

# UPD UNDERSTAFFED AND OVERWORKED, SEARCH FOR CHIEF CONTINUES

A ride-along with Humboldt university police reveals challenges

by Brad Butterfield

Four officers provide 24/7 emergency response to over 6,000 students and faculty at Cal Poly Humboldt. While patrolling the campus grounds Feb. 2, Sergeant Andy Martin detailed how staffing shortages have stretched the force thin.

“If we stay short-handed, something has to give somewhere, and it might be the quality of our calls,” Martin said.

Dispatchers are working twelve hour shifts for weeks on end. Officers are forced to respond to calls without backup, on top of running a part-time shuttle service. Compounding these issues, the UPD does not have a police chief.

“We want to be that community-based police department. We work really hard to achieve that,” Martin said.

Staffing issues have not only made the job more difficult, but also need-less-ly

more dangerous.

“There was a call I went on last year, where a transient was on campus with a knife, which is a felony level crime. Arcata [Police Department] couldn’t send anybody because they were caught up and I was here by myself,” Martin said.

Another time, the sergeant responded to an alleged domestic violence dispute. Martin was the only officer on campus that day.

“It’s very hard to detain two people by yourself,” he said. “We have agreements with the CSU that minimal standards are generally considered two officers on at all times, 24/7. But we’ve been short officers for so long.

Now we have just single officers at a time.”

The satellite properties around Humboldt County that the university now owns are also patrolled by the UPD.

“Our expanded footprint is quickly becoming an issue,” Martin said. “I am the only officer working right now. So, if I’m here checking on this property, then I am not on campus.”

The university’s “bridge” housing system presents a transportation problem to a university that is already struggling to meet current students’ needs. The UPD has been acting as a shuttle service for the students housed three miles north of

campus in the Comfort Inn.

“Yesterday I transported four students myself. Someones gotta do it,” Martin said. “It goes back to staffing issues. Everybody is left scrambling. We don’t want it to be any of our students that are suffering because of it.”

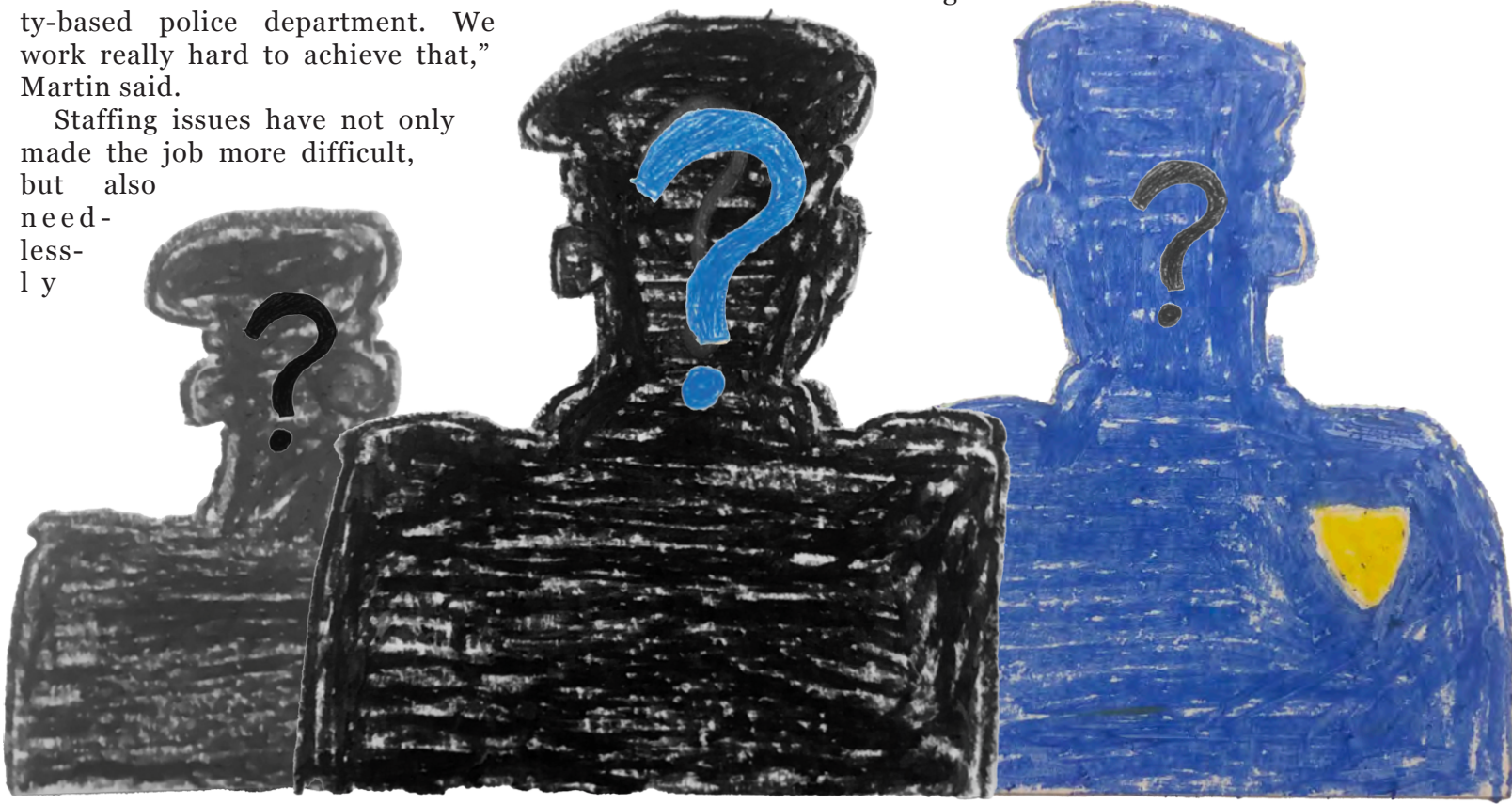
Inside the campus police station, dispatcher Jennifer Gomes sits at the helm, facing an extensive assemblage of screens. Gomes revealed the consequences of an understaffed dispatch center.

“This is my 18th day in a row, 12 hour shifts,” Gomes said. “I love it, though. I love the unknown.”

Gomes said that positive work culture at the station is one of the reasons she has stuck around.

Without a police chief, UPD’s single lieutenant is forced to fill the role in the interim. The strain of absent leadership is dispersed through the entire force.

The UPD says they’re working to fill the position as quickly as possible, but it is a multi-stage hiring process with many potential delays. In addition to background checks, medical tests, polygraph tests, and a psychological evaluation, there is also an eclectic group of community members that candidates for chief must interview with.



SEE COPS  
PAGE 3

# APD clears out homeless emcampment at Arcata Transit Center

by Andres Felix Romero

Jacob Sroto, an Army veteran without a home, slept in a cramped encampment at the Arcata Transit Center after being kicked out of a shelter. There were other houseless people that occupied every inch of free space, except for the building’s doors nearby. While using the portable toilet, Sroto would notice rats scurrying nearby. Soon after his arrival at the transit center, he and other residents of the encampment were given notice by police officers that they were trespassing and must leave, despite the wet and cold weather conditions.

On the morning of Thursday, March 2, three officers of the Arcata Police Department (APD) removed an encampment of roughly a dozen houseless people outside the Arcata Transit Center. This encampment had been inhabited and growing for at least a month according to City Engineer Netra Katri, who was present at the transit center the day after the removal.

“There was one big tent right there,” Netra said, pointing out a wall near the transit center, “and the next day it was gone.”

The City of Arcata brought a large dumpster to toss out the belongings

of the houseless individuals. Paul Geyer was present at the transit center during the removal and described the police as trying to be supportive to the individuals they were removing.

“They were separating the stuff people might want,” Geyer said. “Guitars, cookstoves, probably a dozen propane tanks, stereos... all kinds of stuff.”

Despite this attempt at civility, encampment residents such as Oscar Featherman felt that they had a right and protection to be on city property, especially with the winter weather warning in place.

“They executed an eviction,” Featherman said. “You can’t evict people when it’s those kind of conditions.”

There was about a three weeks’ notice given to the residents of the encampment. The notice cited violation of state laws on trespassing and camping. The notice also said that there have been concerns raised by resident and business owners about health and safety conditions of this location including the presence of rats, drugs, human waste, and debris.

Over the course of the pandemic, the city of Arcata became more re-

laxed with houseless people living on city property. However, APD Sergeant Brian Hoffman noted that the conditions and size of the encampment prompted the removal.

“At that point it’s a health issue,” Hoffman said. “We tried to offer services to the people. It’s up to them if they act on those or not.”

Present alongside trespassing notices were groups trying to offer services and support to the transit encampment residents. One group present the day of the removal attempting to offer support was the Arcata House Partnership (AHP), a grant-run program of over 30 years that seeks to advocate for and support houseless individuals.

Prior to the day of the removal, AHP successfully offered services to Sroto by offering him a place in an extreme weather shelter in their housing project known as The Grove.

“They told me, ‘this is gonna get cleared out anyway and the weather’s gonna get real bad, you wanna come for this?,’” Sroto said. “Everyone didn’t hesitate with [the offer]. Anything’s better than staying at [the transit center].”

The extreme weather shelter is one

of many programs run by the AHP directed at supporting the unhoused. They have other locations that offer services and advocacy for houseless individuals including bag lunches delivered by truck, mailing addresses, case managers, showers, sobriety assistance, assistance with EBT and finding shelter, gas cards and more.

Tanya Rodriguez works for the AHP at their Grove housing project. She feels that the programs are needed for those who don’t know how to navigate the system, and because many are only one situation away from being houseless themselves.

“Once you’re down on your luck, then you realize how easy it is to be right there,” Rodriguez said. “For many of us, it’s just one hospitalization that will suck everything you own out the door. One hospitalization, one natural disaster, one disability, one car breaking down.”

## Index

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| News.....    | 3 |
| L&A.....     | 4 |
| Science..... | 5 |
| Sports.....  | 6 |
| Opinion..... | 8 |

## Octopus

Marine lab resident returns to the sea.

Page 5

## SDRC

Concerns grow about accessibility funding

Page 3

## Snow battle

Whimsical or drab, take your pick.

Page 8



# The Lumberjack

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# Mission Statement

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Referendum**

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# SDRC capacity questioned amid projection of increased Cal Poly enrollment

by Andrés Félix Romero and August Linton

Cal Poly Humboldt sophomore Gabriel Carrender was ready to adopt a cat as his emotional support animal. He found one that he liked, named Sylvester, and started the process of dorm approval with CPH’s Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC).

“It’d really be nice if I could have a cat around,” Carrender said. “You know, having something I can cuddle with occasionally.”

He got a letter from a professional proving his disability and recommending an ESA, did an intake appointment with faculty of the SDRC, and had his roommates sign off and approve of an ESA in their dorm space.

Carrender said he felt caught in a catch-22. In order to be approved to have an ESA in the dorms, the applicant must already have the animal.

“The issue that I actually have with the SDRC is that they’re severely understaffed and underfunded,” Carrender said. “I made an appointment and it took me like a month and a half to get an appointment where I was sitting down [with them].”

Carrender isn’t the only student dissatisfied with the quality or timeliness of accommodations they’ve received from SDRC. Associate Dean of Students Molly Kresl says that the demand for their services has increased in recent years, while their funding and staffing lags behind.

“Over the past several years, we have been seeing an increase in the students who utilize the SDRC, even when the student population was declining,” said Kresl. “Luckily, we have an administration that is very aware of this need and is trying to

identify the resources to support this need.”

Kresl says that there have been two new staff positions recently funded at the SDRC, and that they plan to introduce new software which should reduce student wait times.

“We have had an increased stu-

dent need while not seeing an increase in staffing, said Kresl. “Similar to other campus departments, we will probably always need more funding, staffing, and resources.”

This has led to constraints for the faculty, leading to less time spent towards educating the campus to improve conditions for disabled students.

At a budget forum on Tuesday, the University Planning and Resources committee presented a draft budget plan which did not elaborate on where this extra funding for the program will come from.

Planners showed a list of possible budget priorities, which included Title IX, enrollment, retention, advancement infrastructure, and polytechnic infrastructure. The list did not include the SDRC or other accessibility infrastructure.

Monty Mola, department chair of the Astronomy and Physics department, said he was concerned about the University’s funding priorities.

“We’re not ADA compliant in a number of areas around campus and I really would hope to see those on there,” Mola said. “[They should] definitely be above things like the Student Activity Center, which I think is great. I feel like being ADA compliant has got to come above the Student Activities Center.”

Members of the forum also expressed concern that the predicted enrollment increases under the Cal Poly boom will over-burden an already inadequate number of SDRC staff and resources.

Provost Jenn Kapps stated that funding for the SDRC and accessibility may be accounted for somewhere in the budget, at a level of

tail not discussed at the forum.

“Being ADA compliant is a priority for our campus but this is a challenge,” Kapps said. “It’s a challenging place and there’s definitely a commitment.”

Associated Students At-large Representative Gerardo Hernan-



Photo courtesy of Cal Poly Humboldt | Students walk up the Founder's Hall stairs.

dez says that SDRC didn’t meet his needs when he sprained his ankle and was temporarily disabled.

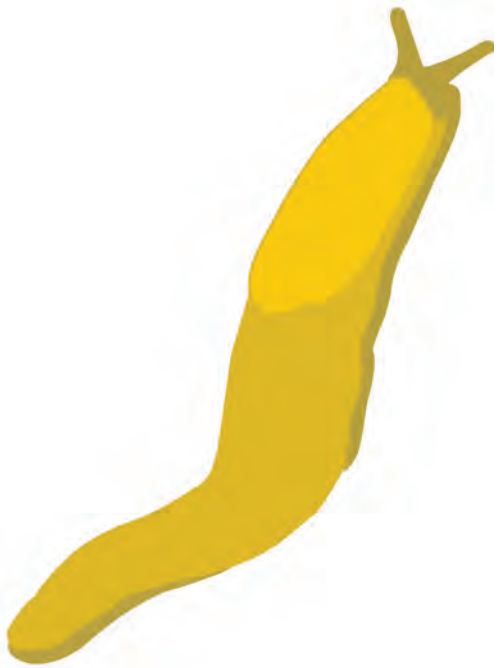
Hernandez’s constituents have also spoken to him with concerns about the SDRC’s capacity. He says that students are worried that the department won’t be able to support them given increased enrollment.

“Some of the people who are permanently disabled don’t know if they will be prioritized with this whole situation going on,” Hernandez said.

Current students enrolled with the SDRC disabilities requiring them to have on-campus housing are unsure if their needs will be met or even prioritized. Living in off-campus dorms may cause academic struggles, as needing to take a bus or drive with disabilities could cause them to be late.

Kresl predicts that there will likely be some struggle to accommodate students in the future with the population growth as the school administration tries to find the department resources.

“As we grow as a campus we will be able to access more resources,” said Kresl, “but there will be some growing pains until we find our equilibrium as a campus.”



## COPS

FROM PAGE 1

Candidates go through the committee process, speaking with two people from the police department, along with representatives from the leadership team, athletics, resident managements, students, and the chief of the Arcata Police Department.

“[It’s] a whole collection of people that provide feedback and opinions on how the candidate did,” said Martin.

Ultimately, the decision is made by the University president and vice president. Candidate Kevin H. Williams recently answered questions at a search committee led forum on March 2nd. Still, it is anyone’s guess when CPH will again have a police chief.

“The hiring of any police officer usually takes many, many months,” Martin said. “Maybe they’ll start soon. We never know.”

Martin says that the nationwide law enforcement hiring crisis has made the UPD unrecognizable from when he

first started.

“When I applied here eleven years ago, there was an excess of like thirty applicants, because this used to be the place to come,” he said. “The equipment was solid, you’d be working with a solid team, it was community-based policing at its finest. It was what a police department should, and could, look like.”

There are currently only four new applicants for police officer. The required background checks, medical and psychological examinations, and polygraph testing, on top of the training itself, mean that these potential new officers are still months out from serving the Cal Poly Humboldt community.

“Before I get those applicants on the street, I’ll probably lose another officer,” said Martin. “Redding is offering a \$50,000 signing bonus. How do you compete with that?”

# Who is the chief of police candidate?

by Dezmond Remington

Police chief candidate Kevin H. Williams has worked everywhere from the LAPD to Middle Tennessee State University, starting his career in law enforcement after receiving his master’s degree from the University of Phoenix. He worked for the Los Angeles Police Department from 1984 to 2005 in various roles, starting as a police officer and eventually becoming a sergeant and a detective before leaving for the Lane County Sheriff’s office in Oregon. Williams bounced around from job to job after that, working on various different college campuses, including the University of Oregon, Keene State College, and the University of Michigan Dearborn. Williams has worked no longer than four years maximum at every campus he’s worked at—five in all after

leaving the LAPD.

Williams’s time with the LAPD was also marked by conflict when he sued the LAPD for racial discrimination in 1999. Williams argued that he didn’t get a promotion to captain because he couldn’t shave his beard due to a medical condition called pseudofolliculitis-barbae (painful razor burns) that commonly afflicts Black men. The lawsuit was dismissed in 2000 by the Federal District Court due to a lack of evidence.



# John Craigie merges folk with humor at the Van Duzer Theatre

by Brad Butterfield



Photo by Brad Butterfield | John Craigie feels the music as they perform at the Van Duzer Theatre on March 1.

John Craigie blended comedic anecdotes with folk music, creating a one-of-a-kind show on March 1 at the Van Duzer Theatre. Describing himself as ‘the love child of John Prine and Mitch Hedberg with a vagabond troubadour edge,’ Craigie embodies his own version of the American singer-songwriter. He avoids cheap recreations of the 60s and 70s, while making subtle nods towards it. Craigie has carved out an irreplicable style of concert that forgoes complex stage theatrics, instead emphasizing audience interaction and storytelling.

The Ballroom Thieves opened the night with Martin Earley on guitar and Calin Peters on cello. Taking turns singing, the artists wove creative storytelling

into gentle folk melodies as the crowd filed into the theater. The set jumped between songs dealing with humanity’s endless exploitation of earth’s resources, the dark realities of being touring musicians, and even the tragedy of a parking ticket that the duo received recently.

Just before 8 p.m., Craigie found his way through the unlit stage to a modest metal chair. A moment of absolute silence preceded his first song, “Beethoven.” The song was hilariously self-aware with lyrics like, “I had a dream where I met Beethoven, and Beethoven told me that I wasn’t very good... I got burned by Beethoven.”

To an un-primed crowd the song could have shocked the room into a confused,

murmured applause. But the loud cheers and hollers indicated that the entire room had long ago boarded the Craigie train; they knew what they were getting into.

“What has changed for the better is that I’ve been able to know what rooms and settings are most conducive to the kind of show I put on. So I can be in tune with my audience,” Craigie said, speaking of the evolution of his performing career.

While some musicians fumble at the slightest crowd interjections, Craigie bathed in every heckle that came his way, with only well-timed and creative ones earning retorts.

“What people don’t always understand is they’re buying tickets to see a singer/songwriter, but they’re also buying tickets for a stand up comedy show,” said student Carlina Grillo, who enjoyed the show from the first row. “Everyone in the theater was laughing, hard. He’s a beautiful songwriter and truly funny person.”

After hilariously recounting the time he performed high on oxygen, Craigie stopped to acknowledge Grillo’s clever sign that read “I <3 John Gravy,” a reference to a joke on his 2018 live album *Opening for Steinbeck*.

Craigie’s 2022 album *Mermaid Salt* builds upon his folk roots with a much more produced and electronic sound than albums previous.

“It hasn’t been too difficult playing the songs as they were originally written, but it was a challenge at first to try and make them sound similar to the way they came across on the record,” Craigie said. “It was a fun journey to see how I could marry the heart of the song as a solo piece with elements of the melodies and layers from *Mermaid Salt*.”

After quipping that conventional wisdom advises against a performer playing

new songs onstage, Craigie began playing “Distance” off of the new album to a captivated audience. Exemplifying his ability to put universally relatable feelings into words, the song was born partially from the forced solitude of the Covid pandemic.

“I think that is a refrain I have said many times before lockdown. But it just felt so much more concrete when everyone was stuck at home,” Craigie said. “There were people I wasn’t able to see for years because of it. So it felt like a global emotion that I was tapping into.”

“Dissect the Bird,” performed at the end of his set, contains all of the ingredients that Craigie fans have grown to love in his music.

Lines like “I’m tryna stay focused and stay in the moment, but all I can think about is if my fly is open,” mix with, “I don’t trust a musician who’s always complaining, it’s hard out here but so is everything.”

Craigie capitalizes on the impact on the sentiment with his casual delivery, like an old friend would have after a long toke.

The Ballroom Thieves joined Craigie onstage for the encore song, “I am California.” The song is a beautiful love letter to the golden state, and received a well-earned standing ovation from the crowd. Cragie, ever the diplomat, refused to help settle the hotly contested CPH debate of Norcal vs. SoCal.

“I feel like a yin yang of NorCal and SoCal,” Craigie said. “Being raised in LA and then having my formative years in Santa Cruz and Mendocino County, I know the good parts and bad parts of both. And my heart is loyal to the whole state.”

## Review: Creamy hollandaise and crispy biscuits at Cafe Nooner

by Maranda Vargas

The air was rich with a delicious aroma as we approached the doors to Café Nooner. Loud clunks of dishes being cleared away and customer chatter filled the room. Once seated, I noticed the familiar checkered plastic tablecloth from Italian restaurants and pizza places as a child. The quaint dining room had several tables with families and couples seemingly enjoying their food and conversations.

A quick glance as we passed by the tables offered glimpses of delicious looking menu options. I watched a lady dressed in a blue blouse load her fork with a sliver of omelet, carefully scooping up the ham and peppers that fell out, balancing the fork as she brought it to her mouth. In unison with her bite, my stomach let out a growl in eager anticipation for brunch.

A server appeared to take our order, wearing a slightly crooked apron. Her hair was braided to one side, and she looked rushed. This was not our first time at Café Nooner; we both already knew what we would like. My partner ordered the eggs Benedict, smothered in a lemony, butter-rich hollandaise sauce. I ordered a 2-egg breakfast, which comes with grilled potatoes and eggs over medium, with a buttermilk biscuit as my bread option.

I’m haunted by the citrus zing of the creamy hollandaise on my partner’s eggs Benedict, a total FOMO moment. I decided to add a side of hollandaise sauce and a small side of French toast to share.

I watched Doordash drivers appear and disappear out the front doors with delivery orders. Suddenly, from around the corner came our server, plates in hand. Carefully yet swiftly, she placed the plates on the

table while my partner and I waited eagerly. The moment she turned to walk away, I took my first bite. Immediately we both started dressing the French toast, desperate for a taste. The delicate, fluffy, custard-coated bread wafted a bright lemon scent as I cut into it. My fork left crevices in the thick slab of bread, through which the maple syrup seeped. The flavors and texture were not like my French toast at home. It was a richer, denser French toast.

The eggs Benedict appeared to be everything, so creamy. The Virginia ham wafted the smell of sweet maple across the table. My partner sliced into the eggs with a knife and the yolk released cascades of golden deliciousness down the English muffin and onto the plate.

I was happy I decided to get that side of hollandaise. It had a purpose and a destination; I carefully poured the sauce over my potatoes.

The biscuit demanded space and admiration. It was chunky, fluffy, squarish, and put off the sweetest tangy aroma. I tore off a piece and it crumbled away, pulling with it a layer of deep golden crust that had formed on the bottom. The bottom of the biscuit tasted more like a pie crust — crispy, flaky, buttery deliciousness.

The meal was excellent, all the way down to the potatoes, their little strips of red pepper and onion grilled to perfection.

My partner and I became so consumed by our food, we momentarily forgot to offer one another a bite. I knew my stomach had reached maximum capacity, yet there was nothing that could stand between me and another bite of that sweet, fluffy lemon French toast. Bite by bite, I slowly ate a slice of toast.

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# CCAT begins reconstruction project

by Emma Sjostrom

The Campus Center for Appropriate Technology began construction of a tire retaining wall in their on-campus garden at Buck House. Constructed by CCAT directors, instructors and volunteers, the retaining wall is part of CCAT’s project to rebuild the existing Reclamation Station structure located in their garden. The structure has served as storage for students to donate and access reclaimed building materials.

Made from used tires, the retaining wall is needed to support the sloped landscape where the structure is located. Following the wall’s completion, project managers and volunteers are working towards utilizing natural building materials to complete the project.

The goals of the rebuild are to increase usage of reclaimed materials through safer and easier access. With a budget of \$1,000, the project is proposed to be completed by May 5th of this year.

Spearheaded by project organizer

Maddy Hunt, the project is aimed at promoting sustainable practices and techniques as well as serving as an example of utilizing appropriate technology in construction projects.

“The shed uses natural building methods which are focused on using reclaimed materials, minimizing ecological impact, and inviting community participation,” Hunt said.

Plans for the rebuild include construction of a wall made of hempcrete, a natural alternative to concrete. CCAT intends to collect data on usage of the material within Humboldt County in an effort to understand and demonstrate the feasibility of hempcrete to address housing needs within the community.

External Co-director James Lara added that CCAT’s overall goal is to encourage sustainable resource and energy use.

“We are in a live-in demonstration home for sustainability and to live lightly on the Earth,” Lara said. “It’s about en-



Photo courtesy of CCAT | Volunteers preparing tires

gaging students to have more experience with sustainable living.”

Construction of the retaining wall is nearly complete, and project organizers expect to continue the groundwork for the structure in the next coming weeks with the help of students and volunteers. Hunt aims for the project to be a practical example of the organization’s goals.

“It can be a demonstration for Cal Poly Humboldt,” Hunt said. “Especially for us to demonstrate [sustainability building] here at CCAT. It’s going to be a really cool way for us to connect with that and to be a part of that process.”

Hunt added that the project has potential for showing the university and surrounding community the viability of natural building, noting the relatively quick project timeline.

A soon-to-be graduate from the Environmental Studies program, Hunt mentioned that the reclamation project is the

culmination of what she has learned in her degree.

“It’s equally stressful as it is gratifying to be putting theories into action, and seeing it come together as not only a completed project in the end, but also as a network of people working towards a sustainable future,” Hunt said.

More information on the project and techniques being used can be found at [www.appropedia.org/CCAT\\_reclamation\\_station\\_2023](http://www.appropedia.org/CCAT_reclamation_station_2023). Those interested in aiding in the project’s completion are encouraged to participate in CCAT’s Volunteer Friday events, which occur weekly from 10am-12pm and 1-4pm. More information can be found on the organization’s website at [ccat.humboldt.edu/](http://ccat.humboldt.edu/) and Instagram @ccat.humboldt.



Photo courtesy of CCAT | Maddy Hunt and volunteers prepare tires for construction

# Percy the octopus to be released

*Marine lab favorite will return to the sea*

Photos by Ollie Hancock, article by Dezmond Remington

Humboldt is a place known for its strange creatures. Banana slugs. Ewoks. Bigfoot. One strange beast, kept in captivity for most if not all of its natural life, is getting so big it will soon be released back into the wild. His name is Percy, and he’s a pacific octopus at the Humboldt Marine Lab in Trinidad.

“He is ready to be released as he is too big for our facility and is getting restless,” said Grant Eberle, an aquarist at the marine lab. “Keeping him fed and happy is becoming a full time job.”

The lab is waiting for calmer seas until Percy is released. It will be a small event, according to Eberle.



Top left: A display of tidepool anemones sits in the classroom waiting to be studied.

Top right: A Bay Pipefish and Tube Snout take cover in eelgrass at the Telonicher Marine Lab

Middle left: Percy strikes a pose, showing off a gorgeous eye.

Middle right: Percy the Giant Pacific Octopus curls his tentacles

Bottom left: Percy in his tank

Bottom right: Wildlife major Sarah Woodbury shares a tender moment with Percy





# Men’s basketball bows out against Sonoma State in conference tournament

by Jake Knoeller

Cal Poly Humboldt’s first California Collegiate Athletic Association men’s basketball postseason appearance since 2019 came to an end on Thursday afternoon in Turlock, California with a 73-57 loss to Sonoma State.

Humboldt defeated Cal State LA on the final day of the regular season by two points and qualified for the tournament as the fourth seed, but fifth seed Sonoma presented a huge challenge.

The Lumberjacks led by one point at halftime. A 15-4 scoring run by the Seawolves had them ahead by 10 points with about 12 minutes remaining. The Jacks cut the lead to five, but another surge kept Sonoma ahead for good.

“It was a battle of two halves,” said Tae Norwood, Humboldt head coach. “We controlled the tempo, we controlled the pace of play in the first half, we made an emphasis of getting the ball inside and pushing in transition. In the second half it was the total opposite.”

Sonoma attempted 35 free throws in the game, with Humboldt only attempting 14. Sonoma made 28 to Humboldt’s 9, which was instrumental in their win.

“They were just playing together,” said Humboldt guard Bryce Mitchell. “They made sure they got to the free throw line.”

Another key component was Jaylen Wells, the 2022-23 CCAA men’s basketball player of the year. He scored 29 points and secured nine rebounds to lead the Seawolves past the Lumberjacks.

Brandon Porter led the scoring for Humboldt with 18 points while also grabbing eight rebounds.

“He did a really good job of getting to his spots,” said Norwood. “He took what the defense gave him. Credit to BP.”



Photo courtesy of Elliott Portillo | Brandon Porter goes up for a jump shot against Sonoma State

Sonoma lost the next day to the eventual conference champion, Cal State San Bernardino, who defeated Cal State San Marcos 88-81 in the final on Saturday.

While Humboldt’s loss is disappointing, this season was a step up from last year in terms of making the postseason and finishing with a better record than before.

“That’s our goal every single year,” said Humboldt guard Kareem Clark. “This first round loss is not what we wanted, but we’ll be back next year and

we’ll be advancing in the playoffs rather than first-round elimination.”

There is momentum that can be built for next year based on this season, one with a lot of good moments for the Jacks.

“It’s a step in the right direction,” said Mitchell. “It’s good that we got to the tournament. We just gotta get past the first round, take it game by game.”

Humboldt has five seniors leaving the team before next season. They all played their final game with the Jacks on Thursday.

“We have a bunch of good guys,” said Norwood. “As we move forward, we’ll be able to look at this graduating class as the springboard to our future success.”

Outside of this, Humboldt has a large group of players returning for the 2023-24 season.

“We look forward to the guys that we got coming back in the program,” said Norwood. “We got a strong group back. I’m excited for the future.”



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# The snow was joyous, jolly

by Harrison Smith

Wednesday the 22nd was a day of anticipation. Students and professors alike abandoned lectures to fix their noses to frosted window panes, gazing at the snow swirling from the white sky. Some watched the snow with dread, some watched with child-like wonder. Like everyone else, I went to bed that night expecting that the fitful flurries of flakes would falter overnight. After all, it never snows on the coast.

On the morning of Thursday the 23rd, I awoke to discover that the spirit of Jack Frost had ejaculated on our sleeping town. I finished my coffee as I watched the white blanket on my lawn grow thicker, then began to bundle up for the ride to class. I chose my outfit with warmth and winter whimsy in mind – from inside to outside, I wore two pairs of socks, long johns, an undershirt, a long sleeve tee, a sweater, a heavy jacket, a shawl, leather gloves, and finally sealed it off with a scarf tied about my head like a babushka.

The trip to class was like riding my bike through hyperspace. Blowing snow swirled and buffeted me, but I was well dressed for the weather. I smiled a rosy, windblown grin at the huddled silhouettes of students walking to class in hoodies and sneakers.

‘Probably from SoCal,’ I thought smugly.

There are no snow days for college students, but we find our fun in other ways. Normally, I am not one to linger after class. On Thursday morning,



Photo by Harrison Smith | A snowman cheefing a fat one in the courtyard of Founder’s Hall.

however, I found myself standing in the courtyard of Founder’s Hall, soaking in the tranquility of the scene. My classmate Adam had begun to build a snowman. His bare hands were bright red as he rolled the snowball across the grass.

“Mind if I join ya?,” I asked. He didn’t. For the next twenty minutes I used my gloves to roll balls of snow across the courtyard, gathering mass like the Prince of all the Cosmos in Katamari Damacy. I would heft the finished ball to Adam, who would then glue it onto the previous ball with handfuls of snow. When we were finished with the primary construction, we began to scour the ground for decorations with which to festoon our frosty friend. Adam dressed him with stone buttons and sculpted his handsome face, and into his mouth I placed a fat joint made of a curl of bark. Humboldt snowmen stay stoned.

The snow wouldn’t stick around for long, but Adam and I talk to each other in class now. We’re friendly. Whenever something out of the ordinary happens, humans love to share it with one another. We cannot help but beckon each other outside to play in the snow.

As adults we aren’t able to experience the snow like we did as children. It becomes an inconvenience, a hazard through which to drive, moisture in the hair, a cold touch on the neck. But we can still claim the small moments of whimsy and joy that come when the sky turns white. I loved the snow.

# I’m not chill with snow

by Nina Huffman

Two weeks ago, our campus was covered in a thin blanket of glittering white snow. This is obviously rare for the area, and has even more novelty for students who moved to Humboldt from areas that do not receive snow often. Pretty much everyone I know was really excited. They were running around, throwing snowballs, and making snowmen. I, however, was less than thrilled by the ice crystals falling from the sky.

I grew up in Colorado, where I dealt with snow for up to five months every year for the first 18 years of my life. When I was a kid, I played outside in the snow. When I was in middle school I learned how to snowboard. When I was a teenager, I learned to drive in the snow.

I’m used to waking up to find my car frozen and spending twenty minutes de-

frosting it and scraping the ice off. My usual 20 minute drive to school became a 40 minute drive when the roads were icy; it’s probably safe to say that the novelty of snow has worn off for me.

The weather in Humboldt county was a big factor in my decision to move here. I love that it never gets super cold or super hot, and I love the rain. Most of all, I love that I am not inconvenienced by snow.

You can call me dramatic – I am and I will continue to be. You can ask me where my childhood sense of wonder is. You can say I don’t appreciate the whimsical things in life. This is blatantly untrue; I am as whimsical as they come.

I am not trying to rain, or snow, on anyone else’s parade. Enjoy the snow all you want. Personally, I will be inside, under my heated blanket, trying to keep warm.



Photo illustration by Nina Huffman

