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THE USD VISTA

Crowd stampede leaves 154 dead in South Korea

USD students react to deadly Halloween festivities

MEI FLORY
MANAGING EDITOR

Over Halloween weekend, tragedy struck South Korea when 154 people died and 149 were injured from a massive crowd stampede in the Itaewon neighborhood of Seoul. Of the 154 deceased, at least 19 were foreigners, including two Americans. According to Yonhap News, a South Korean news outlet, the incident occurred on Saturday, Oct. 29, with the first reports reaching police authorities at 10:15 p.m.

Itaewon is known for its vibrant nightlife and is a popular place for foreigners. The Halloween festivities that took place were the first in nearly three years due to COVID-19 restricting large public gatherings. Since the South Korean government lifted COVID-19 restrictions, larger groups of people became acceptable again. However, the size of the crowd in Itaewon on Saturday made it difficult for individuals to move — and to breathe.



The overcrowded Halloween festivities in South Korea killed over 150 people the weekend.

Photo Courtesy of @thekoreatimes_official/Instagram

In an 11-foot-wide alley near the Hamilton Hotel in Itaewon, over 100,000 people flooded the area, making it nearly impossible to move around and break free. The first reports that local authorities received were related to difficulties breathing, with some individuals passing out and losing consciousness due to suffocation from the tightly packed crowd.

NPR reported that some restaurant workers who were trapped inside shops and cafes attempted to open their doors to minors and others trying to escape the crowd in an attempt to save lives. The sheer size of the crowd also posed another challenge for dispatchers to help those who were stuck in the crowd.

Yonhap News noted that this was South Korea's worst tragedy since the 2014 Sewol Ferry tragedy that resulted in the death of 304 people, most of them being high school students.

In addition to the deaths, 335 people were reported missing. South Korea's President Yoon Suk-yeol addressed the country, stating that this

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Leading through service: Rachel's Night Shelter

How USD Ministry and students are serving San Diego

HALEY JACOB
FEATURE EDITOR

Every few weeks, USD Ministry staff and various students on campus pay a visit to Rachel's Night Shelter. The shelter is one of many women's homelessness programs offered through the Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego, a Catholic welfare agency. Students and faculty prepare meals to bring to the shelter and eat with the residents while hearing their stories and experiences. This allows for a deeper

understanding of the issues of homelessness and emphasizes compassion and understanding.

USD Ministry has led the program for over a decade, and for the first time in two years, program participants are allowed to stay and share meals again. Last year, program members only dropped meals off, due to safety precautions. The full return of the program has members excited to get back to forming new connections based on in-person interaction and conversations.

The Program Leader and Resident Minister Alec Hartman believes Rachel's Night Shelter



USD students preparing a meal for the women at Rachel's Night Shelter.

Photo courtesy of Alec Hartman

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NEWS

South Korea entered a period of national mourning

USD students discuss crowd etiquette and safety precautions

From Stampede, Page 1

“tragedy and disaster should never have happened.”

USD sophomore Erika Loo first heard about the crowd stampede from her mother before seeing it on social media. Loo shared how she felt when she first heard about the incident, as well as what it was like when she herself got trapped in a crowd.

“I was just really shocked because of how many people died in that bad of a stampede. When I was trapped in a crowd, I felt very anxious and very panicked. I really couldn’t get out. I just had to wait it out,” she explained.

USD sophomore Ava Palma first heard about the Korean crowd stampede through TikTok before seeing news articles. She noted that the event reminded her of the Travis Scott incident that occurred last year.

“There have been numerous events similar to this one such as the Travis Scott incident. Although there was change and safety measures enforced for a short time, the celebrations continued,” Palma explained.

Similarly, Loo believed safety measures should be enforced, but she doesn’t think many

people will adhere to stricter regulations in the wake of this recent incident in South Korea.

“Knowing common trends, if it doesn’t apply directly to us [in the U.S.], we tend not to follow it,” she said.

South Korea’s Prime Minister Han Duck-soo announced that the country had entered a period of national mourning that would last up until Nov. 5. The Yongsan district of Seoul, which is where Itaewon is located, was declared a “special disaster area,” meaning that “the government will pay funeral fees for the dead, medical costs for the injured, and consolation payments to bereaved families,” according to NPR.

U.S. President Joe Biden offered his own condolences on behalf of the U.S. On Twitter, he wrote: “Jill and I send our deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones in Seoul. We grieve with the people of the Republic of Korea and send our best wishes for a quick recovery to all those who were injured.”

The tragedy in South Korea has sparked discussions on what people should do if they are ever caught in a crowd stampede. NPR advises that individuals



This stampede was South Korea’s worst tragedy since the 2014 Sewol Ferry tragedy, which resulted in 304 deaths.

Photo Courtesy of @thekoreatimes_official/Instagram

should always be on the lookout for any danger signs and to leave as soon as the crowd gets too dense for a person’s comfort level.

Palma offered tips that help her feel more safe in a crowd.

“I always make sure to stay hydrated and stay in a place in

the crowd I feel comfortable in. Stay. On. Your. Feet. Keep your arms stretched out so they will not be pinned to your side and you are not trapped further. Conserve your oxygen as much as possible, and don’t go against the crowd flow,” she explained.

Loo added on and said, “Try not to go to the outside [of the crowd] because if they push you into the wall, you’re gonna get squished.”

According to Reuters, the South Korean government canceled all Halloween events and plans to further investigate the tragedy.

Inside USD’s school shooting precautions

Recent school shooting causes students to question USD’s preparedness

SALENA CHACON
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Recently, school shootings are alarmingly present within the media. On Oct. 24, a school shooting at the Central Visual and Performing Arts High School killed two people and injured seven in St. Louis. A movie released in late September on Netflix, “The Luckiest Girl Alive,” featured a woman traumatized by a school shooting in her past.

The prevalence of these events in the media calls attention to USD’s preparedness in the case of an active shooter.

USD provides training for students in the event of a school shooting under Public Safety’s Emergency Preparedness website (<https://www.sandiego.edu/emergency/>). The “training” tab contains a video that outlines how students can best prepare for an active shooter on campus. The video focuses mainly on developing a “survival mindset” in which students should always be aware of their surroundings and prioritize their safety first.

There is also a written emergency procedure listed on the website, which lays out the three options students have in an active shooter emergency, which are to



Students are visible in the study rooms on the first floor of the Learning Commons.

Photo Courtesy of <https://www.sandiego.edu/news>

run, hide or fight. This training is not mandatory as sexual assault prevention and diversity and inclusion training are. Students interested in this information must seek it out themselves.

USD senior Hayden Nabers cannot recall any active shooter training.

“I don’t remember anything [USD] taught us about school shootings,” Nabers said. “I’m sure I could end up finding [the training] if I were to scroll through USD’s websites, but off the top of my head I couldn’t tell you what the regulations are.”

USD junior Kayla

Wright echoed Nabers.

“I received training from my high school and possibly from my elementary school, but not at the college level,” Wright expressed.

Wright had a class in the Learning Commons during her first year, and mentioned feeling unsure of what she would do in a school shooting in a classroom with primarily glass walls.

“It is a little bit more difficult to hide in the Learning Commons, because they can see right into your classroom,” Wright said. “Even if you’re hiding or barricading the door, it’s really easy to be seen, and I don’t know

how easy the glass is to break, but it could be pretty breakable.”

USD’s Department of Public Safety (DPS) suggested in an email interview that the same emergency procedure should be followed regardless of the type of classroom a student is in.

“Students in classrooms with glass walls should respond in the same way as they would in any other type of location. National training recommends to run, hide and then fight,” DPS explained.

Although classrooms made of glass seem unsafe to students such as Wright, DPS assured that the safety of USD

students was considered when reviewing building design.

“Public Safety reviews building design in order to place cameras in our buildings for the protection of our campus community. The campus has been undergoing improvements to the entrances of all buildings on campus so if an emergency were to occur we are able to remotely and immediately lock access to buildings,” DPS said.

DPS also encourages students to take advantage of extra training provided.

“DPS provides safety related topics in the Torero Weekly and will be hosting scheduled Active Shooter/ Emergency Preparedness presentations on a regular basis that are available to students and the USD community,” DPS said.

Information sessions for this school year will be held almost every Wednesday from Nov. 2 - Dec. 14 in Maher Hall 205.

Specific details on this presentation are featured in the Torero Weekly, or on the USD News Center website.

An active shooting would be an alarming event for USD students, and to best prepare for this event, students are encouraged by DPS to watch the training video and read the emergency procedure provided.

‘Women’s Work: How Culinary Cultures Shaped Modern Spain’

USD professor Dr. Rebecca Ingram published scholarly work

COLIN MULLANEY
COPY EDITOR

Dr. Rebecca Ingram of the USD Languages, Cultures and Literature Department recently published a scholarly book entitled “Women’s Work: How Culinary Cultures Shaped Modern Spain,” in which she shares the culmination of her years’ worth of academic research and personal interest in the subjects of gastronomy (food studies), Spanish language and culture, gender studies and politics. On Sept. 28, Ingram presented her completed work for the first time to USD students, faculty and guests at the College of Arts and Sciences’ Humanities Center.

Ingram described the sensation of holding her printed book for the first time.

“Just to hold it in my hands feels really special, and it’s amazing, and it’s shocking at the same time, because it takes so many years of work to produce something like that, and that’s something that would have been impossible without the support of an institution like USD that supports faculty research,” Ingram said.

In her newly released work, Ingram explores the intersections of gender and social class to understand how food work — often done by working class women — impacted Spanish modernization. Although the role of women in the 20th century was perceived to be solely domestic as the “angel of the house,” Ingram explores the persistent efforts of influential and everyday women to shape national identity and politics through the means available to them at the time, often food work.

The research that would later culminate as Ingram’s book began as her doctoral dissertation at Duke University, but the seeds of the book were planted even earlier, during her undergraduate years at Emory University. There, she had a powerful experience with independent research and integrating multiple, coalescing fields of study.

“My undergraduate experience is a Spanish major, so we looked at literary and cultural texts in history, and we did that all in Spanish. Then I also did a poli-sci major, so I was always thinking about the intersections



Ingram’s book “Women’s Work” was published by the Vanderbilt University Press in September.

Photo courtesy of <https://www.sandiego.edu>



Ingram presents her research to a crowd of students in the Humanities Center.

Photos courtesy of Christiane Staninger

between politics and culture and how these kinds of really thorny political tensions show up in literary and cultural texts — even in food texts — which is what I was able to show [in my book].”

After becoming a professor at USD in 2009, Ingram furthered her research into Spanish culinary work and politics during a trip to Barcelona on sabbatical. There, she studied records at the Biblioteca Francesca Bonnemaison, formerly the Institut de Cultura Popular i Biblioteca de la Dona.

A few years after her

experience at the archives in Barcelona, Ingram decided to utilize all of this prior research for the purposes of a printed book, and she got to work writing a proposal, which was later accepted by Vanderbilt University Press.

“Probably 2018, I decided, ‘I’ve done all this work. I have all this work I’ve done as part of my dissertation; I’m going to revise it. I really think this makes sense as a book, and it needs to exist as a book in the world,’” Ingram said.

However, the road to publication had some unexpected turns, not least of which was the

global COVID-19 crisis. Ingram found solace and comfort in her passion project, which she continually focused her energy on to mitigate the stressful pandemic.

“Those first few months of lockdown... the way to kind of just get through those days without being a basket case and super anxious all the time was to really just to focus on what I could do for my students... and also to do for myself,” she said.

Through her dedication to write, Ingram also came into contact with writing groups who could provide a sense of

a community in an otherwise deeply solitary and isolated time.

Initially, Ingram felt alone in her journey and research interests, but her community of writers and friends were able to dialogue, support and critique her work until it was polished and ready to publish.

“I was participating in Zoom writing groups. There was community... we could, for an hour of our time, put our noses down and really focus on something that was not the pandemic, that was not lockdown, that was not uncertainty,” Ingram said.

Through all the effort and struggles bringing her ideas into tangible fruition — to share her thoughts with others — Ingram also learned a lot about researching, writing, and communicating to a broader audience. The overall experience has changed both her own approach to research and the advice she gives to other, aspiring scholars and writers.

“If you touch these projects, even like 15 minutes a day — Monday through Friday — you can advance them little by little, and it really works,” Ingram shared. “You don’t have to do binge writing; you don’t have to cram and make magic happen in a period of two days or two weeks. Working on it very incrementally over a period of time, you can see things to their completion. That’s hard sometimes, but it has been truly transformative.”

In the acknowledgments, Ingram credited her grandmother, who she admires greatly and thanked for the time spent together in the kitchen. The two shared a close relationship, which inspired and invited further interest and questions about the gendered division of labor and influence of food work for Ingram, which was foundational for her research process.

“One acknowledgment that felt really important for me to make especially with this book and the title ‘Women’s Work’ was my grandmother, who I saw doing lots of work that is ‘women’s work’... the last thing she would have done would have been to identify as a feminist,” Ingram said. “I really wanted to hold that [hands-on] learning and that influence as something that impacted this work and that shaped the way I do feminist scholarship today.”

The USD Vista

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OPINION

Locked out of elections

Felons wrongfully restricted from voting

JACKIE MARQUEZ
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

The 2022 midterm elections are right around the corner. While USD students head to the polls, The Sentencing Project, an advocacy center devoted to ending felon disenfranchisement, estimates that two percent of American voters will miss out on this election. Because of past or present felony convictions. That is 4.6 million people who have wrongfully lost their right to vote.

The fact that felons are deprived of their right to vote is unjust. This disenfranchisement has racist origins and continues to disproportionately impact marginalized groups. It also contradicts patriotic ideals such as “no taxation without representation.” As such, these types of voting restrictions on felons should not be allowed, especially not as we approach midterms.

A felony conviction is a type of criminal conviction that typically deals with violent crimes. For example: drug crimes, arson, aggravated assault, vandalism and even supplying alcohol to minors. These crimes are typically punished with a year or more in a state or federal prison. Laws around felons and their right to vote vary by state, but the majority of states have made felons ineligible to vote. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, in 15 states felons

lose the right to vote during their sentence, as well as during parole or probation. After parole or probation is complete, they have the right to vote again. In 11 states, felons lose their right to vote, even after their sentence is complete. In some states this is indefinitely; in others felons must receive a pardon from the governor.

Historically, laws that kept felons from voting were intended to bar people of color from participating in democracy. In a University of Minnesota study entitled “Ballot Manipulation and the ‘Menace of Negro Domination’: Racial Threat and Felon Disenfranchisement in the United States,” researchers found that felony voting bans exponentially increased following the passage of the 15th Amendment, which gave African American men the right to vote. The study also found that these laws were most prominent in states with large populations of Black citizens.

During the Jim Crow Era, the period after slavery but before the civil rights movements of the 1960s, different types of laws were created to discourage people of color from voting. Felon voting bans, grandfather clauses and poll taxes all acted as a barrier to the voting booths. To discourage people of color from voting, lawmakers required individuals to pay a fee in order to register to vote.

While this fee applied to white people as well, grandfather clauses allowed

voters to skip these payments if their grandfathers were able to vote. Because Black men had just gained the right to vote, this clause didn’t apply to them. We have done away with both grandfather clauses and poll taxes, but voting bans on felons still remain throughout the country. These bans must be left in the past, as their racially discriminatory motives still harm people of color today.

In the American culture of mass incarceration, people of color face systemic issues within the criminal justice system. Despite only making up 32 percent of the U.S. population, the NAACP reports that Black and Hispanic individuals represent 56 percent of incarcerated Americans. This is the result of said communities being overpoliced. Racial profiling leads to disproportional surveillance of nonwhite individuals. In fact, the NAACP also reports that Black people are five times more likely to be profiled by police than white people.

This over policing leads to disproportionate imprisonment rates between Black and white populations. As such, Black Americans are more likely to lose their right to vote. According to The Sentencing Project, one out of every 19 voting age African-Americans have lost their right to vote. This rate is three and a half times higher than the rate of disenfranchisement for non-African Americans. As long as the criminal justice

system is inequitable, bans on felon voting will continue to contribute to racial injustice in our country. Ridding our U.S. election system of felon disenfranchisement is necessary to move toward racial equality.

Felon disenfranchisement is also incongruent with the American conceptualization of democracy. The argument for felon disenfranchisement is that, after committing a heinous crime, criminals should not be allowed to participate in civil society. They should be imprisoned and lose certain privileges and rights as punishment.

Although felon disenfranchisement is legal under the 14th Amendment, it contradicts fundamental rights as well as traditional American values.

First, prisoners retain their First Amendment rights in jail. They can send and receive mail to communicate with people outside of prisons. They can continue practicing their religions. They can even write for prison newspapers. Prisoners keep other fundamental rights while imprisoned, so it doesn’t make sense that a key right like voting is taken away as punishment. Voting should be among the rights they retain.

Secondly, refusing to let felons vote deprives America of their perspectives. These people have experienced the criminal justice system firsthand, so they should have a say in the political issues that impact it. In a system of government

where representation is key, these people need to have their voices heard.

Lastly, one of early America’s key founding ideologies was “no taxation without representation.” In denying past and present felons the right to vote, the government robs these people of their representation, while still requiring them to pay taxes. The IRS confirmed that even if you spent time in prison, you are still obligated to pay taxes and debts upon release. If we require inmates to pay the taxes and debts accrued during their sentence, then they ought to be able to vote for who they want to represent them during that time.

Allowing felons to vote isn’t a radical idea. Both Vermont and Maine allow incarcerated people to vote. Their election laws regarding felons set the standard for the rest of the states. States like California have made progress toward eliminating restrictions on felon voting rights by putting the issue on the ballot. In the 2020 election, California passed Proposition 17 to restore voting rights to individuals on parole.

In order to move past the racist history of voting bans, progress toward racial equality, and better support the American ideal of democracy, felons must be allowed to vote. Their voices deserve to be heard. They are citizens just like anyone else. Legislation restoring the right to vote for these felons is imperative, especially with the upcoming midterm elections.



The U.S. prison population is disproportionately comprised of people of color.

Photo courtesy of @massincarceration_/Instagram



Mass incarceration is used as a tool to bar millions of Americans from participating in democracy.

Photo courtesy of massincarceration_/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

Death threats, racism and conspiracy

Is it finally time to cancel Ye?

SPENCER BISPHAM
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

(CW: antisemitism, anti-Blackness)

Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, derailed his career in only a month and a half. Once a respected rapper and fashion designer, his recent public outbursts have led many to condemn him as both racist and antisemitic. Though he has sparked controversy before, something about this time is different. Ye is now showing the public his true colors and how powerful hate can be with a celebrity mouthpiece.

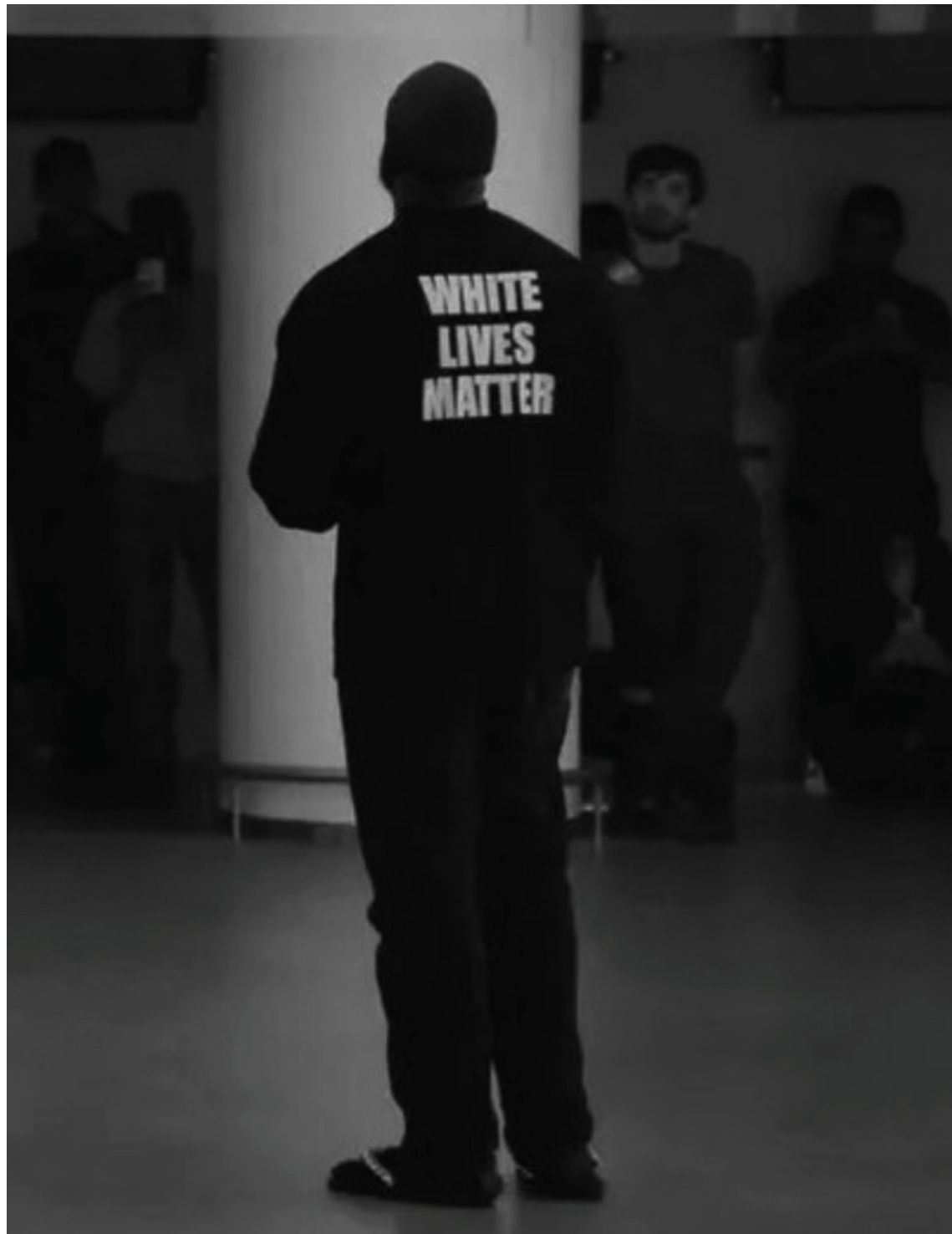
It's important to note that some of Ye's supporters have used the fact that he was diagnosed several years ago with Bipolar I (referred to here as BD-I) to defend his problematic behavior. When I wrote about this issue last spring, in an article titled "Ye vs. the World," I concluded that this condition is not an excuse for any of the harm he has caused. Comments such as "he just needs to take his meds" are ignorant and reductive; they imply that the racist, antisemitic things Ye says are a result of BD-I. In reality, these comments result from ideologies that exist separately from any mental illness.

For example: take the most recent Paris Fashion Week, where Ye's clothing brand Yeezy presented its ninth fashion show. At the event, titled "YZY SZN 9," he was photographed wearing a shirt with the text "WHITE LIVES MATTER" emblazoned on the back. The shirt was also included in several of the show's outfits which upset plenty of people, myself included.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) details the origins of the phrase and why it is inherently problematic.

"Formed as a racist response to the Black Lives Matter movement, White Lives Matter (WLM) describes itself as 'dedicated to promotion of the white race and taking positive action as a united voice against issues facing our race,' in the words of its website," it reads.

Emblazoning anything that's pro-WLM on a t-shirt is inexcusably racist, and unfortunately Ye doubled down on these hate-filled messages. In addition to distributing more "WHITE LIVES MATTER" shirts to unhoused people in Los Angeles, his Twitter account was suspended in response to more of his comments.



Ye wore a "White Lives Matter" shirt at Paris Fashion Week, as did several of his models for the show.

Photo Courtesy of @tmz_tv/Instagram

On Oct. 9, Ye tweeted the following message:

"I'm a bit sleepy tonight but when I wake up I'm going death con 3 On JEWISH PEOPLE," he wrote. "The funny thing is I can't actually be Anti Semitic because black people are actually Jew[.] also you guys have toyed with me and tried to black ball anyone whoever opposes your agenda."

There are multiple problems with these claims. First, a death threat to a marginalized group (no matter how vague) can be used to incite violence, especially when it comes from someone with such a large platform. Second, the comments promote false conspiracies based on the ideology of the Radical Hebrew Israelites. This is an antisemitic group which tries to "appropriate biblical Jewish heritage to claim an exclusive identity as the true chosen people of God and

decry Jews as the impostors and thieves," according to the SPLC.

Ye's statement was so concerning that it drew the attention of the Holocaust Museum of Los Angeles.

"Words matter and words have consequences Ye," the museum said in a statement. "We urge you to come visit us at Holocaust Museum LA to understand just how words can incite horrific violence and genocides."

Not so ironically, an antisemitic hate group in Los Angeles proved this statement right on Oct. 22. They hung a banner with the message, "Kanye is right about the jews" over an overpass on I-405 while performing the Nazi salute.

Following these actions and his own comments, Ye has not responded to or shown comprehension of the museum's

statement. Instead he's appeared on FOX News, Clique and Piers Morgan Tonight, among a number of other media programs. In these interviews he's shared more opinions on abortion, racism, the Jewish people and corporate America.

On the Drink Champs podcast, Ye taunted the sportswear giant Adidas over their contract for Yeezy footwear production.

"The thing about me and Adidas is like, I can literally say antisemitic [expletive] and they can't drop me," he said. "I can say antisemitic things and they can't drop me. What now?"

Shortly after giving this statement, Adidas proved him wrong. They terminated the partnership with the rapper on Oct. 25, following in the footsteps of Ye's other creative partners: Balenciaga and Gap. The two major, albeit very

different, fashion brands both cut ties with him after his antisemitic remarks and have not looked back since. Neither has his former lawyer, Camille Vasquez, who quit in protest over the same controversy.

Without a lawyer, Ye is in deep legal trouble. He is also currently being sued for \$250 million by the family of George Floyd: the Black man whose gruesome murder sparked worldwide protests against racialized police violence. On the same episode of Drink Champs, Ye claimed that Floyd's death was due to a fentanyl overdose, long after former police officer Derek Chauvin was convicted of suffocating him in broad daylight.

Ye addressed this false statement in a speech to TMZ reporters just last week.

"It hurt the Black people," he said. "So I want to apologize for hurting them because right now God has shown me what Adidas is doing, and by what the media is doing, I know how it feels to have a knee on my neck now."

The hypocrisy of this message is just as ridiculous as it is hurtful. Comparing frustrating media coverage to a fatal, racially-motivated hate crime shows just how disconnected he is from "the Black people" he claims to be apologizing to. Additionally, any semblance of his sensitivity to Black issues was removed after he compared his own situation to the lynching of Emmett Till in an Instagram post on Sunday night.

If it hasn't already, the ignorance Ye is spewing into the world will soon overshadow his contributions to American pop culture.

The number of people who refuse to consume his art will only grow, as demonstrated by the backlash he continues to receive from the public. Black and Jewish folks have endured more than enough hate from him to the point that it's become physically dangerous, which is absolutely inexcusable. Those of us who knowingly consume his art need to confront the fact that we are contributing to this and adjust our habits accordingly.

When I feel the need to stream Runaway or wear my Yeezys, it's only fair that I fight against Ye's messages with that same enthusiasm. Personally, I will make sure to vote in the upcoming midterm elections in order to prevent people like him from having a platform to spew their hatred. I hope to see you there as well.

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.

‘Why N

The powerful bond behind the number two

The University of San Diego’s Volleyball team is currently the number two team in the country. The team has created a strong bond which they attribute to their success this season – showing up on the court as friends. This week, the athletes discuss the r

Senior Annie Benbow
Position: Libero

“My experience being a part of the USD volleyball team has truly been a dream come true. I still can’t believe I was able to spend my collegiate volleyball career as a part of such a successful program with amazing teammates and coaches. This season has been so surreal. We’ve spent years working so hard to be a top team in the country, and now it’s happening. I think this goes to show what amazing, talented staff we have and girls on the team who are determined to get better every day. It still feels like a dream to have had the success we’ve had so far, but we’re not done yet.”



Jackson Tahmoush/The USD Vista

Redshirt Senior Katie Lukes
Position: Outside Hitter

“The past 4.5 years at USD have been the best years of my life. I am so lucky to be part of such a solid and special team. This season has been unbelievable and so rewarding. We have put in so much work and are more connected than ever. I’m super proud of us for representing grit and resilience throughout the season, and I can’t wait to see how far we go!”



Jackson Tahmoush/The USD Vista

Junior Leyla Blal
Position: Middle

“I love being on this team because of how an are, and I feel really lucky to be a part of a pro life. This year we have a really unique group have all been working so hard and learning Something that is driving our season forward us?” I think [this motto] gives us this mindset always work toward the top. This season has of really high-energy home games with lots we’re working to continue our succes



Jackson Tahmoush/The USD Vista

Not Us?"

two women's volleyball team in the country

o team in the West Coast Conference and is on a 17-win streak. These women have showing relentless dedication on the court as teammates and to each other off the the reasons behind their record-breaking achievements.



Blackwell Middle Blocker

ow amazing our teammates and coaches of a program that I looked up to my entire e group of very talented players, and we earning so much thanks to our coaches. forward this year is the motto, 'why not indset of growth, and it challenges us to on has been super fun; we've had a couple th lots of fans which has been great, and success for the rest of the season."



Sophomore Annika Hester Position: Outside Hitter

"This team is different from any other team I've been on, because everyone is genuinely so close. We all trust each other and enjoy hanging out off the court, and that has made this season so much more special. As an underclassman, too, I have the best leaders to look up to because these girls have so much experience. I think the success of our team comes from our connection and trust in each other. Another [reason] is that we are probably one of the most hard-working teams in the nation. We put so much attention to detail into every aspect of the game."



Jackson Tahmoush/The USD Vista

Junior Alex Hoglund Position: Setter

"My experience at USD has been incredible from the moment I got here my freshman year! Our team has such a great connection and emphasis on our culture, and it shows from the second you get here. This season has been my favorite so far, not just due to our success (although that is great too), but we have so much fun together off the court, as well as when we're competing!"

FEATURE

The value of breaking bread *USD's involvement with the shelter is back in full force*

Rachel's Shelter from Page 1

is an important opportunity for students to bond with each other, share an encounter with someone experiencing homelessness and reflect on the experience: to unpack, share highlights and ask questions.

Hartman values the opportunity and the new perspective it offers surrounding the issue of homelessness. Serving at the shelter allows attendees to understand the deep, complex implications of homelessness.

"It's easy to have stereotypes about who might be experiencing homelessness, what led to that," Hartman said. "There's this mentality of 'why don't they just get a job and not be homeless?' But when you really sit down and talk to someone and hear their story, that's really what it's about. It really breaks all those stereotypes that we might have in the back of our heads and puts that human face to the issues of homelessness."

The experience minimizes judgment and opens up the opportunity for compassion and finding similarities as human beings.

"It makes me think about the systems and the barriers of like: there's this person with such a beautiful story — 'why don't they have access to what I have?' Often it's just one thing that sometimes is in their control, sometimes it's out of their control, that led to them experiencing homelessness, and sometimes it's short-term, sometimes it's long-term," Hartman said. "Once you really get to hear someone's story and understand them, it's impossible to judge them and not to love them, because you really get that understanding and find that connection, even just a 45-minute conversation."

The meal preparation process is a great way for students to connect and form valuable relationships. Because students and faculty make the meals in USD Ministry's kitchen before heading to the shelter, it allows everyone to bond and prepare for the night ahead.

"I like that we start with cooking the meal here, because our students can really come together, and some of them might know each other, some of them might have just been interested in signing up," Hartman said. "But they can really build that community together. Maybe if they're a little bit nervous or if they have questions, they can feel welcomed here so that they end up getting into the right state of mind to then be able to have a conversation and dive in."

While all students are encouraged and welcome to participate in the program, Hartman discussed the



The shelter allows guests to stay and share meals with residents after a two-year break due to the pandemic.
Haley Jacob/The USD Vista



USD students and faculty prepare meals together in USD Ministry's Kitchen.

importance of service in faith and how the opportunity is valuable to students in the Catholic community.

"In the Catholic tradition, we talk about putting faith in action, and that's done in charity and

solidarity. Both are important and both are able to offer something temporary, whether that's a donation, or in this case preparing and serving a meal," Hartman said. "It maybe doesn't make a big-picture impact on the

Hartman believes the program is a powerful way for students to strengthen their relationship with their faith and gain a more robust understanding of the values of Catholic tradition and practice.

"Looking at the life of Jesus, it was never about building up one's own achievements and operating from a standpoint about 'me.' It was always about being for others, and especially those on the margins," Hartman said. "For our students, as they hopefully take time to explore who they are and who God is, there are also opportunities for them to widen their understanding of the Catholic Church. You're talking about serving your neighbor, loving your neighbor, but it's an invitation to expand 'who is my neighbor?' It's important to recognize the inherent, God-given dignity in each and every person, especially those on the margins and often forgotten in society."

Hartman believes the simple gesture of sharing a meal goes a long way, especially when wanting to learn more about someone's experience with homelessness, a concept often stigmatized and misunderstood in society.

"There's value in doing something for a community or for people, whether it's building houses or — for instance — when we simply prepare a meal and bring it," Hartman said. "When you can really have a conversation and break bread together, that's what it's really about. It teaches you how much we really all have in common, and we all have a story and so be able to, to hear that, it's very simple in a beautiful way."

Hartman hopes the opportunity inspires students to invite their friends and get others involved in the program.

"Hopefully, it's the gift that keeps on giving," Hartman said. "That people come back and they feel more grateful, they feel more inspired, and they'll tell their friends. It's like a perspective shift."

Volunteering at Rachel's Night Shelter is a great way for students to give back to the community and emphasize with those often outcasted and marginalized in society.

Regardless of one's faith, participating in the service is bound to teach students valuable lessons and provide a sense of responsibility for taking care of those in need. Often, the best way to get to know somebody is through engaging conversation, and the exchange of stories that takes place at the shelter is an impactful way to dive into the complicated concept of homelessness and put a face to those dealing with the trying, misunderstood circumstance.

Photo courtesy of Alec Hartman
issue of homelessness, but the hope from this encounter is really being able to learn more about the issues of homelessness and put a face to those issues. Then they'll be able to carry that with them as they share their [own] stories."

ARTS & CULTURE

An international food fight

Activists throw food to demand action against climate change

JESSICA MILLS

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" and Monet's "Les Meules" are some of the most well-known pieces of art around the world. While these paintings may not have many similarities, they all share one thing in common: being used as targets for climate change protests.

Starting back in May, a man disguised as an older woman in a wheelchair threw a piece of cake at the Mona Lisa, housed in the Louvre Museum in Paris, France. The man was escorted away shortly after, yelling, "Think of the Earth. There are people who are destroying the Earth. That's why I did this," according to the Associated Press.

Since then, the demonstrations have progressed. Two protestors splattered tomato soup on Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" at the National Gallery in London and glued one of their hands to the wall by the painting. A similar attention-grabbing stunt was taken against Monet's "Les Meules," which were covered in mashed potatoes.

None of the paintings were harmed due to protective glass casing, but the protestors' actions went viral, setting off international debate.

Just Stop Oil — a coalition of groups that work together to stop new fossil fuel licensing and production — are behind the protests. According to their website, Just Stop Oil believes in causing disruption in a peaceful manner.

In an interview with Euro News, Just Stop Oil spokesperson, Alex De Koning explained that the protests won't last forever. Rather, they're "only doing this until the government [makes] a meaningful statement about ending new fossil fuel assets in the U.K. As soon as that happens, we're off and we move out of the way."

Phoebe Plummer, one of the Just Stop Oil activists responsible for throwing soup at Van Gogh's "Sunflowers," yelled during the protest, "What is worth more: art or life? Is it worth more than food? More than justice? Are you more concerned about the protection of a painting or the protection of our planet and people?"

United Press International reported that both activists responsible for throwing soup at the painting — Phoebe Plummer and Anna Holland — appeared in Westminster Magistrate's Court on Oct. 22, after damaging the frame of "Sunflowers." The pair were released on bail on the condition that they do not enter galleries or museums and their trial is set for Dec. 13.

For USD senior Maile Nomura, drastic measures



Plummer (left) and Holland (right) at the scene of the protest.

against climate change are necessary. But, she feels the protestors' efforts are misdirected.

"I fully understand why people are doing drastic things to attract more attention to climate change," Nomura said. "I support bold ways to protest, however I don't think it's fair to disrespect artists and potentially destroy artworks. If the artist opposed climate change [policy], maybe that's different, but what did Vincent Van Gogh have against climate change [policy]?"

USD senior Eric Ricks is intrigued by the efforts of the activists.

"Overall, I think these protestors have done a great deal

of consideration and research into what they believe in," Ricks said. "These are all individuals who, at the very least, have gone the extra mile to emphasize what is important to them and what should be important to us as a collective, while also not doing much damage to the corporations who greatly contribute to these issues."

Conversely, Nomura believes that there are more effective ways to protest climate change.

"Art and climate change are completely separate things; if you're going to protest for something, protest against things or people that don't believe the issue of climate change, not art,"

Nomura said. "Realistically, the people who don't care about climate change are not going to care for the damaged art. If anything, it will portray protestors in a way that will deter others from hearing them out."

Most recently, a climate protester glued his head to the famous painting by Johannes Vermeer, "Girl with a Pearl Earring." A one-minute video clip posted on Twitter showed another protester gluing his hand to the wall beside the artwork while pouring a red substance on the first man's head and body.

The protester that glued his hand to the wall asked onlookers, "Do you feel outraged?"

Photo courtesy of @Just.stopoil/Instagram

Good. Where is that feeling when you see the planet being destroyed before your very eyes?"

Ricks believes that these kinds of shocking stunts are necessary for any action against climate change to take place.

"I think this form of protest is warranted, because frankly enough people just aren't listening or doing much to move us in the right direction," Ricks said.

These international food fights have sparked various debates — both supporting and disapproving the actions. With Just Stop Oil's plans to continue protests until effective action is taken, it is likely these will not be their last demonstrations.



Just Stop Oil members blocking service stations and pumps across central London in August. '90-foot bookshelf mural is a popular spot among shop visitors.

Photo courtesy of @explore northpark/Instagram

The new ‘Chalice of the Gods’ series

Percy Jackson and healing my inner child

ABIGAIL CAVIZO
NEWS EDITOR

When I was seven, I read the words, “Look, I didn’t want to be a half-blood.” It changed my life forever. Author Rick Riordan is best known for his adventure-fantasy series, “Percy Jackson and The Olympians” (PJO). The series, beginning with “The Lightning Thief,” first published in 2005.

Pulling from classical Greek mythology, Riordan tells the story of a twelve-year-old boy finding out that he’s part human, part god: a demigod.

Following the first book, fans went along with Percy on various other adventures, watching him survive multiple prophecies and near-death experiences until age 17.

Riordan recently announced that a new book, “The Chalice of the Gods,” is in the works and will be on sale Sept. 26, 2023. For the first time since 2014, Percy Jackson is going on another adventure with his girlfriend, Annabeth Chase, and best friend, Grover Underwood. This time, we’re picking up right after “The Blood of Olympus,” the last book of Riordan’s second series within Jackson’s universe.

Riordan released vague details about the plot, but he stated that the center for this book is Percy’s quest to get into the ‘College of New Rome’ — a university for demigods. Instead of the typical college recommendation letters, Percy is required to go through multiple battles and quests during his senior year of high school.

The inspiration for the new book also comes from the new Disney+ show for the PJO franchise that Riordan is a part of in producing and writing.

The show is set to release in 2024. Depending on how well it does, Riordan wanted to create more stories for it to play off of — leading into Jackson’s college years.

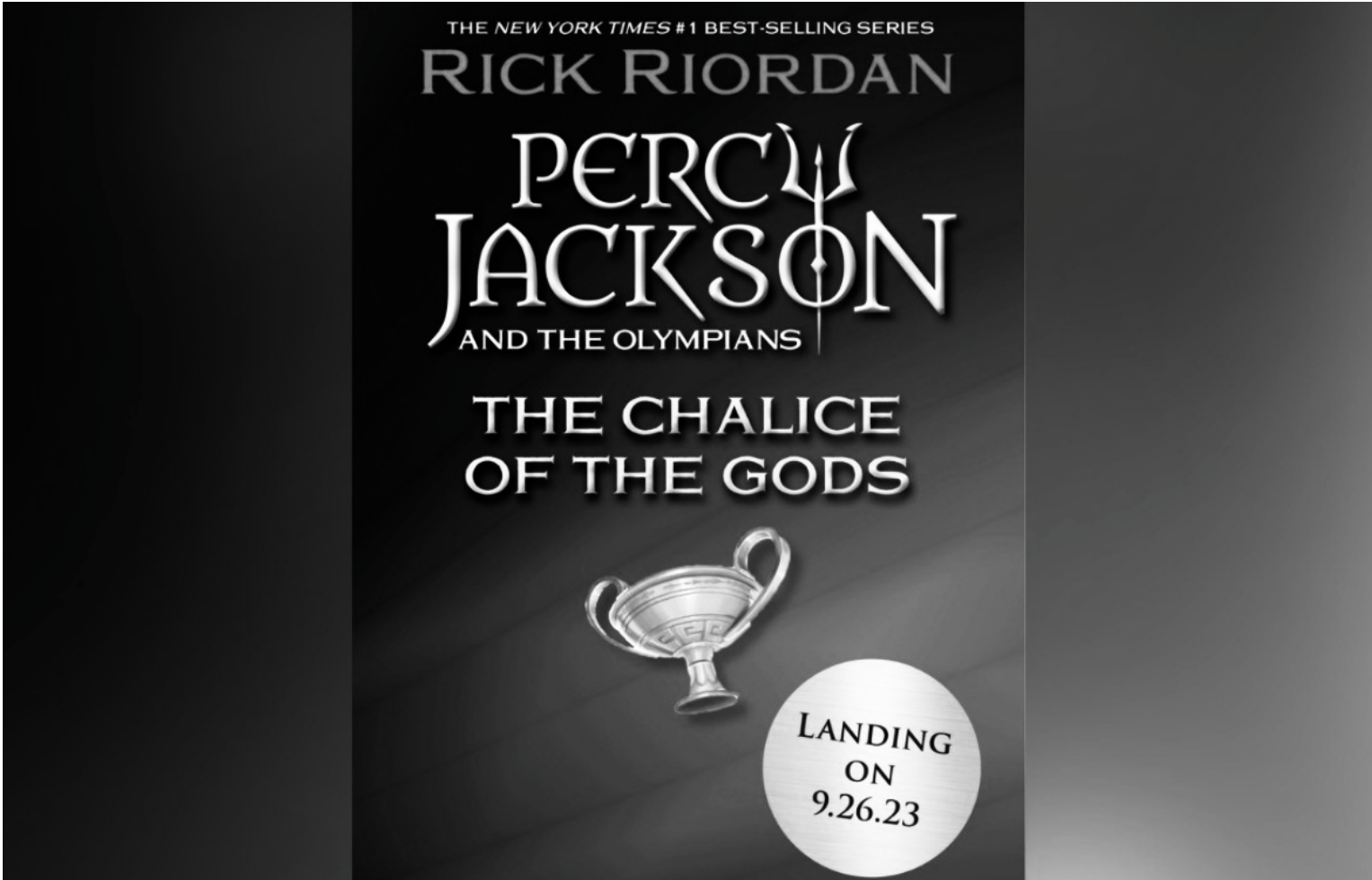
Along with a surface-level plot description, Riordan also attributed this new book to the ones who have stuck by Percy.

“We talked about all manner of things, but I didn’t want to publish something just to publish something,” Riordan wrote in a blog post. “I wanted it to be a book you all might actually love, a kind of ‘thank you’ for sticking with me all these years as you waited for a better PJO adaptation.”

USD junior and long-time Percy Jackson fan Sofia Hart recently reread the book series.

“There’s a nostalgia that comes with rereading something from your childhood [that] is special,” Hart said. “I love Percy and am so excited to see him again. When I was younger, I thought I could be a half-blood.”

Being a half-blood was something I desperately wanted too. I remember being a young girl, waiting for Percy to find and



Riordan’s newest “Percy Jackson” series is set to release in Sept. 2023.

choose me as his next companion on the next journey. Riordan’s world-building was next-level: it felt so real that I genuinely believed if I tried hard enough, I could see through the mortals’ “mist.” I wanted to be claimed by my godly parent, swept away to battle monsters in the deep sea, unlock the secrets to ancient Greek architect Daedalus’ laptop or chase rabid dogs roaming the streets in Venice.

Every year, I’d wait for the next book to be released throughout elementary school and middle school. The last time a new Percy Jackson book came out, I was almost 14. Now, I’ll be 22 when Percy’s next journey begins. I’ve never been older than Percy before. It’s a bittersweet feeling — like revisiting an old friend, an echo of something Peter-Pan-like. I think about the way I used to look up to him, wanting to be him, but also wanting to be loved by him. It’s a strange time warp, like Percy

Jackson is my own personal time traveling machine. When I read from his words, I feel younger than I am. I’m able to picture myself with the book in my hand, as I swing back and forth on my neighborhood playground or in the schoolyard fervently reading before my parents picked me up from school.

A lot has changed since I last walked alongside my good friend Percy, but the impact he’s made on the person I am today will never be forgotten. Rereading the books in my 20s has taught me a lot. We change and age, but friendship and love are forever. It’s good to be the hero, but it’s also good to take a step back and recognize when we need help.

We are not invincible; everyone has their weaknesses — even demigods. Now more than ever, I know my youth is not a shield for inevitable mistakes.

There’s value in reviving your inner child. A child’s perspective has value and should not be

written off, especially the child I once was. By looking at the people we once were, we can take the experiences from our childhood and make it better throughout our adulthood. I look at the words on the pages and reminisce on the person I once was, the person that’s still in the binding of those books, and the person I’ll be in a year from now reading Riordan’s work as soon as it drops.

When the book is released, I hold some fear that I won’t look at it the same, or that the child I once was would enjoy it much more. In healing the inner-child, re-exploring past books as an adult opens up new insights.

USD junior Demili Pichay immersed herself within Percy’s world when she was a child, but she also finds new perspective looking at multiple different sources to relive old childhood experiences.

“Percy Jackson was probably one of the top three series that

Photo courtesy of @Rickriordan/Instagram

shaped my childhood; I attribute a lot of who I am to Riordan and what I know about Greek mythology — which I love,” Pichay said. “I recently have been doing a lot of reminiscing about the art I used to enjoy when I was a child. I wanted to fix my attention span, so instead of TikTok, I’ve been slowly rewatching all the movies I watched as a child, and it really is so amazing to look at something with such fresh eyes.”

Rereading and rewatching old movies, shows or books does not have to be something that’s hard to do or childish, because we’re older now.

I want to recognize it within its time context, but I also want to critique it at the age that I am now. I look forward to not only seeing my friend Percy in his (college) years, but also, taking in the story that I began reading when I was seven.

I still want to be a half-blood, and I think I always will.



Annabeth (left), Percy (middle) and Grover (right) are the three main characters of the new Disney+ series.

Photo courtesy of @Rickriordan/Instagram

SPORTS

USD volleyball player highlight

Get to know player Leyla Blackwell

JORDAN STUART
CONTRIBUTOR

Leyla Blackwell is an integral member of the starting lineup for the USD Women's Volleyball team. So far this season, she has amassed 120 kills and 99 blocks throughout 21 matches. She currently averages 1.38 blocks per set, putting her at no. 17 in the nation for this stat. At 6'4", Blackwell clearly has genetics to her advantage, but it's her upbringing that allowed her to learn how to perform at the collegiate level and navigate the path that ultimately led her to USD.

Blackwell started playing volleyball after her mom introduced it to her at 10 years old. Her mom played collegiate volleyball for Georgetown University and professional beach volleyball for the Association of Volleyball Professionals for two years. The success Leyla's mom had with the sport was motivating for Blackwell, when she discovered her own passion for volleyball.

"Having someone so close to me to look up to who I knew played volleyball in college and then played professional beach volleyball was amazing for me. I always looked up to older girls, and to have my mom be one of those people to look up to was awesome," Blackwell stated.

Volleyball became more serious for Blackwell when she was about 13 years old. After three years as a beginner, Blackwell focused on getting on the best club team possible by improving her skills through private lessons. She maintained a positive attitude that anything could be possible with hard work.

"I really want to play good volleyball, so let's see how far I can go," Blackwell said.

By working with some of the best club coaches in Southern California, she earned a spot on the top 15-and-under team at Coast Volleyball Club.

By the end of middle school, Blackwell started the college recruiting process.

As a high schooler, Blackwell was the 59th top recruit in the nation for all seniors in the class of 2020, according to prepvolleyball.com. She was also a standout athlete at La Jolla High School, where she totaled 822 kills and 349 blocks throughout her four years on the varsity team. These accolades made her highly sought after by multiple elite college volleyball programs.

In October 2018, Blackwell verbally committed to Indiana



Leyla Blackwell, Middle Blocker, racking up another point.

Photo courtesy of usdtoreros.com

University as a junior in high school, where she attended for her freshman year.

Playing for Indiana brought her personal success as an athlete. She led the team in blocks and hitting percentage and received the 2021 Big Ten Sportsmanship Award at the end of the season. However, given the circumstances due to COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, her freshman year was unpredictable, uncomfortable and disappointing.

"Having my freshman year impacted by COVID made it the perfect storm for me to be super homesick. It was a completely different experience than what I anticipated in the years building up to actually getting there," Blackwell stated.

Her experience playing for Indiana also made her reevaluate her decision.

"We also had a very challenging season, not winning a lot... the coaching was an adjustment and something that I had never really experienced before. By the end of that

first season, I was so unhappy and struggling so much that I decided, if I am going to do something, now's the time to do it," Blackwell said. She decided that transferring was something she was going to pursue.

Luckily, Blackwell didn't go through this experience alone.

"I was really lucky, because I had a lot of support from my parents throughout the whole process and previous coaches and friends that I was able to reach out to," Blackwell said.

In June 2021, USD Volleyball announced on social media that Blackwell had officially joined the USD Women's Volleyball team. Blackwell revealed that the biggest factor that made her choose USD was the coaching staff.

This year, Coach Jennifer Petrie enters her 24th season as the head coach for the USD women's volleyball team. Throughout her career, Coach Petrie has established herself as one of the most successful collegiate volleyball coaches in the nation, which

appealed to Blackwell.

"Jen has been able to run this program so successfully and for so long. She has expectations of excellence from her athletes not only on the court, but in the classroom, and as people. The way that she helps shape us into becoming better people is one of the best byproducts about being here," Blackwell said.

Although joining the USD team was a bit nerve-racking, Blackwell described the transition as very natural for her.

"The girls are such nice people that they made it totally not a big deal. I was really just looking for a program that was super talented and super competitive, closer to home and with the right coaching staff. USD checked all those boxes for me," Blackwell said.

Blackwell has flourished as a Torero. Last year, she led the entire West Coast Conference with 133 blocks. She was awarded the WCC Defensive Player of the Week three times in her career, and last season, she was awarded a

spot on the All-WCC First Team.

Blackwell shared her excitement for the momentum the Toreros have built so far this season.

"We are all really grateful for the fans and the students that come to our games, but I hope when it comes to the NCAA tournament, if we're hosting this year, we get as many students to show up and show out as possible," Blackwell said.

After conference play ends, the NCAA Volleyball committee will award the top four teams No. 1 seeds for the NCAA Volleyball Championships. These teams will host the first three rounds and the quarterfinals at their home courts.

The Toreros currently sit at second in the Division I rankings, just behind perennial powerhouse University of Texas. The official tournament bracket for the 2022 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Tournament will be revealed on Nov. 27. The first and second rounds of gameplay will begin on Dec. 1-2 or Dec. 2-3.

COMING UP
THIS WEEK

USD MSOC vs Pacific
Friday, Nov. 4
7 p.m.
Stockton, CA

USD SB vs Mesa
Friday, Nov. 4
6:30 p.m.
San Diego, CA

USD WSWIM vs CBU
Saturday, Nov. 5
TBA
Riverside, CA

Annual Fall Fest

Toreros give back to the community with fun and games

SAVANNAH ALARCON
SPORTS EDITOR

On Tuesday, Oct. 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., there was a bit more than sports games going on in the Jenny Craig Pavilion (JCP). It was the annual Torero Fall Fest. Many of the student athletes from Women’s and Men’s Basketball, Volleyball, Women’s Soccer, Softball, Women’s Swim and Dive, Men’s Rowing and Football all gathered to host families from around San Diego for a night full of fun. The event included a petting zoo, games, face painting and autographs from some of the USD sports teams.

Many of the athletes loved this event because it was a great way for the San Diego athletes to get connected with the community.

Rashaan Ward, a USD senior football player, expressed his excitement for the event.

“I enjoy this event a lot. A lot of kids come out and get to play with the sports teams here and we get to have close contact with fans,” Rashaan said.

Many athletes loved representing the school, and it was a way for the athletes to also connect with the students.

Amir Wallace, another USD senior football player,



Young children playing games and enjoying the Torero Fall Fest with USD student athletes.

added that gaining recognition at the event helped USD sports players become more familiar with their audiences.

“It’s important to put a name to a face. We always have the helmets on so seeing them and having the personal connection is really enjoyable

for me,” Wallace explained.

While getting to know the community, many athletes also enjoyed letting out their inner kid and enjoy the experience as well.

This event had many athletes painting their faces, painting pumpkins and even placing chickens on their heads.

It was a good way to let the athletes be free and let loose amid all their hectic schedules and packed competitions.

Izzy Owen, a USD senior softball player really enjoyed the event for these reasons.

“I love to play games and paint pumpkins with the

Photo courtesy of @usdtoreros/Instagram

little kids. It was so cool, because they never see us personally, only in a uniform playing a game,” Owen said.

Fall Fest was also a way to get fans excited about the upcoming basketball season. The first game is against Sonoma State at the JCP on Nov. 7.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

The Fall of Communism, Russia, and the War in Ukraine

Lech Wałęsa, Nobel Peace Prize Winner and Former President of Poland

NOVEMBER 16, 6:00 PM
PEACE AND JUSTICE THEATRE
KROC SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Lech Wałęsa, will discuss current world events, his view of the United States’ role on the global stage, the history of the Solidarity Movement, and his vision for a prosperous future.



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