**Drawing the Lines: California Certifies New Congressional Districts**

**BY ERIKA ROBERTS, CONTRIBUTING NEWS WRITER**

On Dec. 27, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission certified new maps of the state’s new U.S. Congressional districts. Following the decennial U.S. census, district lines were redrawn to represent new demographic changes in the country: these new districts will come into play during the 2022 midterm elections.

Per the U.S. Constitution, California, like all other states, is federally mandated to update Congressional districts every ten years based on the Census. These new districts are drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, a group of 14 college-educated California citizens, with professional backgrounds, selected by the California government. The Commission is independent of any governmental entity.

Under the redistricting plan, San Diego will remain represented by five congressional districts. UC San Diego Political Science Professor Thad Kousser mentioned a few notable changes within the redistricting plan:

- **[The plan] takes San Diego’s five congressional districts and re-sets them in a way that more clearly divides us on an east and west axis, rather than...**
- **the north and south divisions that were present in the prior plan.**
- **Kousser also mentions that 50th, 51st, and 52nd districts will lean strongly Democratic, while the 48th district — which includes much of East County — will have a Republican stronghold.**
- **“The 49th [district] is our biggest chance for a bat-**
- **tleground... most San Diego UCSD students won’t be voters in that district, but many of them still may be connected because Mike Levin, current officeholder, has created a lot of ties to students and political activ-**
- **ists in the area,” Kousser continued.**
- **The 52nd district, comprising the South Bay region and Southeast San Diego, will become San Diego’s first majority Latino district by voting-age population.**
- **“It gives a voting group that has a huge and growing presence in San Diego... The ability to elect a represen-**
- **tative of their choosing. And that, in many ways, lives up to the promise of the Voting Rights Act,” Kousser said.**
- **The California Citizens Redistricting Commis-**
- **sion, responsible for drawing the new districts, was established with a group of citizens with diverse back-**
- **grounds and interests. From a pool of 22,000 appli-**
- **cants, the State of California selected 14 commission-**
- **ers through a rigorous application process. To ensure that a diverse group of voices were present, the selected Commission had five Democrats, five Republicans, and four Independents, as well as four first-or second-gen-**
- **eration immigrants, three members of the LGBTQ+ community, and three Black citizens.**
- **Commissioner Patricia Simon, one of the 14 se-**
- **lected with a background in nonprofit work, spoke to The UCSD Guardian about the Commission and their work.**
- **“We all have different professional experiences. Several of us were community organizers or had non-**
- **profit backgrounds,” Simon said. “We had two pastors, a**
- **sheriff, and some were from the private sector. So it was...”**

In the article, Dr. Davey Smith, chief of infectious diseases and global health at UC San Diego, is adamant that individuals who test positive notify their physician especially if they are high risk.

For someone with high-risk conditions and don’t even know they are high risk, their doctor should know there are therapies they may be eligible to get and prevent them from getting in the hospital and dying,” said Smith. In order to combat the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, UCSD is recommending, but not requiring, that all students returning to campus-owned housing take an at home rapid test prior to their arrivals.

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**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

In the wake of the Black Lives Matter and MeToo movements, there have been greater calls for better police accountability for using brute force and ignoring or covering up sexual assault cases. The UCSD Guardian examines changes that have happened to University of California Police Department policy as well as the San Diego Police Force.

UC San Diego students and staff have proven to be very vocal about BLM and police account-ability on campus. On June 6, 2020, demonstrators made a protest in Mar-**
- **van down La Jolla Village Drive towards Gliderport, chanting the names of Black individuals mur-**
- **dered by police.**

In February 2021, the UC sys-**
- **tem arranged plans to fund a Sys-**
- **temswide Response Team (UCSD-**
- **FPT). Under this policy, officers would be allowed to turn off their body cameras when it “would jeopardize their safety or the safety of the pub-**
- **lic,” which changes the definition of a police force, among other things listed. These plans were met with significant backlash, particularly from the UC San Diego Cops Off Campus Coalition, or UCSD-FTP.**
- **UCSD-FTP affiliate and Profes-**
- **sor of Literature Sal Nicolazzo noted concern back in May 2021 that this policy funded weapons and gear that took away resources from addressing student needs.**

“If the response is, ‘let’s arm more officers with pepper spray,” it seems like the real goal is to pre-**
- **vent student protests against things like tuition hikes,” Nicolazzo said. “[The SRT] is obviously going to in-**
- **crease the budget, scope, and mili-**
- **taryization of campus police, when instead we could be asking how we can fundamentally rethink what safety looks like on our campuses.”**

When asked about the actions UCSD is taking to encourage more police accountability, Associate Director of University Commu-**
- **nications Leslie Sepuka told the Guardian that the university will continue changing to best suit the needs of students by using data to help shape its policies.**

“The police department continues to evolve and respond to best practices and the needs of the community,” Sepuka said. “Going forward, accountability and trans-**
- **parency will be supported by new channels for sharing feedback and data — such as the publication of data on use of force incidents and community complaints — in order to track progress, answer timely...”**

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**INSIDE**

**A.S. REPORT...**
**NFTS...............5**
**BETTY WHITE......7**
**NEW YORK... 8**
**HAWAII VS. UCSD......9**

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**COVID-19**

At-Home Rapid Tests Affecting County Covid Statistics

**BY ARIANA B. COMMUNICATIONS**

An article by CBS8 states that there may be inaccurac
cy in the number of tests reported by the county as people who test positive may not be reporting it to their healthcare providers. Currently, positive COVID-19 results from at-home rapid tests do not show up on the county’s number of positive cases unless those who test positive notify their healthcare providers.

In the article, Dr. Davey Smith, chief of infectious diseases and global health at UC San Diego is adamant that individuals who test positive notify their physician especially if they are high risk.

For someone with high-risk conditions and don’t even know they are high risk, their doctor should know there are therapies they may be eligible to get and prevent them from getting in the hospital and dying,” said Smith. In order to combat the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, UCSD is recommending, but not requiring, that all students returning to campus-owned housing take an at home rapid test prior to their arrivals.

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**SPIDERMAN: NO WAY HOME**

Who is Peter Parker? Comic Book Review of the newest Spiderman film in the Marvel Universe!

**FORECAST**

THURSDAY
H 25 L 12
WEDNESDAY
H 21 L 11
TUESDAY
H 22 L 11
MONDAY
H 19 L 11
Week 1
At the Week 1 meeting on Jan. 5, the Associated Students discussed many different issues affecting the students of UC San Diego. The issues varied from the unethical research of a professor in the anthropology department to the transition to hybrid learning and COVID-19 updates about UCSD.

First, John Muir College Senator Davsri Rattanamanusang discussed how the UC unions have not received their dues. Students who are unable to leave their rooms would benefit from being able to have food delivered from dining halls and Price Center restaurants. One way to accomplish this would be by incorporating starship food delivery robots, which are mini robots that are autonomous and self-drive to deliver food. Rattanamanusang also noted that “three other UC campuses already have them.”

Eleanor Roosevelt College Senator Isabellia Ramos then talked about how to help student workers with parking. Ramos advocated for student workers to be able to have access to parking so they can be on time for their jobs. Having parking spots specifically designated for student workers would help with this problem. Arts and Humanities Senator Rhi-anen Callahan also highlighted an important issue related to the anthropology department at UCSD. Former critical gender studies faculty member Dr. Saiba Varma, has been accused of conducting research that violated guidelines.

Varma’s research took place in Kashmir, which is currently occupied by India. Callahan claimed that “Varma went in to conduct research on the mental health of Kashmiris” in Kashmiri clinics after the militarization of their land. Varma allegedly demanded that Kashmiris discuss their trauma in Hindi, so she could translate it for herself.

The critical gender studies department released a statement claiming that “the colonial Indian state intelligence apparatus had appointed Varma’s father (for- merly a high-ranking official of the Research and Analysis wing, the highest intelligence agency of India and architect of torture, counter-insurgency, and counter-terrorism policies in Kashmir and elsewhere) and colleagues to draw up plans, including torture, sexual violence, and counter-insurgency as instruments of war.”

Moreover, Varma claimed to bear a commitment to decolonial, anti-racist, and feminist politics, yet she has not disclosed her upper caste background during the sessions with these Kashmiris.

“Furthermore, Callahan said, ‘[Varma] was not honest and not understanding … and she took advantage of other people for the sake of research.’” So far, the anthropology department has not addressed the public about this important issue.

Week 2
At their Week 2 meeting on Jan. 12, A.S. Council discussed the important issues of remote learning and COVID-19. With the remote learning deadline extended to Jan. 31, A.S. Council advocated for the smooth transition from remote to hybrid learning. 3 and 4. A.S. members will be judged based on the quality of their work, planning and organizing, productivity, teamwork, and more.

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VP External Affairs Adrianna Blackshire noted that during the January board meeting of the UCSD campus. Geisel Library is open until 10 p.m. with masks required. Students with a parking permit will be allowed to park in P and B spots until Jan. 30. Agui emphasized the importance of students getting tested as soon as possible and as often as possible. Students who have not returned to campus can “request a rapid antigen test to be self-administered 24 hours before they arrive.”

The deadline for all students, faculty, staff, and academic appointees to get their booster shot is Jan. 31 or two weeks after six months from the second dose. So far, 13,000 students have received their booster shots. Engineering Senator Samir Noman announced that Price Center is administering booster shots in the west balcony, after UCSD has seen a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases.

Finally, Vice President of External Affairs Adrianna Blackshire said that the UCSD Student Color of Conference will now take place remotely on Jan. 29. Anyone from any campus can join. The Students of Color Conference provides a safe space for students of color and allies to formulate state-wide and campus-based steps.

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In October 2021, The Guardian highlighted James Steve's lawsuit against UCSD and Regents. Steve's lawsuit, filed on July 23, 2021, alleges that there were systematically-reinforced issues of racism, sexism, and homophobia within the UCSD-PD force. It claims that his time in the force led to discrimination and harassment, and that there was a lack of oversight and accountability on his mental health.

The Guardian reached out to Steve's former attorney, Darren Richie, for a possible update on the trial. However, Richie and other attorneys of DreLaw neglected to respond.

Similarly new has followed from UC Santa Barbara. Currently, UCSD is recommending, but not requiring, that all students report COVID-19 symptoms. Because the tests are designed to be to fully address them, ” the student said. That's how I found out I was positive. I have great hope that a more sophisticated approach will be put in place that has greater levels of accountability,” LaCava added about the Commission.

The Guardian will continue to monitor the situation in San Diego. Those interested in filing a complaint with the San Diego police department can do so at the link here. Those interested in filing a complaint with the UCSD police department can do so here.
According to a study done by the International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction, "Watching videos of others that they feel emotionally involved [with] helps them escape from their unpleasant reality and this positive mood modification leads them to higher problematic television and movies: using the world created as a way to escape from our own. While this is an inherent part of the watching experience, consistently opting to watch shows and movies instead of facing the challenges of our reality can result in the same addiction as social media.

Life is full of challenges and uncomfortable conversations, and if we spend our time trying to escape from them, we miss out on the value of the lessons they teach us.

All the ways in which we escape have become a prison for us. While it may not be as damaging, the addiction and reliance on our modern ways of escapism, social media and television, can be compared to alcohol abuse.

While many justify their escapist behavior with their mental health, dependence on this method of coping can actually lead to worsened mental health. According to Psychologist Lyn Reed, by avoiding our issues, we could be at risk of developing a higher level of depressive symptoms. Additionally, she claims, "Addiction to the internet has shown overuse of such is often linked to loneliness and compulsiveness."

It is also important to note the other ways escapism can appear in our lives, such as overeating, gaming, and oversleeping. Admittedly, these actions are not inherently detrimental, and a healthy dosage of escapism can be used to destress and refresh. However, we must ask ourselves if the ways in which we escape are simply distressing us or inhibiting our ability to face our responsibilities.

When we become too avoidant, it results in our inability to confront both personal and societal issues, leaving our responsibilities incomplete. Whether it's a political issue on the news that you don't have the energy for or an uncomfortable conversation you need to have with your housemate, escaping may seem like a tempting option. However, once escapism becomes the main source of conflict resolution, this addiction can impact not only productivity and relationships but also personal growth.

The first step in breaking away from our escapist behavior is actually recognizing when we are doing it, as it can oftentimes be a subconscious action that goes unnoticed. Once we are able to recognize how we become avoidant, we are able to set boundaries and understand the difference between leisure and detrimental evasion. Being able to deal with and come to terms with the ups and downs of life is a skill that takes some time to learn, but one that becomes more crucial as we get older and more mature.

Trying to escape from the painful and uncomfortable is natural, but those responses signify that we care, we love, and are able to grow.
Marvel. Cinematic. Universe. An American media franchise that has transformed into a worldwide sensation. And whether the Marvel films receive criticism or praise, there’s no such thing as bad publicity for them. It just makes them stronger. Almost like a superhero. Because at the end of the day, it’s hard not to marvel at Marvel. The glitz, the glamour. The hero, the villain. The love, the loss. Good and evil, fights and friendship. And everything in between.

It’s as buttery as popcorn. And Spider-Man: No Way Home is no exception. It deserves its place on the Marvel shelf, perhaps even placed in the forefront. The movie has already racked up over a billion in the box office. Ka-pow. But the question remains: What makes this particular movie so desirable? What makes it so successful? Is it the way it dresses? It's character? Humor? Its fighting spirit?

For one, we are reunited with easy-on-the-eyes Tom Holland as Spider-Man. The audience favorite looks as buff and built as… well, a superhero. Holland’s character in the beginning of the film remains fun-loving, with just a sprinkle of naïveté. Or maybe a truckload of it. This is because Peter Parker begs Doctor Strange to create a spell that makes people forget he’s Spider-Man, but tries to doctor it (get the joke?) while in motion.

And, of course, everything goes wrong. While resorting to magic might not have been the greatest of ideas, it’s understandable that Parker would feel this desperate. After Mysterio blamed his own “death” on Spider-Man and revealed Parker’s identity, the world became polarized. Their fictional world almost mirrors reality as we see social media posts about Parker, rallies, marches, and even books about him. Director Jon Watts creates a colorful explosion of opinions as the fallout continues. Clever camera-work that echoes the long-stretches and quick movements of La La Land enliven the screen. And the music by Michael Giacchino only enhances it.

It’s a dance—down to the way a half-dressed Parker struggles to close his window.

Best friends MJ (Zendaya) and Ned (Jacob Batalon) add their own verbal choreography through quirky one-liners. More so, Zendaya’s pronounced role as Parker’s love interest adds a new dynamic to the film. In a way, her character brings a sense of sobriety to Peter’s happy-go-lucky attitude. Her running line: “if you expect disappointment, then you can never really be disappointed.”

It’s needed—because No Way Home has more blood on its face than the previous two movies. It isn’t afraid to show the dirt, the dust, and the damage. Even the death.

And yet, “No Way Home” still manages to keep the audience comfortable with its laissez-faire nature and somewhat witty jokes. Aunt May (Marisa Tomei) never fails to bring a smile to a scene. Additionally, the banter among the three Spiderman characters (surprise!) is particularly refreshing. Both Andrew Garfield and Tobey Maguire act as variations of Parker, thus making the trio of “Spidermen” that much more entertaining.

Some older villains grace the screen again, notably Dr. Octavius/Dr. Octopus (Alfred Molina), Ray Dillon/Electro (Jamie Foxx), Dr. Curt Connors/The Lizard (Rhys Ifans) and Flint Mark/Sandman (Thomas Haden Church). And perhaps a Green Goblin thrown in too (Willem Dafoe). The villains are needed in the movie as much as the heroes. Their unique backstories and suffering are brought into the spotlight, making the scenes more thought-provoking than in past Spider-Man films.

Ultimately, this medley of old and new faces is perfectly catered to the fans and doesn’t feel too cookie-cutter. From reunions to run-ins, “Spider-Man: No Way Home” covers its bases in glistening spidery webs. There’s something for everyone.

So grab that buttery popcorn and enjoy.

Kayla Swartzberg
Features Writer
“The world looks different now,” said actor Ryan Reynolds after the world was saddened by the passing of iconic and widely loved actress Betty White, who died on Friday Dec. 31, 2021, just two weeks before her 100th birthday. The news brought forth a wave of posts in tribute to her prolific decade-spanning career from many celebrities who worked with her over the years. Some of these included Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds, who starred with her in “The Proposal,” Don Chudale who was one of her co-stars on “The Golden Palace,” and other celebrities including Jamie Lee Curtis, Seth Meyers and Dolly Parton. Former First Lady Michelle Obama took to Instagram to share her condolences saying, “Betty White broke barriers, defied expectations, served her country, and pushed us all to laugh. She was also an animal lover and activist, and Bo loved spending time with her...I know our Bo is looking forward to seeing her up in heaven.”

Often regarded as the first lady of television, White won the hearts of many over the years by starring in a plethora of shows and movies. She has made appearances on many shows throughout the years (“Days of Our Lives”, “That ’70s Show”, “Community”, etc.) but most will know her as Sue Ann Nivens on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show”, which she won two Emmys for. She would go on to win another Emmy for her performance as the sweet but dim Rose Nyland on “The Golden Girls.” The hit sitcom showed the lives of four older women living together in Miami as they share life experiences together. Although they were widely different, both characters, as well as their respective shows, were beloved by fans for years after they ended. She wouldn’t let her age stop her, because at age 88 White went on to host the mother’s day episode of “Saturday Night Live”, which she won an Emmy for outstanding guest actress in a comedy series. SNL writer Seth Meyers recalls White saying in a tweet, “...the only SNL host I ever saw get a standing ovation at the after party. A party at which she ordered a vodka and a hotdog and stayed till the bitter end.”

White started her career in 1949 on a TV series called “Hollywood on Television”, and went on to produce “The Betty White Show”, her own variety show in the 1950’s. It was on her variety show where she faced backlash for featuring Arthur Duncan, a Black tap dancer, only for her to keep him as a regular, something that was not common at the time. This however was not the end of White’s activism, in later years she advocated for animals and personally supported many animal-related non-profit organizations, both by donating and volunteering. She even published a book in 2011 titled “Betty & Friends: My Life at the Zoo” about her affiliation with the Los Angeles Zoo and her love of animals. Her legacy continues to live on through her dedicated fans who have decided to honor her through the #BettyWhiteChallenge. This challenge implores people to donate to animal shelters and rescues, which trended on Twitter with fans encouraging others to participate.

Throughout her extraordinary career, White touched the lives of many and paved the way for a myriad of people in the film and television industry. The enormous outpour of love that has come from both celebrities and all of her fans from multiple generations shows the impact she had through acting. White left a noteworthy legacy that will never be forgotten, and we thank her for being a friend.

No One Is Talking About This

In her debut novel “No One Is Talking About This,” poet and memoirist Patricia Lockwood refers to the internet and all its various iterations as “the portal” – a moribund, desolate landscape in which individual consciousness is replaced with collective thinking. Lockwood’s portal is emblematic of the culture created by social media and our insistence on digital connection. The narrative of the novel is a chorus of voices that enfold and rescue, which trended on Twitter with fans encouraging others to participate.

Dubbed the “poet laureate of Twitter,” Lockwood is intimately familiar with the Twitter discourse. Twitter slang with larger apocalyptic preoccupations in a digression where the narrator recognizes as the malady affecting Merrick the Elephant Man. The narrator’s internal turmoil addresses a set of questions central to the coexistence of humanity and social media: What, if not the incessant chatter of internet interactions, constitutes real life? And more poignantly: How does one maintain a presence in the real world while still satisfying the perverse need to be constantly online?

The traditional structure of the literary novel and its emphasis on intelligible plot is insufficient when addressing such existentialism. In the attention economy of the internet – where a seemingly insusceptible “substitute of guacamole” animates a flock of aggressive Twitter commenters — so little makes sense. Lockwood’s novel deftly reveals how the internet itself is befuddling. “No One Is Talking About This” addresses our unexplainable desire to stay connected online by co-opting the lexicon of online culture. Littered throughout the novel are references to recent internet trends, in the beginning of the book, Lockwood combines the verve of Twitter slang with larger apocalyptic preoccupations in a digression where the narrator remarks, “SHOOT IN MY VEINS, we said, when the Flat Earth Society announced it had members all over the globe.” Lockwood’s kaleidoscopic prose offers a lens, however nebulous, through which we are able to reckon with our own contributions to vacuous internet dialogue.

This fragmented prose is most apparent in the first half of the novel when the narrator enjoys internet stardom for her viral tweet, “Can a dog be twins?” Rather than disavow the trappings of online existence, Lockwood embraces them. She revels in the levity of Twitter humor, participating in the full dimensions of the internet to which she owes her cultural relevance. Where the first half of the novel ambles in its revelations of internet culture, the latter is exacting in its depiction of interpersonal relationships. A deeply personal reckoning ensues when the narrator’s niece is diagnosed with Proteus syndrome — a rare condition of skull and limb overgrowth, most recognizable where the first half of the novel ambles in its revelations of internet culture, the latter is exacting in its depiction of interpersonal relationships. A deeply personal reckoning ensues when the narrator’s niece is diagnosed with Proteus syndrome — a rare condition of skull and limb overgrowth, most recognizable as the malady affecting Merrick the Elephant Man. The narrator’s internal turmoil addresses a set of questions central to the coexistence of humanity and social media: What, if not the incessant chatter of internet interactions, constitutes real life? And more poignantly: How does one maintain a presence in the real world while still satisfying the perverse need to be constantly online?

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“Betty White Remembrance Piece

Betty White was one of the Golden Girls, a groundbreaking career, and the impact she had on film, television and the world after her passing.

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“No One Is Talking About This” is a novel about our fraught relationship with social media, the futile search for recognition on the internet, and the toll of constant screen time on our ability to empathize. For all of her premonitions, Lockwood does not end her novel without offering a hopeful model of existence. By the end of the book, the narrator finds respite from the portal by re-discovering the joys of human existence with her newborn niece — they experiment with various musical instruments, traverse through Disneyland, and take comfort in the embrace of a fluffly dog. Only by fostering an intimate relationship with the baby is the narrator finally able to dull the enticing murmurs of the portal. To resist the gravitational pull of the internet, Lockwood asserts, is to express our innate capacity for love and empathy.

Grade: A-
Written by: Patricia Lockwood
Publishing Date: February 16, 2021

This fragmented prose is most apparent in the first half of the novel when the narrator enjoys internet stardom for her viral tweet, “Can a dog be twins?” Rather than disavow the trappings of online existence, Lockwood embraces them. She revels in the levity of Twitter humor, participating in the full dimensions of the internet to which she owes her cultural relevance. Where the first half of the novel ambles in its revelations of internet culture, the latter is exacting in its depiction of interpersonal relationships. A deeply personal reckoning ensues when the narrator’s niece is diagnosed with Proteus syndrome — a rare condition of skull and limb overgrowth, most recognizable where the first half of the novel ambles in its revelations of internet culture, the latter is exacting in its depiction of interpersonal relationships. A deeply personal reckoning ensues when the narrator’s niece is diagnosed with Proteus syndrome — a rare condition of skull and limb overgrowth, most recognizable as the malady affecting Merrick the Elephant Man. The narrator’s internal turmoil addresses a set of questions central to the coexistence of humanity and social media: What, if not the incessant chatter of internet interactions, constitutes real life? And more poignantly: How does one maintain a presence in the real world while still satisfying the perverse need to be constantly online?

The traditional structure of the literary novel and its emphasis on intelligible plot is insufficient when addressing such existentialism. In the attention economy of the internet — where a seemingly insusceptible “substitute of guacamole” animates a flock of aggressive Twitter commenters — so little makes sense. Lockwood’s novel deftly reveals how the internet itself is befuddling. “No One Is Talking About This” addresses our unexplainable desire to stay connected online by co-opting the lexicon of online culture. Littered throughout the novel are references to recent internet trends, in the beginning of the book, Lockwood combines the verve of Twitter slang with larger apocalyptic preoccupations in a digression where the narrator remarks, “SHOOT IN MY VEINS, we said, when the Flat Earth Society announced it had members all over the globe.” Lockwood’s kaleidoscopic prose offers a lens, however nebulous, through which we are able to reckon with our own contributions to vacuous internet dialogue.

“No One Is Talking About This” is a novel about our fraught relationship with social media, the futile search for recognition on the internet, and the toll of constant screen time on our ability to empathize. For all of her premonitions, Lockwood does not end her novel without offering a hopeful model of existence. By the end of the book, the narrator finds respite from the portal by re-discovering the joys of human existence with her newborn niece — they experiment with various musical instruments, traverse through Disneyland, and take comfort in the embrace of a fluffly dog. Only by fostering an intimate relationship with the baby is the narrator finally able to dull the enticing murmurs of the portal. To resist the gravitational pull of the internet, Lockwood asserts, is to express our innate capacity for love and empathy.
The NFTs Are the New Meta(verse)

The rise of cryptocurrency also saw the rise of NFTs, a new way to digitally "own" something. The new wave of technology is coming along with the metaverse, what are the ramifications of going all digital?

BY CONCIE WILFR
Staff Writer

In March of last year, artist Mike Winkelmann — known professionally as Beeple — sold a colorful non-fungible token (NFT) of 5,000 daily pieces he created. He sought to find a market for his unique art — and that he did. Known already as a talented digital artist on social media, his work sold for over 69 million dollars to a Christie's auction house, who sold it for being the first major auction house to have sold an NFT.

On Twitter, some individuals feature profile photos of apes against a white background. They are known as the Bored Ape Yacht Club (BAYC) NFT image. The art itself, these apes are part of a collection that has recently been expanding beyond the blockchain.

These apes wear varying attires with expressions often appearing nonchalant and aloof. Their accessories include everything from earrings to vibrant pinwheels, and they have some — like those with golden fur — are rarer than others. They also sell for higher prices.

Though initially under the radar and at most charming to an unknowing eye, these images are a part of a trend in the NFT market, with some buyers willing to dish out hundreds of dollars in NFTs on a single image. Along with the purchase, are exclusive membership benefits such as access to the ‘bathroom’ — a online space on the background. They are known as the Bored Ape Yacht Club (BAYC) NFT image.

NFTs can be purchased on sites like OpenSea and Rarible. For avid buyers, collectors, and sellers, NFTs represent something substantial: something they can own with digital certification. Though the images seem accessible and readable — akin to rare Pokemon Cards. A transaction data that holds the information and the ownership aspect is undeniable.

The owner's name is on a line of code on the background — and a fluctuating market that can increase individuals NFT value. These "non-fungible" tokens are unique and irreplaceable — akin to rare Pokemon Cards. A transactional data that holds the information and the ownership aspect is undeniable.

The new wave of technology is coming along with the metaverse. The realms of NFTs and the metaverse offer a surreal arena to individuals, one in which people can express themselves how they would like. The metaverse intends to be so immersive that one can participate in it with individuals next to them, something that has never been offer before.

Not only have tickets to concerts had the chance to be substituted by NFTs, virtual concerts in collaboration with Roblox have served as bases for individuals to feel the thrill of the artists and audience. Stores like Vans teamed up with Roblox for the first ever virtual skate park — with interaction through skate in the virtual world as well as Vans gear such as shoes and hats all for sale.

The NFTs Are the New Meta(verse)
You’re probably thinking, “Great, another article about how amazing and glorious New York City is and why everyone should live there.” And honestly, as I am writing this, I’m thinking the same way. I wanted to share the experience I had in New York over the winter break, but also wanted to make sure that whatever I shared wouldn’t get lost in the mud of the pro-NYC rhetoric decorated around the internet. So I picked my brain. What did I like most about New York? I saw some amazing pieces of art, architecture and performance. I walked the busy streets and hailed a taxi. I had a classic NYC pizza slice on the side of the street next to pigeons. But when I really thought about it, it was the people I met in passing throughout the entirety of the trip that really made it memorable. Every single ticket vendor, shopkeep, waiter, museum attendant, and stranger was so incredibly kind. Never have I been to such a kind and welcoming place. A place where yes, people mind their business and the tourists are annoying, but a place where even strangers are kind enough to pay you compliments on your clothes, hair, or just you in general.

Just like any place in the world, the people are what give the city its personality. Without people, cities would just be cold metal jungles with very little intrigue or personality. For some reason though, I thought New York City would be the exception. With the thousands of pictures I’ve seen, songs I’ve listened to and movies and TV shows that have been made about this city, I half-expected the sidewalk to be bursting with life. But when I got there, the sidewalks were normal, the building tall and cold, and the streets filled with cars.

What was magical were the people. I know I’m driving this point into the ground, but truly if I could bring back anything from New York it would have been the people. I have no idea how I could fit them in my suitcase, and I’m sure half of them would hate San Diego. It’s just hard saying goodbye to everyone, especially to the woman who got engaged while ice skating at Rockefeller Center… that was magical.

That is the joy of travelling. New places, new food, and new people. When done right, traveling can invigorate your own life; energize your spirit. By no means is this the same call to travelling that rich white instagram influencers preach on a daily basis. Instead, it is an encouragement to go someplace new. I know for a fact I haven’t been to downtown San Diego in awhile. Getting out and seeing the world and meeting the people that make the world what it is is priceless. So, go out there and meet someone new. Pay them a compliment while you’re at it.
The UC San Diego women’s basketball team (6–7, 3–1 Big West) continued their strong showing against their unranked Ivy League foe.

UC San Diego’s men’s volleyball team played their first game against Brown University, taking the match 4–2.

Triton Volleyball Opens 2022 Season with Defeat of Harvard

BY DONOVAN PÉREZ-SCHIPPER
Senior Staff Writer

The UC San Diego women’s basketball team (6–7, 3–1 Big West) opened their 2022 campaign with a hard-fought win over the Rainbow Warriors of Hawaii (4–7, 1–1 Big West) in a battle of titans, the fourth conference win of the season.

UC San Diego’s volleyball team played their first match of the 2022 season on Jan. 14, facing the Harvard University Crimson 3 sets to 1, 16–25, 25–16, 25–20, and 25–23.

Star senior outside hitter Kyle McCauley had a match-high 17 kills, and redshirt junior outside hitter Ka had two straight aces to win the match, as the No. 10 Tritons put a stop to Harvard’s momentum.

The Tritons entered their match against Harvard at RIMAC Arena after having their previous weekend of matches at the UC Berkeley Invitational cancelled; the tournament would have pitted the Tritons against teams like No. 12 University of Southern California, No. 2 UCLA, and No. 11 USC.

The program was a back-and-forth affair for the Tritons in their first set of the season, as they took the first set by two points before straight UCSD errors knocked the match back up at 5. The set remained tight, as senior middle blocker Logan Clark slotted home two consecutive kills off of assists from senior setter Blake Crip to make it 12–12 midset. But soon after, the Crimson took over the set with a massive 9–1 run, interrupted only by a right-handed kill by Ka out of a UCSD timeout, that put Harvard up 22–14 and led the Crimson to their most significant point advantage of the set at 25–16.

The second set started out evenly matched, with the points nearly alternating between sides with the exception of two Harvard service errors, as it was 8–8 Tritons early on. But sparked by a powerful kill by McCauley on the left side of the net that bounced out of the block, the Crimson turned the Tritons run up 7–2 to run up 15–8, with the final point coming on another Tritons off-service. That put UCSD in the driver’s seat for the remainder of the set, and while Harvard closed the lead to 22–26 with 4 consecutive points, the Tritons shut the door with 5 straight points, the Crimson couldn’t contain a McCauley strike, his ninth kill of the match, as it landed for set point, 25–16.

The Tritons took a quick lead on another important run in the third set, as a Ka kill started a 4–0 run that put UCSD up 7–3 in the early going of the set. Later in the set, with the Tritons trailing 15–16, senior outside hitter Charlie Siragusa made it 3 points in a row for the home side and extended the lead to 14–9. While both teams battled for momentum, the Tritons maintained a 2–1 set lead, the Crimson never got closer than 4 points away, and McCauley came up clutch again with a block to put the set away for UC, 25–23.

UCSD was up early once again in the fourth set, starting off the frame with an 8–4 lead. But the Crimson, looking to tie the match 2–2, fought back, taking the set at 10–10, and again at 14–14. After a Harvard attack error put the Tritons up 15–14, the Crimson scored four straight, including three straight UCSD attack errors landing out of bounds, as they took a 18–15 advantage. Later in the set, the Crimson were still up 3, 22–19, and were on the inside track to tie the proceedings. But McCauley got way up to direct a kill that fully penetrated the Crimson baseline for the kill, and the Crimson hit the antenna at the net’s edge on the next possession for a UCSD point, bringing the Triton deficit to just 22–21.

Coming out of the ensuing timeout, the Crimson made a nice crosscourt kill to go up 23–21 and regain some momentum, and once again had control of the set and their eye on a fifth-set decider. But McCauley cut the lead to 1 with a kill to center court, then Siragusa’s ball on the next point ricocheted off the Harvard defense, taking advantage of the advantage. But just like that, the set was tied at 23, UCSD had regained the momentum, forcing the Crimson to take a timeout to regroup. Ka was up to serve on the next play, and his ball got under the net, giving Ka an ace and giving the Tritons a match point. Ka once again dialed in an excellent, pacey serve to the back left of Harvard’s court that was impossible to return, hitting the ground before the Crimson could get under it, for a second straight ace and the match winner, with the set ending 25–23.

McCaulay, a 2020 All-American and 2021 All-Big West player who started for the U.S. at the Pan American Cup last year, led the Triton squad with 17 kills, followed by Clark and Ka with 11 apiece. Clark also led the team with 6 blocks, while senior middle blocker Shane Benet and Ka each had 4. Ka also led UCSD with 11 digs, while the setter Crisp had a nice game with 44 assists. After a negative hitting percentage in the first set, the Tritons outhit the Crimson in each of the next three sets to get the win.

“We lost the first set, we didn’t play our best brand of volleyball. There were some jitters, you got to figure some things out when you go out there,” said 17-year head coach Kevin Ring. “I thought we were passing well on the night and had some stretches of great serving, so it was great to get the victory tonight.”

After their opening win and their second match, a 3–0 sweep of No. 12 Stanford University on Jan. 11, before a New Jersey road trip to take on the New Jersey Institute of Technology and Princeton University on Jan. 20 and 29, respectively. Women’s Basketball Rebounds With Win Over Hawaii, VanDerVeen’s 200th

BY PRAVEEN NAIR
Women’s Basketball

The UC San Diego women’s basketball team (6–7, 3–1 Big West) continued to build their road trip strong showing with a victory over the Rainbow Warriors of Hawaii (4–7, 1–1 Big West) in a battle of titans, the fourth conference win of the season.

In the first quarter, UCSD went on a quick 19–6 run, shooting 43% and only 2 of 4 from deep, as they took the quarter 16–11, with neither team yet showing too much offensive firepower. The Tritons came out with solid play and a characteristic stout defense.

To start the second, Brown continued her offensive attack, knocking down three consecutive three-pointers to bring the deficit to 29–26. The Tritons came back with a vengeance, going on a 14–1 run to put the game out of reach.

The women show early on. The run and was an unstoppable one-two punch, as they took a 10–2 lead in the second half culminated in a KL plank hit to go ahead 41–31 with just over two minutes left in the second half. The Tritons couldn’t be stopped, as the march continued with a 9–0 run. The Tritons would go on to win the game 80–59, with McCauley leading the charge with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

The next game for this up-and-coming team will come at California State University, Long Beach next Thursday, Jan. 19, where the Tritons will look to capture another victory against a conference opponent.

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