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Protest to Profess

American Living? Too Expensive

Representations Throughout Movie Generations

Choosing Myself

Poet Tree of the Month

Find the Figures: America’s Unsung Heroes

Cover illustration by David Mesquita
It has been such an eventful summer working on the magazine with my team. The crafting of this first issue was quite a delicate one. I worked with a small team of students to bring these pages to life. I’m grateful for those who contributed much of their time to make this happen. We wanted to create an intersection of different kinds of realities of an American. It was important for me to provide students with an issue focused on their everyday lives.

Many political changes have impacted America and its people. So, starting our semester with our first issue focused on the United States seemed right. The stories placed in this issue have a message for all of its readers.

This year as the print magazine editor my goal is to convey an interactive message for all readers with the use of art, poetry, and illustrations to push our editions messages further. I want my audience not just to digest the writing but be able to see these stories as well.
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prime student
Protests to Profess: Timeline

WRITTEN BY PABLO ORIHUELA

Seneca Falls Convention 1848

The Seneca Falls convention — was the first women’s rights convention held in American history. The convention was held by feminist abolitionist to discuss rights for women. A small advertisement in Seneca County Courier advertised the event where attendees would “discuss the social, civil and religious conditions and rights of Woman.”

The event introduced The Declaration of Sentiments, a document that was debated and ratified throughout the convention. It included resolutions and grievances of the demands made by women. The Declaration of Independence is referenced, “We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal,” which refers to the original documents language. The convention signified the birth of the United States’ women’s suffrage movement.

Oxnard Strike 1903

A majority of Japanese and Mexican field workers joined in protest for better wages and working conditions from the Western Agriculture Contracting Company in Oxnard, Calif. The group created the Japanese-Mexican Labor Association (JMLA) in their fight for better conditions. This was one of the first multi-racial labor unions in the U.S.

A shooting broke out between the JMLA and IALU on March 23, 1903. A Mexican member of the JMLA was shot and killed. The incident would lead to a rapid process of negotiations. The protest would officially end on March 30.

The protests were a success, as the JMLA received many of the benefits that they needed. The event was seen as proof that union and workers’ movements can work when there is class solidarity.

Anti-Vietnam Protests 1960

An anti-war, peace movement grew in strength as Americans began to disapprove America’s involvement with the Vietnam war.

A small group of left radicalized students commenced peaceful demonstrations on-campus. As the war advanced the bombing of North Vietnam led to an increase of support towards Anti-Vietnam protests in the 60’s.

One of the most notable Anti-Vietnam War movement came in March of The Pentagon protest on Oct. 21, 1967. Thousands of protestors met at the Lincoln Memorial marching toward The Pentagon in protest of the American military’s involvement in the War. As they made their way toward The Pentagon, they were met with armed police troops. During the confrontation, a boy put a flower inside the barrel of a policeman’s rifle. The image would be known as Flower Power. To this day, Flower Power continues to be an iconic anti-war image and a label for pacifist movements worldwide.
**Stonewall 1969**

The Stonewall Inn — a gay bar in Manhattan, New York — became the setting for protests and riots in 1969. In 1966, the selling of alcohol to gay individuals became legal. However, gay and lesbian relationships, marriages, and public displays of affection were still considered illegal in certain parts of the country. As a result, police raids in gay bars became a regular occurrence.

In spite of these routine raids, the patrons and surrounding community members of the Stonewall Inn decided to push back against local law enforcement after a raid on June 28, 1969. The riots turned violent and would go on to last almost an entire week.

Stonewall is one of the first major moments in the history of the LGBTQIA+ movement toward equality and rights. In 2016, President Barack Obama made the Stonewall Inn a national monument, in recognition of the protests that occurred.

**Occupy Wall Street 2011**

American activists joined together in New York City’s Financial District for a week-long sit-in protest. Demonstrators crowded the multiple areas in New York, starting with Zuccotti Park in an effort to protest corporate corruption.

The unfair wages led people from all parts of the American political spectrum suffering from the economy to join the movement.

Though the Occupy Wall Street protest didn’t resolve any concerns, similar demonstrations have followed around the world since then.

**BLM Movements 2020**

A country-wide civil-rights and anti-police brutality movement occurred after the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. The protests — led in large part by the Black Lives Matter movement — argued primarily for the defunding of the police by transferring city funds away from them and allocating the money toward social services instead.

The protests led to the removal of statues dedicated to racist and problematic American historical figures — primarily members of the American Confederacy — around the country. Among the removed statues are a Jefferson Davis statue in Kentucky, a Robert E. Lee monument in Virginia, and multiple Christopher Columbus statues across the country.

The protests eventually gained global attention, with people from other countries engaging in similar protests in favor of police reform and the removal of controversial, historical figures.
The past several years have completely upended society as we know it. In the face of rising inflation, sky-high rents, stagnant wages, and the general unaffordability of the greater LA area, it is crucial that we recognize the enormous challenges that exist for students in pursuit of higher education. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent switch to virtual learning proved to be a tough adjustment for students. The abrupt transition to distanced learning presented an especially difficult arrangement for students who rely on on-campus assistance to meet their basic needs such as food, housing, and mental health and wellness services.

Across the California State University system — the largest public university system in the U.S. — one in 10 students experience housing insecurity, according to a 2020 report by UCLA’s Center for the Transformation of Schools. At CSUN, there were 38,500 admitted full and part-time students as of the 2021 fall semester. This would mean then that roughly 3,850 students struggled with homelessness in some way or another. However, varying definitions as to what constitutes as homeless have proven to be a hindrance to the identification of students who are in need.

Under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, any family living in a motel, hotel, or any other informal living arrangement is considered homeless and qualifies for support. Yet, under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s definition, families in these situations are not considered homeless. These alternating definitions are why there is good reason to believe that there is an undercount of students in need. Differences in eligibility ultimately affect the levels of support that an individual can receive.

The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice’s 2021 #RealCollege
$1.4 billion has been earmarked for the expansion of student housing across 26 public campuses, which amounts to additional on-campus housing for around 3,800 students upon completion. Given the informal nature of many students’ living situations, the expansion amounts to a fraction of the actual need for student housing.

Report found that temporarily staying with a relative, friend, or couch surfing until other accommodations could be found was by far the most common experience with homelessness for college students.

CSUN students who are struggling to find stable housing are able to apply for temporary emergency housing which provides on-campus housing for up to 20 days. Additionally, CSUN students can access information on CSUN’s Food Pantry and CalFresh outreach services, housing, as well as other supportive services through the CSUN with A HEART website.

Temporary emergency housing provides short-term on-campus housing to CSUN students who are enrolled in a minimum of six units for undergraduate students and four units for graduate students. Students must fill out the temporary emergency housing application, including a description of their current living situation. The application would then go through the screening process with a review committee, which will then determine eligibility. However, it is unclear what additional requirements must be met for eligibility.

Michelle Anderson, a mother of two and a second-year graduate student completing their Master of Social Work, recounts the difficulties faced during a moment of crisis. Behind on rent and without a stable income, they turned to the university for assistance. “An issue at CSUN is that they don’t think about parents and families,” said Anderson. “They do have a 20-day housing plan, but I can’t move in there with my children, it’s only for single people. The problem with the program is that no one knows about the program, and there’s not a clear definition of what they can offer you, which can also be very problematic because you’re going to somewhere you think is going to help and it’s not.”

When asked for comment about emergency housing Student Housing Residential Life did not respond.

Recently, UCLA reaffirmed its commitment to guarantee housing for all incoming freshmen and transfer students beginning in the 2022 fall semester. Such a guarantee would be the first of its kind in the UC system. Institutions like Long Beach City College have taken a more outside-the-box approach to address housing insecurity among its student population by reserving a number of its parking spaces for students who live in their vehicles in what is known as their Safe Parking Program. The parking spaces serve as a temporary measure while more permanent solutions are found.

Agreements such as these, if they were to ever be implemented on campus, would help alleviate students’ housing concerns while also potentially reshaping CSUN’s image as a commuter school.

At the state level, Governor Gavin Newsom signed a $308 billion state budget at the end of June aimed at expanding the social safety net, boosting funding for K-12 education, as well as providing billions in funding for the expansion of student housing at colleges and universities across the state.

Without addressing the issue at its roots, the planned student housing expansion does very little to address the ever-rising cost of living in one of the most sought-after major metropolitan regions in the country. “The cost of attending university has gotten so high while things like the minimum wage have stayed low,” said CSUN graduate student Maricruz Ramirez. Unable to secure on-campus housing or afford the steep rents in the communities surrounding CSUN, she had no other choice but to make the 90-mile commute to and from Bakersfield, California in order to attend her weekly classes on campus. “It’s just a matter of not being able to afford something as basic as having a place to live. But that is a problem that students can’t solve on their own. Attending schools has gotten so expensive even with financial aid and loans it’s still tough to make ends meet.”

Similar stories could more than likely be found at nearly every CSU and UC across the state. According to data published recently by the U.S. Department of Education, California has seen a 48% increase in student homelessness over the last decade. For college students, a lack of stable housing has been shown to negatively impact physical health, while heightening symptoms of depression and anxiety. This is also paired with other studies that suggest that students without access to stable housing are less likely to continue their education when compared to their peers.

Moving towards a more equitable society requires the removal of all barriers to academic success. California is the most wealthiest state in the U.S., and yet it also stands as one of the most economically unequal states in the country. By highlighting and examining these contradictions, we can begin to lay the groundwork needed to close the socioeconomic gaps in our society and work towards a brighter tomorrow.
Michelle Anderson, a mother of two and a second-year graduate student completing their Master of Social Work, recounts the difficulties faced during a moment of crisis.
For more than a century, movies have made American audiences laugh and cry for the fantastic images they see on screen. America, though, has continuously struggled with representation in mainstream culture from those who are not old, white males. The lesser-told stories of Hollywood’s past reveal the diverse pool of filmmakers that shaped the industry we know today. These people need to be remembered for their contributions to American entertainment and society. These people need to be remembered for their contributions to American entertainment and society.
Oscar Micheaux

Oscar Micheaux was one of 13 Black children born post-Reconstruction, looking for a way to bring himself out of his family’s poverty on their farm. Oscar was sent to the city in search of work, where he soon found great talent in his writing and filmmaking. His second film, the oldest surviving movie made by a Black man, is the 1920 silent picture ‘Within Our Gates,’ which tells the story of Sylvia Landry attempting to find northern investors that can save a Southern school for Black children.

Micheaux was just one of a vast group of filmmakers who would produce films featuring and representing the lower classes. Tackling rampant racism, the press’ involvement in fake news and the drama of a mixed-race heritage, ‘Within Our Gates’ is a fantastic look at Micheaux’s vision of what America was and still is.

According to the University of North California, films for Black audiences were segregated to separate theaters in the South. Oscar Micheaux’s pioneering contributions to the dialogue of America were usually seen as a kind of “countercinema” (according to Allyson Nadia Field in a post from the Criterion Collection), even in the North. Micheaux has been recognized posthumously by the Directors Guild of America, Producers Guild of America and the Library of Congress, and his works continue to make an impact on black history and identity today.

Barbara Kopple

The Vietnam War sparked many of the youth’s determination to find the truth, one of whom was Barbara Kopple. Kopple, director and producer of ‘Harlan County, U.S.A.’ (1976), was previously involved in helping master documentarians, the Maysles Brothers, in their films, ‘Salesman’ (1969) and ‘Gimme Shelter’ (1970), ‘Harlan County’, much like how ‘Salesman’ is a bleak catalog of the lives of poor Bible peddlers, is a tale of the impoverished workers in a coal-mining town that fights against the oppressive sole company that pays the townspeople through protests and music. One worker with heavy wrinkles and a limping body was told by his boss, “We can always hire another man.

The workers’ defeated spirit spreads to their songs. The sorrowful and demanding blues are sung by the dying men and widowed women of Harlan County that encapsulate the film’s message of standing up and fighting for what’s right. One woman sings in her closing speech for a large crowd of unionizers,

_They say in Harlan County/
There are no neutrals there/
You’ll either be a union man/
Or a thug for J. H. Blair;
Which side are you on boys/Which side are you on?

Barbara Kopple succeeded in capturing a harrowing time between the haves and the have-nots that lasts as a monument to the power of the people. Kopple has been recognized with two Academy Awards, one for ‘Harlan County, U.S.A.’ and one for ‘American Dream’ (1990).

Jennie Livingston

Jennie Livingston’s only feature film, ‘Paris is Burning’ (1990), stars the many people involved in bringing the eponymous drag ball of New York City to life. The stories of many who participate in the balls — from the newcomers looking to strut for themselves to the high brass “mothers” (leaders) of the various competitive factions — are all interspersed with booming black-and-white title cards of the vocabulary used in the scene to teach newcomers of drag culture. Gorgeous dresses, gowns and suits of various bright colors fill the stage, femininity or masculinity on full display regardless of gender or sex.

It’s important to note that, although the ball is a competition, the LGBTQ+ community creates these events as a way to meet and greet others that feel underrepresented in society. One section of the competition representing that frustration is “realness”, with judges noting the ability to masquerade yourself to meet the guidelines of gender in society so as to virtually fit in seamlessly. Judges see if contestants can “pass the untrained eye to not look gay.” Livingston, who now openly identifies as lesbian, created a visual textbook for 1980s New York City drag culture that realized the possibility for the future of drag to reach mainstream audiences. Not only is the film included in the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress, but the movie has become an inspiration for which balls have become international gatherings. Livingston managed a landmark turning point that pushed drag balls from underground culture to international shows and high-rated television.

CSUN’s Summer Movie Fest screened ‘Turning Red’, a coming-of-age story about a teenage girl looking to her friends more than her family for advice. An interesting note on the audience was that many of the onlookers sitting on their picnic blankets anxiously anticipating the film were Asian-Americans. Almost half were female.

I asked a student what he thought of representation in films. “There 100% needs to be more representation,” said Tim, 32 years old. “People need to be respected.”

I asked him what films might live up to that. “The recent West Side Story,” he responded. “The classic was whitewashing. This did better in representing Puerto Ricans.”

The current generation of audiences willing to spend big money to watch big films demands more from Hollywood’s big producers in how they are represented in those films. A ViacomCBS study from 2021 found that, “79 percent say more diversity is needed on screens.”

Movie history can hold much of the representation that moviegoers today appreciate, but it is necessary for the current industry to learn and build on what has come before. Consider the works of Oscar Micheaux, Barbara Kopple, Jennie Livingston, and many other directors, writers, cast, and crew that devoted their lives to showing the people not often represented on the big screen, so that modern media can be full of unique contributions featuring unique stories featuring unique characters.
In my messy childhood room, the bed was unmade. A mountain of clothes lie on the chair. As my mom comes in to check on me, her eyes roam the room. She scoffs in disgust. “This room is such a mess. Who would marry a lazy woman?”

Right next door in my brother’s room, an overflowing laundry basket of clothes sits. My mom shrugs, claiming “Boys will be boys.” I’m told to clean up his room. If I dare question it, my mom made it known that I needed to help. “You’re his sister! It’s your job!”

My brother played soccer down the street with friends. I was told that because I am a girl, it was too dangerous for me to join. One day, as I played in the front yard, I heard laughter from down the street. Jealousy washed over me as I saw my brother with the group of kids. While my mom was distracted, jealousy pushed me to run down the street.

As I run she yells for me to come back, but her voice turns to an echo the further I run away. It was thrilling to join the group. Yet, the guilty feeling of leaving my mom was eating me up inside. I betrayed my mom. I walked back up home and apologized profusely.

When my brother would get ready to go to parties in high school, I imagined how fun it would be to go to one when I got older. My dad warned me that girls weren’t allowed to go to parties. Girls were meant to stay home.

My brother and I grew up with a double standard. My brother was becoming strong and independent. He was gaining work experience, and would be included in “adult conversations” involving money and insurance. I grew up dependent. My parents were overprotective of me. It was as if I was in a protective bubble. Anything that looked like it would harm me, would be out of my sight. I grew up at

Choosing myself

STORY BY ELIZABETH ORDONEZ • ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID MESQUITA
a young age with an established idea of having a husband. It made me feel as if the sole purpose of my existence would be to serve a man. It seemed that being a wife was the life goal. I needed to learn how to cook and clean, not for myself, but for my future husband. Any mistakes I made would be followed by the question “What would my husband think?” If things were done incorrectly, I failed being a woman.

My dad taught my brother how to get past challenges to become the strong person he is today. When it came to me, if it was complicated, my dad simplified it. “Maybe it’s because I’m not strong enough,” a small voice in my head would say. My parents were by my side to help, but it harmed me. At one point in my life, I felt clueless in America. I wasn’t good enough to sustain myself on my own as I felt anxious, thinking that I wasn’t capable.

My parents are from Central America. In their culture, machismo, a form of toxic masculinity, plays a heavy role in society. Everyone grows up with the idea that male dominance is the norm as it’s an ingrained idea that a woman’s duty is to become home caretakers.

My parents were raising my brother and I with the principles passed on to them. They were only teaching us what they knew as they struggled adapting as parents in the United States.

As I got older, my parents began to be more understanding of my desire for independence. As a family, together we strive to heal from our traumas and learn how to move forward. My parents know how scary America is. They realized that instead of protecting me from it, it was necessary to provide me with the tools to face confidently.

My parents understood that one of the pathways towards independence was being an educated woman in America. I began being taught that it was key to opening a pathway to a career and having a sense of community. As my mom looked at my report cards, she was pushing me to dream big. “I know there’s more to life than just marriage, Elizabeth. You can do anything you put your mind to. Work hard, push yourself to get that CEO title,” while looking at my report cards.

Being a woman in America means that I have to work a thousand times harder everyday.

Once I started college, I was motivated to create an independent life for myself, despite the fear of letting go of my parent’s hands. As a child of immigrant parents, I wanted to work hard to give back everything that they have sacrificed for me.

Being an independent woman in America is liberating. It’s about breaking away from the pressures that I experienced from my parents and family. It’s about no longer being told what I should have said or done in the choices I made. It’s breaking free from the guilt holding me back and living my true potential. It’s about choosing me. It’s about you falling in love with yourself. It’s learning who you are as a person and creating a life where you’re free. You discover how strong you are to face America and you get to prove to yourself that you’re more than what was expected of you.

Being an independent woman in America also started to become important to me because growing up, girls close to me became dependent on their significant others. It came to a point where their voices were silenced. Their partners would not value them as a person and dictate the choices in their lives. Later on in life, these women admitted to wanting to leave the relationship, but felt that they didn’t have any resources to do so. I believe that at one point in my life, that was me. I lost who I was as a person by not caring for myself. In order to not do that again, I established the security of taking care of myself. In my relationship, equality is valued.

Facing America as a woman can be a challenge. Many times, when I’m out in public, I don’t feel safe. I scroll through Instagram and read that in my neighborhood, tires are being thrown onto the street to kidnap people as a human trafficking scheme. There are TikTok posts on how to be aware of what human traffickers do to cars to signal out women who are alone.

It is scary to see women go on dates where they are abused or go missing. When I go out for a night of dancing and drinking with friends, I have to keep an eye on my drink. When out alone, I have to send my location to loved ones as a precaution.

There’s times where I reconsider the idea of having children. Being a mother in America sounds exhausting and terrifying. Women are criticized on a daily basis for how they decide to parent. It feels like women have to choose between being a mother or having a career.

On June 24, I woke up to the news that in many states, abortion rights have been taken away. It broke my heart that while my rights may be safe...

Continued on page 14
in California, proper reproductive health will not be accessible to many. It terrified me to read later on that the legal right to contraception could be under threat, when birth control is what helps me get my menstrual period each month.

In America, it feels like a war against women. It’s important to have our voices be heard and take action for not just ourselves, but for those around us.

Being a woman in America means that I have to work a thousand times harder everyday. There will be many times where I’ll be underestimated. I’ll be asked to prove my worth. I’ll be stomped to the ground. Many times it feels like I’m being held down. I’ll be judged for everything I do. There will be days where I might want to stay down, but I’ll keep getting back up. I will push myself harder to stay up. I don’t have to prove myself to anyone and I am in charge of the choices I make.

Choosing myself
Continued from 13

We want to hear from you

Do you have a personal story that you’d like to share with The Sundial?

Send an email to jasmine.cuza.939@my.csun.edu for more information.

Stories may be edited for clarity and length.

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

Henrietta Lacks
Althea Gibson
Bayard Rustin
Gordon Parks
Fong Yue Ting
Edith Nourse Rogers
Perfecto Martinez
James Armistead (Lafayette)
Frank Wills
Charles Deslondes

SUSANA RADILLO
My America

by Rocky Walker

My America is an abusive home
A red, white, and blue match fire
Giving the promise of light only to burn,

My America is a falsified piper
Playing a tune of freedom but crushing those who listen.

Between boulders of capitalism and bureaucracy
Where is change allowed?

We're Living in the melting pot
But the heat is too high.
We've been burned and convinced that the cause was ourselves

Meanwhile, The pot has oxidized
Hardened yet losing its structure

But where is structure without a form of complex

A system
An oppressive force
Regimes or peace officers
They all carry the same keys.

Domination has become the culture
Freedom has become a virtue

So my America is a broken promise
An unrealistic dream.

Back to those who fought for my rights.
Back to the beginning of this hill we still climb.

When autonomy is a weapon and your voice is a threat.
To be armed and dangerous is to be alive

So my America is a battlefield

A land of lost loved ones and unattainable virtues.
A home to fighting for a sense of equality or fighting for your life.

My America is changing.
Shifts of power
Shifts of ideology

My America is in rehabilitation.
Looking for a new approach rather than a new victim
12 steps to justice that only the nation can take

Step one is acknowledgment
The rest will come with time.

And failed attempts.
Recovery is essential to survival, but it is not a straight line.

The trauma of broken vows still lingers, but that red, white and blue match fire still burns bright
Repeating an empty promise of warmth and light

That we must all fight, to fulfill

Only then will My America be home to all.
And only then will this home be considered, healthy.

Our America

by Brandon Sarmiento

Though picket signs and headlines
Are often left on read,

Writing fuels the soul
When America rejects,

The simplest of rights
Entitled to yours and mine
Buried five feet beneath
By those who swerve us
More than serve us.

Burning up in a red, white and blue furnace
As justices cook up injustice
Dished up on a silver platter,

Shinier than cop-held
Glock bullets that shatter bones,

Only held accountable if captured on a phone,
Kendrick saaid we'd be alright but look how little we've grown.

Protect your neck as Wu-Tang taught
But even then that's resisting in the eyes of a cop.

Body cams cannot capture the fear of living in color,
Now mothers are forced to bear
The birth of a nation of unresolved rage,

Thinking thoughts and prayers are
Synonymous with change.
1. The black woman whose cancer cells produced the first mass-produced human cell line
2. The first African-American tennis player to win a Grand Slam tournament
3. The LGBTQ+ African-American who organized the March on Washington movement
4. The director of ‘The Learning Tree’ and ‘Shaft’, and photojournalist of civil rights
5. The plaintiff who fought racist policy against Chinese immigrants in the Supreme Court
6. The senator who introduced the bill for the first non-nurse women to be in the US military
7. An immortalized example of the Lavender Scare, a crackdown against LGBTQ+ during the 1950s
8. The slave who became a spy against the British in the Revolutionary War
9. The security guard who stopped a break-in at the Watergate complex
10. A slave leader who launched the largest slave uprising in American history

Answers on page 14
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- Veterans Resource Center

AND YOU!

FEATURED EVENTS

**Matafest**
Thursday, Sept. 1  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  Plaza del Sol

**VRC: Fantasy Football Draft Party**
Friday, Sept. 2  
Noon – 2 p.m.  Veterans Resource Center

**Cultural Welcomes**
Tuesday, Sept. 6 – Friday, Sept. 9  
2 – 3:30 p.m.  University Student Union

**Pride Center: Camp “CAMP”**
Wednesday, Sept. 7  
3 – 8 p.m.  Northridge Center

**DREAM Center: Non-DACA Resources Workshop**
Wednesday, Sept. 14  
1 – 2 p.m.  University Student Union

**VRC: Karaoke Like In Oki**
Thursday, Sept. 15  
4 – 7 p.m.  Veterans Resource Center