

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS TO HOLD REFERENDUM ON INCREASED STUDENT FEES

by Dezmond Remington

The Associated Students is holding a referendum on raising the AS fee on April 17. The AS fee is currently \$58 per semester, and is paid by every student. The proposed fee if changed will be \$67.50 a semester.

The Associated Students funds a lot of things on campus, such as CCAT, the Womxn’s Resource Center, and Oh Snap, as well as the hardship fund that has paid for free

meal swipes for students. The AS fee is their main source of funding. The proposed fee increase will raise their budget from \$600,000 to \$1 million dollars. The last few years, AS spending has exceeded \$1 million, with the difference made up through various reserve and rollover funds. According to AS President Juan Guerrero, that option is completely exhausted, and a fee increase is the best way to

pay for all the services students want, allowing AS to keep the various jobs they pay for, as well as serve future students better. The proposed fee increase will make up the \$400,000 difference entirely.

The last fee increase was in 2015, long before the current inflation. According to Guerrero, to treat students now with the same amount of care students have received in years

past, AS needs more money.

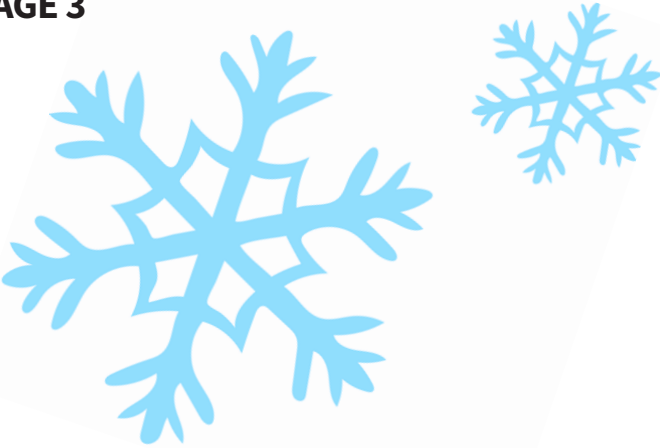
“We’re not campus,” Guerrero said. “We’re student ran and student driven. Our impact is more substantial than campus, and we need to keep doing that...\$19 isn’t a big ask if we want to ensure maximum employment and maximum opportunities.”



Photo by Alex Anderson | Cal Poly Humboldt wildlife major Nathaly Guzman stands inside an igloo on the Redwood Bowl field on Feb 23.

Cold snap brings snow (and snowmen) to campus

SEE SNOW
PAGE 3



Humboldt talent shines at CCAT open mic

by Brad Butterfield

The Campus Center for Appropriate Technology (CCAT)’s first open mic of the semester took place at the Buck House on a snowy February 22. The night began without a microphone, due to the lack of an amp cord. However, it seemed the crowd of nearly fifteen students were all aware of the same truth: The only necessary ingredient for an open mic night is willing participants. By all meaningful measures, the night was off to a perfect start.

Jack McCann, who goes by the stage name Mushroom Jack, announced to the growing audience that he had an amplifier cord in his room across campus. Then, as if he was a majestic snow bunny, Mushroom Jack sprinted out of the cozy Buck House to retrieve the cord.

Indigo Thomspson was first to take the stage. She opened the night with an original poem which she couldn’t remember when she originally wrote. She confidently set the tone for the night and closed with “Fate won’t let you live your life in vain,” to unanimous applause from the crowd.

In the meantime, our hero Mushroom Jack returned with the amp cord. Unfortunately, lady luck was not doing us any favors and the amplifier chord Mushroom Jack brought required a converter to plug into the amp. Undeterred, Mushroom Jack again braved the elements, to retrieve the right con-

verter from his lair.

Without missing a beat, Julia Simmons took to the stage and began dropping joke after joke, as if she were a seasoned road comic. The crowd erupted in laughter and even began firing jokes back at Simmons.

“What do you call a cow with no legs?” an audience member shouted from the back of the room. “GROUND BEEF!”

This was a real hoot and absolute holler, obviously. There is never a bad time for dad jokes, depending on who you ask.

The atmosphere was so welcoming that I could not stand by like a journalistic fly on the wall. I have one joke ready at all times for critical moments like this. “What is the difference between a cottonball and a lizard? ... A lot of things!”

After some minutes of jokes, there was a general consensus in the room that if we continued with the comedy, Jay Leno would be out of work.

Next, James Lara harnessed the now-rowdy room with a heartfelt poem simplifying the complexities of life and attachment, ending his set with “Desire and longing pulls you farther away.”

Jack Hellesoe, known as Bird Jack, was not to be confused with Mushroom Jack, I was warned. Bird Jack opened with a unique cover of “New Slang” by the Shins to the beat of various audi-

ence members on tambourines. Bird Jack then played an original song, written “during a time of social uncertainty.”

Having endured the chilly night air twice to get both an amplifier chord and converter, Mushroom Jack finally joined Bird Jack onstage. A solid cover of Neil Young’s “Down By The River,” led to an unforgettable original performance of a song detailing the tribulations of a mushroom. It was Flight of

the Conchords meets Pink Floyd meets Paul Stamets with a sprinkle of Mid 80’s Ozzy Osbourne.

Leaning into the finally functional microphone, Mushroom Jack belly-sang, “What would YOU do if I was a mushhhhhroooooom?”

SEE OPEN MIC
PAGE 4



Photo by Brad Butterfield | Students perform together at CCAT’s open mic on Feb. 22.

The Lumberjack

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
AUGUST LINTON

MANAGING EDITORS:
ANGEL BARKER
CAMILLE DELANY

NEWS EDITOR:
DEZMOND REMINGTON

LIFE & ARTS EDITOR:
NINA HUFMAN

SCIENCE EDITOR:
HARRISON SMITH

SPORTS EDITOR:
JAKE KNOELLER

OPINION EDITOR:
CAMILLE DELANY

PHOTO EDITOR:
ALEX ANDERSON

COPY EDITOR:
JASMIN SHIRAZIAN

LAYOUT EDITORS:
AUGUST LINTON
ANGEL BARKER
CAMILLE DELANY
NINA HUFMAN
DEZMOND REMINGTON

WEB EDITOR:
ANGEL BARKER

DELIVERY DRIVER:
JASMYN LEMUS

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER:
AUGUST LINTON

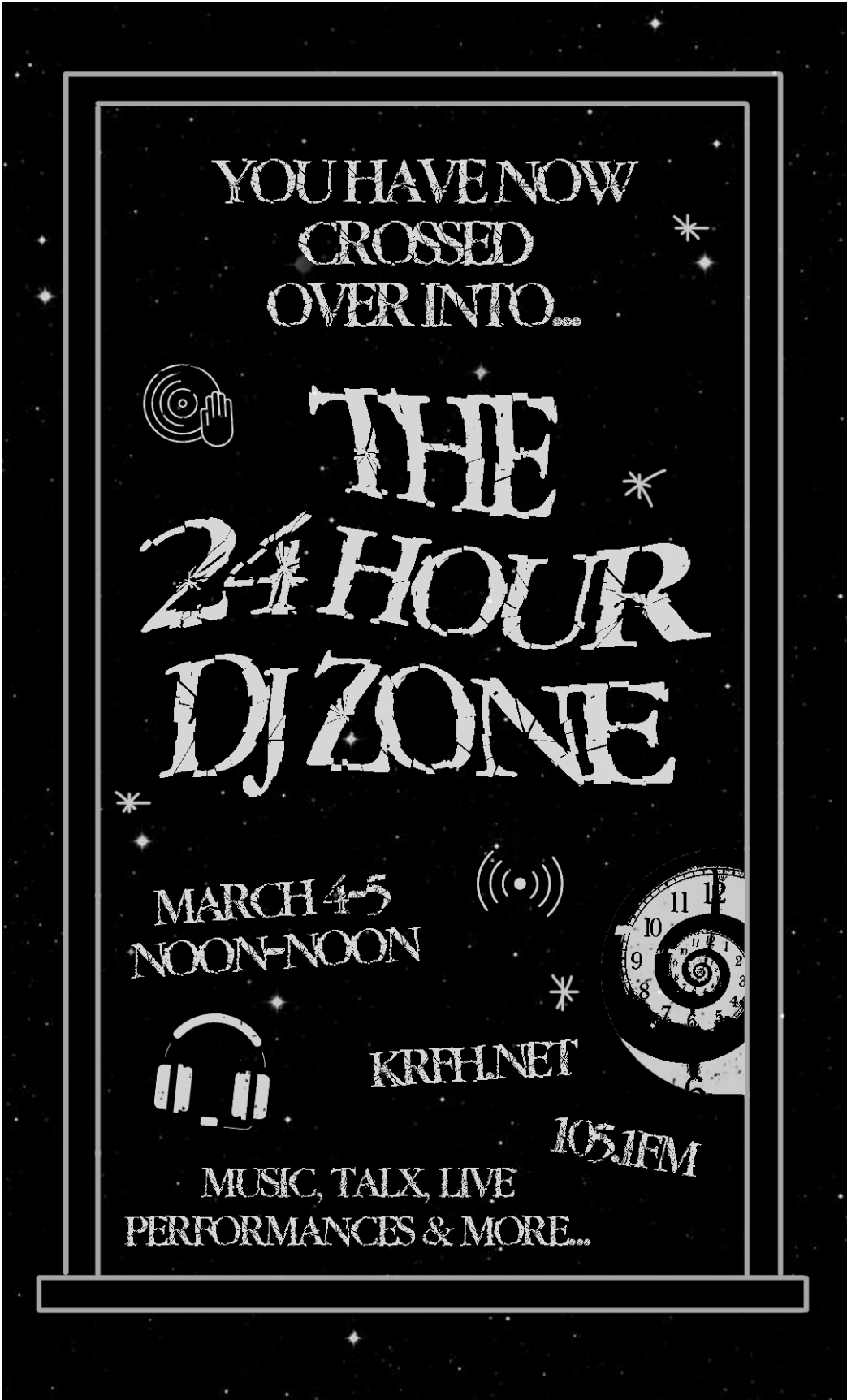
FACULTY ADVISER:
DEIDRE PIKE

CONTRIBUTORS:
ALEX ANDERSON
BRAD BUTTERFIELD
DEZMOND REMINGTON
VALEN LAMBERT
ANDRÉS FÉLIX ROMERO
HARRISON SMITH
JAKE KNOELER
LIDIA GRANDE-RUIZ
ANGEL BARKER
NINA HUFMAN


Mission Statement

The Mission of this newspaper is to fairly inform and share the stories of the Cal Poly Humboldt Campus and Community. We strive to report with accuracy and honesty. 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 Cal Poly Humboldt. Unsigned editorials appearing in the Opinion section reflect a majority opinion of the editorial staff. Advertising material is for informational purposes and is not an expressed or implied endorsement of such commercial ventures of The Lumberjack, Associated Students or Cal Poly Humboldt.

CONTACT US:
CONTACTTHELUMBERJACK@GMAIL.COM
707-826-3271



STUDENT ASSOCIATION FEE INCREASE RATIONAL






Vote YES For The Student Association Fee Referendum

Associated Students manages and distributes student paid funds known as the Student Association Fee. We advocate for student rights and are official representatives for many campus policies and programs. We fund programs including but not limited to Campus Center for Appropriate technology, Waste-Reduction & Resources Awareness Program, and Womxn's Resource Center. Important programs that students depend on as part of their experience at Cal Poly Humboldt.

Associated Students provides event funding, travel funding, support to food pantry; 87 paid student positions; and provides professional development opportunities for student's growth. A proposed Student Association Fee increase will allow for funding to continue for current programs, current services, and increase in student wages. In addition, the revenue will allow us to expand event programming and travel funding, services for undocumented students, student jobs, and more.

In the case that a fee referendum did not go through we would experience clubs and programs, that serve, students being cut. If we do not receive a fee increase we will then have to cut student services, events, and professional travel. We would cut resources that students need. We would have to cut back on resources that students need due to not having enough funds for our growing student population.



FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: HSUAS@HUMBOLDT.EDU

Humboldt hosts late-night legend Jay Leno

by Andrés Félix Romero

He’s been burned by gasoline, cracked both his kneecaps after being clotheslined by a wire while riding a motorcycle, and he testified at Michael Jackson’s 2005 trial. He’s the hardest working man in show business, and he’s met several sitting presidents. He’s Jay Leno.

The Centre Arts Department of Cal Poly Humboldt hosted two Jay Leno stand-up comedy shows on Feb. 26 at the Arkley Center for Performing Arts in Eureka, CA. Centre Arts puts on many performances for the Humboldt Community, but Leno’s first outing in Eureka is undoubtedly one of the biggest names they’ve booked.

I was amazed to see that Jay Leno, an entertainment legend known for his shows such as Jay Leno’s Garage and The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, was going to be down the street from campus.

Being a huge fan of stand-up comedy, I was pleasantly surprised when Leno managed to hit my favorite markers in any comic’s set in his first punch-line; personal stories, social commentary, and just the right amount of dark humor. He began his show by telling us how the process of healing from a garage accident last fall had left his face with burns that came with a surprising expense.

“The most expensive part of the situation was the gasoline that burned my face,” Leno said to the crowd.

Not every joke landed for me, and some plain went over my head. Granted, I don’t always understand humor or sarcasm. Leno also knew his audience and jokes were directed to an audience more his age. I enjoyed the self-awareness the seasoned comedian displayed.

Despite this, I still appreciated hearing Leno compare different aspects of society from decades ago to today, such as how the Sears catalog is the original Amazon Prime. Also hilarious are his own personal thoughts as an elder in a world that is always changing socially and developing technologically.

My favorite parts of Leno’s show came from his social commentary, which he often gave through jokes on



Photo by Andrés Félix Romero | Audience members file into the Arkley Center before Leno’s set.

topics such as backwards values on violence in entertainment. His set included stories of his wife refusing to watch animal violence on television, but enjoyed a scene where a woman brutally stabs her husband to death. One of the highlights of the night was the story about a mafia member venting to Leno about how The Sopranos was offensive, because a mob boss going to therapy in the show highlights the strange value system in entertainment.

“Oh, it’s not the murder and beheadings,” said Leno, “It’s the mental health aspect he’s upset about.”

Towards the end of his set, Leno began to stray away from personal anecdotes and began to rapid-fire jokes and punchlines on a variety of subject matter, some risky and others lighthearted. Getting the audience to laugh at a topic

as heavy as Bill Cosby’s abuse allegations to something as stupid as remote control breast enhancements showed me Leno’s veteran status as a stand-up comedian.

My favorite of these punchlines was on the topic of politics and how just about anyone from either side of the political aisle can enjoy them, like when he poked fun at the investigations into Joe Biden.

“You know what you call someone who digs up dirt on Joe Biden?,” Leno questioned the audience. “An archeologist.”

After the show, some of Leno’s fans waited behind the Arkley Center for a chance to meet him. A half-hour later, Leno popped out the back door of the building.

He greeted us, took pictures, shook

hands and signed autographs. He still carried the same calm demeanor he had had on stage that made it feel easy to talk to a man who has a chin known by most of the nation. It was cold outside, he was likely exhausted from flying into Humboldt earlier in the day, but he still took a few minutes to chat with us. It was a great lesson on humility.

Before he left, I asked Leno if he could share any advice to Cal Poly Humboldt students trying to figure out how to succeed in their fields. Leno recommends that when trying to contact someone in your field, be personable by writing a letter to stand out in a digital age and be professional.

“But if you actually handwrite a letter, you got to have decent penmanship.” Leno said. “Don’t write in crayon on a paper bag.”

SNOW PHOTOS

FROM PAGE 1



Clockwise from top left | 1: Adam Van Winkle constructs a snowman in the Founders Hall courtyard. 2: A lone snowman looking dapper on College Creek field with a stylish hat and carrot nose . 3: A mushroom topped with snow on campus near the Student Recreation Center. 4: A lone snowman sits on a railing in the Arcata community forest.

Zen and the art of pinball

Cal Poly Professor hosts weekly pinball league at Dead Reckoning in Arcata

by Valen Lambert

The 80’s is still alive at Dead Reckoning. Tucked in the back of the bar is a pinball lover’s retro-neon sanctuary, buzzing with the clacks and dings of the shaking machines and steel pinballs blasting against paddles. You can try your hand at the Godzilla or Ghost Busters games, or maybe you’re more of a Revenge on Mars kinda guy. They’re fun, and have definitely eaten up a decent amount of my pocket change, but there’s a whole community surrounding this arcade favorite.

Every Tuesday night from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Arcata’s pinball league takes to the bar’s seven machines for their weekly pinball tournaments headed by Cal Poly Humboldt’s very own professor of biological sciences and pinball wizard, Jonathan Montgomery. Everyone is encouraged to join.

Montgomery is bent over Revenge on Mars while the crowd and I watch him with the focus of a sports game. He talks to me attentively without breaking his pinball focus. Montgomery got into pinball during his graduate program in Riverside, where he had joined a league. After moving back to Arcata to teach in 2019, he missed having the community of a league and decided to start his own. Believe it or not, the International Flipper Pinball Association writes up a whole internationally recognized framework for the organization of pinball leagues, which Montgomery forms the tournaments around. Folks pay-in a dollar and are randomly assigned to a team. After three games, whoever has the most points takes all the cash.

How does one even get good at pinball and take home the gold? Mont-



Photo by Valen Lambert | Arcata pinball league players battle for victory.



Photo by Valen Lambert | Johnathon Montgomery plays on the Godzilla pinball machine during the Feb. 21 tournament.

gomery, who has the highest pinball score at Dead Reckoning of 1.2 billion points, says you first have to stop “double-flipping”, where you push both flippers up at the same time. “You end up making a larger gap for the ball to fall through,” Montgomery says. “And secondly, the machine only has so much power. The flippers are weaker if they are powered together”. The next step to pinball stardom is cradling, where you catch the ball, hold it, and time the flip-up to exactly where you want it to go. The sport takes a lot of muscle memory, but despite the rings, dings, and neon lights, people are drawn to it because of its meditative qualities. “The thing I love about pinball is you get in this flow, and this sort of really focused state,” Montgomery

says. “It takes all your attention”. Montgomery also favors the physicality of the game, where you’re actually getting to hit a ball around instead of stare at a video game screen. But a lot of the magic lies in the community of pinball, which was something I noticed when I approached the group as a lone pinball noob and received nothing but warm welcomes and good conversation. “Even if you don’t know that a pinball community is near you, it’s there,” says Montgomery. “There’s always a crew of nice, relaxed, people who want to play a fun, Zen game.”

CCAT

FROM PAGE 1

He then paused for a perfectly timed guitar solo as Bird Jack held rhythm on his wonderfully stickered guitar. Reading the crowd’s energy, Mushroom Jack brought us back down like a seasoned symphony conductor, abruptly yelling into the mic with authority, “It’s antibacteriaaaaaa!” It was a night of firsts, too. With the support of the crowd, Isabella Jug got on stage to sing in front of people for her first time ever. Bird Jack improvised chords even though he’d never played through the song before. The level of talent in the room was only outdone by the complete support from everyone there.

Danika Zikas and Julia Simmons finished out the night with a song written in the throes of a mushroom trip their freshman year. The fungi-inspired song was being unveiled for the very first time for the audience huddled inside the Buck House. Jug provided gentle harmonies from the couch while Mushroom Jack laid out a soft guitar section to complete the soundscape. It was a beautiful team effort. The final act of the night was the roaring applause from the throng.

CCAT will be hosting monthly open mics throughout the semester. Find them on instagram @ccat.humboldt.

Photos by Brad Butterfield | **Top Right: Mushroom Jack and Bird Jack jam out at the CCAT open mic night on Wednesday. Bottom Right: Performer reads poetry. Bottom Left: Audience looks on as participants perform.**



Humboldt alumnus brings back beavers to restore California wetlands

by Harrison Smith

For millions of years, beavers have been the stewards of North American watersheds. Over a hundred million used to ply the streams of the continent. Hunting and habitat loss since colonization have reduced their numbers to somewhere between 10 and 15 million, and many ecosystems which historically relied on beaver stewardship are now absent of the aquatic rodents. In 1941, there were just 1,300 beavers in California. Symbiotic Restoration, founded in 2018 by CPH alumnus Garrett Costello, is a company which seeks to reverse this loss of habitat.

“Our mission is to improve stream and meadow conditions to bring back the beaver,” Costello said, who graduated from Humboldt with a BS in environmental protection and management.

Founded in 2018, Symbiotic Restoration (SR) has carried out all of their restoration projects in Northeastern California. Costello, who recently moved back to the county, hopes to partner with local Humboldt organizations to carry out restoration projects in the future.

The vast majority of SR’s restoration projects involve the building of beaver dam analogs, or BDAs. BDAs come in many forms depending on the size and condition of the stream, but they’re usually built as a short, unobtrusive lattice of maple limbs which act to trap sediment and slow the stream. Human activities, especially road construction and agriculture, cause interruptions to stream flow and increase bank erosion.

“Let’s just think about cattle for a moment. They cross the same place every time. They are going to soften that soil and they are also going to punch it down a little bit,” Costello said. “Once the water starts falling into the drop, that fall of the water is what causes the erosion and then will continue to un-

zip.”

BDAs are constructed at points in the stream where flow has been interrupted by a head cut, acting to fill the depression and preventing erosion from continuing upstream.

“As water hits that pond, it slows down and drops and that will slowly build sediment behind the structure, which then strengthens the structure and then it helps reconnect the floodplain because now we don’t have this incision,” Costello said.

Once the stream has been reconnected to the floodplain, the stream is able to meander more widely around. This turns a stream flowing quickly through a deeply cut channel into one which supports a wide, dense belt of riparian vegetation with its lazy flow.

Most of SR’s project sites are in places too remote for construction vehicles, where their use would undermine restoration efforts. Costello and his crew carry out their work the old fashioned way— with sweat, shovels, and axes.

“We’re not out there with heavy equipment, huge amounts of diesel, coming down into the meadow and potentially causing soil compaction, some disturbance to the vegetation,” Costello said. “We’re on foot and I have sleds. I don’t use wheelbarrows because the tires can cause little ruts, so we’re pulling everything on these duck hunting sleds.”

SR has worked closely with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, a subagency of the Department of Agriculture, which provides funding to ranchers and farmers on the condition that they meet certain restoration requirements.

“The program is to incentivize private landowners to do conservation efforts on their land,” Costello said.

One goal of SR is to involve the communities in which they work as stew-



Photo courtesy of Garrett Costello | A beaver dam analogue built by Symbiotic Restoration at Burney Creek, California.

ards of the land, fostering a bottom up approach to conservation.

“Last year, we partnered with Point Blue Conservation Science... we had 50 kids a day come from local elementary through high school to build beaver dams and plant willows with us,” said Costello. For the children, it was fun to build beaver dams in their community creeks.

“And all these kids were so stoked,” Costello said. “‘Oh yeah, go in the woods around here.’ Or, ‘Yeah, my parents work for the timber company in the town. We go hunting out here’. They have that sense of place,”

Even though much of SR’s work is

still focused in Northeastern California, Costello hopes to make connections with local Humboldt community organizations in the future. He recently spoke to students in a capstone restoration course, and hopes to form a dedicated Humboldt crew to work on restoration projects in the county.

“Volunteers come from all over too, so not only local communities, which we want to target to get that sense of place and stewardship,” Costello said. “Folks are coming from all over California that are interested in this because it’s really fun. We’re like kids playing in a creek.”

KIC

kramer investment corporation

Need housing? Give us a call!

(707) 444-2919
www.kramer.com

Student takes “Belle of the Woods” title in timber sports competition

by Lidia Grande-Ruiz

Cal Poly Humboldt’s Logging team shined yet again at the SCLC competition, held in the Shasta District Fair & Event Center located in Anderson, CA just south of Redding.

SCLC (Sierra Cascade Logging Conference) is one of the largest Forest Products and Construction Equipment Expositions out there. In addition to being a competition, it also helps young people interested in logging, forestry, and related fields to meet professionals in the industry. Not just make them better loggers, but also make connections which will help them get jobs during or after college.

“SCLC provides the community and students of all ages the opportunity to learn about the forestry industry,” said

Vice President Zoey “Dozer” Cardoza. “In addition, SCLC is a huge sponsor for our team.”

She’s majoring in forestry with a concentration in forest operations.

The team holds alumni breakfast to network with Humboldt alumni in the industry.

The conference consisted of three days: The first day of practice with professionals within the industry, the second day of breakfast with the alumni, and a third day with competition.

The competition consisted of various categories: Jack and Jill, Double and Single Buck, Horizontal Speed Chop, AX Throw, Choker Setting, and Stock Saw. Each team member shined in each category to the best of their abilities showing

off what they learned not just from practice but also from the local professionals.

One moment when this was proven was when Equipment manager Cassandra Renteria (Forestry in Forest Operations) took the title Belle of the Woods, which is given to the highest female competitor overall in each discipline.

“I was lucky enough to be placed in 3 first [place] and 1 second [place.]” said Renteria. “I was really stoked and grateful that I got the opportunity to showcase all my best events. It’s a great feeling when all the hard work you put in pays off in the end.”

Competition was



Photo courtesy of CPH Logging Team | Competitor Frankie Daumberger

very fierce as everyone wanted to showcase what they practiced so hard for.

“My goal for the competition was to help my teammates win,” said fellow team member Ed Laskey, Forestry major with a concentration in Wildland Fire Management. “One of my teammates Cass was doing all her events back to back and she ended up winning all of them and then she had to do like a face off pretty much against the second fastest person in her events and we were all getting pretty stressed out because she was getting tired. We were getting worried she was going to pass out but she made it through.”

“The biggest thing for us from SCLC since we have the supervision of these professional timbersports athletes is we are trying to get the most experience we can,” says President Austin Nolan (Wildlife Conservation Management). “So we are not necessarily out there to win the most points in the table.”

CPH ended up being tied with Oregon State. The CPH Logging Team is expected to compete in the AWFC on April 11-16th in Corvallis, OR hosted by Oregon State University.



Women’s volleyball club is being formed at Cal Poly Humboldt

by Jake Knoeller and Dezmond Remington

For the first time, a women’s club volleyball team is being formed at Cal Poly Humboldt.

The idea was brought up when a large number of women were consistently attending the men’s practices, including student Sophie Collins. Collins has been playing volleyball for eight years, but stopped when she came to Humboldt.

“When I came here, I didn’t play on the school team,” said Collins. “But I really wanted to keep playing volleyball. And so when I was walking around [at] a table event, I saw [a sign that said] men’s and women’s club volleyball and I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, this is so awesome.’ So I talked to them, and I signed up.”



Graphic by Nina Huffman, August Linton, and Angel Barker

Interest from athletes has been intense.

“Once we started getting more women who wanted to play, we figured we should make a club team,” said team staff advisor Marissa Holguin.

Holguin is a former coach for the men’s club team. Now, she is going to help with the women’s team, which is still working on recruiting.

“We started our process last fall, but during the first year it’s all probationary,” said team president Noelani Araujo. “This is just setting the foundation up for next year.”

The team plans on getting more games and scrimmages set up during Fall 2023. To join any real tournaments, they need a bigger budget. According to members of the team, the process has been rocky. The nascent team has big dreams; they want to go south and compete with teams like UC Davis, Reno, and St. Mary’s,

but they’re hamstrung by budget constraints. The club is currently on a probationary period, which prevents them from getting club funding. It also makes reserving the gym to practice difficult.

“We kind of had it going for a little bit and then it got kind of weird with getting the space to actually play and getting people who are interested to show up,” Collins said. “We’ve kind of decided to rethink our methods.”

The team is open to every skill level. The club is looking to recruit lots of new members heading into fall if they are able to commit to practices on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8 pm. Their first season will be spring 2024. Interested athletes should contact @hsu_womensvolley on Instagram. Their email is wclubvolleyhsu@gmail.com.

“We want to get started making a team and getting a sense of community,” said Araujo. “Not necessarily getting competitive, but building on that team feeling.”

Good Relations

223 2nd st
Eureka

We’re your friendly, independent,
education based sex shop owned by
Cal Poly Alum Dr. Melinda Myers!

Student Discounts

Toys and Lingerie

Size Inclusive

Queer Woman Owned

Multiple stops
close by

ALL SHOWS AGES 21+ | VISIT [BLUELAKECASINO.COM](https://www.bluelakecasino.com) FOR MORE DETAILS

ROSEWATER

-A TRIBUTE TO THE GRATEFUL DEAD-



Checkered Past
jammin' ska.dub.reggae!

MARCH 11, 2023

- LIVE IN THE SAPPHIRE PALACE -

LOCAL SHOWCASE!

\$15 ADVANCE
\$25 DAY OF

DOORS 8PM
SHOW 9PM

GET \$5 IN FREE PLAY
FOR EVERY TICKET
PURCHASED IN PERSON
AT THE REDWOOD
REWARDS CLUB!



Feelings about far-away graduation

by Lidia Grande-Ruiz

A few weeks ago, I got an email during work asking me to fill out a survey. The survey described how Cal Poly Humboldt is considering a commencement ceremony at a venue in another part of California. If I responded “yes,” I could be graduating closer to home. But Arcata has become my home now. If I were to graduate back in LA, yes, I would be surrounded by my mom, cousin, and childhood friends, but I think I would feel lost and disconnected. I would feel like something is missing, and that would be my peers.

While another graduation closer to home might sound ideal to those struggling financially, some are not pleased with the idea—myself included. For me, I want to graduate in the place where I attended my classes and made connections to help further my career. Where I formed friendships with my peers and roommates that will last a lifetime, laughed and cried about everyday life occurrences, and crossed paths with people from different backgrounds. I want to be in the place where I had not only a successful college experience, but also an adventure. Graduating in Humboldt county would fulfill my dreams.

My mom and I have been planning (and saving) for my college graduation and have started telling our loved ones where to go and when it is. When I told my mom about this survey, she was upset with me because she wanted to see me happy on my graduation day. She agreed that if I were to go back to LA I would be depressed because I would not have my peers by my side.

I have had my heart set on Humboldt since high school. It was my motivation to strive for the best.

Many thought I was crazy, that I would not succeed and have many opportunities being in a rural small town. But Humboldt is where I saw myself smiling very big and wide, walking across that stage.

To have this survey sent to me felt like Humboldt stepped on my heart with high heels. It hurt. I was overthinking where graduation was going to happen. Is it actually going

to happen? Am I going to walk the stage with my friends and mentors cheering me on to the next chapter of my life? Are me and my mom going to cross ‘Graduating Humboldt’ off my bucket list?

All I want is a graduation. But not just any graduation—a graduation proving that this first-gen Latinx student went farther than LA and explored their options in an area

where people least expected.

I ended up saying that I want to graduate in Humboldt. Not only am I standing up for myself in the present but also to the 17-year-old who wanted just one thing: to attend Humboldt and be able to say, “I went there and came out as a whole new person. Mom, we did it.”



Photo courtesy of Cal Poly Humboldt

If your parents pay your rent, check your privilege

by Angel Barker

I started college in the fall of 2020, and I feel like I haven’t had a real college experience. Here I am, almost a senior and I am just now experiencing in-person classes. Obviously, COVID made a big impact on my “college experience,” but that hasn’t been the only disruption.

I have been working the entire time, except my first two quarters at the UC I attended previously. I went to UC Davis my freshman year, but promptly transferred to Humboldt because there was no way I could afford to go there for three more years.

At Davis, the typical student seemed to take their class privilege for granted, and I guess I thought Humboldt would be better. But there is still an annoying amount of people who think they are impoverished due to their status as a student, even though their parents pay their rent and tuition.

A lot of us go to a state school because it is cheaper than a UC or private school, and because we can work and go to school at the same time. However, it feels like there is still a lot of unchecked privilege here. There are students who complain about how they have no life because they are so busy with school, yet that is the extent of the responsibilities they have.

Personally, I can’t party every weekend, I can’t go to kickbacks, I can’t do the “normal” college things, because I have to work to put myself through college.

Check your privilege before you complain about money. Not everyone is having their rent and tuition paid for by their college fund or their parents and grandparents.

There are students who have to work to pay all of their bills, including rent, tuition, PG&E, water, groceries, etc. Working 20+ hours a week on top of taking a full load of classes leaves no room for a social life. I feel like I don’t have a typical college social life, and that is not by choice.

I want to hang out with my friends, try new things, explore Humboldt and the surrounding world, etc. but I can’t. I am constantly telling my friends, “I’m so sorry I can’t come, I have to work.”

It gets exhausting hearing my peers complain, “I’m so broke, I have no money, I’m literally so poor,” when their parents literally send them a chunk of money every month or semester. Maybe try getting a job? Stop acting like you’re poor when you go to college on someone else’s dime and you’re not having to run yourself ragged trying to just scrape by. Your version of the “struggling student” lifestyle is luxurious if you don’t have to work.

We are all students and have that in common. We are all busy and share the struggle of just being a student within a screwed up system of higher education. However, comments about being poor when your family is above the poverty line is frustrating to students who are legitimately struggling to just buy the bare necessities.

COAST CENTRAL CREDIT UNION

Cal Poly Humboldt Students: Here’s \$50 to thank you when you open a new CCCU account!

Could you use an extra \$50? Open a Coast Central Membership Savings Account with \$50, and we’ll match it!

It’s easy:

1. Visit coastccu.org/join

2. Follow the prompts to open a new Membership Savings Account with \$50 minimum

3. We’ll deposit \$50 into your new account within 30 days.

4. If you already have a CCCU Savings Account, add a Checking Account and we’ll pay you \$50!

Or bring this card into any CCCU location!

• Low fees/great rates

• Local credit union that cares about **YOU**

• Complete Online/Mobile Banking

• Free access to 30,000 ATMs nationwide

• Strong support of the community

(707) 445-8801

Uniontown Center, 686 F Street, Arcata

NCUA

Equal Housing Lender

Facebook

Instagram

coastccu.org/join

Belonging Never Felt Better®

Coast Central Credit Union

A photograph of two bright yellow chili peppers. One is positioned above the other, both pointing towards the right. They have a glossy texture and green stems.