

Ch. 01

WINGS

Cerritos College
Spring '24

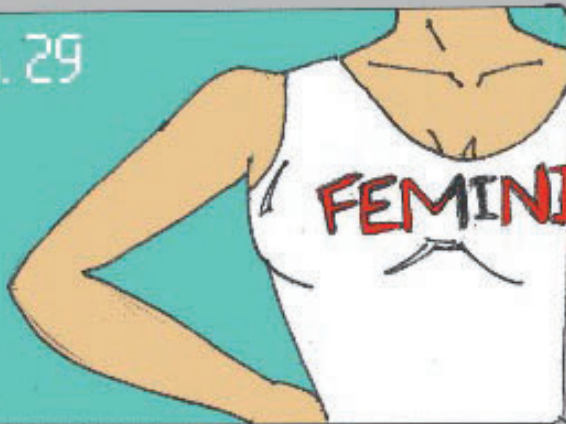
Ch. Guide:

College Campus Life
Work + Social Issues,
Healthy Student Living

Ch. 09



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Ch. 24



Moses Lopez '24

Falcon
HD



LGBTQ+

Cerritos College's LGBTQ+ Program is housed under the college's Equity Center.

The main objective of the LGBTQ+ Program at Cerritos College is to assure that LGBTQIA+ students have the necessary support systems at Cerritos, in and out of the classroom. Under the P.R.I.D.E. Scholars Success Program, it aims to encourage self-actualization through Perseverance, Resilience, and Innovative Development in Education.

We are committed to fostering safe and brave spaces for all students, particularly those of marginalized identities including but not limited to our BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and undocumented students. The LGBTQ+ Program includes, and is not limited to, the following events and programs throughout the year:

- Campus Tours
- Lavender Graduation Ceremony
- LGBTQ+ Career Planning
- LGBTQ+ Program Newsletter
- LGBTQ+ Student Orientations
- Mental Health Services
- OUTober & Pride Tide Spring Series
- Pride Parades
- P.R.I.D.E. Scholars Success Program
- Student Alliance for Equality "S.A.F.E." Club
- Workshops & Professional Development Trainings

Contact the LGBTQ+ Program Facilitator & Liaison through the website, or directly at lgbtq@cerritos.edu. Additionally, the LGBTQ+ Program is on Instagram at the handle: [@cerritoscollegelgbtq](https://www.instagram.com/cerritoscollegelgbtq).



LGBTQ+
Program





PIGSKIN PROMISES

SEND MY PEOPLE BACK

BIG BANK TAKES LITTLE BANK

ALL WORK, NO PAY

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIETY

BROKEN SCHOOL SYSTEM

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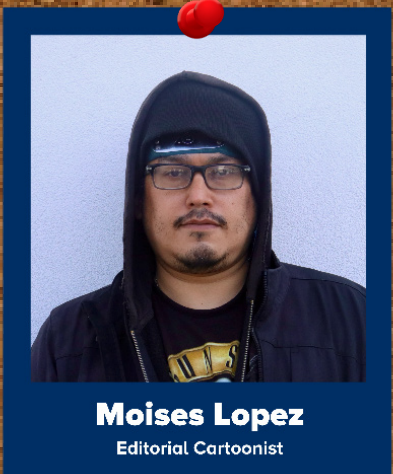
S T A F F



Michael Delgado
Editor in Chief



Joel Carpio
Managing Editor



Moises Lopez
Editorial Cartoonist



Alfredo Menjivar
Designer



Emily Maciel
Staff Writer



Emanuel Guadarrama
Staff Writer



Ifeoma Utom
Staff Writer



Diana Morales
Staff Writer



Susan Romero
Staff Writer



Layla Hernandez
Staff Writer



Adrienne Fajardo
Staff Writer



Andrew Pilani
Staff Writer



Laura Bernal
Staff Writer



Jonathan Diaz
Staff Writer



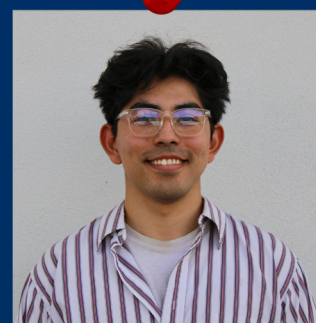
Shaniah Campbell
Staff Writer



Anahi Villalobos-Cruz
Staff Writer



Dillon Laurer
Staff Writer



Edward Fernandez
Staff Writer



Peyton Oliveira
Staff Writer



Christian Brown
Faculty Advisor

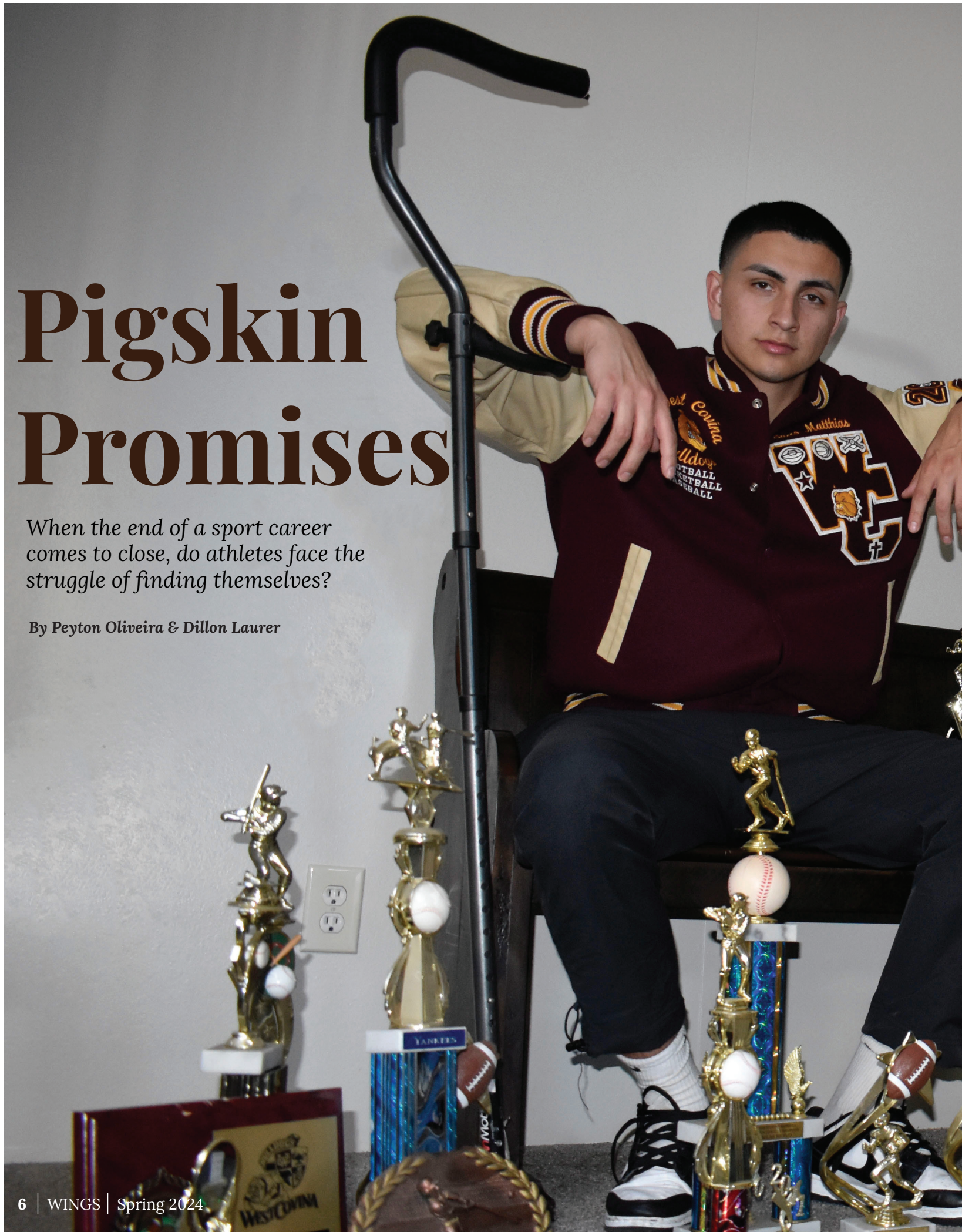



Alicia Edquist
Instructional Lab Tech I

Pigskin Promises

When the end of a sport career comes to close, do athletes face the struggle of finding themselves?

By Peyton Oliveira & Dillon Laurer





“I promised myself that ‘if you get another surgery like your done, no way you can keep putting yourself through this,’” said Silas Bravo after his fourth ACL tear that ended his football career.

At some point in the lives of college athletes they have to realize the end of the road may be near for their childhood passions. Silas Bravo and Tytus Latrelle are both for different reasons all too familiar with the sudden end of a sports career and the mental strength it takes to restart your life after your last day playing.

Silas grew up playing all kinds of sports but the one that made him fall in love was football “I started playing tackle football when I was about 6 . . . and in high school I realized I want to do this.”

Success found Bravo early. He made all conference his sophomore season receiving division 1 attention from multiple schools. But injuries soon began playing a key role.

“My junior year week 3 I broke my collar bone . . . during basketball season I tore my ACL.”

That was the first of three tears on Silas’s right ACL that would force him down the juco path to continue chasing his football career after an injury forced a medical redshirt and playing mostly special teams his second year heading into his last at Cerritos.

Silas was ready to make it count.

Unfortunately, all athletes must face the last day they play the game, and when that day comes you have to be grateful because you’ll never know when that last play is.

“I just planted . . . my left one (left knee), I felt it, I knew right away it gave out and I was just on the ground I knew.”

Many athletes are forced to face the reality that Silas did.

According to a study done by Sports Health, 20% of elite athletes have reported injury as a reason for quitting their sport, and up to 8% of adolescents drop out of sporting activities due to injury or fear of injury.

The end of Silas football career was a mental blow he never thought he would endure.

“It was football or nothing, this was the plan my whole life. I’ve been a student athlete. My brother he’s a student athlete so like that was it, nothing else,” Silas said.

Silas had committed himself to the game of football for so long it has become an integral part of who he was so much so he had to rekindle who he was once playing sports were out of his future.

“I was in a tough spot bro, I was questioning everything, like when you work so hard for something . . . everything seemed to be fitting right and then just for it to come crashing down . . . I started questioning my faith, but I credit my mom cause she didn’t let me sulk.”

It is speculated by some studies that up to 85% of athletes battle depression post injury and a large part of this is due to the massive role sports play in their lives .

But that massive role sports plays in an athlete’s life doesn’t mean that once their time in the sport is over their life is as many have to struggle down the road to self discovery.

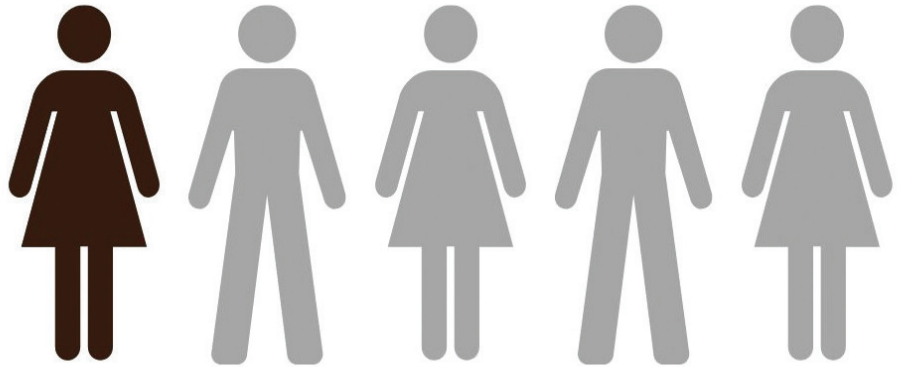
For Silas he found a new interest while also finding a way to enjoy the game he loves football

“I grew to like journalism a lot, I really liked writing stories, I really liked? being in the field interviewing people, and Talon Marks [Cerritos College’s student newspaper] helped me out.”

While his journey on the football field might have been over through the help of faith and his family Silas was able to find a new passion that helped him remember that being a football player did not define him.

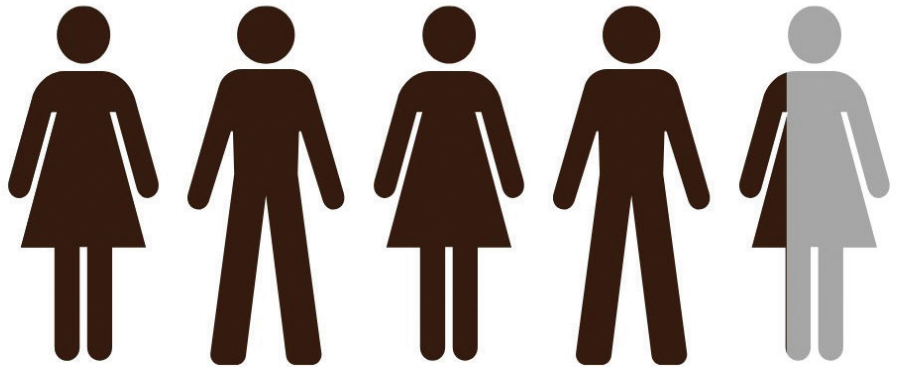
Adults & Teens

● % Of Athletes with Career-Ending Injuries



20%

● % Of Athletes with Post-Injury Depression



85%

Sources: Sports Health Sage, Sports Specialization Part I & iCliniq, How Can Sports Injuries Cause Depression?

Illustration by Dillon Laurer

Many define themselves through the sports they play and that's why the process of finding who you really are can be so difficult

"So when you first quit, you kind of go through this like ego death per se," stated Tytus Latrelle, former Cerritos College football player, "where you just kind of like, oh, you know, this the last six years of my life, the last half decade, I've been committed to be an athlete."

Tytus had a slightly different story to Silas finding baseball as his first love before switching over to boxing, remaining an athlete all throughout childhood Tytus came back to football his freshman year of highschool.

It went from a sport he tried in his youth that wasn't for him to consuming most of his life "And I mean, there was even a point where I was on JV and varsity. So I was playing Thursdays and Fridays. So like, it became like my whole life at one point,"

The sport became a part of Tytus' everyday life and he enjoyed the fast pace physical style of the game, landing hard hits from the cornerback position. He loved the game and was good at it, good enough to suit up for college ball playing for the Cerritos Falcons

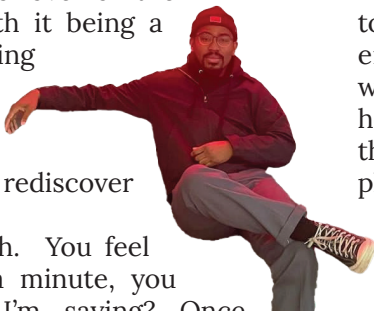
But as the sport continued to play a major part in Tytus's life heading into college a hamstring injury would sideline him for three weeks

"It gave some other corners a chance to shine. . . I think there was a time I only got like, uh, two series in the game and I had two fumbles on the same series. still didn't start me. And after that, that's when it hit me."



The politics of the sport had made Tytus lose his love for the game but with it being a major driving force in his life up to that point he had to rediscover himself.

"Yeah. Yeah. You feel lost for. . . a minute, you know what I'm saying? Once something that you love so dearly doesn't work out for you and you feel like you like, per se, um, didn't accomplish your goal."



Despite being in his early twenties Tytus's dedication to football had made him chalk himself up as a failure because he hadn't found success there.

Football had been the make or break for Tytus when it came to college and the pain of not achieving the football dream meant he needed to find new avenues to express himself.

So after college he decided to delve into entrepreneurship where he's found he's much more than just a football player. Where Tytus had thought like so many other athletes that he failed after his college football experience, he had truly begun his life and was done letting his athletic ability define the man he was going to become.

That man that he has become has done various work including clothing design, painting, and now digital

marketing where he works in the 300 project a marketing campaign with artists like Lil Baby, Gunna and Meg Thee Stallion.

Tytus had discovered a love for art and fashion that was always there but suppressed by his desire to make something out of the gridiron. Without the pressure of the game Tytus was able to flourish in his post athlete life, a stark reminder to all athletes that sports are only a fraction of the man you are.

Tytus and Silas have found success in many other aspects of their own lives outside of sports showing that the mental struggle of overcoming the end of an athletic career is hard but never impossible.

However when asked about if he misses it Tytus had this to say " Nah, fuck no. I miss playing, man. I loved that shit."

"Nah, fuck no. I miss playing, man. I loved that shit." - Tytus Latrelle

SEND MY PEOPLE BACK

INVESTIGATING THE PHENOMENON OF LATINOS AGAINST IMMIGRATION



BY Edward FERNANDEZ & Jonathan NIZ

“Trump is gonna deport you!”

“Stupid beaner.”

“Y’all are lucky to be in this country.”

The roars surging from a swarming mob growing louder and louder. A mob of White, Black and Latino.

Tony Gonzalez was inside the Oviatt Library at California State University, Northridge, watching an award ceremony when three protesters – picket signs held high – began their chant. “Trump is a great president,” they called out.

Police, present for the event, mulled over to the three protesters and asked them to leave.

Tony had been a progressive Democrat for as long as he could remember, but that day, seeing the hypocrisy of those who claimed to be victims of oppressive systems, oppressing dissenters, he went hard right. Leading the Mexican-Guatemalan to take a zero tolerance stance on illegal immigration.

Gonzalez is just one in a growing number of Latinos opposing illegal immigration, which has become a hot button issue as Americans head into a divisive 2024 election.

Gustavo Arellano of the Los Angeles Times cites a Public Policy Institute of California survey conducted in 2019 where 75% of Latinos thought illegal immigration was a “serious problem.”

A poll conducted in January by the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies, in conjunction with the Times, found that 63% of California Latinos thought undocumented immigrants were burdensome.

John Macias, who teaches the history of Mexican and Latino Americans in the United States at Cerritos College, notes that negative sentiments come in waves historically.

Our economy depends on cheap migrant labor and, “When the economy starts to grow and prosper, usually immigration increases at the same level, but then when the economy starts to falter, then you have the anti-immigrant rhetoric that starts to increase.”

“They’re taking our jobs!”



Edward Fernandez

Professor John Macias teaches the history of Latinos in America.

Macias noted.

Tony has his own ideas on what makes a deserving migrant.

“If you’re Latino, you have about a one in four chance [of growing up without a father]. We know that boys who grow up without a father are more likely to be poor, more likely to underperform in school,” Tony cited with all irony, former President Barack Obama.

This was the fate of his own father, but he beat the odds and became a mechanical

Simple, yet effective at pointing out the competition for resources particularly among the Latino community.

Having invested a certain amount of time into the country, one might feel entitled to judge who makes a deserving migrant “And unfortunate to say, sometimes race plays a role. Migrants who are coming from different parts of Latin America, may not necessarily be on the same color line or even the same economic level in their home countries,”



Illustration by Alfredo Menjivar

engineer.

His mother grew up wearing third hand clothes, being beaten almost daily by her alcoholic father before he walked out of her life. She was told she'd never amount to anything. Now she's a registered nurse.

Immigrant households are full of underdog stories like these.

Generations of migrants overcoming language barriers, racism and extreme poverty to make something of themselves.

“Deport all of them!”

- Tony Gonzalez

Though once enough time has elapsed and all their hard work settles in, some may look upon incoming migrants without recognizing the same struggle they once went through.

If they made it, how come these newcomers can't?

Tony's grandmother spent 16 long years waiting to finally get her citizenship, while others crossed the border illegally.

“Deport all of them!” He pounded with his fist, “I understand that they're trying to get a better life, but you have to do things the right way.”

He would later go on to admit that his grandmother entered the U.S. illegally.

Pulling yourself up by the bootstraps is what the American Dream is all about. The proof is in the Gonzalez family success stories. Yet it's become a hyper fixation to the point new arrivals are being judged for their lack of achievements.

Yet despite two prestigious careers, the Gonzalez family still faces some financial difficulty.

To have achieved so much and be effectively told by your country to “shut up and be grateful for what you have” is the logical conclusion of such a hyper fixation.

To Tony, the solution for the migrant problem lies in the model set by the Bracero program.

Ship in Latinos to work the labor jobs in the U.S. then ship them right back out at the workday's end.

Such a program isn't enough for Antonio Vargas, who was highlighted by the Washington Post in 2001, “Don't make us guest workers. Make us citizens. We've earned it.”

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection encountered over 2.4 million undocumented migrants throughout the 2023 fiscal year alone.

All having left their homes with nothing in their pockets for a myriad of reasons. All striving for the American Dream: success in their new home and assimilation, to be treated with dignity and respect by their peers despite the differences.

But assimilation is hard when your own people want you out.

“I could care less [about being isolated from the Latino community.]” Tony rationalized, “I could get along with other ethnicities.”

People can be very close-minded, he said.

THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT CERRITOS COLLEGE



Theatre



Music



Dance

YOU TAKE A SEAT, WE'LL TAKE A BOW.

Check out our performance schedule
and enjoy a show.





BIG BANK TAKES LITTLE BANK

Big businesses bombard the city of Inglewood with new attractions such as the SoFi Stadium, YouTube Theater and Intuit Dome causing an increase in property value and rent.

By Shaniah Campbell & Ifeoma Utom



SHANIAH CAMPBELL

Luxury high-rise apartment in Inglewood on La Brea Avenue and Regent Street

As gentrification gains momentum, historic neighborhoods become unrecognizable leading to increased housing costs and potentially displacing vulnerable communities.

“They’re taking away from the mom-and-pop shops. We’re not benefiting from what the city is doing. As African Americans we don’t do enough to stop these things – we don’t take the necessary steps to advocate for what we believe in to change our community.”

Chrissann Stewart, an employee at Women of Color Salon, has seen the transition of Inglewood’s Housing and Business development over the years, which has resulted in how businesses in

the area are slowly becoming affected by this issue.

In cities like Inglewood many businesses have been the focal point of being displaced from the new and improved “I-Wood.”

Inglewood is historically known to be a predominately African American and Latino community with lower-income demographics.

The city undergoes rapid urban redevelopment, the impact on local residents and the cultural fabric of various areas is felt.

Due to the redevelopment of Inglewood, many businesses have to accommodate those who are moving into the city for a bigger profit.

Women of Color Hair Salon owned by Lesa Marie near the Market Street Shopping District has been affected by this ongoing occurrence.

“It cost me almost \$30,000 to upgrade my salon. With the new influx of people coming into the city they want to see that difference – It was time to do it, Gentrification pushed me to remodel my salon.” Marie said.

Small business owners like Marie struggle to keep up with the city’s increasing expenses that gentrification demands.

With gentrification sinking deeper, the cost of living in gentrified cities has

INGLE

become too high for many to afford, resulting in the multitude of natives out of business and out home.

Recent statistics from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority reveal that over 70,000 people experience homelessness on any given night in Los Angeles County, majority being Black-Americans..

New venues built in Inglewood within the last three years such as the YouTube Theatre, Sofi Stadium and Intuit Dome have increased tourism and cost of living.

As these new venues emerged in the city, homelessness in the city of Los Angeles has risen by 12% from 2020-2023.

For those that are homeless in Los Angeles and the ones that work to fight it, the question that poses is what is the solution.

Andrew Linares, Community Engagement and Volunteer manager of Midnight Mission, works with these individuals directly and takes the job personally, knowing first hand what it feels like to be homeless himself.

“When I finally ended up on the streets, I came into the program after being on the street, give or take about five or six months. I felt this level of darkness right, that I’ve never felt before.” Linares said.

Organizations such as The Midnight Mission in Los Angeles that offer recovery and shelter programs for the unhoused, see first hand the exact results of people who can not afford to live in the city and now live on the streets of the city.

“You really feel this level of loneliness and just like no hope at all right,” he



SHANIAH CAMPBELL

Chrissan Stewart, Women of Color employee, braiding client's hair.

said “like what’s the point there’s no future in the horizon and the past is all blurred.”

One of the main difficulties these organizations face is the struggle to house the individuals in their programs.

Linares says it’s a very slow process in getting individuals in their program housed, needing a bit more resources while having very limited housing options geared towards individuals with certain qualifications.

“It’s just a slow process and whatever is available is usually reserved for those for seniors or disabled.” Linares said. “For there to be a waiting list, that says a lot of people are actually on the street.”

The lack of affordable housing mixed with the increase of new “high-rise” apartments, venues and businesses emerging throughout neighborhoods implements an unnecessary need within the city.



Source: Costar, U.S. Census Data

Illustration Shaniah Campbell

WOOD

The unnecessary need being the profit that comes for the hands of these new businesses and none for the community that they have created less stability for.

According to USAFact Team five of the highest counties/cities of unsheltered homeless individuals are in California with Los Angeles being the overall county and city.

Gentrification and Homelessness are two of the most primary issues that have long plagued cities across Southern California.

As the city undergoes a transformation, we are witnessing the forces of gentrification remold Inglewood at the expense of single adults, those of whom are local business owners and low-income residents having long called this city home.

These individuals are at high risk of struggling to find stable housing because they usually do not meet the requirements for most support programs or can only get help for a short time with limited funds.

In a recent study conducted by the The Civil Rights Project, 55% percent of all low socio-economic cities in Los Angeles have been gentrified since 2000.

According to the City of Inglewood's Planning Department, the median household income averages \$54,400 annually.

The average median salary being so stunted has made it very difficult for local residents to adjust to property owners raising rent annually due to Inglewood not having rent control.

"Every year my rent has gone up tremendously. I've only been at my apartment for about 4 years -- they



Ifeoma Utom

Homeless encampment under Coyote Creek Bikeway in Cerritos

have gone up at least \$300 on our rent every year and will continue to go up." Stewart said.

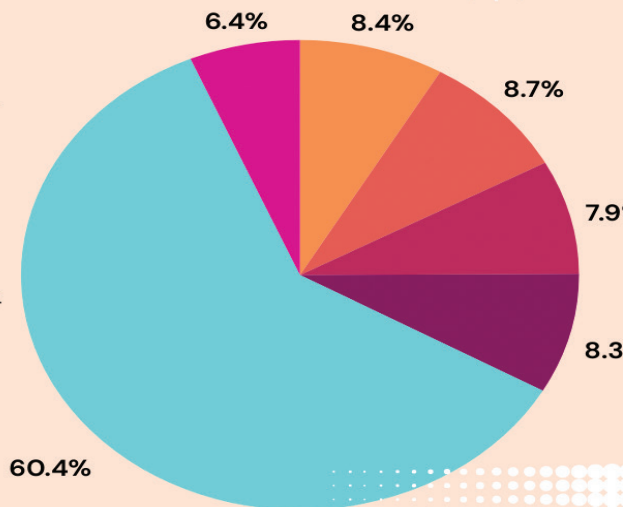
With the cost of rent becoming higher, the alternative for local residents and business owners

will have to move out and relocate to surrounding areas or worse, call the pavements of Inglewood their home.

"If they can put a cap on what they charge for leasing then that would change the dynamic. If we can't afford it -- who have been here in the city then we would have to move out of Inglewood." said Marie.

There is an intricate dance between homelessness and gentrification that is crucial to comprehend, they intersect and intertwine, creating a socio-economic scenery that demands both awareness and thoughtful solutions.

CALIFORNIA HOMELESS POPULATION 2023



Source: USA Facts

Illustration Ifeoma Utom

ALL WORK, NO PAY

By Andrew Pilani & Anahi Villalobos-Cruz

Wage theft undermines one of the key pillars of American culture: hard work.

Work hard and you'll be rewarded with greater wages – at least, that's what we're told by American culture. For many millions of American workers, however, back-breaking work for little to no pay is a constant terror – you may even have your wages stolen.

"There's a lot of people out there that work really hard, but their job doesn't pay them enough for the amount of work they're doing – that's pretty common I feel like in the United States. There are also some jobs where you're doing less work and you're making bank," said Gabriel Gutierrez, a college student and worker who believes he's experienced wage theft.

Wage theft, to put it shortly, is when your employer doesn't pay you what you're legally entitled to.

According to The Coalition For Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, there are many different ways that wage theft occurs – employers not paying at or above minimum wage, employers refusing to tell or let employees know that they're allowed to take breaks, not paying employees for breaks, bouncing checks, not paying employees overtime, not paying employees on time, not giving employees earned bonuses, employers illegally deducting pay, etc.

These stolen wages are especially important as the minimum wage in California is \$16, but the federal minimum wage is only \$7.25. Furthermore, according to Bankrate, a personal finance advisor, only 44% of Americans would be able to cover a sudden expenditure of \$1,000 – a worrying sign of Americans' financial health.

According to data collected from the Economic Policy Institute by CalMatters, Californian workers who experience wage theft, tend to have about \$4,250 stolen from them a year – a life-changing sum for many Americans.

Gutierrez, a construction, management and engineering major at Cerritos College, who works for a local parks and recreation department, said that he experienced wage theft for a year after being hired.

Gutierrez opted not to share the city for sake of anonymity.

His supervisors told him that if a city has a certain amount of employees on payroll, then California

will allow them to pay below minimum wage.

However, according to California's Department of Industrial Relations, there is no law that confirms what he said, but there are exemptions that may cover what he's saying.

Nevertheless, in a survey conducted by Verfico, a company which provides tools to workers and companies, in 2023, 20% of respondents in the construction industry reported having their wages stolen, and 29% know someone who has.

"Wage theft is very prevalent in our country," said Yunuen Trujillo, an attorney that practiced immigration law for four years, is an immigrant herself and a daughter of immigrants.

Wage theft is an issue which occurs throughout all levels of the American economic system, but is most common in immigrant and low-wage worker sectors.

When Trujillo had arrived in the U.S. she had realized that her mother suffered through a ton of labor violations.

Since Trujillo's mother is an immigrant she felt that she went through all of these violations because she didn't feel that she could trust and report anything to anybody.

Trujillo works for CHIRLA, a once-local nonprofit which now operates on the national level and is focused on protecting the rights of immigrants.

This same story applies to millions of people in the U.S., especially Low-wage workers and immigrants, who lack the power or information to stand up to their employers.

Angelo Serrano, a kinesiology major, worked at a well-known sandwich shop in three different locations for the same company as a driver and cashier; this was in La Palma, Lakewood and Hawthorne.

"I would treat my customers with respect – I would treat them very nicely, and I would get tipped a lot," Serrano said, "I think you should be able to get some kind of gratuity.

"I would think, at the end of three weeks, I'll get a tip, but, unfortunately it just all goes to the general manager and the general manager did not treat me the right way so I did end up leaving," Serrano added.

"At the time, I didn't really care, but as I got older, I started to understand that money is very valuable," Serrano said.

"Wage theft is very prevalent in our country."

Yunuen Trujillo

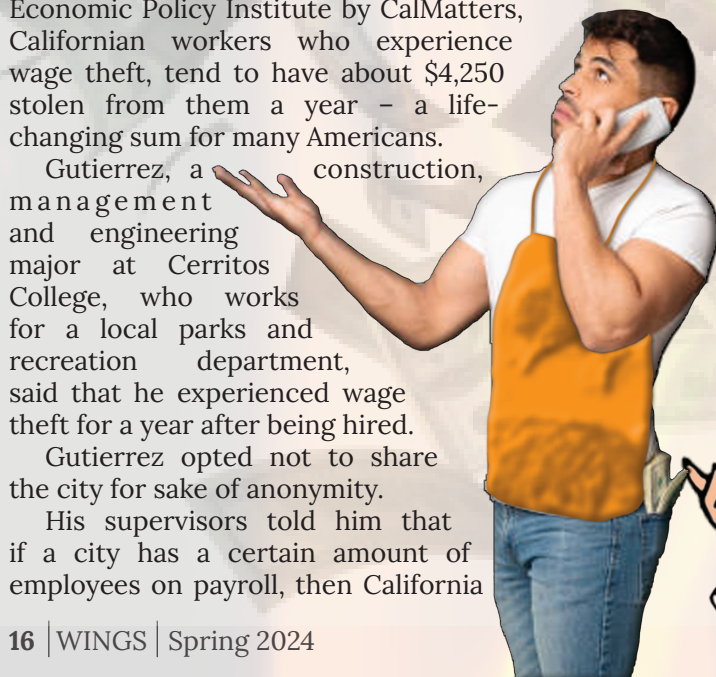


Illustration by Alfredo Menjivar

CHECK BOUNCED
 Roll the dice
 If even numbers rolled,
 return to Go.
 If odd numbers rolled,
 pay \$15 fee.

REPEAT PROCESS		
DRAW CARD		
NO BREAKS	DRAW CARD	
Mr. Money Bags'		DRAW CARD
DRAW CARD	DRAW CARD	NO BREAKS



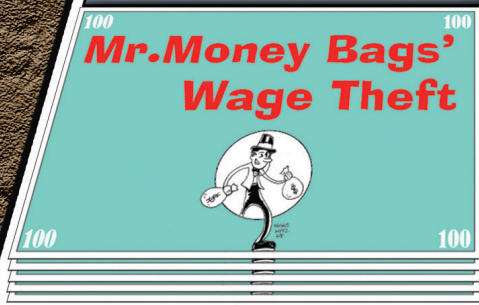
LAWYER UP
 Prevents 1 negative
 effect.
 Roll the dice
 If even numbers rolled,
 Keep card after use.
 If odd numbers rolled,
 remove card after use.

NO BREAKS	Wage Theft	
DRAW CARD	DRAW CARD	NO BREAKS



DEPORTATION THREATS
 Roll the dice
 If even numbers rolled,
 you get deported.
 If odd numbers rolled,
 you are safe.

NO BREAKS
DRAW CARD
DRAW CARD
GO DO NOT COLLECT WAGES



PICK A CARD

Middle School Society:

By Emanuel Guadarrama

“She was a very obedient kid... very intelligent,” said Rosa Garcia, while describing what her 14-year-old daughter was like just a few years ago.

“She liked to compete... to receive recognition,” said Garcia, who also lives in Downey.

However due to COVID-19, her daughter – and my cousin – would have to spend her remaining years at Gauldin Elementary School, in Zoom meetings to attend class.

“It’s really bad, it’s really draining and I guess most people’s mental health is not ok, your anxiety levels really go up and you just don’t

feel safe there,” said Julianna while describing what Middle School has been like for her.

Before Alexandria, Garcia also had another daughter, Abigail, who attended the same middle school; she described the transition from Gauldin to Doty Middle School in Downey as being a drastic change.

She’d occasionally go to their offices to plead for her daughter as it turned out she was being picked on by other girls who wanted to fight her after school.

“In Doty, everything changes,” Garcia said.

“With Alexandria I had more serious problems... she met ‘friends’ right then and there, with others who went to Doty and they began giving her cigarettes (vapes and other drugs) so she could hide them,” according to Garcia, they’d do this because Alexandria didn’t look suspicious and would therefore not be searched.

Garcia described the current state of the school as being horrible due to faculty and staff losing control.

She mentioned how an ambulance was once called in due to three girls who had overdosed, how there are physical fights among girls, Julianna having been involved in a few.

It’s become apparent that there’s been a deterioration and loss of certain cultural values within these institutions.

Rude behaviors and manners which are looked down on, still are but have become a common occurrence when attending these schools.

One key aspect of any culture is learned behavior, this includes the values and habits that an individual would pick up from their environment, which includes imitating behaviors seen from their parents, peers and also what they see online.



”

Whenever I’d go to a meeting with the teachers, the teachers would always tell me that they were proud of her.

~ Rosa Garcia

”

Photos courtesy of Alexandria and Rosa Garcia
Illustrations by Emanuel Guadarrama

A Fractured Culture

Within some middle schools in the U.S, these learned behaviors have manifested themselves through a lack of respect for authority figures, like teachers and a disregard for the school's rules and policies.

This has become the new norm within these schools, a culture that lacks values and etiquette, it's this environment that changed Julianna and the environment that she still finds herself in.

"Seeing the people around me and wanting to fit in," was what started the cycle of her behavioral issues, Alexandria said.

Alexandria made several friends, "Some of them turned out to be two-faced and fake and just a bad influence overall. But some of them turned out to be really good friends that are always there when I need them to be."

"I got into a few fights and was always tardy and wouldn't keep my grades up," said Alexandria while talking about her experiences in middle school, "My bad friends, they had a big influence on me, like they were trying to control me and like, tell me what to do."

Alexandria would eventually end up having been caught in possession of drugs and was suspended. She lost her parents' trust and her phone was taken away. She would do what she could to turn her life around but struggled.

Even the School didn't seem to trust her as when she fainted one day during P.E. due to being dehydrated, the school assumed she had taken something and was overdosing.

This stopped the paramedics from giving her the care she needed as even they were under the pretense that she had taken something, since they were all trying to get her to admit to something she didn't do.

"I don't really blame them cuz I had a past where I did take one but them to just assume I fainted because of a drug and try to suspend me without asking what had happened

was not professional from the teachers or the staff."

Then after another incident involving other students that Alexandria had

disassociated with, the school and her mom decided it would be best for her to be transferred to another school, for her own safety as the school could no longer guarantee her safety at Doty.

"They transferred her to help her but also to protect her," Garcia said, "Alexandria was very respectful with her teachers but now they were speaking very badly about Alexandria."



”
She wasn't safe anymore.

~ Rosa Garcia

”

“With the change in school from Doty to where she is now, there has been a positive change... In the other school she hasn’t gotten into any problems until now,” Garcia said, referring to how her main issues now are simply tardiness.

For Alexandria however she doesn’t feel as though there’s been much of a change, even though she hasn’t gotten into any serious trouble.,

“It’s still kind of the same environment,” Alexandria said while also explaining that the reason she hasn’t had any incidents yet is probably because, “I haven’t got a chance to meet that much people yet. It depends on what type of people you meet.”

This is not to say that she isn’t still trying to turn a new leaf but it’s important to note her experiences and current situation still haven’t changed due to the multifaceted factors that are impacting these schools and their students.

“The teachers at Doty, they taught good... They would sometimes get stressed out because the kids there were really bad behaved in the class... but most of them were good teachers overall.”

“Susman. They kind of suck, they like, they don’t teach that good, they go too fast and I think they gave up, they don’t care what you do,” said Alexandria.

Both parent and daughter understand that issues revolving around the current culture within middle schools aren’t one sided and they don’t solely blame the schools for losing control over some of their students.

“First of all we give them phones at too much of an

early age, they don’t know how to use them, they watch too many negative things and the parents also,” Garcia said.

“Nowadays the ones who have to face a lot more risks and danger are also the teachers who have to deal with these types of kids, who are in Doty and other schools,” said Garcia while explaining how the teachers were also victims of this cultural shift.

“There might be different cases for each student, I think it might just be them and being disrespectful and wanting to act cool when they’re not and some part maybe on their parents for not raising them correctly, ” Alexandria said.

Just like how there isn’t one problem or person that can take all the blame, there isn’t simply one solution and things are easier said than done.

“At this point nothing,” said Alexandria when talking about

any potential solutions that could help resolve the issues going around different middle schools.

Her mom however does think that there are things that can be done.

“There should be laws that protect the teachers more... but what can we do but go back in time and educate our kids that they need to show respect to their teachers like they do with their mom, dad and older people, which nowadays there’s none,” Garcia said.

Ultimately addressing all these challenges requires a collective effort and a sense of urgency in the sense that we need to create a more positive and effective learning environment since these kid’s futures depend on it.

” Who’s guilty? The parents.

~ Rosa Garcia
”





Happiness

Money

Stable

Relationships

Good Mental
Health

By Joel Carpio &
Emily Maciel

Degree

Depression

Anxiety

Stress

BROKEN SCHOOL SYSTEM

A large number of students say the United States education system is failing Americans and is only getting worse with time.

Students feel that they deserve better especially when they are paying outrageous amounts of money for an inferior education.

Aidan Crisonino, biology major at Cerritos College, said, "A major flaw of the American education system is the lack of reform or the lack of modernization actually of the whole structure."

The American education system was originally created to produce factory workers and was institutionalized for the American citizen which enables them to do the bare minimum level of production work.

"I guess it somewhat accommodates us for college and prepares us for the future but it's totally lacking in almost every resource that we really need for American life," Crisonino said.

Vanesa Molina, an undecided student at Cerritos College, said she feels like schools should teach students more about real-life situations.

"Schools should teach more about money and real-life things like paying bills, how to use a credit card better. I feel like it's not taught enough and because of that, they're putting out employees who basically do what they're told," Molina said.

Students feel they would benefit more from learning actual daily life skills and not random things like the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell or $y=mx+b$.

A lot of students would agree that the work given to them doesn't bring any value in educating them, instead, it's just used as a tactic to pass the time and make it seem like they're learning.

Crisonino said, "I think a lot of information that we learn is unnecessary and super drawn out and is more meant to pull money out of us instead of actually educating us."

Molina goes on to talk about how schools expect too much out of their students and this causes daily stress or feelings of being overwhelmed and overworked.

"Even with essays they expect eight pages now that we're in college but realistically that just causes students to add a bunch of bullshit into it," she said, "whereas something smaller could be more efficient, it could get to the point."

According to the American College Health Association, 45.1% of students are stressed more than the average student and 12.7% experience tremendous amounts of stress. There are only 2.4% of students who have reported they are stress-free.

Being overworked and stressed all the time can easily affect a person's mental health. ACHA conducted a study in 2018 where large numbers of students admitted to suffering from mental health issues.

Molina said, "I think schools care more about kids' grades than their mental health...for example if a student falls asleep in class they get upset over that when literally school is the reason why kids are so drained."

A huge factor in the decline of students' mental health is their worrying about how they're going to pay for college. Schools charge and have some sort of fee for every little thing they can think of.

In the K-12 system, schools get a certain amount of money from their district based on student attendance.

Some students feel like college is a scam and don't feel like schools care about them but more about the money

flowing out of their pockets.

"I think money is a much higher priority than the actual productivity, well-being and benefit to every individual American that goes through the system," Crisonino said, "I think they try and get more money, definitely way more than they try and actually put you in a better place."

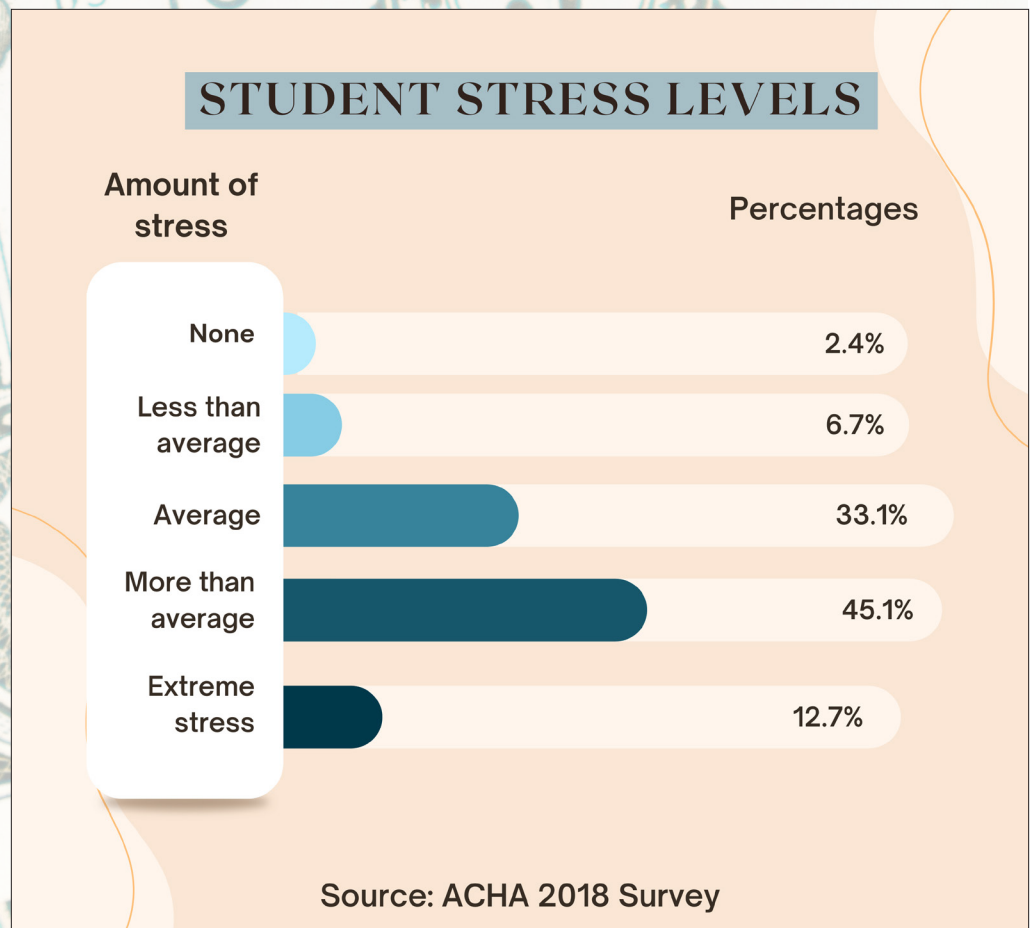
Molina adds on by explaining how in high school they will call your parents and threaten with court if a student is absent but they never seem to care to ask why the student is missing school.

She mentions it's different in college because since students pay their tuition up front, schools don't bother them if they miss class a lot. After all, the student has already paid.

"In Europe, their education system is way better and I feel like everyone is far more advanced than Americans are," Molina said.

Students feel alarmed at the thought of their future crumbling because of the bad education they feel they are receiving in the United States.

Flickr photo: Pictures of Money





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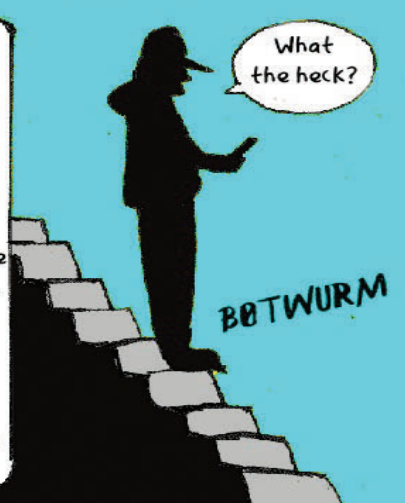
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TEXTS, LIES, AND A.I.

BY MOISES LOPEZ

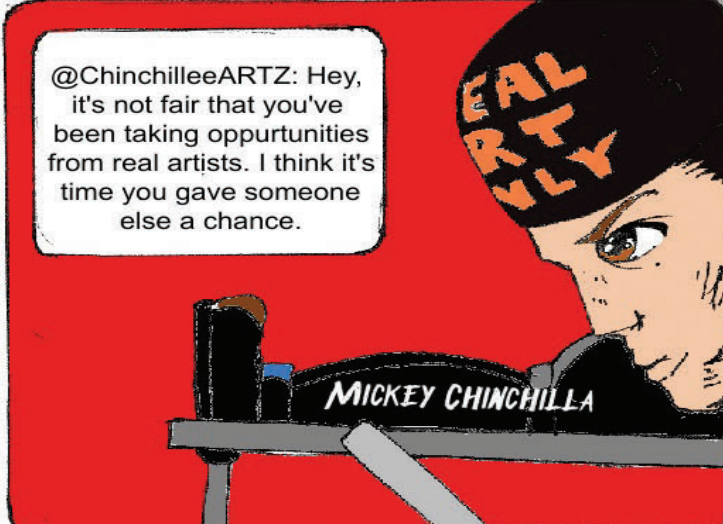
Comic Book/ Multimedia Tattoo Artist Mickey Chinchilla aka @ChinchilleeARTZ and veteran Digital artist Hadrian Von Bonnington aka @BotWurm are rival art competitors in the comic book cover industry. BotWurm opens his Twine Text Message App to find a negative comment by Mickey Chinchilla. The two have an exchange of words:



What the heck?

BOTWURM

@ChinchilleeARTZ: Hey, it's not fair that you've been taking oppurtunities from real artists. I think it's time you gave someone else a chance.



REAL ART ONLY

MICKEY CHINCHILLA

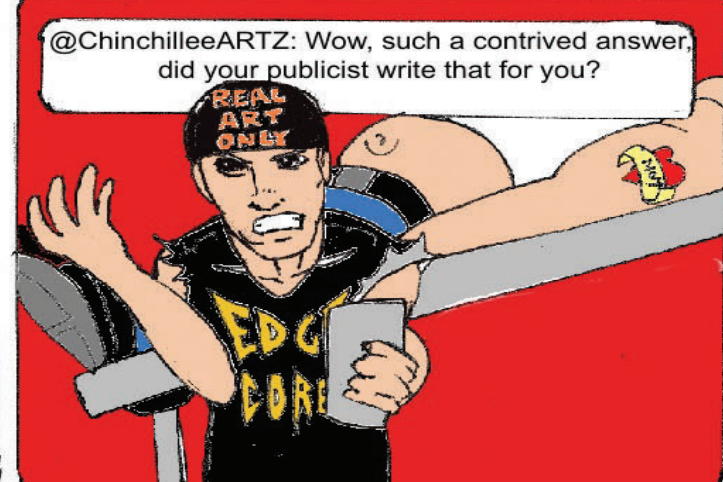


ELIT

EWYNE

@BOTWurm: While I understand you may have a personal issue with me, I don't know you. Good day sir.

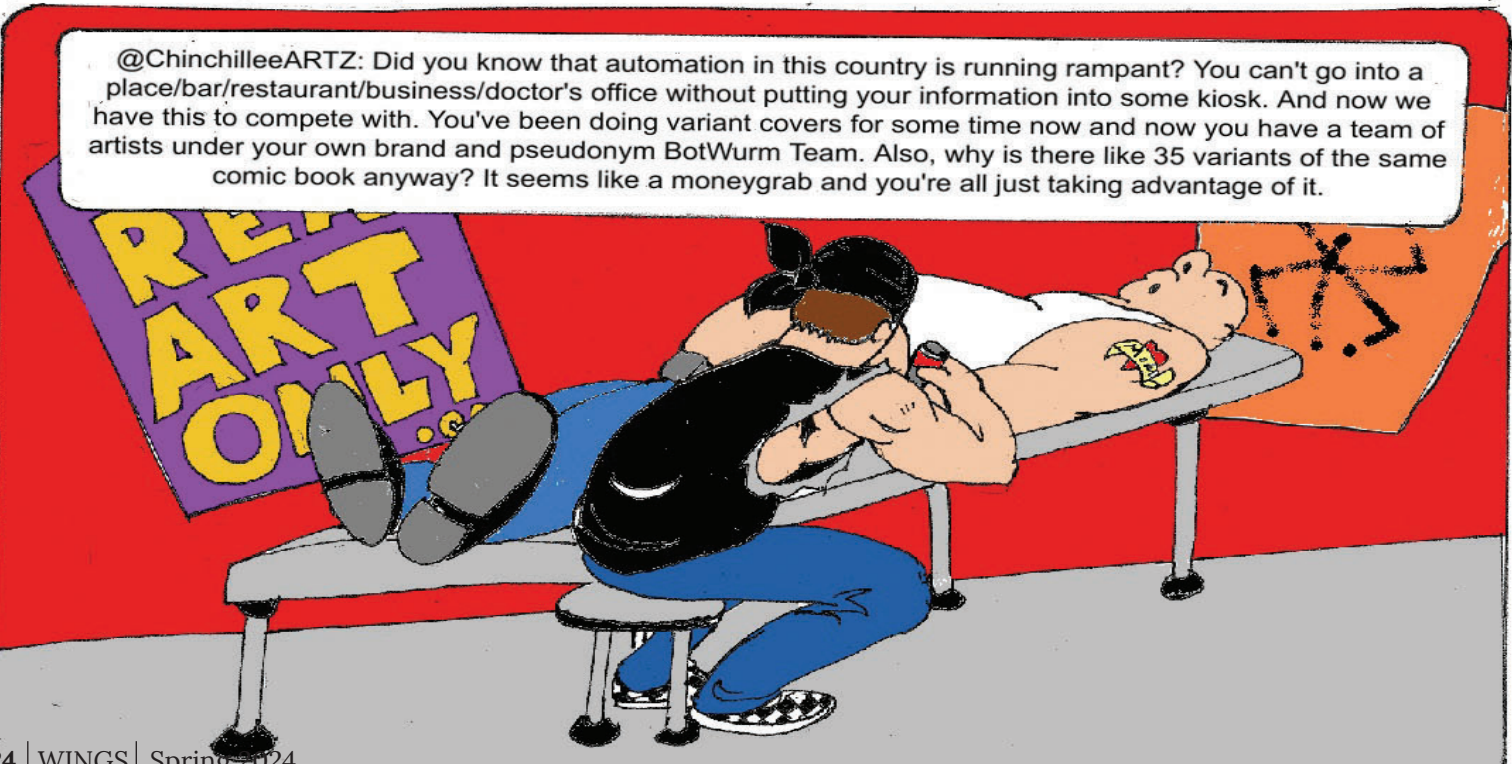
@ChinchilleeARTZ: Wow, such a contrived answer, did your publicist write that for you?



REAL ART ONLY

EDGE CORE

@ChinchilleeARTZ: Did you know that automation in this country is running rampant? You can't go into a place/bar/restaurant/business/doctor's office without putting your information into some kiosk. And now we have this to compete with. You've been doing variant covers for some time now and now you have a team of artists under your own brand and pseudonym BotWurm Team. Also, why is there like 35 variants of the same comic book anyway? It seems like a moneygrab and you're all just taking advantage of it.



REAL ART ONLY

@B0TWurm: Look man, stop Twyne whining, it's not like I'm profitting off my A.I. stuff anyway, I only profit off my digital art stuff which I do freehand. My team only signs under my brand name because it gives them oppurtunities as well. My A.I. stuff is at best nice to look at but it's not exactly my best work either.

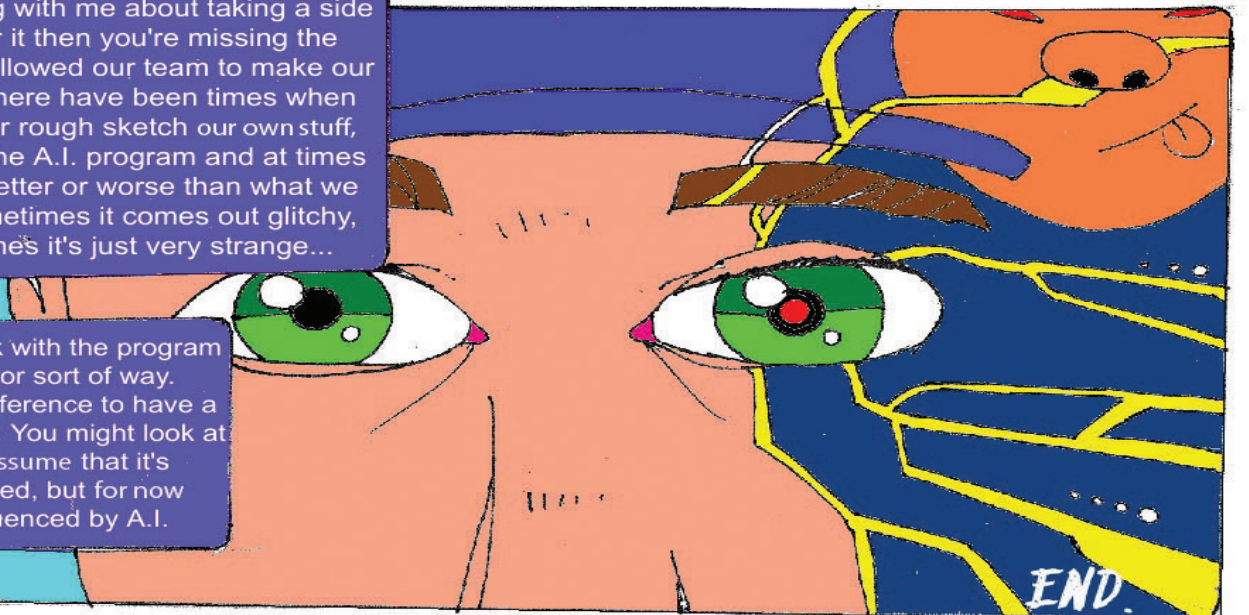


@ChinchilleeARTZ: Yes, but you are generating tons of followers from the A.I. programs you're utilizing. It's manipulation to have people believe some of your covers are all done by you or your team when it's mostly a program. Even the digital paint programs you use pretty much prompt the work for you as well.



@B0TWurm: Listen, A.I. isn't what you think it is, it's so much more than just a program. If you're arguing with me about taking a side against or for it then you're missing the point. A.I. has allowed our team to make our work better. There have been times when we generate or rough sketch our own stuff, put it through the A.I. program and at times it comes out better or worse than what we drew out. Sometimes it comes out glitchy, and other time's it's just very strange...

The point is to work with the program in a trial and error sort of way. it's like using reference to have a better perspective. You might look at our work and assume that it's A.I. art generated, but for now it's mostly just influenced by A.I.

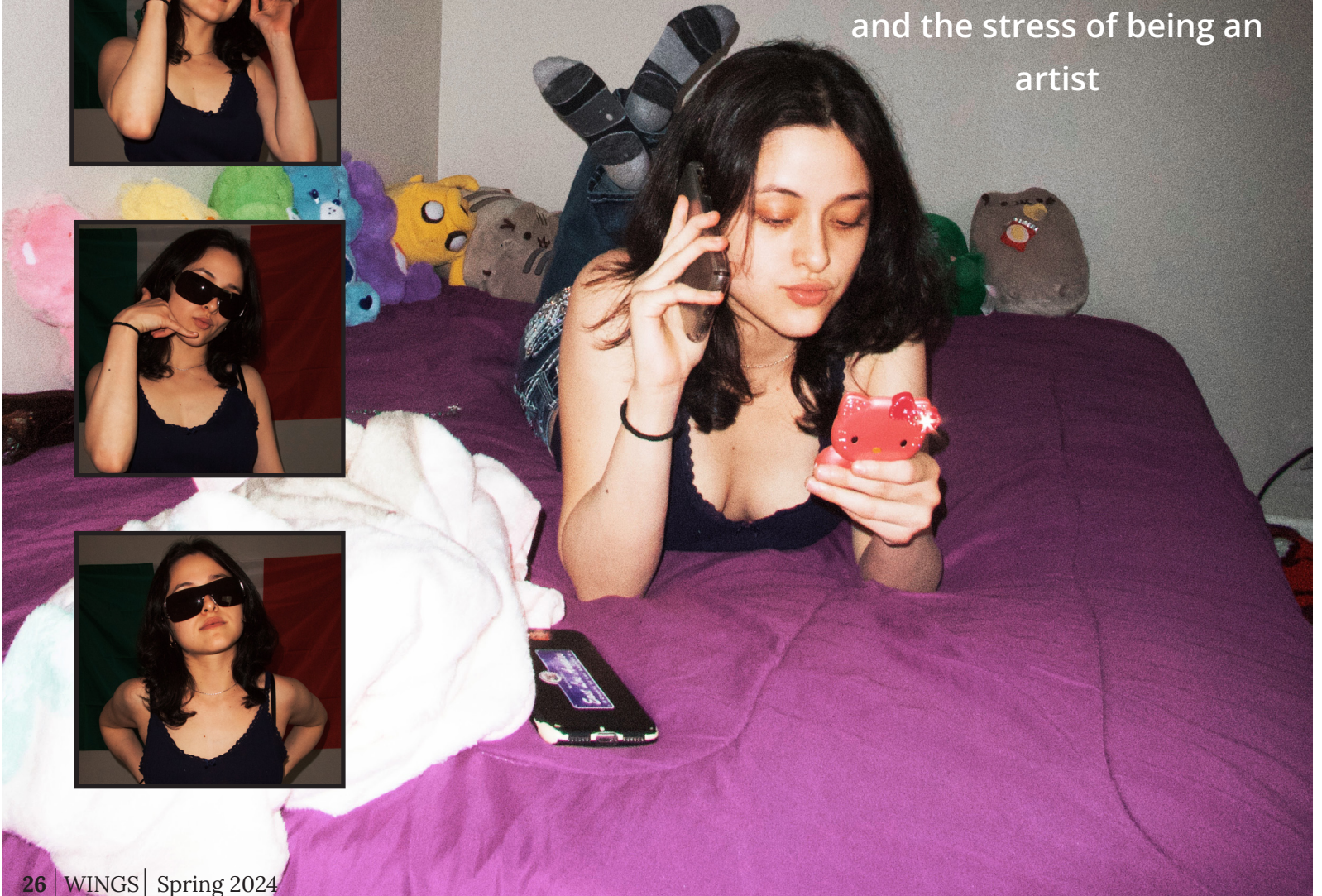


DAZEN

By Diana Morales & Susan Romero



Up-and-coming rap artist Dazen making music for the baddies, shares the glamor and the stress of being an artist



“I was in love with 2Pac,” said Dazen with a smile as she sat in front of the monitors displaying her latest audio tracks.

“Just the form of the way he made his music and the purpose like it wasn’t just for money it was to get a message out there and that really inspired me.”

Up and coming female rap artist Dazen is living the reality of what it’s like to live the exciting life of a Gen Z recording artist.

With all the excitement sadly comes some struggles along the way. Dazen was born and raised in the city of Los Angeles. She is making music for the baddies and her main goal is to inspire others and to use her voice to spread her message.

Dazen invited us to the recording studio where she recorded her music with an intern engineer she has worked with in the past, KLK GOLDO, also known as Anthony. She had dreamed about wanting to be a singer since she was in the 7th grade where she has many influences.

Feeling touched by the music she grew up listening to, she also felt the need to express herself through a pen and paper.

“It’s crazy because I was so bad in the

beginning,” Dazen said. “It’s crazy to me because truly if you keep doing something you will get better. I still have some of them [old songs]. It’s really embarrassing to look back but it’s stuff you want to keep.”

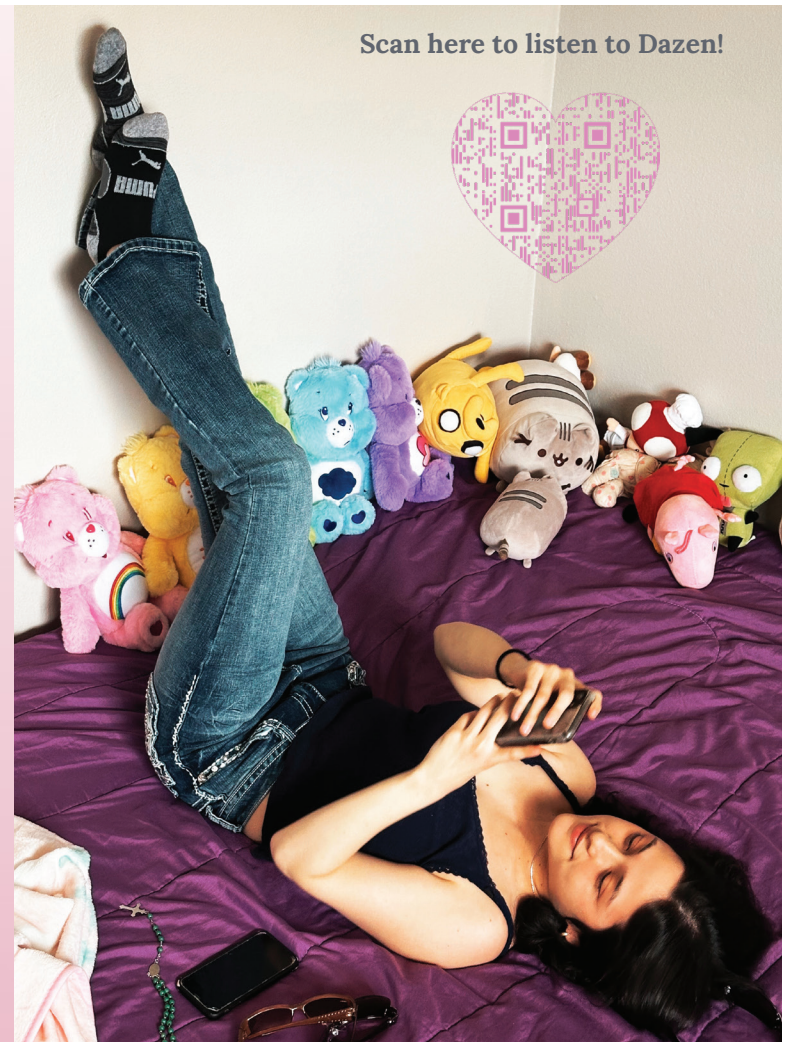
Although initially wanting to be a singer, she soon realized her heart truly belonged with rap, knowing that it could hold a deeper meaning and hopes to be that inspiring artist for another young person.

Dazen began to honestly pursue rap when she was 18 and made her way to a studio a friend had introduced her to near her home in Montebello, Mixwizards. She has been going there and working with the same engineer, Bobby Ortiz, owner of the studio.

In the year of 2021, Dazen had dropped about nine songs on SoundCloud before having her first performance that same year. However, this is when she began to feel the realities that come along with the music industry. The excitement of a first show, but the nervousness of whether her art was ready for the world.

“Every performance, even now, I feel like you always get in your head,” Dazen expressed, “I even went by myself so it was even more trippier but I was still at that point where I was like ‘I don’t know if I’m ready for people to see this yet.’”

Despite questioning whether or not her sound was ready, she doesn’t let that discourage her from turning her dream into reality. She continued seeking out shows to perform in and has been really pushing her limits this year with a l r e a d y h a v i n g done three



Diana Morales

Make sure to scan the qr code to check out Dazens latest drop.

performances thus far.

She also went on to talk about the anxiousness of being a woman in a male dominated industry. Even during her first show, she noticed she was the only girl performing. Since then, she still only knows two other female artists, one being her best friend.

“I noticed that they try to have at least one girl performing...but it’s more difficult, I feel overlooked sometimes,” said Dazen quietly.

She then became aware that in a male dominated field, women are gonna get overshadowed sometimes.

Being the only woman performing can also increase pre-show anxiety.

Although music is her passion, it isn’t the only thing she is striving for. While

making music she is also working at a chiropractic office and going to school to study social work.

“I love making music but my mom always told me to have a plan B. Cause you know you might not always make it. So I’m going to school right now and I’m gonna transfer,” Dazen said.

Dazen continues to strive to be the best that she can be, being a hard-working girl boss doing everything she can to drop new music and perform on her days off from the office.

“I try to release once every month,” she shared.

She is a versatile music artist of this generation where she doesn’t not limit herself on exploring new sounds.

You’re able to find her and listen to her on SoundCloud under Dazen!

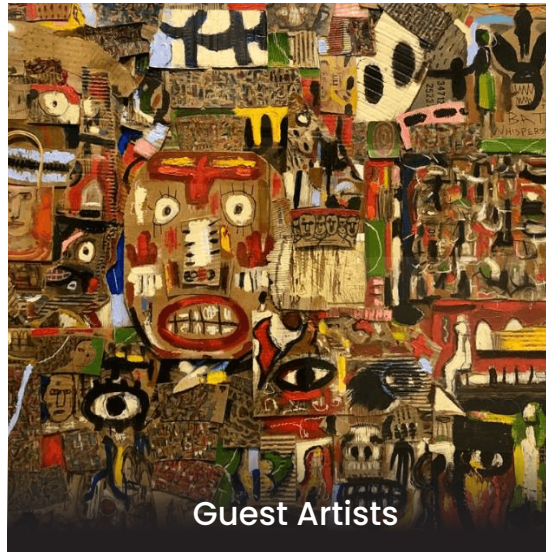


Photo courtesy of @nicksflicksimages

THE ART GALLERY AT CERRITOS COLLEGE



Window Dressings



Guest Artists



Outdoor Exhibits

FINE ARTS AT ITS FINEST

Check out our latest gallery offerings
and get inspired.



GIRL WORLD

By Laura Bernal & Adrienne Fajardo

A flash of pink and the glare from the glitter of her homemade dress, as she runs to catch up with her friends, in matching magenta outfits.

They stand in line for popcorn, giggling and taking group photos. When the movie ends, the women walk out holding onto each other's arms, the ghost of tears scarring their cheeks.

The release of the Barbie movie reignited a conversation about feminism and the female experience in America that brought a sense of unity between women. In the time of Barbie, Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, friendship bracelets, the coquette trend, and everything girly, it would seem like America had experienced a pink revolution.

While women have felt a growing sense of community, there is still a large divide in political beliefs and values, revolving around women's rights, radical feminist ideologies and conservative gender norms.

The online community has sparked an argument about what it means to be "a girl's girl" including the epidemic of pick-me's. The conversation criticizes women who put men at the forefront of their decisions.

While this conversation is relevant, it is just the surface level of the issue. Centering men in the conversation about feminism has tainted the representation of what feminism is about, which is gender equality and inclusivity. It has created an idea that rather than be equal to men, feminists want to overpower men.

Autumn Rose, a 20-year-old American Sign Language major at Cerritos College, explained that she did not believe that there is still a need for feminism. She said, "In feminism, it's the equal rights to men, right? Under the law, technically speaking, we have equal rights to do



Laura Bernal

Adrienne Fajardo modeling a custom feminist t-shirt created using red lipstick

everything that a man can do."

Autumn is currently Vice President of Cerritos College's Students for Life club. The Students for Life club is a group that believes abortion is murder and advocates to abolish abortion.

"I feel that in the media and from what I've witnessed that the feminist movement

has gotten to a point where they are no longer asking for equal rights to men but they're also putting men down," Rose says.

Feminist movements began as early as 1848 when women were not only fighting for their right to vote but their right to an identity outside of their domesticity.

Women have since continued to fight to be included in spaces that have been dominated by men from the average workforce to political positions. Women rights activists continue to fight tirelessly to close the wage gap, and eliminate gender biases,

and oppression.

The feminist movement not only fights for laws to protect women such as abortion rights and more pressing laws about sexual assault, they also fight to counter and end a culture within America that hates women. This culture consistently exposes itself through the violence incited by it. From its lack of protection against domestic violence victims, a 1% conviction rate against rapists, lack of access to women's health care, and the growing dehumanization and oversexualization of women, the United States has a long way to go concerning the treatment of women.

There has grown a significant community of women who sit outside of the feminist movement who do not believe in the harm of patriarchy, have a preimposed opinion towards other women and actively fight against the progression of women's rights such as abortion laws.

Many would argue that these women are anti-women.

Rose disagrees.

"I don't agree that I'm anti-women. I am anti-killing another human."

"No woman is responsible for altering the psyche of her oppressor, even when that psyche is embodied in another woman."
- Audre Lorde

Despite this, spewing comments such as “The majority of women who have abortions, the reasons that are listed for why women have abortions is due to they didn’t want to have stretch marks. I’m not saying that’s all the situations but the reasons that were given for them were not real reasons” is a dangerous precedent to spread.

In a study done by BMC Women’s Health in 2013, the top three reasons women had an abortion was that they could not afford it financially (40%), it was not the right time (36%), and partner related issues (31%).

Fourteen states have fully banned abortion, making it illegal at any stage of pregnancy, while other states such as Georgia and South Carolina have a ban as early as six weeks before many women know that they’re pregnant.

Women’s rights are marginalized in states where they are underrepresented. Currently only 12 out of 50 state governors are women.

Without women in power the rights and decisions on women’s bodies are at risk and unconsidered.

“I would go as far to say that being pro-life is being anti-women because ultimately, what the legislation has demonstrated is that it’s not about being pro-life it’s about control,” said Valeryee Jimenez, a 25-year-old artist who minored in feminist studies at UC Santa Barbara.

“We’re working in structures of power and gender is wielded as a weapon and it’s about control. So if we were really



Laura Bernal

Women wearing friendship bracelets joined in a circle

pro-life there would be better social welfare in this country for children. There would be more access and social welfare for women and families to be able to then take care of their children. If we were really pro-life we would be pro bettering the lives of Americans. So much of it is rooted in patriotism. So if we’re really gonna lean into that, what kind of country abandons their needy and reprimands and punishes women who don’t want to birth a child into that type of society”

This brings up the topic on whether all women should join the feminist movement to ensure the rights to bodily autonomy and more.

“Should all women be feminists? At the end of the day it doesn’t really matter if all women are feminists because I think all feminists should fight for all women.” says Jimenez.

“I think you should fight for all women and all gender-oppressed people regardless of whether they would agree with you or call themselves a feminist or even align with you. Those people still deserve their rights, freedom and autonomy even if they are different from you” said Jimenez.

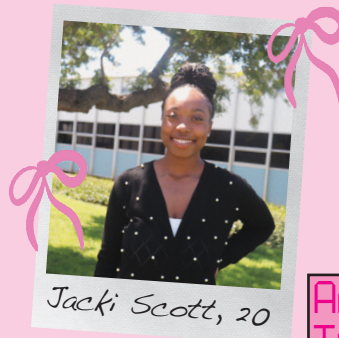
What is a girl's girl?



Zen Guerrero, 21

“Someone who is just a girl who is always going to support you and be there for you.”

“It’s someone who uplifts women and doesn’t see women as competition in every aspect but sees them as friends...sisters.”



Jacki Scott, 20



-Francheska Jeresano, 21

“Someone you can go to about anything and you feel that there’s not going to be any judgment.”

Are you a girl's girl?
Take our quiz and find out! →

Are you a girl's girl?

START HERE

My feminism is inclusive

Girl friends are too much drama

When I see a confident woman I...

I am pro-choice

Women who have body hair are dirty

catcalling is a compliment

Trans women are women

Women should be in positions of power

Women who dress provocative are "asking for it"

Girls ♡
Girl! ♡

We love a girls girl! We never doubted you.

needs some work... 1:

uh oh!! It seems we need to work on our inclusivity babe but you'll get there!

not for the girlies! 😡

GIRL WTF How did you even get here??? We have A LOT to work on.

CHECK OUT OUR GIRLPOP PLAYLIST



"I'm literally just a girl!"

no laws exist to control men's bodies



I love my girls

Compliment her

roll my eyes...

hell yes!

no, it's natural

lol no...

yes it can be

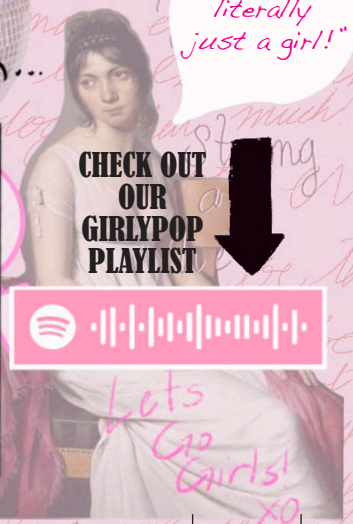
Or was my rage my mother's mother inherited

Letter to My Rage: An... Yuknavitch (via 89words)

hell no

too emotional

i mean yeah...

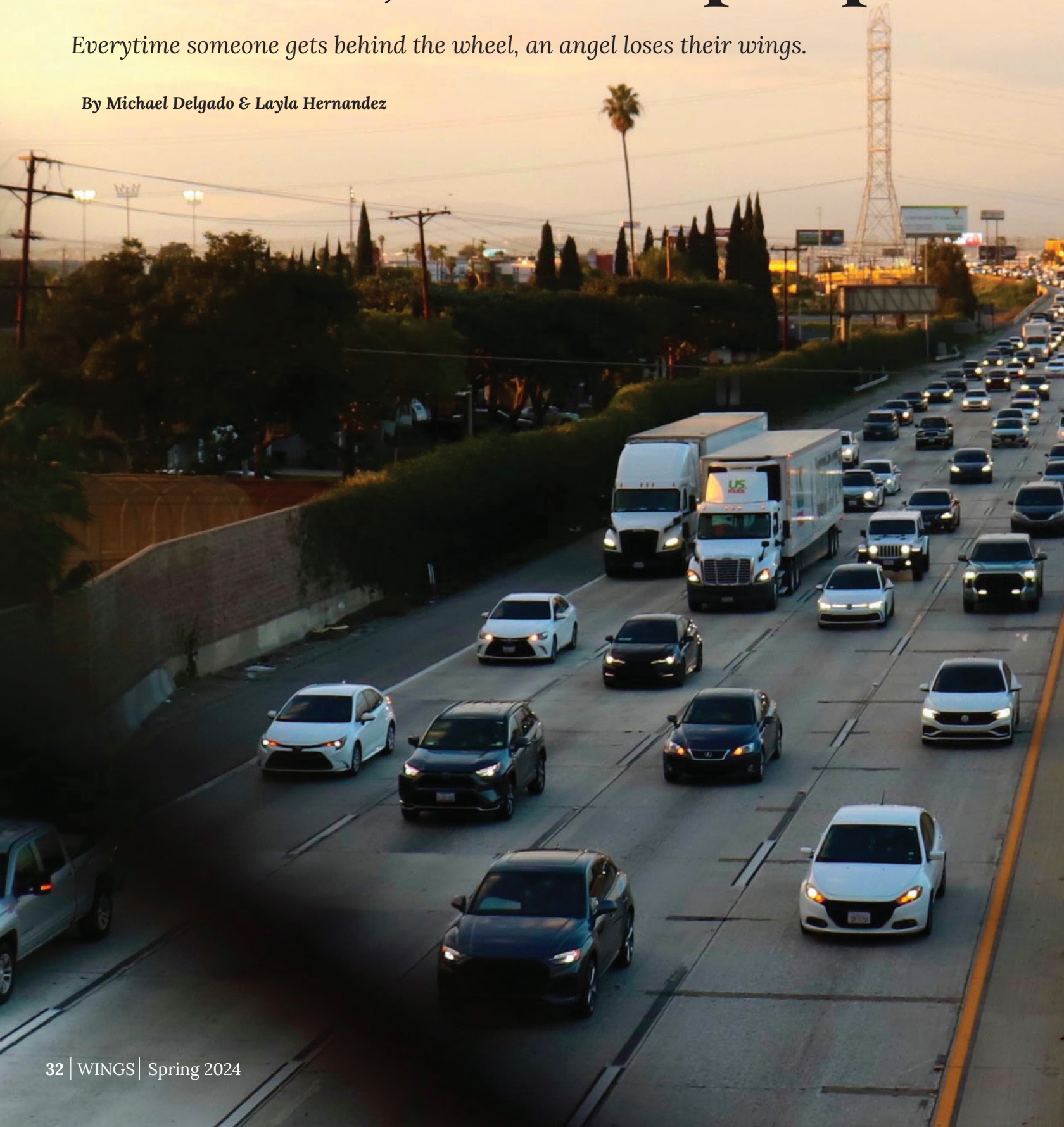



Lets Go Girls!

Los Angeles is built for vehicles, not the people

Everytime someone gets behind the wheel, an angel loses their wings.

By Michael Delgado & Layla Hernandez





Los Angeles, much like an archaeological site, unveils its history through its urban design, shaped by a myriad of historic social and economic forces. The Los Angeles of the early 20th century was both an agency and outcome of rising population through the network of railway and streetcar systems that connected the region.

Yet following the automotive boom and the success of Pasadena's Arroyo Seco Parkway, private and corporate interest repaved the flat region, now dominated by freeways, sparse sidewalks, limited green spaces and single use land developments.

The bones of the city lay as a successful manifestation of the 1939 World's Fair Futurama exhibit, a large-scale metropolitan utopia that served as a promotional showcase for the potential of car-centric urban planning and suburban expansion.

One does not have to be in L.A. long to realize that it is innately designed for the convenience of automobiles over those of pedestrians and public transit, perpetuating chronic traffic issues throughout the region in autopian fashion.

Los Angeles consequently has the highest rate of automotive deaths in the nation, with 336 fatalities recorded in 2023. Despite such alarming statistics and numerous efforts, the city's infrastructure remains geared towards cars, and with a population of approximately 9.8 million individuals, undoubtedly shapes the daily lives of its inhabitants. The recently passed Measure HLA, for example, would require Los Angeles city to improve 2,500 miles of streets, with added improvements to sidewalks, crosswalks, protected bike lanes and dedicated bus lanes.

In response to the measure, Bernice Caan, a Downey resident of 30 years, shared, "I find it amazing that [L.A.] doesn't have a better public transportation system.

You know, you can look at major cities

throughout the world and they have great transportation systems. We really need to rethink our mode of transportation and the urban design of our cities."

It is impossible to dismiss the abysmal gray of the region when compared to the likes of competing major American cities.

Though arguably still car centric in many respects, robust public and active transportation systems offer efficient alternatives to car dependency, ergo, a number of environmental concerns.

Condensed within 4,000 square miles, an overabundance of roughly 21,800 miles of maintained roadways in L.A. County creates urban heat deserts, storing 90% solar radiation in the pavement, producing a mirage of heat above the roads and dramatizing the already warm climate of Southern California.

And while transportation remains the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants in the nation, many major cities are better able to mitigate heat deserts with adequate public green spaces.

The division of the county following freeway construction is but just one result of strict, racist zoning laws that were used as a means of justification to divide redlined cities across the country.

The dehumanization and discrimination of marginalized groups prevented many of such people from purchasing homes in white neighborhoods. Zoning laws, despite being outlawed by the 1968 Fair Housing Act, continue to sustain environmental and socioeconomic injustices through the concentration of polluting industries, hazardous waste facilities, freeways and police violence fracturing and isolating neighborhoods.

Affluent areas often benefit from protective green and blue lined zoning regulations and green space allocation, exacerbating disparities in environmental quality and public health outcomes. Los Angeles County has a stark median of 3.3 acres of park space per 1,000 people.

Rush hour on the I-5 near Paramount Boulevard exit, the surrounding residential areas connected through the freeways' overpass.



Layla Hernandez

Florence Ave. in Downey is one of many wide-set streets, the posted 40 mph speed limit and absence of sidewalks premeditating automotive transport.



Layla Hernandez

Los Cerritos Center, which sits on a 100 acre plot on South Street and Gridley Avenue lays surrounded by a large, paved moat of excessive parking infrastructure.



Layla Hernandez

Downtown Los Angeles is among the several walkable communities in the Southern California region through it's mixed-use zoning and alternative transportation accessibility.

Yet only 63% of L.A.'s population live within a 10-minute walk from these public spaces.

As communities of color and lower income were widely viewed as ghettos, their access to parks was restricted and deemed unnecessary in the planning codes.

Public parks in car-centric cities are further made an odd and inaccessible rarity not only by their sparse density both in the downtowns and metropolises and surrounding suburbs.

But by the consistent attached parking lot, inaccessibility to pedestrians and homogeneity of the surrounding area.

The success of parks can be accredited in part to their abundance and proximity to densely populated mixed-use areas, as outlined by author and activist Jane Jacobs in her 1961 book "The Death and Life of Great American Cities."

Jacobs shares, "A generalized neighborhood park that is not headquarters for the leisured indigent can become populated naturally and casually only by being situated very close indeed to where active and different currents of life and function come to a focus."

Communities and their respective public spaces become an undeniable reflection of the surrounding social climate while also garnering a comparable influence over said climates.

The separation of residential and commercial zones creates isolated and inaccessible communities, unable to properly support the essential and recreational needs of the population at large.

The focus on automotive transportation has led to increased social isolation and disconnect from community, making cars essential for even the shortest of commutes.

What would otherwise be categorized as everyday interactions, instead becomes individualized commutes. The far and few pedestrians walking along the sidewalk become just fleeting images as being driven by.

Encounters with local business owners, others commuting, those amongst the sidewalks can have positive impacts on a person's socialization, especially children.

The presence of people can also be found to contribute to increased public safety, as more eyes in a particular area

are better able to survey surroundings.

"A lot of crazy things happen on the train or the bus or things like that, and with that you spark a conversation, you talk to people," shared Nicolette Barksdale, a Chicago native and Los Angeles resident of six years.

"Many people [in LA] don't have a great idea of the benefits of public transportation compared to heavy traffic systems. Without good public transportation and everybody in their car, you don't have that type of social setting you'd be getting with everyday strangers that you happen to commute with," Barksdale said.

Car dependent and sedentary lifestyles have also been found to correlate with high obesity rates in the nation.

Active and alternative transportation are effective manners in meeting daily exercise requirements, though as this means of transit has been replaced with automobiles, numerous physical and mental health adversities have impacted populations across the U.S.

Varying opinions and proposed resolutions have long polarized residents of Southern California, many adamant in the belief that further widening and expanding automotive infrastructure will reduce such ailments.

Yet in spite of this, the lasting legacy of car-centric urban planning underscores the urgent need for transformative change of our cities.

In prioritizing accessible public transit, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and green spaces, can diminish the negative impacts of rampant car culture while promoting social and communal cohesion, environmental sustainability and public health.

It is undeniable that beautiful cities populated by people attract more people, like New York and Chicago.

The City of Angels falls victim to this narrative, a beautiful city that is populated but millions of people outside of the city fail to realize the issues the day-to-day Los Angeles native see's everyday.

An ongoing issue the city has faced for years seems to be getting worse as the years go by.

Redesigning cities in the face of continued environmental and socioeconomic turmoil becomes essential for future generations to come.

Letter from the Editor

We hoped you enjoyed the Spring 2024 Wings Magazine.

This magazine was our way of diving into a lot of the issues we as college students see in the United States.

Issues like middle school students struggling to adjust back to normal after their lives changed forever due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the struggle many community college athletes go through mentally after giving their all to the game they love just to have it all taken away, and how AI art has taken opportunities away from real artist.

As the Editor in Chief of this newsroom, words cannot express how proud I am of all my staff writers and editors for tackling these issues and putting them into a story for the world to see.

The United States is painted as the best country in the world but many fail to see the underlying issues many citizens face on a day to day basis.

It wasn't an easy topic to choose, the

newsroom had ideas after ideas of great topics for this magazine.

But as time went on there was an overwhelming amount of suggestions leaning towards a topic discussing a more deeper conversation about the American Culture.

With that being said as the leader of this group it felt important to let our writers to express how they feel about the issues.

You may have seen some more darker stories than others but its unfortunate this is the realty for people in the United States. We as Talon Marks would like to thank the Golden Globe Foundation for funding this magazine with their generous diversity in media grant. Although stressful at times, it has been a fun process making this magazine. Enjoy!

Editor in Chief
Michael Delgado



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