



el Don

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WOMEN STAY **INKED**

Tattoo artists build private spaces
Page 8

RISING

Support for formerly
incarcerated students
Page 6

PUNK SHOW

'80s band Green Jelly
plays La Santa

PAGE 11

KATE G. BUSTAMANTE / el Don



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ABOUT THE COVER



Destiny Felix is a Santa Ana tattoo artist that has been paving the way with other tattooers in her city.



→ **NICHOLAS WIRE**
SPORTS EDITOR

LOVE THE PLAYER LOVE THE GAME

Howdy, I'm Nicholas Wire, sports editor for el Don. Ever since I started playing sports as a kid, I've been obsessed with them. I always had a sport on my mind. I played baseball, flag football, and mainly basketball throughout my developmental years. My dad, David Wire, was an even more passionate fan than I. I used to come home from school and unload all of the court stories of the day on him. My passion for sports and storytelling stemmed from that relationship, and I hope to one day be a beat writer for a professional team, so I can fulfill both of our dreams.

In the newsroom, you can find me with either a 49ers, Lakers or

Angels hat on. I'll also likely be listening to country music when writing my articles. I often have a tab open on my computer with either ESPN or The Athletic, just in case I need a break from reporting and writing. However, you can find me at the baseball games with an el Don shirt and an Angels hat. I'm always open for a new story to tell.

From week one, I was trusted to report on a game, write an article, and have it posted online. It was a soccer game, the one sport I rarely watched growing up. However, my excitement radiated throughout the week. Any opportunity to cover sports was a jolt of joy to my heart.

My responsibilities as sports editor have greatly increased from

last semester, and though it can be overwhelming at times, it has been worth it. Now I've learned about photography, page design, and social media tactics.

SAC has many stories to tell, outside of game coverage. The campus is growing and so is the athletic program. Student athletes are cared for. My job as a reporter has been a bridge for student athletes to communicate to the institutional heads and vice versa.

Though I only have a semester left at SAC, I'm glad to see the school take gradual steps to improving the student athlete quality of life. It's been an honor to cover for el Don, and show how the student athlete voice matters.



SCAN HERE



@eldonnews

STAY UP TO DATE ON YOUR CAMPUS

EXPANDING GRADUATION

District is using the last bit of COVID-19 funding for a commencement ceremony at Angel Stadium with the School of Continuing Education

WORDS BY ADAM PONCE / PHOTO BY DOMINIC CRENSHAW



Santa Ana College will be hosting its largest commencement ceremony ever at the Angels' Stadium on June 2.

More than 5,400 accomplishments will be honored across bachelor's degrees, associates degrees, certificates of achievement and those who completed their high school diploma or GED through the school of continuing education.

"We need a larger venue to accommodate all graduates, guests, and dignitaries," said Vaniethia Hubbard, Vice President of Student Services.

In previous years, graduation was held at Eddie West Field, but in 2021 with the addition of bachelor's degrees and pandemic restrictions, ASG officials decided to begin hosting the event at Angels Stadium due to an insufficient amount of space for dignitaries, graduates and guests.

"I think it is pretty cool that it is being held at a bigger stadium because it makes it convenient

for families to attend," said J. Millan, a student graduating from SAC with a major in occupational studies. "I am very excited to graduate from the Angels Stadium," says Millan.

Those attending the event are not required to follow Covid-19 guidelines, however, students are limited to six guest tickets each.

The parking lot will open at 1:30 p.m., photo booths will be available at 2 p.m., and graduates will begin to line up with their respective departments at 4 p.m.

High heel shoes are prohibited and only bags that are clear or smaller than 4.5" x 6.5", with the exception of medical and diaper bags, will be allowed into the stadium.

Additionally, balloons, beach balls, signs and air horns are all banned and tailgating will not be allowed. The ceremony will be livestreamed for those who are unable to attend in person.

WHAT'S NEW

PETITION



APPLY FOR EXCUSED WITHDRAWAL

Students can petition for an excused withdrawal up to the last day of instruction before being awarded a grade, depending on the length of the course. Excused withdrawals allow students to file if they have experienced an illness, accident, natural disaster, or anything beyond the student's control. An EW will not affect the students GPA, similar to a regular withdrawal. Excused withdrawal applications can be submitted via email or in person to admissions and records.

— Daniela Derramadero

COMMENCEMENT



FORMER *EL DON* EDITOR SPEAKING

Vera Jimenez, KTLA 5's award-winning meteorologist and *el Don* alumna, will be the keynote speaker at commencement on Friday, June 2. Vera has won two Emmys, three Golden Mikes, and three Golden Pylons. Vera and her family moved from Mexico when she was three years old. During her time at SAC, Vera fell in love with journalism as an editor for the award-winning student magazine and newspaper. "I'm honored to be the keynote at my college," said Vera.

— Sophia Cortez

RECOGNITION



UNDOCU-SCHOLARS GRAD CEREMONY

Students and families gathered on May 12 for an end of the year celebration for Undocu-Scholars. Family, friends and counselors all joined together to honor the achievements of the class of 2023. This event was an emotional moment for those present, as students shared their stories. "There is something at the end of our journey that so many people told us we can't. But also many people told us that we could, and this is one of those places," said student, Francisco Javier Bravo.

—Danha Sanchez

EVENTS



ASG BRINGS YOU FUEL FOR FINALS

Don't stress about finals — pet some good boys instead. As the 2023 spring semester comes to an end, Associated Student Government is hosting a Fuels for Finals event on May 23 and 24 featuring Paws for Stress and free food. There will be food, coffee, and stress relief activities for Santa Ana College students to de-stress from finals. On the May 24, ASG will also be bringing over therapy dogs. The event will be held in the JSC Patio on the 23 and in the A building patio on the 24.

—Sophia Cortez

BUS PASS FOR ALL

HOW TO RIDE

STEP 1:

You must be enrolled in at least 0.5 units to qualify for a Community College bus pass.

STEP 2:

Pay all student fees, which includes a transportation fee of \$6.75 for full-time students and \$5.75 for part-time

STEP 3:

Download the "OC Bus" app or activate your student ID at the Student Business Office in the JSC Building

What started out as an OCTA pilot program at Santa Ana College expanded to all community colleges in Orange County, allowing students to ride for cheap.

WORDS BY SOPHIA CORTEZ

Buzz, buzz, buzz. Freshman Guadalupe Sanchez rolls over and turns off her 6 a.m. alarm. She reaches for her phone and is greeted with a bright white glow.

Typically, other students would log onto TikTok or Instagram, but Sanchez clicks on the Orange County Transportation Authority app and checks when the next bus will be stopping by her corner.

This is how she starts each morning, checking the bus schedule to figure out how long she has to get ready. Sanchez then continues her day, getting dressed and saying goodbye to her mother and her siblings as they prepare to leave for work and school.

"I've commuted to school my whole life," Sanchez said.

Sanchez is one of about 2,500 Santa Ana College students taking advantage of low-cost bus passes, included in their student fees. Without the program, monthly college passes for OCTA are \$46, a day pass is \$5 or \$2 per ride. Before the program launched seven years ago, many students struggled to continue their education because they could not afford the cost of transportation.

"The cost of a daily bus pass and a monthly bus pass gradually adds up to a significant sum. I greatly value the ability to save money," Sanchez said.

Even before the pandemic, OCTA was experiencing its own issues such as a decrease in their bus ridership due to route changes and a cut in bus services. OCTA states ridership went down significantly, dropping from around 52.6 million in 2018, to 38.5 million.

OCTA decided to partner with SAC, creating a pilot program in August of 2017 to experiment with how bus passes might fix both issues. The result revealed that more students were able to attend SAC and take classes. According to 2018 data from OCTA, student riders were able to boost ridership by a significant amount. The results were so successful, OCTA decided to partner with SAC and make a Community College Pass.

Before working with SAC to create a pilot program, OCTA already had a working "U-Pass" program collaborating with the University of California at Irvine and at Cal State Fullerton.

"SAC senior management expressed interest in an all-inclusive, low-cost program to allow every student to ride OC Bus, which inspired the pilot program at Santa Ana College," said Eric Carpenter, OCTA's media relations specialist.

The pilot went well, allowing OCTA to expand the program to all community colleges in Orange County. The first year was paid for by the Low Carbon Transit

Operations Program and was free for students. The following years will be paid through student fees, with students paying around four to six dollars per semester. As of right now the bus program will be expiring in the summer of 2024.

"OCTA is working on a new proposal that would be a multi-year agreement and would take effect in [the] fall [of] 2024. We are pleased with the success of the program and we're eager to keep it going" said Carpenter.

To get students to use the bus pass, OCTA has been doing community outreach such as holding events at SAC, advertising on buses, creating flyers, and posting Facebook advertisements.

OCTA and the Rancho Santiago Community College District saw a huge increase in ridership and students attending. According to the OCTA, there was a turnaround of 1.5 million students using the bus, and around 96% of college students using the pass said the free bus program allowed them to reach their educational goals in 2018 alone.

"When I transferred to college, I heard that you could get a free bus pass if you took credits," said psychology sophomore Diana Guerrero.

The bus pass was designed to help students with no license or vehicle, regardless of their income. To receive a pass students need to be enrolled in at least 0.5 credits, as well as have their student fees paid. Then students can either download the OC Bus app or get their student ID linked at the Student Business Office.

While this can be great for students who are low-income and dealing with transportation issues, there are limitations. Although OCTA allows students to ride for the semester, the passes expire and need to be renewed each semester a student is enrolled.

Students are also limited to certain times a bus will pass by their street, causing them to work around OCTA's schedule not their own.

"I find myself not having enough time in my day to do everything since the bus makes my scheduling harder when planning for places to be," said Sanchez.

Besides going to and from school, students can use the bus to go anywhere within the OCTA system, not only to their school. There are around 60 total bus routes, some of which cross over into neighboring counties.

While the buses will continue to help support students, OCTA is still working on a plan to figure out how the forthcoming OC Streetcar would work with the College Pass. The OC Streetcar is scheduled to open next year.



TRANSIT / Guadalupe Sanchez is one of thousands of students who rely on OCTA. Photo by Edgar Galvan

Rising Again

WORDS AND PHOTO BY LIZETH MARTINEZ

Project Rise—a club for formerly incarcerated and justice-impacted students—fosters community



From Impalas to lowriders, funk music boomed as classic cars snaked through lot 7 for Project Rise's Cruising for Higher Education on April 22.

Unless you asked, you would've never known that the car clubs came to support formerly incarcerated students all pursuing higher education.

The club's logo is an orange phoenix—a symbol of resurrection and life after death.

Project Rise is a club at Santa Ana College supporting justice-impacted students in navigating college life.

Whether that means being formerly incarcerated or having a close relative involved in the justice system, students are guided through customized mentorship, advocacy, acceptance and community building.

"Our current president just got accepted into UCI," said Accounting Professor Mark McCallick, faculty adviser for Project Rise, beaming with pride under the blistering sun.

Project Rise was originally for youth to earn their high school diplomas through the SAC's

School of Continuing Education.

The concept was brought to the credit side of the college by McCallick and psychology major Blake Krawl three years ago. Krawl, the club's first president, was SAC's 2021 Valedictorian.

"[Many have] these predisposed ideas of someone who's been to jail or prison," says Krawl, who transferred to Cal State Long Beach, "all they see is that you're a convict or have a criminal record. They see that record, which reflects who you are now, no matter how long it's been."

Krawl struggled with drug addiction and mental health for a decade, bouncing in and out of jail. Things took a turn when Krawl's Probation Officer suggested he get a job and enroll in credits at SAC.

"I'm on an ankle monitor. I'm going to all these classes, and I'm always wearing pants so no one sees I'm on probation," said Krawl. "Whenever I would go to campus, I would feel out of place."

After discovering Project Rise at SCE, Krawl reached out to Ruth Ramirez, the director at the time, who introduced Krawl to McCallick, who was interested in starting the program for students

earning credits.

"Mark and I got all the documents; it was last minute. We had deadlines almost immediately," said Krawl. He went to the Inter-Club Council meetings to get support.

"It was uncomfortable, but I had to put myself on blast," said Krawl.

Others later reached out, telling him they were also formerly incarcerated, "I didn't even know that there were students who shared these experiences on campus."

At the time, Krawl was only one of five self-identified formerly incarcerated students in Project Rise at SAC.

A 2019 study revealed that an estimated 1,000 formerly incarcerated students are enrolled in California Community Colleges and Universities.

In that same study, almost half of the incarcerated students who attempted at least one graded course earned a 4.0 GPA.

On average, incarcerated college students' grades were higher than their community college counterparts.

"Today, I see a future. I'm not just looking at the bachelor's



SUPPORTERS / Classic cars cruised through parking lot 7 at a fundraiser for Project Rise on April 22.

“Just because we have this past doesn’t mean we can’t change our futures,” said Jennifer Sandoval, one of 40 Project Rise members.

degree. I’m looking at doctoral programs—something I didn’t even see two years ago; I had no idea,” said SAC’s current Project Rise president, Jennifer Sandoval.

Sandoval said she struggled with substance abuse for about 20 years. In 2015, she was shot twice.

“It caused many medical issues that I’ve been dealing with seven years. Last semester, I had to go in for emergency surgery, which took me off work.”

Santa Ana is Sandoval’s fourth community college, where she discovered Project Rise.

“Just because we have this past doesn’t mean we can’t change our futures,” said Sandoval, one of 40 club members.

She is continuing her undergraduate studies next fall at UCI while Krawl begins law school at UCLA.

Outside of college, formerly incarcerated individuals face challenges in almost every aspect of daily life, “it shows up on housing and school applications for different jobs you wanna get. It’s a huge barrier, and I hope people would take the time to realize that,” Krawl said.

“[I wish] people understood what it’s like to try and gain your life back when there are so many systems working against you.”

As scholars, the stigma is ever-present: “I’ve felt it in employment. I felt it at school. I felt it internally; even if other people aren’t acting that way, it’s something within me,” said Sandoval. “I stigmatize myself, and it’s not intentional.”

Project Rise is not alone in helping justice-impacted students. Other programs, such as Underground Scholars and Project Rebound, provide transitional services into higher education on Cal State and UC campuses.

“Project rebound gave me a seamless transition into a four-year institution,” said Krawl. “[They] also offered me a job as a research assistant.”

Project Rise does not have a dedicated space on SAC’s campus.

“We want our own space where we have a club center and our Rising Scholar’s office so that they can check in and study there,” said McCallick. “We’ve lost a lot of students—they walk on campus, and they don’t really know where to find anything.”

Rising Scholars is a network that supports formerly incarcerated students across California on the community college level. The network helps fund student needs—including parking permits, books, personal necessities, and Project Rise held events.

Cruising for Higher Education

The 2nd Annual Cruising for Higher Education Fundraiser on April 22 served as an exposure event and fundraiser for the club. All donations and money collected through the raffles support student needs.

“Why Cruising for Higher Education? They did one last year, and it was minimal. I said we could get this big and set up the parking lot. I have a 62 Impala,” said Saul Garcia, coordinator for Rising Scholars.

“My goal was to bring the community closer. So they can be aware of what classes are being offered at SAC,” Garcia said.

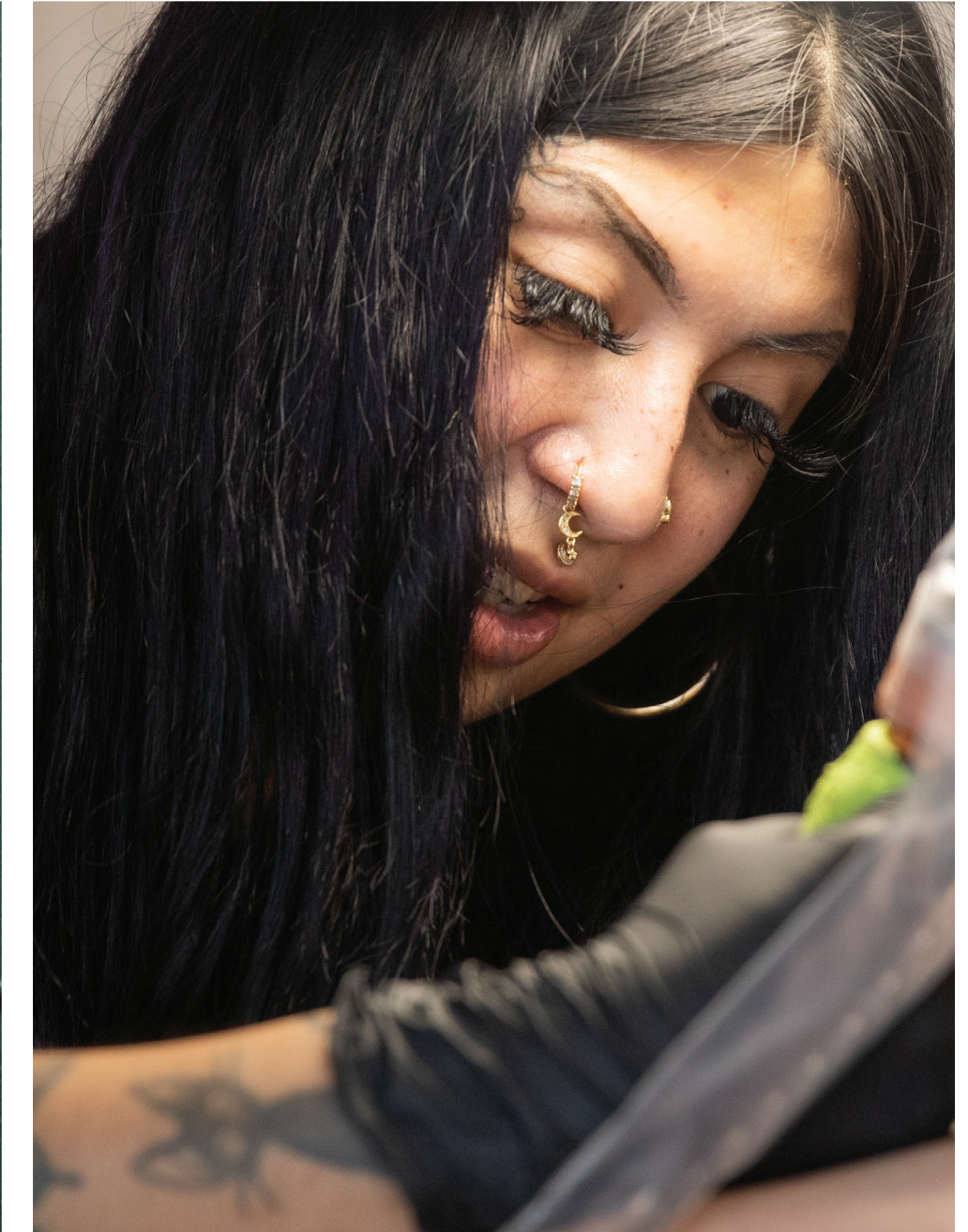


PROJECT RISE

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- 1** Funding provided through California Community College’s Rising Scholars Network
- 2** About 1,000 formerly incarcerated students are enrolled in California community colleges and universities
- 3** Almost half of incarcerated students who attempted at least one graded course earned a 4.0 GPA

Source: Stanford Law School



GIRLS GOTTA STICK TOGETHER

Santa Ana's female tattoo artists bond over working towards the same goal— a private studio.

WORDS BY GISSELLE ROLDAN / PHOTOS BY KATE G. BUSTAMANTE

In a green-walled studio in downtown Santa Ana, two women laugh as a tattoo gun buzzes. Destiny Felix works on an elbow piece filler for her friend and fellow female tattoo artist, who goes by Bliss. They joke about how annoying it is to get DMs about their looks instead of bookings.

About 1 in 4 tattoo artists in the U.S. today are women. In tattoo-loving Santa Ana – which is home to more than two dozen public shops – Felix and Bliss say their experiences in the workplace helped them form bonds with other women and open their own private studios instead of continuing to work in male-dominated spaces.

Felix and Bliss met while working at an Anaheim tattoo shop and had different motivations to work independently in a private studio.

Although the number of women in the tattoo industry has increased, Felix says she still experienced harassment and unfair treatment.

"I've seen a lot of women try to be an apprentice and the way they treat you, as if you're a slave," says Felix. "They try to control you and no one is going to want to go through it, it's a lot of sacrifice."

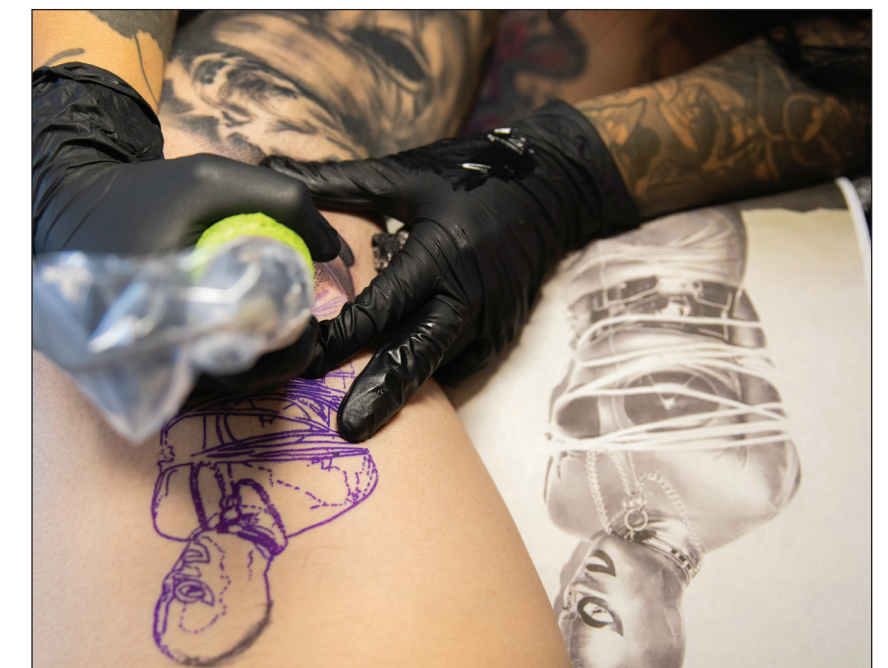
Felix was born and raised in Santa Ana and started tattooing after she developed Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis, a neurological condition

that causes swelling in the brain and spinal cord. After waking from a coma that left her temporarily impaired, activities and exercises at the rehabilitation center brought her joy.

Felix worked for several tattoo shops, but it wasn't until the last one that she noticed the disparities between genders being the only female to work at a shop of men in over a year. The shop would close her appointments, charge more on rent and demand she take down decorations on her station because it made other artists "look boring." It took such a toll on her mental health that she started therapy and searched for private studios. "I felt like nobody understood me," she says.

Bliss is an only child born into a religious and strict family. She was always fascinated by art and would get in trouble at school for drawing rather than listening to teachers. She rebelled by doing stick-and-poke tattoos on herself at 14 years old, using a sewing needle to stick ink into skin.

Now, with her own private studio she shares with another female tattoo artist, she's working to find clients and overcome imposter syndrome. "This is supposed to be something manly, but I love that we [women] are breaking the norm," Bliss says.



TOUGH / Bliss (above) works with a lot of different styles, but her personal art includes images of bondage and dominant women.



FROM HOUSE TO HOME

DJ Illegal Alienz went from remixing music at quinceñeras to playing the turntables at some of the most popular EDM venues in SoCal.

WORDS AND PHOTO BY JAKKI PADILLA

Zeke came to the United States at 12 years old. It took him a year to learn English with the help of his uncle, who enforced an English-speaking household. Growing up, he was a creative but depressed teenager - until he picked up a turntable and started watching Youtube tutorials.

Today Zeke goes by the name DJ Illegal Alienz and is a up-and-coming house DJ and soon-to-be a producer on the popular EDM radio show Secret Nightlife on Sirius XM.

A defining moment in his career was meeting French DJ Dustycloud, who shares a similar background as an immigrant trying to make it into the electronic music industry.

"When a lot of immigrants get to this country, they have the understanding that they cannot really pass a certain point," says Zeke. "So they just have to settle with whatever they have!"

Zeke says his experience as an immigrant artist can be difficult and risky. His stage name

Illegal Alienz, for example, states his citizenship status. He hopes his journey can inspire his fellow Hispanic listeners to chase their dreams, especially in any creative field.

Zeke graduated in 2019 with a sound engineering degree from a private music college. It took him seven years to get from weddings and quinces to performing at well-known EDM clubs from Orange County to Los Angeles.

With each performance, he creates a memorable experience for his audience, not only through sound but through psychedelic visuals and fluorescent lighting as well.

He says his greatest accomplishment is signing a publishing contract for his song "Pray the Lord" with Secret Nightlife where he keeps half of his profits while still having all the rights to his song.

"I wanted to show some people that there are other ways to go out about being an immigrant," says Zeke.

WHAT'S HOT

SAC EVENTS



Student Art Show
Through June 7

The annual student art show returns to celebrate pieces made by students in photography, digital media, wood, ceramics, sculptures and drawing/painting classes. Some of the most notable pieces at the artshow include a Mexican spinning top, images from folklorico dance events, a Spanish house made out of cork, and pots with original art or red lips. Located in the Fine Arts Building C, the gallery is free to check out Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

— Jakki Padilla

SPOTIFY



Summer Lovin' 23
from the *el Don* fam

Are you ready for Summer? Well, we certainly are! It's time to go to the beach, go hiking, sleep in, and relax (until next semester starts, anyway). Time to crack open a beer and spend time with your friends and family. Out with the old, and end with the new. The time for new music or nostalgic sunny tunes is now here. So sit back relax and listen to our latest and spunkiest Spotify playlist yet. Our list includes artists such as Sublime, Tyler the Creator, TV Girl, Donna Summer, SZA, Jay Z, and other 2010's music. Pre-pandemic nostalgia.

— Jakki Padilla

MUSIC



Little Things EP
Jorja Smith

After a two-year hiatus from her album *Be Right Back* and single "Nobody But You" in 2021 R&B singer Jorja Smith returns with a new EP and two earthy singles "Try Me" and "Little Things." The *Little Things EP* is fast-paced and experiments with more sounds outside of her usual influences like Dua Lipa's album *Future Nostalgia*. Smith's music has changed just as the song "Try Me" implies, Smith's EP is a reclamation of her self-assurance as a musician. It is the things that get us high off her romantic and dreamy vocals.

— Jakki Padilla

TRENDS



Sunrise Alarm Clock
Hatch

The viral sunrise alarm clock you've seen on TikTok is definitely worth it. It mimics the sunrise and allows you to wake up gently with light. The device is easy to set up and lets users enhance the level of brightness desired along with different color lights. The sunlight in the alarm clock gradually gets louder and brighter ten minutes before the sound goes on. This clock helps create a more pleasant way to awaken by promoting better quality sleep and eliminating the startling nature of regular alarm clocks.

— Daniela Derramadero



PUPPETS / More than a dozen fans got up on stage to perform with Green Jelly.



LET ME IN / "Three Little Pigs" hit the Billboard Hot 100 during summer of 1993.

SOUNDS OF JELLY

A comedy rock band from the 1980s makes an appearance in downtown

PHOTOS AND WORDS BY DANHA SANCHEZ

The crowd jumped, moshed, danced and pushed each other to the incredible rhythm of Beach Waste, Melted Bodies, Shock Therapy and the show's star: Green Jelly.

On May 6, La Santa's sickest line-up yet had everyone screaming, sweating and sharing one of the most iconic moments in the history of the bands.

Green Jelly, a metal rock band formed in 1981, still kicked ass in 2023 and drove the crowd insane within five seconds of being out on stage.

During their performance, vocalist Bill Manspeaker had the audience doing everything he told them to do, including asking for 15 volunteers to go up on stage and become "puppets", to having everyone sit on the floor, to forming a friendship circle around the "cow god," as well as to put their hands on his gut.

The energy, smell, and intensity rose when Manspeaker started to sing "Three Little Pigs," their number-one hit from 1993. When he took off his pants in the middle of the performance while the puppets moshed around the venue, the energy picked up and didn't stop.

Overall, the show was filled with the feelings of adrenaline and excitement that were transmitted through the music, from the stage to the pit and from the pit to the stage—all night long.



TRANSFORM / Band members take different on-stage personas.

WEEKEND WANDERING

At swap meets you can find everything from one of a kind items to everyday essentials

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY KATE G. BUSTAMANTE

Growing up, Sundays were little Nancy Santos' favorite day of the week. Her parents had a day off, she didn't have any homework due and she always got five dollars to spend at the endless rows of low price goods at "el Swami". Sundays felt like a treasure hunt. Though the Santos faced many challenges in the money department, "I knew I would find a lot more things for a lot less than at a normal store," she said, gesturing to families sitting on a field of grass next to a bustling parking lot at Cypress College. With consumer prices at the highest in 40 years, swap meets continue to be a staple in saving money and keeping it in the community. Also known as flea markets, the term stems from the original purpose of these uncommon sales where people would meet to trade second-hand objects. In So-Cal, swap meets are more than a pop-up. They are a form of life. There are permanent indoor and outdoor sales hosted everywhere from community college parking lots, an old drive-in theater to the O.C. Fairgrounds. Drawing thousands of people looking to save big. Some of them are free admission and parking, while others charge a fee to get in or to park. Find everything from cleaning supplies, new and used clothes, furniture to a place to take a nice walk with family, eat or drink a cold one while you dance to live music. Finding affordable goods at retail stores is only getting harder. Many people resort to ordering online from billionaire-owned companies as a means to get their everyday needs met at reasonable prices, often at the cost of their moral compass. "I hate to give my money to Bezos," says May Jimenez,

a senior business major at Cal State Fullerton. At swap meets, everyday clothing items, cleaning supplies, socks and shoes can be half the price of big department stores and websites.

When you shop swap meets, the vendors are not disconnected billionaires but working class people that customers feel they can relate to and connect with. "It's important to support people making their way for themselves," says Maria Ruiz, freshman psychology major at SAC and Anaheim native.

Many vendors saw a huge decline or completely lost work during the pandemic. Like their customers, many did not have a safety net to fall back on when the pandemic hit. But when state's regulations for outdoor areas grew more tolerant in late 2020, the size of crowds did too.

As did opportunities. Like for artisan Jose Chavez, "... Cuando bajo la economía [por la pandemia] todos votaron por hacerlas [los barros] de colores. Y así es como se empezaron a vender." *When the economy was bad [because of the pandemic], everyone voted to paint them*. That's how they started selling, said Chavez about how their company thrived and made it out of the very doomful fate of the early Covid-19 stage. Shopping at your local swap meet is a small step to save money and help out small businesses. They can create economic opportunities for both buyers and sellers to earn money and spend at a lower cost than they would at retail stores. Like 30-year-long swap meet vendor Cecilia Velasquez says, "Para que se ayuden ustedes y nosotros también." *So you can help yourself and we can too.*

GOLDEN WEST COLLEGE



DIG IN/ Many vendors lay out their items on a tarp for customers to look through themselves and ask for prices

SANTA FE SPRINGS



LIVE MUSIC/ Previously La Mirada Drive-in, live performances now draws dancers in Friday through Sunday

EL SWAP MEET DE CHINO



OPEN AIR/ Crowds walk through rows of vendors with easy-ups for shade in hot sun

CYPRESS COLLEGE



COMMUNITY/ Familiar faces blossom friendships as people browse through two dollar clothing tables

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE



QUALITY TIME/ With something for everyone, the whole family can save money on essentials, food or just browse

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

DONS FINISH FIFTH
IN OEC STANDINGS

Santa Ana beach volleyball wrapped up the season at the Orange Empire Conference tournament on April 28. Five pairs entered the tournament for the Dons, while only two advanced. "Both pairs played some tough teams," said Assistant Coach Myriah Kunipo-Aguirre. "Despite not having the success we would have hoped for, this has been some of the best volleyball I have seen all season." The Dons finished their season with an overall record of 6-9-1, while 5-5 in conference.

—Dominic Crenshaw

BASEBALL

SANTA ANA CARRIED
BY LETHAL LINEUP

Propelled by explosive offense, the Dons cruise into the California Community College Athletic Association regional playoffs. SAC was second in the Orange Empire Conference and top three in nearly all offensive categories for the regular season. The Dons led their conference in home runs, runs, RBIs, walks, and slugging percentage. SAC faced Fullerton in game one of the CCCAA finals on Friday, May 19.

—Jack Haslett



"1,2,3, STATE!"/ Wrestler Ruth Viveros and the Dons finished sixth in the program's first state tournament.

GRAPPLING FOR FUNDING

Despite not receiving money from the school, the women's wrestling team has grown from three into 14 athletes — and is thriving in competition.

WORDS BY NICHOLAS WIRE / PHOTO BY DOMINIC CRESHAW

Six out of seven Santa Ana women's wrestlers placed in the inaugural Cypress State Tournament held on April 22, yet they aren't even a sanctioned school program.

Wrestlers Evelyn Lozano (109 lbs.) and Kaylee Enriquez (128) placed third in their respective weight classes. Kirsten Ravelo (116 lbs.), Jade Morales (123 lbs.), and Danielle Carbajal (136 lbs.) placed fourth in their weight classes. Valerie Robles placed sixth, in the 180 lbs. weight class.

The Dons placed sixth out of 10 teams, with 54.5 collective points. However, the women's wrestling program at Santa Ana College is internally funded by their volunteer coaches, not by the school.

Coach Donald Apodaca paid all travel, lodging, and tournament entrance fees this year.

"I take pride in them. If they turn out good, get out of school, and graduate...that's success," said Apodaca.

Comparatively, the men's wrestling team, which is funded by the school, qualified five wrestlers for state and finished seventh in the Southern Regional Tournament.

The women's team first started off with three wrestlers who had to compete against the male wrestlers in 2021. This semester, 14 student athletes

are training as part of the program.

Many of the women are brand new to wrestling. Some joined for self defense purposes, while others filtered in from local high school teams. Statewide, there are now about 8,000 women wrestlers.

In California, women's wrestling is classified as an emerging sport. When a California Community College Athletic Association school participates as an emerging sport, they don't have to meet the academic requirements of 2.0 GPA and six prior semester credits to compete.

However, student officers are held to different eligibility requirements. Not only do they have to hold meetings with the institution, they are also required to hold a 2.0 GPA and 12 minimum credits.

Additionally, eligible student club officers can request for the school to pay both transportation and tournament entry fees.

This year, there was no funding available since these officer requirements weren't met.

Though they don't have funding, they're hoping to open a conversation with the school president. Las Doñas still strive for continued excellence.

"We want to be state champions and annual contenders," said Coach Sadie Morales.

OPINION AYDIN ABDOLLAHI

SOCCKER FANS CAN'T CHANT

While soccer has steadily grown into American culture, one thing has remained stagnant: chant culture. Americans suck at creating original chants. I wish there was a better way to put it.

This trademark "Fight and Win!" cheer from the Seattle Sounders of Major League Soccer lives in infamy amongst foreign soccer fans.

It's pretty clear why we get made fun of so often by soccer fans abroad. And if it's not clear yet, take a look at what the standard of chanting looks like in Argentina, Germany and Morocco.

I'm not cherry picking the worst American chants and the most impressive chants from around the world either. The Sounders are known countrywide for having one of the best and most loyal fan bases in MLS, and they use this chant proudly at every single game.

The chants from clubs aforementioned showcase a fully original song curated by each group of fans. This level of passion, dedication, and inventiveness is the norm in areas where soccer is the most popular sport—which happens to be most of the world. The difference in creativity and volume between our songs and theirs is palpable.

Americans love soccer now, however, creative and original fan music is a massive contributor to what makes a live atmosphere so electric. Until we're able to improve upon this, we will continue to be subject to taunting and teasing from the rest of the world.



→ STAFF EDITORIAL

EVERYTHING ISN'T TOO BAD

News isn't always about the problems, it's also about solutions

Let's talk about what's going right.

This spring, struggling students are finally getting the resources and visibility they deserve. Programs and clubs such as the U2 Scholars, EOPS, Gender Sexuality Alliance, UndocuScholars and MESA are hosting their own separate graduations. OCTA is giving students discounted bus passes. Project Rise has grown to 40 members.

As the majority on this campus, Latino students are disproportionately impacted.

It is vital that our students have the resources they need to succeed in higher education.

At el Don, it's not only about reporting on our problems but also about the responses to those problems.

Upon opening any media platform, viewers are flooded with the latest tragic event, environmental disaster and stories that leave us with nothing but a pit in our stomach and the question: what can we do about it?

It is important to stay informed, but

also to give hope.

At the beginning of this school year, el Don received a Solutions Journalism grant that paved the way for us to report on solutions already within our community.

The Solutions Journalism framework features a response to a problem, provides evidence of effectiveness, includes insights and discusses limitations to the response.

Using the SoJo lens helps us as reporters tell the whole story, honor the truth and provide a fuller picture—complicating the narrative.

What we saw this semester are great responses. But they are short-term solutions to long-term problems.

Graduation is only a one-day thing. Bus passes expire. Clubs are in need of a designated space to continue providing for underrepresented groups on campus.

While this year gave us hope, we need long-term solutions that will ultimately garner more success for students.

SUMMMER PLANS?

“Go on morning hikes with my friends and then go to a couple of indie concerts...”

— Giovana Mondragon Salazar, freshman

Santa Ana College students

SPEAK ON IT

Reporter Daniela Derramadero asks what people look forward to this break.

“Probably go to different coffee shops, pastry shops, go eat some food.”

— Mauricio Garcia Cabada, sophomore



“Usually my friends plan some trips or hangouts like the OC Fair. We always end up going every year so that’s one thing. But besides that, probably going to the mall, window shopping, or trying new foods and places.”

— Laura Alvarez Guilar, sophomore



“Over the summer I’m taking English102 and statistics and hopefully I will get a job and just hang out with friends.”

— Natalie Olivarez, freshman



“...Going to the new student orientation, signing up for classes, trying to find roommates, doing my housing application... just preparing to transfer to UCLA in the fall.”

— Jenna Gery, sophomore

“...Travel more to Mexico because I do have a pass where I can travel every month. So I just want to go and see family and just have a stress free summer before I start UCI.”

— Sandra Andres, sophomore

“...Try to find time to relax and find time to do stuff for me.”

— America Balbuena, freshman

“I’m going to be working at a food truck and then I’m also going to be working at my regular job.”

— Rocio Toribio Alarcoo, sophomore

