

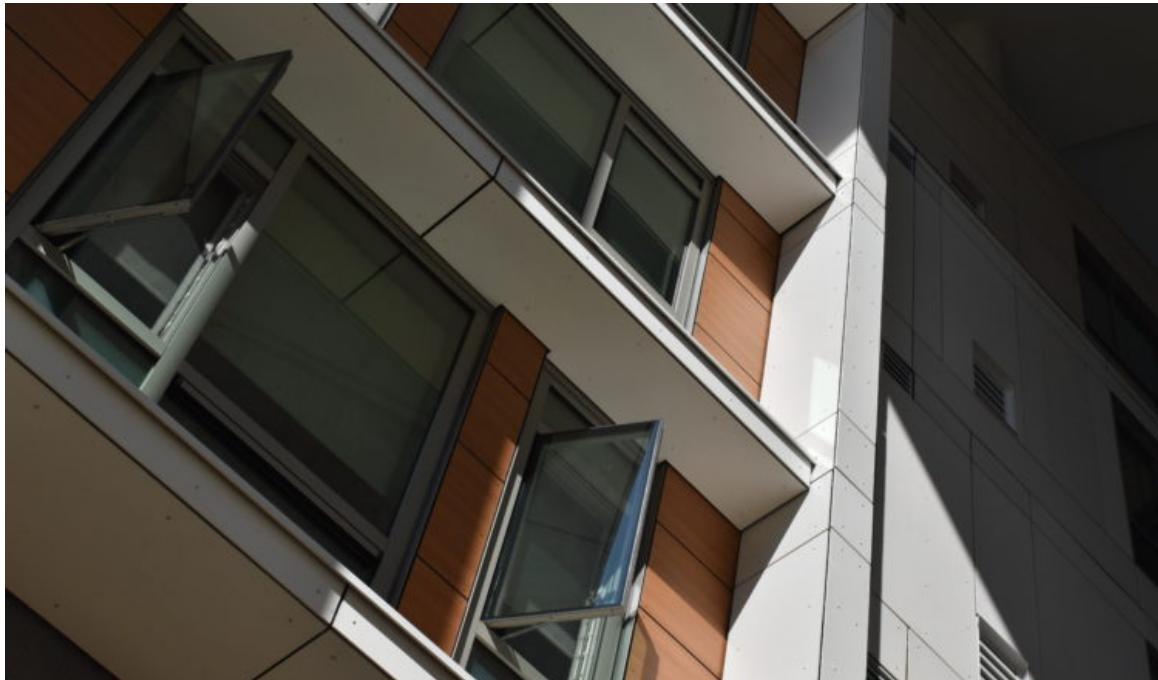
To learn more about The UCSD Guardian's coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic, click here → [here](#)



Gas Leak Occurs at the New North Torrey Pines Living Learning Center

October 7, 2020

Andrew Ha



On Oct. 7, a gas leak occurred at the North Torrey Pines Living Learning Center due to construction activities along the fence line of the site. The scope of the gas leak affected the new Living Learning Center as well as Peterson Hall, the Applied Physics & Mathematics building, and the Media Communications building. The gas has since been shut off and repairs were estimated to be completed by 6:30 p.m. on the same day.

No one, including students and construction personnel, were hurt as a result of the gas leak. According to the San Diego Fire Department, the area is now completely safe and that it is fine to re-enter the aforementioned areas. Once shut off, the leak was deemed not hazardous and no evacuation was needed.

Notifications were sent out via UC San Diego Triton Alerts to students on a rolling basis from approximately 3:10 p.m. on Oct 7. If you have any questions regarding this incident, please contact UCSD Environment, Health, and Safety Emergency Management & Business

Continuity at eoc@ucsd.edu or (858) 246-0695.

Information in this article was provided by UC San Diego Emergency Alerts and the Associate Director of University Communications, Leslie Sepuka.

Photo courtesy of Ellie Wang for The UCSD Guardian.

THE GUARDIAN



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Campus Sororities Lack Accountability, Must Emphasize Reform, Inclusion

October 11, 2020 by Zara Irshad



With a large majority of our student body studying from home this quarter, it's easier now than ever to feel isolated. Joining student organizations is a great way to combat this loneliness, and participating in Greek life is a popular route to take. It offers to fill that void with friends, virtual events, and community service — it's perfect. Well, almost. While I believe that in theory, Greek life is a wonderful way to get involved and stay connected with your campus, there are some glaring flaws that shouldn't be overlooked.

From their founding, many sororities have excluded people of color and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Despite the fact that this was hundreds of years ago, many of these discriminatory sentiments remain deeply embedded within the culture today, just heavily veiled. Unfortunately, this includes sororities at UC San Diego.

Three sources from Sigma Kappa and one from Tri-Delta felt comfortable enough to share their experiences with racism in their respective sororities at UCSD. What they shared confirmed that despite being hidden, sororities at UCSD do foster racism and discrimination, and that change needs to be made.

One member of Sigma Kappa feels there is discrimination within disciplinary hearings. She described an incident where unequal punishments were given to two members who were called before the disciplinary board. One member was white, the other was Middle Eastern. The white member was called before the board for yelling the n-word in public. She was only required to attend a diversity workshop, and many members thought even that was extreme, claiming that “she didn’t know better.”

The Middle Eastern member was called before the same board for posting a video with her international friends with the caption “when ¼ of your school is Chinese International and everyone’s wearing a mask.” She was expelled from Sigma Kappa.

Her expulsion came despite many emails protesting the decision from other participants of Greek life and student organizations, and despite submitting three appeals herself.

The judicial process that determined her expulsion was extremely unjust. According to my source, the video in question was not even shown to those voting on the expulsion. Instead, they relied on a biased description from a white member of the sorority. Additionally, at that meeting, the accused member was not allowed to defend herself, and there was a scripted member, which goes against the sorority’s rules, who spoke out against her. My source confirmed that every Asian member of the executive board reached out to her during this process, and none of the white members did.

The issue here lies within the structure of the disciplinary system. The standards board that accused members are called to is led by a single member. This member gets to handpick the other three members of the board, leaving no assurance of a fair and equal assessment. The Middle Eastern member was still expelled from the sorority despite protests from countless sorority members and executive board members, while the white member got away unscathed.

While future accountability and reform of the larger structures of Greek Life on campus will help to prevent further incidents, it won’t necessarily solve the current issues. In order to correct the damage that has already been caused, current sorority members need to be held accountable for discriminatory actions or comments that they’ve made.

Another former Sigma Kappa member that I spoke with explained how microaggressions are woven into everyday conversations with the sorority. The member recounted comments like “wow she’s actually really pretty for a black girl, I thought she was more exotic” and “[he’s] probably not documented” being tossed around without any understanding of the weight that those words carry.

Not only do these kinds of microaggressions suggest that being “exotic” is ugly and undesirable, but they perpetuate harmful stereotypes that have been introduced by the media and, quite honestly, racists over decades.

Furthermore, all four of my sources spoke about tokenism within their respective sororities. Those from Sigma Kappa revealed that during recruitment, members were told things such as “we have too many Asian girls, let’s try to look for others” and “c’mom ladies we’re the most diverse chapter by far let’s keep it that way.” This is harmful because it condones the idea that women of color are only valuable in order to meet diversity quotas, not because they are intelligent assets to the group.

The opposite approach is also found within sororities at UCSD. As my Tri Delta source explained, some predominantly Asian sororities attempt to recruit more white members in order to become more respected and desired, perpetuating the belief that white members are superior and more valuable than women of color. Both instances go to show that even though these organizations may not come off as blatantly racist, there are definitely ignorant and discriminatory practices.

Another way that this ignorance can manifest if left unchecked is through performative activism. According to one Sigma Kappa source, members were advised to avoid speaking up about racial injustices in case they were misinterpreted, yet they were all encouraged to speak up about COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement once it became “trendy” to post black squares on Instagram. Not only does this illustrate a blatant inconsistency, but also a complete disregard for current social issues as anything more than another post on social media.

Again, I truly believe that if run properly, sororities have the potential to do good. Sisterhood and service are two great values that I think everyone can benefit from, not to mention all of the post-college connections that you will be left with. And lasting social ties aren’t the only benefit sorority members have access to later in life.

Having diversity within our sororities is crucial because participation in Greek life is a pipeline to future power. A 2016 study shows that Greek life participation in college increases one’s future income by 36 percent. It is crucial we ensure that these opportunities are available for everyone, not just those who are affluent and white.

Ensuring this diversity within our sororities must start with more accountability and internal reform, which is attainable for all of our sororities on campus. While all members of our sororities already have to go through diversity and inclusion training, something clearly isn't working. By looking inward and demanding accountability from these organizations, we can move toward more equal post-college opportunities for our students of color.

Art created by Angela Liang for The UC San Diego Guardian



Ways to Celebrate a Quarantine Halloween

October 11, 2020

Colleen Conradi



It's Spooky Season, my friends! Even though Halloween is looking a bit different this year, that's no reason not to celebrate! We can't go out for Halloween, but we can definitely bring some Halloween home this year:

Decorate: Since there won't be any sort of trick-or-treating outside, take those decorations you'd usually put out front and cover the inside of the house with them. Maybe you could even try to scare a roommate with a skeleton or ghoul! Even if you don't want to go all out, one of my favorite things to do is to put orange or purple twinkly lights on and let them set a spooky mood at night.

Halloween Cookies: Something fun to do with your roommates is to set out a time to make and decorate some festive cookies! You can get creative with putting icing on plain sugar cookies and using fun cutout shapes, or, for less effort, you can always buy the special ghost or pumpkin editions of premade cookies from Pillsbury!

Movie Marathons: One of my favorite parts of Halloween is the movies! Once you've decorated and made your cookies, the only logical thing to do next is to have a movie marathon with your roommates. Tune into some fan favorites like "*The Haunted Mansion*", "*Halloweentown*", "*Nightmare on Elm Street*", or "*The Addams Family*"!

Pumpkins: Like with decorations, pumpkins are another thing you can have inside! With pumpkins at most grocery stores and even some pumpkin patches open, there's nothing stopping you from carving a jack-o'-lantern this year! Also, if you're not into getting messy with carving, you can always paint your pumpkin, too! Painting also means your pumpkin will have a longer life than a jack-o'-lantern.

Dress up: One of the biggest bummers about Halloween this year is that we can't go out and show off our costumes. However, if you live with roommates, you can always have your own little party and wear that costume! Hanging out with a small group may not be the same as a big party, but it will still give you a fun, festive feel.

Spooky Playlist: Another advantage to being at home for Halloween this year is that you can put on your favorite spooky songs and dance like nobody's watching! Finding or creating your own Halloween playlist on Spotify or Apple Music will definitely help set the holiday mood!

THE GUARDIAN

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Let's Create Housing for the Public, Not for Profit

October 11, 2020

Guest Writer



This is the first of three submissions written by students in ETHN 104: Race, Space, and Segregation during Summer Session Two .

The Urban Displacement Project defines gentrification as a process of neighborhood change that includes economic change in a historically disinvested neighborhood, by means of real estate investment and new higher-income residents moving in, as well as demographic change. This demographic change is not limited to income level but also includes a change in the education level and racial makeup of the community. This is important to UC San Diego students as most of us will be driving this demographic change. Therefore, it is necessary to be aware of the effects our future housing arrangements will have on low-income Black and Latino communities without a college education. Gentrification occurs when the renewal of a community attracts wealthier residents and businesses while replacing the current residents in the process, and it has continued to displace Black and brown working-class communities in cities throughout the United States. In Oakland, this process has resulted in a significant loss of the city's cultural and racial diversity, replacing historically Black neighborhoods and small businesses with wealthier residents and businesses. Gentrification in Oakland has occurred

due to the commodification of housing; as of this year, the average rent of one bedroom apartment in Oakland has increased to \$2,930, a 6% increase from the year before. This statistic alone illustrates the large profits the real-estate market has made by placing housing in Oakland on the speculative market. East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative is one Oakland organization that is devoted to offering long-term affordable housing by buying land and keeping it off the speculative market. This is significant as it leads to a more stable housing market while also decreasing the displacement rate in Oakland, so that housing can be permanently affordable for communities of color. This impacts UC San Diego students due to our role in the real estate market as future homeowners.

In “Possessive Investment in Whiteness,” George Lipsitz, an American studies scholar and professor of Black Studies at UC Santa Barbara, demonstrates that in the 1980s, Oakland had a primarily Black population, one that had already faced disinvestment and exclusionary homeownership practices due to redlining policies created in the 1930s. White flight which refers to the phenomenon of white people leaving urban areas with large minority populations to settle in suburban neighborhoods, occurred during this time due to the availability of subsidized housing in the suburbs, creating a predominantly Black inner city. However, Black and brown people have been barred from owning homes due to predatory loans and racist exclusion. Due to these policies many of Oakland’s low-income communities have been made vulnerable by skyrocketing rents. In addition, urban renewal projects, land speculation, and the influx of tech corporations have threatened to siphon the city’s cultural and racial diversity; predominantly white and higher income residents have been rapidly replacing Oakland’s Black population due to these structural inequalities.

Today, up to 31 percent of Oakland has been gentrified, and due to its proximity to San Francisco across the bay, West Oakland has become the most gentrified section of the city. Land speculation in disinvested neighborhoods has created a boom for newer, richer businesses, as well as housing that is unattainable for Black and brown people. As a result, the value of property and rent in such areas has soared, becoming unaffordable for Oakland’s existing residents. Wages for Black and brown populations remain stagnant as the city becomes more gentrified, increasing their risk of eviction and housing insecurity. Today, the median household income of a Black family in Oakland is \$32,000, while that of a white family is up to \$90,000; because affordable housing is based on the city’s average income, more and more housing has become unavailable to Black and brown populations. This phenomenon can also be seen today in other cities of the U.S. such as Charleston, South Carolina, District of Columbia, and Denver, Colorado where the cost of housing has more than doubled.

Racial capitalism has driven Oakland's disinvestment and has incited the gentrification of the city. Redlining and defunding of public urban resources in the 1930s locked Black Oaklanders into poorer inner-city neighborhoods. A lack of policies protecting deteriorating, disinvested neighborhoods from speculative purchases of the predatory real estate market, and scarce rent control, has left them vulnerable to displacement. Despite this, work is being done to reclaim an affordable Oakland, one that preserves its rich history of diversity and culture.

One way this issue of gentrification is being fought is through the development of cooperatives like the East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative. EBPREC is a cooperative created by Black, Indigenous, and people of color residents that were born and raised in Oakland and have observed the negative effects that gentrification has had on the city throughout their lives. The cooperative was created to remove housing from the speculative real estate market in order to stop tenants of color from being displaced. The way that this intervention works is EBPREC buys land and leases houses and units to residents for affordable prices, the cooperative gives control to residents and uses long-term leases to simulate real home ownership.

When it comes to buying buildings with multiple units, EBPREC seeks out buildings with majority BIPOC residents that are on the verge of displacement. From there, they recruit residents to invest \$1,000 each so the coop can purchase the entire property, which then guarantees no tenants will lose their homes. By investing in their own community, EBPREC gives guidance to tenants on how to steward their own land. Their goal for the future is to see diverse communities living on land without landlords. This practice allows EBPREC to encourage Black and Indigenous land ownership while also creating a system of collective wealth to make sure that our current real estate market system does not have the power to take that land and wealth away. EBPREC believes that healing for historically marginalized communities can come from participating in cooperatives.

The organization's continued growth models scalable solutions for low-income people to access stable homes that are affordable in the long term. Also, the funding sources for the establishment of communities are also relatively stable and secure, which ensures the sustainable development and protection of communities. At the same time, the upgrading, redevelopment, and renewal of such residential areas can develop a community with dilapidated housing, poverty, and lack of living infrastructure into a comfortable, convenient, and more modern middle-class residential area. This gives every resident a chance to get better opportunities, such as education and work. Nevertheless, there are many opportunities to solve these problems. In addition to raising awareness about this issue, one can donate to organizations that are focused on creating affordable housing such as Moms for housing and The East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative. In addition to hiring, EBPREC also offers

memberships that give one the opportunity to become an investor owner, a community owner, or to plan future projects for the organization.

Considering that many UCSD students are science, technology, engineering, and math majors and may end up working in the Bay Area, it is important to know the effects that our actions may be having on historically Black communities such as Oakland. Silicon Valley, as shown previously, has had a great effect on the gentrification of Oakland. As the ninth most recruited school by Silicon Valley, many UCSD students will end up moving to San Francisco or neighboring areas such as Oakland, therefore contributing to the displacement of native Oaklanders. Furthermore, gentrification is not an issue limited to Oakland, in fact it is becoming a worldwide problem that affects people from across the U.S. to cities like Seoul, South Korea. As students, we have the power to not only support the struggle for fair and affordable housing but also to imagine and create new solutions.

Art created by Angela Liang for The UC San Diego Guardian

THE GUARDIAN

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

TV Review: “Outer Banks”

October 11, 2020

Deyshna Pai



“Outer Banks” is not the teen drama you’d expect.

Although Netflix advertises it as such, “Outer Banks” is not your typical soapy teen drama. I would even argue this label to be a misnomer, considering that “Outer Banks” avoids the trite cliches characteristic of this genre such as love triangles, high school sports, and teen-parent conflict. Instead, “Outer Banks” discards these tropes and memorably surprises viewers with a complexity unseen in most teen dramas with its originality and commentary on classism and abuse.

“Outer Banks” begins with a good-natured spirit for adventure. The Pogues, composed of John Booker Routledge (Chase Stokes) and friends JJ (Rudy Pankow), Pope (Jonathan Daviss), and Kiara (Madison Bailey) are scrappy, independent, and accustomed to living life on the edge. When looking to blow off steam from cleaning up after the hurricane that devastates their town, they stumble on a treasure hunt mystery linked to John B.’s father’s disappearance nine months prior. That, coupled with Child Services’ intrusion into John

B.'s guardian-less life, the unexpected arrival of hitmen nipping at their heels, and a violent, hateful struggle between the Pogues and their wealthy island rivals, the Kooks, underscores the fact that this treasure hunt is anything but simple. It all feels very S.E.Hinton-meets-the-conspiracy-theories-of-National-Treasure in a way that strangely works. And despite being vaguely reminiscent of these older classics, "Outer Banks" maintains freshness with its rich, interwoven storylines.

For example, there were opportunities where the show could have easily relied on overdone tropes, but avoided doing so, creating an unexpectedly engaging viewing experience. Within the first episode, I was ready to roll my eyes at what I expected to be a nascent love triangle between John B., Kiara, and JJ, but was pleasantly surprised when Kiara, the female lead, rejected John B. 's advances and stressed to him the importance of maintaining solid friendships. To me, this kind of character development is unseen in contemporary teen dramas such as "Riverdale," and I appreciated that Kiara was written as a female character with agency instead of letting her inability to handle a difficult situation become cheap entertainment. These surprises continued throughout the first season and are partly responsible for why "Outer Banks" is so bingeable. And where most teen dramas prefer to focus on a singular group of teen frenemies that trade dating partners as a source of conflict with one another, "Outer Banks" once again defies stereotypes with its focus on the Pogues' friendship and teamwork to overcome challenges as a group under high stress environments.

The show's originality also stems from its authenticity, which shines through several aspects of its production including writing, character portrayal, and cinematography. I'll be the first to admit that the characters aren't immediately likeable. After all, our first experience with the Pogues involves them breaking and entering, taunting a cop, and a Kook v. Pogue brawl that ends only because one of the teens brings a stolen gun to a public place. Objectively, none of these behaviors are very likeable, nor should they be glorified. However, by the end of the first episode, the real villains are differentiable and the Pogues are easy heroes to root for —flaws included.

The Pogues give strong performances both individually and as a group. It's difficult to imagine any of the actors swapping characters, which speaks volumes about the writing and the actors' ability to make their respective parts feel real. Rudy Pankow as JJ is a standout as he balances an endearing recklessness and sardonic charm that masks the abuse he deals with at home. John B.'s conscientiousness and faith in his father gives his character a depth that redeems his more questionable behaviors such as stealing, trespassing, and lying to authorities. Similar to other teen dramas, there is a convenient absence of adults, but it feels more excusable, considering that the instability of Cut families emphasizes survival and

independence in Pogues, while the indifference of wealthy Kook parents influences their entitled teens' attitudes. Despite the actors all being older than 16, performances do not rely on overdone teen stereotypes—each character feels like a real person with genuine motivations for their behaviors. Accordingly, Outer Banks gifts viewers with thoughtful storytelling by preserving each character's integrity.

Furthermore, the emphasis on location in "Outer Banks" ties the show together nicely, influencing wardrobes, attitudes, and our sense that these are teenagers exploring a world much larger than themselves, again reinforcing the realism of the characters and their stories. Frames tinged with Carolinian golden hour glow and scenic wide shots immerse viewers in John B.'s world and inspire a sense of adventure. Whereas the closed-quarter sets of "Outer Banks" contemporaries can appear more performative, this open, exploratory approach feels fresh and never contrived.

I may have found John B.'s and Sarah Cameron's relationship (Madelyn Cline) to be melodramatic at times, and the reason Sarah and Kiara detested each other was unconvincing. Both of these storylines felt a little weak in comparison to the honest portrayal of relationships in this show. However, these are two very minor issues within "Outer Banks" larger season, and they don't detract from the season's overall quality.

Overall, "Outer Banks" is a wild ride and worth every minute. It pits its protagonists against high stakes, but also gives them the tools to overcome their obstacles, which makes a hard-earned victory at the end of the season all the more enjoyable. Hopefully the already-confirmed Season 2 provides as much excitement as this first season did, but until then, you can get tan with the teens of North Carolina on Netflix.

Grade: A**Creators:** Josh Pate, Jonas Pate, Shannon Burke**Starring:** Chase Stokes, Madelyn Cline, Madison Bailey, Jonathan Daviss, Rudy Pankow, Austin North, Charles Esten, Drew Starkey**Release Date:** April 15, 2020**Rated:** TV-MA

Image courtesy of Entertainment Weekly.

THE GUARDIAN



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Head-to-Head: “I’m Thinking of Ending Things”

October 11, 2020

Erin Chun



Arts and Entertainment takes on a new debate over Charlie Kaufman’s “I’m Thinking of Ending Things”: Is it a hit, or is the television screen the only thing that’s ending the titular film?

It's a Hit

TW: Mentions of Suicide

Growing up alongside an ever-expanding catalogue of media can be both overwhelming and comforting. The poems, essays, books, paintings, photographs, television shows, and films that we surround ourselves with are molded into sentience when combined with our own thoughts and experiences. They act as interwoven frames of reference for how we should continue existing in the world. As our experiences shape and prune the very anatomies of our brain matter, this accumulation of art evolves into that of a coping mechanism as it

allows individualistic escapism from the otherwise unbearable. This is especially potent in childhood, and if never confronted, the consumed media burrows itself securely within our consciousness until we have no choice but to live it as our own reality. This brings me to the question: How do the coping mechanisms of a lonely childhood manifest in adulthood? In Charlie Kaufman's latest film, "I'm Thinking of Ending Things," we see a deeply personal, yet surprisingly universal externalization of just that.

This film of somber fantasy schema was released just this year, and with every rewatch, the depth of isolation feels increasingly accurate. Paced by the daily routine of a high school janitor, and a simple story of a young woman considering breaking up with her boyfriend, the two tracks of the film are cross-cut and continually united by the titular sentence "I'm Thinking of Ending Things." The intentionally proposed end of a romantic relationship merges with the intentionally proposed end of one man's life. The janitor's idiosyncrasies and fantasies become a melancholic exploration of how ending a life so fraught with fictitious lives makes it nearly impossible to conjure a true end, even when it is what is most desired. Moving through the film felt like the world's most tragic scavenger hunt, sifting through famous works by famous folks, attempting to separate reference from real. The characters are wholly human and disastrous, purposefully messy and inconsistent, extensions of one singular man's ailing psyche of snow, musicals, ice cream, and pigs. And with a film so focused on ends, it did not disappoint with its own. Rousing, theatrical, and absurd, there is a profound emotional undercurrent that culminates in an applauded stage solo, everything coming together. Then, the end. Not a film of comfort, but of catharsis.

If you ever need to reflect on your own loneliness and reliance on the consumption of media in an unnerving, yet familiar way, "I'm Thinking of Ending Things" is the most dynamic place for such exploration. Run away to a blurry, greyed mindscape of floralled wallpaper and high school theatre, and battle your own consciousness with someone else's words.

— Marina Lee, Contributing Writer

End It

As a perpetually tired college student, I look forward to sleeping every night, which is why Charlie Kaufman is one of my favorite directors — his films bring me dreams and I don't even have to close my eyes. Critically acclaimed screenwriter, producer, writer, director, and novelist, Kaufman is responsible for gifting this decade with some of the most iconic and critically revered films in modern cinema history, including "Being John Malkovich" (1999), "Synecdoche, New York" (2008) and finally, "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" (2004)

which happens to be my personal favorite. His film's utilize the human psyche as metaphors in order to self-describe the complexities present within collective life experiences of love, heartbreak, and identity.

Kaufman is an undoubtedly talented absurdist filmmaker who I admire as an artist, which is why I was so disappointed with his latest film "I'm Thinking of Ending Things." Now, don't get me wrong; the film captivated me when I viewed it for the first time, and I enjoyed it even more on the second watch when I was able to piece together the puzzle that was the meaning of the titular sentence and the bizarre dreamscapes. The decision to conclude the film with Jake's repetitive, unfulfilled life unceremoniously snuffed out under the white, shapeless blob of a lone car covered in snow, was a stark and brilliant juxtaposition to the insanity that was the previous two hours of the film. "I'm Thinking of Ending Things" plays on all of Kaufman's strong suits, which is exactly the problem. The winding philosophical monologues, the physical manifestation of his subconscious, and the abstract shots that play on the themes of isolation and disorientation all feel too forced as trademarks of his style. Clarity became lost between its novel source, written by Iain Reid, and Kaufman's film adaptation. Granted, book-to-film adaptations are notoriously difficult to get right due to the time and resource constraints between the two, but Kaufman sacrificed accuracy of the original writing in the name of his style.

Some defenders of the adaptation have a tendency to dismiss constructive arguments towards the film by claiming that its critiquers simply "do not understand" Kaufman's genius, and to that, I reply that I don't feel indifferent towards the film because I "don't get it"; I feel neutral towards it because others don't. This film is one of the director's more pretentious projects, and it feels inaccessible to a large demographic of viewers. The reason why Kaufman's films have attracted the amount of traction that they did in the past decade was because of his ability to understand the human experience and manifest them for anybody to recognize. "I'm Thinking of Ending Things" does not have the same relatability. The complexities of the film's metaphors overshadow the actual meaning behind them. "I'm Thinking of Ending Things" has two underlying meanings behind its titular name: it refers to Jake's forgettable life, and to the reaction from its viewers towards the television screen as we get slowly dragged along through two confusing hours of snow and a single, old, white man regretting his life.

— Hemmy Chun, A&E Editor

Image courtesy of The Suffolk Journal.

THE GUARDIAN

The NBA Faces Its Greatest Foe Yet: The Superteam

October 11, 2020

Praveen Nair



The NBA has never really been a balanced league. For teams like the Lakers, Celtics, and Bulls, winning titles was a foregone conclusion at one point or another. But the competitive balance of the league faces a new threat, one that is no longer tied to the dominance of a single player like Jordan, Russell, or Kareem: the superteam. Manufactured in unsanctioned meetings and private player communications, these powerful creations could upend the balance of the NBA for years to come. And worst of all, since these teams are both fueled by factors outside of league control and incredibly valuable to the league's bottom line, there's nothing anyone's doing to stop them.

Before true free agency began in 1988, teams built a roster either through the draft or through trades — both inherently self-balancing institutions. But in the 2010s, spurred on by the creation of the LeBron-Wade-Bosh “Heatles,” more and more contenders were built through a free agency process directed as much by players as by front offices. For teams without the luck to draft a generational star who’ll play for cheap, or the skill to manage a team well enough to create a winning squad over years of rebuilding, the superteam has provided a ticket to the front of the line — but that opportunity isn’t accessible to just any team.

One of the most frustrating parts of the superteam is that the viability of an NBA franchise now rests largely on something they cannot change — their geographic location. Take the Lakers, for example. In the five years prior to LeBron James' arrival, the team posted an abysmal 126–284 record, all the while dealing with chemistry issues among the players and in the front office. But none of that mattered, because they were the Lakers and they played in Los Angeles, and that's all LeBron needed to choose them. When teams as incompetent as the Lakers have been this decade are able to attract free agents far better than even the best-run small-market teams like Oklahoma City and Denver, it presents a real issue for the league in the long run.

But even if you're not a small-market fan, the superteam is still damaging to the strategic appeal of the league. What makes the Lakers so annoying isn't just that they're from Los Angeles, but that the team was mostly constructed from scratch within a year. Put another way, not a single player on the current squad was on Kobe Bryant's final Lakers team just four years ago. Across the country, the Brooklyn Nets, who look to be a contender next season with Kyrie Irving and Kevin Durant, formed their prospective superteam in a span of days; what's more, the signings required jettisoning the heart of their exciting young core, D'Angelo Russell.

If these trends continue, we'll no longer see the natural team cycle from rebuilding to contention and back again. Rather, as with LeBron's old team, the Cleveland Cavaliers, players will join teams en masse, mortgage their futures and cap space for current assets, then leave those teams' husks by the wayside as they proceed to their next avenue for contention.

As much as the Lakers represent what's wrong with the league, however, the playoffs in the 2020 NBA bubble have been possibly the best since before the emergence of the Warriors dynasty in 2015; the stakes to the playoffs feel much more real than the seemingly inevitable quartet of Warriors vs. Cavaliers finals from 2015 to 2018. In fact, the emergence of Jimmy Butler, who previously underwent two separate, ill-fated attempts to pair him with existing stars in Minnesota and Philadelphia, as the leader of a team in the Finals speaks volumes about what is still possible for teams that do not or cannot operate in the superteam mold.

However, we make a mistake when we assume that everyone involved wants to see a healthy, competitive league. In fact, NBA television ratings have been highest when the Bulls and Warriors were at the peaks of their dominance, and the international appeal of superteams and their biggest stars, especially in the lucrative Asian market, ensures the league isn't planning to break up the biggest teams by rule any time soon.

Consequently, the NBA's response to the superteam trend has been relatively mild. The rules against tampering and collusion, which essentially boil down to "don't make it public," are a joke, especially when many of the league's top players are friendly with each other off the court. The recent introduction of the supermax contract, allowing teams to offer their own players more lucrative extensions than others teams can, has proved ineffectual both in that the additional money pales in comparison to the potential earnings boost of a championship and of playing in a big market, and in that the additional cost just further complicates teams' cap situations; that isn't even to mention what happens if that player is to get injured — the Wizards paid John Wall \$38.2 million last season to play zero minutes of basketball.

If there's anything keeping the NBA together, it's that superteams are often much less than the sum of their parts. The Los Angeles Clippers, considered by many to be title favorites when they signed LA natives Kawhi Leonard and Paul George last summer, were taken down by a Denver Nuggets squad led by a pair of homegrown stars in Jamal Murray and Nikola Jokic; the Clippers struggled with a lack of team chemistry and leadership. The Houston Rockets, who united former MVP's Russell Westbrook and James Harden, continued to suffer from playoff woes that have troubled them throughout the Harden era. And the Nets, who on paper have paired one of the league's most explosive point guards with one of the greatest scorers of all time, may win a lot of games, but they'll also almost certainly be a hot mess next season.

Even with the rise of the orchestrated superteam, the future of the NBA is far from certain. Much of it rests on the young shoulders of two-time reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, who will decide this offseason whether to stay with Milwaukee or test free agency next year. But in an NBA landscape where legacies are increasingly tied to championship rings, it's no surprise so many players are banding together to improve their odds — can we really say they're being given any reason not to?

Art by Kalo Grimsby

THE GUARDIAN



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

The Future is Sunny for the San Diego Padres

October 11, 2020

Wesley Xiao



The San Diego Padres' postseason run came to an end last Thursday. With a 12–3 win, the Los Angeles Dodgers swept the Padres in the National League Divisional Series.

Granted, this wasn't an entirely unexpected result. The Padres' top two pitchers were out with injuries, making every game devolve into a bullpen game. In game 3, the team managed to set a record for the most pitchers (11) used in a nine-inning game. While the pitching struggled, the Padres bats — which had carried the team through the regular season — failed to make up the difference. And most importantly, the Dodgers are the Dodgers, the best team in MLB. Even if the Padres were at full strength, it would have been a tough series to win.

The sweep by the Dodgers brings the season to a disheartening close, but it doesn't take away from the fact that this was a great season for the Padres. This is the best Padres team in nearly a decade. The Friars went 37–23, the second-best record in the National League —second only to the Dodgers, of course. They broke a 14-year playoff drought and won their wild card series 2–1 against the St. Louis Cardinals.

They turned the San Diego Padres into the Slam Diego Padres. Off the bats of Fernando Tatís Jr., Manny Machado, Wil Myers, and Eric Hosmer, the team set an MLB record for the most consecutive games with grand slams. Tatís especially had a fantastic season. El Niño hit .277/.366/.571 and tied for fourth in home runs with 17 out-of-the-park swings. Machado was right behind Tatís, hitting .304/.370/.580 with 16 homers. But this wasn't a stars-and-scrubs team. All across the lineup, the Padres were producing. Jurickson Profar put together a solid season, and Jake Cronenworth put together a season worthy of NL Rookie of the Year.

The Friars' issues on the mound were in full focus during their playoff run, but they have more young talent developing to fill the gap. Luis Patiño got time as a reliever this year. Ryan Weathers became only the second pitcher in MLB history to debut in the postseason, going right from Single-A ball to the NLDS. MacKenzie Gore, the Padres' top pitching prospect, will likely move up to the majors next season.

The Dodgers remain the Goliath of the NL West, but the Padres are starting to nip at their heels. The Padres-Dodger rivalry is heating up, and it already has a bit of drama, with a heated Machado protesting Dodgers pitcher Brusdar Graterol's celebration of Cody Bellinger's homer-stealing catch in game 2. Both teams will be contenders in the NL West next season and will likely see each other many more times in the regular and playoffs.

For now, the Padres are headed back to San Diego, but they are by no means done. Coming off their first postseason berth since 2006, and with a young squad stacked with potential, there's little doubt: next season, they'll be back.

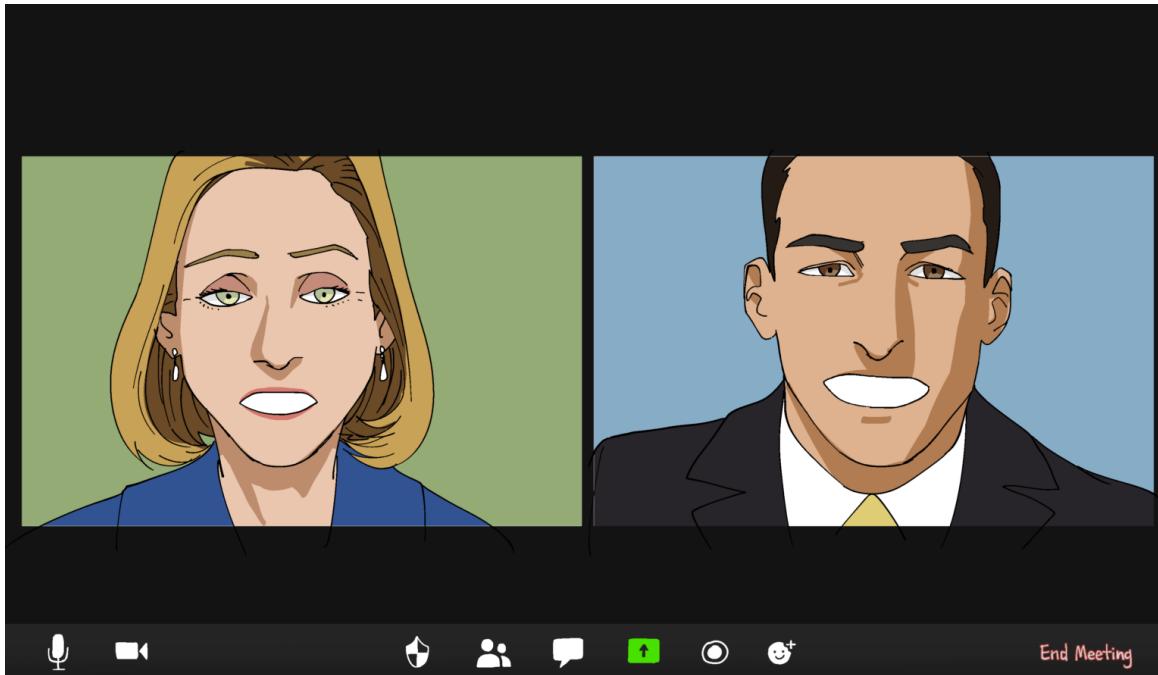
Photo courtesy of San Diego Padres



Get Out The Debate

October 11, 2020

Nelson Espinal



The San Diego mayoral race shifted its focus to UC San Diego students as the two candidates took questions centered around topics considering students.

The political science department of UC San Diego hosted a mayoral debate between two Democratic candidates, San Diego City Councilwoman Barbara Bry and State Assemblymember Todd Gloria. The event, rather than being on a stage, took place via a Zoom conference call in partnership with KPBS. Andrew Bowen, a reporter at KPBS Metro, moderated the event with guest appearances from faculty members and students.

The partnership between the political science department and KPBS developed as a result of PBS's coverage of local politics here in San Diego, according to Thad Kousser, the Department Chair of UCSD's political science department. Their expertise as a news outlet in San Diego provided the event with professionalism. On top of the experience they provided, KPBS's platform allowed for the event to "expand the reach of the event to the border community," Kousser said.

The mayoral debate aimed to help UCSD students make an informed decision about who they want to vote for. The event complements the “Triton Vote” initiative at UCSD, which encourages students to register to vote. The initiative, created by the Associated Students Civic Engagement Office, is receiving support from the Triton Athletes’ Council and has a goal to have all student-athletes registered to vote and have the election day free as well.

On top of their partnership with UCSD student-athletes, the “Triton Vote” movement encourages all students to register to vote. The initiative uses the TurboVote website as the way students can sign up to vote.

Additionally, “Triton Vote” provides students with information about deadlines and guides about the upcoming candidates and propositions. As a way to help students that are undecided or don’t want to make their decision over a guide, UCSD’s political science department wanted to provide a debate that had a narrow scope on issues that students care about.

“During a time in which national politics is dominating the headlines, but local government is more important than ever to San Diegans’ daily lives, we wanted to highlight what is going on in UCSD’s hometown,” Kousser told The UCSD Guardian. “And we wanted to create an issues forum, rather than a traditional debate, in order to push each candidate to dive deeply into the issues that we highlighted — social justice, San Diego’s housing crisis, and the post-pandemic economic recovery.”

All of these issues addressed some of the concerns students have with staying in San Diego long-term. The candidates answered all of the questions directed towards the students as they made their case as to why they are best fit to lead San Diego into the future.

Both candidates were “very happy to be part of this” for a reason, according to Kousser. Students participated in the event with the hope of knowing who they will be voting for in November and learning more about other measures that will be on the ballot.

“Some students might be hesitant to vote because ballots in California ask voters to make so many choices, with local offices and many propositions,” Kousser said. “While voters are free to leave any of those blank, we felt that by giving students a chance to engage on local issues through meeting the mayoral candidates and hearing more about city ballot measures, they can have the confidence to come to the polls informed and engaged.”

After opening remarks from Chancellor Kholsa, the moderators presented the topics and then each speaker was allowed one minute and 30 seconds to respond.

The first question was about the housing affordability issue here in San Diego and how to improve the situation going forward. Both candidates cited their records and plan in their answers as they laid out their case.

Following the first question, three panelists delivered questions to the candidates.

Abbey Reuter, Associated Students AVP of Local Affairs, asked a question pertaining to privacy issues related to technology within the police force. Julia Adrian, Graduate Student VP of External Affairs, provided a question about improving child care during the COVID-19 pandemic. The last panelist, Professor Marisa Abrajano, department of political science and Warren College, asked how either of the candidates would address concerns about economic-racial inequality that has become more of an issue during the pandemic.

“We wanted to represent some of the many groups that make up the UCSD community,” Kousser said. “We reached out to the elected leadership of the undergraduate and graduate student leadership to select their panelists and chose a professor from our department who also leads a college.”

The rest of the forum followed a similar pattern as the moderator would shift the conversation to climate change and then the Black Lives Matter protests. The last 15 minutes featured moments of really back and forth as the topic of political action committees arose. Political action committees, which are funded via people outside either candidate’s campaign, buy ads that attack the opposing candidates.

Recently, a political action committee attacked Todd Gloria’s stance on “a bill that would give judges discretion on sex offender registration in certain statutory rape cases,” according to NBC 7. This attack led to threats being made to Todd Gloria on social media. Another political action committee passed out fliers that decried Babrabra Bry as either a progressive or a repulican, meaning to create confusion.

Both Todd Gloria and Barbara Bry were asked about the actions of these independent committees that have attacked the other candidate.

While things did heat up, the debate fared better than it did during the first presidential debate of the 2020 presidential race.

“Comparing this civil discussion of key issues to the debacle of the first presidential debate, it is no contest,” Kousser said.

During these exchanges built around controversy, one can’t help thinking what it would be like on a stage with an audience. The political science department planned the debate to happen in-person during Spring Quarter 2020, but the plans were thwarted due to the pandemic and had to be reorganized months later.

“While everyone misses the electric excitement of an in-person political event, I thought the intellectual level of the discussion was very strong and candidates interacted and challenged each other’s ideas as if they were in the same room,” Kousser said. “But we missed the chance for students to interact personally with the candidates afterward and to volunteer with their campaign teams if they liked what they heard. We hope to do that in an in-person issues forum in the next election cycle.”

Even though it was held via Zoom, the political science department feels that the event “exceeded expectations” with more viewers still to come in the future as the event is available on-demand on YouTube and will be broadcasted on UCTV as well. According to the political science department, 1,000 people registered for the Zoom call with 400 tuning in live. There were more that tuned in live on YouTube and on KPBS radio.

“Even in a busy election season, Tritons and the broader community are hugely engaged,” Kousser said.

The final five minutes of the debate featured closing statements as both candidates were given time to speak directly to UCSD students and let them know what they have planned for the future. Baraba Bry was the first one to address the UCSD student body.

“When you all graduate from UCSD, I’m thinking about you and what we need to do to keep you here in our city,” Bry said during the debate. “To make sure you are going to get a good job, that you’re going to have a place to live, that you’re going to be able to enjoy our natural environment: our beaches, base, and canyons.”

Following her closing remarks, Gloria followed Bry’s comments by connecting his past to his current platform and plan.

“I’m the son of a maid and gardener that were able to buy a home. Today in 2020 San Diego, blue-collar workers like them can’t buy a home and put their kids through college,” Gloria said during the debate. “I will be a mayor who will go to city hall every single day with stories like mine to make sure that pathways of opportunity that were there for me are there for you too.”

With UCSD starting a movement to get students to vote, they need to send voters that are informed about what both options are. This mayoral forum follows up on all of the efforts to get people to register. The format attempted to limit the research barrier that people feel when voting as the candidates laid out what they can offer students not only during their undergraduate degree, but also the rest of the students’ lives.

Art by Yui Kita for The UCSD Guardian.

THE GUARDIAN

The New Sixth College and North Torrey Pines Living Learning Neighborhood is Open

October 11, 2020 by Niloufar Shahbandi



UC San Diego debuted three new residential halls as part of the new Sixth College, marking it the first year that students are living in the new Sixth College dorms. The buildings are part of the larger North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood, which is still under construction and expected to be completed in 2021.

As of Fall 2020, only three out of the four residential halls — Catalyst, Kaleidoscope, and Tapestry — have been completed, while Mosaic is expected to be completed in 2021. In accordance with the Sixth College theme of Culture, Art, and Technology, the new residential halls each have their own name based on symbols from La Jolla's natural landscape.

“The buildings are nice; they give off the new feeling,” Earl Warren College sophomore Nick Hale said. “I like the feel of the new buildings and enjoy the location of the complex. From where I am, I haven’t heard the construction, but I know it’s a problem for other people and they can hear the construction at night sometimes. Overall it’s pretty active and has a friendly atmosphere.”

Students like Thurgood Marshall College sophomore Jenayah Shaheed made positive comments on the location and new design of the buildings.

"It's more modern," Shaheed said. "They try to make it more "community" like because of how they set up the floors. So when you enter it is the common room. It's more in the middle of campus and it has better views of the ocean. The people are still the same, everyone is kind and nice and great to be around. It would be so much better if we weren't in a pandemic, because then I could hold socials in the common space. But right now I can't use the kitchen, I can't use the fridge, can't sit on common space furniture. It would be a lot more helpful and a lot more interactive, because those buildings are made for community-building."

The four buildings will house 2,000 undergraduate students, however, with the COVID-19 pandemic Housing Dining Hospitality has reduced undergraduate housing to 50 percent of its typical density.

Construction of NTPLLN began in 2018 and the complex is part of a \$1.6 billion expansion, one of the biggest in campus history. The new residential buildings will provide affordable housing for many UCSD students while also helping the university increase its enrollment. UCSD hopes to enroll approximately 40,000 students by 2021.



<https://youtu.be/gPcHF6NasQk>

The NTPLLN complex, which is located between John Muir and Marshall Colleges, is more than 10 acres in size and will include the Arts and Humanities building, the Craft Center, and the Social Sciences Public Engagement Building. The Arts and Humanities building will house the history, literature, and philosophy departments as well as other programs such the Analytical Writing Program. The Craft Center will include classrooms, dedicated studios, and specialized facilities to provide “community members chances for self-expression and skill-building practice.”

NTPLLN is designed to provide more open space and seating areas. “There will be plenty of places to socialize and relax as well as pedestrian and bike-friendly pathways and elements,” said Matthew Smith, project manager and architect with UCSD Capital Program Management. “Enhancing movement of people and bikes through the campus core rather than on to the surrounding streets is an ongoing goal for the university, which development of this neighborhood will help us achieve.”

Six new restaurants are coming to NTPLLN in 2021 — the restaurants will represent the “San Diego experience” on campus and will include Asian fusion, Japanese, plant-based diets, and Middle Eastern street food. You can learn more about these restaurants at the Eater article.

NTPLLN is only one of UCSD’s construction projects at the moment. These building projects contribute to UCSD’s rise as the fifth largest research university in the country. The university has many other facilities currently being built or planned to be built in order to meet the vision of having a total of 12 colleges.

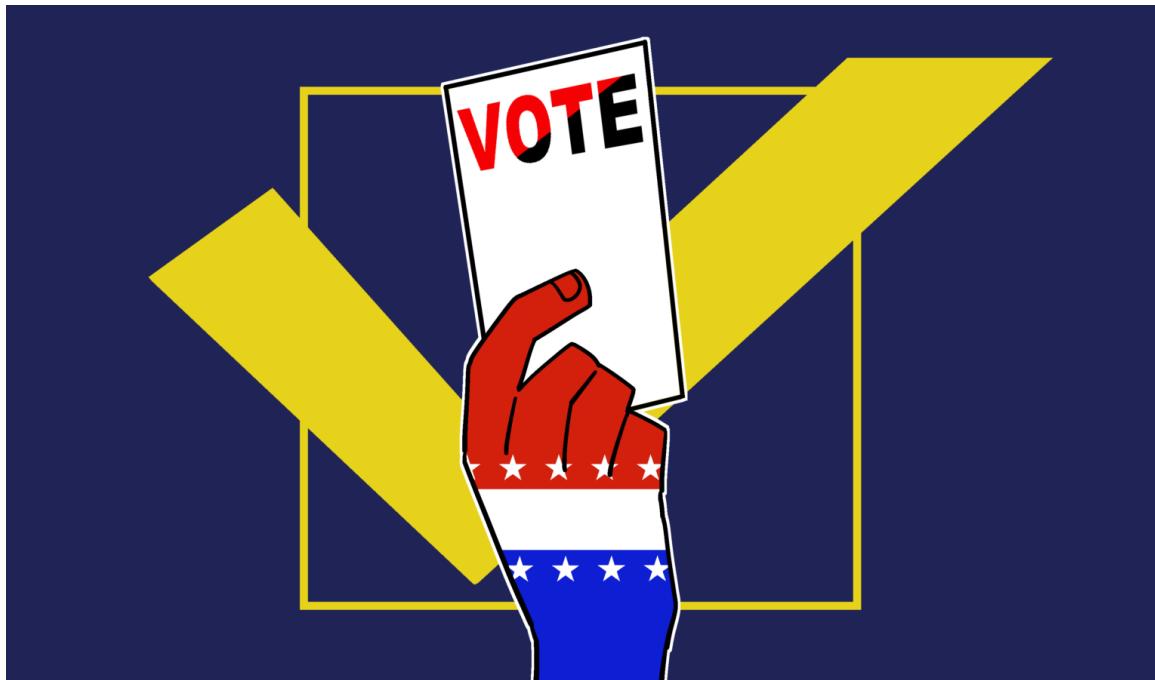
Photo courtesy of Ellie Wang for the UCSD Guardian.



The UCSD Guardian's Guide to Voting In San Diego: Local Elections

October 11, 2020

Lindsey Choo



This article is part of a new UCSD Guardian series on the 2020 United States elections. We will be discussing registration, state propositions, and various elections from the local to federal level. Tune in every Tuesday on Facebook or Instagram to see the latest article.

As election day nears, many are focused on the presidential race, however, local elections in San Diego County are just as important. Some of the major seats up for election this year are for mayor of the city of San Diego, City Council positions in Districts 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, and positions on the board of supervisors in Districts 1, 2 and 3.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, California Governor Gavin Newsom made an executive order to send all registered voters in California vote-by-mail ballots ahead of the Nov. 3 election. According to the San Diego Registrar of Voters, in-person polling locations will also be available and open from Oct. 31 through Nov. 3.

The UC San Diego campus houses a number of in-person polling locations. To find out more information on how to register to vote in this election, visit the UCSD Guardian's guide to voting in San Diego. Registered voters in San Diego county will have a number of candidates to select from, depending on the voting address.

The UCSD Guardian will focus on City Council District 1 and the Board of Supervisors District 3 as those districts cover La Jolla and San Diego proper. To look at the specific district maps, visit the San Diego Registrar of Voters tool.

The Mayoral Race

While local elections are nonpartisan, as individuals do not officially run with party labels, this year's mayoral candidates consist of two Democrats: City Councilmember Barbara Bry and California State Assemblymember Todd Gloria. This will signify a change in party influence for the mayor of San Diego as Republican incumbent Kevin Faulconer, has become ineligible to run due to term limits.

According to a San Diego Union-Tribune/ 10News SurveyUSA poll with a sample size of 600 adults from the city of San Diego released Tuesday Sep. 1, Councilmember Bry and Assemblymember Gloria are close in the polls. Councilmember Bry leads Assemblymember Gloria 37 to 34 percent, but her lead is within the poll's 5.3 percent margin of error, and 29 percent are still undecided.

City Councilmember Barbara Bry has been serving as the representative for District 1 since December 2016, and has served as Council President Pro Tem since December 2017. She also worked at UCSD for 10 years, between 1986 to 1996 as the associate director of CONNECT. In an interview with the UCSD Guardian, she said that she is running on a platform that focuses on the economy, housing and homelessness, and public safety.

“I ran for city council in 2016 because I was frustrated that the street in front of my office was being torn up again and again to have the same work done,” Bry said. “I got to city hall and found a culture of corruption, where there was no accountability, no transparency, and where major decisions were made behind closed doors. I am running for mayor to bring accountability and transparency to city hall, to make city hall work for our residents, particularly our neighborhoods.”



I knew politics was bad. But I never thought my opponent would exploit the deep divisions in our country, cynically attacking me for being too conservative to Democrats, and for being too progressive to Republicans.

Solving problems starts by bringing people together. And our ideas get better when we listen to each other.

If you're tired of politicians who exploit our differences to advance their careers, I'm Barbara Bry. I'm a problem-solver. And I'm asking for your vote for Mayor.

California State Assemblymember Todd Gloria has been serving as the representative for the 78th Assembly District, which includes much of San Diego, since 2016, represented District 3 on the city council from 2008 to 2016, and served as council president from 2012 to 2014. Gloria told the UCSD Guardian that his platform was one of ending housing and homelessness, increased public transportation and increased affordability for working and middle-class San Diegans, while being mindful of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter.

“I am a native San Diegan, a third generation San Diegan,” Gloria said. “I am running for mayor because I am the son of a maid and a gardener, which means I know how hard it is to make ends meet in a town as expensive as San Diego. I am very concerned that we are increasingly becoming a city that is just for the very wealthy who can afford to live here and the very poor who are trapped here. I’d like to be a mayor that makes sure that housing is affordable for working and middle-class San Diegans.”



<https://youtu.be/YPJhLfZO3Xw>

The City Council

City Council District 1 also has two Democratic candidates, Joe LaCava, a civil engineer and public policy consultant, and Will Moore, a lawyer.

Joe LaCava has lived in La Jolla since 1985 and graduated from San Diego State University with a bachelor's degree in engineering.

"I envision a city run by leaders who spend less time on soundbites and photo ops and, instead, deliver promised public facilities and infrastructure to our neighborhoods," LaCava said. "I envision a city that spends less time strangled by endless debates and focuses on addressing the challenges facing our city; making housing more affordable to more San Diegans and achieving a diversified workforce in the green, blue and hi-tech companies."

Will Moore is a small business attorney and graduated from Columbia Law School with a Juris Doctor degree.

"I'm running to reform our city government so that it responds to the people, not the lobbyists and special interests," Moore said. "That's why I've proposed a slate of ethics reforms to close loopholes that let lobbyists hide who they are and who is paying them. I am running for city council because today's decisions become tomorrow's successes."

The Board of Supervisors

The board of supervisors District 3 race could flip the board's Republican majority to Democratic. Incumbent Republican candidate Kristin Gaspar is running against Democratic candidate Terra Lawson-Remer, a former senior advisor in the Obama administration. The race will determine the political leaning of the board.

Supervisor Kristin Gaspar has represented District 3 on the board since 2016, after having served four years on the Encinitas City Council and as the first elected mayor of Encinitas.

"When I ran, I promised to focus on the things that matter most to each of us in our communities," Gaspar said. "Since taking office, I have worked to help those who are most vulnerable in our society — the elderly, the formerly incarcerated, those struggling with mental health or addiction, and our homeless population, while protecting taxpayers and keeping our communities safe."



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Being prepared and knowing what to do when you only have minutes or seconds to act can give you peace of mind and... SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Today I talked about a new 5-step plan called "Listos California" designed to help vulnerable communities access critical information needed for emergencies and natural disasters. The plan is available in 7 languages and can be found at <https://ccdsd.org/listos/>

Please help spread the word. And don't forget to register your cell phone number at Alert San Diego: readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/

#ListosSD

Democratic candidate Terra Lawson-Remer is a third generation San Diegan, and worked as a senior advisor in the Obama administration to develop economic policies to cut pollution from oil drilling and mining.

“Terra puts public health first. She will listen to county health officials, expand coronavirus testing and contact tracing, and mount an evidence-based pandemic response,” Lawson-Remer’s website states. “Terra is the only supervisor candidate committed to defending the Affordable Care Act and ensuring access to healthcare for every San Diegan.”

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors historically has Republican majorities, so many Democrats now see District 3 as an opportunity to change that.

“Democrats who have so long been excluded from having the majority in the County Board of Supervisors, even in a county that’s been blue, in the last several elections, have been eyeing this opportunity,” UCSD Political Science Chair Thad Kousser said in an interview with NBC7 San Diego.



lawsonremer

919 followers



61 likes

lawsonremer

I'm running for San Diego County Supervisor to fight for urgent action on the climate crisis. Climate change is setting San Diego's chaparral on fire, flooding our coastlines, and threatening generations to come with lifelong health problems. Join me to fight back.

City Attorney

The city attorney race sees incumbent Mara Elliott up against attorney Cory Briggs.

City Attorney Mara Elliott was elected in 2016, and was the first woman and first Latina to be elected into the position. She was a first generation college student, earning her bachelor's degree at UC Santa Barbara and her Juris Doctor degree at McGeorge School of Law. Her track record as city attorney includes issues on preventing gun violence, fighting for victims of abuse, and holding big corporations accountable.

Attorney Cory Briggs has lived in San Diego since the 1990s, earning his bachelor's degree at UC Riverside and his Juris Doctor degree from California Western School of Law after passing the bar exam in 1995.

"I am running both to restore the role of the city attorney's office to giving straight-up, non-political legal advice to the mayor and city council so they can do what's in their constituents' best interests; and overall to improve the public's confidence in government," Briggs's website states. "I have done my best from outside city hall. It's now time for me to give San Diegans my best efforts from the inside."

According to a study published by Tuft University, the rate of voting by college students has doubled from 2014 to 2018. Voter turnout increased from 16.2 percent in 2014 to 36.1 percent in 2018 among undergraduate students, and increased from 27.6 percent in 2014 to 46.4 percent in 2018 among graduate students.

UCSD has greatly increased its efforts to encourage students to vote, with the new Civic Engagement Office under Associated Students. In California, students can register to vote until Nov. 3 on the California state website.

Photo courtesy of Yui Kita for the UCSD Guardian.

THE GUARDIAN

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

UCSD Introduces the New Changemaker Institute

October 11, 2020

Sabrina Wu



Established as a new campus-wide initiative, the Changemaker Institute was announced on Monday, Oct. 5 as an advancement to the Changemaker research, education and community program at UC San Diego. This organization will act as the core of the Changemaker programs that comprise a cross-disciplinary, school-wide effort to serve all colleges and divisions to create educational change throughout the campus community.

According to Assistant Vice Chancellor Patricia Mahaffey, as educational ideas and change occur at UCSD, the Changemaker Institute will serve to identify and implement them.

"Changemaking is all about turning ideas into positive change whether that includes big ideas or small ideas, it all matters," Mahaffey said in an email to The UCSD Guardian. "Changemaking is an ethos that we hope to cultivate throughout the campus community. We know change is happening in all corners of our university and the Changemaking Institute will work to educate, recognize and amplify these efforts for our students, staff and faculty."

The Changemaker community works to create social innovation and seeks higher education

throughout different institutions. Colleges and universities are chosen globally and are identified as Changemaker Campuses, which influences how students develop critical problem-solving skills. In 2017 The Ashoka Foundation, an initiative that includes a network of social entrepreneurs, designated UCSD as a Changemaker Campus to provide students skills to navigate complicated solutions.

"Both the Ashoka U Changemaker Campus designation and the Changemaker Institute signify that UC San Diego is a thought-and-action leader in changemaker education, which seeks to empower students to lead and develop critical problem-solving skills," Mahaffey said.



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**MONDAY 10AM-12PM
FRIDAY 10AM-12PM**

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Not sure where to start on your community service journey at UCSD? No problem, drop into our virtual office hours to learn about options and make a plan!

email **omichael@ucsd.edu** for more information

11 likes

ucsdchangemaker

Want to get involved with community service at UCSD but not sure where to start? Drop into virtual office hours and learn about community service options and make a plan!

One specific goal for the Changemaker Institute is to plan the establishment of the Global Changemaker Scholars Program, which is open to all undergraduate students. This program is to push students to use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as an overall idea for the curricular and co-curricular activities.

Through the Co-Curricular Record, the collaborative team of Ashoka U Change Leaders have found over 300 changemaker student leadership positions that make for Changemaker Recognition. UCSD students that are interested in participating or want to learn more about Changemaking can visit a virtual Changemaker 101 workshop.

As the Changemaker Institute begins, the Changemaking team will focus their research and work around the COVID-19 pandemic this year. They have programs planned for the students, staff, and faculty at UCSD.

“Our theme this year is Inspiring Changemaking for a Just and Equitable Future,” Mahaffey said. “We’ve identified 16 new Changemaker Faculty Fellows for this year who are all doing some amazing programs. More will follow soon on the Institute, the Fellow and all the great Changemaking programs planned.”

If you would like to learn more about the Changemaker Institute, please visit their website or contact them at changemakers@ucsd.edu.

Photo courtesy of UC San Diego

THE GUARDIAN

A.S. Council Brief: Election Day Off, Wellness Kits and Voting Procedures

October 11, 2020 by Vivian Yang



In UC San Diego Associated Student Council's Week 1 meeting, senators discussed a variety of issues including making election day a non-instructional day, distributing wellness kits and creating an initiative to restructure the student council voting procedure.

UC Berkeley student Miyako Iwata made a special presentation to the UCSD A.S. Council and proposed the resolution to make the coming election day a non-instructional day at UCSD. The resolution passed in the meeting on Wednesday evening.

According to Iwata, this initiative will benefit the out-of-state students who do not have the ability to vote by mail.

"Maybe [out-of-state students] are still back at home but taking zoom lectures," Iwata told The UCSD Guardian. "We know that in some states, for example Georgia, people have to wait in five or six hour lines [to vote]. If they were stressing about attending their zoom

lecture because of attendance, and standing in line to be able to exercise [their] right to vote, then that actually becomes the deciding factor. We need to be mindful and aware that not everyone has the luxury of having their ballot automatically mailed to them.”

In the year 2018–19, there were 5.8 percent, 1,745 out-of-state undergraduate students at UCSD. A roughly same amount of students this year may currently be at their home state due to the pandemic, where voting by mail is not necessarily available. In states including Indiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, the request to vote by mail needs an excuse beyond COVID-19 fears.

Besides UCSD, UC Berkeley Associated Students Council passed the resolution unanimously last Wednesday. Other University of California campuses, including UC Irvine, UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis, and UC Merced, have all been reached out to or have made progress to endorse the proposal.

“In my ideal universe, this policy will hold for every single midterm election, every single primary, and every single general election,” Iwata said. “But it’s understandable why professors, faculties, administrators preserve precious class time. So I would want to try to start by having this be recurring for at least general and midterm elections cycles.”

The A.S. Office of Health and Well-Being and the Office of Food and Housing have decided to proceed on a project to distribute wellness kits — through the Triton Food Pantry — to all students who request it. Each kit will contain COVID-19 related items such as face masks, bandaids, hand sanitizers, sanitizing wipes, information brochures, and toothbrushes.

The project piloted during spring quarter 2020 and distributed 250 kits. Due to positive feedback, the Office of Health and Well-Being decided to distribute 800 kits this Fall quarter and aim for 1000 kits each for Winter and Spring Quarter 2021.

Kits will be delivered to students both on and off campus through a collaboration with the UCSD Triton Food Pantry Mobile Clinic. On-campus students may request a kit through the Triton Food Pantry Student Center A’s request system. Off-campus students may request a kit through the Triton Food Pantry Mobile Clinic and the new Triton Food Pantry delivery program.



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Swipe for a [checklist](#) to make sure
your ballot is delivered in time:

- Start today. Give yourself and your election officials ample time to complete the process.
- Rules and dates vary by state, so contact your election board to confirm. usps.com/votinginfo
- Request your mail-in ballot at least 15 days before Election Day.
- Once received, follow the instructions. Add postage to the return envelope if needed.
- We recommend you mail your ballot at least 7 days before Election Day.

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The wellness kits will be ready after Week 5, and relevant information will also be posted on their social media when the kits are ready.

According to Associated Vice President of Health and Wellbeing Issac Lara, the office is also looking for ways to ship to international and out-of-state students, although they are currently still in the process of seeing how this could be carried out.

Sixth College Senator Zacchary Bradt proposed an initiative to reform the A.S. student meetings so that the executive board will be separated from the senate. He argues that this change will improve the efficiency of senate meetings, as well as reduce the influence of executive members on the senate's decision making process.

"The A.S. student council meetings regularly go over midnight and the budget meeting this year lasted over two nights for over 14 hours," A.S. Senator Bradt told The UCSD Guardian.

Bradt argued that removing the executive board members from the discussion of the senate will streamline the meeting by reducing the number of people in the meeting.

"Our time is spent rephrasing the same points over and over again in a way that is unproductive for the sake of our own meeting times and in our goal of best serving our students" Bradt said. "My idea to help curb this issue is to first of all reduce the amount of people present for debate in the Senate by removing the executive board, who, especially in years past, have been some of the most vocal and repeat contributors to the conversation. Additionally, by establishing an internal Senate Leadership position as outlined in my presentation on Wednesday, we can attempt to streamline the communication and internal processes among Senators in order to facilitate a more productive, less recursive debate."

According to reports from Bradt and other senators heading the initiative, this reform is also motivated by their observation that executive members are able to sway the senator's decision making.

"People who run for executive members usually have more influence power by virtue of their position because they carry the weight of inherent trust," Bradt said.

"The way it works right now is, at least in my opinion, the executive board members of Associated Students are de facto figure heads of the senate, which I think is a problem because the senate writes the rules and directs executive action," Campus-Wide A.S. Senator Ben L onc told The UCSD Guardian. "I am not fond of the fact that they essentially

get to govern themselves, which is why the package of reform is labeled as a separation of power.”



<https://www.facebook.com/ASUCSD/videos/335525591037213/>

In the meeting on Wednesday, there has also been suggestions to ask the A.S. Judicial Board to act as the role of supervision.

“I like the suggestion that came up [on Wednesday] regarding the Judicial Board,” L onc said. “I don’t think we use their knowledge and their experience, and their impartiality, most valuable of all, to its full potential, which is why I gravitate towards using the Judicial Board to provide some level of oversight more to the executive than to the senate. Because I think the senate already has a pretty good oversight mechanism in the form of the senate leadership position.”

Moreover, both Senators L onc and Bradt expressed that the reform is not meant to sever the communication between the executive board and the senate.

“Senators really don’t put in the same kind of face time with Associated Students as executives do,” L onc said. “We put in 10-20 hours per week, but the executive members can put in 40 hours with high level university personnel and administrators. They vouch on the senate’s behalf with the chancellor, with different vice chancellors, associated vice chancellors, with the regents, with UC Student Association.”

The A.S. meetings employ Robert’s Rule of Order. During a roll-call voting procedure, each member in the senate and the executive board will be called upon and announce their vote in front of all members. Last year, the A.S. Senate passed a resolution to move the votes of executive members in a roll-call voting procedure to the end so that they do not sway the

opinions of other senators.

“That was one of the first steps we’ve taken,” L onc said. “When you have these three or four executives who take a certain stance on something, it can be really hard for less experienced senators to want to break the mold and say ‘I disagree.’ Even in their presence, it creates informal leadership of the senate that I dont think is healthy for any legislative institution. My hope is that we can separate the executive and the senate so that there are more initiatives in the senate. There is more confidence in saying that between the senators, this is the consensus, this is what we’ve decided, and we will hand this to the executives to get done. The decision lies with the senate because that is what we are elected to do.”

With regards to changes on campus, L onc told us that there will be some adjustments to the student centers vendors: Shogun, Bombay Coast, and Kaplan decided not to renew their leases with the university. The vendor that will replace Bombay Coast is in the last stage of negotiation and while there is still no information on what this vendor will be, the university center advisory board will be hearing from the coordinators of the pilot about the project in Week 4.

The space currently occupied by Shogun will likely be replaced with a parcel locker similar to the Amazon Locker. This new location will accept parcels for students from any college and thereby reduce the workload of parcel centres in each college.

A.S. Meetings take place every week and are open to the public. Students can be a part of these meetings by joining with the Zoom link posted on the A.S. website.

Art courtesy of Allyson Llacuna for the UCSD Guardian.