

TOP HITS OF 2022



IMAGE COURTESY OF ID MAGAZINE.

We were very well loved this February with new releases from different artists! Toon into A & E's article to see what made the 2022 list so far- and if you agree with it.

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PROTECT STUDENTS, NOT GUNS

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FORECAST



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TUESDAY
H 22 L 11



WEDNESDAY
H 21 L 11



THURSDAY
H 25 L 12

VERBATIM

You look at our world specifically. I think that it can't just be a one-night thing, it can't be a month thing. It has to be something that, every day there's education, there is change. [It is important] that people are really coming together and understanding how important humanity is — not race, not any of the -isms, especially racism — and specifically Black Lives Matter."

- HEIDI VANDERVEER
SPORTS, PAGE 10

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CRIME

UCSD Sees Rise in Campus Thefts

BY NILOUFAR SHAHBANDI NEWS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

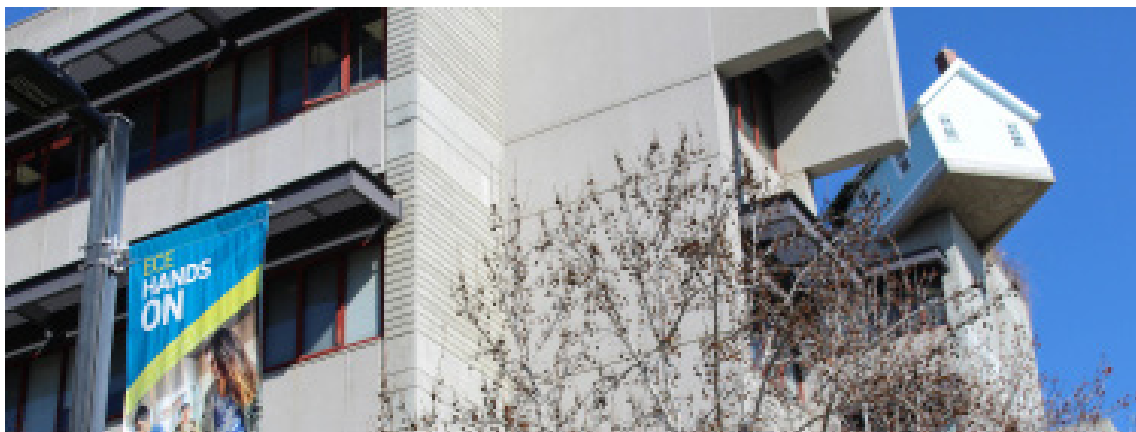


Image courtesy of Shirley Tan for UCSD Guardian.

Since the beginning of 2022, UC San Diego and the La Jolla region have been experiencing a rise in crimes, particularly theft incidents. UCSD students and staff have been victims of bike and catalytic converter thefts on campus, while more serious crimes have been taking place in La Jolla, reflecting a general trend of increasing crime around the country.

During the months of January and February, there have been a total of six UC San Diego Police Department Timely Warnings compared to only three from the same period last year. The alerts are part of a campus-wide email and text messaging alert system. According to the UCPD crime logs, 2021 only saw 10 timely warnings in total.

All of the 2022 warnings have been in relation to burglary, theft, and one regarding arson. Only two suspects involved in the warnings have been apprehended. During this same period, there were also 102 police reports of bike thefts.

One of these thefts was intercepted by a student as seen in a viral Reddit post from Feb. 17. The video, with 78,000 views and 1,900 upvotes as of Feb. 25, depicts a student punching a man for attempting to steal a bike in front of Warren Lecture Hall. Andy Sazima, a first-year graduate student and owner of the bike from the video, said that he parked his bike outside the lecture hall to go to class at 3 p.m. When his class ended at 6:30 p.m., he went outside to see that his bike was missing.

"After it was stolen, I walked to the trolley to get home, and then had a realization that I should go back and check for more evidence," Sazima said. "That's when I ran into the guy who took the video. He showed it to me, we exchanged info, and he told me it was at the police station, so 10 minutes later I had my bike back."

Sazima expressed what changes he believes could help reduce bike thefts.

"More surveillance would definitely not go over super well with the community," Sazima continued. "These events seem to happen disproportionately at night, so maybe more patrols around or some cameras around the larger bike parking areas. Maybe more surveillance around the trolley? I've heard that since

the trolley opened, more people come by to steal stuff, then can just hop on the trolley and get away quickly. I think the university should have a more open conversation about what the community wants. It's mostly our stuff getting stolen, and it seems like it's gotten more severe lately. I've only been here for a couple quarters, so I'm not one to reference for long-term trends, but that's just what I've heard from others who attend."

To learn more about these incidents, the UCSD Guardian asked Scott Gustafson, Lieutenant of UC San Diego Police Department and Leslie Sepuka, the Associate Director of University Communications, regarding the potential increase in on-campus crimes.

"The UC San Diego Police Department has seen an increase in property crimes over the past two months," Sepuka said. "Much of the theft has been of bicycles, electric bicycles, and electric scooters."

Sepuka and Gustafson explained that the rise in thefts can be attributed to more staff and students visiting campus. They also reported that UCPD is responding through staffing adjustments and increasing targeted patrols around campus.

"The [UC] police department also works closely with other departments on campus to prevent crime through high visibility of bike racks, bike lockers and bike garages," read their email.

The increase follows local and national patterns, with more serious crimes taking place in La Jolla and California. In the past month there has been a stabbing of a UTC employee, a robbery at Chase bank located on Villa La Jolla Dr, and numerous reports of stolen catalytic converters.

In many cases of theft, perpetrators are looking for catalytic converters, a key component of a vehicle's exhaust system, which includes various precious metals such as platinum, palladium and rhodium, which are worth up to \$1,200 each. According to Carlsbad police Captain Christie Calderwood, the price of these metals has increased especially during the pandemic incentivizing thieves to steal them and extract the metals.

Calderwood stated that there were 2,230 reports
See **CRIME**, page 3

COVID-19

California Drops Statewide Mask Mandate

BY ABBY LEE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

California's indoor masking mandate expired for fully vaccinated individuals on Feb. 16. According to new state guidelines, all individuals are still required to wear masks in certain locations, including public transport, K-12 schools and childcare settings, healthcare settings, homeless shelters, nursing homes, as well as correctional facilities and detention centers. In addition, unvaccinated individuals are

still required to wear masks in indoor public settings, such as restaurants and theaters.

The relaxing of the mask mandate coincides with declining COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations across California. In early January, the 7-day positivity rate was 22.6 percent. It has since decreased significantly to 3.7 percent, according to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)'s latest data from Feb. 21.

In comments to The Los Angeles Times, Dr.
See **COVID-19**, page 3

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

A.S. Council Brief Weeks 7 and 8: UC Student Policy Summit and the New Housing Policy

BY KAITLIN LEE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Week 7

In their Week 7 meeting, A.S. senators discussed projects such as a campus referral service and gave updates on current projects. Vice President Adrienne Blackshire announced an all-student summit in protest of the quarterly meeting with the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) and the council went over how to change the active directory (AD) passwords.

First, Sydney Harrison, a speaker for CALPIRG, a student organization centered on the reduction of climate change, gave an update on the group's mission to eliminate single-use plastics from California to curb plastic pollution.

Additionally, CALPIRG has been working with Assemblymember Laura Friedman in support of AB-26, a new bill that would ban single-use plastics in delivery packages. Additionally, CALPIRG is raising support for AB-2146, a bill for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators by reducing the usage of Neonics, a form of herbicide.

Then, Campuswide Senator Daniel Soria introduced his project, the campus referral service. The service will help organizations submit requests and hearings to the A.S. Council and help connect organizations to it more easily. Soria stated that more updates will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

Senator Anna Zick discussed her correspondence with the Triton Transfer Hub and mentioned plans for a student-led transfer council to help transfer students. However, this is still under development.

Next, Vice President of External Affairs Adrianna Blackshire spoke about her recent University Affairs (UA) quarterly meeting with University of California President Michael Drake and the rest of the UCOP. Blackshire explained that, despite expressed requests of UA students to not be merged with other organizations, UCOP plans to go against these requests.

"Due to the circumstance that UCOP has decided to pretty much go against our desire to not be merged with other organizations such as UC-GCP and the Council of Presidents, we have decided as members of UA to boycott the quarterly meeting," Blackshire elaborated.

Instead of attending, student representatives will attend a UC student policy summit on Feb. 28. Following this, the council moved on to reports of standing committees. The Finance
See **ASSOCIATED STUDENTS**, page 2

► **ASSOCIATED STUDENTS**, from page 1
Committee approved the following items:

- F2: Allocation of \$404.80 from programming funds to Alpha Epsilon Delta for UCSD Alpha Epsilon Delta
- F3: Allocation of \$3,298.34 from Programming Funds to Muslim Student Association for Tarbiyya Seminar

However, they tabled the following for two weeks.

- F1: Allocation of \$60k from Unallocated to the Booster Bucks Initiative
- F4: Allocation of \$15,000 from Student Organization Programming Funds to General Unallocated funds

Additionally, the Legislative Committee appointed Maria Charles as A.S. Election Manager.

Then, the council went over the reports of external committees. First-Year Senator Xavier Lopez presented on behalf of the cyberspace and governance committee in an update on the Jan. 10 campus notice, where it stated that students have to change their Active Directory (AD) password during Winter Quarter as part of a cybersecurity initiative. According to the Jan. 10 notice, the deadlines for password changes will be staggered over several weeks in order to not overload on the systems and Service Desk. The Active Directory Account, better known as the Triton Link account, is where students can access information such as class registration and financial aid.

Lopez provided a tutorial on how to change your password, which is also available at this link here. Additionally, Lopez provided a website to find whether your password has been compromised, which can be found here.

Senator Allyson Muir for the Library Student Advocacy Council spoke about the tunnel in the first level of the Geisel Library. Because the tunnel is too dark for studying, the council hopes to find a way to repurpose the space.

Senator Eng and the rest of the Executive Director of Campus Performances and Events office search are

currently working with a search firm, Isaacson Miller, to hire an executive director for the new Epstein Family Amphitheater. At the moment, Eng said that they are looking for students' input on how students and student organizations can use this space as well.

Senator Johnson spoke about the Mentoring for All Committee and their meeting on February 15. The Committee hopes to reach better outreach and wants to mostly reach out to first and second-year students.

Finally, in the end, Senator Ramos discussed her plans for a Student-Worker Parking project, a carpooling service for students to get to campus. However, when VP Lara asked about how COVID regulations will be taken into consideration, Ramos admitted that aspect will need more thought.

Week 8

In their Week 8 meeting, Housing Dining Hospitality, Basic Needs, and Student Legal Services were discussed by the A.S. Council. Additionally, project managers went over housing policies, off-campus resources, and new building projects being done in response to the housing crisis.

To start this meeting, there were special presentations led by HDH Associate Vice Chancellor Dr. Hemlata Jhaveri.

Associate Director of Housing Stacy Travis, Director of Residential Experience Megan Fox, and Associate Director of Housing Administrative Services Chris Dice went over the new housing policy for the 2022–2023 school year.

Housing applicants will be divided into 5 priority groups:

- Scholars in UC San Diego programs that provide four years of housing guarantee or mandate living on campus as a condition of their offer
- New incoming first-year and transfer students
- Returning second-year students, including second-year transfer students who resided in on-campus housing for at least two of three quarters in the 2021-22 academic year
- Remaining second-year students, including 2nd year transfers
- Remaining 3rd and 4th years

HDH said that it expects that groups 1, 2, and some of 3 will be housed. Group 3 will be selected by a lottery system and groups 4 and 5 will have a chance to apply for housing by joining the waitlist.

Travis also provided important dates for room selection.

- Now–March 1: Continuing student housing application
- March 8–14: Housing contract issued
- March 9–20: Living-Learning Community, I-House and opt-in for Gender Inclusive Housing
- April 14 and 22: Lottery date and time, and available space online
- April 29–28: Room selection sign-up by community
- May 3: Notification of delayed assignment

Students will have to apply for housing by May 1 and accept an offer by May 9. Continuing students who submitted a Continuing Student Housing application by the stated deadline, but were not able to receive a housing contract, will be moved to the waitlist. They'll have to update their record to stay on the waitlist.

Meanwhile, students in priority group 4 and 5 will apply once when the waitlist is open. Students on the waitlist will be offered spaces as they become available and will be able to choose any open undergraduate space. For more information, you can refer to the HDH website.

Next, the Hub Basic Needs Housing and Education Coordinator Kameo Quenga and Assistant Marissa Islas went over resources that can help students with the housing crisis. Students can refer to the off-campus housing office for resources to help them with off-campus living. The Off-Campus Housing website also has property listings, roommate searches, and emergency resources.

Following them, Student Legal Services Director Jon Carlos discussed the resources available to students. This includes free confidential counseling, education, and referrals for all students. reviews, and repairs/insurance. Students looking for their website can find it here.

UCSD Capital Program Manager Dennis Brown then went over the

reviews, and repairs/insurance. Students looking for their website can find it here.

UCSD Capital Program Manager Dennis Brown then went over the plans for the Theatre District Living and Learning Neighborhood. The new undergraduate residence will be located next to Revelle College and the La Jolla Playhouse.

It will be 900,000 sq. ft. and will house 2000 undergraduates. Along with rooms, there will also be recreation and wellness areas throughout. More information can be found here.

Project Manager Bryan Macias then covered the new ideas for Pepper Canyon West Housing. It will be built on the grounds Pepper Canyon Lounge, known colloquially as Camp Snoopy, is currently on.

Pepper Canyon Lounge will be demolished in the Summer of 2022 and the new Pepper Canyon West will be completed by Fall 2024. It will be made of two towers, of 22 and 23 stories respectively. It will house 1300 residents and the ground floor will be used for retail. It will have new public features also, including a canyon trail that goes into a courtyard of buildings and a large park along Gilman Drive. This will be used mostly for third and fourth years. For more information can be found here.


Project Leader Matthew Smith covered the Marshall District Living and Learning Neighborhood plans. It will be a new learning and living neighborhood at Marshall College, with 2000 beds and construction will begin in 2023.

Smith also stated that the new Triton Transfer Hub will be located in the Triton Center Project, also known as the Triton Pavillion. It will also include the Center for Global Education and the new node for the teaching and learning commons.

This will be built in the central campus, near the Gilman Super Loop and Price Center. This project will go into construction in 2022 and will be done around 2025.

Jhaveri also established that 704 spaces have been identified for triples. Jhaveri said the decision was made to alleviate the housing crisis in San Diego.

Following these presentations, Food and Housing Resources Assistant Vice President Natalie Chiang gave her special presentation on the



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Art courtesy of Ava Bayley for UCSD Guardian.

budget of the Professional Closet Program. This is a project the office hosts every year to address difficulties students may have accessing professional clothing. This program seeks to support students by providing them \$50 gift cards to purchase appropriate interview outfits from stores like Target or Amazon. Chiang gave the budget proposal of \$200,000 from Associated Students to support 400 students to find professional wear.

Senator Serena Zheng announced her revival week project called Renewal Winter. This project will give out 200 care packages to students studying nurs-

ing. This event will take place on March 7 out on Muir Quad where care packages with goodies like ramen and face masks will be given out to nursing students only.

Senators Callahan, Kimiko Walker, and Griffith gave updates on their projects. Senator Rosario told the council of two new projects: one is a scholarship committee, and the other is a new art installation at Sixth College. VP Lara introduced a mentor-mentee program for the A.S. council and said mentor-mentee pairs will be announced by Week 10.

President Manu Agni went over plans for Spring Break. Agni noted that like last year, he hopes

that more people opt to stay in San Diego than go out of the city to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 as a result of traveling in and out of San Diego. Additionally, Agni reminded people to self-test after returning to campus after the break.


Agni addressed issues with the Pronto App that students use for the trolley and buses, where the barcode that students scan to pay their fare would not work. He said that he discussed it with those behind the app and an update will be coming soon in the upcoming weeks.


Finally, Agni explained that he was working to get more funding for the library to get outdoor seating.

Senator Lopez reiterated that the Chief Information Security Officer announced that starting March 1, students need the UCSD VPN to access computers and networks.


Read more at [ucsdguardian.org!](https://ucsdguardian.org/)

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► **CRIME**, from page 1
of catalytic converter thefts in San Diego in 2021, an increase of over 1,800 since 2020. Stolen catalytic converters have been reported both on and off campus. There have been five reports of stolen catalytic converters on campus in the month of February, mostly near graduate housing.

The most frequent target for thieves are Toyota Priuses, followed by Honda Elements and Accords. Leonardo Gonzalez, an Earl Warren College junior, whose catalytic converter was stolen last week described what happened.

“I left my car parked outside by Costa Verde Boulevard for one night and got my catalytic converter stolen,” Gonzalez said. “When I turned my car on the next day it made a loud screeching sound and I knew something was wrong. To top it all off, my car is a 2007 Honda Accord that I never thought anyone would have their eyes on.”

Such occurrences mark a general rise in crime in California since the beginning of the pandemic. While the Black Lives Movement in 2020 encouraged many to advocate decreased funding for police departments, rising reports of criminal activity and homicide rates have led various city leaders to reverse their judgements. However, it’s important to note that collection of crime data in California and nationwide has been inconsistent.

To learn more about safety tips or reporting any crimes or suspicious activities on campus, visit the UCPD website.

► **COVID-19**, from page 1
Tomás J. Aragón, California’s Director of Public Health, said he is highly optimistic that the state is recovering

from the recent Omicron wave. “Omicron has loosened its hold on California,” Aragón said. “With things moving in the right direction, we are making responsible modifications to COVID-19 prevention measures, while also continuing to develop a longer-term action plan for the state.”

However, The LA Times also reported that a number of doctors maintain that lifting the indoor mask mandate for vaccinated individuals is premature, given that the pandemic is still ongoing. Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases at UC San Francisco, Dr. Sarah Doernberg, expressed her concerns about the uncertain future of the pandemic.

“March seems soon to me to take away masks. I think we need to see more time to understand what’s going to happen,” Doernberg said to The LA Times. “It feels a little premature to take that away.”

UC San Diego also appears to be maintaining a cautious stance towards the COVID-19 pandemic. In a schoolwide email sent out on Feb. 17, UCSD’s Return to Learn Program reiterated that UCSD would continue to mandate indoor masking for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status.

“Although California’s public indoor masking requirement for vaccinated people ended yesterday, UCSD will continue to require all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to mask indoors at the university,” the email read. “Our more cautious campus safety protocols are in line with



Image courtesy of Althea Tien for UCSD Guardian.

other school systems and universities across the country. They are guided by an array of national, state, local and campus data that are analyzed by UCSD’s experts in epidemiology, medicine, predictive modeling and public health.”

Speaking to the UCSD Guardian previously, Dr Robert Schooley emphasized that UCSD would not tighten or relax current measures based on thresholds alone. Instead, they observe trends in key parameters to make decisions proactively before such thresholds are reached.

“We monitor multiple data streams every day to ascertain whether there are any concerning

signals of an increasing incidence of SARS CoV-2 infection among our faculty, staff or students,” Schooley wrote.

These data streams include: the case rate in faculty, staff and student populations, evidence of locations or events that are responsible for infection clusters, the number and distribution of positive wastewater signals, as well as student behavior and police reports. In addition to analyzing data within the UCSD population, the Return to Learn program also observes the local incidence and hospitalization rate in San Diego to determine if the demographics of those infections overlap with UCSD’s population.

Together, these data drive the Return to Learn program’s informed

decision-making process. “In addition to monitoring absolute rates of all of these parameters, we look for trends and trajectories and — after taking all of this into account — make decisions daily about whether we should recommend tweaking of precautions in either direction,” Schooley explained.

UCSD’s efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 appear to be working, as the 14-day rolling percentage of positive cases at UCSD has consistently remained much lower than that of San Diego county.

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Protect Students, Not Guns

BY ZARA IRSHAD
Editor in Chief

It was a productive start to a long weekend. While I was visiting friends at UC Berkeley, we decided to study at Doe library, the only worry on our minds being our looming final exams. The soft afternoon wind pushing through the high windows was the only sound that filled the quiet hall — until it wasn't.

Loud popping noises abruptly pierced the silence, followed by terrified screams. Heads started slowly lifting from laptops and notebooks, pulled out of their studying trances. They lingered, scanning the room and searching the faces around them for clues as a cloud of agitation set in.

When the screams intensified, every student in the crowded library jumped out of their seats like clockwork. Some ran out of the room and smashed a window, opting for the 15 foot jump over the confines of the library. Others began to barricade themselves into the room, shutting off the lights and huddling in the corners. There was no hesitation. No one said a word, but the silence spoke volumes.

We later found out that the noises were actually caused by a campus club playing a balloon popping game outside, not an active shooter. But that didn't make the experience feel any less real. Perhaps the most upsetting aspect of this bizarre incident to me was that everyone's mind

automatically assumed it was a school shooting. There was no pause to peer out the window and check for the source of the sound. We were in America, a country that makes up nearly a third of the world's mass shootings despite only housing about 4% of the world's population. Of course it would be a shooting. As one of my friends put it, unsolicited loud noises have become "the modern equivalent of yelling fire in a crowded room"

While many liberal politicians are starting to back stricter gun control legislation, there lacks a direct focus on the protection of students which has resulted in over 292,000 students witnessing this sort of gun-driven terror at school before even reaching college-age. Lawmakers need to narrow their immediate focus toward banning guns from school grounds, K-12 and college campuses alike, especially as 2021 saw the largest number of school shootings in the past two decades.

As of today, there are no federal laws that explicitly restrict guns on college campuses, leaving the decision to the discretion of each state. Only 16 states have enacted a ban on concealed weapons on campuses. K-12 campuses, on the other hand, have slight federal protection through the Gun-Free School Zones Act that aims to regulate gun possession in and near these schools. However, the act has a major loophole that exempts those who are licensed by a state to carry a handgun. Given that this law was enacted back in 1990, and there have

been over 300 K-12 school shootings since then, something clearly isn't working.

It would be tragically naive to imply that simply banning guns from these campuses would completely prevent gun violence from occurring. However, minimizing the accessibility of these weapons and replacing them with non-lethal alternatives if needed, is a start.

Currently, 33 K-12 schools lack definitive laws against faculty carrying guns and, as of 2012, around 75% of university police departments carried guns. Despite this freedom, some states are fighting for even looser gun restrictions on school grounds, and others are making it easier than ever to obtain a gun in the first place.

What initiatives like these fail to acknowledge is that adding more guns to the equation won't decrease gun violence rates and may actually do the opposite. Many of the states that are fighting for these looser restrictions, and that are already allowing faculty to carry guns, are also the states with some of the higher rates of gun-induced deaths.

Take, for example, the California public school teacher who accidentally shot a student during a safety demonstration, or the Alabama public school teacher who unintentionally fired a gun in a classroom, injuring a first grader. Teachers are trained to educate, not operate lethal weapons.

The risk that comes with having these weapons in close vicinity to students in the first

place is palpable. Over the past five years alone, there have been numerous instances of guns being left accessible to students due to negligence of the faculty in possession of these weapons. Given that the number of children that have accidentally fired guns, whether that be at home or in public, has only increased during the pandemic, it's better to be safe than sorry.

On college campuses, the necessity of armed university police departments has been a topic of debate in recent years, with many students explaining that the presence of these armed university police makes them feel unsafe and agitated. It's not hard to see why. In Georgia, 21 year old student Scout Schultz was shot and killed by university police when he was experiencing a mental health crisis. In Cincinnati, an unarmed civilian was shot and killed by university police during a minor traffic stop. There is already immense distrust in policing systems, with public confidence in police dropping to 48% in recent years. Given that a majority of campus crimes are property related, it seems excessive to have university police so heavily armed.

In today's day and age, the desire of those working at K-12 or college campuses to be equipped for disaster is unfortunately understandable. Addressing the general lack of gun control in America that causes much of this fear is a much bigger beast to tackle, one that is slowly being chipped away at by democratic lawmakers across the country.

While gun laws continue to spark controversy, students deserve for schools to be undisputed safe spaces, and securing K-12 and college campuses by replacing guns with non-lethal alternatives would prevent putting students at any further risk.

I haven't been able to get the incident at Doe library out of my head since it happened and neither have the friends that I was with. The blur of moments keeps replaying in my head. The way my stomach dropped to the floor as yells and clusters of pops filled the air. The desperate dash to the back of the room, sliding under the table so frantically that someone's laptop charger got tangled around my neck. The shaking mass of bodies coiled together, frantically texting loved ones but not knowing what to say.

This sense of fear, this collective trauma, has been instilled into American youth from a young age. Growing up and watching one massacre after the other on the news, one can't help but wonder if it'll happen to them. This wasn't my first active shooting lockdown experience at an educational institution, and it wasn't for my friends either. Until lawmakers are able to implement strict federal laws that make it more difficult to obtain and carry a gun in public, these weapons must at least be cleared from the classroom. After all, the goal should be to protect students, not guns.



Art by Angela Liang for the UCSD Guardian.

S+E MEDIA CLUB 003: TOP HITS OF 2022 (SO FAR)

2022's just begun, but there's already been droves of new tracks from some of our favorite artists released, check out A&E Senior Staff Writer Sarah and A&E Editor Elias' highlights below!

It's crazy to think February is coming to a close — time feels like it's slowed to a crawl while simultaneously flying by. Even so, there's already been a ton of new music released (as well as announced), and we've compiled a list of our favorite picks for you to check out below.

PORN ACTING* - JEAN DAWSON

Jean Dawson is back with the second single from his upcoming project, "Chaos Now." The angsty guitar-laden track "Porn Acting*" comes just a few months after his first single, "Menthol." Both tracks seem to indicate that Dawson is leaning further into the grungier aspects of his music on his upcoming project, with wailing guitars and the San Diego-born artist's trademark distorted vocals. "Porn Acting*" sees Dawson assure the world that he is not to be messed with, singing "Boy don't play me, put you on a t-shirt/Put you where your knees hurt, put you in the grave." The braggadocious nature of Dawson's lyrics are balanced out by a refreshingly self-aware cry: "I'm full of sh-t just like you." Both "Menthol" and "Porn Acting*" are a departure from the artist's glitched out breakout record "Pixel Bath," but fans shouldn't worry, as Dawson is perfectly at home amidst the chaos of these two new tracks. With a strummy ear-worm hook and a whole lot of attitude, "Porn Acting*" is sure to stick with you for a while.

-E



Image courtesy of Jamznet.



Image courtesy of Yeek on Youtube.

FREAKY (RGB) - YEEK

Yeek gets downright sultry in his new single "Freaky (RGB)." Seductive, groovy, and soulful, "Freaky" is a testament to Yeek's energetic sensibilities. Born Sebastian Carandang, Yeek is bedroom pop's most promising breakout star. He epitomizes the D.I.Y. work mentality of Soundcloud rappers: he produced, wrote, and created an accompanying short film for his most recent album "Valencia." His newest single "Freaky (RGB)" opens with an homage to the Y2K experience with lyrics such as "Meditation music on the PS2 is on/ RGB remote control, I know what you want." Indeed, "Freaky" is an exercise in nostalgia; from funk-reminiscent synths to timeless R&B romance lyrics, Yeek covers all his bases with high-energy and tenderness. If "Valencia" cemented Yeek's status as an innovative R&B lyricist, then "Freaky" showcases his expertise in rhythm and groove.

-S

SAOKO - ROSALÍA

Rosalía arrived on the scene with the debut of her sophomore album "El Mal Querer," a record that blended traditional flamenco instrumentation and vocalization with contemporary pop in a way no one had ever thought possible before. It's been four years since "El Mal Querer's" release, and just as speculation of a new project was gaining momentum online, Rosalía has announced her new project "Motomami" with the release of the single "SAOKO" (named after the song of the same name by reggaeton legends Daddy Yankee and Wisin). The track is a shot of adrenaline, the pounding reggaeton-inspired instrumentation boasting industrial tinges reminiscent of Rosalía's close friend and collaborator, Arca. The Spanish singer even name drops one of pop music's biggest recluses (and a rumored guest star on the upcoming project), Frank Ocean, singing "Frank me dice que abra el mundo como una nue'." The track's lyrical motif is change, transformation, something which Rosalía seems to have taken to heart on this new project as she embraces new sounds and takes new risks. "Motomami" releases on March 22, and "SAOKO" indicates that it'll be an album worth looking out for.

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Image courtesy of Stereogum.

CHOCOLATE HILLS - KHRUANGBIN & LEON BRIDGES

Like Yeek’s “Freaky (RBG),” “Chocolate Hills” is nostalgia music, but of an entirely different sort. Leon Bridges channels Al Green’s smooth and sexy vocal energy, while Khruangbin imbues the track with their characteristic 1960s soulfulness. What at first seems like an odd pairing — the Houston based musical trio is best known for their forays into psychedelic pop, while Leon Bridges is a well established soul singer — Khruangbin and Leon Bridges’ collaboration just makes sense. The two styles complement each other well: where Bridges is retro and melodic, Khruangbin is experimental and subversive. In a music industry saturated with overproduced pop songs and algorithmically inclined one-liners, Khruangbin and Bridges’ music stands in stark defiance. “Chocolate Hills” is both innovative and derived, familiar, yet entirely new.

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Image courtesy of Leon Bridges on Youtube.

BBYCAKES - MURA MASA (FT. SHYGIRL, LIL UZI VERT, PINK PANTHERESS)

The mastermind beat-maker behind the A\$AP Rocky-led “Love\$ick” is back with another banger off his upcoming album “Soundtrack to a Death, Part 2.” The chipper track features sped up chipmunk-like vocals from both Shygirl and Pink Pantheress, two of the year’s biggest hyperpop acts, as well as a verse from rapper Lil Uzi Vert. The bouncy beat of the tune is juxtaposed with Uzi and Pink Pantheress’ confessions of infidelity, an approach that makes the tune as sad as it is fun. The matter-of-fact nature with which Pink Pantheress delivers her devastating truths (“I know I messed up when I was seeing your best friend,” “So I called you here to tell you I’m with someone you know/And if I said that I loved you, I lied”) reflects the cheerful apathy of the songs’ protagonists; and even knowing how awful what they’re saying is, you won’t be able to stop yourself from bobbing your head, bouncing your knee, or tapping your hand to the beat of this tune.

-E

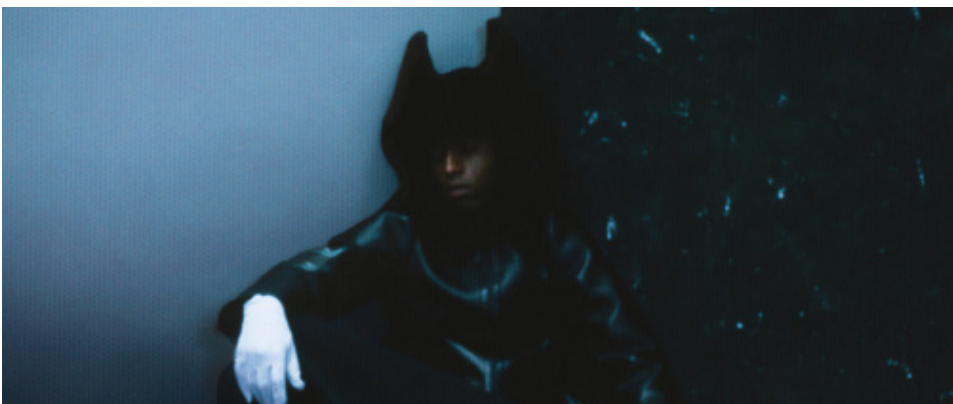


Image courtesy of Genius.

GINGER PUBES - BAKAR

Bakar’s anger is resounding in “Ginger Pubes”: “I keep fuckin’ it up” he repeatedly sing-yells in the first verse of the song. The track, with its hard-hitting drums and phlegmy hollered re-frains, is a classic punk tune. While Bakar carries strong punk influences in his newest album “Nobody’s Home,” his music is anything but derivative. Bakar seems to have eclipsed genre in his perfect melding of pop and alternative rock, testing the boundaries of any one musical style. Born in north London, Bakar’s music is a reflection of his experiences as an immigrant and avid fan of British music — Amy Winehouse is among the many artists from which Bakar gains inspiration. Through innovation and a keen sense for genre-mashing, Bakar carves up a slice of the music scene all for himself.

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A Bittersweet Valentine’s Day

BY PRISCILLA ANNA PUNO
Lifestyle Co-Editor

14 FEBRUARY 2022, 9:34 AM PST
THE CAVE

It’s morning. The sky is gray and overcast, seeping doom into the small college town of UC San Diego. Despite the cold, the air is nice: fresh, and salty from the nearby ocean. Students walk around campus going to class, work, or meeting a friend at the library. Simple things, hidden from the true horrors of humanity. These children are unsuspecting subjects; ordinary people with ordinary lives that I watch from my hovel above.

I’m sitting in my room, lights off as I hold a paper cup filled with cheap, bitter dark coffee. My father always took it that way so I drink it out of habit. I take a sip and let the unpleasant sourness dissolve onto my tongue. The window I am looking out of is foggy, though I am unsure if it is from the cold or the cloudiness in my eyes. I hadn’t slept at all last night, too distracted by the haunting memories of my past. Either that or I forgot to put my contacts in again.

It turns out to be a mere trick of the weather, the blurriness disappearing when I take an old towel to wipe off the condensation. Once it’s clear I take some time to observe. I do this every morning before I start my work; it helps keep my detective skills up to par.

At this time the campus is usually slow, with just a few lonely students walking to their early classes but otherwise empty. I expect to see the same on this unassuming morning but instead, I find crowds of people, ten times more than I usually see, at least. They scurry around quickly like mice in a maze looking for the cheese in the trap. But that isn’t what worries me, no. What I found to be the most peculiar was that these civilians were traveling in pairs, fingers laced together beside their hips.

What was this mystifying phenomenon? Why were the previously lonely students at UC San Diego grasping onto their peers like tangled spools of thread? And who was behind it? As I took another sip of my

now cold coffee I vowed that I would get to the bottom of this, no matter what the sacrifice.

14 FEBRUARY 2022, 01:17 PM PST
BUS STOP

The first thing you learn as a detective is that in order to get good intel, you must first observe. That is why I spend my mornings looking out my frosty window, watching people live their ordinary little lives. But for this case, that isn’t good enough. I need to see these people up close, warts and all, in order to accurately deduce what dubious plot is afoot.

I decide on going to the bus stop. I’m worried that people may be contracting some sort of bizarre illness that causes them to seek out romantic physical touch. If this is natural or manmade I can’t be sure. They could be getting it off campus and bringing it back and infecting other students; hence, the bus stop. So I sit on the cold wooden bench and watch people come and go, observing their movements, facial expressions, even their way of speaking. Whenever I do this I always feel a bit disconnected, as if the darkness in my heart is preventing me from understanding what these people feel every day. But today I decide to push these thoughts aside, my mind only on solving this mystery. I sit for hours sipping my second cup of coffee, black and bitter, hoping, praying, for a clue that will help me save the campus from destruction.

Unfortunately, this investigation left me even more confused than I was before. Those who were infected acted just like normal people aside from the symptoms they displayed (not that I truly understood what normal was anymore). I had mentioned the hand-holding before and that still rang true. However, I also found that students were giving each other flowers. Was this some sort of biological warfare? Were the flowers getting students sick?

I made a list of symptoms that I detected during my investigation. They are as follows:
Holding hands
Exchanging of flowers

(flowers spread disease?)
Abnormal amounts
of eye contact
Sustained physical touch
Excess smiling
Affinity towards

the colors red and pink
Heart-shaped branding
But despite these astute observations I still didn’t know why this was happening, and I was worried that the longer I took to figure it out the less likely these people would be to recover. And even though I am old and jaded by now, I still cannot stand the thought of another person dying by my hand. I decided to conduct some outside research to find out what was going on and how to stop it.

14 FEBRUARY 2022, 04:22 PST
SUN GOD

After returning to The Cave to get my laptop, I sit on the lawn at Sun God and try to find out more information. But the deeper I search the more horrified I become. I assumed that this phenomenon was only occurring on UC San Diego’s campus but I was wrong. It’s happening all over the country and nobody is doing anything about it. They call it “Valentine’s Day”, a romantic holiday that many claim exists to celebrate their loved ones. It happens every year. Perhaps I hadn’t heard of it before because I no longer have loved ones to celebrate.

But it goes deeper. As I research I find that people plan for Valentine’s day weeks, even months ahead. They spend hundreds of dollars on extravagant gifts, and for what reason? This foul disease is taking over the lives of civilians and nobody is there to stop it. Am I the only one who sees how sinister this plot is? How can they not see the danger that they are in?

This case is bigger than I thought it would be. I assumed that it would be local and contained and that I would only need to “talk” to a few people to make the whole situation go away.

For rest of article,
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Is Youtube Still Relevant?

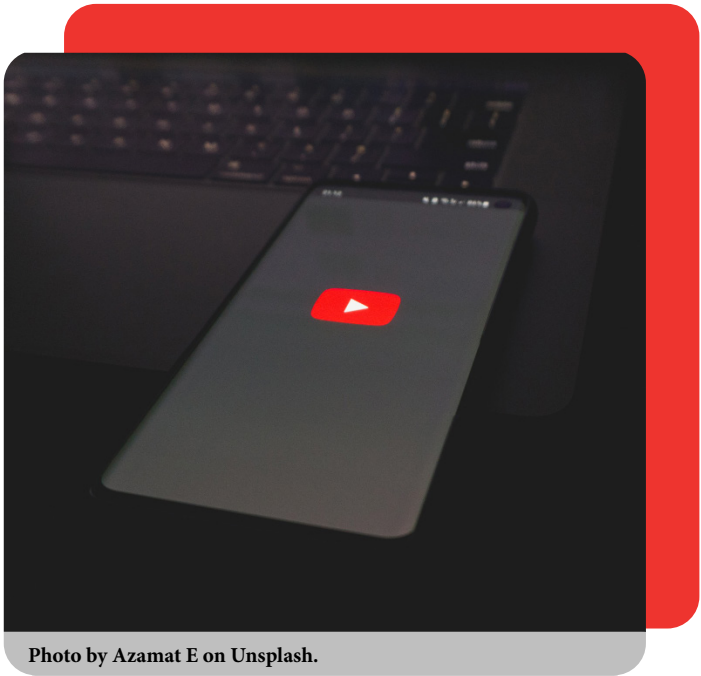


Photo by Azamat E on Unsplash.

BY PRISCILLA ANNA PUNO
Lifestyle Co-Editor

There I was in my cozy loft back in my childhood home; I received my first iPod touch for the first time in fifth grade (too young, I know). I thought I had the world at my fingertips, and when you’re at that age, you have no idea about the content that roamed around the internet at that time.

My first youtube video was Ryan Higa’s “How to be Ninja”. With the maturity level of a carrot, this was peak comedy. And from there I was introduced to the world of Youtubers and what it meant to have a social presence. I believe that Youtube was an essential part of my life growing up, from how to apply winged eyeliner to Jenn Im vlogs, I was hooked. At this time my only form of entertainment was playing “Bloxorz” on coolmathgames.com so it was exciting to enter this new world of content.

With how fast social media has evolved, I began to wonder. Is Youtube even relevant anymore? Sure I’ll pull up Lofi girl if I need to study or watch a couple of Mina Le videos here and there, but I find that I never have the urge to jump onto Youtube and watch individuals overshare on the internet anymore. If you were anything like me, it was simply a little escape to indulge in other people’s interests and hobbies, but I don’t remember the last time I had a Youtube hyper fixation.

In 2019, I arguably made the best or worst decision of my life by downloading Tiktok. During peak pandemic attempting to learn the infamous “Renegade” dance just like everybody else, I found my newest hyper fixation.

Eventually, over time it gave me brain rot and I tried (emphasis on tried), to stay off that app as much as possible. But sometimes after working for 3 hours straight, you just want a way to wind down the day for a couple of minutes... or a couple of hours.

With the rise of new-age influencer lifestyles, I started to realize, this is the new Youtube. Tiktok is a platform that people of all ages have on their phones

and has easily digestible content. It’s easy to just mindlessly scroll on your For You Page and come across what the newest trends are. Similar to Youtube, there is a plethora of niche content for essentially anyone to watch, but more compactly and quickly to get your quick fix of entertainment for the day.

Now I’m not talking about how it serves as a platform for music videos, how-to videos, or daily Jubilee videos, I’m interested in how it has affected the lives of people who dedicated years to posting weekly videos. With large Youtube names such as Tyler Oakley and Jenna Marbles, their rise to fame was quick, but their downfall was quicker. Of course, YouTubers have gotten older and have realized this was essentially just a phase in their life, but sometimes I still see old school Youtubers trying to stay relevant on Tiktok and I think their time has simply passed. YouTubers have gathered large fan bases surrounding them and with the infamous Vidcon, they don’t hold as much weight or excitement as they used to. I believe that many people are still nostalgic of this era, but don’t pay any mind to the current content that is being released or having the means of over exaggerating the creator’s digital footprint.

With my love-hate relationship with that damn clock app, I hate to admit that Youtube doesn’t provide the same fulfillment that Tiktok does. Youtube is still a very useful app if I want to learn how to make roasted garlic, but why would I do that when I can simply look up “roasted garlic” in the search bar and see someone made a 10-second video on it.

The sad reality is that Youtube just does not have the same effect that these new-age platforms have. These Youtubers will, of course, always stay near and dear to my heart, but it’s somewhat refreshing to see new forms of entertainment being brought to our fingertips.

If you’ve gotten to this point of the article, I suggest you go ahead and turn on Miss Lofi girl and continue studying for that Business final you have in two weeks. Thanks for reading!

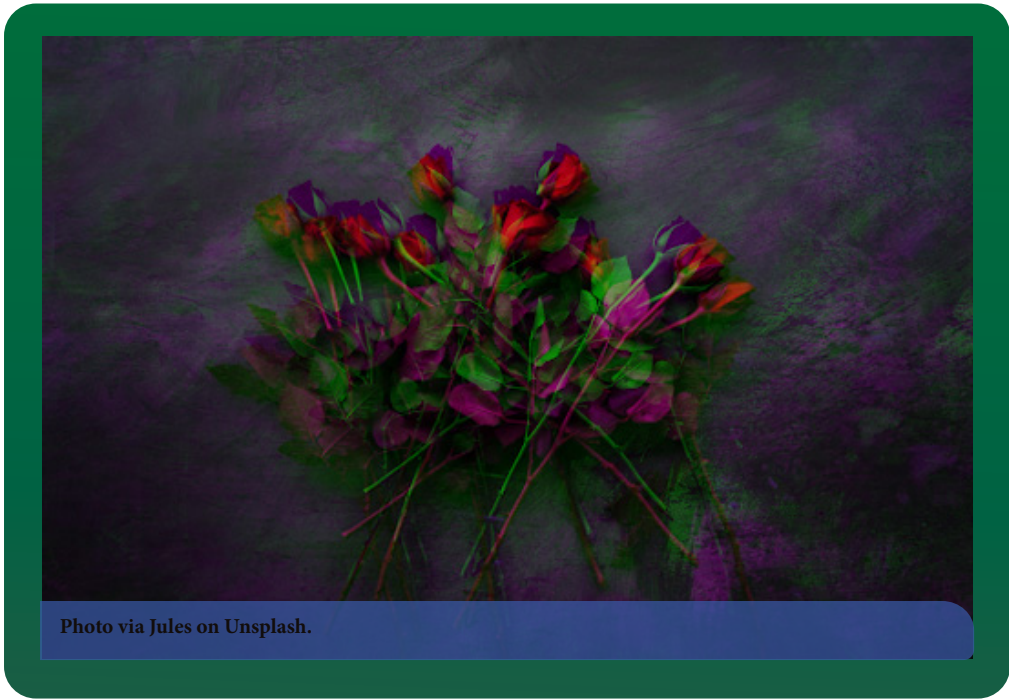


Photo via Jules on Unsplash.

SPORTS

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UPCOMING
UCSD
GAMES

M Volleyball	3/2	7PM	vs Hawaii
M Tennis	3/3	9AM	Villanova
W Basketball	3/3	7PM	vs CSU Bakersfield
Softball	3/4	12:30PM	vs Yale
W Water Polo	3/5	12PM	vs CSUN



Image courtesy of TSN.

“No War Please”:
International Sport
Converges with
Geopolitics

BY PRAVEEN NAIR
Sports Editor

This week’s shocking and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russian and Belarusian forces has plunged the nation of over 43 million into conflict, and in such times, sports should naturally take a back seat to more pressing developments. But as we are so often reminded, sports are not so easily separated from geopolitical issues, and the recent push to sanction and isolate Russia has presented complicated questions about the role of international sport in a turbulent world, questions that have decades of precedent. The most famous examples of the interference of geopolitics with international sport are the Olympic boycotts of 1980 and 1984, in which the United States and its allies boycotted the Moscow games, followed by an Eastern Bloc boycott of the Los Angeles games. These boycotts

are generally thought of poorly in hindsight, certainly from the athletic community, as they hurt the athletes who missed out on once-in-a-lifetime chances more than they could possibly have hurt the opposing superpower. Both the CEO of the US Olympic Committee and then-Vice President Walter Mondale offered partial apologies to affected athletes, but only 40 years later. But in a broader sense, the boycotts violated one of the main principles of the Olympics and international sports, the same principle that Baron Pierre de Coubertin created the modern Olympics to honor: that international competition at the highest level could, if even for a fortnight, inspire and break down barriers between the countries of the world in the name of sport. Sports are supposed to transcend political lines, not be beholden to them, right? But, of course, things are not that simple. First of all, what constitutes a “political

disagreement” as opposed to legitimate humanitarian interest is entirely subjective. We might agree that the Russian invasion of a sovereign Ukraine is worthy of severe repercussions, but how about human rights violations in China, Qatar, or Saudi Arabia, all of which regularly host massive sporting events? At the same time, to what degree should we allow the sins of a government to punish perfectly innocent athletes? These questions are being answered in real time this week. Take, for example, Formula One, which might be the most international sports league in the world, with teams based in 7 countries, drivers from 14 countries, and races held in 20 countries around the world. One of those races was scheduled to take place in Sochi, the Russian city that hosted the 2014 Winter Olympics; after widespread pressure from fans, media, and drivers — including four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel saying he would not race in Russia even if the race was held there — the race has been suspended. But the more interesting entanglement with Russia is in the garage of Haas F1 Team, as preseason car testing gets underway. Intriguingly, Haas is the only American team on the F1 grid, but since last season, they have been sponsored by Russian fertilizer producer Uralkali, leading to their car livery being based largely on the Russian flag. What’s more, one of Haas’ drivers is Nikita Mazepin, the son of Dmitry Mazepin, a billionaire Russian oligarch who is a major Uralkali shareholder and among the oligarchs that met with Vladimir Putin on Thursday to discuss sanctions. Haas have removed Uralkali branding and Russian colors from the team car, but the question of what to do with Nikita Mazepin is more

complex. Mazepin was the consensus worst driver in Formula One last season, and Formula One seats are a rare commodity that few drivers get a shot at; without the backing of Russian capital, Mazepin’s seat would very likely belong to a better driver. But Mazepin is far from the only driver to come from big money — wealthy parents are more the norm than the exception in F1 — and if, as seems all but certain, Uralkali is out as the main sponsor of Haas, he stands to lose his Formula One seat through little fault of his own. It’s a sticky situation, but one that exemplifies the inherent complications when sports, finance, and international politics — two out of three things you should never talk about at a dinner table — intersect. There is also the question of whether Russian athletes can, should, or should be expected to speak out against their government’s actions. It might be easy for Americans, who have relative freedom of speech and can criticize their government all they want, to decry influential Russians who don’t exercise those rights. But especially for athletes who just want to keep their heads down and play their sport, doing so could jeopardize their careers and livelihoods, especially in a nation where thousands have already been arrested for protesting the invasion of Ukraine. To ask an athlete to put so much at stake for little material benefit to anyone is unfair. But this only makes the stands taken by the Russian athletes who have spoken against the war, even if not directly against Putin, all the more impressive. Alexander Ovechkin, a 3-time NHL MVP and probably the foremost Russian athlete in the United States, made a broad appeal against the war on Friday. Ovechkin’s statement was indirect, but given that

he is a longtime supporter of Putin who helped campaign for the Russian president in 2017 — even Ovechkin’s Instagram profile photo is an image of him with Putin — even this message is a break from expectations. Another appeal for peace came from tennis player Daniil Medvedev, who in the next rankings will be crowned the top player in the world, the first since 2004 not named Djokovic, Federer, Nadal, or Murray to do so. But the announcement of this achievement was made the day of the Russian invasion, and Medvedev is likely to lose that ranking after being soundly defeated by Rafael Nadal at the Mexican Open. But Medvedev admitted that tennis wasn’t always at the front of his mind. “In this moment, you understand that tennis sometimes is not that important... It was definitely not easy to play,” said Medvedev. “By being a tennis player I want to promote peace all over the world... We play in so many different countries. I’ve been in so many different countries as a junior and as a pro. It’s just not easy to hear all this news. I’m all for peace.” Perhaps the most poignant statement from a Russian athlete was from Andrey Rublev, ranked seventh in the world, who wrote “No war please” on the television camera after his semifinal win at the Dubai Championships, clearly emotional about the geopolitical events. “In these moments, you realize that my match is not important. It’s not about my match, how it affects me,” Rublev said after the match. “What’s happening is much more terrible. You realize how important [it] is to have peace in the world and to respect each other no matter what, to be united.” Rublev, it should be noted, is doubles partners with his longtime friend, the Ukrainian Denys Molchanov.

Last-Second Heartbreak for Women’s Basketball vs. Long Beach

BY EMER NOLAN
Staff Writer

Fresh off of an away win against the University of Hawaii a week prior, the UC San Diego women’s basketball team’s hopes to build on that result were dashed at the last second by California State University, Long Beach this past Thursday evening in a limited-attendance RIMAC arena. In a very tight, high-energy game that truly went down to the wire, the visitors stole the victory with a dramatic 3-pointer on 12 seconds to eke out a 60–59 final result, delivering disappointment to the Tritons in their first home game since Feb. 5.shared! The Beach opened up the scoring with a 3-pointer and layup in under three minutes to put the home side at a disadvantage from the jump. UCSD responded with a 3-pointer of their own, courtesy of senior guard Sydney Brown. The teams traded points for the rest of the quarter, with senior guard Emily Cangelosi and sophomore guard Parker Montgomery each getting on the scoresheet with 4 points each. However, despite these efforts the Tritons were trailing

throughout the entirety of the first quarter, unable to catch up after falling behind so early in the game; the period ended 18–11 to the Beach. Cangelosi started the second quarter for the Tritons early, putting up a 3-pointer in the first 11 seconds. UCSD continued to narrow the lead with a layup from freshman center Bridget Mullings and a jumper from senior guard Julia Macabuhay, though the Beach continued to heap on the pressure and return the favor. It wasn’t until about halfway through the period when a 3-pointer from senior guard Madison Baxter finally broke the visitors’ lead, putting the Tritons ahead for the first time in the game. It was not to last, though, as the Beach scored 8 points in the last 3 minutes of the period to retake the advantage, despite sophomore forward Aishah Brown and Parker Montgomery contributing a layup and a 3-pointer, respectively, for the hosts; the Tritons were down 33–29 at halftime. The second half saw a turnaround for UCSD, who came out of the locker room with a steely determination, following their frustrating first half with a sharper performance in the second. Although CSULB was first to score, a trio of

layups by Sydney Brown, Emily Cangelosi and Aishah Brown combined with another pair of 3-pointers from Madison Baxter to pull the Tritons back into the lead just over 3 minutes into the quarter. The hosts held onto this edge until the clock ran down, withstanding a 4-minute period in which neither team managed to score before Baxter’s fourth 3-pointer of the night and a layup from Aishah Brown pinned down UCSD’s advantage going into the final quarter, 46–43. The fourth period continued to be a very tight game, with the Tritons holding onto their lead until the very last few seconds. By this time, the home crowd had gotten more energetic and was electrifying the atmosphere in the gym. Aishah Brown netted a pair of free throws for UCSD to begin a back-and-forth rally between the teams, in which she, Sydney Brown and Julia Macabuhay all contributed to the Tritons’ 13 points in the period. The Beach themselves scored 17 in the last quarter, steadily chipping away at UCSD’s lead, but it seemed that the home side would be able to hold on until the clock ran down. However, a dagger 3-pointer from CSULB’s Kian Hamilton-Fisher snatched the lead away from under the

Tritons’ noses with 12 seconds left on the clock. After calling a timeout, UCSD frantically attacked the opposition net, attempting but missing 3 consecutive layups before the final buzzer sealed their heartbreak, 60–59 to CSULB. It was undoubtedly a frustrating result for UCSD. After a first half that saw a number of missed opportunities, the third period brought another level of determination that looked to be enough to take back the lead, and then the game. Despite the disappointing final score, a number of Tritons logged quality individual performances: Aishah Brown put together a double-double of 12 points and 13 rebounds, her third this season; Madison

Baxter, Aishah Brown and Sydney Brown led the scoring together on the night with 12 points each; senior guard Brianna Claros and Parker Montgomery notched 5 assists and 3 steals, respectively. Speaking after the game, Triton head coach Heidi VanDerveer expressed disappointment at the evening’s missed opportunities and commended her team’s effort and tenacity: “I think our team really showed a tremendous amount of character and competitiveness, especially in the second half.

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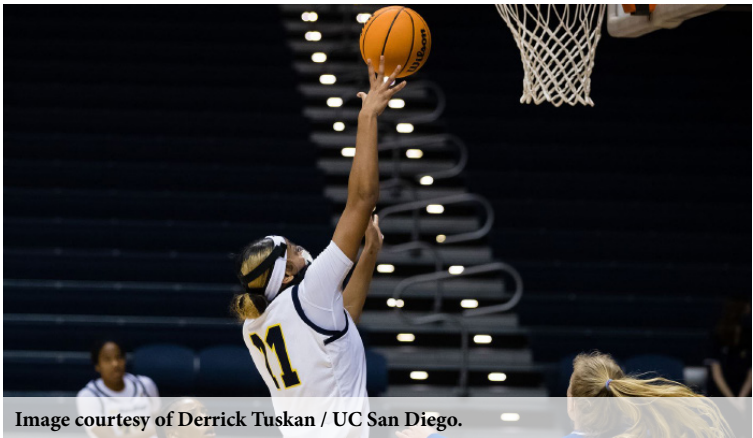


Image courtesy of Derrick Tuskan / UC San Diego.