

DAILY TROJAN

TROJAN DAY GUIDE

9.22.2023



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Art by Megan Dang

VISIT | Local activism needed for change

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community which he grew up in was pretty inspiring," McDonald said.

Harris-Dawson said he couldn't recall a time when he wasn't interested in politics. As he grew older, he continued to pursue local activism as the crack epidemic and the War on Drugs took its toll in the 1980s. As the state government defunded education and violence in the streets grew, his family eventually joined many others in moving into the San Gabriel Valley.

Harris-Dawson described his experience building meaningful relationships at Morehouse College, a historically Black college in Atlanta, Georgia, advising students to do the same.

"Almost nothing worth doing can one individual accomplish by themselves," he said.

After graduating from Morehouse in 1994, Harris-Dawson reached out

to Mark Ridley-Thomas — then the District 8 Councilmember — for an internship, and worked on the former councilmember's campaign. In the process, he met current L.A. Mayor Karen Bass and then spent a decade working with Bass' Community Coalition, building political power among the Black and Latine residents of L.A.

As the event came to an end, Harris-Dawson spoke about the role of Black USC students in the larger world. He told the audience to focus on graduating, since graduation rates for Black students are historically poor, he said. The nationwide college graduation rate for black students is 42%, while the rate for white students is 62%.

"Don't stop fighting," Harris-Dawson said. "You could look at all of our history: The one time we

for sure don't win is when we stop fighting, so when you see conditions, confront them."

Today, trust in institutions, from corporations to governments to religion, is "at an all time low" across the country, Harris-Dawson said in an interview with the *Daily Trojan* after the event.

"People's basic needs are not being met," Harris-Dawson said. "When people have to be in a situation where you're in such an incredibly wealthy country, and basic things can't get handled, I think it destroys everybody's trust."

Harris-Dawson said voting and leading by example are important for students to do to address today's challenges.

"You can play a leadership role with folks that you go to school with," Harris-Dawson said, "and an awful lot of folks that you don't."



Jordan Renville / Daily Trojan

Harris-Dawson stressed the importance of civic engagement and education as the solution to bridging gaps within communities during a time when tensions are high and trust in institutions is at an all-time low.

DIVERSITY | Partnerships with industry firms are key

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To maximize these career opportunities, NABA members support each other in ensuring they are over-prepared with in-depth resumes and work experience. Alexander said he believes there will always be racial biases in the business industry's hiring process, NABA students have a better chance at earning opportunities if they are over-prepared.

Ogunmola has experienced some of these challenges in the hiring process first hand.

"As a Black man, there's always that concern of how you talk in an interview, if you sound a little bit too different than how they expect you to sound or if your hair looks a certain way," he said. "The whole idea is also to make sure to build up our resumes and network to the fact that these firms know we are good enough to be here."

Alexander, Ogunmola and Sweeney all value the sense of community within the club. Seeing students advocate for each other drove her to continue her role as an advisor.

"I really view our students as checking their egos and anything else at the door," Sweeney said. "The fact that my students treat each other with such dignity and respect and they want to help each other, that's really them understanding the meaning of the Trojan Family."

When Sweeney graduated from USC and entered the business industry in 1979, she was the only Black woman in some of her audit teams, and the only Black person in others. Now, Fortune 500 and

Big Four companies look to NABA for recruitment, seeking out diverse students from USC and other universities as the future leaders in accounting.

NABA boasts an extensive list of industry partners, including Baker Tilly, BDO, Gallagher, Amwins and Mazars Group, Sweeney said. Key personnel — including Rod Adams, national talent acquisition partner at PwC, or Patrick Niemann, national partner at EY — are the cornerstone of these relationships.

"They need to be lauded publicly for their efforts at our university," Sweeney wrote in an email.

This year, NABA is also partnering with other organizations and faculty at the Marshall School of Business and the Leventhal School of Accounting, including the Black Business Association and the Accounting Society. Marshall's assistant director of undergraduate advising and student affairs Mayra Abrams, assistant dean and director Tiffani Frye and Leventhal director Arthur Alba are important supporters of NABA, Sweeney said.

"With these diverse programs ... you can really see the drive and passion. Everyone in the room doesn't normally have these opportunities, this is all new stuff," Alexander said. "Our families worked hard for us all to even just be at USC, let alone at the Big Four. I think these programs have been a really good help to where we can be considered at the very least in these application processes."



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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 | STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1912 | VOL. 210, NO. 23

LA Councilmember Harris-Dawson visits USC

Harris-Dawson told students about his upbringing and path to political office.

By **NICHOLAS CORRAL & NATHAN ELIAS**
Daily Trojan

The Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs hosted Los Angeles District 8 City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson Thursday in the latest event of its “My Journey” series, which gives accomplished Black professionals a chance to share their lives and career journeys.

During his time in office, Harris-Dawson’s initiatives focused on pursuing a housing-first approach to homelessness, community policing and job creation within the L.A. City Council. In June, he was elected president pro tempore of the City Council after Councilmember Curren Price stepped down, following allegations of conflicts of interest, embezzlement and perjury.

Damarea Parker, a supervisor at the CBCSA, said the event series helps foster a cross-generational conversation.

“Folks can really understand that there’s wisdom and knowledge to be passed down,” Parker said. “They haven’t walked your path, but they walked a path and can



Jordan Renville / Daily Trojan

L.A. City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson grew up in South Central and experienced the War on Drugs and the crack epidemic firsthand, which only fueled his decision to pursue local activism later in life.

have some similar challenges and some similar successes.”

Harris-Dawson spoke about growing up in a “very traditional” Black family on Hope Street, not far from the USC campus. He said his community was extremely tight-knit, with most residents coming from areas in East Texas and West Louisiana in search of opportunities in the growing Californian defense industry during World War II.

“There was a great feeling of familiarity with people who you aren’t necessarily blood-related to in the community,” Harris-Dawson said.

In his youth, Harris-Dawson said pollution in his neighborhood was so intense that the Hollywood sign was not visible. As someone living with asthma, Harris-Dawson couldn’t play outside during the summer because of the smog; instead, he stayed inside and read about politics.

So did Terrance McDonald, a freshman majoring in electrical and computer engineering who attended the event. McDonald said it was “pretty cool” to know he wasn’t the only one reading about politics at a young age.

“I’m trying to figure out ways how I can give back because it’s always important to give back to the community ... him giving back to the

| see **VISIT**, page 3 |

USC National Association of Black Accountants paves way for diversity in business

The chapter provides its diverse student group with connections to the Big Four.

By **TALIA WEXLER**
Staff Writer

In the United States, 84% of certified public accountants are white. Only 4% are Hispanic or Latine, and 2% are Black. USC’s National Association of Black Accountants is looking to break this pattern.

Bryan Alexander is a junior majoring in business administration and this year’s NABA president. Since assuming the board position in July, Alexander worked alongside associate professor of Clinical Accounting Zivia Sweeney to redevelop the organization and bring accounting opportunities to students of diverse backgrounds at USC. Although the club struggled and became defunct throughout its initial years of development, Alexander is optimistic about the year that lies ahead.

“The reason why I love Sweeney and NABA so much and why I agreed on the spot to take over is because I come from East Los Angeles, which is a primarily Hispanic area with very low funding [and] bad education for the most part,” Alexander said. “By the whole core of the program, NABA really tries to give diverse students opportunities that they never would’ve known about before.”

Although Alexander only recently assumed his leadership position, Sweeney has been driven to develop a successful NABA chapter at USC since students asked her to be an advisor several years ago and she saw the organization’s benefits on other campuses.

“NABA is a wonderful vehicle on a lot of different levels,” Sweeney said.

NABA helps students leverage the Trojan Network early and get in front of employers at early stages of their careers. The organization also provides these opportunities for a large community of first-generation students like herself, Sweeney said.

The organization now includes students from many different backgrounds and majors who can utilize the opportunities NABA offers.

“We just want to make sure that everyone feels welcome and everyone is invited,” Alexander said.

Joseph Ogunmola, a junior majoring in business administration and NABA’s director of marketing, said NABA has inspired members to switch into accountancy by showing them the multitude of opportunities for career growth.

The NABA board organizes group excursions, resume workshops and networking opportunities with its members. Sweeney said the Big Four accounting firms — Deloitte, PwC, KPMG and Ernst & Young — have started to seek out partnerships with NABA. Deloitte



Vincent Leo / Daily Trojan file photo

The USC National Association of Black Accountants hosts resume workshops, sponsors trips off campus and offers networking opportunities for students as part of its initiative to foster the next generation of accountants.

Global CEO Joseph Ucuzoglu connected Sweeney with a regular contact who works with the club on hiring opportunities.

From an industry standpoint, it is equally as important for these firms to hire diverse accounting professionals as it is for students of

diverse backgrounds to have these opportunities, Ogunmola said.

Sweeney said she wants to give credit to the staff at other firms, including Grant Thornton LLP and Andersen Los Angeles, who are working closely to support NABA this year.

“Sometimes people say ‘Oh, I’m all for diversity,’ and it’s just a bunch of talk,” Sweeney said. “The firms that I am dealing with, they are coming to the table with the resources, they are coming to the table with the jobs for our students.”

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OPINION

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Business gentrification hits Echo Park

New companies must be mindful of the implications of joining a neighborhood.

By HEYDY VASQUEZ
Staff Writer

Here's some advice to current and upcoming business owners: Learn about the neighborhood in which you plan to establish your store before your grand opening. Opening your doors to the public before considering your surroundings may demonstrate the vast divide between your values and those of the community your business sits in. Considering the rapid changes in low-income neighborhoods — like the gentrification that has hit Echo Park rapidly — residents are being left with no choice but to accommodate a business that does not reflect the diverse culture of the community.

This summer, Echo Park could not catch a break, with businesses leaving and new ones remodeling in the same space. Señor Fish, Buy and Save, Ms. Donuts and Echo Park Fashion vanished in the span of just three months — all businesses that were owned and represented by the diverse population of the neighborhood. New, expensive businesses — like The Hunt Vintage and The Stronghold Climbing Gym — have begun remodeling in vacancies that used to be Buy and Save as well as La Guadalupe Market. Both previously provided affordability

to the community, unlike these two incoming businesses.

The Hunt Vintage was initially operating in downtown Los Angeles. It is wonderful to have a new home store, as Echo Park has yet to see one since the departure of the Casablanca Furniture store — if only their furniture were not equivalent to the average rent in Echo Park. This neighborhood sees an average rent of \$1,824 per month, and The Hunt Vintage currently sells furniture ranging from \$550 to \$2,600 per piece.

The Stronghold Climbing Gym currently sells its monthly memberships at \$95 per adult — it is not a surprise that high-cost gyms have moved to Echo Park, as one had already previously had been placed and factored into the overall gentrification of the area. The neighboring Pharos Athletic Club sells its yearly membership at \$335; over and over, high-end businesses have opened their doors in Echo Park but only accommodate the wealthy residents moving in. cantiqLA, The Hunt Vintage, Pharos Athletic Gym, Lassens and countless coffee shops have yet to cater to the area's low-income residents based on their pricing.

My question remains: Why move your business to a low-income neighborhood? Businesses must learn about the community as they search for locations to place their storefronts. Understandably,



Trenyce Tong / Daily Trojan

the search for a location can be challenging, but business owners must be mindful of their real estate decisions. Otherwise, they will face problems of not representing and alienating longtime residents — further contributing to gentrification.

When an owner opens up their business, their prices often neglect to consider the community's needs and budget. Therefore, businesses must be mindful and avoid pricing out their neighbors. This lack of consideration has been seen throughout Echo Park, as \$335-per-month gym memberships put off residents and drive in wealthy individuals who need to be more conscious of the neighborhoods

they enter as well. Through these changes, it is essential to be mindful of the residents' reactions, feelings and thoughts.

When a business does not represent the community and only carries high-end services, the community will feel as if there is no trust, as displacement will occur and residents won't feel represented. In response to these changes, businesses have seen tagging on their gates, comments on their posts and anger from community members. However, it is not just because the community is "mad"; it is due to their disappointment that a business does not cater to them, despite deciding to sit in their neighborhood. As these

reactions arise, businesses must understand their anger and learn to accommodate the community instead of raising their prices.

Gentrification kills culture — and businesses must learn about the community before signing their leases. Murals in Echo Park have been painted over as a result of cantiqLA and Jersey Mike's arrival and remodeling. Spray-painted fences with explicit language and graffiti were written in their place, but what can you expect if you are driving out a whole community?

At this point, Echo Park can not take another high-end coffee shop, bar or fashion store, the prices of which limit residents to window shopping instead of actually purchasing the item. Residents must feel welcomed in the community they migrated to, reside in and spend generations living in. The history of L.A. has no meaning when gentrification washes away the culture and displaces them to nearby counties instead of protecting them. Businesses must do a better job to be a resource to the community — or not bother coming to low-income neighborhoods at all.

When supporting a small business, consider whether it supports the community around them — most of the time, their prices tell the answer. As for businesses that aim to bring themselves to Echo Park, we have had enough. Do your research; if not, do not be surprised by the community's response.

Ron DeSantis and his f-ed up family time

Arjun Bhargava

THE GIRLS ARE GAGGED



Ron DeSantis, the gremlin-esque Republican, regularly utilizes anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric as a means of mobilizing voters, since he has nothing better to do. Insinuating trans people and activists don't deserve to exist, DeSantis uses calculated, coded phrases like "defend our children" and "education, over indoctrination" to pass legislation that actively makes it harder for trans people to access healthcare, which he did this summer in his humid state of Florida.

DeSantis has been inciting culture wars on anyone who challenges his vision of America. Demanding that the United States use lethal military force at the U.S.-Mexico border, DeSantis desperately aims to rally Americans against anything other than his own ghastly frame which, by the way, definitely scares the average American child. DeSantis says they will use drug smugglers "stone cold dead

at the border." It is unclear how DeSantis plans to distinguish drug-smugglers from immigrants.

This strategy allows DeSantis to avoid getting into the logistics of different streams of thought, since that would be entertaining ideas created by evil. Ideas by "the criminals," or the "woke mob," hide outside of the so-called

norm, morphing into one another to make the Woke Boogeyman. The children must be kept safe from the they/thems!

Though actively shaping public discourse, the talking points expressed by 2024 Republican candidates are hardly a timestamp of contemporary politics; they've been used to corral misinformed people

for decades. This is because they are highly effective at funneling people to misdirect their anger, targeting other disenfranchised groups instead of the elite wealthy establishment.

As a queer theorist and English professor at Tufts, Lee Edelman discussed the constraining mandate of futurism when it is controlled solely by the cisgender, heterosexual, reproducing population.

As Edelman says in "No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive," statements expressed by United States presidential candidates are not about curating an accurate vision of what the future could possibly look like, but rather serve to "impose an ideological limit." These limits must stray away from real threats and problems — directing everyone's gaze at the pink-haired nonbinary that is indoctrinating children with gender-woke ideology.

The future of civilization, which is genuinely at question even at this present moment, is then replaced by the future of "The Child." The baby literally keeps our world together, individualistically so, since politicians like DeSantis argue for authoritarian-style parenting where they can intervene in their child's

education as the sole controllers. A collective concern, such as the future of Earth, whether it be from an already-occurring climate disaster or future nuclear war, becomes a mere distraction in Republican futurity.

This doesn't just benefit The Child or "The Family" though. Hiding behind these figures is the truth can never be said out loud: The nuclear family isn't about the familial unit. Rather, it's about capitalism and our need for white, straight people to make babies so we have labor. The Child also becomes a blanket whose function is to shield voters from critical thought. Exploitation and below-par working conditions must be swept under the rug to make room for The Child. Wage slavery must be ignored, since it has nothing to do with The Family.

The nuclear family unit draws boxes limiting where Republican candidates, like DeSantis, are willing to go ideologically. And the lines will always point toward some useless culture war that distracts and distorts.

Arjun Bhargava is a junior inciting discourse on pop, sex, power and art. Their column, "The Girls are Gagged," runs every other Friday.



Arjun Bhargava / Daily Trojan

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Letter from the editor

Jason Pham
FEATURES EDITOR



I lived my freshman year as a hermit crab. Coming in as a spring admit with no previous

knowledge or preconceptions of Los Angeles, I was lost. I was already in a drought of friends from not attending USC in the fall, but the idea of venturing out into the unknown, bustling city seemed even more frightening to me — someone born and raised in the same place their whole lives. From the endless HBO Max binge nights in my dorm to the unlimited swipes at the

dining halls, USC was a little too convenient for me. With no resources on where to go outside of campus and little to no transportation, I felt shelled off from South Central.

Flash forward to sophomore year. After adding one or two friends to my contact list, and even a boyfriend, I quickly re-entered my freshman worries. When it came down to planning

where to eat or what to do in the area with my newfound friends, I found myself at a loss. Again. Since I didn't explore the surrounding South Central area my freshman year, and hardly my sophomore year, I was at a loss for words on where to take my friends to hang out or what to eat with my boyfriend.

Though I'm thankful for the people around me for stepping up to the plate and pushing me outside of my comfort zone to explore South Central, I felt ridiculous for not knowing the hottest spots in the very city where I attend school and have lived for two years — like a tourist in my own city.

Now entering my junior year, I'm determined to finally immerse myself in L.A.'s culture. South Central's vibrant colors, concrete jungles and the melting pot of food is a community I've ignored for so long, but grew so quickly to love. From the local taco stands to the friendly corner stores, South Central is a hub for small businesses and mixed cultures from every part of the globe.

As college students, most of us



only have a set time in South Central to explore such a diverse city that some people across the country can only hope to move to. I say we take advantage of what the city has to offer before we graduate and have to kiss USC goodbye because, once we leave, we'll regret it forever.

I hope that our guide in this supplement not only serves as a starting point, but encourages you to discover your own South Central secrets. Some of us worked so hard to get to this school, so it's about time to cut loose, eat the best food in town and explore L.A.'s diverse culture.

Now step out of your shell. Explore the city. Try that street vendor. I promise, South Central will welcome you.



Jason Pham

24th Street Theatre gives back art, care

Nestled between Hoover and Magnolia, the theater punches above its weight.

By **DAVID RENDON**
Features Staff Writer

The 24th Street Theatre is anything but a normal theater. The theater has been embraced by the community and now it's more like a family, attending funerals and supporting local vendors, executive director Jay McAdams said.

There's no template for what the 24th Street Theatre is, and people certainly won't find it in the mission statement, he added.

The theatre was founded in 1997 by McAdams, Debbie Devine, John White Splinter and Stephanie Shroyer, a professor of theatre practice in acting. From the beginning, the group knew it wanted to make the theater about the community. 24th Street Theatre is the type of place to spend its Saturday trying to catch a stray dog to return it to its owner.

"We're so deeply involved, I've put myself between fighting [people experiencing homelessness] to break them up," McAdams said. "I've given people jumpstarts with dead batteries out in the street."

24th Street Theatre operates a lot like a venn diagram with theater, community and arts education, McAdams said. When McAdams and the other founders founded the space, they made it their mission to improve the community, and they felt they could make a difference, he said.

"Our very first meeting was [with] a kid named Victor," McAdams said. "The door to the street was open... and this kid came and stopped, he was 11, and he yelled



Brittany Shaw / Daily Trojan

24th Street Theatre operates a lot like a venn diagram with theater, community and arts education, said Jay McAdams, the executive director of the 24th Street Theatre.

and said, 'Hey, what are you guys doing?' ... And in talking to him, we realize he doesn't even know what a play is."

One of the theater's biggest events is its Día de los Muertos celebration, said community program manager Abel Alvarado. His first impression of the theater was actually through attending the event

himself in 2021.

"It was really impressive because there was no charge to get in, yet the production value was so high,"

"It was really impressive because there was no charge to get in, yet the production value was so high"

...
ABEL ALVARADO

Community program manager, 24th Street Theatre

Alvarado said. "And there were so many people here. ... There was a huge stage with world-class performers and it really felt like the community of Los Angeles that celebrates Día de los Muertos was coming together."

Gianna DiGiulio, a junior majoring in public relations and the 24th PR and marketing intern, highly

recommended the Día de los Muertos event to students.

"USC students should know about it because there's speakers, there's performers, there's a little marketplace [where] you can buy things, and it's just a really cool event," DiGiulio said. "It's just really cool to see people from the community just come out and to know that a small theater is putting it on."

The theater is always advocating for its community, McAdams said. When the Trump administration was in power, and even when United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement vans were doing neighborhood sweeps, 24th Street Theatre ensured that community members didn't feel threatened during the Día de los Muertos performance and that the event was safe for everyone in the community.

"One of the concerns we raised with council offices and said, 'Listen, you have to talk to [the Los Angeles Police Department] for us and assure us there's not going to be any harassment [and] nobody's asking for documentation,'" McAdams said.

At 24th Street Theatre, Spanish is welcomed, even outside of the shows performed in Spanish, McAdams said: English-language shows are often accompanied by Spanish supertitles.

"It really gives us a hub of creativity where people are allowed to express themselves, people who normally wouldn't be given a chance to express themselves," Alvarado said. "Latinos comprise about 52% of the population here in Los Angeles, and therefore Spanish is the language that we



Kristine Nguyen / Daily Trojan

A Trojan's

Celebrate Environmental Awareness Month with eco-friendly fun near campus.

By **SCARLETT LOVALLO**
Features Staff Writer

Warm palettes of orange leaves, red and yellow football jerseys, and temperature drops just chilly enough to need your staple Heritage Collection sweatshirt.

Autumn arrives in Southern California, yet campus only seemingly becomes more green. The university has expanded its sustainability initiatives with the opening of the Sustainability Hub, Assignment: Earth, and everything in between. Even the (undefeated so far) football season has picked up on environmentalism, with Green Games bringing sustainability to the Coliseum. If you're feeling inspired to pick up a few more eco-conscious habits, I've compiled a few of my favorite green activities on and around campus.

Whether you're a dedicated environmentalist at heart or simply a Trojan hoping to become more eco-friendly, this guide offers a glimpse into experiencing Los Angeles and USC sustainably.

Heal the Bay

Volunteer to clean-up the beach with environmental advocacy nonprofit Heal the Bay. The members are dedicated to keeping the vibrant oceans, coastal waters, and marine life of Santa Monica Bay healthy. Volunteers collect waste, ensuring coastal waters remain clean and safe.

And after volunteer days, your impact isn't quite over yet — Heal the Bay provides clean-up data to support equitable environmental policies, climate action, and legislation campaigns. Heal the Bay's notable contributions include planning joint research projects, preventing plastic use, and keeping the bay clean of oil. The nonprofit educates students and communities on the safety of their local beaches and water qualities with the support of volunteers.

USC Transportation and the LA Metro collaboratively offer a U-Pass for all undergraduates and graduates, which can be used to take the metro train from south of campus to Santa Monica just in time for Coastal Cleanup Day on September 23!

Peaks and Professors

Need a break from the stress of midterms to explore nature? Hike and sightsee action from Starstruck and the likes, from Griffith Park to Corral Canyon and Seven Trees Trail, with Peaks and Professors. The student organization plans adventurous hiking excursions through trails and mountains. Hikers have the opportunity to spend time reconnecting with nature and exploring the flora and fauna native to the Southern California region.

Hikes are open to all students, with eco-friendly carpools to sightseeing locations. Trips feature a faculty member, conversations in academia and beyond, and a guarantee to meet your daily steps goal.

Not an expert hiker? Not a problem! Peaks and Professors rates trips on a difficulty rating system to help all interested Trojans find the perfect trip.

Jacks N Joe, USC's only mom-and-pop breakfast shop, serves the morning crew

The locally-owned, small town breakfast diner thrives on Figueroa Street.

By **DEVON LEE**
Features Staff Writer

Fresh, home-cooked meals are a scarce commodity for most college students. Luckily, for USC students, there's Jacks N Joe, one of South Central's only breakfast restaurants, which serves homestyle cooking in an environment that can only be described as "a home away from home."

Located near the corner of West Adams Boulevard and Figueroa Street, Jacks N Joe looks out of place in a sea of fast-food franchises and corporate-owned eateries. Yet the restaurant has remained a pillar in the community for almost 13 years.

Vianney and Mark Bednorz founded the restaurant in December 2010, inspired by the love and passion of their late daughter. Nearly five years after her passing, realizing they hadn't made good on their promise to live a life that they knew their daughter would have been proud of, the couple decided to open Jacks N Joe — a play on pancakes and coffee.

Since then, the restaurant has been a staple in the local community, serving traditional breakfast cuisine to hungry police officers and USC students alike.

To Vianney Bednorz, Jacks N Joe provides a space that is unlike many others in the USC community.

"We are definitely a cornerstone here," Bednorz said. "We are home away from home for a lot of students. That's what we offer is a home-cooked meal, kind of like your mom or dad would have made. I think this area definitely lacked it 13 years ago."

The homey feeling that only a breakfast diner can provide is hard to come by in South Central, as Jacks N Joe remains one of the few eateries of its kind in the area. The restaurant's menu lives up to its slogan of "a breakfast all day kind of place," offering 13 different types of pancakes with variations like peanut butter banana "Pudgie Elvis" and cinnamon apple and

brown sugar "Ruby Belle."

Alex Lam, a senior majoring in social sciences, said she enjoys the restaurant's comforting atmosphere, and that it's "better than most [restaurants] in L.A."

"Every time I go there, they show a lot of gratitude," she said. "There's also always family there and it's really cute, just being able to enjoy the presence of other families or

just talking to someone who is sitting next to you at a booth."

Kevin Marcus Eberhart, a server at the restaurant, said the work atmosphere created by the owners is what makes Jacks N Joe an enjoyable place for the employees and the customers. That, along with the "good and authentic" quality of the food, is what brings customers back time and time again.

"We make our pancakes with real buttermilk. We have good coffee... we make it good, and we make it simple," he said. "We don't do a lot of extra, over-the-top things, and it's just stable. I think that's a recipe for people to just keep coming back, that it's good, it's reliable, it's dependable, it's quality."

Inside, the restaurant looks like a cross between a diner and a breakfast house, all with a Hawaiian flare — a nod to Mark Bednorz's Hawaiian heritage.

With an all-day breakfast menu, Eberhart describes Jacks N Joe's patrons as the morning crowd, the restaurant being especially popular among police officers. To show their appreciation for their loyal customer base, the register counter displays dozens of different police badges.

Eberhart emphasized the restaurant's appeal for those who want high-quality food from a family-owned business.

"Anybody looking for breakfast here that's not IHOP or something, they'll come here," he said. "So we kind of get that clientele and yeah, it's not super big, it's not corporate. So we have that kind of small, intimate, mom-and-pop kind of feel at the restaurant."

Despite its dedicated client base and unmatched family quality, Jacks N Joe was never intended to be a lifelong business endeavor. For Bednorz, the restaurant's future will be approached with love and care, one pancake at a time.

"I don't know if it was necessarily our dream to do it, but I think it's always a stepping stone to something else into another chapter," she said. "Who knows what the future holds for Jacks N Joe. But as long as we're here right now, we're good."



Devon Lee / Daily Trojan

The restaurant, located near the corner of West Adams Boulevard and Figueroa Street, has remained a pillar in the community for almost 13 years. Vianney and Mark Bednorz founded the diner in December 2010.

green guide to Los Angeles

Friends and Neighbors Day

Go green & give: Friends and Neighbors Day returns October 14 to connect students with local volunteer initiatives. Hosted by the USC Volunteer Center, Friends and Neighbors Day collaborates with volunteer projects ranging from environment and sustainability to animal welfare to education within the south Los Angeles community.

Spend the afternoon volunteering in the garden to learn about Community Services Unlimited's commitment to reducing food insecurity through sustainable

farming and a community-centered market.

Trojan Farmer's Market

Looking for a snack mid-study session? Shop for sustainably-grown fruits, vegetables, and baked goods at the Trojan Farmers Market produced by local agriculture and farming. Located at McCarthy Quad, the market features stands with fresh strawberries and perfect snacks to support a community of environmentally-conscious farmers and vendors. Just by supporting eco-friendly agriculture through

sustainable shopping, you can help reduce the environmental impact of transporting goods on air pollution.

The market runs every Wednesday weekly from 11am to 3pm and accepts EBT payment.

Peace Garden Project

Visit the USC Peace Garden Project to learn more about sustainable gardening, including planting seeds, harvesting plants, and composting. The garden is open during the fall to students for visiting hours to partake in the initiative and adopt a succulent.

Organized by USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, coordinators of the garden seek to improve mental wellness by encouraging students and faculty to spend time in nature. Featuring artwork by Roski School of Art and Design students, the garden encourages interdisciplinary collaboration. The Peace Garden Project provides green space within the urban setting, promoting environmental consciousness, reduced air pollution, and improved cognitive and physical health.

The Peace Garden Project practices sustainability by composting, using pesticide-free methods, and planting flora native to the region's environment.



Kristine Nguyen / Daily Trojan

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles

Just south of University Park campus, visit the Natural History Museum to see the lively Nature Gardens, learn more about the L.A. Underwater Exhibition, and meet scientists and researchers. The museum offers guided tours through its exhibits in history, art, and science. The Natural History Museum is committed to sustainability initiatives and has expanded reusable water stations, installed efficient watering systems, and designed innovative maintenance plans.

USC Students receive free admission to the Natural History Museum of L.A. County, redeemable onsite at the ticket center.



Kristine Nguyen / Daily Trojan

Feeling unproductive or hungry? Here are five local study spots to hit

Get a coffee and crack open a book at one of these South Los Angeles study spaces.

By **VERONIQUE LOUIS-JACQUES**

Features Staff Writer

We're more than a month into the semester, which means the daunting period of midterms and project deadlines is quickly approaching. Before the scavenger hunt of finding a seat in Leavey Library begins and the fast-paced scurrying of stressed students pulls you in, here are five study spots in South Central that'll grant you a change of scenery and maybe even a sweet treat for your exam troubles.

Nature's Brew by Bacari

A coffee and breakfast nook opened by USC alumni, Danny and Bobbi Kronfli, Nature's Brew is just one of the many food venues owned by the two brothers. While Bacari Restaurants have locations throughout Los Angeles, Nature's Brew provides a more casual experience for all your coffee and brunch needs. This coffee bar and kitchen, located on South Union Avenue, is a 15 to 20 minute walk from campus and serves up all-day breakfast, from fresh pastries to breakfast burritos.

With its exposed brick wall, warm lighting and quaint atmosphere, the cafe sets a cozy scene for studying. The small space contains an array of rustic tables, accommodating those who seek to work solo or host a small study group. Two-prong electrical outlets line the walls. Open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, Nature's Brew spot works best for an afternoon study session with a friend. The small cafe is popular among students and gets crowded quite quickly, so it's best to arrive early or during off-peak hours — anytime after noon.



Arielle Rizal / Daily Trojan

South LA Cafe

Founded by Joe and Celia-Ward Wallace in 2019, South LA Cafe is committed to community-building and service work. Located on Browning Boulevard just a 10-minute drive from campus, the cafe is hard to miss. Outside the establishment rest bright yellow, outdoor seating arrangements overlooked by a big black and white sign with the cafe's name in bold letters. The shop's interior has a more industrial feel, with posters of community leaders like Nipsey Hussle and Martin Luther King Jr. hanging up on the walls. The cafe, which sells its own merch, serves hot and cold drinks, smoothies, breakfast meals and pastries. Because the cafe's indoor seating is limited, the space works best for an outdoor study session.

With Love Market & Cafe

If you're feeling extra productive, With Love Market & Cafe will have you walking out with both your groceries and a cleared to-do list.

Located on South Vermont Avenue, the cafe is a 15-minute drive from campus. The spot contains a small marketplace offering affordable groceries and a cafe that sells a variety of items, including coffee, tea, smoothies, salads and sandwiches. Invested in community engagement, a portion of the proceeds made from the market go to community programs within the area. With Love has both indoor seating and an outdoor patio, as well as a reservation-only meeting room. With its wide array of study environments, this location can accommodate a solo study session

— to actually get some work done — or a study date with a friend.

DRNK Coffee + Tea/Qwench Juice Bar

A 15-minute walk from campus, DRNK Coffee + Tea/Qwench Juice Bar sits just below Element, an off-campus USC housing community on South Hoover Street. The cafe is spacious and quiet, and outlets align two of their bar tables. With its large, open windows, upbeat pop music and bright yellow seating, the spot provides a positive ambiance for what may be a gruesome study session otherwise.

The coffee car and juice bar both have menus chock-full with healthy options. Qwench Bar specializes in fruit and vegetable blends and food bowls. Their acai bowls

| see **STUDY**, page 8 |

THEATER

| continued from page 5 |

hear. It's in the very name of our city and it's celebrated here."

The theater has had a long history with USC. Robert Scales, former dean of the School of Dramatic Arts, convinced the founders to look at the area to build a theater, McAdams said. Scales also helped by getting the theater a \$30,000 grant.

USC has continued to show the theater support by helping to fund its after-school program that it provides to the community for free, McAdams said. USC is one of the program's biggest partners.

McAdams said five SDA deans have signed on as Good Neighbor campaign partners, supporting the 24th Street Theatre's school and after-school program. The "After Cool" program as they call it provides after school activities taught by professional actors for an entire school year, McAdams said.

The after-school programs are considered, like everything else, art, McAdams added.

"If we're teaching 6-year-olds, 7-year-olds, oftentimes, we bring a professional musician in to score the class," McAdams said. "We can get the kids to feel better and to feel more if we're telling a story and there's a little tinkle on the keys in the background, pulling their heartstrings like film scoring. Why would we not do that?"

Currently, the theater has a show every Saturday in September in its Saturday Explorer series, DiGiulio said. Every weekend, a different group of performers puts on a small showcase. The shows begin at 2 p.m., and tickets for the general public are \$10 and \$2.40 for North University Park residents.

The theater also provides programs meant to help high schoolers learn life skills not taught in schools, McAdams said.

"We're teaching them to stand up and speak up and use their voices and give them confidence," McAdams said. "We teach them how to do job interviews, teach them how to wear a tie, old school stuff, but stuff they're not getting anywhere else these days."

The theater's outreach doesn't stop at children, as the staff also help older adults in the area with tasks that can be too difficult for them to handle on their own.

"We literally get them groceries [and] take them to doctor's appointments," McAdams said. "I just checked one out of the hospital this week ... those are not things theaters do."

For a while, the theater provided people experiencing homelessness with clothing, even if that meant pulling from the costume shop, McAdams said. The theater also serves as a place where individuals experiencing homelessness can receive their mail.

Most USC students don't seem to know about 24th Street Theatre, DiGiulio said. When she tells other students she works there, she's often met with questions like, "What's that?"

"If you want to go see a live show on a weekend and it's chill and casual, but you want to see live art, I think it'd be a fun thing that USC students should know about," DiGiulio said.

In Alvarado's eyes, the 24th Street Theatre gives South L.A. youth the opportunity to see different paths for themselves through arts education and theater.

"There's a space here that is telling young people, that is telling the community, 'You're worthy of fine art,'" Alvarado said. "You are worthy of expressing yourself. You are worthy of telling your story because your story is also valid." And this theater has done that for 27 years."

STUDY | Support local cafes this exam season

| continued from page 7 |

have a serving size that are bound to get you through the day. DRNK, on the other hand, serves a variety of coffee and tea drinks, as well as sandwiches. From hot lattes to cold brews to matcha, DRNK caters to that daily dose of caffeine you might need to get through your study sesh. Whether you grab a cup of coffee and sit down with a breakfast wrap, or decide to sip on a smoothie at Qwench, the spot is great for those who need a near-constant refueling on food while studying.



Arielle Rizal / Daily Trojan

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library

Tired of weaving through endless bookshelves at Doheny Memorial Library or drowning in homework in dim-lighted Leavey Library? Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library can serve as an alternative.

A 10-minute drive from campus, the library is located in Exposition Park on South Western Avenue. While this is an L.A. Public Library, students do not need a library card to enter the space.

From Monday through Thursday, the library is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. With its high ceilings and array of seating arrangements, the library lets you avoid the hustle and bustle of a typical cafe. Restaurants like Jack's Family Kitchen and South LA Cafe are within a five-minute walking distance of the public library.



Arielle Rizal / Daily Trojan

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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LACMA shows museum history in exhibit

“World Made Wondrous” meditates on the modern museum and its origins.

By **CARSON LUTZ**
Staff Writer

Nestled in the back corner of the Resnick Pavilion at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, a pathway into the past awaits. Open since Sept. 17, “The World Made Wondrous: The Dutch Collector’s Cabinet and the Politics of Possession” is an evocation of the Wunderkammern (literally “cabinets of wonders” in German) of European collectors from the 16th and 17th centuries. The exhibition faithfully recreates its own collection, while also leveling a critical examination of the ethics and agendas behind such an assemblage.

Though these collections emerged all across the European continent, “World Made Wondrous” gives special attention to those from the Netherlands. The country enjoyed a rapid ascent to global power in this period, as well as an unprecedented proximity to faraway lands and their resources through the ever-expanding networks of trade and commerce. This process facilitated acquisition of the diverse assortment of items displayed in the collectors’ cabinets.

Today, many see the Wunderkammer as a forerunner to the Western museum conceived today. The colonial and exploitative tendencies seen in the collector’s cabinets still linger. Addressing the persistence of these inclinations, “World Made Wondrous” adopts a meditative aspect on the very nature of museums.

The exhibition’s first section, focusing on the fictive creation of “The Collector,” invents an owner of the assembly of objects. The likenesses of Dutch historical figures, captured by Rembrandt and other portraitists, give a sense of the collectors’ peers for the viewer. The penetrating gazes of these individuals extend over other pieces that build an image of the culture in this period, ranging from representations of mythology and religion to maps and globes that demonstrate a rapidly evolving conception of the world.

Yet while “World Made Wondrous” may initially seem to play the collector’s game, the show quickly unravels the incomplete, misleading and damaging colonial perspectives — often by allowing objects to speak for themselves. In this process, the exhibition presents a multivocal narrative, providing a platform to groups whose outlooks may have been previously suppressed.

“My methodology was really trying to focus on these other voices that have been lost,” said Diva Zumaya, assistant curator in the department of European painting and sculpture at LACMA. “[I was] really trying to ask the question: How else can we look at these objects, besides from the European collector’s perspective?”

Proceeding beyond the first section that establishes the collector, the exhibition proceeds to explore the actual substance of the collection in three organizing categories: “Water,” “Earth” and “Fire.” As noted in the introductory message for the exhibition, the voice of the collector is “purposefully sidelined”

in these galleries, intending to “foreground voices that are often missing from these histories.”

These sections, perhaps above all else, prioritize context. Works that feel customary to the art museum experience of today, such as the maritime paintings of Willem van de Velde the Younger, are placed in concert with objects that are decidedly more unexpected, like shells, lobsters, crabs and even a pufferfish. Indeed, this strategy of eclectic presentation is faithful to the nature of those seen in 16th and 17th century collections.

“From the period view of the seventeenth century, it’s quite anachronistic, actually, to have paintings lined up on a white wall,” Zumaya said. “17th-century Dutch paintings would have been next to shells and crocodiles, and scientific instruments or prints. It would have been a more multimedia, more interactive experience.”

Beyond achieving realism in the customs of the Wunderkammer, this cross-disciplinary approach to art also forces viewers to engage in more critical discourses about the objects’ creation and messaging. How do van de Velde’s portrayal of seaships relate to the exploited maritime resources displayed nearby? What might a full-sized American Alligator taxidermy tell us about European artistic renderings of the New World? “World Made Wondrous” encourages these sorts of interrogations.

An extensive audio guide further develops this show’s critical approach to artwork of the period. Compiling the voices of historians, scientists and activists, these recordings promote



Museum Associates / LACMA

“World Made Wondrous” ushers in a dialogue about the future of art possession and museum sustainability at the LACMA.

reflection on the legacies of the collector’s cabinets, widely ranging from environmental to economic to cultural and political points of view. Additionally, the exhibition features the voices of four contemporary artists — Jennifer Ling Datchuk, Todd Gray, Sithabile Mlotshwa and Uýra Sodoma — who express their own critical perspectives in conversations developed within their own pieces. In the most literal sense, the audio guide amplifies voices previously unheard.

“It’s fascinating to think about the other eyes through which we can see these objects,” Zumaya said. “And the audio guide is the principal way that I’ve designed these other voices to come through.”

As LACMA nears the completion of the David Geffen Galleries, the museum is in a unique position to reevaluate its attitudes toward the presentation of art. “World Made Wondrous” advances a timely meta-commentary on the art world itself, with all of its troubling legacies. By probing the problematic practices of the past, this exhibition helps envision a more equitable and sustainable future for LACMA and other institutions around the world.

“World Made Wondrous” is on view until March 3, 2024. Students can receive an admission discount with the presentation of a valid student ID.

Fallon, Chase and the unfunny funny business

Kimberly Aguirre

COMIC RELIEF



Although I am naturally comedically gifted, I never held any desire to work in the field. And everything I learn about the behind-the-scenes world of comedy only confirms my aversion.

The *Rolling Stone* investigation of Jimmy Fallon and “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” only furthered my thoughts. In “Chaos, Comedy, and ‘Crying Rooms’: Inside Jimmy Fallon’s ‘Tonight Show,’” which was published earlier this month, journalist Krystie Lee Yandoli spoke to 16 “Tonight Show” workers — two current, 14 former.

Interviewees told *Rolling Stone* their mental and physical health decreased while working on the show because of intense pressure from leadership, including Fallon. Employees cited anxiety attacks, hair loss and suicidal ideation.

A consistent theme throughout the article was employees speaking of “erratic” behavior from Fallon, leaving staff unsure of his next move. Currently, Fallon, along with the rest of late-night television, is off-air because of continuing writer’s strikes. However, following the publication of the *Rolling Stone* article, Fallon held a “Tonight Show” Zoom call for his staff in which he apologized, saying, “I feel so bad I can’t even tell you.” Employees told the magazine he seemed “earnest.” *Rolling Stone* also added words from other employees who had

positive experiences at the show, with one calling working at “The Tonight Show” “a joyful adventure.”

On May 16, HuffPost reported “Tonight Show” non-union staffers were being put on an “unpaid leave of absence” three weeks into the writers’ strike, while Seth Meyer and Stephen Colbert’s staff were reportedly still being paid.

Now, Fallon is co-hosting “Strike Force Five” alongside late-night hosts Jimmy Kimmel, John Oliver, Meyers and Colbert. The profits of the 12-episode podcast go toward paying the out-of-work late-night staff.

I am not here to label Fallon as good or bad; I am a random college student across the country with no connection to him or the show. All I can hope is that “The Tonight Show” treats the staff with respect, forms a safe work environment and makes the needed changes.

What I will say, however, is the *Rolling Stone* exposé transported me back to Tina Fey’s 2011 memoir “Bossypants” (which I was way too young to read). In the autobiography, Fey includes a Fallon-Amy Poehler interaction during the trio’s “Saturday Night Live” days.

Fey recalls Poehler, early in her “SNL” career, making a vulgar, “unladylike” joke and Fallon responding by saying, “Stop that! It’s not cute! I don’t like it.” When Poehler didn’t comply with his request, Fey describes Fallon as “visibly shocked.” (Another concern brought up in the *Rolling Stone* piece is that Fallon is surrounded by people who say “yes” to him.)

“SNL” has a long-standing reputation of being a “boy’s club.” Even though there has been improvement, today’s cast is still men-heavy. In the show’s long history, there has never been gender

parity in the cast. Back in Fallon’s era, it was common for the men cast members to play women characters (a stunt that manages to insult so many groups of people in one fell swoop that it’s almost impressive).

Original “SNL” cast member Jane Curtin spoke about the men of the cast thinking “women should not be here.” People who know me know I have an extreme love-hate relationship with the infamous sketch show, and the more I remember the show’s history, the more that “hate” side is fueled.

Being the person I am, I read the 800-page “SNL” tell-all book: “Live From New York: The Complete, Uncensored History of Saturday Night Live as Told by Its Stars, Writers, and Guests.”

As an English major, I’m trained to follow themes and motifs in every book I read. Theme number one: Chevy Chase is an asshole.

Chase was an original cast member on “SNL” and is often lauded as the show’s first breakout star. Even though he was integral in getting the sketch show off the ground, I think it would be nearly impossible to find a positive “SNL” Chase story. With intense homophobia, sexual harassment, physical violence and more in the Chase stories, all I can feel is sadness and anger thinking of those eras and the people who had to deal with him.

Yes, he’s been banned from the show and is pretty universally known to be the worst, but he still takes up my screen every time I put on “Community.” He will always be intertwined with comedy history, especially if, as he claims, he “invented every funny thing that ever happened in the history of not just comedy, but also the known world.” (Although this is, of course, what I say about myself every morning.)

Again, I’m just some college student who enjoys comedy a bit more than the average person. I’m not sure what my place as the consumer is in all of this. All I do know is watching stand-up, sketches and sitcoms is what gets me through some of my toughest times. Knowing the mistreatment of those putting in the work to make that happen is devastating. All I can hope is that the people making those comedic moments for me are well-treated and respected — and well-paid!

Kimberly Aguirre is a junior writing about comedy. Her column, “Comic Relief,” runs every other Friday. She is also an associate managing editor at the Daily Trojan.



Diya Srivastava / Daily Trojan

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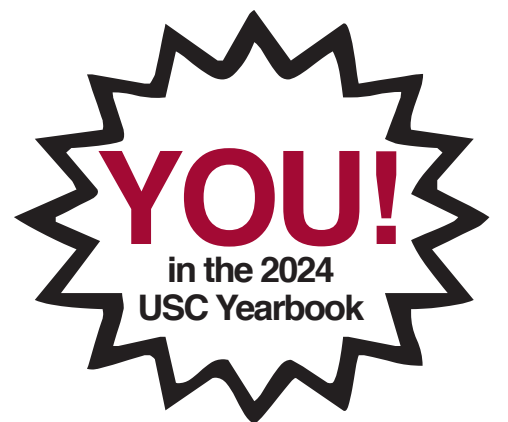
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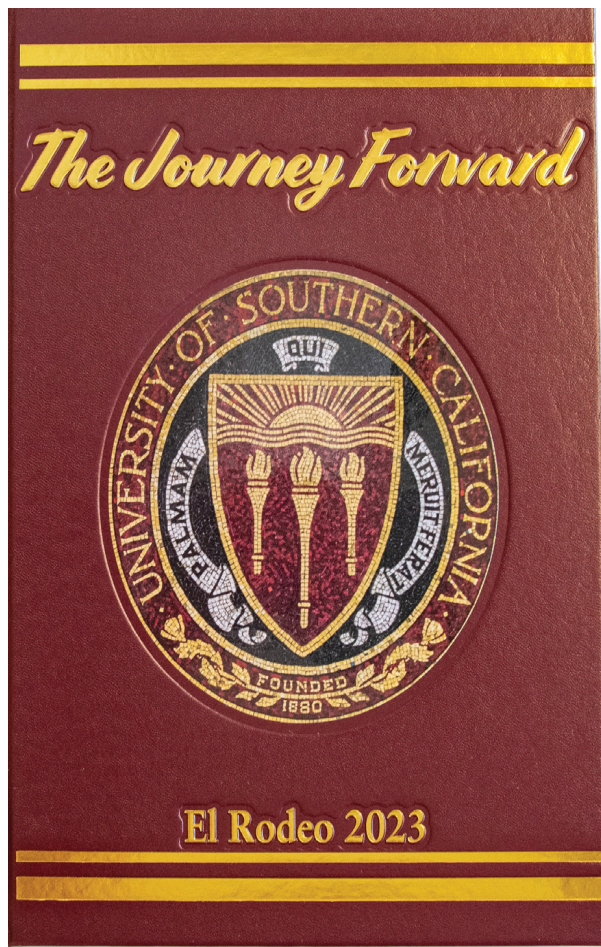
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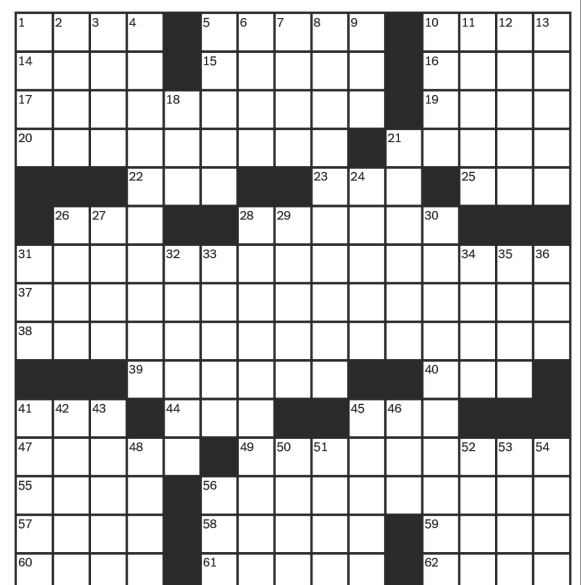
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0818

- ACROSS**
- 1 Jewell who played Jewel on "Deadwood"
 - 5 Slip
 - 10 Shade of blue
 - 14 It may follow praying
 - 15 Brings up
 - 16 Flowers for mothers?
 - 17 The cask of amontillado, e.g.
 - 19 Outspoken?
 - 20 Expression of support while keeping one's distance?
 - 21 Golden Globe classification
 - 22 ___ time
 - 23 Fiver
 - 25 "Little Birds" eroticist
 - 26 A ways
 - 28 Symbols thought to have supernatural power
 - 31 "I need at least a little justification"
 - 37 Home for retired circus workers, maybe
 - 38 Opposite of playing it safe
 - 39 Looks long and hard
 - 40 Luke's trainee in "Star Wars"
 - 41 Mo. with two national holidays
 - 44 Steam
 - 45 Bulky Himalayan
 - 47 Yolanda with four Grammys in gospel
 - 49 Key part
 - 55 Pasta that's often baked
 - 56 Heavy stock
 - 57 Fire
 - 58 Kind of pie
 - 59 Russian region
 - 60 Log time
 - 61 Holy person
 - 62 Romantic preference
- DOWN**
- 1 Rubberneck
 - 2 Certain royal
 - 3 Home makeover, informally
 - 4 Under the most dire circumstances
 - 5 Like some accents
 - 6 High-performance Saab model
 - 7 Brain ___
 - 8 Ones who haven't signed
 - 9 Night school subj.
 - 10 "El ___ en los tiempos de cólera" (García Márquez title)
 - 11 Holy book
 - 12 Savoriness
 - 13 Only character to appear in all of the Narnia chronicles
 - 18 "I'm done with this conversation!"
 - 21 Wipe
 - 24 Canoe maker's bark
 - 26 Done, informally
 - 27 Tel ___
 - 28 "It was fine," e.g.



PUZZLE BY KAMERON AUSTIN COLLINS

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

R I C A N M O M C M O N
A W A R E F I V E A A V E
C O N C O U R S E S N Y E T
E N D S S E R R A T I O N S
S T Y T E T E V C R S
G E A R A M I G O
S H I F T E D I T M E S S
C A R F A R E C A V E A T S
I S L A A L P S A I S L E
M O S S Y T I N Y
G L A D T H E N G M A
B R A N D I S H E S S O A R
E A R L S H O R T E N I N G
D I V E P O N D C O N D O
S L A Y Y E S O B G Y N

- 29 Fatuous
- 30 Your worst side?
- 31 Miss at a country dance
- 32 It may follow praying
- 33 "Enigma Variations" composer
- 34 Name on the Marquis?
- 35 Nora Ephron's ironically titled "Wallflower at the ___"
- 36 Bill of science
- 41 Full of pizzazz
- 42 Parting of the Seine?
- 43 Like birth days
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USC | The Trojans went 4-1 in road games last season, losing only to Utah

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"There's sometimes where guys are just flying around, and it looks crazy out there, and I love seeing that bunch of maniacs."

Freshman wide receiver Zachariah Branch returned a punt for a 75-yard touchdown against Stanford. Since 1971, Branch is one of just three USC players to have a punt return for a touchdown, a kickoff return for a touchdown, and a receiving touchdown, joining Adoree Jackson in 2016 and Curtis Conway in 1992.

"Zach [being] as electric as he is, there's a lot of guys on this team that can just go ahead and take off," senior wide receiver Brenden Rice said. "I'm happy for the young freshman. He's going ahead and he's doing his thing consistently. That's one thing to do it one game, but he's doing it consistently."

USC heads to Tempe, Arizona for its matchup against the 1-2 Sun Devils. Arizona State played Fresno State last Saturday and got shut out 29-0 by the group of five Bulldogs. It was the first time the Sun Devils had been shut out at home in 35 years — the last time coming at the hands of USC. Arizona State was also without its starting quarterback, freshman Jaden Rashada. The four-star recruit is expected to miss the next 4-6 weeks.

The Trojans are preparing for anybody at quarterback for the Sun Devils.

"They got an athletic team, a lot of big guys, around and up front, a lot of dynamic running backs," junior inside linebacker Eric Gentry said. "You know, we don't know their QB situation right now, but we're just really ready to play football."

Gentry will travel to Arizona State for the first time since transferring to USC from the Sun Devils in Fall 2022. Gentry hasn't had as much of an impact for the Trojans as he was last season, only appearing in two games this season and totaling four tackles.

Redshirt junior quarterback Trenton Bourguet and redshirt sophomore quarterback Drew Pyne left Saturday's game against Fresno State and both never returned to the game, forcing fourth-string redshirt sophomore quarterback Jacob Conover to finish the game under center. Pyne had four turnovers — two fumbles lost and two interceptions — with the Sun Devils totaling eight turnovers overall.

The Trojans hope to take advantage of Arizona State's turnover struggles.

"You got some leftover food on the table, a lot of hungry guys I

think. Especially because we only have two this season, so we need a lot of them," Cobb said.

The Trojans will also get their top prize in the transfer portal back in Cobb. The transfer from Oklahoma State last saw action in the Trojans' first game against San Jose State, where he recorded six total tackles.

Defensive Coordinator Alex Grinch said he's excited that Cobb will most likely suit up for the second time this season.

"You never know when those [injuries] are going to come," Grinch said. Cobb having the opportunity to recover from his injury "would obviously highlight" the bye week.

The Trojans swept their first three games against unranked opponents, but, as of now, they only have three more games left against unranked opponents, including the Sun Devils. This signals that USC has a tough schedule ahead, with games against No. 19 Colorado, No. 9 Notre Dame, No. 11 Utah, No. 10 Oregon, No. 8 Washington and No. 22 UCLA.

The Trojans will look to perfect their final Pac-12 season and start conference play 2-0. USC will travel to Mountain America Stadium to take on the Arizona State Sun Devils in its first road test of the year Saturday at 7:30 p.m.



Bryce Dechert / Daily Trojan

Redshirt senior running back Austin Jones leads the Trojans in rushing touchdowns with three. He rushed for 33 yards and one touchdown last game against Stanford. He totaled 33 yards against Arizona State last season.

FENDRICH | Riley and the university reverse the suspension after backlash

| continued from page 12 |

mistake to begin with. It's clear to me they were waiting for Evans to slip up because they were annoyed with him — continuing to ask questions after the "final" question, the whole Folt misnaming.

My honest reaction when I first saw the suspension was, "He broke the rules, and that's what happens." Two weeks might be a little much, but that's how it works. But the more I read, the more I realized how ingrained in me these rules for USC sports media procedure are.

I've been writing about various USC sports — water polo, basketball, tennis, football — for five semesters now. I have had plenty of interactions with USC

athletes, head coaches and sports information directors. I've grown accustomed to the media-trained answers and rules I must abide by.

How are we supposed to be proper journalists if we can't even do our jobs to the fullest extent? We already have to deal with the same heavily media-trained answers every practice and post-game conference, with the teams giving us the narratives they want us to paint about the team for the public instead of vice versa.

It's a troubling trend that Riley and Ryan were trying to start. At the Daily Trojan sports staff, we have to abide by all the rules exactly as they're stated. If we risk having bad relationships with anyone involved with USC Athletics or try to do our

job a little too well, we'll lose our ability to put out stories in general.

For now, we're locked in the confines of whatever the rules are and clearly have to be careful of them going forward. At least Riley came to his senses — maybe from the backlash — and allowed Evans to return to the beat to set the standard right. But it still gives me an uneasy feeling about our ability to do our job as journalists to the fullest moving forward with USC sports.

Stefano Fendrich is a junior writing about his opinions on some of sports' biggest debates in his column, "The Great Debate," which runs every other Friday. He is also a sports editor at the Daily Trojan.

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No. 5 USC football takes one last trip to the desert

The Trojans continue their Pac-12 farewell tour with their first road matchup.

By **DARREN PARRY**
Assistant Sports Editor

No. 5 USC will travel to Arizona State for its first road test of the season against the Sun Devils Saturday. The Trojans will face an unranked Arizona State squad that is struggling with injuries.

USC has been firing on all cylinders on offense, starting the season 3-0 for the second straight year under Head Coach Lincoln Riley. The Trojans have defeated San Jose State 56-28, Nevada 66-14 and, most recently, Stanford, 56-10. Their 42-point average margin of victory this season is second only to Oklahoma, Riley's previous head coaching destination, in all of Division I football.

Having an early bye week in the season this past week, Riley and the Trojans are only focusing on one game at a time.

"We're just ready for one [game]. You go play them all no matter what, whether it's a more natural break in the middle. We've all been a part of these stretches before," Riley said in a press conference Tuesday. "There's positives and negatives both ways; I think the bottom line is we have to handle it."

Although junior quarterback Caleb Williams was his usual self against Stanford, leading the Trojans to 49 points in the first half, USC's defense took the spotlight in the pounding of the Cardinal. The Trojan defense held the Stanford quarterbacks to only 140 passing yards, its fewest passing yards allowed since Week 11 last season against Colorado.

"We look nasty, man," senior inside linebacker Mason Cobb said in the Tuesday press conference.

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Bryce Dechert / Daily Trojan

USC defeated Arizona State last season at the Coliseum. The Trojans took a slim 21-17 lead at halftime, but powered through the second half, outscoring the Sun Devils by 13. Williams lead the Trojans with four total touchdowns.

Luca Evans' debacle worries me

Stefano Fendrich



THE GREAT DEBATE

There has been a whirlwind of controversy surrounding the USC football team this week. Not about whether junior quarterback Caleb Williams will stay another year or what the team's chances are of making the College Football Playoff for the first time. No, it's been about the program suspending *Orange County Register* reporter Luca Evans from the football beat for two weeks on Tuesday. [need to also mention when the person was suspended]

The *Los Angeles Daily News*, a member of the Southern California News Group, published an article Tuesday detailing all the "infractions" Evans committed. Katie Ryan, director of football communications, said USC Head Coach Lincoln Riley took issue with a feature story Evans published last Thursday. USC says Evans violated its policy prohibiting reporting on anything outside of media availability in the practice facility.

The suspension by USC and Riley has been rescinded since I've been writing this piece. Riley and Evans had a phone call and discussed the situation on Wednesday night.

"Last night, I received a call from Luca Evans, and we had a very candid and productive conversation. We agreed that we both could have handled the situation differently," Riley wrote in a statement Thursday. "We welcome [Evans] back to practice and look forward to his continuing coverage of the Trojans."

The feature was about freshman running back Quinten Joyner. In the lead of his story, Evans detailed a conversation Joyner was having with a teammate before a media availability that he overheard. The teammate asked Joyner, "Did they tell you what to say?," which was in reference to Joyner being timid about talking to the media.

Other reasons for Evans' suspension included asking questions after a press conference had been concluded, talking to players in areas that weren't designated media areas and addressing President Carol Folt by her first name during a press conference.

There was uproar from a multitude of journalists with the news of this happening, criticizing both Riley and the University profusely. A tweet by Brady McCollough, staff writer for the *L.A. Times*, reads: "So *this* is the Lincoln Riley Oklahoma media were warning us about." The tweet has 1.6 million views at the time of publication, with many commenting in support of Evans.

Evans was just doing his job and doing it really well. He's the new guy on the beat, and this is Riley and the University's first reaction? All is well now, I suppose, because they fixed their mistake, but it was still a big

| see **FENDRICH**, page 11 |

USC digs out thrilling rivalry comeback

The Trojans overcame a 2-1 set deficit to seal their fourth consecutive win over UCLA.

By **HENRY MODE**
Staff Writer

With USC trailing 22-17 in the third set of a battle with crosstown rival UCLA, star freshman outside hitter London Wijay stared at the ground in frustration. Bruins middle blocker Desiree Becker had just blocked her, Wijay's fifth error of the set, and UCLA was closing in on a crucial 2-1 set advantage.

Junior setter Mia Tuaniga shouted a simple message for the seventeen-year-old: "Keep swinging!"

It is a sentiment that Tuaniga would repeat countless times over the final two sets of the match, both won by the Trojans as they pulled off a spirited comeback win. Wijay, named the Pac-12 Freshman of the Week after racking up 18 kills and 12 digs in a win over No. 17 Purdue, was key to the victory yet again. She had a game-high 23 kills and added 10 digs with two service aces.

"I think I play better [when I am] relaxed, and when I make mistakes, it definitely makes me

more tense out there," Wijay said. "So, just hearing 'keep swinging' and knowing that they still believe in me to take that rip I just got blocked on is a good feeling."

Fourth-year Head Coach Brad Keller is reveling in the development of Wijay, Prep Dig's No. 2 ranked recruit in the class of 2023. She was used sparingly at the start of the campaign, but her production and growth has become impossible for the coaching staff to ignore.

"Every game, she's growing. She's getting better and better and better," Keller said. "She's playing by the back row now, she's getting more service pressures, and she's getting more comfortable passing. I've been really impressed with her."

The emergence of Wijay was crucial in a game that All-American senior outside hitter Skylar Fields struggled for large parts of. Fields had 10 errors and just a .173 hitting percentage on 52 attacks.

But when the Trojans needed her most, Fields came through. At 15-14 in the fifth set, the crowd at Pauley Pavilion rose to their feet, roaring at the arrival of match point for the Bruins.

However, Fields was noticeably less excited about the prospect

of USC's first loss to UCLA since her arrival from The University of Texas last year. She went into assassin mode, delivering back-to-back kills and crushing the hearts of the Bruin faithful.

The stadium fell silent, and a block from graduate setter Emily Fitzner on the following point sealed a victory for the Trojans. The stadium cleared out swiftly, and Keller and his team were left to bask in the glory of a mammoth road win over their biggest rivals.

The victory was particularly sweet for USC after hours of taunting from a rowdy Westwood crowd. For the coaching staff, the squad's perseverance was an important sign of growth after struggles on the road in recent years. Since 2019, the Trojans have a record of 6-14 in away games with a crowd of more than 2,000 people. With Wednesday's win, they have now pulled off back-to-back wins in enemy territory and are beginning to embrace the villain role.

"Throughout the game, I was like, keep talking, keep talking to me, yell at me," Fitzner said.

Despite trailing most of the night, USC remained focused

and motivated. Fitzner credited the effort to a tight-knit group that wants to fight for each other. Despite the addition of several new players and the anticipation of a daunting move to the Big Ten next year, the Trojans feel their locker room is in an outstanding place.

"I have played on many teams before, but I have never felt this family atmosphere," Wijay said. "I'm obviously pretty young, so I always feel like everybody is like my mom and helping me out. I just really enjoy playing on this team."

Clutch play in the fourth and fifth sets will give USC an important boost heading into conference play. However, with the Pac-12 schedule heating up, the Trojans will look to improve upon a night that saw them make 36 errors and attack with just a .219 hitting percentage.

"There was a little bit more ugly volleyball tonight, but sometimes you have to try to win ugly and figure out ways to score points at the most inopportune times," Keller said. "And we just got two more than they did tonight."

USC will be back in action Saturday at 1:00 p.m. against Oregon State at Galen Center.