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USD Vista

USD Student Newspapers

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# THE USD VISTA

## Students question dining service efficiency

*Long lines at Pavilion Dining break records*

ABIGAIL CAVIZO  
NEWS EDITOR

USD is known for having some of the best on-campus meal options for university dining. According to Niche, USD is ranked ninth in the country for food in America. However, for the food this year, USD students are unsure if it's worth the wait. This year's class of 2026 is the largest first-year class in USD history, with approximately 100 more students than the university usually expects. Because first-year students living on campus are required to have meal plans, some students are wondering if USD's dining services accounted for the increase in students visiting dining locations.

USD sophomore Alexander Rusli frequently eats at Pavilion Dining and noticed a change between this year and last year's lines.

"I know that we have a lot more kids coming to school here who are freshmen and transfers, so maybe that's what is causing the long lines," Rusli said. "I use my meal plan a lot



Pavilion dining lines recently hit record numbers for how many students dined in.  
Karisa Kampbell/The USD Vista

for my older friends, who don't have meal plans or don't want to pay the price and wait in line."

Loryn Johnson, Director of Marketing and Licensing Director at Auxiliary Services, explained why the lines are longer.

"Coming out of COVID, a lot of people want to be around others, so there are a lot more people coming out to Pavilion than ever before. Last night, we hit record numbers [for students dining in at Pavilion]," Johnson said. "In September, we're always the busiest, because a lot of first-years tend to go there since it's what's most familiar to them after having meals there during their orientation."

Charles Ramos, the Dining Services Director, added that the time of day contributes to the large crowds at Pavilion dining.

"Usually it was really busy at 7:00 p.m., but now it's really busy from 6:00 p.m. up until 8:00 p.m., so it's a larger window of business," Ramos said. "We take an inventory of what we have at the beginning and what we have at the end of the night and get feedback from our chefs if things are running low or if we

should up production on food."

To get ready for the next day, a majority of the food is largely prepared the night before, with the exception of food cooked on the grill, such as burgers. By considering the data from previous days, Auxiliary Services adjust to what students want nightly.

USD junior Natalie Wright abstains from eating meat as much as she can, but sometimes the lack of vegetarian options make it difficult to avoid.

"I understand that a lot of people eat meat, but I wish there were more options for those who don't," Wright said. "Since I live off campus, I bought the smallest meal plan, so I only have 30 swipes, and I really wish there were more plant-based proteins to sustain myself. I end up just eating meat."

Students with dietary restrictions have options at every station, but the variety does not change often. Ramos made clear that Dining Services tracks the numbers, and if more students ate a certain food, they would increase this option in their meal preparation.

**See Dining Services, Page 1**

## Orgullosamente Latinx

*Students speak about their cultural pride*

SARAH FAHEY  
ASST. A&C EDITOR

Latinx Heritage Month, celebrated each year from mid-September to mid-October, is a commemoration of the unique culture, identities and contributions of Latinx-Americans in the U.S. This month is packed full of pride and celebration for being unapologetically Latinx.

Though the month is popularly known as "Hispanic Heritage Month," many prefer to use "Latinx" because "Hispanic" refers to Spanish-speakers only and excludes countries where Spanish is not the primary language, such as Brazil. This is problematic because of Brazil's sizable influence, and "Latinx" refers to all of Latin America.



Huipiles, a traditional garment worn by Indigenous women, feature bright colors and fabrics.

In a capitalist society built on appropriation and profit, it is difficult for many minorities to honor their cultures authentically, such as the popularized and

commercialized Cinco de Mayo. Cinco de Mayo was a battle won by Mexico against the French, but it is used primarily by Americans as an excuse to party.

USD sophomore Jonnie Robles appreciates the whole heritage month to recognize her identity.

"This month is a time for a lot of Latinos to feel represented, without it being an Americanized holiday where the true

significance of it is overshadowed by commercialization and capitalism," Robles said.

For many, this month is a time to celebrate Latinx culture and reflect on why they are proud of their individual identities. USD senior Alessandra Olmedo Robles shares why she is passionate about her Latina heritage.

"I'm really grateful for my

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# NEWS

## Dining Services increased staffing needs

*Meal plans and sales purchases fund Dining Services’ budget*

**Dining Services from Page 1**

“Every station has at least one vegetarian option,” Ramos said. “We always want to add more, but with the sales data, we need to balance with what people are actually asking for.”

Dining Services sustains themselves in their budgeting to feed the students by following the sales data. Similar to other businesses, COVID-19 impacted Dining Services’ labor force, causing many workers to look for work elsewhere.

To account for the aftermath of the pandemic, new restaurants and increased student population, Auxiliary Services is conducting their biggest hiring campaign they have ever done, including both part-time and full-time staff.

Johnson attributed slower lines and rising prices to inflation, especially since Dining Services is not funded by the university. Auxiliary Services are not financed by USD’s tuition. Additionally, they are the only department at USD that can make a profit. Labor and goods are paid for completely by the meal plans and sales. Due

to this, Auxiliary Services are very budget-conscious, and must propel their prices to account for a loss of money. Tu Mercado justifies the products they sell with a price comparison to both Walmart and Target’s items. With their limited budget and facing inflation, USD’s Dining Services works with what they have to satisfy the students.

“Our money comes from the meal plans and our sales from that,” Ramos said. “We have the lowest-priced meal plan out of all the USD peers, and most of [their dining services] are [outside] contracted.”

“USD peers” are other universities that are comparable to USD, such as Santa Clara University, Pepperdine University and Loyola Marymount University. Unlike USD, these schools use an outside company to help cater food to their students. (Santa Clara caters from Sedexo.) Ramos also stated that the beginning of the year consists of mistakes and delays because many workers are still learning how to do their job in a timely manner.

“Our full-time staff has

expanded slightly, but nothing substantial. With student workers, we always have turnover because students graduate, so we need to replace them,” Ramos said.

USD sophomore Emily Mendel immediately noted the difference in service and lines between this year and last year.

“I feel like this year has changed a lot of how we’re being let in and out,” Mendel said. “Maybe the lines feel even longer because there’s so many students just packed inside, but I’m not sure how they’d change that, if there are more [total] students this year.”

Dining Services recommended utilizing the “Get Food” app to pre-order meals. Ramos noted that “Get Food” is very popular at Tu Mercado and Aromas, but it can be used at any eatery on campus. To keep up with the deals and themed nights from the Pavilion Dining, the Instagram @eatatusd posts updates for the students. If students are unsatisfied with their eating options, Dining Services are open to suggestions and feedback from the USD community by emailing dining@sandiego.edu.



Tu Mercado price matches with Walmart and Target but charges \$41 for almond butter. Colin Mullaney/The USD Vista

## Southern states’ controversial immigration policy

*Immigrants flown from southern border to Martha’s Vineyard*

COLIN MULLANEY  
COPY EDITOR

ALLIE LONGO  
ASST. FEATURE EDITOR

The Governors of Texas and Florida, Greg Abbott and Ron DeSantis respectively, transported 50 Latin American immigrants by plane from a shelter in San Antonio, Texas, to Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts. The relocation was part of a program funded by the Florida state legislature and taxpayers, NPR reported. A DeSantis spokesperson told NPR, “States like Massachusetts, New York and California will better facilitate the care of these individuals who they have invited into our country by incentivizing

illegal immigration.” When the immigrants arrived by plane in Martha’s Vineyard, the town was unprepared and had to rely on community leaders, churches and amateur translators to meet the unexpected demand for housing and basic accommodations.

Democrat politicians, including Martha’s Vineyard representative Dylan Fernandes, have cited the actions of Florida and Texas as a calculated, political move deliberately aimed to overwhelm and publicly humiliate northern cities, who are often unequipped to handle large influxes of immigrants. Democrats believe the lack of notification preceding the immigrants’ arrival demonstrates a clear disregard for both the immigrants and the cities where they were sent.

Others like the southern,

republican state governors enacting the policy, believe that liberal enclaves like Martha’s Vineyard need to step up in their efforts to support immigrants, instead of claiming “sanctuary city” status for political clout. Republican lawmakers want to force northern cities to take responsibility for the unresolved humanitarian crisis unfolding along the southern border, through new efforts to relocate them thousands of miles north.

USD junior Daniel Rosales is a resident of border city El Paso, Texas, and the son of two Mexican-American parents; Rosales believes that both Florida and his home state of Texas have lost sight of the humanity of the immigrants, in favor of making a political statement.

“It’s just so petty. These are human beings caught up in a political game, being used as pawns. I feel like it’s extremely reductive of the immigrants who cross the border, to treat them like they are a problem that needs to be solved and a drain on the state’s resources, when they are all people with unique backgrounds and situations. If their immigration is affecting the states of Florida and Texas, then it’s up to those states to figure out what to do, not just pass it along to someone else in order to make a political statement.”

Rosales was particularly

concerned by the news that young children were among the immigrants sent to Massachusetts.

“It’s especially problematic, because there are children involved. Some of the immigrants sent north were children, and they might not even be in contact with their parents. A lot of times ,kids who show up at the border unaccompanied have to wait to be reunited with family, and probably have no idea what is going on or where they are being sent. They are extremely vulnerable and usually end up detained at the border, like a facility an hour outside of my city,” Rosales said.

USD junior Russell Gokemeijer took an Honors course during his first year entitled “Narratives of the Mexican-American Border.” The class shaped his perspective of the immigration system and its potential shortcomings.

“A lot of times Mexico is portrayed in the media, like in ‘Breaking Bad,’ as being very dangerous and poor. As a result, Mexican people are seen as though they are also dangerous, and this hurts our willingness to accept more immigrants into the country. Whatever the situation is currently, I think we need to work to improve the legal immigration process, so that it’s much easier to come here legally, and we don’t end up with massive amounts of people stuck, with no other option than to cross the border

illegally,” Gokemeijer stated.

USD junior Sean McAllister lives in Wisconsin: a short drive from Chicago, where immigrants have also been recently bused from the south.

McAllister seconded Gokemeijer’s assessment that the legal immigration process needs to be expanded in order to prevent future, lose-lose situations like the one currently developing for immigrants and states alike.

“It seems like living in the U.S. without any documentation would be very difficult, no matter which state they’re moving to. Would illegal immigrants even be able to get social security or insurance, or pay taxes? That’s why it should be easier to come here legally,” McAllister said. “It doesn’t seem fair to not give them a chance to establish and build themselves up here. Why are immigrants seen as a drain on resources, when they could also be seeking jobs and hoping to productively contribute to society?”

Currently, the needs of the immigrants sent to Martha’s Vineyard are being met by local leaders.

It is unclear if any long-term arrangements have been achieved. In the meantime, more groups of immigrants could continue to arrive in northern centers, unless Florida and Texas’ policies are challenged and overruled.



Immigrants detained in San Antonio, Texas have been relocated to Martha’s Vineyard. Photo Courtesy of @octoberroses/Unsplash



# USD hires new tribal liaison

*A step forward in USD's commitment to honoring tribal lands*

**SALENA CHACON**  
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

The position of tribal liaison remained empty for over a year... until now.

The Office of Tribal Liaison (OTL) was established in 2014 under the lead of Persephone Lewis. One of the many goals of the office is to “cultivate an inclusive community for Native American students at USD” and “to strengthen community engagement with local Native communities, to share cultural knowledge and spread awareness about Native American issues,” according to the OTL website. Sahmie Wytewa stepped into the role in early September and appreciated the warm welcome from USD students and faculty.

“It’s just been really busy, but great,” Wytewa said “I feel like it’s the right place to be when I walk out there. There’s just so much happening, including with students and with faculty.”

Dr. Meaghan Weatherdon, a professor in the department of Theology and Religious Studies, explained that the office is crucial to advancing USD’s connection to tribal lands and communities.

“As a scholar of Indigenous religions and spirituality, the office of the tribal liaison has been central, I feel, to the project of reconciliation, to the work of supporting our Native American and Indigenous students here on campus, and to the work of developing relationships with local communities around campus,” Dr. Weatherdon said.

Dr. Angel Hinzo, an assistant professor of Ethnic Studies, pointed out USD’s identity as both a Catholic and changemaker campus makes efforts to strengthen relationships even more important.

“It’s important for USD as a university and a Catholic social institution, as part of this mission to uplift human dignity. I mean, we’re teaching changemakers,” Dr. Hinzo said. “Part of that should be on the frontlines of efforts like land acknowledgement statements and other reconciliation efforts that point to and say, ‘there’s a history here in this place. There’s a reason why we’re all able to be here.’”

One of USD’s most notable



Sahmie Wytewa hopes to strengthen USD’s ties to Native American communities as the new tribal liaison for the Center for Inclusion and Diversity.

Photo Courtesy of <https://www.sandiego.edu/inclusion/tribal-liaison>



Wytewa wants to increase Native American student involvement on campus.

Photo Courtesy of <https://www.sandiego.edu/kumeyaay-garden>

efforts to strengthen tribal ties is USD’s land acknowledgement.

USD senior Reyn Yoshioka doesn’t think the land acknowledgements in classrooms are enough attribution for the Kumeyaay.

“I wouldn’t say that the land acknowledgement are bad, but in my classes, they’re rarely done,” Yoshioka said. “I hear it in club meetings, but my classes will brush through it, if anything.”

Similarly, USD first-year Katrina Zhang would want to see USD do more than read a required land acknowledgement.

“It’s pretty generic, but USD is already on the land, so the least that they could do is give back to the community in some way,” Zhang stated.

This land acknowledgement was made in collaboration with community members, recognizing that USD was built on Kumeyaay lands. The land acknowledgement is meant to be recited before major USD events and is included in many class syllabuses.

Dr. Hinzo suggested it should be a living document.

“I think there’s room to make some edits, and I think that’s completely fine, because it should be a living statement that can be amended as needed. Hopefully, as we’re moving towards equity it will need to be amended to fit each generation’s needs,” Dr. Hinzo explained.

The land acknowledgement, according to Dr. Hinzo, should be a document that adapts as USD’s relationship with tribal lands and communities grows and changes.

Dr. Weatherdon sees the land acknowledgement as an individual responsibility for each member of the USD community.

“The question of how to improve on the land acknowledgment is a question that each individual has to ask themselves, and each individual engaging with it needs to think deeply about and constructively about,” Weatherdon said. “I don’t think there’s a one-size-fits all answer for that question.



The Kumeyaay Garden is a dedication to the living Kumeyaay legacy.

Photo Courtesy of <https://www.sandiego.edu/kumeyaay-garden>

Because the ways in which we acknowledge the land and the ways in which we live out that acknowledgement are going to be different for each of us.”

Wytewa, in her first few weeks as tribal liaison, already had several conversations regarding the land acknowledgement.

“We can’t put [the land acknowledgement] in different places or spaces and bring it up and then not do anything about it,” Wytewa said.

Wytewa’s efforts to put the promises of the land acknowledgement into action is a priority. In Fall 2019, less than 1% of USD’s student population identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, according to the federal report of race/ethnicity for students. Part of Wytewa’s goals in her new position is to reach out to Native American students and increase their involvement on campus.

“The hope and expectation of this office is that we’re going to increase our Native American

student representation, and that just means we have to figure out the best ways to be a resource and a support for pathways,” Wytewa expressed.

Some ideas Wytewa has include reaching out to high schools in the area, connecting students with programs that align with their interests, and to cater to the specific needs of Indigenous communities.

Wytewa also emphasized the importance of meeting Indigenous communities’ needs first.

“One of the goals that I have is making those connections, whether it’s with tribal leaders or tribal education departments, or even tribal programs, to learn more about what their needs are in their local communities,” Wytewa said.

The OTL’s goals are to bolster Native American student populations on campus and foster a community that is knowledgeable about tribal lands and communities, especially with California Indian Day passing on Sept. 23.

## The USD Vista

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# OPINION

## Patagonia's inspiring move

### Founder gives brand away to fight climate change

MARIA SIMPSON  
OPINION EDITOR

Correction:

In last week's issue of the USD Vista (9/22/22), the two articles in the opinion section, *Queen Elizabeth II controversy* and *Contagious misconceptions* were mistakenly labeled as Op-Eds. These articles should have been labeled as Opinion, not Op-Eds. We regret this error.

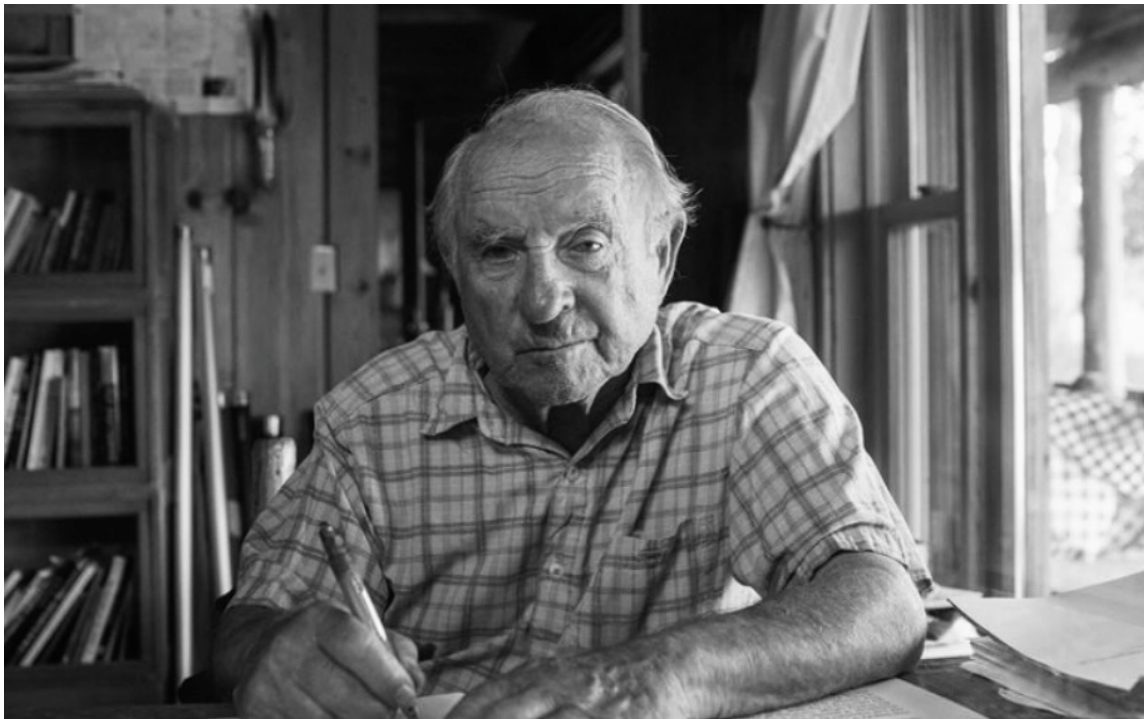
Last week, an incredibly uplifting announcement was all over the media: the billionaire founder of the popular sportswear brand Patagonia gave the company away in a philanthropic effort to fight climate change. Not only is this a welcomed ray of light in an often grim newsfeed, it is a bold and inspiring effort by a corporation and entrepreneur to give back to the world in a tremendous way.

I believe that not only will this move provide help to the environment itself, but it has the power to set a precedent for other companies and wealthy entrepreneurs to follow in the future.

Now that the founder of Patagonia, Yvon Chouinard, has given away the previously privately-owned brand, it is currently owned by only two groups: the Patagonia Purpose Trust and the Holdfast Collective. The former is a trust led by the Chouinard family and it has received 2% ownership of the company. The latter is a U.S. charity whose efforts go to helping the environment; they now possess 98% of the Patagonia brand. By passing the stock and profits of the company on to these two, newly-created nonprofits, Chouinard can ensure that he and his family still retain control of the company and that its values will continue to be upheld.

Like many other people, I was very surprised when I heard that Chouinard had given his brand away for such a great cause. It is all too rare to see the incredibly wealthy extend charity in such a grand manner. However, I soon learned that this choice was actually not surprising at all, if you know anything about the history of the brand and of Chouinard.

Chouinard comes from humble beginnings and continues to lead his life with that same attitude, even after his brand launched into popularity.



Yvon Chouinard (above) is literally putting his money where his mouth is by giving Patagonia away to a just cause.

Photo courtesy of @sinclairassociates/Instagram

Chouinard is described first and foremost as an American rock climber, as shown by a quick Google search on the man. His entrepreneurial roots began with him making climbing gear and clothes for his friends, according to an article by Entrepreneur.

Patagonia was founded in 1973 and became a booming business for sportswear fans and outdoorsy people. Patagonia made an estimated \$1.5 billion dollars in sales this year, and Chouinard is estimated to have a networth of a whopping \$1.2 billion dollars himself, according to an article from BBC. However, he shared that he detests being referred to or thought of as a billionaire.

Chouinard's attitude toward his billionaire status is not just empty words. The company's values indicate that Patagonia has always put Earth first. According to the New York Times, the company has donated 1% of sales profits toward the environment for decades.

The brand also has spoken out about the well-made clothing intended to "last a lifetime" in an effort to be more sustainable.

In an interview with BBC, Charles Conn, the chairman of Patagonia stated, "We invest in making sure we use the least water, the least dangerous chemistries and dyes, and use the least carbon in the production of our products, which often means they cost a little bit more." That extra price supposedly guarantees a more environmentally-friendly purchase.

Giving away the company to environmental initiatives fits perfectly in line with values clearly set forward by Patagonia for many decades now. And with the large profits that the brand makes, I believe it will have the financial power to make a positive difference in the battle against climate change.

Despite all of this, Patagonia has a number of naysayers, who claim that giving away the company is a marketing ploy or a tactic to evade taxes. Plenty of other companies advertise themselves as "green" and "sustainable," so that consumers are more inclined to purchase their products, but there is no huge push from

the people behind the brand to truly make a difference. When large companies make donations, their philanthropic checks are tax-deductible, but normally this comes at a price; those companies are barred from involvement in political campaigns.

Chouinard and his family have proven that they care greatly about the environment, and they would not want to give up the power to have a voice in democracy. While these concerns are possible explanations, I think that based on Chouinard's history and the brand's consistent values, this recent move is a true effort to help the earth.

The world is in a scary and dangerous position right now, as far as climate change and threats to the well-being of the environment go. That much is clear.

Some might question if the millions (or even billions) of dollars that Patagonia will end up contributing will be enough to make a substantial difference, and to that I am not so sure. I don't know how much money one would need to reverse climate change or make a big impact. However, I do believe that this can be an inspiring first step by Patagonia to encourage more corporations to take similar actions.

In an interview with ABC News, Hans Cole, the head of environmental grants, campaigns and impact for Patagonia, stated, "We need, frankly, the entire business community and governments and civil society to work together to get this done. We can't do it alone. Patagonia can't do it alone."

While many millionaires and billionaires donate to charities, this is a huge step that more brands could follow, creating a more secure, honest and lasting philanthropy than donating a check every now and then or acting as a mere spokesperson could do. This chain reaction of followers is not guaranteed by any means, but I certainly hope that at least a few humans will have the heart to make a similar change.

In the meantime, Patagonia and Chouinard have made a bold move that can make a difference.



Patagonia has been popular among adventurers for decades.

Photo courtesy of @patagonia/Instagram

The views expressed in the opinion section are not necessarily those of *The USD Vista* staff, the University of San Diego, or its student body.



# OPINION

## USD students need more support

### *Students should be able to use Zoom when sick*

**JESSICA MILLS**

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

I'll be the first to admit, missing class stresses me out. I enjoy school and thrive in academic environments, so playing hooky for any reason has never appealed to me. But, for the first time since the pandemic started, I tested positive in the beginning of September for COVID-19 and was required to stay home. Instead of feeling concerned over my health, I was more stressed knowing I'd miss in-person lectures.

After completing USD's Onward survey that notified the school and my professors of my positive result, I inquired about the possibility of attending my lectures via Zoom. Shockingly, I learned that USD now prohibits Zoom classes. Instead, I was recommended to obtain notes from peers, view lecture slides and attend office hours after testing negative.

In a statement forwarded from Associate Director of Media Relations Elena Gomez, Vice Provost Dr. Roger Pace clarified that professors should assist students in other ways than Zoom.

"Professors should not Zoom classes. Instead, they are encouraged to accommodate students in traditional ways such as providing notes, PowerPoint or makeup sessions," Pace said.

Like many others, I was verbally told in all of my classes that students feeling sick, regardless of a negative COVID-19 test, should stay home – which is advice I completely agree with. WebMD states that adults average two to four colds a year, each lasting between three and seven days. With the possibility of missing



Using Zoom allows students to participate in class discussions and ask questions during lectures so they don't fall behind.

Photo courtesy of @wocintechchat/Unsplash

up to 28 days of school a year, USD should prioritize the resources that professors would require to hold Zoom classes.

While access to lecture slides and classmates' notes are helpful, many of my professors utilize in-class discussions and group work – which are rarely included on a written document from professors or students.

GradeHub, a digital grading platform, explains that implementing classroom discussions increase student engagement, provide feedback, develop students' speaking skills and encourage class preparation. Rather than just receiving information, discussions help students process and apply what they've been taught.

Likewise, the platform Zoom argues that "students are more motivated to learn and work on their studies when they can see the actual connection between what they are learning and the real world."

Attending office hours is helpful for clarifying missing information, but it does not replace classroom connection, interaction and conversation that a sick student might otherwise miss out on. Like students, professors also have busy schedules. Spending extra time in office hours, corresponding to emails and assisting students on missed work is an added stressor for both parties. Zoom classes save the hassle of playing catch up.

Luckily, my professors were all very supportive throughout my absence and return to school, but I would have felt more connected with my peers, lectures and classroom discourse if Zoom classes had been permitted.

I understand the risk that some students may abuse this privilege, but – in prioritizing the mental and physical health of our USD community – it is a necessary and simple fix to allow

online participation in specific circumstances. Classrooms already feature computers, so it would be as simple as logging into Zoom and allowing the sick student(s) to watch the class through their screen at home.

The bigger risk is students turning up to class sick just to avoid the stress of missing class. Using Zoom would ensure that no student feels obligated to attend class if they are sick, keeping them and their classmates and professors safe.

Director of the Student Health Center Kimberly Woodruff encourages students experiencing COVID-19 - like symptoms to test.

"Free rapid antigen tests are available at the Torero store and Residential Life staff have tests for residential students. Additionally, tests can be found at most pharmacies for minimal cost. If a student tests positive they should report their positive test by filling out

the [Onward survey.] They will then receive instructions from Contact Tracing about isolation, information about how to inform close contacts and letters to provide professors about their absence while isolating. Additional questions, concerns or need for additional support can be emailed to Covidsupport@sandiego.edu."

More information on isolation, positive and negative testing protocols can be found on the Onward website.

Testing positive for any illness is stressful enough, and school should not make the experience any worse.

As we all learned during the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, alternative class arrangements online are a strong option, and as long as they are not interfering with regular class functioning, it is not difficult to set up or to utilize. USD should take advantage of this to help support all students.



USD encourages COVID-19 testing if students are feeling sick and staying home if positive to avoid spread.

Photo courtesy of @anniespratt/Unsplash



Classrooms at USD are equipped with accessible tools, so professors should get to use them.

Maria Simpson/The USD Vista

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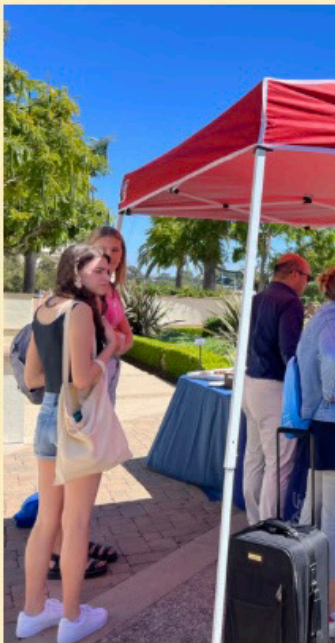




# NATIONAL HISPANIC

## HOW ON-CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS REC

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IS CELEBRATED ANNUALLY IN THE UNITED STATES FROM SEPT. 15 TO OCT. 15. THE CELEBRATION BEGINS ON SEPT. 15 BECAUSE IT MARKS THE ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE FOR MANY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES: COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, AND NICARAGUA. THE MONTH HONORS AND RECOGNIZES THE CONTRIBUTIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND INFLUENCES OF HISPANIC AMERICANS. DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO HOST EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH—LONG CELEBRATION FOR ALL STUDENTS TO ATTEND, SPOTLIGHTING HISPANIC CULTURE AND BRINGING AWARENESS TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MONTH.



## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH POP-UP EVENT (SEPT. 22)



Allie Longo/The USD Vista.

**JACOB ARAGON (SOPHOMORE & STUDENT INTERN, UNITED FRONT MULTICULTURAL COMMONS)**  
"I think it's really important that we celebrate Latinx heritage month. The Latinx community at USD is a microculture compared to other majority cultures on campus, and I am a part of that, so I think it's really important to build awareness and build an environment where we can see all cultures be celebrated and have their respected months be celebrated as well."



**VALERIA MORA (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE COMMONS)**

"I am an alumnus from USD, and I also hold a Latinx identity, and it's fun to see that my heritage is being celebrated at an institutional level and that it's not just something being written out. It's important to bring light to Latinx heritage month so students who hold that identity, or don't, learn about the success, challenges and ways in which we can better support the Latinx community."



Allie Longo/The USD Vista



# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

## RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE MONTH

### SWEET TALKS SERIES (SEPT. 22)



Allie Longo/The USD Vista

#### NATALIA RICHARD (SOPHOMORE & UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, CENTER FOR INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY)

"Every month, we have an event called 'Sweet Talks' which are all centered around different cultural themes. And this month of September is centered around Hispanic Heritage Month. I just love the work that USD is doing with highlighting the different cultures we have on campus, because we do have a lot of diversity on campus. A lot of people think that we don't, but we really do, and it's about lifting up those cultures that we don't often see so other cultures can see, 'hey, it's inclusive there, we can go there. They celebrate everyone's differences and what everybody's different cultures bring.'"

#### CHRISTINA GARLAND (EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, CENTER FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION)

"One of the questions we invite folks to answer is due to the Horizon Project. As you see, we are on track to become an HSI (Hispanic-Serving Institution) by the year 2024, so we have some conversations centered around that and what that would look like. We also have some conversations around the term 'Hispanic,' what it means, and the complexities and challenges of one term to describe such a diverse population. The greater thing is how we can engage in this conversation of celebrating Latinx culture or Hispanic culture and tradition, and what we can do beyond September 15th to October 15th."



Haley Jacob/The USD Vista.

#### MAYTE PEREZ-FRANCO (DIRECTOR, UNITED FRONT MULTICULTURAL COMMONS)

"This is a great month to highlight some awareness around Latino culture, issues, celebrations, and just honoring the community in general. But you don't have to just do it over a month, like Latino culture and history is a year-long thing, don't just think about it as a month - there is a lot more that can happen."





# FEATURE

## USD among best colleges for voter registration

### How our campus values and promotes political engagement

LAUREN CEBALLOS  
CONTRIBUTOR

National Voter Registration Day took place last Tuesday, Sept. 20, a day that seeks to bring awareness to the importance of voting and help people nationwide register to vote. The national holiday began in 2012; since then, according to the organization’s website, nearly 4.7 million people have registered to vote on this holiday.

According to the Washington Monthly, a nonprofit D.C.-based magazine that covers government and politics in the U.S., the University of San Diego is among the best colleges for student voting, with a registration rate above 85%.

USD Votes is an on-campus, non-partisan club devoted to getting students registered and involved in local and national elections. They play a significant role in achieving the new accomplishment of the USD student community.

On National Voter Registration Day, USD Votes canvassed with shirts and bags, participated in text banking to walk students through the voter registration process via text message, and distributed voter registration forms for students wanting to register in California. The club also assists out-of-state students and students studying abroad.

USD Votes Club President Iesha Brown described the club’s efforts.

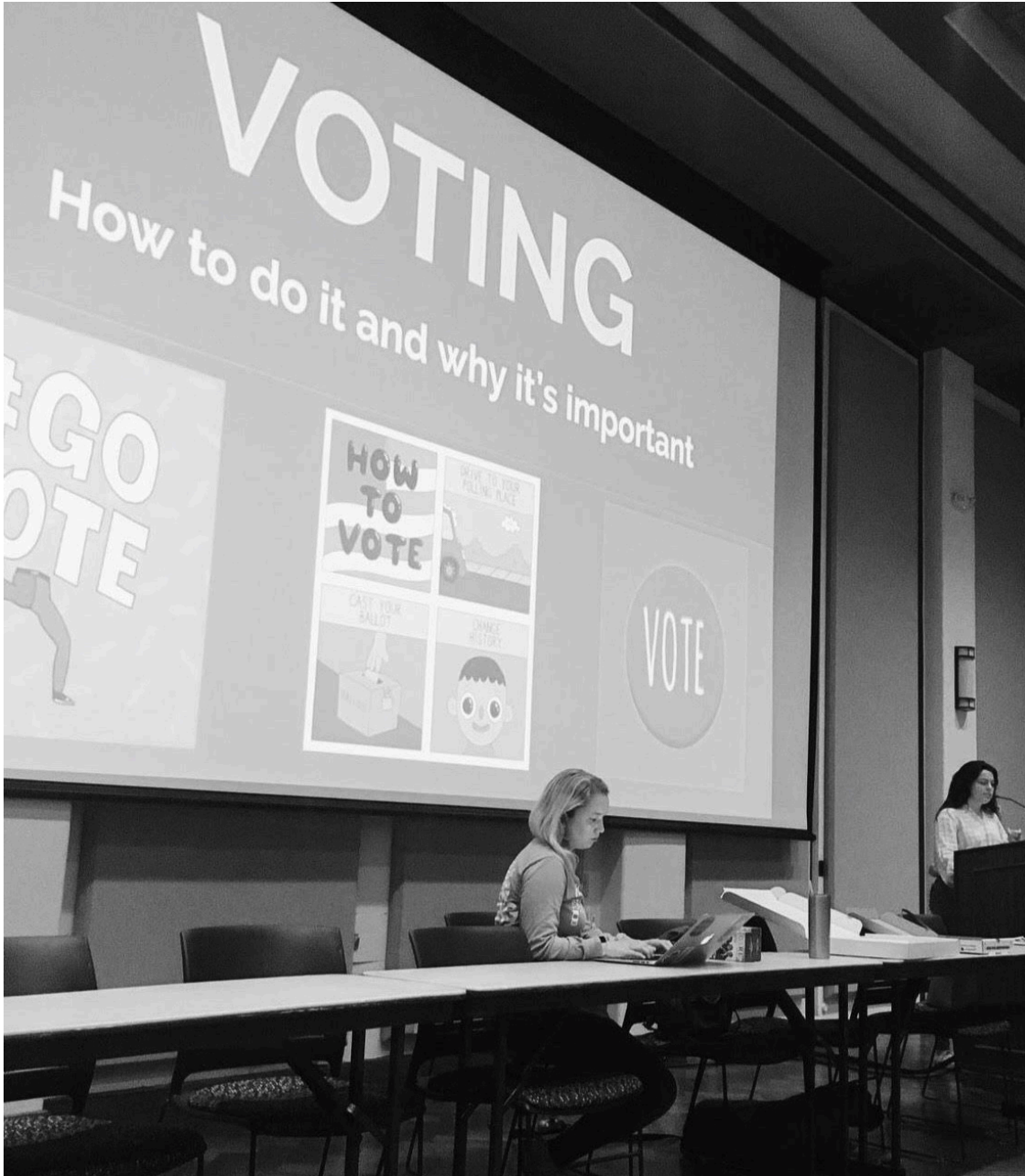
“USD Votes promote[s] voter mobilization and voter access and information,” Brown said. “We are a volunteer group of students and staff that work together to mobilize voters on campus and to empower our USD community to get involved with voting.”

Brown explained the mission of USD Votes.

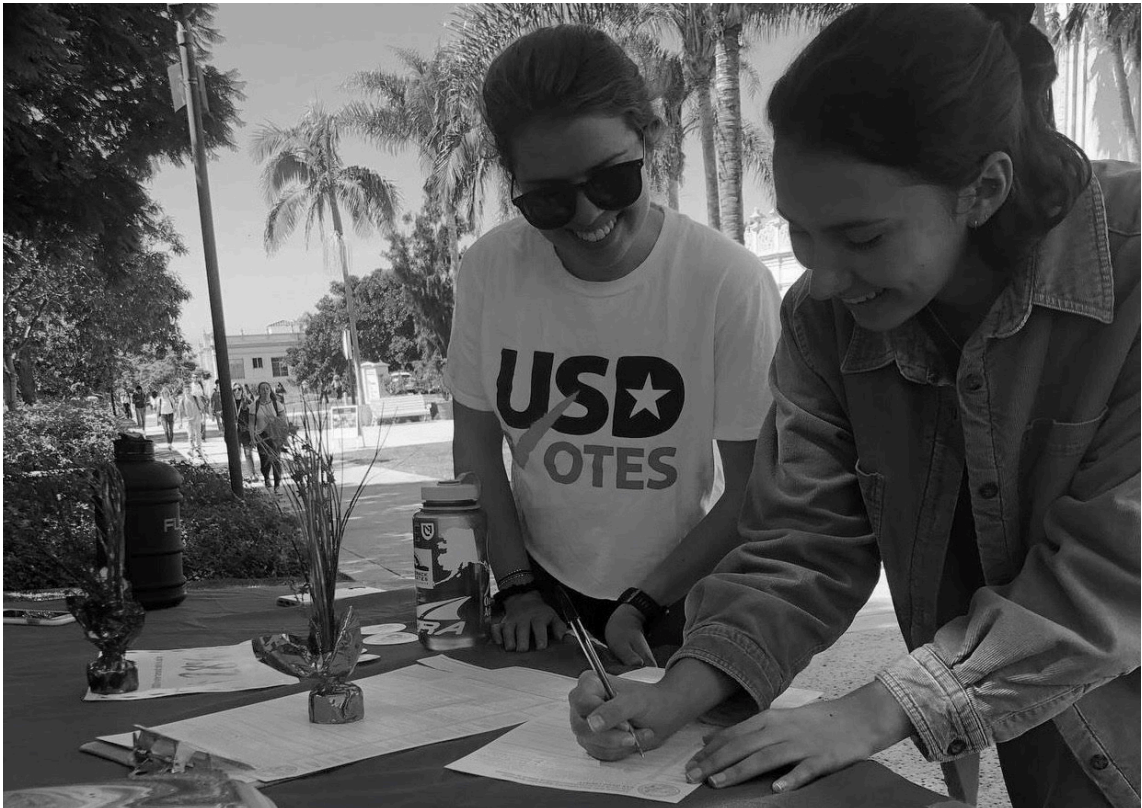
“Our goal isn’t necessarily to sway anybody to a certain party. Our main thing is to give them the information on how to register to vote, and then with that registration, actually actively vote and participate in the election, whichever party they decide,” Brown said. “We are open to everybody. [It’s] about helping students know the options they have and giving them access to voting.”

USD Votes Advisor Dr. Casey Dominguez discussed the growth in USD student voting.

“When USD started participating in the National Study of Student Learning, Voting, and Engagement, around 2014 or 2015... [it] showed that USD students registered to vote at a rate of about 16%,” Dr. Dominguez said. “I thought that was completely unacceptable.”



Many USD students and professors believe voting is an important way for citizens to make their voices heard.  
Photo courtesy of @usdvotescampaign/Instagram



USD Votes set up a booth on National Voter Registration Day in 2019 to assist students with the registration process.  
Photo courtesy of @usdvotescampaign/Instagram

As a result, Dr. Dominguez founded USD Votes by recruiting political science students, advertising through contests, labeling and text banking as a way to “have a conversation with every student.”

One recurring conversation in the current political climate is the most recent presidential

election in the U.S. Joe Biden won the election over the previous incumbent Donald Trump in 2020. During the election, a referendum on the importance of voting took place. The phrase “Go Vote” was advertised over a multitude of platforms: social media threads, shirts at local department stores, stickers,

phone cases and a plethora of other forms of memorabilia advocating for people to vote.

According to a 2021 U.S. Census Bureau report on registration and voting, “The 2020 presidential election had the highest voter turnout of the 21st century, with 66.8% of citizens 18 years and

older voting in the election.”

This increase in voting and political involvement is viewed by many as a positive step in the right direction to ensure all voices are heard.

Adjunct Assistant Professor in Political Science and International Relations Dr. Alan Segui shared his thoughts on the impact of voting.

“When we’re voting for people in Congress or when we’re voting for people in the state senate or state assembly, we are voting for people who in turn are going to make decisions on what the laws and policies are going to be,” Dr. Segui said. “But as far as democracy in its truest sense, where the people get to decide what the laws and policies are going to be, in its purest form, democracy – direct democracy – is manifested by how people vote on those ballot measures, vote on those ballot propositions.”

Dr. Segui believes voting is the best way to advocate for important policy reforms.

“We, as citizens or residents of California, can make that determination and, in some instances, determine the laws and policies that are going to affect us,” Dr. Segui said. “Not by selecting or through representatives, or not by voting people in government, but by voting on our own that this is the law, this is the policy that we want.”

USD first-year Bella Sevilla reaffirms Dr. Segui’s sentiment on voting.

“Voting is important, because it lets people voice their opinions on issues they are affected by and passionate about, so they can see the change they want in their country,” Sevilla said.

USD first-year Kate Lising views voting as a necessity to draw attention to the needs of the masses.

“I think voting is important because this is how the audience can get their opinions across,” Lising said. “If we didn’t vote, no one would ever know what we’re thinking, or if we’re enjoying the lives we’re living.”

Dr. Dominguez believes USD Votes is an influential club on campus for its unwavering efforts to get students registered and inform the campus community about voting, labeling the club as a “declarative statement.”

The determination and efforts of USD Votes echo the new wave of political activism and involvement seen in newer generations. The club’s mission to get students registered extends beyond Voter Registration Day and, instead, is a year-long campaign to ensure all students play a role in deciding the nation’s leaders, policies and formation of a country that advocates for its citizens.



# Celebrating Latinx culture

## *Students share their heritage, identities and pride*

SARAH FAHEY  
ASST. A&C EDITOR

**Latinx from Page 1** identity,” Robles said. “It’s not only humbled me, but I feel like it’s my superpower. I don’t really fit in a box anymore.”

This month offers a chance for Latinos to stray away from stereotypes and define their own identities on their own terms. Olmedo hints at the stereotypes that Latinos face due to exaggerated and problematic portrayals in the media.

“I don’t have the stereotypical curvy body, with a heavy accent and honey skin, like Sofia Vergara in ‘Modern Family,’” Olmedo said. “I feel like I’m expected to be like these sexualized portrayals when we’re not that. We’re not going to be that, and we’re not going to try to be that.”

One of the most well-known aspects of Latinx culture is the food.

With various colorful and flavorful dishes like empanadas and tamales, food and cooking are ways to connect with individuals in the Latin culture.

USD senior Carmen Gomez shares her love for the way food connects people.

“I’ve seen how food brings people together,” Gomez said. “There is something



Empanadas, a popular food in Latin America, contain a flavorful filling wrapped in dough.

Sarah Fahey/The USD Vista

heartwarming about coming together at the table to share a meal that creates the most special memories.”

Gomez is not the only person who finds both a sense of community and comfort in sharing food with others. Olmedo also believes good memories come with cooking.

“My mom taught me how to cook and I always think about her when I do,” Olmedo said. “The memories that making food from my culture brings is why I love cooking.”

Cooking reminds many Latinos of the love for their families and their loved ones around them.

From making simple staples like tortillas a mano to cultural dishes like empanadas that are tied to good memories of community and belonging, food is a crucial part of Latinx culture and tradition.

The roots of the Latinx culture is very important in many identities, with much more

to be celebrated besides food.

From dance to language and family, the Latinx culture is a warm, tightly knit community that contains so much beauty, pride and comfort.

With such vast diversity and subjectivity, there is much to be honored during Latinx Heritage Month.

# Lucky Stars Market

## *Centering female, queer and people of color owned businesses*

WHITNEY LYNN  
CONTRIBUTOR

A new market opened in San Diego called Lucky Stars Market has a variety of items for sale. Attendees can expect to find vintage and upcycled clothing, jewelry, ceramics, crochet, art, food and more.

Lucky Stars Market features female, queer and people of color vendors. Founder Kimberly Lee shared her motivations for Lucky Stars being centered around these groups.

“When I started selling vintage in San Diego I noticed that it was a very male dominated space and I felt like there was a need for a space where these [other] groups feel comfortable. I feel like Lucky Stars Market is very community forward, where vendors and shoppers feel safe and supported. I’m always learning, but I really make the effort to try and make it an environment where people don’t feel judged but uplifted,” Lee said.

Lucky Stars has grown significantly, with about 65 vendors participating in their next market. The first market was in December 2021. October’s market will be their seventh event.

When asked how she worked to connect with these



Shoppers browsing a variety of records and items at the Lucky Stars Market.

communities, Lee explained, “At the beginning I asked my fellow vendor friends to join and just went to markets to kind of scout people out and just spread the word of what I was trying to do. But now through social media and word of mouth is how a lot of vendors find out about vending and we have an application.”

USD senior Hannah

White plans to attend Lucky Stars’ next market.

“I try to avoid fast fashion, so I prefer shopping secondhand or from small businesses,” White said. “It definitely matters to me who I’m buying my clothes from. I like using my buying power to support businesses that align with my values.”

The next market will be held

on Sunday, Oct. 2 at Queen Bee’s Art and Cultural Center in North Park. The address is 3925 Ohio Street, North Park. Admission is free. The market will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. If unable to attend, the next market will be held on Dec. 4.

More information can be found on the market’s Instagram @luckystarsmarket or TikTok

Photo courtesy of Kimberly Lee

@luckystars.market, where they post spotlights on vendors and items sold at the market.

Lucky Stars is drawing in a new generation of consumers who recognize that where they choose to spend their money matters.

The diversity of vendors and items provide unique pieces for varying individual styles.



# Celebrating banned books

## Students talk censorship, knowledge and the importance of freedom

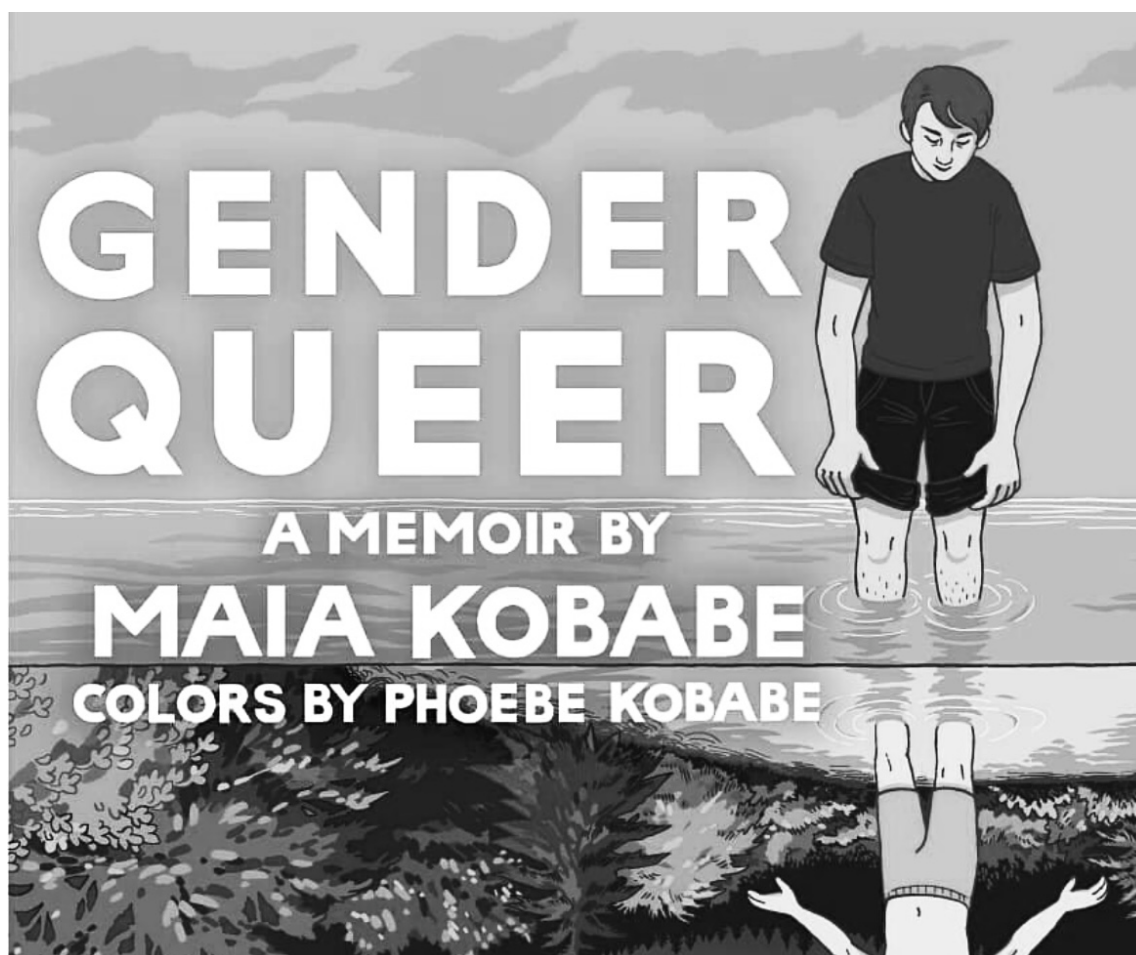
JESSICA MILLS  
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Since 1982, Banned Book Week annually celebrates the freedom to read. Held this year from Sept. 18 – 24, readers, librarians, teachers, booksellers, publishers and journalists have joined forces to stress the value of free and inclusive access to information.

The Washington Post reports that from July 2021 – June 2022, there were 1,648 books targeted for bans by parents, local governments and community organizations, a number that's more than doubled from the previous year.

An overwhelming majority of these texts are written by or are about people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals. According to the American Library Association (ALA), parents of school-age children challenge texts more than any other group, in an attempt to shield children from various ideas. However, school board officials, local and state lawmakers and activists fuel the book-ban movement as well.

To formally ban a book, those who initiate the challenge must completely read the text, fill out a challenge form on the ALA's website and describe why, how and where the offense took place. The challenge is



"Gender Queer," written by Maia Kobabe, is the top challenged book, according to the ALA.

Photo courtesy of @redgoldsparks/Instagram

then presented and decided on in state and local hearings.

Quartz, a global economy guide, reveals that – compared to other states – right-wing political and religious groups in Texas and Florida have banned the largest number of books, especially those addressing

LGBTQ+ topics, sex positivity, female empowerment and race.

Throughout her education, USD senior Paulina Smale has her own personal experience with banned books.

"I remember in middle school, a book about African Americans was taken away

from the curriculum because it was too 'harsh' in language," Smale explained. "But, in reality I think it was definitely a book that needed to be read."

Likewise, Smale believes that children should be encouraged to read novels with LGBTQ+ concepts and characters.

"A lot of parents are angered by LGBTQ+ characters in books when in reality, it's something we should be grateful for – that kids are growing up knowing options and acceptance are out there."

The theme of this year's Banned Book Week is "Books unite us. Censorship divides us," which emphasizes the rights and expressions of all individuals, even those that may seem unconventional.

USD senior Harley Wahl argues that censorship hinders one's critical thinking skills.

"Rather than censoring what people can intake, we should be focusing on making people more critical of the sources they choose to indulge in," Wahl said. "We should be giving them the tools to properly read different sources."

For USD junior Abby Buehler, book banning does not belong in places of education and learning.

"I just don't think schools, especially public schools, should be sites of political/religious contestation," Buehler said. "A public school is not your congregation."

Regardless of one's view on book topics, restricting access to texts censors one's freedom to expression, individualism and critical thinking – especially books with subjects on race, LGBTQ+ communities, sex positivity and female empowerment.

# Rumors, resentment and ratings

## Everything you need to know about the 'Don't Worry Darling' drama

SARAH FAHEY  
ASST. A&C EDITOR

This past weekend, "Don't Worry Darling," directed by actress Olivia Wilde, premiered across the country. Set in the 1950s, the psychological thriller was widely promoted for its theme of societal impositions placed upon women through real life parallels. The characters, Alice and Jack, live in an experimental town where the men work and the women simply enjoy their time in the community. However, this all begins to fall apart when Alice starts to question her reality.

With the film's two-year delay due to the pandemic, casting issues and the invasive curiosity of media outlets, it is no secret that drama occurred between the cast. Shia LeBeouf was originally cast as the male lead in the film until he was allegedly fired for his combative behavior on set, making lead actress Florence Pugh feel uncomfortable, according to Wilde in a Vanity Fair interview. The claim was strengthened by singer FKA Twigs suing LeBeouf for domestic violence in late 2020.

As the popularity of the movie increased with the release of raunchy trailers, Florence Pugh spoke on her frustrations over the sex scenes in the promo videos.



(Left to right) Nick Kroll, Florence Pugh, Chris Pine, Olivia Wilde, Sydney Chandler, Harry Styles, Gemma Chan on the red carpet.

Photo courtesy of @dontworrydarling/Instagram

"When it's reduced to your sex scenes, or to watch the most famous man in the world go down on someone, it's not why we do it. It's not why I'm in this industry," Pugh said in a Harper Bazaar interview.

Pugh then stopped press altogether for "Don't Worry Darling," amid the ongoing drama.

The Venice Film Festival, held from Aug. 31 – Sept. 10, created even more strain. With speculations of issues amongst the cast, Wilde spent the press conference dodging questions

about alleged tension with Pugh.

Though Pugh stated that she would not be attending the film festival, she graced the festival's red carpet in a sparkling, sheer black dress. However, Pugh, Styles and Wilde were kept separate all night, with the rest of the cast constantly in between the three.

In a viral video, Styles was even shown spitting at Chris Pine, one of the other actors in the film, which has since been refuted. This is now being referred to as "Spitgate" across social media platforms,

even being joked about by Styles onstage during one of his "Love on Tour" concerts.

The biggest controversy of the night was Pugh's premature exit. Four minutes into the film's standing ovation, the rest of the cast followed Pugh out, cutting the audience's applause short.

An inside source revealed in a Vulture interview, on the day of the film's premiere, that Pugh was seen screaming at Wilde on set – most likely due to frustration with the director's relationship with Styles, while also still with her ex-fiancé, Jason Sudeikis.

Leading up to the release of the film, USD junior Alex Hill reflected on her thoughts leading up to the release of the film.

"I did go into the movie with pretty low expectations. I had heard that it got low ratings by critics, so I wasn't expecting very much from it," Hill said. "However, I will say that because I had such low expectations, it definitely was much better than I expected."

In an interview with Variety, film director, Wilde mentioned her desire to feature sex-positivity in the film. However, many of these scenes felt out of place and did not bode well with audiences.

USD sophomore Karla Astiazaran reflected on the movie's sex scenes.

"The scenes just didn't fit in the movie," Astiazaran said. "It's about a society where women's wants and needs are stifled, but apparently their sexual pleasure comes first? They just feel forced and awkward."

Despite Wilde's intention to create a sex-positive film, the drama surrounding the cast seemed to have overshadowed the movie. The publicity in the media mainly focused on issues between the actors, rather than the movie's intended message – making it near impossible for many viewers to separate the actors from the art.



# Weekly recap

**TJ JOSEPH**  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

**Football:**

This past weekend, San Diego football had their last non-conference game in a matchup against University of California, Davis.

To kick off this game, the Aggies were quick to add to the score and opened the game by scoring two touchdowns against the Toreros. In the second quarter of the game, the Toreros recorded one touchdown by Vance Jefferson, but UC Davis would continue to score and recorded three more touchdowns, resulting in a Toreros deficit at halftime with a score of 35-7.

San Diego started the third quarter off strong with a rushing touchdown from Re-al Mitchell to add six more points to their tally. The Aggies responded at the end of this quarter with one more touchdown, putting the score at the end of the third at 43-13. Neither team scored in the fourth quarter of this game leading to another loss for the Toreros to put their record at 1-2 for this season.

Some notable Toreros from this game are Vance Jefferson who had a career high of nine catches with 104 yards rushed and a touchdown, along with Judd Erickson who logged 17 pass receptions for 177 yards and one touchdown.

San Diego is now starting their conference games and will match up against Stetson University at Torero Stadium on Oct. 1. Kick off will be at 1 p.m. PST.

**Volleyball:**

The volleyball team maintained their momentum this season, and this past weekend was yet another example of the Toreros' will to win.

Their first of two games was against UCLA on Friday, and San Diego did not hesitate to sweep in this game. The first set of the game was the most competitive one out of the three, where the Toreros battled closely for the win. At the end of this set, the combination of a bad set from UCLA along with a kill from Grace Frohling put San Diego in position to take a 25-22 set win, putting the Toreros up 1-0 in this match.

In the second set, Leyla Blackwell kicked it off with two kills and momentum that would last the whole set, as San Diego would not lose their lead. A kill from Breana Edwards and two more from Katie Lukes pushed the Toreros to close out the second set with a score of 25-18, giving San Diego a comfortable 2-0 lead.

A 5-5 tie emerged in the third set, but the Bruins had a hard time hanging in with the Toreros after this point. With kills from Katie Lukes and Breana Edwards, San Diego easily finished this set and match 3-0, adding another win onto their streak.

The next day, USD faced



Gabby Blossom ranked No. 25 for assists per set in the NCAA.

Photo courtesy of @usdvolleyball/Instagram



Both USD men's and women's cross country race at UC Riverside Invitational.

Photo courtesy of @usdxctf/Instagram



USD football will play against Stetson on Oct. 1 at 1 p.m.

Photo courtesy of @usdfootball/Instagram

the San Diego State Aztecs in their last non-conference game and had an easy time securing the victory. The two teams battled hard in their first set with the score remaining close. The Aztecs pulled away with a narrow set victory to establish a 1-0 lead. This, however, would be the last of San Diego State's success as USD severely turned the tide for the last three sets.

In the second set, the Toreros quickly racked up a lead that went as high as 12 points. USD had an easy time closing out the set with a score of 25-13 and momentum going into the third set. The Toreros continued right where they left off and established a 9-5 lead in the third set. Kills from Kylie Pries, Haylee Stoner and

Breana Edwards provided the finishing touches USD needed to win this set 25-14, needing only one more set win to finish the game. The Aztecs again could not keep up with the pace of the Toreros in the fourth and final set of the match. USD began the game with a 3-0 lead. This lead became 7-1, and eventually a 23-9 advantage. The Toreros would finish their last set in a 25-12 win as well as a match win of 3-1. Katie Lukes was a force in this game, recording a season high of 19 kills against the Aztecs.

They will play their next game against Gonzaga University on Thursday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. PST.

**Cross country:**

The men's and women's cross country team went to compete at the UC Riverside

Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 17 due to the cancellation of the USD invitational. The men's team placed 22nd with a total of 631 points while the women's program finished in 24th place, with 658 points. Several members of the women's team also competed in the open 5K race, and they clocked in at 13th place with a point total of 399 points. On the women's team, sophomore Madeline Heller placed 80th, finishing the 6K with a time of 21:43.7. In the open event, freshman Stella Smith led the Toreros, placing 69th with a time of 19:18.7. On the men's team, graduate student Ethan Steiner led the way for all Torero finishers with a placement of 72nd and a time of 24:49.8 on the 8K course.

Other notable placements for the Toreros include sophomore Daniella Hubble and senior Sofia Green who had finishing times of 22:20.3 and 22:24.9 respectively, as well as Jake Coleman and Ian Converse with respective times of 25:21.1 and 25:21.4. Both programs will be traveling to Chicago, Illinois, where they will participate in the Loyola Lakefront Invite on Sept. 30.

**Men's soccer:**

The San Diego Men's soccer team hosted their game against Cal State Fullerton on Sept. 18 with a nail biting comeback in the second half.

To start the game off, the Toreros gave up one goal to the Titans at the 18-minute mark. Cal State Fullerton would then add another goal to their count at the 35 minute mark and closed out the first half of the game with a 2-0 lead over the Toreros.

San Diego also had four less attempts on scoring compared to the Titans, with a shot count of 10-6. The Toreros were filled with energy and passion, hoping to turn this game around, and their efforts were successful.

At the 62-minute mark, fifth-year Alex Churness was able to crack through the Titan's defense and made the first Torero goal of the game, putting the score at 2-1. San Diego continued with their defensive efforts throughout the second half of this game, only allowing two shots on the goal in this time period. With only three minutes left in this game, Alex Churness was able to come through again and scored at the 87 minute mark, evening up the score.

This last goal would secure the draw for the Toreros and now puts their record at 1-3-4. The men's soccer team will travel to Eastern Washington on Oct. 1 to face off against the Gonzaga Bulldogs. The game will be at 7 p.m. PST.

**Women's soccer:**

The Toreros faced off against the Stanford Cardinals in their fourth away game of the season on Sept. 15. This game was bound to be a tough one as Stanford is currently ranked No. 9 in the country for women's soccer. Stanford opened this game with a goal scored at the 15-minute mark. This would be the only goal scored for both the Toreros and the Cardinals in the first half of this matchup, but the last 45 minutes had more action in store.

The Toreros did not manage to hold on in the second half, with Stanford scoring four more goals periodically. This game ended with the Toreros being overrun by the Cardinals, resulting in a 5-0 loss for USD.

A notable player making an early impact is freshman Sophine Kevorkian. Kevorkian accumulated 10 saves in the net for the Toreros in the game. San Diego now holds a 2-4-2 record and will start their conference games on Oct. 1, against Pepperdine University at 12 p.m. PST.



# All they do is win

## USD women’s volleyball ranks no. 4 in NCAA

MEI FLORY  
MANAGING EDITOR

The NCAA Division I women’s volleyball rankings recently updated for the week, with the University of San Diego sitting at the No. 4 position. This marks the second consecutive week of the Toreros claiming a top five placement, and it’s the second week in a row of the team holding down their No. 4 spot. USD is following right behind the University of Nebraska (No. 3), University of Louisville (No. 2) and University of Texas, Austin (No. 1). The women’s volleyball team currently has 11 wins and only one loss.

At the last home game against Loyola Marymount University (LMU), San Diego took the lead in the first two matches, winning the first with a score of 28-26 and the second with 25-18. In the third match, LMU pulled ahead with a narrow lead of 34-32, and they took the second match with a score of 25-21. San Diego pulled ahead and secured a 3-2 win in their final match, with a score of 15-8.

USD senior Grace Frohling made 15 kills throughout the game, along with two aces and five blocks. Libero Annie Benbow, also a USD senior, made six assists, two aces and saved the ball with 16 digs. Gabby Blossom, a USD graduate student, had 43 assists, one ace and made 18 digs during the game. Blossom



Volleyball continues to celebrate their winning streak after scoring another point.

Photo courtesy of @usdvolleyball/Instagram

is also ranked at No. 25 for assists per set in the NCAA.

Prior to the game against LMU, San Diego went up against Pepperdine on Sept. 22 and came out ahead with a 3-1 win. The Toreros lost the first set 22-25, but they came back strong with a 25-19 win for the second. San Diego kept their momentum and won the next two games, with scores of 25-21 and 25-20.

During the game, USD sophomore Haylee Stoner made seven blocks, while USD graduate student Breana Edwards made 15 kills and five digs. Katie Lukes, a USD senior, made 16 kills and four blocks.

The USD women’s volleyball team’s next two games will be out-of-state, with the first against Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, on Thursday, Sept. 29 and the next against the University of Portland in Portland, Oregon, on Saturday, Oct. 1. They will return to the Jenny Craig Pavilion to go up against the University of San Francisco (USF) on Thursday, Oct. 6.

# Photo Contest

## Featured Student Photo of San Diego: Demili Pichay



Want your photo in the newspaper? Look out for more contests on our Instagram @theusdvista

COMING UP THIS WEEK	USD VB vs Gonzaga Thursday, Sept. 29 6 p.m. Spokane, WA	USD MSOC vs Gonzaga Saturday, Oct. 1 7 p.m. Spokane, WA	USD FB vs Stetson Saturday, Oct. 1 1 p.m. Torero Stadium	USD WSOC vs Pepperdine Saturday, Oct. 1 12 p.m.
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