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THE USD VISTA

Rent prices spike complicating student housing

San Diego experiences one of the highest rent increases in the U.S.

COLIN MULLANEY
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

As the Spring 2022 semester winds down to a close and fall course registration is nearly complete, many current sophomores and juniors have turned their attention to the next academic year, especially the housing options available to them. While rising freshman and sophomore students are required to live on-campus and many have already chosen their preferred living arrangements, juniors and seniors have a wider array of options, such as living off-campus. In addition to the complications of finding a suitable location, roommates, and signing a lease, upperclassmen this coming year are likely to encounter another challenge: skyrocketing rent prices across San Diego.

Metropolitan areas like San Diego are notorious for high cost of living and rent, but even among urban centers, San Diego's recent spike in rent is outpacing the rest, making it the city with the sixth-highest average rental increase in the U.S.,



Manchester Village Apartments are a popular residential location for upperclassmen students.

Photo courtesy of sandiego.edu/residential-life

according to Fox 5 San Diego.

The current median rent prices in San Diego are \$1,850 per month for a one-bedroom and \$2,450 for two-bedrooms, as reported on apartmentlist.

com: a growth rate of 18.3% over the last year. This growth rate is higher than the statewide growth rate of 16% and the highest rate in the state of California, but still lower than other cities

like New York City, which experienced an increase of 33%, the Times of San Diego reported.

USD economics professor, Dr. Alan Gin, explained the abnormal nature of this year's rent price

hikes, in an interview with CBS8.

"Typically, inflation in terms of rent is in the low single digits, so if you have something approaching 20% that is a really big number," Gin observed. In other words, rent is "extremely high in comparison to previous years."

Gin also commented on the disproportionate effect a rent price increase will have for college students, who are often lower income.

"People at the lower end [of the income scale] are more likely to be renters, so if the rent goes up almost 20%, that's more money out of their pockets," Gin stated.

USD sophomore Amanda Ghibaudo discussed her rental search and how the increased prices county-wide have impacted her and her roommates' decision to live off-campus.

"The housing search process has been slightly stressful with trying to find the most affordable place to live that is still close to school. Despite the high cost, Pacific Ridge seems to be our top housing choice, because of its convenient location next to campus," Ghibaudo stated.

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The Coachella phenomenon

The evolution of the desert festival

ISABELLA SANCHEZ
ASST. A&C EDITOR

In the middle of April, thousands of people descended upon the desert dust and palm trees in Indio, California, to attend one of the biggest music festivals of the year. The Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival just finished both its debut weekend April 15 to April 17, and second weekend which began on April 22. It is a three-day run consisting of dozens of musical performances from all genres on its numerous stages.

After its three-year hiatus due to COVID, Coachella made a massive comeback this year with three household names for its headliners: Billie

Eilish, The Weekend with Swedish House Mafia, and Harry Styles. Both weekends have the same musical lineup.

From camping days to the festival becoming an influencer playground and a fashion hub, the desert festival has undergone its own evolution since its debut in 1999.

It transformed into a cultural phenomenon with its colorful and urban monumental installations to its significant role in social media. Now, the focus in the media is on the music as much as it is on figuring out which celebrities attended and what they were wearing. What has caused this famous festival to become more than just a weekend of music lovers coming together

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Coachella music festival returns for two weekends for the first time since the pandemic. Photo courtesy of @coachella/Instagram

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NEWS

Rent prices raise student concerns

Upperclassmen struggle to determine housing for next year

Rent, from Page 1

As for the reasons behind the price spike, higher rent prices might coincide with higher inflation in general; as the cost of everyday goods and products goes up, adjustments must be made to pricing across the board in order to compensate.

However, this is likely not the only cause; housing economist Chris Salviati stated the price increase comes down to simple supply and demand, with a large number of renters searching the market and few new vacancies.

“We’re seeing a lot more folks renewing leases, so I think a lot of that is just folks not wanting to move during the pandemic,” Salviati told CBS8 in an interview.

In students’ search for housing, USD Residential Life recommends that students “plan ahead,” and “start your search four to six weeks prior to your move-in date.” Furthermore, “be cautious when paying a deposit or rent before you actually visit and check the place.” Finally, “walk or drive through neighborhoods looking for ‘For Rent’ signs, as some landlords will use that as their only means of advertising.”

USD offers students a variety of resources to assist with the off-



The San Antonio de Padua Apartments offer upperclassmen housing in close proximity to main campus.
Photo courtesy of sandiego.edu/residential-life

campus housing search, including HUGS, a program founded by a USD international student who experienced challenges with finding housing in the U.S. HUGS provides international student focused housing solutions for undergraduate and graduate students. Additionally, temporary on-campus housing will be available to students in June and early

August, which could be an ideal option for students in need of a short-term living arrangement, while continuing to search for other accommodations.

For those students who are unable to secure housing off campus, the 2022-23 on-campus housing application will reopen in late April or early May for returning residents, and in mid-May for new/incoming students.

On campus, upperclassmen students can expect to pay \$7,865 for a single unit, \$6,935 for a single bedroom, and \$5,535 for a double, per semester in Manchester and San Antonio de Padua (SAP), which comes out to be either \$1,966, or \$1,733, or \$1,383 per month, respectively, compared to the average going rate of \$1,850 a month at local apartments.

Although the prospects of finding housing accommodations can often be daunting and recent economic trends do not make that search any easier, USD offers students a variety of options.

Residential life can help from living on-campus in one of 2,650 bed spaces available across its ten dorm locations or assistance in finding off-campus options, through one of its various programs and online resources.

Making disability visible in education

Advocating for a new minor: Disability Studies

JENNY HAN
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

It started with the lack of accessibility and support at USD that made Fanisee Bias, an undergraduate senior with a physical disability, ask herself, “how can I make it [USD] better? I want to feel more supported.” Her first step in creating change and community was creating a student organization: Alliance of Disability Advocates (ADA). From there, the conversation evolved into the possibility of creating classes with an emphasis on disability. The new possibilities lead to an even bigger goal: creating a constructive program with disability at the forefront.

To Bias, this is the origin story of how the idea of a disability studies minor came to be. A small team of students and faculty have been working for the last few years developing this program. Among these people are Bias and Dr. Suzanne Stolz, an Assistant Professor of Education and a wheelchair user. Their goal is to get the course curriculum officially implemented within the next school year.

“Disability studies is an interdisciplinary field that looks at disability from a cultural,

social, political, aesthetic, from all of these different lenses,” Dr. Stolz said. “It is a field that teaches us to question the way that disability has typically been conceptualized in medical terms.”

To Dr. Stolz, this reframing is important because speaking about disability solely from a medical perspective is harmful.

“A lot of times when people think about disabilities, they think about disability as a deficit, a lack, a problem, or something that should be cured or fixed and/or they think of people needing special attention, or certain medical services,” Dr. Stolz said. “There’s so much more to disability than thinking about it in that way. Disability can be seen as socially constructed because in different contexts, different bodies and minds fit or don’t fit in different ways.”

Currently, there are several institutions across the U.S. that already have disability studies as a field students can study in. Within California, some notable names include Stanford University, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and University of California San Diego (UCSD). Particularly in UCLA, they offer 51 courses for the minor that range from “Intersections of Art History and Disability

Studies: Disability in Modern Art” to “Exploring Intersections of Ability and Sexuality” and “Being Human: Identity in Age of Genomics and Neuroscience.” No private religious universities in California have yet to adopt a disability studies program in their course catalog.

Bias and Dr. Stolz both envision this minor being a mix of current USD courses and new classes.

“It might mean that we create a course that is ‘Intro to Disability Studies’ that would help students go ‘What are these different lenses, what is what is disability studies, what are some of the foundations, who are some of the scholars, who have started work in this area’,” Dr. Stolz said. “We’d also be thinking about what kind of capstone project or what kind of higher level courses, I can also imagine that we might have a course on disability culture and explore that as well.”

This is possible because they both believe that the disability lens can be applied to any field.

“When I go to a disability studies conference, I [listen] to people [sharing] their work about literature,” Dr. Stolz said. “I [listen] to folks who come from history departments, who come from communications departments,

who come from psychology. They come from computer science and engineering.”

The communication aspect of disability, whether that is American Sign Language, the way that people talk about disability, or the way that people talk to those with disabilities, will also be highlighted in the minor is also important to Bias.

“There’s usability and language; How do we communicate beyond verbal communication? Because not everyone speaks not everyone speaks English. Not everyone can hear,” Bias said. “Working in the Communications department, how are we using our language and verbiage and things. Or even like disability and writing; writing about your story with disability or writing about the history of what disability has been.”

But ultimately, implementing disabilities studies is about much more than just the classes it will offer; it’s also a way of accepting a traditionally marginalized community as part of the university.

“I think it’s really important that we [learn] about humans. It’s what we do in humanities courses, that’s what we do really. And most of the work that we do, we’re learning about how we interact

with humans and that’s what this minor does,” Dr. Stolz said. “It gives us insight into experiences that often are marginalized or voices that are not heard. I think this minor could be really important for disabled students to be able to see themselves in the curriculum, but I also think it could be really valuable for non disabled students who want to learn something that they haven’t had a chance to learn before.”

In addition, Bias said it’s important for this minor to be implemented because doing so would represent USD’s core values.

“If we want to actually embody that Changemaker initiative and that perspective, then we really have to be involved and know what’s going on and engage in what’s going on and what’s happening on campus,” Bias said. “They [USD students] have a stake in it because they’re a student here and they’re a representation of the school and they’re paying for it.”

All in all, this new field aims to shift perspectives and create conversations about disability. It’s a field that aims to foster empathy and acceptance for our fellow peers.

For more information on this minor, ADA has an Instagram page @adausd19 with resources on their page and on their linktree.

Federal mask mandate lift instills controversy

Students consider how new mask mandates will affect USD

ABIGAIL CAVIZO
ASST. A&C EDITOR

Students flying back to USD from Easter break were met with big news: the federal mask mandate that required a face covering to be worn in all airports, widespread transit and taxis was lifted. The United States is not the first country to change mask guidelines for public transportation. Other countries, such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Sweden have also removed mask mandates for travelers.

Following this trend, United States District Judge Kathryn Mizelle voided the federal mask mandate in a ruling on April 18, even though the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had just extended the requirement through May 3.

Some USD students first heard about the news at the airport. Flying from Seattle on Alaska Airlines, USD senior Gavin Daher was pleased to hear the news mid-air with an hour left of his flight.

“Everyone took off their masks and started clapping and cheering – even the flight attendants took it off and the pilot came out to see everyone,” Daher said. “I definitely haven’t enjoyed wearing a mask in airplanes because it gets a bit stuffy and I’ve understood that we’ve had to wear it for awhile, but I think it’s about time to lift the mandate.”

Senior Declan Carroll also found out about the policy change in the airport. Walking through the Sacramento airport for his flight back to San Diego, he noticed people without masks, but didn’t think much of it until he was told the news at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). A TSA security guard informed him the coverings weren’t required, but he assumed it was a Sacramento-specific change.

After seeing others not wearing masks on the plane, Carroll made the connection that the rule was a national change.

“A lot of people were walking around without their masks on, so I just thought [this airport] was more relaxed,” Carroll explained. “They were saying over the announcements to still have your masks on, but that it wasn’t required so it was a little weird.”

USD sophomore Cassandra



With new federal mask laws, airline workers are not required to wear masks anymore inside the aircraft.

Photo courtesy of Ismail Mohamed/Unsplash



Now that masks are no longer required inside airplanes, it is up to the passengers’ discretion if they want to wear a mask or not.

Photo courtesy of @votp_news/Instagram

Graham acknowledged that although COVID may not be as big a concern for some, it still is for others. She did not personally witness people taking off masks in airports, but she’s seen videos of people taking them off during plane rides in celebration. After seeing her dad work hard as an Emergency Room (ER) doctor during the pandemic, she does not think airports handled the federal mask mandate lift with caution.

Graham assessed that people should have waited to take the masks off until landing out of respect for those around them.

“If someone that was immunocompromised was on that

plane during the announcement, you’re stuck– you can’t get off, there’s nothing you can do, you just have to sit and hope for the best,” Graham stated. “They’re already scared enough, but to have that sprung on them is terrifying and I have no idea what I would do if I was in that position.”

Following the mask mandate’s change, the Biden administration appealed the court’s ruling because the CDC assessed that the mask mandate should still be required to stop the spread of COVID-19. This decision to appeal the case does not have an impact on the current mask guidelines. However, if there are discrepancies

found in the ruling, the Justice Department can cause Judge Mizelle’s ruling to be reversed.

In regards to the USD community, Daher hopes to see a change in the USD masking policies.

“Literally the only place I have to wear a mask now is in the classroom and it doesn’t make any sense,” Daher stated.

Similarly, Carroll is in favor of the court’s ruling and hopes that USD will follow in the federal government’s footsteps.

“I’m totally, unequivocally in support of it. If you want to wear one, wear one by all means, but I don’t think that

you should have to,” Carroll said. “I think it’s kind of silly to wear it only in the classrooms when we don’t anywhere else.”

Other colleges in the San Diego area have similar mask requirements to USD. The USD COVID-19 Action team has yet to release a mask mandate change.

Whether someone’s in support of or against the federal rule change, students are questioning how or if this will impact USD’s masking policies. Until further notice, USD’s policies are still the same. On the national level, masks are optional in public transit settings– unless specifically stated otherwise.

The USD Vista

Editorial – 619.260.4584
Business – 619.260.4714
www.uofsdmedia.com / @TheUSDVista

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All inquiries should be sent to:
The USD Vista
5998 Alcala Park
San Diego, CA 92110

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EDITORIAL

America needs to eliminate guns

Recent mass shootings call for concern about gun violence

MEGAN VALADEZ
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

Mass shootings rippled across the country this past month of April, stretching from coast to coast. There were six people killed in downtown Sacramento on April 6. More than a dozen were shot at a concert in Dallas, TX on April 2. Two killed and more wounded at a Cedar Rapids, Iowa nightclub on April 10. Ten shot aboard a Brooklyn subway train in the middle of the morning commute on April 12. During Easter weekend, nine people were shot at a shopping mall in Columbia, South Carolina. Hours later, two teenagers were killed, and more were injured, at a house party in Pittsburgh.

The past two years have been incredibly bleak for cities across the country dealing with more gun violence and homicides. The recent surge in violence has left behind shattered families, anxious residents and shaken communities.

Plain and simple, I hate guns. I feel that with every day that passes I am reading about another shooting that occurred, and those are just the ones that make the news.

We need stricter gun control, and by that I mean that as a country, guns should be abolished in all aspects.

Gun violence happens more often than we think. The shootings that usually make the

news are the ones that either kill or injure a lot of people or those that involve innocent bystanders. It occurs on our streets every day. The majority of gun violence that plagues America doesn't affect strangers. It is more likely to be the settling of grudges or gang related shootings that have surged in cities like Los Angeles and New York.

A study recently released by NBC on April 22, 2022 states that guns became the leading cause of death among children and teens in 2020, killing more people ages one to 19 in the U.S. than vehicle crashes, drug overdoses or cancer. According to a research letter published by the New England Journal of Medicine on April 20, 2022, more than 4,300 young people died of firearm-related injuries in 2020, which is a 33% increase from 2019.

Our government officials continue to fail to protect our youth from preventable deaths. Just because it is illegal for someone under eighteen to buy a firearm does not mean that it is not possible for kids to get access. According to a study done in the Annals of Internal Medicine, published Feb. 2022, more than five million children under 18 became newly exposed to guns in their households from Jan. 2019 to April 2021. A July 2021 study published in the American Academy of Pediatrics found that school closings and the lack of adult supervision during the pandemic

correlated with the higher rates of fatal and nonfatal gun injuries both suffered by young children and inflicted by them.

Last semester I took a sociology special topics course on gun violence, where I learned that due to the availability of illegal guns, a lack of maturity in settling disputes, and a shortage of resources to address mental health and substance use disorders, gun violence across America continues to grow. What I also learned is that the reason there is an uptick in gun sales is because people do not feel that our law enforcement is there to protect us. I agree with everything and that there is a bigger issue at hand, which is usually problems with law enforcement in America.

When people feel like police do not "serve and protect" but are rather killing innocent people, as we have drastically seen over the last few years, people feel the need to purchase a gun to protect themselves. But there are multiple sides to this gun debate. Some simply have a gun for self-protection, while others, like the McMichael's in the recent Ahmaud Arbery trail, used their guns to "aid" police in making a citizen's arrest, and ended up killing Arbery.

Then, there are others who purchase or steal guns with the intent to injure or kill people. They often have backgrounds in mental illness and a lack of maturity.

Right behind abolishing

guns in America is fixing the way we treat mental illness in this country.

In an August 2019 study done by the Los Angeles Times, the life histories of mass shooters were analyzed. According to the study, the vast majority of mass shooters experienced early childhood trauma and exposure to violence, such as bullying and other family problems, which were precursors to mental health concerns. Also, every mass shooter studied had reached an identifiable crisis point in the weeks or months leading up to the shooting, such as a bad grade in a class, losing a job, or bullying.

Because guns are so readily available, they are seen as an option for many people when they are dealing with conflict. If we eliminated guns and how easily accessible they are, they would not even be considered as an option, which would inevitably result in less gun violence.

In my opinion, there is no need for someone to have a gun in their possession, let alone, a military style rifle, like an AR-15 or AK-47. Gun violence continues to occur because of the availability of these guns and just how easy it is to obtain one. It is as simple as walking into a Bass Pro Shops, Big 5, or gun shop, showing your ID, signing some papers, and maybe going through a background check, depending on what state you are in.

As we have seen with ghost guns, people can simply

buy the parts online and assemble them in their own living rooms. It's that easy.

Because of the ease of availability of guns, people are more likely to use them, especially kids, when they are not properly stored. People resort to deadly violence because there are no resources to help those in need. America makes receiving mental health help nearly impossible and is not focused on keeping our schools and streets safe.

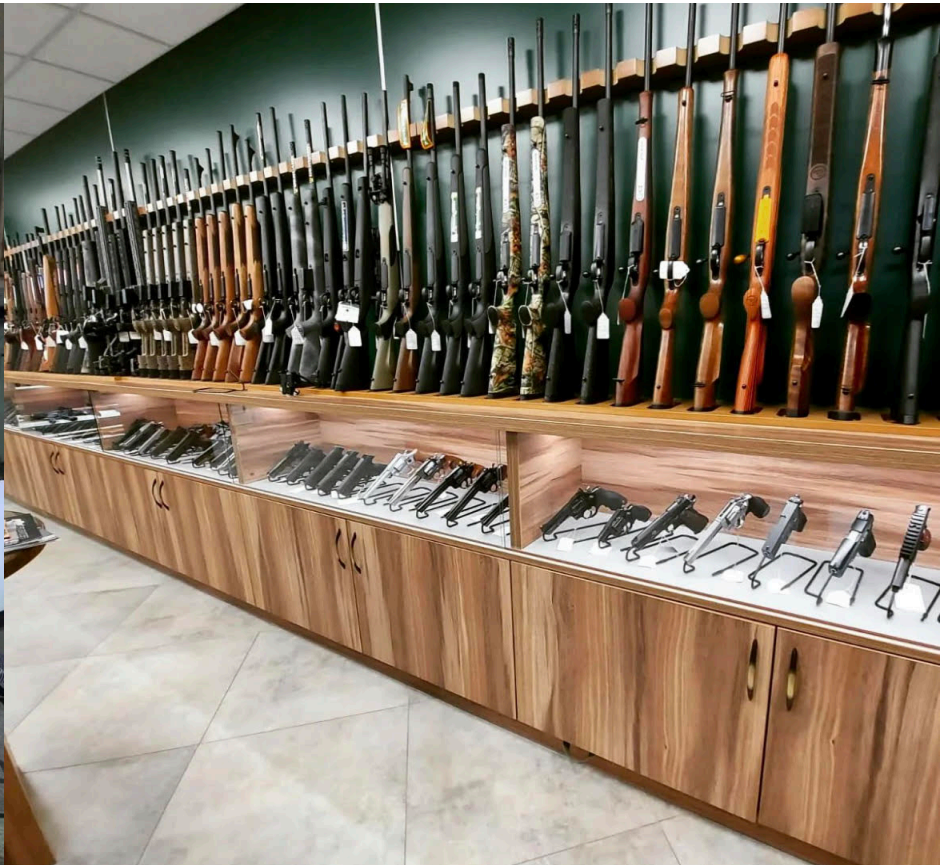
Thoughts and prayers are not enough anymore. We need to do more as a nation to end the senseless epidemic of gun violence. This starts by reducing easy access to dangerous weapons, especially to children and individuals at risk of harming themselves or others. We should also be holding the gun industry accountable and ensuring there is adequate oversight over the marketing and sales of guns. We should also look at gun violence through a public health approach that focuses on addressing the factors that increase or decrease the risk of gun violence, especially in communities that are disproportionately impacted.

Mindless and senseless gun-related incidents need to stop. Yes, I am angry at the people who choose to use guns in reckless ways, but I am even more angry at our government for not regulating guns properly. Guns need to be eliminated in all senses.



Ghost gun kits are being shipped across the U.S., providing easy access to guns.

Photo courtesy of @2a3dprint/Instagram



Gun shops in America make it far too easy to obtain such dangerous weapons.

Photo courtesy of @sklepszostak.pl/Instagram

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EDITORIAL

Ye vs. the world

An analysis of America's favorite celebrity (to hate)

SPENCER BISPHAM
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

(CW: mental illness/abuse)

If you haven't heard about the drama between Kanye West, Pete Davidson, and the Kardashians, let me get you up to speed.

Recently, West and Kim Kardashian's nearly seven year relationship came to an end. Their divorce was drawn out for more than a year after Kardashian filed back in early 2021, reportedly because West was being "nonresponsive." Despite this, she was declared legally single in March of this year.

Both West and Kardashian were publicly dating other people throughout this process, while West also took to social media in order to inform the public of his frustrations with the divorce.

His complaints were that he was not able to see their four children, jabs at Kardashian for her role as a mother, and attacks on her current boyfriend, comedian Pete Davidson, among other things. Reports from TMZ also confirm that West purchased a home right across the street from Kardashian in Hollywood.

Many people, myself included, have been quick to acknowledge that these actions are deeply problematic: West has been harassing Kardashian and Davidson despite their multiple pleas for him to stop. It frustrates me, however, to hear people side against West without acknowledging the complexity of his situation.

Not only is he dealing with



The media has turned West's frustrations toward Kardashian and his alleged inability to see their children against him.

mental illness and racism, but his personal life is subject to the cult-like microscope under which we place celebrities here in the United States.

Since 2016, West has been open about his life with bipolar disorder, a heavily stigmatized and misunderstood psychological diagnosis. Typically, people with Bipolar I and II fluctuate between manic and depressive episodes, which are periods of extreme euphoria and depression, respectively. This can make people's behavior seem inconsistent or illogical,

when in reality these episodes result from neurodivergent brain chemistry beyond their control.

In an episode of TED-Ed, psychologist Helen M. Farrell explains the difference between Bipolar I and II; Type I (what West has) typically involves "extreme highs alongside the lows, while Type II involves briefer, less extreme periods of elation interspersed with long periods of depression."

While the root causes of Bipolar I and II are still unconfirmed, scientists have pinpointed genetics, trauma, or a combination of the two as potential reasons why some people experience these episodes.

For West, living with this condition has made his life even more complicated.

In an interview with David Letterman in 2019, West shared his emotions surrounding his diagnosis: "...I can just tell you what I'm feeling at the time, and I feel a heightened connection with the universe when I'm ramping up," West said.

"This is like having a sprained brain, like having a sprained ankle. And if someone has a sprained ankle, you're not gonna push on him more."

In September 2020, Miyume McKinley, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and therapist, gave her thoughts on West's condition in an interview with Glamour magazine.

"There are many pieces of Kanye's life puzzle that we do not know," McKinley said. "However, given that he has openly shared his diagnosis

Photo courtesy of @nylovesye/Instagram of Bipolar disorder it appears as though he is currently experiencing a severe manic episode. Paranoia, delusions, and lack of awareness (of the mental illness) can be associated with severe manic episodes."

These symptoms, alongside irritability, high energy, and grandiose thinking, are not an exhaustive list of what people with bipolar disorder experience during mania.

At the same time, they do help us put some of West's behavior in context. Given the spontaneity of his interruption of Taylor Swift at the 2009 Video Music Awards, his statement to TMZ that "slavery was a choice," and his breakdown during his 2020 election campaign tour, it certainly seems plausible that bipolar disorder has complicated West's life.

What makes these incidents stand out is that they exist alongside West's impressive discography, Yeezy clothing empire, and billionaire status. It is not as if he is unworthy of this success, especially considering these accomplishments have repeatedly exceeded expectations for Black men in America.

McKinley also spoke to this issue during her interview with Glamour.

"Vulnerability and sharing feelings are not prized in Black communities for Black men," McKinley said. "Often time the symptoms associated with trauma (PTSD, anxiety, depression, etc.) are often normalised as they are so common. Therapy is often

viewed as weak, in addition the lack of trusting mental health professionals due to poor cultural competency often detours black men from seeking treatment."

Despite our best efforts, we have no way of truly knowing how West is coping with all these issues.

He's previously mentioned that he is not taking medication or going to therapy, which unfortunately perpetuates this narrative that Black men with mental illnesses, like myself, are avoidant of these resources for a variety of reasons.

Rather than correct this misconception and offer West an olive branch, the public's response to his behavior has been full of shame inducing rhetoric.

Back in 2018, Pete Davidson's monologue on SNL touched on Kanye's off-air rant on the show that took place one week prior.

"Kanye is a genius, like a musical genius. You know, like Joey Chestnut is a hot dog-eating genius," Davidson said. "Being mentally ill is not an excuse to act like a [expletive]. I'm quoting my therapist, my mom, and my mailman."

In the same segment, Davidson also mentioned his own struggles with mental illness as well as his enthusiasm for Kanye's work.

While it was comedic, his words also turned the struggles of a Black man with bipolar disorder into a joke.

I am not saying that West's accomplishments excuse the harm that he has caused. He needs to be held accountable for his abusive treatment of Kardashian and other women (Amber Rose, Taylor Swift, etc.), featuring accused serial abusers Marilyn Manson and Dababy on DONDA, and harassing Pete Davidson and others.

What I am advocating for is not a pro or anti-Kanye stance, but rather to shift how we view these issues as a whole. If there were someone in your life who was struggling with bipolar disorder, or any other mental illness for that matter, would you be as critical of their behavior as many are of Kanye? Or would you do your best to support and understand them and their condition?

I'm not saying that we owe West or any other celebrity that kind of love or respect, but I do think that when we choose to critique or consume their art and products, it is wise to do so with an understanding of how their behavior and identities intersect with each other.



West has been transparent about his struggle with Bipolar I disorder.

Photo courtesy of @nylovesye/Instagram

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R & R: STRESS MANAGEMENT 101

It's National Stress Awareness Month, and USD students are very aware. The chaos of balancing academics, extracurriculars, and personal life can get overwhelming, but students have found successful methods to manage stress.



"I find ways to disconnect from the stress and rapid pace of school by going on outdoor trips like hiking or going to the beach."

- **Kasia Jackson**
(First-Year)

"I enjoy journaling because it allows me to put my thoughts to paper, and I don't have to worry about sounding correct or expressing myself a certain way. There are no rules to journaling—it's completely limitless."

- **Ricky Lawson**
(Sophomore)



"I like to go out in nature whenever I can. Whether that's a walk around my neighborhood, going to the beach, or spending time in a forest. I feel like it genuinely recharges me and allows me to refocus and reflect on what's really important so that I can come back into the real world and tackle everything I need to do."

- **Eden Van Saun**
(Junior)

"I'm super close to my mom as I've experienced most of my hardships with her. Being able to talk or cry over the phone to her really helps me identify what's bringing me down and it just feels super good to talk it out. I love my mom."

- **Eden Van Saun**
(Junior)



"Creative writing is definitely a good de-stressor. It provides me with an outlet of self-explanation to better understand what's happening in my life."

- **Colin Allison**
(Senior)

FEATURE

25 questions with ASG President Melissa Joy Tumlos

Get to know USD’s future student leader on campus

JESSICA MILLS
ASST. FEATURE EDITOR

Melissa Joy Tumlos (she/they) is a Chicago native, one of seven siblings, and loves to sing in the shower. When she’s not studying in Aromas, Tumlos is fighting for inclusion and diversity on USD’s campus. On April 19, 2022 Tumlos was elected as Associated Student Government President for the 2022-2023 school year. They sat down with The USD Vista and answered 25 questions to kick off their leadership journey.

Why did you run for ASG President?

I actually wasn’t planning to run for executive board. The current President, Justice Zoto, reached out to me and asked to talk about running for exec. It really took the motivation of a lot of people, them seeing my dedication and work ethic to plant that seed in my mind. I began to see my qualities as a leader, especially around issues like inclusion, equity, and diversity.

Who was the first person you called when you found out you won?

The first person I called was my mom. But, I actually found out with my partner. He was actually in the shower and I screamed “the results are here!” We jumped around in a circle together celebrating.

What’s one word you would use to describe yourself?

Energetic. Intentional too.

How does your experience at USD influence your leadership?

In addition to being a transfer student I’m also from out of state, gender nonconforming, on scholarship, and second generation. There’s a lot of identities that I hold and I feel like these identities really influence how I experience USD. It’s about using my identity to inform what other people may be experiencing. Speaking to your story and others’ stories is really important.

I’m sure you have many, but what are your major goals as President?

Oh gosh, I don’t even know where to start. My biggest goals fall within the framework of idea resources. My goal is to open that pathway to promote inclusion and diversity on campus. My goal is to not serve as some “elite member” of the student body but to be a representative that brings

these issues to the attention of the faculty and administrators that are making these decisions. We want to live up to that changemaker name that USD holds. For me that means making space for people that haven’t had the space to be in higher education.

Are you a part of any other organizations on campus?

I’m a part of FUSO and I have been a choral scholar since I came to USD.

What is your major?

My major is sociology and I’m minoring in Spanish. Initially I was in music education and I knew I wanted to work in an intimate setting with people. I decided teaching wasn’t for me and a lot of my skills align within sociology, like my education on social justice, my need for intimate connections with people, and seeing how people interact with each other is something I’m really interested in. I love Spanish and I really want to be fluent.

Advice for lowerclassmen?

Say yes to opportunities. All those emails that are sent to join clubs and stuff, actually look in them and invest yourself somewhere on campus.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Right now I envision myself working as a social worker for the rest of my life. I can envision myself being a counselor, an advocate for social justice issues, and helping families. The truth is, I want to do it all.

What would you like to be known for as ASG President?

For being disarming and easy to talk to. I don’t want to be this elite president. I want to connect with people and not intimidate them. I want to be known for being trustworthy.

What are you most nervous about as ASG President?

I’m nervous about being seen all the time. Putting myself out there, having my name on places, even just interviewing for this is something I’m really nervous about. I’m nervous about being criticized for sure. Knowing my decisions and actions influence other people, I’m nervous about messing up. But, I’m ready to take on that challenge.

Do you have any pets?

I do. I have a dog named Comet, and he’s evil, but I love him.



ASG officially announced Melissa Joy Tumlos as the 2022-2023 President on April 24, 2022. Photo courtesy of @melttumlos/Instagram

I’m learning to sit with. Right now: Ain’t no Mountain High Enough.

What’s your favorite food?

It’s a Filipino dish called ‘Kare-Kare’, it’s stewed oxtail in a peanut sauce with a bunch of vegetables. That would be my last meal if I had to choose one.

What do you think has had the biggest impact on you?

I think my mental health journey has paved the way for myself and this will be a lifelong journey. When I made the decision to start saying yes to my life, life improved so much for me. I have so much more energy to invest in relationships and opportunities.

Advice you’d give to a friend if they were feeling down?

I’m a person that thinks listening is more important than giving someone advice. A lot of the time we don’t have the answers. But, as far as advice: time and patience. I try not to jump straight to advice. We need to start asking if it’s okay to give advice first.

What’s something you’re working on for yourself?

I’m learning what it’s like to be in a state of joy and happiness. I used to think you have to be happy all the time to consider yourself a happy person. But happiness is a process. To have hope for myself is something

What’s something you’re really passionate about?

I love to write. I write a lot of opinion stuff, focusing on law enforcement and police practices. I definitely think that is something I would want to write a book about one day.

When you’re having a bad day what do you do to make yourself feel better?

Cook. Eat good food. A long shower and listening to music feels so good too. Doing things that are physically stimulating like holding ice packs or heating packs always centers me.

What’s your favorite song?

I’ve been listening to a lot of Olivia Rodrigo lately, she just gives me energy. I love the song ‘Brutal,’ it’s a good pump up song.

What are you most excited about for this position?

I’m really excited to keep working with people on ASG. The next two weeks we’re conducting interviews to appoint our executive team and that is so exciting to me.

What’s your go-to karaoke song?

Would you consider yourself an introvert or extrovert?

I’m definitely an extrovert, but I like my space and peace.

Favorite tv show?

Of all time: Ted Lasso.

Who is someone that is no longer alive that you wish you could meet?

Fred Hampton. He is one of the greatest activists of all time. He was the leader of the Chicago Black Panther Party and I’m actually getting a quote of his tattooed on me.

Is there anything you want the USD community to know about you?

I’m really grateful and humbled to be in this position. I’ve been able to reflect a lot on what it means to be a leader and I’m so grateful for the people and the education that have really been able to write this story for me.

Melissa Joy Tumlos explained their overall excitement to bridge necessary conversations between USD students and faculty. Tumlos remains driven to live up to the USD changemaker title.

ARTS & CULTURE

Coachella: then and now

The festival's transformation 20 years later

ISABELLA SANCHEZ
ASST. A&C EDITOR

Coachella from Page 1
for some of the best musicians? Over the 20 years that Coachella has been put on, three aspects of the festival have undergone their own notable transformations.

The music

Coachella's early success has to do with its various performance lineups, which featured musical artists from all over the spectrum, such as Rage Against The Machine, Beastie Boys, and the Strokes. This paired with the idyllic desert setting made music fans give the young festival a chance.

One of the bigger aspects of Coachella was about reuniting bands that otherwise wouldn't be playing anywhere else or bringing artists out from retirement to perform.

The nostalgia that Coachella brought started to fade out as they saturated their lineups with mainstream artists like Drake, Kendrick Lamar, and Lady Gaga.

This year, the festival not only catered to mainstream music but also to a younger audience who listens to younger artists like Olivia O'Brien and Finneas. The entertainment for this year only proves how a festival that once had a cool and underground vibe has

embraced pop music for a newer and more youthful generation. Most of the performers now weren't even alive during Coachella's debut in 1999.

The fashion

When it comes to Coachella, there is nothing more important than what outfits you are going to wear for all three days. Once Coachella became synonymous with influencers and Instagram, over-the-top outfits became a staple while at other music festivals outfits aren't the first thing on their mind.

Flower crowns have been traded for brand names, even some high end like Chanel or Prada. Coachella is not just about the music but also about fashion statements.

Social media helped develop this atmosphere in which influencers, donned in the most trendy fashion fads, are being paid to go by brands.

Celebrities and influencers' Coachella looks saturate social media and all eyes are on them. Who wore what? Who was best dressed? Coachella has become no less a fashion moment than the red carpet at an awards show.

Even the performers this year dressed glitzier and more stylish than before with Harry Styles in Gucci and Justin Bieber in Balenciaga.

Whether you go to Coachella for the music, the parties,

or the art, fashion is now an inseparable part of the Coachella experience. It's just as much about what you are going to wear as it is who you are going to see.

The social media utopia

Coachella changed the landscape for music festivals starting in 1999 and now it deals with a different landscape appealing to Gen Z and certain social media audiences.

The entire festival being documented on TikTok would be almost unthinkable in 2019, the year Coachella was held before COVID hit and shut it down for two years.

While TikTok was just starting out in the social media world in 2019, now it is a cultural phenomenon where millions of people publish videos. In recent years, Coachella has become a place where regular festival-goers are accompanied by celebrities, especially models and actors. Photos of your favorite stars flood your Instagram feed during Coachella weekends, especially ones sent to the festival by brands.

Coachella has become an influencer playground for social media stars to prance around in their expensive outfits and VIP passes, posting videos from only the most exclusive parties.

Brands will host their own private parties within the festival weekend and will



Harry Styles singing to his fans at Coachella Music Festival 2022.

Photo courtesy of @hemanmagazineindia/Instagram

invite influencers to market them – aka to spam Instagram and TikTok with their trendy outfits and the amenities that only they have access to.

The popular clothing brand Revolve even hosts its own festival separate from Coachella, called "Revolve Festival," that is invite-only.

Since Coachella's inception in 1999, it has become less of a music festival and more a place to see and be seen on the internet.

The laid back vibe it had before transformed into a

bigger and much more branded scene. The ticket for Coachella not only includes great musical performances, but also an opportunity for trendy pictures and a possible celebrity sighting. If you weren't able to snag a \$449 ticket for next weekend, Youtube streams the festival for free.

While it is definitely not the same experience as being there among the vibey crowds and desert sky, you can still listen to some great music without the stress of picking an Coachella-worthy outfit.

Emma Chamberlain: the 21st century "it girl"

Discussing the youtuber's influential role in younger generations



Emma Chamberlain poses for Vanity Fair's Oscar Party shoot.

Photo courtesy of @emmachamberlain/Instagram

JESSICA MILLS
ASST. FEATURE EDITOR

20 year old Internet sensation Emma Chamberlain is known for her quirky style, coffee addiction, and unorthodox approach to filming videos.

Since launching her YouTube channel in 2017, Chamberlain evolved from a comical vlogger to an entrepreneur and fashion icon. Many have coined her as a "relatable influencer," documenting her day-to-day life, that's not so different from most.

With over 15 million followers on Instagram, Chamberlain's online presence is extensive. Despite the pressure from her large following, Chamberlain openly discusses vulnerable topics, ranging from bowel movements to body acceptance. Many are drawn to Chamberlain's authenticity and credit this to her "it girl" status.

Senior Nikki Giammanco explained that Chamberlain's candidness sets her apart from other influencers.

"She talks about things her audience is also going through,"

Giammanco said. "She's a person who has a lot of money and status but still talks about issues she deals with. It makes you feel like you can connect with her."

Likewise, Giammanco explained that watching Chamberlain's videos helped her own mental health.

"Her videos are entertaining but also simple," Giammanco said. "They're the only thing that makes me feel better."

Many of Chamberlain's videos include normal parts of her daily life: cooking, feeding her cats, or even a trip to Whole Foods. The videos often make viewers feel like they're on facetime with Chamberlain for the day.

"Her videos feel like they're being sent to you, like a Snapchat video from a friend," Giammanco explained. "She makes it okay to not live a lavish life. She'll lay in bed all day and just draw."

In a recent episode of her podcast, "Anything Goes," Chamberlain announced her break from YouTube for the foreseeable future, admitting that she needs time for herself away from the platform. For

sophomore Allie Longo, this is why Chamberlain stands out.

"I don't think anyone is as brave as her to pause making YouTube videos," Longo explained. "They'd be worried about losing followers or money."

Chamberlain talks openly about her struggles with mental health and self-acceptance. Longo explained that an important part of Chamberlain's vulnerability is how she presents it to her audience.

"She doesn't use it as branding," Longo said. "She's just living her life and in doing so just happens to talk about the issues she faces."

Although she is outspoken about personal struggles, Chamberlain lives a fairly private life. Many of her personal relationships remain offline. On her podcast she discusses the importance of keeping some things for herself. For Giammanco, Chamberlain's privateness aided her "it girl" status.

"When things are private, people talk. I don't think
See "It Girl," Page 10

Relatable influencer loved by all

From content creator to fashion icon and entrepreneur

JESSICA MILLS
ASST. FEATURE EDITOR

“It Girl” from Page 9
she cares about being the ‘it girl,’” Giammanco said. “She doesn’t try to do things just for attention.”

Across platforms many brands partner with influencers to reach diverse audiences and boost sales. Brands like Princess Polly and Fashion Nova utilize partnerships with influencers regularly, offering discounts for followers.

However, Chamberlain seems to only work with companies she likes.

“She doesn’t seem to work with a lot of common brands, she does her own thing,” Longo said. “Her style isn’t like anyone else’s, and I love when someone’s fashion is entirely their own. I think she encourages that.”

Within the last few years

many have noticed a shift in Chamberlain’s career. She took on a more simplistic style of video editing and filming, began working with high fashion brands and frequented covers of numerous magazines.

“The shift was just her maturing and growing up,” Longo said. “I don’t think she sat down and was calculating this big change. I think it was just gradual with her aging.”

Among the many changes to her career was the launching of her first business: Chamberlain Coffee, a specialty coffee company that utilizes compostable and reusable materials.

At just 20 years old, Chamberlain showcases the capability for young female entrepreneurs.

“She’s not just a YouTuber, she’s a role model for young girls,” Giammanco said.

For many influencers,

receiving hateful comments comes with having a large following.

While Chamberlain receives hateful remarks, unlike other internet personalities, many of her followers are incredibly loyal and seem to support Chamberlain in her various pursuits.

“I think she also just hasn’t done anything to upset anyone or give them a reason to not support her,” Longo said.

By having open conversations on vulnerable topics, Chamberlain is paving the way for current and future influencers. From clothing hauls, daily vlogs, to cooking videos, viewers can see a wide variety of content on Chamberlain’s platforms.

As a successful woman that capitalizes on unique fashion, vulnerability, and a sense of mystery, Emma Chamberlain has quickly become the “it girl” for the 21st century.



Emma Chamberlain works with stylists and photographers for different projects.
Photo courtesy of @emmachamberlain/Instagram

Money diaries of USD students

Make budgeting your best friend

ANNA VALAIK
ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

Money is incredibly taboo. In some ways, it’s a good thing; no one really wants to be asked about their finances, considering it’s quite personal and can reveal habits that someone otherwise would like to keep more private.

On the other hand, though, not talking about money can mean you may keep yourself from improving your finances, seeking help, or simply just asking important questions about saving.

Rather than looking at money as something to be afraid of, it’s important to acknowledge that everyone makes, has, and spends money. So, with this in mind, we have a special opportunity to learn from one another and tackle the taboo that is money.

The USD Vista decided to ask two students how they spent their hard-earned money during a four-day period, hoping to shed light on spending habits, normalize conversations surrounding money, and get to know how college students are using their cash around San Diego.

Megan Cardiff – Junior

How did tracking your money change the way you spent it/ looked at it over the course of these four days?

I spend too much money on food, and I’m aware of it. However, this exercise made me want to not go out to eat as much and use my groceries at home. It also made me realize I spent money too frivolously these past few days.

In your life, what do you think is worthwhile spending your

MEGAN CARDIFF	

THURSDAY	
ICE CREAM.....	\$11.95
FRIDAY	
CAVA FOR LUNCH.....	\$14.30
HAPPY HOUR DRINKS (FOR THOSE 21+)	\$28.45
CHIPOTLE.....	\$14.26
SATURDAY	
PARAKEET CAFE FOR LUNCH.....	\$24.00
ALCOHOL (FOR THOSE 21+)	\$79.00
DIET COKE.....	\$3.80
SUNDAY	
PARAKEET CAFE FOR BREAKFAST.....	\$30.00
TOTAL	
\$205.67	

Megan Cardiff shares weekend expenses.
Sam Anciano/The USD Vista

JAKE RYAN	

THURSDAY	
LUNCH AT CUPP CUP IN A HALL.....	\$16.50
SNACKS.....	\$15.00
DRINKS AT A BAR (FOR THOSE 21+)	\$25.00
FRIDAY	
BREAKFAST AT OLIVE CAFE.....	\$11.60
PIZZA FOR DINNER.....	\$9.60
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (FOR THOSE 21+)	\$17.20
GROCERIES FOR THE WEEK.....	\$48.50
DRY CLEANING.....	\$15.00
BURRITO.....	\$10.00
SATURDAY	
LUNCH FROM MR. RUIRIBERTOS.....	\$21.50
DRINKS AT A BAR (FOR THOSE 21+)	\$4.00
SUNDAY	
COFFEE AT OLIVE CAFE.....	\$5.50
LUNCH AT CHIPOTLE.....	\$11.00
TOTAL	
\$250.30	

Jake Ryan reflects on spending habits.
Sam Anciano/The USD Vista

money on?

Experiences, good meals with friends, things to improve myself such as health and wellness items. As I’ve gotten older, I’ve noticed myself spending more money on organic food, supplements, and investing in my health. I would never have done that previously.

Where do you see yourself spending too much or regretting your purchases?

I probably spend too much on matcha. I also order so many clothes that I never wear but I just didn’t enter any into this money diary because I didn’t order from Princess Polly this week.

What’s one helpful thing you have learned about money in college, and how have you applied it to your own life?

It’s not never ending, and saving is really important. I put 40% of every one of my paychecks into a long term savings account that I won’t touch until I graduate. That’s been very helpful, and I know I’ll appreciate that down the line.

Jake Ryan – Senior

How did tracking your money change the way you spent it/ looked at it over the course of these four days?

It really didn’t affect the way I looked at money but maybe it should have. I just kind of went with it and didn’t pay much attention to the fact I had to record my spending.

In your life, what do you think is worthwhile spending your money on?

I like hanging out with people in social settings, so that’s where a majority of my money goes towards. I’d rather spend on an experience than clothing, random items, etc.

Where do you see yourself spending too much or regretting your purchases?

I spent way too much at bars, probably. I am the classic guy buying people drinks and treating people just because I want people

to enjoy themselves. I also love eating out, so sometimes I don’t use my groceries, which I need to be better about.

What’s one helpful thing you have learned about money in college, and how have you applied it to your own life?

I have learned I don’t have the best spending habits and tend to spend money on dumb items. However, I feel like I can take advantage of this knowledge going forward because I now recognize my tendencies and know how to stop myself. This will be helpful when I’m making a more significant paycheck.

Like every college student, Cardiff and Ryan both have their own unique spending habits. Cardiff spent the bulk of her money on food and drink, which she suspected before beginning to track her spending.

She noted how much she values investing in experiences, which was evident in her habits; she likes to treat herself to items that she believes will improve her health and wellness, like a healthy lunch from Parakeet Cafe.

Ryan had similar spending habits as well because the bulk of his money went towards food and drink, too.

Because both Cardiff and Ryan are over 21, they had to take into account how much going out to different bars and restaurants costs in San Diego.

Since this city is extremely expensive, and most bars and restaurants charge around \$15 per cocktail, it’s no surprise that their drink bills were quite high.

This is something all USD students have to take into account—the city in which they live costs a pretty penny to live within. Groceries, eating out, and alcohol (for those over

21) all weigh heavy on most college students’ bank accounts.

This experiment further illustrates the need for open conversations surrounding finances, especially for college students.

Spending habits look different from person to person, but all people can learn something from budgeting websites (Mint and You Need a Budget), finance classes, and advisors like parents or teachers.

No matter the financial situation, location, or yearly salary, all people should and can take a step back and really look into the nitty gritty of how they spend their money.

Making small improvements, like lessening the amount of time one eats out, can make all the difference when it comes to saving for higher education, rent, retirement, or a dream vacation.

Once a person masters their budget and discovers what they want to spend versus what they want to save, they will become much more comfortable around the topic of money.

Handling personal finances will not stop after college; instead, it will most likely only get more complicated.

For this reason, try to start tackling negative or unproductive spending patterns now.

One way to do that? Try this experiment out. Write down every single item you purchased in the course of a few days or a week.

Once that is completed, really take a look at where your money is going and where it maybe should be instead.

Money tracking and budgeting will get you on the right track to ensuring financial stability. By practicing this method of budgeting throughout college, you will thank yourself later in life.

SPORTS

Women’s rowing takes on conference rivals *Dexter Lake race provides opportunities for Toreros*

MARI OLSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of San Diego Women’s Rowing team traveled to Dexter Lake, near Eugene, OR, last weekend to take on West Coast Conference (WCC) competition in the Oregon State University (OSU) Invite race.

The Toreros entered boats in the three National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) points-winning categories: the first varsity eight, the second varsity eight, and the varsity four. At conference championships across the country and at NCAA championships in late May, these boats constitute the determining races for which team wins. The first varsity eight is worth the most points, the second varsity eight is the next most important, and the varsity four is the cherry on top.

USD raced against hosts OSU, Gonzaga University, Loyola Marymount University (LMU), and the University of Portland (UP). Besides the hosts, all other crews compete in the WCC, with Gonzaga being USD’s closest conference rival.

Head coach Stesha Carle emphasized the importance of

being able to race conference teams this late in the season.

“It will be the last time that we see [the conference teams] before we race them at WCCs, our conference championship, so this race allows us to check margins,” Carle said.

Checking margins is a way of determining where a team stands in relation to another team, speed-wise. It can be helpful for crews to know how far behind or ahead they are of a team they are hoping to beat in a few weeks, so that they know exactly how much speed they need to gain.

Carle also hoped her team would be able to apply some of their practice to a race scenario.

“Every time we race we get an opportunity to execute race plans that we’ve practiced during the week, and I think especially as we’re in the middle of our season, we’re fine tuning a lot, so the expectation is that we get to dial in a little bit more,” Carle said.

In all three events entered, the Toreros finished third overall. OSU took the win in all categories, Gonzaga came second, and USD finished behind the Bulldogs. LMU and UP were fourth and fifth, respectively.

The varsity four raced first, and although they got off to an early lead in the first 250 meters of the race, Gonzaga and OSU found their groove as the race went on and moved through the Toreros. Although OSU got a blade stuck in the water and had to stop rowing at the 750 meter mark, allowing the other crews to catch up, the Beavers still found a way to pull out the win. OSU finished with a time of 7:33 with Gonzaga right behind in 7:34, while USD went 7:49.

The second varsity eight had a rocky start; the course had a heavy crosswind coming in from the right, meaning that crews were constantly adjusting at the start line in order to get straight for the beginning of the race. Because of the wind, race officials started the race earlier than the USD second varsity expected, so the Toreros started off slightly behind the rest of the field.

However, USD was able to find their rhythm, and fought back to take over LMU and UP. OSU was in first again with a time of 6:43, Gonzaga second in 6:55, and USD came third in 7:01.

The first varsity eight profiled similarly to the second

varsity. Their start was a little slower than the rest of the field, and they also had to fight back throughout the race. OSU and Gonzaga jumped way out ahead, leaving USD to fight off LMU and UP for the third place finish. LMU posed a threat in the second half of the race, finding some speed to challenge the Toreros, but USD was able to hold them off.

OSU finished in 6:29, Gonzaga in 6:39, and USD in 6:52 in the first varsity. LMU was just behind in fourth with a time of 6:53.

Senior captain Isla Blake wasn’t entirely happy with how the races turned out.

“I was a little bit disappointed in how it went,” Blake said. “It’s frustrating because I think our boat is really strong and we put in a lot of work and we see a lot of really good things happening in practice.”

Carle noted that the two eights exemplified what she would like the team to work on in the next few weeks.

“Overall I would like the team to be a little bit faster off the beginning part of the race so that we can be a little more competitive through the middle part of the race,” Carle

said. “That way, the race almost takes care of itself, so we’re not hunting down crews, but we’re getting to control our races.”

Although the season is winding down, Blake feels confident that there is more speed to find.


“We’ve still got time, we’ve still got opportunities before the big race at the end of the season to figure out racing and performing under pressure. I think we’ve got time to find it,” Blake said.

Carle agreed with Blake that there is still time and room for USD to get faster.

“We still are planning to pick up speed in different ways, so in some ways it’s good to not have a perfect race yet, but definitely the fact that we’re getting closer is really exciting,” Carle said.

The Toreros are looking to gain enough speed to put themselves ahead of Gonzaga in two weeks. Winning WCCs means an automatic ticket to NCAA championships in Sarasota, FL on May 28, which is Torero rowing’s biggest goal.

This weekend, the team travels to Sacramento, CA to race at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association championships.



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Weekly Recap

Golf finishes second in Utah; men's tennis are WCC champions

MARI OLSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Three separate University of San Diego teams took on Brigham Young University (BYU) last weekend, while both men's and women's tennis wrapped up their regular seasons on high notes. Sherri Stephens, head coach of women's tennis, led her final match on USD's home courts on April 24.

Golf

In their final tournament before the West Coast Conference (WCC) championships, the USD Golf team competed at the Ping Cougar Classic, hosted by BYU, in Provo, UT, April 22 through 23.

Sophomore Andi Xu won the tournament while the team as a whole came in second out of 13 teams competing.

Xu shot 68, 68, 69 over the three rounds of golf in two days for a total score of 205, eleven under par, and tied with BYU's Carson Lundell to make the pair co-champions of the event. It was Xu's first collegiate win for the USD golf team.

Redshirt junior Harrison Kingsley was next for the Toreros, who shot a score of 210 to put himself at six under par and tied for seventh place.

In the team competition, the Toreros were in first place after the first two rounds. However, the BYU Cougars were able to rally for a 12-under par final round that secured first place for the hosts. USD finished second with a total score of 839, ahead of Colorado State University in third.

The tournament was a solid end to the regular season for USD Golf as they head into WCC championships this coming weekend. The Toreros will travel to Las Vegas, NV, to take on the other WCC teams playing for a place in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament, including a rematch with BYU.

Baseball

USD Baseball also traveled to Provo last weekend to take on BYU in their latest WCC series as the Toreros look for enough winning momentum to overtake Gonzaga University atop the WCC baseball standings.

Although the Toreros dropped the first game, they were able to rally and take the series, winning the next two.

In the first game on April 21, USD took an early 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. BYU answered immediately in the second, however, scoring four runs off of senior pitcher Garrett Rennie.

The Cougars kept piling the



Men's tennis recorded a perfect 9-0 in the WCC to win the regular season.
Photo courtesy of usdtoreros.com



Sophomore Chase Meidroth celebrated a home run against BYU.
Photo courtesy of usdtoreros.com

runs on, and by the bottom of the seventh inning the game looked firmly out of reach for the Toreros as BYU led 3-11.

A late rally from USD wasn't enough to find the win, and the Toreros dropped the contest 7-11.

The Toreros turned it around in the second game, on Friday, April 22, defeating the Cougars 8-3. This time, BYU couldn't hold onto its early lead after going up 1-0 in the first. The Toreros answered immediately with a five run second inning.

USD scored the rest of their runs in the seventh, when a bases-loaded double by redshirt junior Cody Jefferis scored the final three runs for the Toreros to give the team a solid 8-2 lead.

BYU got one back in the bottom of the eighth, but USD held on for the win.

The final game on Saturday, April 23, was a much tighter contest. The Toreros were able to hold off the Cougars for a 4-3 win on the day to take the series.

USD was up 2-1 after the second inning, and sophomore pitcher Brycen Mautz led the defense to try and keep the Cougars from scoring.

Sophomore Chase Meidroth homered in the fourth inning to score himself and first-year catcher Ariel Armas, putting USD up 4-1.

Although BYU had 14 hits over the course of the game, they couldn't quite break through. Two more runs, one each in the sixth and seventh innings, brought the game back into reach for the Cougars at 4-3.

USD worked hard behind Mautz and sophomore Ryan Kysar to take the game.

The Toreros nearly lost it in the bottom of the ninth, but Jefferis, Meidroth, and sophomore Kevin Sim combined for a clutch double play to end the inning and give the Toreros both the win on the day and on the series.

USD sits at 25-13 overall and 11-7 in conference after the games. This weekend, the Toreros will take on Santa Clara University at home on Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1.

Softball

USD Softball was the third team to play BYU this past weekend, taking on the Cougars at home on Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23. The Cougars swept the Toreros, allowing USD to score only four runs over the three games.

BYU took Friday's game 0-5, as the pitchers for both teams played all seven innings. The Toreros found only four hits over the course of the game as they struggled to get anything going.

Redshirt sophomore Courtney Rose gave up five runs on seven hits, walked eight, and struck out two during her 11th loss of the season.

The teams played a double header on Saturday. USD went ahead 2-0 in the first game, hoping to make a comeback in the series, but immediately gave up six runs in the next two innings to go down 2-6.

First-year Joecellia Roberts



Sherri Stephens led the women's tennis team to one final victory at home.
Photo courtesy of usdtoreros.com

scored a two- run home run in the fifth to get the score back to 4-6, but the Cougars didn't let the Toreros find any more and USD dropped the contest 4-7.

The second game on Saturday was stopped one inning early as the Cougars won 0-11. Two five-run innings in the third and sixth innings for BYU, along with a first-inning run scored on a USD error, gave the Toreros no chance of finding a way to come back.

USD is now 19-29 on the season overall, and 4-4 in conference. The Toreros will look to bounce back in the coming weekend as they take on Loyola Marymount University on April 30 and May 1 at the USD Softball Complex.

Men's Tennis

In their second to last regular season matchup, the USD Men's Tennis team extended their unbeaten conference record to eight as they took down the University of the Pacific Tigers 4-3.

Pacific won the first doubles set 3-6, but the other two USD pairs fought hard to beat their opponents and take the doubles point.

The Tigers were tough competition for the Toreros in the singles matches as the teams went back and forth.

Sophomore Blake Kasday went down on court 6 to tie the match at one, but redshirt senior August Holmgren took down Pacific's no. 1 7-6, 6-3 to give the lead back to the Toreros.

Senior Alex Stater won his match 6-3, 6-4 before redshirt senior David Norfeldt dropped a point to make the score 3-2 in favor of the Toreros. When redshirt sophomore Sacchitt Sharma dropped his point as well, the match came down to fellow redshirt sophomore Marvin Schaber on court five.

Schaber went three rounds against the Tigers, winning the first set 6-2 before dropping the second, 7-5. Schaber's toughness won out, however, and he took the final set 6-3 to win the match for the Toreros.

In their final regular season

match of the 2022 season, men's tennis dominated Saint Mary's College (SMC) in a 4-0 win, preserving their undefeated WCC record and securing both the WCC regular season championship and the number one seed for this weekend's WCC tournament.

Sharrma and senior Will Davies, along with Norfeldt and Schaber, secured the doubles point for USD, each winning 6-4.

In the singles matches, Norfeldt crushed his opponent 6-0, 6-0, while Davies won 6-2, 6-2 and graduate student Gui Osorio beat the Gaels 6-4, 6-3. The three singles wins clinched the final regular season victory for the Toreros.

This weekend, men's tennis will compete in the WCC tournament. As the number one seed, they have earned a place in the semifinal and will play either Gonzaga University or Santa Clara University on April 29.

Women's Tennis

It was also the final regular season match for the women's tennis team, and head coach Sherri Stephens' final match at home before her retirement at the end of the season.

The Toreros took on the University of San Francisco, defeating the Dons 5-2 to mark the 442nd win of Stephens' career with USD.

USD fought hard to win the doubles point, which was clinched by redshirt junior Solymar Colling and sophomore Abigail Desiatnikov when they won 7-5 over their USF opponents.

Colling secured another point towards the win for USD when she beat the Dons' number one 7-6.

Junior Victoria Kalaitzis and first-year Claudia De Las Heras won their matches as well to put two more points into the Toreros' hands, and sophomore Jordyn McBride rounded out the victory for USD on court five.

The Toreros finished 5-2 in the WCC over the season, and are also competing in the WCC championship tournament April 28 through 30.

COMING UP
THIS WEEK

USD MBB v. SCU
Friday, April 29
6 p.m.
Fowler Park

USD SOF v. LMU
Saturday, April 30
12 p.m.
USD Softball Complex

USD M/WROW @ WIRA
Saturday, April 30
9:30 a.m.
Lake Natoma, CA
Mari Olson/The USD Vista