

CLIMATE CHANGE PUTS THE HEAT ON CLEAN UP OF DIOXIN HOTSPOT



The evening sun reflects off dioxin contaminated mud at low tide on Dec. 1 at the Arcata Bay shoreline.

Photo by Jen Kelly

Vice Mayor alerts City Council to Arcata Bay Shoreline dioxin threat

by Shawn Leon
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Maintaining a sustainable lifestyle during a global pandemic

HSU students continue to pursue a zero waste lifestyle despite the additional obstacles presented by COVID-19



CCAT Groundskeeper Abbey Ramirez executes her daily walkthrough on Dec. 2.

Photo by Dakota Cox

by Dakota Cox

Humboldt State University is synonymous with an eco-friendly, green lifestyle. This year, student sustainability values have been put to the test with a nationwide shutdown and a closed campus.

Sage Palacils, freshman at HSU, was raised in a household that emphasized the importance of sustainability and has been living eco-consciously their entire life.

“I’ve been practicing [sustainability] since I was young and the practice, more than the reasons are ingrained in me,” Palacils said. “I grew up really poor and we really didn’t have money to keep replacing things or not be sustainable.”

Since the pandemic began, Palacils’ carbon footprint has been significantly reduced, after they moved to Humboldt and stopped driving. Palacils also found they don’t miss shopping in the massive malls back home in Los Angeles, because they don’t see a need to be flashy this year.

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Backcountry Horsemen of California kick off food drive on horseback

As a part of the Food For People food drive the volunteers trotted through Old Town Eureka



The Redwood Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California ride through Old Town, Eureka while starting off Food For People's food drive on November 21.

Photos by Thomas Lal

McKinleyville launches its first Christmas lighting contest

by Becca Laurenson

McKinleyville will host their first Christmas lighting contest. The contest consists of Christmas lights and Christmas decorations on McKinleyville houses. The contestants are judged based on inflatables, Christmas lights and Christmas decorations.

The Christmas lighting contest, will have a map drawn out of all participating homes. There will be first, second and third placements with prizes. Participating in the event is free and the event itself will take place Dec. 23, 24, and 25 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Keith Ownsbey was the first to launch the idea and hopes the event can become an annual tradition. Ownsbey started a Facebook page dedicated to the idea and posted his contact information for those interested in participating and volunteering.

"I was bored," Ownsbey said. "I decided to make a post on the local Facebook page and said 'hey this is who I am, my family and I are lucky enough to call this community our home and I plan on decorating a lot this year and I wanted to put on a Christmas lighting decorating contest.'"

The event will be following COVID-19 protocol by looking at Christmas lights within the McKinleyville area. The event is being held over a three-day span, rather than one giant event on a single day, as another COVID-19 safety precaution.

The Christmas light contest is only



Christmas decor up in McKinleyville neighborhood on a Nov. 28.

Photo by Becca Laurenson

happening locally in McKinleyville, but the Christmas door decorating contest is available throughout Humboldt County, so more people can participate.

"Not everybody can drop two or three grand on a bunch of stuff," Ownsbey said. "But almost everybody can decorate a door and send in a picture."

Local community members and businesses who wished to contribute to the event offered prize money and donations.

"All the prize money coming solely

from the community members, business and donations," Ownsbey said. "That's what we are gonna use for the awards."

Cyndi Bainbridge, the treasurer for McKinleyville's Lions Club, is excited about participating in the event. The Lions Club is a community and worldwide known club that partnered with Ownsbey to help out with the Christmas event.

"I talked to the Lions Club," Bainbridge said. "The president felt it was

a really good idea to get behind something like that."

The Lions Club, by partnering, has helped with donations and credibility regarding the event. COVID-19 has taken a lot from communities this last year, Bainbridge is hopeful the outcome of this event can change that.

"The community needs this," Bainbridge said. "It's been a hard year, we are the type of community that likes to come together and be involved."

Kacy Tonkin is a participants in both the Christmas lights and door decorating contest. Once she found out about the event, she messaged Ownsbey asking to participate because she enjoys the Christmas season a lot.

"I am super excited," Tonkin said. "Personally I really enjoy driving around at Christmas time looking at lights, and I think less and less people were decorating, so this kind of gives them the incentive for people to decorate."

Tonkin mostly decorates inside her home, she's excited to decorate the outside and help bring cheer regardless of the contest.

"Gives people something to do," Tonkin said. "I think that more than any monetary gain, I think just the joy or the happiness it brings people."

The deadline to sign up for the event is Dec. 15. The deadline for door decoration contest will be Dec. 22. To participate or ask any questions, reach out to the Facebook page, 1st Annual McKinleyville Lighting Contest.

COVID-19 pandemic seeps into our dreams

by Skylar Gaven

Dreaming is the psychological phenomenon of our minds that creates vivid images as we descend into a deep sleep. Humans are hyperactive and social creatures. When we’re not participating in daily activities, our minds enter states of depression, stress, boredom and now more than ever, paranoia. The pandemic’s effect on our lives has certainly altered our psyche, undeniably impacting the way we think and the contents of our dreams. HSU senior majoring in journalism Alexis Valtenbergs has had multiple bizarre and lasting dreams since the shelter in place began. Her most notable dream involved catching COVID-19 and experiencing symptoms in the dream. “I almost had an anxiety attack the first time I woke up like that,” Valtenbergs said. “I was convinced, thanks to the paranoia, that I had COVID, that it would kill me.” Valtenbergs found entering a good headspace before bed made a significant impact on her dreams throughout this time in quarantine. Meditation and muscle relaxation exercises before bed does the trick for her. Valtenbergs has had her share of great dreams since quarantine began and believes that dreaming is a wonderful thing that can open our minds to things we haven’t noticed before. “There is symbolism in dreams, something that symbolizes what you are going through,” Valtenbergs said. “I’ve had amazing dreams that I didn’t want to escape from.” Kashan Fields, an Arcata local, hasn’t had too many wild dreaming experiences, but has had trouble sleeping since quarantine began. “Ever since COVID, I have been getting less sleep honestly,” Fields said. “I don’t even think I’ve been getting any

deep sleep where I would have a good dream state.” Fields said the amount of stress that many are facing today is because of COVID-19. With learning online as well as navigating a global pandemic, people are facing a lot. Fields said stress has caused negative effects when it comes to his sleep schedule but, taking time to work on certain things that need to be done can help reduce that stress. “It’s usually some type of stress that you’re usually not resolving for the most part,” Fields said. “If you just look at your life and see what you need to tend to, trying to find a way to manifest that can help build a positive headspace. Usually one way to manifest is in a dream.” To help understand the act of dreaming, philosophy professor Mary Bockover explains the beauty and overall mystery of these illusions. She believes dreams are a part of who we are and that in a way they’re full embodied experiences. Dreams can cause us to imagine the impossible and create alternate realities that we may never find answers to. “When it comes to interpreting the significance of our dreams, we can speculate, develop theories and use our own experience and intuitions as a guide,” Bockover said. “But to know for sure what they mean seems out of our grasp. That’s part of the beauty about dreaming.” Bockover recognizes the global pandemic has affected us all in more ways than one. Being stuck in lockdown has thrown off our schedules significantly. Not having daily routines can force our minds to speculate or conjure up scenarios without even realizing until we have fallen asleep. Although times may be tough at the moment and our minds dealing with



a lot, they are still able to produce a phenomenon that cannot be explained and help us develop interesting ways of looking into our own lives. “Dreams allow us to confront a part of ourselves that is a mystery to us and that informs us that we are part of something larger,” Bockover said. “Something beyond the self that is also a part of the self.”

SUSTAINABILITY

FROM PAGE 1

“Since I don’t go out much, I don’t really buy clothes,” Palacils said. “I don’t really shop online. I kind of reuse the same clothes I have because of the pandemic.” This semester, Co-Director for HSU’s Campus Center for Appropriate Technology Klara Hernandez is attempting to provide students with a virtual substitute for the resources and sustainable living information they would have access to in a normal semester. “I feel like if I lead by example, people will become aware,” Hernandez said. “[I]

just want to show that it’s possible that we can change individually. But at the same time, we have to attack this at the source, the corporations and big businesses, the people in power making the environmental impacts.” Hernandez originally got involved through their volunteer Friday events, which are not currently offered. The hardest part about being a member and leader of CCAT for Hernandez this semester has been having to turn away eager students because of the HSU’s pandemic policies. “We have to tell them no and it’s sad,” Hernandez said. “People really want to get involved and get their hands-on experiences, which is what we’re all about – providing that and serving the students, but we’re not able to.” HSU Waste Reduction and Resource

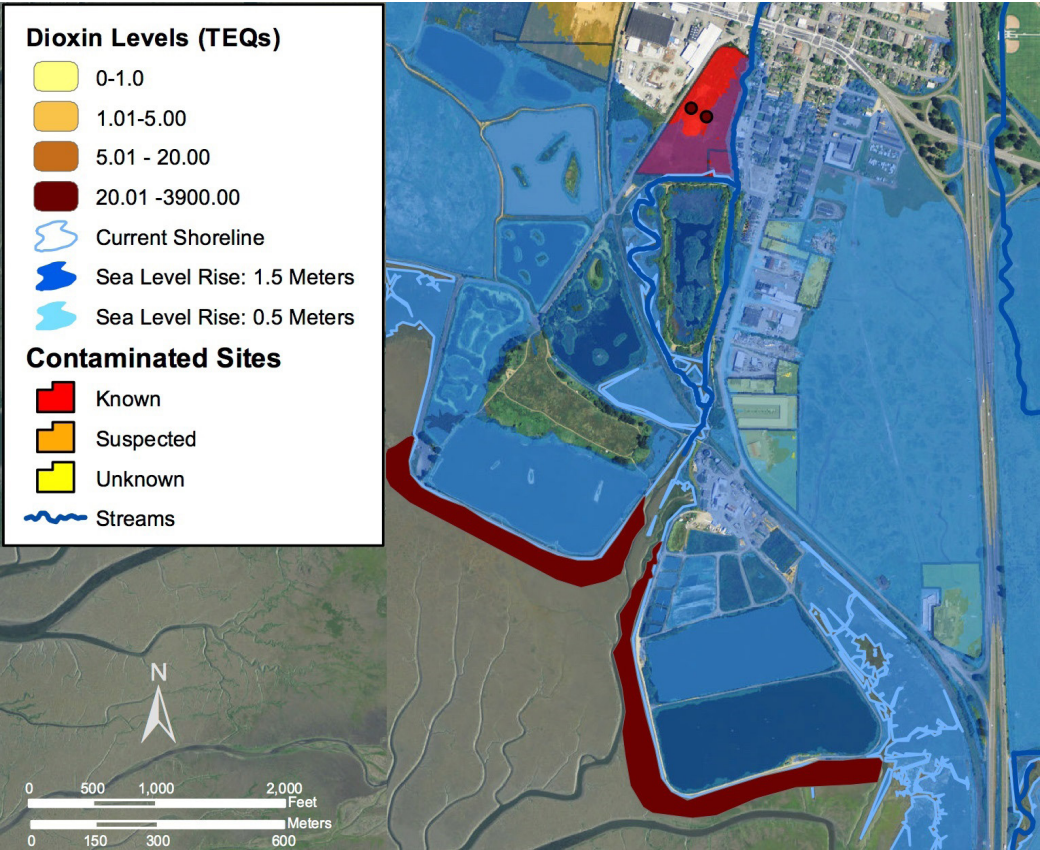
Awareness Program Outreach Director Skylar Fisher believes the pandemic has proved the human race is ill equipped to tackle the much larger issue of climate change. “[If] we are not capable of responding to something as serious and as widespread as COVID, then we’re not gonna be able to be prepared for climate change,” Fisher said. “I’m very fortunate because I’m not extremely impacted by [climate change] yet, but you see all these communities that are and I think living sustainably is the least I can do.” Unfortunately, Fisher believes a majority of the sustainability advice floating around the internet comes from insincere influencers who are seeking an easy paycheck. “I think the current environmental movement is incredibly whitewashed. A

lot of people having these conversations have taken it on more so as a fad than as something that they think can actually benefit our greater systems,” Fisher said. “It’s not so much about making a positive impact on the environment, it’s more so buying these products to make more products.” Practices like upcycling, thrifting, composting and growing your own foods can significantly contribute to a reduced carbon footprint. Fisher emphasized not putting yourself down for things your unable to accomplish, instead being proud of what you did. “It is impossible to expect everyone to be completely zero waste, but the important thing is to stay as aware as you can and reduce what you can.” Fisher said. “Just being aware, I think that’s the most important thing.” Given the precautions taken to prevent further spread of COVID-19, living a sustainable lifestyle has become significantly more challenging as stores safeguard their produce in plastic and purchasing in bulk items is no longer an option. “It’s super hard to get a hold of cheap, quality, low waste products and that has only gotten more difficult as the pandemic has progressed,” Fisher said. “[In the past] zero waste was the way that you lived if you couldn’t afford to waste, but it’s kind of been swapped now because plastic is subsidized, so it’s really easy for everything to be wrapped in plastic products. Which is hard on the consumer who now is blamed for wasting plastic.” For Fisher, the bottom line when it comes to waste reduction and sustainable living is that we all need to get involved and do our part in order to succeed and for species to survive. “[Reducing carbon emissions] is something that is very abstract to a lot of people but is very real and we need to understand that this isn’t just a competition to see how little trash we can throw out every week,” Fisher said. “There’s really real ramifications behind our waste output.”



Campus Center for Appropriate Technology Groundskeeper Abbey Ramirez strolls through the CCAT garden on Dec. 2.

Photo by Dakota Cox



Left: The highest dioxin samples ever taken from Humboldt Bay sediment can be seen on the map in red extending over 2,000 feet on either side of Jolly Giant Creek where it flows into the bay directly south of the Arcata Plaza. The map also shows with less than two feet sea level rise, expected in a matter of decades, the saltwater bay will border Samoa Boulevard/Highway 299, making any clean-up of the dioxin more difficult. Map adapted from a Humboldt Baykeeper map. Right: Mud from the impacted area at low tide on Dec. 1. Photo by Jen Kelly.



DIOXINS

FROM PAGE 1

City Council Vice Mayor Paul Patino said he intends to pull the approval of the Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan and Plant Improvement Project from the items scheduled to be rubber stamped by the city council.

The \$60 million investment is a response to the threat of sea level rise which involves enlarging levees around the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facility. Patino is calling on the council to further discuss the project after he learned the mud around the bay shoreline of the wastewater facility has the highest levels of dioxin ever discovered in Humboldt Bay sediments.

“I don’t see how you could mess with that area without it affecting that dioxin,” Patino said. “I think we need to get clear here.”

Dioxin can cause birth defects, can-

cer and organ failure. It is known to undergo bioaccumulation, meaning it increases in toxicity as it moves up the food chain from plants to predators. It was widely used from the 1940s to the 1980s before the EPA started regulating its use.

Patino raised particular concern with the staff report in the council packet where it states, “This project would involve enlarging the levee surrounding the majority of the outer perimeter of the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF) by increasing the levee’s height and volume.”

The Arcata City Council is faced with the choice to approve the final application for the project, or first investigate the dangers of the dioxin believed to be largely the result of pentachlorophenol used during historic lumber mill operations up Jolly Giant Creek several blocks south of the town square.

The city is only now beginning to grapple with the impact the very high levels of dioxin have on plans to increase the height and volume of dikes around the marsh wastewater treatment facility and prepare for rising sea

level already beginning as a result of climate change, and sea-level rise could complicate cleaning the dioxin.

“Disturbingly, the site near the Arcata Marsh was found to have the highest levels of dioxin ever documented in Humboldt Bay sediments to date (38 parts per trillion),” wrote Jennifer Kalt, director of Humboldt Baykeeper in the report New Dioxin Data: Good News, Bad News.

Kalt said she learned of the high dioxin levels from the report 2015 Feasibility Study: Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Materials for Tidal Marsh Restoration and Sea Level Rise Adaptation in Humboldt Bay, California.

The dioxin hotspot extends from the end of Butcher’s Slough, where Jolly Giant Creek hits the bay several blocks south of the plaza, to over 2,000 feet on either side along the bay shoreline: around the wastewater treatment facility on one side, and around the main Arcata Marsh parking lot and boat launch on the other side.

While Kalt acknowledged that many mills have existed along Jolly Giant Creek, she said, “We do know that Lit-

tle Lake Industries was one source [of the contamination] because the city got a Brownfield grant...and found it around where the mill used to be.”

The council signed off on a grant application in October for \$300,000 to clean up the Little Lake Industries property 17 years after pentachlorophenol was first discovered in levels exceeding federal benchmarks. The Environmental Protection Agency identified high levels of pentachlorophenol onsite in their 2003 report South I Street Mill Reuse Project, Arcata, California, Targeted Brownfields Site Assessment Phase II Investigation, Final Report.

Aldaron Laird is an environmental planner that specializes in sea level rise vulnerability assessments for Humboldt Bay.

“With rising water elevations [the dikes holding back 90% of the former salt water marsh, or 7500 acres] could be overtopped maybe as early as 2050...on a monthly basis...We really only have 20 to 40 years to relocate all of that utility and transportation infrastructure to higher ground before it is inundated,” Laird said.

HSU students work towards improving the future

Students with science and nature-based majors are motivated to make change

by Elise Fero



Sabiha Bentanzos
Freshman Forestry Major

Sabiha Bentanzos is majoring in forestry with an emphasis on wildland fire management.

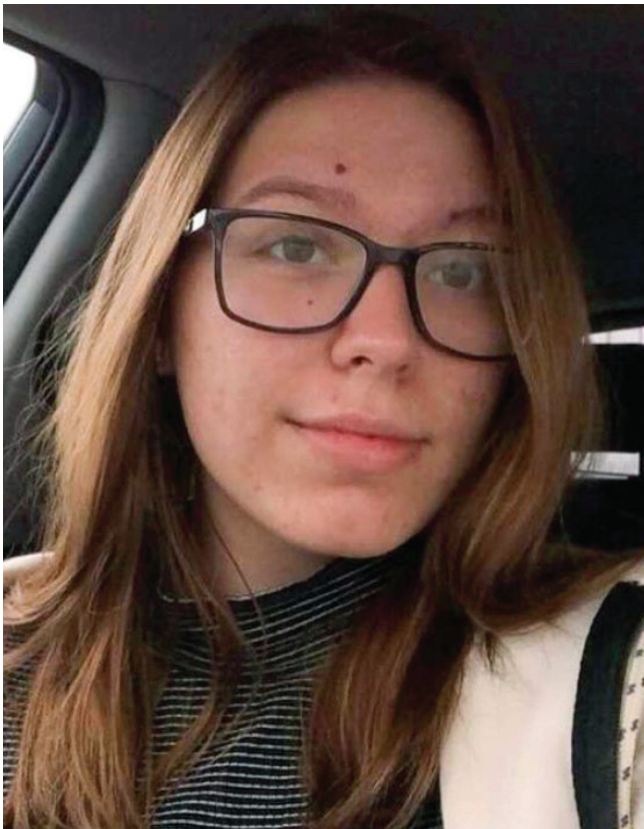
“I actually want to become a wildland firefighter,” Bentanzos wrote in an email. “I want to persevere in the forest as much as I can and save lives while I’m at it.”

While becoming a wildland firefighter doesn’t require a degree, Bentanzos wanted to attend HSU to prove female capability in a male dominated field.

“I also want to prove to myself and others that a female can get a degree in a male-dominated field like forestry,” Bentanzos said.

In science class, Bentanzo was assigned a poster group project. The project restored her passion for forestry and has been her favorite assignment of the semester.

“I have a passion for fire awareness and safety and doing the project reignited my passion,” said Bentanzos.



Tori Bernal
Freshman Forestry Major

Tori Bernal was a wildlife major when she first attended HSU. She’s completed multiple projects both interactive and hands-on, despite being 100 percent online. Despite her love for veterinary work and rehabilitation, she switched to be a forestry major after taking a botany course and spending time in the forest here in Arcata.

“I grew and tested cyanobacteria in water from the Klamath River from the safety of my dorm,” Bernal said over email. “I realized majoring in forestry would be a better fit for my long term interests... I actually fell in love with it.”

In the midst of a pandemic, Bernal discovered her true interest and what she truly wanted to get her degree in.

“I am not 100 percent sure what I am looking to get out of my degree. I am not even sure what I want to do career-wise,” said Bernal. “But I know that the forestry program will help me to explore my interests and options in the coming years.”



Lake McLeod
Freshman Political Science Major

Lake McLeod is majoring in Political Science to create change. McLeod says his major is based more around psychological science and social justice.

“The science would kind of be the psychology of people, kind of learning how people identify with their own political views and how people act and react to certain things,” McLeod said.

After originally being a wildlife major, McLeod made the switch.

“Especially with everything going on right now, I decided to switch to political science because I want to kind of be more in that realm and help people with civil rights and equal rights especially,” said McLeod.

He wants to become a civil rights attorney and go to Burkely for law school after HSU.

“I feel that having a concentration on law and policy would really introduce me to that world,” McLeod said.

HSU Softball remembers Evelyn Andrews

Coach Sarchett and players reflect on their most memorable moments with Evelyn Andrews

by Sabrina Ochoa

Morgan Brant, a student and softball player at Humboldt State University felt extremely honored to be wearing and representing her good friend and teammate, Evelyn Andrews number, 21.

“She was the hardest worker I have ever met and always made a huge impact whenever she stepped on the field,” Brant said. “I hope to make her proud and emulate the same energy she had.”

It’s been almost 11 months since the passing of Andrews and this year HSU Softball Coach Shelli Sarchett decided

overall, played with a purpose. Morgan plays with a purpose, just like Evelyn. To me, Morgan is a selfless teammate, doing whatever is asked of her and does whatever it takes to help us succeed as a team.”

Starr detailed how Andrews’ number 21 is more than just another number, it symbolizes Andrews and her motto, “don’t suck,” which the team embraces on and off the field.

“This was the motto she constantly said that will forever be stuck in my



Photo provided by source
HSU softball players Anna Brondos, Katelyn Dendas and Morgan Brant wearing Evelyn Andrews’ tribute jerseys.

“This was the motto she constantly said that will forever be stuck in my brain: the term ‘don’t suck’ applied to everything. Don’t suck at softball and don’t suck at being a decent human. I learned how to love and care for others. I learned that no matter how upset I am, don’t shut those who you love out.

-Isabel Starr, Evelyn’s teammate

Brant should wear Andrews number in remembrance of her.

“Morgan and Evelyn Andrews were the best of friends and Morgan wanted to honor her this way,” Sarchett said.

Isabel Starr, a softball player at HSU, believed Brant was the perfect teammate to wear Andrews’ number on the field.

“Evelyn Andrews was a hardworking and ambitious person. She laid everything out on the field,” Starr said. “She dove for every ball in the hole, swung hard at every pitch she went for and

brain,” Starr said. “The term ‘don’t suck’ applied to everything. Don’t suck at softball and don’t suck at being a decent human. I learned how to love and care for others. I learned that no matter how upset I am, don’t shut those who love you out.”

Sarchett spoke in high regards about Andrews’ work ethic as a softball player. Sarchett now bases a majority of her college recruiting on the type of person Andrews was.

“Evelyn Adrews work ethic is what stands out the most. It was second to

none,” Sarchett said. “I want players that are going to come and work hard everyday, selflessly putting the team ahead of themselves and that is what Evelyn did everyday.”

Off the field, Andrews impacted Brant’s outlook on life and taught her laughter is the best medicine and positivity is the most important thing.

“Evelyn Andrews was one of the most amazing people you’d ever meet. Although there are many people within this world that are amazing, she was one who stood out among everyone else,” Brant said. “She was kind, caring and a bit of a butt sometimes. She was one who took advantage of every single opportunity that was thrown her way, whether it was extra time on the softball field or just being with friends and tak-

ing advantage of the happy moments. She was also someone who gave you an extra push when you needed it.”

Starr talks about the biggest lesson she learned for Andrews was instead of being regretful for decisions we’ve made, and to make the most of it. Starr continues to implement Andrews’ motto into her life and doesn’t plan on stopping.

“To this day I wish I could thank her, face-to-face for teaching me subtle, yet valuable lessons,” Starr said.

Sarchett’s favorite memory of Andrews was her smile. Attributing Andrews for teaching the team how important it is to not take moments for granted.

“I think we have learned to enjoy every moment we have and know that it can be taken away any second,” Sarchett said. “So we are all going to go out and live our lives to the fullest.”

Starr reflects on her favorite memory of Andrews, recalling a team meeting for jersey numbers, sizes and the handbook. As soon as the meeting with the team finished Andrews and Brant pulled her aside and asked how she was doing. Starr confessed she was having a hard time and Andrews invited her over for mac and cheese with Brant.

“That night we talked a lot and ate a lot,” Starr said. “All three of us were talking about anything and everything there was to talk about. They warned me about morning running and they warned me to never be late to anything I could help it. They made me feel at home.”

Starr credits Andrews and Brant for making her feel comfortable away from home. She found another family in her teammates and reflects on time with Andrews.

“The overall experience with Evelyn and Morgan was comforting. I wasn’t as sad as I was to be away from my family at that moment because I had found mine. I found my Humboldt sisters that I could forever rely on. Just the simplest memories I have of her are my favorite and they are memories I don’t think I could ever forget.”



Catcher Morgan Brant takes a practice swing between games on Feb. 29

Photo by Thomas Lal

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8 of the best local places to safely visit

Local destinations around HSU to get your adventure on during the pandemic

Story and photos by Elise Fero

Trust me as someone who has had COVID-19, it’s better to be in quarantine than to catch the virus and be isolated alone. So what do you do with your spare time? If you have any sort of adventurous spirit, this is the list for you. In no particular order, here are eight of the best places to go to while attending Humboldt State University.

1. Redwood National and State Parks

While this is a farther location 29 miles north of campus, it’s absolutely worth the drive. This is one of the coolest and most beautiful places I’ve ever been. The area has multiple hiking trails, beaches, a canyon of ferns, and of course, the world’s tallest tree, Hyperion. If you like National Parks, go scratch this one off your list. Not only is it breathtaking, but it’s also where parts of Jurassic Park and Star Wars were filmed. It crosses between Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and protects 45 percent of the remaining coastal redwood trees. This location is an endless adventure that you can return to and still find something new.

2. College Cove



College Cove is located in Trinidad about 13 miles away from campus. This location has brilliant blue water surrounded by forested boulders. Visitors walk on the beach, and some surf. You’ll also find a plethora of dogs! There are tiny pools of water where anemone and starfish live. Lots of studying to do? Bring your work here. Homework with a view while listening to the sound of waves is unmatched.

Melanie Guillen is a freshman film major who finds serenity at College Cove. “I’m not really a beach person but it’s more secluded than the others,” said Guillen. “I like it.”

3. Clam Beach



This beach is close to campus and only a short drive headed north, toward McKinleyville. The sand is soft and warm, perfect for finding sand dollars. Watch for jellyfish washed on the shore, that goes for most beaches. While it’s not surrounded by trees, looking back behind you is the forest and beautiful fog. This area is also phenomenal for sunsets and changes in the tide.

Freshman wildlife major James Lara said he loves Clam Beach for the picturesque views. “I like the little dunes it has, it’s pretty cool. It’s very pretty for stargazing,” said Lara. “The water’s pretty low so you can go pretty far into the waves and be safe.”

4. Arcata Community Forest

If you want to explore the forest, this location is a lovely place to start. You can find loads of mushrooms. I even found a mushroom in the shape of a heart! Remember to always research and double check when foraging. The forest hosts large trees, tall and wide. There are multiple paths to take, great areas to jog or bike. There’s often people around, but you can find a little oasis within your path. At the top is Redwood Park with a friendly playground and picnic area.

5. Moonstone Beach

This beach looks straight out of a fairytale. Located in Trinidad, this beach is on the scenic coast and has a boardwalk. The beach is the perfect local vacation spot. The views are breathtaking, and a large stream of water flows through the sand, leaving a perfect wading area and play space for children. The beach is dog friendly, as well. Sunsets are magical, the waves are great for surfing and there are restaurants nearby. A perfect combination!

6. Agate Beach



Another location in Trinidad, Agate beach is located at Patrick’s Point State Park and has a campground for those interested. You do have to pay \$8 for day-use but it’s well worth the expense. This beach is exactly what the name says. You’ll find people looking through all the pebbles on the beach, and you should, too! It’s also a spot to watch wildlife and be completely engulfed by nature. You shouldn’t swim here, but you can take long walks on the beach. It’s a beautiful area, and not too crazy busy. Take some time for yourself, bring a picnic basket and have a good beach day.

7. Avenue of the Giants

Of all of the listed locations, this is the farthest from campus at 40 miles north in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. If the name didn’t intrigue you, the description will. Imagine every post you see on Instagram or Pinterest with a van in the middle of the road surrounded by extremely tall trees, I know you know the ones I’m talking about. Those are here. The redwoods surround the road, looking like a magical pathway through 31 miles of epic perfection. Some of the trees are over 300 feet tall, and one tree is almost 1,000 years old!

8. Forest paths around HSU



If you don’t drive, no worry! Stick to the paths that are connected to campus. You can find all sorts of mushrooms, ferns and creeks. This area is easy to access and absolutely beautiful. Students are usually the only people exploring, but sometimes you’ll see someone else jogging. The area is perfect for walking your pet, biking, running, or just enjoying the views. This is also the spot where I have been able to find the most banana slugs. They love blackberry bushes!

Undeclared freshman Natalie Barber laughed with her friends, Guillen and Nicole Velazquez, about going on spontaneous adventures on the paths around HSU. “One day you’ll be like you guys wanna go hiking? Yeah okay! Let me get my bag ready,” said Barber.



Grace Caswell

Editor-in-Chief

From starting as a baseline writer, working my way to section editor and eventual editor-in-chief, I had the privilege of working alongside some of the most brilliant writers, creators and overall incredible, human beings.

This specific semester I was blessed to head a team of indescribably selfless, committed and hardworking people who dedicated every second of their time to create a weekly miracle. Thank you to the writers, I owe everything to you. They make what we do even possible.

Thank you to Life and Arts editor Dakota Cox, who went above and beyond what he was asked of. Thank you to Opinion editor Mikayla Moore-Bestide, for her powerful voice that emulates passion for social activism. Thank you to News editor Carlos Holguin, the most hardworking and committed person I know. You amaze me at what can be fit within 24 hours. Thank you to Sports editor and Photo editor Thomas Lal, who I've known since my very first day at HSU and was my first college interview. Thank you to Science editor, layout master, comedian and divine genius Jen Kelly, you've taught me everything I know. Last but never least, thank you Managing editor Walker B. True, who has become so much more than my co-EIC. Every phone call, rant session and geeked out laugh attack was shared with this beautiful human being. Thank you for rolling the dice with me. Thank you to every, single person who has ever contributed to, commented on, read or submitted something to the Lumberjack. You alone make the job worthwhile.



Walker B. True

Managing Editor, Layout Editor

Journalism is so often the truth that is allowed by the institutions that support it. This year's staff on the Lumberjack has challenged and critiqued those who support us in order to better advocate for those we write for. The students of Humboldt State University have experienced the unprecedented and the unpresidential results of prioritizing the function of this school as a money-making operation rather than a home for education. It is our aim to provide a student focused, student driven and truthful publication. I am proud of every reporter, editor, and staff member who helped us achieve this.

Thank you to Dakota for all of your last second reporting and rapid expansion of your journalistic toolkit. Thank you to Carlos for clutching the news section every other week. Thank you to Mikayla for behind-the-scenes, investigative work at the bookstore. Thank you to Thomas for sticking through every production night. Thank you to Jen for all of your exploited labor. Finally, thank you to Grace for holding the stress of the world on your shoulders.



Carlos Holguin

News Editor

I stumbled into journalism, it was never my first plan. I actually wanted to be a teacher when I first joined my community college back in the day.

I wanted to pursue a profession that would help as many people as I could. When I finally found news writing, I knew that I found my calling.

Every article that I have written this semester has been for you, the people. I want you all to stay informed and aware of what is happening around you, and how there are people outside of your view making decisions that directly affect you. I pursued stories and leads, stayed up late combing over recording and emails so that a full picture of events could be shown.

The news never sleeps and so as news editor, rarely did I.

As you read this paper, the last one that we are making this semester with this crew, know that we made it for you. Our blood, sweat, tears and occasional nervous breakdown rest here in ink.

We are proud of everything that has been published this semester. I am eternally grateful for the team that I worked with and for you, the reader, for staying with us.

With all the love and care in my heart, Carlos Holguin.



Jen Kelly

Science Editor, Layout Editor, Production Manager

My peers on the Lumberjack made this year possible. They provided a much-needed community working together with a common goal. This year would not have been nearly as endurable without them.

Working on the Lumberjack has given me the opportunity to test new waters in areas of writing I've never journeyed into before. As the Science editor, I did not envision myself writing sports, comedy or satire pieces, but I'm glad I did. My peers with more experience than me were always there to help and I enjoyed introducing new people to my own areas of experience.

I'm especially proud of the visual direction the paper has gone. As a layout editor, I've enjoyed dragging my peers along with me in many of my experiments with the look of the Lumberjack.

I'm proud of everyone on the layout team for somehow pulling together and designing a paper every week, with each paper exhibiting fewer embarrassing layout mistakes than the last. I'm constantly impressed with how well the team has taken to layout, as well as being proud of my own newly gained experience.



Thomas Lal

Sports Editor, Photo Editor

Working on the Lumberjack is by far one of the most complex things to do on campus and perhaps the most rewarding. I've been fortunate enough to work on this paper with some amazing people over the past semesters. This semester, I don't think I could have asked for a better group to do it with. The news keeps going on during a global pandemic and this editorial team made it possible to keep covering the news through all of it. Somehow, we managed to put a sports section together almost every week with no actual sports happening.

I couldn't be more grateful for the writers I've worked with who put their time and effort into finding stories and covering them, especially my sports writers Justin, Sabrina and Jazmin. It is not easy to cover sports right now but they got the job done and made it happen.

This semester reminded me in a very real way of how a paper can support their writers when our paper was incorrectly accused of putting false information in one of my articles and the entire editorial board responded. The way this group came together to defend not only myself but the publication as a whole, is something that I won't forget anytime soon.

Thank you to Grace, our fearless editor-in-chief, for trusting my opinion and knowing when I needed a reminder to get things done. This semester's papers have set a high standard for Lumberjacks in the future and it couldn't have been possible without her work and vision.

Dakota Cox

Life & Arts Editor, Layout Editor

It wasn't until my first semester with the Lumberjack that I knew I'd made the right decision in going to college. My experiences as a Lumberjack reporter opened my eyes to a world where curiosity is not only rewarded, but encouraged.

I learned the majority of people are friendly, willing and excited to share their experiences if you simply start a conversation. Through interviewing dozens of subjects and reporting their unique experiences, I've exposed myself to perspectives I've never considered before and that have come to shape my actions moving forward.

As an editor this semester, my reporting skills have improved more than they ever could have because of the influence I've taken from the reporters in my section and the challenges of working with what you're given to shape an article to be proud of. Additionally, being included in the layout team this semester has been a weekly highlight that gave me a taste of normal life and allowed me to exercise my creativity in a way I've never considered – just as learning to create graphics for the paper this semester has opened my eyes to new creative possibilities.

My two short semesters with the Lumberjack have been a consistently enlightening experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life, regardless of the direction it takes.



Seth Finnegan

Web Editor

When I joined the Lumberjack, I had no idea what to expect. I had only just finished the beginning reporting class when I was asked if I was interested in joining. Saying yes though was one of the best choices I have made while in college. I would have never imagined a more rewarding opportunity surrounded by such caring and talented individuals. As I am finishing up my second semester with the LJ as the web editor, I will always cherish the time spent working on articles, setting up the posts for the website and the experience I gathered along the way, as well as have a special place in my heart for every person I worked with on staff. As our professor, Deidre Pike, likes to say every time we release a paper, "it's a miracle" and it truly is, and I have been very lucky to be a part of it for the last year with such an incredible group of journalists. I still have the paper with my first story as well as every paper I've written for since. These are memory filled mementos that I will cherish forever. I could never forget the weekly miracle that is the Lumberjack.

Thank you all, Seth Finnegan.



Mikayla Moore-Bastide

Opinion Editor

This past semester has been an interesting one. With all the chaos going on, this amazing staff was determined to continue reporting and give you, the readers, the stories you want and need.

From limited face-to-face classes to virtual meetings, it's an incredible feeling to know that we have gotten issues out every week.

The staff this semester has been absolutely amazing and I couldn't imagine myself working with anybody else.

The editors and writers have been so motivated and eager. I'm proud of every single one of them for staying strong and pushing through this difficult time. The writers that joined for the first time have really shown out.

These last three months have been challenging in and of itself. This was also my first time being a part of the Lumberjack.

Although I couldn't get that human element, I have grown to think of everyone as my family.



Skylar Gaven

Video Editor

This semester working on LJ was not an easy task. Being the video editor and having to work around covid-19 protocols definitely had its moments of stress but I was happy to have kept my section somewhat alive and visually appealing.

Though times were tough, many times, this LJ team prevailed through it all. I was super happy to work with such a great group of unique, determined, hilarious, and overall wonderful journalists!

I am amazed by all the hard work that was put into each paper. And I am looking forward to seeing returning and new writers joining this paper to continue covering what needs to be addressed for our audiences. To the LJ staff, I'm so proud of all of you, we did it!



Deidre Pike

Lumberjack adviser

Making a college newspaper in the time of the COVID-19 is rough work. Obstacles abound. We miss much. Photo field trips, snacks, in-class brainstorming, snacks, burgeoning lifelong friendships. The upside? Student journalism exists. Editor-in-chief Grace Caswell set the bar high for journalistic integrity. Managing editor Walker B. True brought plenty of attitude to the project, and production genius Jen Kelly doubled as science editor and tripled as a hilarious fake astrologist. Memorable bits: A photo of a freshman journalism student covered in banana slugs. Intrepid news editor Carlos Holguin helped readers make sense of the University Center debacle and wrote a first-person take on social justice protests in Eureka. Multi-talented life & arts editor Dakota Cox channeled the reality of COVID-19 student life through his writing and graphic illustrations.

Thomas Lal made a sports section happen in an era of almost no sports and covered San Jose State University stay on campus. Opinion editor Mikayla Moore-Bastide delved huge topics from Breonna Taylor to affirmative action to HSU budget cuts. The editorial team spent several socially distant weeks using the newsroom in Gist Hall. The rest of the time, they made the paper on laptops from home, coordinating efforts through Discord. The student media's entire 22-person staff came together for four Zoom hours each week to think up new stories, discuss COVID-era reporting tips and finagle sources. I'm impressed. I'm grateful. Thank you, LJ staff, for keeping student journalism thrumming along in these troubled times. Watchdog on.





What is the Green Gaming Evolution?

Blue Lake is dedicated to improving our environment and we believe in making an impact as close to the source as possible. That is why we partnered with two local non-profit organizations, One Tree Planted and Trees for Little People, both loyal to reforestation.

Why reforestation?

Simply put, carbon dioxide is the main pollutant on Earth and in addition to benefiting the climate, reforestation helps protect important species of animals. Blue Lake is proud to help offset these emissions and protect our environment by way of the Green Gaming Evolution.

How can I make a difference?

Join the Club! For every 5 points earned on your Redwood Rewards Club card, we offset one pound of carbon dioxide by planting trees on your behalf! All you have to do to make the planet greener is play!

REDWOOD REWARDS CLUB

YOU EARN POINTS WE PLANT TREES

*TOGETHER WE
HAVE OFFSET
OVER 28 MILLION
POUNDS OF
HARMFUL CO²
FROM THE AIR!*

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POINTS = POUND



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The top 5 worst years (besides this one)

An open letter to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

by Arson Committer

2016

Remember when they shot Harambe? Ugh, 2016. The year that brought us Donald Trump, Zika and Brexit and took away David Bowie, Prince and Muhammad Ali. For many of us, it was the year everything fell apart. Mass shootings were on the news almost daily. In June, one year after the legalization of gay marriage, the Pulse nightclub and gay bar was shot in what was then the worst mass shooting on American soil and the deadliest terror attack since 9/11. After a hellish election that ended in Trump losing the popular vote but winning the presidency, this garbage year was topped off with the loss of Carrie Fisher.

1517

What list of terrible years could be complete without 1517? The Bad Year, as it was dubbed at the time, was a terrible year for us all. Famine, plague, mass crop failure, who could forget? Plus, we can't forget the celebrity deaths. Queen Joanna of Aragon? Bogdan the One-Eyed? Hieronymus van Busleyden? We're all worse off for it.

1492

Yep, we're here. What a year it was. As we all know, this was the year that Columbus reached the Americas, and not coincidentally the year the Americas went pear-shaped. As much as 90 percent of the Indigenous population would ultimately be wiped out by disease and violence, and those that survived had a lifetime of slavery and mutilation ahead of them. Even for the Europeans, things weren't looking too bright, as Columbus and his men brought back some souvenirs with them: peanuts and

llamas.

1347

We all knew this was coming. While the younger readers among us may think that the quarantine, masks and mass graves are all very modern, none of this is new. Plague-ridden bodies lining the streets, partially eaten by dogs and rats, were a daily sight at the time. We had all known someone who'd been infected, and we all knew that we could be next. The one bright spot was that the masks were much more stylish.

536

A bit of a time skip, I know, but 536 really stands out as an absolute garbage fire of a year. We started off with a particularly bad volcanic eruption, which led into a vast cloud of ash and fog across Europe and Asia. This in turn caused months of darkness where temperatures dropped and no plants could grow. Famine and plague ran rampant, with the Holy Roman Emperor himself almost succumbing. Just as we thought it was over, another volcanic eruption less than a decade later helped put the dark in Dark Ages.

72,000 B.C.

Most of us may not remember this one too clearly, but those of us who know could never forget the time humanity came close to extinction. The eruptions of the 530s were bad, but they were nothing compared to the Sumatran super-eruption that turned a mountain into a lake with the force of a million atomic bombs. Ash settled over a foot thick as far west as Africa as the world fell into a long winter. Only about 3-10,000 survived. Hell, we didn't just lose a few public figures, we lost every public figure.

by Arson Committer

[Editor's Note: after being informed that England has a democracy now and the queen is mostly just a figurehead, the author cried out in despair and was last seen googling "absolute monarchies near me"]

Your Majesty, on behalf of all the colonies, I am so, so sorry. We did not think this whole "revolution" thing through, and that's entirely on us. Truth be told, we've had enough tries with this America thing and we're done. Like, what the hell is a "president" anyways? I don't think we should have one. It's time for us to swallow our pride, admit we never should have thrown that tea in the harbor, and ask for another chance. Saying we could govern ourselves was the worst decision we ever made. We want to make this work.

We made some mistakes, and we admit that. Electing our own leaders hasn't worked out too well for us. After decades of tension brought on by emboldened white nationalists, underfunded public institutions, no healthcare, widening class disparity, the rights of women and minorities being up in the air, ecological destruction and collapsing trust in society, it's easy to see what the problem is. We have forsaken the divine right to rule of the monarchy. We've had enough of this whole "elected leaders" and "political parties" thing. We need to get back to our roots: blindly following the orders of someone based on who their grandfather was.

Now, I know what you're thinking. We've spent time as a major world power, we've become a force of imperialism, and we're involved in several open-ended foreign conflicts. How could we give that up? In truth, your Majesty, it's because all we really wanted was to be just like you. Wouldn't it be wonderful for you to have an Empire again? With us back by your side, you could easily expand to where things used to be and look at all the westward expansion we've done while you were away!

Oh, here's an idea: why don't we frame this whole mistake as a long con? We pretended to win independence, but secretly it was all so you could steal France and Spain's colonies in the New World without them even knowing! Wouldn't that be fun? Please say it would be fun.

Long story short, Your Majesty, you can consider this to be a Declaration of Dependence. We want you to take us back. We can change, really. We promise to spell words with U even though it doesn't change the pronunciation. We promise to call fries 'chips and actual chips, crisps. We even promise to pretend that beans on toast is a normal breakfast food. Whatever it takes, we can do it. Just take us back.

Signed,

Your Loyal Subjects at the Lumberjack

MASSIVE SPIKE IN DEMENTOR POPULATION CAUSES COVID-19 PANDEMIC

by Rita Skeeter

The Ministry of Magic has officially deemed the developing dementor disaster an immediate threat to the muggle population.

Until now, the Ministry and the Wizarding World as a whole have kept the dementor dilemma under wraps from the muggle world, because of the risks involved in exposing their world to the rest of it. Yes, witches and wizards are real and you were not among those lucky enough to receive a Hogwarts letter, get over it. We have a global catastrophe on our hands, people.

Minister of Magic Luna Lovegood broke down the situation in a statement she delivered to the Daily Prophet on Nov. 29, only weeks after the anniversary of the incident.

"The dementor experiment was a massive success," Lovegood said. "They have been completely cured of the thirst for human souls."

Lovegood approved the dementor rehabilitation program shortly after being elected Minister in 2018. The Department of Cooperation with Magical Creatures, formerly known as the Department of Regulation and Control of Magical Creatures prior to Lovegood taking over and demanding the department be reevaluated and renamed, was experiencing a breakthrough when something went terribly wrong in early November. Rubeus Hagrid is the oaf responsible for the disaster.

As the recently appointed Magical Creatures Caretaker for the ministry, Hagrid's role in the project involved feeding chocolate bars to the dementors twice a day to temporarily quench the undying hunger for human souls.

"Well you see, I was quite hungry, because I'd slept in and didn' have time to make me usual sausages and chicken-eggs this mornin'," Hagrid said. "Didn' think the creatures would mind sharin' one little bite with me."

On the day of the incident, Hagrid took a bite from each chocolate bar as he fed the dementors. When he returned for the second feeding, some of the snobbier dementors that refused to eat the tainted chocolate had reverted back to their aggressive nature and attacked the unarmed demi-giant.

"It was like winter in their habitat, it was," Hagrid said. "One of them creatures wrapped its hand around me neck and the next thing I know, I'm chomping on a huge chunk of chocolate in Minister Lovegood's office."

Only a handful of dementors had their wits about them to escape. Contrary to popular belief, dementors don't reproduce, they multiply like a fun-

gus and they thrive on human despair. The dementors had only just reached the United States when legendary basketball star Kobe Bryant passed away and the devastated response of the nation acted as a catalyst to their exponential multiplication.

Despite having lost their appetite for human souls after experiencing the taste of chocolate, the threat dementors pose to human life remains. While fear of an attack is no longer a concern, the mere presence of dementors continues to drain the surrounding atmosphere of happiness and in extreme cases can lead to physical illness in those exposed for long periods of time.

With the dementor population continuing to rise into the hundreds of thousands, 2020 has seen the worst case of dementor related illness since the Spanish flu. This time around, it's manifested in a new disease muggles refer to as COVID-19.

Former Hogwarts Divination Professor Sybil Trelawney predicts with the recent development of the new leader elected as President of the United States, the sense of panic existing just below the surface in people across the planet will begin to settle, the dementor population will start thinning and the virus will eventually die.

"The last four years have had an undeniable darkness to them, even in the wizarding world" Trelawney said. "It doesn't happen overnight, but I see a very bright future."

While the wizarding world puts forth their best efforts to contain the dementor population, the task is ultimately impossible at the rate they're currently generating. The only way to defend against the dementors is by purging the world of its human despair and creating a peaceful place to live. This will require the combined efforts of wizards, witches and muggles to accomplish.

"A witch's magic can only go so far," Lovegood said. "The magic of love and happiness is limitless."

HUMBOLDT STATE DESCENDS INTO HELL



by 👉👈 😬

In an effort to make use of the 5th dimensional spaces of campus, HSU now allows beings of the underworld to get a first rate CSU education

President Tom Jackson has brokered a new deal with the president of Hell Scape University. President of Hell Scape University Ronald Reagan has been scouting for a physical location for the University to occupy since its creation this February. Hell Scape University students will be joining us on campus starting the beginning of spring semester, Jan. 19.

Concerns for the impact of several thousand ghosts, ghouls and demons being set loose into the community were addressed in a Zoom meeting on Nov. 28.

Questions were fielded primarily by

LaVeyan and Chair of Professional Development Department Max Murphy at Hell Scape University.

“The students, faculty and staff of Hell Scape University will bound via a blood ritual performed from the basement of Founders Hall which will keep their immaterial forms tethered to the campus grounds,” Murphy said. “This should make social bubbling easily achievable.”

If students feel a slight chill in their dorm room or a shriek from the community forests, they shouldn’t panic as these are the textbook signs of a haunting that is administratively consensual. Humboldt State University warns its students to refrain from using Ouija boards or attempting any form of spiritual contact into the foreseeable future.

Tanya Davenport, a junior philosophy major at Humboldt State University

has been grappling with the school’s decision and can’t figure out exactly where she stands.

“When I first found out about Hell Scape’s students coming onto campus next semester I was appalled,” Davenport said. “But after the dreams came, I started to come around.”

Davenport described waking up in the middle of Library Circle last Sunday evening wearing nothing but a black robe and a raccoon corpse as a cap. She said she was called to the circle by the sweet voice of a first year spectral communications major named Gilgamesh.

“Gilgamesh has really opened my eyes to how important and impactful this move is to the incorporeal community that has been traditionally underserved at least, educationally speaking,” Davenport said.

An email sent to Humboldt State

students declares that “This opportunity to help a neighboring campus community just across the earth’s crust is not one we should pass by. Though Hell Scape University is responsible for covering all costs related to their stay, Humboldt State University is most interested in strengthening its relationship with President Reagan and the other demons of the Underworld.”

The email goes further on to say “Students of Humboldt State should embrace this opportunity to provide those eternally damned the quality, in-person educational experience they have been deprived of.”

Additionally the email says that the visit “will be a great opportunity for Humboldt State University to test its ability to act as a polytechnic, as about 90 percent of Hell Scape’s students are in STEM.”

2 BURRITOS \$15

3 TACOS \$6

&

TACO TUESDAY

\$1 TACOS

<p>Aries (March 21 - April 19)</p> <p>hellfire for you</p>	<p>Libra (September 23 - October 22)</p> <p>wow, that's a lot of hellfire</p>
<p>Taurus (April 20 - May 20)</p> <p>it's really coming up hellfire for you</p>	<p>Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)</p> <p>yeah, lot's of hellfire for you</p>
<p>Gemini (May 21 - June 21)</p> <p>looks like you've got hellfire in your future</p>	<p>Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)</p> <p>oof, I'm sorry. only hellfire</p>
<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 22)</p> <p>hellfire</p>	<p>Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)</p> <p>everyone has hellfire in their future, but you have the most</p>
<p>Leo (July 23 - August 22)</p> <p>oops, all hellfire</p>	<p>Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)</p> <p>sorry boss, looks like hellfire</p>
<p>Virgo (August 23 - September 22)</p> <p>the hellfire won't be so bad</p>	<p>Pisces (February 19 - March 20)</p> <p>Heaven!</p>