

SUMMER TROJAN

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STUDENT HEALTH TO HIGHLIGHT GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE SERVICES

Student health insurance covers medical, counseling and mental health services.

By **CLAIRE QIU**
Student Health Beat Writer

Amid Pride Month, USC Student Health hopes to highlight its range of gender-affirming care services, Chief Student Health Officer Dr. Sarah Van Orman said in a briefing with the *Daily Trojan* Monday.

Student Health’s gender-affirming care services include medical services, such as hormone therapy and surgery, and counseling and mental health services. Aetna, USC’s Student Health Insurance Plan provider, covers these services as part of their benefits.

“This is a really core value for us at Student Health to make sure that all students receive appropriate services,” Van Orman said.

Van Orman also emphasized Student Health’s commitment to training its staff in providing equal and inclusive care.

“All of our staff participate in ongoing training through a variety of organizations, including The Fenway Institute, on providing culturally competent care. That’s something that we’ve invested a lot of time and a lot of energy in,” Van Orman said.

In 2021, the Human Rights Council designated Student Health as a healthcare quality index leader.

“It’s a designation as a healthcare facility [to] provide training to its leadership, [have] politics and practices that support equity inclusion for LGBTQ+ patients,” Van Orman said. “And we were really very proud to get that designation. We are one of just a handful of student health services in the country that have that.”

Student Health is also the recipient of a grant through the California Office of Emergency Services to work specifically with increasing and improving services for LGBTQIA+ individuals who have experienced sexual assault and misconduct.

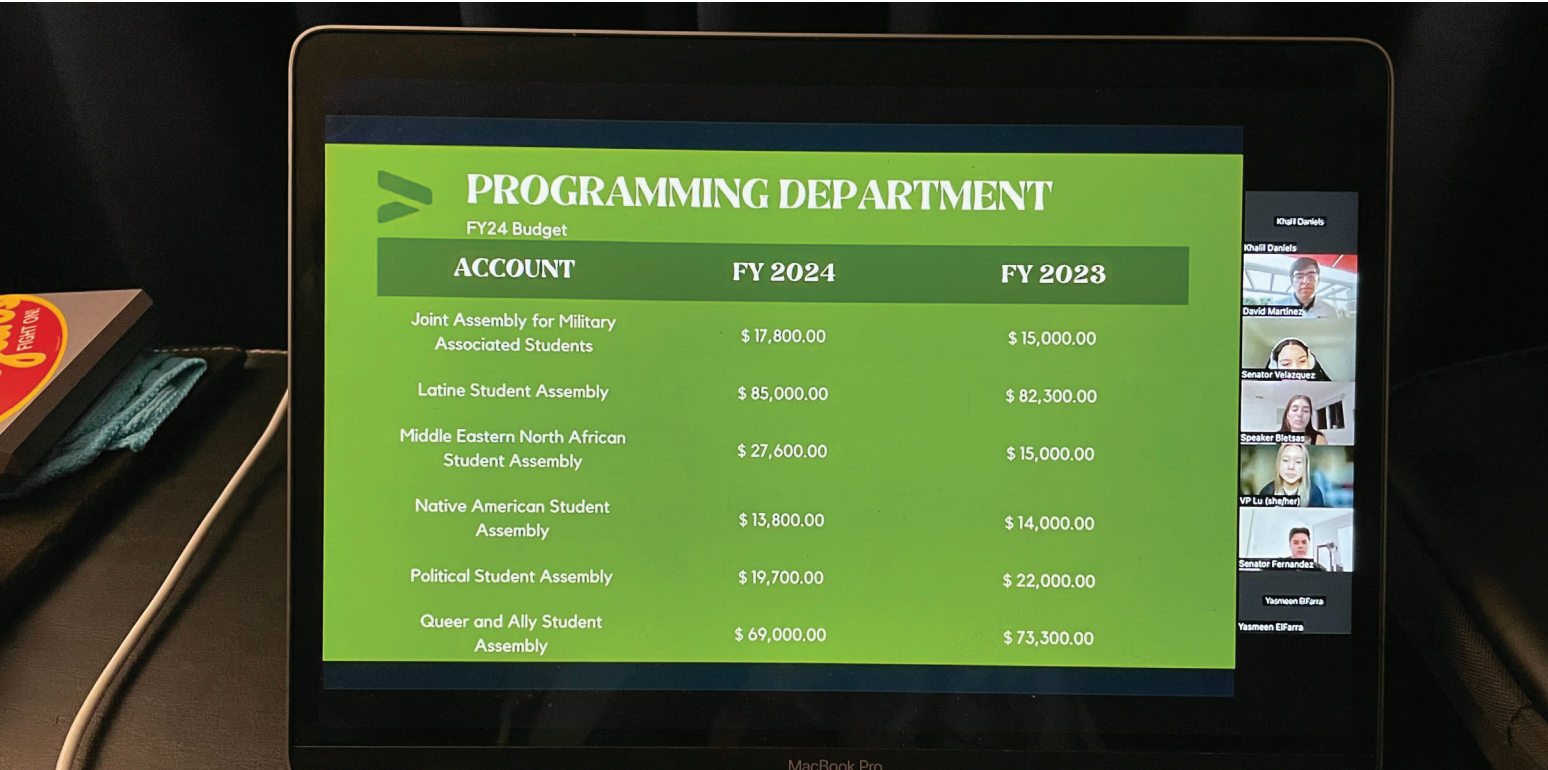
Some initiatives made possible by the Cal OES grant include a specialized peer education for students who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community, Van Orman said.

In 2022, a study conducted by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law estimated that bills to restrict access to gender affirming care across 15 states would affect more than 58,000 transgender youth and adults ages 13 or older. In 2022, an estimated 1.3 million adults and 300,000 youth identified as transgender nationwide.

“Especially in this time, right now, it’s really important that we as healthcare providers recognize that this is a critical part of the services we provide, that it is the standard of care to provide inclusive and comprehensive services,” Van Orman said. “It is not appropriate that so many students

| see **HEALTH**, page 2 |

USG drafts funding bill to finalize budget



Mateo Villalba-Mutis | Daily Trojan

The allocations committee made minor cuts and adjustments to funding across all Undergraduate Student Government branches last week.

Debate centered around the size of the Concerts Committee budget, currently slated at \$542,000.

By **MATEO VILLALBA-MUTIS**
Staff Writer

In the first summer senate meeting of the Undergraduate Student Government, senators debated the size of funding allocations for several registered student organizations, primarily the Concerts Committee. Senators will finalize the budget next week.

USG also confirmed the appointment of advocacy liaisons that would work with all of the cultural organizations at the University.

Chief financial officer Khalil Daniels addressed the changes that

the allocations committee made after meeting with 18 programming assemblies and deliberations over 60 line items. The allocations committee made minor cuts and adjustments to funding across all USG branches.

When programming department changes were introduced, senator Brandon Tavakoli protested the \$542,000 allocated to the Concerts Committee because the sum amounts to 22% of USG’s \$2.5 million budget. The previous year’s allocation was \$574,300. Even with the current 5.5% funding cut, it’s “unjustifiably high,” he said.

“My main concern is that we’re legitimizing and justifying expenditures that are exorbitantly too high [and] could be better served in other places,” Tavakoli said during the Senate meeting. “We [could] give it directly to our RSOs and to ledge funding where we as senators are able to use that funding for our own passion projects.”

Speaker of the senate Emilia Bletsas countered Tavakoli’s concern — setting up concerts is a costly affair, Bletsas said. There are several non-negotiables such as the cost of security, she said, that must be included in the Concert Committee’s spending to ensure attendees’ safety and hold quality events.

Debate soon shifted to how the

Concerts Committee can better spend its funding. Senator Julianna Melendez said that since a lot of the funding goes to hiring headliners, many of whom she said are often niche, the committee can redirect its funding to grab well-known headliners and fill the rest of the slots with student performers.

“We have such amazing performing arts students on campus ... I think we’re really missing out on that talent,” Melendez said.

The Concerts Committee did not respond to the *Daily Trojan*’s request in time for publication.

Students interested in voicing their concerns regarding the budget can attend the next senate meeting virtually Wednesday at 7 p.m.

USC, UCLA, LA County sued for discrimination

A former Keck resident alleges unfair treatment due to her race and disability.

By **JENNIFER NEHRER**
Breaking News Writer

A former Keck School of Medicine resident filed a lawsuit Thursday against the school, UCLA Health and Los Angeles County alleging she was discriminated against on the basis of her race and disability. The suit further alleges that one of her supervisors carried a gun while at work. She also sued for retaliation, defamation and “failure to engage in the interactive process.”

Dr. Melani Cargle attended medical school at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine from August 2015 to June 2020 and was diagnosed with ADHD during her first year by a psychiatrist at UCLA.

After graduating, she was admitted to the Keck School of Medicine’s orthopedic surgery residency program. The suit



Noah Danesh | Daily Trojan

Dr. Cargle’s suit alleges that, as a Keck School of Medicine resident, she faced discrimination on the basis of her ADHD. Her supervisors denied her request to chart in a way better suited to her, she alleges.

alleges that, in the USC program, Cargle endured discrimination on the basis of her ADHD, saying that the hand surgery program’s chief resident yelled at her and

called her names, including “stupid,” “useless” and “idiot.”

Cargle’s suit also stated that she was denied an accommodation request during a meeting with her

supervisors at the Keck program. While she had asked to chart in a way that was better for her and her

| see **DISCRIMINATION**, page 2 |

DISCRIMINATION | Suit alleges supervisor carried gun in hospital

| continued from page 1 |

disability, the supervisors refused and insisted that she chart only in the way that they had asked her to, the suit alleges.

Earlier, in July 2019, Cargle was in an orthopedic surgery rotation at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance. The lawsuit alleges that during this rotation, a supervisor made “extremely inappropriate sexist and sexual comments” toward her and others on the surgical team while in surgery.

The suit also states that the supervisor also made homophobic and racist remarks toward some patients, residents and students over the course of her time at the medical center, using anti-gay and anti-Black slurs.

The suit alleges that the supervisor carried a firearm around the medical center, including when rounding on patients and in the operating room. When he was rounding on patients the firearm was visible, according to the suit, but concealed in all other areas of the medical center. In the operating room, the suit alleges the supervisor kept the firearm in a fanny pack. It also alleges that, when Cargle had asked what was in the fanny pack, he mocked her and made a gesture to imply that it was his penis, not a firearm.

Despite hospital management saying that Cargle’s complaints would be looked into, the lawsuit states

that she never received any follow-up calls or emails and that the hospital has not taken any action regarding the supervisor since. As of the time this article is published, he is still employed at the medical center.

The suit says that Cargle would post on Twitter and other social media platforms to vent about the lack of support from her programs. A TikTok video by @mel.on.medicine shows Cargle had once tweeted alleging that her supervisor assaulted a Black patient while he was under anesthesia. The tweet, as well as others including some about her employment status, have since been removed from her Twitter account.

In May 2022, a letter from the L.A. County Department of Human Resources informed Cargle that she was no longer able to file claims against her supervisor at UCLA, according to the lawsuit. A week later, Cargle received a notice of intent to terminate from the program she was in at the time.

The suit alleges Cargle found out from her peers that L.A. County sent an email the next month personally attacking her and denying all of her allegations. The email, which stated her full name, was also posted on various official social media pages, including one for the medical center at which she had worked. The suit says the issue gained national attention and even led to articles being published,



Biochemistry2016 | Wikimedia Commons

The lawsuit alleges that a supervisor at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance made sexual comments toward Cargle and others, as well as homophobic and racist remarks toward students, residents and patients.

one of which claimed she made up the entire story. The suit argues this negative attention damaged Cargle’s reputation.

In a statement to the *Daily Trojan*, USC denied the veracity of Cargle’s claims and said it is committed to treating all students with respect.

“As it did with Dr. Cargle, USC takes great care to provide all of its medical trainees with a professional and welcoming educational experience that is free from discrimination, harassment or retaliation,” the University wrote. “Her claims against USC lack merit, and we look forward to addressing them in court.”

Neither UCLA Health nor Cargle’s attorneys responded to the *Daily Trojan’s* request for comment in time for publication.

Cargle is seeking compensatory and punitive damages of unspecified amounts, according to the suit. No future hearings have been scheduled at this time.

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HEALTH

| continued from page 1 |

in our country right now don’t have access to these services.”

Tracking the utilization of these services is a difficult task, Van Orman said, especially because the University is just now beginning to collect data on gender identity. However, based on general responses to Student Health’s annual surveys, gender affirming services are heavily utilized, and the numbers have only increased in the past four or five years — though Student Health could not share how many students sought out gender-affirming care.

“For any patient, but particularly patients who are members of historically discriminated against communities, there is sometimes fear and anxiety about seeking health care,” Van Orman said. “There’s a lot of stigma, so there are a lot of reasons why people might be reluctant to seek care.”

Van Orman also admitted that LGBTQIA+ patients still risk experiencing microaggressions in any health care environment. In April 2022, the University settled a lawsuit alleging that Dennis Kelly, a former campus physician at Student Health, sexually abused 80 former students who identified as LGBTQIA+.

“We are committed to a continual process of training and improvement and communication and engagement,” Van Orman said. “It’s not a simple sort of saying, ‘Okay, we have it all now.’ We’re continually engaging in this because we know it is a process to continue to earn and maintain trust with all of our patients.”

DAILY
TROJAN

I wish I still believed in ghosts

Imaginations are very, very powerful. I long for my childish creative mind.

By **DAPHNE YAMAN**
Opinion Editor

As a child, I was somewhat obsessed with the macabre. Ghost stories fascinated me. I drank up horror movies like they were Marvel blockbusters. I was so in love with the suspense surrounding ghosts and spirits that I would beg my parents to take me to cemeteries so I could read the tombstones. For me, it felt like reading life stories; it was never anything to be sad about or fearful of.

I remember one night when I was eight years old, after finishing a young adult book series on the Titanic, I tried to see if I could communicate with those who had perished. I was so enamored with this tragedy that I asked them to speak with me about their experiences. Of course, I first checked to make sure that they were “good spirits.” Unsurprisingly, none stepped forward, but it would be years until I started to question their existence.

To me, the fear of the supernatural has never been something to

avoid, rather, it’s been something to relish in and enjoy with others. Dragging friends to a haunted house on Halloween or to an Insidious movie series-binge at my place were some of the highlights of my childhood. Truly believing in ghosts, in some form of an afterlife, was calming to me.

I will admit that, as a child, alone at night in my bedroom, I’d pray that ghosts wouldn’t attack me. I even developed a very fool-proof method to prevent their access to me: covering my entire body apart from my mouth and nose with a comforter. The fear in the moment was paralyzing, but it was also rather thrilling, and it made me appreciate the beauty in life and my ability to experience such emotions.

But, over the years, I noticed my belief in ghosts quivering and then dissipating altogether. That childlike fear of dark closets or deafeningly silent bedrooms has died. Horror movies don’t scare me as much anymore. And it makes me sad.

Honestly, the first time that I turned the lights off without hesitation or suspicion was the first time I fully understood that my childlike wonder and naïve view of reality were gone. I was old enough to stand alone

in a dark room without wondering if there was another presence there with me. My imagination had fled, and I miss it still.

Although I’m forever grateful for science and my education for granting me proof of the folly of the supernatural, I almost envy those that still believe. That slight twinge of fear that I once possessed meant that I could still assume the existence of things that I couldn’t see with my own eyes — an ideology that I no longer subscribe to.

Believing in ghosts meant believing in so many other conceptualizations that society introduces to us: mermaids and unicorns and leprechauns — the Tooth Fairy and Santa Claus, too. In my mind, if the supernatural could exist just below the human gaze, so could they. But, one by one, they were picked apart — mutilated — by my mind and my inconsolable need for evidence and a peer-reviewed explanation.

Maybe I’m upset because I was forced to realize that this life is my reality, that it is my all. Maybe that’s too much pressure for me, having to live this life to the fullest, taking all those risks to make sure that I live with no regrets. My view



Patrick Tomasso | Unsplash

Ghost stories have brought communities together for centuries. There’s something about the rawness of fear that connects people so well.

of existence narrowed so much in so few years that it threw me into shock. If there are no ghosts, then there is no afterlife. No time to “make it right” or fix relationships. It all just became very final for me.

So, I wish I still believed in ghosts. I wish I still had the capacity to imagine their existence and to quiver at the idea that they may be lurking. I wish

I still thought that there was more to life than simply what I can see. But the reality is that I don’t, and it’s something I’ve still yet to come to terms with. Instead, I’m now more scared of real-life horrors like robberies or murders or politicians taking away my rights. Since I’ve been further introduced to reality, I fear reality more.

I still love horror movies, though.

Letters to the moon

Victoria
Lee

YOUR COLLEGE
UNNIE



As the clock strikes 3 a.m., shards of silver softly sheath my figure as I scurry down Trousdale. Eyes glazed with sugar and sleep, my brow is furrowed as Spotify pumps a motivational speech like some kind of cult religion into my brain. I think about how I used to stay up late, talking to the moon — conversations, debates, philosophical discussions: “How are you today, Mr. Moon? Have the stars been kind to you as of late? Is the sun a gentle glow as they say, or a scalding glare that sears you into silence?”

But by October of my freshman year, the only face I saw was my own in the mirror halfway between dusk and dawn — eyes puffy and vacant. My lips grew numb and swollen from the words unsaid. My thoughts? Muddled and scraped across the horizon like mules chasing after sunrise.

At my Texas high school, going out-of-state for college was glorified, if not idolized. The majority of my graduating class packed their bags for SoCal or Boston. I mean, that was the American Dream. We were off to new races, spaces and faces. Or so



Lyndzi Ramos | Daily Trojan

we thought. You see, one thing that’s not really talked about is the reality of relocation. For most graduating seniors, once they left the Lone Star State, that was it. They didn’t return to reminisce or rehash old relationships. And really, that’s the point.

But as a casualty of this idealism, we were raised on a cotton-candy sugared impression of going out-of-state for college. From crowd surfing to road tripping with friends and talking with Andrew Yang, there have been moments where my life has been a movie. But they’re only moments.

Behind the scenes, there was lots of crying and lonely late nights. While my friends returned to their California hometowns on the weekends, I didn’t go back home until mid-December.

When I threw up eight times at 2 a.m., I dragged myself to Target the next morning to gather Gatorade and applesauce. My stomach cramped so badly I could barely walk. I didn’t eat for two days. And when my heart broke over a boy for the first time, I couldn’t curl up at home with my favorite comfort foods. I dusted off my pants and picked up the pieces.

In doing so, I learned how to frontload. Ensure I meet my vitamin levels every day to prevent sickness. FaceTime my parents. Guard my heart a little more. I realized that I didn’t love the deception, or aftermath, of work hard, play hard culture. That while everyone was working hard, not everyone may want you to know.

To keep myself busy, I threw myself into every interesting club I found. After all, you can leave an organization after a semester, but it’s harder to become acquainted with the culture, people and operations the longer you wait. I found spaces where I genuinely felt alive, and left those in which I just wanted to be accepted.

Over the past year, I grappled with my identity as a Korean American, exploring everything from food and music to organizations. I still struggle with it today. While I look Korean, I don’t vibe with Korea’s heavy drinking culture or other social practices. I grew up in an Americanized household, so there are certain terms that I don’t know, behaviors I don’t exhibit and a language I don’t speak. But I don’t

belong entirely with white American culture either. It’s complicated.

Through times of chaos and discomfort, I’ve carried one phrase with me: Build the person you would’ve looked up to as a kid. I’m old enough now to know that the only direction in life is onward. While learning from mistakes is a sign of maturity, I’ve learned to let the past fade and allow the present to be, well, present. Habit by habit, choice by choice.

At this time last year, I was suntanning in Santorini and around the Amalfi Coast. I was 18 years old, reeling from a Cal rejection and excited to be spending the next four years in L.A. I had it all planned out — join a top consulting club, intern the next summer in Manhattan and spend my weekends skiing.

Fast forward to today. I turn 20 in three months, I’m studying economics and accounting, and I’m completely relieved to be interning in Dallas and spending the summer at home.

My mom’s friends have told me that I seem much older. And honestly? It feels that way — like the end of an era. I don’t talk to the moon anymore, friends have moved away and my teenage years are almost over. I didn’t even get to say goodbye. Everything is different now.

Victoria Lee is a rising sophomore writing about the AAPI experience in America in her column, “Your College Unnie.”

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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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‘Across the Spider-Verse:’ Film of the year

MOVIE REVIEW

SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE

5/5

GENRE: Action/Adventure
RELEASE DATE: June 2, 2023
FOR FANS OF Spider-man: Into the Spider-Verse

By KIMBERLY AGUIRRE
Associate Managing Editor

“Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse” was the best movie of 2018, and maybe the best movie of the decade. Why not call it the best movie ever? It’s daring, ambitious, beautiful, heartfelt, funny and practically perfect in every way.

Making a sequel to perfection is a dangerous task. There’s a legacy to be ruined with a sequel. Yet, Sony chose to take on the challenge.

Thankfully, with “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse,” directors Joaquim Dos Santos, Kemp Powers, Justin K. Thompson and the entire crew created a more-than-worthy successor to the Academy Award-winning precursor.

Most importantly, “Across the Spider-Verse” is an absolute visual feast. “Into the Spider-Verse” was groundbreaking in its combination of modern computer animation with hand-drawn art. The animators brought comic books to life and combined worlds into one captivating extravaganza.

Seeing black-and-white Spider-Man Noir, anime-style Peni Parker and cartoon-like talking-pig Peter Porker all next to each other created a spectacle like no other. Each frame was a work of art, deserving a place in the finest art museums.

Somehow, the sequel is even more beautiful. The animators were even more ambitious this time around, throwing in even more art styles — even incorporating a delightful Lego animation scene.

While even the worst script would seem like a masterpiece when paired with the brilliant art of the Spider-Verse, “Across the Spider-Verse” does not disappoint story-wise.

“Across the Spider-Verse” returns the audience to the life of Miles Morales (Shameik Moore) a year after he and his fellow Spider-People saved the multiverse from total annihilation. Throughout the 2018 film, Miles is mentored by a Peter Parker who is down in the dumps (Jake Johnson) and grows close to a young Gwen Stacy (Hailee Steinfeld) once they are all thrown into Miles’ dimension.

At the end of the movie, they are separated. “Across the Spider-Verse”

brings them back together, albeit, not for the best reasons.

Gwen especially gets her shining moment in the 140-minute screen time. The movie even starts in Gwen’s dimension rather than Miles.’ The viewer learns more about Gwen in five minutes than in the entire last film, and she deserves it.

However, it’s good that the movie eventually transitions to focus on Miles, who truly makes the movie what it is. The other Spider-People are entertaining and some, like Gwen, deserve a substantive storyline, but Miles is the heart of the film. The 15-year-old is suffering normal high school woes while harboring possibly the biggest secret of all time and feeling isolated from his Spider-Friends who are dimensions away.

What he doesn’t know is that all of his friends are a part of an elite team of Spider-People working to preserve the “canon” and stop inter-dimensional fractures.

Plus, there is a new villain on the rise. Spot (Jason Schwartzman) is a scientist who worked on the particle collider in “Into the Spider-Verse.” Spot found his life ruined by the destruction of the collider, which the Spider-People brought about by saving the world. His body was left almost completely blank, aside from some intangible spots

which he later finds out allows him to travel across dimensions.

However, Spot is pretty much missing in action after a few initial fights. While this is disappointing, as the fight scenes with Spot are some of the most exciting in the film, it makes space for an even scarier villain: Miguel O’Hara (Oscar Isaac), the Spider-Man in charge of the league and preserving the canon.

Miguel is a worthy opponent who is able to be both understood and hated. It’s his work that provides most of the substance — and heartbreak — for the film.

The new league of Spider-People brought with it some absolutely top-notch additions to the big screen. From the charismatic Pavitr Prabhakar (Karan Soni) — the Spider-Man of Mumbattan —, the hilariously broody Ben Reilly (Andy Samberg) — the Scarlet Spider — and, most importantly, Peter Parkedcar — a car who is also a Spider-Being.

While John Mulaney’s Spider-Ham stole every scene in “Into the Spider-Verse,” “Across the Spider-Verse” sees Spider-Punk — played by the ineffable Daniel Kaluuya — as the highlight in a movie that already feels good enough to be a highlight reel.

Spider-Punk is a British activist and punk-rocker who doesn’t play by the rules of Spider-League.

Effortlessly cool and quick-witted, Spider-Punk does what he wants and steals the audience’s heart along the way. He also brings in the best animation of the entire film. Reminiscent of the U.K. ‘70s punk scene, Spider-Punk takes over the screen with what look like paper cutouts and Sex Pistols-like lettering. The magazine-clipping guitar always strapped to his back ties the package together perfectly.

In its two hours and 20 minutes, the movie is able to establish new relationships, give multiple characters their chance in the spotlight and set up an absolutely epic battlefield for the third film (because, yes, the story will be told over two movies). The next film, “Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse,” is set to be released next year.

While realizing that “Across the Spider-Verse” is a two-parter was initially soul-crushing, the creators’ decision to split the story in half is absolutely justifiable. Even if “Across the Spider-Verse” lacked some action at parts, it was never a bore. Every moment added value.

“Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse” is another flawless addition to the canon by Sony. Well, flawless besides the fact that having to wait more than 10 months to see what happens next is an absolutely criminal offense.

LIVING THE BOYGENIUS EXPERIENCE

boygenius played the Rose Bowl June 3 with Clairo, Dijon and Barteels Strange.

By GIANNA CANTO
Staff Writer

Mother Nature must have heard that the boys were back in town, because Los Angeles’ June gloom took a temporary turn for the better this past weekend, just in time for boygenius’ return. Cloudless skies and a cool summer breeze welcomed concert-goers to Brookside at the Rose Bowl June 3 for the L.A. iteration of the Re:SET Concert Series. The scenic lawn and swaying trees provided an idyllic backdrop for a day full of remarkable performances from the likes of boygenius, Clairo, Dijon and Barteels Strange.

The Re:SET Concert Series is a string of festivals that occur across the country every weekend of June. Each weekend, the festival takes place simultaneously in three cities, with each of the three headliner groups interchanging locations each day. In this way, Re:SET hopes to break away from the “cookie-cutter” nature of summer tours and festivals, providing audiences with a conflict-free “leisurely day” of music from artists they love.

The L.A. festivities began June 2, with Steve Lacy performing alongside James Blake, Toro Y Moi and Fousheé. These performances continued on Sunday and were led by LCD Soundsystem, with Jamie XX, Idles and Big Freedia.

Throughout the weekend, these three groups would alternate headlining performances in San Diego, L.A. and the Bay Area, partnering with Propeller to auction VIP upgrades at each show in support of local charities.

A swarm of fans flocked to the Rose Bowl for Saturday’s L.A. show, a parade of personal style and homemade merch, with multiple fans boasting DIY T-shirts with lyrics from their boygenius favorites. Barteels Strange kicked off the afternoon with a powerful set, blending soulful ballads like “Stone Meadows” with modern indie rock and emo-inspired tracks like “Boomer.”

Dijon soon followed, projecting an eagle-eye view of his stage setup, reminiscent of the studio depicted in the cover for his debut album “Absolutely.” His set felt like a jam session, as the audience bounced to his and the band’s harmonic grooves during tracks like “Talk Down,” “The Dress” and “Big Mike’s.”

| see **BOYGENIUS**, page 5 |



Trenyce Tong | Daily Trojan

‘Jury Duty’ is a show of dreams and nightmares

Kimberly Aguirre
COMIC RELIEF



There is no worse phrase than “It’s an inside joke.” In a way, that’s what the recent Amazon Freevee show “Jury Duty” is, one big inside joke. Twelve jurors are participating in a documentary about jury duty. All of them are actors — except one.

Unfortunately, it may literally fall into the same category as YouTube hidden camera pranks

— the lowest form of media — but it is so much better than that.

With “Abbott Elementary” season two and “Ted Lasso” season three, 2023 has been a strong year for comedy. “Jury Duty” may be the best of them all. The chaos that ensues in the show is unbelievable — fake paparazzi, soaking and chair pants. The show’s actors are absolute legends; their ability to not break in these situations is commendable.

The hero and star of the show, the non-actor, is Ronald Gladden. The show’s scheme is to make him believe the show’s jury is real and test his morality.

Pretty much every person “on the jury” is a bizarre caricature often pushing the line of realism,

and the trial is ridiculous. Gladden is trapped for 17 days with no phone or internet connection. Still, at every turn, Gladden proves to be a sweetheart — watching “A Bug’s Life” with the guy the show set up to weird him out, helping two of the jurors start their romance and even taking the blame for a toilet-clogging poo to save actor James Marsden (an alternate juror) the embarrassment.

Gladden believed he signed on to a documentary about life on a jury. While some of the wild antics made him suspicious, he did not catch on that the entire life he was living was a fraud.

| see **AGUIRRE**, page 5 |



Amazon Freevee
James Marsden and Ishmel Sahid are two of the actors starring in Amazon Freevee’s “Jury Duty.” The sitcom came out April 7.

AGUIRRE | Exploring ethical dilemmas in the world of comedy and sitcoms

| continued from page 4 |

In the recently released commentary, Gladden said he was “a little disappointed” when he met the actors at the wrap dinner because he had grown fond of their characters. Gladden appears to be a good sport, and the show paints him in an incredible light, calling him a “hero” and, yes, he did get \$100,000, so maybe it’s all good. Gladden really was never the butt of the joke.

Still, when everyone is likening the show to “The Truman Show” (1998), maybe some flags need to be raised. Gladden admitted to being “paranoid” after the show ended, believing he was still being filmed. He has since reacclimated and, according to social media, the cast is still all friends. It’s cute and fun and no one got hurt from the experiment.

However, that’s just Gladden’s story.

Nathan Fielder’s “The Rehearsal” premiered last year and proved that Fielder is a mad genius. The premise of the show started as each episode focusing on a different person meticulously rehearsing for life moments that should be uncontrollable in hopes of preparing for when they really happen. It devolves into Fielder hiring multiple child actors to pretend to be his child, living an almost 24/7 alternate life.

While “Jury Duty” is clearly a lighthearted matter, “The Rehearsal” is more thought-provoking. It often feels exploitative, but that might just be the larger social commentary.

Fielder cycles through child actors in accordance with child labor laws but pretends they are all his son, “Adam.” They go about the average day-to-day family activities — playing, going to school, having dinner with his co-parent Angela. Obviously, this is all Fielder’s master rehearsal, but the show makes it seem as though he sometimes gets lost in the fantasy.

After six brutal episodes, Fielder and the crew are ready to wrap up. Except one of the fake sons, child



Oregon native and San Diego-based project manager Ronald Gladden was the center of the comedic social experiment “Jury Duty.”

actor Remy, who refuses to believe Fielder isn’t his actual father. What ensues is a meltdown, with the five year old wanting to stay with his “daddy,” Fielder.

What follows is an absolute gut-wrenching episode as Fielder attempts to undo the damage, even rehearsing how he will do so.

How much of “The Rehearsal” is scripted or planned is one of life’s greatest mysteries. Every day I have to gaslight myself into believing that the entirety of the show is fake just to remove the image of Remy sobbing from my mind.

It’s impossible to confirm anything involving the authenticity of “The Rehearsal” — the Redditors and YouTube video essayists have tried to no avail.

Still, Remy’s mom said that Remy doesn’t really understand what acting is yet. Maybe that’s just another misdirect or maybe that’s proof of truth. It’s easy to fall into a loop when dissecting “The Rehearsal.”

Even if Remy is all good, child acting, in general, has long been disputed. Maybe “The Rehearsal” is simply bringing attention to the ethical dilemma.

With both “Jury Duty” and “The Rehearsal,” it can be scary to see the doors opened to this type of content. Prank shows — and again, the nasty YouTube pranksters — have been around forever, but “Jury Duty” and “The Rehearsal” brought a new vulnerability to the medium.

Perhaps more TV shows will experiment with blurring the lines of reality, and the long-term effects on whoever is left out of the joke are yet to be discovered. But, at the end of the day, I will be streaming “The Rehearsal” season two as soon as it drops.

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.

BOYGENIUS | LA lights the stage for Re:Set Concert

| continued from page 4 |

As the sun fell, Clairo ushered in the night with her trademark vulnerability, turning out a simultaneously heart-wrenching and crowd-pleasing setlist. She took the audience on an emotional roller coaster, sandwiching the deeply personal “Alewife” between crowd favorites “North” and “Softly,” even playing “Little Changes” live for the first time since September. She ended the night with a rapturous performance of “Bags” that had the entire lawn dancing in unison, leaving them revved-up and ready for boygenius.

Representatives from the Tongva tribe sang a blessing of the land, providing a meaningful reminder of where the beauty of the venue came from.

Stomachs dropped with every pause in the pre-show music as the sea of fans waited in restless anticipation. Suddenly, like a call to arms bursting from the speakers, sounded Thin Lizzy’s “The Boys are Back in Town.”

The lights dimmed and the crowd erupted in fervorous excitement as cameras panned to find boygenius under a spotlight off-stage, huddled around a single microphone. The magic of their friendship exists in a world of its own creation, and as Julien Baker, Lucy Dacus and Phoebe Bridgers sang “Without You Without Them,” they welcomed the crowd to join them in this stunning reality, ushering the audience through the wardrobe and into Narnia.

They took to the stage in coordinated yet distinct Thom Browne uniforms as Baker rang in the characteristic opening strums to their song “\$20.” As the song approached its pinnacle, both Bridgers and the audience broke out in an ear-rupturing crescendo of symphonic screams, with every person in attendance yelling “I know you have \$20!” at the top of their lungs.

“It was a very communal experience,” said Miranda Shapiro, a fan of the band who attended Saturday’s concert. “Everyone was screaming together and dancing together, especially during ‘Not

Strong Enough,’ [it] was really fun with a bunch of people.”

The band held the audience in a trance for nearly two hours as they performed their entire discography, including all 18 songs from their debut EP “boygenius” and recently released album “the record.” Even so, the crowd begged for more, and the band returned for an encore. The night ended with Dacus’ “Please Stay,” Baker’s “Favor” and Bridgers’ “Graceland Too” as every member performed a song from each of their solo catalogs.

“My favorite thing about boygenius is that, even though they’re all artists I love individually, I feel like they find ways to work in their own styles together and just create something so unique to them,” said Faith Bennett, another fan of the band. “I feel like you can hear a blend of each person’s music in every song, and I think it’s just the coolest thing ever.”

The band’s camaraderie is truly one of a kind. If it wasn’t already clear from the harmony in their music, it was made clearer by the looks of pure joy on their faces and their interactions on stage.

“You get to see how much they all love each other, which is such a special thing,” said Shapiro about seeing the band perform live. “Especially during ‘Graceland Too’ when [Phoebe] was staring at Julien, singing to her, that was so beautiful to see.”

Multiple group hugs occurred throughout the show, one of which resulted in Bridgers and Dacus tackling each other to the floor, pulling a guitar-wielding Baker down with them mid-shred during the climatic ending of “Salt in the Wound.” Their love for each other is seeped into the fabric of the band, and is exactly what makes them so special.

“Just seeing how much they care about each other, seeing them hugging and interacting on stage, you can tell they’re friends,” said Kyla Gordon, fan of the band and a USC sophomore majoring in earth and environmental sciences. “I think it just added so much to the experience.”

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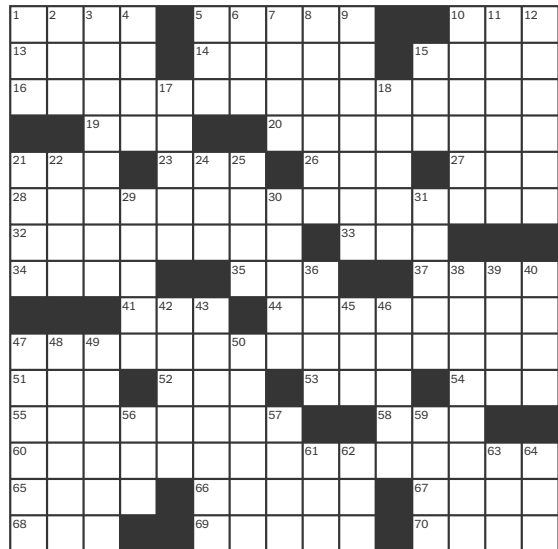
No. 0503

- ACROSS**
- 1 Beer pong needs
- 5 Part of a Halloween costume, maybe
- 10 French wine cocktail
- 13 Mythological meanie
- 14 Underway, to Sherlock Holmes
- 15 Medical fluids
- 16 Vicious pet handler's query?
- 19 Barnyard male
- 20 Western bloc with a single currency
- 21 "Full Frontal" host Samantha
- 23 Unwelcoming
- 26 Georgia, for most of the 20th century, in brief
- 27 Cranberry harvest site
- 28 Observation when the collection plate is overflowing?
- 32 Himalayan capital, as it's sometimes spelled
- 33 Fresh start?
- 34 "Frozen" queen
- 35 Obama health law, for short
- 37 Dog ____ (potential locale for a Pawmates meetup)
- 41 Stubborn Seuss character, with "the"
- 44 Alternative to United or Delta
- 47 "So much for my theory that the universe has no end"?
- 51 Nickname that might drop -han
- 52 Sex columnist Savage

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

V E S H O L I E S V E S
S H S V S L I E S O G I R L
N I V G V L I C I D I S D O O
M V R O L N O W O T G
M E O O L O N V D L V N
E L I N I J S I S S E N G I
N V O I R E W V X V Z
X R V D V C V V S T E
O E N O D N V W L V X
G N I H L I L D O O G V S L I
O O B Y S S A C I E E B
E N O Z O R N G W O L
M O N E L I B L I N V O H M
V R E S L O O F V E R D O
R I X S E N V J S d n c

- 53 Language in which "Nebraska" means "flat river"
- 54 Summer coat?
- 55 Seize hastily
- 58 Target of an uppercut punch
- 60 Britney Spears classic ... or a confession applicable to three answers in this puzzle?
- 65 Pre-calc course
- 66 Cuts out
- 67 Requests
- 68 The Kraken, on scoreboards
- 69 Look after
- 70 Seehorn of "Better Call Saul"
- DOWN**
- 1 Intimidate
- 2 "Not this again!"
- 3 Some occupations?
- 4 Dry, as vino
- 5 Pamphlet or palm leaf, in a pinch
- 6 "100 Years ... 100 Movies" org.
- 7 Composer's mark
- 8 Lose one's shirt, say
- 9 Adds to the mix
- 10 Skywalker mentor
- 11 Attach, as a patch
- 12 Common topping for steak tartare
- 15 Declares, informally
- 17 Bestie, in Bolivia
- 18 Dessert that sounds like a cause for a lawsuit



PUZZLE BY SAMUEL A. DONALDSON

- 21 Peloton equipment
- 22 Abbr. at the end of a series
- 24 Comic-____
- 25 Skywalker mentor
- 29 Floor
- 30 Bygone Venetian coin
- 31 Invitation to a hitchhiker
- 36 "Are not" retort
- 38 Treatment for some jeans
- 39 Figure of interest?
- 40 Had no doubt
- 42 "Me too," stiffly
- 43 Tic-tac-toe marks
- 45 Newbie newt
- 46 Popular Spanish wine
- 47 Metal bars
- 48 In abundance
- 49 Sweet spot?
- 50 Eventually
- 56 Certain umami source, for short
- 57 Garfield's pal in the funnies
- 59 Vegan substitute for gelatin
- 61 "The Addams Family" cousin
- 62 General associated with Chinese food
- 63 Mike's partner in candy
- 64 D.C. group engaged in [REDACTED]

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RIVALS | The Trojans took down the Bruins 105-85 in the Crosstown Cup

| continued from page 8 |

Toward the end of the season, the Trojans beat UCLA one last time before they went on to win the Pac-12 regular season championship and, eventually, the Pac-12 tournament in late April. Although USC was led by veterans senior Stefan Dostanic and graduate student Bradley Frye, the performances put on by sophomores Ryan Colby, Peter Makk and Wojtek Marek helped push the Trojans to yet another championship-winning season.

Women’s soccer upsets No. 1 UCLA

In its first victory over UCLA since 2015, USC women’s soccer took down the No. 1 Bruins 2-0 in a game that crushed the Bruins’ hopes of a Pac-12 title. The win pushed the Trojans into the postseason with a 4-0 record

against ranked opponents.

USC got off to a fast start, with redshirt senior defender Kaylin Martin putting the ball in the back of the net in the 15th minute off an assist from sophomore defender Kayla Colbert. Just 14 minutes later, junior midfielder Zoe Burns put the Trojans up two goals after slotting home a penalty kick.

The Trojans survived the Bruins’ attack thanks to graduate student Anna Smith’s phenomenal goalkeeping. Smith had five saves as USC shut out the Bruins, something it hadn’t done since 2015.

Baseball wins series at home against UCLA for the first time since 2005

Although the Bruins won the series opener 9-3, USC bounced back and won the second game 5-1 when

senior infielder Johnny Olmstead starred and went 2-3 with a home run and two RBI. With the series tied 1-1, the Trojans had a chance to win home a series against UCLA for the first time since 2005.

Heading into the bottom of the ninth inning, the game was tied at 5 apiece and senior outfielder Cole Gabrielson stepped up to the plate as the Trojans’ last batter before extra innings. With the count at 5-5, Gabrielson smashed one just over the right outfielder, giving the Trojans the run they needed to secure the win at a sold-out Dedeaux Field.

The Trojans and Bruins had many fierce battles this season, but with both teams heading to the Big Ten conference in 2024, this upcoming season will be the last time the two teams face off against each other in the Pac-12.



Louis Chen | Daily Trojan
USC baseball won a home series against the Bruins for the first time in 18 years and clinched the series in dramatic fashion with a walkoff win.

HALLINAN | James is on a meteoric rise to the top of women’s football

| continued from page 8 |

campaigns. In 2021-22, she did not start a league match, as she had to fight for a place in Chelsea’s hyper-competitive squad, but the younger James improved massively in her second season.

She did not start week-in, week-out for Chelsea in the 2022-23 season that just wrapped, but that’s more a reflection of the Blues’ ridiculous depth than a knock on James’ quality; Hayes rotates her starting XIs frequently to give her top players a roughly equal share of minutes.

James started 15 of the 22 Women’s Super League matches, coming off the bench in an additional three games. She scored five goals and provided two assists, her best combined goals and assists record in the top flight to date.

Opposing defenders simply do not want to see the ball at James’ feet. She offers more of a goal threat when she plays on the left wing, where she can then cut inside to shoot on her stronger right foot, but James can do damage from either side of the pitch.

At nearly 5-foot-9-inches, James uses her size to her advantage, shielding the ball well and striding past defenders with a tight dribbling style. She is one of the rare attacking players who appears to paralyze the defense when the ball arrives at her feet because she can hurt teams in myriad ways.

When she decides to run at defenders, James usually wins. According to FBref, she averages 2.55 successful take-ons per match — in the 94th percentile among her positional peers

— meaning she dribbles past two or more defenders most games.

But James is also a smart passer who keeps the ball circulating when an opportunity to drive forward doesn’t present itself. Her 79.2% pass completion rate ranks in the 99th percentile. James isn’t afraid to get stuck in with a tackle when her team loses the ball either, with 1.68 tackles per 90 minutes.

Chelsea has plenty of quality attackers in the team. Sam Kerr scored 12 goals and had five assists in 2022-23 for the Blues. Guro Reiten, who plays James’ preferred left wing position, just played perhaps the best season of her career, with nine goals and 11 assists in the WSL. No player has a guaranteed place in this Chelsea side, so James will have to keep improving to justify

her continued inclusion. But at 21 years old, she may have the highest ceiling of them all.

Look back to the list of elite family duos I provided in the first line. You’ll notice that all of them are the same gender as their siblings, and as a result played in the same competitions. Lauren and Reece James have an opportunity to stand out in this regard; the success of one sibling does not diminish the accomplishments of the other.

In that list, you can easily name which sibling achieved more than the other. Serena Williams won 16 more Major titles in tennis than Venus did. Eli Manning might have as many Super Bowl rings as his brother, but Peyton was the NFL MVP five times, something Eli never accomplished. Pau Gasol won back-to-back titles with the

Lakers and made six All-Star appearances, while Marc has one ring and only three All-Star jerseys framed in his house.

By the time their careers end, Lauren and Reece James could have scarily similar resumes. Over 100 England caps each? You bet. Multiple English and Champions League titles? It’s very possible.

If both James siblings stay largely injury-free in the next decade, they will lead their Chelsea and England’s men’s and women’s teams to the pinnacle of European 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.

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Summer heat hits USC football recruiting



Robert Westermann | Daily Trojan

USC football Head Coach Lincoln Riley is partaking in his first full-year recruiting cyle at USC and has wasted no time in getting marquee players. The Trojans currently have the 20th best recruiting class for 2024.

USC was able to land five verbal commitments from recruits in just two days.

By **THOMAS JOHNSON**

Staff Writer

All rankings in this article are according to the 247 Sports Composite.

If USC fans went on Twitter earlier this week, their feeds may have been flooded with peace sign emojis. And no, that does not mean USC and UCLA have finally set aside their rivalry.

Those emojis represent the USC victory sign and, when football Head Coach Lincoln Riley tweets one out,

it means he and his staff have landed a commitment for their recruiting class. Riley made five such tweets between Saturday and Monday.

The Trojans only had three verbal commitments in their 2024 recruiting class at the start of June, but that number is already up to eight after a strong weekend of official visitors. A pair of out-of-staters in 4-star safety Jarvis Boatwright and 3-star offensive tackle Hayden Treter were the first to commit coming out of the weekend, making their decision official Sunday. They were quickly followed by 4-star cornerback Dakoda Fields, 4-star edge rusher Kameryn Fountain

and 4-star offensive tackle Manasse Itete, who all committed Monday.

These new recruits more than double the size of the class as they join previously-committed 4-star wide receiver Xavier Jordan, 4-star tight end Joey Olsen and 3-star running back Bryan Jackson. The eight give USC the 20th-ranked recruiting class in college football with six months still to go until early signing day.

This 2024 group will be the first USC recruiting class to play in the Big Ten conference, as that move is made official in August 2024. Currently, the Trojans have the sixth-best recruiting class in their

soon-to-be conference. USC's class is ranked second in the Pac-12, which shows how strong Big Ten schools are on the recruiting trail.

While it is still early into the recruiting cycle and additional commitments will change the overall look of the class, the eight players committed to the Trojans seem to be bucking trends of USC's 2023 group, a class that was ranked eighth in the country. All three of USC's top signees in 2023 were on the offense, while Fountain and Fields are both defensive players and currently the highest-rated players of USC's commits.

USC's class still has room to grow, as its eight members pale in comparison to the top-ranked 17-player groups of Georgia and Michigan or 19-player group of Notre Dame. The Trojans hosted more high school players this past weekend, which might catch them up to other schools' recruiting classes. 4-star running back Taylor Tatum, 4-star cornerback Zabien Brown, 4-star offensive lineman Isaiah Garcia and 4-star tight end Walter Matthews, among others, all visited USC this past weekend.

The Trojans still do not have a quarterback commitment in this class so far, missing out on highly-ranked quarterbacks Dylan Raiola and DJ Lagway. USC is still in contention for Elijah Brown, who attends high school at nearby Mater Dei. The Trojans still have Heisman-winner Caleb Williams and former 5-star Malachi Nelson on their roster as signal callers but are looking toward the future of their team.

Brown is just one of multiple highly-ranked players at Mater Dei and other nearby-California schools that the Trojans are heavily recruiting. Many of them have already scheduled visits to USC. 4-star offensive tackle DeAndre Carter and Brown are both Mater Dei students who plan to visit in June, and the Trojans will look to lock down their signatures during the summer. Six of the top 11 players in California for this recruiting cycle hail from Mater Dei.

More high-level players are expected to visit USC in the coming weeks, which means victory sign emojis will likely pop up on Twitter feeds a couple more times as the summer goes on.

Lauren James is one half of the next great sibling duo

Jack Hallinan

RISING BALLERS



Think about sports' most iconic sibling duos: Serena and Venus Williams, Peyton and Eli Manning and Pau and Marc Gasol.

It's time to add another pair to that list: Reece and Lauren James.

Reece James, a 23-year-old Champions League winner with Chelsea F.C., has already had his football coming out party. We're here to talk about Lauren James, who also plays her club football with Chelsea.

Lauren James began her club career with cross-city rivals Arsenal, which has historically been England's best women's team. She trained with the Arsenal boys' teams as a 13-year-old and quickly rose up to the women's first team, becoming its second-youngest player ever at 16. As one of English football's top clubs, though, Arsenal seemingly couldn't find the minutes James needed to develop, so the young attacker looked for a move.

Like her brother, James went north to Greater Manchester to prove herself before returning to the capital city.

While Reece James continued his development on loan at Wigan Athletic, Lauren James moved on a permanent transfer to Manchester United Women in 2018. At the time, the Women's Red Devils were effectively a start-up, having just formed that year to compete in the revamped FA Women's Championship, the second tier of English women's football.

United dominated the league, winning 18 of 20 matches and securing promotion to the Women's Super League with a first-place finish. They outscored their opponents by an absurd 98 to 7 goals across the season.

At 17, James quickly showed that she was already too good for second division football. She scored 15 goals in all competitions in the 2018-19 season while not even playing as a striker.

James and United continued that momentum into their Women's Super League debut. While the league was unfortunately unable to complete the 2019-20 season because of the coronavirus pandemic, when play stopped, Manchester United was in fourth place out of 12 teams, and James required no time to acclimate to top-flight football, posting six goals in the league and adding two more in cup competitions.

After proving her ability in Manchester, it was time for James to come home to London. When Chelsea Women's offers you an opportunity to play for the club, they're hard to turn down. Chelsea Manager Emma Hayes is arguably the best coach in women's football and the club has emerged as a perennial league-contender under her reign, winning seven of the last nine top-flight titles.

James has played a role in the last two title-winning

Top moments from this year's Crosstown Cup

The Trojans bested their fierce rivals UCLA in the 22nd edition of the Cup.

By **ROBERT WESTERMANN**

Staff Writer

As the city of Los Angeles hosts two highly competitive athletic institutions in USC and UCLA, the Crosstown Cup was created back in 2001 to determine which school's athletics were stronger during that particular year. Points are awarded to both schools throughout the head-to-head matchups: 10 points for a win, 5 points for a tie and 0 points for a loss. The school with the most amount of points at the conclusion of athletic competition is crowned the winner.

The Trojans reclaimed the Crosstown Cup this year 105-85, ultimately beating the Bruins 17-16 in head-to-head competition across the 19 sports that both schools play. While there are too

many highlights to note, there are a handful that stand out:

Football beats UCLA 48-45 in dramatic fashion

Over the last eight years, the Trojans have beaten the Bruins six times, making USC's all-time record against UCLA 50-33-7. Despite starting this year's game down 14 points, the Trojans stormed back and went into halftime with a one-point deficit. Although the Bruins got a field goal shortly after the start of the second half, USC countered by scoring two back-to-back touchdowns in a three-minute span to go ahead 34-24 with momentum on its side.

In the game's final minutes, UCLA forced USC to punt the ball away with just 2:21 remaining, giving the Bruins a chance to tie the game or take the lead. However, the Trojans' defense, which had already forced redshirt senior UCLA quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson into three turnovers on the

night, intercepted him again to seal the deal for the Trojans.

Thanks to sophomore quarterback Caleb Williams' career-high 470 passing yards and redshirt senior running back Austin Jones' then-season-high 120 rushing yards, the Trojans were able to beat the Bruins by three points.

Women's water polo dominates UCLA over three-game season series

Throughout another successful campaign for USC women's water polo, the Trojans took down the Bruins three times on their way to an NCAA championship appearance. The first of three matchups occurred in Irvine, during which the Trojans beat the Bruins 10-8 in a tight overtime matchup, crowning them Triton Invitational champions.

In its second matchup against UCLA, during the Barbara Kalbus Invitational in San Diego, USC won 13-10, led by 2-meter redshirt junior Tilly Kearns and

redshirt junior driver Alejandra Aznar, who had seven goals combined.

In their final matchup against the Bruins this season, the Trojans won convincingly by a score of 14-9 in their rival's aquatic center, leaving no doubt they were the better team this year. Once again, Kearns contributed heavily on the offensive end with five goals, but redshirt senior driver Paige Hauschild led the Trojans in assists with six and added three goals.

Season sweep by men's tennis

USC men's tennis, like women's water polo, completed a season sweep over UCLA, winning three times by a score of 12-0 across all three matches. Starting their season off strong, the Trojans beat UCLA 4-0 to punch their ticket to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association National Team Indoor Championship. A month later, the Trojans repeated the same outcome, dominantly beating the Bruins 4-0.