



# 33 MONTHS

*Living in a community full of love, fear and a growing void of justice*

**by Jen Kelly**  
SEE VIGIL ■ PAGE 3

## Sprouting new solutions from the ground up

*How planting trees can serve as one branch of a climate action plan*

by Collin Slavey

In the face of climate change, all scales of society, from government to corporations to individuals, are looking for ways to emit less and sink more carbon. The internet latched onto the tree-planting solution, but it's important the right trees are planted in the right place at the right time.

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The internet latched onto the tree-planting solution, but it's important the right trees are planted in the right place at the right time.

To make the problem manageable, Socolow and Pacala turned the required reduction into one-billion-ton "wedges." The paper contained strategies that could be scaled up by 2050 to reduce carbon emissions by one million tons per year. For example, a wedge would be achieved if the number of miles traveled by the world's cars was cut in half or if global



Photo by Collin Slavey  
Trees at Patrick's Point State Park in Trinidad, CA on March 16, 2017.

deforestation was halted within 50 years.

A consistent goal in climate science is net zero emissions. In other words, the volume of greenhouse gasses going into the atmosphere needs to equal the volume coming out. With a record 37 billion tons of carbon dioxide emitted in 2018, that's a daunting task.

To achieve this goal, society needs to emit less carbon and increase nature's carbon

sinking, or the natural process of turning carbon dioxide gas into solid matter.

Top minds of the world are putting their heads together to come up with solutions, ranging from modernized public transportation to alternative energy technology to lifestyle changes toward less consumption.

Beyond that, policy makers and scientists are working closely with everyday people

to educate, inspire and solve the crisis.

Locally, Humboldt State University, the City of Arcata and Humboldt County have prepared climate action plans. In the spring of 2019, five public workshops were hosted by the county to get ideas from community members on an action plan. The primary goal of these plans is to reduce emissions to pre-1990 levels by 2030.

2030 is the nearest milestone in climate policy. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming, global emissions will need to fall 45% from 2010 levels by then to be on track for the net zero emissions goal for 2050. This ideal timeline would limit global warming to the best-case 1.5 degree Celsius increase in average temperature, a goal which still brings with it real climate change.

Tree planting has become one of the most popular solutions in popular culture. Eco-sia and Team Trees are two internet campaigns working to

## Out with the old and in with the new at HSU

*Several administrative changes at HSU suggest high turnover*  
by James Wilde

In the last three months, three Humboldt State University administrators jumped ship. A game of musical chairs has since taken place as staff have shuffled around to fill the gaps.

Since November, HSU has appointed a new interim provost, interim college dean, Title IX coordinator, Student Health Center director and Human Resources staff recruitment manager.

While it's unclear how the changes will affect HSU, the shifts appear in line with data suggesting high turnover rates among college administrators.

The changes began in November, when Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alex Enyedi left HSU to become the 11th president of the State University of New York, Plattsburgh.

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HSU then appointed Spanish Professor Rosamel Benavides-Garb to take Bond-Maupin's place. Benavides-Garb previously served as associate dean of CAHSS and chair of the World Languages and Cultures program.

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HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

# VIGIL

## FROM PAGE 1

33 months after a black HSU student was murdered in the city of Arcata, a circle of family, friends, students and community members huddled together, clasped hands and shouted his name.

“Justice for David Josiah Lawson,” the group said loud and clear over and over from the steps of the Arcata City Hall. The sun had set hours ago, and a winter wind was biting at those gathered in attendance, but weather wouldn’t stop the crowd.

“The vibe itself is very upbeat considering the weather,” said attendee Andre Ramos, who wore a heavy winter coat and a beanie pulled over his ears.

Every month since the murder of Josiah Lawson, a crowd has gathered around Charmaine Lawson, the mother of Josiah Lawson, and together they demand justice for Josiah. Lawson remains steadfast in her belief that justice will happen. She makes the journey all the way up to Humboldt from her home in Southern California to remind those in power that she will make it happen.

“It will happen,” Lawson said. “I serve a mighty god. As long as I have breath in my body I will continue to be here.”

To Lawson, this was an open and shut case. The original suspect, former McKinleyville resident Kyle Christopher Zo-

ellner, was apprehended the night of the murder. Lawson said the murder weapon was also found. She said DNA evidence should presumably solve this case.

“Why we’re still here? Dumbfounded,” Lawson said.

As the months go by, more and more students move to Humboldt to attend Humboldt State University. Yet Lawson is concerned these students don’t know the situation they’re moving into.

HSU has a much higher population of people of color than the surrounding community. Most HSU students come from Los Angeles or the Bay Area and the small-town culture of Humboldt is different from what they’re used to. Lawson wants to ensure that all students who start the next step of their lives in Humboldt make it out again, but she feels that students of color simply aren’t welcome.

“If you’re a student of color, be careful,” Lawson said. “There are beautiful, amazing, wonderful, compassionate people here. There is love within this community, but there is evil and darkness here.”

Kwame Achebe, a San Diego native, agreed. Achebe has attended every vigil since the murder, but his voice still shook when talking about what happened. He chose his words carefully but spoke with a grim humor when recounting one of his first experiences in Humboldt.

“What’s funny is in San Diego I’m pretty light skinned,” Achebe said with a laugh. “In



Photo by Jen Kelly

A circle of family, friends and community members clasp hands on Jan. 15, 2020 outside of the Arcata City Hall. This is one of many vigils that have been held every month since the murder of David Josiah Lawson.

San Diego I’d have to be convincing people I was black. I didn’t need to convince anybody here. My first day at Arcata High I was greeted as ‘the nigger,’ OK? I was greeted as ‘the nigger.’”

Achebe said his experiences in Humboldt have told him that this isn’t an aberration.

“For us not to have justice 33 months after the murder of a young black man? It’s not out of the norm at all,” Achebe said.

Achebe said the elected leaders of Arcata don’t care about what happened to Josiah Lawson, so it’s up to the people.

“I’ve been out here from the very beginning. I see the look on their faces when they’re addressing us. They have no

souls in their eyes,” Achebe said. “They don’t care.”

Part of the goal of the Justice for Josiah movement is justice in the form of political change, not just for Josiah Lawson, but for the whole system. Lawson vowed to keep working to elect people who she thinks will be able to uphold justice.

“I will continue to call people in power out that are elected officials who are not doing their jobs and make sure we get people with integrity and love and compassion in seats,” Lawson said.

Over the course of the almost three-year history of this case, it has faced numerous setbacks. The case against Zoellner was dismissed in 2017. In 2019, a criminal grand jury decided not to indict anyone

for the murder of Josiah Lawson, and the California Attorney General declined to take the case.

“Justice for me is having Kyle Christopher Zoellner arrested for the murder of my son David Josiah Lawson and held accountable for his actions,” Lawson said.

The history of the case shows that a system that could bring about the justice that Lawson wants is not the one Humboldt has, but Lawson is convinced it will one day. Until then, Lawson is concerned for the students of color in the here and now.

“Don’t go anywhere alone in this town,” Lawson said. “Stick together so someone can tell your story if you’re not able to.”

# ADMIN

## FROM PAGE 1

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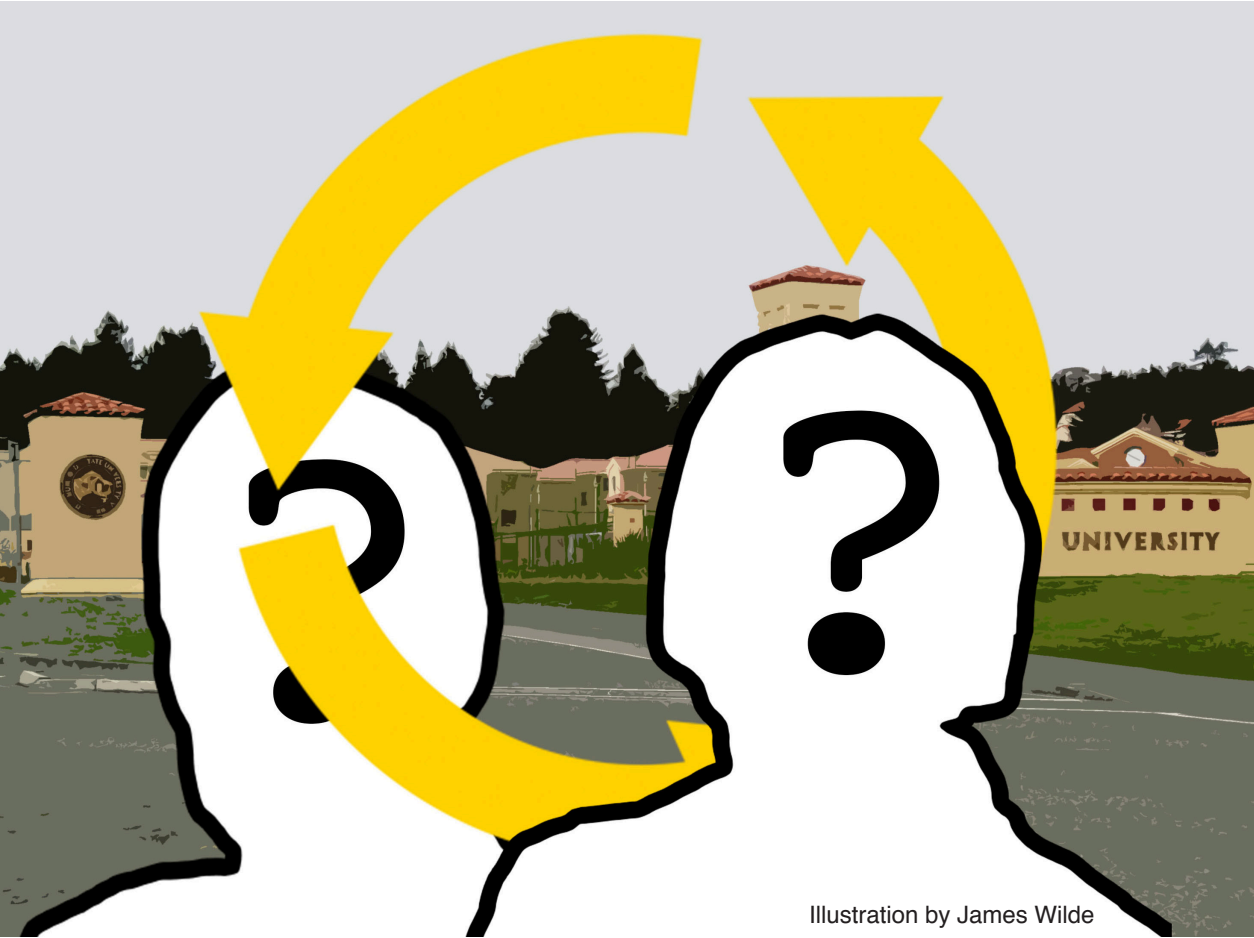


Illustration by James Wilde

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HSU then appointed Spanish Professor Rosamel Benavides-Garb to take Bond-Maupin’s place. Benavides-Garb previously served as associate dean of CAHSS and chair of the World Languages and Cultures program.

On the same day as the Enyedi announcement, Nov. 20, HSU announced Executive Director of Student Health and Wellbeing Services Dr. Brian Mistler had resigned and taken the job as Chief Operating Officer of Resolution Care in Eureka.

In Mistler’s place, Associate Vice President of Student Success Stephen St. Onge now leads the Student Health Center alongside Dr. Karen Selin and Dr. Jen Sanford. The Nov. 20 press release noted that the plans

for the future of the SHC’s leadership would be revealed in January. In the meantime, the release made a promise to students.

“In honoring HSU’s commitment to our students, we are looking into opportunities to expand hours and services for students starting the Spring 2020 semester,” the release said.

HSU then announced the departure of Title IX Coordinator Marcus Winder on Dec. 5.

“Marcus has been an invaluable team member and has served HSU, with his many years of experience, during a time of great change and uncertainty for Title IX departments across the country,” the release said.

Taking Winder’s place is Human Resources Staff Recruitment Manager David Hickcox. Hickcox worked for HR and as an investigation officer for the Title IX Office for the last two and a half years, according to the release.

Recruitment Manager Nicole Log, who, according to the release, has served HSU for

five and a half years in the HR department, then took Hickcox’s place.

Finally, Interim Director of Academic Resources Holly Martel got to remove the “interim” from her title on Nov. 18. Martel, who served as the interim director since 2017, has worked at HSU for 24 years in a variety of roles, from financial planning to personnel management.

According to 2016 data from Higher Education Publications, a company that publishes college data in its online Higher Education Directory, college administrators experience high rates of turnover compared to other administrators.

The turnover rate for deans or directors of education topped the list at 22%, while the rate for provosts sat second-highest, at 21%, according to the analysis. Presidents or chancellors came in third, at 18%. A summary of the analysis gave a variety of possible causes for the high rates.

“When compared to other administrators, the cause for such high-level turnover can

be linked to many diverse issues such as growing financial, faculty, Board and political pressures,” the summary said. “Also, traditionally colleges and universities have made leadership selections from within, minimizing risk.”

However, the analysis did not list the administrative turnover rates with which it compared college administrative turnover rates. The Lumberjack has reached out to Higher Education Publications and will update this story online when we receive a response.

Yet for a rough comparison, according to a Jan. 2020 report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the total separation rate (turnover) for all recorded employees—not just administrators—for Nov. 2019 was 3.7%.

The Lumberjack has also reached out to HSU for comment. We received word that HSU Associate Vice President of Human Resources David Montoya and his team are gathering turnover data and will have a comment at a further date. We will update this story online when we receive said comment.

An HSU memo sent out Jan. 21 revealed results from a spring 2019 Great Colleges to Work For survey conducted at HSU. The national survey, intended to inform institutions about workplace culture, sheds some light on the status of the HSU administrative staff.

Across 15 categories, the HSU results came back most positive in the job satisfaction, compensation, pride and supervisors or department chairs categories. The results came back most negative in the senior leadership, policies and faculty, administration and staff relations categories.

HSU will hold two presentations in Goodwin Forum, one on Jan. 24 and one on Feb. 4, to further discuss the findings with faculty and staff, according to the memo.

# SCRAP Humboldt: Saving the planet one scrap at a time

## Repurposing scraps into affordable art supplies with environmental consciousness in mind

by Chelsea Wood

Doohickeys, thingamabobs and whatchamacallits galore. One local craft store has it all and does so with purpose to provide a community with creative inspiration and affordable art supplies while reducing, reusing, recycling and repurposing.

SCRAP Humboldt is a craft supply store with hundreds of items available for creative reuse. The store started as a temporary holiday season shop in 2012 at the Jacoby Storehouse and later became an established organization aimed at repurposing items that society would typically deem as waste.

Malia Matsumoto first began volunteering her time with SCRAP Humboldt and later became the director of the organization in 2017.

“As an artist, I taught classes at Scrap and volunteered my time to come take care of the store,” Matsumoto said.

As director, she coordinates events, reaches out to similar organizations for cross pollination and manages staff and volunteers at the center. SCRAP Humboldt also works with other local organizations for mentoring programs like the Humboldt Area Foundation.

SCRAP Humboldt relies heavily on donations and receives items for reuse from community members, businesses and even

Humboldt State University. Steady donations also come from partnerships with local businesses that aim to reduce their product waste. Local donors include Los Bagels, Kokatat and the Humboldt Bay Coffee Company.

Donations are sorted into respective categories and then placed on the store’s floor. SCRAP Humboldt has supply sections for sewing, painting, scrapbooking, holidays, jewelry-making and crafting.

“Because everything is donation-based, it’s a really low price point,” Matsumoto said. “As an artist or a maker you’re able to get more materials than you would if you went to a traditional brick and mortar store like Michael’s or JoAnn’s.”

The variety of conventional and unconventional up-cycled items SCRAP Humboldt has to offer gives locals access to affordable art supplies. The organization also hosts weekly tutorial classes to teach the community how to complete projects with repurposed materials.

Matsumoto and the crew at ScCRAP Humboldt have a passion for diverting reusable waste from landfills by finding creative ways to repurpose items that typically wouldn’t be thought of as art supplies.

Matsumoto said that once people start making things on their own, they begin to see the hard work it takes to create



Photo by Chelsea Wood  
Malia Matsumoto stands surrounded by up-cycled materials in the tutorial area in SCRAP Humboldt in Oct. 2018.

something. Matsumoto said people also learn to give more value to scraps while seeing the potential for an old thing to become new.

The SCRAP Humboldt team spreads this message and their passion for waste reduction and art creation with the community by offering summer camps for kids, creative reuse classes and a space for an artist-in-residence program.



Photo by Chelsea Wood  
Shelves stocked with various sorted trinkets and supplies in the storefront of SCRAP Humboldt in Oct. 2018.

# Predicting what the new decade will bring

## Three methods of thought going into the new year reveal a time of dedication and hard work

by Grace Caswell

Three different pseudoscientific approaches, including astrology, numerology and the Chinese calendar, investigate information both singularly and as a whole. Together, these pseudosciences may predict what the new year and decade may bring.

Astrology is the study of celestial movement and positioning. This ancient method of predicting and explaining is most commonly associated with horoscopes.

The astrological movements for 2020 are even more significant than in other years because it’s not just a new year, but a new decade. The birthing of the new decade will cause pain, discomfort and confrontation resulting in struggle and challenges. However, this endurance will allow for active change and role assertion coming into the new year. This is important, as the beginning of a new decade and astrological era comes with growing pains, challenge and a call to overcome.

Celestial movements predicted to impact 2020 most intensely involve the interactions between three planets: Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto.

Jupiter and Saturn are social planets that rule in opposition. They command two different branches of thought towards social interaction and understanding.

Jupiter is one of two social

planets. Jupiter controls development and knowledge towards self-growth and understanding. Saturn, meanwhile, is in control of responsibility and judgement toward creating boundaries and restrictions as well as wisdom.

Pluto, although found at the very end of the solar system, rules forcefully, bringing both rebirth.

The interaction of these three planets will most heavily affect social structure and reform. The initiation for change and reform will become most dire towards the end of 2020. The defining celestial movement of 2020 will be Dec. 21, where the conjunction between Jupiter and Saturn will unite air signs until the year 2159. This conjunction will challenge society, affecting it in all ways: structurally, fundamentally and economically.

Numerology, or the study of numbers, looks into the meanings and relationships with coinciding events. Numerology focuses on the divine number, which is the sum of information in numerical form. This number is then compared to a list of fixated numbers ranging from one through nine with attached meanings.

Dates are easiest to calculate due to the numbers already being assigned. For example, last year 2019 was 2+0+1+9=12. However, because the list ranges from



Graphic by Grace Caswell and Chelsea Wood

one to nine, 12 is broken down further to 1+2=3. 2019’s divine number was three. The divine number for 2020 is broken down by each digit in the year, 2+0+2+0=4. Therefore, four is the divine number of 2020.

Four symbolizes masculinity and strength with a focus towards responsibility, hard work and discipline. Four is a stagnant and comfortable number basking in dedication and consistency, rather than imagination and creativity. While Four sounds bland, the value is on hard work and finishing the job, making 2020 a year of drive and dedication.

Lastly, the Chinese New Year zodiacs. There are 12 Chinese zodiac animals corresponding with specific

years. The last year of the Rat was 2008 and has cycled around again to 2020.

The Rat is the first zodiac sign in the zodiac chart and symbolizes fortune and personality. Rats are witty, quick thinkers who can accomplish great things and live contently and peacefully. However, the Rat is also considered too feeble and, at times, overly conservative.

Along with a corresponding animal, a new year is also assigned an element. The five elements are Metal, Wood, Fire, Water and Earth. 2020 is a Metal year. Metal symbolizes determination, hard work and persistence.

Collectively, 2020 is the year of the Metal Rat and

will be a year of work and persistence. The drive to accomplish will come to those who remain patient, dedicated and loyal in the process of great reward for great work.

Using the three pseudosciences above, 2020 supports a year of hard work and challenge. A time for reform will become evident in the year that demands patience and control. The beginning of 2020 may seem challenging and overbearing, with constant need to troubleshoot and refocus on finishing the job. Though difficulty so early in the year is distasteful, the hard work will reveal rewards. Dedication will reap benefits if one can endure the hardships.



Trees in Patrick’s Point State Park in Trinidad, CA on March 16, 2017.

Photo by Collin Slavey

# Update on HSU Climate Action Brief

HSU Sustainability Office reports good news

by Collin Slavey

Humboldt State University’s 2019 Climate Action Plan Progress Report revealed positive impacts for the Climate Action Plan.

Morgan King, HSU’s Climate Action Analyst, explained how the Climate Action Plan divides campus emissions into three scopes, each categorized by how much control HSU has over reducing them.

“We’re striving towards reducing our scopes one and two,” King said. “Scope one, the majority of that is natural gas so what we need to do is start weaning ourselves off natural gas.”

Scope one emissions are from burning natural gas on campus and the fuels fleet vehicles use. Scope two emissions are from electricity use. Scope three emissions are from commuting, business air travel and solid waste management.

The report said we are on track to meet the 2020 emissions reduction goal. The Climate Action Plan set a course for the campus to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, to 80% below 1990 levels by 2040, and to become carbon neutral by 2050.

To accomplish these emissions goals, the CAP includes 55 strategies that lay out the short and long-term goals necessary to achieve these goals. According to the progress report, 45% of the strategies have been completed.

“We’ve completed almost half of our strategies,” King said. “But the most expensive ones that also have the greatest impact are the ones that we’re still lagging a little bit behind on.”

There are three projects in the works for 2020. First is a faculty learning program intended to teach professors how to incorporate sustainability in their lesson plans. Second, over spring break, King is co-facilitating a student leadership institute in climate resilience. King is also developing a sustainability minor to enable students to better understand the methods behind creating a sustainable environment.

“Within our initial climate action plan we saw it was critical to have an engaged campus population that are making decisions and engaged in actions to improve sustainability for the campus,” King said. “That’s potentially as important as changing out all the lights.”

## TREES

FROM PAGE 1

plant millions of trees. A number of science-based You-Tubers have published videos explaining the project, including SmarterEveryDay, Mr.

Beast and Aspect Science.

Trees are a valuable ally in the battle against climate change because they sequester carbon. A tree’s bark is made out of carbon. During photosynthesis, plants turn sunlight, water and carbon dioxide into glucose. The glucose molecule, along with other essential nu-

trients, turns into plant matter like leaves, branches and roots, effectively storing carbon in a solid state.

For this ordeal to be successful, it’s essential the people planting trees understand the silvics of those trees. Silvics is the study of the life history and characteristics of forest trees,

and without understanding it, the newly-planted trees are more likely to die.

With the Earth at a critical time in its life history, the top minds of the world are opting for some deep breaths, planning and deliberate, well-informed environmental action.

# Connecting cannabis and cancer



Photo illustration by Benjamin Zawilski

## New study links smoking with testicular cancer

by Benjamin Zawilski

Those attending Humboldt State University who smoke marijuana regularly may want to rethink their habit.

Marijuana is the most widely used drug in the United States, and a large part of its popularity as a recreational narcotic comes from the perception that it has very few, if any, long-term health effects. There are, in fact, several pos-

itives that are associated with the drug, such as help with depression or anxiety, easing of muscle soreness and a reducing of the number of seizures experienced by people with epilepsy.

However, despite its positive effects, a recent study conducted by the Journal of the American Medical Association has identified a link between marijuana use in people with male reproductive organs and an increased risk of testicular cancer. The study explained that burning marijuana (which is necessary to smoke it), like burning any plant, triggers the release of carcinogens, which, in this case, may lead to testicular germ cell tumor.

“When you combust any plant, you’re creating significantly more carcinogens,” Dr. Jeffrey Chen explained to Science Alert.

The study also analyzed potential connections between recreational marijuana use and lung cancer, oral cancer and head and neck cancer. However, JAMA did not find any connections to any of those cancers.

The meta-analysis in the data collected by JAMA is specific to white men, leaving out a large part of the global population. Many of their findings also date back as far as 1973.

There also isn’t a direct causality from marijuana to cancer over a wide range of the popu-

lation. The American Association for Cancer Research has identified many of the victims of cancer as having used marijuana heavily. However, there is still no evidence of other variables, who else might be at risk or other drugs that might increase or minimize said risk.

These studies so far are limited in the information they provide, and should not be taken as the final word on any and all links between cannabis and cancer. However, it does contribute to the ongoing discussion of the health effects of the drug, and those who do use it may want to sit up a little straighter and take some notice.

SPORTS OPINION

# The failure of the U.S. men's national soccer team

*U.S. men's team hasn't made much progress since failing to qualify for the 2018 World Cup*

by Liam Warner

The lowest moment in recent history for the United States men's national soccer team was on the night of Oct. 10, 2018, on a rain-soaked pitch in Couva, Trinidad and Tobago.

The U.S. was on the cusp of qualifying for the 2018 World Cup in Russia and only needed a draw against the Trinidad and Tobago national team, who were dead last in the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football qualifying standings and had not won in their last nine matches.

Even if the U.S. were to lose this game, a failsafe existed in the form of either Mexico or Costa Rica winning their respective game, which would send the U.S. to their eighth straight World Cup. It seemed like a sure thing.

On that fateful night, everything that could have possibly gone wrong for the U.S. men's national team went haywire.

An own goal that was deflected off the leg of U.S. defender Omar Gonzalez somehow found its way past goalkeeper Tim Howard in minute 17. Trinidad would add another goal in minute 37, and while the Americans would add a goal late, it would not be enough.

The United States lost 2-1 to the worst team in the final round of qualifying. To make matters worse, Mexico and

Costa Rica, who were two of the best teams in the region, managed to lose both of their matches. For the first time since 1986, the United States would not be in the World Cup. To say this was an embarrassment would be an understatement.

I believe it was one of the worst moments in American sports history. For the United States to fail to get a tie against a team that was 1-8 previously in qualifying was a national embarrassment. Missing out on the World Cup would deal a massive blow to the U.S. Soccer Federation.

Fans across the U.S. would miss out on seeing their national team play on the world's biggest stage, and subsequently, the up-and-coming players on the national team would miss out on a valuable experience that would strengthen their development. To make things even worse, qualifying for the next World Cup does not begin until 2021, leaving us a long time to think about what happened.

Since then, the U.S. Soccer Federation has fired their head coach, Bruce Arena, and after many months of interim coaches at the helm, Gregg Berhalter was selected to lead the long journey back to the next World Cup in 2022 in Qatar. Many of the players that were a part of the 2010 and 2014 World Cup squads are now gone, leaving a lot of young and talented but



Photo by Liam Warner  
The Humboldt State women's soccer team played Stanislaus State at College Creek Field in Arcata and lost 1-0 to the Warriors on Oct. 8, 2019.

unproven players to develop at the international level.

A lot of the failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup was years in the making. The U.S. had an aging roster of players that were on the back end of their international careers. Players like Clint Dempsey and Jozy Altidore, who were a huge part of past World Cups, were just not producing at the same level as in the past.

Now that the U.S. has an almost entirely different roster, it looks like the team has no sense of direction. An embarrassing loss to Canada in the CONCACAF Nations League in October highlighted the fact that the U.S. still has a long

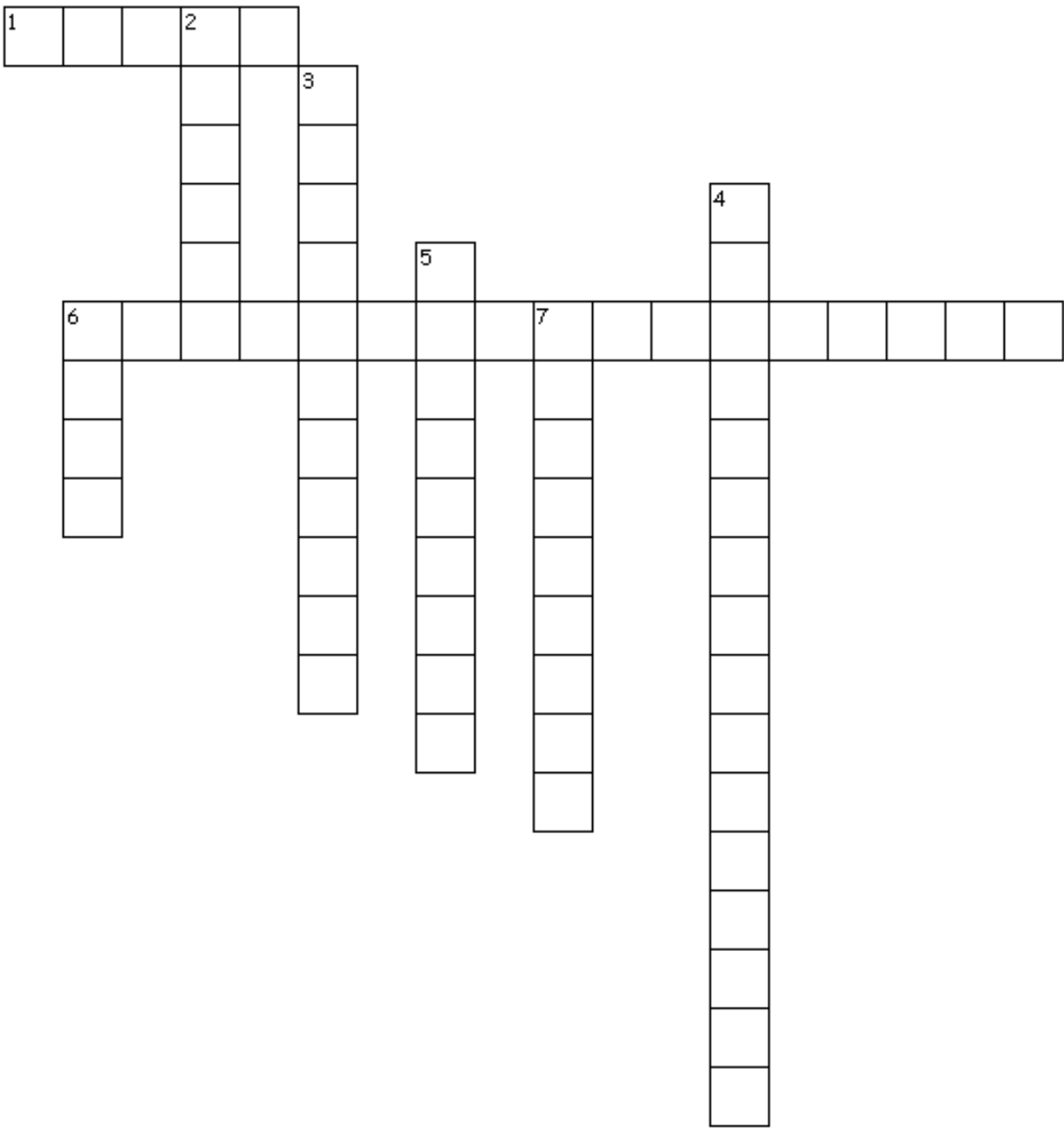
way to go to reach the next World Cup. The U.S. roster is currently highlighted by budding superstar Christian Pulisic, who is the best scorer for the team and plays club soccer for Chelsea in one of the top soccer leagues in the world. Other than Pulisic, the U.S. roster is a rotating door of names.

If the U.S. has issues competing with teams on our own continent, then being able to someday compete with the top European or South American nations is going to be a daunting task.

It all comes down to a complete lack of talent within the U.S. Soccer Federation. One problem is finding talent and

developing it, but the main problem is dual-national players committing to other nations. If you're a young player and you have the choice of playing for the United States or Mexico, right now I would bet that player is going to choose Mexico.

While the men's team is trying to find their identity on the field, I would like to shout out the U.S. Women's National Team for winning two straight World Cups and continuing to make this country proud. They are setting an example for how American soccer should be played and I look forward to their continued success.



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- 1. These help people approach a difficult discussion through humor
  - 6. Team that the U.S. National Men's Soccer Team lost to while trying to qualify for the World Cup in 2018
- Down*
- 2. Former Vice-Provost for HSU
  - 3. When you burn a plant, you produce significantly more of these
  - 4. A consistent goal in climate science
  - 5. Volunteer at SCRAP Humboldt
  - 6. A common thing that audiences do at comedy shows that's disruptive
  - 7. The study of celestial movement and positioning

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OPINION

# Memes communicate modern messages

by Alexis Parra

When a war with Iran suddenly seemed imminent in early January, the people of the Internet reacted the only way they knew how—they made memes. The memes, whatever you think of them, helped people approach a difficult discussion through humor.

President Donald Trump ordered the assassination of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani on Jan. 3. When Iran retaliated by attacking United States Army bases in Iraq with missiles, talk of World War III went on the rise.

Many of the resultant memes revolved around the idea of men between the ages of 18-26 getting drafted to go to war.

If the United States did go to war, there is a possibility that a draft could take place. In World War II, about 20% of men were drafted.

While serving in the United States military has been voluntarily since 1973, an act of Congress could call for a draft. Male U.S. citizens between the ages of 18-26 and immigrants who are living in the U.S. still must register for the Selective Service System.

Of course, no one wants to think about a draft. Instead, people address the issue through jokes. This might not be ideal, but at least people are talking about it.

Should we joke about the hundreds of thousands of people who might die going to war? No, but we should be talking about it and this is a



Photo collage by Chelsea Wood

start.

The memes could even be deemed as parody news. From what I learned in a parody news class last semester, people use humor to talk about serious topics without making them sound as serious, so that people can digest what’s going on. Parody news is often described as taking real subjects and making a joke out of them to get people laughing and thinking.

The draft memes ranged from how women were going to try to get out of the war by being a housewife, to men offing themselves before they got drafted, to how to distract Iranian soldiers so

your friends can get away. There were even meta memes about these memes that went something like, “Me laughing at war memes even though it’s probably going to happen.”

Memes are as prevalent as ever. There seems to be a meme regarding every aspect of this possible war, and for almost every bit of modern life. If it makes news, the memes will follow. Everyday on social media you see memes regarding the upcoming presidential election, climate change, health care and more.

Often times, I see memes about current events before I even see news coverage. I found myself laughing at the

memes about WWII before I even knew what was actually going on. When I saw the memes, I decided to research why people were saying we were going to war. The memes were my first point of contact on the events with Iran—they informed me.

Using humor and memes to talk about what’s going on in the world isn’t a bad thing. Choosing to only laugh and failing to educate yourself on the issue you’re laughing at is where people go wrong. The problem isn’t on the people making the memes. It’s on the audience failing to educate themselves and do more with a meme than laugh.

OPINION

# Stand-up comedy etiquette for dummies

*Keep your commentary to yourself and let me have a laugh, please*

by Alberto Muro

Sitting in the audience of a comedy show, I expect laughter. After dealing with long shifts at work, assignment deadlines that are past due and staggering grades, that’s what I want.

After living in Humboldt County for a little over a year, I was ecstatic to hear about Savage Henry Comedy Club from my former classmate and local comedian Peter Nelson. Never would I have imagined such a beautiful place to exist and to remind me that it’s okay to laugh at anything.

It became my mission to attend more comedy shows and try out some material for more open mic nights at Savage Henry. In November I was blessed with attending my first late night comedy show featuring Kyle Kinane. The night started off perfect as the air filled with laughter. But the mood changed when some audience members felt the need to be included in the comedian’s routine.

If I had a dime for every time a movie theater reminded me to silence my phone and exit the area with my non-existent crying child, I would have enough for another movie ticket.

Unfortunately, comedy shows have always faced problems with talking audience members. Common sense seems to vacate the premises when it comes to comedy. Who thinks that just because they paid money to see an act,



Photo by Michael Weber

A comedy show for the Savage Henry Comedy Festival at Blondies Food and Drink in Arcata, CA on Oct. 11.

they’re entitled to becoming the most hated person in that venue?

Thankfully, comedians are usually experienced with enduring this kind of behavior, with the exception of Seinfeld star Michael Richards.

However, for Kinane it was a cake walk dealing with a dreadlocked couple and their redundant responses during his routine. My mood the entire night was a mixture of laughter, anger and finally relief as the obnoxious couple got up and left (but not without loudly announcing that they had a baby at home).

Had I known this earlier, I would have called Child Protective Services to alleviate the audience of this comedy sabotage.

Kinane was a trooper and finished strong. He received an applause not just for his resilience, but also for putting on a late show since his Friday and Saturday night shows sold out.

It’s not a rare occurrence for audience members to disrupt a comedy show. I’ve been present when these atrocities are committed and I’m relieved when they’re dealt with. My favorite distractions are people texting during a comedy show and getting called out, especially since the responses are usually ridiculous.

When I saw Al Madrigal live a couple summers ago, I sat next to a woman who couldn’t seem to put her phone down. When she was finally called out by one of the opening acts, she tried justifying her actions.

“My friend is having a baby right now and she’s keeping me updated,” she said.

Instead of showing sympathy, the opening act trashed her for the remainder of his set.

If you can’t fathom the idea of someone else speaking, perhaps you need to reevaluate yourself and forego the comedy show.

I will never understand why people feel they have the right to interrupt a comedy show. Standup comedy is my way of taking a breath of fresh air from a rough week. For it to get obstructed by someone that doesn’t respect the art of making people laugh is just blasphemy.

ASK EVERGREEN

## SINGLE SEEKER

Dear Evergreen,

How do I meet people without using dating apps?

Dear single and seeking,

People still find connections through real life interactions despite the prevalence of dating apps.

Although the existence of dating apps can help speed up the connection process, it’s desensitized many of its users to meaningful connections. Nevertheless, you can navigate through the chaos of cuffing season—or the season in which people pair up—without the digital drama.

If you are completely against using the web to find love you’ll have to start putting yourself out into the world and approaching people. Start striking up friendly conversations with people at your favorite coffee shop or while you’re on your next hike in the Arcata Community Forest.

While it may seem brazen to talk to strangers, you’re getting into an immediate conversation rather than thinking of a pickup line or waiting for them to make the first move on an app.

This way may require thicker skin to deal with face-to-face rejections, but it also helps you learn the art of conversation and confidence.

Don’t be ashamed to approach someone in real life, but don’t intrude on someone who looks like they would rather not be bothered.

While you don’t need an app to tell you who to like, dating apps do help you to know who is available while also giving you a faint glimpse into the personality of a possible partner.

Many online dating users intend to seek sex and nothing more. However, if you’re searching for a more meaningful connection, dating apps can still help. You can also find connections through the internet on places other than dating apps—just be cautious.

As a student, you’re in a prime location for eligible singles. It’s just a matter of figuring out who’s looking for the same thing as you.

If you haven’t already, explore a dating app just to see who is out there. Maybe someone from a class or a regular at your favorite coffee place is seeking too. You won’t know who’s out there until you look.

If you are inclined to keep things organic, try to hang out in the library more often or sunbathe in the art quad.

If all else fails, ask some trustworthy friends to set you up on a blind date.

Good luck!

Sincerely,

Evergreen

Send questions to: [contactthejack@gmail.com](mailto:contactthejack@gmail.com)

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

## Wed. 1/22

**50 Minute: Wake Up and Flow**  
**Time:** 7:30 a.m. - 8:20 a.m.  
**Where:** Arising 672 16th St.  
**Description:** Morning flow to start the day off. Donations welcome.

**Japanese American Internment Exhibit**  
**Time:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Jan.14-27  
**Where:** Library 102 - Lobby & Checkout Desk  
**Description:** A pop-up museum of WWII internment artifacts on display on the first floor of the HSU Library.

**Riff Raff**  
**Time:** 8 p.m.  
**Where:** Arcata Theatre Lounge  
**Description:** Big Dog Entertainment presents Riff Raff's Cranberry Vampire Tour. Esch, City Hippie and more! **\$20 in advance | \$25 day of | \$80 meet and greet package with shirt and poster**

## Thurs. 1/23

**2020 New Year Exhibition**  
**Time:** 12 p.m.- 5 p.m.  
**Where:** Redwood Art Association  
**Description:** Large art exhibition judged with monetary awards by Tim Clewell, fine art teacher at Arcata HS. The Redwood Art Association is a community of artists and supporters who value art as an essential component of every aspect of our culture. New members welcome!

**ATL College Night**  
**Time:** 10 p.m. - 2 a.m.  
**Where:** Arcata Theatre Lounge  
**Description:** \$3 drinks all night! Performances by DJ's: Techstep, Eluid,NIPS and the ATL Dance Team. **FREE | \$2 after first 100 | 21+**



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## Fri. 1/24

**David Eubanks' 30 Minutes**  
**Time:** 9 p.m.- 11 p.m.  
**Where:** Savage Henry Comedy Club  
**Description:** Arcata comedian David Eubanks does his 30-minute headlining set. Local stalwarts Jessica Grant and Eric Fitzgerald open. Evan Vest hosts. **\$10 | 18+**

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**DJ Zero One,Blancatron**  
**Time:** 10 p.m.  
**Where:** The Miniplex at Richards' Goat Tavern  
**Description:** Come get your groove on to some tropical bass, house, afro house music! No cover. 21+ **FREE**

## Sat. 1/25

**New Students Humboldt Bay Kayak Paddle**  
**Time:** 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center  
**Description:** Recreational kayak tour showcasing the second largest estuary in California. No experience needed. Necessary equipment and instruction provided. Transportation from HSU campus to Humboldt Bay provided. Register by Jan. 23.

## Sun. 1/26

**Yurok Wisdom for a Changing World**  
**Time:** 9 a.m. -10 a.m. /11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
**Where:** Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Church  
**Description:** Chris Peters is a traditional Yurok/Karuk man who has spent 45 years revitalizing Yurok culture and ceremony. The presentation addresses the climate crisis and ways that traditional ecological knowledge may offer a pathway to recovery. **FREE**

**Pedro Calderon de la Barca's Life is a Dream**  
**Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Where:** North Coast Repertory Theatre  
**Description:** A tale of love, revenge and redemption surrounding a prophecy that threatens the royal family. Originally written by Pedro Calderon de la Barca in 1635. **\$18**

**New Student Multi-Adventure**  
**Time:** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Where:** Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center  
**Description:** Spend time at the beach, commune with the majesty of the redwoods and explore the pristine coastal cliffside landscape of the North Coast. Transportation provided. Pick-up and drop-off will be at the bottom of Jolly Giants Commons. Register by Jan. 23.

## Mon. 1/27

**Reel Genius Trivia - Parks and Rec Theme Night**  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Patsy Kline's Parlor Lounge  
**Description:** Themed trivia. Includes all seasons of Parks and Recreation. Gift certificates for 1st and 2nd place teams. Max 7 people per team. **FREE**

**The Blank Tapes, Bow Legged Buzards**  
**Time:** 9 p.m.  
**Where:** The Miniplex at Richards' Goat Tavern  
**Description:** The Blank Tapes is the moniker of Los Angeles and Joshua Tree-based multi-instrumentalist Matt Adams, who has produced over a dozen albums of 1960s-inspired folk-rock-surf-psych-soul-pop. **\$10 | 21+**

## Tues. 1/28

**Pathways to Volunteering**  
**Time:** 1 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.  
**Where:** Library 209 - Fishbowl  
**Description:** Hear from classmates and community members who have been engaged locally and internationally. Discover ways to get involved as a volunteer and the benefits of collaborating with the community.

**Cirque Flip FabriQue**  
**Time:** 7 p.m. - 9p.m.  
**Where:** Theatre Arts 101 - John Van Duzer Theatre  
**Description:** Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Éloize performers present their latest gravity-defying production, Blizzard. Audience members can get lost in a crazy, fun, poetic and wild journey through a dream of winter wonderment.  
**HSU students \$10 | Child \$25 | General \$39**