



CENSORSHIP

Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil

College Mulls New Rules for Student Reporters

BY ANTHONY FOLSOM II

California colleges comprised of numerous prestigious universities and public institutions have long been at the forefront of the multitudes of civil liberty battles and free expression cases since the Berkeley Free Speech movement of 1964.

Censorship violations continue today and plague campuses nationwide, so LACC is not unique in these matters.

Last semester, the Collegian reported on an incident that involved a professor censoring a journalism student as he covered a public concert on a public campus. The event was meant to honor the president at the time, Mary Gallagher for her service to LACC. She was set for retirement.

Juan Mendoza, a journalism major, was inside the Herb Alpert Music Center to cover the event. He was in place to cover the concert when he was approached by Professor Christine Park who told Mendoza that he needed to leave and that the event was private.

Park has since refused to comment on the matter and has denied any such interaction ever taking place through statements released by the campus Public Relations Officer, Shaena Engle.

The Collegian received an eyewitness account via email about the incident and interviewed a student who supported Mendoza's claims.

"For me, it was a moment of embarrassment and shame in front of the attendees and my peers as they entered the hall," Mendoza said. "She used the power of her position to put me down and kick me out of the event. It was a very painful situation as I recalled the evening of the incident. With professionalism I stepped out of the hall and left the event to avoid any confrontation with the chairperson, whose behavior was unprofessional and questionable for racial biases."

On a separate occasion, another journalism student named Louis White was attempting to take photographs inside the Herb Alpert Music Center, when he was approached by staff and told to leave because he did not have "authorization" to be in a public space on a public campus.

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH KICKS OFF

Sept. 13, 2023

The style of ceremonial Aztec dancers brings a touch of pageantry and tradition to the Main Quad for National Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023.

An estimated 500 students, staff and faculty attended the event, which offered free box lunches, sandwiches and Mexican and Central and South American cuisine to attendees.

The Los Angeles City College Race, Equity, and Social Justice Center (RESJC) sponsored the event, which unfolded alongside ASG's Club Rush. Tents and tables dotted the Quad as student organizations like the Cinema and TV Club and Forever Jung Psychology Club made their pitch for new members.



PHOTO BY NAPTALI VALENCIA

CAMPUS LIFE

President Chats with Collegian in Unfiltered Interview

COMPILED BY THANDI CHIMURENGA

President Amanuel Gebru ushered in "Coffee with the President" this week, in a spiffed-up Student-Faculty Lounge inside the old Peet's Coffee, located across from the Herb Alpert Music Hall. It is just one of the ways the new president wants to engage the community at L.A. City College.

Collegian Editor-in-chief Thandi Chimurenga asked the president for his reaction to a letter that a group of faculty members wrote after Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez announced Gebru's selection last May.

Nearly 100 faculty members and staff who signed the letter called on the Board of Trustees to vote down the decision to hire Gebru. The new president shared his thoughts, which follow, in his own words.

Thandi Chimurenga: "... If you don't mind my asking: My understanding is that several staff and faculty members signed on to a letter, basically protesting your choice as president of LACC. Am I correct in that?"

President Gebru: "Yes, I believe I saw some documentation. So, but you know, with change, sometimes people are not open to change. And because they don't know who I am, they don't know that I believe in students, and that I believe in taking care of my faculty and staff, so they can take care of students. They don't know my vision in terms of the work that I've done to support diversity, equity, and inclusion and all those things."

"But there was also a formal process that I went through. You're not going to get everybody's vote. At the end of the day, my role in this position is to come meet those folks that didn't get a chance to really get to know

me through a short process of interviews that happened ... maybe five or six interview rounds, in terms of, from the first round the forums, in the meetings with the Chancellors to all those things. So ... I went through a formal process, and I was selected, but all those internal things that might have happened before me getting here, you know, I can't control those things."

"I wish everyone would have been 100% on board with what's going on. But hey, you know, it's one of those things that you learn from. You come in, you smile, and you meet those folks. And hopefully, you share a collective vision with them, and let them know that I'm here to listen first, and not talk about all my grand ideas. And then hopefully, we'll build a vision for this college in this district together and so that we can one day become, you know, continue to propel the good work that's happening here."

SEE "PRESIDENT" PAGE 6



President Amanuel Gebru

PHOTO BY BEATRICE ALCALA



JULIA WICK

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE L.A. TIMES

City College Alumna Shares in L.A. Times Pulitzer Prize

BY ALONDRA LEMUS

The Los Angeles area was shaken, and the entire country soon would be too after Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022.

The Los Angeles Times published a story that contained information from a leaked audio recording from L.A. City Council members making racist and derogatory remarks about their colleagues and their children, as well as Oaxacans, while speaking about the city's redistricting plan.

A team at the L.A. Times wrote the story, and they won the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news this

year. Among the team of reporters was LACC alumna Julia Wick. "It's a really amazing group of people that I feel very lucky to be a part of that team," Wick told the Collegian.

Wick reports for the Los Angeles Times, and she was editor-in-chief at LAist. She was a finalist last year for a Pulitzer Prize. Wick is a native Angelino, and she attended Harvard Westlake High School graduating in 2007. She studied journalism at L.A. City College in 2009 and received a degree in Urban Planning at USC.

"I was always really interested

in journalism and writing about L.A., specifically," Wick said. "This is not something I ever expected to happen, and I'm really grateful that the Pulitzer Board chose to acknowledge our work in this way."

The staff writers at the Times worked together to listen to the audio recording, trying to pull every word as clearly as possible. When reporters were gathering information for the article, the L.A. County Federation of Labor threatened the L.A. Times with

SEE "JULIA WICK" PAGE 6

STUDENT LIFE

Three Years of Student Loan Forgiveness Ends

Student borrowers have enjoyed the pause on student loan payments. With President Biden's loan forgiveness proposal denied, what's next for students here at LACC?

BY DIALAYSIA WHITTAKER

President Biden and his administration announced a student loan and debt forgiveness program in August of 2020 that would have forgiven up to 20,000 borrowers that are currently struggling with outstanding student debt.

The Biden plan placed student debt on hold for the last three years while the nation lived through the pandemic. The Supreme Court blocked the administration's student loan forgiveness plan last June, and repayment is set to resume in October according to CNN.

SEE "LOANS" PAGE 6

EDITORIAL



ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA MOSOYAN

We Shall Not Be Moved

BY THANDISIZWE CHIMURENGA

College, we are told, is supposed to provide an education - both theoretical and practical - to prepare students for a place in society and the world. Here at LACC, the college has done exactly that by harassing student journalists and attempting to curtail our reporting on campus events.

Worldwide, journalists are under attack. And for good reason. We are the truth tellers. We are the watchdogs. We are the check on power.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), as of Dec. 1, 2022, 363 journalists have been imprisoned around the world for their work.

The organization also reports that 16 journalists and media workers have been killed in 2023. That brings the total number of deaths to 2,204, from 1,992 when CPJ first began keeping statistics, to this year.

No, I'm not accusing LACC of murdering - or attempting to murder - its student journalists. I'm not even accusing them of harassment. It is not an accusation because it's fact.

As reported here in the May 10 and May 26, 2023, editions of the Collegian, student

reporter and photojournalist Juan Mendoza was refused entry to a May 2, 2023, event honoring former LACC President Mary Gallagher at the campus' Herb Alpert Music Center by Christine Park, chair of the Music Department.

Did I mention this was at an on-campus event for LACC's outgoing college president?

This was not the first time Park blatantly and shamefully violated LACC students' right to report on and receive campus news, but it was the most recent.

Also, in May of this year, Collegian photojournalist Louis White was confronted by armed Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies after photographing areas of the campus' music building for a class assignment. Staff in the music building called the sheriffs on White because, they said, the building was "private property" and White made them feel "unsafe."

Ay yo, what's going on over there in that music building, yo?

This harassment of student journalists does not end with the music department, unfortunately.

In the fall of 2021, Collegian staff member Beatrice Alcala was disrespected by Athletic Director Rob McKinley on more than one occasion and barred from accessing LACC's Nike BETRUE Field.

And, as a final parting shot, former college president Gallagher handed down a draft set of dubious "Media Guidelines for Press." Among other egregious and foul-smelling items, we have "Filming and photographing for public consumption of any kind anywhere within LACC and events on the LACC campus" to be "allowed at the discretion of LACC's Media Relations Department."

Discretion? Too much power.

These guidelines state we must "Check in with the organizer of the event when you arrive at the event," and that "interviews ... of students, alumni and attendees of events require ... an agreement from parties being ... interviewed."

I don't know who these guidelines were written for. Certainly not for the staff of the more than 94-year-old, award-winning Collegian, for we are not wayward children in need of discipline or direction from campus public relations or the president's office.

Perhaps the U.S., which touts itself as a beacon of democracy and freedom, should invade 855 North Vermont Ave., because those two principles don't seem to align here?

If the U.S. does plan on taking that course of action, the student journalists of the Collegian will be here when they arrive.

We aren't going anywhere.

Proposed Media Rules Retaliate Against Student Journalists

BY JUAN MENDOZA

Bureaucrats at Los Angeles City College are in the process of implementing policy procedures to silence student journalists.

The retaliatory measure against student journalists is designed to please some faculty members.

At the end of the semester last spring, I was assigned to cover a music concert at the Herb Alpert Music Hall. The concert was in honor of former LACC President Mary Gallagher to celebrate her years of service at LACC.

Sadly, Professor Christine Park, the chair of the LACC Music Department, confronted me with a hostile attitude and kicked me out of the Music Hall.

When I identified myself as a student journalist from the L.A. Collegian, she replied with arrogance and sarcasm.

"I don't care," she said. "Pack your things and leave. You're not allowed to be here. This is a private event."

It was a moment of embarrassment and shame for me in front of the attendees, as they entered the hall. She used the power of her position to put me down and kick me out of the event. It was a very painful situation.

With professionalism, I stepped out of the hall and left the event to avoid any confrontation with the chairperson, whose behavior was unprofessional and felt like racial bias.

This incident was the last in a series of similar incidents that other student journalists had experienced with other faculty members while reporting on campus. It was the straw that broke the camel's back, and the L.A. Collegian Editorial Board and staff called out the censorship.

SEE "PROPOSED RULES" PAGE 3

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To advertise in the Collegian, direct all insertion orders and questions to: pr.collegian@gmail.com.

Issues of our award-winning newspaper and magazine are instantly available to our readers on issuu.com/collegianwired.

Never Forget Your Rights

BY HENRY LOPEZ

In the more than one year I have been writing for the Collegian, the most challenging aspect of bringing newsworthy stories to the student body of Los Angeles City College (LACC) has not been finding a topic, source verification, or fact-checking.

Rather, it has been remembering and asserting my rights. I have had to remind myself that I am protected by the First Amendment, which allows me to write about any subject or individual without restraint.

The First Amendment of our Constitution safeguards the people's right to exercise free speech and freedom of the press in journalistic practice. It is one of the simplest and least debatable amendments in our Constitution.

However, last semester, two incidents on our campus blatantly disregarded this amendment. Reporters attempting to cover stories, promote student-led activities, and highlight student work were treated as if they were a threat seeking to malign the very students they represent.

The school's reaction was telling. They reacted in the manner typical of institutions in power: They shifted blame onto those without power. They pointed fingers at the reporters and the newspaper, never once considering that they might be infringing upon our rights.

Even after the attention brought to LACC's actions, they never issued an apology. Instead, they intensified their censorship by imposing guidelines on the Collegian that require prior approval and restricting media coverage.

California is one of 16 states that have passed New Voices legislation protecting public school students, ensuring their First Amendment freedom of speech rights, as reported by USC An-

nenberg, School of Communication and Journalism. Yet, it remains a tragedy that this protection is not universal across all states. The notion that student journalism can be "rightfully" censored in states like Arizona, Nevada, Texas, Utah, and 30 others is a fundamental problem that demands a remedy.

We are fortunate to have these rights, even if some individuals forget or choose to disregard them. Occasionally, those who forget or ignore these rights need to be reminded that they are fundamental to our country and our school.

We have the right to showcase the beautiful artwork created by our art students. We have the right to cover the musicals produced by our drama department. We have the right to question school administration about financial matters and rules that hinder our education, making it more challenging to obtain the education we not only deserve but also need. Most importantly, we have the right to give a voice to those who are often unheard.

What Does Freedom of Speech Mean?

BY ALONDRA LEMUS

"Freedom of Speech," is a phrase that the United States clings to proudly. Our First Amendment brings people from all over the world to these shores.

On the U.S. Constitution Annotated Government Website, the definition for the First Amendment states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

Journalists for many years now have been delivering news, being the first people on the scene, even at times risking their lives to get the story right. There are so many events in time that if it were not for reporters, they would never have been recorded in our history.

"Freedom of Speech" has never been up for negotiation. In past semesters, the Collegian student reporters have been kicked out of school events and have had the

police called on them for simply trying to take pictures and collect information for publication in the LACC school newspaper.

It is upsetting to learn what student reporters are going through when they are simply doing their best to gain experience through what are supposed to be school resources. No student should be harassed at school events when they are doing their job and trying to learn.

There should not be a long list of rules of how students are to approach events or how to interview people. That is why there are professors who teach students how to gather information, what questions to ask, and what to expect at events they are to attend.

The Collegian reporters try their best and work hard to provide you with interesting stories to read.

The Collegian is here to tell you about what is going on at the campus, what is going on with sports, art, theater, clubs and more in the surrounding campus community. The Collegian is here to interact with students, to make this campus feel more like a community in this new world of online-schooling and hybrid classes.

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Editorial Deadline: Sept. 30, 2023

FROM "PROPOSED RULES" PAGE 2

On May 24, 2023, reporter Melissa Gomez from the Los Angeles Times reported the story, and media outlets and organizations that support freedom of the press showed their support for the L.A. Collegian. They reported on the incident and wrote to the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees and L.A. City College. Sad to say, many LACC faculty members and administrators ignored the incident and kept quiet.

Now, as the new semester begins, Shaena Engle, LACC public relation manager is in the process of submitting for approval a set of new policies and procedures. The new rules will limit the media, student journalists, photographers and cinema students when they do their jobs while on campus.

If the guidelines in question are approved, the consequences will be a loss of free speech guarantees for LACC student journalists, the journalism program,

cinema students and the community. It is a lose-lose proposition. The new rules would violate the First Amendment by restricting access to information.

This is a public college funded by federal and state resources and not a private entity as the chair of the music department claims. The college does not belong to a small group of people. It belongs to the public at large, therefore as students or members of the community. We have the right to be present at any event.

I am making a plea to the president of LACC, student government, faculty, staff and all the students. Call out and stop the retaliation against student journalists. The LACC community has the right to be informed.

Student reporters don't need guidelines or lessons in etiquette. When we are on assignment, we act with respect, integrity and professionalism. It is part of our training.

Generation Z: Welcome to Adulthood

BY NAPTALI VALENCIA MEJIA

Seems like just yesterday when we were kids without a care in the world. But in the blink of an eye, we became adults.

We are now stressed about money, working at jobs that drain us of all our energy, and we are questioning our life choices. It feels like we are living in someone else's timeline and achieving their expectations of what our lives should look like.

We have been told that to have a "perfectly" fulfilled life, we must hurry to finish our career, find ourselves a romantic partner, start a family and buy a house. And all these goals

need to be accomplished by our thirties.

We are slowly realizing that we do not have to carry through with the expectations of

others as to what our lives should look like. We are solely the ones who will decide what we want from our lives.

We may still have similar ideas of what we should prioritize, but that does not

necessarily mean we shall accomplish them based on the opinions or expectations of others.

New research published by the Pew Research Center presents surveys conducted

by the U.S. Census Bureau. Young adults, both in the millennial and Gen-Z generations

are prioritizing financial independence.

In 2021, it showed that 51% of 21-year-olds were living somewhere other than their parents' homes. Furthermore, only 6% of 21-year-olds had been married and with children.

We have a very clear understanding that we must have financial independence and a steady income to help us build a firm foundation for our futures.

A recent survey conducted by Pew Research Center states that parents are emphasizing that their child should focus on achieving economic milestones rather than family milestones.

About 88% of U.S. parents

with children younger than 18, say it is extremely important for them that their children grow up to be financially independent and have jobs they will enjoy.

We must have a clear understanding that times are changing, and we do not need to

replicate the lives of our parents. We may still see that some young adults are getting married, having kids, traveling, finishing their education, or simply living their best lives. The beauty of this, however,

is we have recognized that regardless of what others are doing, we will continue to put all our efforts into accomplishing our goals, and we will take the reins in our lives.

INK STYLE



ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL SITAR

Banning Books Deprives Readers of True Freedom

BY VERA MKHSIAN

Books are a way to escape. Build worlds in one's mind and use the imagination to run wild. When the reader picks up a book,

it is not just words on pieces of paper, it is a way for the mind to heal and to explore new places.

So, why must the reader be "ashamed" or be disillusioned about what the mind should or should not read. The banning of books has been justified by laying blame on contents that are perceived, as too vulgar or unfit for some audiences to read.

To prevent students and children from reading books that are not age appropriate is something different. But banning a book simply because it does not follow the views or morals of adults is simply unconstitutional.

The mind is allowed to crave and consume information from fiction to nonfiction. To worlds filled with fire and glory, women's suffrage, African American lives, Adultery, and much more.

The world has seen banned books like "The Scarlet Letter," a book about a puritan woman being accused of adultery. It was said that some scenes were viewed as pornographic and banned for moral reasons.

Another banned book: The Color Purple was also banned for its sexual content and situations of abuse and domestic violence. It was a story about an

African American teenage girl going through life and its hardships just for being a woman. It showed the impact of gender solidarity among women.

These books represent important topics for the world to consume, but they are being undermined because some people cannot see the bigger picture. The books that were mentioned, like other banned books, represent powerful leads, leads that show women facing troubles and tribulations because of the "rules" and morals of what people believed represents "right" and "wrong."

Books give the mind a better understanding of the world. Instead of tossing to the side, abandoning what some cannot seem to digest. These books were made to see what it was like, the uncomfortable feeling, the excitement, the hardships, that were all a part of a process.

Questioning the rules, people's freedom, the ability to comprehend and form one's feelings is what a person is supposed to consume. The world is built on books.

Books enable people to feel. They provide a safe place and freedom to learn and experience what others have experienced and imagined. It is what keeps the world alive and thriving. Banning books just denies part of what the world truly represents.

We learn empathy from books and to accept life's flaws. Reading someone else's narrative can probably generate more empathy than anything else and forbidding it can probably do more to invalidate people than anything else.



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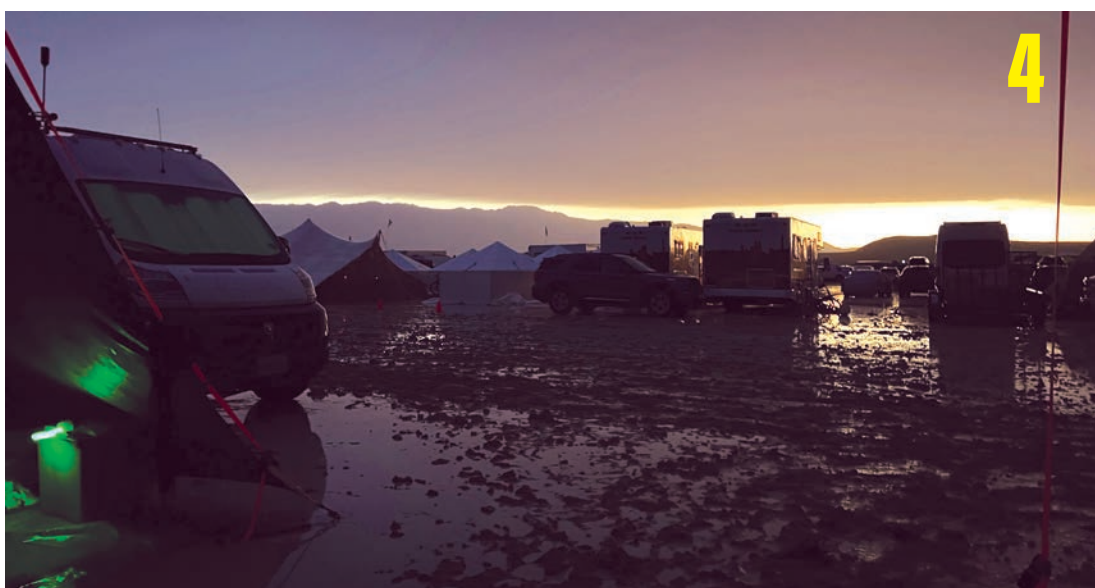
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2023 BURNING MAN

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM TORRES



1. Sunrise and sunsets at the Burning Man festival amaze visitors for seven days straight, day and night, in Black Rock City, Nev., on Aug. 31, 2023. Spectators are up all night to watch the sunrise, as many continue to party the night away.

2. "Burners" arrive on another planet called "Burning Man," where they see an art installation in the form of a giant inflatable likeness of the Moon, Earth and Mars, created by Luke Jerram on Sept. 1, 2023 in Black Rock City, Nev.

3. A 26 by 14-foot-tall butterfly named Mariposa, created by Christopher Schardt, rises 15 feet above the ground at Burning Man on Sept. 1, 2023 in Black Rock City, Nev. There are 38,000 LEDs that cover its surface, as speakers play classical and classic pop music.

4. For the first time in history, over 70,000 festivalgoers were stranded for an additional three days in Nevada's Black Rock Desert following heavy rain over the weekend on Sept. 2, 2023 in Black Rock City, Nev. All the roads turned to piles of mud that made it impossible to drive any vehicle inside the festival.

5. There are hundreds of these camps that provide all types of entertainment, food, self-care and almost anything that your heart desires on Sept. 1, 2023 in Black Rock City, Nev. The theme camp offers music, a couch, and an amazing view from the second floor.

BEYONCE

Dominates Labor Day Weekend in L.A.

Call it Bey Weekend. Everyone else agrees. The Three-day Renaissance Tour felt like a mystical dream no one should miss

BY TIA SHIPMAN

Beyoncé's Labor Day weekend takeover was a theatrical masterpiece that blended artistry, marketing wit, and unparalleled "Beyhive" engagement. A transformative experience. The three-day Renaissance Tour at S.O.F.I. Stadium is a vivid testament to Beyoncé, the G.O.A.T.!

Beyhive fans, dripped in silver per the "Queen's" request, in a letter to her fans on her website.

"VIRGO SEASON IS UPON US. THIS TOUR HAS BEEN SUCH A JOY AND AS WE APPROACH THE LAST MONTH, MY BIRTHDAY WISH IS TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU WEARING YOUR MOST FABULOUS SILVER FASHIONS TO THE SHOWS 8.23 - 9.22. WE'LL SURROUND OURSELVES IN A SHIMMERING HUMAN DISCO BALL EACH NIGHT, EVERYBODY MIRRORING EACH OTHER'S J.O.Y., VIRGO SEASON TOGETHER IN THE HOUSE OF HOME, SEE YOU THERE! YOUR B AT RWT."

The delectable note is too iconic to shorten. So just, "Eat it, eat it, Eat it ...," sings Beyoncé on the track "Heated."

Beyhive understood the assignment. Silver sequins accompanied metallics through Inglewood streets, now resembling catwalks. Metallics showered the stores months before as if Bey sent out a memo earlier in the season. Some fans designed their "lewks."

Others wore Alien suits. "The disco/ball theme was important for fashion and the culture. It inspired us to stand out, take risks, and shine," fashion stylist Nadia Jones said.

It felt as if the crowd embodied the daring spirit of Beyoncé. She reminds the world that if your dream waters down your delusions, dream bigger.

The formation created a sea of shimmering light, reflecting the star power present. Stars flooded to the S.O.F.I. Stadium, creating a galactic presence throughout the three-day spectacular.

Kelly Rowland, a former Destiny's Child member, supported Bey all weekend. Her chic attire served, "Move out the way, I'm with my girls and we all need space," the first line to Beyoncé's track "Move."

Kelly Rowland's fits turned heads on the third night with a lewk that blended old Hollywood glam with contemporary hip-hop chic: a sleek black latex corset top with a sparkling diamond choker and face jewels. It was, hands-down, chic.

Beyond music and dance, the Renaissance Tour emerged as a symbol of meticulous planning, extraordinary marketing, and visionary creativity. Instagram timelines have been a Beyoncé exhibit all season.

Every performance felt fresh, thanks to the myriad of costume changes for Beyoncé and her

dancers. Even cities blessed with multiple shows witnessed subtle, unique alternate universes. Personal touches sprinkled with exclusivity.

She keeps her audience on their toes. Bey Weekend was on steroids.

The Renaissance Tour, Bey's seventh solo tour, debuted in May. Tickets went on sale on Feb., 6. Securing a seat was like winning a golden ticket — I managed to snag mine just a month before Sept. 1, night one in L.A.

A Miracle

Beyoncé.com subscribers grabbed tickets at box office prices in advance. Scalpers crescendoed Bey's Birthday tickets. Their pockets exploded in triumph.

"I was expecting the ticket prices to go down," cried Beyhive fan Kathleen Moss after a Beyoncé-themed yoga session.

Moss exclaimed she found a last-minute ticket on the GameTime app for L.A., night one. Social media users claimed last-minute Bey deals were promising all season.

A few customers paid \$100 for night one, in section C 200, two levels from the floor. Night one tricked last-minute ticket buyers. Bey Day was different.

Resellers end Rumors.

Sept 4, I laid in bed flummoxed, fingers glued to my rose-gold MacBook Air, watching ticket sales go from four to six-digit prices. Yes, \$100,000 for Bey's Birthday concert! That excluded fees.

Those seats were in the nose bleeds. Seats closer to the stage (Beyhive section) were \$20,000. More reasonable ones went for \$2,000. A wallet killer, no less.

Some BeyHives purchased "No view" but "listen" only tickets for \$300-\$600.

The Club Renaissance section,

standing room only, was sold out. This section included a bar a few feet from the stage. Some fans insist Club Renaissance reigns best for views.

"Club Renaissance views are insane," said TikTok user Britney River.

Standing room-only sections require earlier admission. Beyoncé walks around a circle-shaped stage with her dancer, Club Renaissance, in the middle.

Blue Ivy, her oldest daughter, made cameo appearances during the U.S.A., leg of the tour. Everyone knew more guests would perform in Los Angeles. Beyoncé did not disappoint.

Bey skipped performers for most of the Renaissance Tour. L.A. was special. DJ Khaled, Lil Wayne, Offset, Kendrick Lamar, and Diana Ross sang for her birthday and showed out.

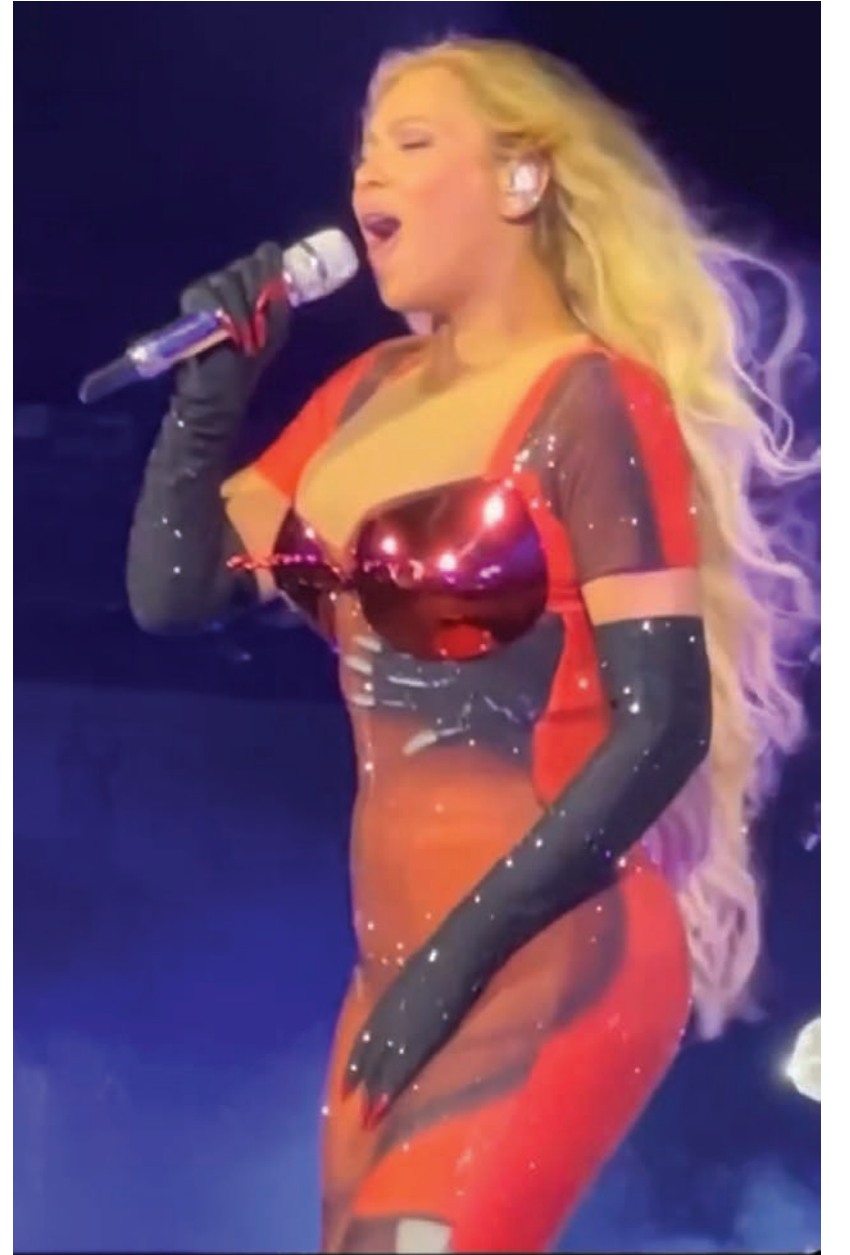
A few of my friends were fortunate enough to attend Bey Day. My friend and the founder of ClothedMinded, Kevin Bouknight II, has seen Bey in concert three times. He raved about the set design, and Diana Ross called the tour a "Masterpiece"!

Bey kissed L.A. goodnight at her Birthday concert.

An unforgettable farewell mirrored the others all season. Bey suspends mid-air on a silver metallic disco horse in her silver sequin cape over a sparkly bodysuit with silver boots to match as she glares down as a proud fairy godmother.

Just as silver confetti falls over the crowd, Beyoncé speaks: "L.A. will remember Bey Weekend! Beyhive will remember what we wore and who we came with and continue spreading the joy we felt—the Renaissance Tour.

Thank you and good night, closing remarks from our Fairy godmother, Beyoncé Knowles Carter."



PHOTOS BY TIA SHIPMAN

(Top) Beyoncé performs "Drunk in Love" during her Renaissance World Tour (RWT) Concert at SOFI stadium in L.A., night one on Sept. 1, 2023. She styles in a seductive red Loewe bodysuit.

(Bottom) Beyoncé swings during the L.A. night one Finale of the Renaissance World Tour Sept. 1, 2023. She gracefully suspends mid-air atop her mirrored, shimmering disco horse and moves her arms as if orchestrating confetti.

Psychological Thriller 'Bibi' Puts Spotlight on Mental Health

'Bibi' Continues to Create a Buzz in the Film Festival Scene at L.A. Premier

BY LOU PRIMAVERA

P sychological thriller and indie short film "Bibi" has been creating a buzz throughout the film festival circuit around the country.

The captivating film stars Elizabeth Paige, Judith Ann DiMinni, Tammy Blanchard, Rick Zahn and was written and directed by Christopher Beatty.

The film centers around Vivian Ashwood (Elizabeth Paige) a grieving woman experiencing mental anguish and emotional demons due to a tragic loss. As the film progresses, we are thrown into her character's distorted and disillusioned mind in her vast estate. Beatty's writing and directing along with Paige's exceptional acting has a way of adding an element of suspense as the audience embarks on an emotional roller coaster.

The thriller revolves around an "accident" which is one source of Paige's mental decline, but the details of the accident are not revealed.

Judith Ann DiMinni's performance as Bibi and daughter of Vivian was also a highlight of the film. She broke down her role at the Los Angeles red-carpet premier during the Dances with Films festival at the TCL Chinese Theater in Hollywood.

"I play Bibi and one of the cool things about playing Bibi is she has two different sides. She has her

emotional, more real, raw side and she has a scheming, mechanical side, developing those two and then blending them together to make one character was so much fun and awesome, DiMinni told the Collegian.

Beatty's Hitchcock style and his approach of touching on trauma and mental health while keeping the audience engaged though the intense plot is impressive. The theme does not overshadow the story and vice versa. The Cinematography and pace of the film keeps the audience on a roller coaster ride while wrapping up the conclusion and storyline effectively.

To make a character's mindset come to life on screen can be a tedious task for the best of directors, but Beatty manages to make it look effortless and smooth.

"Chris really took the reins on doing the rewrites into the magnificent piece as it is, and really took charge, fell in love with this project, and said I got to do this in a really specific way and it has to be this vision," Producer Logan Hunter told the collegian at the premier.

Although the film at times can be uncomfortable and has elements of shock value, the direction, narrative, and great storytelling through superb acting make for a suspenseful ride that keeps the audience engaged from start to finish. The message and theme of the mental effects of trauma from parental abuse does not get lost, which often happens when you have a message tucked into this type of film.

Bibi is an exceptional film that sheds light on mental health while also taking the audience on a wild ride.



PHOTO BY LOU PRIMAVERA

Indie thriller "Bibi" arrives in Hollywood in time for the Dances with Films festival red-carpet premier at the TCL Chinese Theater in Hollywood.

FROM "PRESIDENT" PAGE 1



PHOTO BY BEATRICE ALCALA

President Looks to Connect with Campus Community

"And I also, I want to say that, that I want to continue to partner with your department in ways that we could do some things that will support your vision and your goals. And if there's an opportunity where you want to invite me to or allow me to do like a coffee with just the journalism department, the students, I would love to do that to kind of just get to know all the students, to get to know the faculty, to get to know the rich history and tradition of the good things at work. I'm sure you know; it doesn't even have to be a formal interview process. It could be just an opportunity for us to just connect, because you know, I'm new also, and I want people to get to know me."

"But most importantly, I want to get to know people's concerns, people's ideas, people's visions, the kinds of stories that you want to continue to share. I do a lot of work outside of the campus just focused on men of color, specifically on Black males, and do a lot of mentoring with professionals and students. I've taken students all

over the world, including many of them to Africa, have helped lead an organization that's doing a lot of work to support, diversity, equity, and inclusion. So, I have a lot of things that I've done outside of the campus community that can benefit the students, that can benefit professionals. I'm big on study abroad, international education, I'm big on supporting all of our students that come to us. I'm big on learning. I like food [laughter] So, I want to have fun on this job, because it can be tough at times. But I also know ... this is what I will be leading and supporting, some of those good times and bad times. I'll be the face of the college no matter what. But I want to continue to make us a better community for our students because I came here because I think this is a great college. And I think, we could do some phenomenal things moving forward."

Thandi Chimurenga: "Well, President Gebru, thank you so much for giving me your time today. And welcome to Los Angeles City College."

FROM "JULIA WICK" PAGE 1

Wick: Team Was Committed to the Story

legal action if they published the story. The labor union maintained that the actual recording of the leaked audio was illegal.

The article quoted the racist and derogatory remarks from the recording. Wick talked about unbiased writing and remaining objective.

"I think bias is something journalists have to be really careful of and really conscientious about, because the truth is we're all human," Wick said, "and we all have our perspective and the things that shape how we think."

A timeline that follows the L.A. Times continued update and publishing of stories through the chaos that followed can be found on the Pulitzer Prize website. There is a spread of 35 pages detailing up to the resignations of L.A. City Council members, as well as information about how the person responsible for the leak of the audio recording has not been outed.

After publication, the article grabbed nationwide attention, all the way to the White House. President Biden made a statement regarding the council members overheard in the leaked audio. He said they should resign from their positions.

Even with the pressure of a potential lawsuit, Wick says the team and the L.A. Times remained committed to the story.

"There was never a moment where we thought about not publishing the story," Wick said. "But it was definitely a story where we were painfully aware of the possible magnitude and wanted to proceed with great caution and care, while also still moving quickly."

Wick writes for the Metro Section about the metropolitan area of Los Angeles and about national and international news.

Although her time at LACC was short, she noted that "I was extremely lucky to get to study with an incredible professor like Rhonda Guess and to work on the Collegian. She's a phenomenal journalist and teacher, and I learned so much on the Collegian."

FROM "LOANS" PAGE 1

SCOTUS: PRESIDENT CANNOT WIPE OUT DEBT WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM CONGRESS

The Court ruled that the president cannot wipe out student debt unless the Congress approves.

Although President Biden's plan for further student loan debt forgiveness has been rejected, his administration has approved \$116.6 billion in student debt relief for more than 3.4 million Americans.

What will this mean for other borrowers and borrowers that attend LACC who must begin to repay their loans? Director of Financial Aid at L.A. City College Pau Jansa talked to the Collegian about what students should know moving forward.

"If you are enrolled at LACC or anywhere else and [have] at least six units, you're still in deferment," Jansa said, which means that you won't have to pay until you either graduate or are no longer enrolled with at least six units. All students that have borrowed money in the past and are no longer enrolled, they'll have to start repaying."

Jansa also made it clear that LACC has partnered for the last 10 years with a non-profit organization called ECOM (Education Credit Management Corporation), which helps student borrowers with loans that are in default.

They have made it a point to contact students through email, and have also set up seminars and workshops to make borrow-

ers aware that repayment for student loans will resume come October 2023.

Although repayment is scheduled, the Department of Education has made some adjustments to help borrowers prepare for what's to come.

"The Department of Education, through Biden's Administration, has given students a year to make adjustments to be able to pay," Jansa said. "Typically, six months is given before loans go into default and accumulate interest, however now it will be one year."

They are allowing borrowers more time so that people can adjust their living situations to properly make payments. In that year's time frame, there will be no penalties for missing payments.

"The beauty of student loans from the Department of Education is that there's many different ways to repay, and they'll work with your income," Jansa said.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) states that many student loans will be transferred to new servicers. Students may confirm their loan servicer at studentaid.gov.

There are also a series of webinars on student loan forgiveness, repaying student loan debt and managing your money at <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/student-loans/>



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

'Overcoming Darkness'

Suicide Prevention Draws Crowd from District Colleges

BY JONATHAN VALDOVINOS

A group from colleges all over the district listened to a presentation at West Los Angeles College from advocates for suicide prevention and awareness at a workshop on Sept. 11, during Suicide Prevention Month.

Participants assembled online via Zoom and in person as Vernon K. Williams discussed the far-reaching impact of suicide on families and the warning signs. Williams is a corporate consultant and founder of ARC, or Accountable-Reliable-Credibile.

Overall, the number of deaths by suicide increased 2.6% from 2021 to 2022, according to the CDC.

Suicide and suicide attempts affect the health and well-being of friends, loved ones, co-workers and the community according to Williams.

He told attendees that when people die by suicide, their family members and friends may experience prolonged grief, anger, guilt, depression, anxiety and even thoughts of suicide themselves. However, communication remains key.

"I found that young people will talk to you and reveal themselves, if you make yourself avail-

able without any judgment," Williams said. "It's a fact that when you encounter someone who's in crisis as a gatekeeper, don't come in with a formulated agenda based on your experiences."

Human Resources Health and Wellness Specialist Katreia Walker says the online turnout was larger than the in-person crowd. She says the presenters were excellent. The audience seemed engaged.

"The interview with the survivor of a child who committed suicide made a huge impact on the audience," Walker told the Collegian in an email. "Dr. Musson provided insight into how death by suicide of a loved one has far reaching effects on the family and friends of the victim."

Musson described his loss to the group. He is a professor of project management at Northeastern University in Boston.

"I lost my 18-year-old son," Musson said. "He was very intelligent, but that was what kept him from communicating with others." The professor told the group there are a million different ways to become isolated.

"He skipped high school and started college at a young age and went on to work on his Ph.D.," Musson said. "His peer

group, however, couldn't really relate to him."

Musson says it is important to be inclusive and understanding of other people who may be vulnerable to prevent them from feeling isolated. Presenters also explained how intelligence plays a key role in suicide.

Los Angeles Trade Tech Professor Tony Bevacqua teaches psychology and presented a portion of the workshop. He presented to an online audience during the three-hour event. He offers coping skills to help people manage uncontrolled or addictive behaviors. He says people must "stop and think" in challenging situations.

"When we stop to think—and think to stop—we can interrupt our reactive biology which will help us respond to a given situation more appropriately," Bevacqua says. "It can also help us tone down our aggression, rivalry, and antagonism toward others. By doing so, we enhance our capacity for becoming more open-minded, less fearful, and tolerant."

The LACCD Black Faculty Association and the Employee Assistance Program sponsored the workshop. Experts say suicide is preventable and everyone has a role to play to save lives.

FROM "CENSORSHIP" PAGE 1

FIRE TRACKS COLLEGES THAT SUPPRESS FREE SPEECH

It did not appear to matter that White had visited the Sheriff's office earlier to confirm his right to enter the building.

Someone in Park's office called the sheriffs and said they felt unsafe. As White exited the music hall, he says three armed deputies approached him and asked why he was in the building. He was not detained or arrested. White has since left the journalism program, and he did not comment for the article.

Other student reporters have faced similar backlash for doing nothing more than attempting to fulfill coursework for their major academic studies.

"If students in other studies can without issue attend class and do their classwork, then all students no matter what their field of study should be afforded the same liberties as everyone else," said Rose Valdez, a nursing major at LACC.

L.A. City College has company. The website for FIRE, the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, identifies colleges across the nation that fail to allow

college students their rights to free expression. FIRE and College Pulse have surveyed undergraduates for four years in a row about their feelings and experiences regarding free speech on campuses.

"If the college is preventing journalism students from exhibiting their constitutional civil liberties and rights, where is it going to lead and where won't they go? What other boundaries are they not worried about crossing without backlash," said Corey Jordan, a computer sciences major at LACC. "Freedom of speech and freedom of the press is important above so many things. Without those liberties and freedoms, a lot of terrible things in history would have gone unnoticed, and a lot of horrible things might still be happening to people to this day."

Violations of civil liberties as well as violations of free speech and freedom of the press have run rampant on campuses throughout the United States for decades, which still continues today.

The issue has been compounded by so much for so long that the

California Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court have enacted legislation that protects college reporters and campus journalism students the same way it would protect reporters at any of the major media outlets in the nation.

Laws like the New Voices Act, the PRESS Act, the many shield laws, and the Journalism-Teacher Act, which prohibits school administrators from retaliating against advisers for trying to protect student press freedoms.

Despite the many rights and liberties afforded to all reporters including students, the campus is now prepared to publish a policy, which would directly infringe upon the rights of every journalism student within the LACC district attempting to perform any coverage on the LACC campus.

The policy was drafted by the campus Public Relations Officer, Shaena Engle under the final instructions of former President Mary Gallagher. It would directly violate the Freedom of the Press Act, numerous freedom of speech liberties, and the First Amend-

ment to the U.S. Constitution. It would make LACC the only college campus within the district to have such a policy.

"Los Angeles City College has a history of disrespecting the rights of the student press, and while college officials may be trying to fix this with the proposed media policy, these good intentions are poorly executed," wrote Anne-Marie Tamburro, the program officer, faculty legal defense fund, student press representative at The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) in an official statement to the Collegian. "As written, the draft policy in effect punishes students for the censorship they previously experienced by requiring them to jump through administrative hoops to gather news. LACC should consider fixing the real problem here—a lack of institutional and official awareness of student press rights—rather than putting the onus on students to avoid being censored."



SCHOLARSHIPS

ASG IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LACC FOUNDATION

The Associated Student Government will facilitate three in-person Scholarship workshops. Assistance will be provided from 2:00 pm to 5:00pm on September 21st, 25th, and 28th.
Location: Student Union, 2nd Floor, Room 201(Computer Labs)

- Sept 21st 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Sept 25th 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Sept 28th 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Contact Us
asgpres@lacitycollege.edu



PHOTO BY JUAN MENDOZA

Former L.A. City College President Mary Gallagher (second row, center) joins student scholarship winners at the Foundation Scholarship Ceremony at the Student Union on May 15, 2023. Students who applied and qualified received scholarship awards for their achievement from the LACC Foundation.

Scholarships Help Students Close Financial Gaps

BY JUAN MENDOZA

Colorful bouquets of flowers on modern bar tables create a festive flair on the third floor of the Student Union on a warm day near the end of the spring semester.

The aroma and spices of red and green salsa and appetizing taquitos al pastor float through the air. Some attendees tried the mouthwatering pastor for the first time at the event.

Eventually, students lined up to receive scholarship awards and certificates of recognition.

"I'm very excited to be here and be part of this program and thankful for this scholarship that I'm receiving," said nursing student Emeke Ubosi. She was also excited to try tacos for the first time.

The gathering was an opportunity for many of the recipients to socialize and build new networks. L.A. City College Foundation staff greeted students and donors. They did not miss the opportunity to chat with them.

Foundation Celebrates Achievers in Spring and Fall

"Today's event is our annual scholarship ceremony," said Lisa C. Nashua, executive director of the L.A. City College Foundation. "It is meant to honor the students who have worked hard here at L.A. City College. We award over 300 scholarships and awards that go directly to students. That's just

a small portion of what we do. And this highlights our students' hard work."

It was a special day for the Foundation to celebrate the student-achievers and one of the many activities that sits at the heart of the foundation's work, according to Dr. Nashua.

Kyla Kim is a fine arts major who said she feels fortunate to receive the scholarship. She is also excited to be part of the ceremony.

Physics and mathematics student Jose Ocampo attended the ceremony with his family. He said the scholarship award would help him with expenses, and he plans to get through the scholarship process again this school year.

It was the middle of May, and the program marked one of the remaining campus events for former LACC President Mary Gallagher before her retirement. She was there to cheer the students on.

"So, my complete and total respect to all of you who are awarded scholarships for the work that you've done," the president told the audience. "Congratulations today."

Application Process Requires Time

The scholarship application is open to all students at Los Angeles City College. A team of volunteers recruited by the LACC Foundation reads the applications and

ensures all requirements are met.

"So, every student's application is read more than once and [it is] rated," the executive director of the LACC Foundation said. "When the applications come back from the reviewers, a final verification occurs and then students are selected and notified."

One of the last requests from the foundation is for the students to bring a "thank you letter" to receive their certificate of achievement and the scholarship check.

"We really need students to do their thank you letters to their donors, so the donors understand the impact that they're making on their lives," Nashua said. "And that helps them, to want to continue to support other students for generations to come."

There are many benefits that the foundation offers at the beginning of every spring and fall semester. The director says it is important that students understand the foundation is available to support them. Most of the access is online and accessible, according to Nashua.

Book grants are also an important part of the support of student scholars. The grants make it possible for students to purchase textbooks. They are available to all enrolled students.

"It's Amazing," said V.P. of Academic Affairs Alen Andriassian. "The foundation constantly supports our students. They go above and beyond."

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Deadline: September 28, 2023

Questions? Call 323-953-4011 or Email info@laccfoundation.org

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VOLLEYBALL RETURNS TO CITY

“There [are] a lot of teams in our conference that are in the top 10 in California and so ... we have a lot of work to do. My expectation is for them to work hard and play hard.”

-George Rodriguez, women's volleyball head coach.

“I am the setting coach, so I get to work with all the setters and I'm the recruiter for the setters. So far, it's a good season, it started off a little rocky, but we're getting better and I'm looking forward to see where it goes.”

-Meagan Carter, assistant Coach

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE LACC VOLLEBALL TEAM



SPORTS BIN

Allow Students to Use the Soccer Field, Please

BY LIAM BERMUDEZ

Time and time again, my friends and I have come to the campus soccer field in hopes of kicking a soccer ball around. We hope that the soccer goals will be unlocked and open for use.

However, we encounter campus police who threaten to give us tickets for trespassing or vandalism. We often get kicked out or questioned by the campus police as to why we are there.

You might wonder why we do not just go to a public park. Unfortunately, we find the same practice at public parks, as they lock field gates or do not have goals up and available for the public.

So, we continue to come back in hopes of the goals being unlocked and available for our use at our college, LACC.

For me and many others, soccer and sports are an outlet to reduce stress and just get a workout.

At many universities, these facilities on the campuses are open to

students for a low fee if you're enrolled in the institution. That's not the case for LACC.

Sports with the combination of education at any age brings benefits. This is shown in the Colorado Technical University article "4 Reasons College Students Should Make Time for Exercise." It describes four benefits including heightened focus, elevated mood/lower stress, increased energy and sharper memory.

This field overall is a big tease, and it is just a waste of time to even walk up the stairs in hopes of enjoying an hour or two of a game we love. It feels as if the college is saying this is only for use if you are on the team, and if you are not, don't bother coming to the field. The LACC soccer field is locked up and its nets with it.

This might be a small issue for most, but for those who don't have access to public soccer fields, it would feel nice to be included, even though we are not on the LACC soccer team.

The college could make students who are not athletes but are interested in soccer feel that they really matter by opening the field once a week. Allocate a block of time on a day where LACC students can play a game they love at the college where they are enrolled.

Overall, it is just very exclusive to reserve a field that caters only to the student-athletes without considering your average student or member of the public.

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