



## LEADING LADIES

*Lady Lumberjacks' dynamic duo, Tyra Turner and Alexia Thrower, aren't slowing down*  
**by Deion Alston**

SEE LADIES ■ PAGE 6

## Chopping genes and growing brains

*Innovative research and a discovery in HSU's molecular biology lab*

by Collin Slavey

Biology professor John Steele guided a cell biology lab his first year at HSU wherein he wanted to teach students that cells need nutrients to survive. After 48 hours, the lab discovered quite the opposite. James Gomez, a current student in the lab, had the opportunity to research more into the groundbreaking discovery.

"In science, you're kinda looking for that unexpected stuff," Gomez said. "Right after I came in, I was really excited to be a part of that. There was this thing that was happening that we particularly can't fully explain, and I'm actually in the lab doing that science."

Steele's experiment for his class involved students starving the cells of nutrients to trigger a state of autophagy, which is when the cell starts to consume itself. Steele meant to emphasize that cells needed nutrients like amino acids and lipids to survive. It was assumed that starving cells of key nutrients eventually killed

them.

Steele said the experiment was common, and was usually shut down after six to eight hours. Steele decided to run it for 48 hours instead, since that was the time between lab sections. When his class returned returned to the lab, rather than seeing a bunch of dead cells, they were decidedly more alive. The lab had made a discovery.

Despite the cells being in autophagy in Steele's experiment, they had stopped dividing and took on a strange morphology. Their metabolic

rate was high—they were very much not dead.

Now the lab, including Gomez, are deep in research. The lab is introducing pathway inhibitors, or drugs, to block basic cell functions, narrowing down the essential and non-essential. The project is open-ended, as students methodically look at every cellular pathway to determine the needs of cells.

"What I love about this project is that it was born here," Steele said. "Nobody else that I know of is working on this, outside of HSU. That's an awe-

some process to be a part of, where students get hands-on training in phenotypic genetic screening and drug screening, and we get to learn about the basic biology of cells in doing this."

Steele encourages the students in his lab to explore the boundaries of their knowledge. CRISPR, Cas9 and stem cell cultures are unique tools available to these students, and they offer an opportunity to think outside the box and do creative science.

SEE CELLS ■ PAGE 5

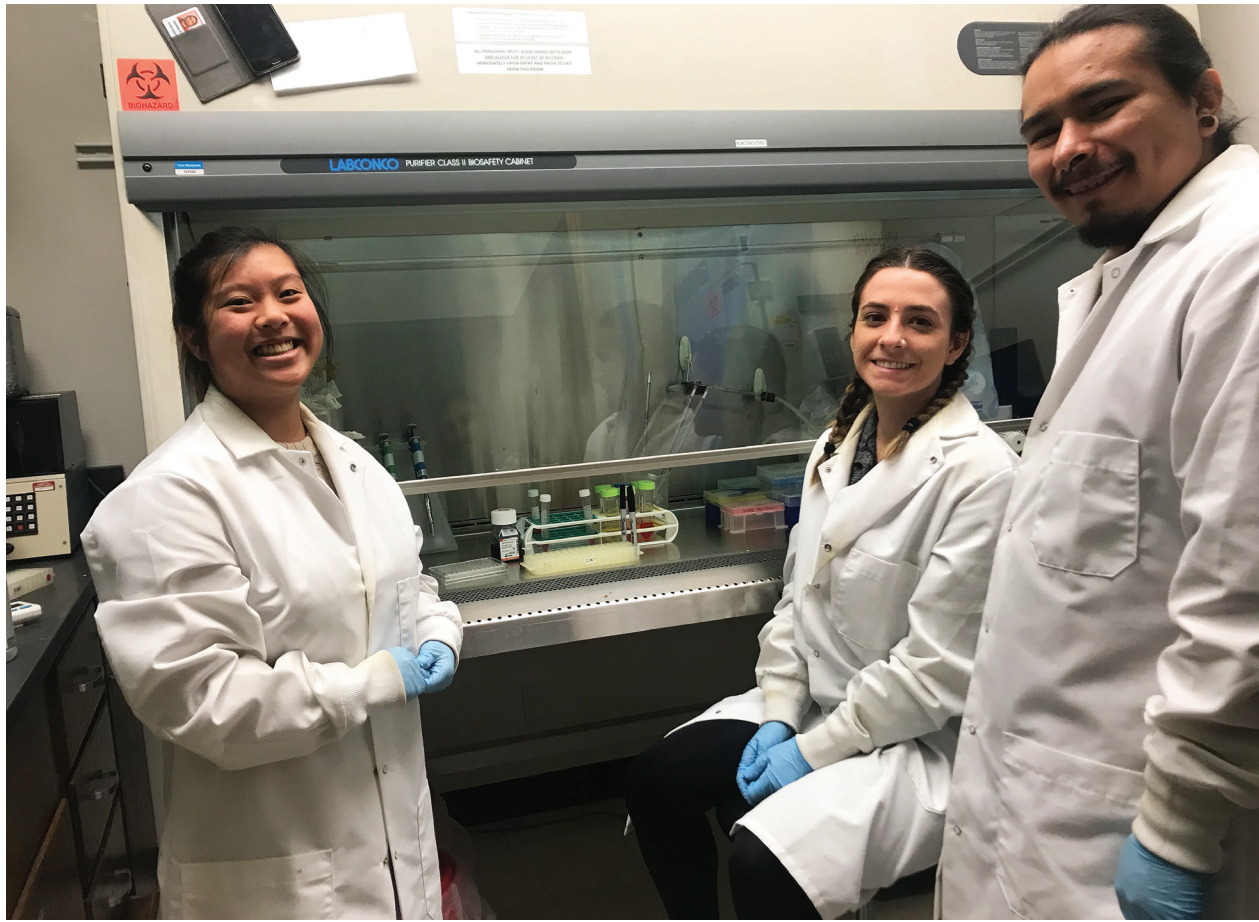


Photo by Collin Slavey

Lisa Ko, Jackie Rose and James Gomez research cellular autophagy in the cell culture lab. The lab is bio safety level two, meaning the students need to wear gloves and lab coats to avoid contaminating their science.



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## Fire breaks out in Arcata

*One dead, one hospitalized*

by Sophia Escudero

A fire at an Arcata apartment complex on Sunday, Feb. 2, left one resident hospitalized and another dead.

Eyewitness Jalen Zerkel-Loomis was woken up by the fire and recounted what he saw.

"You could see, like, directly into the inside of the building," Zerkel-Loomis said. "It was like in The Sims where you can just remove one of the walls and perfectly see everything going on inside. The second story didn't so much collapse into the first—it was like the floor inside the frame fell out under it."

The Arcata Fire District responded to calls reporting a heavy structure fire and at least one resident that had jumped from a second-story window around 5:30 a.m. Four units of the Meadowbrook Apartment Complex and a nearby car were engulfed in the flames.

Zerkel-Loomis also noted several nearby gas tanks, which did not catch fire. He also said he heard several loud bangs.

"It was a pretty crazy sight," Zerkel-Loomis said.

AFD said police provided aid to the injured resident until paramedics arrived. Firefighters contained the fire and searched the apartments for trapped residents. After the fire was extinguished, the remains of one resident were found on the first floor. The identity of the victim has not been released.

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# Who students are supporting in the upcoming elections

## What Humboldt State students think about the 2020 presidential candidates on offer

by Jen Kelly

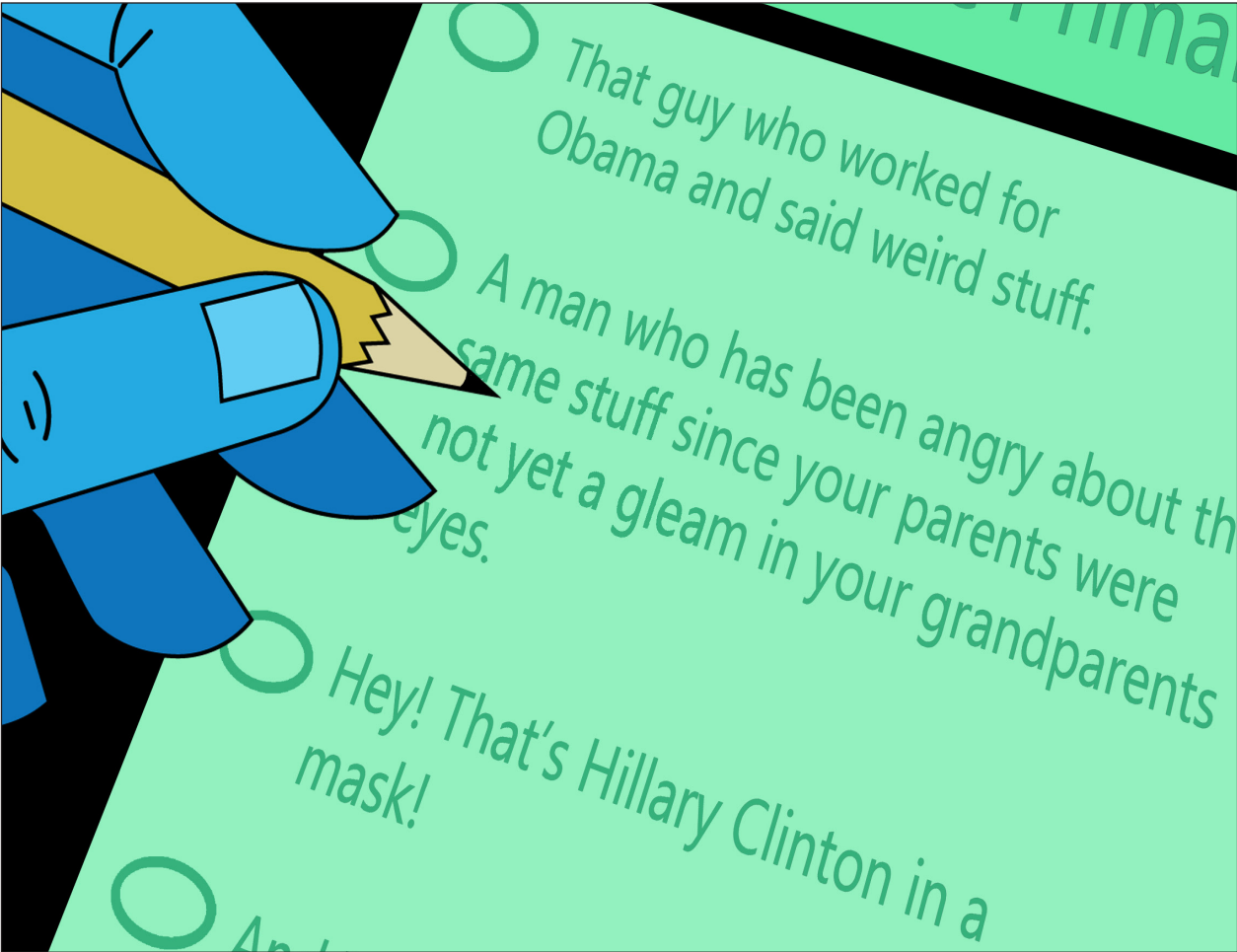
The 2020 presidential campaign season has been in full swing for months. Candidates have risen and fallen. Media coverage of the race has been pervasive. Scandals, conspiracy theories and online warfare have all grabbed media attention. Headlines are filled with heart attacks, race-faking and corruption allegations. Voting began in earnest Feb. 3 with the Iowa caucuses (although results remain delayed).

So, who will Humboldt State University students support going into election season?

“I really have no idea what’s going on right now,” HSU student and competitive rower Travis Wills-Pendley said.

Wills-Pendley is one of the many students choosing to let the dust settle before making any decisions. Californians don’t vote until March 3, so students will have a chance to see how candidates perform in other states before voting.

Although most students stayed away from the chaotic primary coverage, the majority said they would likely vote for the more left-wing candidates. Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders was



Graphic by Jen Kelly

frequently mentioned, along with Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren and Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard.

Elise Guerrero is a wildlife major who focuses on climate change policy and progressive advancement in education.

“Currently I’m definitely

voting for either Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren,” Guerrero said. “I care a lot about education. I have a bunch of younger cousins and I really want to make sure they get a good education.”

Meanwhile, biology major Nathan Johle thinks there

is a lack of effective climate policy among the democratic candidates.

“I care a lot about environmental policies,” Johle said.

Johle previously supported the climate action-focused campaign of Washington Gov.

Jay Inslee. However, Inslee dropped out of the race in August 2019.

“If I’m going to support a politician it’ll be Tulsi Gabbard,” Johle said. “This will be the first time I can vote in a presidential election, so I might as well use my right.”

Johle doesn’t identify with a certain political party. Instead, he chooses candidates based on their individual positions.

“I have beliefs,” Johle said. “I don’t like to put them between two labels.”

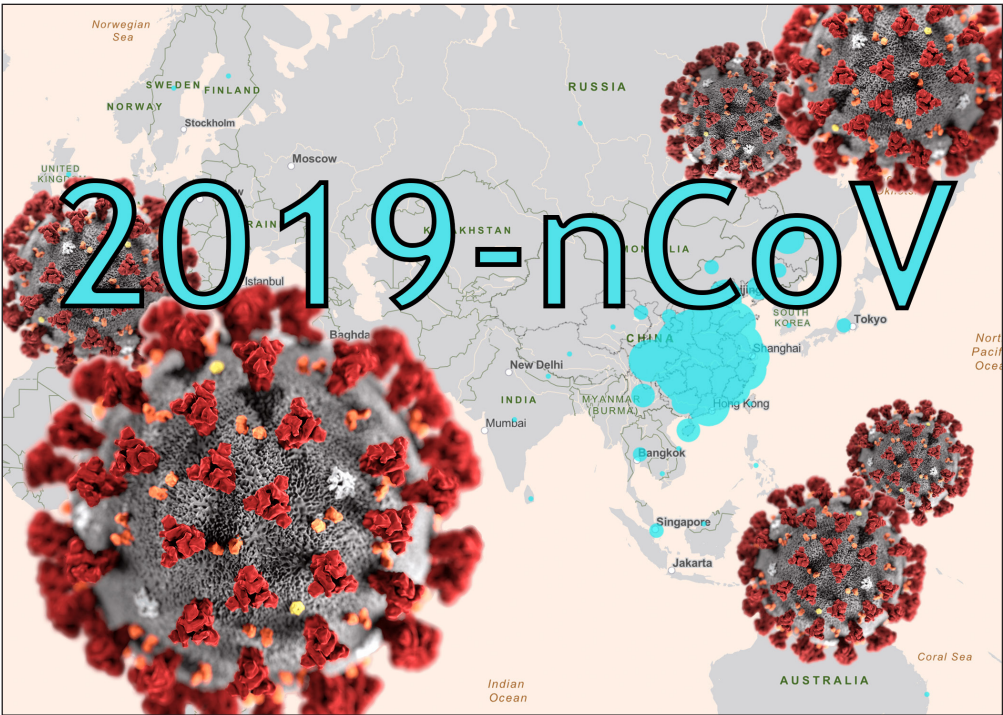
He expressed concern that students vote for candidates without doing their research, a sentiment echoed by fellow student Kitty Quintrell.

“I don’t like making a conclusion until I’ve got my own research,” Quintrell said. “That’s one of the main things I’m going to be doing before I submit my vote.”

In the short time before California votes, some states will have already decided. The popularity of the candidates will be much clearer. Momentum will be gained by some and lost by others. Due to the shifting field of the democratic primary, students are resorting to a tried and true method—waiting until the last minute to cram.

# Delectable news bites for people in a hurry

*Coronavirus: should I be scared or serene?*



by James Wilde

Graphic by Chelsea Wood

## What is it?

Data from Johns Hopkins University shows that the new coronavirus strain has infected over 20,000 people across the globe. A coronavirus is a type of virus found in mammals and birds. Most coronaviruses are mild, but certain strains can be severe and potentially fatal. Previous notable strains include severe acute respiratory syndrome and Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome.

The new strain, scientifically called 2019-nCoV, has symptoms including fever, cough and shortness of breath. As of Feb. 4, over 400 people have died from the virus in China, with one reported death in the Philippines and one reported death in Hong Kong.

## Where is it?

The virus strain began in Wuhan in China’s Hubei province. Eleven people have been confirmed with the coronavirus in the United States, with hundreds being screened. A case has been confirmed in the Bay Area, but no cases are known in Humboldt County.

## Should I be concerned?

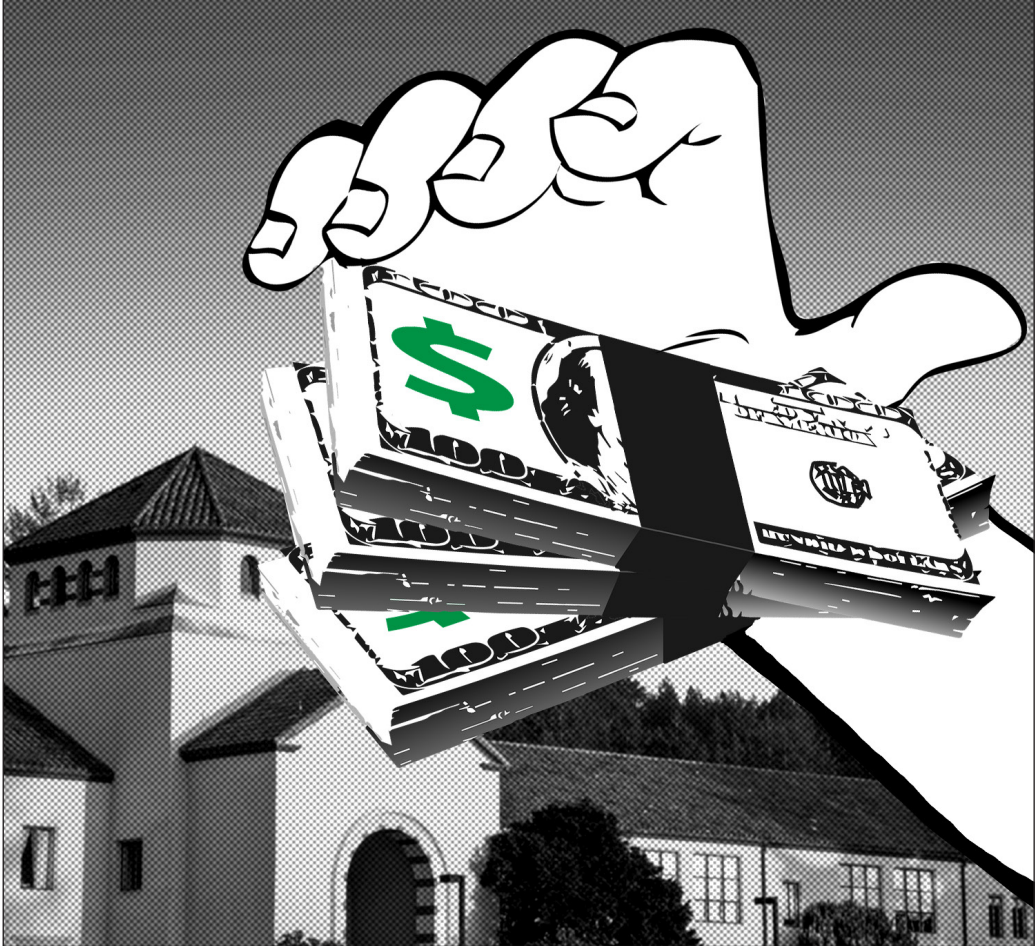
Thus far, the World Health Organization has said those who have died from the disease have had other illnesses that limited their immune system. The disease is mainly spread through coughing or sneezing. The virus can cause pneumonia.

The United States State Department raised the threat level of the virus to level four, the highest level, on Jan. 31, meaning that travel to China is no longer advised. Many airlines have since cancelled or reduced flights to China.

The World Health Organization determined coronavirus to be a public health emergency of international concern on Jan. 30. The virus has spread to at least 27 countries.

A report by The Guardian said the current estimated mortality rate for the coronavirus is around 2%—although this is likely high, as many people without severe symptoms may not have gone to hospitals. Seasonal flus typically have mortality rates around 1%, while SARS had a mortality rate of around 10%. Given current evidence, panic doesn’t appear warranted.

*Budget: how much money does HSU have?*



by James Wilde

Graphic by Chelsea Wood

## What about it?

The University Resources Planning Committee of Humboldt State University submitted its budget proposal to HSU President Tom Jackson on Dec. 23. The URPC spent last semester meeting each week to form a new budget to address a projected \$5.4 million budget deficit for the next three fiscal years.

The proposal includes \$2,500,000 of cuts from instruction, \$720,000 of cuts from academic support, \$420,000 from student services, \$1,070,000 from institutional support and \$690,000 from operations and maintenance of plant.

The total cuts amount to 4.4% of the total budget. The cuts would equal 4.4% of the instruction, academic support and operations and maintenance of plant budgets, 3.5% of the student services budget and 4.9% of the institutional support budget. The proposal must be approved by Jackson to come into effect.

## When?

The URPC discussed the proposal in the University Senate Jan. 28, and will discuss it again Feb. 11., according to URPC Co-Chair James Woglom.

## Why?

The budget deficit stems from HSU’s enrollment decline. Less tuition makes for a smaller budget. When Woglom spoke with The Lumberjack previously, he said the URPC has designed a scalable budget model, or a budget that allows HSU to be more flexible with its money as the University’s priorities change. Despite the cuts, Woglom assured The Lumberjack that the URPC was seeking to limit any negative impacts on students’ education. Thus far, HSU has publicly announced plans to phase out employees only through attrition, or not rehiring select employees, rather than outright cutting positions.



# One more reason to ride a bike

## *Saving money and the planet at the HSU Bicycle Learning Center*

by Dakota Cox

Humboldt State University’s Bicycle Learning Center made the transition in September 2018 from a student club to an Associated Students program umbrellaed under HSU’s Waste Reduction and Resource Awareness Program.

Steven Sperling volunteers at the BLC while pursuing his master’s in business administration.

“Bicycles are the most efficient form of transportation there is for human beings,” Sperling said. “Bicycles can and should save the world, period.”

Originally founded in 1992, HSU’s entirely student-staffed Bicycle Learning Center is a free resource available to all HSU students in need of bike repairs. The transition opened up two part-time instructor positions, paid for with student fees, that are currently split between three students.

“Probably the biggest thing that I’m working on here is how to share my bicycle knowledge efficiently,” Sperling said. “Learning how to teach is one of the things that I’m most excited about learning while I’m here.”

Current Director Julian Palmisano has been a member of the BLC since he transferred to HSU from Santa Barbara City College in 2017.

“We all started as volunteers at the shop to serve and build community, utilize the resources and gain experience,” Palmisano said.

The BLC does its best to provide all of the tools necessary for maintaining a well-conditioned bicycle, along with as many consumable parts that they can get their hands on. With a budget of only \$800 provided by WR-RAP, the majority of parts that cycle through the BLC are donations.

Colton Trent is an instructor entering his third semester volunteering for the BLC.

“The budget provides a buffer in case we run out of stuff,” Trent said. “But for the most part we can function pretty well trying to up-cycle and recycle things.”

As a result of their small budget, the BLC can only provide a finite number of students with bicycle maintenance.

“Sometimes we just don’t have stuff and we have to tell people like, sorry we can’t help,” Trent said. “Which is a real bummer.”

The BLC encourages donations in the form of tools, bicycle parts and old bikes that will be refurbished and donated to a student-rider in need. All cash donations that the BLC receives go directly into the shop’s spare parts fund.

In the fall semester of 2019, the BLC saw over 180 documented student visits, totaling over 100 hours of bicycle maintenance. By spreading the trend of using bicycles as a primary-method of transportation, the BLC is promoting a healthier lifestyle with a significantly smaller carbon footprint.



BLC Director Julian Palmisano helps student Isaac West replace his bike chain at HSU’s Bicycle Learning Center on Jan. 29.



Colton Trent hard at work at the Bicycle Learning Center on Jan. 29.

Located in the eastern tunnel by the Redwood Bowl, the BLC is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, with instructors and volunteers standing by to assist and educate students in bicycle repair.

**Bicycles can and should save the world, period.”**

**-Steven Sperling  
BLC Volunteer**

# Stuck swimming in circles

*Completing and contemplating Mac Miller’s final album*

by Sarah Blunt

Mac Miller’s family and record producer, Jon Brion, released his final album, “Circles,” on Jan. 17. “Circles” completes his previous album, which was under works during his accidental overdose a month after “Swimming” was released in 2018.

“Circles” goes deeper into his personal life and the struggles he was dealing with. Songs such as the last song, “Once a Day,” hit home. Miller had posted a snippet of the song on his Instagram story the day before his death.

Jena Schuh, a zoology student at Humboldt State University, said she knew this al-

bum was going to be one of, if not the greatest, album Miller worked on when she first started listening.

“The style of ‘Circles’ truly portrays who Mac as a person was,” Schuh said. “Even though he had a lot of money and fame, he still went through the daily struggles that a lot of normal people have too.”

Throughout the album, Miller openly talks about how he was feeling and some of his darker thoughts about the world and himself. He displays vulnerability to himself and is more transparent in “Circles” than any other album he made.

Miller’s album goes deeper into the idea that although he was rich and famous, he still dealt with struggles. In the song “Circles,” Miller talks about how he’s tried to change, but can’t.

This album in particular has a lot of things that people can relate to, such as going around and around in circles in life. In his song, “Blue World,” Miller

describes the craziness of the world and the devil being on his doorstep, but carrying on and shining. It’s an album of pain and tribulations, but also triumph. He continues to talk about himself rising up, shining or continuing on.

This album gave Mac Miller fans mixed emotions. Hazel Belair, a 21-year-old Arcata resident, said she chose to avoid listening to the album because it wasn’t finished by Miller himself.

“He’s just so creative and so unique,” Belair said. “I feel like no one could ever guess what Mac would want, you know?”

The family asking Brion to

complete the album was an important part of keeping the authenticity. Brion had been working with Miller on not just “Circles,” but also on his last album, “Swimming.” They had been experimenting with different sounds, instruments and lyrics.

With the amount of time the two spent together, Brion learned a lot about Miller, but particularly about his music style and preferences. After countless hours in the studio with him, Brion picked up on what Miller was looking for in the album and how he wanted it to sound. There isn’t anyone else who could have made this

into a more pure Mac Miller album than Brion did.

HSU geography student Olivia Dorenkamp thought Brion did a great job on the album and brought out new sounds.

“‘Good News’ and ‘Woods’ put me in a state of bliss and remembrance of his past music,” Dorenkamp said. “Overall into a groovy state of mind.”

Although “Circles” was Mac Miller’s final contribution to the music world, it was one of his most beautiful. He died over a year ago, but his memory continues to live on through his lyrics and the musical creativity that’s portrayed in “Circles” and his other albums.

Photo by Brick Stowell courtesy of Warner Records



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# Walking and wildlife tracking at Redwood Creek

## Students and community members wandered near Orick to track local wildlife

by Walker B. True

On Saturday, Feb. 1, Phil Johnston, the mountain lion biologist for the Hoopa Valley Tribe, stopped the group of 20 mixed retirees and Humboldt State University wildlife majors to quiz them on the tracks he had noticed in the sand.

The participants all went to the headwaters of Redwood Creek, just south of Orick, to learn about the tracks, scat and other markings of the animals in our area. Some were there to learn what they could and enjoy the hike, and others were looking for a leg up in their future careers.

Throughout the day, Johnston stopped and drew circles in the sand with his walking stick around particular markings, scat or tracks and asked the group to weigh in on the different features and aspects of it. He asked leading questions about what family the suspected animal may belong to as well as what it most certainly did not belong to.

“If you’re good enough at interpreting signs and staying on the trail, it’s pretty close to watching them,” Johnston said.

Johnston leads these wildlife tracking workshops at the Natural History Museum in Arcata. Evaluators certified by CyberTracker will be coming to Humboldt County to test 10 people on their tracking skills, according to CyberTracker standards. People who pay the \$170 certification fee must pass the certification exam on April 25 and 26 to receive their certification.

Louis Salas is a 31-year-old wildlife major pursuing the CyberTracker certification. Salas hopes to work in predator conflict mitigation after he graduates, and figured that if he can earn this certification, he would have a leg up in the competitive field of wildlife biology.

“I’m an older student and I’m competing with a bunch of 18 to 22-year-olds,” Salas said.

The community impact of the workshop didn’t pass him by. Salas said the workshop was a welcoming environment

and he enjoyed seeing older people getting out and learning. Salas said when people learn about wildlife, they care about it more.

“If nobody cares about the landscape that we live on, no one’s gonna protect it,” Johnston said.

He wants people to have a connection to the place that they live so that they will want to preserve it for future generations. Johnston said that tracking gives people the ability to feel like a participant in the ecosystem instead of a tourist.

Dave Ramirez is a forestry major and Deanna Lopez is a zoology major. Neither were after the certification and just came out with a friend to learn more about tracking. Both of them said they would probably come back. The commentary and teaching turned what would normally be a quick walk on the beach into something better.

“It’s more meaningful than just hiking,” Ramirez said.



Phil Johnston explaining vole tunneling to the group of workshop attendees on Feb. 1.

Photo by Walker B. True



Workshop attendees identifying foot tracks at the mouth of the Redwood Creek on Feb. 1.

Photo by Walker B. True

## CELLS

### FROM PAGE 1

Steele’s lab combines bio-technologies using unique stem cell cultures and genome editing techniques. The lab cultures stem cells—cells which can grow into any cell type—and chops up DNA using CRISPR, a revolutionary gene-clipping tool, to learn how rare neurodegenerative diseases develop in the brain.

Steele’s graduate student Kyle Anthony, on the other hand, is working on making a model of a rare disease called progressive supranuclear palsy, which looks like a combination of Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases. The dis-

ease is a tauopathic disease because a main characteristic of the disease is a buildup of the tau protein, which blocks some necessary cell functions. To understand the finer details of the disease, Anthony developed a new method for growing neurosphere cell types into what is, effectively, a miniature brain.

Scientifically named 3D neural sphere cultures, these miniature brains offer a platform for researchers to study three types of brain cells at the same time. Anthony’s method allowed him to organically grow neurons, oligodendrocytes and astrocytes, three dominant cell types in the brain, from human stem cells, so they would develop naturally like they would in a growing

brain.

Anthony’s research is up for review in a number of scientific publications and his name is on some breakthrough scientific papers. He is contributing to research about progressive supranuclear palsy and other tauopathic diseases. His research concentrates the tau protein in a miniature brain to simulate the symptoms of progressive supranuclear palsy, and he is exploring how the protein and disease impact his lab-grown brain cells.

“There have been some really cool applications of CRISPR out there,” Steele said. “And they’re just because somebody said, ‘I wonder if we could do that?’ and they did.”



John Steele in his lab with graduate students in the background working on their research on Jan. 31. The lab specializes in molecular biology.

Photo by Collin Slavey

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# LADIES

## FROM PAGE 1

When it comes to sports, a dynamic duo is rare. Humboldt State University’s women’s basketball team is lucky, then, with the elite duo of Tyra Turner and Alexia Thrower. The two have been storming through the California Collegiate Athletic Association and don’t seem to be slowing down.

“I’m just trying to finish this season off strong since it will be my last one of my college career,” Turner said. “I don’t want to have any regrets going forward. I love going out there and playing hard for my teammates because I feel like it is infectious when you play as hard as possible and it leads to all of us playing hard for each other.”

The Lady Lumberjacks have leaned on their two star players heavily this year as both Turner and Thrower lead the CCAA in scoring and assists. Thrower leads the CCAA at 21.1 points per game while Turner leads the CCAA in total assists at 88.

The team feeds off the pair, as they are 11-8 overall and 7-7 in 2019-2020 Women’s Basketball Conference play—and they seem to be hitting their stride at the right time with postseason play right around the corner.

Turner, the team’s point guard, is the engine of the Lady Lumberjacks. She constantly has the ball in her hands, making key decisions and often guarding the best guard on the opposing team. Turner doesn’t mind having these tasks as she



Tyra Turner drives to the net during the Lady Lumberjacks’ game against University of California, San Diego at Lumberjack Arena on Jan. 11.



Humboldt State University’s Alexia Thrower jumps to shoot a layup during the Jacks’ match against Seattle Pacific at Lumberjack Arena on Nov. 8, 2019.

tries to finish off her career as one of the best point guards to ever lace shoes up for the Lady Lumberjacks.

Turner has been playing her best lately, as she’s fresh off being named CCAA Player of the Week on Jan. 29 after averaging 21.5 points, seven assists, four rebounds and three steals in the previous week’s games. Turner currently sits at 1,060 points and 473 assists for her career, and those totals will likely grow before the season ends.

The second half of the duo is Thrower, who is currently in her second season at HSU after transferring from Grays Harbor College in Washington. It didn’t take long for her to take the CCAA by storm as one of its best players. Thrower was the 2018-19 Newcomer of the Year in the CCAA and is on track to receive more awards by the end of the season.

“I never try to focus on trying to win awards,” Thrower said. “I just try to go out there and play my game every night. I don’t really focus on stats or anything like that. I really just let the game come to me. I know if we continue to win and I continue to play the way I can, then everything else will fall into place.”

Thrower currently sits atop the CCAA in scoring, is second in rebounding and is shaping her career as one of HSU’s best women players as she sits at 879 points and 466 rebounds in her two seasons at HSU. If her play continues, expect awards to fall in her favor.

# HSU is Celebrating Black Liberation Month



## Dr. Cornel West

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## Ilyasah Shabazz

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Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> 6PM  
The Great Hall (CCC 260)

The author of *Growing Up X: A Memoir by the Daughter of Malcolm X* is a community organizer, social activist, and motivational speaker. Moderated by Dr. Ramona Bell, professor in Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies.





OPINION

5 apps to help you survive the semester

*Survive the spring with these essential schools apps*

by Chelsea Wood

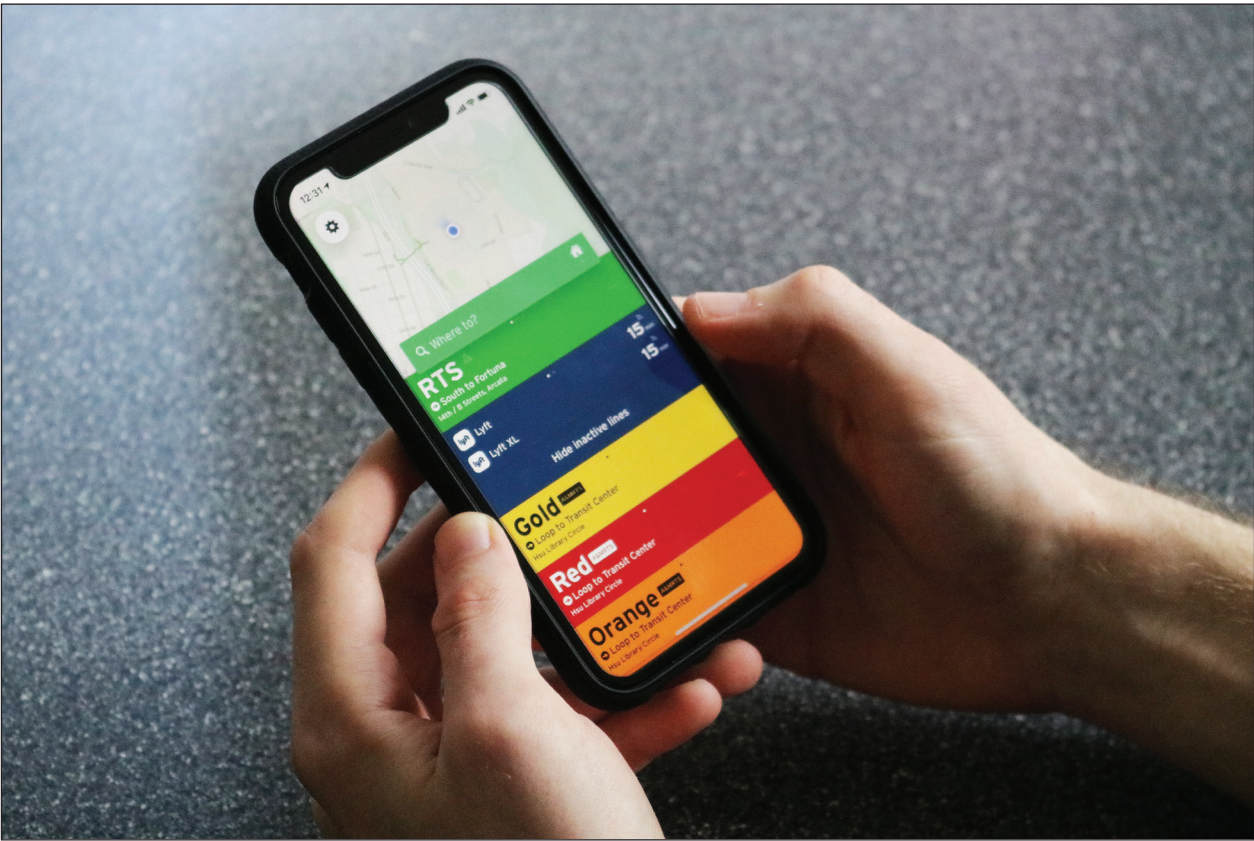
There are five apps you should download this semester to help with organizing your school life and keeping your mind at ease. While not all of these apps are accessible on all types of phones, they're typically compatible with phones that host Google Play or the Apple App Store.

1) Google Drive:

The Google Drive app is one of the best apps you can use as a student. It hosts all of the accompanying Google Drive features like Google Sheets, Slides and Docs. You can download each app individually for more convenience, but thankfully they're still accessible through the Drive.

2) Canvas:

The Canvas app is helpful for doing assignments on the fly or for getting in touch with classmates for projects. Don't turn off the notifications for this app because you could miss important class reminders from your professors. This app allows you to submit assignments from wherever you have a WiFi or data connection. It's also compatible with Google Drive, which makes submitting



A student uses the Transit app on an iPhone. The Transit app shows you nearby bus routes and schedules with live updates.

assignments simple. You can check the to-do list to stay on top of your work and review the app calendar to see upcoming deadlines.

3) Transit App:

The transit app is essential for any student who commutes to campus. This free app will save you time and stress by showing you local transit routes, schedules and live updates. A helpful feature on this app is the ability to locate the closest route from wherever you are, as long as your GPS is on and active. Not only does the app display bus routes, but it also shows rideshares in the area like Lyft.

4) HSU Mobile:

The Humboldt State Mobile app is a useful tool for checking the school directory, campus life events and other school-related information. You can register or drop classes, check your student center and browse semester class schedules. There's even a campus map with marked locations for print kiosks and dining services. Although the app can be glitchy, it's still a valuable and free resource that the school offers.

5) Music apps:

According to a report on the neuroscience of music published by the United

States National Library of Medicine, several studies found that listening to music can be therapeutic and may provide stress relief and improvements to cognitive function. Throwing on a study playlist might help you decompress while you review material. Check out Spotify, Pandora or SoundCloud for free music streaming services. Premium versions for music apps are also available if you wish to upgrade your music accessibility. The next time you sit down to study, turn on some tunes to help your cognitive functioning.

OPINION

Why the Academy Awards lack 2020 vision

*The Oscars are broken—here are some ways to fix them*

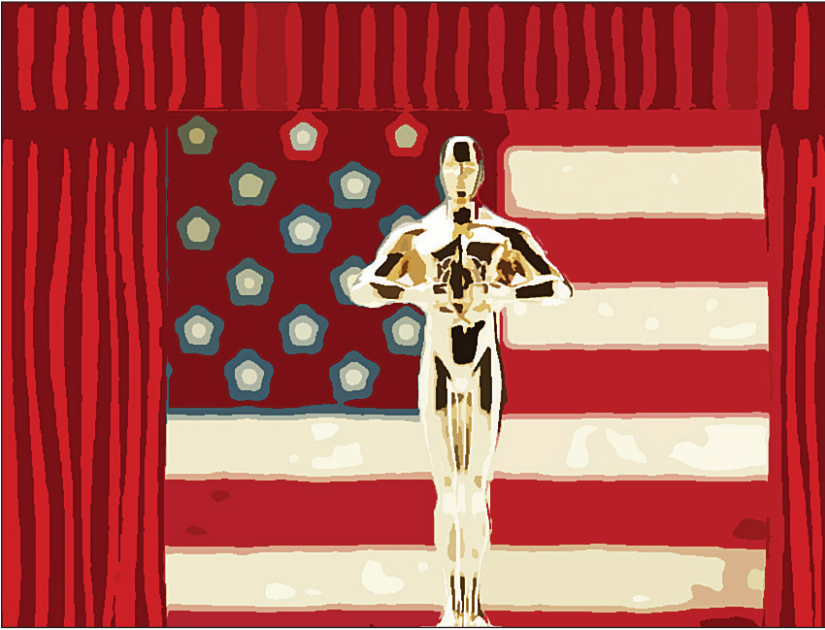
by Benjamin Zawilski

The nominees for the 92nd Academy Awards were recently announced in the lead-up to the ceremony, which will take place Feb. 9. The nominees are, for the most part, very easily predictable to anyone who is familiar with the kind of films that tend to win Oscars or other similar awards. That isn't in itself a bad thing, but it does raise the question of how relevant the Oscars really are, and if they really live up to their supposed purpose of granting the "highest honors in filmmaking" to the "best films of 2019."

In recent years, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has been under its fair share of criticism for its notably conservative and traditional values. Indeed, the Academy does seem much more inclined to nominate and award reassuring, easily accessible films and blockbusters than they are to consider better, but less successful films.

Of course, as with all aspects of art, the quality of any film is subjective. But the choices made by the Academy, which is comprised of around 6,000 industry professionals, invite the questioning of their practices.

The criteria for a film to be considered by the Academy is extremely limiting. For starters, a film has to play for at least one week in a theater in Los Angeles County, and its theatrical release has to be the first time that it's shown. It



Graphic by Benjamin Zawilski

can't be shown on television, released to DVD or Blu-ray or streamed before that.

Nominees like "Marriage Story" or "The Irishman" would have instantly been disqualified if they hadn't been shown in theaters before being made available to stream on Netflix.

This might not sound like a major obstacle at first, but that's mostly only true for American films with a wide release. Having a decent budget and big names attached doesn't hurt a film's chances either. Any independent or foreign film that can't secure a release in one area of one country is instantly not considered, regardless of how good the reviews are.

This is just one of several of the Academy's rules for eligibility, but it's the most easily-understood example of how limiting the criteria is for

one of the most prestigious awards a film can receive.

Even getting past the extensive list of rules, the Academy is known for usually nominating specific types of films. On this year's list, only two of the nine Best Picture nominees, "Little Women" and "Parsite," are not predominantly made by and starring white men, who have been the center of the majority of films that the Academy tends to nominate and award. This is a circumstance that has been the case due to both the criteria for Academy consideration and because the Academy's board is comprised of, in large majority, white men—a point that is often made into memes with the hashtag #OscarsSoWhite.

"Little Women", while receiving nominations for Best Picture, Best Lead Actress, Best Supporting Actress

and Costume Design, did not receive any nominations for Best Director or Best Cinematography despite being an incredibly strong film in those categories. An article by Vulture explained how these rare films being nominated cause them to be, possibly unfairly, depended on to please all their demographics.

"I will say that Greta Gerwig and the film are put in the impossible position of having to represent all things to all women when she became the 'presumptive representation of all-female directors,'" Angelica Jade Bastien said. "No film can shoulder such a burden."

Defenders of the Academy—those who are perfectly content with the nominations—will claim that it's simply a meritocracy—that the nominations truly represent the best films of each year with no barriers.

However, the numerous barriers, biased board and skewed representation severely limit which films are considered for one of the most widely recognized honors a film can receive. However, unintentionally, this influences how the film-going public decides what they want to watch and how they interpret what they watch.

Until the Academy gets some new blood into their board, stops immediately disqualifying films and more frequently overcomes the 1-inch-tall barrier of subtitles, their choices will never fulfill their ostensible purpose.

ASK  
EVERGREEN

CORNERED

COHABITANT

Dear Evergreen,

What do I do when my housemate makes an advance on me?

Dear cornered cohabitant,

Every now and then we find ourselves in uncomfortable situations due to an unwanted admirer. Of course, it's easier to avoid this when the admirer isn't your housemate.

You can steer clear of any further awkward encounters by trying the following.

First, if your housemate has made it known they're fond of you by making unwarranted physical advances, be sure to tell someone you trust or an authority figure. Having someone cued into this predicament can help you if your housemate decides to retaliate.

Reach out to friends for moral support. They might be able to back you up when it comes time to telling your housemate off. You can even consult the school counseling services if you're feeling agitated about the situation, or campus police if you feel in-danger around your housemate.

Second, set boundaries. Make it known that you don't appreciate the way they make you feel. Your most sacred space is probably your bedroom, so be sure to tell them to respect your limitations so you can maintain your safe space.

Don't let the familiarity or comfortability of a housemate relationship become a way for them to continue their actions. You don't have to be friends with your housemate, especially not if they're making you uncomfortable.

Third, be kind but steadfast in your rejection. While you don't owe your housemate an apology, you should be cautious with your rejection execution so you don't aggravate the situation. Rejection brings out vindication in some, so be careful when breaking it to your housemate that you're not interested.

Lastly, talk with any other housemates you may have. See what they have to say about the predicament. They may be able to step in to deescalate things. You could all decide to have a household meeting where you can discuss how to best make a safe and comfortable home environment.

Remember, you don't have to do this alone.

Good luck!

Sincerely,

Evergreen

Send questions to:  
contactthejack@gmail.com



# WEEKLY CALENDAR

## Wed. 2/5:

Clubs Fair & Poster Sale  
**Time:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Where:** UC Quad  
**Description:** Come out and meet over 30 student organizations involved in the campus community. Poster will be for sale to help decorate residence hall rooms or apartments.

## Thurs. 2/6:

Spoken Word: Third Worlds Theory  
**Time:** 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Coffee House @ The Depot  
**Description:** The AACAE will create connections over the Third Worlds Theory which pays homage to the wisdom of people of color and from a variety of newly independent nations to collectively resist imperialism and assimilation.

## Fri. 2/7:

Inked Hearts Tattoo Expo  
**Time:** 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
**Where:** Blue Lake Casino  
**Description:** Over 30 tattoo artists will offer tattoos on-site. A weekend of tattoos, contests and live entertainment!

## Sat. 2/8:

SCRAP: Put a Ring on it!  
**Time:** 12 - 3 p.m.  
**Where:** 101 H St. in Arcata  
**Description:** Shop donated jewelry, beads and crystals to help fundraise and support SCRAP Humboldt. Members allowed into sale an hour earlier @ 11 a.m.

## Sun. 2/9:

Home Away From Home Potluck  
**Time:** 5 - 7 p.m.  
**Where:** D St. Neighborhood Center  
**Description:** Equity Arcata will provide a meal to celebrate students and the community coming together!

## Mon. 2/10

Pints 4 Nonprofits: SoHum Little League  
**Time:** 3 - 6 p.m.  
**Where:** Gyppo Ale Mill  
**Description:** SoHum Little League was established in 1978 and provides the community with five different baseball divisions. The money raised will repair home plates on both fields and help raise awareness. Sign ups have begun.

## Tues. 2/11:

Peace Corps  
**Time:** 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
**Where:** Library 209 - Fishbowl  
**Description:** Information session on working in the Peace Corps. Attendees are also invited to an evening reception to welcome Humboldt Peace Corps returners.

## Wed. 2/12:

Featured Speaker: Ilyasah Shabazz  
**Time:** 6 - 8 p.m.  
**Where:** College Creek Community Center 260 - Great Hall  
**Description:** Author of *Growing Up X: A Memoir by the daughter of Malcolm X*. Shabazz is a community organizer, social activist and motivational speaker. Tickets are FREE and available at the UC Ticket Office.

## Thurs. 2/13:

Zero Waste Valentine!  
**Time:** 9:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.  
**Where:** Library 102 - Lobby & Checkout Desk  
**Description:** Zero waste Valentine's Day card making workshop. Instructions for zero waste desserts also provided!



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## HSU Community Comics



I'm Phoebe Hughes, a botany major and studio art minor at HSU. And with whatever small amount of time I can find between science classes and trying to be an adult, I draw. MnS stands for Magic 'n Science, and it's about two roommates: one with spiritual approaches, and one who is more scientifically-minded. They're 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