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DOJ case development

Flaxman’s son no longer at USD, no other university member involved

Luke Garrett
News Editor

The March “Varsity Blues” college admissions scandal at the University of San Diego has come to a close. The student who allegedly gained admission to USD is no longer in attendance, and an internal investigation found no other students or staff involved or connected to the March Department of Justice

indictment. Flaxman’s son no longer attends USD

The USD Office of the Registrar confirmed that the involved student no longer attends the University of San Diego as of May 23. Although student records are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), “directory” information concerning the student’s name, dates of attendance, and major is available without the consent of the student or their parents.

The student’s last day at USD was 24 hours before his father, Robert Flaxman, pled guilty to mail fraud regarding the March Department of Justice (DOJ) indictment on May 24. Flaxman’s son was a third-year engineering student.

The reasons for the student’s departure from USD are unknown. University officials did not answer why the student left and whether his credits were rescinded, citing FERPA. The student himself, did not respond to an interview request from The USD Vista.

Other universities implicated in the March indictment — Yale, Stanford, and the University of Southern California — have rescinded admission and vacated

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Raboutou is first US Olympic climber

USD’s Brooke Raboutou selected as one of seven climbers in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

Celia Tebor
Managing Editor

Brooke Raboutou has been climbing since she could walk. Now, at age 18, she is the first U.S. climber to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The University of San Diego sophomore has been surrounded by climbing her entire life. For starters, both of her parents were professional climbers: her dad is a three-time World Cup champion, and her mom is a five-time U.S. champion and four-time World Cup Champion. And hailing from Boulder, Colo., it would have been very difficult for Raboutou to avoid the sport. Memories of climbing echo back to her youngest years.

“My first memory was in my basement,” Raboutou said. “My dad built a plywood (wall) with some climbing holes on it. I remember climbing on that when I could barely walk.”

Raboutou is also the youngest person ever to climb a 5.14b. Climbing grades range between 1 and 14, and the letter, a, b, or c, further describes the difficulty of the climb. 5.14b is classified as “very difficult.” She climbed her first V5 boulder problem in 2014. The hardest outdoor boulder problems in the world are rated V16 and V17, and the V is short for Vermin, named after a famous climber.

Raboutou qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics at the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) world championships in Hachioji, Japan in August 2019. The top seven climbers in the women’s combined competition qualified for the Olympics. Raboutou placed ninth. But only two competitors could advance from each country, and four Japanese placed in the top seven. After watching the scores hop around, Raboutou learned she was going to the Olympics.

“When I found out, I was really happy,” Raboutou said. “Very shocked … My mom didn’t believe me at first.”

Raboutou still gets nervous at climbing competitions, but the pressure backs off when she’s competing with the professionals.

“I’m just trying to have fun, and when I’m having fun I usually climb my best,” Raboutou said. “I like to focus on my breathing to calm my nerves, focus in on the moment.”

Sports climbing will make its Olympic debut in 2020, combining three different climbing disciplines: speed

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Digital News

Editorial: gun control

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New food column

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Volleyball versus Nebraska

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NEW

Campus Update

USD bans dockless scooters

Birds, Limes, and other electric scooters are no longer allowed on USD’s campus, said Public Safety Chief James Miyashiro in an email sent to the entire campus community on Aug. 29.

The scooters can be used to travel to campus, but must be left in designated drop-off areas. Miyashiro cited “instances of accidents involving electric or motorized scooters across the country” as the reason for the scooter ban.

Warning cards will be given to first-time violators. If students are found violating another time, a report will be sent to the Office of Ethical Development and Restorative Practices.

Printing on Campus

A new printing service arrived on campus this year. Wēpa printing consoles are across campus. The third-party printing service is meant to kick out the middleman, allowing students to print directly from their cloud, phone, USB, and email.

New ticket booth

The USD ticket booth has moved from the glass window outside of the University Center to the desk complex adjacent to Tu Mercardo. A popcorn machine greets students who visit this new location.

The desk complex was seldom used by the Torero Program Board in prior years and will now be the permanent home of the ticket booth. The UC’s window will be converted into an office space.

Hong Kong removed from intercession tour

The University of San Diego's International Center canceled its visit to Hong Kong during their Asia Tour 2020 program. The political unrest in the once-British colony and now-Chinese territory caused Hong Kong to be removed from the tour.

The program’s trip to Seoul, Taipei, and Siem Reap will each be extended by one to two more days. The International Center notified students through an email sent on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

We’re Renovating Copley Library!

While some traditional study areas are temporarily closed, here are a few areas that are open:

- **Copley’s Mother Hill Reading Room**
  - Mon-Thurs: 7 a.m. - 2 a.m.
  - Fri: 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
  - Sat: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
  - Sun: Noon - 2 a.m.

- **Tu Mercado**
  - Sun-Thurs: 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.
  - Fri-Sat: 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

- **Saints Tekakwitha and Serra Hall Foyer**
  - Open 24/7

- **UC/SLP General Area**
  - Mon-Sun: 7 a.m. - 1 a.m.

To find a location near you, go to sandiego.edu/study-spaces.
**“Varsity Blues” concludes**

Questions still remain regarding the reasons for the student’s departure from USD

**Varsity Blues from Page 1** the credits of some students involved, while other students, like Lori Loughlin’s daughter, have left their universities on their own accord with credits intact. According to the father’s plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, the admission scheme involving Flaxman’s daughter will be the only one resulting in criminal charges for Flaxman.

No other staff or students involved

Over the past few weeks, USD President James T. Harris III, D.Ed. emailed students and staff the findings of an internal independent investigation called for in March following the DOJ indictment. Harris also declined to make any comment on the involved student, citing FERPA restrictions.

This act guards college students’ information from being released without the eligible student or parent’s consent. However, FERPA does allow universities to publish “directory” information, including the student’s dates of attendance and major, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Because of this, the USD Office of the Registrar confirmed with The USD Vista that the student who was allegedly bribed into USD no longer attends the university.

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**College Readership Program**

Journalistic service is reduced to one digital subscription in current ASG fall budget

Beginning this fall, University of San Diego students will no longer have free access to two digital subscriptions, instead they will only have one — meaning either The Wall Street Journal or The New York Times will be available to students this year.

In their final budgetary vote last May, USD’s Associated Student Government (ASG) continued a year-long trend of defunding the College Readership Program (CRP). This program, now a shell of its former self, is a free journalistic service available to USD students.

This service was originally designed to inform students of local, national, and world affairs.

“Reading a daily newspaper will help a greater understanding of events occurring beyond the campus as well as provide real-world examples of course theory in practice,” the USD Residential Life website reads.

As recently as the 2017-2018 academic year, students were provided with three physical and digital newspapers from The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The San Diego Union-Tribune.

The USD student government action to defund all physical newspapers was one of the first decisions made by last year’s ASG executive team. This initial decision led to much senate reaction: a unanimous vote for a referendum, a presidential veto to the senate’s vote, a senate override, and finally a senatorial warning to the then-president, Natasha Salgado.

The May vote to further limit the news service was voted for by the senate majority, led by Salgado. The minority argued against the vote and made note that no action had ever been made on Resolution 2018-2, which voted to give students a say in the CRP through a referendum.

According to the ASG meeting minutes, the executive team intends to fund the subscription to The Wall Street Journal, "because not as many students know about it,” Setaphnie Silvar said.

Student-lobbyists opposed made note that this defunding saves the fall budget $12,000 — less than one percent of the Fall 2019 budget, according to Reijer den Duik, the then-Director of Changemaking Initiatives.

A motion was made to continue funding the digital subscription to The Wall Street Journal along with The New York Times. The motion failed, as it needed to be unanimous, and three senators opposed.

The current ASG executive team was able to secure which subscription will be kept, and which will be discontinued this past summer. The current ASG President, Marion Chavarria Rivera, did not initially respond to questions regarding the CRP.

Although when with ASG staff advisor, Jennifer Lee, Rivera and Lee both said no decision has been made on which newspaper digital subscription will be funded and that ASG is working with the USD School of Business to fund both The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal.

The first ASG senate meeting of the semester is Thursday, Sept. 19 in Solomon Hall.
There have been more mass shootings than days in 2019. As of Sept. 10, the nonprofit Gun Violence Archive identified 382 mass shootings — shootings in which at least four people, not including the shooter, were shot — in 2019. Today, Sept. 12, is the 255th day in 2019. Horrifyingly, this has happened before. In 2016, the United States experienced 382 mass shootings. In 2017, there were 346. In 2018, 340. In August, the global human rights group Amnesty International issued a travel warning urging extreme caution when visiting the United States today. “Gun violence has become so prevalent in the United States that it amounts to a human rights crisis.”

At this point, denying the existence of a gun violence problem in the United States is as blatanly deceptive, both toward oneself and others. Gun violence is so pervasive that the debate surrounding mass shootings and mass shootings alone can seem altogether present. As with most debates over creating effective policies to solve a problem, there is little doubt that everyone shares the same goal when addressing gun violence — to keep people alive and safe. Where we differ is not in the underlying goal, but in our beliefs about how best to achieve that goal.

The most common of these approaches fall into three general groups, two of which aim to emulate other countries’ models of gun control, one side proponing Switzerland’s balance of firearms ownership and mass shootings while the other advocates for strong restrictions like those in Australia and New Zealand. The third group insists that guns are not the cause of mass shootings.

The group hoping to emulate Switzerland suggests that the country’s high rate of gun ownership is the reason for its overwhelming lack of mass shootings. The National Rifle Association (NRA), the most powerful pro-gun lobby in the U.S., points to Switzerland as an indication that large numbers of privately-owned firearms effectively prevent mass shootings. Texas Governor Greg Abbott is undoubtedly a member of this group. After a mass shooting in the Texas city of El Paso, the Midland left seven dead and 22 injured, Abbott signed multiple bills, including one that restricts gun owners. The new laws increase the number of places Texans can openly carry registered firearms, provide for more armed marshals in schools, and allow gun owners to leave their weapon in their car in school parking lots. The basic thinking of solutions like these has long been an NRA rallying cry — the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.

While it is easy to look at Switzerland and conclude that ending mass shootings in the United States is as easy as increasing gun ownership, it is also not completely accurate. While Switzerland has a high rate of private gun ownership, that rate is far below that of the United States, and is declining. Business Insider estimates that in 2007, 46 percent of Swiss citizens are gun owners. In 2016, only around 33 percent of Swiss citizens are gun owners. Clearly, Switzerland’s lack of gun violence is not because they own staggeringly more guns than Americans. Furthermore, it is not easy to buy a gun in Switzerland. Nearly every type of firearm requires a permit to own, and the permitting process is incredibly strict. People convicted of a crime or with a drug or alcohol addiction are not allowed to own a gun in Switzerland, nor can people who express a “violent or dangerous attitude.” Those who wish to own a gun for “defense purposes” must prove that they can safely load, unload, and fire a weapon, and it is illegal to own a weapon for self protection. While Switzerland has proved largely successful, it is not perfect. In June, a gunman in Switzerland killed four people. The shooter used a shotgun, a weapon authorities believe was stolen back in 1997 as the new gun law took effect. Stolen weapons, and especially weapons not turned over to authorities would certainly be a weakness in any ban instituted in the United States. Furthermore, gun violence takes more forms than just mass shootings. From 2013 to 2017, a large majority of gun homicides were committed in the United States using handguns, not the types of weapons Australia banned in 1996. Perhaps the best example of gun violence other than mass shootings is the overwhelming gun violence in Chicago. In the past year, The Chicago Tribune reports at least 269 people have been shot and killed in the city.

One final, cultural complication standing in the way of gun bans resembling those in Australia and New Zealand is that neither of those nations has the right to bear arms. There is no Australian or Kiwi equivalent of the Second Amendment. While the relevance of the Second Amendment is debatable — it was, after all, written when the commonly available firearms were muskets — its impact on American culture is not. While the deadly capabilities of firearms have evolved, America’s literal interpretation of the Second Amendment has not, making gun ownership so intertwined with American culture that it could be mistaken as a right for citizenship.

For what it is worth, Americans’ firm hold on their right to bear arms is not a new phenomenon. For years, with increasingly more Americans supporting some form of universal background checks to full-scale bans. However, there is still a group of Americans so attached to their firearms that they are not going to allow the existence of mass shootings in the U.S. Following seemingly every mass shooting, some segment of the population is offered to take the blame away from the availability of assault weapons, whether it be the shooter’s mental health or the glorification of violence in movies and video games.

While mental health and the glorification of violence are both issues in this country, they are also issues in Switzerland, Australia, and New Zealand — countries which have effectively eliminated mass shootings. The success of those nations would suggest that limiting access to firearms reduces the prevalence of mass shootings. This makes sense, considering that there is no more effective way for a civilian to kill large numbers of people in a short period of time than an assault rifle. The Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada — the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history — was committed using an assault rifle. The shootings in El Paso, Texas, Parkland, Florida, and at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, were committed using assault rifles. There should be no doubt that assault rifles, and easy access to them, are the leading cause of mass shootings in this country.

Ultimately, the debate on how to end mass shootings and gun violence as a whole could rage for years to come. Hopefully it will not. Hopefully we can find a way to limit the spread of such violence, creating such a solution looks to be a frustratingly complex problem. As much as we can look to Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, and other nations for examples, the United States is unique. There is no perfect model for the United States. That is to say, there is no country with a similarly romantic relationship with guns that has also solved the problem of mass shootings. The only real matters is that we stop waiting around for the perfect solution. Such a solution likely does not exist, and continuing to wait will only lead to more deaths.

The common thread between Switzerland and New Zealand is the rigidity in their laws. Universal background checks, longer waiting periods, and the confiscation of guns have worked for other nations, and they ought to be tried in the U.S. as well. The University of San Diego does not share the views presented within the editorial and op-ed sections. The opinions expressed in this section reflect solely the opinion of the respective writer.
Copley gets necessary update

Eric Boose
Opinion Editor

When it was first constructed in the 1980s, Copley Library was an integral faculty office. Filleras said Copley was born in an era long before current technologies even existed, let alone were widely adopted by students.

Three decades after its initial construction, Copley’s design has become insufficient in meeting the needs of 21st century students. It should be made clear, the resources the university has adopted over the years in the 1980s have not dropped in quality. Instead, the need for those resources has decreased significantly.

In the 1980s, Copley was designed with the idea that whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, you do not have to like someone else’s beliefs, but that’s an excuse to avoid and ignore them. Participate in challenging dialogue as hatred rises, voice your opinions so that we can all grow from each other. By listening and really hearing someone else’s beliefs, we can make USD and our country a more inclusive place.

Brandt Jager
Op-Ed Contributor

We are all ruining America. Let us be real for a second, our country is in a bit of a pick. One night, I was having a great, relaxing dinner, when my dad started talking about how Trump is ruining America. I rolled my eyes and to be honest, those kinds of thoughts make me angry, but not because I support Trump.

Divisiveness, political polarization, intolerance, and hostility tend to be common themes in our society nowadays. Everyone is mad at someone, and everyone has picked a side. Still, people are not having the conversations they need to be having, and our president is definitely playing a role in that.

Nationalized debates televised for millions to see, rallies for and against Trump with we’ve grown accustomed to seeing in our media feeds today. Our current political structure makes it difficult for some to understand that whether you are a Democrat or Republican, you pick a side and fight for that side. American politics has become so divided that it is described as an “us versus them” battle, where basically any major event, like the Parkland school shooting, becomes politicized in that specific case being turned into a debate on gun control. It does not take long for mourning and anger to be directed at a specific political opponent or their ideologies. In more liberal circles, that target is often Trump, while in conservative ones, that target can range massively, from immigrants, Islamists, the social elite, or the democratic party to a whole. A perfect example of this is the policy of Medicare being turned into a fight against Obamacare. The New York Times cites “remarkable parallels between Obamacare and George W. Bush’s Medicare Part D” in a recent article. These are little issue overall with this policy until adopted and politicized into a Democratic policy, ObamaCare. This divisiveness is a big problem because it can bleed into everyday life. It catalyzes xenophobia and bigotry, and further solidifies the polarization we see in politics today.

And while this divisiveness results in the U.S. experiencing a happiness ranking of 108th out of 140 nations (not very good), according to the happy planet index, what are we doing? Golfing. Trump’s avoidance subconscious sends a message to the American people: just ignore it. And that’s exactly what we’re doing.

The current state of our nation has led me to invent my own term: Trumpian sociology. I would define Trumpian sociology as being a characteristic of a society that is not only faces extreme division and political polarization, but one where its own citizens either don’t care enough or are too afraid of offending someone to voice their political beliefs. As a result, a bystander culture develops, leading youth to be much more passive and uninvolved in that society’s politics. In addition, solutions tend to be more transient and short term, and the government for the longest period in history, resulting in a political party was fully satisfied with (a $400 billion deal) to tackle immigration issues. Compromise today takes being told to stand at a point where both sides can hazily agree. It’s like a sick man pouring hydrogen peroxide and placing Band-Aids in a five foot, festering, cancerous wound. Government shutdowns don’t fix anything. Politicians can pretend it’s effective, but we all know it’s not. We all know it’s only a matter of time before it happens again.

San Diego is in an interesting position as being very liberal in the dense, urban areas, yet very conservative in a very conservative county. According to recent polling data from the San Diego Union-Tribune, 42 percent Republican. Coronado is 42 percent Republican, and San Diego is 42 percent Democrat, showing quite a lot of voter diversity. San Diego as a whole has 509,359 voters with “no party preference” as of August. This diversity in political beliefs is even more of a reason to have difficult conversations about our opinions, but it isn’t happening. I have not personally had a very serious, in-depth conversation about politics with a single person since arriving at USD. In America, strong associations with Christianity tend to be associated with Republicanism, while there is a Catholic school in a liberal city in California, with so many different beliefs being present, I get the feeling that people are afraid to offend. Students don’t want to voice their true opinions because they are concerned about what others will think of them, and rightfully so. America’s environment of intense hostility toward the opposing political party, on both sides, encourages people to just stay silent.

This political avoidance is effectively excused by our president when he chooses to go golfing at his resort instead of starting any type of intelligent dialogue. Recently, Trump has called off peace talks with the Afghani Taliban and delayed negotiations with North Korea. When people who disagree don’t talk, nobody learns, nobody unites, and people get walled off more and more into their little bubble of beliefs. Hostility leads to ignorance and hatred, which leads to more hostility, and it is tearing our country apart.

One way to nudge at like someone else’s beliefs, but that’s an excuse to avoid and ignore them. Participate in challenging dialogue as hatred rises, voice your opinions so that we can all grow from each other. By listening and really hearing someone else’s beliefs, we can make USD and our country a more inclusive place.
“There were a bunch of people here that were really welcoming and willing to help me out. Jason, our RA, kept checking up on us. It was seamless and even the campus people that did the debunking came quickly. So it was a pretty smooth process to be honest. All the parents were super sweet... for moving in over a thousand kids at the same time, I think it was very well organized.”

ZAKIR TIKEKAR  
(INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FROM INDIA)

“I feel like the (first-year students) are finally getting incorporated into the community now that the upperclassmen are here, and it was a cool experience to be included in a campus-wide event.”

GRACIE RIVERA

“I moved in two weeks early to my LLC to get ready for OLE! Weekend. I had so much to learn from staff and returning RAs so it was busy, but it was also super exciting. I was chosen to be an RA for a reason and this experience has reminded me of how exciting but unfamiliar (the first) year is. This has also allowed me to rediscover myself and people skills.”

HANNAH BALDOZ  
(SOPHOMORE RA FOR FOUNDERS HALL)

“I thought it was a great way to end OLE! Weekend as us (first-year students) were able to meet the other classes and finish that initial transition into college.”

VANESSA TSUJI

“Everyone was in one place and it was nice to be social and go up to people. I also think the lighting was really cool.”

NICOLE GREIW

“I liked how the LLC groups were a more casual environment.”

JAMES BURNS

I thought it was good because it brought everyone together and was a nice way to start the year. I would recommend (first-year students) to attend next year.”

TAILGATE & SOCCER GAME

Spread by Alee Pingol / The USD Vista; Content by Ashley Ingraham, Jenny DeSantis / The USD Vista; Photos courtesy of Nicole Greiwe, Andrew Tolentino, James Burns
Such frustrations are not new. Despite the campus organization Student Vegans United fighting for dietary option accessibility, especially in its role in the creation of the Clean Earth Kitchen at Pavilion Dining, some vegan students believe that there is still room to grow within campus dining.

“Some of the items at the SLP are mislabeled as vegan or vegetarian,” Robledo said. “During my first week of school I got a ‘vegan’ burger from Sea Salt Grill a couple times before finding out the burger bun was not vegan the entire time ... brunch at the SLP is extremely disappointing, as the only options really are oatmeal, spring rolls, and waffles.”

Cross-contamination is another concern cited by student vegans. While she acknowledged that all on-campus dining spots provided at least one option for vegan students, senior Hannah Sonberg noted that meals with animal products and vegan meals are often prepared in the same space using the same equipment.

“Unfortunately, I’ve noticed a lot of instances of cross-contamination on campus, whether it be preparing vegan food in general areas or not changing gloves,” Sonberg said. “When someone orders a vegan meal, it would be nice to see the worker immediately change gloves.”

Vegans are not alone in their concerns about cross-contamination. Toreros with food allergies also fear communal food preparation, as sometimes even slight cross-exposure between foods is enough to spark a serious, potentially life-threatening reaction.

Sophomore Amanda Mueller understands this realization fully, as she was diagnosed with celiac disease this summer. While impressed by the amount of gluten-free options USD kitchens prepare, Mueller still has reservations about eating on campus.

“Since I was recently diagnosed and I’m still learning and adjusting, I was, and still am, nervous about eating on campus. Since I was recently diagnosed and I’m still learning and adjusting, I was, and still am, nervous about eating on campus, especially with the threat of cross-contamination,” Mueller said. “Overall, I think the school does a good job with all the gluten-free options they provide, but I’m still unsure about food preparation.”

Additionally, Mueller cited that her perspective of student dining had changed since her diagnosis, admitting that last year, she did not experience uncertainty about on-campus eateries.

“Last year I didn’t stress at all about food because I had no dietary restrictions,” Mueller said. “It’s a big change having to be extra mindful this year.”

However, changes to student dining have been made. Over the summer, the Culinary Institute of America partnered with USD Dining Services to train Pavilion Dining staff regarding dietary restrictions and vegan cooking. Loryn B. Johnson, the Marketing Director of Auxiliary Services, explained the improvements made during the summer, particularly in plant-based cooking.

“The Culinary Institute of America was just here in August and they did training for all of our full-time Pavilion Dining staff regarding dietary restrictions and vegan cooking,” Loryn B. Johnson, the Marketing Director of Auxiliary Services, explained the improvements made during the summer, particularly in plant-based cooking.

Romanski expressed her dedication to helping students access delicious and suitable options for their dietary needs, and urged students encountering issues to reach out to Dining Services.

“If students have any suggestions of what else we can do to help make it easier for them, we want to know,” Romanski said. Students can contact Dining Services to express concerns or learn about dietary options for their personal needs by emailing dining@sandiego.edu.
A variety of musical artists are performing in the San Diego area this month. With genres ranging from country to rock, there are concerts for nearly every music fan.

**9/18 - Chance the Rapper**

Grammy award-winning artist Chance the Rapper will be performing in San Diego this September as a part of his current world tour, named for and celebrating his debut album "The Big Day." Chicago born and raised, the artist still resides in his original hometown. His debut mixtape, "10 Day," was released in 2012 and immediately stirred interest in the music community. Chance has been active and releasing new music ever since. The rapper is most well-known for his mixtape trio, comprising of "10 Day," as well as "Acid Rap" and "Coloring Book." Chance the Rapper has been nominated for and received a variety of awards for his innovative music style, including Grammys in the categories of Best New Artist and Best Rap Album, and his voice has become instantly recognizable to any rap fan. His other major accomplishments include his work on Kanye West’s "Life of Pablo" album as a co-writer and featured artist. Though he has released mixtapes in the past, this year, Chance released his first full-length studio album, "The Big Day," which features artists like John Legend, Death Cab for Cutie, and Gucci Mane. Outside of his music career, Chance is also well-known for his activism and support of Chicago's underprivileged youth.

**9/19 - Zac Brown Band**

Another Grammy award-winning country favorite will be making a tour stop performance this September in San Diego. Zac Brown Band, led by Zac Brown himself, is an Atlanta-based country music group made up of eight members. The band has released six studio albums and will be embarking on their seventh national tour, titled The Owl Tour. This tour is named after their newest album, which will be released on Sept. 20. The album includes collaborations with artists like Skrillex and Max Martin, and will carry on the band's tradition of sampling various music styles in their songs. In the past they have experimented with reggae, rock and other music styles especially on their "Jekyll+Hyde" album. Zac Brown Band has experienced great commercial success, with hit singles like "Chicken Fried" and "Toes" topping charts and have developed an extensive and loving fan base. Another one of their most popular songs, "Knee Deep," features the legendary Jimmy Buffett. The band has been nominated for and won Grammys and awards from the Country Music Association. Over time, they have become a household name. Zac Brown Band's music can be streamed on services like Spotify and Apple Music, including their most recent album, "The Owl Tour." Zac Brown Band's music style is characterized by the intensity of their rock sound, and fans rave about the energy of their live performances. Despite the changes in members over the years, the band stays loyal to their roots and their original sound and still plays older songs live, though some of the originals have come and gone. Though their new album "Earth & Sky" won't be released until Sept. 27, the San Diego concert is a part of the Earth Tour, and there is a good chance the band will be playing songs from their newest album, including the recently released "Earth & Sky" single. Of Mice and Men's music can be found on streaming services like Spotify and Apple Music, and their newest album is available for preorder on their website. Tickets are $20 for general admission for all ages. All day Saturday and Sunday Sept. 28 and 29, Waterfront Park, 2600 Pacific Highway. $215 for weekend passes, all ages.

**9/20 - Florida Georgia Line**

Country music duo Florida Georgia Line will be performing in Chula Vista as a part of their Can't Say I Ain't Country Tour. Artists like Dan + Shay, Morgan Wallen, Canaan Smith and Dylan Schneider will also be rotating as openers for the pair on their tour. The duo, made up of Tyler Hubbard and Brian Kelley, was formed in Nashville, Tenn. back in 2010 and started originally as a country music cover band. Florida Georgia Line's music is considered "bro-country," a term that describes a particular style of country music that adds elements of rock and hip hop to the classic country style. The pair released their debut single, "Cruise," in 2012, which became an instant hit and has remained their most popular song. They have released four studio albums in their career, their newest being released this past February, titled "Can't Say I Ain't Country," which their current tour is named after. The band is known for their previously mentioned hit "Cruise," as well as songs like "Simple" and "H.O.L.Y." They were also featured on Bebe Rexha's hit "Meant to Be" and have supported artists like Luke Bryan and Taylor Swift on their respective tours. All of Florida Georgia Line's music, including their newest album, can be streamed on services like Spotify and Apple Music. 7 p.m. Friday Sept. 20. North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre, 2050 Entertainment Circle. $80-$125, all ages.

**9/22 & 9/29 - CRSSD**

Popular San Diego Electronic Dance Music festival, CRSSD, will be held again this September at Waterfront Park downtown. The festival, featuring artists like Fisher and Portugal, the Man, draws crowds from the San Diego area and beyond in both the fall and spring. The festival focuses on the music of an eclectic variety, hosting more than 36 artists on three stages set up across the festival grounds. The venue for the CRSSD festival is particularly unique in that it looks over beautiful bay and downtown area. Though the festival has a strict 21+ age requirement, many of CRSSD's biggest fans enjoy this limit, as it makes the festival feel more intimate. Festival-goers return to CRSSD year after year for both the welcoming environment and atmosphere of music and camaraderie between other EDM fans. In fact, the CRSSD festival is known for attracting crowds of house fans who consider themselves experts on the genre. With that being said, CRSSD is open to all lovers of music, regardless of the genre you enjoy most. The festival has something for everyone, from the food to the natural beauty of the waterfront venue. Tickets for the CRSSD festival are available on their website, www.crssdfest.com, and range in price from $120 for single day passes to $245 for weekend passes, all of which have since sold out.

**9/29 - Of Mice and Men**

Popular metalcore rock band Of Mice and Men, named after the John Steinbeck novel of the same title, will be back performing in San Diego again after a yearlong absence. Originally from Costa Mesa, Calif., the band comprises of four to five members, though the core members of the band have changed over the years. The current lineup is Aaron Pauley on lead vocals and bass, Alan Ashby and Phil Manansala on guitar, and Valentino Arteaga on drums. The group has released six studio albums and is known for hits like "Would You Still Be There" and "SECOND & SERRING." Their music is characterized by the intensity of their rock sound, and fans rave about the energy of their live performances. Despite the changes in members over the years, the band stays loyal to their original sound and still plays older songs live, though some of the originals have come and gone. Though their new album "Earth & Sky" won't be released until Sept. 27, the San Diego concert is a part of the Earth Tour, and there is a good chance the band will be playing songs from their newest album, including the recently released "Earth & Sky" single. Of Mice and Men's music can be found on streaming services like Spotify and Apple Music, and their newest album is available for preorder on their website. Tickets are $20 for general admission for all ages. 7 p.m. Tuesday Sept. 24. Soma San Diego 3350 Sports Arena Blvd, $80, all ages.

A variety of musical artists are performing in the San Diego area this month. With genres ranging from country to rock, there are concerts for nearly every music fan.

Photos courtesy of Morgan Williams, Larry Darling, Daniel Gregory/Flickr, Achim Raschka/Wikimedia Commons
The new weekly food column
Introducing our newly-created food column, guided by student opinion

Lizzy Jennings
A&K Editor

As students in San Diego, we are particularly lucky to have access to the vibrant, ever-changing culinary scene that is alive in our city. The size of the city alone lends to a plethora of choices, especially with rapid expansion in neighborhoods across the San Diego area.

Little Italy is one of these rapidly expanding and developing neighborhoods. Little Italy is not only home to multiple new restaurants on India Street and beyond, but there is now a Little Italy Food Hall that boasts stations representing five different cuisines. Even with all of these cultural backgrounds, making San Diego famous for more than just its Mexican and American cuisine, Asian influences have come across the Pacific and shown up in restaurants across the city. Din Tai Fung, a restaurant known for its impossibly scarce dining availability, also shows up constantly on social media, posted by USD students happy to show off the delicious dumplings the restaurant has become famous for. Thai food is also a student favorite, whether it is J&Ts just down the hill or Oriental Thai in Pacific Beach. No matter what food you enjoy, it can easily be found in San Diego. However, with new restaurants popping up overnight all across town it is at times overwhelming to navigate the ever-changing options.

To resolve this problem, The USD Vist staff has decided to launch a new weekly column that guides students to the best of the best in San Diego. We will be covering a range of cuisines, with restaurants fit for a range of budgets, and hope this column will serve as a guide to anyone looking for new spots to try when they’re deciding to eat out. Now we need your help, so we are urging you, our readers, to write in with your favorite spots in San Diego. There are no wrong answers, so tell us where you love to eat and why, and you may even see your recommendations featured in the column.

Kaitlyn Pereira
A&K Contributor

Café Gratitude: 1980 Kettner Blvd.
The look and feel of Café Gratitude — the marble tables, patterned blue floor, and presence of potted plants all around — gives off a zen, peaceful ambiance for customers coming in. And the food takes it one step further. From keto bowls to fresh-fruit smoothies, everything is animal-product free, and the charming hotspot in Little Italy is perfect for those looking to experience something new. The menu has a unique twist to it, as all the items are named after positive qualities found in a person. The café does this so that when ordering food, customers are encouraged to open with the phrase “I AM…” followed by the dish name, ranging from Next Level/Watermelon Poke to the Devoted/Indonesian Grain Bowl. Café Gratitude also cultivates the food and unconventional dishes. This eatery distinguishes itself from others by incorporating elements of mindfulness with going out to eat. Our recommended dish to try is the Buffalo Cauliflower appetizer, a vegetarian dish that mimics the traditional buffalo chicken-style starter by breading and smothering cauliflower in adobo buffalo sauce.

A bite of San Diego
Morning Glory: 350 W Date Street
For all the Toreros who love breakfast, this one’s for you. When imagining the inside of Morning Glory, picture a restaurant with an atmosphere and aesthetic comparable to Elton John’s eccentric rocket man style. The flashy chandeliers, plush pink velvet booths, and checkerboard flooring of the restaurant transport customers to the 70s. Most well known for its dreamy and light soufflé, Morning Glory also offers a take on avocado toast called “Millennial Tears.” At times the restaurant can have long waiting periods over an hour, and doesn’t offer reservations. The overall aesthetic, along with the high tea option and opportunity to watch as chefs prepare meals seems to have drawn many to this popular breakfast spot in Little Italy. The extensive menu can be overwhelming, so a dish we encourage our readers to try is the extremely popular house-made Morning Glory Fried Rice, featuring peas, pork belly, and a delicious amount of cheese.

Tocaya Organica: 4545 La Jolla Village Drive
It wouldn’t be San Diego without an excessive amount of tacos. One trendy taco spot, with locations all around San Diego, is Tocaya Organica. From opening in One Paseo in Del Mar, to the location at the University Town Center Mall in La Jolla, Tocaya Organica has established itself in San Diego this summer. One of the more affordable options for college students here is the taco combo, which includes two tacos, one of Tocaya’s side dishes, and a drink for $11. Vegans, vegetarians, pescatarians, and meat eaters alike can all enjoy the food and variety of options at Tocaya. The overall environment of the restaurant incorporates natural elements of the outdoors while staying true to its modern flair that is prevalent throughout the menu. If the taco combo isn’t what you’re looking for, we also recommend the seasonal watermelon and heirloom tomato salad, which is a delicious seasonal salad topped with a light and lemony vinaigrette.
Senior outside hitter Thana Fayad said that despite the loss, she and her teammates drew confidence from their performance against second-ranked Nebraska, which saw them come within three points of an upset.

"I think our own errors (allowed Nebraska to pull away)," Fayad said. "They did everything by the book, and we could have stayed more true to our gameplan. If we'd done that, I think we would've come out with a win today. It was a tough one, but we'll definitely learn from this experience."

Petrie stated that despite the loss, there were positive aspects for the match of her team.

"We're really excited to be playing at the level that we are this early in the season," Petrie said. "Having matches like that, it just helps to boost your confidence. Win or lose, you're playing stiff competition, and you are learning a lot about yourself and your team and what you need to work on."

Fayad shared her coach's sentiment regarding confidence.

"If it's giving us confidence — the fact that we could have won our own mistakes," Fayad said.

Next up for the Toreros is a road matchup with the University of California, Santa Barbara on Friday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. According to Petrie, her team will be both well prepared and motivated for the match.

"I think that we're finally settling into a pretty good lineup, and I think that everyone is hungry to get some wins," Petrie said. "We've gotta carry that up there."

Live statistics for the match will be available on the USD volleyball website.
Olympics From Page 1

climbing, bouldering, and lead
climbing. Speed climbing is true to its
name, as climbers attempt to reach
the top of the climbing wall as fast as
possible. Bouldering involves shorter
walls, up to four meters. Climbers
must attempt a route without
any climbing equipment within
a five-minute time limit, and
the routes involve difficult
difficulties and require careful
technique. Lead climbing includes climbing
ropes and quickdraws, which
allow climbers to control
their rope while climbing, and
competitors attempt to climb as
high as possible in six minutes.

The combined climbing
disciplines in one Olympic
event has spurred conversation
and controversy among the
climbing community. Typically,
climbers specialize in one type
of climbing.

Shanna Cossey, who won
IFSC Bouldering World Cup
in 2016 and 2017, said in an
interview with Olympics News,
"It's a bit like asking Usain Bolt
to run a marathon and then
do the hurdles. No one has
really transitioned before. No
bouldner has transitioned to
speed and lead, and no speed
climber has done it to bouldering
and lead." However, Raboutou
thinks it's a good introduction for the
sport to the Olympics.

"I hope to see that in the
future, there'll be medals
for individual (disciplines),"
Raboutou said. "I think that as
a sport, all three are quite different
and people should be rewarded
for being specialists. As a start, I
think it's cool that it's combined. It
definitely brings a different
strategy to it that athletes have
to use."

Raboutou has been training
in bouldering and lead climbing
for longer, but has been
practicing speed as well, because
the youth world championships
she has participated in involve
different disciplines — like the
Olympics. Despite joining the
speed game late, she enjoys all
three disciplines equally.

"A lot of people don’t like
speed as much because it’s
different than the other two," Raboutou said. "I really enjoy
it and enjoy competing in
college years.

"I think I'll always want
to be a climber," Raboutou
said. "Maybe combine the two,
business and climbing. My mom
is a coach and owns a climbing
gym, so following along her
footsteps would be awesome."

Raboutou has achieved a lot
during her 18 years of life. During
the 2020 Olympics, she may add
one more accomplishment to
her lengthy list. The 2020 Tokyo
Olympics will occur between July
24 and Aug. 9, 2020. Currently,
Raboutou stands alone as the
only American who has qualified
for Olympic sport climbing.

Chris Spiering
Sports Editor

It all came down to the final
play as the Toreros came up
short Saturday against No. 5
UC Davis. Facing a three-point
deficit with seconds remaining
in the game, University of San
Diego football was on the verge
of an upset. Inside the Davis
five-yard line, redshirt senior
quarterback Reid Sinnett threw
to an open Emilio Martinez at the
goal-line where he reached
for the endzone. Suddenly, a UC
Davis defender tackled Martinez
just before he was able to reach
the goal-line and the ball came
loose and rolled in the back of
the endzone for a touchback,
giving Davis possession of the
ball.

"He fumbled the ball," USD
football head coach Dale Lindsey
said. "My first thought was that
the official made a bad call but
after just seeing it, (Martinez)
stacked out to it. It was a
good call by the officials."

The Aggies then proceeded to
seal the 38-35 victory by taking
a knee. The Toreros are now 1-5
all-time against UC Davis with
their only victory occurring in
2008.

Every year since 2011, USD has
hosted Western New Mexico
University as their home opener.
The Toreros defeated them each
season. Prior to Saturday’s

"I can’t fault any of our players for a lack
of effort."

-Coach Dale Lindsey

loss, the Toreros had a streak
of winning eight straight home
openers while winning 21
straight home games in that
span.

USD had a rough start to the
game, allowing two quick
touchdowns by the Aggies.
After being down 14-0 early in the
first quarter, senior wide
receiver Michael Armstead took
back a kickoff return 93 yards
for a touchdown, which seemed
to switch the momentum back to
the Toreros.

Armstead was awarded the
Pioneer Football League (PFL)
Special Teams Player of the
Week honor last week when he
had a three-interception game.
He once again had
another solid performance with
152 yards and a touchdown in
the game by a score of 35-31.

Election Martinez loses the football on final play of game against No. 5 UC Davis.

USD will spend the next two
weeks preparing for their
home game against Harvard on Sept.
21 at 2 p.m. Tickets are free for
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USD football falls to UC Davis 38-35 on final play of game

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