



Whittier College
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Quaker Campus

Campus Publications

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Whittier College

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QUAKER CAMPUS

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JULIA CENTENO | QUAKER CAMPUS

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Minimum Wage Moves Up

Emma Galvan
COPY EDITOR

Towards the end of 2023, the State of California approved a law to increase the minimum wage. After going into effect on Jan. 1, 2024, minimum-wage workers will now be paid \$16 per hour rather than \$15.50, implementing a 50-cent increase.

Student workers at colleges, including Whittier, will be affected in the new year, with fast food workers' wages increasing in April, and healthcare workers' in June. California lawmakers approved this increase in wages to help accommodate the state's rising inflation, as well in accordance to a state law passed in 2016 which previously raised the minimum wage from \$10 to \$15.

Whittier College, among other colleges and universities, pays students minimum wage with the work-study award in their financial aid package. The College provides a typical amount of \$2,000 worth of work-study for Poets to consider getting numerous jobs around Whittier to keep their finances afloat. They issue a certain number

of hours, depending on the award that the student receives.

Most of the College's student workers shared mixed feelings when they found out about the news. "I'm very glad they did lift it up because I feel that our work was being underappreciated, especially with how prices are increasing," says one student worker. "They could possibly provide a little more just because students working on campus are doing so much more than we should actually be working for." An agreed consensus was that the student worker position is not the only job students hold; they have to pick up other jobs, including at the Whittier Boys and Girls Club or in other service industry positions.

Another concern among student workers is that if their pay is raised, then the number of hours of work will decrease as per the College's work-study policy, with the hours being tied to the amount of money each student earns. As per another student worker, "I do have the fear of [minimum wage] being raised because of work-study. We are limited by how much we are allotted. So, one of my fears is that if it does

get raised, we will get cut short over the years and could be out of the job."

Whittier College is a private institution that directly receives monetary funds from the government, which allows them to pay students minimum wage. But what about the CSUs and UCs?

According to the California State University, Long Beach website, their students could be paid even more than the required amount of \$16, depending on their position. Employees could range from a minimum of \$15.50—subject to change due to the new law—a median of \$17, to a maximum of \$21. Even at the University of California, Davis, the minimum wage is determined by one's job title, but with a less significant difference compared to CSULB, spanning from 25 cents to a near \$1.20 increase.

If other colleges and universities are paying their student employees even more than what is legally required, the question of why Whittier has not done the same has yet to be addressed by the College's Financial Aid Office. As of now, the College has not commented.



Student minimum wage has increased by 50 cents.

SAGE AMDAHL / QUAKER CAMPUS

Classes Rained Out

Sarah Licon
NEWS EDITOR

As heavy rainfall continues to hit Southern California—a phenomenon known as an "atmospheric river"—Whittier College officially canceled all in-person classes on Feb. 6.

The decision comes one day after several Cal State schools in the greater Los Angeles area announced they would be discontinuing in-person classes on Mon. Feb. 5 and transferring classes online via Zoom.

Rio Hondo College, a five-minute commute from the College, resumed in-person classes on Feb. 6, along with Cal State Fullerton and Cal Poly Pomona. Contrarily, an email issued by Whittier College ALERT informed students that "due to anticipated continued heavy rain in our region overnight and into Tuesday, Feb. 6, Whittier College will pivot to remote classes tomorrow." This is in reference to the "record-setting" numbers of measured rainfall, with areas in Los Angeles County receiving close to three inches of rain.

However, prior to the email, students shared opinions about the College's communication regarding the storm. Per a survey published by the *Quaker Campus* Instagram account, one student shared, "I believe the College should have sent out a list of resources and should make professors excuse any absences right now, or at least allow for students to join on Zoom."

Other students felt that it was the College administration's responsibility to cancel classes and not the professors', many of whom determined the fate of their

classes on Monday.

Some students were pleased with the College's communication, with one student stating, "All changes that were made by the storm were communicated in advance." Despite these polarizing views, a slight majority were "unsatisfied" with the College's communication at 55.6 percent.

In light of the announcement for Tuesday's classes, one student wrote, "As a commuter, it's frustrating that the College did not make a statement sooner. I had to miss class yesterday because of the road conditions [...] I have some classes where I will be penalized for not going."

Currently, the College has not made a statement as to why only Tuesday courses were canceled and not Monday. Furthermore, the College did not address the state of the storm until Monday evening, hours after the Dean of Students announced that they would be conducting business remotely. This statement also came hours after many of the offices in the lower Campus Courtyard experienced flooding overnight. There was also routine flooding in the basement of Hoover Hall and other areas of campus, prompting professors to move their classes elsewhere on Monday.

In regards to the flooding, the College has not made further statements about solutions or ways to prevent flooding. As of Feb. 6, the College announced via email that all in-person classes are expected to resume on Wed. Feb. 7 due to "forecasted drier weather."

For more information about the potential risks of the storm, you can access CalAlerts.org and check in with a local news sources.



The campus is experiencing flooding.

SARAH LICON / QUAKER CAMPUS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submissions may be emailed to qc@poets.whittier.edu in .doc or .docx format. Submissions must include the author's name and year of graduation or position at the college in the signature. Letters are due by Tuesday at 5 p.m. to make it into that week's issue. Submissions should be no more than 500 words. Letters should be well-proofread, as they will not be edited. Letters that fall outside of these guidelines will be returned to the author with a request for revision.

Due to the high cost of publication, members of the Whittier College community are permitted three copies per issue. Additional copies may be purchased with prior approval for 50 cents each by contacting the *Quaker Campus*. Newspaper theft is a crime, and those who violate the three copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

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Are Faculty Being Paid Enough?

Chelsea Bartilad
FEATURES EDITOR

On Jan. 22, members of the California Faculty Association (CFA) participated in a one-day strike for higher wages on all 23 CSU campuses. The strike occurred two weeks after CSU officials ended contract negotiations with the faculty. The CSUs offered a five percent general raise, while the union demanded a 12 percent increase. Consisting of 29,000 members, including professors, librarians, counselors, and coaches, the CFA began to strike in demand for better pay and additional benefits, such as paid parental leave and a limited number of students to teach in their classes.

On the CSU self-report on faculty salaries, the average base salary for faculty was \$112,397 as of the 2019 Fall semester. However, other faculty members, including associate professors, assistant professors, and lecturers, made less. Reporter Juan Carlos Lara stated in an interview with NPR that the “lowest-paid educators make \$54,000 a year.” With increases in the cost of living in California, it is not a sustainable salary, according to Lara.

Full-time political science lecturer at Cal State Bakersfield, Dirk Horn, states, “It’s a constant struggle to make ends meet.”

With his salary being under \$63,000, the lecturer supports him-

self by teaching at local community colleges, schools, and working as an Uber driver.

This faculty-led walkout was scheduled at the beginning of the Spring semester, causing class cancellations. “I’m a little disappointed because it’s only my second semester [...] but I’m also glad that they’re having a strike because their voices should be heard,” says Cal State Los Angeles first-year Monique Garcia. Originally planned to be a week-long walkout, the faculty were able to reach a “tentative agreement” with Cal State officials after one day of the strike. The agreement, which has yet to be ratified by the CFA, covers the union’s demands of a salary increase of five percent retroactive to July 1, 2023, and another five percent increase on July 1, 2024. That same day, the union posted on the social media platform X, “In case anyone forgot, STRIKES WORK!”

Lara, who contacted researchers studying labor movements in higher education, commented, “They say this is a sign that educators are fed up after decades of government disinvestment in public higher education [...] They also say administrators are overpaid while they are underpaid. And right now, polls show that approval for unions is higher than it’s been in decades, so union workers feel like it’s the right time to push for these demands.”



Several Cal State faculty members went on strike the first week of class.

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A similar event involving adjunct professors and staff occurred on Whittier College’s campus a few months ago. On Aug. 28, 2023, the Whittier Student-Worker Alliance (WSWA) posted on Instagram, stating they would hold a rally in solidarity with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721. The union scheduled a strike for the College to meet their demands. The following day, WSWA announced on their Instagram story that “The adjunct’s union [SEIU] has made a tentative agreement with the College that meets their demands! Our rally tomorrow [Aug. 30] will be a celebra-

tion of this victory...”

According to adjunct Professor Dia Flores-Vechayiem, the previous adjunct Collective Bargaining Agreement had a pay rate of \$1,550 per unit. Their current agreement has increased to \$2,000 per credit. She states, “Currently, I’m satisfied with the Collective Bargaining Agreement that was reached and effective Fall 2023. Since I am an adjunct, and like most of our small and mighty adjunct faculty at Whittier, we also work at other campuses.”

When asked about any potential wage gaps among faculty, Vechayiem responds that she is unaware of

any, but explains, “If there was, it has not been brought to my attention.” Vechayiem adds, “I can certainly see glaring wage gaps for adjunct professors who may only teach at one campus and are only starting out in their career [...] Overall, the most recent bargaining agreement should have worked to the advantage of all adjunct faculty on campus because of the pay per credit increase that we won through the efforts of the (adjunct) bargaining team and SEIU Local 721.”

This article has been condensed for print. To access the full article, go to medium.com/thequakercampus.com.

Financial Aid Postponed for 2024

Meylina Tran
A & E EDITOR

The US Department of Education announced on Jan. 30 that they would not be sending students’ FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) data to schools until the first half of March. This setback is one of many that the department has faced during the 2023-2024 school year—most notably, the delayed launch date for the 2024-2025 FAFSA form from October 2023 to Dec. 31, 2023; and the previous announcement that students’ FAFSA data would be released to schools at the end of January.

As the cost of living rises and America’s middle class shrinks, more than 17 million students depend on government funds to help cover the cost of higher education.

The main reason for this delay is that the department is fixing a \$1.8 billion miscalculation. The department’s FAFSA math—which decides how much aid a student gets—would have made some students and families appear to have more income than they do, resulting in less aid. This would have allowed low income students and families to receive less aid than what they were eligible to receive.

Under Secretary of Education James Kvaal comments on this issue stating that, “Updating our calculations will help students qualify for as much financial aid as possible.”

This, however, is not the only change the department has made



FAFSA was delayed for the 2024 school year.

COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

to this year’s FAFSA. Because of the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to making higher education possible for more students, FAFSA faced a massive overhaul that simplified the process, making the form more accessible and easier for low-income families to prove their low-income status. Therefore, financial aid offices across the country are unsure what to expect from the FAFSA data they will be receiving.

Because schools rely on FAFSA data to determine what financial aid students receive and how much of their institutional funds to give out in the form of non-repayable grants, many of them will be unable to send out financial aid offers to incoming students until April, leaving students with less than a month to commit to a college. So, what does this mean for Whittier College stu-

dents at the moment?

According to the Whittier College website, approximately 85 percent of students receive some form of financial aid. Despite the College experiencing a steep drop in enrollment due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the abrupt cancellation of three sports programs, Interim Vice President of Enrollment Ken Woods noted that the College has recently seen a 35 percent increase in enrollment for the Spring semester. This spike in enrollment can be attributed to the short-range plan President Kristine Dillon implemented at the beginning of her tenure.

Woods also stated that the “goal is to bring in a class of about 405 students” for the upcoming Fall 2024 semester. To do this, the admissions team has taken several steps to make the College attractive

to a diverse student population, namely by advertising the College as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and by participating in Black Exposition Fairs that are specifically curated for underrepresented students.

The US Department of Education’s decision to delay releasing FAFSA data threatens the College’s attempts at attracting underrepresented students. According to *Forbes*, Black and Latino Americans are much more likely to belong to the low-income class. Although a recent report attests that Black Americans are experiencing upwards movement in terms of income as well as moderate gains for Latinos, much of the Black and Latino American populations remain in the low-income margin, making them disproportionately affected by FAFSA’s delays.

Prior to the department’s announcement, the College indicated via email that financial aid will be disbursed at the end of the first week of the Spring semester. The College has not yet released a statement about the state of financial aid following the department’s announcement.

Justin Drager, president and CEO of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) commented on the problems that may arise from this: “Schools are furiously reworking their timelines to see just how quickly they could turn around financial aid offers for students, to get them accurate aid offers as soon as possible. This could be difficult for under-resourced institutions that lack the funding, staffing, or technology capabilities of their peers.”

The aid comes in the form of federal student loans, work-study, and Pell Grants for low-income students. However, the department’s decision to delay sending out FAFSA data leaves millions of students and their families uncertain of how much they will have to pay for college this Fall, particularly for low-income students, for whom federal loans can determine whether they can start, continue, or finish a program.

To apply for financial aid, or for information, visit studentaid.gov. You may also direct specific questions fao@whittier.edu or 562.907.4285. Include your student ID number when emailing.

What's up, Whittier?

Stay up to date on events! For further info, visit whittier.campuslabs.com/engage/

25th Annual Sportsfest

- Friday, Feb. 9 at 1 p.m.
- Campus Courtyard

Postcards for Palestine

- Friday, Feb. 9 at 3 p.m.
- Wardman Hall Lobby

AOKP Game Night

- Friday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m.
- Johnson Hall, first floor

AOKP Casino Night

- Saturday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m.
- Hoover 104

Craft Hour

- Monday, Feb. 12 at 11 a.m.
- Ettinger Lounge

Planner Party

- Monday, Feb. 12 at 4:30 p.m.
- Office of Student Engagement

Valentine Crafts Day

- Monday, Feb. 12 at 5 p.m.
- Campus Courtyard

Lunar New Year Luncheon

- Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 11 a.m.
- Upper Quad

Self-Esteem Tabling

- Tuesday, Feb. 13 at noon
- In Front of The SLC

Blind Date With a Book Sale

- Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 11:30 a.m.
- Campus Courtyard

Valentine's Gram Fundraiser

- Wednesday, Feb. 14 at noon
- SLC

Spread the Love, Send a Valentine

- Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 1:30 p.m.
- In Front of the SLC

It's a Vibe, Sis: Black Womxn's Group

- Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 4:30 p.m.
- SLC 510

International Student Chew & Chat

- Thursday, Feb. 15 at 12:30 p.m.
- The Spot

Chair Massage

- Thursday, Feb. 15 at 11:30 a.m.
- Naylor Portico (Diehl Hall)

Open Mic: Haunted Valentine

- Thursday, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.
- Club 88

Love Letter Tea Party

- Friday, Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m.

Equity at Whittier: Let's Talk About It

Alejandra Ortega
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

To kick off Black History Month, the Black Education Alliance hosted a summit starting on Monday, Jan. 29 and ending on Friday, Feb. 2, entitled "Building an Equity-Minded Culture." This week-long event consisted of daily activities that sought to encourage discussions about equity, inclusion and diversity amongst the Whittier College community. For those unfamiliar with the term, "equity" (often confused with equality) refers to the acknowledgement that not everyone has the same economic or social starting point and some require different adjustments in order for them to have the same opportunities as everyone else.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, the Summit hosted the "My Whittier Experience, Equity Data "Discussion." The event was moderated by Dr. Daniel Harris, a Bayard Rustin Fellow. Dr. Harris's role on campus involves "[conducting] and presenting equity-based research at the College and [leading] faculty, student, and staff discussions on best practices in inclusive and equitable pedagogies for higher education." He also leads the Black Education Alliance, which he states, "is really charged with engaging communities for students that are Black identifying; to educate a wider community on Blackness and Black education, and to ultimately address anti-Blackness on college campuses like Whittier."

For this particular discussion, Dr. Harris created an interactive gallery walk to inspire conversation about the data being presented to the students in attendance. Around SLC 204, seven posters were hung, each showcasing statistics from a survey concerning students and their experience related to equity on the Whittier College campus. Attendees of the discussion were invited to pair up and spend five to seven minutes on a poster and discuss the statistics by relating their experiences or someone else's comments on large, bright post-it notes.

"I'm not expecting you to come as an expert in this conversation," said Dr. Harris before beginning the gallery walk, "but, I'm hoping that you would come with questions and curiosities around these data points." He then released the students to grab a pen and begin the walk. Soft jazz played in

the background to help mark the amount of time that students had at each poster. Once time was up, Dr. Harris would stop the music and ask the students to move on to the next poster on the right. The room buzzed with conversations as attendees helped each other interpret data and discuss it.

Since the activity was only allotted 40 minutes, students were only able to look at six of the seven posters. Dr. Harris then brought the group back together and asked what data points were most interesting to students. Students brought up a poster that discussed the effects of racial stress; it stated, "Despite representing only five percent of the total respondents, more than 32 percent of Black students indicate experiencing racial stress at least once in a while." The poster then went on to explain that racial stress can often impact an individual's mental health, con-

tributing "to feelings of loneliness, isolation, and a lack of community." One student related these statistics to watching a friend struggle with their mental health after experiencing microaggressions in the classroom.

Another poster referenced in the discussion presented data points in relation to "responses to racial encounters." A bar graph showed that 38.5 percent of Black students felt a decline in their academic performance or grades due to an overall negative racial environment. A quote on the poster said, "Incidents of racist encounters are more likely to lead Black students to experience frustration (71 percent), while white students are more likely to be motivated to activism (41 percent)."

Another participant of the discussion said they related to this statistic because they often end up feeling disappointed and exhausted after a racist encounter. They expressed that it was difficult to feel inspired towards activism when microaggressions and stereotypes are a part of everyday life.

By the end of the discussion, Dr. Harris expressed excitement about the productive conversations the students had been engaging in. He hoped that this would inspire them to continue to have conversations about equity with the rest of the Whittier College community in less-curated environments. "Think of this as developing a muscle around curiosity and thinking about equity-based data."



The equity summit inspires conversation.

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BHM Luncheon Goes On, Come Rain Or Shine

Sara Martinez
COPY EDITOR

Happy February to all, and most importantly Happy Black History month! Back again this year, the Office of Equity & Inclusion, and the Black Student Association presented their annual luncheon this past Thursday Feb. 1. Due to the recent rains we have been receiving, the luncheon was relocated last minute to the CI and was delayed by 30 minutes. Despite commencing late, attendance to the event was great, as students and faculty gathered alike.

The CI's menu featured traditional foods including Jambalaya, collard greens, fried catfish, macaroni and cheese, and many more. All the tables were beautifully decorated with centerpieces made of clear vases filled with orange and black gems, a faux sunflower, and a clip art displaying Pan-African colors that read "Black History Month".

Free stickers were also spread out on countertops and tables. I was able to snag two for my collection, of which my favorite had the phrase "Unapologetically Black and Educated" printed in contrasting fonts and vibrant

colors. A photobooth was available for friends to take pictures during the event for free with cute props provided. Tribute was also given to traditional music, as KPOET played artists such as Faith Evans, SWV, and Aretha Franklin. Just before the main event as people came in and filled their plates, a warm and inclusive ambiance filled the room; the smell, music, and sound of voices fused together, creating a sense that we were all there to have a good time.

This year, the main event was a traditional West-African dance and music performance by Motherland Music. The members of the group that played the music wore colorful red and purple dashikis, a popular hand embroidered pull-over with a distinct V-shaped collar that symbolizes a return to African roots for those who wear them. There were also beautiful and diverse instruments. One being the Kora, a West African long-necked harp, which, according to a member of the group, is now a staple instrument in a variety of music genres. Another instrument was the Djembe, a colorful drum that kept the rhythm going as

two female dancers began their traditional choreography centerstage. Barefoot and smiling, the dancers jumped and spun, expressing absolute joy over their cultural dance, a beautiful sight to see.

To my surprise, I was pulled to dance on stage along with other fellow Poets. The dancers taught us some moves and gave us instruments like African maracas and tambourines to play as we danced and sung along. Once the performance was over, I was able to speak to students

who helped organize and make this event possible. First-year student Leah Triana was one of the members who helped MC the event. "We are a small community on campus and this event helps us share our culture." And share their culture they did as everyone lingered after the event to keep the celebration going. The Office of Equity & Inclusion and student associations who participated did an amazing job, and we can't wait to see what the BSA has in store for us next year.



COURTESY OF WCTHEROCK

The BHM Luncheon brought students together on a rainy day.

Treat Your Boo: Dates In Whittier

Sage Amdahl
MANAGING EDITOR

With Valentine's Day lurking right around the corner, perhaps the stress of planning a date or choosing a cute spot with a suitable aesthetic is weighing on your mind. Fear not, because help is on the way, dear! For the sake of making your V-Day planning a little less burdensome, I've put together a list of spots in Uptown Whittier to spice up your date options.

If you've got afternoon classes on Wednesday the 14, perhaps consider starting the day on a strong note by stopping for a delicious brunch at Crepes & Grapes on Greenleaf Ave. or Aunties Bakery and Cafe, which is right next door. Their atmospheric dining areas, coupled with delicious (and relatively inexpensive) food, will put a smile on your date's face first thing in the morning.

Brunch not the vibe? That's totally fine! Consider stopping by La Monarca for a quick bite of their exclusive Valentine's Day pink conchita set, or satiate your caffeine needs with a latte topped with pink whipped cream.

For an evening date, the new *Lisa Frankenstein* movie, directed by Zelda Williams, will be dropping just in time for a Valentine's Day viewing. Take advantage of Whittier Village Cinema's student

discount to launch your date night by watching this unique rom-com horror film. Don't fill up too much on popcorn though, a delicious dinner is crucial to a satisfactory Valentine's celebration.

Phlight, located on Bright Ave., has a delicious assortment of Spanish tapas to share with your significant other. If Spanish cuisine isn't your preference, worry not. The Rusty Monk is a cozy gastropub with good eats, comfortable booths, and a solid assortment of draft beers (if you're of legal age, that is).

Looking for a more romantic atmosphere? Not many spots in Uptown can beat the rose-themed booths in Kalaveras. With delicious Mexican food and beautiful cocktails, you can't go wrong here. However, vegetarians and vegans be warned, this menu may not be for you.

Instead, The Modern Shaman is a delicious vegan and vegetarian restaurant whose Wine Wednesdays (half off all bottles of wine!) happen to fall on our beloved Valentine's Day. This is also a great option for anyone with a gluten intolerance, as most of their menu is already gluten free or can be made to accommodate a gluten allergy.

If Italian food is more your speed, The Mission Square Italian Restaurant is a classic choice. Relish your meal in their lounge or outside in the court-



Treat your date to dinner in Uptown Whittier!

COURTESY OF TMB STUDIO

yard, there's no bad seat! Of course, Pho & Roll, although slightly less atmospheric than the aforementioned options, offers a delicious assortment of Asian fusion soups, noodles, and rolls that will leave you full and content.

Perhaps you're looking for a more extravagant evening? Then The Nixon Steakhouse or Azabu (sushi bar) are excellent restaurants to treat yourself and your date to on a special evening such as Valentine's Day.

For those of you who are 21 and up, there's even more options on the table. The Vandalist on Greenleaf Ave. offers delicious

drinks and "refined comfort food" in the midst of dark, romantic lighting. Whether you prefer draft beer or a classic cocktail, The Vandalist's menu is cultivated to reflect the tastes of any person searching for a comfortable buzz. Other boozy options in Uptown include Whittier Brewing Company, located in a spacious venue with classic beer garden vibes, and Guildhall, a gastropub for gamers — not recommended for competitive couples, the vast selection of board games may lead to the rapid deterioration of your relationship.

So long as dinner hasn't stuffed you too much, I always recom-

mend ending your date night with a cool, refreshing bubble tea from Chillin'. Paired with one of their sweet and delicate macarons or cold ice cream sandwiches, you can never go wrong stopping by this Uptown classic. Finally, commemorate your adorable date night by picking up matching accessories at Sweet Chillin's "accessories and more" shop, owned by our favorite bubble tea cafe.

Thus concludes my recommendations in Uptown, I wish you a successful Valentine's day filled with good food and equally good vibes. Stay tuned with the *Quaker Campus* for more Valentine's Day themed recommendations!

Calling All Graduating Seniors!

Emily Henderson
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Seniors, it's that time of year! Time to say goodbye to Whittier College, and go off into the great beyond. But before you pack your suitcase and leave the school once and for all, here are a few things that you will need to do in order to be fully prepared for the big day on May 9.

Apply for Graduation

In order to even be involved with the Graduation, you must apply for it! To do this, you will log onto your MyWhittier account, and go to the "For Students" tab on the left side of the screen. Then you will scroll down until you see the "Student Self Services" section, where there you will click "Apply for Graduation." There, it will ask you questions about what the current term is; what term you will be graduating (or have graduated from); what degree you are graduating with; whether you will be going to the graduation or not the name you want on your diploma, and where you want the diploma sent to. Review this and then you are done!

Review DegreeWorks and Check Financials

Students, alongside their advisors, should make sure that their Degree-

Works are up-to-date in accordance with when they will graduate. If a requirement has not been fulfilled, it will be highlighted in red. If you have any questions, you should reach out to the Registrar's Office at registrar@whittier.edu.

Alongside this, students should make sure that they have no outstanding holds on their financials before graduating, like tuition. If you have any questions in regards to this, contact fao@whittier.edu.

Complete Participation Form

After you have applied to graduate, then you must fill out a form verifying your participation not just in the May 9 graduation, but the Cultural Graduations as well!

That's right! The Office of Equity and Inclusion Cultural Graduations ARE BACK. The graduations are "part of the College's long-standing tradition of celebrating diversity and resilience." There will be four graduation ceremonies this year.

The Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Graduation will be happening on May 7, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Shannon Center. The graduation will honor "the academic and personal achievements of our graduating students of Asian and Pacific Islander Desi American descent."

The Lavender Graduation is about

honoring "the achievements and contributions of graduating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBTQIA+), and ally students." It will be on May 7, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Villalobos Hall. All undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to join.

The Black Graduation will happen on May 8, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Shannon Center. This graduation is about honoring and recognizing the "accomplishments of our students of African descent," involving a "specialized celebration that honors their cultural heritage." And finally, the Latinx Graduation will occur on May 8, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Harris Amphitheatre. This is an "intimate bilingual celebration where family, friends, and community members come together to highlight the achievements and personal success of graduating seniors, in the spirit and traditions of Latinx cultures."

In order to participate in one or multiple graduation ceremonies, you must fill out the participation form. This form will ask information questions about yourself, including how to phonetically pronounce your name, what graduation ceremonies you would like to participate in, and some information about your time at Whittier College, and your prospective life

post-graduation.

The deadline to sign up for cultural graduations is Mar. 8. If you sign up after Mar. 3 you will not receive a stole. If you have any questions in regards to the cultural graduations, email the Office of Equity and Inclusion at oei@whittier.edu.

Ordering Your Cap and Gown

While the Grad Fair has already passed, you can still order your cap and gown through the Whittier College Bookstore. You can also order graduation announcements and diploma frames through the store as well. If you need more information, contact the Campus Bookstore at [562.907.4251](tel:562.907.4251).

Floral Arrangements

If you would like to pre-order flowers for graduation, you may do so at The Commencement Group, and pick them up at Memorial Stadium prior to the ceremony. You can order bouquets for about \$50, orchid leis for \$57, Whittier College Class of 2024 shirt for \$30, and much more. If you have any questions about photos through GradImages, you can call at [800.261.2576](tel:800.261.2576).

You are almost there graduates! Just a couple of months left!

This article has been condensed for print. If you would like to read the full article, you can at [/medium.com/thequakercampus](https://medium.com/thequakercampus).



COURTESY OF MD DURAN

Seniors should start to prepare for graduation!

Poet's Sports Schedule:

Men and Women's Swimming and Diving @ Occidental College

- OXY/UR Tri-Meet
- 10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 10

Men and Women's Swimming and Diving vs University of Redlands @ Los Angeles, CA

- OXY/UR Tri-Meet
- 10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 10

Men's Basketball @ Chapman University in Orange, CA

- 2 p.m.
- Feb. 10

Women's Basketball @ Chapman University in Orange, CA

- 5 p.m.
- Feb. 10

Softball at La Sierra University @ Riverside, CA

- 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- Feb. 11

Baseball at Vanguard University @ Costa Mesa, CA

- 2 p.m.
- Feb. 12

Baseball at Vanguard University @ Costa Mesa, CA

- 2 p.m.
- Feb. 12

Women's Basketball vs California Lutheran University @ Whittier, CA

- 7 p.m.
- Feb. 14

Men's Basketball at California Lutheran University @ Thousand Oaks, CA

- 7 p.m.
- Feb. 14

Baseball vs Lewis & Clark College @ Whittier, CA

- 2:30 p.m.
- Feb. 16

Women's Tennis vs Lewis & Clark College @ Whittier, CA

- 9 a.m.
- Feb. 17

Poets Are On the Right Track, and Field!

Emily Henderson
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The 2024 Track and Field season is officially underway! The teams recently had a multi-day season opener on Feb. 1 and Feb. 2 at Moorpark College, where third-year Gustavo Lopez placed fifth in the Men's 200 Meters Section one with a time of 22.62. For women, first-year Abbey Villegas placed eleventh in the Women's 60 meters, with a time of 8.48.

While the season opened with the Moorpark meet, the men's team had a previous competition on Jan. 28 at the OI DFE at the Claremont Colleges, where Gustavo Lopez placed a "historically significant time in both the 200m and 60m event," where he ranked first with a time of 22.52 (in the 200m). Lopez is now fourth on the indoor 200m all-time list for Whittier College Men's Track and has also recently placed second in 60m, with an impressive time of 7.12.

Lopez says the first track meet was a "huge success" for him. "Running three personal bests in one day is not easy, and I exceeded all of my expectations for myself during this competition." Lopez's statements on the personal victories he has found during his college time and career bode well for the season ahead. Lopez continues, stating, "Everyone is getting really good early marks and times that were hit at the end of last season." But improvement is always the name of the game for Lopez, explaining first-hand that he wants to be able to run



COURTESY OF ABBEY VILLEGAS

Villegas posing at a Purple and Gold team track competition.

10.9 for the 100m and faster than a 21.7 for the 200m. This goal would not only be a personal best for Lopez but would also allow him to qualify for nationals and get him a podium spot just in time for championships. "It's a big accomplishment for anyone to hit as a track and field athlete," the notable athlete concludes.

At the Moorpark meet, the Men's Poet Track and Field team, which includes Lopez, found enormous triumph and many significant successes. Lopez competed in the 60m, where he placed ninth with a time of 7.22. First-year Fejiro Nakirefu competed in the 300m, where he placed 14 with a time of 39.13 and 26th in the 600m, with a time of 1:35.29. Last but certainly not least, second-year Cameron

Riccio competed in the 3000m, placing eighth with a time of 8:52.99. Likewise, the Women's Poet Track and Field team had similar reputable times and victories. First-year Abbey Villegas competed in the 60m and placed 11 with a time of 8.48. Villegas also competed in the 200m, and with a time of 28.48, she placed 19.

Villegas is thrilled to be on the Purple and Gold Track team, saying that the season is both "exciting and nerve-racking at a collegiate level." She enjoys visiting the different schools in the area and getting to know her teammates on a deeper level. She hopes that she improves even more this season. "It's something I've always struggled [with,] but with the help from our coach,

it has been improving," Villegas states. She also credits her teammates "who have been patient and given me tips on what helped them with their block starts, which have helped me improve." Ultimately, she is incredibly thankful for the opportunity to continue to run at a collegiate level. "I am very appreciative of my teammates who have been so welcoming from the very beginning."

While Villegas' teammate, Taylor Viera did not compete in the Moorpark competition, Viera shares similar sentiments about the upcoming track season—even with it being her final season. "I can't wait to see my teammates prevail and see the hard work we put in [to] show on the track and field."

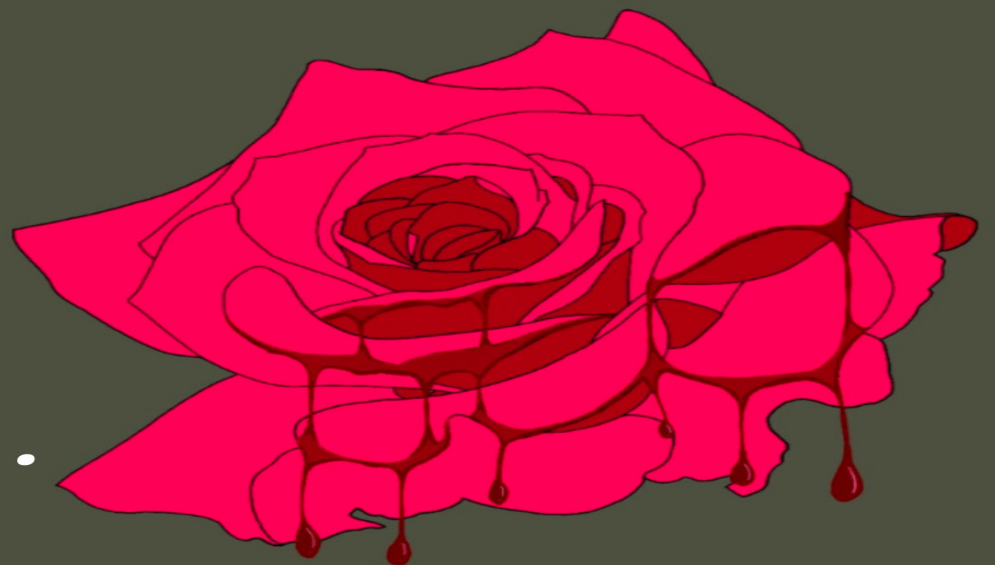
Viera did, however, compete at the OI DFE meet on Jan. 28, where she headlined and earned herself a sixth-place finish out of 11 competitors in the 200m dash with a time of 27.38. "Even though our team is small, we are close with one another. We are like a family in that sense," further explains Viera.

Ultimately, Viera hopes that the team stays healthy throughout the season and pushes past their personal bests. "In my opinion, a win for me is [a] win for my team and vice versa."

The Purple and Gold Track team will be competing in Spokane, Washington, at the Whitworth Invitational on Feb. 10 and Feb. 11. Their next in-state meet will be on Feb. 18 at Pomona-Pitzer's All-Comers-Claremont meet.

Coming Soon...

...The
winning
literary
journal...



The Greenleaf Review

Athlete of the Month: Rhe Nae Leach

Olivia Nunez
STAFF WRITER

Hello, Poets! This new segment of QC sports will highlight an Athlete of the Month throughout Whittier's Women's and Men's sports programs to bring recognition to student athletes we believe to have performed to a noteworthy capacity! For the first time in QC Sports section history, we would like to introduce you to Women's Basketball Star Rhe Nae Leach as this February issue's, Athlete of the Month!

Leach is a third-year student at Whittier who has played basketball for as many years as she has been a Poet. Leach is also a multi-sport athlete; she participates on the Whittier College Women's Track and Field team and has won All-American honors in the 4x100-meter Relay. Recently, the Women's Bas-

ketball team has had great success. While it has been a team effort, denying Leach's position as frontwoman would be impossible.

On a rainy Thursday night, Feb. 2, Leach, a Point Guard, reached an astounding 1,000 points in her career, a highly coveted achievement. She and the team went on to rack-up another home win against the Banana Slugs, 69-65, with Rhe Nae Leach as the leading player. She is among the fastest Poets to reach the milestone only in her third year, and she shows no signs of stopping. She needed 14 points in the game to get 1,000 and blew past it in only the second quarter, racking up 30 points in the effort!

Not only did she reach 1,000 points with ease, she also joined the 500-rebound club, which is no easy feat. Leach became the first Whittier player this season to hit double

digits in both field goals and free throws, which are achievements that seemed to be in the back of her mind. She plays for her teammates, which as she says, "I attribute my recent success to my work ethic and my supportive teammates and family that keep me going." She brings a relentless offensive approach as the lead in an unguardable team.

Throughout her collegiate career, she garnered Freshman of the Year, Track and Field Newcomer of the Year, Track and Field First Team All-SCIAC and All-Region, Second Team All-SCIAC in 2022 (Basketball) awards, as well as SCIAC Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week award multiple times. Whittier is the lone SCIAC program in the NCAA's Regional Rankings, highlighting a momentous season for the Poets. Leach has been its



COURTESY OF WHITTIER COLLEGE

Leach is a two-sport athlete, majoring in Physics.

most consistent contributor.

Leach's driven mentality and work ethic sets her apart, enabling her to cultivate so much success as a student athlete, not to mention her athleticism, especially in competing in two sports. However, what has created such a frenzy around Leach is her ability

to lead. She discussed her experience in this aspect, "Major moments were in high school and getting in for CIF and going to the NCAA tournament my freshman season of college and knowing that I have the ability to lead a team."

The Poets have had unparalleled success, and that has a lot to do with the kind

of mentality the players and leaders of the team bring to it. Leach has an unsatisfied approach to her game and is always looking for more, "I aspire to now get to 1,500 points to end my college career and then go on to play professionally anywhere that takes me."

Leach is able to dominate both sports with an desire to leave her mark wherever she competes. There is an impatient look in her eyes when she gets on the court that not many athletes possess. She plays with admirable passion for the game, and that, in turn, inspires those around her. It is infectious to see someone give their all, and it is clear that Leach plays to win no matter the opponent.

We wish Leach continued success and congratulate her for making her mark as a Poet!

'Juice' Jitsu Is Here: Drugs & Martial Arts

Matthew Garcia
FOR THE QC

The air in the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu gym hangs heavy with the scent of sweat and determination. The ambience of muffled rebounds of bodies hitting the mats mixed with winded chit-chat between practitioners fills the room. A sea of colorful gi uniforms (also called keikogi or dogi) and competition belts separate the old practitioners from the new. Students of all ages, shapes, genders, and sizes come together to share their love for the art.

In one corner of the spacious mat, two white belts engaged in a technical sparring session. Their movements were scrappy, a dance of broken technique and partial strategy as they grappled for control. Sweat dripped from their faces, and occasional grunts escaped their lips as they chased sweeps, escapes, and submissions. Further down the mat, a pair of blue belts engaged in a more advanced exchange. Their rolls were faster, transitions smoother, and the intensity palpable. The seasoned grapplers seamlessly intertwined their skills, showcasing the intricate chess game that is Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.



Ju Jitsu practitioners listen to their sensai.

COURTESY OF WHITTIER COLLEGE

In the midst of the action stood the black belt, Professor Gregory Santos. With his cauliflower ears, ironed out gi, and perfectly knotted belt, he analyzed the students gathered in the gym, tuning into spars when identifying imperfections, offering guidance and demonstrations between pairs. His movements were smooth yet powerful, a testament to years of practice and dedication to the art.

The bell rings "DING DING DING!" as the sparring sessions conclude. The elephant in the room, here and elsewhere soon came up when talking with practitioners of various levels.

Throughout the world of competitive Mixed Martial Arts, which has grown rapidly as a spectator sport, giving boxing a run for the money, is the impact of Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs) and whether or not they should be banned. When asked how the use of PEDs has affected his personal Jiu Jitsu experiences, Raymond Belfort, a brown belt, says, "It was almost like rolling with an unstoppable force. Every sweep, sub, or position I went for was met by a brick wall. I stood no chance. That was the only time I doubted my Jiu Jitsu."

Purple belt Samuel Munoz was more resigned to the reality that PEDs are

not going away. "If you can't beat them, join them. I'm only getting older. Soon enough I'll just be another old guy rolling on the mats," said Munoz. "Imagine you're in the same position as me. You have trained day after day, aspiring to get better at the sport you love. Never 'cutting corners,' always playing by the book, and you are met by another guy who's been training less than you, but still dominates you every single roll. What's the point of all my hard work if someone who's juiced could come and destroy me effortlessly?"

For these experienced practitioners, Jiu Jitsu is their life. They eat, train, sleep, and repeat. Jiu Jitsu

isn't just a sport, but a test. The sport of Jiu Jitsu relates to life in itself. No matter what position you've managed to get yourself in, it is up to your ability and experience to either excel or decline.

Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs) encompass a spectrum of substances that athletes may use to augment their physical capabilities. On the bright side, some argue that moderate use of PEDs can serve as an aid to enhance strength, endurance, and recovery — leading to improved athletic performance. However, the benefits come at a considerable cost. The dangers of PEDs include a range of

health issues such as cardiovascular complications, liver damage, hormonal imbalances, and psychological side effects.

The use of PEDs often violates anti-doping regulations in many professional and amateur sports contests with governing bodies. Positive testing can result in fines, suspensions and other consequences such as tarnished reputations. Nevertheless, PEDs are rampant in competitive athletics and many urge that quest for enhanced performance be balanced with an awareness of the serious health risks and ethical considerations associated with the use of these substances.

Will this new wave of 'juicers' change the sport, and — as Santos sees it, its character — for good? Or will a backlash against PEDs arise? That's not likely until competitive organizations such as the International Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Federation (IBJJF), ADCC BJJ, and Tezno WNO World Leagues set strict guidelines controlling the use of the juice. Currently, though, no agencies such as the USADA regulate or monitor the use of PEDs in much of competitive Jiu Jitsu, a sport.

This article has been condensed for print. If you would like to read the full article, visit [Medium.com/Poetinis](https://medium.com/Poetinis)

Daisy Dazzles Whittier with a Smile

Piper Guinn
STAFF WRITER

There are a few aspects of Whittier College that stand out; one of these is the staff at the Campus Inn (CI). Students see the same faces every day, swiping them in, serving food, and cleaning up messes. Even though the staff sees hundreds of students a day, they learn names, ask about the students' day, and give them their personal attention. When the CI staff went on strike last Spring, the school realized that the people who cared so much for the students of Whittier were not properly cared for themselves. But as the staff marched around the picket line, chanting "¡Si se puede!" they continued to smile. They had faith that their circumstances would improve and had faith in each other. When their demands were met and the CI re-opened, the staff welcomed the students back with waves of affection. They jumped right back into work, smiling, not out of obligation, but out of accomplishment.

One of those smiles belongs to Daisy Machado, a lovely woman who has worked at Whittier College since 2008. Machado immigrated to the US from El Salvador when she was 18 to finish high school, but since she already had children at the time, she was unable to continue her education by attending college. When asked about the difference in opportunities between the two countries, Machado remarked, "In America, you get more opportunity to grow because you get paid by

the hour. In my country, you know, you get paid \$12 for the day. But the good thing over there is that you don't pay rent. You own your house or live with your mom." Machado's first job out of high school was at a pizza restaurant, "cleaning, cashiering, and anything that needed to be done."

Always eager to please, Machado does not grumble or complain when there's a task at hand. She knows what needs to be done and she knows she can do it well. She has spent the majority of her time living in Los Angeles and does not have plans to leave anytime soon, but she would like to return to El Salvador after retirement. Although her four children and seven grandchildren live here, there's a part of her motherland that tugs at her heartstrings, calling her back. Her mother, sister, and close cousins are still living in El Salvador as well. "I have my family here, but I have family back home too," she remarked.

When asked what she enjoys about Whittier, Machado stated communicating with the students, staff, and faculty are before anything else. Her favorite thing about working for Whittier College is getting to "see everyone happy," which shows in her face when you walk through the door. She welcomes every student with a "Good morning!" or "¡Buenas días!" when they walk through the doors, and her expression brightens when someone walks in she knows well. Machado also feels that, by working at the CI, she has "learned a lot." She



NUNE PAPIKYAN / QUAKER CAMPUS

Daisy Machado always greets students with a smile.

commented, "I think I have more education," her thoughts trailing off as she recalled her growth over the years. "You know, [through] the way I speak and communicate." Earnestly, she added, "And I really like what I do," nodding slightly to further affirm this. English is Machado's second language, but that does not stop her from bonding with students who don't speak Spanish. If you talk to Machado, she'll talk back, bubbling with conversation.

Regarding the strike, Machado noted that working conditions improved greatly in the months following. The demands of the staff were met and answered; they feel more comfortable in their positions now, and everyone got a raise. "It

was great to unite with my coworkers and work together again," she said, pride showing through her voice. There is no doubt that Machado has strong friendships with the staff, and she discussed their unity fondly. When asked if the student population helped the staff achieve their goal, her face lit up. "Of course, they did a lot. They helped a lot." While the staff has yet to receive the pensions they were promised, Machado remains hopeful they will come soon and does not have any major complaints about the way things are run now.

During her time off, Machado enjoys spending time with her family and watching *telenovelas* on Univision, an American Spanish-language channel. Machado is

also a sucker for love stories, which explains why *The Notebook* is her favorite movie. "I like the romantic movies; that's my favorite genre... and the funny ones."

When asked what animal she would be, Machado notes with a laugh, "I think I would be a dog, because they're loyal."

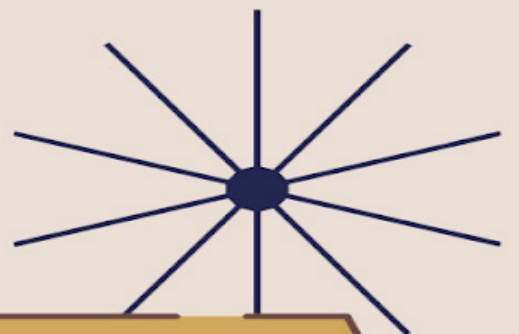
Daisy Machado has been loyal to Whittier College for 16 years, to her family, and to her homeland. She was brave enough to continue her education in a new country, strong enough to raise a family, compassionate enough to care for the College and its students, and fearless enough to fight for fair treatment for her and her coworkers. Above all, she is happy. Above all, she continues to smile.

need anonymous advice?

ASK A POET

send us an email with the heading "ASK A POET" and possibly be featured in the newspaper or on Instagram!

qc@poets.whittier.edu



Dating Life: A Student's Perspective

Lucy Campbell
SPORTS EDITOR

Like many people, college has been a time of great discovery for me. By leaving your fate in an uneasy state of limbo while trying to make sense of just what it is that you want to do, who you want to be, and the things that matter most to you in this world, you leave a lot of room for fate to step in and redirect your path. Occasionally, if you are one of the lucky ones, the unforeseen events of your future and the daunting road college has to offer might just lead you to a certain little phenomenon we like to call love. Whether purposefully sought out or randomly stumbled upon, love seems to manifest itself in mysterious ways, waiting just around the corner of any college bar, house party, public library, or classroom.

The likelihood of encountering love, in one form or another, when navigating through the countless diverse and complicated avenues college has to offer is high and inevitably bound to happen at least once in every young adult's life. However, this same inevitability does not to apply to how long this love may last. Despite an overly romanticized picture painted any time young love is concerned, which I, for one, am just as guilty of, the reality is that relationships are challenging and take a tremendous amount of time and effort. A beautiful fictitious mirage teeming with long walks on the beach at sunset and picnics with heart-shaped pizza straight out of a storybook may unexpectedly become interrupted by packed daily schedules and diverging roads

that lead two people in opposite directions.

I understand that my stance thus far on the destructive nature of college relationships is bleak and somewhat cynical, making it seem like I have some personal vendetta against the topic. And in all honesty, I do. I am sad to admit that the hostility and sourness I find myself holding on to have evolved out of my time as a student who was once, if truth be told, madly and irrevocably in love.

Freshman me, self-assured and still painfully unaware of life's undeniable aptness to cause heartache, found myself suddenly spending all the extra minutes I had in a day with a boy whose happiness I valued as much as my own. He was instantly my best friend. Distracted by incessant streams of laughter, Trader Joe's runs that lasted a bit too long, and a fierce,

unwavering desire to be near one another constantly, the notion of time became something of an illusion to us. A non-existent and unfamiliar concept that we needed not to pay any mind to. Even though my younger self clearly appeared to lack a coherent understanding of the matter or what in the world it was that made me feel this way, I did, nonetheless, know that I had fallen hard and that I wanted to grocery shop with him forever.

While I could drone on and on about my first college boyfriend and our comedically predictable yet beautiful, tragic, young, and dumb love story, I'd rather not bore you to death with all the hairy details. Ultimately, I am thankful for the relationship we shared and the time we spent together. It is ridiculous to attempt to come up with a comprehensive conclusion as to whether dating in college is possible

or not, and I feel as though I won't be able to. Naturally, when you fall in love or get into a committed relationship, you risk getting hurt and must gamble with time. But, what is even more ridiculous than attempting to answer that question is to be scared of an unknowable expiration date that may or may not one day come.

As you are led through continuous twists and turns of college that pull you in every direction except for what feels like forward, predicting where you will end up in a month, let alone a year, is an almost impossible feat. Although this uncertainty about the future does, in theory, spark major feelings of apprehension, the precarious fluctuating mess of life that is college and all the emotions and experiences that come with it should not be taken for granted, especially those that begin with L.



Dating life is hard for students

JACOB PEREZ / QUAKER CAMPUS

Ask a Poet, a Poet Answers

Dear Poet,

Valentine's day is coming up and I wanted to do something nice for my girlfriend. We've been together for a few years, and I feel like I've overdone the whole dinner and flowers thing. What can I do instead??

*Sincerely,
A Head Over Heels Poet*

Dear Poet,

First of all, I just wanna say good on you for acknowledging that your partner deserves nice things and that it's time to switch up the old Valentine's Day routine. Readers, I know I'm praising the bare minimum. But some people still haven't figured it out and this is a good example for the class.

Pay attention. First thing you gotta do is use your ears! Your partner has probably been dropping hints about what they want for Valentine's, whether they meant to or not. Remember that time they were telling you about how they liked the perfume their co-worker was wearing the other day and they named the brand AND the store they sell it at? You better have written it down. If not, you should go have a nice chat with your partner. Ask them how their day went.

Another suggestion, instead of just going out to dinner, take your partner out to a museum or a botanical garden! There's nothing wrong with dinner. But as you said, it's kinda overdone and eventually all the dinners start to blend together. Plus, it's so hard to get reservations at nice places around Valentine's day nowadays. Give them a reason to dress up super cute and take them somewhere where you can take nice pictures together! I recommend going to the Getty Villa (which is always free) or the Arlington Gardens in Pasadena (also free).

You can also try to plan an activity together! Going out is expensive. Put a movie on, drink some wine, build some Lego flowers and reflect on the years you've spent together. This is my idea of a good time because my love language is quality time. A final alternative to the Valentine's day dinner is to make it yourself! Make some heart shaped pizzas and get flour on your noses like a cliché rom-com.

Dear Poet, in the end, you know your partner and what they like and dislike. You said you've been together for a few years now. Follow your heart! And also, instead of suffering in silence trying to plan something nice for your partner, ask them if they have any ideas! Plan something together. It's your day! Have fun with it.

Happy Valentine's Day,
A Poet <3

P.S. Don't forget to your partner how gorgeous/handsome they look. Showing appreciation goes a long way.



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PAIGE MEYER-DRAFFEN / QUAKER CAMPUS

The QC Staff

Suggests:

Sage Amdahl
MANAGING EDITOR

Want to know what our Managing Editor recommends this week? Read on!

Music

Noah Kahan experienced a surge in popularity (thanks, me-thinks, to the magic touch of TikTok's algorithm) after the release of his album *Stick Season*, which propelled the melancholic musician into the spotlight. As much as I love *Stick Season*, I would like to spotlight his older albums, *Busyhead* and *I Was/I Am*. In particular, the songs "Young Blood", "False Confidence", and "Hallelujah".



COURTESY OF Spotify

Movie:

I don't know about you, but the 2021 pandemic release of *Love and Monsters* — starring the beloved Dylan O'Brien — completely slipped under my radar. Thanks to a very boring flight to Whittier, I experienced the joy of watching this hilarious apocalypse comedy. A complete deviation from the emotionally draining zombie and viral apocalypse films of late, this raunchy movie offers loads of laughs as it follows the odyssey of a lonely young man who desperately misses his (kind of) ex and would do anything to be reunited with her.



COURTESY OF IMDB

TV

With the premiere of the newly adapted live-action *Avatar: The Last Airbender* looming on the horizon, my childhood nostalgia has taken over and binge-watching the old cartoons has been a non-negotiable. In the spirit of continuing the *Avatar* legacy, I recommend watching *The Legend of Korra*. This show is a complete masterpiece (excluding season two, perhaps) that keeps the *ATLA* joy alive, but with a storyline that better suits older fans.



COURTESY OF Wikipedia

From Records to Films: Richard Foos Returns to Where it Started

Nune Papikyan
PHOTOGRAPHER

Richard Foos is a producer, entrepreneur, entertainment visionary, and one of the co-founders of Shout! Factory. On Jan. 23, he visited Whittier College and held a seminar in Hoover Hall room 100 where he answered questions about his work and the film industry at large. At the beginning of his talk, he explained how he has been in the entertainment business for 40 years. Despite having worked in the business for a long time, like most other people, he had to start somewhere.

Foos attended Whittier College for the first two years of his college career, claiming it to be a great social experience. However, at the time, the College did not have the resources for the career he wanted to pursue. He was eventually accepted into a semester-long program at USC that focused on a study of the inner city and latin arts. He eventually ended up stuck not knowing what to do.

It was not until he went to the La Mirada Swap Meet, where he saw a booth selling records that he figured out what he wanted, to do. After finding out where they were selling the records— a store in

Hollywood called Aron's Records— Foos went over and bought everything, including the entire business for \$2, eventually calling it Rhino Records. They began selling records from artists who were no longer in print, starting with music from the 60s. They became licensed by Universal Music to do this. This eventually led to his current career of owning the distribution rights to many old films.

In the 2000s, the music industry began to blast off, so they made the decision to only focus on films, expanding that part of their business.

Of course, with so much success comes some bumps in the road, and he recounted specific times from when they started Rhino Records. They were just putting things out "willy nilly." They would let many punk bands slip through their hands, but one of his biggest misses was Weird Al Yankovich. Yankovich sent them a tape he had recorded from his dorm bathroom, and "I just thought it was a little juvenile," Foos recounts. Yankovich was later discovered by Doctor Demento and started to get big. Rhino Records was not fast enough to get him back, and he was eventually signed to another record company.



COURTESY OF MICHAEL HAERING

Foos set his sights on the entertainment industry.

Foos has been a part of the entertainment industry for a long time, and he has noticed the changes within it and what has stayed the same over time. Just as it was before with the records, he states that people, despite streaming, still enjoy having a physical copy: "Amazingly enough, vinyl has seen some unbelievable growth, DVDs stayed the same [...] there's people who still like the physical—plus you get the extras." Most of the work he does now is buying the distribution rights for certain films—more so with independent producers—such as the Jim Henson company. Still, Foos is not deterred by streaming, often times doing business with

platforms like Roku and Amazon.

Some advice he would give to young filmmakers is to "find a [big city] that isn't LA." He speaks of his son, who created a short film comedy centering a transgender protagonist, creating a film in a niche that is not as populated. But one that always works, he says, is low budget horror. "Even if it fails, it doesn't matter [...] as long as it's well done." And finally, he says to do anything you can to get an internship to boost your morale and get ahead within the industry.

This article has been condensed for print. To read more, visit medium.com/the-quaker-campus.

LA Activities for Black History Month

Emily Henderson
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

February is Black History Month, which celebrates "the important role of Black History in pursuit of racial justice and equality," according to the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. And what better way to honor Black Americans' legacy and contributions than by attending events in Los Angeles? The events below are through the Los Angeles County Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) for African American Heritage Month, which "runs concurrently with Black History Month."

Bahia Reverb: Artists and Place

Want to witness great art made by "10 former fellows at the Saccatar Institute in Bahia, Brazil, all from North America and of African descent"? Come to the Bahia Reverb: Artists and Place exhibit, in collaboration with California African American Museum (CAAM) and Art + Practice (A+P). The artists "reflect on how Bahia, an epicenter of the African diaspora, has fueled their work and changed their understanding of themselves," with their pieces.

The event is free and ends March 2 at 5 p.m. For more information visit [artandpractice.org/exhibitions/exhibition/bahia-](https://artandpractice.org/exhibitions/exhibition/bahia-reverb-artists-and-place/)



There are many activities around LA for Black History Month.

COURTESY OF THE GRAMMY MUSEUM

reverb-artists-and-place/.

Hip Hop America: The Mixtape Exhibit

Love Hip-Hop? Want to learn the history of how it started, with real artifacts from the greatest hip-hop musicians of all time? Come to the Grammy Museum to visit Hip Hop America: The Mixtape Exhibit, and celebrate 50 years of one of the most influential genres of music. You can "delve deep into the multifaceted world of hip-hop through expansive exhibits on hip-hop music, dance, graffiti, fashion, business, activism, and history, providing visitors with an immersive experience."

The event costs \$13-\$15, and ends Sept. 4 at 5 p.m. For more information, visit grammymuseum.org/event/hip-hop-america-the-mixtape-exhibit/.

"Celebrate Black History Month" at the Academy Museum of Motion Picture

The Academy Museum of Motion Picture has a plethora of different activities, celebrating notable achievements in Black filmmaking. This includes mini-documentaries "built to educate viewers about the contributions of Black people in American history, created by legendary producer-director Neema Barnette, and filmmaker Reed R. McCants," in the Netflix Lounge. It is free with admission, every Friday in February from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

You can also see their film series *Echoes of Africa*, showcasing "the tapestry of African experiences, triumphs, dreams, and realities." The last film, *Vaya*, plays on Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. with tickets ranging from \$5-\$10.

The Museum is also programming spotlights on notable Black actors and filmmakers. The next one is called "Remembering Harry Belafonte: *Buck and the Preacher*," happening on Feb. 24 at 3 p.m.

Lastly, the Museum is showcasing an exhibit within the Significant Movies and Movie-makers gallery on the groundbreaking 1991 *Boyz n the Hood*, showcasing "rare production photos, costumes and props from the film, as well as ephemera from [director] John Singleton's personal collection."

If you would like more information, visit academymuseum.org/en/blackhistorymonth2024.

This article has been condensed for print. To read more, visit medium.com/the-quaker-campus.

Percy Jackson Makes a Splash

Meylina Tran
A&E EDITOR

This article contains spoilers. Reader discretion is advised.

Look, Percy Jackson didn't want to be a halfblood.

Unfortunately for Percy, legions of fans love that he's the half-god, half-mortal son of Poseidon, so much that they've steadfastly waited almost 20 years for a faithful adaptation of the beloved book series, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* (PJO). After a painful misstep at the height of the Young Adult dystopian book-to-movie boom (we don't talk about those movies), and a delightful, if slightly awkward, Broadway musical, Percy Jackson is back under author Rick Riordan's pen, this time in the form of a TV show airing exclusively on Disney+.

The eight episode series adapts *The Lightning Thief*—the first of the

five original PJO books—which follows 12-year-old Percy Jackson as he discovers that he is the son of the Greek god Poseidon. Accused of having stolen Zeus' master bolt, Percy must embark on a cross-country quest from New York to California with Annabeth Chase (a daughter of Athena) and Grover Underwood (a satyr) to prevent a war from breaking out amongst the gods.

First and foremost, the entire cast is phenomenal at breathing new life into these beloved (and much maligned) characters. But special attention must be put on the three kids cast to play the golden trio themselves: Walker Scobell as Percy Jackson, Leah Sava Jeffries as Annabeth Chase, and Aryan Simhadri as Grover Underwood. With their youthful charm, wit, and determination, these three seamlessly embody their characters; it's as if Percy, Annabeth, and Grover fell straight from the pages

and onto the screen. Their chemistry together is electric, and their jokes—wry, subtle, and mostly just the result of confusion—perfectly reflect the humor of a modern day 12-year-old.

I must give Walker Scobell his flowers separately. Despite *Percy Jackson* being only his third project to date, Scobell delivers the strongest performance in the entire show. He conveys simultaneous confusion, exasperation, animosity, and hope with ease. Watching Scobell as Percy come into his own as a demigod hero was intensely gratifying, and (as a long-time PJO fan) it felt like meeting an old friend again.

However, the series is not without its flaws, and there are a few. The primary issue that this series is plagued with—and which informs the rest of the series' pitfalls, namely the average runtime of each episode—is its dedication to utilizing the original novel's chapter titles,

especially once the trio officially leaves Camp Half Blood and embarks on their quest. Now, I don't have my copy of *The Lightning Thief* on hand to cross-reference, but I remember that each chapter title was a way to foreshadow the event of that chapter.

The issue, then, is that each chapter focuses on a single event. In a similar fashion, though elements of different chapters are meshed together to create a fuller, more vivid world from the get-go (as well as to please die-hard fans), episodes three to seven still primarily focus on a single event. There is very little happening outside of what "I Plunge to My Death" is directly referencing. Thus, there is very little consistency between episode runtimes. Whereas "I Become Supreme Lord of the Bathroom" boasts a respectable 44 minute runtime, "We Take a Zebra to Vegas" falls flat with a 34 minute runtime.

This, however, does not mean that Riordan is not utilizing this new medium to update his nearly 20-year-old story. Some of the more political aspects of the story—such as the story of Medusa (Jessica Parker Kennedy), or the transformation of Sally Jackson (Percy's mother, portrayed by Virginia Kull) from *The Second Virgin Mary* to *Multifaceted Woman*—are updated and reworked to better appease modern audiences. Even the unchanging gods are given a makeover; they are given depth that Riordan barely afforded them until *The Last Olympian*, the last book in the PJO series.

What excites me the most about the portrayal of the gods is their innate awareness that their world and family is fucked up. And yet, predictably, they refuse to adjust their ways, therefore corrupting their

demigod children into believing that honor and glory for yourself is the only way to get their parents' attention (not love).

These changes also come with some downsides, most notably, the lack of spunk that the characters—especially Percy—exhibit, and the absence of little details that made the original series fun. In the books, Charon (the guy who delivers the souls of the dead across the River Styx) *loves* fine Italian suits and gripes about how Hades was only paying him minimum wage. In the show, Charon is just a guy in a gray cloak. Boring! Was it too difficult to put him in fake Gucci? Could we not CGI a pink poodle in the background? Come on!

As for the spunk that the show is missing, a lot of the reasoning boils down to the medium. Readers primarily witnessed Percy's spunk and sass through his narration, which the show was either unable, or unwilling, to replicate. As I've said, the kids are not dull by any means—they are masters at being charming and goofy whilst retaining an edge of danger and ferocity—but the show suffers from the lack of that *je ne sais quoi*.

For all of the show's faults and pitfalls, it still succeeds in reminding me why I loved Percy Jackson in the first place. I won't say that the world feels fully realized, because it's not (that's what the second season is for!), but, for what the first season requires, the world building is thorough without being too overwhelming. I, for one, cannot wait for more.

The full series is now streaming on Disney+.

This article has been condensed for print. To read more, visit medium.com/the-quaker-campus.



The fan-favorite book series comes to life on Disney+.

COURTESY OF DISNEY+

Love and Other Stuff, From the QC

Emma Galvan
COPY EDITOR

Ah, Valentine's Day, the day of love, whether it's romantic, platonic, or familial. Whatever your opinion may be, there is no denying the amount of content that can be consumed about the topic of love. The romantic comedies that are either guilty pleasures or jokingly horrible, the books that can make or break the way you see your own love life, the music to feed into delusions (guilty as charged for me), and anything else "the power of love" has produced. But whether you're single or taken, what is the best entertainment you should consider checking out this year? Let's see what the *Quaker Campus* staff recommends!

Emily Henderson
(Editor-in-Chief)

Song: "A Modern Lay" by Slaughter Beach, Dog because it's all of these little stories of love.

Movie: *Tangled*. I cry when I watch it, and so does my dad (I love Fly-

nn and Rapunzel).

Meylina Tran

(Arts & Entertainment Editor)
"My favorite romantic movie is *Notting Hill* starring Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant. I think that movie is the joint peak of their powers in the rom-com genre because it kind of goes downhill for the both of them rom-com-wise."

Olivia Nunez (Staff Writer)

"One of my favorite movies of all time, and a comfort film, is *While You Were Sleeping*, starring Sandra Bullock and Bill Pullman. Sure, it's unrealistic and slightly problematic (she lies about being engaged to a comatose man), but it's the charming insecurity of Bullock and Pullman's unwillingness to admit that he loves her that makes it so enchanting. I recommend watching this with a cup of coffee and wrapped in a blanket to fully immerse yourself in the warm, fuzzy feelings this movie elicits."

Sara Martinez (Copy Editor)

"Favorite album for Valentine's Day: Laufey's *Typical of Me* EP. Favorite Food: Spaghetti. Favorite Dessert: Chocolate Lava Cake. Favorite Movie: *Shrek 2* and *Crazy Stupid Love*. Favorite TV Show Series: *Coffee Prince* (Korean Drama). Favorite Activities: Make handmade cards and/or goodie bags for my friends and family. Favorite Candy: See's Milk Molasses Chips and Almond Royals. Favorite date plans: Keep it simple! My boyfriend and I have a tradition of having a pasta dinner with a glass of wine (white or red).

Emma Galvan (Copy Editor)

"I don't have many favorites in specific genres because there's so many. However, I have got to go with the book *Alex & Eliza* by Melissa de la Cruz. Yes, it is not 100 percent factual about the love story of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler, but if that's ignored, it's actually a pretty cute love story that carried hopeless romantic me during my freshman year of high school. But just read the first book;

the other two are not it."

Nune Papikyan (Photographer)

"My suggestion would be *Pride and Prejudice* (2005). First of all, it's a romance written by a woman with many complex characters with different wants and needs. But also the way the film is so beautifully shot; for example, the Netherfield Ball is this very long shot with no cuts that shows the events going on from Elizabeth's point of view.

You can see Mr. Darcy begins to follow her, but looking anxious and walking away. And, OMG, the addition of the close-up shot of Mr. Darcy's hand was so perfectly placed to show his feelings for Elizabeth in the moment. Also, I just love period romances."

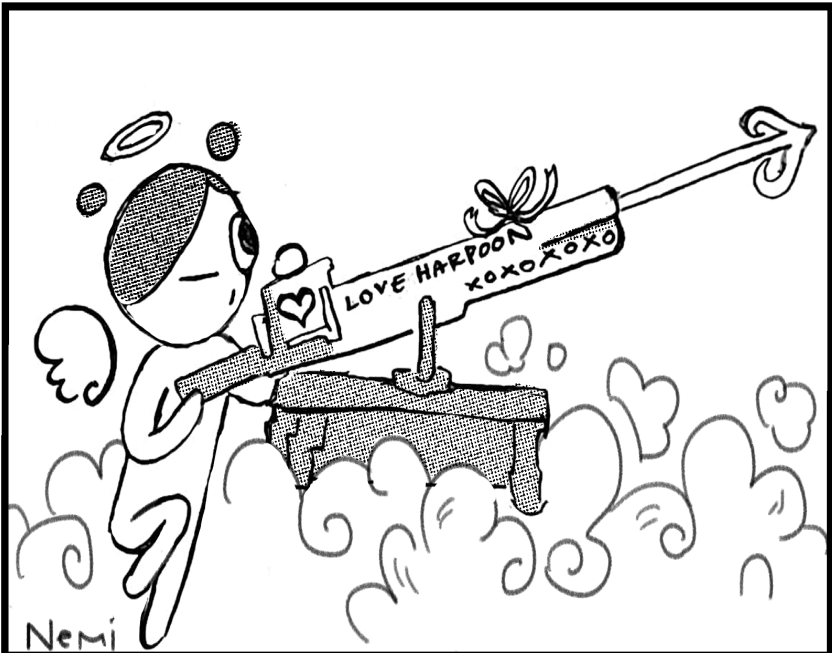
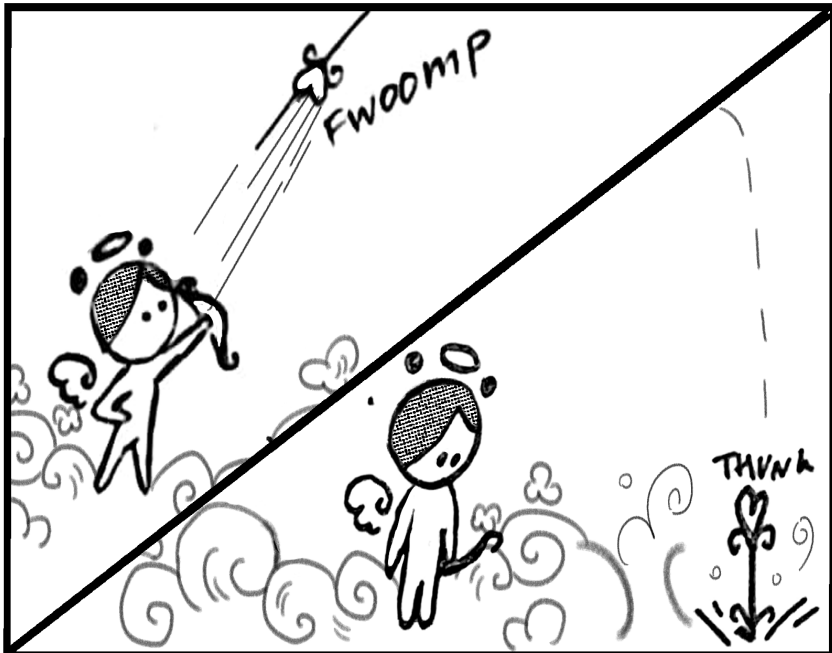
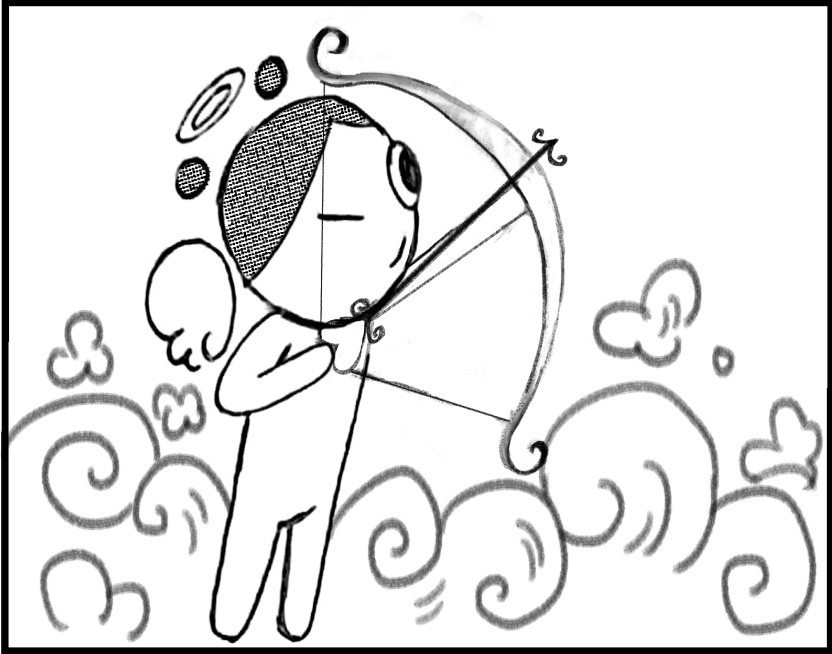
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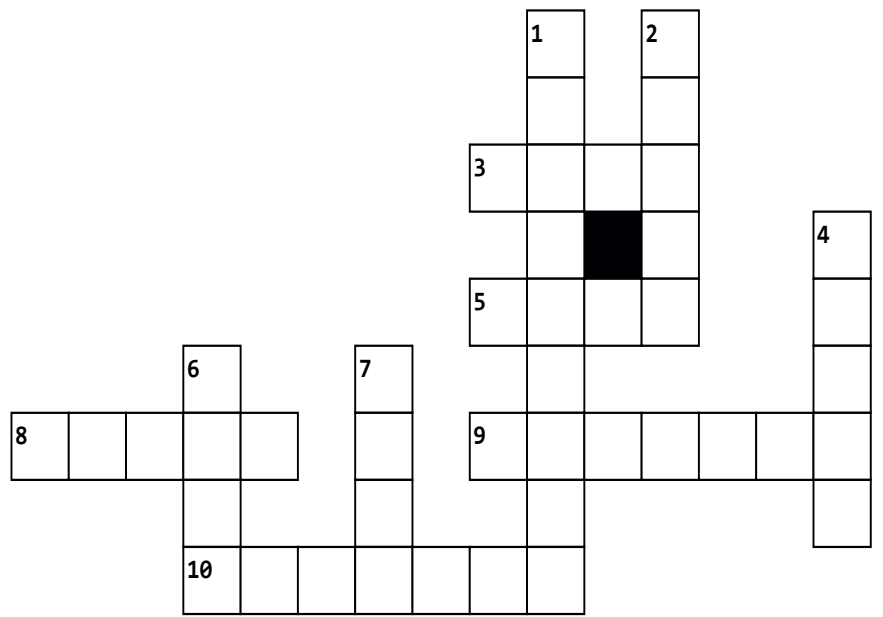
Snuggle up with a comfort movie!

Kero



COURTESY OF CRAYOLA

Valentine's Day Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 3. Hugs and kisses!
- 5. The flower of the season
- 8. Baby with a diaper
- 9. Your other half
- 10. The other word for cuddle time!

Down

- 1. Yummy and delectable treat, comes in heart form
- 2. Like a big pizza pie, that's ____
- 4. Anatomical or not, abundant during this time of year
- 6. A smooch for a loved one
- 7. If you like it, put this on it

Tic Tac Toe

