

# XIPRESS

DREAM  
ON



# XPRESS

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**When I first started** my journalism journey back in 2012, many wondered what the hell I was going to be doing with the path I was on.

This field made no money, print was going extinct, and it seemed to be a dying industry.

**But then, good ol' Mr. Trump came along.**

And now whenever I mention I'm a journalism major, it's followed with a, "Good! We need more people like you, now more than ever."

The thing is though, there's always been people like me. Well reported information has always been there for people to absorb. Unfortunately, it took a rude wake up call for the majority of people to realize how important we are, but hey, we're here, and there's no point of putting the blame on anyone now.

**What matters is where we go from here.**

How we document the truth and how it is delivered is something I've been thinking heavily on since I came into this position. So when I gathered my editorial team, I made sure to make it clear to them: we need a voice that's personable, trustworthy, and relatable.

We're millennials and so are our readers. We poke fun at how hard it is to find affordable housing while having good paying jobs with benefits, and yet, somehow turn up for march after march, fighting to make a change for future generations. We're being accused of killing a different failing industry at least once a week, but making everyday changes within ourselves, hoping to positively influence society.

With this in mind, I wanted this issue to be strictly online.

**I want to test our readers.**

I want to take social media strategies, apply them, and see exactly what we get when our main goal is to not only inform, but to engage with them.

Gathering inspiration from Teen Vogue's Editor in Chief Elaine Welteroth and Digital Director Phillip Picardi, I'm offering our readers more, too. Our students here at San Francisco State are so diverse.

**You deserve more.**

Whether it's reading our article about using the N-word, listening to our End-Of-The-World podcast, or reporting fashion trends on campus, and learning workout routines on Instagram; we want you to know that we're hustling for you, our multifaceted readers.

**Enjoy what we have to offer this semester,**

*S.F. Fl.*



# FREE AT LAST



## GATOR PASS GRANTS SF STATE STUDENTS FREE AND DISCOUNTED ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSIT

By: Nicole Green

Everyday, thousands of students from across the Bay Area commute to San Francisco State University. For a university that is consistently known for its commuters, you'd think the school's administration would strike a deal with San Francisco's public transit. Fear not, they finally have!

Last Spring, SF State's Associated Students Organization, a student run government, along with SF State administrators, State Senator Scott Wiener, Nick Josefowitz, a member of Bay Area Rapid Transit's board and the Gator Pass Project team, negotiated with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) in order for SF State students to receive a Gator Pass. A Gator Pass, similar to a Clipper card, gives students access to unlimited rides on Muni and discounted rides on BART.

Once negotiated, students at SF State voted on the proposition. More than half of student voters supported the proposition in May of 2016, leaving the Gator Pass Project Team about a year to negotiate with transit agencies, design the layout, and print 30,000 Gator Passes.

"Technically if you look at our timeline, we had about a year and three months to complete all 30,000 cards," John Gates, Director of Fiscal Operations at SF State, says.

"A lot of that time was consumed by negotiating and coordinating between the different transit agencies. The process of actually making, printing, and delivering the specialized and customized Clipper Card, took six months alone. We had to move quickly."

In May of 2017, Gates and the team printed 23,000 cards in order to distribute them as quickly as possible. They wanted to hand the cards off to students before the start of summer. They chose to do this in order to minimize the amount of time students spent in lines. By providing students with more opportunities to pick up their cards, the lines shortened, saving students time.

SF State is one of the last universities in the Bay Area to implement discounted transit fares for students. University of San Francisco has been discounting their students Muni rides since 2001, while UC Berkeley followed in 2006. However, SF State is the first university to score a deal with BART.

The deal negotiated with Bart gives students a 25 percent discount on rides arriving at the Daly City Bart Station.

Muni is the only form of public transportation that is provided to students at the University of San Francisco. UC Berkeley also only provides AC Transit, Berkeley's form of public transit, for students.

Associated Students, administrators, Wiener, and The Gator Pass Project Team knew that without BART, students wouldn't have voted for the proposition. According to a study done by the university, nearly 20 percent of SF State students use BART when commuting to school.

"We want to make our students commute cheaper and more convenient. We want to make life in this city better." Alexander Kozulin explains. He is the project manager and the brains behind the Gator Pass.

"Reducing the university's carbon footprint. By implementing the Gator Pass, we're definitely doing that," Gates added as an additional goal of the Gator Pass.

So, all of this seems too good to be true. What's the catch?

Not only are all enrolled students required to pay a one-hundred eighty-dollar fee per semester, but the pass only works during Fall and Spring semesters, leaving Winter and Summer student commuters empty handed. The fee has caused frustration among students who don't use public transportation as a way to get to school.

"I would say the feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive because of the unlimited rides on Muni and the discounted rates on Bart," Gates says.

"There are some students who don't take public transportation and are like 'hey why do I have to pay this \$180 fee?'. The fee is to benefit the university as a whole, not to buy out transit passes," concluded Gates.

Gates, along with his fellow Gator Pass team members, took into account that some students wouldn't be using public transportation. They came up with the one hundred eighty dollar fee after considering those factors.

While some students see the Gator Pass as a buy out, the majority of SF

State students are enjoying it. The Gator Pass allows students to use their passes throughout the city. So whether or not students are using it to get to school, they're still able to use Gator Passes around the city as long as school is in session.

"I use the Gator Pass to get to work in the Marina a couple times a week," says Juliette Leite, a twenty-one-year-old senior, studying communications at SF State.

"It's nice that students are able to use their Gator Pass throughout the city. It makes the fee totally worth it."

Leite is right about the Gator Pass saving students money. In fact, it saves students one hundred and fifteen dollars each semester. That's if students are using Muni seven days a week. The 2017-2018-fall semester is approximately seventeen weeks long equaling to one hundred and eighteen days. If students rode on Muni everyday without the Gator Pass, they'd be spending close to three hundred dollars each semester.

University of San Francisco and UC Berkeley also provide their students with a similar deal. Both University of San Francisco and UC Berkeley issue their students stickers to put on their ID cards indicating free transportation. SF State, however, uses a Clipper card which students scan when

riding Muni. SF State is the first university in the Bay Area to partner with Clipper.

The Gator Pass Program team, along with Alexander Kozulin and John Gates, worked extremely hard over the course of a year in order to get the Gator Pass up and running.

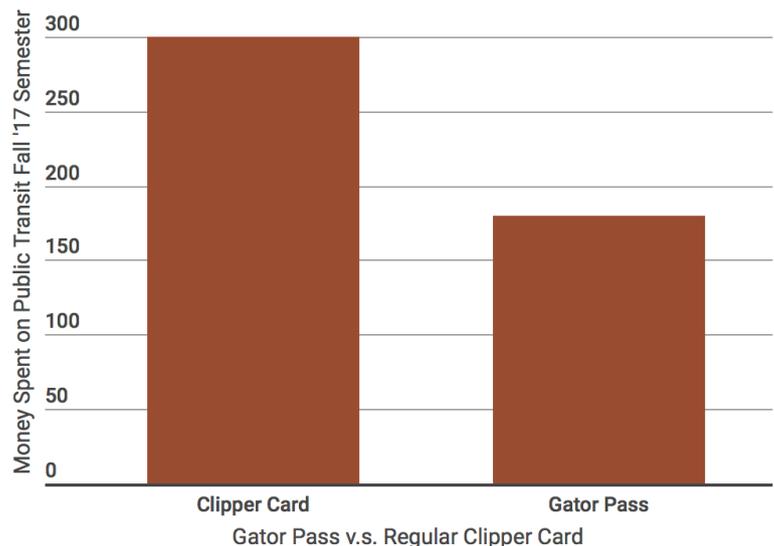
"Alexander does this thing where when he's worried about something he like pulls the hair on top of his head.

"I thought he was gonna go bald there for a couple months," Gate continues as the room laughs.

SF State, administration, Nick Josefowitz, the Gator Pass Program Team, Kozulin and Gates went above and beyond to make sure are SF State students were well taken care of and that their needs were met.

"It's a great feeling having this completed. There's still work to be done. We're thinking about the next steps," concluded Gates.

Thanks to everyone's help, SF State students are sitting pretty on public transit.



# HOLLYWOOD DOWN

*Years of box office bombs tax  
the film industry*



by Mitchell Walther

I remember that evening my dad woke me up to take me to the movies. I was eight-years-old and it was way past my bedtime. The theater was busy, as hundreds of moviegoers poured in at 11:30 P.M. on a Thursday. *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* came out at midnight. The magic of a midnight release showing was new to me then, but throughout junior high and high school it became an almost religious fixture in my life. Blurry eyes and beaming smiles filled every auditorium, because the silver screen deserved our attention. The theater held my imagination hostage and I was more than happy with my Stockholm syndrome. These days I struggle to remember the last movie I saw in theaters.

The night out at the movies is the cornerstone for Americans everywhere. The first movie theater in history was the Nickelodeon, built in Pittsburgh, Penn in June 19, 1905. The weekend event, the weekday matinee, the classic first date, the movie theater experience is one that most can't imagine a world without. In 2016, theaters hosted 1.3 million moviegoers, outnumbering both sporting events and theme park attendees. Nonetheless, movie theaters seem to be facing an existential threat.

While silver screen isn't going anywhere anytime

soon, the way the cinema operates is taking a beating—and recent box office numbers show a disheartening trend for zealots of the theatrical ceremony.

Marlene Virelas, a former senior manager at Century at Pacific Commons in Fremont, California, offers some insight on how these bombs are handled at the the box office.

"If we knew movies were going to flop, or after they had bad premiere weekends the amount of showings were scaled down," Virelas remembers.

"There's a constant pressure on a movie theater to turn a profit because most if not all the sales from the box office goes to the studios, theaters really make their money from concession stand sales."

The sheer uptick in the amount of box office failures—commonly referred to as "bombs"—is staggering compared to previous years. In 2016 alone, *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, *Allied*, 2016's *Ben-Hur*, *The BFG*, *Deepwater Horizon*, *The Finest Hours*, *Ghostbusters*, *Gods of Egypt*, *The Great Wall*, *The Huntsman: Winter's War*, *Live by Night*, *Monster Trucks*, and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows* all boasted losses of over \$60 million. Movies from 2017 aren't spared either. *Ghost in the Shell*, *Power Rangers*, and *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* are

already critically declared bombs, with the later suffering a loss of over \$150 million according to Box Office Mojo. For reference, 2015 had ten box office flops under its belt, 2014 only had one, and 2013 only had to claim five to its name.

American University film graduate Chelsey Cartwright offers a unique perspective. As a member of the millennial age group, she is part of the disappearing moviegoer, and yet as a film major she still tries to make it out to the movies as often as possible.

“Convenience and cost wise, it's so easy to justify not going to the movies because I can watch a hundred things on Netflix or Amazon or Hulu. I no longer go to the movies if I'm bored,” points out Cartwright.

“These days my trips to the theater are often to pay homage to a film that has plowed its way through the many stages of film-making and is being displayed gloriously on the big screen.”

It is obvious that there is a problem with Hollywood that is keeping moviegoers from putting their butts in seats. When you dig a little deeper though, the butts that aren't seated

seem to belong to solely the ever elusive millennials. According to the Motion Picture Association of America, the 25-39-year-old group makes up the majority of film attendees with 22 percent, while the other 88 percent is spread among the other age demographics. The theater's main demographic is steadily de-butting movie seats.

“I see videos everyday on my news-feed,” says Cartwright. “I consume news and gifs and interviews and all things social media. I'm inundated with visual media, so off the bat the idea of a major motion picture isn't as novel as it once felt.”

So where is Hollywood getting its money? The answer seems to rest in overall movie ticket prices. Complaining about rising cost of ticket prices seems have always been a constant, but acclaimed director Steven Spielberg predicted a breaking point back in 2013.

“You're gonna have to pay twenty-five dollars for the next Iron Man, you're probably only going to have to pay seven dollars to see Lincoln,” Spielberg told *The Hollywood Reporter* at the time.

“There's going to be an implosion where three or four or maybe even a half-dozen mega-budget movies are going to go crashing into the ground, and that's going to change the paradigm.”

It's only been four years, but Spielberg's words are quickly changing from prophecy into problems. Many movie studios have attempted to avoid the coming “implosion” by relying on big budget blockbusters. In the infamous email hacks on SONY, studio co-chair Amy Pascal emailed a note to her chief lieutenant Doug Belgrad. Assessing Sony's lineup for 2015, she wrote, in all caps, “THERE ARE TOO MANY DRAMAS/NOT ENOUGH TENTPOLES/NO OBVIOUS BREAKOUT HITS.”

These “tent-pole” movies are still massive risks. If a studio puts all

Netflix and choke  
the film industry?

their eggs into one basket and fails to draw in that millennial 25-38-year-old group, they're stuck with an unfortunately ugly omelet. The less obvious casualty of this method of movie-making though is the makers themselves.

Hollywood directors are becoming a dime a dozen. Blockbuster director of *Jurassic Park*, Colin Trevorrow was set to direct the still untitled ninth *Star Wars* film. Just this past month it was announced Trevorrow was stepping down as director of the project.

“Colin has been a wonderful collaborator throughout the development process but we have all come to the conclusion that our visions for the project differ,” Disney said in a statement. “We wish Colin the best and will be sharing more information about the film soon.”

Since then, episode nine of *Star Wars* called back *Star Wars VII: The Force Awakens* visionary J.J. Abrams. It seems that franchises reign supreme in Hollywood right now, and no director's vision can supersede a company's need for profit assurance.

Famed director Christopher Nolan spoke with the *Los Angeles Times* recently about this pressure. When asked if he would ever consider doing another super-hero or “tent-pole” film, he made sure to weigh both options.

“The responsibility that comes with a large film at this stage of things is always very daunting. But having made tiny films and dealt with the flip side of that, which is just trying to get anyone to see your film, that's awful in its own way, admitted Nolan.

“Any independent filmmaker can tell

THERE ARE TOO MANY DRAMAS  
NOT ENOUGH TENTPOLES  
NO OBVIOUS BREAKOUT HITS

Amy  
Pascal



you, going to a festival, hoping a distributor is going to like your film and put you on ten screens somewhere — that’s very, very tough and very demoralizing in its own way.”

Echoing Chelsey Cartwright's words on the movie novelty, Nolan also took time to unpack just what studios need to be looking for with breakout hits.

“What’s interesting about that whole paradigm is, you can’t fault the studios for looking to likely hits, for looking for areas where people seem to want more of something. But Hollywood and the studios have also always understood that novelty, freshness, is one of the magical ingredients of movies. And I don’t think the studios ever want to risk losing that completely,” says Nolan.

Still, the future of Hollywood may be found in the voices of those who criticize it. Cartwright has studied where movies are going with both pencil and popcorn. She thinks there's a bright future if the box office can find it.

“The film industry is finally catching up in terms of diversity, like women in major leadership roles and expansion beyond white heterosexual plots. But it's a slow going process,” admits Cartwright.

“If it wants to hold on to audiences, the movies will have to speed up. We're smarter now. Twitter educates us on feminism, Facebook opens our eyes to police brutality, Reddit examines government corruption. Everyday people are coming to expect more out of the media they consume. People loved Wonder Woman. That's a pretty solid example of people wanting a strong atypical heroine and a subsequent box-office smash. People are ready to push the limits.”

The issues that plague the box office are many, as are studio's' attempts to find a solution. The interesting piece of all this is its moviegoers - people who get to decide what technique works. Whatever movies people choose to actually go see, those are the types of strategies studios will continue to use. It is not impossible to imagine that studios just don't quite understand what audiences want in these changing times, and new kind of relationship is still possible. Something that benefits viewers, producers and creators may be out there. The numbers don't lie though, and Hollywood needs to find the answer soon.



Illustrations: Dylan Pemberton

# KAVA

## THE LEGAL DRUG MAKING WAVES IN SAN FRANCISCO

by Michael Massaro



The top and bottom parts of the kava root are crushed to create a powder



That powder is then made into a tea.

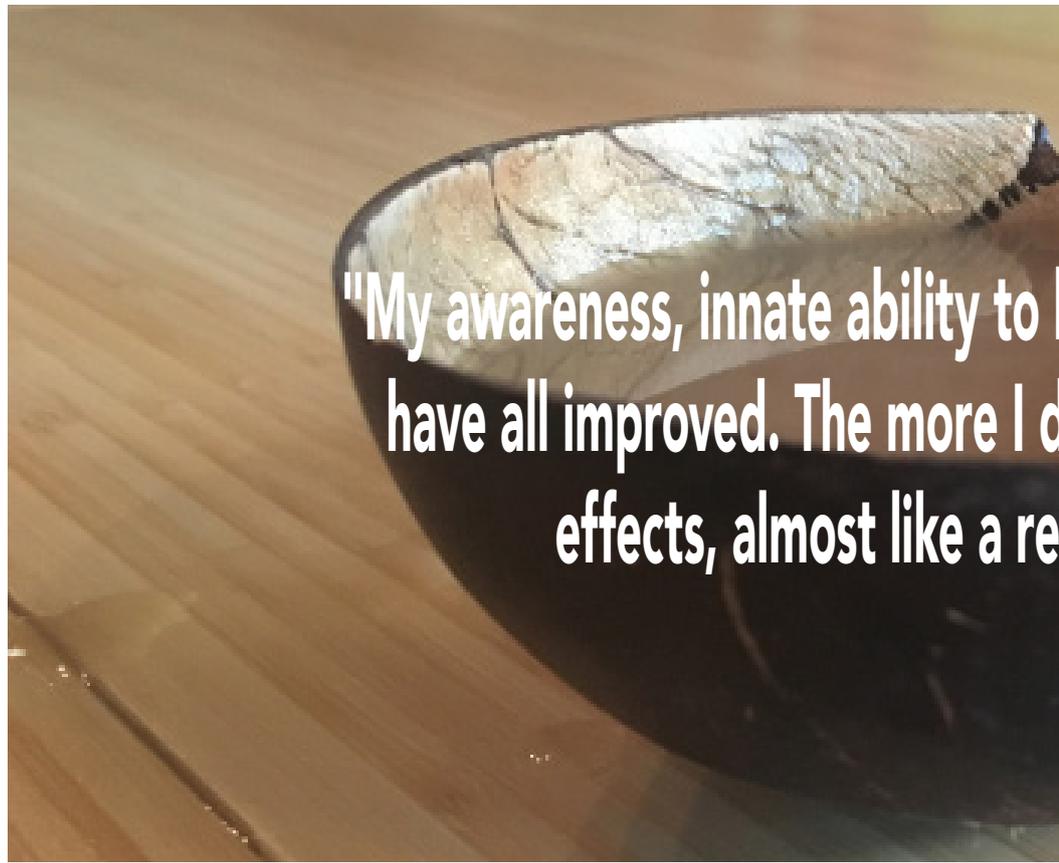
Whenever the words "drug" and "legal" are used in the same sentence, proverbial red flags are raised to the sky, all with the same question: "does it even do anything?" The short answer is yes, but the more important question to answer is: "is kava right for me?"

Marijuana isn't for everyone, and neither are psychedelics or dissociatives, but everyone's reasons are different. It could be because someone doesn't enjoy the act of smoking, they think being high is too intense, they're scared of the effects on their health, it gives them anxiety or simply any of the other countless reasons to not partake in certain drugs. Yet, particular aspects of various drugs are appealing to people that are normally against drug use, such as euphoria and clarity. Kava is a one-ingredient plant that is advertised to have amazing health benefits.

We often lose scope of the potential healing and nourishing effects of Earth's natural gifts. Just the mere label "drug" is enough to deter people from even considering it as a way to treat their day-to-day stress, insomnia, and ill-feelings via a boost to their immune system.

"I've been drinking kava for about two weeks and have noticed benefits already," says Katherine McCarty, who is a new employee at the Kava Lounge in San Francisco.

"My awareness, innate ability to heal and sleeping patterns have all improved. The more I drink, the more I



"My awareness, innate ability to have all improved. The more I do effects, almost like a re

feel the effects, almost like a reverse tolerance."

Before being appropriated in San Francisco, kava was commonly grown and used in places like Hawaii, Melanesia, and Fiji. Kava is a plant grown in the Western Pacific, but its roots are what's harvested for its sedative effects. Natives hold ancient knowledge for the applications of kava, which include its power to mend ailments such as urogenital conditions, respiratory ailments, and skin diseases.

The roots themselves are usually prepared into kava by being chewed, ground or pounded, depending on the culture. In San Francisco, kava can be easily purchased either as a powder or as a liquid at a kava cafe. Kava has existed longer in the city as a powder, but its easy accessibility and novelty, which comes from drinking the potion from a cut-across coconut shell, has jettisoned its popularity.

"We get our roots imported from Fiji," says Priscilla Hill, manager at the Kava Lounge. "There are two main parts to the root: the top root lowena, which feels heavy and relaxing, and the lateral root waka, which is lighter and more energetic. The only other ingredient is reverse osmosis water."

As a rule of thumb, drug experiences are unique to the person taking them, but kava's functions are routine, specialized, and minimal; it doesn't leave

much up to personal differences. Kava is similar to the experience of consuming cannabis, which includes being somnifacient, but absent of any effects that stem from a stereotypical high.

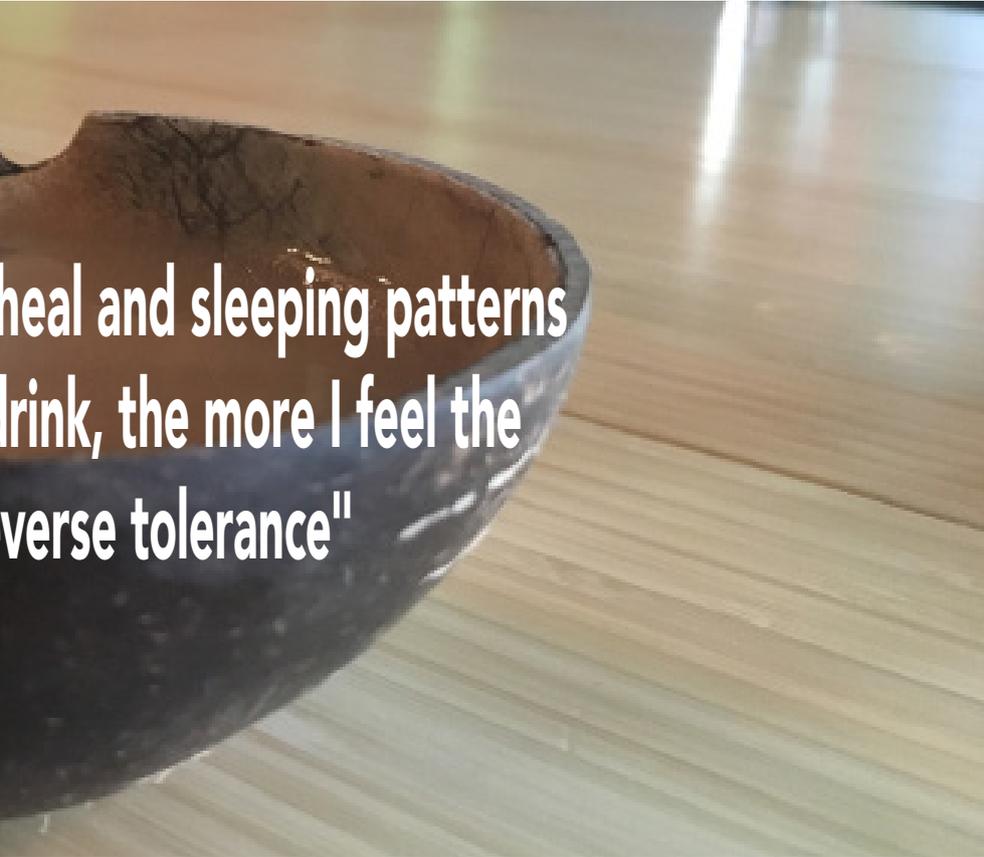
Kava isn't only for stressed out insomniacs looking for a natural cure, it can also be for a group of friends with nothing to do on a Saturday night; the alternative to going to a bar or a café. In fact, many people who have adopted kava into their lifestyle have also pushed out alcohol and caffeine altogether.

Alva Caple owns the Kava Lounge, but he first owned a bar in Topeka, Kansas. He gave up serving alcohol so he could serve kava, which resulted in him opening a kava bar in Hollywood, Florida. After some years of being successful, and also some careful deliberation and planning, Caple decided that he wanted to leave Florida to start a kava bar in California. He was shocked with the amount of bars in California, or lack thereof.

"I wanted to go to California because it was a progressive state, although initially I wanted to start my bar in Berkeley," Caple explains.

"Six or seven years ago, there weren't very many kava bars; there were none in the city and only one in Berkeley, San Bruno, and Davis up here."

The kava business has been going well for



heal and sleeping patterns  
drink, the more I feel the  
verse tolerance"

Caple ever since opening day and he now has plans to expand into also serving raw vegan food. Not a lot of people know about kava, despite its boasting about a positive lifestyle and health changes, which is also a reason for skepticism.

So, why would a miracle root be so unknown if it really worked? One aspect of kava that is widely agreed upon, by haters and lovers alike, is that it's an acquired taste.

Drinking kava leaves a trail of numbness across your tongue and down your throat. Imagine what it feels like to halt blood flow to the tongue: numb yet sensitive, with a slight sting and shiver.

The flavor is also hard for some people to forgive. Essentially, there is nothing but kava root and water. Kava translates to English as literally meaning "bitter," which, if anything, is an understatement. It's an experience oddly nostalgic to those mud pies in elementary school. The liquid itself is clear with chunks of earth surfacing to and buoying at the rim of the cup, bowl or hollowed-out coconut shell until stirred back to the bottom to become saturated.

That being said, some people really enjoy the taste. David Soutter, a travel writer and chiropractor, actively looks for kava bars when he's

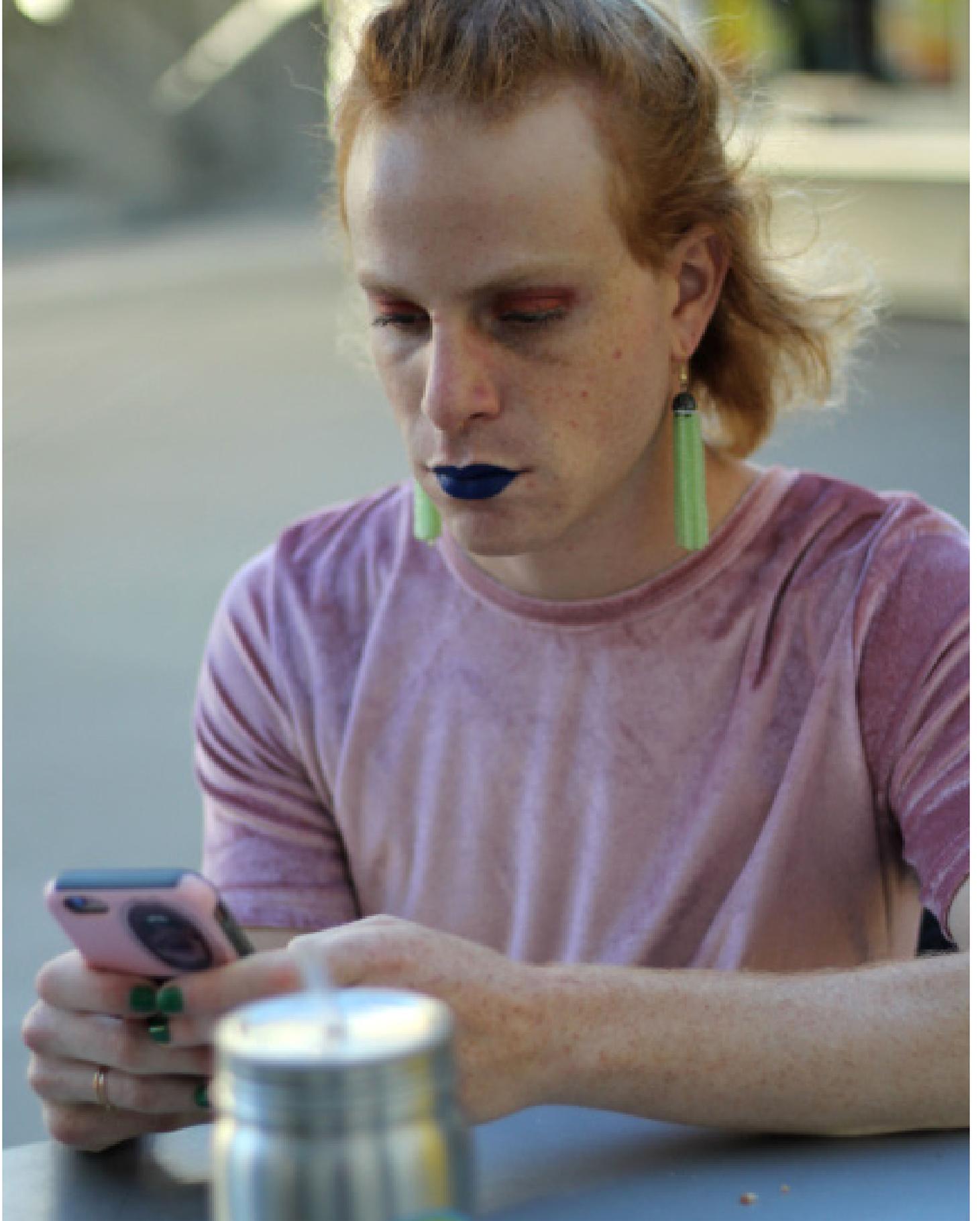
assigned articles around the world.

"I just flew into San Francisco this morning, but I wanted to come to this kava bar," Soutter says. "I drink it because it helps me with jet lag."

While the kava community raves about its effects on sleep, perhaps the most common piece of kava-praise is its effects on short-term anxiety. Cannabidiol, one of the most active cannabinoids in marijuana, serves a similar function in that it is responsible for the couch-locked and calm sensation one gains from cannabis, which come with feelings of physical comfort and mental peace.

Despite all the positive effects, there are some negative ones. For example, kava dermatopathy is a fully reversible skin condition that causes incredibly dry skin. This, along with other commonly accepted side effects of kava, is only contracted with excessive use.

Kava is a great way to experiment with natural remedies for conditions such as insomnia and anxiety, meaning there's no need to place trust in a pharmaceutical company to provide non-poisonous help. It's an easily accessible drug with ancient knowledge of curing ailments and soothing anxiety, which unsurprisingly is the reason for its mass appeal to the population of San Francisco.



# IN THEIR SHOES

## Challenging Gender Norms Through Androgynous Apparel

by Jazmine Sanchez

Left: Aaron Steinfeld, 25  
dons eye-catching lipstick and  
eyeshadow. This page: Monét  
Panza, 19, poses in Vans and  
baggy windbreakers.  
Photos: Jazmine Sanchez

**W**hen it comes to apparel now-a-days, I can say that I've seen it all. Women dressed in tailored suits, men in chiffon skirts, and kids in non-gender clothing. I grew up as a tomboy, so wearing my brothers big shirts and oversized pants were easy to obtain. This memory led me to question what it would've been like for me as a young boy trying to fit into my sisters clothes. The truth is, I probably wouldn't of been able to fit in any of it due to the way my body was built. Is this what goes through the minds of men who prefer to wear women's clothes?

After interviewing some students from San Francisco State University, along with faculty and people from the San Francisco community, they said yes. The three main issues that were brought up the most when asked were the main audience being focused on women and femininity, the lack of sizes, and clothing stores sticking to the regular boy/girl sections.

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# What really defines androgynous apparel?

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For people like Aaron Steinfeld, 25-year-old graduate student at Sf State, and LGBTQ youth advocate at the Family Violence Law Center, androgyny means an ambiguous gender identity or gender representation, which can deal with either someone's internal sense of how they think of themselves and or how they present that to the world.

"There definitely seems to be more

Health Education Professor at SF State, Ivy Chen, a lot has been driven by the acceptance of it through Millennials and the new Generation Z.

"Millennials and Generation Z are much more open and accepting of all different kinds of identities, and therefore those types of attitudes about discriminating and feeling like you only can be this and that, those attitudes will die out," she says.

Students like 18-year-old Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts major, Karla Orozco, feels that androgynous apparel is in fact favoring the female sex - that it is easier for women to find male clothing than for men to find female clothing.

are limiting themselves and not serving the whole audience.

28-year-old graphic design professor at California College of the Arts, Juan Carlos, feels that fashion has always been portrayed for the skinny community.

"A lot of the clothes that androgynous apparel companies make, and I'm happy it's being made, fits mostly models that are super skinny, and when you're bigger you have more restriction on what to wear, and it's a lot harder to find clothes that fit," Carlos says.

When shopping in the women's section he is usually a size 10 or 12, and because of his size, he feels that thrift

***"Millennials and Generation Z are much more open and accepting of all different kinds of identities, and therefore those types of attitudes about discriminating and feeling like you only can be this and that, those attitudes will die out."***  
***—Ivy Chen***

gender/queer presentation in fashion, but I think that there's a difference between gender identity and gender presentation, and someone who might have an ambiguous or androgynous gender presentation, and might as a cisgender person," Steinfeld says.

"I'm trans and I like presenting feminine in society to lure the rest of the world, and how putting on clothes everyday feels very important to me to display an accurate representation of myself to the world."

In fashion, androgyny has been seen more and more on the catwalk by designers like Gucci, Kanye West (and many more), and most recently at New York Fashion Week, Maison the Faux. So it's no surprise that non-gender clothing has been making itself a big debut. According to 44-year-old

"If it's going to be something that's for everyone then it should be for everyone you know? I think that's definitely something that has to change in the industry," Orozco says. Another student like Rosa Gutierrez, 20-year-old Biology Major also agrees. "I do agree that it's harder for men to find clothes which usually leaves them without a section to look into," Gutierrez says.

The facts are that the "rules to fashion" have continued to change throughout the years and we've seen this through many advertisements, and also, on the fashion runway. But the real question here is has the industry limited itself to a certain audience?

Of the bigger community, when seeing sizes range from only small to large, it shows that these clothing companies

shopping offers a wider variety of things for everyone.

I find myself doing the same thing. As a hip-hop dancer, I've always enjoyed wearing slouchy clothes because of its comfort. I hate wearing tight clothes that don't let me breathe, and because of my figure, I find myself making my own clothes. The same thing goes for Juan Carlos and many others.

Drag queen Jordan Isaac, also known as "Kiki Krazier," finds himself making his own women-inspired clothes for his performances due to the lack of sizes being offered to him.

"Most of my clothes are made, but if I do have to buy something, it is a bit unflattering on me," he explains.

"For example, I have to make a dress out



Aaron Steinfeld in pink velvet mini dress.

of an oversized shirt because I can't fit a store bought dress. They don't have that for men, they do not sell dresses for men. Most companies who say they want to offer androgynous clothing mostly focus on women. The truth is, if you want something that is tailored to your body, you either make it yourself or get it made for you."

Companies like Target have already jumped on the no-gender apparel bandwagon by switching up their Boy and Girl sections to just Kids. Is this what is going to pave the way for families to open up their mind on allowing their children to wear whatever clothes they feel comfortable with?

Chen explains that companies like Target are being very inclusive.

"For example, in the past you had a kid who would identify as a girl and you would only stay in this one section, and you've never even seen the boys section, that's a whole half that you actually don't browse and don't have the opportunity to buy from."

As a company, Chen feels that it is a smart financial move that will allow customers to see everything the company has to offer rather than just a single section.

Clothing companies like Kipper Clothiers in San Francisco have made a statement by offering women tailored suits to those who want it. Other companies like Sixty-Nine, based in Los Angeles, offer clothing that doesn't fall under labels, simply clothes for anyone to wear. And there are many more following suit - the only thing is that although it is such a great movement, there are people that feel companies are still lacking on the aspects of gender, sizes, and clothing stores conforming to boy/girl sections.

The more we open up, have more visibility, and mainstream non-gender clothing, could possibly change what these companies are lacking to serve all sexes. An array of clothing items being displayed, ranging from multiple colors and sizes that anyone can pick up and take home, is a dream, for some, waiting to be seen in retail stores. The fashion industry has a lot to offer, and hopefully through time, it will be capable to offer this as well.



# Tinder –The Social Currency For International Students

by Agnes Mogstad

We live in a time where most services are just a click away, and love is no exception. Well, that depends on how you define love. Over the years several dating apps have hit the market, and amongst the most popular ones is Tinder.

Since 2012 Tinders' users, now over 50 million in more than 190 countries according to The New York Times, have been swiping left or right with the goal of a so-called 'match', or a mutual like. You basically go shopping for a potential partner, friend, or hook-up based on their looks and a short description known as a bio.

Tinder as a city guide

Students at San Francisco State University, where over 1500 international students call home, use apps like Tinder to meet people even if just for a casual hook-up, but that's not the only reason students are drawn to Tinder. Surprisingly, a lot of international students use the app for more than just a quick way to get laid.

25-year-old Hanna Grimsborn, a marketing major from Sweden, has found Tinder helpful but not in the way you think.

"I actually never meet someone from Tinder for a date, and I think it's mostly boring to chat with people I don't know," she explains. "Recently I realized I could use the men I matched with to get recommendations on good bars, night clubs, restaurants etc."

While Grimsborn's method has resulted in various tips on stuff to do in the city, a lot of men still want to get something more out of a match.

"They usually respond friendly to my questions about recommendations and suggest me to go there with them. I never do, I just take away our match instead."

Apps like Tinder can be somewhat of a meat market, and Grimsborn is very clear on why she has issues with this modern form of dating. In her experience men write stuff they would never have the guts to say in real life, which has led to both compliments and sexist comments. Men she has been matched with also seem a lot more interested in talking about themselves rather than getting to know new people.

"I'll avoid those guys," she says.

Fallon Salomon, a 23-year-old history major from SF State, went out to explore the world with Tinder as her companion. During her semester abroad in Amsterdam, she was introduced to the notion that dating apps can indeed improve the quality of her social life. Even though Salomon only lived in the Netherlands for six months, she had a four month-long relationship thanks to Tinder. She also got to learn more about the Dutch culture through people she met on the app.

While the relationship didn't last, Salomon says she has had great experiences through Tinder, meeting people she wouldn't have met otherwise.

When you move to a different country there are so many new impressions. The language is different, the culture is different, the food is different, even the traffic is different. Typically you will use every opportunity to get to know people so you don't

Tell me your favourite bar  
in SF?

29 aug. 2017 9:33 em



The bar we went to on our  
first date



29 aug. 2017 10:47 em

Haha kinda cute answer

Skickade

have to be alone. According to Salomon, it's easier to make friends on Tinder abroad than at home.

"I think people are much more outgoing abroad. There's a certain kind of curiosity there, that I just have not experienced here at home. I'm not sure why that is!"

The culture shock

Social culture varies throughout the world, and therefore people from different parts of the world will use Tinder in different ways. Today, the app has users in more than 190 countries, so using Tinder as a traveling tool can actually serve as a cultural journey.

"Some of my most important memories from studying abroad were born from the people I met on Tinder. I talked politics with all of them, and appreciated, and gained from their perspective," Rebecca explains.

Rebecca, a 26-year-old international relations major from SF State, reminisces of her semester abroad in Israel, and the friends she made through Tinder.

"They were never really tour guides, but spending time with

their friends and participating in their traditions was an invaluable experience of cultural immersion."

For Rebecca, the dating app served as both a way to improve her language skills and to meet potential hook-ups. However, she says that American and Israeli women were treated very differently. For example, men would assume that American women are easier to get than Israeli women, and would experience more sexual comments, while Israeli women who were considered harder to get, were treated with more respect.

"They think because we are on a date, hooking up is expected or guaranteed, regardless of if there is chemistry."

A new dating era

By now you might think that women are the only ones using Tinder for things other than sex. While research shows that men use Tinder more as a hook-up app, there are still some using it to make friends.

When Fabi Rausch, a 22-year-old electrical engineering major from Germany, traveled through

Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore, he found Tinder helpful for getting in touch with locals. However, he wouldn't want to get a girlfriend through the app.

"Apps like Tinder can be very objectifying because you judge people based on their looks. I made some friends when I was traveling, but I prefer meeting people in real life" Rausch explains.

Dating apps like Tinder are being used for much more than one-night-stands. Instead modern technology can, and is, helping young people connect with new cultures and languages, especially while being abroad. Imagine being placed on the other side of the world without your main form of communication. It can be nerve wrecking to not know anything or anyone, and for a lot of young people dating apps take some of this pressure away. It's an informal platform that helps you enter a new society. Bottom line here is that dating apps can be used for so much more than dating. Perhaps your new perspective on life is just a swipe away.

# DREAMING, STILL

DACA STUDENTS AT SF STATE REMAIN HOPEFUL THROUGH TRYING TIMES



DREAMers Holding Steadfast. Clockwise from top left: Maya Ochoa, Robert Arriaga, Jesus Peraza

## “HOW CAN THEY THREATEN TO DEPORT PEOPLE WHEN THIS IS THE ONLY COUNTRY WE’VE EVER KNOWN?” -VANESSA CUEVAS

“This is why I think this is bullshit,” 19-year-old Vanessa R. Cuevas exclaims. “How can they threaten to deport people when this is the only country we’ve ever known?”

After President Trump’s recent order on September 5, 2017 to end DACA within six months, hundreds of thousands of DREAMers are scrambling to see what they can do to prevent deportation.

DACA, which stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, is an Obama-era program which allows undocumented, young adults – who originally came to the U.S. as kids – to receive benefits such as safety from deportation and work permits. However, the fee that these DREAMers pay is roughly five hundred dollars out of pocket for every two years when their renewal is due. With that being said, there is a large misconception that U.S. taxpayers are paying for this program, but little do people know that DACA is actually a self-sustaining program, hence the large fee that they must pay.

In order to qualify for DACA, one must have/do the following: be younger than 31-years-old, came to the United States before your sixteenth birthday, lived continuously in the U.S. from June 2007 to the present, were physically present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012 and at the time of applying, came to the U.S. without documents or their lawful status expired as of June 15, 2012, are currently studying or graduated from high school, and have not been convicted of a felony or any misdemeanors.

San Francisco State University students and sisters Vanessa R. Cuevas and Jessica D. Cuevas came to the United States from Mexico alone when they were only three- and four-years-old. Since they are originally from Michoacán, they were put on an airplane to get closer to the border. There they were picked up by two ladies that would eventually take them across the border in their car. They reunited with their dad somewhere in Los Angeles and he brought them to the

Bay Area. About a week later, their mom was brought over and they were all together. They settled in a home in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and have been there ever since. They both currently work at a Cheesecake Factory near their home.

Vanessa is a third-year student with an undeclared major but plans to declare as a Political Science major. Jessica is a fourth-year Latina/o Studies major with minors in Education and Philosophy.

It was decided that Jessica, now 21-years-old, would wait for Vanessa so they could apply for DACA together. The process took around four to five months - they needed to have various documents on hand. Luckily, their mother saved all their childhood award certificates so that they were able to prove that they have been here since they were very young. When it was time for Jessica to start applying for college, she realized her options were very limited. Since she isn’t allowed to apply for FAFSA, she could not accept going to Sonoma State University. Instead, she waited until the very last day to accept her state-issued financial aid (CA Dream Act) because she didn’t get her acceptance to San Francisco State University earlier.

The two recently noticed that the program is taking longer than usual to send them their paperwork to renew everything.

“It’s making us nervous,” Vanessa explains.

“Usually they send us the letter by now.”

They explained their frustration with not knowing what will happen in the near future.

“We don’t know if we’ll be working for four more months or two more years,” Jessica says.

“My only options would be to not work or to work illegally.”

The girl’s’ parents have told them that no matter what happens they will just have to move forward.

“I hope ICE gets us,” 20-year-old Jesus Peraza says. “I don’t like living here.”

This is what Jesus once told his parents after living in the U.S. for a short while. He was

originally born in Sonora, Mexico and came to the U.S. about twelve years ago. He lived alone with his mother and aunt until he was about five-years-old, when his mother married his now stepfather. They traveled to the U.S. with a tourist visa.

Jesus was told by his mother and stepfather that they were coming to the U.S. for about three months, and would eventually return to Mexico. However, once they got there, he realized that wasn’t true because his mother enrolled him in an elementary school in Paramount, California. It was there that he was able to learn English; his teachers took extra time to help him which made it easier for him to pick it up.

“Kids would bully me and call me names,” Jesus laughed, “but I didn’t know what they meant.”

Though the name-calling didn’t phase him, he still felt like an outcast therefore he devoted himself to school. The language barrier was just one reason for Jesus’ culture shock, along with food and the way people communicated. Christmas in the U.S. wasn’t the same and even until this day, Jesus despises Christmas because in Mexico he was able to celebrate with his large family.

Jesus, now 20-years-old and a third-year psychology major at SF State University, is currently a DACA recipient. He hopes to continue school after his bachelors degree in order to receive his masters degree.

After hearing about Trump’s decision, Jesus did not go to school that day because he realized that this decision not only affects him and others just like him, but also his parents. Luckily, he just recently renewed his DACA paperwork.

Since Jesus is undocumented and is under DACA, he is prohibited from leaving the country at any time. This has prevented him from studying abroad and traveling the world.

“Even though I have this program that somewhat protects me, I still feel restricted. I feel chained up to a system that doesn’t allow me

to be completely free.”

He has friends that travel and it makes him feel stuck, or as he says “frozen.”

“I stopped picturing my life in Mexico a long time ago... so it’s scary to think that I may not have the ability to work, get married, have kids,” Jesus continues.

“It’s daunting.”

Now when walking around campus, he starts to worry if he’ll even be able to continue studying at SF State. He also describes that his immigrant and queer identities have been attacked since now President Trump began campaigning. “They might take DACA away from me, but they will never take away my education,” Jesus says confidently.

Although there are several ways to get approved for citizenship here in the U.S., marriage was not an option for 18-year-old, Maya F. Ochoa. Soon after President Trump announced the want to repeal the DACA program, Maya’s lawyer emailed her with the recommendation of getting married soon so she can apply for citizenship.

“I couldn’t believe she told me that because I’m only 18... I shouldn’t be having to think about that,” she says, still stunned. Maya, a first-year Chinese language major at SF State University, came to the U.S. when she was only five-years-old. Originally from Guadalajara, Mexico, Maya, her brother, and mother also came with a visa on an airplane. They first established themselves in Whittier, California and her family continues to live there.

She is the first in her family to go to college.

In a non-marital attempt to get her U.S. citizenship, her father’s sister and her husband have offered to adopt her. However, she refuses because she would then have to change her last name and live with her new legal guardians.

At times, Maya questions if it is worth it to stay here and she sometimes considers going back but resents the idea of having to start her life over.

“I appreciate that my parents brought us here to have a better life,” Maya says slowly.

“And I’m not going to lie, we are more financially stable here than if we were to stay in Guadalajara, but I still feel trapped.”

Maya, just like Jesus, wishes she could travel and study abroad. With pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Chinese language, one part of learning a foreign language is the ability to use it in its country of origin, but Maya cannot leave the country.

Maya explains the reasons why people from all over the world, not just Latin America, come to the U.S. to escape horrible conditions in their own countries, such as war in the Middle East, government corruption in Venezuela, gangs in El Salvador, and drug cartels in Mexico.

“The government does not understand [these situations],” she said firmly.

“But if the script was flipped, they wouldn’t like to be treated the way they are treating us.”

One idea that Vanessa, Jessica, Jesus, and Maya came up with was the idea of not continuing school. This consideration did not come to their heads because they simply do not want to continue fulfilling the “American Dream,” but because they are not sure that they will be able to. Sure, they can continue and finish school but the same questions these four ask themselves is similar to “what will I be able to do with my degree?” and “will I even be able to find a job because I am an immigrant?”

Though the future of these young dreamers is currently in the state of unknown, they continue to study with the hopes of prospering and growing in this country because the U.S. is the country they call home.

# NOT YOUR N



Illustration: Kevin Catalan

## SHOULD YOU USE THE N-WORD IF YOU'RE NOT BLACK ?

by Kaila Taylor

**H**ip hop; it's more than just a genre of music, it's a culture, it's a way of life, it's what some people see when they look out of their window every morning, or when they are walking down their streets.  
"C-O-M-P-T-O-N!"

We scream the lyrics along with Kendrick as though we have lived life through his eyes, but we haven't. We enjoy his art, what he is doing with the experience he has had, and his story-telling capabilities, but most hip-hop consumers haven't lived it. When people who aren't Black use the hip hop genre as the glue between them and an experience they could never understand that's when problems begin to arise - a problem that involves the controversial usage of a particular word.

Let's play a game: what widely used word can mean friend and homie, but can simultaneously being grossly offensive if used in a certain way against a certain group of people?

"I don't like it, I don't approve of it," uttered Zemaye Jacobs, communication major and member of the Black Student Union here

at San Francisco State University.

This was a popular reaction to the question 'how do you feel about people who aren't Black using the word?'

If a particular word is coming to mind, ask yourself this: Do you use it, do you stop other people from using it, do you know its history, what in your life has contributed to your desensitization of the word? And yes, it's that one that starts with an 'N'.

Do you scream those Drake lyrics at the top of your lungs without a care in the world, or does your social consciousness help you refrain?

N\*\*\*a, it holds a unique and even confusing duality; it's safe and it's not, it's fun, even hip, yet withholds an immense ignorance if used in the wrong way. There is a less problematic solution, which entails not using it at all. However, there is no magic potion to eradicate the damn thing. Its roots lie in racism, anti-Blackness, and colorism, to name a few, all actively perpetuating systemic issues in this country.

Blair Thomas, an art major and member of BSU at SF State says, "It does not matter if it is a part of pop culture or not. It's not a word for non-Black people, especially if you cannot respect actual Black people." "The attempts over the years to take that word and turn it into something else, have been failed attempts," explained Professor Davey D. Cook, as he walked to his bus stop.

Cook is a professor in the Africana studies department, who teaches a hip hop course at SF State.

"It's still a pejorative and people use it as such even when they try to claim that they have somehow sanitized it."

Let's talk phonetics.

Most are aware that the original form of the word is Negro, which refers to the color Black, and is used in many languages besides English. To make a VERY long story short, during slavery it became popularly said as n\*\*\*er, and now it's popularly said as n\*\*\*a. Oh how we have progressed.

Connotation aside, this is an example of tense vowels transforming into lax vowels, explained by linguistics Professor Chris Wen-Chao Li. Like 'player' being pronounced 'playa' to 'fit in with the cool kids,' so to speak.

"This is a pretty typical example of phonological reduction as part of grammaticalization," Wen-Chao Li says.

Phonological reduction, or simplifying how words are said, happens all time and a lot of the time we don't even realize. Wen-Chao Li provided this example: 'Jesus' turned into the expression 'Jeez', which then turned into 'Gee' as in "Gee, thanks."

With that being said, the usage of n\*\*\*\* has been normalized immensely. Imagine being a fly on the wall at your favorite rap concert in the Bay Area, at the Oracle Arena, which holds about 19,000 people. Thousands of people are yelling n\*\*\*\*s around left and right.

"I don't give them [non-Blacks] a pass, but what am I gonna do, fight 50,000 people?," Bryce Page, a local, commented. It often becomes a matter of picking your battles, because so many people say it.

Many non-Black students feel the same way about the controversial word.

"I have some hispanic friends who use the word and there's this controversy of whether it's accepted for any person of color to use because we [hispanics] have suffered too," said Rosa Gutierrez a biology major at SF State.

"...but I don't think it's right for us to use a word that doesn't belong to us, so I don't agree with my friends use of the word."

When political science major, Alex Ayala, was asked what his response is when people around him are using it he said that he always stops it.

"Even if I'm that one person who maybe is 'overreacting', it's just disrespectful," Ayala states.

But does using it when rapping to your favorite rap lyric change the hundreds of years of history? As Black people gained more rights post-slavery, the word remained and still does. Consumers have allowed the word to have derivative qualities, which as a result gave many reasons to grant themselves access to the word.

"If I hear them say the word in a joking way or like playing around with friends, I won't confront them about it," says theater major and African American student, Alissa Harris.

"I don't like the word period, even when other Black people use it," marketing major and African American student Donna Tate says.

The Black response to its usage is of the varietal form. Ranging from not minding at all, to being fine with it as long as

it's not of a serious racial attack, to some not wanting to hear the word from anyone. Regardless of confrontation, it tends to make people feel some type of way.

"I think in the face of the type challenges many of us face as Black folks and the type of oppression people are dealing with daily... that's the ultimate micro-aggression especially in spaces where you are not the majority," Davey concludes as his bus nears.

I can only wonder that if we as Black people were united in how we feel about 'n\*\*\*a', then would society, or non-Black peoples, also be on the same page when it comes to the usage of the word. OR if racism died with slavery instead of manifesting itself into a systemic form, would the word usage still be as impactful. Black people are about three times more likely to be killed by police force than any other race still today. The original meaning continues to exist and shows its ugly head with every pull of the trigger.

# NEW

# STUDENTS

## THE STRUGGLE TO ACCLIMATE TO SF STATE

**A**fter a cold San Francisco summer, San Francisco State is brought back to life at the end of August. Another semester begins as the campus welcomes a new set of faces. As many students rush from one building to another, using their wonted shortcuts to get to their common classrooms, some find themselves in unfamiliar territory. These new students face a new academic standard with new peers and new surroundings. Some settle in quickly while others never gain traction in the flurry of SF State and San Francisco.

SF State eagerly welcomes its new students, but the problems a new student encounters in a new school, and city, are overlooked by the administration and the students themselves.

Alexa Uekert started her freshman year in the fall of 2014. At the ripe age of eighteen, she moved from her home in Chino Hills, a small city found in San Bernardino County, to the 14 floor of the nearly overwhelming Towers at Centennial Square. Her excitement did not radiate like the other freshmen joining her. She toured a few schools during her spring break of her senior year of high school, but quickly had an aversion to SF State once she saw it in person.

"I started crying," shared Uekert, laughing at her reaction to her first university.

"It wasn't what I expected, but it was the only California school I got into."

She already had a game plan in mind for her college career: move away to a school that she loved and graduate within four years.

CollegeBoard reported that from 2008 to 2011 only twelve percent of students graduated with a bachelor's degree within four years. For Uekert, these statistics were not helping her plan become a reality.

Her experience at SF State's orientation did not help calm her nerves either, although that is one of the goals for the event.

"I went to the orientation and was stressed about getting the schedule together. My friend Jake was there and I told him 'I can't do this. I'm going to have a panic attack,'" Uekert

remembers.

With the help of her friend and another freshman she met at orientation, she started to relax and finish the taxing event on a happier note, although the feeling of uneasiness still lingered.

During her first semester at SF State, it became harder and harder to ignore her lack of a strong mental state. Laurene Domínguez, a clinical counselor at SF State's Counseling and Psychological Center, encounters many students that struggle with transition to college life. The biggest issues she comes across in her office is anxiety and depression. She explained that the severity of these issues depend on how prepared people are when they start their college career. Without a solid support system, students find themselves struggling to balance their personal lives and their academics.

"It is hard to separate yourself from what's going on and it can affect your ability to study," Domínguez explains.

While her mental state weakened, Uekert's disdain for the school grew stronger. She went into her first semester with an undeclared major, hoping she would eventually be accepted into the impacted nursing program. Her hopes were not high because of the small acceptance rate into the program, initiating a fear that she would not graduate in four years.

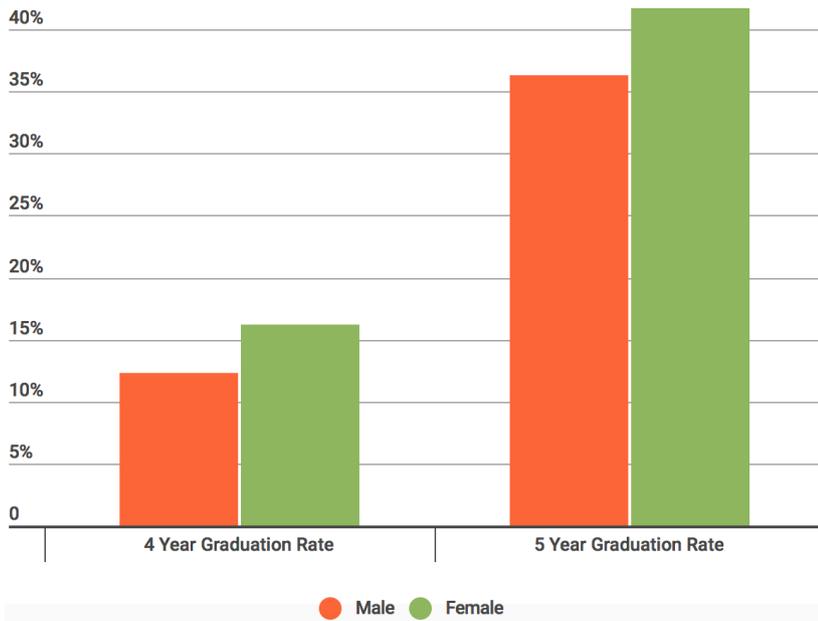
In high school, she was heavily active in school events and loved to show school spirit, but once at SF State she struggled to come by that type of atmosphere. She treasured dancing, but was unable to find a dancing team on campus, which pushed her to minor in dance so she would not lose touch with the art she treasured.

Half way through her first semester she visited her boyfriend at his school, Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona, and immediately felt at ease.

"It was my ideal picture of college. The people didn't seem as warm and welcoming at SF State as they did here," Uekert says. During her short visit, she experienced the school spirit she sought and found a dance team that reached her expectations. She felt that Grand Canyon University was where she was supposed to be and quickly began to plan her next three and half years at GCU. As the fall semester of 2014 ended, so

# First-Time Full-Time Freshmen

## Graduation Rate: 2008



did Uekert's relationship with SF State. She moved back home and never returned to the busy campus. Even though she was relieved to leave school, she went home with her head held low.

"I went through a really hard time when I went home," shared Uekert.

"I was disappointed in myself."

She spent her second semester of freshman year taking online classes through GCU and taking her mother to appointments for chemotherapy.

Three months later, Teresa Hernandez entered the SF State campus to begin her freshman year for the fall 2015 semester. After moving from wine and barbecue rich Santa Maria, California, the university's environment overwhelmed eighteen-year-old Hernandez.

"I did not know what to expect and I had trouble making friends during my freshmen year," Hernandez says.

Unlike her, Hernandez's roommate attended SF State with her two best friends, causing Hernandez to feel lonelier.

Majoring in business, she struggled through her freshman year, but continued to push through with help of her family.

"I probably wouldn't be here without my family's support," Hernandez says, who kept in constant contact with her family during her first year at SF State.

As her sophomore year rolled around, she finally found a sense of belonging in her new sorority. Phi Gamma Chi introduced her to a group of girls that quickly became her best friends and helped her grow more comfortable with the school. While Hernandez struggled with the campus, she never had any complaints about the city. San Francisco made it easier for her to make friends and invite people to different places for a fun day or night.

Hernandez still attends SF State, finally enjoying her life on and off campus. The third-year considers the sisters in her sorority as her second family. Looking back on her freshmen year, she wishes SF State offered a few more welcome days that were not as intimidating as the ones they hold.

# 6 Styled Looks Any Gender Can Pull Off

*How either gender can borrow clothes from the other and pull off original looks*

**G**rowing up my mother believed that pink dresses were going to be a staple in my baby wardrobe. Boy, was she wrong. As the years went by I came in contact with this thing called “comfort”, which then became what was going to define my style. I hated dresses, heels, or anything that society threw at me to try and define my gender.

I do identify myself as female, but my that doesn't mean my closet has to have a gender. Feminine attire mixed with stud-like apparel makes up my closet. To make this simple, I see clothes as materials that I drape on myself that make me who I am.

Most of my shopping is done at thrift stores, if not that, you'll find me searching through the endless online sale sections. When I look for clothes, whether it'd be male or female, I pick what I think will pair right with something else. Whenever I'm in the men's section, I usually get asked if I'm shopping for my boyfriend and I respond with, “No I'm shopping for myself.” They usually say things along the lines of “That's cool!” or “You have great taste in fashion.”

What would it be like if things were switched? What if I was a male and found myself in the women's section? What kind of responses would I get? I'm more than positive that most people wouldn't respond to me with the same kindness. So why does gender have to play such a big role in clothes? Yes, we wear it, but does it have to define us?

I took it upon myself to search through the piles of clothes that I own and decided to style two volunteers that let me do so. My point here is to show you that any gender is capable of wearing whatever they want. Someone who identifies as a man can wear a complete female inspired outfit, and vice versa, as I have done so with these looks. My male model is wearing only female clothing and my female model is wearing male inspired clothes.

Although stores are lacking a great diversity, from what I've seen, I want to ensure you that it is possible to create such looks. Through the looks that you're about to see, the models are wearing clothes that belong and have been styled completely by me.

Enjoy!

01



02



03



In the first look, 22-year-old Aliguas Paningbatan is wearing an oversized jersey from Urban Outfitters. It's paired with an oversized male inspired denim jacket from Forever 21. Accessories include a pair of black Yeezy sneakers from Adidas and a mustard yellow beanie from Forever 21. Wearing oversized shirts as dresses is a key to expanding your wardrobe.

The second look dives into a fall look with warm tone colors, such as green and brown. She's wearing a patterned, forest-green top from Urban Outfitters. The camo-green army jacket was thrifted, and so are the jeans that I cut up myself. A nice pair of comfy black-and-white vans with a forest-green beanie from Forever 21 ties the outfit together. A tip I like to give when wearing men's button-ups is buttoning them down halfway and then tying the other half into a knot to create a cute crop top.

My last look is serving west coast vibes to the max. She is wearing a pair of black sweatpants from ASOS, matched with a white cropped top that shows just the right amount of skin. Paired again with a black-and-white pair of vans, long white socks, and green beanie to finish the look. I love creating a laid-back look that you can also wear if leaving the house.

01



When 24-year-old Jonathan Marquez volunteered to let me dress him, I couldn't have had been more excited. I had to find outfits in my closet that would tailor his body, and at the same time, make him look damn good.

In the first outfit, I styled him in a black velvet button-up that my mother passed down to me, paired with a multi-colored bomber jacket from H&M. A sleek pair of ripped black jeans, and a pair of combat boots from Charlotte Russe bring the outfit together. For accessories, I had him throw on a black boater hat from H&M and a copper-coined necklace to add a bit of flavor in the mix. All-black outfits are my favorite and they make it easy to bring to life with either bright jacket or vintage jewelry.

02



03



In his second look, I put together a pair of thrifted black chino shorts with a floral peplum collared shirt from Forever 21. A thrifted leather jacket and a black beret with tall green socks make the look edgy and inviting. A pair of high-waist shorts are my go to especially when pairing them with a bold shirt.

In his final look, I went with sizzling colors that made the look rich and perfect for the fall. A burnt orange off-the-shoulder shirt from Urban Outfitters layered with a paisley patterned jacket from Topman go hand-in-hand. Coral skinny jeans, tan slip on booties, and vintage sunglasses from Amazon make this a head-turning look that screams comfort. When choosing a color for an outfit, it's best to start with a colored shirt and add on clothes that fall along the lines of that pigment. If you want to wear one color all over your outfit without drowning in it, it's best to have a solid item to begin with and then add prints on top.