

HUMBOLDT’S HOSTILE HOUSING

HSU aims to build better tenant-landlord relationships

by Rachel Marty

SEE RENT • PAGE 6



Photos courtesy of Charlena Valencia and Joelle Montes

Entrepreneur alums persevere

*The global pandemic has allowed many small businesses to reach a larger audience through social media*

by Brianne Beronilla

Blessed Earth Herbals is a holistic herbal body care company that is owned and operated by a woman of color, Christa Rose.

After graduating from Humboldt State in 2015 with a Bachelor’s of science in botany, Rose started her business in May 2020. She primarily advertises through social media, which has led to reaching more customers and getting more traction. As a new business, she is still working on getting her business license and launching the main website soon.

“We strive to make our products available to all, as we believe herbal medicine is the people’s medicine,” Rose said.

Rose’s company specializes in using ethically sourced, organic ingredients. She and her business partner create products intended to promote healing naturally with the use of medicinal plants, and their products range from bath soak blends and bath bombs to fa-



Christa Rose's Blessed Earth Herbal's facial serums, creams, and oils

cial serums and mud masks.

Interest in herbal medicine and general sustainability due to the pandemic led many to seek out natural ways to care for their health.

“Conversations surrounding natural products became much more mainstream, which we think is very empowering,” Rose said. “Greater support emerged for POC businesses, and people seemed very happy to see the positive representation we strive to be.”

Being a small business, Rose believes it’s important to be genuine.

“A product does not have to be flashy or gimmicky if it is made well, serves its purpose and is made with love and intention,” Rose said.

Cate Be is a pottery maker and multidimensional artist who graduated from Humboldt State in 2013. She works with commercially manufactured stoneware and porcelain clay and owns a business called CBeCeramics.

She had reached a following of 10,000 followers the summer before she decided to go full time. Her business now has over 63,000 followers.

The first summer after graduation, Be was given a gift of a 10-week workshop in ceramics at the local art center.

“Meeting once a week, for 10 weeks, for two hours, it became my therapy, my meditation, my sacred space,” Be said.

The next year in 2017, she decided to take CBeCeramics full-time. Be sees her work as a reflection of herself.

“It mirrors the past and current inner workings of my being,” Be said. “This ranges from natural resource and environmental aspects such as botany, wildlife and mycology, to sexual health/awareness, medicinal herbs and medicine, identity, and self-care and love.”

CBeCeramics carved itself a niche online before the pandemic hit. She had already built a reliable customer base without the need for physical interaction.

“Sharing a community space surprisingly limits my creative potential in quantity and content; that’s an entirely different can of worms I have to manage,” Be said.

The biggest lesson Be has learned since starting their business is community is more important than competition.

“Everyone’s journey looks and is different; don’t compare your brand or self to anyone else’s,” Be said.

<div>Index</div> <div>News.....3-6</div> <div>L&amp;A.....7</div> <div>Science.....8</div> <div>Sports.....9</div> <div>Opinion.....10-11</div>	<div>Push Pause</div> <div>pg 3</div>	<div>Scientific Diving</div> <div>pg 8</div>	<div>Calderon Profile</div> <div>pg 9</div>	<div>Merger Editorial</div> <div>pg 11</div>
---	---------------------------------------	--	---	--



THE  
LUMBERJACK

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:**  
THOMAS LAL

**MANAGING EDITOR:**  
JEN KELLY

**NEWS EDITOR:**  
GABE KIM

**LIFE & ARTS EDITOR:**  
BECCA LAURENSEN

**SCIENCE EDITOR:**  
ELISE FERO

**SPORTS EDITOR:**  
JUSTIN CELOTTO

**OPINION EDITOR:**  
DAKOTA COX

**PHOTO EDITOR:**  
ELLIOTT PORTILLO

**COPY EDITOR:**  
SOPHIA ESCUDERO

**LAYOUT EDITORS:**  
JEN KELLY  
DAKOTA COX  
SAM PAPAVALILIOU  
ELLIOTT PORTILLO

**WEB EDITOR:**  
SAM PAPAVALILIOU

**VIDEO EDITOR:**  
SKYLAR GAVEN

**DELIVERY DRIVER:**  
KRIS NAGEL

**SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER:**  
GRACE CASWELL

**FACULTY ADVISER:**  
DEIDRE PIKE

**CONTRIBUTORS:**  
POPPY CARTLEDGE  
BRIANNE BERONILLA  
WHITNEY MCCOY  
KIERA PRICE  
RACHEL MARTY



@TheLumberjack



@hsulumberjack



@HSULumberjack

ADVERTISE WITH US:

Do you want to purchase  
an ad with the Lumberjack?

Contact us:  
Email: lumberjack.ads2@gmail.com  
Or visit our website for more info.



COAST CENTRAL CREDIT UNION

Check Out Our  
NEW Debit Card Styles  
Pick the Design that Fits YOU!

FREE with our checking accounts.  
coastccu.org/join

NCUA  
Member Since 1966

Belonging Never Felt Better®  
Coast Central  
Credit Union

2 BURRITOS \$15  
3 TACOS \$6  
&  
TACO TUESDAY  
\$1 TACOS

Library

Online &  
We Ship to You!  
library.humboldt.edu

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:  
CONTACTTHEJACK@GMAIL.COM



» El Leñador «

Need Housing? We've got it!

KIC I kramer investment corporation  
707-444-2919    [www.kkramer.com](http://www.kkramer.com)



# HSU community petitions to Push Pause on projected cuts

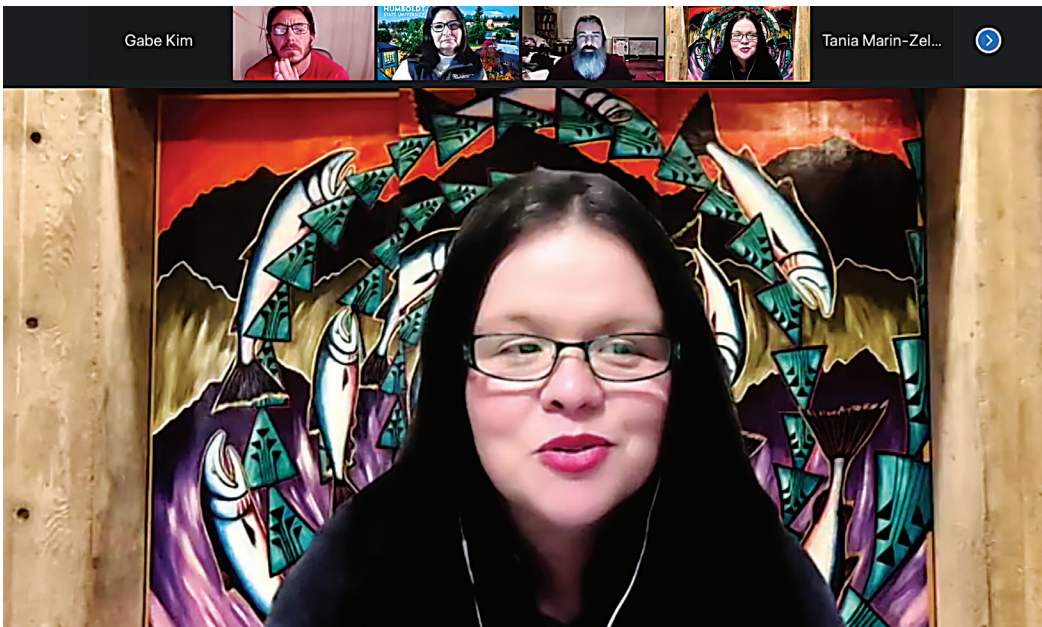
*Students and faculty across campus are coming together to rally against recent proposed cuts to HSU programs with the Push Pause initiative*

by Gabe Kim

The California Faculty Association has received more than 3,000 signatures pushing for Humboldt State to hold off on making budget cuts during the current pandemic. The petition has grabbed the attention of many among the greater HSU community. On Feb 18, a meeting organized by the HSU chapter of the CFA was held over Zoom to discuss the ramifications of the class and faculty job cuts including the impacts that they would have on both students and faculty.

Nicola Walters, a lecturer in the politics department and the organizing chair of the Humboldt CFA, spoke on her experiences over the years as both a student and now a faculty member at HSU. Frightened by what she is witnessing all around her, she wants to fight for what is right.

“I’ve also sat in countless department meetings and watched the people who taught me, who I look up to, who make this university a place worth attending left bewildered and broken by administrative agendas that herald shared governance, but instead demand cuts to programs, classes, and jobs,” Walters said. “I’ve listened to my



Screenshot by Gabe Kim

colleagues describe feeling disposable, exhausted, terrified, and traumatized while we grapple with overhauls to our campus.”

Walters remarked on the contrast of HSU receiving lots of federal funding as of late against HSU slashing jobs and classes.

“Putting profit over people’s jobs doesn’t fit with our university or our community,” Walters said. “Our campus isn’t adverse to change, it’s adverse to practices that violate trust

and perpetuate cuts against our campus community. Implementing changes while faculty are unable to protect their interests is an administrative strategy and is not the way forward.

Another key speaker was Dr. Cutcha Risling Brady, an associate professor and department chair in the Native American Studies department. Brady talked about the impact that any additional cuts would have on students. More specifically, she introduced the idea that students are feeling out of

control because they are already dealing with family deaths and other hardships during the pandemic but to see faculty and staff that they rely on for support is next level unacceptable.

One of these students, senior communication major Anastasia Tejada, is concerned that one of the closest allies in her department, lecturer Leslie Rossman, could very well have her position cut in due time. Rossman helped Tejada get into a graduate school at the University of Nevada, Reno, and secure funding for it.

“That would not have happened without her support and guidance,” Tejada said. “I would not know where to start and in all honesty, I probably wouldn’t be headed into higher education if it was not for her.”

Tejada was not surprised that HSU president Tom Jackson was not in attendance for the Push Pause meeting and thinks it is reflective of his entourage as a collective.

“He has been very silent this entire time he has been missing,” Tejada said. “From almost every important conversation, the fact that he couldn’t even show up to listen just proves the point that the administration does not care about its lectures or faculty.”

# Charmaine Lawson and the Eureka NAACP announce the third annual David Josiah Lawson Memorial Scholarship

by Poppy Cartledge

As we approach the third anniversary of the death of David Josiah Lawson, his mother encouraged Humboldt County’s Black, Brown and Indigenous college-bound seniors to apply for his honorary memorial scholarship.

“Students and parents, I know that this year was tremendously difficult with the pandemic,” Charmaine Lawson said through a video posted on the Justice for David Josiah Lawson Facebook page on Feb. 8. “But, I know for the students it was even more difficult.”

Charmaine Lawson said how grateful she felt for the Eureka NAACP continually working to provide opportunities for students through the memory of her son, David Josiah Lawson.

After the morning of April 15, 2017 when Josiah Lawson was fatally stabbed during an altercation at an off-campus house party, his mother has worked tirelessly to hold those involved accountable. Charmaine Lawson continues to travel from her hometown of Perris, CA to Humboldt County where she speaks with crowds of hundreds of people, demanding justice for her son.

The Eureka NAACP first announced the scholarship at a Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebration in January 2018. The scholarship is available for Black, Brown and Indigenous high school seniors in Humboldt County.

Three scholarships are awarded each year. Two are awarded to students planning to attend a four-year university and the other one is awarded to a student planning to attend a two-year community college. Each scholarship is a one-time award of \$500.

“Both of my children, DJ and Anthony, received several scholarships throughout their high school years,” Charmaine Lawson said in a press release by Eureka NAACP that announced the first set of scholarship recipient winners back in 2019. “They felt very honored and blessed to receive financial assistance from different organizations.”

It is through the David Josiah



Photo by Thomas Lal

Charmaine Lawson stands on stage as her son’s name is read at the Humboldt State University 2019 commencement on May 18, 2019., as Josiah is awarded a degree posthumously two years after his death off campus.

Lawson scholarship, vigils, food and coat drives, along with many other charitable acts, that Charmaine Lawson finds ways to honor her son.

Last June, hundreds of people congregated on the Humboldt County Courthouse steps for the 38-month vigil for Josiah Lawson. The wound of the racial injustice that Josiah has suffered felt fresh to those in attendance.

Mireille Román is a student at HSU, majoring in English writing practices and critical race, gender, and sexuality studies with an emphasis in ethnic studies. She spoke at the vigil about her frustrations regarding HSU’s response to the death of Josiah Lawson, questioning what the university has even done to honor their former

student through the injustice that he has and continues to receive.

“There’s not a building or area dedicated to Josiah that says, ‘We see you,’” Román said as she stood in solidarity with the Lawson family.

Anthony Lawson, brother of Josiah Lawson, has consistently been alongside his mother in their fight to bring justice to their family. He has valued the obstacles that him and his family have had to endure, pushing himself to persevere and succeed.

The CSU Board of Trustees honored him as the 2020 winner of the Chancellor Emeritus Charles B. and Catherine Reed Scholarship for his University, CSUN. It was there where Anthony Lawson honored his brother

and reflected on all the ways that he and his family have accomplished over the past couple of years.

Although Charmaine Lawson is inevitably compounded by grief through the failures of Humboldt’s judicial system, she feels like keeping his name alive by helping others is what best reflects the kind of character that was Josiah Lawson.

“It’s scholarships like the one that my mom started at Humboldt that benefit other students who are struggling financially and we just want to show them that we aren’t just there for our family, we are there for the entire Humboldt community,” Anthony Lawson said to the CSU board of trustees.



# Student housing in Humboldt

## *Humboldt County poses many difficulties for student renters*

by Ian Vargas

Students attempting to rent in Humboldt county face a huge number of hurdles. From exorbitant prices to restrictions on pets and activities that you are allowed to do on the premises, many students find themselves struggling to find adequate housing while in school and after they graduate. This can leave them faced with the choice of spending huge amounts on unstable or undesirable housing, or dropping out and returning home, and with the risk of COVID-19 the search hasn't gotten any easier.

The largest hurdle is money. Many students are living on their own for the first time and might not know what to do, what their rights are, or how to effectively find a place. They may not even qualify for a place, as they might not have any real credit to speak of. When they do, students can be left spending all their money that could otherwise be spent on supplies for school just to continue to be able to attend.

According to HSU student Karlee Jackson, this can get even harder when accounting for pets or service animals, particularly if a person needs more space than a room in a stranger's house. "it's frustrating all around, but usually it comes down to the price of a place and how if you want to get a room in someone's house it's really expensive," Jackson said. "For a little more you can get a place for yourself, but if you have an animal it's really hard. Or you need really good credit, and for students, you might have none."

Another can be the difficulty of actually getting to an apartment as a student. Typically renters are expected to actually go to the property before they



Photo by Ian Vargas

rent it, which can be a problem for students coming from very far away. The cost in both time and money to come all the way to Humboldt County without any guarantee that they will actually be able to get the place that they hope to rent can be extremely restrictive, And there could possibly be charges even before the prospective renter gets there. HSU however does provide services to assist students in finding a place nearby.

Chant'e Marie Catt, HSU's off campus housing liaison, helps students get into contact with landlords and work out an equitable deal with them, along

with giving students walk through tours of properties over Zoom and providing information about what to do in order to get a property that they may otherwise not be aware of.

"As far as helping students, the biggest thing is sharing knowledge and being there and making sure the info is out there," Catt said. "That helps students understand so much better what they need when they have one on one meetings for information."

Many students who do rent find themselves living in rented rooms, possibly with other families and students. While this is currently undesirable for

a lot of people due to the pandemic and the difficulties of keeping track of what your fellow renters are doing, it happens and can be preferable to some. Sonya Nichols and her husband Mike until recently rented out rooms in their large Victorian-style home to at least 6 students, mostly international.

"Having them from an international family and learning about their cultures, we totally enjoyed it," Nichols said. "My husband's mother had the home we had for 27 years, and after she passed away we bought the home and did the same thing as far as housing students."

# Dr. Shaun Harper kicks off HSU's Presidential Speaker Series

## *The focal topic of this year's speaker series is racial equity*

by Poppy Cartledge

Dr. Shaun Harper spoke in the inaugural presentation of the series about how it is important for universities to have a strategic plan when it comes to tackling racial equity throughout their institution and academic curriculum.

The virtual presentation was held on Feb. 11 and also included a short presentation from Professor Pam Bowers and advanced graduate students in the social work department. Each event in the series will feature scholarly and creative work happening at HSU that corresponds to the topic.

Bowers and the group of graduate students are working on the Department of Social Work implicit curriculum needs assessment.

The masters project's goal is to gain a better understanding of student and faculty experiences pertaining to microaggressions, racial aggressions, homophobia, and transphobia that occurs at HSU, specifically within the Department of Social Work.

"This is about improving the educational climate," Bowers said. "It is about continually examining our own prejudices and our own biases and finding ways to improve upon those and build with trust and humility."

The presentation from the group was a good lead into Harper's as it touched on many similar points. Each recognized that confronting the truth of the current and past educational climate is the only way for a University to truly enact change across campus.

"I need not tell you that the racial chaos that we've seen in our country over these past four plus years have had a spillover on to college and uni-

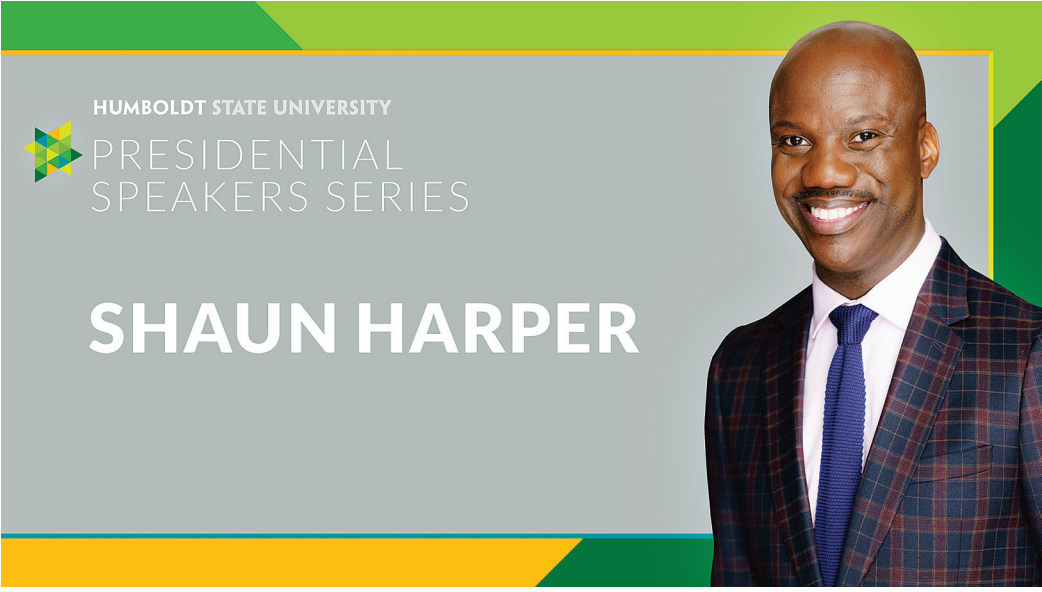


Photo courtesy of Humboldt State

versity campuses," Harper said.

Harper and colleagues at the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center recently established the National Assessment of Collegiate Campus Climates to better assist the widespread demand for racial climate assessments within the past couple of years. It is a quantitative survey that will be administered annually in hundreds of participating colleges and universities across the nation.

Over the past 17 years, Harper and colleagues have interviewed, face to face, with more than 10,000 students and 2,000 employees at colleges and universities. They assessed different aspects of equitable fairness that they sensed while on campus.

"After you graduate from Humboldt State, are you feeling prepared to go live, work and lead in a place that's much more racially diverse?" Harper said to the audience regarding typical questions they ask students being as-

sessed, specifically white students.

Harper said that many white students acknowledged their desire to want to, but the assessment showed that they don't know much more as a college senior about race and racial equity and how to solve racial problems than they did when they were a high school senior.

"White students, would you know, therefore, matriculate through the institution, graduate and go into the world without understanding other people's racialized experiences," Harper said.

On the other hand, Harper said that the people who work at the institution don't know how to do equity, they don't know how to solve racial problems and they don't know how to decolonize the curriculum. Therefore, it is extremely hard for students, specifically white students, to become equitable leaders and decision makers in various industries, despite the diversity of the United

States of America.

"It's not enough to just be a good white person or a good anti-racist white person," Harper said.

There are practical recommendations that he suggests universities must do if they are indeed going to achieve and sustain racial equity. Denouncing white supremacy and racism in all their forms, specifying racial equity among equity groups across campus, investing in the reparation of historical negligence in equity and harm, and being much more intentional about integrating race and racial topics about people of color and cultural histories across the curriculum are all ways HSU can better support students of color.

Humboldt State University, along with thousands of other universities across the nation, have an opportunity to enact real change when it comes to racial equity. The first step is to confront the truths of racial inequity that lie within the environment on campus.

As the event came to a close, Dr. Lisa Bond-Maupin, the acting deputy chief of staff & special assistant to the president, assured those at the event that the university is listening to Harper and plans to utilize the information offered by each speaker in the series.

"For folks who may not be aware, HSU is preparing to engage in the National Collegiate Campus Climate survey, under the direction of our new Campus Diversity Officer Dr. Ndura," Bond-Maupin said.

President Tom Jackson, Jr. started the Presidential Speaker Series to engage HSU and the local community in international conversation. The next event is being held on March 10 and will include Dr. George Yancy from Emory University.



# HSU establishes a collaborative space for Latinx STEM disciplines with ¡Échale Ganas!

*HSU received a grant from the US Department of Agriculture’s Hispanic Serving Institution program for Latinx students in natural resource sciences*

by Poppy Cartledge

¡Échale Ganas! is a \$249,000 grant that was awarded to Humboldt State University to support hands-on learning and career advancement for Latinx students in STEM disciplines.

The grant was named for the Mexican expression, ¡Échale Ganas! as it translates to “throw some life into it,” roughly similar to English expressions, “just go for it” or “give it your all.” The program hopes that by identifying the grant through this expression, it will enable and empower Latinx students to pursue opportunities that will further their learning and careers in natural resources.

¡Échale Ganas! provides students with an array of opportunities through a couple of main components. This consists of supporting two graduate STEM Promoters, providing a number of valuable learning sessions, and offering research internships to Latinx undergraduates.

The promoters serve as a key component to the program as they use their academic and work-related experience to mentor Latinx undergraduates majoring in natural resource sciences.

The grant was awarded to Wildlife Professor Matt Johnson and Fisheries Biology Professor Rafael Cuevas-Uribe, in collaboration with Fernando Paz of El Centro Académico Cultural.

“El Centro works diligently to help students succeed in their respective major and academic disciplines,” Paz



An HSU ichthyology class in Trinidad.

Photo courtesy of the ¡Échale Ganas! website

said. “In particular with STEM majors, we provide a cultural context that helps students persevere through courses that can be foreign and alienating.”

Paz obtained his undergraduate through a double degree in history and ethnic studies from Humboldt State, as well as his Masters in social sciences a few years later.

During his time as a student, he felt as though his path and the challenges he faced toward graduation were unique and different from those of many of his peers. He was consistently aware of the different perspectives he was able to contribute within his classes.

Samantha Chavez and Laura Echávez are both graduate students studying wildlife at HSU and are the first two promoters for ¡Échale Ganas!

“I’m hoping that my work as a promoter will inspire students to break out of their shells and believe in themselves and their abilities to succeed in this field,” Chavez said.

Chavez said that she wishes that she would’ve tried to access established Latinx spaces during her undergraduate study because it was increasingly harder to make these types of connections once she entered the workforce. She explains that the unique situations

that seasonal field work brings intersects with one’s culture, so it is best to talk it through with a friend in a similar situation.

The ability to learn and have access to other Latinx students of all different levels of experience is the primary goal of ¡Échale Ganas! Connecting these students within STEM disciplines is especially important as it allows them to feel supported in a field where they are predominantly underrepresented.

The revelear sesiones are a critical role within the collaboration process between the STEM Promoters and undergraduate students.

Sarah Bacio, an academic and career advisor at HSU, attended both of the sessions last semester.

“It’s really valuable to have that student experience and know what folks have done in the steps that they’ve already taken,” Bacio said as she spoke to those in attendance of the first revelear sesión on Oct. 14.

The Academic and Career Advising Center, along with other offices on campus, provides ¡Échale Ganas! with a number of valuable resources that coincide with the helpful tips that are given by the STEM promoters from their personal experiences.

“The great thing about undergrad is that so many similar people gather in one place,” Chavez said. “So there’s no easier time for students to be able to find peers who are like-minded and share the same cultural background.”

## Trailblazing into the future of HSU

*Kinesiology and recreation administration students and professors seek to create paths that connect campus to the local community*

by Gabe Kim

For many HSU students, safety is the number one thing they are worried about when walking around the streets of Arcata.

Through a recent grant from HSU, a group of students and professors from two different disciplines united to initiate the Wayfinder Project.

This project, in collaboration with the City of Arcata, looks to establish routes between HSU and the surrounding community of Arcata using signage with the ultimate goal of enhancing student safety both on and off-campus.

Whitney Ogle is an assistant professor in the kinesiology department and is looking forward to seeing students take advantage of the new trails.

“I want students to engage with the community and feel safe doing so,” Ogle said. “I hear stories -- anecdotal stories -- from students who have never been to the marsh or haven’t been to the plaza or haven’t been into the community forest. And then other students who drive everywhere and it’s like this is a pretty small community that you can walk.”

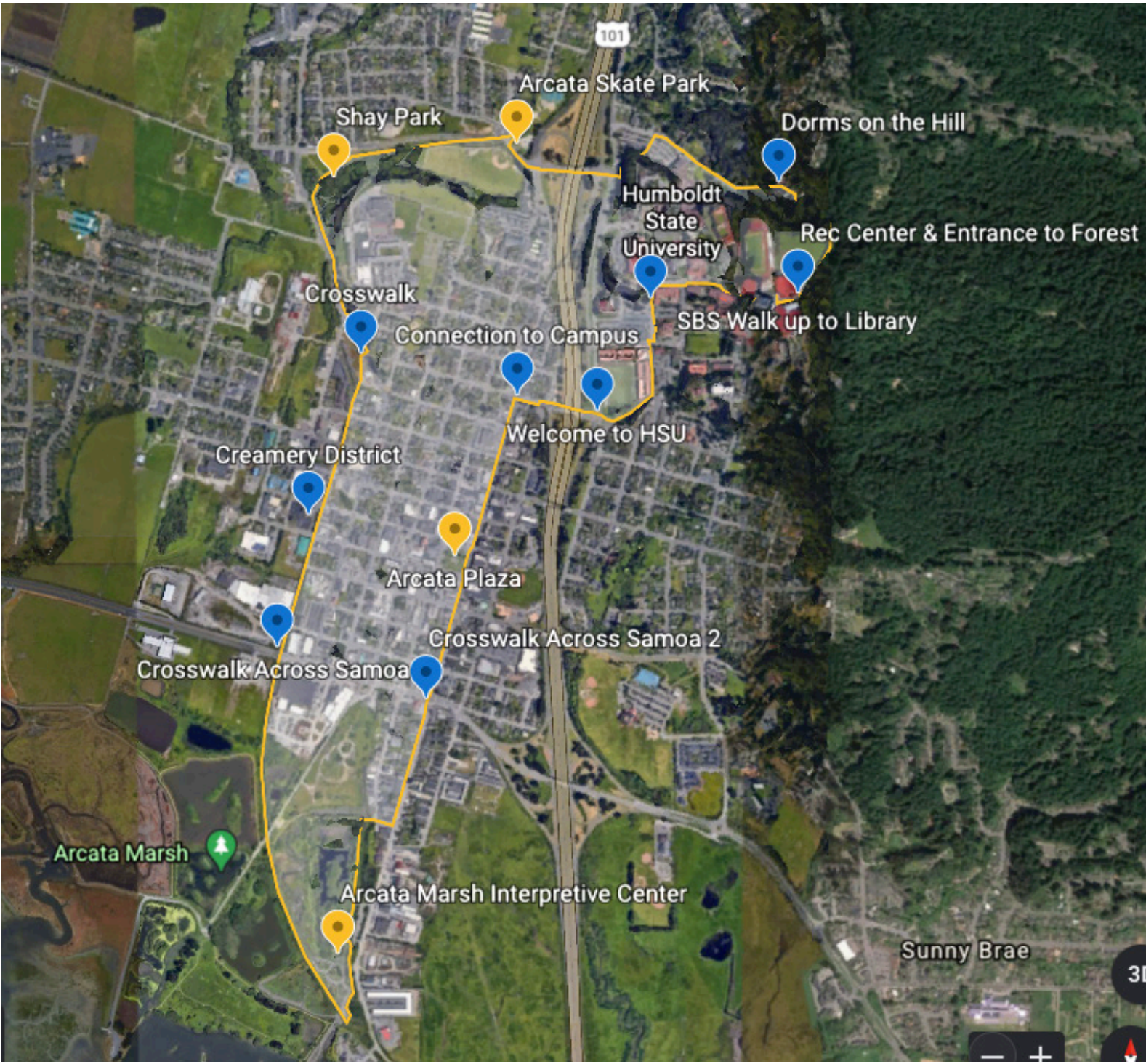
The proposed routes are slated to start near the Sunset Blvd. overpass, go through the Creamery District, circle around the Arcata Marsh area, barrel through the Plaza and then end back on the HSU campus.

Ogle hopes that maybe the Wayfinder Project paths could turn into competitive endeavors for students, who might want to brag about how quickly they were able to traverse them.

Coming at the project from another angle is HSU Recreation Administration Professor Ara Pachmayer. Having a background in the tourism industry, Pachmayer is glad to support her students in the novel work that they are doing.

“I haven’t worked on a project like this before, but I had done a lot of tourism-related projects,” Pachmayer said. “So it’s interesting because we’re learning a lot as we go along with it as well just because it’s so new to me.”

Ogle is confident that the communi-



Map courtesy of Whitney Ogle

ty of Arcata will benefit from this project. To her, the more students getting out and about around town, the better because they will be spending more money and giving back to a city that is special to her in many ways.

“That’s what makes our community so unique and really great,” Ogle said. “I think, to show students that they’re welcome here, that this town wouldn’t

really exist if it wasn’t for HSU.”

Mandy Hackney is a senior and a recreation administration student who is working on the Wayfinder Project. She is excited to be encouraging physical activity for herself and others in a time where we are all mostly stuck indoors.

“Being outside and actually installing the signs on the trails -- that’s what

I’m really looking forward to,” Hackney said. “Like doing something in person outdoors.”

Ogle and her team also plan to create orientation material for incoming freshmen this upcoming fall. These orientation-related packets will include resources for physical and mental health alongside a map of all the trails from the Wayfinder Project.



# RENT

FROM PAGE 1

“I was cleaning and found that mold had covered the entire under part of my mattress and also my belongings,” Charlena Valencia said. “There was also visible infected mold on my clothing.”

Valencia, a Humboldt State student, grew worried after finding large amounts of mold in her home as well as beginning to break out in a concerning rash. Valencia said the rash started on their hands. They were originally treating it as eczema and assumed it was due to repeated hand washing and sanitizing. Soon the rash spread to their entire body and they seeked further medical advice.

With medical confirmation from a physician that mold was the cause of their health issues, the student brought up the situation to their landlord. The student claims the landlord showed no concern and an explicit negligence of the matter.

Valencia and their partner, Joelle Montes, spoke at the Arcata City Council meeting on Feb. 3 pleading for more strict regulations for landlords.

“Myself and others would like to see regulations put in place to protect the community from these types of situations,” Montes said. “The students are an obvious important part of this community and economy, they should be recognized for their contributions. All tenants should be valued and protected.”

The two HSU students also brought up the electric and gas hazards they struggled with, including a gas leak.

“My partner and I had no functional heating and after spending night after night in the freezing cold and recent storms, I finally called PG&E myself,” Montes said. “We might not have ever known we had a leak if I did not do that.”

Due to the gas leak, the apartment was red tagged and they were immediately evicted. According to The City of Arcata’s Substandard Housing Renter Guide a landlord must provide other housing accommodations in this type of situation.

“If the inspector find that problems to be so hazardous as to create an immediate threat to life or limb, the City may proceed with eviction due to the hazardous conditions,” the Substandard Housing Guide says. “Eviction would be an extreme case, and if it were to happen, it is the obligation of the landlord to provide temporary lodging.”

“She only got us one day at a motel,” Montez said.

The students had to make their own accommodations after that one night. Luckily, Valencia and Montez had a friend offer them a room to temporary stay in. Although they now have safe temporary housing, the situation continues to put extreme stress and pressure on the two students.

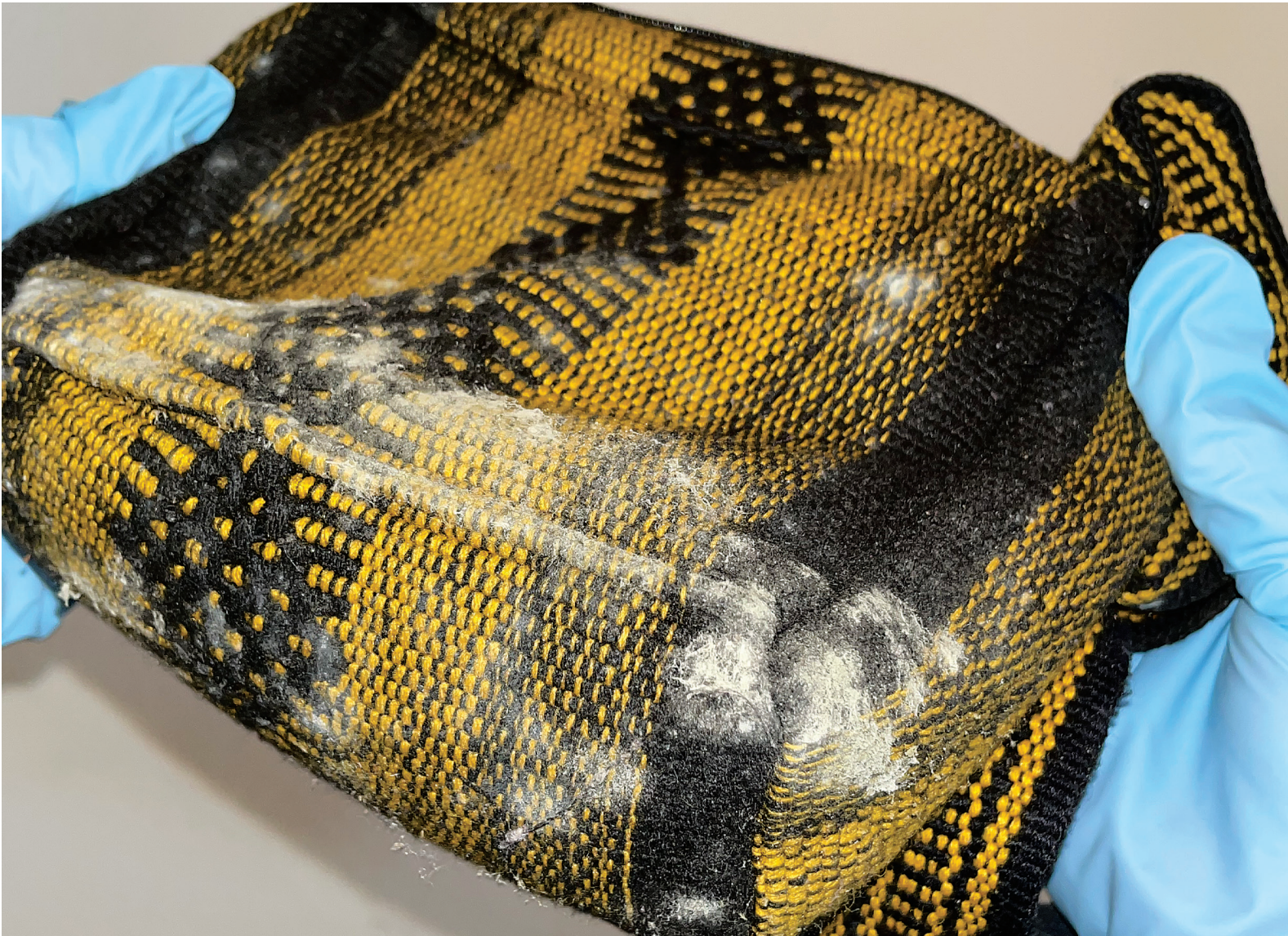
“This whole problem has really affected my academics. I had to literally drop all my classes to deal with all of this,” Valencia said. “We’re students, how are we supposed to work and do academics on top of all this?”

Council member, Emily Goldstein, responded to the two students through the Zoom city council meeting with a hopeful acknowledgement of their hardships.

“Very impressed with you young people willing to stand up for yourselves and I think it’s something as a council we should really consider looking into infractions for rental properties and safety standards for our renters in Arcata,” said Goldstein. “Their story I think we all know is not unique and that’s really unfortunate.”

It’s encouraging to see officials recognize students like Valencia and Montes, and Goldstein’s not the only one stepping up.

A new program led by the university’s Off-Campus Housing Coordinator, Chant’e Catt, aims to better the relationships between landlords and tenants. It hopes to help out students in situations like Valencia and Montes. It’s called the Good Neighbor program and it’s been in the works for over two



“Beyond the law and all that, we’re human. We should not be having people sleeping in mold infested bedrooms or exposed to gas leaks or broken heating in 30 degree weather”

-Charlena Valencia



Photos Courtesy Charlena Valencia and Joelle Montes

Mold tests revealed harmful amounts of fungus in the house.

years.

Catt says the program was born through a lot of ground-up community research. They held half a dozen town hall meetings on the topic.

“We invited landlords, students, community members, pretty much anybody that has to do with housing to come in and talk about their experiences with housing,” Catt said.

They found that a lot of tenants need resources to help them understand how to rent, what their rights and responsibilities are, and what the process is actually like.

“Sometimes our families can’t teach what it’s like to be a good tenant. Sometimes we don’t get the information we need in our family systems to adult well,” Catt said.

But being a good tenant is only

half of it. Being a good landlord is crucial in building strong community relationships. It’s a landlord’s duty to provide a habitable living environment.

While this may be true, we also know that some landlords don’t even deal with tenants housing related issues. Students like Valencia and Montes complain about landlords that simply ignore their complaints of mold, gas leaks, or lack of electricity.

Prioritizing housing related issues, following all the city regulations and creating habitable conditions for tenants are important practices to form good relationships within our community. The problems we see between landlords and tenants stem from systematic issues and a lack of understanding on both sides. Programs that aid in educating tenants and

landlords, such as the Good Neighbor program have the potential to be extremely beneficial to our community.

“Landlords have equity and they are taking a chance and a risk renting to people,” Catt said. “Sometimes people don’t know how to take care of their place, but there are also landlords out there that don’t follow proper rules.”

There needs to be stronger tenant-landlord relationships, as well as better regulated consequences for both parties. Regardless of their behavior, tenants often do not get their deposit back, meanwhile a neglectful landlord seems to have minimal consequences.

“Beyond the law and all that, we’re human. We should not be having people sleeping in mold infested bedrooms or exposed to gas leaks or broken heating in 30 degree weather,” Valencia said.



# Have digital books taken over from physical copies?

*HSU students weigh in on this week’s discussion*

by Whitney Mccoy

While we’re moving more and more into a digital era, it seems there are still a few things we may prefer to consume in an old-fashioned manner. In 2016, the LA Times and Tech Times found that print books still remain more popular than e-books. But by 2020, Times Higher Education stated that while students still prefer physical books to digital, sales of physical copies have declined.

Cash Rion, a journalism major, agrees that each has its own appeal and purpose. However, he much prefers physical books for a few reasons.

“I love the feel of having a physical book in my hand, especially small paperbacks,” Rion said. “There’s no need to go ‘charge’ your book with a physical copy, and they’re easy to read before bed without having all that blue light from a screen keeping you awake.”

Though Rion prefers physical copies for personal reading, he adds there are certainly times when he may opt for a digital copy over a physical one.

“Digital books do have their own appeal,” Rion said. “It’s great being able to have hundreds of books at



The debate rages on between the merits of both digital and physical books.

around massive tomes as you head from class to the library to study.”

Edward Carpenter, a communication major, also prefers physical books, noting there are things he feels

that you don’t really get that essence when you are reading a digital copy. In a digital format, I tend to gloss over words without much attention to detail. However, when I’m reading something in print, I tend to have a better comprehension of the message the author is trying to get across to me.”

Emily McCollum, a senior journalism major, feels digital books are trying too hard and prefers reading tactile books — ones she can annotate. McCollum still prefers to buy a physical copy even if a free digital version is available, noting that they are easier to annotate and reflect more of her learning style.

“I just personally have a good attachment to regular bound books,” McCollum said. “I think they smell good, they’re easy on my eyes, and personally, I have very bad vision so looking at a screen for long periods of time wears me out really fast and makes my eyes sore.”

**“There’s no need to ‘charge’ your book with a physical copy, and they’re easy to read before bed without having all that blue light from a screen keeping you awake.”**

-Cash Rion, journalism major

your fingertips on your phone or tablet, and being able to pick up where you left off so easily! And for textbooks, there’s no need to go lugging

are missing when it comes to digital books.

“I love the crisp sounds of a page turn,” Carpenter said. “I would say

# Networking for Introverts

*Nora Montaya helps other introverts manage social interaction and networking*

by Kiera Price

Being an introvert and navigating the network business seems to be a difficult task.

Nora Montaya is a career advisor at Humboldt State University who is a self-proclaimed introvert. Montaya opened up about how her experience influenced her overall career.

“I missed out on a lot of opportunities due to being an introvert, I cried because being a perfectionist, I didn’t want to miss out on anything,” Montaya said.

Montaya found peace when she developed a sense of comfort in her skin and found ways to enjoy public speaking.

During a workshop, Montaya instructed viewers to take a quiz to measure their introversion.

Maya Hergenradar, a student at Humboldt State University scored half and half, revealing that Hergenradar had both introverted and extroverted traits.

“I like to journal and figure out what I need to maintain my positive state of mind,” Hergenradar said.

Aleya Serrano, another student at Humboldt State University, scored a perfect score of 100% introvert, making Serrano a deeply introverted person.

“The closer I am to someone and the less people there are, the less energy it takes to spend time with them. Being with my two close friends will never tire me out as much as being out in a public place,” Serrano said.

Montaya covered common introversion characteristics during the skills workshop to give viewers a better understanding of what it means to be an introvert.

“Many introverted people prefer to be alone, are easily exhausted from socialization, have a smaller inner circle, and are often very self-aware,” Montaya said.

Montaya emphasized how introverted people enjoy deep conversations which allow them to develop connections with others easily. Therefore Montaya implies that this gives them a good advantage when it comes to networking.

Building a network, according to Montaya, could be even family or friends. Montaya also emphasizes how it’s important to build professional relationships as it leads to success.

“To build good professional relationships with people, it is important to have a meaningful connectonal and to be very conversational,” Montaya said.

Since this could easily overwhelm people with introverted traits, Montaya also said that it was important to take time for extra self-care when one feels drained. It is also important to train and prepare oneself when networking can get quite hectic.

“It’s not a race, it’s about making a connection, it’s okay to have reasonable expectations,” Montaya said.

Montaya goes into further detail to give out some advice on how introverts can become great listeners. It is important to not only be a great listener but to be mindful of eye contact, posture, and facial expressions.

“Eye contact is definitely an accommodation people need to be aware of for neurodivergent individuals,” said Humboldt State University student Kira Trinity.

As a career advisor of two years, Montaya has had quite the time to adjust to her environment however, it was a hard stepping stone for her.

“I felt a disadvantage for professional opportunities in comparison to my extroverted colleagues,” Montaya said.

Montaya however hopes to inspire other introverted people through her workshop and remind them that it is possible to make it in the networking business.

# Music of the moment

*The man on the moon returns to earth with another classic*

by Dakota Cox

Over a decade removed from the release of the sequel to his widely revered debut album, Kid Cudi is back with the third installment in the series, “Man on the Moon III: The Chosen.”

There is an unfortunate caveat to the unique appeal of Cudi’s music that has allowed the first two “Man on the Moon” projects to live on nostalgically in the hearts and minds of his fans for all these years. Cudi’s music is inspired by a seemingly tremendous amount of suffering. Like many of those that have come before him Cudi briefly mentions his struggles with relationships in his music, however, the majority of his subject matter is focused around themes of loneliness and depression his predecessors deemed too taboo to explore in their music.

With the release of his 2009 debut album, “Man on the Moon: The End of Day,” Cudi forever altered the landscape of the hip-hop genre, displaying an unprecedented shameless vulnerability on the project. This new approach to creating rap music has since developed into an unavoidable presence in hip-hop with the overwhelming majority of today’s most successful artists from Kanye West to Juice WRLD taking a page out of his book and applying it to their own stories.

Following the massively positive reception of his first album, the 2010 sequel “Man on the Moon II: The Legend of Mr. Rager” was met with an accordingly adjusted level of excitement, as is to be expected from a sequel. In the 10 years since it was released, however, the project remains almost exclusively in the top two slots in his discography, depending on who you’re asking and if you’re including the classic 2008 mixtape “A Kid Named Cudi,” on which his signature sound had already been achieved.

On his new “Man on the Moon” album, Cudi delivers the same heart on the sleeve approach that made the first two projects so appealing. From the opening sound effects of “Beautiful Trip,” long time listeners are immediately transported back to a time when Cudi was their therapist. Returning to the styles and sounds that cemented the first two albums in hip-hop history, Cudi recaptures the magic in a bottle that has eluded his grasp ever since he stepped away from the series.

Unlike the original and the sequel, this time around Cudi seems to be in a better place. Where in the past the obvious source fueling Cudi’s suffering and majority of his subject matter had been tied to, influenced by or directly referenced substance abuse, its presence on the new project is only subtle.

Receiving a new “Man on the Moon” album a decade later that somehow manages to exceed expectations is a miraculous gift. Knowing Cudi is on the path to living a healthier and happier life is a tremendous gift that will keep on giving for lifetimes and “Man on the Moon” albums to come.



Graphic by Dakota Cox



# HSU takes a dive underwater

by Elise Fero

When the coast is right at the fingertips of Humboldt State University Students, some are finding interest in the scientific diving program. This underwater scuba program gives students opportunities to learn about what is in the water around us and take a peaceful and informative dive.

“The HSU dive program has a phenomenal reputation around the world, so one of the benefits is simply having HSU diver or HSU scientific diver on your resume. It really means something,” said Scientific Diving Instructor Hanna Johnston.

As one of the very few schools that has scientific diving as a minor, students are given unique opportunities. Johnston calls it the “greatest gift of all” to work with the program again after she had gone through it as an HSU student.

“The scientific diving program at HSU is a very rare and unique program that I feel very honored for being in, being part of that because it’s like a little family you create,” said alumna Jessica Ramirez who minored in the program and was on the 2020 HSU brochure cover.

Some of the fan favorite finds are nudibranchs, octopuses, crabs, bioluminescent plankton and bull kelp.

“The amount of time we get to spend training our divers allows for really honing people skills and making them really highly qualified and comfortable and competent in our pretty dynamic and challenging ocean conditions which means that when they travel the world they can tend to adapt very quickly to whatever environment they are moving to,” said Diving Safety Officer Richard Alvarez.

The students conduct research through many different programs, including Reef Check California and Ma-

rine Protected Area Monitoring Program to see what’s changing, the health of reefs, and what is out there.

The divers go all over, from Humboldt County to Mendocino and even Catalina Island.

When COVID-19 hit, the divers had a new challenge. Everything changed according to Johnston, and the instructors spent a whole summer redesigning the program to work with the students.

“I always feel really really lucky and fortunate to have been able to do face to face in the fall and looking forward to the face to face in the spring because I know every instructor at HSU kind of craves that interpersonal relationship with their students and being able to do that makes all of the COVID precautions well worth it,” said Alvarez.

Students who have just joined the program know no other, but others see huge changes.

“It’s so great to see them smiling under their masks every day, or when we see them in person,” Johnston said.

Ramirez, Johnston, and Alvarez each find their own joy in the program and the community it brings.

“There’s just little moments of every dive where you find just amazing beauty and interest that it’s hard to catalogue it all but there’s moments of wonder every time,” Alvarez said.

Ramirez said the program is unlike other classes and schoolwork. It provides a breakaway from stress for students.

“You are no longer having to do math problems or anything like that,” Ramirez said. “You kinda just forget about that whole part of school and deadlines, like you’re just kinda in the present moment of doing what you’re told to do underwater and it’s very peaceful.”

Ramirez and Johnston see it as more than classwork, but as a learning community.

“Whether I’m seeing them doing



Angela Edmunds on a scientific dive in Mendocino County

Photo by Hanna Johnston

masked off buddy breathing [pre pandemic] or doing new skills for the first time and seeing that light in their eyes when they complete something, usually with no problem that they didn’t even think they’d attempt, it’s just the most magical feeling,” said Johnston.

Alvarez says it’s a learning experience for himself and the students.

“Working with students is just so refreshing and something that there are a lot of things in my brain that I’ve experienced for many many years and you just never know when a student is going to have that same experience but have a different way of affecting them or having a different way of describing it that just unlocks it in a new way for

me too,” Alvarez said.

Students have gone all over the world after being in the program, one even working for NASA.

“Being adjacent to that and being a part of that journey is really part of the reward for me,” Alvarez said.

Students have to pass a diving physical and take the prerequisite course, then the courses are available.

“Every dive is its own unique thing which is what brings me back is that I’m never going to have the same dive even in locations where I’ve done tons of diving,” Alvarez said.

You can find more information about the program @hsu\_diving on Instagram.

## Schatz Lab researches local wind energy opportunities

*Humboldt has a wealth of wind energy resources, but what will it take to access them?*

by Jen Kelly

On a clear night someday in the future, you might look out across the ocean from Trinidad or Clam Beach and see small points of light way out in the distance. And the source for those points of light could be supplying all your electricity.

The Schatz Energy Research Lab is an affiliate of HSU’s Environmental Resources Engineering program which seeks to study and educate the public about clean energy. They are in the process of investigating a possible offshore wind energy project.

“We have the best wind resource in the United States,” said Maia Cheli, the communications and outreach manager for the Schatz Energy Research Lab.

A possible wind energy project could have wide reaching ramifications for both Humboldt County and California as a whole.

“There are so many reasons to support the development of clean, renewable energy: so that we can breathe healthy air, drink clean water, restore ecosystems, and slow climate change,” Cheli said. “But our critical energy questions don’t stop at how we generate energy – they also include who has access to electricity, how reliable that electricity is, how much it costs, and how well it supports communities. Bringing these outlooks together is the only way for us to build responsible, equitable energy systems.”

The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management designated a region 20-30 miles off Humboldt Bay a possible site for an offshore wind farm. The farm would look like a number of floating wind turbines anchored with mooring lines. These turbines would convert wind energy to electrical energy.

“You have the tower, you have the nacelle, and you have the blades, and



A to scale drawing of a wind turbine under construction in a possible temporary location as it might look from Woodley Island. Compilation by Zachary Alva and Maia Cheli and courtesy of Schatz Energy Lab

so the wind blows on the blades and the blades are converting that in through the generator into electrical energy which then passes back down through the tower and connects in with some kind of a cabling system,” Cheli said.

A possible project couldn’t just be a set of wind turbines, it would have to include upgrades to Humboldt’s current infrastructure, from our marine ports to current transmission capabilities.

A wind farm that would produce enough energy to be cost effective would produce more energy than we could use, so it would have to be exported out of the area.

“What we know of the system is that whether we develop medium or large-scale generation, it will require significant upgrades to the local transmission system,” said Marco Rios, the trans-

mission system planning manager at PG&E. “And that really is because the current grid in this region was not designed to export generation outside of the area.”

There are more variables like the possible environmental impact of the construction, regular function, and maintenance of the wind turbines.

The data needed to predict environmental impacts of a wind farm doesn’t exist in full yet, and that’s what the Schatz Lab is working on.

“There’s not a lot of people that far offshore sitting there and counting seabirds all the time, so we’re working on that right now with the seabird 3D study,” Cheli said.

But those possible consequences have to be balanced with the consequences of a failure to reach emissions goals.

Garry George, the clean energy director at the National Audubon Society, spoke about the possible impact on birds at the offshore wind energy webinar.

“Our science team revealed in a study released last year that three degrees of warming will likely drive 389 species of North American birds to extinction because they’ll lose their wintering and breeding territories due to climate change,” George said. “So it is exciting to have a new resource, a new technology to add to our quiver of climate arrows here in California, like offshore wind, to get us to 100% clean and net zero emissions. This is critical for birds and it’s critical for people.”

A large-scale project would also have larger social implications. Some of the possible new infrastructure may need to be built on Wiyot land.

“In general, the Wiyot Tribe has long supported renewable energy development that is well sited, and are open minded and excited about the potential for offshore wind on the north coast,” Wiyot Natural Resource Specialist Adam Canter said at a public offshore wind energy webinar. “Especially the community-based approach and stakeholder involvement that this group of partners is taking early on during the planning process.”

For now, the feasibility of an offshore wind farm is still being studied. Community input is still being gathered, and nothing is set in stone.

“The Schatz Center is not committed to any trajectory. We are committed to providing good information so that good decisions can be made,” Cheli said. “I think the more that people can become informed about, you know, the impacts on the opportunities of any particular pursuit related to energy, the better decisions we can make for ourselves and for the planet as a whole.”



# Local athlete continues to shine in college

*Senior kinesiology major Martin Calderon didn't have to look far from home to find success*

by Justin Celotto

Martin Calderon, a senior majoring in kinesiology, came to HSU as a graduate of Fortuna High School. For Calderon, soccer was not the only reason he came to HSU.

Although most athletes at Humboldt State come from areas outside of Humboldt such as Los Angeles and San Francisco, there are still a few who chose to play for their home university. Whether it is because of finances or simply wanting to stay close to home, some local high school athletes made the decision to stay in Humboldt and play for the Lumberjacks.

“I decided to attend HSU because I saw a great opportunity in not only playing soccer but also being able to get an education,” Calderon said. “Being able to represent my local university in soccer and having two of my best friends from high school also attend HSU to play soccer was just a no brainer for me.”

Calderon adjusted well to college life and would not change his choice to come to HSU even if he could.

“My experience was the best it could be,” Calderon said. “I got to move out of my home in Fortuna and really experienced that grind that a college student athlete experiences.”

As for Humboldt State being full of cultures and demographics different to that of local high schools, Calderon has adjusted well. Calderon has been able to play some great competition while also staying local.

“I don’t know if it was a shock to see so many people from different places,” Calderon said. “But it was one of the coolest things to meet many people from many other places. I would never have thought I would be playing soccer with people from all over the country, which was a great experience. A local kid from Humboldt never really gets exposed to meeting people from all over the country and even the world. So it was definitely



Martin Calderon kicks a ball during a match against Dominican University at College Creek Field on Sep. 1, 2018.

Photo by Elliott Portillo

nice to meet many people from different places.”

Calderon not only excelled in his sport, but also his education. After graduating from HSU with his Bachelor’s degree, Calderon is not expected to stop extending his education.

“I plan on graduating with my Bachelor’s degree in kinesiology teaching and coaching in May,” Calderon said. “Then I will be pursuing a Master’s degree in adaptive physical education at Humboldt State.”

Benicio Benavides-Garb, a sophomore and member of the soccer team, came to Humboldt State because it was the best option for him financial-

ly.

“I came to Humboldt State because I was accepted on the soccer team,” Benavides-Garb said. “ I also came because it was the most affordable option for me.”

Some athletes choose to stay in Humboldt because of the uniqueness of the area.

“I love the area because of the redwoods and the trails that I can hike anytime,” Banavides-Garb said. “It’s an area that is so different from anywhere else and I don’t think I would want to leave it yet.”

Benavides-Garb was able to make friends with Calderon over the past

two years of playing as well. He sees Calderon not just as a friend, but as a mentor.

“He’s a great leader,” Benavides-Garb said. “And he helped me a lot to get used to being part of a team. He showed me with hard work, anything is possible.”

Gou Nitta, a sophomore and player on the HSU soccer team, believes his fellow player’s relaxed yet collected demeanor allowed for his team to win.

“He was a great leader on and off the field and had great vibes,” Nitta said. “He was always calm and composed. We all looked up to him.”

# Humboldt County brothers fight for UFC notoriety

*Professional fighters training out of Lost Boys Gym in Arcata reflect back on their upbringing in Weitchipee, CA*

by Whitney Mccoy

Accessing the professional world of sports is an astonishing feat, an outcome many strive to accomplish yet fail. But for the Cosce brothers, not seeing their dream of fighting become a reality was frankly not an option. Growing up in Weitchipee, California, a small town located within the Yurok reservation in Humboldt County, the Cosce brothers were exposed to a cruel world of drugs and dropouts. This ultimately led to their relentless determination in taking control of their outcome at an early age and guiding them into greater depths of personal goals and success. Louis Cosce opened up in an interview with MMA Junkie about the pressures they faced early on.

“[Drug use] was everywhere,” Louis said. “It was in our family, and still is. It’s still really bad. As a kid, you don’t really recognize it. You’re living in that fantasy life where you’re out catching bugs, playing with your friends.”

Though they faced adversity early on in life both agree that without their admiration, accountability and support for one another they may not be in the position they are in currently. While Orion Cosce grew up it wasn’t all bad, but it also wasn’t all good as they lived with different families throughout their childhood. However, he feels

that has helped shape them into the men they are today.

“I believe if it weren’t for Louis and I pushing each other to chase our goals, we wouldn’t be where we are today,” Orion said.

In a press conference at the Dana White’s Contender Series, Orion Cosce points out his name, Orion, is written in the stars, having that belt is within him. Still, he doesn’t underestimate the hard work it has taken to get to his position.

“You know, my brother and I, we grew up with nothing,” Orion said. “We were always there for each other and we talked about it every single day, even leading up to this fight we literally nonstop talked about this moment — it’s a big moment for us. We already knew we were going to be destined for greatness.”

In August 2020, both athletes made major headway in becoming fighters when they secured UFC contracts and just three months later, Louis Cosce, Lost Boys’ very own, made his UFC debut. Louis is hopeful as he looks to prepare for a promising future in the ring of fighting despite his November debut not going as expected, assuring friends, family and everyone who supports him that he learned a lot from that fight and further understands

what he needs to work on moving forward as an athlete. Orion missed his initial November debut due to an injury from overtraining but returned to full training after two months of self-PT, after doctors advised him to take five to six months off to recover.

“I’ve changed my program to better suit how much I typically train and have already seen a huge increase in my performance,” Orion said. “I’m

looking forward to getting a fight lined up now for my debut.”

Arcata’s Lost Boys Gym took to their social media to congratulate the young men.

“We could not be more proud of Louis and Orion,” they said. “It’s been amazing to watch you grow into the incredible athletes you have become these last seven years. Even bigger moments to come from these two!”



Photo courtesy of Orion Cosce



LETTER TO EDITOR

Letter from Stephen St. Onge, HSU’s director of housing & residence life

I am excited to share with the Lumberjack community changes to our campus dining experience. We have been working with Chartwells, our campus dining partners, to elevate the experience of eating on campus and that work has begun in earnest over the winter break. I am excited to share the immediate changes that will impact our faculty, staff and students and those changes that will take place beginning the Fall 2021 semester. Our primary focus is giving students more for less, and that begins next Fall.

Fall 2021

One of the most exciting changes we are implementing in the Fall is a brand new meal plan that will showcase improved food quality with significantly reduced costs. In addition, we are creating meal plans for commuter students as well as faculty and staff.

As we transition campus dining into the next academic year, we wanted to make sure that students had a variety of options including the familiar a la carte dining options combined with a more traditional “All Access” dining plan. In the chart below you will see the plans, and the savings compared to current plans.

The new dining plans accomplish a couple of significant goals that came from our students’ voices. These are to increase the quality of food, decrease the cost of food, and to deliver a more varied menu selection at each meal.

Working with Chartwells team of chefs we have already created increased vegetarian options, increased vegan options, as well as the development of made to order menu stations at the JGC dining hall. All food items will have nutritional information, and our own Executive Chef will be interacting with students on a regular basis through our Dining Advisory Committee and through engaging directly with students in our dining outlets.

Level	Name	Proposed Meal Plans	Semester Price	Annual Price	Flex \$ included in Plan (semester)	# guest meals (semester)	# meal exchange (semester)	Old Plans Annual Price	Old Plan Name	Difference
Traditional Halls	All Access 7 Day	All access 7 day + 175	\$2,800	\$5,600	\$175	5	78	\$6,924	Humboldt	-\$1,324
Traditional Halls	All Access 5 Day	All access 5 day + 300	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$300	5	62	\$5,938	Gold	-\$938
Upper	Lumberjack 180	180 Block + 400	\$2,100	\$4,200	\$400	3	45	\$5,034	Green	-\$834
Upper	Lumberjack 125	125 Block + 525	\$1,750	\$3,500	\$525	3	31	n/a	n/a	n/a
Upper	Lumberjack 75	75 Block + 325	\$1,050	\$2,100	\$325	3	19	\$2,176	Mini	-\$76

Here is what the proposed meal plan looks like

Chart courtesy of Stephen St. Onge

Our second goal was to decrease the cost of the meal plans for our students. We know that every penny counts and our campus has been working hard to ensure our students have access to food. With an “All Access” plan, your meals do not “run out” during the course of a semester. You can enter the dining hall as many times as you want each day from the first day of the semester to the end of the semester. You also can bring guests into the dining hall and have some Lumberjack Dollars to spend at other dining locations. For Upperclass or Commuter students, we have created options for you as well!

Our third goal was to make sure that students do not get bored of the same meals day in and day out. By creating made to order stations in the dining hall, as well as Chef led cooking displays, we ensure that the food is fresh, healthy, made to order and constantly changing based on the feedback of our students.

Immediate Changes

As students arrived back on campus you probably noticed a new variety of food offerings across campus, including increased vegan and vegetarian options. The meal plans that started this year remain the same as we honor the contractual plans for this current academic year. In the meantime, we have enhanced the dining options and have utilized the skill sets of professional chefs to improve the quality and nutritional value of food on campus. All of our menus come with nutritional information available on site and online.

In response to student request, we have added fresh produce at the College Creek Marketplace. The Marketplace also has an increased selection of cookware. Several students requested pots, pans and other cooking gear to help them prepare their own healthy meals in their apartments, so check out the new selection!

Our campus focus on sustainability is still in place, and our dining team continues to value and work with local farmers to bring in the freshest local food to our dining outlets. You will find these ingredients in some new cooking stations in the JGC focusing on “made to order” dishes. In addition, our new online menu and menu ordering system allows you to check out the food options around campus and maybe even pre-order your choice from your room or office.

Finally, we are currently working on developing and implementing online ordering systems where students can pre-order meals, as well as check out the menu options from all of our dining locations. And finally, as we continue to develop our dining program, our student led Dining Advisory Board (email [ssonge@humboldt.edu](mailto:ssonge@humboldt.edu) for details) will ensure that our students voices continue to drive the evolution of Lumberjack dining at HSU.

OPINION

“Music” is tone-deaf in all senses of the word

An autistic critic’s thoughts on Sia’s controversial new movie

by Sophia Escudero

There are some movies that are so bad they’re good. There are some movies that are so in-your-face offensive it’s funny. Regrettably, Sia’s directorial debut “Music” was neither.

For those who haven’t been keeping up on the drama relating to this film, Sia became a subject of controversy after she cast a non-autistic actress as an autistic character, worked with known anti-autistic group Autism Speaks, then doubled down on insulting those who suggested she listen to the concerns of actual autistic people. She went so far as to compare autistic people to inanimate objects before telling would-be critics to watch her film before passing judgment. As an autistic critic, I did so, and judge I shall.

“Music” is ostensibly a film about the titular Music, a nonverbal autistic girl played by the non-autistic Maddie Ziegler in a painful caricature of disability. However, for all the time dedicated to pretentious musical sequences, she could easily be replaced with an animal or an expensive lamp for all the film cares. Music, true to Sia’s belief, is little more than a plot device or piece of set dressing. Instead, “Music” focuses on her older sister, the callously selfish drug dealer Zu (Kate Hudson, inexplicably nominated for a Golden Globe), and her struggles dealing with Music’s needs.

I cannot stress enough what a disaster this film was from start to finish. “Music” manages to be profoundly insensitive to the point of being nauseating to watch. Music herself is essentially a non-character whose needs and level of ability vary depending on what

the film demands. She exists exclusively to inspire neurotypical people with her “inner strength” and act as a conduit for Sia’s self-indulgent and hideously oversaturated song and dance sequences. I shouldn’t have to tell you how disgusting and patronizing this is. Her acting is little more than choreography, her stims and tics set to the beat as she moves in a grotesque pantomime of what I and people like me experience every day. Yet, she seems to live a charmed life, unaffected by grief following the death of her grandmother and offered free fruit and smiles by strangers on the street. Frankly, the most realistic depiction of the autistic experience in this film is Zu’s total disregard for her autistic relative and ignorance of the condition.

The privilege continues to show in the depiction of Leslie Odom Jr’s Ebo, a black man and magical autism whisperer who evidently lives to serve this white family and dispense down-to-earth wisdom. In a strangely cheerful tone, he explains that his own brother was autistic and died. What was his name? How did he die? It does not matter, as Ebo goes on to directly endorse a dangerous method of physical restraint that has led to the deaths of dozens of autistic people. He’s the most blatant example I’ve seen in years of the Magical Negro trope, the enlightened yet folksy black man who helps the white hero on their journey while lacking any personhood of his own.

Even if one can ignore the blatant racism and ableism, “Music” fails to deliver a coherent narrative, developed characters, or even pleasing aesthetics.



I found myself checking the time constantly, as this proved to be the longest hour and a half of my life. At one point in the film, a minor character is murdered on screen and it doesn’t affect the plot whatsoever. It’s never mentioned and we never see anyone react. At another point Sia makes a guest appearance as herself. I’ll let you take a wild stab in the dark at how much influence this has on the events of the film. The closest thing to a character arc we see in the entire run time is (spoiler alert if one cares about this paper-thin narrative) Zu changing her mind about giv-

ing Music away to a facility that probably is better equipped to care for her than an alcoholic drug dealer. Music is bad art marred by bad representation and bad intent behind the scenes. If this review leaves you morbidly curious, all I can tell you is that it’s not even worth a hate watch. Frankly, I’m less offended as an autistic person than I am as a film aficionado. Watching this movie was one of the most draining experiences of my life. Sia’s directorial debut should stay her directorial finale, and I feel worse off for having witnessed it.



EDITORIAL

# Impending mergers threaten Humboldt’s identity

*Department mergers could permanently damage HSU’s College of Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences*

by Editorial Staff

The merging of departments within the College of Arts Humanities & Social Sciences will lead to the detriment of distinct programs and the appeal of Humboldt State as a unique university.

As smaller departments are pressured to combine in order to meet the demands of budget cuts that add up relentlessly in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, we run the risk of losing the focused, intimate education that drew students to campus in the first place.

Due to low enrollment the journalism and communication departments have submitted a proposal to Dean Roseamel S. Benavides-Garb, suggesting they be combined, for fear of losing the departments altogether – a fear that is shared among many of the smaller departments on campus.

One practical benefit of combining the journalism department with the communication department is the opportunity it would allow for courses to be offered more often with more students in the department. On the flip side, combining departments presents the potential to strip each major of its individual identity. While the increased size of the combined department could potentially attract more attention to each discipline, the lack of distinction between the two could also prove confusing and drive prospective students away.

Higher education is a step away from the general, scattershot education of grade school. We learn what we'll focus on, and begin developing specific skills. We also begin to add to the greater pool of knowledge for our chosen field of study. The less our education hones in on a specific field, the more it feels like a shallow high school class – lacking the depth that student’s pay for when they attend a university.

While the emphasis of the study of communication is on the underlying meaning of how we communicate, the primary concern for most journalism students is the application of skills to make media of our own. Journalists are already required to take communication classes which prepare them for their chosen focus. Communication



Bret Harte House, home away from home to HSU’s journalists.

Photo by Elliott Portillo

classes are valuable to journalists. Every member of our editorial board has taken a communication class which has shaped our perspective, just as our other general education classes impart valuable lessons.

Combining departments also comes with grave concerns that the departments will lose lecturers and potentially some of the classes they teach as former chairs are forced to move into teaching positions. This would cost journalism students opportunities to interact with more media professionals and those lecturers would be placed in danger of losing pay and the health insurance they have come to rely upon for themselves and their families.

The proposed plan not only throws the student experience in the department into question but ultimately, the merger’s promise to cut \$180,000 in

expenses annually feels almost like chump change in comparison to the monster deficit the university currently faces. At the end of the day, administrators, students and faculty have to ask themselves whether or not all this restructuring will benefit the university in the long term. Cuts save some money in the short run, but they represent a greater loss to the university and the Humboldt community.

Some good will come of department mergers. We all have a lot to learn from each other. As journalism students, we will welcome our peers from the communication department and the value their program will add to ours in regards to the developing fields of ethics and theory of communication. Understanding how we interact with the world through language and the culture of communication is critical to

operating as an effective journalist.

We hope that we can offer greater knowledge of media literacy. Today especially, media literacy is an essential skill any student with a university education should have, and it is crucial that students across all disciplines are armed with the tools to critically assess, analyze and critique media so that they can be more mindful of the media they consume.

We also hope to impart our own personal experience writing about our university. All of us hear stories of poorly run programs, incompetence at the top of the HSU ladder, haphazard cuts, and a lack of forward thinking. We speak to staff who are afraid of the repercussions for simply telling us their stories. If we want to make HSU a better place, where else might \$180,000 per year be saved?

OPINION

# Four years of handling headlines

*Unless you spent the past five years in a coma, blissfully unaware of the world around you, you know the news has been deeply weird and distressing*

by Sophia Escudero

I genuinely believe that the past four years have left a profound impact on my mental health, and that of many people across the nation. I have friends who have stopped reading the news entirely so they can go about their day without feeling hopeless. I’ve read articles about the Biden administration by journalists that seem positively shocked at how boring the policy details are. These past four years have left this country traumatized, a trauma we only now can begin to reckon with.

I was still in high school when Trump was elected. I vividly recall my blind confidence the weeks before the 2016 election, when my young, dumb, optimistic self bet my best friend ten dollars Trump would never be president. Fast forward to that infamous night. I was crying as I stared at the television screen, watching the electoral votes tick upwards as I envisioned the worst. That night I contemplated walking into traffic to spare my-

self the agony that awaited a mixed-race queer in the new America.

Time passed. I handed over the money. I went to the Women’s March. I learned that democracy was a sham. For the next four years, I checked the news, I opened social media, I watched television and every single day it was something new.

The president said white supremacists were good people. The president threatened nuclear war with North Korea. The president suggested that people inject bleach. It was never enough to simply enforce policy banning transgender people from the military or pulling out of the Paris Agreement. He always had to say things, truly hateful and outrageous things, that became the news because of his position.

I genuinely feel that some level of emotional abuse occurred. Gaslighting, threats, and wild accusations were common enough, and the hypervigilance that

victims of abuse develop was certainly there. I was constantly looking to see what new damage to democracy has happened now.

Even when it wasn’t exactly bad, it would be strange, and the absence of news and its terrifying unknown would leave me more worried than ever. Bad news was addictive. I had to know what horrible things were happening so I could stay informed, and once I was informed it was my responsibility to stress about them.

For four years we lived under the constant anxiety that maybe today we would glance at the news and hear martial law declared. Maybe today we’d see World War III. Maybe today we’d lose the Civil Rights Act. It’s only now, when I look up the name of the current president of the United States and don’t see tweets accusing political rivals of treason, I realize that the news cycle wasn’t normal. We aren’t supposed to have panic attacks

whenever we glance at NBC. That’s what CNN is for.

I know bad things happened under the Obama administration. I know bad things continue to happen under the Biden administration. I know it’s an incredibly privileged take to say that if Hillary had been elected, we’d all be at a coronavirus-free brunch reading about how world peace was declared. We will still have climate change, inequality, poverty, unemployment, corruption, and, oh yeah, a GLOBAL PANDEMIC. But the truth is, it isn’t healthy to see a constant stream of bad news all day every day for four years. It’s even less healthy to read the rantings of a man who believes in his word over facts and his ego over human lives. While this section is probably near the back and it’s a bit late to hear it, please put down this paper. Remember that you don’t have to steel yourself like a lab rat for the next shock. What happened here wasn’t okay, and we need to heal.



# Firefighters control blaze in Arcata



Photo by Thomas Lal

*Responders from multiple local fire departments helped to put out a fire caused by an explosion at an Arcata residence on Feb. 19*

Photo story by Thomas Lal and Elliott Portillo

Firefighters from Arcata, Blue Lake, Fieldbrook, Humboldt Bay, Samoa and Westhaven fire departments responded to an explosion and burn at a residence on the 900 block of Bayview Street in Arcata on Friday, Feb. 19.

Both occupants of the house were able to escape unharmed, with one sustaining minor burn injuries and smoke inhalation.

According to a press release from Arcata Fire, the damage to the home constitutes a total loss, with an estimated \$234,00 in structural damage and \$158,000 in damage to contents. Arcata Fire Chief Justin McDonald provided immediate financial relief with funds from the California Fire Foundation’s SAVE Program, which provides gift cards to help families displaced by fires and other natural disasters.



Photo by Elliott Portillo



Photo by Elliott Portillo



Photo by Elliott Portillo



Photo by Elliott Portillo



Photo by Thomas Lal



Photo by Thomas Lal



Photo by Elliott Portillo



Photo by Thomas Lal

## Would you like to contribute to The Lumberjack?

There’s more going on in our community than a small group of student writers could ever hope to cover. If you’re a member of the student body we serve, you have a valuable perspective that we’d like to help you share.



### Step 1: What’s your idea?

Do you want to write a story or opinion? We’d also be happy to publish your artwork, photography, comics, or poetry.

### Step 2: Contact us.

We can be reached at [contactthejack@gmail.com](mailto:contactthejack@gmail.com). We can help you write your first story or make sure your art is ready for print.

### Step 3: Publish!

When your work is ready we can finally publish. Depending on your idea, it could end up here in this paper, on our website, or both!

