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# THE USD VISTA



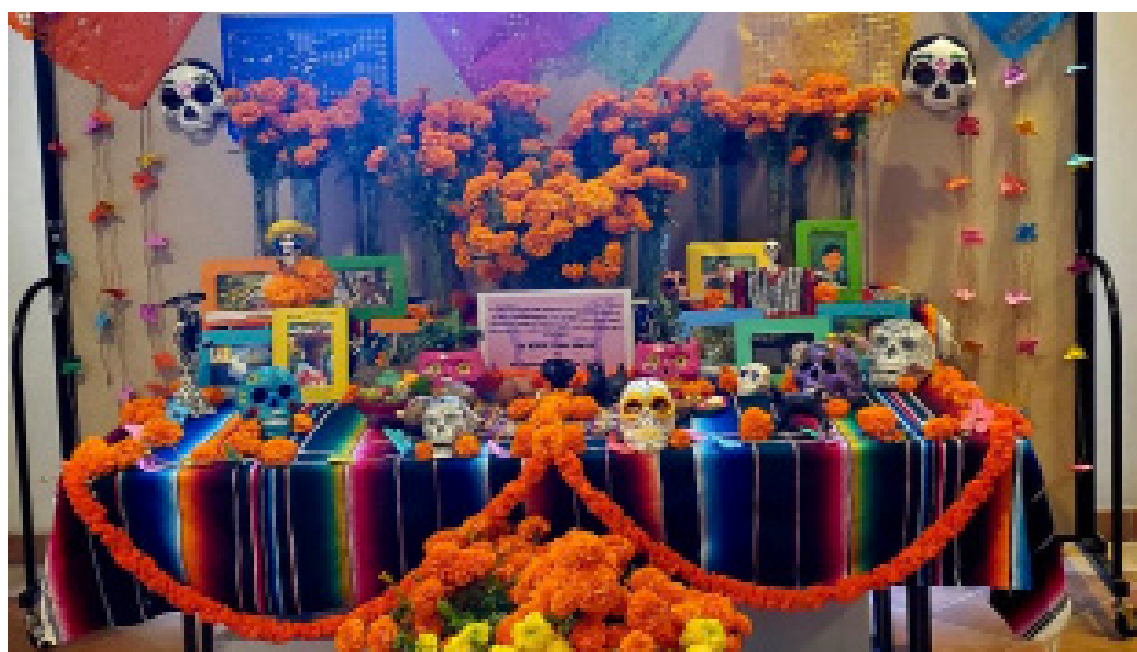
## Honoring some of fall's special holidays

*USD students and staff discuss annual cultural and religious traditions*

**HALEY JACOB**  
FEATURE EDITOR

Many people anticipate the fall season for the popular and widely celebrated holiday of Halloween — a night that consists of spooky decorations and fun costumes. However, many other celebrations take place during the fall season which hold important cultural and religious value to people worldwide. Holidays such as Day of the Dead — also known as “Día de los Muertos” — All Saints’ Day and Diwali bring unique forms of comfort, hope and inspiration into the lives of those who celebrate.

Day of the Dead is a celebration of life and death in



Association of Chicana Activists’ Day of the Dead altar from 2021.

Mexican tradition. The holiday is traditionally celebrated from Nov. 1 to Nov. 2, and families honor their deceased loved ones by setting up an altar, or an “ofrenda,” and placing photos of loved ones on the altar, to

acknowledge them and welcome their spirits into the home. People also place letters, flowers, candles, the loved one’s favorite foods, drinks, personal items and other sentimental offerings on the altar.

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# NEWS

## Voting conspiracy theories threaten midterm elections

*Students react to the conspiracy theories surrounding voting*



With the 2022 midterm elections coming up, conspiracy theories about fraudulent voting are still circulating social media, fueling some to question democracy.

Photo Courtesy of @mirahcurver/Unsplash

**ABIGAIL CAVIZO**  
NEWS EDITOR

Since President Joe Biden won the presidency in the 2020 election, former President Donald Trump used social media to ignite people's beliefs that the election was rigged. Amid COVID-19 and quarantine, it was highly advised for citizens to utilize their mail-in ballot options for the presidential elections. When mail-in ballots were initially discussed, Trump took to Twitter in late March, claiming that mail-in ballots would ensure that a Republican would never be elected again.

Since then, a spark of fury erupted throughout social media from both sides of the political spectrum. Mail-in ballots were a topic of heated debate, causing conspiracy theories about Biden fake-winning the election to overtake social media.

Leading up to the midterms, these conspiracy theories have only fueled themselves more. Although some people on social media are spreading misinformation about fraudulent voting, USD junior Riley Lim does not want people to be discouraged by the conspiracies.

"I wish we could just

tell people to not believe in misinformation, but it's difficult to tell people not to believe in conspiracy theories when it's something that brainwashes people," Lim said. "When Trump won the election, his supporters just grappled with the idea that maybe he did win. In reality, they just need to let it go, because it's really snowballed into making people question democracy."

The weight that these conspiracy theories hold impact the way some view voting today, especially with the midterm elections coming up on Nov. 8. USD junior Ethan Vibal explained that Americans need to vote without the influence of others.

"To be honest, I think we should still all be able to recognize and exercise our right to vote, regardless of whatever is out there in terms of conspiracy theories," Vibal said. "People are going to talk and spread misinformation and rumors, but we don't have control over that as voters, so it's our personal responsibility to be able to find the right information to trust."

With some people questioning the integrity of the government and both political sides arguing over the validity of mail-in voting, the conspiracy theories



Mail-in ballots are an option for people in California as a valid way to cast a vote for midterm elections.

Photo Courtesy of @ajaegers/Unsplash

are further driving polarization.

Lim also recognized the reality that even the action of using mail-in ballots has become political.

"I feel as though some people will just not vote in the midterms because, if people don't believe in what the other side is doing, voting will fall through the cracks," Lim said. "There's just so much polarization that I feel like even if someone doesn't believe in the conspiracy theory that mail-in ballots aren't real, they still won't use mail-in ballots simply because their political party doesn't support it."

The problem of spreading misinformation is a nuanced one, also touching on the debate of what First Amendment rights covers. As an American citizen, everyone has freedom of speech

under the First Amendment. However, some are concerned with the lack of censorship for these conspiracy theories.

USD first-year Katelyn Chu stated that spreading misinformation around voting is not something that people should take lightly.

"I'd imagine that with midterm elections happening, the people on social media are only spreading more conspiracies

about fake voting because they want people to see the Tweets or posts before the elections actually happen," Chu said. "Voting is an important right, and if people let their biases get in the way of voting, it would be a real shame."

Biased thoughts and polarization are being spread on social media. In order to exercise the American right to vote, obtain a mail-in ballot or visit a polling booth on November 8.

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***"I think we should still all be able to recognize and exercise our right to vote, regardless of whatever is out there in terms of conspiracy theories."***

***- Ethan Vibal***



# The Taylor Swift phenomenon

## Students react to new album and Swift’s impact on Generation Z

KARISA KAMPBELL  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

From a young age, Taylor Swift has captivated audiences through her heart-felt lyrics and raw ability to put words to the feelings of growing up, falling in love, being heart-broken and everything in between. Now in the wake of the debut of her 12th studio album, *Midnights*, Swift’s remarkable ability to engage an entire generation warrants recognition.

Throughout her career, Taylor Swift developed an ability to completely transform her sound from a country artist into a pop artist. Swift’s debut album, *Taylor Swift*, as well as her subsequent albums *Fearless* and *Speak Now* featured traditional country twang as well as introduced Taylor’s ability to capture the essence of being a teenage girl through her lyricism and storytelling.

*Red* marked the beginning of a new era for Taylor Swift. This album combined Swift’s country roots with a new, purely pop sound that Swift began to dip her toes in with this album. Pop Swift continued through her next three albums *1989*, *Reputation* and *Lover*. Sister albums *Folklore* and *Evermore*, released less than six months apart from each other in 2020, combined Taylor’s roots as a country artist with her newfound identity as a pop icon.

*Midnights*, Swift’s most recent album that was released on Oct. 21, 2022, focuses more on her pop sound, collaborating with artist Lana Del Rey to create a new, slightly softer pop sound for Swift.

With such a variety of music and sound, many in this generation have an ability to connect with Swift, whether it be through her sound or her lyricism.

USD junior Evelyn Shetzline shared why she loves Taylor Swift and her music.

“Taylor Swift has a song for literally every emotion I’ve ever felt before,” Shetzline said. “Happy, sad, angry, in love, heartbroken, betrayal, she has it all. She covers every emotional base.”

USD first-year Tyler DeGuzman also shared similar sentiments regarding his love for Swift.

“Her music is super storytelling,” DeGuzman said. “I love going on morning walks to just listen to her music. It just hits.”

Additionally, with such a variety of music, Swift has been able to reach a variety of people through her different albums.

Shetzline shared her



*Midnights* is Swift’s 10th studio album released since the beginning of her career.

Photo courtesy of @taylorswift/Instagram



Generation Z resonates with Taylor Swift through her lyricism and music.

Photo courtesy of @taylorswift/Instagram



Behind the scenes of Taylor Swift’s new “Anti-Hero” music video.

Photo courtesy of @taylorswift/Instagram

favorite Taylor Swift album.

“I love *Folklore*,” Shetzline said. “Her lyrics, vision, and cohesiveness are simply unmatched in this album.”

In contrast, DeGuzman has a different favorite album.

“I like *Red*. It just has much more of a variety of songs on it than any of her other albums.”

As a born again Swiftie, Shetzline described how, while she took a break from Taylor Swift’s music for a while, she still fully supports the singer.

“I started listening to her after *Speak Now*, but I took a Taylor Swift hiatus until she started re-releasing her albums,” Shetzline said. “I still listen, because this woman is a true star; she’s an incredible performer.”

Other students, such as USD sophomore Kate Peterson, have been long-devoted fans of Swift.

“I have been a Swift fan for as long as I remember,” Peterson said. “I have really good memories of when I was eight at a Taylor Swift concert with my mom. I still would consider that concert to be the best concert of my life because of the memories I made with my mom that night.”

Now, with the release of her newest album, Swifties reflect on the album with respect to her past work.

Shetzline has mixed emotions on Swift’s new album.

“*Midnights* reminds me of a mixture of *1989* and *Reputation*. She shows her rebellious side and uniqueness well in this album,” Shetzline said. As a whole, I didn’t absolutely love the album, but I can appreciate the meaning and message behind it and I did enjoy listening to it.”

DeGuzman, on the other hand, thoroughly enjoyed the newest edition to Taylor Swift’s Discography.

“I thought *Midnights* was really good. My favorite song was ‘You’re On Your Own Kid.’ I like calm songs like that. I wouldn’t say it was her best album, but it was still good.”

Peterson shared these sentiments with DeGuzman.

“I love her new album. Right now, I really like ‘Lavender Haze,’” Peterson said. “It’s so good, she’s so talented. It’s crazy.”

While some may not enjoy *Midnights* as much as others, the impact that Swift has made on Generatin Z continues to show through the excitement and discourse around her new album, regardless of how people perceive this album in relation to her other work.

# The USD Vista

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# OPINION

## Ghostbusters be gone!

### *What's the harm in believing?*

MARIA SIMPSON  
OPINION EDITOR

Halloween is just days away, and people are prepping with costumes, decorations and movies featuring all kinds of spooky creatures like witches, monsters, vampires and, of course, ghosts. Ghosts are largely associated with Halloween, but unlike many of the other supernatural creatures mentioned, they also stand on their own as a prominent aspect of cultural curiosity. Movies, books and shows — many of which claim to be based on true stories — share tales of hauntings by ghostly beings. And so, the question remains: are ghosts real?

My personal answer? Yes. I think that believing in ghosts is hardly any different than believing in a god or any supernatural presence. Not to mention, I personally know a number of people who claim to have had supernatural experiences. Cultures across the world also seem to be under the unanimous impression that ghostly spirits exist. I think that although it might be hard to prove that ghosts are real, it's just as hard to prove that they are not.

It is hard to say exactly what a ghost is, as they are not exactly proven to exist. But the most basic explanation is that a ghost is the spirit of a deceased person who has not “passed on” fully. If someone believes in a god, angels and demons (that's a whole other level of haunted that we won't get into), ghosts fit perfectly into that narrative and in many ways are no different than believing in the rest.

We cannot see a god or speak to them directly. There is no scientific evidence of their existence. Yet, the majority of the world participates in some form of religion or spiritual practice, and many religious individuals claim to have had holy experiences of some kind. Religious practice is widely accepted across the globe, so why should believing in ghosts be different from believing in a higher power?

As a Catholic, I believe that our souls pass on to an afterlife after we die. Is it really that far of a stretch to suggest that sometimes peoples' souls get a little lost on the way and stick around on earth? I don't think so. I actually find that to be a very human thing to do.

The most concrete proof of the existence of ghosts are



Ghosts may be fun for Halloween, but they've also drawn curiosity from people all over the world for centuries.

Photo courtesy of Thalia Ruiz/Unsplash

the experiences that our own friends or family members share. I myself have known many people who have had ghostly encounters, which is my main reason for believing in spirits. I'll admit, you can't always trust people to tell the truth; sometimes events become skewed so they look like something they are not. But many of the stories that I've heard are hard to believe that the person telling it just fabricated the whole thing.

A close, trustworthy friend of my mom's lived in a haunted house for several years. She never suspected anything unusual until her pre-school aged daughter began to cry each night. Her mother would go to her room to comfort her, but as her distress continued, she asked her daughter what was going on. She told her mom that she was scared of the little children who would come to her room at night, pulling at her, saying they were hungry. That was only the beginning. Her daughter then began to beg her mother to play music each night when she went to sleep. Again, the mother asked the

daughter what was happening. She claimed that if she played music the man in the bedroom doorway would go away.

The mother remembered her son who was a couple of years older asking the same thing in the past. She asked him why he used to ask for music and he gave the same answer about the man in the doorway. This was all very disturbing to the mother, but the straw that broke the camel's back came one night when her baby started crying. She went to the baby's room, and the closer she got to the crib the further the temperature dropped until it was almost freezing next to the baby. Suddenly, she heard screams from her own bedroom. She ran in, and above her screaming husband was a glowing orb of green light. After that, they contacted a medium who revealed that their house was built on ground that used to be a well-traveled road. The medium suspected that the hungry children and the man in the doorway were travelers who had died on that road. She then gave the family instructions to rid their house of the ghosts.

This is just one story of many

that I have heard where friends and family have confessed to ghostly experiences such as floating mirrors, unplugged appliances suddenly turning on and hallucinations of family members among other spine-chilling, unexplainable experiences.

Ghost stories are a long and lasting part of cultures around the world. Every culture has their own unique myths of ghosts and spirits, and although everyone might interpret those beings very differently the basics are similar and most cultures do feature them. I think this says something about the reality of ghosts. If people around the world and across time share such similar stories, especially when they do not have consistent communication, this raises some eyebrows. Why else would these similar ideas exist except that they are not simply ideas, but the universal truth.

Ghosts are also very popular within the folklore of various cultures. They are present in literature from centuries ago until now. Not to mention, there is a big industry around ghost hunting from television shows like “Ghost Hunters” and internet shows such as “Buzzfeed Unsolved.” Sure, most of these come up with zero concrete results, but there is a huge intrigue and curiosity surrounding ghosts. This even brings the thrill and draw of haunted houses and ghost tours to mind, such as the Whaley House in Old Town, which is supposedly the “most haunted house in America.”

Ghosts will probably never be undoubtedly proven to exist. But can we really discount the possibility of ghosts existing? I think not.

At the end of the day, I believe talking about, searching for and believing in ghosts makes the world we live in a little more exciting and mysterious. What's the harm in that?



Haunted houses, such as San Diego's Whaley House, are popular attractions.

Photo courtesy of @whaleyhousesd/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

## The reality of unpaid internships *America's interns deserve compensation for their work*

**JACKIE MARQUEZ**  
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

As I scroll through listing after listing for internships, many catch my eye. Every time I click on what seems to be the perfect internship, there is one detail at the bottom of the listing that turns me away: “This is an unpaid position.”

In our current job market, many employers are looking to hire college graduates with previous work experience in the field. For college students, the traditional way of getting that experience is through internships. However, unfortunately, unpaid internships are becoming more common. According to TIME, both paid and unpaid internships are increasing in number. For negligible compensation, these unpaid internships take up valuable time. They are also less accessible to low-income students, and they perpetuate the racial wealth gap. As it is, the internship market is unfair and inequitable, but it can be changed.

According to Zippia, 39.2% of all internships, including positions at both nonprofits and for-profits, are unpaid. The National Association of Colleges and Employers reports that of these internships, nonprofit internships are more likely to be unpaid, as 43% of them fail to provide compensation.

The history of unpaid internships goes back to the 1970s, when college graduates were becoming more common, TIME explains. As more and more students received bachelor's degrees, the job market got more competitive.

Internships were becoming more desirable, so companies stepped up to provide more intern positions. Because the internship was intended to benefit students rather than employers, many of them were compensated with college credit.

In 2011, two FOX spotlight interns attempted to secure payment. They sued FOX saying that the work they did should have been paid, because it was essential to film production. They won, and their victory led to other interns demanding payment. However, the ruling was overturned in 2015. The New York Court of Appeals stated that interns are only entitled to compensation if their work benefits their employer more than themselves. Today, many of these businesses continue to offer college credit.



Many internships are unpaid, despite all of the work that interns do to help the organization they are working for.

Photo courtesy of Campaign Creators/Unsplash

Sometimes, they offer nothing more than a résumé boost or an inside understanding of a student's potential career field. This is unfair for students.

Time is a limited resource for college students. With 24 hours in a day, students have to balance classes, assignments, extracurriculars, social lives, jobs, sleep and other personal needs. Adding an internship into the mix during the semester is challenging enough: to do so without getting paid is irrational. According to an internship guide by Hire Scholars, interns may work five to 20 hours part-time during the semester or 20-35 hours a week during summer. With such a shortage of time, college students have to adjust their schedules to fit in internships. Having an internship means cutting out things like extracurriculars, study time, time with friends or even sleep.

Even during the summer when students have more time available, internships take time away from their lives outside of school. It is unfair that students have to do so without a paycheck to make up for it.

For students without a financial safety net, working without compensation isn't just unfair, it's untenable. Being able to afford to work an unpaid internship is a

privilege. The students who take these positions often have external support from parents or financial aid. According to an article by Nasdaq, an American stock exchange, common ways to afford an unpaid internship include staying with parents, splitting housing costs among roommates, or earning scholarships. As such, these students are able to pursue opportunities that do not pay, because they don't need to worry about factors like rent. Students who come from low-income families do not always have this same support. Without the backup, students must work through school to pay for their education and put a roof over their head.

The lack of payment for internships ultimately acts as a gatekeeper, preventing low-income students from taking unpaid internships. This means they aren't receiving the same experience that their wealthier peers are. In a job market seeking experienced applicants, these low-income students are going into their job searches with a disadvantage.

Low-income students aren't the only demographic of students who face inequity at the hands of unpaid internships. Students of color are more likely to be unpaid for their internships than white students.

According to a survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, African-American students are more likely to be unpaid interns, whereas their white counterparts are more likely to be paid. Non-white Americans are already more likely to be making less money than white Americans.

According to the federal reserve, average black and Latino households earn half as much as the average white household. Unpaid internships do nothing to end this income disparity. Rather, they perpetuate it.

Ridding the internship market of unpaid jobs would not only compensate students for the time they lose, but also uplift low-income students as well as students of color.

Previous legal decisions, such as the 2015 decision by the New York Court of Appeals, enable companies' exploitation of their student workers. To counteract this, the legal standard for unpaid internships must change. Legislation protecting the rights of interns is necessary to protect them from money-hungry corporations.

When companies, like nonprofits, cannot afford to support interns they should receive external aid. Some universities have taken the initiative to subsidize internships for their students. By providing stipends

or even hourly pay, these schools allow students to gain job experience without taking as great of a financial risk.

Here at the University of San Diego, we have an internship grant program that does something similar. The Summer Internship Award is an award that students can apply for that is intended to “offset living, transportation or other expenses associated with participating in a summer internship.” This award is up to \$3,000.

These types of programs are a great start to closing the gap between those who can afford unpaid internships and those who cannot. But, the disbursed monetary amount can always be greater, and there can always be more of these types of programs. Apartment List reports that the current median rent in San Diego for a one-bedroom apartment is already \$2,016 a month. A \$3,000 award is better than nothing, but if a student's position is longer than a month, then they're still having to pay out of pocket.

With a rise in unpaid internships, companies must first and foremost pay their interns. When they lack resources though, the solution should not be withholding wages from interns. Rather, universities should step up to support their students.

**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.**



# HERE'S JO

## USD STUDENTS SHARE THE SCARIEST



Photo courtesy of @SinisterMovie/Twitter

**NATE BRADY (SENIOR)**

"THE SCARIEST SCENE I HAVE SEEN IN A MOVIE HAS TO BE ANY OF THE OLD FILM REEL CLIPS FROM THE MOVIE 'SINISTER.' THAT MOVIE IS ONE OF THE SCARIEST MOVIES I HAVE EVER SEEN, AND THE ANXIETY THOSE OLD FILM CLIPS GAVE ME WHILE WATCHING THEM STILL UPS MY HEART RATE JUST A LITTLE. I DON'T USUALLY GET SCARED OFTEN FROM HORROR MOVIES, BUT THE JUMPS CARE IN THE LAWNMOWER SCENE ACTUALLY MADE ME JUMP."



Photo courtesy of @TheInvisibleMan/Twitter

**TIA MERHEB (SENIOR)**

"THE SCARIEST SCENE I HAVE EVER SEEN WAS IN 'THE INVISIBLE MAN.' I AM NOT A HUGE FAN OF SCARY MOVIES, BUT I ESPECIALLY GET SCARED WHEN THERE ARE JUMP SCARES. THE SCENE WHERE PAINT IS POURED INTO THE AIR AND YOU CAN SEE THE OUTLINE OF THE INVISIBLE MAN TERRIFIES ME. I DON'T THINK ANY OTHER MOVIE SCENES COME CLOSE TO HOW SCARY THIS SCENE IS TO ME!"

WE ALL HAVE THAT ONE SCENE THAT WE DON'T WANT IT TO. MAYBE IT'S THE ONE WE SAW LAST WEEK. WITH HALLOWEEN WATCHLISTS. WE ASKED STUDENTS TO SHARE THE SCARIEST H



**DEREK JOHNSON**

"THE SCARIEST MOVIE SCENE I HAVE EVER SEEN WAS THE SCENE WHERE I WENT INTO THE GHOST WORLD IN THE MOVIE 'THE DEMON NUN.' I WAS IN AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND I WAS WITH SISTER SHARON FOR THE



Photo courtesy of @TheConjuring/Twitter





# JOHNNY!

## T HORROR MOVIE SCENES OF ALL TIME

SCENE FROM A SCARY MOVIE THAT STICKS WITH US, EVEN IF WE  
E IT WAS A MOVIE YOU SAW WHEN YOU WERE A KID, OR ONE YOU  
HALLOWEEN COMING UP, SCARY MOVIES ARE ON MANY PEOPLES'  
D STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO TO SHARE THE  
ST HORROR MOVIE SCENE THEY HAVE EVER SEEN.

### SONSON (JUNIOR)

THE SCENE IS WHEN THEY GO  
WORLD IN 'THE CONJURING 2'  
NUN. I HAD NUNS AT MY  
., AND I PICTURED DEMON  
FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS!"



Twitter



Photo courtesy of @SmileMovie/Twitter

### ANGELA AMARO (JUNIOR)

"I RECENTLY WATCHED THE NEW MOVIE 'SMILE,' AND  
THERE WAS A SCENE WITH AN UNEXPECTED  
JUMPSCARE THAT SHOCKED ME AND TERRIFIED ME. I  
REMEMBER ALMOST EVERYONE IN THE THEATER HAD  
THEIR EYES COVERED, AND SOME PEOPLE EVEN  
SCREAMED AS SOON AS THE GUY JUMPED OUT."

### RYAN HARRIS (JUNIOR)

"THE SCARIEST SCENE IN A MOVIE I HAVE EVER  
SEEN WOULD DEFINITELY BE THE LAKE HOUSE  
SCENE IN THE MOVIE 'US.' I REMEMBER WATCHING  
IT IN THEATERS AND IT GAVE ME CHILLS!"



Photo courtesy of @TheConjuring/Twitter





## FEATURE

## Cherished fall holidays

*Campus events highlight underrepresented seasonal celebrations*

HALEY JACOB  
FEATURE EDITOR

**Holidays from Page 1**

altar to show appreciation.

The University of San Diego's Program in Latin American Studies will host the "Día de Muertos Altar and Event" celebration on Nov. 2 from 4-5:20 p.m. in the Student Life Pavilion Gallery with guest speaker José González. The altar is open for visitors from Nov. 1 to Nov. 3, and community contributions are welcome.

USD sophomore and Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlán (MEChA) member Isabella Amezcua discussed the purpose of the tradition.

"For me, it's to take away the fear of death. They're in a better place, they fulfilled what they needed to do in their life, and it's celebrating that for that person," Amezcua said. "It's also to dedicate a day to not forgetting about our dead loved ones; it's like they're always with us, they're still here. Maybe you have a distant relative you forgot passed away, but then on Day of the Dead you see their picture on the ofrenda, and you're like, 'oh, I forgot about them; I have this really good memory with them.' It's keeping their spirit alive."

The day is emotional for those who celebrate, because it's a reminder of those who have died. USD junior and Co-Chair of the Association of Chicanx Activists (AChA) Shayla Rodriguez shared the story of her aunt and uncle who passed away within a year of one another. For years, Rodriguez's mother struggled to put up an altar because of her grief over the losses. However, Rodriguez convinced her mother to create one after promising her they would do it together.

"I promised them [her aunt and uncle] that even if I were away, I would always look out for them, and this is my way of looking out for them and telling them even though I'm not there with you and even though I wasn't there at your funeral, you're still remembered and in my heart," Rodriguez said.

USD junior and Programmer for AChA and MEChA Amaya Rodriguez-Agiss shared the emotional impact of the celebration.

"It makes me happy, but the memories come with it, so it's just very deep," Rodriguez-Agiss said. "Of course, I feel happiness and gratitude that I had this time with them, but it's also sad. But it feels really nice to have that day to have that extra feeling that they're there, an extra feeling of 'these two days I'm gonna spend with you.' It's like they're still here, and they always will be, but during these two days, it's

such a strong feeling. It's hard to express in words honestly."

A holiday close to home here at USD is All Saints' Day, a religious holiday celebrated by Catholics and other Christian denominations on Nov. 1. All Saints' Day is important to practicing individuals because it's a time to honor and appreciate all saints who were exemplary individuals in their faith and have attained Heaven. The holiday is classified as a "Holy Day of Obligation" in the Catholic faith, where Catholics gather to attend mass. The Immaculata Church will have an "All Saints Mass" from 7-8 p.m. on Nov. 1, which is open to the public.

Vice President of Mission Integration Michael Lovette-Colyer shared his view on the holiday and its significance.

"It is a day to honor those officially recognized as saints as well as the people we meet every day who inspire us by living extraordinary Christian lives," Lovette-Colyer said. "The lives of the saints exhibit God's unconditional love and boundless mercy. Some, such as St. Francis or St. Thérèse of Lisieux, lived long ago and are an established part of our tradition. Other people whose lives radiate God's love and generosity include our family and friends, people we know and love who inspire us in ordinary but profoundly meaningful ways."

USD senior and Student Assistant at University Ministry (UM) Katherine Seto discussed the inspiration she finds from saints as she navigates her faith journey.

"I think that this holiday gives Catholics the opportunity to realize that it doesn't matter where they've been — it matters where they're going," Seto said. "I like that about this holiday, because I'm an imperfect person, and I make plenty of mistakes, and it's nice to know that you're not defined by your mistakes. I think that's one thing I really like about the saints, because when you look at Jesus, he's perfect, but the saints aren't. They are deeply flawed people, but they were still able to do good, and I'm a deeply flawed person who is still trying to do good."

USD sophomore and Liturgical Ministry Intern at UM Jonnie Robles shared similar sentiments on how saints have influenced her relationship with her faith.

"I feel like sometimes everyone wants to say 'Live like Jesus' or 'What would Jesus do,' but at the same time, you can't really see yourself on the same wavelength as Jesus Christ himself, but you could potentially see yourself in the stories of the saints and their lives because they're human too," Robles said. "They lived through



"Diwali Night" took place this Monday, and many community members attended the celebration.

Jackson Tahmoush/The USD Vista

love, so I can live through love. It seems a little more reflected — you can definitely reflect on their lives and say, 'I can mirror some of that in my own life.'"

Finally, Diwali is the five-day long "Festival of Lights" and is one of the most important festivals in Hinduism, falling on Oct. 24 this year. The festival celebrates the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair. The meaning stems from the story of Lord Ram, a major deity in Hinduism, and his return to his kingdom in Ayodhya after saving his wife from the demon-king Ravana, killing Ravana, and concluding his 14 years of exile. Upon his return on the "darkest night," people in the kingdom welcomed him back with lamps.

USD graduate student Deepti Thakoor explained the festival's connection to the story of Lord Ram and the significance of light. Additionally, she shared about the preparation process.

"The God's name from the story is 'Ram,' and people worship him," Thakoor said. "We believe God came down on Earth in a series of stages, so he is one of them — an incarnation of God. We celebrate [Diwali] every year by lighting our house

and decorating our house. The idea is that God is coming back, and you're welcoming him back into your life. The preparation for Diwali starts a month in advance, because you need to clean the house. It's deep cleaning — everything must be cleaned, from the carpets to the walls to everything; even the dogs need to be washed. It's almost like the new year. It's celebrated as if it's a new beginning. You're clearing out the old and the clutter, replacing it with the new."

There are many different customs to the Diwali celebration. In the Mauritian tradition, which is Thakoor's nationality, people make homemade cakes to give to friends and neighbors, fast before the festival, wear new clothes, light firecrackers at night and buy a new metal kitchen utensil which is said to bring prosperity into one's life. These customs vary between cultures, but the main action of the celebration remains the same: lighting the lamp of Diwali.

Thakoor appreciates the community aspect of Diwali and the festival's ability to bring everyone together.

"I think it brings joy," Thakoor said. "Just the thought of Diwali to me is equal to joy. What I

really love is the community aspect, the hospitality part, because traditionally we would make cakes back home and give them to people, so there is that aspect of serving others and giving a part of my culture to you and sharing that."

USD's Graduate Student Life, UM and United Front Multicultural Commons (UFMC) collaborated to put on "Diwali Night" on Oct. 24. The event featured food, Indian music, presentations, dances and the lighting of the lamp of Diwali.

These three holidays hold deep value and significance to many members of the USD community, and there are different ways for students, faculty and staff to learn about these traditions and take part in the celebrations. Whether attending an event or acknowledging the beauty of a display, there are many opportunities to connect with different cultures and obtain valuable experiences through the process. The fall season bears more traditions than the well-known holidays like Halloween and Thanksgiving, and the possibility for deeper engagement and appreciation of more culturally diverse celebrations continues year-round.



# ARTS & CULTURE

## Movies to watch with friends... or your ‘BOO’ *Films to enjoy this spooky season*

**STELLA SCHNEIDER**  
*CONTRIBUTOR*

With Halloween approaching and fall on full blast all month, here is a guide for what to watch this spooky season. Students can spend time relaxing, or covering their eyes with their hands, with various thrilling movies.

### It / It: Chapter 2

The 2017 adaptation of Stephen King’s novel “It” shows seven outcasts working together to overcome their fears and stop an evil lurking in their hometown. Starring Bill Skarsgård, Finn Wolfhard, Jaeden Martell, Jack Dylan Grazer and many other promising young actors, the film features several jump scares, an exciting plot and some spooky scenes. The sequel, “It: Chapter Two,” is a follow-up to the first film and is perfect for those looking for a scary double feature.

USD sophomore Dylan Siebert recounts his viewing of “It” when it first came out in theaters.

“It’s definitely scary. They accomplished that,” Siebert explained. “For a movie that really focuses on being creepy with jump scares, it was done well.”

“It” is available on HBO Max and Netflix with subscription, and Prime Video for rent.

### Get Out

A Black man visits his White girlfriend’s parents’ estate for the weekend, but his uneasy feelings increase as tension escalates and



Balloons are used to lure victims to their death in “It.”

Photo courtesy of @Itmovieofficial/Instagram

can also watch the alternate ending of the movie on YouTube.

### Barbarian

Released in theaters earlier this fall, “Barbarian” follows a young woman whose rental home is double booked with a stranger. She decides to spend the night but soon discovers there is more to fear than the other house guest. Starring Georgina Campbell, Bill Skarsgård and Justin Long, this movie is perfect for those looking for a new age of horror.

USD junior Avery Leininger described her

truths are uncovered. For fans of lead actor Daniel Kaluuya, or of writer and director Jordan Peele, “Get Out” is a horror thriller that tackles issues related to race in a mindful way.

USD junior Olivia Patterson mentions her draw to Jordan Peele’s work.

“I would recommend [‘Get Out’] because it’s not your typical Halloween horror movie. It’s more of a psychological thriller,” Patterson said. “I love movies that make you think deeper, and ‘Get Out’ does that.”

“Get Out” is available on Prime Video for rent. Viewers

## The USD Vista staff’s picks: spooky books *Scary stories for the Halloween season*

**SALENA CHACON**  
*ASST. NEWS EDITOR*

With Halloween right around the corner, now is the perfect time to get into the holiday spirit by reading a scary book. Mysteries, horrors and paranormal stories are ideal for embracing the spooky season.

The USD Vista staff put together their picks for must-read scary books for the Halloween season. (Just don’t read them at night.)

### “Frankenstein” by Mary Shelley — Jessica Mills / Arts & Culture Editor

In the novel, Dr. Frankenstein successfully creates a monster from human corpses. Today, Frankenstein is a Halloween icon and popular costume.

“I read this book many years ago and the quote, ‘Beware; for I am fearless and therefore powerful’ has always stuck with me,” Mills said.

### “The Silent Patient” by Alex Michaelides — Olivia Synek / Executive Editor

Published in 2019, this

book follows a therapist searching for the reason why a woman suddenly and brutally murdered her husband.

“[As a mystery and thriller] this one had me on the edge of my seat,” Synek expressed.

### “Verity” by Colleen Hoover — Karisa Kampbell / Editor-in-Chief

Although not explicitly a scary book, “Verity” still harbors an eerie vibe, as it tells the story of a Verity, a famous author unable to finish her thriller book series, who hires a struggling writer to complete the work for her. The main character discovers shocking secrets, leading to many plot twists.

“It’s not super scary, just a little spooky and also a really easy read,” Kampbell said. “It’s a super unique concept. Verity makes a really great weekend read.”

### “The Amityville Horror” by Jay Anson — Maria Simpson / Opinion Editor

The scariest thing about “The Amityville Horror” is that it is supposedly based on a true story.

The book chronicles a family who moves into a house recently owned by a murderer.

The family moves out after a horrifying 28 days, positive that the house is haunted.

“It’s really interesting and it has made me forever terrified that I will accidentally buy a haunted house one day,” Simpson confessed.

### “The Southern Book Club’s Guide to Slaying Vampires” by Grady Hendrix - Abigail Cavizo / News Editor

Another thriller, but with a supernatural twist. This book has the quintessential component of the perfect Halloween read: vampires. The story follows a women’s book club who suspects an attractive newcomer of being a vampire, all set in a 90s Southern town. Although written by a male, Cavizo was impressed by how well he wrote a female perspective.

“It has some mystery, some horror aspects, and all around was a great paced read!” Cavizo said.

### “Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark” by Alvin Schwartz — Haley Jacob / Feature Editor

This haunting collection of short stories was collected

experience with “Barbarian.”

“[‘Barbarian’] is fun to watch with my friends. It is chaotic and scary,” says Leininger. “It really gets you into the Halloween spirit from the laughs to the scares.”

This horror film is available in theaters and on HBO Max, with a subscription.

### This is the End

A popular comedic group from Hollywood play hyperbolized versions of themselves in the real world apocalypse in this comedy. James Franco throws a party at his house, while his friends Seth Rogen, Jonah Hill, Craig Robinson, Jay Baruchel and Danny McBride stay in the house trying to survive the apocalypse, and each other. If spooky movies aren’t for you, this movie is great for a laugh with your friends and a humorous look at the end of the world.

USD junior Abby Buehler talks about her experience with the movie.

“The beginning of the movie has some hilarious cameos, my favorite was seeing how Michael Cera was depicted in the party scene.”

“This is the End” is available on Netflix with a subscription or on Prime Video for rent.

### Scooby-Doo

Zoinks! Adapted from the animated “Scooby-Doo” series, this live-action movie shows the gang getting back together on Spooky Island to investigate a

series of paranormal incidents. With Linda Cardellini, Isla Fisher, Matthew Lillard, Freddie Prinze Jr. and other well-known actors, the cast stands out in this mystery.

USD sophomore Julia Schneider expresses her love for watching movies during this season.

“Scooby-Doo is familiar and a comforting throwback,” said Schneider.

For those wanting a movie that is spooky and nostalgic, “Scooby-Doo” is a note-worthy choice.

It is available on Netflix and HBO Max with a subscription.

With different genres, themes and audiences, this range of movies can help guide what to watch this season. For those looking to go out to see a movie, Cinema Under the Stars, located in Mission Hills is playing “The Birds” from Oct. 28-30 and “Nope” from Nov. 4-5. Ticket pricing differs according to membership to the theater. Tickets and additional information can be located on the theater’s website.

Additionally, Rooftop Cinema Club is playing “Halloweentown” and “Halloween” on Oct. 31 to celebrate the holiday. Tickets vary in price based on seating and amenities. More information can be found on the Rooftop Cinema Club’s website.

Whether celebrating the spooky season indoors or outdoors, there’s movie options for all to enjoy.

prolific in our area. My favorite was probably ‘The Raven’ which is about a man who’s tormented by his lost love.”

### The “Nancy Drew” Series, by Carolyn Keene — Mei Flory / Managing Editor

The beloved teenage detective began solving mysteries in the 1930s, when the first “Nancy Drew” book, “The Secret of the Old Clock” was published. Drew conducts interviews and solves various mysteries. Known for her many movie and television adaptations, Nancy Drew is the perfect character for those who love a good mystery.

“I read the first book when I was probably ten, and coming back to the series almost a decade later still satisfies my craving for a not-so-scary read. I’m not a huge fan of horror, but I love spooky mysteries like ‘Nancy Drew,’” Flory said.

Scary books can feature elements of mystery, monsters and psychological thrill. No matter what spooky title you decide to read, the USD Vista staff hopes you enjoy their recommendations, and that they don’t scare you too much this spooky season.



# Season one of ‘House of the Dragon’

## The highly anticipated ‘Game of Thrones’ prequel draws to a close

JESSICA MILLS  
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

From dragons, battles, political schemes and romance, the “Game of Thrones” (GOT) prequel, “House of the Dragon” (HOTD), was highly anticipated by many. Based on George R. R. Martin’s books “Fire and Blood”, “The Princess and the Queen” and “The Rogue Prince,” HOTD is set nearly two centuries prior to the birth of Daenerys Targareyen — one of the prominent characters in GOT — and depicts the internal war between siblings, Rhaenyra and Aegon II Targaryen, over the iron throne and death of their father King Viserys I.

For those who have not watched the series, there are spoilers below for all ten episodes and for GOT.

The high-fantasy prequel kicks off with a tense history lesson on the Targareyens and their rule over the seven kingdoms of Westeros through their ancestor, “Aegon the Conqueror.” Aegon’s grandson, Jaehaerys I, became king and was forced to choose between his granddaughter Rhaenys and grandson Viserys I, after unsuccessfully producing an heir. Jaehaerys ultimately names Viserys as heir to the iron throne — based on his male status.

In GOT and HOTD, the highly-coveted iron throne, located in the Great Hall of the city of King’s Landing, acts as a symbol of immense power and danger. The throne was originally forged at the order of “Aegon the Conqueror” and is said to be made of over 1,000 swords from those who surrendered and pledged their loyalty.

Rulers unfit to sit upon the throne and rule over Westeros are known to cut themselves on the iron: a sign of rejection and unworthiness for the position.

After not having a male heir of his own, King Viserys names his daughter, Princess Rhaenyra as heir to the iron throne, angering many powerful people, including his brother and original heir, Prince Daemon Targaryen. Viserys receives a cut from the throne after making this decision, foreshadowing future political turmoil.

In true GOT fashion, relationships between the characters overlap, fade and turn spiteful. Alicent Hightower, one of the series’ main characters, is the daughter of the Hand of the King, who advises and guides Viserys, without personal bias.

Alicent and Rhaenyra start as childhood friends. But, their friendship sours after the death of Rhaenyra’s mother and Viserys’ announcement to take Alicent as his second wife and Queen consort, a scheme manipulated by Alicent’s father, the Hand.

GOT is famous for its inclusion of incest to maintain and strengthen bloodlines



The infamous iron throne, as depicted on “House of the Dragon.”

among those in power. This is true of HOTD as well — primarily between Princess Rhaenyra and her uncle Prince Daemon.

Rhaenyra and Alicent’s relationship worsens in episode four, when Rhaenyra and her uncle Daemon are discovered kissing in a brothel. After he abandons her, Rhaenyra sleeps with Sir Criston Cole, a knight and close friend at the time. The Queen is outraged by rumors that follow Rhaenyra’s reputation and questions her virtue, which Rhaenyra claims is still intact.

While some found the relationship between Rhaenyra and Daemon uncomfortable, many swooned over the budding romance when Daemon said to the King, “Wed [Rhaenyra] to me. When I offered up my crown you said I could have anything. I want Rhaenyra.”

The king refuses and maintains Daemon’s banishment, marrying Rhaenyra off to her cousin Laenor Velaryon, who also happens to be gay. The two are unsuccessful in producing an heir, so Rhaenyra takes matters into her own hands and has three children with Ser Harwin Strong, heir to Harrenhal, the

largest castle in Westeros.

It is clear that Rhaenyra’s children were not fathered by her husband, who has darker skin and silver hair. Instead, they have pale skin and brown hair. Noticing these features, Queen Alicent is suspicious of Rhaenyra’s transgressions and urges the King to instead name their eldest son Aegon II as heir instead. Viserys, blinded by his love for his daughter, refuses.

In episode six, the young actresses are replaced with older actors, due to a major time jump in the plot. During this time, Alicent becomes close friends with Larys Strong — younger brother to Harwin Strong — and turns to him for counsel regarding Rhaenyra and her children. Larys decides to kill Harwin after learning of the Queen’s distress.

During this time, Deamon returns to King’s Landing after the death of his second wife. After major plot twists, Rhaenyra and Daemon secretly marry, causing more scandal, and strengthen her claim to the throne.

Despite the twists and turns, USD junior Madison Kalahui enjoyed the cinematography, time jump and relationship

between Rhaenyra and Daemon.

“I think in terms of looks the casting is spot-on,” Kahului said. “But, for me with Daemon and Rhaenyra, I do like the younger actress better. Their chemistry was just a lot better than the older Rhaenyra.”

USD senior and GOT fan Kate Roberts plans on watching HOTD in the near future.

“The interweaving of every storyline and kingdom [in GOT] is so brilliant,” Roberts said. “I’m really curious to watch HOTD and see how it plays out. I’m expecting a lot of drama and trauma in the episodes.”

On his deathbed, King Viserys tells Alicent he wishes Aegon to be king, rather than Rhaenyra. Alicent, unaware that Rhaenyra also named one of her son’s Aegon, believes he is referring to her and Viserys’ eldest son, Aegon II, and secretly crowns him as king.

This past Sunday, the first season of HOTD drew to a close with its final episode. A pregnant Rhaenyra learns of Aegon II’s succession — resulting in a premature labor and still-birth — and begins her plot to take back the iron throne. She then

sends her two oldest sons — Jacaerys goes to the North and Lucerys goes to Storm’s End — to reaffirm their allies. While Jacaerys’ fate is unknown, Lucerys and his dragon Arrax face a shocking death.

Hearing of her son’s death, the episode concludes on a cliffhanger, zooming into Rhaenyra’s face, a promise of war and revenge in her eyes, leaving many in suspense for the confirmed second season, likely to air in 2024.

While HOTD is the first GOT spin-off, it is not likely to be the last. According to various media outlets such as TV Insider and EW News, seven rumored spin-off shows are set for the future.

“I think it depends on who [the show] is about, but I’ll most likely watch other spin-offs too,” Kalahui said.

With an average of 29 million viewers per episode, according to Variety Magazine, it is clear many enjoyed watching the GOT prequel.

From backstabbing, revenge and unexpected plot twists, “House of the Dragon” is a memorable addition to this high-fantasy universe.

Photo courtesy of @Houseofthedragonhbo/Instagram



The final scene shows Rhaenyra’s promise of revenge after learning of her son’s death.

Photo courtesy of @Houseofthedragonhbo/Instagram



# SPORTS

## Toreros sweep BYU *USD Volleyball keeps winning streak*



Volleyball team joins together after their win, continuing their winning streak.

Photo courtesy of @usdvolleyball/Instagram

**SAVANNAH ALARCON**  
SPORTS EDITOR

San Diego Volleyball has been on a hot streak with their 15th consecutive win on Friday night against rival BYU. USD battled BYU every set but came out victorious.

The Toreros swept the Cougars in three straight sets, asserting their continued dominance in the West Coast Conference.

The BYU and USD rivalry has been a game that students and players look forward to. Coach Jennifer Petrie talked about the BYU rivalry.

“The USD-BYU rivalry has been challenging, competitive and rewarding,” Petrie stated. “We have enjoyed the challenge, and it takes a hard-fought effort to come out with a win. I am very proud of the way the team competed on Friday, and the win was exhilarating.”

Coach Petrie also talked about the win against BYU and how USD was able to beat the Cougars.

“Our diverse offense and defensive tenacity wore the Cougars down and provided the relentless pressure to lock down the win,” Petrie said. “The match was well played on both sides of the court, which made the win even more rewarding.”

The atmosphere around the game was one for the books, as many Toreros have noticed the



Torero teammates celebrating a point during the BYU game.

Photo courtesy of @usdvolleyball/Instagram

team’s success this season and wanted to show out for support, to see the team win in person. There were about 2,623 people in attendance at the game. Diego Torero, USD cheerleaders and the Bullpit were all present to express their USD pride through backflips and impromptu pushups. When the Toreros were

on the verge of their final point in each set, students stood up in anticipation for the winning point, and, each time, they were not disappointed. USD junior Clareese Santiago explained the synergy of the game.

“I went to the game, and it was amazing. The atmosphere was crazy and so intense. I

can’t wait to watch them play in the playoffs,” Santiago said.

Coach Petrie touched on what is the key for this year and what the rest of the year entailed.

“Our team has put a lot of focus on our strong culture and values,” Petrie said. “The combination of trust, resilience and unity have given

us a very strong foundation to build continued success. We operate on the daily with these pillars in mind, and always put the team first.”

San Diego just announced that they were ranked no. 3, but with how this year has gone so far, they will most likely go up in the rankings.



# Padres take over the city

## Toreros show their support for the Padres

SAVANNAH ALARCON  
SPORTS EDITOR

San Diego is known to tourists for their beaches, popular attractions, nightlife and sports. The biggest sports team to represent the city is the San Diego Padres. The Padres are an American baseball team that were formed in San Diego in 1969 and have been a part of the National League’s West Division. They are one of the three teams in Major League Baseball (MLB) that have not won a World Series Title.

This year was looking a bit different. The Padres went up against the New York Mets in a wild card series. They ended up clinching the series with a 2-1 win, which led them to play their big rivals the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Padres and Dodgers have always had very intense games that the coaches, players and fans love to watch. In the regular season, the Dodgers won 111 games, while the Padres only won 89.

In an interview for an NBC Sports article, Dave Roberts, head coach of the Los Angeles Dodgers commented on the team’s ability.

“We are winning the World Series this year, to put it on record,” Roberts said.

This was no challenge for the Padres. They went in with their heads held high and ready to put up a fight. In the first game of the series, the Padres lost to the Dodgers 5-3. However, the San Diego Padres had an amazing comeback to win the next three games in a row to win the series 3-1, taking out the Dodgers in the playoffs.

The last time The Padres advanced this far was in 1998. The atmosphere in San Diego that night was unimaginable.

Mikayln Emanuelli, USD sophomore and ball girl for the Padres, illustrates her perspective.

“It has been one of the most amazing things I’ve been able to experience. The crowd, players, games and atmosphere were unforgettable. It was an experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

San Diego has been on a hot streak and the Toreros are loving it. Many students have brought out their Padres gear to show their support and how excited they are for the Padres.

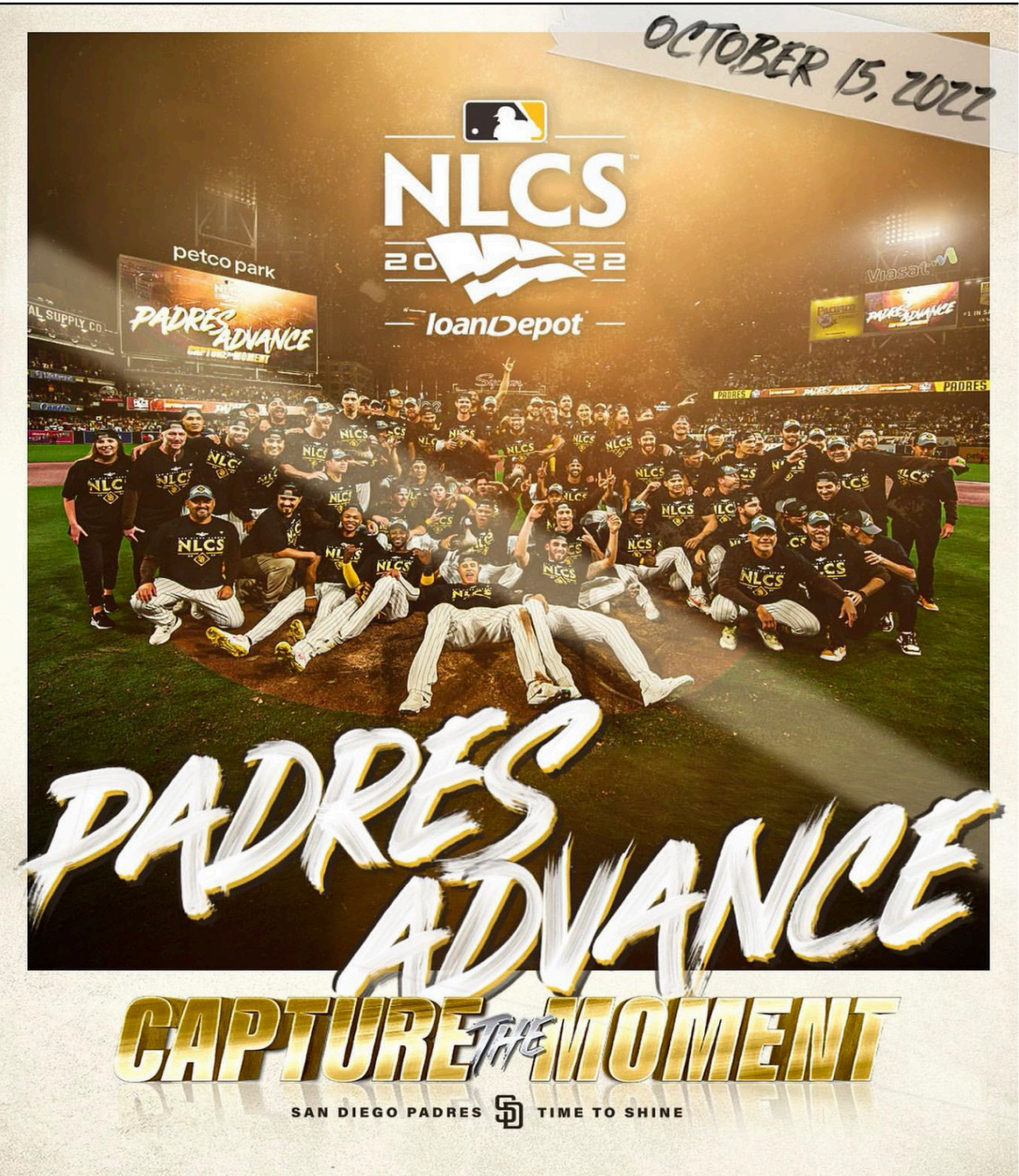
Ashley Daughtery, USD junior and lifetime Padres fan, showed her excitement.

“I am so excited about the Padres winning. Watching them compete and win is so good for the city. It has been



Padres fans chant and show their support by celebrating at Petco Park.

Photo courtesy of @sdsports760/Instagram



Padres poster with the popular slogan of the season, “Capture The Moment.”

Photo courtesy of @padres/Instagram

something my family and I have been waiting for. It is something I have been looking forward to, and I am so happy to watch them hit their potential.”

Many of the Toreros are going to games and showing their support for the Padres.

Sadly, Toreros will have to put their attire away till next season. On Saturday, Oct. 22, they lost to the Phillies. Although the Padres made impressive strides to make it to the World Series, it was not enough. But that does not discourage the fans or players one bit. USD senior Sebastian Burke explained his thoughts on the Padres losing.

“They lost but honestly it was so cool to watch them play and beat teams that they were not supposed to. It just makes me so excited for next year.”

While the Padres may have lost big this season, USD is excited to see what is in store for the Padres in the coming seasons.

This autumn brought many unexpected turns to the Padres expected lineup, including the suspension of crowd favorite player Fernando Tatis Jr.

Even through this tumultuous turn of events, it is still impressive to see how the Padres were able to overcome the unexpected setbacks and beat their rival team, the LA Dodgers.

Toreros cannot wait to see what is ahead for the Padres after witnessing this shocking upset at the end of this season.

COMING UP THIS WEEK	USD SB vs SDSU	USD FB vs St. Thomas	USD WSWIM vs LMU
	Friday, Oct. 28	Saturday, Oct. 29	Saturday, Oct. 29
	5 p.m.	10 a.m.	11 a.m.
	San Diego State	St. Paul, MN	Los Angeles, CA