Embracing discomfort: Aberer Tijani envisions ‘new USC’ built on empathy

Heading into her final year, Tijani looks to enact change on campus, not for herself, but for students who attend the University after her.

By DAILY TROJAN STAFF

Growing up in Irving, Texas, one of the most diverse zip codes in the country, Aberer Tijani sought a similar community when she came to USC. Watching YouTube videos from USC students like Katherine and Justin Elocana, she imagined herself fitting in. USC immediately and fell in love with the campus through her laptop screen. As she was taking her first steps on Trousdale during her senior year of high school, the first thing she thought of was home.

Applying in December, she earned a full-tenure merit scholarship — a circumstance described as rare and the best possible outcome she could have.

“My sophomore year of high school, I was in this SAT prep class, and our first assignment was for us to look up a dream school and a school that we knew we could get into,” Tijani said. “And at that time, I didn’t really know where I wanted to apply or anything. But something in me was like, I think living in California would be cool. I签证’s been the same, and I think actually really looked UCLA, but I was just kind of like, Eh, it’s fine, it’s cool. And then I visited USC and … I absolutely knew that this was where I had to be.”

Not only did she find a home in global wealth, Tijani said she college experience — although filled with friends and professors who were teaching, her history of code experience seen in the movies However, Tijani believes the way she’s grown would not have been the same had she attended another school.

Two days following the killing of George Floyd and amid a worldwide reckoning over racism, Tijani sat down in front of a camera and called for her students to come together to show that they’re not a “different us.” She said that she’s been “really uncomfortable.” Gathering the courage to deliver a message that would resonate with people, she recorded herself in front of a camera and called for him — a video that she also recorded in an IGTV video titled “What I need from you” — a video that she also recorded in an IGTV video titled “What I need from you” — a video that she also recorded in an IGTV video titled “What I need from you” — a video that she also recorded in an IGTV video titled “What I need from you” — a video that she also recorded in an IGTV video titled “What I need from you” — a video that she also recorded in an IGTV video titled “What I need from you” — a video that she also recorded in an IGTV video titled “What I need from you” — a video that she also recorded in an 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TIJANI | Pushing for a more inclusive campus

(continued from page 1)" identity, which also diligently incor-
porating nuance and empathy into our
understandings of one another and our
calls for accountability. I believe that
for such students to be rightfully scope-
gated and empowered helps to break the
mold.
Tijani wrote. ’The amount of times I’ve
had spoken out in support of the Black
community is overwhelming. I can’t
separate my experience and the fact that
I am Black. This vivid manifestation of
white privilege and blatant disregard for
Black students and Black voices be-
came very apparent in the treatment of
Abner Tijani.’
Ramata Franklin, a senior study-
ning global health, NOCs and social
change while pursuing a master’s in
public health, and Tijani’s friend, in a
post-Aug. 8 called on the University to
release a public statement in support of
Tijani, stating that its misconstruc-
tion of the events leading to Fritz and
Ritch’s removal resulted in undue harm
to Tijani and marginalized students.
’This letter has led to the eschewal of
anxiety and the recognition of the harm
it has embedded people to pere ad-
vocacy for marginalized students to the
ad hominem attacks suffered by Rose,’”
Franklin wrote. ’False narratives that
distract and misrepresent Abner’s ac-
tive have been used by trolls and bull-
ties to virtually harass and demonize her
online. USC has yet to release a statement
in explicit support of Tijani at the time of
this writing. Amid President
Presiden-
t of Student Affairs Vincent Crisp
and USC’s underclassmen reported to
Xu Yang Seni said Aug. 24 referred
vee to collation information and
ning with no distinct resoun-
cement of the harassment against her.
’Space times student activists like Black Lives Matter protests, Tijani said the
movement has expressed systemic faults
that have not been addressed by indi-
viduals and institutions, as racial
histories and ideologies. She also said
the movement has included holding those in
power, such as student leaders and
administrators, accountable if they are
not following the standards of excel-
ence an anti-racist society must have.
’I hope that people continue to ex-
rive their right to protest and petition
to call on those in leadership position

Said. ’There’s a lot of people that have al-
subsconsciously thought [I] don’t
discriminate! but people are starting to
really learn and understand and try to
recognize all the different faces that
discrimination can take,” Tijani said.
And of that I think that peo-
ple have been revamping the spaces
that they occupy.”

As someone who has also been
thrust into the public eye from the
attention her activism efforts have re-
cived, Tijani said she is also navigating
how to effectively express the weight of
her words and has a more intentional
form of empathy by driving action to
a particular cause in a productive and
sustainable way. Although these con-
versations may make her uneasy and in-
comforitable, she said she believes they
are necessary to bridge the gap between
in-
tations such as USC and society at large.
’I don’t think that anything good comes easy,” she said. “And I don’t think that anything will actually dis-
mantle the deeply ingrained systems
of racism that are at our University and
beyond the actual real world would be
able to be done from work that we think
is easier or comes at comfort to us.”
Tijani said it is currently profitable for insti-
tutions such as USC and its leadership
and informing others on anti-Black rac-
ism, the biggest struggle she has faced
is balancing her mental health.
’I think talking about the psycho-
logical effects that racism can have re-
ally wears on you, and it’s definitely worn on me.” Tijani said. “As I discuss
and engage and educate and inform
people, I also have to practice self-care
mas-
similarly, but I don’t have
as much space and grace to be able to
work through that.
Tijani said her efforts have led peo-
ple to think of us as “a face of activism
at USC”, and look to her for direction.
However, she said she and other lead-
ers on campus and across the nation
should not be the only people commu-
nicating the need for action.
’People should understand that we
can’t count on one person or a few people
to carry the breadth of everything. Eventually these people are going to exhaust
and want to top out because everyone’s hu-
mor,” Tijani said. “So it’s just kind of
figuring out where can I contribute?
And how can I use my own talents and
effects are real. It’s not just organizing
for Black Lives Matter protests, adding a
component of commercialization to the
movement in order to have basic
support. And you’ll realize that you
have a job for you.
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Privilege in a pandemic spells trouble for South Central

It seems many USC students returning to off-campus housing have chosen to prioritize social capital over social distancing.

By ALileen GIps

Staff Writer

With various universities such as Notre Dame and Michigan State sending their on-campus students home after the inevitable coronavirus spike, it was refreshing to see that for once, USC wasn’t in isolation. However, that pleasant attitude was unfortunately short-lived. With the fall semester underway, USC students have returned and are flocking to off-campus housing.

At face value, this seems promising: Off-campus housing allows students to shelter-in-place, work from home and limit everyday exposure that would have otherwise been difficult to avoid had the students moved into on-campus residence halls. Yet, Los Angeles County’s preventative measure to keep USC’s campus closed in hopes of preventing another spike in cases is likely too little too late. Since Aug. 14, the Department of Public Safety has already reported 13 confirmed positive cases within the USC community. It is highly probable that the actual number of parties happening off-campus is much greater than what has been reported.

It is no secret that some USC students are completely disregarding the fact that the global health crisis is ongoing in a densely populated community. Reckless actions, such as partying in a pandemic and gathering without masks or any regard for social distancing guidelines, are almost certain to lead to a spike in coronavirus-related cases on and around campus. Such a spike will disproportionately impact high-risk students as well as non-USC community members.

It must not go without mention that institutions such as the University are aggravating South Central’s rapid gentrification by increasing rent and cost of living. In addition, the privilege community members with generational ties to this area are being priced out of their own neighborhoods. A recent Washington Post report noted that Black and Latinx residents in South Central will have a significantly harder time recovering from the looming recession. Such a recession will inherently leave these already vulnerable communities at risk to more aggressive gentrification in the future. Thus, it is a significant issue that impacts the future of South Central when students return to campus and increasingly disregard the surrounding community’s health and safety.

These parties and events demonstrate significant ignorance among students. Many USC students, ignorance in their prioritization of social capital over the well-being of others. These students are either completely ignorant of the impact of a coronavirus spike in this community or simply too selfish to care.

More importantly, such an outbreak in this community would not only disproportionately affect those who are considered high-risk, but also Black and Latinx USC students and the surrounding community members. A recent Los Angeles Times report stated that, according to data released by the county, Latinx and Black residents have significantly higher coronavirus-related mortality rates than their white peers. If students continue to gather and ignore social distancing guidelines, there will be a spike in coronavirus-related deaths in South Central communities. The students who continue to do so will put their lives and reckless events will first spread to their roommates, especially those who are not doing their essential shopping and errands.

In conclusion, these students, even those who chose not to attend parties, can then bring the virus into the critical communities, such as Trader Joe’s, Target, Safeway and Ralphs. This action necessarily introduces the virus to the local community, whether it be to the employees who work at these businesses or the students who have to do their essential shopping at these stores.

The students who are still attending parties and ignoring the coronavirus risks are blatant and willfully ignorant of the considerable impact of a spike in the local community. These students ought to seriously consider the health and safety of those around them before cracking open an unsanitized and lukewarm White Claw.

Michael Mikail

AS IT WERE

Euphemisms can be insidiously partisan and harmful

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Katy Perry returns to pure pop in new album ‘Smile’

The Grammy-nominated artist is set to release her album, “Smile,” Friday. Katy Perry joined the 1842 team of Universal Music Group for a virtual press conference, revealing details about her personal growth and how that transcends into the various themes and backstories of her songs on the album.

Photo courtesy of Universal Music Group

Katy Perry hopes to reveal her evolution as a multigenre artist, architecture student or looking for some fresh air, here is a list of socially distant sights and hiking trails that can be enjoyed even through face masks.

The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

The singer also revealed a lot of parallels in the album that have taken on a completely new meaning due to the pandemic and current events. There’s a synonymous feeling of isolation and self-reflection that permeates the album.

The 35-year-old pop singer, who recently opened up about her clinical depression, said, “Obviously, it wasn’t as easy as just snapping out of it,” Perry said. “It took a lot of hard work, and I had to snap out of it,” Perry said. “I was very flatlined, and I was kind of clinically depressed, which is something I had never dealt with.”

“Finding that strength and courage helped Perry write some of the most hopeful, empowering songs on her album. One of those songs is ‘What Makes a Woman,’ which Perry calls a trick question.

“If you can actually answer what makes a woman … if you have some sort of a definitive statement, you may not be a woman,” Perry said. The acoustic music video for the song was released earlier this month and includes footage of Perry in an intimate concert-setting, wearing a purple dress with white polka dots and singing directly to the camera as if performing for listeners in the same room. It is a power ballad filled with emotion, power and grace.

“What Makes a Woman” is a nod to all women of the world with lyrics that read, “Could spend your whole life but you couldn’t / Describe what makes a woman / And that’s what makes a woman to me.”

“The Teenage Dream” singer also revealed that songs on the album such as “I’m Not the End of the World,” “Teary Eyes” and “Only Love” discuss how it can be difficult to shift your perspective on life when every day feels like you’re going through the motions and hiding behind a happy face.

“Only Love” is a beautiful, deeply emotional song. Beginning with a mellow-paced chord progression, the song quickly picks up for the chorus with classic pop beats. The messages in the track are personal ones to Perry. She mentions calling her mother and pouring her heart out in a letter to her father.

“I was just in this negative loop, and I had to snap out of it,” Perry said. “Obviously, it wasn’t as easy as snapping my fingers, but once I figured out there was another way to look at it, I started seeing it with a different view.”

The singer also revealed a lot of parallels in the album that have taken on a completely new meaning due to the pandemic and current events.

There’s a synonymous feeling of isolation and self-reflection that permeates the album. With nearly 15,000 different plants, the gardens are bursting with flowers, herbs and foliage of every imaginable color and scent.

While picnics are not permitted, foot traffic on the wide trails is light during the week, allowing visitors to enjoy while strolling through the gardens.

“Marvin Brauchle Bike Trail

For the environmentally conscious traveler out there, a bike ride along the Marvin Brauchle Bike Trail — also known as The Strand — is the ideal way to get a taste for the various beach towns dotting the L.A. coastline. Starting at Will Rogers State Beach in the Pacific Palisades, The Strand passes through popular Southern California destinations, including Santa Monica, Venice and Dockweiler (to name a few) before ending at Torrance Beach.

Some weekend warriors enjoy biking the entire 23-mile beach path in a single day, but I’d recommend starting small for your first time on The Strand. A popular choice is the stretch from Manhattan Beach to Hermosa Beach. This mile-and-a-half route is ideal around noon so that when you reach the famous Hermosa Beach Pier, you can watch the sun dip below the horizon.

If you’re a fan of serious, you’ll recognize that this pier and the famous Lighthouse Cafe behind it are featured in “La La Land.” For bonus points and an added layer of fun, pop in some headphones and listen to the movie soundtrack as you and your friends ride back down the bike path.

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Waterman Mountain Loop Trail

If you’re looking to leave the city behind, you can't go wrong with a hike. The Waterman Mountain Loop Trail is located in the Angeles National Forest, a little more than an hour’s drive from campus.

This six-mile, moderately rated route features stunning alpine views of the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Gabriel and San Antonio passes, huge pine and cedar trees line the trail providing shade and an intoxicating aroma can be enjoyed even through face masks.

Once you reach the summit, you'll find yourself on a ridge with a fantastic view of the Pacific Ocean and the Los Angeles Basin. While the panoramic views are breathtaking, the trail itself is challenging and requires a good amount of physical fitness.

As you make your way up the trail, keep an eye out for the many wildflowers that dot the landscape, especially during spring.

By Catherine ORIHUELA

Staff Writer

Let’s face it, weekends in college are off-campus ragers. (Although some of door-to-door frat parties, late-night drinking games — a faint recollection. (Although some of door-to-door frat parties, late-night drinking games and college究竟 where you feel you can get the most bang for your buck.

For those looking to break away from their screens, a trip to The Huntington is perfect for clearing the mental clutter after a long week of online classes. Established in 1919 by Henry E. Huntington, The Huntington Library is considered one of the largest private libraries in the world.

As the second week of classes begins, those who have moved back to Los Angeles are likely looking to fill the void. So for those shielding to escape the confines of their apartments and get some fresh air, here is a list of socially distant sights and hiking trails to explore in and around the city.

With hours spent in front of screens, getting outdoors is more important than ever.
for the alpine meadow in the opening scene of "The Sound of Music" — you'll almost expect to see Julie Andrews twirling around in the wildflowers when you walk through it.

While Muscle Trail often has heavier foot traffic than the Waterman Mountain Loop Trail, there are large flatfoot sections that are wide enough to maintain social distance when passing others. The first half of the trail is pretty flat and gradually gets steeper with a pretty access incline the last mile or so, but the final push up the hill is more than worth it when you see the far-out rock formations. If you aren't afraid of heights, climb to the top of the sloping rocks and take in the Pacific Ocean's 360-degree view.

Muscle Trail to Eagle Rock is bound to make for an exciting weekend adventure from the strange art to the otherworldly rock formations at the end of the hike.

Backbone Trail to Corral Canyon Road

Located in the Santa Monica Mountains, less than an hour from campus, Backbone Trail is another essential L.A. hike. The 63-mile-long Backbone Trail to Corral Canyon Road is best made for weekend trips in smaller sections; one popular choice is a trek from Backbone Trail up to Corral Canyon Road.

The incline for the last half of the hike will definitely get your blood pumping and can be difficult for some when wearing face masks, but the views of Malibu Canyon from the top are good compensation, as are the wildflowers and other native flora that line the trail on your way up. If you take the trail to Castro Crest, you'll also find an unusual spiral rock art formation on the ground maintained by hikers over the years.

The pop star said her latest album was inspired by a darker period in her life and was the culmination of a soulful deliberation.

Perry also revealed that throughout her career, she uses humor to bring levity to the seriousness of life, and in that same way, the overarching theme of this new record has a degree of clownery to it.

"I've always felt a little bit like the court jester," Perry said. "And I've always had a little bit of humor injected into everything I do and self-deprecation.

Perry said she is thrilled to see the pop star talks thematic evolution

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Two weeks free on one-year lease. (23)

Two bedroom/one bath $1,850/month and up. Includes stove, f/g, A/C, laundry, dishwasher, gated parking. Across from Downey Gate way. Hardwood flooring, large size rooms (sits to two persons/room OK), walk in closets, dishwasher, A/C, private garage, lobby entry, stainless steel appliances, washer/dryer in each apt. Up to six months, three bedroom/three bath $3,995/month. Call us at (213) 763-3330 or Leasing@FirstChoiceHousing.com. Two weeks free on one-year lease. (23)

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The New York Times Crossword
SADE | Adamolekun focused on preparing for spring season

After such a long and challenging stretch of international soccer, how did Adamolekun transition to the collegiate game? According to Trojan head coach Keilani McAlpine, she took it in stride.

"When she got to SC and got to be with us … she had missed some key moments for us … but I thought she did an extremely good job of finding her way and taking her moments when she could to join our squad and be productive," McAlpine said.

For Adamolekun, it was a year of transition and adjustment both on and off the pitch. Adjusting to new classes, a new city and a new team is overwhelming for many players, but Adamolekun took the challenge head on. With the support and encouragement of McAlpine, she earned her minutes and impressed with her fitness level, on and off the pitch.

Her efforts earned her an appearance on the Pac-12 All-Freshman team and helped USC reach the Elite Eight in the NCAA Tournament, where the No. 9-seeded Trojans fell 3-2 to No. 2 seed Stanford in the Elite Eight.

"I was very happy about being able to just prepare in any way possible," Adamolekun said. "I thought I did an extremely good job of finding my technical or mental ability, so I was proud of myself."

Part of Adamolekun’s growth will come from developing chemistry with her teammates, 11 of whom are in her same 2019 class. Adjusting to her new teammates’ style of play was a major focus during her freshman season, and Adamolekun is hopeful that groundwork will lead to a successful sophomore season.

"Adamolekun helped us bring in the next generation of USCC players and future members of the team," McAlpine said. "She’s a positive voice [for the team] … she’s not super vocal, but when she does talk, it’s always positive."

"Her experience in the World Cup is something so rare for someone our age — I can see a lot of the decisions she makes on the field are very mature."

For the rest of 2020 and beyond, Adamolekun’s goals remain the same: Put in the work in the (virtual) classroom and in training. Committed to USC’s health and safety protocols in the midst of the pandemic, Sade wants to continue her work and preparations to do the talking.

"I’ve been making sure that I’m ready for everything that comes my way."

McAlpine echoed her sentiments, "Ever the competitor, Adamolekun took the challenge head on, "We weren’t proving on last year’s results. "

"For many players, but as we are witnessing perhaps most prominently with the NBA, sports can be used as a vehicle to spread awareness and support social justice initiatives. The main thing that the NBA Players Association wanted during negotiations on the NBA restart with regard to social justice was to have the players’ voices heard not for publicity reasons but because they knew that their high-profile status will make fans listen to their words."

Kneeling spreads awareness.

Speaking out during press conferences — like Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart did in July — spreads awareness. Sending out tweets calling for change spreads awareness.

"Although my New York Knicks are (unsurprisingly) not competing in the playoffs right now and I’m not rooting for any team in particular to be crowned this tumultuous season’s champion, I find it extremely important to hear what NBA players have to say about the recent shooting of Blake, who was shot in the back seven times by a police officer in Kenosha, Wis., in front of his own children. After all, they have the platform — and they have all the right in the world — to make a difference."

Shawn Farhadian is a sophomore writing about sports. His columns, "Fetching and Finishing," runs every other Wednesday.

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"Dishing and Swishing," runs every week during the USCC season.

| continued from page 8 |

Athletes urge conversation to continue in future

| continued from page 8 |

Backpack

in regards to social issues," Kooch wrote. "This was an entirely student-athlete driven effort, and we were greatly impressed with the efforts." The UBSAA hopes that the packs will serve as a conversation starter among the USCC sports community. After the distribution, Denny explained potential plans to auction off a few to those interested within the USCC community and donate the funds to charity.

Even without an on-campus appearance this semester, the backpacks serve to initiate a dialogue, one that both Thomas and Denny believe will set the standard for how USCC will act in the future and what fans should expect out of the student-athletes they cheer for.

We are so much outside of just being athletes," Denny said. "So this backpack shows that we can have a voice, we can speak up about what we believe in, we can have political opinions."

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"Dishing and Swishing," runs every week during the USCC season.
The design honors victims of racial injustice and highlights intersectionality.

By TAYLOR MILLS
Sports Editor

Breeonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown and George Floyd. These are just some of the names student-athletes will carry on their backs for the 2020-21 school year. The names of 22 Black people in total killed by either police brutality or racial discrimation are etched onto the newest student-athlete backpack, designed in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

On Aug. 16, the USC Athletic Department released the backpack’s look on their social media platforms. The design, normally helmed by the Trojan Student-Athlete Senate, was drawn up in collaboration with the United Student-Athletes. The Athletic Department released the backpack’s cover alongside Trojan Athletic Senate executive John Thomas.

"If you’re quick to think that athleticism is all Black lives are represented. Normally, the bags are a symbol to everyone on campus that a student-athlete doesn’t know for sure if we could never have foreseen. Sade" Adamolekun has already faced the pressure of international soccer as a member of the United States National Team, but 2020 has brought challenges the talented southern Californian cooker has never known.

"You can’t say Black Lives Matter if you don’t recognize all the Black sports this year than most. The killings of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and more have changed the way we think Black has been diverted away from basketball and players have messages above their jersey numbers and on their sneakers. The student of many postgame press conferences has been diverted from free throw ball entirely and toward the pressing issue of racial injustice in this country.

All of this has raised the following questions for some: Do we even need sports at all right now? Should successful athletes speak on pertinent issues unrelated to sports while on the court? Should we even mix sports and social justice initiatives together?

The answers: Yes, yes and yes. One of my favorite things about sports is that it can always bring people together. The pandemic and social justice movement have reawakened discussions of differences in the public sphere. Our country has arguably become more divided than it has ever been before. Sports, on the other hand, is nonpartisan: You don’t have to belong to a certain political party to shoot some hoops or watch basketball. Team sports, especially, are all about community, cooperation, teamwork and perseverance.

Since the beginning of the NBA restart, I’ve seen a lot of posts about players advocating for the Black Lives Matter Movement through Instagram feed. But within the comment sections of these posts, I’ve seen a lot more hate toward these athletes for speaking out against racial injustice. Many of these comments have to do with the notion that it doesn’t make sense for NBA players to say they’re “just athletes” or “Black men in this country” — like LeBron James said Monday night — since they are high-profile, wealthy athletes, and that victims of police shooting "should have just complied" with the officers at the scene in avoid violence.

These comments cannot be more invalid. Number one: No Black men are 2.5 times as likely to be shot and killed by police than their white counterparts.

So when athletes like James make such comments, they are making

Student-athletes design BLM-inspired athletic backpack

"I'm a captain of my team, Anna Cockrell and senior volleyball player John Thomas, and I'm definitely helped," Sade said. "If you don't recognize all the Black athletes, and that victims of police shooting should have just complied" with the officers at the scene in avoid violence.

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