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The Pacifican

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Nov 7, 2020 · 2 min read

A Quarantined Sports Fan

By: Chelsea Igtanloc

The crack of a bat after a nice swing, the swoosh of a net, and the blow of a whistle are a sports fan's favorite noises. Sports are back, meaning that we will get to hear them all once again, but there is one small difference. Instead of cozy bleachers and arena seats, fans are going to have to trade it in for the comfort of their own home. COVID-19 has not been nice to athletes and their games, even to the point where seasons have been put on hold. Recently, some athletics were able to start up again with many restrictions, leading to a very different experience for the players and the spectators.

For MLB fans, July 23rd was a day everyone had waited for: the start of a new season. With spring training cancelled, the players came back to their home fields on July 1st for "Summer Camp", or spring training 2.0, to prepare for opening day since all spring training facilities shut down in Arizona and Florida due to COVID-19. Instead of being fully open for opening day, arenas were empty of fans, cheers, and garlic fries.

The only sign of human life were cardboard cutouts of fans who paid a good amount of money for them. These ranged in price from \$99 for the San Francisco Giants up to \$299 for the LA Dodgers Pavilion Home Run seats. In a game with the Giants, Dodgers' catcher Will Smith hit a home run that also hit the head of a fan's cardboard cut-out. Austin Donley, the owner of the headless cut-out, then tweeted Will Smith asking if he could keep the ball. "Sorry I took your head off ... shoot me a D.M. and I'll hook it up for you," replied Smith to Donley.

Other sports have also adopted some form of a bleacher fan experience. After being paused on March 11th, the NBA proceeded with their conference finals on July 30th with a planned end of the season on October 13th. Large virtual screens take the place of cardboard cut-outs. Fans were propped up to their own cameras while being seated on a cartoon seat. It has also been a hit for everyone, including celebrities such as rapper Lil' Wayne.

With obvious measures to keep players and staff healthy, professional sports are doing the best they can to give the fans the full experience. Although this is not the season sports lovers had hoped for, it is nice to have a taste of the experience, even in a virtual setting. Watching games in pajamas will definitely be missed post-COVID, but it is incomparable to the real experience of a sports game.



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Nov 17, 2020 · 4 min read

Pacific Students Attend Independent Filmmaker Project Week

By: Angelique Doty

From Sunday, September 20 to Wednesday, September 23, the Media X Department offered an opportunity for students to participate in the 42nd annual Independent Filmmaker Project Week, also known as IFP Week. This event traditionally takes place in New York, but due to the pandemic's new virtual circumstances and a grant the department received, the event was available to attend online. A series of lectures and networking sessions were put on during the day, and Pacific students had the option to choose which events to participate in. Student participants were required to attend 1–2 panels a day from Sunday until Wednesday, write a one-page reflection, and take 2–3 pictures of themselves attending the events for the social media page.

The IFP Project Forum provides career opportunities to help filmmakers of all experience levels. This is the leading platform in America for creating independent projects. The main goal of the Project Forum is to set the foundation for building careers in this industry. The multiple daily conferences and panels with a variety of speakers and topics covered provide a strong chance for Pacific's Media X students to become more educated in this industry from leading professionals.

Katie Chambers, Community Engagement Director at NYWIFT, talks about her experience managing the Communications and Membership Departments and co-producing the two annual awards shows, The Muse Awards and Designing Woman Awards. "We advocate for equality in the screen industries and support women at every stage of their careers," says Chambers. Due to the pandemic regulations, this year's events had to be held virtually for the safety of all the participants and speakers. Chambers spoke highly of her experience, describing the event as an open opportunity for people to network and virtually gather to share ideas and discuss their current projects.

The New York Women in Film and Television Mixer event provided artists a chance to meet and network despite the limitations from the new virtual lifestyle. NYWIFT has been proficient despite the pandemic regulations, producing more than sixty virtual educational and networking programs since the closure in March, according to Katie Chambers, the Community Engagement Director for NYWIFT. The goal of this institution is to support women's career goals in the industries of filmmaking, television, and other digital creative work. Leading men and women in these industries help educate and provide information for others learning to build and further develop their career paths in filmmaking and television.

Kevin Pontuti, Filmmaker and Department Chair at the University of the Pacific, shared his personal experience with the IFP event. He was signed up for the week-long event, then decided to open the opportunity for Media X students to get involved because it serves as an open door to network, get professional contacts, and learn from the virtual workshops to help students build their career path. His goal with opening this event up to students was to connect the Media X majors of all college standing with IFP to get more involved in hopes of establishing a better understanding of current filmmaking. Pontuti had the chance to meet sixteen influencers from the “Meet the Decision Makers” sessions later in the week and appreciated the recordings available for watching even after the live panels ended.

He recommends Media X students get involved with IFP’s year-round programming, especially since the events are easier to access now that they are all virtual. Pontuti is looking forward to the Game Developer conference that will likely be online this spring but may take place in San Francisco. Despite the global trauma caused by the pandemic, he sees all the virtual events as one positive outcome to make this dire situation a little more bearable, while preparing students for a professional career after graduation. “If there ever was a silver lining to the volatile current times, the shift to virtual events like this has opened up access in a way that was never considered before. We have so much access to events and speakers through these online events, and I do hope they continue even when we are back in person,” he added.

Juliana Jackson, class of 2022 Media X student, Pacific Film Club President, and participant in IFP week discussed her experience attending the seminars led by industry professionals and learning more about improving her own film projects. She found the networking events to be helpful in making contacts. She learned from directors and writers of current film/TV pieces such as *The Devil All the Time*, *Little Fires Everywhere*, *I’m Thinking of Ending Things*, and *Betty*. The seminars provided tips on succeeding in the entertainment career path. “I personally gained a sense of unity when hearing from directors and writers who are successful, but also face some of the same production problems as myself. I also found that a lot of the self-doubt that comes with each creative endeavor is universal for filmmakers and learned how to push through that in order to create the story you want to tell,” says Juliana Jackson. Chambers, Pontuti, and Jackson all recommend these events to future Media X students, creatives, and filmmakers looking to expand their network as well as enhancing their creative skills.



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Nov 17, 2020 · 3 min read

Pacific Students Navigate Thanksgiving During the Pandemic

By: Jane Hwang

Holidays, for many, are often pleasant ways for people to gather with friends and family and make fun memories that will last a lifetime. However, due to COVID-19, celebrations are going to look a lot different this year, especially for those who are traveling. According to Elaine Glusac, in her article “Holiday Travel and Safety: 5 Things We Know”, Destination Analysts’ market research firm discovered in their most recent weekly survey that “only 28% [of 1,200 Americans] expected to travel for the holidays”. For some of the university’s students, COVID-19 has caused them to revise their original holiday plans that involve traveling.

Zahid Rasuli, Pre-Dent/Biology ’23, and his family often go to his grandparents’ home on Thanksgiving to cook food and go Black Friday shopping together but he notes that this year, the plan is to either have less people attend or move to the backyard.

“The downsides to celebrating online is that you don’t get to see them in person and it does not really feel as special,” Rasuli says. “The good thing is that it gives people incentives to call people they haven’t called in a while because there wouldn’t be a crowd of people distracting you from your phone.”

Christmas is a holiday that Janelle Barayuga, Psychology ’24, always looks forward to. She recalls a pleasant memory that occurred one Noche Buena, the Filipino name for Christmas Eve, while she was in the Philippines with her family: during the middle of cooking and cleaning, everyone spontaneously began to sing, dance, and laugh while using pots and pans as instruments. “Doing everything virtually is tiring itself, but all in all, it’s for everyone’s safety because traveling has a major impact on everyone’s

health,” says Barayuga. “I think it won’t be the same comparing pre-COVID times to now but as long as we put in the effort to maintain traditions and have fun, the happiness and memories that were shared before will carry onto now.”

For some university students, despite the limitations placed on traveling, COVID-19 have not affected their plans significantly. Tiaam Majzoubi, English '24, often celebrates Christmas with just her family rather than inviting people over or attending other people’s parties so she doesn’t think that COVID-19 will affect her family too much. Majzoubi supposes that most other families are going to utilize Zoom or FaceTime so everyone can stay safe while saving money. “I think people will find new ways of interacting with family,” says Majzoubi. She notes that there have been ways to work around certain restrictions while keeping people safe. “Just recently, the nursing home where my grandfather lives introduced a plastic dome that family members can use to see their folks and interact with them in person.”

For those who are planning on traveling to visit other family members in different states or countries, Hillary Simon’s article “What to expect during holiday travel during COVID-19 pandemic” brings to light some notes made by Dr. Michael Saag, an infectious disease specialist at The University of Alabama Birmingham, regarding holiday travels and airports. While he states that exposure is less likely to happen with proper spacing and mask wearing on airplanes, there is still some risk.

“ if you are flying home...be careful at the airport and when you get to your destination, stay home. Do not visit restaurants or bars as those pose a higher risk of contracting the virus...I think we need to take precaution and...have smaller groups, 5–7 people...It won’t be the same but we’re in unusual times.”



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Nov 17, 2020 · 5 min read

Justice Amy Coney Barret and the Future of the Supreme Court

By: Isabel Acevedo

After the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, on September 18th, 2020, a seat opened up on the Supreme Court. Republicans pushed for a nomination to take her place and soon President Trump produced one: Amy Coney Barrett, a conservative judge and favored pick. With her confirmation came controversy over her past rulings as well as opposition from the Democrats. As of October 27, 2020, Amy Coney Barrett has been confirmed to replace Ginsburg as the newest Supreme Court Justice. With her nomination, there has been heavy discussion about her forthcoming rulings as a conservative justice as well as the future of the United States Supreme Court.

Amy Coney Barrett graduated first in her class from the University of Notre Dame's Law School. After graduation, she worked as a clerk for Justice Antonin Scalia, a conservative judge. Like Justice Scalia, Barrett considers herself an originalist, meaning she believes the Constitution should be interpreted as the authors intended for it to be written. She is also Roman Catholic, but maintains that her religious view does not compromise her political decisions. This background made her a strong pick as a conservative justice to replace Ginsburg and continues the legacy of three women on the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has a total of nine justices that hold life-long terms. Historically, there has been a long history of either a majority of liberal justices or a majority of conservative justices. Professor Keith Smith, Associate Professor of the Department of Political Science, at Pacific says that with both the loss of Ginsburg and the addition of Barrett, the court will move to a more "originalist, textualist approach." With six out of nine justices leaning right, the court is currently a conservative majority. Since partisan majority is a normal circumstance, it was expected for President Trump to fill the seat with someone who follows the ideals of his own party.

However, because her confirmation was so close to the election, there was an uproar that Barrett was nominated weeks before Election Day, when the possibility of a second Trump term was still in limbo. In addition, in 2016, the Republicans in the Senate blocked President Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland to fill Justice Scalia's seat after he passed away. They gave the same reason as the Democrats said in 2020; Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, stated that they did not want to nominate a new justice so close to Election Day. Professor Smith commented that "Mitch McConnell's excuse for denying the nomination was unnecessary since it was constitutional. The Senate can choose to deny or accept a nominee regardless of party affiliation, as is their constitutional right. The Republicans made a disingenuous argument the first time and are now acknowledging their disingenuous argument." Likewise, Professor Dari Tran, another professor in the Department of Political Science, says that "any party would want to take advantage of this relatively rare occasion to nominate a justice with shared ideological views."

Amy Coney Barrett is not the first judge President Trump has nominated. Since his term as president, he has nominated and seated Justice Neil Gorsuch, Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and now Justice Amy Coney Barrett, something that is not easily accomplished in one term. Professor Tran states that Trump's nomination of Barret would "appease a large part of his political base," particularly because many recent court decisions have been "out of alignment with their socially conservative ideological views. [Such as] abortion rights established in *Roe [v. Wade]* to solidifying the right of same sex couples to marry at the federal level through *Obergefell [v. Hodges]*." In addition, Trump has also chosen to nominate relatively young justices which might lead to several decades of conservative ruling.

Shortly after President Trump's nomination, there was a discussion about the concept of court packing. Court packing is a term referring to adding more justices to the Supreme Court, in this case, to balance out the majority of conservative justices. There has been debate about whether or not this would depoliticize the court, since justices may vote according to their personal political affiliations. Professor Smith explains why court packing would not depoliticize the Supreme Court. He states that "court packing would be a move to blunt the current status quo that adds justices to balance out the conservative justices on the court. It would only further politicize the court." He does add, however, that it is only tradition to have nine justices on the court and not written in any law. Should there be a

Democratic win, there could be a law passed that allows for more justices on Supreme Court.

According to Professor Tran, “The Supreme Court — the head of the judicial branch of the U.S. government — is theoretically supposed to be the least political branch intentionally structured to provide justices with non-elected, lifetime terms.” To achieve this, the solution may not be to add more justices to the court, but something that involves modifying our current system. Professor Smith suggest a possible solution could be to “limit the term of the justices which could, potentially, down the line, depoliticize the court.” Professor Tran provides another solution which would be to have new justices be selected by a panel of legal professionals or bipartisan legislators. Regardless of the solution, depoliticizing the court could be the answer to appeasing the heavily divided parties.

Finally, with the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett came accusations of her inadequate ability to be a justice due to her religious beliefs. Despite her denial, these accusations said that her faith had influenced her decisions on the cases she had ruled on as a federal judge. Justices like Amy Coney Barrett have long been criticized for having strong religious backgrounds. There are many who believe that Supreme Court Justices are to strictly interpret the Constitution and follow set precedents. Others say that justices have their own thoughts and beliefs which they should use in order to make the decisions that they believe best serve the country and align with the Constitution. Professor Tran agrees that it may be difficult to fully eradicate one’s decision making from their beliefs but states that “just as the elections officers who are tasked with counting ballots (even when those ballots don’t match with their preferences) are hired for their ability to impartially enumerate votes, so should justices be able to impartially uphold the law.”

Professor Smith makes the important distinction that people should not be criticizing Justice Barrett because she thinks differently or makes decisions that go against their own beliefs. He states that, “every single person makes decisions about what is right or wrong based on our personal beliefs. Yes, her judicial philosophy is strongly based on her life experiences and who she is. But asking her to let go of all of that so she adopts a philosophy that fits other’s views would be asking her to deny who she is and be anything other than human.”



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Nov 19, 2020 · 3 min read

Police Brutality- A Common Theme Worldwide

By: Ramneet Jande

Across the world law enforcement agencies are created in order to protect their citizens, to keep the peace of communities, and to apprehend criminals to be tried in court. They are an extension of the justice system and citizens trust them to act in their best interest. However for years, countries across the globe have drawn attention to acts of police brutality and excessive violence used on citizens. In the United States, there have been countless instances where the police force have disproportionately used excess force on citizens of color, sometimes fatally.

The US isn't the only country grappling with this problem. Citizens in Nigeria are also advocating for police reform in their country. The Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) was created to control a crime surge in 1992 in Nigeria. However, this group soon started targeting and subjecting vulnerable citizens to brutality and was known for blackmailing, kidnapping, and extrajudicial killing amongst other things. Displays of this violence posted on various social media platforms, such as Twitter, created a large movement, titled #endSARS which called for the government to disband the force. In October of 2020, SARS police officer shot a young Nigerian man in front of the Wetland Hotel in Ughelli, Delta State, leading nationwide protests. Soon after, a peaceful #endSARS protest in Lagos, Nigeria sparked outrage when Nigerian soldiers opened fire on the protestors, reminiscent of Black Lives Matter protesters being pelted with rubber bullets and tear gas in the United States. President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria agreed to disband the force but protestors were outraged at the fact that many officers were going to be redeployed.

Police brutality remains an issue in many democracies. In France, police have used excessive forces to crack down on the Yellow Vests protests, a movement pushing for economic equality in the French working class. In Kenya and Nigeria, police have killed up to 30 people when enforcing coronavirus restrictions. According to The Prison Policy

Initiative, the U.S. leads most wealthy democracies in police killings with an average of 33.5 killings per 10 million people. To increase the trust within communities of color and the police force, more officers of color were hired. However, The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education reported in 2017 that hiring more Black officers did not help reduce the shooting of African-Americans by police.

So what's the solution to this?

Dr. Cristina Ortiz, a Pacific professor from the Sociology Department, writes that police misconduct occurs due to lack of education, racism, bias, and lack of exposure. "There needs to be stricter requirements for entering this profession," she says. "If you give an 18 year-old the type of power that you give a police officer and don't ever require them to develop a deeper understanding of institutional racism and the power dynamics that exist within our society, then you can't be surprised when these types of incidents occur." Ortiz also added that research shows that if a police officer has a college degree they are less likely to use violence because they have better problem-solving skills, have better relationships with the communities they serve, and are better leaders. This is not to say that education will solve the issue entirely, but it can't hurt," she added.

Both the Black Lives Matter and #endSARS movement calls for defunding the police. Both movements agree that instead of funding police institution, resources would be better allocated towards important determinants of racial and social class inequality such as education, housing, and healthcare. Ortiz commented that, "Police brutality has occurred for quite some time. It is nothing new to communities of color — especially the Black community — but is now being highlighted due to social media and the fact that everyone is carrying a camera."



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Nov 19, 2020 · 3 min read

Among Pacific

By: Jasmin Prasad

Perhaps one of the few positive outcomes of the global pandemic has been the amount of time that individuals have been able to devote to new hobbies and interests. More specifically, to hobbies that they would have *never* dabbled in before. One activity that has become widely popular is an app game called Among Us, where unsuspecting astronauts try to complete tasks that will ensure a steady ride into space, all the while imposter astronauts kill them off one by one in a murderous escapade.

In truth, the indie game “Among Us,” is not as scary as its description. The “unsuspecting astronauts” are actually tiny, oblong space women and space men that measure about 3 feet in height. When the imposter kills their unwitting victim, the death is not at all spine chilling; rather the dead bodies resemble a fallen cartoon chicken leg. Such features largely contributed to the popularity of “Among Us.” This is of course, coupled with the fact that many were looking for new activities in replacement of lost social interactions. The fact that InnerSloth, a video game developer, created Among Us in 2018, but the game did not catch on with people until recently illustrates how the pandemic has helped propel its popularity.

Just like any type of media that gains a massive following, there is a myriad of different stereotypes created from personality traits that coincide with the color that players pick for their astronaut. This is only a possibility of course, due to the wide range of colors, suits, and accessories available for customization. Players are able to pick which color they would like their astronaut to be; they are also able to pick skins overtop their color, hats, and pets. Perhaps the most notoriously known ones are that red and cyan are the most suspicious whilst pink and orange are the most wholesome and never accused.

In a poll carried out via Google Forms for the Pacific “Among Us” community, it was found that orange was the most commonly used color in true tiger spirit. Additionally, the most

popular hat is the yellow sticky note that says “DUM” on it.

Within the game, there are specific tasks denoted to each player; these tasks are spread out around the spaceship, and completing them warrants a steady journey into space with the ejection of imposters after full completion (from every player). There was largely no variation by color; most of the colors are upstanding in finishing their tasks responding with “yes” or “maybe.” Interestingly, there was little to no variation for specific colors always getting accused. One would assume that with the amount of people who picked pink and orange and said that they follow others around in the game that pink and orange will be accused first. The lack of correlation may be attributed to the more wholesome stereotype associated with pink and orange. Red and cyan were picked as the most suspicious and subsequently most likely colors to be an imposter — to seasoned “Among Us” players, this is no surprise. Although, there was one individual who made an overwhelming case as to why brown is always the *most* overlooked suspicious color.

The emergency meeting button seems underutilized in the Pacific “Among Us” community, with only a couple individuals choosing “yes” for whether or not they call them often. And while there was no specific trend for a color that always wins the game, a majority of those who picked pink, orange, and yellow said that they never win.

Almost all of the respondents maintained that they only played “Among Us” here and there: an understandable outcome so as college students simply do not have *that much* time to decipher who the imposter is in a rainbow of colors. But when those in the Pacific community find the time to play, they should always remember that red is always the most suspicious.



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Nov 20, 2020 · 3 min read

The World Outside of STEM

By: Chelsea Igtanloc

Pacific is often labelled as a science focused school, drawing students across the globe for its Dental and Pharmacy pre-professional programs. Students are often pushed towards the STEM field, citing good job opportunities with comfortable salaries. Although the STEM field is great, it is important for Pacific students to obtain a well-rounded education, with courses in the arts, humanities, etc. As funding for the liberal arts chips away, it is important to keep in mind the value these classes have, even for students entering into the health field.

The key to getting a balanced education may lie in the General Educations or GE classes. Yes, obtaining a STEM degree is very difficult all in itself, and sadly many students prioritize these courses so much to the point that they do not see the purpose in GEs or extracurriculars. GEs and extracurriculars, however, give students the capability to get out of their comfort zones. In fact, companies often value students with more of a diverse background. In 2013, Google tested what skills were most important from all employees since its making in 1998, and found that STEM was one of the least needed. The top qualities were being a good coach, having a clear vision and strategy for a team, and being a good communicator, skills not necessarily taught in the average BIO 061 or CHEM 025 class.

Other than GEs, participating in extracurriculars is a great way to explore different interests and build new skills. Jonas Sung, a Pacific alumni '18 with a degree in bioengineering from SOECS, acknowledged and explored his own traits through many different extracurriculars. During his time at Pacific, he joined the Pacific One Word Project, Kilusan Hooligans Dance, Hooligan Apparel, Kilusan Pilipino, Pacific Photography Club, and even dabbled in DJing. "I've always thought of my extracurricular activities as valuable supplements to my education during undergrad," says Sung, "I've taken on leadership responsibilities in all

organizations and groups I've been a part of, equipping me to have the knowledge and skills be a good team member and leader in my current job. The activities are far from what my job consists of, but the collaborative and leadership aspect is transferable." He is now focusing on his early career within a small-size biotech company, does photography and DJing on weekends, and even picked up rock climbing.

Professor Shelly Gulati, chair of the bioengineering department in the School of Engineering and Computer Science, uses a variety of different skills that are not STEM-inspired. In her leadership position, she creates strategic direction in planning what needs to be done for her department, whether that be purchasing supplies or figuring out ways in how to grow their team. In advising, she works with students in creating a career for themselves in the future and pushes them to find what their passions are. "The reality is that every graduate of a specific degree has that basic technical knowledge," says Gulati. "It's all the other things that you bring that make you the unique candidate for the job, the unique person who brings 2 or 3 ideas together and makes this brand new category that we never knew existed on what you could be."

Getting out of your comfort zone is also not limited to STEM, but is also a life lesson for everyone to explore what they are passionate about. Professor Ken Albala from the history department came to Pacific to teach about the Renaissance and asked if he could teach a general education course on food. He now teaches an excellent class called *Global History of Food*. "Your life will be more enjoyable if you are better trained to look at things and appreciate them and understand the context," says Albala on seeing the world outside of your intended major. "You'll enjoy the music and the art you look at everyday more if you have the critical tools to look objectively."

If you are a STEM major, consider this as an invitation to explore different fields and use extracurriculars and GEs to build new skill sets and find new interests. It can help you build leadership skills and learn how to work with a team, which are traits highly valued in the work force. Worst case- it's something to put on your resume.



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Nov 20, 2020 · 6 min read

Recognizing the Struggles of Conducting Lab Online

By: Jasmin Prasad

If you've ever been downing some Red Bull well into the night while listening to the sounds of your computer heaving noises, then you know what it's like to run "Labster" on your laptop. The comical simulations coupled with the monotonous voice that seems to be coming out of a single robotic eye does not make for a pleasant experience.

Unfortunately, "Labster" isn't the only issue throughout this semester of online lab classes: several students are struggling not only with the functionality of the programs that they are forced to work with, but also comprehending the curriculum becomes increasingly difficult without a tangible, hands-on experience.

Even the simplest of labs — carrying a titration without sodium hydroxide and acetic acid — will perhaps never be understood both in functionality and theory without hands-on work. Further, learning these concepts in an entirely new format has been made seemingly worse with what seems to be an addition of more work than before to make up for lack of in-person education?.

Students Jackie Ngo, Biology, 23' and Mia Otani, Pre-pharmacy, 23' are no strangers to lab work both in person and online. Ngo maintains that there seems to be a surplus of work that has been assigned, also known as "busy work," to compensate for the lack of in-person services. Ngo says, "Previously, we didn't have to turn in long handouts, SimBio, and watch JoVE videos... and when there are experimental videos provided by the school, the camera quality and videography is not the best."

Internet and technical issues with laptops, computers, and software can occur at any time; Ngo gave accounts of instances where her piling work was harder to complete with Internet crashes or assignment submissions that wouldn't load — unfortunately rendering as an incomplete.

Otani agrees with the aforementioned statements preferencing having the SimBio used as a reference for important information rather than making it a graded assignment. Collectively, both Ngo and Otani agreed that the lab kits sent out by the bio lab department were helpful and did in fact allow for a hands-on experience which is much appreciated.

Concerning chemistry lab, Ngo cites “Labster” as being a large issue for her in General Chemistry 27 lab. “The simulation assignments are not helpful and can take hours to complete even while reading the theory section... I feel they are not relevant to the current lab,” Ngo maintains. Otani, in Organic Chemistry 121, shares the same struggles with chemistry lab and even some technical issues: “The videos provided by our labs are very low quality and the media player is very glitchy causing us to spend a lot of time longer with the observations videos than was necessary.”

Both Ngo and Otani agree that too much was expected of lab students this semester, and that adding work during an already trying time has not made this transition easier. Working together with people would make this process easier but as Ngo mentions, “personalized data specific to one person and different chemical solutions makes it harder to work together as you would if you were in person... this is the time where we need others’ assistance the most in order to understand the material and what we’re doing. I can’t even ask my classmates for help because we have different assigned molecules.”

The student testimonials from Ngo and Otani reverberate for *many* students taking science courses online; there certainly are not two inherently unique cases.

Acknowledging Hardships and Recipes to Success According to Organic Chemistry Lab TA Tre Andang

In an interview with Organic Chemistry Lab TA Tre Andang, a graduate student who is getting his Masters in Chemistry, he says, “I believe that for the most part [my students] get the concepts of what we’re doing in the lab and why we’re doing things... the problem is that the lab should be a hands-on experience.” Andang warrants that while the lab conducted over video may seem easy, that is because the lab TAs are experienced with such work.

“A big part of the lab is making mistakes and then coming to us... that’s when the TA and the student troubleshoot and go over how they can fix whatever happened. That part is really missing... a big part of learning is messing up,” Andang says when asked what disconnects exist between the learning lab online versus in person.

In terms of lab reports, Andang noted that the reports he grades are generally of the same quality in comparison to those based on hands on work. As can be agreed by many, Andang mentions that this “proves that the concepts are understood but the real question is whether [the students] are able to perform the experiments in the laboratory setting.”

Additionally, Andang faces his own set of technological problems where he states that he thought grading online would be easier when that is not the case: “I had to relearn how to grade and how to make things more efficient for myself... even in terms of teaching, it’s a lot harder because I don’t see much of the interaction with the students.”

Andang further agrees that such technological issues can pose a threat to the learning process in his observation of students who are struggling (while he does see a couple students who are outliers and seemingly thrive in this environment).

Thankfully, Andang was able to give advice for students in lab currently; Andang being a lab TA who knows the expectations of lab knows what is needed to succeed:

“Make sure to reach out to your T.A. or your Professor: I know it’s daunting, I’ve been an undergrad before... but trust me, we want to help. Students have to take the first step in asking... if you don’t reach out it seems like you don’t care. 99% of the time, [your TA’s and professors] will be like, great let’s work on this”.

On Trying Times and Tips to Learn According to Chemistry Professor Skylar Carlson

In an interview with Professor Skylar Carlson, who teaches General and Analytical Chemistry, Carlson maintains that students have largely always struggled with the transition from lecture to lab: “Something I have always tried to do in the classes that I am in charge of is, to make sure that I have a conversation with the people running the lab. This is my course, this lab needs to be moved back a week or needs to be moved up a week”.

Carlson recognizes that the very hands-on lab experiences — like learning how to use a buret — simply isn’t feasible online, so she has chosen to focus more on data interpretation: the stuff behind the scenes. She is also aware of “Labster” not being the most ideal software as she mentions that “it is not the most technologically advanced platform... we would all rather be in the laboratory for four hours than go through another “Labster” simulation, but that is our best attempt.”

Carlson also brings up an important fact; professors, like students, question how to move forward in the lab. “We all as faculty kind of sat down and were like, what are the essential skills that we are trying to get students to take with them at the end of the course?”

Like the students who are plagued with a myriad of technological issues, Carlson explains that she is no foreigner to these unfortunate events. She has experienced many instances of what she calls, “Canvas stabbing her in the back,” by uploading grades when she wasn’t ready or not readily (or easily) letting her update questions. There was even an instance when Zoom wouldn’t work on her iPad merely because the iPad needed to be updated. Another day, she had a “brown-out,” where her power had randomly crashed.

“When students email me and say that their power went out or ask if it’s okay that they’re using their hotspot so they can’t have their camera on, I say yes please... call in if you would rather and you can catch the recording another time,” Carlson says.

Carlson too has a series of tips for students who are struggling with learning lecture and lab concepts at home:

- “1. The internet is wide open. Feel free to use online resources like Khan Academy, but then go back and look at your instructors notes and recognize how your instructor wants you to solve them with a new set of eyes... understand them in context.
2. Get outside of your screens: you don't have to go outside or do anything artsy... read a book or go out for a walk. You have to be very selective about what you let into your mind.
3. Take care of yourself as a person before you move on with your studies; take time to reflect on what happened in the week”.



The Pacifican

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Nov 20, 2020 · 3 min read

New Forms of Political Outreach: (You)th Matter!

By: Angel Zhong

Since the ratification of the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age to 18, youth voter turnout has been the lowest relative to other electoral age groups. In addition, many young voters report feeling socially disenfranchised and having their political stances invalidated due to a perceived lack of experience or intellect. However, an emerging online phenomenon may be reframing the national conversation about the true power of young voters. As politicians such as Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) and Senator Bernie Sanders have shown in recent years, dedicating time and energy to connect with and thereby mobilize young voters in digital spaces is a valuable endeavor that can empower historically underrepresented electoral groups.

In September, now President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris pleasantly surprised the internet by unveiling an island in the wildly popular video game *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* devoted to promoting their campaign. The island is decked out with Biden-Harris signs, red, white, and blue houses, and even Biden and Harris themselves in miniature *Animal Crossing* forms. Players can visit the island and briefly converse with Biden who will, at times, respond with a characteristic “No Malarkey!” By younger voters especially, this move was well-received and marked the Biden-Harris campaign as personable. But why is that?

A phrase that has dominated political discourse in the U.S. for quite some time now is “who’s the guy you’d like to grab a beer with?” Embedded within this rhetorical inquiry is the idea that what really distinguishes politicians from one another is their perceived quality of character. In other words, people naturally gravitate towards

politicians who appear relatable and authentic, as opposed to policy-driven. According to Dr. Keith Smith, Associate Professor of Political Science, most politicians want to engender policy-neutral positive feelings when reaching out to constituents. Fundamental to this is interactivity, which is something that is easily provided through digital mediums. Platforms such as Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and Twitch enable politicians to meet young voters where they are, and, as a result, form parasocial relationships with them. Dr. Jeremy Johnson, Lecturer of Communication, describes a parasocial relationship as a “‘real’ relationship with someone you don’t actually know”. A common example of this would be characters in movies or T.V. shows that people feel palpably connected to.

When AOC cooks on Instagram Live or Bernie Sanders sits down for an interview with renowned rapper Cardi B., they are telling young voters they are a demographic worth being heard and that they are here to listen. Though they certainly won’t be able to read and respond to every comment, just the fact that their constituents can comment with the possibility of their opinion(s) and/or idea(s) being seen is profoundly impactful and unprecedented in U.S. politics. As stated by Dr. Charles Ecanberger, Lecturer of Communication, traditional broadcast media (e.g. mainstream news networks, radio shows, etc.) is a one-way form of communication; readers of newspapers or watchers of CNN or Fox don’t necessarily feel personally connected to the journalists, anchors, or politicians from whom they’re receiving information. New media bridges this gap by creating an avenue for two-way communication between public figures and the actual public. For the most part, these efforts have succeeded in mobilizing and empowering the youth, as exemplified by the record-setting turnout of young voters in this past election. This can’t wholly be attributed to the aforementioned online campaigning initiatives of politicians, but, as stated by Gavan McCoy, Media X and English ’21, “These new methods of connecting to new voters is certainly a reaction to the low turnout for 2016. When young people are discouraged to express their beliefs, they are less likely to vote for candidates with whom they agree; it’s not quite as simple as that, but it was definitely a contributing factor.” Thus, as politicians continue to meet young people where they are, we can hope to see a positive trend in youth voter turnout and overall political engagement.



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Nov 24, 2020 · 4 min read

Analysis: Debunking Voter Fraud and Why Joe Biden will be the Next President

By: Ramneet Jande

In an unexpected turn in the United States presidential election, current president Donald Trump is refusing to concede to President Elect Joseph R. Biden. The 2020 United States presidential election has been highly anticipated and watched all over the world. In the midst of a pandemic, the country is more divided than ever. Democratic nominee Joseph Biden and Republican President Donald Trump represent dramatically different views of how the country should be run.

The Associated Press, an American nonprofit news agency, called the race for Vice President Biden when he reached 290 electoral college votes, 20 more than the 270 votes needed to win the election. The final results of the election were 306 electoral votes for Biden and 232 for President Trump. Usually, after the race is called for a candidate, the runner-up will concede the election, as numerous other nominees have in past election years. President Donald Trump, however, has refused to do so and has cited several times that he has won the election via social media such as Twitter. Along with President Trump, the Republican party and several right wing news outlets are citing polling malpractice or voter fraud.

Dr. Keith Smith, an associate professor of Political Science at the University of the Pacific explains that voter fraud in the U.S. presidential election may occur, however the volume is so small that it does not affect the overall outcome of the election. It is a very rare occurrence and in the chance that it does happen there is a set of administrative checks in order to catch the fraud in person or through the mail.

This year due to the pandemic, many Americans decided to vote via mail in ballots, which President Trump claimed causes a lot of fraud. Professor Smith describes the process in place to ensure the ballots are legitimate. The ballot arrives by mail and after filling out the ballot, the voter will mail it back. The Registrar of Voters Department scans the ballot before even opening it up, and ensures that the voter's signature matches the one on file. They will also check to make sure the same citizen did not vote in person as well. States will also go through their own certification process to make sure every vote is counted correctly and then call the election. On ballotpedia.org, a nonprofit online encyclopedia of American elections and politics, they have confirmed that 15 states have passed their election results certification dates, with 35 left to pass their dates yet. Then in mid-December, electors will vote for

their states. Some states require that elector's vote according to their state's popular vote, although that is not the case for all.

A *New York Times* article, "The Times Called Officials in Every State: No Evidence of Voter Fraud," talks about how almost every official they have contacted from across 45 states has ensured them that no voter irregularities have occurred that would dramatically sway the election results. For the other four states, *The Times* reported they found public comments from state officials that said they also did not have issues.

Despite the overwhelming evidence that a Democratic nominee has been projected for the win, the current President refuses to concede and is pursuing litigation to undermine the legitimacy of several state's voting processes, therefore making it more difficult for the President elect to make his transition into office and causing political unrest. The Biden administration has had to launch a campaign asking for donations from the public in order to fund the transition due to the Trump administration refusing to collaborate with them. The irony of the government asking citizens for money in the middle of a pandemic is not lost. A Pacific Legal Scholar, Shivanjali Deo, Political Science Major and a Pre-law, Sociology, Public Affairs Minor '23 gives her thoughts on the election aftermath. She says that President Trump's "attempt to undermine and splash false claims about the voting process is really insulting to the process that we've had for decades. His false claims have also driven up his supporters who have been trying everything to change the results such as crowding ballot places and protesting heavily and sometimes dangerously."

Trump continues to make these claims despite overwhelming evidence against them, causing lots of people to believe him and undoubtedly causing more political unrest. As for him pursuing litigation, according to Professor Smith, it is unlikely that any of the cases will lead to a significant outcome that would change the election results, due to the fact that most of the claims of these lawsuits are false and have insufficient evidence. In an important turn of events, The Associated Press has just reported that a federal judge, Matthew Brann, has turned down President Trump's lawsuit which would stop vote certification in Pennsylvania. These votes can now be certified and show that Biden is leading. Regardless of President Trump breaking the norms and doing his best to change the election results, on Inauguration Day, when Biden is sworn in, he will cease to be president.



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Nov 24, 2020 · 3 min read

A Look at What Propositions Passed and Didn't in 2020 Election

By: Jane Hwang, Liliana Lopez

Many groups of people from a variety of states often take action through the use of propositions, which are suggested pieces of legislation that go through a process of being examined then possibly being approved. The propositions cover a vast amount of issues and topics such as healthcare, jobs, and privacy. According to John Myers' "A look at California's November ballot propositions", these are the 12 propositions that California voted for:

Proposition 14: Allows the government to issue another \$5.5 billion in bonds for stem cell research. Includes a mandate to improve patient access to stem cell treatments.

Proposition 15: Would hike up property taxes for big businesses. Property tax would be calculated based on property's current value, instead of on the value at the time of purchase.

Proposition 16: Reinstates affirmative action at the state level, especially in college admissions and state contract bids.

Proposition 17: Allows parolees to vote.

Proposition 18: Enables 17 year olds to vote in primary elections, provided they will be 18 by the time of the General Election.

Proposition 19: Californians who are 55+ and want to move would receive continued property tax breaks if they buy a new home

Proposition 20: Limits the choice of early parole for more crimes and expand punishments for some theft crimes

Proposition 21: Permits California's cities and counties to incorporate very strict rent control policies

Proposition 22: People who work in companies like Uber and Lyft are considered as independent contractors

Proposition 23: Rules for kidney dialysis centers would increase, such as having a minimum of one physician present during all hours and offering the same amount of care regardless of how the treatment is paid.

Proposition 24: Alters California’s new consumer privacy law and allows consumers to limit the shares of their personal information

Proposition 25: Eradicates cash bail for suspects

Statistics for California provided by KCRA News

Proposition 14: Passed, 51% voted yes

Proposition 15: Did not pass, 52% voted no

Proposition 16: Did not pass, 57.2% voted no

Proposition 17: Passed, 58.6% voted yes

Proposition 18: Did not pass, 56% voted no

Proposition 19: Passed, 51.1% voted yes

Proposition 20: Did not pass, 61.8% voted no

Proposition 21: Did not pass, 59.9% voted no

Proposition 22: Passed, 58.7% voted yes

Proposition 23: Did not pass, 63.5% voted no

Proposition 24: Passed, 56.2% voted yes

Proposition 25: Did not pass, 56.4% voted no

Statistics for San Joaquin County provided by Live Voter Turnout (AS OF NOV 19TH):

Proposition 14: Not Passed; out of 263,493 people, 51% voted no

Proposition 15: Not Passed; out of 267,915 people, 59% voted no

Proposition 16: Not Passed; out of 264,612 people, 65% voted no

Proposition 17: Passed; out of 438,365 people, 51% voted yes

Proposition 18: Not passed; out of 267,872 people, 65% voted no

Proposition 19: Passed; out of 262,932 people, 51% voted yes

Proposition 20: Not passed; out of 263,221 people, 60% voted no

Proposition 21: Not passed; out of 265,082 people, 65% voted no

Proposition 22: Passed; out of 266,922 people, 63% voted yes

Proposition 23: Not passed; out of 266,943 people, 67% voted no

Proposition 24: Passed; out of 263,882 people, 58% voted yes

Proposition 25: Not passed; out of 262,706 people, 62% voted no

Statistics for Stockton provided by Progressive Voters Guide (AS OF OCT 20TH)

Proposition 14: No Position

Proposition 15: Passed

Proposition 16: Passed

Proposition 17: Passed

Proposition 18: Passed

Proposition 19: Not passed

Proposition 20: Not passed

Proposition 21: Passed

Proposition 22: Not passed

Proposition 23: Passed

Proposition 24: Not passed

Proposition 25: Passed

This election year, California voted on twelve different propositions, ranging from matters involving prisons and the rights of parolees, property taxes and rent control, among others. For the most part, Californians voted for less government control and oversight, such as was the case with propositions 16, 21, 23, and 24. California also increased its voting base by restoring the vote to former felons (Prop. 17), though it did not give the vote to 17 year olds (Prop. 18). The right to vote, however, was not the only proposition to turn out in the favor of imprisoned/previously imprisoned persons, as Californians also voted “no” on Proposition 20, which would have enacted stricter sentencing for some misdemeanors. For many who voted on the propositions in this year’s elections, these results are the manifestation of what they perceive as the right steps towards creating a more just society. And civic life is full of these steps. As we have participated in the improvement of our democracy on Tuesday, November 3rd, let us also participate in it on all other days, and in all other moments.



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Nov 25, 2020 · 3 min read

Pacific Opens New Health Programs

By: Angel Zhong and Chelsea Igtanloc

Recently, Pacific has been building upon its reputation for excellence in healthcare education by providing more pathways for students interested in entering health and health-adjacent fields. Two notable examples of this are the newly-established School of Health Sciences headquartered in Sacramento and the incoming Health Studies program at the College of Pacific. Though the two sound interchangeable, there are considerable differences between Health Sciences and Health Studies that students should be aware of.

Soon, Pacific will welcome a new health studies undergraduate program that will focus on non-clinical areas of health care. Preparing students for occupations such as hospital administration, public policy, and many more, the curriculum will consist of core classes and electives in the social sciences and humanities. Students will also be able to choose one out of three career-oriented concentrations: Health Leadership (business oriented, administrative), Health Policy (economics, political science), and Social Services (sociology, psychology, community health). The programs aim to include internships and possibly an accelerated program other than their current three-year Bachelor of Arts degree.

Dr. Sarah Mathis, the Interim Director of the new Health Studies department, shares that careers in non-clinical areas of healthcare are increasing very rapidly right now with a possible shortage in the next five years. “We need a lot of people that are sort of in the middle there that help facilitate good healthy behavior by studying psychology and sociology and political science and looking at how human behavior interacts with health,” says Mathis on the motivation behind starting the program, “Part of it was recognizing this growing need and part of it also was just that right now, a lot of these positions hire people who majored in different social sciences and humanities topics”. Mathis believes that Pacific students will have the advantage in this field since it centers its teaching around both health science and humanities rather than one by itself. Instead of big companies hiring students who major only in one of those fields, they can look to Pacific Health Studies students to kill two birds with one stone.

This past July, Pacific officially opened the doors of its new School of Health Sciences, based in Sacramento. It is the only Pacific school to host programs on all three campuses; among the eight programs it offers right now, two are in Stockton (Speech Language Pathology and Athletic Training), one is in San Francisco (Audiology), and

five are in Sacramento (Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Social Work, and the Physician's Assistant track). Moreover, in January 2022, the school will include a Master of Science in Nursing to its extensive repertoire. By next fall, the school hopes to institute specialized pre-health pathways that correspond with the above listed graduate programs for undergraduate students at the Stockton main campus.

According to Dr. Nicoleta Bugnariu, Founding Dean of the School of Health Sciences, the School plans on addressing job market trends and increasing demand for healthcare professionals, as well as the healthcare disparities present in the Central Valley: "Right now with COVID, we've seen it [the need for] nurses, physician assistants, and all types of therapists. That's one way for Pacific to fulfill that job market demand and to fulfill their mission of meeting the community needs." This is substantiated by current labor statistics, as "Health care jobs are expected to grow by 14% from 2018 to 2028, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, outpacing all other employment sectors".

By creating those opportunities for San Joaquin County and Sacramento County residents to give back to their communities, the school aims to induce a "multiplying effect that addresses the market, and the social, economic, and racial disparities [in healthcare]," explains Dean Bugnariu. The School of Health Sciences is placing an emphasis on not only recruiting and transforming the lives of students from local areas, but also allowing and inspiring students to continue their education at Pacific in meaningful ways.

Though the new School of Health Sciences and the Health Studies program both offer students interested in entering the workforce with a focus on health novel opportunities, the two ultimately differ vastly on their concentrations. The School of Health Sciences is primarily a graduate school for those planning to specialize in clinical practice, while Health Studies is preoccupied with equipping students with the skills needed to understand the behavioral aspects of healthcare. Nevertheless, both Health Sciences and Health Studies aim to produce the healthcare professionals of tomorrow.



The Pacifican

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Nov 28, 2020 · 3 min read

The Struggles of Class Registration During a Pandemic

By: Jane Hwang and Liliana Lopez

During the fall semester, both students and professors became increasingly aware of Zoom fatigue, and of how damaging a packed online schedule can be. They have tried to space out synchronous activities accordingly, so that they can be completed on one's own time. In spite of these efforts, there is one thing that can't be put off for later: spring class registration.

For many students who are newer to Pacific, registering for classes may be somewhat difficult due to the lack of familiarity with the Pacific campus and community. They do not have the opportunity to ask returning students for advice about classes, or to talk to professors about new opportunities. A benefit, however, is the fact that students do not have to consider class times and locations when choosing their classes. For freshmen and transfer students especially, registering may be especially difficult, particularly because they have never attended classes on campus.

Jamie Park, Pre-Dentistry, '24, struggled with registering for the spring semester because she not only takes online classes in a different time zone but also received very little information on the process even though she met with her advisor. "I feel like there wasn't enough guidance for us freshmen on how to register," states Park. "I had no idea what I would have to do once my registration time frame opens in order to get the schedule that I want. I only figured out through reaching out to upperclassmen, who kindly walked me through how to do everything."

Sarah Hess, History and pre-law, '21, agrees with Park and advises new students to ask around for tips on which classes to register for. After two and a half "normal" years at Pacific, this semester's registration is quite different than in other semesters, especially

because she can't speak to professors and peers in person. "I can't as easily talk with teachers and other students about which classes will best suit me. Sometimes in-person meetings help me get a way better sense of the nature of the class," Hess says.

However, this semester's online atmosphere hasn't entirely resulted in negative effects, especially for some of the faculty at the university. Professor Alan Lenzi from Pacific's Religious Studies department is an advisor for students with undecided majors in the College of the Pacific. He states that in the future, he will probably continue to use Zoom to meet with students who can't see him during normal office hours. "Not having to wait twelve more hours until 'normal business hours' to get things sorted can make the difference between getting or missing out on the classes the student wants," Lenzi says.

Daniel Shaw, Assistant Director of Career Advising and Success, notes that the switch to online doesn't really affect career advising. He mentions that the Career Services Center still offers all of the same services, just through Zoom, phone, and email appointments. In those appointments, Shaw shares his screen and goes through documents that the students want to look over. He notes that "Handshake is the place for students to apply for on-campus/off-campus opportunities, RSVP for events, and book their own advising appointment." He's not sure what the online spring semester will look like, but he hopes that it'll be easier for everyone.

The idea of having another semester of online classes doesn't sound very fun. But, as people do, we have learned to adapt to these unusual circumstances. Referring to his PACS 1 class, Professor Lenzi notes: "I think there's a good sense of camaraderie. I'm impressed with their own community building...they have taken things into their own hands."



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Nov 28, 2020 · 10 min read

Letter to the Editor: The Cruelty of ICE

By: Amnesty Club

He is the “uterus collector” who is “taking everybody’s stuff out,” says Dawn Wooten, a nurse who blew the whistle on the existence and extent of the hysterectomies and other nonconsensual gynecological procedures performed on detained immigrants. He is Dr. Mahendra Amin who works under discretion of Immigration & Customs Enforcement and Pauline Binam is one of his many victims. Now 30, she has spent the past 28 years in the U.S., with the last 3 in federal custody awaiting deportation. On September 16, 2020, ICE put her on a plane to Cameroon, a country she had left at the age of 2, but deportation plans were thwarted after two congress members got involved. Now, back in federal custody, she continues to be separated from her 11-year-old daughter. And surprisingly, that has not been the most grotesque injustice, because in 2019, she found herself stripped of her ability to have children. She agreed to surgery for a cyst on her ovaries, a procedure called dilate and curettage, but her doctor informed her afterwards that he had removed one of her Fallopian tubes due to a clog. He informed her that she was now likely to be infertile. Healthcare options for those in these centers are already scarce, and now it seems the ones available are set up to do irreparable damage.

What is the state of immigration detention centers in America?

After President Donald Trump’s election in 2016, the new head of Immigration & Customs Enforcement claimed that the White House would finally be “taking the handcuffs off” and letting the organization do its job. This fiery declaration turned out to be a prophecy for the Trump Administration. Since taking office, President Trump has channeled his hardliner base into the implementation of anti-immigration policy. The people he appointed as heads of Citizenship and Immigration Services and Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) were not only well versed in the use of law enforcement but determined to position immigrants as antagonists. Regardless, the White House has managed to shirk responsibility for the current family separation and migrant crisis by claiming that the cages were built under the Obama administration. In 2014, during Obama’s second term, the media caught wind of the conversion of a warehouse in McAllen, Texas, into a temporary holding facility, complete with chain-link partitions, for up to 1,000 migrant children. The facility was meant to separate young men and women, and kids and adults until they could be better placed elsewhere. This trend has continued and the “temporary” status of these “chain-link partitions” has persisted. The Trump administration has since used Obama’s immigration policy as a justification for ICE expansion. During the third and final Presidential debate, moderator Kiristin Welker asked President Trump about the 545

children whose parents are unable to be located, to which he responded, “Who built the cages, Joe?”.

Yet, according to an ICE Operations report, 396,448 people were booked into detention centers in the fiscal year 2018 and an American Civil Liberties Union, Human Rights Watch, and National Immigrant Justice Center report claims that the detention system has expanded since 2017 during Trump’s tenure in office.

Despite the recently intense media focus on Trump’s relationship with ICE, the expansion of the detention system is hardly a new trend nor one that began with Obama. During Ronald Reagan’s tenure in office, the White House had to contend with a so-called “immigration crisis”. Haitians and Cubans were arriving in the United States in large numbers to escape political persecution, repression, and economic collapse within their countries. The solution, which was incredibly controversial at the time, was to require detention for all arriving migrants including asylum seekers. In the short-term, there were legal repercussions. A judge ruled that the policy violated the Administrative Procedure Act which requires the administration and involved agencies to notify the public of changing policies. The Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit also ruled that the policy violated the Equal Protection Clause. However, just three years later, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned the Court of Appeals decision and Congress authorized the construction of a permanent immigration detention facility which also allowed private companies to partner with federal agencies to build and maintain future facilities.

Reagan’s new immigration policy was a grim foreshadowing of the enormous incarceration and detention system we would have in place today.

“I thought America was the land of the free. We are taken away from our homes and put into jaillike livestock, while our government makes money on us.”

Casey Kapijimpanga, a resident of Orange County, California, has been in the process of deportation since September 20, 2016. He is of African-British descent and has lived in the United States for over 20 years. Kapijimpanga has been an active member of his community; he owns a logistics and transportation business and has been part of the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce for five years. He was first detained in 2013 and spent over a year in the Theo Lacy Detention Facility in Southern California. Fortunately, Kapijimpanga was released in 2014 with the help of Congresswoman Judy Chu and Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement volunteers. After his release, however, he was detained once more while at his regular check-in after his stay removal was supposedly denied without notice. He was told by authorities that the letter regarding the denial of his stay removal must have not been sent to him or his lawyer. Because immigration had failed to notify either Kapijimpanga or his lawyer, he missed his chance to appeal. Since being detained he has lost his savings, his belongings, his apartment, and his livelihood. Still, he and his loved ones continue to spend countless hours and hundreds of dollars trying to end his isolation. In a heartbreaking piece about his experience, he states,

“This is the shame of America. This is the shame of Orange County.”

And Casey Kapijimpanga's heartbreak isn't unique. During the final Presidential debate, President Trump stated that the children are, "...well taken care of. They're in facilities that are so clean." Unfortunately, this is not the case; conditions within detention facilities are deadly. In fact, the treatment of migrants in ICE Detention Centers has proven to be worse than what would have been allowed for prisoners of war according to the Geneva Convention, a series of treaties that outline the international standards for humanitarian treatment. Last year, there were an estimated 3,000 to 6,000 detainees that were in desperate need of mental health resources or treatment which only 21 of 230 facilities provide. Worse, the lack of basic sanitation such as showers, soap, toothpaste, diapers or ability to acquire those supplies from donors outside of the facilities is a clear human rights violation. The Trump administration has placed restrictions on aid that have severely limited the ability for outside organizations to be able to provide humanitarian aid within ICE Detention Centers.

Medical care within these facilities is another problem. Detainees can go weeks to months without seeing a professional for life-threatening conditions. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these already appalling conditions. Physicians for Human Rights have called out ICE Detention Centers for spraying detainees with HDQ Neutral Disinfectant multiple times a day which is a health hazard. Whistleblowers have also brought attention to hysterectomy operations done on migrant women without their informed-consent. All things considered, ICE Detention Centers are tools of torture akin to the American eugenics movement that inspired Nazi genocide tactics.

Luckily, where there exists oppression, mistreatment, or genocide there exists resistance—in the form of sanctuary cities. While the term 'sanctuary city' does not have a widely accepted precise definition, areas in North America that do not cooperate with federal efforts to enforce immigration laws are typically recognized as sanctuary cities or regions. As of 2018, roughly half of all United States residents live in regions with sanctuary policies. In 2017, for example, SB 54 was passed in California, which prohibits "state and local law enforcement agencies [...] from using money or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes" — the actions typically associated with sanctuary laws or policies. While these actions help protect immigrants, there are still ways in which local law enforcement may continue to cooperate with federal immigration agencies such as ICE.

The primary manner in which ICE collaborates with local law enforcement is the Criminal Alien Program (CAP). According to ICE, CAP helps allow ICE to identify possible immigrants with the use of databases provided by individual jail systems. It should be noted that cooperation with CAP is entirely voluntary. Another manner in which local law enforcement may collaborate with ICE is through ICE detainers, or immigration holds — requests from ICE to local law enforcement to hold a person for up to 48 hours in custody 'beyond the time that the person would otherwise be released' according to the ACLU. Once again, collaboration in this manner on the part of local law enforcement is entirely voluntary. These requests from ICE are perceived to be constitutionally questionable, as the subsequent period of detention constitutes a new arrest, which "violates the Fourth Amendment when there is no judicial warrant or probable cause". ICE argues that "your

community is put at risk when ICE detainers are ignored”, but such reasoning does not permit violations of due process. As a result of this ICE policy, the California TRUST Act, otherwise known as AB 4, was passed into law in 2013, which prohibits local law enforcement from cooperating with ICE for immigration holds except when the individual detained has been convicted of a “serious or violent felony”. It is clear that California is making strides in avoiding cooperation with ICE, but there is still significant progress to be made. Notably, the 2019 opinion of a federal appeals court in favor of the Trump Administration puts pressure on local governments by allowing the administration to give preferential treatment to “jurisdictions that assist in enforcing federal immigration laws” in awarding policing grants.

California is making big strides in immigration reform, particularly in targeting for-profit immigrant detention facilities. Assembly Bill 32, passed by Governor Newsom on October 11, 2019 banned new private prisons and detention centers after January 1, 2020 and called for existing facilities to close by 2028. AB 32 is a necessary move to combat the expansion of for-profit industry within California, but there are still needs of immigrants who experience the system that need to be addressed. Assemblyman Rob Bonta, the author of AB 32, continued the fight for human rights and justice with an additional piece of legislation, Assembly Bill 3228, which increased accountability and oversight measures for private detention facilities in the State of California.

AB 3228 is a critical piece in the fight for getting justice for the folks who have been mistreated within detention facilities. The bill requires any immigration detention facility operator to follow standards within their federal government contracts and establishes a clearer standard of care that the facilities must follow. Moreover, it also provides a course of action for individuals to sue in the event the private detention facility operator violates their standard of care and their contract. This has big implications for detention facilities in California. Four of the five detention facilities within the state of California are operated by private actors, including GEO Group (Mesa Verde and Adelanto), Core Civic (Otay Mesa), and the Management and Training Corporation (MTC) (Imperial). When operation of facilities is headed by private actors and corporations, the underlying motivation of these companies is making a profit and protecting their bottom line. Proper treatment of individuals within their facilities is an afterthought at best. Oversight schemes headed by these private companies have continuously allowed them to violate the minimum standards of care. Even under previous ICE oversight, financial penalties were only imposed twice over a 3 year period and resulted in virtually zero accountability, which for these companies, wasn't even a slap on the wrist.

Governor Newsom has begun to take steps to reduce such disparity in accountability with approving AB 32, and it's getting noticed. The global human rights group, Amnesty International, expressed support for the Governor in increasing oversight in accountability in a letter to the Governor on September 4th of this year. In the letter, the group advocates for the need and the urgency of AB 3228. While there would be nothing better than ending the prison-industrial complex in its entirety, incremental change is necessary to ensure individuals don't get forgotten about in the interim. Through the Federal Tort Claims Act immigrant detainees can sue the federal government for damages;

however, the act only applied to public facilities. According to Eunice Cho, an attorney with the National Prison Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, the Act does not apply to prisons that are owned and operated by private companies. This has made it difficult for individuals in private facilities to sue for mistreatment when there was no clear path for resolution. The new legislation provides clarity in when and what individuals would be able to sue for while also carving a legal path for these individuals to take.

On August 17, 2016 Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) filed a federal lawsuit against the government for the maltreatment that Suny Rodriguez and her son endured while in detention. Both Suny and her son were detained for months and under the custody of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) after leaving their homeland Honduras. They suffered inhuman conditions, threats of separation, and coercive tactics while being detained. After months they settled for \$125,000 and on February 22, 2019 a judge approved their settlement. The lawsuit pursued legal action through the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) which seeks monetary compensation for parties that have suffered an injury due to negligent actions of those employed by the government. Being able to pursue a legal course of action through the FTCA was a large part in delivering justice to Suny and her son. With the passage of AB 3228 and the empowerment of legal advocacy it provides for individuals in for-profit facilities, the hope is that individuals in private facilities will be able to receive their justice too.

ICE claims their Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) has assisted 428 victims of human trafficking, and “rescued or identified 1,069 victims” from child predators in FY19. However, in 2018, ICE lost contact with 1,475 immigrant children who had crossed the border and had subsequently been placed with sponsors. They could not account for these children because their sponsors could not be reached. Thus, there is no telling what the current state of these children is. And currently, 545 children are unable to be placed with their parents because after being separated at the border under the Trump admin’s “Zero Tolerance” policy, the government has lost track of their parents. All things considered, ICE can hardly stand to laud itself on helping victims of human trafficking, or protecting children from abuse when they are the current face of child endangerment.

Still, there is hope on the horizon. Establishing legal recourse for migrants that have been abused by ICE is a critical first step to breaking down the human rights violations and oppression that occurs behind closed gates. However, to ensure that change continues we must take responsibility on a personal level. Continue to become more knowledgeable about the mechanisms of ICE detention centers and immigrant rights. Empower individuals with options and help foster a culture of accountability and change on the institutional level. Change is possible when we choose it.

One voice, your voice, carries power.



The Pacifican

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Nov 28, 2020 · 2 min read

Media X Students Attend the American Film Market

By: Angelique Doty

From Monday, November 9 through Friday, November 13, Pacific's Media X Department organized student participation in an online event, the American Film Market. Normally this event would cost \$245 per attendee, but the Media X Department offered a limited number of students grants to participate. This opportunity for students to participate in a free virtual week-long event series helps relieve the common financial burden inflicted by the pandemic. Simultaneously, it helps students begin building a career path by opening the door to connect with leading professionals in the filmmaking industry and learn from their seasoned advice from many years in the field.

To help prepare students far in advance, on Thursday, November 5, Jonathan Wolf, Managing Director for AFM, hosted a webinar orientation along with Jennifer Garnick, Vice President of Communications. This introduced attendees to all the various services the virtual platform provided during this week, some of which are still available in the succeeding weeks after the event's conclusion. The orientation helped participants familiarize themselves when navigating through the online platform. This prepares them well in advance so they can participate well during the events.

The informational email provided by Media X informed the students of the basic information of AFM's background. It is a large marketplace for distribution and production for films in progress or completed are settled, totaling to around one billion dollars in deals sealed on a yearly basis through the platform. Over 70,000 filmmaking professionals worldwide in more than seventy countries virtually connect. For the students, it provided a wide opportunity to network to learn about upcoming internships or job positions.

Jonathan Wolf discusses its mission and how it relates to those involved in it. Wolf commented, “The global film industry has set aside this week to connect for deal making, presentations, and education, and to gather marketplace intel from one another. AFM’s engaging online experience, with the types of serendipitous meetings that happen organically in the halls, hotels and parties each year in Santa Monica, will keep everyone in touch and ensure that independent film continues to reach audiences around the world.”

Some services expire at the conclusion of the event, such as the Networking Pavilion, so students were strongly encouraged to take advantage of that platform before Friday, November 13. However, many services on the AFM platform remain open long after the final day of panels. Long lasting services provided by this opportunity include a yearlong free membership to Cinando, “the year round go-to guide for film professionals and an online gateway into the film industry: contacts, films, projects in development, screening schedules during major film markets and the Cinando screening room,” according to the informational email. Services that will remain open until December 14 include the Location Expo, session replays, and Industry Offices and Location Expo. MyAFM and the On Demand Theatre will stay open until March 31, 2021.

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Nov 30, 2020 · 3 min read

The 209 Times Contributes to Mayor Michael Tubbs' Defeat

By: Jasmin Prasad

In an unexpected turn of events, the Stockton mayoral election has been called for Kevin Lincoln. This comes as a large surprise to Stockton residents — former Mayor Tubbs has gone leaps and bounds for the Stockton Community, namely in his guaranteed income plan and in Stockton Scholars. The 209 Times, a right wing propaganda news source, played a crucial role in the current mayor's defeat.

The 209 Times is a San Joaquin based independent news source that claims to “[expose corrupt elected officials or [take] on institutions and policies of the powerful.” However, the Times has engaged in the spread of fake news and was responsible for spreading mass propaganda to influential Stockton voters.

The 209 Times has amassed a large following over the years where they currently have close to 120,000 followers on their Instagram account. On this account, many baseless claims are made not only against Tubbs but against the city of Stockton.

The 209 Times only found their rise to fame because local Stockton newspaper, the “Record,” has seen large cuts to their staff and has subsequently struggled to get out reputable, honest news as a result.

Before he lost his bid for reelection, Tubbs was a rising Democratic star. According to the AP, he “garnered national attention for starting a privately funded program to give poor people \$500 a month.” 4 years ago, he secured victory by winning 70% of the vote. This year, he lost to Republican Kevin Lincoln by about 10 percentage points. Tubbs was Stockton's first Black mayor, encouraged UBI, and was endorsed by former President Barack Obama.

The 209 is a popular news source for residents in the area. According to Anita Chambers, a reporter for the LA Times, they have “run news stories with no proof alleging Tubbs has misused millions of dollars earmarked for city programs, lied about his involvement with an unpopular idea to use country fairgrounds as a part of a state-funded site for homeless people, and put personal interests ahead of his elected role.”

Daniel Lopez, the spokesperson for Tubbs, spoke about the allegations that Stockton had received and misused 60.5 million dollars meant to combat homelessness. He said that those claims were “outright lies.”

More locally, parody accounts have been made as a means to counter the spread of misinformation from the 209 Times. Two accounts by the name of the “209 Thymes” and the “209 Times Online” on Instagram are the forerunners of these appreciable efforts.

In an interview with the creator of “209 Thymes,” they claim that the 209 Times is almost akin to the “National Enquirer” where there is only reporting of “silly things like random fires and pinning of them on the homeless/Tubbs.” Further, they cite great frustration with the fact that the posts on the 209 Times are inherently un-factual, where “[they] spread so much misinformation, demonize the homeless, and are just a bad mark on the community.”

Namely, the “209 Thymes” criticizes an incident where, “[A guy selling corn] by the Burlington Coat Factory was robbed — the 209 Times advertised a fundraiser in which none of the funds went to the actual person who was robbed.”

The “209 Thymes” also mentions that the 209 Times has them blocked and has restricted comments — this is undoubtedly a silencing mechanism through which factual discourse is prevented.

Ultimately, the goal of the “209 Thymes” is to “bring awareness to issues in the community” so that way they can “reach as many people and get them to snap out of this idea that the 209 Times is fair, balanced, or even a reliable source.”

In the case of the “209 Times Online,” while there is an uncanny similarity in the account name, the message could not be more different. The creator of this account is frustrated with “the lack of credible journalism in Stockton.”

The “209 Times Online” also posts many satires (some of them submitted by members of the community) as a means to show “how little effort [the 209 Times] puts into their posts.”

More specifically, the satire account makes a very critical point: “the vacuum created by the Record’s inability to adapt to modern times allowed 209 Times and other unsavory types to exist. 209 Time directly exploits the undereducated population to influence local politics to install his cronies.”