

d

October 24, 2022 / Vol. 99 / No. 2



NEWS / NO VAX MANDATE

Students won't have to get the shot to take classes in spring



LIFESTYLE / TIANGUIS

Downtown's weekly market and artisan fair preserves local culture with handmade goods



VIEWS / BI-INVISIBILITY

Media needs to do better at representing my sexual identity

INSIDE
Midterm
Election
Pullout

SKY HIGH

New cloud kitchen is a one-stop-shop for Santa Ana's budding cannabis producers

PAGE 4



EDITOR IN CHIEF

Kate G. Bustamante
katebustamante@eldonnews.org

NEWS EDITOR

Carrie Graham
carriegram@eldonnews.org

SPORTS EDITOR

Edgar Galvan
edgargalvan@eldonnews.org

VIEWS EDITOR

Eduardo Velasquez
eduardovelasquez@eldonnews.org

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Jakki Padilla
jacquelinepadilla@eldonnews.org

FACULTY ADVISER

Sarah Bennett
bennett_sarah@sac.edu

FACULTY ADVISER

Jacqueline Schlossman
schlossman_jacqueline@sac.edu

BUSINESS MANAGER

Joanna Meza
meza_joanna@sac.edu

Contact Us

1530 West 17th Street
Santa Ana, Calif. 92706
Newsroom: (714) 564-5617
staff@eldonnews.org

ABOUT THE COVER



Ghost kitchen helps cannabis producers expand their business and clientele.



→ **JAKKI PADILLA**
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

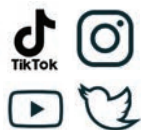
Written words wield power

My name is Jakki Padilla, your friendly neighborhood Social Media Editor. My role allows me to bring awareness to important topics into a setting for short attention spans on social media. I am a first-born daughter of a Jalisciense family who grew up in Anaheim. Living in Anaheim as a presenting white woman, I had issues trying to fit into Mexican, American, and bisexual cultures. *Ni de aquí, ni de allá.* Coming to Santa Ana College erased a lot of my identity crisis. I found a community of people who understand and have

compassion for people like me and you, which I am grateful for. For the longest time, I was a psychology student, but I realized that written words wield power and move mountains. Books have the power of escapism, empathy, and knowledge. Journalism communicates injustices and starts revolutions. So naturally, I gravitated to it.

As an introverted extrovert, I love meeting new people, going to concerts, and seeing new places. Nothing makes me feel more alive than community. Much of

my photography at the moment revolves around encapsulating the beauty of Mother Earth, and the industrialization of Southern California. My future projects are to build onto my portfolio fashion, food, astronomy, and automobile photography. In my downtime, you'll find me knocked out in my huge Sonic the Hedgehog swap meet blanket, watching an anime, or working out to the newest music on Spotify. If there's any advice I can give anyone, it is to learn how to rest your mind and body. Being tired is counterproductive!



@eldonnews



FOLLOW US

STAY UP TO DATE ON YOUR SCHOOL AND CAMPUS

BOARD SUSPENDS SHOTS

Approved last fall, officials delayed implementation due to a combination of enrollment concerns and changing CDC guidelines.

BY CARRIE GRAHAM

Students planning to enroll in in-person classes districtwide will not be required to show proof of vaccination in the spring.

The Rancho Santiago Community College District's Board of Trustees voted Oct. 11 to suspend the COVID-19 student vaccine mandate that was set to go into effect next semester.

The vote also ended the employee mandate that had been in place since last fall.

RSCCD was the last community college district in Southern California to mandate a COVID-19 vaccine, and the only one to never enforce it on students.

"In many ways we delayed that enforcement because we didn't want it to affect our enrollment," said RSCCD Chancellor Marvin Martinez, who was placed in charge of

planning a safe return to campus for students and staff by the board earlier in the pandemic. "In many ways there was never any reason to enforce it. When we surveyed students after the policy was passed, the number saying they were vaccinated kept going up."

The suspension means that the policy still exists in the event it is needed in the future, but will not go into effect at this time.

"We as a board have to vote to suspend it, and we would need to vote to unsuspend it in the future if laws or the county says we need to go back to doing all the things we had to do in 2020," said Board President Tina Arias-Miller. "I don't feel like we're moving towards that. I think we're moving towards a herd immunity."

Several other college districts in the region have also ended their own vaccine policies.



WHAT'S NEW

TRANSFER



Apply to university before Nov. 30

If you plan to transfer to any UC or Cal State University, the deadline for applications to be submitted is Nov. 30. Santa Ana College's University Transfer Center is hosting application workshops for both systems in addition to organized trips to out-of-region campuses. The center is open for in-person appointments Monday through Wednesday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. — KEVIN RODRIGUEZ

PARKING



Virtual passes coming soon

A virtual parking system is coming this semester, but there is no official launch date. The new system will use license plate recognition to scan plate numbers using handheld devices or equipment mounted on top of security vehicles to determine whether or not the license plate is attached to a valid virtual permit. According to District Safety & Security Lt. Dave Waters, an email will be sent out soon directing students to a purchase link. — EDWARD FRIERSON

LIBRARY



Students demand more study time

Citing multiple complaints from students, ASG President Melani Fernandez announced at the recent board meeting that Nealley Library would be extending its hours by two hours until 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. It is open Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Some anonymous complaints cited in her report mentioned "it's not enough hours for us to study and I find that unfair" and "Midterm season is here and I like to use the library as much as possible." — KEVIN RODRIGUEZ

MONEY



Cash for Credit payouts coming

Students who are enrolled in a minimum of 6 units and maximum of 12 units through the Cash for Credit program for the fall semester will be paid \$50 per unit. Those students who do not qualify for financial aid are still able to receive this payout. Students should make sure they set up BankMobile through the financial aid page in WebAdvisor. To be eligible, SAC students need to be enrolled in their classes by Oct. 26. — KEVIN RODRIGUEZ

A GREEN NETWORK

Santa Ana is home to one of the only cannabis ghost kitchens in the country, where new small businesses can get help with permits and make their products.

Words and Photos by Carrie Graham

In an unassuming warehouse in an industrial section of Santa Ana, Andrea Lupear is surrounded by trays filled with hundreds of small, round, sugar-covered gummies in reds and oranges. She gently sifts through the piles, removing and discarding any with imperfections.

Lupear is a former pastry chef who uses a short list of high-quality ingredients, including imported *pâte de fruit*, to handcraft each vegan batch. If you're lucky enough to walk into Santa Ana's Tropicanna or Jaderoom dispensaries after they've received a shipment of microdosed edibles from Lupear's brand Minerva, you can take a batch home and get a nice, comfy head change.

That's because Lupear's gummies are infused with cannabis.

"She started using edibles during the pandemic and found she was a total lightweight. She couldn't find what she wanted at all and portioned properly, so she came up with her own recipe to do microdosing," says Lupear's co-founder Christian Zia.

Lupear is one of a growing number of local weed entrepreneurs who run their business out of My Green Network, a "cannabis cloud kitchen" that's one of the only such facilities in the country. A shared use facility run by attorney James Shih, My Green Network has everything the budding bud seller could ask for, from a grinder the size of the average fridge to a full commercial kitchen equipped for filming cannabis cooking shows.

My Green Network provides small business owners with a place to make their goods and is a one-stop shop for all their clients' business needs, including: assistance with applying for local and state permits, meeting spaces, legal advice, acquiring the supplies they need to create their product, connecting them with cannabis growers who cultivate strains with the properties they're looking for, plus storage and distribution.

Just six months into operations, My Green



Network already has four vendors that have been fully licensed and are in production, with another six in the permitting process. An additional 11 companies are preparing to begin applying. Shih says in total, My Green Network will be able to accommodate 30 to 40 brands in the space.

Shih first took an interest in the devil's lettuce in college and when it became legalized for recreational use in California in 2018, he observed the struggles that new cannabis brands have applying for permits and finding production space.

He says he noticed companies trying to go at it alone and later applying for the permits to make their production facilities shared. But My Green Network is different because it was

created from the beginning with collaboration in mind.

"The goal we had was to make it, for lack of a better term, more user-friendly," says Shih. "A lot of facilities you go to are very clean, sterile and that's fantastic, but we wanted to create a community of people, not just a place to walk in and trudge along."

Shih says the main reason for opening the space was to help those interested in breaking into the cannabis industry do so without incurring major financial losses. The strict regulations placed on legal operators to prevent crime, nuisance, and environmental damage come with a hefty price tag – often totaling over a million dollars.

Operators must wait until they are fully permitted to create any product, a process that can take two or more years. Meaning that until the process is complete, they can't even begin to make back their investment – time that many can't hold out for.

"The problem was, a lot of businesses, they only had a million, two million if they were lucky, but most had around \$500k. How many people really have \$20 million lying around?"

Another hurdle in the path of prosperity for local canna creators is Santa Ana's high tax rate.

"Any product that comes out of Santa Ana is about 20% more expensive just because of taxes," says Shih.

Shih is on the board of the Orange County Advocacy Alliance, a group that advocates for legal cannabis operators in the county, most of whom are in Santa Ana. He says the Santa Ana City Council has been receptive to feedback on ways to make the selling of cannabis legally more equitable.

During a recent meeting, the city council amended the cannabis ordinance to lower the tax rates on all stages of production except retail sales to 1%, and the tax on retail sales will decrease from 8% to 7%, effective Jan. 1 2023.

OUTDATED BUT IMPROVING

The Dons' Strength Lab is finally getting new weights and new equipment, but football players say it needs more new gear

BY NICHOLAS WIRE

The metal plates are rusted and chipped. The grips are worn down on the barbells. Only a third of the football team fits inside at one time.

After three years of no purchases, officials say they are spending thousands of dollars this semester to upgrade equipment in the weight room used by all athletes. Football players say the poor condition and spacing of the Strength Lab is still insufficient for training top-tier teams.

"It lacks a lot of space. We're unable to get the whole football team in there. That's [probably] the same for a lot of other sports," said defensive back Aden Eckenwiler.

Interim Dean of Kinesiology Courtney Doussett said that her department replaced the leather on some machine seats a few weeks ago and will be purchasing a new set of free weights from Rogue Fitness by the end of the month.

"The goal is to buy a dozen new barbells, with a few extra bars that have closer grips," she said.

Doussett also wants to purchase new dumbbells up to 160 lbs and a brand new rack of kettlebells.

Amidst criticism over the rusted plates, they'll be purchasing bumper plates. These plates often are much more shock absorbent. Bumper plates don't chip or rust, and are much more flexible for complex movements. The total order is expected to cost between \$6,000 and \$8,000.

The Kinesiology Department's goal is to make improvements on a per-semester basis. Each semester there would be a re-evaluation of the needs in the weight room and surrounding areas. "It'll look better next semester," Doussett said.

Still, the new equipment can't come soon enough for football players, especially those who are used to training at other local schools.

Running back William Sullivan Jr. attended Orange Coast College.

"I feel like Santa Ana's behind...everything seems really outdated," he said.

Doussett acknowledges that the weight room needs more updates, but the funding process is more complex than many students realize.

"We're not going to be O.C.C., nor do we want to be," Doussett said.



WHAT'S HOT

FOOTBALL



Four conference games remaining

The Santa Ana Dons are halfway through their season with a record 1-0 in conference and a 2-4 overall. Some highlights on the offensive side of the ball are quarterback Ceasar Ayala who's thrown 105 completions on 182 attempts for 1176 yards with 13 touchdowns compared to six interceptions. Receiver Kristian Constantine leads the receiving core with 32 receptions for 344 yards and five touchdowns. — DOMINIC CRENSHAW

VOLLEYBALL



State ranked with two new recruits

The Dons haven't had a winning season in over ten years but after landing a pair of international recruits from Portugal, the team is off to their best start in over a decade. Matilde Teixeira and Ines Lopes have elevated the team to dominance, with a combined total of 349 digs. The Dons currently has a 13-3 overall record, while 6-3 in conference play. With this blazing start, they are now ranked 12th in the state. — NICHOLAS WIRE

WOMEN'S SOCCER



Need to step up the defense

What started as a positive opening conference win for the Dons has quickly gone sour. Sitting in seventh place in the Orange Empire Conference, the Dons still have plenty of matches ahead to improve their 1-6 conference record. In the final third, forward Diana Hernandez has been leading the Dons with six goals. They have also conceded 41 goals in all matches, having one of the worst defenses in the OEC. Unable to earn a spot in Regionals since 2019, the Dons have the second half of the season to turn things around. — EDGAR GALVAN

MEN'S SOCCER



Shutouts helping conference play

Currently in fifth place in the Orange Empire Conference, the Dons are looking to iron out details for the remainder of the season. On four different occasions, the Dons have allowed a lead to turn into a tie. Improvement has been shown as the Dons had two shutout wins in conference. Defender Antonio Wall is a pillar, captaining his team during these two games. Wall even contributed to the attack with two goals so far this season. — EDGAR GALVAN

THE STRUGGLE IS REAL



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION:
EDUARDO VELASQUEZ AND EDGAR GALVAN

Dozens of student-athletes are juggling work, school, practices, games and home life

BY EDGAR GALVAN

Basketball forward Sam Aryan wakes up at the crack of dawn to go to work at Stacks Pancake House in Newport Beach. The Austrian-born student-athlete goes in order to make ends meet with his father – whose recent workplace injury led Aryan to be the sole breadwinner in the household.

Aryan goes to his five-hour shift five days a week so he can play and study at Santa Ana College. Despite the struggles, Aryan won't give up on the game he loves.

"No matter how hard it may be for me, I'm not just gonna give up on basketball like that, this is the only thing that really at times brings me joy," Aryan said.

Aryan is just one of dozens of student-athletes who struggle to balance school work, sports, and financial insecurities. Compounding the issue is the fact that Santa Ana's median household income is below the state average.

The average household income in Santa Ana is \$72,406, U.S. Census Bureau data shows. This community has to deal with working long hours for low pay, where the average minimum wage is \$15 per hour, yet the average rent per person in Santa Ana is \$2320 a month.

Throughout the years, many of the student-athletes of SAC have quit their team, redshirted, and in some cases even dropped out of school completely in order to keep a roof over their heads or just to have somewhere to sleep.

Men's Soccer Head Coach Jose Vasquez worked through these same issues in his college days. Vasquez graduated from high school in 1987 but didn't continue his higher education until

two years later.

Vasquez has been coaching the men's soccer program for about two decades and has seen this issue for years. He understands what his players go through and uses this as a mutual connection with them.

"Coaches are mentoring, helping them out on what to do extra. We are doing extra to help these kids be successful. It's all for them to hopefully get an open door to a big school," Vasquez said.

Running back Jamarie Smith is a current red shirt from the football team. Smith graduated from high school in 2019 but took a couple of years off to help support his family.

"When I graduated from high school I kind of stepped down from football for a little bit," said Smith. "Helping my mom out, me and my little sister were working, trying to put our situation back together."

As a running back Smith, is required to attend a minimum of two hours of study hall per week in order to participate in football. This requirement helps coaches make sure that athletes are keeping up with their schoolwork.

For Aryan, the University High School alum is excited to be back on the court this season after red-shirting to work full-time in fall 2021.

"Last year, I was trying to figure out how to balance everything, and my mind wasn't there, I wasn't living at home, some nights I was sleeping in my car, there was just a lot of family shit going on," said Aryan. "Basketball is the only thing in my life that when I'm doing it like I don't think about anything else."



PROPS & MEASURES

Statewide propositions are proposals to enact or repeal laws or constitutional amendments.



MEASURES

Citywide measures are initiatives submitted to voters for their approval or rejection.



W

Will make the city business tax lower for small businesses and will also make it easier for new home businesses to get a license.



X

Changes the rules dictating how Santa Ana city hall operates, including by imposing term limits. The Mayor would be ineligible to serve after completing four terms. Councilmembers would be ineligible after three terms. The measure would also require two-thirds council to adopt a budget, and utilize gender neutral language.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

PROPOSITION 1

Would add the right to reproductive freedom to the state constitution. This means services such as birth control and abortion access couldn't be revoked in California if a pro-life state administration takes over in the future.

*A yes vote means the state can't restrict abortion access

PROPOSITION **28**

Would require the state to allocate an estimated funding of \$1 billion annually toward art and music programs in public schools and community colleges. Schools with a high number of students from low-income households would get more funding.

PROPOSITION **29**

Would make several changes to how dialysis clinics are run and regulated. The most notable change would require a physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant on site during all hours of treatment.

PROPOSITION **30**

Would create a new revenue stream to subsidize zero-emission vehicles and fund wildfire response and prevention by increasing personal income tax for Californians making more than \$2 million per year by 1.75%.

PROPOSITION **31**

Would decide whether to uphold the ban on certain flavored tobacco products, like JUUL e-cigs. A "Yes" vote would uphold it, a "no" vote would overturn it.

PROPOSITION **26**

Would allow in-person sports betting at tribal casinos and race tracks. It would also allow roulette and dice games, like craps, at tribal casinos. Betting at race tracks would be taxed, however, betting at tribal casinos would not.

PROPOSITION **27**

Would allow online sports betting. Companies would have to partner with a tribe to be eligible. The \$100 million licensing fee could shut out smaller companies, but could generate several billion annually that would be split between addressing homelessness, gambling addiction help, and non-gaming tribes.



WHAT DO THEY DO?

MAYOR

The mayor acts as the main face of Santa Ana. While each of the other members represents a specific area, or ward, the mayor serves the city at large, and represents its interests to higher governing bodies like the county Board of Supervisors.



TRUSTEES

One of the most important responsibilities of both the city council and the district trustees is to approve the annual budget. The budget dictates what facilities get replaced or upgraded, what services can be funded for students, how many staff are hired (or not), and what courses can be supported.

HEAD OF CITY COUNCIL

Every two years Santa Ana picks a new mayor. Current mayor Vicente Sarmiento is running for Orange County Supervisor.



VALERIE AMEZCUA

Amezcua retired in 2017 after 30 years as a probation officer and has sat on the board of Santa Ana Unified School District since 2014. If elected, she plans to work on shortening 911 response times to make neighborhoods safer and reducing homelessness through a focus on mental health services and supportive housing. Additionally, she hopes to build more parks, expand youth services and ensure clean air. She intends to help Santa Ana businesses grow and recruit more employees.



JOSE SOLORIO

Solorio previously served on Santa Ana City Council, as a state assemblyman, and has been on the RSCCD board. His primary issues are homelessness and reducing crime. Solorio's goal is to maintain strong police staffing levels and use increased enforcement of anti-camping laws combined with partnering with the state, nonprofit and faith-based organizations to get homeless individuals into mental health and drug treatment facilities, effective shelters and job training programs.



SAL TINAJERO

Tinajero is a current RSCCD trustee. His priorities include increasing parks and affordable housing, defending rent control and the just-cause eviction ordinance. He wants to increase spending on community and youth programs, and redirect police funds to mental health and community-based specialists to quickly respond to non-violent emergencies. He also wants to establish a civilian police oversight commission, citing the over \$24 million paid out to misconduct lawsuits against SAPD.



JESSE NESTOR

Nestor is the youngest candidate at 19, and describes himself as a "Ron Paul Libertarian." Nestor works as a server at The Original Pancake House and previously attended Cal State Northridge. If elected, he says he would address homelessness by helping those that could be helped through community programs, and "banish" those who couldn't from the city. He supports the death penalty for violent offenders, creating a nuclear power plant in OC, and removing the minimum wage.

DISTRICT TRUSTEES



JOHN HANNA

Hanna is an attorney who has served on the RSCCD board since 1998. He is the chairperson of the Board Bond, Facilities, and Legislative Committees which advise the board regarding how bond money is spent, and education related legislation.



STEVE ROCCO

Rocco has run for various local offices in Orange and Santa Ana over half a dozen times in the last 20 years. He last held office as a member of the Orange Unified School District board in 2006, where he won without doing any campaigning whatsoever.



POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE OC



Democrat

37.5%

Republican

33.1%

No party

23.5%

IF NOT YOU, WHO?

Local and state governments decide everything from what classes are offered to the sales tax you pay every day, where you can buy or smoke weed to which neighborhoods get new parks. If you don't vote, you let others speak for you.



4 of 5 eligible 18-29 year-olds are registered to vote in Orange County



Total OC population

3,010,232



OC Eligible voters:

2,094,494

HOW TO VOTE

STATUS

CHECK REGISTRATION STATUS

Scan below to check out the OC Registrar of Voters website to see if you're registered. To update information like your address or your party preference, you must do so in person.



REGISTER



NOT REGISTERED?

Scan to view voting centers in Orange County. Walk in and register when they open during the week before election day. If you're already registered, drop your mail-in ballot at any drop box in OC.

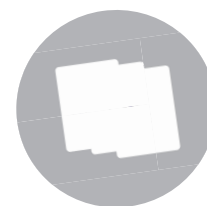
IN PERSON

FIRST TIME VOTING?

Wanna register in person? Walk into any voting center and let the volunteers know you're there to register.

Here's what to bring:

- A government issued I.D.
- Proof of address



GENERAL ELECTION: November 8, 2022

First day to vote on campus: November 5, 2022

LOCAL CENTERS

SANTA ANA COLLEGE (GYM)

1530 W 17th St.

DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER

1300 S Bristol St.



→ STAFF EDITORIAL

MEDIA POLICY SILENCES US

Directive to filter information requests is dangerous to free speech

Student suppression is coming from inside the house—and it is not okay. On the agenda at the Oct. 11 Academic Senate meeting, the topic was raised of the problematic policy in place requiring all requests for information on campus be filtered through the Interim Public Information Officer rather than to the people directly in charge of those areas.

Given that officials at the district level are still complying with our requests in a timely manner, it has become abundantly clear that this is a campus issue.

While I'm sure the administration has the best interests of the college at heart, Mommy hand feeding us interviews like cookies from a jar is insulting. We're grown adults and trained journalists.

When one of our reporters sets out to cover a story, it's with a comprehensive plan. We research the topic to the best of our abilities, make observations, and when needed, consult our advisors. Only after completing those steps do we

contact a source for an interview to fill in the gaps.

This ridiculous policy infantilizes us as college students, and is a complete violation of first amendment protections for both students and employees. The Supreme Court has ruled that public employees do not surrender their constitutional rights upon clocking in for the day.

The same is true of students at public institutions. We retain our rights to free speech, expression and press, regardless of the administration's opinion on the matter.

Although this most directly impacts students in journalism classes who are currently unable to complete course assignments on deadline, on a broader scale this affects everyone on campus.

If we allow this to happen, what else will they decide students don't need to know, employees don't need to say, and who will be left to speak up?

OPINION JAKKI PADILLIA

END THE MEDIA'S BISEXUAL ERASURE

Being bi has been interesting, especially learning and understanding that there aren't many positive or accurate representations of bisexuality in media. Misrepresentation or underrepresentation, still stands true.

My confusion derived from Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl" as a child which blindsided me to believe people were accepting women kissing women or men. Not to mention that movies and porn culture, show bisexuality through the male gaze.

In media, bisexuals usually aren't in monogamous, long-term relationships. Rosa Diaz in Brooklyn 99 came out as bisexual in season 5 which resonated with me because her colleagues were more accepting than her parents. But unfortunately, Rosa's relationships don't last.

Media perpetuates "monosexism", the belief one should only be attracted to one sex or gender. This closes the door for anyone on the queer spectrum and for love and lust to exist outside of gender presentation.

The beauty of the LGBTQ spectrum is that people find a community within themselves, but I've noticed that I felt more understood with primarily bisexual forums on Facebook such as the bisexual subreddit.

The solution is for the media to include bisexual writers and consultants to create a healthy representation of bisexuals.



AMERICAN WORK WEAK

The U.S. is behind when it comes to shortening our long work weeks. Why do we still do it?

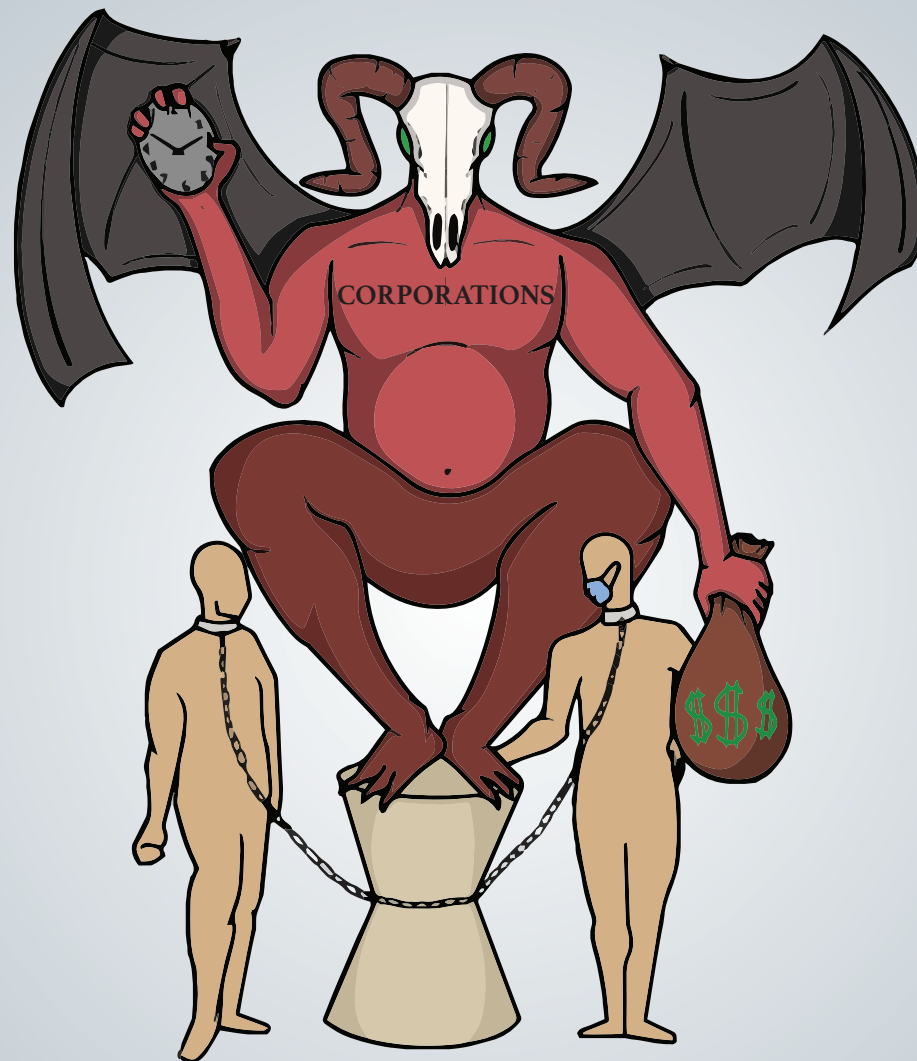
WORDS AND ILLUSTRATION BY EDUARDO VELASQUEZ

As employees we shouldn't start our days by having a fight with ourselves just to get to work. 40 hour work weeks popularized in the 1920's to decrease the average person's workload. The truth is that this idea is not only outdated but also inefficient. It's time for another work week reduction.

With how inconsistent scheduling is for the average worker, 40-hour work weeks can feel more like 50-60 hours. Even when we're not on the schedule, employers will tell us we're required to leave our availability open for them. Simply put, even when we're not on the clock our time still belongs to them.

Any time spent outside of work for some of us is spent doing more work in the shape of schooling or simple day-to-day chores. Giving workers more free time will allow us to recharge ourselves and we'll be better rested going into work the next day.

Even a simple reduction of five hours can help workers prevent burnout without negatively affecting their overall performance. A study conducted



by Autonomy, an independent research organization, took a sample of around 2,500 workers in Iceland and reduced the 40 hour work week by just 5 hours. According to the study, workers who worked 35 hours, with no pay reduction were more productive and got the same amount of work done as their full time counterparts.

A five hour reduction may not seem like a lot, but I know that when I get to go home an hour earlier I feel less stressed and more willing to go into work. Every eight hour shift starts two hours before I even clock in with a fight just to get out of bed.

But of course the idea of working less than 40 hours sounds scary to most of us due to the fact that we already make so little, we need every hour we can get. A simple increase to the minimum wage to make it so that we actually get paid a livable wage will open the door to getting rid of long work weeks.

I think it's time Americans stop entertaining the idea that we simply need to work more, or harder, and face the fact that our long hours are what's killing us.

PIXELS COMING ALIVE

Santa Ana College student Roberto Blanco Arellano "chose sanity" after losing his job and leaving CSULB to pursue photography and philosophy.

BY JAKKI PADILLA

Arellano changed his major three times before taking on photography: from biochemistry, to anthropology to English.

But losing his job during the pandemic was the motivation needed to propel him into photography.

"Photography sort of landed into my lap. I finally had a bunch of free time. As my craft grew, so did my confidence to launch my career," Arellano said.

To Arellano, his art is representative of his inner world. Arellano is an experimental artist who refuses to stick to one style of photography.

He makes it a point to

bring his camera or use his phone camera to catch any moment that captures his attention.

He believes that a photographer should not stick to one style, but should instead explore new concepts and ideas. He urges photographers not to be tied down to any standards.

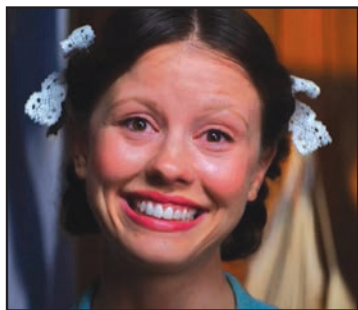
"I wish I would've not been pinned down or stuck on what's a good photo. When it's fun it's meaningful," says Arellano. "Photographs are everywhere. There's nothing indicative of what a good photo is. It's all bullshit. No such thing. Things work. What are you trying to do? Be real."

"Life imitates art and vice versa. Sometimes my art reflects my feelings. I like to play with the concept of self."



WHAT'S HOT

NEW MOVIE



Pearl
A24

Pearl brings back a vibe of classic horror without the unnecessary jump scares. A slow build type of terror that leaves viewers seriously disturbed. Set during WWII, the protagonist is a daughter to a German family that fled to the U.S. With the Golden Era of Hollywood right before her eyes, Pearl's big dreams of the limelight turn fatal. The lead Mia Goth gives a riveting performance filled with tears and screams by humanizing an insane individual. Instantly a cult classic. — KATE G. BUSTAMANTE

SPOTIFY PLAYLIST



Staff playlist
From the *el Don* fam

Check out our new playlist: "Summery Fall." Imagine you're still experiencing summer songs with the smell of pumpkin-spiced lattes and yellow-orange leaves falling from the trees. The themes of the playlist include some Halloween hits, throwbacks, club music, and dreamy rock sounds. You'll hear staff-picked songs from artists like Michael Jackson, 50 Cent, Chicano Batman, Steve Lacy, Bobby Womback, and The Neighbourhood. — JAKKI PADILLA

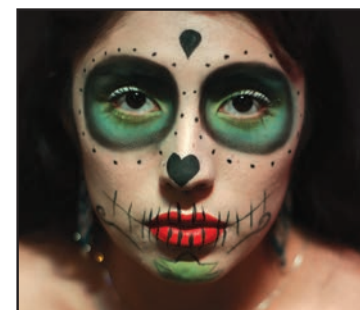
NEW ALBUM



The Car
Arctic Monkeys

After a four year hiatus, Arctic Monkeys surprised fans with their seventh studio album on Oct. 21. The album was preceded by two singles. "There'd Better be a Mirrorball" in late August and "Body Paint" in late September both are melodramatic reminiscences of Lana Del Rey's iconic "Born to Die" and their "Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino" album's dreamy and retro sounds. Their newer sound is unlike their previous indie and pop rock sounds from their self-titled album *AM* and *Favourite Worst Nightmare*. — JAKKI PADILLA

DIA DE MUERTOS



Noche de Altares
DTSA

El Centro Cultural de Mexico is celebrating the 20th anniversary of Noche de Altares on Nov. 5. Gather in Downtown Santa Ana in Birch Park located on 3rd and Ross streets from 1 to 9 p.m. Artisans will have products available for sale, food vendors will be selling traditional food all day long, altars will be on display, and dance performances will be occurring. This event is put together primarily by volunteers and local businesses. Come celebrate those who are no longer with us. — KEVIN RODRIGUEZ



REPRESENT/
Mariachi Arcoiris played a mix of ballads, rancheros and other Mexican classics.



CANTANTE/
Natalia Melendez is the world's first female transgender mariachi.

RIGHT/ Three Mariachi Arcoiris members.



SOUNDS OF JOY

MUSIC: World's first queer mariachi brings representation to campus

PHOTOS AND WORDS BY LIZETH HERNANDEZ

Mariachi Arcoiris, the world's first LGBTQ+ mariachi, broke cultural norms as they performed at Santa Ana College's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration on Oct. 5. Under the intense heat, the crowd of about 70 students and staff yelled and celebrated, cheering on all seven performers.

"We take a big responsibility," said Natalia Melendez, the first transgender female in the history of mariachi. "It's very important for us to be relevant, to be in the public and to be making music. It's important for the world to see maybe a little change that we add."

Mariachi Arcoiris became a safe space for LGBTQ+ people to come and express themselves, free of taunting and bullying, says Natalia. Where others can, "Express themselves musically. No fear of anything, just make music."

The group brought intersectionality onto SAC's campus, showcasing the unique challenges many queer people of color face.

Michael Morales, founder and Inter-Club Council Representative of the Gender Sexuality Alliance club said that the performance was validating and bridged the gap between his heritage and passions.

"I grew up with mariachi in my household and singing with my family so having them come here you can be like, 'Oh, you can be queer and sing mariachi,'" Morales said. "It was just like 'wow.'"

"[The performance was] a symbolic gesture that shows you can be queer and be Hispanic and you can be everything because your experience is just as valid as everyone else," said Michael.



WEEKLY STREET FESTIVAL

Every Sunday, Orange County's Tianguis Market brings aguas frescas, crepes, local artisans and indigenous vendors to downtown Santa Ana, creating a vibrant and cultural safe space in a city with few.

REVIVING CULTURE IN SANTA ANA

Words and photos by Lizeth Martinez

"Tianguis" comes from the Nahuatl word *tiyānquiztli*, which refers to open-air markets with fresh produce and artwork.

Founder Nico Armenta said he wanted to create community by bringing local vendors together in hopes of giving them a place to sell their goods comfortably. Vendors say it's a big draw.



3 VENDORS TO LOOK OUT FOR



1. MACEHUALLI POCHTECATL

Multiple Aztec and Maya statutes cover the floor of Macehualli Pochtecatl's booth at Tianguis Market.

Amongst a moon goddess sculpture, Coyolxauhqui, Xolo earrings and obsidian necklaces, there was Cihuateotl, or "Divine Woman." Seen as divine deities of bravery and courage. Macehualli comes to Tianguis to show support for the founder Nico, all while sharing Aztec and Maya ancestry.



2. TEKUANI TEPACTIA

Tekuani Tepactia (healing lion), creates one-of-a-kind handmade jewelry. Each pair of shell and beaded earrings, wire-wrapped pendants and necklaces, are each packed with personality and history.

"Me da gusto que se involucren y encuentren su raíz," he says. *It makes me happy when they get involved and reconnect with their roots.*

3. RUFINA GUTIERREZ

Rufina, her siblings and her daughter continue their grandparents' weaving legacy through her brand, The Zapotec Weavers. Days of skill and artistry are woven into each tapete rug — a special artisanal practice passed on from Rufina's father, Pedro.

"Cuando estoy con mis paisanos, me siento segura de lo que estoy haciendo porque comparto y convivo con ellos," Gutierrez said. "[Doy] a conocer nuestra cultura y arte porque somos orgullosamente Oaxaqueños y Zapotecos." *When I am with my people, I feel safe in what I do because I share and live with them. I make our culture and art known because we are proudly Oaxacan and Zapotec.*



Let's talk spooky. Reporter Kevin Rodriguez asked students at SAC what they had planned for Oct. 31. From raves and traditions to staying in, many celebrate in their own way.

WHAT YA

"My coworkers invited me to a halloween costume contest ...afterwards we'll go out for some drinks in honor of the spooky night."

-Danielle Flores



"I promised my sister I'd take her out trick-or-treating with her classmates around our home town. After I'll just be relaxing at home with my friend's just catching up."

-Quan Tran

DOING

"My neighbor and I get dolled up and go ask for candy in L.A. It's our special tradition we always do."

-Melissa Grogorio

"My plan is to go raving along with friends and kick off the night at our airbnb with a good spooky celebration."

-Farah Ocegueda

FOR



"I typically like to stay home and relax and just watch as many horror movies as I can, with my popcorn on the side."

-Brianna Alamo

"I like to honor my loved ones who are no longer here...my family and I will decorate a stand inside our home with a picture frame and we add flowers, bread, and soda in honor of el Día de Los Muertos and just have a feast while we have a prayer going on."

-Mary Kate Diaz

HALLOWEEN?



"My grandma likes to spend halloween with me so this year we plan on going out for dinner together after spending a couple hours at Downtown Disney."

- Maritza Orozco



Dia de los Muertos

November 1 Day of the Saints and Children.

November 2 Day of the Dead.