

An ode to “The Laundry”

Campus plans to demolish beloved ceramics studio

by Jack Hallinan

Anyone who has paid a visit to the ceramics lab here at Cal Poly Humboldt knows that it’s not your typical classroom. The run-down warehouse looks more like an abandoned industrial space invaded by artsy 20-somethings, which, after a look at the history of the building, isn’t far from reality. However rough around the edges the lab may be, it is well loved by ceramics students and staff alike, which is why the recently proposed demolition of the building and its replacement with new housing and parking structures is a controversial topic.

While the new construction will provide much-needed parking and housing for Cal Poly Humboldt’s growing student body, the demolition of the art spaces is a cause for some sadness and reflection for the university’s ceramics veterans. Keith Schneider, who retired from his twenty year career as a ceramics professor at Humboldt last spring, reflected on the history of the building as well as his own personal connection to the space.

“Over the past 50 years, tens of thousands of students have developed their work and

honed their skills here, made lifelong friends, and some even met their future spouses here in the lab,” said Schneider.

The lab’s long history begins with the Arcata Laundry, a commercial laundromat once located in the current ceramics lab location. Reese Bullen, who developed the ceramics program at Humboldt, was successful in purchasing the space under the condition that as a temporary lab, no major structural improvements were to be made to the building. In 1969, the ceramics department staff and students moved all of the laundry equipment out of the space themselves, and replaced it with the ceramics equipment that had previously been stuffed into an undersized room in Jenkins Hall. The ceramics lab continued to be endearingly referred to as “The Laundry,” and in the first few



Photo by Ollie Hancock | Sculptures crowd shelves of the fine arts space in the Ceramics Lab.

months of its existence as a classroom, former Arcata Laundry customers would wander into the studio with bags of dirty clothes wondering if they could still get them washed.

The proposed demolition of this unconventional yet beloved space is one of many small changes occurring throughout campus. The ROSE house

and Bret Harte house are also set to be demolished, a decision that has received pushback from students and staff who feel that the charming, if outdated, buildings enrich the character and history of Humboldt’s campus.

“Someone said, the best art is made in spaces that look the least like classrooms,” Schneider said. “If you get a

chance to walk through the lab, you will get a sense of what our students love about it. It’s not a classroom, it’s a funky old run-down industrial space, with remnants of the past everywhere you look.”

Since transitioning to a polytechnic university, Humboldt has received state financial support for the construction of several multi-million dollar projects. At least ten new buildings are listed on the school’s “Infrastructure Projects” web page, mostly including science labs and housing. Included in the prospective are plans to construct a new Campus Apartments building and parking structure where the current residence and ceramics and sculpture labs are now located.

According to the web page, the building complex will consist of “600-700 beds in total that will be built in relation to a new 650-stall parking structure.” While Cal Poly Humboldt students are undoubtedly in need of both housing and parking, a vital part of campus culture and art will be replaced by the facilities. Brandy Ayon, who is currently enrolled in their second class in the ceramics lab, expressed this sentiment.

“I will miss it. It’s bittersweet,” said Ayon. “The old-timey-ness and roughness of the building is very Humboldt. I’ll miss it, but I’m excited for the new opportunities a new space will bring.”

Ayon hopes that the new space will be like a blank canvas for students. It is unclear where the new studio will be located, or when it will be ready to use. The demolition of the ceramics and sculpture studios is proposed to be completed by 2026 and is expected to cost \$2.5 million.

“A new building may come with all the latest technology,” Schneider said. “The character and quality that students have come to love about the Laundry would be very difficult to recreate. A huge part of history will be lost when/if this building goes.”

Parking problems perpetuated by parking pass sales

Cal Poly Humboldt oversells general and residential parking passes

by Nina Huffman and Cash Rion

Every day, Cal Poly Humboldt students drive through full parking lots past rows and rows of parked cars as they desperately and often fruitlessly search for the rare and elusive open parking spot. This is the result of the university selling an excess of both general and residential parking passes in tandem with an increase in students due to the school’s new polytechnic status. There are more active passes than there are permitted parking spaces on campus, with active passes including both semester and year-long parking passes.

“I’ve heard from a lot of students that don’t live on campus that it can be hard to find parking unless you get here really early,” said Evan Vieira, a wildlife and conservation major. “I’ve known students who have gotten here

only as late as 9 or 10 am and have not found parking.”

A public records request revealed that, this semester, Cal Poly Humboldt oversold parking passes for both general and residential parking. As shown in the graphs, overselling parking is a growing trend across semesters, with 119 more general passes sold than there were parking spots, and 431 excess residential passes.

“It sucks total ass,” said art education major Mikayla Nicholas. “I don’t personally drive but I have friends who do and it takes them at least 20-40 minutes [to find parking.] They sell way too many parking passes than they have spaces.”

SEE PARKING ● PAGE 3

How wildfires can cause flooding

by August Linton

After the consuming heat and flame of a wildfire, flooding seems an unlikely problem to have to worry about. But catastrophic floods after a section of land is burned often threaten both human settlements and ecosystems.

Post-wildfire flooding can be caused by several processes. According to Cal Poly Humboldt professor of forestry, fire and rangeland management Dr. Jeff Kane, the forest floor normally acts as a sponge, soaking up and slowly releasing rainfall. When a wildfire burns that layer, there’s nothing left behind to stop rainfall from rushing directly downstream.

Wildfire also can release and vaporize waxy compounds from conifer needles, which then accumulate on the burned ground and form an even more water-resistant layer.

“Instead of percolating, [water] may flow overland,” Kane said. “If you don’t have the vegetation to absorb the precipitation, then it’s going to be more impactful.”

Hydrology and watershed management professor Dr. Andrew Stubblefield says that the impacts of this flooding extend to the whole ecosystem. When the forest floor loses its ability to absorb water, the topsoil can become saturated and eventually sloughs downstream, taking with it the nutrients it stores.

“Now you have a forest that’s less able to hold water to grow trees and provide nutrients to grow trees,” said Stubblefield. “It’s impoverished, or it’s depleted; and it can take a while to hundreds of years even to rebuild the nutrients.”

This can impact what plants regrow while the land recovers from the fire and flood. Weedy, often-invasive plants may have an easier time reestablishing themselves in this less-nurturing environment than native species, according to Kane.

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The Lumberjack

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Corrections:

In an article published last week, “Humboldt Vertebrate Museum opens to the public,” Dr. Sylvia Pavan was misidentified. Her actual role is museum curator. Additionally, the museum is not completely student-run as the article claimed.

In an article published last week, “Arcata Community Garden rallies after repeated attacks,” the garden was misnamed. It should have been referred to by its name El Jardin Santuario.

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Emo Night review

Behind the “scene kid” scenes

by lone Dellos

During the pandemic, the Van Duzer Theater Hall sat empty, no encores, no cheers, just silence. Tonight, that all changed. Dozens of black-clad students flooded the doors of the theater, brimming with anticipation for the chance to see one of their favorite songs from middle school played live before their eyes. There was no shortage of smudged eyeliner among the patrons who filled the theater for the sold-out show.

With this level of attendance for a show, there are a lot of moving parts involved. Amanda Kachevas, Programming and Event Coordinator for Center Arts, told me about the planning behind this event. They booked the band six months in advance, and had been setting up the concert since 10 am. The event ends at 1 am, so the Center Arts crew will still be there until 2 am break-

ing the whole thing down. When I asked Kachevas if she gets to go to sleep, she laughed at the prospect.

“Never!” Kachevas said.

At around 8:40 pm the band took the stage, and instantly started the show off with an electrifying on-stage presence. Their lead singer, Marcus Leonardo, belted out beloved emo numbers such as “I’m Not Okay” by My Chemical Romance and “Sugar, We’re Going Down” by Fall Out Boy. The lead guitarist, Stephen Henry, leapt around the stage as he shredded run after run, and would even place his guitar behind his head for complicated solos.

Concertgoer Liam Boyd, asked if he was having a good time at the show, responded enthusiastically.

“YEAHHH!” Boyd said.

He beamed with joy that the band

had played his favorite song, “Welcome to the Black Parade” by My Chemical Romance, just moments before.

The crowd seemed to be coursing with energy, further fueled by the band playing hit after hit. Songs from the concert included “Sugar, We’re Going Down” by Fall Out Boy, “I’m Not Okay” and “Teenagers” by My Chemical Romance, “King For a Day” by Pierce the Veil, “Dear Maria, Count Me In” by All Time Low, “American Idiot” by Green Day, “I Write Sins Not Tragedies” by Panic! At The Disco, and more.

Large crowds need an even larger security detail, so I asked the Center Arts staff what it’s like to work these events. Lavender Deng, a second-year student at Humboldt who works security for Center Arts, told me a little about what it’s like to work security for the school.

“It’s fun,” Deng said. “You just get to watch all of the shows and make sure nobody brings in something that they’re not supposed to.”

Watching the electrifying setlist, I knew that I needed to get closer to truly capture the band’s presence. Thanks to the help of two concertgoers, Vance Fewell and Taylor Danel, I was able to work with the Center Arts staff to get in front of the barricade. Words cannot describe how incredible it was to get to see the musicians perform less than two feet from my face, and feel the barricade shake behind me as the crowd rocked with the music.

Overall, this was a wonderful concert, and it was a hell of a way to relive my middle school years (minus the middle school part).



Photo by lone Dellos | Marcus Leonardo sings to the crowd at the Van Duzer Theatre on Thursday, September 8.



Photo by lone Dellos | Guitarist Stephen Henry plays guitar for the Emo Night Tour on Thursday 8.



Photo by lone Dellos | Stephen Henry plays guitar for the Emo Night Tour on Thursday, September 8, at the Van Duzer Theatre.

Prepare for Bears

The Sequoia Park Zoo asks guests to bear with them as they ready a new exhibit for a late 2022 opening.

by Sophia Escudero

Nestled in the redwood forest, the Sequoia Park Zoo is a Humboldt County staple. The zoo opened in 1907 and evolved with the times to become one of the smallest Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited zoos in the nation. The zoo’s next exhibit is set to open in November of this year, with the addition of American black bears and coyotes. The bears will be placed in the enclosure first, with coyote cohabitation expected to occur in early 2023 once the bears have gotten settled.

Zoo Activities Coordinator Kate Baldwin is excited about the opening, which will be the first major addition to the zoo since the construction of the Redwood Skywalk was completed in 2021.

“This is actually going to be a truly state of the art habitat,” Baldwin said. “We increased our footprint by a whole acre to accommodate the Redwood Skywalk and then the addition of bear and coyote, so the Sequoia Park Zoo went from five acres to six.”

The exhibit will be thematically connected with the nearby river otter exhibit and raptor aviary as a display of local wildlife.

“It was always the intent to expand our native animals and specifically our native predators,” Baldwin said.

The exhibit is going to feature two major areas that can be divided or open, night houses for the bears and coyotes, a naturally filtered waterfall feature, and an observation platform around the perimeter. According to Zoo Director Jim Campbell-Spickler, a

Humboldt graduate and former university researcher, the exhibit is designed to provide a naturalistic habitat for the animals as well as offering regular enrichment.

“I’ve never seen a bear exhibit habitat like this,” Campbell-Spickler said. “This is just one of a kind.”

Campbell-Spickler, as a wildlife biologist, has done extensive work with animals and plant life in the local area. Despite the common public perception of zoos as 1980s-style barred cages and animals ripped from the wilderness, an AZA-accredited facility such as the Sequoia Park Zoo has much more in common with an animal sanctuary than that outdated image.

“We don’t go to the wild and just take bears, we adopt bears that need a home, bears that are unreleasable, and we are working with the California Fish and Wildlife [Department],” Campbell-Spickler said.

The bears and coyotes will be supplied by the state, and will most likely be orphaned animals, animals that have grown too accustomed to humans, or animals with injuries that would impede their ability to survive in the wild. Many other animals at Sequoia Park Zoo, including Winky the spotted owl, Sequoia and Huckleberry the raccoons, and Cheyenne and Juno the bald eagles, are also rescues that could not be safely released.

One unique local touch to the exhibit will be due to the zoo’s partnership with the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, a local tribe. The Band has



Photo by Sophia Escudero | Zoo director Jim Campbell-Spickler stands in the future bear and coyote exhibit, showing off the walkway in progress.

been working closely with the zoo on the project since its inception.

“It’s been an amazing collaboration. We’re currently working with them to construct a plank house, which is a traditional build for native folks of our area, and they are also the major funder,” Campbell-Spickler said. “It was their money, they have a very close tie to bear and coyote. They’re going to help us interpret that Native American relationship with these two animals that have been very important in their culture and it’s been a great partnership.”

Ironically, the plank house will be modified from the traditional design,

which served the express purpose of keeping out bears. It will serve as a training and viewing area.

“Sequoia Park Zoo is a modern zoo,” Campbell-Spickler said. “We exhibit our animals on a mission of conservation and education. That’s a very important thing for us: an opportunity for us to share these wonderful creatures with the world.”

Green Campus Team shares resources on fun sustainability

by Oden Taylor

For Amber Chung, sustainability is everything. As an environmental science management major and the student leader of Cal Poly Humboldt’s Green Campus Team, Chung says she has been in love with the environment since she was a kid.

She said watching and reading “The Lorax” by Dr. Seuss opened her eyes as a child to the need for sustainability.

“I really saw for the first time like wow, like what we do literally does matter. It can change the whole environment like it did there,” Chung said. “Now that I’ve gotten older, I’ve realized that sustainability is such a wide concept, it has to be in everything for everything else to work. If you don’t center sustainability, you’re not really going to get anywhere with anything else, because it’s not going to last long term.”

As a branch of the Office of Sustainability, the Green Campus Team is an organization that consists of five student employees and one staff advisor. Their goal is to encourage everyone on campus to center sustainability in everything they do.

The team provides educational materials and advice for groups on campus on how to be as sustainable as possible while still having fun. In the coming months the team will hold a “Trash-ion” show where students can create outfits out of trash or other items that were about to be thrown away and a “Weigh the Waste” event to educate the campus community about the effects of food waste.

This semester the Green Campus Team will also relaunch the Green Workplace Assessment Program, including a new sub-program called the Peer To Peer Education Program. Advocates will talk to campus departments and educate them on sustainable practices so they can properly educate their peers.

They will also launch a student version of this program called Equal Reps, recruiting students that live on campus to educate others about living green.

“It would be great if students, before doing any sort of action, just considered the question and the idea of ‘how can what I’m doing be more sustainable?’” Chung said. “How can I do this

in a different way?”

Chung said this could mean many different things and will look different for everyone.

“It could mean completely changing what you’re doing. It could be evaluating if you have the capacity to do more sustainable actions because sometimes there just simply isn’t a possibility with other things you have going on,” Chung said.

The Waste Reduction and Resource Awareness Program has brought back the paper towel composting project this semester. WRRAP also gives out composting buckets for on-campus residents, as well as finished compost to anyone who wants it.

“Students should keep an eye out for signs in the restrooms marking which bin is for paper towels and which is for other waste,” WRRAP said in an email to the Lumberjack. “This is a great help when we go to do our final sorting before placing the paper towels in the on-campus industrial composter.”

Chung explained that when planning events the campus should account for sustainability rather than making adjustments later. Chung suggested that the administration should foster an open dialogue with the Office of Sustainability to ensure that they are making the best decisions for the school long-term.

“I think continuing to make sure that [the administration is] keeping sustainability at a forefront rather than an afterthought would be really important for the school,” Chung said. “Especially as we’re making so many big decisions with the new Cal Poly change.”

The Green Campus Team has compiled the Zero Waste Event Certification Checklist of different things to keep in mind when planning an event on campus. The checklist includes helpful sustainability tips, like serving food buffet style in reusable containers and ensuring promotional or advertising materials and decorations are reusable, recyclable or compostable.

The Green Campus Team is currently looking for another student employee as well as experiential interns and volunteers. To learn more follow the Green Campus Team on Instagram @greencampus_humboldt.



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WILDFIRE

FROM PAGE 1

Post-wildfire flooding can also be dangerous to human settlements and to the ecosystem around it because it picks up debris and soil and carries it downstream. Debris flows caused by heavy rain after the Thomas fire in Montecito, California killed 23, injured at least 167, and damaged 408 homes,

according to a 2019 research article by J.W. Kean et al.

It’s the charge of the National Forest Service’s BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) teams to analyze the risks for flooding after each fire and implement measures to mitigate damage and environmental impacts. According

to the McKinney Post-Fire BAER incident overview, these multidisciplinary teams of scientists decide what, if anything, needs to be done to protect natural resources or human settlements in the area.

Examples of possible interventions include seeding the hillside from the air, setting up log breaks along hills or in creek beds, or stabilizing at-risk areas with hydro-mulch (a material similar to paper mâché which also contains seeds,) said Stubblefield. Sometimes the best treatment is to warn people away from at-risk areas with weather alerts when a big storm is coming in.

But with modern fires often burning millions of acres at once, what scientists can do to mitigate flooding becomes a problem of scale.

“The August Complex [fire] last summer was a million acres, what would it cost to try and stabilize that landscape, you know, it’s too big,” said Stubblefield. “It would be the gross domestic product of a small country.”

Flooding is not an inevitable follow-up to wildfire. It takes both intense fire and intense rain to create the right conditions. If ground cover vegetation like grasses have time to return before the next intense rain, it stabilizes the

soil and can even begin to break down the waxy hydrophobic layer.

However, due to the effects of anthropogenic climate change and poor forest management, the perfect storm happens more often.

When this land was stewarded by Native Americans, regular fires were part of that management. In the post-colonial absence of that management, white settlers saw wildfires as something that needed to be suppressed immediately, rather than allowed to run their course as a physiological process of the forest. When the dense, thick, choked forests that this policy produces catch fire, they burn hotter, longer, and over a wider area. The environmental legacy of clear-cut logging and fire-prevention has left the forests in a vulnerable and volatile state.

“We are moving into an era of active fire management,” said Stubblefield.

This means more prescribed burns, and an attitude towards fire that acknowledges its essential role in forest health. Post-fire flooding, too, is a physiological component of the ecosystem. According to Stubblefield, if sediments weren’t carried into the river, salmon might not have gravel to spawn on at all.



Photo by Mark Linton | A hydrologist checks for organic matter and hydrophobicity in burned soil at the site of the Rough fire in 2015



Photo by Mark Linton | Water beads on hydrophobic soil

Jacks lose momentum, first CCMA match

“Losing is always disappointing, losing in five is hard.”

by August Linton

After a hopeful and energetic two set wins in the early game, the Cal Poly Humboldt Lumberjacks volleyball team lost their Thursday match against the Cal State East Bay Pioneers. The final score was 3 sets to 2.

Although the Jacks won their first match this season against the Western New Mexico University Mustangs (3-1,) they lost two subsequent matches against Holy Names University (1-3) and University of Washington Parkside (1-3.) Losing the first home game and their first CCAA qualifying match set a disheartened mood.

Pre-game warmups set the Pioneers and the Jacks directly on opposite sides of the net. They pantomimed the motions and tensions of the game ahead, separated by that intangible barrier.

The Jacks were energetic and fresh-faced during the first two sets. The final scores were 25/18 in the first set and 25/20 in the second, in the Jacks’ favor.

Junior Malia Coyle was confident before the game that the Jacks had a good chance of winning. Intensely practicing in the weeks since forming the team and other strategies like watching the Pioneers’ game tapes seemed to set the Jacks up for success. She says that since the team has been a losing one in the past, the issue is overcoming that momentum.

“The first two sets really showed the evolution of our team,” said Coyle. “We have to learn to win.”

The third set changed the direction of the game, some of the momentum which had carried the Jacks through so



Photo by Elliot Portillo | Setter Macy Thomas dives for the ball while libero Kaitlyn Patterson follows at the Volleyball game Thursday.

far beginning to chip away. Serve misses and long, exhausting rallies characterized this set. From a tie at 21/21, the Pioneers edged out a win with a hit from the left (22/25.) The loss sent a sigh through the room; the game could have been won here but they would have to carry on.

The Jacks Cheer Team, which had been stomping the stands and shak-

ing green or gold pom-poms, packed up and left about halfway through the third set.

Renewed vigor from the Pioneers and waning energy from the Jacks led to a 25/17 loss in the fourth set. The Pioneers laughed and joked while switching to the other side of the court, while the home team seemed subdued in comparison.

It seemed the game was over even before the fifth set (lost 15/9) was half-gone. The Jacks’ pale, drawn faces shone through the net, floating hauntingly above the court.

Playing through all 5 of 5 possible sets just to lose was of course exhausting and emotional for the Jacks.

“Losing is always disappointing, losing in five is hard, but I did see some moments of brilliance,” said head coach Angela Spoja. Spoja arrived as a new coach in July. According to the players, she has invigorated the program already.

“They already got us a new locker room that actually fits the whole team,” said Coyle. “They’re giving us the standards that most schools are held up to.”

Senior middle blocker Lindsey McLaughlin was the kill leader for the game, scoring 13 kills and four aces. “Our new coaches have been great for us, they’ve been giving us some great structure,” said McLaughlin. “To see results in a game situation was nice, since we’ve really been working on offense this week.”

Another standout player was libero Kaitlyn Patterson, whose serve aces were menacing every time she was up in the rotation. Patterson also recorded sixteen digs over the course of the game. Setter Macy Thomas’s vigor shone, she seemed one of the most willing to sprint and throw herself to the ground in pursuit of stray balls.

Spoja says that this game showed “bright moments for a young team.” She says that many of the team compositions included an unusually high proportion of underclassmen, a hopeful fact for the Jacks’ future.



Photo by Elliot Portillo | Middle blocker Cecilia Costas spikes the ball while Cal State East Bay’s Mia Jordan attempts to block.

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Its time to axe the Lumberjack

The paper should honor and represent the campus community

by Oden Taylor

Pioneer, prospector, lumberjack—what do they all have in common? A significant role in the colonization of North America and a place as a California State University mascot. CSU mascots are rife with cultural insensitivity and, at times, blatant racism— if you don’t believe me, just google the San Diego State University Aztec Warrior. The names of CSU campus newspapers also nearly always correspond with the school mascot. For example, CSU East Bay’s mascot is Pioneer Pete and the school paper, “The Pioneer.”

At Cal Poly Humboldt, “The Lumberjack,” both as a mascot and the name of our paper, symbolizes white supremacy and colonization. It is time for a change, starting with us. The Lumberjack must change its name to continue the removal of white power structures and symbols from indigenous land.

Lumberjacks worked alongside prospectors during the gold rush, making way for new settlers to build towns and ravage the land for its resources. After the gold rush ended, lumberjacks cleared old-growth redwood forests well into the twentieth century.

In fact, only 5% of the original old-growth redwood forest stands from

Southern Oregon to Central California, according to the Save the Redwoods League.

There have been many name changes taking place across Humboldt county, from the Gutsurrak Student Activity Center here on campus to the name restoration of Sue-meg State Park. This change comes after nearly 170 years of being called “Patrick’s Point” for Patrick Beegan, a private land owner and accused murderer of Indigenous people, including a Yurok boy.

As of 2018, CSU Long Beach abandoned its longtime mascot, Prospector Pete, for Elbee the Shark. Shortly after CSU East Bay claimed to do the same, saying goodbye to Pioneer Pete. Four years later they have yet to choose a new mascot, according to their website.

Unfortunately, despite the example set by other schools and the opportunity presented by an expensive rebrand, Cal Poly Humboldt did not find it necessary to retire the Lumberjack, telling El Leñador in March that there are no current plans to change the mascot.

Though Long Beach has chosen a new mascot, neither campus changed the name of their newspaper. They remain Long Beach’s Daily Forty-Niner and East Bay’s The Pioneer. This lack

of meaningful change promotes white supremacy in newsrooms, including ours.

We must move beyond just acknowledging the land we occupy and think critically about the messages we distribute and the symbols we use on it.

All CSU campus newspapers should

reconsider what they call themselves and why. Does your publication’s name honor and represent your campus community?

It’s time we axed the Lumberjack. If the administration isn’t willing to do it, the change must start with us.



Graphic by Oden Taylor

Maintenance staff, start telephoning me

Lack of communication between maintenance and students leads to awkward moments in Cal Poly Humboldt dorms

by Alina Ferguson

Submitting a maintenance request is a mysterious process here at Cal Poly Humboldt. The procedure goes something like this: submit a request and two weeks later, someone will bang loudly on your door. Do you get confirmation emails? Not in my experience.

Unlike other rent-paying, contracting-holding people, students do not get full tenant rights, which normally stipulate 24 hour notice before repairs. My complaint is not with the maintenance staff, but rather with the lack of a system for notifying students about maintenance in their dorm.

Last semester, my roommate was coming up the hill to Creekview and saw some man in our room! Naturally, she was freaked out—who was this strange man, and why was he in our room? As it turns out, he was there to fix the window.

I worked online from my dorm ev-

ery Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm, and one day someone barged into my room during a work call to “fix the lights.” I asked if it needed to be done at that exact moment, and the maintenance man responded with “yeah.” So, inconvenienced and with all my other roommates still sleeping, I did an hour of work in my bathroom. My laptop was precariously perched on the toilet, my phone was scrunched against my ear and my shoulder, and I was sitting cross legged for an hour. My feet fell asleep, so I had to crawl back to my room like some horror movie villain, hair in my face and phone in my mouth, grunting from the pinpricks in my feet.

This semester, I submitted a request to put a bar across my top bunk. A week later, someone banged on our front door while my roommate was taking a nap and my housemates were out. What could we do? Well, he said he

would come back in half an hour, and an hour later, he was back.

Though, it’s not always that they take weeks. My roommates and I put in a request for our microwave and electrical outlet to be fixed and that same day, someone arrived. I came home to the door ajar and the microwave disassembled like a butcher had just gone to town on it, tools scattered across the countertop. I tiptoed to my room, and my roommate muttered, “Maintenance is here to fix the microwave and electrical.” I asked if she had gotten an email or call beforehand, and of course the answer was no.

The maintenance team themselves are not at fault. The staff here do a brilliant job; they work efficiently and are always friendly. They work hard to make sure that all our requests are fulfilled and they do an excellent job of repairing whatever is broken.

But I have some ideas to improve the maintenance process. There needs to be a system for alerting students to maintenance work in their living spaces. Normally, as a tenant, someone who pays rent and has a rental contract, you are entitled to 24 hours notice when anyone is entering your unit or room for non-emergencies. Student tenants should be granted the same courtesy. I pay to live here, and I signed a contract; we all did.

Sending an email or making a call is all it takes. Just send me an email with the name of the maintenance worker, the approximate time they will arrive, and what they will be fixing. While I understand that there are a lot of students here, I believe we need more communication between dorm residents and staff. It is about respect for both the students and maintenance staff.

Why am I paying \$50 to do my Homework

Hidden course fees piss me off

by Angel Barker

When I sign up for classes, I make sure to see if there are required textbooks so I can budget what the post-tu-

ition fees are going to be for each semester. However, one variable I did not take into consideration is instructors

who make students pay for software to do their homework.

For my 100-level Human Biology course, the Student Center said there was no required text. However, once I had enrolled and the course began, to do the homework we had to pay for an “online and interactive homework platform,” a website that randomizes questions and gives you unlimited attempts to get the answer right.

Don’t get me wrong, I appreciate the unlimited attempts. However, I don’t love having to pay \$50 to do my homework for one class. That \$50 had to come out of my budget for food and gas. I had to pay \$50 to pass the class, because the homework turned in using the software is 32.6% of the overall grade.

Why are instructors allowed to do this? Do they benefit from having us pay for that software? Or is it just more convenient for them? Either way, it is more than inconvenient for students. We are the ones having to front the money to literally just access homework questions.

Why couldn’t the polytechnic money help create a program supporting equitable access for students? Or just buying the necessary software? Why are these costs not disclosed before signing up for the class, like textbooks? These fees hurt students.

When I attended UC Davis, there was a program called Equitable Access. For \$169 each quarter, undergraduate students were guaranteed all of their course materials, like textbooks (printed and digital), online softwares, lab manuals, and more. That program was helpful when planning what I was going to have to spend. There were no hidden class fees like what I’ve experienced this term.

Instructors like mine do not seem to care about how expensive it is to attend college. This is a basic general education course; a regular textbook and a Canvas multiple choice homework “quiz” would suffice. \$50 may not seem like a lot of money. However for students like me who are paying their own way through school, it makes a larger impact that has a domino effect.



Graphic Nina Huffman