

CAMPUS

SOCIAL MEDIA IN POLITICS



SOCIAL MEDIA HAS REVOLUTIONIZED THE POLITICAL PROCESS, GETTING COLLEGE STUDENTS MORE ENGAGED IN IMPORTANT DEBATES. BUT IS THERE A DOWNSIDE TO NEW MEDIA? THE GUARDIAN INVESTIGATES. FEATURES, PAGE 13

#BLM ACTIVISM POLICE AS A PROTECTED CLASS OPINION, PAGE 4

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FORECAST



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THURSDAY  
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VERBATIM

LIKE THE AGE-OLD SAYING OF DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER, WE SHOULDN'T JUDGE PRODUCTS BASED SOLELY ON THEIR AESTHETIC VALUE. BY DOING SO, WE ENCOURAGE COMPANIES, LIKE APPLE, TO DISREGARD THE CONSUMER BY CHARGING US MORE TO PAY FOR THEIR MISTAKES."

- Alexander Chen  
TECH IT OUT  
OPINION, PAGE 4

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Photo by Kenji Bennett // UCSD Guardian

## Students and Faculty March Against Shutdown of Campus Art Gallery

BY JACKY TO NEWS EDITOR

Nearly 100 members of the UCSD community gathered together last Thursday at the Silent Tree to protest the impending shutdown of the University Art Gallery and its conversion into classrooms. The mass action is a part of "Dispossessed: a call to Prayer and Protest," a 13-day-long call to action put on by two alumni artists known as the Magpie Collective to raise awareness about the closure.

Elizabeth Stringer, the events coordinator of "Dispossessed," told the UCSD Guardian that the purpose of the protest was to inform people about the situation, especially since the future of the gallery has been kept under wraps for so long.

"We wanted to raise awareness about both

the closing and the petition and to show that we're against it," Stringer said. "[The gallery] has been sort of in a weird stasis point for the last year, so a lot of incoming freshmen don't know about the UAG and I wish they did."

University officials announced a week earlier that they are converting the gallery into a classroom in order to make up for the growing student population. Stringer, however, thinks this is not a sufficient justification for removing one of the few art-dedicated facilities left on campus.

"I don't truly buy the fact that it's because of incoming student numbers that we have to close this down," Stringer said. "If that's the only reason, then there should've been some sort of substitute for this massive loss of arts and culture within the university campus

... It is the only major gallery on campus that allows for undergraduates to show here. We do have the Camille Gallery, but that is strictly for undergraduates. It doesn't allow for this meeting point between faculty, MFA, visiting artists and undergraduates."

The social media manager of "Dispossessed" Lawrence Chit told the Guardian that the loss of the gallery signals the loss of the holistic education that UCSD claims to provide.

"UCSD is meant to be this interdisciplinary, research-oriented school, and ideally, a campus like that should be well-rounded," Chit said. "Of course, we're making so much innovation in STEM, and that's great, but the UAG is a huge representation of the arts and culture at UCSD."

See [UAG](#), page 4

## Protest: "Students vs. UCSD Administration"

BY LAUREN HOLT  
NEWS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Students gathered in Revelle Plaza on Friday afternoon to protest the administration's treatment of undergraduate students. The protest, "Students vs. UCSD Administration," was all-encompassing, addressing multiple aspects of undergraduate life, such as mental health, housing and dining.

The protest began in Revelle College at noon, consisting of at most 30 students holding signs with messages like "We See: People, UC Profit" and chanting "UC Student Debt." After standing near the fountain for a while, the protesters marched down Library Walk and

then to the chancellor's office, where they nailed a list of demands to the door in a reference to Martin Luther's 95 Theses.

The grievances posted to the Students vs. UCSD Administration Facebook event page lists seven areas for improvement: mental health care, housing, parking, increasing tuition, college GE requirements, destruction of campus culture and dining. Below each topic mentioned, the protest leaders wrote specific examples of problems with each of the areas they protested, such as understaffing at CAPS for mental health.

According to Thurgood Marshall College freshman and protest organizer Sneha Dhruv, part of the problems facing undergraduate



Photo by Christian Duarte // UCSD Guardian

students stems from university negligence toward students.

"We want to show the administration that we have a set of grievances and a set of solutions and demands for those grievances because truthfully the quality of life for undergraduate students has been on the decline because the administration really does not give

two shits about undergraduates," Dhruv told the UCSD Guardian.

Marshall junior Jesus Valencia told the Guardian that while he is not completely informed about the protest, the protesters' issues with the current housing situation seemed limited.

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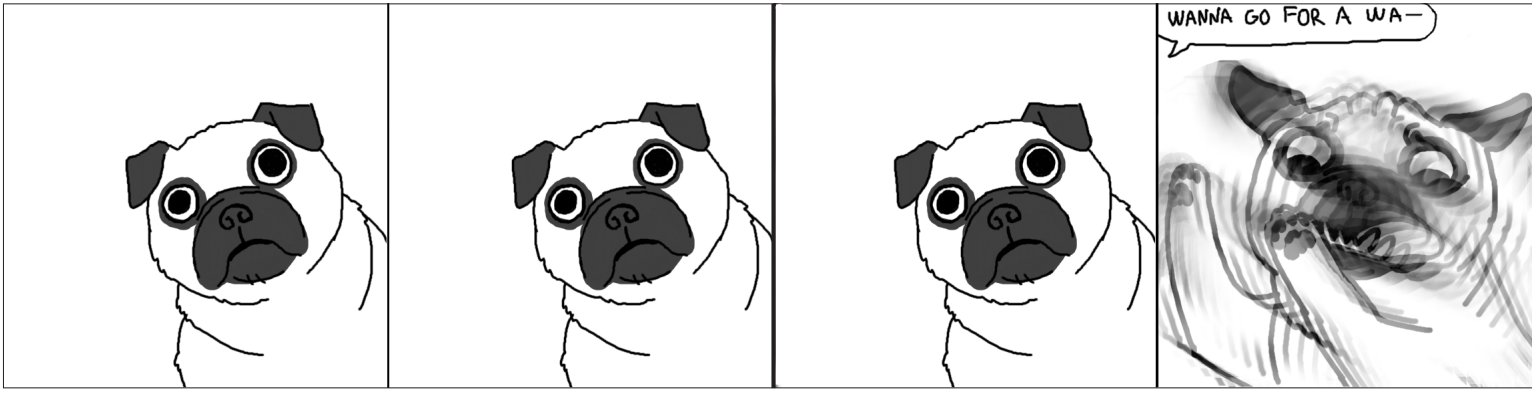
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## WEEKLIES By Alex Lee



## Disease of the Year: Zika

By Karly Nisson // Senior Staff Writer // knisson@ucsd.edu

Despite having made countless headlines this year, Zika isn't a new disease and the majority of people who contract it will go symptom-free. Having first been discovered in Uganda's Zika forest in 1947, the virus was thought to be generally benign, and it wasn't until April 13 that the CDC confirmed a link between the virus and microcephaly. Compared to other mosquito-borne diseases like Yellow Fever or Malaria, Zika initially hadn't posed an immediate threat. Consequently, resources available for investigation into the virus were redirected towards finding treatments for related diseases with greater death and hospitalization rates. But with cases of Zika-related microcephaly on the rise and newly discovered links to neurological and autoimmune disorders, research into the virus has rapidly taken off.

Zika is considered a flavivirus, meaning that it falls under the same category as diseases such as dengue hemorrhagic fever, yellow fever, West Nile virus and hepatitis C. Though flaviviruses are responsible for some of the most serious mosquito-borne human diseases in existence, many don't have vaccines. However, like those infected with the dengue and West Nile viruses, most who contract Zika won't even know they have it. The disease is generally symptomless, and only

a small percentage of those with the virus will develop more serious conditions. In fact, the first and only Zika-related death was reported this year on April 29 in Puerto Rico; while the death of a single individual is a far cry from the flu's annual 32,743 reported deaths, the individual's fatal condition, among several other serious manifestations of the disease, may mean that the virus has mutated.

The victim who developed fatal symptoms was a man in his 70s who had recovered from cold-like symptoms before he developed a far more devastating condition: immune thrombocytopenic purpura. The illness is similar to another syndrome associated with Zika, Guillain-Barré, in that it causes the immune system to produce antibodies that attack human cells rather than the virus. Both disorders can be caused by a number of infections, however, and are rare among those who contract Zika. But the question still remains as to why an originally benign disease is now causing severe birth defects and autoimmune complications — could it be that the virus is changing or are these rare manifestations showing up because the disease is infecting a much greater number of people?

The answer may lie in the disease's similarities to other flaviviruses. On May 18, we visited

Dengue virus and discovered that severe manifestations of the the disease may be due to Antibody Dependent Enhancement (ADE). That is, when low levels of antibodies are present, say following previous exposure to the disease, the virus may be able to use those antibodies to multiply and cause far more devastating symptoms. If Zika also exhibits ADE, those who have already contracted the disease — or even another flavivirus — may be at greater risk of developing symptoms such as microcephaly. While this theory hasn't been proven yet, it provides a potential explanation for why only those fetuses in Brazil and French Polynesia have developed microcephaly. Mosquito-borne diseases are easily transmitted in these tropical regions, and if the mothers had previously contracted other flaviviruses, a re-infection might explain why Zika has only been linked to stunted neonatal brain development in certain regions.

Cases of microcephaly in Brazil have risen significantly this year, prompting widespread concern for the Rio 2016 summer olympics. 150 cases per year is a normal average, but this number has shot up to 1,434 in the months following October. While many have already begun taken precautions — South Korea unveiled a "Zika-proof" uniform

for its athletes and scientists have called for a postponement or relocation of the games — the WHO has determined that moving the games will alter neither the spread of the virus nor the severity of the epidemic. For those traveling to South America this summer, the best preventative measures will be those taken against the viral vector, the *Aedes* mosquito.

Expectant mothers should be particularly generous with bug repellent when travelling in order to prevent their fetuses from developing microcephaly. Though cases of the condition are increasing, research into the disorder hasn't been without progress. Scientists at the UCSD School of Medicine, for instance, have discovered a mechanism by which Zika causes microcephaly.

Using a 3D, stem-cell based model of a first semester human brain, researchers found that Zika activates a molecule produced to ward of viruses. This molecule triggers the death of stem cells originally intended to become brain cells, resulting in stunted brain development. The good news is, however, that when researchers inhibited this mechanism, the brain continued to develop at a healthy rate, suggesting a potential approach towards treating a prenatal Zika infection.

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General Editorial:  
 editor@ucsdguardian.org

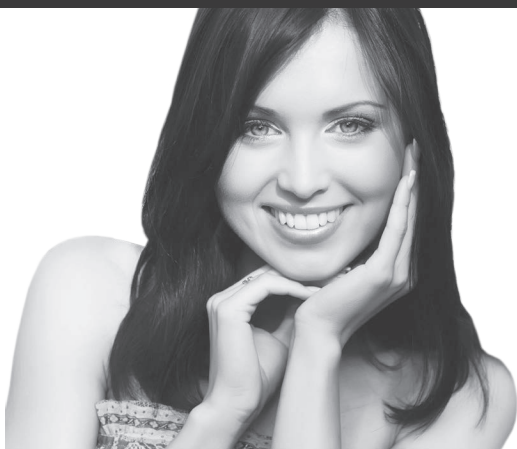
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 A&E: entertainment@ucsdguardian.org  
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 Design: design@ucsdguardian.org  
 Art: art@ucsdguardian.org

Advertising: 858-534-3467  
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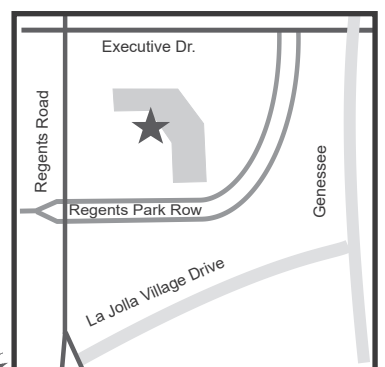
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## LIBRARY WALK

## Rosario Dawson Campaigns for Bernie Sanders

BY KEVIN SANTOS  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Ben Cohen, co-founder of the Ben & Jerry's ice cream company, in partnership with National Nurses United, visited UCSD Thursday afternoon along with film actress Rosario Dawson to serve free ice cream to students. The event is part of a nationwide campaign to rally support for Democratic nomination candidate Bernie Sanders.

Both Cohen and Dawson have advocated for the Bernie Sanders campaign over the past several months. Cohen and Ben & Jerry's co-founder Jerry Greenfield have been treating people to free ice cream across the country to rally support for the campaign.

With the California primary approaching on June 7, Cohen described the significant role UCSD students can play in electing Sanders as the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

"California is the big state that comes last," Cohen told the UCSD Guardian. "California and the students at UCSD can make it so that Bernie wins the nomination. It's rare

where a bunch of students have that opportunity to make a difference."

Dawson applauded UCSD's reputation for activism, highlighting student advocacy as essential to combat social inequality.

"Thank you for keeping activism alive on your campus," Dawson told the UCSD community. "There are a lot of injustices happening right at home, and we need your attention on it."

Cohen explained that in order for Sanders to win the Democratic nomination, there would need to be an overwhelming majority of the California vote in his favor. He aims to galvanize the UCSD student body to participate in the upcoming primary.

"What Bernie needs to do in California is win in a landslide," Cohen said. "The reality is that we're all little grains of sand, and if we all work together, we can create [that] landslide."

According to Melinda Markowitz, registered nurse and President of the California Nurses Association, Sanders' goal of making tuition free at public colleges and universities is a major reason why NNU and Ben & Jerry's are campaigning at schools throughout the United States.

"[College students] have a special concern because they're going to school and they're going to have huge debts at the end of their education," Markowitz told the Guardian. "Bernie feels that nobody should have to [go into debt for that reason]."

Student organization Tritons for Bernie coordinated with NNU to host the event. Revelle College senior and event organizer Pooja Ekbote explained that NNU took the initiative to bring the campaign to campus and that the student organization received approval for the event from administration this past weekend. Tritons for Bernie worked on a compressed schedule to ensure that the logistics for the event were properly handled.

Revelle senior Karla Garibay praised the event and expressed that Cohen's endorsement works in Sanders' favor.

"I think it's great that they're doing this," Garibay told the Guardian. "[Ben & Jerry's is] something college students really love, so if Ben is advocating for Bernie, then that looks really good for [Sanders]."

READERS CAN CONTACT  
KEVIN SANTOS KKSANTOS@UCSD.EDU

## Art Gallery Will Officially Close on June 2

► UAG, from page 1

Furthermore, Stringer pointed out that a background in art is not uncommon among scientists and thus has a positive impact on those fields.

"A lot of big shakers and movers within all the science departments have been artists themselves," Stringer said. "And so to ignore the fact that culture plays a part within scientific discovery, it's a shame that's happening."

Revelle College freshman Cameron Norman, who attended the protest, views the gallery's closure as another example of the university's tendency to remove areas used for student expression.

"The closure of the art gallery is just [part of a] general pattern I see with UCSD to repeatedly close spaces that allow students to express themselves," Norman said. "We'd like to keep open

a space that all kinds of students, both graduate and undergraduate, and staff can all collaborate."

Tae Hwang, one of the artists who comprises the Magpie Collective, told the Guardian that she hopes that the protest and the rest of the gestures will raise awareness about the closing of the space.

"We wanted this exhibition to serve as a platform," Hwang said. "We're using this space as a call to action, to bring attention to the art gallery's closing. I don't know if it's going to change anything ... [but] I at least think it is good to have some type of visibility."

"Dispossessed: a call to Prayer and Protest" will end after 13 days on June 2 — the official closure date of the UAG.

readers can contact  
JACKY TO JETO@UCSD.EDU

## Valencia: Protest Was Passionate But Misguided

► STUDENTS, from page 1

"Although their heart was in the right place and I admire the passion that drove the protest, their misguided attempt to ameliorate their living situation seemed highly uneducated," Valencia said.

Dhruv explained that the purpose of including numerous grievances instead of focusing on one issue was to include as many students as possible.

"We wanted to learn from other protests and not divide students based on sex, gender, ethnicity, etc., and we wanted to make a protest that students overall could participate in because everyone is pissed off

about paying money — who wants to pay extra money?" Dhruv stated. "[Education] is a basic human right."

Dhruv also noted that he believes this protest will be part of a greater effort to demand more openness from the administration.

"I feel like this is just the beginning of a larger movement," Dhruv said. "I feel like this is just the crux of us telling [the administration] that we also want to have a say in our education and that we want transparency and communication."

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# OPINION

QUINN PIEPER

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## BEYOND BLUE LIVES

*With a decrease in the murder rate of law enforcement officers — and protections already in place for their assault — the move to consider police a protected class conflates occupational danger and hate crime.*

BY QUINN PIEPER // OPINION EDITOR

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTINA CARLSON

Alicia Garza, Opal Tometi and Patrisse Cullors — better known as the founders of #BlackLivesMatter — have undoubtedly catalyzed a discussion of flaws within the American justice system. Yet in criticizing the racial disparity in incarceration rates and the systematic lack of justice for unarmed black murder victims, proponents of BLM have faced many who perceive the movement's desire for systematic reform to be a personal attack on officers. It may be unsurprising, then, that one such person, Democratic Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards, recently signed into effect a bill that will effectively consider police officers a protected class — a status normally reserved for those consistently targeted due to immutable qualities like gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion and creed. In doing so, Louisiana's response to calls for greater accountability discourages further discussion, and as a result furthers disparities in justice based on race.

HB 953, according to CNN, was created in response to the on-duty shooting of Texas Sheriff Darren Goforth last August, allegedly because he was a law enforcement officer. But unlike the deaths of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice and a list of other unarmed African-American victims, his death is not indicative of a dangerous trend in the way police lives are perceived. As reported by the Washington Post, police deaths have decreased from an average of a yearly 127 deaths in the 1970s to 57 total deaths between 2000 and 2009. Put plainly, law enforcement officers have not been shown to face consistent, ongoing and unchanged targeting. Those in occupations that have been shown to be at higher risk of danger, like taxi drivers — who are 30 times more likely to be killed while working — are still, rightly, not specified as a protected class. As stated by Bhairavi Desai,

executive director of the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, an incident like Goforth's is "an occupational safety matter, not a hate crime." Having it any other way would draw a line so blurry that it would mar existing protections based on gender, sexual orientation, nationality, creed and religion: groups whose members are threatened explicitly due to these immutable qualities. As put by a criminologist at Northeastern University, such federal reclassification of police officers could "very well dilute the hate crime law so that it is weakened beyond repair."

Not to mention that, #BlueLivesMatter aside, 37 states already have legislation enacting stricter penalties for assaulting police officers. Take New York, where, according to the Death Penalty Law Center, conviction of the aggravated murder of a police officer yields a mandatory life sentence without parole. In some states, the same conviction is grounds for the death penalty. It is clear that there are systems in place to hold accountable those who assault and murder officers of law. However, it is not clear that there are systems to hold accountable officers who shoot and kill unarmed victims. This widespread injustice has been shown by the grand jury's decision of non-indictment — one which, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, is made for 11 out of 162,000 prosecutions in 2015 — in the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, both of whom were unarmed. It has been shown in the acquittal of George Zimmerman, who was not charged in the murder of unarmed Trayvon Martin. It is shown in statistics by the Washington Post reporting that while the black population of the United States is 13 percent, 26 percent of victims of fatal shootings are black.

Given the decline in murder rates of law

See #BLM, page 5

## Engineering Without Design

TECH IT OUT  
ALEXANDER CHEN  
ALC129@UCSD.EDU



Too often I find that the release of products is coupled with a disconnect from the functionality of that product. Perhaps the most obvious example is the inclusion of only a single USB-Type C port in Apple's newest Macbook. To the engineering team, improved thinness and lightness of the new Macbook are goals which they have accomplished. However, the fundamental issue being ignored is how this impacts the end-user experience.

Anyone who used the Macbook for a day would encounter the issue of being unable to use any USB accessories while trying to charge the Macbook. Much like a wedding dress, the new Macbook looks stylish, elegant and chic, but it isn't practical for everyday use.

However, it seems as though we, as consumers, have become obsessed with appearance, prioritizing it over functionality. We, as the users, buy these fundamentally flawed products and are burdened with finding and making our own solutions when, in reality, these companies ought to design more user-friendly products. When someone who purchases the Macbook finds out they can't charge the device while using any other USB accessories with the device, they are tasked with finding a solution — in this case, buying a \$79 dongle from Apple or no longer using USB devices while charging the Macbook. In both of these scenarios, the consumer is stepping out of their way to fix a problem that the producer has created.

This problem is not unique to the Macbook. The thinness of the iPhone 6 and 6S are achieved at a trade-off with battery life. The consumer, faced with the fact that their phone is constantly dying before the end of the day, is forced to carry a large battery pack, look for outlets in which to plug their phone or buy a \$99 battery phone case from Apple that makes the phone bulkier. It seems as though Apple is literally making consumers pay for its mistakes, and unless we stop purchasing these products, we'll only be encouraging this continued disregard for the user experience of these products. If user experience were the first priority instead of aesthetic appearances, the iPhone would be slightly thicker, with its battery lasting an entire day of use, and the Macbook would be slightly thicker with the advantage of being able to simultaneously use USB devices and charge the battery.

Aesthetics play a large role in determining the identity of a device and its function. They provide a sense of prestige and comfort which are not achieved with "ugly" products. However, when advances in aesthetic design are achieved through compromising the device's basic functions, I find that a device loses any beauty it may have gained. The most beautiful product is one that functions flawlessly.

Like the age-old saying of "don't judge a book by its cover," we shouldn't judge products based solely on their aesthetic value. By doing so, we encourage companies like Apple to disregard the consumer by charging us more to pay for their mistakes.

### QUICK TAKES

RENTAL SERVICES LIKE AIRBNB HAVE BEEN BANNED IN SOME CITIES DUE TO ITS ROLE IN INCREASING RENTS. WHETHER OR NOT THESE RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE ENACTED IN SAN DIEGO IS NOW BEING DEBATED BY LOCAL POLITICIANS.

#### *Restrictions On House Rental Companies in San Diego Neglect to Effectively Address Lack of Affordable Housing*

Last month, the Democratic candidate for San Diego City Council District 1 Barbara Bry wrote in an opinion piece for the Voice of San Diego that short-term housing rentals conducted by companies like Airbnb are "directly contributing" to San Diego's affordable housing shortage. Citing research estimates from the nonprofit Save San Diego Neighborhoods, which estimates that over 6,000 properties are being used as "mini-hotels," Bry argued that these rental companies need to be restricted in order to keep housing for San Diegans. However, a closer look at this number reveals that Airbnb is not significantly affecting the pre-existing housing crisis. Instead of focusing on restricting Airbnb, which draws a lot of beneficial tourism to San Diego, the City Council should instead focus on fixing the broader issues underlying the housing crisis.

A problem with Barbara Bry's statement is the number of "mini-hotel" rentals she cited. With new sharing services like Airbnb, it is difficult to gauge how many listings are being rented out entirely year-round, instead of partially or intermittently. According to the Voice of San Diego, the estimate of over 6,000 rental properties includes any home listed on Airbnb, regardless of whether it was rented for a one-time event like Comic-Con. These properties are not necessarily "mini-hotels," and therefore do not detract from the housing market.

Pushing forward legislation that would regulate companies like Airbnb could have negative effects, seeing as this form of house rental brings in a significant amount of tourist money. San Diego City Councilman Chris Cate noted to the Voice of San Diego that short-term rentals bring in annually around \$110 million in rental income and \$86 million in rental guests' tourist spending. Instead of focusing time-consuming efforts on creating legislation for restricting complex short-term rentals, the San Diego Union Tribune writes that a better place to start addressing the housing crisis is with the complicated zoning regulations that often amount to 40 percent of housing costs. When developers build housing projects, they have to comply with rules regarding lot size, height and density, among many others that significantly increase the final price. The San Diego housing crisis is complicated, and an overly simple solution as restricting Airbnb rentals will only detract from real efforts to fix it.

— SOPHIE OSBORN  
Senior Staff Writer

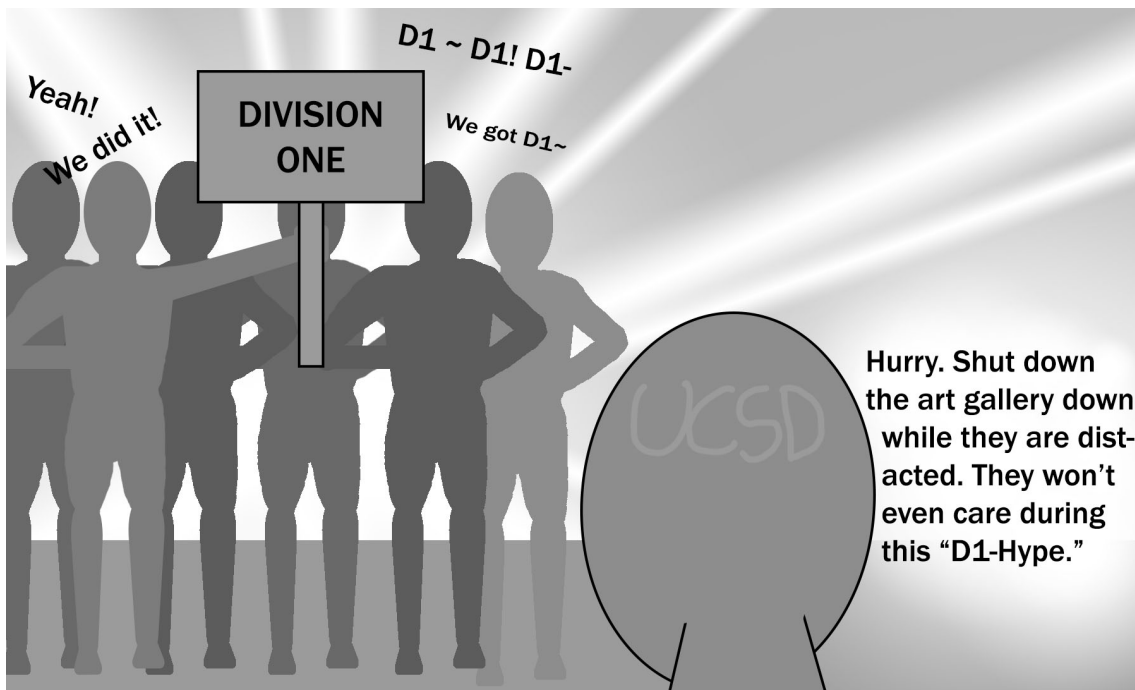
#### *As Long as House Renters Omit Taxes Paid by Hotels, Officials Have A Right to Enforce Stricter Regulation*

Though it offers an ingenious solution for renters or vacationers desperately looking for affordable housing in a new area, the presence of Airbnb in large cities has presented its own share of problems. In San Diego, number of listings for Airbnb — especially in areas like La Jolla, Pacific Beach, North Park and downtown — have skyrocketed since 2015. Democratic candidate for City Council Barbara Bry called this surge "detrimental to the affordable housing market," and is joined by other local politicians in pushing for a crackdown on the number of San Diego Airbnb listings. These calls are based on the estimated 6,000 San Diego homes on the website that are essentially removed from the rental or purchasing home market, putting even more strain on the housing market. Other commissioners have cited a lack of proper taxes being paid by hosts as the main component of the crackdown on the number of homes that can be offered for a short term rental agreement. Regardless of the reason, the impending suppression on the number of homes that can be listed on the site will affect a large majority of both San Diego residents and tourists.

There is no clear law in regard to San Diego residents renting out their homes for short-term agreements. The regulation regarding what is constituted as a long-term versus short-term agreement is unclear and the law regarding bed taxes — a levy imposed by the local government on hotel stays within its jurisdiction — is fuzzy at best. Despite the ambiguous nature of the rental- and vacation-home laws within San Diego, commissioners and other city officials do have the right to enforce regulation of Airbnb listings. According to the Voice of San Diego, many people are now buying homes just to rent out rooms on sites like Airbnb. They rent these homes out to visitors without having to account for the same taxes that hotel chains must pay for. The concept is simple: If someone is renting out a room in their house for a short period of time, that person is operating on the same level as a hotel does, and thus they should also be held responsible for paying the same taxes for that bed being used.

— MEGAN MONGES  
Senior Staff Writer

# WORLDFRONT WINDOW By David Juarez



## *Addition of Police As Protected Class May Distort Criteria for Hate Crime*

► #BLM from page 4

enforcement officers and the rise of activism in #BlackLivesMatter, the rhetoric of #BlueLivesMatter and support for police being a protected class illustrate that activists' desire for accountability and reform are incorrectly perceived as personal and aggressive. It was, after all, police-union leaders and law-enforcement organizations who, according to Fader, attempted to boycott the Miami leg of Beyonce's Formation world tour. In the artist's most recent visual album, Lemonade, a sample of Malcom X and a scene in which three mothers mourn hold portraits of their sons, all of whom were unarmed when they were killed by officers, are two devices through which Beyonce criticizes the justice system. Though Beyonce does not advocate for violence against police officers, the fact that people

have misinterpreted her art as doing so shows a refusal to listen to the messages of #BlackLivesMatter.

Even so, resistance to civil rights activism is nothing new. Reported by the Washington Post, the perception of the 1965 March on Washington varied drastically across race. According to a Harris survey, 94 percent of African-American respondents rated the movement as a positive move toward civil rights. Of white participants asked the year after, however, 36 percent believed it had resulted in positive change and 50 percent said it had instead hurt the cause. Though Louisiana's Blue Lives Matter is said to be created on behalf of certain deaths, its counter-Black Lives Matter namesake and its usage by those resisting criticism of law enforcement clarify that the legislation is made not for the sake not of increasing protection

but for diverting demands for accountability.

The problem with HB 953 is that "Blue Lives" have already been shown to matter, through the effective and stricter punishments placed on those who attack law enforcement officers. What still needs to be clarified is a fair judiciary process for those killed by police; those with concerns for this process are instead met with counter-protests that ignore their cause. Even if police officers were specifically targeted, extending protected class distinctions to them not only prioritizes them over other workers facing as much or greater danger on the job, but would also establish that protections in the United States are based not on discrimination but on fear of being held accountable.

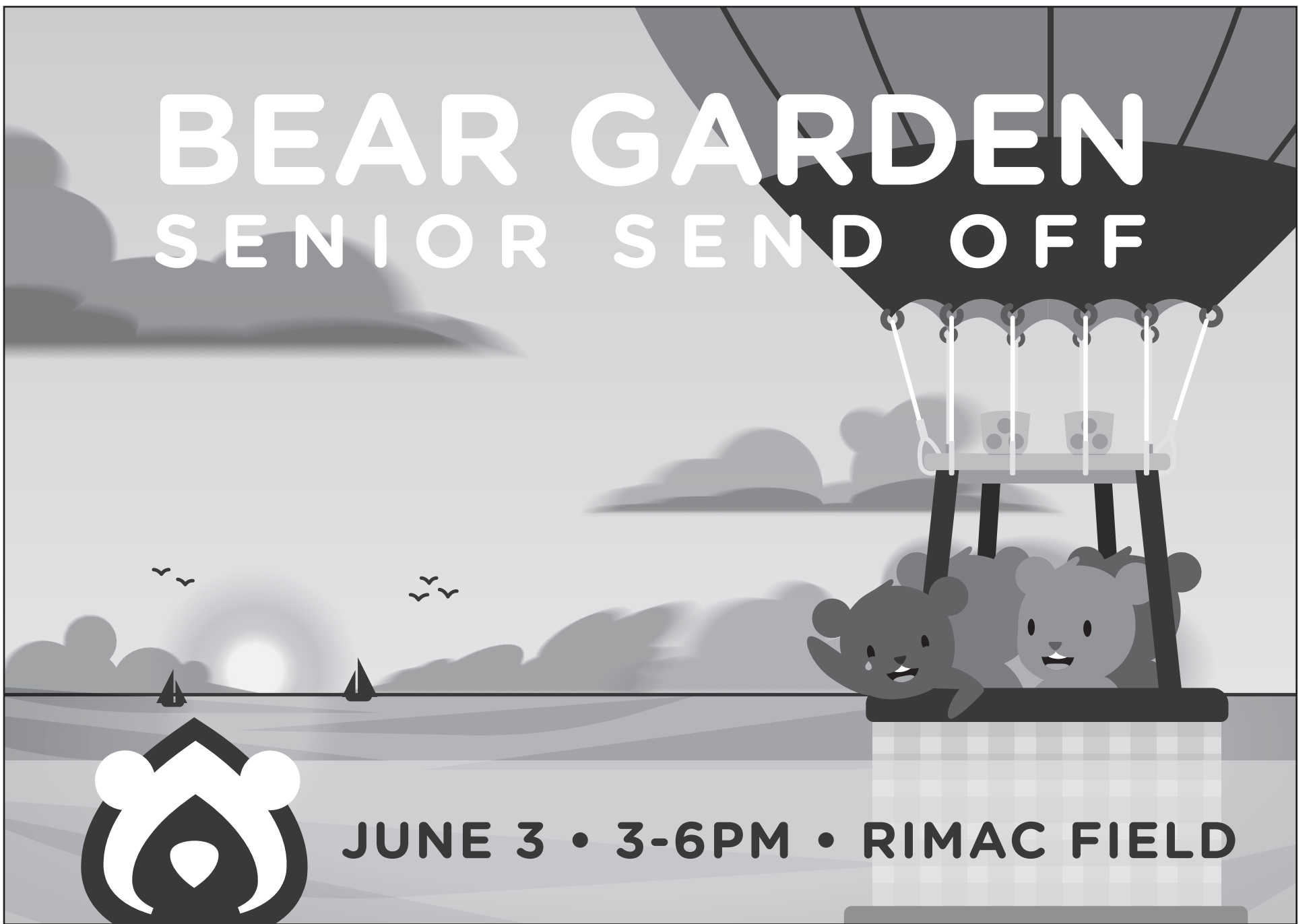
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# BEAR GARDEN SENIOR SEND OFF



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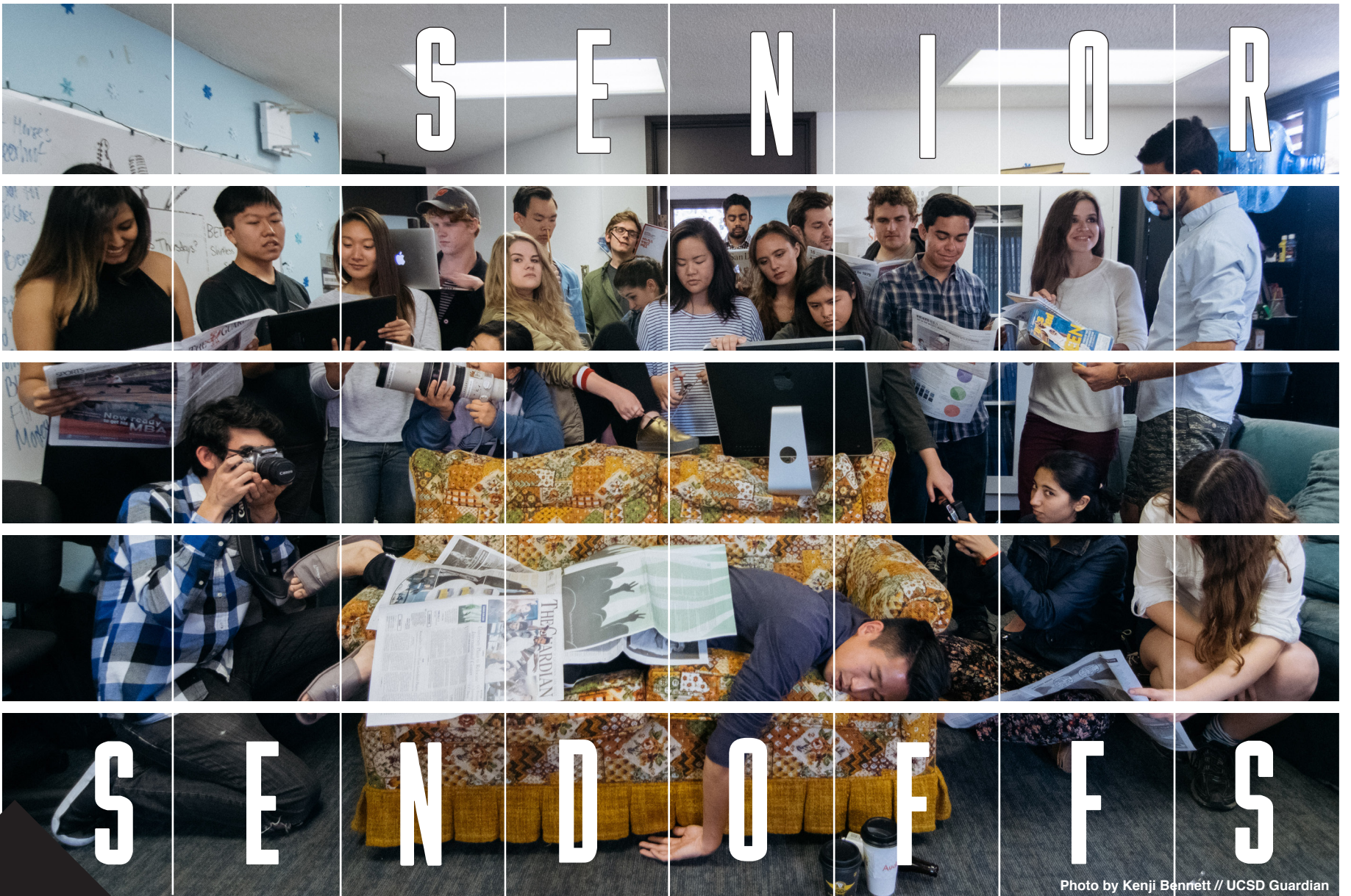


Photo by Kenji Bennett // UCSD Guardian

## VINCENT PHAM, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I sat in Doug Carlone's office, next to Jennifer Mancano and across from Doug. I had just blurted out this impassioned verbiage on why the UCSD Guardian doesn't need an advisor and shouldn't have one. Long story short, I believed, and still do believe, that our independence — i.e., lack of an advisor — forces us to make the best version of ourselves: To cover all our bases and to not take slip-ups lightly. It's on us as a staff to uphold our integrity and we know that we could never fall back on one individual to save the day. We ride the highs and lows together, and we solve problems together, as a team.

I didn't expect my outpouring of emotions toward the Guardian, and neither did Doug nor Jennifer. We sat there in silence for a quick second, and while they were nodding, I realized something that I hadn't realized before: I actually cared about the Guardian. And I had taken my first three years with the paper for granted.

During my first three years, I had been so focused on my section that I had failed to see the bigger picture. I didn't ask myself what I was doing at the Guardian, what my purpose was to the student body and what the paper, an outlet for student

expression, could improve upon to be more inclusive of all perspectives. I failed to see the impact that we could make as the student newspaper because I was caught up in the day-to-day hustle of printing a paper twice a week. It is an extremely difficult job and one that could only be so well-done by a truly incredible staff. My role as editor in chief, though, gave me a much needed perspective on the Guardian. From this position, I was able to see what the Guardian could be and where it could go. From this position, I was able to foster and incubate new sections while bestowing trust in my editors to work with the utmost diligence for a high-quality paper. Unfortunately, these concrete reflections came too late and I wasn't able to have these transformative revelations with current staff. But fortunately, I am able to share them here.

For the Guardian's future staff, these are my lessons learned: Take a step back and reflect. Make it a priority. It may be easy to fall into the monotony of the news cycle, but we should remember that we ourselves need to be inspired and passionate about what we do. Part of that comes from being able to look at our past work more holistically rather than from issue to issue. And part of being able to do so is sharing leadership roles. I have had the great fortune of having 30-plus editors, associates, assistants and directors to work with who carry with them their own touch of what leadership looks like, and that uniqueness to their roles made the Guardian all the better. I cannot emphasize the importance of having such a hard-working staff because it would be an understatement to say that without them, there is no Guardian.

Avoid complacency at all costs. When we are provided the space to think and reflect, there comes a moment that we can truly seize, and that is the moment for change. At many times

within the Guardian, I was given pre-existing methods to do things and followed the norm. It was straightforward, it was methodically laid out and it worked. My ambition for "new" within the Guardian was effectively put on low. Academics and other extracurricular commitments piled up and stoking my desire to change the status quo was difficult. But it does not have to be that way and we should not be that way. Complacency will not only undermine the Guardian's quality, but it will slowly eat away at us. If we are not further compelled to do great things for and with the paper, we will begin to regret the time we've invested. Rather, if we are able to see the potential within the paper and our staff — to see ourselves as vessels of untapped talent yearning to be matured — then we will be capable of improving ourselves, together.

You have a stake in the Guardian: Embrace it. We are blessed with the flexibility of a student-run newspaper and we should run with it. If there is ever a time to make tangible any ideas, stories, events, thoughts or projects that you believe can be done, draw the plans, get a team and make it happen. Be innovative — whether in nuanced takes for reporting on events or in ways to present media — because that is what is going to help the Guardian reach the high expectations we set for ourselves.

And, finally, give thanks. To everyone I have had honor to work with for the past four years (that's quite the list!), thank you for including me in the Guardian and letting me learn from you all. Especially to this year's staff. You all have shown me — through your own desires, inspirations and creative directions — that the Guardian is malleable and can become what we envision it to be. Without that drive, I don't think we'd be where we are today. Without that drive, I don't think you'd be so eager to see what next year holds. I'll be watching.

Until I was in second grade, I always sat in the front of the classroom. At first, I only did this because my parents told me to, but eventually I did it because I couldn't read the board from farther behind. Several of my friends also moved up to the first few rows for the same reason, so I never felt like it was a problem, let alone an indication that I was myopic. I was so used to things around me being slightly blurry that I didn't even know or remember that they were supposed to be well-defined.

Eventually, my parents and teachers noticed that I kept squinting to see things that weren't that far away from me. I started wearing glasses and my whole world changed immediately. Suddenly, I could see petals on flowers and craters on the moon. Everything was crisp and bright.

In retrospect, my first six months in college were a lot like the years I spent without glasses. New friends, the quarter system and unconditional freedom kept me busier than I had ever been in my life. I thought there was no way I could be happier — but I had no idea what I was missing until I joined the UCSD Guardian.

Even though most people at the Guardian associate my work with news, I fell in love with the paper during my time as a copy reader. Not only was I able to read and appreciate content from every section of the newspaper, but I was also right in the middle of the action during production days. Shifts at the office instantly became the highlight of my week, and staff members quickly became my best friends.

When I joined the news team, I felt an unprecedented sense of fulfillment. I went from being indifferent toward campus events to being the first person at the scene. I learned about and raised awareness for issues that mattered. More importantly, I became accountable to someone other than myself. After a few months, I became section editor and had the opportunity to share my love for news writing (and the Guardian in general) with other students. I learned even more as an editor than I did as a writer, and the news section became stronger than ever with support from other editors and talented new recruits. I still can't believe there were only three writers in news when I joined; now, there are about a dozen, and each of them has helped me grow in one way or another.

The skills, knowledge and experience I have gained during my time at the Guardian are invaluable, but your company is what I'll remember the most. Thank you all so much for supporting me in tough times, pushing me to be unstoppable and encouraging me to step outside my comfort zone. You are the most vibrant, selfless, dedicated, principled, compassionate group of people I have ever known, and it has been such an incredible honor to be one of you. Good luck next year; I know you'll continue to inspire others the way you've always inspired me.

Photo by Christian Duarte // UCSD Guardian

## KRITI SARIN, NEWS EDITOR



## MYRAH JAFFER, ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

I first started out at the UCSD Guardian in the year 2015 and honestly was so incredibly grateful to be given such a high position of advertising director. It was one of the best experiences I've had at my time here at UCSD. I had the pleasure to work with great individuals such as Vincent Pham, Jennifer Mancano, my wonderful advertising representatives and many more. The advertising representatives I was able to work with, including Molly Chen, Caroline Lee, Sabrina Lee and Jessica Do, have been a great help and team to have worked with. Their efforts for the advertising department at the Guardian were unbeatable. Through my personal experience at the Guardian I learned a lot about how a newspaper really works and how all these different departments are necessary to pull together a quality paper like the Guardian. In my advertising director role at the Guardian I was able to expand on my management skills and was lucky enough to get a hands-on experience in the field I love the most, advertising. This opportunity gave me a lot of space to grow and educate myself on what to expect out in the real working world. The Guardian newspaper is special to me and I wouldn't change my experience working for the Guardian in any way. I will forever cherish my memories here.

## KEVIN SANTOS, SENIOR STAFF WRITER, NEWS



Photo by Megan Lee // UCSD Guardian

Writing for the UCSD Guardian's news section will easily be one of my most treasured experiences from my time at UCSD. Reporting gave me a sense of purpose and made me feel more connected with the university. My only regret is that I served in the role for just two quarters. Even though I was on staff for a short period of time, I know I gained a valuable skillset that will last a lifetime.

News writing has a special place in my heart because it ties in very closely to my favorite word: sonder. I interpret this obscure term as "every human being has an epic story to tell." As a staff writer, I was able to, in a way, use sonder as a tool

to understand people's unique perspectives and get a glimpse of their world. I am so thankful for the opportunity I have been given to tell these people's stories and solidify their place in UCSD's history.

With my time at UCSD coming to an end, I'd like to give a huge thank you to all those at the Guardian who make this publication possible. Without the dedication and hard work of all those involved, the rest of the UCSD community wouldn't be as well informed on what is going on in the world around them.

I want to send a tremendous shout-out to my news editors. From day one, they've always been there for me, answering all the questions I've had as I jumped headfirst into this new territory. They encouraged all of my work, helped shape me to become a better writer, and guided me on this journey.

A sincere thank you goes to my mentor, Nina Kim, who inspired me to get involved in journalism. If not for her, I would have never realized how important writing is, both as a means of expressing oneself and as a service to the community.

Last, but certainly not least, I am eternally grateful for my family who has always been there to care for and support me with all of my endeavors.

Growing up, my mom always pushed me to stay informed with the news. Now, because of my time with the Guardian, I can say I've played a role in creating the news.



## KARLY NISSON, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR



Photo by Christian Duarte // UCSD Guardian

I put off joining the UCSD Guardian for two years, a delayed decision that will remain my biggest regret of my college career. Being A&E editor was the first real position of power I'd stepped into, and I came in with no real desire to make any changes — I was just focused on not messing anything up.

But we've introduced so many new features this year and I couldn't be more proud of everyone in the G for making this happen. I've been learning (or stumbling, rather) as I go, and I believe that we've created a true community within A&E. Sam and Naftali, I know you'll do amazing things with the section and I hope that you'll continue to approach it not as a hierarchy, but as a group of friends working to improve their writing and review media they love (or hate — try to get them to hate it a little more for ratings sake).

Everything the section has accomplished this year can be attributed to my staff, whose participation and enthusiasm has made the section what it is.

Thank you for signing up for features with little or no direction and allowing my "songs of the week" dream to come to fruition. Our meetings were legendary and I'm not sorry for all of the strange icebreakers and ridiculously off-topic mid-meeting conversations — though there were always a few announcements to get out of the way, our get-togethers were always meant to build a community. I hope you were all able to take away from them the kinds of relationships I've been able to find here at the G.

I'll end my send-off with some final, but necessary shout-outs: Jacqueline, I hadn't realized how organized you were until I became editor and lost track of everything — I can't remember the last time I updated the concerts spreadsheet and I'm pretty sure I haven't come through on a single thing Vincent's requested (sorry Vincent). But the structure you set up, from the spreadsheets to early deadlines, is a work of art in itself, and I know it will provide support and confidence to all future A&E editors.

Definite Vegas Carpool, thank you for being the hilarious bunch of misfits you've been all year. From ramen runs during rush hour and arguments over driving Sam home, I'll miss everything. To the news team, for allowing me to write about diseases every week, providing me the opportunity to finally snag a research position and enduring my authoritarian demands. To Tina, who put up with my sassy edit comments and helped me shape A&E into everything it became, I know you'll continue to improve the Guardian with Jennifer and Marcus next year and maintain the close-knit family I was so lucky to be a part of. To Vincent, who asked me to define the role of an editor in chief at the beginning of the year: I couldn't answer you then, but I now know that you are the model of what an EIC should be. Thank you for lending us the freedom and support that's allowed us to develop — your organization and charisma have done absolute wonders for the G.

To Joselynn, for never actually quitting and loving Courtney Barnett just as much as I did. To Olga and Brittney, for being part of my Weekend team and enduring unexpected adlines with me every week. And to Jacky, for offering me unlimited support and perspectives — I couldn't have made it throughout the year without you. I've run out of words, but to anyone I haven't mentioned, know you were invaluable to my time at the G and I will miss you all as I go on to explore new paths.

A&E editor is a messy job — there are so many writers and opportunities to keep track of, but I think you'll find that, amid forgotten press pass requests and unfortunate typos, comes with incredible rewards.



## OLGA GOLUBKOVA, LIFESTYLE EDITOR

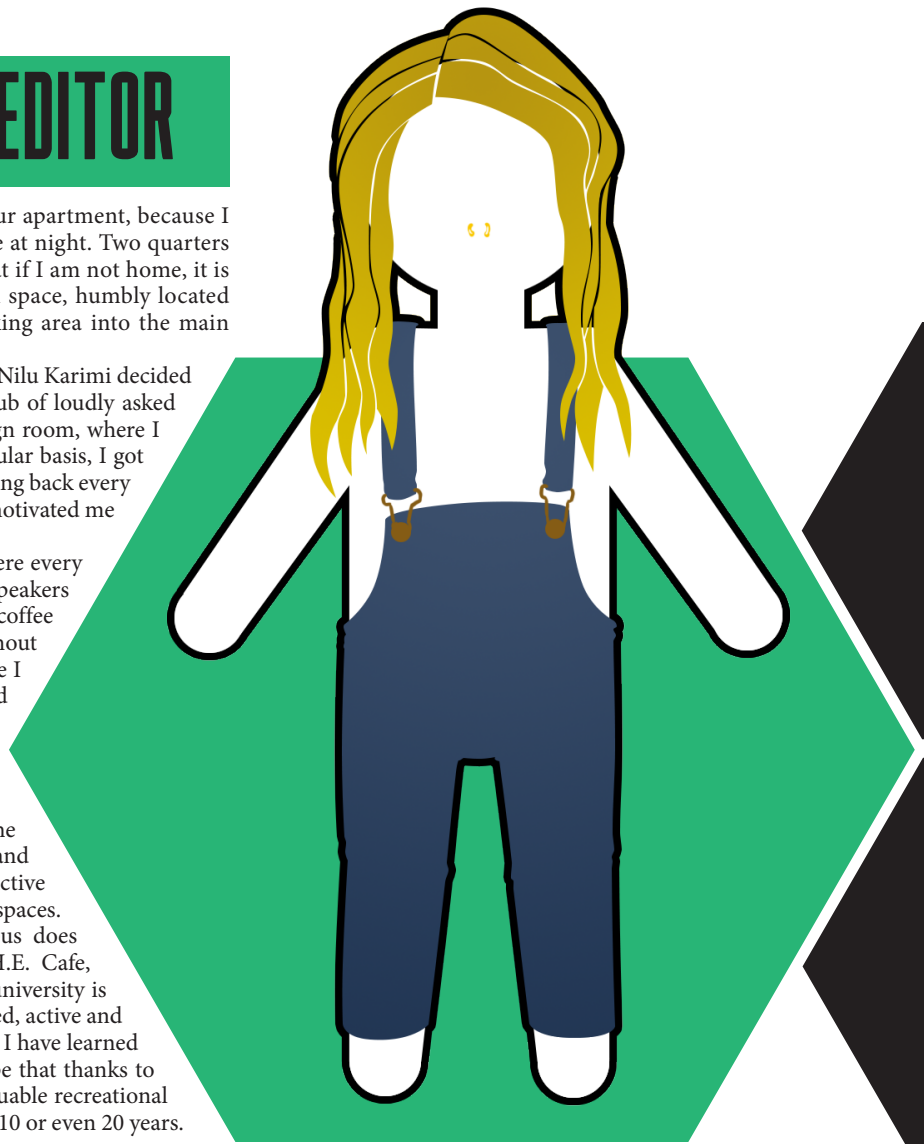
In fall, my roommates kept asking where I was. They never saw me in our apartment, because I would leave it in the morning and would not come back home until late at night. Two quarters later they stopped inquiring about my whereabouts, as now they know that if I am not home, it is safe to say that I am at the UCSD Guardian office. For me, this six-room space, humbly located on the second floor of the Original Student Center, turned from a working area into the main place on campus.

A year ago, I came into the office for the first time, when my lovely editor Nilu Karimi decided to show me where all the journalist magic was done. Scared off by a hubbub of loudly asked questions, last-minute instructions and laughter, I found shelter in the design room, where I met my dear friend Joselynn. As I started showing up to the office on a regular basis, I got used to a lively working atmosphere that started to excite me and got me coming back every Wednesday. It was also my willingness to spend more time at the office that motivated me to apply for an editorial position.

As a Lifestyle editor, I started living in the office. I have been coming there every day between classes to lie down on a couch and listen to some tunes through speakers while sipping on iced Vietnamese coffee picked up from the Art of Espresso coffee cart. For me, the office was a library, a nap room and even a restaurant (shout out to Postmates; your price is way too high, you need to cut it). At the office I heard some bad personal news, read about important on-campus events and talked about national-level hot topics with other writers and editors.

During my third and final year at UCSD, I realized that the Guardian office is more than just a physical space — it is a place where I have been learning, constantly discussing and creating with open-minded, well-versed individuals. There have been numerous times when I came into the office without any particular goal in mind, but ended up debating politics and exchanging views on new music albums. Being involved in such a productive information exchange allowed me to recognize the importance of student spaces. However, recently, our administration has forgotten that a college campus does not only consist of classrooms and dorms. Without spaces like the C.H.E. Cafe, Groundwork Books, the International Center and the Guardian office, the university is unable to provide resources that are necessary to make students truly educated, active and happy (let's not forget about mental health) individuals. Knowing how much I have learned and accomplished within the walls of the Guardian office, I very much hope that thanks to the efforts of current and future students, the office, together with other valuable recreational and resource centers, will still be here, in the Original Student Center in five, 10 or even 20 years. And yeah, Guardians, let's keep it clean too.

Long live the Guardian office!



## DIETER JOUBERT, SENIOR STAFF WRITER, A&E



“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” I’ve always found crafting a clever opening line to be the hardest part of writing an article, so it feels very gratifying to open my senior send-off with a cliched-as-hell quotation.

But the sentiment stands. At times, UCSD has been a dream come true, a place to see all the variety and potential life has to offer. Other times, I would’ve preferred to be anywhere else in the world.

As the reigning, and self-declared, champion of duration spent as a staff writer at the Guardian, the G has truly been the constant throughout my time at UCSD. Of course, it too has mirrored this duality.

But only to some extent. While having to abandon an editor position early in my time at the G to focus on the more important things in life still remains a big “what if” in my mind, at its best the Guardian has been a second home and a gateway to be engaged with the campus.

And it’s a reminder that life is rarely a straightforward line with clear signposts and destinations. As somebody who thought they would abandon journalism after high school (perhaps it’s unfair to actual journalists to lump them together with high-school “journalism”), it’s a reminder to keep that Sisyphean struggle going.

To my peers, my A&E peeps and my Definite Vegas Carpool, thank you for all you’ve done. It is time to move on. But please don’t consider this an end, for the journey does not end here.

## TYNAN YANAGA, SENIOR STAFF WRITER A&E



If you don’t know me, I’m the one who usually sits quietly in the corner of the room. It was like that in the first A&E meeting I attended, and it remained pretty much the same over two years later, aside from a few sarcastic barbs here or there. But whether people know it or not, the UCSD Guardian meant a lot to me, because there’s something truly gratifying about finding a community of people who love to put words down on a page. They can be vastly different in what they like, where they’re from and even what they care about. But there’s that inherent solidarity — that one thread that we all share — binding us together.

To its credit, the Guardian, or more aptly the people within it, challenged me in my own writing process. I came in doubting my abilities, and I still do! I even considered quitting a couple times. However, the difference is that now I hold a greater confidence in my own creative voice, believing that I actually have something to bring to the table. Imagine that. My own personal blogging (yes, my blog’s called 4 Star Films), as well as opportunities afforded to me by the paper, have given me a passion to not just write, not just critique, but to get others thinking about deeper issues altogether.

I’m not much for commanding attention, but for me words provide an avenue, and for the last two years or so I’ve been fairly prolific. I write something nearly every day. Most of it people will never see — it’s floating out in cyberspace somewhere, but I’m content knowing that I wrote it. So maybe someday, when some random person across the globe happens across a Retrospective on “Tree of Life” or a blog post about Ingmar Bergman’s “Winter Light,” it might germinate even a seed for further conversation, exploration and personal awakening. Maybe it just puts them to sleep!

Either way, I want to continue to laugh at stupid things, build meaningful relationships and pursue things that matter to me. That’s what college is about, that’s what the Guardian helped instigate, and I hope that those types of things will be defining factors in my life. I’ll leave you with a quote from Soren Kierkegaard, because he sums up my hopes a lot better than I ever could!

“What the age needs is awakening. And therefore someday, not only my writings but my whole life, all the intriguing mystery of the machine will be studied and studied. I never forget how God helps me and it is therefore my last wish that everything may be to His honor.”

## HAYLEY ASTURIAS, MARKETING CO-DIRECTOR

**S**tories: Everyone has one and everyone tells theirs differently. That is what I learned during my time at the UCSD Guardian. As marketing co-director for the G, I had the chance to oversee all articles posted to the Guardian's social media channels. With each article I read, the more I learned about our diverse campus, the ambitious students here and the talented writers who tell their stories.

From UC tuition hikes, campus occupations, and featured artists and athletes on campus to movie, music and eatery reviews across San Diego, the UCSD Guardian has it covered. Each Guardian staffer dedicates their time and talent to keep students aware of what is going on in the world around them. The Guardian isn't simply just a news outlet, it is a platform for students to get their voices heard and stories told.

To me, the most impactful story brought to light by the Guardian was about homeless students on our campus. As college students we are constantly in between classes, work and late-night study sessions at Geisel; so it is easy to overlook the issues that are right in front of us. Like many students, I never would have imagined that my fellow Tritons were struggling to find a place to sleep at night. This story made it to Facebook where it gained a lot of attention, responses, and support from students and faculty. Getting this story out there may not have fixed the issue of student homelessness but it started a conversation that in my hopes will, in time, ignite a resolution.

What rhymes with Facebook? Feedback ... well, it may not rhyme in Dr. Seuss's terms, but they go hand in hand. Let me explain, most articles I post to the Guardian's Facebook page elicit a response. Feedback is always expected and encouraged on Facebook. Whether positive or negative, they are appreciated. As a news source it is so important to maintain neutrality and provide a forum for followers to voice their opinions. Besides, comments bring more traction to our site, and as the marketing co-director, I love that!



So I suppose this is the part where I share my story. When I transferred to UCSD two years ago, I immediately knew that I wanted to get involved with the Guardian. It took some time, but I made it as the marketing director in Fall 2015. I cherish my time spent in creative meetings with Editor-in-Chief Vincent Pham and my Marketing Co-Director Peter McInnis. No idea was too big or wacky for us to handle. When your Editor-in-Chief is up all night making homemade cold brew to pass out to readers for free, or when he lets you hold a concert in the middle of the office, then you could say we are pretty committed to marketing to our readers. In the six months I have been with the Guardian, we have garnered over 1,000 new followers on our Facebook page. Maybe it's due to the free coffee, or maybe it's just the tenacious staff at the G; whatever the reason, I know the Guardian's success will continue to grow. It has been an absolute pleasure working for the UCSD Guardian. As I graduate and prepare for the real world, I will take my memories and skills learned along the way with me. It is my hopes that I end up working for a newspaper, with staffers at least half as cool as you all.

PS. The inner marketer in me has to say, like the UCSD Guardian on Facebook!

## YIDIAN HUANG, SENIOR STAFF WRITER, A&E

**I**remember the first time I read the UCSD Guardian newspaper. It was a sunny day, and I, an international freshman, was sitting near Tapex in Price Center alone as usual. The stack of Guardian newspapers by the automatic door attracted my attention, and I thought of joining after reading an issue. Yet, I wondered if I was able to write good articles in English, given that I had just arrived in the United States at that point. I also worried about whether I could fit in. It wasn't until last year when I accidentally met the former editor of the Arts & Entertainment section in a Jane Austen class that I finally decided to join the Guardian. I thought it was a sign that I should embrace the challenge and try something new. My decision was proved right. I was able to improve my English writing with all the help from my editors. Moreover, being a part of the Guardian made me feel that I belonged to the UCSD community at last. As an A&E writer,

I had the opportunities to watch movies before they were officially released, and to even interview the actors. I never thought that any of this was possible in the past. The 14 months I spent with the Guardian have been wonderful, and now it is hard to say goodbye.

I know many international students who would like to join the Guardian but worry about whether their English is good enough to write for a newspaper. If you have the same concern, stop hesitating and join today! This is a place where you can make friends and learn a wide range of things, from writing to communication. Guardian staffers are incredibly nice people who would help and stand by you. Joining the Guardian is one of the best decisions that I have made during my undergraduate years.



## GURKIRAT GARY SINGH, SENIOR STAFF WRITER, SPORTS



**I**joined the best section of the UCSD Guardian my sophomore year, knowing very little about the actual sports teams here at UCSD; the extent of my knowledge entailed having attended three UCSD basketball games my freshman year. What I did know at the time was that our school was known for a great many things, with sports not being one of them. As I started my career as a fledgling sports writer for the Guardian, I came to realize that we actually had some very decent teams playing in the NCAA Division II, yet they had very little recognition. Now, just a few weeks before my graduation, the UCSD student body voted to pass the referendum to take our school to Division I. What a time to be alive.

Although I know not everyone at UCSD thinks of the move into Division I as something positive, I really hope that they come to embrace it and try to take pride in having their school compete in the highest division of athletics and academia. Our university is too split up into individual colleges, where the students take pride in being residents of their respective colleges and forget that they are actually Tritons first. My hope is that this transition into a Division-I school will keep our foundations as a school the same but will change the school community into a more unified student body which will take pride in being Tritons, regardless of which of the six colleges they are part of. In the end, it is crucial to realize that despite all of our differences, we are all a part of the same undergraduate student party that idolizes Triton, parties it up for Sun God Festival, and is just trying to figure out what to do in our corner of the universe.

I'm not leaving UCSD with many regrets. I have honestly really enjoyed all of my four undergraduate years (yes, that means I enjoyed ALL of four Sun Gods I went to). I have made some of the best friends I could ask for and with them I have been able to make some of the best memories of my life. The one regret I do have is not being able to attend a Division-I game at UCSD as an undergraduate and witnessing the intensity of the yearly Spirit Nights at a weekly level and consistency. I look forward to seeing how the Division I transition will change the spirit and community of UCSD in the upcoming years. Shock 'em Tritons.

**JONATHAN GAO,  
PHOTO EDITOR**

Usually my work in the UCSD Guardian has been seen through images rather than words. But in this last issue I just want to say thanks to all the photographers who have worked with in the past four years. Whether you were my editor or I was your editor, we all sacrificed time and energy for our passion for photography. I would also like to thank the staff as a whole on the Guardian because, looking back at the Flickr and my hard drive, the assignments have allowed me to have views and experiences I could have only dreamed of coming into UCSD. Congratulations seniors and to those continuing undergrads, enjoy the ride. P.S. To see my current adventures give @jongao a follow on Instagram!



If I could describe my experience here at UCSD in one word it would be: revision. As a photographer for the UCSD Guardian, I have had the privilege to document happenings on campus for two years. I have watched the campus revise itself time and time again, but what I didn't realize was the revision that was also happening to the person behind the camera. From baseball games, to student-led protests to A.S. elections, I have seen a lot of the campus revisions through my lens. It has been amazing to watch this university change and grow over such a brief time, but it has also been cool to look back and slowly recognize that I am not the same person I was when I first transferred here. When I first came to UCSD as a transfer student, I was searching for opportunities to get involved on campus and working as a photojournalist for the Guardian was a perfect fit. Above all, this experience taught me to appreciate the small moments that may get lost in the shuffle of life and how to truly slow down and relax for a moment even though life keeps moving at a fast pace. Thank you to everyone who has made these last two years so incredible and for giving me the room to grow and try new things. To everyone still going through school, don't forget to ditch class every once in a while and make a memory with your best friends, because you'll look back on these days and remember the good times that can't be blotted out by exams or GPAs.

**EMILY TIPTON, SENIOR  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

It was a real pleasure working with the Guardian over my last couple years here at UCSD. It was great to have my illustrations included in the newspaper, both appreciated by the staff of the Guardian as well as the student body. I was part of a great illustration team! It was a lot of fun to incorporate my style into illustrations about news stories and it was especially fun to illustrate for the arts and entertainment section. Overall, it was great to experience illustrating for a publication, and I recommend it to incoming students who are interested in drawing and illustration. The editors are incredibly supportive and appreciative of the hard work you put in.

**JENNA MCCLOSKEY, SENIOR ARTIST**



**MEGAN LAO, SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

As a staff photographer, I'd like to express my thanks to the UCSD Guardian for always being the first to inform me of the freshest of news, as well as for offering me countless opportunities to witness and capture such newsworthy moments most intimately. Every event that I have attended in the name of the Guardian has given me quite the adrenaline rush. From shooting in the pit my sophomore year at Sun God Festival, to meeting and greeting the UCSD alumni of Wong Fu Productions on my birthday, to capturing the moment the renowned filmmaker James Cameron received the Nierenberg Prize, to snapping away at photogenic animals with fellow staffers every year at the San Diego Zoo, it has been a privilege to experience it all up-close and an honor to have my work published and in the hands of peers campus-wide. I will look back years from now, and (especially!) reminisce over those nights that I have stood within performers' spit and percolating sweat ... those concerts where I have massacred my poor ears' little hair cells from standing literally inches away from performers and not wearing ear buds. Haha... honestly though, I wouldn't have liked it any other way.



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# FEATURES

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**OLIVER KELTON**  
 ✉ features@ucsdguardian.org

## Politics 2.0: Navigating New Media

Written by Tia Ikemoto // Editorial Assistant  
 and Harrison Lee // Contributing Writer

### Introduction

We live in a rapidly changing and exciting time, on the forefront of a movement toward vast interconnection through social media — an entire generation communicating with each other with unprecedented ease. The children of Facebook, Reddit, Snapchat, Tumblr and a million other media outlets are coming into their adulthood and into the political sphere, leaving the fate of the country to a culture dominated by social media.

To begin the investigation on social media's impact, if any, over the youth, the UCSD Guardian released a poll asking students where their political information comes from. Half of the 366 responses listed "Social Media" as one of their primary news source. There is obviously an impact, the effects of which are bound to be unique.

### Out With the Old, In With the New

According to political science and communication professor Daniel Hallin, social media is not new to the political stage. Hallin, who has a Ph.D in political science from UC Berkeley and specializes in journalism and political communication, told the Guardian that social media first started to appear in politics with President Barack Obama's youth-oriented campaign in 2008. Since then, the presence of social media in our lives has only grown.

"The mainstream media are not really gatekeepers like they used to be," Hallin observed. "They've lost influence, not only to social media, but to daytime television and other communicators."

Nationally, commercial journalism has been struggling to stay afloat in a new mediascape defined by free-flowing information. Enter Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders — two personalities Hallin says are notorious for their outsider politics and refusal to play by the rules — and mainstream media is facing a crisis.

Hallin describes old media as a system in which politicians had to play by the rules of the party in order to win precious air time for their campaigns. Today, media outlets such as the New York Times and CNN are no longer the only opportunities for politicians to make their voices heard. With the rise of social media as an alternative channel of information, mainstream journalism has lost its grip on the American people. According to Hallin, Trump's viral tweets represent a revolution in media, in which outsider politicians can gain a large following by communicating more directly with voters through social media.

Yet with great power comes great responsibility, and social media, as an influential source of news, has not been immune from professional criticism. Gizmodo.com, a popular tech blog, broke a story earlier this month stating that Facebook employees had consistently suppressed conservative news stories from reaching the presumably unbiased "Trending" sidebar located to the right of users' Facebook pages.

According to a Facebook post by founder and CEO of the platform, Mark Zuckerberg, Trending Topics is "designed to surface the most newsworthy and popular conversations on Facebook." However, an internal investigation revealed that some employees acted on personal judgment to remove conservative stories from appearing as Trending Topics.

Hallin states that stories such as these reveal the truth of new media platforms.

"A lot of these tech companies are in the media content business now, and they don't like to think of themselves that way," the

professor explains, "The truth is that they are producing media content. They are making journalistic choices, and I suspect that more of that is going to become explicit."

New media platforms, while flashier and more exciting, are not free from the issue of bias present in traditional newsrooms. Nationally viewable Snapchat stories depicting caucuses or candidate debates may increase the amount of youth engaged in politics, but one must keep in mind the person sitting behind a computer at Snapchat's headquarters, deciding what stories will be viewed by potentially millions of voters. Editorial choices such as these are being made across a variety of social media platforms by non-professional journalists.

### The Battleground

Perhaps the most difficult product of social media to avoid is the internet meme. Memes have permeated our culture, impacting nearly every aspect of our social lives and giving birth to an entirely new slang and sense of humor. And now, as youth are entering the world of politics, they are bringing memes with them, with sites like Facebook and Reddit that are riddled with political memes like the "Bernie Sanders Dank Memes," or the "Ted Cruz Zodiac Killer" memes. Could this seemingly lighthearted tactic of promoting a candidate actually have a great deal of influence over our political stances?

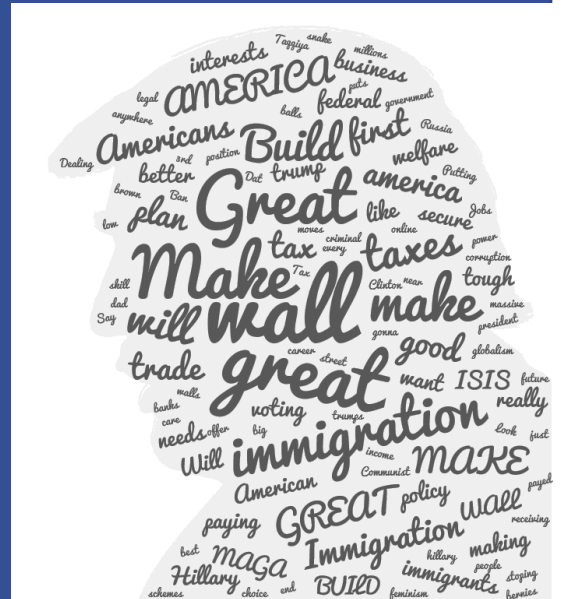
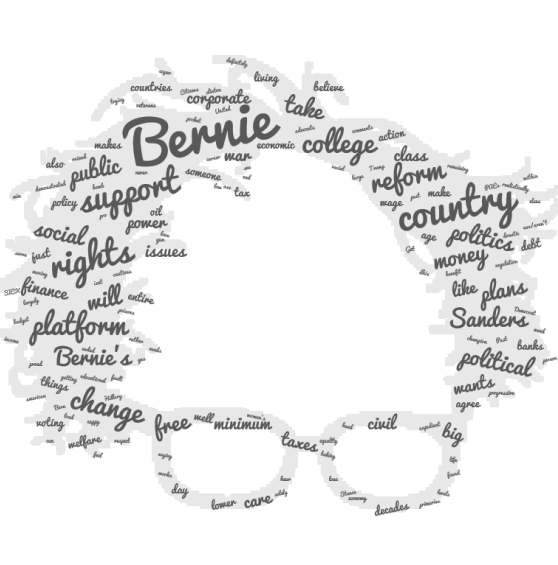
Eleanor Roosevelt College senior Armand Shahidi has some ideas. Wrapped in an American flag blowing in the wind, Shahidi manned a Trump campaign table on Library Walk. When asked how he thought that Facebook has affected the current election, he answered without hesitation: "It's the primary battleground in this election."

"Today in the digital age, we have a lot of people producing memes, a lot of them are totally inaccurate, but they are very influential," Shahidi said.

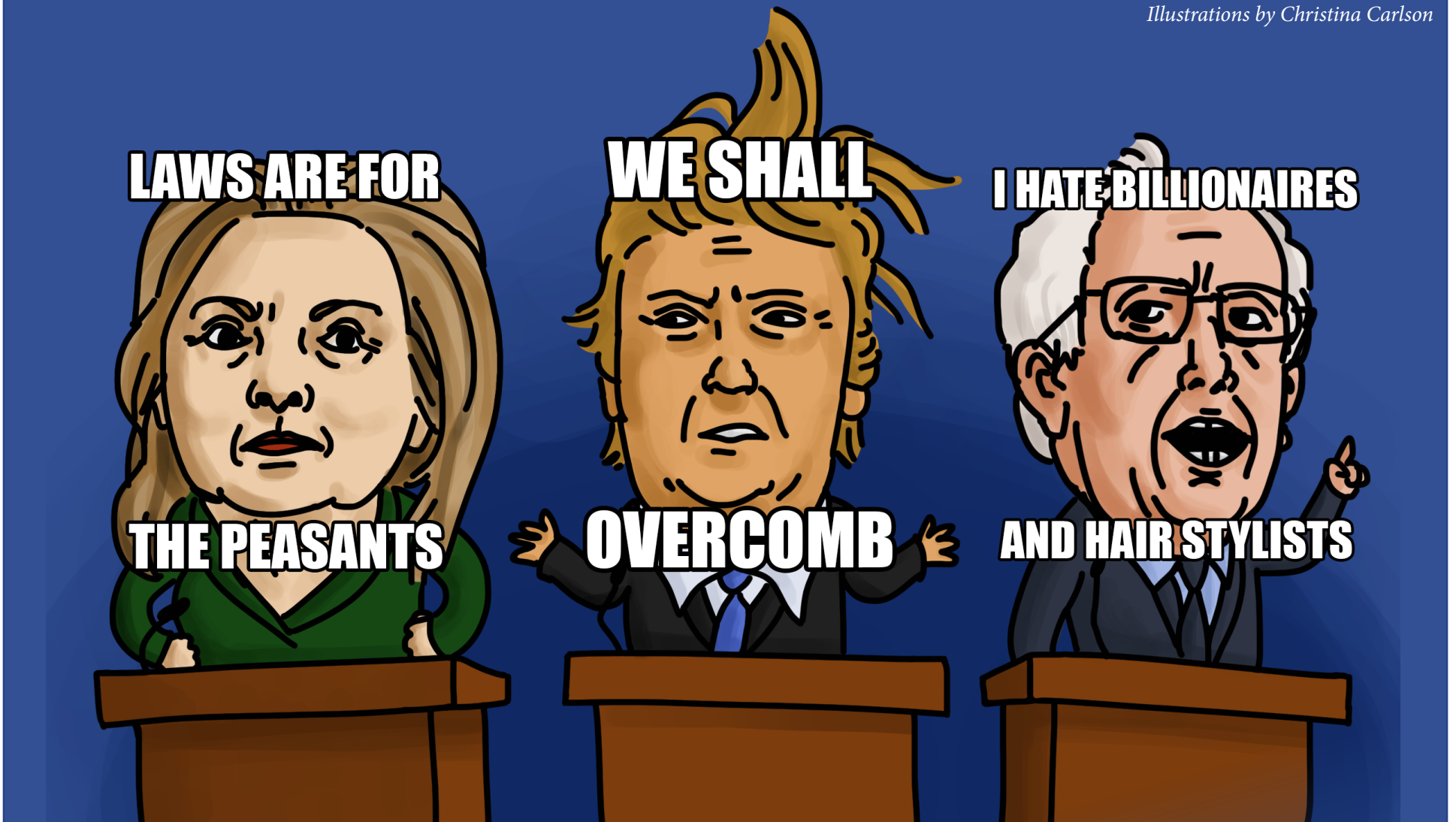
He views the process as an example of memetic warfare — the practice of bombarding the opponent with symbols and sound bites.

"If you see it long enough on your newsfeed, if you see it often, you may end up thinking it's true even if you don't believe in it," Shahidi theorized.

► See **NEW MEDIA**, page 14



Illustrations by Christina Carlson



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▶ **NEW MEDIA**, from page 13

**The Filter**

Facebook is famous for its capacity to spread information like wildfire, helping people mobilize on a vast scale. In presidential races, where youth engagement can help a candidate get nominated and elected, Facebook is an indispensable tool for reaching the new generation — here, the UCSD College Democrats use Facebook to mobilize and inform students.

“Social media has been a great tool for us in attracting students to campaign events, getting them registered to vote and providing information about local candidates,” Sixth College sophomore Mary Latibashvili, a UCSD College Democrat, said. “We recently uploaded a voter guide on all the local Democratic candidates and ballot propositions, and it’s already been seen by over a thousand students.”

Although not many people would deny the advantages of social media in being able to mobilize people and spread information, social media is not flawless. Marshall senior Graham Elliot, a member of Tritons for Bernie, spoke to the Guardian about his views on social media, emphasizing that he was speaking not for Tritons for Bernie but for himself. He worries about the efficacy of using sites like Facebook to get political information.

“People need to basically beware the filter,” Elliot warned. “Facebook shows you the things that it thinks you want to see.”

Elliot isn’t alone in this opinion. A recent New York Times article titled “The Way Facebook Warps Our World,” by Frank Bruni, explores the algorithms of Facebook and the way we may doom ourselves when we look to Facebook for unbiased information.

Responding to a recent story that revealed Facebook employees had suppressed conservative news from appearing on the Trending Topics sidebar, Bruni argues that our own selectivity is much worse than the actions taken by a few employees.

“More prevalent for many users are the posts we see from friends and from other people and groups we follow on the network, and this information is utterly contingent on choices we ourselves make,” Bruni writes.

The issues, as Bruni sees them, are that our time online is spent “thumbing through favorite websites and scrolling through personalized feeds ... We’re pointed toward foregone conclusions,” warns Bruni. “We’re pressured to conform.”

He theorizes that people have a greater distrust of large institutions, no longer relying on the big news industries as a source of information.

“We question their wisdom and substitute it with the groupthink of micro-communities, many of which we’ve formed online, and their sensibilities can be more peculiar and unforgiving,” Bruni wrote.

**New Media: Responsible Use**

As social media begins to take on a more journalistic role in our lives, many student activists are cautiously optimistic about its ability to engage youth in politics. Eleanor Roosevelt College senior Codi Vierra, an executive director of the nonpartisan Student Organized Voter Access Committee, believes social media is a convenient starting point for students looking to get informed.

She suggests reading longform articles shared by friends, but says to ditch the memes. “I’ve seen a lot of memes that are blatantly false,” Vierra explained, “When people put

small bits of information out there, it can be very misleading.”

Sixth College junior Felipe Cataquiz of College Republicans at UCSD advises that students keep an open mind while reading news from social media. The Cataquiz says he has been frustrated by situations in which political differences have hindered open communication between students.

“The only thing I advocate for is people being informed,” Cataquiz stated. Elliot’s final words of advice point out the nature of social media as a magnifier rather than a filter of information.

“I think overall the internet has led to more information, but not necessarily better information. What’s more important than ever is being able to evaluate your sources,” Elliot said.

**Participating in the New Era of Politics**

Finding credible sources isn’t always easy, but Hallin and Elliot have a few recommendations. Hallin prefers “top legacy media orgs” with a history of quality content, such as the New York Times and NPR, while Elliot embraces bias and suggests seeking out a variety of sources from across the political spectrum. Most importantly, Elliot encourages students to read with an open mind.

“Really, the biggest enemy in new media and the new ways we’re accessing media is our desire to be right all the time,” Elliot reflects. “If we can fight that desire and be OK with being wrong and changing our opinions, we’ll stop seeking news that confirms our pre-existing biases and seek news that challenges them instead.”

READERS CAN CONTACT  
TIA IKEMOTO [TIKEMOTO@UCSD.EDU](mailto:TIKEMOTO@UCSD.EDU)  
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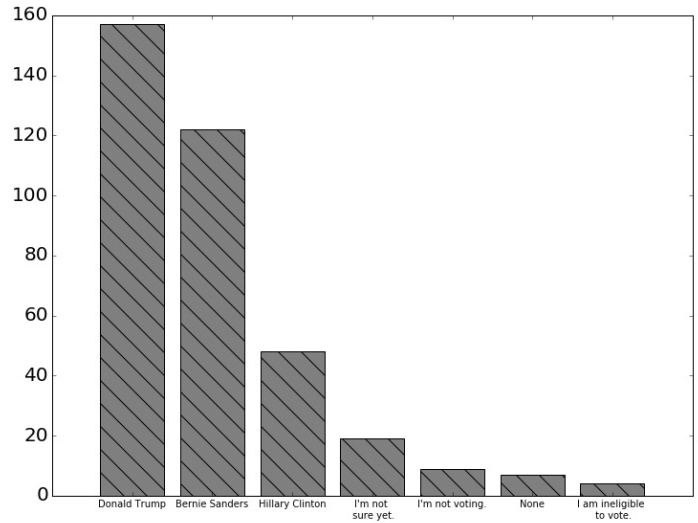
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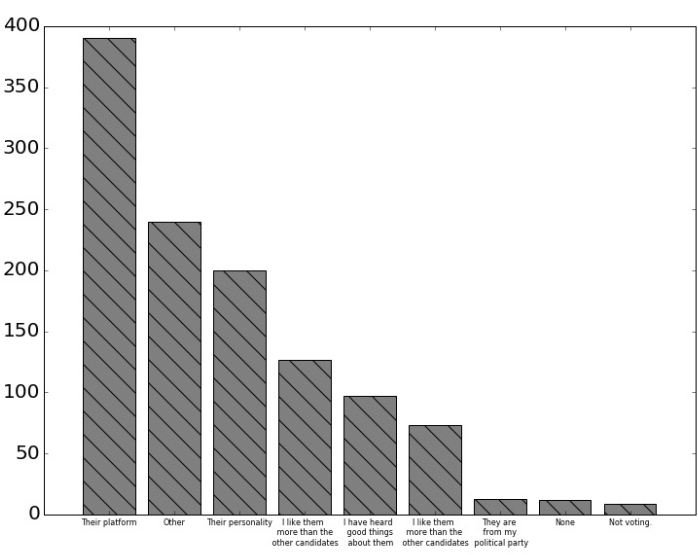
 

The UCSD Guardian surveyed 366 students to see whom they were voting for and why. Here are the results:



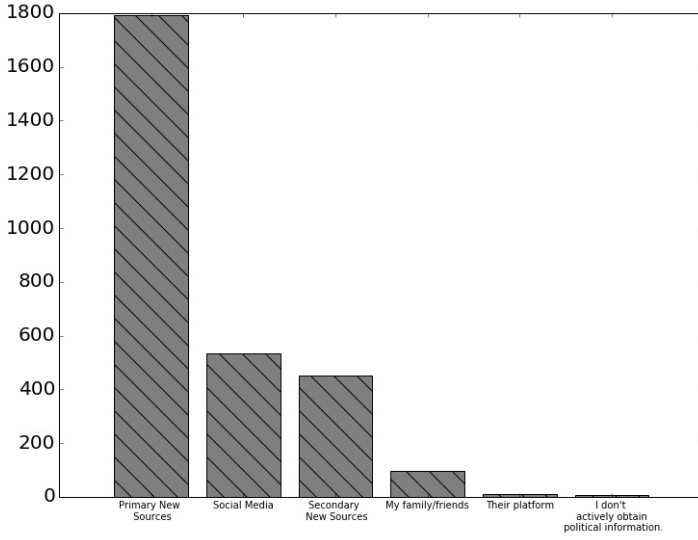
Of the remaining candidates, who would you vote for in the upcoming Presidential Election?

Donald Trump: 43.7%  
Bernie Sanders: 34.3%  
Hillary Clinton: 13.1%  
Not Sure: 5.3%  
Not Voting: 2.5%  
Ineligible: 1.1%



Why?

I like them more than the other candidates: 56.5%  
Their platform: 55.4%  
Other: 43.8%  
Their personality: 36.2%  
I have heard good things about them: 28.2%  
They are from my political party: 24.3%  
Not voting: 2.8%



Where do you primarily obtain your political information from?

Primary news sources (i.e. CNN and New York Times): 72.1%  
Social Media (i.e. Facebook and Twitter): 50.4%  
Secondary news sources (i.e. BuzzFeed and reddit): 42.8%  
My family/friends: 29%  
Other: 12.1%  
I don't actively obtain political information: 2.3%

All graphs and word clouds by Ayat Amin // Data Visualization editor [data@ucsdguardian.org](mailto:data@ucsdguardian.org)

## TRACK &amp; FIELD

## Track &amp; Field Finished Season With Strong Showing At NCAA's

Dan Golubovic earned sixth place in the decathlon and Savanna Forry and Matt Bowen both earn All-America Second Team honors.

BY ANTHONY TZENG  
STAFF WRITER

Six individuals from UCSD's track and field competed in the NCAA Division-II Championships this past week. Three males and three females traveled to IMG Academy Stadium in Brandeton, Florida, where they participated in the three-day competition. The event marked the final outing of all 2015-16 Tritons athletics.

## Day 1

Thursday's opening day involved four Tritons. It was highlighted by sophomore Matt Bowen's performance in the long jump. With a 24'5.5 on his third jump, Bowen was able to leap from 18th place to 10th, his athleticism earning him a spot on the All-America Second Team. Bowen, however, was unable to get a higher score in his next three jumps.

Junior Dan Golubovic earned 3,452 points in five events and was placed in 15th overall in the decathlon. He participated in the shot

put, long jump, high jump, 100m run and 400m run. He earned the most points in the shot put, gaining 741 points on throwing 41'2.5". Also, he ended up finishing the decathlon in the second day and competed in the pole vault on the last day.

Graduating senior Paige Hughes completed the 10,000m race in 37:16:04, placing her at 18th. Hughes' athletic career spanned three years, and she has received numerous awards and recognition for her efforts. She placed seventh overall at

the Triton Classic after running six kilometers in 22:26:07 and competed in three conference championships.

Junior Chrissi Carr, however, failed to clear the beginning height of 11'11.75 in the pole vault and, after three unsuccessful attempts, tied for 20th place.

## Day 2

Golubovic was the only Triton to compete on day two of NCAA Championships, where he added 3,664 points on the day and nine spots in the ranking. In total, he

scored 7,116 points and finished sixth overall, earning him an All-America performance. He won second place while shining in the discus throw and pole vault, throwing for 137'4" and clearing 15'1," respectively. He also finished third in the javelin throw with 187'. Golubovic improved remarkably compared to last year's decathlon NCAA Championships, having only finished in 12th.

## Day 3

Three Tritons partook in the final day of the NCAA Championships. Junior Savanna Forry leapt 5'5.75" in the high jump, good enough to tie for 11th place, and managed to clear the opening height in one attempt while taking three in 5'5.75". However, her efforts were in vain as she was unable to clear 5'7". Nonetheless, her performance gave her All-America Second Team honors the second year in a row.

Golubovic competed in the pole vault but was unable to record a height and, after failing three times to clear the opening height of 15'10", tied for 15th.

Senior Antony Capitulo claimed 17th place for the second year in a row in the javelin throw. His first throw recorded a mark of 183'9"; on the second, he improved to 194'1, and he fouled on the third.

UCSD athletics came to an end along with the NCAA Championships. Competition will surely increase as Tritons look towards moving to Division I.

READERS CAN CONTACT  
ANTHONY TZENG AITZENG@UCSD.EDU



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN DUARTE/UCSD GUARDIAN



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## SPORTS

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# Women's Basketball Has A Historic Season

Tritons record 26 wins on the season in addition to CCAA regular season title. UCSD also reached the CCAA conference semi-finals and NCAA sweet 16.

Written by Daniel Hernandez // Senior Staff Writer  
Photo by Megan Lee // Photo Editor

**YEAR IN SUMMARY**

**W.BASKETBALL SEASON ACCOLADES**

**CCAA Title**

CCAA Tournament Semi-finalists

NCAA Sweet 16

The UCSD women's basketball team had an extraordinary season, to say the least, capping off their 2015-16 campaign with an overall 26-5 record. It managed to earn a share of the California Collegiate Athletic Association regular season title and reached the CCAA conference semi-finals and NCAA West Regional quarter-finals. All-American senior forward Farrah Shokoor inspired the team with tremendous consistent play, averaging a double-double with 15.8 points and 11.8 rebounds. Equally impressive, NCAA West Regional All-Tournament Team senior guard Jamie Katuna averaged 18.3 points, 4.1 rebounds and 2.5 assists throughout the course of the season.

#### Regular Season

The Tritons began the season brilliantly, with only two losses within the first ten games (8-2), coming from Cal State Dominguez Hills and the University of Alaska Anchorage. In particular, Dominguez Hills became a tough nemesis for UCSD, as both regular-season meetings ended in defeat for the Tritons. However, in no way, shape, or form did these defeats affect UCSD's season.

The start of the new year brought explosive offensive play from Katuna as she piled up career highs in points in consecutive games. On January 1, the Tritons hosted Humboldt State, resulting in a 85-73 win for UCSD. The offense was led by Katuna as she, at that point in time, earned herself a career-high 29 points while

shooting 50 percent from the field (10-20). In the second game of back-to-back night action for UCSD, the Tritons hosted Cal Poly Pomona. Katuna outdid her previous career-high points performance and decided to drop 36 points against Cal Poly Pomona, while adding seven assists. Sophomore guard Taylor Tanita also had herself a game as she contributed with her first double-double, 12 points and 10 assists. Nearing the midway point of the season, UCSD had become unstoppable at home, winning its first six games on home court.

The Tritons' first and only home loss during the season came at the hands of Cal State Dominguez Hills, where the Toros were able to put an end to the home undefeated streak in a 82-89 loss for the Tritons. Unfortunately, the loss came on Spirit Night, with 1,674 fans in attendance, which was easily the largest attendance number of the year for the women's team. Due to a slow start trailing 0-12, the Tritons found themselves clawing back throughout. The early deficit simply was too much as Cal State Dominguez Hills played consistently from start to finish. Even behind the performances of trio Tanita (21 points), Katuna (18 points) and junior guard Beth Mounier (17 points), the Tritons were not able to keep their streak alive.

Following the home loss, UCSD ended the remainder of the season on a nine-game win streak, sharing the regular season title with Cal State Dominguez Hills and Cal

State East Bay due to all finishing with 18-2 conference records. Next up would be the conference tournament in which the Tritons faced Cal Poly Pomona during their quarter-final matchup.

#### Post-Season

UCSD pulled off a 71-60 win against Cal Poly Pomona at home in the conference quarter-finals, and Katuna was once again the big contributor of the night. She provided the team with an outstanding 29-point performance, 19 of those points coming in the third quarter. The Tritons would face Cal State East Bay in the next round to attempt to earn a spot in the conference final.

For the semi-finals, the Tritons traveled up north to Stockton, Calif. Unfortunately, the outcome did not favor UCSD in a narrow overtime loss, 77-79. Shokoor had the potential game-tying bucket as the buzzer went off but rimmed out. Katuna continued her run of outstanding performances and added another 30 point game while Shokoor contributed with a solid 26 points. The focus would then shift to the NCAA Tournament.

In a rematch of the conference semi-final, the Tritons faced Cal State East Bay in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. This time around, the result would be much different, as UCSD exacted its revenge with a sound 15-point win, 74-59; Shokoor earned her 18th double-double of the year with 17 points and 14 rebounds. Next up

would be a match with the host of the tournament, Azusa Pacific University.

The Shokoor-led Tritons enjoyed a second-round victory at the expense of Azusa Pacific with the final score of 87-77, as Shokoor added one more double-double to her tally with 25 points and 10 rebounds. Katuna was no disappointment either, as she put up 22 points. Their tournament run was comfortable to that point. However, in the third round, they would be sea tested against the University of Alaska Anchorage Seawolves.

The Tritons' last meeting came early on in the season, in December, and resulted in one of the few losses they experienced throughout the season during a tightly contested 72-76 game.

The third round result was no different as the fourth-ranked University of Alaska Anchorage ended the Tritons' season in a 72-57 contest. Katuna led the Tritons with 20 points while teammates Mounier and junior forward Cassie MacLeod contributed with 14 points and 10 points.

#### Seniors

Next year, the Tritons will be without seniors Shokoor and Katuna, which leaves two big roles to be filled in place of the two West Regional All-Tournament team players. But, as seen throughout the season, UCSD has cultivated a highly competitive culture and will remain a top team.

READERS CAN CONTACT  
DANIEL HERNANDEZ DAH043@UCSD.EDU