

## FORMER PROFESSOR, STUDENT ELECTED



ROBERT MORENO



CORINA SOTO

■ **Corina Soto and Robert Moreno are first elected to area board seats**

**BY CAMILA A. GONZALEZ**  
Editor-in-Chief

An appointed incumbent and two political newcomers all won their first attempts at elective office when they were voted on

to the Southwestern College Governing Board.

Don Dumas, Corina Soto and Robert Moreno will be sworn into the board in December for four-year terms following strong performances their first time on the ballot. They are also the first board members ever elected to one of five new area seats after 60 years of districtwide elections.

As of press time Dumas had received 65 percent of the vote in Area 5, dispatching challenger Rosemarie Ballard. He was appointed to the board two years ago when former trustee Nora Vargas was elected to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and Tim Nader was

ELECTIONS PG 6

### SOUTH COUNTY ANTI-SEMITISM

## Area anti-Semitic incidents on the rise

Local schools, Holocaust educator and SC student magazines are attacked

**BY NICOLETTE MONIQUE LUNA**  
News Editor

Sandra Scheller feels something dark and unnerving bubbling up in America.

Her Jewish family has felt it before.

Scheller, a human rights activist and the daughter of Holocaust survivors, said it feels to her like anti-Semitism is roaring back in the United States. Even the usually placid vibe of diverse and disproportionately Jewish Chula Vista has taken a nasty turn, she said.

Anti-Semitic episodes in the Chula Vista area preceded the latest rants of Kanye West and his ilk, Scheller said. Some examples:

- Swastikas spray painted on Bonita Vista High School and BV Middle School.
- A swastika painted on the fence of First United Methodist Preschool near Southwestern College.
- Hundreds of copies of Southwestern College El Sol Magazine featuring Holocaust survivors vandalized or stolen at SC and nearby circulation points.
- Swastikas scrawled in the dust of car windows of a Jewish teenager near L Street.
- Photos of Adolph Hitler left at a Chula Vista trolley stop.

San Diego County's Jewish community suffered 38 recorded incidents of anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish hate in 2021, according to the Anti-Defamation League. It is a dubious new record that may be broken in 2022, said ADL's Regional former Director Tammy Gillies. The figures represent "just the tip of the iceberg," she said. ADL officials said they expect 2022 to be far worse.

ANTI-SEMITISM PG 4

### WATCHDOG REPORT

## COLLEGE POLICE CRIME RECORDS, CLERY ACT DOCS UP TO DATE – FINALLY

**BY JANINE RIVERA**  
Staff Writer

College police departments at public institutions across America are required to keep accurate campus crime records. Colleges that accept federal funding must also have records readily available for journalists and members of the public who ask to see them.

From 2016 to the early days of the pandemic in 2020 the Southwestern College Police Department was badly out of compliance. Former SCPD Chief Michael Cash could not produce federal Jeanne Clery Act crime statistics and presented faulty data to journalists that showed no violent crime or sexual assaults.

His successors seem to have turned things around.



MARCO BARENO

CRIME DOCS PG 6

# CHAMPIONS!

■ **Women's soccer team romps undefeated to conference title**

**BY NICOLETTE MONIQUE LUNA**  
News Editor

**G**oloso! The Southwestern College has achieved its "sweet goal" by netting the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference with a 3-0 win over against Grossmont College.

Undefeated in conference, undeterred by early season setbacks and unmatched on the pitch, the Lady Jaguars have put SC back in the champion's column after a long drought that spanned pandemic, panic and pandemonium ending in panacea.

Captains Raelyn Arredondo and Stacy Ziramba almost knocked over head coach Carolina Soto who opened her arms wide at the whistle the receive the airborne players in a hopping, spinning hug. In an instant the entire team was an undulating, shrieking mass of unrestrained joy.

Arredondo recalled the emotion of the moment.

"When it happened I cried," she said. "It was amazing. We had clinched it one day before the conference ended and that was just amazing."

SC finished 12-0-2 in conference and 15-3-3 overall. They grabbed the title with room to spare. Led by a group of three female coaches, the team built on unity and generous play was creative scoring goals and stubborn about surrendering them.

SOCCER PG 15



Photo Courtesy of SC Athletics

**REACHING A GOAL** — (l-r) Raelyn Arredondo, Alexa Madera, Norma Kacsinta and Stacy Ziramba celebrate their women's soccer championship following an undefeated season in the Pacific Coast Conference. SC finished 12-0-2 to win the title going away.

## Precocious SC student editor is honored as SD County 'Remarkable Teenager'



**A 'REMARKABLE' YOUNG JOURNALIST** — Nicolette Monique Luna, the 16-year-old Editor in Chief of Southwestern College's El Sol Magazine and News Editor of The Sun, was honored as one of the 25 Most Remarkable Teens in San Diego County this month by the San Diego Public Defender's Office. Luna was a 15-year-old Bonita Vista High School sophomore when she was selected by her peers and journalism faculty to helm El Sol Magazine XII published in July. The publication was named Best College Magazine by the San Diego Press Club and Society of Professional Journalists. It received second place in the nation by the Associated Collegiate Press at its recent convention in Washington D.C. Luna is currently EIC of El Sol XIII, which is scheduled for publication in June or July 2023. She is a junior at BVHS cross enrolled at Southwestern. Her goal is to study journalism at Columbia University.

Photo Courtesy of Nicolette Monique Luna



**A year-long case of an alleged gang rape of a 17-year-old high school student by San Diego State football players has generated national news and local controversy about the way the case has been handled by San Diego police and university administrators. At least three investigations are underway and a civil lawsuit has been filed, but no charges. Following is a timeline of key moments**

**in the case:** **October 17, 2021:** A 17-year-old high school senior is allegedly gang raped for 90 minutes at a Halloween party near the San Diego State University campus by three or four SDSU football players. **• October 18, 2021:** Victim reports the crime to San Diego police and within 24 hours a rape kit test is taken at Rady's Children's Hospital. **• October 19, 2021:** Victim's father said he met with SDSU campus police and provided officers with his daughter's name, his phone number and a detailed description of the alleged gang rape. **• October 27, 2021:** Records from a police portal indicate that testing of the victim's Sexual Assault Response Team exam was completed and returned to law enforcement. **• Early November 2021:** Brenda Tracy, a gang rape survivor who speaks to sports teams about sexual assault, is asked to speak to the SDSU football team. **• Mid-November 2021:** SDSU administration is informed that an official SDPD investigation was starting. **• November 27, 2021:** SDSU Aztec football team defeats Boise State in a crucial game to win a spot in the Mountain West Conference championship game. **• December 4:** Football team loses to Utah State in the Mountain West Championship game. The loss costs the team a chance to play in the Holiday Bowl and a possible \$6.53 million payout to the university. **• December 9, 2021:** SDSU punter/kicker Matt Araiza, nicknamed "Punt God" by his teammates, receives the Ray Guy Award as America's best collegiate punter. It is the first national individual award ever presented to an SDSU football player. **• December 21:** SDSU defeats University of Texas, San Antonio in the Frisco Bowl. The game generated a \$650,000 payday for the university. **• April 30, 2022:** Araiza drafted in the sixth round by the NFL's Buffalo Bills, the highest draft position for a punter in decades. **• June 3, 2022:** The Los Angeles Times publishes the article, "Claims that SDSU football players raped a girl were followed by months of silence." **• Mid-June 2022:** Victim finishes her senior year of high school online due to emotional and physical trauma. **• July 22, 2022:** SDSU launches a Title IX investigation to determine if the girl's civil rights were violated by SDSU students. **• August 5, 2022:** Nowlin "Pa'a" Ewaliko, one of the accused football players, is absent from preseason camp and subsequent summer practices. **• August 19, 2022:** Victim's lawyer Dan Gilleon files a request for recordings of statements made to SDPD by the young woman and her father in October 2021. Gilleon also seeks records from 10 search warrants SDPD police executed and audio of calls detectives recorded in 2021 between the young woman and the men who police determined were in the bedroom where the alleged rape occurred. **• August 24, 2022:** Xavier Leonard, one of the football players later accused of rape, is cut from the football team. **• August 25, 2022:** A civil lawsuit is filed in State Court by the victim against SDSU and the three football players accused of rape — Matt Araiza, Xavier Leonard and Nowlin "Pa'a" Ewaliko. **• August 25, 2022:** Gilleon, the victims' attorney, said SDPD had the victim call the suspects shortly after the alleged gang rape. SDPD officers recorded the phone calls. Araiza, the complaint alleged, confirmed on a call in late October 2021 that he had sex with the victim and recommended she get tested for a sexually transmitted diseases, Gilleon said. **• August 26,**

**2022:** Attorney Gilleon shares on Twitter the victim's diary entries about her experience the night of the incident. **• August 27, 2022:** Buffalo Bills release Araiza. The SDSU case is now a national story. **• August 28, 2022:** Brenda Tracy, the sexual assault speaker invited to address the football team, expresses disappointment and said she felt manipulated by SDSU. **• August 29, 2022:** SDSU Athletics Director J.D. Wicker and football coach Brady Hoke walk out of a press conference in anger after refusing to answer questions about the gang rape incident. **• August 31, 2022:** Victim sits for a video interview with CBS Mornings program that does not show her face but shows graphic video and photos of bruises and injuries suffered during the assault. **• September 14, 2022:** Briggs Law Corporation files a lawsuit on behalf of the victim and her attorneys demanding files from the investigation that have been denied to the victim, an alleged violation of the California Public Records Act. Briggs firm seeks compensation from the city of San Diego and SDPD for ignoring records requests by the victim's father. **• September 15, 2022:** SDSU student newspaper The Daily Aztec criticizes university president Adele de la Torre for "lack of transparency" and responses that are "insufficient." **• October 8, 2022:** SDSU students and community members protest SDSU's lack of response to sexual assault at a rally outside of Snapdragon Stadium prior to a football game against the University of Hawai'i. **• October 14, 2022:** Football coach Brady Hoke is given a raise by SDSU. **• November 2022:** Statements from San Diego County District Attorney, SDPD and SDSU say that investigations are ongoing. No criminal charges have been filed.



MATT ARAIZA



ZAVIER LEONARD



NOWLIN "PA'A" EWALIKO

# SDSU MUM ON RAPE CHARGES

BY HAN PSALMA AND CAMILA A. GONZALEZ  
Campus Editor and Editor-in-Chief

**A**llegations of a horrific gang rape of a 17-year-old high school girl by at least four SDSU football players last October is national news, but has not affected crowds at Aztec football games in the brand new Snapdragon Stadium.

As tens of thousands of Aztec fans filed into the stadium, they filed past a vocal but hopelessly outmatched squad of protesters calling for justice for the victim.

They were met with mixed results.

There were honking supporters in passing cars and an occasional "right on!" from passersby, but most of the fans streaming into the stadium for the game against the University of Hawai'i did not even make eye contact.

Some were actually hostile to the calls for justice and an end to sexual abuse against women. A car stopped in front of the protesters and a group of young men adorned with Aztec

merchandise rushed over to start arguing. After about five minutes of an increasingly tense exchange, the football fans broke off and headed toward the gate, but not before a final salvo.

"We need those (suspended players)," one shouted. "(Araiza is) a good punter."

Matt Araiza by this time was no longer an Aztec. He had been drafted by the NFL's Buffalo Bills in the sixth round. He was indeed a very good punter, but the protesters said that missed the point. They were frustrated by the idea that college football heroics somehow excuse an alleged gang rape.

Araiza was subsequently released by the Bills after the rape victim's attorney played a recorded telephone call between Araiza and the high school senior. Araiza admitted to having sex with the girl and urged her to get checked for sexually transmitted diseases. Araiza's attorney said the sexual encounter was consensual and accused the young woman

SDSU CONT NEXT PAGE

Compiled by Han Psalma

CONTINUED FROM PG. 2

## SDSU: Lack of response has angered students, women's groups

of lying in hopes of capitalizing on Araiza's new found wealth as an NFL player.

One of the protesters, 24-year-old sexual assault victim Trinity Martinez, said she has heard this all before.

"My perpetrator was never brought to justice," she said. "I never had any closure. And (now) this victim, a year later, hasn't had closure. It seems like this pattern is repetitive and I am not okay with that."

Martinez held a poster that read "San Diego has been normalizing rape culture since 2012."

Her friend, 22-year-old SDSU student Kyle Dreher, joined Martinez on the front lines of the protest to show his support for young women and to speak out against rape culture. Dreher said he and Martinez received a great deal of support and encouragement from SDSU students at their anti-rape table on campus. Spurring meaningful conversations about rape and sexual abuse is an essential step in the effort to change the culture, he said.

Neftali Ramos, a 20-year-old SDSU junior, agreed.

"I am here to change my university," she said. "I want to rewrite the narrative so other women can feel safe to come back here."

Protester Daniel Lopez, 20, said he was there to support members of his family.

"I have a baby sister and many young siblings," he said. "I don't want them growing up in a society and a college that normalizes rape."

Lopez held a sign that read "I Believe Her."

"Rape," he said, "will never be okay."

He criticized the "rapish culture" and anti-female vibe of SDSU fraternity parties.

"I have been to a frat party and it was not a cool place to be," he said, adding that some of the young men are ready to take advantage of inebriated women. "It is not a nice place to be. Even as a male I do not feel comfortable in frat houses."

Ellie Bousquet, 19, an SDSU sustainability major, said the university has not done enough to bring the perpetrators to justice and has not demonstrated that it is taking the situation seriously.

"I feel our school is very effective at perpetuating the idea that (sexual assault) is okay," she said. "These things continue to happen and nothing (is done) about it. Abusers are slapped on the wrist and nothing else ever comes of it."

Bousquet said sexual assault victims are not taken seriously by SDSU administrators, which helps to perpetuate the culture.

"I have been a victim of sexual assault in the past," she said. "Women should feel safe enough to speak about what happened."

SDSU cares more about football and sports revenue than the safety of its female students, Bousquet said. She and other protesters said SDSU President Dr. Adele de la Torre and the university's athletic department are not taking the alleged gang rape seriously.

Dreher said the college's priorities are misplaced. Ironically, the multi-million dollar Snapdragon Stadium itself is a big glowing symbol of hypocrisy, he said.

"The stadium supports (the accused rapists who play there)," he said, while women's safety and programs for people of color are underfunded. Or unfunded.

Martinez said she voted to fund the construction of the new SDSU stadium, but now regrets it.

"I feel like the stadium (was built) with blood money," she said. "That is unsettling."



Photo By Han Psalma / Staff



Photo By Han Psalma / Staff



Photo By Han Psalma / Staff



Photo Courtesy of Ariana Drehsler / Voice of San Diego



Images Courtesy of CBS8



Photo Courtesy of Brittany Cruz-Fejeran / Daily Aztec

**NOISY RESPONSE TO THE SILENT TREATMENT** — (clockwise from top) SDSU students protest the university's handling of an alleged gang rape by members of the football team outside of Snapdragon Stadium. Protester critical of SDSU President Adele de la Torre. Athletic Director J.D. Wicker and football coach Brady Hoke stormed out of a press conference. De la Torre (center) has remained silent on the issue. Students enter campus. Protesters at Snapdragon Stadium prior to a football game.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

# ANTI-SEMITISM: Recent increases in hateful activities in South Bay and across America has Jewish community, rights activists alarmed

It has been for Scheller. On a warm August afternoon she and a friend had an ugly encounter at the Chula Vista Public Library near City Hall.

Scheller and historian Harry Orgovan were at the library packing up Scheller's critically-acclaimed exhibit "RUTH: Remember Us, The Holocaust" when they were approached by a middle aged man with dark hair and eyes. Scheller recounted the episode.

"What are you doing?" he snarled. "What is this?"

"We're taking down (our) Holocaust exhibit," she recalled telling the man. "There is a new exhibit coming in."

Scheller said the man seemed unhappy to hear that, but not for the reason she expected.

"You need to keep this up," she recalled the man saying. "Everybody needs to see this wall. Everybody needs to see Auschwitz. Everybody needs to know that Jews lie, Jews steal, Jews kill animals. Jews have their own language no one understands. They cry like babies and ask 'Where is God?' Don't they realize that God created Auschwitz so every Jew could get killed? You need to keep that wall up."

Scheller said she stood before the man silently and in shock when she realized that he considered the exhibit to be a celebration of Auschwitz and the Holocaust rather than a condemnation.

"It was a real wake up call," she said.

## Call for Permanent Museum

The diatribe sparked a realization, Scheller said. There is a great need for a permanent Holocaust museum in the South Bay.

"We need to continue to work hard to teach younger generations about what happened to Jews and other marginalized people in the 1930s and '40s," she said. "We have so much more work to do."

Holocaust survivors are rapidly disappearing due to old age, Scheller said. The work of her mother, Holocaust educator Ruth Goldschmiedova Sax who died in 2018, must be handed off to younger Americans.

A museum would be the center of Holocaust education for schools and the community, she said, and a repository of artifacts from the pogrom, Kristallnacht, the Holocaust and other attacks on Judaism. Scheller envisions a museum that also educates about genocides committed against Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus and peoples in Africa, North America and South America.

Bob Lehman, Executive Director of the San Diego Museum Council, supports Scheller's vision.

"Museums are really about the community telling its story," he said. "It's about remembering what happened and being able to tell that story."

Orgovan, president of the South Bay Historical Society and the Chula Vista Heritage Museum, partnered with Scheller on the Holocaust exhibit in the library.

"It really expanded my view of what the Holocaust was and why it is so important that we not judge people by race, religion, country of origin, or anything that we think defines them," he said.

Now Orgovan hopes to help Scheller continue educating others.

Scheller said "it's all about baby steps" as she presses for a Holocaust and human rights museum. She said she would love to build the museum at Southwestern College.

"Southwestern is our community's center of learning and personal growth," she said. "Chula Vista has a rich heritage of community-minded Jewish people who served others with selflessness and a spirit of generosity.



Photo Courtesy of Sandra Scheller



Photo Courtesy of Sandra Scheller



Photo Courtesy of Sandra Scheller



Photo By The Sun Staff



Photo By The Sun Staff

What a perfect place for a museum that reminds us that we must love and respect each other."

## Magazines Destroyed

Scheller's encounter was a prelude to other anti-Semitic episodes in the community.

In late October SC journalism students and faculty were shocked to find that someone had vandalized or stolen thousands of copies of the Southwestern College Sun and El Sol Magazine at campus news stands as well as distribution points in Chula Vista, Bonita and Sunnyside. Nearly 200 copies of El Sol Magazine featuring three Holocaust survivors had their covers torn off. Some had

been stomped or torn up.

Perpetrators had combed the campus and attacked at least a dozen circulation sites. Publications advisor Dr. Max Branscomb reported the vandalism to the Chula Vista Police Department as well as the campus police. He also briefed college president Dr. Mark Sanchez. He estimated the value of the stolen and damaged publications to be \$2,000 - \$2,500.

"This was a calculated act," Branscomb said. "It took someone a long time to crisscross our campus, find all the newsstands and destroy so many newspapers and magazines."

Campus Police Chief Marco Bareno said SCPD officers would

**ERA OF HATE** — (from top) A swastika painted on the fence of a preschool on E. H Street near Southwestern College. Photos from the RUTH: Remember Us, The Holocaust exhibit at the Chula Vista Library. Copies of The Sun and El Sol Magazine vandalized by Trump supporters. Nearly a third of the entire run of El Sol Magazine VIII featuring SC's Muslim ASO President were ruined in 2016. More than \$8,000 worth of the student magazines were destroyed or stolen.

Photo Courtesy of Sandra Scheller



Tammy Gillies Image Courtesy of KPBS

**San Diego County's Jewish community suffered 38 recorded incidents of anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish hate in 2021, according to the Anti-Defamation League. The figures represent "just the tip of the iceberg." — Tammy Gillies, former Anti-Defamation League director**



review video from blue pole security cameras to see if the perpetrators could be identified. Branscomb said he would prosecute any suspects identified by the police. Collegiate publications have special federal legislation designed to protect the speech rights of students and the work of young journalists. Theft, destruction and damage of college newspapers to prevent others from reading them is a federal offense and a felony, Branscomb said.

"Stealing and vandalizing student publications are despicable acts and efforts to thwart the First Amendment rights of college journalists," he said. "I won't have it on my watch. The perpetrators better pray we never catch them because if we do there will be severe consequences for them."

The vandalism could also generate hate crime charges, Bareno said, if the college could show that the motive was anti-Semitism. Bareno said he and the campus police support Southwestern's journalism students and would step up patrols around circulation points.

Camila Gonzalez, Editor in Chief of The Sun, had several of her articles published in the 2022 edition of El Sol Magazine. She said the attacks on student publications featuring courageous Holocaust survivors were "profoundly disappointing."

"I was in shock because the intention of this magazine was to create empowering and profound stories that were meant to impact the community in a positive way," she said. "These stories are more than just assignments to me. They give individuals a chance to speak their truths, which has always moved me."

Recent anti-Semitic activity and Holocaust deniers underscore the need for more reporting by young journalists on these topics, Gonzalez said.

"The Holocaust destroyed the lives of mothers, fathers, children and many other people," she said. "I cannot fathom why they continue to be met with anti-Semitism."

Gonzalez said SC journalism students are not intimidated by "hometown haters" and will continue to tell the stories of marginalized and underrepresented members of the San Diego County-Tijuana community.

**Student Publications Targeted Before**

Branscomb said The Sun and El Sol Magazine have been targets of hate crimes before, including:

**2003.** Islamophobic vandals destroyed hundreds of copies of The Sun and left singed piles near the journalism building protesting an article about an Iraqi refugee attending Southwestern College.

**2005.** A militant anarchist group burned copies of The Sun, vandal-



Photo By The Sun Staff



Photo By The Sun Staff



Photo Courtesy of Sandra Scheller



Photo Courtesy of Sandra Scheller

**HATE OLD AND NEW** — (clockwise from top) A large display of the Auschwitz concentration camp at the CVPL. Curator Sandra Scheller was verbally assaulted by an anti-Semite while taking down the exhibit. Former ASO President Mona Dibas was targeted by Islamophobic Trump supporters. A photo of South Bay Holocaust survivors from the RUTH exhibit. A swastika scratched into the dust of a Jewish teenager's car. Piles of ruined newspapers and magazines on the CV campus. Vandals crisscrossed the campus and vandalized student publications at 12 circulation sites. Copies of El Sol Magazine featuring three Holocaust survivors had covers ripped off or defaced.

ized the journalism building, and threatened to kill the advisor and a student journalist. Campus police had to guard the faculty member and student until the end of the school year after the group bused members of extremist organizations to campus. Their actions attracted white supremacists from the Ku Klux Klan, Minuteman Project and American Nazi Party to campus to protest The

Sun's coverage of immigration and students of color.

**2010.** Supporters of former college president Raj Chopra stole thousands of copies of The Sun with articles critical of Chopra and his vice president Nicholas Alioto. Chopra later ordered The Sun to cease publication, a directive the faculty advisor refused to follow. Students, staff and faculty countered by raising money to print

the edition that broke open the South Bay Corruption Scandal of 2010-12. Dozens of volunteers met the delivery truck and delivered a September 2010 issue by hand classroom-to-classroom so that students and staff would have the opportunity to read it. Chopra resigned shortly thereafter. Alioto was terminated.

**Spring 2016.** Islamophobics and supporters of then-presidential can-

didate Donald Trump vandalized and destroyed hundreds of copies of The Sun with a front page photo of newly-elected ASO President Mona Dibas, a hijabi Muslim woman. Vandals use felt pens to write "Trump 2016" across Dibas' face.

**"There are a lot of crummy things going on in the world, but there are even more wonderful things. That and our young people should give all of us hope."**

**Sandra Scheller**  
HOLOCAUST EDUCATOR

**Summer 2016.** Nearly a third of the entire print run of El Sol Magazine VIII was destroyed by Trump supporters who objected to the cover photo of SC's Muslim ASO President Mona Dibas. They scrawled "Trump 2016" across Dibas' face or tore off the covers. About \$8,000 worth of the magazines were destroyed. The issue was later named National College Magazine of the Year and received the collegiate Pulitzer Prize.

**Fall 2016.** Issues of The Sun with a front page photo of African-American students protesting the shooting death of an unarmed Black man by police in El Cajon were destroyed by Trump supporters and racists who wrote "Trump 2016" or "Fuck Blacks" across the images of the Black student protesters.

"None of those attempts to silence Southwestern College journalism students were successful, and none ever will be," Branscomb said.

**The Work Continues**

Holocaust educators like Scheller and Rose Schindler, Benjamin Midler and Gerhard Maschkowski – the trio of elderly survivors featured on the cover of El Sol XII – have much the same attitude. Their work continues.

"Silence is complicity," Scheller said. "As long as there are people speaking up and sharing the truth there is hope. There are a lot of crummy things going on in the world, but there are even more wonderful things. That and our young people should give all of us hope."

# MYSTERIOUS FILM LIBRARY PLANNED FOR CHULA VISTA

BY HAN PSALMA, Staff Writer

A bold new media arts facility planned for the South Bay is the biggest thing no one ever heard of.

Practically no one.

As SDSU and Chula Vista city officials were almost hyperventilating on the TV news about an \$89 million digital library and a partnership with Southwestern College, SC's dean and faculty responsible for telemedia and film were flummoxed. They were learning about it for the first time.

"We did not know anything about it (until) we saw it on TV," said Professor of Film, Television and Media Arts Gary Bulkin. "We did not attend the announcement because we were not invited."

Dr. Cynthia McGregor, dean of the School of Arts, Communication and Social Science, said she was also surprised by the news.

"Sometimes I get so busy that I don't capture everything, but no, this one I did not know

about," she said. "The rest of our faculty didn't know about it, either."

McGregor said she hopes the project turns out to be a "pleasant surprise."

"It's connected to SDSU, which is our biggest transfer university," she said. "We want our students to be able to finish their degrees in the South Bay. I know that is a big mission of our current administration."

SC President Dr. Mark Sanchez sent out an enthusiastic message to employees about the project shortly after the announcement. Zaneta Encarnacion, his chief of staff, said a planning study found a need to support Film, Television, Media Arts (FTMA) programs because it is a fast-growing industry and a projected job creator. Encarnacion said the facility would be state-of-the-art



GARY BULKIN



CYNTHIA MCGREGOR

and designed to embrace updates as the industry evolved.

Otherwise, the project is long on hype, but scant on details, according to SC personnel. Faculty said they hope the facility will have sound stages and production equipment. Professor of FTMA Mark Sisson said SC students need hands-on opportunities that lead to industry internships.

SC FTMA students have a significant advantage over SDSU students, Bulkin said, because they get two years of intense hand-on experience before transferring. Technical training at SDSU and many other universities does not start until students' junior year, he said.

Sisson said the project is supposed to break ground in 2023 but no meetings have been

planned and there is confusion about which institution and which faculty will take leadership roles. McGregor said she is not sure SC will have significant involvement.

"When you look at that (announcement) flyer, it talks a lot about the relationship between the city of Chula Vista and San Diego State University," she said. "I don't think there is any mention of Southwestern."

Sisson and Bulkin agreed, but are pushing back. They have requested a meeting with Sanchez to gather more information and offer their services.

"We reached out to Sanchez, saying that we would like to work on that and develop that with him," said Bulkin. "Sanchez responded by saying 'Great, I want to hear more about that.' He is in the process of setting up a meeting."

Sisson said he is proud to work at SC because the college is "a gateway" for South County students. He said he hopes the new digital media library will be a gateway to Bachelor's degrees and careers.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

## ELECTIONS

elected Superior Court judge. His election, he said, will allow him to help to continue work started during the pandemic.

"I feel very good being elected to the governing board," he said. "Having been a part of all the wonderful things going on at the college district for the last two years as an appointed member of the board, I am excited to be able to continue the work."

Dumas said he is inspired by SC's staff and students.

"There are many great people working at Southwestern College and our students are remarkable," he said. "I am thrilled to be able to continue being part of such a wonderful place."

Soto is currently a Southwestern College professor and counselor, and is the former president of the faculty union. She said she would retire as an educator to focus on her role as a board member. Her experience as a union grievance chair will give her the patience and insight necessary to bring people together, she said. Soto won with about 47 percent of the vote in Area 4, defeating Mae Case and Humberto Gurmilan, a former Telemundo sports anchor who serves on the K-8 San Ysidro School District board.

"Being elected to serve on the Southwestern College Governing Board is a dream come true for me," she said. "I have worked at SWC for 32 years as both a counselor and a professor. I have loved working at the college."

Moreno is a former editor at the Southwestern College Sun and was a reporter for the Chula Vista Star News before becoming a Chula Vista City Council aide. He garnered about 54 percent of the vote in his Area 1 race against Dr. Gonzalo Quintero, owner of the popular Third Avenue restaurant Tavern at the Vogue and a former National City Councilman. Quintero is also a former interim director of the SC ASO.

"I am still processing the fact that I won my race for the Southwestern College Governing Board," he said. "I was the underdog. I had very few endorsements and hardly the manpower my opponent had. But I had belief in myself and belief that I could win the race."

Moreno said he learned to believe in himself while he was a student at SC and urged students to always have faith in their abilities so that they could pursue their goals with confidence.

"(The election) is a testament that if you believe in yourself — despite the odds — your dreams can come true," he said.

Moreno, Soto and Dumas will join returning trustees Griselda Delgado and Roberto Alcantar to the five-person board, which is SC's preeminent policy making body. Following recent changes to governing board policies, members of the community may be elected to two terms of four years. Delgado and Alcantar will be termed out in two years.

## SWEET MEMORIES OF THE DEAD



**D**ia de los Muertos is celebrated Nov. 2. Displays and *altars*, like the one above at a Chula Vista home, are prominent in border communities. They combine Aztec and Catholic practices unique to Latin America and parts of the southern U.S. Offerings for the dead may include favorite foods, drinks, songs and artifacts representing activities from their lives. Offerings are placed on *altars* to welcome the spirits of the dead back to the world of the living. Dia de los Muertos keeps the dead in our memories until next year when they return again. *Photo By Liliana Anguiano / Staff*

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

## CRIME DOCS

Former chief Davis Nighswonger acknowledged that SCPD records were "a hot mess" or non-existent when he assumed leadership of the department. He launched an effort to correct the situation, according to reporting in The Sun from that time.

Current Chief Marco Bareno has finished the job. A Watchdog reporter from The Sun recently asked for crime reports at the SCPD station and received them quickly without confrontation. The SDDP appears to be in full compliance.

That was not the case in 2016 when the college was hit by a wave of sexual assault cases. After failing to turn over any records, Cash gave reporters a hastily-prepared document that showed only light criminal activity such as car vandalism and graffiti, but no rapes or assaults. Sun staff had documented numerous cases of campus sexual assault that had been reported to SCPD and the former dean of student affairs — including the rape of a newspaper editor in a campus parking lot.

Weekly checks of the college website from 2016-19 showed no current monthly crime reports or annual federal Clery Act summaries as required by law. The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act was passed by Congress in 1990 and signed into law by President George H. W. Bush. Jeanne Clery was a 19-year-old student who was raped and murdered in a residence hall at Lehigh University in 1986. Lehigh and other universities across the nation were severely criticized for unreported crime and inaccurate or nonexistent reports.

SDSU has been under fire recently from women's groups and public safety advocates for its failure to be forthcoming about the alleged gang rape of a 17-year-old high school student by at least four football players at a Halloween party near campus. SDSU officials knew of the alleged rape within days, according to the victim's father, who said he personally reported it to campus officials and the San Diego Police Department.

Southwestern was plagued by similar incidences from 2016-18 when sexual violence reported to the office of the dean of student affairs or the SCPD was not showing up on monthly crime reports or the annual Clery Act report. The Sun reported extensively on the situation. Some campus officials openly mocked the coverage until the newspaper staff was able to publish nearly 20 accounts of sexual violence and abuse with the survivors' names and photos. Some of the abuse had occurred on or near campus and had been reported to college officials.

Cash was eventually terminated for misappropriation of college funds and hiring violations. He was replaced by Nighswonger, who retired shortly after the onset of the pandemic in 2020. Bareno became interim chief and was named SCPD Chief earlier this year.



The mission of the Southwestern College Sun is to serve its campuses and their communities by providing information, insights and stimulating discussions of news, activities and topics relevant to our readers. The staff strives to produce a newspaper that is timely, accurate, fair, interesting, visual and accessible to readers. Though The Sun is a student publication, staff members ascribe to the ethical and moral guidelines of professional journalists.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief  
Camila A. Gonzalez

News Editor  
Nicolette Monique Luna

Viewpoints Editor  
Alicia Rivero

Campus Editor  
Han Psalma

Arts Editor  
Liliana Anguiano

Sports Editor  
Iyarie Murguía

Editor-in-Chief  
theswcsun.com  
Julia Woock

Staff Writers  
Ramon Armenta  
Diego Higuera  
Jet Jackson  
Mustafa Rabi  
Edgar Ortega  
Amber Plasencia  
Janine Rivera  
Matthew Rubio  
Colton Tull

Assistant Adviser  
Kenneth Pagano

Adviser  
Dr. Max Branscomb

## Awards/Honors

National College Newspaper Hall of Fame Inducted 2018

Student Press Law Center National College Press Freedom Award 2011, 2018

National Newspaper Association National College Newspaper of the Year 2004-2022

Associated Collegiate Press Pacemaker Awards 2003-06, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012-2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 General Excellence 2001-22 Best of Show 2003-22

Columbia University Scholastic Press Association Gold Medal for Journalism Excellence 2001-22

College Media Association National College Newspaper of the Year, 2020

California College Media Association Outstanding Community College Newspaper

San Diego County Multicultural Heritage Award

California Newspaper Publishers Association California College Newspaper of the Year 2013, 2016, 2020, 2021 Student Newspaper General Excellence 2002-21

Society of Professional Journalists National Mark of Excellence 2001-22 First Amendment Award 2002, 2005 San Diego Press Club Excellence in Journalism 1999-2022 Directors Award for Defense of Free Speech 2012

Journalism Association of Community Colleges Pacesetter Award 2001-18 Newspaper General Excellence 2000-2022

American Scholastic Press Association Community College Newspaper of the Year

# Increase in anti-Semitism crimes a dire warning to the South County

“First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.”  
—Martin Niemöller

It is, once again, time to speak out about anti-Semitism. Slowly and steadily, like rust on the undercarriage or mold in the wall, the corrosive malignancy of anti-Semitic language and anti-Jewish behavior is slithering free of Pandora’s Box.

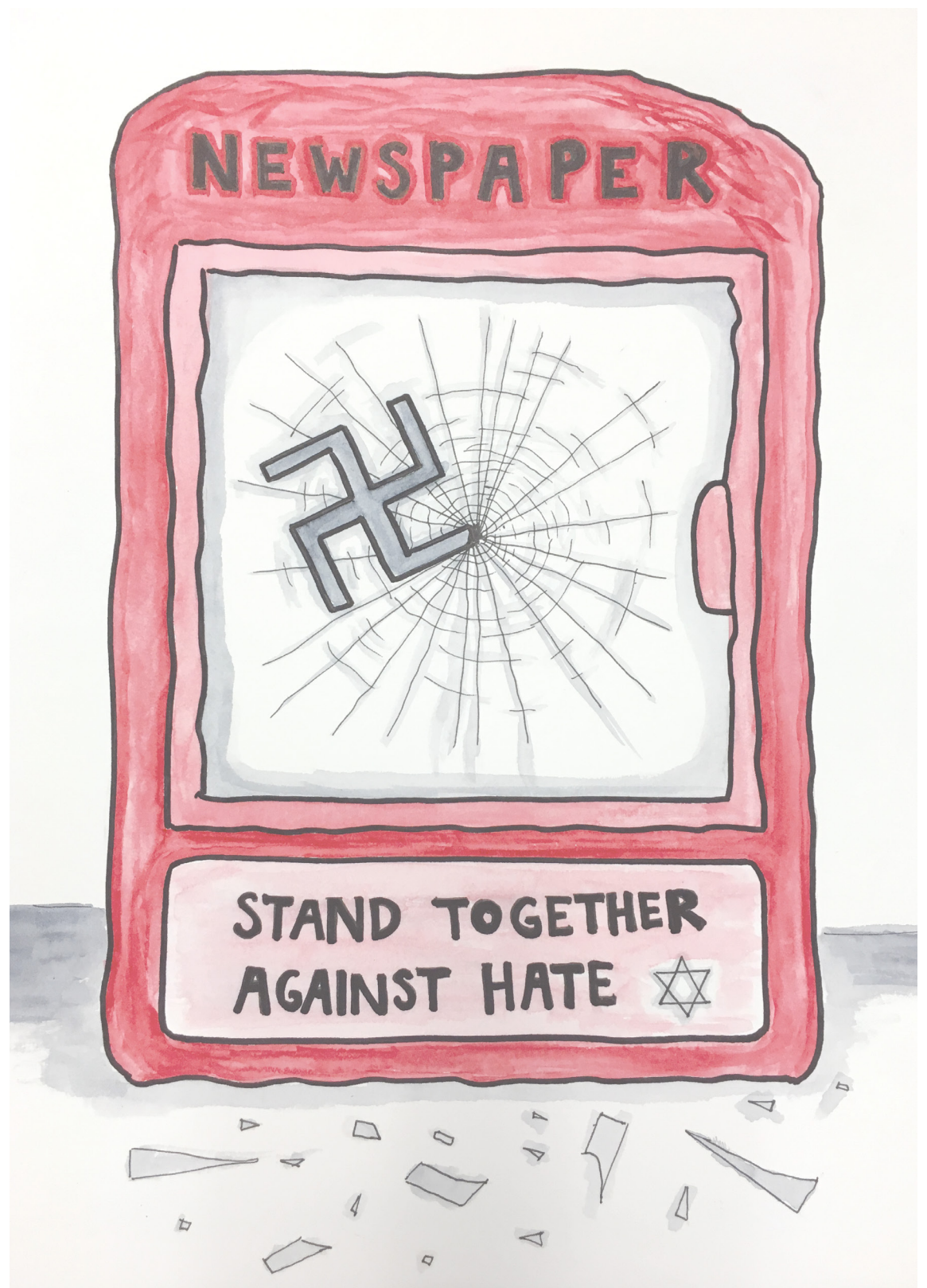
Even here, in mostly-progressive, multicultural Southern San Diego County, anti-Semitism is clawing its way out of the dustbin of history. Chula Vista — a city largely built and shaped by its altruistic Jewish citizens — is inexplicably ground zero. Nicolette Luna’s report on recent anti-Semitic activity in Chula Vista includes:

- A verbal attack on a Jewish activist at her Holocaust exhibit at the Chula Vista Library.
- Swastikas spray painted on Bonita Vista High School and BV Middle School.
- A swastika painted on a preschool near Southwestern College.
- Swastikas scrawled on the car of a Jewish teenager.
- Photos of Hitler scattered about a Chula Vista trolley stop.

Now anti-Semitism has come to our campus. Late last month hundreds of copies of The Sun and El Sol Magazine were vandalized and destroyed at a dozen distribution sites on the Chula Vista campus. Monetary value of the destruction was estimated at \$2,000 - \$2,500.

That is a lot for our journalism program, but the true cost is much higher. Vandals/anti-Semites targeted El Sol Magazine, whose current edition features a striking cover photo of trio of Holocaust survivors in their late 80s and 90s showing tattoos they received from their Nazi captors at extermination camps in Auschwitz and Birkenau. Covers were torn off, torn up and stomped on, ground into the soil of our multiracial, multi-faith campus.

Unfortunately, this swelling tumor of intolerance is expanding across the United States. Hate is becoming normalized. In 2021, the Anti-Defamation League’s annual audit found the highest rates of Anti-Semitism in the U. S. since it started tracking it in 1979. For a generation that prides itself on being accepting and doing better, that data is alarming. An NPR report found that one in four Jews were subject to antisemitism in the U.S. last year. Both organizations expect the 2022 data to be worse. Traditional hate has a new home



Alicia Rivero / Staff

**The Issue:** A series of anti-Semitic attacks in the South Bay comes on the heels of incidences anti-Black, Islamophobic and Asian hate since the Trump era. Pandora’s Box is cracking open.

**Our Position:** Racial and religious hatred affects the health and security of the entire community and must never be tolerated. We would like to see the CVPD and our college administrators make more of an effort to combat racial hatred.

on social media, including entire sites dedicated to anti-Jewish conspiracies, plots and pockets of paranoia. Their foul potions are dripping on America. Anti-Semitic vandalism soared 14 percent in 2021 with 853 documented cases.

Vandalism is a crime and should be treated as such. There is no taking back the fear and disgust brought on by tearing down someone’s feeling of safety or home. Images can stay with someone forever. Swastikas have been spray painted on at least three schools within a mile of Southwestern

College — including a preschool. Let that sink in.

We appreciate the immediate support from our Dean Dr. Cynthia McGregor and Campus Police Chief Marco Bareno. We are a little disappointed in the yawning response we got from other college administrators and the Chula Vista Police. Too much else going on, we suppose.

Hate is ultimately not solved by government or law enforcement, it is solved by people like us. We all need to call out hateful rhetoric and hateful behavior. We need to let the perpetrators know is not something we will accept or tolerate. We need to push back.

We are at a tipping point where hate will get markedly worse if we keep turning a blind eye. Check in on and speak up for your Jewish friends and neighbors. Let them know you support them. Same goes for our AAPI, Indigenous, LGBTQ and Middle Eastern brothers and sisters who have been targets of hate in recent years.

Too often people of good will look the other way, allowing hatred to grow unchecked. Keeping out of it is complicity. Silence is complicity. Looking the other way is complicity.

Being a bystander is no longer an option.



THINKING OUT LOUD

COMPILED BY JANINE RIVERA AND CAMILA ALEJANDRA GONZALEZ

Do you feel safe on campus?

Women at SDSU have expressed unhappiness with the university's handling of an alleged gang rape of a 17 year old. Do you feel safe at Southwestern College?



DESTINY OWUSU (Studio Arts/Animation)

"I do feel safe here on campus. There are a lot of people around, so that makes me feel safe."



KHLOE MORALES (Architectural Technology)

"Not always. It's unfair but sexual assault happens more often than it should. I try to be aware of my surroundings, stay off the phone and keep alert."



KAILEY VILAFRANCA (Architecture)

"I work to stay safe. I scan my surroundings and make sure no one is following me. I hold my keys in my hand as a self-defense method."



EMILIO DAVILA (Construction Management)

"Our campus is not entirely safe for women and being in a college environment can make it seem like women are easy targets."

Illustration by Alicia Rivera

she was **asking** for it.

**GET OVER IT!**

WE TRIED TO WARN HER, BUT SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN.



She must have led **them** on.

SHE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN OUT SO LATE.

Good girls know how to stay out of those situations.

She should have known *better...*

THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN TO ME.

I thought she liked him.

**Boys** will be boys. What did you expect?

I HOPE YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON.

Wasn't she dating that guy?

Well, look what she was wearing!

she'll get **OVER** it.

**WHATEVER** YOU DO, DON'T TALK ABOUT IT!

HMM... **DOESN'T** SOUND LIKE RAPE.

THAT GIRL IS NOT EXACTLY LITTLE MISS INNOCENT.

Sexual assault a plague for college women

BY CAMILA A. GONZALEZ A Perspective

Sexual assault on college campuses is an affliction more likely to ravage young women than COVID, car accidents or cancer. About 1 in 4 American women suffer a sexual assault. For first year college women the odds are 1 in 3. Teenagers are the favorite prey of men who sexually assault.

Naomi was a teenager when she was raped twice in a three-month span and did not report either crime. Years later she is still sorting through the experiences, why they happened and why she did not trust the system to help her.

Naomi (a pseudonym) connected with a United States Marine on a dating app when she was a teen and things got off to an immediate bad start. She said they did not get along from the beginning, but she hung in hoping the evening would improve.

It didn't He drove her to his barracks against her will and raped her.

"It happened so quickly," Naomi said. "It was not the first time I had been sexually assaulted, but it was the first time I truly felt like a victim. I could not defend myself. I felt overpowered."

After the rapist was finished he

*"If I'd pressed charges I would have (had) to tell my parents, go to the police, and go to the hospital to get poked, prodded and scraped. It would have been a violation all over again."*

Naomi RAPE VICTIM

drove Naomi home, swigging from a bottle of whisky on the way.

"I told my friends and my sister," she said. "This was the first time I felt it was not my fault. When (people) think about sexual assault they think about blurred lines. Maybe she was drunk and wanted it. Guys like to make excuses and make it seem like it is the girl's fault."

Naomi did not file a police report, a decision she now regrets.

"If I'd pressed charges I would have (had) to tell my parents, go to the police, and go to the hospital to get poked, prodded and scraped," she said. "I was going to be asked humiliating questions over and over. It would have been a violation all over again."

Instead, she began to drink heavily in an effort to forget.

Weeks later it happened again

on a cruise ship.

A group of young people invited her to hang out. She accepted.

"There were girls and guys and they were all really nice," Naomi said. "They were all giving me drinks and I remember getting really drunk."

One of the men tugged her down the hall to his room and raped her.

"I had no idea where I was or how I was going to get out of the situation," she recalled. "By the grace of God my sister found me and not another predator."

Once again, she did not report the assault. Drunk and dressed provocatively, she was afraid the authorities would tell her she had it coming. Naomi still suffers flashbacks of the rape and the hours after.

"I have not fully healed but I have

grown a callus over the subject," she said. "I get sad sometimes for my 19-year-old self."

Young women like Naomi are conditioned by society not to trust authorities and to brace for victim blaming. Reporting such a personal violation to a large scowling man with his arms crossed cynically can further traumatize rape victims. So can callous college administrators.

Southwestern College experienced a period of sexual assault from 2015-19, but don't bother looking for the college police crime data because you will not find any. Our former police chief and college president did not want to talk about it and did not want anyone talking about it, either.

We are hopeful that our current college leadership will handle the issue with greater transparency and greater humanity. Our at least a degree of professionalism. So far the campus police, at least, have taken strides to improve record keeping and increase our confidence in them.

We need to change America's blame-the-victim culture to a prevailing practice of empathy, support and belief of women. Young women need to feel like the system is on their side, not another source of trauma.



# 15,629

Susanne Terry, homeless liaison at the San Diego County Office of Education, says in San Diego County, the identified unhoused student population dropped by 2.2% during the 2020-2021 school year, from 15,989 to 15,629, a decrease that doesn't align with what she's been hearing on the ground.

Source: timesofsandiego.com

## Homeless but clinging to a stubborn hopefulness



Photo By Liliana Anguiano / Staff

**HOME IS WHERE THE CAR IS** — Ian Ramirez spends most of every day in his car at Southwestern College. Housing insecure since age 13, Ramirez moves his vehicle around the area in search of a safe, quiet place to spend the evening. An ambitious student, he has nevertheless suffered a stop-and-start academic career due to homelessness.

### SWC CARES HELPS WITH TECHNOLOGY, CHILD CARE, NUTRITION

BY LILIANA ANGUIANO  
Staff Writer

It has never been a secret that a majority of Southwestern College students come from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds, but recent data borders on bleak. More than 8 out of 10 SC students are from families that qualify for free or reduced lunch programs in the K-12 system. Almost 40 percent self-reported food insecurity and a third reported housing insecurity.

Other rampant student stressors are inability to purchase technology such as laptops, inconsistent access to internet and Wi-Fi connectivity, expensive transportation and lack of childcare.

Since 2020 SC has made an intentional pivot toward providing additional help to students under stress in an effort to keep them in college.

One arm of that multi-pronged effort is SWC CARES, a state-funded program that emerged from the pandemic that creates a miniature social services agency on the Chula Vista campus. Trina Eros, who comes from a social services

CARES PG 10

## Not-Always-Happy Camper Makes Do In Parking Lots

BY LILIANA ANGUIANO  
Staff Writer

**H**appy students often say they found a home at Southwestern College.

Ian Ramirez literally calls Southwestern College his home.

Ramirez, 19, lives in his car that he sometimes parks in the darkened SC parking lots. It is temporary, he said, but for now it is his address.

His life has had a temporary feeling since he suffered his first bout of homelessness at age 13. A dysfunctional and sometimes violent family has caused him to flee for his own safety. He enjoys surfing, but often found himself couch surfing the homes of friends and acquaintances.

"I've been homeless for probably 12 different stretches," he said. "A lot of the time I just viewed it as 'I'm just going to (a friend's place) for a few days'."

Hunger was a constant companion in his household. When his family did feed him, the quality of the food was often lacking. "Excessive famine," he said. "It was really difficult as someone who cares about my health to have to eat instant ramen. So that was really hard, having to choose between nothing and one of the unhealthiest foods I can ever think of eating."

Hunger is the biggest challenge of living in his car, Ramirez said. He would like to follow a healthy vegan lifestyle, but sometimes it comes down to survival.

A football player at Hilltop High School and Olympian H.S., Ramirez managed to be a student-athlete who graduated with decent grades despite long periods of homelessness that started in middle school. He enjoyed football, he said, but also acknowledged that it was also possible that he needed the distraction.

RAMIREZ PG 11

### Student depends on college as a source of hope and connection

BY LILIANA ANGUIANO, Staff Writer

Julisa Chaves had decided it was time to end her troubled life.

She planned to commit suicide in Denver, but fate intervened.

She'd gotten on the wrong bus and was headed for San Diego.



JULISA CHAVES

A longer trip gave her the time she needed to reconsider and take another stab at life.

Her new chapter started very badly. She arrived in San Diego broke and homeless, then was sexually assaulted her first night in her new city.

"I didn't know what to do in the moment," she said. "I was very scared, but I had to kind of toughen up and not be scared. If you are scared and you show fear you are in trouble. Life is like a dog. If you show fear, it will attack."

Chaves was homeless for eight months, she said. During that time, most people she encountered

CHAVEZ PG 10

## STUDENT NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

■ ACP honors *The Sun* as one of the greatest student publications of the past century

EDITED BY HAN PSALMA  
Campus Editor

Camila Gonzalez did not know she would make Southwestern College history when she was named editor-in-chief of *The Sun* in August 2021 during a global pandemic. She is the only EIC to lead the campus newspaper for an entire year without ever setting foot in the campus newsroom or meeting with her staff face to face.

Challenges abound, but there is no arguing with the results. Under her leadership *The Sun* was named America's best student newspaper by four national news media organizations and earned the Associated Collegiate Press Pacemaker Award, the collegiate Pulitzer Prize.

"The staff and I are honored to have earned such a prestigious award," she said. "Our work at *The Sun* can at times be difficult, but our resilient team pushes past barriers to do meaningful journalism."

Gonzalez herself was named National College Reporter of the Year by the ACP, a 102-year-old organization based in Minneapolis. It is America's oldest college media organization. She thanked her family and friends for their support as well as her classmates in the Newspaper Production Class that publishes *The Sun*.

"Winning this award was a humbling experience," she said. "(Serving as editor-in-chief) has forced me out of my comfort zone. Being named Reporter of the Year is my greatest personal accomplishment and has inspired me to continue to learn and grow as a journalist."

Gonzalez was at the helm when *The Sun* was honored with the ACP Pacemaker 100 Award as one of the best 100 college publications of the past century. She and representatives of *The Sun* were presented the award in the newsroom of the Washington Post earlier this month.

The 2021-22 staff of *The Sun* was presented the Corbin Gwaltney Award for Best All-Around Student Newspaper by the National Society of Professional Journalists this summer, an award that came with a \$5,000 cash prize. *The Sun* was also named national champion by the National Newspaper Association of Washington D.C. and the American Scholastic Press Association of New York.

SC's student newspaper won state and regional championships from the California Newspaper Publishers Association, California College Media Association, Journalism Association of Community Colleges, San Diego Press Club and San Diego Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Southwestern College *El Sol Magazine* is also a 2021-22 Pacemaker Award winner and a national champion. Under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief Xiomara Villarreal-Gerardo, *El Sol* issue XI was the Associated Collegiate Press Best of Show winner and named Most Outstanding Collegiate Magazine by the American Scholastic Press Association, California College Media Association, JACC, San Diego Press Club

PUBLICATIONS PG 12



Photo By Liliانا Anguiano / Staff

CONTINUED FROM PG. 9

## CARES: Needs of SC students overwhelm campus program

background, was brought onboard to lead the \$490,000 program.

Homelessness and housing insecurity among students has been her top priority, she said, but relieving these problems will require more resources than the college has.

"We don't have the capacity to resolve someone's homelessness," she said.

That does not mean the college is incapable of helping homeless students, she said. Eros coordinates care for those facing homelessness or eviction, and works to connect students with social service agencies with the means to find solutions. Her efforts have helped to place scores of students into safe, affordable housing, at least temporarily.

"I definitely consider SWC CARES, like our community partners, an extension of (the federal) CARES because we have to rely on them so much," she said. "It takes a village."

Eros and her team have been overwhelmed by thousands of requests for assistance. There is more she would like to do, she said, particularly in terms of outreach to people in the community who may need help, but that may have to wait.

Students who have received support expressed appreciation, even if their problems were not completely solved. Homeless student Ian Ramirez said he was not expecting magic right away.

"I am not used to any help at all, so I feel it would be unappreciative of me to say that there could be anything better," he said. "I never thought I would get a gas card, money for food, have my programs for school paid for and a calculator paid for."



Photo By Liliانا Anguiano / Staff

**ANOTHER CHANCE AT LIFE** — Julisa Chaves was planning to commit suicide when she instead boarded a bus from Denver to San Diego. She has found hope and a path forward at Southwestern College, she said, where she enjoys her classes and benefits from the college's support programs.

CONTINUED FROM PG 9

## CHAVES: Once homeless and suicidal, she is slowly blossoming as a student

were unkind. People she met in shelters confused her because some were trying to dig out of their situation while others were not. Authorities were not always helpful.

"Unfortunately, they mix shelters with people who want help and people who don't want help," she said. "In one of the shelters I was touched inappropriately by a 70-year-old man. Security told me I had to stop being so loose."

Chaves became one of the people trying to dig out of homelessness and poverty, so she applied for assistance from social service programs. Waitlists were the killer of hope. Most were many months – even years – long. She said she bounced from shelter to shelter.

Some nights there was no room at any shelters. That's when the predators crawled out of the darkness.

A man 18 years her senior groomed her with promises of help and support. When she went to his apartment, he sexually abused her.

"It was the hardest thing to have to deal with the abuse in exchange for a

**"Whatever you are going through, all you can do is just take it day by day and wake up and look at life as a blessing, even through the hardships. We struggle in order to learn the lessons from our struggles."**

**Julisa Chaves**

SC STUDENT



Photo By Liliانا Anguiano / Staff

place to stay," she said. "I would go to my ex and take it because I was in survival mode."

She survived the abuse, barely.

Today Chaves has housing through South Bay Community Services. She lives in Chula Vista with a roommate who is also part of the program. She said she is very grateful for the housing, but is not sure how long she will be able to stay there.

"I really, really love it," she said. "I get sad because when my time is up here, I don't want to leave this area because it's so safe. Usually people stay here for a year, but they can extend the time frame. Unfortunately, they are not able to let us know how long we can stay here because they don't want people to get too comfortable."

Chaves said she suffers from Neuromyelitis Optica or NMO, which prevents her from standing for long durations. She is currently looking for work, she said, but has not been able to land a job because of her disability.

"(NMO) affects my nerves, my eyes and my spinal cord," she said. "Due to that, a lot of places won't hire me."

As her stamina has improved, so have her options. Chaves enrolled for classes at SC this semester, but like many first-year students she is struggling to learn the ins and outs of college life.

"I'm having a hard time in school because nobody prepares you for college and (no one checks in on you)," she said. "(No one) reminds you what to do next, you have to remember (yourself)."

Still, she said, she is motivated to press on despite the challenges. Like others in her situation, Chaves said she realizes education is her way out of poverty and homelessness. She is a cheerful and enthusiastic student who attends regularly and contributes to class discussions. She is not shy about sharing her experiences in hopes that she might help others to avoid what she has endured.

"Whatever you are going through, all you can do is just take it day by day and wake up and look at life as a blessing, even through the hardships," she said. "We struggle in order to learn the lessons from our struggles."



Photo By Liliana Anguiano / Staff



Photo By Liliana Anguiano / Staff



Photo By Liliana Anguiano / Staff



Photo By Liliana Anguiano / Staff

CONTINUED FROM PG. 9

## RAMIREZ: SC student lives in his car but still taking classes

"I realized that I had something that channeled me toward football," he said. "I needed to redirect (my) energy. I guess football helped me to do that."

He was not a typical football player, he said, in terms of his values. Ramirez describes himself as very liberal, an environmentalist and an LGBTQ ally. He enjoyed the game, but not the toxic atmosphere created in the locker room by some of the other players. It caused him to think about where he channeled his efforts and why.

Today he is putting his mental and physical energy into transferring to UCSD to study computer science, he said.

Sometimes the road is smooth, other times it just seems to end without warning. Often a cliff awaits. Last semester Ramirez was registered as a full-time student until he lost his place to stay. He was homeless again and dropped all his classes.

"(Maintaining) the discipline to go to classes and do the work when you are in a dark place is really hard," he said.

Withdrawing from the classes caused other kinds of downstream suffering, Ramirez said. He is now battling academic probation, which feels like being punished twice.

"(Withdrawing) is still affecting me," he said.

Most community college students who resolve to focus more on school do not actually move to the school and live in its parking lot, he acknowledged.

"I am ambitious about the things I care about and that will allow me to persevere through the circumstances I'm in," he said. "Homeless is not hopeless."

**MOTOR HOME** — Ian Ramirez remains remarkably cheerful considering that he dodged family violence and has frequently been homeless since he was 13. He said his "tiny home" is more comfortable than sleeping on the street and he can move it around as parking opportunities present themselves. He often sleeps on campus mornings and evenings, though he and other students living in their cars are not allowed to spend the night in campus parking lots. Friendly and athletic, Ramirez was a high school football player who said he now enjoys surfing — as long as it is not couch surfing. "Homeless is not hopeless," he said. His goal is to transfer to UCSD.

Photo Courtesy of Herman Baca Collection / UCSD Library



Photo Courtesy of Isaac Arstein / UCSD Library



Photo Courtesy of Herman Baca Collection / UCSD Library



**BORN OF BETRAYAL AND CONFLICT** — Residents of Logan Heights, with ample help from Chicanos and supporters from across America, wrestled the land that is now Chicano Park away from the California Highway Patrol and City of San Diego in 1970. Chicano Park has the world's largest collect of outdoor murals and is a Congressional Heritage Site. It is now a source of pride across the region.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 16

## MUSEUM: Long-time dream of Chicano leaders finally a reality

Chicano history.

One crowded area was the exhibit of eye-level pillars that replicated the towering structures supporting the Coronado Bridge. Chicano Park's enormous pillars are concrete canvases featuring some of the planet's most famous outdoor art. "PILLARS: Stories of Resilience and Self-Determination" were miniaturized tributes to the tree-sized behemoths in the park. Like their outdoor muses, the indoor pillars were covered with inspiring art and history presented with the primary colored urgency of *la causa*.

Curated by Josephine S. Talamantez, Alberto Pulido and Valerie Jaimes, the exhibition featured 12 pillars, each representing a different organization with art and photos highlighting its work.

Talamantez, chair of the museum board, said the curators' mission is to commemorate and correct aspects of Chicano history that are misunderstood, misrepresented or overlooked.



Photo By Nicolette Monique Luna / Staff

"The focus of the museum is all inclusive," she said. "It is the art, history and science of the borderlands — both *raza* and indigenous communities of the borderlands."

Visitors jammed the Archive Room, a chamber of wondrous historical artifacts from the collection of Chicano Park Steering Committee icon Tomasa "Tommie" Camarillo. Dog-eared posters, faded photos, tattered flags and other survivors of *la causa* hung triumphantly, clarions of what it took and what is possible.

Jaimes, the interim executive director of the museum, said the cultural center is something the community has needed for generations.

"(I wish) I could go back in time into my youth again and see the museum for what it is right now," she said. "(It is) a welcoming space for our community, a cultural center for us to explore and ultimately love our identities. It would have helped me so much in my self-evolution and self-determination."

Reyes said the aim of the Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center is to uplift the community, particularly its youth.

"It's the community's museum," he said. "We want to develop a first class museum in the heart of a barrio. This community deserves it."

CONTINUED FROM PG. 9

## PUBLICATIONS: The Sun, El Sol Magazine repeat as national champions

and San Diego Chapter of the SPJ.

A senior at San Diego State University, Villarreal-Gerardo is currently the Managing Editor of the SDSU Daily Aztec and EIC of the Spanish-language Mundo Azteca. She is working part-time as a Formula One Racing journalist and is the reigning Miss Chula Vista.

"Being awarded a Pacemaker is an absolute honor," she said. "The Sun team and I worked hard to produce El Sol Magazine XI for our courageous community during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This recognition means a lot to us. Thank you, Associated Collegiate Press!"

Esteban Preciado won first place in the ACP Story of the Year competition for his sprawling story of trekking to the Impenetrable Forest of Uganda to commune with rare mountain gorillas. Preciado, a former U.S. Marine from San Ysidro High School, is now a junior at SDSU. Other Story of the Year winners were Gonzalez for editorial writing, Andrew Sanchez for sports feature writing and Ana Paola Olvera for profile feature writing.

Gonzalez teamed with Ji Ho Kim for a Design of the Year award. Kim is now a junior at UC Davis. Gonzalez, Kim and Nicolette Luna shared a College Media Association National Pinnacle Award for newspaper design.

Luna, a 16-year-old Bonita Vista High School junior cross-enrolled at Southwestern, was named one of the 25 Remarkable Teenagers in San Diego County by the San Diego Public Defenders Office. She was just 15 when she served as editor-in-chief of El Sol XII, the edition currently on newsstands. The issue was runner up



CAMILA A. GONZALEZ



NICOLETTE MONIQUE LUNA



ESTEBAN PRECIADO



XIOMARA VILLARREAL-GERARDO



LELSEY GARATE



JI HO KIM



Diego HIGUERA

### Student Journalism Recognition, 2021-22

#### Southwestern College Sun

- Corbin Gwaltney Award for Best All-Around Student Newspaper in America (National Society of Professional Journalists, Indianapolis)
- Pacemaker 100, special award for America's best 100 publications of the past century (Associated Collegiate Press, Minneapolis)
- Pacemaker Award, the collegiate Pulitzer Prize (Associated Collegiate Press, Minneapolis)
- Best of Show, (ACP, Minneapolis)
- Pinnacle Award (College Media Association, New York)
- Best College Newspaper (National Newspaper Association, Washington, D.C.)
- Most Outstanding College Newspaper (American Scholastic Press Association, New York)
- Best College Newspaper (California College Media Association, Sacramento)
- Best Two-Year College Newspaper (California Newspaper Publishers Association, Sacramento)
- General Excellence Award (Journalism Association of Community Colleges, Sacramento)

#### El Sol Magazine XI

- Best College Newspaper (San Diego Press Club)
- Best Collegiate Publication (San Diego Chapter, Society of Professional Journalists)
- Most Outstanding Collegiate Magazine (American Scholastic Press Association, New York)
- Pacemaker Award, the collegiate Pulitzer Prize (Associated Collegiate Press, Minneapolis)
- Best of Show, (Associated Collegiate Press, Minneapolis)
- Best Collegiate Magazine (California College Media Association, Sacramento)
- General Excellence Award (Journalism Association of Community Colleges, Sacramento)
- Best College Magazine (San Diego Press Club)
- Best College Magazine (San Diego Chapter, Society of Professional Journalists)

#### Notable Individual Awards

- Camila Gonzalez, National College Reporter of the Year (Associated Collegiate Press,

#### Minneapolis)

- Julia Woock, Society of Professional Journalists Leadership Institute (Indianapolis)
- Camila Gonzalez, Julia Woock, News Writers of the Year, (Native American Journalists Association, Norman, Oklahoma)
- Camila Gonzalez, Ji Ho Kim, Nicolette Luna, Newspaper Design Pinnacle Award, (College Media Association, New York)
- Esteban Preciado, 2022 Story of the Year, Feature (ACP, Minneapolis)
- Ana Paola Olvera, 2022 Story of the Year, Ernie Pyle Human Interest Profile (ACP, Minneapolis)
- Camila Gonzalez, 2022 Story of the Year, Editorial (ACP, Minneapolis)
- Ji Ho Kim and Camila Gonzalez, Design of the Year, Newspaper (ACP, Minneapolis)
- Nicolette Monique Luna, San Diego County Remarkable Teenager (San Diego County Public Defenders Office)

for Best of Show at this month's ACP convention in Washington D.C. Luna will serve as EIC of El Sol Magazine XIII, scheduled for publication in June 2023.

Oklahoma's Native American Journalists Association honored Gonzalez with its top national award for news writing. Julia Woock, the 2020-21 EIC of The Sun, was also honored by NAJA for her coverage of Native American issues. Woock was a 2021-22 Society of Professional Journalists Leadership Institute fellow.

Lelsey Garate, an arts writer for The Sun and El Sol, earned state and national awards for her profiles of recording artist Jessie Lark and Chicano Park's enigmatic guardian Tio Camarillo. Garate is currently a junior at SDSU.

Diego Higuera earned state and national recognition for his investigative article about the mistreatment of LGBTQ students by conservative universities and a feature about a Chula Vista hair salon that caters to LGBTQ customers.

SC student journalists earned more than 250 organizational and individual awards, scholarships and fellowships in 2021-22.

## Jazz Café receives an A rating from an appreciative audience

■ Southwestern singers team up with talented Grossmont group for an evening of tasty music

BY LILIANA ANGUIANO  
Arts Editor

Like birthdays and Santa Claus, the Southwestern College Jazz Café comes around once a year, leaving gifts for all good people in attendance.

This year's rendition was a tasty tribute to jazz greats Ella Fitzgerald and Count Basie that left everyone satisfied like milk and cookies by the

### REVIEW

**This year's rendition was a tasty tribute to jazz greats Ella Fitzgerald and Count Basie that left everyone satisfied like milk and cookies by the fire.**

fire.

SC's jazz ensemble West Coast Syncopation teamed with the Grossmont College Cadence Vocal

Jazz Ensemble for a double scoop of marvelous music.

SC counted in with a cheery rendition of "On the Sunny Side of the Street" that set the tone for the evening and invited the audience into the warm café of the imagination.

Vic Arreola took the torch with a soulful take on "It's Only a Paper Moon," a precursor to Xenia Odette and her sultry rendition of "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You." Odette conjured sweet nostalgia, a lovely reminder of unforgettable love.

Nerves were jangling some of the

CAFÉ PG 15

## DANCE CONCERT WAS TWISTED, TWIRLING FEMME FATALE FUN

BY CAMILA ALEJANDRA GONZALEZ  
Editor-in-Chief

From his orchestra seat in the Heavenly Theater, Bob Fosse gave the Southwestern College "Dance Mystere" ensemble two jazz hands up.

Broadway's greatest mid-century choreographer may have entered the Great Beyond, but his work on the Great White Way lingers like the pop of snapping fingers or the athletic undulation of a Fosse Amoeba formation gliding across the boards.

SC's talented team of dancers fired off a scene stealing number from Fosse's classic murder-musical "Chicago" like a smoking Derringer. "The Cell Block Tango," the less-than-remorseful confessions of murderous

minxes, was the darkly humorous highlight.

"He had it comin' he had it comin' he only had himself to blame.

If you had been there, if you had seen it,

I betcha you would have done the same.

Pop, six, squish, uh-uh, Cicero, Lipschitz"

The burlesque set was provocative, edgy and wickedly glamorous. Femme fatales justifying their impulsive murders of cheating husbands and lovers was twisted fun and performed with Fossean flair. This Shining rendition was dubbed the "Redrum Tango," though it was much more than Steven

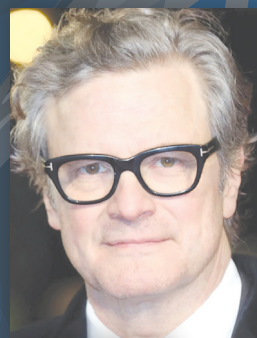
DANCE PG 15

# Highlights

## 2022 San Diego International Film Festival



OLIVIA COLEMAN

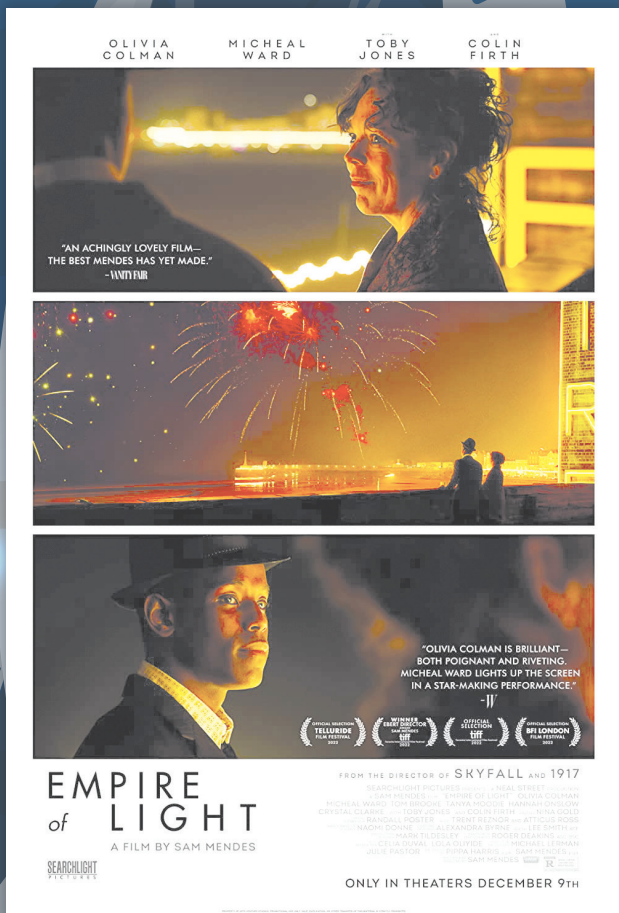


COLIN FIRTH

This year's San Diego International Film Festival had its share of Hollywood cache and a few stars who dropped in. Here are four red carpet moments:

- An opening night advanced screening of "Armageddon Time," starring Sir Anthony Hopkins and Anne Hathaway did not usher in the end of the world, but it was a house rockin' success.
- A special sneak peek screening of legendary director Sam Mendes' "Empire of Light" stars Olivia Coleman and Colin Firth. It lit up the festival.
- Andy Garcia, who starred in "The Godfather III," "Stand and Deliver" and "Ocean's Eleven" among many others, was awarded the Gregory Peck Award for Cinema Excellence. No one had to kiss his ring.
- Regina Hall, the "Scary Movie" and "Ally McBeal" star who co-hosted the 2022 Academy Awards, received the Cinema Vanguard Award. A prelude to her own Oscar someday?

Compiled by Edgar Ortega



Olivia Coleman photo Courtesy of Subotica/Embankment  
Colin Firth photo Courtesy of Dinsey Fanon Wiki



ANDY GARCIA



REGINA HALL

Andy Garcia photo Courtesy of IMDB  
Regina Hall photo Courtesy of The Movie Database

## Film festival star spangled learning experience

BY EDGAR ORTEGA  
Staff Writer

San Diego's International Film Festival may not be as famous as cinephile gatherings like Sundance or Cannes, but it may be more important to women and other underrepresented filmmakers.

Students, too.

This year's festival focused on promoting films by women and indigenous artists, according to festival artistic director Tonya Mantooth.

"We have to remember that women need funding in order to tell their stories," she said. "We chose 10 films to get the designation of the Women's Film Series to run at this year's event."

Only 7 percent of the top 250 films released in 2021 were directed by women, she said.

Representation of Native American filmmakers was even smaller, registering less than 1 percent.

Since 2012 Mantooth has made it a priority to feature the work of Indigenous artists at the SDIFF.

"The chairman and chairwoman sit on the advisory board with me and we curate a number of films (that reflect) issues the tribes face," she said.

Southwestern College adjunct film instructor Alexis Duran said he got an early career break at the SDIFF and each year he encourages his film students to go.

"It's crucial that students attend these festivals," he said. "They often showcase a lot of important stories from underrepresented communities. It's nice when students see that because it's like a mirror. It's a reminder of the stories they can tell."

Duran said the SDIFF is rich with networking opportunities and he encourages his students to volunteer.

"Our students can meet local filmmakers and make connections," he said.

Volunteering and networking can sometimes lead the students having their work screened at a future festival, Duran said. It happened for him.

"It's always nice when a stranger or a friend gets back to you and says 'I saw your film,'" he said. "That is an irreplaceable feeling."

SC film student Azalea Sherif agreed.

"I recommend it for anyone interested in getting into the business," she said. "You meet people already in the business, or trying to get into the business. You can become friends with them and go through the journey together."

Life experiences do not come from textbooks, Sherif said.

"Don't get caught up in just schoolwork," she advised. "Try to do as much as you can outside of school. Get those connections and meet people. It's never too late."

## Freewheeling skateboard culture is zag-zag Zen

BY CAMILA ALEJANDRA GONZALES  
Editor-in-Chief

Skateboarding is a sport, an art and a way of life. It is exercise and therapy. It inhabits an internal void in a way that can feel spiritual.

It can also skin the holy heck out of your knees, bruise your elbows and throw out your back.

Therein lies the rub.

Skating is the Zen meditation of falling down and getting back up. It is conquering fear and shaking off pain. It is a *Kaizen* quest for self-improvement. It is Jonathon Livingston Seagull for terrestrials.

Riding a skateboard is like rolling through life with a squirt of WD-40. Sometimes we confront grumpy people and testy security guards who call us vandals. Other times we roll up on kindly people who flash an encouraging smile and a thumbs up as if to say “keep at it!”

Skating is a transcendental outlet for Jocelyn Osegueda, a four-wheeling introvert who finds expression on her deck.

“I am not the kind of person who likes to talk about my feelings, so I skate when I need to off load,” she said. “The pain from falling distracts me from my emotions and is a way for me to cope. It just cancels everything out.”

Osegueda said she began skating in the seventh grade with her younger brother. They would skate aimlessly around their neighborhood, she recalled, as a way to arrive without traveling in the best of the Taoist tradition.

Injury is a constant possibility, she admitted, but never a deterrent. Skating is a constant dare that needs to be taken.

“Thankfully I’ve never broken a bone,” she said, “but I’ve been messed up a few times.”

Once, while shooting down a ramp at a skate park, she fell in an awkward split,

SKATE PG 15



**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD** — Skating legends like Tony Hawk inspire but do not intimidate recreational skaters who seek a buzz rather than bravura.

Photo Courtesy of Don Arnold / WireImage

Illustration By Edward Herrera / Staff

Photo Courtesy of Tonie Campbell



Q&A WITH OLYMPIAN TONIE CAMPBELL

## Track sage predicts bright future

BY ESTEBAN PRECIADO  
Staff Writer

**S**outhwestern is the college whose track and field team has neither a track nor a field. What it does have is Renaissance man Anthony “Tonie” Campbell as its track coach. He is an Olympic silver medalist and a coach of Olympic medalists. He is also a devoted mentor to Paralympians, an author and the college’s assistant athletic director.

Campbell and his track squad completed another successful season with a second place finish in the PCAC Finals, but he still does not have the state-of-the-art track facility he was promised when he was lured to SC in 2002. Even so, he pledged to continue to do his best with what he and his athletes have.

*Southwestern College replaced its track facility with a parking lot. What was your reaction? Do you think not having a training area is a hindrance for your team?*

Replacing the condemned track with a parking lot was actually my idea. I have been the head coach at Southwestern now for 20 seasons. I was hired in 2002 with the promise of a new facility. The school and economy entered a budget crisis, however, and the funds were absorbed. This happened again in 2007 with the (Proposition R) bond measure debacle and misappropriation of funds The Sun reported on extensively. Moving on to 2016 and the newest bond measure, the track was not a priority. The team had not been using the (demolished track). We trained at local high schools.

I proposed to the (former dean) to demolish the track and convert it into a temporary parking lot for construction and student parking (with the commitment that) once our parking issues were resolved, the track would be pushed a priority. Unfortunately, the idea has worked too well. What was (supposed to be) an 18-month temporary situation has turned into four years.

I’m very frustrated with the process.

The fact that I’ve had winning teams despite not having a facility only makes me and others wonder what successes we could have had with a track on site.

*Are there lessons you apply that help you evolve as a head coach?*

I’m in my 20th season of coaching at this beloved college. I’m still learning and developing. My philosophy is if you think you know it all, you don’t. If you tire of learning, it’s time to retire. Athletes and the sport demand evolution. Last season COVID taught us all to be patient and hopeful. There are great and talented young men and women in this county, especially in Chula Vista. It’s our job to give them the opportunity to compete, improve and move on to university athletic programs or at least leave here knowing more about themselves.

*What motivates you to keep going through the ups and downs of a season?*

Love for the sport, but most importantly my passion for the mission of helping others (to) be the best they can be.



**“My philosophy is if you think you know it all, you don’t. If you tire of learning, it’s time to retire. Athletes and the sport demand evolution.”**

TONIE CAMPBELL  
SC ASSISTANT  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Photo By Nicolette Monique Luna / Staff

**SEASON OF GOOD CHEER** — Members of the men's soccer team and football team celebrate a goal by the women's soccer team that clinched the league title. Coach Carolina Soto and several of her players said they appreciated the support they received from many of their male counterparts.

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

## SOCCKER: Lady Jags undefeated on way to league championship

Captain Daisy Harbin said Soto and her coaches were teachers, counselors and advocates all rolled in one.

"The coaches are absolutely amazing," she said. "I can come to them for anything, even if it's not soccer or school. They're a support system for all of us."

Soto said that was a goal of her coaching team.

"The biggest thing for me is showing them that I care, and that our staff cares," she said. "We're a very unique staff. We're three female coaches, so we can connect to (female athletes) well. I think we all bring a very different dynamic to the table."

Thanks to this dynamic, the team

has been able to accomplish so much this year.

A conference championship was step one, Soto said. Her team is now taking aim at the regional playoffs, followed by an invitation to the state championship tournament.

Harbin said the Lady Jaguars are wired to win.

"We have a lot of heart," she said. "It doesn't matter what's thrown at us."

Arredondo described her team as ambassadors for the community.

"We hope to bring back respect to the South Bay because we've been working so hard," she said.

That, she added, would be sweet.



Photo By Nicolette Monique Luna / Staff

CONTINUED FROM PG 13

## DANCE

King in tights.

Student performances throughout the evening were vibrant and soulful. It was lovely to see such command of dance vocabulary from the diverse ensemble.

It was just as much fun to listen to them.

Discerning members of the audience can correctly predict whether the next number is ballet or tap by the sounds of the dancer's shoes in the wings. When the stage is pitch black, listen for the muffled hint of soft wooden blocks in pointe ballet shoes. Metallic resonance from tap shoes means a uniquely American dance form is about to riddle the stage with its staccato rhythm and ambling joy.

"Danse Mystere" featured a tap number that was magnificent. Working together like dancing drummers, the performers played the music with their feet, accompanying themselves as they flowed across the stage like water crashing down a rocky creek.

Feets of magic abound.

CONTINUED FROM PG 13

## CAFÉ: Singers bring warmth, creativity to jazz standards

younger singers, but Diane Amore was the embodiment of confidence as she romped through "Ain't Misbehavin'." Her mature and lively performance engaged the audience and elevated the mood.

West Coast Syncopation returned for a buoyant performance of "Shiny Stockings" highlighted by a brilliant scat solo by Dafne Acuña-Burgueño. It was evocative of the great scat singer Fitzgerald and a high point of the evening.

Joselyn Castillo and Adrian-Alfredo Llamas (introduced by director Tracy Burkland as Elvis) were crowd pleasers. As they crooned "Basin Street Blues," they gazed into each other's eyes and shared a captivating performance. An earthy scat by Llamas was more Louis Armstrong than Elvis, though he showed flashes of The King's shimmering charisma.

Haelie Snow, Karen Freeman, and Pablo Gamifio ended the first course of Jazz Café with the soaring classic



ELLA FITZGERALD

Grossmont College's Cadence Vocal Jazz Ensemble haunted the café after intermission. CVJ was relaxed and confident as it poured into "Tea for Two" to re-caffeinate the audience.

Heather Salanga was graceful, sassy and full of feeling with "I'm Beginning to See the Light." Her scat performed was a crowd favorite, earning enthusiastic applause.

Christian Rodriguez, a guitarist in the Grossmont band, stepped to the mic with his axe for his

"Fly Me to the Moon." The rendition was so memorable a u d i e n c e m e m b e r s could be heard humming the tune as they left for intermission. There is no more organic musical tribute.

singing debut with "After You've Gone." He was double trouble with his strong voice and dexterous accompaniment.

"Dream a Little Dream of Me," in the hands of Esteban Soria, was somber and moody. Classically romantic, he sang with such commitment one could imagine he was thinking of someone special.

Eva Baffone said the standard "Honeysuckle Rose" made her feel "honored to sing." Her performance was fast and twisty, enticing listeners with a compelling spin on the melody.

In the generous spirit of jazz, SC and Grossmont shared the stage for a swipe at Fitzgerald fave "A-Tisket A-Tasket" that felt improvised but exciting. Sometimes the best jazz happens when artists and audience are not sure what's coming next.

Tracy Burkland's ensemble was, once again, classy and tuneful. Jazz Café gets five stars for its galaxy of twinkling lights.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 14

## SKATE: Time on the board can be a spiritual respite

scraping her face and much of her body. It was a bad case of road rash, the dreaded asphalt malady of the true believers. She winced as she recounted how badly her wounds burned when she had to scrub them out in the shower. Later the scars became dermatological badges of honor.

Her favorite tricks are Ollies and 180s, she said, but she is most happy gliding the flatlands.

"I prefer to skate street, so I can just have some time to do something I enjoy alone," she said.

Osegeda's kid brother Rafael, 17, said he started skating in the ninth grade. As a youngster he enjoyed bombing hills, doing kick flips, vibing to his music and cruising around with his sister. Skating with Jocelyn brought him peace, he said. Still does.

*"The pain from falling distracts me from my emotions and is a way for me to cope. It just cancels everything out."*

**Jocelyn Osegeda**

SKATER

Mark Ramirez, a shy 18 year old, rocked a royal Adidas mask, an oversized tee that flapped around his hips and ivory Converse that were worn out, but hanging on for another session. His shaggy brown hair bounced in wavy curls that cascaded down over his invisible ears. Ramirez started skating his freshman year of high school, he said, and was hooked.

"It's a fun pastime," he said. "Skating is good exercise and a way to destress after a long day. It gets me out of the house and helps me maintain a healthy state of mind."

Ramirez said his favorite aspect of the skate community is that it supports beginners.

Injuries loom, even for the greats. Legendary Tony Hawk recently posted photos of his broken femur with a caption expressing how recovery will be much longer due to his age.

"I am up for the challenge," he said. So, too, his femur.

An HBO skate documentary, "Until the Wheels Fall Off," features Hawk at his philosophical best.

"I found my sense of purpose and shaped my identity through skating, and it nourishes my mental health like nothing else," said the Baron of Bearings. "I've said many times that I won't stop skating until I am physically unable."

Hawk is able again and soaring on his board. So is Osegeda. Nothing can keep devoted skaters off their boards for long. The hills, ramps and roads await like the path to enlightenment...or at least endorphins.

Southwestern College has a mysterious Sunday crew that visitors can hear from a distance, but rarely glimpse. Its wiry members scatter at the sight of campus police or workaholic faculty like finches who spot a skulking cat. Guerilla skaters are to be heard but not seen.

When the heat moves on, the skaters re-enter the arena. Joyous racket resumes.

Jocelyn, Raphael, Mark and Tony are miles away and galaxies apart in ability, but connected through time and space. Skaters are bonded by their universal exhilaration and mishaps. Cool landings become good stories, spills become even better ones.

Skating is life.



Photo By Nicolette Monique Luna / Staff



Photo By Nicolette Monique Luna / Staff



Photo By Nicolette Monique Luna / Staff

**IMAGES OF THE COMMUNITY** — (top l) Aztec dancers invite goodness and hope to the new Chicano Park Museum. (l, below) Museum director and Amigos Car Club stalwart Rigo Reyes with a miniature bridge pillar honoring the trans-border lowrider culture. (above) Students from Kumeyaay Community College created a pillar featuring their culture that lists all the regional Kumeyaay villages on its side.

## Museum is a new community pillar

Chicano Park, born of revolt, has a home to collect its history and culture

BY NICOLETTE MONIQUE LUNA  
News Editor

CHICANO PARK — It was a celebration that rumbled through the community like joyous thunder.

Even three blocks away the grand opening announcement rang through Barrio Logan, an aural symphony of rattling Aztec dancers, fiery mariachi licks,

playful low rider horns and *gritos de gozo*.

Barrio Logan's Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center was open for business.

Getting to it was another matter. A phalanx of epic low riders sparkled and strutted with bouncing pride. Dancers with better feathers than Quetzalcoatl gyrated and rattled rhythmically in spiritual wisps of *incienso*. Visitors

**"It's a dream come true. We've been talking about this for 47 years."**

RIGOBERTO "RIGO" REYES

LEADER OF LOS AMIGOS CAR CLUB, CHICANO PARK MUSEUM DIRECTOR

wore pride on their shoulders like *El Tri* soccer jerseys. Taking it all in with wide eyes

and a wide smile was Rigoberto "Rigo" Reyes, leader of Los Amigos Car Club and a director of the new

museum.

"It's a dream come true," he said. "We've been talking about this for 47 years."

The talking part is done. Brimming from the museum are the history and culture of Barrio Logan and the broader Chicano community. Each room is a walk-in memory book of the region's

MUSEUM PG 12



Photo By Nicolette Monique Luna / Staff

**TRIUMPH OF 'LOS CHAVALITOS'** — Beloved Chicano troubadour Ramon "Chunky" Sanchez is the centerpiece of a pillar honoring the role of music in the United Farm Workers Movement. Sanchez played countless rallies with UFW leaders Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, and recorded the iconic song "Chicano Park Samba," which is now part of the Smithsonian Folkways Recordings collection for its impact on American culture.