



Festival of Books



Children appear to enjoy a bilingual storytelling session at the Lil' Libros booth at the Festival of Books on the USC campus on April 18, 2026. An estimated 150,000 people attended the two-day event.

PHOTO BY JUAN MENDOZA

Instructor Breaks Silence 19 Months After Parking Lot Attack

BY ISIS MALONE

A music instructor was attacked, beaten and robbed in Parking Lot 4, and minutes after he went and taught a DJing class to a group of high school students, worried that if their parents found out about the attack, the Music Department would have to cancel its summer bootcamp.

That was two summers ago. Nearly two years later, the instructor says the institution failed him, not just in the moments after the attack, but every day since.

Juan “Stu” Suarez is an adjunct instructor in the Music Department and a sound technician who also works with the Cinema Department.

On July 3, 2024, he arrived at school and parked his car in Parking Lot 4, next to the tennis courts. That morning, Suarez arrived earlier than usual for a meeting before his summer boot camp with high school students. He was teaching a DJing class as part of an outreach effort from the Music Department to increase enrollment.

He said he walked only a short distance from his car toward the campus when he heard steps behind him.

“I thought it was a colleague,” Suarez said. “Then I felt someone tugging on my bag.”

Suarez says he did not have his laptop with him that day, but he still did not let go of his bag and began

to yell. A few moments later, someone started punching him in the head. He recalls that he blacked out and when he woke up, a police car had blocked the attackers’ SUV.

“I woke up on the concrete,” Suarez said. “Two sheriffs came in a car, stopped next to me and came to ask me what was happening. I told them I was robbed. One pulled out a gun.”

Suarez told the Collegian reporters the sheriffs froze while the attackers escaped.

He says there were more people in the SUV, all wearing bandanas over their faces. The two attackers got in the car, then the driver backed the vehicle out and drove away from the parking lot. The professor says that when he asked the sheriffs why they did not assist, they told him that the cameras in the parking lot captured the attack and that there was another unit on the street that would stop them.

Almost two years after the assault, Suarez says he still does not know who attacked him. He never received the recordings, and he says the sheriffs lied about a patrol being on the street. The music instructor also says the aftermath of the attack suggests a pattern of negligence, indifference and possible obstruction by campus administration and campus safety officials.

‘I RELIVE IT EVERY SINGLE DAY!’

In the weeks and months following the attack, the faculty member says he contacted campus administration, including the president, vice presidents and campus safety leadership, repeatedly.

“Nobody ever responded to any of my inquiries,” Suarez said. “Not a single person from the school has ever followed up to ask how I’m doing. We’re coming up on two years.”

Music Department Chair Christine Park says she emailed and requested that Suarez receive a temporary parking space closer to the college entrance, but the request was not granted.

“Imagine walking in the same parking lot every day,” Suarez said. “I relive it [the attack] every single day, but nobody understood.”

Park also emailed LACC President Amanuel Gebru, former Vice President of Administrative Services Joe Dominguez, and former Vice President of Academic Affairs Carmen Dones about the assault on July 3, 2024, the day of the attack.

“What happened today could happen to anyone, to any staff and faculty in Parking Lot #4 at any point,” Park wrote. “Those men who drove away could return any day. They were wearing masks, and they physically beat up our

SEE “SUAREZ” PAGE 6

PART 1

Lawsuits Allege Corruption, Misuse of Public Funds

The trial starts May 11, and the lawsuits raise questions about public trust.

BY MATTHEW ALI

Maribel Medina served as the Los Angeles Community College District’s (LACCD) general counsel for two years before the district fired her in July of 2024. She filed a lawsuit, and now the Former Chancellor, Francisco Rodriguez, Trustee Steve Veres and the largest community college district in the country are set to stand trial on May 11 in a Los Angeles County Superior Courtroom.

LACCD Trustee Nichelle Henderson filed a separate lawsuit against the district in December of 2025. She accused Rodriguez, Veres and the district of unlawfully spending public funds, corruption, and conflicts of interest related to hiring the law firm Musick Peeler & Garrett LLP (MPG), to represent them in the case filed by Medina, a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Law.

Her March 11, 2025, complaint lists 10 claims against the district, Rodriguez and Trustee Veres. This includes discrimination, harassment, defamation and retaliation, with some claims filed under state employment and whistleblower laws. The Collegian contacted former Chancellor Rodriguez for an interview.

“As much as I would like to respond, I cannot comment on matters involving pending litigation,” Rodriguez wrote in an April 21 email to the Collegian.

PART 1

Accountability May Never Come for Victims of Sexual Harassment

BY MICHAEL EDELSTEIN AND MATTHEW ALI

The binder sat on the edge of the desk. Inside was Los Angeles City College’s Academic Senate Resolution #05-526: Urge Reform to Prevent Sexual Misconduct. An impetus for the resolution was a 2018 lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court by a Raquel N. Gonzalez, a student worker who alleged she was sexually harassed by her supervisor at Southwest College. The lawsuit states that Johnel Barron hired her because he liked the way she looked. It also states that he hugged her several times a day during her employment without her permission and made inappropriate comments about her body. According to the lawsuit, Barron instructed her and other female employees on how to get a man, how to keep a man, how women should walk, how to talk to a man and how to dress — in short skirts and high heels.

Barron’s supervisor, Howard

Irvin, the vice president of student services at Southwest College at the time, was also named as a defendant.

“Not only did Defendant Irvin not take any action, he joined in by asking Plaintiff improper questions about her personal life and scheduling a mandatory ‘pool party’ requiring the female employees, including Plaintiff, to bring their bathing suits,” the lawsuit states.

Barron began work as the new dean of student recruitment and outreach at LACC around March 11. Collegian reporters approached the dean on campus on March 23 and requested an interview. He told reporters he would “need to check with his Board.”

The lawsuit alleges the student worker suffered retaliation, received an unjustified pay cut and was threatened with violence while she worked at Southwest College under Barron’s supervision.

FACULTY MEMBERS PUSH BACK

The lawsuit filed by Gonzalez became “required reading” at L.A. City College. The Collegian received emails and even a telephone call from a “concerned faculty member,” asking if the Collegian was going to cover the issue.

L.A. City College Faculty Senate President Anna Le had already called for reform when she spoke before the Board of Trustees on April 8. She asked for better oversight in cases that involve sexual harassment and misconduct.

“The resolution commits this college to continuously challenge the system, the system of patriarchy and power, a system of silence that perpetrates violence against women and children,” Le said.

Contractual or legal entitlements allow employees, particularly academic administrators, to return to a previous position or a lower-level role if their current role ends, according to the LACC Senate President.

“When you have an administrator who may have done something, like sexual harassment or other types of misconduct, instead

SEE “TRUSTEE” PAGE 6

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EDITORIAL

Is Sexual Harassment Accepted at LACC?

Sexual harassment has no place in school, according to the Los Angeles Community College District. Los Angeles City College's recent decisions say otherwise.

In the spring semester of 2026, LACC invited professor Michael Eric Dyson to speak during Black History Month for a second time — the same man who was accused and investigated for sexual harassment and misconduct at Georgetown University in 2020.

And on March 11, LACC hired Johnel Barron as dean of student services, despite a 2017 lawsuit filed against him by former employee Raquel Gonzalez at Los Angeles Southwest College, alleging sexual harassment, retaliation and gender discrimination. The suit was dismissed without prejudice on Jan. 5, 2018.

These are not the decisions of an institution that takes harassment seriously.

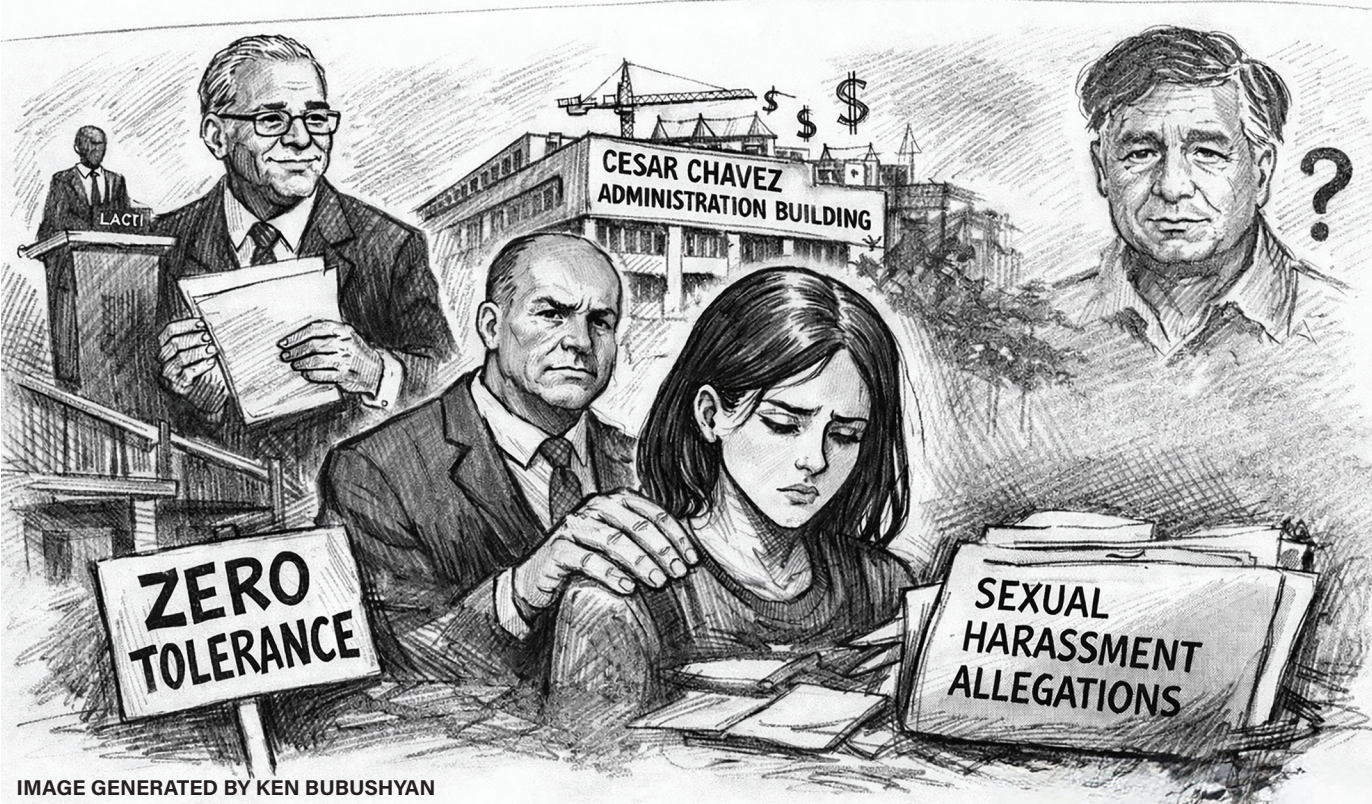
“LACCD remains unequivocally committed to a zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment of any kind in our classrooms and workplace, and to fostering a campus climate that promotes respect and civility,” former Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez and then-Board of Trustees President David Vela wrote in a Dec. 8, 2023, districtwide letter.

That statement rings hollow. There is a clear disconnect between what the Los Angeles Community College District presents to the public and the values that guide LACC's decisions. A zero-tolerance policy means nothing if it isn't applied when it matters most.

This pattern of looking the other way does not end with Dyson and Barron. While accusations of Cesar Chavez's sexual abuse of minors and young women have prompted swift action from institutions across the region, LACC's initial lack of response was notably vague.

While other institutions and organizations acted immediately, LACC's plans for the administration building that bore Chavez's name were not made clear to community members. Talks were happening the day The New York Times article dropped, and the actual decision for LACC came from the Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee Advisory, according to Vice President of Student Services Olga Diaz.

Since students returned from spring break, the name Cesar Chavez has been removed from the administration building, including a conference room on the building's second floor. It is now called the Student Services Conference Room.



Chancellor Alberto J. Román issued a districtwide letter acknowledging the allegations but made no mention of the Cesar Chavez Administration Building or the \$72.62 million replacement building currently under construction at LACC.

“[On March 24,] the Los Angeles Unified Board of Education unanimously approved steps to celebrate Farm Workers Day, rename schools, revamp instruction, and remove murals and statues that previously focused on Cesar Chavez, following the revelations of his repeated sexual abuse and assault of women and minors, including civil rights icon Dolores Huerta,” according to an LAUSD Board of Education statement authored by board member Kelly Gopez and cosponsored by all other board members.

LAUSD acted swiftly, and so did the City of Los Angeles. Mayor Karen Bass signed a proclamation that renamed Cesar Chavez Day, shifting the focus away from the labor rights activist to center on farmworkers instead, according to a press release published by the City of Los Angeles on March 19. Farmworkers Day will be celebrated on the last

Monday of March.

Meanwhile, LACCD is proceeding with the construction of the Cesar Chavez Administration and Workforce Building at LACC. In Chancellor Román's letter, he writes that LACCD's values “demand that we confront harm honestly, even when it challenges long-held narratives or revered figures.” While other local leaders have taken action to remove Cesar Chavez's name from schools and buildings, LACCD has made no public announcement or plans to do the same.

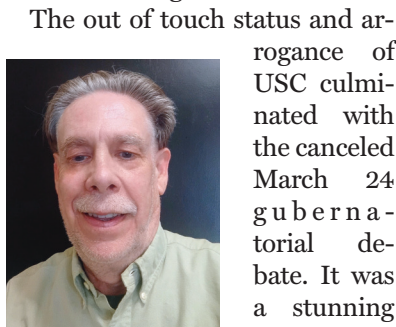
As it stands, the district says it will “center survivors and uphold a culture of safety and accountability.” But at LACC, administrators invite a person who's been repeatedly accused of sexual harassment to come onto our campus and speak to students. But that's not all, college leaders hesitated to remove a known abuser's name from buildings and chose to hire a person who's been sued for sexual harassment and gender discrimination as a dean.

Our school's actions speak louder than the district's words ever could.

USC Debate Selections Raise Systemic Racism Concerns

BY MICHAEL EDELSTEIN

Privileged seclusion from the practical realities of the real world is how I would describe the failure of the University of Southern California to ensure a representative field among all 10 candidates in the debate for governor.



The out of touch status and arrogance of USC culminated with the canceled March 24 gubernatorial debate. It was a stunning about-face that came after days of criticism for excluding prominent candidates of color from participation.

Candidates that were to be excluded from the debate include former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and former State Controller Betty Yee.

USC President Beong-Soo Kim received complaints and legal demands from excluded candidates, California voters, and others across the state, including a letter from Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, D-Hollister.

USC initially stood by the selection criteria, stating that they used an objective, “data-driven” formula

la which considered factors like funds raised, polling results and campaign duration to determine candidate viability. A group of 50 public policy and social science scholars defended the system, calling the criticism “baseless.”

Christian Grose, a professor of political science and public policy at USC, came up with the formula. However, he had no other input on who made the cut for the debate stage or how many candidates could be included. He said that the formula for scoring candidates was made blindly, meaning it was put together without looking at actual figures and how candidates would score.

“All of the candidates in the race have served this state with honor and distinction,” Grose stated in a letter. “We understand the frustration of those who aren't included and have sought to address their questions directly.”

On March 23, after immense pressure, including a threatened boycott by other candidates and criticism from California legislative leaders, USC reversed its decision. They said that the debate had become a “significant distraction,” and that they could not reach an agreement with co-host ABC7/KABC to expand the field. USC canceled the debate and promised to “look for other opportunities to educate voters on the candidates and issues.”

Critics pointed out that the included candidates had benefited from fundraising from “ul-

tra-wealthy donors,” raising concerns that the debate was designed to serve elite interests rather than the public.

Conservative commentator Steve Hilton is one of two Republicans in the race who leads in the polls. He blasted the university.

“What a pathetic humiliation,” he said in a statement. “USC receives over a billion dollars in federal funding, so I have written to Education Secretary Linda McMahon calling for an immediate suspension of all federal payments to USC pending a full investigation into this anti-free-speech shambles. Whoever is responsible at USC should be fired.”

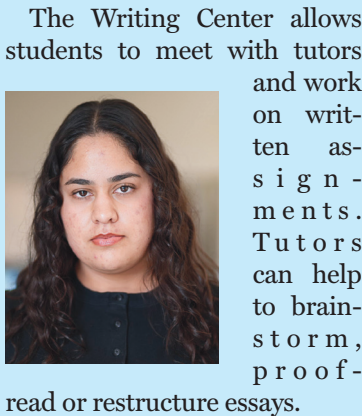
The university's hard stance in not inviting all 10 candidates for an on campus political debate is disturbing. Their proposed slate of debate participants did not reflect the diversity of California's electorate. It would have blocked voter access to Democratic candidates of color and limited opportunities for free speech and diverse political views.

This controversy is just the latest in a series of scandals in recent years that have tarnished USC's reputation. USC's repeated crises demonstrate a culture that prioritizes financial gain and political influence over academic integrity. It has led to a government debate failure that deprived voters of fair public discourse, first from non-white candidates, and ultimately from any candidate.

Ditch AI, Build Real Skills at the Writing Center

BY ESTRELLA NARANJO

With the semester more than halfway over, there's still time to get one-on-one help with class assignments and college application essays at the Los Angeles City College Writing Center in AD 100.



The Writing Center allows students to meet with tutors and work on written assignments. Tutors can help brainstorm, proofread or restructure essays.

Instead of using AI to write essays, students should visit the Writing Center. It is an amazing service. Going to the Writing Center will not only improve individual assignments; it will also improve students' overall writing skills. By working with tutors, students gain new perspectives and knowledge that they might have missed in a classroom full of other students.

In the United States, literacy rates are dropping to an all-time low, while the use of AI continues to rise. Students today are now putting their assignments into AI and having it write entire essays for them without putting in an ounce of work.

Ninety-two percent of students now use AI, and 39% use it to enhance editing and

writing, according to a recent study from the Higher Education Policy Institute. The report also states that the most popular use of generative AI is to explain concepts and to summarize articles.

But as AI use becomes more common, some students believe that AI is the solution to their problems and will get the job done with speed and efficiency. However, students fail to consider that the use of AI just diminishes their learning experience. The use of AI harms students because they fail to utilize their potential or to develop their skills.

While AI gains acceptance, one in five U.S. adults is considered functionally illiterate, and about 130 million Americans read below a sixth-grade level, according to the National Literacy Institute.

When we use AI to write for us, parts of our brains atrophy and critical thinking skills decline. But after a visit to the Writing Center, students will gain knowledge that they did not have previously. This will help them earn better grades on their assignments and build skills that they will use for the rest of their lives.

If students give the Writing Center the same energy they put into using AI, their writing will improve greatly. LACC students should invest in themselves and take advantage of the Writing Center. It is an amazing resource on campus.

Collegian

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TALK TO THE EDITORS

We are interested in what you have to say!
email us at losangeles.collegian@gmail.com

CITY VIEWS

Cesar Chavez's name has been removed from the Administration Building on Heliotrope Drive. What do you think the new name should be and why?

COMPILED BY
KEN BUBUSHYAN



MAX VALENCIA
MULTIMEDIA

“The Administration Building should be named after Neil Armstrong because of his historic accomplishment as the first man to walk on the moon ... When I think of Neil Armstrong, I think of power, authority and leadership, but also inspiration. Naming the building after him would symbolize ambition, excellence, and the idea that great things can be achieved through hard work and vision.”



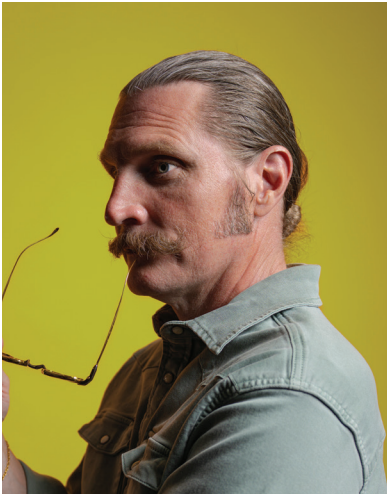
MOLLY RODGERS
SOCIAL WORK

“A good new name for the building would be the Farmworkers Building ... even though what we have learned about Cesar Chavez and his past is upsetting ... the farmworkers movement was still deeply important to California's history. The solidarity shown in that labor struggle remains meaningful and deserves to be recognized. That history should not be erased or forgotten because of one person's harmful actions.”



AL MENNE
PSYCHOLOGY

“I think the new name should be Kerry Washington because she is an outstanding public figure whose work in acting has made a strong impact. She is also active in advocacy and consistently takes a stand for causes and beliefs that matter. I think those qualities would make her a meaningful and inspiring choice for students at this school.”



ANDREW CHADSEY
PHOTOGRAPHY

“It should be named after someone in that same spirit, someone who is fighting for migrant workers and immigrants in places like the Central Valley and Owens Valley. These workers help produce \$90 billion in goods, yet many still do not have humane housing or a decent hourly wage. Naming the building after someone who continues that fight would honor the people whose labor is essential but too often overlooked.”



GABBY GRAVES
PHOTOGRAPHY

“Octavia Butler, because she was an extraordinary writer and also an L.A. native. She broke barriers in fiction and opened doors for Black writers in spaces where they had long been underrepresented. Naming the Administration Building after her would honor not only her literary brilliance, but also her impact on the Black community and on future generations of students, artists, and thinkers.”

INK STYLE:

A Visual Representation of the World as We Know It



ILLUSTRATION BY MATTIA MILLAN

Imperfect Leader Cesar Chavez Gets a Closer Look

BY FLORENTINA LESO

It is important to remember that not all heroes are perfect. Cesar Chavez is a great example of that.



The civil rights leader has been remembered as an important hero in the farmworkers' movement. He was represented in the Latino community as an icon who worked for farmworkers' rights as a co-founder of United Farm Workers.

Because of his recognition in the Latino community and labor movements, there were buildings, schools and streets named after him. But recently, The New York Times investigated and uncovered evidence that Chavez sexually abused girls and young women, including fellow UFW founder Dolores Huerta. This is not the

only controversy that follows him.

I think it is the time to focus on other past allegations, such as him referring to undocumented migrant workers as “wetbacks.” He used this term during an interview talking about strike-breakers. Those words follow him, and anyone else who uses such insensitive or dehumanizing speech.

“All of sudden, yesterday morning they brought in 220 wetbacks ... these are the illegals from Mexico.” He then went on to explain that the only way to win that strike was to take the fight to the citizens.

He also promoted a complete end to immigration from Mexico and was fighting for the deportation of some of those already here. To learn that a leader that has been represented as a hero for the Latino community had these beliefs is horrible.

In response to the New York Times investigation, California lawmakers quickly passed a bill to rename Cesar Chavez Day

to Farmworkers' Day. Our student community has also acted quickly and asked for school buildings that bear his name to be renamed.

A critical review of Chavez's image should have happened sooner because of the various past allegations against him and some of ideas that he advocated, but I am happy that we are making a change now.

People may have been afraid that talking about his behavior would harm the labor movement that he was so central to, but the real issue is letting a person become synonymous with a movement. Instead of lionizing one man, we should recognize that what matters are ideas, goals and the dedication of many people.

We don't have to bury Cesar Chavez's contributions, but we do have to be honest about his flaws. Real progress comes from recognition of the movement Chavez co-founded and standing up for our values.

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We Live in Wicked Times

BY JUAN MENDOZA

We live in tumultuous times marked by pervasive misinformation in official communications.



Defamation disguised as commentary vilifies immigrants, communities and nations.

Misinformation is disseminated through visually appealing graphics and deceptive headlines. Cruel actions labeled as policy, such as economic sanctions, dehumanizing language

and police repression, raise serious concerns to no avail.

The assault against people opposing Trump's policies, conducted through misinformation, exaggerated threats and the labeling of people and groups as “the radical left, terrorists, thugs, angry mobs, anarchists, and insurrectionists,” attempts to influence public opinion.

“Recent events have brought Trump's governing style into sharper focus,” writes Jonathan Rauch in his article ‘Yes, It's Fascism,’ published on Jan. 25, 2026, in The Atlantic. “Trump's appetite for lebensraum, his claim of unlimited power, his support for the global far right, his politicization of the

justice system, his deployment of performative brutality, his ostentatious violation of rights, his creation of national paramilitary police, and all of those developments bespeak something more purposeful and sinister than run-of-the-mill greed or gangsterism,” he writes.

The resurgence of fascism is manifested in aggressive and violent policies that target whole communities. It seeks to enhance power, control and influence over other nations through direct military interventions to colonize land and resources.

Some argue that fascism is a historical vestige, a thing of the past, primarily associated with World War II. But current ev-

idence indicates that speeches, movements and leaders worldwide are once again endorsing that ideology and viewpoint.

The persecution of migrants in the United States, the assault on Venezuela, the blockade on Cuba, the war with Iran and the ongoing destruction of the Gaza Strip and Lebanon are just some of the militaristic projects driven by Trump's administration.

The aggressive persecution of immigrants has become a witch hunt, frightening entire communities, spreading terror in households and destroying the social fabric of those communities.

Without a hint of irony about how these actions directly oppose the foundational beliefs of Christianity, Trump has established a new White House Faith Office. It promotes his political propaganda.

Recently, on his social media ac-

count, he posted an image generated with artificial intelligence in which he appears dressed as a sort of contemporary Jesus Christ-like figure, and as the new world's savior. Dressed in white and red robes and wearing a compassionate expression, he is shown healing a sick person lying down. A light emanates from his hands, and around him appears the full imagery of the nation: the flag, bald eagles, soldiers, the Statue of Liberty and the Capitol.

The image links religion, the nation and its military power. The image doesn't so much seek to persuade, but rather to impose a narrative, where Trump not only governs but also saves.

This social media post exemplifies fascist ideology by using religion as a tool to advance their ambitious and relentless pursuit of global dominance and control over resources, regardless of the consequences.

This doctrine is not new, but today it occupies the center of political power and is implemented by leaders of ultra-right ideology. Trump is promoting to the world the idea that the United States is not just another country, but a chosen nation with a divine mission and a Manifest Destiny that legitimizes its actions. And when people perceive politics as a divine mandate, it ceases to admit limits.

Pete Hegseth, the Secretary of Defense, speaks not just about war, but about God's battles against the axis of evil. In this context, the President is seen less as a political figure and more as someone carrying out a higher, divine purpose.

“Fascism is not a territory with clearly marked boundaries but a constellation of characteristics. When you view the stars together, the constellation plainly appears,” Jonathan Rauch writes.

'Hasty Heart' Cast Brings Life to Wartime Production

BY NIRUPAM DHAKAL

Beneath its humor and camaraderie, LACC Theatre Academy's newest production of "The Hasty Heart" asks a simple but poignant question: How do you accept kindness when you've spent your whole life pushing people away? Set during World War II in a hospital in Burma, the play

follows a group of wounded soldiers whose routine of jokes, rest and boredom is interrupted by the arrival of a mortally wounded Scottish soldier named Lachlan. As the group tries to make Lachlan feel welcomed, his hard exterior slowly chips away revealing a deep vulnerability inside. Immediately upon taking your seat, you are struck by the simplicity and effectiveness of the set design and staging. Tropical plants frame the stage, while a series of makeshift beds

clearly establish the setting of a makeshift, wartime hospital environment. Scene designers Maureen Weiss and Raymond Sovey do a great job of communicating the setting with a visual clarity that really grounds the story at that point in time. Coupled with Louie Piday's assured direction, the production maintains a brisk and engaging pace. The cast moves fluidly between stage entrances and exits, giving the play a sense of momentum and cohesion that keeps the audience invested

throughout. The acting, for the most part, is strong across the board. Andy Balcazar, who plays Tommy, provides clear comedic relief throughout the production. However, it is unfortunate that the writing (addressed later in the review) relegates the character largely to fat jokes, limiting what the performance could achieve. Walter Garay as Kiwi and Mateo Garcia as Digger are somewhat underutilized. Garay, in particular, spends much of the

runtime in the background with limited dialogue. One cannot help but wonder what more he could have brought to the production with an expanded role. The standouts of the cast are Hunter Snure as Yank and Jasmine White as Margaret. Snure, with his strong southern accent and an Old Hollywood charm, brings sincerity to the role. His use of a stutter adds texture to the character, and he helps establish Yank as the emotional anchor of the play. White, meanwhile, stands out

by bringing an emotional depth to Margaret. Her performance is restrained and as the only woman in the cast, she makes her presence felt. Every time she's not on stage, you wait for her to return. Massimo Ortolano as Lachlan delivers a technically very good performance as he nails the Scottish accent. However, the emotional arc is not fully realized, with his character's transformation feeling somewhat underdeveloped. Similarly, Anton Whyte as Blossom also feels limited by the writing. While Whyte clearly has stage presence, it's the way Blossom is portrayed that really doesn't give him anything of substance to do. The writing of the play feels very outdated, which makes sense considering it was written in 1945. On the program of this production, there was a clear disclaimer that warned that the play reflects the attitudes of its time. And while this context helps frame the material for modern audiences, certain characterizations and dialogues still feel dated today. The most significant issue lies with the character of Blossom. As a Basuto soldier, who does not speak English, he's largely defined through the perception of the other characters, who occasionally refer to him as a "brute." While this reflects the attitudes embedded in the original 1945 text, it is uncomfortable for a modern audience, and highlights how dated the writing feels. Blossom's role in the narrative is largely also very limited and seems to exist only

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PHOTOS BY KEN BUBUSHYAN

Spotlight photo:
Anton Whyte portrays Blossom in a scene from John Patrick's World War II drama "The Hasty Heart" at the Los Angeles City College Theatre Academy on April 1, 2026.

Group photo of male cast:
Massimo Ortolano as Lachlan, Mateo Garcia as Digger, Hunter Snure as Yank, Andy Balcazar as Tommy, Walter Garay as Kiwi and Anton Whyte as Blossom perform in a scene from "The Hasty Heart" during the soft opening at the Los Angeles City College Theatre Academy on April 1, 2026.

Kissing scene:
Massimo Ortolano as Lachlan and Jasmine White as Sister Margaret share a kiss in a scene from John Patrick's World War II drama "The Hasty Heart," set in a British military hospital in Asia, during the Los Angeles City College Theatre Academy's soft opening on April 1, 2026

Cast in scene:
Massimo Ortolano as Lachlan, left, Jasmine White as Sister Margaret and Hunter Snure as Yank, with Andy Balcazar as Tommy, Mateo Garcia as Digger and Walter Garay as Kiwi, perform in a scene from "The Hasty Heart" during the Los Angeles City College Theatre Academy's soft opening on April 1, 2026.

Lined up:
From left, Martin Duenes as the Orderly, Walter Garay as Kiwi, Andy Balcazar as Tommy, Hunter Snure as Yank, Jasmine White as Sister Margaret, Massimo Ortolano as Lachlan, Mateo Garcia as Digger, Anton Whyte as Blossom and Javier Matos as the Colonel take a curtain call following the Los Angeles City College Theatre Academy's production of "The Hasty Heart" on April 1, 2026.



catalyst for Lachlan's final emotional shift. As a result, this feels underwritten and what inconsequential to the larger story.

Another dated aspect of the is the constant fat jokes at the expense of Tommy. These moments initially elicit laughter from the audience but after a while they lost their impact and became repetitive. Early on, the love story that blossoms between Lachlan and Margaret also feels a bit rushed. It seems that certainly could be a writing issue as we never see the two characters spend time together, it could also be that the two actors playing Lachlan and Margaret did not have much on-screen chemistry. The production acknowledges the play's historical context but the material itself remains a product of its time and could benefit from a thoughtful update or a re-interpretation in modern staging.

Overall, the LACC Theater Company's production of "The Boy Heart" is a sincere and engaging interpretation of a classic play. Strong performances from the key cast members, particularly Yank and Margaret, carry the emotional weight of the story, while the simple yet effective staging helps support the production's clarity and pace. However, the material itself is dated, especially the characterization of Blossom. Despite these issues, the production succeeds in highlighting the play's themes of friendship, vulnerability, and acceptance and makes for a thoughtful and worthwhile experience overall.



Music Faculty and Staff Set the Tone



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

READY YOUR EARS FOR THIS SEMESTER'S MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

BY NIRUPAM DHAKAL

The LACC Music Department will host a concert as part of their Spring concert series on Thursday, April 23, at 6 p.m. at the Herb Alpert Music Center Recital Hall. The event will feature performances by the staff and faculty showcasing a variety of musical styles and ensembles.

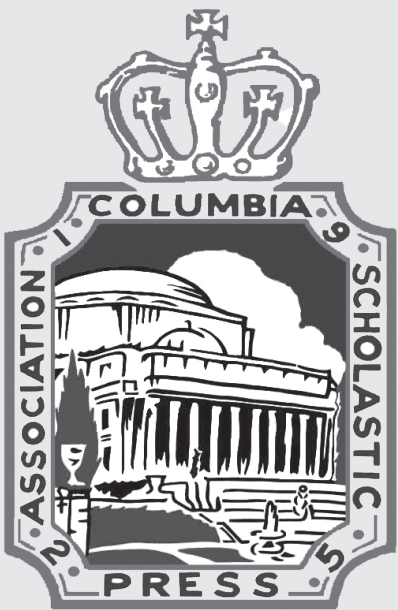
The program will open with four classical performances, which are usually more traditional and intimate in style; performances by David Stahl and Ron Anderson on piano, Caroline Reyes on harp and Emilia Simeonov on violin.

The remainder of the concert will then move to non-classical genres such as jazz, pop, rock and original compositions. Performers include Sam Plotkin

on guitar; Trevor Anderies on drums with Andrew Conrad on saxophone; a percussion trio featuring Kassandra Kocoshis, Euro Zambrano and Trevor Anderies; and a rock trio with Kevin Kelly on bass, Stu Suarez on guitar and Euro Zambrano on drums.

The concert highlights the diverse musical talent of the staff and faculty of the music department. It also offers the campus community an opportunity to experience live music in an immersive setting. A finalized program will be available either a day before or on the day of the concert.

The LACC Department of Music invites students, faculty and community members to attend and support this free concert.



Watch Gold Circle Award winner, "Separated, Separados" 1st Place Video Package on a single subject produced by Klen Torres, Andre Soto Untiveros and Noah Kubacki.

GOLD CIRCLE AWARDS RECOGNIZE COLLEGIAN JOURNALISTS

BY VANESSA KOLB

Collegian journalists earned seven 2026 Gold Circle Awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association last month.

The awards, which were announced on March 31, recognize work published during the 2024-2025 school year. The Columbia Scholastic Press Association is a program of Columbia University and has been issuing Gold Circle awards to student journalists since 1984.

LACC journalism students won awards in the First Person Experience, General Feature, Page One Design, Video News Package and Single Subject Feature Package (Double-truck) categories.

Klen Torres, Andre Soto Untiveros and Noah Kubacki won first place for their video package "Separated, Separados," about the separation of families at the U.S. border and

about Jacob Soboroff's documentary on the experiences of effected families. Columbia chose not to issue a second or third place award in this category.

In the First Person Experience Category, Jemeryas Jordan won third place for his piece "Battleground Diaries North Carolina," about his experiences as he covered a polling place near a university in Charlotte, North Carolina during the 2024 election.

"Politically Divided Family Can Still Agree," a human-interest story by Carla Williams that highlighted a family that remains close despite major political disagreements, earned a Certificate of Merit in the General Feature category.

Designer Beatrice Alcala won a whopping four awards in two different categories for her harmonious front page and feature package layouts.

This year, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association received 6,060 submissions, according to their website.

FROM "LAWSUITS" PAGE 1

LACCD Faces Claims of Defamation, Retaliation

averse to the district's interests." Henderson's petition also alleges that the district's joint representation of LACCD, Rodriguez and Veres was improperly authorized by then Interim Deputy Chancellor Kathleen F. Burke and that board members were denied access to documents. If the claims are upheld, they could disrupt the defense team set to try the Medina case in May.

WHY FORMER LEGAL COUNSEL FILED SUIT

The conduct described in Henderson's letter is detailed across the 10 claims in Medina's lawsuit. The complaint traces the alleged misconduct throughout Medina's time as the district's general counsel. Medina alleges that from the moment she was hired, the LACCD treated her differently than her male and non-Latino colleagues. Court filings show Medina was hired at a lower pay than her experience warranted and that the district failed to pay her correct salary and delayed her medical benefits for three months. "Mexican women serve me, and they like it," Rodriguez allegedly said to Medina during a Zoom meeting in November 2022, according to Medina's first amended complaint. Trustee Henderson corroborated the statement in a May 2024 letter: "The remark was not only demeaning and discriminatory, it exemplifies the abuse of power that Ms. Medina has described in her complaint against him." In her complaint, Medina also alleges that seven individuals accessed her confidential medical information 35 times without authorization. The information from those records was then allegedly used in a flyer created by a group named the Coalition Against Fraud in Education and sent to the district office on or around Feb. 1, 2023. The defendants deny circulating the flyer. Rodriguez and LACCD Vice Chancellor of Human Resources Teyanna Jones-Williams testified under oath that they received the flyer by U.S. mail from an outside sender.

The flyer claims that Medina refused to comply with the district's COVID-19 vaccination requirement. An LACCD-commissioned investigation by the law firm BakerHostetler concluded in October 2023 that there was no evidence or facts to support Medina's allegations that district employees had provided her information to the group. At the Aug. 16, 2023, board retreat, the Board President David Vela responded to former Board President Gabriel Buelna, who had publicly accused Rodriguez of discriminating against Medina because she was a Mexican woman. "I'm going to do whatever the f--- I want to do," Vela said, according to the first amended complaint. "I'm not going to have your Mexican woman do this, I'll have the white one do it." Vela responded to a Collegian request for comment, saying he needs to consult with the district before he answers any questions. "I am copying general counsel and our Chief [of Staff] to the Chancellor to see if I can comment," Vela wrote in an email on April 16. "Thank you so much. And thank you for inquiring." Deputy Chancellor Melinda Nish, whom Medina identified as one of the seven people who accessed her medical records, filed a complaint with Rodriguez, calling Medina unethical and unprofessional, according to paragraphs 40 and 41 of Medina's First Amended Complaint. Medina's court filings allege a pattern of retaliation that escalated through 2023. She says Rodriguez stripped her of core job duties and sent a March 10, 2023, letter accusing her of unethical and unprofessional conduct. The former chancellor refused to retract the letter despite a board directive to do so, according to Medina. In a sworn declaration, Rodriguez said an employee complaint alleged Medina's conduct was "unprofessional" and "unethical," and he intervened to help resolve the matter without accusation or judgment, according to the defense's filed response to Medina's complaint. In

the same response, Jones-Williams also testified that she was unaware of a decision made by the board directing the chancellor to retract the March 10 letter.

MEDINA ACCUSES VERES OF SPREADING RUMORS

On Aug. 30, 2023, Trustee Veres invited Medina to a business dinner, according to Medina's complaint. During the evening, Veres confessed he had spread false rumors about Medina having a romantic relationship with former Board President Gabriel Buelna, who is married, according to the court filing. "I believe that Trustee Veres was angry because I was challenging Chancellor Rodriguez during that time period and questioning the purchasing of properties," Trustee Buelna said in an interview with the Collegian. "I was questioning the bond monitor (...) who they were, what they're billing, and Trustee Veres didn't like it and the chancellor [Rodriguez] didn't like it." The complaint also states that Trustee Veres told Medina he told other trustees including Nichelle Henderson, Kelsey Iino, Sara Hernandez and Andra Hoffman. Henderson denies what Trustee Veres reportedly said. "I can verify that he did not inform me, and I personally spoke with Trustee Kelsey Iino who shared with me that Trustee Veres never spoke with her about the untruthful romantic relationship between Ms. Medina and Trustee Buelna." The LACCD conducted an internal investigation and determined the dinner conversation did not meet the legal standard for a hostile work environment. It raised concerns about the credibility of the job threat accusations because Medina did not include it in her initial complaint about the dinner. The Collegian contacted Trustee Veres and counsel at MPG and Medina's counsel at Alexander Morrison + Fehr LLP. Only Rodriguez Vela, Buelna and Henderson responded to requests for comment in time for publication.

FROM "INSTRUCTOR BREAKS SILENCE" PAGE 1

Suarez: 'LACC Shows Neglect, Irresponsibility for Safety'

faculty in the head more than 10 times. I am very disappointed in how our campus is handling this situation." In her email, Park asked the administration to support Suarez and help with campus security for the duration of the high school boot camp. "In 22 years, that I've been at City, this incident is one of the worst moments that occurred during the broad daylight," the Chair wrote. "I would appreciate the sheriff's and admin services to help our faculty get through this week, and for the rest of the time he is teaching the summer session." The Collegian reviewed several emails sent from July 3, 2024, the day of the attack until the end of the month, between Suarez, Chair Park, several members of the administration and members of AFT 1521. Suarez documented what happened to him and says he contacted the administration and the sheriffs, asking for help, several times, with no success. In a July 12, 2024, email, Suarez requested a copy of the incident report. Almost two years later, he still waits. The recording of the attack has also never been released. "I was told by the deputies that the camera footage would be promptly archived and would reveal both the full nature of the assault as well as critical evidence regarding identifying the vehicle, license plates and assailants involved in the attack," Suarez wrote. "My memory of the incident is incomplete as the beating resulted in a short blackout and I'm not able to recollect all the details." On July 19, 2024, two weeks af-

ter the attack, Park sent an email to the union leadership of AFT 1521 in which she reiterated important details about what happened to Suarez. "I would like to point out that the incident occurred on July 3," Park wrote. "The email from V.P. Dominguez was sent on July 19. Nothing happened in between those dates. And nothing happened after that email either. The administration spoke to the faculty on the day of the incident but never checked on him again. They asked for the faculty's phone number, which I provided 4 times." Park also wrote that the cameras in Parking Lot 4 were not working. "They lied to us, they still have not admitted anything, and we are waiting for the footage...which we will never see," Park wrote. "There is no police report from the campus (other incidents that occurred before and after have all been reported)." The email Park refers to as being sent by V.P. Dominguez on July 19, is an email he addressed to the LACC Community titled "LACC Campus Safety Incident Update." Dominguez wrote that Gebru and the college's senior leadership "have committed to a thorough investigation of our security processes as well as the current state of our parking lot structure security." Dominguez also wrote that while the cameras were not working, the system recorded the license plates of all vehicles that entered the parking lot that day. The vice president also listed a series of security measures taken by the administration — the repair of the arm gate, the addition of an ID-operated garage gate and a

temporary sheriffs' patrol for Lots 3 and 4 among them. Between the attack on July 3 and the email on July 29, the administration offered limited response and assistance, according to Suarez and Park. Suarez says that after the incident, Gebru stopped parking in Lot 4 and moved his car into the same parking lot where the sheriffs park. Collegian reporters verified Suarez's statement. President Gebru has a reserved spot next to the sheriffs' parking, while his designated parking spot in Lot 4 has been reassigned. Following the assault, Suarez says he was diagnosed with a hand injury, back injury (still receiving treatment 19 months later), hip injury and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). He says he experienced violent nightmares, sleep deprivation described as "electrical shocks" and hypervigilance severe enough that he kept firearms around. Suarez wrote in an email that the total lack of compassion and basic civility left him numb and that the college shows neglect and irresponsibility for safety. "Missing camera footage, misleading statements; any person with common sense realizes such a number of coincidences points to some form of cover up to shirk responsibility and accountability," the instructor wrote. "I only hope that something worse doesn't happen, and that I, being in sturdy condition was able to survive this attack without permanent physical harm, as many on the campus would not have been so lucky." For further details, visit collegianwired.com.

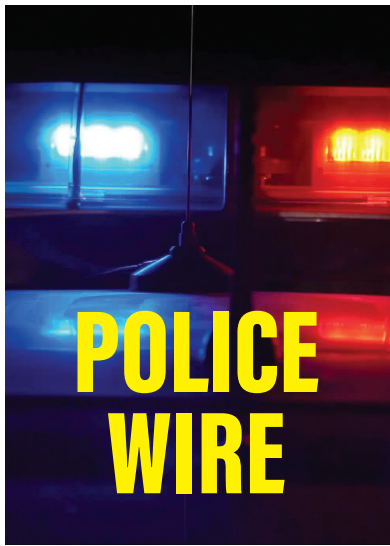
INTERNSHIPS 2026

Career Center Curates Internships All Year

COMPILED BY DOREEN SANCHEZ

Internships are not just in the summer any longer. The Career Center brings together employers that offer internship opportunities. Internships can give students hands-on experience on-site and remotely, and positions are not tied to the academic calendar. These opportunities help students to learn new skills in a different field in addition to enhancing their resume. 1. The Micro-Internship with Parker Dewey is one to consider. A 10-minute signing-in process at www.parkerdewey.com/career-launchers is required. Here students will find the details of available assignments, including application deadlines and pay for the position. Once you have selected a position, you will work directly with the company on a short-term basis, typically 8-10 hours in total. 2. L.A. County Arts Internship On April 1, the Career Center launched more than 100 internship related opportunities in Art/Business and. Communication. Two more batches of internships will be available on May 1. For more information, follow the link to: www.lacountyarts.org This includes internship program of 128 positions at museums and visual arts non-profit organizations. Students must be currently enrolled in a minimum of one class.

The positions run from June through March 2027. You may be asked to submit a short essay for on-site or remote work. 3. Los Angeles County Probation Department hr.lacounty.gov/academic-internships/ The L.A. County Board of Supervisors developed unpaid internships that are carefully designed with practical and meaningful work experience. Students normally work 8-16 hours per week. A student must be in good academic standing at the college and arrange their own transportation to and from an internship. 4. Fall Internships The Television Academy Foundation Emmy Internships Applications for the fall 2026 Internship Program will open April 22, 2026. The foundation has five paid, part-time internships to undergraduate and graduate students, enrolled in college or a university in the Greater Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside San Bernardino and Ventura. Intern must commit to working 13 consecutive weeks, including 12 weeks of 25 hours and one week of 20 hours. An internship may be in-person, hybrid or remote depending on assignment and subject to change. Finalist notifications will be made in mid-June. For more information, visit: www.emmys.com/foundation/internships.



COMPILED BY KEN BUBUSHYAN

- Attempted robbery at LACC — A report was taken of an attempted robbery at Los Angeles City College on March 2, 2026.
- Grand theft at LACC Library — Grand theft of a laptop was reported in the MLK library at LACC on March 16, 2026.
- Burglary at Herb Alpert Music Center — A burglary was reported at LACC, two individuals broke into the Herb Alpert Music Center on March 16, 2026.
- Domestic Violence at LACC — A report of domestic violence was taken at Los Angeles City College on March 19, 2026.
- Disorderly Conduct in Lot 4 Men's Restroom — A disorderly conduct report was taken of a suspect peeping while loitering at lot 4 men's restroom at LACC on April 9, 2026.
- Lost Property at LACC — A report was taken of lost property on campus at LACC, someone reported a lost building keycard on April 18, 2026.
- Person Stuck in Elevator at Parking Lot 4 — A report was taken of someone being stuck in the elevator at the parking lot 4 elevators on April 18, 2026.

FROM "ACCOUNTABILITY" PAGE 1

Trustee Urges Mandatory Harassment Training

of firing them, they have the ability to just get moved to a different position in the district with administrative retreat rights," she said. FACULTY MEMBERS CALL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY Julie Washenik is the chair of Radiologic Technology and the AFT 1521 Work Environment Chair at L.A. City College. She spoke at the April 8 Board of Trustees Meeting, where she brought up a related issue. "I have broader concerns about the President of LACC inviting a guest speaker for Black History Month who had allegations of sexual harassment," Washenik said, referring to Vanderbilt University Professor and scholar Michael Eric Dyson, who has been accused of sexual harassment at Georgetown University and spoke recently at L.A. City College. "Accountability, let's start at the top of the food chain. We have to start at the top and do better, we will do better." Washenik says there is a responsibility to prioritize safety for students and faculty. She asked the administration to exercise due diligence when making hiring decisions.

"On a personal level, I have reported incidents of sexual harassment, financial coercion, and sextortion," she said. "I have experienced retaliation as a result. These experiences showed me the importance of leadership ... integrity, accountability and a commitment for those who report misconduct." Trustee Nichelle Henderson says the board is not generally involved in the hiring practices of the college. She told the Collegian she only became aware of the issue when faculty members contacted her about the hire. She says policies are needed to make certain hires are not made that later become a liability to the district. "Due diligence may not have been done, but at this point, it's not much that the college or the district can do," Henderson said. The trustee is skeptical of an existing policy that allows employees to pass on sexual harassment training. "So, for instance, I believe that sexual harassment training should be mandatory. Right now, it is not mandatory, and so employees can opt out," she told the Collegian. "The history of how things are handled in this district, an

employee gets accused of sexual harassment. And their defense is, well, I didn't know, because I haven't had training. But they can opt out of training." COZEN REPORT OFFERS GUARDRAILS The LACCD examined the issue of sexual harassment and misconduct at its nine campuses when it commissioned the Cozen O'Connor Report. "It covers the years 2021-2022, through 2023 and 2024." The report documented 132 complaints of sexual harassment over the period of the study. Only 25 percent of the complaints were investigated. The report praised some of the steps the LACCD has taken to uphold and improve Title IX compliance. But improvement is needed. The report made recommendations that were to be implemented in the days (30 to 90), and months following the study. One recommendation of the September 2025 report asked that the LACCD review prior reports and complaints for reopening. Thirteen individuals with complaints against them are still employed at district colleges, according to the report.



PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN ROMERO

Administration Moves to Drop Cesar Chavez Name

BY SEBASTIAN ROMERO

Right after spring break, students and staff came back to LACC without noticing that something had changed — the Cesar Chavez Administration Building and its Conference Room had been renamed.

As you enter the building through Heliotrope Drive, students will see that the “Cesar Chavez” part of the building name has been covered up, and inside the building, the second-floor conference room was changed from Cesar Chavez Conference Room to “Student Services Conference Room.”

These changes came after a New York Times report exposed allegations against Cesar Chavez for sexual abuse against young girls and women in the ‘60s and ‘70s.

“In the case of Cesar Chavez, because of the controversy and the concern, not just at our campus, but within our district and all over the country, the decision was made to go ahead and remove the name Cesar Chavez,” Vice President of Student Services Olga A. Diaz told the Collegian. "This decision came after meetings and talks not just with the district but also on campus. The place that discussion originally happened on this campus was at our Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee Advisory. That was, like, the day the news broke.”

Diaz says there is no proposal for a new name at this point, but it is a process.

In the aftermath of The New York Times report discrediting Chavez, more discussions are happening around his well-documented, controversial stance

against undocumented immigrants.

In 1974, under Chavez’s leadership, the United Farm Workers led an “Illegals Campaign” targeting undocumented immigrants. For those who knew about Chavez’s anti-undocumented immigrant position, the 2026 accusations against him validates their refusal to idolize the leader.

“I’m just very disappointed, but I’m not surprised ... as an individual, I already knew [Chavez] was very problematic,” said Chicano Studies Professor Soraira Urquiza. "It's something that we talk about in my classes. There was a big division between Mexican versus Mexican American, and he was a large part of that ... the man was a contradiction.”

An open question now is what students believe these buildings

should be named after, especially with the knowledge that the school is going through a process of building new infrastructure.

“Generally, I don’t agree with the policy of naming buildings after people at all, you know? I really don’t like the way that, Cesar Chavez was held as like an icon or hero,” said Alan Luna, a student at LACC. “Just having a Student Services Building is fine. Don’t name it after someone.”

This question of renaming the building has reached the Associated Student Government (ASG) and the President Ki’Esance Wade.

“We’re [going to] send out a survey to students, so we can get some suggestions, and we just want to see, like, what would make the students feel proud about entering these buildings or having these names in the building.”

SCHOLARSHIPS

COMPILED BY VANESSA KOLB

CARRINGTON-PHILBERT BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN U.S. UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: \$2,500
Deadline: May 01, 2026
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/39xxpm6r>
Description: The Carrington-Philbert Scholarship program is designed to support Black/African American students entering U.S. colleges or universities as freshmen. This program offers a \$2500 one-time scholarship to assist with educational expenses. It is an opportunity for students to gain financial support as they embark on their higher education journey, emphasizing the importance of academic pursuit and personal drive.
Eligibility:

- Open to Black/African American applicants
- Must plan to attend a two (2)-year community college or four (4)-year college in the U.S.

CINTAS FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP IN VISUAL ARTS

Award Amount: \$25,000
Deadline: May 01, 2026
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y6w2tf79>
Description: The CINTAS Foundation Fellowship in Visual Arts awards \$25,000 to creative artists of Cuban descent who demonstrate excellence in painting, sculpture, installation art, media arts, and experimental film. Since 1963, the CINTAS Foundation has supported more than 185 Cuban artists and continues to preserve their work through the growing CINTAS Fellows Collection. This fellowship supports artistic innovation and expression and provides a platform to advance the careers of emerging and established visual artists.
Eligibility:

- Must be of Cuban citizenship or direct lineage (Cuban parent or grandparent)
- Must be a creative artist in visual or media arts
- Performing artists are not eligible

COLONEL KATHLEEN SWACINA SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: \$2,000
Deadline: May 01, 2026
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/rhndvfp6>
Description: This scholarship has been established to honor Col. Kathleen Swacina, USA (Ret.), and her accomplishments throughout her career and her affiliation with AFCEA. This scholarship recognizes one outstanding full-time college student who demonstrates strong potential in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
Eligibility:

- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Must meet at least one of the following:
 - Currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or enrolled in an ROTC program
 - An honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
 - A direct descendant of an AFCEA member or an honorably discharged U.S. service member
- Must be enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university, including community colleges.
- Must maintain a minimum 2.8 overall GPA
- Undergraduate students:
 - Community college students must have completed at least one semester

CYNTHIA HAYES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: \$5,000
Deadline: May 01, 2026
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/yjhhcu5z>
Description: The Cynthia Hayes Memorial Scholarship, presented by SAAFON and NSAC, honors the legacy of a visionary advocate for Black farmers and sustainable agriculture. This scholarship supports Black and Indigenous undergraduate and graduate students who are passionate about food justice, grassroots organizing and equity in agriculture.

Eligibility:

- This scholarship is open to students who self-identify as Black and/or Indigenous
- Applications should be focused on sustainable agriculture and how it affects Black farmer communities, and food justice in the context of the United States
- Students should have an interest in grassroots organizing, movement building, or agricultural policy and a commitment to promoting racial equity in our food and farm system
- You must be a student in good standing (2.5 minimum GPA)

DENES I. BARDOS AWARD

Award Amount: \$1,000
Deadline: May 01, 2026
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8ufzc9>
Description: The Denes I. Bardos Award is given to students in recognition for achievement in their community and science or engineering. Finalists embody the life and values of Denes Bardos by demonstrating their commitment to innovation, academic rigor, and community or family service. As with all Bardos Foundation grants, immigration history and financial need play a central role in awards.
Eligibility:

- Immigrants currently residing in the United States.
- Students in their final year of high school or students enrolled in an undergraduate degree program within the past 6 months.

FOLDED FLAG FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: \$5,000
Deadline: May 01, 2026
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/j8mxwkbk>
Description: The Folded Flag Foundation offers scholarships to qualifying spouses of fallen heroes and their children. The College or Technical/Trade School Scholarship is for college-bound spouses and their children (this includes undergraduate degrees, graduate programs and trade/vocational schools), and it covers tuition and fees, books, computers, living expenses (to include child care for students with young children), tutoring, test preparation services and career preparation expenses (internships, resume writing workshops, interview preparation training, etc.).
Eligibility: must be the spouse (all ages) or child (under the age of 26) of:

- A member of the U.S. military who died as a result of hostile action or in an accident related to U.S. combat operations.
- An employee of the U.S. government who died as a result of hostile action or in an accident related to U.S. combat operations.

FOSTER LOVE FAMILY FELLOWSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: up to \$12,000 per year for up to five years
Deadline: May 01, 2026
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/b2pcjujp>
Description: This is a unique foster care scholarship program that takes a holistic approach, combining financial aid with personal, emotional, and social support. Fellowship scholars become part of a close-knit, family-like community where they can feel empowered to succeed.
Eligibility:

- Be 18-24 years of age and hold a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Be accepted to an accredited public or nonprofit college or university.
- Plan to be enrolled full-time.
- Be pursuing an undergraduate education bachelor's degree
- Hold U.S. citizenship.

Must also have experienced the foster care system under at least one of the following circumstances:

- Lived in public or private foster care for at least 12 consecutive months up to and including your 18th birthday.
- Adopted or placed in legal guardianship from foster care after age 13.
- Orphaned for at least one year at the time of your 18th birthday.

GARCIA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: \$5,000
Deadline: May 01, 2026
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/yaj3dmh9>
Description: The Garcia Family Scholarship is intended for students attending a two-year college (who are at least current freshmen), or juniors or seniors attending a four year institution with a career focus on the marketing or distribution of floral products, including retail, wholesale, manufacturing and/or floral business ownership/operations.
Eligibility:

- Must have a minimum 2.0 GPA
- Either be residents of the US or Canada or be enrolled in an accredited educational institution in the US or Canada

Name: Humans of Dementia Scholarship
Award Amount: \$1,500
Deadline: May 01, 2026
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/mwjzcthp>
Description: Founded in 2012 by Seth Rogen and Lauren Miller Rogen, Hilarity for Charity (HFC) is a national non-profit on a mission to care for families impacted by Alzheimer's disease, activate the next generation of advocates, and be a leader in brain health education and research. Storytelling is a powerful tool to help bring light to Alzheimer's disease and dementia. HFC's Humans of Dementia Storytelling Scholarship is open to high school and college students who have been impacted in some way by Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.
Eligibility:

- Open to high school, undergraduate, or graduate students
- Participants must be attending a recognized educational institution
- Scholarship awards support educational, creative, or personal endeavors
- Applicants must have been impacted in some way by Alzheimer's disease or related dementia

ESSENTIAL TREMOR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: \$7,500
Deadline: May 01, 2026
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2ee7jdm3>
Description: Each year the IETF awards up to 10, \$7,500 scholarships to qualified post-high school students of all ages, to lessen the burden of higher education. The scholarships can be used for supplies, books or tuition at licensed, accredited institutions of higher education (including trade schools) and are paid directly to the educational institution.
Eligibility:

- High school or GED graduate of any age
- Diagnosed with essential tremor
- Attending a licensed, accredited institution of higher learning

Minimum 3.0 Unweighted Cumulative GPA

JOHN JOSEPH BRANDLIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: Varies
Deadline: May 01, 2026
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/4dakyn38>
Description: In recognition of 32 years of service to and management of QueensCare, the John Joseph Brandlin Scholarship Fund distributes \$250,000 in support of healthcare education every year. QueensCare awards these funds to assist in curing the continuous shortage of healthcare professionals working in underserved communities.
Eligibility:

- Must be pursuing a degree or certification in a health-care-related field (e.g., medical assistant, nurse, physician, or other allied health professions)
- Must demonstrate financial need
- Must reside in California and attend an accredited college or university in California, or attend the University of Illinois, Champaign
- Minimum GPA requirements:
 - 2.5 for community college students
 - 3.0 for undergraduate students

SPORTS BIN

Does King James Have the Heart?

BY NICHOLAS VERANDO

LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers face a challenging first round playoff matchup against the Houston Rockets, with many analysts predicting an early exit for the Lakers. Some even predicted a sweep by Houston. The Lakers are short-handed because of injuries to key guards, and they are following the 41-year-old, LeBron James. Clearly, they are considered heavy underdogs. Many experts and platforms such as ESPN and Fox Sports favor the Houston Rockets, with predictions ranging from a competitive series to a lopsided win that favors the Rockets. The Lakers have injury factors to contend with as key players who are unavailable, make it difficult for the team to match up favorably against a deep Houston Rockets Bench, according to Yahoo



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LeBron James dribbles on the run during a Cleveland Cavaliers game on Nov. 25, 2023.

Sports. In an NBA first worthy of a Hollywood film script, LeBron and his son Bronny are set to play significant minutes together, father and son on the hardwood at Crypto.com Arena, making NBA history in the post season. This feels bigger than matchups and injuries. It's a moment that feels almost unreal as the father and son compete together under playoff pressure, not just as a novelty, but as part of the Lakers' rotation. At Crypto.com Arena, the spotlight isn't just on winning. It's on legacy. That moment raises a bigger question: What is LeBron playing for now? Does LeBron James have the heart and the fight to pull the Lakers through? Personally, I feel he does not have the heart. He never had the pit bull quality of a Kobe Bryant. And that is just my opinion. I think LeBron James has always been overrated, ever since he landed the cover of Sports Illustrated, while he was only in the 11th grade and still in high school. The Houston Rockets organization has a team with a strong, deep, experienced rotation, that includes Kevin Durant, making them a very dangerous opponent for the Lakers.

In Game 1, Luka Doncic and Austin Reaves were non-factors on the injured list. Luke Kennard came up, and LeBron carried part of the load. But it is a long series. No matter, I say the house that Kobe built, the mamba spirit of the late great Kobe Bryant will always be felt. In Los Angeles, under the banners and memories of Kobe Bryant, effort is mandatory, and so is winning. Go Lakers.

Lakers Open Playoff Run with Statement Win

BY JORGE PONCE

The Los Angeles Lakers entered the playoffs with renewed momentum after they secured the third place in the Western Conference. This set up a first-round matchup against the Houston Rockets on April 18. The expectation was clear: This group would be tested early, and the path forward would not come easy. Los Angeles began the series dealing with uncertainty surrounding key players. Luka Doncic did not make his Laker playoff debut after some doubt. And Austin Reaves' return timeline remains unclear. That absence will raise questions about depth, scoring, and overall consistency as the post-season begins. The Lakers will lean heavily on experience, but the margin

for error will be thin against a Houston team looking to capitalize. Another storyline will follow closely throughout the postseason. Rumors have circulated that LeBron James could consider leaving the franchise once the playoffs conclude, adding another layer of pressure and urgency to the Lakers' run. The focus, however, will remain on the immediate challenge of advancing through a competitive Western Conference bracket. Game 1 is already in the books, and the Lakers delivered a strong opening performance. They controlled the pace early, executed on both ends of the floor, and secured a statement win to take a 1-0 series lead. Despite missing key contributors, the team showed discipline and resilience, relying on defense and timely scoring to hold off Houston's push. By the final buzzer, Los Angeles had set the tone for the series. The questions about injuries and roster depth did not disappear, but the result showed that the Lakers are capable of adjusting. With Game 1 behind them, they proved they could compete, even with uncertainty surrounding who will be available moving forward.

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A younger LeBron James dribbles against Washington Wizards James Bradley Beal in 2018.

