EIGHT MONTHS LATER

ONLINE CLASSES PERSIST

03
TROJAN MARCHING BAND

USC’s famed band grapples with a culture members and alumni deem toxic.

04
TROJANS REACT TO BIDEN

Joe Biden’s win leaves students feeling both optimistic and wary of the future.

05
USC TEASES SPRING PLANS

The University unveiled grading options and dates for Wellness Days.
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Students navigate the uncertainty of housing for Spring 2021

By IBRAHIM AHMED Staff Writer

When Valentina Dangond found out that campus was transitioning to a virtual learning structure in March, it also meant figuring out her lease agreement until August. In late summer, she and other international students in her apartment complex were allowed to halt their rent payments for the following six months.

From her experience, Dangond said she believes international students are at a particular disadvantage because they have limited options for remote learning, such as taking a leave of absence. As a result of the economic impact of the coronavirus on global markets, many international students have experienced hurdles in paying tuition. Dangond said tuition prices are even higher for students outside the United States because of currency differences. Since the U.S. dollar is valued higher than the Colombian peso, the shifting currency conversations has impacted Dangond.

"It's a problem, and a lot of people at USC are probably facing it," said Dangond, a junior majoring in international relations and political economy. "A lot of people are taking leaves of absence and putting their visas in jeopardy because they cannot pay for college." With the three-hour time zone difference and the redundancy of online classes, Dangond said she has felt constrained to the walls in her room in Barrancas, Colombia.

"It has been difficult, especially my late classes," Dangond said. "I'm going to be finishing class at 7 p.m., and I have a lot of friends who are struggling and finishing classes at 11 p.m., so it's very difficult for them." As she did not have to pay rent for her apartment for the past six months, Dangond said she has saved money and plans to move back into her off-campus apartment in the spring.

Other students have also faced difficulty figuring out housing plans during an uncertain academic year. When they became clear last spring that classes would be virtual, Nicholas Wong, a junior majoring in human biology, also decided to move back home with his parents in Anaheim, Calif. For Wong, Smith and financial concerns were two significant factors that played a role in making the decision, but he still hasn’t transitioned well to learning from home.

"I don't know if I've adapted well yet," Wong said. "It's definitely a process. With last semester being so abrupt, I had to make adjustments and so many different things being changed, it's really hard to say [whether] I actually was able to adapt last semester." Students with special circumstances and in need of housing were provided spaces this semester at USC Village. Michaela Mengen, a sophomore majoring in global business and data science, was approved to move into Blum Residential College. After facing difficult circumstances at home, Mengen applied for emergency housing at the University. Since her September move-in, Mengen said that having her own space has felt liberating.

"I have my own apartment, and I really like baking also, so I can make a
Students react to Joe Biden win, critical of the future

After projections Saturday morning, some USC students attended celebrations.

By CARI SPENCER
Assistant News Editor

The news of Joe Biden’s presidential election win Saturday morning sparked celebrations in cities across the United States as well as protests from adamant supporters of President Donald Trump. At USC, responses to the election were mixed, with some students joining in on the festivities across Los Angeles and others expressing apprehension about the country’s future.

Jacine Callaja Erdmann, a junior majoring in international relations, said she attended a celebration at Venice Beach where he joined a few hundred mask-wearing people high-fiving and dancing in the streets.

“It was such a joyous, energetic environment. Just a lot of love all around,” Callaja Erdmann said. “It felt super inclusive, there was all types of people of all ages, genders, sexual identities, etc. Truly all types of people of all ages, genders, felt super inclusive, there was all around,” Callaja Erdmann said. “It was such a joyous, energetic environment. Just a lot of love all around,”

Murphy described Biden as a “transitional” rather than “transformational” president, two presidential characterizations discussed in her Annebming School of Communication and Journalism class with professor Dan Schnur. Murphy said that while some criticize transitional presidents for being uninspiring, she believes a transition is needed right now.

“When it’s just a transition to more cooperation across the aisle and more respect, or whether it be a transition to greater progressive politics, I think Joe Biden is not quite the candidate most liberals hope for, but I think he’s going to set a path in the right direction and transition into a better era for everyone,” Murphy said.

Members of the Trojan Left, USC’s progressive student organization, expressed views aligning with Murphy’s suggestion that Biden was not every liberal’s dream. Garrett Humble and Jack Green, social media organizers for the organization who identify as anarcho-communists, both said they felt a mixture of relief and disappointment when Biden’s win was announced.

Humble, a sophomore majoring in philosophy, politics, and economics, said he was glad Trump was voted out of office but that the overall election was still a loss. The margin should not have been that close, he said, and reflected the “inherent anti-democratic institutions that we have in our government — that you have to vote by that much to get rid of a proto-fascist.”

“What made me sad about the election results was the fact that after months and months of Democrats saying that Biden is the most electable candidate, and that centrism middle of the road positions are what wins, the Democrats have not won the Senate, and it’s highly possible that they will not in these Georgia runoff elections.”

Leading up to the election, Democrats ran expensive ad campaigns and efforts to encourage voter turn-out, hoping a “Blue Wave” would sweep over the Senate. While votes are still being counted, the “Blue Wave” does not seem as powerful as Democrats had hoped. For the party to win the Senate majority, they’ll need a sweep of Georgia — where two runoff elections are set for early January.

Moving forward, Humble said he hopes the Democratic Party will stop “holding progressive voices hostage” and either reform, following the direction of politicians such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar, or establish a third party — which he said was the “unofficial official stance of the Trojan Left.”

In messages to the Daily Trojan, the University’s official Republican student organization USC GOP declined to comment on the election results.

Regardless of where students stand on the political spectrum, it is undisputed that the Biden-Harris win will stand in history. Harris’s election, as a Black and South Asian American woman, marks the first time the U.S. has seen a vice president with any of her interseccional identities.

Freshman Saba Hussain, a biology major and the political director for the Trojan Democrats, said Harris’s election marks a new era in America:

“Regardless of where students stand on the political spectrum, it is indisputed that the Biden-Harris win will stand in history. Harris’s election, as a Black and South Asian American woman, marks the first time the U.S. has seen a vice president with any of her interseccional identities.”
USC announces pass/no pass grading option, Wellness Days

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Five Wellness Days will be offered March and April instead of a Spring Break.

By ANA MATA
News Editor

Students will be able to choose a pass/no pass grading option for Spring 2021 until April 30, Provost Charles Zukoski announced in a University-wide email Monday. Wellness Day dates that will be offered in lieu of Spring Break throughout March and April were also announced.

The announcement for spring grading was made shortly after the expanded pass/no pass option was made available to students for the current semester following a circulating petition urging USC officials to provide the option. The Undergraduate Student Government also backed the petition at a Senate meeting Oct. 6.

In a student media brief- ing Monday, Vice President for Enrollment Management Kedra Ishop said the University hopes students can strategically plan for the upcoming semester in regards to course grading options and workload.

“We also want to balance the need to ensure that we are maintaining the integrity of your academic experience on campus while providing as much flexibil- ity as we can,” Ishop said. “It was both extending from three weeks to the end of the semester for the fall and getting ahead of the game and making the announcement for the spring semester so that as students were registering you could make good decisions and informed decisions about your coursework and course load.”

A circulating Change.org peti- tion with over 5,200 signatures at the time of publication is also demanding the current semester’s grading policy be extended until after final grades are posted, as it was in the spring semester. USC released a statement Monday in support of the extension.

“It would be dishonest to claim that the student body, although remarkable in their academic prowess, are able to operate at their full potential due to these realities,” the statement read.

“Additionally, it is worth noting that conditions in online classes already disadvantaged students, regardless of external circum- stances limiting their focus and investment.”

Given USC’s intention to hold hybrid classes in the spring and avoid surges in positive corona- virus cases through travel, five Wellness Days will be offered. These Wellness Days are to serve as a day where there are no sched- uled classes or work expected of students to provide a time to rest or connect with friends and fam- ily, Ishop said.

“A lot of the conversation was also about ensuring that Wellness Days are Wellness Days,” Ishop said. “That it’s intent for not only students, frankly, but faculty as well, to take a day to take a break, to take a day off, no exams, no major papers due the next day or exams the next day.”

The dates chosen — March 12, March 23, April 7, April 22 and April 30 — were decided by USC administration after consulting with the deans of each school and student government, to offer stu- dents a break while simultane- ously avoiding major disruption to coursework and limiting travel by avoiding long weekends, Ishop said.

“We’ve gone through a myr- iad of versions of the days, this wasn’t the first and only version of the days we came up with,” Ishop said. “All of those changes came through conversations with faculty and with academic lead- ership and students in a way to try to meet as many needs as poss- ible while also still maintain- ing those goals of protecting the health and safety of the campus and providing those days off.”

The spring semester will be- gin on a Friday, Jan. 15, and will be met early on with two days off on Mondays due to national holi- days, which is why Mondays are not included in Wellness Days, Ishop said.

The University did not up- date on plans for the structure of learning next semester but said it is continuing to work close- ly with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health on returning back to campus.

“We are as anxious as you are to return to in-person learning,” the email read. “We continue to work with L.A. County Public Health authorities in the hopes of receiving approval to bring back more students, faculty, and staff for Spring; however, state and county restrictions still prevent us from resuming more on-cam- pus activities.”

Unlike most USC students taking remote classes this semester, some World Bachelor in Business program students are...
Students weigh off-campus options come January

Students with special circumstances who needed housing were able to appeal to live on campus this fall.

As he doesn’t expect the coronavirus infection rates to change, Wong plans to continue taking classes at home to also save money for his future housing plans in Fall 2021.

For Jonah Kijel, a sophomore majoring in business administration and political science, the proximity to campus was a priority for housing. During the fall semester, he hoped it would enhance his productivity and provide a better working environment than his home in Orange County.

Throughout the semester, Kijel said he usually finds a table at USC Village to study or eat. Most of his free time was spent doing that, if not driving around.

I think I’ve carried over pretty well from the summer, which means that I didn’t really have a social life in summer, and I don’t really have one now either," Kijel said. "Pretty much just any free time I have, now, I spend it by going to the [USC] Village. Most of my free time is spent doing that, if not driving around."

Whether or not USC moves for next spring to foster more face-to-face interactions.

Students and Faculty with ID.

Students weigh off-campus options come January

ELECTION

Sarah Cortina | Daily Trojan

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Due to the close bonds formed in sections of the band, members are hesitant to call out harmful rhetoric. "groupthink" and potential normalization or downplaying of issues like the ones raised in the letter and the post.

Additionally, because sections tend to spend the majority of their time practicing on their own, the experience of students in one section can greatly differ from those of students in another. Normal activity for one section may surprise another, and each section will often acquire a reputation or personality characteristics. According to 2014 alumni Tyler Ringe, reputations like "the trumpet are the hardest parties" would circle throughout the band.

The areas where groupthink and dated toxic traditions overlap is the boundary the band is currently trying to outline through its week with Title IX. Certain things which were previously cultural features, such as the nicknames assigned to every member of the band, have been illuminated as...
Pandemic underscores importance of student journalism

Student coverage of college life during the pandemic provides valuable perspectives on holding institutions accountable.

By VALERIE WU
Assistant Opinion Editor

D uring an unprecedented pandemic, student journalists have had the opportunity to showcase their resilience and dedication. The pandemic has offered a new dimension of journalism as student journalists have had to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismissed as “fake news.” They don’t have to hold themselves accountable for their actions when negative reports can be dismiss...
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Senior features creators in self-produced zine

Hailey Long highlights emerging creators and the issues that matter.

By FITY CAN
Staff Writer

“It’s been a moody year, just as the state of the world has been unpredictable and ever-evolving, so has fashion and the art scene as a whole in health and human sciences,” Long said. “It seems like there’s nothing new for Long. She claimed “mood” as a sort of personal catchphrase that she would use when copyright if she could. But what’s different about Long’s mood is that she decided to encapsulate it in a self-founded, self-produced magazine.

Long titled MOODzine and published every two months. Long’s art- and culture print-only publication is centered primarily around creatives. Each issue of MOODzine features a different social issue such as sustainability and femininity, lending a glimpse into Long’s “current mood” through the curated photography, writing, art and fashion of creative trailblazers, as well as original interviews and pieces from Long herself. Long — a self-proclaimed busybody — said she started the project by teaching herself how to use Adobe InDesign and Photoshop in an attempt to create boredom during the statewide lockdowns mid-March.

“I started it as kind of a joke at first,” Long said. “I was like, ‘I’ll just be like my own personal thing. But then that kind of spiraled into me being like, ‘well, if I interviewed someone? That would be kind of cool.’ So I picked four artists that I liked of liked. And I was like, ‘OK, I’ll ask to interview them for my magazine.’ And after that, I was like, ‘This is my passion. I absolutely love it. And just kept making issues.’

Although Long said she entered college strictly focused on her interests in STEM, her perspective changed when she was signed to a modeling agency her junior year. In an attempt to continue her modeling work, Long interned for Jill and Jordan Styling, addition to her modeling work. In an attempt to create boredom during the statewide lockdowns mid-March.

“In light of their recent signing to Fearless Records last May, they cased their versatility as they addressed their unique branding. Spoliansky said NOT A TOY allows them to focus on a new sound, so productive, which allowed them to stay home and focus on the art and what’s still to come,” Spoliansky said.

The two creatives also talked about the music video for their song “Quit Quitting,” which was filmed while adhering to pandemic restrictions, which limited them to a three-person crew.

“The meaning of the song is about contemplating where you’re at in life, which we were doing very heavily at that point and question all the different directions we could go,” Hoog said. “Especially because of this pandemic there’s a lot of uncertainty. The whole video has this energy of a late night drive in your own head, contemplating where you’re at in life, the places you want to go.”

Hoog and Spoliansky later discussed their music influences and processes as an up-and-coming new group of artists. According to Hoog, NOT A TOY was influenced by Warped Tour genre bands such as Taking Back Sunday, The Used and My Chemical Romance. Hoog also mentioned that they were inspired by diverse artists and creatives, including Kanye West.

“I think in the long run, the biggest influences have actually been the artists that have been the most creative and have tried pushing music as an art form themselves,” Hoog said. “I think one of our biggest consistent ones is Kanye. As a producer, we all love his outside of the box...
Venice, TIFF and more are better profile festivals such as Cannes, petition for the Cannes Palme d’Or different vein, his niece, Mati Diop, Festival for “Touki bouki.” In a different jury or region of work. Solasan, along with Argentine filmmaker Octavio Getino, helped launch the Latin American collection of “Third Cinema” film movements with the publication of their manifesto “Toward a Third Cinema” in 1969. The manifesta- tion was a response to the preدبér that and working class values of the then-President Léopold Sédar Senghor in Senegal who has been working in Senegal who has been engaged in the Tunis Carthage emas to the fore, despite many be- working in the Middle East, Africa and Southeast Asia and indigenous filmmakers within the First World. In their view, the system is inextricably tied to neo-colonialism and the sustainability of capitalism, creating films that were and meant nothing more than potential profit and the passing off of bourgeois values. The “Second World” is of the European auteurs, focused solely on the individual amongst the breadth of new art house filmmaking but still benefitted from the First World funding at the time Solasan and Getino were writing. “Third Cinema” reject the idea of a resistance to commercial- ization and the idea of the singular individual. Instead, Third Cinema filmmakers are a collective, pro- ducing films in a guerilla style nec- essary for anti-imperialist think- ing to survive. These films need to be risky — they need to be shown outside of the normal exhibition model and they absolutely need to engender revolutionary appeal and spark activism for the masses. The movement saw ripple effects all across South America and Cuba, along with filmmakers in the Middle East, Africa and Southeast Asia and indigenous filmmakers within the First World. In 1986, the Edinburgh Film Festival — yes, the Edinburgh in Scotland — hosted a conference on Third Cinema and its implications. They invited Latin American filmmakers, Solasan and Getino included. Film festivals have historically been credited with bringing “new” films to the fore, despite many be- ing established in their city, coun- try or region of work. For example, Dhijel Diop Samaké, a Wolof filmmaker working in Senegal who has been included in Third Cinema conver- sations, had made short films that saw success in the Tunis Carthage Film Festival and went on to win the International Critics Award at Cannes and the Special Jury Award at the Moscow Film Festival for “Touki bouki.” In a dif- ferent vein, his niece, Matt Diop, has made history last year for being the first Black female director in competition for the Cannes Palm d’Or for her film “Atlantica.” Some argue that these high-profile festivals such as Cannes, Venice, TIFF and more are better to show at least some films from underrepresented groups rath- er than at all. Others argue that the publicity and sometimes funding from festivals are neces- sary for representation in the great- er market and, as artists’ life work, for survival. Let’s take on the second argu- ment because the first doesn’t merit dis- cussion. The International Film Festival Rotterdam in the Netherlands has provided deca-des-long support for filmmakers through the Hubert Bals Fund. Bals was a director who had a par- ticular interest in Asian cinema (the white-man-making-Asian culture-their-passion jokes write themselves) and, after an untimely death, his interest sparked a fund that awards money to “developing world” filmmakers in every stage of the process. There are catches, of course. The films must come from countries that make the DAC List, a grouping of countries who can receive offi- cial development assistance, an eli- gibility criterion determined by the World Bank, and members of the United Nations’ Least Developed Countries list — both heavily influ- enced by Western standards of development at certain stages, usually, capitalism. The films usu- ally center around this point at al- legorical representations of pov- erty, quite often featuring young children within underrepresented groups who have to navigate spe- cific traumas that constitute a bulk of the “poverty porn” shown at fes- tivals. Also, the films must pre- miere at IFBR, a seemingly small consideration but one that can re- move them from opportunities at other competitions and put years in between the project’s funding and when local audiences of the filmmaker’s country can see it. Lastly, IFBR, by handing European money to these filmmak- ers, becomes the co-producer, filling a spot that puts pressure on film- makers to perform to the stan- dards set by the Fund while also allowing the IFBR to point to those films and say, “Look what we dis- covered, look who we helped and what stories we helped bring to light.” This is not to say that the Fund has not helped bring incredible pro- jects to the screen. However, it does raise the question of who film festivals are posturing for, because it certainly isn’t for filmmakers and it is certainly not for the masses who enjoy film. The festivals need to position themselves as inter- national productions of culture.
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SEGMENT 8 400 SEC. DEP. OAC. One bedroom/bath $1,400/month and up. Includes stove, frig, A/C, microwave, laundry, parking. Across from Downey Way gate. 1137 W. 36th Place. Call us at (213) 765-3330 or Leasing@FirstChoiceHousing.com. Two weeks free on one-year lease. (11)

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The Trojan Marching Band is considered one of the premier collegiate marching band programs in the nation and has performed at events such as the Olympics and the Grammys and has shared the stage with artists such as Radehead and Beyoncé. The band also appeared on two platinum Fleetwood Mac albums (“Tusk” in 1979 and “The Dance” in 1997).

The band has been in hot water before, notably in 2000 when members were accused of stealing $30,000 worth of equipment from the UCLA band equipment truck and writing a hate message on a saxophone case. No charges were brought, however. Other, more recent instances alleged include a student being allowed to wear a condescending flag at training camp and an alleged anti-BLM post appearing on the Facebook page of Liz Jenkins, wife of assistant director Sean Jenkins, who works with the colorguard. Still, students like Bhumble praise the staff for immediately taking action once the letter had been delivered.

“They’ve approached it very well,” he said about the band’s leadership. “They’ve been very open and transparent and available on this.”

It seems that not everyone in the band, however, is comfortable with the way in which these changes are being implemented. What is being viewed, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because she feared being targeted, said she fears that the work may cross over from productive to de-

"I think there's going to be a lot of change from the band leader's position and Inclusion Committee, and I don't think it's going to be something that everyone wants," she said. "I mean, they're coming after our traditions."}

"I think it's being spearheaded by a vocal minority of people."

She also said she had concerns about the methods of the committee.

"Some of the topics can be triggering ... You might have a history with someone, and then you're put in a breakout room with them and you're talking about like, boundaries with that person."

The band's administration said it welcomes the changes.

"The TMB is looking forward to participating in a Climate Assessment to improve the organization’s environment," said the band’s leadership when asked for a statement. "The health and well-being of our members is our top priority, and the senior leadership of the program is working ardently to make the necessary changes."

Bartner said that the University would not permit him to speak beyond the band’s official statement. However, as recently as earlier this year, Bartner has prided himself on the diversity of his organization.

Bartner told Halftime Magazine in February, “We’re an urban band; we’re a melting pot band. You’ll find every major, every race, religion, ethnicity in this band, and that’s been the most important thing to me … I would reach out to different ethnic groups and include them.”

The Title IX climate assessment, according to the University, is “still ongoing.” The Title IX office itself chose not to comment beyond its official statement to band members, written by Vice President for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX Catherine Spoor and Vice President for Student Affairs Winston Crisp.

We are grateful that you have made university leadership aware of these concerns, so that we have the opportunity to engage with current and former members of the band on these critical issues and to partner to identify a positive path forward.”

The statement read,

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The statement read,
No. 20 USC escaped with a narrow victory against Arizona. State last Saturday and now must prepare for another matchup this Saturday at Arizona.

Head coach Clay Helton highlighted how important it has been for the Arizona defense is relatively unfamiliar to the Trojans. This is because Arizona's season opener against Utah was canceled due to coronavirus cases on the Utes.

Helton said it is important for the Trojans to lean on their strengths. "It's hard when you don't have a scouting look, you go to just rely on your guys. You're not going to be in a situation where you believe in and do things that your kids are good at," Helton said in a virtual press conference Tuesday. "You worry a lot more about fundamentals and tech and rules and conventions or examinations-based offense, rather than just trying to trick people."

The Trojans will also need to make adjustments on the defensive side of the ball. USC allowed 252 rushing yards including several big running plays. According to Helton, it will be important to stop this down the yards allowed against a team like Arizona.

"It's just making adjustments in our assignments, being able to force that ball back in because this is a huge RPI team and as good as you'll ever see in our league," he said. "The big forgetting thing for us this week is to handle the tempo of Arizona. This will be the fastest paced team that we face all year."

On the offensive side, Helton, alongside offensive coordinator Graham Harrell, had high praise for sophomore quarterback Kedon Slovis against Arizona.

"I think there's going to be a habit. Slovis scored and reset to checking down if a throw was not there — signs indicating Slovis's development. "When I was most proud of him, he was the 11 checkdowns that he had instead of forcing the ball," Helton said. "It's where his growth has gone to, and that's what I hope to see consistently."

Harrell was also proud of Slovis eliminating his turnovers. Instead of looking to force big plays leading to a turnover, Slovis managed to throw short passes to a running back in stead. Harrell called this an "obvious sign of growth."

"I think that's a good sign for us," he said. "I would imagine a lot of people's goal would be to get soft and try to take away explosives and when they do that they gotta be disciplined enough not to turn the football over and check it down."

Turnovers were, of course, the main problem for the Trojans against ASU. They had four — one Slovis interception and three fumbles. Harrell said this kept them out of their rhythm on the offensive end.

"We gotta take care of the football," he said. "We moved the football all day long, so I was confident that we could continue to do that. It just came down to taking care of the football and finding a way to get into the end zone."

Even with multiple turnovers, the Trojans still managed to run 95 offensive plays. With fewer turnovers, this pace can result in more points on the board and plays overall, which is exactly what Harrell wants.

"I love 95 plays a game for sure," Harrell said. "The more the better for us, I think, but we did a pretty decent job at times playing with good tempo. Lots of plays are fun and good for us."

One of the fumbles came from redshirt senior running back Vavae Malepeai in the first quarter, when he coughed it up reaching for the goal line. Malepeai, who had a hamstring injury during camp, ended up leading the Trojans in rushing yards.

Malepeai credited the other running backs and the coaching staff with helping him stay confident and in the game. "I love 95 plays a game for sure," Harrell said. "The more the better for us, I think, but we did a pretty decent job at times playing with good tempo. Lots of plays are fun and good for us."

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Karan Nevatia: More than a gifted writer

Karan Nevatia left a profound impact on the Daily Trojan. He created the paper’s podcast department and advocated for wellness in the newsroom and beyond.

By KATE SEQUEIRA AND EILEEN TOH
Features Editors

Late nights in the Daily Trojan newsroom were hardly ever quiet. Many days Karan Nevatia’s voice would stream into the hallway of the fourth floor of the Student Union as he would begin yet another rendition of his beloved TLC song, “No Scrubs.”

“A scrubs is a guy that thinks he’s fly. He’s also known as a busta always talkin’ about what he wants. And just sits on his broke ass…”

Karan’s love for TLC would jump out at all moments both inside and outside the newsroom to boost morale and connect with the people he loved. His joy would always shine through the toughest days when breaking news left editors tired and weary after a back-to-back day.

Karan, who died by suicide Sept. 11 at age 21, served on the Daily Trojan editorial board for two years, during which he reported on some of the most hard-hitting scandals that ruffled USC. Built the podcast department from the ground up and advocated for mental health and wellness across the newsroom and beyond. He was a friend to all Daily Trojan editors and staffers, brightening STU 421 and the newsroom to boost morale and generate joy. He could come into a lifeless newsroom and generate joy from nothing. And the joy he would just last even after he left the newsroom.

Karan was always in STU 421, whether he was writing, laying out pages, working with other editors or joking around with the rest of the staff, fill out crossword puzzles with them and was always willing to lend a hand even on his days off, Peplow said.

“You almost had to drag him out of the newsroom at the end of the night because I think he would have stayed there and slept there overnight,” she said.

Most missed, however, are his renditions of TLC’s “No Scrubs,” which graced the newsroom most days and would always brighten up the room when nights grew long and hard, said alumna Tomás Márquez, Daily Trojan Fall 2019 editor-in-chief who primarily served as Karan’s managing editor at the paper.

“It was one of those moments where I realized, he literally cares — he cares so deeply about journalism and helping other people out when they need it most.”

— ALLEN PHAM
Daily Trojan Fall 2018 & Spring 2019 editor-in-chief

“Even if it was late at night, he would just belt out the lyrics to TLC’s ‘No Scrubs’ and make everybody smile, whether in the newsroom or our Daily Trojan gatherings,” Márquez said. “He just had a way of bringing a smile to people’s faces that honestly I don’t think I’ve ever met anybody else who could do that with an off-tune rendition of a ‘90s R&B song.”

Many of his peers remember how quickly words would spill from his fingers whenever news broke and how clearly and authentically he would reflect a person in a story. That thoughtfulness and empathy were evident in the columns Karan wrote on every-thing from education policy to media literacy. Peplow said. They shined especially in his Fall 2020 column titled “On My Mind,” which dealt with navigating mental health.

In this column, Karan was open about his own struggles in hopes of aiding other students undergoing similar ones.

“I think Karan’s writing will be one of his strongest legacies,” Peplow said. “He opened up his heart and his mind for all of us to feel a little bit less alone. His writing was so incredibly human. He respected his readers enough to tell them the truth but cared for them enough to create a space based on empathy and understanding. He talked to the reader like they were a friend.”

Alumna Allen Pham, who served as editor-in-chief during Karan’s second year at the Daily Trojan from Fall 2018 to Spring 2019, said he first noticed Karan’s love and dedication to journalism while covering the scandal surrounding former campus gynecologist George Tyndall that surfaced in May 2018. Karan made time to help with breaking news, despite managing a full-time internship in Brooklyn, Pham said, recalling a particular day when Karan managed to work on a piece on the train home.

“I thought it was one of those moments where I realized, he literally cares — he cares so deeply about journalism and helping other people out when they need it most,” Pham said.

As an editor at the Daily Trojan, Karan was known for many firsts. After launching what became Daily Trojan’s news podcast “General Education” in April 2018 during his semester as a news editor, he created the podcast department in Fall 2018 and fleshed out three podcasts that still run now, two years later. He also established the newsroom’s wellness initiative in Spring 2019 to support staff and promote camaraderie during long hours in production, which has also continued to grow.

Larger than life
Growing up in Foster City, Calif., Karan found a home in the Daily Trojan newsroom among friends.

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Larger than life
Growing up in Foster City, Calif., Karan found a home in the Daily Trojan newsroom among friends.
Through the eyes of his friends

On Sept. 17, family and friends spoke at Karan Nevatia’s memorial service. Here are four eulogies that were delivered by a few of Karan’s friends from the Daily Trojan.

**Natalie Bettendorf:** ‘Someone who listens’

Karan and I are sitting on the balcony of the Daily Trojan newsroom. The windows are open, framing the two of us sitting on the ledge and facing the production house. It’s evening, kind of warm out. You can see the buildings of downtown to our right, sparkling from sunset. Jonathon, the video editor, tilts his head at us, ducked behind the camera. He’s shooting our podcast recruitment video.

I’m telling you a story with my voice. Karan loved stories as much as any of us. But he also held such an affinity for the importance of audio, of listening to a human voice, in journalistic endeavors. When [multimedia editor] Jonathon Nara asked what Karan loved about podcasts in that moment, he said simply, and this are his words: ‘It’s kind of cliché now to say that audio is intimate. Sound is one of the few senses where it’s immersive whereas with vision you can only see ‘this much.’ With your ears, you can see the emotions — I can hear construction happening in the back. I can hear people talking in the newsroom. I can hear myself talking as well. So that’s why I think that’s such a good way to impart news upon people.’

Karan had the most faith in people. In him, in his ability to love, in his energy to be a force for good. I encouraged him to be his assistant when he relaunched the podcast to America, to be his assistant when he was 21. He encouraged me to work at the newsroom. I can hear myself talking in the newsroom. I can hear people talking in the newsroom. I can hear people talking in the newsroom. I can hear all around you. Like that audio is intimate. Sound is so important in that moment, he said simply. ‘Karan loved about podcasts and multimedia editors was the ability that a person can have. He was so lucky to have them. He heard, and he was irreplaceable. He was the perfect addition to our newsroom. Sometimes, we were in these spaced-out moments of the night — and we needed someone like Karan to put a smile on our faces or hands on our shoulders. Karan gave the best massages. He’d go around the center table and offer to give the most relaxing shoulder rubs that I only wish I had.’

He walked into the Daily Trojan newsroom and had this presence that just set him apart from everyone else. He made everyone feel like they belonged. ‘I guess I felt threatened by him — seriously, I was like, who is this new dude taking up space? But he always found a way to be helpful and lovely.’

We often bickered about which groupie was better — Fifth Harmony or TLC? ‘I never admitted it out loud — but he was always right (but that stays between us here today).’

Our ‘girl group rivalry’ even led us to writing a silly press release to the newsroom to make it clear that there was only love between us two. And that really was.

Karan was great at puns and storytelling and loved filling out crossword puzzles. (I always chose to let him fill)

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**Emma Peplow:** ‘Karan’s life was a gift’

In her poem “Uses of Sorrows,” Mary Oliver writes, “Someone I loved is dying.” “I gave her a box full of darkness. It took me years to understand that this, too, was a gift.”

A friend, who is a lot wiser than me, once said to me the day after Karan’s passing: I read it and thought, ‘That’s a beautiful sentiment. If there’s no gift here, we were given a box full of darkness. But that’s the end of this poem. There’s no second stanza, no rhyme scheme, no reason.’

Later that day, for the few days, I thought a lot about the idea of gifts. The gifts we give to each other and the ones we give to ourselves. Karan was by definition a giver. He gave to others but rarely to himself.

In the very first letter I formally met Karan. We were both newly hired for the position of news editor of the Daily Trojan. I was very jealous of the prospect of spending the next few semesters and years selfishly and perhaps soulfully all day talking about losing and grieving. I was less than thrilled at the prospect of spending the afternoon interviewing a freshman for a page editor position, thinking about all the energy I would have to expend over the course of the next semester to shape the newsroom.

Karan knocked on my door and his face erupted into a smile. Through, just as the one you remember. The one I remember.

He had biggest hugs, the brightest smiles, the greatest capacity for love and warmth and joy. Even in this extraordinarily dif-

cult time, what I remember most vividly is how when we were together, we could be our silliest selves, our goofiest selves, our happiest selves, even our saddest selves — more than anything, we could just be ourselves, whatever we were feeling.

In the time we spent together, I could have spent hours listening to him speak with undiluted passion about the South Central community, education, the state of the world, all of his unuttered with journalism, storytelling, podcasts, wellness, music and, as I’m sure you’ll hear from other people, too.

It was a joy to listen to someone who cared so much and loved so much, someone with such a spark of brilliance, originality, and I always thought it was a masterclass in empathy — and I could figure out what I needed before I did and I would do anything to give it to me. I was always an uncer-

blishedly commissioned the Department of Journalism’s 'Daily Trojan News Excellence’ to be given out each semester at the Daily Trojan. This was because I deserved it — but he always thought I did. He was obvi-

ously sulking like I was. He walked into the newsroom that morning, kind of warm out. Jonathon, the video editor, tilted his head at us, ducked behind the camera. He’s shooting our podcast recruitment video.

**Tomás Mier:** ‘My dream partner’

When I met Karan, I was a little jealous. Is Karan has had the most faith in people. In him, in his ability to love, in his energy to be a force for good. I encouraged him to be his assistant when he relaunched the podcast to America, to be his assistant when he was 21. He encouraged me to work at the newsroom. He was always more than I could have ever been, but he always thought I did. He was obvi-

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**Kylie Cheung:** ‘Such a spark of brilliance’

Karan has always been larger than life. He had biggest hugs, the brightest smiles, the greatest capacity for love and warmth and joy. Even in this extraordinarily dif-
cult time, what I remember most vividly is how when we were together, we could be our silliest selves, our goofiest selves, our happiest selves, even our saddest selves — more than anything, we could just be ourselves, whatever we were feeling.

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**Pic courtesy of Thomas Mier**

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KARAN | His love for journalism extended to audio storytelling

| continued from page S1 |

Karan discovered his first love in reading, devouring more books than others normally would in their lifetimes. At age 3, he was the first in his pre-school to pick up a book, Smitha said, and he was curious about everything he would consume.

“Karan is the kind of student who would ask us about the subject which we would talk about,” Smitha said. “If it is politics, if it is countries or what’s going on in the world, he would just be curious about it, find out and then he would know everything.”

Joy Thomas, a family friend who watched Karan grow up, fondly remembered his inquisitive nature, always creating his own projects to learn more about a topic or issue.

“He would notice other things that other people didn’t, but he was really, really talented and bright,” Thomas said. “And as he grew up, even though he was introverted, he had a little bit of an entertainer in him where he would put on shows and sing for people and do dances.”

A book Karan immersed himself in was Cornelia Funke’s fantasy novel “Runaway,” which is about the fictional author Fengoleto transported into a world that he created. When Karan eventually began writing his own stories, Ranajit said Karan did much of the research by himself and would always create his own worlds, as opposed to their original names, but he always knew the story was made up by an older life than itself.

Karan’s favorite book was undoubtedly J.K. Rowling’s “Harry Potter” series, which he started reading as a child. He was so fond of it, he also became a clear aficionado of the films and visited The Wandering World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios Hollywood theme park with his father, going on the rides several times. For his 21st birthday party in August 2020, he organized a Harry Potter themed party where every detail was planned to perfection.

According to Ranajit, the name “Karan” was just so into the media. He just got it. He just understood why he liked it. He loved it, he loved the intimacy of it and he loved the variety of it.”

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Karan became such a staple in the Neon Hum family that Patel would often joke that Karan was the chief executive officer by the time other interns were hired. According to Patel, Karan came into this internship knowing that he wanted to pursue a career in podcasting. As the company quickly grew in its first year in 2019, Karan worked on nearly every show that was released by the company. He was just so into the media. He just got it. He just understood why he liked it. He loved it, he loved the intimacy of it and he loved the variety of it.”

Karan means “listener,” and he lived true to his name. In addition to TLC, Karan consumed podcasts like no one else could; he always had his headphones on, listening to podcasts while doing his homework, editing stories in the newsroom and even doing chores around the apartment. It was not long into his news editor seminar in Spring 2020 when Karan asked Peplow if he could create, produce and host a podcast for Daily Trojan. Despite having little to no knowledge about podcast production in his freshman year, Karan read and worked to learn more about the art of making podcasts, eventually creating the paper’s three podcasts.

In the shows, Karan had a natural ability of bringing out the personal qualities of his fellow editors who hosted the “Rhythm & News” and “Talkin’ Troy” podcasts, said Natalie Bettendorf, a senior majoring in journalism and student editor-in-chief at the Daily Trojan.

“We see all the time in the newsroom, like we would see it in the writing of how wonderful all these people are,” Bettendorf said. “But you don’t really relay that to the outside world. It was our special thing, but Karan and I really worked together because we wanted to show the little bits of the newsroom in these podcasts because why’s it such a wonderful place to be in, why’s it like we felt our family and our home.”

In Summer 2018, Karan interned at the Pineapple Street Studio in New York, deepening his interest in podcast production, and from Fall 2018 to Summer 2019, he interned at Neon Hum Media in Las Vegas.

Karan was a natural at the Neon Hum and was always curious about it. He was always creating his own projects to learn more about a topic or issue.

After a few months, Karan began working as a production assistant at Neon Hum, working on podcasts that ranged from a deep dive into “The Devil Wears Prada” to a show on the founded salon chain Drybar. Karan blushes when he think about how many different shows he has been a part of.

“Karan was just so into the media. He just got it. He just understood why he liked it. He loved it, he loved the intimacy of it and he loved the variety of it.”

Karan Nevatia attended Daily Trojan banquet at the University Club with his fellow news editors, managing editors and editor-in-chief at the end of Spring 2018. | continued on page S1 |
Karim Pham and I attended the University of California, Los Angeles, majoring in journalism and law, history and political science. It was during this time that I met Karan, and we became best friends. He was the star of the show, and to this day, I miss my dream partner.

Karim was the star of the show.

He was my best friend and the star of my life. He was my brother, my cousin, my mentor, my teacher, my guide. He was my everything.

Karan was a talented writer, editor, and journalist. He was a natural leader, and he inspired me to be my best self. He was always there for me, no matter what.

He was my dream partner, and I am going to hold Karan in my heart forever. As close and as tight as one can hold a person, I am going to hold Karan in my heart.

Karan, wherever you are, I hope you are happy. I hope you are loved. I hope you are feeling in the colors of a sunset.

Karan was the star of the show.

I am going to hold Karan in my heart forever, as close and as tight as one can hold a person. I am going to hold Karan in my heart.