

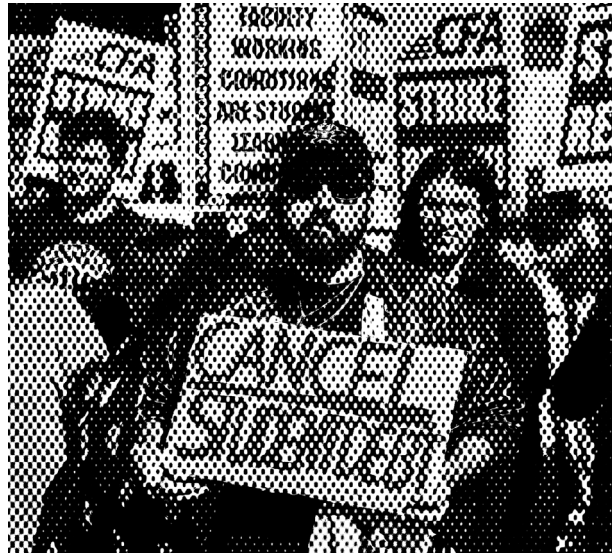
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PHOTOS BY KENNY HOLSTON, ANDRE DAVANCENS AND CAROLYN CASTER

Today several young voters will vote in the 2024 presidential election and make decisions that could drastically impact the future of not only their generation but all Americans.

THE GEN Z VOTE:

How this generation can impact the election

By DENISE CALDERON
Staff Writer

There are nearly 40 million Generation Zers eligible to vote this November, and many of them are ready to make their voices heard and disrupt the current political scene.

In the 2020 election, Gen Z broke records with about 53-55% of registered 18 to 29-year-olds casting their vote, according to an article published by CNBC that cited New Democrat Network president Simon Rosenberg.

In comparison to previous generations, Gen Z seems more excited to vote and is taking the initiative

to go to the polls. With 8.3 million new voters, Gen Z is said to have made a big impact this election season. According to Tufts University, in the 2022 midterm election, only 28% of Gen Z who did not vote said that it did not matter, compared to 40% of millennials who said that as well. And about 35% of Gen Z stated voting was their responsibility.

Gen-Z Cal Poly Pomona students Juan Gomez, Ashwin Phillips and Enrique Govea have shown interest in forging a better path for their generation amid the tumultuous election season that could have serious repercussions for their future.

“As the Gen Z of my group chat, the millennials don’t care about voting,” said Gomez, a political science student. “We have been advocating for more young people to vote because it matters and affects those that come after us. I know that older generations see us as whiny kids, but that’s because we have seen so much in very little time, and voting is a means to start a change for the better.”

Despite what older generations might think, Gen Z is interested in a myriad of issues currently happening in the world. One of the most pressing issues that Gen Z is focusing on is economic issues, seeing the current

state of the world and how difficult it has become for younger people to live comfortably.

According to GenForward Survey, 12% of adults between the ages of 18 and 26 years old believed economic growth was the most important issue facing our country, 10% said it was income inequality and about 7% said it was poverty.

“Issues with income inequality, housing affordability and education aren’t exclusive to Gen Z, but they’re more extreme for us,” said Phillips, an environmental science student.

Gen Z is interested in trying to fix the issues with

inflation, and according to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, having jobs that pay a livable wage was Gen Z’s third highest priority. Besides economic issues, the other areas that Gen Z is prioritizing are gun violence and racial inequality.

Gen Z has been motivated to be politically active and stay informed because of social media. Social media has been an avenue for younger generations to enter the political landscape, especially for those who are new voters interested in getting involved in politics. According to Circle, Gen Zers prefer to get their

information from Twitter, TikTok and Instagram.

“I get my information from my For You page on social media,” said Govea, a food science and technology student.

A big proponent of social media, particularly TikTok, that has sparked political excitement to the younger generations is former President John F. Kennedy’s grandson, Jack Schlossberg. He has surpassed 830,000 followers on TikTok and Instagram combined.

He became Vogue’s political correspondent in July 2024, and he makes insightful yet fun videos on TikTok about politics; the videos

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Examining Adam Schiff and Steve Garvey



COURTESY OF AP PHOTO

Candidate Steve Garvey plans to expand support for apprenticeships.

What CA Senate candidates have planned for your education



COURTESY OF AP PHOTO/DAMIAN DOVARGANES

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., hopes to cancel student loan debt.

By ALLISON LARRIMORE
Staff Writer

In addition to the presidential election, 33 out of 100 United States Senate seats are on the 2024 ballot, including one for California, impacting students across the state as tuition costs continue to increase.

Rep. Adam Schiff and former MLB player Steve Garvey are the two candidates for the Democratic and Republican parties, respectively. Though there is only one senate seat open for California, they are running for two separate terms. The first is for the final two months of longtime

Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s term following her death in September 2023, ending Jan. 3, 2025. The second is for the typical six-year senate term in the 119th Congress.

An issue they both address in their plans as prospective senators is the cost of higher education and how they aim to make the college

experience more accessible and affordable for students.

On Schiff’s campaign website, the three main points listed for lowering costs are making public college free in California, expanding Pell Grants and canceling student loan debt. He plans to guarantee two years of tuition-free

community college using tax credits for those making less than \$125,000 per year, as well as canceling at least \$50,000 in debt for every student loan borrower with Schiff’s Student Loan Relief for Medicare and Social Security Recipients Act.

Alternatively, Garvey’s campaign website lists two

proposals for tackling higher education costs. Similar to Schiff, he plans to expand Pell Grant eligibility, but with a different angle by offering it for vocational programs in addition to college degrees. He also aims to further develop the federal apprenticeship

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University Village hosts voter education event



CULTURE Page 5
Alumni in politics reflect on CPP philosophy



OPINION Page 7
Abortion is a human right on the ballot this election



SPORTS Page 8
Trans athlete ban at stake in election 2024



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University Village hosts voter education event

Students learn ballot propositions: education spending, affordable housing, increased prison sentences

By RYAN FOGG
Staff Writer

In addition to voting for the future president of the United States, on Election Day, Californians will also vote for several initiatives and propositions that will impact their lives. The University Village collaborated with the Rose Institute of State and Local Government from Claremont McKenna College to educate students on these measures.

The University Village hosted two sessions in the Village Recreation Center at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Oct. 22.

Two research assistants from the Rose Institute, Katherine Lanzalotto and Katherine Jackson, both seniors at Claremont College, led the discussions. Lanzalotto is majoring in philosophy, politics and economics while Jackson is pursuing a degree in government and psychology.

There are 10 propositions up for voting Nov. 5, including those that cover education spending, housing, same-sex marriage and more, according to CalMatters.

Propositions that have occupied the most attention at the University Village were those on education spending, affordable housing and increasing sentences for certain drug and theft crimes.

According to the Secretary of State website, Proposition 2 authorizes \$10 billion to repair, upgrade and construct new K-12 public

schools, including charters. Opponents of this ballot measure argue it will cost taxpayers more money. Supporters of the bill state that many schools and community colleges are outdated and need basic repairs to retain teachers.

Proposition 33 expands the local government's authority to enact rent control on residential property. Advocates of Proposition 33 argue this would directly make housing more affordable, limiting a landlord's ability to upcharge rent.

Proposition 36 is the most controversial in the state. The proposition allows felony charges and increased sentences for drug and theft charges. Opponents of the measure believe it will continue the failed war on drugs by making simple drug possession a felony and spend billions of dollars on prisons. Supporters argue the proposition is a balanced approach to fix current laws and it toughens penalties for fentanyl and drug traffickers, which has been a growing issue in California.

The director of the Rose Institute of State and Local Government Ken Miller advised students to always look for non-partisan information when it comes to voter information.

"Don't fall for big advertising," Miller said. "Instead, focus on information you receive in the mail by the Secretary of State on voting guidelines."

Miller is also a professor at Claremont McKenna College who has taught

California politics for 21 years.

The assistant director for leadership development at the University Village Kyle Sowry said the University Village used to host similar events each election cycle up until 2012 with political science professor Alan Coson. After seeing advertisements from the Rose Institute online, Sowry reached out to the Institute to set up the event.

According to Sowry, an estimated 75 students from the University Village showed up in attendance for both of the sessions. If students missed the chance to attend the event, the Rose Institute has educational videos online that cover every proposition on its official website.

However, some Cal Poly Pomona students argue that a similar event should be organized on campus because many students lack information about propositions because media have been saturated only with the information on presidential candidates.

"I think they should be bringing these events to the main campus, especially during U-Hour to inform more students," political science major Robert Godinez said.

For CPP students like Godinez who don't live on campus, events like these are harder to attend. Hosting a similar event on campus could improve attendance and educate more students

Reach Ryan Fogg at managing@thepolypost.com



Students at University Village learn about different ballot propositions.

COURTESY OF KYLE SOWRY



What are the CA propositions ?

10 results

Proposition 2

This proposition would provide \$8.5 billion to K-12 schools and \$1.5 billion to community colleges to renovate and construct facilities. Some of the money would be set aside for removing lead from water, creating transitional kindergarten classrooms and building career and technical education facilities.



Proposition 3

This proposition would ensure the right of same-sex couples to marry in the California Constitution. It would also repeal proposition 8, which says that marriage is between a man and a woman.



Proposition 4

This proposition aims to respond to the climate crisis. It would authorize \$10 billion in debt to spend on environmental and climate projects, with the biggest chunk, \$1.9 billion, for drinking water improvements. The bond prioritizes lower-income communities, and those most vulnerable to climate change, and requires annual audits.



Proposition 6

This proposition would amend the California Constitution to prohibit the state from punishing inmates with involuntary work assignments and disciplining those who refuse to work. Instead, state prisons could set up a volunteer work assignment program to take time off sentences in the form of credits.



Proposition 5

This proposition would amend the California constitution by lowering the required threshold to 55% for any borrowing to fund affordable housing construction, down payment assistance programs and a host of "public infrastructure" projects, including those for water management, local hospitals and police stations, broadband networks and parks.



Proposition 32

This proposition would raise the minimum wage to \$17 for the remainder of 2024, and \$18 an hour starting in January 2025 – a bump from the current \$16. Small businesses with 25 or fewer employees would be required to start paying at least \$17 next year, and \$18 in 2026. If voters say "yes," California will have the nation's highest state minimum wage.



Proposition 33

If this proposition were to pass, cities would be allowed to control rents on any type of housing – including single-family homes and new apartments, and for new tenants.



Proposition 34

This proposition would require some California providers to spend at least 98% of that net drug sale revenue on "direct patient care." But the proposition doesn't apply to all providers – only those that spend at least \$100 million on expenses other than direct care, that also own and operate apartment buildings and that have racked up at least 500 severe health and safety violations



Proposition 35

This proposition would require the state to spend the money from a tax on health care plans on Medi-Cal, the public insurance program for low-income Californians and people with disabilities. The revenue would go to primary and specialty care, emergency services, family planning, mental health and prescription drugs.



Proposition 36

This proposition would reclassify some misdemeanor theft and drug crimes as felonies. It would also create a new category of crime – a "treatment-mandated felony."



SCHIFF, GARVEY: Students share their perspectives on local politicians



Students protest the war in Gaza on Nov. 9 2023.

COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN MAGDALENO

Continued from Page 1

in Schiff's plans, by increasing federal support for apprenticeships with the Training America's Workforce Act.

Angelina Prieto, a political science student and the president of Cal Poly Pomona's Political Science Club, said she values and hopes to see a concrete plan about increasing access and funding for higher education for people who feel it's not available to them.

"I think that it's really important for engagement, and also just for getting people out of bad situations," said Prieto. "Knowledge is power, and education is also power."

Richard Gonzalez, a history student and the president of CPP's History Club, echoed this and hopes higher education will be made more affordable. He also emphasized the

importance of voting, calling it an act of engaging in America's democracy, coming together as a community and voicing opinions.

Prieto and Mohammad Al-Yaseen, a political science student and the vice president of the Political Science Club, both believe voting in state elections is of equally and possibly more important than voting in the presidential election, especially for those concerned with their education.

"You're electing people that are going to focus on your state directly to make sure that what your state is struggling with is going to be accurately addressed," said Prieto. "I think that it's more important now than ever for students, for people that want to become students or want to have a higher education to really get educated on who they want

to vote for."

Al-Yaseen also encouraged students enrolled in public institutions like CPP to take elections more seriously since, unlike private institutions that run on tuition and donation funds, public education is entirely funded by local, state and federal governments.

"Students need to realize that when they cast their votes for state elections or nationwide elections, they're casting the vote of their own educational destiny," said Al-Yaseen.

The deadline to vote in the 2024 general election is Nov. 5. All registered voters may submit their ballots through mail or at in-person voting centers. For more information on voting in California, visit the California Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ca.gov.

Reach Allison Larrimore at managing@thepolypost.com



Check out The Poly Post for **LIVE** election coverage

CPP history club hosts debate to promote civil discourse



Members of the Student Initiative for Justice, Cal Poly Pomona College Republicans and the History Club participate in debate.

COURTESY OF ANTHONY CABALLERO



Political Science professor Liza Taylor moderates the debate and sees it as a way to promote civil discourse within her department.

COURTESY OF ANTHONY CABALLERO

By **CHRISTIAN MAGDALENO**
Staff Writer

The Cal Poly Pomona History Club hosted a debate between the Student Initiative for Justice and the CPP College Republicans club at Building 163 during U-Hour Oct. 22 to promote civil discourse on campus despite frequent opposite political views.

Students at the debate, named "Voices of the future: Engagement in politics," discussed topics such as the economy, immigration, abortion and reproductive rights.

"It is always nice to have these conversations when there is no animosity and to find that we can come to a common conclusion as well," said Jenaveve Gregory, the co-founder and co-vice president of SIJ and a member of the History Club.

The student debaters were given five minutes to respond to questions tailored to their club's political party, and two minutes for a rebuttal to

the other's answer. The hour-long event was moderated by Liza Taylor, an assistant professor in the political science department and the co-faculty advisor for SIJ.

Richard Gonzalez Jr., the president of the History Club and a history student, kicked off the debate by talking about presidential nominee and Vice President Kamala Harris' economic policies. Some of Harris' policies to tackle inflation are tax credits for parents of newborns, mortgage assistance for first-time homebuyers and banning price gouging at grocery stores, according to an article by the BBC.

"A lot of people will bring up Harris' policies on home payments and inflation, but if you look at how she is as a vice president right now, she hasn't done any of that," said CPP College Republicans president Aadi Mehta in his rebuttal to Gonzalez Jr.

"You have to look at the facts, and President Trump has a record of economic success and Kamala Harris

does not," said Mehta in his response on the economy. Gregory and Mehta discussed abortion and reproductive rights in the second round of this debate.

Representing the Republican side, Mehta said he believes Trump is not at fault for the controversial overturning of Roe v. Wade in 2022, which guaranteed the constitutional right to abortion. Mehta argued any Republican president would have appointed three conservative justices, and if a Democrat was president, they would have appointed liberal justices.

"Trump put in three extremely conservative justices, there is nothing exceptional about that," countered Gregory, representing SIJ. "These weren't just any conservatives, these were people who had a very clear vision on this long-standing precedent taken away from the American people."

Gregory continued her argument by questioning the

interpretation of states' rights and talked about different ways this will affect women across the country.

"When you look at the majority of Americans, the vast majority want abortion freedoms, but that is not being listened to," Gregory said. "For some reason, we are still seeing immense restrictions take place."

She also said there are no laws restricting men's rights in the United States over their bodies while states are restricting women's autonomy.

In the final round of the debate, Mehta and Giancarlo Abejero, the co-vice president and co-founder of SIJ, discussed immigration.

Abejero detailed his experiences as a legal immigrant and called out Trump's remarks surrounding immigrants.

"Trump's rhetoric has caused a lot of inflammatory reactions," Abejero said. "His comments on Haitian migrants have caused a lot of backlash, and as they should."

This was in reference to the 2024 presidential debate in which Trump said: "In Springfield, they are eating the dogs. The people that came in, they are eating the cats."

Mehta expressed his support for Trump's immigration policies and stated he trusts him more than Harris to secure the border. "President Trump delivered on his campaign promises for deportations, and he will do so again," said Mehta.

After the debate, Mehta said he wanted to share his club's perspective since he feels there is a lack of representation for views like his on campus and was happy this debate gave him a fair and civil platform.

"A lot of people see us as Make America Great Again or ruled by Trump, when in fact that's not the case," said Mehta. "He may be the leader of the Republican Party, but he is not representative of all the members of the party."

Mehta believes the

purpose of the political clubs on campus is to engage students in the political process to better understand each other.

"We don't just exist to rally our own people, we have to reach across the aisle," said Mehta.

Both clubs stated they are open to more debates with each other and hope this can extend past the election.

Taylor said the students hoped to create a space where they could promote civil discourse between people who have differing political beliefs.

"They invited me to be a moderator, and I agreed because I think this is a really important activity for the students to be engaged in," said Taylor.

"We need to encourage being civil and cordial, but also debating topics and issues we feel very strongly about."

Reach Christian Magdaleno at managing@thepolypost.com

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LA VOZ: First-gen Latino voters worry about immigration, education, same-sex marriages

By **CRISTOPHER PINEDA**
Staff Writer

Since the 2020 election, 4.1 million Latinos in the U.S. have become eligible to vote, and many are the first in their families to do so, according to the Pew Research Center. First-generation Latino voters are impactful to the election because of their unique insights as immigrants and citizens of the United States.

There has been a continuous increase in the number of Latino voters each year. From the 2020 election, the number of eligible voters increased by 153% from 32.3 million to a projected 36.2 million.

Diana Martinez, an animal science student at Cal Poly Pomona, is not only the first in her family to vote, but it is her first time voting.

"What inspired me to vote was my dad, since he isn't able to vote, I wanted to be a voice for him," Martinez said. "It is a privilege to vote since many people don't get that opportunity."

The average age of Latino voters is 39 years old, while the national average is 48. According to the Pew Research Center, many Latino families immigrated to the U.S. while having children naturalized or born in the U.S., and those children are the eligible voters. However, the older generations are left without a say, since around 19% of Latinos are not U.S. citizens and hence not eligible to vote.

Alexa Miranda, an environmental biology student, said that she feels responsible for addressing immigration policies



Candidate Steve Garvey plans to expand support for apprenticeships.

because of her family's citizenship status.

"My parents are immigrants, so my vote really does matter in these issues because I do have family that is being directly affected by new immigration policies," Miranda said. "They don't have a voice, so it is my job to vote for them."

According to Miranda, Latinos care most about immigration policies from both candidates, Republican nominee Donald Trump and Democrat Vice President Kamala Harris.

Harris' campaign has focused on border security and root causes of migration to the U.S., such as poverty and violence throughout

Central America. Harris plans to reverse the restrictive measures introduced by the Trump administration, allowing expanded protections on those seeking asylum from prosecution.

Trump's campaign has focused his policies on immigration by promising to carry the "largest domestic deportation operation in American history," which requires the relocation of troops to the U.S.-Mexican border, Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids of workplaces and construction of more ICE detention facilities.

Trump also intends to end birthright citizenship for children of undocumented

parents.

Claudia Salazar Jimenez, an assistant professor of Latin American literature and creative writing, detailed the first term of Trump's presidency while she was teaching at Brooklyn College in New York City, New York. There, she saw immigrant and first-generation students struggle with the Trump administration's immigration policies.

"A student's dad was detained and disappeared for two days, and they had no idea where he was," Jimenez said. "For me, it was reminiscent of dictatorial governments within Latin America, and I remember thinking, 'This isn't supposed

to happen here; how is it possible my student doesn't know where his dad is?"

First-generation Latinos, such as Jimenez, have already seen the impact Trump's first term has had on Latino families. During Trump's first presidency, the "zero tolerance" immigration policy separated over 5,000 children from their parents without any way to track their family members.

Jimenez said she fears of what could happen during Trump's second term if these very restrictive policies had happened during his first term.

Republican Vice-Presidential nominee JD Vance suggested his party is willing

to deport immigrants covered from the deferred action for childhood arrivals at a campaign rally Oct. 22.

Jimenez, a queer Latina woman, also underscored the importance of voting as certain key points made by the Republican candidate would go against her existence and against other people who identify as queer.

"The Republicans demonstrated that any right gained before is not certain and is always in danger," said Jimenez. "There are also rumors of the Trump campaign going against the validity of (same-sex) marriage, which would affect me directly."

Education is also a very important issue for this year's ballot. Trump has discussed getting rid of the Department of Education entirely and wants to change the curriculums to exclude critical race theory and gender studies.

Making cuts to education worldwide would be cutting funding for Federal Work Study and rescinding \$2 billion from the Pell Grant reserve funds.

Martinez said she is very concerned with the educational fund cuts.

"Being the first one in my family to attend university was not only a dream of mine, but a dream of my parents, and this dream is not possible without FAFSA," Martinez said.

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GEN Z VOTE: Students often rely on social media to decide how to vote



PHOTO BY CHARLIZE ALTHEA GARCIA

Students protesting at CFA strikes.

Continued from Page 1

younger audiences because of their lighthearted nature. His mission is to be playful but at the same time spread awareness and the information people need to know in a way that is much more digestible for younger people.

In an interview with Town and Country, Schlossberg said, "If you can get that message out there, in whatever way works, it doesn't make it

any less serious, or any less strategic to get more people to watch it. And so that's really all I've been trying to do. If I wanted to blow myself up, I could be doing a lot more, and I don't want to do that."

The power of social media and the need for change has opened Gen Z's eyes this election season. Gomez, like many other Gen Zers, said has seen the severity of our current state and wants a better future.

"The 2024 election will have a massive role in our future," said Gomez. "There have been talks already about the potential damage (Donald) Trump can do if he's in office again. So many people will lose jobs and benefits along with higher taxes for the middle and lower class while also having to contend with higher costs of living nationwide."

Reach Denise Calderon at managing@thepolypost.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES BRULTE

CPP alumnus James Brulte attends the unveiling of the official gubernatorial portrait of the former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger under the Capitol dome in Sacramento.

Alumni bring CPP motto to politics

Former Broncos reflect on time at university, lessons learned

By Charilze Althea Garcia & Teresa Acosta
Editor in Chief and Arts and Culture Editor

Three Cal Poly Pomona alumni, who were involved in political campaigns during their time in college, used their political activism as steppingstones into their political careers.

Marie Royce, Jorge Marquez and James Brulte have carved out different paths in the political field, but their journeys in the executive branch, senate and mayorship and their inspirations contain echoes of each other and the educational foundation they received.

Growing up in Pomona, Royce, who is currently appointee of Governor Glenn Youngkin of Virginia, knew from a young age the direction she wanted to take her career. As an entrepreneur, Royce felt she would be able to create, shape and promote her beliefs through business.

"You have to remember that you're in charge of your own life, and you have to be realizing that you're the creative force," Royce said.

In high school, Royce was required to do community service hours, which led to her interest in community engagement. During her time at CPP, Royce double majored in human resources and marketing and served as youth chair for Pomona City Councilman G. Stanton Selby, who successfully ran for mayor of Pomona in 1983.

Royce's journey into



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOVERNOR.VIRGINIA.GOV

Marie Royce swears in to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia Kelly Gee.

politics evolved from a culmination of leadership roles, each giving her more of an ability to impact the community she served as she worked her way up. While at CPP, Royce was chosen to act as a public relations representative for the Los Angeles County Fair. At the time, they were called "fair maidens," and their duties included event announcements and working with media outlets.

"Through (public relations), I met a lot of government officials," Royce said. "I started seeing kind of the intersection of community involvement, school and government."

One of Royce's greatest honors happened after she applied and was appointed as assistant secretary of state, educational and cultural affairs. During this process, she was nominated by former President Donald Trump, unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate, sworn in by a federal judge and the ceremony was performed

by Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Royce credits the supportive environment at the university and the "learn by doing" philosophy for allowing her to be successful. She is a strong proponent for people being clear about what they want and asking for it, staying visible by demonstrating what they are capable of and staying active in their professional pursuits.

"You have to remember that you're in the driver's seat of the car," Royce said, remembering what she said during her 1994 commencement speech at CPP. "Some people are in the passenger and some of you, I said, are even in the trunk."

Like Royce, Jorge Marquez, who currently sits on the Mutual Water Company Board of Directors, credited the "learn by doing" philosophy of CPP to his involvement in politics. With encouragement from his political science professor William Gossett, Marquez began participating as

a delegate in political campaigns.

After watching the political debate between Bill Clinton and Al Gore in 1995 when he was in middle school, Marquez turned to his mother with a slew of questions about how politics worked. This spark of curiosity led him on a journey to CPP to obtain a degree in political science and eventually provided a route to the position of mayor for the city of Covina. "I think everyone goes into politics hoping to make their community better," Marquez said. "Obviously, you have some bad apples here and there, but I think deep down, general consensus is most people want to do what's good for their community."

During his time at CPP, Marquez took every opportunity available to him whether it was applying for internships or getting involved in student organizations like the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de

Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A) and the Latino Business Student Association. His ambition and diligence eventually took him from the college campus to working for a senator, working as a delegate for the Obama campaign in 2007 and eventually working for his community as mayor.

He attributes his success to being present in environments that offered experiences and connections beneficial to his dream career.

"Just get in there and do it," said Marquez. "Even if you think like you're not doing much, pick up a broom and sweep the office. Just show up and talk to as many people you can. You never know what door is going to open."

Wanting to make sure there was a youth voice seated at the table, Marquez became a field deputy in the California State Assembly in 2006, then a senior district representative for the California State Senate in 2010 and finally mayor for the city of Covina in 2013, for which he served two terms.

His political career has always had a focus on water sustainability. Marquez contributes to projects and programs that work to ensure water quality in the San Gabriel Valley for years to come.

"We take care of one of the most precious resources that we have," Marquez said. "I wanted to make sure that we are now moving in a direction where we have a long-term ability to make sure that we have water

See POLITICIANS / Page 6

Presidential candidates use music as strategic tool in campaigns

By Kristine Pascual
Bronco Guide Editor

As the United States prepares for a deeply polarized election today, candidates Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are using music as a driving force in the political atmosphere.

In the 2024 election cycle, music from various genres played a significant role. Republicans like Trump and Ron DeSantis, have used songs like "Born in the USA" and gospel music to evoke patriotism and connect with religious voters.

Trump often plays a James Brown song, "It's a Man's Man's Man's World," an obvious dig at not only Harris, but her vice-presidential candidate Tim Walz, too.

Trump's team often refers to Walz as "Tampon Tim," derived from a mischaracterization of a Minnesotan law that requires period products to be provided in restrooms. In contrast, Kamala Harris uses more modern and contemporary music, including hip-hop, to appeal to younger millennial and Gen Z voters.

Assistant Professor Jarred Cuellar of the political science department noted music is used in campaigns in an attempt to connect with voter interests.

"Historically, music has been used as a mobilizer within elections, meaning music has been used to try and get people to resonate with the campaign," Cuellar said. "It's usually a simple way for candidates to try and relate with their voters to feel that there's some type of similarity there."

During Trump's town hall in Philadelphia Oct. 14, rather than continuing to accept questions, Trump played music.

"Let's not do any more questions," Trump said. "Let's just listen to music. Let's make it into music. Who the hell wants to hear questions, right?"

For the next 39 minutes, Trump danced to a playlist of music including Guns 'N Roses and Sinéad O'Connor.

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Reach Kristine Pascual at ac@thepolypost.com

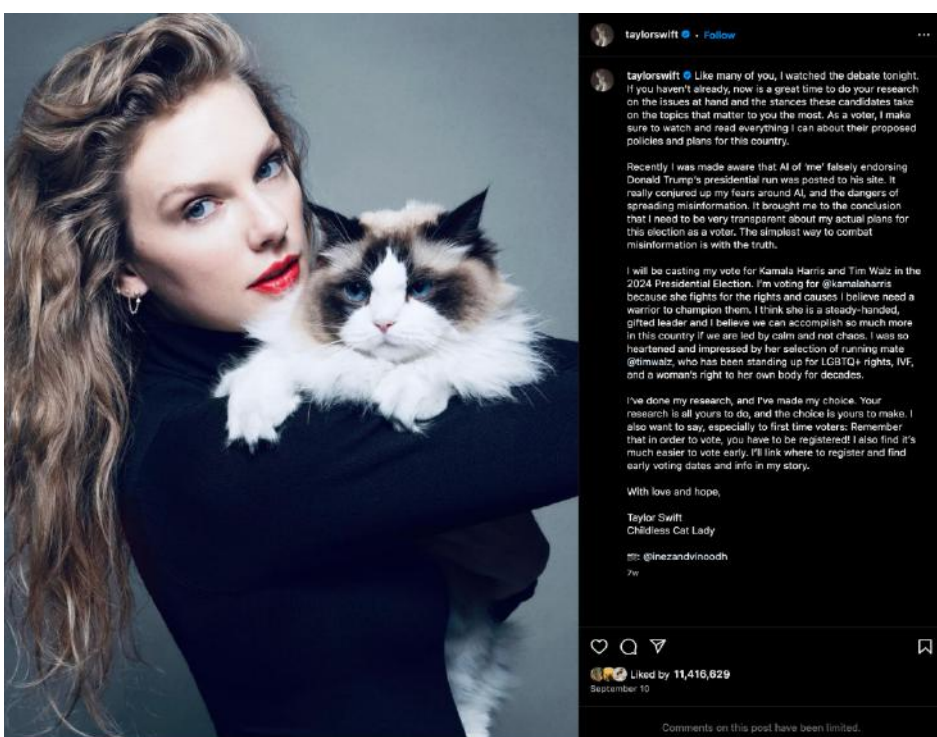


IMAGE COURTESY OF INSTAGRAM

In a hard post, Taylor Swift endorses Kamala Harris and Tim Walz and signs it "Childless Cat Lady," a dig at a comment JD Vance made during a Fox News interview with Tucker Carlson.

Politics, pop culture:

Celebrities, influencers impact voter awareness, choices

By Quincy San
Staff Writer

Celebrities may not be the first people that come to mind when people think about politics. Nevertheless, they play a very influential role in convincing Americans to register to vote and who to choose on the ballots.

Celebrities and influencers are very popular among young voters, and they can persuade many students to register to vote for the first time in their lives, a recent study by Harvard University's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation

revealed. According to the same study, the number of new voter registrations skyrocket when a celebrity encourages their fanbase to engage in civic participation.

In 2018, singer-songwriter Taylor Swift posted a link on her Instagram story encouraging her then-112 million followers to register to vote at [vote.org](https://www.vote.org). Within 72 hours, 250,000 registrants used the website to register to vote.

Kylie Jenner also took to Instagram to promote voter registration in 2020 when she posted a link to her then-196 million followers. The

site later reported a 1,500% increase in user traffic compared to the prior day and an 80% increase in total users that registered to vote.

Also in 2020, YouTube celebrity David Dobrik partnered with the nonprofit organization HeadCount to give away five Tesla vehicles to followers who were registered to vote through a unique registration link. Dobrik posted the call on multiple social media platforms, where he has over 14 million followers. A grand total of 67.1% of the giveaway

See INFLUENCE / Page 6

POLITICIANS: Broncos work to improve communities



JORGE MARQUEZ

Continued from Page 5

sustainability in the San Gabriel Valley.”

As a result of starting his political career at the age of 23, Marquez has struggled with the idea he was not prepared for the positions he has taken.

Citing imposter syndrome as the cause of this self-doubt, Marquez encourages students to know they have achieved their positions based on their qualifications.

“You have a seat at the table because you earned your way there,” Marquez said. “Don’t let that intimidation kind of stop you. I know we all have it, but at the end of the day, you

know you’re there. You’re there for a reason.”

His struggles with self-doubt were ultimately overcome by his determination to make decisions for his community as a representative for the youth. He wanted to ensure decisions were made for the betterment of future communities.

“Leave it better than how we found it,” said Marquez.

Former California Sen. Jim Brulte displayed the same passion during his time as California State Senator.

Noting it as his most important achievement, Brulte was responsible for writing the Safe Arms for Newborns law which allowed for a mother to hand over their newborn to a hospital or fire station within 72 hours post birth, no questions asked.

His interest in government stemmed from his parents’ involvement in local politics. He naturally gravitated toward politics in high school, which led him to work on political campaigns with elected officials.

“I met a lot of these elected officials, and I thought, ‘They’re not any smarter than I am,’” Brulte said.

“A lot of them weren’t as smart as I was. I thought, ‘I can do this.’ So, I decided to run for office, and I was elected.”

After graduating high school, Brulte first attended Chaffey College and transferred to Azusa Pacific. Due to financial hardship, he had to transfer to CPP.

A commuter himself during collegiate life, Brulte lived in Ontario. He sums up his experience in two activities: work and school.

His parents both worked but couldn’t afford to financially support Brulte’s education, leading him to take on the responsibility of putting himself through college.

“I wish I would’ve had the opportunity to be more of a full-time participant,” Brulte said. “I never went to watch a football game or a water polo game or a baseball game.”

“I pretty much went to school in the morning and came home and went to

work. I regret that, but we’ve all dealt a certain set of cards... and those were the cards I was dealt.”

Brulte spent six years at CPP, earning a degree in political science in 1980, sometimes taking breaks from school to work and save enough money to pay for tuition.

Before graduating, Brulte took on an internship with a U.S. senator and was offered a job immediately after graduation.

He moved to Washington D.C. working as a receptionist at the U.S. Senate Office and went on to work for the Republican National Committee.

He then became executive director at the Republican National Hispanic Assembly, working closely with the Reagan reelection campaign.

After Reagan’s reelection, Brulte worked in the Reagan-Bush administration.

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DARREN LOO | THE POLY POST
Gerardo Sanchez climbs Bronco Peak as Sean Crowley belays him.

Climb Bronco Peak

‘Try-A-Climb’ class is for new users

By Gerardo Sanchez
Audience Engagement Editor

Located in the Bronco Recreational Intramural Complex is the 51-foot-tall Bronco Peak, Cal Poly Pomona’s own rock-climbing wall.

The wall is open to any new climber for a “Try-A-Climb,” which allows participants to climb one to two routes and serves as an opportunity to try rock climbing without any prerequisites.

If climbers decide to continue upward with their climbing journey, they must attend a free orientation.

The orientation is roughly two hours and covers climbing wall rules, how to fall safely and how to properly spot and belay another climber.

“We’ve got this bouldering section, we’ve got some more flat faces, some overhanging faces and a cave that takes up the left portion of the wall,” said Nate Schallmo, an adventures attendant and trip lead assistant.

“Then we’ve got our ropes with the taller wall. We have a lot of routes, some that are technical, some that are beginner friendly, and each one is a little bit different.”

Each route is highlighted by a distinct color, allowing climbers to have a visual aid for the path they are intending to take up Bronco Peak.

According to Schallmo, the color itself doesn’t define the difficulty of the route but rather the tag located beneath the starting hold or the starting point of a climb.

After climbers complete the orientation, they can climb during the open climb hours.

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Reach Gerardo at ac@thepolypost.com

INFLUENCE: Celebrities use social media to show support

Continued from Page 5

entrants would go on to vote in that year’s election.

Celebrities and influencers not only raise awareness for voter registration, but they also actively campaign for and openly support presidential candidates.

After the conclusion of the presidential debate last month, Taylor Swift took to Instagram to show her support for Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate, Tim Walz. Within 24 hours of announcing her support for Harris, Vote.org recorded nearly 340,000 users visiting the site and over 52,000 registrations, with over 10,000 coming from battleground states.

Retired quarterback and Pro Football Hall of Famer Brett Favre did local television ads as part of a \$10 million advertising effort in Pennsylvania in support of former President Donald Trump.

Celebrities and influencers alike also attend rallies to raise support for their preferred candidates, speaking on their behalf and even giving musical performances.

Earlier this month, SpaceX founder and current chairman of X (formerly



IMAGE COURTESY OF X
Elon Musk, owner of the X Corp. company that operates X, uses the social media platform to endorse Donald Trump for president.

Twitter) Elon Musk joined Trump at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. Musk made a grand entrance as he took the stage alongside the former president, jumping up and down with his arms raised upward.

Musk continued to show support for Trump the following day, during Sunday Night Football as the Cowboys took on the Steelers in Pittsburgh. He was captured on video donning a “Make America Great Again” cap while waving a towel in his suite.

Musk also announced a plan to give away \$1 million each day until Election Day to a randomly selected individual. To be eligible to receive the money, the person must be registered to vote in a battleground state and have signed a petition

from his political action committee.

Primetime Emmy winner Kerry Washington and actor/director Tony Goldwyn endorsed Vice President Harris for president at the 2024 Democratic National Convention. Both took the stage and spoke in support of Harris, rallying the crowd and leading chants.

Musicians such as Megan Thee Stallion, Bon Iver and Quavo performed at campaign events for Vice President Harris, while Trump had musicians like Kid Rock perform at his rallies, with other musicians such as Jason Aldean and Sexy Red publicly posting their support for Trump on social media.

Aryan Mitharwal, a computer science student, said celebrities have more influence on elections than people think.

“I believe that a celebrity can influence the outcome of an election in really big ways,” Mitharwal said. “Sometimes swing states are called by just thousands of votes. Celebrities oftentimes influence those votes.”

Students at Cal Poly Pomona believe there is a difference between supporting a candidate and

incentivizing the public to vote for a certain candidate. Alvan Zhuang, a computer science student, said he thinks incentivizing people to vote for a candidate undermines the whole point of an election.

“I believe that celebrities influencing elections is a good thing as long as there aren’t incentives to it,” Zhuang said. “I’ve been seeing a lot about Elon Musk handing out money or other prizes in return for certain dealings with Trump supporters. That is not good for the integrity of elections.”

Although some students may oppose actions such as offering cash in exchange for a vote, many CPP students believe celebrities and influencers should not refrain from showing public support for a candidate. Dylan Ly, a mechanical engineering student, said that every person, including celebrities, has the right to support candidates in various ways.

“Celebrities can do whatever they want in that aspect,” Ly said. “As long as they are not endangering people with their actions, they can grow support for any candidate they wish.”

The same Harvard study states there is “rigorous evidence” showing celebrities and influencers have power when it comes to raising voter awareness during election season. Nonprofits reported higher rates of online voter registration each time a celebrity like Taylor Swift posted on their social media.

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“Sometimes swing states are called by just thousands of votes. Celebrities oftentimes influence those votes.”

– Aryan Mitharwal

Computer science student

Review



ALBUM COVER COURTESY OF OFFICIAL-RODWAVE.COM
Rod Wave’s newest album “Last Lap” touches on love, loss, heartaches and heartbreaks.

Rod Wave drops another No. 1 album

By Isaac Cox
Staff Writer

Rodarius Green, also known as Rod Wave, is an American rapper, singer and songwriter who is receiving generational love and support as he hits No. 1 on the R&B/Hip-Hop billboards thanks to his new album “Last Lap” released Oct. 11.

Rod Wave was always involved with music as a teenager, finding it to be a hobby he enjoyed, but his career officially started in 2015 when he dropped his first album called “Hunger Games” and expanded after that. “PTSD” was released in 2019, and it was a huge breakout point for his young career.

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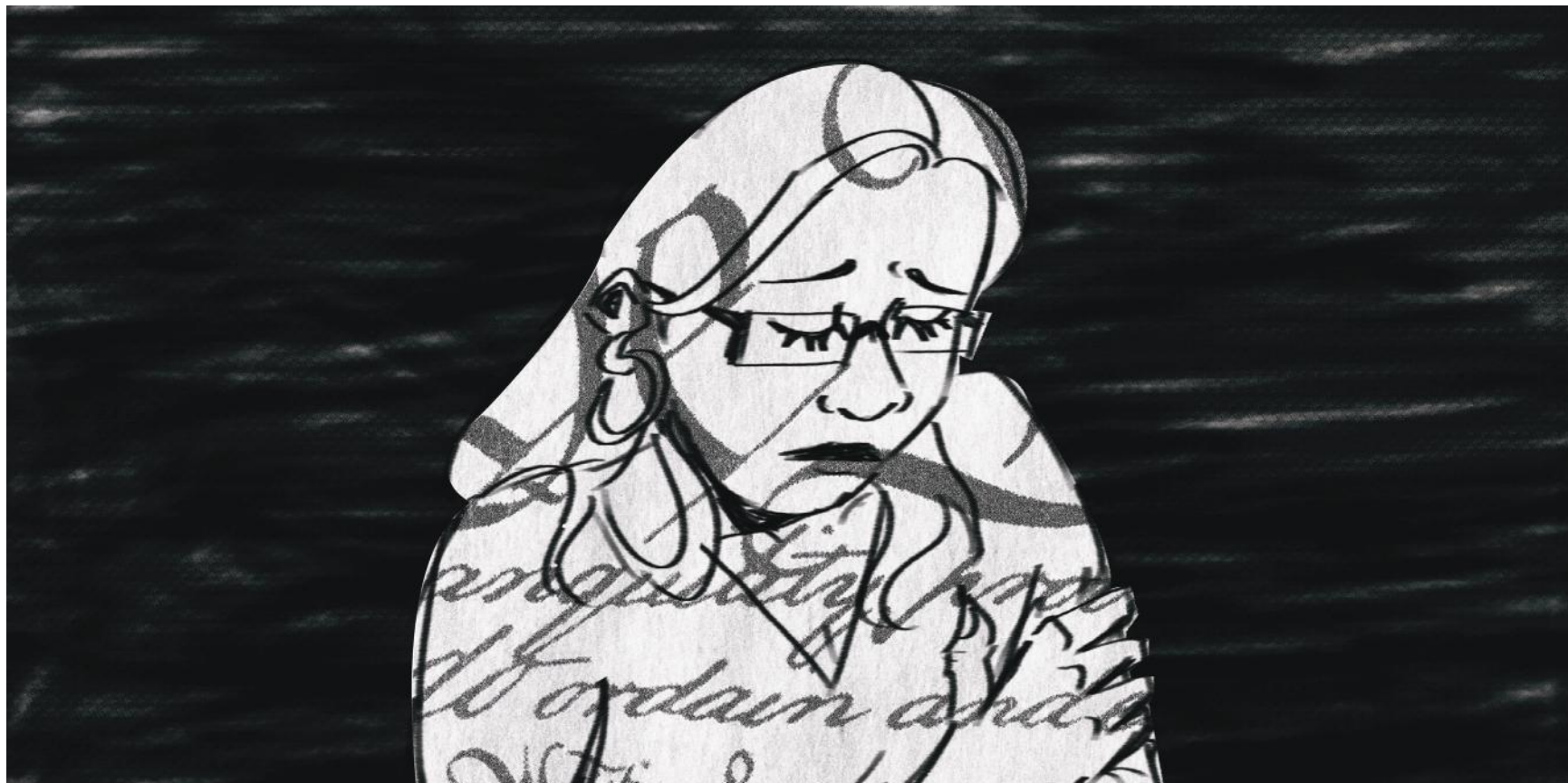
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OPINION

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

OPINION 7



GRAPHIC BY LAUREN WONG

Keep your hands off our bodies

By **CHARLIZE ALTHEA GARCIA & VICTORIA MEJICANOS**
Editor in Chief & News/Managing Editor

The removal of the constitutional right to an abortion is a blatant display of the patriarchal cultural norms in the United States of America. Abortion is a human right. A person is not free if they cannot make decisions about their own body, or worse if they are

criminally charged for making choices about their own body.

There are many women, including one of us, who relies on other forms of reproductive health care such as birth control because of a condition called Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome. Some of the symptoms that come with this chronic condition are cysts on the ovaries, hormone fluctuations and irregular periods. It also comes with immense pain.

Women and their health are dismissed so often that it took several years to receive birth control as an option, and it is the only option presented when it comes to the issue. Depending on the candidate, even this is on the line. Without birth control, one of us will have to go back to a life of constant pain and being dismissed because “it’s normal.”

Pain is embedded in every female life, and this

country has left them for dead.

Instead of celebrating her baby shower with her family, Nevaeh Crain spent almost two days experiencing an immense amount of nausea, abdominal pain and eventually a miscarriage. Her mother pleaded for her life and doctors did nothing because of Texas’ restrictive laws. She was soon pronounced dead.

A mother of two, Candi Miller, died by her

daughter’s side because of a self-induced abortion. Due to an unexpected pregnancy and chronic conditions that proved fatal to her life if she went through with the birth, she performed an abortion that would later end her life. She took action because of Georgia’s restrictive law. Fixation on this issue is no surprise. This has been, and always will be, a discrimination issue against women.

The widespread ban of

abortion in 14 states is an attempt to control women and their bodies.

After the passing of Roe v. Wade, the rights of women expanded greatly. Women were able to own a home and open a line of credit without a man. Women were no longer excluded from juries.

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Can we just agree to disagree? Friendship is greater than politics

By **AVA UHLACK**
Web Editor

I grew up with my mother telling me, “If you don’t have anything nice to say, then don’t say anything at all,” a phrase that seems basic in nature but has come to represent politics in a way that it wasn’t meant to.

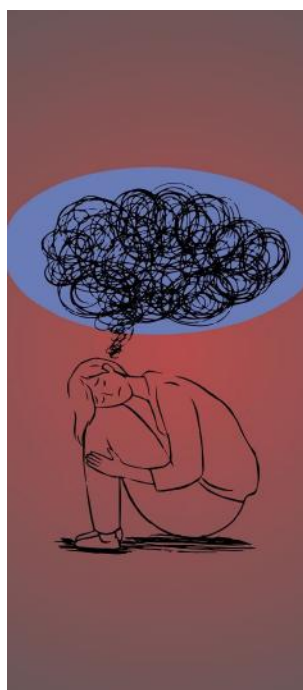
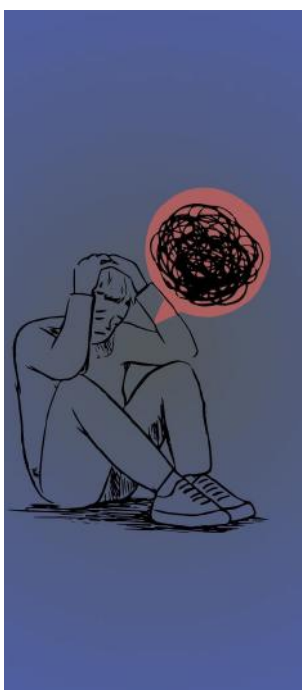
Politics are currently a sensitive but also extremely passionate subject for many people. People can talk about politics for hours with friends and family who have aligning beliefs. But for those with differing views, the environment has become dangerously charged and tense in such a way that often threatens relationships.

According to a report from the Pew Research Center, 58% of Americans who follow the political news cycle “extremely closely” no longer discuss politics with another person.

Additionally, 48% of Americans who follow the political cycle “somewhat closely” also decide to cut conversation with another person.

Humans are social creatures meant to communicate and lean on one another, but this one topic is so earth-shattering that it combats every sense of our nature.

There is nothing wrong with people having different perspectives. Our individualities are what make society the beautiful mosaic it is. We should be able to talk about our



GRAPHIC BY AVA UHLACK

differences with civility, not only as an innately social species, but as a democratic nation that constitutionally values free speech.

It’s through people’s social environments that morals and stances develop in the first place, according to the National Library of Medicine. One experience can spark a new behavioral development.

That’s not to say every view or opinion is automatically valid or correct, but there should at least be an opportunity for us to speak about our differences.

You can be positionally different from people and still be a decent human being.

“People say we conservatives are anxious about saying what we think,” said Aadi Mehta, the president of the College Republicans at Cal Poly

Pomona. “There is so much backlash everywhere we go. When I’m having a conversation with someone, I have to watch what I can say. Do liberals do that? I don’t think to the same extent.”

It’s not surprising California Republicans feel this way, and I’m sure liberals feel similarly in red states.

There is so much pressure to not potentially offend someone and to be wary of accidentally opening the societal Pandora’s Box of political conversation.

As social creatures, humans like to be accepted. Those belittling and demeaning experiences create a pattern of staying silent out of fear of not being accepted.

This phenomenon is referred to as the spiral of silence, a theory that people’s willingness to

divulge their personal beliefs regarding controversial social topics is contingent on whether those beliefs are widely popular or unpopular, according to Britannica. In a sense, people are less likely to speak up about their beliefs because of fear of social isolation and ostracization.

From here, it just goes further downhill. The less we speak up, the less truly democratic we become, and at some point, we will destroy the foundation of the great nation we stand on all because we can’t just sit down and talk.

Within this is a greater social issue of becoming socially blacklisted for having a different set of beliefs.

“A lot of the time the discussion surrounding politics is more so advocating for the voiceless and those who are unseen and unheard,” said Jessica Castilo, an adjunct faculty member in the political science department. “It’s important to meet everyone with an open mind rather than seeing people as ‘the other’ or the enemy. We never know what someone’s experiences are until we give them the opportunity to share their lives and what’s impacted them and why things matter to them the most.”

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Reach Ava Uhlack at editor@thepolypost.com

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ADVERTISING OFFICE (909) 869-3528
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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT (909) 869-3530

EDITOR editor@thepolypost.com

MANAGING EDITOR managing@thepolypost.com

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR ac@thepolypost.com

SPORTS EDITOR sports@thepolypost.com

COPY EDITOR copy@thepolypost.com

PHOTO EDITOR photo@thepolypost.com

VIDEO EDITOR video@thepolypost.com

WEB EDITOR web@thepolypost.com

ADVERTISING advertise@thepolypost.com

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Letters should run between 250 and 500 words and may be edited for accuracy, clarity, length, style and libel. Cartoons should only be drawn on white paper, not lined paper. All submissions should not exceed 8 by 10 inches and must include the author’s full name, telephone number and other relevant information, such as class standing, major and place of residence.

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SPORTS

SPORTS 8

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

BREAKING BARRIERS



COURTESY OF WILL MACNEIL

Outside hitter Samantha Campion registered her fifth consecutive double-double, totaling a team-high 68 digs and 57 kills with only seven attack errors.

CPP volleyball clinches first spot in CCAA tournament

By GAVIN CLAIBORNE
Copy Editor

Cal Poly Pomona women's volleyball became the first team to clinch a spot in the California Collegiate Athletic Association championship tournament this season and receive the program's highest ranking in the American Volleyball Association Polls Oct. 28.

The Broncos achieved two victories on the road against Stanislaus State and Chico State, improving to 18-1 overall and earning the highest national ranking in program history at No. 4.

"I recognize the fact that we were top four for the first time ever; I think that's important to recognize," said Head Coach Traci Dahl. "But I also think it's important to know this team has really made it clear they want to be number one. They want to go all the way."

For the weekend, the Broncos traveled to Turlock Oct. 25 and overpowered Stanislaus State in three straight sets 25-19, 25-15 and 25-22.



COURTESY OF CPP ATHLETICS

Cal Poly Pomona's volleyball team is one sweep shy of tying the program record set last season with 15 total sweeps in a single season.

Three student-athletes reached double-digit kills in the victory over the Warriors: outside hitters Charlotte Koerber and Sarah Ybarra each registered a team-leading 13 kills, and Samantha Campion contributed on both ends of the ball with 14 digs and 10 kills on a .370 hitting percentage. "It's not just one, singular

person that's always killing the ball," Ybarra said. "It's multiple aspects. That's why we're such a hard team to beat. It's the fact that we fire from all cylinders." Senior setter Caitie Mueller led both teams in assists for the night with 37, paired with seven digs and two kills of her own. The second matchup

against Chico State Oct. 26 favored the Broncos in dominant fashion, 25-15 and 25-6 in the first two sets. The Wildcats applied pressure early on in the third set, gaining a 7-1 lead over CPP behind three back-to-back attacking errors. The Broncos slowly fought their way back from a seven-point

deficit at the halfway mark by outscoring the Wildcats 18-7 to win the final set 25-20 and take the match 3-0. The Broncos recorded a .375 hitting percentage to the Wildcats' .057. Campion had a clutch performance, recording 10 kills and 14 digs on a .429 attacking clip. See VOLLEYBALL / Page 10

“Between Samantha, Charlotte and Sarah, everything is so even — It's eerily even. I think that is our weapon. The fact that all three pins are so close in total attempts, kills and hitting percentage, it's opening things up for everybody. — Head Coach Traci Dahl



COURTESY OF WILL MACNEIL

CPP women's soccer set a new school record after defeating Chico State by extending their unbeaten streak to 14 games, despite earning the team's first loss of the season.

CPP women soccer suffers first loss

Men settle for draws against Stanislaus, Chico State

By **CHRISTIAN MAGDALENO**
Staff Writer

Cal Poly Pomona women's soccer fell to Stanislaus State on the road in its first loss of the season, and the men's team drew both matchups against the Warriors and Chico State.

After the loss to the unranked Warriors, the No. 2-ranked Broncos dropped two spots in the United Soccer Coaches rankings, coming in at No. 4 in the latest poll and improving to 12-1-2 overall.

"Having the win streak end gives us a chip on our shoulder to continue moving forward," said forward Vanessa Cruz.

Cruz led the team with six attempted shots and two shots on goal against the Warriors.

Forward Kiarra D'Arcangelo followed closely

behind with five attempted shots and three shots on goal.

The Broncos stayed aggressive on offense, with a combined total of 24 shots throughout the night to the Warriors' four.

The Warriors gained an advantage behind a penalty kick in the 16th minute, enough to hold off the Broncos and break their 14 game winning streak, the longest in program history.

Head Coach Jay Mason remained optimistic about the team's resilience and eagerness to win, attributing the success to their motto "we before me."

"A program that finds success is predominantly player driven," said Mason. "If you were to describe our team, it would be hardworking, driven, intense, aggressive and little bit goofy."

Prior to the matchup against Stanislaus State, the

Broncos dominated Chico State to earn their seventh shutout of the season.

After a scoreless first half, the Broncos applied pressure to the Wildcats at the net, attempting 10 shots in the second half.

Cruz recorded the first goal of the game behind a powerful shot in the top-right corner of the net during the second half.

With her 10th goal of the season, Cruz entered a three-way tie for 12th place for the program's most goals scored in a season.

"After that goal, everything fell together," Cruz said. "We really needed that extra push to stay on top of the game."

Forward Alexis Macias secured the win with a goal at the 83 minute mark, her fifth goal of the season to help secure the Broncos 2-0 victory over the Wildcats.

The No. 22-ranked

men's soccer team left with two consecutive draws against Stanislaus State and Chico State.

The Broncos stalemated against the rival Chico State Wildcats in a physical matchup, resulting in a red card against the Broncos.

Midfielder Woody Angell registered two attempted shots 12 minutes into the first half.

Building off that momentum, striker Mads Frederiksen earned his second goal of the season with a shot into the upper-left corner of the net.

The Wildcats evened the score in the last few seconds of the first half.

The Broncos hit the ground running in the second half with two attempted shots on the goal but were unable to find the net.

Goalkeeper Luke Garciduenas blocked a shot

by the Wildcats at the 59 minute mark, and shortly after, Frederiksen was given a red card that extracted him from the game and resulted in a one-game suspension.

This was the first red card the Broncos have received since Oct. 27, 2022, by former captain Cesar Ruvalcaba against Cal State LA.

The Wildcats ended the drought, raising the score 2-1, but it was short-lived as midfielder Aleksandar Somov scored a goal with an assist by forward Sam

Lena to even the game 2-2. Garciduenas showcased the Broncos defensive ability with six saves, a career-high.

Head coach Matt O'Sullivan remains optimistic despite the team's dealing with injuries and the absence of key players. "This a resilient team," said O'Sullivan. "There is a fire in us, and we don't want to lose."

The Broncos traveled to face the Stanislaus State Warriors for their senior night and earned their fourth consecutive tie. Although the Broncos settled with an even score, O'Sullivan said they missed opportunities to score winning goals on the Warriors.

"It was a tired performance, and it's hard on the road, especially in that second game since we had already traveled so much," said O'Sullivan. The game started with one attempted shot by both teams within 93 seconds. Forward Jakob Singh attempted his second shot after without success.

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COURTESY OF WILL MACNEIL

Midfielder Aleksandar Somov scored his second goal of the season at 78:08, leveling the score at 2-2 to earn a draw against rival Chico State.

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Bronco Athletics reaches historical milestone

7,000 department wins since 1939

By **SAMANTHA CAMPION**
Sports Editor

Cal Poly Pomona's athletic department achieved a historical milestone by recording the program's 7,000th win across all 10 intercollegiate sports Oct. 19, a testament to the legacy and success of Bronco Athletics since 1939.

The women's volleyball team secured the department's 7000th win after defeating Cal State San Marcos 3-0 at Kellogg Arena, one of the many historical achievements the athletic departments reached this year.

CPP stood alone as the only Division II program in the nation to have amid all five sports ranked within the Top 20 earlier this season, also marking a first for the department.

CPP was first established as a southern satellite campus for Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1938 and used the same nickname as the Mustangs until 1947.

Students advocated for a new name that differentiated the two schools, and they voted in September to become the Broncos.

The Broncos went on to compete in the Southern California Independent Association league for the first 15 years of the athletic department, introducing various sports programs like baseball and cross-country, the only two programs still present today.

READ THIS ARTICLE IN FULL AT [THEPOLYPOST.COM](https://www.thepolypost.com)

Reach Samantha Campion at sports@thepolypost.com



The Poly Post follows student-athletes through a day in their life to get an exclusive look inside college sports.

Trans athlete ban at stake in 2024 presidential race

By **SAMANTHA CAMPION**
Sports Editor

During the recent 2024 presidential election, voters faced a controversial issue around the participation of transgender athletes, a debate that could impact the future of Title IX and women's sports.

The conversation around transgender athletes reached national coverage as former President and Republican candidate Donald Trump went on Fox News to address a video that recently surfaced the internet of a San Jose State volleyball player hitting an opponent from San Diego State in the face.

San Jose State women's

volleyball team stands in the crossfire of this debate after co-captain and teammate Brooke Slusser outed the student-athlete, who is transgender, by calling her "a biological male."

Despite currently competing alongside her teammate this season, Slusser joined women's sports advocate Riley Gaines in a lawsuit against the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

"When I got the opportunity and got reached out to by Icons to join the lawsuit, I sat in it for a minute and was like I never want anyone else to have to go through what my team is having to go through," said Slusser in an interview on

the Megyn Kelly Show.

The lawsuit claims that the NCAA's transgender policies violate Title IX, which protects equal opportunity and fairness for women in sports.

Title IX is a federal law introduced in 1972 that ensured men and women had equal opportunity in education and athletics. The laws prohibited discrimination based on sex, and it protects transgender and non-binary students as well.

"Title IX required sports to be available for women, and if there was a men's sport, there needed to be a women's sport," said Carol O'Shea, a Cal Poly See TIES / Page 10

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Volleyball on cusp of making CPP history

Continued from Page 8

Throughout the last five matches, Campion has reached 10 or more kills each match for a total of eight matches this season in double-digit figures.

Koerber capped off the game with 11 kills at a .267 hitting percentage. She also had eight digs to tie Ybarra and senior libero Avery Percival.

Dahl said her team's biggest threat to opponents has been their ability to produce a balanced offense.

The Broncos had a total of 16 serve aces compared to their opponents' combined three aces on the weekend.

Dahl said this disparity didn't come out of luck. Instead, it was a result of the team's emphasis on serving aggressively and practicing several different serving styles.

"Our area serving is super on point right now," Dahl said. "I'm able to call an area, and there's been very minimal times where the ball derails from that area... so our tough serving is definitely helping out our blocking and our middles, so it plays a big role."

After securing both victories and clinching the Broncos sixth appearance in the CCAA tournament, Ybarra was enthused by the accomplishment.

"I think it's just really awesome for us," Ybarra said.

"We've been working hard, working our butts off nonstop, so I feel like this was a very well-deserved thing for us."

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Reach Gavin Claiborne at sports@thepolypost.com

Trump win could impact future of trans athletes in women's sports



COURTESY OF SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/SANTIAGO MEJIA

A survey conducted by Human Rights Campaign suggested fewer than 15% of all transgender youth participate in sports.

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Pomona volleyball alumna.

"We didn't have that protection before, so that is the main difference."

In addition, state laws prohibit the discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity and sexual orientation, the California Department of Education revealed.

The University of Nevada became the fifth school from the Mountain West Conference to forfeit their match against San Jose State for safety concerns.

Nevada originally intended to play the match as its programs are legally prohibited from forfeiting under the Nevada constitution, which states "equality of rights shall not

be denied based on race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ancestry or national origin."

However, Nevada Athletics came out with a second statement a few days later, saying the team would not compete in the match against San Jose state due to not having enough players. This came after the student-athletes sent a statement to the university about wanting to forfeit the match.

Slusser said there is a noticeable difference in the amount of strength and power as her teammates often dodge her attacks in practice because they fear being hit in the face.

According to CPP Associate Head Athletic Director Ashley Musick,

there are physiological differences between the male and female body due to excess amounts of testosterone, "a hormone that regulates muscle mass development and strength."

Gaines stands alongside more than a dozen student-athletes advocating to save women's sports after Leah Thomas became the first transgender athlete in the NCAA to win a Division I title across any sport.

"It's a difficult issue to navigate, I have friends on the team and hearing negative comments they're getting is hard to listen to," said outside hitter Madison Novak. "The truth is that no one has the correct answer, but I encourage those to approach the situation with sympathy

for these young women."

The current NCAA transgender rules is sport specific, but each student-athlete is required to provide documentation regarding testosterone levels at three points during the season.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Council of Presidents became the first organization to announce only biological females at birth are allowed to compete in women's sports last year.

Title IX was originally constructed to provide equal opportunity to women in sports, but the law has faced scrutiny regarding the inclusion of transgender athletes and may fall to the authority of federal law makers.

In response to the debate, the Biden administration proposed revisions to Title IX regulations by including a new policy that forbids schools from outright banning transgender athletes last year.

The proposal would give the schools the power to enforce restrictions on transgender participation, but it currently stands on hold.

In an interview with Fox News, Trump said that if elected, he would completely ban transgender athletes from competing in women's sports.

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Reach Samantha Campion at sports@thepolypost.com

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