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Coyote Chronicle

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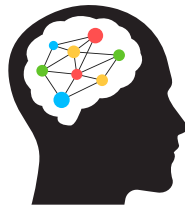
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CSU FACULTY DISSATISFIED WITH CFA'S TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

Many say calling off the strike after a couple of hours was a mistake



By Jacqueline Flores Staff Reporter

On January 22, 2024, a statewide campus strike regarding unfair wages, labor load and parental leave began and ended in the first 24 hours, when the California Faculty Association (CFA) accepted a Tentative Agreement from the California State University (CSU), leaving faculty and staff with mixed feelings.

CFA and faculty began their fight in July of last year, when the union got together to discuss certain issues such as unfair pay and workload. In the end, they formed a list of demands for CSU. This list included; a general salary increase of 12% for faculty, an extension on parental leave (6 weeks to 16 weeks) and access to gender neutral bathrooms and lactation rooms.

After months of negotiations, CSU came back with an unsatisfactory deal of a salary increase of 5% not retroactive. CFA sprung to action stating that "all good faith efforts have been exhausted" and called for a

vote on a strike. 95% of voting members voted in favor of the strike.

The strike was to last for a week, the first week of spring semester. Many prepared to have classes canceled, until the night of January 22, less than 24 hours since the strike had started, emails were sent statewide. A tentative agreement was made between the CFA and CSU.

But the official negotiation left many of the faculty scratching their heads.

The deal was not necessarily what they were looking for. CSU and CFA settled on a 5% salary retroactive to July of 2023 and another 5% salary increase in July of 2024, but only depending if CSU's budget is not cut. They also received an increase in parental leave by four weeks, an alternative offer to their demand of a 10 week increase.

"My initial reaction was disappointment." Professor and Faculty Chair Matthew Poole shares,

"I was worried about the contingent part of the second 5% step increase in salaries (this is contingent on the state not cutting baseline funding for the

CSU next year). It introduces a risk, which doesn't seem fair."

The contingent salary increase was just one of the many problems faculty members were grappling with. Many were confused as to why CFA agreed

to a deal so quickly and others were quick to notice that the offer was worse than the past offer made by CSU.

Users on X were quick to flood the official account of CFA (@CFA_United) with questions, concerns and outrage.

User @robindodds8 can be found under many of their posts, expressing their distraught on the agreement. "Don't celebrate- this deal is a joke and will get voted down" is just one of their many replies to users who are commemorating this deal.

In a similar way, many shared their idea to vote no on the tentative agreement.

User @jeremyL34071482 expresses in a post on X, "We are voting NO to the tentative agreement. TBH, those are BS benefits, marginally better, actually worse from some perspectives. You should go back to the negotiation table to represent members truly, or we quit and form our own union as @CFA_United does NOT represent faculty."

Many are also convinced that calling for a strike was pointless considering their new offer.

"Why did I walk the picket lines all day just for CFA to cave? What was the point? What

did I strike for? It seems all I won was a day spent walking around in the rain eating a soggy sandwich." user @ashaneitheass states in a post.

But not everyone is opposing the terms of this negotiation and consider this a small win.



CFA members form a picket line across an intersection Photo Credit: @CFA_United on X

Professor Poole states, "Overall, this is a win for faculty and students. The Chancellor's Office negotiating team refused to continue the negotiations in December and January. That was a disgrace. That we collectively moved the needle, and moved it so far is really good."

He plans on voting yes, and he may not be the only one. CFA is currently taking action in this controversy, assuring the public that they made the decision for the best possible outcome.

In a statement posted on their official website, addressing faculty and staff, they state, "Although we did not get everything we wanted, the meaningful gains in this contract reflect how far we've come as an organizing union committed to anti-racism and social justice. There is no doubt that the work continues, and that more progress is needed."

CFA also discusses possible outcomes in voting 'yes or no'. They warn that voting 'no' can return them to negotiating, a negotiation CSU is not obligated to come back to.

Official voting for the Tentative Agreement began February 12, 2024 at 8am and will remained open until February 18th.



CFA San Bernardino members picket outside CSUSB entrance. Photo Credit: CFA San Bernardino

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Department of Communication Studies

CSUSB Alumni Tyler Lange:

Inspires Action & Representation for Black History Month



Students, administrators, faculty and staff gather in the San Manuel Student Union conference. Photo Taken by Brenda Hernandez.

By Brenda Hernandez
Staff Writer

The 2024 CSUSB Black History Month celebrations have commenced with a lined up series of events that will span throughout the month of February. The inaugural speech opened with Tyler Lange, guest speaker and CSUSB alumni, who encouraged students to Galvanize, take action on Thursday, February 1, 2024 at a 12 pm held event at SMSU North to celebrate Black History Month.

The San Manuel Student Union conference center hosted the first of a six series events scheduled for Black History Month. Despite the rain, students, administrators, faculty and staff gather in a large room filled with rows of chairs, tables decorated with a flower arrangement and pictures of famous Black achievers as a centerpiece.

Lange urges students to galvanize, that is take action, as a way to foster black success. He states “Black students need to be able to connect with more successful black role

models. Especially in those fields that they’re interested in and especially, in those fields that black students and blacks are underrepresented in. Like anything, however, this would require everyone to galvanize.” With these words of encouragement, Lange implies students to seek mentorship in all communities. Guidance from those who have experience empowers students to continue on with their own journey. It becomes less scary or challenging to fulfill any professional role.

Furthermore, Lange talks about representation.

“For many people, the path to success begins with representation. It is easier to envision yourself in a position if you see people that look like you in that position. When I made that decision to pursue a degree in education. My primary motivation was that anger that I mentioned. I was angry with the lack of representation in education.”

With these words, Lange highlights the impact of representation in the black community. Representation

inspires community members to aspire to new heights, new territory.

Reflecting on his personal experiences growing up, Lange states “My journey did not begin because of what I had. Rather, it began because of what I lacked.” Lange frank words are powerful. He admits that his journey in education would probably not have taken the course without the lack of black role models in academia. Rather than conforming to the status quo, Lange aimed to be the one who brought change to future generations by introducing a new normal. He encourages students to also do the same. To be empowered to bring change and by doing so, they are contributing to black excellence.

Lange concluded his speech with the following words: “Be the change that you would like to see in the world. Because, when we’re angry about the injustice of unfair eyes. We are motivated to change them. When we are motivated to change them, we galvanize together as a community to make it happen.”



Stormy Skies Over San Bernardino

Residents Warned of Flash Flood Danger

By **Ryu Oshiro**
Staff Writer

As heavy rains gloom over San Bernardino, residents are on edge as the threat of flash flooding becomes a reality. Emergency services must be on high alert, and precautionary measures, such as amber alerts are being utilized as the downpour worsens.

As the rains over San Bernardino intensify, the city and surrounding areas are once again having to face the imminent threat of flash flooding. The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued severe weather warnings, stating that there is a significant threat to life and/or property. They are also warning residents to remain vigilant and to take necessary precautions during this potentially life-threatening weather. With the water levels rising rapidly in low areas and bodies of water swelling beyond capacity, emergency services are on high alert in order to reduce the danger caused by these unusual weather conditions. Authorities emphasize the importance of staying informed through official channels and following any evacuation orders if issued. The use of sandbags has been seen around the city, as well as here at CSUSB to help fortify buildings against the potential flood. The conditions of the roads are also severe—with visibility being

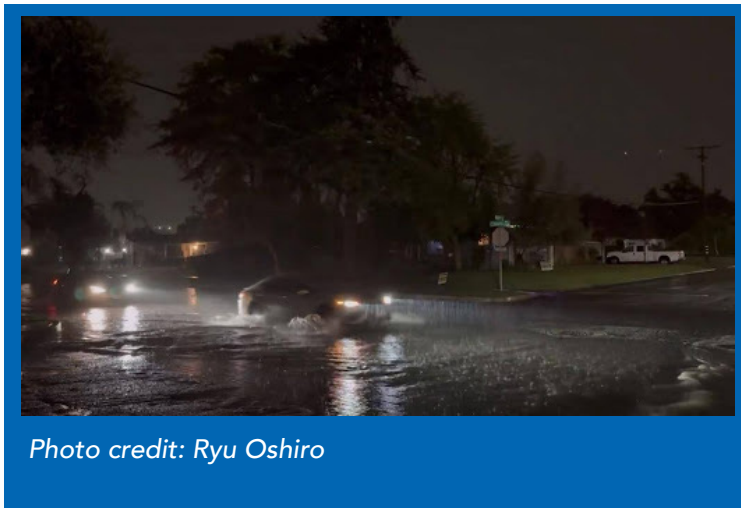


Photo credit: Ryu Oshiro

reduced greatly and the risk of vehicles losing control is higher than ever. As a result, traveling is not recommended unless absolutely necessary. Residents have been urged to exercise caution when trying to navigate flooded areas and any sort of fast-moving waterways. Power outages have occurred as a result of these weather-related damages.

These weather conditions are reminiscent of the recent memory of the flooding at our own CSUSB University Hall. The buildings' basement was severely water damaged and had to be closed off for a long period of time, and most materials and devices held down below were also damaged beyond repair. This serves as a stark reminder of the major problems caused by flash floods, as well as the vulnerability of areas that are not prepared for unusual weather conditions such as this.

The incident also derailed plans for a number of classes that were planning to be held on that level, further highlighting the disruptive impact these natural disasters can have on our community. What we learned from this experience is that proactive and preventative measures are highly important to mitigate these risks that may threaten us again in the future.

As San Bernardino braces for the onslaught of heavy rains, the key things to remember throughout this entire experience is to remain resilient and focus on community. Collectively committing to facing the challenges posed by the potential flash flooding is key to navigating the uncertainties presented to us by Mother Nature. CSUSB and San Bernardino will endure through these rough conditions.



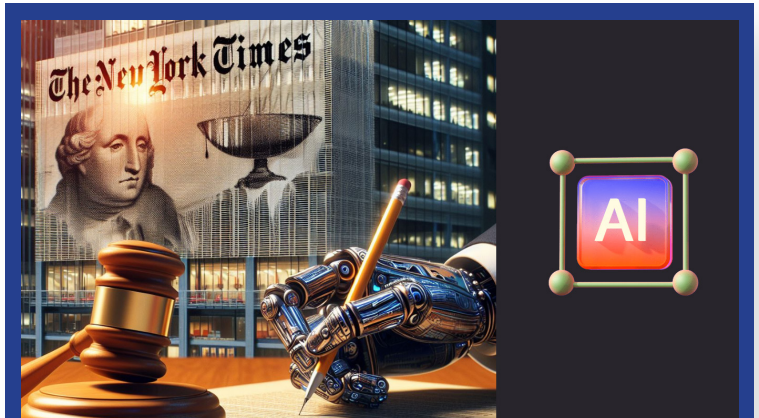
The NYT's Bold Leap into AI

A Threat to Credible Journalism Practice ?

By **Coyote Chronicle Staff**

In a recent Twitter thread that feels like an insider's peek into the future of journalism, Zach Seward, the Chief Technology Officer at The New York Times, is sharing the newspaper's bold step into the realm of artificial intelligence (AI). The revelation is sparking an electric mix of excitement, curiosity, and a touch of skepticism among industry experts, journalists, and enthusiasts.

sentiment echoed across the thread is one of eagerness to witness the evolution of the Times' reporting methodologies and the broader impact on the industry. @jjackyliang chimed in with a succinct "Yo!!," reflecting the collective intrigue surrounding the initiative. @film_girl expressed her admiration with a simple "Love this!!", capturing the positive sentiment resonating throughout the community. As the conversation unfolded, it became clear that the NY Times' foray into AI had struck a chord with professionals and students



The image was AI Generated by binqai.com

The newsroom's decision to 'open source' its AI learnings, as suggested by one user, emerged as a beacon of collaboration and transparency. Seward expressed his intention to share insights into the approach during a talk at the upcoming SXSW in March, emphasizing a commitment to disseminate knowledge that could potentially benefit other news organizations. This move aligns with the spirit of fostering innovation beyond the confines of a single entity and empowering the broader media landscape.

The NY Times' endeavor has ignited discussions on the potential transformation of journalism in the next decade. Enthusiastic responses poured in, with users like @eddiemajor_ applauding the Times for its proactive stance on AI, while @the_coach_life envisioned a hybrid model combining human and AI efforts to create an encyclopedic resource. The

alike. @danpach, teaching an AI for Media Professionals class at Syracuse/Newhouse, extended an invitation for a Zoom session, showcasing the cross-pollination of ideas and collaboration emerging in the academic space.

However, the venture is also faced with some skepticism. It's clear that the reception isn't universally positive. Amidst the applause and anticipation, dissenting voices, like that of @therealandyhat, emerge, expressing concerns about the potential impact on the newspaper's distinctive human-crafted journalism. He declares, "I subscribe to NYT for quality human-crafted journalism (and the crossword). If it's going to start being infested by generative AI crap, I guess it might be time to cancel..."

This sentiment underscores a

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CSUSB's 'Comeback and Kick It' Event Turns Sour



Amidst the weather, students were still gathering at all student unions for direction. Photography credits to Damaris Preciado

On January 23, just one day later, an announcement was made declaring the cancellation of the strike, with classes slated to resume on the same day. This unexpected development not only disrupted the planned event but also caught students off guard, as many had not anticipated returning to campus so promptly.

SMSU front desk associate, Sandra Rodriguez had spoken on the importance of creating a positive atmosphere for students after the challenges posed by the CFA strikes.

Rodriguez stated, "We wanted to give students a reason to come back to campus with enthusiasm and a sense of togetherness. 'Comeback and Kick It!' is a testament to the student community even if it only lasted a day."

Another student, Gwen Watson from ASI Programs that planned the event highlighted the collaborative effort between SMSU and ASI in organizing the event and the disappointment it was when classes were set to resume.

Watson said "We recognized the need to support our fellow students during this uncertain time. 'Comeback and Kick It!' It was disappointing that the abrupt resumption of classes disrupted our plans, but we remain committed to the plan of the event."

Maria Torres, Junior, a student that participated in one of the movie screenings shared her experience at the event.

Torres stated, "It's been a tough start to the semester, but events like these really make a difference. It's reassuring to know that the university cares about us if we had nothing to do. I just feel like the strike happened at the worse time"

"Comeback and Kick It!" succeeded in its mission to provide students with a sense of community amid the disruptions caused by the CFA strikes. The event demonstrated the resilience and unity of the student body in hopes for a positive start to the Spring 2024 semester.

By Damaris Preciado
Staff Writer

In an effort to ease the effects of the recent strikes by the California Faculty Association (CFA) and provide a welcoming refuge for students left in limbo, Santos Manuel Student Union (SMSU) and Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) organized a four-day event called "Comeback and Kick It!"

The event, held from January 22 to 25, aimed to rekindle the spirit of the student body as they prepared to return for courses and the challenges of the upcoming Spring 2024 semester.

"Comeback and Kick It!" was an all inclusive four-day event that offered students a much-needed break from the chaos caused by the CFA strikes. It provided a space for relaxation, entertainment, and closeness, featuring activities such as a cereal bar in the morning, free pizza in the afternoon, movie screenings all day, and games hosted in the conference and events rooms at SMSU North and South.

The event took place from January 22 to 25, strategically scheduled to coincide with the beginning of the Spring 2024 school semester. This timing

allowed students to kick off the semester with a positive and energizing experience after the disruptions caused by the strike that was set to last a week.

The heart of the event unfolded at SMSU North and South, where students got together to enjoy a variety of activities. The student union served as a central hub for the festivities, creating an inclusive space that was to promote a sense of community and support during a challenging period.

"Comeback and Kick It!" featured a diverse range of activities that catered to different student interests. The cereal bar provided a cozy spot for students to unwind and enjoy a variety of

cereals, while free pizza offered a satisfying treat during breaks. Movie screenings throughout the week allowed students to relax and escape into different worlds, fostering a sense of connection through shared experiences with their peers.

The primary motivation behind "Comeback and Kick It!" was the impact of the CFA strikes, which left students without classes and a sense of direction at the beginning of the semester. SMSU and ASI recognized the need to provide students with a space where they could come together, relax, and recharge before delving into the academic challenges or if they had nowhere to go during any

period of time.

The strikes had caused widespread disruption and uncertainty, and the organizers aimed to counteract the negative effects by creating a positive and uplifting environment. The event was not only about entertainment but also about rebuilding the sense of community that defines the university experience.

CFA announced their strike days before the beginning of the semester because of loss of wages and working conditions. The strike was stated to last the whole week. This was not the case. Due to the weather conditions and law enforcement interactions, the strike was not displaying a positive turn out.

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CSUSB Crime Rates At An All Time Low Since The Pandemic

By Paola Escobar Pivalal
Staff Writer

The Campus Police Department at Cal State, San Bernardino (CSUSB) does much more than just send us emails about wind advisories and freeze warnings. It may seem like they are just cruising the campus for citations, but if you check the CSUSB Police page on the school’s website, you will find that they have been tracking much more than just minor infractions.

The University Police have significantly lowered the crime rate on campus in the last ten years. Our UPD has kept a record of crime-related instances dating back to 2014. On the CSUPD website, everyone can view the crime graphics and charts online. We are free to view the most common crime-related occurrences such as aggravated assault, rape, theft, homicide, stolen vehicles, and arson. In 2023, there was only one report of rape, and 0 reports made in both 2021 and 2022. From 2015 to 2017, car theft was at an all-time high ranging from 21-25 a year! Thanks to the campus police, there was only one car theft in 2023. A current student at the CSUSB SB campus (she chose to stay anonymous) was asked how she felt about her

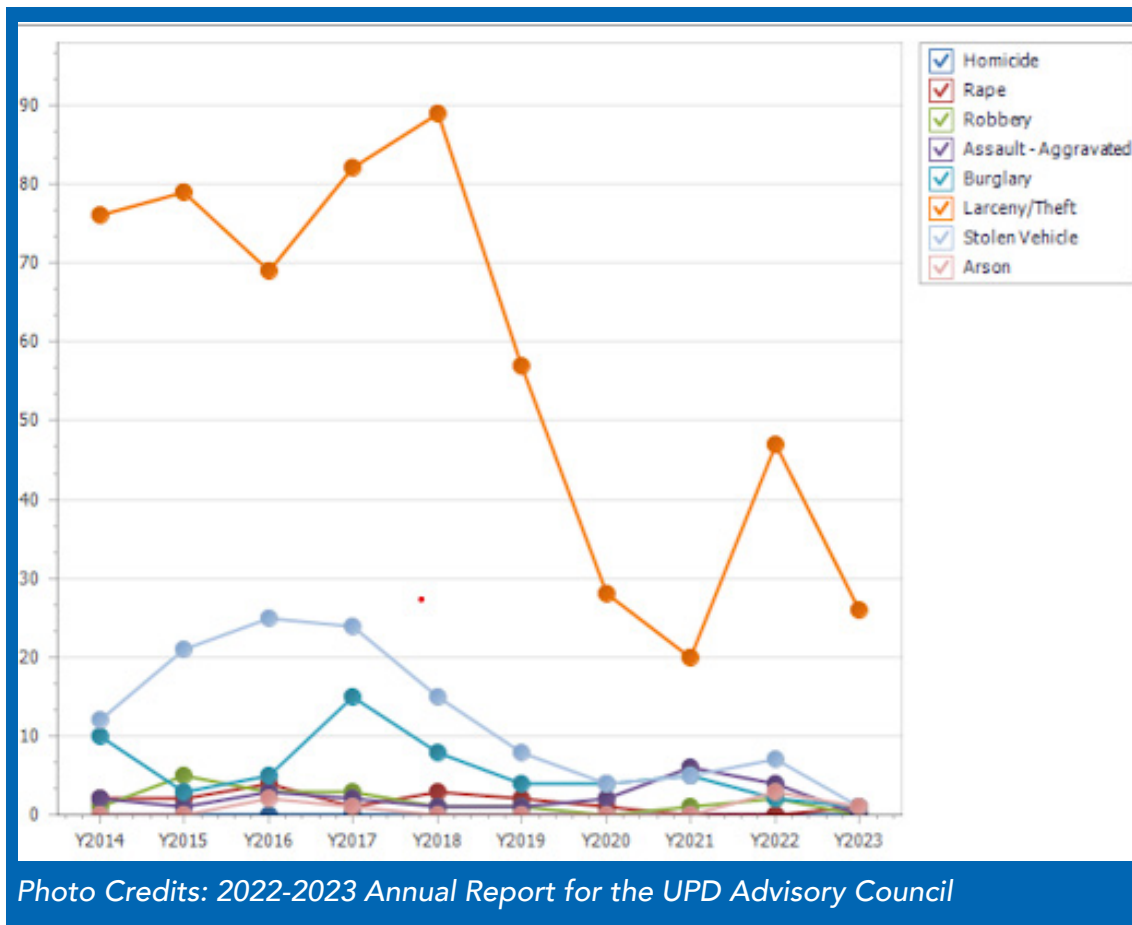


Photo Credits: 2022-2023 Annual Report for the UPD Advisory Council

safety while on campus. She stated, “I trust being on campus and the campus officials assigned to the school’s safety.” You can see the decline in lawlessness in the graph below. Please take into consideration that 2020 was the year the campus closed due to the pandemic and 2021 was primarily online due to the pandemic as well.

The 2022-2023 Annual

Report for the UPD Advisory Council found online, states under Crime Prevention/Active Shooter Presentations that the University Police Department has been actively working on ways to educate and inform staff and students on how to respond to an active shooter. These drills were facilitated between Palm Desert and San Bernardino Campuses where 27 planned

28 drills were carried out. In addition to this crime prevention, the campus police noted that the 2022-2023 school year was the year of the catalytic converter. According to the UPD annual report, there was a significant increase in catalytic converter theft in parking lots B, C, and D. To address this issue, the UPD installed three new cameras and deployed police staff in more

visible areas for patrol.

The fall semester is always one of the more challenging seasons for the UPD due to Daylight Savings. Because of this time change, the UPD anticipates transgression in more violent crimes, like robbery within their daily reported calls. Our Staff Development Center actively worked with the UPD to create a Daylight Savings Safety presentation to ensure that staff and students are aware of their surroundings during the early sunsets.

The University Police Department offers so many online resources to help students and staff alike. On their website, you can find links to counseling and psychological help, an office on violence against women, and links for the rape, abuse, and incest national networks. You can even find threat assessments to help determine indicators of potential concern. Students can also sign up for campus crime alerts on their phones to be “in the know” of all events while on and off campus. CSUSB is safe because of our university police and we thank them for their time and service every day.

If you would like to report a crime, you can contact the University Police Dept at: (909) 537-5165 or (909) 535-7777.

If you would like to remain anonymous, you can contact the UPD anonymous tip line at: (909) 537-7786

“Watts of Power Foundation” Empowers Male Educators during Black History Month

By Coyote Chronicle Staff

As the nation commemorates Black History Month, the spotlight is not only on celebrating the rich heritage and contributions of Black individuals but also on addressing the systemic inequalities that persist. In the US education system, one glaring issue stands out: the severe underrepresentation of Black men in the teaching profession. However, in the heart of South Los Angeles, Dr. Peter Watts and Dr. Didi Watts, a dynamic couple deeply entrenched in the world of education, have embarked on a mission to bridge this gap through their unique initiative.

Founders of the Watts of Power Foundation, the Watts couple, both seasoned educators, established their organization

in 2017 with a clear vision to revolutionize education. “Its focus is to change education or the narrative around education, but it is working through the adults who work with children to make the change,” explained Didi, underscoring their holistic approach to effecting transformation.

In 2021, the Watts unveiled their flagship program, the “Teacher Village Initiative,” a visionary two-year residency program aimed explicitly at nurturing prospective Black male educators. Now in its second cohort, the initiative has already enlisted 15 dedicated men. Peter elaborated on its core objectives: “It focuses on the recruitment, retention, training, and housing of Black men who want to become teachers in schools in Los Angeles.”

The program’s strategic partnerships with Cal State University Dominguez Hills and

the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) are pivotal. Fellows receive their credentials through Cal State, while LAUSD offers them employment upon program completion. Didi emphasized the significance of these collaborations, highlighting the assurance of job placement as a crucial factor for aspiring educators.

Data from the California Department of Education underscores the urgency of initiatives like the Teacher Village Initiative, revealing a stark reality: just one percent of teachers in the state are Black males. The Watts couple identified numerous barriers obstructing Black men from pursuing teaching, including past traumatic experiences within the education system.

Drawing on their firsthand experiences and research, the Watts recognize the profound impact of representation. “We

know there’s data that suggests the importance of having access and exposure to a Black teacher,” Didi affirmed. Indeed, studies indicate that students with Black teachers exhibit improved academic outcomes and higher aspirations.

Beyond recruitment, the Teacher Village Initiative prioritizes holistic support for its fellows. Through life skills training and affordable housing provisions, the program addresses multifaceted challenges, from financial literacy to trauma healing. “We’re providing them training in financial literacy and self-care along with the components of care so that they are a whole human,” Didi explained, emphasizing the holistic approach.

The initiative’s commitment to affordable housing is particularly commendable, offering a tangible solution

to the housing crisis plaguing many urban areas. Located in the vibrant West Adams neighborhood, the current housing accommodates five fellows, with plans for expansion underway. Avery, the son of the Watts, attests to the transformative impact of communal living: “Living in Los Angeles, it’s no secret it’s very expensive out here... the housing becomes affordable. It makes a huge difference for teachers.” For Avery, who serves as a physical education teacher and Athletic Director, the call to teaching resonated deeply. “Being a Black male student, it’s important to see someone that’s leading positively as yourself,” he remarked, reflecting on his journey.

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CSUSB Opens First Neurodivergent Space

By Arizdelsi Martinez
Staff Writer

California State University of San Bernardino has opened the first designated safe space for neurodivergent students in the California State University Systems in University Hall 401.02 envisioned by Jess Nerren and other parties.

very difficult task with its own obstacles, now adding outside factors such as disabilities can be a bigger deterrent to students on the spectrum or students with disabilities.

“I am an adult that is neurodiverse, I have been diagnosed with autism amongst many other diagnoses that go with it. But I am also a proud mother of two on the spectrum.

the spectrum, be able to be themselves, and engage in behaviors that other neurotypical students may judge upon.

“I suffered a lot in school, it was bright lights over my head, lots of noise coming from all directions, and sometimes even multiple classrooms in one space. As an autistic person we sometimes can not sort out the noise. I would have internal melt

downs, where it felt as if I were in a trance. Now as an adult, after teaching I run to my office, a space where I get in the dark, put my headphones on, hum and rock in my chair. If I

couldn't do that there would be no way I could teach,” said John Sweeney, CSUSB professor.

This is a great leap for those on the spectrum and of the disabled community to be able to embrace everyone no matter who they are. This space truly signifies that with enough determination and efforts of those around us we can make an impact to better our community.

In hopes of the C.O.G. (Cognitive Collective) can be the first step to open for more initiation from other Universities to also embrace their students on the spectrum so that all students can succeed.

It is a great relief to know that there is a space as such for my daughter who just started college. I feel like this space is also a transitional space

“Today was a special day, just hearing so many campus leaders [Kevin Grisham, Vice President Paz Olivera, Molly Springer, Julie Diep, Jchad Sweener, and Lori Palmerton] talking about neuro diversity inclusion and making space for our neurodivergent folks and allies on our campus is a dream come true,” said Jess Nerren, founder of the Neurodivergent Space. As one of the first ever spaces to be designated specifically for neurodivergent students, it paves a movement for advocating for the needs that neurodivergent students have and are now accessible to them with this space.

It is estimated around 128,000 people in our surrounding countries are diagnosed to be on the spectrum. Around the United States 25% of the population is disabled at any given time.

“This effort from start to finish was dreamed up by neurodiverse folks and their allies that was made for neurodiverse folks and their allies every step of the way. In a beautiful collaboration between students, staff, faculty, administration and the community of disabled self advocates in the Inland Empire,” said Nerren.

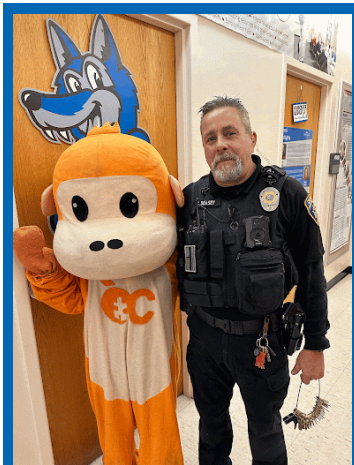
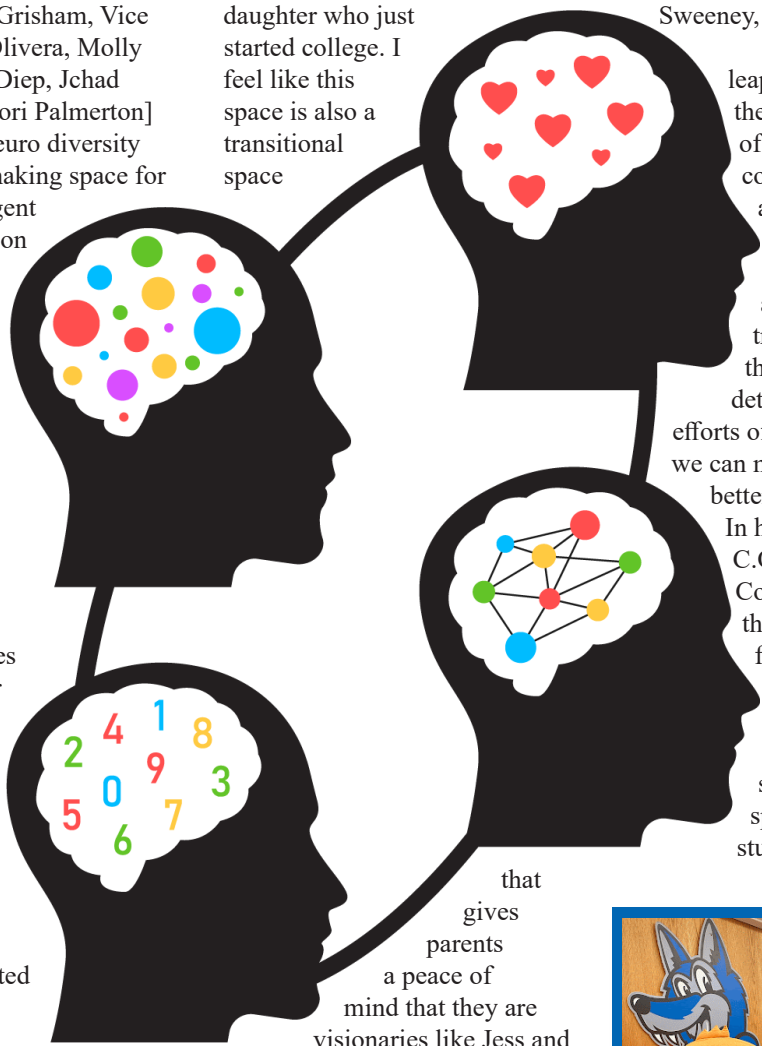
Navigating University as an incoming freshman is already a

that gives parents a peace of mind that they are visionaries like Jess and her amazing team and students that contribute to this vision to build a center... that our children are worthy of a space in college to have that additional support,” said Julie Diep, Founder and President of OC.

By encouraging spaces like this one brings into light the necessary support that certain students need in our academic community. The Cognitive Collective: A space for neuroconnection, neuroharmony, and neurodiversity is not just as simple as an area that neurodivergent students can hang out. This is where students can interact with others on



Julie Diep Founder and President of OC Autism Foundation takes a photo with Austin the mascot as they embrace the opening of the Neurodivergent “space that gives parents like us a peace of mind.” Photo Credit: Julie Diep



A California State University Police department Officer takes a photo in front of the new Neurodivergent space. Photo Credit: Arizdelsi Martinez

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CSUSB's APIDA Center Embraces Diversity with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

By Phillip Radomski
Staff Writer

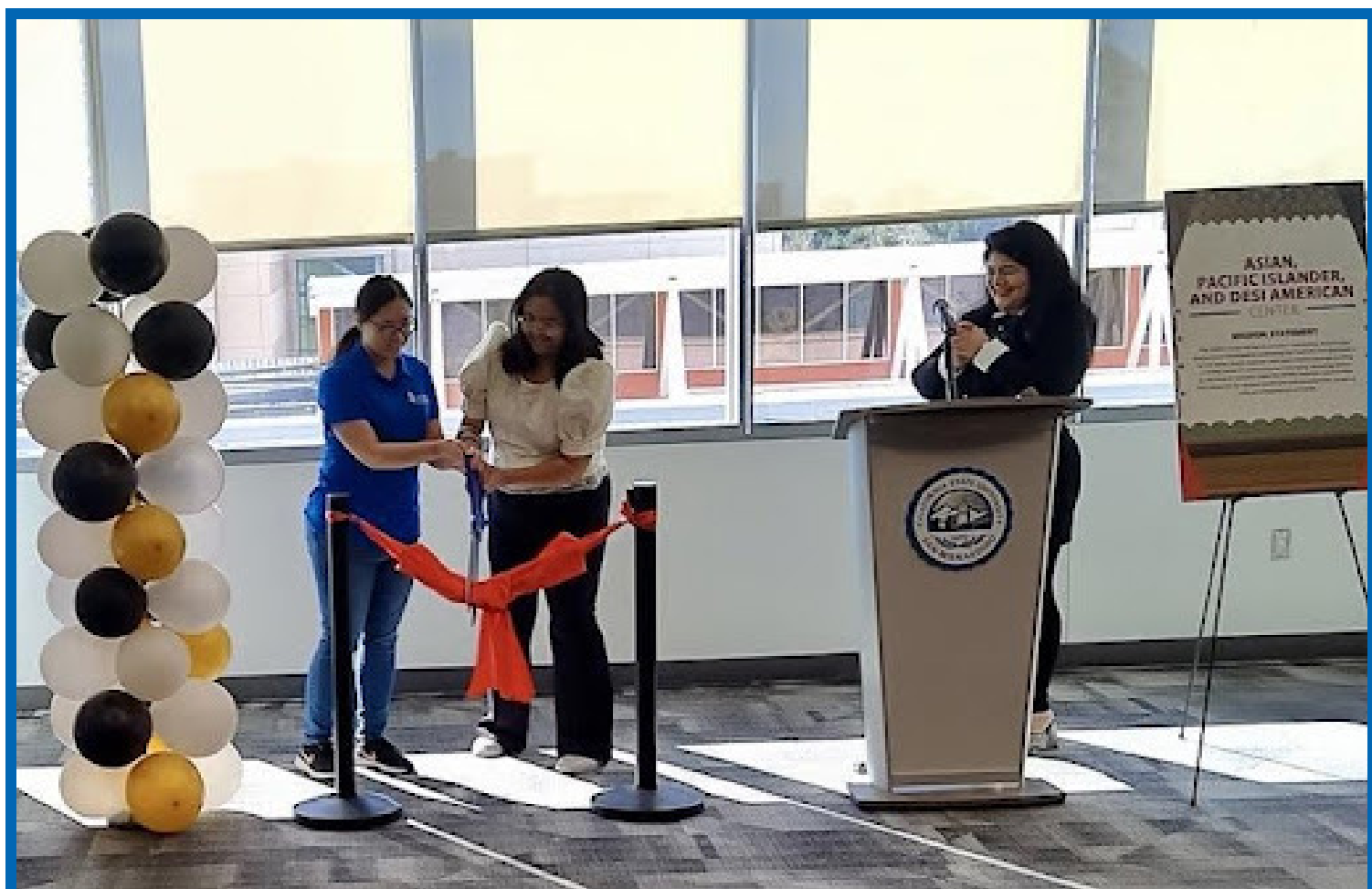
The Asian, Pacific Islander, and Desi American Center at California State University, San Bernardino, celebrated a grand re-opening on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, marking a significant step towards greater inclusivity on campus. The ceremony, held at the Santos Manuel Student Union North in Room 3310, featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony, speeches, and activities to commemorate the event. The grand re-opening aims to make the center more inclusive to the student population, expanding its scope beyond Asian and Pacific Islander communities to embrace Desi Americans. The event kicked off at noon and continued until 2 PM, creating an atmosphere of celebration and unity.

A vibrant ribbon-cutting ceremony, surrounded by gold, white, and black balloons, marked the beginning of the festivities. The podium, adorned with the center's mission statement, echoed the commitment to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for the diverse cultures under the APIDA umbrella.

Navneet Singh, speaking on the importance of the event, highlighted the evolution of the center, emphasizing the significance of including Desi Americans in its name. Following Singh, Lylli Duong shared her journey, noting the center's growth over the years and its flourishing diversity.

Marrian Angeles, reflecting on the ribbon-cutting ceremony, expressed personal growth, emphasizing the positive impact of the center's inclusive approach. The increased focus on Desi-American students was acknowledged as a milestone in fostering a sense of community. In addition to speeches, the center's celebrations included a range of activities. Students enjoyed snacks, created buttons with themes of the APIDA center, and participated in sticker-making sessions. The interactive events aimed to engage the student community and promote awareness of the center's mission.

The APIDA center's lead student assistant, Lylli Duong, revealed upcoming



The majestic California Condor continues to soar high in our skies, embodying the triumph of conservation efforts led by the San Diego and Los Angeles Zoos. Brought back from the brink of extinction, this symbol of hope highlights zoos' critical role in preserving our world's diversity. (Photo Credit: U.S. National Parks Service)

events, including a Chinese New Year lantern-making session on February 7 from 12-2 PM. Another event, "Original Filipino Music," hosted by Marrian Angeles, will follow, emphasizing the center's commitment to cultural celebrations.

In an interview with key staff members, the importance of the center's renaming was discussed. David Nguyen, the assistant director of APIDA, emphasized the significance of the event in making Desi Americans feel included and providing a space for cultural diversity.

Navneet Singh, the coordinator for APIDA, underscored the need for increased awareness and the center's role in attracting graduate students. Singh highlighted upcoming events, including celebrations for Chinese New Year, Holi, Warrior Spirit, and APIDA Heritage Month. Marrian Angeles, the student assistant for APIDA, highlighted the renaming's purpose of inclusivity, particularly for the Desi-American

community. Angeles expressed hope for broader campus community involvement in celebrating the center's new identity.

With the re-opening, the Asian, Pacific Islander, and Desi American Center aims to be a hub for diversity, fostering a strong sense of community, providing opportunities for student leadership, and promoting cultural competencies at CSUSB. The center's commitment to inclusivity and

understanding reflects a broader initiative to build ties with various student groups on campus. As the APIDA center embraces a new chapter, the hope is that its redefined identity will not only serve as a haven for cultural appreciation but also as a

catalyst for building stronger ties within the entire student population at CSUSB. Through the lens of diversity and understanding, the APIDA center sets out to shape a more inclusive and culturally enriched campus experience.



A Vibrant Future for the Performing Arts Department



The construction of the new Performing Arts Building
Photo by Jocelyn Martinez-Lopez

By **Jocelyn Martinez-Lopez**
Staff Writer

In 2022, the eagerly awaited construction of the Performing

Arts building kicked off. With completion expected in the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year, students and faculty find themselves on the edge of anticipation, eagerly speculating

about the innovative facilities the new building will offer.

As the completion date approaches, individuals closely connected to the performing arts department eagerly share their

thoughts on the new facility. Dr. Kevin Zhang, a music professor, expresses his enthusiasm.

“I’m excited for the new recording studio, as well as the two new spaces for students to do audio mixing,” Dr. Zhang remarks, highlighting the potential for better learning experiences for the music production students.

For music education students like Kayte Otanez, the new building promises a welcome change.

“I’m excited for a big practice room,” Kayte shares, reflecting on the challenges posed by the current practice spaces. “With the current ones, it’s hard to practice when you share a room with multiple people.”

Adding a touch of humor to the conversation, Sara Flis, a dedicated performing arts technician, jokes, “I’m excited for a new building that hopefully doesn’t leak.” Her lighthearted remark acknowledges the common challenges faced in some of the older facilities we have on campus.

“I’m excited for new

opportunities to try new things in a bigger space and the challenges that come with that. I’m excited for more workspaces,” she states. Flis’s perspective highlights the excitement shared by those who have been eagerly awaiting the completion of the new Performing Arts building.

Even for older students like Alex S., who may not witness the completion of the new Performing Arts building, there remains a large sense of excitement and curiosity about the facility’s potential impact. Alex states, “I hope to be here when it opens.” Enthusiastically, he looks forward to how sound will be projected in this new space.

Despite not knowing if he will be present for the grand opening, Alex raises an intriguing question about the building’s focus. “Is the building going to be catered to the music department or the theater department?” he inquires.

Both students and faculty eagerly await the completion of the new building, anticipating the transformative potential it holds.

CSUSB Launches Immersive VR Expedition into the War-Torn Gaza

By **Phillip Radomski**
Staff Writer

California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB), in partnership with the University of Colorado Boulder and XREAL Lab, has launched a groundbreaking virtual reality (VR) expedition titled “The Gaza Unveiled.” This initiative aims to educate the public about the realities of life in Gaza, both before and after the ongoing conflict.

Spearheaded by Mr. Naim Aburaddi, a doctoral student and media instructor, this initiative seeks to illuminate the daily struggles and resilience of Gaza’s people. Aburaddi, hailing from Gaza but hindered by the Israeli blockade from returning, conceived the project during his master’s studies at CSUSB. Fueled by his intimate connection to the region, he yearned to spotlight Gaza’s vibrant spirit amidst adversity.

Challenges surfaced, including restrictions on equipment transport. Undeterred, the team clandestinely smuggled 360 cameras into Gaza, capturing its beauty amidst adversity. XR Game Engine Programmer Ethan Randolph further magnified the impact by reconstructing pre-war landmarks in VR, evoking empathy and highlighting the region’s cultural heritage.

Utilizing state-of-the-art technology such as 360-degree cameras and the Unreal Engine, the team, led by James Trotter, director of Multimedia & Immersive Technologies at XREAL Lab, crafted immersive experiences of everyday life in Gaza. Trotter, alongside his technical team and esteemed faculty like Professor Ahlam Muhtaseb, collaborated to forge an unparalleled virtual journey into the heart of Gaza, showcasing both the pre-and post-war realities.

For Professor Muhtaseb, who has witnessed the horrors of

the conflict firsthand, the project holds profound significance. She emphasized the urgent need to document life in Gaza beyond the lens of violence and destruction. Despite the ongoing devastation, Muhtaseb remains hopeful that initiatives like “The Gaza Unveiled” can amplify the voices of the resilient Gazan people. As echoed by Prof. Muhtaseb, our initial plan two years ago was intended to show a Palestinian life unknown to most people. We wanted to demonstrate that despite the stereotypes and media propaganda, people in Gaza celebrate birthdays, marry, play at the beach, and live normal lives like everyone else, contrary to what the media has portrayed. “Alas, who knew that what we were documenting was the actual history? All the buildings you are seeing are now gone, and we could be the only ones with such information.

The event, unfolding against the backdrop of continued



The Faces Behind the VR Gaza Project. Here, four of the visionary founders stand alongside the powerful work of Ahmad Hasaballah, a photojournalist whose lens once illuminated the Gaza Project’s immersive journey. Now, with Getty Images, he continues to document the raw realities of grassroots experiences. Photo Credit: Francisco Casillas.

violence and displacement, serves as a poignant reminder of the human cost of war. Muhtaseb lamented the staggering loss of life and infrastructure in Gaza, where thousands have perished, and tens of thousands have been left injured and displaced.

As the conflict rages on,

Muhtaseb expressed dismay over the lack of international intervention and the continued funding of the war through American taxpayer dollars. She called for an immediate ceasefire and urged global leaders to prioritize diplomatic solutions to end the cycle of violence.

Evolution Of Sex in Hollywood

By Marco Rimicci
Staff Writer

Why is sex in almost every TV show and Movie in today's entertainment media such as Sex Education and Oppenheimer? When it comes to well-conceived sex in movies, they are capable of generating a spontaneous physical quiver being both cathartic — and gratifying — as a good cry or hearty laughter. Jonathan Rosenbaum, an American author and the head film critic for The Chicago Reader from 1987-2008, noted that movie sex “is the ultimate special effect.”

As much as this is true over the history of cinema, it seems that as of late Gen Z is arguing that they want LESS SEX on screen! A new University Of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) study found that young people between the ages of 13-24 are looking for fewer sex scenes on television and in movies. Statistically speaking from the school's Center for Scholars and Storytellers comes the “Teens and Screens” report, reporting that 51.5% of adolescents would appreciate more content depicting friendships and platonic relationships than seeing two beloved characters come together to perform softcore porn for their audience. Unfortunately, this doesn't seem to be the case for some beloved TV Shows like Sex Education, which has revealed season 4 to have raunchier and even steamier scenes reported by The U.S. Sun. The TV Show Euphoria has been criticized for the amount of erotic nudity, however, the show is rated 18 for adults and has given viewers discretion about drug use, violence, language, and to some extent the nudity, but many viewers were surprised by the extent the show's creators went to include erotic and raunchy sex scenes.

Valentia Adarkwa-Afari, Digital Student Ambassador from the University of Sheffield (TUOS) posted on her blog, “...I was not expecting the sheer amount of nudity that is in the show. It seems as though every few minutes in every episode there is a shot of someone's intimate region, or a sex scene being used for ‘plot’ purposes. But even with modern television venturing into more risqué forms of performances, I cannot help but wonder if the amount of nudity and intimate scenes we are watching has become too uncomfortable, and if it is uncomfortable for us as viewers,



Photo Credit: I Love Lucy TV Show

is it safe to assume it has become too uncomfortable for actors? Nudity in television and movies has become the new normal.” On one side of the coin, we can agree that our Entertainment Industry is producing films with extreme Softcore Porn, being easily accessible to minors through the endless amounts of streaming services, however, it is important to take note because it turns out others beg to differ!

Let's jump over to the other side and look at sex on screen as something positive and groundbreaking and remind ourselves that sex should not always equal porn. As society evolves so do the rules and what is deemed appropriate to be considered the new status quo, especially when it comes to sex in movies. An argument that can be thrown out there is, “sex in movies portrays reality”. Sex exists! It's how we humans reproduce but also physically display love for one another. So why is it being harshly criticized in our modern media these days? Why do 51.5% of adolescents prefer more content depicting friendships and platonic relationships? Is it becoming boring? Roya Blacklund posts, “Despite this damning news, it barely scratches the surface of a largely sex-negative culture that has rapidly developed online amongst our youth. This wave has even led to the coining of the term “puriteen.” First off, what is a “puriteen”? Urbanictionary.com defines “puriteen” as “A (almost always) young person on the internet who thinks that the

internet has to conform to being entirely sfw (Safe for work), and puts all of their time and energy into attempting to police art and media for any remote depiction of sexuality they disagree with.”

Roya Blacklund addresses the reactions of “puriteens” in her blog and states, “While Gen Z is certainly not advocating for an outward ban on sex in cinema, it's important to remember how fast one thing leads to another and how far filmmakers had to come to even be able to depict sexual themes at all. In the years following the Hays Code's downfall, cinema experienced a sexual reawakening.” Blacklund goes into detail about the history of Sex in Cinema and how there was a time during the years from 1934 to 1968 when there were a set of rules that major motion picture studios in the United States had to abide by called the Hays Code. The Hays Code was this self-imposed industry set of guidelines for all the motion pictures released between 1934 and 1968. The code prohibited profanity, suggestive nudity, graphic or realistic violence, sexual persuasions, and rape. Examples of how the Hays Code affected TV Shows and Movies can be seen in many episodes of I Love Lucy, starring Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz.

As seen in the picture above the Hays Code had strictures that forbade actors and actresses from sharing the same bed on screen whether or not they were married in real life like Lucille Ball (screen left) and Desi Arnaz (screen right) until

their divorce May 4, 1960. The very thought of two live-action fictional characters seemed to be so provocative that TV characters playing husband and wife implied SEX! This is what Blacklund argues against when it comes to Sex in Cinema. What Gen Z seems to not understand when it comes to Cinema history and the laws it was challenged with at the time is that the Hays Code was implemented after the provocative landscape of 1920s cinema, often depicting women in positions of autonomy, domination, and “worst of all” POWER! The Hays Code, for the next 30 years, put a stop to that, putting women back into the kitchen and stripping them of the freedom to authentically express their womanhood.

The question lies, is sex bad for Cinema? How much sex is too much sex? Well just like drinking too much water can kill a human being, too much sex can dilute an audience's value and appreciation for Film Entertainment. Henry Cavill, well known for starring as Clark Kent/Superman in Zack Snyder's 2013, Man Of Steel, comments “I do understand that there are certain circumstances where sex scenes are beneficial to a movie rather than just the audience, but sometimes they're overused these days” when the star appeared on the Happy Sad Confused podcast with director Matthew Vaughn to promote his latest feature Argylle, and disclosed his mixed opinions on the topic. In the “Teens and Screens” report, Olivia Rodrigo

spoke to NME about whether or not she has seen the latter series of the HBO show Euphoria. Olivia Rodrigo Stated, “I don't have the desire to. I remember walking out of ‘Barbie’ and being like, ‘Wow, it's so long since I've seen a movie that is female-centered in a way that isn't sexual or about her pain or her being traumatized.’”

We as a society that values and appreciates good and healthy forms of entertainment can look to these two well-known celebrities and take something away from their opinions along with the statistics that show the audience is tired of sex, but the other side of the coin also says don't forget how much hard work was put into to eradicate archaic strictures that would've prevented the making of some of our favorite films and TV Shows. They're not damning sex in cinema, but are expressing their opinions that sex isn't always the key to a well-versed plot. Sometimes a truly well-written story can capture an audience's attention without the need to arouse a higher viewership.

Painting with Passion

By Estela Rodriguez
Staff Writer



Expressing creativity through art, both painting and drawing is where I find peace. Painting is therapeutic, helping to relieve stress. Media consumes much of my daily activity, especially with hybrid learning.

When I take a break from the screen I find a place I can put music on and paint. I would recommend taking time to express your creativity through a form of art. Everyone is creative in their way. If you cannot be professional in art, it is okay because it is an activity for fun. I find art to be interesting because there is no good or bad result. It is often fun to see how others portray themselves through visuals. Art is interpreted the way you perceive, feel, and see it. There are several perspectives and aspects to explore when thinking about painting allowing your mind to think freely. I enjoy the ability to have no requirements or restrictions when it comes to my artistic creativity. My favorite type of art is cartoon-based art. The type of art I struggle with is portraits due to the many shadows included but it is also challenging.

Communication is the most valuable asset in one's life. Communication comes in several forms: verbal, physical, visual, and emotional. Painting is a way to communicate your emotions

through visual expression. Painting is a great way to share one's ideas or feelings. My major is in communications and it uniquely ties into the things I enjoy doing in my everyday life, for example, painting and drawing. Not only is this a form of stress relief but it allows me to exercise and practice good communication skills. The idea of what you see is what you get in painting. There are several types of content that one can recreate based on one image. Not

charge of the pictures or art that was printed in the newspaper. I practiced art throughout high school, lost touch with my passion, and set it aside when I graduated. Now I find myself touching bases with the art once again. I now enjoy creating art alone, at times I will also do it with friends and family. I can use my ability to draw in my workplace which I find fairly interesting. I work at Starbucks and our visual representation of our product is what draws clients in. The images people see create sales which is another form of art tying into communication.

There is art everywhere you go.

only is painting fun but there are several styles of painting. Styles include portraits, characters, and realistic painting. There are also several techniques to explore allowing you to add texture to your images and use variations of items to do so.

I have always been a creative individual. Initially, I dreamed of going to a culinary school because I enjoyed baking and creating decorative cakes. There were several baking classes I took as a child to learn how to decorate cakes. As a child, I enjoyed arts and crafts and I began channeling my passion for art through baking. In my Middle school years, I entered art classes and realized I could do better work than I assumed. I was involved in my school newspaper and was in

Art is an activity that can be done anytime and anywhere. There is art everywhere you go. You can see it at a museum when you're driving, shopping, reading, and in movies. I enjoy following artists on social media to see different content. You may be around art more than you realize just by being involved in any social media platform. Social media itself is a form of art. Technology is advancing daily and it is allowing art to be easily accessible to a greater audience than it used to be in times before. The people who see it through social media come in touch with art without having to physically see it. I recommend looking at different types of art if you have the time.



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CSUSB Senior Pitcher Benny Olguin Strikes Gold with West Region Honors

By Coyote Chronicle Staff

Benny Olguin, a senior pitcher from Alhambra, has once again found himself in the limelight of collegiate baseball. Following his recent accolade as the CCAA Pitcher of the Week, Olguin has been bestowed with the prestigious West Region Pitcher of the Week by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers of America (NCBWA).

This latest recognition comes on the heels of an extraordinary performance by Olguin during California State University San Bernardino's (CSUSB) resounding 4-1 victory over Colorado Christian. Not only did Olguin contribute to the Coyotes' emphatic sweep of CCU in a three-game series, but his display on the mound left spectators in awe.

As a seasoned right-hander, Olguin exhibited a masterclass in pitching prowess, throwing five impeccable innings without conceding a single hit. His game command was evident as he struck out seven batters while allowing only three baserunners via walks. Despite departing the game without a decision,

Olguin's dominance reverberated throughout the ballpark, highlighted by his remarkable streak of retiring 12 consecutive batters after just 57 pitches. Notably, any early jitters were swiftly dispelled, with Olguin bouncing back from two walks in the first inning to deliver a flawless performance thereafter.

Olguin's versatility as a key asset in the Coyotes' bullpen was further underscored by his stellar performance throughout the 2023 season. Making five starts and boasting an impressive 8-0 record with two saves, Olguin's contributions extended well beyond the regular season.

Notably, he played a pivotal role in securing victory on the mound for the Coyotes during their NCAA quarterfinal triumph over Rollins, showcasing his ability to deliver under pressure on the grandest stage.

The recent accolades showered upon Olguin serve as a testament to the burgeoning success of the CSUSB baseball program. With a preseason ranking of No. 4 in the NCBWA poll, the Coyotes are poised to make waves in the collegiate baseball landscape. Buoyed by the leadership of Olguin and his fellow teammates, the team's early-season triumphs have

generated palpable excitement among fans and supporters alike.

As the Coyotes gear up for a highly anticipated four-game series against Central Washington, all eyes remain firmly fixed on Olguin. His journey from the streets of Alhambra to the hallowed grounds of San Bernardino is a testament to the power of perseverance and dedication. A beacon of inspiration for aspiring athletes everywhere, Olguin's story serves as a poignant

reminder that with unwavering commitment, determination, and perhaps a sprinkling of magic, anything is possible on the diamond.

At CSUSB, Benny Olguin now stands tall as a symbol of excellence and triumph, amidst the roar of the crowd and the crack of the bat, a testament to the enduring spirit of collegiate athletics. And as the season unfolds, one thing remains abundantly clear – the legend of Benny Olguin is far from over.

“...Benny Olguin now stands tall as a symbol of excellence and triumph...”



Benny Olguin, CSUSB senior pitcher, delivers a pitch with precision and power, showcasing his determination on the mound

The Elephants' Roar

Ivory Coast Triumphs in AFCON Final Showdown

By Coyote Chronicle Staff

The 2024 Africa Cup of Nations, also dubbed the 2023 AFCON, stands as a monumental chapter in the annals of football history, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of enthusiasts worldwide. At the heart of this unforgettable tale lies Ivory Coast's remarkable triumph over Nigeria in the finals, a victory that transcended sport and resonated deeply with millions across the African continent.

The journey to the final for the Ivorian national team was a rollercoaster of emotions, marked by triumphs and tribulations. Despite facing adversity, including a disheartening 4-0 defeat to Equatorial Guinea in the group stage, the Elephants exhibited resilience under the stewardship of interim coach Emerse Fae. Through sheer determination and unwavering resolve, they persevered, clinching a spot in

the knockout rounds and paving the way for their date with destiny.

Awaiting Ivory Coast in the finals was the formidable Super Eagles of Nigeria, renowned for their tenacity and skill on the pitch. The stage was set for an epic showdown between two African football powerhouses, and the spectacle did not disappoint. In a tense and fiercely contested battle, Ivory Coast emerged triumphant with a nail-biting 2-1 victory, igniting scenes of jubilation and euphoria among their devoted fans.

The heroics of Ivory Coast's players on that fateful day will be etched into the annals of sporting folklore for generations to come. Captain Franck Kessie led by example, delivering a stellar performance that earned him widespread acclaim. However, it was striker Sebastien Haller who etched his name in the pantheon of African football legends, netting the winning goal in the dying minutes of the

match to secure his team's fate.

As the final whistle echoed across the stadium and confetti filled the air, Ivory Coast erupted into a cacophony of celebration, their triumph serving as a beacon of hope and inspiration for a nation plagued by political instability and economic uncertainty. In a moment of collective unity and pride, the victory transcended borders, uniting people from all walks of life in shared jubilation.

Yet, beyond the football world, Ivory Coast's triumph holds profound significance, offering a powerful reminder of the unifying force of sport and the boundless potential for greatness that resides within each individual. As the curtains draw on the 2024 Africa Cup of Nations, the memories of this extraordinary journey will endure, serving as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring legacy of African football.

For Ivory Coast, their



Ivory Coast's forward #14 Oumar Diakite celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's second goal during the Africa Cup of Nations 2024 quarter-final football match between Mali and Ivory Coast at the Stade de la Paix in Bouake on February 3, 2024. (Photo by Issouf SANOGO / AFP)



Sebastien Haller got the goal that secured a third Africa Cup of Nations title for Ivory Coast (DANIEL BELOUMOU OLOMO)

victory is not merely a fleeting moment of glory but a timeless testament to the power of perseverance, teamwork, and the unwavering spirit of the human

endeavor. Therefore, as the curtains close on the 2024 Africa Cup of Nations, the memories of Ivory Coast's remarkable journey will linger on.