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CPP moves commencement to weekdays, shortens ceremonies

By MADISON SLOCUM-JUAREZ
Staff Writer



PHOTO COURTESY OF CESAR RIVAS
Since the removal of the processional, a senator expressed that it is a special honor to be chosen to be a banner carrier. Executive Director of University Events Helen Yniguez said her team will work on what they can achieve.

Graduating seniors will get fewer guest tickets for Cal Poly Pomona's spring 2027 commencement, according to University Advancement Vice President Frances Teves who also announced other commencement changes during the Academic Senate meeting Oct. 14.

Graduates will be limited to six guest tickets instead of eight because the number of ceremonies will be reduced from 12 to 10, according to Director of University Events Helen Yniguez.

The College of Science will now hold one ceremony instead of two, while the College of Agriculture and the Collins College will share a ceremony.

The maximum capacity for graduation is 8,500 people per ceremony, including graduates, staff and guests.

The commencement dates have also changed from May 21-23 to May 24-26, moving the ceremonies from Friday through Sunday to Monday through Wednesday. Most will be during business hours. Three ceremonies will take place at 8 a.m., noon and 4 p.m. each day, apart from the College of Science's ceremony scheduled for Tuesday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Commencement requires up to 85 staff volunteers, according to Teves. Moving commencement to weekdays makes it easier for the university to assign employees during their regular work schedules, CPP President Vanya Quiñones said. Oct. 14 was the first Academic Senate meeting Quiñones attended.

According to University Advancement and Quiñones, the commencement changes demonstrate CPP's culture of care by considering the staff and volunteer support needed to run ceremonies over three days.

"You're respecting the employees' weekend," Quiñones said. "So really, this is for us to respect our employees, too."

Marketing student Sophie Nguyen already told her parents commencement was scheduled the weekend after finals, so they could make arrangements to fly in from San Jose. She said with this new schedule, they will have to take off work in addition to paying for flights and hotels.

Nguyen added for many working parents, these changes are even more detrimental because their paychecks are critical for them to pay bills and buy their groceries, so they might have to miss their child's graduation to make a work shift.

"Unfortunately, some parents are in the position where missing a day or two would be detrimental to them," Nguyen said. "It's inconsiderate for a large institution to be making changes to these dates when they have stuck to Friday, Saturday, Sunday for years."

Moving commencement to weekdays may also create scheduling challenges for families with school-age children, whose siblings could have to miss school to attend the ceremonies.

While Nguyen said she doesn't have a big family, she is also worried about the number of guest tickets for her friends with bigger ones.

For students who need more than the allotted tickets, there will be a second ticket process for any tickets not reserved. Students will have four weeks to claim their initial six guest tickets.

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Join to replace MyBAR in early November



LUKE THOMAS | THE POLY POST
According to computer engineering student and Bronco Esports Scheduler Brendan Han, the club faced slowdown in registering for the school year and was almost unable to complete it due to Cal Poly Pomona MyBAR being shut down. According to the club and organization newsletter, three steps for registration were modified to accommodate the shutdown.

By LUKE THOMAS
Staff Writer

Join, the club and organization management tool replacing MyBAR, is planned to launch across multiple campuses, including Cal Poly Pomona, early November, following the shutdown of CPP MyBAR in July.

According to Jason Mejia Lu, director of the Bronco Leadership Center, a pre-launch beta of the site will be released to club and organization presidents by late October to prepare their pages and rosters before the full release.

There was a delay to the pre-launch beta earlier this month due to bugs, according to Lu. The beta was originally set to release one week after Oct. 9's club and organization newsletter announced it.

According to Lu, a primary reason behind CPP replacing MyBAR, which was hosted on Anthology Engage, was because Join is developed by CollegeNET, which also created 25Live. The site is used by clubs and organizations to schedule meetings and reserve rooms at CPP.

With MyBAR, the events had to be uploaded and approved individually on both sites. Lu said, clubs often only uploaded events to one, so the events feed primarily featured department and college events. The two platforms are developed by the same company, so any activity scheduled on 25Live will be automatically populated onto Join at launch.

This information includes the event host, date and time, location, description and future occurrences if the meeting is scheduled as a recurring event. Events can also be bookmarked and viewed on the "My Events" page.

"All those thousands of club events, we want those front and center," Lu said. "We want this platform to be by students, for students."

Whenever MyBAR broke down, the company behind the site, Anthology, wasn't responsive and took weeks to resolve the issue, according to Maria Cerce, senior coordinator for leadership development at the BLC.

According to Lu, the developers behind MyBAR only released site updates about once a year during the summer, while CollegeNET releases updates for all its platforms every Friday.

"Things (With MyBAR) would work fine, then we would open registration and then it would break," Cerce said. "We have a lot of folks concerned about being able to register their club because they can't participate without that registration. So, we would have multiple calls, multiple emails, and it's out of our hands, we can't fix it."

During a demonstration, Lu showed a workflow page that will appear below submitted forms to track their approval process.

The page will display completed and future tasks for both the student and the reviewers, including steps such as assigned training.

"This is the feature that we are most excited about," Lu said. "You can see that students have complete transparency to where this form is in the process … it's not just going to some mystery place."

Cerce said this feature also resolves a problem where students didn't realize when they did not submit a form they thought they did. The site can now directly show users whether their forms have been received, and an email will also be automatically sent to students once their form is received.

Notification alerts will also be customized depending on a student's position within a club or organization, according to Cerce. This will allow important tasks to be communicated to officers and members based on their roles.

Lu demonstrated the feature in a test notification, which informed the hypothetical president of their personal onboarding tasks, including listing the club's officers and uploading the current year's bylaws.

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Disability accommodation denial sparks viral video

By KENNA JENKINS
Staff Writer

A Cal Poly Pomona student took to social media after the Disability Resource Center denied her accommodation request.

Lani Dinh, a business administration student in her first semester at CPP, posted on TikTok and Instagram about how a DRC employee told her certain accommodations could not be provided because she was "well-articulated and well-spoken." Dinh also said the employee told her allowing her to use a notecard on a quiz or exam would be unfair to other students unless she could prove she had "real brain damage" or a "real disability."

According to the DRC website, college students must advocate for themselves, while K-12 students can have parental support during the accommodation process. The website said universities follow the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which was designed to ensure access, while the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which covers K-12, is designed to promote success.

Because of a stroke she had when she was 10 years old, Dinh said she experiences memory issues, such as difficulty with long-term memory retention and brain fog. Dinh said the stroke also caused the left side of her body to become weaker, making her movements slower and leading to body stiffness and random pain.

In high school, Dinh said she had accommodations for longer passing periods due to her leg brace and body weakness, extra excused absences for doctor's appointments and permission to use a notecard during exams due to her memory issues.

"Whatever I'm learning from week to week, it's very easy for it to slip out of my memory," Dinh said. "That will show up in ways like I will forget certain random papers or assignments, even though I have the capability to do them. I will randomly forget that they're there. Also, I will randomly forget where certain classes are, even if I've been going for a few weeks."

The video she posted on her TikTok and Instagram pages about her experience has more than 300,000 likes across both platforms as of this article's publication. Dinh has more than 230,000 followers on TikTok and about 186,000 on Instagram.

Andrea Reyes, associate director of the DRC, said the DRC offers a memory aid accommodation, allowing students to have specific information during exams. However, the information on the memory aid must be approved by the faculty member teaching the course before its usage.

In the comment sections, students from CPP and other universities across the country shared similar experiences when advocating for themselves regarding their disabilities.

"It was really validating on one hand because I saw that so many people had gone through the same thing," Dinh said.

Reyes said if students want to change or add accommodations, they are welcome to reach out to the DRC. If they have any problems with the specialist they're working with, they can reach out to her or Staci Gunner, the assistant dean of students overseeing the DRC.

Reyes said students with disabilities seeking accommodations through the DRC first must fill out a form on its website, which requests information such as their diagnosis, accommodation request and any documentation the student wants to provide.

"It's really the interactive conversation piece, the supporting documentation and understanding how their requests are being vetted through," Reyes said. "The DRC specialist has the education and knowledge."

After that form is processed, Reyes said students attend an hour-long intake appointment, either on Zoom or in person, where they speak to a DRC employee to finalize accommodations.

Students are then matched with an access specialist, she said.

Dinh transferred from Mt. San Antonio College and said the staff at its DRC provided a more positive experience, even when she got her notecard accommodation taken away there, too. Dinh said the staff at Mt. SAC were open to giving her more accommodations, even if she was already working hard to avoid using them.

Dinh said the DRC employee she spoke with at CPP seemed dismissive, to the point where Dinh said it felt like they were trying to take away as many accommodations as possible.

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KENNA JENKINS | THE POLY POST
Andrea Reyes, associate director of the Disability Resource Center, said students who may not be able to see a specialist to get doctor's notes for their accommodation request can be assessed by the DRC Access Specialists for the Disability Testing Grant. Reyes said this gives students funds to see a set list of specialists in Los Angeles County to receive documentation supporting their accommodation request. While the grant covers the appointment, Reyes said students must find their way to the appointments on their own.



KENNA JENKINS | THE POLY POST
According to Cal Poly Pomona's Disability Resource Center's website, during a student's intake appointment, the DRC will discuss what accommodations a student needs and what the DRC can provide. The website said students are allowed to bring a member of their support time to the meeting, and the DRC will ask the student's permission for the support person to attend prior to the meeting.

Middle Class Scholarship funds begin releasing after delays



ISABELLE PEREZ | THE POLY POST
Students can find the Financial Aid Office in the Student Services Building. Staff can review student's individual account since eligibility for the award varies by student.



ISABELLE PEREZ | THE POLY POST
The Middle Class Scholarship delays were across California State University campuses, not only CPP. CPP was among the earlier campus to disburse funds, according to Angela Provencio, associate director of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

By ISABELLE PEREZ
Staff Writer

Cal Poly Pomona began disbursing the Middle-Class Scholarship funds to students' accounts Oct. 19 after delays connected to system updates and state processing, according to Angela Provencio, associate director of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

In 2025, CPP started releasing the funds around Sept. 23, according to Financial Aid Counselor Derek Interiano. He also said the Financial Aid office usually waits to release funds until after the add/drop period.

"There were about 15,020 students packaged with about $13.63 million in MCS funding. 11,901 have had about $11.38 million posted to their school accounts," Provencio said.

Students eligible for the scholarship have it listed in their financial aid offer; however, it does not mean their money was deposited into their accounts.

Interiano said CPP received state funding in late September. Interiano stated the IT department did not have the necessary patches ready for production to be able to load the funds into the system.

The patches were supposed to be ready Oct. 1 and the delay affected every student eligible for the scholarship, according to Interiano.

"Everyone is in the exact same boat," Interiano said. "We do apologize too for the delays."

Students on the r/calpolypomona subreddit shared their updates as they waited for the scholarship to be disbursed. One student said their aid showed an MCS estimate, while another noted Sept. 21 for disbursement with no payments.

Jennifer Correa, a liberal studies student, shares the same experience as many students on the subreddit about the MCS funds and has still yet to receive her funds to help cover commuting costs and tuition expenses.

"I've had to pick up a second job," Correa said. "I've missed a lot of my classes to be able to cover the expenses I have."

According to Provencio, 3,100 of the 15,020 student packages still need manual processing because their awards need adjustment after looking at other scholarships and grants.

Interiano said MCS award amounts can change if students receive other scholarships or forms of financial aid, which are factored into the California Student Aid Commission calculation. According to Interiano, the award is split between fall and spring semesters. Full-time students usually get the full amount, whereas students taking seven to eleven units get a prorated amount.

The spring portion of the MCS is set to disburse in mid-to-late February, after the spring add/drop period.

Xochitl Martinez-Eckel, director of student accounting and cashiering services, stated that scholarship funds are applied first to tuition and fees.

Students will receive a refund only if their scholarship funds exceed their tuition. Martinez-Eckel said students can receive funds through direct deposit, while those who have not enrolled in direct deposit may receive a paper check.

Interiano said students are not expected to be charged late fees because of the delay, but unpaid balances may result in a registration hold.

If students think their application was missed, they can log in to the California Student Aid Commission's WebGrants system to see if anything is pending.

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‘We can’t stay silent’

Bronco YDSA holds ‘I Am Jane Doe’ rally

By BREN BELMONTE
Photo Editor

Students made signs and marched in support of sexual assault survivors during an “I Am Jane Doe” rally hosted by the Cal Poly Pomona chapter of Young Democratic Socialists of America Oct. 20.

Participants rallied in solidarity of Jane Doe, a Cornell University student who was allegedly sexually assaulted by several members of the Chi Phi fraternity while intoxicated, according to The Cornell Daily Sun.

Students used crayons, markers and white poster paper to make signs they carried while they marched. Students who attended the rally also received zines featuring rally chants, guidance on recognizing inappropriate behavior and bystander intervention, criticism of universities’ handling of sexual assault cases and political expression.

Students marched between the lawn outside of the W. Keith and Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery and the University Quad, chanting phrases from a physical YDSA zine, including “No justice no peace” and “Who are we? Jane Doe.” Sahasra O., the Bronco YDSA political education chair who declined to share her last name due to concerns about future employment, led chants throughout the march and spoke about the Cornell case.

Sahasra led the march with a megaphone and stopped at the University Quad and University Park along the route to speak to participants about Jane Doe’s case. Sahasra said this rally serves to speak up for the sexual assault survivors and advocating for them, as it is YDSA’s duty.

“With recent events like the Cornell 7, I thought there is importance to an event like this where you speak out for victims,” computer science student Sean E. said, declining to state his full last name for privacy reasons.

“It can really be hard to speak out when something like that has happened, we are here to provide that voice,” Sean E. said.



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Leading the march, Sahasra and YDSA members entered the last leg of the rally route to University Park. As part of YDSA’s leadership, Sahasra said organizing the rally and speaking out in support of Jane Doe and other sexual assault survivors was a responsibility she felt she had.



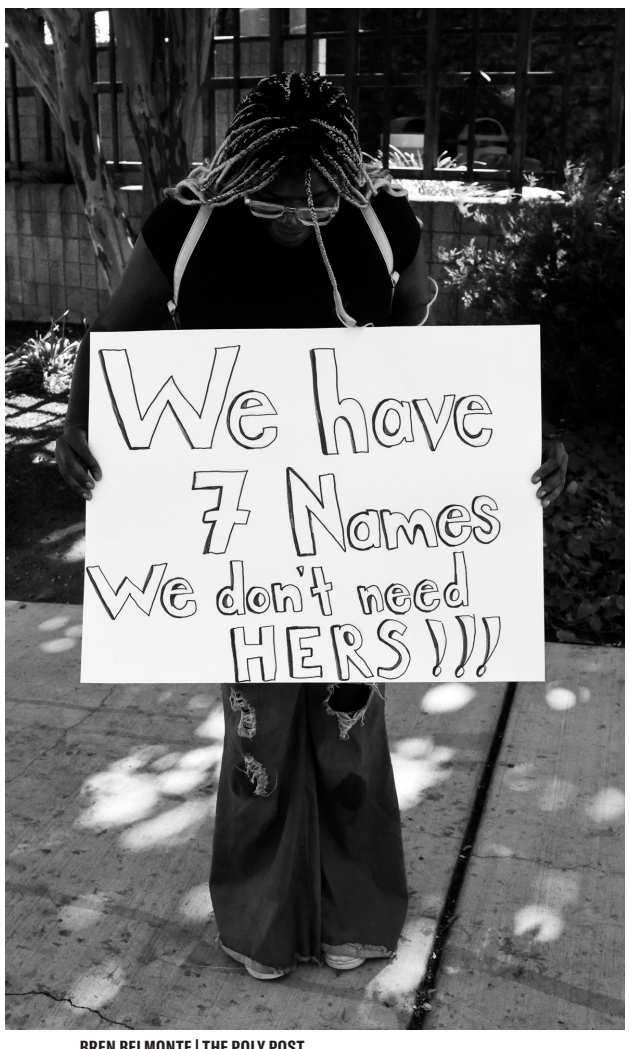
BREN BELMONTE | THE POLY POST
In preparation for the rally, students met in front of the W. Keith and Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery and created signs in bold colors such as black and red and pop-out letters. Electromechanical systems engineering technology student Isabel Cabral said he chose the colors of bright red for this poster to highlight the message there are many sexual assault survivor stories left untold. “This is a male-dominated world and people don’t believe victims enough,” Cabral said. “There is so much proof with this case specifically where you should believe. Why would anyone lie about something like that?”



BREN BELMONTE | THE POLY POST
Students sat nearby the standing participants in the University Quad and listened to Sahasra’s speech retelling the events of the Jane Doe case, explaining how the seven alleged offenders need to be prosecuted. Psychology student Eduardo Monge said this was his first time attending a rally and it was rewarding to find people from different backgrounds uniting to spread awareness. Monge said students passing by the rally should acknowledge sexual assault victims and their experiences.



BREN BELMONTE | THE POLY POST
Rally participants listened to Sahasra’s speech regarding the Jane Doe case and how university systems have failed sexual assault victims in the University Quad. “We can’t stay silent or with the status quo,” Sahasra said. “We have to disturb the comfortable to rise up and stand up to talk about the atrocities that are happening.”



BREN BELMONTE | THE POLY POST
Psychology student Tajanea Hayes’ sign read, “We have 7 Names We don’t need HERS!!!” Hayes said the writing echoes her belief in women’s rights as an activist. Once sign making concluded, attendees gathered to acknowledge each other’s finished work.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Barkada celebrates pride, friendship for FAHM

By ELIJAH CABATIC
Staff Writer



COURTESY OF KENJI GAMBOA
CPP Barkada has been historically successful at the Friendship games, winning in 2024 and 2025.



ELIJAH CABATIC | THE POLY POST
The sun in the left side of the Philippines flag has eight rays to represent the original eight colonies that had revolted against the Spanish.

October was first recognized as Filipino American History Month by the State of California in 2009 to acknowledge the culture and history of Filipinos in America as well as the history Filipino Americans have in California, including Cal Poly Pomona.

CPP's Barkada, the Filipino American student association on campus, has hosted many events this month in celebration of FAHM.

Barkada held a Boodle Fight earlier this month, a traditional Filipino feast where food is laid out on banana leaves and everyone uses their hands to eat.

"Building of culture and history is very much entwined with centuries of our colonial past and also our modern resurgence," said Corey Carmona, an electromechanical systems engineering technology student and the community logistics coordinator for Barkada.

Club President Neiah Torres, a criminology student, said the club has four pillars: academics, culture, athletics and social.

Architecture student Juliana Ragmat described the pillars of Filipino culture as family and community. Barkada in Tagalog, the primary language of the Philippines, means a group of friends.

The club was founded in 1980 and provides a variety of services to Filipino American students at CPP.

The club describes its mission, located on the website, is to educate people on Filipino American culture, engage members in cultural experiences and provide access to social, academic and athletic resources.

The club participated in the 40th annual Friendship Games Oct. 17 hosted at California State University, Fullerton.

The Friendship Games claims to be the largest student-run Filipino event in the country with 27 clubs participating from universities as far as the San Francisco Bay Area.

The games have been an annual tradition for the club.

Torres said the club has certain special traditions such as arriving first and taking a group photo on a specific set of stairs.

"We SPUF, which stands for spirit, pride, unity, and friendship," Torres said. "It's just a great way to get everyone hyped and getting ready to meet each other and engage during the games as well. We usually just do little picnic games and compete against other schools."

The club is hosting a mixer with several other Asian American affinity groups including the Nikkei Student Union and the Vietnamese Student Association Oct. 29.

"Barkada, along with some of the other cultural clubs on campus, sometimes we do love to do collabs," Torres said.

Barkada is open to all students interested in Filipino culture with general meetings held every other Friday at 7 p.m. in Building 78.

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ELIJAH CABATIC | THE POLY POST
Barkada organizes and teaches multiple traditional Filipino dances to its members and performed at the Filipino American History Month Luncheon.

PROGRAMMING COMMUNITY

sheCodes represents underrepresented students in computer science



BRANDON BOCANEGRA | THE POLY POST
The sheCode's meeting on October 8 was led by webmaster Shuvashree Basnet with an introductory workshop on using Git & Github.



BRANDON BOCANEGRA | THE POLY POST
The workshop dedicated 20 minutes to a brief but informative lecture with 30 to 40 minutes for members to practice using the program and receive help from board members.

By BRANDON BOCANEGREA
Digital Managing Editor

SheCodes is CPP's Association for Computing Machinery-Women chapter which supports underrepresented students in computer science through community building, mentorship, professional development and outreach opportunities, according to current club President and computer science student Hasti Abbasi Kenarsari.

In its 11th year at CPP, the club currently has close to 100 members, according to Kenarsari.

While it is free to join, the club offers a paid membership that costs $20 per semester or $25 for both fall and spring.

This helps fund the semester-long project, club mentorship and a branded T-shirt for students, according to Kenarsari.

"The only reason we have that is so we can make the experience better for our members," Kenarsari said. "Any funds that come to our club basically go back to the members."

The club's biggest exclusive paid membership program is the semester-long project where groups of students tackle tasks of their choosing, ranging from intro to electronics to software and game development.

Each team is given 10 weeks to finish its project before presenting the SLP to other participants, CPP professors and a panel of people within the computer science industry.

Internal vice president and computer science student Sarah Huynh highlighted a game development SLP called "Builder Beavers," a 2D pixel tower defense game.

According to Huynh, the panel and members were impressed with the group's creation, calling the demo level highly detailed and thought out.

"I could see a lot more potential past the SLP demo day," Huynh said. "If they wanted to as a team, they could keep working on this project and add on to it."

According to Huynh, previous groups have proceeded with their project after the demo day concluded.

She highlighted the skills members developed throughout the semester attributed to their final product.

Huynh attended the club's first general meeting of 2023 and recalled the room being packed.

She met Kenarsari during that meeting and saw how impactful the club was for the campus.

"Becoming a leader of something I was really passionate about really stuck to me," Huynh said. "Being part of the impact on these members and advocating some of the things I want to add to these events."

sheCodes holds weekly meetings Thursdays during U-hour in Building 8, Room 4 that consist of guest speakers, workshops and social events.

Recent guest speakers have been members of large tech companies like Apple, Google and Microsoft.

This year the club brought back coding sessions, which are held in person and through Zoom by the current webmaster and computer and data science student, Shuvashree Basnet.

Coding sessions are short but informative introductions into coding software that give members free help from board members.

Meeting times and topics are posted to the club's official Instagram page and are updated on the monthly calendar on its website.

Computer science student Jeannette Ruiz's previous school had a computer science club made up of 30 members with only three women.

After attenging only one meeting Ruiz said she felt intimidated to return to meetings because of the lack of women involvement after and started questioning her career path.

Althoough, after finding sheCodes at the club fair, her perspective changed.

"I feel more confident in my career choice and more confident to ask questions because I know there are smart women here with me," Ruiz said.

Huynh, as well as other members, noticed the women in her classes naturally group together toward a back corner of classrooms because being in a predominantly male field can be intimidating. sheCodes has provided a space for women and underrepresented groups to share similar experiences, she said.

Since joining, Kenarsari wanted to continue the work and legacy the club built for itself.

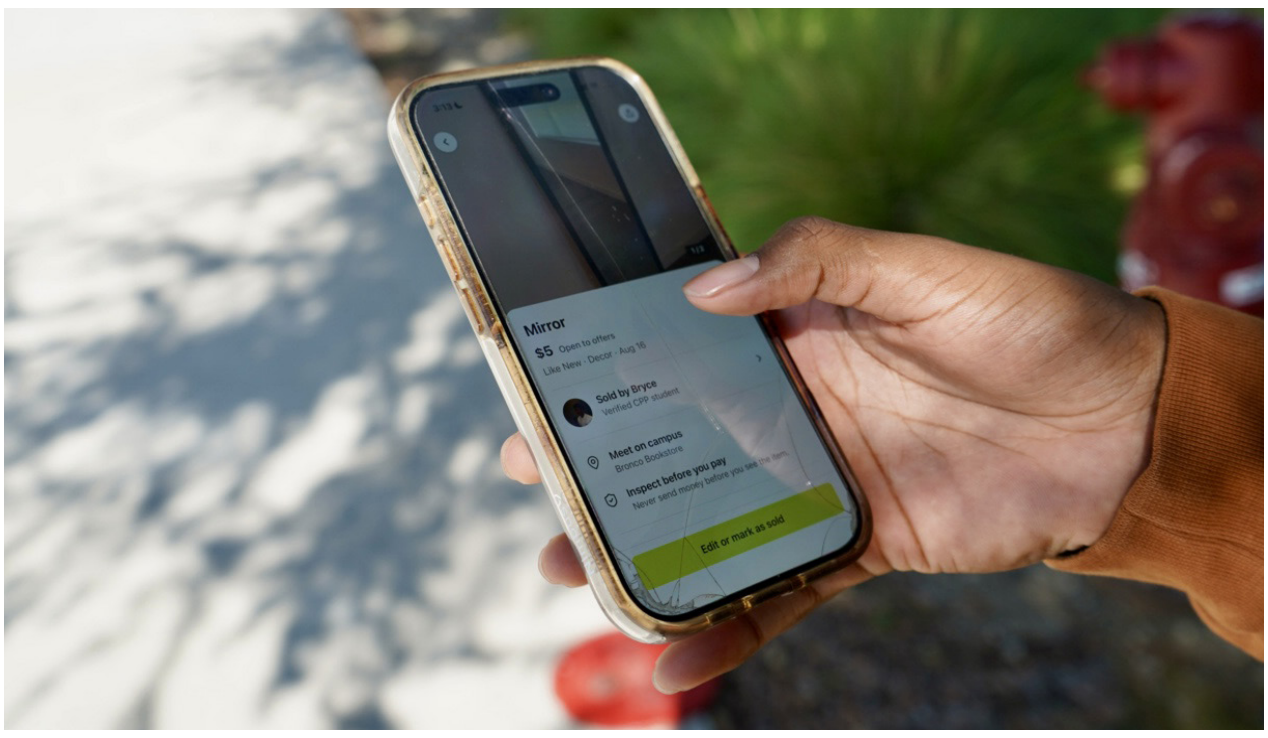
According to Kenarsari, she started with volunteering and later became a board member because she said she genuinely cared and was passionate for what sheCodes had to offer.

"Having a community that's all women and underrepresented students has been really helpful in terms of feeling supported and I've also seen it in the industry in my previous internship where the women made up less than a third of the entire cohort," Kenarsari said. "It's also preparing for something that we will see outside of undergrad, so I think having a community that supports you is really important."

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CPP student launches marketplace app

By SABRIEL ZAPATA
Staff Writer



SABRIEL ZAPATA | THE POLY POST
According to Clepper, the teaser launch for Fall did well, as Tovu has now seen growth in users there are now 80+ users on Tovu currently. Some features currently on the Tovu include messaging, secure payment system, and nice clean layout, according to Clepper.

Cal Poly Pomona students have a new platform to buy and sell items with Tovu, an app released Oct. 10 created by mechanical engineering student Bryce Clepper.

Tovu is a marketplace exclusively for CPP students, with users verified through their student email. Clepper developed the platform to solve finding a safe, convenient way to exchange goods directly on campus.

Tovu is a marketplace offering students a secure way to buy and sell items within their campus community. Unlike public platforms such as Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace, Tovu is designed specifically for CPP students, reducing the risks associated with selling to non-college students.

Clepper said the idea for Tovu began this past summer when he and his friends needed a phone charger but could not leave campus because they did not have a car.

"There wasn't a place for students to connect with each other and exchange items conveniently." Clepper said.

Clepper worked on Tovu alongside his mentor Ryan Diew, an entrepreneur and principal and chief technology officer at Base Ventures. With Diew's guidance, Clepper spent months building and coding Tovu, balancing the project with coursework and a summer job.

Tovu launched for the first time in July 2026 as a website.

Daniel Umegboh, a computer information systems student, was among the first students to use the platform. Umegboh said he appreciates the frequent updates and the focus on safety, but believes the app would benefit from more users.

"It's great that it's just for college students, and it is more localized, I was even able to sell my electric guitar on Tovu," Umegboh said.

If more students are aware of the safety features on Tovu, such as the app being made only for CPP students, more students would be interested in joining, according to Clepper.

Safety was a top priority from the beginning, according to Clepper.

On Tovu, students are required to verify their CPP email before accessing the marketplace.

However, due to the school's email restrictions, verification emails weren't reaching students, which prevented them from completing the signup process. To address this, the app was updated to allow students to sign up using their personal emails, according to Clepper.

Tovu is currently working toward resolving the issue with the school and restoring student email verification, according to Clepper.

Payments on Tovu are processed through Stripe, a third-party service that ensures secure transactions. Clepper said no cash is exchanged in person, and sellers receive the full amount offered for their items after Stripe's commission.

This system adds a layer of security and accountability, according to Clepper, giving both buyers and sellers peace of mind.

"It's important that users feel confident when making transactions," Clepper said. "We wanted to create a space where students could trust each other."

Joel Mwathi, a civil engineering student, compared Tovu to Depop but only for college students. After using the app for a month, Mwathi said it worked smoothly and thinks it's cool to see other students advertising on the app. He recommends students to get on Tovu.

Campus organizations have also played a role socially in Tovu's growth, according to Clepper.

Clepper credited the National Society of Black Engineers for supporting Tovu's development, providing advice and feedback throughout the process. He said the organization's encouragement motivated him as he built the platform.

Taking feedback from NSBE, Clepper said he was able to improve the app to make it easier to use for students.

"It's easy to use and makes it simple to find what you need on campus," Mwathi said.

Looking to the future, Clepper hopes Tovu will become the go-to marketplace for CPP students.

To grow the number of students on the platform, Clepper said he has been posting on social media as well as passing out Tovu flyers on campus with more information about the app to promote Tovu.

"My long-term vision is for students to think of Tovu first whenever they need something on campus," Clepper said. "Before buying something new, I want them to check Tovu to see if they can find it from another student."

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The Gothic Market spooks Fairplex



ANNTONETE ABUYEN | THE POLY POST
There was an array of off-putting dolls, skeletal plushies and moody souvenirs for people to show off in their homes and rooms.

By ANNTONETE ABUYEN
Staff Writer

The overcast gloom set the vibe for The Gothic Market, its tarot readings and spooky decor at the Fairplex in Pomona Oct. 17.

The market bustled with visitors exploring and seeing what the vendors had to offer. Every booth was filled with curiosities, some through skeletal, eccentric trinkets and others with elaborate, witchy setups and crystal balls.

However, the witchy aspect of goth culture is not solely for aesthetics, according to some vendors.

Izzy Reese, a vendor, sold a variety of aromatics at the market including perfumes, oils and candles. According to Reese, people use her handcrafted items for spiritual purposes such as fragrances which can be used for healing or love.

The Gothic Market provided a space for people to connect with like-minded individuals and opened a space for small businesses to promote and sell their products.

Reese said although the market is good for her business, it has also given her a community.

Many of the vendors travel together to continue selling for The Gothic Market. Seeing each other in new places allowed them to connect, especially when they go to farther cities in northern California, Reese said.

People of different subcultures, styles and identities were welcomed to the event, according to the event host, the Grimoire Academy.

This was reflected in who showed up to the market, as many people dressed in gothic and other alternative attire while others wore intricate costumes and some simply dressed for comfort.

Layla Morales, a patron of the market, made an entrance with her Victorian-inspired costume which followed silhouettes of traditional Victorian attire. The gown was striped black and white and was accented with a black feather fan for flair. Morales pieced the costume together and said she also drew inspiration from steampunk aesthetics for her jewelry.

Morales and her husband, Angelo Morales, began attending similar markets in the '90s.

"We like to get into the theme, into the mindset and just get lost for a little while," Morales said. "It's more like nostalgia for us because it has been around for so long."

Jenna Scotese and Akane Sanchez, two jewelry vendor partners at the market, found solace in the community as both members and vendors. Goth culture is all about self-expression and acceptance, Sanchez said. It explains why many had intricate face paint, makeup and all-black costumes people wore to the event.

Scotese originally began making earrings as a personal project but realized there was an opportunity to start something new. Eventually, the two began working together and now sell accessories such as earrings, barrettes and chainmail necklaces.

Despite being a new business, Sanchez said she is not new to the scene. Sanchez has aligned with the alternative and goth identity for about three years and dabbles in the cybergoth subculture as well.

Sanchez and Scotese said this is a shared sentiment among the community at the Gothic Market.

Amanda Ballinger, a business student at Cal Poly Pomona, attended The Gothic Market.



ANNTONETE ABUYEN | THE POLY POST
Taxidermy is a popular home decor item in the goth community. This booth in particular had hundreds of pinned butterflies and other insects encased in frames lined on the table.

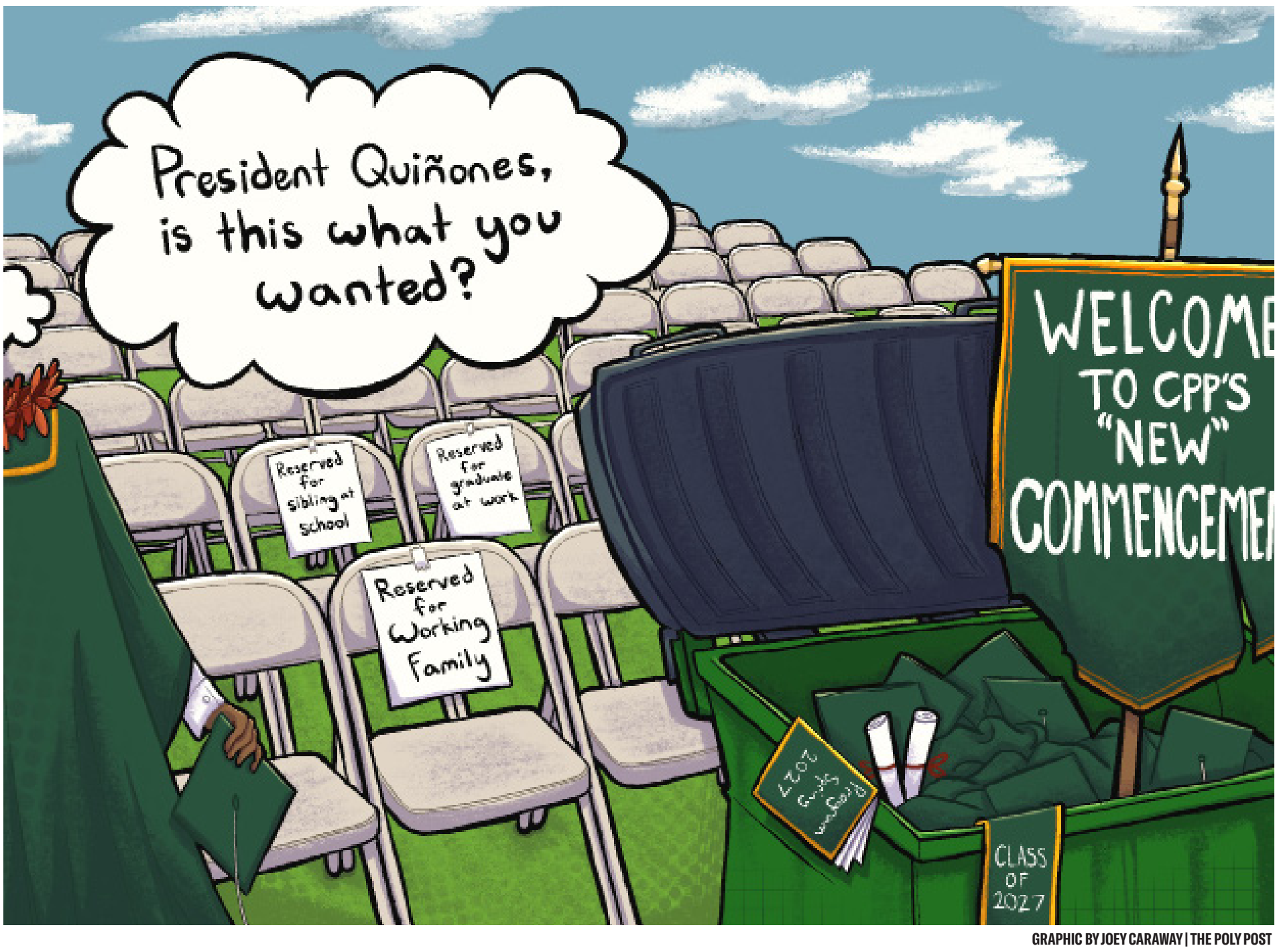
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OPINION

DON'T TRASH OUR TRADITIONS



GRAPHIC BY JOEY CARAWAY | THE POLY POST

Editorial: *Commencement changes disrespect students, families graduation experience*

By THE POLY POST
Editorial Board

For a university that prides itself on student success and a culture of care, Cal Poly Pomona's proposed commencement changes do the opposite.

The alterations CPP President Vanya Quiñones announced during the Oct. 14 Academic Senate meeting, including moving commencement from weekends to working days, removing the opening processional, shortening the length and numbers of ceremonies, and offering fewer guest tickets to graduating seniors disrespect students, their working families, staff and faculty.

The commencement dates were changed from May 21-23, a weekend, to May 24-26, Monday through Wednesday with starting times at 8 a.m., noon and 4 p.m., apart from one ceremony at 7:30 p.m. These are working days and hours. Now, because of the changes, parents will have to call off work or skip their child's graduation completely.

More than 50% of CPP students are minorities and come from low-income families, who often work hands-on jobs with hourly wages that aren't easy to get time off. It's unfair to ask working families to call off work and hurt their income, especially when the university could proceed with the original dates.

"Quiñones hasn't been in office for a year. She hasn't even been at CPP long enough to experience a CPP graduation herself. The Poly Post does not support these commencement changes.

– The Poly Post editorial board

With these new dates also comes another struggle: Graduating seniors and their family members will sit in peak bumper-to-bumper traffic in route to commencement. On the day meant to celebrate their academic achievements, they'll end up stressed in traffic, wondering if they'll even make it to campus on time.

Even if the families can attend and make it on time, the ceremony they watch will be ruined, as the processional, one of the biggest celebratory moments in the graduation ceremony, has been removed completely.

Students lose that red-carpet moment where they walk behind a top student from their home department, alongside the faculty who supported them at CPP, and past their smiling and waving families who've been with them since the very beginning.

Commencement is about students, for students and should be catered toward students' wants and desires. Quiñones and the university advancement team even highlighted in their presentation slides from the Academic Senate meeting that the ceremonies should prioritize student preferences. However, these changes feel like they're created for the CPP administration, not the students.

Condensing the number of ceremonies from 12 to 10 and shortening their lengths just ensures the president, deans and other members of the platform party don't have to sit in the sun as long. It doesn't do anything for "elderly parents that are sitting there in the heat," despite what Quiñones said at the Oct. 14 meeting.

Seeing as graduating seniors now only get six guest tickets instead of eight, there probably won't be enough room to bring their abuelos, tíos and other extended family anyway.

Students didn't get a say in the changes. Students don't want fewer guest tickets. Students don't want their procession taken away. Students don't want to be pre-seated. Students don't want to hear a speech from a random donor compared to a faculty member or McPhee scholar. And students don't want to worry about their parents calling off work.

We want our voices to be heard, so much so a petition against these proposed changes already received almost 650 signatures as of publication, only four days after it launched. A rally in partnership with the ASI presidents is also in the works.

Quiñones hasn't been in office for a year. She hasn't even been at CPP long enough to experience a CPP graduation herself.

The Poly Post does not support these commencement changes and will continue following the proposed changes.

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THE POLY POST

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

Visit www.thepolypost.com for more submission details.

SPORTS

Third straight win boosts Broncos' CCAA record over Cougars



COURTESY OF CPP ATHLETICS

The game against the Cougars was the Broncos' Dig Pink Night, in partnership with the Side-Out Foundation, where the funds of this game supported the foundation's research program while spreading breast cancer awareness, according to its website. "I think it is important to recognize breast cancer and the need for fundraising and the need for it to be recognized in general," head coach Traci Dahl said.

By CHRISTOPHER PIMENTEL JR.
Copy Editor

The No. 4 West Region-ranked Cal Poly Pomona volleyball team hit an efficient .390 in its 3-0 sweep against Cal State San Marcos Oct. 15.

The offense accumulated 48 kills, 47 assists and only nine errors and was fueled by a combined 35 kills from right-side hitter Sarah Ybarra (19) and outside hitter Elle Walker (16).

Since joining the lineup, setter Paige Bowyer has directed the offense and team to its third consecutive win, with 38 assists in the match.

The Cougars entered the match on a five-game winning streak, but CPP's defense contained their offense, finishing with a .160 hitting percentage and zero service aces.

The second set proved the worst for San Marcos, who managed just three kills and a -.111 hitting percentage while scoring only nine points.

Head coach Traci Dahl described the match as an all-around effort, highlighting the hard work the team has put into refining their topspin, putting away kills consistently and minimizing errors.

"I'm really happy for them," Dahl said. "We had 16 kills per set, 17 digs per set, two blocks per set, and we had some really nice numbers, and it was a team win. It wasn't just one or two people. Sarah hit .679, Elle also hit .324 and Charlotte hit five. Our three pins absolutely killed it tonight. A lot of that had to do with their decision making but also Paige, our freshman setter, who's been delivering."

The Broncos struck early in the first set as Bowyer kickstarted the offense with three assists to Walker, alongside a kill of her own, to give CPP a 4-3 edge. Momentum shifted back-and-forth from there, with San Marcos mounting a 5-1 run before a quick response from the Broncos tied the set 17-17.

The battle remained closeknit down the stretch, with both teams leveling at 21-all before the Broncos closed the set with a 4-1 run. Ybarra dominated the final moments, scoring five of the team's final eight points, anchored by Bowyer's 17 assists in the set.

Ybarra praised the Broncos' controlled intensity on defense, emphasizing the ability to keep a point alive is just as important as finishing over the net.

"Offense wins you championships, but defense wins you games," Ybarra said. "You cannot run an offense without first digging a ball and being controlled with it, and with that high level defense, we've worked a lot on trying to play a ball calmly on our side and create chaos on the other side."

The Broncos dominated the second set, not allowing a single kill to the Cougars until they built a commanding 13-4 lead. From there, it was all green and gold, as CPP racked up 15 kills to earn the set 25-9 to move within one set of the sweep.

San Marcos was on the right path to a comeback with an early 9-6 lead in the third set, but a service error from Cougars outside hitter Eleanor Brislen hindered any momentum they had.

The Broncos rode a 9-1 stampede to pull ahead 15-10.

Bowyer highlighted how trust across the court was a key factor in the team's perseverance, given her limited time with the starters.

READ THIS ARTICLE IN FULL AT THEPOLYPOST.COM

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Late Redshaw goals seal Broncos' win



COURTESY OF CPP ATHLETICS

"We're really excited and playing as if this is our last game," defender Sasha Redshaw said, highlighting the Broncos' upcoming stretch of games before the California Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament. "We're really giving it our all for our seniors and ourselves. Everyone is super motivated."

By BEN GROVER
Audio Editor

The No. 13 nationally ranked Cal Poly Pomona women's soccer team defeated Cal State East Bay 2-0 Oct. 17, courtesy of a late pair goals from defender Sasha Redshaw.

With four minutes left on the clock and the score at zeros, the Broncos were staring down sixth goalless tie of the season until Broncos' head coach Jay Mason subbed in Redshaw. Redshaw attacked a cross into the penalty area from midfielder Jenna Santos 40 seconds later and scored with a diving header.

"I noticed the whole game the team was just serving in crosses exactly like that, and they were so dangerous," Redshaw said. "I was just watching it happen so much that I was ready to be in the right position."

Redshaw made her mark on the game again just two minutes later, drawing and scoring the Broncos first penalty of the season from Pioneers defender Vivianna Bravo to secure the 2-0 win.

Mason said the choice for Redshaw to take the penalty was not a decision he made, rather a decision from the whole team.

"I like to give them responsibility," Mason said. "I always put it on the team, and we look for someone who's confident. She just stepped up and grabbed the ball, and I was like, 'OK, she's got it.'"

Redshaw's brace marks the second time the Broncos have had a multi-goal scorer in a game this season. The last multi-goal performance came one week earlier from midfielder Charlie Gallardo, who scored a brace against Cal State Dominguez Hills Oct. 9.

Redshaw's performance also earned the California Collegiate Athletic Association Women's Soccer Offensive Player of the Week award.

READ THIS ARTICLE IN FULL AT THEPOLYPOST.COM

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Broncos' undefeated streak ends

Women's soccer suffers first loss in CCAA Game of the Week

By CAEL CROSS
Sports Editor

The Cal Poly Pomona women's soccer team fell short to Stanislaus State 1-0 on the road Oct. 15, handing the Broncos their first loss of the season.

CPP entered the match on a 13-game undefeated streak, one game shy of tying the program record for the longest undefeated start to a season. The 14-game record was set in 2024 by the national title winning team, whose streak also ended at Warrior Stadium when the Broncos lost 2-0 to Stanislaus State.

The Broncos started aggressively on the offensive side, with forward Carly Radke firing a shot on target 16 seconds into the match. Midfielder Charlie Gallardo headed the ball toward goal off a long diagonal pass from defender Mikaela Marr in the fourth minute, forcing Warriors' goalkeeper Zara Mujica to push the shot onto the crossbar.

Marr highlighted the importance of decision-making as a defender when in possession.

"As a center back, it's a lot of pressure when you do have the ball because you're the last line of defense," Marr said. "You want to make smart decisions, but you also want to make quick decisions, so a lot of it is based on what the other team is giving me."

The Broncos created two more chances a minute later, with Gallardo sending a volley over the bar and forward Kailey Powers hitting the post after the Broncos' midfielders intercepted a pass from Mujica.

CPP continued pushing the Warriors backline as forward Morgan Huff put a header on target in the eighth minute off a corner before Gallardo struck from outside the box in the 12th minute, forcing another Mujica save.

The Broncos attempted eight shots in the first 12 minutes.

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COURTESY OF CPP ATHLETICS

"She (Carly Radke) works really hard, and I really hope all of the shots that she's starting to generate starts to find the back of the net," head coach Jay Mason said. "I think she'll feel a little sigh of relief when that starts to happen."

Bowyer doubles up on CCAA setter awards

Freshman earns back-to-back honors in first starts



COURTESY OF CPP ATHLETICS

Setter Paige Bowyer said her sister influenced her passions for volleyball. "I was like every other kid who wanted to just be her sister," Bowyer said.

By MELANIE ARIAS
Web Editor

Freshman setter Paige Bowyer earned back-to-back California Collegiate Athletic Association Setter of the Week awards, marking the second Bronco setter to win back-to-back awards.

Bowyer's second award was for the week of Oct. 12-18, recording 87 assists across seven sets, averaging 12.43 assists per set with 38 against Cal State San Marcos and a career-high 49 assists against Cal State San Bernardino. Bowyer's first award was for the week of Oct. 5-11, when she recorded 70 assists in six sets and averaged 11.67 assists per set. She recorded 30 and 40 assists during the sweeps against Stanislaus State and Chico State.

The Bronco's made CCAA history becoming the first team to produce two different Setters of the Week, since the introduction in 2022.

Bowyer said her team is always proud whenever someone receives a CCAA award and congratulated her on her success both on Instagram and in the locker room, along with her mother, who called her right away.

Bowyer said she attributed her award to the Broncos' offensive lineup.

"As a freshman it's obviously an honor, but it makes it really easy to win these awards when you have such good hitters," Bowyer said. "It really makes my job easy."

Bowyer started her collegiate career in August on the bench, recording four assists against Vanguard. Up until October, the most assists Bowyer recorded was 15 against Central Washington.

Bowyer said her hitters want her to succeed, and their feedback motivates her during practice and in the games.

"I've only had three (six as of Oct. 23) starts so far, and I'm still learning a lot," Bowyer said. "I'm not perfect in any sort of way. ... They want me to succeed, which helps them succeed, too. That's how our whole team works."

Head coach Traci Dahl said Bowyer came to Cal Poly Pomona ready to play and is just getting comfortable on the court right now, showcasing her skills and training.

Dahl said Bowyer is working on being consistent and finding a rhythm with all her teammates, while doing a great job leading the offense.

"She's one of the hardest workers in the gym and always looking to get better," Dahl said. "She's a fierce competitor looking to win."

Middle blocker Alexia Athans agreed Bowyer's leadership, knowledge and communication skills are off the charts.

Against Stanislaus State Oct. 9, Athans lead the Broncos offense with 11 kills.

"She's so knowledgeable, and everything that comes out of her mouth is nothing but productive and positive," Athans said. "She's there absolutely every time we need her to be and during practice, the relations between the setters and the hitters, she does a good job."

On the court, Bowyer said she focuses her attention on feeding her hitters the ball, who are always ready to get a kill. Right now, Bowyer said the Broncos are focusing on not being perfectionist and just being good.

According to Bowyer, athletes who focus on being perfectionists 24/7, especially college athletes who juggle their academic work in addition to their chosen sport, and put mental pressure on themselves causes athletes to stress out.

"Focusing on what you can control and just how hard your working has been really helpful for me," Bowyer said.

Being recognized by the CCAA is an honor, according to Bowyer, but they have bigger goals for the season, including making it into the NCAA tournament.

"I think we're all on the same page, and we have a great group of girls who just have a lot of fight in them," Bowyer said.

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Broncos' volleyball comeback falls short against Coyotes



COURTESY OF CPP ATHLETICS

This game marked the second and final time the two teams met in the regular season, following the Broncos win in a non-conference matchup Sept. 25 and a loss this game. Both teams are now 5-5 in their last 10 matchups, while the Coyotes lead the all-time record 51-32.

By CHRISTOPHER PIMENTEL JR.
Copy Editor

The No. 14 nationally ranked Cal Poly Pomona volleyball team suffered a 3-1 loss to No. 8 Cal State San Bernardino Oct. 17.

The Broncos went down 2-0 in sets, losing 25-20 in the first and 26-24 in the second. They took the third set 25-22 but conceded the fourth set 27-25.

Although the match ended in a loss, the Broncos led in digs (63), while trailing in both kills (57) and assists (53).

Right-side hitter Sarah Ybarra and setter Paige Bowyer led the offensive charge. Ybarra earning 24 kills and 18 digs, while Bowyer conducted the floor with 49 assists, one shy from the 50-assists club, last achieved by Kacie Caoili who earned 55 against Cal State East Bay last season.

However, the Broncos also led the match with 24 attack errors, two of which sealed the loss in the fourth set. Head coach Traci Dahl recognized these mistakes and emphasized if the program wants to continue to play at a championship level, the team must perform in the big moments.

"We had an opportunity in that fourth set," Dahl said. "We were up two. Then, we make some weird mistakes, two mistakes in a row, and you can't do that when the scores are tight. When it's neck-and-neck, you don't have to play perfect, but you can't be so error prone."

Although attack errors will be the focal point of upcoming practices, according to Dahl, it was ultimately the Broncos' inefficient offense, which hit an average of .143 compared to their season average (.252), that surrendered the first two sets.

The first set started slow for the Broncos, allowing CSUSB to build a 6-1 lead, which extended to a 14-6 lead for the Coyotes moving into the second half of the set.

According to Bowyer, CPP slowly started to recognize the hitting patterns and angles of the Coyotes, bringing the set within five at 22-17.

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