

SUMMER TROJAN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023 | STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1912 | VOL. 209, NO. 2

Holistic cattle farming, environmental boons: Students research regenerative agriculture



Rising M Cattle Co.

Cows are typically raised in cramped feedlots which results in grass growing less effectively and negative effects on the health of the cows.

Two students are finding ways to use cattle farming to better the environment.

By **CLAIRE QIU**
Staff Writer

When TJ Mercer met Joshua Jacobs in an Innovation in Engineering and Design for Global Crises class, Mercer told Jacobs to watch a documentary on regenerative agriculture called “Kiss the Ground” (2020). It ended up changing both of their lives.

“[The documentary] sort of opened me up to a whole new world of this amazing solution to a problem I didn’t even know existed,” said Jacobs, a junior majoring in chemical engineering.

Now, the two are collaborating on a research project to prove that holistically-raised food yields more nutritional benefits than traditionally-produced food while also benefiting the environment.

“Our topsoil is degrading at an unprecedented rate because of the last 100 years of agriculture mismanagement,” Jacobs said, citing practices like “intensive monocropping” and fertilizer use that harm plants, animals and the surrounding ecosystem.

The project focuses on holistically-raised beef. Cows are traditionally raised in cramped feedlots, which both prevents grass from growing effectively and is detrimental to cow health, said Mercer, a junior majoring in industrial and systems engineering.

Instead, he and Jacobs are researching the benefits of holistically-raised, grass-fed cows.

“What happens with a lot of grass fed [beef], is they cut the grass in the field, or technically corn stalks, and they just bring that to the feedlot,” Mercer said. “But what’s been really interesting for us and the research ... is that when you actually put [the

cows] in a pasture setting, and they get to eat fresh things that are still alive, it’s way healthier.”

Eating fresh, living grass allows cows to benefit from antioxidants, vitamins and good fats before the grass is cut and begins to lose its nutritional content.

In addition to ensuring cows get living grass to eat, the project researches how cow grazing affects the grass and soil health when the cows are migrated around different areas of a pasture, instead of being allowed to feed constantly on one spot — a rotational grazing system.

“It’s using the cows as a tool to specifically graze concentrated areas of land until it’s been grazed a certain amount and then move the entire herd to another part,” Jacobs said. “The point is to mimic how they would actually have herded like [in] a lot of these grasslands.”

Ecosystems currently face problems with cow grazing that have nothing to do with the cows, Mercer said, citing the wildebeest in the Serengeti as an example of a thriving beast and pasture relationship.

“They had this great system going and we [built] big cities and

we destroyed all these migration patterns,” Mercer said.

Instead, Mercer and Jacobs want to use holistic cattle grazing to reestablish the mutually beneficial feedback cycles between cows and the environment. They are doing so with the help of a local ranch, Rising M Cattle Co., which puts holistic cattle raising theories into practice.

“We’re building grasslands with the cattle,” said Josephine Gwilliam, a rancher on the farm, likening the process to a “dance with nature.”

| see **FARMING**, page 2 |



Tomoki Chien | Daily Trojan

Juniors TJ Mercer and Joshua Jacobs are working together to use holistic cattle grazing with help from Rising M Cattle Co., a local ranch that practices holistic cattle raising.

STUDENT HEALTH CONTINUES SERVICES DURING SUMMER

Health services are still offered to students but with limited, shorter hours.

By **CLAIRE QIU**
Student Health Beat Writer

USC Student Health continues to offer health services — albeit with shortened hours — to students throughout the summer, Chief Student Health Officer Dr. Sarah Van Orman said in a briefing with the *Daily Trojan* Monday.

“We have a little bit shorter hours in terms of only being open until five, and then we only have telehealth on the weekends,” Van Orman said. “But, otherwise, all services are available just as they would be during the rest of the year.”

Students living in California for the summer are eligible to use telehealth services to initiate or continue medical treatment or seek counseling services.

“If there’s something that people have been putting off because they’ve been busy or haven’t had the time during the academic year, we’re open for business,” Van Orman said. “I really encourage people to come in for needed services.”

All of Student Health’s campus tents are now taken down as campus returns to a pre-pandemic normal. Student Health operated more than 15 different tents, tables and setups in parking garages over the course of the pandemic. Walk-up PCR tests are no longer offered, though Student Health will still distribute free antigen tests.

Student Health is still keeping track of coronavirus case counts, Van Orman said, as part of a reminder for students and staff to continue reporting their illness should they be diagnosed with coronavirus.

“[This will] allow us to provide that notification to other people within the community,” Van Orman said. “For individuals who are at higher risk, this is still a really important illness that can cause significant problems for people who may have high risk medical conditions.”

Van Orman said she hopes that even though pandemic is no longer a public health emergency, people will still take precautions when ill and protect others from contracting illness.

“I hope that’s an idea that stays with us all because we don’t know, right? You never know, is that person sitting next to you taking medicine that suppresses their immune system? Do they have heart disease, do they have lung disease, or do they just not want to get sick?” Van Orman said. “There are things we can do to limit the spread [of viruses].”

As the coronavirus pandemic wanes, the opioid epidemic continues, with the United States recording nearly 110,000 overdose deaths in 2022.

“We want to remind people, if they themselves are going to be using any kind of drug recreationally, to test it for fentanyl,” Van

| see **HEALTH**, page 2 |

FARMING | Rising M Cattle Co. received grant to sell beef directly to schools

| continued from page 1 |

Rising M Cattle Co. just received its USDA certification, which will allow it to begin directly selling cuts of beef to consumers and restaurants online. The company also obtained a grant that will allow it to sell beef directly to schools at a discounted price.

“The goal here isn’t so much to expand, but to inspire and encourage people to eat locally,” Gwilliam said.

Mercer is equally passionate about educating people about their beef intake. He believes the solution starts with increasing USDA certification accessibility for local farms, like Rising M Cattle Co., allowing them to sell directly to consumers who can buy locally.

“It’s a lot of money to even build a slaughterhouse that’s up to USDA standards. And then you have to pay the salary for a USDA agent,” Mercer said.

Many small, local farms simply don’t have the funds to meet USDA standards for selling beef directly to consumers, trapping them in a vicious cycle that prevents them from competing with large meat distributors. Jacobs emphasized their efforts to use their research to change these standards.

“The way the laws are set up, it’s not really feasible to universalize

a lot of these [holistic] practices in a way that makes economical sense,” Jacobs said. “We’re trying to tap into a movement that’s already happening ... The major changes that have to happen is a societal shift that eventually goes into the policy.”

Those policies would hopefully make it easier for farms to implement the planning and work required to practice holistic management, Jacobs said.

“It’s much more involved, but it just takes a little more extra effort and thought, and then you can actually have a system that can produce food, make you money, and not fuck up the environment,” Jacobs said.

For now, Mercer and Jacobs hope to inspire others to educate themselves in little ways.

“It’s not reasonable to expect anyone to do anything above and beyond. People are living their lives; they’re busy. But this is how movements happen,” Jacobs said.

Mercer will spend the summer working with Gwilliam and its small team of ranchers at Rising M Cattle Co. The ranchers currently have their hands full with a host of newborn calves, and Gwilliam looks forward to working with Mercer.

“[Mercer] is really good at getting the science behind things,”



Tomoki Chien | Daily Trojan

Mercer and Jacobs want to encourage others to stay educated in little ways on their own and are trying to inspire people to think about their place in the environment.

Gwilliam said. “He’s always planting seeds, whether it’s physically, like he’s planting grass seeds, or he’s planting ideas.”

In the meantime, both Mercer and Jacobs will continue to

encourage others to take stock of their place in the environment.

“Every time you eat, everything you do ... something had to die for you,” Jacobs said. “And that’s not a bad thing. But

you can take that knowledge and incorporate that into a personal lifestyle ... understand where you’re interacting with the environment. There’s always ways to reduce your impact.”

TROJAN
KIDS
CAMP

Trojan Kids Camp (TKC) is a sports and academic day camp serving community youth ages 9-15.

USC Student Affairs
Recreational Sports

Coming this summer!

For more information Contact Cynthia Brass at (213)740-9252

scan For dates and prices!

HEALTH

| continued from page 2 |

Orman said, highlighting Student Health’s distribution of fentanyl test strips at their clinic.

Van Orman urged students who don’t use drugs themselves but have friends who do to learn CPR and have Naloxone available.

“Make sure there are people in the environment who know how to respond to and most importantly, are willing to respond to an emergency,” she said.

Van Orman said she believes it will be difficult to decrease the number of overdose deaths, most of which tend to occur among young adults.

Campus overdose statistics tend to reflect what happens in the surrounding community, Van Orman said. The University has not seen any overdoses this year, though there was one in 2021 and another in 2022.

Van Orman believes awareness has increased on campus, partly due to the efforts of student group NaloxoneSC, which is committed to spreading awareness about the dangers of the fentanyl crisis. She cited these efforts as a primary reason for maximizing overdose prevention on campus.

“I come at this from a risk reduction standpoint ... because we know that many people at different points in their life, including in college, may choose to use drugs recreationally, and we want them to have the good information to make the right decisions for them,” Van Orman said. “Risk is never zero, but the scales on this have tipped in the last five years.”

I track my life through playlist titles

How the way I title playlists has shifted and changed with me over the years.

By **EDHITA SINGHAL**
Staff Writer

The highlight of receiving my first phone wasn't the promise of complete privacy, but the ability to download my favorite tracks to listen to whenever I pleased. Though long gone are my days of painstakingly using YouTube to MP3 converters — a popular method of music listening around 2015 — I continue to curate playlists using a similar, tedious process.

We all know the feeling of hand-picking songs from different artists, time periods and genres that manage to fit together perfectly like puzzle pieces. It's satisfying, to say the least, but finding one word or phrase to title the sea of emotions the songs imbibe can be borderline impossible.

I have gone down this rabbit hole many times. I have a catalog of songs that make me believe that I am on the precipice of something great, like the first day of summer when you're unsure of what the next three months hold, but you sense in your bones that it'll be an unforgettable experience. It's akin to the first lick of ice cream in the scorching heat; as the taste of sweet chocolate fills your mouth, you eagerly anticipate the next lick, which will only taste better. To encapsulate this playlist's sensations, should I go with something basic like "Excitement," be philosophical with "The Best Is Yet To Come" or be quirky with simply "Ice Cream"?

Tackling this daunting task is no easy feat and my methods to address it have changed over the years.

As an unoriginal ninth grader, I took the most common approach to naming my playlists: based on my

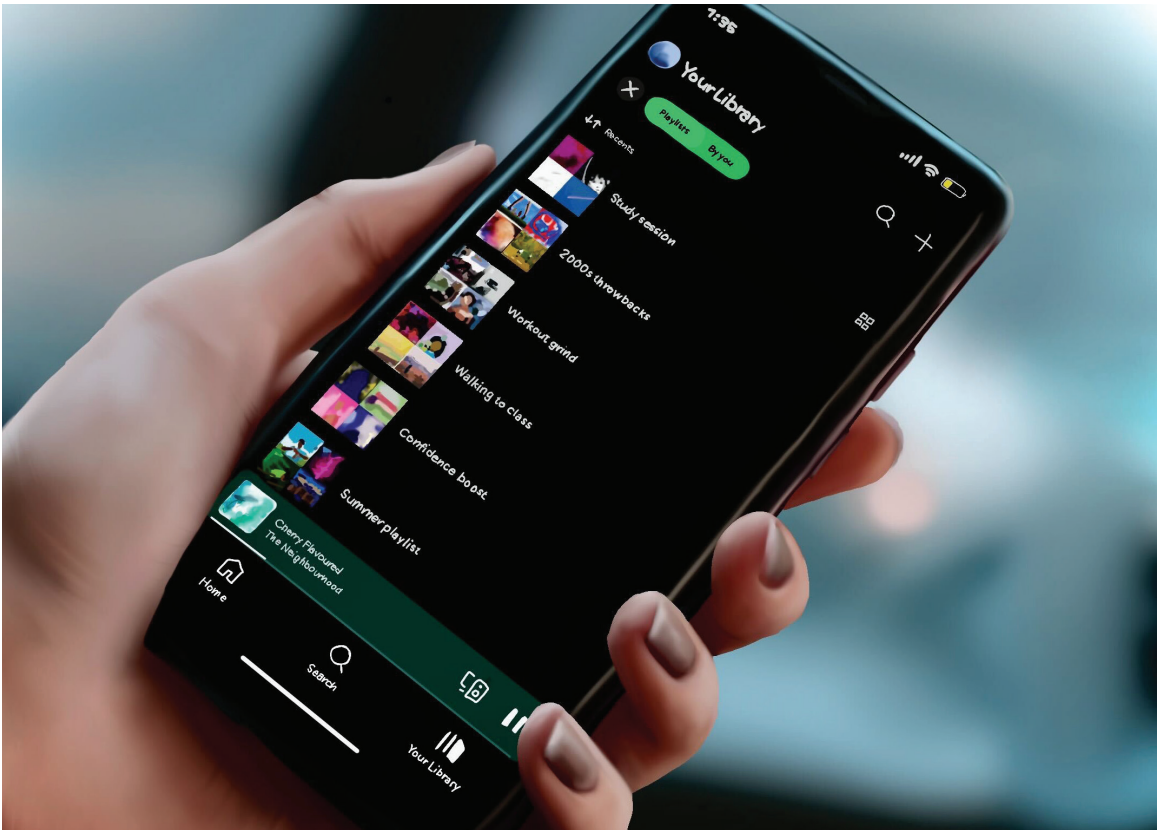
mood. This is similar to how Apple Music labels the playlists it curates for you (yes, I, unfortunately, am not a Spotify baby). While moods do have a perfect balance — the terms are broad enough to cover a plethora of songs but not so vague that there is no correlation between music and title — it fails to capture who you are. Today, when I make a playlist, I want the name to reflect me; it shouldn't be something that thousands of people could own.

Yet, as I was barely a teen and entering a new school with no friends, I prioritized not embarrassing myself. So, as a safety precaution in case anyone asked for my playlists, I named them after my moods. Naturally, I would have rather shared "sad" than "music I listen to at 4 am while crying over the ending of the notebook for the fifth time."

But, as I grew comfortable with an accepting friend group, I dared to change how I titled my playlists. Inspired by the approach detailed in one of my favorite books, "Every Last Word" by Tamara Ireland Stone, I keenly listened to the lyrics of all the songs and then cherry-picked three words that stood out and could encapsulate the playlist.

As a 15-year-old going through her emo phase, I embraced this method with my playlist titled "Fall, burn, imperfections." With songs such as "Coaster" by Khalid and "Sad Forever" by Lauv, let's just say that I thought no one understood my struggles. This playlist's title reflected this feeling of not being understood — no one was going to understand the meaning behind those three words except for me.

However, using a mere three words, or even a line, is tricky and as the pit of my teenage angst deepened, words weren't doing my emotions justice. I turned to the age-old saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words," and decided to use emojis. So what would I call a playlist I listened to on self-care nights



Nina Tomasevic | Daily Trojan

while debating my life choices? The nail polish emoji followed by the tornado emoji, of course.

In these trying times, emojis were a great way to voice my emotions and thoughts that I couldn't put into words. The titles were short and digestible, yet, like a well-written poem, they had a lot of hidden meaning.

When senior year started, it was time to pull up my socks. I needed playlists that inspired me to do something, whether it was to exercise, finish homework or even relax. I began adding verbs to all my playlists. Instead of "banger music," it was "get up and dance." Instead of "music that I listen to while studying," it was "stop procrastinating, Edhita!"

I found that attaching a specific action to the music was rather effective in compelling me to work.

But today, when I reflect on these experiences, I realize that I was so caught up in worrying about the future, whether it was getting into a good college or maintaining a perfect GPA, that I forgot to live in the moment. In comes my latest tryst with titling playlists: the "be-in-the-moment" approach. Here, the playlist is named after a very specific point in time and contains songs that would play in the background, like in movies.

I don't listen to the music only when that moment arises, but rather in situations that evoke the same emotions. For example, "songs to listen to when I meet

the LOML" aren't songs I will only listen to when I meet my perfect match. Instead, I listen to it anytime when I am in the mood for romantic and sappy music.

Even though I have clearly changed over time, the perfectionist in me has stayed the same. So I understand when something like making a playlist, which is supposed to be fun and relaxing, turns into something stressful. But I'll let you in on a little secret: There's no single "right" title. Do what comes naturally and trust that you will find one that works for you. And, worst case scenario, if you don't, it's okay. Just listen to my playlist "When even chocolate doesn't make things better."

Little Miss Grief

Catherine Ames

CHRONICALLY CATHERINE



Content warning: This article contains references to death and addiction.

Remember those "Little Miss" kids books by Roger Hargreaves? Like "Little Miss Sunshine," "Little Miss Bad" or "Little Miss Trouble"? Well, I think Hargreaves missed one: Little Miss Grief.

For reference, I've always identified with Little Miss

Sunshine — a chaotic, giggling yellow blob, laughing my way through the good and the bad. When my health collapsed at 20 years old, I was sure that a few doctor visits, some pills, an infusion and some outpatient surgery were all I needed. I had to miss a semester of college, but so what? I could handle a temporary withdrawal easily, then go back to my old self. But as weeks turned into months and months turned into semesters, my life transformed. My health started taking things away from me, like my ability to fight infections, attend college, walk up the stairs unassisted or shower without a

chair. I began to feel storm clouds roll in over my sunshine.

Suddenly I was faced with impossible questions. What do you mean I may never be well enough to return to college? How am I supposed to live with the fact that I may be this unwell for the rest of my life? Why was it so hard to get out of bed all of a sudden? What was this feeling?

It wasn't sadness, it was a deeper and more perpetual ache that I couldn't shake and couldn't name.

As my health spiraled, I felt like I lost control of my body and any certainty of how each day would go. I lost the ability to make and keep plans, make food for myself, travel, swim, run, jump, dance,

hike or backpack. I also lost control of my ability to look on the bright side and to feel at peace. I knew I was experiencing loss, but I was confused — no one had died. I was still alive, breathing and loved, so why was my chest so heavy with this feeling of loss?

But I remember when it finally clicked.

My best friend from high school, whose dad lost his life to addiction, shared with me over a FaceTime call during the coronavirus pandemic how she was still struggling with his loss so many years later. She explained how her life was never the same, how her mourning interrupted her day at random times, how she

lost friends who didn't know how to support someone coping with such devastation, how her grieving and healing had been anything but linear.

So much of what my best friend described was how I felt about life post-diagnosis. Her vulnerability during that call, and education over the many years of our friendship, allowed me to put into words for the first time a feeling I'd been experiencing since becoming chronically ill, but never knew how to express: grief.

I didn't know if I was allowed to identify with grief because my experience felt different. For me,

| see **AMES**, page 7 |

SUMMER TROJAN

VOLUME 209, NUMBER 2

JENNA PETERSON
Editor-in-Chief

CHRISTINA
CHKARBOUL
Managing Editor

JONATHAN PARK
Digital Managing
Editor

KIMBERLY AGUIRRE
Associate Managing
Editor

ANJALI PATEL
News Editor

DAPHNE YAMAN
Opinion Editor

ALEXIS LARA
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

STEFANO
FENDRICH
Sports Editor

PAIGE COOK
Chief Copy Editor

LYNDZI RAMOS
Art & Design
Director

JASON PHAM
Features Editor

TOMOKI CHIEN
Photo Editor

GRACE INGRAM
Podcast Editor

Published weekly on Wednesdays during the summer session by the University of Southern California, Office of Student Publications, Los Angeles, California 90089-0895.

Typeset by the Office of Student Publications at USC.

EDITORIAL MATTER • Editorial opinions expressed in the *Summer Trojan* are those of the respective writers, and do not necessarily reflect those of the University of Southern California, its faculty or student body. Inquires concerning the editorial contents of the *Summer Trojan* should be made to the editor via e-mail to:

editor@dailytrojan.com. Any inquiries not resolved through this means may be placed before the Student Media Board by contacting the Office of Student Publications, (213) 740-2707.

ADVERTISING MATTER • Except as clearly implied by the advertising party or otherwise specifically stated, advertisements in the *Summer Trojan* are inserted by commercial activities or ventures identified in the advertisements themselves and not by the University of Southern California. Advertisements printed in the *Summer Trojan* are not to be construed as a written or implied sponsorship, endorsement or investigation of their respective commercial sponsors or ventures. Inquiries concerning advertising in the *Summer Trojan* should be directed to the Office of Student Publications via e-mail to: **ads@dailytrojan.com**.

POSTMASTER • Send address changes to:
Summer Trojan
University of Southern California
University Park MC-0895
Los Angeles, California 90089-0895

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor are welcomed on any topic relating to USC or the *Summer Trojan*.

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:

letters@dailytrojan.com

Re-Introducing ‘King Pleasure’: Basquiat

Lisane Basquiat and Jeanine Heriveaux discuss new exhibit at The Grand LA.

By GIANNA CANTO
Staff Writer

It’s easy to get overwhelmed by art, especially a piece from the mind of an artist as renowned as Jean-Michel Basquiat. His reputation precedes him, admired as the gone-too-soon, Brooklyn-born-and-raised creative whose brazen authenticity was so uniquely his. Though many may know pieces of

his story or recognize his name, at times, it seems that artists as human beings, their life and their experiences, get shrouded by the prominence of their work. In organizing “Jean-Michel Basquiat: King Pleasure,” his sisters Lisane Basquiat and Jeanine Heriveaux hoped to re-introduce the world to Jean-Michel Basquiat from a much more personal perspective. “Because of his notoriety around what he created, that’s what people see front and center, his work,” Lisane Basquiat said. “Looking at him as a man behind that work takes a second thought

... For us as a family, it was really important that we provide the opportunity to dig a little deeper, as a way of offering more context to who Jean-Michel was.” “King Pleasure” is a testament to Jean-Michel Basquiat’s life, a celebration of all that he stood for, all that he loved and all that was loved about him, Heriveaux said. Following its successful eight-month run in New York City, the exhibit found its way to Los Angeles at the end of March, and with good reason. Though

| see **BASQUIAT**, page 5 |



The “Jean-Michel Basquiat: King Pleasure” exhibit opened March 31 and is still on display at The Grand LA. It features over 200 rare Basquiat works, with a large portion being on display for the first time.

‘Fast X’ ran out of fuel on its victory lap

MOVIE REVIEW

FAST X

2/5

GENRE: Action

RELEASE DATE: May 19, 2023

FOR FANS OF Mission: Impossible

By ALEXIS LARA
Arts & Entertainment Editor

While main character Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel) thinks family is forever, that doesn’t mean the Fast and Furious franchise should last that long. “Fast X” premiered Friday, making an impressive \$67.5 million nationwide and \$320 million overall on the opening weekend. While I am a dedicated Fast and Furious fan, 10 movies over the course of 22 years with two more in the works is excessive. Every race (and franchise) has a finish line; Fast and Furious crossed it a long time ago. The 10th installment of the franchise centers on the usual group of street-racing vigilante protagonists as they defend themselves and the world from a revenge-seeking son of a fallen drug lord. In addition to leader Toretto, this eclectic group includes returning characters Letty Ortiz (Michelle Rodriguez), Tej Parker (Ludacris), Roman Pearce (Tyrese Gibson) and Ramsey (Nathalie Emmanuel). The antagonist of this film, Dante (Jason Momoa), is the son of villainous kingpin Hernan Reyes. Reyes, who was killed in the fifth movie, is avenged by his son in “Fast X.” Dante goes on a destructive terror across the world with only a goal of making Toretto and his family suffer. Filled with outlandish stunts, gravity-defying missions and multiple character resurrections, “Fast X” relentlessly strays too far from the beaten path of street racing. The film’s primary setting reverts back to the setting of the fifth installment with the streets of Brazil. With recycled storylines and characters, “Fast X”’s strongest moments are those that pay homage to past movies. With characters wandering in Antarctica, stopping a bomb in Rome and driving cars out of airplanes, the 10th installment was a far cry from the franchise’s

humble beginnings. Only the occasionally familiar tone of family, faith and powerful engines remind the audience of the franchise they’re watching. Yet, even those moments came few and far between. “Fast X” also includes a surprise cameo from comedian Pete Davidson, as a black market supplier based out of London. Meadow Walker, daughter of late Fast and Furious actor Paul Walker who died in a car crash in 2013, also has a cameo. Her short appearance as a flight attendant pays homage to her late father. Despite the initial appeal of this street racing series, each installment strays further and further from the original theme it set out to create. While it is understandable that after nine movies the creators need to write action-packed scenes bigger and better than ever before to keep the audience engaged, each unrealistic moment that belongs in a fantasy movie served as another reason why the franchise should’ve ended after the seventh movie. If the franchise’s history is the best it could offer its fans, some things are better left untouched. The family sentiment, which was once an endearing layer below the drivers’ hardened exterior, lost value with every repetitive line. The surprise resurrection of characters who were supposed to be dead further unraveled the plot that directors spent more than a decade building. Villains are made into allies, friends are revealed as masked foes and every other storyline that could’ve been written has already been covered in the franchise ... twice, even. The franchise should have rested in peace with Toretto and Brian O’Conner (Walker) driving off into the sunset a quarter mile at a time. Instead, the magic of the series that once lured fans in is oversaturated by extravagant plot points that don’t belong. The roaring engines of cars were muffled by the unrealistic stunts. The unique backdrop of Los Angeles street racing was overshadowed by foreign places like Rome, London, Antarctica and Rio de Janeiro. The recycled lines about family make it clear that the Fast and Furious franchise lost sight of the characters in its rearview mirror.

Revenge is best served in an LBD

Hadyn Phillips
THAT’S FASHION, SWEETIE



Since high school, I’ve always taken advantage of summer in one way or another. Whether that was in the form of internships or upgrading my style palette for the year, there was one task that was never left off the summer to-do list: “glow up.” I put it in quotes because one, in California this meant soaking in the sun to achieve the golden-bronze glow of my dreams and two, glowing up always meant something new to me. While in my younger years I took this literally, by hitting the gym hard and eating super healthy, recently it’s been about finding balance and working on

my mental well-being. Especially with new graduates leaving my life, I’ve been particularly prioritizing my relationships and putting in a better effort to reach out and keep in touch. The summer is usually ideal for a glow-up because of the warm weather and because I finally have time to actively work on my goals, instead of passively and half-heartedly doing so amid papers and labs. Nevertheless, glow-ups can happen at any time of the year — a sunny (or cold) winter break, a random Tuesday afternoon or, according to celebrities, with the hard launch of a new romantic partner. This is otherwise known as the post-breakup or revenge glow-up. Seen most recently at the Cannes Film Festival, Dua Lipa arrived in a stunning Celine cutout black satin gown with new boyfriend and French director, Romain Gavras.



Singer-songwriter and former model Dua Lipa is set to release a new song, “Dance the Night,” this Friday for the upcoming “Barbie” movie.

And she looked hot. Not only did she make splashes on headlines, but her ex, Anwar Hadid, immediately went to Instagram after the new pair’s reveal to post stories captioned “I can’t breathe” and “I hate the way you say my name.”

This immediately made me think of my maneater playlist, and particularly the song “Who is She?” by I Monster, specifically the opening lyrics “Oh, who is she? / A misty memory / A haunting face / Is she a lost embrace?”

Dua Lipa perfectly resembled the mystery girl in I Monster’s song, from the daring cutouts and a high leg slit to the classic updo of her dark hair, perfectly complimenting the Tiffany and Co. drop earrings. She embodied the dark feminine energy and glowed from the inside, but I couldn’t help wondering how the launch would have been impacted if she wore a different dress. When trying to picture Dua Lipa in a brighter color or amped up sultriness — such as her multi-colored crystal butterfly Atelier Versace dress at the 2021 Grammy Awards or even her 2022 Grammy look with the strappy gold and black Versace corset dress — it wouldn’t have given the same impression. The truth of the matter is that the Celine gown was the perfect revenge glow-up gown

| see **PHILLIPS**, page 5 |

PHILLIPS

| continued from page 4 |

for one reason: It was classy but remained daring. The one shoulder perfectly balanced the asymmetrical back; the cutouts across her chest still didn't reveal any direct under- or side-boob; her waist was tapered in and the leg slit was just high and thin enough to hint at her exposed leg, but not show all of it.

In addition, her bangs were intentionally shadowing and drawing attention to her dark, glittery smokey eyes, keeping the rest of the face neutral and complemented by the minimalist jewelry.

So then: What makes the perfect revenge dress when studying Dua Lipa, and who else has come close to perfecting the art of the dark feminine, post-breakup glow-up hard launch?

Lori Harvey, when hard-launching British actor Damson Idris, kept her hair in soft Hollywood curls, donned a nude-brown smokey eye and also wore an asymmetric, drooping one-shoulder, slightly sheer black dress.

It seems the key is to keep the makeup neutral and warm with emphasis on the eyes, the hair soft and out of the face and the dresses black, tasteful and mysterious.

Of course, the perfect dress for you will depend on what colors compliment your skin tone and your personal preferences for fits, necklines, cuts, shapes and lengths. At the end of the day, confidence and a glow that comes from the inside is what will make you look insatiable and (if this is a post-breakup glow-up or hard launch) have your ex shamefully scrolling through your old photos.

But from what I've gathered at Cannes this year, revenge is best served in an LBD: a long black dress.

Hadyn Phillips is a rising junior writing about fashion in the 21st century, specifically spotlighting new trends and popular controversy in her column, "That's Fashion, Sweetie."

BASQUIAT

| continued from page 4 |

Jean-Michel Basquiat may be known as a quintessentially "New York" artist, he frequented L.A. throughout his career, spending months at a time working out of Venice Beach between 1982 and 1984.

The exhibit spans multiple galleries at The Grand L.A. Each space represents one of the various facets of his character, with focuses ranging from his childhood experiences and musical inspirations to social commentary and his cherished involvement in New York's late-night club scene throughout the early '80s.

"We wanted to share a different narrative of Jean-Michel," Heriveaux said. "A lot of people know Jean-Michel the artist, but they're not really aware of Jean-Michel the brother, the man, the son."

From the moment they walk in, viewers are seeped in the roots of his being. They become immediately enveloped by the rare collection of more than 200 paintings and mementos from the family's estate, accompanied by personal anecdotes from family and friends, as well as recreations of his childhood home, his studio on Great Jones Street and the Palladium nightclub's Michael Todd VIP Room.

Jean-Michel Basquiat undoubtedly lives on through his work, but "King Pleasure" has something most exhibits can't offer.

His family has given spectators the chance to directly connect with Jean-Michel Basquiat through the memories of his loved ones, as each gallery contains recorded interviews with his family members, close friends and colleagues who share invaluable stories of their encounters and beloved recollections of Jean-Michel Basquiat.

"Jean-Michel, Jeanine and I had a bubble, so I really enjoyed those times when the three of us were together," Lisane Basquiat said. "Jean-Michel was an incredible human being, he really was. He had a lot of love [and] was very protective of Jeanine and I. He would've done anything for us,

Posthumous exhibit showcases new side



Lisane Basquiat and Jeanine Heriveaux — the sisters of Jean-Michel Basquiat — constructed this exhibit. The exhibit shares the name with a 1987 Basquiat painting entitled "King Pleasure."

and I really appreciate having that. I never wanted him to pass away, but the time that he was here was really meaningful."

Among the masterpieces hanging on the gallery walls lie hidden troves of meaning within the vast assortment of ephemera on display. Be it his birth announcement, his Brooklyn Museum youth membership card, his bicycle or one of his many sketchbooks, one begins to see and feel Jean-Michel Basquiat within each piece — each an anchor to Jean-Michel Basquiat's reality.

"The intention was to give the viewer an experience into Jean-Michel's world, his life, his childhood, the things that made him him," Heriveaux said. "Just having an idea of the table he sat at, the living room he sat at, his thought process and the room that he was in when he was creating these masterpieces."

The enduring impression Jean-Michel Basquiat's work left on society is undeniable. In establishing this comprehensive and intimate anthology of his life, his loved ones have found a way to sustain his presence within the narrative.

"Art is a language, anybody can get something out of what they see that's living on the walls," said Aitina Fareed-Cooke, a long-time fan of Jean-Michel Basquiat's work. "I feel like his sisters did a great job of showcasing who he is ... And just carrying his story and carrying the weight of his work in such a gentle way so that people can feel him even now."

The "Jean-Michel Basquiat: King Pleasure" exhibit will run through July 31 at The Grand L.A., with special discount rates offered to students and groups.

Connect. Network.
Thrive. Cheer.
Celebrate. Learn.
Grow. Succeed.
Volunteer. Innovate.
Reconnect. Change
the World. Travel.
Create. Imagine.
Do More with USC.

Congratulations, Class of 2023! You now belong to the **USC Alumni Association**, which has more than 463,000 members. Visit our **New Graduates** page at alumni.usc.edu today.

@uscalumni #uscgrad #uscalumni

ALUMNI.USC.EDU | ALUMNI@USC.EDU

SUMMER TROJAN

New Student Orientation Issue
Wednesday, June 14, 2023

- Reach USC's incoming freshmen/parents, transfer, international and graduate students.
- Issue will be distributed during on-campus orientation sessions throughout the summer, plus posted online.
- 15% off regular Daily Trojan ad rates.

Advertising Deadline:
Friday June 9

A publication of the USC Daily Trojan
(213) 740-2707
ads@dailytrojan.com

Classified ads may be placed in Student Union 400, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – noon and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Call (213) 740-2707 for more information. Classified ads cannot be taken over the phone and require advance payment. No refunds on cancelled classified ads. Visit www.dailytrojan.com/ads for more rates, information, and policies.

000 • Rentals
100 • Property Sales
200 • Help Wanted

300 • Services
400 • Merchandise
500 • Transportation

600 • Miscellaneous
700 • Announcements

Classified Line Ad: Daily: \$10.00 for 15 words or fewer, 35¢ for each additional word • Weekly: (5 consecutive insertions) \$45.00 for 15 words or fewer, \$1 each additional word
Classified Display Ad: Daily: \$14.25 per column inch • Weekly: (5 consecutive insertions) \$64.00 per column inch • Monthly: (20 consecutive insertions) \$239.50 per column inch

000 RENTALS

ROOMS

FURNISHED ROOMS
AVAILABLE NOW

2 blocks from USC. Shared full kitchen. 1 room with private bath. All others shared bath. Gated parking option available. Call for pricing. (323) 766-1156 (6-28)

INTERN SPECIAL. Available 3 rooms. Each \$800/month for the summer, utilities included, shared living space. studenthousing1492@hotmail.com, (323) 868-1864. (6-21)

CHARMING
CRAFTSMAN HOUSES

Rooms in quiet shared houses. Short walk to USC. A/C, shared kitchen, microwave, cable, internet, TV, washer/dryer, free utilities.
1188 W. 28th St. • 1475 W. 28th St.
Summer \$600+/mo. • Fall \$1,000+/mo.
Call (213) 713-7440 (6-14)

ROOMS IN QUIET HOUSE. Near supermarket, tram C, A/C, shared bathrooms, includes washer/dryer, utilities, \$1,100/month. (323) 201-7102. (6-7)

NEW LUXURY
APARTMENT

Offering Private Rooms + Private Bathrooms
All Utilities Included.
Call, Text or E-mail To Receive Pictures & Additional Info
Tony (213) 706-1144
tony@venicci.com
2651 S. Hobart Blvd. (6-14)

APARTMENTS

NEED TO ADVERTISE IN THE DAILY TROJAN?
Contact (213) 740-2707 or e-mail classifieds@dailytrojan.com. (5-31)

2 BDRM / 1 BATH SPACIOUS (1,400 SQ FT) UPSTAIRS UNIT with city view, recently upgraded, with new appliances, stove, fridge, and washer/dryer for rent. 1107 3rd Avenue, Unit #4, Los Angeles, CA 90019. Located in the lovely Country Club Park Section of Los Angeles. \$2,500/month rent. For more information, please contact Danita Tabron at (310) 464-5911 or Danita@kw.com. A virtual tour of the unit: <http://apts.com/> (6-28)

DANCO HOUSING
Now Renting 2023-2024 School Year



All units located just a few blocks from campus. We have bachelor, single, 1 bdrm, 2 bdrm, 3 bdrm and 4 bdrm units available. Starting as low as \$975/month. If interested, call: (310) 842-8234; e-mail: Dancohousing@aol.com or visit us at: www.Dancohousing.com (6-28)

MARDI GRAS &
MARDETTE
APARTMENTS

Pre-Leasing for Fall 2023

Move-in Special

Bachelor (kitchenette) \$2,000/month
Studio (full kitchen) \$2,200/month
1+1 from \$2,600/month
1+2 from \$2,800/month
2+2 from \$3,600/month

WALK TO CAMPUS.
Some upgraded units include:
stove, refrigerator, microwave,
dishwasher, A/C.
Pool, laundry, elevator
& cameras onsite.
Gated entry, bike rack &
intercom system for deliveries.
FREE Parking.
Maintenance on site.
Water, trash & sewer paid.

720 West 27th Street &
2707 Portland Street
E-mail:
mardigras@hpgmanagement.com
Call: 213-747-5200
Text: 323-896-9702 (6-28)

HOUSE/CONDO

7 BDRM / 3 BATH HOME USC SECURITY ZONE. 1557 W. 29th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Perfect layout for students! 1 mile to USC. \$7,000/month, hardwood floors, lots of natural light! This will go fast! vinnie@hubilu.com, (310) 740-4385 (6-28)

SUMMER LEASE. June/July.
1 bdrm/1 bath house, furnished, garden, includes internet/utilities/washer. 30 minute walk to Los Angeles General Medical Center.
crlnk10@gmail.com (5-31)

2-STORY, 5 BDRM / 3 BATH USC SECURITY ZONE. 3408 S. Budlong Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Perfect layout for students! 4 minutes to USC. \$5,500/month, hardwood floors, lots of natural light. This will go fast! vinnie@hubilu.com, (310) 740-4385. (6-28)

JRN ENTERPRISE LLC



3 Bdrm/ 2 Bath Inglewood House. Short Term, Available Now, 10 Minutes from USC. See website for pricing and additional information:
https://www.furnishedfinder.com/property/465405_1
Contact Tomarsha (626) 394-6161

300 SERVICES

MISCELLANEOUS



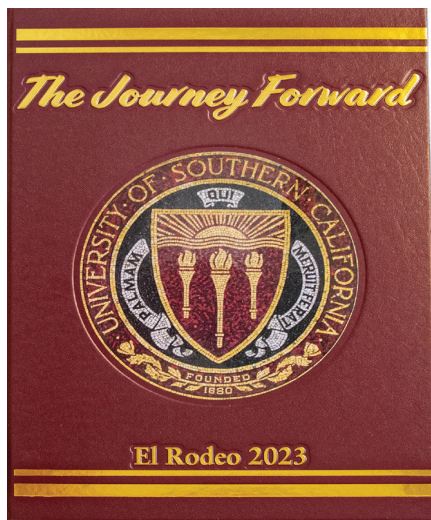
THE TRUSTED AUTO
REPAIR EXPERTS

15% DISCOUNT
with USC Student or Staff ID

Tires. Brakes. Oil. Everything
Trojan Midas
2424 S. Figueroa St. | 213-749-3488

GO TROJANS !!

2023 El Rodeo Yearbook
Distribution
Available Now!!



Tutor Campus Center (TCC), Room 425
Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 12 noon & 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Please bring your USCard with you.

If you haven't pre-ordered a copy, limited quantities will be available for purchase.
\$100 cash, check, credit card
(VISA, MasterCard, Discover)

The New York Times
Crossword

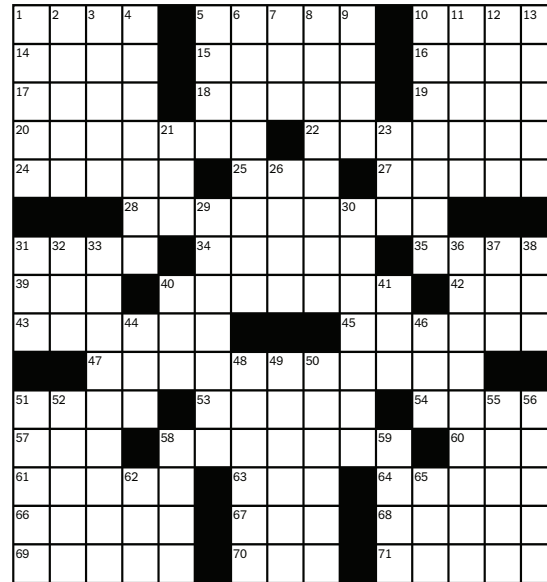
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0419

- ACROSS
- 1 Leader of the world's smallest nation ("An Essay on Man")
- 5 Procedure fee
- 10 Loaded ("Diving Into the Wreck")
- 14 Actor Wilson
- 15 Opposite of mainstream
- 16 ___ breve (2/2 time)
- 17 Potentially insulting, for short
- 18 Prefix with meter, to a versifier
- 19 Junket
- 20 Kathmandu residents
- 22 Went effortlessly
- 24 Situation of intense conflict
- 25 Many a craft brew, informally
- 27 Restless
- 28 Volatile state of affairs
- 31 Press releases?
- 34 ___ Estby, Norwegian-born U.S. suffragist
- 35 Meal starter, maybe
- 39 Sushi topper
- 40 Didn't abstain
- 42 Inflation meas.
- 43 Cry of denial
- 45 Prod with a stick, say
- 47 Westminster Abbey section hinted at by this puzzle's architecture
- 51 Secretly loops in, in a way
- 53 Big commotion
- 54 Major crop in Nigeria
- 57 Address to click
- 58 1990s hit with the line "keep playing that song, all night"
- 60 Got the picture
- 61 Not cramped
- 63 Antitraffic org.
- 64 Prokaryotic model organism
- 66 "S.N.L." alum Pedrad
- 67 Open about one's sexuality, say
- 68 Bass staff symbol
- 69 Drinking vessel that may have a lid ("Sacred Emily")
- 70 Device that might say "In two miles ..."
- 71 Coat put on when it's cold? ("Mending Wall")
- DOWN
- 1 Use a hammer on ("In a Station of the Metro")
- 2 One with a deed
- 3 Pig of children's TV
- 4 Sets up tents
- 5 ___ Field (Shea Stadium successor)
- 6 Not competitive
- 7 Summer hrs. in Sonoma
- 8 Freight in flight
- 9 Vintage
- 10 All-important numbers for TV execs
- 11 Competitor's concession
- 12 This puzzle has 78 of them
- 13 Able to weather difficult conditions ("Channel Firing")
- 21 Mekong Valley language
- 23 Abu Dhabi's grp.

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

A S O R J S D G N I E L S
J E T O J I N O W I S V N
I T O C E V E D A W O O R
M V S R Q W A E H T R N
S W V A N H O O H S O C B
Y A N V H O O S I O D
I V E X O D L O N E R V
I S d E W O S d V H E O R
d N O S Y G T E H S K N I
d N O S Y G T E H S K N I
A S I N V d I V W V R d
d E S I N R O S I T V d E N
R N O I V R I E I C d N N
V T T V E I O N I N E M O
H C I R A V d O C E d O d



PUZZLE BY JOE DEENEY

- 26 New Orleans N.B.A. team, informally
- 29 Expression of befuddlement
- 30 Ikea founder Ingvar ___
- 31 Nest egg letters
- 32 Conjunction used three times in the first line of Shakespeare's Sonnet 65
- 33 Not leave unattended
- 36 Aria, typically
- 37 "God Bless the ___"
- 38 Place to retire in a hurry?
- 40 Groundbreaker?
- 41 Ages and ages
- 44 Discouraging words
- 46 Critically important
- 48 Vegan cookout option
- 49 Occur in conversation
- 50 "Well, darn!"
- 51 Incinerates ("To a Mouse")
- 52 Dubrovnik resident
- 55 Bucks, boars and bulls
- 56 Fleet-footed ("A Maypole")
- 58 "How Firm a Foundation," for one
- 59 "Survivor" host Probst
- 62 Customizable Nintendo avatar
- 65 "Proud Mary" band, in brief

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).
Read about and comment on each puzzle: nytimes.com/wordplay.

AMES | Grieving life pre-chronic illness is nothing to be ashamed of

| continued from page 3 |

it was “living grief,” which I define as a paradoxical experience of looking in the mirror, seeing my body look the same as it did pre-diagnosis (especially if my port is covered) and feeling perplexed that what’s causing me grief is reflected back at me. I can touch my grief because my grief is my body, which is a real fucking trip. And for so many others it is, too.

At one point in the book, Little Miss Sunshine asks the King of Miseryland — where laughing, smiling and giggling were forbidden — “But why are these things not allowed?” I have the same question: Why does it feel like expression or discussion of chronic illness or disabled grief isn’t allowed? Especially for young people?

I think it’s because for much of my life, grief was an “over there” emotion, the biggest of them all, one everyone hopes they never have to deal with. And if you have to deal with it at an early age, everyone is scared to talk to you about it. A misunderstood, underrepresented and stigmatized feeling, chronic illness grief, for me, has always been this reserved emotion. Especially because doctors don’t know how to address grief in young patients because we are supposed to be the “Little Miss Next Generation of Sunshine.” I think that’s why I felt so alone and confused by this emotion.

Simultaneously, I can’t tell you the number of times I’ve cried to my mom, curled up in her arms asking, “Why did this have to happen to me?” Mumbling through snot and crying, “I wish I could sing, dance, run, play volleyball again. I wish I could do what I used to. I wish I had my old body, the one that worked better. It feels like that part of me has died.” And to be honest, parts of me have.

There were certain freedoms I used to have as an able-bodied person

that I mourned when I lost. But there are also parts of me that died that I’m kind of glad passed away.

I’m glad my sense of people-pleasing died when I got sick because I no longer had the energy to please others. Today, I only have people in my life who genuinely care and love me. I’m glad my need to organize everything down to every detail died because my health is uncertain, and now I embrace uncertainty and can laugh when things go unexpectedly. I’m glad my filter died when I got sick because

now I say what I think unabashedly and with courage, I speak truth to power because I’ve been told I probably won’t live as long as I thought I would, so fuck it!

With grief I used to think there was a before and after, that it was binary. And unfortunately, that is partly true. It happens, and then there’s after. But now I know, because of how heroically my friend has shared her grief with me, that grief comes in all shapes, sizes and durations. It ebbs and flows. It’s how we make meaning of our grief that

defines the after. In my case, it’s taken the shape of writing this column.

So yes, sometimes I need to be Little Miss Grief. I need to validate my pain. But eventually I laugh again, exercise it out, talk to my therapist, listen to music or have a sob sesh. With time, I’ve found a way not to let grief be the center of my universe. Slowly, it becomes just another planet in the orbit of my complex lived experience, along with joy, family, friends, purpose, pain, chaos, love and of course, fabulousity.

Trenyce Tong | Daily Trojan

Writer’s note: Feel free to 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 fabulousity — chronicallycatherine@gmail.com or [@itschronicallycatherine](https://www.instagram.com/itschronicallycatherine) on Instagram.

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



Advertise Here!

Small space. Big Visibility.

For rates: ads@dailytrojan.com

SUDOKU | Look for puzzles weekly in the Summer Trojan

			5	4			8	
			1	7		4	9	6
				8		1		
		2				3	6	8
	3						4	
6	1	7				9		
		5		1				
3	2	1		6	4			
	8			5	3			

Not everyone will be at the beach all summer !

Advertise in USC’S WEEKLY SUMMER TROJAN

Wednesdays 2023 Publishing dates:
May 17, May 24, May 31, June 7, **June 14***, June 21, June 28
**Special Issue June 14: Freshman-Transfer-Grad Student Orientations*



15% OFF regular ad rates
25% OFF 3+ Issues

Deadlines: Each Monday at noon
prior to Wednesday publication

The newspaper is not in production during July and early August

www.dailytrojan.com/ads
ads@dailytrojan.com
(213) 740-2707

About 15,000 USC students stay on or near campus during the summer.

DAILY TROJAN
ADVERTISING

SPORTS

PAGE 8 | WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023 | WWW.DAILYTROJAN.COM/SPORTS

‘We control our own destiny’: USC baseball prepares for postseason

The Trojans head into the Pac-12 tournament with high aspirations as the No. 4 seed.

By **THOMAS JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

The school year might have ended for many Trojans, but USC baseball is just getting into the thick of it.

After taking one out of three games against Arizona this past weekend, USC secured the No. 4 spot in the Pac-12 standings, its highest regular season finish since 2015, when it finished third. The Trojans were picked to finish second-to-last in the Preseason Coaches’ Poll.

“There’s a picture of that in our locker room of the preseason coaches poll as a reminder to look at every day so we know just to work that much harder to get to where we want to be because our fate is never determined by somebody else,” senior pitcher Blake Sodersten said.

The Trojans are in the middle of pool play in the Pac-12 tournament. After beating UCLA 6-4 Tuesday, the Trojans have an off-day Wednesday before taking on Washington Thursday.

The Pac-12 tournament has nine total teams, with three groups of three teams. Each team will play all other teams in their respective pools. At the conclusion of pool play, the winners of each group will advance to the semifinals.

A wildcard sport will be awarded to the fourth and final team. Since teams only play two games in pool play, the wildcard will likely come down to a tiebreaker. In this tournament, the tiebreaker goes to whichever team is seeded higher.

Since the Trojans are seeded fourth, they have the tiebreaker over five teams in the tournament, meaning they do not necessarily have to win their group to advance to the semifinals.

After beating the Bruins Tuesday, the Trojans have multiple paths to get into the semifinals. Win their next game and they’re in, or lose their next game and hope the tiebreaker falls in their favor.

The Trojans now look to take on the Huskies and secure their spot in the next round of the tournament. USC most recently played Washington on the road in late April, getting swept by the Huskies. It was not complete dominance by the Huskies, with the Trojans losing by an average of two runs per game.

“They were all good games, all competitive ball games,” Head Coach Andy Stankiewicz said. “We didn’t play nine innings. They did, they stayed on. They beat us late. They got us late, in the later innings ... A great lesson for us is you have to play nine innings.”

Washington finished the regular season at No. 3 in the Pac-12, only half a game above the Trojans.

The Huskies lineup boasts six hitters who finished the regular season with a batting average over .300, and the team finished fourth in the conference with its .295 team batting average. Across its 49 regular season games, Washington scored 374 runs for an average of 7.63 runs per game.

“You gotta throw down in the zone,” Stankiewicz said. “You can’t leave the ball all over the plate because they’re big and strong. If you miss, they can get you. We gotta pitch down and in and out. We gotta mix our pitches up.”

It will be strength vs. strength in this matchup, as USC has one of the best pitching staffs in the conference. Pitching was not always a strength for the Trojans though, with USC giving up seven runs per game across its first 10 games. By the end of the regular season, USC had a Pac-12 best 4.27 ERA.

“[Assistant Coach] Seth Etherton has done a really good job with us, on preparing us in the best ways possible on how we go about our business everytime we step out on that mound,” Sodersten said. “Every time we step on that mound, we are going to be a different person out there. And every single time we step out there, we know that we’re pitching with nothing but 100% conviction and confidence.”



Cassandra Elena Yra | Daily Trojan

USC baseball Head Coach Andy Stankiewicz has turned the program around, leading the team to a 17-13 conference record this season after a low 8-22 conference record last year.

Poor weather postponed the first game of the Arizona series this past weekend, forcing the Trojans to play a doubleheader Friday. Stankiewicz was already considering having redshirt freshmen pitcher Eric Hammond get the start against UCLA, but the doubleheader confirmed it would be Hammond.

Although the doubleheader threw off the starting pitching schedule, the back-of-the-bullpen arms have

been consistent for the Trojans. Redshirt junior pitcher Kyle Wisch and redshirt senior pitcher Garrett Clarke combined for 15 saves in the regular season, which is the most by a bullpen duo in the Pac-12.

With Stankiewicz emphasizing the Trojans need to play a full nine innings to beat Washington, Clarke and Wisch will be the ones to lock down the end of games for the Trojans.

If the Trojans make the semifinals, they will play that game

Friday, with the championship game Saturday.

“It’s always exciting when you get to the postseason,” Stankiewicz said. “Postseason is it, man. You throw away the past, you throw away the batting average, you throw away the ERA, you throw away all of it. Now all that matters is this moment.”

First pitch between the Trojans and the Huskies is scheduled for 2:35 p.m. Thursday at Scottsdale Stadium.

Xavi Simons — The Netherlands’ next big thing

Jack Hallinan
RISING BALLERS



He has an icon’s name. He has an icon’s hair. Meet Xavi Simons.

Instagram-savvy fans likely first saw Simons and his epic mane long ago when he was a standout youth academy player for FC Barcelona. The now-20-year-old Dutch attacker broke onto the scene around 2016, at 12 years old, when Bleacher Report was already writing about his transfer rumors. His Instagram account amassed 2 million followers before he ever made his first-team debut.

Players receiving this much online attention at a young age is always worrisome. Viral highlights as a 14 year old do not easily translate into becoming a successful 24-year-old professional; so much can go wrong in so little time. Just look at the careers of Hachim Mastour or America’s own

Freddy Adu. Adu filmed a Sierra Mist commercial with Pelé in 2004 as a 14-year-old D.C. United player, but hasn’t made a professional appearance since the second-division Las Vegas Lights FC released him in 2018.

Thankfully, Simons has already been more successful than Mastour or Adu. The Amsterdam-born winger has developed into a genuine first-team player and emerged this season as an offensive threat for PSV Eindhoven, a squad that challenged for the Eredivisie title and won the 2022-23 KNVB Cup.

After Barcelona failed to lock him down on a professional contract, Simons moved to Paris Saint-Germain F.C. on an effectively free transfer, having to pay Barcelona only a small compensatory fee for developing Simons. Then-PSG manager Mauricio Pochettino gave Simons his first taste of top-level soccer, but it ultimately became clear that Simons needed regular appearances to keep developing.

When his PSG contract expired in June 2022, Simons

signed a five-year contract with PSV to return to his home country, but PSG negotiated a clause that allows them to buy Simons back for between 10 and 12 million euros this summer.

PSG should trigger that clause immediately.

If the Eredivisie had an American-style MVP award, Simons would be a top candidate. He has started every league match for PSV this season, scoring 17 goals — the second most in the league — and providing eight assists. The only player in the Netherlands with more combined goals and assists is Ajax’s Dušan Tadić, who became a professional when Simons was only two years old. PSV would likely not have won the KNVB Cup without the young Dutchman, who assisted Thorgan Hazard’s equalizing goal that sent the match to penalties.

From an underlying numbers perspective, Simons’ season was not a fluke. When you subtract the two penalties Simons scored in the league, he has 15 goals from 12.5 non-penalty expected goals, meaning the shots he has taken

have a cumulative quality — based on their positioning — worth 12.5 goals. The difference between 15 and 12.5 represents a slight over-performance in his finishing, but for a winger to accumulate that tally is nonetheless impressive.

Among his positional peers in the top eight men’s leagues, according to the statkeepers at FBref, his 0.41 non-penalty xG per 90 minutes places him in the 98th percentile for wingers. When you add his expected assists to that equation, he ranks in the 97th percentile with 0.66 non-penalty expected goals and assists per 90. For his age, these are ridiculous numbers.

Here is the complete list of players ages 20 and under in Europe’s top six leagues (the Eredivisie is UEFA’s sixth-best European league by country coefficient) with at least 20 combined goals and assists in the 2022-23 season: Xavi Simons, Bayern Munich’s Jamal Musiala (who also earned a column in this series) and Montpellier’s Elye Wahi.

With Lionel Messi’s impending departure from PSG this summer and Neymar’s perpetual

unreliability, the club would be wise to bring Simons back immediately and allow him and Kylian Mbappé to develop an attacking partnership that could finally win them a Champions League title. Simons’ return would allow the club to finally break from its galático-chasing transfer policy and re-invest in promising young players, centered around the Parisian-born Mbappé and the semi-homegrown Simons.

Not all of the Eredivisie’s top goalscorers turn into world-beaters. Just ask Tottenham Hotspur F.C. fans how Vincent Janssen did in the Premier League. But Simons’ positional versatility and ability to create goals for others — he had 5.44 shot-creating actions per match this season — in addition to scoring them himself, will help him become a perennial all-star of world football.

Jack Hallinan is a rising junior writing about the top wonderkids in men’s and women’s soccer in his column, “Rising Ballers,” which runs every other Wednesday.