

SUMMER TROJAN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023 | STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1912 | VOL. 209, NO. 7

HecubiTES

Learn about immigrant communities in the area in the latest State of Immigrants in Los Angeles Report, published by the USC Equity Research Institute, California Community Foundation and the Council on Immigrant Inclusion.

Attend the L.A. Immigration Summit, a two-day event hosted by the California Community Foundation, the USC Equity Research Institute, the Council on Immigrant Inclusion and the Immigrants are LA Coalition beginning Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Join the Kortschak Center for Learning and Creativity at the USC Peace Garden July 11 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. to explore, plant and learn mindfulness techniques.

Prepare for changes to visitor procedures. Assistant Vice President and Chief of Public Safety Laretta Hill announced that, beginning July 12, all guests wishing to enter campus after 9 p.m. or the Village after 10 p.m. must complete registration every day instead of once per visit.

Hear about various campus organizations and services at the virtual Student Services Open House July 24 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Read the *Daily Trojan's* Welcome Back issue when it arrives on newsstands Aug. 14. Regular print editions will be available beginning Aug. 21.

"[Ellman] and [Ikhata] have really pulled guests and topics that are really far-reaching. There are areas that even as an experienced professional I don't have exposure to."

BEN FEINGOLD

Adjunct instructor at the Price School of Public Policy

Two USC alumni create urban planning podcast



Apple Podcasts

Samantha Ellman and Natalie Ikhata aimed to make urban planning a more relatable topic for young people, who often notice the problems related to the field but are unable to put a name to them.

"Urban Planning is Not Boring" aims to make the discipline relatable and applicable to young people's daily lives.

By **EDHITA SINGHAL**
Staff Writer

Last year, USC alumni Samantha Ellman and Natalie Ikhata created a podcast to interest young people and those unfamiliar with urban planning in the discipline and its application to how they live their lives. A year later, they're still going strong, releasing episodes a few times a month ranging in topic from housing development to disaster planning.

Ellman and Ikhata, who both graduated in 2023 with master's degrees in urban planning, were inspired to start the podcast when they realized the dearth of resources to explore urban planning outside the classroom. There were very few podcasts and those they could find weren't engaging, they said.

"Sam and I came up with this idea to try and find a way to discuss topics about urban planning that are easily accessible, easy to understand and invoke excitement," Ikhata said.

They also aimed at making urban planning a more relatable topic for young people who often notice the problems related to the field of urban planning — such as zoning or unwalkable cities — but are unable to put a name to them. The podcast, which often brings on guests, sought to inspire young people to pursue urban planning professionally or, at least, become more aware of its impact on their daily lives.

The podcast mostly caters toward a younger crowd, especially

those entering the field or those interested after prior exposure to the field. Ellman and Ikhata said they want to make urban planning accessible to everyone.

"Our biggest goal is to emphasize that you do not need an urban planning background or an urban planning degree to understand these topics because they are about your lived experience," Ikhata said.

Ellman and Ikhata's favorite part of the podcast is meeting the guest speakers and discussing their backgrounds, their careers and current projects in urban planning. These connections are useful for not only the podcast but also career advice, Ellman said.

"I've loved meeting everyone," Ellman said. "There are people like professors that we've had on and then there are people that we've never met in person that we've spoken to ... It's opened a lot of doors for us professionally."

The guest speakers included adjunct instructor at the Price School of Public Policy Ben Feingold, American Planning Association President Angela Brooks and Urban Design Director at Studio One Eleven Shruti Shankar. Feingold discussed the financial analysis behind different projects and said he was impressed by the hosts' professionalism.

"I wasn't sure what to expect from two students that were putting the podcast together," Feingold said. "They didn't just read through the questions that they sent me in

advance but were very active participants in the conversation."

Ellman and Ikhata were students at USC when they started the podcast. They said they found it challenging to balance school, their part-time jobs and the podcast, especially since they initially planned on releasing one episode per week. They took breaks during finals and spring break to make the workload manageable.

"We don't want it to feel like a job," Ellman said. "When it starts to feel like something that we don't want to do, but something that we have to, then maybe we should step away and take a break."

Despite these challenges, Feingold said the podcast is a great tool to spark interest among prospective planners and spread awareness about this field. He said the creators successfully provided listeners with a higher-level view of the variety of topics covered in an urban planning program.

"[Ellman] and [Ikhata] have really pulled guests and topics that are really far-reaching," Feingold said. "There are areas that even as an experienced professional I don't have exposure to."

Ikhata and Ellman acknowledge the role that USC and its faculty have played in the formulation of the podcast: Ikhata said USC opened opportunities for them and provided them access to some of the best minds in the field.

"I'm very honored and very proud to be able to put this on my resume and say that that's something that Sam and I have done and created from scratch," Ikhata said.

USC TO PROVIDE FREE METRO PASSES TO ALL STUDENTS

The 'U-Passes' were previously only available to graduate students.

By **JENNIFER NEHRER**
Staff Writer

Beginning in Fall 2023, USC will provide all students with "U-Passes," cards that will allow them to ride all Los Angeles Metro and bus lines — including DASH buses — for free. These passes were previously only available to graduate students.

Students will be able to obtain the pass at "no additional cost," according to the program's webpage, but that doesn't mean there is no fee whatsoever. The *Daily Trojan* previously reported that the University will be implementing a \$93 transportation fee in the dues of all qualifying students. A University webpage devoted to explaining this fee writes that it will cover services such as "Shryft" — the free shared Lyft rides program operating in a two-mile radius of USC — the USC Bus program and now the U-Pass program.

Qualifications for this fee, according to the page, will be evaluated on a similar basis to other student fees. If a student has any on-campus classes during a semester in which they are enrolled in at least one unit, they will be charged with the fee. Additionally, according to the site, an "on-campus" part of a class may take place off of the University Park or Health Sciences Campuses but within any section of the L.A. Metro service area to meet the qualification.

While the pass will be made available to all students, ownership is not automatic. Students will have to enroll in the program when the time comes. More information on the program and enrollment details will be available in early August.

**Students/alumni:
Did you live in
Marks Hall or
Trojan Hall your
freshman year?**

To commemorate the demolition of these longstanding dormitories, the *Daily Trojan* is compiling stories of former residents and their experiences, to be published in the near future.

**Experiences of all
kinds are welcomed.
Scan the QR code
below to submit.**



AMES | USC must work to improve its accommodations

| continued from page 3 |
academic advisor-to-student ratio in Dornsife lies around 1:400. It's no wonder students registered with OSAS feel adrift, and my priority registration accommodation fell flat — both departments seem underwater and understaffed. Neither able-bodied nor disabled students can thrive in the current housing and academic advising systems, with disabled students harmed at a greater severity.

Barriers to an accessible education can happen at any university. That said, it is disheartening to see USC spend lavishly on a football coach, new campus in Washington D.C. and a new multi-million dollar field — part of which is made possible through Folt's presidential fund — when a fraction of that money could go to improving systems that are meant to support students with disabilities but currently hinder them.

What's even more disheartening is that, comparably, USC ranks highly

in universities recommended for students with disabilities, yet there is still work to be done.

I found support in unexpected places, yet I still wonder if I'll ever feel that same support from USC at large. I wonder when my university will realize what a permanent and powerful difference it can make in all students' lives if it intentionally invests in making a USC education truly accessible for disabled students.

Improving systems supporting disabled students helps all students. So what if USC led the charge? What if USC could be the place students with disabilities want to come to because of how valued they are?

To USC, I say thank you for accepting me and for pushing me to learn self-advocacy the hard way. To the future students and alumni of USC, I say be unafraid to call out injustice and ask for something better. If you're a prospective student with a disability or a current student, know you deserve to be here



Catherine Ames | Daily Trojan
The Office of Student Accessibility Services and USC housing promised more than they delivered in Catherine Ames's experience as a disabled student.

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— take up space. Even places like a well-endowed USC need changemakers to lift the veil on the disabled student experience and advocate for a better, more inclusive future. At times, these systematic flaws made me want to give up, drop out, and even made me hate my body — simply because advocating for myself as a disabled student was utterly exhausting. However, as Carrie Bradshaw so eloquently puts it, “Maybe the best any of us can do is not to quit, play the hand we’ve been given and accessorize the outfit we got.”

And just like that, my time at USC is up.

With love and fabulosity,
Chronically Catherine

Writer's note: Chronically Catherine will continue on outside of the Daily Trojan.

You can still reach out to Chronically Catherine if you're also a student with a disability working to coexist with daily adversity without losing sight of your fabulosity — @itschronicallycatherine on Instagram, or chronicallycatherine@gmail.com.

Catherine Ames is a newly graduated senior writing about life as a young person coexisting with chronic illness in her column, “Chronically Catherine.”

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OPINION

PAGE 3 | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023 | WWW.DAILYTROJAN.COM/OPINION

What it's really like to be a student with a disability at USC

Catherine Ames
CHRONICALLY
CATHERINE



What is it really like to be a student with a disability at USC?

It's a question I had before my first day of classes and the one that prompted me to start this column. In this final installment of Chronically Catherine at the *Daily Trojan*, my parting gift to you is an answer.

Let me make one thing clear — this isn't some Regina George-style takedown, but the reality is that students with disabilities at USC need better.

I became chronically ill and disabled at age 20. Forced to transfer universities, I visited USC where admissions officers ensured me a seamless transition into the life of a Trojan with a wide variety of resources available to students with disabilities — from guaranteed housing to academic accommodations through the Office of Student Accessibility Services. My acceptance a year later distracted me from my third hospitalization in two months. I had hope for the first time in years.

Sadly, I quickly learned that Admissions' promises were fragmented from reality.

First, I faced housing hurdles. It felt like pulling teeth trying to get Housing to acknowledge my need for a room close to Student Health which would allow me to maintain my health; a "reasonable accommodation" supported by the Americans with Disability Act at schools that receive federal funding.

It wasn't until my mom stepped in to help me escalate the issue to senior leadership — and President Carol Folt — that I finally got an on-campus apartment a week before the start of the semester.

I learned recently from my friend Rachel Miller, an incredibly talented scientist, Sophomore, and wheelchair-using student, that she experienced similar difficulties with finding accessible housing.

"My freshman year was a bit challenging as all the dorms with automatic doors were full, so they placed me in an ADA-compliant dorm in IRC," she said. "However, because it was an extremely heavy safety door and not automatic, I could not open it. USC's solution was for me to text my roommates anytime I would need to open the door. It was quite frustrating because I

felt like it shouldn't be someone else's responsibility to make sure I can get into my own room."

After this, I was wary of how USC supported disabled students. I learned from friends and readers that OSAS case managers were either largely unhelpful or literal godsends — to my luck, I experienced the latter.

Outside of my OSAS case manager, the people who were most helpful to me were junior and mid-level staff. Unsung angels championed my educational journey in the most unexpected places.

Students at the Cardinal Gardens package center would hand-deliver boxes of medicine to my apartment when I was too weak to get them myself. Kind professors subtly dimmed the lights because they knew I had a migraine, which helped me through my toughest days. It's been small acts of kindness like these that make me feel like a Trojan.

For every tiny victory — represented by a supportive professor or TA — I had twice the number of horrible experiences. Sometimes I couldn't reach my academic advisors for weeks despite my priority registration accommodation, something they controlled. Professors openly questioned my disability because it's invisible, and department heads never responded to my emails asking for help navigating academic issues while I was in the hospital. I felt abandoned.

In several posts on the USC Reddit, students with disabilities also expressed their deep anxiety

over their disability being questioned by professors.

"I've had some professors act like it's optional for them to accept my accommodations, even though they're required to," one user posted. "I've also had professors see my accommodations and question whether I'll ever come to class or if I'll just constantly miss for medical reasons, which I think is a rude assumption to make."

But the problem isn't USC Housing, OSAS or even academic advising; they're symptoms of poor investment in the disabled student experience — and the silence from the top is deafening. Students with disabilities are led to believe by admissions that housing is a shoo-in when, in reality, Housing struggles to provide rooms to disabled students every year, like myself and Rachel experienced.

While Rachel was eventually placed in a dorm with an automatic door, this delay in accessibility impacted her, and OSAS was her only advocate.

"The USC Office of Student Accessibility Services has the support of the University for the resources needed to serve our students," wrote Debbie Jih, senior director of OSAS, in a statement to the *Daily Trojan*. "Our team of 25 is one of the largest teams among our peer institutions in the country and serves about 4,700 students."

That means the OSAS case-manager-to-student ratio is roughly 1:188. Worse so, the



Catherine Ames | Daily Trojan

Catherine Ames shared her true experience living with a disability at USC after recently graduating, from difficult experiences to tiny victories.

| see AMES, page 2 |



Celine Vazquez | Daily Trojan file photo

USC Housing struggles to provide accessible rooms to students with disabilities, something Ames said she and other students experienced.

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Letters must be brief and must include the writer's name, contact phone number and e-mail address. Letters are subject to editing for space and clarity. Send letters to:

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'The Bear': A decadent second course



By **SANYA VERMA**
Staff Writer

Since the blistering heat of last summer, enthusiasm for "The Bear" on Hulu has only grown. Whether it's been measured by the rise in sales of Italian beef sandwiches or in the increasing awards show hype for the talented cast and snappy editing, "The Bear" has quickly become the "Succession" of Italian American comedy-drama television.

With the much-anticipated release of season two on June 22, it seemed unlikely that it would be able to provide more of that second-hand stress that obsessive fine-dining chef Carmen "Carmy" Berzatto (Jeremy Allen White) and his passionate sous,

Sydney Adamu (Ayo Edebiri) supplied in spades last season.

Subverting every expectation, season two chooses to break down the walls of The Original Beef of Chicagoland — the scrappy restaurant Carmy's addict brother, Michael (Jon Bernthal), left behind after committing suicide. This expansion beyond the kitchen and into its chefs' personal lives completely changes the pace and motivations of the previous season.

Though, in season one, the kitchen staff, Richie (Ebon Moss-Bachrach) and Tina (Liza Colón-Zayas), were hell-bent on resisting Carmy's attempts to modernize the eatery, season two has a much more united and optimistic group striving to set up a completely new restaurant.

To keep the series fresh, the creators had to focus on the internal battles between cooks, sometimes dedicating episodes to minor characters' arcs and dramatically shifting the focus away from Carmy. Episode four, "Honeydew," details gentle pastry chef Marcus' (Lionel Boyce) arc while

episode seven, "Forks," completely stuns in a captivating storyline of Richie finding some semblance of purpose in a life lived without his best friend, Michael.

"The Bear," like a lot of food-centric media, has always placed an emphasis on what it means to cook for other people and the love born out of it.

In season one, this was a lot more subtle, as the stress of getting the restaurant back on its feet was in the foreground. Season two, on the other hand, is completely focused on it, choosing to blur the lines between food and love, family and the kitchen. An incredibly vulnerable scene late in the season is when Sydney cooks a simple omelette for Natalie Berzatto (Abby Elliott), Carmy's overworked sister. It's a raw insight into Sydney and what it means to her to provide and how desperately she wants her food to be loved outside of all the tension and politics of working in a restaurant. Edebiri plays Sydney with her heart entirely on her

sleeve, and this simple nurturing joy from her is one of the most memorable moments of the show.

The second season of "The Bear" also examines the flipside — food as a reminder of distress and damage. In "Fishes," a flashback episode halfway through the season, a cameo-studded dysfunctional Berzatto family prepare a Christmas dinner with Carmy's mother, Donna (Jamie Lee Curtis) at the helm of all the tension. It plays for a tight 66 minutes, the longest of the series, and explains much of the family's twisted relationship with food without having to say it aloud.

The show has also understood the power of an exceptional cameo, with A-Listers Curtis, Bob Odenkirk and, later, a staggering Olivia Colman playing throwaway characters with extraordinary depth. Matty Matheson, playing Neil Fak, has also been upped to a regular and is almost exclusively the reason that this season is a lot more comedic than the last.

| see **BEAR**, page 5 |

'No Hard Feelings' is dumb and fun

Kimberly Aguirre
COMIC RELIEF



Last week, I entered my local cinema, prepared to enrich my mind with the latest piece of artwork. Film is a powerful tool that has the ability to create discussion, form bonds and make change. As actor Diego Luna said, "Cinema is a mirror that can change the world."

Equipped with my blue raspberry ICEE — which was left largely untouched due to the flimsy paper straw accompanying it — I took my seat, ready "to laugh, to cry, to care." (Unfortunately, my local movie theater is a Cinemark, so I'll never fully experience the joy of cinema.)

After innumerable ads, the lights cut and the cultural experience began.

"No Hard Feelings" follows Maddie (Jennifer Lawrence) — a 32-year-old woman at risk of losing her childhood home. When her car gets repossessed, she loses her Uber side gig, and things are looking bleak. Desperate enough to do anything, she eventually answers a couple's ad to (do more than) date their 19-year-old son, Percy (Andrew Barth Feldman), before he goes to college in exchange for a car.

What ensues is somewhat predictable — through a series of hijinks, the unlikely duo ends up growing a mutual appreciation and learning from each other. Thankfully, the 13-year age gap does not get overlooked, and the two do not actually end up together.

This isn't a movie review; it's not a perfect movie, and I am not claiming it to be one. I'm just here to say it made me laugh quite a bit.

Some highlights include Maddie fighting a few teens on the beach while completely naked, Maddie trying to walk up the stairs in rollerblades and Maddie saving Percy from an ibuprofen-alcohol-filled night. Basically, JLaw is a comedic mastermind.

Despite many laugh-worthy moments throughout the movie, there were only a few light chuckles in the theater. Being the insecure person I am, I stifled my would-be chortles into chuckles.

An especially grueling moment was when Kyle "cut-for-time" Mooney popped up as Jody, Percy's childhood nanny. Honestly, just looking at Mooney is enough to start the chuckles sometimes.

While he was — devastatingly — only in two scenes, he provided more than I could ask for with the time he was given.

My favorite scene — and the one that has haunted me for the past few days — took place after Jody attempted to get revenge on Maddie for breaking Percy's heart after Percy discovered she was hired by his parents.

Trying to explain it will completely butcher the comedic

| see **AGUIRRE**, page 5 |

Big screens do 'Oppenheimer' cinematic justice

Nolan's newest epic will get a rare theatrical rollout well worth the extra bucks.

By **SHOURI GOMATHAM**
Staff Writer

"Oppenheimer" wasn't just made for the big screen. It was made for the biggest screen.

Shot on IMAX Film cameras, "Oppenheimer" will be released with a huge premium large format rollout the likes of which hasn't been seen in years. With that, there will be a lot of cool, unique and special viewing options. But some may just be cooler than others.

To help make some of these words and numbers a little easier to follow, I have lovingly labored away on this guide for all the screening formats available at your disposal. Buckle up and happy viewing.

IMAX 70mm

"Oppenheimer" is showing in this towering format — the mother of all screens — in only 30 locations across the world.

When a movie is shot on IMAX, it means that in certain scenes or sequences, the entire screen will be filled up with the image. If that doesn't entirely make sense, think of when you are watching a widescreen movie at home with black bars on the top and bottom, and now imagine if the sound was crisper and clearer and much much louder and that those black bars were now fully filled up with more of the movie. This, in the simplest description possible, is "the IMAX difference."

IMAX 70mm takes things one step further, bringing together IMAX and 70mm to create the richest of details, sound and scope. Where IMAX 70mm differs from traditional IMAX screenings is in the projection of the film itself.

IMAX 70mm screenings of "Oppenheimer" are being projected using physical IMAX film stock — in this case, reels literally miles in length — to create the largest and sharpest



Unsplash

Christopher Nolan, director of "Oppenheimer," first used IMAX Film cameras in 2008 while producing Batman film "The Dark Knight." Nolan utilized IMAX Film in other notable projects such as "Dunkirk" in 2017.

moving image possible. Don't get lost in the mechanics of it all, just understand that it truly does not get bigger or better or realer or reeler (no pun intended) than this.

IMAX

Regular, non-70mm film IMAX is projected digitally.

If you're lucky enough to have several IMAX screens available near you, go for the one that says IMAX with Laser if it's available. IMAX with Laser is still being developed and expanded, but it provides a brighter image and richer contrast than traditional IMAX screens.

If there are no specifications of Laser near you, don't sweat it. What really matters at the end of the day is the extra screen space being filled and explored in any IMAX screen. Laser or not, a few differences in contrast are nothing compared to the additional sound and screen that you'll always be getting in IMAX compared to any standard showing. There's a reason why Mr. Nolan and his fans love

and prioritize the format.

It's big, it's brash and it's magical! You've gotta go big or go home, and trust me — whatever you do, go IMAX.

70mm and 35mm

The next best way to see "Oppenheimer" is in sweeping, epic 70mm. A callback to the heyday of CinemaScope spectacles and the roadshow engagements of the past, 70mm offers a fun and exciting chance to experience "Oppenheimer" projected on actual film.

These prints are wider in size and larger in aspect ratio than 35mm or digital, producing more of the image and a higher image quality than any other large format option besides IMAX.

"Oppenheimer" is also being screened in some locations in 35mm. There won't be a real difference in the size or aspect ratio between digital and 35mm, but the experience of seeing a film on physical film is always an exciting opportunity.

Dolby Cinema and Cinemark XD

Since "Oppenheimer" and "Barbie" will both be released July 21 (Barbenheimer weekend, here we come), they'll be sharing these two specific premium options. The greatest takeaway about Dolby Cinema or Cinemark XD is that, though they have larger screens and greater sound — a very obvious plus compared to digital or 35mm — they don't technically add additional visuals to the screen in the way IMAX does. Dolby and XD simply take the standard image and sound then blow it up to greater, richer heights.

If what you're looking for at the end of the day is the extra sauce of it all, and all of these premium large format options are available near you, your best bet is going to be IMAX or 70mm engagements. If the situation were more appropriate, I'd tell you to have a blast, but for now, I'll just say that I hope you have a great time and an even greater theatrical experience. Roll the credits.

BEAR | Show's second season showcases characters beyond the kitchen walls

| continued from page 4 |

Another new character is Claire, depicted by Molly Gordon, an actor who is as charming as the script lets her be but is definitely the weakest point of the season. In Carmy's renewed romantic interest in high-school classmate Claire, the writers

bring a certain one-dimensionality to his storyline that is more sentimental than expected.

Altogether, it's clear with season two that creator Christopher Storer is uninterested in making "The Bear" fall into a predictable rhythm. With this change in tone and content, the

show continues to wow with its fast-paced editing, performances and outstanding soundtrack. For fans of the first season who were unsure about whether the second one lives up, rest assured that all you have to do is come hungry and open to a richer, more complex meal.

AGUIRRE | Jennifer Lawrence delivers star performance in new comedy film



David Giesbrecht | © 2012 Sony Pictures Digital Inc.

Andrew Barth Feldman stars alongside Jennifer Lawrence in comedy film "No Hard Feelings." Directed by Gene Stupnitsky, the movie was released June 23.

| continued from page 4 |

timing, but in broad strokes: Jody's revenge on Maddie fails, he asks to use her bathroom and declares "It's a number two" or something like that.

And I let out a little giggle. Not a single other person in the theater did.

I'm so sorry that I thought we were watching a comedy. On our debriefing walk back to the car from the movie, my friends even pointed out that I was the only one to laugh.

At what age am I supposed to age out of potty jokes? I'm 20, and it would be hard to find a fart noise that would not make

me laugh. Earlier this year, I saw Jenny Slate perform stand-up. She had a bit about a lactose intolerance accident, and I cried so much that my eyes burned.

On that fateful night in the Cinemark, I was, at first, mad at the audience for not laughing at the stupid jokes. They should lighten up, I thought. But eventually, I realized I can only be mad at myself for stifling my own laughter. Someone else's lack of response shouldn't dictate how I enjoy myself. Life is so much better when trying to compose yourself after a laughing fit.

Not everyone is going to think "No Hard Feelings" is funny.

I need to grow up and realize that a throwaway poo joke is not funny to all. But, in that growth, I need to not lose that juvenile aspect of my humor that makes me think a potty joke is hilarious. Because it is way more fun to laugh at something than pooh-pooh it. (See, it's fun!)

So, if you are in need of a laugh, go see "No Hard Feelings," but only if you know — and are willing to own — your immature sensibilities.

Kimberly Aguirre is a rising junior writing about comedy in her column, "Comic Relief." She is also an associate managing editor at the Daily Trojan.

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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0524

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Take it easy"
 - 7 Letters above 2 on a phone
 - 10 Bit of regalia
 - 14 Area around a nipple
 - 15 Word with level or legs
 - 16 No later than
 - 17 Feeding apparatus at a petting zoo
 - 20 Sun, in Spanish
 - 21 Tiny hill-dweller
 - 22 Bits of news
 - 23 One who is one, e.g.
 - 26 Rib structure
 - 28 Slightest opportunity
 - 34 Cooks in the oven, maybe
 - 35 Future atty.'s exam
 - 36 Word that can be a state abbreviation
 - 37 Not outer
 - 38 "Sprechen ____ Deutsch?"
 - 39 Second-brightest stars
 - 41 Tina of "30 Rock"
 - 42 Ilhan in Congress
 - 44 Country singer Underwood
 - 45 Big name in underwear
 - 48 Raise to the third power
 - 49 "____ I'm saying is ..."
 - 50 Dirty look
 - 53 Victory
 - 55 "Whoops," in a text
 - 58 Rapper with the 2010 hit "No Hands"
 - 63 High point
 - 64 "____ we there yet?"
 - 65 Spiteful feeling
 - 66 Headquarters
 - 67 Dedicated poem
 - 68 Where to find the starts of 17-, 28-, 45- and 58-Across?

DOWN

- 1 Parts of some smiles
- 2 You can open it with a twist
- 3 Peddle
- 4 "Haha"
- 5 Cheer for a matador
- 6 Khmer temple
- 7 Phrase of clarification
- 8 Ideal scenario
- 9 Toadstool topper
- 10 Product of solar steeping
- 11 Nook in a church
- 12 Academic acronym
- 13 ____ d'oeuvres
- 18 "The Banana Boat Song"
- 19 Last thing to go in a pocket, one hopes
- 23 Big name in speakers
- 24 Plastic grass
- 25 Group whose "Butter" video was the fastest to reach 100 million views on YouTube (2021)
- 27 Obama health legislation, for short
- 28 Dead duck
- 29 Yuzuru ____, first skater to successfully land a quadruple loop in competition
- 30 Bat an eye, say
- 31 Certain explosive, informally
- 32 Assert
- 33 Otherwise
- 34 Funky bit of noodling
- 38 Something agreed upon by consenting sexual partners
- 40 Greek god of love
- 43 Word with angry or flash
- 44 Cartoon frame
- 46 Alpine climber's tool
- 47 Bit of hair
- 50 Home test kit component
- 51 County north of San Francisco
- 52 Just gets (by)
- 54 Beverage brand whose mascot is a polar bear in a sweater
- 55 Mangle, e.g.
- 56 Community pool org.
- 57 "I've ____ thinking ..."
- 59 Dweller on the Mekong River
- 60 Bass booster
- 61 Sky safety org.
- 62 Inc. cousin

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

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PUZZLE BY KAVIN PAWITTRANON AND NIJAH MORRIS

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WBC | Baseball returned to the international stage

| continued from page 8 |

But even with all of the high praise for the tournament by the participants, the WBC was marred by controversy. There were cries the MLB season was too close to the WBC, with the MLB season starting March 30 and the WBC finals taking place just nine days prior. Players sustained injuries throughout the time of the tournament, including high-profile names like Edwin Diaz, Jose Altuve and Adam Wainwright.

Diaz tore his patellar tendon while celebrating a Puerto Rico win over the Dominican Republic. Altuve broke his thumb after getting hit by a pitch and Wainwright strained his groin while lifting weights prior to the WBC finals.

Even with a number of injuries, Stock thinks the positive outcomes from the WBC outweigh the bad.

"What's gained by bringing the game to such an international crowd is very important for growing the game of baseball and that the injuries that happened would happen in spring training," Stock said. "Edwin Diaz's [injury] was from celebrating, jumping up and down. I don't know, that's a tough one. That's an anomaly right there."

With injury concerns and the WBC bumping right up against the MLB season, which ranges from March into early November, some have suggested moving the former to a different time.

"There just needs to be a better time to do it," Stubbs said. "After the season would be tough, too. I definitely think the World Baseball Classic needs to happen. It blew up baseball right before baseball was

about to happen, which is amazing. So, I definitely don't know if it's going to or not going to, but I want it to happen, that's for sure."

As a pitcher, Cooper said there's no great time for the WBC and sees no better alternatives to the current format.

"There is no time that is perfect for every single person because pitchers and hitters are just so different," Cooper said. "I feel like hitters could play at any time, and I don't know when would be a better time for pitchers."

With some pitchers making over 30 starts in an MLB regular season, multiple elite arms opted out of the Classic. Even though Cooper knows it is hard for pitchers to compete in the WBC, he hopes more elite pitchers will do so in the future.

"We're in spring training. [I] totally understand pitchers not quite being ready for it, but at the same time, I don't see why we can't make the World Baseball Classic like how the World Cup is with soccer," Cooper said. "I don't get why people don't want to represent their country and go play the sport they love for their country. It seems crazy to me."

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred has confirmed the World Baseball Classic will return in 2026. He has the backing of many players who participated in the tournament, including USC alumni.

While there are logistical problems to solve to try to prevent injuries that impact the MLB season, it seems baseball will return to diamonds around the world in just a few short years.



CJ Stubbs wasn't originally on Team Israel's roster, but his older brother's injury allowed for him to get his shot at the international stage. The former Trojan has been playing in the minor leagues with the Astros since 2019.

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SPORTS

PAGE 8 | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023 | WWW.DAILYTROJAN.COM/SPORTS

International intrigue: USC and the WBC

Five former Trojans took part in the tournament, and one brought home the gold.

By **THOMAS JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

Major League Baseball is attempting to make the sport more than just an American pastime. This past weekend, the Cardinals and Cubs continued their storied rivalry, not in Chicago or St. Louis, but in London, as part of a continuing effort to bring games to other countries like Mexico and England.

But baseball is already an international sport because of the World Baseball Classic.

Viewership of the World Baseball Classic championship in late March between the United States and Japan peaked at 6.5 million people worldwide across FS1 and Fox Deportes. The game, which Japan won 3-2, was the most viewed WBC game since the tournament started in 2006. More than 1.3 million people attended games across the four different host cities, another tournament record.

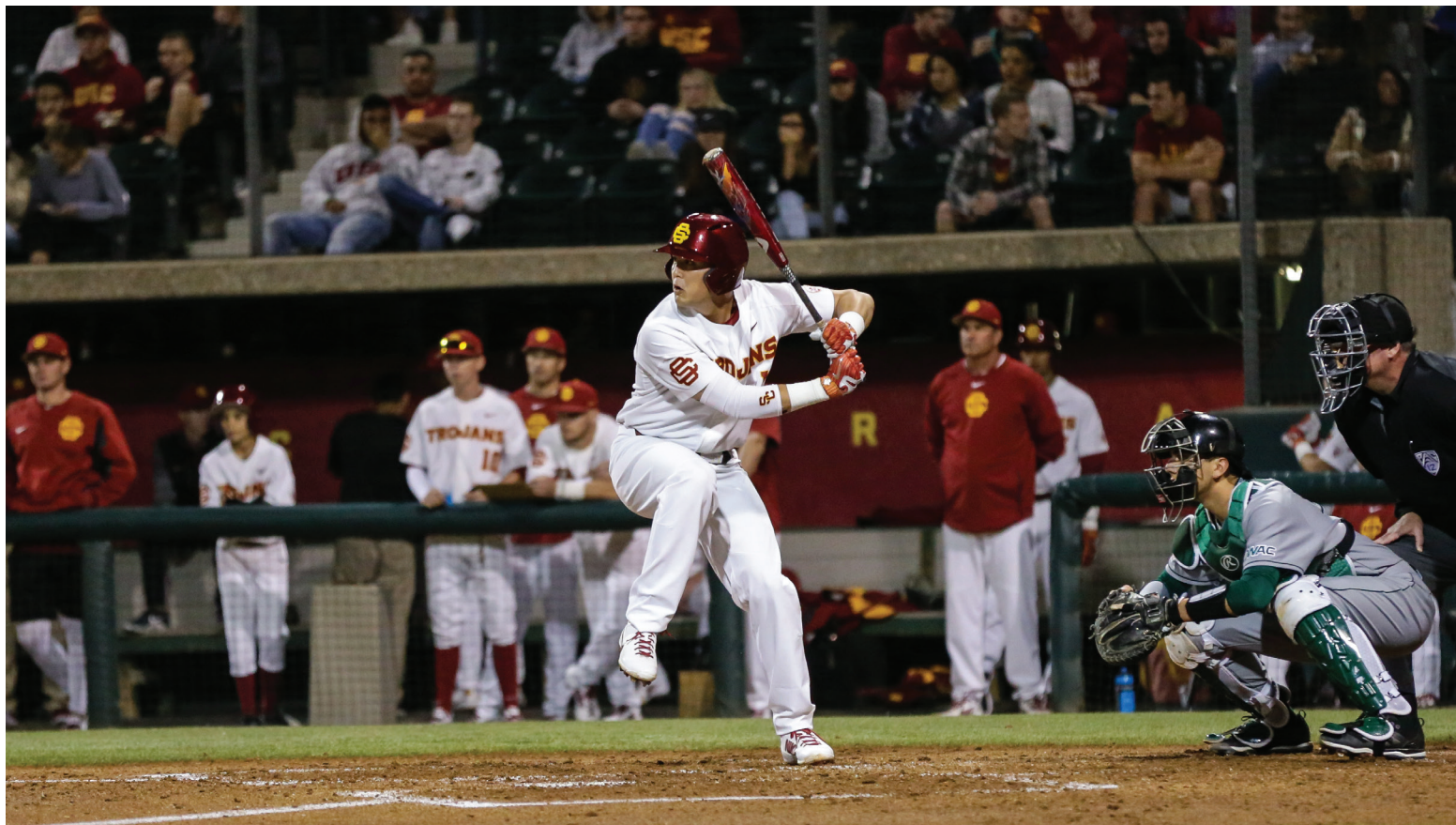
But it wasn't just Classic fans who enjoyed the games.

The WBC, which brought players from across the world, had a taste of home for USC fans. Five Trojan alumni competed in the tournament across three different teams. Lars Nootbaar, who played at USC from 2016 to 2018 and for Japan in the Classic, also competed in the MLB London Series as a member of the St. Louis Cardinals.

CJ Stubbs, who played at USC from 2016 to 2019, played for Team Israel.

The Houston Astros drafted Stubbs in 2019 and he's been in their minor league system ever since, and hasn't yet played in a major league game.

"It was amazing, that park, that atmosphere," Stubbs said in an interview with the *Daily Trojan*. "I had never played in front of 30,000 people and probably like 10 million



USC Athletics

Lars Nootbaar last donned cardinal and gold in 2018, and he won the gold medal playing for Japan in the World Baseball Classic.

on TV, which is amazing. And it's cool, just relaxing in that moment."

Stubbs had the opportunity to play in the tournament because his older brother Garrett, who played at USC from 2012 to 2015, sustained a knee injury in Israel's first game.

"I was the only other catcher that was within 100 miles that could come play," Stubbs said. "The third game rolls around and I'm getting ready for spring training, and they call me up and said, 'Hey, it's time to go. Do you wanna come play?' And so I hopped in my car, drove an hour south down to Miami from West Palm Beach and just kinda got thrown in the fire."

Robert Stock, who played at USC from 2007 to 2009, also played for Israel but had the opportunity to

play with the team for the entirety of its stay in the tournament.

"It was a blast. [I] closed out the game against Nicaragua and that was kind of a must-win for us to automatically qualify for [the] next time around," Stock said. "When you're playing for a national team — or, in this case, for team Israel, a team where you all have many different shared experiences — it means a little bit more than the average run-of-the-mill team."

Many players expressed similar experiences to Stock. Daniel Cooper played at USC from 2008 to 2009 and has represented Great Britain at the national level for over a decade.

Cooper has moved away from professional baseball, but he still played for Great Britain in this year's WBC.

It was the first time Great Britain qualified for the WBC ever.

"For how close ties are for [the] U.S. and Great Britain, the carryover did not come with baseball, and there isn't a lot of love for baseball in that country," Cooper said. "It's very interesting to be a part of a program and for me to see what we've been able to do in the 10 years I've been on this program: How much we can grow the love of baseball in a country."

Cooper pitched in two of Great Britain's four games at the WBC, giving up one earned run across two 2/3 innings. Although he hasn't pitched professionally in nearly a decade, he struck out Trea Turner and recorded outs against stars Mike Trout, Kyle Schwarber

and Mookie Betts in Great Britain's game against the U.S..

For a player like Cooper, whose professional career ended due to injury, the Classic was the largest stage he's ever played on.

"[The WBC] was my big league experience," Cooper said. "There really aren't words that I could use to explain what it felt like to pitch at that level. [It's] something that I always aspired to do but never had the opportunity. So, it was something really special for me."

Stock, Stubbs and Cooper did not remain in the tournament long, with Great Britain and Israel getting knocked out of the WBC in pool play.

| see **WBC**, page 7 |

A new trend in the NBA puts Lakers at a crossroads

Sahil Kurup

ROAD TO REVIVAL



Trends constantly come and go in the NBA. The "small-ball era" played the traditional big man off the floor in the latter half of the last decade — every team now pines for a rim presence. The effectiveness of the mid-range shot peaked in the Kobe Bryant era before the explosion of the three-pointer — stars now lean on the mid-range while role players shy away from it.

The last two NBA champions point to a potential new trend on the horizon — continuity.

Superteams took the league by storm in the 2010s, climaxed by the greatest team of all time: Kevin Durant's Golden State Warriors in 2016. Subsequently, Kawhi Leonard migrated to the Toronto Raptors and instantly won a championship. The Lakers shipped every semblance of cohesion to the New Orleans Pelicans for Anthony Davis and

hung a banner in Staples Center the very next season. Even the Milwaukee Bucks traded the farm for two-way star Jrue Holiday and immediately won the 2021 Larry O'Brien trophy.

The ensuing seasons were different stories. The Warriors rose to the top on the shoulders of Stephen Curry, sticking by their homegrown talent with Klay Thompson and Draymond Green through peaks and valleys. The Denver Nuggets torpedoed through the NBA behind the two-man game of Nikola Jokić and Jamal Murray, who had an improbable yet indestructible chemistry no one foresaw when Murray was drafted in 2016.

Both the Warriors and Nuggets chose to bolster the margins to maximize their stars rather than opting for the top-heavy superteam approach.

The Lakers sit at a crossroads at the dawn of free agency. LeBron James and Anthony Davis take up approximately \$94 million of the \$136 million salary cap. Austin Reaves' two-million-dollar cap hit allows the Lakers to go over the cap limit and sign him with bird rights at the conclusion of free agency.

A \$16 million team option for Malik Beasley and non-guaranteed contracts for Jarred Vanderbilt and Mo Bamba give General Manager Rob Pelinka leeway to free up a maximum contract slot for a big name with a big financial commitment — such as Kyrie Irving, James Harden or Green.

The Lakers have the decision to roll the dice or be prudent in their approach to free agency.

Pelinka took a massive swing for the fences and embarrassingly struck out when the Lakers traded for Russell Westbrook in 2021. Irving, who has been heavily linked to the Lakers, is undoubtedly a better player and a more natural fit next to James and Davis. And, for nostalgic purposes, who wouldn't want to see Irving throwing lobs off the backboard to James like they did in their Cleveland Cavalier days?

But if Lakers fans are already frustrated with Davis' inconsistencies, they would not take kindly to Irving.

Unlike Davis, whose impact on the game ebbs and flows, Irving has no problems on the court — he's a freak of nature. The problem is, between injuries and off-court

issues, Irving has not played more than 65 games in a season since 2018. Combine Irving's unreliability with Davis' inability to stay on the court — the latter hasn't played more than 65 games in a season with the Lakers — and an aging James, how many games are the Lakers really going to get from that big three?

"LeGM" has preferred to surround himself with superstar teammates to take the burden off him as he's aged, but it is time for the Lakers to value continuity and cohesiveness. Here's what they should do.

Bring back Rui Hachimura, a versatile forward who can score the rock as a release valve. Bring back Vanderbilt, a lengthy, hungry defender despite his offensive limitations. Bring back Dennis Schröder for the right price — his point-of-attack defense is invaluable. Even bring back D'Angelo Russell, albeit on a reasonable contract, despite his struggles in the Western Conference Finals — Russell's shot creation can keep the Lakers afloat through a strenuous regular season.

Fill out the roster on the margins to lower James'

responsibilities and keep Davis healthy. Throw money at a big man like Brook Lopez, a defensive stalwart that can space the floor and lessen the strain on Davis' body. The Denver Nuggets' Bruce Brown is another name to keep an eye on, a "three-and-D" wing that can handle the ball and has championship pedigree.

Pelinka doesn't need to go for the home run from home plate. Play bunt-ball and round the bases one by one — trust what is being built.

The team just made the Western Conference Finals after half a season together. Give it a full offseason to work out its wrinkles before jumping ship off a boat that isn't sinking.

Teams will value chemistry above superteams for the foreseeable future — unless it's Durant's team, apparently. The Lakers must remain resolute and follow this trend of continuity before the league looks at them through the rearview mirror.

Sahil Kurup is a rising senior writing about the Los Angeles Lakers and the endless drama that follows them in his column, "Road to Revival."