

# The Point

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## Loma 5k LGBTQ Team / PLNU Queer Alumni Demand Visibility

BY SARAH GLEASON AND TESSA BALC  
STAFF WRITERS



LGBTQ+ ALUMNI TEAM RUNNING THROUGH THE FINISH LINE. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARAH GLEASON.



LGBTQ+ ALUMNI TEAM GROUP PHOTO.

This past Saturday students and alumni came together to run the third annual We Are Loma 5k at Point Loma Nazarene University’s annual Homecoming. As the brisk air brought people out in sweatshirts, one team was donning gear that could be spotted from a mile away. Decked out in Pride gear and shirts spray painted with the words “PLNU Alum & Allies for Equality,” the LGBTQ and Allies team is the first of its kind.

Over 50 alumni, students and staff signed up for the 5K as part of the LGBTQ team out of the over 190 total donors. Donations support The Loma Fund which contributes to student

scholarships.

The team was assembled as a space for queer alumni and students, including allies, but also as a means to look toward the bigger picture. The team announced its goals in a press release:

“The goals of the team are simple: Be Visible, Be Heard, Be Understood and urge PLNU to adopt policies that are more inclusive and welcoming to members of the LGBTQIA+ community.”

Many PLNU queer alumni hid their identity as students out of fear, according to several 5k attendees. One of these alumni was Jen Lebron, class of 2008.

For Lebron, the 5K event was the first PLNU event she felt safe attending.

“This is actually the first alumni event that I’ve ever been a part of because knowing my identity and being proud of it, I didn’t think I was necessarily always welcome back at Point Loma Naz,” said Lebron.

Lebron said that she felt hiding her queer identity kept her safe from judgment and being kicked out of the university.

The 2022-2023 Personal Conduct document does not permit sex in the LGBTQ context.

“Students are expected to abstain from sexual intimacy outside of heterosexual marriage.”

When speaking directly on LGBTQ+

students the handbooks says, “PLNU seeks to be a community where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are treated with dignity, grace, and holy love in the Spirit of Christ. We recognize the complexity of current issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity. The university desires to faithfully care for all students while engaging these conversations with respect, care, humility, courage, and discernment.”

Many of the LGBTQ members said they joined the team out of love for the school and a desire for it to be a space for all.

“I really love this school so much and I had a lot of friends that came out right after graduating and that’s when it really hit me that they didn’t feel safe to be their true authentic selves here and that really breaks my heart,” said 2018 alum Courtney Pittam.

Organizer of the event and 2019 alum, Lauren Cazares, hopes that this team sends a message to those currently experiencing life at Loma.

“I hope current LGBTQ students at PLNU, out or not, see that alumni care about them,” said Cazares. “We haven’t forgotten the pain. We haven’t forgotten

about the beauty. We see you. We are so proud of you. We will continue to fight for you.”

Cazares said that one reason for creating the team was because her request for an official LGBTQ alumni network was denied.

Executive director of alumni relations and annual giving, Kendall Lucas, responded to The Point’s request for an interview via email; however, she did not mention the LGBTQ team’s presence at the race.

Cazares said the team’s fight for visibility and acceptance does not end with the race.

“I’m aware that there are trust-ee-level conversations happening at PLNU regarding reevaluation of the university’s stance on LGBTQ students, staff and other related policies such as the community life agreement,” said Cazares. “I am growing increasingly concerned that PLNU is going to tighten and double-down on these harmful policies, especially in regards to transgender students. I will not stand by and allow my alma mater to unjustly discriminate against students, staff, faculty or future students.”

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## Progress of the Community Action Plan on Homelessness in San Diego

BY BECKY ROOKARD  
STAFF WRITER

Homelessness is a growing issue in the city of San Diego as the number of unsheltered persons on Jan. 31 was found to be 1,939 in a monthly count conducted by the Downtown San Diego Partnership.

“Since March of 2022, we have not had a month where more people exited homelessness than people entered it,” said Jordan Beane, director of policy and communications at the Regional Task Force on Homelessness. “Every day someone’s homelessness ends, but we simply cannot keep up with the number of people who are falling into homelessness and experiencing it for the first time.”

The Community Action Plan on Homelessness for the City of San Diego is “a comprehensive, 10-year plan that builds on recent progress, lays out short-term achievable goals, and will serve as a guide for long-term success in addressing homelessness,” according to the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) website.

This plan was unanimously accepted in October 2019. The three main goals set in the plan are to decrease unsheltered homelessness by 50%, finish

the job of ending veteran homelessness and prevent and end youth homelessness.

“I have seen fewer veterans,” said Denise Knox, executive director of the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association. “As far as the other ones I feel like the whole plan is catered to being homeless.”

Three teams are working on the Community Action Plan on Homelessness in San Diego, the leadership council, implementation team and policy liaisons.

“When the leadership council meets, the implementation provides updates and recommendations for new actions to receive feedback from the leadership council for what to do next,” said Nancy Sa, project manager for the Community Action Plan.

The leadership council is primarily made up of policymakers and community leaders, including the mayor of San Diego. The implementation team is composed of the senior staff of the three main agencies that created the plan, the mayor’s office, SDHC and the Regional Task Force on Homelessness. Policy Liaisons are representatives of key members of the leadership council to maintain constant communication between the implementation team and the leadership

council.

Progress of the goals, strategies and housing goals can be found on the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) website; however, the data has not been updated on this website since Apr. 2022.

“We usually try to update, but you know last year we had some bandwidth and capacity challenges and so we’re actually working on updating everything right now,” said Sa.

These monthly progress reports are compiled by the Downtown San Diego Partnership and conducted with the system created by the Regional Task Force on Homelessness. Previous data shows the lowest monthly unsheltered count was 529 in Downtown San Diego in Mar. 2020; this was less than six months after the creation of the Community Action Plan on Homelessness in San Diego. The SDHC implemented Shelter-to-Home during this time to shelter larger groups of homeless in the San Diego Convention Center.

“Shelter-to-Home ended up being a huge success because we had the action plan in place and it allowed us to make better, more informed, and aligned decisions,” said Sa. “The response to COVID-19, along with the ongoing

homelessness crisis tested and demonstrated the validity and the value of the action plan.”

Now, unsheltered homeless numbers are at a high of 1,939, found by the Downtown San Diego Partnership. Several factors might have contributed to this increase.

“Factors include the higher cost of living that has happened in the past few years and there is a low vacancy rate in San Diego. We have also seen a rise in substance abuse challenges, all of which contribute to that number,” said Sa. Need a transition sentence between these two quotes

“The implementation team is always looking at multiple ways to address this increasing number of people experiencing homelessness. This can be from increasing the number of shelter options all the way to the other spectrum of addressing workforce challenges for frontline staff,” said Sa.

Over the past two years, Mayor Gloria has expanded shelter capacity by more than 60%, making 700 additional beds available, said David Rowland, deputy director of communications at the Mayor’s Office. Gloria expanded the Safe Parking Program by making one of the lots accessible 24 hours a day and will soon add a fourth site to the program.

“It is important to note that shelters

and Safe Parking lots are not just ways to get off the street. They are proven pathways to housing,” said Rolland.

Considerable progress has been made to end veteran homelessness. According to the SDHC website, “SDHC partners with the VA San Diego Healthcare System to administer VASH vouchers paired with ongoing supportive services to San Diego’s most vulnerable Veterans experiencing homelessness.”

These vouchers help veterans pay rent and provide services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In 2021, 1,235 vouchers were administered and in 2020 veteran homelessness reached an all-time low of 190, based on the SDHC website.

The point-in-time count of unsheltered youth homelessness decreased from 353 in 2019 to 174 in 2022. “The Family Unification Program (FUP) federal rental housing vouchers help reunite children with their families and assist youth exiting foster care who experience homelessness or are at risk of homelessness,” according to the SDHC.

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# features

## The Poetry of Wrestlemania

BY AMBER ROBINSON  
STAFF WRITER

If you assume that Point Loma Nazarene University Professor of writing Katie Manning learned to love Wrestlemania from a male family member, you’d be sorely mistaken. Manning learned to love Hulk Hogan, Andre the Giant and Jake the Snake from a matriarchal source, her great-aunt.

“I find it funny, because wrestling is kind of this hyper-masculine drama, but my love of wrestling came to me matrilineally,” Manning said.

Manning says her devotion to Wrestlemania was mostly pre-memory, around the age of three or four. She recalls sitting with her great-aunt, a snowbird, when she’d visit from rural Missouri for the winter and falling in love with what she calls “all the blustering” of Wrestlemania.

“It was fascinating and so action-packed,” Manning said. Some of what Manning found fascinating were the wrestler’s “colorful underwear,” the props, the drama and their heroic size.

“All these big guys would come out and I was like, ‘how are your bodies like this?’” said Manning. “Andre the Giant would come out and I was like, ‘how are you even possible?’”

Manning says she was also amazed at how The Hulk or Andre the Giant could fight in all these crazy ways and never get hurt.

“It was very much like watching a cartoon, but they were real people,” Manning said.

Manning says her favorite wrestler during that formative time was Hulk Hogan. Although she can’t really pin-

point why, she definitely remembers that she had an affinity for the still world-famous Hogan.

Manning also admits to owning several World Wrestling Federation action figures and their fighting ring. She says she has memories of posing them more than fighting them.

“I do remember I would make them talk to each other more than I would really make them fight,” said Manning. “Because what I loved most was, like I said, the blustering, the smack-talk.”

Wrestlemania was a definitive part of her formative years, much like normal children’s shows, like Sesame Street.

“It was like, you know, Grover, Elmo and Hulk Hogan,” Manning said.

Manning says she will always appreciate the nostalgia of Wrestlemania.

“There is some part of me that still loves it, the part of me that is still a child,” Manning said.

Now, Manning loves having wrestling in her background because of the interesting ways she can connect with other people over it.

“I have had some thoroughly weird conversations about wrestling with some very random people, but they were all delightful!” Manning said.

While she enjoyed the entertainment of wrestling, her love for the sport actually began with connecting with her great-aunt and her cousin Michael, who also loved WWF.

“Wrestling seems to be about fighting and discord, but for me it has always been about family and connection,” said Manning.

Despite Manning’s claim that her

love of WWF wrestling was mostly pre-memory, enough lucid details about Wrestlemania remain for her to include in her poetry. In April she will have a wrestling-inspired poem published this Spring in Minyan Magazine, titled, “Wrestling with God,” inspired by the Bible passage Genesis 32:22-32 and her favorite WWF Superstars, circa 1991; an excerpt is included below.

### *Wrestling with God*

Is it the oil under bright lights, or does this man glow as he steps into the ring? I slip through the ropes, but my body feels as stiff as my lost Hulk Hogan action figure. The shining man has reached Andre-the-Giant proportions.

You can learn more about Minyan Magazine and check out the rest of “Wrestling with God” in the April issue of Minyan Magazine (minyanmag.com).



**HULK HOGAN STANDING IN FRONT OF A PHOTO OF HIS FORMER RIVAL IN THE RING, ANDRE THE GIANT, AT AN HBO PREMIERE. BOTH MEN WERE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION ICONS IN THE 80S AND EARLY 90S. PHOTO CREDIT TO DREAMSTIME.**



**A VIDEO CASSETTE OF WRESTLEMANIA CIRCA 1991 WHICH IS PART OF THE TITLE FOR THE WRESTLING POEM KATIE WROTE, THAT I INCLUDE. PHOTO CREDIT TO ADOBE STOCK PHOTOS.**

## How Time-Out Speakers Prepare to Share Their Faith Story and What They Gain From Their Experience

BY MADDY TUCKER  
STAFF WRITER

Every Thursday evening at 9 p.m., Point Loma Nazarene University students and faculty gather in Brown Chapel to hear a fellow student share about their faith on stage. So, how do speakers prepare?

Nate Shoup, associated student body director of student relations, who spoke in Time-Out on Jan. 26, said that Esteban Trujillo, the university chaplain, reached out to him over winter break asking if he would be interested in speaking in Time-Out.

“I was kind of overwhelmed with excitement and I was so quick to say yes, but [Esteban] was like ‘Don’t forget, take some time and you can think about it too. God honors the quick yes but he also honors praying about it.’ But, I think the moment that he asked me over the phone, I was just so excited,” Shoup said.

Smith Briggs, a fourth-year finance major who spoke on Jan. 13, said he was originally unsure of whether he should accept the role, believing he was “almost undeserving.” He finally decided to accept after praying and recalling a conversation he had with his

freshman-year mentor, who also spoke in Time-Out. His mentor told him that when he is a senior he could speak at chapel, but Briggs disagreed.

“By the time it came around I felt ready for it... how is there going to be growth in me if I don’t challenge myself to things that stretch me outside of my comfort zone a little bit?”

According to Shoup and Briggs, the preparation process includes working for a week or two on their manuscript, and speaking with Esteban, as well as Judith Hernandez, the ASB director of spiritual life, making their speech cohesive and applicable to diverse groups across campus. They also help speakers discover what God wants to communicate to Point Loma through their testimony.

Shoup said, “[Judith] gave me some really good, practical advice on how to reach the students in the chapel setting: ‘Be more personal, tell me who Nate Shoup is. This is actually about you, so testify to how God has worked in your life and don’t be afraid to use personal examples.’”

Shoup said that he was able to discern through continued prayer that God was

pressing him to talk about his awareness of his personal mental and emotional well-being.

“If it wasn’t for me even being conscious or knowing what’s going on within me I wouldn’t be sensitive to the voice of the spirit,” Shoup said.

Aside from internal reflection, Briggse asked his friends and family to help him solidify what he would talk about.

“I talked with my parents and my immediate family because it’s a lot easier for someone [to say] ‘Oh, I think you’re good at this,’ or ‘this was a challenging time where I noticed this in your life.’ Hearing that from other people is easier than sorting it out myself,” Briggs said.

Additionally, Trujillo advised Briggs to go into Brown Chapel a few nights before his speech and practice out loud on stage.

“So I think three or four nights in a row before I spoke I was just in Brown, saying it over and over again on the stage, so it wasn’t the first time I was up there on Thursday,” Briggs said.

Even though speakers take to the stage to share their own testimony with

the audience, speakers themselves can learn something from the process as well. Both Shoup and Briggs said that they harnessed practical skills like public speaking, but also learned that “you are capable of a lot more than you think you are.”

Shoup said that he realized how encouraging it is to have God use the things that he has done in his life to show His goodness to others.

“I’m beginning to realize how blessed I am to be able to go up there and testify how God has worked and how he is so good in my life and how he is continuing to work; I’m not finished, I’m a work in progress just like all of us,” Shoup said.

According to Shoup, one of the beautiful things about Time-Out is that everyone brings their own story, so the preparation looks different for everyone. However, he advises that preparing speakers should be “fervent and constant in prayer” when brainstorming what to speak on, so that they are able to discern what God wants to communicate.

Shoup also recommends consulting scripture, “to be able to root your experiences in biblical truths.” While Briggs

emphasized leaning on a community of those who offer love and support and those in the chapel community whose job it is to help students prepare.

“You can do it, you know, you won’t die and it’s a really cool experience,” Briggs said.

As the former ASB director of spiritual life, Silva said that his role in helping people write and organize their manuscripts is important. Every week his role involved mentoring the Time-Out speaker. Sometimes he worked with them for hours at a time, not just to “check the person is not saying anything crazy,” to use Silva’s words, but to guide them and calm any nerves or anxiety they may feel.

Silva said that some advice he would often give speakers is that the full weight of the evening, the pressure, is not on them.

“It’s God speaking through you. Yes, there is preparation, but what is actually going to touch people’s hearts is the Holy Spirit,” Silva said.



# How Do Open Majors at PLNU Choose Their Area of Study?

BY MADDY TUCKER  
STAFF WRITER

Three percent of traditional undergraduate students at Point Loma Nazarene University, including 6% of first and second-year students, are enrolled as open majors, according to the PLNU’s Fall 2022 Data Point. However, the deadline for students to select a major is at the end of their second year.

Troy Davidson, third-year media communication major, first entered PLNU as an open major. He did not originally commit to an area of study because it felt like a big commitment to make, especially coming out of high school where he did not have the same

liberty in choosing classes.

“I just wasn’t ready to make that commitment, and I also just knew I didn’t have to here at Point Loma, so why rush it? I’ll be mostly doing GEs anyways for the first couple years,” said Davidson.

During the spring semester of his second year, Davidson selected media communication as his major after taking an Introduction to Script Writing course the previous fall. Davidson originally took this course, taught by James Wicks, professor of film studies, to fulfill his writing general education requirement; however, it ultimately persuaded him to officially join the media communication department.

Davidson said that deep down, he

always thought he would choose film, but it did not feel like the most obvious choice, so he was not ready to commit.

Additionally, Davidson’s previous academic advisor, Mark Mann, professor of theology, was also a useful resource. Mann helped Davidson choose his major by taking into account the things that Davidson likes and is passionate about, and getting him in contact with people from other departments to talk with.

Rick Kennedy, professor of history, is an academic advisor to not only students in his department, but also to open majors. A new policy implemented at PLNU three years ago transitioned the academic advising process for open majors from having advisors unaffiliated with a department, to now being affiliated.

Therefore, open majors are assigned to professors within a department even if they have no interest or background in that area of study.

Kennedy said that he advises about 8 to 10 students from his own department each year, as well as an additional 3 to 5 open major students. For Kennedy, it is not so much about advising as it is about inviting open majors to a space where they can talk, have a conversation and help them make the choice for themselves.

He starts with more personal questions regarding their passions and what makes them happy, then he steers them toward the departments that most align with their interests.

For a faculty member to become an

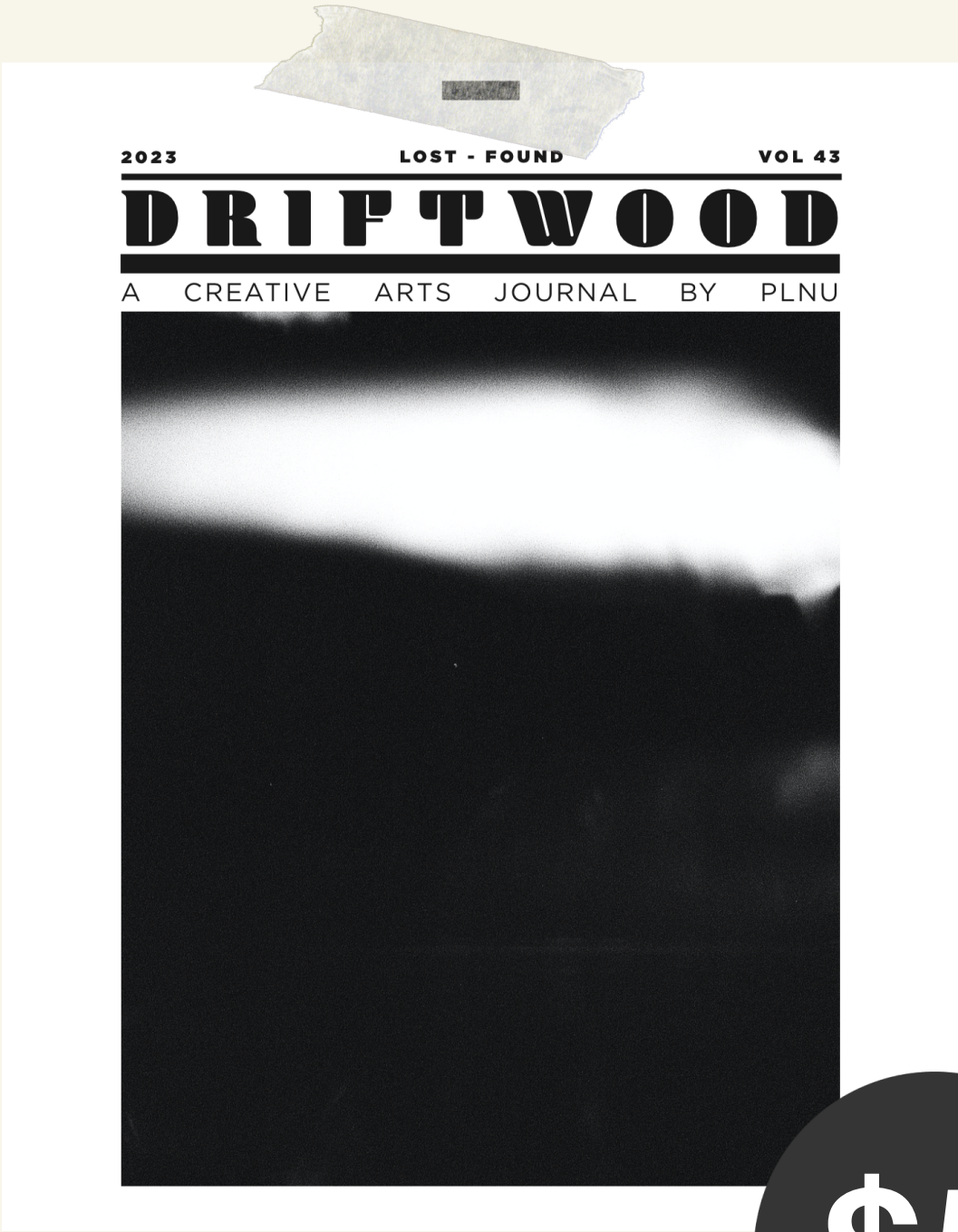
advisor to an open major, they must volunteer and are then assigned a small number of students to advise. This is typically done by professors in smaller departments, like the history department.

Kennedy said that he prefers this new way of advising open majors. To Kennedy, it is important for open majors to find and experience a faculty presence, and become more connected into the system.

“We’re the ones who know the system the best and have done this the longest and have the most experience, and I think we can be the most helpful to them,” said Kennedy.

*A collection of art, photography, & writing by PLNU students, faculty, staff, & alumni*

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# Kamp Love Point Loma

BY CAMBRIA JACOBS  
STAFF WRITER



KAMP LOVE IN WILLIAMS, ARIZONA. PHOTO CREDIT TO RYAN CUMMINGS

A few students at Point Loma Nazarene University handed out donuts and Kamp Love Point Loma fliers outside Brown chapel on Friday, Feb. 17. Kamp Love is a Christian camping retreat created for students to experience God’s love in nature, according to Kamp Love’s website.

According to Kamp Love’s website, the camp was originally called Camp Lope because it started at Grand Canyon University. The intent was to get students outside of the city in a community where they could share the gospel.

Camp Lope was renamed to Kamp Love in honor of Jarod Lovekamp, a student at GCU who died in 2020. His friends created Kamp Love and made it an official nonprofit for students to experience.

Ryan Cummings, third-year media communication major, and Grace Wisenor, third-year communication major, are in Loma Outside, a PLNU club in which students explore nature together. In spring 2022, Cummings and Wisenor led a camp retreat.

“We worked together and did a

Loma Outside camp called Jesus Outside,” Cummings said.

Cummings noticed that GCU’s Kamp Love was similar to Jesus Outside. He reached out to Kamp Love founder Austin Rockwell, who wanted to be a resource for helping them bring Kamp Love to PLNU. Rockwell invited Cummings, Wisenor and Cole Stark, Cummings’ roommate who has worked with them in previous ministries, to visit Kamp Love in Williams, Arizona.

“Point Loma’s such a beautiful community, but a distracted one,” said Cummings. “Our goal is to take everybody out of this environment and go to a place that is just each other and the Lord and really lean into that.”

Another PLNU student described the impact camp has had on her life.

“The biggest ways I have seen the Lord move in my life have stemmed from camp,” said Grace DiLorenzo, second-year psychology major.

DiLorenzo helps lead Kamp Love Point Loma, alongside Cummings, Wisenor and Stark.

DiLorenzo started attending Loma Outside last year and attended Jesus

Outside camp for the first time.

“When I went to Jesus Outside, it shifted my entire time at Point Loma,” DiLorenzo said.

Cummings and DiLorenzo said that campers usually get a “camp high” after attending and they wanted to do something to make that last.

“We’re going to camp together and then coming back into the same community,” Cummings said.

Cummings and DiLorenzo said that they hope to bring students together and foster leadership at the retreat this year. Kamp Love Point Loma will take place on Mar. 24-26, at Hume SoCal in Big Bear, California.

While Cummings and three others started Kamp Love Point Loma, there are 25 other PLNU students who will be leading the retreat.

# Trends Versus Personal Style: 2023 Fashion Predictions

BY MADELYN WALTHALL  
STAFF WRITER

February is the month of fashion. With New York, London and Milan Fashion weeks just around the corner, the next big trend is on everyone’s mind. As we get settled into the new year, some students from Point Loma Nazarene University share their fashion predictions for the year of 2023.

Katie Segarra, a second-year graphic design major, is a notable fashion figure on campus. For this year, she hopes to see more juxtaposed pieces being styled together.

“Cargo pants and a lacey top,” said Segarra. “That’s definitely one of my go to’s.”

In addition to contrasting pieces, she predicts that 2023 will be another year of trends. Just as 2022 saw the emergence of Y2K styles, she thinks that specific trending styles will take over the fashion world again. For the new year, Segarra sees “balletcore” becoming increasingly popular. Balletcore focuses on pastel pinks, ribbons and soft materials paired with tights and wrap shirts, pulling inspiration from dance wear.

While trends come and go, Segarra said that she hopes that this year will be more personal style-focused.

“My favorite looks are always ones when people dress so undeniably themselves,” said Segarra.

Segarra describes her own style as simply her personal style, because she feels it changes wherever she goes. She said that when she is in San Diego, she dresses very differently than she does when she is in Miami, which is different than what she would style if she were in Paris.

If she had to define her style type it would be “romantic,” which she defines as neutral colors with reds, pinks and lace. She also pulls influence from Lily Rose Depp’s iconic “messy French girl” aesthetic.

Second-year psychology major,

Cambria Grant, says that for the new year, she hopes that fast fashion and ever-evolving trends faze out.

“It’s so hard to keep up with the fast pace turnover of micro trends that I’m just going to say I honestly hope fast fashion and bulk buying as trends are on their way out,” Grant said.

Grant said that with less of a fast-paced turnover, personal style and creativity will have space to shine. When there is less pressure of staying in the newest trend, fashion can be used as an outlet of individuality. She says that in 2023 she hopes to see people get more creative with the fabrics and materials that they already have.

“Personally, I’m also wanting some lacey high necks and big collars on tops, fun vests too,” said Grant. “Fun colored tights are also on my wishlist.”

Grant said that fashion styles from Alexa Chung, Orion Carloto and Devon Lee Carson all influence her style. Also pulling inspiration from past decades silhouettes and concepts is something Grant does often.

One specific aesthetic that has caught Grant’s eye is the emergence of ballet inspired clothing. Again this theme consisting of ribbons and ballet flats is said to be a popular trend for the year. Rather than being focused on buying new clothes, however, it embraces upcycled clothing, or giving pieces a second life.

The main takeaway from this 2023 fashion prediction? PLNU will see an increase in personal style and creativity, with a hint of “balletcore.”



CAMBRIA GRANT POSING FOR A PHOTO. PHOTO CREDIT TO GRANT.



# sports

## Cardiac Arrest in Athletics and How PLNU Prepares for the Worst

BY CADE CAVIN  
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 2, 2023, the Cincinnati Bengals were leading the Buffalo Bills 7-3 halfway through the first quarter of a pivotal late season NFL game. Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow completed a short in-breaking route to wideout Tee Higgins, who turned up field and was tackled by Bills safety Damar Hamlin. As Hamlin got up from what was seemingly a routine play, he collapsed. The whole nation froze as all attention was directed to the life, now hanging in the balance, of the 24-year-old safety out of the University of Pittsburgh.

Although many speculated a head injury was the cause of Hamlin’s collapse, the reaction by athletic trainers and safety personnel made it evident that something much more serious had occurred. According to Point Loma

Nazarene University’s Athletic Training Director Dr. Nicole Cosby, Hamlin experienced an extremely rare condition known as Commotio Cordis. Dr. Cosby said it should be noted that she is not a physician, although she does have her doctorate in Sports Medicine.

“Essentially, when the blow occurs to the chest region, if the blow is forceful enough it will disrupt the heart’s normal rhythm causing ventricular fibrillation. When the heart enters into fibrillation it cannot efficiently pump blood to the rest of the body,” Dr. Cosby said.

The timing of Hamlin’s hit on Higgins occurred at the worst possible moment, causing him to enter cardiac arrest. Dr. Cosby stressed how lucky Hamlin was to have medical personnel that not only responded hastily, but were

also CPR certified, allowing them to save his life.

Although Commotio Cordis more commonly occurs in more intense contact sports such as football, hockey or boxing, Dr. Cosby says it is not impossible for an athlete in another sport to experience this rare condition.

“I would say any incident where a patient receives a violent blow to the chest would increase the risk of suffering from [Commotio Cordis],” Dr. Cosby said.

If a life threatening condition such as Commotio Cordis is a potential risk for athletes in contact sports, how does PLNU prepare for and act during a cardiac event?

Dr. Arnel Aguinaldo, an associate professor of kinesiology at PLNU, says that PLNU’s campus is outfitted with

Automated External Defibrillators, or AEDs, in the event that an athlete needs to be resuscitated.

“As a certified AT, I know that our training room staff have accessible AEDs and an Emergency Action Plan in place,” he said.

PLNU women’s soccer coach Kristi Kiely praised the hard working and dedicated athletic training staff on campus for their approach toward taking care of PLNU athletes, whether in the event of a cardiac event or otherwise.

“Football is a very different sport in terms of health and safety. I do think our Sports Med Clinic does a tremendous job caring for our athletes holistically, including cardiac events. They even train us coaches regularly for certain scenarios should something happen during train-

ing,” Kiely said.

According to a map on PLNU’s website, 10 AEDs are located throughout campus, including one near the soccer and baseball fields, one in Golden Gymnasium and two in Nicholson Commons/Cunningham Dining Room.

Commotio Cordis is not a condition that can be prevented, exactly, but students at PLNU can rest assured that the campus is outfitted with plenty of AEDs, CPR trained staff and athletic trainers that will take quick and decisive action in order to save a life that may be at risk.

## Patrick Mahomes: Future GOAT?

BY CADE MICHAELSON  
STAFF WRITER



PHOTO CREDIT TO “ALL-PRO REELS” ON FLICKR.

Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs just took down Jalen Hurts and the Philadelphia Eagles to win their second Super Bowl championship in the last four years. This feat has sparked much conversation over the trajectory of Patrick Mahomes’ career and whether or not he can surpass Tom Brady and reach GOAT (greatest of all time) status.

Before any of you Brady homers get pressed and think I’m saying Mahomes will be the GOAT, take a deep breath and relax, because that’s exactly what I’m saying.

By the end of their sixth season (fifth full season) in the league, Mahomes’ resume outshines Brady’s and it’s not particularly close. Mahomes has Brady outpaced by over 6,200 yards by this point in their careers, with Mahomes having 24,241 yards to Brady’s 18,035. He’s also thrown 69 more touchdown passes than Brady.

I’ll acknowledge that the NFL has changed a lot since Tom Brady was 27 years old. Today’s NFL is much more pass-heavy, hence the reason Mahomes has 445 more pass attempts by the

end of his sixth season than Brady did. However, if you took 445 pass attempts away from Mahomes, he would still have over 2,600 more passing yards and 40 more touchdowns than Brady. Mahomes already has fewer interceptions than Brady despite the extra pass attempts, so that should speak for itself. Mahomes has Brady beat in quarterback rating, completion percentage, touchdown percentage and yards per attempt; the list goes on. The stats back Mahomes.

Perhaps what Brady enthusiasts care about most is championships. Brady’s got seven rings, two more than the next closest player of any position and the accomplishment most people point to when explaining why he’s the best to ever play the sport. It will be extremely difficult for Mahomes, or anyone for that matter, to ever get to seven Super Bowl rings, but if I had to bet on anyone doing it, it’s Mahomes.

By the end of five seasons in the NFL, Brady had three rings. Mahomes is at two. Both had two Super Bowl MVPs. Brady had three AFC Championship appearances while Mahomes has made it to the AFC title game each of his five seasons

under center. The two that he lost were both in overtime, meaning Mahomes was only a few plays away from making five consecutive Super Bowls. Mahomes has three all-pro selections while Brady only had one. Mahomes has a better regular season record and win percentage than Brady to this point. Quite literally the only accolade that Brady has to hang over Mahomes’ head after five seasons is the one Super Bowl ring. It’s a big accolade, but it’s the only one.

Mahomes is Brady-esque when it comes to his football IQ. One of the many things that amazes me about Mahomes is his ability to adapt to what the defense throws at him. For example, Jonathan Gannon and the Eagles’ defense used Cover 2 against Mahomes in the Super Bowl in hopes of limiting Mahomes’ deep threats. Instead of tensing up and forcing the ball down field, he trusted the check-downs and short passes, but when there were holes, he took advantage. Brady was similar in that way. The way Brady could read defenses and give whatever they gave him was incredible, and I see that same rare skill in Mahomes.

The difference between the two is

the physical attributes Mahomes has combined with the aforementioned IQ. Mahomes is a much better runner than Brady and it isn’t close. His 26-yard run in the closing minutes of the Super Bowl to get the Chiefs into field goal range was longer than Brady’s longest career run by four yards. And keep in mind that Mahomes did it on a sprained ankle. He’s a much better scrambler than Brady and throws on the run more often and more accurately. Mahomes is also much more likely to pull off a ridiculous throw such as a no-look throw or shovel pass when it seems as if nobody’s open.

The icing on the cake is the arm talent. Mahomes has got a stronger arm than Brady ever had. In fact, he’s widely known for throwing a ball 80 yards during his Pro Day as he was preparing for the draft. At no point in his career could Brady throw a ball that far. Brady was a better pure pocket passer than Mahomes is, but if we’re talking about the overall package and what they bring to the table, I’m taking Mahomes without question.

The scary part is that Mahomes

keeps getting better. If he follows Brady’s path and doesn’t reach the peak of his powers until he’s in his 30s, it’s scary to think of what he’ll look like by that point.

I know I’ve been a bit bullish on my claims about Mahomes and am fully aware of the fact that it’ll take a lot for Mahomes to take down Brady. But I think he’ll do it. There were rumors of Andy Reid (Kansas City Chiefs Head Coach) retiring after this season, but he quickly squashed that narrative after winning the Super Bowl this season. If Reid can continue to draft well as he has in the past while continuing to provide his masterful offensive schemes, I have no reason to believe Mahomes can’t win many more rings in his tenure with Kansas City. If he continues to play at this elite level for a long time and racks up three to four more rings, he’s the GOAT.



# The Guide to Planning a Trip to MLB’s Spring Training

BY NICK HANCOCK  
STAFF WRITER



PEORIA PARK IN ARIZONA WHERE SPRING TRAINING SESSIONS WILL BE HAPPENING. PHOTO CREDIT TO MJZ PHOTOGRAPHY ON FLICKR.

The Padres return to action on Feb. 24, and while they may not be playing in Petco Park just yet, they are just a road trip away. Spring Training for Major League Baseball is upon us, and that means the Padres and the other West Coast baseball teams will be in Arizona ramping up their activity for the upcoming season.

There is plenty of young talent to be showcased in Arizona during Spring Training, and there will be an exciting team to watch regardless of if you are a Padres fan or not. Peoria Ballpark, the Padres facility, is going to be a hotspot throughout the month, but there are plenty of ballparks worth a visit during your time in the Phoenix area.

Below is a guide to attending Spring Training this season, and I feel as if I can consider myself an expert on this topic considering I just booked a trip of my own to Arizona during Spring Break.

Let’s start with transportation.

How are you going to get to Phoenix? If you leave from campus, the drive can be anywhere from five to six hours on the long desert roads. With a friend in the passenger seat keeping you company—and splitting the cost of gas— this drive is more than doable. This is the form of transportation I’ve chosen for my trip, but consider stopping by a local auto shop to make sure your car has the juice to make it to Phoenix and back. I’m not completely trusting of my 2001 Acura, so she’s going to be paying Evans Tire and a nearby auto shop a visit before we hop on the highway.

The other option is to book a flight to Phoenix, but between Ubers and airport traffic, I’m not sure how convenient that could be. Not to mention, if you are going with a friend or two, you will miss out on a memorable road trip experience.

Now that we have transportation covered, where are you going to stay during your trip? Spring Training

happens at the same time every year, and hotels know this, so prepare for them to be pricier than normal. The ballparks the West Coast teams play at are scattered throughout Phoenix, in towns such as Goodyear, Peoria, Tempe and Surprise. Try to find a hotel that is in a decent range of all these stadiums, but the hotel location all depends on which games you’ll be going to during your trip. Personally, I’m going to four different ballparks on four different days, so finding a place to sleep that is equidistant from all the ballparks was a challenge.

Hotels aren’t cheap though, so Airbnb could be the next best option. Depending on what type of stay you are looking for, you could be looking at a place that ranges in price from \$40-\$150. My friend and I settled on a private room in someone’s house. It only costs \$50 a night, but then again, we are in a stranger’s house. To some, this is understandably unsettling, so look for a more spacious, secluded Airbnb or settle

for a hotel. On the plus side, if you end up booking a hotel, chances are you’ll have access to a pool and complimentary breakfast.

It’s time to discuss the most important part of your trip: the actual baseball games you are going all that way to watch. There are 15 teams in Arizona, and they play at 10 different ballparks. California teams like the Padres, Dodgers, Giants and Angels will all be in Arizona, and non-California teams with stacked, young talent, like the Mariners and Guardians, will also be there. Tickets are relatively cheap; you just have to look in the right places. An ideal place to start is the reliable MLB.com; the ticket fees are reasonable, and it is the most trustworthy site you can get tickets from. I’d recommend checking out other sites like Vivid Seats and Seat Geek for deals. My friend and I were able to find home plate seats for \$18 on Vivid, which is a stellar deal.

If you are going to multiple games, consider finding a new place to sit at each

ballpark. Bring a blanket and sit on the outfield lawn, find some shade along the baselines another time and splurge on a ticket behind the plate where you can be up close and personal with the players.

Planning the perfect Spring Break trip to Arizona to catch some baseball games can be simple if you stay organized and plan the fundamental parts of the trip. Once you figure out how you’re getting there, where you’re staying and which teams you are watching, the trip is basically planned. There will be plenty of food in the ballparks and throughout the city, so that shouldn’t be a problem. This Spring Training should pan out to be a fun one, with the hometown Padres looking exciting this year alongside an abundance of talent on the other West Coast teams.

## Athletics Q&A: Off-season Training

BY BROOKE MARX  
STAFF WRITER

Student-athletes go through rigorous training throughout their season and during off-season when they are not on the field, court or course. Many students and faculty don’t know what happens behind the scenes during the sports teams’ practices or their training during the off-season.

During the offseason of a sport at Point Loma Nazarene University, critical training and practice happens. Student-athletes are expected to perform to the best of their abilities during their sport’s season, which is reflected by their off-season training. Head coaches for PLNU’s sports teams have different expectations for their athletes during the off-season and require different training for each sport.

Head women’s basketball coach Charity Elliot has high expectations for her athletes during the season and

off-season, which she outlined in an interview with The Point.

**TP:** What do you expect from your athletes during the season?

**Elliot:** They do intense training and specific drills in order to have the women prepared for any scenario that could happen during a game. When the season is over and off-season training begins, they are limited by the NCAA to eight hours per week of basketball, weight training and conditioning.

**TP:** When training during the off-season, what expectations do you have for your athletes?

**Elliot:** We are given certain hours we are allowed to train during the off-season. We use those eight hours, and the athletes are required to attend the eight hours of training. It’s split up into four hours of basketball related activities, either team practice or small group skill work, and four hours of weight lifting/conditioning.

**TP:** During off-season, is the training

more or less strenuous on the athletes?

**Elliot:** I think it’s a very different type of training. During the off-season, the weight lifting and conditioning is more intense and challenging, but we don’t have the two or three hour practices that we might have during the season. So, harder for shorter amounts of time.

Fourth-year communication major and member of the women’s basketball team Tavia Rowel agrees with Elliot.

**TP:** Are the workouts during your off-season more strenuous than in-season?

**Rowel:** During workouts in the off-season, it is more strenuous and it needs our best in order to improve. We focus more on conditioning, shooting and skill work with ball handling and weight training rather than game strategy. I would say at times during the season we do lighter practices and make sure we perfect how the other team is playing during practices.

Head cross-country coach Landon

Bright has off-season expectations for his athletes to stay consistent and set themselves up well for when competition rolls around.

**TP:** What are your expectations for your athletes during the off-season?

**“The off-season is really our building block phase, so it helps transition when we need to hit harder workouts later on in the season.”**

**Bright:** Treat it like they are in-season. The off-season is really our building block phase, so it helps transition when we need to hit harder

workouts later on in the season.

**TP:** What are some things you train your athletes to watch out for during the off-season to prepare for competition?

**Bright:** Make sure they keep a structure to their training. When they are not with the team, sometimes it’s easy to let your daily schedule slip. So, during the off-season I like to remind them to plan ahead and make sure you keep some formal schedule that helps you workout on a more consistent basis.

For student-athletes at PLNU, off-season training is important for athletes to rest, develop and improve on their skills that affect their performance. This time is also where they can focus on flaws and little things that need improvement for future games. The outcome of their performance on and off the court, field or course depends on how they train during their off-season.





# Out of the Glovebox: Sludgefest

BY TONY LE CALVEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Have you ever imagined what Alvin & The Chipmunks would sound like at normal speed? Or, what about, even slower? Well, so did someone else, and now you can listen to it too. On several music listening platforms such as Bandcamp, SoundCloud and YouTube, there is an artist known simply as “Chipmunks On 16 Speed” with three albums of slowed-down Chipmunk material.

“Sludgefest” is the name of this decelerated collection of tracks compiled from two albums by “The Chipmunks,” a band of popular animated chipmunks “Alvin, Simon and Theodore,” or better known as “Alvin & The Chipmunks.” The tracklist includes songs from several “The Chipmunks” albums, most notably “The Chipmunks and The Chipettes: Born to Rock” and “Chipmunk Punk” released in 1988 and 1980 respectively.

“Sludgefest” is collected into two volumes of 12 songs each and alters them all down to a uniform 16 RPM (revolutions-per-minute) slower speed which produces a dark, grunge sound.

Hence, the name. What was once a bunch of cheaply produced covers of new-wave pop songs with adult voices sped up on the vocals, is now an enthralling work of real punk music.

The irony is, that while this all seems like a meme (which it is), “Sludgefest” finally redeems the failure of the original “Chipmunk Punk” by transforming it from a cheap, commercial quick-buck, into an album that is alternative, explorative and truly punk in spirit. The original is the 80s equivalent of something like “KIDZ BOP 13.”

Yes, this is probably pretty silly, but stay with me. Ok, so what’s so crazy about slowing down “Chipmunk” songs? Anyone can speed up or slow down any of the music they want, what’s so different? The track list.

Instead of simply reproducing a track list, a human being tailored these songs to play in a specific order. Is there a meaning there? Why didn’t they just copy a single album, track-for-track, slow it down, post it online and get lols?

The truth in all this lies in the mind of Brian Borchardt, a Canadian musi-

cian credited with creating this opus. Borchardt, an experimental musician, came up with the idea when he was on tour in 2004 and traveled with a portable turntable. When he wasn’t performing, Borchardt would experiment with playing records backwards, slowly, sped-up, until he fell upon “Chipmunk Punk.”

According to an interview with “now.” a Toronto-based magazine, Borchardt said, “it’s funny, but it’s also heavy, and it sounds beautiful. It makes you rethink the process involved, but there’s also just something poetic about it. Music is such an exploration of time, and it’s interesting the way you can manipulate that and change the intention.”

So what does it actually sound like? The opening track of Volume One is a cover of Blondie’s hit “Call Me.” The once bright and spunky guitars have been replaced with walls of sonic dredge; the elevated low-end of the guitar strums washes out the springy synths and lead guitars to leave behind only a heavy, meaty texture for listeners to soak in. Alvin’s voice becomes hauntingly monotone; it sounds as if Joy Division had a

reunion concert featuring Nick Cave on vocals.

The following track is the love-it-or-hate-it, “Walk Like An Egyptian.” This track feels very new-wave, with the layers of reverberating percussion, the unrelenting sleigh bells and the never ending drone of a muted guitar rhythm; it would fit right in on Tears For Fears’ “Songs From The Big Chair.”

The third track is a ballad-like rendition of “Heaven Is A Place On Earth” by Belinda Carlisle. What once sounded like a precursor to Cascada (y’all remember that “Everytime We Touch” song) is now a pleading and desperate call for a missing lover. All those sped up Chipmunk melodies are now nice and slow and appreciable in all their harmonizing glory.

“You Keep Me Hanging On” is another highlight of the project, the once dizzy-synth, big hair-anthem is now a ghoulish, macabre cry from a deranged sounding lover; it’s as if it’s being sung to by Frankenstein’s monster.

Volume Two doesn’t stand as strong despite also consisting primarily of 80s pop music. The tracks lack the same

gross, low-end and the overall sound of the songs is a little too clean. Tracks like “Refugee” and “The Diamond Ring” stay in that overprocessed, microwaved-in-a-bucket-of-butter style, but the rest of the tracklist sounds like slow tempo songs without a lot of additional character.

Listening to “Sludgefest,” I start to question how different the musical landscape would have been if Alvin and his brothers got their act together and stopped playing in their child-audience comfort zone. After nearly 70 years together, the band’s greatest success was their chart-topping Christmas album, and like Michael Buble, they sort of peaked there.

Would popular new wave bands have been able to compete with a trio of hard working chipmunks in their prime? If they really had a chance to stretch their legs and experiment, could they have wiped Nirvana off the map? At least we have “Sludgefest,” a celebration of what might have been.

# Hogwarts Legacy: Boycott or Not?

BY RACHEL GRACE HECKLE  
STAFF WRITER

With the release of the video game “Hogwarts Legacy,” some fans of the Harry Potter franchise have desired to boycott the game to prevent J.K. Rowling from using her revenue to support transphobic ideas.

For those who still wish to play the game, it is an immersive Harry Potter role-playing adventure that includes open-world exploration and player-guided storylines. The game includes enthralling wizarding lore, secrets around the castle, a huge and beautifully detailed environment and an incredibly intriguing story.

Furthermore, the NPCs are personable and fun to interact with. If there are long time fans of the Harry Potter franchise, the only disappointment arises from the lack of quidditch; however, there is plenty of other content to make up for the loss, including flying on a broomstick around the Hogwarts castle.

As for the spell-casting system, it was designed very well. You can pick and choose which spells you want easy access to, and it is effortless to swap spells out mid-battle if you need to. Decisions made in the game, including which spells the player chooses to learn and cast, will affect the outcome, creating a unique and lively experience for every gamer. If not for the boycott, Hogwarts Legacy could easily rise to the top charts of 2023.

Rowling has had a complicated relationship with her fans and is known for excluding her fans from contributing to the story of Harry Potter; however, her controversial political views are the biggest issue that fans take with this author.

While there were many instances of Rowling speaking out, the tweet capturing people’s attention is from

June 6, 2020 when Rowling responded to an article that stated “people who menstruate” should have improved equality following the COVID-19. Rowling made fun of the phrase, saying that the article should have referred to “people who menstruate” as women, which would include trans-men and excludes trans-women.

Reacting to this tweet, followers were outraged, arguing that it was Rowling’s intention to draw lines regarding who qualifies as a woman. She continued this discussion in a different tweet in response to the outcry, “If sex isn’t real, the lived reality of women globally is erased.”

Following the video game’s release on Feb. 10, 2023, this tweet thread, as well as others that followed along the same vein, resurfaced as motivation to boycott the game, but discussion about the franchise as a whole has been neglected. Because of Rowling’s controversial views, reviewers of the game have been hesitant to play for fear of backlash that some Twitch streamers, including Girlfriend Reviews, and casual players have faced.

Girlfriend Reviews was brought to tears over the bullying that surfaced in the live chat during a stream, which resorted to death threats when the streamer stated that their job was to play games. On the side of casual gamers, friends and family that share game libraries have reportedly been harassed because they bought Hogwarts Legacy.

When asked about how she feels supporting the Harry Potter franchise with Rowling’s views in mind, Meghan Coley, a fourth-year writing and literature double major at Point Loma Nazarene University, said, “I feel like I associate Harry Potter with childhood memories that don’t immediately connect to the opinions and aspects of the series’



PHOTO CREDIT TO WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

author, so I see supporting Harry Potter in regards to ‘art for art’s sake’ and the magic of its storytelling and characters as acceptable.”

Coley described the idea of ‘art for art’s sake,’ which disconnects the art from the artist and Coley stated it should be situational to the art, the artist and the consumer.

Fourth-year writing major Morgan Charrette said, “I believe in art for art’s sake. I think you can enjoy a piece and still be critical of it. I grew up on Harry Potter so there is a big nostalgia factor for me. It’s hard for me, having grown up with those characters and with that world, to completely reject it because of something stupid that the creator tweeted. That being said, I don’t agree with or appreciate J.K. Rowling.”

Regarding the debate to continue support for Harry Potter as well as the new game, Charrette said, “Personally,

I believe that just because J.K. Rowling herself is transphobic, you still have to take into consideration that there are other people that worked on the game: designers, programmers, animators, directors and more. There is no guarantee that they are also transphobic. They are making their living off this game too. The profits aren’t going only to J.K. Rowling.”

Charrette brings up a valuable point that even though Harry Potter is the intellectual property of Rowling, she is not the only contributor to this new bit of culture.

As an active player of Hogwarts Legacy and Santa Clara University graduate, Miles Elliott commented on the effectiveness of the boycott, saying, “The calls for the boycott brought the game to the people’s attention long before the marketing campaign was released. Hasan Abi’s video put it in perspective when

he said that people could use this as an opportunity to fundraise and advocate for trans-rights, but they’re not. Overall, it was a missed opportunity that was blown out of portion. J.K. Rowling would not be hindered by this boycott. She got her check long ago.”

If art and the artist can be separated in this situation, the game lives up to the hype of a highly anticipated extension to the Harry Potter universe for fan integration into the well-loved story; however, Twitch streamer Hasan, a video game player and reviewer, left the conversation saying, “For me, this is more about unsuccessful and successful protest movements and how people end up hyper focusing on things that are otherwise counterproductive...It’s not worth it to get bullied endlessly.”

# opinion

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## Surfing Guidebooks: Do They Honor Localism?

BY STEVE ANDERSON  
STAFF WRITER

On my bookshelf I have several guidebooks to surfing in California. After attempting to distract myself with something from my homework, I started to flip through one of the books. This particular one was gifted to me by my dad when I moved to California; it was “Surfer Magazine’s Guide to Southern California Surf Spots.” I thumbed through the pages until I found Sunset Cliffs at the back end of the book.

I read through the descriptions of each break, ones that I surf regularly like Ab, Sub and Carbage. I skimmed through the descriptions of the spots and chuckled to myself at the description of Point Loma Nazarene University students: “this is the primary battle zone for the locals vs. the Nazbos, so try not to look like either.”

As I moved through the different descriptions I was surprised to find a localized break south of campus that I will even refuse to name. It’s not like this break is any secret—it’s well known within the San Diego and PLNU surf community but something doesn’t sit right with me when I see it on a widely accessible surfing guidebook.

Surfer Mag’s guidebook addresses the localism and even says that if one does decide to paddle out there, expect nasty looks and even verbal harassment. As I put the guidebook back on my bookshelf, the question weighed heav-

ily in my mind— who was in the right, the locals that have surfed that break for years or someone like me, a college student reading a guidebook who wants to surf the best wave at the cliffs?

On one hand the locals have every right to protect their spots. Most of the guys there have surfed it their whole lives and with the popularity and accessibility of surfing today, some good waves should be reserved for the best surfers. With its slow rolling waves, California is a hub for learning how to surf. So I think in a sense localism keeps the crowds down to a minimum, which is something we could use especially in the overcrowded California.

On the other hand, some of those surfing those breaks aren’t even the best surfers, it’s just the people who have surfed the spot their whole lives. So I think surfers who are capable of surfing good local spots should be welcome and allowed to as they please.

Even Surfer Mag addresses this issue in the introduction of the guidebook, “Thou shalt not surf waves that are clearly beyond thine abilities.” A lot of localized good breaks operate like this—if you blow more than three waves you have to paddle in, local or not. They also operate on the no-leash rule, meaning if someone is surfing a spot, they should be good enough to surf without the worry of losing their board in a wipeout.

I also believe that one must put in their time to become a regular at a break.

No one should be paddling out to the main peak because they read all about a break in a guidebook. One should analyze the pecking order and maybe sit farther inside their first time at a break.

However, I draw the line with violence and harassment. No one reserves any right to slash someone’s tires, cut someone’s leash, or get beat up for surfing. Everyone is in search of the euphoric rush surfing brings and just because someone may not understand proper etiquette yet doesn’t mean they should be barred from pursuing that rush.

Then finally, I don’t believe surfing guide books should be addressing heavily localized spots. If a surfer wants to learn about a spot, they should do so on the basis of immersing themselves in the local surf community and putting in time at a spot. I know plenty of surfers at PLNU who have put in proper time at a spot and have earned a basic level of respect from the locals, so it isn’t impossible. Surfing guidebooks are a great place to start, but nobody should be putting all their faith in a paragraph description of a spot.



ANDERSON SURFING THE CLIFFS.

## Extremism or Diplomacy?

BY TAIT LEEPER  
CONTRIBUTOR

I grew up in a very conservative household. I have always lived around Republicans who have grown up around other Republicans. I consider myself a conservative who fits the stereotype very well. I am a white, straight male who grew up working on a farm and driving diesel pickups. And to add to it, I plan to go into the military. I am a hardcore patriot. I share this not to get into political upheaval but rather to express my bias concerning this reflection.

I have been taught to frown upon liberals because I only looked at their extreme actions. Lately though, I have seen the good things they have done. But unfortunately, both parties have done good and bad things because our government is inefficient and made up of humans. Romans 3:23-24 says, “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.”

Everyone has experienced the effects of the fall. We are all equally damned. I say this to set the stage that it does not matter if the man or woman in the office is wearing a red or blue tie; we can be confident that they will fail us at some point. That does not mean it does not matter who we put there. But, it does mean that everyone will fall short.

With failure comes protests. The whole BLM movement was very

extreme. In “The Letter from Birmingham Jail,” Martin Luther King Jr. writes, “Perhaps the south, the nation, and the world are in dire need of creative extremists.” Nothing will ever get done unless someone is a diehard activist. That is the belief, and it is proven by precedent. While this is true, other methods can be used to solve things.

The European Wars of Religion in the Reformation era was too extreme. I understand someone willing to die for what they believe in, such as a martyr or even Jesus; however, there is no reason to be extreme when the view is so close. By intentionally going extreme, it is getting further away from a compromise. This should mean a lot coming from someone who wants to join the military. Many issues in this day and age should be solved by diplomacy rather than indelicacy.

I am not a pacifist by any means, but in some things, some views are so close on both sides. But then, for reasons known only to God, the human race disagrees on every issue. This is justified by the fact that there are disagreements on some issues. We make our enemies by thinking we must have intense debates on every topic. That is why the opposite of progress is a congress. The only way anything can ever get done is when one party has the supermajority. At that point, one side is unhappy, and things like BLM or the Jan. 6 insurrection happen. If diplomacy existed, and people with different beliefs would stop talking over each other and listen respectfully, good things would happen.

You would understand this analogy if you have ever dealt with a bungee cord.

When tightening something down with a bungee cord, you must strain it to close it. Sometimes it will get close to the two sides hooking; however, because they have tension, they will often shoot away from each other. The same happens in government and in the case of Martin Luther, the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church would not listen to him, so he split from the church. This was extreme. Let me explain. We have slight disagreements on some things, and then, because there is tension already, there is nothing we can agree on, so we immediately go to extremes. Even if we are coming close to an agreement, we will still be content with extremism. Sometimes, nobody will listen until someone is shouting from the rooftops. However, if everyone listened to everyone, there would be no need for extremism or a supermajority. If you don’t believe me, then I will give an example.

Both the right and the left have the same view of abortion. The only reason that there are extremists on both sides is that they have blinders on. They don’t realize they could unite and fight for the same thing. For instance, pro-life does not have to be synonymous with anti-abortion. In the same way, pro-choice does not have to be the same as pro-abortion. It is not two sides of an issue, such as for or against abortion. When we look at it this way, there are only two options and no compromise. There is, in fact, a way for both sides to win. There is a way to have pro-choice and pro-life.

Pro-life argues for the choice to give the baby a chance. Pro-choice desires for the mother to have the option to choose life for her child. If someone were pro-abortion, they would not be pro-choice. If the only choice is to take an innocent life, then is it a choice? It only becomes a choice if there are other op-

tions to choose from. Both sides want the ability to choose life or death for the infant. However, because conflicting sides associate with different views, there cannot be a compromise. Even though it is practically the same thing being argued, the world does not seem to work without constant extremes.

The actual value of education is to have the ability to have discourse with someone with whom you disagree. The only reason extremism exists is that diplomacy was not an option. If the Catholic Church had listened to Luther, would Luther have become an extremist? If the U.S. government heard the cries of segregated people, would Martin Luther King Jr. be an extremist? If the bipartisan system was diplomatic, would there be progress? Is there such a thing as a political compromise in our day? Which is better, extremism or diplomacy?



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