

THE POLYPOST

LOS ANGELES WILDFIRE EDITION

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025

ROAD TO RECOVERY

How destroyed communities work to rebuild

By **DARREN LOO**
Photo Editor

Although the Angeles National Forest has seen larger fires, like the Bridge Fire in September 2024, the Eaton Fire is currently the most destructive fire in Los Angeles County history, according to the LA Almanac, with a confirmed 9,418 structures destroyed and 1,073 structures damaged.

The Eaton Fire ignited at 6:18 p.m. Jan. 7, according to CalFire. A Santa Ana windstorm caused the fire to grow at a rapid rate. Evacuation warnings and orders were issued for many foothill communities just minutes after the fire started.

The Eaton Fire has scorched 14,021 acres and is 99% contained. All evacuation orders have been lifted for the Eaton Fire as of Jan. 22, two weeks after the fire started but leaving a long road to recovery ahead.

About 15 miles northwest of Cal Poly Pomona, the Eaton Fire started as a Santa Ana windstorm tore through LA County. The windstorm, with gusts of over 70 mph near the foothill communities and in the mountains, fanned multiple fires, most notably the Eaton and Palisades fires.

Meteorologist Carol Smith from the National Weather Service said the Santa Ana winds are caused by a high-pressure atmosphere over the Great Basin traveling to an area of lower pressure, which is typically found at the coast. As the air travels down the mountains, it causes the air to compress and gain speed, drying and heating the air, which is why the Santa Ana winds are known for their warm and dry characteristics.

Combined, the Eaton and Palisades fires destroyed a confirmed total of 16,080 structures and damaged 1,963 structures, meaning thousands have lost their homes and businesses. Most of the destruction occurred in the unincorporated community of Altadena and the neighborhood of Pacific Palisades near Santa Monica, where their road to

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DARREN LOO | THE POLY POST
Monique King, part owner of The Fox's Restaurant in Altadena for the last eight years, returned from a business trip to find the small diner, once loved among locals, with only its sign standing.



DARREN LOO | THE POLY POST
People of color and older individuals are among thousands of families who lost their homes in the fires. Many Black people were pushed to Altadena in the 1960s as it was one of the areas where they were able to buy homes because of racial redlining, according to Altadena Heritage.



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The fire in Altadena was mostly contained by Jan. 10, except for some hot spots. For the next few days, firefighters continued to douse homes with water to ensure hot spots were extinguished. They were afraid winds would pick up embers and ignite new fires.

Incarcerated firefighters face danger, low wages for chance at do-over

By **ALEXIS ALVAREZ**
Staff Writer

The voluntary and selective Conservation (Fire) Camp program, which sent out more than 1,000 prisoners to the frontlines of the Eaton and Pacific Palisades fires, often presents itself as a second chance for incarcerated firefighters, but it also comes with uncertainty and criticism from advocates.

According to Josh Pynoos, a spokesperson for the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, it's difficult for formerly incarcerated individuals from the program to obtain a firefighting job once released. Pynoos also said they're also underpaid, earning between \$5.80 and \$10.24 per day.

The participants in the program receive two days off their sentence for every one day they work as a fire crew participant while camp volunteers, who are support staff, receive one day off their sentence for every one day they work as a firefighter due to Proposition 57, according to the CDCR website.

Established during World War II, the Conservation (Fire) Camp Program now operates 35 conservation camps in 25 counties across California in partnership with the CDCR, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Los Angeles County Fire Department, according to the CDCR website.

A firefighting job requires an EMT certificate, which can be difficult to achieve due to an individual's criminal record, according to Pynoos. But Assembly Bill 2147, which passed in September 2020, enables formerly incarcerated fighters to receive an expungement. The expungement allows these individuals to achieve the EMT certificate, which opens opportunities for core jobs, Pynoos said.

ARC, a program that aims to help former and current incarcerated people as well as transform the criminal justice system, in partnership with CAL FIRE and the CDCR, runs the Ventura Training Center, a training and certification program to

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Trump's executive orders and their impact on CPP



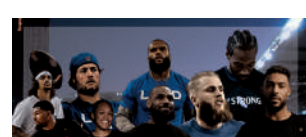
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Trump's executive orders

Assessing their impacts, implications



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE GOVERNMENT WEBSITE

Although executive orders may seem absolute, 22 states have already sued President Donald Trump for some of his executive orders.

By **ALEJANDRINA AVILA**
Staff Writer

President Donald J. Trump signed over 20 executive orders on his first day back in office, many of which focus on immigration, federal funding and government bureaucracy.

While immigration has been a point of emphasis, throughout his campaign, Trump's executive orders have also affected government bureaucracy, federal funding and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. According to Mario Guerrero, the department chair of political science, public universities like Cal Poly Pomona could face increased scrutiny, particularly regarding large-scale federal initiatives and funding.

Kiana Arevalo, a political science student, pointed to specific orders, such as those affecting federal employees, funding allocations and international agreements.

"One order allows for firing federal employees who were involved in investigating Trump's presidency, despite civil services protections,"

Arevalo said. "Another order directs federal agencies to pause funding obligations, which could impact grants and loans for communities in need."

Trump has also signed orders within international organizations, including climate change and health agreements.

Trump has also signed orders affecting international organizations, including those related to climate change and health agreements.

"Even though we may not feel the effects immediately, these decisions could have long-term consequences for global cooperation on a critical issue," Arevalo added.

Trump's recent rush of executive orders aim to address what he and his administration viewed as missteps during his first term or missteps of President Joe Biden.

Guerrero said some of a president's first orders in office are substantive while others are symbolic because they help distance the new administration from the previous one.

"They had four years out

“They had four years out of office to plan out how to implement more policies effectively this time around.”

— Mario Guerrero

of office to plan how to implement more policies effectively this time around," Guerrero said. "Some of these orders are fulfilling past campaign promises, while others are designed to make immediate changes."

While executive orders have become a tool for presidents to bypass Congress, they are not absolute. According to Guerrero, Congress can pass laws to counter executive orders, courts can rule them as unconstitutional or states can resist them.

As legal battles unfold, the long-term effects on students and faculty remain uncertain, especially

regarding immigration enforcement and federal funding.

While executive orders have become a tool for presidents to bypass congress, they are not absolute. California has already taken steps to resist certain orders, particularly on immigration and environmental policies, by filing lawsuits and enacting state-level protections. Similarity to Washington's attorney general has challenged the administration by filing a lawsuit against changes to birthright citizenship.

"We have undocumented students and faculty there

who are concerned about (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) actions on campus," Guerrero said. Potential funding cuts could affect administrative support."

Astrid Cordero, a political science student, shared concerns about how these executive orders may disproportionately impact immigrant communities as well those at CPP.

"I live in a neighborhood that's mostly Hispanic, and I work at a law firm where people need our help," Cordero said. "Mass deportation creates fear. Nobody should have to live in fear. F--- ICE."

Cordero also shared a TikTok video to spread the word of the ICE raids, including photos on what to say to ICE. As a first-generation college student, Cordero is worried about the effect more ICE raids could have on her peers.

"ICE targeting schools is a real concern, not just for elementary schools, but also for colleges," Cordero said. "There are many students

Childhood Arrivals), or those with undocumented parents. If students' parents are deported, they might have to leave school, impacting higher education and financial stability.

Overall, the impact of Trump's executive orders on CPP remains uncertain, particularly in areas like immigration enforcement and federal funding. While these orders can bring immediate changes, they may also face legal challenges and policy revisions. As the situation evolves, the university community will continue to adapt and respond.

The impact of Trump's executive orders at CPP remains uncertain, particularly in areas like immigration enforcement and federal funding.

Students who are concerned about these orders or potential ICE raids can seek support from campus resources like Undocumented Students Services, which provides legal advice and advocacy.

Reach Alejandrina Avila at managing@thepolypost.com

RECOVERY: Community reflects on what's lost, look to future

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Lili Ma, a resident of Altadena, and her family lost many of their belongings to the fire. Ma is a relatively new resident of Altadena, wanting to find a quieter and more peaceful place to settle down and retire in the future. However, just a bit over a year after moving in, the fire came and took it all away.

"We started to pack at like 7:30 p.m., and we only packed for around 15 minutes," said Ma. "And also, at the time, my husband was in a meeting. After like five minutes, he ended his meeting and grabbed his computers. He didn't even pack any clothes, and we ran out."



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"We are actually talking to some of our neighbors about rebuilding," said Ma. "We probably will rebuild, but for me, we probably won't live there anymore after we just got hurt so deeply." Many residents and business owners in Altadena will never see it the same again, even if they do rebuild. "The heart might still be there, the intention might still be there, it's like a scar," said King. "You don't have an injury anymore, but you always have the scar, and you know it's not acute. You're not so sad, but there will always be a reminder."



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"When we tried to get to our house, many roads were blocked, so we had to drive around and we were glad to see some homes survived," said Ma. "We saw some houses left. Some houses burned, and some streets just completely disappeared."



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Altadena is described as a very tranquil but tight-knit community where neighbors know and take care of each other. However, nothing could prepare residents for the devastation they were returning to and the support that would follow.

FIREFIGHTER: Incarcerated firefighters still face legal obstacles to obtaining jobs after release



DARREN LOO | THE POLY POST

One thousand firefighters from the program were deployed to several fires across the state, and often help during other natural disasters.

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help formerly incarcerated firefighters obtain jobs.

Pynoos said once the individual completes the program, they are eligible to apply for entry-level firefighting jobs. He also mentioned the ARC is introducing new legislation — SB 245 with Sen. Eloise Gómez Reyes — to help improve the incarcerated fire crew expungement program.

“We’ve had numerous people actually get this expungement, but this new legislation will hopefully open the pool for a lot more people because going through the courts can be difficult and a time-burdened process,” Pynoos said. “Hopefully this will make that

process more automatic and streamline the process to get this expungement.”

Along with working on a new legislation, the ARC introduced legislation AB 247 this year with Assembly member Isaac Bryan to raise the incarcerated firefighters wages.

The conservation camp firefighting crew does not use water or hoses. They are hand crews, which means they use hand tools to aid in fire suppression during wildland fires, according to the CDCR website.

Pynoos feels the incarcerated firefighter wage isn’t a reflection of their sacrifice and service.

“There’s a lot of ethical dilemmas in the pay gaps, because I had seen that they

are paid at such a low rate, even lower than the lowest firefighter has been paid in California,” said Angelina Prieto, a political science student and the president of Cal Poly Pomona’s Political Science Club. “I think if we’re going to call incarcerated people to help us with a natural disaster, then they definitely have to be getting paid at the same rate.”

Renford Reese, a professor in the Department of Political Science, had a different perspective on the low wages and the difficulty of obtaining jobs for incarcerated firefighters.

Reese said the benefits are more valuable than the wage and time off for their sentences.

“It’s the intangible

benefits,” Reese said. “People don’t know what it’s like to be in a 6-foot-by-8-foot cell. It’s monotonous in prison. You got the noise. It’s crowded. You just have chaos and dysfunction.”

According to Reese, at the fire camps, the food is better, there’s fewer people and it’s less hectic. He explained that the participants in the program are surrounded by nature, which enables better mental health, as well as training, helping with physical health.

Although many believe the incarcerated firefighter wage is exploitative, Reese doesn’t look at it as exploitative but as training for a future career. Reese also described incarcerated firefighters as ideal firefighters.

“They’re physically fit, agile, intellectually savvy, and because of their background, they’re fearless when it comes to certain challenges,” Reese said.

When California is in desperate times, there is a need for every able-bodied and trained firefighter to be on the front lines, Reese said.

Furthermore, during desperate times, as was the case with the Palisades and Eaton fires, there’s no time to discriminate, he added. When incarcerated and non-incarcerated firefighters are on the frontlines, they are equal.

“When (non-incarcerated firefighters) see the level of skill, training and work with these individuals, I think that’s going to help transform the process because they’re

going to be the ones lobbying for them,” said Reese. “They’re going to be the ones saying, ‘Hey, we need these guys because they’re good at what they do, and they’re fearless.’”

When more stories come out about incarcerated firefighters saving lives and property, it’s also when public opinion is going to change. It will be a start for these individuals to obtain more jobs once released, according to Reese.

The Conservation (Fire) Camp Program is not only for becoming a firefighter. The individuals in the program also respond to other disasters like floods.

Reach Alexis Alvarez at managing@thepolypost.com

Trump's DEI changes pose challenges to CPP



PHOENIX GUEVARA | THE POLY POST

Building 26 serves as the hub for the Centers for Transformation, Retention, Equity, and Empowerment, providing essential support services.

By PHOENIX GUEVARA
Staff Writer

President Donald Trump’s declaration to halt “all illegal entry” and establish new federal gender policies have sparked concern for cultural centers and identity-based programs for universities across the country.

At Cal Poly Pomona, diversity and inclusion are central to the university’s mission and identity. The campus boasts a wide range of cultural centers, identity-based programs and student support services that enrich the educational experience. However, CPP administrators now face the dual challenges of adapting to stricter immigration enforcement and potential new restrictions on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. “As a Hispanic-serving institution, where the enrollment of Latinx students has more than doubled in almost 20 years, it is an indisputable reality that members of our student

body will be directly affected by the recent immigration policies,” said E’Lisha V. Fogle-Enang, the chair of the Collins College DEI Committee. “This includes our Dreamers, undocumented students and their families.”

For many CPP students, the shifting landscape at the federal level has fueled a climate of uncertainty and concern about their futures.

“I’m honestly terrified of it,” said Ella von Tresckow, a psychology student and active member at the Pride Center. “I find it hard to connect to people in other places, so it’s good to have spaces where I can find people who are willing to talk and have similar experiences and can relate.”

These student concerns highlight critical questions about what protections remain in place at public universities. Identity-based support centers, like the Pride Center, have become crucial safe havens for students processing these

potential changes.

Legal experts note while Trump’s executive order targets DEI programs, its immediate impact may be limited.

“The order directs agencies to enforce existing civil rights laws and challenge DEI initiatives in the private sector, though it lacks a clear definition of DEI,” said public defense attorney Brian Gilmartin. “While the order itself won’t immediately affect higher education, experts view it as a potential effort to reverse decades of civil rights advancements.”

California law also provides specific protections for students concerned about their immigration status. Gilmartin said California ensures all students have the right to a free public education regardless of their

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Distaste for designers

Controversy behind dressing politicians

By **KRISTINE PASQUAL**
Bronco Guide Editor

Fashion has long been intertwined with politics, serving as a powerful tool for self-expression and branding. While dressing political figures offers designers the opportunity for publicity and exposure, many in the fashion industry have hesitated or refused to work with certain politicians due to ideological differences and potential backlash from the public.

Historically, designers have taken a stand by boycotting politicians whose values they oppose. During President Donald Trump's first inauguration in 2017, multiple luxury designers, including Marc Jacobs and Tom Ford, publicly refused to dress his wife, Melania Trump, citing their disagreement with Trump's policies.

While media outlets debated over Melania Trump's hidden face under her wide brimmed hat, the 2025 Inauguration served as a clear test for designers, with Trump being reelected as the 47th president of the United States. Unlike Trump's first term, designers weren't as hesitant to dress the controversial family.

Despite her background as a model, many designers distanced themselves from the Trump family, wary of the political implications of associating their brands with his controversial presidency.

This trend of political resistance through fashion choices is not new. Designers understand their work can serve as a vehicle for a political statement. Despite the publicity and brand exposure that can come from dressing a prominent politician, oftentimes designers are hesitant to dress or work with those in the Republican Party.

Apparel Merchandising and Management Lecturer Alejandra Parise explained the intersection of fashion and politics can be a double-edged sword for designers.

"Nowadays, it's very polarizing," Parise said. "Designers sometimes stray away from affiliating with a certain party. Hollywood and designers typically lean toward Democrats and liberals. They tend to stray away from anyone who has an 'R' next to their name because they're afraid to be blacklisted from the industry."

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BRYAN DOAN | THE POLY POST

Andrea Alcaraz plays violin during the Raccoon Cartoons show as part of the Friday the 13th Showdown at the Klownski Lounge in Pomona.

Redefining representation

Women in music speak out against gender bias

By **AMI MEDINA**
Staff Writer

Despite their talent and passion, women musicians must navigate a unique set of challenges that come with being a woman in a male-dominated music world.

Cal Poly Pomona students Ariana Torres, Andrea Herrera and Andrea Alcaraz are actively working to break down barriers and reshape the narrative for women in music.

Torres, a singer and bass player known by her stage name Xovenus, studies music industry studies at CPP, and advocates for

women musicians to be taken seriously for the quality of their work.

"I was super excited to be booked for a lineup once but after the performance, it made me wonder why I was booked and whether it was for my talents or different intentions," Torres said. "I would love to be an artist in this industry but thought crossing my mind, but this is something I unfortunately must be mindful of when networking."

This feeling of being reduced to appearance is

'It's a loss to the natural world'



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Interior and exterior of the Will Rogers Ranch House before and after it was destroyed by the Palisades fire.

History lost, community displaced

Destruction of Will Rogers Ranch, Zane Grey Estate leaves void in local heritage, community culture

By **TERESA ACOSTA**
Arts & Culture Editor

By destroying the Will Rogers ranch house and Zane Grey Estate, the Pacific Palisades and Altadena fires have not only erased parts of Southern California history, but also deeply affected community culture.

"A lot of these spaces are not just preserved because they are nice houses or belonged to important people, but they also were originally saved for the community," said Eileen Wallis, professor of history at Cal Poly Pomona. "I think one thing people like me, who work with historic preservation, are having to reckon with coming out of these terrible fires is not just the loss to history, but the loss to communities."

Before the fire destroyed the Will Rogers State Historic Park, the space was used for field trips, hikes, horseback riding lessons, games of polo and outdoor movies.

"California State Parks mourn the loss of these treasured natural and cultural resources, and our hearts go out to everyone impacted by the

devastating fires in the Los Angeles area," said State Parks Director Armando Quintero in a press release.

According to the press release from California State Parks, the losses in the Palisades Fire also included Topanga Ranch Motel and state park employee residences.

Some of the spaces that once hosted community gatherings are gone. It is after losses like these that a community looks for a place to come together and support one another, and those places no longer exist.

"It's a loss to the natural world anytime you lose open space or green space," said Wallis. "Those were also spaces for the community for families to gather."

According to an order issued by the USDA Forest Service, there are 34 roads and trails currently closed to the public. These locations are used by the community for hiking, cycling, horseback riding, backpacking, scenic driving, wildlife viewing and archeological, astronomical and geological interpretation.

Elesa McKernan, a local hiking enthusiast, recalled how impactful the trails are.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

California State Parks employees were able to evacuate the horses and some of the cultural and historical artifacts, including artwork, at Will Rogers State Historic Park ahead of the fire.

"I'm currently a resident of Pomona, and back when I lived in Fullerton and also Rancho Cucamonga, I would drive specifically to Bailey Canyon to hike because it's always been one of my favorite trails." McKernan described the trails as lush and well-maintained, and fellow hikers were always respectful of the land.

It was also a good workout full of steep inclines, switchbacks and lookout points. But most importantly, the hikes served as an opportunity for self-care.

"I hike probably about 4 to 5 times a month, for not only physical health but mental health," said

McKernan. "It really helps to clear my mind, being in nature."

Wallis stressed the importance of preservation that would honor the people in these communities. Right now, the community is focused on survival, but soon enough, there will be conversations about how to rebuild in a way that best serves the people in the community.

"Historic preservation, to my mind anyway, should never just be about saving a building," Wallis said. "It should be about saving a building so (preservation) can continue to serve the community in some way."

Reach **Teresa Acosta** at ac@thepolypost.com



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

The site that was previously occupied by Topanga Ranch Motel is being used as a temporary site for the safe processing, sorting and packaging of hazardous material following all state and federal environmental, health and safety standards, according to the California State Parks website.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR HAMPTON FOR THE POLY POST; PHOTOS FROM INSTAGRAM

WOMEN: Female musicians face different challenges than men

Continued from Page 4

something Torres said she feels is common in the industry. "There should be more female artist representation where they don't care about the beauty standards and what men want to see, but more female artists who are just themselves and have their own unique style," Torres said. Herrera, a singer and guitar player performing under the name Dreabella, is not only focused on the need for more female musicians but also advocates for greater representation behind the scenes in the music industry. "I think there should be female representation behind the scenes, such as audio technicians and producers, since it is a very male-dominated industry," Herrera said. "If we had more women, it would help hear more women out and we would be respected more."

Alcaraz, a singer-songwriter and viola artist for the indie folk band Raccoon Cartoons, is the only woman in a group composed entirely of male university students. Her experience sheds light on the gender biases that female artists face.

"It's probably stunted my progress a little bit," Alcaraz said. Despite being one of the main songwriters and a talented viola player, Alcaraz said she is frequently treated differently by both fans and industry professionals.

"It's frustrating," Alcaraz said. "I noticed a lot of people won't congratulate me or talk to me after the show, but they will congratulate and compliment all the other members."

This exclusion isn't limited to the audience's treatment but extends to the behind-the-scenes dynamics.

"When we're setting up for a show, the sound techs and the people running the show will always turn to one of the guys for guidance and ignore me completely," Alcaraz said.

In these situations, Alcaraz has learned the importance of asserting herself to be taken seriously.

"I've had to be more dominant in some situations," Alcaraz said. "Once at a show, the person who was setting up my mic was asking questions about the setup to my guy friends who aren't even in the band."

"I was the one answering all the questions, but he kept facing the guys and only talking to them. Eventually, I got fed up and snapped at him," Alcaraz added.

Alcaraz had to take charge at that moment.

"I told him, 'These guys are not in the band. If you can, please ask me the questions, I'm the one going to use the microphone,'" Alcaraz said.

These types of experiences have marked a shift in Alcaraz's approach to her career.

"It has been a learning experience," Alcaraz said. "I used to be so preoccupied with wanting to come off as nice and likable, and I still want to be, but now I mainly just want respect."

Juan Nunez, one of the guitarists for Raccoon Cartoons, also said he wants Alcaraz to be respected.

"Andrea has expressed to us that often during soundcheck before a performance, the sound engineer rarely acknowledges her needs on stage," Nunez said. "This upsets me too because it makes it difficult to play together during a show when some members can't hear themselves well."



BRYAN DOAN | THE POLY POST
Ariana Torres aka Xovenus sings between fellow students during Cal Poly Pomona student showcase.

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FASHION: Designers dress key figures at Inauguration

Continued from Page 4

A designer's willingness to work with a politician or related figures can spark tension with its political undertones, symbols or cultural implications, mainly being endorsed by association.

Parise sees the presidential inauguration as a huge platform for designers to gain publicity for their brand, especially if it's one that is up and coming.

Political science Professor and Department Chair Mario Guerrero feels a designer working with a certain party is often a reflection of their beliefs or values.

"Dressing (politicians) is kind of like an overt endorsement in my opinion," Guerrero said. "Politicians and celebrities choose specifically to work with designers that promote some sort of message. ... They pick them specifically because of their backgrounds or experiences to make a statement."

At Trump's first inauguration in 2017, Melania Trump was dressed by Ralph Lauren. This sparked controversy on Twitter/X using the phrase #BoycottRalphLauren over the pale blue dress and matching jacket.

Furthermore, Vogue's editor-in-chief Anna Wintour denied Melania Trump the cover of Vogue, despite it being a tradition for the fashion magazine.

"I think it's important for Vogue to support women who are leading change in this country," Wintour said on "The Economist

asks" podcast, insinuating Melania Trump lacked progressiveness.

For apparel merchandising and management student Lindsey Moran, a designer choosing to work with a certain party, speaks volumes about where their beliefs lie.

"I think it negatively impacts their brand because everyone pays attention to which designer works with which politician," Moran said. "People end up assuming that the designer has the same values as the politician, and unless they come forward and make a stance for themselves, we

it. In a way, it's like they're endorsing the politician because, as the designer, you're endorsing time and passion to a certain person."

The 2025 Inauguration proved to be a starting shift in direction for the fashion industry and its designers.

Melania Trump wore a custom Adam Lippes coat dress paired with a wide-brimmed Eric Javits hat, which have yet to see boycotts.

In a statement, independent designer Lippes said, "It was an honor to dress the first lady."

Vogue also noted the fashion industry can't afford

you're explicitly endorsing one side or the other, it leads you to this territory of alienating half of America by coming out and saying you support someone."

However, some independent fashion brands continue to be vocal about not supporting Donald Trump.

American designer Willy Chavarria held a show at the American Cathedral where he closed it with a statement accompanied by Minister Marianne Edgar Budde's speech pleading for "mercy" played in the background.

Head Designer of Prada Miuccia Prada grew up in the Communist Party. The 75-year-old's collection debuted at the opening weekend of men's fashion week in Milan.

Along with co-creative director Raf Simons, the two described the line of neutral-colored pajamas and oversized puffer jackets as a "challenging collection for challenging times."

"The world has become conservative, and what is happening is horrible," Prada said after her show. "As always, it is an answer to what is happening. We have to resist."

Whether designers continue to embrace or distance themselves from Trump's presidency is yet to be determined.

As Trump's administration unfolds, the fashion industry will have to navigate the balance between political values and commercial success.

They tend to stray away from anyone who has an 'R' next to their name because they're afraid to be blacklisted from the industry.

— Alejandra Parise

think that they support that particular party."

Similarly, AMM student Lauryn Murrell feels when a designer works with a family like Trump's, it becomes a reflection of their political beliefs and values, not just their designs.

Murrell pointed out the founder of self-titled brand Hugo Boss was an active member of the Nazi Party. Before the brand's focus was suits, Boss supplied military uniforms for the Nazi government.

"To dress people in Trump's party is a political statement," Murrell said. "It's showing where the brand is politically and who runs

to lose customers right now. Seemingly fashion houses are changing their minds about dressing the Trumps.

Melania Trump's stylist Hervé Pierre explained the willingness to work with her comes from wanting publicity, money and avoiding Donald Trump's bad side.

The fashion industry is in murky waters after the potential threat of tariffs on European goods.

Guerrero noted the importance of somewhat staying neutral as a major fashion brand.

"What you don't want to do is alienate a huge segment of people," Guerrero said. "If

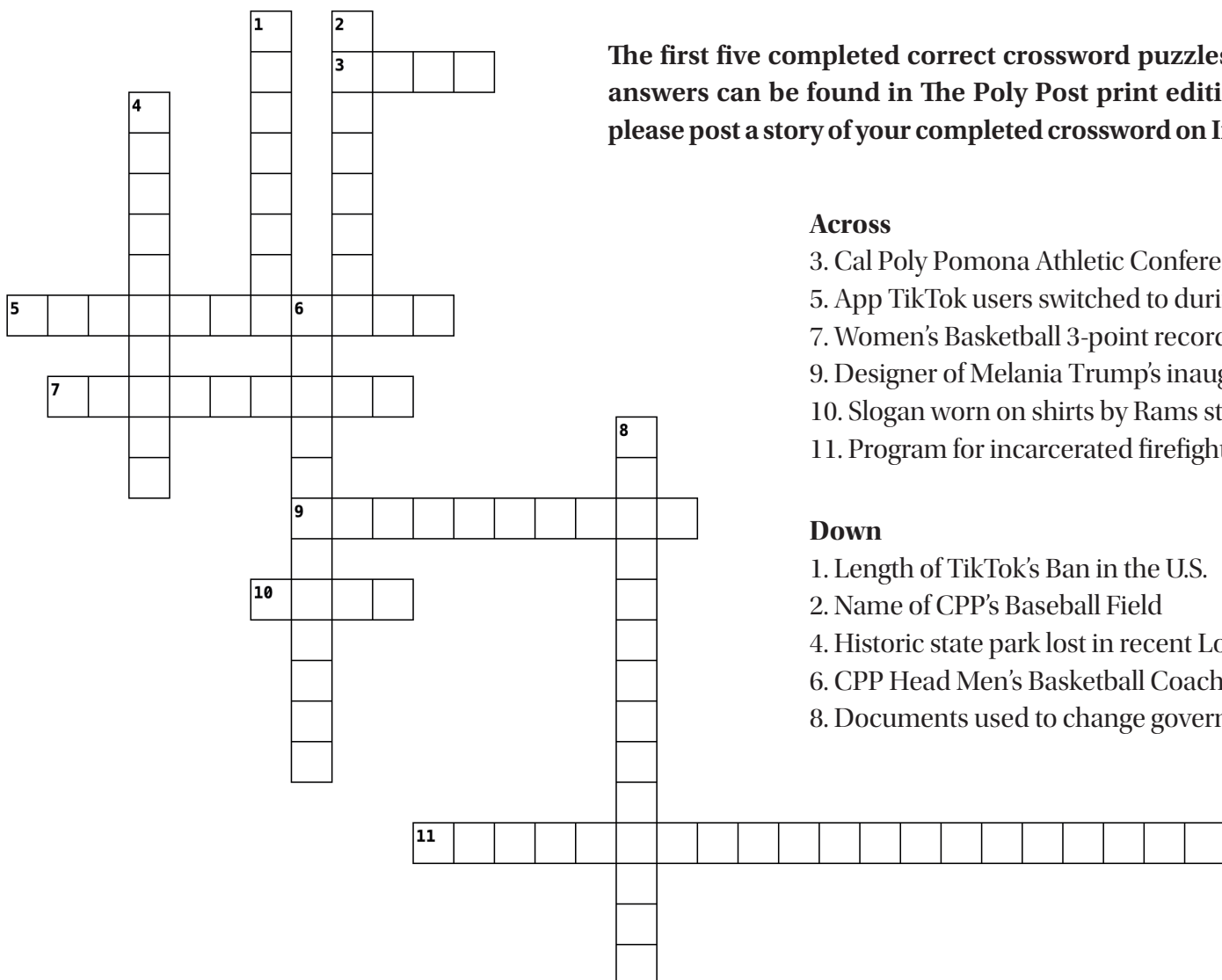
The first five completed correct crossword puzzles can be eligible for a prize. All answers can be found in The Poly Post print edition. To submit your crossword, please post a story of your completed crossword on Instagram and tag @thepolypost.

Across

- 3. Cal Poly Pomona Athletic Conference
- 5. App TikTok users switched to during ban, also known as "Red Note"
- 7. Women's Basketball 3-point record breaker
- 9. Designer of Melania Trump's inauguration coat
- 10. Slogan worn on shirts by Rams staff and players during Playoffs
- 11. Program for incarcerated firefighters

Down

- 1. Length of TikTok's Ban in the U.S.
- 2. Name of CPP's Baseball Field
- 4. Historic state park lost in recent Los Angeles fires
- 6. CPP Head Men's Basketball Coach
- 8. Documents used to change government processes



TOP 5: Cafes near CPP

THE MUGS

20657 Golden Springs Drive UNIT 101, Diamond Bar, CA 91789

The Mugs Café has a warm and inviting atmosphere with a laid-back vibe and comfortable seating options, making it a preferred destination for students looking for a place to study. Items to try: banana caramel latte and croissants.

AROMA CRAFT COFFEE

20265 Valley Blvd. Ste Q, Walnut, CA 91789

Aroma Craft Coffee has a variety of savory items ranging from pasta to paninis for a quick bite in between classes. Foods to try: avocado toast and sea salt caramel coffee.

BOBA CHEW CHEW

1223 Grand Ave., Walnut, CA 91789

Boba Chew Chew is a cafe decorated like a train station, serving milk teas, slushes and boba for those looking for a coffee alternative.

MARGIN COFFEE

1123 Grand Ave, Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Margin Café provides a place for creatives to express themselves through painting activities. Visitors can buy art packages that include a canvas, a paintbrush, acrylic paint and a complimentary drink.

REBORN COFFEE

1138 S. Diamond Bar Blvd., Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Reborn Coffee prioritizes ethical sourcing and sustainability by establishing direct trade relationships with coffee farmers, implementing environmentally friendly practices and obtaining certifications such as Fair Trade and Organic. Foods to try: bagel sandwiches and toasts.



STORY BY ALEXA NOLASCO; GRAPHIC BY CONNOR HAMPTON; PHOTOS BY DARREN LOO AND INSTAGRAM

To my amazing girlfriend, every moment, every laugh, and every memory with you is something I cherish. I'm so grateful to have you by my side. I love you always.

Love, Johnny



To my loveliest girlfriend with the cutest freckles, I love you mailob and can't wait to try more yummy foods together. Will you be my Valentine, L?

-- tu noviecita



Pookie, thank you for being my BFF and my Ride or Die. I ♥ You!!

-- K

Congratulations on your new job with the LA Dodgers, Mia! We are so proud of you and will truly miss working with you. Wishing you all the best on this exciting new journey!

XOXO, PPM

To my sweet love, soft and true With every beat, my heart's for you Like velvet skies and gentle stream, You're the warmth prancing in my dreams.

--XL



I've been keeping this secret for a while... but I just wanted you to know that someone out there thinks you're absolutely amazing. Maybe one day, I'll get the courage to tell you in person.

-- AN

To the girl in my 10 AM English class, I just wanted to say that I think you're beautiful. I hope one day we get the chance to know each other better.



To my lovely boyfriend, Adrian, Thank you for all that you do. I love you more than you can imagine.

-- Nessa



Valentine's Day Messages

OPINION

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

OPINION 7

CALL IT WHAT IT IS



GRAPHIC BY CONNOR HAMPTON

Elon Musk's Nazi salute is one step deeper into fascism

By **VICTORIA MEJICANOS**
Managing/News Editor

On Inauguration Day, a time to celebrate the transition of power from one president to the next, billionaire and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who repeatedly

made interferences in the election, gave a celebratory speech thanking the audience and made a gesture that sent a clear and aggressive message about where our country is headed.

In front of a podium with the presidential seal, Musk pounded on his chest in a gorilla-like manner, raised

his arm straight in the air — fingers extended — and gave a Nazi salute. He then turned around, brought his arm back to his chest and aggressively repeated the Nazi salute to another section in the audience.

What's more disturbing than the gesture itself is watching media outlets

and other watchdog organizations like the Anti-Defamation League, which states its goal is to "(fight) all forms of antisemitism and bias," refuse to acknowledge it as a Nazi salute, and instead provide weak explanations or excuses, calling it an awkward gesture or sign it off as part of Musk's autism

diagnosis.

The opinion editor for Newsweek even shared a statement on X defending Musk.

"I feel extremely confident asserting that this was not a Nazi salute," Batya Ungar-Sargon wrote. "Elon Musk is a friend to the Jews. This is a man with Aspergers

exuberantly throwing his heart to the crowd. We don't need to invent outrage."

As a journalism student, I understand they must do their best to confirm.

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

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Savior facade: Trump used TikTok as political stunt



GRAPHIC BY CONNOR HAMPTON

By **KRISTINE PASCUAL**
Bronco Guide
Magazine Editor

Nearing the end of the presidential election, President Donald Trump saw TikTok as an opportunity to brainwash a key demographic he had previously alienated.

According to Forbes, more than 60% of TikTok users are a part of Generation Z, referring to those born after 1996. Trump, a businessman, seized the perfect moment to appeal to

a key demographic in order to win the 2025 election.

For 170 million users, TikTok went dark the night of Jan. 18. After former President Joe Biden's administration moved forward with efforts to permanently ban the app in the United States, citing concerns over security risks over its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, the news was not well-received by young Americans, and to their surprise, Trump vowed to save the app he once wanted to ban.

"Sorry, TikTok isn't available right now," the notification read. "A law banning TikTok has been enacted in the U.S. Unfortunately, that means you can't use TikTok for now. We are fortunate that President Trump has indicated that he will work with us on a solution to reinstate TikTok once he takes office. Please stay tuned!"

The choice of phrasing was deliberate. Using words such as "fortunate" and

"solution" allude to Trump as a heroic leader. Users were heartbroken over the loss of the app, with some users experiencing heavy withdrawals and police warning against calling 911 over mental breakdowns.

Unsure of when or if the app would resume, many users posted goodbye TikToks, asking followers to find them on other platforms such as Instagram and YouTube. To everyone's surprise, 14 hours later, the app was back up and running with a new message: "As a result of President Donald Trump's efforts, TikTok is back in the U.S.!"

Prior to TikTok's resurgence, if a user tried to use TikTok, a different message popped up, and it also mentioned Trump. The half-day shutdown felt suspicious on top of the praise for Trump, which was seemingly a calculated political move to paint him as the app's savior. Many users took to TikTok to express confusion over the

reasoning for the app going dark just for it to reappear less than a day later. Other users posted videos in support of Trump, offering their "vote," or in other words, their support.

Some users felt the need to thank Trump for his efforts in bringing back the popular app; however, Trump has a history with TikTok. Flashback to Trump's first presidential term in 2020 when he aggressively tried to ban the app over national security concerns due to Chinese ownership. Fast forward to the end of Biden's term and, according to NPR, Trump signed an executive order to pause the TikTok ban for 75 days.

Looking back at his first term, it is clear Trump is no stranger to controversy, particularly in the world of X, formerly known as Twitter. He wrecked the public's perception of journalists,

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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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“The choice of phrasing was deliberate. Using words such as “fortunate” and “solution” allude to Trump as a heroic leader.

SPORTS

SPORTS 8

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

LA sports teams provide support for fire victims



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR HAMPTON

LA Strong spans across eight major leagues and 12 professional teams, including teams such as the Dodgers, Rams, Los Angeles Football Club and Sparks.

By ISAAC COX
Staff Writer

In the wake of the fires that devastated Los Angeles communities, 12 major league sports teams partnered with Fanatics and various organizations to launch the LA Strong campaign in an effort to show support for the affected residents and raise money for assistance.

The teams that united

included the Dodgers, the Lakers, the Sparks, the Rams and the Chargers among other teams. Fanatics, a professional collegiate sports apparel company, launched the branded collection, priced at \$35 per shirt. The profits, according to the company, will be donated to the American Red Cross and the LA Fire Department Foundation.

Nearly 200,000 residents have been affected by

evacuation orders, and 29 people were killed in the fires. Patric Bello, a mechanical engineering student, said he was not directly affected by the fire, but his friend's family lost their home and detailed the importance of the teams showing support.

"I think it's pretty important for these sports teams to show support for the city, because the city supports them," said Bello. "In this

situation, where there are fans losing everything, I feel like the teams need to give back to those fans who have been there for all the wins and losses."

Mark Walter, the controlling owner of the Dodgers, donated \$100 million to fire relief. Some Dodgers have followed suit, such as Shohei Ohtani, Freddie Freeman, Chris Taylor and ex-Dodger Justin Turner, collectively donating

almost \$1 million.

Lakers head coach JJ Reddick was one of the LA residents affected by the fires when his house burned down, and the team had to reschedule a few home games due to the crisis.

The Lakers, Clippers and Sparks donated a total of \$23 million to show their support for the city and its first responders. The Lakers also hosted a donation drive to those affected by the fires

as well.

Vrishin Vijayanand, a marketing student, emphasized the importance of using a large platform to help people in need.

"Being one of the cities with the most championships and so much culture, it's important that they give back to the communities that supported them," said Vijayanand.

See LAKERS / Page 9

Broncos baseball reunites with alums in annual faceoff

By CHRISTIAN MAGDALENO
Sports Editor

With the season set to begin, Cal Poly Pomona baseball welcomed its alumni back for its annual preseason CPP Alumni Game at Scolinos Field Jan. 25.

The Broncos, current and former, packed the dugouts once more in this friendly rivalry game, but the nostalgia was quickly snuffed out by the current Broncos, walking away with a 9-1 victory.

Senior leadoff hitter and catcher/outfielder Johnny Pappas cracked open the game for his team with a triple to right field that sent the alumni chasing after him.

The game did not slow down for the Broncos, as junior outfielder Dominic Porter kept the ball moving, slotting one down the left-field line to bring in Pappas for the first run of the game.

The Broncos continued to work their way through the lineup, walking away with 4 runs in the first inning.

Pappas expressed his appreciation for playing



CHRISTIAN MAGDALENO | THE POLY POST

The former Broncos returned to Scolinos field, and 2024 alumnus Nick Lugo recorded the first hit of the game Jan. 25.

in this preseason tradition and for the support from his former Broncos.

"It's always a lot of fun to compete against a lot of these guys that we played with last year and then seeing some of the guys from the 1983 national championship team out here, so it's cool to see that this program means a lot to a lot of people," said Pappas. "I also got some good swings off, and a good one off of coach Anthony Mizrahi."

Assistant coach and 2019 alumnus Mizrahi reclaimed the mound to pitch against the 2025 team.

2024 alumnus Nick Lugo hit a single to centerfield to notch the first hit for the



CHRISTIAN MAGDALENO | THE POLY POST

Broncos pitcher Anthony Vasquez appeared in nine games on the mound, and went 2-0 in 10 innings last season.

alumni. Ultimately, the top of the inning remained scoreless for them as sophomore right-handed pitcher, Anthony Vasquez, dominated on the mound.

The alumni team's bats remained dormant throughout the second inning, which allowed Pappas to make his second appearance in the batter's box shortly afterward.

Pappas sent another ball flying to the outfield, with this one bouncing off the left-field wall.

The Broncos turned this inning into batting practice, as they cycled through their lineup to collect a 6-0 lead.

Alex Kline, the current assistant athletics director of communications and former Broncos catcher from 2015 to 2019, donned his gear as one of the alumni guarding home plate.

The two-time Division II National Collegiate Athletic Association West-Regional champion detailed his experience coming back onto the field.

"I was actually surprised with how well I caught today," said Kline. "Catching actually came back pretty naturally, so it was nice to put on the gear again and get to play with all the teammates I have not seen in a few years, a lot since before COVID-19. It's cool reconnecting with them and seeing where they are at in life."

Kline also highlighted his

See ALUMNI / Page 9

LAKERS: LA Strong campaign unites local pro teams

Continued from Page 8

“Being one of the cities with the most championships and so much culture, it’s important that they give back to the communities that supported them,” said Vijayanand.

During the NFL playoffs, Rams head coach Sean McVay and the team’s players wore shirts and sweaters that read “LAFD” as well, showing support to the firefighters of LA.

Jacob Garcia, a mechanical engineering student, explained the benefit of the Rams wearing their fire support merch.

“You have the LA Rams playing against the Philadelphia Eagles on live TV, and people in Philadelphia will see that and can possibly get more help toward these fires,” said Garcia. “That’s a big one. More help and more support with people understanding what’s going on in the world.”

12 total LA teams made posts on social media to show support and make announcements for the donation drives that took place, as well as to promote a donation concert held at the Intuit Dome, the Clippers’ new stadium, Jan. 30.

The LAFC and Angel City FC made videos of its players showing support to the city of LA on Instagram.

Both LA hockey teams, the Kings and Ducks, made awareness posts on Instagram for the audience to see their care for LA.

For decades, fans of Los Angeles sports teams have shown their full support, and now the teams are returning the favor.

If any Cal Poly Pomona students are interested in donating to relief efforts, many organizations are taking donations that will be contributed to the city.

Reach Isaac Cox at sports@thepolypost.com

‘She buries it’: Breanne Ha breaks all-time 3-point record

Women’s team cruises to 7-game win streak



COURTESY OF LEROY CROOK

Senior guard Breanne Ha celebrates the single-game 3-point record with eight shots made against Stanislaus State Jan. 18 along with the all-time 3-point record.

By Jacob Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Cal Poly Pomona women’s basketball dominated Cal State East Bay Jan. 23 and San Francisco State Jan. 25, improving the conference record to 11-1 and breaking records along the way.

The Broncos’ game against East Bay Pioneers marked senior guard Breanne Ha’s 216th career 3-pointer, breaking the all-time, 3-point record previously set by Anna James (1999-2003) 23 years ago.

“I’m at a loss for words,” Ha said. “All the hard work I put in with my teammates and coaches helped me reach this point in my career, so it means a lot.”

The Broncos got off to a fast start against the Pioneers with a 9-1 lead after senior forward Sydney Nelson

hit a jumper, followed by sophomore forward Mydrea Moore’s two jumpers and a 3-pointer from Ha.

The Pioneers responded with a pair of free throws and a layup to cut the deficit to four, but both teams stalled for the next two minutes of play.

The Broncos built a 19-11 lead by the end of the first quarter with an efficient offense and strong defense, preventing guard Taylor Eldredge, East Bay’s most prolific shooter, from scoring all day, holding her to only 2 points.

Although the second quarter started with Moore hitting a jumper and guard hitting a jumper and guard Cookie Marques hitting a free throw to extend the Broncos’ lead to 22-11, their momentum stalled.

The Pioneers forced the Broncos into foul trouble and

slowly cut away at the deficit. Forward Sierra Morris made three free throws, followed by a 3-pointer from forward Krista Sheaffer, to cut the Broncos’ lead 22-17.

Guards Brielle Minor and Marques opened the scoring for the Broncos, contributing

“I’m at a loss for words. All the hard work I put in with my teammates and coaches helped me reach this point in my career, so it means a lot.”
– Breanne Ha

to a 17-8 run that stretched the lead to 39-25.

Both Minor and Marques would each recorded double-digit performances, with Marques scoring 22 points and Minor contributing 15 points off the bench.

“I think that has been a big part of what I’ve been working on this year, which is being more of an offensive threat,” said Minor. “I was really glad that I was able to push the pace and get the ball up the floor and in the basket.”

The Broncos exploded in the third quarter, outscoring

the Pioneers 27-10. CPP’s defense shut out the Pioneers’ offense, forcing them to take more contested shots as the Pioneers shot 5-17 (29%) from the field compared to CPP’s 11-18 (61%).

CPP continued its aggressive attack, driving down the paint with three layups from Nelson, Marques and sophomore center Khamiyah Anderson, lifting the Broncos up 74-43.

Despite the Pioneers outscoring CPP 23-15 in the fourth, they could not overcome the deficit as the Broncos secured the 81-58 victory.

Following the win, the Broncos traveled to San Francisco to face San Francisco State.

The Broncos came out of the gates swinging, starting with guard Kalaya Buggs’ 3-pointer to open the aggressive attack.

Buggs delivered an all-around performance, leading the Broncos with 10 points, 11 rebounds, 10 assists, and four steals, recording a triple-double — the fifth in the program’s history.

“It feels good to be able to get that finally,” Buggs said. “I know I’ve been close a couple of times in my career. I’m just grateful that everyone had enough trust in me in order to make that accomplishment.”

The Broncos raced to an early 11-0 lead, holding the

Gators’ offense scoreless through the first six minutes of play.

Nelson drove down the paint to sink a layup, continuing the fast-paced offense for the Broncos.

The Broncos outscored the Gators 20-4, shooting 7-11 (63%), while the Gators shot 1-12 (8%).

Head coach Danelle Bishop highlighted the team’s preparations for their matchup and noted that rebounding was a key component to their victory.

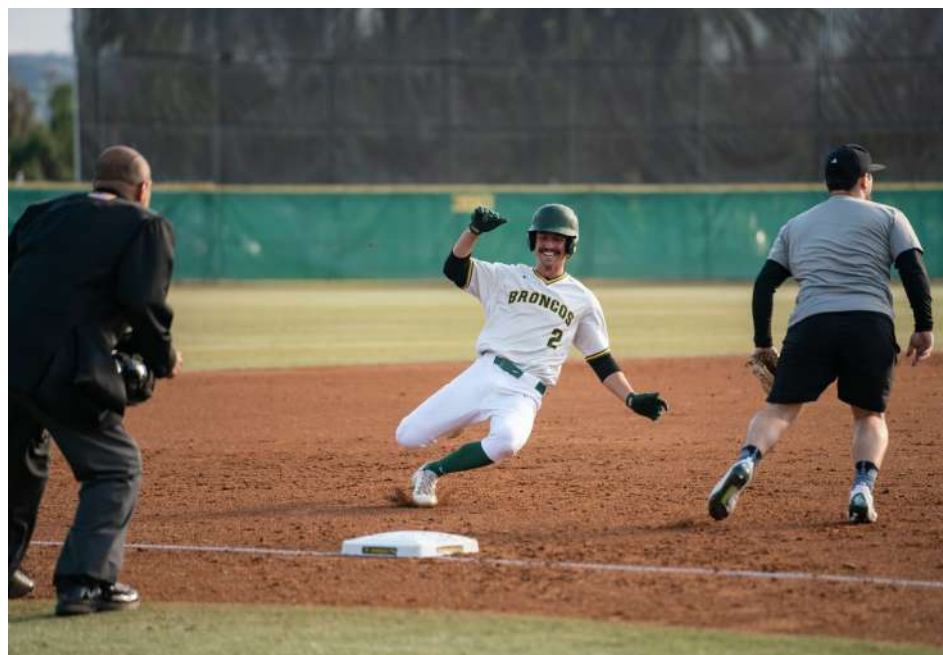
“Our whole mentality was that they (San Francisco State) have a lot of good pieces, and if we gave them any confidence, it could affect the game,” said Bishop. “We had to come in with a defensive mindset and adjust to some things that we did not do well on Thursday.”

The Broncos continued their offensive run in the second quarter, with Nelson setting up a jumper in what would be her 16th consecutive game, reaching double-digits.

The Broncos continued to build on their lead throughout the second quarter, as they outscored their opponents 18-6, adding to a 38-10 lead.

READ THIS ARTICLE IN FULL AT THEPOLYPOST.COM

Reach Jacob Rodriguez at sports@thepolypost.com



COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN MAGDALENO

Broncos catcher/outfielder Johnny Pappas is featured on the CCAA baseball watchlist Jan. 23.

ALUMNI: Current Broncos beat former alum stars

Continued from Page 8

fellow alumni teammates Noel Soto and Cesar Lopez. Soto was a right-handed pitcher from 2021 to 2023, and Lopez was an outfielder from 2018 to 2022.

Although the Broncos continued to rack up runs throughout the game, the alumni did not go down without a fight as Lopez hit a double to bring a run in during the third inning — recording the alumni’s

singular run of the game — and held the Broncos scoreless through the fourth and fifth innings.

The Broncos left the game with a 9-1 victory over their former teammates and counterparts.

Broncos head coach Randy Betten expressed his gratitude for the former Broncos who made their appearances at Scolinos Field.

“I hope the guys see that they are really good players over there, and they still have the ability to play and a joy for competing,” said Betten. “It’s always fun to play them and catch up to see where they are after the game of baseball.”

One Broncos legend who made his appearance back on

the mound was J.J. Franklin.

Franklin played from 2012 to 2015 and is the all-time saves leader (19) and holds the third-place record for most pitching appearances (73).

Franklin closed out the ninth inning with a strikeout on the last batter.

Although he did not manage to add another save to his record, Franklin joked he could add this to his post-college stats.

Franklin expressed his gratitude to the coaching staff and players for maintaining the quality of the field, stating the field “was always one of the best in the CCAA.”

Reach Christian Magdaleno at

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Men's basketball falls short to Pioneers, Gators

By Gavin Claiborne
Copy Editor

Cal Poly Pomona men's basketball team holds a 5-7 record in the California Collegiate Athletic Association conference after a close, but unsuccessful, match against the Cal State East Bay Pioneers Jan. 23 and a blowout loss to the San Francisco State Gators Jan. 25.

The Broncos had a slow start against the Pioneers, facing a 13-point deficit. The team's first points came just seven minutes into the first half after reserve guard Miles Lewis nailed a pair of free throws.

The Broncos narrowed the gap with a pair of free throws from reserve guard Zach Broadous. Then, starting guards Jaden Winfield and Shyheim Parm cut the deficit to 7 points by sinking two 3-pointers with 10 minutes remaining in the half.

Even though the Pioneers followed with a 3-point shot, buckets from forward Sam Hunter, guard Demarreya Lewis-Cooper, center Kevin Simeth and forward Jordan Carpenter kept the Broncos within 10 points by the end of the half 35-25.

Simeth scored the Broncos' first points of the second half with a layup, which was then followed by jumpers from Winfield and Hunter.

With seven minutes remaining, the Broncos were able to rally back and take their first and only lead of the game at 49-48, but the Pioneers weren't entirely out of energy, as both teams exchanged leads.

Eight total lead changes happened by the end of the half, but the Pioneers ultimately took hold of the lead with three minutes left



Men's basketball head coach Greg Kamansky has coached the Broncos through 24 seasons and 14 NCAA tournaments.

CHRISTIAN MAGDALENO | THE POLY POST

to pick up a 65-67 win.

Winfield, Lewis and Broadous all finished the game with double-digit scoring efforts, and Winfield was the game's leading rebounder with eight boards, three coming from the offensive end.

Broncos head coach Greg Kamansky said he was pleased with the resilience his team displayed through the game's final stretches.

"Obviously it was disappointing we lost," Kamansky said. "But we battled. We battled the second half."

The Broncos had a back-and-forth clash against the Gators in the first half of the contest, but they were also unable to capture a win in

this match.

Hunter opened the game by scoring the Broncos' first basket with a jumper, and the Broncos built up a 7-point lead within five minutes.

The Gators continued to trail closely behind the Broncos, and the team eventually took a 2-point lead with about six minutes left in the half.

Simeth tied the game with a tip-in, and Lewis nailed a quick turnaround mid-range jumper, followed by a left-wing 3-pointer to keep the Broncos close at 26-32 at halftime.

The second half appeared to be the downfall for the Broncos as the Gators went on a 14-0 run.

The Broncos were unable

to score until seven minutes in when Broadous recorded a putback layup coming off a missed left-corner 3-point attempt from reserve forward Caleb Nelson.

Nelson, Lewis, Broadous and reserve forward Michael Ofoegbu each got going on offense — cumulatively scoring 22 points — but their scoring segment turned out to be a bit too late as the Gators departed with a 48-67 win.

Ofoegbu said one of the biggest challenges his team faced on the road was playing at a high intensity for all 40 minutes.

"I feel like sometimes we have energy drop-offs, which is really not acceptable," Ofoegbu said. "Just putting

together two good halves of basketball and playing an entire game. If we play a full game like that, we'll win a lot more games."

Lewis reached double digits consecutively, scoring 10 points off the bench in both games. Kamansky said Lewis' role as a reserve has "been everything" for the team.

"He's been a really good spark plug for us," Kamansky said. "That's why he's playing more. He's moving forward on some stuff, so we're happy with him."

Kamansky explained to become a competitive team in the CCAA conference, the team will need to excel in other facets of the game.

“If you're a competitor, we've got to find another way to win. And that means doing the little things, like rebounding.”

— Greg Kamansky

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