

THE MEMES OF PRODUCTION



Students at UC San Diego have come to leisurely enjoy the fine art and humor created by their peers on our renowned UCSD Meme page on Facebook. However, in the midst of the tagging and raccoons, a revolution rose up.

FEATURES, PAGE 6

SUN GOD

IT'S TIME TO SWITCH IT UP
OPINION, PAGE 4

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION
FEATURES, PAGE 7

FORECAST



MONDAY
H 63 L 53



TUESDAY
H 60 L 53



WEDNESDAY
H 62 L 53



THURSDAY
H 66 L 55

VERBATIM

"Motorcycle helmet laws greatly cut back on the supply of organs in an already tight market. In order to ensure the sick of this country have access to life-saving transplants, helmet laws should be either scaled back or removed altogether to ensure that there are always enough organs to go around."

Suzanne Golshanara
Economize It
PAGE 4

INSIDE

TUITION INCREASE.....2
HISTORY.....4
MINDING THE GAP.....10
FOOD & FAMILY.....11
W. WATER POLO.....16



Girls at the front of the crowd dance at the 2018 Sun God Music Festival on Saturday. Photo by Esra Elhendy // UCSD Guardian

UC SYSTEM

UCOP Pledges to Reinvest \$500 Million Away from Fossil Fuels

BY REBECA CAMACHO STAFF WRITER

In the UC Office of the President investments subcommittee meeting held March 13, UC Chief Investment Officer Jagdeep Singh Bachner declared that of the three percent of UC stakes in fossil fuels, \$500 million, would be reallocated away from nonrenewable energy sources. The decision was credited to fiscal reasons in conjunction with ongoing efforts made by the Fossil Free UC campaign, but included no timeframe of implementation.

Investments from UCOP serve to support UC faculty pensions, retirement funds, endowments, and cash assets. Bachner reported that in addition to redirecting the \$500 million, no future investments would be placed in stocks, assets, or equity funds tied to fossil fuels.

"[The UC administration] is not making any new investments in oil and gas assets," Bachner said at the March UC Board of Regents meeting. "In addition, based on market risk, the UC system plans to reduce certain oil and gas holdings over the long-term while investing in [alternative] assets."

Throughout the meeting, however, Bachner made no mention of a "divestment," indicating no

confirmation of fully retracting UC investments fossil fuels, a major concern voiced by the Fossil Free University of California movement.

The FFUC campaign, a student-led organization across all 10 UC campuses going on for more than seven years, advocates for UC system funds to be directed at more alternate energy sources, and be completely diverted from carbon-polluting companies.

Its "stop, drop, and roll" policy engages institutions to halt investments in the fossil fuel industry, drop remaining investments over a five-year period and roll out a reinvestment strategy that distinguishes its carbon footprint. While invigorated with the recent UCOP announcement, the organization understands that it cannot afford to lose momentum if further advances are to be made.

Kathryn Link-Oberstar, a John Muir College junior who is the director of Corporate Responsibility at the Student Sustainability Center and spearheaded the FFUC campaign on campus, explained the challenges of raising awareness toward the issue and how it affects students on a

See **FOSSIL FUELS**, page 3

UCSD

UCSD Administration Aware of Misogynist Protestors Despite Silence

The administration believes the demonstration was a valid exercise of the First Amendment.

BY HELEN NGUYEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Despite its initial lack of response, the UC San Diego administration was aware of the white men carrying signs and yelling statements insulting women and members of the LGBTQ community on Library Walk on April 19, UCSD spokesperson Christine Clark confirmed to the UCSD Guardian. Clark noted that the men do not need permission to be on campus and were within their First Amendment rights.

The men were stationed near the Silent Tree for the majority of the day, carrying a large sign that tar-

geted feminists, single mothers, and the LGBTQ community through derogatory phrases and ideas.

One part of the sign specifically read, "Feminists promote rape through: drunkenness, immodest dress, hanging out with homos."

The men drew a sizeable crowd throughout the day, with many students mocking or trying to argue with them as they shouted about how women should behave, all the ways in which college students are sinning, and other aggressive statements. One man jumped up on a cement block and said something to the effect of, "Any girls here who look half-decent probably want to

have sex with me."

Clark released a campus statement to the Guardian, stating that the university administration denounced the men's actions.

"We condemn the hateful and repugnant messages that were being promoted that are counter to the values we uphold as a campus community," Clark said.

The administration received some criticism on the day of the incident for its silence on the men's behavior.

"This is what happens when our university fails to distinguish free

See **PROTESTORS**, page 3

CAMPUS

George Takei Gives Lecture on Internment and Online Activism

The Earl Warren College Law and Society Program paid Takei \$55,000, which is Takei's regular speaking fee.

BY MADELINE LEON
STAFF WRITER

Renowned actor and activist George Takei visited UC San Diego this past Thursday to provide his DeWitt Higgs Memorial lecture Where NO Story Has Gone Before: An Evening with George Takei. The lecture focused on the long-lasting impact of the Japanese Internment Camps during World War II as well as included Takei's personal experience and role in social justice movements.

The DeWitt Higgs Memorial Lecture, hosted by the Earl Warren College Law and Society Program, features speakers the program believes to be holding highly-esteemed critical roles in justice, society and law. Takei was chosen unanimously in July 2017 by the program's faculty. Takei was the Grand Marshall in Seattle's PRIDE parade in 2014; he has been active in several LGBT organizations, as well as the spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign "Coming Out Project."

Warren College Provost Emily Roxbury assisted in planning the 2018 lecture which took place in the Price Center Ballroom.

"George Takei's standard college/university speaking fee is \$55,000, which we paid just as our sister UC campuses (UCSB and UC Davis) and many other peer institutions have done," Roxbury said.

Student fees were untouched for the payment, which originated from the "Council of Provosts of the six undergraduate colleges." 937 tickets were issued. 700 of them were given free of charge.

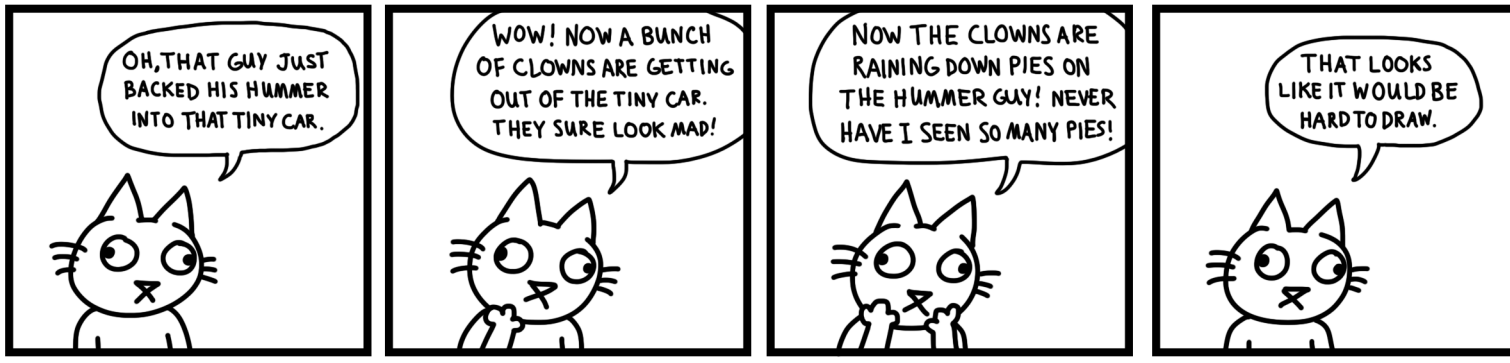
"George Takei was selected because his unique personal experience and renowned professional work as an entertainer and activist touches on so many legal and social issues relevant to today, such as the Japanese American internment and its continued relevance to marginalized groups LGBTQIA rights including marriage equality, and the intersection of social media and pop culture with the principles of U.S. democracy," said Roxbury.

Takei was introduced by Associated Students President Lesly Figueroa, who briefly described the four acts of the lecture: Takei's childhood in the Japanese internment camps, his education and early career in "Star Trek: The Original Series," his participation in the LGBT community and the effects

See **TAKEI**, page 3

AVERAGE CAT

By Christina Carlson



UC SYSTEM

UC Board of Regents Reverses Decision to Vote on 2.7 Percent In-State Tuition Increase at May Meeting

The UC Board of Regents are instead choosing to use student advocacy to push the state for an additional \$140 million in funding.

BY LAUREN HOLT
NEWS EDITOR

The UC Board of Regents will not place a vote to increase in-state tuition by 2.7 percent on the agenda for their meeting next month and will instead pursue more funding from the state government, the UC Office of the President announced today in an email. The 2.7-percent increase was originally proposed in January along with a 3.5-percent nonresident tuition hike, which has since been approved, but the Regents agreed to postpone the votes to May and March, respectively, after backlash from UC students and politicians.

The Regents may place the

resident tuition increase back on the table, however, depending on how much funding the UC system receives from the 2018-2019 state budget. While the budget has yet to be finalized, the initial draft released by Gov. Jerry Brown on Jan. 10 allocates approximately \$3.7 billion in state funds to the university, which constitutes a 3-percent increase from last year's funding.

"While the [university] appreciates the 3-percent increase, that amount remains far below what is needed to address critical issues such as unprecedented student growth, increases in instruction and student services, and pressing deferred maintenance needs," the

statement released by UC President Janet Napolitano and Regents Chair George Kieffer said.

Aiming for a 4-percent increase in order to respond to increased enrollment and the need for improved on-campus resources, the Regents indicated that they viewed this 3-percent increase as insufficient when it was first announced and that it was what led the Regents to consider tuition hikes to begin with.

According to the statement, "the student-led advocacy efforts, done in concert with UC faculty, all ten campuses, and stakeholders throughout California" are attempting to gain an additional \$140 million from the state. The

email made no mention of specific actions the UC administration plans to take to secure more funding.

Members of the Board also released statements expressing their support for the decision.

"This is another step in the right direction from the University of California, having previously seen the wisdom of punting its decision on tuition hikes before Sacramento agrees [on] next year's budget," Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom said.

The budget will likely be negotiated until the June deadline for approval, so it is expected that the UC Regents will revisit the issue of tuition increases then.

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Lee: Takei Has Overcome Much Adversity in His Life

► TAKEI, from page 1

of his social media presence. In 2012 Takei was named “the #1 most influential person on Facebook.”

Takei explained that “the defining event of [his] life was when [he] was a child” at the Japanese internment camps. He described the “stinging irony” of reciting the pledge of allegiance and saying “liberty and justice for all” at the beginning of his school days.

“I couldn’t reconcile those shining ideals (life, liberty, pursuit of happiness) with my imprisonment,” Takei added.

Takei described his challenges of “maintaining a double life” instead of coming out as gay, for fear of ruining his acting career.

“I thought I was the only one and it was a lonely feeling,” Takei said. “Hiding a double life is a torturous life. When I started pursuing an acting career, I maintained that double life.” He confessed that he did not publicly participate in the Gay Liberation movement until he came out in 2005.

Takei admitted that his reasoning behind coming out was due to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s veto of California’s Bill to legalize gay marriage. Takei confronted the California Governor on the Howard Stern Show about the issue.

“I’m very disappointed with you Governor Schwarzenegger because when you ran for office, you made all these moderate statements on various issues,” Takei recounted. “One of them being that you’ve worked with gays and lesbians in the motion picture business, you were very comfortable and that you had no problem with it, but when the real moment of truth came...you

chose to go against all those things you said during the campaign.”

After the lecture, the audience was able to submit notecards with questions for Takei. Moderator and UCSD alumnus Cara Dessert, chief development and community engagement officer at The Center, a San Diego-based resource center for the LGBTQ community, has worked on several projects concerning immigration, reproductive health and LGBT equality.

“I came to do that because those who came before me broke down those walls and barriers,” Dessert said before turning to Takei to thank him.

One audience member questioned Takei on how exactly social media has made an impact on his aim for equal rights, in which he discussed social media as a “global town square,” a platform serving as a means of mass communication which extends beyond country lines.

“Now we’re discovering there’s a dark underbelly to social media, with these anonymous people called ‘trolls’. It can be used for good, but the opposite can be used just as effectively,” Takei stated.

Warren Freshman Kristin Lee was one of the many fans who attended the talk.

“I thought it was phenomenal,” Lee said. “I enjoyed learning about his background and his speech about LGBTQ rights and everything. He had all the cards stacked against him and all the adversity he overcame—it was just truly incredible to hear him speak.”

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Clark: The University Does Not Always Release Statements on Campus Incidents

► PROTESTERS, from page 1

speech from hate speech and fails to recognize how these forms of harassment create unsafe learning and working environments,” the UCSD Student Workers Union posted to Facebook.

Clark pointed out, however, that speakers on Library Walk, who comply with the campus policies on time, place, and manner, are protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The statement also acknowledged that the actions of these individuals were hurtful and claimed that the administration shares the frustration, anger, and concern felt by many.

“As a university centered on discourse and inquiry, we encourage members of our community to ex-

ercise their free speech rights to oppose those expressing hate, as many did on that day and do so continuously through their research, art, and teaching,” Clark said. “Together, we can use our voices to collectively condemn and confront intolerance and bigotry.”

When the Guardian asked Clark why the university did not release its statement condemning the men at the time the incident happened and instead responded only when asked about it, Clark declined to offer any additional commentary.

“The university does not release statements for everything on campus,” Clark said. “There’s ongoing work on these issues all the time on campus, not necessarily just when an incident pops up.”

Clark also directed the Guardian to UCSD’s website on free speech, which states “Free discourse, however, is not always civil, respectful, or reasoned, and can sometimes be deeply offensive and hurtful. While at times, the exchange of controversial ideas and opinions may be distressing to our community members, it is important to recognize that the university acts as a home for diverse and sometimes contradictory ideas and opinions.”

Such demonstrations by men degrading women, LGBTQ persons, and others have happened annually in recent years.

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Sustainability Collective Wants Regents to Discuss Divestment at May Meeting

► FOSSIL FUELS, from page 1

more direct level.

“It’s not as intuitive to people,” she said to the UCSD Guardian. “One, what it means; two, why they should care; three, what they can do about it. Divestment is something more abstract and a lot harder for students to grasp how [it’s] something that impacts their lives. This is a movement of students who recognize that their university should not be invested in these unethical practices, and [they] demand accountability for that.”

Link-Oberstar emphasized the discrepancy between UC San Diego’s leading research targeting fossil fuels in contrast with its continued

allocation of funds to this respect:

“Especially at [UCSD], something that we’ve been pushing really diligently — a lot of the forefront of the research on climate change has been coming out of [UCSD] and the Scripps Institute,” she reported. “So it’s very hypocritical of [UCSD] to put [its] money into fossil fuel companies when some of the most prominent researchers in the field of climate science are saying we need to stop extracting fossil fuels from the ground.”

As leader of the UCSD Fossil Fuel Divestment campaign, Link-Oberstar is currently working on obtaining at least 50 student letters

by this coming Friday and more next week to send to Bachner. These letters will explain the importance of shifting toward clean energy and demand a clear timeline for how this will be set forth.

The letters to Bachner will be sent over the next few weeks, and thus far, they specifically come from other environmental groups on campus. In the coming weeks, SSC will call for students across campus to mobilize to have fossil fuel divestment placed on the agenda for the upcoming Regents meeting happening in May.

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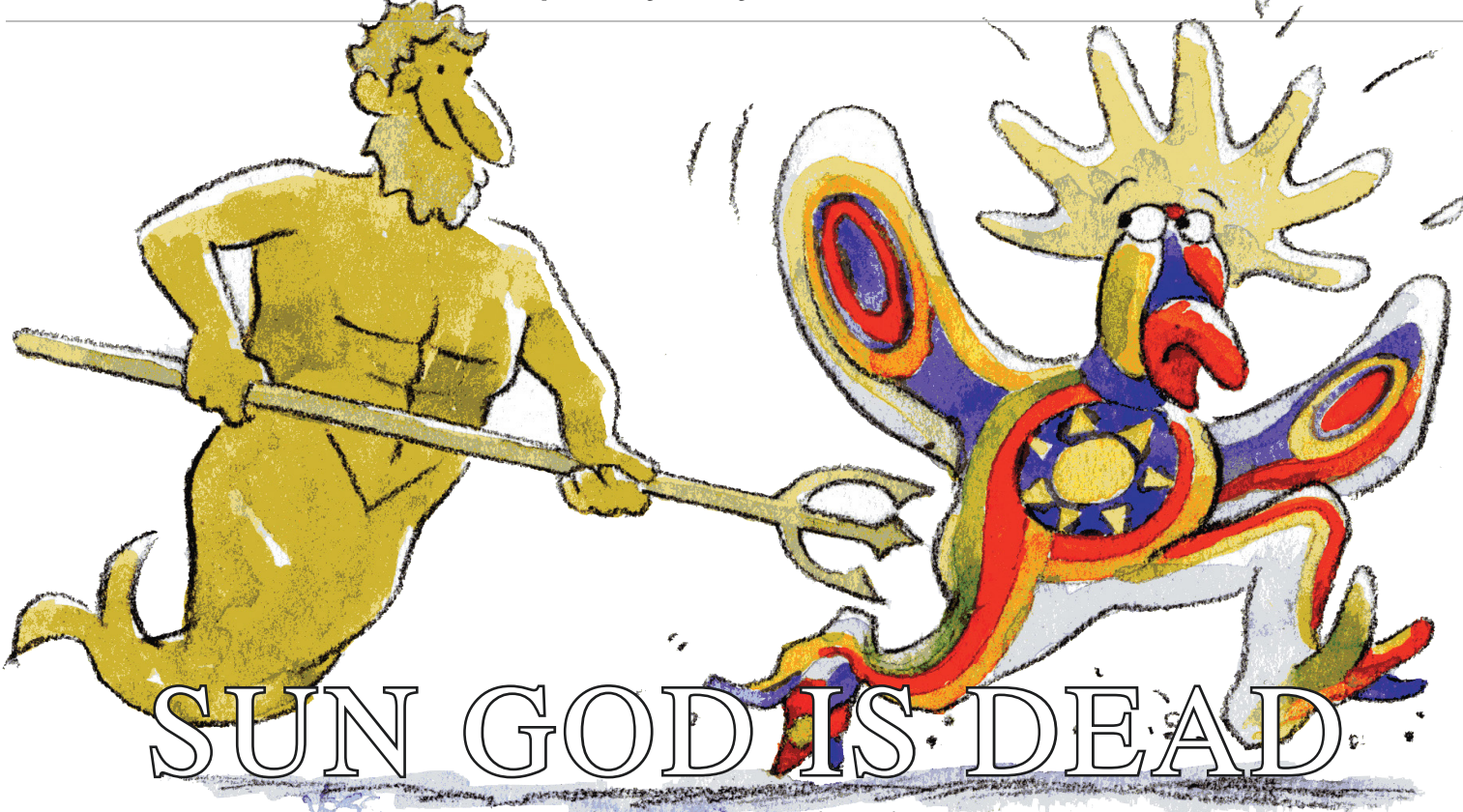
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OPINION

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By: Adriana Barrios // Editorial Assistant

Sun God Festival is supposed to be “the highlight of the UC San Diego undergraduate student experience,” a mission that should be easy to achieve on a campus known for its lack of socially-engaging experiences. That being said, in recent years, it has only managed to “build a sense of community” by disappointing the student body with its lineups and its ever-increasing regulations. This year’s festival represents the culmination of these problems, with apparent organizational problems and a very poorly received group of artists. The structure of Sun God as a festival has become a vehicle for poor planning and coordinating decisions, and that means student funds are being misused so that A.S. Concerts and Events can play a knock-off Coachella in our own backyard.

If Sun God is to continue existing, it should do so as a one-stage concert. Breaking it up into two stages is unnecessary when attendance is limited to undergraduate students. By creating two separate venues there is an inherent need to book enough acts to fill them. Quality over quantity should be the priority of the event, something that is often forgotten under the brand of establishing

this as a festival. It would be lovely to book 15 acts that are appealing to a large segment of the population to put on a proper festival that caters to all music tastes, but this is getting harder and harder to do as concert fever

“Fundamentally, the way in which this event is structured needs to be reevaluated, because with each passing year it resembles less of the core of what it was supposed to be.”

has created a music industry geared around live events. Finding enough artists that are available on a given weekend in the peak of the spring concert season is a logistical nightmare for a college campus. Instead, book a big artist and two or three openers and invest more money on activities or food instead

of trying to assemble a line-up around any artist that happens to be available and within budget. The overwhelming amount of security is another drawback of having such a large event, which puts the campus community at odds with public and private law enforcement to create unnecessary tension. If the event becomes smaller in nature, there should be more money available for more well-known and well-received musicians, both because of less organizational expenses and because there wouldn’t be a need to hire so much security.

Funding for Sun God is partly taken from student funds, yet these very students have rather limited avenues to decide how this festival will occur. This year, A.S. Council allotted \$730,000 to Sun God, which constitutes 67 percent of the concerts and events budget and almost 15 percent of the overall budget for the academic year which is a very significant amount of money for very few to be in charge of. Student input should be at the forefront of this festival and not just through a mass-emailed survey that goes out once a year in October. The Sun God committees should be able to be held

See **SUNGOD**, page 5

Millennials Should Look to the Past to Fix the Future

By Jason Nideffer // Staff Writer

It’s not uncommon for a senior generation to criticize and pass judgement on the younger generations of the day. And, most of the time, these criticisms are entirely subjective and arbitrary. However, over the past few years, millennials have been criticized on many occasions for their objective ignorance when it comes to history. This is especially troubling given the crucial importance of a proficient knowledge of history, as yesterday’s successes and failures are our greatest resources when it comes to making decisions for tomorrow.

The reasonable and founded judgement of today’s history-hating young adults has been perpetuated by numerous studies and polls that suggest millennials severely lack historical awareness. In particular, one study demonstrated that two-thirds of millennials do not know what Auschwitz was. Similarly, this deficiency was brought to light when 82 percent of eighth graders who took the U.S. history test as part of the National Assessment of Educational Progress performed below a proficient level. To once and for all condemn this young generation for its impious disregard for history, a published poll revealed that 19 percent of teens in the U.S. mistakenly believe that America declared its independence from either France or Canada.

Millennials often rationalize their disengagement with history by arguing that it has no bearing on their life, or that there is little to gain from such a time-costly pursuit. However, history abounds with actions that directly impact

our current state of affairs and lessons that wholly connect to the problems millennials aim to fix today. One such example is that of Rodney King.

In early March 1991, Rodney King was brutally beaten by police officers who were attempting to arrest him after a high-speed chase. One year after the initial incident, three of the

“Although it’s true that history isn’t the most monetarily profitable vein of study, it is nonetheless an important subject that all students, irrespective of their disciplines, ought to learn.”

four officers tried for assault were acquitted of all charges despite the fact that, according to a Gallup poll, 76 percent of people believed the police to be guilty.

Feelings of injustice among Los Angeles citizens kindled flames that literally engulfed parts of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, as it wasn’t long before the expressed frustrations acutely directed towards police officers transformed into undirected and indiscriminate violence. The six-day Los Angeles riots left 50 dead, 2,000 injured, 12,000 in jail, and \$1 billion

in damages. By the end of it all, the rioters paid a hefty price just to leave the city of Los Angeles with no substantive change in police conduct.

The lesson to be learned from this historical event is one of prudence and sensibility. The riots that ensued after the acquittal of the police officers who beat Rodney King were not only an ineffective means of enacting social change, they were a devastating force that rocked the lives of the innocent as well. Millennials, when engaging in socially motivated movements, move closer and closer to this form of protest without knowing the consequences. Instead, they should continually look to the past for what actions do or do not institute change, for if their actions do not effectively and explicitly support their broader motive, the collateral effects could be terrible.

This is but one instance in which history offers a valuable lesson to those who read it, and there are undoubtedly hundreds more. But, the sad truth of the matter is that millennials do not seem to care, and our institutions care even less. Although it’s true that history isn’t the most monetarily profitable vein of study, it is nonetheless an important subject that all students, irrespective of their disciplines, ought to learn. In this sense, a holistic education irrespective of major is of substantial value, as the only way to improve upon the past is to know a little history.

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RIDE AND DIE

By Suzanne Golshanara // Staff Writer

Motorcycles are certainly the ideal mode of transportation, especially for those wishing to be rapidly and irreversibly transported to the afterlife. These human death machines leave passengers completely unprotected, so it is no wonder that motorcycle riders die at a rate 29 times higher than those driving cars. However, there are no mass protests calling for the eradication of any and all motorcycles in the nation. People realize that informed adults have the right to make choices and take risks for themselves. Besides, when motorcyclists feel a need for speed, society benefits. Those deaths lead to a steady and superb source of grade-A organs. Motorcycle helmet laws greatly cut back on the supply of organs in an already tight market. In order to ensure the sick of this country have access to life-saving transplants, helmet laws should be either scaled back or removed altogether to ensure that there are always enough organs to go around.

Other than a few, every state has passed some form of a motorcycle helmet regulation, and there has even been discussion of a potential federal mandate requiring helmet usage. Helmet regulations can either be partial or universal. Partial helmet laws are explained by The Community Guide to “apply only to riders who are young, novices, or have medical insurance coverage below certain thresholds.” On the other hand, universal helmet laws, which are enforced in 19 states including California, require the compliance of all motorcyclists regardless of one’s age, experience, or insurance.

According to estimates done by the federal government, helmets decrease the likelihood of fatality by 37 percent and decrease the likelihood of brain injury by 67 percent. Such a decrease in fatalities has been correlated with a decrease in the supply of organs. In fact, a study done by Michigan State University found that after a state repeals its motorcycle helmet laws, there is a 10-percent increase in organ donations from people in motor vehicle accidents.

Motorcyclists provide the public with a lot of bang for its buck, as a single person can yield enough organs to save up to eight lives. They tend to be young, in fairly good health, and mostly only suffer from brain injuries after their accidents. Thus, they do not have your run-of-the-mill organs. Au contraire, theirs are of the highest-possible quality.

Whether or not someone wants to take life-saving, preventative measures should be a matter of choice. After all, unlike drunk driving which damages the organs of everyone involved and harms society as a whole, motorcyclists who choose not to wear a helmet hurt no one but themselves. So why don’t you grab a motorcycle, forget your helmet, and save some lives?

The views expressed here do not necessarily represent the views of The UCSD Guardian.

WORLD FRONT WINDOW By David Juarez



► **SUNGOD**, from page 4

accountable throughout the year to ensure that the event in question is aligning to the interests of the student body. Although the element of surprise can create momentum and excitement around an event, it can also create a larger disappointment when the selections are not what the students would've wanted. Clearly, maintaining a direct democratic process with more than 27,000 students is not easily feasible, but maintaining a more open reporting system with the student body and doing a better job of advertising the ways in which people can get directly involved with the committee would be a start.

The rest of the money that pays for the event is acquired through sponsorships, either from other A.S. Council departments or from private corporations. This is just another drawback of trying to coordinate an event of these proportions — the necessity to outsource to private organizations for funding. If it reduced the number of artists and planned a concert instead of a festival, costs would be more manageable. Otherwise it falls on A.S. Council

to have to fundraise the rest of the event, meaning corporate interests interfere with the affairs of a public institution. It undermines the values of public education to have to resort to private enterprises and it undermines A.S. Council too. One of the sponsors, for example, is a private radio station which is in direct competition with the campus's own KSDT radio station, a student service under A.S. Council. It brought competition to its own service in order to fund a festival that left most unhappy.

Fundamentally, the way in which this event is structured needs to be reevaluated, because with each passing year it resembles less of the core of what it was supposed to be. A.S. Council needs to remember the bigger picture when coordinating events, ensuring that what it plans is tailored to the current campus population and that it isn't simply going through the motions. The future of Sun God should rest on the people paying for it and the elected student government should be responsible for seeing that the people who pay for both the event and its own salaries are actually happy with the finished product.

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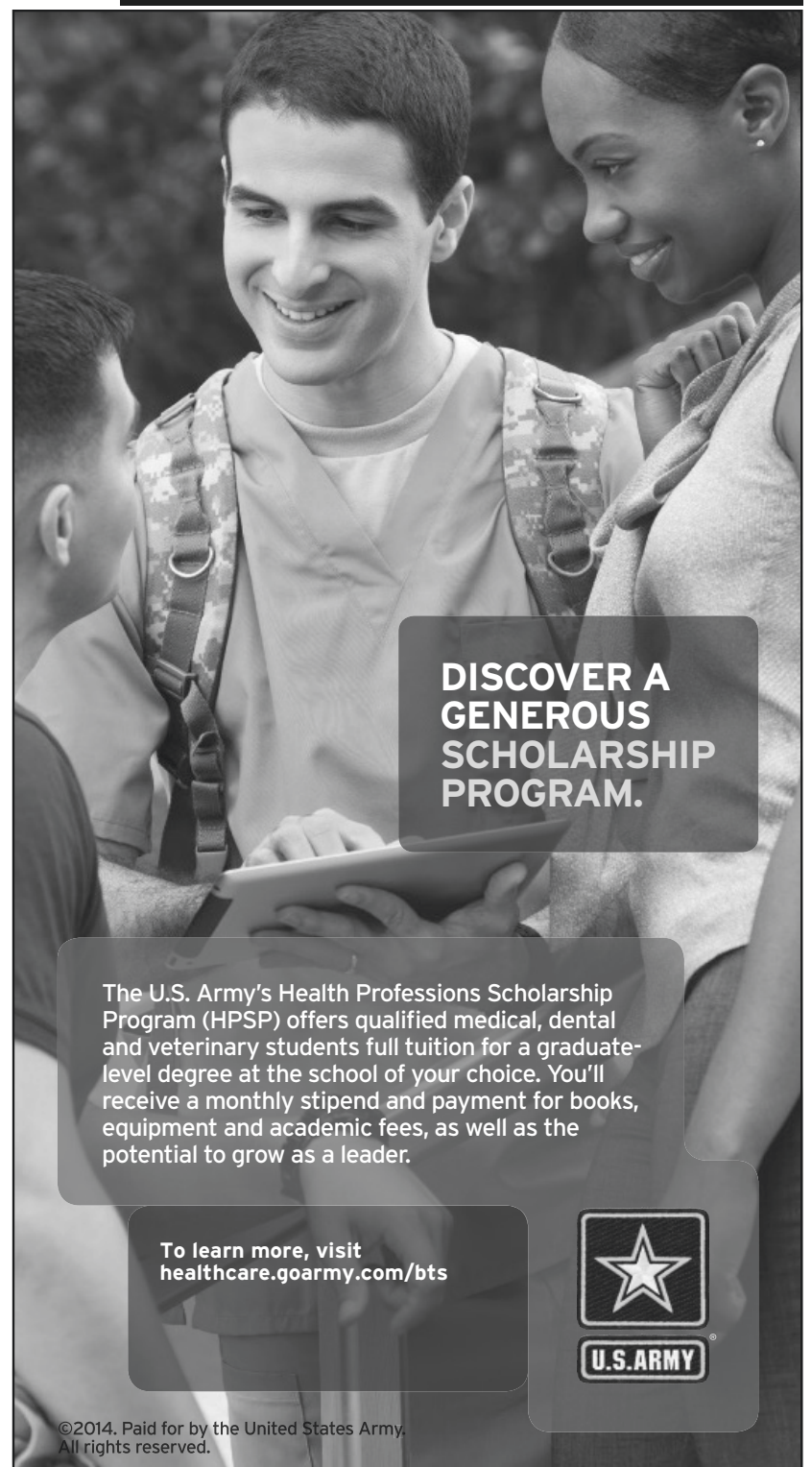
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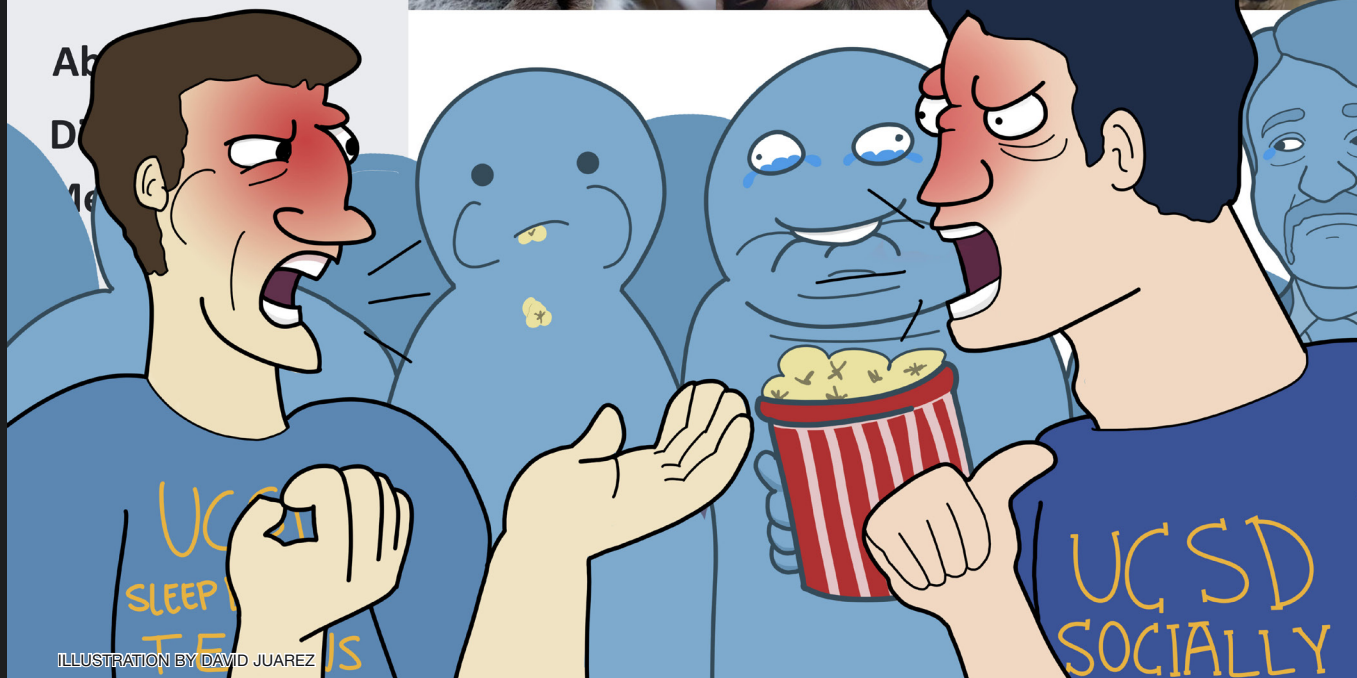
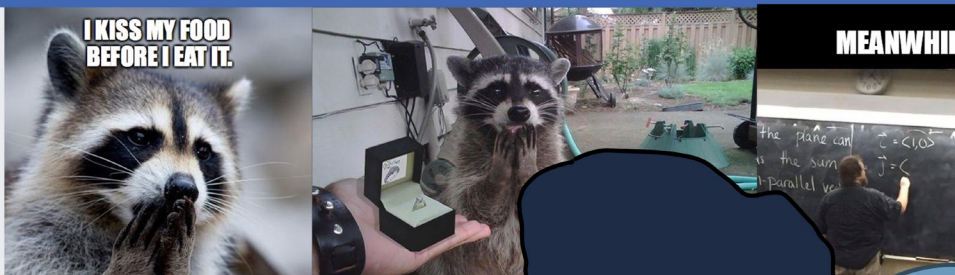


ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID JUAREZ

THE GREAT UCSD
MEME REVOLUTION

AN OVERREACTION?

With the self-titled “Meme Revolution” occurring just a couple of weeks ago, witnessing the overthrow of Faraz Noor Shaikh from his own Facebook page and the creation of a competing meme page, a lot has happened to the main UC San Diego Meme Page in a short span of time. However, despite all of the drama, many have remained indifferent to it. This brings into question: Was the meme revolution one giant overreaction?

By Madeline Park // Features Editorial Assistant

Boasting close to 28,000 members, the largest UC San Diego meme page — officially named “UCSD Memes for Sleep Deprived Tritons” — can be said to have become an integral part of the UCSD community. In the short year and half since its creation in November 2016, this page has grown to define an entire student body, encapsulating UCSD culture through shared jokes and experiences.

However, in the span of just a couple weeks, this all came close to falling apart.

It all began with a single post. On March 21, in the midst of rising tensions during finals week of Winter Quarter, Faraz Noor Shaikh — creator of the page — posted a series of texts between him and “Timmy Triton” creator Andrew Diep, Sixth College first-year. These texts included an exchange in which Shaikh bullied Diep, denying him access to posting many of his comics on the page as well as putting Diep down in the process. With phrases such as “Stop acting like a damn five year old,” “piece of s---,” or even “You are beneath me,” peppering the conversation, it was not long before people became outraged.

From angry reacts to spiteful memes and comments, the post almost immediately blew up with criticism against Shaikh. Comments such as “This is what happens when you give people with low emotional intelligence a slight taste of power” or “> become meme page admin > realize this is the best thing that’s happened in life > ‘you’re beneath me’” were constantly being hurled at the post. In fact, one of the comments by Sharon Oh, receiving 50 reacts, read, “A lot of memes on this page are recycled anyway??? ‘You’re beneath me’??? He’s a content creator spending a lot of time to make comics for the people not for admin??? Damn you’re messed up lmao ... nice apology dude.”

Another comment receiving 30 likes by Trang Le said, “Faraz it’s nice that you shared how you talked to this guy, but honestly you’re an asshole. Hopefully you don’t get hurt over me saying that (triggered!) but Jesus look how you’re treating this racoon guy! They’re memes! Unless it’s child porn or a dog getting thrown off a cliff, let people meme whatever they want ... smfh.”

From there, the drama only escalated. In the span of a mere two weeks, a second meme page entitled “UCSD Memes for Revolutionary Teens” was brought up, quickly gaining around 4,000 new members. Initially filled with memes against Shaikh and self-entitled “[s---posts],” the competing meme page quickly became the basis for the “Meme Revolution.” Posted on this page was also a Google document that included several of Shaikh’s “crimes” and instances of bullying, thus only fueling the fires of revolution even more. Led by former “UCSD Memes for Sleep Deprived Tritons” meme page administrator Nick Lin, current “UCSD Memes for Sleep Deprived Tritons” meme page administrator Armin Jorgensen, and other members from the administrator team, the “Meme Revolution” was short but radical, consisting of several negotiations between the administrator team and Shaikh.

“The original plan from the beginning was to cut off contact with Noor Shaikh and his page, and create our own page, where our goal was to grow, compete, and overtake his page,” said Jorgensen in a press release. “Our pages ran separately and competed with one another ... Negotiations at this point were tense and not very productive. I made a decision as administrator to let our group vote publically on whether or not to accept Shaikh’s deal, and it was defeated with more than 600 votes against and approximately 20 votes

for. In hindsight, I made a mistake in allowing it to go to a public poll, as the public was not in a position to make a reasonable decision.”

It was from this point that a final decision was reached. On April 2, after a meeting between Shaikh and Jorgensen, the conclusion was made to merge the two pages, thus making the “UCSD Memes for Revolutionary Teens” page into a complete [s---post] page (now entitled “Sp00ky Geisel 3rd Floor [S---Bosts]”). On top of this, Shaikh was forced to step down from his administrator status until at least the end of Fall Quarter 2018, thus leaving the leadership of the page up to the rest of the administrator team.

Yet, with the overthrow of Shaikh long past, the initial fires of anger slowly dying down, and the main page resuming itself to “life as usual,” the great “Meme Revolution” seems, to many, to be one major overreaction. Even throughout the revolution, the attitude of the general public seemed to be one of indifference or annoyance at the drama, with only a select few actively engaging. With no visible major impact made upon the memes themselves, many have come to question: Was the whole revolution completely necessary?

According to Lin, it was.

“A lot of times I think he was just overreaching,” Lin commented. “He was trying to benefit himself over all the other people, right? I think it really got into his head. And then I told him, ‘Maybe you should quit. I think it’s kind of way over it.’ But he was like, ‘Nah, nah, nah. I’m gonna keep this page because, oh man, this is the greatest thing that ever happened to me.’ ... I honestly don’t really care about how he runs the page. My main concern was how he was treating other people. That was what motivated me to like actually start the whole thing.”

Surprisingly, Shaikh also seems to agree with this sentiment. Despite being harassed with several hateful messages and the occasional death threat, Shaikh agreed that the revolution led to many positive outcomes.

“I banned raccoon memes and Andrew messaged me about it,” Shaikh recalled. “I was really rude to him at first and then I went on to bullying him as well, telling him that I don’t respect his opinions and stuff like that, which is really wrong of me considering in an interview before I told [the UCSD Guardian] I created a community space and stuff, so it really went against that. ... And the way I was running the page, in retrospect, wasn’t correct either. The last time I talked to [the Guardian] it had like 8,000 members. And it tripled. So it has 27,000 now. And when the page encompasses such a large community, it needs to be run with a better infrastructure, better order, which I wasn’t adhering to. I was still running it like it [had] 100 members or whatever. Which is why when it was made such a big deal, I realized that what I’ve been doing is super wrong.”

This gets to the point of what the revolution was all about. Aside from the wrongs that Shaikh committed through heavy censorship on the page, he went against the very nature of the page and bullied another student. Having been such an integral part of the community, “UCSD Memes for Sleep Deprived Tritons” has created a whole hodgepodge of raccoon, Professor John Eggers, Asian Baby Girl, science technology engineering math vs. humanities, UCLA-reject, Division 1, Cardi B, hate-preacher, UCSD lecture podcast, and Piazza culture that is unique to our school — a culture that is meant to be inclusive of everyone. To deny someone from being a part of that, to bully someone for wanting to contribute to that, is a massive

See MEMES, page 7

► MEMES, from page 6

violation of power.

For someone like Andrew Diep especially, this was extremely painful. As one of the few original content creators on the meme page, Diep has been drawing his “Timmy Triton” comics since the beginnings of his freshman year. To him, “Timmy Triton” is an outlet of expression and a way to connect to UCSD culture. For him and other content creators as well, this means that the revolution has, indeed, been well worth it.

“The majority of people did support the revolution, but there’s half of the people that think it’s a joke — more like, ‘Why is there a revolution for the meme page? It’s just a meme page.’ But to me it’s basically the media of UCSD. It’s the culture, it’s the media: It’s all embedded inside the meme page,” Diep stated. “There’s a lot of misinformation around about the meme revolution. Most of the people think it’s just because of me, that I’m angry at Faraz. That’s not really true. The meme revolution basically gives the freedom to content creators to create content. Having more content creators control the meme page is [better than having] one

person because the meme page is basically the culture of UCSD. ... [I think the revolution was important] for future generations. I know that there will be freshmen coming in — talented freshmen, content creators. I don’t want them to go through the things that I went through.”

At the end of the day, whether or not it was necessary, the “meme revolution” did happen. While it may not have made an extremely visible difference, the ability to post content freely without arbitrary censorship is one that should be highly valued. The meme page provides a space for creators and students to express themselves, a space where their voices — and complaints — are heard and reaffirmed. It is here that community has been created and sustained. Just by looking at the support that Diep received through it, it can be agreed upon that this community is a strong one.

“You saw the community support that Andrew received, and how the community came together, and that’s great,” Shaikh commented. “It shows that we’re not socially dead, that we’re very socially awake. Yeah the stigma for UCSD is ‘UC Socially Dead.’ But this just shows social unity.”

For Shaikh as well, although he will no longer be an administrator of the page, the forceful break has a redemptive element to it. After apologizing to Diep and formally stepping down, Shaikh came to the conclusion that it was healthy for him to get away.

“Stepping away helps. The meme page has been a big part of my UCSD life so far. A lot of people recognize me as ‘the guy who started the meme page,’ you know, ‘the guy who started it all,’ Shaikh commented. “Thinking about that and how I was wrong, it hurt me but it made me think, ‘Wow I need to change parts of my life.’ And stepping away gave me that opportunity — that I don’t have to think about this anymore. I can think more about academics, about more projects that I want to do. ... In retrospect, I’m really happy.”

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LOOKING BEYOND STEREOTYPES: DISPROVING MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ISLAM

UCSD MSA discusses how it's time to analyze the negative stereotypes and misconceptions that further the discrimination often faced by Muslims.

By Lara Sanli
// Staff Writer

In today’s post-9/11 world, Islam is often misunderstood. Negative stereotypes having nothing to do with the religion continue to persist, and discrimination against Muslims in the U.S. has increased since the 2016 election. As this bias against and fear of Muslims becomes deeper ingrained into mainstream American culture, it is more important than ever to address the problems Muslims face and why they exist in the first place.

As a national nonprofit organization that focuses on promoting unified Muslim communities for students on college campuses, the Muslim Student Association works to do just that. According to its website, the MSA “strives to facilitate networking, educating, and empowering the students of today to be citizens of tomorrow’s community.” Its list of guiding principles includes phrases such as “love is our highest aspiration” and “tolerance is the banner of our outreach.”

“This is a community that holistically caters to as many Muslim students as possible,” explained Thurgood Marshall College junior Shafeen Pittal, the vice president of the MSA at UC San Diego, who is majoring in political science. “We are trying to institutionalize the Muslim student experience on campus, whether that’s by reaching out to the administration and asking for resources we may need, or having events that may provide spiritual, academic, or social help, or just making sure that the Muslim students have a support system and community on campus.”

Some MSA events include the annual Justice in Palestine Week, which informs the UCSD community about Israeli occupation and the Palestinian experience, and Islam Awareness Week, which educates students about Islam. The MSA also fights for social justice by organizing protests and other solidarity demonstrations.

It has membership of Muslims with backgrounds from all over the world. Muslims practice Islam, a worldwide religion that teaches monotheism and adherence to the Qur’an and Sunnah, the teachings of Prophet Muhammad. The term “Muslim” is not a synonym for “Arab” or “Middle Eastern” (a concept often misunderstood), and not all Arabs are Muslims. In fact, many people living in the Middle East actually practice other religions such as Christianity or Judaism. And just like Christianity and Judaism, Islam is also practiced worldwide. There are African Muslims, Asian Muslims, Pakistani Muslims, and Indian Muslims, for example, and the MSA reflects this diversity.

“There are lots of ways for us to unite, and we don’t get into politics,” Pittal said. “It’s just a community for anyone who feels comfortable in that space.”

The MSA offers a safe space for one of the most marginalized religious minorities in the United States. Now more than ever, Muslims are falsely associated with radical extremists who routinely abuse the name of the religion for personal gain. America is quick to scapegoat Muslims for terrorist attacks even though most acts of domestic terror have actually been carried out by white nationalists with no ties to Islam. President Donald Trump himself perpetuates these harmful stereotypes, famously declaring “I think Islam hates us” during a 2016 CNN interview with Anderson Cooper, and instituting the Muslim Ban last year, which involved suspending the Syrian refugee program and banning entry from several Muslim-majority countries, resulting in confusion and despair among many families, including U.S. citizens.

“All of these ideologies were prominent even before the Trump administration came into power,” Pittal said in reference to racism and Islamophobia. “They’ve always been in America — they’ve been a part of our country’s make-up for so long — but now they’ve been given legitimacy because of President Trump. And that’s the problem.”

She believes this harmful stereotype of Muslims as terrorists is perpetuated by negative portrayals of Muslims in the news and in other forms of media. The lack of diversity in newsrooms and in the media industry overall prevents important stories and perspectives of minority groups from being shared. This absence of awareness can lead to the spread of harmful misconceptions, which develop into deeply ingrained, and often unconscious, biases against minorities.

“The media is fueling [Islamophobia],” Pittal said. “It’s a very complicated platform to look at. But if you look at any culture, any religion, there are always those people who use that religion to advance their own interests that have nothing to do with the



PHOTO COURTESY OF UCSD MSA (MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION)

religion or the culture. There [are] Hindu extremists, there [are] Buddhist extremists, but those religions aren’t dealing with the same characterizations that a lot of Muslims are. So, I think it’s really important to think why we’re scapegoating Muslims. We need to analyze how this is translating to biases in the way we think and deal with certain groups and work on recreating these frameworks with more inclusive, educated rhetoric and mindsets.”

For example, many people often misinterpret the Islamic principle of “jihad” as “holy war” because they have only heard it in the negative — and false — context of extremists using it to justify their violence. “Jihad” is neither a declaration of war nor an act of violence. It actually means “struggle,” which according to the Qur’an, means striving to be a better person and a better Muslim.

Such misconceptions have harmed the broader Muslim population. Innocent people are the victims of deadly assaults and hate crimes by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. But a fact usually overlooked is that most of the people killed in terrorist attacks are actually Muslim, and most Muslims are vocally opposed to ISIS and other terrorist groups.

“At the end of the day, they’re not Muslim,” Pittal declared, explicitly distinguishing radical extremists from Muslims. “I can’t even make that association because there is no connection. Those people are taking my religion and giving it a false name, giving it a false image in the country, in the world. Why do they have the platform for 1.7 billion Muslim people?”

Extremism isn’t the only stereotype that has been assigned to Islam. Additional debates concerning Muslim women who wear the hijab, or headscarf, are abundant, and the meaning of the hijab is a highly contested topic.

“Islamically, women are commanded to cover by God,” Pittal explained. “So are men. So both women and men are asked to cover and lower their gazes and engage in a lifestyle of modesty and God-consciousness. But the covering for women and men is different. Men have to cover from their navel to their knee, and women have to cover everything except their hands and their feet and their face.”

However, in some cases, the aspect of a Muslim woman covering herself has become a political conversation. This is because external factors such as governments, cultural influences, and heightened Islamophobic environments have made it so. The hijab continues to receive severe backlash, especially in America — the land ironically known for its freedom of religion.

According to a 2016 report done by the Council of American-Islamic Relations, the hijab is one of the top five triggers of anti-Muslim bias incidents. A 17-year-old Muslim girl in a hijab, Nabra Hassanen, was beaten to death by a man with a baseball bat last summer. The police refused to describe the incident as a hate crime even though part of the reason why Hassanen was murdered was because her hijab made her a visible Muslim.

With women who wear the hijab experiencing so many hate

crimes, it is necessary to question why the hijab is perceived so negatively. Although these negative opinions can produce consequences ranging from microaggressions to hate crimes, they remain severely problematic no matter the scale of the bias, and many people are unaware that they’re contributing to the problem. In fact, much of the criticism Muslim women receive is actually from feminists who are supposed to be their allies.

As an ideology, feminism holds that all women have freedom to dress or think as they choose. Yet many self-proclaimed feminists act against this idea by telling Muslim women that they are oppressed. As Pittal points out, “By telling me that my choice of covering is oppression when I am telling them otherwise, are they not the ones taking away my freedom to choose how I live my life and silencing my voice?”

For Pittal, who chose to start wearing a hijab in seventh grade, it has been an extremely meaningful experience.

“Whether that’s modesty, empowerment, or liberation, a hijab is this way that I wear my faith on my head and I’m reminded to constantly be God-conscious,” she said. “It has allowed me, personally, to be a lot more confident in myself. For me, the hijab has been a source of empowerment. It’s for no one, it’s not for any man, for any woman, it’s just simply in devotion to my creator and my religion. It’s an external manifestation of an internal state of being.”

Islam is a religion of peace that carries deep meaning for many people and Pittal encourages others to study Islam in order to understand the positive principles Muslims hold true.

“Regardless of what people think or believe,” Pittal said, “if they simply made an effort to study Islam from authentic sources, they themselves would realize its beauty that anyone, Muslim or non-Muslim, can be inspired and moved by. There’s this underlying and remarkable theme of mercy, compassion, and love both by God [toward] His people, and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) to his companions and followers. And this should be practiced by the followers of Islam. There’s this constant emphasis in Islam about working to be a better believer, a better person — not just as a creation of God, but [toward] other creations of God. It is this constant state of belief, this flickering foundational, beautiful faith, that is the light in my experience as a Muslim, in my existence as a human being, as Shafeen. ‘Light upon light’ is one of my favorite phrases from the Qur’an. So as we all engage on this campus, let us strive to beautify ourselves, each other, and our communities with light.”

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FILM REVIEW

AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

Directed by Joe Russo, Anthony Russo

Starring Josh Brolin, Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson, Mark Ruffalo, Tom Holland, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Hiddleston

Release Date April 27, 2018

Rating PG-13

A

PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC

Despite its scale, “Avengers: Infinity War” delivers epic battles, humor, and emotional moments without losing sight of its story or sacrificing length.

Truly one of the most (if not the most) ambitious crossover events in movie history, “Avengers: Infinity War” manages to meet the incredibly high bar it set for itself, striking a balance between action, humor, and plot without slowing pace or losing the audience.

“Infinity War” picks up right after the post-credits scene of “Thor: Ragnarok,” and quickly reveals itself to be much darker than its predecessors. The movie’s villain, Thanos (Josh Brolin) is on a mission to collect the six Infinity Stones, to harness their unique power, and gain the ability to alter reality with a snap of his fingers. Throughout the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU)’s 18 movies, the locations of five of the six stones have been revealed, with two on Earth and three on other planets.

The movie is split into three different subplots which simultaneously force our heroes’ paths to cross and separate them into

small groups spread throughout the galaxy. While some of our heroes try to find and kill Thanos before he collects all of the infinity stones in space, others protect and attempt to destroy the ones on Earth before Thanos’ henchmen can find them. Finally, Thor (Chris Hemsworth), Groot (Vin Diesel), and Rocket Raccoon (Bradley Cooper) set out to forge a new weapon that can kill Thanos.

Those who are new to the MCU may have a harder time understanding all of the references and jokes in the movie, but directors Anthony and Joe Russo do an excellent job of weaving the most important plot details into the characters’ introductions. After all, the characters haven’t watched the other films either.

The most dangerous aspect of this film — the size of its cast and diversity of its characters — actually became one of its strongest features. The transitions between subplots were handled elegantly, with just enough time in between to move

the story along without letting the audience forget what else is going on. They also kept the narrative moving at a brisk pace, making a movie that’s almost three hours long seem half that.

Where the storyline lacks action, the characters make up for with humor; where it lacks humor, there are emotional, heartfelt moments to remind us that heroes are fragile too. The depth of this movie is thanks to the 10 years that Marvel spent creating it, allowing audiences to understand and connect to the characters and their values. With Loki (Tom Hiddleston), Marvel created a nuanced, morally-gray villain, and surprisingly, “Infinity War” gives Thanos the same treatment. Much like Killmonger in “Black Panther,” Thanos identifies a valid problem but comes up with the wrong solution. In less than three hours, “Infinity War” gives Thanos an origin story that gives him more dimension than most of the characters in the DC Extended Universe.

So where does “Infinity War” fall short? For one, it doesn’t give us many new character relationships. Although the characters are separated at the beginning of the film, they mostly remain with the people they’ve already known. Notably, the Guardians of the Galaxy meet Thor, but soon after they get separated, and there’s not much dialogue between Thor, Rocket, and Groot. Similarly, Iron Man and Spiderman meet Doctor Strange, but the conversations between the former two characters are very similar to those in the previous movies — Stark treats Parker like a child, and Parker tries to prove him wrong.

Secondly, due to the sheer magnitude of this movie, several of the heroes’ whereabouts and stories are barely mentioned, while others receive much more attention. In particular, romantic storylines are explored a lot more than in previous films. Although this allows for character growth and adds another dimension to the film, it seems

irrelevant at times.

To be clear, the interactions mentioned above are included for comedic relief or used to explain the plot, and they brilliantly achieve their purpose. However, the film could be improved by including comedic dialogue between new characters, or replacing some of the romantic moments with scenes involving characters who don’t get as much screen time.

While “Infinity War” isn’t perfect, it accomplishes an incredibly difficult feat amazingly well. It’s also only the first half of the story, so there’s plenty of time for more character and story development. Overall, the fight scenes are epic, the story is an emotional rollercoaster, and the ending will leave you reeling and hungry for “Avengers 4.” Given the ambition of the project, it is easily the best Marvel movie so far. We waited 10 years for this film, and it definitely does not disappoint.

— PROMITA NANDY
 Staff Writer

CONCERT REVIEW

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY



Location The Music Box

Concert Date April 18, 2018

A

Indie-pop band Alvays gifted San Diego with lovable tracks and Rankin’s angelic vocals on last Wednesday night’s concert.

It was Week 3 of Spring Quarter, and while some might have been dealing with Coachella withdrawals or anticipating the second weekend, San Diego offered solace for those who were not fortunate enough to score

\$500 tickets. A handful of artists who made up Coachella’s iconic lineup conveniently also made a pit stop at San Diego in between the two weekends. Canadian indie-pop band Alvays was one of those artists, and The Music Box was the

host for its Wednesday night show.

The opener, Frankie Rose, started the night dressed in a hoodie and jeans. The stage was dimly lit with a backdrop of flashing lights, which helped transition into Alvays’ brighter and simpler stage setting.

Alvays opened with “Hey,” an upbeat track full of catchy guitar riffs that successfully ignited the crowd. Lead singer Molly Rankin’s soft vocals carried across the venue as the crowd bobbed their heads along to the riffs. The band followed with hits like “Adult Diversion,” “Not My Baby,” and “Your Type.” Most of the night consisted of tracks from their latest release “Antisocialites,” which, judging from the mass of hipsters and beer drinkers that pushed their way closer to the stage for a listen, was a fast favorite. The band urged the crowd to sing along to the catchy bop, “Plimsoll Punks,” earning an enthusiastic response.

Rankin’s platinum sleek hair and solid red ensemble embodied the band’s minimalist and quirky style. During the transitions between tracks, she connected with her fans through casual conversation — spanning subjects from her day out in San Diego to her favorite movie, “Powder.” The crowd clearly loved Alvays’ newest tracks, yet the night couldn’t be complete with old favorites from the band’s 2014 self-titled

album. “Archie, Marry Me” was the climax of the show, featuring Rankin crooning the chorus with a remarkable level of delicacy. Fans couldn’t help but join in for her high notes and sway their hands in the air. “Dreams Tonight” was a more mellow track that cued dimmed stage lights and cellphone glows in the air as Rankin softly crooned, “In fluorescent light / Anti-socialites watch a wilting flower.” The moment perfectly captured Rankin’s melodious vocals and the band’s mesmerizing compatibility with the soft drum beats and bass.

The band declared the last song of the night to be “Party Police,” which imbued the energy in the venue with a subdued yet endearing sense of farewell. “You don’t have to leave, you can just stay here with me,” Rankin murmured gently, before bidding farewell and exiting the stage. However Alvays had no intentions of disappointing the crowd, and as fans begged for an encore, Rankin returned and thanked the crowd before jumping into the band’s redemption of “Blue” by Elica and Alvays’ own “Next of Kin.” The Music Box may not be Coachella, but Alvays sure brought the hype to San Diego.

— MELISSA PALAFOX
 Senior Staff Writer

Q&A WITH MINDING THE GAP

Director Bing Liu's "Minding the Gap," a winner of the Jury Award for Breakthrough Filmmaking at Sundance Film Festival, follows Liu and his friends, Zack and Keire, as they navigate adulthood in a tightly-knit skateboarding community in the American Midwest. The UCSD Guardian sat down with Keire, as well as Liu and producer Diane Moy Quon.

The Guardian: So, this is your first film, and it's going around the festival circuit, and you've already won at Sundance Film Festival. What has that experience been like for all of you?

Keire: I mean, for me, it was something that I never really expected going into this. It's just really beautiful, honestly, to see how far we've come, especially being 14 or 15 and being asked, "Hey, can I interview you?" I was just like "Yeah!" and I didn't know what it was for, or where I was going. It's just been amazing, being able to travel and meet a bunch of people. It's definitely something I feel I would not have had without Bing and Diane for sure. I love y'all.

Diane: We love you too! I think for me, I just loved the experience of working with Bing, and meeting all the people in the film and working with them. I'm so grateful for the reaction from the audience. You know, it's rewarding to hear that critics love the film, but to see how it's affected the audiences and how much they've embraced the film has really meant a lot to me.

Bing: I mean, I love how it's affected Keire and Zack and Nina as well, and I love working with great people and Diane, our co-editor Josh Altman, and sound mixer James Labrecht, composer Nathan Halpern, and and the Kartemquin family. We're still very much in it, so it's hard to get perspective just yet.

G: So, right now we're at the San Diego Asian Film Festival. Do you think being Asian-American has affected your filmmaking in

any way?

B: I mean, certainly. I don't know if you've seen the film, but there's an aspect that deals with what it means to find your racial identity as it pertains to Keire. For a while, people in rough-cut screenings and feedback screenings were telling me that "you gotta take that out, it's too distracting from the family or fatherhood themes," but I just kept trying to make it work, and it wasn't until we premiered it at Sundance in January, and I think I flew out end of November, early December to get the final interview [with Keire] that really locked [it] into place. It was just the realization that if we just connect racial coming of age with the lessons that Keire's father was trying to impart on him, that would both satisfy the main arc of Keire's story, which was his relationship with his father, but also be able to keep that nuance in there with what it means to navigate dual racial spaces. Within that was how I was able to deal with what I felt like I experienced growing up, which was similar to Keire's navigating these two worlds of this white friend group, but also this Chinese identity. It takes an emotional toll on Asian-American boys when they grow up in communities that don't really have an Asian-American community to latch onto. I'm also an immigrant, so I feel like all these sort of coalesce into an outsider viewpoint. I've always felt like I was on the outside, but within that helps me get better clarity on how everything is constructed in our society.

G: So, some people have compared your film



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

to "Boyhood," and then they've also said it's a very complex look at masculinity in the 21st century. What do you think about that?

K: I personally haven't seen "Boyhood" yet, but I can kinda see how it could be compared to it by just how we were filming for so long. You kind of just see us all grow up. I don't know, I don't really know what I'm trying to say.

D: Yeah, I agree with Keire. The fact that the film goes over a long period of time, which made "Boyhood" so different and interesting, Bing does that too. You see Keire when he's 11 and now he's a mature 22, so you do see that growth in them, but "Boyhood" was so centered on one young man, and this is really the story about friendship and community. So I see that as different, but definitely seeing that footage over all the years, I could see why there's that comparison.

B: I mean the expanse of time is there. I think, ultimately, it's really easy for people to sort of grasp onto other cultural reference points in order to enter into a piece of work that's complex. It certainly is about masculinity as well. A couple days ago in Sarasota I just did a panel about masculinity with a women and gender studies professor at a local university, and we broke open all the ways that this

film deconstructed masculinity and showed examples of how it's a performance over the course of an hour.

G: I have a question for Keire. At the end of the film, it's revealed that you got a sponsorship, so what has that been like for you?

K: It's been really amazing, honestly. For the most part, it's been a huge money saver, because before that, a lot of my money just went to skateboarding, and it's just like me accomplishing a dream of mine. I've always wanted to be sponsored by companies that actually like and care about you. I just hope it continues, I hope I don't get hurt or anything. Yeah, it's just been an amazing ride, honestly. It's something I never actually thought I would ever accomplish, I guess, but yeah, I'm really thankful.

G: There are two moments in the film that I wanted to ask about. So one moment was when you were interviewing Keire, and then you tell him that you approached the film because you found common threads in your experiences concerning abuse, and then when you're interviewing your mom. She says that whatever it takes for you to heal, you need to do that. So, did you approach the film with the

See **MINDING THE GAP**, page 12



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Smokeyard BBQ and Chop Shop: A Home for the Unconventional

by Annika Olives // Lifestyle Editor and Brittney Lu // Associate Lifestyle Editor

Our entire experience at Smokeyard BBQ and Chop Shop was critically defined by its brussel sprouts. Dressed in a blanket of reduced bourbon and maple, it was humble, full of depth, and unexpected — considering this restaurant is meant to satisfy carnivorous cravings. But the idea of this small, green package expands into the ambiance, menu, service, and vision of Smokeyard. Here, there's an understated tone of mixing the unusual together to create a space where there's something for everyone.

Located at La Jolla's Westfield UTC, this five-month-old eatery has already built up quite a reputation for its daily happy hours and impressive ability to cater to a variety of demographics — from the bar-hopping college students, to the working professional, and even the young family. Manager Andrew Platt hopes to see this Mammoth Lakes transplant become a staple in the San Diegan UTC area, opening up opportunities at the bar, tables, and outdoor patio for all to come and enjoy together.

Back to the brussel sprouts. Chef Matt Sramek — a classically trained chef with an esteemed background linking him to the bites of Beverly Hills — offers this as an appetizer that sets the tone for the rest of the menu. Pretty for the eyes, and sweet on the tongue, this \$12 plate was enough to be a stand-alone meal. But paired with the crispy rock shrimp starter, which were mixed with a chili garlic aioli and reminded us of honey walnut prawns, the combination offers familiar foods in an unconventional setting. Though the bed of shredded cabbage and shockingly bright yellow peppers haphazardly sprinkled on top make the dish look less appetizing than it actually is, these melt-in-the-mouth crustaceans have an unanticipated lightness that pair well with the more filling brussel sprouts.

And for the 21-and-over crowd, there is an impressive array of libations to complement the meal. There are classic selections of beer and wine, mules and lemonades; but there is also a Smokeyard Elixir, a blend of kombucha, El Jimador tequila, and a pineapple citrus juice. At first sip, the sugar rim accentuates the sweetness and acidity of the juice, but the kombucha easily overrides the other flavors with the tequila leaving a strong aftertaste. An interesting mix, but a beverage selection that is consistent with the idea of the unexpected coming together.

Moving right along into the mains, the food consistently attests to Sramek's talent and ability to navigate traditional ingredients with a variety of cooking styles. A barbecue sampler showcases a perfectly seasoned chicken, well-cooked tri-tip, and a set of literal fall-off-the-bone St. Louis spare ribs. Next to this marathon of meat is a platter of three accompanying sauces: sweet chili, Smokeyard BBQ, and mango habanero. Disappointingly, the Smokeyard BBQ sauce crosses the line from smoky-sweet to "Wow, this tastes like a cinnamon roll," but the sweet chili is the perfect poultry partner, and the mango habanero is a refreshing addition (that actually tastes like mango, as opposed to an artificial concentrate) to an otherwise heavy meal.

The sides speak for themselves — both the bacon and jalapeno mac and cheese and charred cauliflower are exactly what one would expect them to taste like. Definitely not bad, but after those brussel sprouts, one really can't compare.

And just when we couldn't eat anymore, an apple berry cobbler, warm from the oven and crowned with four perfectly sized scoops of vanilla ice cream, was set before us and devoured in five minutes. With a fruit compote and cinnamon biscuit topping, that tasted more like a sweet cornbread, the cobbler was the perfect bookend.

Overall, Smokeyard is a space we hope to see remain constant in the ever changing topography of UTC. A place for anyone and everyone, this minimally decorated yet incredibly well-thought-out eatery is full of honesty, intention, and transparency — both metaphorically from its menu selection and warm service, and physically, to the literal open bar, kitchen and floor to ceiling windows. A space for all community members, Smokeyard offers a "kids eat free" option for Mondays in May, free wine or dessert for all mothers on Mother's Day, and live music for all to enjoy starting this summer season.

All in all, come for the brussel sprouts, stay for the cobbler, and allow Smokeyard to remind you that it's always better together.



Food for Thought: Mavericks Beach Club

by Natasha Vandamme // Staff Writer

I hope you are in the mood for a sizzling and slightly salty review because that is today's house special. On April 24, a friend and I went to Mavericks Beach Club in Pacific Beach to get a taste of the food and the establishment. It is a restaurant and club for those 21 years of age or older, catering well to people in their 20 and 30s. The restaurant boasts an extensive 15,000-square-foot area. Five bars make up the entire restaurant and club, and each bar area serves a unique purpose. One area has an ocean view, another has an indoor area for private parties, and the other areas are outdoors. Depending on which area you go to, you can experience a causal, business-like, or playful atmosphere. With both indoor and outdoor space, 38 TVs, plenty of seating areas, a fire pit, couches, purse hooks under the tables, and even a rooftop bike valet, Mavericks has thought of everything. I have to say, its efficient and functional use of every bit of space is impressive. Additionally, they have a calm but fun beach theme throughout the club shown through artwork on the walls, pictures on the tables, coolers along the bars, indie pop music, and overall design. It creates a clean and refreshing ambiance.

Now, on to the delicious details. Mavericks has a simple and easy-to-understand menu. With classic American and Mexican dishes such as California fries, tacos, burritos, wings, tostadas, and tortas, the menu variety is not outstanding, but it serves its purpose for the bar-club setting. The snacks-appetizers range from \$4 to \$28. The main menu dishes range from \$6 to over \$20, depending on the add-ons you choose. Based on how much food you get, the prices are very reasonable.

First, I will be discussing the appetizers, or "snacks," as the club labels them. My friend and I ordered the Puffy Tacos and Wahoo Tostadas which came with a mild salsa and lime wedges. Once the dishes arrived, my first impression was that they are a fairly large snacks; each came with three tacos or tostadas each, making them actually a decent meal size. The presentation of the dishes was clean, despite the fact that the dish itself was loaded. The tacos were a favorite of mine. Because they were puffy, they held their shape when you bit into them, instead of just falling apart. The only minor downside to this is that the bottom of the tacos were slightly soggy, but the flavor of the tacos was so good that I did not really mind. They were savory, juicy, not overly salty, and not too heavy. Next, the tostadas. I found this dish to be a messy eat; however, the flavors of the corn tortilla and the lime crema were a shining redemption. The overall taste of the dish was not as flavorful as the tacos, but it was not at all bland — just lighter. Also, the addition of crispy leeks on the top of the tostadas was seemingly minor but truly made a difference; having the crunch of the tostada on the bottom, then the chewiness of the chicken, the softness of the tomatoes and



PHOTO BY NATASHA VANDAMME

avocados, and then the final slight crunch of the fried leeks on top was a textural success. I also feel as if I should mention the salsa. At first, I thought it was more of a sauce than a salsa. In all honesty, it tasted like marinara sauce with lime juice and a pinch of spice. Not only was the taste strange, but it did not compliment the dishes well.

Moving on to the main dishes, I ordered a shrimp torta with guacamole and fajita veggies. The presentation was simple: The sandwich split into two and held together with skewer-like sticks with the same previously mentioned salsa. This precaution did not make eating the torta any easier, though. The sandwich was quite soggy on the bottom and was too flimsy. Adding to that, the flavor just was not there. I expected the shrimp to have more of a kick to it because I could smell some nice seasoning, but it was lost in translation. The ingredients themselves were high quality, but overall, it tasted like a cheesy bread sandwich with some unseasoned

shrimp and fajita veggies and guacamole. My friend ordered a carnitas burrito, which came with chips and salsa. It continued the trend of subtler flavors despite high quality ingredients. The burrito had carnitas, beans, rice, cheese, pico, and pineapple salsa, which was better than the standard salsa. The addition of the pineapple salsa was a unique twist to the traditional dish. Its sour and sweet flavor complimented the simple ingredient list.

Mavericks Beach Club has put an incredible amount of thought into its space and decoration, but I wish it would put more of an effort into its menu. On one hand, there are the snacks, which are delectable and fun. I highly recommend trying the Puffy Tacos and Wahoo Tostadas. On the other hand, the actual main dishes leave room for more to be desired. Also, the space is very welcoming and casual, but also fun and exciting. In conclusion, I would definitely go back to Mavericks for the snacks; and if the beachy, feel-good

Lifestyle Living Room

by Annika Olives // Lifestyle Editor and Brittney Lu // Associate Lifestyle Editor

What is one meal that takes you back to a childhood memory?

Annika: Shrimp sinigang, easily. This meal has had such a profound impact on my youth that I actually based my Common Application essay around it two years ago. Sinigang is a sour soup made with tamarind and filled with whatever vegetables and protein you're in the mood for. It takes me back to Sunday lunches after church at my grandparents' house in the Philippines, where the adults would sit around the huge dining table, and the kids spilled into the living room, watching whatever was on the TV.

Brittney: My grandma used to make this Vietnamese sour fish soup, with bean sprouts, pineapple and tomatoes; so pretty similar to what takes you back to your childhood. For us, we'd eat this while watching "Mary Poppins," one of three VHS tapes my grandma owned. In some sense, this meal was like a cultural bridge for my grandma and us. Our Chinese would never be enough, but there was still an understood love for one another. She would cook and we would eat, with "Mary Poppins" in the background to fill empty silence, though none of us knew what was going on in the movie.

A: That's really cute. It's interesting that both of our memories touch on family and gathering, and it shows how much power food has in transcending language and in communicating emotion.

B: Amen.

What role does food have in your life?

A: Recently, I feel like I've had a love-hate relationship with food — I played soccer in all of middle and high school, but in college, I quit sports entirely and wasn't doing any regular exercise. Freshman year, I ended up forcing myself to eat foods that I didn't necessarily like because they didn't make me feel as gross or as heavy. Eating became a practice of simply trying to sustain myself, and I didn't feel like I could ever "treat myself" to sweets or other junk foods because I wouldn't be burning it off. Now, I'm gaining a better sense of how to balance my health with the occasional cupcake, but it's been a long process.

B: You played soccer? I can't believe you never told me, it's been a year. Anyways, I really resonate with what you mentioned about food becoming nothing more than just sustenance. I think food, at least in the past four years, has been very transient and a hodgepodge of whatever I can find in my fridge. However, this past month, food has become this communal practice. A lot of my cooking tends to miss a lot of ingredients, mostly because I am lazy and will not find the energy to drag myself to Ralphs. It's been through the grace of my apartment mates that I get to have breakfast and dinner. It's as if the practice of eating is synonymous with gathering and my practice of cooking is interdependent with what I can offer and what has been graciously offered to me.

A: I agree with your theme of gathering. Before college, my mom, my younger brother, and I all ran on different schedules, so even though we lived in the same house, we didn't see each other much. I would often have dinner in the car on the way to practice or bring my homework to the table because I couldn't spare 15 minutes. When I go home during breaks, I really make an effort to have a meal with my family at least

once a week, because I realize now how important that time is.

B: Do you feel like that's helped change the dynamic in your family? Or help you all get to know one another better?

A: I think it's definitely allowed us to create closer relationships — we implemented a rule of no phones so we have to talk to each other to fill the silence. I love hearing about their days — especially my brother's, who is notoriously stubborn about telling me anything — and it's a very comfortable space where we can just sit and enjoy one another's company over some good food.

Summarize your college experience through a meal.

B: Can I get a four-course meal? One course per year? I think the first course might just be a Goody's burrito. Maybe because I worked there, but, it's pretty symbolic of my attempt to know this campus better. I guess my 18-year-old self thought making burritos was the best way to do so. My second course would probably be just a cup of coffee. It helped my understanding of "coffee is more than the five shots of caramel in a latte," but also was a lifeline for the many all-nighters I pulled because all of a sudden life got so much busier. I'd follow that with some pancakes; for some reason, I always had a five-pound bag of just-add-water pancake mix at my apartment as a way to be able to offer food in case people were over to study or to hang out. I think that's all, I still am trying to pinpoint this year's course. Obviously these things probably don't taste the best all together, but you get the point.

A: I would have to go with a creme brulee. I think the first half of college was weird and confusing, but I'm in the process of breaking through that outer shell and getting to the core.

B: What is it, like, creamy now?

A: Uhh...I would say denser? Thicker? More substantial?

B: Fair enough. Creme brulee is good, sophisticated. But it can be innovative while sticking with its roots. I feel like I could see that in you.


A: Oops, did I answer the question wrong? Creme brulee isn't a meal.

B: Dessert is a meal.

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► **MINDING THE GAP**, from page 9

conscious intent of trying to heal for yourself, and for everyone who was part of the film — you, Keire, and Zack — how do you think the film has affected you?

K: I feel like the way that this film has affected me in a positive way. I've gotten closure — you'll never get over a death, but you'll be able to deal with it in a more positive way, especially when your friend comes to talk to you about it. It's something that none of my friends but Bing have ever done, like none of my friends have ever been like "Yo, like I heard about that. How are you feeling?" They're just like "Oh! Here's alcohol!" I feel like seeing and hearing other people's stories because of the film that they watched, it's heartwarming. It makes me feel kind of like I'm doing the right thing, which is something I usually don't do. Yeah, I guess the film affected me in those kinds of ways. Just being able to grow as a person and get over issues that were [...] were holding me back.

B: I certainly went into the project thinking that this was another step toward confronting my childhood and a lot of issues that I had faced. When I was growing up, when I was a teenager, when I was in my 20s, I feel like I would be the guy at parties who would sidle up to people and get them to talk about their parents because it would make me feel like I wasn't alone, hearing other people's problems. Eventually, I felt like I got really good at being a pseudo-therapist. And so in doing this film, it was a continuation of that sort of work, and I think I was using Keire mostly, but also Zack to a certain extent, as proxies for exploring these things that I felt I couldn't explore on my own. So we did it as a team, and then eventually when I entered the film as a character, I ended up having to go see a therapist because things got a little tough for me, and that helped give me clarity. I don't think I would've done that if I wouldn't have done this film, but ultimately, it's the Q&A, the press circuit, and everything that has happened since the film has been released that's been the space where I've been sort of able to grow and discuss. When I'm making the film, [...] I'm just like "What's next? I gotta get Keire to talk about this. We

gotta fill in this story gap," but now it's like, now I can take a step back. I can get press, and I can get asked questions.

G: Kind of building off of that, what was it like to see Zack falling into that pattern of abuse, and showing abusive behaviors? There's a moment where you ask Keire, "Do you ever think he could be abusive?" What was it like to have to watch that?

K: It's kind of a hard subject, just because I wasn't really around for a lot of it, so I wouldn't ever know any of that stuff until I saw the film. Whenever I came around, Nina and Zack were just really nice with each other so I never — of course I've seen them argue, but I've never seen anything physically violent or emotionally violent or anything like that. I don't know, it's just a weird thing for me to comment on because I don't know too much about that situation, so that's just kind of my statement on that.

B: I mean, I feel like I've witnessed enough in my own upbringing and I feel like I knew enough about the cycle of violence at that point that it wasn't super surprising. You know, I think there's a stigma in society of about who an abuser is, and they don't want to confront the fact that it could be your best friend, it could be your neighbor. I think it's just this inability for society to grapple with the fact that some people are just complex — they're not monsters, they're not altruistic, 100-percent angels. People are complex and I think Zack is very much a complex person, as we sort of unpack who he is in the film. I mean, it wasn't super surprising but what was more problematic for me was morally what to do, because I've been making this film about both [...] the subject and about him, and I guess "How do I handle this in the film?"

D: Bing does a great job of showing that Zack is a very complex person, and that — by no means — are we trying to make him a bad guy or a good guy. We're just showing that there's really difficult situations, and there's a lot of gray in a lot of things, and I think he's very brave to be sharing his story. Bing always says that we still have to hold him accountable for his actions,

but we have to understand that life is complicated.

G: On a lighter note, just because this is a college publication, what do you think about people who don't skate wearing Thrasher?

K: For me personally, I feel like as long as you understand the culture and you have respect and love for it, I don't care if you wear Thrasher. But there are people who play off the clout that it gets like "Yeah, I wear Thrasher," and people will see that and be like "Oh, sick. That person's cool, and they're wearing Thrasher," and I just, I can respect it a lot more when the person has a common respect about what we do. I guess there's people [who] just do it for the clout.

B: Yeah, I mean we just had dinner with Tony Hawk, and we were just talking about how he's [...] very much involved in making sure skateboarding gets bridged in a healthy way into the Olympics, which is what's happening right now. We were talking about how there's going to be people giving flack towards skateboarders, but in a sense it already happening. You know, like the main shoe companies — there's no more independent shoe companies. There's just Nike, New Balance, and Converse for the most part. I mean, it's already happening, but at the same time, the skate shop owner that I interview in the film, he wrote on a skateboard a long time ago the distilled messages that despite all the trends or fashions or whatever, at the end of the day, you skate, and you love it or you don't. There's no replacing that, and it's a super hard learning curve. You get hurt, and it's like there's no rhyme or logic to why you keep doing it. You know, there's always going to be that core culture and that core love that's never gonna be touched by capitalism or trends or fashion.

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

— JUSTIN NGUYEN
Contributing Writer



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UCSD SPRING VENDOR FAIR - LIBRARY WALK
 An on-campus street fair with crafters, boutiques, and local stores for purchase of a variety of items including clothing, jewelry, books, artwork, home goods, accessories, sunglasses, sweet treats, and more! Contact: kdisbro@ucsd.edu

4pm
THIRD ANNUAL GREEN TALK - PRICE CENTER BALLROOM EAST
 This is hosted by the Inter-Sustainability Council, a student-led, nonprofit organization that is built on a network of sustainable students, community leaders, staff, and faculty to unite sustainable practices and efforts in the UC San Diego student body and community about sustainability and the importance of being environmentally conscious through one's actions. There will be 6 speakers, including UC San Diego students, faculty, and sustainability industry professionals; networking time with the speakers after the talks; and a sustainability art competition running throughout the month of April, where voting will occur during intermission. Winners will be announced and food will be served at the conclusion. Contact: meryl_press@yahoo.com

7pm
UNIVERSITY CENTERS PRESENTS: GAME OF THRONES SEASON ONE - PRICE CENTER THEATER
 See it on the Big Screen! Two episodes screened each week. Cost: FREE for UCSD Students w/ID. Contact: ucenmarketing@ucsd.edu

THU 5.03
12:10pm
BROKEN BONES AND HAMMERSTONES AT THE 130,000 YEAR OLD CERUTTI MASTODON SITE, SAN DIEGO, CA, USA) - IDA AND CECIL GREEN FACULTY CLUB, THE LOUNGE
 Curator of Paleontology, San Diego Natural History Museum. Dr. Deméré will discuss the Cerutti Mastodon (CM) site, discovered and excavated along State Route 54 in San Diego over a 5-month period.

12:30pm
ILEAD: NETWORKING - COMMUNICATING YOUR PASSIONS AND VALUES (DOUBLE STAMP) - GOVERNANCE CHAMBERS, PC EAST, LEVEL 4
 This workshop will focus on how to network in personal and professional settings. Participants will learn how to authentically communicate what they care about to a range of audiences. Full attendance at this workshop will grant you 2 stamps. Contact: ccl@ucsd.edu

1:30pm
THERAPY FLUFFIES! - THE ZONE, PRICE CENTER
 Come to Therapy Fluffies every Thursday from 1:30-2:30pm! We bring a variety of trained therapy dogs to help you all unwind! Contact: zone@ucsd.edu

TUE 5.01
10am
UCSD FARMERS' MARKET - TOWN SQUARE
 Every Tuesday, 10am-2pm. Meet our local growers and enjoy farm fresh fun. Our eclectic food vendors have a little something for everyone. Bring a reusable bag, or buy one of our all-new canvas totes for your purchases. Town Square on Myers Drive. Contact: cwoolery@ucsd.edu

11:30am
STARTUPS & PIZZA: DEVELOP A SUPPORT TEAM FOR YOUR NEWCO - FUNG AUDITORIUM - BIOENGINEERING HALL
 UC San Diego Office of Innovation and Commercialization is partnering with Dentons and Tiber Creek on a seminar series on what you need to know about forming a startup company. Contact: innovation@ucsd.edu

4pm
SOUTH ASIAN & DESI FORUM - SIXTH COLLEGE, MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM
 This is a supportive drop-in forum for South Asian (International & Asian American) and Desi-identified students earning their undergraduate, graduate & professional degree. Join us for conversations each week & build community. Contact: nsukumaran@ucsd.edu

FRI 5.04
6am
UCSD 48 HOUR FILM FESTIVAL - PC THEATER
 TTV is hosting our first ever all campus 48 Hour Film Festival! Put together a team and come make a film in just 48 hours. Judges from the film industry will come watch the films and pick winners for best director, actor, best picture and more! Prizes include B&H gift cards and a private studio session with a professional video producer. Team sign ups close April 30th. The public screening is happening Sunday 5/6 @ 8pm at PC Theater. Contact: karice@ucsd.edu

12pm
INTERNATIONAL FRIDAY CAFE - GREAT HALL
 Finish the week off right at the International Friday Cafe! Meet people from around the world, enjoy international music, and explore world cultures all while enjoying a delicious meal from featured countries around the world. All students, staff, faculty, and community members are welcome! Contact: j1soong@ucsd.edu if you are interested in pre-purchasing tickets or if you are interested in sponsoring one of our cafes! Entry \$5 per person. Contact: j1soong@ucsd.edu

8pm
RANKY TANKY - THE LOFT, PC EAST
 Loosely translated as Get Funky! Or Work It, Ranky Tanky is a band of South California natives who keep the Gullah musical tradition alive and fresh with a repertoire of game songs, heartbreaking spirituals, and delicate lullabies. In 1998, four musicians (Clay Ross, Kevin Hamilton, Charlton Singleton, and Quentin Baxter) came together to form a seminal Charleston jazz quartet. United by their years apart and a deeper understanding of home, these artists are joined by one of the most sought-after voices in the Lowcountry, Quiana Parler, to celebrate a Heartland of American Music born in their backyards. Contact: artpower.marketing@gmail.com

WED 5.02
6pm
SHAPE YOUR CAREER - SPRING 2018 - LIEBOW AUDITORIUM (ROOM 2100), BASIC SCIENCE BUILDING, UCSD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
 Helping you prepare for 21st century jobs, The Basement and OIC have teamed together to deliver this timely series. Learn about the basic elements when developing an idea and starting a business. The program is CCR-approved, you must complete at least 5 sessions for CCR credit. Contact: innovation@ucsd.edu

6pm
WE'RE STILL IN: SCRIPPS' ROLE IN BRINGING SCIENCE, THE U.S., AND THE OCEANS TO COP23 - SUMNER AUDITORIUM
 The Scripps community and the public are invited as Scripps Oceanography delegates to the November 2017 climate talks known as COP23 discuss their experience of an event held during a period of intensive political upheaval around the world. Come learn about their experiences and get an insider look at how the oceans were represented at the talks, the social justice issues raised during the event, and what's next as Scripps prepares for COP24.

7:30pm
UNIVERSITY CENTERS AND KSDT PRESENTS: LA LUZ - THE LOFT, PC EAST
 University Centers & KSDT Presents: La Luz with Special Guest Pinky Pinky UCSD Students - FREE, General Admission - \$11. Contact: ucenmarketing@ucsd.edu

SAT 5.05
7am
REVELLE COLLEGE UNIVERSAL STUDIOS TRIP - UNIVERSAL STUDIOS IN HOLLYWOOD, CA
 Join fellow members of Revelle College and the rest of the UCSD community on a trip to Universal Studios in Hollywood. We will be at the park from opening to closing (9 am - 9 pm) and the cost is only \$80 including transportation (plus eventbrite fee)! Tickets are on sale at revuniversal18.eventbrite.com Contact: kpianalt@ucsd.edu

SUN 5.06
6am
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 TTV is hosting our first ever all campus 48 Hour Film Festival! Put together a team and come make a film in just 48 hours. Judges from the film industry will come watch the films and pick winners for best director, actor, best picture and more! Prizes include B&H gift cards and a private studio session with a professional video producer. Team sign ups close April 30th. The public screening is happening Sunday 5/6 @ 8pm at PC Theater. Contact: karice@ucsd.edu

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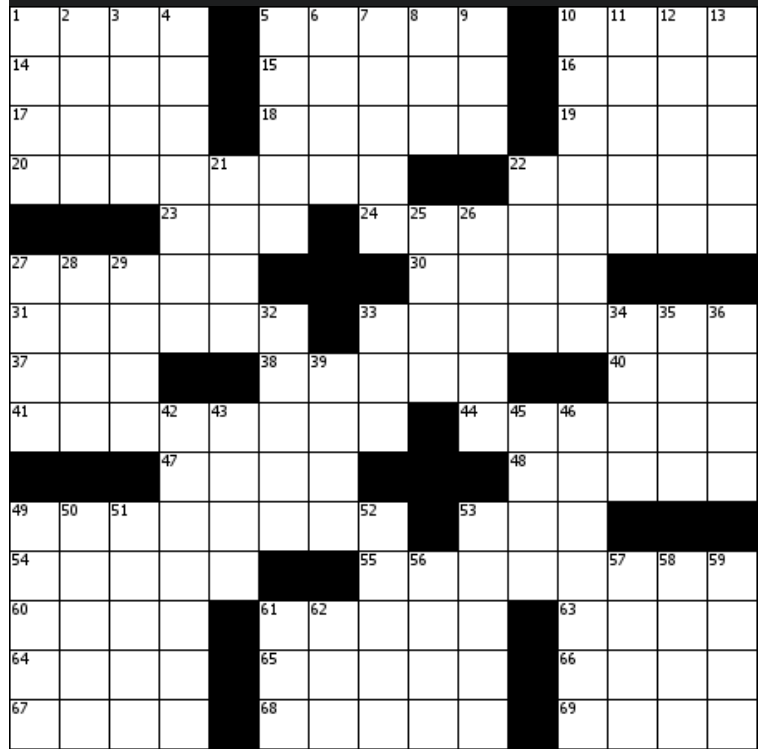
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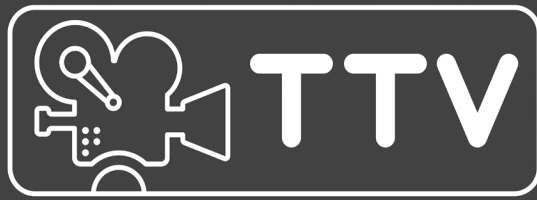


ACROSS

1. Cone-bearing tree
5. Splash
10. Huckleberry Finn's craft
14. Greek deity
15. Bring about
16. She, in Valencia
17. Talk wildly
18. Come in
19. Implement
20. Unmerited
22. Category
23. Neckwear
24. Abroad
27. Road bends
30. Depart
31. Nome's state
33. Put in again
37. Knight's title
38. Growl
40. "____ Hard" (Willis film)
41. Car exhaust
44. Lure
47. Marco ____
48. Consumed
49. Self-indulgent
53. Knock
54. Brings up
55. Most furry
60. Makes a mistake
61. ____ Fools' Day
63. Cereal grains
64. Locale
65. Napped leather
66. Farm yield
67. Visionary
68. Drive too fast
69. Heidi's mountains

DOWN

1. Walk nervously
2. GAndean country
2. Modern Persia
3. Zero
4. Manors
5. Spectacle
6. Country road
7. Exceed
8. Wind dir.
9. That gal
10. Quizzes again
11. Unattended
12. Plant life
13. Stories
21. Venture
22. Wide smile
25. Swerve
26. Banish
27. Comfort
28. Svelte
29. Hindu garb
32. Limber
33. Dashed
34. Prepare copy
35. Wedding confetti
36. Youth
39. High ____
42. More thinly scattered
43. Repairs lawns
45. Approach
46. Cassava starch
49. Gown
50. Ghostly
51. ____ blanche
52. Trio number
53. Made angry
56. Staff member
57. Certain nobleman
58. Discontinue
59. Chef's measures (abbr.)
61. Mule's father
62. Young seal



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				5	6			

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APRIL 30
NATIONAL BUBBLE TEA DAY

Tritons' Nine-Game Win Streak Comes To a Close on Friday

Despite only splitting their series over the week, UCSD clinched a spot in the CCAA Championship before a final regular season series.

BY LUCAS ARMSTRONG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From April 26 to April 28, the UC San Diego Tritons baseball team split a four-game series with the California State University, Los Angeles Golden Eagles 2-2. The two wins for the Tritons clinched a California Collegiate Athletic Association tournament berth for the fifth straight year. Tournament play will begin on May 9.

Game One

Triton bats proved too much for CSULA in the 6-3 victory in game one of the four-game set. UCSD added one to its win streak extending it to a season-long nine games without a loss.

Senior starting pitcher Mitch Hickey got the ball on Thursday and delivered for the Tritons. Hickey finished with 5.1 strong innings of pitching allowing only 6 hits while striking out 3 and picking up a win. Hickey struggled early in the game allowing the CSULA Golden Eagles to jump out to an early 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Shortly after, Hickey settled in and only allowed 3 hits and no runs for the remainder of his outing.

UCSD wasted no time answering back to the Golden Eagles, putting up 2 runs in the bottom of the first tying the game 2-2. Freshman shortstop Shay Whitcomb led the inning off with a 4-pitch walk, then back-to-back doubles by redshirt junior right fielder Zander Clarke and redshirt junior third baseman Alex Eliopoulos knocked in both Whitcomb and Clarke. The game would remain tied at 2 runs for several innings.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Tritons took advantage of sloppy play by the Golden Eagles and tacked on 3 more runs which would be all they would need for the rest of the

game. Redshirt sophomore catcher Nick Kitzmann was hit by a pitch and redshirt freshman center fielder Brandon Stewart followed that with an infield bunt single back to the pitcher. After that, CSULA junior starting pitcher Angel Lerma was clearly frustrated and lost command of his pitches, hitting Whitcomb to load the bases with only one out. He was not the only Golden Eagle in his own head; following a ground ball by junior first baseman Tyler Durna, Golden Eagles senior first baseman Nic Bereaud committed a throwing error on a routine play which allowed Kitzmann to score giving the Tritons a 3-2 lead. Next up, Clarke came up big again for the Tritons, giving them a couple insurance runs on a 2-RBI single to center field, his second and third RBIs of the game.

After a meaningless seventh-inning run by the Golden Eagles, the Tritons held on for the 6-3 victory. Redshirt junior Cameron Kurz worked a scoreless 1.1 innings, closing out the game for his 8th save on the season.

Game Two

After Thursday night's victory, the Tritons saw the end of their nine-game winning streak on Friday, dropping game two of the series 6-5. This was a seesaw battle featuring 4 lead changes that ended with the Tritons on the bottom.

Junior southpaw Preston Mott got the ball on Friday night but was knocked around for 10 hits on only five innings pitched. Mott was able to limit the damage to only 3 runs, but ultimately the bullpen was not effective either, allowing 3 runs in their four innings of work. Mott finished the night with a no-decision.

The Tritons got the game started off well putting up a run in the bottom of the first inning. Eliopoulos knocked in right fielder Clarke who had reached

on a 2-out error by Golden Eagles junior starting pitcher Joey Deceglie.

The Eagles soared right back and put up a run to tie the game in the top of the second and the Tritons themselves answered back in the bottom half, taking the lead 2-1.

After a scoreless third inning, both teams would score again in the fourth with the Golden Eagles putting up a run and tying the game 2-2. The Tritons answered back again, putting up 3, moving the game to 5-2. Whitcomb is responsible for the 3 runs as he launched a homer deep over the left center field wall and into the twilight sky.

The Tritons' pitching could not hold this lead as they gave up 3 runs over the next 2 innings which left the game tied at 5-5 going into the ninth.

In the top half of the ninth inning with Tritons closer Kurz on the mound, the Golden Eagles were able to score the go-ahead run on a pair of hits from senior designated hitter Jorge Garcia and senior center fielder Sean Watkins. With their backs against the wall in the bottom of the ninth, the Tritons were unable to tie the game, losing 6-5. This was a heartbreaking loss for the Tritons as not only did they blow a 3-run lead, but their season-high nine-game win streak came to an end.

Game Three

After splitting the first two games of the series at Triton Ballpark, the series moved to Los Angeles for a Saturday double-header to round out the final two games of the series.

In game three of the series, the Tritons pounded the Golden Eagles 11-4 and avenged their win streak which had ended the day before.

The Tritons struck first in the third inning, putting up 3 runs on 3 hits. Redshirt sophomore utility Steven Schuknecht led off the third inning with a single toward right field and

was followed by another redshirt sophomore, left fielder Keenan Brigman, who also had a base hit to right field putting runners on the corners. After a wild pitch, Schuknecht crossed home and Brigman advanced to second. Redshirt freshman center fielder Brandon Stewart reached on an error and then stole second while Brigman stole third. Durna knocked in both runners on an opposite field double down the left field line, giving the Tritons a 3-0 lead.

The Tritons put up 3 more runs in the top of the fourth inning thanks to an RBI double by Schuknecht, an RBI single by Brigman, and an RBI single by Clarke which in total put the Tritons up 6-0. Triton bats were hot all night as they put up 2 more runs in the fifth inning and 3 more in the eighth inning for 11 total runs on the night.

Every Triton hitter reached base safely in game three, runs were scored by seven different players, and runs were knocked in by six different players. The Tritons showed that hitting is truly contagious and they all got sick together, scoring 15 total hits. Brigman was especially locked in that day as he had 3 hits, 3 runs, and an RBI.

Triton arms were good in game three as it only took the work of two pitchers to get through all nine innings. Senior starting pitcher Jack Rupe, Jr. pitched six strong innings allowing only 3 runs and freshman relief pitcher Cameron Leonard followed suit with three strong innings of his own picking up his second save of the year as the Tritons won this one 11-4.

This was the Tritons' 30th win of the year and clinched them a spot in the CCAA Championship for the fifth straight season.

Game Four

After the nine-inning daytime victory, UCSD could not come back in a seven-inning loss of 7-5.

UCSD looked to be in business early as in the top of the first inning, Durna and Clarke both drew walks, giving the Tritons a runner in scoring position with only 1 out in the first. Sadly for the Tritons, they could not cash in as the next two batters were sent down in order.

CSULA, however, did cash in on its first-inning opportunity. With two outs in the bottom of the first and runners on the corners, Golden Eagles junior left fielder Spencer Sundahl singled, knocking in two runs and giving the Golden Eagles a 2-0 lead. The Golden Eagles added 1 more to their lead in the bottom of the third inning after a triple and single off Tritons junior starting pitcher Jonah Dipoto.

Dipoto never quite settled in, as the Tritons' pitcher was knocked around for 7 hits and 6 earned runs in 5.2 innings.

The Tritons showed signs of life in the top of the fourth when Whitcomb singled to center field scoring DH Blake Baumgartner. Durna followed that with a clutch 2-RBI double, scoring Whitcomb and Brigman.

CSULA counter-attacked this Triton resurgence with 4 runs of its own in the bottom of the sixth which pushed Dipoto out of the game.

Down 7-3 going into the bottom of the seventh, the Tritons needed a comeback but came up just short, losing the game 7-5.

With the loss, the Tritons split the series 2-2 and move to 30-16 on the year. Next week, the Tritons square off against California State University, San Marcos in another four-game series rounding out the regular season before starting tournament play on May 9.

READERS CAN CONTACT
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PC East 3rd Fl • asgraphicstudio.ucsd.edu

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07 • SOVAC

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sovac.ucsd.edu

08 • SPACES

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PC West 2nd Fl • spaces.ucsd.edu

09 • SSC

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10 • Triton Food Pantry

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basicneeds.ucsd.edu/triton-food-pantry
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Original Student Center • ttv.ucsd.edu

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A.S. ONE



SPORTS

CONTACT THE EDITOR

ALEX WU

✉ sports@ucsdguardian.org 🐦 follow us @UCSD_sports

UPCOMING
UCSD
GAMES

M Tennis	5/1	3 PM	at Azusa Pacific (NCAA)
Track & Field	5/3	TBA	at CCAA Championship
Softball	5/4	7:30 PM	at Stanislaus State (CCAA)
Baseball	5/5	12 PM	vs. Cal State San Marcos
Baseball	5/5	3:30 PM	vs. Cal State San Marcos



WOMEN'S TENNIS

PHOTO COURTESY OF UC SAN DIEGO ATHLETICS

BY MADELINE LEWIS
SENIOR STAFF WRITERUCSD @ Hawai'i Pacific —
Honolulu, HI

On Saturday afternoon, the No. 4 regionally ranked UC San Diego women's tennis team faced off against top-seeded Hawai'i Pacific University in the NCAA Division II West Regional Tournament. After splitting the results of two separate competitions prior to the postseason

match, UCSD saw its 2017-18 campaign conclude in paradise with a score of 5-1. With the loss, the Tritons finished the season 13-11 and within the top 20 teams of the nation.

UCSD fell behind 2-1 after completion of the doubles competitions. Triton duo junior Ashley Chao and sophomore Becky Chou dropped the first outing 8-1 to HPU's 15th-ranked Lena Lutzeier and Oceane Adam. Moments later,

UCSD juniors Alexandra Weil and Madison Hale were defeated as well in a hard fought 9-8 tiebreaking battle. Regardless of the previous matches, junior Chloe Wight and senior Nousha Nowamooz refused to go down and provided the Tritons with their first team point of the day with another closely contested 9-8.

The top three of the six single competitions would consist of intense meetings stocked with six nationally ranked individuals. No.

22 Chao was challenged by the best player in the country, unfortunately losing in consecutive sets, 6-1 and 6-2. The matchup for No. 14 Chou was not any easier as HPU's third-ranked Lara Meccico won in straight sets 6-2 and 6-0.

In the No. 3 spot of the singles matches, Weil battled until the last point of a 6-3 and 7-6 encounter when the Shark's No. 34 Adam closed the door and sealed the deal for HPU. Three singles wins would

do the job to yield a final 5-1 Shark victory. Given the outcome, the rest of the matches would score as unfinished and not count toward the players' win or loss record.

HPU will continue its playoff run and look to improve a 19-2 overall record heading into the NCAA Championship bracket full of the last 16 teams alive.

READERS CAN CONTACT
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Steve Scott
Invitational

The team will look to rebound at the CCAA Championships, which start on Thursday, May 3.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UC SAN DIEGO ATHLETICS

TRACK & FIELD

BY RICHARD LU
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The UC San Diego track and field team recently competed in the Steve Scott Invitational. The invitational, spanning from Friday, April 27 to Saturday, April 28, was held at UC Irvine. The Tritons did not have the strongest showing at the Invitational, but several athletes did finish in the top 10 of some events.

Senior Meghan Fletcher placed second in the women's 400-meter

hurdles with a time of 1:01.05. Junior Kelly Strand finished at seventh at 1:02.73. At eighth, sophomore Claudia Cox had a time of 1:02.77, right behind her fellow Triton. Sophomore Melissa Seaman barely finished out of the top 10, finishing with an 11th-place time of 1:03.962.

For the women's triple jump, redshirt junior Tais Marinho-Gomez came in fourth with a score of 11.92 meters in her fifth and final vault. Prior to the vault, Marinho-Gomez had missed all four of her vaults and was at risk of finishing without a score.

Fortunately, she was able to focus and finish strong.

Junior Esther Nofodji gave the Tritons another top-10 finish with a 43.55-meter throw, giving her 10th place in the women's discus throw.

On the men's side, senior Paul Doan earned a third-place finish in the men's 100-meter dash with a time of 10.527, barely beating the runner behind him by 0.002 seconds.

For the men's 400-meter dash, sophomore Makhai Husband ran a 50.03 to place 10th in the race.

Sophomore Josef Polk finished

fourth in the men's 400-meter hurdles with a time of 53.13. In the same event, freshman Kiasa Salgado came in at ninth with a time of 54.96.

In the men's high jump, senior Brett Molster jumped 1.91 meters to place fifth. In the men's pole vault, freshman Evan Shimasaki jumped for 4.75 meters, enough for a ninth-place finish.

For the men's hammer throw, senior Josh Makieve threw for 52.88 meters that earned him sixth place. Fellow Triton senior Mason Falahat placed in 10th with throw of 48.52 meters.

Senior Cole Mears placed third in the men's javelin throw with a score of 57.64 meters.

Overall, the Tritons did not have their strongest showing but look to rebound at the California Collegiate Athletic Association Championships. The CCAA Championships start on Thursday, May 3 and run until Saturday, May 5.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF UC SAN DIEGO ATHLETICS



WOMEN'S WATER POLO

Tritons Clobber
Their Way to
WWPA Title

After an unstoppable run through the WWPA Championship, the Tritons are guaranteed a spot in the upcoming NCAA Championship.

BY DANIEL HERNANDEZ
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The No. 12 UC San Diego women's water polo team took on McKendree

University in the quarterfinal matchup of the Western Water Polo Association Championship. The tournament took place at UCSD's Canyonview Aquatic Center over the course of

three days, April 27 to April 29. The Tritons earned the number one seed in the tournament, and they looked every bit the title as they made easy work of their opponents with a 14-2

win over the 8th-seeded McKendree. With the victory, UCSD moved on to the semifinals where it faced Sonoma State University. The Seawolves had no answer for the powerhouse that is the Tritons, as the host earned a convincing 11-1 victory to book their spot in Sunday's final.

Game v. McKendree

UCSD had control of this matchup versus the No. 8 seed from start to finish as they went on to win comfortably by double figures, 14-2. The Tritons scored 8 goals before McKendree scored its first.

UCSD totaled 31 shots in the game compared to McKendree's 18. The Tritons had total control of the game and caused the opponent to commit mistakes, including seven exclusions penalties.

Freshman attacker Robyn Carter led the Tritons with 4 goals, while junior utility Carly Innis contributed

with 3 goals of her own.

Game v. Sonoma State

On Saturday, the Tritons faced off against Sonoma, and it was business as usual for the host, earning a 11-1 win.

The lone goal for Sonoma came in the opening quarter as it was the first to score, earning a 1-0 lead with almost half of the first quarter gone. From there, it was all Tritons as they went back to score 11 straight to earn a comfortable victory at the end.

Carter added 3 more goals to her weekend tally as Innis and sophomore utility Jessee Ransone each added 2 goals of their own.

After the win, UCSD dominated in Sunday's final against California State University, East Bay, 12-2. Next up, the Tritons look to make some noise in the upcoming NCAA Championship.

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