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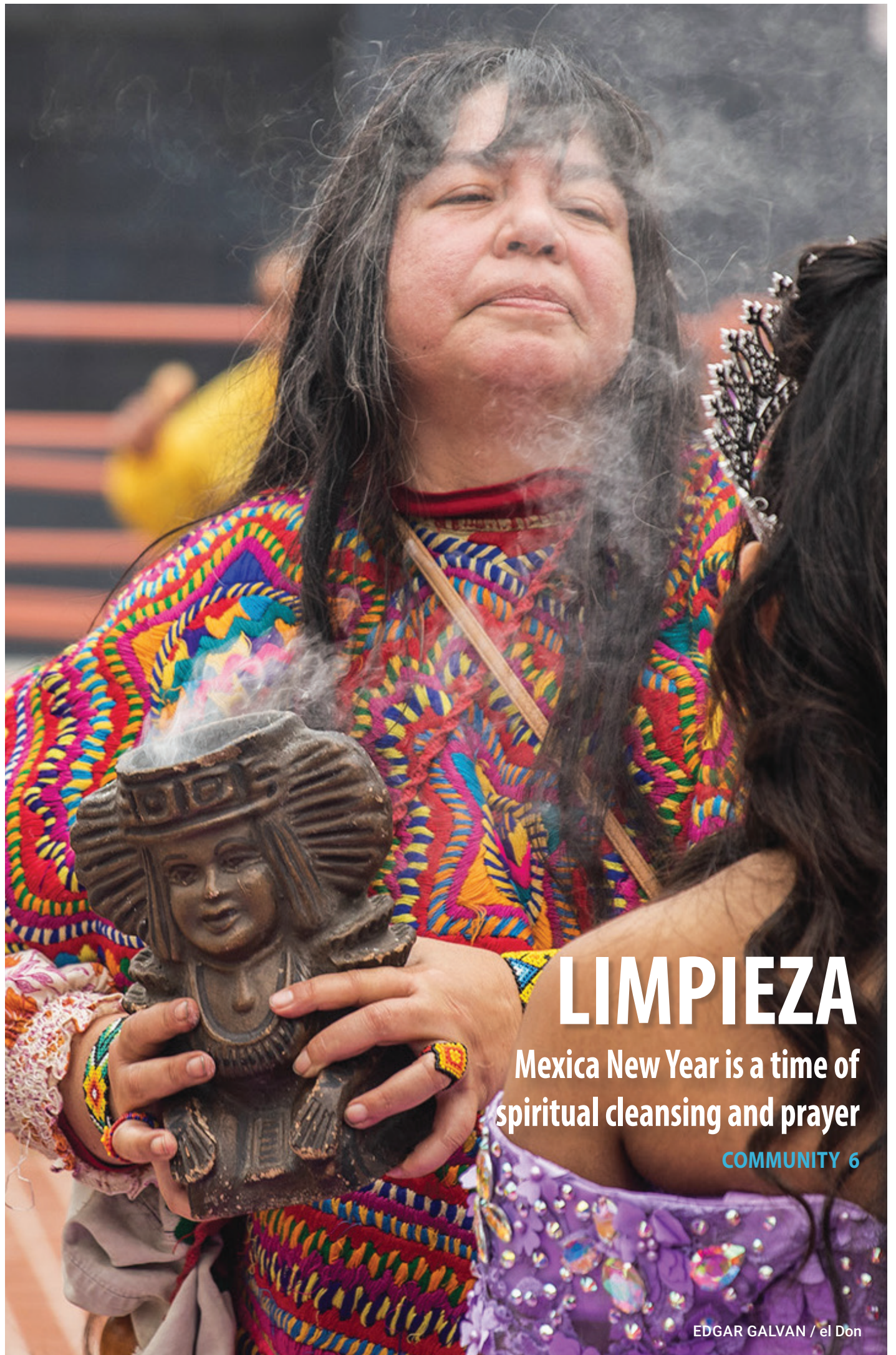
NEWS / BLACK HISTORY
Traveling exhibit educates on struggles of African Americans



LIFESTYLE / SPIRITUALITY
NFT artist is a shaman and part-time sociology professor



SPORTS / NEW PROGRAM
Kinesiology Department creates adaptive fitness community



LIMPIEZA

Mexica New Year is a time of spiritual cleansing and prayer

COMMUNITY 6

EDGAR GALVAN / el Don



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ABOUT THE COVER



A spiritual cleansing held during Tianguis Market's Mexica New Year celebration.



→ **LIZETH MARTINEZ**
COMMUNITY EDITOR

FOR THE LOVE OF STORYTELLING

Hello, I am el Don's first Community Editor! My name is Lizeth Martinez, but most call me Liz. This position was created around my love of community-oriented stories. As a Santa Ana native, my goals as your Community Editor align with making sure the community of Santa Ana is accurately represented and reported.

My love for storytelling stems from my abuelita's talent for telling tales. Akin to my abuelita, I too became a storyteller, bound to my heritage by the same stories I grew up with as a kid. Aside from *el Don*, I am actively involved in Speech and Debate at Santiago

Canyon College, which served as the catalyst for my need for discourse and advocacy. From La Llorona to La Malinche, I was always particularly interested in correcting misrepresented figures within my own culture.

While pursuing a Political Science degree, I continue making an effort to learn more about Chicano and Mexican history—something that has always spoken to me deeply.

I hold my city, and especially La Cuatro, close to my heart. I remember cruising in my stroller down La Cuatro at a very early age with my grandparents—it was never too early for a churro (my

favorite). Downtown Santa Ana was a safe haven that brought them a little closer to home; we loved it.

This has inevitably translated into what I hope to accomplish as the first Community Editor *el Don* has had—something I am beyond excited for. Aside from accurately reporting on the people of Santa Ana, I hope to highlight the many ways the community is persevering despite ongoing gentrification, political tension and marginalization.

Feel free to reach out to tell me your story and input regarding community coverage. We are here to make sure Santa Ana is heard!



SCAN HERE



@eldonnews

STAY UP TO DATE ON YOUR CAMPUS

NEW BUILDING IS THE LAST

A modern center for health sciences majors will open early next year as construction ends and Measure Q funds are exhausted

WORDS AND PHOTO BY LUPITA CONTRERAS



CAMPUS / A bond approved by voters in 2012 was used to construct the Central Mall and Johnson Student Center.

After a decade of fences and noise, construction is coming to an end this September, and a new Health Science Building will open in spring 2024. The facility will be located between the library and Science Center.

"Faculty will move in during the winter break to not interfere with fall classes," said Assistant Vice Chancellor for District Facilities Carri Matsumoto.

The new building will house a variety of departments including nursing, occupational therapy, emergency medical services and pharmacy technology, plus general computer labs and large lecture halls.

Officials said the building was funded through multiple sources, including state, district, and Measure Q funds, which were approved by voters in 2012. The total budget

according to the Santa Ana College facilities report was \$58 million.

Measure Q allocated \$198 million dollars in renovation, repair and construction for SAC. The new Health Science Building will be the last project built under Measure Q according to Matsumoto.

The recent opening of the Science Center helped open extra space in Russell Hall for the 200 nursing students, but space is still tight.

"We're really excited about this new building just because we've outgrown our space here," said Elenor Papa, Department Chair for the Nursing Department.

Parking spaces will free up after construction ends along with access to three charging stations for electric vehicles, according to Balfour Beatty Construction Superintendent, Edgar Barroso.

WHAT'S NEW

FOOD



CAFÉ SERVING COFFEE AND FOOD

The SAC Café in the Johnson Student Center is now open and is staffed by students in the college's culinary arts program. Drink prices vary from \$2 for an espresso shot or fountain drink to \$3 for a cold brew coffee to \$7.50 for berry or tropical smoothies. The food ranges from \$5.50 for a marinated veggie sandwich to up to \$10 for a hearty harvest bowl. Breakfast options include parfaits, bagels, blueberry muffins and croissants. The Café is open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

— Gisselle Roldan

TRANSPORTATION

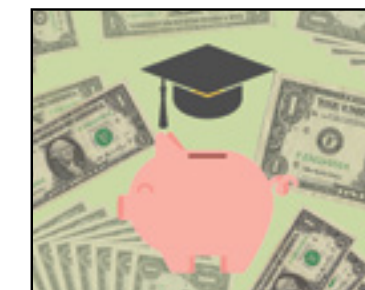


HOW TO USE YOUR OCTA BUS PASS

All students enrolled in half a unit or more are eligible for a semester-long bus pass with unlimited use. The passes are good for anywhere the Orange County Transportation Authority system permits, and can be accessed two different ways. Students can register with their student ID card in the Student Business Office, however, downloading the OC Bus app and creating an account is more reliable and also includes access to available routes and schedules.

— Sophia Cortez

MONEY



CASH AID COMING TO YOU THIS MONTH

You might be receiving two different payments during the month of April, thanks to federal COVID funds that expire in June. Students received an email at the end of February encouraging those impacted by COVID to apply for up to \$800 through SFRF emergency aid. Those payments begin April 6. Cash for Credit payments will disburse to all students enrolled in at least 6 units on April 24. Those eligible will receive \$50 per unit up to 12 units. Both will be distributed through BankMobile.

— Carrie Graham

SAFETY



TOWN HALL IN JSC ON TUESDAY

Santa Ana College will host a Town Hall on March 28 regarding campus safety. The meeting was announced after faculty raised concerns at an Academic Senate meeting about posts made by an anonymous Twitter account questioning the practices of SAC Safety & Security. Lt. David Waters will discuss campus safety practices and answer questions. The Safety Town Hall will take place in Room 219 of the Johnson Student Center from noon until 1 p.m. Free food will be provided to attendees.

— Lucero Garcia

BLACK AMERICANA MOVES MANY

Traveling exhibit highlights struggles of African Americans

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY JAKKI PADILLA



HISTORY
/ Forgotten Images is a collection of thousands of artifacts, including Black Panther newspapers, ropes used in lynchings and a Klu Klux Klan robe.

Students gasped at the bloody Ku Klux Klan robe. They shrieked at the signs saying “colored only.”

A quiet hush fell over a group of student-athletes when they were shown tightly wound ropes that were used to lynch African Americans.

Upon entering the Johnson Student Center, owner David McLucas and guide Lynette M. Johnson greet visitors with a smile. About a dozen tables draped in black cloth held everything from segregated sinks to Black Panther hats. A large Selma movie poster hung on the horizon next to a Martin Luther King Jr. cut-out. “The Dream” by DJ Phantom played in the background.

“Some of the most common

reactions that we see are shock and excitement to see this history right in front of their eyes. It reminds the Black children of what their grandparents or great-grandparents went through,” says McLucas.

McLucas, a Long Beach native, started the collection with his wife and says he drew inspiration from the show *American Pickers* where, just like him, the host buys vintage Americana from flea markets, swap meets, thrift stores and more. Some items, such as the lynching ropes on display, were donated from heirlooms over generations.

He uses his exhibit – which he refers to as “Black Americana” – to educate

people about the atrocities in history against African Americans and draws attention from across Southern California.

Michelle Brown, a Long Beach resident, said, “I drove through L.A. traffic to see this exhibit. I had last seen it in 2019 at LBCC. It’s meaningful to me, as a Black woman, to remind myself of how we can rise from the ashes. It’s very moving.”

Other artifacts displayed include rusting segregation-era signs with sayings such as, “No Dogs, Negroes, Mexicans,” “Whites only,” “White women,” “White men,” and “Colored folk.”

A blanket that formerly enslaved people used to codify and navigate their way out of the South, what

places to avoid or stay at, and other information about the Underground Railroad.

Other sections included a Blank Panthers table with original newspaper covers, fashion and art.

There was also a Black Lives Matter table with canvas portraits of 15 famous police violence victims such as Sandra Bland, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others who lost their lives.

“I really enjoyed the Obama cut-outs,” SAC student Jason Vaca said. “[The cutout] relieves the sadness I feel about how horrible history was to Black people. But it’s important to know about this stuff, to prevent it from happening again.”

TIMELINE

- **1896:** Plessy v. Ferguson passes, also known as the “Separate but equal” doctrine.
- **1954:** Brown v. Board of Education rules separation unconstitutional, overturning segregation.
- **1964:** The Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination.

SPIRITUAL ART – AND NFTS

Adjunct Professor of Sociology Giana Cicchelli's latest art project is a series of digital talismans, or objects given religious or magical powers

WORDS BY DANHA SANCHEZ MARTINEZ

By day, Giana Cicchelli is a part-time sociology professor at multiple community colleges, including Santa Ana. By evening she is a tarot artist, NFT creator and magick practitioner, trained in both Peruvian shamanic wisdom and eclectic wiccan practices.

Cicchelli's journey as an artist started at age of 19 when she went to the crafts store Michael's and saw paint and canvases on sale.

"In my brain, I associated a true artist with painting on canvas," said Cicchelli, who grew up with her artistic dad. "Nine months later, I had my first art show."

During the pandemic, Cicchelli had the idea to use her old paintings to design a tarot deck, as well as create a new individual art piece, so that each drawing fits the meaning of a tarot card. Using an iPad and other digital resources, she brought her vision to life.

Cicchelli created her most recent collection, *L3ss0ns*, in July 2021, which is digitally hand-drawn art, reflecting lessons learned through her life journey. Using her spiritual practice, Cicchelli created a special technique for the background of each of her pieces, each of which is sold as a unique NFT, or non-fungible token, on OpenSea.

L3ss0ns is focused on awakening and the challenges of life. The people and animals from each painting, all with their third eye open, a meaning of enlightenment and knowledge that every human being gets after a hard life lesson.

Her favorite piece from *L3ss0ns* is "Trust," which, according to Cicchelli, is inspired by Shiva, one of the man deities of Hinduism, and signifies detachment from the ego.

"You must trust from the heart. You can trust people, but only as far as they know themselves," said Cicchelli.



WHAT'S HOT

THEATRE



King Richard III
SAC Theatre Arts

The Theatre Department presents the classic William Shakespeare play with a twist, according to professor and chair Amberly Chamberlain. It is an adaption from the post-L.A. Riots with a "what if?" sentiment. In the play, the protagonist is a villain soured by his physical deformities and is a sadistic, corrupt character with a powerful conviction to become king. His manipulative journey to the throne is murderous and he stops at nothing. *Richard III* runs from March 30 through April 2 in Phillips Hall Theatre. — Jakki Padilla

SPOTIFY



Women's History Month
from the *el Don* fam

For Women's History Month, our staff decided to go for a ladies-only soundtrack to slay the day. Our eccentric playlist contains a range of pop, hip-hop, country, EDM, and much more. Some of our other artists include Lady Gaga, Marina, Kali Uchis, Dolly Parton, Ru Paul, and Ice Spice just to recognize a few. Including Santa Ana's rapper, Frosty to hold it down. *el Don* staff decided to go with these feel-good songs to keep the vibes light for dancing the pain away during midterm season.

— Jakki Padilla

ALBUM



Cracker Island
Gorillaz

Damon Albarn proves that not everything he touches turns to gold with the release of his virtual band's eighth album. While the Gorillaz *Cracker Island* isn't unlistenable, it's surprisingly mediocre considering the ground-breaking material Albarn has gifted us in the past with *Plastic Beach* and *Demon Days*. Colorful tunes like "Skinny Ape" and "Silent Running" are anomalies on the tracklist. "The Tired Influencer" represents the album's main sentiment that Albarn isn't getting any younger.

— Aydin Abdollahi

DRINKS



Strawberry Matcha Latte
Starbucks

One of the most popular drinks to order for this Spring is the milky-sweet strawberry matcha latte, available at Starbucks and local boba tea shops. Matcha newly popularized by TikTok is a crushed powder made from green tea leaves mixed with your choice of milk. This drink is commonly mixed with plant-based kinds of milk such as soy, oat, coconut, or almond. Traditionally made in East Asia, matcha acts as an antioxidant, promoting skin regeneration and helping with metabolic health.

— Jakki Padilla



DANZA / The banging on the huahuatl, a handmade Mexican drum, emulated a heartbeat, allowing the dancers to circulate like a bloodstream.



COMMUNITY / Dozens gathered in the plaza.

NEW YEAR PRAYERS

Downtown event celebrates the duality of past and present Mexico

WORDS BY LIZETH MARTINEZ AND EDGAR GALVAN
PHOTOS BY EDGAR GALVAN

Burning copal surrounded indigenous dancers as they celebrated the coming of the Mexica New Year on Calle Cuatro Plaza on March 5.

In prayer to Mother Earth, beaded skirts and vibrant feathered headdresses swayed under the rain while hundreds circulated in and out of the weekly open-air Tianguis Market.

"Empezamos a limpiar [una hora antes] para que cuando llegaran los danzantes, estuviera limpio para que ellos bailen," said Tekuani Tepactia, an artisan from Guerrero, Mexico. "Una limpieza espiritual."

We started cleansing [an hour before] so that when the dancers arrived, it would be clean for them to dance. A spiritual cleansing.

Lowrider clubs, local artisans, Mexica dancers, food booths and more came together to celebrate the Nēmōntēmi. The Nēmōntēmi,

Nahuatl for "they fill up in vain," are the five days needed to complete the solar cycle, but that are not added directly to the Aztec calendar.

"Son cinco días que quedan volando, y se usan para la limpieza," said Tekuani Tepactia. *It's five days left flying, and they're used for spiritual cleaning.*

The event marked the end of the 2022 Mexica Year of the Rabbit (*tochtli*) and the coming of the 2023 Year of the Reed (*ācatl*) which began March 12.



PRAYER / Danzantes dance barefoot under the rain, one of many sacrifices showing humility and appreciation to the incoming Year of the Ācatl.

REPRESENTATION / Funk, lowriders and xoloitzcuintles merged with an ancient practice.



MEXICA / From adorned vibrant headdresses to a sparkling silver crown, Calle Cuatro was filled with history.



LIBROS Y RAÍCES

LibroMobile fills a literary need as Santa Ana's only bookstore



LITERARY / Started in 2016 in a Downtown Santa Ana alley and has since flourished into a storefront near the Bristol Swap Mall

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY LIZETH MARTINEZ

The works of local authors adorn the left wall upon entry, a familiar “bienvenidos” from the community. To the right, there is a small wooden cart holding comic books and graphic novels, an homage to the *paleteros* of Santa Ana. A few steps forward, a poetry pillar stands from floor to ceiling—holding chapbooks and thinner poetry books.

“Every space has been made to recreate the local environment,” said Sarah Rafael Garcia, founder and owner of LibroMobile.

The poetry pillar is meant to be seen, holding books otherwise hidden and forgotten on the shelves—enforcing visibility. Next to the pillar, the wall on the right holds work from the local artisans of Orange County, including tote bags, tea, pottery and more.

In response to the gentrification

of Santa Ana, Garcia has curated a community-oriented bookstore beaming with Black, Indigenous, and Latine voices. One of LibroMobile’s primary goals is accessibility through free books and reading spaces.

Since its opening, the bookstore has provided solutions for low-cost books, uplifting local SoCal authors and artists of color, and overall an open space to read freely.

“I wish more bookstores would bring in all of these writers that you don’t see when browsing bookstores,” said Brian Dunlap, a poet from Los Angeles.

Poets and authors like Dunlap look to local bookstores that highlight local authors. Through the increasing commercialization of books and media, independent bookstores must stick to their mission. LibroMobile’s is creating accessibility through a literary scene.

“We are in it for the passion and in it to build accessibility to literature, to relevant literature in our

community,” said Garcia on starting a bookstore like LibroMobile. “It can start small with a lending library at your doorstep. Reach out to your community; we started out with book donations. Doesn’t have to be big and perfect, it just has to fill a need in your community.”

LibroMobile started in a stairway and has since flourished into a storefront next to the Bristol Swap Mall on 1150 S Bristol St. It has been nearly a year since its opening on Bristol—and seven years since its start in Santa Ana.

“Indie bookstores are known for their creativity, their resilience, and support of their communities—often partnering with other local businesses, celebrating diverse voices, and offering virtual and hybrid events,” says Allison Hill, CEO of The American Booksellers Association.

LibroMobile holds open mics, poetry readings, and virtual hours open to all. Poetry readings highlight

local poets, while open mics introduce newcomers to the world of spoken word.

In facing challenges against commercialization and the digitalization of literature, LibroMobile found obstacles with being in a working-class neighborhood. “Rent plays a huge role. When rent is due, it’s the week we have the least guests; they don’t have the capacity to shop on rent week,” said Garcia.

In trying to understand such struggles, LibroMobile created a space that collaborates with local writers and where the community can walk in without an obligation to participate in any consumption.

“We want to give a bookstore that our community deserves—give away books for free so that people can walk in here and not feel obligated to give me money,” said Garcia. “I’m not here for the city and not here for the politicians. I’m here for the youth that I used to be.”

ACADEMICS

ATHLETE STUDY
CENTER COMING

Santa Ana College student-athletes will have their own place to study and get academic help again starting Fall 2023. About \$200,000 in one-time funding was approved last year to pay for the remodeling of rooms G-106 and G-107. The Student Athlete Success Center will help maintain the minimum GPA of at least 2.0 required for eligibility. “[The goal of the center is] to improve outcomes for retention, success, completion of classes, and transfer,” said Dean of Kinesiology Courtney Doussett.

—Jack Haslett

SOFTBALL

DEFENSE,
WESTERFIELD SHINE

The Dons are ranked third in the Orange Empire Conference with a record of 4-3 and a regular season record of 8-10. Defense has been Santa Ana's strength, as they boast the highest fielding percentage in the conference at .974. Sophomore Jojo Westerfield has been the powerhouse of the Dons' offense. She leads the team with 15 RBIs and has slugged both of the Dons' two home runs this season.

—Jack Haslett



OL' RELIABLE / Leading in hits, runs, RBIs and walks; Austin Haller dominates the base path.

HALLER LEADS DONS OVER BOBCATS

The sophomore infielder tallied a homerun, four RBIs and two runs in Santa Ana's win over first-place Saddleback on March 16

WORDS BY JACK HASLETT / PHOTO BY DANNY DE LA CRUZ

Propelled by dominant relief pitching and dynamic offense, Santa Ana outlasted Saddleback College on Thursday, March 16. SAC scored 11 runs on 17 hits against their conference rival. The final score was 11-6.

The Dons established a big lead early in the game, putting up seven runs on the board in the second inning.

The rally began courtesy of catcher Sebastian McSherry, who struck a single into right field to begin the inning. His was followed by six more hits, most singles, including a long two-RBI single by sophomore outfielder Troy Kent.

Then the high-scoring second inning proved necessary. Saddleback surged back in the top of the third with four runs of their own to cut the lead down to a manageable three-run deficit.

Starting pitcher Hauze Fragoso struggled against the first-place Saddleback lineup. He allowed seven hits and five runs, all earned, in 3.1 innings of work.

Fragoso was taken out of the game in the top of the fourth and replaced with freshman right-hander C.J. Brown.

“C.J. Brown was unreal man,” said manager Tom Stilles. “That guy came in the top of the fourth and didn't give the ball back. We haven't had those kinds of performances out of the guys consistently and he's

been one of the best.”

Brown contained the damage brought on by the Cougars and ensured the Dons' lead would remain intact.

“Score got kind of close, it was 7-4 when I came in. My job is to go out there and throw strikes and my defense behind me helped a lot,” said Brown.

The Dons offense would not score again until the sixth inning when sophomore infielder Austin Haller sent a ball down the right field line for a double that scored infielder Michael Poot.

In the bottom of the eighth, Haller came through again, smashing a long fly ball over the right-center field fence for a three-run home run to make the score 11-6.

“I was in a leverage count, 3-1, and he left a fastball over the middle of the plate and I just put a good swing on it,” said Haller.

Haller's long ball reduced the pressure on the team to maintain the lead. This was especially true for Brown, who closed the game in the following half-inning.

“That home run from Haller made me feel super comfortable going into the top of the ninth to finish it off. My job is to throw strikes and I was able to do it today,” said Brown.

Creating an inclusive fitness community

Santa Ana College is growing a kinesiology program that provides a safe network for the physical and social growth of disabled students.

"Our role is trying to bring people together and be that hub for adaptive sports," said Dean of Kinesiology, Courtney Doussett.

Doussett oversees the kinesiology program, but also experienced extensive hands-on training as a student aide for adaptive students while at her previous institution, College of the Desert.

Now, with her oversight, SAC is looking to replicate the success of the program from her former campus.

The Disabled Student Programs and Services office works with students of various disabilities, whether visible or not.

This adaptive program intertwines two classes, both run by Dr. Brian Sos.

The first class is for student aides, allowing them to get hands-on experience with an array of disabilities including mental, behavioral, physical or any combination of the three.

The second is a single-credit course for DSPS students to weightlift with adaptive equipment, under professional supervision.

The main goal of combining the two classes is to provide a way of networking. Some DSPS students

who went through the program became interested in becoming student aides.

The program at COD is self-sustaining. Within two years, it grew from a cohort of four students to a full class of 25 students, according to Doussett.

Doussett's former student Adrian Robles is an example of the program's self-sustaining structure. As a veteran and physically disabled student, Robles found his way to the student aide class, where he saw remarkable growth.

Robles saw how positive reinforcement, proper training, and the right equipment could change someone's outlook on their limitations.

"I saw students functionally do exercises they didn't know they could do," said Robles.

One of the students, who had a spinal vertebrae fusion, was able to deadlift weight after extensive work and detailed care in the weight room.

"Never tell someone they can't do it, no matter their limitations," said Robles.

As a social component the adaptive fitness program allows DSPS students to develop their personalities, while being respected and embraced for their uniqueness.

Since the adaptive class was not in an academic classroom setting, students welcomed the difference.

"Physical activity programs help with achievement, retention, and success," said Doussett.

The program yielded great results, leaving Doussett to further her ambition for the growth of disabled students at more developmental ages.

At COD, interns were sent to developmental centers where they taught children at a young age. Their goal was to adapt within the setting, by not removing students from classes with their peers. They wanted to prevent ostracizing children.

By hosting adapted sporting events with the YMCA they brought a wider community together of all ages.

DSPS students and their families could participate, food was provided, and many games were played as a whole.

Even though SAC has the equipment in place, they still have obstacles to overcome.

The DSPS offices are understaffed, meaning that these exciting ideas will also add a burden to an already overworked office.

Just like at COD, a small cohort of a few students can truly grow into a self-sustaining and powerful community of caring individuals.

"The idea is not that you can't do it, but you just need to find an adaptation...we're only limited by our level of creativity," said Doussett.

ADAPTIVE KINESIOLOGY

- » A safe place for disabled students to connect socially
- » Kinesiology students get hands-on experience as aides
- » Runs through DSPS and coordinated with YMCA for social functions
- » Opportunities to grow physically and mentally
- » Emphasize acceptance without judgement

Adrian Robles

"I SAW STUDENTS FUNCTIONALLY DO EXERCISES THEY DIDN'T KNOW THEY COULD DO."



MOTIVATE, NOT DISCRIMINATE

A mural, painted on the walls of the weightroom, shows a disabled woman running through a busy park.

Staff Editorial

NEW BUILDINGS, MO' PROBLEMS



With the new Health Sciences building set to open in 2024, *el Don* staff can see future headlines once the new building opens

The new Health Sciences building is scheduled to open in the spring of 2024. If the Johnson Student and Science Center are any indication, this means that within the first month of opening, the building will undoubtedly face an array of problems.

It seems that Santa Ana College has a habit of opening faulty buildings. While it is district policy and not a single person that dictates that contracts go to the lowest bidder, the old adage holds true, you get what you pay for. Unfortunately, the students pay the cost that the district saves.

Though these buildings pass through a thorough inspection to confirm their safety according to California codes, somehow problems still slip through the cracks.

When the new Science Center opened for the first time, it was evacuated twice in the same month. The first was just an overly sensitive system response to someone's vape in a bathroom. The second was due to the building's ventilation system not functioning properly.

While in both instances no one was injured, that was still twice in one month. Classes were impacted not only for the students who were evacuated, but also for those in surrounding buildings whose lessons were abruptly interrupted by the sound of alarms and emergency vehicles, and the concern that they might be in danger.

The lackluster communication between the administration and students at large does nothing to reassure the campus when these incidents occur.

Issues within the women's bathrooms persist throughout both the Science Center and the Johnson Student Center. Poorly working soap dispensers and empty towel dispensers have plagued the new buildings since their openings. Because we know what this campus could always use is more faulty bathrooms.

As recently as this semester, the Johnson Student Center, which opened a year ago, was still going through plumbing repairs.

Students and professors need the resources that come with these new additions. Upgraded facilities and equipment, and robust student services can be the difference between passing and failing, but not if they can't fully utilize them.

When a new building is already under maintenance so soon after opening, it feels like all that time, effort, and money isn't being spent properly. It comes across that SAC is more concerned with aesthetics than effectiveness.

The SAC community has already put up with so many issues during the construction period, like limited parking, construction noise, and at times having to learn to navigate around work areas, they deserve facilities that work as intended once opened.

OPINION EDUARDO VELASQUEZ

THE REAL ISSUE WITH ENROLLMENT

Santa Ana College is blowing \$123,000 on a camera crew for an ad that doesn't even target a local audience.

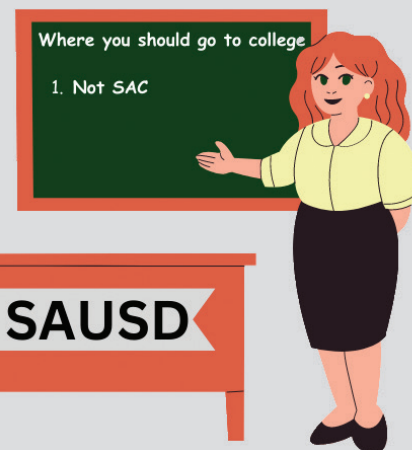
The College Tour is a show on Amazon Prime that showcases college campuses to students who aren't sure where they want to go. The goal of bringing The College Tour team to our campus is to advertise our school and increase enrollment.

What we should be doing is directly targeting local potential students.

This budget comes from a COVID-19 relief bill that gave us money to bolster student retention rates and enrollment. The choice to spend this remaining money on a twenty-minute ad shows just how disconnected the school is from its students.

Showcasing SAC on a national level is going to do nothing for our enrollment. As a former Middle College High School student, I was constantly discouraged from enrolling at SAC after graduation. Even when I was taking classes here as a high school student, I was told not to continue my education at this school. We should be sending people out to local high schools to show off just how good of a school we are.

While I'm sure the school is eager to show off the three new buildings we've built and hide the rest of the school, this College Tour episode misses the mark.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

The *el Don* is the nation's top community college newsmagazine. Here are two successful women that learned through the program.



1998

Vera Jimenez

KTLA 5 Meteorologist

Jimenez has earned two Emmys, three Golden Mikes and three Golden Pylons. Her experience with *el Don* is the reason she encourages all students to start at a community college.



2019

Ashley Ramynke

Marshall's Aid, Supreme Court

Ramynke was *el Don's* first Multimedia Editor. She then earned an American Studies degree from Cornell University.

WHY DO WOMEN'S STORIES MATTER?

"...Not only for women but also any human beings."

— Karley Dinh

Santa Ana College students

SPEAK ON IT

This National Women's History Month celebrates women in all forms of media and storytelling. Reporter Daniela Derramadero asks why this is essential.

"Women are seen for their beauty but they are capable of so much more."

— Nayeli Nino

"...We also have to be the backbone of every family or society. I feel like we just have to work a lot harder to get the rights that anyone else has as a man... Also, we just go through a lot more and it's important."

— Cinthia Flores

"...Every woman has something important to offer the world and sometimes they're not given the opportunity..."

— Sinai Linares

"Taking their story into account and how they feel about certain situations will allow us to see a different perspective that isn't usually seen by the male-driven world."

— Francisco Ramos

"...We have to look at what's happened before and what's happening present...become better as a community all together for everybody, because everyone's voices matter."

— Christopher Fesler

"...Women are often misrepresented or misunderstood."

— Giovana Mondragon

"...To get like a full scope of what really matters in history we have to account for women's history..."

— Bryan Rangel

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