UCSD Sororities Suspend Social Relations with Fraternities Amidst Increasing Allegations of Misconduct, Sexual Assault, Drugging, and Violence

BY KAYLA BRIDGER ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Editor's Note: This article contains potentially upsetting anecdotes and descriptions of sexual harassment, sexual assault, drug use, racism, and violence.

In a decision announced internally on Feb. 15, UC San Diego’s Collegiate Panhellenic Association recently canceled social events with all chapters in the Interfraternity Council for the remainder of Winter Quarter 2022. The CPA decision comes in response to rising allegations of sexual assault/harassment, drugging, and physical violence occurring at off-campus fraternity parties.

The canceled social events across Sorority and Fraternity Life include “exchanges,” which are social events that typically occur between a designated sorority and a fraternity. The decision doesn’t include “opens,” which are larger events where both those affiliated and unaffiliated with SFL are welcome to attend. For this reason, practices differ between fraternal chapters on who is welcome to attend their opens — especially when considering whether men who are not in their chapter are allowed to attend.

An anonymous upperclassman from a UCSD sorority shared with The UCSD Guardian that CPAs desired next step is to work with IFC to strengthen their communications and connections. Some of their goals are to reach an agreement that attempts to mend the situation through heightened risk prevention policies, recognition of the victims’ trauma, and ultimately comprehensive measures that empower members of SFL to feel safe and comfortable at social events.

An imperative measure she highlighted was to look closely at the chapters which have allegations against them.

“What we wanted to see was that they care and just hear us out and care about amending the situation as much as they can,” she said to The Guardian. “Obviously, you can’t time travel and step it from happening, but one of the things that is really important is finding out if it’s a chapter that is cultivating that kind of and perpetuating that kind of behavior or whether it just happened to be an individual in that situation.”

The anonymous member stated that IFC needs to have better risk management practices that are communicated more clearly to party attendees. She recognizes two truths: the boards of SFL, CPA, and IFC are doing what they can to protect their members, and that their lack of expertise due to their age and their experience dealing with assault allegations may make it more difficult to work effectively.

Above all, she said that she hopes that people recognize the traumatic nature of this situation rather than view it as a joke.

“I want people to remember that this isn’t just a joke about who can’t hang with who,” she said. “People have actually been traumatized and people are actually going through legal channels and there are actually open investigations and this is actually a very serious thing and it’s not just ‘no more partying’.”

In the perspective of a second anonymous source from a UCSD sorority — who wanted to remain anonymous to avoid possible repercussions — halting social relations with IFC is the safest decision for everyone at the moment. Despite this decision, the member has expressed concerns that students will still throw parties regardless of the ban and that unofficial parties likely will not have the same supervisions (e.g. sober monitors) that allow people to seek help and accountability lest something go wrong. She is also worried that behaviors will not change, due to her belief that current fraternal measures to handle allegations (e.g. the revocation of access to parties or membership in the chapter) do not provide consequences serious enough to match the gravity of the offense.

“I think the entire idea is to kind of let things cool off, work on it for the rest of the quarter, and then get back next quarter and just continue as if nothing really happened,” this sorority member said. “Which I am pretty skeptical about because I feel like that’s what we say every single time and I haven’t seen a single change in IFC since I came to this school.”

Previous Allegations Among SFL at UCSD

Most recently, allegations of assault and drugging occurred at a Jan. 30 Sigma Nu party; it was themed after the TV show “Euphoria,” which itself has met criticism for potentially glorifying drug use. The event occurred at a Jan. 30 Sigma Nu party; it was themed after the TV show “Euphoria,” which itself has met criticism for potentially glorifying drug use. The event occurred at a Jan. 30 Sigma Nu party; it was themed after the TV show “Euphoria,” which itself has met criticism for potentially glorifying drug use. The event occurred at a Jan. 30 Sigma Nu party; it was themed after the TV show “Euphoria,” which itself has met criticism for potentially glorifying drug use. The event occurred at a Jan. 30 Sigma Nu party; it was themed after the TV show “Euphoria,” which itself has met criticism for potentially glorifying drug use. The event occurred at a Jan. 30 Sigma Nu party; it was themed after the TV show “Euphoria,” which itself has met criticism for potentially glorifying drug use. The event occurred at a Jan. 30 Sigma Nu party; it was themed after the TV show “Euphoria,” which itself has met criticism for potentially glorifying drug use. The event occurred at a Jan. 30 Sigma Nu party; it was themed after the TV show “Euphoria,” which itself has met criticism for potentially glorifying drug use. The event occurred at a Jan. 30 Sigma Nu party; it was themed after the TV show “Euphoria,” which itself has met criticism for potentially glorifying drug use. The event occurred at a Jan. 30 Sigma Nu party; it was themed after the TV show “Euphoria,” which itself has met criticism for potentially glorifying drug use.

The anonymous sorority member, who attended the “Nuphoria” party, said that approximately 400–450 wristbands were allotted for distribution to guests in order to attend the party. From her perspective, the event was unable to be properly supervised due to the fact that the house’s capacity was not suitable for the large number of individuals in attendance. To her, this created a significantly overcrowded, sweaty, and uncomfortable environment.

“I must have missed this question on my application, but based on the number of pedestrian collisions I had to be an admission requirement. So, in order to survive this concrete jungle pretty skeptical about because I feel like that’s what we say every single time and I haven’t seen a single change in IFC since I came to this school.”
### GREEK LIFE, from page 1

In addition, she said that there were a plethora of popular recreations that the party, including alcohol, cannabis, nicotine, LSD, MDMA, pulse., cocaine, ketamine, and lean. To her, the level of intoxication per event had grown.She said that most of her friends were not used to seeing people drunk and that they were unsure of their own safety, to ensure the safety of those around them, and to hold others accountable for inappropriate behavior.

“I think the big No Party kind of pushed it over the edge because that was really an exercise in behaviour. The legislations that night that people just had to point fingers and everyone was panicking because people were discrepant and people were sexually assaulted in the open and people got hit and cut and it was so disturbing for our workers then the university will continue to bargain with the UC to get a real solutions.”

### HOUSING, from page 1

some units.

Demonstrators said that if these costs aren’t covered in a timely manner, then this leads to holds on their student accounts. For many students, this means that they are not able to sign up for classes and are not able to work.

“I was very cognizant of the housing crisis that they helped perpetuate,” said Ahmad Akhtar, a graduate student in the UCSD physics department. “Through really exploitative housing policies that only remain exploitative on the graduate student side, we’re just really fighting on this issue and force the UC to respond to it with real action and messages.

“I think if we don’t take action now and start bargaining with the UC to get affordable housing for our workers then the university will continue to profit off of us and not take students’ and workers’ best interest at heart,” commented Lauren Bibi, a fifth year graduate student in the UCSD biological contraception and policy practices to prevent the engagement of assailants and abusers — who are both formally affiliated and non-affiliated with SFI.

“The chapter didn’t do anything even when I talked to higher-up people,” she continued. “[...] Just know that you would talk to people higher up [across SFI], and then I basically asked like 4-5 times and like, ‘oh, did you ever hear back from them?’ I was just dealing with something a lot recently so we haven’t been able to talk specifically about this, and then by the time I dropped there was not anything really that could be done.”

An anonymous member of the fraternity stated above said that he feels disconnected from the continuous cases of sexual assault and the general ignorance of sex of SFI, particularly in light of various chapter statements that say they are working to rectify existing cases of assault and strengthen risk prevention practices. “They claim to be really against sexual assault and everything that comes with it, but it obviously keeps happening,” he said to The Guardian. “I feel like a lot of time when they kick them out it’s just like a publicity stunt — just like to make sure the sororities know that they don’t do it or that they take action against it.”

In addition, the majority of the people in Greek life, over at least 75%, “[…] they go there for the reason of a potential sexual encounter,” the fraternity member stated.

Additionally, the member of the fraternity stated that he is saddled with watching the impact that sexual assault in SFI has on victims in real time. “Seeing the flip side of those who have had the bad things happen that [them] that [they’re] stopping the parties for — the sexual assault — I’ve known people who are the ones that have been assaulted,” the anonymous member said. “I think that’s really sad that I was, and all my college friends were a part of something that could lead to so many cases of that. And it’s not just an anomaly.”

As previously mentioned by the first anonymous source from a sorority, CPA hopes to proceed by developing comprehensive harm-reductionist policies to rectify existing cases of assault and increase safety and comfortability.

Puscasiu emphasized that both FHIIC and SFI should have strong established channels of accountability for perpetrators within their respective organizations. “I think they should be that university that really puts an end to these types of things because it’s so normalized — it’s disgusting.”

The second anonymous sorority member echoed sentiments that the cancellation of social events is a good first step. She continued that she believes harm reduction practices are a necessary implementation to move forward in creating lasting change. Her ideas include comprehensive harm-reductionist drug education that seeks to teach young adults about drug interactions and dosages that cause overdoses. She said that sexual assault and harassment training within SFI should be redesigned to place greater emphasis on the consequences of assault that will follow the victim and the perpetrator for life. Additionally, the source said that allegations of sexual assault may not be investigated and with more serious repercussions for perpetrators within chapters.

Finally, she questioned how impactful a consequence being dropped from one’s chapter actually is.

The Guardian reached out to SFI, CPA, IFC, and the publicly available contacts for the chapters’ executive members for comment. SFI, CPA, and IFC did not respond to a request for an interview. 12 of 13 contacted fraternity boards and 11 of 12 contacted fraternity boards did not respond to a request for an interview.

Editor’s Note: The author of this article was affiliated with the
UCSD Medical Director Testifies in Police Brutality Cases

By Andrew Ha
NEWS EDITOR

With at least 1,314 people killed by the police in 2021 alone, police brutality remains a salient topic within public discourse. However, what is not as often discussed is the power of expert witness testimonies in influencing jury decisions in the ensuing legal process. These experts are doctors and researchers — some of whom are from UC San Diego — study the effects of force on the body and how similar police tactics could contribute to the death of the individual.

Some of these expert witnesses are UCSD professors like Dr. Gary M. Vilke or Theodore Chan. Dr. Vilke is a prominent individual in the San Diego medical community due to his positions as the director of both the emergency and risk management departments of UCSD Health and a professor of emergency medicine. Dr. Chan, moreover, is the chair of the department of emergency medicine at UCSD and has worked previously in the California State Senate and Washington D.C. Office of the Assistant Surgeon General. According to a New York Times investigation, their research and expert testimonies are used in many court cases spanning over two decades and often conclude that defendant officer’s actions could not contribute to the death of the arrestees.

These incidents, legally referred to as death-in-custody cases, define a body of police action that encompasses the death of those under arrest, undergoing incarceration or are incarcerated in a prison. In California, there is a disproportionately higher number of minoritized, especially African-American — representation in the percent of arrest-related deaths compared to the overall population. Vilke’s reports are repeatedly criticized by police accountability advocates as an institutionalized means of enacting misconduct.

Movements like Cops Off Campus, which is composed of many UCSD affiliates, have called upon the university to remove ties with the police and halt the use of campus officers. A student involved in the group stated that incarceration is unjust because it does not take into account societal inequalities that push people to the law in the first place.

“[Vilke’s] ‘expert’ testimony is precisely the condition of individualizing, pinpointing, and not allowing outside events or circumstances to enter a courtroom,” the student said. “You have the moment of criminalization happening through this: one particular event. The courtroom, through prosecutorial power, aims to solidify the arrestee’s body of scientific literature,” Dr. Vilke said.

“I do not regret any of the opinions that I have given as they are based on my training, education and experience. All cases involving arrest related deaths have been said to impact many people who are involved. Our scientific work has been performed to find out what are the physiological impacts to arrestees who are arresting these deaths in order to implement scientifically validated strategies to prevent these tragedies in the future.”

Much like the Perez case, Estate of Michael Barrera v. City of Woodland, etc. highlighted similar features of police accountability that was dismissed by expert testimony. Barrera, who was allegedly wielded a golf club and intoxicanted, was tasered by officers and died in the hospital. Barrera’s family claims that the Woodland Police Department and the Yolo County District Attorney covered up the case and used Vilke’s report to absolve the police of wrongdoing in Barrera’s cardiac arrest and death.

In either the Barrera or the Perez case, many of the research studies cited, some of which were written by Dr. Vilke and Chan, used healthy patients to draw conclusions about the lethality of police restraint and force. While it is unethical to provide drugs to subjects or choose subjects with pre-existing health conditions, the use of solely healthy individuals in research studies highlights major limitations for real-world application. Nevertheless, expert witnesses still use these studies to draw general conclusions in death-in-custody court cases in which arrestees are intoxicated or ill.

In this shortcoming, a subsequent epidemiological study was conducted by Vilke et al. that observed the results of police force on a variety of individuals, some of which were under emotional distress or had taken drugs.

Read the complete story online at ucsdguardian.org.
How Eteri Tutberidze’s Skaters are Repeatedly Failed by Those Around Them

BY MARCELLA BARCENELO Staff Writer

A recent doping scandal in women’s independent figure skating at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics has shaken the foundation of the sport and caused outrage among athletes, coaches, and the general public. Kamila Valieva, the 15-year-old skater representing the Russian Olympic Committee stands at the center of this scandal after failing an anti-doping test for taking trimetazidine, a heart medication intended to increase endurance. While it is simple to acknowledge that the ingestion of banned substances is a top-tier offense in athletics, the underlying issue here stems from the fact that Valieva is an impressionable minor who was subjected to incredible amounts of pressure and responsibilities far above her age level. Standing behind this young girl is a notoriously ruthless woman named Eteri Tutberidze who is widely known for coaching her skaters into early retirement at the age of 17 to 19 at the latest. Tutberidze, originally from Russia, began her coaching career in America before eventually moving back to her home country and taking up a position at the Sambo-70, a widely regarded children’s and youth sports school in Moscow. It was here that Tutberidze began to turn out young skaters.

The ROC is also represented by gold medallist Anna Shcherbakova and silver medallist Alexandra Trusova who are both 17 years old and coached by Tutberidze. Together, Tutberidze intended for Valieva, Shcherbakova, and Trusova to sweep the podium by taking a formulaic approach and crowding each girl’s performance with quadruple jumps and especially difficult moves in order to achieve inflated scores. Valieva was the first woman to successfully complete a quadruple jump at the Olympic games, and Shcherbakova and Trusova were quick to follow, with Trusova planning a record-breaking five quadruple jumps in her routine. However, it should be noted that quadruple jumps become almost impossible to perform after the age of 17 and Tutberidze’s method of rotating before performing the jump is known to cause incredibly harmful long-term back injuries. In order to have almost all her athletes perform this jump in competition, Tutberidze began to set her sights on 12 to 15-year-olds, working these children tirelessly with up to 12-hour training days, with little regard to the long-term mental and physical toll of this training and the pressures of international competition. In the skating community, Tutberidze is known for her “one and done” scheme with none of her athletes earning more than one gold medal before retiring.

Eight years ago, Yulia Lipnitskaya won a gold medal at the age of 15 in Sochi’s 2014 Winter Olympics. She performed stunningly, skating to a song from “Schindler’s List” and quickly becoming a crowd favorite. Like Valieva, she was coached by Tutberidze until she retired at the age of 19 due to her battle with anorexia and three months of treatment. Tutberidze once reported to the news that Lipnitskaya was sustained by an all-power diet, which kept her “fit” enough to perform well on the ice. Lipnitskaya later spoke out about her difficulties with the pressures of the public eye and the need to achieve perfection. Lipnitskaya’s final performance before her retirement was heartbreaking, she struggled through the larger jumps in her program and stopped mid- skate with tears in her eyes. She finished in last place. While these events took place years ago, nothing has been done to intervene and put an end to this notably discernable pattern that continues on with Valieva and her teammates. The skating community has repeatedly acknowledged Tutberidze’s harsh methods and yet no corrections have been made. In fact, Tutberidze was awarded coach of the year in 2020 by the International Skating Union (ISU) who described her as a talented coach.

This inaction is reminiscent of what occurred with USA Gymnastics Doctor Larry Nassar who abused young gymnasts for decades. When the Federal Bureau of Investigation was aware of the situation but remained inactive for nearly a year, essentially enabling his horrible actions. All around, the system as a whole failed to protect these young girls and ensure that they were getting proper and safe treatment from those around them. Nassar was eventually sentenced to 60 years in prison, but this does not undo the pain he has inflicted on these athletes, and clearly the Olympic Committees on a national level have not learned their lesson. While the ISU and multiple anti-doping agencies pushed for Valieva not to compete due to her failed doping test, there would have been no interference or red flags raised had she passed the antidoping test.

In addition, the Court of Arbitration for Sport – an independent international body that aids in settling disputes – made the executive decision to allow Valieva to skate in the women’s free skate since disqualifying Valieva while her doping investigation remained ongoing would result in personal “irreparable harm.” Though, if the COA genuinely had Valieva’s best interest in mind they would have sent her home and provided proper and safe treatment for her to mentally and emotionally overcome the challenges she has faced and the barbed criticisms raining down on her from all angles. Furthermore, if the ISU focused on the well-being of its skaters, it would raise the minimum age and not allow children to experience the strain and pressures of the Olympics when they are not yet mentally and emotionally equipped to handle such difficult challenges. It is disheartening to see that a large scandal is required for committees to reanalyze an already flawed system and finally pay attention to the abuse occurring right under their noses rather than excusing it. Valieva is arguably one of the most talented female figure skaters on the ice at this year’s Winter Olympics. Her performances are breathtaking to watch and the execution of her jumps and combined artistry marked her as a future gold medalist with a promising career ahead of her. Now, due to the actions of her coach and the adults around her, her shining career may be boiled down to a performance riddled with mistakes and nowhere near indicative of her true talent. To protect young girls from experiencing the same difficulties in the future, the minimum age of the sport needs to be raised, and athletes should be looked after instead of viewed as mere tools to achieve gold medals for their country.
The Democratic moderate has failed. He failed when he praised stability over progress. He failed when he referred to the Democratic progressive as a dividing force. Instead of telling Americans what they don’t need in a candidate, it is time for Democrats to follow through on providing Americans with the help they do need to survive.

Democrats are weak in the U.S. House of Representatives and are on the brink of losing their majority. Rather than bolstering their approval ratings by following through on radically-progressive yet exceedingly-popular campaign promises, many Democrats have chosen to use their negative congressional position to sow fear of the unknown among constituents. In one of my own encounters within the political space, I witnessed a moderate unduly claiming that getting behind him, the incumbent, was a surer way to ensure the maintenance of a Democratic congressional majority. His race was deemed safely democratic, yet he was keen on making other Democratic contenders out to be less feasible than him.

When Americans go to vote in safely blue or red districts, most are no longer voting for a political party in a competitive district. Most are no longer concerned about blank statements by politicians trying to win solely with identity politics. They are voting for the candidate based on their respect for the struggle endured by their constituents. They are voting for those who value their masses over a few big donors. They are not voting based on partisan rivalries. They are instead voting on what candidate’s promises cater best to them. Voters are not dividing a party by standing beside one candidate over an incumbent, both of whom are Democrats. They are instead writing the future of the party’s political movement towards the left. They are gradually redefining what it means to be a Democrat based on their needs in the 21st century.

Instead of focusing on the progressive label of primary challengers, moderate Democrat incumbents must start looking at the issues their challengers amplify. Some representatives have done just that. Whether it is to run against progressives or to choose a successor who may lean left of them, some moderates are open to being genuinely receptive to the people in their constituency. Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson is precisely one of these people. A mainstream Democrat with a relatively-progressive political record, this lawmaker of 30 years endorsed Jasmine Crockett, a civil rights attorney with the backing of multiple leftist groups. More consequentially, taking inspiration from competitors like Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden has shifted considerably left on programs such as student loan forgiveness. Coming to the aid of ordinary Americans over Big Pharma and big money is a popular idea, supported by 80% of us according to Gallup. Instead of starting at a compromise on bills bolstering voting rights and citizens' economic power, Democrats can work down to that. The idea that the most progressive solution will shut down any room for legislative discussion with conservatives is an archaic one, considering the radically-racist legislation that is breezing through legislative bodies nationwide. The conservative position is to be skeptical of progress. They will always say, “No!” to reform. Moderate lawmakers like Senator Joe Manchin fail to realize this fact.

Being a good lawmaker is important, but running an election where you rely more on excusing your moderate positioning to just “doing your job” and “passing bills” is preposterous. A bill that helps no one is just a pretty piece of paper. Representing people is an elected official’s primary job. That is why they are elected.

It is time for moderate Democrats to drop this charade of trying to bring progress slowly. It is time for them to stop villainizing those who can’t afford to wait. Democrats were elected to follow through on their promises, mainly of which have become exceedingly progressive due to the needs of the youth. Don’t treat progressives as rebels, understand their vision and maybe, just maybe, adopt some of it as your own.

There’s No Such Thing as a Moderate Change-maker

Listen to the people, stop blaming “radicals” and forge ahead on progressive change

BY SPARKY MITRA
Staff Writer

The Democratic moderate has failed. He failed when he praised stability over progress. He failed when he referred to the Democratic progressive as a dividing force. Instead of telling Americans what they don’t need in a candidate, it is time for Democrats to follow through on providing Americans with the help they do need to survive.

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The battle over information happening in Russia

By Nelson Espinal
Features Editor

Over the past few months, Russia has increased its level of aggression towards Ukraine. Through placing forces closer to the border and intelligence leaks from the West, Russia is attempting to provoke an attack. Putin is establishing at least the threat of an attack. The digital attack push military forces to the border of Ukraine and Ukraine deteriorated a while ago, starting with Ukraine’s departure from the Soviet Union. After the Soviet Union collapsed, the nuclear weapons were spread across four countries, two of which were Russia and Ukraine. Ukraine gave up its arms in exchange for diplomacy with Russia.

The issues came when the United States offered an invitation for Ukraine to join NATO, making Putin feel threatened by the Western alliance group. The threat is based around having a Western-allied power so close to the motherland.

Back in 2015, Putin threatened with a similar attack, pushing military forces to the border of Ukraine and Russia along with an uptick of Russian propaganda in the area.

Now, Russia is pushing in again on the Ukraine borders, moving in tanks, military personnel, and resources. While their administration denies any kind of attempted aggression, the United States military feels otherwise. On the brink of war, Russia is continuing a staple of the Putin administration: controlling the narrative their people receive.

The vast majority of media based in Russia is government controlled, which allows the government to direct the narrative reported to the masses. Marielle Wijermars, assistant professor in cyber-security and politics at the faculty of arts and social sciences, outlined the rise of Russia’s control over the media. When Putin came to power, he started a campaign to take power back from the oligarchs, including in the media sphere,” Wijermars wrote. “Slowly but steadily he nationalized TV channels and established control over most newspapers. Since then, the news has become one-for-the-Russian public to blame Biden for the lack of diplomacy.

According to The Moscow Times, the Russian media is blaming the United States for the reports of an invasion on Ukraine. The government denies the claims and believes that the U.S. is simply trying to generate “hysteria.”

The majority of the Western elite thinks that eventually Russia will evaluate everything and retreat, allowing Kyiv to it happened and started. The circulation of information slows down when the information is funneled through the Russian government, creating a delayed reaction to events or allowing for the events to be retold in a different fashion. An example of the information transforming is in the story of the exploding car on the edge of Ukraine. A few cars caught on fire and outright exploded, a “false-flag” that

As Russian and Ukrainian tensions boiled over for the past few months, Russia’s media control gives them the first win without firing a shot.
“Marry Me”: What Happened to Romantic Comedies?

“Marry Me” is a prime example of this change: it shows two people trying to harmonize their different lifestyles, a genre that has become less about formulas that are nothing more than a canvas for the artist(s) to perform on. However, in recent years the film industry has been focusing less on romance and more on action films with guaranteed profit.

Marry Me

“Marry Me” is a prime example of this change: it shows two people trying to harmonize their different lifestyles, a genre that has become less about formulas that are nothing more than a canvas for the artist(s) to perform on. However, in recent years the film industry has been focusing less on romance and more on action films with guaranteed profit.

Review: 2022 Super Bowl Halftime Show

On Feb. 13, the 2022 Super Bowl Half Time Show was the first of its kind to feature an all hip hop line up of artists that included Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige, and Kendrick Lamar, alongside guest appearances from 50 Cent and Anderson .Paak. Being from Los Angeles, a lot of aspects of the performance resonated with me, the most obvious being the music, but the set was the first aspect that caught both my attention and admiration.

There were several elements of the set that immediately stood out, especially in comparison to previous halftime shows. With the exception of 2021’s show headlined by The Weeknd, the stages are usually just platforms with lights that are nothing more than a canvas for the artist(s) to perform on. However, this year the set took on a life of its own, being part of the show through artist interaction with the environment and the set actively conveying the history of Compton. A notable example includes the studio model Dr. Dre would interact with, changing sound channels and levels throughout the performance. Another memorable example was when Eminem literally broke out of the Compton Courthouse on the left end of the stage to begin his part of the show. Speaking of a notable Compton landmark, everything about the set evoked Compton’s personality. On the field was a projection of the map of Compton. Then, on both ends of the set was the Compton Courthouse and the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial, both images synonymous with the city. Growing up at my grandma’s place I had a great view of the towering courthouse; even now I can close my eyes and picture it in my head. In between the courthouse and the memorial were other notable locations like the Watts Towers on the current Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and Inglewood Avenue, both streets I repeatedly crossed through. Each building on the set featured the rooftop and a hollowed-out interior, both spaces the artists could perform in. Even the interiors of the set conveyed either the personality of Compton or the history of the artists. For instance, the building that housed the mixer Dr. Dre used featured a projection of his studio and accolades. During Snoop Dogg’s performance of “The Next Episode”, there were projections of his old album covers and music videos including the scene where he turns into a Doberman from “Who Am I (What’s My Name?)” and the cover for “Doggystyle.” Other parts of the set included projections of other notable locations like Dale’s Donuts on Atlanta and Alondra Boulevard. In all, some of the components of the set design worked together not just to serve as a canvas, but as its own performer, speaking aloud into the culture and history of both Compton and its hip hop scene.

Moving on from the set to the music, all of the artists seemed to be enjoying their time there. For instance, Snoop Dogg, who looked like he was at home “city walking” his way throughout the set, or Dr. Dre and Anderson .Paak constantly smiling throughout the show. You could see the passion in the eyes and facial expression of Mary J. Blige as she sang the words to “No More Drama,” and in Kendrick Lamar through his movements as he sang, most notably the way he switched his hands to the speed of his verse from “Alright.” All of the song’s choices were great as they all recalled the history and influence of hip hop from both the old and new generation. My only issue with the entire performance is that Kendrick Lamar didn’t perform more. Lamar only performed the intro to “M.A.A.D city” and “Alright” from the albums “good kid, m.A.A.d city” and “To Pimp a Butterfly” respectively. These two albums are arguably the best in his discography, always swapping the number one and number two spots in most people’s rankings, so it makes sense for those songs to have been there. However, he completely left out his most recent album, 2017’s “DAMN,” which received both critical and commercial success. Kendrick also has a history of performing unreleased music or music for future releases, like during his performance at the 58th Grammy Awards where he performed “Untitled 02/08” a month before “Untitled Unmastered” was even released, but nothing of the like was done either. Although the show was clearly more geared towards “old heads,” as both Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg dominated the show, it would have been amazing to see Kendrick Lamar take the reins for longer, demonstrating a passing of the torch moment, rather than just coexisting with Eminem, Dr. Dre, and Snoop Dogg continuing to rap soon after.

Regardless of my slight critique of the limited performance from Kendrick Lamar, I still believe that everything about the 2022 Super Bowl Halftime Show blended together to make the perfect tribute to the history of hip hop and the city of Compton. For it being the first time hip hop took center stage at the Super Bowl, it made a great first impression and will definitely be in the conversation as one of the greatest halftime shows of all time.

Artists: Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige, Kendrick Lamar, 50 Cent, Anderson .Paak
Director: Hamish Hamilton
Grade: A

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When all of our cultural consumption is curated by “for you” pages on social media apps, books are the natural alternative. Gone is the nefarious influence of the capitalist economy: readers are able to evade the subtle mind-controlling tactics of the algorithm, unimpeded by the slew of advertisements that have come to characterize online platforms. What better medium then, to explore the apocalyptic implications of life on the internet and how we have changed in response to its ubiquity? As someone who is both chronically online and an avid reader, I resort to books to help make sense of the digital spaces I occupy. Below is my literary guide to the digital apocalypse.

“In an Absolutely Remarkable Thing,” Hank Green

Written by YouTube veteran and VidCon co-founder Hank Green, “An Absolutely Remarkable Thing” is an insider’s glimpse into the pitfalls of the influencer economy. The novel begins when 23-year-old April May vlogs her discovery of a sentient metal sculpture she nicknames “Carl.” What ensues is April May’s collision with the celebrity economy, as she grapples with the implications of her newfound stardom. Green’s debut novel is an exercise in self-awareness; few people understand our propensity for self-commodification as acutely as Green does. Just as April May’s fame results in unprecedented wealth for her and her friends, so too does it invite a distorted perception of self. “An Absolutely Remarkable Thing” critiques the dual-identity syndrome rampant in internet culture and reasserts our vital need for collective compassion.

“Ten Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Accounts Right Now,” Jaron Lanier

In his brief manifesto on digital consumption, Jaron Lanier illuminates essential truths about social media; it is making us sadder, dumber, and angrier. Lanier interrogates our time on the internet with all the graveness that it demands. To Lanier, the prevalence of social media is not just irritating — it is dooming. The algorithm has so corrupted our autonomy that we are reduced to diluted versions of our former selves, unable to distinguish our own personal tastes from that of our TikTok account’s perfected algorithm. While Lanier’s musings have a strong, philosophical basis — Lanier himself is an ex-Silicon Valley tech bro, and has spent ample time reflecting on the consequences of his contributions — he offers little hope for the future of social media consumption. Indeed, Lanier’s conceptions of internet use are without imagination. Refusing to engage with others online is not a panacea for all of society’s ills, but there is a resounding truth in Lanier’s skepticism of the internet. Despite his misleading fatalism, Lanier’s core argument is indisputable: we must reevaluate how we use social media.

“No One Is Talking About Social Media Accounts Right Now,” Jaron Lanier

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7 Haikus that Encapsulate Winter Quarter

1. WEEK 1
Oh no, here we go
Another quarter to come
Maybe I’ll be fine

2. IN THE DEEP END
Only Week 3 and
I am already drowning
I need a floaty

3. MIDTERMS
I have not left the
Library in days. Do I
really need this class?

4. FRESH AIR
The stress is over
The air is sweeter… and hot
Time to hit the beach

5. BACK TO NORMAL
Study, sleep, repeat
Hang with friends and go to work
Finals still lurking

6. FINALS
S.O.S send help
I didn’t study enough
Too many beach trips

7. SPRING BREAK
It’s over; it’s done
Now to enjoy this big life
Spring will be alright

By Bradley Beggs
Lifestyle Co-editor
The Full Nelson: UFC 271

The bigger picture of the fight was centered around the feints Israel Adesanya used. These are some sort of fake-out where the opposing fighter does not know where the move is going to go, and will turn into an attack or not, requiring a fighter to mirror every body movement between the feint and their actual strike. Adesanya is a master of feints, with hip movement, different postures, and constant stance switches which always hide what attack comes next. The angles are always different, and in combination with his otherworldly head movement, he is a tricky fighter to read.

Whittaker is also a proficient striker, but a lot of his success comes from mixing up his jiu-jitsu along with wrestling as well. Robert’s triple jab was really effective in the fight, staying away from looping punches and keeping them straight for this fight. He mixed in a few takedowns and engaged in grappling situations to fight the best fight he could.

Round 1 was all Adesanya. Whittaker came out flat which featured little damage. The game started out with a lot of energy from both sides, and the star big men for each team were ready for the high-profile matchup. Early on, it was UCSD senior forward Tony Rocak with the advantage, with six early points and a tough layup finish on his third basket to give the Tritons a 20-8 advantage, forcing a UCI timeout.

UFC was the aggressor on defense early, leading to many difficult shots for the Tritons. In what seemed destined to be a match-up with a lot of back and forth, sophomore forward Jake Kosowsky knocked down a three without hesitation to take the lead at 15-14. The Triton defense answered with a call and forced a long Irving drive until about the eight minute mark, but the offense wasn’t able to stretch the lead much. Both teams fought hard on the defensive end, and eventually the shot’s began to roll in for both the Tritons as well. After a run for UCI, UCSD needed to put together a bigger run to find it in freshman forward Francis Nwaokorie’s big, one layup. UCI went on a run of their own, capped off by a sweet reverse layup from Rokac on a baseline drive. The 7-0 run put the Tritons up 25-23 in the first half after an open corner pocket three-pointer went in at the buzzer.

The second half brought much of the same. The two teams each seemed to have difficulty with the length and tenacity of the perimeter defense. The contested shots for each team were at low-high percentage looks, which was reflected in the outstanding field goal percentage numbers. UCI shot a paltry 34%, and UCI scored an absolutely ghastly 30% from the field. Neither team being able to capitalize off of missed shots and opportunities off of turnovers was the running theme, and neither seemed like either team was about to get hot they would go on a large drought.

To start the half, UCI outscored through the first punch with five straight points and a trio of free throws and a short jumper from Rocak. The Tritons would only score another two points in the next ten minutes though, and UC Irvine made a few free throws to all of a sudden take a 39-32 lead with nine minutes remaining. Whittaker was the lone effective offensive force for the Tritons, and his herculean effort was made more in vain as the final outcome effort. He scored free throws and a few layups to score the next six Triton points, and the lead was now 43-38. A UCI three pointer increased the lead to 45-38, but Rocak responded with a converted and One to keep the game within striking distance.

With UCI down 46-41 at the end of the first half, the clock, the need for some quick scores seemed dire. Free throws from UCI inflated the lead to nine, seemingly insurmountable with such little time. Two threes, the second one a bank shot from close to the lane, gave the Tritons exactly what was needed. The deficit was three at 30-47 with still 1:22 to go. Free throws were traded, and the lead was cut to two as UCI fouled on a three pointer and sent to the line, so the score was tied at 52-50 with 40 seconds left. UCSD regained possession off a textbook drawn charge from Rocak, and UCSD called timeout to draw up a play for the winning basket.

With 20 seconds left, the Tritons inbounded the ball and set a double baseline screen for Kosowsky to leak out behind. He caught the ball cleanly, but was short on the three point shot. UCI secured the rebound and made their free throws, clinching the victory. The final score to this hard fought game was 56-50, with both halves scoring an identical 28-25 in favor of UC Irvine.

The UFC offense was not ready for the aggressive and athletic brand of defense they faced from the Anteaters, although they are very talented, but short on the three point shot. UCI secured the rebound and made their free throws, clinching the victory. The final score to this hard fought game was 56-50, with both halves scoring an identical 28-25 in favor of UC Irvine.