

## SPIDERMAN: NO WAY HOME



IMAGE COURTESY OF VARIETY

Who is Peter Parker?  
Come read A & E's movie  
review of the newest  
Spiderman film in the Marvel  
Universe! Warning: MAJOR  
spoilers ahead.

A & E, PAGE 5

## "HEY, I'M WALKING HERE!"

NEW YORK, THE CITY OF COMPLIMENTS  
LIFESTYLE, PAGE 8

## TRIUMPH OVER HARVARD

TRITON VOLLEYBALL OPENS 2022 SEASON  
WITH DEFEAT OER HARVARD  
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## FORECAST



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WEDNESDAY  
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THURSDAY  
H 25 L 12

## VERBATIM

"“But we still have a long  
way to go to balance  
respecting those who chose  
to serve as police and the  
risk they put their lives in  
to deliver public safety...  
with the accountability that  
actions constantly have to  
be monitored and ensure  
that we're really protecting  
everybody.”"

- COUNCIL MEMBER  
JOE LACAVAL  
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## POLITICS

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

BY ISAAH IRIZARRY CONTRIBUTING NEWS WRITER

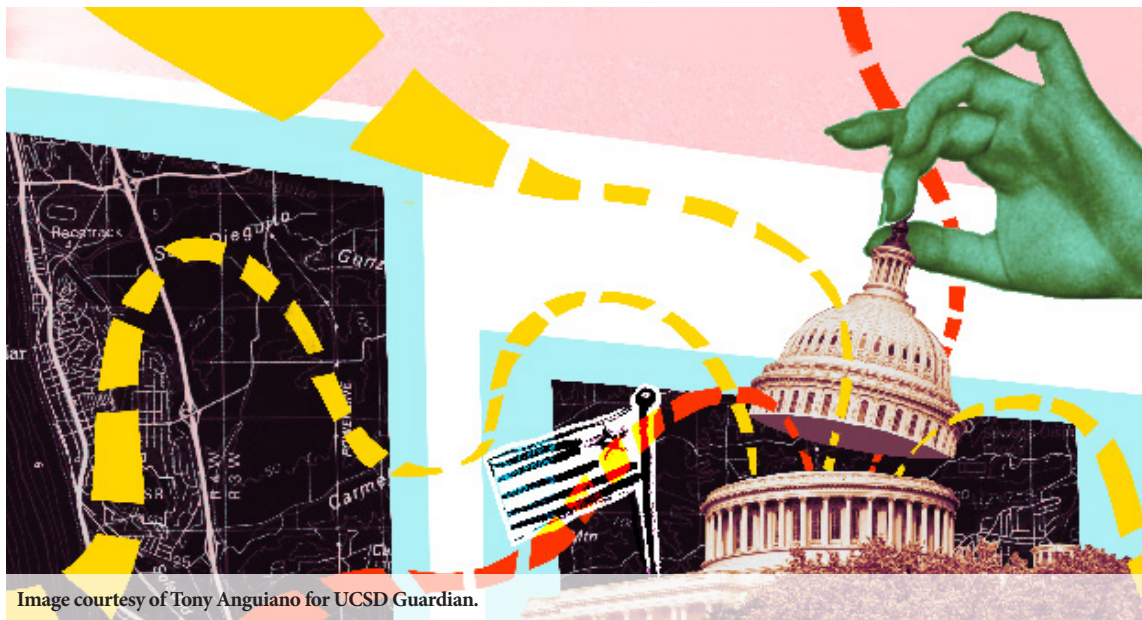


Image courtesy of Tony Anguiano for UCSD Guardian.

On Dec. 27, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission certified 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-sort[s] 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 said.

The redistricting plan also creates a new 50th district along the Pacific coastline. The district incorporates Coronado, Downtown San Diego, Mission Bay, La Jolla, University City, and the UCSD campus, essentially splitting the current 52nd district in two. The eastern portion of Claremont, Mira Mesa, and Sorrento Valley are now part of the new 51st district.

According to Kousser, "[the plan] doesn't notably create any newly competitive districts and allows each of the current incumbents a pretty safe electoral home." Representative Scott Peters, who represents the current 52nd district and which includes the UCSD campus, will run as incumbent for the new 52nd district in 2022.

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 battleground ... 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 activists 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 representative of their choosing. And that, in many ways, lives up to the promise of the Voting Rights Act," Kousser said.

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission, responsible for drawing the new districts, was established with a group of citizens with diverse backgrounds and interests. From a pool of 22,000 applicants, the State of California selected 14 commissioners through a vigorous 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-generation immigrants, three members of the LGBTQ+ community, and three Black citizens.

Commissioner Patricia Sinay, one of the 14 selected 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 nonprofit backgrounds," Sinay said. "We had two pastors, a sheriff, and some were from the private sector. So it was

See **POLITICS**, page 3

## COVID-19

### At-Home Rapid Tests Affecting County Covid Statistics

BY ANANYA NAG CONTRIBUTING WRITER

An article by CBS8 states that there may be inaccuracies in the number of cases 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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## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### Police in San Diego Respond to Calls for Change

BY KAITLIN LEE  
STAFF WRITER

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 been made 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 accountability on campus. On June 6, 2020, demonstrators made a protest caravan down La Jolla Village Drive towards Gliderport, chanting the names of Black individuals murdered by police.

In February 2021, the UC system arranged plans to fund a Systemwide Response Team (SRT). Under this policy, officers would be allowed to turn off their body cameras when it "would jeopardize their safety or the safety of the public," 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 Professor 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 prevent student protests against things like tuition hikes," Nicolazzo said. "[The SRT] is obviously going to increase the budget, scope, and militarization of campus police, when instead we could be asking how we can foundationally 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 Communications 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 transparency 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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ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

A.S. Council Brief: Weeks 1 and 2

BY NIKITA CARDOZO CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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 Daosiri Rattanamansuang discussed that it would be useful to have delivery services for students on campus. 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. Rattanamansuang also noted that “three other UC campuses already have them.”

Eleanor Roosevelt College Senator Isabella 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 her book.

The critical gender studies department released a statement claiming that “the colonial Indian state intelligence apparatus had appointed Varma’s father (formerly 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 never 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.

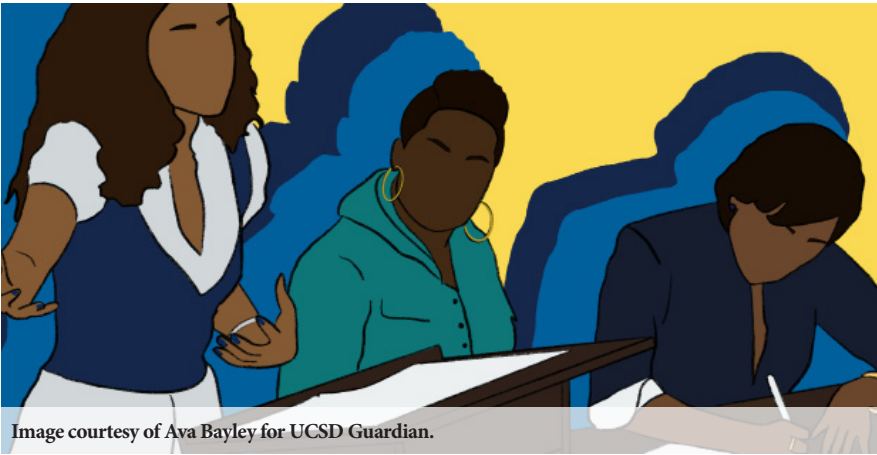


Image courtesy of Ava Bayley for UCSD Guardian.

Earl Warren College Senator Allyson Muir talked about feedback she received from the students in Warren College, especially with lighting and safety. Warren College’s remote location makes it more dangerous at night. Muir mentioned that safety kits might be helpful for students when they are walking to and from Warren in the dark and asked other senators for their input to develop these kits.

A.S. President Manu Agni then gave some updates about the UCSD campus. Geisel Library is open until 10 p.m. with masks required.

Students with a D parking permit will be allowed to park in S and B spots until Jan. 30.

Agni 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 after six months from the second dose. So far 13,000 students have received their booster shots. Engineering Senator Samir Nomani

announced that Price Center is administering booster shots in the west ballroom, 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 UCSA Student of Color 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.

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.

VP External Affairs Adrianna Blackshire noted that during the January board meeting of the student regents, there was discussion on testing plans and booster requirements with increased COVID-19 cases. he representatives from the UC unions have discussed the issues with the shift to

online learning. The shift has led to more UC campuses laying off people. One change is that all workers now have protected access to healthcare, whether they are on strike or not.

UC Student Association campaign's goal is to fund UCPD and discussions collaborating with UCAB to improve campus safety.

Then, President Manu Agni mentioned that he is trying to make sure professors are still recording lectures even after the return to in-person learning. Registrar is working with faculty to update which classes are completely remote so students can add/drop classes before the deadline. AS will be sending out a memo that students cannot be required to complete in-person research during this time.

Moreover, COVID-19 cases are at the highest they’ve ever been on campus with 305 positive students on campus and 739 off campus in San Diego since Jan 9. During the weekend of Jan. 15, 4,000 students are expected to move back onto campus. HDH is planning to add another 140 hotel beds after isolation housing availability has decreased. Furthermore, all students who have been boosted or are boosted by the end of January will receive a \$10 credit in Triton Cash.

A.S. Council meetings take place every Wednesday at 6 p.m. and are open to students by joining the Zoom link or Facebook live.



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Image courtesy of the UC San Diego Police Department.

► **LAW ENFORCEMENT**, from page 1  
questions and continually improve.”

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 loss of financial stability and security, and had a detrimental effect on his mental health.

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

Similar news has followed from UC Santa Barbara. Since 2019, seven lawsuits have been filed from former and current officers in the UCSB’s branch of UCPD. The officers filing these lawsuits include Michael and Tiffany Little, Mark Signa, Jonathan Lee Reyes, Matthew Stern, Amanda Siegel, and Ryan Smith (back greater levels of accountability,” LaCava added about the Commission. (who filed a lawsuit under the pseudonym John Doe). Some of the lawsuits suggest that officers have engaged in inappropriate relationships with students, such as providing underaged students with alcohol.

Additionally, these lawsuits alleged many incidents where officers dismissed cases of sexual assault and harassment. Stern and Michael and Tiffany Little stated that they were demoted after they reported offending officers.

According to the Daily Nexus, “after reporting several instances of harassment, [Stern] resigned after being told by UCPD Chief James Brock that she had become a ‘target’ within the department.”

Nearly all of these cases were filed against the UCPD under allegations that the officers violated the California Whistleblower Protection Act — an act that prohibits employers from retaliating against employees who report violations of the law. The suits allege that the officers were faced with retaliation from other members of the force when they attempted to speak up. For instance, Signa’s lawsuit claims that an anonymous male caller warned his wife in September 2018, “Sorry, wrong number. Tell Mark Signa to watch out,” allegedly in response to his whistleblowing. It has not only been officers who have filed lawsuits against the UCPD. On July 31, 2020, a student going by the name Emily O. filed a lawsuit against the UCSB-PD Chief of Force James Brock. She alleged that Brock assaulted her in August 2019.

“I hope UCSB will enforce measures to better protect their students,” Emily O. told the Daily Nexus. “I just want to make sure this doesn’t happen to anyone again because this has been the worst thing I’ve ever had to go through.”

To address rising concerns about campus police, the UC system introduced the UC Community Safety Plan in August 2021.

The UC Community Safety Plan outlines guidelines for campus safety in the future. The plan claims that the campus safety system will provide monitored high-quality service and the hiring process will include participation from various student, faculty, and staff groups. The plan also says that a tiered system will match a call with the appropriate service, ranging from mental health to emergencies and more.

Moreover, the plan states that there will be a greater emphasis on deterrence and violent crime prevention over punishing minor crimes, that there will be a reduction of police at protests, and focus on de-escalation instead. Most importantly, the new guidelines state that data collection will be used to assess these campus practices, and there will be new boards and positions to help ensure safety and improvement.

Sepuka states that this plan is to help make the UC universities feel more open, safe, and welcoming to all students.

“These guidelines focus on community and service-driven safety, holistic, inclusive and tiered response services, transparency and continuous improvement through data and accountability and independent oversight,” Sepuka said. Outside of the UC system, San Diego has clear issues with policing, such as race disparity. A report by Accountable Now released on Dec. 23, 2021, stated that San Diego reported 15,018 uses of force by the police. Even though Black people comprise 6 percent of the population, they made up 24 percent of the reports of force. Hispanic people, who make up about 30 percent of the population, comprise 27 percent of the reports of force.

Accountable Now is a policing report created at The Leadership Conference Education Fund. It collects data from law enforcement agencies, community members, activists, and public records and shares it publicly.

To address the policing issues that these statistics bring awareness to, Councilmember Joe LaCava told the Guardian that San Diego is not at where it needs to be to fully address them. “The good news is that... there

is a lot of perspective that there needs to be a change,” Councilmember LaCava explained. “But we still have a long way to go to balance respecting those who chose to serve as police and the risk they put their lives in to deliver public safety... with the accountability that actions constantly have to be monitored and ensure that we’re really protecting everybody.”

Since 2020, the San Diego government has been implementing different measures to encourage accountability and to track public opinion on policing. On Nov. 1, 2021, the San Diego police department launched an anonymous survey to get citizen input on policing in response to major local criticism. This was notable as this launch followed the release of a recording of San Diego officers forcibly beating Jesse Evans, who is a homeless Black member of the La Jolla community on May 14, 2021. Additionally, on April 26, 2021, the San Diego City Council voted unanimously to create an independent police oversight commission.

“I have great hope that a more sophisticated approach will bring back 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](#).

► **POLITICS**, from page 1

a really interesting mix of people.”

The Voting Rights Act was one of several important considerations of the Commission, responsible for drawing the new districts.

“The idea ... is that minority communities have an opportunity to vote for those that they want to vote for,” Sinay said.

Sinay further explained that each district must be equal in population, fulfill Voting Rights Act requirements, be continuous and compact, and unite “communities of interest.” The Commission classifies groups of voters with similar backgrounds and needs under these communities of interest. Fulfilling these requirements required significant outreach efforts by the Commission.

“In January [2021], we [initiated] phase one, where we did a redistricting overview,” Sinay said. “Local political groups and students would invite us in to come and talk about redistricting and why it was important ... we spent a good six months really going across the whole state reaching out to folks and explaining to them redistricting.”

Following this initial outreach phase, Sinay explained that the Commission then continued by

organizing these communities of interest, which form the basis for the new districts drawn in the plan.

“In that second phase, [the Commission] spent a lot of [time] listening to the communities to tell us who their communities of interest were,” she said. “We asked, who is it that you work, live, play, pray, protest with, that you would like to be represented with, and who wouldn’t you like to be represented with?”

Sinay provided the example of the newly drawn 25th district, which includes Riverside and Imperial Counties, due to the presence of the Salton Sea in both regions.

“Portola Valley, and Imperial, were very interested in working together because of the...the health issues around the Salton Sea ... and environmental issues connected to the Colorado River Basin,” Sinay said.

Currently, UCSD is located in the 49th district, separated from University City in the 52nd district. Under the new proposal and beginning with the 2022 midterm elections, UCSD and University City will both be located in the new 50th district, uniting a community of interest under one representative..

Those interested in reading

more about the new Congressional maps or the Commission and the redistricting process can visit [here](#).

► **COVID-19**, from page 1

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 arrival.s

Students returning to campus housing after Jan. 7 can receive a free rapid antigen test mailed to them by filling out the form in their housing emails no later than Jan. 21.

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that individuals who test positive using an at-home test should immediately isolate, contact their healthcare provider, and contact anyone they have been in contact with.

The New York Times states that at-home COVIDcovid tests have an accuracy of roughly 85%,

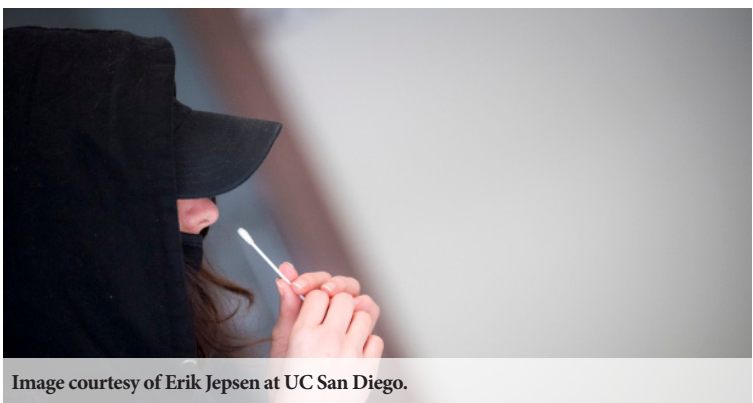


Image courtesy of Erik Jepsen at UC San Diego.

but they are most sensitive for individuals who are experiencing symptoms. Because the tests are conducted by collecting viral loads, it may deliver false negatives in asymptomatic individuals who do not carry large viral loads in their body.

Individuals may not be informing their healthcare providers of a positive test result because they have little to no symptoms and therefore do not require medical help.

A sophomore at UCSD contracted the virus at home during winter break and immediately went into isolation, experiencing no symptoms.

“I took a rapid test at home and that’s how I found out I was positive. I immediately went into isolation and contacted everyone I was exposed to. I had no symptoms because I am vaccinated so I didn’t call my doctor as I felt completely fine,” the student said.

Like this student, many people

ple who test positive but have no symptoms isolate immediately but do not inform their healthcare providers because they are unsure if they have to or not.

Additionally, many counties across the country are experiencing a shortage of at-home tests and appointments for PCR tests within the necessary time frame.

Arjun Malleswaran, a Sixth College sophomore, is skeptical about the numbers of cases reported in counties due to a shortage of at-home tests and in-person testing appointments.

“I know a couple people who could not find any rapid tests in stock so they had to order them online,” Malleswaran said. “It arrived a couple days later and they had quarantined until then but hadn’t notified their healthcare providers because they weren’t sure if they were positive or not.”



# OPINION

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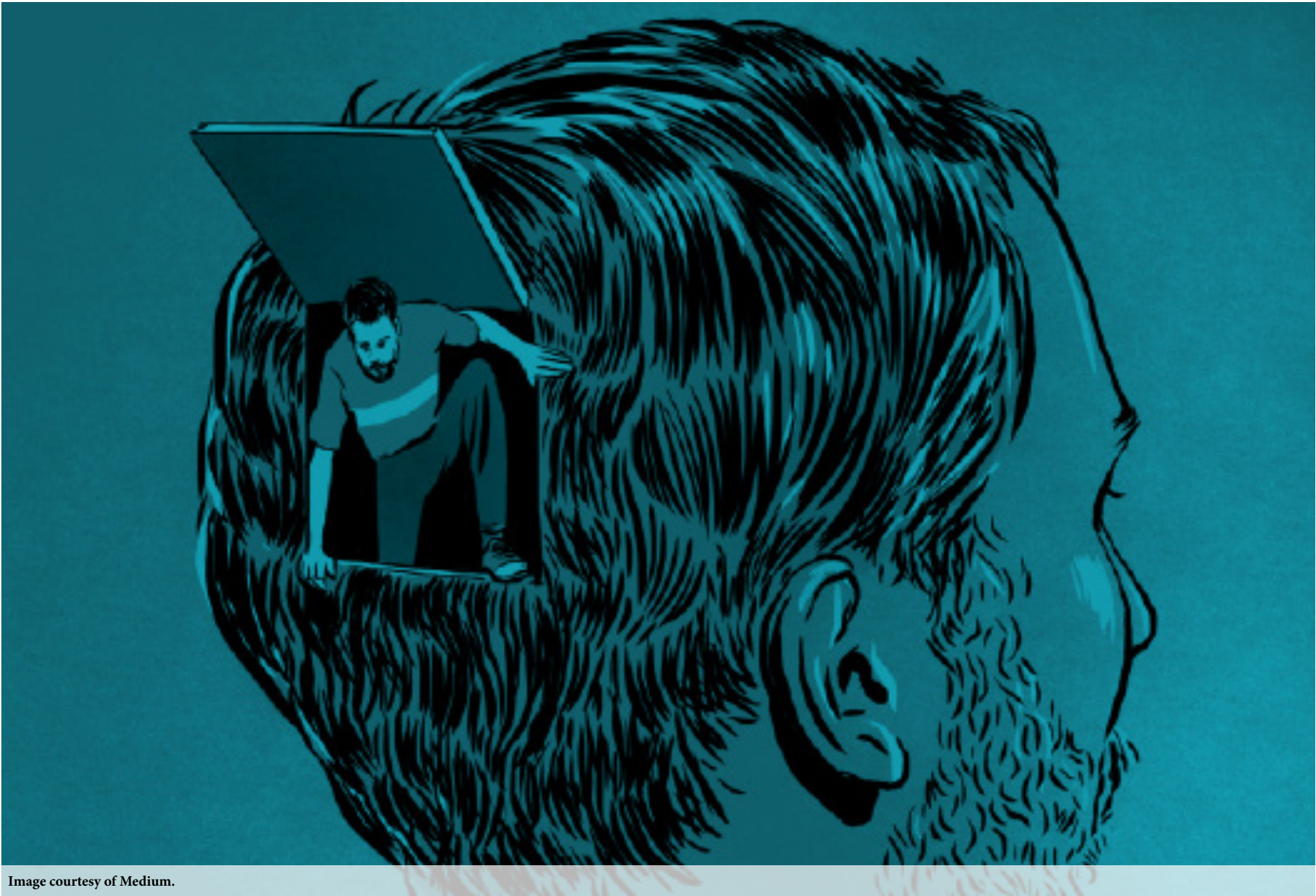


Image courtesy of Medium.

## When to Escape From Escapist Behavior

BY RAYMOND TRAN  
Opinion Editor

From this seemingly-endless pandemic to personal issues that plague our lives, it makes sense that we often seek a place and time to forget about life's challenges. For the most part, that's perfectly fine and, with moderation, healthy. The intentional detachment and distraction from our daily lives, or escapism, is a natural response to stress. However, our habitual escape has transformed into numbness, and we have ultimately become avoidant to our responsibilities and problems.

Whether it's scrolling through social media for hours on end or dropping everything to rewatch the same Netflix show, escapism can take on many forms. Acknowledging the ways in which we practice escapism and setting healthy boundaries for ourselves is the first step in snapping back to reality.

Part of using social media as a medium of escapism is the codependency we create along the way. When we spend too much time trying to forget about the ugly truths of the world, we end up defaulting to it instead of facing the issues at hand. TikTok embodies all of the ways we wish to escape from the world: It supplies us with an endless stream of content personalized for our viewing and allows us the space and resources for us to break from the world around us.

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.

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

be used to destress and refresh. However, we must ask ourselves if the ways in which we escape are simply destressing 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.

***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.***

Instagram use] scores." This would explain the reason why following and investing time into celebrities and influencers on social media provides us a medium of escapism.

However, the concept of vicariously living through others on a screen is not new. The same idea can be applied to

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

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



Popcorn for Peter Parker

Spider-Man: No Way Home Movie Review



KAYLA SWARTZBERG FEATURES WRITER

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. After all, 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? It’s 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 “sSpidermen” that much more entertaining.

Some older villains grace the screen again, notably Dr. Otto 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-Mman: No Way Home” covers its bases in glistening spidery webs. There’s something for everyone.

So grab that buttery popcorn and enjoy.

Grade: A

Director: Jon Watts

Starring Cast: Tom Holland, Zendaya, Jacob Batalon

Release Date: December 17, 2021

Rated: PG-13





Image courtesy of Page Six.



# Betty White Remembrance Piece

KAMIAH JOHNSON STAFF WRITER

*Take a look at legendary actress and TV’s Golden Girl Betty White’s groundbreaking career, and the impact she had on film, television and the world after her passing.*

“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 Cheadle 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 70’s 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 Nylund 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 would go 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 til 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 has left a noteworthy legacy that will never be forgotten, and we thank her for being a friend.



Image courtesy of Time Magazine.

## No One is Talking About This

SARAH DELIMA SENIOR STAFF WRITER

*Patricia Lockwood’s genre-defying novel addresses the complexities of being extremely online through humor, wit, and meandering prose.*

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 morally- destitute 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 novel’s unnamed narrator is deeply immersed in the portal, using it as a medium to navigate looming existential threats of loneliness, climate change, and the pernicious rise of a political leader nicknamed “the dictator.” The interconnectedness of the portal belies its disastrous implications on real-life human connection: when the narrator is faced with personal tragedy, she struggles to reconcile her online persona with her proximity to trauma. Deeply existential, Lockwood’s novel interrogates modern existence and our overreliance on social media platforms.

Dubbed the “poet laureate of Twitter,” Lockwood is intimately familiar with the volatility of internet fame. Her viral poem “Rape Joke” propelled her into the upper echelons of millennial authorship and solidified her role as a de-facto authority on internet culture. Lockwood expresses such familiarity with online trends throughout “No One Is Talking About This.” She speaks the language of the zeitgeist, substituting long, protracted sentences for outbursts that are commensurate with the punchiness and informality of Twitter discourse.

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 afflicting Merrick the Elephant Man. The narrator’s internal turmoil addresses a set of questions central to the coexistence of humanity and social media: Wwhat, if not the incessant chatter of internet interactions, constitutes real life? And more poignantly: Hhow 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 inoffensive “substitute of guacamole” animates a flock of aggressive Twitter commentators — so little makes sense. Lockwood’s non-substantive digressions are difficult to comprehend partly because 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 excessive 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 fluffy 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



# 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 EUNICE KIM  
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 at Christie’s auction house, who claim of being the first major auction house to have sold an NFT based on a digital piece.

On Twitter, some individuals feature profile photos of apes against a solid background. They are known as the Bored Ape Yacht Club (BAYC) NFT images and, unlike Beeple’s artwork, these apes are part of a collection that has recently been expanding beyond the blockchain.

The apes wear varying attire with expressions often appearing nonchalant and disinterested. Their accessories include everything from earrings to vibrant pinwheel hats and because some — like those with golden fur — are rarer than others, they rake in higher prices.

Though initially unassuming and at most charming to an unknowing eye, these images are a part of a competitive and unpredictable market, with some buyers willing to dish out hundreds of thousands of dollars on a single image. Along with the purchase are exclusive, membership-only benefits such as access to the ‘bathroom’ — an online community — and a fluctuating market that can increase individuals’ NFT value.

These “non-fungible” tokens are unique and irreplaceable — akin to rare Pokemon cards. A trading card, for instance, is not interchangeable with another trading card.

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 editable, the ownership aspect is undeniable.

The owner’s name is on a line of code on the Ethereum blockchain or other blockchains, though the latter is much less common. The blockchain holds data securely; they are in the same world of cryptocurrencies and bitcoin. The blocks of data hold transaction information and they form a chain — thus the name.

Original NFTs — either in video or image format — may not deter copies from being made by anyone, but the power of ownership is the main purpose behind purchasing. The transaction history and the metadata that holds the description of the item as well as the creator’s information is

associated with the NFT.

As stated by contributing writer Kyle Chayka of The New Yorker, blockchain technology transactions are “[permanent and transparent](#)” to all. Though the blockchain is the result of incredible energy consumption, the transactions function efficiently to be very open, insusceptible to modification, and almost impossible to hack.

Creators — like Beeple — can reap royalties from NFT purchases when they are resold. The creator of a NFT, interestingly, also can still retain copyright and reproduction rights.

This blockchain market is special because rarity and desire for the product can be enough to propel the item’s worth. Bored Ape Yacht Club’s

the dealership with just the paperwork for the car. That’s all you get,” Bradley Anaya, a junior from Eleanor Roosevelt College, said.

What coincides with the world of NFTs is the metaverse. As the name suggests, the metaverse offers a virtual reality beyond the real environment. One would access it through physical headgear or even a computer screen. The metaverse can coincide with these non-fungible tokens in that what one purchases can also appear in that realm — like an avatar. NFTs are on a compatible Ethereum blockchain that means if something is used with Ethereum, they can be used there too.

There are plentiful opportunities for businesses to

the metaverse materializes, [it will probably act like a video game](#) even if it’s temporary. For instance, those who play the wildly engaging Roblox or Farmville may not be shocked at the latest trend of the metaverse.

The popular game Second Life paved the way for virtual reality — and it started in 2003. The game also has a marketplace where individuals can interact with others and sell and buy items.

Decentraland is also a virtual world platform that allows individuals to incorporate NFTs in the realm through purchases of plots of land. The platform is also part of the Ethereum blockchain, which means NFT purchases and sales would be seamless.

Virtual reality exists with

services in a seamless way across the metaverse. But there isn’t much hope as the tech companies “are more willing to consolidate than cooperate.”

In a jarring YouTube video by Meta from October last year, the almost hour-and-thirty-minute video features Facebook creator and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg amidst different, bizarre backdrops in cartoon form and as himself. Zuckerberg — who renamed Facebook to Meta a few months ago as a symbol of the belief in progressing the metaverse — expressed his enthusiasm in embracing a world where one can take on new identities and roles in richer ways than reality permits.

He believes the metaverse is the successor to the mobile internet. He assures the audience that this belief isn’t about spending more time on screens but rather making the time we already spend better and enhanced.

Though articulate and approachable, Zuckerberg seems deliberately focused on assuaging fears and concerns with fun and vibrant scenes of community — something that the very stiff, unnatural dialogue of his collaborators in most scenes don’t help with.

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 feel the closeness of individuals next to them — something that would offer convenience and community.

Many individuals expressed their discomfort in comment sections of videos or social media with the idea that a virtual reality will coincide with reality. It is a kind of fear comparable to the uncanny valley of seeing figures that oftentimes look like us — behave.

Zuckerberg re-emphasized safety and security as the biggest priority, but with a world that is set to be almost tangible and utterly realistic, would one be able to discern between realities, particularly if the realm becomes more attractive than the “real” reality?

This new mode of living is far from here, but it is developing. If monetization of everything from images to ads exists, big corporations may take the lead in what we see, based on what they think we’d like to see. When the metaverse arises, the topic of privacy and security will be ceaseless.

Though it might be disingenuous to flip prices or resell an NFT, does it matter as long as the market is still lucrative and incredibly supportive for the artists? After all, though the desire with the metaverse is to implement better for people, profit will always be at the other end of the line.



[initial batch of NFTs brought in more than two million dollars](#) even though it started off small.

Further, Chayka [said that](#) when one figure for BAYC goes for a high price, the perceived value of all 10 thousand authentic NFTs in the set also increases in value.

When buyers invest in the work of creators, they are also paving the way for even more investment through an incessantly active market and buyers’ willingness to get their hands on a valuable NFT that can always go up in value later.

Buyers can know that they’re supporting the artist, but the rising popularity of the NFT field gives buyers the opportunity to flip their NFTs and resell them for much steeper prices.

Regardless, this movement is positive for creators who not only share more of their works, but can obtain profit and royalties.

The arena of NFTs also garners some critics — some scoffing at the idea because they equate owning a NFT to simply copying the image and saving it onto their desktop.

“The way I see NFTs [is like] going to a car dealership, getting the top-of-the-line car that costs you thousands of dollars but walking out of

ride the coattails of the metaverse and place ads where they want to. Revenue would increase for companies when individuals continue to sell and buy NFTs based on the ads. Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act states that internet services and users are exempt from legal responsibility for content posted on the internet. This kind of news is even better for those eager to participate in the metaverse if it means more freedom for them to conduct themselves as they want.

According to the work “Class, Assets and Work in Rentier Capitalism,” by author Brett Christophers, the term “rent capitalism” refers to the importance placed on rent-generating assets and property. Despite the belief that this would all fade, the metaverse and properties in it echo the strength of profit and the capitalist need to prioritize monopolies — sometimes at the expense of the working class.

Even Author Anna Wiener from The New Yorker states that the development of video game technology, like the extended storage options, allows for more add-ons — all available for purchase. These charges are akin to that of perhaps purchasing an avatar skin or going into a new realm through the metaverse.

Wiener also says that if

headsets like the Oculus — something that goes for a few hundred dollars. Additionally, stores like Walmart have already experimented [with a short video of how shopping can look like through an avatar](#) — from buying milk to a whole television set. The concepts of the metaverse are not new and unheard of. Based on the video and where NFTs are going, the metaverse isn’t a pipe dream either. It also won’t stay limited to games.

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

Staff Writer Cecilia D’Anastasio from Wired focused on how the metaverse [is really a simple version of online games](#) many have already been playing but what makes the metaverse so fascinating can ultimately be greed or infeasibility at the other end.

She states that big companies like Meta will need to work with other technology companies like Epic Games or Square Enix to create their platforms and



# LIFESTYLE

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Photo Via Christopher Burns for Unsplash

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## New York, The City of Compliments?

BY BRADLEY BEGGS  
Lifestyle Co-Editor

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.

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UPCOMING UCSD GAMES	M Tennis	1/20	10AM	vs Sacramento State
	M Basketball	1/20	7PM	vs Long Beach State
	W Basketball	1/20	7PM	at Long Beach State
	W Tennis	1/21	12:30PM	vs Fresno State
	M Volleyball	1/21	7PM	vs Grand Canyon



Image courtesy of Derrick Tuskan / UC San Diego.

# Triton Volleyball Opens 2022 Season with Defeat of Harvard

BY PRAVEEN NAIR  
Sports Editor

UC San Diego’s men’s volleyball team played their first match of the 2022 season on Jan. 14, defeating 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 Ryan Ka had two straight aces to win the match, as the No. 10 Tritons (1–0) started strong against their unranked Ivy League foe.

The Tritons entered their match against Harvard at RIMAC Arena after having their

previous weekend of matches at the UC Santa Barbara Asics Invitational cancelled; the tournament would have pitted the Tritons against teams like No. 12 University of Southern California, No. 2 UCLA, and No. 11 UCSB.

It was a back-and-forth start for the Tritons in their first set of the season, as they took advantage of Harvard errors to go up 5–2 before three straight UCSD errors knotted 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 Crisp 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 in a 22–14 lead. The Tritons couldn’t do much to win the set from there, as an attack error from Clark closed out the set in the Crimson’s favor, 25–16.

The second set again started out evenly matched, with the points neatly alternating between sides with the exception of two Harvard service errors, as it was 8–6 Tritons early on. But sparked by a powerful kill by McCauley on the left side of the net that bounced out off of the Crimson block, the Tritons ran up a 7–2 run to go up 15–8, with the final point coming on another McCauley kill after his own off-speed serve. That put UCSD in the driver’s seat for the remainder of the set, and while Harvard closed the lead to 22–16 with 4 consecutive points, the Tritons shut the door with 3 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 still maintaining a lead, a disciplined block by Clark, Ka, and 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 to take an all-important 2–1 set lead, the Crimson never got closer than 3 points away, and McCauley

came up clutch again with a block to put the set away for UCSD, 25–20.

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 up the match 2-all, knotted 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 up the proceedings. But McCauley got way up to direct a ball that fell perfectly inside 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 into the stands, and 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 was mishandled by Harvard into 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.

McCauley, 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 Benetz 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. 15, Ring’s Tritons next take on Grand Canyon University on Jan. 21, before a New Jersey road trip to take on the New Jersey Institute of Technology and Princeton University on Jan. 28 and 29, respectively.

# Women’s Basketball Rebounds With Win Over Hawaii, VanDerveer’s 200th

BY DONOVAN PEREZ-SCHIPPER  
Senior Staff Writer

The UC San Diego women’s basketball team (6–7, 3–1 Big West) took on the University of Hawaii (4–7, 1–1 Big West) attempting to get their third conference win of the season. After two close victories to start off the conference slate, the team lost to UC Irvine, but they came back with a purpose in this game. Using a big third quarter run, the Tritons put on one of their most impressive offensive performances again in front of an empty arena due to COVID regulations. The team was great from three-point land, shooting 43% and only committing nine turnovers. In coach Heidi VanDerveer’s tenth season at UCSD, she reached a historic 200th win with an impressive, clean performance in the Tritons’ 82–58 rout of Hawaii.

In the first quarter, UCSD started their offensive barrage quickly with a layup from senior guard Emily Cangelosi assisted by senior forward Sydney Brown. Soon after a fastbreak off a Brown rebound was converted into a nice jumpshot by senior guard Madison Baxter, taking a three point lead early with the score standing at 6–3. After exchanging some baskets, the Tritons extended their lead with consecutive layups by Brown to inflate the lead to five. The score at the end of the first quarter was 16–11, with neither team yet showing too much

offensive firepower. The Tritons came out with solid play and a characteristically stout defense and would look to continue that in the second.

To start the second, Brown continued her offensive attack with another three pointer and layup. Putting the Tritons up eight at 19–11, Brown personally put up ten straight for UCSD and was an unstoppable one-woman show early on. The run continued with a steal and three pointer by Cangelosi, and the Tritons were doubling up on their opponents early, now at 26–13.

Basketball still is a game of runs though, and the lead was quickly shrunk. Hawaii went on a quick 11–2 run in two minutes of play to shrink the lead to four, converting off of turnovers and bad shot selection from the Tritons. A well-timed timeout gave UCSD a needed reset, and Cangelosi scored a three out of the break. The Tritons committed some fouls as the half expired, but a mostly clean first half culminated in a 35–28 lead going into the break, though much of the momentum was lost after the big Hawaii run.

Brown again opened the scoring for the Tritons with a three off the break opened up by a rebound from senior guard Julia Macabuhay, which Brown followed up with another three from Brown. After the Hawaii Rainbow Warriors cut the lead down to five, UCSD responded with an incredible 15–0 run to break open this game. The run started with jumpers from

sophomore forward Aishah Brown and Baxter. UCSD forced multiple turnovers from Hawaii and played great defense along the run, which was punctuated by two Baxter free throws to put the lead at 20 with a 56–36 advantage in tow. While not insurmountable, the Tritons looked like they had a route under way at this point in the game after the consecutive pivotal scores. With the last possession of the quarter, Baxter splashed in a three assisted by Cangelosi to put the Tritons up 18 at the end of the third.

The momentum continued quickly in the decisive fourth quarter, with Baxter hitting another three to give the Tritons their largest lead of the

matchup, with the score now at 64–43. While Hawaii had some fight left, a three by Cangelosi with six and a half minutes to go put any hope to rest for the opposition. UCSD continued to rain in the threes as they had done all the game, and a five player substitution around the two minute mark signaled this one was just about over.

UCSD played a complete game against Hawaii, playing consistent defense and scoring well from the outside. Performances from Alyssa Brown, Baxter and Cangelosi propelled the Tritons to a very impressive third conference victory. The experienced and well-coached squad are now tied for the Big West lead as

conference play moves along, and this particular stellar showing is made even sweeter with coach VanDerveer’s 200th win for the Tritons.

“It means I’ve coached a lot of great players and I work with a great staff,” said coach VanDerveer of what the milestone meant to her. “We know how to win, we work hard to win, and we don’t take winning for granted.”

The next game for this up-and-coming team will come at California State University, Long Beach next Thursday, Jan. 20th, where the Tritons will look to capture another victory against a conference opponent.



Image courtesy of Scott Flanders / UC San Diego.