

d

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EDGAR GALVAN / el Don

THE STRIKEOUT QUEEN

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ABOUT THE COVER



Pitcher Emily Rosas sits proudly in her cubby for one of the last times of her well accomplished career.



→ **EDUARDO VELASQUEZ**
VIEWS EDITOR

MEET OUR OPINIONATED EDITOR

I am finishing up my first year here as a graphic design major. I was always interested in art and design as far back as I remember. Growing up, I had a very talented older sister who liked to sketch and paint. She played a significant role in getting me interested in art. Although my love for the subject goes back a long way, I didn't know what field I wanted to pursue until my senior year. I had no plans of what career I wanted or where I

wanted to go to college. At least until a group of friends asked me to move to San Francisco. I accepted and applied to art school, and over the year I lived there, I fell in love with graphic design in my classes. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, I short-lived my life in San Francisco, and before long, I was back in Santa Ana. I took a year off of school before enrolling back in college, finding myself familiar with not knowing

what to do with my life. In a spur-of-the-moment decision, I enrolled in SAC and signed up for two classes without reading the course description because they fit into my work schedule. One of those classes put me in *el Don*. I pursued digital in a hands-on environment surrounded by people with similar creative minds by some random stroke of luck. Here I felt comfortable voicing my opinion, so I was offered a role as a views editor.

KEEP IN TOUCH, FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS!

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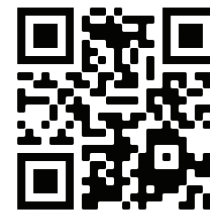
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SCAN WITH YOUR
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STAY UP TO DATE



HEALTH

VACCINE MANDATE
COMING SPRING 2023

Students must be fully vaccinated to take in-person or hybrid classes by the spring semester of 2023, unless approved for a medical or religious exemption.

The Board of Trustees approved the mandate last semester but officials said technical delays prevented immediate enactment.

Point and Click Solutions is now an external vendor who will collect and verify all the COVID-19 information which will then go to the SAC Health and Wellness Center. District faculty recommend that students make a digital vaccine card through the California Digital Vaccine portal so they can carry their digital cards wherever they may go.

"There is no reference to boosters. However, students are encouraged, not required, to upload booster information," former District Chief Communications Officer Letitia Clark said.

Every other community college in the region has already had a vaccine mandate in place for at least one semester.

"We have implemented a Vaccination Incentive program, have begun clear messaging to students about the upcoming mandate, are developing the means for students to verify their vaccination status," said Vice President of Academic Affairs, Jeffrey Lamb. **Marifer Gutierrez**



Digital dollars

STORY
CARRIE GRAHAM
PHOTO
KATE BUSTAMANTE

District will receive a total of about \$4 million to address technological inequalities in the community and nearby cities

Rancho Santiago Community College District is working with various partners to improve digital access and literacy to students and the surrounding communities after receiving \$2 million in earmark funding from Congress.

The district will use the money to help address the local "digital divide," a term that originated in the '90s to define the inequity between those who have access to essential technology and those who do not.

"We're looking to identify the gaps. It's called the consortium," explained Enrique Perez, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services. "It's not just Santa Ana College and [the district]. We've brought in all the stakeholders in the community so you're talking nonprofits, businesses, students—everything to identify where those gaps are."

In addition to the \$2 million in federal funding, the district will also receive at least an additional \$2 million through commitments from local small business development centers, workforce boards and city governments, though the details are still in progress.

The federal money comes from earmark funds, made available recently for the first time in 15

years. Earmarks differ from most federal funding because they are only available for specific projects and go directly from the federal government to the communities they will benefit, instead of being funneled through other organizations or agencies.

Congressman Lou Correa, who is up for re-election in November, advocated for the funds to be distributed to the two community colleges in his district.

"I would propose that being digitally competent will help other issues around us, kind of the center of spokes on the wheel," Correa, who represents the 46th District, said during a press event of why he chose to focus on technology instead of issues like homelessness or food insecurity.

The district has another six months before the funding will actually be available. In the meantime they will begin planning where to spend it.

"The next step now is to get together with the department where that money is coming from so we can begin to put together the contract and get started," said RSCCD Chancellor Marvin Martinez.



Know Your Vote



Primary elections are on Tuesday, June 7.

The two candidates with highest votes in the contests below will move on to the general election in November.

What is Congress?

The U.S. Constitution established two parts of Congress: the House of Representatives and the Senate. Both work to write and pass federal laws, though they represent residents in different ways.

Partial-Term Senator

It's rare to have both state senator positions on the ballot. The partial-term contest is to replace Kamala Harris, who became vice president in 2021. You may vote for both contests.

Another governor vote?

No you don't have déjà vu. Gov. Gavin Newsom fought a recall election last year, but his term is up this year so the position is on the ballot again.

Redistricting anew

This is the first election after most of the state districts were redrawn using 2020 Census results. No incumbents and new faces are common.

NATIONAL

U.S. SENATOR	
Member of the Senate. Two per state.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular 6-year term (until Jan. 2029)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remainder of current term (Jan. 2023)
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE	
Member of the House. One per district.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	45th District (Garden Grove/Fullerton)
<input type="checkbox"/>	46th District (Santa Ana/Orange/Anaheim)

STATE

GOVERNOR	
Head of government for state of California	
<input type="checkbox"/>	25 candidates are running against
SECRETARY OF STATE	
Chief clerk. Oversees all elections and records.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Former incumbent appointed to Senate
ATTORNEY GENERAL	
State's top law enforcement official and lawyer	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Incumbent was appointed last year
STATE SENATOR	
State's upper house of representatives	
<input type="checkbox"/>	34th District (Whittier to Santa Ana)
STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER	
State's lower house of representatives	
<input type="checkbox"/>	68th District (Santa Ana/Orange/Anaheim)

This list is not comprehensive. Scan the QR code to review candidates and see what's on your ballot.

COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	
Oversees all county operations. 5 seats total.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2nd District (Santa Ana/Orange/Anaheim)
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS	
Oversees 27 school districts, including RSCCD	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Incumbent is running against newcomer
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	
County's top lawyer and prosecutor	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 candidates total, including incumbent
SHERIFF-CORONER	
County's top law enforcement official	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Incumbent is running un-opposed



Santa Ana candidates

Mayor Vicente Sarmiento, who won his seat in 2020, and former Santa Ana councilmember Ceci Iglesias, who was recalled in 2020, are both running for the 2nd District. If Sarmiento wins, it would trigger a special election that could cost taxpayers up to \$700,000.

KNOW YOUR VOTE CENTER

In 2020, the O.C. Registrar of Voters moved away from traditional polling locations to county-wide voting centers. Starting June 4, you can visit any one of 200 vote centers to register to vote, change your party or cast your ballots. Here's two at SAC:

- ★ **DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER**
1300 S Bristol St.
- ★ **SANTA ANA COLLEGE**
1530 W 17th St. (Gym)

housing insecure

BY KATE HARKER / el Don

Homelessness has become a hidden crisis at Santa Ana College, but a lack of updated data obscures how severe the issue really is.

The 2019 Food Pantry Survey, conducted by the SAC Research Department with the Associated Student Government found that 11.2% of the students who responded experienced homelessness.

It discovered that housing insecurity can take many forms. Over half of the homeless students had slept in a car or vehicle, 46.6% slept in a garage, couch, etc. of a friend or relative's house, and 11.3% slept in a homeless shelter, as well as other locations.

According to Amber Vasquez-Nodal, a student services coordinator at the Fainbarg Chase Thrive Center, which helps students address

basic needs, the pandemic has increased food and housing insecurity at SAC since the 2019 survey. She says students who were experiencing issues before COVID saw their conditions worsen if they lost their jobs, leaving some with no income to support themselves.

Despite the lack of recent evidence, housing insecurity is a known problem at SAC. The Thrive Center has allocated about \$20,000 in emergency grants to students towards temporary housing with local hotel partners, utility bills and down payments.

"Since the [Thrive Center] grant's inception, we have supported 13 students financially, the majority of which were seeking support in finding long-term housing due to a recent situation that left them experiencing homelessness," Interim Public Information Officer Dalilah Davilos said.

Another example of the difficulty in determining the rates of housing insecure students is at the Veterans Resource Center, where students are reluctant to seek the help they need.

"A big challenge we face is identifying our student veterans who are in need of assistance with housing," said Interim Director of Special Programs at the Veterans Resource Center Mark Canett. "Many of them are not comfortable with coming forward to ask for help. But, we always encourage anyone that needs help to come and speak with us."

SAC students who are food or housing insecure endure academic difficulties that students with a stable home do not have to cope with, according to Hop Nguyen, another Student Services Coordinator at the Fainbarg Chase Thrive Center. The basic need for housing is essential.

“ The basic need [for housing] is a must to fulfill in order to succeed in everything else. ”

—Hop Nguyen
Student Services Coordinator



Finding a stable place to sleep is harder than ever for college students. Here's why:

1 The average price of a home in Orange County jumped 22% over last year and average rent is expected to grow \$410 by the end of 2023.

2 Continued extension of California's eviction moratorium over the past two years reflects the difficulty of the application process and approval for rent relief. The current deadline is June 30.

3 New housing is not affordable. Government and builders have not supplied enough housing to meet the need and demand.

4 Many students don't self-report as homeless, even though they are couch surfing or sleeping in cars. A 2019 study from the University of California, Los Angeles found that 1 in 5 California Community College students are unhoused.

Sources: Redfin, USC, OC Housing Authority



Q&A: SCC FILMMAKER

Santiago Canyon College student Braden Swope made an award-winning horror flick. He says you can do it too.

BY JONATHAN ESPINOZA / el Don

How did you get into film and know it was something you wanted to pursue?

I auditioned to go to the Orange County School of the Arts and I didn't know it then. During my freshman year studying film, I wasn't like, 'This is totally me!' It was hard. It's a field that takes a lot of effort, dedication and lack of sleep. So, you know, it's scary.

But, once I started to do it more and had some success with it, I realized that the highs of this industry are way better than any of the lows.

So the payoff is worth the stress?

Exactly. You kind of forget those hours once you're premiering something or talking to a friend about it. You're like, "Okay it was worth it at this point." I have found a lot of joy there.

Which genre of films do you enjoy making the most?

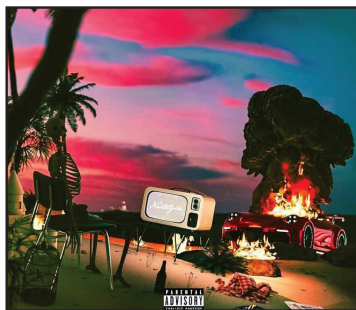
It's interesting because my feature film, *Human Resources*, is a horror movie. Before I made that movie I had never intentionally watched a horror film or been interested in it. So, before the days of making this feature film, it was always comedy. I've never gravitated towards drama or anything else. It's always just been comedy. My brother and I grew up trying to be funny and put on skits and put on shows for people. It's always been to make people laugh. But, when it came to making a feature film, he and I were very inspired by Jordan Peele's film, *Get Out*, in 2017.

SCAN HERE TO READ THE FULL INTERVIEW AT ELDONNEWS.ORG



WHAT'S HOT

NEW ALBUM



NOSTALGIA Eslabón Armado

Eslabón Armado dropped a new album at the start of this month with not just their usual sad ballads, but also new instrumental twists and tracks that feature reggaetón-esque tones. The California group sings of heartache, life struggles and falling in love across 14 songs. The group features guests from Ivan Cornejo, Junior H, Fuerza Regida, DannyLux to upcoming artists Sarah Silva and Erre. If you're going through it, this one's for you.

— KATE G. BUSTAMANTE

SPOTIFY PLAYLIST



Staff playlist From the el Don fam

Listen to our new playlist, "A Day at the Beach." It's inspiration came from the energy of a day spent at the beach. Picture yourself under the sun, barefoot in the sand, and spending time with friends or family. The music theme is cheerful indie, R&B, pop, and heartfelt Spanish tracks from Eslabón Armado and Ivan Cornejo. You'll hear staff-picked songs from artists like H.E.R., Alvways, Kali Uchis, Mr. Twin Sister and The Dirty Heads.

— EMILY HERNANDEZ

TV SHOW



Spy X Family Fox Searchlight

Spy X Family is the latest anime by Wit Studios and Cloverworks about a world-class spy named Loid Forger, who's facing his most dangerous mission yet, starting a family. Marrying an assassin wife and adopting a telepathic daughter, he may be biting off more than he can chew this time. The show balances between sweet family moments without losing any of the action-packed fight scenes. With only five episodes released so far, this is sure to be one of the hottest anime this season.

— EDUARDO VELASQUEZ

NEW SINGLE



"The Heart Part 5" Kendrick Lamar

Fixing any problem starts with facing your issues. Kendrick Lamar releases another music video that compliments his soulful lyrics and careful selection in a new single. He raps over a sample of the 1976 single, "I Want You" by Marvin Gaye. Lamar touches on the world and mental health issues with solid visuals, he morphs into celebrities from Kanye to the late Kobe Bryant and Nipsey Hussle. "You can't help the world until you help yourself," he raps in a line that emulates this generation's mindset.

— KATE G. BUSTAMANTE

RETURNING TO THE STAGE

Three years. That's how long it's been since Santa Ana College's music, theater and dance students performed on the Phillips Hall stage to a full audience. That all changes this May.

GUITAR ENSEMBLE STRUMS IT UP

STORY AND PHOTO
JONATHAN ESPINOZA

A soothing breath of Ireland wafted through the halls of the music building where the guitar ensemble rehearses. The sweet sound of "Londonderry Air," a popular Irish tune, floated from the guitars and filled the room with a warm and welcoming presence.

Santa Ana College's guitar ensemble is getting ready for their upcoming in-person concert. This will be their first time performing in front of an audience since the pandemic forced the group to rehearse and perform solely online.

Pieces by Beethoven, Bach, Houghton, and a few others will be performed at the concert. SAC's guitar ensemble will also be featuring a special guest, the Mount San Antonio College guitar ensemble.



DON MARIACHI IS READY TO PLAY

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ADAM PONCE

A flurry of guitars and violins reverberates off the walls of the small rehearsal room. Cutting through the loud instruments, Adjunct Professor of Music Ernesto Viramontes lets out a soulful grito, a joyous shout that comes from deep within the body.

The students of Don Mariachi spent every Wednesday night this semester preparing for their first performance at home venue Phillips Hall in three years, a night of classic mariachi songs on May 27 called "México de Noche."

They are practicing "El Son del Caballito" repeatedly

until they get it right. "Let's try it one more time, but this time at a faster tempo," Viramontes says.

Don Mariachi is more than just a class. It's a way for the students to express their love and passion for the music of their country while serenading their audience with mournful yet beautiful music.

"México de Noche" will present different styles of traditional Mexican music such as son jalisciense, ranchera, bolero, and huapango. The set list includes songs by famous mariachi artists like Jose Alfredo Jimenez, Juan

Gabriel, Mariachi Vargas and Tomas Mendez.

"A lot of the songs we are doing people have

"MARIACHI IS PLAYED FROM THE HEART. YOU CAN NOT GET THE STYLE FROM READING IT OFF A CHART,"

*-ERNESTO VIRAMONTES,
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC*

LIVE MUSIC IN MAY

Step into Phillips Hall for live music from student ensembles.

BIG BAND

Soul Funk & Jazz
Friday, May 20 @ 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Phillips Hall Theatre

GUITAR ENSEMBLE

Guitar duets, quartets, and more
Saturday, May 21 @ 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Phillips Hall Theatre

CONCERT BAND

Myths, Fantasy, and Legends
Sunday, May 22 @ 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phillips Hall Theatre

SPRING SHOWCASE

SAC Piano Faculty & Students play Piano Music
Thursday, May 26 @ 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Phillips Hall Theatre

DON MARIACHI

Mexico de Noche
Friday, May 27 @ 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Phillips Hall Theatre

CHOIR CONCERT

Classic & Contemporary Works
Saturday, May 28 @ 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Phillips Hall Theatre

TICKET INFO

sac.edu/fpa

SCAN HERE TO BUY TICKETS



MARIACHI (continued from page 7)

heard before," said Viramontes. "People like to hear old songs. For some people, they will remember when they were kids and for some, it will bring back memories of their grandparents. It is a family tradition."

Mariachi music is direct and driving, and it is designed to instill emotion, but all that was lost with pandemic-era concerts, all held over Zoom or at the Johnson Center.

Until they returned for in-person learning this semester, students enrolled in the music classes that comprise practices via Zoom while occasionally meeting in person in open spaces. Rather than practicing the music as a group, the students would sit and listen to their prerecorded parts in hopes of improving.

"It was very difficult dealing with Zoom issues because it is such an in-person type of class," said violinist Edwin Martinez.

For singer and guitarist Paul Rodriguez, who has been in the ensemble for about seven years, there is no better feeling than performing in person. It reminds him of the first time he sang "Crei" to a live crowd.

"When I first sang, I could feel the audience everywhere. I turned, and I could feel that they were enjoying it," Rodriguez said. "There is no better feeling than to make people happy."

After months of many late night practice sessions, the Don Mariachi is ready to put down their sheet music and take it to the stage for a night of whistles and claps.

"It feels good to be back," said Viramontes.



CONDUCTING Adjunct Professor of Music Adam Gerling leads the band.

THE BEAT GOES ON

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY EMILY HERNANDEZ

The metronome is set. *click. click. click.*

The tuba makes a bombastic entrance from the back of the room, and the clarinets playfully follow, like Little Red Riding Hood skipping merrily through the woods.

It's a quiet evening as another night of practice begins. Adjunct Music Professor Adam Gerling holds the magic wand as director of Santa Ana College's Concert Band.

The ensemble of music majors is gearing up to perform "Myths, Legends, and Fantasy."

They will be playing a composite of fantastical songs like "Pegasus," which is about the legend of a mythological flying horse, and songs from *Into the Woods* which was inspired by the Brothers Grimm fairy tales. Other songs include "The

Washington Post," written by famous conductor John Philip Sousa who composed this piece as a marching tune for the U.S. Marine Band in the 1880s, making way for the golden age of Band.

Before going into lockdown and rehearsals were held remotely, the ensemble could be as large as thirty players, but this semester the group size is just under ten people.

One of those players is Evan Rathe, who first

picked up a clarinet when she was 5-years-old and fell in love with music. She has a bachelor's degree in music education from Cal State Long Beach and she teaches instrumental and general music to middle school and elementary students at Lydia-Romero Cruz Academy in Santa Ana.

Another player said, "This is my therapy. It's like the fun thing I do, plus a lot of us have been doing this for so long. It's like you're with a group of friends, plus you get to meet so many people from the community."

Director Adam Gerling, is leading the Concert Band ensemble for the first time. "If I bring the energy for you guys, I know you will follow," said Gerling to them during the practice.



DOUBLE DUTY Don Mariachi Ensemble players attends practice after work.



LATE NIGHT Concert Band players stay on campus after hours to rehearse.

"THAT'S IT FOR ME, I HAVE MY DEGREE, I HAVE MY JOB. I JUST WANT TO PLAY AT THIS POINT, AND PLAY WITH OTHER PEOPLE AND HEAR PEOPLE'S STORIES,"

-EVAN RATHE,
CLARINET PLAYER



GOING BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Alumni and faculty join together to keep theatre performances alive.

Story and Photos by Emma Mcmillen and Sergio Gutierrez

When *Anna in the Tropics* premiered on April 22, the audience witnessed a concoction of murder, adultery and Russian literature. What they didn't see, behind the scenes, was all of the preparation that went into this production.

"There's almost a fear to share your show with the audience," said Adjunct Professor of Theatre William Mittler. "We're enjoying rehearsal, we're committed, we're discovering our characters."

The first step in putting on a show, however, is casting. Due to a decrease in enrollment since the pandemic, casting options were scarce.

Theatre Department Chair Amberly Chamberlain, described the effects on the department as tragic. "We had, like, three people show up for auditions. It was very sad and we did not want to have to cancel the show, so we reached out to alumni and then even

some friends," Chamberlain said.

After the cast was assembled, they participated in intimacy training to ensure everyone felt comfortable with each other.

"It's hard to just allow someone to grab you," says actress and alumni Cristina Villagomez. "You have to build those connections first before you're comfortable doing things like that."

As rehearsals began, performers followed safety precautions like getting tested regularly. Mittler, the director, often uttered "masks on off-stage, masks off on-stage" during practice runs.

When it was finally opening night, everyone was excited to get back under the lights.

One of the lead actors, Sergio Camez says, "there is nothing like being in a room and being on stage." Villagomez finishes this thought, adding, "and feeling the people inside of there reacting to what you're putting out."



PERFORMING Child Development Professor Chantal Lamourelle performs in spring production *Anna in the Tropics*.

SOFTBALL

OEC CHAMPIONS



The Dons haven't let their foot off the gas pedal this season. Crowned the 2022 Orange Empire Conference champions, Santa Ana put respect on their name, ending conference play with a record of 20-4. Coach Marissa Ross won Coaching Staff of the Year, sophomore Emily Rosas won Pitcher of the Year and Alana Rangsuebsin was awarded Co-Defensive Player of the year. The Dons, hungry for more, hosted Long Beach City College in the second round of the CCCAA SoCal Regionals May 13 and 14. / **Edgar Galvan**

BASEBALL

PLAYOFF RUN CONTINUES



The Dons wrapped the 2022 season 13-8, placing third in the Orange Empire Conference and earning them a ticket to playoffs. In the first round, Santa Ana faced Santa Barbara and came out victorious to advance to the second round. Overall, the team ended with a record of 29-10-1. Three players made All-OEC first team. SAC hosted the second round of CCCAA Super Regional May 13 and 14. / **Isaac Hernandez**



Better together

STORY

ISAAC HERNANDEZ

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

EDGAR GALVAN

In-person interactions between teammates this year propelled the Dons to domination in season play and championships

For freshman guard Sophia Escalante, last semester was a weird one. She started at SAC in Fall 2020 and all classes were online—including basketball practice.

"I was first introduced to my teammates online," said Escalante. "It was a little weird when we first saw each other in person. We obviously knew each other but we were so used to seeing one another on tiny squares."

Escalante adjusted to going to the gym and practicing in person. This season she earned The Don team award, and second ALL-Team in the Orange Empire Conference.

"Being put through such a crazy year as a team really taught us to lean on each other and created the foundation of our team," said Escalante.

The 2021-2022 school year was the first with less restrictions for student athletes. Being able to build connections with teammates led all Dons to individual and team success.

The pandemic was a physical and mental struggle. Being stripped away from what they love and

interactions with teammates was difficult.

"The pandemic has really altered so many aspects of our life we need gathering matter to reclaim the humanity in people," said psychology professor Jeffrey Pedroza.

Spring sports in 2020 were cut short. A NCAA survey in the fall 2020 of student athletes found that 1 in 3 student athletes reported feeling lonely because of the pandemic.

Fast forward to this year, the Dons are no longer lonely. Softball went 33-7 overall and won the OEC. Baseball is 31-10-1 and still going strong in playoffs.

The football team is coming off OEC champions going undefeated. Head Coach Anthony White wants to continue this winning atmosphere created with the great people on staff.

"Recruiting student athletes that care about competition with family and unity [is key]," said coach White. "We are playing for more than ourselves, we are playing for the community. We definitely took football for granted, being with one another made us realize not to."

PERSONALITY PROFILE / OEC PITCHER OF THE YEAR

RECORD BREAKING

STAR DON EMILY ROSAS GOES BEYOND THIS SEASON'S 279 STRIKEOUTS AND OPENS UP ABOUT LIFE OFF THE FIELD

STORY AND PHOTO BY EDGAR GALVAN

Sometimes life throws a screwball at you, and sometimes Emily Rosas is the one on the rubber. The All-Orange Empire Conference first team pitcher is in her third and final season for the Dons. The Villa Park graduate has been handing out free smoke in 39 starting appearances with a 0.99 ERA. Rosas also collected an outstanding 279 strikeouts leading the Dons to the OEC championship.

Rosas is no stranger to setbacks, but you wouldn't know it by looking at her stats.

Last year, Rosas learned her brother died from COVID-19. A heavy blow that occurred mid-season, she knew her teammates had her back.

"I didn't miss practice. He passed in the morning and I came to practice right after," said Rosas. "I came to school and sat in my cubby. Being around my team helped a lot."

This season she's making her brother proud.

"He'd be making fun of me, that's all brothers do," said Rosas. "Laughing at me, being proud of me, but also finding a way to make fun of me in the midst of it. That's what siblings are for."

Her brother's death isn't the only screwball that life has thrown at her. Loss is all too familiar to Rosas since she was in high school. Her tattoos commemorate the people no longer with her.

"Every flower up here represents my family," said Rosas. "Butterflies are for my best friend who passed away when I was 15, in a car accident."

The leading pitcher for the Dons also experienced

challenges during her softball career. In spring 2019, Rosas played for the University of North Dakota. Being thousands of miles away from home wasn't easy, to the point that she considered calling it quits.

"It was environmental, being away from home, and all these things added up and made me not who I was before," said Rosas. "It just took me down. It brought me down as a whole and I stopped being in love with softball and I had to completely fall in love with the game all over again."

Rosas found the Dons softball program, which welcomed her with open arms. The coaching staff and teammates helped her revive a love for the game that she started playing at age four.

"Coach Ross had reached out to me in the summer and I was at a point in my life where I wasn't thinking about playing softball anymore," said Rosas. "I came and had a meeting with her and I fell in love with everything about it and I was like—I'm coming here."

On the field, she counts on the ongoing support from her mother, Antonia, in helping her manage life's screwballs. Her mom can always be seen at games with her Canon camera, making sure that she gets Emily's good side for photos, which she takes for the team and family archives.

"She is a rock, like if I don't see her at a game it hurts my heart," said Rosas. "I enjoy seeing her do something that she loves, and luckily I get to do something that I love. And it also involves her getting to do something that she loves, which is taking pictures."





Staff Editorial

GIVE US CASH NOT CONTESTS

If every student received money we wouldn't be homeless

Santa Ana College serves low-income students, so by nature most of us face financial insecurity. There are students who need to work two or three jobs to support themselves while attending school.

Financial and housing barriers cause a great deal of stress for students who are overworked, walking a fine line between prioritizing their jobs and their education. Consequently, they may see dropping out as their only option.

Administrators need to continue to provide cash aid to students, keeping in mind that the demographic they serve is working to break generational cycles of poverty.

One way they can do this is by providing better student services and amenities. There is a lack of access to food on campus and places to study for students who are on campus late at night due to their work schedules or personal life.

SAC recently held a TikTok contest that awarded the winning student with a year of free tuition and books. Instead of

addressing the issue of the educational fees being unaffordable for students, SAC's administration offered them a competition to compete in as if it were some sort of *Hunger Games* parody.

If SAC has the time to hold a contest and can afford all these new building changes then why can't they afford to assist their students? Especially when enrollment numbers are incredibly important to the school and its finances. Students often do not have the funds to pay for everything their enrollment entails plus the increasing cost of living.

If every student received a monthly payment to attend then that would help students who are facing housing insecurities. More funds need to be allocated for unhoused students.

The school desperately needs to improve their communication with students about already existing basic needs resources. The chancellor and the board should focus on finding ways to give cash aid to students rather than lining their own pockets.

OPINION EDUARDO VELASQUEZ

MEN: YOU CAN WEAR MAKEUP, BRO

The devil works hard, but drag queens work harder. They look better too.

Drag queens and other celebrities have pushed the limits of what we think is acceptable for a man to wear, such as makeup. I think this has had a negative effect on our thinking.

I'm constantly hearing about celebrities like Harry Styles wearing makeup and although I support celebrities wearing makeup, I still feel like it's only socially acceptable for them and not the everyday man.

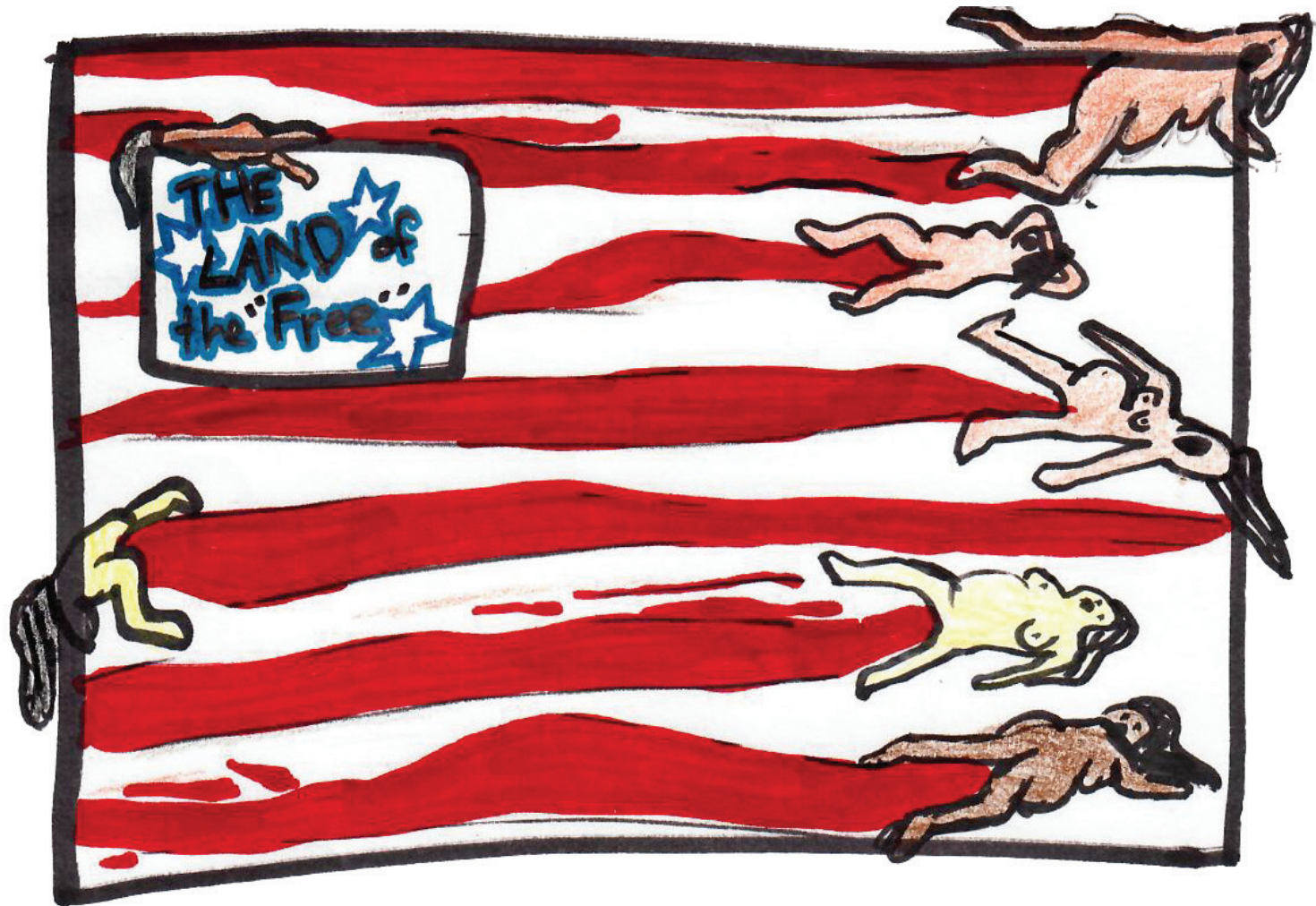
The average person doesn't have the confidence or a big supportive fan base to express themselves like celebrities, nor do they really relate to them. I don't think celebrities should be the ones we look up to when we normalize things such as wearing makeup.

I believe normalizing men wearing makeup is up to individual brands' marketing. Men can get pimples and blemishes too, so why not a line of concealer for us. I think it's their responsibility to take the risk and produce makeup lines directed and advertised towards men.



DYING FOR FREEDOM

A draft leak of a majority opinion by Justice Samuel Alito would strike down *Roe v. Wade*, the court case that essentially made abortions legal in the United States and protects our privacy rights. If the overturn goes into effect, 26 of the 50 states already have abortion laws that would quickly make abortion illegal or ban it early.



WORDS AND ILLUSTRATION/ KATE G. BUSTAMANTE

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* would be a death sentence for those without access to receive a procedure that I believe is a human right.

Realistically, allowing states to ban abortion is only banning safe abortions. Much like the back-alley coathanger abortions of the pre-*Wade* era, women are turning to the internet and mail-order resources to meet their abortion needs.

One such service, Aid Access, reported an 1180% increase in demand from women in Texas after their ban went into effect, a few months ago.

We already see what happens when a woman has no say over her body in Texas. Following the state ban on terminations after ten weeks, a woman was arrested and charged with murder after seeking medical care for sepsis after an

alleged "self-induced" abortion.

A ruling like this will increase at home abortions that can lead to detrimental health issues and can become fatal. Death is a guarantee in making abortion illegal, besides chipping away from everyone's privacy rights.

By criminalizing safe abortions, lives are at risk. Homicide rates have gone up throughout history to prove this. It denies and promotes physical and emotional trauma on birth givers—specifically those in low-income and Black and Brown populations.

Besides physical and financial repercussions, emotional ties can be harmful, and by forcing a person to carry a child, they are subject to emotional trauma. In extreme cases, partners can become homicidal, which is another example of how lives will be lost.

Studies show that policies restricting abortion

provision may result in more women being unable to terminate unwanted pregnancies, potentially keeping them in contact with violent partners, and putting women and their children at risk.

Abortions are not an avoidance of responsibility, but some states have laws that do not protect or allow exceptions for cases where women's lives are in danger, like rape or birth complications.

My heart hurts for those who feel hopeless, without a say about their bodies. The impacts that Black, Brown and low-income folks could experience should shame politicians who claim they are trying to make the world a more fair place.

Louisiana lawmakers are moving forward with a bill this week that classifies abortion as a homicide. They should consider that outlawing abortions is the actual homicide—a mass one.

Let's Talk Graduation.

Reporter Miranda Navarro asked: where are you going after this semester?

"I'm graduating this semester and I will be transferring to Cal State LA to major in Communication disorders in the fall. I am excited for my next step."

-Jessica Zepeda

"I am graduating with my studio arts degree. I plan on transferring to pursue a fine arts degree."

-Sophia Krumbein

"You just gotta keep going. Just keep swimming as my friend Dory would say."

CLASS

"Always manifest in you and your goals as they will come true if you believe in yourself."

OF

"I am a sophomore. I will be transferring to Cal State Fullerton to study business finance with a specialty in insurance."

-Cortez Davis

2022

"This is my fifth year at SAC and I am graduating with a degree in applied sciences."

-Gerardo Rodriguez

"Make sure you meet deadlines ahead of time and study to get a high GPA."



COMMENCEMENT INFO

Date: Thursday June 2, 2022

Location: Angel Stadium

"I have been attending here for a year and a half. I am transferring to Cal State Fullerton and currently studying criminal justice."

-Amairani Briseno Rivas