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Against all odds

*Beersheba Kirksey shares
how her lifelong dream is
becoming a reality*

by Skylar Gaven

Ever since high school, biochemistry graduate Beersheba Kirksey has had a knack for the sciences. With multiple obstacles, and an outstanding sense of determination and hard work Kirksey is now on her way to pharmacy school after graduating from HSU this year. As a woman of color she hopes to go against the odds and follow her dreams by staying true to herself.

Kirksey chose to follow the pharmaceutical route when she was picking up her older sister’s medication. As she bought the medication she noticed a young black female technician at the pharmacy. This was a bit unusual for Kirksey. She had never seen a woman of color working at a pharmacy, especially a black

woman.

“She was really pretty and young, she had a white coat,” Kirksey said. “And I was like, ‘How did you get this job?’ It was different. I’ve never seen any women of color work in the pharmacy before.”

Kirksey decided to approach the pharmacist to ask her how she got her job, and how she herself could get in the same position. The young pharmacist gave Kirksey helpful advice on how to plan out her future. However, Kirksey was warned about the hard work and challenges that would soon face her.

“She was like, ‘Well when you go to school you want to major in either biology or chemistry and it’s going to be hard. It’s going to be a lot of work, once you do that you ap-

ply to pharmacy school, get experience you know the whole shabang,’” Kirksey said.

Kirksey has been determined to achieve her goal since 2010, after receiving her acceptance to HSU. She majored in chemistry with a focus in biochemistry during her freshman year.

“It’s been a long, hard, tough journey,” Kirksey said.

Although she was gaining experience with her job and labs, Kirksey noticed the lack of diversity in the chemistry department and all around Humboldt county.

“It was a culture shock,” Kirksey said. “Not having anybody to reach out to, it just really felt like you’re out of place, like you don’t belong. Especially in the chemistry department, it’s really not diverse.

Biology department is a little more diverse but chemistry, it’s not diverse.”

Kirksey is used to the SoCal environment. Moving to Humboldt was a drastic change, and she knew that the process was not going to be easy. Against all odds Kirksey managed to stay strong and continued to be true to herself. She found support in herself, and Kirksey said that it benefited her in becoming stronger.

“I’m from SoCal. Just because I’m in the sciences, I still like to dress, I still like to do the things that I grew up on,” Kirksey said. “I like to wear lipsticks, change my hair and things like that. It sucks sometimes because it makes you stand out and it brings pressure but at the same time that’s me, if I were to go to school in

SoCal it wouldn’t be a problem so why should I change up here?”

Even though the department is not as diverse as one would hope, HSU still provided Kirksey with a variety of hands-on experience in the labs on campus.

“One thing that I do appreciate about Humboldt is that it’s a lot of hands on experience that you don’t find on a lot of campuses especially CSUs,” Kirksey said. “We did a lot of hands on things in the lab that I feel really strengthened me. The amount of work and that we do in the labs really prepares, so I give them that.”

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Bridging the gap

How HSU and Graduation Initiative 2025 are attacking low graduation rates

by Freddy Brewster

Freshman Isabel Duplantier, is planning to graduate in four years, but the odds are stacked against her. According to a recent report, Humboldt State currently has a four year graduation rate of 22 percent. Duplantier, a journalism major, is determined to beat the odds.

“My first semester was hard, because it took a lot of time adjusting,” Duplantier said. “But this semester I feel like I have figured out how I perceive myself and how others perceive me. I made it my home.”

Duplantier’s troubles adjusting to HSU are not uncommon. They are the reason why such a low number of students graduate within four years.

However, those numbers are also not unique to HSU. The California State University system started Graduation Initiative 2025 in 2009 with the intent to “increase graduation rates for all CSU students while eliminating opportunity and achievement gaps.” It didn’t go into effect until 2016, but in that short amount of time progress has been made.

“When we started GI 2025, our four year graduation rate was 14 percent,” Lisa Castellino, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness at HSU, said. “So, we have gone from 14 to 22 percent.”

By 2025, HSU is hoping to have a four year graduation rate of 30 percent and a six



Isabel Duplantier, a freshman journalism major, walks down the steps of Founder’s Hall on Feb. 15. Photo by Freddy Brewster

year graduation rate of 56 percent. Castellino said that HSU had a six year graduation rate of 46 percent when the initiative started, but raised it to 52 percent two years ahead of schedule.

“That’s a success story that the university should hold up,” Castellino said.

Some of the contributing factors behind why students either tend to drop out or graduate in a longer amount of time can be complex. Students face a myriad of issues that range from housing and mental health to food insecurity.

“I know a few freshmen that are having trouble with housing and financial aid,” Duplantier said. “I feel like the school could be better at giving them resources to figure that stuff out.”

To finish this article and learn more details about GI 2025, visit [thelumberjack.org](#)

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We hold ourselves accountable for errors in our reporting.

We invite all readers to participate.

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Thursday




52°

Friday




54°

Saturday



53°

Sunday



54°

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P	I	H	S	R	A	L	O	H	C	S	K	E	C	V
O	L	C	H	E	C	K	I	T	A	O	T	L	E	L
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A	G	U	F	O	I	H	I	M	I	T	L	O	S	J
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X	X	L	S	S	A	D	U	C	A	G	Q	Y	J	F
S	E	N	C	K	K	E	M	E	T	I	C	R	Z	O
D	X	I	P	I	C	K	L	E	B	A	L	L	L	Y
K	G	I	O	E	J	A	Y	Y	B	N	I	C	V	F

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Earth First!

Two free events promoting new HSU scholarship in memory of slain environmental activist

by T. William Wallin

A new scholarship is available for HSU students in memory of slain environmentalist David Nathan “Gypsy” Chain. Chain was was a young forest activist killed in 1998 while trying to prevent illegal logging near Grizzly Creek in the Van Duzen River valley.

On the 20th anniversary of his death, community leaders, friends and fellow activists established the David Nathan “Gypsy” Chain Memorial Scholarship to provide an annual \$1,000 scholarship for students who have demonstrated commitment to issues of forest ecology through volunteer or academic projects.

Environmental activist Rabbi Naomi Steinberg said the idea started from a conversation between friends who were active in the Headwaters efforts 20 years ago.

“Gypsy’s death practically happened in my backyard...it was heart wrenching,” Steinberg said. “When I realized it was going to be the 20th anniversary of his death I said to my friends we should do something positive to immortalize



Illustration by Amanda Schultz

him.”

Gypsy moved to Humboldt County in the 1990s from Texas to join Earth First! in the midst of the timber controversy. He learned non-violent protesting tactics and how to climb 200 foot redwood trees, and participated in tree sitings.

In 1998 Gypsy and other activists were in Grizzly Creek National Redwood Park to persuade tree loggers to stop cutting down trees and to wait for the California Division of Forestry. This is the state agency charged with overseeing timber harvest plans on non-federal land throughout the state, to assess the land for endangered species.

Pacific Lumber Company logger Arlington Earl “A.E.” Ammons argued all morning with activists and decided to start cutting down trees that were positioned on slopes. The last tree Ammons cut fell directly onto Gypsy, killing him

on Sept. 17, 1998.

“We want this scholarship to keep Gypsy’s story alive because he was a wonderful idealist and young person,” Steinberg said. “We want students to understand 20 years ago a young man was willing to put his life on the line at great risk to prevent illegal logging. We don’t want anyone else to lose their life, god forbid, students need to understand making change requires great effort, dedication and certain kinds of sacrifice.”

Two upcoming events will be taking place to benefit the scholarship. The first event is part of HSU’s Social Justice Summit on March 2 with a showing of “Who Bombed Judi Bari?” followed by a workshop and singing. The second event will be a benefit show at the Arcata Playhouse on March 9. Local activist and musician Darryl Cherney will be hosting both events and playing music.

Judith Mayer, environmen-

tal planner and HSU lecturer in environmental science and management, said that the benefit is meant to honor Gypsy’s memory and the forest defenders.

“This is to support local students at HSU and CR who are pursuing further studies and have a commitment to environmental activism and protection,” Mayer said.

Mayer organized the event for the Social Justice Summit and said Gypsy was emphatic in his forest defense and one of hundreds of young people in Humboldt at the time involved in the movement.

“It was a nonviolent movement and remains so, yet many of these activists had been labeled as eco-terrorists,” Mayer said. “The bottom line is to see the defense of the forest in our ecoregion of the north coast not only in terms of environment, but social justice and sustaining life on Earth.”

Mayer wants to encour-

age students to apply for the scholarship soon. She said the scholarship is for students who are graduating from any Humboldt high school and planning on attending HSU or CR. The scholarship is also available for first year students at HSU or CR who are planning on continuing.

“The people who established the scholarship initially conceived it as an academic landing pad for environmental activists in college,” Mayer said.

One of the creators of the scholarship, Marion Nina Amber, wanted the scholarship to bring awareness of environmental issues and help students understand activism. Amber’s son was friends with Gypsy and said it could have been anyone else at that time getting killed due to the high tensions between activists and loggers. Amber said students are unaware of the timber wars that occurred in Humboldt County and this scholarship will help teach history.

“Those ancient redwoods cannot reproduce themselves, we are planting more but the conditions are not like they were back then due to climate change,” Amber said. “People need to know about the value of the natural landscapes. Gypsy is a symbol and was willing to put his life on the line and defend this. We need to teach about him and people should know about him.”

T. William Wallin may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu

Break that wall

The 25th annual Social Justice Summit aims to shine light on oppression and problematic narratives

by Freddy Brewster

Students Adrienne Bahn and Deema Hindawi want to “break that wall,” which is the title for this year’s Social Justice Summit. The summit starts on Monday, Feb. 25 and will continue throughout the week.

“We were thinking about how the world is so fragile and about the Berlin wall, the Mexican wall, the wall with Palestine and the walls within us and within our societies,” Hindawi said.

Hindawi and Bahn are the coordinators of the summit and have been planning the event since August. The summit will feature a number of speakers and workshops all aimed at bringing awareness to social justice. The keynote speaker this year is Kim Davalos. Davalos will be leading a discussion on Feb. 25 about the book “Alice in Wonderland” and the “intersections of her identity and life,” as well as hosting a workshop titled “Heartwork: love letters and languages.” Bahn attended a previous speech by Davalos and was so moved by it that she decided to invite her to this year’s summit.

“I was inspired and intrigued by her powerful rhetoric,” Bahn said. “It was about embracing our own identity despite the hardships that we have to endure. With every hardship, there is beauty too.”

Growing up, Bahn said that she always had the intention to volunteer, but didn’t know what that meant until she got to HSU.

“I became more aware of our political climate, so I decided to actually do something,” Bahn said. “I started to volunteer and joined the Multi-cultural center and the Asian, Desi and Pacific Islander club.”

One of the anticipated events during this year’s summit is “The Other Side of Murder Mountain.” The event will feature a panel discussion about the 2018 Netflix docu-drama that took place primarily in southern Humboldt. The series paints an image of Humboldt county as a place where “vigilante justice and outlaw culture” reign. Deidre Pike, journalism professor at HSU, will be one of the panelists.

“‘The other side of Murder Mountain’ is about telling a different narrative about the series on Netflix,” Pike said. “People have been calling us

and asking if it’s real. As storytellers, we have the ability to change the world, and the folks at Netflix have wide reaching opportunities.”

Pike said that the series pushed out a narrative that doesn’t fit reality in Humboldt, especially when it came to missing people. She pointed out that Humboldt county has one of the highest rates for missing people, but a lot of those cases end up being resolved. Pike also felt that the narrative being pushed in the Murder Mountain series is problematic.

“I have been thinking about the narrative and how it almost

celebrates violence,” Pike said. “One of the counter narratives is, if you shine a light on Murder Mountain, people realize that the things they do can end up on Netflix. People thought southern Humboldt was this outlaw, backwoods place and now it is not.”

Pike went on to say that Humboldt has a brand when it comes to the marijuana industry and that Humboldt’s future parallels marijuana’s.

“If we want to be the Napa of the marijuana industry, then we need to cultivate that brand,” Pike said. “Murder Mountain contributes to that narrative, but as an ‘edgy

Napa.”

The summit will conclude on Friday, March 1 with Barbara Curiel giving a presentation titled “Border Walls and Borderland Identities.” Bahn said that she was excited for the final presentation and that the main message of the summit is to bring awareness to injustice.

“We are here to dismantle all forms of oppression,” Bahn said. “We can’t end sexism without ending racism as well.”

Freddy Bewster may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu



Adrienne Bahn, student organizer and psychology major, organized the 25th annual Social Justice Summit alongside Deema Hindawi. Photo by Freddy Brewster



Deema Hindawi

I am double majoring in criminology and justice studies, CRGS (ethnic studies) and minoring in communications student advocacy.

I picked these majors because I have always been fascinated with law and ethnic studies has always tugged on me and I want to learn more.

San Francisco.

Grad School.

Going outdoors.

Keep your eyes open and if you are a person of color please keep your eyes open a bit wider because Humboldt is not as safe as we are made to believe.

To continue reading check out thelumberjack.org

Q&A

by T. William Wallin



Oliver Winfeild-Perez

Critical race gender and sexuality studies.

I was originally was a child development major when I came to HSU, but I came to CRGS after taking a community organizing class with Dr. Marisol Ruiz Gonzalez in the education department. I came to CRGS from my own experience as a trans queer person of color in the world. My experiences with homophobia and transphobia, being othered and disrespected have lead me to know that something isn't right, that we deserve a better world, that a better world is possible. CRGS has given me that, has given me a space to analyze, critique, dismantle and create alternatives.

I was born in Hayward, Calif. in the East Bay, but my family moved around a lot for work. I spent most of my childhood in Riverside, the Central Valley and Santa Barbara county, then I moved back to the East Bay for high school.

I'm looking to intern at an organization in the bay which organizes around prison abolition, prisoner support, anti-policing work, such as Critical Resistance, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, or one of the many others, so hopefully that works out. Other than that, I plan to take a year or two off before applying to some California Ph.D programs in Women and Gender studies, American Studies or Ethnic Studies. I really just want to give myself space to grow and learn, and not rush into grad school or force myself to go. I want it to be a semi-enjoyable experience if possible.

Community. I've met so many amazing, dedicated students, faculty, staff and community members who are so passionate about creating safe, accountable and loving communities. I see people busting their asses on the daily building campaigns for justice, holding elected officials accountable, creating networks of community solidarity and support, working to end racism, sexism, colonialism and oppression in our areas. To be a part of that has been so rewarding and I will always cherish my time here.

I really hope incoming students are able to just give themselves space to be and take care of their own needs. If you're struggling with motivation and mental health, don't be afraid to take some time off, don't be afraid to listen to what you need and act on it. The university is always talking about four year graduation rates, which I do think can be important financially. But the reality is that college is difficult as hell and sometimes you just can't keep pushing, you can't suck it up and keep going, and that's okay. I wish I would have given myself that space in times when I was really struggling. I feel like I would have had time to heal, grow and accept myself.

What are you studying at HSU?

Why did you pick these areas of study?

Where are you originally from?

What's the plan after graduating?

What has been your favorite experience in Humboldt?

What advice do you have for incoming students?

Kemetic yoga is food for the soul

Afrocentric yoga that teaches movements have purpose

by Silvia Alfonso



Students sat in a circle, starting off the class with deep breaths.

Photo by Silvia Alfonso



Dionna Fletcher directed the class through movement and breathing techniques.

Photo by Silvia Alfonso

Most people think that yoga comes from Asia. Kemetic yoga, however, is one of the original practices of yoga. It originates from ancient Egypt, the proper name being Kemet. What differentiates Kemetic yoga from other types is that it's a series of geometric postures, almost like there's math in every movement. Humboldt State had a Kemetic yoga class taught by Dionna Fletcher as part of Black History Month. This was Fletcher's first time directing a Kemetic yoga class after completing her training in Jamaica last month. We sat in a circle as she directed us through each posture. All were welcome, and students trickled in and joined the circle. Kemetic yoga has a breathing pattern to implement purposeful breathing: inhale, pause, exhale, pause. Each of the movements were done three times, following the geometric theme of the activity. Many of the names of the poses were slightly different from what we're used to hearing. For example, the normal sitting pose is called 'sesh.' "It's a black practice that needs to be spread," Fletcher said. "It offers something to the POC community that Asian or Indian yoga does not."

Fletcher has been part of a series of fitness sessions going on around campus and town. The series was compiled by Chryste Johnson, interim coordinator for the African American Center of Excellence (AACE). Johnson named the series Soul Fitness as a way of representing people of color during Black History month, and intended to bring in new forms of movement that people haven't heard of. It is a three-week compilation of different forms of movement. Johnson explained that there's been hip-hop cardio, there will be a steppin' class and it's the same series that made Love Ya' Self Queen. HSU student DiOria Woods was one of the students who attended the series. "I'm a dancer, I've never heard of this kind of yoga and I like to try new things," Woods said. "I'm part of the culture center and I wanted to actually interact with these kinds of events." Though it was a small class, it was a relaxing thing to get into after the stress of the day. Fletcher made everyone feel welcomed and comfortable. Even at the intermediate level the people in the class felt comfortable to do the poses no matter how hard it seemed. Nicole Lamperti was another

student that joined in on the Kemetic yoga class. "I'm in a world cultures class and was curious about this kind of yoga," Lamperti said. The lights were off, letting the natural light come in from the sun setting through the windows. This created a more relaxed feel to the class. In the background, Fletcher played music by people of color, supporting the idea of loving yourself and putting yourself first. Kemetic yoga brings a new form of movement to a common type of activity. Yoga is done all over the world but can be done in different forms. Kemetic yoga reminds us to be purposeful in our movements and reminds us about the different places we come from.

Silvia Alfonso may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu

Ch5ck It! out

Over 300 students time travel to a consent-centered world of violence prevention

by Grace Caswell



Photo Courtesy by Check It



Photo Courtesy by Check It



Photo Courtesy by Check It

More than 300 Humboldt State University students crowded into the Kate Buchanan room to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Check It. For three hours, the Check It party raged on, filled with good food, karaoke fun and positive protecting vibes. Check It's head coordinator Mary Sue Savage took the stage early to congratulate the progress made by the organization in its five years of activity. As a HSU alumna herself, Savage has followed not only Check It's progression, but HSU's and the community's as a whole. "When I was a student, a very small percentage of folks were involved in violence prevention work, it was really just a solid group of social justice activists," Savage said. "But we weren't reaching the people we needed to reach or engaging them. But with Check It, I can see how possible it is to engage everyone on campus in violence prevention work." As co-founder to Check It, tonight's celebration meant many things to Savage, as she stood in front of more than 300 supporters of the Check It movement. "Tonight celebrates the incredible community support and compassion that

makes up this movement," Savage said. "It's honoring the amazing consent centered activities students have been doing on campus and just celebrating how much progress has been made over the past five years!" With two hours of karaoke, the room filled with performances from student and staff hand-picked classics. Shelby Gilfuss, a second year psychology major, was one among the 300 plus who attended the Check It's party in support. "I came to support my friend on the Check It team," Gilfuss said. "I also enjoy the idea of a safe community and have met so many new people, people I would never have had a conversation with before." With free food, hilarious entertainment, and Check It merch, it wasn't just the guests having a great time. Shelley Magallanesa, a third year psychology major and Check It team member shared her personal relationship to Check It. "It's the best," Magallanesa said. "I spend all my time here and have a lot of fun. People are so devoted to growing the cause and working hard every day. We've had so much success and that makes me feel so good!"

Back in October, Check It gained the attention of the U.S. Justice Department, which resulted in a \$300,000 grant. With new funding, the future of Check It looks bright and promising. Plans to expand and spread the movement, along with upgrade the organizational outreach, displays a promising future for violence prevention. "This semester we are working with Arcata High School to launch Check It," Savage said. "We're also getting ready to launch our 'Love Knows Boundaries' campaign later on this semester with specialized access cards. We really just want to continue to embed Check It within our campus culture." The first 5 years of Check It can be summarized into a success, with an established office space, tons of students activist volunteers, and a new grant allowing upgraded target outreach. The next 5 years show signs of a promising future to the prevention of violence and the Check It organization as a whole.

Grace Caswell may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu

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The Eel River and cannabis

The green rush took a toll on the Eel River’s Health

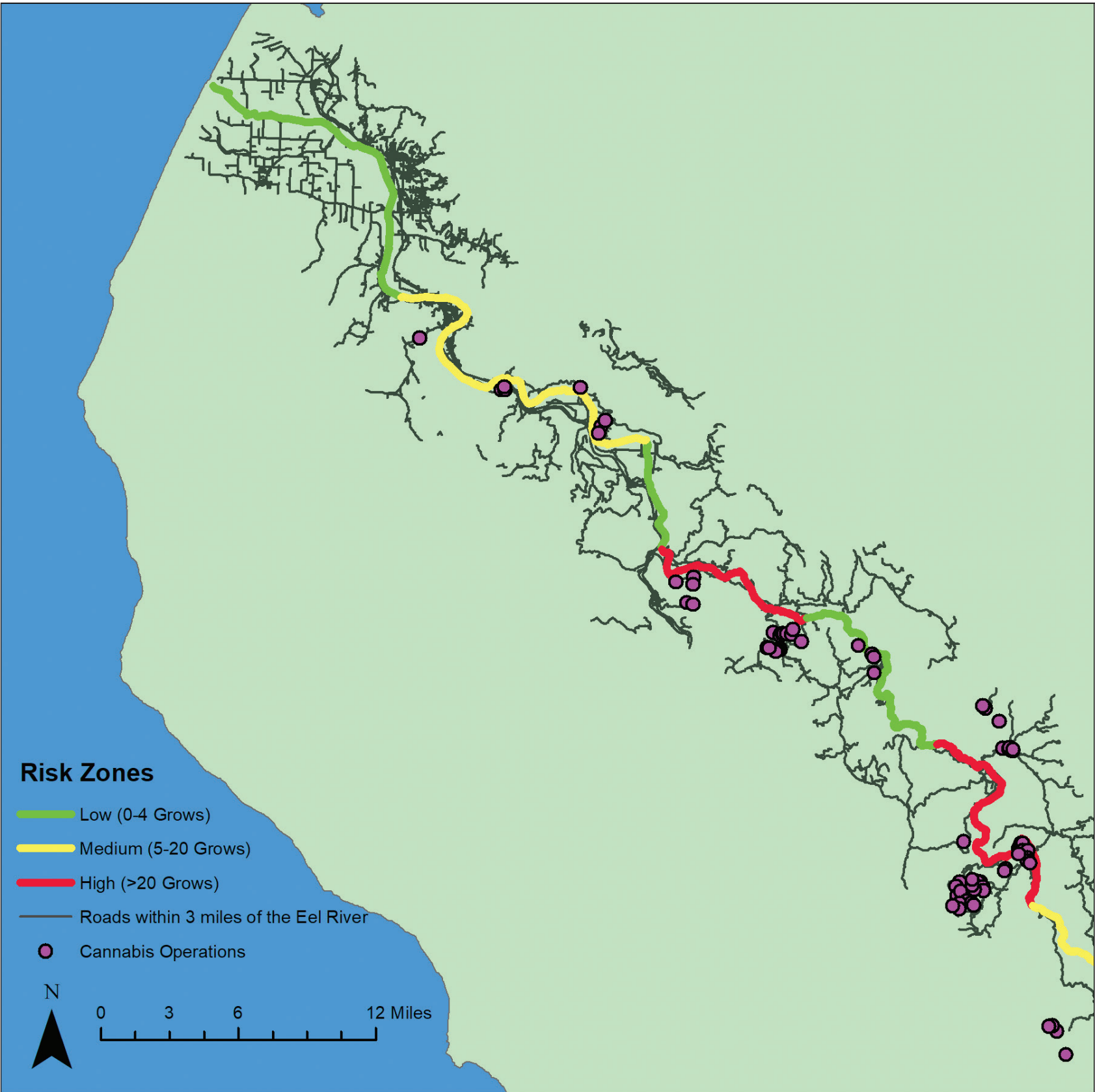
by Cosette Mccave

Cannabis farms have been polluting the Eel River since the Green Rush began. There is sediment eroding and fertilizer running off into the river and the attached streams. Water is also being siphoned off from the streams and river to use on large grow operations.

There are some sections of the Eel River that are at high, medium, and low risk of being polluted by illegal cannabis farms. This map lays out sections that are at those different levels of risk. All of the grows shown are within three miles of the Eel river.

The sediment that is eroding due to the grow operations building roads that they do not maintain. They are also clearcutting a lot of the redwoods which held the sediment in place. This sediment falling into and settling in the river is causing it to flatten out and become shallow. This takes away the salmon’s favored habitat of deep, cold water. The fertilizer is causing algae bloom to occur that is very toxic for the salmon. It causes them to become diseased and die off. The grows are also siphoning off too much water, to the point of the river running dry in some seasons. This makes it hard for salmon to migrate from the ocean, up the Eel River, and to the streams where they lay their eggs.

Cannabis becoming legal will allow the gov-



This map shows the parts of the Eel River that are at high, medium, and low risk of being polluted by Cannabis farms within three miles. | Photo by Cosette Mccave

ernment to regulate the fertilizer used, maintain roads and minimize the impact of clearcutting, and regulate the amount of water being siphoned out. These regulations will keep the Eel River beautiful and protected.

Cpsette Mccave may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu



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CouRaGeous Cuentos is a multilingual journal that includes the creative writing of students in *Ethnic Studies 107: Chican@/Latinx Lives* and *Ethnic Studies 480: Growing Up Chican@/Latinx* offered by the Department of Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies.

We are accepting submissions from students who are currently enrolled or have taken these courses in the past. This includes creative writing in the form of stories, poems, reflections, and essays. We will continue with the organizing theme of counternarratives, which allows for a diversity of voices on topics such as identity (racial and ethnic, gender, sexuality), notions of home, migration, family, community, educational experiences, and resistance.

Visual art in the form of drawings, sketches, etc depicting in some way the themes mentioned above are also being accepted.

To submit, visit: <http://bit.ly/ccuentos3>

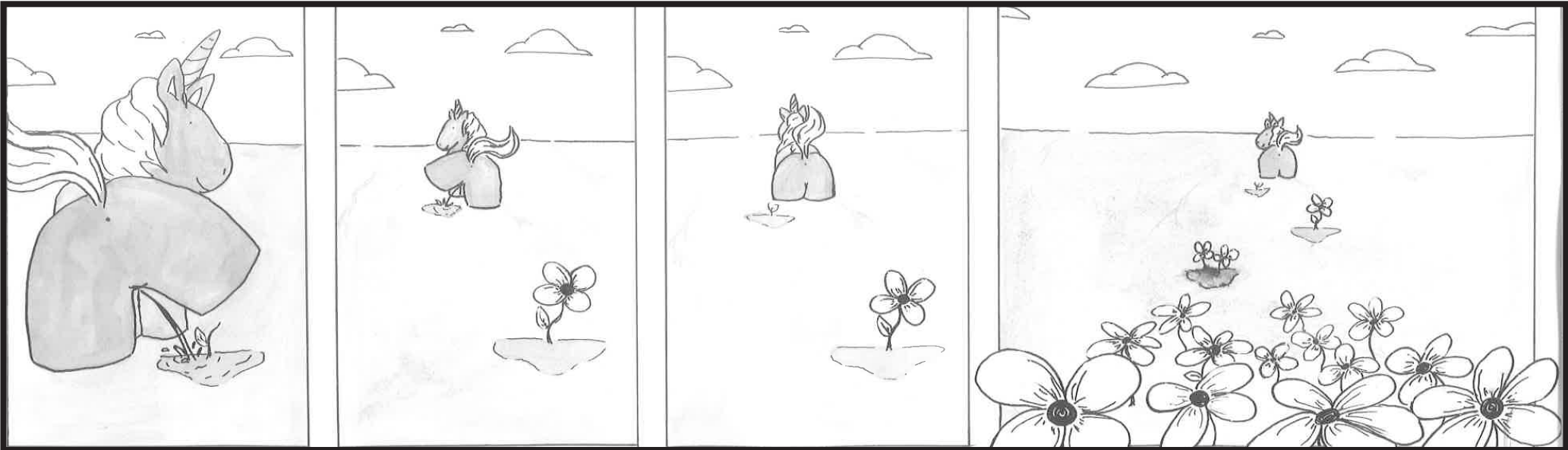
If you have any questions, feel free to email us at: courageouscuentos@gmail.com

CouRaGeouS Cuentos is a multilingual literary journal that highlights the creative writing of students in the CRGS Department. Right now they have a call for submissions for people to submit creative writing and artwork to be potentially published in their journal.

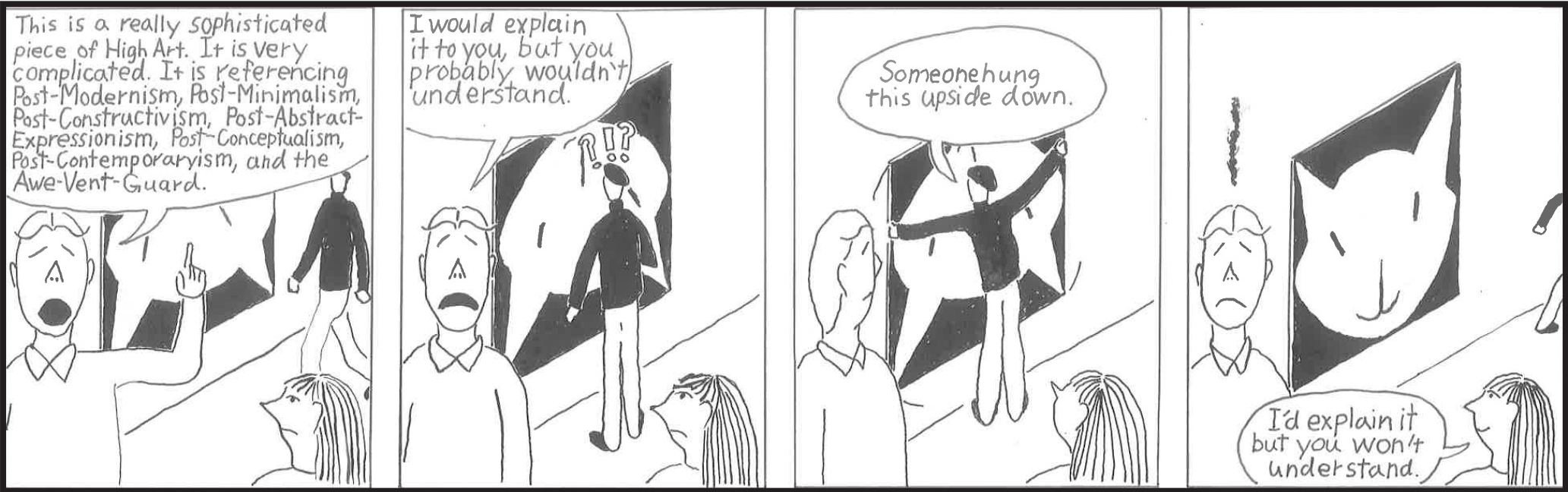
A detailed black and white illustration of a tall, slender evergreen tree, likely a redwood, with a thick trunk and dense foliage.

THE STRIP

Comics from our loyal readers, for your enjoyment



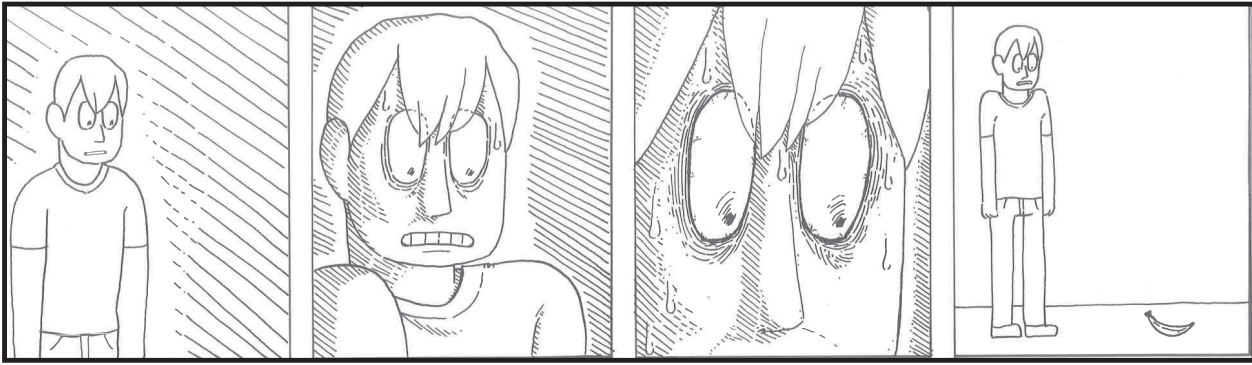
Jezelle Zuschin



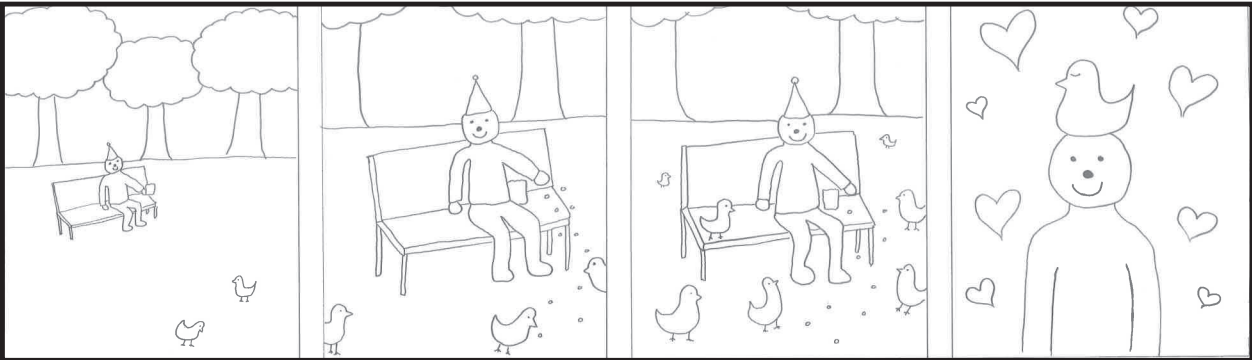
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Jacks swept by Gators in triple-header

HSU softball lost three games on Friday to strong Gators offense

by Liam Warner

HSU softball lost three games on Friday to strong Gators offense

The Humboldt State softball team struggled to score runs and couldn't keep the bats of the San Francisco State Gators quiet as the Jacks were swept Friday at McKinleyville High School. The threat of impending rain on Saturday forced the Jacks to play three straight games on Friday, totaling 21 innings of softball and stretching from nine in the morning until five in the evening.

Playing three straight games in one day might seem like a daunting task, but it didn't change how the Jacks approached the three games. "It doesn't change how we play the game," Outfielder Illa Haley said. "We have to be strong and be tough."

Game one was a pitcher's duel as the Jacks fell to the Gators 2-1. HSU pitcher Lexee Sheiring put up a shutout on the board until the top of the 6th inning, when the Gators were able to deposit two solo home runs over the fence. Sheiring was able to put up good numbers despite having the loss on her record, allowing only two runs on seven hits and only one walk.



Photo by Matt Shiffler
Junior outfielder Lauren Lipe singled to right field Friday against SF State Gators.

Sheiring's effort in the pitcher's circle was unfortunately bested by SF State pitcher Emily Mitchell, who pitched a complete game and allowed one run on eight hits and struck out five while letting four runners get a free base via the walk. The only offense came from HSU's power source and designated hitter Rylie Carlier, who crushed a solo home run in her first at-bat of the day.

Unfortunately for the

Jacks, the sleeping beast awoke for the Gators as they beat the Jacks in game two by a score of 13-2. Jacks pitcher Megan Holt struggled in the first inning, only getting one out and allowing seven runs to score on five hits before she was taken out of the game. However, there was a defensive highlight by HSU Right Fielder Lauren Lipe as she snagged a line drive just before it hit the ground and fired the ball to First

Baseman Mariah Tovar to double up the baserunner at first.

Game three got off to a promising start for the Jacks. Megan Holt started in the circle again and fared much better than her earlier outing, going three innings and allowing one run on two hits. The Jacks would jump out to a 3-1 lead in the third inning as Illa Haley hit a hard line drive triple that would net her two RBI's. However, Lumber-

jack pitching would not hold the Gators for long as they scored five runs in the last two innings to win the game 6-3 and complete the sweep.

Carlier said that since the batters saw the pitchers three times in a row should've helped the batter out.

"But we struggled today," Earlier said.

The struggle to score runs also put a damper on the team's mood at the end of the day.

Head coach Shelli Sarchett said having only five runs in three days is unacceptable. "We're a better hitting team than that, but it's early and I hope this lights a fire under everyone's behinds," Sarchett said.

The Jacks will make the long trek down to La Jolla, Calif. to play the 17th ranked UC San Diego Tritons on Friday and Saturday. The next home series is March 8 and 9 against Cal State Dominguez Hills.

Liam Warner may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu

It's for funsies

Badminton and pickleball clubs meet on Sundays for exercise and conversation

by Freddy Brewster

Ben Bouchard's love of badminton drove him to start the badminton club last semester. This past Sunday nearly 20 members of his club showed up to smack birdies from one side of the net to the other.

Bouchard said he hopes to compete with other schools one day, but acknowledged HSU's rural location. He mentioned reaching out to other schools, but for now wants to focus on the fundamentals.

"I just want to hone our skills and get better," Bouchard said. "I know the Bay Area has a lot of tournaments so we'll see."

Bouchard said he originally started the club to meet other players and to allow people to better their skills. He said that what draws him to badminton are the strategic and mental aspects of the game. It is something that he found more passion in than other traditional sports.

"I was training to be on the track team, but I always ended up coming back to badminton," Bouchard said. "It is more fun and it's a nice break from school."

Zoology senior Olivia Chang went to the gym to get a break from her studies and to play a few games with friends. "I really need the exercise," Chang said. "I usually sit around and study, so it is great to get a good workout."



Photo by Freddy Brewster
Karen Soiker hits the pickleball back to Amanda Pollock during a game on Sunday Feb. 24 in the West Gymnasium.

Chang is a member of the club and has been going to the meetups every Sunday since October. Chang also takes dance lessons at Redwood Raks in Arcata, but particularly looks forward to badminton every week.

"I like how casual it is and relaxed, it is not super competitive," Chang said. "Everyone, no matter their skill level, can drop in and play."

Psychology senior Giselle Velasquez also played this past Sunday. Velasquez said she likes to compete and enjoys playing people who are better than her.

"There are so many people that are good and they teach you all sorts of skills," Velasquez said.

I like to compete, but for some folks who don't it is a very social sport. You meet, you play, you go out to lunch. It is pretty fun."

— Karen Soiker
HSU Alumnus

The pickleball club was also at the gym. Karen Soiker is an avid pickleball player, as well as an HSU alumnus who grew up in Sunny Brae. Soiker is retired and in her free time travels the world with her paddle, always ready for a game. Next month she is headed to Amsterdam with six local pickleballers for a clinic hosted by a professional.

"It keeps me active," Soiker said. "I like to compete, but

for some folks who don't it is a very social sport. You meet, you play, you go out to lunch. It is pretty fun."

Soiker said that the pickleball meetups have been happening for about six years at HSU. Soiker also said the sport is growing.

"There is also a meet-up at the Adorni Center in Eureka," Soiker said "We are bursting at the seams."

Soiker and Bouchard's pas-

sion for their pastimes show. For Bouchard, his love of the sport stems from summer times with his family and the state of mind he enters when playing.

"It allows me to disengage, when I play it just fully takes over," Bouchard said. "When I'm playing badminton, that's all I'm doing."

Freddy Brewster may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu

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Editorial: Let’s not end Black History Month on a bad note

A chance to highlight pivotal African Americans

by Editorial Board

Jussie Smollett is an American actor on the popular tv show “Empire” who staged a racially and homophobic attack on himself to boost his career. Smollett alleged attack has mountains of evidence that it was staged.

The case has left Smollett’s fans and colleagues stunned. This scandal comes out on the tail end of Black History Month, which hurts more. We should not leave Black History Month on a bad note, so we want to highlight some black individuals who left their mark in history.

Claudette Colvin was a teen in 1955 living in Montgomery, Alabama as an African American. While inside a bus, she refused to move from her seat for a white passenger, saying that it was a violation of her constitutional rights. She was arrested for the action and labeled a troublemaker by her community, leading her to drop out of school. Despite Colvin’s actions preceding Rosa Parks by nine months, little is known about what she did. She went on to be part of one of the four plaintiffs in Browder v. Gayle, where Montgomery’s segregation laws were found to be unconstitutional.

Henrietta Lacks was an African American woman who passed away due to cervical cancer. Her cells were



Illustration by Amanda Schultz

collected, and in a rare case they doubled every 24 hours. The aptly named HeLa cells are now used to study the effects of radiation and poisons without using human subjects, and were used for the development

of the polio virus. Although there is controversy in the use of the HeLa cells, as Lacks’ family never received any recognition or compensation for the discovery. Despite this, the HeLa cells were pivotal in

their medical uses.

Bessie Coleman was the first African American woman to stage a public flight in America. Coleman lived in Atlanta, Texas in 1892 until moving to Chicago at age 23.

She wanted to explore aviation, but due to being black and a woman she faced racial and gender discrimination. Despite challenges, she broke through those barriers and received her pilot’s license after moving to France. She had a dream of starting an African American flight school in the US, but tragically died during an aerial flight rehearsal at the age of 34. Coleman was a pioneer for other African Americans who aspired to become a pilot, and was inducted in the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 2006.

The Harlem Hellfighters were the 369th Infantry Regiment and mainly consisted of African Americans. The Harlem Hellfighters fought in the trenches of Germany during World War I for six months, the longest any American infantry regiment fought during World War I. Two of their bravest soldiers were privates Henry Johnson and Needham Roberts, who fought off 24 German soldiers killing four during a surprise attack. Both Johnson and Roberts were awarded the French Croix de Guerre and were the first Americans ever to receive the award. This is one of many awards that the Harlem Hellfighters received.

We wanted to move away from the negativity that came from this year’s Black History Month. Instead we want to highlight these African American individuals that had a pivotal role in shaping history and inspiring others.

The Editorial Board may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu

Opinion: Jussie Smollett calls himself the ‘Gay Tupac’

How Jussie Smollett’s lies affect other hate crime victims

by Maia Wood

I was shocked but not surprised when I first heard Jussie Smollett was attacked by men in MAGA hats. I remember turning to my friend and saying, “This sounds like an episode of ‘Empire,’ it’s so crazy!” I mean we are living in 2019, Trump’s America, anything is possible. Then the details of what happened started to emerge and it made me think twice.

If someone tells me they are a victim I automatically believe them. I will always believe the victim until evidence proves otherwise. Celebrities and politicians were coming from every direction in support of Smollett and calling out the racists who hurt him.

I admit I had my doubts about the story from the start. I mean, who goes to get Subway during a polar vortex (Chicago was colder than Antarctica) at 2 A.M.? I think the biggest red flag is what they yelled, “Aren’t you that empire?!” This statement made me think, “What racist white person is watching Empire in 2019?” I barely know black people who watch empire. Most of us fell off in season two. I know people are extremely racist, but who’s really trying to mess with J-mal Lyon from Empire? Before this scandal Smollett was non-problematic, which made the attack situation more shocking.

Then we started getting re-

ports from the Cook County Chicago police that Smollett wasn’t sharing the full story with everyone. The two white men in MAGA hats were in fact two big buff Nigerian men. Then we started to hear that Smollett paid them \$3,000 to stage the attack with the fake letter and all. Even with these reports I needed to see evidence to believe it because Chicago police have a history of corruption and falsifying evidence. When the video of the men purchasing the bleach and rope emerged, I was no longer on Smollett side. As the days unraveled, we found the police had a phone record of him calling the men and the check that Smollett wrote to the men.

The police charged Smollett for falsifying a police report. Smollett’s alleged motive was to make more money on his ‘Empire’ salary. I believe that he was not working alone in his attempted hate crime hoax. I think there are more people involved. Who knows but Jussie Smollett decided to be the scapegoat so now he must face the consequences. I also want the two Nigerian men to be held responsible too. While they told the truth they still agreed to be complicit in the deceit. I’m sure if the police didn’t find out the real story those men would’ve never came out with the truth.

What makes me the most upset about this situation

is there are real hate crimes happening every day. Smollett used police resources for a publicity stunt. This event does affect people when they report because it makes people second guess victims when they do report crimes. In such divided times we didn’t need a

Jussie Smollett hate crime hoax.

I’m disappointed as a fan because I liked Smollett before all the drama. I thought he was a good role model for other black gay men. He never seemed like someone who would go to great lengths

for exposure. It’s sad to see a someone with so much talent throw it away for nothing. We will just have to watch the justice system do their job in handling the Gay Tupac.

Maia Wood may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu



Photo illustration by Alejandro Zepeda

Reality

Cry me a river while you
pity the sadistic maniacs
And freaks
I can't breathe
This vortex is sucking me
in with fierce speed
I want to be independent,
yet this world has a
Negative opinion on my
colored silhouette
Cry me a river while you
pity the know-it-alls
And the masochistic
freaks
I want to peek over the
horizon to see the other
side
Yet I always get knocked
down
This world is filled with
clowns who walk around
Town with sadistic frowns
I want to break out and
explore
But the man won't let me
Cry me a river while you
pity this heavy deadbeat
world
And its so called perfect
ways
It's a facade, a mere illu-
sion
A deception to the eyes
who can't
See within

All Poetry By:
Dajonea Robinson

Poetry Hour

From us

To you.



Paranoia

Those eyes draw me, they
seduce me
I hope they're not trying to
use me
The way he looks at me
puts endless chills through
me
He's hiding something, it's
like he always has to wear
a mask
I try to welcome him with
open arms but he's cau-
tious
Paranoid
He doesn't want everyone
to see right through him
He's weary of me
He yearns to trust me but
something deep within
Is putting up an epic fight
He's been hurt before
I can see it in his eyes
They try to hide the deep
pain inside
He doesn't want to let the
pain win
Those eyes draw me in,
they seduce me

I am you

Hey there Black girl
How are you? How was
your day?
I see you with the kink in
your hair
That fro looks amazing
I'll always see you when
you're overlooked
I'll always love you when
you feel empty
I'll hold you up when
you're tired from holding
the world up
I'll be the spark to your
fuse
You're beautiful
Did you know that?
You'll always have a space
in my heart
When the world tries to
swallow you up
I'll come in arms swinging
Your feelings are valid
It doesn't make you bitter
It's okay to cry
Don't worry I'll wipe your
tears
Those tear drops doesn't
make you weak
Breathe
When you try to drift away
from reality
I'll snatch you back
Whenever you feel like
you're all alone in the
world
Grab my hand
If you ever feel like you
don't have anymore love
to give
I have enough love for the
both of us
My love is everlasting
Because,
I am you

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Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, February 27th

‘Murder Mountain’ Discussion Panel
5:00 - 7:00 pm
Kate Buchanan Room

Thursday, February 28th

Women and the Timber Wars
5:30 - 7:00 pm
FH 118

Thursday, February 28th

Women’s Basketball vs. Sanoma State
5:30 pm
Recreation and Wellness Center

Thursday, February 28th

Men’s Basketball vs. Sanoma State
7:30 pm
Recreation and Wellness Center

Friday, March 1st

Social Jusice Summit Featured Speaker
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Kate Buchanan Room

Friday, March 1st

Roller Disco
7:00 pm
Blue Lake Roller Rink

Saturday, March 2nd

Women’s Basketball vs. San Fransisco State
5:30 pm
Recreation and Wellness Center

Saturday, March 2nd

Men’s Basketball vs. San Fransisco State
7:30 pm
Recreation and Wellness Center

Saturday, March 2nd

Men’s Rugby Game vs. Sonoma
1:00 - 3:00 pm
College Creek Soccer Field

Sunday, March 3rd

Masters of Hawiian Music
3:00 - 4:30 pm & 7:30 - 9:00 pm
Fulkerson Recital Hall

Coming up

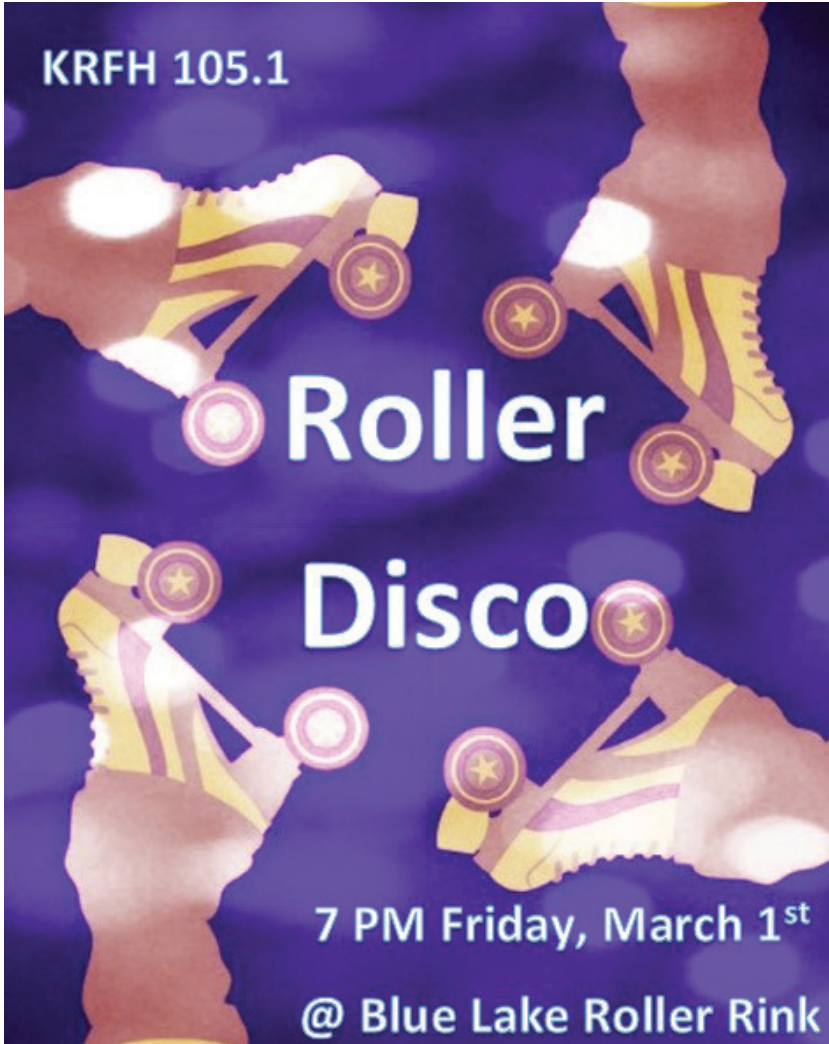
Friday, March 8

Arts Alive Wine Pour
6:00 pm
Arcata Exchange

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