

Fall 2026 SMC Corsair student newsroom awards

The Corsair, SMC Journalism Students Win 44 National & Regional Awards

Includes top Pacemaker and Pinnacle wins among U.S. student newsrooms

SANTA MONICA, CA — Santa Monica College's (SMC) student-run media outlet ***The Corsair*** and its staff won 24 regional awards this fall from the **Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC)**, plus four national honors from the **Associated Collegiate Press (ACP)** and 16 national awards from the **College Media Association (CMA)**, including several first-place awards. The awards were announced at the **JACC SoCal Conference** held at **Cal State Northridge** on Oct. 10 and at the **CMA/ACP Fall National College Media Convention** held Nov. 5-7 in **Kansas City, Mo**.

The ACP honored The Corsair with its top **Pacemaker** award for multiplatform news outlets, one of 21 student newsrooms nationally to win the recognition, including **Harvard** and **Northwestern University**. In addition to SMC, seven other California student newsrooms won the **Multiplatform Pacemaker**: **UCLA**, **Cal Poly San Luis Obispo**, **Cal State Long Beach**, **Cal State Sacramento**, **El Camino College**, **Las Positas College** and **Fullerton College**.

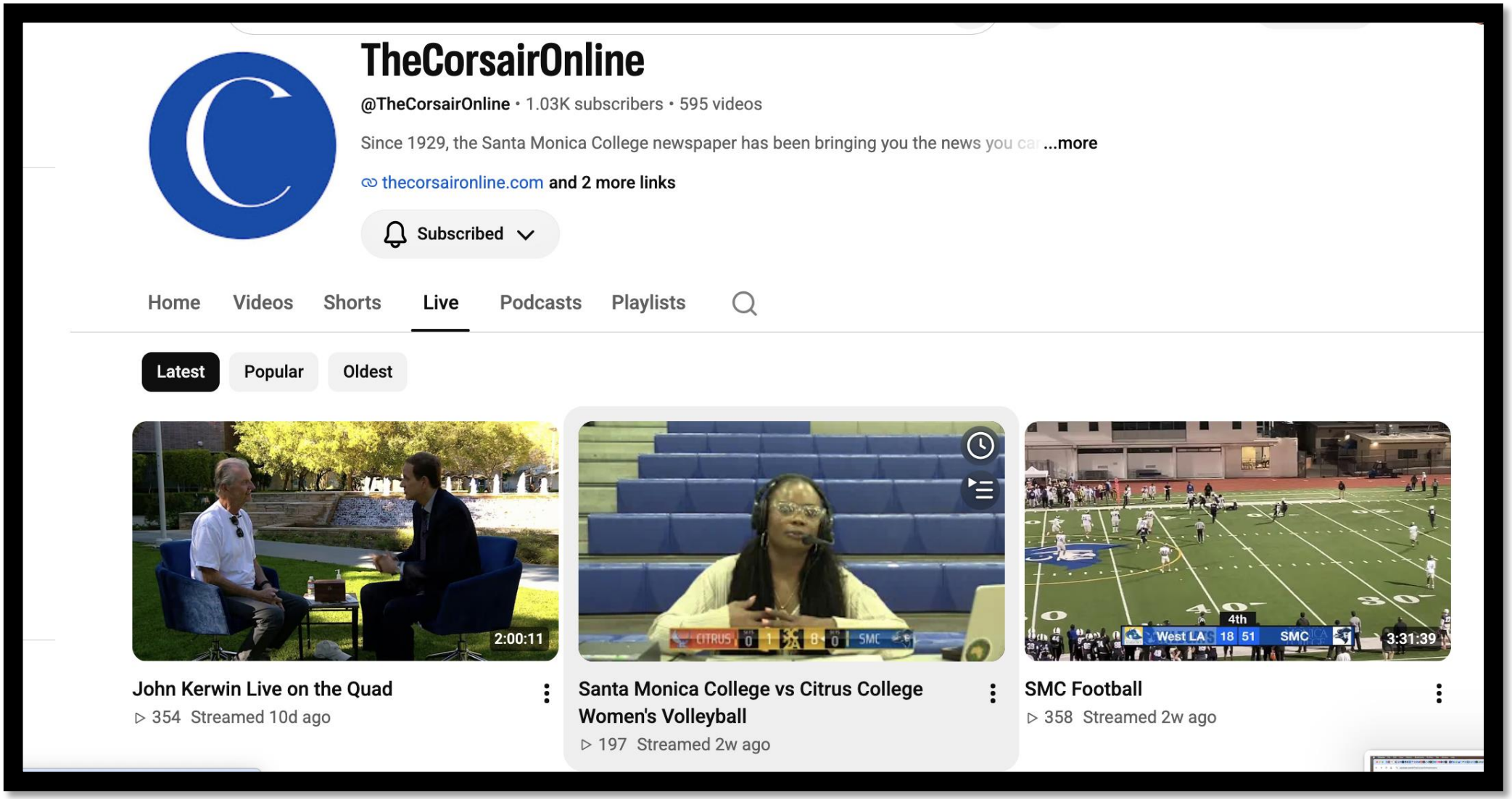
Corsair leadership

- Advising team: Professors Sharyn Obsatz, Gerard Burkhart, Samantha Nuñez (soon to be Jimenez)

- Editor team led by Editor in Chief Sofia Kieser and Managing Editor Vicki Mehdizadeh



Collab: Journalism and Media Production



Winning student photos



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The Corsair
Student publication of Santa Monica College
Fairytale Club Row enchants
Read more on Pg. 24
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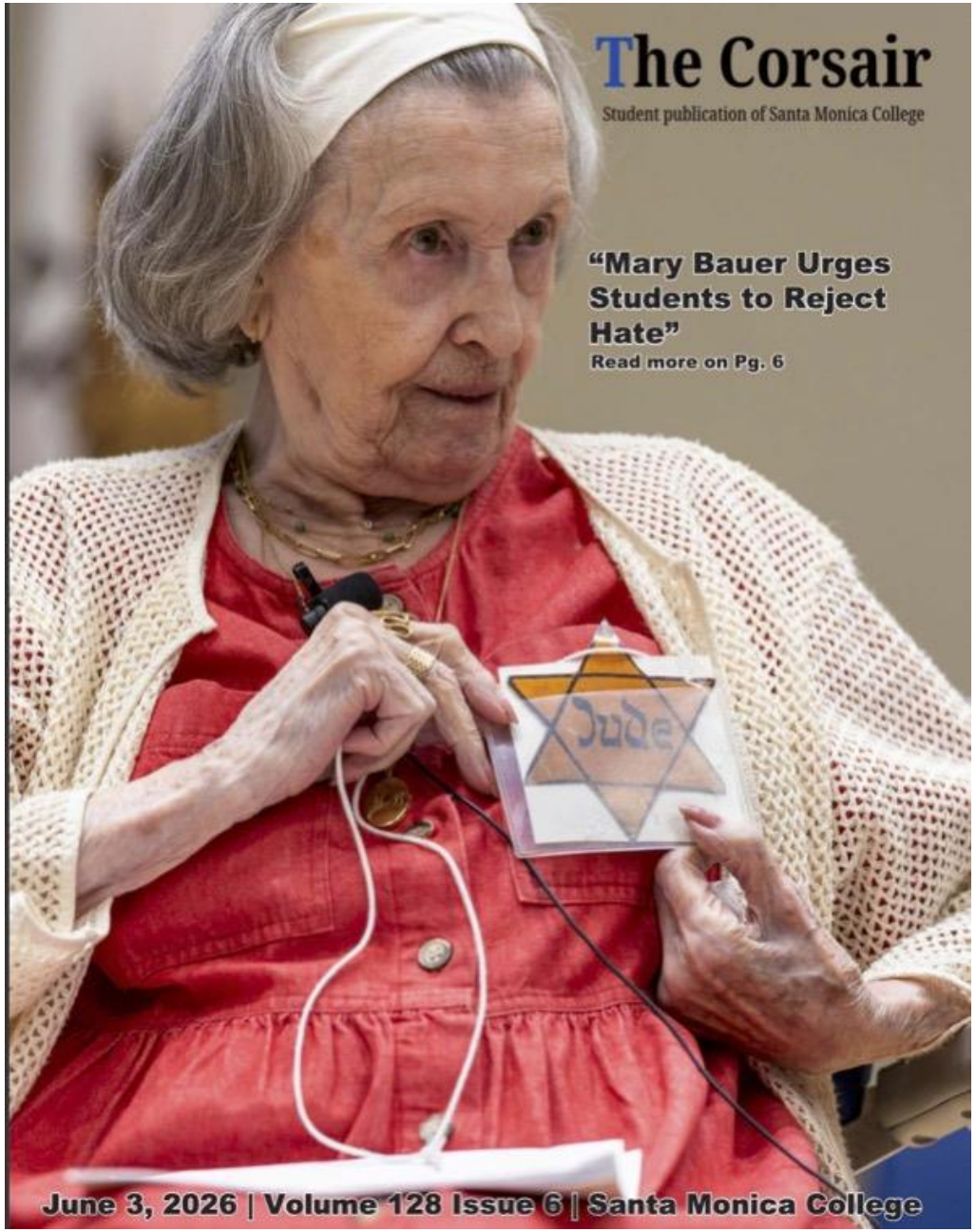
The Corsair
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"Mary Bauer Urges Students to Reject Hate"
Read more on Pg. 6
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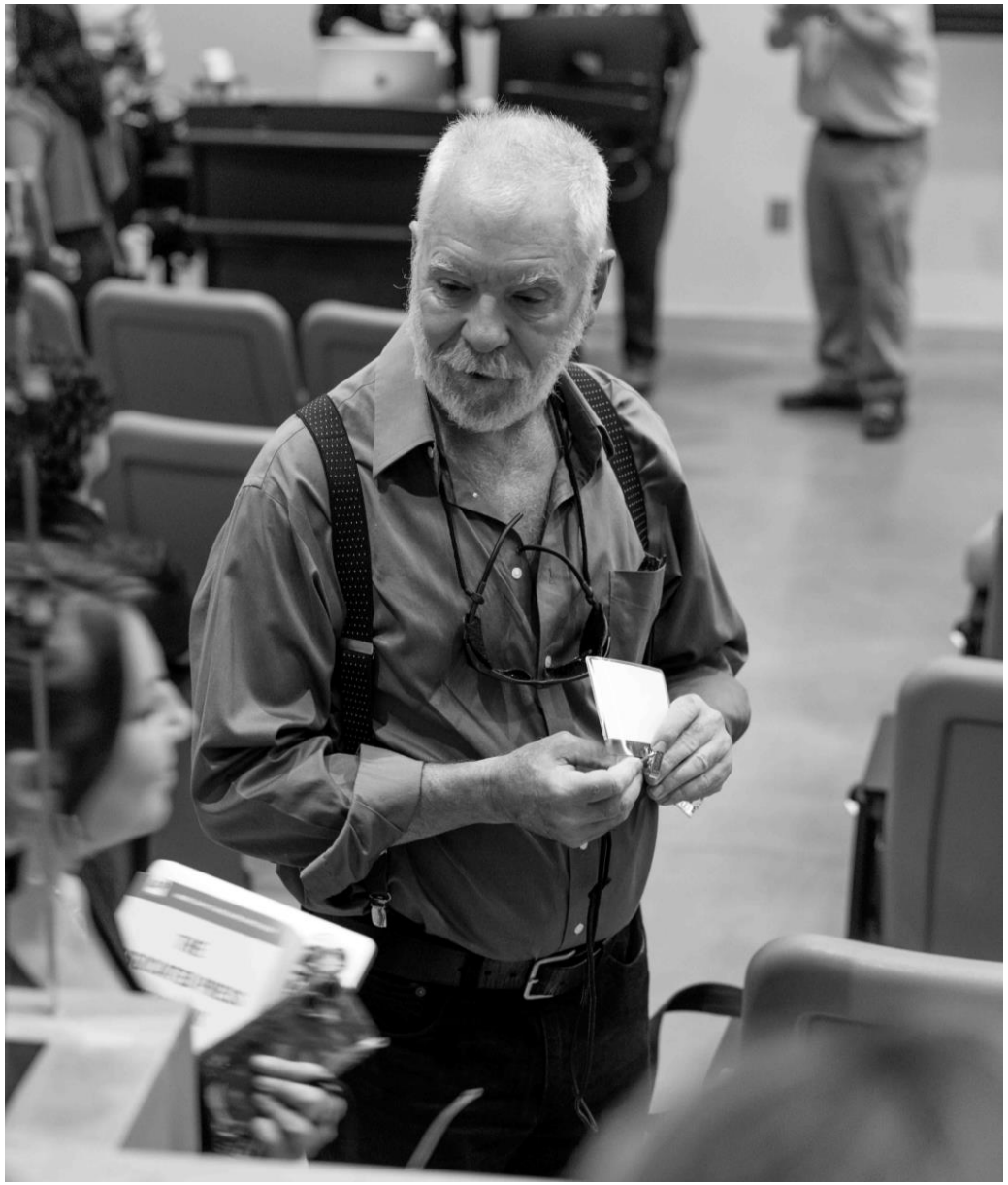
2026 California Community College Educator of the Year: Gerard Burkhart, SMC Photojournalism Instructor

- From the Journalism Education Collaborative and California Press Foundation
- Photo by Elizabeth Bacher, Corsair photo editor



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