VOLUME 51, ISSUE 17 WWW.UCSDGUARDIAN.ORG TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018

# FIGHTING FOR THEIR HEALTH ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID JUARE

Surgeries, sutures, infections, and a steady stream of antibiotics. Do the VA Hospital and UC San Diego Health Services provide its student veterans with the care they deserve?

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#### VERBATIM

"America's refusal to confront its issues with racism and anti-Semitism is allowing neo-Nazis and white nationalists to move from their niche corners of the political spectrum into the

spotlight.

- MARCUS THULLIER **ACROSS THE GLOBE OPINION, PAGE 4** 

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#### **UCSD**



#### **CAMPUS**

#### HDH Unable to Implement Water Bottle Ban Due to Coca-Cola Contract

#### BY MADELINE LEON STAFF WRITER

'C San Diego's Housing Dining Hospitality told the Student Sustainability Collective last week that it is currently not able to move forward with its ongoing efforts to ban the sale of non-reusable plastic water bottles on campus due to a beverage contract with Coca-Cola that HDH entered in early 2017. Both HDH and SSC intend to work together to find a solution that is favorable to both parties but does not violate the contract.

The plastic water bottle ban campaign is the result of a decade of student advocacy with the SSC, beginning its campaign on the ban on singleuse plastic water bottles when the organization was established in 2008. A.S. Council also passed a referendum in 2016 in support of restricting the sale of plastic water bottles on campus and reducing

"By participating in a culture of reusable water bottle and hydration station usage ... UCSD students, staff, and faculty can reduce negative environmental impacts in a manner that is also cost effective," former A.S. Vice President of Environmental Justice Affairs Moon Pankam told the UCSD Guardian at the time of the referendum.

"In 2012, we had an agreement with HDH that established a ban on single-use plastic water bottles, but it wasn't well-defined," SSC's Director of Water and Plastic Water Bottle Ban Campaign Leader Zoe Sebright said. "They sell above 16.9 ounces in the dining halls still. This year we wanted to revamp our agreement with HDH to extend it to up to one gallon so it includes all water bottles."

SSC re-presented the ban to the HDH advisory committee in a meeting last week but were told that it could not progress with the proposal due to the

"[The HDH advisory committee members] said that their aim is to try and reduce the use of singleuse plastic water bottles, but they're working within the limitations within these contracts they have," Sebright said.

UCSD's seven-year contract with Coca-Cola went into effect on Jan 1, 2017. The agreement outlines legal requirements for the sale of the company's products, and in turn, Coca-Cola will provide \$585,000 each year to UCSD during the time of the seven-year contract.

Certain restrictive conditions in the agreement prevent the campaign from moving forward.

In addition to the sponsorship fees, "[Coca-Cola] will pay HDH a rebate of (i) Two Dollars (\$2.00) for each standard physical case of Dasani and Smartwater bottles."

Additionally, Coca-Cola will "budget and spend up to Four Thousand Dollars annually" for mutually-agreed on-Campus promotional programs

See **WATER BOTTLE**, page 3

#### RECREATION

Participant Opposition Prevents Cancellation of Spring Outback Adventures Programming

The outcry came after university officials informed Outback Adventures it would be without an office.

## **BY LAURENHOLT**

NEWS EDITOR

Campus officials reversed their Feb. 6 decision to require that Outback Adventures - UCSD Recreation vacate its office in Pepper Canyon by April 1 to make way for the new Pepper Bowl amphitheater being constructed in its place, Director of Outdoor Education Tom Rottler announced on Feb. 15. The university had initially given Outback Adventures a move-out date of July 1, so advancing the schedule would have left Outback Adventures without an office until August 1, when it will occupy a temporary space, and

required it to cancel all of its Spring Quarter programming.

Outback Adventures is a subset of UCSD Recreation that provides outdoor trips to students to hike, kayak, snowboard and more, trains students to guide these trips, and oversees the Outback Climbing Center and the Challenge Course.

The university's Feb. announcement was met with protest from past and present participants and Outback Adventures itself. In an email sent Feb. 13, Rottler circulated a feedback form asking friends of Outback Adventures to help "convince campus decision makers to honor their commitment" of a July 1 exit date.

The form generated 150 responses from students, faculty, and alumni.

"Do as you may, but Outback Adventures is one of the few areas at UC San Diego that gives me pride to be a Triton, and it would be heartbreaking for it to be taken away for even a month," one current Outback Adventures employee submitted to the form. "I always wondered why UC San Diego [lacked] some basic college attributes such as school spirit and an alumni network. And with the priorities, actions and negligence

See OUTBACK ADVENTURE, page 3

#### UCSD

# Doug Ose Speaks on Key Issues Facing UC San Diego Students

Republican gubernatorial candidate, Doug Ose, stopped by the UCSD Guardian office last week for an interview.

#### BY TYLER FAUROT

STAFF WRITER

Former Sacramento Congressman Doug Ose is returning to politics after over a decade, throwing his hat in the ring for governor of California. He's running on the Republican ticket, and announced his candidacy about a week ago.

 $Ose\ graduated\ from\ UC\ Berkeley\ in$ 1977, and shortly after, started his own business in real estate development and investment. After 20 years in business, he ran for a seat in the House of Representatives in 1997. He served three consecutive terms before stepping down in 2005.

On Monday Feb. 12 Ose came in to the UCSD Guardian's office for an interview. We asked him about what he hopes to deliver and how he would oversee the UC system as governor.

"It just seems like common sense, you know?" Ose said about issues like water, homelessness, and the economy. "Can't we just get someone to fix this stuff? Can't we have someone buckle down and get it fixed before they rush off to the next 'issue of the day?' That's why I'm running."

The Guardian asked him about his sponsoring of President Donald Trump during the 2016 election. He had supported him after Jeb Bush dropped out of the race.

"I was a strong supporter of Trump," Ose stated. "I signed on in February of 2016, and I did it for a very specific reason. And that was: From my experience, which is different than probably most of your readers, but from my experience, Washington is broken. We could argue about the merits of the president's tweets and his language and what have you, but he certainly is not same-old, same-old that we've had for the last 25 years."

He said that as a Republican, he didn't feel he had to change anything about his political character under the Trump presidency.

During the discussion the UC system, Ose was asked about the UC Board of Regents considering raising tuition again in the spring after failing to receive the amount of funding for the UC system in the 2018-19 California budget that they desired. This was his stance:

"I don't believe college should be free. I think if you give something away, it undermines its intrinsic value, Ose told the Guardian. "If every young person who is a freshman in high school knew that they could get into any college for free, they receive the message that they don't have to work very hard to get into college."

"What I'm more concerned about is getting away from a merit-based admissions policy into something

See **DOUG OSE**, page 3

# TIMMY TRITON COMIC By Andrew Diep



I love to walk on bike paths instead of side walks because I love to block every







# LIGHTS & SIRENS

Lights and Sirens is compiled from the Police Crime Log at police.ucsd.edu

Saturday, Jan. 20

1:26 a.m. Disturbance — Argument

Discharged patient refusing to leave. Will cooperate.

2:55 a.m. Excessive Alcohol

Overly intoxicated female. Transported to Hospital. 4:05 a.m. Medical Aid

Request for alcohol evaluation of adult female. Checks OK/

Referred to Student Conduct.

1:47 p.m Petty Theft

Report of stolen bicycle parts, no report desired. Information 3:30 - 3:40 p.m. Burglary

Unknown suspect(s) entered victim's locked laboratory and stole laptop, loss \$2000.00. Report taken.

4:35 p.m. Lost Property

Owner received notice wallet was turned in UCSD PD Lost & Found. Returned to owner.

4:50 p.m. Citizen Flagdown Student requesting access into building for items left in room

the day before. Service provided.

5:39 p.m. Drunk Driving Possible intoxicated subject from earlier, got into vehicle.

Unable to locate.

11:25 p.m. Citizen Contact Officer contacted room for having hookah. Referred to student conduct.

Sunday, Jan. 21

1:08 p.m. Lost property

Owner states he can see property through window and is

requesting to retrieve it. Service provided. 2:45 a.m. Medical Aid

One month old baby choking and not breathing. Transported

8:13 a.m. Disturbance — Psych Subject Male transient yelling in street. Gone on arrival.

10:33 a.m. Disturbance Verbal dispute over tennis court. Checks OK. 12:23 p.m. Citizen Contact

Possible laundry thief. Field interview.

4:56 p.m. UC Policy Violation

Group of teenagers skating off new sign. Unable to locate.

10:05 p.m. Citizen Contact

Residents have construction signs inside their residence, appear to have been taken from trolley construction site. Referred to student conduct.

10:07 p.m. Citizen Contact

Officer contacted two subjects for smoking in parking lot.

Verbal warning issued. 11:17 p.m. Noise Disturbance

People running around, sound of things falling, loud movie coming from room above. Referred to student conduct.

Monday, Jan. 22

2:22 a.m. Welfare Check

Reporting party in front of location at bus stop, requesting medical and police after being discharged from hospital. Referred to other agency.

4:42 a.m. Trespass

Report of two transients illegally lodging in basement. Field interview.

7:02 a.m. Burglary to Vehicle

Unknown suspect(s) forced entry into victim's vehicle and stole laptop, loss \$150.00. Report taken.

11:11 a.m. Welfare Check

Request for voluntary transport to hospital for suicidal thoughts. Service provided.

12:17 p.m. Medical Aid

provided.

Male student fainted and hit head. Service provided. 1:12 p.m. Injury Adult female fell and slipped, injured ankle. Service

- Armonie Mendez Associate News Editor

# <sup>)</sup>Guardian

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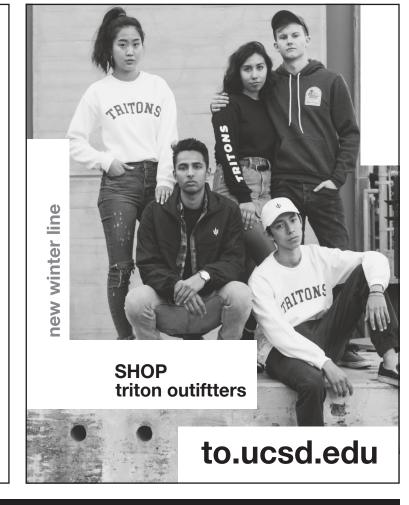


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## Ose Is One of Six Republican Candidates to Run

▶ DOUG OSE, from page 1

that is a more 'politically correct' substitute," he said. "I don't think that's what the UC system was designed to do. The UC system, in my mind, was to provide a place where our best and our brightest, regardless of ethnic or racial background, just simply our best and our brightest could go to get addon skills that would drive the economy for the next generation."

Ose told the Guardian that if the university didn't change, he would cut the budget for the system. "I'm not going to, as governor, allow this person who has a social agenda to undermine the progress we need in all different sectors of the economy."

Then, he commented about the audit revealing millions of undisclosed funds in the UC president's accounts.

"I am terribly troubled at the ability of the UC system to squirrel away a hundred-odd million dollars for the discretionary use of the chancellor without any accountability," Ose stated. "Before we start raising tuitions, in order to pay higher salaries to members of the academic senate and alike, maybe we ought to figure out what we've got in hand today, stop squirreling it away in these secret

accounts."

When asked about the Regents' recent lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security contesting the rescinding of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, Ose said that he had recently participated in an education forum. During his preparation for it, he constructed a page of recommendations for Congress regarding how to reform the program.

"One of those things had to do with creating an adjudicatory process, some sort of an administrative hearing process based on what Congress does, that allows these young people who are here under the DACA program to have their cases resolved," Ose said. "Some of those kids, frankly, have engaged in stuff that we don't want. We need to figure out who they are, and take them to the border, and show them the door. Other kids, we need to set standards, which Congress needs to set."

California's gubernatorial primary election is on June 5, and Doug Ose is currently one of six declared Republicans in the race. Readers can see the full transcript of the interview online

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## Sebright: Decreasing Consumption Is Key to Limiting Waste on Campus

#### ▶ WATER BOTTLE, from page 1

"... designed to promote and increase Beverage sales on Campus."

The contract explains that if HDH stops selling a certain amount of beverages, then the sponsorship fees would decrease. Should "the volume of Company Beverage sold to HDH decreases for any reason ... Sponsor may elect to adjust the Sponsorship Fees to be paid to HDH to fairly reflect the actual and demonstrated diminution of the value of rights granted to Sponsor."

SSC conducted a student survey in 2017 pertaining to plastic water bottle use. Out of 1,089 responses, 51.8 percent said that they do not buy single-use plastic water bottles and 95 percent of 981 student responses said that they use a reusable water bottle.

Furthermore, when given the scale of one to five for support of "terminating the sales of single-use plastic bottled water on-campus," 52.7 percent of 1,089 chose five,

24.7 percent chose four, 15.2 percent chose three, 4.5 percent chose two, and 2.8 percent chose one.

"At the end of the day, we are using student funding, and we want to give back to students and make sure that we have their priorities in mind," Sebright said.

However, Sebright suspects that some students may not be in favor of the ban because it is "limiting that choice" between a single-use water bottle and a reusable one, which may be viewed as "an attack on people's liberties."

Roger Revelle College sophomore Stephanie Pineda proposed a different approach for the plastic water bottle ban.

"I believe that HDH should minimize [its] sell of plastic water bottles and focus more on selling better alternatives," Pineda told the Guardian. "I feel like the more [it displays] plastic water bottles in a freezer, the more inclined students are to buy them; therefore, if HDH would limit that, students would have to look into the investment of a reusable water bottle and start a chain reaction."

reaction."

However, Sebright suggested that the plastic water bottle ban would

help to limit campus waste.

"We say we stand for sustainability and we have all these different policies, and we say we're going to do Zero Waste, but really the biggest part of reducing your waste is to reduce your consumption first."

The goal in "zero waste" is to reduce the amount of waste sent to a landfill. In the "idea of waste hierarchy: refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle", Sebright suggests that "recycle should be our last alternative."

HDH was not able to provide a response in time for this article's publication. The article will be updated with additional information.

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# The Office Will Temporarily Be Located Near the Spanos Facility

►OUTBACK ADVENTURE, from page 1

of this decision I am being painfully

Citing Outback Adventures as "THE highlight of my undergraduate experience," one UCSD alum criticized the administration and suggested the decision to leave Outback Adventures without an office during the spring indicates the university does not care about promoting awareness of climate change and other environmental issues.

"To strip Outback Adventures of its location — which not only serves as managerial workspace, but also as a site for planning outings, meeting participants, and getting ready for outdoor excursions — would be a severe harmful blow to the organization," the alum wrote.

"Such an action would demonstrate a complete disregard for the UC San Diego students who benefit from Outback as employees, community members, trainees, and participants. It would necessitate alumni such as myself seriously reconsidering whether UC San Diego deserves our financial support."

Rottler himself wrote a letter to campus officials on Feb. 12 asking them to repeal their decision on the basis that without their field program infrastructure, Outback Adventures would be unable to perform the necessary operations to manage their programs such as food storage, program equipment storage and staging, laundry, and more. The letter also listed seven negative effects of early closure, including loss of needed revenue, loss of employment for

70 student workers, and loss of the experiential programs that several classes have incorporated into their coursework.

According to the Outback

Adventures leadership, the outcry from current and former participants was what prompted campus officials to keep the July 1 move-out date.

"All of your comments and energy turned a ripple into a wave," they stated.

The temporary office that Outback Adventures will occupy beginning on August 1 will be located near the Spanos Athletic Performance Center, and Outback Adventures is predicted to spend three years there.

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# **OPINION**

#### CONTACT THE EDITOR CHRISTOPHER ROBERTSON

⊠ opinion@ucsdguardian.org

# Taking Hate Speech Off Its Platiform



By: Jacob Sutherland // Contributing Writer

Whether it be a traveling "freak show" from the mid-1800s or a presidential campaign run by a reality-TV star in 2016, Americans have always prioritized the most eye-catching content, no matter how sensational. In order to capitalize on this, major media news outlets interview individuals who represent a niche sector of the sociopolitical spectrum that generally harbor bigoted ideologies. As a result, mainstream media as a whole has become a mechanism for gaining more views at the risk of propagating harmful ideas. Mainstream media should not call for a removal of either conservative or liberal voices, but it cannot give a platform to those whose opinions work to disenfranchise individuals based on characteristics beyond their control. Rather, news outlets must recognize that by giving a platform to bigoted ideologies, more harm is committed than good.

This happened with Vice Media, a left leaning news media company. Less than a week after protests turned violent last August in Charlottesville, VA, Vice put out "Charlottesville: Race and Terror."

The documentary centered around Elle Reeve as she followed neo-Nazis during the event. While its intention was to expose these people as fostering hate and divisiveness, the manner in which

"Just because someone finds a way to rationalize their opinion does not mean that it offers legitimate solutions to political problems."

the piece was created did the opposite. This piece not only introduced neo-Nazis to a national platform, but essentially humanized their ideology by putting faces to hate speech.

Vice is not the only media company guilty of giving a platform to hate groups. From ABC to MSNBC, it is hard to tune into a news broadcast without seeing an interview with someone holding harmful social views. When NBC allowed Megyn Kelly, a conservative talk show host, to interview blatant conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, they were telling millions of marginalized people that gaining a high number of views is more important than refusing to normalize his brand of fearmongering. Media outlets abound with examples like these that cater to a portion of the population who believe that freedom of speech mandates that media companies give a voice to any and all, regardless of how malicious their views

These instances are symptoms of a larger disease, one spread by a number of spurious arguments. Proponents of a "free market of ideas" argue that, if you don't like what you're seeing on TV, you can just turn it off. Unfortunately, it is not that easy. While this may be a viable solution for those who already recognize the harm of these ideologies, for the average American bigot, seeing someone who

# A Meaty Solution to UC San Diego's Carbon Footprint

By: Emily Collins // Opinion Editorial Assistant

When UC San Diego pledged to become carbon neutral by 2025, faculty wasted no time in putting these claims to action. The school is currently on track to have 30 percent of campus-provided food coming from sustainable sources by 2020 and is working to move its vehicles to renewable energy. However, UCSD is overlooking a significant contributor to its carbon footprint: meat. Knowing that the meat industry makes up approximately 40 percent of global agricultural product in the U.S. and has a largely negative environmental impact, pulling back on the amount of meat products served on campus will serve as a vital area on which the school will need to focus its goals. UCSD needs to shift its on-campus food selection to have more more plant-based, environmentally friendly options while adding sustainability workshops and programs to steer the university in a more sustainable direction.

The meat industry has quite a large stake in environmental harm. Animal agriculture accounts for between 14 and 18 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, with beef releasing four times the emissions of a caloric-equivalent of pork, and five times that of poultry. In fact, the amount of carbon dioxide released from producing one pound of beef is even greater than that of burning a gallon of gasoline. Plantbased foods on the other hand produce three to five times less emissions in the process of their production compared to mass equivalents of meat products. These numbers foretell that plantbased diets will have to be at the forefront of our thinking for a sustainable, plate-filling future.

Yet reasonably and expectedly, not many people are ready to give up meat. The Wall Street Journal recently released an article discussing how the U.S. beef-cattle herd has increased by 12 percent in the past four years, and in 2017 a record 99.7 billion pounds of red meat and poultry were produced. Companies such as Tyson Foods Inc. are even planning on pushing meat production to increase by 3.8 percent in 2018 through the construction of new plants and slaughterhouses. Evidently, consumption, and therefore production, of meat is steadily

Yet reducing UCSD's carbon footprint does not necessarily mean giving up meat, but simply cutting down on individual consumption. While UCSD moves toward more sustainable food offerings on campus, the opportunity-inhiding directly relates to educating students on the environmental benefits of plant-based diets. UCSD can use its leverage as a top-rated research university to educate students further on the benefits of plant-based eating and to reinforce healthy and sustainable diets for students' futures. After all, the demand for plantbased diets is growing; according to a recent study, the number of U.S. individuals identifying as vegan has increased from one percent to six percent from 2014 to 2017. By offering more plant-based options and educating on plantbased diets, students would be encouraged to eat more sustainable food while decreasing meat consumption, thus pushing UCSD forward in its sustainability goals.

Current resources students have to reduce their carbon footprints include guides for vegetarian and vegan dining, shopping lists for affordable organic foods, and links for various information on sustainable eating. But

attempting plant-based diets for the first time can be intimidating and difficult, and links on a website can only do so much. Education on these diets could be extremely beneficial for students standing on the line between plant and meat meals, providing them with information about the environmental and economic benefits of plant-based diets. At an individual level, for instance, reducing meat consumption would not only reduce methane levels released in the atmosphere, but would reduce water usage as well. If Americans increased plant-based food consumption from the current 15 percent up to 25 percent, the amount of water saved could fulfill two-thirds of California's annual water needs. Even ignoring environmental issues, a plantbased diet is cheaper and healthier to maintain than a meat-eating diet. Companies aiming to be more sustainable have economic benefits as well. They can increase revenue by reducing waste, by improving energy efficiency, and by increasing resource productivity.

UCSD has been making several innovative movements in becoming a more sustainable university. But as the university moves forward with its sustainability plans and commitments, the HDH and Sustainability faculty need to develop educative and immersive workshops to inform students on the benefits of plant-based diets for the environment, as well as shifting food options to being more plant-based. In doing so, UCSD's sustainability goals will not only positively impact the campus, but they will also influence students in ways that they may easily take with them for the rest of their lives, slowly shifting our generations to a more sustainable



# Revising History

Polish president Andrzej Duda made headlines two weeks ago when he signed legislation "which makes it a crime — punishable by a fine or up to three years in prison — to accuse the Polish nation of complicity in the Holocaust and other Nazi atrocities." For a country that housed the gruesomely famous Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II, to deny taking part in the Holocaust is a huge problem. It is a blatant example of a government forcing revisionist history down people's throats. Poland is not the only country to have that problem however, as the U.S. has struggled with revisionist history as well.

Some countries have taken the opposite stance on this by passing "Holocaust Denial" laws and regulations, including war participants like France, Austria, and, most importantly, Germany, Poland's direct neighbor and primary culprit of the WWII atrocities.

Germany either outlawed or destroyed Nazi propaganda and Nazi symbolism after World War II. That doesn't mean, however, that the country shies away from its past, as the reality of the war and the Holocaust is still taught in schools. In order to prevent anything like WWII from happening again, Germany evolved into what is called a "defensive democracy." According to news website Vox, "the idea is that democracies might need a boost from some illiberal policies — such as limits on free speech and the display of imagery, in this case, connected to the Holocaust and the Second World War - in order to keep everyone free."

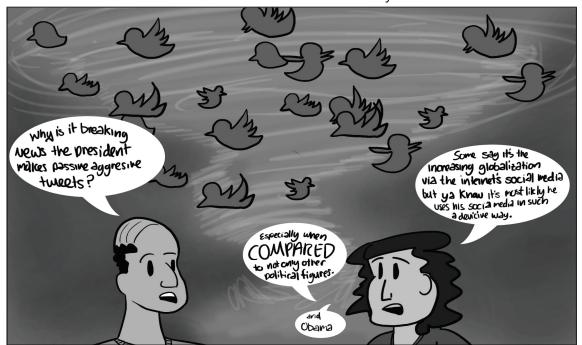
A name is notoriously missing from the list of countries with laws banning holocaust denial, however. The U.S. is not part of the flock of countries to have such laws, which leads a country that fought the Nazis to end up tolerating them.

This past year, white supremacist and nationalist demonstrations have popped up all over the country, shining a new light on the complicated history that the U.S. has with who are essentially Nazis. Fringe hate groups that were once on the periphery now occupy screen time across all major news sources in a country that fought against bigotry and anti-Semitism during World War II.

Although the percentage of Americans who admit to holding anti-Semitic views has been steadily decreasing, the number of news, opinion, or feature articles containing the subject of holocaust denial has continually increased. Holocaust denial and white nationalist views are generally in vogue in this country, but you wouldn't dare bring this up for fear of crossing the "freedom of speech" line. Now, America's refusal to confront its issues with racism and anti-Semitism is allowing neo-Nazis and white nationalists to move from their niche corners of the political spectrum into the spotlight.

Most European countries like Germany have learned from their past, and are now equipped to detect and control hate-filled neonazi demonstrations. They had to, considering they were still licking the wounds of the horror of WWII. We are now in 2018, and between Germany and the U.S., only one allows for neo-Nazi demonstration. America was on the right side of history during WWII, but this country will continue to lose its moral high ground if it refuses to confront its hate groups.

# WORLD FRONT WINDOW By David Juarez



shares their ideologies validates their opinions, even though the purpose of conducting these interviews is to expose these viewpoints as toxic. Political commentators threaten that this will create a niche, radical group of bigots who are even more emblazoned than before. However, the opposite is true. By not giving a platform to bigotry, hate harboring individuals will likely diminish because they are pushed to the periphery of political discourse where their potential to inflict harm is limited.

An even more common argument against refusing to validate harmful socially conservative viewpoints is that this an infringement of the First Amendment. We must remember that free speech is technically only guaranteed by the government. Freedom of speech is a right that

does not mandate that others give someone's speech a platform. If a news organization does not wish to interview someone, then it is not obligated to do so. This is already the standard practice for media outlets; news organizations filter information from all sources to determine what is and isn't newsworthy to the general public. What criteria media outlets use to make this decision may vary, but conscientiousness is an inherent responsibility for every news company.

But, as some neoconservative proponents would argue, there is a need for a diverse range of opinions from all corners of the political spectrum to be heard. While true, there is a difference between having a diverse range of opinions and sharing every opinion. Political discourse, however, can still carry

on without the contributions of extremist groups. Just because someone finds a way to rationalize their opinion does not mean that it offers legitimate solutions to political problems. The mainstream media has a responsibility to utilize its freedom of choice to decide whose opinions to validate.

The United States is grounded in the principle that everyone is created equal. With that in mind, if we are going to pride ourselves on this facet, then we must not allow opinions that take away this fundamental freedom from anyone. We owe it to those who have been marginalized to create a news media environment that holds no room for opinions rooted in hate.

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# **FEATURES**

# CONTACT THE EDITORS TIM DENG & SUSANTI SARKAR



# STUDENT VETERANS AT UCSD: FIGHTING FOR BETTER CARE

The Guardian speaks with Buyannemekh Tsogtbaator, a student veteran who received disappointing healthcare at the VA Hospital over a dragged-out period of six months and three surgeries.

by Susanti Sarkar //
Features Co-Editor

Starting anew in college is difficult enough for most students, but add to that the stress of transitioning to civilian life, and the equation shifts quite a bit. Campus resources specifically catering to student veterans at UC San Diego include the Veterans Affairs Hospital and Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC), but seemingly, they aren't enough.

The Guardian sat down with John Muir College junior Buyannemekh Tsogtbaator (who goes by Nemekh), to discuss his recent ordeal at the VA Hospital. Nemekh, a transfer student,

described the surgeries for his torn pectoral muscle injury — a painfully protracted process that has dragged on from May to December, and even then remains unresolved.

"Even though I have UC [Student Health Insurance Plan], I figured I'd go to the VA because I don't have to pay the co-pay. It took about a month to actually see them, almost a month, three weeks," said Nemekh. When the surgery was finally performed in late June, Nemekh was in a sling for eight weeks, and then during physical therapy,

everything was healing well. However, he had to return to the hospital after the area had become infected.

"I started to experience a lot of pain, tightness, and swelling around the area," Nemekh explained. "Eventually, the swelling got to the point where the tissue around the surgery site got soft and then busted open."

After initially denying that this was an infection at all, the surgeon and physician assistant went further to dispute the possibility that Nemekh had caught the infection from the hospital itself, and actually blamed Nemekh for causing it.

"They told me, it's one of those things where [I] irritated [my] shoulder through the physical therapy or I actually lifted weights. That's what they told me," said Nemekh incredulously. "And I hadn't lifted any weights by then!"

This blame was further insinuated when the hospital told him to let it close on its own by not using his left arm or shoulder. "And I didn't. It didn't go away. I came back a week and a half

"For some reason, the VA was very hesitant on culturing what I had. I almost felt like [they didn't want to take the blame for the infection], so I didn't like that. I mean, what's the point of having UC SHIP if you can't get your needs met, right?" said Nemekh.

Nemekh was prescribed antibiotics. When that did not work, he was given a stronger one, which was ineffective yet again. The whole time, he had only seen the PA, and the surgeon hadn't even done a proper physical evaluation.

"He just looked at it and said, 'OK. Try these antibiotics. See where it gets you," said Nemekh. "For me, I didn't like that. How can you just throw a bunch of antibiotics at me, thinking that it will just go away on its own?" After almost a month of constantly coming back to the hospital

and arguing with the doctor about the nature of the infection, he insisted on getting a culture done, but even that hadn't helped.

"No improvements. I got this big gaping hole in my shoulder now," said Nemekh. After waiting for three weeks for lab results, the hospital still did not know the cause, and suggested another surgery to figure it out. At that point, it was November, and right in the middle of Week 8 midterms. This made the decision even

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#### ▶ STUDENT VETERANS, from page 6

harder and more confusing for Nemekh to take, the balance being even more skewed than usual for student veterans. So he decided to hold off. "Finals [were] coming up. I would have to drop all my classes and pay the VA back the money I received for my school benefits."

Eventually, Nemekh decided to take another route and see someone from Student Health Services (SHS). The doctor and nurse practitioner were immediately helpful and figured out the cause of the infection to be due to some anaerobic bacteria. Unfortunately, the antibiotics they prescribed were a disappointment once again, and the VA kept insisting on surgery. Then, Nemekh tried, with the help of the doctor at SHS, to get an appointment through UC SHIP at UCSD's orthopedic department, but after endless postponing and excuses on their part, even that track did not work.

"They kept saying, 'We don't want to take responsibility for your current condition because initial surgery was done by the VA," explained Nemekh. "I was kinda taken aback by it because I have health insurance with UC SHIP. I should at least be able to get an appointment with ortho and get their opinion on what's happening with my health."

At the end of November, with an open wound that was still draining, another MRI at the VA Hospital brought concerns of a bone infection and the necessity of another surgery had increased, so it was scheduled in December — during finals week. Fortunately, Nemekh had understanding professors that quarter. "I had to miss two finals, but my physiology and political science professors were super cool about it and worked it out with me."

But even then, shockingly, the ordeal was not over. After waking up from anesthesia, the doctors neglected to give Nemekh any follow-up instructions, and performed a shabby follow-up procedure a week later. Two weeks later, Nemekh found a suture poking out of his wound.

"I was like, 'What the hell? Why is it left there?" related Nemekh. "The next day, I [saw another] one sticking out. I was like, 'what?' so I tried to pull it out. I couldn't pull it out because it was snagging on something in there."

As the week progressed, he started noticing multiple areas where non-dissolvable sutures had just been left in there. Unsurprisingly, the VA Hospital brushed it off, telling him, "We don't know [the reason]. As long as it's not causing any problems right now, leave it in there." And that's the situation he is still in today, after almost three drawn-out surgeries, with a wound that is still not perfectly healed.

"My biggest gripe with VA would be how they handled the infection after the surgery. Incompetence on their PA's part and instructions I've gotten from my surgeon," said Nemekh.

The stress that this situation placed on Nemekh, one that was easily six months long, is unfair on the part of UCSD's orthopedic department and especially the VA. Being premed at UCSD is an especially difficult path, considering the competition and top grades it requires, and to deal with so much pain and difficulty while taking upper-division exams at the same time was no easy feat.

"It really set me back academically because I could have been using that time to study for my classes or doing something other than sitting at the VA for an hour or two to been seen for my appointment." And even then, the appointments were never taken at the scheduled time, and neither was the responsibility for the delay. "Their response was, 'We have a lot of patients.' Well, OK," said Nemekh sarcastically. "I guess I don't have anything better to do than this."

Along with the couple of health care professionals that did try to help him, Nemekh also credits the Student Veterans Resource Center at UCSD (SVRC). When he had to make the difficult decision of taking a quarter off to deal with the injury, the coordinator at SVRC advised him to stay in my classes, a decision he is grateful for being encouraged to take. "[In the end], I had actually had gotten through all my classes and took all my finals and everything worked out." The coordinator, however, was not completely surprised by Nemekh's experiences.

"She [had] heard the horror stories; it's not a secret for the VA to do stuff like this," Nemekh told the UCSD Guardian.

One of his friends had gotten an MRSA infection after surgery for her foot at the VA, due to a bone infection, and had to stay two weeks on antibiotics after the surgery. Nemekh also met an elderly gentleman who had a surgery around the same time and had gotten an infection that wasn't resolved until three months after June. "He actually ended up getting sepsis, full on sepsis, and had to stay in ICU," said Nemekh.

Still, he credits UCSD for the help he got from the SVRC while transferring, and the other student veterans he met there and formed study groups with.

"Yeah, it was a big change. Academically, it was challenging in the beginning. But we're used to committing time into things we want to do, being a veteran. Working hard is not a problem. In the beginning, it was hard to actually know which resources are available to you, especially like tutoring centers, office hours, discussion sections, and things like that."

Nemekh's 'work-hard' mindset certainly derives from his training from being in the Marines, but so does his desire to be a doctor. "I was a combat medic. I worked with a lot of physicians and physician assistants and I saw how much a difference they were making every single day. I wanted to make that difference too," declared Nemekh. "I feel that's one of the unique things I've seen that I want to help those people that are in need."

This admirable goal that Nemekh has, and the aspirations of all other student veterans at UCSD, should be encouraged. With the graduation rates of student veterans already lower on average than civilian students, it is clear that adjusting and dealing with college life after years away from formal education is extremely challenging, and they should get the full benefits of the resources promised. The VA's behavior disappointed Nemekh, because the priority should be to help a patient, not to be so scared of the consequences and not even try.

"For some reason, the VA was very hesitant on culturing what I had. I almost felt like [they didn't want to take the blame for the infection], so I didn't like that. I mean, what's the point of having UC SHIP if you can't get your needs met, right?" said Nemekh.

Nemekh hopes that UCSD will increase its awareness of these problems and try to focus on improving the problems.

"I almost felt like UCSD didn't want to take any part of it. They maybe felt that I could potentially sue them in the long run if something goes wrong. They were basically trying to stay clear of it so that they don't have to have responsibility."

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# WEEKEND

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#### A film that speaks socially, narratively, and visually.

superhero film ought to make us feel incredible. Though it should also tug at our heartstrings and leave us dreading disaster, it is not meant to be a pure social commentary. Some may want "Black Panther" to have a more significant message about current politics than what it offers (or not have one at all), but these are excessive expectations of a film that simply aims to be entertaining. "Black Panther" succeeds at that: It's light on its commentary, confident in its performance, and is probably the first spectacular action movie of the year.

Comic book fans, rejoice; "Black Panther" introduces its titular hero on familiar ground while bringing uninitiated audiences up to speed. Eons ago, a Vibranium-imbued meteorite crash landed in Africa. Five warring tribes competed for the metal until one warrior consumed a flower, touched by its properties. He gained superhuman abilities and became the first Black Panther, ruler of the five tribes and new nation of Wakanda. Under his rule, this kingdom thrived as a technological marvel centuries ahead of its time, but its people feared that the outside world would sack its resources and wealth. Wakanda retreated into isolation, posing as

a simple independent agricultural state while neither accepting nor offering international aid. (Notice any modern parallels?)

Following the events of "Civil War," the mantle of the Black Panther passed to King T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman), who still grieves his father's death. Boseman is impressive as a solemn, dutiful monarch. He is strongly loyal to his father and to his country's traditions, wishing to uphold their principles and to preserve Wakanda's way of life. Leading a country is difficult, however, no matter what virtues or superhuman strength T'Challa has. Defending the throne from challengers in brutal ritual combat is no easier than keeping personal promises to friends and family. At times, he makes consequential decisions, both great and small, that dictate the future of Wakanda. Boseman's dedication to the part, complete with a genuine African accent, is

Fortunately, he is backed by an equally strong female cast, including his playful prodigy sister Shuri (Letita Wright) and his loving ex-girlfriend Nakia (Lupita Nyong'o). They provide him with the gadgets, the muscle, and the emotional support that he needs. Each actress brings her own powerful

attitude to the table, on par with Boseman's cool demeanor. Shuri establishes herself as the Black Panther's Q, trolling her brother with a kinetically-charged supersuit that sends attackers sprawling. In another, General Okoye (Danai Gurira) swears her fealty to the throne of Wakanda, "No matter who sits upon it." The Panther's heroic entourage must be opposed by menacing villains, and Ulysses Klaue (Andy Serkis) and Erik Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan) answer fiercely. Serkis' dangerously jovial air is hilarious, but Jordan is perhaps Marvel's most complex and compelling antagonist yet. He vents his animosity and frustration toward racial oppression, his thoughts swirling into a fanatical, yet relatable, revolutionary ideology. The contemporary metaphor is striking and speaks volumes for society today.

Speaking of politics, it is again unreasonable to watch "Black Panther" through a purely partisan lens. It is, at its core, a touching message about communal unity and collaboration. This film has premiered at a time when refugees, statesmen, blacks, whites, haves, and have-nots are all uncertain of the future and suspicious of one another. A comforting cue to come together and

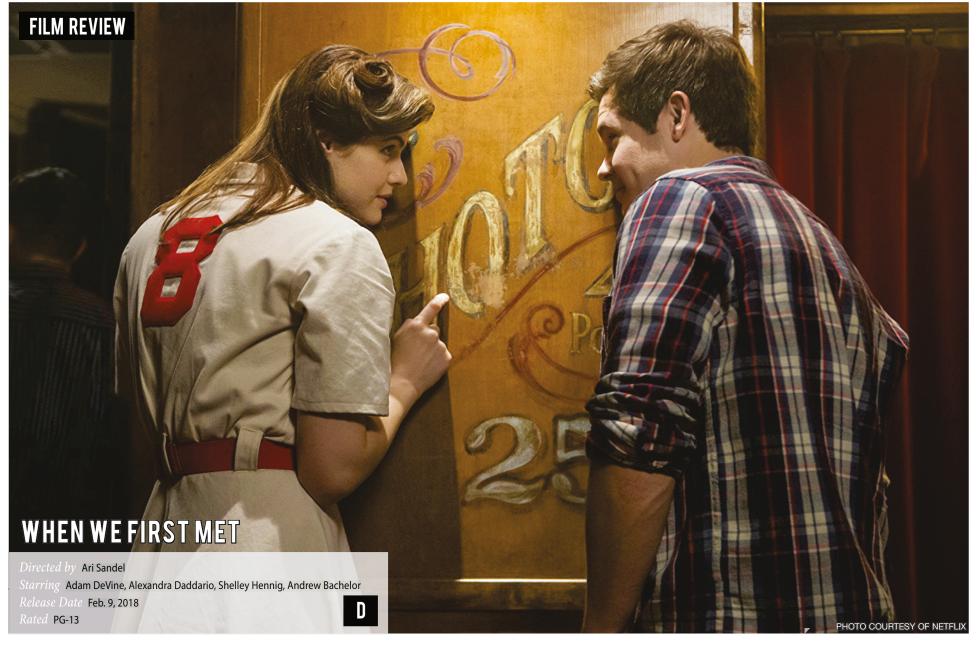
solve society's ills is perhaps what is needed now more than ever. Still, why shouldn't we have a little ass-kicking and visual spectacle on the side? From Wakanda's majestic and imaginative metropolitan skyline to the neonglow of Busan's urban districts, there's always something that catches attention. Brawls are jaw-dropping too: When do beautifullychoreographed tussles, flipping cars, and the breathtaking acrobatics of the Black Panther get old? Never.

"Black Panther" triumphs where previous solo-focused Marvel films have stumbled. It touches human emotions more deeply than others, while giving appropriate attention to today's social climate. Such a narrative says more than any haphazard collage of computer-generated imaging and hamtastic dialogue could. Marvel and Disney should pay close attention to the enormous praise that this film receives: It will serve their formula for future titles well.

DANIEL DE LEON
 Senior Staff Writer







#### "When We First Met" is about pitying yet another guy who has been relegated to the friend zone.

he new Netflix chick-flick, "When We First Met," does not qualify as a romcom because it barely contains the out-and-out romantic and comedic elements of one. The movie is dull, with a dearth of three-dimensional characters, funny writing, or even an endearing, focal affair.

After meeting the stunning Avery Martin (Alexandra Daddario) at a Halloween party, Noah Ashby (Adam DeVine) is hopelessly smitten and determined to align his destiny with hers. But when they spend the night together and end up at her home, he gets undeniably and unsurprisingly friend-zoned. Three years later, a smiley Avery is betrothed to another man, and a lovesick Noah is brokenhearted and inebriated at Avery's engagement party. With impulsive behavior, he revisits the photo booth that the two had snapped pictures in three years ago. Magically and miraculously, the booth gifts him the chance to rewrite his fate with Avery by transporting

him to that notorious Halloween over and over again until he achieves his sorely-sought love.

The film is a ripped-off hybrid of "Groundhog Day" and "About Time" that mashes the time-travel and romance genres, but it definitely does not match the caliber of those movies' storytelling. It shows Noah trying different approaches to set his romantic kismet in motion, but his different actions create time ripples, altering variations of his life and character each time. From being accused as a stalker to becoming a douchebag to embodying an affluent businessman, every time-and-space jump pulls him closer to the girl of his dreams. Unfortunately, all the skewered timelines are uninspiring as the narrative overplays the same formulaic shtick of Noah redoing his prior actions. The plotline recycles itself, becoming predictable and unamusing to viewers. Cliches are also rehashed, like Noah being blindsided

by Avery's existence and ignoring the more compatible love interest, Avery's friend, Carrie (Shelley Hennig), and the pedestrian lesson that love cannot be forced.

But even the platitude of unrequited love is overruled. After realizing that Carrie is his ideal woman, Noah immediately abandons his pursuit to bed Avery and magnetizes toward the next attainable and available female. The trope of a man-child being rewarded with the instantaneous and serendipitous love of a girl after rejection is a possessive and overdone concept. It's also poor character development because Noah does not experience any lingering or biting heartache from his prolonged, one-sided infatuation. His character arc stifles, blocking the emergence of an intriguing story.

Some characters and writing also lack personality. However, Adam DeVine makes up the majority of the entertainment in an otherwise completely monotonous comedy by using his usual exuberance and zaniness. Shelley Hennig's chic-yet-nerdy portrayal of Carrie is also charming, heightening the fraught dynamic between the endgame couple. Both actors definitely have mutual, on-screen synergy and comic banter; however, the screenplay makes the mistake of not handing more limelight to the simpatico pair.

"When We First Met" is a repetitive and unexciting romantic-comedy, filled with a corny, time-travelling gimmick that flags after the first act. There are exceptions in which certain characters have repartee, but their pleasant performances aren't nearly enough to save the half-baked narrative. Alas, the film is forgettable and mediocre with no zestful quality to warrant watching.

ASHLEY CHENStaff Writer



# To My Cities, With Love

Time and people may change, but space can give the most ephemeral of fugitives a place to settle, even if for a bit. Falling in love doesn't have to look like a typical boy-meets-girl narrative; sometimes it can take the shape of girl-meets-city.

From 1996 to 2014, the mid-sized town of Bakersfield was all I knew. I could recognize the mountains edging the 99 Freeway even in the densest of valley fogs or the curves of the Kern River, even when the summer drought took its hardest toll. And I could mentally map out the vintage stores, old theaters, renovated tattoo shops, and homestyle diners that dotted my gridlock downtown. Say what you want about the Central Valley — and more likely than not, I'd agree — but for 18 years, this little city was my home and heart.

Come September 2014, a few clouds hovering over the Pacific began to reestablish my home and heart. In the sunshine that lingers into the middle of February and sand that would always be there if I needed it, it became easier to leave what I knew existed only four hours away. San Diego might be a tourist destination for some, but I was determined to make it my own for the four years it promised me.

Though, temptations can come too. For a week, Portland beckoned me away from the sun with its rain. It was inviting — hospitable through every cup of coffee and whimsical in every quirk of its residents, books, trees and transit lines. Temptations also come with lessons. A trip to San

## Written by Brittney Lu // Lifestyle Associate Editor

Francisco reminded me why I loved San Diego instead. In the hurriedness and innovation of the North California skyline, I learned to be grateful for the slowness San Diego offered.

But halfway through San Diego's promised four years, I learned to love another city. 102 miles of freeway were daunting at first, but like anything else, the more it's travelled, the more comfortable it gets. Two hours north — on a good traffic day — sits Los Angeles in a halo of smog and veganism. LA's a paradox in every way, with characters and stories that don't go together crowded into different neighborhoods and parks, museums, and cafes. It's for artists and creators, movers and leaders, and in my slow, San Diego, student lifestyle, I wasn't necessarily any of those things. But a summer spent in this city taught me how the unconventional comes together, how there is brokenness and beauty etched into every sidewalk, and how even if I wasn't typically LA in any way, there could be home for me there too.

All that to say, a lot of things happen in our college years. We grow, we fall, we learn, we change. But the cities we take from and give to can stay constant in the volatile, temporary nature of our twenties. In this modern love of ours, we're conditioned to love what is temporary, so perhaps the spaces around us know how to hold our hearts best. As we learn to better love others and ourselves, may we look to the spaces around us for a bit of reassurance that though things come and go, there are places we can call home, even if for a little while.

# Is Marriage Necessary?

Like many young girls, I dreamed of my own wedding having luxurious decorations, a lavish venue, and a stunning white lace dress, with the man I so dearly love wearing a black suit waiting down the aisle for me. At playdates, my friends and I would have pretend weddings where we exchanged toy rings and where I played the bride, wearing a veil made up of paper towels and a plastic tiara. Like most people, I grew up wanting marriage as part of the next chapter of my life. However, as I grew older, this "dream" slowly vanished as I matured and realized that marriage is, to me, a socially-constructed idea. I imagine most people want to get married as a way to receive an official title, and that they believe marriages are associated with the idea of true love. But is marriage the only way to have true love? My parents have been happily married for over 25 years, and some of my cousins and close friends are now engaged to their significant others. With so many successful and loving relationships surrounding me, I wonder how I detached myself from the idea of marriage and view it as an overrated and expensive concept.

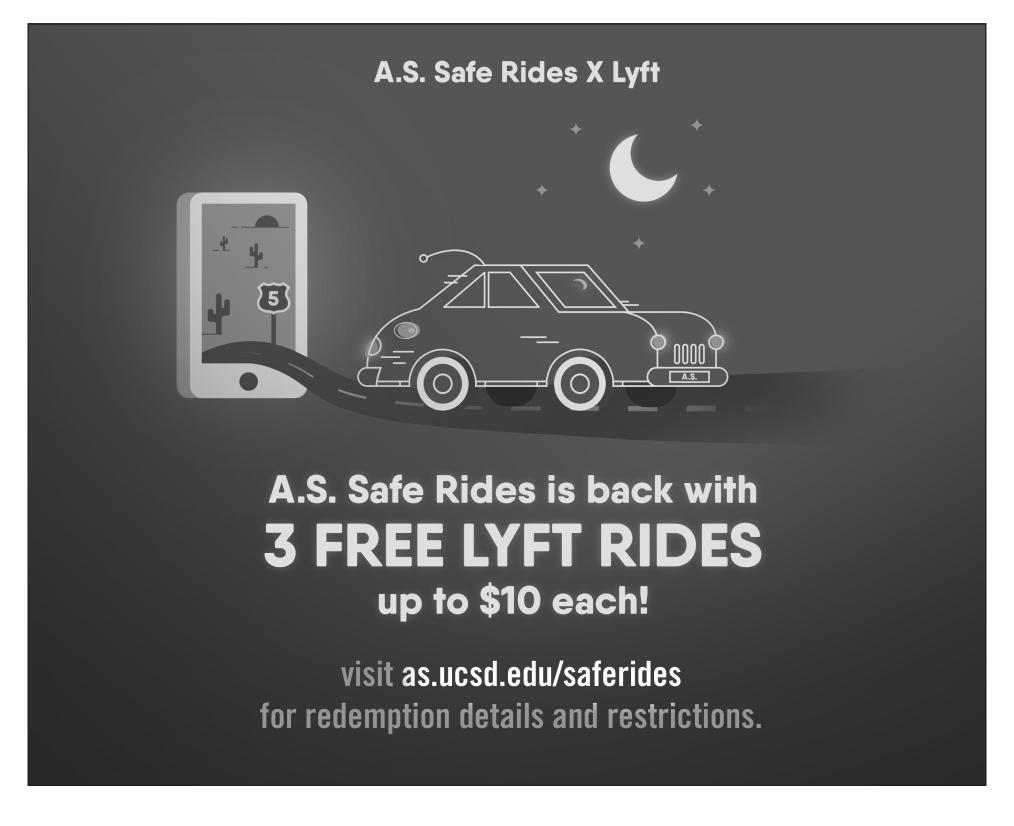
My disbelief surrounding marriages began around middle school. I overheard a conversation my teacher had with her friend's daughter about the amount of stress she had when planning her wedding. The bride was not handling the wedding planning well, especially with the lack of her fiance's physical and financial assistance. Furthermore, I learned about the legal troubles and high costs that are required for a divorce when a family friend went through the process. These conversations were very intriguing and got me to think about the true importance of marriage.

# Written by Rebecca Tsang // Lifestyle Contributing Writer

Besides having financial benefits such as paying less income taxes or having more health insurance options, what does marriage actually bring me? For me, marriage is a ceremony hosted by a couple to celebrate receiving a piece of paper with their loved one while spending an extravagant amount of money. Simply put, marriage could be an emotional agreement between two people who need a confirmation of their love for one another.

If I truly love someone, I do not need a piece of paper titled "Marriage Certificate" to prove as much. I do not need to take another person's name to tell others that I love this person. I do not need to be married in order to live together, go on dates, and build a family to live as a "married" couple. I do not need to say "I do" in order to stay committed to one person. Ultimately, to have a blissful relationship together, a legal agreement should not be required as long as there is a mutual connection between the two people. Arguably, marriage could be a way to conform to society's thinking of what is considered a family.

I am not anti-marriage; I do not hate marriages nor do I dread attending the weddings of others. In fact, I feel happy and sincerely congratulate couples during their wedding ceremonies. I, however, just cannot see myself holding a wedding in the near future with my significant other. Maybe my outlook and viewpoint will change within the next several years as I gain more experiences. But with all the current stressful planning and financial burden involved in receiving a piece of paper, I am proud to say I am more afraid of getting married than staying single for the rest of my life.



# Of Friendship and Involuntary Solitude

# Written by Jade Hookham // Lifestyle Contributing Writer

When most people think of modern love, what do they imagine? Surely tales of unlikely romance come to mind, where people find love in spite of certain obstacles life throws their way. Well, my definition is a bit different. At my current stage in life, there are zero dating prospects present, but that's been the case for the past 19 years. As someone who was shy when it came to both dating and friendships, I always had a relatively small number of people that I depended on while growing up. Because of my lack of romantic ties, I have come to appreciate the simple pleasure of having a select group of friends I feel close to.

When it comes to my experience with friendship in college, I found that there was a world of difference compared to earlier years. For instance, something about living with my friends brought us closer together very quickly. Before starting my freshman year, I found my two roommates through Facebook, both as eager as I was to locate potential roommates. Flash forward to our first meeting in September, and our friendship began to blossom. Having already exchanged messages and Snapchats throughout the summer, we were able to skirt around the awkward phase of being total strangers who lived together in one room. I remember visiting Roger's Market for the first time, sitting outside as we talked extensively about basketball anime, and still being awake in the later hours talking about young adult books while laughing way too loud to be complying with quiet hours. In my suite, I formed my core group of friends who I relied on almost entirely, and I loved it. Being friends with the people I lived with brought me much more joy than I could have anticipated.

However, this honeymoon phase was not everything I made it out to be. Several of my suitemates whom I was close with were much more extroverted than me, joining multiple clubs and organizations to fill their time. Soon enough, they made plenty of their own friends who they spent time with, leaving less time for our group in the suite to all hang out together. I watched my one roommate start going to Geisel with her friends, and as she came back late every night, less of her free time was left open. Another suitemate became so busy with her clubs that she barely even slept at our place. Though such a level of busyness felt normal for them, I couldn't match such a lifestyle. I wanted to begin college at my own pace, and I wasn't ready to commit to any club during my first year. Unfortunately, that had some unintended consequences for my social life.

My habit of keeping a small group of friends was not faring well, as it seemed that I felt a stronger sense of closeness to them than they did to me. When I gifted Christmas presents to my closest friends before Winter Break, they were all surprised to receive things from me. And though they did return the favor when school started again in the new year, I couldn't ignore this nagging feeling that they wouldn't have given me anything if I had not done so first. My insecurity led me to believe they had only bought gifts out of obligation rather than friendship. Though friendship obviously isn't measured by the amount of money spent on presents, the seeming lack of reciprocity within the interaction bothered me.

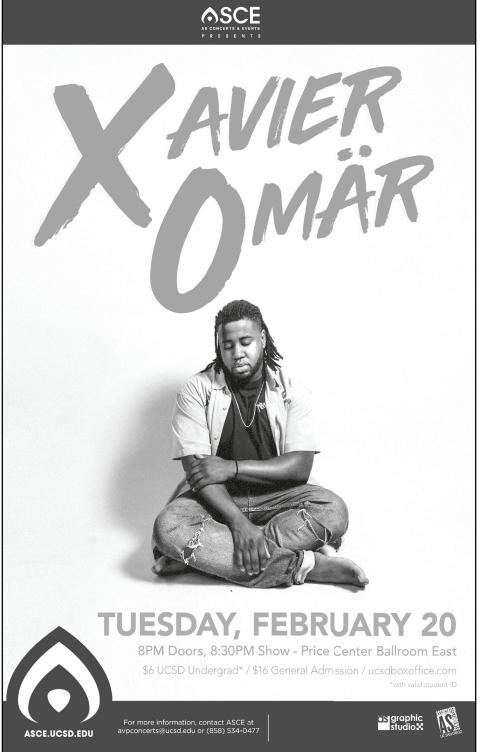
It appeared as though I took up a small fraction of my friends' lives while they were overwhelmingly present in mine, inevitably causing a pit of loneliness to form. I found this all the more challenging to deal with because my loneliness didn't follow me home; I could live in my hometown during the summer and spend days with minimal human interaction, yet this was different. Spending a weekend alone in my apartment was almost suffocating. When I experienced this, I realized that living with my best friends only emphasized the silence that arose when they were gone. This further intensified in the beginning of my second year, when one of my close friends had gone back to Santa Barbara and my other roommate was spending almost all of her time with her boyfriend.

I didn't know how to solve this problem without acting selfishly toward my friends who had their own lives, so I set out to fix it some other way. I struggled to match the standard of sociability that

was set by the people I knew, leading me to think this problem was brought about by my own bad habits. If I became busier and took more chances, would I be able to help myself? I'm not too sure this is the answer, but I do think focusing on my own growth has helped. Applying to internships and practicing my writing has kept me focused on the future, while my free time is spent attempting to socialize. Even the simple act of making plans with my existing friends has improved my friend group's dynamic; things like Sunday brunch and watching the sunset are perfect opportunities for us to bond. Though it's not perfect in any sense of the word, I think my life has become a bit happier.

My definition of modern love isn't about romance, but I think I can understand certain feelings associated with relationships. The insecurity about wondering whether a friend values you as much as you value them appears similarly in the dating scene. And although the two share some characteristics, friendship isn't a placeholder for romance, in my humble opinion. Friendships have their own value that can't be underestimated, even when certain friends are too busy with other things. Like all love, the fact that I care is what causes my sense of hurt in the first place. Love isn't always reciprocal, a fact that has made itself obvious in our messy, modern-day reality. But at this point, I'll take what I can get.







# LIFESTYLE

# The Physicality of Touch

# Written by Lizzy Adams // Lifestyle Staff Writer

Touch has always been something unnerving. So casual, but all too intimate, that it was difficult to pinpoint what the barrier was. Hugs from people I just met were jarring, and even familiar touches from friends seemed unnecessary.

It was uncomfortable and hard to process — so I shut it away.

Perhaps it was my own rigid definition of touch that contrasted the soft edges of it. To me, touch was a spectrum of discipline or praise; you either achieved something worthy of a hug or you made a mistake earning nothing but a firm scolding and no reassuring arm rub. Touch was something to be attained, a privilege. It was never something out of comfort or "love," but an awkward sensation that bordered on whether my actions deserved it.

If I did not perform well, then what warranted the privilege of touch?

This perception began to falter when I met a friend who will be referred to as "L." We were eleven, fresh into fifth grade, and she grabbed my arm so excitedly that it was difficult to register. She was taller than me, with radiant eyes that glowed in the sunlight and a personality to match. Guiding me to the class lines, she giggled amiably about our budding friendship and turned to grasp my hands within hers. Though perplexed, I simply let the gesture continue and smiled along, unease tingling in my gut as we began to walk to class.

L was generous in her friendly touches. She loved to embrace, to hold hands — to give soft pats on the back for nothing and grab your arm so tight in overt excitement. I did not understand why she was overzealous with it, nor what I did to deserve gestures that were reserved for achievement.

"Why do you hug me so much when I haven't really done anything?" I laughed with her one day on her front step. L tossed me an amused look and nudged me gently with her shoulder, "It's what friends do!"

"Just randomly?" I withheld, my mind buzzing with confusion. Instead, I nodded and gave her

a hesitant shove back, both of us chuckling at our shared exchange.

L continued to be an affectionate person, even as we grew apart and drifted to different groups come middle school. But, her impact was raw; it questioned the foundation of my own perspective of touch and how it could be handled. How it came out of love, care, and

generosity — how it was meant to be redistributed as an act of endearment rather than a prize to be attained.

When I joined my swim team halfway through middle school, new intersections of touch began to emerge. When relays placed first, we celebrated in joint slaps on the arm and a group hug. In contrast, when I lost my backstroke race by a mere second, my own disappointment was accompanied by supportive strokes to my back and a reassuring embrace that only elevated my spirits, despite the sense of defeat.

The everchanging expression and definition of touch helped me understand that it was a range of platonic or romantic affirmations; that it did not have to have a precedent of praise in order to be a valid expression.

It is not complete yet, but my understanding has progressed such that I know it is okay to reciprocate when I receive a hug or a friendly pat by the hands of the acquitenance. I know it is okay to receive a random kiss on the cheek from my partner, and to return said gesture by laying my head on their shoulder.

The physicality of it all is peaceful, and the touch of kindness is something that everyone deserves.



# It takes a village to raise a child. Or in my case, an entire street fair. This street fair, located in the parking lot of my hometown's one and only community college is home to a variety of unique and interesting characters. My earliest childhood memories include me running from booth to booth looking at new art pieces for sale, sipping lemonade slushies, and dancing to live bands under the desert palm trees. While my friends were watching cartoons in their homes, I was talking about life with the elderly vendors who sold pastel-colored clothing and calling the jewelry guy "Cookie Monster" because he was grumpy and always wore blue.

I was fortunate enough to interact with vendors from all around the world. Some vendors had college degrees while some had barely made it out of high school. Some were very religious while some were not. When I found out the makeup vendors were not mother and son, but were two people in a committed relationship, I realized couples can come in all shapes and sizes. When I learned that a vendor man from Cuba and his best male friend were not best friends but something more, I was angrier at the fact that they couldn't get married than the fact that they weren't straight. It was at the street fair that I saw people love each other even though they weren't all the same. It didn't matter who you were, you would still have an array of people butting into your life in a way

# Written by Samirah Martinez // Lifestyle Contributing Writer

only friends can do.

In addition to my loving single mother, I have also grown up with an unofficial extended family. When I have a project for my linguistics classes, I have dozens of vendors to talk to about their home language. When there is a fundraiser, I have 100 vendors ready to buy whatever unnecessary desserts they can. Whenever I need advice on anything that is bothering me, I have hundreds of different perspectives to help me get through it all. The street fair is more than just vendors setting up booths every weekend, but friends and family that have each other's backs.

The luggage vendor I have known my entire life has always said, "It's important to have friends, but remember this: friends come and go, but mom doesn't. Your mom is there for you, always." And while he's entirely right, I would like to propose an edit to these words of wisdom. Not only will my mom always be there for me, but so will the people of the street fair. These vendors have told me to study hard my entire life because they did not want me to "end up" like them. What they don't know is that they have helped me grow into the person I am today, and I aspire to be at least half the accepting, hard-working, and caring people that they are. I know the street fair isn't always perfect, but then again, what family is?

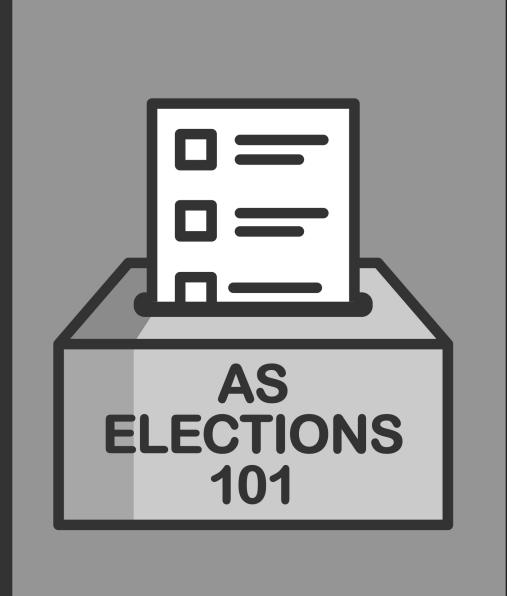


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## 3pm FLOURISH @ UC SAN DIEGO -STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

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## 5pm GEOLOGY IN GENEVA GLOBAL SEMINAR INFO SESSION - STUDY ABROAD OFFICE DANCE HALL (UNIVERSITY CENTER 409)

Get ready for Valentines Day! Show your loved ones appreciation by giving them a homemade gift. Shine bright & craft a luminary mason jar or keep it sweet & simple & make them a cute card! SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED AND IT IS A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS. Free for UCSD Students w/ ID. Contact: ucenmarketing@ucsd.edu

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# **ASCE PRESENTS: XAVIER OMAR -**PC EAST BALLROOM

Rising R&B/Soul artist Xavier Omar is coming to UCSD on February 20th! Student tickets are only \$6, make sure you cop yours soon at the UCSD Box Office! Contact: ascemarketing@ucsd.edu

# **WED**2.21

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# 2:30pm TRAIN YOUR BRAIN: DE-STRESS WITH BIOFEEDBACK - THE ZONE

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# NAVIGATING YOUR IDENTITIES IN THE WORKPLACE -CROSS-CULTURAL CENTER

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# FRI2.23

## **ASIAN WOMENS FORUM - MUIR** HALF DOME LOUNGE

Join us for informal conversations about our experiences as Asian women. Members determine the topics which can include: Academic stress, Family and gender roles and challenges, Cultural identity, Relationships, Career directions, Social justice concerns, and mental health and well-being. Contact: Itappero@ucsd.edu

## PEACE OF MIND-DAILY DROP-IN -**GALBRAITH HALL 190**

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# **THU**2.22

**WISE MIND - GALBRAITH HALL 190** 

Emotional + Mind + Logical Mind = WISE Mind.WISE mind is when both parts of the mind work together in harmony. Learn how to effectively tolerate everyday stressors, communicate effectively while maintaining self-respect and relationships, and improve your relationship with your emotions while living a life in accordance to your values. Contact: caps.ucsd.edu

# 3:30pm OUTSIDE THE BOX FORUM -TRANQUILITY ROOM, CROSS CULTURAL CENTER

This informal group is a safe space for students, faculty, and staff of mixed/multiracial/multi ethnic and other non-dominant identities to share their experiences and discuss issues in an open and supportive, community atmosphere. This forum is co-sponsored by the Cross Cultural Center. Please contact Dr. Thompson if you plan to attend. Contact: cathompson@ucsd.edu

# BLACK WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE - WOMENS CENTER

Join us for an informal conversation about our experiences as Black women and connect with other Black women on campus. Contact: dbesson@ucsd.edu

#### 5:30pm **DISRUPTOR SERIES: FEMVC - THE BASEMENT, MANDEVILLE CENTER**

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# **SUN**2.25

CAMP KESEM AT UCSD: 5K CATERPILLAR CRAWL - UCSD CAMPUS

Welcome to Camp Kesem at UC San Diego's annual Caterpillar Crawl 5K! Come join CK at UCSD where you can run, walk, or even crawl with us in this super fun Camp Kesem 5K! There will be free food, opportunity drawings, games, and many more fun activities! All proceeds will help send a child affected by a parent's cancer to a free, week-long summer camp! Contact: ucsd.pr@campkesem.org

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- 9. Wheat by-product
- 14. Columbus's state
- 15. Papa's partner
- 16. Indian group
- 17. Malicious
- 18. Purple fruit 19. Professional speedster
- 20. Aquatic mammal 22. Move back
- 23. Revered
- 24. lcy precipitation 26. Most orderly
- 28. Neither's mate
- 31. Freon and oxygen 35. Of sound mind
- 36. Fictional clownfish
- 37. Female ruler 39. Guided
- 41. Not ever, poetically
- 42. Yield
- 44. Pioneer Daniel \_
- 45. Complete
- 46. Artist Henri 48. Sight or smell
- 49. Rubs out
- 54. Conforms
- 57. Give a right to
- 58. Juan's father 59. Bangkok native
- 61. Double agent
- 62. Church leader 63. Average (hyph.)
- 64. Happily 65. Gets up
- 66. Jury member 67. Beárs' lairs

- 1. Punctuation mark
- 2. In front 3. Liberace's instrument
- 4. Radar's kin
- 5. Hinder 6. Valley
- 7. Ostrich's kin
- 8. "Cheers" bartender 9. Lane
- 10. Digestive
- 11. Pilaf ingredient 12. Still snoozing
- 13. "The Way We
- 21. Keyed up 22. Put back to zero
- 24. Train stop (abbr.)
- 25. Telescope parts
- 27. Items of value 28. Fiddling emperor
- 29. Prophetic sign 30. Traveled on horseback
- 31. Kelly or Autry
- 32. Hymnal word
- 33. Went fast
- 34. Mess up 36. "The Matrix" hero
- 38. Reads quickly
- \_\_\_\_ & Roepér 43. Game cube
- 46. Parking timers 47. 12th-grader
- 48. Shopping frenzy
- 50. Pointed a gun
- 51. Range 52. Actress Burstyn
- 53. Clairvoyants
- 54. Imitator 55. Painter Salvador\_
- 56. Finds a sum
- 57. Lighten
- 59. Recipe measure (abbr.)
- 60. Weeding implement

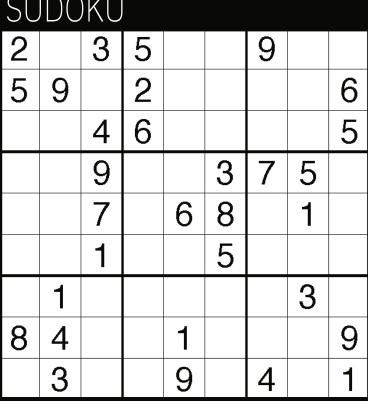


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# Tritons Rebound

UC San Diego dominated the Lumberjacks.

**BY RICHARDLU** ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The UC San Diego men's basketball team moved to 14-6 in California Collegiate Athletic Association play following a loss against Chico State (56-66) and a win against Humboldt State (77-57). After starting off the season strong and holding second place in conference standings, the Tritons have slid down to third place. They are now tied with Cal State San Marcos for the thirdplace spot, behind second-place Chico State and conferenceleading Cal Poly Pomona.

vs. Chico State

The Tritons played well against Chico State in the first half despite trailing 8-0 to start the game. UCSD fought to regain control of the game and traded baskets with Chico State. Both teams were evenly matched for the most part and, going into halftime, the score was 34–33 in favor of UCSD.

The Tritons started the second half slowly, letting Chico State pull ahead early with a seven-point lead, 45–38. The Tritons answered back with jumpers by junior guard/forward Christian Oshita and senior forward Kenny Fraser. Chico State sank a threepointer to keep the Wildcats ahead, but two Triton threepointers from redshirt freshman guard Mikey Howell and junior guard Christian Bayne tied the game up at 48–48 with 10:54

remaining.

Just when it seemed like the momentum had swung back in favor of the Tritons, the Wildcats went on a scoring run, pulling ahead by nine points with 4:44 remaining. UCSD, however, remaining. UCSD, however, struggled with scoring and were unable to regain control of the game. As the buzzer sounded, UCSD fell to Chico State, 56-66. Bayne and Oshita led the Tritons in scoring with 14 and 10, respectively. The Tritons were outrebounded by the Wildcats —

Chico State pulled 11 offensive rebounds compared to UCSD's five. The Wildcats scored nine points off second-chance points versus UCSD's two points.

vs. Humboldt State

Rebounding from their loss against Chico State, the Tritons dominated the Humboldt State Lumberjacks, 77–57. In a standout showing, UCSD never trailed against Humboldt State. The Tritons led by more than eight points for most of the game. The first half was a stomp by the Tritons, and Humboldt State could not find an answer.

The Lumberjacks however, cut the lead down to two early on in the second half. Despite their scoring run, the Lumberjacks were outmatched by the Tritons. Following the run by Humboldt State, UCSD quickly turned up the intensity, easily notching a 10-point lead with 10 minutes remaining in the game. The Tritons built on this 10-point lead and finished the game up by 20 points, 77–57.

UCSD shot very well from the field, finishing with a 49.2 field goal percentage and shooting 36.7 percent from behind the arc. Four Tritons finished in doublefigures: sophomore forward Scott Everman (16), Fraser (10), Bayne (24), and Oshita (14).

UCSD has two more games remaining in the season; both are at home. The Tritons will play Cal State Dominguez Hills on Thursday, Feb. 22. Tipoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

> READERS CAN CONTACT RICHARDLU BII 014@UCSD FDU

# Sports and Diplomacy

Staff Writer Wesley Xiao examines the tensions between North and South Korea.

BYWESLEY XIAO STAFF WRITER

To the tune of "Arirang," an ancient Korean folk song about longing and unification, the Korean Olympic delegation — a combined group of North and South Korean athletes — closed out the 2018 Winter Olympics opening ceremony. Dressed in all white, symbolizing peace, the athletes marched out under the Korean Unification Flag (a white flag with a blue silhouette of an undivided Korean Peninsula) carried by one North Korean and one South Korean member of the joint Korean women's hockey team. The message of the opening ceremony was clear: unity and concord.

Just months earlier, North Korea was threatening to derail the Winter Olympics. In late September of 2017, countries, like France, Germany, Austria, and even the U.S., expressed serious concerns over security, threatening to skip the Games for the safety of their teams. North Korea was seemingly more dangerous as the games neared; earlier that month, North Korea conducted its fifteenth nuclear missile test of the year (it would go on to test one more in November). Moreover, PyeongChang is roughly 40 miles from the demilitarized zone, the buffer zone between the two Koreas, and less than 200 miles from Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. At that distance, North Korea was more than capable of majorly disturbing the

Olympics. In the last South Korean Olympics (1988 Seoul Summer Olympics), North Korea attempted to do just that. When it was announced that Seoul would be hosting the 24th Summer Olympics, North Korea saw an opportunity. It proposed to the International Olympic Committee and to South Korea a joint Korean Olympics, but negotiations fell through. Abandoning all pretexts of unity and diplomacy, North Korea boycotted the 1988 Summer Olympics and resolved to disrupt the Games. In an attempt to frighten teams from attending the 1988 Seoul Olympics, North Korean agents planted a bomb on Korean Air Flight 858 traveling from Seoul to Baghdad; while flying over the Indian

Ocean, the bomb detonated and destroyed the airplane, killing all 125 people (most of whom where South Korean) on board. Despite that, the 1988 Seoul Olympics took place as planned and were a tremendous success. South Korea was able to display its rapid economic development and social growth, paving the way for it to enter the international community; North Korea, on the other hand, became more isolated.

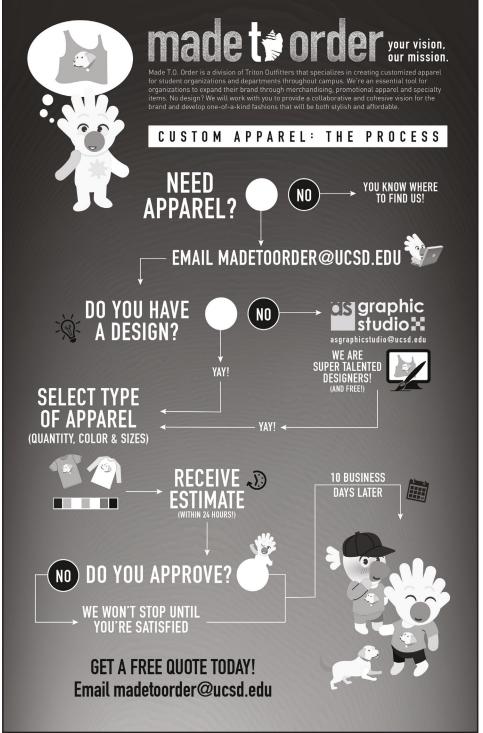
North Korea — despite its actions of the prior year — has taken a markedly different attitude towards the Games at PyeongChang. In these games, the two Koreas fielded a shared women's hockey team and marched together in the opening ceremony; North Korea also sent a large group of musicians and a team of cheerleaders. Kim Yo Jung, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, traveled with the North Korean delegation to the Games and met with South Korean president Moon Jae-in. This was the first time since the Korean War that a member of the North Korean ruling family set foot in South Korea. Moon was very encouraged by North Korea's participation in the PyeongChang Olympics: "There have been many achievements in advancing inter-Korean talks, and I hope that this will lead to an improvement in inter-Korean relations."

Using sports to open a diplomatic dialogue has worked in the past. Take the case of the People's Republic of China and the U.S. In the years following Mao Zedong's 1949 communist revolution, the U.S. relationship with the PRC had been marked by Cold War propaganda, trade embargos, and diplomatic silence. But after nearly three decades, both nations were looking to open a dialogue with the other. In 1971, an opportunity for both nations emerged in a very unexpected place: The 31st World Tablé Tennis championships in Nagoya, Japan. A chance meeting between American table tennis player Glenn Cowan and Chinese table tennis player and three-time world champion Zhuang Zedong would spark a chain of events that would lead to the lifting of the "Bamboo curtain." After practicing late one day, Cowan was forced to board the Chinese team bus; there he met Zedong. Though from adversarial nations, Zedong treated Cowan cordially, gifting him a silk-screen portrait of the Huangshan Mountains; Cowan reciprocated with a t-shirt with the Beatles' lyric, "Let it Be." This unexpected good will between an American and a Chinese, which was welldocumented by journalists, gave the PRC the opportunity they were looking for. Mao officially invited the U.S. table tennis team to visit China; the team accepted. This was a monumental trip: It marked the first time an American had step foot in China since the Chinese Community Party came into power in 1949. What Time Magazine called the "ping heard round the world" was already resulting in diplomatic results. Four days into their visit, Nixon announced that the U.S. would be easing travel bans and economic embargoes on China; the government would soon open back-channel communication with each other. The following year, the Chinese table tennis team was invited the tour the U.S. But the most groundbreaking effect of what would become known as "Ping-Pong Diplomacy" was Nixon's 1972 visit to China. Nixon — the first US president to visit China - met with the leaders of the PRC and took the first step towards de escalating tensions and normalizing relations.

Sport is an unexpected place to begin international relations. As Nixon wrote in his memoirs, regarding Sino-American relations, "I had never expected that the China initiative would come to fruition in the form of a ping pong team." Sports are important tools for diplomatic chess. They are innocuous ways for nations to express larger political goals, opportunity for interface between adversarial nations, and are a source of national pride. However, sports are not the panacea to diplomatic dilemmas; they are a starting point. In order for the symbolic message behind them to materialize, there has to be an underlying desire and willingness on both sides. Though there is no guarantee that the PyeongChang Olympics will resolve the crisis on the Korean Peninsula, North Korea's willingness to participate is a reason for optimism.

READERS CAN CONTACT





# **SPORTS**

CONTACT THE EDITOR **ALEX WU** 

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**UPCOMING** 

Baseball 2/22 6 PM M Basketball 2/22 7:30 PM Softball 2/23 Baseball 2/23 **4 PM** 

W Basketball 2/22 5:30 PM vs. Cal State Dominguez Hills vs. Cal State Dominguez Hills vs. Cal State Dominguez Hills vs. Cal State San Marcos

vs. Cal State Dominguez Hills



# Tritons Move to 19-1 After Two Big Road Wins

Next up, UC San Diego plays Cal State Dominguez Hills on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 5 p.m. at RIMAC Arena.

#### BY MADELINE LEWIS

STAFF WRITER

#### UC San Diego @ Chico State — Chico, CA

With a California Collegiate Athletic Association regular-season championship already in the books and the top rank secured for the upcoming CCAA tournament, the UC San Diego women's basketball team looks to successfully close out the last two road games before postseason.

On Thursday night, the Tritons defeated Chico State 67-55 after trailing by three at the end of the third quarter. In a competitive, hard-fought game and with the score tied at halftime, UCSD found a way to put the pieces together and

took home another victory.

Multiple Tritons filled the stat sheet contributing to the overall come-from-behind team win. After six tied scores and four lead changes in the third quarter, senior guard Taylor Tanita executed in response on the offensive end. Tanita drained three clutch three-pointers in the last 10 minutes of the game, one of which took the lead with 5:46 remaining.

Junior guard Kayla Sato led the team with 16 points, accumulated from five field goals, one threepointer, and three free throws. In addition, Sato grabbed six boards and tallied two steals and two assists.

UCSD caught fire in the fourth quarter as the team shot a solid 50 percent (7-14) from the field. The Tritons also performed perfection from the free throw line in the entirety of the first half.

forward Senior Dalayna Sampton followed closely behind Sato with 15 points and 10 rebounds while redshirt sophomore Mikayla Williams recorded 12 points and 12 rebounds.

At the two minute mark, UCSD held a comfortable five-point lead that only continued to expand before the final buzzer sounded.

#### UC San Diego @ Humboldt State — Arcata, CA

Having traveled another four hours north from Chico, the Tritons suited up Saturday evening to face Humboldt State while chasing a perfect 12-0 record in away games. Williams guided UCSD to a 77-62 triumph providing 19 points of her own and two rebounds short (8) from her twelfth double-double on the season.

Ahead by just four after the first quarter, UCSD went on a roll before heading into the locker room, stretching the lead to 22 at the half.

As a unit, the Tritons shot above 50 percent in all but one quarter and a rewarding 61.5 percent in the fourth quarter alone. Sharp shooting from Sato and Tanita combined for a total of 27 points, 17 and 10 respectively. Sato also facilitated five assists and collected seven rebounds.

UCSD capitalized on Humboldt's mistakes, scoring 14 points off of it 13 turnovers. With plenty of second chance opportunities on offense the Tritons did not fail to maintain the

bleeding.

Sampton listed 16 points and 10 rebounds, dominating the boards defensively. Sophomore Sydney Sharp sank two threepointers in her first appearance back after missing five games due to an ankle injury to add to the score parade.

Superior in just about all statistical categories from points to rebounds to assists, UCSD was able to complete its long four-day trek on a positive note and return home fulfilled with two more wins.

The Tritons will play Cal State Dominguez Hills on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 5:30 p.m. in RIMAC Arena.

READERS CAN CONTACT

# UC San Diego Splits Homestand Against SF State

Despite holding a 4-0 lead partway through Game 4, the Tritons fell flat for the rest of the game to go 2-2 overall against the Gators.

BY DANIEL HERNANDEZ

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UC San Diego baseball team began conference play, at home, against San Francisco State in a fourgame series where they looked to get off to a winning start. The winning had to wait after the first game as the Gators took Game 1, 4-1, however the Tritons came back to win Games 2 and 3 to go into the final game with a chance to take the series. In the final game, UCSD held a 4-0 lead through four innings, but then came a woeful fifth inning as they gave up six runs to let the game slip away as the final score at the end stood at 7-5. Both teams had to share the honors on the weekend as they split the series at Triton Ballpark and both start off their conference season with a 2-2 record.

#### Game 1

UCSD fell short in the series opener as they had to settle for a loss as San Francisco took their opportunities in Game 1 leading to a 4-1 scoreline. The Tritons, surprisingly, struggled to get runners in as they left an eye opening 18 total runners on base, including bases loaded in the first, fifth, eighth, and ninth innings.

Efficiency was key in the matchup as the Tritons had double the amount of hits the Gators did (10-5), however UCSD could only manage one run the whole game, while San Francisco earned four runs with half of the hits.

Offensively, redshirt junior Alex Eliopulos led the charge as the third baseman hit four of five and one RBI. Besides Eliopulos, only one other Triton had multiple hits, redshirt junior Zander Clarke went two for

#### Game 2

Game 2 served as redemption for the Tritons as they had a similar game to Game 1, in terms of getting runners on base, but this time made most of the opportunity to crush Gators 10-2 in the first of the two games on Saturday.

UCSD had 15 hits in the game and in their first opportunity of runners in scoring position, the opportunity was taken as they hit in two runs in the second to take an early 2-0 lead. The Tritons really got going in the third as they earned five runs to take a commanding 7-0 lead.

In the end, both teams put in two runs in eighth to make it a final scoreline of 10-2.

This time around, UCSD had five players with multiple hits, highlighted by junior Rj Prince as he hit three of five with two RBI's.

#### Game 3

After a dominant display earlier in Saturday, the Tritons aimed to replicate the result and they did just that with a narrow 5-4 win. After going down 4-0, UCSD mounted a last minute comeback to earn back-to-back wins on Saturday's seven-inning game.

San Francisco State put two runs in the first to take the early 2–0 lead and it would remain the same scoreline until the fifth inning. The Gators added another two runs for what looked like the beginning of a dominant display; however, the Tritons had other ideas.

The comeback would begin in the bottom of the fifth as the Tritons got two runs back to make it 4-2 and a manageable score going into the final

After no runs in the sixth, the seventh had plenty of drama as UCSD had a three-run rally to take the win.

After a walk, a hit and a player hit by a pitch the Tritons had the bases loaded. Prince got things going with a hit down the middle to the pitcher, but the pitcher ended up slipping which put Prince on base and the score at 4-3. Once again, the Tritons found a bit of luck when Eliopulos hit the ball to the second baseman and could not get the ball out on time to make the out. With the error two runs came in for the Tritons to give them the win.

#### Game 4

In a letdown final game for the Tritons, the Gators took the Sunday 7-5 win to split the series over the weekend.

Things began on the right foot for



UCSD as they got off to a great start and looked to be on course to take the series win with a 4-0 lead through four innings; however San Francisco State had other plans.

It all went downhill for the Tritons on the top of the fifth as the Gators had an incredible comeback with a six-run inning to put UCSD on the back foot. San Francisco then added one more run in the sixth to make it 7-4.

In the final inning, the Tritons attempted a comeback once again, but could only get one run in before it was all over and done with.

Next up for the Tritons, they will go up against Cal State Dominguez Hills in a split venue series starting on Thursday, Feb. 22. The first two games will take place at Triton Ballpark, then the series will conclude at Dominguez

READERS CAN CONTACT

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