE

Staff Reporter

Though the College Board offered schools the option to administer seven Advanced Placement [AP] exams digitally this school year, Sunny Hills administrators have opted against it.

"I have a little bit of distrust of how well the electronic version works for some people," principal Craig Weinreich said. "I think there's some familiarity when you're doing the pen-and-paper [exams], and that helps you focus and control the environments a little bit better."

Last August, the College Board announced certain AP

subject exams as eligible for online testing, including English Language and Composition [AP Lang] and English Literature and Composition — both of which have traditionally required students to write essays by hand.

The digital exams use an app called Bluebook, which prevents students from accessing other web browsers once they start the test.

AP Lang teacher Tom Wiegman said school officials didn't consult with him about the digital option, and had they, he would have asked for it.

"Digitally, students would have an advantage being able to type much faster, especially for the writing sections," Wiegman

said.

Junior Madison Moreno, who has English teacher Randy Oudega for AP Lang, also likes the College Board's Bluebook app.

"We are used to using Chromebooks every single day at school," Moreno said. "Especially for AP Lang, since it's a writing test, I'd figured it'd be a lot easier typing everything out."



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)

### RELATED STORY

**Staff Editorial:** It's time to roll with the times and go digital.

**See Opinion, page 12.**



CHLOE KANG | theaccolade

**TYPE IT OUT:** Juniors Yeavit Kim (left) and Garv Jain type out their Advanced Placement English Language and Composition in-class essays Thursday in Room 14.





REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade

**SHINING:** Sophomore Emily Boyer (left), senior Gabriel Villanueva, freshman Roman Hipolito and junior Lara Martinez decorate their faces with Starface patches.

JAIMIE CHUN

Managing Editor

## PUT A ST☆R ON IT

### Colorful pimple patches lead skin positivity movement

From Korean facial masks and layers of concealer to stacks of transparent pimple patches, senior Gabriel Villanueva has tried a variety of ways to remedy his unpleasant relationship with acne.

All of his purchases have targeted one purpose — covering up.

Like Villanueva, the horrors of teenage acne breakouts are familiar ground for many students.

“Acne is not bad — it’s normal,” he said. “But I’ve been conditioned to think that acne is ugly, which is not true, so I still try to find solutions to minimize my acne.”

However, while scrolling through TikTok a year ago, he found a product that was completely opposite of his traditional regimen — something shining and bright from the brand Starface, known for its eye-catching pimple patches.

After going through several

packs now, Villanueva said he’s realized a much more meaningful message behind the business.

“I respect it so much because we’re taught that having perfect skin is what’s beautiful,” the senior said. “But Starface teaches us that you should love your pimples, and the patches are obviously cute.”

Alongside Villanueva, Sunny Hills students have started sporting these patches as a way of embracing their skin while also de-stigmatizing acne.

Coming in pocketable and reusable pods that open up like hand mirrors, Starface’s bestseller, the Hydro-star, comes with a total

of 32 yellow star-shaped pimple patches at \$14.99. It can be bought on its website or at local stores.

Since its release, the brand has dropped an array of different hues, such as rainbow and black, also partnering with franchises like Hello Kitty to release various shapes as limited deals.

“I like how Starface is so decorative,” said junior Lara Martinez, who’s also tried rainbow heart-shaped ones. “It’s a great way to just treat your acne, and they can also be a cute little accessory to your daily outfit.”

Co-founded by former *Elle* magazine beauty director Ju-

lie Schott in 2019, the signature star-shaped pimple spot treatment has since become a TikTok favorite with “#starface” garnering over 279 million views.

However, according to a Feb. 15 *Accolade* online poll, 42% of 107 responders said they’ve never heard of this product before.

Freshman Sarah Martell suggests otherwise.

“I’m surprised that not many people know about it yet,” Martell said. “Most of my friends use it, and my skin improved a lot afterwards, especially because I used to use makeup instead.”

On the other hand, sophomore

Emily Boyer said she prefers the traditional patches to help her acne.

“I’m sure it’s different for everybody, but I like to use [Starface] as a sticker more than a patch just because others work better,” said Boyer, who wears the Mighty Patch overnight and Starface during the day.

Though some critics have argued Starface’s contradictory message about encouraging acne acceptance, yet marketing treatment for it, Villanueva said overcoming the insecurity during breakouts is what matters.

“Don’t get me wrong, I don’t like acne,” Villanueva said. “But it makes you smile when you put [Starface patches] on in the mornings, and it makes the time while your pimple lasts enjoyable — it’s money well spent.”



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)



NOAH LEE | theaccolade

**STALEMATE:** Sophomore Zayne Shah (left) is among the new Chess Club members after his friends played the game online.

## NOTABLE NUMBERS



- 30 in chess club
- 16 white pieces
- 16 black pieces
- 120M members on chess.com

Compiled by Giselle Suastegui

## CLUB CORNER

### Checkmate — TikTok videos get more students to play old game

CHRISTOPHER LEE

Staff Reporter

Gone are the days chess players triumphantly declare, “Checkmate,” to the opponent sitting across from them.

It’s good news in more than one way for Chess Club president sophomore Ayden Nagabayashi. For one, Nagabayashi can now play anywhere — in the classroom or during a car ride home.

That’s because a new form of chess has become prevalent in the way students play the classic game.

“I loved chess, but now I love it even more,” Nagabayashi said.

Many students like Nagabayashi are gravitating toward the 15-year-old website, chess.com, to either take on its artificial intelligence or compete against other users.

Despite not having to have the physical pieces and board, the online game has motivated some to seek out live competitive play with other Chess Club

members.

“We gained over 15 members recently,” Nagabayashi said. “More than three or four times as many people have started to regularly come to our chess meetings since last year because of chess.com.”

He credits the trend to TikTok and other platforms where content creators post chess content, such as game analyses, and build an online community.

“I used to have to search up chess videos, but now it just appears on my feed like through my YouTube algorithm,” he said. “If you look at these posts, there’s like a chess clique online who all have a passion for chess.”

The Chess Club meets Wednesdays at lunch in Room 52. For more information contact Nagabayashi at [600018641@fjuhsd.org](mailto:600018641@fjuhsd.org).



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)





“ I have been pretty fortunate to stay stable and not lose any more vision than I already have.

- student teacher Isaac Rico

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ASAPH LI | theaccolade

**LEARNING CURVE:** With a white cane in his hand, student teacher Isaac Rico gives his English 3 fifth period students instructions for taking a test on Monday in Room 57. Rico, partially blind since he was 10, is assigned to help instruct English teacher Scott Enrico's junior students this semester.

## VISION STATEMENT: Despite his partial blindness, English student teacher Isaac Rico remains passionate about education

AIDEN PARK

Entertainment Editor

Blurs, floaters and light movement.

That is what English instructor Scott Enrico's student teacher, Isaac Rico, is limited to seeing on a daily basis.

But such a disability hasn't stopped Rico from doing what he wants and achieving his goals.

"I have a vision to sort of get around campus, but I carry the cane just to [inform] everyone that I am partially blind," he said. "So if I bump into anyone, they'll know it is literally by accident."

At the age of 10, Rico said his doctor diagnosed him with neu-

romyelitis optica, a condition that can potentially harm people's eyes, brain and spine enough to make them require the usage of a wheelchair. He is able to move around normally while sustaining a rough 80% vision in his right eye but low vision in his left.

"I'm lucky enough that it just affected my eyes," he said. "I have been pretty fortunate to stay stable and not lose any more vision than I already have."

With the disease not severe enough to interfere with his passion — teaching English — the student teacher practices his craft with Enrico's fourth and fifth English 3 students since the start of the spring semester.

"English class was something that I felt wasn't really explored enough when I went to high school," said Rico, who graduated from Anaheim High School in 2016. "But in college, they told you that there were so many other things you could do with knowing English or being fluent and very literate."

After observing him for two months, Enrico said working with his student teacher is a pleasure.

"He can do anything a person with sight can do but with a twist of assigning everything digitally instead of paper worksheets," Rico's mentor teacher said.

While following Enrico's

guidance, the student teacher continues to work on making the class more engaging and becoming more comfortable speaking in front of the class.

Junior Jacqueline Beason said she appreciates how open her student teacher has been since they first met at the start of the semester.

"The first time he came, he briefly talked about his condition and went more in depth once he officially took over," said Beason, who is in Enrico's fifth period English 3 class. "It was interesting because I never had a blind teacher or student teacher before but it did not really matter because he is like any ordinary

teacher."

Rico strives to work on his weaknesses as a teacher in hopes of providing the same inspiring high school and college experience he had.

"I would respect and aspire to be like my high school teachers and college professors because they were really nice and supportive," he said. "I am currently focusing on how to improve myself because I aim to pass down what I learned from my mentors to high schoolers."



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)

## DID YOU KNOW?

### School mascot origins uncovered

The Accolade investigates some of the mysterious history of the campus. For this issue, we look into the origins of how Sunny Hills became the Lancers.

PRICILLA ESCOBEDO

Staff Reporter

The Lancers.

Why didn't Sunny Hills become the Warriors or the Tribe or the Highlanders?

Though most students tend to just accept their school mascot, some have shown curiosity about their origins.

"I never thought about the [school's mascot], but if someone were to tell me the origins, I would find it interesting," freshman Jekamiah Del Toro said.

The answer to how Sunny Hills got its mascot name goes all the way back to 1959 when the campus first opened.

Even though the school does not have an official historian, *The Accolade* interviewed one alumnus from the Class of 1963, Ron Mullion, who said he enrolled at Sunny Hills in 1959.

Before the final vote fell on the Lancers,

some factions pushed for the Olympians in reference to the Greek gods who gathered on Mount Olympus (the campus is also atop a hill), or the Hill Toppers, Mullion said.

"We voted on all that stuff," alumna Julie Pryor said. "We even wrote the alma mater. ... Incidentally, our mascot's name was Bullwinkle, Lance Bullwinkle. And it was a knight in shining armor."

Nearly three decades later, Sunny Hills found another knight in shining armor.

Winston Creel had three daughters — triplets — attending Sunny Hills, and upon a suggestion from his children, for the last football game of the season against then-rival Fullerton Union High School in 1986, he agreed to dress up as a knight holding a lance and riding his horse around the track, according to past *Accolade* articles.

After the 2015-2016 football season, Creel eventually hung up his lance and outfit — his horse having died before the start



theaccolade file photo (left) | Source: @winstonthelancer  
**NO HORSEING AROUND:** Winston Creel (left) became the school's mascot at football games from 1986-2015; his namesake — Winston the Lancer — took on new life when Sunny Hills created its Instagram account in 2014.

of the next season.

Since, no one has stepped up to take up the mantle to replace him; still, he lives on — digitally as "winstonthelancer," Sunny Hills' Instagram handle.

"We just thought it would be kind of more creative than just [calling it] Sunny Hills High School," principal Craig Weinreich said.

Though the school's alias as the home



of the Lancers is all set in stone, Del Toro has a suggestion if Sunny Hills were to change its mascot:

"A lion — maybe it would fit our school colors," he said.



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)



# FROM LANCER TO LEGEND

*SH alumni and student influencers reflect on their journey to fame*

HANNAH LEE

*Opinion Editor*

Sunny Hills cultivates future generations of doctors, lawyers, teachers — and, recently, influencers.

SH Class of 2020 alumna Stacy Kim, a fashion and travel influencer posting content on Instagram, TikTok and YouTube accounts with just over 3,000 followers, has worked with over 40 different brands, including popular labels like Clinique, Neutrogena, NARS Cosmetics and even Samsung.

"I definitely enjoy being an influencer, and I think my favorite part about it is that I'm able to have conversations with people about products," said the current UCLA junior, who is pursuing a major in business economics. "I actually also have the opportunity to share sample products with people around me."

Landing herself on the headline of an online Feb. 28 *Business Insider* article, Kim is en route to becoming an entrepreneur, planning to continue content creation as a side-hustle.

Contrary to popular belief, the role of an influencer goes far beyond uploading aesthetic photos on the internet.

"Aside from raising awareness about the products themselves, I've had a different impact in the community as well," Kim said. "I aim to influence others to pursue their passion, and I have also heard from many that they were inspired to pursue content creation or find a hobby while continuing their work."

Under the username @gaeungrace, SH Class of 2021 alumna Grace Park also dedicates her content to the community.

"I like uploading content that sparks an interesting conversation online," said Park, who has over 400K followers on her TikTok account.

Some of her videos include storytelling content as well as anecdotes raising awareness of cleft lip and palate surgeries.

Like Kim, Park's extensive online platform allowed her to partner with numerous brands like Samsung, Bloom Nutrition and Tower 28 Beauty.

"I absolutely enjoy being a social media

influencer as I get to connect with so many people around the world," she said. "One of my proudest achievements was when I got 9.5 million views on a video where I reminded people how important and loved they were. I felt so proud that I could positively impact so many people."

Senior Julia De Leon, with more than 120K followers on TikTok, shares the same sentiment as Park.

"My favorite part of being an 'influencer' is how I can help some people across the world with whatever they're going through," said De Leon, who posts videos under the TikTok account @w.mochii. "People have messaged me personally about how I help them, and it makes me feel good."

Receiving brand deals from small businesses and clothing brands, De Leon uploads sponsored content, encouraging her followers to buy certain products.

"I really like having somewhat of a platform because I like being online, getting to talk to people and showing them what I'm like through a screen," she said.

But even with paid brand deals and positive messages from followers, influencers still struggle with the day-to-day downfalls of having such an extensive platform.

"The comments people say or just the things they do, sometimes it can get out of hand where they get physical or bother me," De Leon said. "People have definitely judged me based on my looks and what I post."

Class of 2020 alumnus Matthia Lee also acknowledges the same struggles as De Leon.

"I definitely feel judged for being an influencer, but honestly, I really don't care," Lee said. "I'm just living my life and having fun."

Despite starting his TikTok account without any serious intentions in November 2019, Lee found himself quickly accumulating followers with currently 830K under the account @matthialee.

"My favorite part of being an influencer is definitely meeting new or popular people," said Lee, who has been approached by many of his followers in public. "Having celebrities follow you back feels surreal."





## HEAD TO HEAD

## THE DE-INFLUENCING MOVEMENT:

*Is this a productive trend?*

## PRO: This trend is well worth the shot

SEOWON HAN

Copy Editor

“Help Me.”  
“SOS.”

Customers of the fast-fashion, online clothing brand SHEIN inspected the labels stitched on the tags of the company’s products to find these alarming messages, hypothetically printed by the factory workers.

The inspection began following a viral TikTok post exhibiting such messages on the tags of various pieces, and shortly after, a stream of social media posts surfaced, exposing the 75-hour work weeks and poor conditions of employees.

Despite such exploitations, the company has partnered with mega-influencers, like TikToker Addison Rae, to market its products to social media users.

The brand relies on influencer marketing to heighten its consumer count; for example, various influencers uploaded their hauls of SHEIN items on TikTok. The hashtag “#sheinhaul” garnered over 8.6 billion views on the platform.

The hundreds of social media influencers collaborating with the unethical brand in exchange for payments demonstrates a foundation of why the “de-influencing” movement transpired across social media platforms.

The trend rejects the cult-like consumerism perpetuated by social media influencers, calling for greater transparency between the content creator and the consumer. By revealing the truth behind the quality of “hyped” products, de-influencing draws attention to heedless purchases.

“This trend of de-influencing is so cool because I love seeing people being aware of their overconsumption and kind of like getting ready to consume more intentionally,” said sustainability advocate Jessica Clifton (@impactforgood\_) in her Jan. 19 TikTok video that amassed 25.4K views.

Thanks to the de-influencing trend, more consumers and content creators alike are willing to initiate important conversations on environmental and social consciousness.

However, some influencers use this trend to advertise and encourage viewers to buy alternatives. While it might help the viewers to make choices in spending less on expensive, overrated products, it doesn’t comply with the original aim of reducing overconsumption.

Although the videos did not directly stop the issue, the fact that people are trying to be part of this change and proactive movement is a step in the right direction.



## CON: It’s futile in initiating change

STACY KIM

Staff Reporter

“Run, don’t walk to Target.”

That was what social media influencers announced when the janky Stanley Cups came back in stock after selling out in practically all stores.

Today, a content creator’s nod of approval over a product signals the green light to the next “big thing” — and people absolutely rave over it.

With thousands of content creators promoting the same products, netizens feel inclined to spend heedlessly.

Rejecting this culture of overconsumption, TikTokers conversely created a trend called “de-influencing” in which content creators focus on telling viewers what isn’t worth buying.

The TikTok hashtag “#deinfluencing” garnered around 203 million views following the popularity of influencer Maddie Wells (@maddiebewells), who reportedly first used the term in 2020 to warn her followers about overhyped beauty products.

But despite what TikTokers discuss in their de-influencing videos, we’re still influenced.

In her Jan. 25 video, influencer Alyssa Stephanie (@alyssastephanie) slammed popular brands like Opalex, Supergoop! and Charlotte Tilbury for their high price and low-quality products and followed up with alternatives that are “just as good” or “even better.”

At its core, this movement strives to promote conscious and environmentally friendly habits.

However, creators have taken the movement entirely out of context. De-influencing fails to initiate tangible change, as seen from the flop of a similar 2017 trend, “anti-haul.”

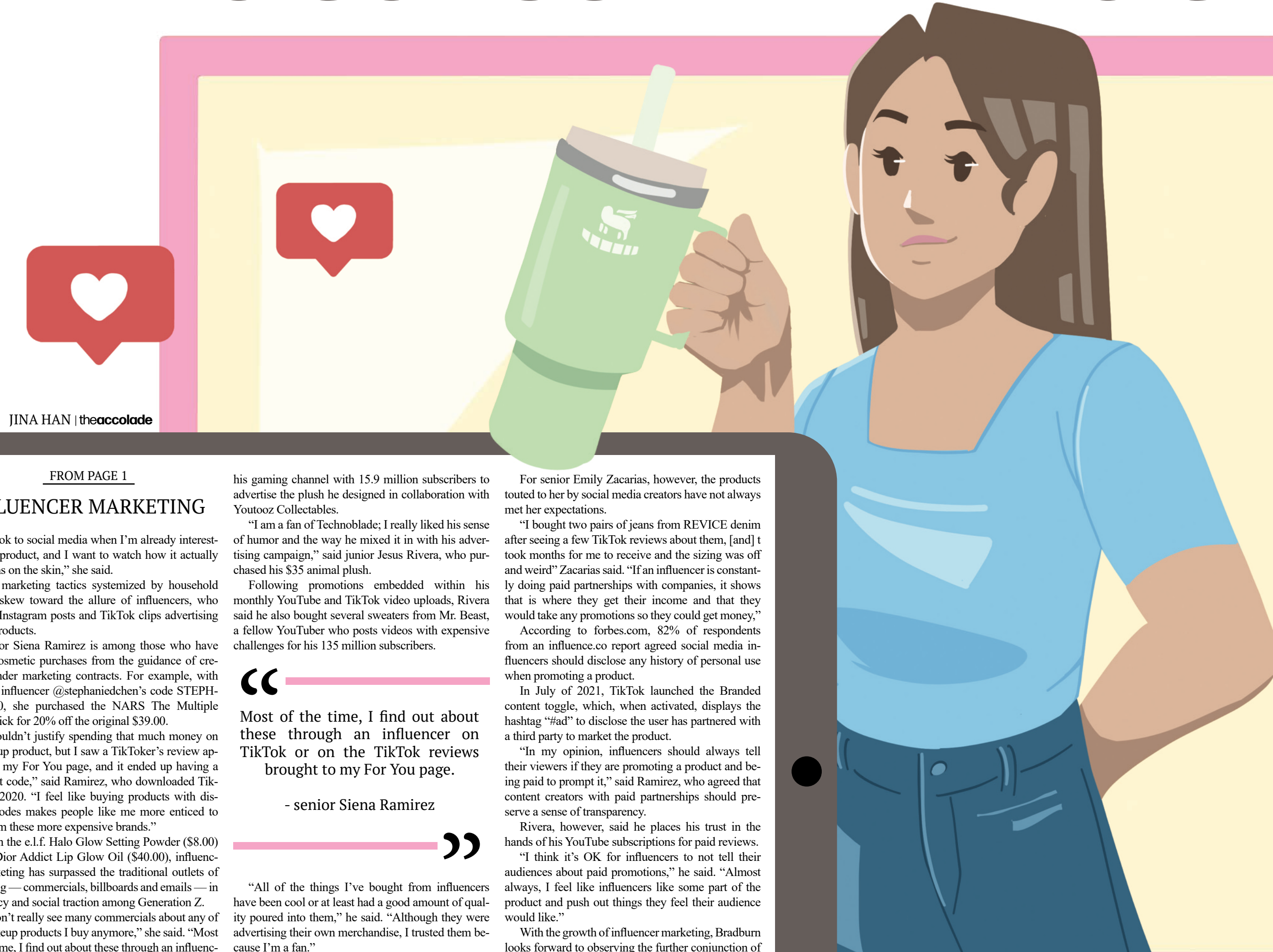
Instead, more influencers should consider promoting ways to solve the very root of overconsumption. Content creators like Tara Bellerose (@tarabellerose) should encourage consumers to finish up products they already own.

Trends come and go, and the hype around de-influencing will likely fade within the next month, but this is a valuable time for creators to re-evaluate their marketing strategies and avoid hopping on the train just for the sake of it.

Though some may argue that this trend helps reduce overconsumption, the misuse of de-influencing does no more than produce the same effects as internet influencing.

So for now, consider saving your money and don’t run — just keep walking.

# TO CONSUME AND TO CREATE



JINA HAN | theaccolade

FROM PAGE 1

## INFLUENCER MARKETING

"I look to social media when I'm already interested in a product, and I want to watch how it actually performs on the skin," she said.

The marketing tactics systemized by household brands skew toward the allure of influencers, who upload Instagram posts and TikTok clips advertising select products.

Senior Siena Ramirez is among those who have made cosmetic purchases from the guidance of creators under marketing contracts. For example, with TikTok influencer @stephaniedchen's code STEPHANIE20, she purchased the NARS The Multiple blush stick for 20% off the original \$39.00.

"I couldn't justify spending that much money on a makeup product, but I saw a TikToker's review appear on my For You page, and it ended up having a discount code," said Ramirez, who downloaded TikTok in 2020. "I feel like buying products with discount codes makes people like me more enticed to buy from these more expensive brands."

From the e.l.f. Halo Glow Setting Powder (\$8.00) to the Dior Addict Lip Glow Oil (\$40.00), influencer marketing has surpassed the traditional outlets of shopping — commercials, billboards and emails — in relevancy and social traction among Generation Z.

"I don't really see many commercials about any of the makeup products I buy anymore," she said. "Most of the time, I find out about these through an influencer on TikTok or on the TikTok reviews brought to my For You page."

"We aren't always very scientific in how we decide what to believe or what we think is true," social science and International Baccalaureate Economics teacher Robert Bradburn said. "People are looking for a personal connection."

Before his death, YouTuber Technoblade utilized

his gaming channel with 15.9 million subscribers to advertise the plush he designed in collaboration with Youtooz Collectables.

"I am a fan of Technoblade; I really liked his sense of humor and the way he mixed it in with his advertising campaign," said junior Jesus Rivera, who purchased his \$35 animal plush.

Following promotions embedded within his monthly YouTube and TikTok video uploads, Rivera said he also bought several sweaters from Mr. Beast, a fellow YouTuber who posts videos with expensive challenges for his 135 million subscribers.

“Most of the time, I find out about these through an influencer on TikTok or on the TikTok reviews brought to my For You page.”

- senior Siena Ramirez

"All of the things I've bought from influencers have been cool or at least had a good amount of quality poured into them," he said. "Although they were advertising their own merchandise, I trusted them because I'm a fan."

According to forbes.com, companies seek partnership with influencers for the followers who depend on the creator's purchase recommendations, similar to firms that pay athletes to sponsor products.

"Advertising through influencers allows brands to promote through someone that a niche community watches, engages with and trusts on a daily basis," a December 2019 *Forbes* article said.

For senior Emily Zacarias, however, the products touted to her by social media creators have not always met her expectations.

"I bought two pairs of jeans from REVICE denim after seeing a few TikTok reviews about them, [and] it took months for me to receive and the sizing was off and weird" Zacarias said. "If an influencer is constantly doing paid partnerships with companies, it shows that is where they get their income and that they would take any promotions so they could get money."

According to forbes.com, 82% of respondents from an influence.co report agreed social media influencers should disclose any history of personal use when promoting a product.

In July of 2021, TikTok launched the Branded content toggle, which, when activated, displays the hashtag "#ad" to disclose the user has partnered with a third party to market the product.

"In my opinion, influencers should always tell their viewers if they are promoting a product and being paid to prompt it," said Ramirez, who agreed that content creators with paid partnerships should preserve a sense of transparency.

Rivera, however, said he places his trust in the hands of his YouTube subscriptions for paid reviews.

"I think it's OK for influencers to not tell their audiences about paid promotions," he said. "Almost always, I feel like influencers like some part of the product and push out things they feel their audience would like."

With the growth of influencer marketing, Bradburn looks forward to observing the further conjunction of influencer culture and the economic sphere.

"The thing we know is that change will always happen," the social science teacher said. "It is possible that influencer marketing will get a bad reputation or that it will be around for a long time, but either way, I think it is great for students to sit back and take stock of how much time they need to spend looking for products on the market."

## Social Commerce Spending Statistics

76% of consumers purchased a product seen on social media

45% of consumers purchased a product following a paid influencer's recommendation

\$2.1 the social commerce market is expected to reach \$2.1 trillion by 2025

Sources: Statista.com and Oberlo.com

DAHEE KIM | theaccolade





CHLOE KANG | theaccolade

**RETURNING MELODICALITY:** Junior Chase Morley plays the role of captain von Trapp, who lines up his seven children during the Wednesday rehearsal of their stage adaptation of the film, "The Sound of Music."

## Theater showcases first musical for its spring play after nearly 5 years

IRENE SHEEN

Special Sections Editor

"The hills are alive with the sound of music."

Those were the words that lead actress junior Zoe Kim sang to the audience during the theater department's Thursday debut of its spring musical — the first produced since 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Sound of Music," which continues with shows today and Saturday, follows Maria, an Austrian woman and prospective nun, who is sent to the von Trapp residence to become a governess of the widowed captain's seven children. The original Broadway production debuted in 1959 and was later produced into a movie in 1965 starring actress Julie Andrews.

"I love the story, I love the music, and I thought for bringing a musical back for the first time in quite a few years that I want to do something that people recognize and can get excited about," theater teacher and director Christian Penuelas said. "I was in the show when I was in high school, and I have very fond memories of it; it's a piece that a lot of people cherish."

Dance director Leiana Volen played an active role in choreographing and directing the dance movements for the cast members.

"Though 'The Sound Of Music' isn't known for its dance, I choreographed the dance scenes with some of the couples and the interactions between Maria and the children, and I also helped Mr.

### SPRING PLAY

- Show times: 7 p.m., Friday; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday
- Location: Performing Arts Center
- Tickets sold at [www.shhstheater.com](http://www.shhstheater.com) for \$15 general admission and \$12 with an Associated Student Body gold card

Source: Christian Penuelas  
Compiled by Aiden Park

Penuelas with the staging of the scenes," said Volen, whose first time choreographing a musical was this production. "I felt like it was a new creative avenue for me, and I really appreciated getting to collaborate with people because as the only dance teacher, this hands-on experience doesn't happen very often."

Despite no history with the Sunny Hills theater department, Kim, who plays Maria in the production, believes that her background in choir and the Biola Youth Theater program proved beneficial in her lead role.

"In terms of this musical, the benefit of being in choir is that you do already have a background in singing, and you know the basics of how to warm up your voice and sing as a group," she said. "There are certain pieces where

you have to harmonize with others, and choir teaches you a lot about projecting and blending with others."

Following months of preparation, Kim looks forward to staging a musical that many people will attend and enjoy.

"I think the audience should look most forward to the musical numbers, especially with older kids, because we put a lot of work into choreographing that, and I think it's really fun," the junior said. "I hope I'll be prepared enough by then to put on a good show that people will enjoy."

Likewise, the theater teacher anticipates a positive reaction, as he replicates the nostalgia of the original film.

"There's nothing different about this version than a professional version as it is the same exact text and same music; this is the version," Penuelas said. "Honestly, it's such a beautiful and well-known story, so I just hope people get lost in the story and forget they're watching high school theater."

Making this his first musical during his tenure at Sunny Hills, Penuelas has high expectations for the production.

"I hope for this musical to bring a love of theater to this campus," Penuelas said. "I really want to make the spring musical a thing that people look forward to every year, whether that's being in it or going to see it — that it is a staple part of the Sunny Hills community."

Tickets will be sold online at [www.shhstheater.com](http://www.shhstheater.com):

\$15 for general admission

\$12 with the Associated Student Body Gold card

### These are a few of their favorite things (songs)

The Accolade asked those familiar with the classic 1965 musical: What is your favorite song?



"I really like the song 'Edelweiss' because it is peaceful and pleasing to the ear."

— sophomore Mark Amaro



"My Favorite Things' stood out to me because my mom loved it as well."

— junior Kathleen Sweeney



"The song 'Do Re Mi' is my favorite song because it has a really pretty melody."

— senior Rebecca Lukasik

Compiled by Aiden Park

**Oh Mama!**  
Kitchen

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JINA HAN | theaccolade

Women do not have a prime:  
Women have all but time.

Republican presidential  
candidate Nikki Haley's directed



**Kate Yang**  
Editor-in-Chief

ageist re-  
marks toward  
80-year-old  
President  
Joe Biden  
Feb. 16 and  
demanded  
cognitive  
tests for  
politicians  
older than 75.

"CNN This Morning" co-host  
Don Lemon took to the air his  
impressions of the 51-year-old  
female's occupational capacity  
following her age discriminatory  
comment.

"Nikki Haley isn't in her  
prime, sorry! When a woman  
is considered to be in her prime  
is her 20s and 30s and maybe  
40s," Lemon said. "Don't shoot  
the messenger; I'm just saying  
what the facts are. Google it!"

Instantaneously, fellow  
co-host Poppy Harlow rebuked  
Lemon's sexist comments by  
rectifying his "facts" to be  
reflective of the sexual and re-  
productive prime of women, not  
their professional prime.

Had I been seated beside  
Lemon, a demeanor identical  
to Harlow's — baffled and  
perturbed — would have pre-  
ceded a verbal stream of female  
defense.

## Women, we work for us, not for him

*CNN co-host Don Lemon's sexist comment  
demands a recorection of misogynistic ideals  
embedded within the present-day social sphere*

I have, fortunately, yet to  
stumble upon individuals with  
misogynistic ideals in my  
personal life; however, I do not  
deny the existence of pervasive  
gender bias within the work-  
force and social circles.

Lemon serves as the quint-  
essential model of a sexist,  
and his co-host serves as our  
knightess (in shining armor) — I  
view Harlow as an exemplar of  
female dominance.

As a registered Democrat,  
she embodied the phrase "wom-  
en support women" by con-  
fronting the misogyny beneath  
Lemon's comment, regardless  
of Haley's Republican stance.  
The women of today, I believe,  
should take note of such forti-

tude.

We need to assemble a sis-  
terhood of empowering indi-  
viduals, and we must buttress  
the endeavors of one another in  
spite of ethnic backgrounds or  
political oppositions.

The CNN controversy should  
remind us of the why. Without  
Harlow's spunk, a fraction  
of the audience tuning in live  
would have embedded Lemon's  
sexist and ageist viewpoints  
within their judgments of work-  
ing females.

Whether a male or female,  
somebody must eliminate the  
prejudiced diction broadcast to  
terminate the ongoing cycle of  
worldwide sexism.

Has the public deemed it

just to marginalize women for  
surpassing a specified age? Will  
directors and CEOs dispose of  
female employees solely upon  
their age?

Yes.

As long as men like Lemon  
go on to spread such convictions  
without intervention, the answer  
will remain yes.

The social patriarchy and  
the male prerogative to define  
a woman's "prime" withhold  
the female population from  
attaining the accolades men may  
receive beyond their 40s or 50s.

Editor-in-chief of *Vogue*  
magazine Anna Wintour: 73  
years old. Vice president of the  
United States of America Kama-  
la Harris: 58 years old.

Age plays no role in the pro-  
ductive agility of a woman, and  
the mentioned females demon-  
strate just that.

As women, we must reas-  
sert the term "prime." We will  
remain competent and capable  
until we choose not to be, not  
when a man asserts we've sur-  
passed our time.

The month of March —  
Women's History Month —  
should nudge all women  
and men alike to model the  
immediate route Harlow took  
as a reporter broadcasting live.  
Regardless of the potential  
public backlash or company  
repercussions, she disputed her  
colleague's sexist attitude.

## Old-style methods just lower my GPA

When I was appointed a social  
media manger for *The Accolade*  
last school year, I knew the hard



**Faith Jung**  
Social Media  
Manager

work and  
dedication that  
I was getting  
myself into:  
social media  
posts, arduous  
stories to pro-  
duce as a staff  
writer and  
stepping out  
of my comfort

zone to interview sources.

Despite the class' similarities  
in rigor to Advanced Placement  
or honors courses, *The Acco-  
lade's* non-honors designation  
puts me and my peers at a disad-  
vantage for college admissions.

Currently, the journalism cur-  
riculum committee, composed of  
journalism advisers from schools  
within our district, is working to  
submit an application to the dis-  
trict for honors designation. It's a  
long and tedious process.

The Fullerton Joint Union  
High School District [FJUHSD]  
should consider more ways to  
speed it up.

We live in the 21st century, a  
time when almost everything is  
online, so what's stopping us?

The extensive process tends to  
be the first complaint that comes  
to mind while on the subject  
matter of honors designation, but  
many fail to realize that the situa-  
tion has layers of complexity.

According to my adviser, he  
needs to acquire signatures from  
each of his colleagues in the  
district. But this could be done  
much faster if the district would  
accept digital signatures; for ex-  
ample, a Google Form could be  
sent asking each adviser to check  
off in agreement to the proposal  
in lieu of a signature.

Some talented writers may not  
sign up for this class because it  
would bring down their GPAs,  
but honors class designation will  
eliminate this concern. If more  
capable students join *The Acco-  
lade*, we will be able to produce  
higher-quality stories and con-  
tent, enhancing the program.

I hope the district will consid-  
er speeding up the process with  
one click of a button. My GPA  
will thank you.



For the full story, go  
to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)



## STAFF EDITORIAL

# TYPING IS FASTER: *Time for school officials to opt in on AP digital exams*

The Accolade Editorial Board unanimously agrees that administrators should sign up for College Board's digital option for seven of its Advanced Placement [AP] exams, including AP Language and Composition.

The sound of flipping packet pages reverberates through the testing facility. With throbbing wrists and calloused hands, the AP students strenuously complete written long-answer questions.

With the exception of the 2020 and 2021 online AP examinations to accommodate for the COVID-19 pandemic when many remained locked down at home or chose to stay away from school for health and safety reasons, this is the reality of an AP test.

In 2022, the College Board announced the optional digitalization of AP exams, beginning the 2022-2023 school year. According to [apcentral.collegeboard.org](https://apcentral.collegeboard.org), this option would apply to test that we offer like AP Computer Science Principles, AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature and Composition, AP European History and AP U.S. History.

Principal Craig Weinreich told *The Accolade* that students perform better with traditional pen-and-paper tests. But we hope Weinreich will be open to reevaluating his position for the sake of students' test-taking convenience and efficiency, which is more likely to lead to more success.

With the exception of the AP Art and Design courses, the exams include a section of open-ended, essay questions for students to complete; however, responding to these lengthy questions by hand often impairs a test-taker's ability to complete all the questions because of



ELISA ARIAS | theaccolade

the limited time. The privilege of utilizing Chromebooks to type responses, we believe, will accelerate the speed at which students complete the essay questions.

The concern of potential technical or internet complications may distress students, but with the College Board's use of Bluebook, such anxiety should be relieved.

According to the College Board, Bluebook does not require Internet access, meaning connection drops will not affect test-takers. For students accustomed to working with electronic devices, digital

exam options will be advantageous.

Though we are stuck with aching wrists in May for those having to write AP essays, we can only hope for better — digital — days next year.

The Accolade Editorial Board is made up of the top editors, section editors and copy editors on the new 2022-2023 staff with the guidance of adviser Tommy Li. If you have a question about the board's decision or an issue for the board to discuss and write about, please send an email to [theaccoladeshs@gmail.com](mailto:theaccoladeshs@gmail.com).

## LE'GOes' in the right direction to add, promote diversity with new toy figures

Redheaded with adoration for nature's creatures, Mia, alongside four other mini-figures,

David Kim  
Staff Reporter

launched the [LEGO Friends franchise](https://www.lego.com) in 2012.

Eleven years following her debut,

the Denmark-based company introduced Autumn, a free-spirited girl born without the lower fraction of her left arm, along with seven other new characters.

Her friends from the new Jan. 1 LEGO Friends universe collection share diversified

backgrounds or display mental or physical disabilities. For example, Leo is of Mexican heritage, and Fiona has Down syndrome, according to [dailymail.co.uk](https://www.dailymail.co.uk).

According to a 2022 study conducted by LEGO, 97% of surveyed parents said they prefer their children to be exposed to more diversity.

I was astonished to see that stat.

The inclusivity of such unique characters demonstrates that people who don't necessarily conform to societal standards are still deserving of the same respect as others.

Some critics may claim this change to be unnecessary, but people truly underestimate



IRIS KIM | theaccolade

the impact of instilling values from a young age.

LEGO toys have a big impact — they aren't as superficial as they may seem to be.

Brick by brick, LEGO is building a strong foundation for the future, introducing diversity and inclusion to children with this new toy set.

## theaccolade

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Reader responses to the Feb. 3 “Chemistry teacher also a Smash Bros. gamer” Feature article:**

This story helped me realize that a lot of teachers have their own share of interests, and it only takes a question to find out.

I think this article is a fun way for students to learn more about their teachers, and I’m looking forward to more articles from the Teacher Leisure series.

— Irene Park, freshman

As a student of Mr. Hua, I am delighted to see his name on *The Accolade*. Ever since the beginning of this school year, he has expressed his passion for gaming not just with words, but also through the drawings and figurines that furnish his classroom.

I remember once seeing him look through the school paper. He told me he reads every issue. Knowing all this, I am happy that *The Accolade* decided to do a feature on him.

If any teacher can provide an interesting story, it is none other than Mr. Hua.

— Jenna Kim, sophomore

**Reader responses to the Feb. 3 “Super Nintendo World powers up at Universal Studios Hollywood” Entertainment article:**

This was an interesting read because I’ve been wanting to go to Universal Studios Hollywood, and I’m glad to have gotten some context on it.

— Kayleen Kim, freshman

I really enjoyed reading this story, especially since my family is a huge fan of Mario games.

I am very excited to see the

Super Nintendo World myself.

— Lauren Jacobsen, freshman

**Reader responses to the Feb. 3 “Latest ChatGPT known to write essays for students” News article:**

It was interesting to read about how the latest technology can be used for so many different purposes, including both for entertainment and educational uses.

— Cheney Mo, freshman

I personally didn’t know about ChatGPT until a couple of days ago.

This article was well-written and informative, and I learned a lot about this new artificial intelligence.

— Solomon Lee, freshman

**Reader responses to other sections in the Feb. 3 issue:**

As someone who attended the 2020 Open House as an eighth grader, Kate Yang’s Opinion article, “Speaking at Open House brings back fond memories,” definitely hit a note with me.

I loved how she spoke on her uncertainties as an upcoming high school student because it was definitely something that I also experienced upon graduating from middle school.

— Justin Shim, junior

Justin Pak’s Feature article “Quote of the Day” was incredibly captivating, and the video mentioned in the story actually appeared on my Instagram Explore page.

It was interesting to get an inside scoop of the brothers’ thoughts.

— Aashna Dialani, freshman



DAHEE KIM | theaccolade

## Lancers try different means to find ‘the one’ for them

*Students react to Spotlight stories from the Feb. 3 ‘Modern Love’ issue, which featured evolving dating norms within the teenage community*

I really loved how *The Accolade* decided to put a modern twist on this year’s Valentine’s Day issue.

Irene Sheen’s article, “Toss the old-school love letters; online dating is now in-style,” brought up some really interesting thinking points about online dating. I believe the answers to these questions differ from person to person. However, I personally believe that online dating can help teenagers find someone right for them.

People don’t find love the way that they used to. Older generations often criticize teenagers and adults for finding romantic relationships through technology.

But why sit and wait for someone to approach you in a coffee shop when you could just easily swipe left or right on an app? Sometimes, people are shy and don’t have the courage to converse with a

stranger. Instant messaging platforms allow for people to be their true selves, and without all of that awkwardness that in-person interactions have.

— DAREEN HAGEKHALIL, junior

In her article, “Searching the Stars,” Susie Kim successfully intrigues her readers with this popular topic of zodiac sign compatibility.

Although I’ve heard of people’s personalities being determined by the position of celestials on the day of their birth, I never understood it completely and didn’t look into it very much. I find it very interesting that some people in the article actually pay attention to and believe that zodiac signs in a relationship is significant.

— NATHAN PARK, freshman

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



LINDSEY UM | theaccolade

ARTSTATION TO MIDJOURNEY: A twist to the MC Hammer song, “CAN’T BOT THIS.”

## For the record

*The Accolade* regrets the following errors from the Feb. 3 issue:

On page 1 of the story titled, “Modern Love,” seniors Clarissa Arteaga and Lola Orozco should have been identified as queer.

In that same story, the statement about LGBTQ+ relationships should have been reported as having progressed over the years.

In an article on page 15 of the Sports section titled, “SH boys bringing own brand of balance to gymnastics,” it should have been stated that freshman Cailean Travis became interested in gymnastics from his mother and his step-sister.

In a page 16 Sports article titled, “1,000 points for the records,” the subhead and caption for the bottom photo should have clarified senior Johann Kwon’s accomplishment of scoring 1,000 or more points in the years he’s been on the varsity basketball team. Kwon’s being the third top scorer in Lancer history is based on stats kept by a website called maxpreps.com.





## Game Ball



theaccolade file photo

**SWINGING FOR SUCCESS:** Senior Owen Taylor gets ready to hit a forehand during tennis practice last year.

SUMMER SUEKI | theaccolade

**ACE:** Opposite hitter Owen Taylor serves the ball in a home game against La Serna on Wednesday in the Sunny Hills gym. The boys won the match in straight sets.

# Senior excels in 2 spring sports

*Owen Taylor looks to repeat triumphs in tennis, volleyball*

GRACE MIN

Sports Editor

After playing two of the three sets in his tennis match, senior Owen Taylor bids good luck to his teammates and rushes off the court while switching jerseys to start a best of five-set volleyball match in the gym.



Owen Taylor

As a four-year tennis varsity starter and two-year varsity volleyball player, Taylor has not only adapted to this life as a dual-spring-sport athlete, but he has also found much success in it.

"Last year, there were a couple of weekends where it was very stressful for me, but I think I've gotten a lot better at managing two sports now," he said. "I've found a way to use both sports as a way to clear my head instead of thinking of it as another thing I have to do."

In his last two years of playing two spring sports, Taylor won two consecutive Freeway League titles with his doubles partner, junior Nevin McCann, and was the 2021-2022 CIF-SS Division 5 champion alongside his volleyball team.

"I'm enjoying playing both sports a lot more in my senior year because I don't have the stress of college applications hanging over my head," he said.

Taylor first met his partner at the 2020-2021 freshman orientation when McCann was an incoming freshman. The pair clicked as soon as they met since they share a common passion for tennis, McCann said.

"I feel like our communication has grown very strong,"

the junior said. "Off the court, we always text each other when we can get in a quick training session ... we talk almost every day whether it's about tennis or something completely different."

As a freshman, Taylor played singles on the team under tennis head coach Christopher Ghareebo, and even though

“

Because I've been forced to learn how to divide my time and make the most of it, playing two sports helped me set deadlines and meet goals for myself.

— senior Owen Taylor

”

his season was cut short because of COVID-19, he ended it undefeated.

"[Owen and I] talk all the time; that is the key," Ghareebo said. "We have built an incredible relationship over the past four years where I support everything he does. I even go root for him at his volleyball games whenever I can."

Compared to his 12 years of experience in tennis, the senior first took up competitive volleyball when he made the junior varsity team as a sophomore. Since then, he has earned a starting spot on the varsity squad, thanks to the

help of boys volleyball head coach Albert Soliguen.

"As an athlete, Owen is very intelligent, athletic and coachable," Soliguen said. "The way he manages both sports, student responsibilities and anything else outside of school is quite an amazing feature."

Taylor established a system in which he could play his tennis and volleyball matches if they were both held at home. If not, he plays whichever event is away or if there is a big rivalry match, like against Troy.

"I like to try splitting my time between the sports," the senior said. "If I'm staying for a whole tennis match while missing an entire volleyball match, I try to play an entire volleyball match and miss a tennis match after to make up for it."

To top it all off, Taylor serves as a co-captain for the tennis team this season.

"He is my captain even though he misses games at times for volleyball because he has earned it," Ghareebo said. "He has helped be a pillar of this program by helping us make deep CIF runs, winning back-to-back undefeated league titles and helping us go from Division 3 to Division 1 this year. Without him, none of this is possible."

This year, the senior hopes to achieve another Freeway League title for both sports and leave a lasting legacy in both programs.

"I'd love to be remembered as the person who brought kids into the program," Taylor said. "I'm working on being more inviting in both programs, and even if I don't know some of the [new] kids, I want to get to know them and help them if they're struggling, specifically in tennis."



# Veteran coach steps up to the plate

*Social science teacher takes over  
baseball program in middle of school year*

EUREE KIM

Staff Reporter

Christopher Vogt's coaching philosophy can be boiled down to one statement: "Anything worth doing is worth overdoing."

Those were the words that stuck with Vogt, which he first



**Christopher Vogt**  
Head Coach

heard in one of the coaching clinics he attended. Ironically for Vogt, he found himself applying his motto to a situation he faced near the end of the fall semester — his first at

Sunny Hills upon being hired to teach Advanced Placement and college prep U.S. History.

Last year's baseball coach, Ryan Bateman, was a long-term substitute teacher and decided to take a teaching position elsewhere, which left the head coaching role vacant.

School officials were aware of Vogt's 12-year experience as the head baseball coach at Ruben S. Ayala High School in Chino Hills, California. Most recently in the 2020-2021 season, he led his players to a CIF State Division 1 runner-up title and the team was recognized as the fifth top high school team nationally.

He received an offer from principal Craig Weinreich and athletic director Paul Jones to succeed the position of baseball head coach following Bateman's transfer to



**WINDUP:** First-year baseball head coach Christopher Vogt prepares to launch a ball during his team's practice Thursday, demonstrating to his outfielders how to throw far. The Sunny Hills baseball team begins its Freeway League play March 29 against Fullerton at home.

another district.

"I was surprised when offered the head coach position because ... this stuff doesn't happen in the middle of the year," Vogt said. "I was able to juggle the responsibilities of being a teacher and a coach in the past so I knew I could help the kids on the team."

Vogt could have chosen to start with a clean slate and introduce new schemes or workouts to

the team, but because of all the work Bateman had already put the baseball players through, he knew he had to just continue to reinforce those ideas for now.

"What I try to do in practice is teach the kids how to play, institute a game plan and let them play during a game," he said. "I like to give the kids freedom because I don't want to control everything they do in a game, and

they should know what to do."

During the time Vogt led the Ayala baseball team in the 2021-2022 season, the coach was able to interact and hold valuable conversations with many other coaches. Through this experience, Vogt was able to build close relationships with professional coaches from Team USA as well.

"Sometimes, the coaches will hangout and talk about what to

work and improve on," Vogt said. "I've learned what plays they call in certain situations and their tendencies, so I apply those situations into my coaching."

Center fielder senior Bohdan Faulkner, who joined the team as a freshman, said he admires Vogt's willingness to step into this situation as a mid-year replacement for Bateman.

"I like the way he coaches, because he always tries to help fix my mistakes," Faulkner said. "His biggest goal for us is to get better and obviously guide us to move on to the college level."

Outfielder senior Dustin Staggs, who's been on the varsity roster for the past three years, respects Vogt's transparency with the rest of the team.

"I think the coach's ways are a good change because he holds us accountable and gives everyone a shot," Staggs said. "He's taught me how to deal with adversity and injury and helped me understand there is a role for every player on the team, even when you can't be on the field."

The baseball season is set to start with the team's first Freeway League game March 29 against the Fullerton Tribe at home.

Even with such competition, the new head coach has no doubt that the team will perform well.

"I think that Fullerton is our biggest rival school, so we just need to be prepared," Vogt said. "If we play our game and don't worry about who's on the other side, we will be all right."

## Flag football opens up as a high school sport for female athletes

JAIMIE CHUN

Managing Editor

Freshman Jennyfer Rodriguez vividly recalls playing wide receiver, outmaneuvering her opponents during middle school PE while the yellow strips around her waist flapped in the wind.

"Flag football was one of my absolute favorite activities in PE — I remember how invincible I felt," Rodriguez said.

Recently, through the 2023 Super Bowl flag football commercial, which was part of the "Run With It" campaign that spotlights the women in athletics, the freshman revived her interest in the game.

The ad came after CIF's Feb. 3 approval of flag football as an official girls high school fall sport starting the 2023-2024 school year, making California the eighth state to do so.

At Sunny Hills, however, principal Craig Weinreich said the sport's arrival will take time.

"There are no conversations yet about adding it for many reasons," Weinreich said about the addition of the sport. "We have to look at the feasibility of it. There's quite a process that our district and league have to go through."

Rodriguez said she doesn't mind the wait but hopes to play at least one season by the time she graduates.

"Flag football has so much potential, and it's just as fun to watch as any other sport," she said.

The games will be seven on seven, and the field will be smaller than tackle football's field dimensions, according to a Feb. 4 article from *The Orange County Register*.

"I look forward to myself and other girls joining and having a great time," Rodriguez said.

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**HUSTLE BACK:** Center midfielder junior Henry Garcia dribbles the ball down the field on Jan. 4 against the Fullerton Tribe at Fullerton Union High School. The Lancers came out on top with a 1-0 victory.



**WIN AT ALL COSTS:** Center midfielder sophomore Ethan Castro fights for the ball against the Citrus Hill Hawks on Feb. 18 in the CIF-SS Division 1 semifinals at Citrus Hill High School. The Lancers won 1-0.



**CAN'T STOP, WON'T STOP:** Outside midfielder senior David Rezko drives the ball past his opponent on Feb. 1 at home against Sonora. The Lancers beat the Raiders 8-0 to close out the Freeway League season and secure the first place title.

## BOYS SOCCER: Road to D1 finals

*After winning the 2021-2022 CIF-SS Division 3 title, the Lancers returned to claim the Freeway League title and advanced to the CIF-SS Division 1 Championship undefeated. The team fell short to the JSerra Lions in the finals Feb. 25 but ended its season with a record of 22-2-3.*

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**"DUBS" ALL DAY:** The boys soccer team poses with "W" signs to represent its CIF-SS Division 1 semifinal win against the Citrus Hill Hawks on Feb. 18 at Citrus Hill High School.

