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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS, INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Tuition cost to remain unchanged

By ARIANA L. KITTS
NEWS REPORTER

CSUs will not lower tuition or fees for the spring 2021 semester despite students calling for reduced costs due to the mainly virtual instruction and the unavailability of in-person campus resources.

The cost of resident tuition at CSUSM is currently \$2,871 per semester for a full-time undergraduate. In addition, students pay \$988 per semester in fees, including a \$75 Health Services fee, a \$20 Health Facilities fee, a \$10 Child Care services fee, a \$91 Mental Health fee, a \$315 Student Union fee and more.

A petition urging CSUSM to lower tuition has collected close to 1,000 signatures so far, but the CSU and CSUSM both say that tuition and fees are essential and will not be reduced in spring.

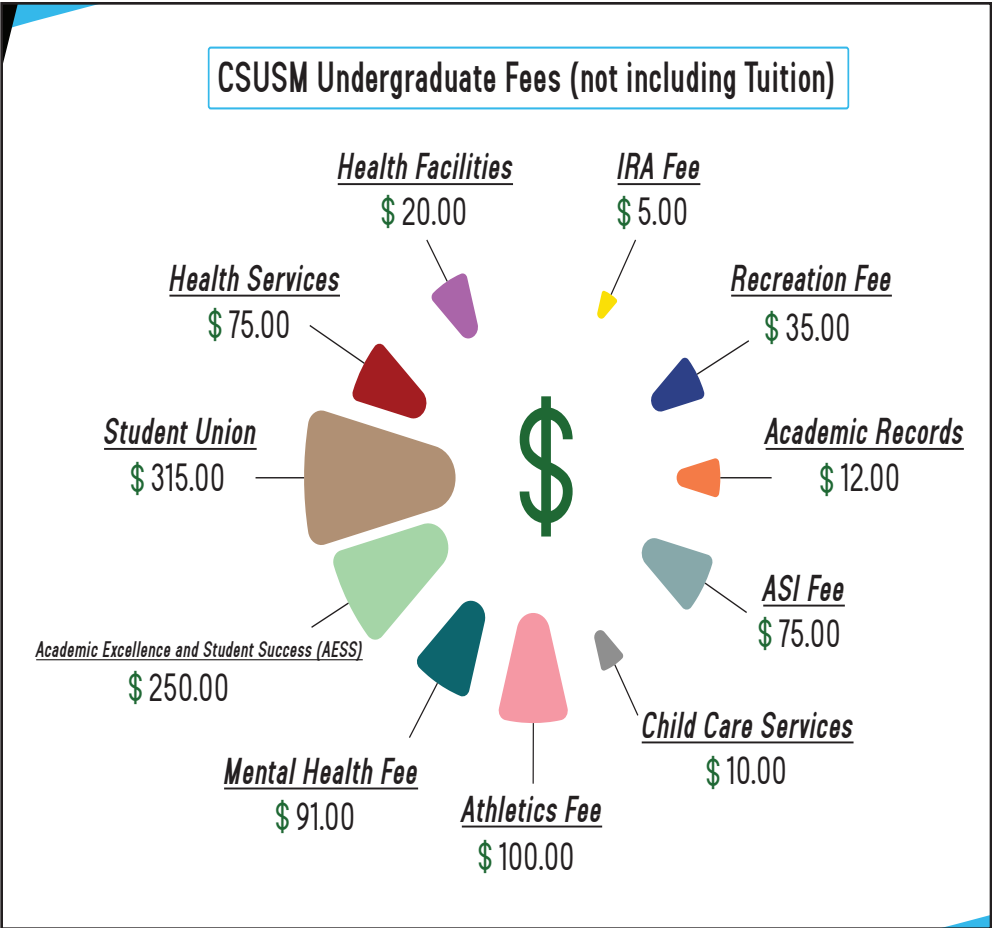


Illustration by Ruben Santana

Full-time CSUSM undergraduates who are residents pay \$2,871 in tuition and \$988 in fees per semester.

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Photo by Anneliese Esparza

Over 13,000 have signed a Change.org petition calling for the expulsion of a CSUSM student due to allegations of sexual abuse and assault.

Petition calls for expulsion of CSUSM student

By ARIANA L. KITTS
NEWS REPORTER

A petition on Change.org calling for the expulsion of a CSUSM student for alleged sexual assault and abuse has gathered over 13,000 signatures in five days.

The third-year CSUSM student is being accused of “sexual assault, groping, sexual coercion, abuse, gaslighting and other non-consensual actions,” according to the petition.

The petition states, “If CSU San Marcos is committed to ‘protect all people regardless of their gender or gender identity from sex discrimination, which includes sexual harassment and violence,’ please pursue expulsion and immediate legal action in order to create a safe environment for all students attending CSU San Marcos.”

Angie Pham, a student at UC Davis, accused the

CSUSM student of abusing her and others on a Sept. 29 Instagram post. After 11 other alleged victims came forward to her, Pham created the petition demanding the student’s expulsion on Oct. 9.

In response to Pham’s Sept. 29 post, someone from the official Instagram account of CSUSM responded, “We take this very seriously, and have referred this to our Title IX office.”

Title IX is a federal law that protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities which receive federal financial assistance.

Pham posted about the petition on her Instagram on Oct. 9.

An Instagram user who said he was the accused student comment-

**Petition, continued on
page 2**

Students for Quality Education calls to defund UPD

By ARIANA L. KITTS
NEWS REPORTER

Students for Quality Education (SQE) voiced their demands for CSU campuses to defund UPD on Oct. 1.

SQE is a statewide student organization with chapters on 22 out of 23 CSU campuses that advocates for a high quality, equitable CSU education. Their plan would reallocate funding towards student and faculty resources

and would replace the basic duties of campus police officers with community-based programs.

SQE proposes setting up a student and faculty run program for the emergency blue lights located around campus. SQE also calls for a committee to oversee where money and resources go as they are reallocated and for removing funding for firearms on campus.

CSU Chancellor-select Jo-

seph I. Castro said he hasn’t seen SQE’s demands but that universities need police.

“I have not seen the specific demands so I can’t comment on that. We need to have public safety officers in order to protect our facilities and the people that are here,” Castro told The Cougar Chronicle in a press conference.

“Some campuses are not occupied by large numbers of people [amidst COVID-19] but that can also

be a time where others who might want to do bad things can take advantage of that opportunity. I do believe we need to fund our public safety officers,” Castro said.

According to Chief Communications Officer Margaret Chantung, the budget for CSUSM UPD for fiscal year 2020-21 is \$3,866,185, a slight decrease from last

**Police, continued on
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Student athletes adjust to new circumstances amid pause on competition

By BRITTNEY SCARDINA
STAFF WRITER

Unlike ever before, CSUSM student athletes are unable to compete in the sport they love. 278 student athletes are going through the fall semester with no in-person activities, including practice and competition.

The California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) decided on May 12 that it would be safest to postpone in-person play for the fall semester and resume when safe.

“Based on Chancellor White’s May 12 announcement that the vast majority of CSU courses will be virtu-

al for the fall semester of the 2020-21 academic year, and with utmost consideration for the health and welfare of our students, coaches, staff, faculty and communities, CCAA member institutions have determined that NCAA sport competition will not occur during the fall of 2020,” read the CCAA news release in part.

The athletic department and student athletes are completing compliance and medical paperwork so that student athletes can eventually start to attend Zoom workouts and strategy talks. Teams are currently allowed to meet on Zoom to socialize and meet new teammates.

CSUSM’s Director of Athletics Jennifer Milo said, “It’s been a very difficult six months, it’s been a rollercoaster. None of us have gone through a pandemic like this.”

The athletic department understands how hard this is for athletes and continues to care about student athletes and their mindset and well-being.

“Our number one goal this semester has been about the care of our student athletes and providing care, resources and support,” said Milo.

She said that she wants athletes to know that the athletic department is here to support them and be there for them.

Student athletes who are on scholarship will receive their scholarship amounts through the entire academic school year, said Milo.

Andrea Wood, a senior criminal justice major on the softball team, said, “The athletic department is doing a really great job of showing support for student athletes.”

Wood said that it helps a student athlete’s attitude to know that their athletic department is in full support behind them despite the unusual circumstances of the fall semester.

This semester is not only

**Athletes, continued on
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Photo courtesy of CSUSM Athletics

Unable to practice with their teammates or compete, student athletes are adjusting by working out at home and seeing teammates virtually.

Police: continued from page 1

year's budget of \$3,909,562.

Chantung told The Cougar Chronicle in an email that CSUSM will not disband UPD but is looking into its policing.

"... [UPD] serve[s] the university with a community-policing model and commitment to maintaining a safe environment for students, staff and faculty," wrote Chantung.

"CSUSM recognizes that some may be uncomfortable with police while others, in light of school shootings and other campus crimes nationally, feel more secure. While not everyone may agree, the university police department strives to understand the needs of our diverse community and holds officers to the highest standards," wrote Chantung.

In August, CSUSM implemented a UPD Community Engagement group and a Task Force on Innovative Policing and is taking steps towards creating a Psychiatric Emergency Response Team.

Five student organizations accused UPD of malpractice for an alleged misuse of force on a student in 2019. According to the organizations' allegations, the student was forcibly removed from campus, labeled as a 5150 or "danger to themselves or others," taken to the hospi-



Photo by Anneliese Esparza

Students for Quality Education has demanded that CSUs defund university police departments on Oct. 1.

tal and released shortly after with a \$13,296 bill.

However, the university disputed this version of events, saying, "The referenced incident involved a student who was visibly bleeding during class from an off-campus injury and the efforts of UPD officers, campus employees and paramedics to get him transported to the hospital as soon as possible so he could be medically assessed and treated."

Faith Garcia, an intern with the SQE CSUSM chapter and a senior political science major and women's studies and sociology minor, said that a campus without UPD would allow resources and mutual aid to be handled by

stakeholders of CSUs, students and faculty.

"While a sergeant on our campus makes \$5,688 minimum monthly, 33.2 percent of CSUSM students are food insecure," said Garcia. "Defunding UPD means we can reinvest in basic human resources for our faculty and students of color."

"To the students who will need someone to take them to their car because they parked in the Z lot, or from the parking structure to the dorm because they are afraid, we do not need police for this," said Garcia.

Timothy O'Connor, a fifth year business administration major with an emphasis in marketing, disagrees with

SQE's demand to defund and disarm UPD.

"Removing UPD firearms would leave the university completely vulnerable to an active shooter situation. The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is to have a good guy with a gun nearby," O'Connor said.

"I have not had any bad experiences. UPD has helped me once when someone did a hit and run on my truck in the university parking lot. I have not heard about any incidents of misuse of force by university police. Police officers are highly trained on when to use and not use force," O'Connor said.

Although SQE's goal is to abolish policing com-

pletely, Garcia pointed out that if students feel unsafe without UPD, for example because of school shooters, the San Marcos Police Station is within three miles of CSUSM.

"When someone's first response to defunding UPD is a school shooter, a different discussion needs to happen about how white supremacy is active and remains a threat on our campuses. We should be asking how we can make our campus safe from white supremacy without militarization of police, and reallocate safety measures without police," said Garcia.

SQE also demands hiring more mental health counselors to meet the American

Psychological Association's recommended ratio of one counselor for every 1,000 to 1,500 students.

SQE praises programs such as Transitions Collective and Project Rebound, student organizations that support formerly incarcerated students, but says CSUSM is still supporting systems that harm students affected by the prison industrial complex, such as UPD and Sodexo.

Sodexo is a company that manages CSUSM Dining Services that has been linked to workplace violations and profiting from private prisons.

"Abolition doesn't mean reform or new forms of policing. It is about building up life-giving institutions that ensure the safety of people on campus and reducing any institutions of slavery that have continued, including the school-to-prison pipeline. Abolition is about acknowledging that safety doesn't come from over-militarization of police or locking up people in cages, but addressing the root of the causes of violence and harm, which police are," Garcia said.

SQE's demands can be found on the statewide organization's Instagram, @sqestatewide, or the CSUSM chapter's Instagram, @sqe.csusm.

**Petition:** continued from page 1

ed on that post on Oct. 10, writing in part, "Angie's decision to expose me with all of these baseless accusations are unacceptable. All of her accusations are not true. Half-truths are never the truth."

That user did not respond to The Cougar Chronicle's request for comment via an Instagram direct message, and The Cougar Chronicle has been unable to find any other contact information for the student so far.

The petition can be accessed at chng.it/THsqZWJj.

Change.org is a website where anyone can create a petition for free and anyone can sign a petition. It is unclear how many of the 13,000 signatures of the petition calling for the student's expulsion are individuals connected to the CSUSM community.

The Cougar Chronicle has requested an interview with Pham. Updates on this story will be posted to our website, csusmchronicle.com.



Latin@/x Center celebrates five year anniversary

By ANNELIESE ESPARZA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In its fifth year, the Latin@/x Center is continuing to offer students the events, resources and support that it always has - just virtually.

The Latin@/x Center's goal has been to provide Latin@/x students with a feeling of community and academic support ever since its opening on Sept. 17, 2015.

"Since its inception, our focus has been ensuring our students are able to ... one, have a sense of belonging, a sense of community on campus ... and two, that they are able to increase their academic confidence and motivation, and ultimately to have a sense of empowerment," said Dr. Renzo Lara, the Latin@/x Center Director.

Forty-seven percent of CSUSM undergraduates were Hispanic/Latino in fall 2019, according to the most recent data from The National Center for Education Statistics.

"While we focus on Latino/Latina/Latinx identity and development and leadership, we also are open to anybody, so anybody can come in our space ... it's an inclusive space," he said.

The Latin@/x Center is



Photo courtesy of the Latin@/x Center

While students are unable to visit the Latin@/x Center in person, the center does offer virtual events and drop-in hours.

operating remotely, offering drop-in hours on Microsoft Teams and holding virtual events.

"In this time of COVID, I think a lot of students are looking for a place where they can create a community and connect ... if people just want to come in, chat with other peers and express what they're going through with COVID or their classes, that's what we have the [Microsoft Teams] channel for, it's a place for people to connect and create community," said Lara.

The drop-in hours on Microsoft Teams are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m.

"The challenge has been now to really get the word out about in regards to our Microsoft Teams channels, that we have a community, that we have an online presence," said Lara.

Lara said the center cut back on the number of virtual events it is offering this semester.

For example, during Latinx Heritage Month, which is from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 every year, the center typically offers 10 to 12 programs. However, this year, there were seven events during Latinx Heritage Month.

Attendance at virtual

events has been lower than at the in-person events the center is accustomed to, Lara said.

"Students have classes back to back on Zoom, or they're on a screen, and it's a challenge for them to come in for an hour for a program," said Lara.

The Latin@/x Center also uploads recordings of events to their YouTube (the channel name is CSUSM Latinx Center) or to Microsoft Teams for students to watch on their own time.

"The other thing that we've been proactive about is really increasing our social media presence through our en-

agement," said Lara.

The center posts upcoming events, staff introductions and "Country of the Week" showcase videos on Instagram.

The center's increased social media presence appears to have paid off - its Instagram following grew by about 250 over the last few months.

Because it is operating virtually, the center is unable to provide the physical services that it normally does, such as testing supplies, printing and hygiene kits.

Students looking for study spaces or free printing are told about the USU computer lab while students struggling to fill basic needs are referred to the Cougar Care Network.

The Latin@/x Center's next virtual event, a celebration to close out Latinx Heritage Month, will take place on Oct. 15 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The event will have cultural performances, DJs playing Latin American music, games and giveaways.

To register for the event, click on the link in the bio of the Latin@/x Center's Instagram (@csusmlc).

To find the link to the Latin@/x Center's Teams channel, visit csusm.edu/latino-center/.

Tuition: continued from page 1

Mike Uhlenkamp, Senior Director of Public Affairs for the CSU Chancellor’s Office, said that tuition fees cover the cost of instruction which is still being delivered, although in a different modality than usual. Uhlenkamp said that the results would be catastrophic if they reduced tuition. “We would have to reduce programs, let go of employees and it would affect the instruction students get,” he said. Uhlenkamp said the Chancellor’s Office understands that students feel there should be a deduction, but that it costs more to deliver instruction virtually than in person. “For example, we have infrastructure costs to expand IT, we have to expand Wi-Fi, there’s professional development taking place on campuses, campuses are providing students with tens of

thousands of Wi-Fi hotspots, iPads, Chromebooks, you name it. There is a cost associated with them. The great majority of CSU students don’t pay tuition ... about 2/3 of CSU students don’t pay tuition,” he said. Cameron Sneed, a senior communication major, agrees with the students who signed the petition to lower tuition. “We’re not having the same form of face-to-face interaction with our professors, we’re not having any events, lunch, any kind of free meals or swag,” said Sneed. Sneed said that his learning experience has worsened with remote instruction. “I’m just trying to do the work, read the next chapter and be ahead rather than fall behind. Before COVID-19 I felt like balancing school and work was a lot easier because it was in person,” said Sneed. Margaret Chantung, Chief Communications Officer for CSUSM, said in an email that revenue from student

fees is funding resources that the university still offers and staff salaries. “Student Health and Counseling Services is offering virtual health and counseling appointments and certain physical health services, and the University Student Union has made available an in-person computer lab to ensure our students have access to technology. Providing these services during a pandemic requires CSUSM to implement various safety proto-

cols, including increased sanitization. These fees also support the faculty and staff who are working to provide our students with access to virtual programming and services,” wrote Chantung. CSUSM is facing a loss of approximately \$18 million due to state budget cuts, increased expenses and lost revenues, according to Chantung. Similarly, the CSU system has lost over \$300 million because of the pandemic,

Uhlenkamp said. The deficit is because of revenue loss and extra expenses. “In order for us to provide the best possible education, the revenue [from student fees] does need to exist to provide those services,” Uhlenkamp said. Regarding mandatory fees such as the Student Union fee, Uhlenkamp said, “In San Marcos it was 1982 that students agreed to pay a student fee to fund construction of facilities. It is like a mortgage. Just because we are not using that property does not mean the mortgage goes away.” In addition to revenue from students, CSUSM has also received funds from private donations and from the federal government via The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Chantung said that CSUSM has raised over \$160,000 in private donations, which it has used to support students via the Stu-

dent Relief Fund and Student Emergency Fund. CSUSM received \$15.9 million from the CARES Act, at least half of which must be allocated to assist students struggling financially. The remaining \$7.9 million has been used to support virtual learning. “We have used CARES Act funding to support the enhancement of faculty virtual teaching and to purchase laptops, webcams and Wi-Fi hotspots for students in need,” Chantung wrote. Uhlenkamp said that prior to the onset of the pandemic there had never been a better time to be a CSU student. “Graduation rates are at an all time high, enrollment is at an all time high, we are getting more funding from the state of California and we only increased tuition once in the last seven years,” said Uhlenkamp.



- Campus Notes -

One active coronavirus case at CSUSM

There is one active case of COVID-19 at CSUSM as of Oct. 14. There have been 24 cumulative cases over the course of the semester.

CSUSM may have more cases than they have reported, as the data does not include employees working remotely or those who live off campus and do not participate in any campus activities. Those individuals are not obligated to report a positive case.

CSUSM data can be found at csusm.edu/csusmasone/contact/report-case.html. The site is updated whenever there is a change in case numbers.

Enrollment remains steady

While some colleges are seeing a decline in their enrollment numbers, enrollment has remained steady at CSUSM.

CSUSM’s final stateside enrollment is 14,643 for the fall 2020 semester, a slight increase of 124 students as compared to fall 2019’s headcount of 14,519, said Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management Services Scott Hagg in an email to The Cougar Chronicle.

Athletes: continued from page 1

very unusual for student athletes but also very sad. “It is like a heartbreak because I like playing soccer and being around my teammates, being at school,” said Tyler Garrard, a senior criminal justice major on the men’s soccer team. Garrard said it is hard not spending time on campus meeting with his team and training for the season, especially during his senior season. Another concern student athletes have for the fall is that because of the online situation, they cannot meet with their new teammates in person and get to know them at the beginning of the school year like they usually do. “My main concern for the spring is that we won’t get to build a relationship with the new girls on the team like we usually do in the fall because we won’t be able to meet them or practice until the spring,” said Wood. Student athletes are doing their best to stay fit and are practicing on their own to keep in shape. “I practice outside on my own and try



Photo courtesy of CSUSM Athletics
Andrea Wood on the softball team said she is “trying to stay motivated” during the pause on in-person athletic activities.

to hit the gym,” said Garrard. Student athletes are doing their best to stay in shape, but it is hard not to be practicing with their teams. Wood also said she is “trying to stay motivated.” There is no decision regarding in-person athletic activities during the spring semester. Classes at CSUSM will be mainly virtual through the spring and the CCAA will meet later this

month to decide on the following season for athletes. The athletic department and student athletes are still adjusting this semester to the current situation and hope to resume play eventually. For the latest CCAA updates, visit goccaa.org/sports/2020/3/25/covid-19-resources.aspx.



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THE CHRONICLE ENTERTAINMENT RUNDOWN

By DAVID FAKETTY, ESABEL SADEK, KAT PARRA | STAFF WRITERS

Book: *Warcross*

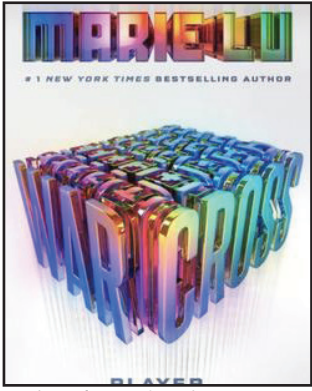


Photo from Wikipedia, property of Marie Lu

Marie Lu's *Warcross* explores the world of eSports.

While Marie Lu's *Warcross* might be considered a science fiction novel, her world-building is grounded in reality, especially when regarding eSports. In the future, the world has become obsessed with the video game *Warcross*. Similar to the real-life game *League of Legends*, *Warcross* gained immense popularity to where gamers could play the game professionally, build an organization, compete and get paid. While *Warcross* is an homage to current growth of eSports, the story itself is of a young adult who must hunt down a *Warcross* hacker and may need to traverse the darker sides of the internet to do so.

TV Show: *Away*



Photo from Wikipedia, property of Netflix

Space drama *Away* is now available to stream on Netflix.

Netflix released a new show that dives into the lives of an international crew from all around the world with one mission: to land on Mars. The show revolves around Emma Green (Hilary Swank). Emma and her crew members become closer to one another yet are confronted with numerous catastrophes while on their voyage. In addition, each astronaut is confronted with issues on Earth with their own families while on their journey. Get ready to not only watch a journey through space, but see how being away from Earth affects a person's life on Earth and in space.

Movie: *The Social Dilemma*



Photo from IMP Awards on Wikimedia Commons

The Social Dilemma calls attention to corruption in the technology industry.

Jeff Orlowski's *The Social Dilemma* is one of the first modern documentaries to explain exactly what is wrong with the digital age. The film criticizes how the age of information has become the age of misinformation. The world of technology and media has grown exponentially since the early 2000s, and the world is still trying to figure it out. The documentary reveals how the world of social networks operates behind the scenes, affects your mental health, uses manipulation for profit and knowingly adds addicting elements. The information in *The Social Dilemma* is essential to all social media users.

See page 7 for a full-length analysis article on *The Social Dilemma*.

Album: *Folklore*



Photo by Melodies1917 on Wikimedia Commons

Taylor Swift tries a new genre in her latest album *Folklore*.

Taylor Swift has made her mark on the music industry, writing in genres ranging from country to pop. Swift reminds listeners of her roots in music with the lyrical masterpiece *Folklore*. The album is filled with cinematic love songs, rebellious Americana imagery, honest confessions and teenage romantic regrets - all through the lens of Swift's vivid imagination. This album is reminiscent of her country music days, and mixes with a newer indie flavor. *Folklore* speaks volumes to her newer "coming-of-age" taste and goes to show how versatile Swift really is.



Photo by David Schwarzenberg on Wikimedia Commons
CSUSM offers clubs and events virtually to spark students' creativity.

CSUSM continues to offer creative outlets to students

By MARIA JUNGERS
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

Although the creative clubs offered at CSUSM aren't as tangible as they were pre-COVID, they now exist in the comfort of students' own homes.

2020 has definitely been a rollercoaster of a year, and the ways students express themselves has changed.

The creative clubs are here to breathe creative expression back into students' lives. Whether students are looking to brush up on writing skills with the Literature and Writing Club, satisfy their curiosity with CSUSM Staircase or are simply craving some inspiration through the Arts & Lectures series, they will have the opportunity to participate

in these creative outlets virtually.

The Literature and Writing Club offers meetings biweekly on Tuesdays from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. via Zoom.

Just recently, the Literature and Writing Club began offering helpful writing exercises and skills that can be transferred into classes or careers. Students are able to stay involved and exposed to the creative writing community by participating in this club.

CSUSM Staircase is another club that is offered virtually, specifically "for visual artists and the artistically curious," according to their Instagram bio.

A variety of workshops

Creative, continued on page 8

Enola Holmes provides a tale of adventure

REVIEW

By ANGELICA CERVANTES
STAFF WRITER

The film *Enola Holmes* is a tale of rebellion and adventure within the universe of Sherlock Holmes.

Enola, played by Millie Bobby Brown, is a young woman with a brilliant mind whose talent lies in the meaning of words and ciphers. She is caught amidst familial troubles, England's political reform and the challenges of transforming from girlhood to womanhood.

During this journey, she encounters her brothers Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes who both seem to have an opposite way of thinking.

Sherlock Holmes, played by Henry Cavill, has a soft spot for his younger sister Enola and tries his best to support her independence. Mycroft, played by Sam Claflin, has a formal outlook on life and wants to contain Enola's rebellious nature.

Both brothers make an astonishing presence in the film, but Enola takes the spotlight with her witty humor and charismatic energy.

A unique element about the film is that Enola's character breaks the fourth wall by speaking to the audience directly. This allows viewers to engage with her story and feel as if they are accompanying her in her journey.



Photo from Wikipedia, property of Netflix

Enola Holmes is now available to stream on Netflix.

Though *Enola Holmes* is a fun film for anyone to watch, it incorporates important messages about feminism and freedom of expression.

Since this story takes place in late 19th century England, women have very little political influence on the issues that affect them. This film provides a historically accurate portrait about the treatment of women and the workings of political officials.

Progressive characters like Eudoria Holmes (Enola's mother) and a young lord she meets, Tewkesbury, aid Enola in her complex and spon-

taneous journey.

A very important piece of history implemented in this film is the women's suffrage movement. This movement's purpose was to change the laws on who could and could not vote. Women wanted their voices to be heard, and in the film, Enola helped make this change happen.

While Enola encounters many challenges throughout the film, she is able to tackle each problem by helping herself, her friends and her family. Enola Holmes includes important themes about politics, family and love that can resonate with

any person.

This coming-of-age story smoothly brings enjoyment and societal issues into a mix so that the message can be well understood by the general audience. Viewers will love Millie Bobby Brown's performance as she characterizes the young and independent Enola Holmes.

This film will leave its audience inspired to embark on their own journey of growth and to be more aware of the beauty and dangers of the world.



Arts & Lectures hosts dancer and creator who brings intersectional identity to life

By JAELYN DECENA
A&E Editor

The Arts & Lectures series hosted an event with dancer, director and choreographer Raja Feather Kelly titled “Honest Reactions to Imaginary Situations” on Oct. 1. Kelly uses creative expression to explore concepts such as gender, racism and LGBTQ+ identity. Through dance performances and various projects, Kelly breaks the boundaries that American society holds upon its people. Kelly is the artistic director of the New York Brooklyn Theatre and creates show-stopping performances that challenges America’s norm.

One of Kelly’s most notable performances is titled *UGLY (Black Queer Zoo)*. This project gained much publicity, as it was covered in the New York Times, The New Yorker and The Dance Enthusiast. The project focuses on exploring Kelly’s intersectional identity as a black gay man. One of the most powerful moments of the performance is towards the end with Kelly’s words, “I am an Ugly man. No, I am not an artist like those who created Beyoncé; nor am I one of your New York chosen ones / darlings / flavor of the week ectoplasms. I am a



Screenshot by Anneliese Esparza
CSUSM Arts & Lectures hosted an event featuring dancer, director and choreographer Raja Feather Kelly on Oct. 1.

queer of substance, of color and depth, thoughts and expression - and I might even be said to possess magick. I am Ugly, understand, simply because you refuse to see me....” These words hold a heavy truth that our obsession with labeling people confines individuals and creates room for prejudice and stereotyping. Kelly emphasizes the importance of self-expression and encourages the audience to rethink their assumptions about others. *UGLY* calls for its audience to embrace one another with love, rather than placing judgment upon

each other based on one’s own expectations. One of Kelly’s most recent projects includes The Feath3r Theory. The Feath3r Theory is a company that combines dance, theater and media while bringing attention to concepts of LGBTQ rights, systemic racism and intersectional identity. The Feath3r Theory focuses on challenging “its audience (and its creators) to collectively interrogate - and celebrate - its shared relationship to human empathy and personal ethics as expressed in (and distorted by) popular media.” Through the combi-

nation of theater, dance, and media, The Feath3r Theory creates a safe space for self-expression. The next Arts & Lectures event will be “Disinformation and Democracy: Social Media and Elections Around the Globe” with panelists Anthony Nadler, Jonathan Corpus Ong and Kimber M. Quinney. For more information and updates about the Arts & Lectures series, follow them on Instagram @csusm_artsandlectures or check out their website at csusm.edu/al/index.html.

The Cougar Corner

Poems of Myth and Memory
By Jules Appleton
Bodies of the Wood
Bodies of the wood
Collide
Have you ever seen a more beautiful sight?
Olympus hasn’t
They become olive trees
Their limbs bear fruit
Just as the oracle said

Cave Walls
Our feet shined on the cave walls
Before the facade began to fall
And you could not believe
That life was incomplete
Because you saw our feet
Reflected on the cave walls

Sailors and Shanties
Between here and there is a sea
Filled with sailors and shanties
For mermaids, the sailors sing
Mermaids repeat these harmonies
And the sailors remain an eternity

Writer Bio: Jules Appleton is a senior at CSUSM majoring in literature and writing studies. Poetry is her favorite medium to write in because it conveys powerful emotions and ideas in so few words. She has previously been featured in Palomar College’s literary magazine, Bravura.

Are you a creative writer, visual artist or photographer? Show off your work on The Cougar Corner!
Message us at cougarchron.arts@gmail.com with your name, a short bio and either a short piece of writing or a photo of your work.

CHABSS Voices “Get Out the Vote” winners



Illustration by Alexia Lamparelli, a visual & performing arts major with an emphasis in arts & technology.
CHABSS Staff Pick

CHABSS Voices is a monthly creative contest hosted by the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences during the 2020-21 academic year. CHABSS faculty, CHABSS majors or minors and students enrolled in at least one CHABSS-focused course are eligible. Each monthly contest will have a new theme. October’s theme is “Life in a Pandemic” and the deadline for submissions is Oct. 26 by 5 p.m. For more details, visit csusm.edu/chabss/chabss_voices/chabss_voices_creative_works_monthly_contest.html.

November 3rd

There is only one you and only one me
And we seem to be met with great responsibility.
To participate and to take a stand
To use our privilege as the free and the brave of this land.

To cast one vote may seem a small feat
A shout in the void, futile, obsolete.
But the second-hand creeps on, heedless on its way
Each tick instrumental in the thousands a day.
Lone snowflakes still fall in the midst of a blizzard
And what of a symphony if each note wasn’t heard?

See our country was not built on just one I or me
“We the people” would fall if it weren’t for the “we”.
“Justice for all” is not implicit, it’s learned
By “deriving just powers from the consent of the governed”.

So by mail or early or waiting in line
For our children and theirs, and those before our time.
For people taking to the streets, for the ones who *can’t breathe*
For those who fight for a status they may never achieve.
For your town or city, country or planet
For the people in places who will never see a ballot.

We may not agree on policies or debates
But our choice
our voice
That is what we owe to these United States.

CHABSS Dean’s Pick

By Anonymous

Local community supports small gym

By MARIA JUNGERS
Assistant Opinion Editor

Since the beginning of this year, COVID-19 has affected many small and large businesses. Many people automatically assume restaurants are the only ones that are widely affected.

However, gyms have also been negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Larger fitness corporations like 24 Hour Fitness, LA Fitness and EōS Fitness have suffered huge losses because of the months-long shutdown due to coronavirus.

Even now with a soft opening for some of these bigger gyms, they are facing a decrease in traffic and sales.

To all of the fitness gurus who were devastated to find out their gyms were closing down amidst a pandemic and are eager to focus on their health again, there is still hope.

Functional 45 Fitness La Costa, or F45 La Costa, is a small, intimate fitness community in Carlsbad that is growing in popularity. F45 La Costa is focused primarily on outdoor fitness classes in a smaller group setting, so it takes away the overcrowded gym feeling and makes it possible to implement social distancing.

The small, intimate classes offer a variety of workouts including high intensity interval training (HIIT),



Photo courtesy of Cedrick Martinez

F45 fitness instructor Cedrick Martinez said the gym has struggled during these difficult times, but that they are managing to regain business through careful cleaning and community support.

strength training with weights and circuit training. Their goal is to get their clients to burn 750 calories with a 45 minute workout - hence the name F45.

Members must get their temperature checked and wear a mask upon entering, and equipment is sanitized immediately after it is touched. Having to follow this checklist doesn't rob the upbeat, inviting energy people have been experiencing at this gym.

"People come from around the city to this specific loca-

tion," said Cedrick Martinez, a proud fitness coach and instructor who currently works at F45 La Costa. "The members love the training, but love the community more than anything else. It just has an overall positive vibe and you get a sense of connectedness, something that everyone needs now more than ever."

Although this location opened in February of this year, right before most businesses closed, they have still seen consistency and dedication, averaging two

new members a week. This signifies that even during a pandemic, a strong community will support a small and growing business if they believe in it.

"Investing in people is important, and all you need is a really good team to surround yourself with," said Martinez.

F45 La Costa's address is 3247 Camino De Los Coches, Carlsbad, CA 92009. You can visit their website at f45training.com/lacosta/home.



Get ready for autumn with this festive craft

By SASHA ANAND
Features Editor

The fall season has arrived and even though the weather has not cooled down yet, you may want to get into the autumn spirit to boost your mood during these uncertain times or just to take a break from studying.

Here's a simple craft that can get you ready for the new season, even if you're not ready to start decorating for Halloween just yet.

This autumn wreath is something you can put on display on your door or in your home to get you into the fall mood.

For this craft you will need: one 12-inch foam wreath (you can find this online), about seven to eight cups of dried putka pods, a hot glue gun, glue sticks, scissors and a piece of ribbon.

Putka pods are fruit that grow on a specific type of tree in Australia. They look like miniature pumpkins, which make them perfect for this project.

First, you will need to pre-heat the hot glue gun. Once it's ready, apply a small dab of hot glue to the foam wreath. Immediately press a dried putka pod into hot glue



Photo by Izabella Bedo on Pexels

Decorate your home with this festive wreath. Not only is it pretty to look at, but making it also provides a nice distraction from schoolwork.

and hold into place until glue cools. Keep placing them around the front and sides of the foam wreath until they are both covered.

Try to arrange pods as close together as possible so that the wreath has a more full look.

Since the wreath will most likely be hung either on a wall or on a door, the back side of the wreath can remain uncovered. However, if the wreath is going to be hung in front of a mirror, you want to cover the back with the putka pods as well. At this point, you may still be able to see some of the foam wreath in between the

Pods. This is okay, it will be fixed later on.

Next, you want to fill in all the gaps that you missed the first time. Place a small drop of hot glue on the underside of a pod and press it into a place on the wreath where foam is showing through. Continue to apply pods to fill gaps until the green of the foam wreath is no longer visible.

Step back from the wreath and look at it from a distance a few times during this step to make sure the second layer of pods is evenly applied.

Once all pods are glued in place, use your fingers to gently remove any strings

left by the hot glue to make it look neater. Lastly, loop a wide ribbon around the completed wreath to hang indoors or outside. Let it dry for about an hour before you hang it though.

This simple, fall wreath can also be used as a candle ring for a centerpiece or you could make miniature wreaths to hold small tea lights.

Decorating for autumn may make you feel happier and more optimistic about the future and the months to come, even amidst the current world situation.



Photo by Valeriia Miller on Pexels

Pumpkin spice lattes are a staple fall beverage, but you can save money by making them at home.

Quick and easy recipes for a sweet treat

RECIPE

By SASHA ANAND
Features Editor

With the leaves and the pumpkins come the seasonal drinks. The pumpkin spice latte is probably the most popular of these beverages. However, going to Starbucks to get one regularly can be pricey.

If you are looking for a cheaper alternative you can make at home, here is a recipe.

For this recipe, you will need: two cups of milk, either whole, two percent or skim, three tablespoons of pumpkin puree (or to taste), one tablespoon of light brown sugar, packed, two teaspoons of pure vanilla extract, one half teaspoon of pumpkin-pie spice and half a cup of hot brewed strong coffee.

If you want you can add sugar to taste, whipped cream and either nutmeg, pumpkin pie spice or cinnamon.

You can make this either on the stove or in the microwave. If you are doing this on the stove, whisk the milk, pumpkin puree and brown sugar together in a saucepan. Then, cook it on a medium heat. Stir it frequently until it becomes steamy and hot. Do not allow it to come to a boil.

Then, take it off the heat and whisk in the pumpkin

pie spice and the vanilla extract. Next, whisk in the coffee until it becomes frothy. Split the drink between two mugs. Taste it and adjust the level of sweetness to your liking. Lastly, add the whipped cream and nutmeg or cinnamon on top if you want.

If you are using the microwave to make this, pour the milk, brown sugar, pumpkin puree, pumpkin pie spice and vanilla extract into a microwave safe bowl. Put it in the microwave for about one minute to a minute and a half (or until the milk rises and becomes frothy.)

Microwave times may vary depending on your microwave's wattage. Pour it into a mug, add the coffee, garnish with whipped cream and sprinkle on nutmeg, pumpkin pie spice or cinnamon if you'd like.

Add sugar to taste. If you like a sweeter coffee, you can stir in more sugar after you've heated the milk mixture. If you want a stronger pumpkin flavor, you can add more pumpkin puree.

This recipe is a cheaper alternative to the Starbucks version, and with a bit of practice and perfecting, it may taste similar if not better. Either way, it is bound to get you in the fall spirit.



Jokes to brighten your day

By SASHA ANAND
Features Editor

A slice of apple pie is \$2.50 in Jamaica and \$3.00 in the Bahamas. These are the pie rates of the Caribbean.

When a dad drives past a graveyard: Did you know that's a popular cemetery? Yep, people are just dying to get in there!

MOM: "How do I look?"
DAD: "With your eyes."

What does a zombie vegetarian eat? "GRR-RAAAAAIIIIINNNNS!"

Source: https://www.boredpanda.com/funny-dad-jokes-puns/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic

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Death of Justice Ginsburg leaves an impact and creates discussion on the future of the Supreme Court

By TANIA ORTIZ
OPINION EDITOR

The world lost a true icon a few weeks ago when the Supreme Court announced Ruth Bader Ginsburg died due to complications from metastatic cancer of the pancreas.

Ginsburg pushed to serve on the Supreme Court as long as she could and became an icon while doing so.

Ginsburg had always been a champion for gender equality since the beginning of her journey in law. One of nine women in her Harvard Law class, Ginsburg worked hard to be respected and treated equally among her male peers.

In the 70s, she litigated sex discrimination cases for the ACLU and became instrumental in launching its Women's Rights Project in 1973. A year later she served as the general counsel of the ACLU until 1980.

Ginsburg then began her career as a judge when she was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in 1980 by President Carter. Thirteen years later, she accepted the nomination for the Supreme Court by President Clinton and took her place on the bench as the second woman ever to serve as a justice of the Supreme Court.

But her impact as a feminist icon does not stop there.

Further into her tenure as justice of the Supreme Court, Ginsburg became a political and pop culture icon, from being the focus of sketches on *Saturday Night Live* to being dubbed as the Notorious RBG - a spin on the rapper



Photo courtesy of Wake Forest University School of Law on Flickr

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg rose to rock-star influence in the latter portion of her career.

Notorious BIG's name.

Her rock-star influence can be attributed to her strength and being a pioneer for women's rights. Inspiring women - young and old - Ginsburg strove towards promoting equality, supporting programs like DACA and being a part of the landmark decision for marriage equality.

Ginsburg was dedicated to her job as justice of the Supreme Court, never wanting to miss a day of hearings. Even when she was fighting for her own life, she was always present to deliver her opinions.

The announcement of Ginsburg's death impacted thousands of people and sparked immediate discussion on who will replace her spot in the highest court of the country.

As the most critical presidential election is quickly approaching, the GOP is wanting to fill the hole in the Supreme Court as soon as possible.

Considering that the Republicans have the majority in the Senate makes Ginsburg's death an easy opportunity to hold hearings and successfully confirm President Trump's choice, Amy Coney Barrett.

The GOP's push for filling the Supreme Court gives us no time to properly mourn the loss of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Additionally, the party is contradicting their own words from 2016, when they denied Obama's nomination to replace late Justice Scalia because they wanted the people to have a say in the next Supreme Court justice.

If Amy Coney Barrett is confirmed to the Supreme Court, the doors Ruth Bader Ginsburg worked so hard to open and the strides she made for human rights might be slammed shut.

The possibility of Coney Barrett being confirmed will also make the Supreme Court unbalanced, creating

a 6-3 conservative majority. This will allow the power to lean heavily toward the conservative viewpoint.

This may lead to the re-evaluation of DACA, which was recently protected by the Supreme Court from being ended by the current administration. A heavily conservative court also may influence decisions related to healthcare - and more importantly, reproductive rights - both of which Ginsburg supported.

There is a lot to think about following the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. So much is at stake during this critical period of our nation.

We must remember the life she lived and how she became a part of history fighting for equal rights. Ginsburg was a pioneer and a feminist icon who inspired many generations of women to advocate and stand up for equality. She will forever be the Notorious RBG.



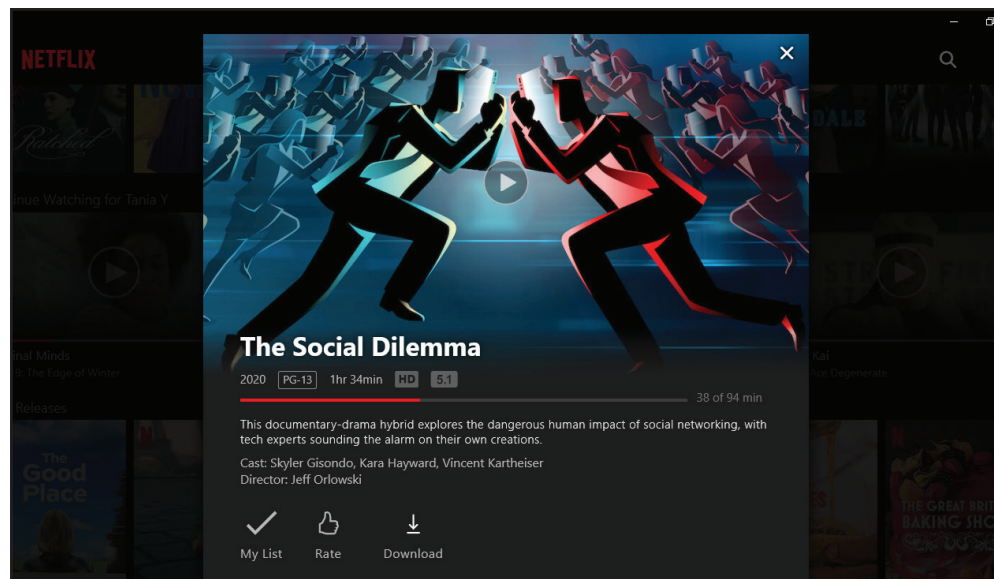
Netflix documentary provokes viewers to reevaluate their use of technology

By TANIA ORTIZ
OPINION EDITOR

The Netflix documentary *The Social Dilemma* has provoked millions of viewers to rethink how much time they spend on social media and become more conscientious of tech companies' real purpose in society.

The Social Dilemma introduces the conversation in a way that makes you rethink about how we function as a society as a whole. The documentary opens up about how the tech industry is dealing with this problem that does not have a name.

After viewing the documentary for the first time, my mind was boggled. I am aware of the effect technology has on our society, but what stunned me the most was how the algorithms were becoming more accurate at



Screenshot by Tania Ortiz

The Social Dilemma provides insight on the inner workings of tech companies.

predicting what we liked and knowing us maybe even more than we know ourselves.

The main commentator in *The Social Dilemma*, Tristan Harris - who worked at

Google as a design ethicist and currently serves as the president for the Center for Humane Technology - introduced the idea of ethical technology when he was still working at Google. The

Google Slide presentation went viral at the tech conglomerate and quickly became old news.

Documentary, continued on page 8

Whistleblower reveals complaints of unconsented surgeries

By DESTINEE TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

A whistleblower came forward with claims of hysterectomies performed on female detainees without their consent at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Irwin County Detention Center (ICDC) in Ocilla, Georgia, according to reporting by media outlets such as NPR and the New York Times.

Five gynecologists reviewed the medical cases of at least 16 women who were treated by Dr. Mahendra Amin. The physicians determined that Dr. Amin almost always recommended surgery for these women, even if it was not necessary.

For some women, Dr. Amin allegedly documented symptoms that they never reported experiencing.

Complaints from different women allege the same issue of procedures being performed on them without their knowledge, consult or consent, including vaginal exams, hysterectomies and endocervical curettage, the



Photo courtesy of Peg Hunter on Flickr

The United States has a deplorable history of imposing eugenics and forced sterilization practices on women of color.

removal of cervical tissue.

Official representatives of ICE have emphatically denied these claims of illegal medical practice, pointing out that medical records contradict the whistleblower complaint and report only two hysterectomy referrals for detained women since 2018.

However, if women were being lied to and denied their right to informed consent

for medical procedures performed on their bodies, then records very well might not indicate referrals for hysterectomies. In theory, they could just document false information.

This indicates that rather than this possibly being a case of a single doctor allegedly abusing his power, there may be a systemic practice of corruption and abuse within ICE facilities.

If the allegations are true, Dr. Amin was allowed to commit malpractice without sanction from a negligent federal department. But even this is unacceptable.

Immigrant women of color are among the most vulnerable of any given population. When ICE forcibly incarcerates immigrant women in temporary detention centers, they assume responsibility over those women's health

and well-being.

When ICE allows women to continuously be mistreated and harmed, they are complicit in the torture and traumatization of unprotected immigrants.

Dr. Amin was investigated for medical malpractice and misconduct before, yet the ICDC still allowed him regular access to a number of women who sought help within their building.

Calls to abolish ICE have gone ignored by Congress and the White House and the Irwin County Detention Center, owned by a private prison company, has ignored several complaints lodged against Dr. Amin over the past years.

But these reports of ICE endangering women's safety must be addressed. Congressional legislators have called on the Department of Homeland Security to conduct an investigation of these allegations against the ICE detention center.

Abolitionists will be waiting to see if the Capitol will take measures to address the allegations of human rights violations committed by ICE.

Immigrants are forcibly imprisoned by ICE, and are not even allowed to receive phone calls in the Irwin County Detention Center.

We must listen now to those who have come forward with the truth about their horrible experiences and the injustices done by our federal immigration agency.

◆

Documentary: continued from page 7

Harris and other commentators introduce the idea of the psychology of persuasion and its technology application. Essentially, technology software is intentionally designed to modify our behavior, which in this case is to continue scrolling through social media until it becomes an unconscious habit.

When it comes to our unconscious habits, think about when you wake up in the

morning. What is the first thing you do? Scroll through social media? Or do you immediately get up from your bed and get ready for the day?

If your answer is scrolling through social media before doing anything else, then the tech companies have completed their job.

Harris explains it best; it's like if you were in Vegas playing the slot machine and anticipating what you are going to get. That is what you feel like when you turn your

phone over checking for notifications or opening a social media app. We are baited to continuously scroll through social media for hours without realizing it.

This can also be accredited to the rise of surveillance capitalism, the economic system centered around the commodification of personal data with the sole purpose of making profit. If you aren't the one paying for the product, then you are the product.

In essence, our data being collected by these tech com-

panies is the product being sold.

The tech companies are competing against each other to gain your attention, wanting to keep you engaged in the app. They learn how we feel and make predictions about how we are going to feel in the future. This scares me because social media feeds are becoming too personalized. Plus, there is no actual human who is monitoring the data being collected, kind of making it feel like an episode of *Black Mirror*.

We are like lab rats, who are conditioned to look at more advertisements so that companies can make more money. This encourages an addiction-based technology environment, as we become more reliant on online interactions more than face-to-face interactions.

If you have not viewed *The Social Dilemma*, please do. The documentary will make you reevaluate the way you navigate through social media and how much time you spend glued to your screens.

Creative: continued from page 4

offered by CSUSM Staircase will be on Zoom every Thursday from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and will allow students to create something of their own.

CSUSM Staircase focuses on a broad spectrum of disciplines, including photography, art therapy, illustrations, political science and more.

Another highlight in the arts department is the Arts & Lectures series.

This semester, they are offering a series of six talented performers and guest speakers free for students at CSUSM and donation-based for the community.

Stay tuned for their next Zoom webinar "Letters from our Elders," a documentary film screening focusing on immigration on Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.

This film reveals the raw stories and experiences of immigrants coming to the United States. Students can learn, take action and expand their knowledge on current social issues through a unique lens focused around art in our community.

For further information, check out these creative outlets on Instagram: @ltwclub, @csusmstaircase and @csusm_artsandlectures.

◆

Latinx, Hispanic or Latino/a? The debate that has confused a community

By TANIA ORTIZ
OPINION EDITOR

In our current society, we have adapted to using gender-neutral and non-discriminatory identifiers. Using these terms gives those who are non-binary a way to identify themselves properly.

More recently, the use of the term Latinx has become a subject for debate within the community and in the media. And, as we are approaching the end of Latino/a Heritage Month, we have to ask a question that may not have a singular answer.

Latino/a, Hispanic or Latinx?

Latino/a is the term traditionally used by individuals from Latin American countries and their descendants.

While the term Latinx implies the same identity, it is

preferred by individuals who do not want to imply a gender binary.

Lastly there is Hispanic, which refers to individuals who are from Spanish speaking countries or who are of Spanish descent.

The terms are interchangeable and practically carry the same meaning. But, as society changes, there is a need to have identifiers for those who do not necessarily fit within a binary.

The usage of the term Latinx is not common in the community. But, when we do hear or see it in use, it's mainly through media outlets or through academic institutions, who are trying to be inclusive. The younger generation tends to use the term more than the older generation, as they become more informed on inclusivity.

Recently, Pew Research Center revealed that only 23 percent of adults who self-identify as Hispanic or Latino/a have heard the term Latinx. Additionally, only a mere 3 percent use the term.

The national survey done by The Pew Research Center surveyed more than 3,000 respondents, which considering the United States Latino/a population is 60.6 million as of 2019 may not necessarily give an accurate representation of the entire demographic. But, the data gives us an idea of how the term is viewed.

On the other hand, many people within the community argue about the origin of the term Latinx, claiming that it was created by non-Hispanic white academics gentrifying the culture and the terms to seem more "white." The

term Latinx was coined in the late 90s as a way to be inclusive, but only recently started to gain traction a couple of years ago.

Another argument that is constantly brought up surrounding the use of the term is that there is no such thing as the word Latinx in the Spanish language.

I can't tell you how many Twitter threads or Instagram comments I have seen that go on about this argument. It's true that in the Spanish language there is no such thing as Latinx and the letter x is seldomly used in the language. But also remember, Spanish is a gendered language.

I accredit this to the instilled patriarchy in the Latinx culture and the construct of gender, in general - the need to be one thing or the

other and if you identify otherwise, something isn't right with you. Even though we are becoming more inclusive of non-binary folks, there are always going to be individuals who stick to tradition.

The way I see it, we should be able to use any term that we feel we identify ourselves with. There shouldn't be a debate about it - even though there is. As a Latinx individual, I use Latina and Latinx interchangeably. Sometimes I don't even use either and just say I'm Mexican.

It is whatever you want it to be. Latinx, Latino/a or Hispanic, you choose what you want to identify yourself as and it shouldn't matter what people have to say about it.

◆