

WEST TALKS TRUTH

Selling out in less than a week, West commands stage with emotion and power

by Grace Caswell
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Photo by Benjamin Zawilski



Best breweries 4



Oak plague 5



Back on track 6

Construction nears

completion

*You've seen it,
heard it—when
will it end?*

by Gabe Kim

The seismic retrofitting project in the Humboldt State University library is a five-year project of additions and renovations to the library that aims to ensure the safety of the building in the event of a major earthquake. Much of the work of the project is done or is underway.

The completion date of phase three of the project, which includes improvements and expansions to the basement of the library, has been moved to April 14—although there is a chance that it could get moved back again. Much to the dismay of students and faculty, this means jackhammering and drilling will continue throughout the coming weeks. Director of Planning, Design and Construction, Mike Fisher, pointed to a number of factors contributing to the delayed timeline.

“We have to excavate through a number of existing conditions, and through that action, we reveal things we didn’t know about,” Fisher said.

An example Fisher mentioned was the stairs in the library needing to be redone as his workers discovered that the original stairs were poorly designed.

“It’s little instances like that that compound to lead to a time delay,” Fisher said.

Fisher went on to talk about the permitting process.v

“During the project, we were moving through permitting and one of the jurisdictions having authority is the Office of the State Fire Marshal,” Fisher said. “Their permitting

Struggles at the student station

Floods and frequent power outages caused issues for KRFH in the fall

by Seth Finnegan

The Humboldt State University student radio station KRFH is back with new and old DJs for the spring semester after dealing with flash floods and frequent power outages during the last semester.

Alejandro Zepeda was the station manager during the fall semester and is currently assistant station manager.

“It’s been a rough semester for sure,” Zepeda said. “I ended up taking over halfway through the semester as station manager and just kinda walked into a shit storm.”

KRFH is located in the basement level of Gist Hall, and when it flooded on Sept. 19, 2019, Zepeda said water started coming down from above.

“There was a couple spots where the water literally just came in through the ceiling,” Zepeda said.

Zoe Kelman, the manager for the live music program LIXX, said the lounge they use for recording ended up getting



KRFH DJ Alejandro Zepeda recording in the KRFH student radio station booth on Jan. 28.

Photo by Seth Finnegan

affected badly from the water.

“The whole LIXX lounge got flooded and it smelled horrible,” Kelman said.

Kelman went on to say that pieces of the ceiling came down and the whole floor became dyed orange. Kelman also said it was lucky she came in before the event to set things up.

“I had actually gone in and already moved some of the equipment,” Kelman said. “It was already sitting on a table, so we got lucky that when the flooding happened none of our stuff was on the floor.”

Despite the salvaged

equipment, the wiring in the KRFH studio runs in the ceiling. At first they couldn’t immediately tell if there was any direct damage to the wiring, but they ended up having to move the LIXX recording that day.

“We couldn’t do it in the LIXX lounge ‘cause it smelled like a swamp, so we decided to do it in a different room,” Kelman said. “It was just like a whole thing where basically all of our equipment cut out at some point. We got dead air. Like, anything that could’ve gone wrong, went wrong.”

The frequent power outages

were also an issue for the station.

“I’ve probably turned the station back on myself after power outages somewhere between six and 10 times at this point,” Zepeda said.

Zepeda said the power backup system was out of date so when the power went off, there was no leeway. Zepeda said KHSU could hold a solution for the station.

“Within the year before they got gutted, they actually just upgraded all of their

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February
Horoscopes

Disclaimer: Astrology remains unrecognized by the science community. However, this psuedo-science provides insight by using celestial movements and positionings to help make predictions in life. Here's a look into your month of February.

Aries

Use your ambi-
tion to complete
a project.

Cancer

You'll learn to get
over a grudge.

Libra

Manifest your
dreams this month.

Capricorn

Alleviation is
headed your way.

Taurus

Take a break from
the seriousness.

Leo

Focus on one
task at a time.

Scorpio

Express your
worries and
regain control.

Aquarius

Rewards will follow
your risks.

Gemini

Watch out for a
secret admirer.

Virgo

Try setting
relationship
boundaries.

Sagittarius

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support someone
needs.

Pisces

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set priorities.

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Just one more hour of breakfast burritos

Demand extends breakfast burrito availability to 11 a.m. at The Depot

by Ivan Ramirez

Popular demand for breakfast burritos has extended the serving time at The Depot by an hour. In previous semesters breakfast burrito service stopped at 10 a.m. Now, it stops at 11 a.m. We asked The Depot’s staff and regular customers how the time extension affected them.

Aileen Dominguez works at the breakfast bar in The Depot, and worked there every day for the last semester. This semester, Dominguez has to close the breakfast bar and open the rice bowl station at the same time, alone.

“It is more hectic,” Dominguez said. “I have to be faster since there is only one person working the shift.”

Dominguez said opening and closing two stations at

once is a challenge, as there’s no room for both to be done simultaneously.

Despite her challenges, Dominguez feels the extension has had a positive effect. For Dominguez, she noticed that students are able to get their burritos at a later time.

“Overall it’s positive—the late students can get their burrito,” Dominguez said.

Adriana Peck is a floor trainer, and oversees different zones at The Depot. This means she helps at the breakfast bar if needed. Peck agreed with Dominguez—she felt the time extension has had a positive impact.

“It is excellent. I am able to get off my shift and still grab a burrito,” Peck said. “It’s nice to know that it’s there.”

Leslie Rodriguez is a regular customer at The Depot. Rodriguez looks forward to eating breakfast burritos.

“It’s really good with Tapatio,” Rodriguez said.

However, Rodriguez didn’t feel like the time extension had much of an effect for her.

“It sucks,” Rodriguez said. “They’re all out by the time I get there.”

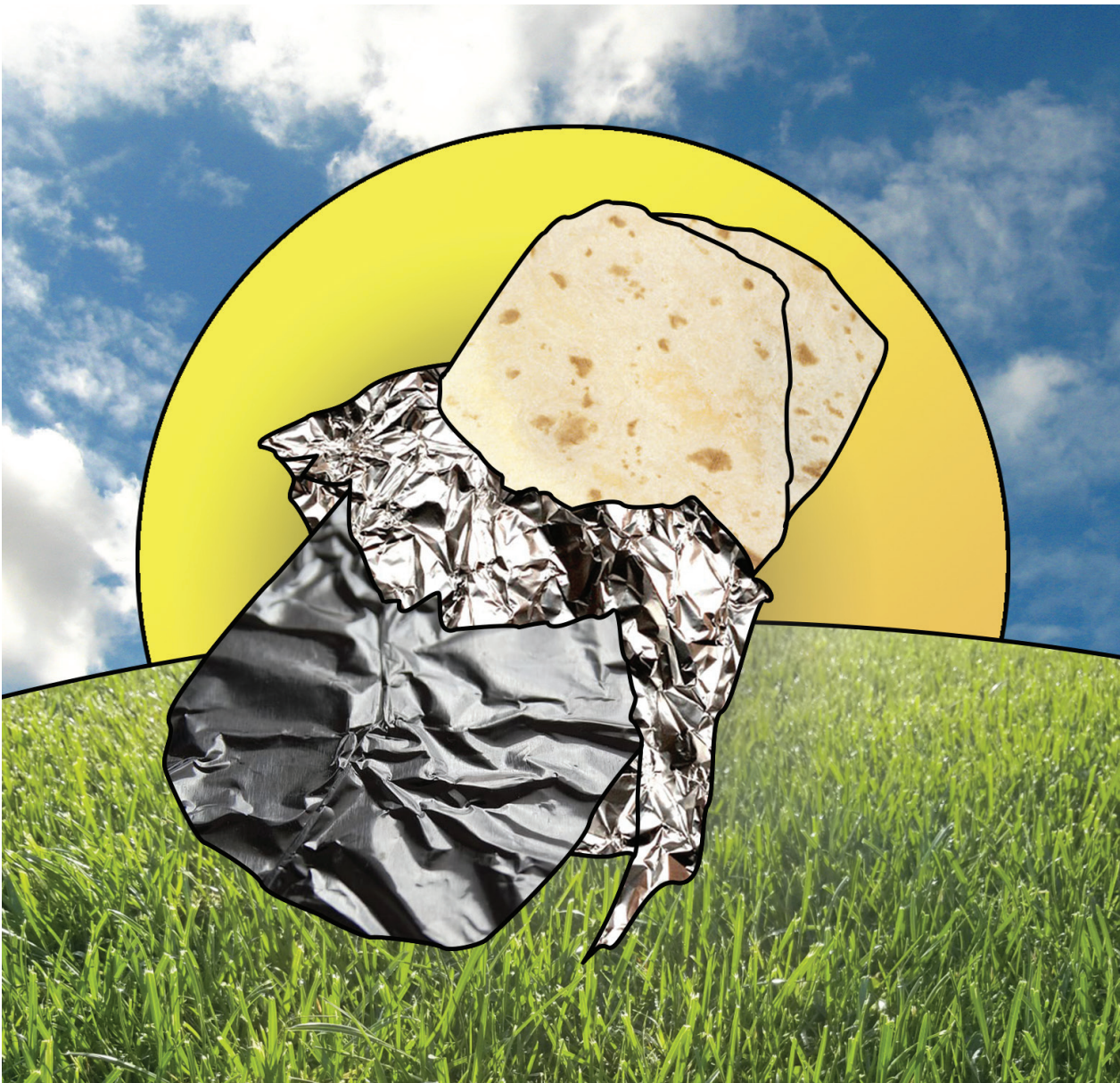


Illustration by Sam Papavasiliou



Part of KRFH's CD collection adorns the wall of the KRFH booth on Jan 28.

KRFH

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equipment and got a backup generator and a bunch of emergency supplies,” Zepeda said. “I remember thinking during the blackouts—having nothing to do at home—that I could’ve been on the air. I could’ve been talking. We could’ve been relaying news but instead we were all just sitting on our hands.”

Zepeda said if the station was given access to the abandoned KHSU studios, they could’ve taken it over and helped the community.

Last semester was Eddie Rivera’s first time as a DJ. Alongside the floods and power

outages, he also described the station’s leadership struggles.

“Students are so busy and so overworked that sometimes you just can’t attend to everything that the club might need,” Rivera said.

He estimated that with class time and time spent on the air, students in the class will add an extra five hours of work to their week. Rivera said their manager struggles are a lot better now.

“We have a couple new managers and people who are taking a lot of initiative,” Rivera said. “The managers that we have are very dedicated to it and very positive.”

Rivera said the setbacks made the semester difficult for them, but they are still going.

“You can’t break this KRFH spirit,” Rivera said.

WORK

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process took much longer than expected and we had to halt production until we could get that permit secured.”

Fisher also said he and his crew have been working on retrofitting the theatre arts building alongside the library. They considered the theatre arts building to be a higher priority building, as it’s home to regular instruction.

Deema Hindawi, a senior at HSU and a co-coordinator at the Multicultural Center, is one of many directly feeling the effects of the construction. She said it’s hard for her to function in the MCC both as a student and a co-coordinator because she has had meetings interrupted by construction noise.

As a critical race, gender and sexuality studies and criminology double major, she has found it difficult to function because she has been constantly battling jackhammering and drilling.

Hindawi also noted that there used to be a sign on the side of the MCC that was placed there as part of the retrofitting project without taking into consideration the impact of its words.

“Having people look at that sign is really uncomfortable,



Photo by Sam Papavasiliou

A backhoe scoops fresh soil from a loader by the Humboldt State University Library on Feb. 11. The construction is expected to be finished in April.

especially when you identify as a part of a marginalized community and having to see the sign that constantly is blaring in your face that reads, ‘No trespassing,’” Hindawi said.

Maya Habis, a junior critical race, gender and sexuality studies major and also a co-co-

ordinator at the MCC, echoed much of what Hindawi said.

Habis added their own two cents on being moved around to the bungalows and back.

“It sucks that we don’t really get much of a say in it and it somehow always comes back onto us,” Habis said. “We kind

of get put in between these two things—it’s an ultimatum.”

Dean of the University Library, Cyril Oberlander, said he likes to see himself as part of the student body. He has been told and has noticed for himself that students are not enjoying the noise in the library.

He wanted to make it clear that he understands the difficulties of the noise. He invited students and faculty to voice their displeasure with him directly along with suggestions for how he and his staff can make being in the library a better experience for all.

Hoppin' around Humboldt's local breweries

A student's guide to all the local stops for Humboldt hops



Photo by Alberto Muro
Row of taps at Eel River Brewing Co. in Fortuna on Jan. 28.



Photo by Alberto Muro
The Great White at Lost Coast Brewery on Jan. 30.



Photo by Alberto Muro
German-style dunkel beer at Redwood Curtain Brewery on Feb. 1.

by Alberto Muro

Craft beer breweries around Humboldt are on the rise, offering a variety of flavors and experiences from their establishments. Here is a brief run-down of Humboldt Breweries:

Lost Coast Brewery

Throughout the state, Lost Coast Brewery's products are on shelves or tapped into kegs at other breweries. Kinetic artist Duane Flatmo is the mastermind behind the unique designs on most of the Lost Coast beverage containers. Flatmo transformed one of his popular works of art, "The Great White," into a statue which can be seen hanging out and greeting people at the main brewery in Eureka.

Six Rivers Brewery

Their slogan, "the brew with the view," speaks volumes to the brewery that sits atop a hill overlooking farmlands and the ocean. Founded in 2008, Talia Machshon Clare and Meredith Maier are leading the operations in what is considered California's second all-woman-owned brewery. You can catch them and their vibrant attitudes informing the public about their daily deals and upcoming events.

Mad River Brewery

Tucked away in scenic Blue Lake, Mad River Brewery welcomes all walks of life. On the weekends, the brewery is a

popular spot and seating is packed. Parking is a challenge unless you're a cyclist—many of whom cruise through the area. Mad River Brewery and Eel River Brewing Co. have unique outdoor corridors to enjoy beverages under the Humboldt sky.

Redwood Curtain Brewery

Redwood Curtain Brewery has two locations in Humboldt. Their first location resides in Arcata, and their second location opened up during the fall of 2018 in Myrtle town. Redwood Curtain has gained a reputation for providing new beverages weekly and challenging patrons to games of shuffleboard.

They may not have a kitchen, but they have partnered with LoCo Fish Co. to offer plenty of delicious options to pair with your beverage of choice. While their beverages are found only at brewery sites, anyone with a compatible glass growler can take a glass of Redwood Curtain home. They also press a 32-ounce can for convenient enjoyment.

Eel River Brewing Co.

Eel River Brewing Company throws upcoming beverage releases a week of dedicated events and specials. Located in Fortuna, this brewery was first to introduce Humboldt's organic beer. During the summer of 2019, Arcata Main Street announced they would

not allow the distribution of local craft beers for their annual Oyster Fest. Eel River Brewery partnered up with other Humboldt breweries and threw their own oyster festival. This not only gained support from the community, but drew such a massive crowd that the festival will be thrown again. Eel River Brewing Co. proves that servicing the community is a main priority for craft beer lovers.

Charity events known as pints for nonprofits are a weekly occurrence and work with local organizations to raise money for their cause. Pub crawls are usually the talk of the town when it comes to bringing people together to raise money, and when it comes to pints for nonprofit you get to communicate directly with the organization.

WEST

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Around 800 people formed a line wrapping around campus, anxiously awaiting Dr. Cornel West's lecture. In high demand, tickets sold out in less than a week. Community members desperate for tickets resorted to bribery.

Brothers United took the stage first with the introduction of Humboldt State University Vice President of Enrollment Management Jason Meriwether. After a quick selfie snap and a booming introduction, Meriwether invited West to the stage where a standing ovation followed.

West was the powerhouse speaker of Black Liberation Month and began his lecture with the recognition of the meaning of the month of February to reflect on the history of our ancestors and to recognize and pay respect to their sacrifices.

"When you're talking black history, you're talking the best of history," West said. "February is for the brown, red, yellow and black peoples to dig deep into their r-o-o-t-s so their r-o-u-t-e-s can become international."

Douglas Smith, coordinator for the African American Center for Academic Excellence, emphasized in an email the importance of February as a model of recognition for black excellence.

"Referring to February as Black Liberation Month is reference to the theme for the month reclaiming our collective consciousness," Smith said.

The lecture surrounded West's book, "Race Matters." Originally published in 1993 during a time of tense racial turmoil following the



Photo by Benjamin Zawilski
Humboldt State University Vice President of Enrollment Management Jason Meriwether and Doctor Cornel West talk on stage together on Feb. 7 in the John Van Duzer Theatre.

trial of Rodney King—a survivor-turned-activist of Los Angeles Police Department police brutality—and the Los Angeles riots—which broke out in response to the trial and heightened racial tensions—the book brings morality into question when analyzing racial disputes. Resurfacing in the modern day, West believes the same issues that arose 27 years ago remain today.

"We live in a highly polarized society," West said. "It's polarized by race, it's polarized by class, it's polarized by preaching, it's polarized by politics and I think I was trying to get at some of the ways in which we can understand the polarization and try to create a higher moral, spiritual ground to keep alight the best of our democracy. That's what I was doing then and it becomes relevant now, all over again."

Highlighting the best of our democracy and of any situation was a recurring message from West. When asked about polarized education systems,

West attacked it with the same approach.

"All institutions are ambiguous and ambivalent in having the best and the worst," West said. "It depends on the particular features being highlighted. Must be very candid about the ups and the downs, the bests and the worsts."

A Q&A session followed his lecture where members of the audience had the opportunity to grab the mic and connect with West. As hands shot up, West emphasized the importance of selecting participants of diversity within the crowd and hearing those voices.

Crystal Pasztor, who preferred to be called Pasztor, is a sociology major at HSU. She asked West for a favor of recognition, rather than a question.

"My favor was to talk about disability and people as a group because you can't ignore that every group has a disability," Pasztor said. "Disabilities aren't necessarily sad or scary,

but just another way to live life."

Pasztor brought HSU's own lack of disability recognition into question, describing feeling abandoned by the school and its services.

West ordered the entire theatre to applaud Pasztor in recognition of her feeling of campus abandonment.

"I felt so much better," Pasztor said. "I was very nervous to say anything because the president is here."

After a standing ovation for West, the audience flooded to the stage for an opportunity to interact and shake West's hand. One student handed West their cell phone with Charmaine Lawson on the line. An emotional conversation led to West commending Lawson's love and fight for her son, Josiah Lawson.

"When you're fighting for something as precious, you never give up because the love too deeply and the commitment too real," West said. "So when I was talking to sister

Lawson I could just see in her eyes and feel in her heart oh so much love for her precious son and she'll never give up. That's what love is—it's never giving up."

The Arcata community has been left raw after the Lawson case. For community healing, West emphasized morality and spirituality as a light in the search for truth and justice.

"You got to re-energize people in a moral and spiritual way," West said. "So that you can create the kind of awakening that brings people together. That want to fight for truth and justice. But, every generation is re-energized in some way."

West placed extreme importance on the new generation and their ability to model, lead and revitalize the ongoing dispute over conflicting dialogues and conversations that divide our country. He commended HSU and its administration for their role in developing the new generation by leading by example.

"By example," West said. "That's why I salute what president here doing and dear brother Jason Meriwether. Leadership makes a difference in an institution of higher learning."

West remained humble and credited much of his character and success to the leaders, activists and icons of the past. He spoke highly of notable black leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, but more importantly, he credited an intangible spirit of truth and justice.

"I tell them don't look up to me, look up to truth and justice," West said. "Truth and justice bigger than all of us, bigger than all of us. We all want to try and be exemplars of living truly and fighting for justice in a moral and spiritual way."

Sudden oak death plagues Humboldt's forests

Humboldt County is known for its forests, but sudden oak death threatens its trees

by Benjamin Zawilski

Sudden oak death is the common name for a disease that started infecting trees 20 years ago and has since killed over a million trees—including trees in Humboldt County.

The University of California Cooperative Extension explained that the disease is caused by a pathogen called *Phytophthora ramorum*.

“It is caused by a microscopic fungus-like organism, *Phytophthora ramorum*, a lethal, canker-causing pathogen of certain oaks and tan oak trees,” UCCE wrote.

Susan Marshall, a wildland soils professor at Humboldt State University, is involved in two grant programs that deal with pathogens like sudden oak death. Marshall is connected to Christopher Lee, an HSU alumni with a Ph.D in forestry from the University of Missouri, who now works as a forest pathologist at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

“It gets into the vascular tissue that is just underneath the bark, and it kills that tissue,” Lee said. “If it does that in several different places around the circumference of the tree, then



Photo by Benjamin Zawilski

it will eventually kill a band of tissue all the way around.”

If the *Phytophthora ramorum* does kill the tissue all around the tree, the tree is effectively girdled. Generally, live tissue transports water and nutrients up the tree, but if those pathways are blocked lower down, everywhere above the infection dies. The organism infects the tree’s circulatory system and can spread to the nutrient tissue and water-conducting tissue, xylem and phloem, essentially starving the tree and clogging it up.

A full ring is a sure death sentence.

Marshall and Lee described *Phytophthora ramorum* as being like a fungi or brown algae, with characteristics similar to closely related plant pathogens. Specifically, they are in the class Oomycota, which are a distinct line of fungus-like eukaryotic microorganisms. They are fungus-like because they have a long, branching net-like structure like the hyphae of fungi. They are algae-like because they descend from the same phylum, Heter-

okontophyta, as many algae.

Phytophthora ramorum is not the only pathogen that affects trees, but it is the most visible and the most deadly, devastating thousands of acres of forest. In California, sudden oak death has been most prominent in and around Sonoma County, according to reporting by the Times Standard.

Humboldt County’s dense forests of tan oak, the main host for the disease, is at especially high risk of tree death. Humboldt’s weather and climate are an unfortunately-inviting environment for sudden oak death. The dense oak forests in the area means both greater humidity and a shorter distance for a pathogen to travel.

“As far as these diseases go, it would probably be worse under a warmer and wetter sort of scenario,” Lee said.

The recent fires around California also have an indirect connection to *Phytophthoras*. The loss of vegetation limits the way pathogens spread due to a wildly new arrangement. It is good to note heat from fire can sometimes help slow a pathogen’s spread by eradicating an area where the patho-

gen had a large presence. Lee noted that if the root system of a tree isn’t fully dead, however, *Phytophthoras* may have a chance of surviving in its host.

The main goals of the programs Marshall is involved with are to identify the disease more rapidly and figure out how to slow its spread.

There isn’t a specific way to control a disease like this, but Marshall said rapid testing of plants in nursery stock may catch *Phytophthora ramorum* before it can infect new hosts.

“Every year that [we] can buy that [sudden oak death] doesn’t leapfrog into some other county and cause quarantines and regulations on those counties is a little bit of economic damage that they’ve staved off,” Lee said.

Sudden oak death has only affected one percent of Humboldt’s trees, but its impacts in California and Oregon demand researchers like the ones Marshall and Lee are involved in will be continuing to study it and find new ways to help manage the remaining forests.

Artificial intelligence generates real jokes on Twitter

The creators say there is nothing to worry about

by Sam Papavasiliou

There is a new breed of bot accounts coming to Twitter, but these aren’t put there by Russia or the CIA or whoever else is trying to influence an election. They’re novelty accounts, posting large quantities of tweets that mimic the style of existing users.

Twitter user @kingdomakrillc runs one of these accounts. He asked to only be referenced by his Twitter account. His parody account @dril_gpt2 sends out a new tweet in the style of @dril several times a day. @dril is a somewhat mysterious, absurdist comedy account that posts their jokes from behind the pseudo-anonymity of a profile image of an incredibly blurry Jack Nicholson. @kingdomakrillc explains their reasoning for choosing @dril to imitate.

“I wanted to do a GPT-2 bot of someone who was both famous and whose voice on Twitter was near-exclusively comedic,” he says. “If I did, say, a Trump bot, the only humor would come from the novelty of a bot generating Trump-like tweets.”

These imitation @dril tweets can be shockingly on brand yet original at times; it’s not uncommon to see replies wondering if the tweets from the account are still created by a bot.

@kingdomakrillc assures me the tweets are bot written but hand selected.

“Curating the tweets is like DJing. I pace the content out, placing tweets I’m sure are funny next to ones I’m more uncertain about,” @kingdomakrillc says. “Sometimes I screw up. It’s a skill, not 1/10th of the skill that goes into actually writing tweets like dril’s, but it’s still something I need to improve on. There’s no excuse to post duds when you can output infinite text.”

That infinite text doesn’t come from nowhere. It comes from GPT-2, a language model created by OpenAI, a research

group with a focus on machine learning.

Sherrene Bogle is a Computer Science professor at HSU with experience using machine learning. To demonstrate, she teaches an algorithm to recognize whether a bird is in the foreground or the background of an image. She gave her algorithm a set of birds pictures that are already labeled as to whether the bird is in the foreground or background, allowing it to figure out the differences. Then she gave it unlabeled bird images, where it looked for those same differences.

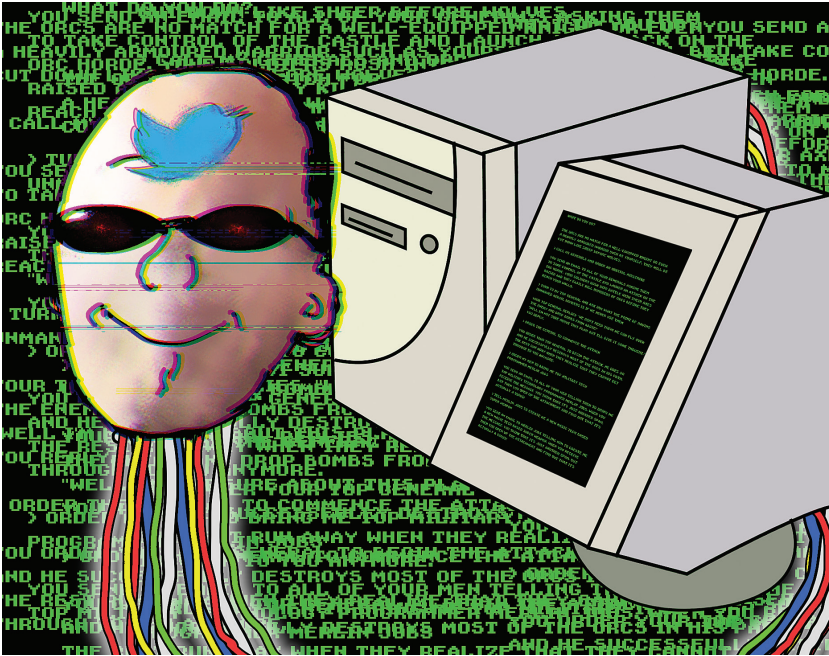
GPT-2 looks for patterns in data sets, like the differences in bird pictures. The difference is that GPT-2 was designed to understand and predicting text. GPT-2 is so good at this task that it can make paragraphs of human-readable text after being given only a handful of words. The output

text can be about anything and in order to generate text that mimics the style of a Twitter user, programmers train the model.

@kingdomakrillc says he re-trained GPT-2 on 9,500 tweets totaling about 750 kilobytes. This focuses the original GPT-2 training data, consisting of almost 40 gigabytes of data, to accomplish a more simple task. The more simple a task, the better an A.I. can imitate it. Imitating tweets is simple, and with GPT-2’s vast capabilities, yields good results.

On top of that there is @kingdomakrillc’s curation, which gives many of his followers the impression that the AI is better than it really is.

Max Woolf is a data scientist at BuzzFeed, and the person responsible for making these twitter bots so easy to create. He built a tool, called GPT-2 Simple, to easily retrain GPT-2 with any new data (tweets) and



Graphic by Sam Papavasiliou

wrote an accompanying tutorial. Some people think that artificial intelligence is a threat to humanity, but Woolf says otherwise.

“The potential for harm is less than current human bad actors,” Woolf says.

@kingdomakrillc agrees with this sentiment.

“Some people get freaked out at the fact that GPT-2 can

produce sentences that have humanlike coherence, but are made with no meaning or intent on the bot’s part besides to imitate how humans write,” he says. “Markov chains, Madlibs, autocompleters, esquisite corpses, they’re also capable of creating coherent text with the illusion of intent. They’re just not mysterious black box programs like GPT-2.”

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- Register DEMOCRAT by February 18th to vote for Bernie – registertovote.ca.gov
- Check registration status sos.ca.gov/elections/registration-status
- VOTE EARLY in person or vote-by-mail (VBM) Check your county's Registrar of Voters website for info on early voting as it varies by county. (search: "county name + Registrar of Voters") Be sure to mail back your VBM ballot ASAP.
- Students – Register in the county where you live during school year. If in dorm, don't forget to include building name and room number.

UNDERSTAND California Voting Mechanics

Lights-out shooting breaks through on blackout night

Lady Jacks, led by Alexia Thrower, dominate against San Bernardino

by Thomas Lal

There are nail biters in sports, and then there are blowouts. For the Humboldt State University women’s basketball team, Saturday was one of those blowouts where the Jacks found themselves on the right side of the scoresheet. Decked out in their black road uniforms for blackout night, the Jacks stormed their way to an early lead and never looked back as they took a convincing 107-62 win over the visiting San Bernardino Coyotes.

The Jacks were led in scoring by Alexia Thrower, who put up her eighth double-double of the season, putting up 26 points to go along with her 12 rebounds. Another standout performer for the Jacks was Sandin Kidder, who put up a double-double of her own with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Madeline Hatch and Gabrielle Carbajal also scored in the double digits along with Emily Packham, who had a career night with 11 points.

The Jacks established themselves quickly, finding reliable 3-point shots from up and down the roster. Hatch struck first from beyond the arc, setting the tone for the night as the senior guard went 5-12 on her 3-point shots. Carbajal put up three 3-point shots of her own while Kidder hit both of

her two 3-point attempts.

Head Coach Michelle Bento-Jackson was very pleased with her team’s performance, pointing to the offense’s ability to keep driving the play with a lead.

“It’s great when the shots go in,” Bento-Jackson said. “But more importantly I really was focusing on the shot selection and making sure that we got good ball movement. Not just settling for an early shot against the zone.”

Even with such a scoring effort from her team, Bento-Jackson kept the team working hard through the full game.

“I know for the fans and everybody it just seems like 100 is the magic number,” Bento-Jackson said. “I don’t even know when we hit 100 tonight. I was just so focused on just making sure we were still doing what we needed to do.”

Carbajal was happy to see contributions from the whole team, saying that it made for a good experience out on the court.

“It was really nice being able to play with everyone,” Carbajal said. “And everyone contributing out there, and scoring and sharing the ball. It was just a great game.”

Carbajal was also confident that the team could use this



Senior Molly Dixon drives toward the basket during the second half of the Jacks game against San Bernardino at Lumberjack Arena on Feb. 8.

game to push them forward going into their upcoming road trip to San Francisco and Sonoma.

“Just using this game as momentum and building confidence for the next game, especially San Francisco,” Carbajal said. “I know that we’ve been struggling on the road but just coming into this next game, we just have to have a

different mindset.”

For the future, Bento-Jackson is focused on maintaining a high level of performance even when the team will play three out of their last four regular season games on the road as they aim for the California Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament in March.

“We have three games here on the road and this is go-

ing down the stretch,” Bento-Jackson said. “Playing with that same type of energy when we’re not in front of our own fans. And as we say, it requires a lot of mental toughness to go on the road and to get a victory. And that’s something that we need to do for these next two weeks.”

Jacks get back on track for 2020 season

Action shots from HSU’s track and field Green and Gold Open on Feb. 8

Photos by Thomas Lal



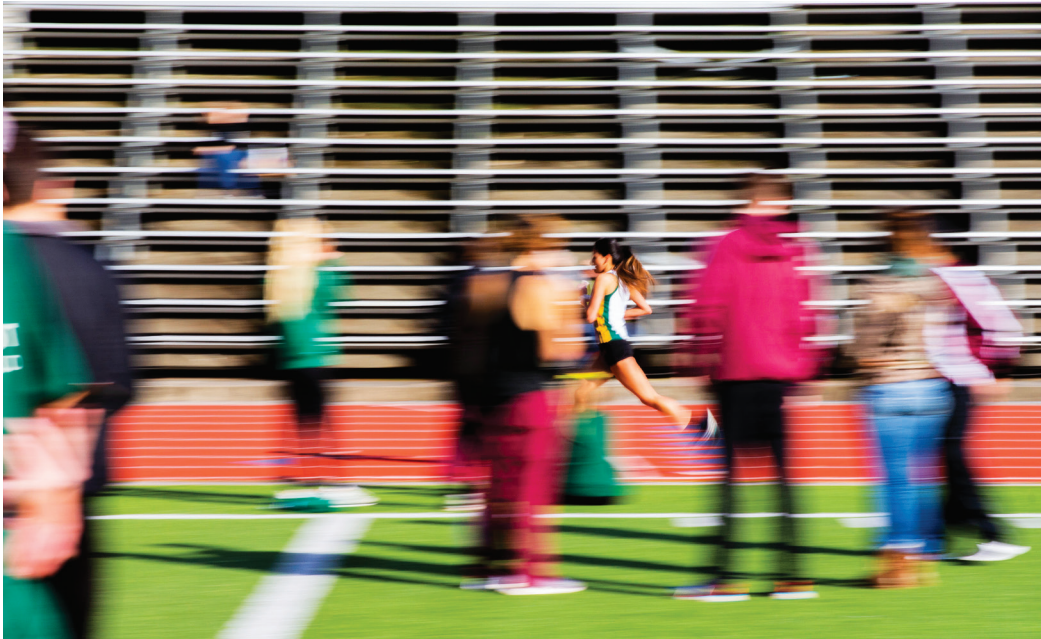
Sophomore sprinter and long jumper Romel Robinson lands during one of his long jumps.



Runners make their way through the water jump during the 2000 meter steeplechase.



Junior pole vaulter Spencer Mills looks down as he launches himself over the bar.



Sophomore Rosa Granados leads the way during the 3200 meter race on the way to a win.

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EDITORIAL

Let’s make media coverage equal, always

Emphasizing
equality and
integrity

by Editorial Board

Humboldt State University celebrates Black Liberation Month, which promotes black excellence and achievement, every February.

People of color are often covered by the media for achievement in athletics and entertainment, but rarely for academia, volunteer work or simple successes unless they’re a trailblazer in their field. More often than not, Blacks face the most discrimination in media.

At HSU, Black Liberation month emphasizes the great achievements and progress in the Black community—but these often fall out of the public eye once February is over. This is a failure—the celebration of the Black community should extend through the year and into perpetuity. At The Lumberjack, we acknowledge the lack of representation blighting the mainstream media and our own newsroom. We strive to break the toxic cycle of misinformation and misinterpretation and promote the achievements of the Black community at HSU.

Modern media organizations filter the truths of the



Illustration
by Jen Kelly

world, a behavior that has a significant impact on their audience. The way we absorb news depends on the way it’s delivered. Too often, the media publishes stories spun to reflect personal ideologies, often to push a social agenda. It’s important to acknowledge the stereotypical representation of Blacks has plagued society since its inception.

The study, “A Dangerous Distortion of our Families,” by Travis L. Dixon, Ph.D from the University of Illinois, looked into media coverage from local and national media outlets and found they often warped the reality of Black families to fit the narrative of the big screen.

“Blacks represent 37 percent of criminals shown in the news, but constitute 26 percent of those arrested on criminal charges,” Dixon wrote. “In contrast, news media portray whites as criminals 28 percent of the time, when FBI crime reports show they make up 77 percent of crime suspects.”

The study, sponsored by The Washington Post, found that at best, media outlets promoted racially biased portrayals and myths that pathologize black families and idealize white families with respect to poverty and crime.

At worst, the study found that media outlets amplified those inaccurate

depictions for political and financial gain. They said such reporting reinforces debunked narratives that justify police brutality or promote economic policies that hurt not just Black families, but all families.

Throughout February, throughout the year, into the next decade and into forever, we shall strive to accurately report on and represent the lives and achievements of the Black community at HSU. We commit ourselves to journalistic accuracy and integrity. We commit ourselves to the celebration of the liberation of our oppressed communities and we commit to support them on their path to self-realization.

OPINION

Ballot burning for the modern meddler

Why we need
to stick with
physical ballots

by Jen Kelly

In 1960, the Kennedy’s tried to steal the White House. A Kennedy ended up living in the White House, so they may have succeeded. Maybe they stole the election, maybe they didn’t. But because we have the physical ballots, no one can dispute that they tried. In the modern world of voting machines and election apps, we might never know who tries in the future.

If you wanted to rig an election in 1960, you needed a plan, a large team, a smokey basement in Chicago and a lot of money. You needed someone to go to a graveyard and register corpses to vote. You needed to catalog abandoned houses and figure out how many dead or fake people you could put in each one. You needed to physically go out and beat up a few voters—possibly even commit a murder or 20. You needed a large operation full of trusted members willing to do all of this. And perhaps most importantly, you needed to be fine with everyone knowing that you just tried to rig an election.

Stealing an election was incredibly difficult, dangerous, obvious and almost completely ineffective if one candidate had a significant lead. Voting with a paper ballot clearly isn’t a perfect system, but the attempted rigging of the 1960 election is almost common knowledge. We have the paper to prove it.

We know what paper is. We hold it in our hands almost every day. Casting a ballot is an anonymous and easily-understandable physical action. It’s

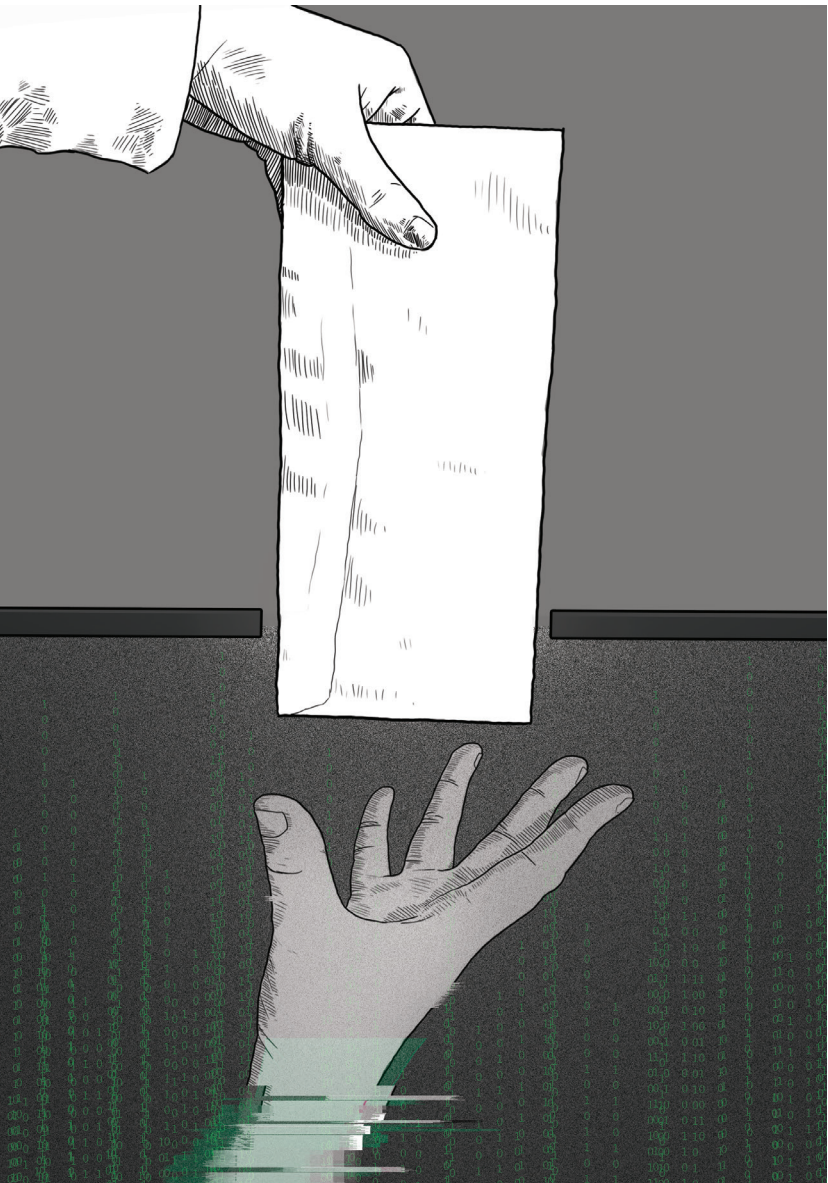


Illustration by Jen Kelly

traceable at every step of the way, and we can tell if the ballots don’t make it to their destination.

Conspiracy with physical ballots is possible, even probable, but not effective on a large scale. Certainly, physical ballots aren’t perfect, but they are hard to mess with in a way that will significantly affect an election. There are doubts that, even with all the tampering and violence, the attempted rigging of the 1960 election even changed the result.

Electronic voting, on the other hand, is vulnerable in ways paper voting is not. When you stand in front of a voting machine, there are some questions you probably have.

Who made the voting machine? Who paid for it? When you press a virtual button on a screen, how do you know the machine tallies it, or gives it to the right candidate? How do you know it reaches a database where it will be counted? Do you know what the software being used is, how it works, if it’s secure, how to tell if it has been tampered with, if the machine is connected to the internet — as many inexplicably are— or if it has been calibrated properly?

The odds are that you don’t. I don’t. Nobody does. Nobody besides the people who managed to remotely change a voting machine’s final tally. Nobody besides interested parties

in our own system who might want the election to turn out a certain way. Voting machines are incredibly vulnerable. They are outdated upon release, not tested properly, easy to manipulate and often connected to the internet for some reason.

You don’t have to call on the crime syndicates of the country anymore. You don’t have to organize a massive conspiracy. All you need to rig an election is to know how to hack a virtually-undefended voting machine.

The most important part of getting people to vote is the trust that the vote goes somewhere. It’s counted. The vote is verifiable, and the process is easily understandable.

Electronic voting doesn’t just open our system up to attacks from malicious parties. It erodes the trust between the voter and the system. This would be true even if everything was perfect—even if there was no one meddling. But there is someone meddling. We know there is. There always has been and there always will be. It wasn’t just 1960 and it wasn’t just Democrats. The question isn’t, “Who would rig an election?” It’s, “Who wouldn’t rig an election?”

If someone’s going to attempt to rig the 2020 election in the same way as the 1960 election—and they possibly already have—I want them to have to work for it. I want them to have to go out to graveyards, get their hands dirty and threaten some grandmas. I was disappointed by the Iowa caucuses. These days it’s hard to tell the difference between epic, mind-blowing incompetence and election theft. If these elections are going to be a complete farce, ditch the apps and voting machines. If there’s going to be ballot burning, I want to see the flames.

ASK
EVERGREEN

LOOTLESS
LOVER

Dear Evergreen,

What do I do for
my significant
other on
Valentine’s Day

Dear Lootless Lover,

Valentine’s Day is this Friday and with that comes the societal expectation to shower your lover in materialistic gifts. But for those with limited funds, making an extravagant gesture isn’t always possible. There are many creative ways to express your love this Valentine’s Day that don’t involve spending loads of cash.

If you’re a wizard of words you can charm your valentine with a thoughtful card of appreciation. Words are free, so come up with a clever poem for your partner to make them feel special. Bust out your artistic talents and create some art from the heart. You can even doodle some cute cartoons inside a card for a more personal touch to a standard Valentine’s Day card.

With spring inching closer and closer, flowers have already started blossoming. Take a walk and gather some wildflowers and foliage to make a bouquet. Be careful not to pick any poisonous plants. You wouldn’t want to infect your valentine with anything other than love.

Baking a sweet treat for your sweetheart is sure to satisfy. Check your cupboards for basic baking ingredients and whip up something good. If you aren’t the best baker you can easily make chocolate-covered strawberries to set the mood.

Chances are you already have some type of streaming service, so put on some Netflix and chill with your valentine. Pop some popcorn and cozy up with your favorite movie or show. Light candles or incense for an extra touch. Soon enough you’ll be having consensual fun while Netflix asks if you’re still watching.

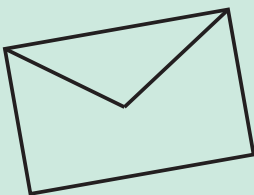
You can also try going out and sightseeing with your partner instead of a movie night. Go on a scenic walk or take a stroll with your lover somewhere beautiful. If you can swing it, try planning a picnic on the beach or in the redwoods to share some quality, heart-to-heart time together. There’s nothing more pure—and free—than talking with someone you care about.

Think outside the box this year. Whether you can afford it or not, there are plenty of thoughtful and creative ways to express your love.

xoxo

Sincerely,

Evergreen



Send questions to:
contactthejack
@gmail.com

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Thurs. 2/13:

Dancehall Workout

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Where: Theatre Arts 115

Description: Black Humboldt's, Mo Desir, utilizes cardio techniques & West Indian choreo to lead a full body workout to genres of Reggae, Dancehall, & Hip Hop.

Accommodating
to all dance levels.

Fri. 2/14:

6th Annual HSU Authors Celebration

Time: 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Where: Library 202A

Description: Celebrate alumni, emeriti, faculty, staff, student authors and readers.

Refreshments provided.

Sat. 2/15:

Skate Night

Time: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Where: Blue Lake Roller Rink

Description: A disco themed skate party to commemorate Black heritage, celebrate the culture and liberate the people.

Dress up in your most dynamite
disco gear

Sun. 2/16:

David Sedaris: Rescheduled

Time: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Where: Theatre Arts 101

Description: One of America's wittiest and satirical masters of writing. Sedaris serves up the comic relief with equal doses of honesty and brilliance.

Mon. 2/17:

Professional Etiquette

Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Where: Library 114

Description: Learn how to professionally communicate with professors, prospective companies and organizations for job opportunities.

Tues. 2/17:

Black Liberation Month Debate Night

Time: 5 p.m. - 6:20 p.m.

Where: Founders Hall 118

Description: A debate highlighting the Black intellectual tradition and issues that impact the African Diaspora.

The logo for Café Mokka features the name "Café Mokka" in a brown, cursive script. A thick, dark brown diagonal line cuts across the text. Below the line, the word "COFFEEHOUSE" is written in a bold, brown, sans-serif, all-caps font.

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HSU Community Comics

MNS#8



By: Phoebe Hughes

MnS stands for Magic 'n Science, and it's about two roommates: one with spiritual approaches, and one who is more scientifically minded, named Etrion and Orifur, respectively. I hope these comic strips bring you as much joy as they bring me. Check out my other art on Instagram @CaffiDraws