

The Lumberjack

Students serving the Humboldt State campus and community since 1929

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020 | VOL. 117 NO. 1

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) HSULUMBERJACK [globe](#) THELUMBERJACK.ORG

From Colorado to COVID-19 self-isolation

HSU Freshman's experience catching coronavirus

by Elise Fero

After losing the second half of my senior year to the pandemic and missing out on new friendships at a new school, I begin my college journey isolated in a campus apartment, where my only access to the outside world is through a screen door I'm not allowed to open.

Coming from dusty and deserted Western-Colorado, all I've wanted to do since I was accepted to Humboldt State University is explore. An area surrounded by redwood forests and ocean was a dream alone, but it's also home to the majestic, wild banana slug – I had to see one! But first, there were a few things to do.

On Aug. 17, I took my mandatory COVID-19 test and excitedly began moving things into my dorm, arranging a plethora of houseplants and a cozy corner for my pet tree frog, Terra. Very quickly, this became my new home. Aug. 18 was orientation day – I'd quickly adjusted and felt ready to conquer the world at HSU. That afternoon, I explored campus and the forest, making not just one, but an entire slimy armful of banana slug friends. My dream had come true, at the cost of only a few tiny slug-bites.

Before my parents returned home on Aug. 19, we met at a local coffee shop to say goodbye; that's when I received the call informing me my COVID-19 test had come back positive. It was as if suddenly the world started spinning; I was speechless. I never imagined it would be me who caught COVID-19; after all I'm young and otherwise healthy. But this pandemic has taught us what we think we know to be true is often not the case.

I wish I could say we rushed to my dorm, but instead, we stepped out of line and just stood together in shock. It occurred to me, I'd experienced possible symptoms of the virus earlier in the week – shortness of breath, nausea, low appetite, fatigue and headaches – however, each is also a symptom of my anxiety-disorder and it's unclear which was the cause. My parents asked questions, but all I could think was of myself and every person I'd seen, connected by a piece in my contaminated puzzle. Suddenly, guilt and anxiety filled



Photo by Deidre Pike

Elise Fero, a first year HSU student from Colorado, currently isolates alone on campus.

my entire being. I began to suffer a panic attack.

It took a moment to start my car as I fought to catch my breath; my whole body felt as if it were collapsing. I called my boyfriend in Colorado but all he could understand was how afraid I was.

This fear was never for myself; this fear was for others. Fear for my parents, for my friends, for my boyfriend and his family – fear for people I passed in the grocery store and for those I worked with. I never worried about myself. I worry about the damage I caused, unaware I carried the virus. It all felt like my fault. It felt like I'd let down the entire world.

I was moved to a new room where I said goodbye to my parents and the company of others for at least a week. Over a thousand miles from home

and yet it doesn't seem nearly as far as the four walls separating me from beginning this new chapter of my life.

In a state of constant fatigue and boredom, I sleep most of the day, only waking when my phone rings. Doctors, health centers and housing, all call several times each day asking similar questions and often I can't tell them apart. When you're only allowed in one place, you don't have much aside from your thoughts. Is this my fault? Did I do something wrong? Should I stay quiet about it? When will they let me leave this room?

My new room has a kitchen and a bathroom, a beautiful view through my screen door and plenty of food. HSU staff checks in consistently, doing everything they can to help me through this. I feel like I have a

whole team of friends working to guarantee my health and safety.

Despite everyone's help, I'm still on my own. My main source of optimism is knowing my isolation is protecting others. Recognizing how our decisions affect others is the first step in preventing the spread. Sure, a mask is uncomfortable, but so is being locked in a room for seven days and so is losing someone you love because precautions weren't taken.

For those who don't believe in COVID-19, it is real. It is harmful. It is possible for anyone to contract. We all believe we're invincible until we're not. My battle with COVID-19 continues, but I know someday I'll be able to step outside again and I will find another banana slug.

HSU proceeds with in-person instruction

With President Jackson and Dr. Frankovich at odds on in person classes, students caught in the middle feel COVID-19 is inevitable.

by Carlos Holguin and Gabe Kim

As Humboldt State University moves forward with a hybrid fall 2020-21 semester, starting online before transitioning to an in-person format from Sep. 8 until Nov. 6, community leaders are unsure about the future safety of students on campus.

In a recent set of emails between HSU President Tom Jackson and Humboldt County Health Officer Dr. Teresa Frankovich, made available via Freedom of Information Act requests to the Lost Coast Outpost and North Coast Journal, at times the two leaders appeared at odds with how to proceed with the semester.

Frankovich stated concerns with students returning to dorms and classes, mainly that enclosed shared spaces like dorm kitchens and bathrooms presented an increased risk of spreading infection. Frankovich asked for a possible pause to the start of the semester, so that COVID-19 testing labs within the county could properly prepare for the increased influx of new and returning students.

Jackson replied within the same email chain initially with confusion about the timing of the sudden request before attempting to reassure HSU was following all local and state ordinances regarding proper social distancing and safety.

During the Aug. 18 media availability briefing, Frankovich addressed the emails stating "Let me make one thing clear: This is not a case of 'othering'. It is a case of trying to make safe choices for the entire community in the midst of a pandemic. This is about trying to juggle competing needs for testing resources across skilled nursing facilities, agricultural settings, tribal communities, local public schools, businesses and organizations, and the community as a whole."

Frankovich also reiterated that the Humboldt County Health Office was still confident in HSU's plans and ability to handle the situation, praising the HSU planning team for their continued effort.

"I think they're working on constructing an environment that is as safe as possible considering the pandemic that we're in," Frankovich said.

Those plans were put to the test when on Aug. 17, as students began moving into

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Index

Life & Arts.....3
News.....4
Science.....6
Opinion.....7

Students who stayed home
pg. 3

The science of debate
pg. 6

Helpful student resources
pg. 8

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
GRACE CASWELL

MANAGING EDITOR:
WALKER B. TRUE

NEWS EDITOR:
CARLOS HOLGUIN

LIFE & ARTS EDITOR:
DAKOTA COX

SCIENCE EDITOR:
JEN KELLY

SPORTS EDITOR:
THOMAS LAL

OPINION EDITOR:
MIKAYLA MOORE-BASTIDE

PHOTO EDITOR:
THOMAS LAL

COPY EDITORS:
SOPHIA ESCUDERO
SKYLAR GAVEN
GABE KIM

LAYOUT EDITORS:
GRACE CASWELL
WALKER B. TRUE
JEN KELLY
ASH RAMIREZ

WEB EDITOR:
SETH FINNEGAN

VIDEO EDITOR:
SKYLAR GAVEN

DELIVERY DRIVERS:
THOMAS LAL

FACULTY ADVISER:
DEIDRE PIKE

CONTRIBUTORS:
ELISE FERO
KRIS NAGEL
BRIANNE BERONILLA
BECCA LAURENSON
SAM PAPAVASILIOU

MISSION STATEMENT

THE LUMBERJACK IS A STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER THAT REPORTS ON THE CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY. WE STRIVE TO REPORT WITH ACCURACY, HONESTY AND ORIGINALITY. WE HOLD OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE FOR ERRORS IN OUR REPORTING. WE INVITE ALL READERS TO PARTICIPATE. VIEWS AND CONTENTS OF THE LUMBERJACK ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR AND NOT THOSE OF HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY. UNSIGNED EDITORIALS APPEARING IN THE OPINION SECTION REFLECT A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY OPINION OF THE EDITORIAL STAFF. ADVERTISING MATERIAL IS PUBLISHED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES AND IS NOT AN EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED ENDORSEMENT OR VERIFICATION OF SUCH COMMERCIAL VENTURES OF THE LUMBERJACK, ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OR HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY.

CONTACT US:

THEJACK@HUMBOLDT.EDU
707-826-3271



Arcata Update: Anti-immigration graffiti found in Plaza

The corner of Cafe Brio and The Heart Bead store tagged with racist graffiti.

by Skylar Gaven

“Trump 2020” as well as “Get out of America” were plastered around the sidewalks just outside of Cafe Brio and Heart Bead. It was reported to APD by Heart Bead store owner, Kim Alveraz, on Aug. 16 and the graffiti was later washed off on Aug. 18.

APD sergeant, Brian Hoffman, said that the anti-immigration messages were not a hate crime. The APD said that they are not able to open an investigation until suspects are reported. If anyone does witness vandalism or have information on a possible suspect(s), it can be reported to APD at 707-822-2424.



The corner outside of Cafe Brio was vandalized with racist graffiti on Aug. 16. APD claims an investigation cannot be opened until suspects have been reported.

Photo by Carlos Holguin



“Trump 2020” spray painted across the pavement on the corner outside of Cafe Brio. The graffiti was later removed Aug. 18.

Photo by Carlos Holguin



Kim Alveraz, owner of The Heart Bead Store, kneels down on the pavement with cleaning supplies as she scrubs to remove the racist graffiti from outside

Photo by Carlos Holguin

 @TheLumberjack

 @hsulumberjack



ADVERTISE WITH US:

Do you want to purchase an ad with The Lumberjack?

Contact us:

Phone: 707-826-3259

Email: lumberjack.ads2@gmail.com



NORTH BAY
AUTOMOTIVE
SERVICE & REPAIR

1305 10th St.
Arcata, Ca 95521 **PHONE: 707-822-2100**

ENGINES • COMPUTER DIAGNOSTICS • SUSPENSION • MAINTENANCE
TRANSMISSIONS • CLUTCHES • BRAKES • TIMING BELTS • ALIGNMENT • 4x4's

~NOW LEASING~

SUNSET TERRACE
APARTMENTS

1200-1310 FOSTER AVENUE ARCATA, CA

NEW 1 bedroom/1 bath
Walk to HSU / Parking / Laundry
Efficiency units / Upgraded features

707-444-2919
www.kkramer.com

Need Housing? We've got it!



KIC | kramer investment corp. • 707-444-2919 • www.kkramer.com

Students too scared to learn in pandemic times

Students stay home this semester with concerns of health and quality of education.

by Rebecca Laurenson

In the midst of the global pandemic, Humboldt State University students have chosen to stay home and attend classes virtually or not at all this semester, citing living expenses, health concerns and quality of education as factors in their decisions. Given most classes will only be offered virtually this semester, there’s much less incentive to be present on campus.

Ahead of their return, the HSU health department informed students of the risk in coming back to campus and the new safety protocol including wearing masks, practicing social distancing and a mandatory COVID-19 test followed by two weeks of self-quarantine upon arrival.

Calista Tutkowski, an environmental science major, is one of the students staying home and continuing her education online. Tutkowski’s family lives in Colorado and she decided coming back to campus wasn’t worth the risk. In her time on campus, Tutkowski made lots of friends that were also from out of state/from all over the country

“All of them coming back to one place felt like a recipe for disaster,” Tutkowski said.

While Tutkowski’s lab-classes were deemed deserving of in-person instruction this semester,



HSU student Calista Tutkowski’s set-up for taking online classes.

her concern outweighed her desire to return.

“It just wouldn’t feel like a safe environment,” Tutkowski said.

In Colorado, she’s employed as an essential worker and frequently has to interact with customers that don’t abide by social-

distancing protocols. Tutkowski also has the financial advantage of staying in her parents home and avoiding the cost of out-of-state tuition with the cost of housing in California, it wasn’t worth her return.

“It’s like pulling teeth with some people,” Tutkowski

said. “I could just be making money here if I stayed home.”

Oliver McVay, a psychology student, online learning was never an option. The shift to online-instruction last semester in response to the initial outbreaks of COVID-19 cases, students like McVay, who suffers from a learning

disability, were left to fend for themselves.

“There wasn’t a lot of face-to-face stuff,” McVay said. “It was more just, here’s the assignment, turn it on canvas by this day at this time.”

McVay experiences difficulty teaching himself the material and felt he wasn’t receiving the education he paid for, so he decided to take the year off.

“Last semester, I didn’t really learn anything from my online classes,” McVay said. “I just felt like it wasn’t benefiting me.”

Former HSU student, Chase Ervin, also found learning online too challenging in the spring and decided not to return for the fall.

“I knew that online schooling was going to be difficult,” said Ervin. “I went from like all A’s to all B’s and C’s.”

Students like Ervin and McVay require a proper learning environment to tap into their potential.

“I was lacking a lot of focus,” Ervin said. “There were a lot of distractions at home that I wouldn’t necessarily have at school.”

Whether students patiently await their return to the classroom or carry on pursuing an online education, it’s clear the virtual teaching methods do not benefit or cater to all students.

Photo courtesy of Calista Tutkowski

Living on campus during a pandemic

Humboldt State University reopens campus and student housing for new incoming students

by Sophia Escudero

Universities across the nation are experiencing a drop in enrollment this year due to COVID-19 and Humboldt State University is no exception. With around a thousand new students moved into single-occupancy rooms on Aug. 17, HSU remains determined on reopening campus and providing student housing for the fall semester.

Among those returning is second year HSU student, Bryce Hunt. Hunt lived on campus prior to in-person instruction ending and he knew he would be returning to campus.

“I had already made my decision internally,” Hunt said. “I knew a majority of my friends were coming back up and I needed to get out of my home and my hometown.”

For Hunt, the adjustment to life on campus during the pandemic has been fairly easy. While he admits the absence of resources such as in-person advising has been a hindrance, he feels the school is taking strong protective measures.

“I like that they’re offering free coronavirus testing,” Hunt said. “They’ve been open about the fact that they have had cases.”

Hunt feels that campus is safe as long as everyone takes proper precautions and follows the advised county health guidelines.

“I feel fairly comfortable,” Hunt said. “I know I’m taking the protective measures so I can be safe. I don’t think it’s bothering me as much as it did after spring break.”

Adrian Black, a second year

student at HSU, is staying off-campus but remaining in Humboldt. Without any in-person classes, Black made their decision partially out of want, and partially out of need.

“I don’t really have any other place to live,” Black said. “My parents don’t have room for me. Besides, I really like living here. Even with everything going on, I want to be here, because I’m happy here.”

While they had previously considered not returning to HSU after last semester’s disorganized attempt at online classes, Black decided to give this semester a try. Driven by both a passion for learning and a fundamental hunger for something to do, Black returned. However, they’re disappointed in the lack of resources and social-outlets available to students.

“A lot of the charm of being a student is being on campus, interacting with students and faculty,” Black said. “I feel like clubs and such are going to be lacking since we can’t do in-person meetings. It limits what types of clubs are allowed and accessible and puts a damper on social lives.”

With students and faculty better prepared for online classes, new precautions in place and the world adjusting to a new reality, they believe that it can be a good semester.

“I have high hopes, and I hope that by next year, things will have gotten better,” Black said.



Above and below: photos of student set-ups mid-pandemic. Photos courtesy of interview subjects.



FROM PAGE 1

by Carlos Holguin and Gabe

the dorms, a campus-wide email was sent out stating that HSU had it’s first confirmed COVID-19 case.

By the end of the week, two more students and a faculty member tested positive as well, though emails state that the faculty member’s case was not connected to student move-ins.

While the identities of those who tested positive are being withheld for privacy, an email notification sent out on Aug. 20 said “HSU is working closely with Humboldt County Public Health, which will determine whether there are members of the campus community who need to be advised of their contact with affected people.”

Testing will continue for students who have moved in during a fourteen-day quarantine period to ensure safety.

Blake Hefner, a biology major and resident advisor for the College Creek dorms, expressed both concern and hope after reading the initial emails regarding the first confirmed case.

“If they’re willing to bring students during a pandemic, we are going to see how they are going to handle that and how they are going to value our lives,” Hefner said.



Photo by Jarad Petroske / Courtesy of Wikipedia

Lori Alcantara, a journalism major, said that as soon as she saw the email, she went to show her roommate.

“We were both kinda surprised that it was so quick,” Alcantara said. “At the same time, I feel relieved that they’re keeping track and not just trying to pretend that it isn’t happening.

Alcantara felt comfortable with the idea of in-person classes, trusting the

students around her and the university to accept the new social responsibility of sanitizing workplaces and classrooms. Alcantara had one in-person class for the fall semester and stated that the professor had already reached out and reassured students that proper cleaning will occur before students arrive and when they leave.

“I think what will matter then will be everyone’s ability to clean after themselves,

elves use hand sanitizer and wear their masks,” Alcantara said. “I think if everyone could do that... then I’m not particularly worried.”

Frankovich said during her media availability briefing that “...the presence of this case doesn’t change our plan going forward except that we want to make sure we are doing the testing and trying to monitor progress on isolation quarantine should it occur.”

Hefner felt that the cases meant that students had to step up to the occasion and help shoulder the responsibility and pressure.

“It’s a lot of realizing that this is bigger than us as people,” Hefner said. “Moving back means you’re part of a community now, and being part of that community you have to respect the guidelines that are going to take place.”

Summer investigation into Humboldt State’s UPD claims department is in disarray

The nearly yearlong investigation into former Chief Peterson concludes, revealing department troubles.

by Carlos Holguin

Nine months after Humboldt State University announced that it would be investigating allegations of misconduct and racism against former Chief Donn Peterson, an independent organization has concluded that there was not sufficient enough evidence.

Hired by HSU in October of last year, the OIR Group (Office of Independent Review) was hired to review both all allegations against Peterson as well as reports of inaccurate or altered crime statistics.

The report was originally due in March, but Vice President for Administration and Finance Douglas Dawes said in an April email that the report had been delayed.

In their official press release the OIR Group stated that through two separate visits, 35 total hours of interviews with the entirety of UPD staff and reviews of the available evidence that the claims of racism to be “not sustained” and “...the allegation of manipulation of crime statistics was unfounded.”

A “not sustained” finding does not mean the allegations were false; it means that there was insufficient corroborative evidence to establish by a pre-ponderance of the evidence that the allegations of misconduct occurred,” said the OIR Group in their report.



Photo by James Wilde
The Humboldt State University Police Department drop-by office seen through the glass on Nov. 10.



Photo by James Wilde
A Humboldt State University University Police Department vehicle sits empty outside the station on Nov. 10. Students walk past the vehicle on their way to class.

“In other words, a “not sustained” finding means that the investigation disclosed insufficient evidence to either sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.”

Without sufficient evidence, no charges will be brought to any members of the department involved with the allegations.

The OIR Group, however, did find that the department did have issues that needed to be addressed including “... serious issues involving communication, leadership,

internal division and organizational dysfunction that require University reflection and remediation.”

The report states while these problems do not impede the department in providing their services, the OIR Group said that there is dysfunction within the department. In an university wide email, HSU said that the department will be going under guided changes with the help of Interim Police Chief Christina Lofthouse and additional reviews.

The email also stated that some of the changes are a direct response to calls nationwide protests and call of police reform happening both in Humboldt County and throughout the nation.

Billy Kijisriopas, SUPA Director for HSU, said in an email that “Chief Lofthouse came to us a few months ago from CSU Sacramento as an interim Lieutenant. During her tenure here at HSUPD, she has done a great job of stabilizing the department

and running the day to day operation.

We are looking forward to the future of the department under Chief Lofthouse’s leadership.”

Chief Lofthouse was appointed on June 1, the day after Peterson officially retired from his position.

“Donn Peterson’s retirement came as a surprise to all of us,” said Kijisriopas but declined to comment further on the matter.

HSU student journalist travels to Portland to capture Black Lives Matter Protests

Kris Nagel captures chaotic social demonstrations with photojournalist and professor Mark Mckenna.

by Kris Nagel



Photo by Kris Nagel
As the police began firing teargas into crowds of protesters on July 28 in Portland, Oregon part of the "Wall of Moms" were caught in a thick cloud of gas. Only using common painter's respirators for protection against the irritant, the moms soon broke up and fled away from the gas.



Photo by Kris Nagel
During speeches given at the Multnomah County Courthouse on the night of July 29, demonstrators carried signs signifying their investment. Pictured here, an unnamed protester carries a sign saying, "Black lives matter."



Photo by Kris Nagel
On the north side of the Hatfield Federal Courthouse on the night of July 28, an unnamed protestor broke from the crowd to sit in front of a line of police, sitting cross-legged behind a sign.



Photo by Kris Nagel
During speeches given at the Multnomah County Courthouse on the night of July 29, demonstrators carried signs signifying their investment.



Photo by Kris Nagel
Law enforcement used crowd-control agents early in the night of July 29, firing canisters of tear gas, pepper balls, and threw flash bangs. Demonstrators attempted to



Photo by Kris Nagel
In one of the many face-offs between demonstrators and law enforcement on the night of July 29, pictured here are several unnamed protesters attempting to have a dialogue with a line of Border Patrol agents.



Photo by Kris Nagel
A line of law enforcement officers forms near the Mark O. Hatfield US Courthouse on the night of July 29 in Portland, Oregon. Plumes of tear gas linger in the air from canisters fired into crowds shortly before this image was taken.



Photo by Kris Nagel
A protestor telling the crowd about law enforcement firing crowd control agents at the protesters and how several weeks prior he had be struck in the

Neurochemistry and competitive debate

The pathways between debate and neuroscience
by Jen Kelly

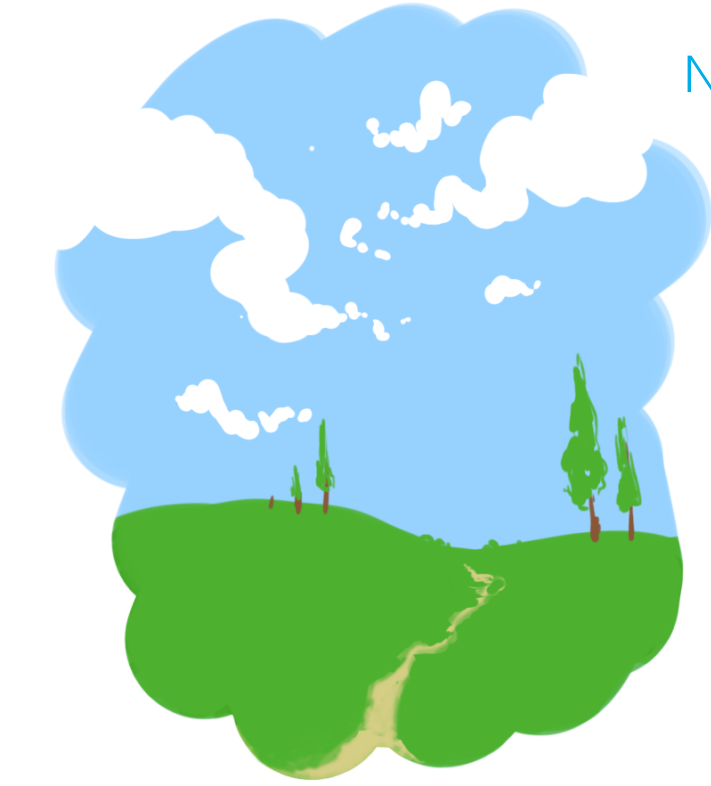
The human brain is a vast network of ever-changing mental paths that lead from one brain function to another. Brain changes due to stimulus from human activities is the subject of an ongoing research project taken on by Humboldt State University student Blue Baldwin. As the President of the HSU’s Speech and Debate Team, and as a double major in psychology and communication, she thinks there could be a strong connection between competitive debate and neuroscience.

According to Baldwin, competitive debate may have the potential to alter neurochemistry in a beneficial way. It’s what sets competitive debate apart from a normal conversation that makes all the difference.

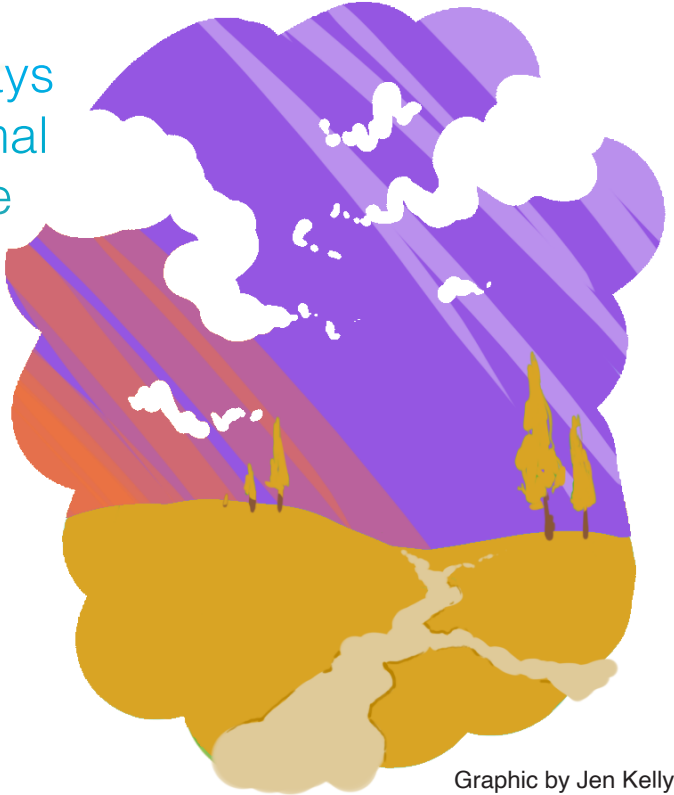
“It’s not quite the same thing as arguing,” Baldwin said. “If I’m arguing with you it’s coming from an emotional place and I don’t necessarily have the facts to back it up, but with debate you have to have those facts. You have to have the ability to quickly critically think.”

The arguments that competitive debaters use are meticulously researched and structured. The process of thinking critically in a structured environment is repeated over and over until a position is fleshed out and ready to withstand the scrutiny of opponents and judges. Then the competitors present and defend the arguments and position in a structured debate.

It’s the structured repetition that Baldwin thinks may



Neural pathways are like normal paths. The more you use them, the more defined and easier to use they become.



Graphic by Jen Kelly

have important implications for the neuroscience of competitive debate.

Neural pathways connect parts of our brain. They allow us to access important neural functions like critical thinking and emotional responses. Baldwin thinks of neural pathways like a snowy path connecting two places in your brain. The more you use a path, the more visible and usable it becomes. If you want to access your long-term memory or critical thinking skills, you must walk the paths that connect them. The more you use the path, the clearer and stronger it becomes.

“For debate, you have to use that pathway every day,” Baldwin said. “But maybe if I’m not doing debate and I’m just having a conversation casually every once in a while, I’m only going to use that path a certain amount of times and I’m going to be able to see it less and less.”

Because of the repetitive use of neural pathways, competitive debate may provide

a structured environment to make sure the pathways to critical thinking skills stay clear.

This may not be the only way competitive debate changes neurochemistry. The COMT gene codes for an enzyme that maintains the level of certain critical neurotransmitters in your brain. It’s a necessary part of healthy brain function, but research suggests it may be linked to harmful aggression.

“I think a lot of people think that the COMT gene or being competitive is a bad thing,” Baldwin said. “But it’s just the ways in which a lot of people deal with the competitive gene that is the problem.”

Competitive debate may provide a structured environment to use the COMT gene without resorting to destructive aggression. If competitive debaters can learn to use the COMT gene in tandem with critical thinking, Baldwin said it may help people deal with the COMT gene in a constructive way and avoid toxically masculine behaviors.

“It’s in a controlled setting

where you can’t just say whatever you want. You have to think critically,” Baldwin said.

Because of the way debate triggers neurochemical responses, the neurochemistry of debate might not be the same for everyone.

“I’ve found that our women and our people of color have more of an emotive response to debate,” Baldwin said.

Debate topics often include controversial, modern-day issues that deal with racism and sexism. Some assigned debate positions can feel like attacks on a marginalized group and the mind deals with personal attacks in a different way.

“That in and of itself triggers a different type of memory which is longer lasting and creates more strengthened neural pathways,” Baldwin said.

The emotive center of the brain is the limbic system, a part of your brain that also connects to long term memory. Emotional memories may have more staying-power than event memories, and walking those important emotive neu-

ral pathways in a controlled environment could have long-term positive effects.

“I can speak to that personally,” Baldwin said.

Some debates that she’s been a part of deal with issues that impact her deeply.

“I know that Black people are getting shot in the streets and that directly impacts me. Not only because I’m Black, but because I’m a Black woman,” Baldwin said. “To have some white man tell me that my background doesn’t matter—obviously, that’s going to make me very upset.”

But that emotive response in a structured environment that rewards research and critical thinking pushes Baldwin to prove herself right. It encourages repetitive behaviors that strengthen her neural pathways and provide a structured way to express herself in a constructive manner.

“Yes, debate is a lot of anxiety, but it’s good anxiety,” Baldwin said. “It definitely gives me a kick in the butt every once in a while.”

The medical reality of less-lethal weapons

Protestors injured by less-lethal weapons in Eureka following protests against police brutality

by Walker True

On May 31 in Eureka a protest against police injustice ended late into the night with officers using pepper-spray projectiles to assist in the arrest of an individual suspected of vandalism. An additional protestor was arrested for attempting to prevent the first arrest.

Several protestors attempted to pull the individual out of police custody. This resulted in police firing on the rest of the crowd. Capt Brian Stevens of Eureka PD addressed the incident to the public in a video posted to Lost Coast Outpost.

“Given the escalating circumstances and the safety risks to the officers ... They began firing [pepperball projectiles] into the ground in and around the crowd trying to back the crowd off,” Stevens said.

Sam Papavasilliou, a 22-year-old Humboldt State University student and former Lumberjack writer, was in attendance that night and was among 30 or so protestors fired on by police. Papavasiliou described how the crowd was cut off in the front and back by several police vehicles while passing by Dutch Bros on the north side of Eureka.

Officers first addressed the crowd to tell them they would be attempting to arrest an individual suspected of vandalism. At 10:33 p.m. this attempted

arrest was met with resistance from several protestors.

“One protestor got shot in the ear with [a pepperball]. They were bleeding and they were really yelling at the officer that they didn’t do shit and they said ‘I can’t hear right now,’” Papavasiliou said.

Pepperball rounds are amongst a large host of “non-lethal” weapons used to disperse crowds deemed riotous. Pepperball rounds are designed to explode on impact leaving a cloud of OC (oleoresin capsicum), the same ingredient used in pepper spray. It is advised that they are not aimed at the eyes, face, throat, or spine as death has occurred when these inappropriate areas have been fired on.

Rubber bullets are another method of crowd control that fall under a classification of “non-lethal” weapons known as KIPs (Kinetic Impact Projectiles) along with bean bag rounds, pellet rounds, and sponge rounds. In their assessment of “non-lethal” weapons and their safety The Physicians for Human Rights organization argues that “At close ranges, levels of lethality and patterns of injury of some KIPs become similar to those of live ammunition. At longer ranges, KIPs are inaccurate and indiscriminate. Some KIPs are lethal in close range and ineffective at longer distances which make



Photo by Jen Kelly

A vandalized sign in the Eureka Target parking-lot following the May 31 protest against police brutality.

safe use difficult.” The problem really comes down to KIPs being too inaccurate at longer ranges to correctly target individuals and areas of the body they are aiming for, and that the injuries sustained at close range can penetrate the skin, break bones, fracture the skull and explode the eyeball.

Police also rely on chemical irritants (CIs) for crowd dispersal, namely tear gas and pepper spray. Pepper spray is

made of a chemical derived from peppers that inflames the afflicted area on contact causing the burning sensation.

“Officers and deputies were on scene with more or less paintball guns that shoot a paintball projectile that is filled with a powdered OC,” Stevens said.

Symptoms after exposure to these agents include temporary blindness, respiratory inflammation, increase in heart rate and blood pressure. Peo-

ple with respiratory or heart conditions are at an increased risk of more serious injury or death.

Other “non-lethal” weapons include pepper spray, bean bag rounds, tear gas and flash bangs just to name a few. When used correctly, these weapons are a less dangerous alternative to shooting people with actual guns, but mistakes in their applications can leave victims with wide ranges of injury.

EDITORIAL

All aboard the plague ship

Unprecedented times are met with normalized behavior, HSU puts students and community members at higher risk after reopening campus and student housing.

Reopening the school in any capacity must have been the worst idea possible. There was not enough preparation for letting students come back to Humboldt State University. While it is understandable that every student has their own reasons for living on campus, the risks are high. HSU President Tom Jackson made it clear that suspending move-in dates and face-to-face instruction until a later date was prejudice and not necessary.

With cases spiking in recent days, the community is at risk. In a press release from the Humboldt County Joint Information Center, people between 20 and 29 have the highest percentage of new COVID-19 cases locally. Young adults are becoming the primary carriers of COVID-19 and are spreading it unknowingly.

Humboldt County Health Alert recently rose to a Level 3, which means “High Risk-Many cases with conditions for community spread, with many undetected cases likely. Limit everyday activities to increase safety.”

Opening up the university to a thousand students in a single week is like pouring salt on a fresh wound. Although Arcata is open to tourism for the economic stimulation,

the town was not ready for it. When Arcata first opened back up to the locals, the cases were low and stable. Then tourism started to pick up. Travel has put the community in danger and is a contributing factor for the rise in cases.

There is a large elderly and retiree population in Arcata and surrounding communities, like Eureka and McKinleyville. Humboldt County Public Health Officer Dr. Teresa Frankovich stated that the transmission can, in time, contribute to increased exposure for older individuals who are of higher risk of serious disease and even death.

Letting a large amount of students move in during the middle of a pandemic in a small town was not a good judgment call. The protocols and guidelines put in place by HSU can go wrong in various ways.

While the single occupancy rooms for student housing were supposed to be a way to shelter in place, there are common areas that the students will share with their housemates such as the living room, kitchen and bathrooms. On the Humboldt State Campus Ready website, it was vaguely mentioned that these common areas will be limited and if violations

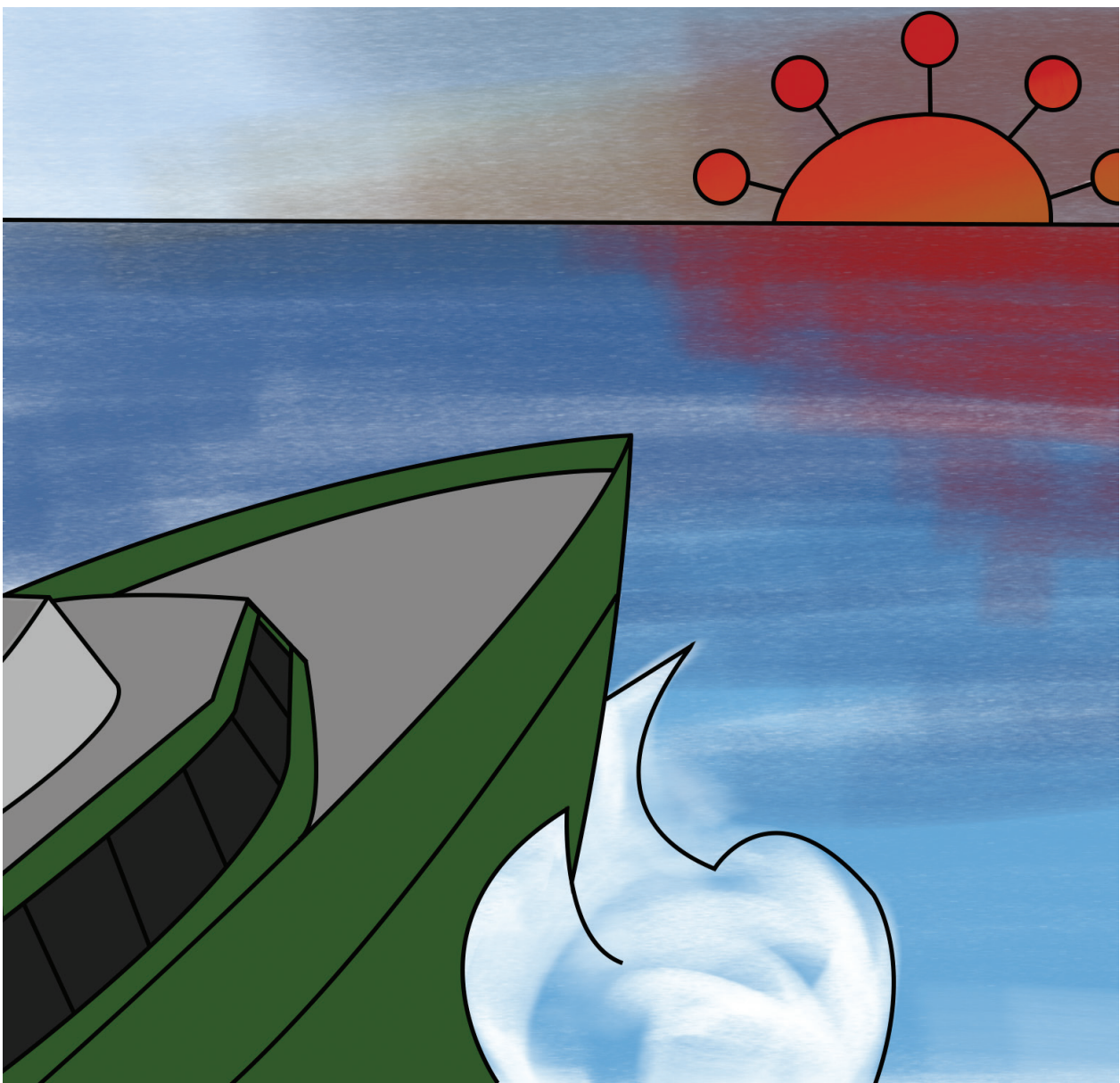


Illustration by Sam Papavasiliou

persist, they will be restricted. But with student housing employees matching one to every hundred students, the likelihood of knowing these violations are occurring are nearly impossible.

With five students and one faculty member having tested positive, HSU has made COVID-19 testing mandatory for student residents throughout the semester. However, the Student Health Center states on the Campus Ready website that testing will be done “in a limited capacity due to a nationwide shortage of tests.”

Regarding limited face-

to-face instruction, the administration is putting the responsibility on the students to ensure they stay healthy. If a student were to test positive for COVID-19 while at HSU, it would be their fault for not following the guidelines to satisfaction, instead of the university’s for being open. The best way to keep students safe is to not have contact with other students. That risk became a reality when a thousand new, incoming students decided to move on campus.

Dr. Frankovich and President Jackson should not have agreed to open the

campus in the first place back in June. There had to have been consideration of the possible influx of cases during the summer months with tourism. Not to mention, fall and winter months correspond with the influenza season. Incoming students will not just be battling COVID-19 but also the flu, the symptoms of which are almost identical.

There were a lot of important individuals that conversed in making these decisions. Unfortunately, the people being put at risk obviously weren’t a part of the conversation.

OPINION

A simple favor, wear your mask correctly please

Wearing a mask correctly shouldn’t be a hassle or the worst part of your day

by Mikayla Moore-Bastide

All I ask is, “Ma’am, can you please put your mask over your nose?” “Sir, your mask needs to be worn at all times. Thank you.” “Yes, masks are required here.”

When a mask is being worn correctly, it has to cover both the mouth and nose. Think of it this way, the mask is meant to prevent any respiratory droplets from spreading to other people and elements around you. These particles come from your mouth and nose.

These face coverings aren’t much, but they are one of the best defenses we have, alongside staying home and social distancing. Now, who would have thought that such a simple and minuscule request can cause such hostility and chaos?

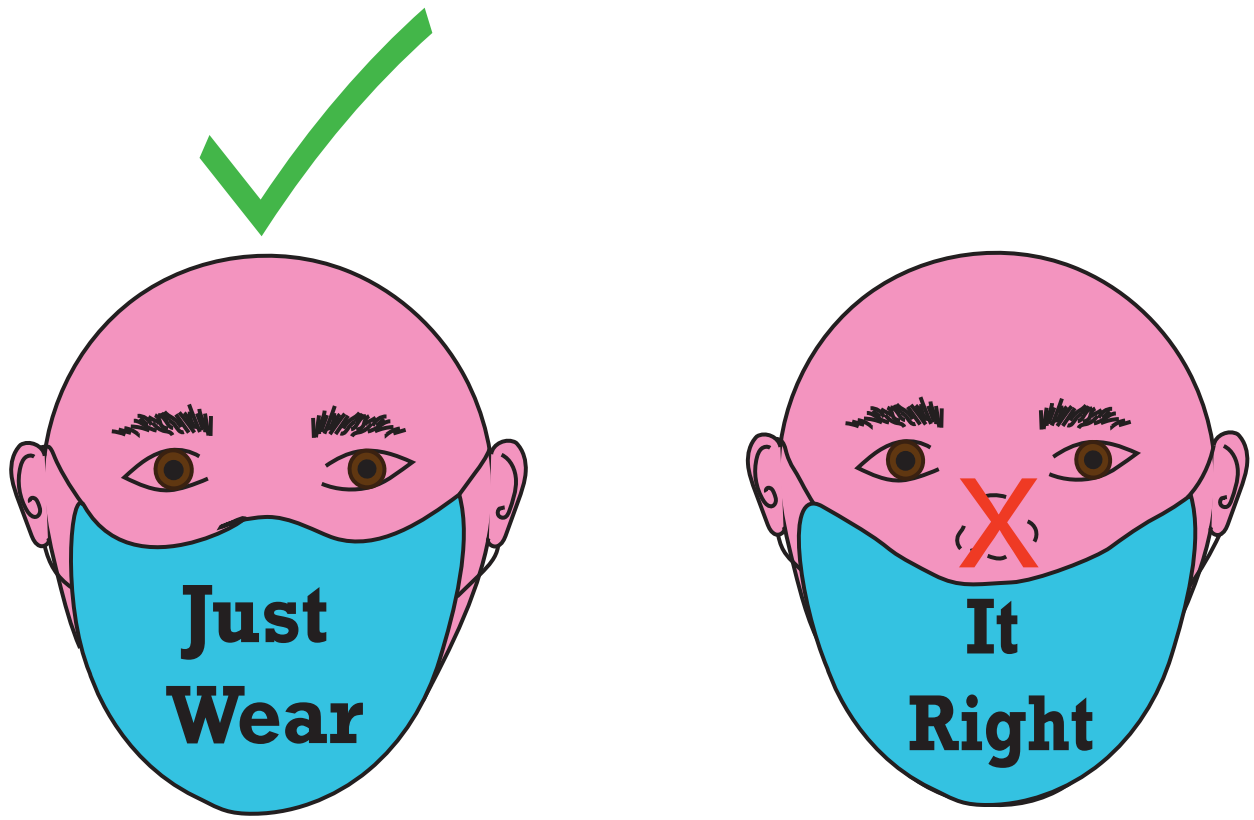


Illustration by Mikayla Moore-Bastide

I’m a retail worker in a small business. I wear a mask, over my mouth and nose, for five hours a day and expose myself to locals and tourists. Some days, I’ll be in contact with 20 people and other days, I can be in contact with close to 100 people.

I fear for my life and sanity every day. There are crazy stories circulating around the internet of customers harassing and assaulting workers for trying to enforce

these health orders. A retail worker in Modesto was brutally attacked, a crazy lady in Trader Joes in North Hollywood making a huge scene and the worst, most extreme case I have heard so far, a security guard being shot and killed.

My co-workers and I always brace ourselves for whatever may happen for calling someone out. We have gotten glares, we’ve been ignored, ridiculed and even belittled just for asking someone to wear

a mask or wear it correctly. We have had out-of-state tourists obnoxiously defy the rules we have set for our store, for them to then leave our store and express how much they hate California’s rules. C’est la vie de 2020.

I will never understand why people try so hard to fight against wearing face masks correctly.

There have been customers that have come in and complained of not being able

to breathe with the mask on. My solution is to stay at home. If you cannot breathe with a mask on, you’re already vulnerable and should not be outside. If you’re bothered at the thought of wearing a face covering for 10 minutes in a small gift shop, maybe you shouldn’t be out and shopping for home decor.

In order for many of these small businesses to be open, they needed to be approved by the state. My boss had to fill out a very lengthy form to re-open her business. She had to describe every action we, as employees, would do to ensure we are all safely navigating this pandemic.

If you see any shop with state/county paperwork taped in their front window, they had to apply to re-open as well. If a customer or employee ends up testing positive, the entire shop has to be shut down.

These face coverings are for the safety of yourself and those around you. This isn’t a time to be individualistic, this is a time where you need to put your ego aside and realize that your selfish actions can potentially harm a business, a person next to you or the family they go home to.

Wearing your mask correctly to cover both your nose and mouth won’t kill you, but refusing to do it at all can.

HSU cultural center budgets slashed

By Gabe Kim

Two months ago, Associated Students released its proposed budget for the 2020-21 school year at Humboldt State University. Included in this budget were major budget cuts to on-campus cultural centers such as the Multicultural Center and the Eric Rofes Multicultural Queer Center.

For the budgeting process to begin, A.S. applications are submitted by various campus-based clubs to the A.S. Finance Committee, previously known as the Board of Finance. From there, the committee reviews all the incoming applications and after holding public appeals, creates a Recommended Budget that is sent over the A.S. Board of Directors, a mix of A.S. elected representatives and faculty advisers. The Board of Directors then holds another round of public appeals, drafts a revised Recommended Budget and sends it over the A.S. president, who promptly turns it over to the campus president for official approval.

David Lopez, the Associative Vice President of A.S. and a sophomore at HSU, emphasized that he still greatly values the cultural centers but they will be funded differently.

“We really appreciate them for the work they do,” Lopez said. “So to make sure that they continue to do that work still because we’re not funding them, we’re doing it through the clubs grant, and we’re forming this grant process to be as neutral as possible with funding student organization needs.”

Lopez is personally leading the charge for these new clubs grants, which aim to support student organizations like the Asian Desi Pacific Islander Collective and the Women’s Resource Center in a reduced capacity.

One thing that factored into the decision by Associated Students to sever the cultural centers’ funding was the Apodaca v. White lawsuit that took place between a pro-life student organization at CSU San Marcos and CSU San Marcos’s Associated Students. The pro-life student organization claimed that it was being discriminated against by CSU San Marcos because requested funding for a pro-life speaker was denied while other groups were receiving the same funding. The final ruling by a federal court was in favor of the student or-



Humboldt State University’s Founders Hall on May 2nd

ganization, arguing that the funds that come from student fees need to be allocated in the most viewpoint neutral way possible. The CSU Chancellor’s office has yet to clarify what this means.

For Lopez, this new funding procedure is radical but also necessary given the circumstances.

“We’re supporting the greatest amount of viewpoints and opinions possible,” Lopez said. “The plan for this club grant is to further diversify the opinions on campus per Apodaca v White and to err on the side of caution while awaiting the Chancellor’s interpretation of Apodaca v White.”

Lopez recognized that he and his staff are working with a limited financial capacity and therefore need to distribute funding in a way that will keep clubs satisfied and avoid a lawsuit of their own.

“Our total budget is less than \$800,000,” Lopez said. “Meaning that by not funding in a viewpoint neutral manner, we are potentially risking over

a fourth of our budget, a fourth of student fees that could go to things like our Club Grants Committee or that could go to other campus resources if we were to risk not funding in a most neutral way possible.”

Celene Gonzalez is an HSU grad student in the psychology program and an El Centro employee. She has worked closely with the cultural centers and has seen their collective downfall over the years.

“What gives me hope in what I had seen in that time is that students were getting really connected with each other,” Gonzalez said. “They were finding their communities. It is not shocking to me that the school felt the need to kind of push that down a little bit.”

Gonzalez is disheartened by the disconnect that has been formed between her and these students through said budget cuts.

“I feel like our work gave us a way to connect with one another and I feel like our activism gave us a way to connect with one another,” Gonzalez

said. “That it’s going to be hard to maintain and it’s going to be hard to ask of them when I know that they aren’t being compensated for that work.”

The Eric Rofes Multicultural Queer Resource Center is getting hit hard by the extreme budget cuts. Concerned about the future of her cultural center, Amanda Huebner, a rangeland and social sciences senior and an employee at the ERC, wants to see it remain in the state that it’s in already.

“What’s happening is we’re being faced with the choice of either becoming a club or becoming absorbed into an administrative or academic department,” Huebner said. “So I think there has been dialogue by students in the past that this would be a bad move being absorbed by a department or by an administrative department because it would make the group not be as student-run.”

In other words, the absorption of the ERC into another department would be ill-advised because there would be

more faculty interference in how it would be managed, and that wouldn’t align with the goal of this cultural center of being a student-led one.

Student leaders like Katherine Nguyen who work in the cultural centers are frustrated with the fallout from all of this. Nguyen doesn’t feel like the administration cares about its marginalized students.

“Are you going to be supporting your cultural centers, are you going to be supporting your students?” Nguyen said. “I’m not confident about that and I’m tired of just being told by admin, like: ‘Oh, you got it wrong, like we actually care about you. We’re going to figure out a way,’ but it’s like if you did, why didn’t you make a plan? Show that you’re invested in students.”

When it comes to the shrinking budgets for the various cultural centers, neither the students nor the administration can be totally satisfied. After the Fall 2020 census, the A.S. cumulative budget will be reevaluated.

Essential Student Resources

By Dakota Cox

As Humboldt State kicks off the fall semester with virtual instruction, resources normally available to students have undergone significant changes in order to continue providing what they can. While some programs are still awaiting administrative approval, essential programs have already begun operations.

The Student Health Center is available at appointment to all students during the week, with virtual consultations whenever possible. Likewise, Counseling and Psychological Services maintain their usual hours, operating virtually, by appointment during the week. They provide a variety of therapy options, including solo and group counseling, crisis inter-

vention and Zoom workshops. All Student Health Center and CAPS services are included in the cost of Category II student fees and are otherwise free to all students.

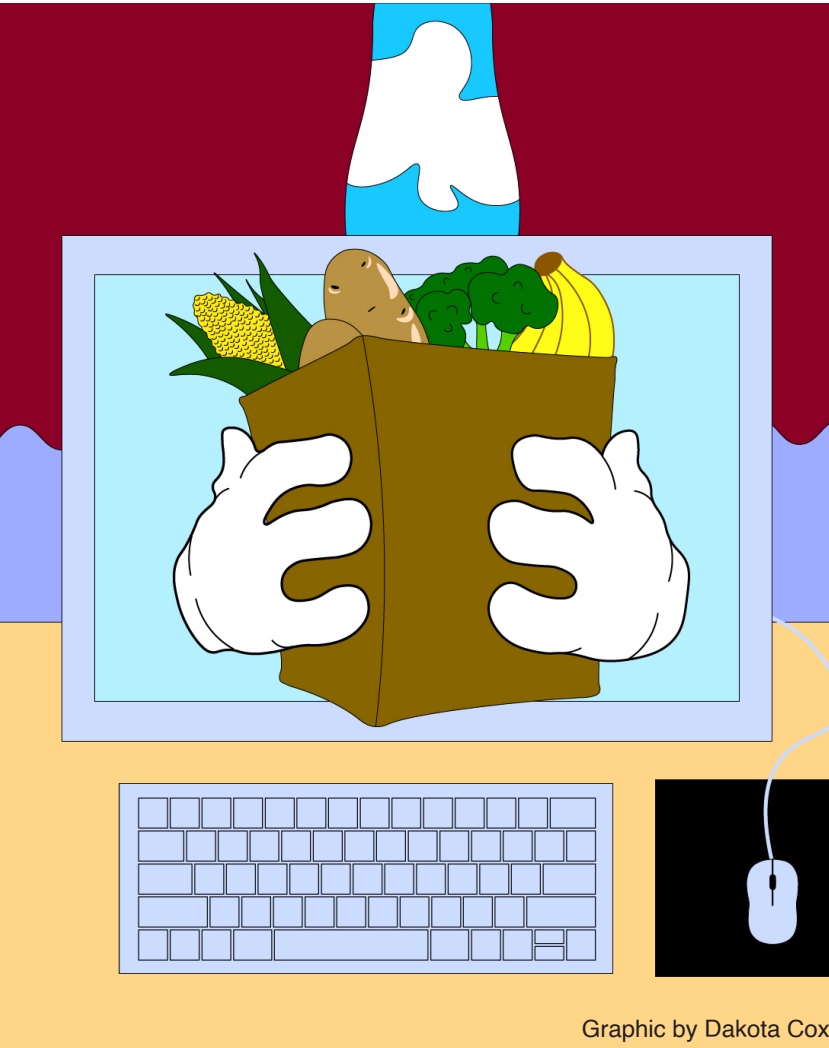
For students struggling with food insecurities, the Oh SNAP! program will be handing out free, prepackaged and uncooked food to students, with vegan, vegetarian and meat options, on the bottom floor of Jolly Giant Commons Aug. 28 and Sept. 4 from 10-3. Starting Sept. 7, Oh SNAP! will resume normal operation, Tues., Wed., and Fri.

The Student Disability Resource Center has moved locations to Suite 5 on the bottom floor of the library. The SRDC will be operating virtually this

semester and providing support to students remotely, with staff on location to handle equipment pickups and drop-offs.

Students seeking academic assistance can now sign up for one-unit supplemental instruction courses through their student center, providing them with assistance from students who have already passed the associated class. The Learning Center will begin virtually offering one-on-one tutoring, writing assistance and academic peer coaching the week of Aug. 30.

As administration moves forward with providing guidelines for individual student-led programs, more resources will become available to students.



Graphic by Dakota Cox