

THE FUTURE OF HSU’S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

With the plan almost half complete, HSU heads forward with its green goals

by Gabrielle Sturm

SEE CLIMATE • PAGE 4



The view from the top of the world lookout point up Fickle Hill Road outside of Arcata, CA on April 2, 2020.

Photo by Elliott Portillo

Bidding Farewell to Hip Hop’s Masked Villain

by Anthony Aragon

On Thursday December 31, the music world was stunned by the unforeseen announcement that one of hip hop’s most interesting figures, MF DOOM, had passed away earlier in the year at the age of 49.

The announcement came via social media post on the artist’s official Instagram profile. It included a picture of the famed rapper posing while boasting a white New York Knicks jersey, camouflage printed cargo pants and trademark gladiator mask that he became infamous for throughout his career. Along with this photo was a short message addressed to DOOM by his wife Jasmine, in which she thanked her late husband for the lifelong lessons and memories she had acquired during their time together.

Underneath the heartfelt message read “Transitioned October 31, 2020,” two entire months before the world was made aware of his passing. To the unknown music novice this may seem odd or at the very least peculiar, but to MF DOOM fans across the world, it fit the allure the legendary rapper garnered over the last 20 years.

DOOM’s public image has always been shrouded in mystery and mystique. Choosing to don a medieval gladiator mask in practically all appearances in public, he set out to create a conceptual experience for his audience that spanned further than himself. Over the years his albums re-

leased with no particular scheduling pattern compared to other artists, only dropping new projects when he felt the world was ready.

There are many documented accounts where concert goers who paid to see the artist perform were subjected to an “imposter” who recited his songs, until the MC eventually appeared on stage. For the outsider looking in, this would be a dishonest way to coerce fans out hard-earned money, but to DOOM this furthered the brilliance of the enigma he created.

Born Daniel Dumile, MF DOOM was one of three different alter egos (the other two being Viktor Vaughn and King Geedorah) Dumile created during his illustrious career as a producer and MC. MF DOOM, the most popular of Dumile’s three personas, rose to prominence as a staple in the underground hip-hop community in the late 1990’s and early 2000’s.

Equipped with lyrical content that strayed far left of the status quo, and blending it with beats that were framed around sample snippets of old cartoons and songs that were not typical in hip-hop production, his debut album “Operation Dohmsday” pushed the creative envelope like no other album at the time.

Past his initial success, he gained notoriety as one half of the revered hip-hop coalition Madvillain alongside producer Madlib. Their 2004 album



Graphic by Sam Papavasiliou

“Madvillainy” is regarded as being one of hip-hop’s most influential albums in history, also procuring DOOM the moniker of “your favorite rapper’s favorite rapper.”

As the news of his untimely passing spread quickly on New Year’s Eve, fans and fellow artists alike took to the internet to show gratitude for the

late rapper’s contributions to hip-hop culture. Leaving a catalog full of innovative sounds and rhymes for lifelong fans to enjoy and new fans to discover, DOOM’s legacy will be revered for generations to come. A legacy that will be forever spelled in ALL CAPS.

RIP MF DOOM.

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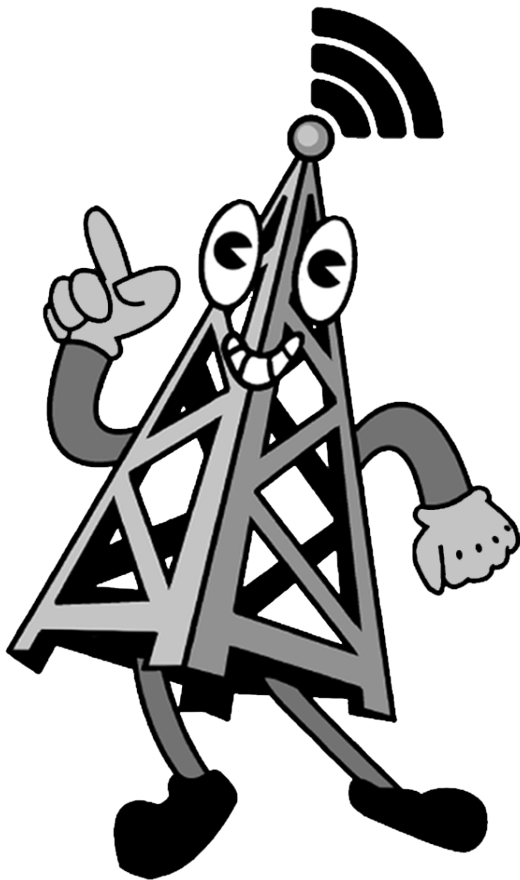
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Huffman addresses US Capitol attack in virtual town hall

by Elizabeth Hannah

The Capitol in Washington D.C. was met with an angry mob of President Trump supporters on January 6. While Congress was in session to certify President-elect Joe Biden’s electoral victory, the group stormed the Capitol in an attempt to stop the electoral count.

U.S. Representative for the 2nd Congressional District, Jared Huffman, held a live stream via his Facebook page on January 12 to address the attack and plans moving forward. Huffman is the representative for Northern California’s coastal region which spans from San Francisco to the Oregon border.

“When that disgraceful mob stormed the Capitol and literally took it over for a few hours, where no help was coming and they had control of the place, that’s just a wake-up call for all of us. It speaks to the level of violence and insurrection that we all saw with our eyes and ears,” Huffman said.

The mob broke into the Capitol building looting and vandalizing as a sign of defiance to the election results. Trump has repeatedly accused the election of being rigged in Biden’s favor, demanding recounts and overturns of results to no avail.

Though the riot at the Capitol has captured the attention across the world, the FBI has warned states across the country of possible violence in the coming days.

Huffman alluded to the idea of local and state violence in response to the days leading to Biden’s inauguration.

“The intelligence suggests that the threats of violence are not going to be limited to the Capitol,” Huffman said.

Danny Kelley, the Chair of the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee, commented on the vandalism that had taken place at their headquar-

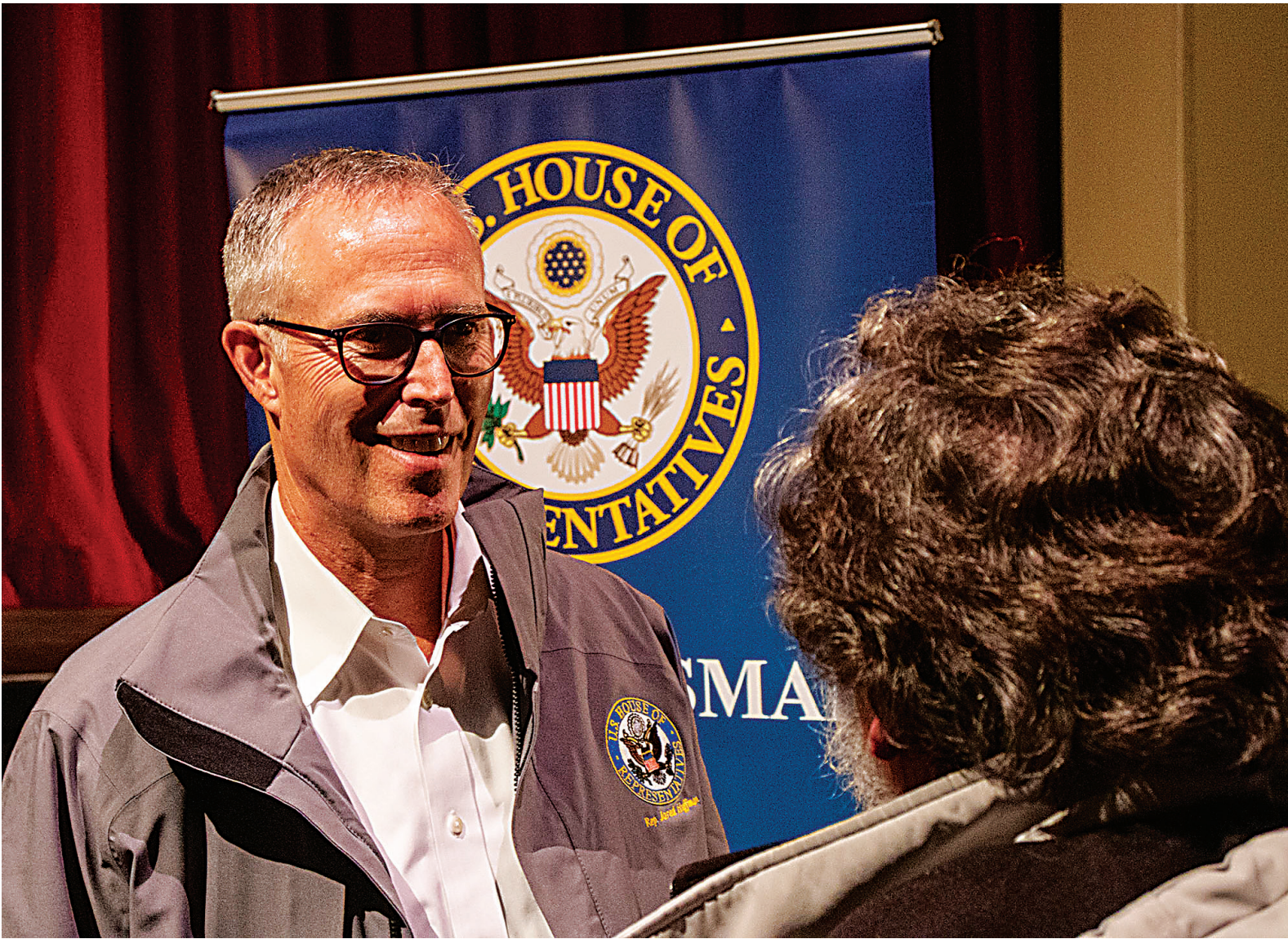


Photo courtesy Kris Nagel

Huffman talks to community members at a town hall meeting February 21, 2020.

ters where a window was destroyed on the same day as the Capitol attack.

Kelley said that though they could not confirm who was responsible for the vandalism, they can assume it was an action in the spur of the moment.

“It is clear that the vandalism at our headquarters was random and unplanned, but it is also clear that it was spurred by an intense personal belief based on the lie that the election was stolen,” Kelley said.

The Democratic committee was

able to repair their window the same day with the help of a local business. The vandalism that occurred is not deterring the local office from reaching out in the community to help cultivate a space for the Democratic party.

“Destruction like this has happened to the local Republican headquarters many more times than it has happened to us. Thoughtless acts like this can’t stop us,” Kelley said.

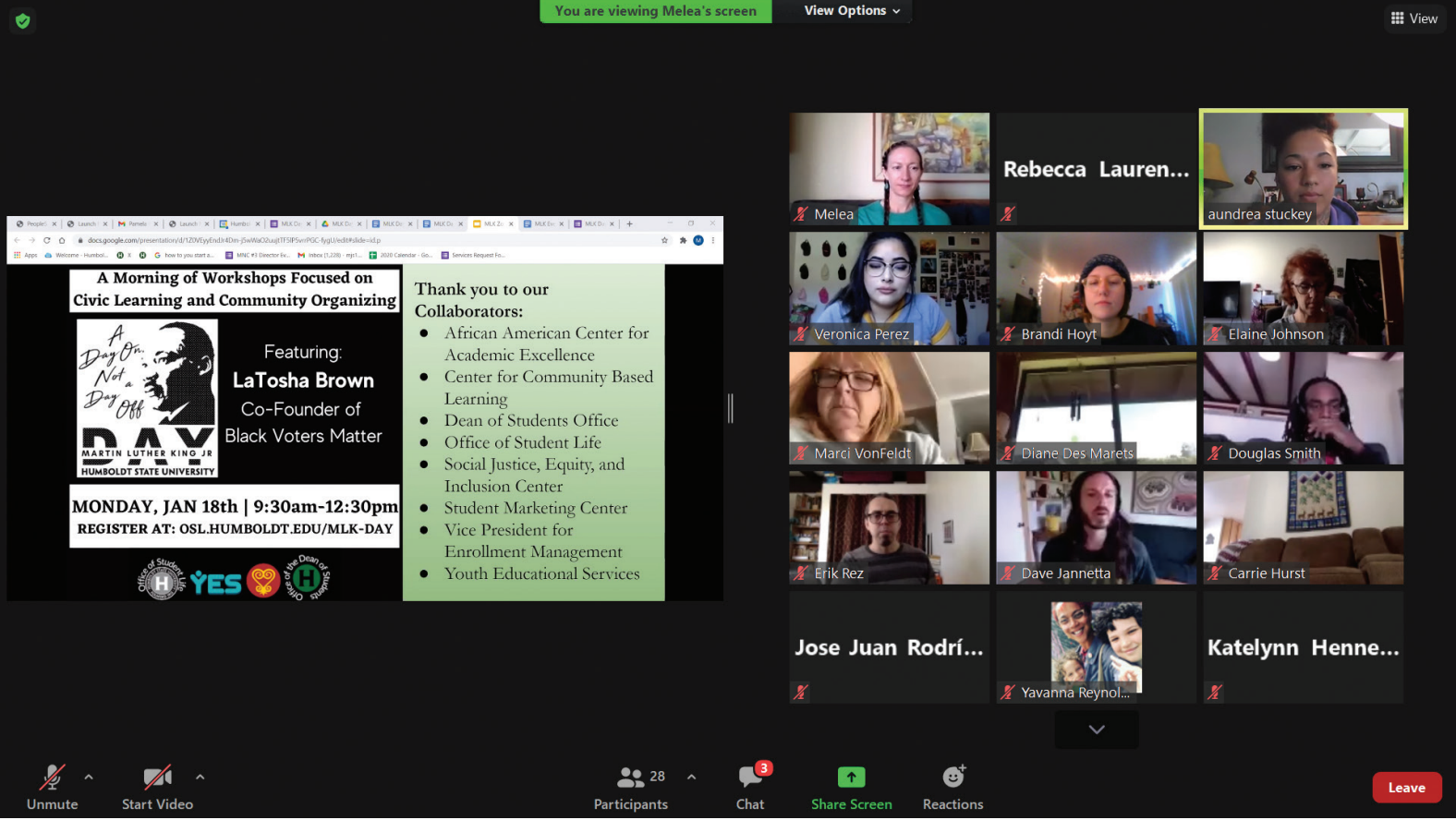
In plans of moving forward and protecting democracy on a local level here

in Humboldt, there are many groups and organizations to get involved with across the political spectrum. As for the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee, Kelley encouraged students to get involved in local politics.

“We need students to get involved with the Humboldt Young Democrats and to step up and become members of our Central Committee,” Kelley said. “There is so much work to be done and so many opportunities for grassroots leadership to really make a difference.”

Humboldt State remembers Martin Luther King

Annual MLK events and workshops were hosted via Zoom early Monday morning



The introductory moments of the MLK zoom event.

Screenshot by Rebecca Laurenson

by Rebecca Laurenson

MLK day of service is a national initiative. This year at HSU there was an event hosted via Zoom for Martin Luther King Jr. that began with a keynote speaker, LaTosha Brown and continued into two breakout rooms with workshops such as Art and Community Activism by Aundrea Stuckey from Youth Art Will Succeed (YAWS).

Prior to the event, Molly Kresl, the student life coordinator, was excited about the event still going on regardless of not being able to host it in person due to the pandemic protocols.

“Last year we did MLK day of service and we had three different volunteer

sets and over a hundred people to volunteer and eighty participated,” Kresl said. “It was totally successful and we were so happy.”

Kresl wanted to continue the event virtually to allow the community to be able to participate in the event from the safety of their home and still get a meaningful experience.

“Us being in a virtual semester, we wanted to continue the tradition because it is a brand new tradition, we think it is a really valuable and important event,” Kresl said. “So we had to kinda reinvent what it looked like.”

Towards the end of introductions, a slide was dedicated to labor and land recognition such as native land in

Humboldt county and acknowledging the labor that built this country.

LaTosha Brown was the first keynote speaker and spoke about what MLK day means, the work she has done for Black Voters Matters, experience, and motivating the audience. In the beginning, she sang a song and spoke on the impact of the song.

“A song in their heart, they had hope,” Brown said.

Brown’s speech related to addressing those who have been affected by COVID-19 and this year in general.

Within the break, there was an option to join breakout groups composed of participants and main speaker interactions through the chat and aloud. Most of the content of the

breakout rooms was back and forth conversation and understanding the importance of MLK day.

Stuckey’s breakout room focused on subjects within the art community and involvement with POC artwork in Humboldt county.

“Where do you see black art? Black people?” Stuckey said.

The second breakout room was dedicated to discussion between participants and main speaker Ron White from the Humboldt Area Foundation discussing his presentation “The Salvation of Democracy: Civic Engagement of the Dispossessed.” Sarah Hammoudi, a senior bachelor’s social work major, attended the second breakout session with White and was a participant for the event.

“I then attended the workshop held by Ron White on civic engagement and it was an amazing opportunity,” Hammoudi said. “I was even able to speak in a small breakout group with him which gave me even more insight and inspiration.”

Overall the end of the event ended with questions from participants to the main coordinators and speakers and leveled into a deep discussion.

“LaTosha Brown, the keynote speaker, was absolutely inspiring and provided amazing insight,” Hammoudi said. “She said ‘we are called to evolve’ which makes me remember despite how unpredictable the past year’s circumstances have been, we surely can be a piece to making real change one day.”

Hammoudi was inspired not only by Brown but also the event, the other speakers, and the meaning behind the day itself.

“MLK day to me definitely is a reminder to do good for others as you wish to receive,” Hammoudi said.

The dangers behind marine debris

The staggering cost of commercial litter

by Elise Fero

Along the coast, you can free your feet in the sand and enjoy the beautiful sounds of the ocean. But enter the water and you, like many marine creatures, may find yourself entangled in fishing gear or waste plastic.

As many may remember, a whale near Crescent City was found tangled in fishing equipment on shore. Two of HSU’s very own Marine Mammal Program went down to help. Despite efforts, the whale was unable to make it.

This experience is like many others globally.

According to NOAA Fisheries’ website, “Entangled animals may drown or starve because they are restricted by fishing gear, or they may suffer physical trauma and infections from the gear cutting into their flesh.”

The reason this is such a killer? Fishing gear counts for the largest percentage of plastic in the oceans.

Sea Shepherd Global wrote on their website, “Approximately 46% of the 79 thousand tons of ocean plastic in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is made up of fishing nets, some as large as football fields, according to the study published in March 2018 in Scientific Reports, which shocked the researchers themselves who expected the percentage to be closer to 20%.”

Ghost nets are nets that have stranded from their boats and continue catching marine life, tangling them and often creating mass bundles of nets.

On Humboldt State’s Marine Debris webpage, a study they mention called “A Comparison of Plastic and Plankton in the North Pacific Central Gyre” by C.J Moorea, S.L Moorea, M.K Leecaster, and S.B Weisberg, explains that “in the North Pacific Gyre the mass of plastic out-weighted the mass of plankton (small marine organisms) by six times, despite the fact that the number of individual organisms was five times higher than the number of plastic pieces.”

“The same study found that 98% of plastics found were polypropylene/monofilament line (fishing lines), thin films and unidentified plastic fragments,” The HSU Marine Biology website says.

“Lost/broken fishing gear such as



Photo by Thomas Lal
Kat Meyer from the California Department of Fish and Game carries away the ropes that entangled a whale on Samoa Beach on October 23, 2019.

rine debris, including all 7 species of sea turtle, 27.4% of seabird, and 39.8% of marine mammals, according to Mason.

“It’s really only these moments where we have our large sea life that are tangled up and it really brings awareness to the issue... it’s heartbreaking,” Mason said.

Mason says that the problem itself stems from humans and extends beyond just lost fishing gear.

“The scope of the issue is global, and for people to understand not just what they do on a boat, but it’s all of the waste we generate,” he said.

But the issue can be worked on, and hopefully fixed. People can participate in cleaning events, as well as picking up debris if it is safe for them to do so.

If debris is too large, like a ghost net, you can call the Department of Fish and Wildlife and inform them of the debris so it can be professionally handled. As well, if you find an entangled animal, call for help instead of handling it alone, as you or the animal may get hurt.

But just picking up trash isn’t enough.

“Stop use of single-use plastics and find ways to reuse our waste, recycling should not be the first choice since many plastics do not get recycled,” Caro said. It starts with striving for a zero-waste lifestyle and being aware of your waste and trying to find uses for it before trashing it.”

NOAA also funds grants to clean up the marine debris.

“Removal is treating a symptom, prevention is treating the root cause,” Mason said.

For Mason, education is the key, providing people the sources to understand how to properly use fishing equipment as well as giving the general public information about how to discard their waste correctly.

“The number one best way to address this problem and to help is to prevent these items from ending up in our marine environment,” Mason said.

Education can teach people who may not live directly in contact with the ocean how they are affecting the ocean.

“The ocean is key to our way of life and messing with the ecosystem can have unexpected impacts we are not yet fully aware of,” said Caro.

“Everything is connected,” Mason said. “Everything we do has an impact.”

“Removal is treating a symptom, prevention is treating the root cause.”

-Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator Andrew Mason

netting and fishing string can entangle and kill large marine life such as sea turtles, dolphins, sharks, etc.,” Anna Caro, a third-year marine biology major at HSU, said in an email. “Most get trapped and struggle to escape, which usually makes the entanglement worse killing the marine life.”

This means that while there is a demand for seafood, there is a risk of fishing gear becoming lost and potentially causing harm.

“Scientists have still struggled to figure out the extent of the microplastics problem. Microplastics are being eaten by marine life and poisoning them, but not only is it terrible for the fish it is terrible for anything eating the fish

including humans,” Caro said.

Caro was able to learn more regarding marine debris through education at HSU in biology seminars and classes.

Humboldt State also works closely with NOAA Fisheries to keep the oceans healthy and research them. Students can work with the Office of Response and Restoration’s Marine Debris Program to reduce waste and learn how to keep the oceans clean.

Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator Andrew Mason from NOAA expressed the issues of marine debris, especially fishing gear. Not only is this a marine loss, but an economic loss as well.

350 species found entangled in ma-

CLIMATE

FROM PAGE 1

As Humboldt State students prepare to graduate, they take a pledge before they walk across the stage and receive their diplomas.

“I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve these aspects of any organizations for which I work.”

The university makes it clear they want all students to take sustainability into account throughout their careers, but does the school itself practice what it preaches?

The answer to this question by many standards is yes.

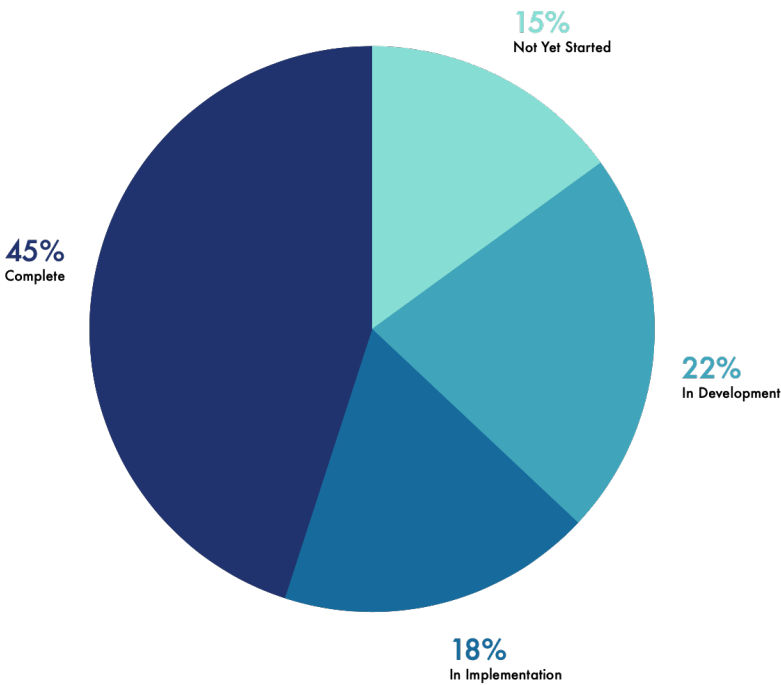
In 2017, a Climate Action Plan (CAP) was put forth by HSU in order to integrate climate change and sustainability into the curriculum, conduct more research on climate change and resiliency, and reduce the direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions of the school.

The plan also includes strategies to curb emissions from energy and utilities, transportation, and waste. This is just a small fragment of what the 26 page plan aims to achieve.

The most ambitious aspect of the CAP was to reduce the university’s emissions to complete carbon neutrality by 2030, and begin on a carbon negative path thereafter. This course of action comes with progress reports that include an update on the implementation of the CAP’s 55 strategies used to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

The last report was released in No-

2019 CAP Progress Report



Graphic by Gabrielle Sturm

vember of 2019, and it states that out of the strategies, 45% were completed, 18% are in implementation, 22% are in development, and 15% are not yet started. While the school is making significant progress, the ambitious goal of reaching carbon neutrality was pushed back to 2045.

The university budget cuts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have not had a significant impact on the progress of the CAP.

“Many of those initial strategies that were completed [in the CAP] were zero to moderate cost (e.g., policy or procedural changes or non-construction related),” Morgan King, climate action analyst for HSU, said. “But

some projects requiring a large initial capital outlay (e.g., solar, electric vehicle charging) did not move beyond an initial exploratory phase in part because of funding, but that was an issue before the pandemic.”

Some of the goals in the 2019 progress report include a reduction in facility and fleet greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the end of 2020, a further reduction in emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2040, and an achievement of carbon neutrality by 2045.

King is drafting an update to the CAP which the university is calling the CAP 2.0. “We currently have leadership actively engaging with sustain-

ability into all facets of the university,” King said. “So I am optimistic that we will be able to push forward some of the more capital intensive strategies in the CAP 2.0. For example, the campus is already pursuing a microgrid with solar and battery storage, which is a critical element to building resilience and drawing down emissions.”

The university practices sustainability throughout its curriculum as well. Environmental Studies Associate Professor and Department Chair Dr. Sarah Ray emphasizes the importance of environmental awareness in a social justice based interdisciplinary curriculum.

“The work of Katie [Koscielak] and Morgan [King] in sustainability is cross-cutting; they go beyond the facilities box and are doing what has to happen on all campuses of merging academics and facilities much more intensely,” Ray said. “The biggest thing we can do to achieve this even better is to continue to center the conversation around social and racial justice— how might those lenses shape what we do environmentally? What and whose traditions are we hoping to sustain, and how do we know what approaches are best for the environment?”

Environmental studies student August Andrews says that he sees various ways in which environmental awareness is presented by the university outside of the classroom.

“I definitely see HSU doing so outside of the courses they offer,” Andrews said. “HSU is not only known for its environmental curriculums but, simultaneously, it seems to be rapidly striving to be as ‘green’ of a university as possible, which is inspiring.”



1. A Giant Green Sea Anemone provides a platform for a decorator crab. 2. A Nanaimo Horned Dorid moves across a rock 3. Three Six Armed Stars cling to a rock 4. A Kelp Crab blends in to the rest of it's tide pool. 5. An orange sponge 6. Thick-horned Nudibranch 7. White-lined Dirona creeps along the bottom of a tide pool 8. A small octopus, likely a Red Octopus, peaks out from its hiding place. 9. A Stalked Jelly clings to piece of eel grass. All photos taken at Palmer's Point | courtesy of Mike and Julie Kelly.

A guide to exploring Humboldt’s tide pools

by Jen Kelly

As the tides of Humboldt County creep up and down our beaches, the ocean takes turns covering and uncovering a small area of coast. This region is called the intertidal zone. It spends some of its time underwater, but it’s exposed to us land-dwellers for exploration when the tides recede far enough. Pools trapped in between rocks stay put as the rest of the ocean leaves them behind. These pools offer a small look at what we’re usually missing beneath the waves.

There’s some fascinating sea life to find if you know where to look. Classics of ocean exploration like anemones, barnacles, mussels, and sea stars cover the rocks. Sea slugs, scientifically termed ‘Nudibranches,’ are the graceful and colorful pop stars of the tide pools. They slowly dance through fronds of kelp. It can be difficult to suppress the urge to punt the odd football-like gumboot chiton across the tide pools. There are fish so well matched to the bottom of the pools that it often takes movement to spot one.

The best part is that none of the wide variety of animals you’re likely to come

across in the tide pools are capable of hurting you. A crab might give you a bit of a pinch if you pick it up. Sharp barnacles on rocks could scrape you up if you fall. The purple urchins that dot the lower intertidal are often blunt-spined and harmless to a shoed explorer. Watch your step, but more for their sake than for yours.

Marine mammals like seals and otters sometimes hang out on rocks near tide pools. Approaching marine mammals or interacting with them is illegal, but more for their protection than yours. So long as you don’t eat any of the brightly colored nudibranchs, you’re safe from everything except poor decision making.

Keeping three points of contact when climbing over slippery rocks will lessen the chance of dramatic falls into cold pools of water. Avoid rock climbing in favor of staying as low as possible to the ground. This prevents falls from being worse than they could be.

Stepping on kelp is a one-way-ticket to slipping face-first onto a rock covered in sharp barnacles. Waterproof boots, warm clothing, and a camera that won’t be ruined if you drop it in a tide pool are all good equipment.

So, with all that in mind, when and where can you go? Luffenholtz Beach and Palmer’s Point are two of the best locations near HSU. Both require climbing up and down stairs set into a cliff. Conditions should be just right for the ideal trip. Small waves, an early low tide, and a low chance of rain are your best bet.

There are usually two low tides and two high tides in one day. You should go early enough for the tide pools to still be cold. The first low tide of the day is the best for seeing cool critters. The closer to dawn, the better. Low tides of 0.3 feet or lower are good bets. Any morning tides into the negatives are worth planning for.

Plan your trip to center around the low tide. If you arrive 30 minutes before the low tide and leave 30 minutes after, you’ll get to appreciate all the lowest parts of the tide. You can download a local annual prediction tide table from the NOAA tides and currents website.

But an early low tide with good weather does not necessarily guarantee a safe outing. Wave size and frequency are important too. The smaller the better, and waves above more than a

few feet are enough of a reason to call the trip off. Exposed sites like Luffenholtz require greater caution with wave height. Ideal conditions being somewhere under three feet. Palmer’s point is a bit more sheltered, but waves over five feet are still dangerous. While you’re picking up the tide charts, NOAA also has marine weather forecasts so you can check conditions before you go.

Now that you’re prepared for the tide pools, make sure the tide pools are ready for you. Each pool is like a little community of critters. Don’t be a Godzilla to the intertidal Tokyo. Never turn over rocks and try to keep your boots from treading too much into the ocean’s domain. Critters in the tide pools have evolved the best disguises to fool predators for eons. You never know what you’re stepping on.

Instead of stepping in a tide pool, just sit down by one and stare at it. Keep an eye on the ocean and be mindful that the tides will move in eventually. What looks like an empty pool will soon reveal itself to be two nudibranchs, three juvenile rockfish, a kelp crab, and a gumboot chiton you’ll have to resist the urge to pick up and hail mary into the ocean.



Two photos of Palmer's Point. The left photo is at low tide and the right photo is at high tide. The area covered and uncovered is the intertidal zone. Photos by Julie Kelly

HSU students discover their own spark with “Soul”

Pixar’s latest film debuted on Disney+ to positive reviews

by Brianne Beronilla

Pixar’s newest animation “Soul” teaches us multiple lessons that can be applied to our lives daily .

The movie was released on December 25, 2020 and already has a 95% rating on Rotten Tomatoes. It tells the story of a man named Joe Gardner (Jamie Foxx) who lands his dream gig at the best jazz club in town. On the way, however, he falls into a dark hole that leads him to the “before life.”

Throughout the movie, themes of compassion, empathy, and self discovery are discussed. Joe is faced with many challenges that help him rediscover his “spark” or purpose in life. The movie is family friendly that people of all ages will enjoy.

Rachael Kee, is a junior at HSU majoring in psychology and communications who watched “Soul” with her boyfriend Rowan.

“I loved the movie,” Kee said. “It had so many subtle but relatable themes throughout the film, which really made me think about my own life and my purpose,” she said. “This movie is honestly pretty emotionally intimate for couples to watch together.”

“Soul” dives deep into the so-called “meaning of life” by teaching us multiple lessons throughout each character’s experiences. When 22 is put on Earth inside of Joe’s body, they become grateful for the little things in life, as small as just the appreciation of living and the ability to breathe fresh air.

Rowan Feltges is a sophomore, fisheries major and Kee’s boyfriend who also enjoyed the movie.

“The animation looked almost life-like and the story was extremely introspective,” Feltges said.



Photo courtesy of Disney

He not only enjoyed the visual aspects of the movie but also learned multiple lessons that he can use in his daily life.

“Your passion does not define you as a person,” Feltges said. “What defines

changes, so do our passions. It is how you adapt and overcome these changes to find true happiness and self gratitude,” he said.

Paola Morgado is a senior majoring in chemistry. She enjoyed how “Soul”

purpose,” Morgado said.

“Soul” was released on Christmas Day, 10 months into a global pandemic. Though intended to be seen in theaters, Disney+ provides us with a thought provoking, heartfelt, and overall positive film we can watch without leaving our house.

The movie has gained a significant amount of attention on social media in a short amount of time. It first intrigued Kee with its diversity, music, and psychological aspects.

“Society tells us to grow up, get a job, and pay taxes, and never really allows us to connect to our souls in our individualistic way,” Kee said. “I feel a lesson that we can all learn from ‘Soul’ is that no matter how ‘lost’ or ‘unworthy of life’ one may feel, all it takes is the exposure of a new friendship or interest to pull you out of the darkness. Thus, don’t stop this crazy journey of life and keep going.”

“Your passion does not define you as a person. What defines you is the pursuit to make oneself feel happy with life.”

-Rowan Feltges, fisheries major

you is the pursuit to make oneself feel happy with life.”

He emphasized that it’s important to not let your passions turn into addictions.

“As people change and the world

showed her that the main purpose of life is to simply live it.

“My main takeaway from the film was, if you’re good to others, good things will come your way such as, second chances and ‘rediscovering’ your

Music of the moment: the posthumous problem

Rest in peace King Von

by Dakota Cox

A week after dropping his third album “Welcome to O’Block” and finally receiving national recognition for his talent as a storyteller, Chicago Drill rapper King Von was shot and killed outside an Atlanta night club in the early hours of Nov. 6. Von is only the

most recent of many tragedies to damage the hip-hop community in the past few years.

The recent trend of young artists in the genre passing away began in Nov. 2017 when punk-rock trap rapper Lil Peep suffered a fatal overdose. The

tragedies started to stack when controversial rising superstar XXXTentacion was shot several times for a designer bag in his home state of Florida in June 2018, and with the overdose of hip-hop’s fun younger brother Mac Miller less than three months later.

The industry mourned again when Nipsey Hussle was murdered in March 2019. His death came less than a month after losing his first Grammy nomination for best rap album, having spent the better part of a decade and a half releasing music independently without mainstream recognition. Given Hussle’s revered legacy in the game, his death shook the industry harder than any of the others and inspired several tributes including “Letter 2 Nipsey” by Meek Mill and Roddy Ricch, “Nipsey Blue” by Snoop Dogg and “The Marathon Continues” by Dave East.

The year 2020 has been extraordinarily unique in hip-hop. Given the circumstances of the pandemic that prohibit touring, the artists that have had the most success this year are unfortunately no longer with us. Following their extremely brief moments in the spotlight, the sudden passing of Juice WRLD and especially Pop Smoke propelled interest in their music to heights unseen by the others who recently passed. Since their albums were released in the first two weeks of July, followed up by the deluxe version of Smoke’s album on July 20, both Smoke’s project and WRLD’s new album remain in the top five of the Billboard 200 chart four months later.

WRLD’s previous albums “Goodbye and Good Riddance” and “Death Race For Love” also saw dramatic spikes in sales following his overdose, meanwhile, Smoke received heavy criticism for his mixtape “Meet the Woo 2” sounding too similar to the original project. Smoke unfortunately didn’t live long enough to smell the flowers WRLD already got a taste of from his first two albums.

The victory laps WRLD and Smoke experienced with their posthumous albums haven’t been the case across the board. Going all the way back to The Notorious B.I.G. and 2Pac, posthumous projects have had an often negative association. While some artists like Peep and Miller leave behind enough material to piece together complete ideas, in other cases, record labels are only cashing in on any remaining threads of ideas they have to work with. XXXTentacion’s legacy in particular was considerably tarnished by the release of his two posthumous albums “SKINS” and “Bad Vibes Forever,” each obviously incomplete and paling in comparison with the albums he released while he was alive.

The worst part about posthumous music is we never know when it’s going to be the last time we hear from an artist. The extended silence from Hussle’s camp regarding new music should come as a bittersweet comfort to fans who can rest easy with confidence that any music released will be both complete and compete with anything Hussle released in the past.



Graphic by Dakota Cox

EDITORIAL

It's not just the Capitol Police

Capitol attack displays police complicity

As the world watched from their televisions on January 6, we witnessed scenes unfold before our eyes that were, to many, unimaginable: supporters of President Trump swarmed the steps of the U.S. Capitol Building, then proceeded to break in and advance as far as the Senate Chamber.

In the build up to the attack, Trump and his allies delivered speeches near the White House reaffirming his baseless claim that the election was fraudulent and that they must fight to overturn the election results.

As attackers made their way past the barricades and through the doors, one thing was clear: at the time of the attack, there were few attempts made by police to stop them. This comes as a sharp contrast to the Black Lives Matter protests that took place just this past summer, in which peaceful protestors were frequently met with violent police intervention.

According to The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project that took place May 1 to November 28, 2020, Black Lives Matter protesters were significantly more peaceful than right wing groups, but law enforcement resorted to using force in 51% of Black Lives Matters demonstrations they engaged with, while only restoring to using force in 34% of right wing demonstrations they interacted with during the same period.

These statistics confirm what many activists already knew. The Lumberjack has documented the Eureka Police Department using more force against protesters in Eureka this past summer than the capitol police used when an attack was made against the capitol. The police use more force against journalists documenting protests than when right wing groups raided the capitol



A Eureka Police officer looks on as protestors chant in front of the Eureka Courthouse on May 30, 2020 following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

building.

On January 6, it took the National Guard four hours to deploy from the D.C. Armory from the time that the mob began making their way from where Trump was speaking. In contrast, in June at the height of the Black Lives Matters protests, there were about 1,700 National Guard members from Washington D.C. alone who were mobilized to respond to the demonstrators.

The feeble response from authorities in Washington D.C. to the attack on the

Nation's Capital is another undeniable example of racial biases that remain alive and thriving in this country. Our police protect white domestic terrorists and continue to endanger the lives of Black protesters advocating to have their voices heard and their equality recognized.

It is a message to all of the activists who choose to speak out against police brutality and all the journalists who cover the efforts of activists. Even here in Humboldt County activists face police brutality for daring to ask for an

end to police brutality. Meanwhile, police open the gates across the country for violent extremists. The department might be different, but the institution is the same.

It will take a dramatic institutional change in how the country approaches law and law enforcement to begin to dismantle the structure of white supremacy. The attack on the capitol showed the world that the institutions of law in D.C. need to change, but we have the same institutions here at home. Humboldt needs to change, too.

OPINION

Embrace the idea of spending another year in isolation

The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over

by Dakota Cox

The never ending year has finally come to pass, but the cause of our suffering remains.

When COVID-19 made its way to the United States in early 2020, the uncertainty surrounding the virus brought society and the American lifestyle to a sudden halt as businesses across the nation closed their doors and citizens locked themselves inside their own.

As we approach the anniversary of quarantine, cases continue to rise at an alarming rate and the end of the pandemic is nowhere in sight. A new year has begun, the period of denial has long since passed and the time has come to accept and adapt to the circumstances of the pandemic, if we as a society place any value in escaping them any time soon.

Consider this: cared for properly, the average flesh wound will heal in a matter of days. Left untreated, however, and exposed to harmful contaminants, the same wound can become infected, spread to a larger area and in extreme cases lead to the death of the damaged limb or even the host. To neglect taking the proper measures to heal the wound would be an irresponsible act that would present unnecessary risks. To intentionally expose the wound to harmful contaminants would be an unthinkable reckless act that would surely cause further harm. Now, think of it like this: COVID-19 is essentially a series of massive, infected flesh wounds we've allowed to spread across the body of the human race for nearly a year now.

While the majority of people have enough sense to wear a mask in public and stay home when they get sick, in this instance, the bad apples overwhelmingly spoil the bunch. With the extremely

contagious nature of COVID-19, unnecessary gatherings – especially involving anti-mask COVID-deniers, who typically come in contact with a significantly increased number of people – pose a direct and immediate threat to the entire species, as proven by the massive spikes in cases and deaths surrounding each major holiday since the pandemic began.

The effectiveness of complete lockdowns and strict public health control measures in preventing the spread of COVID-19 have been proven time and again in Italy, the United Kingdom and especially New York, where devastating initial outbreaks were contained to manageable positions before the holiday season. The simple solution to escaping this nightmare has been clear since nearly the beginning, if only we would pay the virus the attention and respect it deserves: stay home and it will be over before we know it. Unfortunately, that's proved to be easier said than done.

The bottom line is if you're not willing to be a part of the solution, you're actively contributing to the problem. By walking around in the world without taking the necessary measures to protect yourself from the virus, you put millions of other lives at risk, you invite the virus to extend its stay, and you spit in the face of all the people doing everything they can to avoid getting sick.

With daily cases still coming in near the peak, unless we collectively agree to adhere to the restrictions already proven to work, we can look forward to another year of ignoring the increasingly attention starved elephant in the room, while we wait for the vaccines to come to our rescue.



Graphic by Dakota Cox

Astrology may be fake, but so are your hopes and dreams

So read about your sign’s optimal winter wear

I know you’ve already failed your new year’s resolutions, so here are some compromises based on your sign.



Aries



(March 21 - April 19)

A small part of you resolved that this year would be better. It’s not. Your fallback new year’s resolution is to cry. Run yourself a bath or sit down in a hot shower. Just relax and weep. Grind off some of those emotional calluses while you grind off your literal calluses.



Taurus



(April 20 - May 20)

Your new year’s resolution is to cut all that toxicity RIGHT OUT! That’s right, no handling any nuclear waste, deadly biohazards, or mysterious glowing rocks without proper safety equipment. Just put on your hazmat suit, then you can juggle uranium to your heart’s content.



Gemini



(May 21 - June 21)

Your new year’s resolution is to eat an entire pallet of sour candy, develop a serious addiction to Dorito dust, and play 10,000+ hours of a bottom-of-the-barrel battle-royal video game. This is a step up from what you’ll actually do, which is all the same stuff, but you won’t get good at the game.



Cancer



(June 21 - July 22)

Your new year’s resolution is to earn the moderately sought-after title ‘world’s least deadly biohazard.’ The competition will be remarkably lax. You’ll never know if you got the title because it’s hard to measure the number of people you could have killed had you left your house, but that’s the point.



Leo



(July 23 - August 22)

The stars are telling me that new year’s resolutions just aren’t for you. That’s fine. Years are only as significant as you make them and self-improvement is not bound to them. Wait... I’m getting another message from the stars. They say it’s improvement that isn’t for you. The years will still impact you.



Virgo



(August 23 - September 22)

Your new year’s resolution is to like at least one new musician. No, not a new album from an artist you already listen to or an old album from before you started listening to them. No, it can’t even be the same artist with a different persona. Your brain is begging you. Just one.



Libra



(September 23 - October 22)

Your new year’s resolution is to kill no people. Yeah, I know, it is just so difficult. The urge to just lick the ground of an ICU ward and spit in the food of every senior in Humboldt county must just be overwhelming. But look, you got this. The stars are on your side.



Scorpio



(October 23 - November 21)

Your new year’s resolution is to find a few more patterns in the contours of the wall by your bed. The human mind is wired to see patterns, and I do not think you’ve been laying there and staring at the wall enough to find them all. Time to get started. Hop to it.



Sagittarius



(November 22 - December 21)

Your new year’s resolution is to make a new year’s resolution next year. I know that means you have to exist for another year, but do not despair! I may not have anything to tell you that will make despair seem like an incorrect response, but don’t worry! Just don’t!



Capricorn



(December 22 - January 19)

Oh Capricorn. It’s that time again. I haven’t laid bare the grotesqueries of your sign for some time. Do not make a new year’s resolution. Anything you resolve to do will only result in the kind of wretched evil our world can live without.



Aquarius



(January 20 - February 18)

Your new year’s resolution is to support student media. I promise you I’m an actual astrologer and that’s totally what the stars said. I am definitely not a student journalist writing this on production night to get out of doing more useful things.



Pisces



(February 19 - March 20)

Your new year’s resolutions are to drink more water, eat a varied diet of nutrient dense foods that round out your personal nutritional requirements, exercise an amount that makes you feel good, start or continue a hobby, and ha ha ha ha ha ha sorry... that would be funny, wouldn’t it?

100 Days Of Pain

by Dobby Morse

The beginning of 2021 is but an extension of 2020 – a chaotic stretch of time that feels like everything and nothing is happening. Joe Biden is not only the successor of the only US president to be impeached twice, but he is also the president that will have to enforce a nationwide mask mandate, make a futile effort to reopen schools, and direct the rollout of over 100 million vaccines. That’s just the stuff that Biden said he would prioritize in his first 100 days speech. He failed to include other urgent issues such as demilitarizing/restructuring the police, cancelling student debt, restoring the endangered species act, eating/taxing the rich, and housing the homeless. Part of Biden’s 100 day plan includes raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour. This is not enough for some cities such as Oakland, LA and San Francisco where rents average from \$1,900 to \$3,500 per month. The Fight For 15 began in 2012. Adjusted for inflation, the minimum wage should be at least \$17.00 per hour, and that does not factor in the rise of cost of living.

The corona crisis has brought structural issues to the nation’s attention while simultaneously preventing us from making progress. Disadvantaged students are failing due to no or poor internet access at home. We will soon see vaccines funded by the government when medical care costs are at an all-time high. The pandemic showed us that we can make a drastic shift in a short period of time. If we can get most people to wear masks and stop physical contact, we can convert our transportation systems to green energy. We can establish a universal basic income for those in poverty. And we can staff police stations with mental health professionals and de-escalation teams. Joe Biden cannot just return things to a pre-Trump era. Even if Hillary Clinton had won back in 2016, the US would still have been built on a foundation of capitalism and white supremacy. We need to move towards a society that puts people and the planet first, not money. We need to get ready for a cultural revolution.