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THE USD VISTA

Artificial Intelligence in the classroom

How ChatGPT affects in-class learning

YANA KOURETAS
NEWS EDITOR

Individuals all across the world now have a unique opportunity to employ an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool to create written responses to various prompts and questions, as a human might produce. Chat Generated Pre-trained Transformer (GPT) is an AI Chatbot, co-founded by Elon Musk with a San Francisco-based startup, OpenAI. The platform utilizes a compilation of text data to generate summaries for long texts, answers to questions, written responses to prompts and more.

At the moment, the service is still in the research review stage, according to Forbes, yet users can access it for free simply by making an account on the company's website. Because of ChatGPT's eruption in popularity, users may log on and be faced with an "at capacity" notice or have trouble creating an account during peak times of usage congestion.

Although Chatbot — which are computer programs that are made to converse with humans over the



OpenAI plans to offer a \$20 a month subscription plan for users who want to have around-the-clock access.

Photo courtesy of Jonathan Kemper/Unsplash

internet — have existed for years now, not all of them employ AI the same, and some don't even use it. Though ChatGPT is comparable to other language model tools like Google and Meta, as noted by Business Insider, it is unique in offering a program for direct user experimentation.

In light of its burgeoning traction, ChatGPT has sparked many questions regarding its

place in a school classroom and in the work of students. ChatGPT's capabilities pose a dilemma for some institutions who worry that its implementation by students could mean crossing into the threshold of plagiarism of written assignments and homework responses. In addition, there is worry about the lack of incentive for learning, should students use the Chatbot to complete their

assigned work. In fact, some schools have taken measures to discourage students from using it. The New York Times reported that New York City and Seattle public schools restricted access to ChatGPT on school computers and networks.

Despite mounting uneasiness of ChatGPT's repercussions on education, some point to the inevitability that AI systems

will continue to provide feasible solutions to problems and needs. Because of the lack of reliable methods to discern when something was created by ChatGPT, some educators urge institutions to weave it into the curriculum in a responsible way, as students will need to adjust to a way of life where AI is increasingly more present, according to Time. Educators suggest that teachers should lean on ChatGPT for new ways to personalize their teaching approach and to prepare students to encounter AI in the professional world.

Although USD has not yet designated any parameters for students' usage of ChatGPT, professors can elect to amend their assignments and curriculum on their own.

Dr. Nikki Usher (they/them) of the Department of Communication discussed their standpoint on how professors need to become more creative to ensure that students can still maximize their learning in the classroom.

"The semester is very young and many of us haven't had the chance to talk with other members

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Historic SuperBowl 2023 LVII

Toreros discuss significance and game predictions

AMARA BROOKS
SPORTS EDITOR

This year's 2023 Super Bowl LVII is already breaking historical barriers, as the first Super Bowl with two Black starting quarterbacks (QBs). This year, the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs will face off in Arizona at the State Farm Stadium on Feb. 12.

The game will feature starting QBs Jalen Hurts for the Eagles and Patrick Mahomes for the Kansas City Chiefs.

In a press conference after in his American Football Conference Championship game, Mahomes spoke about the importance of this historic match up.

"To be on the world stage and have two Black quarterbacks starting in the Super Bowl, I think it's special," Mahomes said. "I've learned more and more about the history of the Black quarterback since I've been in this league, and the guys that came before me and Jalen set the stage for this. And now, I'm just glad that we can set the stage for kids that are coming up now."

Mahomes shared that his space in this year's Super Bowl will allow other young Black quarterbacks the opportunity to make further progress in the future. In the past, there have only been three Black quarterbacks to win a Super Bowl. Mahomes was one when he defeated the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl



Patrick Mahomes of the Kansas City Chiefs will lead his team in the Superbowl.

Photo Courtesy of @chiefsavenue/Instagram

LIV on Feb. 2, 2020.

The previous two were Russel Wilson with the Seattle Seahawks in 2014 and Doug Williams with the now Washington Commanders in 1988.

According to Statista's report

titled "Share of Players in the NFL in 2021, by ethnicity," 58% of the players in the NFL are Black or African American. However, the quarterback position is one with little diversity, as most

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NEWS

ChatGPT provokes mixed reactions

Faculty and students weigh its implications on education

ChatGPT from Page 1

of the faculty yet about what we think of this,” Usher said. “I think that the general consensus is that, if writing becomes less valued because AI can do it better, maybe we need to think about other ways of students showing that they understand content.”

USD senior Genesis Capellán considered the consequences of ChatGPT diminishing the need for creators to flourish in school and out in the world.

“I feel that ChatGPT is a scary tool. What I don’t like about it is that it is starting to become a thing where it can take away opportunities from creators,” Capellán said. “I feel like when people come up with things from their mind, it is a form of language that no one else can find but the person within.”

Capellán also pointed out that individuals may no longer find the need to apply their skills to in their work.

“It can definitely help with brainstorming, but when you take the tool and use it as something of a product in and of itself, it becomes a true danger,” Capellán said. “I myself have never tried ChatGPT, and a part of me doesn’t

want to. I feel like once we become comfortable with a tool like this, we will abandon the tools within us.”

Dr. Charles Pateros of the Engineering Department released a guideline for his students stating that if ChatGPT or other methods are used to assist in producing any documentation, proper citation for the tool is still required, thus encouraging his students to use what works best for them.

However, Pateros facilitates classroom work so that students still have to display their comprehension of the material. “I have made the tool available to my students. But the purpose of this class isn’t for the students to write. I have them use an online resource to learn various topics, and then they need to digest those topics and present them back,” Pateros said. “If someone takes a shortcut to make their documentation easier, it’s not going to improve their grade.”

Altogether, Pateros acknowledged that ChatGPT is now a resource for students and that accommodations may be made to manage, not prohibit, its role in the classroom.

“It’s out there. But what really matters is whether



ChatGPT incited mixed reactions from educators and students regarding its role in the classroom. Photo Courtesy of Christopher Gower/Unsplash

the students understand the material,” Pateros said. “I just ask them to document their interaction with the tool, and I might learn something from that.”

The company announced that it will offer extended services for

\$20 a month, under ChatGPT Plus, which includes constant access to the chatbox, precedence with new features and improvements and faster response rates, according to the The New York Times.

While USD has not made

any campus-wide decisions about the extent to which ChatGPT can or will be implemented or prohibited, it is evident that AI tools may begin to revolutionize student habits and learning styles. and outside of the classroom.

Black History Month commences at USD with vigil

Vigil honors ancestors and victims of police brutality

ANJALI DALAL-WHELAN
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

On Feb. 1, to kick off Black History Month, the Black Student Resource Commons (BSRC) held a vigil at Paseo de Colachis.

The vigil served as a space for students to commemorate victims of police brutality and other forms of violence, as well as all ancestors and loved ones who have passed in the last few years. Police brutality has been at the forefront of people’s minds since the new year began, with the killing of Tyre Nichols by Memphis police on Jan. 7.

Nichols was stopped by Memphis Police in a traffic stop, beaten, taken into custody and died on Jan. 10. The police officers’ body camera footage exposed the disturbing encounter and led to protests in Memphis and other cities across the country.

Five of the officers involved in the killing were charged with second-degree murder, aggravated assault, aggravated kidnapping, official misconduct



Students attended the vigil hosted by the BSRC on Feb 1. Photo Courtesy of @usdbsrc/Instagram

and official oppression. A trial date has not been set yet for the former officers. On Feb. 1, Tyre Nichols funeral was held in Memphis, and hundreds gathered to pay their respects and call for change.

According to CNN, Vice President Kamala Harris attended the funeral and remarked that she hoped Tyre Nichols’s death would “shine a light on the path toward peace and justice.” Vice

President Harris also called on Congress to sign the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, a bill that proposes reforms to the policing system in an attempt to increase police accountability and diminish racial profiling.

Tyre Nichols’s death is the most recent example of the ongoing issue of police brutality against Black people; following other highly publicized killings such as George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

Director of USD’s BSRC and the organizer of the vigil, Jay Rice, explained the value of having a space to commemorate tragedy before celebrating black history and culture. Rice commented that police brutality and racism greatly impact the Black members of USD’s community, even when they occur outside of San Diego.

“Anti-Black sentiments, police brutality and violence impact the ways in which Black people maneuver through physical spaces, the ways in which we determine how we interact with law enforcement, interact with authority, the ways in which we interact — even down to the classroom — and police our behavior not to attract the attention of folks,” Rice said. “So there are a lot of complex layers to this. And by talking about it, we’re able to establish a campus culture that allows for Black folks, all folks, to feel safe in our campus community.”

Faculty, staff and students were encouraged to attend the vigil.

USD first-year Hailey Williams explained why

she attended the vigil.

“I feel like present-wise I don’t really pay too much attention to the [specific] victims.” We just kind of see slavery as a whole, and it was a tragic event, but we don’t really take the time to really think about exactly what they went through [individually],” Williams said.

USD first-year Abby Daniel added that the vigil was important for her because of what it represented in the past.

“We’re giving thanks to the people who went away in their lives before us. We’re two Black girls that go to a university now, and it’s because of the people that came before us who had to go through the sacrifices and the pain of being Black in America,” Daniel said. “It’s a really good opportunity to kind of sit and stay grounded and not only mourn, but give thanks.”

The BSRC’s vigil held space for people grieving the loss of Black individuals, whether they were known personally or not, and created the intention of giving thanks before a month of celebration.

The return of the sisterhood

Panhellenic hosts first in-person recruitment since pandemic

KYLIE DURHAM
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

For the first time since the transition to an online learning format in 2020, the seven chapters of USD's Panhellenic Council held recruitment in person this year. Students on campus could sign up for a four day recruitment process that involved participation in different social events to meet all seven chapters. The process began with work week starting on Jan. 17 and continued until the Potential New Members (PNMs) were given their bids on Jan. 24.

The seven chapters that participated in the Primary Recruitment process were Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Delta, Kappa Kappa Gamma and Pi Beta Phi. All seven chapters are a part of the Panhellenic Council, which falls underneath Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) at USD. While each chapter is known for holding different core values and participating in different philanthropies, all seven strive to support their members in both academic and personal growth.

The excitement of holding a Primary Recruitment process on campus was undeniable for everyone participating this year, especially the classes of 2024 and 2025, who had in-person leadership positions for the first time.

During the height of the pandemic, the chapters transitioned online and carried out their responsibilities through Zoom meetings. However, after two years of online Primary Recruitment, the Panhellenic Council is now able to host unrestricted in-person events, providing all the participants opportunities to interact with those in the chapters.

For those in leadership roles, their responsibilities varied this year, as they have only previously been involved in a virtual format. USD junior Abby Stallard, current President of the Kappa Delta chapter, discussed her thoughts on how it felt to be back in person.

"It was nice to see actual people and make an actual connection with someone, like a physical person," said Stallard. "People downplay that aspect of it, and it's a lot more important

than people play it out to be."

Stallard was not the only one happy to be back in person. Paynton Black, a junior at USD and member of the Gamma Phi Beta chapter, reflected on the difficulties of conducting Primary Recruitment over Zoom in the past.

"The thing about Zoom was that when I was undergoing recruitment and talking to Potential New Members, someone's microphone may have not been working, or the Wi-Fi was cutting out. Especially on the first day, you really only have five minutes to talk with each girl, so if your camera isn't working, forget it," said Black. "You are not able to develop as strong a connection if your Wi-Fi is messed up, as opposed to being in person and having those full on conversations."

USD senior Teren Grey, who served as the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion on the Panhellenic Council, shared similar thoughts about the format.

"Recruitment online was a very difficult experience not only in terms of technology, but it was hard to get a sense of a chapter's energy, especially through a computer screen," said Grey.

Although all three women shared excitement about being back in person, they also acknowledged the changes that COVID-19 brought about for the chapters on campus. Despite best efforts, the chapters struggled to maintain the same outreach from previous years as the world rapidly shut down during the pandemic. They had to quickly shift their philanthropic efforts to continue investment in the community. A chapter's designated philanthropic cause is an opportunity to support a local cause or focus on promoting awareness towards a specific organization.

Grey felt disconnected from her chapter's philanthropy, and provided her opinion on the matter.

"I think [the philanthropies] have shifted since COVID, because for a lot of the philanthropies, you feel that community when you are doing the events," said Grey. "I think we were still bringing awareness to our philanthropy when we were in COVID, it was just a bit more difficult because a lot of time it felt like you were throwing



The Panhellenic Executive board helped make the process seamless and enjoyable for all potential new members that participated. Photo Courtesy of @usdpanhellenic/Instagram



All seven chapters came together during the process to recruit new members and promote Panhellenic Community. Photo Courtesy of @usdgammaphibeta/Instagram

money at the problem rather than coming together as a community to recognize the organization we are raising money for."

Stallard also recognized the importance of focusing on a chapter's philanthropy.

"I want to impose the value of community service because I think we are really lacking on that, especially from COVID," said Stallard. "Just bringing back that aspect of

serving our community, and through serving our community, we are bettering ourselves professionally and personally."

In addition to revamping the philanthropic aspect, all seven chapters are ready to be fully back in person with brand new members involved. Black expressed her most anticipated part of starting a new chapter year.

"I would say I am really excited just to get to know

the new members who have joined," said Black. "We are all immersing ourselves and doing events and sisterhood things. Just having everything in person will be so much better in terms of generating connections."

With new goals in mind since the pandemic the current members of the seven chapters at USD are ready to experience once again what an in person sisterhood can be like.

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OPINION

‘The last of’ awful adaptations *Adaptations shouldn’t stray too far from the source*

RONNIE SAENZ
CONTRIBUTOR

The popular post-apocalyptic zombie video game “The Last of Us” has recently received its own television adaptation that premiered on HBO Max on Jan. 15, and made waves among viewers for being “surprisingly good.” This isn’t a surprise because the zombie genre is overdone, rather it’s surprising because video game adaptations into film or television are usually synonymous with dumpster fires and Adam Sandler movies. But, with “The Last of Us,” video game enthusiasts have found their perfect adaptation.

From “The Super Mario Bros.” (1993) to “Sonic the Hedgehog 2” (2022), video game adaptations to the big screen and television have become commonplace. Just as common is that these adaptations are often critical failures, and that comes down to the faithfulness to the source material. “Uncharted,” “Doom,” “Resident Evil” (2022), “Monster Hunter” and “Tomb Raider” all have below a 50% critic score on Rotten Tomatoes with the consistent comment, “It was nothing like the video game.”

Take the TV adaptation of “Halo” for example. “Halo” the video game defined the modern first person shooter genre and is beloved by many for its fast paced action. The story of the game series is simple, fun, memorable and action packed. On the other hand, “Halo” the TV adaptation almost completely ignores the action adventure that the Halo franchise is known for. “We didn’t look at the game,” says season one showrunner Steven Kane in an interview with Vanity Fair. “We didn’t

talk about the game. We talked about the characters and the world. So I never felt limited by it being a game.”

As a result of ignoring the game, the “Halo” show focuses more on drama than the action packed scenes fans have come to expect. Even after spending \$10 million per episode, “Halo” only has a critic score of 70% on rotten tomato and an audience score of 52%.

of the source material, but the commercial and critical success of “The Last of Us” is proof that less creative liberties is better than more.

Following the source material as closely as possible is a good idea because it keeps the very things that people loved about that story intact for the adaptation. This is very much an “if it ain’t broke don’t fix it” scenario.

actually weighing them down.

While all the mentioned films and TV shows are critical failures, they aren’t commercial failures, raking in tens to hundreds of millions of dollars at the box office. It’s proven that when a popular video game series is attached to a film project, it doesn’t matter how good or bad the adaptation is; it will make money simply for the brand recognition. This is

to learn how to watch them.

If your only exposure to a video game and the stories it tells is through poorly done film and TV adaptations, then you will have a bad impression of that game. If you make a good impression of a game, then more people will buy that game and more sequels will be made.

According to IGN, “The Last of Us Part 1” game sales have skyrocketed 238% in the UK since the recent release of the show, because newer fans are buying into its success. A faithful adaptation is more likely to bring long-term success than the lazy adaptation capitalizing from the popularity of a game.

Video game adaptations have come a long way from Yoshi being played by a literal dinosaur to Joel being played by Pedro Pascal. After “The Last of Us,” the future is bright for video game adaptations with upcoming projects such as “The Super Mario Bros. Movie” (2023) and a “God of War” show. As long as future adaptations stick to the sources, these game series and so many more can bathe in the long-term success paved by their predecessors. It’s also important that we as audiences demand more out of studios to give these projects to people who love and care for the games.

Video games are an excellent medium for storytelling, and it’s great that we are finally seeing those stories faithfully acted out on screen, but if things don’t change, we’ll continue to see bad adaptations and audiences won’t open themselves up to original video games. I do truly believe that the future of video game adaptations is bright, but inaccurate adaptations could change this.



The accurate casting from the game (left) to the show (right) is best represented by Joel, played by Pedro Pascal.

Photo courtesy of Naughty Dog/HBO

What’s unusual about “The Last of Us” is that it is (so far) extraordinarily similar to its video game counterpart, often having scenes that are identical frame by frame, which is unheard of for video game adaptations. Even the casting is great, as many are relieved the main protagonist in “The Last of Us” Joel is still hot and the zombies are not.

As mentioned, most video game adaptations infamously overhaul significant amounts of the original piece, whether out of fear it may not connect with general audiences or simple ignorance

Even though these pieces are based on beloved series, audiences often cite their disappointment that adaptations aren’t more faithful to that series. By straying from the games, these films are alienating the original fans instead of general audiences, in effect creating a generic piece of media instead of one based on an adored franchise, with pre-existing character arcs and canon. The cost of these creative liberties is reflected in the film’s poor critical reception, proving the excess of creative liberties taken on these projects are

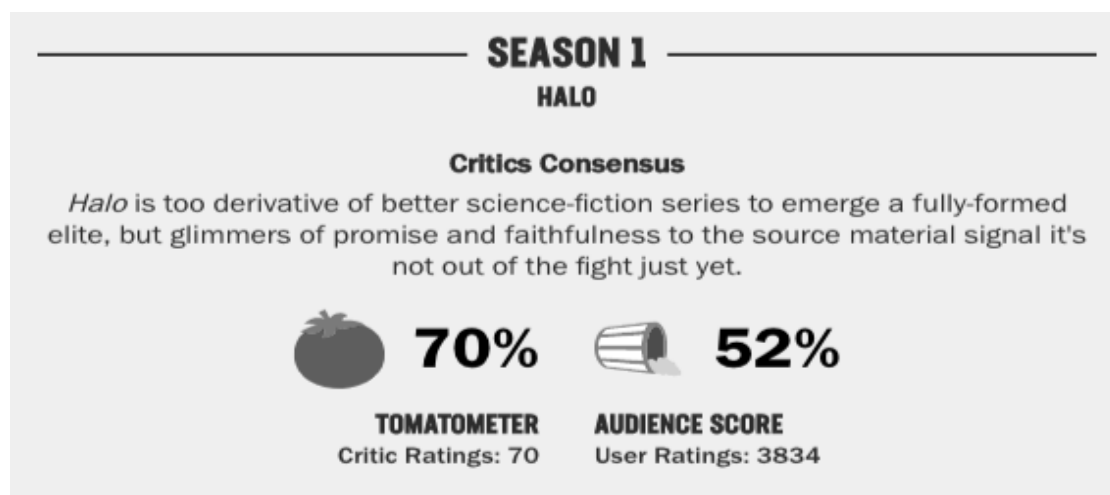
why studios pump out so many lazy films based on popular video games. If it will make money anyway, why try to create compelling and good-faith films? I could cite artistry as a reason for the deviation, but from a money perspective, these film adaptations are important for another reason: exposure.

Video games are an inaccessible and expensive medium, with newly released games costing \$60 per customer, and the caveat of having to learn how to play them. Film and TV don’t have this problem, as they are relatively inexpensive and no one needs



Pascal’s casting as Joel was met with positive reactions from the audience.

Photo courtesy of @kurtisconner/Twitter



“Halo’s” less faithful film adaptation wasn’t as popular with audiences.

Photo courtesy of @kurtisconner/Twitter

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OPINION

The fall of Ticketmaster

Ticketmaster lawsuit should change how artists sell tickets

ZOE MARIE ZAPANTA
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

Last November, Taylor Swift fans across the country flocked to Ticketmaster to purchase tickets for Swift’s upcoming tour. After waiting in the website’s online queue for hours, many fans had tickets which they already selected removed from their cart. Some also experienced Ticketmaster kicking them off the website, which ruined their chances of getting tickets. The select few that did get tickets were hit with extra fees on top of the tickets or encountered resellers selling tickets for up to \$20,000. To top it all off, Ticketmaster canceled the general sale of tickets, preventing any remaining chances of purchasing. As a result, Ticketmaster is facing a class action lawsuit for fraud, price fixing and antitrust violations.

It is time that venues and artists alike look to alternative outlets to sell admission to their shows. Relying on Ticketmaster and Live Nation — when they have proven to be unreliable, unreasonably inaccessible and expensive and lacking sympathy towards smaller artists or fans — is a bad idea.

If you’re unfamiliar with Ticketmaster, it is an American



Scrutiny from fans has turned into legal repercussions for Ticketmaster.

Photo courtesy of @PopBase/Twitter

entertainment company that sells and distributes tickets to events such as sports, concerts and theater. It is in partnership with Live Nation Entertainment — a company that promotes, operates and manages such events. Fraud is the deception of others. Price fixing is the maintenance of prices at a certain level, and antitrust laws regulate the conduct and organization of businesses to promote competition and prevent unjustified monopolies.

Fans are confident in their

belief that Ticketmaster is guilty of those things which is why they have moved forward with this lawsuit, it is the reason that Ticketmaster and Live Nation are being investigated.

This lawsuit begs the question: should concert venues continue to use Ticketmaster? This is not the first time that people have questioned whether the company should hold so much power. It is also not the only time that dedicated fans have sought tickets on Ticketmaster for their favorite artist, only to be defeated when the system shut down. The case has reached the Senate, showing the severity of the company’s monopoly issues.

Ticketmaster and Live Nation Entertainment first came into question in a judiciary committee hearing after its initial 2010 merger, when senators examined whether or not Live Nation is a monopoly in the ticketing industry. According to an article from Fortune Magazine, over 90% of tickets are not released to the public. These tickets are bought and resold by credit card companies or other marketers that are owned and controlled by Ticketmaster and Live Nation. These stats prove that Live Nation and Ticketmaster have a monopoly over the ticketing industry, because they are controlling who gets tickets, how they get tickets and setting the inflated prices.

The company’s monopoly is unreliable, because it forces fans to buy tickets through a separate market. These separate markets are not guaranteed to be secure. Their unreliability

was also proven when the site was shut down during the Taylor Swift ticket sale. The sale was paused and restarted later in the day because Ticketmaster was not adequately equipped to handle the amount of traffic to their website even though they said they were, which inevitably led to fans being unable to get affordable. Additionally, it shows that Live Nation/Ticketmaster doesn’t care about smaller artists or fans of artists in general. They leave no room for other ticket companies to attain tickets, thus forcing artists to partner with Ticketmaster/Live Nation. Fans have no other choice but to purchase entry to the shows at higher prices.

With all these things in mind, it does not mean that there aren’t valid reasons for artists and venues to partner with Ticketmaster.

The site is known for buying tickets, and it operates on a global level, so that draws many people to them. People that have bought with Ticketmaster before will be sent emails from the company, with the occasional discount or promotion materials when artists they like, or artists similar to ones they listen to, are going on tour. Those emails are sent knowing that people will be more inclined to purchase tickets using the site, if they have discounts or exclusive access.

Customers may think that Ticketmaster being at the top is a good thing and may continue to purchase without thinking twice. But as previously mentioned, Ticketmaster/Live Nation sell the most tickets in the industry because they have a monopoly.

Monopolies, though not illegal, are not always ethical. In this case, Ticketmaster’s monopoly is considered unethical because they are using their power as a company to intimidate venues into only selling with them, “for fear of retaliation in the form of withholding future events,” according to Loudwire.

The playing field is not fair for their competitors, which is why artists and fans should not continue to partner with Ticketmaster if they can help it. Ticketmaster remains at the top because they control how fans get their tickets, but Ticketmaster’s monopoly controlling the industry may be illegal. If Ticketmaster is acting in a predatory way to get venues to sell exclusively with them, then they would be in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act. The Act states that it is unlawful to operate monopolies in exploitative ways; violating it would be illegal, and Ticketmaster would be found guilty.

Fans deserve better than the unreliability and inaccessibility of Ticketmaster. Artists and fans alike notice this, not just because of the lawsuit, but also because of their own negative experiences with the company. So when you’re buying tickets to your favorite artist, keep Ticketmaster’s shortcomings in mind and consider buying tickets from other companies such as VividSeats or Stubhub. These other websites are easy to use, secure, reputable and have great rewards that you can apply to your next concert ticket purchase.



Ticket sales for Taylor Swift’s Midnights tour sparked criticism of Ticketmaster.
Photo courtesy of @taylorswift/Instagram

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INTERSESSION AROUND THE WORLD



Photo courtesy of Alexis Ocampo

ALEXIS OCAMPO: SOPHOMORE
FLORENCE, ITALY
SCIENCE OF FOOD AND COOKING
(CHEM102).

Highlight of the trip: Going on a day trip to Rome, Italy, was Ocampo’s favorite part.
“I just love seeing the Colosseum and the Fallen Roman Empire and all the ruins, and we also saw the Vatican... Overall, I think my favorite part was just connecting with either people that already knew or people I completely had no idea... go to USD,” Ocampo said. Ocampo now wants to do a full semester abroad after having such a positive experience this past intersession.
Places she visited: Rome, Pisa, Venice, Medina, Italy, and Milan Italy.
Favorite food: Gusta Pizza’s heart-shaped pizzas
Prettiest place: Venice, Italy



Photo courtesy of

MARTIN SHUM: JUNIOR
ROME, ITALY

BIOCHEMISTRY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND NEUROLOGY OF
ALCOHOL, BEER, AND WINE (CHEM494)

Best moment: “I think the most mind-blowing moment for me was in Florence. We visited the Duomo and it's essentially a church. But, you walk around a corner and you can't tell how big it is. After several corners there’s this massive structure. And I was just kind of mind blown because I felt really small in comparison to what it was, the structure is really beautiful,” Shum said.

Tips: 1. Keep money around your waist or in a crossbody bag.
2. Check the weather.



JOSEPH SYE (SECOND YEAR)
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Tips: “I would say that it is nice so that you can see some of that and meeting new people. One thing was that new people became relationships, especially it's definitely



Photo courtesy of Martin Shum

EMMA MONROY: JUNIOR
SINGAPORE

GLOBAL MARKETING (MKTG305)

Highlight of the trip: “The highlight of my trip was probably having lunch at the Marina Bay Sands, which is what Singapore is known for. USD was really great in being able to work with the students there and providing us with the opportunity to eat on top of [the restaurant], and the food was amazing,” Monroy said.

Prettiest places: Cloud Forest in Singapore — plants, flowers and a mountain inside of a dome which was all “Avatar” themed when she went, along with the waterfalls in Bali.

THE GLOBE



Photo courtesy of Jordan Stuart

**JORDAN STUART: SOPHOMORE
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND
(SECOND-YEAR EXPERIENCE) INTRODUCTION TO
HUMAN COMMUNICATION (COMM101)**

"I would say if you're interested, go for it. And I would find it is nice to find at least one person that you know, just so you can kind of have that connection and you can ease that anxiety, but also, leaning into the discomfort of meeting new people is also something that is so important. The goal was to lean into making new friends, into meeting people because everyone there is kind of looking for those connections, especially when being so far away from home, so it was definitely a perfect time to do that," Stuart said.

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Photo courtesy of Emma Monroy

USD STUDENTS COULD BE FOUND ALL AROUND THE WORLD THIS PAST INTERSESSION, TRAVELING WITH THEIR FELLOW CLASSMATES FOR THEIR COURSES ABROAD. BETWEEN VISITING THE COLOSSEUM, EATING FRESH SUSHI FROM A CONVEYOR BELT AND SWIMMING IN THE AUKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, WATERFALLS, THE USD TRAVELERS SHARED THAT HIS PAST INTERSESSION WAS AN OPPORTUNITY THAT THEY WILL NEVER FORGET.



Photo courtesy of Mia Chen

**MIA CHEN: SOPHOMORE
TOKYO, JAPAN
BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF ASIA
(BUSN/ECON494)**

Favorite place: Kyoto, Japan had a lot more culture and historical sights than Tokyo did. She took a day trip there with her fellow classmates and visited the Golden Pavilion, a Zen Buddhist Temple and had an excursion making desserts and matcha green tea.

Best experience: Chen said her best experience was going to a fish museum where there were goldfish all around, swimming along in beautiful and unique glass tanks.

"I've never seen anything like it," Chen said.

FEATURE

Black History Month at USD

Students react to the University's celebration

LAUREN CEBALLOS
FEATURE EDITOR

The University of San Diego is celebrating Black History Month throughout February with a series of events “that delve into issues and celebrate and recognize greatness, excellence and legacies within the Black community,” according to the USD News Center.

Black History Month began as a week-long celebration by Carter G. Woodson, a scholar, and was later declared a month-long celebration by President Gerald R. Ford.

According to National Public Radio (NPR), “Woodson envisioned a week-long celebration to encourage the coordinated teaching of Black history in public schools. He designated the second week of February as ‘Negro History Week’ and galvanized fellow historians through the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which he founded in 1915. (ASNLH later became ASALH [Association for the Study of African American Life and History]).”

After 50 years of Black History Week, Black History Month was recognized by President Gerald R. Ford, during the U.S. bicentennial.

According to an article by Jonathan Franklin for NPR, “February was chosen primarily because the second week of the month coincides with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.”

Lincoln and Douglass’ birthdays carry relevance due to Lincoln’s influence with the emancipation and Douglass’ impact with fighting to end slavery.

Black History Month was officially established in 1976, but it was first celebrated by colleges at Kent University in February 1969. USD is hosting a multitude of events, celebrating the USD community.

Some of the events hosted by USD this month include a Black History Month Vigil on Feb. 1, and Being Black & LatinX on Feb. 14 at 12:30p.m. in the Black Student Resource Center. Also, there’s a Black Student Union x Black Employee Alliance Mixer on Feb. 23 at 12:30p.m., and a Black Student Union Bowling Night on Feb. 27 at 7p.m. at Aztec Lanes among other events.

USD sophomore Angelica Click appreciates these events.

“I think that we should have more events like these and I think that they should be funded more,” Click shared. I think that a lot of the things that are related to Black people on campus are not as highly funded as the other organizations that are on here, and we are pretty established, and we have a voice and we have things to say.”

One specific event this month is “Equal to Us: The

Church responds to racism” with Archbishop of Louisville Shelton Fabre. Fabre will address “USCCB’s [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops] pastoral letter against racism and articulat[ing] how we are called to respond,” according to the USD website.

On Feb. 17, Professor John W.I. Lee from UCSB will share about his recently published book, “The First Black Archaeologist: A Life of John Wesley Gilbert” (Oxford, 2022). The book surrounds John Wesley Gilbert, who was a teacher and scholar born into slavery and follows his school experience, travels and success.

In addition to celebrating Black History Month with unifying events for the Black community, USD’s Black student organizations, which are available for USD students to join year-round, support the POC community.

These undergraduate organizations include the Black Student Council, focused on developing student leadership, African Student Union to learn about African cultures, the Black Student Union for celebrating all contributions of Black people throughout history, and the National Society of Black Engineers, promoting academic and professional excellence. Graduate-level organizations include the Black Graduate Student Association supporting African graduate students and the Black Law Students Association supporting professional legal careers of future Black lawyers.

The Black Student Resource Commons provides a physical study and social place, leadership and mentor opportunities, academic, personal, financial advising, engagement and involvement opportunities and building community, according to the USD website.

USD sophomore Kamilah Isah expanded on USD’s approach year-round.



Members of the Black Student Resource Commons gathered on the lawn outside of the UCs.

Photo courtesy of @usdbsrc/instagram

Isah shared, “I think that USD should accept more Black students and offer more Black scholarships, and also offer the same opportunities as everyone else,” she said.

Kayla Wilkins, Interim Academics & Program Coordinator of BSRC, shared the BSRC’s goals for Black History Month.

“What we are hoping to do with all our events is get Black students who are not connected with the BSRC to get more connected as well as celebrate Black joy and the history and resilience that we have throughout the month of February,” Wilkins said. “Even though we celebrate Black history in February but Black history comes down every month.”

While events are being hosted, some students have mixed feelings about the efforts being made for Black students on campus. USD first-year Laney Staples shared her view about inclusion on campus.

“I feel like USD should do more to promote Black History Month,” Staples explained. I feel like the only people who are doing it are Black people

themselves, of course, but also

as an institution, they should promote it as well. So I think they should do a better job at that.”

On the other hand, Click stated, “Being on this campus has allowed me to be more involved with the things that we have for Black people here and NSBE, [National Society of Black Engineers] has allowed me to network better and gain more insight as to what I want to do and what I want to be.”

According to the USD News Center, “The University of San Diego’s Class of 2026 has more students of color than white students, a first in the history of the university founded in 1949.”

USD first-year Dylan Wade expressed her thoughts on this statement.

“I think this is the most diverse class, but I feel like I have only seen these people here today [at the Black Student Resource Commons Block Party],” Wade communicated. “They need to have more events that are not just hosted by the Black Student Union to be a little better... like if the President did a Black History Month dinner, that would be cool.”

Click expressed similar sentiments.

“There’s not a lot of Black people [at USD] so when you find your people, you have like a little mini HBCU and it feels like home, it does,” she said.

USD Assistant Professor Dr. Channon Miller teaches all courses on African American history at USD and shared her view on Black History Month as a USD administrator.

“I do think that there is a lot of great programming happening on the University level... because there are organizations, and units, and offices committed to Black stories,” Dr. Miller stated. “If it wasn’t for people on campus who were really deliberate about Black history month, we certainly wouldn’t see what we’ve seen, but the Black student organizations are serious and avid and concerned about this history and love this history which makes it powerful along with the BSRC.”

The University of San Diego is now working toward playing a bigger part in celebrating Black History Month, with organizations, events, resources and increased diversity. USD hopes to continue to see more and more efforts put into place to support their community.



USD students joined to celebrate Black History Month.

Photo courtesy of @usdbsrc/instagram

ARTS & CULTURE

The bejeweled, wild kingdom of couture *Everything that happened at the Schiaparelli show in Paris*

SATVIKA NITYA
ASST. A&C EDITOR

At 10 a.m. on the frigid morning of Jan. 23, the haute couture house Schiaparelli took both Paris Fashion Week and the internet by storm.

With Doja Cat covered from head to toe in crystals to controversies sparked over animal cruelty, the brand's featured designs went above and beyond the marble walls of the Petit Palais Museum where they debuted.

Schiaparelli kicked off the first day of couture shows at the biannual Haute Couture Week in Paris with a runway show inspired by the 14th-century epic poem "Divine Comedy."

Schiaparelli's creative director and designer Daniel Roseberry revealed that the brand's latest collection was a take on Dante's "Inferno," a sentiment mirrored by Doja Cat's fiery, all-red look while attending the show.

The singer was covered from head to toe in 30,000 Swarovski crystals, glitter and paint, a look that took makeup artist Pat McGrath and her team five hours to complete by hand. McGrath later took to social media to name the look "Doja's Inferno."

Since the premiere of the look, viewers have been in constant conversation about Doja Cat, with some criticizing her look and others taking on a challenge to recreate it.

USD junior Madison Calderon shared her reaction to seeing the look for the first time.

"I like fashion, but these kinds of looks just make more noise," said Calderon. "I'm not someone who follows Fashion Weeks, and that's the case with most audiences. So to me, I don't see the vision or the point, and it seems more about surprising people. But that doesn't mean it's not exciting to watch, because you just see people wear and do ridiculous things."

While there are some that emulate Calderon's idea,

there are others who find Doja Cat's looks throughout Paris Fashion Week original and pleasingly extravagant.

USD junior Amaryllis Strohl shared her thoughts on the singer's all-red crystal look.

"I love that Doja Cat's past is in [to] doing cosplay and more esoteric looks," said Strohl. "It really bleeds into the way she dresses right now, because you can do bejeweled tights, a bejeweled dress and bejeweled gloves, but when the crystals are on your eyelids and in your ear canals, that's dedication."

Another celebrity that has become the talk of the town after the Schiaparelli show is Kylie Jenner. The youngest of the Kardashian-Jenner family drew notable attention after attending the show wearing a long black one-arm velvet gown with a massive, full-size lion's head jutting out from one side.

The dress was part of a trilogy modeled by Naomi Campbell and Shalom Harlow that displayed hyper realistic

faux animal heads to represent the vices in Dante's "Inferno": a lion, a leopard and a she-wolf.

Sculpted from resin and patiently handpainted in the couture atelier, Roseberry wanted to use the fake animals as a metaphor to show his own struggle with the pressure and need to always create something new. In his show notes, he pointed out that the mimicry of realistic animal heads was intentional and was intended to leave people in wonder.

Though the designer's intent was conveyed as artistic, some viewers were upset. Many have taken to social media to comment on how the pieces promote animal cruelty and glamorize game hunting by displaying the animals as dead items that are meant to fulfill frivolous human needs.

"I don't think they even considered the animal cruelty aspect," said Strohl. "I think they just ignored it and just thought it would look cool. And I'm not a big fan of pleather or other synthetic

products used to make those heads because of how harmful they are to the environment, which is another thing that they didn't really think about."

Despite the accusations, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) surprisingly defended Schiaparelli and called their looks "fabulously innovative."

In a statement given to TMZ, Ingrid Newkirk, the president of PETA said that the looks might actually be a statement against trophy hunting because of the innovative ways to showcase the beauty of wild animals without exploiting them for "human egotism."

Apart from sparking international conversation, Schiaparelli broke boundaries by introducing new silhouettes, merging masculine and feminine identities within their designs.

With the introduction of wide-puffed suits, gold-painted faces and faux animal heads, the brand is attempting to break the box of high fashion.

Sundance's 'Cat Person' *The short story's journey to the big screen*

STELLA SCHNEIDER
ASST. A&C EDITOR

In 2017, Kristen Roupenian published her first fictional story, "Cat Person," in the New Yorker Magazine while in her MFA program at the University of Michigan. When Roupenian submitted her story, she likely didn't expect the reception. Within weeks of publication, "Cat Person" went viral. It was written two months after The New Yorker first published allegations against Harvey Weinstein, creating more room for honest discussions about women's experiences. "Cat Person" explores relationships through their miscommunication, awkward interactions and strange sexual encounters for women in particular.

This story on screen is similar to that of the original story, following college student Margot, played by Emilia Jones, as she enters a relationship with an older man, Robert, played by Nicholas Braun, who frequents the movie theater where she works.

Audiences connected with the story's tale of online dating, consent and the nuances of age gap relationships. "Cat Person" pushes readers to evaluate their own past relationships. Conversations around the article during the time of the #MeToo movement were rampant, and readers questioned the love interest, Robert, and his motivations, considering he

was an older man talking to a sophomore girl in college.

Since its initial release in 2017, "Cat Person" drummed up conversations due to its controversial writing of a fictional relationship, and — years later — the story gained a second life. Alexis Nowicki released an article in 2021 entitled, "Cat Person and Me," in which Nowicki expressed her connection to the viral story and Roupenian. Her essay explains how Roupenian was drawing from specific details about Nowicki's own life. The work of fiction mirrored ample details of Nowicki's relationship with an older man when she was enrolled in college. This man shared the same description of 'Robert,' and their first date was similar to that of the fictional story. Nowicki's personal story started conversations around the original work once again, revisiting ideas around dating, consent and age gaps.

By the time "Cat Person and Me" was published, director Susanna Fogel had already been working with screenwriter Michelle Ashford to get "Cat Person" to the big screen. In fact, Nowicki mentions the casting of Nicholas Braun for the lead male in the film.

In this story about modern romance and dating, from long text exchanges to awkward in-person dates, the set-up of this relationship feels real on the screen because of its adaptation from the short story. Premiering at the Sundance Film Festival

in 2023, "Cat Person" retains cultural relevance, revitalizing the same conversations from when the short story was initially published.

In her essay, Nowicki shared a conversation with Roupenian about how the story had affected her.

"When 'Cat Person' came out, I was the target of an immense amount of anger on the part of male readers who felt that the character of Robert had been treated unfairly," Roupenian said.

This story highlighted power dynamics in relationships and just as it sparked controversy in 2017, those topics were still relevant. Age gap relationships tend to have an imbalance of power, with the older of the two having dated more or experienced more in life.

"Cat Person" tells a story of this power balance of Robert and Margot, but also attributing some power to Margot in her youth. Many women who read "Cat Person" realized the problematic behavior of men in their relationships, whereas men who read the story viewed what Margot and Robert had as merely a 'complicated relationship.' Not only did Roupenian reveal this controversy, but later in "Cat Person and Me," Nowicki brought up this idea of power in their relationship as well. "Cat Person" became a touchstone for how many men act in relationships.

Because a short story cannot fit the length of a two hour movie, screenwriter Ashford joined

the project, lengthened the story and added a new ending. This new ending focused on the 'shock value' to garner attention from audiences and increase moments of doubt and panic in an otherwise common story of dating in the modern world. In addition, a genre change altered the tone of the story, adding more thriller elements to draw in more audiences. Ashford wanted to add a psychological flair to the story to properly convey the fears and anxieties many women experience when dating. With a new genre and ending, the film's departure from the initial story detracts from the intended meaning. While the original story thrives in its relatability to the readers and their own dating experience, the film adaptation focuses on conforming to the standards of mainstream Hollywood films. Ultimately, this decision abandons some relatable aspects of the relationship and highlights drawn-out, improbable elements to draw shock from the audiences.

Despite the addition of a completely new ending, original author Roupenian was involved in the production of this film, seeing parts she wrote years ago recreated in a number of scenes.

"I feel like I'm trying to just be amazed by [the short story making it all this way,] because it is amazing," Roupenian said.

"Cat Person" can still draw in audiences to have conversations about the attitude of modern romance. "I think that five years is a long time [since

the initial release] and a lot of the conversations around dating have moved in a lot of really interesting directions. What we talk about in relation to [the #MeToo movement] now will be different from what we talked about in 2017," Roupenian expressed.

Under the premiere category at Sundance, "Cat Person" featured more predictable themes that appealed to audiences. The film uses thriller elements to place doubt on the couple as they venture into their new relationship, and uses comedy to lighten the mood of the topics at hand. This balance confused some of the meaning from the original story, letting the audience laugh at some of Margot's concerns and see Robert in a different light than in the story. While it seems to work for the movie, it contradicts some meaning audiences relished in the short story.

Roupenian's "Cat Person" connected with audiences for her relatable description of a relationship, from the exciting first text exchanges, to the awkward dates, and ultimately the ending of their connection felt incredibly real as well. Many readers attached themselves to the relatable ending and how it paralleled their own experiences.

While its public release date is yet to be announced, "Cat Person" has already become a large topic of conversation yet again, years after the original fictitious short story's debut, thanks to the film's 2023 feature at Sundance.

2023 Sundance recap

Films, Q&A panels, events and so much more

STELLA SCHNEIDER
ASST. A&C EDITOR

OLIVIA SYNEK
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JESSICA MILLS
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

After a two year COVID-induced hiatus, the Sundance Film Festival returned to Park City, Utah this year with its former passion and commitment to independent film. Held from Jan. 19-29, USD students attended the festival through the intersession course American Independent Cinema (COMM 433). Along with other students, we arrived in Park City by Jan. 15 and learned about themes, distribution, economics and more in relation to independent cinema.

Senior Vice President and Provost Dr. Roger Pace and Dr. Eric Pierson have taught the course together since 2005.

“The [course] was designed to give students a film study experience outside of the traditional classroom,” Pace and Pierson explained. “[It] is an excellent example of ‘high-impact learning’ — from start to finish students are immersed in an engagement with film.”

High-impact learning typically takes place outside of the classroom, and while many courses offer community-based experiences and seminars, Dr. Pace and Dr. Pierson’s class fully immerses students into the film industry.

“The Sundance Festival offers films, panel discussions, Q&A after every screening, access to film professionals and a host of special events and speakers, which is more than we could offer in a Camino Hall classroom,” they explained. “The course often changes the ways students think about and discuss film, which at its core should be a goal for all academic experiences.”

Founded by Robert Redford in 1981, the Sundance Institute upholds the reputation of hosting one of the most prominent film festivals in the world. The nonprofit festival hopes to support talented and oftentimes unknown storytellers in getting their films screened.

Every year, the institute invites emerging filmmakers to the festival, in order for them to network with directors and get insider knowledge on the industry.

Sundance is an independent film festival, meaning only independent, or “indie” films, are screened. Independent film is reserved for movies that go against Hollywood norms.

Usually in indie films, characters are more important than the plot and the endings are unpredictable. Watching an independent film is an experience, and more often than a typical Hollywood film, it requires the audience to think

and even criticize the modern world, because many focus on present-day social issues.

There are roughly 100,000 attendees of the festival every year, and this year we got to go and take advantage of the opportunities that Sundance has to offer.

As editors of the USD Vista, the three of us had the opportunity to attend various press lines and red carpets to talk to the cast and crew of the movies premiering at Sundance this year.

Considering the big names contributing to many films this year, a lot of noteworthy members of the film industry walked the red carpets. From Will Ferrell to Tiffany Haddish, the red carpet was full of personality and well-known celebrities.

Ferrell attended the film festival as a producer of the new movie, “Theater Camp,” and Haddish was the lead actress and executive producer of the movie adaptation, “Landscape With Invisible Hand.” In interviews, they expressed their excitement for their respective projects premiering at Sundance.

Two-time Academy Award winner Jeremy Kleiner was at Sundance as a producer for “Landscape With Invisible Hand.” During the press line he showed his excitement for young people like us attending Sundance.

“That’s so cool you get to be a part of this... that’s amazing,” Kleiner said.

Not only were the press lines the time to learn about the movies premiering, but they also became great opportunities to connect with other individuals in the film industry. Getting to hear about how people got to where they are and talking to other journalists about what they do, taught us more about the ins and outs of the film industry.

This networking is not only possible in these press lines; it can happen anywhere in Park City during the time of the festival. Waiting in line for movies, going to a local coffee shop or stopping by Sundance sponsor pop-ups can get you that much closer to talking to other people in the film industry.

After watching a combined 73 films, we have curated a list of our favorite and least favorite movies.

Favorite films

“Victim/Suspect,” a documentary directed by Nancy Schwartzman, follows Rae de Leon, a reporter at the Center for Investigative Reporting. She discovers a shocking pattern of nationwide legal cases of women reporting their sexual assault to the police, only to then be accused of falsifying their allegations. These women are charged with crimes, such as filing a false police report, and, for many, end up spending time in prison.

Based on true events, de Leon collects firsthand



The cast, crew and producers of “Theater Camp” at the Sundance Film Festival premiere.

accounts from the survivors, their families, police officers and legal personnel.

The documentary was made with Netflix and is rumored to premiere on the platform later this year. The film discusses tough topics such as rape, and viewer discretion is advised.

Originally a short film, “Theater Camp,” created by Molly Gordon, Nick Lieberman, Ben Platt and Noah Galvin, premiered as a feature length film at Sundance this year. With all four returning to write, direct and star in the film, the movie was one of the most widely-discussed at the festival for its ensemble cast and hilarious mockumentary approach. When the founder of camp AdirondACTS falls into a coma, her son, Troy, must keep the camp running during its summer session. However, with his lack of theater knowledge and financial ruin looming over camp, Troy must work with other eclectic teachers at camp to figure everything out before opening night.

A great appeal of this film are the perfectly timed jokes and amazing improvisation by the cast members. In an interview with Will Ferrell, he applauds the improvisation in the movie.

“That’s what’s so cool about finally seeing [the film] put together was how cohesive it feels, even though the cast was improvising all of it,” Ferrell said. “Theater Camp” was picked up by Searchlight Pictures with a theatrical release later this year.

“The Eternal Memory” is another documentary, directed by Chilean filmmaker Maite Alberdi. It follows a married couple of 25 years in Chile who go through a challenge no couple ever wants to endure. Augusto and Paulina met when both were relatively famous, one being a journalist and TV personality and the other an actress.

Eight years prior to the movie’s start, Augusto was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, and Paulina decided to be Augusto’s caretaker, thinking of it as a blessing rather than a burden.

The documentary follows the couple through many ups and downs, but their love never wavers. Alberdi created a film that could have been dark and disheartening and turned it into one of the most beautiful and real love stories out there. MTV Documentary Films bought “The Eternal Memory” and will release the film in theaters this year.

Least favorite films

Director Jacqueline Castel premiered her midnight horror film “My Animal” at this year’s Sundance festival. Social misfit and queer hockey player Heather is kept on the sidelines of both the game and her life. Then she meets Jonny, a flirtatious figure skater that pushes Heather outside of her comfort zone, forcing Heather to embrace her darkest secret: she’s a werewolf.

Although Castel focuses on relevant issues — how draining it can be to suppress one’s sexuality and identity — “My Animal” ultimately bit off more than it could chew. The plot was predictable: Heather is able to find an escape through Jonny but eventually takes things too far and reveals her werewolf secret. The film regularly shows the teens drinking and driving, giving the impression that the actions are condoned. In our collective opinion, the characters were underdeveloped and contributed to the film’s disappointing flatness.

Alice Engert wrote, directed, co-produced, co-composed and acted in “Bad Behaviour,” a film about a mother with toxic habits attending a silent retreat. On the other end of the

Stella Schneider/The USD Vista world is her daughter, played by Alice Engert herself, a stunt person training for a fight scene, who worries about her mother and their codependent relationship. In this film about anger, past relationships and toxic behavior, the storyline feels erratic and meaningless.

The tone was all over the place, and the film struggled to fully dive into the plot and characters, leaving the development of both characters feeling aimless. This was the only film in our screenings where no one clapped when the credits rolled.

“Fair Play,” directed by Chloe Domont, portrays a secret office relationship gone wrong. Emily and Luke spark up a relationship that quickly turns into an engagement, but no one at work has any idea the two are seeing each other. When a promotion is up for grabs and is given to Emily, Luke becomes enraged and disrespectful. The film continues with moments of abuse and assault, because a woman threatens the power of a man.

While female filmmakers are finally emerging, it is confusing why a film about disrespect and objectification in the workplace needs to be released. Hollywood already has tons of these types of films, one popular example being “The Wolf of Wall Street.” “Bridgerton” actress Phoebe Dynevor is the only thing that saved the predictableness of the film. Netflix ended up buying the film for \$20 million dollars, showing that Netflix was willing to spend big in order to keep Dynevor’s work on their platform.

Overall, the Sundance Film Festival was a unique and once-in-a-lifetime experience to attend as college journalists. Dr. Pace and Dr. Pierson will likely continue this tradition for years to come, and we highly recommend that students jump at the opportunity.

SPORTS

What it takes to start a club sport at USD

Club sports leaders reflect on creating new sports clubs on campus

AMARA BROOKS
SPORTS EDITOR

From Manchester Field to Mission Bay and the pilates studio, over 500 students at the University of San Diego take part in one of the 22+ club sports offered on campus. Club sports like lacrosse, sailing, pickleball and pilates allow students to pursue leadership roles while experiencing competitive or recreational sports.

Every club sport varies in size, season and player ability, but one thing that remains consistent is that each sport is student-run and led. Students leading and participating in club sports are responsible for scheduling and budgeting events for their team, while also utilizing leadership tools to curate sportsmanship and teamwork.

Students who are interested in starting a club sport team are required to complete the following six-item checklist created by Campus Recreation to begin the process, a prospective club must have at least 10 people recruited to join. Once members have been recruited, clubs must assign at least three people to mandatory Club Leadership positions: General Manager, Finance Officer and a Risk Manager. Those placed into these leadership positions are required to attend mandatory Campus Rec. leadership development meetings. Once positions are filled, Campus Rec asks members to read through the Club Member handbook, which outlines the specific policies and procedures all Sport Clubs are required to follow. Before the club is finalized, the club must assign an advisor who must be a USD staff or employee. Once these steps have been completed, the prospective club can submit a "New Club Application" followed by an email to Competitive Sports and Facilities Supervisor Jeff Cirillo to set up a meeting with Campus Rec. staff to review the application, talk about following procedures and begin a budgeting conversation.

USD sophomore and Vice President of Club Pickleball, Nina Pignatello explained that Campus Rec.'s support made the process of starting a new club on campus fairly easy.

"We started meeting with Jeff Cirillo, Alec Parks and Serena Gandara to discuss details. We initially needed at least 10 members to start the club. We then stayed in communication with Campus Rec and followed the steps they laid out for us. By Spring 2022, the club was up and running."

Creating a club sport can come with its fair share of challenges, especially when it comes to funding. Associated



USD Club Pickleball uses the Alcalá Bazaar to help them obtain new members.

Photo courtesy of Nina Pignatello

Student Government (ASG) only partially funds teams, with the rest of club funds heavily dependent on their own fundraising and donations. Campus Rec. states on their website that "there might be some money available through the Campus Rec department to support." However, clubs are not guaranteed financial support from the department.

To help cover the costs of equipment and dues to Campus Rec, each club can decide how they wish to come up with the extra funds. Piagtello described how Club Pickleball started by charging membership dues for players.

"Initially, we decided to charge members \$50 per semester in membership dues. \$35 of that \$50 goes straight to Campus Rec for insurance purposes," Piagtello explained. "Last semester, we bought all new paddles and balls for the club. Now, we have decided to increase our dues to \$75 so we're able to get team sweatshirts and replace old or broken equipment."

Now, after a full year of being an official club sport on campus, pickleball is involved in various tournaments where they compete against other colleges, including Point Loma, SDSU and Loyola Marymount University. The club is open to all playing levels and is now being offered as a 0.5 credit course that students can register for.

While managing the financial aspect of running a club sport is important, maintaining club participation is also a significant hardship of running a club sport at USD. Along with budgeting and finances, consistent participation from other students can add to the list of difficulties when running a club.

To spread the word and gain more members, Pignatello explained how the Alcalá Bazaar helped Club Pickleball obtain new members.

"One of the biggest challenges of starting a club sport on campus is getting the word out to students. Our first semester as a club, we had about 10-15 students regularly show up to practice," Pignatello shared. "The Alcalá Bazaar is super helpful by allowing us to spread the word... and now we're at about 60 members signed up."

Over the past year, USD's Pilates Club has shown that with good marketing and an active Instagram presence, attracting student participants might not be as challenging as initially thought. The Pilates Club, which became official on March 22, 2022, has since gained almost 500 Instagram followers and a

strong engagement between club members and leaders. Megan Soong, President of the USD Pilates Club, shared how they have used Instagram to market themselves to USD students.

"With the help of our Marketing Director Arlethi Quintero, we have been able to use Instagram to engage with students and have found it the best way for students to receive information on Pilates events," Soong said. "We gained many of our followers by following students that followed similar accounts and by targeting 'Class of' Instagram accounts."

According to ToreroOrgs, USD Pilates Club currently has the most registered members, as they reached over 200 members this past November. Since their first class, the Pilates Club has only continued to grow as every mat has been filled up in their

studio at the Sports Center.

According to Soong, one huge achievement of the club has been their high number of male participants in classes, since many classes are typically female driven.

"Even guys have started to join the class, which is exciting to know that everyone feels encouraged to participate," Soong shared.

With the support and guidance of Campus Recreation starting a new sport club can be a rewarding experience. Sport Clubs allow students to take on a wide range of leadership roles and connect with various members from the community that they wouldn't have relationships with otherwise, while also being a great way to gain some extra course credits, or add some physical movement throughout the week.



USD Club Pilates has the most registered members, with over 200 active members.

Photo courtesy of Megan Soong

Super Bowl LVII

The importance of representation in football for aspiring players

Super Bowl from Page 1

quarterbacks in the NFL are white. Many Black players in the sport are often “typecast” to certain positions, the quarterback spot not being one of them. Black quarterbacks are rarely given the chance. Currently, out of 32 NFL teams, there are 11 Black starting quarterbacks in the league.

Rashaan Ward, USD senior and wide receiver on the football team shared his thoughts on the Super Bowl matchup.

“I’m taking the Eagles. I like Jalen Hurts a lot and my uncle used to play for the Eagles, so I have to root for them,” Ward said. “I feel like Black quarterbacks don’t get the credit they deserve, and now there is a shift in changing the views on a Black player being a quarterback. Times are changing.”

Now, both quarterbacks are in the running for this year’s Most Valuable Player (MVP) title.

The Philadelphia Eagles finished the regular season with a 14-3 record. Hurts, who had an impressive season with the Eagles went undefeated until week 10, when they picked up their first loss of the season to the Washington Commanders. Hurts’ presence on the team is undeniable, as the Eagles lost both games that Hurts missed due to a sprained right

shoulder injury at the end of the regular season. Hurts’ shoulder didn’t slow the QB down when he had one of the four rushing touchdowns that allowed the Philadelphia Eagles to beat the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC Championship.

Patrick Mahomes, who is similarly going into the game with an injury, has been dealing with a high ankle sprain, which has made viewers skeptical of the QB’s mobility. Mahomes proved that the ankle sprain would not be a problem in his win against the Cincinnati Bengals to advance to the Championship game. This will mark the third time in five years that the Chiefs have made it to the Super Bowl. The Chiefs also finished the regular season with a 14-3 record.

USD senior Wisdom Choice described her thoughts on the upcoming game and the importance these quarterbacks, especially Patrick Mahomes play for current athletes.

“[He’s] coming from a small town and a second tier school in Texas, as a non player it’s exciting to see a Black man coming from his background and offer other Black men that inspiration that they can make it out of tough situations,” Choice explained. “Him and Jalen have opposing playing styles so it’ll be



The Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs face off in Super Bowl LVII.

Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

a fun game to watch. Mahomes is more quick responding than Jalen so I’m interested in how that dynamic will play out.”

This year’s Super Bowl is also making headlines as nine-time Grammy winner Rihanna will be performing at the Super Bowl LVII halftime show. This show marks the first time the singer has performed since her 2018 Grammy performance of “Wild Thoughts.” The singer has been on a lengthy hiatus after her 2016 album ‘ANTI.’ However,

since the announcement of her Super Bowl performance it appears she’s returning to music. In Nov. 2022 the singer started her return by joining the soundtrack of “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” with the song “Lift Me Up.”

Jane Riehs, a USD sophomore, shared that she is tuning in just for the Super Bowl Halftime Show.

“I am really excited to see her perform, when she was first announced I was

shocked.” Riehs exclaimed. “I am definitely going to watch the halftime show; I don’t know about the football part though.”

The NFL predicted that this game will be viewed by an estimated 208 million people. This report comes after last year’s Super Bowl LVI was watched by approximately two-thirds of the US population. The game will be screened on campus in Frank’s Lounge, where students can gather together to watch with others from the USD community.

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