

FILM REVIEW: “BELLE”



Image courtesy of The NY Times.

Who is Suzu?
Come read A & E's movie
review of the Belle, a musical
anime directed by Maromu
Hosoda! Warning: Major
spoilers ahead.

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HYPE HOUSE

KEEPING UP WITH THE KARDASHIANS, PT. 2

A & E, PAGE 8

LOSS OVER GRAND CANYON

TRITON VOLLEYBALL FALLS TO GRAND
CANYON IN TOP-10 BATTLE

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FORECAST



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TUESDAY
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WEDNESDAY
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THURSDAY
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VERBATIM

Disclosure and transparency
are important, which are
some of what Varma failed
to provide. But arguably
more critically for Kashmiris,
some claims even point to
her abusing the very power
structure she has spoken
out against as she allegedly
“demanded that Kashmiris
discuss their trauma.”

-SPARKY MITRA
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CAMPUS

UCSD's Efforts to Ensure Campus Safety amidst Historic Weather

BY RODRIGO GUTIERREZ STAFF WRITER



Image courtesy of Mila De La Torre for the UCSD Guardian.

On Saturday, Jan. 15, San Diegans woke up to find a rare warning on their phones regarding a potential tsunami and higher than usual waves. The warning, which was issued for all cities along the Pacific Coast, was sent after a volcano exploded underwater near the island nation of Tonga and is just the latest in a series of bizarre weather instances that have been seen in recent years.

Although California and San Diego have not seen a tsunami in years, the potential risks associated with tsunamis pose threats to the area, as local infrastructure is not equipped to handle the aftermath of a catastrophic weather event.

For the UC San Diego campus, unpredictable weather patterns have been at the helm of dangerous situations for students and staff to encounter when visiting the physical campus. Falling trees, flooded residential areas, and impacted walkways are just some examples of how the hazardous weather has been affecting students. Flooding, in particular, has been a recurring issue at UCSD as the topography of the college means that inadequate drainage systems and subpar housing often are affected by the weather in La Jolla.

The improvement of infrastructure in newer developments means that places on campus, such as the North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Community, are better equipped when it comes to handling issues such as flooding.

One of the architect firms behind the development,

HKS Inc., described how the area was built with the intention of utilizing conservation strategies.

“Stormwater runoff is managed on-site through bio-swales that capture and treat 90% of the average annual rainfall.”

This is a vast improvement and serves as an idea of how the campus can develop areas in the future to better handle weather fluctuations.

In 2016, flooding associated with a heavy storm inundated Peterson Hall in Thurgood Marshall College. The floor and the first row of seats in the lecture hall were flooded with the rainfall, yet lectures continued despite the less than ideal conditions.

In the Fall Quarter of the 2019-2020 school year, heavy rainfall from a storm led to various instances of flooding for students in the Marshall residential areas. Students had to relocate to alternative housing situations while the university worked to address the situation.

Leslie Sepuka, the Associate Director of University Communication, reaffirmed in an email that the campus maintains that the safety of students, faculty, and staff remains the highest priority.

“The UC San Diego Triton Alert emergency notification system keeps the campus community updated in emergency situations. These communications are carried out through the use of e-mail and text messaging. As a student, your UC San Diego email account is already registered to receive Triton Alert emergency

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COVID-19

Will UCSD Change its Masking Policy?

BY ABBY LEE STAFF WRITER

Surging Omicron cases in San Diego drove UC San Diego to extend remote learning through the first four weeks of Winter Quarter 2022. As the target date of Jan. 31 for the return to in-person instruction inches closer, discussions about the role of masks to curb the spread of the especially infectious Omicron variant have grown more relevant.

According to UCSD's current Face Covering Policy, acceptable face coverings include fabric face masks of at least two layers, surgical masks, and N95 or KN95 masks. Unacceptable face coverings include scarves, ski masks, bandanas, balaclavas, gaiters, collars, turtlenecks, plastic face shields, or a single layer of fabric.

In an interview with The UCSD Guardian, Associate Professor Brandon Brown, an epidemiologist at the UC Riverside School of Medicine, highly recommended the use of more effective masks to curb the spread of COVID-19, as

better masking could also serve as a bulwark against more drastic measures.

“We have closed and opened many times, so it seems prudent to now be more cautious than not,” Brown said, “If higher quality masks like N95 are made available to students, staff, and faculty everyone should be using them for return to campus, whenever that may be.”

Some Californian universities appear to share Professor Brown's opinion and have moved to tighten their masking policy. For instance, the University of Southern California will require faculty, students, and visitors to wear medical grade masks, including surgical, N95, KN95, and KF94 masks for the spring semester. Cloth masks are no longer allowed unless a surgical mask is worn underneath.

Assistant Director of University Communications, Erika Johnson, wrote in an email to The Guardian that UCSD

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WOMEN'S HEALTH

New California Law Mandates Free Menstrual Products in Public Schools

BY KAITLIN LEE
STAFF WRITER

California public schools and universities will have to provide free menstrual products in restrooms by the start of the 2022-23 school year thanks to a bill signed in October 2021, by Governor Gavin Newsom. The Menstrual Equity Act of 2021 applies to all grades 6-12 public schools, community colleges, and California State University campuses.

According to the bill, any public school, county education office, or charter school for middle and high school students will have to keep restrooms stocked with menstrual products in restrooms. This supply is expected to be made available, accessible, and freed in all women's restrooms and all-gender restrooms, as well as in at least one men's restroom. The law builds upon a previous 2017 law requiring low-income schools to provide products to disadvantaged students.

However, the University of California system is not included in this bill. Instead, the UC Regents and independent colleges and universities are highly encouraged to follow suit.

Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, who wrote this legislation stated that this bill is in response to the necessary need on the part of women and others with periods.

“Having convenient and free access to these products means our period won't prevent us from being productive members of society and would alleviate the anxiety of trying to find a product when out in public,” Garcia said in a statement.

Supporters of the act say that this is the right step in guaranteeing women what should be seen as a natural right. Director of the Santa Clara Office of Women's Policy, Division of Equity and Social Justice Protima Pandey expressed support for the bill, saying that it was necessary for ensuring gender equity in California.

“Access to free period products for vulnerable communities is a gender equity issue and it affects the wellbeing and health equity for all women, girls, non-binary, and transgender people,” Pandey said. “California can lead the nation in ensuring that we can finally destigmatize menstruation and move towards a framework of equity that includes the needs of menstruating individuals.”

This law and many other similar laws are meant to address the

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CA STATE

Gavin Newsom Proposes 2022 California Budget



Art by of Tony Anguiano for the UCSD Guardian.

BY NIKITA CARDOZO CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Jan. 10, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a \$286.4 billion 2022 California budget proposal, which he plans to spend on what he claims are the “greatest existential threats” facing California — climate change, homelessness, and COVID-19. He also expressed support for expanding healthcare for undocumented immigrants, which many liberals in his base have long advocated for.

“This proposal will be considered in light of the challenges today, and we will back in light of the challenges that present themselves tomorrow,” Newsom said.

The governor has begun negotiations with the Legislature, which must pass a budget by June 15. The final proposal could look very different from Newsom’s proposal once it goes through the negotiations, but State Senate Majority Toni Atkins has indicated support for the governor’s plan to help those in need.

Retail Theft

To combat retail theft, Newsom proposed more than \$300 million to put police outside businesses and to investigate and prosecute organized crime rings. After a series of flash-mob-style shoplifting incidents in San Francisco and Los Angeles, Newsom believes that this is called for to help prevent future crime.

COVID-19

In the case of COVID-19, Newsom wants to dedicate fund-

ing to help overloaded hospitals hire additional staff and to expand testing and vaccination. Newsom called for bringing back supplemental paid sick leave for workers who test positive.

In an interview with The UCSD Guardian, Eleanor Roosevelt College sophomore Kate Merritt applauded the budget’s focus on COVID-19.

“I think it’s really important that Gavin Newsom is focusing and allocating this budget toward COVID-19 efforts,” Merritt said. “Putting this money into the health of Californians will be an investment both into our health and into our economy as it is so important that people feel safe at work.”

Furthermore, Newsom is focusing on increasing access to Medi-Cal to all California residents. California has currently opened Medi-Cal to undocumented residents from ages 26–50. Expanding this program universally would cover 700,000 more people and cost \$2.2 billion per year.

Climate Change

One vital issue is the natural disasters as a result of increased carbon emissions and climate change.

Newsom plans to spend \$1.2 billion over two years for programs to increase forest thinning and build fuel breaks. Newsom also wants to give CalFire another \$248 million for new crews and equipment after the wildfires destroyed more than 10 million acres of land in California in 2020.

The state has already agreed to spend \$5.2 billion over three years to deal with the drought. Since some reservoirs dropped to their lowest levels during fall 2021, Newsom is looking to add \$750 million more for grants for farmers and water conservation programs.

Furthermore, the governor has been planning to transition California to zero-emission vehicles. In 2020, Newsom signed an executive order to terminate gas-powered cars by 2035. The 2022 budget proposal included \$6.1 billion to fast-track the transition to cleaner vehicles.

Homelessness

The homelessness crisis has become increasingly prominent after the pandemic forced many people to lose their homes. The budget includes \$2 billion to distribute grants to local governments to convert vacant hotels and other buildings into supportive housing for homeless people. Over the next two years, Newsom plans to provide interim housing as more permanent units are being transformed.

Local Schools

The budget also includes \$119 billion for K-12 schools after the crisis due to lower enrollment and attendance. To avoid this problem, the governor is giving districts more leeway when reporting their average daily attendance, which is how the state determines their funding. Schools can now use either the current year’s attendance or an average of three most recent years.

The budget also includes \$54 million to help districts hire more teachers and waive examination and credential fees. After the spread of COVID-19, many California schools have noticed a shortage of staff. More than 12% of the teachers at San Francisco City Unified were absent in the first week of 2022. Long Beach Unified reported 11% of the teaching staff missing during the first week of 2022, which is triple the normal level after a holiday.

Colleges

In order to fulfill Newsom’s new goal of guaranteeing 70% of adults receive some kind of college degree by 2030, he discussed a five-year plan to expand in-state enrollment at the University of California and California State University.

The state plans to dedicate money from the budget to add room for 7,100 students at UC and 9,400 more spots at CSU. Over the next four years, the UCs and CSUs would get a five percent annual funding increase if they meet the targets of expanding in-state enrollment by an extra 1% and closing student equity gaps across racial and economic groups. This means an extra 7,000 students from California at UC and 14,000 at CSU.

University of California President Michael V. Drake, released a statement on Jan. 10, offering support for Newsom’s proposed budget.

“This sustained public commitment will enable UC to make critical long-term investments, particularly in areas that directly support our students: further expanding California undergraduate enrollment, boosting resources to traditionally low-income and first-generation students, and increasing college access and affordability for hard-working students and families across the state,” Drake said.

The University of California Student Association, which represents over 285,000 students across the UC system, also expressed support for Governor Newsom’s 2022 budget as it underscores his administration’s commitment to higher education. The UC San Diego community may see higher admission rates in future years if Newsom’s budget plan passes.

The budget is expected to be passed by June 15. While the allocations may be altered during Newsom’s negotiations with Legislation, his team emphasizes his desire to provide structural support to those in need.



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► **CAMPUS**, from page 1

email notifications. You must, however, add your phone devices if you wish to receive text messages—students can do this by using the Student Triton Alert emergency notification portal,” Sepulka wrote. “[...] The university tracks weather conditions in order to prepare for wind and rain events. Facilities Management ensures campus drains are clear and runoff does not accumulate. Where runoff has a possibility of entering any spaces or creating a hazard, they check to ensure sandbag locations are stocked. Facilities Management also has an in-house flood response and remediation team, which is able to respond quickly.”

The high prevalence of eucalyptus trees on campus has also raised concerns regarding the topic of safety on campus. The trees, which are invasive, populate many different areas of campus, most notably the forest separating John Muir College from University Center.

In recent years, the close proximity of these trees to walkways and housing areas has led to instances of potential disaster for students walking along these paths.

Strong winds and rain have been the cause behind the occasional, yet dangerous occurrences where eucalyptus trees fall on campus. Yet these trees remain in high quantities close to walkways where they continue to have the potential to fall and injure students.

Sixth College junior Daniel Berreondo-Cendejas told The UCSD Guardian about his experience where he encountered one of the instances where a tree fell on campus.

“My friend and I were walking from our dorm in Eleanor Roosevelt College to Price Center during a storm,” Berreondo-Cendejas

said. “As we were walking through Thurgood Marshall College, we heard a snap and heard a group of students behind us scream. As we turned around, we saw the trunk of the tree fall, barely missing the students.”

“It made me think about how the university handles the maintenance of trees on campus. After that incident, I saw workers trimming the trees around the area. But I still see trees on campus near walkways that aren’t regularly maintained which I think reflects a safety issue within the campus.”

In her email, however, Sepuka mentioned that maintenance for these areas are part of preventative measures that are supposed to ensure that situations like this do not occur.

“Facilities Management also performs preventive maintenance on campus trees, in addition, the university works with arborists to perform preventive maintenance.”

Sepuka also encouraged students take the following precautions in order to both protect themselves and maintain their safety:

“We recommend routinely listening to weather reports to determine storm tracking, consider installing a weather app with alerts on your phone, avoiding areas subject to flooding, and if you see standing water in a roadway or other unusual locations do not drive nor attempt to walk or ride through it.”

If students should experience any instances of flooding on campus, they are encouraged to call 534-HELP (534-4357). Campus Police will dispatch an Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S) professional. Additional detail can be found here.



Image courtesy of Althea Tien for the UCSD Guardian.

► **COVID-19**, from page 1

currently has no plans to change masking guidelines. However, Johnson noted that UCSD’s public health researchers are continuing to monitor the situation closely and that any updates to current interventions would only be with the goal of ensuring the safety of the UCSD community.

“The Return to Learn program is driven by an adaptive strategy,” Johnson said. “We are continually collecting data, refining our understanding of the situation and associated modeling, and modifying tactics accordingly to significantly reduce the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2. Any decisions about updates to the mask mandate — or any other interventions that are being used to protect the campus community — are driven by data and the expertise of UC San Diego’s public health researchers.”

Although UCSD has no plans to enforce a similar mandate, Dr. Robert Schooley, one of the professors heading the Return to Learn program, reiterated that UCSD students, faculty and staff were highly encouraged to use surgical or N-95 grade masks. In

an email to The Guardian, Schooley explained how the various masks vary in their effectiveness and advocated for the use of N95 or N95-grade masks.

“The N95 (or N95-grade masks including KN95, KF94, and KN94 masks) are much more effective than surgical masks,” Schooley said. “Cloth masks are better than a bare face but substantially less protective than surgical or N95 masks and I would discourage people from using them. They can provide a bit of additional protection when worn over a surgical mask to keep the surgical mask edges closer to the face but this is still not as effective as a N95-grade mask.”

However, some UCSD students have said that they feel that a more stringent mask mandate is unnecessary. John Muir College junior Stefanie Dao, expressed her reservations about the practicality of a stricter mask mandate. Dao was also concerned that such a mandate might cause needless confusion.

“I think so far, [UCSD’s current masking policies are] enough, given

that not everyone can afford those kinds of masks.” Dao said. “I think we should focus more on other effective solutions, instead of complicating the mask mandate.”

UCSD offers several options for students who have limited access to surgical or KN95 masks. Free KN95 masks are currently available to UCSD students at the Basic Needs Hub on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 3 p.m., and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Alysson Satterlund invites students who cannot obtain a mask by these approaches to email the Office of the Vice Chancellor - Student Affairs

(VCSA), and arrangements will be made for masks to be provided. Triton Health Ambassadors will also have masks available as they roam throughout campus, and will be stationed at test kit Vending Machines in residential areas on Saturdays and Sundays.

► **WOMEN’S HEALTH**, from page 1

systemic issues related to menstrual products. These issues are commonly referred to as the Tampon Tax, or the sale of pads, tampons, and other menstrual products with an extra sales tax. Critics note that, in contrast, products primarily used by men such as hair growth products and Viagra are usually excluded from these extra sales taxes.

This isn’t the first law pushing for more menstrual equality in California; SB 92, a law put into effect Jan. 1, 2020, exempted menstrual

products from sales and use taxes.

In an email, University of California Office of the President Media Relations Associate Director Ryan King said that the UC system is now taking the new bill into account and plans to follow along with its recommendations.

“UC believes it is well-suited to comply with this law and looks forward to continuing to offer access to menstrual products on our campuses, furthering gender-equity efforts and supporting student atten-

dance,” King said.

Although the bill does not include University of California colleges in its jurisdiction, many UC campuses have already taken initiatives to provide affordable or free menstrual products. These range from student-run projects — such as the Free Menstrual Product Initiative at UC Berkeley — to administrative choices, such as the provision of free menstrual products in select residence halls at UC Santa Barbara.

Associate Director of University Communications Leslie Sepuka confirmed with The UCSD Guardian via email that UC San Diego provides free menstrual products in several restrooms on campus.

“UC San Diego provides free tampons and has feminine napkin dispensers in all the women’s restrooms at the Price Center and Student Center, which are centrally located on campus,” Sepuka explained in her email.

There are several resources available at UCSD that provide free sanitary products. The Basic Needs Center provides students with personal menstrual products such as tampons, pads, menstrual underwear, and menstrual cups. Additionally, the student-run General Store Co-op provides pads at low costs. If you need access to free menstrual products from the Basic Needs Center, fill out this form.



Art by Ava Bayley for the UCSD Guardian.

OPINION

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Image courtesy of Tony Anguiano.

The Attack On The Right To Vote

The Democratic Party’s Duty To Protect It

BY NICHOLAS TAPPIN
Staff Writer

Outlawing handing out food and water to people waiting to vote, preventing election officials from supporting the request for mail-in ballots, limiting what election officials can do to prevent voter intimidation from poll watchers, cutting back on the amount of time to cast a vote, and banning drive-thru voting, the political environment does not seem friendly nor conducive to the fundamental right to participate in a democracy: the right to vote. However, these are actual laws that are in the books today in Texas, Georgia, and seven other Republican states, actively seeking to undermine the right of their residents and BIPOC voters to take part in this nation’s democratic system. With these laws recently enacted and more “copycat” laws being discussed in at least 19 other states, the Democratic Party must use its majority in both the House and Senate to carve out an exemption to the filibuster and pass legislation that will safeguard the right of Americans to make their voice heard in local and national elections — a right that the Framers held dear. The remaining stability and security of our democratic system is in jeopardy and the responsibility to protect our democracy is in

the hands of the Democrats. After former President Donald Trump repeatedly pushed the conspiracy that the 2020 election was “stolen” and therefore illegitimate, many Republican states introduced legislation that would restrict the legal parameters in which an American can cast a vote under the guise that they were promoting the “security” and “legitimacy” of their elections. After all, enough of the Republican base believed Biden’s victory was illegitimate — only 27% of Republicans believe it was a fair election — so much so that a tenacious group of far-right, Trumpist supporters launched an insurrection on the Capitol Building — a hallmark of American democracy. Even after such an egregious attack on the Capitol Building, the sheer percent of Republicans that believed the outcome of the 2020 election was corrupted and the overriding belief among GOP lawmakers that future elections must be “protected” from voter fraud, set up the perfect environment for numerous Republican states across the country to pass laws suppressing the right to vote. Of course, it would be irresponsible to say that the right to vote hasn’t been under attack for at least the past decade. The Supreme Court struck down key portions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013, which in essence

gutted the core of the law. It’s no secret that Southern states during and after the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s attempted to undermine the vote of Black people. As a result, the Voting Rights Act had required Southern states to submit any proposed changes to their voting laws to the Department of Justice for review before they could proceed. In 2013, the Supreme Court took this out: removing another law that protected the vote of BIPOC citizens removed from the books. Amid the undermining of the right to vote and the calamity that characterizes American politics today is a Democratic Party that holds a majority in both the Senate and the House and is led by a President who makes big promises yet no promised results. Biden promised to protect the right to vote even after his campaign ended upon his victory, but has not really mobilized his influence as President to give hope or action to the American people and

voting rights activists. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris visited Atlanta, Georgia, on Jan. 11 to publicize the need for Congress to pass legislation protecting the right to vote. However, some notable groups that helped the Biden/Harris ticket win Georgia, namely the Black Voters Matter Fund, the Asian American Advocacy Fund, and the family of Martin Luther King Jr., refused to attend their visit, claiming that Biden has failed his campaign promise to deliver on protecting the right to vote, replacing any meaningful action with “political platitudes and repetitious, bland promises.” The time is no more perfect than now, with two major bills on federal voting laws, for the Democratic Party to finally act on its majority in the House and Senate to pass these bills and safeguard a fundamental right under attack. The Democrats should make it known that there is no such thing as “compromise” on the issue of the right to vote. There are only those who want to

expand voting access and those who want to limit or constrict it. There are two bills regarding voting rights on the floor of the Senate: Freedom To Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, as illustrated in the table below. With the remains of American democracy hanging in the balance, it is the responsibility of the Democratic Party and Biden to fulfill their promise not only to their base but to the American people to deliver on their campaign promise and fulfill their duty to the U.S. Constitution: protect the right to vote. Over time, our country has become characterized by two very different political environments: one in which voting is ameliorated and easier and one where the right to vote is considered a privilege. What will the path forward be for the American people and government to be united once again in a mutual understanding for what our nation was founded on?

Freedom To Vote Act	John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expand early voting accessEstablish automatic voter registration (you have to opt-out rather than opt-in)Grant the right to vote to formerly incarcerated people after their sentences end (including felons)Make Election Day a federal holiday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Restore/reform the provisions struck down in the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court

Opaque Transparency

Admitting individual privilege is as important as recognizing abstract systemic privileges

BY SPARKY MITRA
Staff Writer

In recent years, we have seen many beneficiaries of generations of economic and demographic oppression attempt to learn about and right some of the wrongs of the past. In America, this has included, for example, descendants of slave-owners confronting atrocious histories which were largely painted over with a rose-tinted tale of southern heritage. Research and even meeting with descendents of their families' slaves have helped bring to light the past and present states of a systemically unequal system. These reckonings in America and around the world in various contexts have led to a new sense of transparency and acknowledgement of privilege among many. But the revelations that these people have must be in a state where history and the truth are one, where nothing remains hidden and where they maintain no semblance of the power their ancestors once had through these hierarchies. Condemning the idea of exploitation is much easier when we abstract ourselves into a vague reason for that oppression. It is time to critique oppression through an eye for how each of our individual actions helps or hurts the anguished.

Until a couple weeks ago, Dr. Saiba Varma seemed to be an academic who embraced such a reckoning of her own as an upper-caste Hindu woman, standing against India's constant militarization in Kashmir against Kashmiri Muslims. Varma however failed to acknowledge her biggest source of privilege with regards to the Kashmir conflict: her father was part of RAW, India's intelligence agency, and was stationed in Kashmir carrying out the very duties she had spoken out against in her research. It is conceivable that Varma gained access to the region through her father's connections. The unveiling of these truths led to UC San Diego's Critical Gender Studies Program disaffiliating with her.*

Maybe it was a vain interest

to preserve the hero she believed her father to be that led to Varma hiding his background. Maybe the reality of him drafting plans against occupied Kashmiris, which included sexual violence, was too brutal compared to the general, vague, upper-caste privileges Varma has referred to

in her research. But that is the most immediate source of her power and Kashmiri oppression in the very dynamic she claims to investigate as someone opposing the Indian occupation of Kashmir.

CGS's rebuke of Dr. Varma was justified. The explicit reasons behind it according to students and the university, necessitate further discussion on privilege-aided research within academia. Disclosure and transparency are important, which are some of what Varma failed to provide. But arguably more critically for Kashmiris, some claims even point to her abusing the very power structure she has spoken out against as she allegedly "demanded that Kashmiris discuss their trauma."

Forcing trauma-ridden stories out of anyone is unacceptable, no nuance needed.


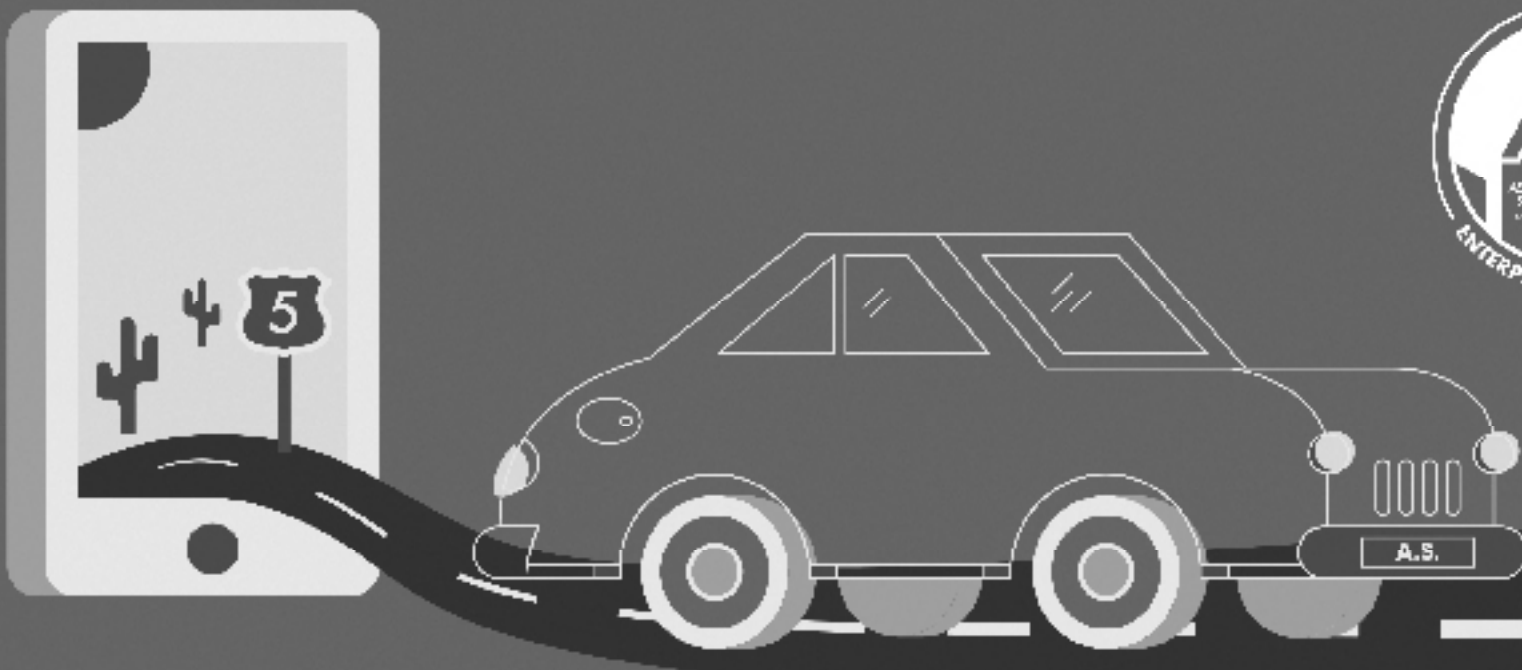
By doing this she just fed into the very cycles of trauma she wanted others to believe she was opposing. But the privileged entry points into Kashmir, like those held by Varma's father, have a compelling story that merits exploration had Varma remained true to her research and positioning. Her father's prior deeds are not her fault after all. Rather than exploiting entry points to investigate trauma, she could have easily investigated entry points to monitor academic, political and economic exploitation.

It is much easier for us to see ourselves as part of a system where injustice looms rather than as individuals whose specific histories and actions directly contribute to suffering and healing. Most of us are aware of the vague notion of being privileged or oppressed in a hierarchy because of race, caste or creed, but each of our actions are the nuts and bolts of how oppression cycles through generations regardless of how aware and how progressive they claim to be.

*This article has been revised since the original issue to more accurately reflect Dr. Varma's status with the University of California San Diego. To read more about this revision, please visit ucsdguardian.org.



Image courtesy of UCSD.



A.S. Safe Rides X Lyft

RIDES ON DEMAND

A.S. Safe Rides is back for Fall Quarter*
with \$12 off 2 rides.

* visit as.ucsd.edu/saferides for redemption details and restrictions.

UCSD responds to mental health in all CAPS

As the stresses and challenges of the worldwide pandemic carry on, UCSD’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) program seeks new ways to connect with students and teach good mental health habits.



Image by Chetraruc of Pixelbay.

BY MIRIYA HUIE
Staff Writer

Counseling and Psychological Services, or CAPS, plays a key part in addressing mental health at UC San Diego dating back to the 1960s. Their central mission is to guide students through mental health struggles using a variety of preventative measures and treatments. CAPS’ new preventative practice revolves around several workshops called “Tritons Rise Together.” The Rise Workshop Series takes student data to develop programs which help students with the most relevant barriers to academic success.

Utilizing both their own data and information from the National College Health Assessment, CAPS emphasizes the importance of consistent sleep habits and teaches techniques to avoid procrastination. The goal of these workshops is to prevent stress and overwhelming emotion before they develop to a stage where a student needs treatment. Tiffany O’Meara, CAPS’ Director of Outreach, describes the workshops as tools to help students “manage their stress, build resiliency and cope with emotions.” These workshops offer a variety of methods, such as sunrise yoga, guided meditation and instructional advice based on scientific foundations.

CAPS established a new workshop for the Winter Quarter called “Social Justice Self-Compassion Mindfulness Hour,” where they teach self-patience, love and acceptance in the face of overwhelming social issues. These workshops are open for all students, regardless of their past experience with CAPS services.

In addition to their new workshops, CAPS offers forums for students to discuss their struggles or achievements through forums, such as the Coming Out Forum or the Latinx Cafecito Hour. These offer a sense of community and place of belonging for students. A similarly interpersonal-focused program CAPS offers is group therapy, a system in which students facing the same struggles work together to build bonds and develop healthy coping strategies. “It can be so affirming for students. Sometimes that’s the most helpful thing about being in a group. They meet other students so that they feel like they’re not alone,” O’Meara said. CAPS offers group therapy for Taming Anxiety, Building Social Confidence, and Body Positivity. In these groups, students discuss their own experiences, learn to recognize their feelings and build confidence in the area of focus. The exact discussions for each session are tailor-made to fit the students in the given group. Unlike the Tritons Rise Workshops, group therapy is a form of actual treatment. As such, it has an endpoint. O’Meara remembers some of her students “tearing up at the end of Spring” when they had to bid their newfound friends goodbye.

To top it all off, CAPS offers a variety of wellness apps through its “iFlourish” program. The university currently offers three primary apps for anonymous and effective self help. The popular wellness app Headspace is fully unlocked for all UCSD students. It promotes meditation and stress reduction, providing students with techniques to effectively manage their mental health. WellTrack is another app used to track one’s emotional states and use evidence to provide personalized recommendations. Therapy Assistance Online, or TAO, is an interactive workbook which teaches students similar coping strategies that a therapist would. This provides access to strategies to students who may not yet feel ready to meet a

therapist in person or take the first step towards face to face treatment.

CAPS is also working on a new app called “Shine,” an app promoting mindfulness and wellbeing. Its focus will be on reaching out to students from underrepresented communities [who tend to suffer from greater anxieties than their counterparts](#). Though the apps are great tools for those who may not feel prepared to reach out for individualized support, CAPS still urges students to call in when in need. Assistant Clinical Director of CAPS Sarah Clavell Storer explains the process of how a student is screened for therapy using a “brief telephone assessment.” “It’s usually a 15 to 20 minute conversation with one of our licensed providers, and they talk with the student, get a sense of their needs, and then provide them with the next best steps for care,” Storer told The UCSD Guardian. “And then of course, we just want to make sure that students are conveying their needs clearly when they call in. So if the student is having an urgent need, they of course would be scheduled for a same-day appointment.”

CAPS is a frequently used service among both undergraduate and graduate students. Storer notes that, at certain points in the quarter, as many as 50 or 60 appointments may be scheduled each day. “There’s constantly students calling in to schedule appointments,” Storer comments. The pandemic has, of course, increased the stress levels of students across the country. [According to a study by Texas A&M University, 71% of students indicated that they felt their stress levels rise due to the spread of COVID-19.](#) Though at times CAPS is overloaded with students, they endeavor to prioritize their cases. They also offer off-campus referrals to students looking for counseling elsewhere.

Nationwide, however, the country’s healthcare system is being put to the test by increased anxiety due to both the pandemic and an overall increase of major natural disasters. [Mental health hotlines have seen increased calls across the board, some reaching highs of 23% increased monthly calls in the past year.](#) According to a survey by Healthy Minds, [60% of students across several universities reported that it was harder to access mental healthcare post-pandemic.](#) CAPS attempts to navigate the pandemic through the Telehealth system, creating an entirely virtual way for students to access treatment. Fortunately for students and staff alike, CAPS was already developing an online version of its offerings when the pandemic hit. “I do have to say, looking at my colleagues across the country,” O’Meara recounted, “UCSD moved so quickly.”

[An article by EdSource](#) reports widespread college concern about the potential that, in shifts of in person to online, counseling programs could fail to meet student demand. In light of the circumstances, CAPS has been highly successful in the past year. Storer notes that UCSD plans to keep both online and in person options, even after the university fully reopens. “There are some students who, for whatever reason really, like the Telehealth more,” Storer claims, “and will even choose to continue in that modality when we return to campus, and that’s fine.”

CAPS’ expansion into the online world mirrors their goals on campus: to “meet students where they are,” as Storer puts it. Whether it be in the seven colleges, at their main office or on screens in students’ homes, CAPS strives to be available and present for students who may want to reach out for support.

Film Review: “Belle”



Despite a convoluted synopsis, technological fantasy anime “Belle” succeeds as a magnificently animated film with a unique spin on the classic “Beauty and the Beast.”

BY KALEY CHUN
Staff Writer

In the musical anime “Belle,” Mamoru Hosoda builds a “Beauty and the Beast” adaptation through a whimsical melding of technological, natural, and fantasy elements. When awkward and introverted high schooler, Suzu, signs up for online platform “U” to escape the way her classmates perceive her, her life is dramatically changed as she becomes the beautiful, overnight pop sensation Bell. However, a mysterious beast named Dragon interrupts one of her virtual performances and Bell embarks on a journey to help this brooding avatar escape the vigilantes clamoring to unmask his true identity.

What can one more retelling have to add to a tale as old as time? Technology. Assoon as the film begins, U is introduced. The explanation of this world feels almost superfluous — a modern audience will have no problem understanding a virtual integration platform, because this setting has been presented time and time again with only slight variations. Nearly as derivative as a “Beauty and the Beast” retelling is the storyline where an online platform overtakes the world’s attention, tempting the everyday citizen to sign-up with promises of who they can be and what they can do. “Belle” adds little to this familiar plot, barely even touching on the logistics of U or how its existence has affected society at large. Instead, the filmmakers focus on imagery. Even if the idea of an online platform is hackneyed, the animation of this one is magnificent. The world is colorful, dynamic, carefully constructed, and filled with clean, vibrant details. U’s incredible animation is visible from the first scenes of this film, when Bell rides into frame on a whale saddled with hundreds of speakers, singing a musical number with a voice as ethereal as the pretty animation surrounding it.

The other half of this character, the quiet teenager Suzu, lives a simple life constantly overlooked by her classmates. She faces real problems in painfully awkward and relatable ways. Depending on whether she is in or out of U, Suzu is a completely different person, and the animation reflects this change. When

grounded in reality, shots are created with less defined strokes, closer to a painting than a perfect computer image. Scenes of nature and slower city streets are particularly idyllic, and they show a stark contradiction to the carefully constructed, constantly stimulating U. Despite the variation in settings, which range from online panoramic landscapes to otherworldly castles to picturesque rivers, what connects these two worlds is the beauty captured within them. Both worlds are gorgeous, but “Belle” suffers in the development of its setting and plot. The world-building is brushed over, which is a shame. Based on what we did get to see, U could have been an even more fantastically full, flourishing environment.

As sparkling as the setting is, “Belle” relies just as much on the characters within the story. Suzu’s friends in the real world are some of the best parts of this film, even though they do not exist within the flashy U. Specifically, popular girl Ruka, childhood friend Shinobu, and tech best friend Hiroka work well because they have hobbies, interests, and personalities. The people that exist within U, on the other hand, have detailed character designs but are unable to exert their personality through dialogue. One of the main flaws of this film is that the virtual avatar Dragon is not allowed enough screen time to explore the complexities of his character. The “Beauty and the Beast” structure works effectively within “Belle” because its romanticism matches the film’s tone, but the beast is underwhelming. His mystifying, dark nature offers a solid foundation for dramatic and full character-building, but he is barely offered the chance to progress past the brooding antihero. Instead, most of the runtime is concerned with building Suzu and Bell’s personalities. Luckily, she is the most effective part of this film. Bell’s voice is equally exquisite in Japanese and English, her character design is stunning, and most importantly, she radiates heart as both her online avatar and real life personality. “Belle” is a film that draws crowds in by being larger than life, but will keep their attention through the groundedness of its characters.

GRADE: B
DIRECTED BY: MAROMU HOSODA
STARRING: KAHU NAKAMURA, TAKERU SATOH

Release Date: JAN. 16, 2021
Rated: PG

New Girl, Old Questions

Staff writer Medha Upadhyay shares her predictions for the new New Girl podcast.

BY MEDHA UPADHYAY
Staff Writer

After being bugged by my friends for years, I finally caved and watched “New Girl.” Some part of my brain really thought that a seven season long show about a woman moving into a loft with three men would be the perfect addition to my first in-person quarter at UC San Diego. And honestly? It was. “New Girl” is full of hilarious one-liners, soothingly stupid plot lines, and lovable characters. It’s a comfortable show that I was able to slip into between classes, or as a quick study break whenever I felt a little overwhelmed.

brand new podcast

Just days after finishing the series, I was greeted by the news that Zooey Deschanel, Hannah Simone, and Lamorne Morris are launching a brand new



podcast, “[Welcome to Our Show](#).” The show, which will be available starting Jan. 24, will feature the trio rewatching all seven seasons of New Girl. And so, here are some things that “New Girl” needs to address, more than ten years after it originally aired. **Major spoilers ahead!**

1. WINSTON’S FATHER

This is pretty self-explanatory, but who is Winston’s father? Winston finding out that his father was a policeman and then deciding to track him down was a huge part of his emotional growth in Season 6. When Jess steps in to help in Season 7, she accidentally ends up “reuniting” Winston with a complete stranger. Jess made a genuine mistake, but it’s a mistake that could be easily rectified, especially since Winston’s wife, Aly, has already put her detective skills to use to find his name and address. So what exactly is going on with Winston’s real father? Why didn’t

we get to see him? I’m banking on the hope that this wasn’t just all orchestrated for the sake of comedy, but if it was, I’m going to need somebody to point out the deeper meaning to me. Also, why did everyone in the loft have daddy issues? In hindsight, this seems super odd and maybe something we need to unpack.

2. POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

Yes, “New Girl” isn’t that old, but I will be floored if they somehow make it through a rewatch without at least addressing all the problematic jokes. A lot of the jokes centered around Cece, Jess’s Indian best friend. I cannot really see Deschanel, Simone, and Morris laughing off lines like “I’ll convert to Indianism,” in 2022. What makes it even worse is that the majority of these offensive lines are delivered by Schmidt, who ends up marrying Cece. Schmidt also ends up being the butt of countless questionable jokes, most of which center on him being Jewish or his penchant for fancy clothes and grooming. Complicating matters further are the many scenes in which actor Max Greenfield dons a fat suit to play college-aged Schmidt, even though “fat Schmidt” was an important part of his character development. Sprinkle in some casual misogyny from Nick and you’ve got yourself a recipe for disaster. While some of these jokes could have been for character development, most of them were poorly executed. The writers never fully condemned these “jokes” and left the interpretation up to the audience. These throwaway moments are the biggest flaw in New Girl and one of the main reasons that I struggle to recommend this show to anyone. It’ll be interesting to see how the podcast handles this, but I’m definitely expecting a response of some sort.

3. CAMEOS

Switching to a more behind-the-scenes approach, I am definitely expecting plenty of stories about the numerous cameos on “New Girl.” From Taylor Swift to Prince to Gordon Ramsey, “New Girl” had an impressive amount of celebrity cameos. My personal prediction is a podcast cameo from Olivia Rodrigo discussing her scenes on the show. I don’t know if she was more of a celebrity or just an extra back in 2016, but when I watched it in 2022, it definitely counted as a cameo. Odds are slim to none, but if it happens, just know you heard it here first.

4. ENGRAM PATTERSKY

Circling back to Winston, I need answers about the Engram Pattersky prank. In the show’s final episode, Jess and Nick are forced to empty the loft when they receive an eviction notice. The finale serves as a fitting end to the series

that began with Jess moving into the loft. However, at the very end of the episode, the whole thing is revealed to be an elaborate prank orchestrated by Winston. It’s never explained why Winston would do this and I just need them to confirm that it was because he knew that Jess and Nick needed to settle into a home of their own and not because he was just messing around. Please.

5. THE PEPPERWOOD CHRONICLES

“The Pepperwood Chronicles” is the book series that launched Nick’s writing career; in the three year break Seasons 6 and 7, his work sells thousands of copies, and he even embarks on a world tour to meet his adoring fans. This is all well and good, but the real question is: where can I hear more about “The Pepperwood Chronicles?” This ones a bit odd, but hear me out. We know that the characters in the book are all based on Nick’s friends and we’ve seen him go through all the ups and downs to get these books out into the world. So how fun would it be to hear Julius Pepperwood and Jessica Night’s story?

6. TRUE AMERICAN

And finally, we need to learn how to play True American. The podcast promo material has already teased this, and I need them to come through on this one. True American is a piece of the show that can be shared easily even with people who aren’t familiar with the show, and it looks like so much fun! Essentially, it is an insanely complicated game that the gang plays — the joke is how difficult the game is to explain; every time someone new is invited to the loft, they inevitably feel left out when the gang starts playing it. The complications in all the rules gives it a great gatekeeping vibe, and it seems like the perfect bonding activity for a tight knit group of friends. I can easily imagine True American becoming a huge hit if they play their cards right. To be completely honest, this will probably be the single biggest reason why people tune in to the podcast so I’m really hoping that they don’t drop the ball on this one.

Although “New Girl” was a great show, there are definitely still many unanswered questions. This new podcast will hopefully give fans the answers to some of these while also giving them a new way to slip back into a show that they love dearly. I’m excited to see what Deschanel, Simone, and Morris come up with, and I’m looking forward to an engaging and entertaining show that recaptures the chemistry of “New Girl.”

“I Wish the Hype House Show Wasn’t Real.”



What looked like a funny-in-a-bad-way, watered-down version of “Keeping Up with the Kardashians” turned out to be a sad-in-an-awfully-depressing-way show about the culture and industries that have been built by the Internet.

spends up to seven times my yearly rent on his videos in any given month. The formula of his videos hasn’t changed, it’s still just a group of bros being dudes in front of Warren’s camera — except now they live in a big mansion and drive around in G-Wagons. The relatability — and the attainability — of his videos have been lost, most likely a contributing factor to his loss in viewership. This pushes Warren to stage a fake wedding with his girlfriend and fellow Hype House member Kouvr Annon. It’s painful to watch as Kouvr confesses to the camera and to her friends that getting married is something she’s wanted for a while, and something she’s talked to Warren about, only for the latter to turn around and exploit their relationship in the name of content creation. And while Warren is certainly not free of any criticism when it comes to the ethics of this content creation, his ludicrous spending and the extremes to which his job pushes his personal life should be seen as a symptom of the system. YouTube and TikTok pay their creators based on engagement; a sort of sliding scale rather than a fixed regular salary, the nature of which makes it difficult for any of these kids to feel comfortable taking a break, and which often pushes content creators to things like, say, [swinging their friends around from an excavator](#).

In episode six of the show, Thomas Petrou, a founding member of Hype House, pays for a retreat to Joshua Tree which he hopes will jumpstart content creation among the stagnating members of the collective. This is a hot-button topic for Petrou, who throughout the show is asking members of the collective to post more content, only to be ignored. It’s hard not to feel bad for the guy — though not because his teenage employees are being teenagers. It’s mostly because Petrou has convinced himself that he and his gang of industry disruptors have gamed the system, that social media works for them, and that that’s what’s made them so successful. He’s proselytized himself into the cult of The Hustler Mentality™. But as the show continues, it becomes painfully obvious that this is not the case. Petrou’s constant breakdowns and consistent anxieties about losing everything he’s worked for betray the idea that he’s in control. Just as Warren’s exploitation of his relationship is a red flag about the influencer machine, so is Petrou’s inability to step away from work. These kids are not hustling. They’re burnt out and driving themselves into the ground. This isn’t to say that posting a couple of ten-second videos a day is hard work, but rather that the economic model that this form of entertainment operates on is unsustainable. These pseudocelebrities and their careers are not built for longevity; they exist on platforms that encourage users to move on to the next interesting thing as soon as the current trend becomes boring. The influencer industry creates pressures that are detrimental to those who exist in it, and it should concern us that more and more people are aspiring to it.

In [his piece for Harper’s Magazine](#), writer and university professor Barrett Swanson catches TikTok star Baronscho during a refreshing moment of self-awareness: “The scary thing is you never know how long this is going to last, and I think that’s what eats a lot of us at night. It’s like, what’s next? How long can we entertain everyone for? How long before no one cares...?” The quote speaks to the hyper-consumerist nature of the internet, and the ways in which it has exacerbated the pre-existing anxieties and worries surrounding child stars within the traditional entertainment industry. The Hype House is a show about our generation’s child stars, one that set out to give us an inside look into the decadence and possibilities that this new industry brings; instead asserting that this show, and the industry it provides insight into should not exist. It’s a bleak image, one of teenagers and twenty-somethings playing at being celebrities, the ever-tightening grip of the algorithm wrapped around their necks.

Image courtesy of Netflix.

BY ELIAS ROMAN
A&E Editor

Influencers are a sort of morbid fascination for me, particularly the way in which they revel in almost-celebrity lifestyles without quite ever reaching the pantheon of A-Listers. They dance, they sing, they act, and they’re almost always incredibly mediocre at it. So, when I saw that Netflix’s show “Hype House” — a show about, well, Hype House — came out, I was curious; what is it about these people that enamors hordes of teenagers to watch every ten-second video that they produce? What started out as a guilty indulgence very quickly became a bleak insight into the influencer industry, and the pitfalls of modern self-commodification.

In a piece for [The Atlantic](#), writer Rachel Monroe writes that Charli D’Amelio’s success is in large part due to her relatability and attainability, managing “to telegraph an ordinary kind of specialness,” an attribute which can be applied to D’Amelio’s fellow Hype House members. These people are all conventionally attractive (and for the most part, White), though never overwhelmingly so. They’re not supermodels, they’re the popular kids from high school, which is what these people reminded me of as I watched the show: suburbanites with too much energy who love doing s— to impress their friends and girlfriends. (Coincidentally, Jack Wright, one-half of a TikTok duo made up of him and his twin brother, and a member of the Hype House, began attending the same high school as me during my senior year.)

Take Alex Warren for example, a member of Hype House who got his start on YouTube, [making controversially David Dobrik-esque vlogs](#), but was shot into the spotlight upon joining Hype House on TikTok. His old vlogs, or at least the ones still up on his YouTube page, consist of him and his two buddies Patrick and Calvin making d— jokes and screaming at the camera for four minutes straight. Watching these videos is like being dropped in a middle-of-nowhere suburb; it reminds you of high school, of that one group of boys that were too loud and too annoying, but just charismatic enough to get away with it. They’re relatable, but most importantly, the image they’re selling is attainable. Any teen with an iPhone and an internet connection could be these guys, and that’s probably why they blew up. And so emerges what my girlfriend has dubbed The Plight of the Influencer: what do you do when the most special thing about you — the only reason you’re famous — is that you’re not special?

Well, if you’re Warren, you exploit the dreams and aspirations of your significant other in a futile attempt to combat dwindling viewership. In the show, he makes a point of how his videos have been receiving less and less engagement from audiences, something that worries him quite a lot — especially because he

What UCSD Colleges Would Euphoria Characters Be In?

Warning: This article contains spoilers for Euphoria season one and episodes one and two of season two

BY SAMANTHA PHAN
Contributing Lifestyle Writer

Now that Euphoria season two is being released, it’s time for us all to reflect on what is really important: discussing which Euphoria characters would be in which UC San Diego colleges. Unfortunately, I’ve never seen any Euphoria character actually study, so them going to UCSD is just a fun way to use your imagination. That being said, which characters will be competing alongside you at Unolympics next



Photo by Peter Bucks from Unsplash

ROGER REVELLE COLLEGE: MADDY PEREZ

Maddy would love Revelle because it was the first college to be founded at UCSD. She loves to be the best of the best, and what better represents that than Revelle’s extensive history? Though Revelle isn’t known to be the most social college, Maddy would have made a group of close-knit friends within the first week. Those girls would be her ride-or-die ‘till she graduated. She would definitely spend time standing on the balconies in the Breezeway, looking down on her peers.

JOHN MUIR COLLEGE: RUE BENNETT

I feel like Rue would absolutely love the vibe of Muir. She would definitely sit in the courtyard, beneath all of the giant trees and vine-covered buildings, and do whatever she loves to do. I also think she would love the central location because it would allow her to explore the campus without going too far from home. Muir would give Rue a great space to start fresh and find her community.

THURGOOD MARSHALL COLLEGE: KAT HERNANDEZ

Kat probably sorted the colleges semi-randomly during her application process because she was very busy during her junior and senior years of high school. However, she ended up liking Marshall more than she thought she would. The lighter GE load let her focus on making even more money than she did in season one of Euphoria. However, I do worry that her roommate would be weirded out by the way she makes her passive income.

EARL WARREN COLLEGE: NATE JACOBS

Sorry, Warren students. Nate probably would’ve been drawn to Warren due to its prestigious reputation and impressive list of alumni. However, his impression of the college would quickly fade once he realizes how far away he is from Maddy.

This man is super possessive, and would not be able to handle having to walk 10 minutes to see his on-again, off-again girlfriend. Honestly, I think being in Warren would help Nate a lot, seeing that one of the college’s goals is “striving towards a life in balance.” From what we saw in season one, Nate could do with a bit of balance.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT COLLEGE: CASSIE HOWARD

I feel like Cassie would have applied to UCSD with Revelle or Marshall as her first choice because she wanted to stick with Maddy or Kat. After ending up in ERC, she probably would have been a bit sad due to separating from her friends, especially Maddy (because Maddy is “her best friend”). However, given some time, she would learn to love ERC. She wouldn’t even mind being far away from her friends because, honestly, it doesn’t look like their friendship means that much to her anyways.

SIXTH COLLEGE: FEZCO

I feel like this one is kind of self-explanatory. Fez knows everyone and everyone knows Fez, so it would make sense that he is in one of the most social colleges on campus. Fez loves to have fun, so he would definitely enjoy hanging out with Sixth students. If he went to UCSD, he would probably have to stop being a drug dealer, but honestly, that’s for the best.

SEVENTH COLLEGE: JULES VAUGHN

And finally, my favorite character. We all know that Jules wanted to go to fashion school at Parsons, but if she didn’t, she would (obviously) be in Seventh College at UCSD. Since Jules loves being in the city, she would probably appreciate that Seventh is on the edge of campus, making it easy for her to come and go. She probably wouldn’t mind that Seventh is so far from everything because she rides her bike everywhere anyways. Let’s just hope she doesn’t take the trolley to Mexico and leave Rue behind again.



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SPORTS

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UPCOMING UCSD GAMES	M Basketball	1/27	7PM	vs Cal Poly
	W Basketball	1/27	7PM	at Cal Poly
	M Volleyball	1/28	3PM	at NJIT
	W Waterpolo	1/29	9:15AM	vs Biola Lancer Joust
	M Tennis	1/29	11AM	vs St. Katherine



Image courtesy of Derrick Tuskan / UC San Diego.

Triton Volleyball Falls to Grand Canyon in Top-10 Battle

BY PRAVEEN NAIR
Sports Editor

UC San Diego’s 8th-ranked men’s volleyball team faced their toughest test of the season so far, as they hosted No. 6 Grand Canyon University, on Friday, Jan. 21. But the Tritons (2–1) couldn’t stay undefeated on the season, suffering a close defeat to the GCU Antelopes in four sets, 25–21, 25–19, 24–26, 25–20.

The Tritons entered Friday’s game having won both of their contests the week prior, a 3–1 victory over Harvard in the

season opener and a straight-sets defeat of No. 12 Stanford. Meanwhile, the Antelopes came into the game after two 3–1 victories against No. 14 McKendree University and two 0–3 losses to No. 4 Pennsylvania State University.

UCSD started off the scoring, as their star senior, outside hitter Kyle McCauley, drove a kill deftly to the back corner to go up 1–0. Both teams traded small runs early on in the set, but a 7–2 run that started with a missed serve from senior middle blocker Logan Clark, put the Antelopes in the lead, 10–7. Down 13–9, however, Clark got a kill in the middle off the GCU

block, McCauley got an ace, and then followed it up with a well-placed strike to the back line to bring the Tritons within one; after a subsequent GCU kill, UCSD rattled off 4 more points to take a 16–14 lead. But the Antelopes got on another 7–1 run late in the set to take a 23–19 lead, and they closed out the set on a spike to the center of the court, 25–21.

GCU kept up their momentum in the second set, scoring the first three points, but two straight Antelope attack errors tied the set up at 5 soon after. The Tritons got a spark midway through the set, down 10–8, as they scored 4 in a row,

capped off by a block by senior outside hitter Charlie Siragusa that bounced out of bounds off a GCU player’s head. But the Antelopes responded with 4 consecutive points of their own, and they stayed in the lead for the remainder of the set, taking the 2–0 lead, 25–19.

Grand Canyon again came into the set strong, going up 5–1 on three consecutive attack errors from UCSD, putting the Tritons against the wall in a must-win set. But two GCU errors and a McCauley ace put UCSD back into striking distance, and they would take an 8–7 lead on a towering block by senior middle blocker Shane Benetz and redshirt junior outside hitter Ryan Ka. Both teams would battle back and forth down the stretch in the third set, with neither team taking a lead of even 2 points until a 3–0 run from GCU put them in the lead at 22–20.

But a powerful kill from sophomore middle blocker Nick Rigo followed by a deft poke over the net by Ka, tied the set up at 22. The Antelopes, looking to put the Tritons away, scored a quick kill, and McCauley sent the next point flying past the end line to set up a match point for GCU, giving them two opportunities to end the match and sweep UCSD. The Tritons wouldn’t go away so easily, though, with a kill from senior outside hitter Wyatt Harrison and a block on the next play tying the set up at 24. On the next point, McCauley made a great dig to keep the ball in play, and Harrison scored the point to give UCSD a set point. On the next play, they converted that chance as Benetz made a block

on the GCU return to hand the Tritons set four, 26–24.

With their first set in hand, UCSD looked good to open the fourth set, going up 4–1 quickly. But the Antelopes blitzed the Tritons with five consecutive points, including three straight service aces by their Camden Gianni, to make it 6–4. The Antelopes extended their lead to 4, 11–7, soon after on a 3–0 run capped off by a kill from Gianni. Grand Canyon and UCSD traded points down the stretch, but the Tritons couldn’t equalize as they stayed on the back foot. UCSD narrowed the lead to 20–18 on an ace from freshman setter Gabriel Dyer, but they failed to get any closer as Gianni closed out the match for the Antelopes, 25–20.

McCauley led the Tritons with 16 kills in the loss, followed by Harrison with 11, and senior setter Blake Crisp had 37 assists. Overall, the Tritons out-killed the Antelopes 49–45, but they were outthit by GCU, .267 to .184, making eight more errors.

“I thought we had moments, but we just didn’t string enough of those together,” said UCSD Head Coach Kevin Ring. “I think they were the aggressors in a variety of different areas, from serving to attacking.”

Following the loss to Grand Canyon, UCSD will take a two-game New Jersey road trip to take on the New Jersey Institute of Technology on Friday, Jan. 28, and Princeton University on Saturday, Jan. 29 on ESPN+, before playing the University of Southern California in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Feb. 2.

Women’s Basketball Struggles Down the Stretch in Long Beach

BY EMER NOLAN
Staff Writer

The UC San Diego women’s basketball team (6–8, 3–2 Big West) lost to California State University, Long Beach (11–2, 4,1 Big West) this past Thursday away at the Walter Pyramid in their seventh conference game of the season. It was a tough match-up for the Tritons, who struggled against the intense CSULBpress. Despite a few bright moments and individual performances, UCSD was frustrated by CSULB’s on-form offense and determined defense. They were unable to retake the lead after losing it at the end of the first period; the final score was 62–44, the visiting side ultimately coming up short at full time.

UCSD won first possession and began the game with real promise. A jumper from redshirt senior guard Emily Cangelosi kicked off the scoring for the Tritons within the first minute of play to put the Beach on the defensive. The visitors added another 12 points to their tally before the end of the quarter, which included a pair of 3-pointers from Cangelosi and sophomore guard Parker Montgomery. However, despite their encouraging start, UCSD lost the lead at the tail-end of the quarter after CSULB’s Justina King netted a successive 3-pointer and bucket to tie the scoreline at 14–14 just before the break.

The rest of the game saw the

Tritons continue to push, but never succeed in catching up to the home side. The second quarter began with the Beach scoring 9 points in a row, pushing UCSD into a five-minute spell in which they were unable to put points on the board. It was a smooth 3-pointer from senior guard Madison Baxter that finally broke the pattern with 5:20 left on the clock, but CSULB responded with another 5 points to again add to their lead. Despite another pair of jumpers from Emily Cangelosi and one from senior guard Julia Macabuhay, the half ended with the Tritons 10 points down at 33–23.

The second half saw more of the same form from both teams: CSULB scored another 5 points to further increase their lead before a three-minute period without either team scoring went by, book-ended by a pair of UCSD 3-pointers by Emily Cangelosi and Parker Montgomery. However, despite lessening the point-differential to single digits at one point near the end of the quarter, the visiting side conceded 14 points throughout and only scored 10 of their own, going into the final break down 47–33.

CSULB’s lead never dropped below double digits in the final quarter, despite freshman guard Izzy Forsyth’s 3-pointer and senior guard Sydney Brown’s bucket, as well as a pair of successful free throws from both. The Beach maintained their definitive lead, scoring 15 points of their own across the period, so with 39 seconds left

on the clock, UCSD freshman guard Courtnei Thompson’s jumper for the last points on the board wasn’t enough to deny the victory to the home side. The final buzzer sounded with the score 62–44 to CSULB. In the end, UCSD was disappointed to not build on their emphatic win over the University of Hawai’i a week prior, but ultimately they fell short against a dogged all-around effort by the Beach.

Despite the scoreline throughout, UCSD fought hard all evening and produced an admirable performance when their backs were against the wall, but in the end it wasn’t enough to catch up to the hosts. Emily Cangelosi put in an impressive shift for the Tritons, scoring a game-high

14 points and earning a team-high 8 rebounds, with Parker Montgomery contributing her own 10 points to the scoresheet for the visitors.

It was telling that the lead was only relinquished once by either team, with CSULB firmly ahead for the majority of the game, but the most revealing statistics of the night might just be those regarding the teams’ turnover conversions: CSULB scored 24 points off turnovers while UCSD scored none. The Tritons surrendered possession too easily at times and were unable to capitalize on several moments when the opposition’s momentum faltered, a combination that created a gap too wide to bridge before the clock hit full time.

However, despite the unfortunate outcome on Thursday, UCSD channeled their frustration into a gritty victory just two days later. The Tritons’ next tie was a spectatorless event the following Saturday at home against California State University, Fullerton, in which they added another win to their conference record in a tight game that ended 64–61 to the home side. Senior guard Sydney Brown and Julia Macabuhay each put on impressive scoring displays for UCSD, scoring 18 and 17 points on the night, respectively. The Tritons are next scheduled to play California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo away on Thursday, Jan. 27.



Image courtesy of UC San Diego Athletics.