

# DAILY TROJAN

2024 ELECTION SUPPLEMENT

11.1.2024



06

## Choose Your Fighter

Meet the potential officials for USC's congressional and city council districts.

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## Rocking the Vote

Generation Z discusses voting in a presidential election for the first time.

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## Media Mayhem

Experts and students point to social media as a major factor in the election.

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## Tech Training

USC's innovative Election Cybersecurity Initiative prepares for Nov. 5.

Art by Leila Yi

# FRAME | Frighten and feast your eyes on these photos

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Kayden-Harmony Greenstein / Daily Trojan

**The Raven**, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting on the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door; Quoth the Raven "Nevermore."



Fin Liu / Daily Trojan

**The Village Reaper** prowls looking for its next victim: a decrepit college student procrastinating for midterms. Stay safe.



Teo Gonzales / Daily Trojan

**The spiders** have heard about the World Wide Web and they have questions, namely why haven't they been invited? They're very offended.



Kayden-Harmony Greenstein / Daily Trojan

**The Other Mother** thought this doll had too big a mouth, she thought you might like him more if he talked a little less so she's fixing him.

# SPIRITS

| continued from page 3 |

way to bring people together through outreach and bring awareness to what USC does for the community.

"Sometimes that can easily get lost in how big the University is ... but I think it really shows that USC does care about the community, its outreach, the relationships it builds and its ability to maintain those relationships long term," Peña said.

Ed Robinson and Jodie Younce brought their kids — Zoe-Marie, Thea and June — to the event because they have enjoyed going to USC-sponsored events in the past.

The Robinson-Younce family came in a group costume inspired by "The Wizard of Oz" (1939): Ed Robinson as The Tin Man, Jodie Younce as The Scarecrow, Zoe-Marie as Dorothy, Thea as Glinda and June as The Wicked Witch of the West.

Halloween is a family favorite in the Robinson-Younce household because of all the traditions and time you get to spend with your family, Zoe-Marie said.

Although Ed Robinson predicted his daughters were most excited to try new things or visit the puppy-petting area, Zoe-Marie said her favorite part of coming to the event was that their "whole family is matching."

# DAILY TROJAN

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# DAILY TROJAN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024 | STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1912 | VOL. 213, NO. 45



Jake Berg / Daily Trojan

**Booths** with games such as ring toss, a Jenga stacking competition and a version of the viral “Face the Cookie” game lined the back of the event.



Jake Berg / Daily Trojan

**Lisa Miller**, the mother of toddler Cheryl Miller, said the live performances from the Miramonte Elementary and Cali Brass Band was her favorite part of the event.

## Getting haunted by the ‘Spirits at Troy’

Attendees played carnival games, trick-or-treated and were able to pet puppies.

By **SEAN CAMPBELL**

Assistant News Editor

On All Hallows’ Eve, Minions, pirates, bees and even a big red balloon dog flocked to USC Village’s Great Lawn for Spirits at Troy. Kids and adults alike reveled in the Halloween spirit by trick-or-treating, playing carnival games, petting puppies and

listening to live music performed by local elementary schoolers at the event.

Shops at USC Village and USC Residential Housing Association co-organized the event in association with USC Helenes, Trojan Knights, Department of Public Safety and North Area Neighborhood Development Council.

Lisa Miller, the mother of toddler Cheryl Miller who was dressed in a tiger onesie, said the performance by Miramonte Elementary and Cali Brass Band was her favorite part of the night

because her child enjoyed dancing to it. Miller also appreciated how accessible the event was.

“It is easy to come here to a special place where you know [where] everything is,” Lisa Miller said. “Everyone’s very friendly, handing out candy and surprises.”

Booths with games such as ring toss, a Jenga stacking competition and a version of the viral “Face the Cookie” game — where contestants had to navigate an Oreo cookie from their forehead into their mouth — lined the back of the event.

Joseph Kim, a Community Council President in RHA and a freshman majoring in human biology, ran the Jenga table where competitors faced off in a 30-second, one-versus-one matchup to build a tower higher than the other players. While both people received pieces of candy for their efforts, the winner earned a sticker as an additional prize.

As a member of the Community Council, Kim said he enjoyed that the event was open to everyone.

“We always interact with college students, but I think what’s

particularly exciting about the event is that we can contribute to the community outside,” Kim said.

Outside the gates, DPS officers took photos with kids, handed out candy and offered safety advice for the rest of the night.

“What we’re doing here tonight is ... trying to make sure that we can put smiles on the community’s face,” said Adrian Peña, the supervisor for DPS’ Community Outreach and Partnerships Unit.

Peña said Spirits at Troy is a good

| see **SPIRITS**, page 2 |

## The Weekly Frame Spooky

By **HENRY KOFMAN**

Photo Editor

“This is Halloween, this is Halloween / Pumpkins scream in the dead of night / This is Halloween, everybody make a [SC]ene.” In the depth of the spooky season, things are eerie around every corner. Ghosts and ghouls lurk on campus. The ghost of Judge Robert Maclay Widney lurks where his statue once stood, the upbeat bark of George Tirebiter can be heard on the south side of campus and if you are on campus late enough, you might just see Douglas Fairbanks challenging you to a sword fight.

From frat row to Parkside Restaurant, you never know what will jump out at you. In the spooky spirit of this time of year, if you look out at campus with a sinister eye, you might just spot all that is lurking in the shadows.

While campus may not actually be haunted, or at least not proven to be, there is still a thrill of the spooky season spirit in the air. Staff photographers Teo Gonzales, Kayden-Harmony Greenstein and Fin Liu took to campus to capture photos for “The Weekly Frame: Spooky.” The photos are modified, so do not fret — what you are looking at can’t hurt you — they aren’t real ... except for when they are ... boo!

| see **FRAME**, page 3 |



Fin Liu / Daily Trojan

**The Goblin King** has brought you a gift. It’s a crystal. Nothing more. But if you turn it this way and look into it, it will show you your dreams.

# OPINION

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Jiwoo Kim/ Daily Trojan

## Information overload does not bring us together

Technology advancements have changed the world and skewed our sense of reality.

By **CARMEN ESCUTIA**

Staff Writer

Time and time again, I find myself yearning for a time when phones didn't exist or when music didn't resort to claiming success due to its commodification on an Instagram reel. Many of my peers feel the same way about the world; we claim that we were "born in the wrong era" or that we're not "of this time" — unfortunately, that's just not true. Then again, we are only a product of our environment.

Navigating modern life means facing an abnormal amount of information, from endless homework assignments to hours of screen time. It feels unnatural to sit quietly with our own thoughts, free from distraction. When it comes to social media or excessive internet use, it's easy to blame ourselves for a lack of self-control, but the reality is that today's world

isn't designed to foster creativity and innovation — it often seems to do just the opposite.

When we're not buried under schoolwork or real-life responsibilities, there's always something else to occupy our time. It's not surprising that many of us choose to stare at screens during our free moments, whether binge-watching the latest Netflix series or scrolling through video edits of the same show on TikTok.

Our near-addiction to staying busy isn't entirely our fault. In a culture that values productivity, those precious moments of nothingness feel like wasted time.

Known as the first generation to grow up on the internet, Generation Z often unwinds after a long day by spending hours scrolling through social media. This fast-paced content, designed for quick consumption, doesn't encourage deep thought; instead, it satisfies a craving for constant stimulation.

Reflecting this trend, an Ipsos survey via Google Insights found that 83% of Gen Z have turned to YouTube for relaxation, often

watching soothing content like ASMR or nature films. Even in moments of genuine rest, we remain tied to our screens.

As an avid user of the internet, these online spaces can sometimes feel like home, providing a sense of comfort I've never quite found in the real world. When someone I used to watch on YouTube posts a clip of their upcoming podcast episode, it feels like traveling back in time. Nostalgia becomes the root of this connection, drawing me in and reminding me of simpler times when these creators were a constant presence in my life.

Yet the familiarity I find online also deepens a sense of disillusionment with the world around me.

As we immerse ourselves in this digital age, we become unaware of our own reality. We're led to believe that our lives are inadequate compared to the curated versions of others that we see online. Today, individuality feels more artificial, as we constantly strive to redefine ourselves without a true sense of who we are to begin with.

Our lives feel like they no longer belong to us, and we struggle to find

a sense of belonging in the world. It's not that we don't want to exist — we just don't want to exist here, in the present reality. We live for a future that feels distant and disconnected, one that has transformed from something to look forward to into a means of escape. We've become so far removed from ourselves that we've resorted to constant distraction.

Maybe we find common ground on "not being of this time" because we don't feel welcome in such a time. We feel isolated and disconnected from any potential of true fulfillment. We constantly want to be something else; every day feels like a new trend to follow while also looking back into the past. We are kept stable in our instability.

It's a bittersweet reality — we're united by our shared disconnection, yet there's hope in the possibility of regulating our screen time to combat feelings of loneliness and unproductivity. Many of us recognize the need for something more: genuine friendships, meaningful conversations and the ability to work without the constant impulse to scroll for a quick dopamine hit.

Noticing that there is a problem is always the first step.

Ultimately, you're still in control of your life. There are countless ways to use screens more meaningfully — whether reading books, creating vision boards or tapping into them as a creative outlet. Screens are powerful tools, something we know well, so why not engage with them in fresh, purposeful ways?

Of course, this is easier said than done. But we can aim to connect with the internet more intentionally when we're online and to be immersed and intimate with the real world when we're offline — be it taking a walk or diving into an interesting topic on our own terms.

There's always the possibility of shaping your life into something more, something beyond screens. But to unlock that potential, the issue must be felt deeply, even uncomfortably, challenging the way you see yourself in the world. If technology feels more like a chore than a tool for growth, then perhaps we're using it in the wrong ways — or maybe we don't need it as much as we think.

### DAILY TROJAN

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# 2024 ELECTION

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

My grandmother has a sweater or T-shirt for any and every occasion. Whether it's a national holiday or her granddaughters coming home from college for winter break, Nana will be walking out in appropriate attire, dressed in "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (1965) merch or the cardinal and gold of USC.

As a history buff, Nana has much American-themed apparel previously sought out in gift stores of museums and exhibits. So, for the 2024 United States election cycle, she is more than ready to fit the theme. However, when

I see her wearing the white sweater with the crocheted American flag in the center, the imagery gives me pause — something I've only ever experienced after the events of the 2016 presidential election.

As a nation, we have a lot to be proud of — and arguably, a lot not to be. The direction we have taken as a nation as a consequence of the administration that took down *Roe v. Wade*, set back environmental regulation and now threatens to unravel democracy as we know it should be sounding a loud enough alarm to get every

U.S. citizen's attention. It is up to us now, as eligible voters, to take action toward restoring human rights and protecting our democracy. And for those not eligible to vote, making your voice heard in the cesspool of circling misinformation still holds power to sway the tide.

I want to be proud of my nation's flag; there may be a long way to go, but we now have the chance to choose the path that brings us closer to feeling it.

— Ruby Crosthwait,  
Features Editor



Sarah Zhang / Daily Trojan

## CD-14 candidate Ysabel Jurado could make history



Ysabel Jurado

**Ysabel Jurado**, a tenants' rights attorney born and raised in Highland Park, decided to run because she was frustrated with incumbent Kevin de León and a lack of anti-racist progress in Los Angeles.

Ysabel Jurado is running for Kevin de León's seat in an L.A. City Council election.

By **JENNIFER NEHRER**  
Data Editor

Sixteen days before the Nov. 5 election, canvassers gathered at the Yosemite Recreation Center in Eagle Rock for a "Filamenomenon." Speakers included Los Angeles City Controller Kenneth Mejia, Monterey Park Mayor Thomas Wong and the woman whom they hope will be the first Filipino elected to the L.A. City Council: Ysabel Jurado.

Jurado is a tenants' rights attorney from Highland Park who supported herself financially through her education while raising her daughter, Stella, as a single mother. She attended Pasadena City College and UCLA for her bachelor's degree, and she went on to UCLA's law school to pursue a career in line with her passion for social justice.

"I went to law school thinking I was going to do labor law, or labor and employment law, which I did my first year," Jurado said. "But then the second year, the housing issues, I got to know them a little bit better.

And gentrification in Highland Park hit pretty hard, and I noticed renters were being displaced."

Jurado applied for a Skadden Foundation Fellowship in 2018 by submitting a project designed to prevent displacement in Historic Filipinotown, and was selected to receive the foundation's financial support. She has been an attorney ever since, even continuing legal work as she runs to unseat Kevin de León in November.

It is in part because of de León, Jurado said, that she decided to run. She was frustrated by the tapes scandal — where de León and other councilmembers were heard laughing at and making racist remarks on tape, which broke in October 2022 — and his refusal to step down, as well as how the coronavirus pandemic had exacerbated financial issues for members of her community.

"I was like, 'You know what?'" she said. "'This incumbent won't step down, he doesn't represent us. I'm gonna try it because my community has given me so much.'"

Jurado has run a grassroots effort to get this far. Despite going up against elected officials, who campaign manager Naomi Villagomez Roochnik admitted have "more

name recognition" than Jurado does, she managed to beat all seven candidates in the March 2024 primary by around 400 votes.

"I knew we were gonna make it to the general because ... we're following a trail that was blazed by the progressives before us," Roochnik said. "Were we pleasantly surprised to make it in first place? Absolutely. We were up against three seated elected officials. We were up against the incumbent himself. So of course, we were out-raised."

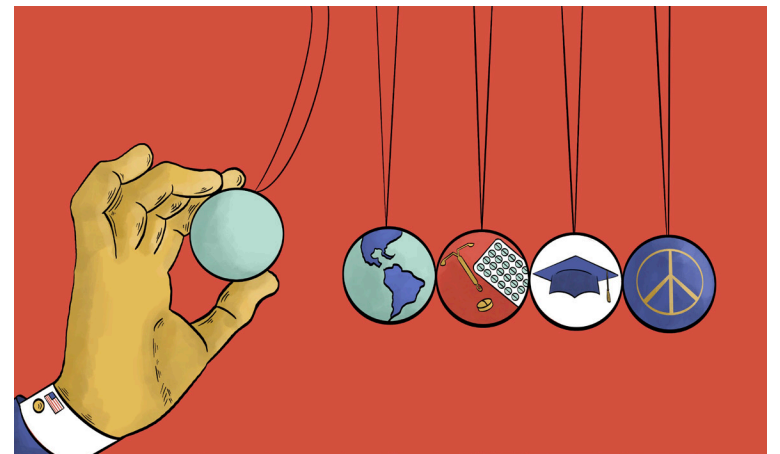
As Jurado and her campaign have geared up for the faceoff against de León, their strategy has not changed. Jurado continues to appear each weekend at local events like the "Filamenomenon" — the name being a play on the word "Filipino" and the hit Chappell Roan song "Femininomenon."

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it," Roochnik said. "We haven't deviated from the same formula that we used in the primary; just now the volume has been boosted up times 10 because we have a lot more visibility, name recognition and more people have rallied behind us."

Since her campaign kicked off in 2021, Jurado has been steadily

| see **CD-14**, page 7 |

## USC experts shed light on impact of election outcomes



Lucy Chen / Daily Trojan

Professors share insights on education, healthcare and environmental reform.

By **EMILY CAO & ANYA MOTWANI**  
Staff Writers

In what's been deemed by experts as a "high-stakes" election, parsing through legislation is no small task for the average voter. Four USC experts in environmental issues, public health and education spoke with the *Daily Trojan* to break down the implications of the two majority party campaigns' positions in their respective fields.

Shannon Gibson is a professor in environmental studies, international relations and political science. Her research focuses on global climate negotiations, which will be greatly impacted by the outcome of the 2024 presidential election.

"Who our next president is utterly decisive for what our country does in terms of climate mitigation moving forward," Gibson said. "Now that we have rejoined the Paris Agreement, we have at least tangible goals — quantitative goals — of reducing our global [and] national greenhouse gas emissions."

The Paris Agreement is an international climate change treaty pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reach net zero emissions by 2050. Gibson believes that the United States will "likely leave the treaty again" under the Donald Trump administration, which had first decided to leave the treaty back in June 2017.

Fracking is a major issue climate activists have sought to regulate because of its negative environmental byproduct. Both Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris are outspoken supporters of fracking, with the former promising to expand land available for drilling and expedite drilling permits.

"Another way to look at [the election] is that you are voting for the candidate that will shape the landscape that you will continue to fight in for the causes you believe in over the next four years," said Allison Agsten, the director of USC Annenberg's Center for Climate Journalism and Communication. "The election is not simply, 'I am for Kamala Harris, or I am for Donald Trump,' but 'This is the battleground that I want to work from in the next four years.'"

Climate is also "inextricably linked" with public health, according to Gibson. Climate change shows up in more ways than just hotter days — it continues to cause extreme weather events, the transmission of infectious diseases, and, more recently, mental health-related issues like climate anxiety.

"When it comes to climate policies, Harris would be more beneficial from a climate mitigation perspective, but also doesn't exactly get us to the place that we, as the United States, need to be in terms of contributing our historically responsible fair share of what we should be doing," Gibson said. "No matter the

| see **EXPERTS**, page 8 |

# Get to know congressional, city council candidates

The districts representing USC's campuses will elect new candidates this year.

By DAILY TROJAN STAFF

## Sydney Kamlager-Dove

Sydney Kamlager-Dove is running for reelection in Congressional District 37. Kamlager-Dove, a Democrat, is the district's sitting representative, as she successfully ran for the State Assembly in 2018 and the State Senate in 2021.

Originally from Chicago, Kamlager-Dove studied political science at USC and has an M.A. in arts management and public policy from Carnegie Mellon University. Throughout her career as a public servant, she has focused on educational advocacy, fighting for its accessibility and affordability.

On her website, Kamlager-Dove says her platform is focused on expanding voting

rights, prioritizing reproductive justice, providing healthcare for all, creating jobs, investing in housing, acting on climate issues, and investing in arts and education.

— Ava O'Connor, Features Staff Writer

## Juan Rey

Juan Rey, a train mechanic and elected union steward for the Los Angeles Metro Rail, is running as an independent for California's 37th District's seat in the United States Congress. In March's primary, Rey narrowly earned the second nomination with 10.3% of the popular vote. Previously, Rey ran for California's 29th Congressional District's seat in 2018, but did not advance through the primary after receiving 1.4% of the vote.

Rey is running on a platform of advocating for the working class. On his campaign website, Rey said he ran due to high housing costs, deterioration of

essential services, poor benefits for the working class and the U.S. spending too much on a "gigantic military" and "wars of domination."

In a public survey on Ballotpedia, Rey said he chose to run independently due to "both the Democrats and Republicans [serving] the interests of the wealthy." Rey said working people need to create an independent, working-class party. While officially running with no party preference, Rey is one of 17 candidates — from Michigan, Illinois and California — affiliated with the "For a Working Class Fight" coalition that advocates for working-class rights, including an independent party.

— Sean Campbell, Assistant News Editor

## Jimmy Gomez

Jimmy Gomez is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing California's 34th Congressional District since 2017 and running for reelection this year. Gomez, a Democrat, received a bachelor's degree in political science from UCLA before earning his master's degree in public policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Before his election to Congress, Gomez served four and a half years in the California State Assembly, where he notably fought for paid family leave and climate change through his position as chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

According to his website, Gomez became a key figure in creating milestone legislation to address public health, water conservation, environmental justice, access to education, civic engagement, affordable housing, LGBTQIA+ rights and campaign finance disclosure.

He is running against fellow Democrat David Kim and promises

to protect reproductive freedom, the right to contraception, equal pay, marriage equality and humane, inclusive immigration.

His reelection campaign is oriented around his advocacy for renters and working families, accessible healthcare, service and provision for L.A.'s unhoused community, and anti-climate change policies. He is the proud child of Mexican immigrants and now lives in Eagle Rock with his wife and young son.

— India Brown, Features Staff Writer

## David Kim

David Kim is a children's court attorney, activist and former neighborhood board council member in his L.A. community. In the prior 2022 cycle, Kim ran for Congress CA-34 as well, and gained 48.8% of the general election votes against the incumbent.

In the nonpartisan primary election, Kim earned 27.9% of general votes opposing incumbent Jimmy Gomez, who gained 51.2% of votes. Kim is also running a 100% clean money campaign to highlight his "people-centered and people-powered politics," and his website highlights how his opponent, Gomez, prefers to "listen to the directions of the wealthy few."

Kim's primary focus is on bridging the access gap between marginalized communities through policy change initiatives. This goal framework comes from his experience working in children's court, where he has interacted with families who are facing adverse situations due to poverty, resource deprivation and a government that fails to support their needs.

Kim plans to "win back power for the people" by focusing on campaign finance reform, ranked-choice voting, democracy vouchers and more.

— Yahvi Shah, Features Staff Writer

## Kevin de León

Kevin de León has represented District 14 on the L.A. City Council since 2020. Born in Downtown L.A. to an immigrant mother, de León became a first-generation honors student at UC Santa Barbara and Pitzer College. He later served as a policymaker-in-residence and senior analyst at UCLA before becoming a city council representative.

On his website, de León outlines his main campaign goals as tackling homelessness in L.A., increasing the number of parks and open spaces, solving the problem of food insecurity, protecting communities from gentrification, improving street cleanliness and supporting working families.

— Lucy Chen, Features Staff Writer

## Ysabel Jurado

Ysabel Jurado, a tenants rights attorney and Highland Park native, is running to become the next Council Member for L.A.'s 14th District.

A daughter of Filipino immigrants and single mother, Jurado graduated from UCLA's Law School with a Juris Doctorate with a specialization in Critical Race Studies, and now works as a housing rights attorney fighting to stop tenant evictions.

Jurado's campaign promises to advocate for "hard-working" Angelenos, seniors and children of District 14. Her campaign aims to prioritize affordable housing, supporting small businesses, environmental justice and building a more "fair" economy.

Jurado makes her position clear: to tackle the challenges working people face in District 14 and be a local leader who will ensure no individual feels left behind.

— Daniela Mattson, Features Staff Writer



Grayson Seibert / Daily Trojan

## It's time for Gen Z to tackle the vote

First-time voters consider their feelings and positions on the presidential election.

By ZSUZSANNA JUHASZ & KATHERINE MELOCH-PEREZ  
Staff Writers

The time has come for the monthslong battle between Republican nominee Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris to finally come to an end and emerge with the United States' future president. With only four days until Nov. 5, tensions run high in what can only be considered one of the most politically polarized election years in history.

For newly eligible voters in the U.S., casting a vote may seem daunting, considering the general disillusionment expressed towards these candidates. With a wide variety of USC's undergraduate population categorized as first-time voters, it's important to record the student body's attitudes and motivations surrounding the presidential election.

Maximus Allen, a senior majoring in theatre with an emphasis in acting as well as English with an emphasis in creative writing, is originally from Brandon, Miss. Allen faces a difficult choice — deciding whether to vote in his red home state or go through the process of changing his voter registration to vote in California, which heavily leans blue.

"[Voting] feels like it's a necessity right now because it feels like our country is hinging on two very different futures," Allen said.

As both Mississippi and California are nonswing states, some may feel like their vote won't matter in the long run; however, Allen noted that individually educating oneself can also have a big impact.

"It's one of the unique positions we're in as American citizens,"

Allen said. "People always say that one of your rights here is to vote, and by not doing it, you are wasting that ... I've always felt a little bit guilty about that ... I believe in the power of an individual, and that if we individually educate ourselves and do what it takes, then that can be reflected in a bigger picture."

Omoye Ehimare, a sophomore majoring in human biology, is from St. Louis, Mo. She plans to cast an absentee ballot for the 2024 election cycle. Her politically active father and grandmother always encouraged her to vote "no matter what and no matter where you are."

With both presidential candidates having high-profile positions on key issues, it is a tense playing field for voters to come in for their first election.

"Back at home, my school district sparked national controversy about critical race theory," Ehimare said. "I didn't really realize how serious it was until it was the fall of my senior year, and our school board had recently voted to cut a lot of programs for minority students as a result."

Students have varying perspectives on what policies they want to see implemented. Dane Mackey, a junior majoring in business, said economic stability is a major priority.

"Trump says something [about] how he's going to try to lower the gas prices [and] give more jobs. I think it's extremely beneficial for everybody because unemployment is a huge issue," Mackey said.

Largely championed by the Democrats, reproductive rights is also on the table for this election cycle.

"I'm hoping we can see some change from Harris in terms of making that more accessible," Allen said. "Abortion was made illegal in a lot of southern states, and I believe it's still illegal in Mississippi. Right now, a lot of

people are having to travel ... out of state for that kind of care."

Voters must consider the danger of misinformation and disinformation before casting their ballot. The prevalence of social media makes information easily accessible to everyone, but that also means that disinformation seeps into news outlets and social media content about the election.

Professor Mark Marino, a director of the Humanities and Critical Code Studies Lab, participated in an Ahmanson Lab laboratory that researched the use of bots to spread disinformation through social media algorithms.

"Since the election — at least for the big races — tends to be pretty tribal, I'm not sure that the mis/disinformation does much more than reinforce where the students already are," Marino said. "Students, perhaps, could be nudged one way or the other more easily by a story they come across, especially in this 11th hour right before voting."

When it comes to candidates approaching voters, the information gap has proven to be a major factor in how young voters will swing.

"Candidates and campaigns use what's called 'voter models,' and young people are out of that modeling," said Mindy Romero, professor at the Price School of Public Policy and director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy. "They're going to get much less contact from campaigns and information about candidates than older voters."

In terms of the changes in information consumption patterns, Marino said some young voters are "threatening their vote" to pressure candidates to address conflict in the Middle East.

"There's more young people talking about the Israeli-Gaza war," Romero said. "In their attempt to influence, to get leverage, in their protesting, some of them are equating the vote with the issues."



Arielle Rizal / Daily Trojan

Marino believes that many first-time voters will rally to the polls in part because both campaigns have painted the election season as "apocalyptic."

"We train everybody as well as we can to be critically minded when it comes to that sort of information, [and] the number one way we would battle against this is by having interesting discussions on campus," Marino said. "I'd like to see us lean into that a little bit more if we really do want to claim to be a site of higher learning."

As the countdown to the election draws near, it's important to remain cognizant of the power of the Gen Z vote; however, it's also up to candidates to listen to young people's concerns and enact concrete change.

"You have to prove to them how you're really going to make change, and that is hard, because most campaigns are not even trying," Romero said. "A meme that might get the attention of some young people, it's not going to make anybody vote, because they're discerning. They want to know what's really behind all of that."

# Social media engages voters, shapes 2024 election

This election has high levels of media engagement — and with it, disinformation.

By **TESSA LAPRADEZ**  
Staff Writer

Shaping vulnerable and impressionable minds in the 2024 election cycle is the vast world of social media, where likes and comments form a custom algorithm that hooks young users in a constant scroll.

The heightened focus on forming connections through an Internet presence is not too dissimilar to how users converse and share information with each other across different apps, said Mindy Romero, the director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy at the Price School of Public Policy. Embracing social media in its entirety can make or break the 2024 candidates' desired mobilization of targeted demographics and communities.

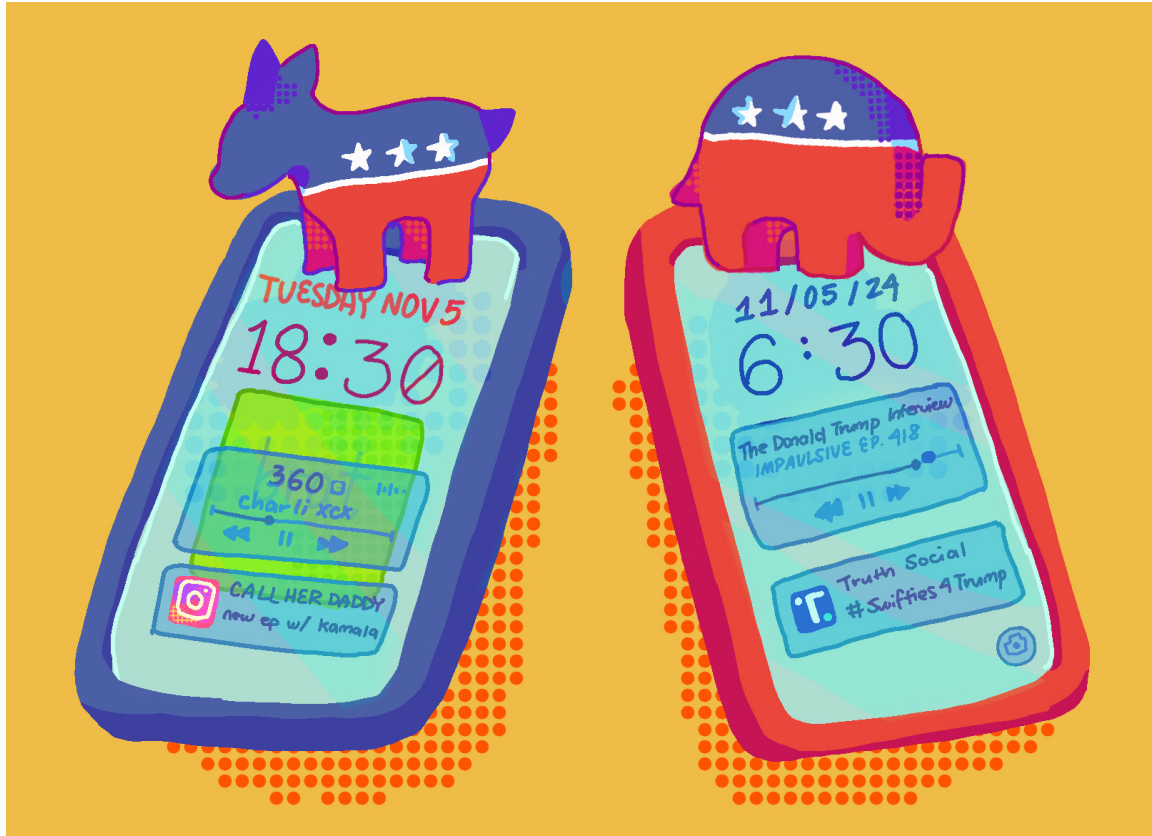
"[Social media] can encourage individuals or groups to spread the word, share their message, that sort of thing," Romero said. "Social media can be very effective, and if you're not there, you're not running a successful campaign."

Romero finds that, in this "disinformation age," Trump's adoption of divisive and polarizing social platforms, including the social platform X and his own platform, Truth Social, works as an avenue to speak in extremes and express his political objectives, one sound bite at a time.

"He was a master of earned media," Romero said. "You could also say that [Trump] showed people just what level you could use social media platforms for — but his way of campaigning, his way of talking, his way of interacting, just really lends itself to the 280-character limit on tweets on Twitter. I mean, that's just factual."

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris rushed into the election floodgates with a strong social media presence geared toward the voice and vote of the youth. Launching the "context"-based Kamala HQ account on X, guesting on the increasingly popular Call Her Daddy podcast and seizing the momentum of what it means to be "brat," Harris has enlivened her campaign presence online.

Alexandria McClain, a freshman majoring in communications, expressed an appreciation for Harris' X account, which allowed for a more rounded picture of the current vice president.



Leila Yi / Daily Trojan

"I've gotten a lot of her tweets, and I like how she's actually calling Trump out for little things that he does, like when he refuses to go to a debate or refuses to go to a newscasting or broadcasting thing where they're asking questions that are vital to the future presidency," McClain said.

Kamy Akhavan, the managing director of the USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future, stressed the power of social media in "micro-targeting" the fewer than 100,000 voters who will most likely determine if either Harris or Trump edge out the other candidate.

"Social media allows you to precisely laser target individuals to a scary degree," Akhavan said. "Its ability to influence those people who are somehow undecided or need a little nudge in the direction of one candidate or the other, or one proposition ballot measure, congressional race, all those people who need nudges."

Social media's algorithmic ability to recognize political content aligning with the users' preferences has led to a meticulously crafted user experience.

Siara Carpenter, a senior majoring in journalism, drew stark comparisons between each campaign's strategy on social media while realizing that content she sees is skewed to her preferred political party.

"[Kamala HQ] will clip parts of her speeches so she's talking about something in a certain way or something that aligns with the trend," Carpenter said. "I've also noticed that with the Trump administration, they don't really [target] Gen Z ... Honestly, it's kind of fear-mongering, but they're using clips of things that he's saying at his rallies in place of fun things that are supposed to unite people."

Judy Muller, professor emerita of journalism at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, stressed a shift in this 2024 election from attention and relevance of TV and print to social media.

"The computer age has just blown [television and print] to smithereens," Muller said. "People don't trust the old formats. They trust what their friends say because every time they do that, they get a like and likes feed into our brains. We get a little hit of dopamine every time somebody agrees with us."

With how critical social media has become to political campaigns, a greater risk of disinformation has become an increasingly notable concern. Muller referred to social media as the "Wild West," where lies make impressions stronger than what the truth can catch up to.

"Misinformation is rampant on social media, and very few people — including very smart people — don't take the time to fact check, even though there are many, many, many fact-checking sites that can tell you if this post is true or not," Muller said.

Shawnell Sims-Ceballos, a sophomore majoring in legal studies, acknowledged how certain pieces of content can deceive and manipulate viewers.

"Some media sources definitely aim to support a specific party," Sims-Ceballos said. "There's not much collaboration or [middle ground]; people are just leaning towards one party or the other. I just don't think a lot of these news sources are doing the best job of giving people the correct information. They have an agenda sometimes."

Muller emphasized that news literacy is a critical component in the spread of viral misinformation on social media pertaining to the election, especially for Gen Z.

"We have to teach our young people from first grade on how to critically think about what they're looking at and how to judge what's true and what's not true," Muller said. "People believe what they want to believe, and they get rewarded for that on whatever platform they're looking at."

## CD-14

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attracting endorsements from some of L.A.'s most valuable players, including the L.A. County Democratic Party, councilmembers Nithya Raman and Eunisses Hernandez, several unions and the L.A. Times. After the primary, the Times changed their endorsement for the race from Assemblymember Miguel Santiago to Jurado.

Another powerful endorsement Jurado keeps by her side is Kenneth Mejia, the first Filipino to be elected to the L.A. city government. Mejia said Jurado's legal experience gives her the perfect perspective to work for the city's people and reduce both the homelessness crisis and the city's budget deficit.

"We need someone who's in [the council] who's actually gonna fight for the working people, the tenants, everybody," he said in his speech. "I know that Ysabel is gonna do that."

Jurado's Instagram revealed she gained yet another endorsement during the "Filamenomenon": Mejia's "Watch Dogs," two corgis named Killa and Kirby.

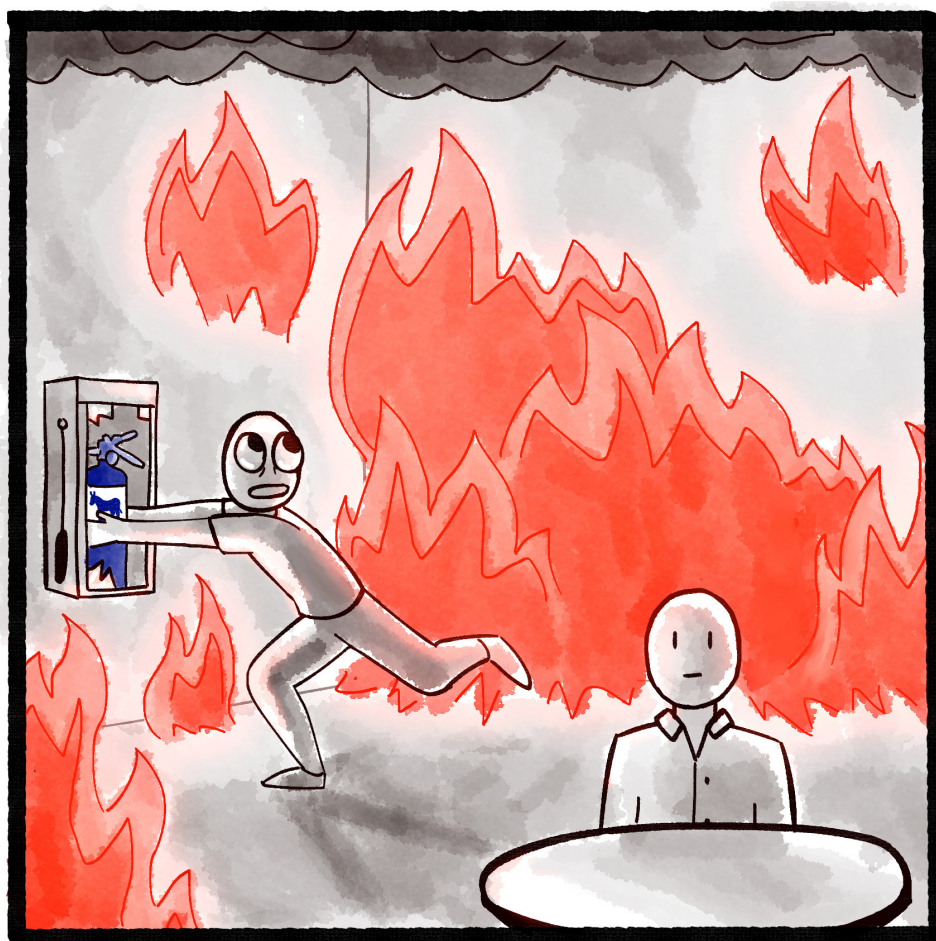
Being Filipino is a central part of Jurado's life. A key aspect of her upbringing is the principle of kapwa, or "shared identity" in Tagalog. She pointed to times in her life when the community came together to help or entertain each other whenever they needed. Jurado said someone would always be at her house cooking or fixing something while she entertained the crowd.

At the rally, Jurado's Filipino identity and potentially historic win was put first, but she and Mejia both emphasized that identity is not enough. The people of District 14, they said, deserve "good Filipinos," a term Mejia used in his speech at the rally to mean those who do the work they were elected to do.

"We need to work to elect good Filipinos," Ysabel said, echoing Mejia, "progressive candidates, people that go beyond their identity to make sure that this is a solidarity amongst all of us."

There are other things Jurado wants voters to know about her: She is a "dorky, nerdy mom" who watches "The Real Housewives" and does home improvements when she is stressed.

"I dance like a mom. I guess I dress like a mom. I guess I talk to people like a mom; my daughter says I try too hard to be cool, which is probably true," she said. "I have big mom energy, and I didn't realize I did until this campaign."



Amelia Neilson-Slabach / Daily Trojan

# "FRESH OUT"

SHEA NOLAND



Shea Noland / Daily Trojan

## EXPERTS | USC professors dive into election issues

[continued from page 5]

outcome [of the election], it doesn't negate the power of people to move forward in a positive manner."

Another big-ticket issue in this upcoming election is reproductive healthcare. With promises of reform on both sides of the aisle, the state of policy surrounding the issue is uncertain. However, the role of healthcare providers remains clear to some.

"Our job is to ensure that our patients receive the care that they need. That will never change," said Dr. Brian Nguyen, an associate professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology at Keck School of Medicine. "I think what will change is how challenging it is for our patients to get to us, how much they'll have to sacrifice in order to obtain the care that they need."

Questions around reproductive freedom have come to the forefront of political discourse; though, according to Nguyen, the issue has always existed.

"People being anti-abortion or not trusting women to infer for themselves what is best for their lives has been around. Even prior to the Dobbs-Jackson decision, women have always faced impediments to choice, and it's in the limelight now," Nguyen said. "We're at a flash point in our nation whereby we're beginning to see what happens when women are deprived of their rights for self-determination."

In a world where access to necessary abortions is narrowed, healthcare providers like Nguyen worry about the physical, monetary and emotional costs patients might have to pay.

"I think it's very easy to say that my female patients are under attack," Nguyen said. "If ever there was a time to be understanding of

the need for reproductive rights, that time is now."

Education reform — especially within the public school system — is a similarly relevant and wide-reaching issue in this upcoming election.

"Public education is really one of the last democratic institutions where we all have to go together," said Morgan Polikoff, an associate professor of education. "I do worry about the ongoing attacks on public education from the right and whether they're going to permanently destabilize the public education system."

Despite the dire state of the issue, education hasn't been a major focus of the election, as seen with its absence in questions at the debates. Nonetheless, election outcomes will inform everyone's educational experience.

"I think if Republicans win, it's very likely that there will be an expansion of school choice efforts," Polikoff said. "There will be continued attacks on race and LGBT-related subjects in schools because that seems to be a focus [for Republicans]."

While education and curriculum policy is a divisive issue, the Democrats' stance is not as clear as their political counterparts. Still, Polikoff fears for the future of K-12 education.

"My hope is that we have an administration that is focused first and foremost on solving problems in our public education system, on giving schools the resources they need and the support to improve — not on sewing division or pushing a particular partisan agenda through public schools," Polikoff said. "The vote really does matter when it comes to public education, not just at the national level but at the local and state level too, which is where most of this action happens."

## Election Cybersecurity Initiative trains civic leaders to safeguard voting

The initiative based at USC focuses on disinformation and emergency planning.

By **NICHOLAS CORRAL**  
News Editor

When Adam Clayton Powell III talks about election cybersecurity, he's not talking about one single election. He's talking about the thousands of election districts across 50 states, plus the work USC's Election Cybersecurity Initiative has done connecting with election administrators in other countries.

In the run-up to the 2024 United States presidential election, the Initiative has been training officials, campaign workers and civic leaders across the U.S. to strengthen election systems, said Powell, executive director of the Election Cybersecurity Initiative.

"You don't want to wait until there's a fire to learn where the fire escape is," said Powell, who has worked at USC since 2003. "You need to learn before them. So the training that has to go on for months beforehand is what really is essential."

Powell has worked on cybersecurity initiatives at the University since 2015 — first for the internet at large and, after the 2016 Democratic National Committee email system hack, on election security specifically.

Though Powell was originally a professor in the Viterbi School of Engineering and Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism, he said the Initiative also takes USC experts from the Price School of Public Policy, Gould School of Law, Marshall School of Business, and political science department at Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences to bolster its small staff.

"I ran into USC then-President Max Nikias, brilliant engineer,



Bella Hoffman / Daily Trojan

signal processing guy. He said, 'Adam, you're thinking too narrowly,' Powell said. "And I said, 'Max, you want me to report to four deans?' And he said, 'Yeah.'"

In 2018, after being approached by the National Governors Association, which lacked funding to scale up election security, the Initiative provided pro-bono security assistance for six states in the midterm election. Jake Williams, a cybersecurity expert whom Information Technology Services invited to present on election threats, said most states would like to improve cybersecurity but need standards and funding assistance.

"I've talked to numerous county election supervisors," Williams said. "The reality is they're all concerned about it. None of them have money to address it. And honestly, it's not just money, but I think

there's going to be standards and maybe even help coming from [the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency] and [Department of Homeland Security]."

Today, the Initiative advises officials to improve passwords, prepare to face disinformation and misinformation, and have a mapped-out emergency plan.

"One of our slogans is 'You are going to be a target, so prepare for it. Know who to call when it happens. If you're running a campaign and you're hit with disinformation, that could be an offense, call the FBI but even better,' Powell said, "don't wait until you're attacked to call the FBI, call when your campaign starts."

A 2019 conversation with Center for the Political Future co-directors and former campaign strategists Mike Murphy and Bob Shrum produced the

three messages down from 11 initially. Kamy Akhavan, who sat in on the discussions and is managing director at CPF, said the simplification was important to improve the training.

"The people who are going to attend these discussions that the [Election Cybersecurity Initiative] would be hosting are not necessarily technologists," Akhavan said. "If they feel like the things that they're learning are way over their head, because you need a PhD to absorb it, they're less likely to want to engage and participate."

By the 2020 election — with a multi-million dollar donation from Google — the Initiative scaled up to provide training in all 50 states before ultimately pivoting to an online format due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Powell said the donation began with a chance encounter with a Google

representative at the July 2019 National Governors Association summer meeting. He hadn't even considered training in all 50 states as a possibility when he approached the representative.

"We don't have time to get this through your hierarchy. So why are we even discussing [doing training in all 50 states]," Powell said at the time. "And the person I was talking to said, 'It's in my budget already.' ... And in 20 minutes, in the hotel hallway, where we met, we worked out the basic agreement for how USC would do all 50 states."

According to a conversation Powell had with a government official after the election, they were the only group to conduct training in all 50 states in 2020, as the federal government only did training in 48.

To help provide training for the 2020 presidential election, Powell said he looked for professors with experience with entertainment to prepare for the 50-state training regimen.

"This is a roadshow, except instead of Michael Jackson, we're going to have USC professors doing the training," Powell said. "In our first round of interviews to staff up, we talked to people who had actually done entertainment roadshows, saying, 'Okay, you're gonna do a road show in Idaho, you're gonna do one in Vermont, you're gonna do one in Utah.'"

For the upcoming election, Powell said that while there has been increasing activity from actors like Russia, Cuba, Iran, and China in October, they do not expect issues on election night.

"The good news is, as far as we know, no major problem exists — which was also the case in 2022 and 2020," Powell said. "There are so many people and so many different parts of government, academia [and] corporations that are working on this. We're optimistic that this will be a safe election."



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Jake Berg / Daily Trojan

Despite protests outside the venue, attendees and performers enjoyed themselves in the spooky atmosphere while munching on Halloween-themed snacks.



Jake Berg / Daily Trojan

Bloody dolls, biblically accurate angels and Old Hollywood glamor made up the themes for the outfits of drag queens like HoSo Terra Toma, Specimen Scythe and Vander Von Odd.

## Drag Me to Hell brings the heat at the Fisher

Visions and Voice uplifted alternative drag queens, showcasing unique artistry.

By JOSE BIZUET  
Staff Writer

With Halloween around the corner, students gathered at the USC Fisher Museum of Art on a dark and ominous night to celebrate a creative and unique alternative art: Drag. Visions and Voices, alongside The Getty and PST Art, welcomed attendees to Drag Me to Hell: Demonic Drag Performances and Costume Contest, a unique experience all could enjoy.

"By uplifting a specific alternative or subgroup of queer art, this could reach more people by interest, rather than a specific community," said Emily Lopez, a Visions and Voices volunteer and sophomore majoring in applied and computational mathematics.

Before festivities commenced, attendees mingled while enjoying refreshments and foods with names such as "Blasphemy," "Bloody Toes" and "Sacrificial Lamb." Amber Horbath, a graduate student studying molecular pathology and experimental medicine, loves drag shows and Halloween.

"I thought this was the perfect event to combine both my interests," Horbath said.

Although three protestors gathered outside campus gates, shouting homophobic remarks and attempting to disrupt the night, the event carried on undeterred.

"Alternative drag is being uplifted and supported by a large organization like USC. I love that, although it is being protested outside, we are still pushing to promote this event and alternative drag," said Saneel Sharma, a senior majoring in design who also performs drag as Rae Oblivion. Moments before the performance, students huddled near the stage illuminated by roaring flames. Soon after, Miss Toto, an international DJ dressed as a promiscuous devil, announced she was there to emcee. She connected with the crowd, delivering a lesson in drag performance etiquette.

The first round of performances consisted of three separate performances from Specimen Scythe, HoSo Terra Tomo and Vander Von Odd, respectively.

Specimen Scythe — "the one and only Specimen," as Miss Toto referred to her — is a nonbinary "drag specimen" from Costa Rica. Their revealing punk-rock outfit was barely covered by their shredded animal fur coat and hat.

Their fast, robotic performance to "Ego / You Tear Me Apart" by George Maple created a dynamic contrast as they walked, ran and crawled across various levels, fully utilizing their space.

HoSo Terra Toma, finalist from The Boulet Brothers Dragula and The Boulet Brothers Dragula: Titans, is a Korean American performer who brought an interpretative dance to "My September" by Nastyona on campus.

Her classic, beautiful look — emulating a bloody doll — left the audience in awe as HoSo passionately danced on and offstage. HoSo's performance consisted of interacting with the audience, throwing crushed sunflowers into the air and repeatedly imitating the act of hurting herself with a crowbar.

Vander Von Odd, trans-femme drag queen and original "super monster" from The Boulet Brothers Dragula, brought old Hollywood glamour to the show as she graciously and emotionally swept across the stage.

Vander's bedazzled mermaid gown, paired with a towering veil, left the audience with an empowering performance of "Voices Carry" by 'Til Tuesday. Her interactive visuals, alongside her bold physicality, made for a beautiful performance of genuine expression.

After the first three performances, Miss Toto returned to announce a brief intermission, also announcing that attendees could participate in a costume contest hosted by the performers.

Miss Toto started the second round of performances with a bold performance of "Dark Lady" by Cher, filled with numerous theatrics, larger-than-life facial expressions and a powerful stage presence. Her deep violet mermaid gown and glamorous braided crown shaped into a cobweb meshed perfectly with the song and ominous vibe.

After being welcomed back on stage, Specimen Scythe came out in a look similar to a biblically accurate angel. Scythe's bold choice of "Chokehold" by Sleep Token allowed them to be chaotic as they powerfully pranced in the audience's faces, with an intriguing use of props and a brightly lit headpiece.

HoSo's second performance opened with a documentary on the metamorphosis of moths. An abrupt transition brought HoSo on stage as she performed dressed as a moth to "Nobody" by Mitski. This fun song choice allowed HoSo to "fly" in front of the audience, leaving room for her to genuinely enjoy her performance.

To close out the performances, Vander came out for another emotionally-filled performance, but this time to "Talk to Me" by Stevie Nicks. This performance, ranging from subtlety to in-your-face raw emotion, kept the audience engaged as she graciously walked among the crowd.

"The drag performances were amazing, the host amazing, the crowd was amazing," said Peyton Grase, a senior majoring in design. "This is definitely one of the best Visions and Voices events I have been to."

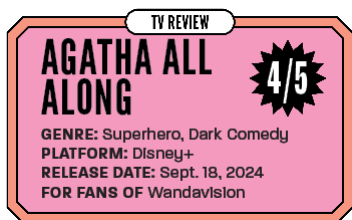
After all the performances, Miss Toto introduced the costume contest rules. It allowed attendees to prance on stage before the judges while everyone cheered for them.

From lamps to werewolves, participants enjoyed showing off their costumes. Ultimately, a couple dressed as different generations of Catwoman took the grand prize.

The night ended with Miss Toto's appreciation of the performers and the audience. She delivered a heartfelt speech reflecting on her experience at USC, reminding attendees to embrace and remember these events as she wished she had them growing up.

With festivities coming to an end, students danced with one another, basking in the spooky ambiance.

## 'Agatha All Along' is a witchy, magical masterpiece



By ADEN MAX JUAREZ  
Staff Writer

Filled with mystery, darkness, fun and stunning visuals, Marvel Television's "Agatha All Along" is a one-of-a-kind series that prioritizes meaningful storytelling and authentic characters. The nine-episode "WandaVision" spinoff has all the flair and spookiness one would expect from a show following a coven of witches while also delivering an unexpected narrative filled with heart and humor.

Agatha Harkness (Kathryn Hahn) joined the Marvel Cinematic Universe in "WandaVision," the first Disney+ series in the MCU, and became an instant fan favorite. Since her debut, fans have yearned to see her

return to the screen, and that return has been magnificent.

With "Agatha All Along" becoming the 11th Marvel Disney+ series and most new Marvel projects receiving mixed reviews, show creator Jac Schaeffer clearly wanted this project to bring something new to the table and knew just how to do it.

"Agatha All Along" had a relatively low budget compared to similar projects by the studio, costing less than \$40 million as compared to projects like "Hawkeye" and "Loki" costing over \$150 million. The creative team opted for more practical effects, sets and wardrobe decisions.

This practicality was almost entirely to the benefit of the show as there is clear intentionality with every visual aspect, from Agatha's mysterious brooch to the contents of Billy Maximoff's (Joe Locke) bedroom. Additionally, using computer-generated imagery sparingly made the moments that it was used more profound and spectacular.

Two of the best and most iconic moments from the show were the performances of "The Ballad of the Witches' Road." Both the "Sacred Chant

Version" and "Cover Version" had a unique appeal that pulled the audience into the story with an incredibly catchy melody as well as expressive performances from the cast.

The "Sacred Chant Version" was the most visually enticing on screen as the Salem Seven (Okwui Okpokwasili, Chau Naumova, Bethany Michelle Curry, Athena Perample, Alicia Vela-Bailey, Britta Grant, Marina Mazepa) chased Billy around Agatha's house while the coven of witches sang in harmony, seemingly unbothered. The voice of Patti LuPone's Lilia Calderu was incredibly satisfying as LuPone's iconic sound delivered haunting harmonies with effortless brilliance.

As beautiful as the scenes were with the Salem Seven in them, the group lacked substance, existing only to move the plot along and create suspense without real stakes. They were depicted as a dangerous threat, scaring Agatha into gathering her coven, but the audience never saw any combat or fight scene to indicate their power or strength. All they did for the whole series was chase the coven around, which was a relatively failed attempt at

suspense after their first appearance in the second episode.

As mentioned before, LuPone's performance as Lilia was by far the most engaging and touching. Lilia is a divination witch, and her consciousness experiences short slips into the future throughout the series, creating a string of ominous premonitions. LuPone's depiction of these slips was equally captivating and startling.

The seventh episode, which focused on Lilia's backstory and journey, profoundly depicted fate, mortality and transformation. Lilia's acceptance of death as inevitable allowed her to confront her self-doubt in a moment of crisis and gain clarity on who she needed to be to the witches around her. Lilia had immense depth and an outstanding character arc.

While Agatha's arc and growth were also wholehearted and successfully blurred the lines of villain and anti-hero, her comedic appeal was more distinct with her quick-witted quips and flawless timing. Her line, "If you want straight answers, ask a straight lady," was particularly gratifying after watching the romantic and

sexual tensions between her and Rio Vidal (Aubrey Plaza) grow.

"Agatha All Along" was promoted by the cast as being Marvel's "gayest project yet," which it definitely accomplishes through Agatha and Rio's relationship and Billy's gay identity. Billy has been a fan favorite for gay comic book fans since his "Young Avengers" appearance in 2005, and "Heartstopper" star Locke continues the character's gay legacy in a fresh way.

However, Locke's performance sometimes lacks throughout the series as his American accent isn't perfected, and his delivery of lines can occasionally feel a bit monotone. Regardless, Locke makes the role his own by adding his own charm and having great on-screen chemistry with the rest of the cast.

In an era where spinoffs are disappointing nine times out of 10, "Agatha All Along" is an intentionally crafted series that hopefully encourages other Marvel projects to prioritize meaningful storytelling over all else.

"Agatha All Along" is now streaming on Disney+.

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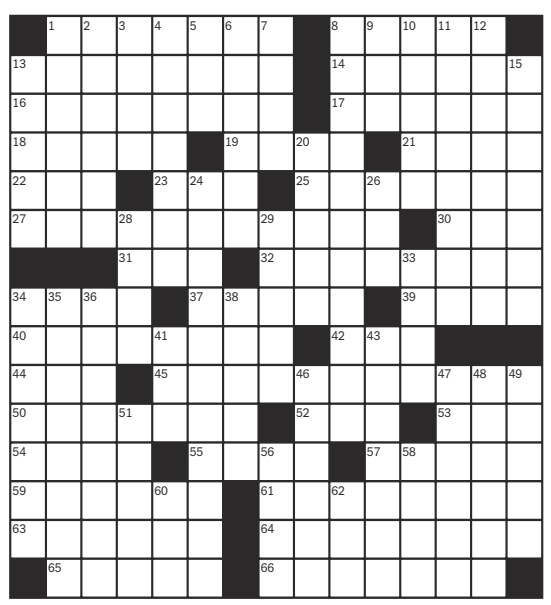


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### The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Joel Fagliano No. 0927

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tough loss for a poker player
  - 8 Far from flavorless
  - 13 Root words?
  - 14 Well-insulated homes
  - 16 Purely hypothetical, perhaps
  - 17 Pack the car
  - 18 It'll rock your world
  - 19 Objective
  - 21 Surrealist with a museum in Barcelona
  - 22 What comes between dusk and dawn?
  - 23 Grp. that cares about care
  - 25 Carefully analyze
  - 27 Going through the motions
  - 30 Org. whose website has a "Register Your Drone" page
  - 31 Vets-to-be
  - 32 Triumphs for one's country, maybe
  - 34 Grinding place to work
  - 37 Chipotle competitor
  - 39 Lines of text that are less useful on paper
  - 40 "Care to join?"
  - 42 Peaked
  - 44 Logic gate that flips its input
  - 45 Opportunities to soak up adulation
  - 50 Like some tuition
  - 52 2013 film in which Scarlett Johansson is heard but never seen
  - 53 SoCal sluggers, on scoreboards
  - 54 One of 27,520 for Disney World
  - 55 Snow globes, e.g.
  - 57 Ones putting the finishing touches on 61-Across
  - 59 Composer for whom Poland's largest airport is named
  - 61 Baker's dozen, perhaps
  - 63 Greek moon goddess
  - 64 Common business in Wisconsin
  - 65 Side in a game of Battleship
  - 66 Good standing in the Navy?
- DOWN**
- 1 Specification for a cut
  - 2 Feared fifth-century leader
  - 3 Middle's middle
  - 4 Rice variety
  - 5 One administering compressions, for short
  - 6 Lovers' divide, maybe
  - 7 Memo pad header
  - 8 Real moneybags
  - 9 \_\_\_ death, concept associated with LSD trips
  - 10 Lambastes
  - 11 Simply delectable
  - 12 "I could go either way on that"
  - 13 Zeal



- PUZZLE BY JAKE BUNCH
- 15 Common expenses for political campaigns
  - 20 Extemporize
  - 24 Debugging soft wear?
  - 26 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.: Abbr.
  - 28 Reprehensible
  - 29 "Nope, uh-uh, not me!"
  - 33 Port caller
  - 34 Nuts
  - 35 Title for Bobby Flay on reality TV
  - 36 "Time to blow this popside stand!"
  - 38 Who's cutting onions?
  - 41 Fertility doctor's focus
  - 43 Expressed in an imaginative and beautiful way
  - 46 "A likely story ..."
  - 47 Source of a draft
  - 48 Tools used on potatoes
  - 49 Having a mouth, say
  - 51 Prairie home
  - 56 Keeps informed, in a way
  - 58 Showed
  - 60 Like 59-Across's fourth and final scherzo
  - 62 \_\_\_ protein, substitute used in Beyond Meat products

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

CRUELLEA GLOATS  
REPROOF HAIRBOW  
ASSANGE IMPASSE  
ZITS SWARM LATE  
IDA PEAK LAT  
EURO SAID IPODS  
SETPOINT DRAMA  
TARNATION  
HAITI LASVEGAS  
FENCE GIGS LEVY  
ORG SARA NAN  
REEK RUNUP ETTA  
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# SOCCER | USC will chase a second big title this week



Zongyi Wang / Daily Trojan

Senior midfielder Maria Alagoa is one of the USC's most versatile leaders, having racked up over 1000 minutes and 12 this season.

| continued from page 12 |

jeopardize their performance, health and wellness."

Although the Trojans may have a packed schedule ahead full of demanding opponents, Alukonis said she views it as an exciting opportunity.

"It was a little daunting to look at it at the outset of so many games, but it's also really exciting, and our players love playing in competition and championship," Alukonis said.

Adding to the novelty of all these tournaments, USC has a unique chance to win three different titles in one season. The Trojans have already notched the Big Ten title, so they've acquired a ticket to the NCAA Tournament, which means they will be competing for two additional titles in the Big Ten Tournament and the College Cup.

As USC prepares for the weekend, Alukonis aims to keep the team consistent with their performance in key areas, including possession, expected goals and wide box entries.

"[We need to] be diverse in our attack," Alukonis said. "The main thing is just keeping the ball, controlling the game as a team. So when we do that, well, usually the score takes care of itself."

This season, USC has already made history with its first Big Ten title and impressive rankings, but it seems just like the beginning as the Trojans have their sights set on adding more rings to their fingers and trophies to the cabinet. As the No. 1 seed entering the Big Ten Tournament, USC stands poised to continue its groundbreaking season with a shot at both a conference and national title.

# BASKETBALL | Gottlieb and the Trojans open their season ranked No. 3 nationally

| continued from page 12 |

has allowed her to move from simply playing the game to knowing the game inside and out.

"I think for a long time I was on train tracks, but it's like, 'Break it down, make the read, we're gonna give you the ball in these situations.' And like, 'What are you going to do with the ball?'" Iraiafen said. "So I think she's giving me the key, but I have to kind of understand it myself, which I think has been incredible, immense."

The firepower doesn't stop there. Watkins is joined in the backcourt by graduate guard Talia von Oelhoffen, who made the move to L.A. after four seasons at Oregon State.

Von Oelhoffen was named to the All-Pac-12 team twice in her four

years in Corvallis and brings veteran experience to bolster the young core of the team. Like USC, Oregon State reached the Elite 8 last year but fell short against eventual national champion South Carolina.

USC also brought in the No. 1 recruiting class in the country this season, with freshman guards Kennedy Smith, Avery Howell and Kayleigh Heckel all ranking within the top 20 of ESPN's 2024 HoopGurlz Recruiting Rankings. Gottlieb spoke highly of her freshmen, noting that they consistently bring the right energy and attitudes to the practice court.

While blending all of these pieces into a cohesive unit would seem like a major challenge for any coach, Gottlieb has done it. The players speak highly of the team's

chemistry and shared dynamic, which should prove to be a major asset in Monday's season opener. Ole Miss is no slouch; the Rebels possess an experienced roster, anchored by graduate point guard Madison Scott, who was named First Team All-SEC last season.

But the Trojans feel ready for the clash in Paris.

"We feel great. We feel like we're really ready for this," Heckel said. "We've worked really hard, we have a lot of team chemistry, all of us are close ... Everyone knows what each other does on the court, and we just play to each other's strengths."

After Paris, the Trojans will return to Galen Center for their home opener against California Polytechnic University on Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.

# FOOTBALL | No. 1 Oregon is only former Pacific-12 school with a winning record

| continued from page 12 |

considering all missed the Rutgers game with different injuries.

"Didn't have them last week, I don't believe any of them are out long-term," Riley said. "They're all progressing in a very positive way."

Now, USC must face a past demon — Washington (4-4, 2-3) — the team that shut the door on the Trojans' Pac-12 title hopes last year by dropping 52 points on USC on the road. But this year, the Huskies have been completely overhauled, including a new head coach and rebooted roster.

The trip to Seattle will be USC's final 'true' road game, as its only other remaining away battle will be a short drive to Pasadena against UCLA (2-5, 1-4). Winless on

the road, battling the Huskies — a squad the Trojans haven't beaten since 2016 — will be a tough test.

Washington is led by senior quarterback Will Rogers, who led the defending Sugar Bowl champions to a solid 3-1 start. Lately, however, the Huskies have seen mixed results, losing three of their last four, with a surprising lone win over then-No. 10 Michigan.

Like USC, Washington spreads the ball across a multitude of targets on offense. Sophomore wide receiver Denzel Boston has been Rogers' most reliable option, as Boston has reeled in 9 touchdowns with 583 yards thus far.

Both teams field starting running backs with similar figures,

as Marks' 755 rushing yards are just a hair below junior running back Jonah Coleman's 785.

Washington posts the best-passing defense in the FBS, only allowing 123.1 air yards per game, another challenge for the Trojans' offensive scheme.

Both teams may be out of College Football Playoff contention, but bowl eligibility is still on the line. Saturday will be an opportunity for USC to battle after coming off a victory for the first time in a while and play in an environment it has seen before.

The Trojans will officially begin their November schedule Saturday at 4:30 p.m. at Alaska Airlines Field at Husky Stadium.

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|   |   | 8 |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |
| 3 |   | 2 |   | 6 |   | 7 |   |   |
| 4 |   |   |   |   | 3 |   | 7 | 9 |
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# SPORTS

PAGE 12 | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024 | WWW.DAILYTROJAN.COM/SPORTS



Ethan Thai / Daily Trojan

Redshirt senior safety **Bryson Shaw** and the Trojan secondary stepped up last Friday against Rutgers. Shaw recorded season-highs in tackles and acquired his first pass defended since December 2022.

## Football searches for first road win at Washington

Both teams look different after leaving the Pacific-12 but post identical records.

By **KASEY KAZLINER**  
Football Beat Writer

USC won its first game in nearly a month against Rutgers last weekend, but fans still aren't satisfied with the team's .500 record amid a tumultuous season.

Regardless of this season's woes, the Trojans (4-4, 2-4 Big Ten) put on an offensive show against the Scarlet Knights (4-4, 1-4), with sophomore wide receiver Makai Lemon displaying his breakout potential. Lemon tallied 256 all-purpose yards and a touchdown, tearing up the defense as a kick returner and wideout.

Lemon's performance further proved USC's pass-catcher depth, as six different wide receivers have caught touchdowns this season.

Redshirt senior running back Woody Marks also had a standout

performance, rushing for 3 touchdowns, while redshirt junior quarterback Miller Moss recorded an efficient 20-for-28 passing night to raise the spirits.

Other than competing with other significant events in Los Angeles for relevancy, USC had a good night at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, putting a bandage over the otherwise lost season.

"You kind of saw the natural progression and growth of our team," Moss said after practice Tuesday.

The Trojans played a more physical game, snapped their three-game losing streak and — most importantly — took control from start to finish, something they've struggled with on multiple occasions.

USC's offensive line has been a sore subject, with injuries and inconsistent play negatively impacting the team's ability to generate timely scoring opportunities this season. However, redshirt senior offensive lineman Emmanuel

Pregon showed that the unit can help create holes, as Pregon — while playing through an injury — was named Pro Football Focus' highest-graded guard of the week.

"We didn't think he was going to play," said Head Coach Lincoln Riley. "He kind of went in there like it was nothing ... It was cool to see."

Riley followed up the win by closing off practice for the rest of the season, disallowing media members from viewing it. Previously, reporters could watch some drills and warm-ups before the main practice portion.

The Trojans have suffered through the injury bug at multiple positions this year, but a handful of notable names have recently been sidelined on the defensive side. However, redshirt sophomore safety Kamari Ramsey, senior cornerback Jaylin Smith and redshirt senior cornerback Jacobe Covington were all seen at practice Tuesday in pads, an encouraging sign

| see **FOOTBALL**, page 11 |

## Soccer fights on at Big Ten Tournament

USC, the undefeated Big Ten champion, will compete in the conference Tournament.

By **TUL SUVANNACHEEP**  
Soccer Beat Writer

No. 4 USC women's soccer earned its first-ever Big Ten conference title on Sunday, concluding the Big Ten regular season and marking the program's first outright conference championship.

But the journey is not over, as the Trojans (10-0-1, 14-1-2 Big Ten) are headed to the Big Ten tournament — a two-week, single-elimination tournament to decide the best team in the conference that begins Thursday, with the first round held at Minnesota.

As a newcomer to the Big Ten, USC has stormed through the season with an impressive unbeaten conference record and secured the regular season title with just one draw. Now, the Trojans enter the postseason tournament as the No. 1 seed, aiming to continue their invincible run.

USC also heads into the Big Ten Tournament with impressive rankings across the board. The Trojans hold the No. 5 spot in the latest RPI, making them one of only three Big Ten teams in the top 10 alongside No. 9 Penn State (11-5-3, 5-4-2) and No. 10 Iowa (13-2-3, 8-2-1).

USC also climbed to No. 4 in the United Soccer Coaches Poll their highest position this season after starting at No. 23. In the D1 committee's Top 16 postseason projections, USC is ranked No. 11, with a recent 3-0 run against ranked teams, solidifying its momentum as they seek a national title.

"For the Big Ten, we hope to have all three games," said Head Coach Jane Alukonis in an interview with the Daily Trojan.

The Big Ten soccer tournament consists of 10 teams. Seeds

7 through 10 will play first to determine who will face the top two seeds in Sunday's quarterfinals. As the No. 1 seed, USC has a bye for the first round and will play its first match Sunday at 10 a.m. in Minnesota against the winner of Ohio State (11-4-3, 6-3-2) and Wisconsin (9-4-4, 5-3-3)

The Trojans faced both of these teams less than a month ago. Earlier this season, USC secured victories against both potential opponents. On Sept. 29, USC triumphed over Wisconsin with a strong second-half showing, securing a 3-0 home victory, and on Oct. 17, the Trojans defeated Ohio State 1-0, with senior forward Simone Jackson scoring the penalty goal in the 83rd minute.

If USC qualifies for Sunday's game, it will face either Michigan State (12-1-5, 7-1-3) or Rutgers (10-3-4, 6-2-3). The semi-finals and championship final will be held at CITY PARK in St. Louis.

"We always want players to play with calm and confidence and focus on obtaining certain things rather than worrying about the pressure," Alukonis said. "We know that we're sitting in a nice spot right now; with therefore for the opponents, some of them are probably fighting to increase their ranking for the tournament."

Normally, after the regular NCAA season, teams wouldn't have additional games unless they qualify for the national tournament.

"There's going to be more games, there's going to be more travel, there's going to be more missed classes, there's just going to be a lot more, overall," Alukonis said. "Our team's done a really, really good job of looking out for their bodies, making sure that, despite all the variables, they're getting enough sleep and avoiding anything that could

| see **SOCCER**, page 11 |

## Women's basketball opens season in France

USC prepares for a season of higher expectations in the Big Ten, against Ole Miss.

By **DARRIAN MERRITT**  
Assistant Sports Editor

The past 12 months have marked a seismic shift in the trajectory of the USC women's basketball program. After a first-round exit at the hands of South Dakota State University in the 2023 NCAA Tournament, the Trojans made major strides last season, winning the Pacific-12 conference tournament for the first time in 10 years. USC also earned a No. 1 seed from the NCAA Tournament Selection Committee for the first time since 1986 and finished with a 29-6 record overall.

As the college basketball regular season returns next week across the states, the Trojans will look to take another unprecedented step, opening the regular season on the other side of the world, eight hours ahead.

Ranked No. 3 in the preseason Associated Press Top 25 poll, USC will take on No. 20 Ole Miss at Adidas Arena in Paris on Monday. The tilt in France will be the first game of the 2024 Aflac OUI-Play

event, with tip-off slated for 9 a.m. It will also mark the first-ever meeting between the two schools.

USC's breakout 2023-24 season came to an end at the hands of third-seeded University of Connecticut in the Elite 8. An off-season of change ensued, leaving Head Coach Lindsey Gottlieb's squad with seven new freshmen, two graduate transfers and a new conference full of unfamiliar faces to scheme and prepare for.

Despite those challenges, the Trojans were still picked to finish first in the new-look Big Ten, cementing the high level of expectations that have piled up after last year's success.

But Gottlieb isn't worried, as the team plans to pick up right where they left off.

"We haven't shied away from the word expectations all summer," Gottlieb said. "I'm not trying to pretend that they're not there. It's just a matter of using it as the standard and saying, 'This is where we want to be,' but not letting that put the weight of the world on our shoulders every day."

Those expectations are buoyed by the presence of star sophomore guard JuJu Watkins, whose record-breaking freshman year



Jordan Renville / Daily Trojan file photo

Sophomore guard **JuJu Watkins** is coming off a stellar first-year as she earned First Team All-American and the Ann Drysdale Award.

propelled the Trojans into the national conversation.

A highly touted player from Sierra Canyon High School in north Los Angeles, Watkins set an all-time NCAA freshman scoring record with 920 points in her freshman year. She averaged a stunning 27.1 points per game, including a 51-point outburst against Stanford in February.

This year Watkins was selected as the Big Ten's Preseason Player of the Year by the league's coaches. She was also named to the Associated Press's preseason All-America team alongside graduate forward Kiki Iriafen, who transferred to USC after three years in the Bay Area at Stanford.

Iriafen averaged 19.4 points per game last season and earned the Katrina McClain Award, given to the nation's best power forward. The duo looks to be a problem for opposing coaches across the Big Ten.

In describing the move from Northern to Southern California, Iriafen primarily emphasized the pro-style nature of USC's scheme, which has forced her to put a greater emphasis on creativity and making the right reads. But she also notes that her time with Gottlieb

| see **BASKETBALL**, page 11 |