

SPRING 2023

INSIDE FULLERTON

A chalkboard with a drawing of a raised fist. The drawing is done in white chalk and shows a hand with the index and middle fingers extended, pointing upwards. The background of the chalkboard is dark and has some faint, illegible markings.

**THE
TRIALS OF
CRITICAL RACE THEORY**

IN THIS ISSUE

Kicks Around Campus



Women's Equality in Music



A Safe Haven in Raving

SPRING

**20
23**

EDITOR'S NOTE

"I cannot be a **LEADER** of any quality **WITHOUT A TEAM** to defer to."

Dear Inside Fullerton readers,

Thank you for lending us your eyes and your minds in picking up this Spring 2023 issue. We intend to continue building on the tradition of editorial excellence. An abundance of awards recognizing art direction and writing precedes us, and the team has much to be proud of. Yet perhaps what is most rewarding is to be both a witness and instrumental in the unison of individual talents, leading to the triumph of this collaboration.

As editor-in-chief, I recognized a responsibility to devise an ethos for this issue. The team highlighted varying issues, often observing faults resulting from cultural trends and resilience through adversity. Consistently throughout this magazine, you'll see the significance of narrative. Visionary beings seek to carve out new narratives, especially running counter to those placed on them. What this results in is individuals seeing themselves in subcultures, communities and movements. When narratives clash, this can lead to conflict and that is undoubtedly apparent here too.

Our cover story, written by Mariana Ramos, "Banned in OC," permeates through the fierce debate around the critical race theory ban in the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District, allowing readers into the more nuanced motives of the advocates on both sides. "The Juco Struggle," by Holden Remme, shines a light on the underdog story right under our nose, the grit and grind of community college athletes working through numerous hardships for a chance to play the sport they love. "Sweeter Than Kandi," penned by Mikey Moran, is the synthesis of a historical account of underground raves and an on-the-scene report of how a subwoofer

playground for eccentrics and socialites is being pushed to evolve by Gen Z in its inclusivity and increasing harm reduction resources.

Beyond this print edition of the magazine, our rollout remains active as digital exclusives are going live on our social media feeds. In addition to written stories, find us on your feed giving our spin on long and short-form videos across YouTube, Instagram and TikTok.

There is no Inside Fullerton without the contributions of a dedicated team of students every semester working diligently to produce a product of the highest caliber. Navigating around other responsibilities and the turbulent nature of journalism itself, I commend my team for their adaptability and finesse. I cannot be a leader of any quality without a team to defer to, and in turn, my team's excellence made me a better leader. I'd like to give personal thanks to Mariana Ramos, our managing editor, for being the glue that held together all of our distinct responsibilities. I'd also like to thank our art director Jett Shim and photography editor Logan Stupin for finding a way to bind ambitious concepts to cunning execution. Lastly, I'd like to thank our program advisor, Jessica Langlois, for extending the platform to wield my perspective toward telling unique stories and reassuring me that I can.

To close on a sentimental note, the end of my tenure at Inside Fullerton wraps up an academic career at Fullerton College as well. With the idea of creating narratives in my mind, I am grateful for the time invested wandering these halls of knowledge, cutting between these modest, aged neo-baroque buildings under blooming Jacaranda trees to get to my next class. The mark it has left on me has been indelible, but a part of my output lives here too. Our readers are as much a part of these stories by reading them and contributing to the community as our writers and our subjects. I look forward to the ways future students make this magazine their own and yours too.

Ian Devin Winstanley



Next Tomorrow
by Duval Timothy

staff

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ALL POMS

GO TO

HEAVEN

BY OLIVIA PENNA

The founder of this OC dog rescue is dedicated to saving Pomeranians, even if it means filling her home with the cute pups.



On any given day, Jasmine List has a multitude of Pomeranians running around her home in Southern California. The fluffy toy pups are best known for being photographed nuzzling in the arms of Paris Hilton or Gwen Stefani as they shop on luxurious plazas, such as Rodeo Drive. But these dogs don't have that celebrity life—yet.

List has been running the OC Pom Rescue for three years out of Orange County. The organization boasts 100 volunteers and places 150-200 Pomeranians in homes every year. It's been featured on Hallmark twice, Thrillist, as well as many other publications. They have also partnered with Gay for Good, a non-profit organization that mobilizes LGBTQ+ and allies to establish strong ties with a broader community.

Growing up, List loved animals and wanted to help them out. After List posted a photo of her own Pomeranian on Instagram, the Instagram account called "Pommy Mommy" liked the photo, so she clicked on the account and it sent her into a rabbit hole of rescuing information. After doing research and becoming involved with other rescues, List had a mission for her rescue.

"We wanted to get more dogs, do a lot more vetting and really get the word out, more of education than just rescuing," says List.

When List, president of OC Pom, founded the organization in February 2020, it was just List and her two daughters, but within the past three years it has grown to over 100 volunteers, which includes donors and fosters working to rescue Pomeranians from about 20 to 25 shelters from Las Vegas to San Diego to Santa Barbara. The number of Pomeranians rescued from shelters per year ranges from 50 to 75, depending on if shelters have a lot of dogs or not.

Social media played a huge role in the growth of OC Pom as well. They would post dogs that were in shelters and ask if there was anyone willing to foster. Word of mouth also played a part because the Instagram page started with three followers right before Covid-19 and events weren't able to be held.

"Approximately 6.3 million companion animals enter U.S. animal shelters nationwide every year," according to the ASPCA. Three million of those animals are dogs.

List's rescue started by taking in any dogs, from pitbulls to chihuahuas. List eventually stuck with Pomeranians so she could focus on their unique needs. Learning their attributes and health issues helped her get them care and place them in the right home.

To promote the rescue, the team hosts events every month at breweries, wine marts, and other local businesses with raffles, contests, and all the cute little Pomeranians. From the events, OC Pom usually raises \$1,500 to \$2,000. This is due to merch being sold, baked goods and raffle baskets. There are some venues that actually give a percentage of profits from food or beer that is sold that day as well. Their total revenue for the year 2020 was \$91,011, and most of that goes to veterinary costs. Veterinary fees vary per group of Pomeranians and how much work each one needs done, but in 2020 the rescue paid

\$68,453 towards vet costs.

List once had to rescue 57 Pomeranians from a hoarding situation, which led to huge vet fees. List received an email from a person saying there was someone in the community that needed to offload dogs from Northern California.

"They were really messed up, they had a lot of problems," says List. The vet bill for this group of Pomeranians was \$70,000, which List had to put down herself. They count on donations and adoption fees to help pay for vet visits and any medical procedures.

List always wants the best for the Pomeranians, so one thing that is unique from other rescues is that if someone no longer wants a Pomeranian that was adopted from List, the Pomeranian has to be returned to the OC Pom Rescue.

"They can't euthanize the dog, they can't give the dog away and they can't put it in the shelter. It has to come back to us, it's written in the contract," says List.

The love List has for the Pomeranians shows with all she does for them. List spends anywhere from 10 to 30 hours a week on OC Pom Rescue, depending on how many intakes the rescue has at the time. She and the rest of the board members are all volunteers, putting in the time for without pay. They're paying it forward for the pups.

"Some of our dogs have started out with the worst history but end up living in Beverly Hills dripping in diamonds," says List. "It's amazing." ┘



**“APPROXIMATELY 6.3 MILLION
COMPANION ANIMALS ENTER
U.S. ANIMAL SHELTERS
NATIONWIDE EVERY YEAR.”**

- ASPCA

Jasmine List, founder of OC Pom Rescue, holds one of her Pomeranians, Spritz, alongside Lennon and River, who were saved from hostile conditions.

Photos Courtesy of Jasmine List
Photo Collage by Jett Shim

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1
Spread

KICKS
AROUND CAMPUS

Story by Holden Remme
Photos by Logan Stupin and Holden Remme

Story: From \$20 shoes on Depop to \$700 shoes on StockX, Fullerton College students have got some heat

Nikes on My Feet
by Mac Miller



Jordan 1 Low "Green Toe"

Alejandro Aguilera
Price: \$200-\$350



Reebok Club 85 Vegans

Michael Pongco
Price: \$95-\$130



Travis Scott Low Reverse Mocha

Nicholas Maletz
Price: \$1000-\$1300+



A nice pair of shoes may be the only thing other students notice about their peers as they look down at their phone scrolling through social media on their way to class. Some people choose to stand out, some prefer to blend in, and others just want to be comfortable.

Just like hairstyles and clothing, people wear shoes to express themselves. Here at Fullerton college students wear a variety of different shoes around campus that range in style as well as rarity.

Some of the more common shoes seen at school include the classic Vans, Converse, and Air Force 1s. Other popular sneakers worn by students include Nike Dunks, Air Jordans, Adidas Sambas, New Balance 550s, and Reebok Clubs.

The resell market for shoes has always been a thing, but within recent years especially the market has boomed. Shoes release in limited quantities and depending on the quantity released and popularity or hype of the shoe, some shoes can sell out within minutes or even seconds leading to much higher prices on the secondary market. Some students around campus were seen wearing some more rare and expensive shoes.

According to students interviewed, the Air Jordan 1 high top editions are some of the most sought after shoes, and most students prefer to wear black shoes since they go with most outfits, and people like platform shoes to make them feel taller. We walked through the campus to spot some rare, recognizable, or just flat out cool shoes students had on their feet. ┘

Any shoe that Travis Scott releases seems to guarantee to at least double in value after the release. This particular line of Travis Scott, Jordan 1s, can get up to \$1300+ if you wear popular sizes like 9-11. Maletz luckily was able to snag this pair off a friend for only \$700.

Aguilera got into shoes after seeing the shoe collection of his girlfriend's father, who has been collecting shoes since he was young. He said after seeing such an impressive collection it made him want to start his own.

Pongco's interest in shoes started from watching the NBA. He saw all the cool sneakers that the players wore either during the games or off the court and started to put more effort into his own shoes.



Shutz Boots, Kickers Boots

Willie Hawkins and April Rangel

Price: \$150-\$200 , \$60-\$70

Lee loves to wear all types of shoes depending on the situation. She wears slides or Crocs for running errands, sneakers when she is going for a streetwear style, or Dr. Martens for when she wants to dress nice. These were purchased on Depop for \$20.

Adidas Yeezy 350 Zebra

Christian Torres

Price: \$290 - \$400



New Balance 550

David Munoz

Price: \$100-\$130

Mary Janes

Toni Lee

Price: \$40 - \$60



Jordan 4 Retro "Pure Money"

Duke Kim

Price: \$550 - \$825



Jordan 3 Retro Fragment

Jacob Baca

Price: \$270 - \$500

Adidas Samba OG

Jarim Salmeron

Price: \$95 - \$135



Malchite Dunk Low Disrupt

Kimberly Rosales

Price: \$135-\$250



Nike Dunk Low Just Do It Sail Team Red

Leslie Palma

Price: \$100-\$137



Koi Platforms

Makayla Aguirre

Price: \$60



FOOTWORK

BY AYDAN AZZARA

Photos by Logan Stupin
Photo Collage by Jett Shim

Despite numerous injuries and a packed college schedule, competitive dancer Brittany Lopez is leaping her way into her career as a pro.



Crush - Unfinished
by Jai Paul



Competitive dancing is often overlooked and considered by many to not even be a sport, but the intense focus, training, and mental capacity it takes to be a competitive dancer says otherwise. Competitive dance takes years of practice, conditioning, auditions, and lots of failure until achievement.

Brittany Lopez, a 22-year-old student at Fullerton College, was a competitive dancer from age of 5 to 18. When she was in her prime for competition, she spent about 20 hours a week in training. Now that she's in college, she only spends about six hours a week on dance, but she hopes to continue her dance journey at Fullerton College as a dance major and achieve a career as a professional dancer.

While Lopez always prioritizes school over dance, her school work can be overbearing at times. One thing that is super hard for dancers is the extra rehearsals that they don't know about ahead of time. So, when they are called in for rehearsals but they have a paper due that same night, this becomes an issue. "I pretty much take it day by day. I'll plan out this day for my classes and I'll save this day for work," says Lopez. For Lopez, dance is work.

On April 14th, Lopez was in her studio, working on a new routine, wearing loose breathable clothing and her hair was tied up at the top. She runs her dance from start to finish in order to clean it up for her upcoming show. She is working on this dance with three of her peers.

In spring 2023, Lopez choreographed a contemporary dance for the Fullerton College Dance Department's end of the season show. Her dance training is in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, musical theater, contemporary, modern, afro, heels, and tumbling. She is a well rounded dancer who is more than capable to piece together a dance for the show. In order to create choreography, Lopez must analyze a group of dancers and how they move together and create a sequence of steps that looks uniform and clean. Lopez has experience teaching at one of her old studios, so this task comes natural to her.

Competitive dance is a gamble because you never know when your center of gravity is off on competition day, or when your lower back has a knot and you can't do your front aerial, or your shoulder popped out when you did that back roll and now you can't support your weight. It can be frustrating when you are ready mentally but you aren't ready physically. This can lead to serious injuries.

Lopez explains how she has sustained small injuries here and there while dancing, including a sprained wrist and a pulled hamstring, but there is one injury that continues to bother her while dancing and that is her lower back. A lot of dancers share this common injury due to the flexibility needed in their spine to create certain movements with their body.

"IT BRINGS ME A SORT OF SELF-EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM."

A study from International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy states, "Dance has a high rate of injury, particularly amongst professional ballet dancers. This injury rate has been linked to short professional careers that often end before the dancer reaches 40 years of age, although the field of dancer retirement has been under-researched." Injuries that start small, especially in your back, have the capacity to ruin careers.

It is hard to keep a high-spirit when performing or competing because dancers are naturally hard on themselves. You have a life's worth of training for two minutes and thirty seconds on stage. One mess up and dancers don't get to try again.

Despite all the struggles that come with being a dancer, the payoff is worth it. "It brings me a sort of self expression and freedom because I'm not a person who's like really good with my words, so I feel like I definitely express that more with my movement," Lopez says. "I feel like that helps me kind of get to know myself better and know my body better too."

Lopez wants to pursue a future in the commercial dance industry as well. Her dream is to be a back-up dancer for a musical artist. Lots of dancers who are chosen for these spots are the dancers who are recognized by big time choreographers, so exposure to events, such as dance conventions help. Lopez mentioned how the Fullerton College Dance Department participates in ACDA, American College Dance Association, every year.

Home dance studios have the tendency to carry a lot of intensity and drama due to how long a dancer is normally there, but Lopez finds the environment in the Dance Department at Fullerton College to be positive and nurturing. "I think it's honestly a really open and welcoming space. I feel like a lot of dance areas can become toxic environments, so I feel the people here are definitely motivating," she says. "Even if you are not good they still push you to be better. They definitely watch out for you and make sure you're taking care of yourself and know what you need to do to be a dancer." ┘



An
UNSOUND

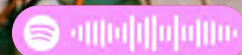
By Denise Grande



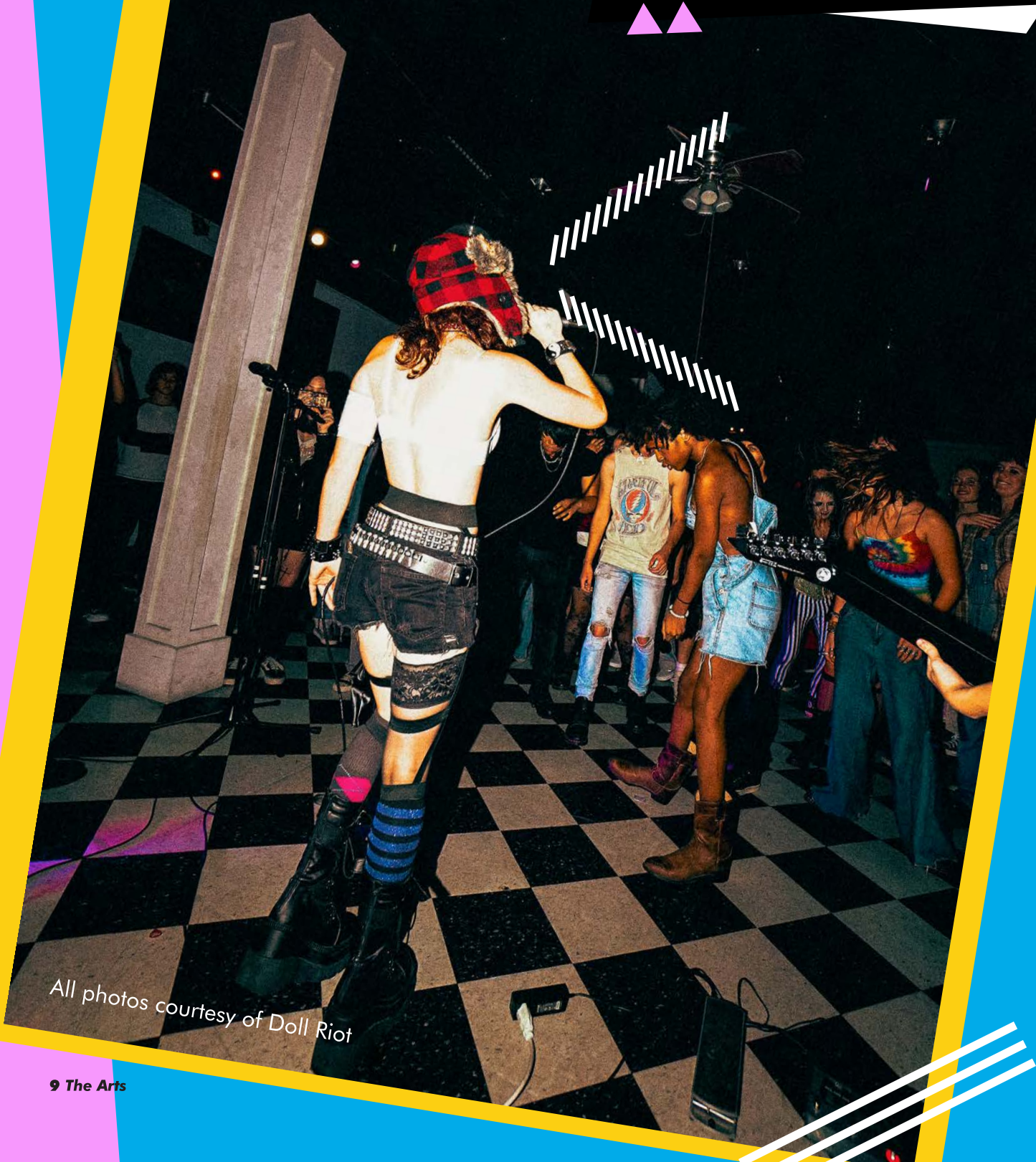
INDUSTRY

Women in the music industry continue to face misrepresentation, sexualization and harassment despite a modern world's fight for equality.

Don't Light My Fire
by Otoboke Beaver



At the Queen Bee's Art and Cultural Center, **Doll Riot** performs during the **Monster Mash Event** in San Diego on **October 28, 2022**.



All photos courtesy of Doll Riot



The audience is moshing while **Doll Riot** is on stage performing for the **Monster Mash Event**.

Women artists are responsible for 23.3% in record sales, 29.8% in streams and 13.6% of Grammys won over the last decade, yet many female artists are belittled or easily criticized. Megan Thee Stallion was mocked by the media after being shot with a firearm. She was accused of lying to the internet and had well-known male celebrities, such as 50 Cent and Drake, contributing to the hate towards her. Taylor Swift, another female singer, is continuously criticized for writing songs about her past relationships, while male artists, such as Bruno Mars, Ed Sheeran and many more, get praised for writing songs about romantic situations and exes.

Billboard did a study on “women of the mix” which showed that 84% of women feel discriminated against in the music industry. Billboard created the Women of the Year in 2007, which brought more representation to female music artists, but the more famous they get, the more criticism comes their way. Not only do women face criticism in the media, but they also contend harassment in the workplace and dangers while performing.

In more recent times, a lot has changed in the music industry. More women are being represented and acknowledged for their musical

talents but progress on being more inclusive is still growing.

Lana Del Rey, a woman who has impacted and inspired many through her creativity, mentions the positive changes in the industry for female artists in the latest Women of the Year 2023 awards.

“When I released my first album 14 years ago, the waters were not quite as warm. So I’m really happy for everyone who feels like it’s a wonderful time in the culture to be themselves and to express themselves,” said Lana Del Rey.

Although Del Rey is now a well-known artist, the Ocean Boulevard singer had many struggles at the start of her career. In 2014, when releasing her new album, *Ultraviolence*, critics in the news media were not fond of the lyrics, “he hit me and it felt like a kiss,” and became a controversy on glamorizing abuse. During her writing process for this song, Lana Del Rey included personal relationship challenges she had faced. In 2017 she no longer decided to sing that specific line during her concerts as Lana Del Rey now recognizes how triggering it can be after being criticized by the media.

Although the music industry is slowly changing, women still have a higher chance of being exploited in the music industry. Nashville

Scene Magazine did a survey on the sexual harassment rates of female musicians and found that 67% of the respondents had experienced this type of harassment and had been victims.

Male producers and managers have been exposed for harassment allegations and taking advantage of female artists. Famous music producer, Dr. Luke is an example of a producer that abused his power in the music industry by taking advantage of female singers signed to his record label.

Kesha spoke up in 2014 about her abuse from Dr. Luke. As mentioned in the Rolling Stone article, she was “sexually, physically, verbally, and emotionally abused to the point where she nearly lost her life.” After she spoke out about this, more women began to come forward and speak up about their experiences.

In addition to dealing with toxic masculinity in the industry, the nature of performing live music adds additional risks for women. Women are often criticized for their looks and outfit choices. The male gaze in an industry that is very male-dominated can be difficult for a woman as they become objectified in person and through the media.

Jeni Jones known as Jeni from the Beach, is an entertainer who writes and produces her own music and has worked in film and the music industry for over 25 years. Her knowledge of music production is very beneficial to know, especially in a field where the behind the scenes of the music industry is male-dominated. Jeni expresses her thoughts very strongly about safety issues regarding female performers.

“If I’m going to do a show tonight and I have to be there at 8 p.m. because I go on at 8:30 p.m., the first thought in my head as a woman is that I better get there at 7:30 p.m. to make sure I park in front of the theater so that I can safely get to my car after the show,” says Jones.

Jones is used to performing in front of an audience and has no problem being up on stage. She’s cautious about keeping her drink safe by not leaving it alone in case of a roofie incident. “I have to worry about my drink the entire night.” This is a way Jones keeps herself safe during a show.

Spiking situations are more common to happen to women with their drinks or food. A study by the American Addiction Center gave insight that 56% of women have been unknowingly roofied.

Being under the male gaze, women are exposed to more unnecessary comments upon their looks. Starting off as a new artist can be intimidating in the sense of gaining more of a following. Elena Olszak is a band member of an all-girl-band Doll Riot

and she expresses her thoughts on the pressure women may feel when wanting to start off in the music industry.

“I feel like a lot of women feel pressured to sexualize themselves to get started and like, gain a following. And, you know, it was more about music more about the image,” says Olszak

Sexualization in the music field is commonly seen with popular artists, especially in the hip-hop genre. When women wear provocative clothes they are misjudged by character or sexualized. Artists like Cardi B and City girls get backlash for the minimal clothes they wear. They continue to ignore the criticism and exude their confidence.

Jones had a situation before performing at a Halloween event where she had been wearing a costume. Jeni had been wearing a t-shirt that was lowered and was revealing her arms but as soon as she pulled her sleeves up, an inappropriate and unnecessary comment was made towards her.

“I gave the DJ my tracks and he saw me in this costume,” says Jones. “And they looked at me and said, oh you don’t look hot anymore.”

In the music industry women are constantly criticized on whether their body meets the beauty standards. The popularity of the “BBL Look” has risen in popularity since famous celebrities began to undergo cosmetic surgeries to get the hourglass body type.

Jenie Gonzalez is the lead singer of the band BluJay, she is the only woman in the band. Gonzalez mentions how it can be easier for an all-male band to gain attention as they receive more streams and followers. She expresses her feelings on being the female lead for her band and her discomforts of being perceived on stage.

“I hate being perceived by men. Putting myself on stage where people perceive me, especially men where I don’t know their intentions, makes me hold back on wearing things that I want. But at the same time I feel guilty because then I’m like, oh, well, maybe it will be easier for my band to get recognized if I was the hot female lead,” says Gonzalez.

The pressure social media holds for women can be stressful in a sense that they feel obligated to have a certain image. Female artists struggle with not only harassment but also not being acknowledged for their creations and art.

Female artists are underrepresented in an industry that is male-dominated with only 32% of producers and artists being women. Although the music industry is becoming more innovative with diversity, the behind-the-scenes still needs proper inclusivity. ┘



ddrum

San Diego-based punk band **Doll Riot**, clockwise from top left: drummer **Lilee Gillum**, guitarist **Ella Saver**, vocalist **Elena Olszak** and bassist **London Kraus**.



THRIFTING

Resellers are scavenging thrift stores to achieve the perfect money making hustle, but what does that mean for low-income shoppers?

Story and Photos By Denise Grande



Mirando
by Ratafat

Have you ever looked into your closet to find your most loved clothing piece, but then realize that you no longer fit into it? You either pass it down to your family members, donate it or sell it. Reselling clothes has become a popular side hustle that many take part in to get some extra cash. A generation of new entrepreneurs is hoping shoppers like to buy thrifted clothes through social media.

Social media apps offer a space where you can promote your clothing line or make your own business. It is now more accessible to make a profit from selling clothes. Youtubers like Isabella McFadden, known as internetgirl, and Alli Vera sell thrifted outfit bundles ranging from \$100-300. They're not just selling the clothes; they are styling outfits for people at a cost

that's lower than a boutique or department store. Buyers can leave notes on what kind of clothes they feel comfortable wearing, and sellers work to create a curated collection of clothing items just for them.

These curators began to inspire younger audiences to thrift more and taught them how to properly style the pieces. More YouTube videos promoting the usage of thrifting started surfacing and the common title "Thrift with Me" became trendy.

The reselling community has grown more since the pandemic started, and many small social media accounts run by younger women began to join in on the business. On Instagram, you can find a countless number of accounts in a location or



Thriftyland has many options to go through as you dig into the racks.

neighborhood near you. The best quality pieces or stylish clothing that you could only find in your local thrift stores before are now sold online, but critics are worried this could affect the environment and the shopability of thrift stores for low-income shoppers.

Maidely Cuervo is a reseller with over 1k followers on Instagram with the name @delliim11. She has received hateful comments stating that the resellers are “stealing from the poor” under her social media post promoting her resells. While Cuervo does buy clothes from thrift stores to resell, she is still leaving high amounts of good quality clothes for other shoppers to purchase. Cuervo goes out of her way to research timeless styles so she is sure to only resell clothes that are best for her online

audience. She is able to properly thrift without taking potential clothes from others in her neighborhood.

Most local resale accounts do not support the idea of wasting clothes. Diana Pulido, another reseller through Instagram known as @angel1cfits, expresses her feelings on helping the Earth when she thrifts for her items in Goodwill bins. Pulido prefers to shop through the Goodwill bins rather than purchasing through traditional thrift stores since it is more sustainable and offers more affordable prices.

Pulido dedicates her time looking through countless bins in the Goodwill outlets rather than shopping through thrift stores. She shares that her reasoning on why she chooses to shop the bins is because it's the last stop for customers by

sewing or changing the look of the item.

"I've been getting into upcycling, which is transforming a shirt into a dress or putting your style to it," says Pulido.

This gives a new life to a simple t-shirt that most likely won't be sold. Cuervo mentions how upcycling can be as simple as cropping and hemming a T-shirt. Not only does this make the clothing piece more buyable, but it makes for a positive environmental business ethic.

In the business aspect, selling better quality second hand clothing can be beneficial since thrifting is a cheaper option when compared to shopping for brand new clothes. Younger shoppers get to create their own looks without breaking the bank. Fabian Pateno, who works at Thriftyland in Anaheim, mentions how resellers can be seen as personal shoppers and he advocates for their hustle.

"That reseller has to spend their time and gas to go find the pieces. They list it and answer questions about everything they are selling, then have to package and ship it," says Pateno. "The resellers went off, put the effort in and you can consider them like a personal shopper in a way."

Shopping for branded clothing can be a privilege. For low-income families, it is common to shop at thrift stores and cheaper clothing stores. It is a more affordable option and although it's secondhand there are many options to choose from while thrifting. The question comes into mind if small thrifting accounts are causing thrift stores to raise their prices or taking away potential clothing from lower-income shoppers who depend on thrift stores.

As thrifting became popular among younger audiences, there have been more people shopping through the racks. More sales were being made at thrift stores, wealthier teens began to overspend and purchase immense amounts of clothing while shopping at these thrift stores. On TikTok, small curators go to thrift stores and fill up their carts with clothes. Although thrifting is an environmentally friendly practice, overconsumption of clothes that won't be used could be taking clothing away from someone less fortunate who would wear them or cause thrift stores to raise prices because of its popularity.

"I feel like thrift stores are going to have skyrocketing prices because it is now being gentrified," says Pulido. Betizada, a mother that purchases clothes from thrift stores for herself and her family, doesn't feel the same frustration about reselling as critics do. "I guess I have mixed feelings. There are aspects of these people who are taking their time and going on to look for the clothing that kind of takes away from the stores. For me it's nostalgic to come and thrift. I'm 50/50," says Betizada.

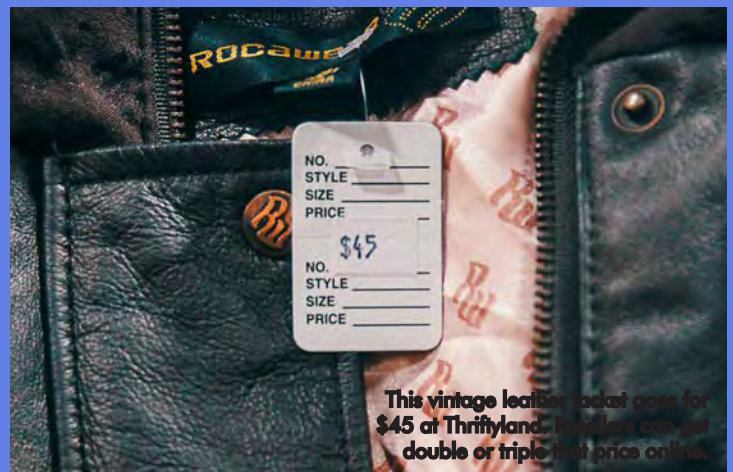
Betizada expresses that while shopping with her three kids at Thriftyland, she acknowledges the prices going up, but that it isn't something that she considers to be an issue or has stopped her from thrifting. The shopper had been thrifting throughout her life and continues to do so now that she has her own children. Collecting spongebob t-shirts and thrifted toys is a way she keeps her kids content.

The issue that critics have against resellers based on the idea that they are stealing thrifted goods from low-income households, may not be as negative of an impact to the shoppers. Thrift shops and local thrifters notice the rise in prices, but aren't as upset as the media makes it out to be. Overall, thrift stores continue to be essential for low income families to attain affordable clothing and beneficial for resellers who are looking to make some extra money. ▽

15 Style



Avid thrifter Diana Pulido sells her finds in front of her house every weekend and promotes her shop on Instagram.



This vintage leather jacket goes for \$45 at Thriftyland. Resellers can get double or triple that price online.

Thrifting Tips: How to shop like the pros



Surf through Pinterest:

Start on Pinterest and look for inspiration on what is trendy. You can create boards on styles that you prefer and make thrifting more successful as you find more clothing pieces of your type.

(Maidely Cuervo)



Check the Brands:

Look at the price tags if you are ever looking for vintage finds. Thrift stores carry a lot of clothes in their stores and often you can find expensive items for way cheaper prices just by searching up the tag brand.

(Diana Pulido)



Don't rush:

Taking your time is essential when thrifting, especially if you want to find some good pieces. Looking through each rack and taking your time sorting through the clothes is helpful as it makes you look through clothes you can miss if you casually look at the store.

(Maidely Cuervo)

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OFF THE WALL

By Aydan Azzara

While the love for skating brings skaters together, it's the subcultural fashion that diversifies the skate scene.

Blackout
by Turnstile



17 Style



▲ Furnace Skate Shop in Buena Park sells street-style skate decks, shoes and clothes. Photo by Aydan Azzara

◀ Skater Lucas Collard poses next to the wall of decks at his job, Garage Skateshop in Huntington Beach. Photo by Aydan Azzara

◀ Fullerton College skater Isaiah Shubin looks for clothing and records at Programme Skate & Sound in Fullerton. Photo by Logan Stupin



Sidewalk surfing, cruising, skateboarding. Whatever you call it, skateboarding has been around for decades and it remains a central part of SoCal culture. The sport was invented by surfers who wanted something to do when the waves were flat. Now, it has become a large community of people who share a love for the lifestyle. Skating can influence the music they listen to, the films they watch or even the clothes they wear. Skate fashion cannot all fit into one category, but if you hit up the skate parks around Orange County, you'll see three main looks: Surf, Street, and Punk.

Orange County's Huntington Beach is known as Surf City USA, a hotspot for numerous surf events all year long. A majority of surfers in OC are also skaters, which influences how they dress. Surf skaters often wear brands like Hurley, Billabong and Quiksilver/Roxy. They wear loose

shorts, and thin, light short-sleeved shirts with slip-on Vans.

Elijah Morley is a 20-year-old surfer and skater based in Costa Mesa. He started skating at a young age before he started surfing. "I'm good at balance sports, so I just picked it up really well. I was handed my first skateboard and then ever since we got ramps, I started doing that," Morley says.

While Morley is out there in the line-up, he picks up on the different techniques other surfers direct him to follow, helping him with his style of surfing. What Morley loves about skating is that, unlike surfing, he can skate anywhere. He explains that if it's raining he will just head over to a parking garage.

Morley works for Curl Surf Shop in Anaheim and he says you will mostly see him wearing RVCA, Rip Curl, and Vans for his clothing, with Nike SB for his shoe of choice.

"Punk rock became

ANTI-AUTHORITY and ANTI-WHAT'S POPULAR."

All three of these clothing brands adhere to surfing and skating with their lightweight fabric that is geared toward surfers who want their clothing to dry quicker. Heavyweight tees that other skaters use absorb more moisture, resulting in a longer drying time.

Inspiration for Morley's style with both surf and skating is taken from an icon located in the North Shore of Hawaii, Jamie O'Brien. This surf/skate icon has also partnered with Carver Skateboards, a well-known surf specific skateboard brand that caters to its watersport audience, rather than regular street skateboards. According to the Carver website, "And with a variety of surf-inspired shapes and concaves, along with our fast and grippy Roundhouse wheels, Carver delivers speed, power and flow so you can truly 'Surf your Skate.'"

The street style skate fashion came out of hip-hop and graffiti culture in Los Angeles and New York City. But street skate fashion has also become popular in OC in the late '70s early '80s. Street skaters often live in cities that aren't right on the beach, so they're not transitioning easily between ocean and pavement. While many smaller brands market their street style skate clothes to skaters who wear them on their local half pipes, other luxury brands are capitalizing on the street cred of skaters. There are the brands that design for the audience who longs for good quality skate gear, and the other brands that are part of "high-end" fashion and promote the skaters that wear their clothes.

On one end of street fashion are the more popular and affordable street brands. Nathan Abanto, 17, lives in Buena Park and wears skate brands such as Polar, Anti-Hero, Quasi and Krooked. These brands focus solely on skaters and what their needs are for clothing while still keeping it in style. This includes thick, multi-layered pants and baggy tees that are easiest for skaters to ride in.

Lucas Collard, 18, is particular about his shoes. He currently wears Last Resorts, which come from an independent skate shoe brand founded by Pontus Alv. The company's motto is: "Shoes made by and for skateboarders around the world, girls and boys out on the streets having fun, being creative. We don't have any corporate backing, no one telling us what to do. And neither should you."

On the other end of street fashion are the more expensive, luxury brands that don't necessarily appeal to the wider audience. A great example of this high-end street skate style is 25-year-old model and actor Evan Mock. He started

Displayed band shirts ►
sold at Programme
Skate & Sound. Photo by
Logan Stupin.



off as a young kid making skating videos and ended up getting scouted to model for big brands like Louis Vuitton. But the average street style skater isn't wearing Louis Vuitton on the board.

Fullerton College Library Assistant Che Hernandez, has been skating in OC since he was young. He says, "The high-end fashion brands doing it? I don't like it. Don't like it. But if they are there to support skateboarding that's awesome." As long as these ritzy businesses like Louis Vuitton promote the love of skating within the community, there should be no problem between skateboarders adding them to the mix, even if they don't choose to purchase them.

While surf and street skaters normally follow the brands that most reflect their style, punk skaters tend to be anti-brand. The punk skate subgenre is heavily influenced by their music. Punk music made skate culture take an entirely different turn. "Punk rock became anti-authority and anti-what's popular," says Hernandez, "The music was loud. The music was abrasive and raw."

Punk took over the fashion industry in Britain in the mid-1970s and so many young people were attracted to this look because it was out-of-the-box. This started with bands like Sex Pistols who are one of the first British punk bands to exist. Punk skaters weren't following norms, and that mindset is still around today as a lot of young skaters still try to copy that old punk skate look.

Punk fashion started with skaters making their own Tees, layering their clothes and adding big chains to their pants. Kenny Luengas is 23 years old and works at Programme Skate & Sound in Fullerton. You can normally see him wearing wide pants and a band T-shirt of his choice, especially when he is on the job.

"I feel like the punk attitude and DIY mentality has been like, yo, you kinda just do what you do regardless if somebody likes it or not," says Luengas. Punk skaters don't follow a standard; they like the edge. The punk skate community has become a lot more accepting of individuals wanting to be a part of this movement now rather than before. "It's become so blurred but it's also really rad to see that it's just like everyone mixing," Luengas says. "Like a punk style doesn't necessarily mean the kid is gonna dress all crazy."

While fashion is a large part of skateboarding, today's generation has made it clear that you don't need to be an expert on fashion to fit in while skating. These three skate fashion subgenres are all part of a larger family that is welcoming to everyone. Morley says, "It's a very team-work, team-build type of thing but it can also be independent." You can choose to grab inspiration from others but you can also add your own flair as well. ▽

SURF - GARAGE SKATESHOP

121 Main St., Huntington Beach



Whether it's Hurley shorts or slip-on Vans, the Garage Skate Shop HB can supply you with your breezy surf-style needs.

STREET - FURNACE SKATESHOP

10100 Valley View St., Buena Park



Butter, Thrasher and Stussy are street-style brands that Furnace Skate Shop offers.

PUNK - PROGRAMME SKATE & SOUND

2495 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton



Programme Skate and Sound has you covered on items ranging from vinyls, clothing, boards & more. Their punk aesthetic has become a music and skate hotspot in OC.

SWOONER THAN KANDI

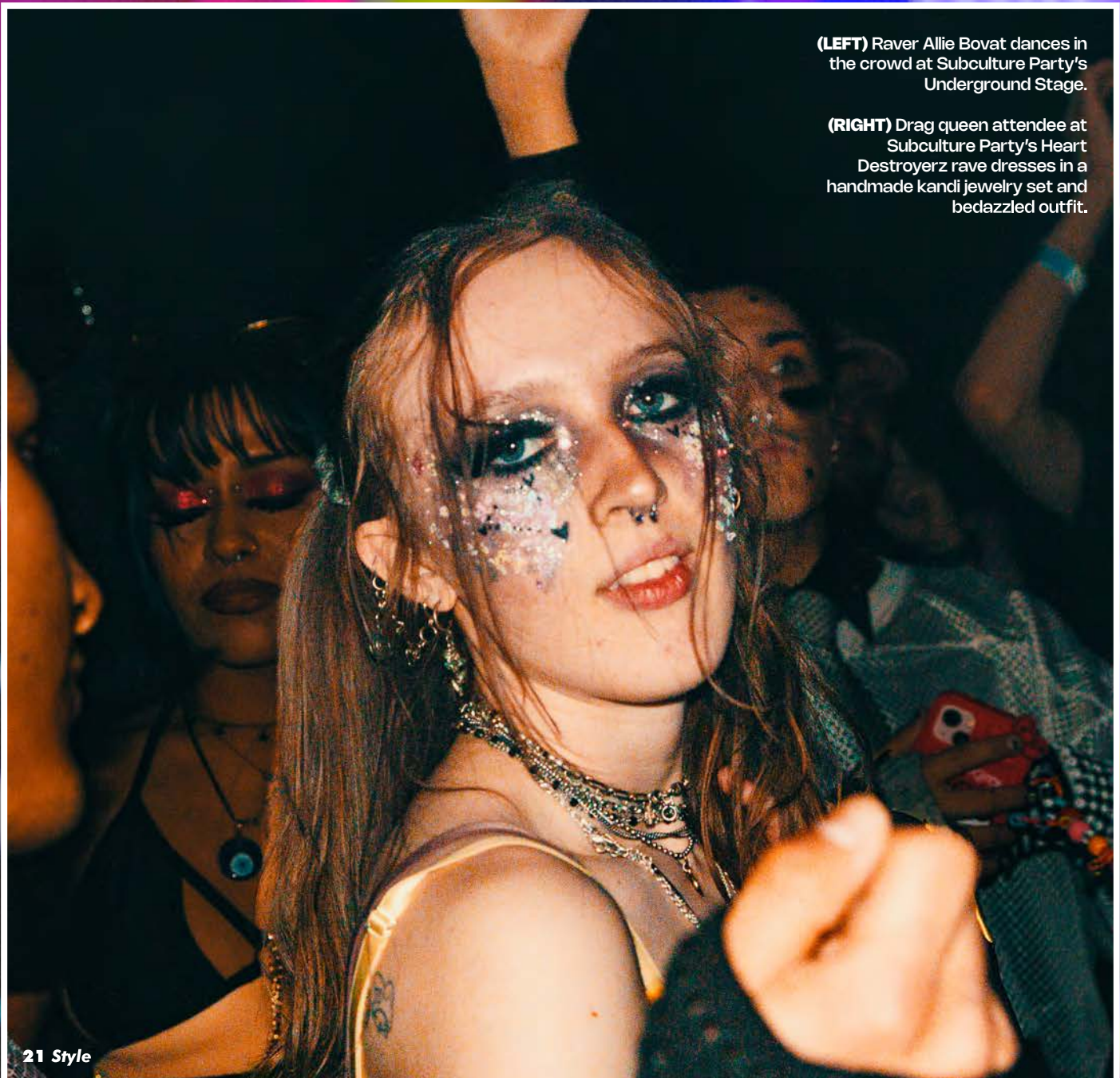


"I FEEL LIKE RAVE CULTURE IS QUEER CULTURE."

GEN-ZERS ARE RESHAPING THE RAVE SCENE TO BE MORE QUEER-FRIENDLY, DRUG-SAFE AND INCLUSIVE.

PHOTOS AND STORY BY MIKEY MORAN

Liverpool Street In The Rain
by Mall Grab



(LEFT) Raver Allie Bovat dances in the crowd at Subculture Party's Underground Stage.

(RIGHT) Drag queen attendee at Subculture Party's Heart Destroyerz rave dresses in a handmade kandi jewelry set and bedazzled outfit.



Glitter: Time to take out your arts and crafts glitter! You can do so much with it—wear it as makeup, add it to your hair, or go ham and put it all over your body.

Kandi: What better way to customize your look than with your own handmade jewelry? Put some beads on a cord and trade with a fellow raver. Don't forget to do the P.L.U.R. handshake!

Fur: Not only will it help you stay warm, but it'll elevate your look by giving it a chic and boujee-looking addition. Opt for fur instead of a jacket as your choice of warmth on those cold rave nights!

It is 9 p.m. on a Friday night. You've made it to Downtown Los Angeles and have just inputted the coordinates of the secret location just sent to you. You don't know exactly where you're going—it could be a warehouse, a secluded alley, or a sewer. All you can do is follow the sound of high-energy techno music blasting and strobe lights flashing from afar. You pass by a group of cosplayers to see the bouncer and the person handling the tickets. Soon enough, you're walking toward the inside of a sweaty underground rave.

Rave culture has become increasingly popular amongst youth and older generations. For oldheads, this is just a chance to reminisce about the past. While raves have existed since the late 1980s, rave culture has evolved since its early days of sketchy, unsafe, drug-fueled parties. Now, Gen-Z ravers, including marginalized communities like queer and POC folks, are reclaiming their spaces and reshaping them into safe havens while keeping the original rave DNA.

"I feel like rave culture is queer culture," says Venus Black, resident drag queen and MC at Subculture Party, one of L.A.'s popular monthly rave parties. "Raves were started by POC people that were queer. So, of course, it's going to be embedded in the culture."

Since their start in the late 1980s, raves were considered safe havens for gay, black and brown folks in big cities like Chicago, London and New York City, according to research by Grinnell College. Raves at the time featured European techno, music that helped pioneer the subculture, and American house music. An October 2021 article in Teen Vogue described rave culture as "an amalgamation of synth-heavy instrumentation that challenged conventional electronic dance production, giving an intense feeling of escapism."

Rave culture is incredibly large around the globe as well. The Love Parade in West Berlin, Germany, was an iconic electronic music festival that ran from 1989 to 2010. Attendees danced unstopably in the streets until the Love Parade came to an end in 2010 when a mass crowd-crush incident took the lives of 21 people. About 1.4 million people were estimated to be in attendance and only 3,200 police were on hand. Before the crowds got out of hand, the Love Parade was truly the place to

be and many consider it one of the best street parties to ever exist.

Danny Rivas, 21-year-old resident DJ at Subculture Party, better known as Dannytron3000, thinks raves continue to be safe havens for outsiders because they are outlets that allow you to be creative, even if it's just for a night out. It's like playing dress-up for a night and letting your alter ego break free.

"Everybody else there is dressed up and is having fun and they already know what it's like to be stared at, so being around people who feel the same way makes you feel like you're being looked at—but not in like a judgmental way. It's more of an appreciative way," says Rivas.

Raves are intended to be a welcoming environment for anyone. Many consider them to be a safe space for people of all gender identities, those who feel like they don't fit into society and others who simply enjoy the underground music genre. Raves have a set of principles commonly used at all events: P.L.U.R., which stands for Peace, Love, Unity and Respect.

Kandi are common accessories found in American raves. Ravers trade these pony-bead bracelets using the P.L.U.R. handshake, by intertwining their fingers with someone else's and sliding the bracelet from wrist to wrist. Rivas explains that these handmade bracelets are symbolic of the birth of a new friendship with that person.

"That's how you show that you have become friends with somebody," says Rivas about Kandi sharing and the P.L.U.R. handshake.

For many, music is the most important part of raves. Lovers of house, techno, EDM and hyperpop will have a great time at a rave dancing along to the live performances. Some artists in the line-up at Subculture Party are OnlyFire, Chase Icon and Umru.

"I place a very heavy emphasis on the music," says Kimberly Nava, an 18-year-old regular at Subculture Party who has been raving since 2021. "A lot of the tracks that get played are either unreleased or they're old remixes, so you can't really get that music like on Soundcloud or on Apple Music. It's not really that accessible. It's so fun to hear it live and in person."

Others love the freedom associated with dressing up for raves. The creative expression involved is very important—most people dress minimally with skin showing, often to avoid heat exhaustion and to be able to move around freely.

At Subculture Party's monthly rave in Los Angeles, ravers wore artistic makeup looks with chunky glitter, bedazzled and cow-print bras (think Doja Cat - Mooo!), colored anime wigs, and fuzzy leg warmers to beat the cold February air. Many also enjoyed dressing up in groups, finding a theme or cohesive style to complement each other. Fishnets and revealing tops are other great statement pieces. Fur in the right areas can also elevate any rave look while also keeping you warm on those extra chilly nights.

Bug, a DJ and Subculture regular, says they draw inspiration from '90s grunge, emo, and Harajuku fashion for their rave outfits. Bug thinks wearing what you're comfortable with is key to having a fun night out at a rave. "I feel like the way you will have the most fun is to just wear whatever you're comfortable in, regardless of what everyone else is wearing—and they do pull crazy, awesome looks all the time. But it's up to everyone's personal thing," says Bug.

Mychal Cabrera-Mora has been raving since March 2022. His first rave was Beyond Wonderland, an outdoor music festival hosted at the NOS Event Center in San Bernardino, California. He believes raving is a form of escape, where "you can really just pretend your life isn't your life for a minute."

"It's a place where you're supposed to feel free and a place where you can be your most authentic self. And if that's expressing your way through your clothing, through your expressions, through your love for music, you can do that in so many ways," says Cabrera-Mora, whose go-to rave is Heav3n, another popular monthly warehouse rave in Los Angeles.

For others, going to raves in person has been a much-needed opportunity to make up for lost time after not having that during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a study provided by the International Journal of Drug Policy, 55.5% of ravers attended some form of online rave during the lockdown. Los Angeles' Subculture Party also transitioned into virtual raves, which actually turned out to work in their favor as they gained more popularity.

Rivas, the DJ at Subculture Party, has been raving and DJing there since she turned 18 over the pandemic. Rivas shares that these online parties were particularly enjoyable because they were less nerve-wracking than in-person ones. "On Zoom, things are definitely a little more chill because you're just in your room like there's not really any anxiety to it. It was never really like, oh I'm scared of the energy because everybody's just there for fun. But in real life it was like, oh my God, these people are in front of me. They are going to watch me if I literally mess up or anything," she says.

Others weren't particularly fond of raving over Zoom. Nava says she started going to live concerts and raves in the fall of 2021 as soon as restrictions began lifting because she wanted to immerse herself so much more into the music culture.

"I really needed that sense of having live music back. I took all that dancing and all that singing along for granted when I didn't have it, so I was like there's no way that I'm gonna miss out on anything like this ever again," says the 18-year-old pink-haired raver.

Ravers are no strangers to drug usage. People partake in licit and illicit drugs at a rave for many reasons. Many attendees choose to amplify their experience by using substances, while others use them to boost their energy in efforts to dance for longer periods of time. Research from the National Drug Intelligence Center says that "drugs like MDMA, ketamine, GHB, Rohypnol, and LSD—known collectively as "club drugs"—are an integral part of the rave culture." Drug-promoting messages are commonly found across event flyers, clothes, posters, and even lyrics for songs. Drugs were even common in the virtual rave space. According to the International Journal of Drug Policy study, 40.9% of online rave attendees used illicit drugs, with marijuana being the most common.

Still, there are many sober ravers who have just as good of a time, so it is not a necessity to be high at a rave. Substance abuse is a common misconception about the raving community. Rave promoters do not recommend drug use if you aren't in the right state of mind or if you have no desire to use; it's not for everyone.

"Drugs are inevitable with rave culture, but there's stations at Subculture that are offering Narcan and fentanyl testing strips for free and I think that's an amazing thing," says 19-year-old Allie Bovat, a college student at the University of Connecticut who visited L.A. for Subculture Party. Bovat is referring to End Overdose, an organization partnered with Subculture Party and other events that is making these drug-safe resources more accessible to ravers and the general public.

Another phenomenon within the rave scene is the concept of the solo raver. If your friends aren't into the music or finding a plus-one becomes a task, why not enjoy a rave alone? The rave community is an inclusive one, and you're bound to find welcoming people in the crowd who will make you feel right at home.

"I love traveling solo and being responsible for my own happiness, really not having to worry about where my friends are. I feel like that's a pretty common factor in raves; you lose your friends. But, yeah, it's almost fun being mysterious," says Bovat, who has attended mostly East Coast raves including Subculture Party's Brooklyn show held at Elsewhere Space in July 2022.

In this new era of raving, Gen-Zers are doing things differently. They are reshaping rave culture in a safer and more inclusive manner with better conditions than its past. Whether alone or in a group, using substances or not, raves are an integral place for queer people, socialites, outsiders and music lovers to gather and dance the night away. ┘



(TOP) Pop artist Gia Woods sings her song "Lesbionic" at Subculture Party's Underground Stage at venue Catch One.

(BOTTOM) Jay, an attendee at 1720 Warehouse's February 2023 Heav3n rave, dresses in an edgy fishnet and mesh look.



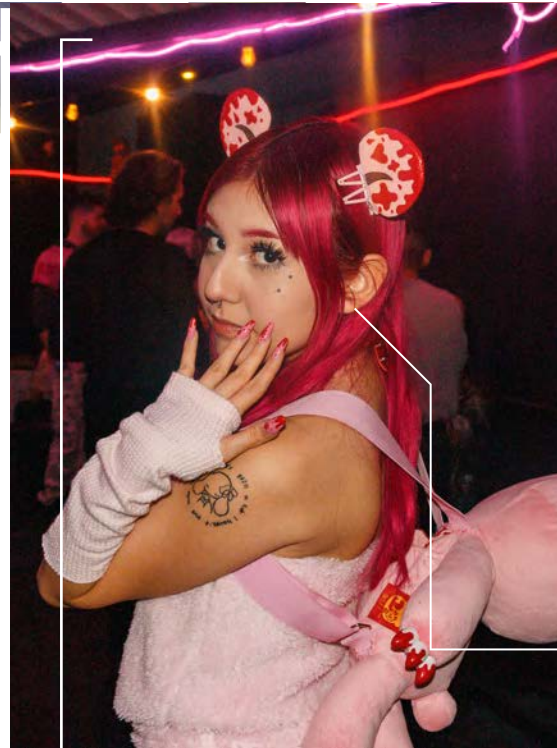
(TOP) Carpetgarden performs their DJ set at the Noise & Tavern Stage for Subculture Party's Heart Destroyerz February 2023 rave.

(BOTTOM) Kimberly Nava, raver at Subculture Party, poses in all-pink, cute and edgy attire for their Heart Destroyerz February 2023 rave.

// IT'S LIKE PLAYING DRESS-UP FOR A NIGHT //
AND LETTING YOUR ALTER EGO BREAK FREE.



Fishnets: Give your outfit a little bit of edge with some fishnets! Whether they're on your legs or on your arms, you can never go wrong with a good pair of fishnets.



Earplugs: Take advice from Subculture Party DJ Bug and wear your earplugs! A lot of people want to hear the music at full capacity, but Bug says, "You can hear it just fine while also protecting your little eardrums."

WHEEL TO WHEEL AT A RAVE



PRE SCRIP TION

for Controversy

Celebrities are using a drug for Type 2 diabetes to achieve the perfect body, but at what cost?

By Olivia Peña

When typing the term “Ozempic” in the TikTok search bar, the hashtag has over 500 million views and is accompanied by hundreds of videos of influencers sharing their Ozempic journey. Ozempic, also known as Semaglutide, is a prescription medication meant for Type 2 diabetics. It keeps blood sugar levels in line and is able to lower A1C, which is a test that measures average blood sugar levels.

According to the Ozempic website it can “reduce the risk of major cardiovascular events such as heart attack, stroke, or death in adults with Type 2 diabetes with known heart disease.”

“Without medication, people with Type 2 diabetes risk blood sugar spikes that can potentially lead to serious health problems, including heart disease, kidney disease, hearing loss, and stroke” according to NBC News.

Although there are other medications available for Type 2 diabetes, Ozempic is one of the most prescribed. In late 2022 and early 2023 it became a hot commodity, but not why you may think. Celebrities and those diagnosed as “obese” are purchasing this product at either full price or finding it through weight loss clinics. The problem with this is that those with Type 2 diabetes who are in desperate need of Ozempic are not able to get it.

According to Daily Mail, rumors started to speculate that Kim Kardashian used Ozempic to lose 16 pounds for the 2022 Met Gala, after she said she lost that weight in two weeks. The reason celebrities are using and wanting the medicine is because it produces rapid weight loss. The Semaglutide enhances the GLP-1 receptor agonist hormone. This hormone also affects the hunger centers in the brain (specifically, on the hypothalamus), reducing hunger, appetite and cravings,” according to Forbes.

T.V. personality Chelsea Handler has faced backlash due to her taking the Semaglutide but claimed to not know that she was actually taking Ozempic. “So, my anti-aging doctor just hands it out to anybody, I didn’t even know I was on it,” said Handler on the Call Her Daddy podcast.

Handler said her friend brought up how nauseous she was due to Ozempic and that is when Handler mentioned her own nausea from her medication. The problem with Handler’s statement is how she said her anti-aging doctor is it is being given out carelessly. As long as people have the money, a diagnosis is no longer necessary.

Additionally, pharmacies are having incredible difficulties ordering, receiving and filling the medication. CBS

News spoke to Zoe Wiit, a spokesperson for Mutual Aid Diabetes, about the shortage of the Semaglutide. She mentioned how even before it blew up on the internet, the medication was hard to access. “Then to see all these people, essentially anyone who has the money to do it, get it instantaneously, it’s very frustrating,” said Wiit.

“The Ozempic fad isn’t just an individual health issue: it’s a privilege issue.”

There are some people in the obese population that are claiming it is unfair that this medication is only being prescribed to Type 2 diabetics, considering obesity is also a serious medical condition.

Professor Proietto, who is an endocrinologist, explained to The Daily Telegraph that Ozempic was a free medication that worked for obese patients as well as diabetics in a high range.

Abrupt weight loss may sound appealing when trying to obtain the “perfect” Hollywood physique, but the reality is, it can have some side effects after stopping. One side effect is rapid weight gain, potentially leading to insulin resistance for someone who is not pre-diabetic or Type 2 diabetic. Some people have even reported developing binge eating and gaining back more weight than they originally had.

In Newsweek, influencer Remi Bader discussed her own Ozempic journey in 2020 before the surge in popularity of it, saying that it increased her binge eating.

“I saw a doctor and they were like, ‘It’s 100 percent because you went on Ozempic, because it was making me think I wasn’t hungry,’” said Bader. She added, “I gained double the weight back.”

Will we see other celebrities and influencers gain the weight back? Will they ever stop using the injections or will they switch to something new? Will they ever feel a sense of guilt for taking a medication not intended for them without a diagnosis?

Celebrities should feel a real sense of shame for obtaining and taking a crucial medication that is not intended for them, while those who severely need it to help them live can access it. According to Glamour Magazine UK: “The Ozempic fad isn’t just an individual health issue, either: it’s a privilege issue.” ┘



Character Select...

Photos by Logan Stupin
Photo Illustrations by Jett Shim



Pay The Bills



Get a Degree

The JUCO STRUGGLE

With few options for athletic scholarships, junior college athletes in California face an uphill battle to play the sport they love and afford the costs of being a student in the Golden State.

Story by Holden Remme

College athletes often struggle to squeeze in meals between responsibilities and practice.



Brandon Rankins began his commute to school at 5 a.m. from San Bernardino to Fullerton College in order to make it on time for morning weights. Practices would end around 5:30 p.m., but his drive home sometimes began hours after practice to avoid sitting in traffic. Waiting for traffic to die down seems as if it would cost the same amount of time as just sitting in the traffic, but Rankins' old Saturn would turn off if it was idle for too long. The wait isn't as bad as having the brakes stop working and having to leave the car on campus for a week until he could pay for the expensive tow back home. For Rankins, the biggest part of his struggle was his transportation.

Athletes find themselves at junior colleges for a variety of reasons. Some are looking to get more opportunities after high school, some have the talent but not the grades, and others are looking for a second opportunity after the first school they went to didn't work out. Regardless of the situation, it is everyone's last chance to play the sport they love. But that comes at a cost.

Without access to the levels of funding that university athletes have, the life of a junior college athlete has become known as the Juco struggle.

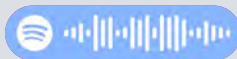
At four-year universities, players are allowed to receive full scholarships including tuition, fees, housing, and meal plans. With the new name, image, and likeliness rules, student-athletes are now able to receive financial compensation. Last year's Heisman Award winner, Bryce Young, was the NCAA's highest-paid athlete garnering \$3.2 million last season while at the University of Alabama.

Junior colleges in California belong to the California Community College Athletic Association, which prohibits students from receiving athletic scholarships. Their other organization is the National Junior College Athletic Association which has multiple divisions, just like the NCAA, and its member schools can offer full-ride scholarships. The schools in the top division of the NJCAA are able to provide up to 85 football scholarships depending on the budget of the school.

With limited or no options for athletic scholarships, student-athletes in California must rely on financial aid to combat the costs of tuition, fees, and supplies. Students can sign up for FAFSA and have access to up to almost \$7,000 in financial aid. There are multiple grants students have access to such as the California College Promise Grant, Cal Grant, and the Pell Grant. First time college students have access to free tuition through the California Promise Program which provides two years of free tuition. These grants differ depending on the students' situation, income, and GPA. Often, financial aid will be able to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and supplies but student-athletes still need to pay for the cost of living.

Athletes will travel from all over the country to attend and play at Jucos in California due to the high level of competition and ability to generate offers. Fullerton College has one of the premier teams not only in the state but in the entire country after winning back-to-back national championships in 2016 and 2017. According to Coach Phil Austin, 95% of sophomore football players leave with a scholarship.

Coach Austin went through the system himself



Pressure in my Palms

by Aminé, slowthai, Vince Staples

attending Pasadena City College before playing football at the University of Hawaii. He sees Juco as an opportunity for many of these players. They have to overcome different situations. Players have to work if they do not have support from their families, others need to work to support their families, some care for children of their own.

“There’s a lot of hurdles and we have to find a path for each student to help them reach their ultimate goal. A lot of times actually, I think we’re saving lives,” says Austin.

The goal for Austin is to get these kids out of Juco and give them a chance at life while using football to pay for their schooling. With a degree, these players will be able to work careers with upward mobility. Austin and the rest of the coaching staff do their best to help guide players down the path that is best for them. About half of the incoming freshmen coming from out of state are recommended to gray shirt, which means the player will not be a full-time student and the year will not count towards their eligibility while they train and practice with the team. Gray-shirting will save them money on tuition while giving them a year to establish residency to receive in-state tuition. Coaches do their best to help players utilize financial aid to the best of their ability.

James Griffin, formerly a receiver coach and recruiter at Fullerton College, says that players come to California because of the competition. California not only has high-level teams, but the sheer amount of Juco football programs outweighs every other state.

Griffin does not like the term “Juco struggle,” and says that it is only a struggle for the people who don’t want to work hard. “If you like to work, it’s not a struggle. The ones struggling are the ones living in downtown LA in a box.” At the end of the day, it is a life decision and the players chose to come to California to play and go through this.


Branden Rankins was a top running back in the state coming out of Aquinas High School in San Bernardino where he was a walk-on at the University of Utah. Branden did not receive a scholarship to play at Utah so he left and bounced back to Fullerton College because he knew he could earn a scholarship after going to Juco. He made the decision because he disagreed with paying so much for general education classes at a university and chose to save on tuition.

To Rankins, Juco was a struggle, but he considered it a necessary one. In his first year at Fullerton, he had completed around 50-60 credits because he simply had nothing else to do. He had to earn his AA degree as soon as possible so he would be able to transfer back to a four-year university when the opportunity presented itself.

While playing at Fullerton, Rankins had trouble sleeping. He was so focused on his future that it caused him to be anxious. “I just wanted to do more than where I was at, I couldn’t really focus on the now,” Rankins says.

“If you’re a junior college athlete, let me say this, congratulations because you’re determined. You’re very determined to play more football or to



A stylized illustration on the left side of the page shows the back of a person's head with dark hair, and their hand holding a white pen. The background is split into a light blue upper half and a bright yellow lower half.

go to the next level. And if you're going through this grind, you've gotta realize, it is going to be mentally and physically taxing on you."

Players coming from other states will have to pay rent on top of their cost of living. Out-of-state athletes often have to work part-time and sometimes even full-time in order to cover the cost of living in addition to being full-time students and athletes.

Malik Winston, running back at Fullerton College, says that he started working almost immediately after arriving in California. Winston is from Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, and came to Fullerton after taking a gap year during the Covid-19 season. He started out playing for Northern Illinois University but entered the NCAA transfer portal during the pandemic and didn't get picked up by another school.

"Coach Austin had a security job set up for me within a few days of getting to Cali and I would work those security jobs and referee flag football," Winston says.

Winston also said he took advantage of the free meals and food bank on campus as much as he could, but that it was definitely necessary to sustain some sort of income. His change of scenery from Wisconsin to California was not the most difficult to adjust to, but it was hard at times not having family nearby for support.

When Winston talks about what Juco athletes go through, he says that the struggle is worth it whether you make it out or not. Learning to provide for yourself and manage your time between class, practice, and work helps you grow as a person.

Casey Eyman was a former Fullerton College football player who attended Fullerton in 2013 and 2014. He saw the Juco struggle firsthand and knew he wanted to work in a position where he would be able to help these student-athletes. Casey became a life coach at Fullerton College in 2019 and is now in his first year of being an academic counselor.

Eyman looked back on his time as a Juco athlete and described it as a juggling act. It was also difficult dealing with the slow process of junior college.

"It was manageable for me because luckily I had my parents' house to go back to and that support system. But as far as like, comparing yourself to others, you may have friends go, or see them progress quicker than you while you're still stuck. It took me three to four years to get out of junior college, grade-wise, eligibility-wise, and recruitment-wise."

Eyman started his Juco career at Golden West College where he gray-shirted and red-shirted for two seasons before he transferred to Fullerton College. A gray shirt will take less than 12 units in their first year in order to get an extra year of eligibility on your clock. A red shirt is similar as it saves a year of eligibility, but the athlete must be a full-time student. Both red and gray shirts may train with the team but can not play in the games.

"I was really trying to develop that skill on top of, you know, completing all my classes, full-time schedule, having to work in my off time. So it was always a constant juggling act of those three things.

But always wanting to make sure, I gave my energy and attention and kept football as the main focus.”

Eyman worked a variety of jobs while being a student-athlete including working at a shoe store and being a busser at different restaurants and bars. He said he wanted to work with student-athletes to help guide them in the right direction.

Jacob Jones played on the Fullerton College football team from 2017 to 2019 and received a scholarship to Idaho State University. Jones has played at multiple collegiate levels and has played with players from all over the US and he says that players who made it through Juco really know about going through the struggle.

Jones was a walk-on at Northern Arizona University. As a walk-on, he was on the team but not receiving an athletic scholarship. Jones made the decision to leave NAU because he believed he could earn an athletic scholarship at another university. Jones chose Fullerton College where he would be able to live at his parents' house in La Habra, only one city away.

While he did not have to pay rent, he faced his own struggles on his journey. After his freshman season, Jones sustained a serious injury that put his future into question. After a solid freshman season, he tore his calf before his sophomore season.

“So I was out the entire year on a calf injury, I tore my calf, half of it completely tore off. And so that was definitely tough, mentally because you're like, Okay, I'm hurt. I'm not playing football. You question if I can even do this again. And if I do get better, how fast will I get better, you know, you have all these things running through your head. I almost couldn't go to division one because of this injury and it set me back.”

Athletes will go this route for a number of different reasons. Some do not have the grades to get into a four-year university. Others may have not received enough exposure from higher-level schools out of high school. A few athletes will bounce back for a variety of reasons including differences in opinions with coaching, choosing to be walk-ons to earn a scholarship, or simply needing a fresh start.

“There's a lot of teammates that didn't have a lot. They were sleeping on the floor, sleeping on couches, going from house to house, and trying to find something to eat. Going off of EBT and food stamps. I remember teammates asking me if I could take them to Walmart because they accepted EBT. And we would go, and they would get their groceries because that's the only way they could pay for it because they didn't have anything.”

Jones saw the hardships some of his teammates went to and used that as fuel to succeed. He stressed the importance of the company you keep and keeping your teammates in check.

The struggle is not for everyone, but almost everyone who goes through Juco knows exactly how these athletes feel.

“I'd rather struggle and get somewhere than not struggle and just sit and be comfortable, not elevating my life. If you're struggling, I mean, at least you're fighting through it. If you're not struggling, then you give up,” says Branden Rankins. ▬

**“It was always
like a constant
juggling act”**



The Hornet Detour

Former Hornets who made the leap from JuCo to four-year universities or the NFL.



D'Angelo Ross

Defensive Back

University of New Mexico, Miami Dolphins

2016



Dennis Houston

Wide Receiver

Western Illinois, Dallas Cowboys

2018



Caleb Johnson

Linebacker

University of Miami

2017-2018



Joey Noble

Defensive End

University of New Mexico

2017-2018



Jordan Wright

Defensive Back

Kansas St. University

2019-2021



BANN

IN OC

By Mariana Ramos

The Placentia-Yorba Linda School District board has joined the ranks amongst hundreds of school districts placing bans on Critical Race Theory. Heated debate has sparked a culture war that is overshadowing the real meaning behind the term.



Stress
Justice

UNIFIED



John

At a Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District board meeting in the spring of 2022 parents, students, educators, and board members gathered to debate a potential ban on critical race theory. “You see what this education has provided—all of these little activists arguing for racism. These children are arguing for racism,” said John Barkley, an attendee at the board meeting. The audience cheered and clapped as he made his remark. The “little activists” he spoke of are students from the school district attending the same board meeting, and the “racism” they are arguing for is the teaching of critical race theory, because they believe it is essential to an honest and inclusive education.



On April 5, 2022, the Placentia-Yorba Linda School Board passed a ban on critical race theory from being taught in their district, but cities in Orange County aren't the only locations where critical race theory in K-12 is up for debate. Across the nation, hundreds of cities and school districts are implementing regulations against CRT. Some school districts and parents are defining CRT as harmful to students and demanding that it be banned, while other parents and students are fighting against this narrative by claiming it is an essential part of education. Educators and scholars argue that it is a topic that isn't taught in K-12 schools at all, and the controversy surrounding who is right and who is wrong continues to be a topic of discussion.

"There is so much backlash against critical race theory by people who don't know what critical race theory is," says Danae Hart, an African American Studies professor at Fullerton College.

Critical race theory was adopted in the 1970s by a group of legal scholars including Derrick Bell, Richard Delgado, Cheryl Harris, Kimberlé Crenshaw, and many others. It was created to challenge the argument that the structures that are in place in America, such as medical systems and criminal justice departments, are essentially "color-blind" and that they were created with equal opportunity. It theorizes that racism goes far beyond prejudiced beliefs or actions from individual people, but that racism is also embedded into the structures used today. CRT explains that these structures discriminate against people of color by not upholding the same standard that would be used for white people, in turn, continuing the cycle of inequality for African Americans and other people of color in America.

"Critical race theory is looking at those big systems, it's looking at systemic racism and how it operates," says Hart.

Some school board members, parents, and students don't agree with the ideology of critical race theory, and the speculation that it was being taught to their kids in school ultimately sparked the controversy of CRT being taught in K-12.

"Critical race theory is a theory, and it basically puts one group as oppressors and one group as the oppressed, and to me, it was a form of reverse racism," says Leadra Blades, vice president of the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District, when asked what critical race theory is.

According to Blades, parents and students would reach out to share what was being taught in their classrooms. Some examples were teachers handing out worksheets about the founding fathers and Abraham Lincoln being racist, but scholars are arguing that these common examples are not critical race theory because critical race

theory doesn't look at racism on an individual level. "That is just folks' individual opinions and that is not critical race theory," says Hart.

Blades also alleges that teachers in her district were telling white students to leave their *white privilege* at the door as they walked into the classroom. Parents did not approve of this method of teaching and the idea of CRT being taught to kids became an immense issue. Blades states that board members would be "inundated" by emails and phone calls from parents and students reaching out to speak on their concerns and dissatisfaction.

A parent, who chose to only go by Brent, said at the April 2022 board meeting, "Last year, my daughter's history class was CRT influenced all year long. The main theme: white people are bad."

Other parents don't believe the view that CRT makes white people seem like the "bad guy." "Not one of my kids feels bad for being white, nor do they feel that Placentia-Yorba Linda School District has tried to make them feel bad for being white," said Carrie Burnell at the March 23, 2022 board meeting in opposition of the ban.

While critical race theory does include the study of whiteness, white privilege, and the idea that systems are racist towards people of color because they cater more towards white people, it doesn't refer to white people directly being racist or bad because of it.

Cheryl Harris, one of the developers of CRT, wrote in her June 1993 article, "Whiteness as Property," that whiteness holds power and privilege because America was built for white people to succeed and that although white people can still struggle, they won't face the same struggles that Black people face as a result of racism.

"Nevertheless, whiteness retains its value as a 'consolation prize': it does not mean that all whites will win, but simply that they will not lose, if losing is defined as being on the bottom of the social and economic hierarchy - the position to which Blacks have been consigned," Harris writes.

In opposition, other parents believe that CRT should be taught regardless of whether it makes white kids feel bad or not. At the March 23, 2022 board meeting, Brooke H. said, "If my kids are old enough to experience racism, then your kids are old enough to learn about it."

Another common argument made by parents and school board members who oppose CRT is that it is forcing their kids into certain stereotypes that could cause feelings to be hurt and a divide between students.

"I don't understand why any one would embrace a theory—because critical race theory is just a theory—of

White privilege:

The concept that white people are given advantages when it comes to having more access to opportunities that assists them financially and socially, such as receiving better healthcare and treatment from the criminal justice system because they are white.

“

When I was in high school, history wasn't directed for me.

FOR KIDS LIKE ME,

FOR POC”

Aaliyah Skipper

trying to make people into oppressed or oppressors,” says Blades.

At the April 5, 2022 school board meeting, Blades presented results from a survey taken by the Orange County Board of Education from adults in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. The results showed that out of all the survey participants, 51% believed that critical race theory has Americans separated by race, as oppressors and victims. Additionally, 75% of respondents believe that CRT should not be taught in K-12.

Critical race theory is made up of other concepts such as structural racism, *intersectionality*, *microaggressions*, and the idea that *race is a social construct*, and although all of these concepts highlight the theory that racism is still a large part of today's society that harms people of color, it wasn't developed to make people of color feel oppressed. It was developed to understand and challenge ways that people of color continue to be harmed by being treated unfairly.

When looking at the statistics of people in Placentia and Yorba Linda that view CRT as bad, divisive, and an ideology that should not be allowed in schools, it is also important to take into consideration the impact that political affiliation and race play into these beliefs.

A report done by The Covid States Project found that 23% of white respondents agreed with critical race theory. This percentage is low when compared to the 42% of Black respondents that support CRT. The study also found that white republicans had “exceptionally low support” when it came to CRT.

Since 2020, Republican politicians and media outlets have described critical race theory as being the cause of a divide that points blame at white people for the struggles that people of color face and that it further creates racism.

“There's this fear that if we talk about race, it's somehow making racism exist as if it doesn't already exist within our society,” says Hart.

Students in the school district who strongly oppose the ban on critical race theory say they view it as censorship that is only harming their education and students of color.

At the November 16, 2021 board meeting, Magdalena Aparicio, a student at Yorba Linda High School, showed her disapproval of the proposed ban by recounting an incident where a poster that stated “your dad is my gardener” created to mock Hispanic students during a football feud made her angry. “As a Hispanic student, and a child of Mexican immigrants, I sat in my classes as my classmates debated my right to be angry,” said Magdalena. “We must have uncomfortable conversations or incidents like this are more likely to occur and swept under the rug.”

The ultimate decision to ban critical race theory made by the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District created backlash for the district. A year after the vote was made, parents and scholars are still expressing their disapproval of the ban at board meetings and asking for the ban to be removed. A major event that was set into effect after the ban was Cal State Fullerton's decision to pull all student teachers out of the school district.



Intersectionality:

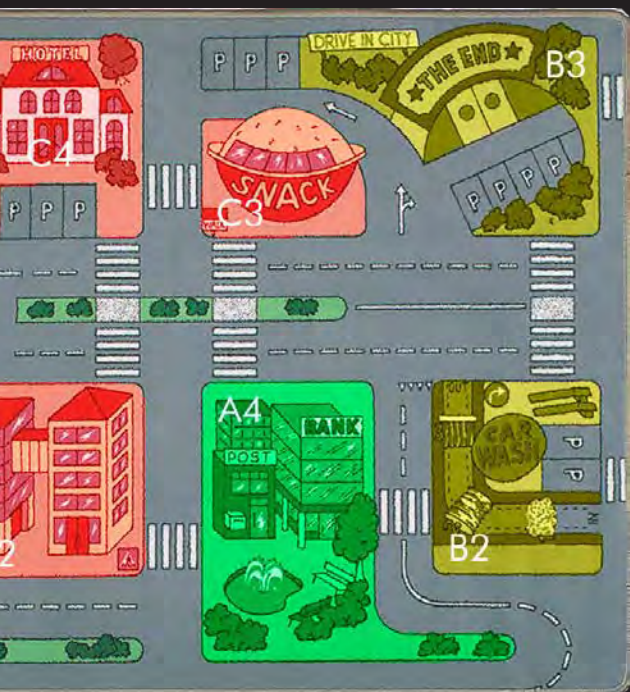
A concept that systems of inequality, such as race, gender, and sexual orientation, all intersect together to form a unique dynamic between those systems. For example, when examining discrimination against a Black woman, the fact that she is both Black and a woman must be acknowledged.

Microaggressions:

Subtle, verbal or non-verbal, discrimination made against people of color.

Race is a social construct:

The ideology that race was created to divide people into hierarchies since there are no biological indicators that one race is different from another race.



Top:

A popularized kids' city playmat is depicted with redlining. Redlining is a practice that was used to deny access to financial services, such as loans, to people of color. It led to neighborhoods with Black residents being deemed dangerous (red), and white neighborhoods were considered safe and investible (green).

Illustration by Jett Shim

Left:

A pamphlet with a point from the Black Panther Ten Point Program (1969) photographed beside a children's Dr. Seuss book.

Photo by Mariana Ramos

On October 17, 2022, Cal State University, Fullerton announced that they would no longer be placing student-teachers in the PYLUSD. This was due to student-teachers feeling they were not getting enough clarity on whether ethnic studies, needed for teacher preparation, could be taught in the district.

PYLUSD isn't the only school district that has taken action to ban critical race theory. According to CRT Forward, an initiative that was launched by the UCLA School of Law, as of the first quarter of 2023, nearly 200 local school districts across the United States have introduced measures to ban critical race theory.

While school boards continue to take measures against critical race theory, scholars say that it isn't taught in K-12 schools at all, but instead is only formally taught and discussed in colleges and graduate schools because the topic is too complex.

"In K-12 education, in the curriculum, there's really no discussion of theory in any subject," says Hart.

Christopher Emdin, a professor and author who specializes in urban education and curriculum, said in an interview with Wisconsin Public Radio that critical race theory is not being taught in K-12, but instead, a curriculum is being taught that teachers feel appeals to the diversity of their students.

The way a K-12 teacher K-12 would teach their students a lesson on redlining and racial housing covenants differs from how a college professor would address these topics.

According to a sample lesson from the California Department of Education, this lesson would be taught by defining the terms, having students read the book "A Raisin in the Sun," by Lorraine Hansberry, and then having the students analyze how African Americans faced housing inequalities in the past and how they still face these issues. The sample lesson states the objective of the lesson would be to "Engage and comprehend contemporary language being used to describe the current housing crisis and the history of racial housing segregation."

This lesson would not be used by a college professor who is teaching critical race theory. A lesson plan on racial housing covenants created by the California State University of Northridge only uses direct historical events to teach the lesson. It includes facts about white people at the time protesting African Americans living in the same neighborhoods as them because they viewed African Americans and other races as inferior. These are facts that are not mentioned in the K-12 lesson plan; college lessons on CRT concepts are taught with more factual examples of the realities of racism.

Aaliyah Skipper, a Fullerton College photography student, enrolled in an ethnic studies course in her second year of college, which is where she learned about critical race theory. Skipper was shocked by what she was learning since it had been completely new to her.

"When I was in high school, history wasn't directed for me, for kids like me, for POC," says Skipper.

Skipper attended El Dorado High School in Placentia and in those years, the history that she learned didn't give her enough information about her culture's background or the American structure and how it could affect her. When it came down to learning the history of her own race in America, Skipper only recalls learning about slavery and how they were colonized by the Europeans.

Now that Skipper is in college, she is learning more CRT concepts, such as **systemic racism**. A topic that she learned about was that statistically, Black women receive fewer pain medications during labor and postpartum because of the stigma surrounding Black women

Systemic Racism:

A form of racism that is built into structures, such as economic, educational, criminal justice, and healthcare systems. These systems provide disadvantages to racial minorities because they are given unjust and unequal services and opportunities compared to white people.



Danae Hart, An African American studies professor at Fullerton College, shares her disapproval for the recent bans on critical race theory in K-12. Photo courtesy of Danae Hart.

having a higher pain tolerance. A study done by doctors at Northwestern University found that although Black and Brown women report high pain levels postpartum, they receive fewer amounts of morphine than white women.

“This is so far in the future, but I’m so scared to have kids,” says Skipper. “I wish I would’ve learned about it sooner. It would’ve changed my decisions, how I see myself, and how I see the world.”

As ideologies such as critical race theory are being disputed and banned across the country, scholars and activists are worrying about what it could mean for history, education and

social justice movements that uplift people of color.

“It’s really harmful to see that something that was so empowering for folks, like ethnic studies and African American studies, to be challenged in such a public way,” says Hart.

Although these are times when practices and heavily developed theories like CRT are under attack, scholars such as Hart still have hope that there is a bright side to the controversy: “Banning critical race theory, the positive side is that more folks are talking about it and more folks are looking into what it is and learning about it.” ┘

“There is so much

BACKLASH

against **CRITICAL RACE THEORY**

by people who

DON'T KNOW

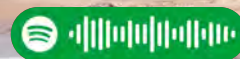
what critical race theory is.”

Danae Hart, African American studies professor at Fullerton College

Calling
the

Buff

If Not Now, Then When?
by King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard.



Increasing temperatures, rainfall and erosion are putting Orange County's beautiful shores at risk.

Story and Photos by Logan Stupin



Lost Winds Beach in San Clemente was closed off on March 24, 2023, due to winter downpours. Heavy rainfall can carve canyons in cliffs, making the foundations of coastal homes unstable.



As you drive the scenic Pacific Coast Highway down our beautiful California coast through most of Orange County, you take in sights of crystal blue water, jagged bluffs, and magnificent mansions meeting the Pacific Ocean right at its edge. Although it is viewed as the “California Dream” by most, such egocentric housing costing up to \$70 million is at the forefront of climate change and could become its first victim.

The steep shoreline cliffs, or bluffs, from Corona Del Mar to San Clemente are home to many residents as well as a source of jobs for some careers. California Ocean Protection Council reports that, as of 2014, around 75% of California’s population was along its coast. A slice of that percentage is directly on the bluffs, in massive houses overlooking the surf below. These bluffs are caused by the change in sea level over time. As water washes away lower and lower, it takes more sediment along with every passing wave.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association reports the 2022 average global temperature was 1.55 degrees warmer than the average of the 20th century. As more excess carbon is released by humans the surrounding air and water expand, taking up more room. In Orange County’s case, the ocean has been expanding; soon enough we will see these waves crash against unprotected bluffs, potentially taking houses along with the tide. Some cities have already prepared for the worst. Strands Beach in Dana Point has transported in rocks to slow

the waves from changing, or eroding, the beach too much.

Along with the tide, another main suspect for local coastal erosion has been the winter storms of 2023. Golden Gate Weather recorded a 192% increase in Orange County’s average seasonal rainfall. The rainwater flows down the edge of these cliffs, tearing holes and carving new canyons that aren’t necessarily being monitored. This leaves buildings and foundations in the sediment very vulnerable to shifting or even failing altogether.

The coastline constantly gets taken for granted. It is just as alive as the organisms it is home to. With that comes the need to grow and change. Humans have changed the planet in tremendous ways, mostly for the worst, so it is only natural that the ecosystems have to adapt to these changes. The California coastal bluffs are trying to adapt to the rise of sea level as well as the constant bombardment of rain washing away most of their sediment, without enough room these bluffs become weak and they begin to fail. In beautiful towns like Crystal Cove or Laguna Beach, where families and others reside at the edge of these bluffs, fear is growing among the residents due to the lax efforts of the people in charge. If there is no maximum effort to find a solution soon, we will see monumental works of architecture become pieces of litter at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. Whether it is through the mitigation of excess pollutants or the evacuation and major reconstruction of the coastline, California needs help. ┘

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO

GOING INTERCONTINENTAL

By Mikey Moran

Upcoming Fullerton College study abroad trips (and the movies to watch to get inspired)

DESTINATION

EMILY IN PARIS (2020)

FRA

Time to live your life like Emily in Paris by going on the France spring 2024 trip. Visit locations straight from the Netflix series by going to the delicious Café de Flore, Pont Alexandre III bridge, and the Canal Saint-Martin.

THE FAST & THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT (2006)

JPN

Put yourself in the world of your favorite street racing movie by going on the Japan trips in the summer and fall of 2024! Walk the streets of the iconic Scramble Crossing in Shibuya, Tokyo, as well as the overcrowded Takeshita Dori shopping street in Harajuku.



DESTINATION

GAME OF THRONES (2011)

IRE

Visit your favorite kingdoms in Game of Thrones by studying abroad in Ireland in the summer of 2023. Visit the Dark Hedges (Kingsroad), beautiful Downhill Beach (Dragonstone), and try your hand at archery at the famous Castle Ward (Winterfell).

CALL ME BY YOUR NAME (2017)

ITA

Roam around Italy like Elio and Oliver from Call Me By Your Name in Fall 2023. Visit the Plaza del Duomo, the famous Lake Garda, and the gorgeous Cascade del Serio— Europe's second-tallest waterfall.

7 Heures Du Matin

by Jacqueline Taieb



Studying abroad can be one of the most life-changing experiences for the typical adventurous college student, with proven research showing it has real benefits. According to data provided by the University of California, Merced, 96 to 97% said they had an increase in self-confidence and maturity as a result of studying abroad. Studying abroad is also proven to improve a student's retention and increase their GPA which makes them more likely to transfer and get into grad school, according to the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers.

Living in a foreign country is rewarding for most students studying abroad as they are fully immersed in the country's culture, lifestyle and people for a semester away from home. Although most study abroad programs are usually available in four-year universities, it is not talked about enough that junior college students can also study across the globe. Fullerton College launched its study abroad program in 2018, although the program unofficially existed long prior to its actual debut, using third-party sites to fund the trip. The program was put on hiatus not long after it started when the pandemic began in 2020. Now it's back in full force with trips in 2023 and 2024, including Ireland (summer 2023), Italy (fall 2023), France (spring 2024), and Japan (2024)— just to name a few.

While it's great that these opportunities exist, it can be hard to know where to start. Planning your dream semester overseas doesn't have to be so difficult. The Study Abroad Office at Fullerton College offers informational sessions about a year prior to the start of the program and can help you begin the process by reviewing your transcripts and guiding you on the right path to plan in advance. To be a candidate for study abroad, you must complete a set of requirements. Applicants should be at least 18 years old by the beginning of the program and must have completed at least 12 units of college credit before applying. A minimum 2.5 GPA is also required, and applicants should have completed English 100 or equivalent with a "C" or better.

Every trip has a select number of classes available. These Fullerton College courses fulfill any major/general education requirements for transfer but also count as elective credit for others who may not need to take them. The Spring 2023 Seville, Spain trip is currently offering anthropology and business classes while the Fall 2023 Rome, Italy trip plans to offer business, earth science, and art history classes. Students are not allowed to take other online courses while abroad as attendance to all excursions is mandatory. Students also cannot work.

COST



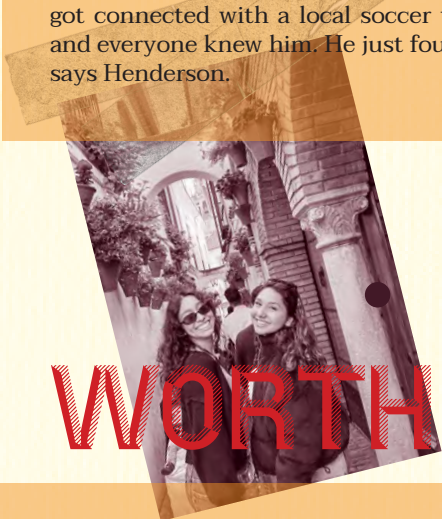
Studying abroad can get expensive quickly, but there are ways to make your semester away from home more affordable. A study abroad program at Fullerton College can cost anywhere from \$8,000 to \$9,000 per semester (excluding airfare), depending on the location. A summer program runs at about \$4,500 (excluding airfare). These costs include housing, excursions, tuition and books. Students are encouraged to book their own flight to accommodate their budget. Scheduling a flight months ahead of time and using mileage cards can also come in handy for a pricey flight.

But what about everyday expenses? How much money does it cost to have fun while living in a foreign country?

"I tell students, think about what you spend here, what are your monthly expenses? Tabulate that and then add on, do you want to travel? Do you want to shop? So it can be anywhere like \$1,000 a month, it can be \$1,500 a month, it kind of depends," says Angela Henderson, Study Abroad Coordinator. "We had a student go to London, and he didn't have a lot of extra cash. So he never left London for three months, but instead, he got connected with a local soccer team. He'd walk into a pub, and everyone knew him. He just found all the free things to do," says Henderson.

There are scholarships and financial assistance available as well, including the Fund for Education Abroad award that gives study-abroad students \$2,500 in the summer or \$5,000 for a fall semester. Students compete nationally in hopes of receiving the scholarship, and 867 students have been honored with the award since the organization's start in 2010. If you receive a Pell Grant, you are also eligible for the Benjamin A. Gilman international scholarship, which awards students with up to half of their fees covered (average award of about \$4,000).

Making a budget and saving money with sufficient time in advance will help make your travels smooth sailing. Start picking up those extra shifts at work, do some freelancing, or start fundraisers to raise enough money for your travel fund. Heavyn Agu, a 21-year-old sociology major currently on the Seville, Spain trip, says that teaching herself how to save and budget was essential to make her dream trip to Seville a reality. "When I first was hired in high school, I would tend to go out and spend a lot of money just because I had it, but I really had to learn discipline and obedience— to just know I'm saving my money for a bigger purpose and this purpose is gonna pay off in the long run," says Agu.



Study Abroad students and faculty in front of a tiny side street in the city of Cordoba, the former capital of Al-Andalus.

Photo courtesy of Sage Green

Juliette Pinedo-Serrato (left) and Celeste Rodriguez (right) on a street in Cordoba with the Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba in the distance.

Photo courtesy of Celeste Rodriguez

Celeste Rodriguez in front of the Palacio Real (Royal Palace of Madrid) in Madrid, Spain.

Photo courtesy of Celeste Rodriguez

WORTH IT?

With such a high price tag, is studying abroad really worth it? Are the benefits from this experience worth the money? Henderson says that studying abroad and putting it on your resume can be the key to standing out from the crowd when transferring. Only a select number of students nationwide study abroad, and the number of community college students is even smaller. "What's crazy is, in the United States, less than 10% of students in all universities and colleges study abroad. And of that population, community colleges make up less than 3%," says Henderson. "It opens doors because now you're putting something on a transfer application. You're putting something on a resume that 97% of others don't have."

Kathy Standen, a business professor currently on the Spain trip, says that her love for traveling and fascination with Hispanic culture is what motivated her to be one of the two professors in Seville. Standen also thinks that studying abroad gives students the opportunity to soak everything in without being on limited time.

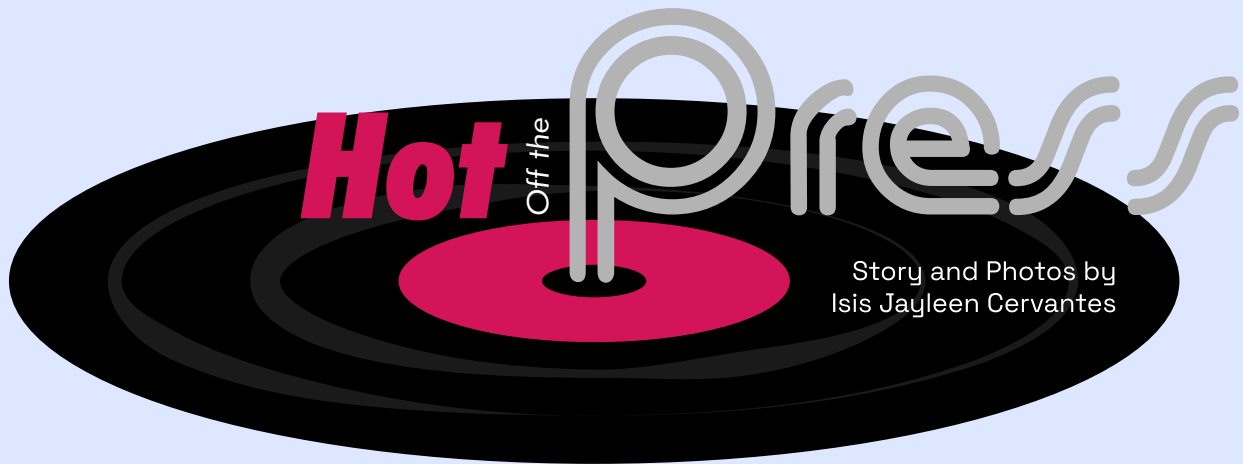
"What I'm finding is— I've traveled, but not for three months in one place before. And so I'm really seeing the culture and I'm not as pressed, I have to go see these fine things today.

It's like, oh, let's just go have lunch in the park and just enjoy the day, which is what I did today," she says.

Living in a new country you've never been to before can be scary and nerve-racking, but being surrounded by your fellow peers can help make this new adjustment feel homey in no time. Celeste Rodriguez, a 21-year-old anthropology major currently studying abroad in Spain, says Seville instantly felt like home after experiencing a weekend getaway to Madrid during the group's early weeks in Spain. "One of the girls had mentioned that she was feeling homesick, and we all immediately knew that she was referring to Seville, not home in the States. We all understood each other. We all knew collectively as a group that we missed Seville," says Rodriguez.

Stepping into a new environment like an unfamiliar country allows you to open your perspective of the world in a number of different ways. With proven research to show it really works, why not pack your bags next semester for the trip of a lifetime? Studying abroad is an unforgettable experience you'll treasure forever— and sharing this once-in-a-lifetime moment with other like-minded students is sure to create memorable bonds you'll hold dear to your heart for the rest of your life. ┘





Vinyls and record players are back! In recent years, the sales of record players and vinyls have skyrocketed. Vinyl just sounds better because records have more peaks and valleys than compressed compact discs.

“Records have a more omni-dimensional sound that really fills the room a lot better,” says Andrew Schaer, owner of Hear Again Music & Movies in Gainesville, Florida. According to Billboard, 43.46 million vinyl albums were sold in 2022 (up 4.2% from 2021). Newer artists are selling vinyls along with their albums streaming on Apple Music and Spotify. According to a report by Statistica, four out of the top five records sold in 2022 were new releases. These four are Taylor Swift's "Midnights," Harry Styles' "Harry's House", Olivia Rodrigo's "Sour" and Kendrick Lamar's "good kid, m.A.A.d city". The outlier was Fleetwood Mac's "Rumors" from 1977. If vinyl records are something you love or if you just want to start getting into it, here are some local shops in Orange County you can visit.

Return of the Loop Digga
by Quasimoto



WHITE RABBIT RECORDS

645 S. STATE COLLEGE BLVD... UNIT A, FULLERTON



White Rabbit is also a few paces from home. You can spend your time deep in the crates at White Rabbit's very wide variety. They carry acts such as Michael Jackson, John Lennon, Outkast, Lana Del Rey and Olivia Rodrigo to name a few. White Rabbit not only sells vinyl records but they also sell CDs and cassettes for others looking for a throwback experience.



BLACK HOLE RECORDS

115 S. HARBOR BLVD., FULLERTON



Black Hole Records is right here in our own backyard. Black Hole Records feels like you're in a hazy garage watching a punk band practice. There's a lot going on. It's a thrift store as well as a vinyl shop. With the rock music playing as you shop, it really sets the tone. Arguably, rock could be considered their speciality, but music lovers of other genres could still find a gem here. In addition to that, they sell CDs if that's more your style.



MELTED VINYL COFFEE

580 S. BREA BLVD., BREA



Go back in time to the 1980s, enjoy some coffee, listen and buy some records. Melted Vinyl Coffee has that 1980s feel to it. With the Day-Glo bright colors, neon lights, and spray paint on the brick walls, it feels like you stepped out of a time capsule. The drinks there are top-notch with the best iced chai that is to die for.



PORT OF SOUND RECORD SHOPPE

1500 ADAMS AVE., #104B, COSTA MESA



In the southern Orange County Area, Port of Sound is economical with its small space. Don't gloss over any of the tight corners because there's always a surprising find. These days, a lot of the shelves are emptier than they used to be because they sold their deep inventory to inquiring buyers. As they rebuild and restock, their curation is still on point. ↴



Meet the Staff

Ian Devin Winstanley
(Editor-In-Chief)

Jett Shim
(Creative Director)

Mariana Ramos
(Managing Editor)

Denise Grande
(Senior Staff
Contributor)

Jessica Langlois
(Adviser)

Logan Stupin
(Photography Editor)

Mikey Moran
(Staff Writer)

Isis Jayleen Cervantes
(Senior Staff
Contributor)

Holden Remme
(Staff Writer)

Olivia Peña
(Staff Writer)

Aydan Azzara
(Staff Writer)

Photographs by Ethan Chin

Ian Devin Winstanley:

Ian is currently a journalism student at CSULB. He enjoys surrealist art, cult classic films and freshly-squeezed grapefruit juice. In his free time, he likes painting, writing prose, playing sports at the park and going to concerts. He intends to pursue a career working for literary magazines and a side hustle selling plasma.

Jett Shim:

Jett is currently a graphic design student who is aiming towards a career in either print or design. In his free time he enjoys listening to and studying music, playing bass and driving.

Mariana Ramos:

Mariana is a journalism major who enjoys thrillers, literary fiction and fashion. She spends a majority of her free time attending local concerts, upcycling thrifted clothing and going on hikes. She aspires to write for a magazine as a career.

Denise Grande:

Denise is a journalism major who enjoys walks surrounded by nature, discovering new music and exploring new places. Her goals are to work in the multimedia field and create content for others to enjoy.

Jessica Langlois:

Jessica has been working as a journalist, essayist and college professor for over a decade. When she's not advising Inside Fullerton or The Hornet, she loves dancing to Bikini Kill with her two little kids. In a past life, she rode a fixed-gear bicycle around Oakland with her all-girl bike crew.

Logan Stupin:

Logan is a journalism major. In his free time, he likes to surf. Three of his favorite things are the ocean, Jean-Michel Basquiat paintings and California redwood trees.

Mikey Moran:

Mikey is majoring in journalism. In his free time, he likes to explore new places with friends, meet new people, take way too many pictures and go to underground parties in L.A. His end goal is to be a magazine journalist or work in public relations.

Isis Jayleen Cervantes:

Isis is majoring in journalism. In her free time, she loves going to the beach. Three of her favorite things are going to Dodger games, listening to music and shopping.

Holden Remme:

Holden is a Communications and Journalism major who wants to work in sports radio. He will be attending Cal State Fullerton next fall and spends his free time watching sports, playing on his computer and going out with friends.

Olivia Peña:

Olivia is a fashion journalism major. In her free time, she enjoys going to the beach, hanging out with friends and trying new coffee shops.

Aydan Azzara:

Aydan is a major in journalism who wants to pursue a career in writing for a magazine and living in the city. Her hobbies include sipping her way through small business coffee shops, reading romance novels, and soaking up the sun.

What has been your

STANDOUT FILM of SPRING 2023 and why?

Home | Films | TV Shows



100%
Rotten Tomatoes

Ian Devin Winstanley:

Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers. It's one of the most iconic works I've ever seen, claymation or otherwise. No spoilers but I don't think the penguin has a license for that.



96%
Rotten Tomatoes

Jett Shim:

Ran by Akira Kurosawa. All the elements from the storytelling to the music were masterfully done, and its visuals were far ahead of its time.



92%
Rotten Tomatoes

Holden Remme:

Grand Budapest Hotel. First time. I think it's my first Wes Anderson and it's the most visually pleasing movie I've ever seen.



94%
Rotten Tomatoes

Mikey Moran:

Everything Everywhere All At Once. If you have a troubled relationship with your parents or if you're queer, this film will get the tears flowing.



77%
Rotten Tomatoes

Denise Grande:

Scream VI. I love Jenna Ortega and horror movies. It made me want to go back and watch the original Scream movies.

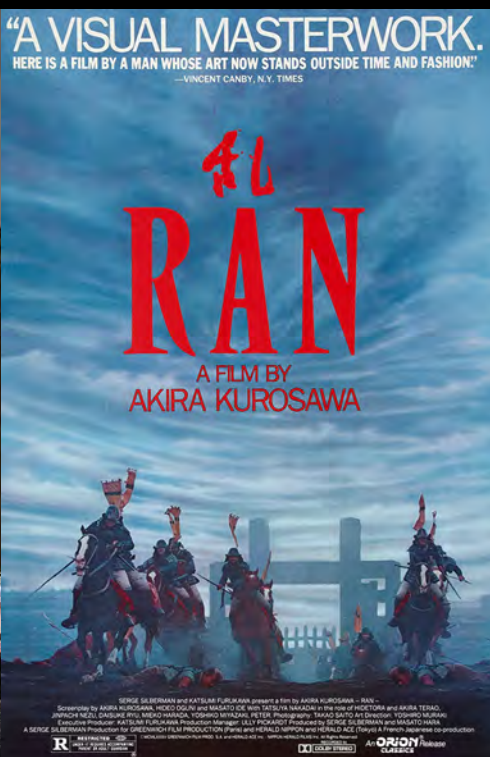


42%
Rotten Tomatoes

Olivia Peña:

How to Lose A Guy in 10 Days. As an aspiring fashion journalist, I loved the themes. The storyline was so creative.





88%
Rotten Tomatoes



88%
Rotten Tomatoes



40%
Rotten Tomatoes



72%
Rotten Tomatoes

Mariana Ramos:

The Menu. The movie was extremely captivating with a clever underlying message.

Logan Stupin:

A Clockwork Orange. First rewatch in a while. It gets my creative energy flowing.

Aydan Azzara:

Nacho Libre. I rewatch it every year and it never fails to make me laugh uncontrollably. I aspire to be as lighthearted as Jack Black. Just like his soup, it's the best. I love it.

Isis Jayleen Cervantes:

Napoleon Dynamite I've always thought this movie was funny and I have a cousin who reminds me of Napoleon, which just makes it even funnier.

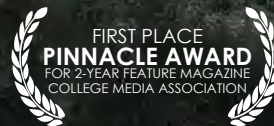
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to learn more about magazine internship opportunities.

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