

INCOMING BOPS OF 2022



New music is coming in strong for 2022. Check out A & E's article examining all your favorite artist's upcoming releases or new rising stars set to hit the charts!

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VERBATIM

"Education prevents recidivism, and recidivism is the tendency to reoffend and end up back in jail. When you start educating people, and giving them options other than the lives that were contributing to their incarceration, then the incarceration cycle stops."

- COLLEEN MURPHY
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STUDENT LOANS

Pause on Student Loan Payments Extended to May

BY JOSE CHAVEZ Senior Staff Writer



Image courtesy of Jim Watson for Getty Images.

On Dec. 22, 2021, President Joe Biden formally extended the pause on student loan repayment until May 1, 2022. According to the statement, the extension will permit the Biden Administration to assess the impacts of the Omicron variant on nearly 41 million student borrowers, provide more time for borrowers to plan for the resumption of payments, and reduce the risk of defaults after repayment resumes.

"As we are taking this action, I'm asking all student loan borrowers to do their part as well," Biden said. "Take full advantage of the Department of Education's (ED) resources to help you prepare for payments to resume; look at options to lower your payments through income-based repayment plans; explore public service loan forgiveness; and make sure you are vaccinated and boosted when eligible."

All student loan payments and accrued interest have been put on hold since the pandemic began two years ago. The pause was initiated by the The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill signed into law by former President Donald Trump on March 27, 2020.

Loans considered eligible for relief measures are as follows:

- Direct Loans (defaulted and non-defaulted)
- Federal Family Education loans (FFEL) Program loans held by ED (defaulted and non-defaulted)
- Federal Perkins Loans held by ED (defaulted and non-defaulted)
- Defaulted FFEL Program loans not held by ED
- Defaulted Health Education Assistance Loans (HEAL)

Student loans that are not covered under the executive order include non-defaulted FFEL and HEAL loans, Federal Perkins Loans not held by ED (defaulted and non-defaulted), as well as private student loans. If your loan is not eligible for suspended payments, the Federal Student Aid Office advises that you contact your servicers to ask about what benefits may be available.

Some local officials in San Diego see the student loan repayment pause as an essential measure to reduce the economic burden the pandemic has on students and graduated borrowers alike. U.S. Congressman Scott Peters of California's 52nd District issued a statement to The UCSD Guardian concerning this matter. "Once the repayment freeze is ended, the Department of Education needs to make it very clear to borrowers what's expected of them and what they need to do to resume payments," Peters said. "As your representative, it's my job to help you and other borrowers to navigate the Department of Education and what your options are to repay student loans, so please reach out to my office if you need assistance."

Peters also noted some legislative actions on this issue. He emphasized his support of loan forgiveness based on income levels and strengthening income-driven repayment programs, as well as reducing the interest rates, allowing refinancing and allowing people to discharge student loans in bankruptcy. Additionally, he has worked within the House of Representatives to successfully pass bipartisan student loan reduction legislation.

"I support loan forgiveness based on income levels and strengthening income-driven repayment programs, as well as reducing the interest rates, allowing refinancing and allowing people to discharge student loans in bankruptcy," Peters wrote. "I introduced and passed the only student loan reduction legislation that has become law in the past couple years, which would incentivize businesses to pay off their employees' student loans."

UC San Diego has greatly benefited from federal aid since the beginning of the pandemic. Both the emergency financial grants distributed by the CARES Act in addition to the newly established High Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) have aided in the alleviation of financial stress. This fund was created to allow for universities to cover costs associated with the radical changes to scholastic instruction due COVID-19.

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SUSTAINABILITY

California Commences the New Year with a New Composting Law

BY NILOUFAR SHAHBANDI News Editorial Assistant

California Senate Bill 1383, which targets reducing food waste and greenhouse gas emissions, went into effect Jan. 1, 2022. The bill requires all residents and businesses in the state to separate their organic and compostable waste as well as requiring grocery stores and other food suppliers to donate all edible food waste to a food bank or food rescue organization. California jurisdictions were obliged to have, at minimum, a plan for diverting residential food waste from landfills by the start of the new year.

However, in San Diego, such plans have been placed on hold due to supply chain shortages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as a labor strike by sanitation workers. ABC10 News reported that there are shipment delays of 240,000 green recycling bins, 285,000 kitchen collection caddies, and 43 new trucks. These hold ups have pushed back the start of the city's recycling services for residential customers with city officials disclosing that the City of San

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CAMPUS

Hillcrest UCSD Health Center Begins Renovations

BY TIANRUI HUANG
Staff Writer

The construction of the south-east portion of the UC San Diego Medical Center in Hillcrest started in November 2021, initiating Phase One of the Hillcrest Campus Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). The Hillcrest location has been a part of the UC San Diego campus since 1966, when the university first began operating the county hospital. Nearly half of the buildings on the Hillcrest Campus were constructed before 1970.

As one of five academic medical centers in the University of California system, UCSD holds a two-campus strategy: distributing and integrating research, teaching, and clinical care at its Hillcrest and La Jolla locations.

The Hillcrest Campus provides care for all patients in the community, including those who are uninsured and under-insured. As an essential regional resource, it is equipped with a Level 1 Trauma Center, Regional Burn Center, and Comprehensive Stroke Center, according to the Long Range Development Plan webpage.

Driven by the need to replace the hospital, modernize facilities, improve circulation, and ensure compliance with seismic safety provisions of the California Health and Safety Code (Alquist Act/SB 1953) by 2030, the LRDP was approved by the UC Board of Regents in November 2019 as the third comprehensive long-range plan for the physical development of the campus. This followed previous plans in 1978 and 1995.

The first phase includes the Outpatient Pavilion project, which extends around 251,000 gross square feet. The space is planned to be used for various diagnostics, treatments, and surgical services, across special programs including oncology, neurosurgery, and orthopedics.

Additional space for new patient-centric drop-off corridors and extra accommodations for multimodal transportations will be made due to an extension on First Avenue. Bachman Place/Arbor Drive and Central Utility Plant (CUP) will accommodate multimodal transportations and expand patient access routes. This includes the building of new transit vehicle lanes and grade-separated bike lanes. Additionally, a new parking structure with approximately 1,850 parking spaces will be established.

"The new hospital will..

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► **STUDENT LOANS**, from page 1

UCSD was awarded \$17,931,499, most of which was dedicated to cover room and board refunds paid to students and a portion of the Return to Learn initiative.

UCSD has one of the lowest student loan default rates in the country, sitting 8 percentage points below the national average of 10%. However, student loan repayment has proved especially difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic. A recent survey conducted by the Student Debt Crisis Center found that 89% of fully-employed student loan borrowers said they financially couldn't resume payments on the initial end of the loan freeze extension, Feb. 1. Erika Johnson, the assistant director of university communication for UCSD, said that the loan pause extension will serve as a much needed break for university graduates and their parents and thus minimize the risk of defaulting.

"This is good news for students and parents who currently have loans in repayment status and are in good standing," Johnson told The Guardian. "It allows students and parents, especially those adversely affected by the current health crisis and uncertain employment situation, to have additional time to adjust to their future financial obligations." Johnson also noted that borrowers do not have to pay to receive the delayed payments and 0% interest and students that have taken out loans should be cautious if contacted by non-federally affiliated companies who are offering assistance for a fee. "The Department of Education will continue to assess the COVID-19 situation and the impact on borrowers," Johnson added. "As always, students and parents with loans in repayment should be sure to keep current contact information up to date with their loan's servicers. Borrowers will be contacted when it is time to resume making payments. Keeping loans out of delinquency and

and default will avoid unwanted financial consequences."

UCSD students looking for assistance with loan repayment beyond state and federal grants can take advantage of undergraduate scholarships. Continuing undergraduate students can apply to a myriad of scholarships sponsored by UCSD by March 2, 2022 using the Financial Aid Tool via TritonLink. Graduate students —excluding those enrolled in the UCSD School of Medicine —can apply to the 2021–22 UCSD HEERF III Grant Request Form for financial assistance. Requests are considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Those seeking more information concerning loan repayment can refer to the Department of Education's website or Federal Student Aid office directly for official information about the extension. Additionally, those seeking assistance from Rep. Peters's office can email him directly through a portal on his website.

► **SUSTAINABILITY**, from page 1

The second part of the bill addresses both food waste and food insecurity. In California, 11.2 billion pounds of food are sent to landfills each year. The new legislation mandates that grocery stores, supermarkets, and wholesalers must donate their surplus edible food waste to food banks such as Feeding San Diego. In 2024, this requirement will expand to businesses including restaurants, hotels, and health facilities.

Rachel Wagoner, director of CalRecycle, the agency in charge of ensuring that local jurisdictions comply with the new regulations, spoke about the bill with the San Francisco chronicle.

"This is the biggest change to trash since we started recycling in the 1980s," Wagoner said. "Reducing organics in landfills by 75% would be the equivalent of taking 1.7 million gas-powered cars off the road for a year."

For UC San Diego, the new

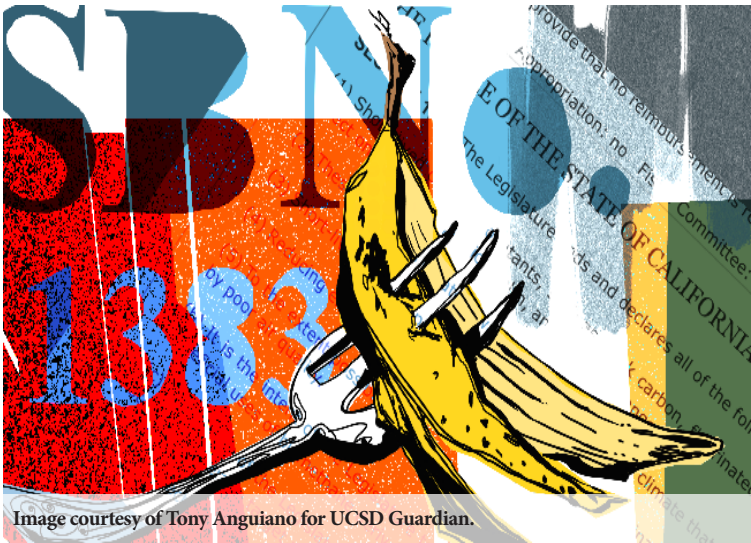


Image courtesy of Tony Anguiano for UCSD Guardian.

bill will have little direct implications. The University of California Office of the President has already committed all of its campuses to reach zero waste, which they have defined as 90 percent diversion of waste from landfills.

As part of this zero waste commitment, University of California campuses are currently working on phasing out single-use plastics. UCSD is also transitioning away from plastic bags in retail and dining locations. The plan is to eliminate all single-use plastic cutlery by Summer 2021 and in 2023 single-use beverage bottles will be eliminated at all UC campuses.

To reduce food waste, UCSD is currently working to implement an organic's recycling program by Fall Quarter 2021. The new anaerobic digestion will collect leftover food scraps, paper towels, and napkins, and eventually animal bedding from research laboratories and use bacteria to break down these organic materials in the absence of oxygen. Through this program, UCSD will be diverting upwards of 960 pounds of food waste per week, equating to 25 tons per year.

In response to the UCSD Guardian's inquiry about changes to campus policy regarding Senate Bill 1383, Leslie Sepuka, the Associate Director of University Communications, provided the following statement.

"UC San Diego has incorporated the elements of Senate Bill 1383 and other food/organic waste-related legislation into our operations," Sepuka said. "As a specific example, North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood has large waste collection rooms that can accommodate new food waste bins. In addition, the retail restaurants on the east side of the neighborhood are working with the university to minimize trash and food waste."

Sepuka also shared that there will be new food waste containers added to Price Center as part of a pilot study on food waste.

The official deadline for California cities to have fully operational composting facilities is in 2024, when fines will begin to be enforced for non-compliant cities. To learn more about Senate Bill 1383 and composting visit CalRecycle. A guide for separating your garbage can be found here.

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CAMPUS, from page 1

provide new facilities, new technology, and increased capacity, while expanding care offerings and addressing the growing demand for specialty care,” Patty Maysent, the CEO of UCSD Health, said to UC San Diego News. “It will be the cornerstone of a modern medical campus and a premier destination for health care.”

The goals of the LRDP were described in a Hillcrest Information Session in August 2021 as improving Hillcrest as a center of teaching and care. “This new framework [built on LRDP] will help UC San Diego achieve a complete redevelopment of its Hillcrest Campus that will further its commitment to teaching, research, and patient care, while also creating a healthy, sustainable campus environment,” the presentation said. Aside from New Outpatient Services and Parking, the following planned phases include construction and improvements

on the Research/Educational Facilities, Community Wellness Facility and Workforce Housing, and \$2.5 to \$3 billion total financial investment. In a statement to the UCSD News Center, the chief administrative officer for the Hillcrest Campus, Lisa Rhodes, expressed optimism about the renovations to the project. “The teams who work in Hillcrest have this in common: they love the Hillcrest Campus, our mission, and our patients,” Rhodes said. “It brings me great satisfaction to be on the precipice of Hillcrest’s journey and to renew its status as a beacon of

world-class health care, and I am honored to help lead that process. The result will be magnificent and will truly transform our staff, patient, and community experiences.” As part of the project phasing, some of the UCSD Health staff will move from their area, with the earliest wave starting in 2024. In the second stage (outreach stage) for the 2019 LRDP preparations, UC San Diego proposed and shared both the draft and final versions of the 2019 LRDP with the campus and the surrounding communities through holding five open houses. Prior to certification of the

Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the public was invited to share their opinions during the 30-day scoping period and 45-day draft EIR public review and take part in a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of EIR. Regular updates were sent to local leaders and communities such as Bankers Hill Community Group and Hillcrest Business Associations. A Hillcrest Advisory Council was also established to address topics such as circulation, transportation, housing, program, sustainability, and amenities. The LRDP development has previously seen some criticism. In a 2020 “Readers React” column for the San Diego Union-Tribune, San Diego resident Randall Collins called for a reconsideration of LRDP development as it may bring undesired higher density to the Hillcrest community. “A major reason why San Diego has a low incidence of coronavirus spread compared to cities like New York City is that we are a low-density, outdoor city,” Collins said. “City planners should be awake to the new realities, instead of taking away our best defenses against future epidemics.” Phase One is expected to finish in 2025, as the new Outpatient Pavillion is expected to open in May 2025. And the second phase will include the renovation and construction of the new hospital. The anticipated time span to complete all five phases of development is 15 years.

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Image courtesy of Kelly Sikkema from Unsplash.

Don't compromise on COVID safety measures

Because in 2022, workplace safety includes protection from infection.

BY SPARKY MITRA
Staff Writer

Headlines this past week were inundated with those regarding the Democratic Party's fear of schools going back to remote instruction. While they had previously promised that schools would remain open following their election, their fear of the contrary is largely illegitimate. Instead of centering their fears on promises which were made before the current Covid surge, the party should revert back to putting science and people's safety first. The facts have written themselves out. Teachers' unions have made their stance clear and in favor of remote instruction. Their voice is as important as anybody else's. If parents want to undermine their children's safety by sending them to school, that's their prerogative. But ensuring the teachers' workplace is safe is contractually mandated, and threatening it in any way is ridiculous especially when there is an alternative.

Many have asserted that we must treat times under coronavirus as the new normal. This would include having in-person classes during this ongoing pandemic. But I propose

that this permanent fix and arrangement can only be made when we have taken permanent precautions against the virus as well. Currently, this is not the case. Many states such as Texas are requiring in-person classes

vacation period. According to Dr. Ashish Jha, the Dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, mutations almost exclusively occur within the unvaccinated. This is primarily because of the

during every break. Prematurely going back to school to put our youngest generations at risk of infection, and subsequently being subject to long COVID is not the solution. Anti-gun control and anti-vaccine parents

supported by teachers to return to remote instruction. The Chicago Teachers Union has in fact held its ground as it demands returning to virtual classes. But because the city refuses to address the teachers' concerns, ongoing strikes have led to delays in Chicago school openings.

Besides the quintessential conservative arguments against implementing COVID safety measures, there is one other argument that holds more water. Many working parents are being forced to return to work regardless of infection hazard, which leaves their children without supervision if they have no school to physically attend. But during a pandemic, there are better ways for the Democratic Party to address these qualms than putting teachers in dangerous conditions. Namely, passing the Build Back Better act which mandates practices that will lower childcare costs in the long term.

The permanent solution must not include a permanent disregard for people's safety. Our long-term strategy for dealing with crises like the coronavirus pandemic must include temporary mandates that reduce mutation and contagion rates.

The best solution is always the one that benefits the most people and keeps the most people out of harm's way.

in public schools and universities such as Texas A&M without mandating masks or vaccines. Vaccine and mask mandates are the permanent solution which can lead to us having in person classes safely and with no fear of returning to remote instruction. The surge in COVID cases that the beginning of 2022 has seen, came with a new variant that truly proliferated during a

long duration that the virus stays in an unvaccinated person when they are infected compared to in a vaccinated person. To stop these mutations, the best course of action would be to reach a close to a 100% vaccination rate, with a vaccine that is 95% effective with the most current variant. That is the permanent solution that can stop mutations which drive these new infection case surges

have long believed that ignoring life-threatening occurrences such as mass shootings and pandemics will just make them disappear. But in both instances, it has been made abundantly clear that ignorance leads to these problems becoming more detrimental to humans than they have to be.

During a pandemic, the best solution entails a measure

A&E Staff Writer Fabian Garcia breaks down his most anticipated albums of 2022. The new year has brought with it a wave of new records that have been teased or are already set to release in 2022. Here is a comprehensive list of some of our most anticipated albums in no particular order.

A&E Guardian's Most Anticipated Albums of 2022

Earl Sweatshirt, “Sick!”

Underground hip-hop poster child Earl Sweatshirt is set to release his upcoming fourth studio album “Sick!” on Jan. 14, 2022. Sweatshirt first announced the record in December of 2021. Subsequently, the three singles “2010,” “Tabula Rasa,” and “Titanic” have been released from the 10-track project. In a statement to HipHopDx, the rapper said, ““Sick!” is my humble offering of 10 songs recorded in the wake of the worldwide Coronavirus pandemic and its subsequent lockdowns.” Judging from the singles, Sweatshirt’s newest sound is a natural progression from his previous record “Some Rap Songs.” The only exception being the third song “Titanic,” which is Earl’s return to the ever-popular trap genre. The production, which is rumored to feature the likes of The Alchemist and Black Noi\$, seems to compliment Sweatshirt’s steady and monotone delivery. Of course, the logophile remains as articulate as ever dropping complicated bars over progressive rhyme schemes. With the wait nearly over, we are itching to hear what he’s been quietly working on over the past few years.



Image courtesy of Pitchfork.

ADVISORY



Image courtesy of Consequence of Sound.

Unnamed Kendrick Lamar Record

In late 2021, Kendrick Lamar finally gave fans relative knowledge of his whereabouts after a long period of silence following the release of his 2017 record “DAMN.” Not only did his verses on Baby Keem’s “family ties” and “range brothers” completely shock the world, but it’s now been confirmed that a new project from Kung-Fu Kenny is coming down the pipeline. A post on the rapper’s social media linked to a website called “oklama.com” where he revealed he was creating his final record under Top Dawg Entertainment. Lamar further explained, “I feel joy to have been a part of such a cultural imprint after 17 years... May the Most High continue to use Top Dawg as a vessel for candid creators. As I continue to pursue my life’s calling.” There is no official release date for the upcoming record; however, Lamar’s scheduled inclusion in the Super Bowl LVI Halftime Show and his recent appearance at the 2021 Day N Vegas festival is further confirmation 2022 will not be a quiet year for the Compton-born rapper.

The Smile Unnamed Record (Radiohead sister band)

Radiohead and its various personnel have remained relatively busy since the release of their 2016 record “A Moon Shaped Pool.” Frontman Thom Yorke and guitarist Johnny Greenwood have returned alongside Sons of Kemet drummer Tom Skinner and Radiohead producer Nigel Godrich for a brand new project called The Smile. First announced in early 2021, the band released their debut single “You Will Never Work in Television Again” on January 5, 2022 and announced that their first record was complete. In an Instagram post, the group said “we’re at the track-listing stage, where there are 6227020800 possible song orders.” A roundabout way of saying the record is 13 tracks long. The Smile seems to be invoking their previous Radiohead sound from the ’90s. “We are very keen/scared/proud for you to hear these songs, and are currently practicing in a small room in Oxford, where work is more fun than fun, like the man said,” said the group on Instagram. While there is no official release date for the unnamed record, it seems that it’s only a matter of time before it is released.



Image courtesy of Pitchfork.

Mitski “Laurel Hell”

In the past, Mitski has revealed her struggles with being a public figure while also being a private person. Following the release of her 2018 record “Be the Cowboy,” she took a three-year hiatus to clear her mind. During this period is when she also found the inspiration to write a majority of the songs from her upcoming sixth studio album “Laurel Hell.”

In an official statement, the Japanese-American singer said the record is: “a soundtrack for transformation, a map to the place where vulnerability and resilience, sorrow and delight, error and transcendence can all sit within our humanity, can all be seen as worthy of acknowledgment, and ultimately, love.”

An initial set of 3 singles were released before the record was officially announced in November 2021. The record is set to release on February 4, 2022, just ahead of her European and North American tours.



Image courtesy of Pitchfork.

Charli XCX “CRASH”



Image courtesy of Ticketmaster.

In recent years, Charli XCX has established herself as the one of the queens of hyper pop. The release of her 2020 record “How I’m Feeling Now” came amidst the initial wave of lockdowns spurred on by COVID-19 and featured a selection of tracks anchored in her iconic exaggerated poppy sound. Now in 2022, fans will finally have a fresh selection of 12 tracks thanks to her upcoming fifth studio record “CRASH.” However, this time with an unexpected twist.

It would seem from recent singles and comments by the singer that her new record would follow a different style known simply as “poptastic” or “ultimate pop.” An interview with Refinery29 reveals her thoughts further, “I’m just very into making ultimate pop music, and the whole album is very contrasting from “How I’m Feeling Now.”

What could this mean for the rest of the album, which is set to release on March 18, 2022? It would seem only time will tell.

Additionally, it’s also worth noting two collaborators confirmed to be featured on “CRASH” Caroline Polacheck and Rina Sawayama are expected to release their next projects in 2022. Fingers crossed.



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Underground Scholars: New Grounds for Change

New President of Underground Scholars shares her past experiences with the carceral system and her future goals to support formerly incarcerated and system-impacted individuals through the advocacy, outreach and educational work being done by the Underground Scholars initiative.

BY OISHEE MISRA
Features Editor

Underground Scholars is a student organization that supports formerly incarcerated or system-impacted individuals through their advocacy, outreach, and policy reform work. Colleen Murphy, a first year transfer student and the new president of Underground Scholars, says that “in three short years, I went from living in my car on drugs to completely sober, happy, healthy, making intentional choices in my life to perpetuate this happiness and this holistic health.” After past experiences involving alcoholism, drugs, and an arrest, Murphy is now an avid advocate for systemic reform when it comes to incarceration. In the future, she hopes to become a US senator. Currently, she is dedicated to the Underground Scholars initiative.

Murphy explains that the Underground Scholars initiative was founded at UC Berkeley in 2013 and has since opened chapters in all the other UC campuses. “We’re just here on this campus trying to make a difference for other people who don’t realize that there are other options than continuing this lifestyle that they had,” Murphy told The UCSD Guardian. “The main point of the Underground Scholars Initiative is to create a prison-to-university pipeline.” Although Underground Scholars is a student-led organization, UCSD offers institutional support in the form of funding, through another initiative called the Triton Underground Scholars. Murphy adds that the people participating in both initiatives and the activities they do are nearly identical, since both organizations work closely together.

On the UCSD campus, approximately 25 students have participated in Underground Scholars in some capacity, and 12 to 15 students are currently active members. Murphy notes that the student organization is not specifically for formerly incarcerated students. The initiative is also for system-impacted students — anyone who has been affected by incarceration in any way, such as a family member’s arrest — as well as “anyone who’s interested in policy reform or supporting a movement of equality and equity.” An important aspect of Underground Scholars is outreach; for instance, they host workshops that are tailored to assist current community college students with their UC Transfer Application and resume development.

Murphy says that for meaningful, institutional changes to continue occurring, full-time positions are required; for instance, she believes that a full-time position will allow for more outreach — whether that takes place at community colleges or legislatures —, organization, and eventual significant overall growth. Currently, they plan to ask for four million dollars in the ongoing funding in the budget,

and will know if this comes to fruition by approximately mid-2022. Additionally, Underground Scholars does advocacy work related to policy reform. In January of 2022, they are hosting a retreat in Sacramento to request consideration in the California budget and subsequent ongoing funding from the legislature.

According to Murphy, they have also been meeting with local representatives, and she specifically has been working with the Fresh Start program a department of the public defender, which helps formerly incarcerated people with the expungement process (clearing or reducing their records). She plans to educate and promote this process in January of 2022. As a formerly incarcerated individual who has gotten her record expunged, Murphy wants to make sure that other people are also aware of these types of programs because “they’re free and they’re intended to help people move on from that previous life.”

For Colleen Murphy, her previous life began in a small rural town in San Bernardino County, near Joshua Tree National Park. After doing well in high school and graduating a year early, Murphy moved to San Diego in 2005 due to more economic and schooling opportunities to attend a local community college. Murphy attended school and worked full-time to support herself, but moving away from home and her support systems was challenging. She began experiencing mental health issues, and eventually turned to alcohol and drugs as coping mechanisms. At first, Murphy continued attending school and working as an investment broker at TD Ameritrade, but her mental health issues and substance abuse issues continued to persist.

During this time, Murphy was also involved in abusive relationships. Eventually, she ended up leaving her job, dropping out of school, and moving back to her hometown in 2008. After returning to her hometown, as a consequence of her unhealthy coping mechanisms, she ended up arrested. Prior to her arrest, she was going through background checks and other processes required for employment. As soon as her potential employers were notified about her charges, they rescinded her offer of employment.

“That was just the beginning of the institutional and social barriers that were put up because of my arrest,” Murphy said. “Even before I was convicted on any of the charges, that job was taken away. The financial repercussions of being arrested are significant.” The arrest made it impossible for Murphy to find gainful employment, which she explains perpetuated her dependence on unhealthy, abusive relationships and exacerbated poor mental health.

After years of going through this, in June 2018, Murphy decided she needed to break out of this cycle. She packed her car, took her two dogs, and moved back to San Diego. Soon after she moved back, Murphy ended up in another abusive relationship. After suffering physical abuse from her then-partner, Murphy ended up in the hospital. At the hospital, a routine check-up led her to discover that she was pregnant.

Murphy decided that she needed to ask for help. She was living in her car at the time, so she sought refuge at a homeless shelter in downtown San Diego called the Alpha Project. “When I came in there, I had nothing,” Murphy said. “When you’re homeless, you lose everything so quickly, because it’s just like, you have no way to maintain anything. It’s just a terrible, terrible thing. I can’t say how difficult it is, especially being a woman, to be homeless.” During her time at the shelter, Murphy was able to finally take care of her physical and mental health and realign her priorities. She ended up getting housing through their programs, and her son was born in July of 2019.

When her son was six months old, Murphy went back to school and got a part-time job working as an insurance agent, and has been in school ever since. “Through all of my trials and tribulations, education has been probably one of the most liberating forces in my life,” Murphy told The Guardian. “It’s been extremely empowering, working with groups like the Underground Scholars.”

In 2020, Murphy graduated with three associates degrees — a degree in psychology, a degree in sociology, and then a degree in university studies, social

and behavioral sciences — from Grossmont Community College. After receiving her degrees in 2020, Murphy applied to UCSD and was denied. Murphy appealed the decision, explaining that she was attempting to build a framework to help this demographic and that her voice was important, and got in on appeal. At the time she came to UCSD, the majority of the Underground Scholars officers had recently graduated, so the officer team had multiple vacant positions. Murphy was asked if she would be willing to fill the vacancy in the presidency of Underground Scholars. Since she had been doing similar type of work at Grossmont, she agreed to take on the position.

Her main goal through Underground Scholars is to help break down institutional barriers, so people who have made poor decisions in the past due to disadvantaged life circumstances can find a fulfilling life. She wants the “voices that have been quieted because of this carceral history” to be heard. She also notes that mass incarceration is a systemic issue as well – marginalized communities such as the Latinx and Black communities are disproportionately impacted by this issue.

Murphy says that although the university has been supportive of the Underground Scholars initiative, there is more that they could do to uplift the formerly incarcerated students demographic. For instance, Murphy says that there could be the implementation of a project like Project Rebound, which is a program at the California State level that helps increase the number of formerly incarcerated students that are able to attend college by taking

into consideration that they were formerly incarcerated during the application review process.

UCSD Faculty is also involved in this process of supporting formerly incarcerated and system-impacted individuals, namely through the cross enrollment process. Through the cross enrollment process, students at community colleges who identify as formerly incarcerated or are just interested in the topic can enroll in a UCSD course relating to the carceral system. “I’m hoping that during my time here, that I will be able to reach out to the administration and see if there’s any way we can create that pipeline,” Murphy said. “I would really love to see that demographic given some sort of preference to come here because that is life changing. Education prevents recidivism, and recidivism is the tendency to reoffend and end up back in jail. When you start educating people, and giving them options other than the lives that were contributing to their incarceration, then the incarceration cycle stops.”

Murphy says that although all the formerly incarcerated individuals she has met have different experiences, education and its ability to liberate them has always been the common theme. “This campus has become our platform for empowering others in this situation,” Murphy told The Guardian. “Anyone who’s been incarcerated, even people who are currently incarcerated, we’re reaching out to currently incarcerated people who are completing classes in prison. We want them to come here, we want them to know that there’s a place for them here so that when they get out, they can come and have education, because it’s such a liberating



Art by Angela Liang for The UCSD Guardian.

Seven Steps to Getting Rid of Gifts You Didn’t Want



Photo by Teo Zac from Unsplash

WRITTEN BY SAMANTHA PHAN
Contributing Lifestyle Writer

For most of us, winter quarter has begun and the holiday season is over. Say goodbye to all of the great meals, beautiful decorations, and festive music; it is now time to move into the new year and re-establish your daily routine. However, there is one

thing from the holidays that we can never seem to leave behind: terrible gifts.

Of course, we appreciate our loved ones and everything they do for us, but if we are being honest, there are some occasions in which we all would have preferred a simple card to whatever present was sitting underneath the tree. So, if you have an out-of-touch

grandmother, strange neighbor, or lazy Secret Santa, this article is for you. Instead of letting this weird gift sit in your house for years, follow this seven-step guide to getting rid of gifts you didn’t actually want!

1. REGIFTING!
Why buy more gifts when you can simply pass on the ones that you already got? After all, one man’s trash could very well be another man’s trash. With this method, you can get rid of the unwanted gift and save the energy it takes to get one for someone else! The only thing you have to do is rewrap the present in order to have a brand new gift! Just make sure you don’t give it back to the same person, or else they could get mad and exact some ominous revenge on you. This is especially important to remember if this person knows where you live!
2. SELLING!
Now it’s time to bring out your inner business major and make some money. After all, the gift is now yours, and if they truly love you, your friends and family (or creepy next-door neighbor) would be happy to let you exchange their thoughtful present for some cold hard cash. There are lots of ways you can go about this, from selling on eBay to attending a flea market. Unfortunately, this method

3. DONATING!
At this point, it’s probably become clear that you won’t be getting anything useful out of this gift. You’re starting to feel paranoid, and worry that this gift may be watching you. That’s when you remember that you can just donate it! This useful technique will allow you a zero-stress way to get rid of whatever dark energy that gift has. Just drop it off at Goodwill, Salvation Army, or an unassuming random person’s home. You can even mail it to the president! I’m sure he would appreciate it, assuming something like this gets past the Secret Service.
4. REPURPOSING!
If, for some reason, you can’t give away this present (perhaps because everyone you tried has refused to let it into their home) try repurposing! This works great for personalized t-shirts from your fashion-clueless mom, portraits from your niece who “wants to be an artist,” and dolls made in your image by the neighbor next door who keeps on watching you through the windows. This method allows your creativity to shine. Simply brainstorm alternative ways to use these items that you find far more useful than their original purposes. For example, the pins underneath that doll’s dress could be useful for sewing!
5. FORCE SOMEONE ELSE TO HELP YOU REPURPOSE IT!

- This one is self-explanatory. If you aren’t creative enough to make something new, find someone who is! After all, friends are there to lend a helping hand. This is an especially good option if this gift is so upsetting that you don’t even want to touch it anymore, for fear of being possessed or otherwise. Don’t be afraid to reach out!
6. DESTROYING!
You’ve tried everything. There’s simply no easy way to get rid of this gift. There’s only one more option: destroy it. There are several ways to go about this. You can throw it in the bin and wait for the garbage truck to take it away. Or, if you feel that would take too long and you are worried the trash compactor may not be enough, you can use other means! Some of my favorites include setting it on fire, running it through a paper shredder, or dumping it in toxic chemicals. Just be sure to use gloves!
7. BANISHING TO ANOTHER REALM!
In the extremely rare case that this gift has the ability to come back from the dead, you may want to consider this option. It may take a bit more effort and supplies, but it will definitely be worth it, especially since you will finally be able to sleep at night. Just make sure that nothing from that dimension crosses over here! Instructions for this will come in the next issue.
- Remember, you never know who, or what, is watching! Happy New Year everyone!

Trends I Think will Die in 2022

WRITTEN BY PRISCILLA ANNE PUNO
Lifestyle Co-Editor

As the New Year and new quarter kick into gear, I can’t help but reflect on the year that 2021 brought us in the fashion world. From sourcing new vintage pieces, the Y2K revival, chunky boots, and the surge of subversive basics, I was personally inspired to throw my old closet away in exchange for a new one (but of course, like any other college student, I sadly did not have the funds). A fresh start calls for new trends and although I cannot predict the future, here are some of the trends I think might die in 2022. Perhaps I am simply writing my projections and would like to see these trends end (even though I’m a hypocrite and did partake in some of these), but if they don’t come true, you can come back to this article and say, “I told you so.”

COLORFUL PATTERNS
From what I’ve seen on the internet and my mediocre observation skills, 2021 was the year of color. From the infamous House of Sunny, “Hockney Dress,” to the Maison Soksi tights, trends of bright, swirly patterns wore down so quickly that the \$132.56 you spent on that dress is *probably* collecting dust in your closet. Of course, I am a victim and have indulged in

the act of impulsively spending my paychecks worth on OMIGHTY dresses and maxi skirts (please don’t do that), but have now come to realize I have not worn these pieces since July of 2021. Now, I’m not saying to never buy these pieces, but much of the clothing that designers create are meant to be worn for short periods rather than lasting you a lifetime. We all love a little bit of color in our wardrobe, but I find that incorporating color into outfits through small accessories such as jewelry, hairpieces, and sunglasses might be the better move this year.

CHUNKY NECKLACES
Now I love the chunky necklace trend, with its glistening pearls and statement charms, but in terms of longevity, I don’t see this trend lasting past summer. Many of the necklaces I have seen myself fit to one’s “aesthetic” liking, and if you’re like me and your sense of style tends to change every so often, these necklaces will probably continue to hang around in your room. But if large amounts of hardware are your thing, layering necklaces might be the way to incorporate tons of sparkling jewelry into your wardrobe.

THE I.AM.GIA CULT FASHION
Now hear me out, I find that I.AM.GIA continues to make

the trendiest pieces that are really up-to-date and loved by millions, but that’s the catch: it’s a trend (and don’t get me started on its lack of inclusive sizing). Trends aren’t meant to last you years worth of wear. With the success of the television show Euphoria and the cult following that Alexa Demie has created, they have popularized the wear of glimmering matching sets for the past two years but have lasted only months after viewers have stopped raving about the show. This one is a little tricky on my end because who knows? The new season of Euphoria about to launch may cause a comeback in the realm of glitz and glam.

WRAP HALTER TOPS
As seen on your favorite social media influencer’s Instagram, this trend was cute, flattering, and made heads turn. But, I feel as if this piece has made its final stretch and has been overworn. Now I love the idea of wrap tops in general because they are versatile and comfortable, and who doesn’t love that? I would like to see the different ways wrap tops can be worn rather than the same, overused pattern of a halter top. There are other methods of wearing wrap tops that can easily complement your silhouette without having fabric tugging at the back of your neck.



Photo by David Dvořáček for Unsplash

UPCOMING UCSD GAMES	M Basketball	1/11	7PM	at UC Irvine
	W Basketball	1/11	7PM	vs UC Irvine
	W Basketball	1/13	7PM	vs Hawai'i
	MW Swim	1/14	TBA	at UCLA
	M Volleyball	1/14	7PM	vs Harvard



Image courtesy of Mike McGinnis / UC San Diego.

Brown’s Double-Double Helps UCSD Overcome Riverside in Conference Opener

BY EMER NOLAN
Staff Writer

In their first game of the season in the Big West Conference, the UC San Diego women’s basketball team (4–6, 1–0 Big West) defeated UC Riverside (3–4, 0–1 Big West), 60–57 in RIMAC Arena this past Thursday in a hard-fought, spectator-free win to kick off the new year. The victory marked UCSD’s fourth win of the season in all competitions, and was especially welcome after their most recent two defeats against California Baptist University and San Diego State University in December.

It was a tight game, with the

lead never exceeding 9 points for either team. The Tritons were feeling the effects of their extended break from play as the night wore on; San Diego’s last game had been Dec. 17, so there was some rust to play through on Thursday. Regardless, they put on a determined display and persevered, continuing their undefeated run in all three of their games against the Highlanders since they joined the conference last year. The standout performance for the Tritons came from sophomore forward Aishah Brown, who logged an impressive double-double with career highs of 19 points and 16 rebounds.

Riverside opened the scoring in the first minute with

a bucket by Rynne Walters after winning the tipoff, but the Tritons rallied to take the lead soon after, courtesy of a 3-pointer followed by a basket from in the paint by senior guard Sydney Brown, who also put up an impressive season-high 17 points in the game. The first quarter followed this back-and-forth between the two sides, seeing Aishah Brown net a 3-pointer, freshman center Bridget Mullings provide a layup, and junior guard Ula Chamberlin a jumper to maintain San Diego’s lead throughout the period. Chamberlin also contributed a pretty 3-pointer of her own on a fastbreak with 41 seconds on the clock to put the score at 15–10 to the home side at the break.

The second period began with the Highlanders coming back into the game and narrowing the lead to just a point within the first minute through a pair of baskets from Keilanei Cooper. The Tritons showed signs of fatigue, their game slightly slower in the second quarter; despite two good free throws by Aishah Brown, Riverside took back the lead for the first time since their opening points at the beginning of the game. It was a relatively short-lived lead though, as Aishah Brown’s layup combined with a 3-pointer from a fastbreak by senior guard Madison Baxter to put San Diego ahead again, a lead they widened over the rest of the quarter.

As the scoreline grew for both sides, San Diego maintained the gap in points with contributions from Chamberlin, Baxter, and senior guard Julia Macabuhay.

Riverside responded with incremental points that chipped a little from the lead each time, but not enough to pull ahead. A jumper from a fastbreak by Mullins brought the Triton’s lead to its highest in the game at 9 points with a little over a minute left before the half, and a Riverside basket by Walters 5 seconds from the buzzer led the teams into halftime with the score a comfortable 31–24 to the Tritons.

UCSD looked tired in the third period, conceding a foul that led to a free throw being converted by the Highlanders. A 3-pointer by Sydney Brown and a layup by Aishah Brown maintained the home side’s advantage, but preceded a three-minute period with no points scored by the Tritons, during which Riverside stole back the lead with a trio of successive jumpers. After a time out allowed the teams to regroup for a moment, the Tritons rallied. A layup by Aishah Brown with five seconds on the clock put UCSD back ahead at 40–39 before the final period of the game.

The last quarter saw the lead pass from one side to the other a number of times. The home side added to the advantage they had re-established before the break thanks to a good free throw by Sydney Brown, but the Tritons needed to regain it again after Riverside tied the score with a layup by Mele Finau. For the next 5 minutes, the teams went back and forth, with San Diego pulling ahead and Riverside responding by tying or taking the lead themselves. This period saw points by UCSD’s Sydney Brown, Ula Chamberlin,

Aishah Brown, and redshirt senior guard Emily Cangelosi. The Tritons doggedly fought to keep their lead in a tense final 2 minutes, and despite the Highlanders putting up 7, the 8 points the home side scored was enough to see the game out to a victorious end, the final score 60–57.

Although it was an incredibly tight game down to the last minute, San Diego showed perseverance and grit to get the result in the end. At times, there was evidence of rust in their play, with 17 total turnovers and moments of sloppy play. However, despite the hitches in their performance, the Tritons and head coach Heidi VanDerveer can be proud of the victory they earned in the end.

On an individual level, Aishah Brown statistically stood out, providing much-needed points at key moments to bring the Tritons back into the game. Of Brown’s career-high 19 points on the night, 10 were scored from free throws, as she went a perfect 10-for-10 from the line. Though she also committed a game-high 7 turnovers, her impressive offensive performance overshadowed many of those defensive mistakes, culminating in an important win to kick off UCSD’s conference season.

The Tritons followed this performance with another Big West win at home on Friday against the UC Davis Aggies, again eking out a narrow win, 59–56. They will next face UC Irvine at RIMAC on Tuesday, Jan. 11 in their third successive Big West home game.

Men’s Basketball Road Woes Continue in Loss to UC Davis

BY DONOVAN PEREZ-SCHIPPER
Senior Staff Writer

UC San Diego’s men’s basketball team (8–7) lost a close contest to UC Davis (7–4) on Saturday, Dec. 8 by a score of 78–71. These two teams were evenly matched throughout the game, but the Tritons were not able to close it out and were sunk by some clutch UC Davis free-throw shooting. While the offense was balanced and effective, the 78 points were the most UCSD has allowed in a regulation game this season. This loss will sting even worse because it was a winnable game against one of the most talented teams in the Big West. The Tritons will look to continue their crisp offensive momentum, while keeping the opposing team off the free-throw line in the next one.

The Tritons came to play early in this matchup. Three-pointers from senior guard Jake Killingsworth, sophomore guard Jace Rocquemoire, and freshman forward Francis Nwaokorie with an added jumper by Rocquemoire gave the Tritons a whopping 16–4 lead six minutes into the first half. The Tritons blitzed the Aggies from the outside, where they were very effective all night, but UC Davis responded to the Tritons 14–0 run with a 6–0 run themselves, cutting the deficit to a manageable 6.

Right as the Tritons were losing momentum on offense, the offensive leader, senior

forward Toni Rocak, stepped in with two layups, set up nicely by the threat of the outside attack. Going up ten forced another timeout, and UCSD was firmly in control again. Out of the timeout, Davis once again cut it to six, but sophomore guard Bryce Pope came through with a layup of his own to get on the scoreboard. UC Davis was playing more aggressively and their effort was getting them back into the game, especially at the free-throw line. Pope soon returned the favor, getting to the line after being fouled on a three pointer at the 6:15 mark, making two of three free throws to give the Tritons a 29–23 lead.

UC Davis methodically cut the lead down, and with a minute and a half the once-large lead had been cut to a measly 1 point, now 33–32. With 30 seconds to play, UC Davis took their first lead since the opening minutes with a three pointer; UCSD now trailed 37–35. UCSD showed their poise by coming right back down the floor and getting Pope open, who lasered a contested three pointer and was fouled. He converted the 4-point play and just like that, the Tritons entered the locker room with both a 2-point lead as well as the once-lost momentum.

The game continued to be tightly contested, with the Tritons’ shooting being matched by UC Davis’ scrappy play and interior prowess against the smaller UC San Diego team. The game was knotted at 41 for a long time, with the teams trading stops,

perhaps uncharacteristically in this high-scoring affair, until a layup from senior guard Kaden Rasheed gave the Tritons the leg up. Soon after, Killingsworth continued the scoring with 2 three pointers flanked by a Rocak layup, with the score now reading 53–48 with 11 minutes to go. Killingsworth was running the offense spectacularly, but the defensive execution thereafter left a lot to be desired, with four Tritons fouls committed in under 2 minutes. After all the free throws tallied, the back and forth game was once again tied, now at 60.

The closing stretch saw the

roles reverse to a degree—fouls gave UCSD opportunities at the line with Rocak hitting four free throws and Killingsworth adding another, but UC Davis matched the scoring at every turn., After Davis made another layup inside to go up 69–67, Rocak committed a charging foul with 3:16 left on the clock. Fortunately, the Tritons got a stop and Bryce Pope’s determination on the drive got him to the free-throw line, where he converted one of two.

The Tritons called a timeout after forcing a turnover with 1:08 to go, and the play call got Killingsworth open for his fourth three of the game.



Image courtesy of Jeff Tourial / UC San Diego Athletics.