

Community casts their votes on campus grounds
Voters cast their ballots on several propositions on issues including rent, minimum wage and school funding.



The LA County Registrar's office names Valley College as one of the most popular voting centers in the county. This year they will be selecting a new president.

Angel Silva,
Managing Editor

There are five days until Election Day on Nov 5. Early voting has already begun, with 44 million mail-in and early in-person votes already being cast. This year, many important issues are on the ballot, both on a statewide and national level. Apart from voting for president, congressional representatives and local elected officials, California voters will also vote on ten propositions on the ballot, and Los Angeles County voters have a measure to consider as well. From funding public schools to increasing representation, college voters have a lot of propositions to consider that will affect their experience on campuses, in Los Angeles and across California.

Proposition 2 - Local Public Schools Safety and Upgrades Measure. What is it: A new bond measure that borrows \$10 billion for public schools, with \$8.5 billion going to K-12 schools and \$1.5 billion to community colleges. The funds will be distributed across 116 community colleges in California. Valley is part of the Los Angeles Community College District, which has nine campuses across the greater Los Angeles area. Why it matters: This bond measure will be used to fix or upgrade infrastructure in schools and colleges, including repairs and renovations needed on campuses. Because California does not have a dedicated stream of income for schools and community colleges, bond measures to fund education-based spending like Proposition 2 are common.

The most recent approved bond measure passed in 2016 when voters approved Proposition 51, issuing \$9 billion to fund K-12 schools and community colleges. Proposition 3 - Constitutional right to marriage. Legislative constitutional amendment. What is it: Proposition 3 is an amendment to the California Constitution that would remove language from the now-defunct Proposition 8 that was passed in 2008. This proposition would eliminate language stating that marriage is only between a man and a woman, and replace it with text that declares that "The right to marry is a fundamental right" in the state of California. Why it matters: Although Proposition 8 was repealed in 2013 and invalidated by the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court

ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges, the language remained in the state constitution. A ban on same-sex marriage could return should the Supreme Court overturn the ruling made in Obergefell v. Hodges that declared same-sex marriage legal. Proposition 32 - Raise Minimum Wage. Initiative Statute. What is it: This proposition would raise the minimum wage by \$2, raising it to \$18 an hour, going into effect January 1 for businesses that have more than 26 employees, and in 2026 for smaller businesses. The proposition would allow for yearly adjustments that are tied to the consumer price index - a tool used by the federal government as an indicator of how the economy's doing. Why it matters: While Los Angeles will have a \$17.28

minimum wage starting in July, a significant portion of the state is currently at \$16 an hour. Individual cities and certain industries (like fast-food workers, healthcare professionals and hospitality employees) have had targeted efforts to raise minimum wages in their fields, but there's been no increase to the statewide minimum wage since 2017, when the minimum wage went from \$10.50 to \$15. Voters can find full ballot measure info for California at ballotpedia.org. These summaries were written using information and data from CalMatters, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Politico, the Los Angeles Times, LAist, Ballotpedia, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and the California Legislative Analyst's Office.

Voting Centers

- MULTIPLE SERVICE LOCATIONS
These locations offer the following services: in-person voting, early voting, and mail-in drop-off boxes. Hours unless stated otherwise:
Early in-person: 11/02-11/4, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Election Day: 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Drop-off: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Election Day.
Los Angeles Valley College
5800 Fulton Ave.
Early in-person: 10/26-11/4, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Election Day: 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Drop-off: all day
James Madison Middle School
13000 Hart St.
Early in-person: 11/02-11/4, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Election Day: 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Drop-off: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Riverside Drive Elementary School
13061 Riverside Dr.
Louis Armstrong Middle School
5041 Sunnyslope Ave.
Adat Ari El
12020 Burbank Blvd.
Central Lutheran Church
6425 Tyrone Ave.
Ranchito Avenue Elementary School 7940
Ranchito Ave.
Vista Middle School
15040 Roscoe Blvd.
Bassett Street Elementary School
15756 Bassett St.
Sherman Oaks Elementary Charter School
14755 Greenleaf St.
Maurice Sendak Elementary School
11414 Tiara St.
Strathern Elementary School
7939 Saint Clair Ave.

Pros set up students for interview success
Practice and professionalism make perfect in preparing for those important job interviews, even online.

Kaia Mann,
Editor-in-chief

A first date, the first time driving on the freeway, and that first serious job interview represent situations that might make many break out in a sweat, but, according to the experts, people can avoid crashing and burning when looking for that first job. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, unemployment rates in the United States have increased over recent years, reaching 4.1% as of Sep. Among all 50 states, California falls within the lowest 10% for job openings, with 641,000 available positions, or a rate of 3.4%. For many students, their first exposure to the workforce often comes in college through jobs like cashiering or serving. However, their first professional interview—aimed at positions in their chosen field—usually happens after graduation. Whether it is applying at McDonald's or interviewing at Apple headquarters, it's crucial for students to understand what to expect during the interview process and how to successfully navigate the process. "Preparing for a job interview can be difficult and a little scary, but with the right approach, you can make a

great impression," said Kevin Sanford, chair of the business department, when asked for his tips on job interviews. Sanford teaches business communications, a class designed to help students develop the skills needed to succeed in today's competitive job market. Sanford emphasizes the importance of thorough research for a successful interview. Candidates should know as much as possible about the company before walking in. This shows genuine interest and dedication to the interviewers and helps tailor responses to fit the role. Additionally, it allows candidates to assess whether the company or position is the right fit for them. Other experts agree that interview preparation and practice are key. Rehearsing answers to common questions, as well as anticipa-

ting potential ones, helps boost confidence and ensures candidates are ready for anything. "Being prepared will help you relax the day of the interview," Sanford said. Knowing how to navigate the interview process successfully is valuable not only in the

same, remote interviews require extra attention to your environment and presentation. It is imperative when preparing for online interviews to treat them like they are in-person. Just because you can roll out of bed and hop online, doesn't mean you should.

Professor of accounting and business, Howard Levine advised students to create a professional setup by ensuring their sound and lighting work properly and eliminating any distractions. "When you have a Zoom interview, pretend like you're sitting in front

of somebody," he said. He also suggested using sticky notes with key reminders on your screen as an extra tool to stay focused during the interview. In addition to technical preparation, Levine stressed the importance of two fundamental elements for landing and keeping jobs: communication skills and experience. When interviewed for this article for The Valley Star, Levine insisted on meeting in person, highlighting the importance of face-to-face interaction whenever possible. One of the biggest challenges students face when trying to secure a job is the lack of experience. Many employers are reluctant to hire candidates without experience, yet it's difficult to gain that experience if no one is willing to give them a chance. Although, this experience can be anything—working as a cashier, internships, and volunteer positions demonstrate important skills such as responsibility, teamwork, and problem-solving, helping students gain the experience they need to land a job. What Levine wants students to take away most is self-confidence. If you walk into an interview already thinking you're not going to get the job, chances are you're not. Act like you deserve to be there, like you're capable, cause in Levine's opinion, you are. "Many students have told me, 'Nobody ever tells me I'm good.' That's so sad, but I hear it all the time," Levine said. "Once you become successful, once you know, 'Yes, I can,' then that translates into other aspects of your life."

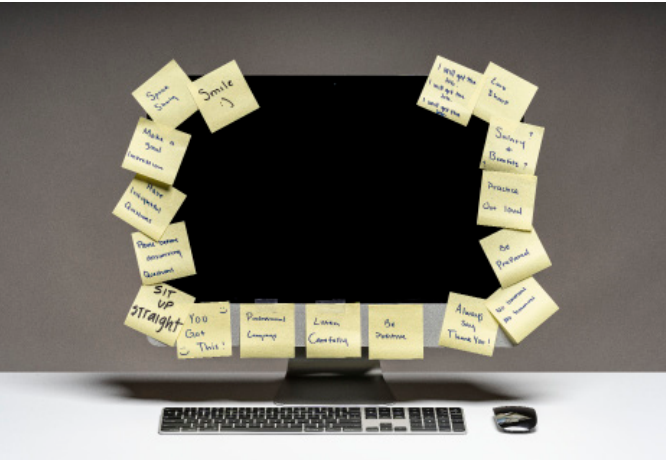


Photo Illustration by Daisy Tapia

and helps tailor responses to fit the role. Additionally, it allows candidates to assess whether the company or position is the right fit for them. Other experts agree that interview preparation and practice are key. Rehearsing answers to common questions, as well as anticipa-

tion of somebody," he said. He also suggested using sticky notes with key reminders on your screen as an extra tool to stay focused during the interview. In addition to technical preparation, Levine stressed the importance of two fundamental elements for landing and keeping jobs: communication

Valley plans switch
Campus headed towards fossil-free future.

Hilary Van Hoose,
Copy Editor

Amidst climate change imposing upon Los Angeles residents the hottest summer on record each year, with highs of more than 110 degrees, students at Valley College seek refuge from the punishing heat by stepping into comfortably cool buildings on campus—which are temperature controlled thanks to the campus' central plant. The central plant, located between the Behavioral Sciences and Liberal Arts buildings, regulates the temperature of Valley's major buildings by heating, chilling, storing, and distributing heated or chilled water through an underground pipe network with potential future capabilities for electricity production. "The district's goal is to electrify and to eliminate fossil fuel use on campuses for the central plant," said President Barry Gribbons. "The first step in doing that is a detailed evaluation of the possibility of electrifying the entire campus with around a million square feet effectively, so that work's happening now." Solar panels have already been installed on several Valley buildings, including the

South Gym, Allied Health and Science Center, and Maintenance and Operations. The central plant also uses 7,952 solar tubes to heat water, in line with Valley's Climate Action Plan document. "LACCD re-affirmed its commitment to provide equitable and sustainable learning environments with the adoption of the Clean Energy and Sustainability resolution in 2020," said Valley College Manager of Public Relations Jennifer Fong Borucki. "The District, in thanks to the 2022 voter-approved bond measure, set aside \$687 million to begin the hard work of transitioning to a clean energy future." According to a case study by the U.S. Department of Energy's LA Better Buildings Challenge, the Los Angeles Community College District committed to a resolution to achieve 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030 and full decarbonization of all campuses by 2040 by passing its Clean Energy & Sustainability Resolution in July 2020. "Innovation is about people, too, and ways of thinking and embracing change," said LA Better Buildings Challenge Executive Director David Hodgins in an interview. "And highlighted in this year's awards were ambitious, new commitments, science-based tar-



The power plant, which heats and cools the campus, is a part of Valley's energy transition.

gets that are ahead of what's called for. Our winner, LA Community College District, their board adopted and is putting money behind a plan to be zero net carbon by 2040!" Experts agree that renewable energy and carbon reduction are vital to reducing the catastrophic effects of climate change caused by pollution and other man-made emissions. "To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, emissions need to be reduced by almost half by 2050 and reach net-zero by 2050," according to the United Nations Climate Action page. In its shift toward renewable energy, Valley College plans to increase solar capacity. "The

district has plans for photovoltaic panel expansion," said Gribbons. "Currently, we produce about a megawatt of power, just under the threshold to require a SmartVista Switch. The goal is to increase to five or six megawatts. But the build team needs to assess LADWP's circuit capacity to handle that much power." Because Valley would need to do additional infrastructure work to make that happen, including putting in a smart business switch so that LADWP can control the college's output to their circuit, Gribbons also discussed some of the financial regulatory challenges involved. Gribbons said, "if we ex-

ceed [one megawatt], we can't have electric vehicle charging stations on the same lines as the rest of our electrical infrastructure [...]" so that significantly increases the complexity of all this work, and almost certainly the cost." The district's clean energy efforts have spanned decades, with solar panels installed on all nine campuses since 2001. "This initiative builds upon those steps," said Fong Borucki. Today, Valley's solar panels generate roughly 16 percent of its annual electricity, aligning with global emissions targets and reinforcing LACCD's commitment to a sustainable future.



Scan QR code to read more



# Fall showcase features student films

The Media Arts Department hosted a two-day film event for campus filmmakers.



Family, faculty, staff and students gathered in the Music Recital Hall Saturday to celebrate short films made in Cinema 125.

Astrid Cortez for The Valley Star

**Kaia Mann,**  
*Editor-in-chief*

The Media Arts Department rolled out the red carpet for the fall 2024 student showcase, presenting student-made short films on the big screen and handing out awards. As the crowd made its way to Valley College's Music Recital Hall, they walked the red carpet and took photographs in front of fabric media walls. "I mean, it's a red carpet — who doesn't like a red carpet? It makes everyone feel special," said Jose Zamarripa, a film major attending the event. "It's amazing. I love it; next level." Media Arts Department Chair Eric Swelstad emceed the event that was attended by President Barry Gribbons, a handful of faculty and staff, and family and friends of the filmmakers. Brook Attaway, the mother of Koloa Tonga, said seeing her daughter celebrated at the showcase was "definitely a proud moment." "I love seeing her live her passion out through a film or through a story," Attaway said. "That's what

makes her excited about life." The showcase was divided into two days. Friday's showcase featured films from cinema 101 while Saturday's showcase celebrated the films that were created in the advanced class, cinema 125. "It's a celebration of talent, skill, and perseverance," said Swelstad. "Our

an hour. These projects were created over the course of the semester, with each student given a two-week period to complete their respective films. The cinema class fosters collaboration, with each film showcasing contributions from other members of the class. On Saturday, Chris Cuellar received the award for Best

Koloa Tonga's "Blue," while Dana Ziyasheva earned the Achievement in Visual Effects for her film "Washed Out." The biggest faculty award honor of the night was best writer/director, which was taken home by Koloa Tonga for her film "Blue" about an extraterrestrial being finding her first real love on earth. "This film means a lot to me," Tonga said in her acceptance speech. "Shoutout to Team Blue. She is purple because depression isn't what it looks like — it's what it is. So make sure you check up on your friends, and if you are blue, you'll find your Amy. Trust me."

The audience had their say in selecting the night's standout film through a QR code survey, choosing "Washed Out" by director Dana Ziyasheva as the fan favorite. Ziyasheva's film delves into a dark story of an AI-powered washing machine taking over the life of a young woman. "I worked so hard on it and I am so happy my hard work is being recognized," said Ziyasheva. "For a filmmaker there's no better feeling than having the audience choose you."

Cinematography for his work on Valerie Garcia's film, "Limerence." Tiana Boyd won the Achievement in Editing award for "Good News," directed by Seven Gilmore. Paola Guzman was recognized for Best Sound Design in

**"Our students worked so hard on these projects the whole semester, and we are incredibly proud of them and cheer and toast to their success."**

*Department Chair Eric Swelstad*

students worked so hard on these projects the whole semester and we are incredibly proud of them and cheer and toast to their success." Saturday's showcase featured the work of 13 students, with a total runtime of about

# Time for Valley students to fall back

Daylight Savings ends on Nov. 3, a tradition started on July 1, 1908 to conserve energy.

**Hilary Van Hoose,**  
*Copy Editor*

This year, as millions all over the country arise drowsily, having been jarred awake an hour early with the changing of the clocks, they might wonder to themselves why they are still following this ritual year after year. "Spring forward, fall back," the old saying goes. At 2 a.m. on the first Sunday of each November, most states turn their clocks back one hour from Daylight Savings Time to standard time. On the second Sunday of every March, clocks turn forward one hour. The exceptions to this are American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Hawaii, and most of Arizona, which stay on standard time year-round. "I feel like it's not really useful and doesn't make any sense," said Amy Sanchez, nursing major when, asked about the time change. "It really messes up schedules. It just makes me feel more tired." According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics, North America standardized four time zones in 1883 when railroad companies designated them in order to avoid missed connections and other transportation irregularities. A federal organization called the Interstate Commerce Commission later changed this to five time zones in 1918. Although the passage of the Uniform Time Act in 1966 enacted a policy of observing six months each of standard and Daylight Savings Time, the 1970s energy crisis briefly prompted Congress to enact year-round Daylight Savings Time. It was meant to last for two years, but according to an article in The New York Times, it ended in only eight months after press coverage



Daniel Padilla for The Valley Star

The sign in front of campus will be cast in shadow earlier at the end of Daylight Savings.

of car accidents in early morning darkness and a shift in public opinion from 79 percent in favor of the policy to only 42 percent in favor. The current March-to-November policy began in 2007. So, then, why do so many people dislike shifting their clocks twice a year? For one thing, it is dangerous. The time shift results in a 24 percent increase in heart attacks according to a study of Michigan hospitals, an eight percent increase in strokes according to a study from Finland, and a six percent increase in fatal car accidents, according to a study published in Cell Press. Other studies that show robberies decline when there is an additional hour of daylight. Some might remember that

California passed Proposition 7 in 2018, with the intention, and granting the ability, for the state Legislature to make Daylight Savings Time year-round. Then, the U.S. Senate passed a bill called the "Sunshine Protection Act" in 2022 that was supposed to make Daylight Savings Time permanent for the entire country. So, why were neither pieces of legislation enforced? Making the change in California requires not only a two-thirds majority of the state Assembly and Senate and the governor's signature, but would also require changing federal law, according to CalMatters. California could make standard time permanent without federal approval, but most voters and lawmakers prefer Daylight Savings Time.

As for the federal bill, it was passed in the Senate by unanimous consent, but the House bill disappeared into a subcommittee where it was stalled until it expired. Sen. Rubio reintroduced the bill in 2023, but met a similar end. Given that the policy has been so fluid throughout the last century, there is no telling how it might or might not change in the future. "The time change makes me feel like I don't have as much time in my day," said Samantha Orellano, nursing major. "It honestly makes me feel unmotivated."

**Staff writer Toby Douglas**  
*contributed to this article.*



Valley Star Staff

# KFI visits newsroom

Steve Gregory and his KFI-AM 640 mobile radio team visited The Valley Star newsroom Tuesday to talk to Star staffers about the upcoming presidential election and other issues facing student journalists. The Star also invited two students from The Mirror, Van Nuys High School's student-run publication. The show will air Sunday at 2 p.m. on FI-AM 640 and later be available on demand on the iHeartRadio app. Congratulations

to the student panelists: online editor Daimler Koch (The Star), managing editor Angel Silva (The Star) and Mirror co-editors-in-chief Madison Thacker and Olamide Olumide.



# A critical look at showcase winners

**Kaia Mann,**  
*Editor-in-chief*



"Washed Out" Dana Ziyasheva

In the growing world of AI, Dana Ziyasheva's "Washed Out" provides a humorous and technically impressive perspective. "Washed Out" tells the tale of a killer washing machine that takes over the life of its owner and her cat. Starting with innocent requests to be "fed" and routine maintenance, the film quickly devolves into a surreal dream-like horror. The true scene-stealer in "Washed Out" is the cat, Baby. Defying the classic rule to "never work with children or animals," Ziyasheva pulled it off flawlessly, with Baby likely to become a fan favorite. Where the film excels most is in the editing and the attention to detail, skillfully building

the terror of being hunted by a machine through increasingly chaotic visuals that blend VFX and practical effects. Much of the washing machine's mayhem is exaggerated, and a lot of it, most likely due to time and resources, looks less than real. Yet, this doesn't take away from the film. The intentional cheesiness adds a nostalgic charm, reminiscent of classic B-movies that embrace similarly outlandish narratives. Though undeniably campy, the film seems fully aware of it, leaning into the playful intersection between horror and comedy. It is clear that "Washed Out" is stuffed with love and passion for both the genre and art.



"Blue" Koloa Tonga

"Blue," directed by Koloa Tonga, achieves a lot in its short runtime, providing a refreshingly un-nihilistic view of depression. The film follows Blue, an extraterrestrial being, and Amy, a human girl. The two form an unlikely friendship that teaches Blue about humanity and the complexities of life. The movie is beautiful with a focus on symmetry and vibrant colors. The simplistic nature, all taking place in seemingly one day, lends itself to the short format, enhancing its emotional impact. However, the film is not without its flaws. Minor inconsistencies, such as characters appearing in slightly shifted positions between shots and

a few continuity errors in the ice cream scene, are noticeable but don't detract from the film's overall impact. Tonga had a clear vision, and it came across. She was successful in the blending of humor and drama. Watching the character Blue drive for the first time and essentially learn how to be human with Amy, her aesthetic opposite, helped lighten the difficult themes. The standout element is the dedication at the end: "To my sisters who helped me when I was blue." This tribute deepens the film's exploration of mental health, emphasizing how these struggles can take many forms.



"Limerence" Valarie Garcia

"Limerence," directed by Valarie Garcia, emphasizes style while telling the story of a tumultuous relationship. The film follows a couple doomed from the start, backdropped by the melancholy Sufjan Stevens song, "Fourth of July." While "Limerence" is minimalist—featuring a single primary location and two actors—the film is far from simple. The editing is chaotic and choppy, with shots and audio layered over one another, capturing the turbulence of a breakup. Although the storyline may not be groundbreaking, the film effectively leaves the viewer feeling unsure of who to side with.

The essence of "Limerence" is rooted in raw, natural dialogue that enhances its authenticity. Despite its strengths, the film falls short in variety. There are moments when the film stalls, relying on repeated shots and a somewhat predictable plot arc. However, this doesn't wholly detract from its impact; rather, it reinforces the cyclical, repetitive nature of certain relationships. Where Garcia remains the most successful is in the film's stylistic choices. "Limerence" stands out from its counterparts and uses the limited format of these student films to the best of its ability.



"Good News" Seven Gilmore

Seven Gilmore's "Good News" brings it home with the visuals while having a distinct yet complicated storyline. "Good News" is difficult to sum up, making it challenging to fully grasp what's happening—a key flaw of the film. Taking inspiration from similar sci-fi movies, "Good News" follows day-to-day life. However, there is a sinister and uncomfortable feeling lingering in the back of the audience's throats, waiting for the final ball to drop. The film's crux is revealed as the main character is shown to be a clone, created to replace the real version of herself as she undergoes cancer treatments. The ambiguous ending—fi-

lled with sirens, frantic running, and an overpowering classical score—works effectively, providing a much-needed button to the film. Another strength lies in the cinematography. A recurring birthday shot, lit solely by the glow of cake candles, captures an ensemble of cast members in a hauntingly intimate scene. Throughout the film, the angles are thoughtfully chosen, tilted and close-up—adding a sense of disorientation and intimacy that draws the viewer deeper into the story. Ambitious and full of potential, it would be interesting to see what Gilmore could have achieved with even an extra 10 minutes.



OPINION

The Valley Star supports Harris for president

Ahead of the Nov. 5 presidential election, the Harris-Walz ticket is the only viable option for Americans.

Staff Editorial

The Valley Star staff endorses Vice President Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election. The decision is clear - to preserve the soul of the country, the only viable decision is Harris. While Harris is not a perfect choice, a country run by her administration is preferable to a Trump administration that would lead the nation into chaos. Harris offers policies that are more beneficial to students than Trump. Harris supports student loan forgiveness and free community college, aiming to reduce the financial burden on students. She has a history of advocating for policies that make higher education more accessible, including backing legislation to make public colleges tuition-free for families earning less than \$125,000. Harris has also targeted for-profit colleges for predatory practices. Meanwhile, the former president has a controversial history with Trump University, ending with a lawsuit for defrauding students and paying out \$25 million to settle lawsuits in 2017. However, Harris is far from perfect. While vice president, she has gone on record discouraging migrants from entering the United States in comments made during a visit to Guatemala, following a broad asylum ban from the Biden administration. She has pledged that the United States

would not place restrictions on arms to Israel, and called for a six-week timeframe for a ceasefire in March 2024 that was only temporary in nature. During her tenure as California Attorney General, she represented the state in arguing against releasing more prisoners in the wake of a 2011 Supreme Court ruling that found overcrowding in prisons contributing to cruel and unusual punishment. That doesn't mean that Trump is any better on these issues. Throughout his presidency and this election cycle, he has constantly bashed immigrant communities for political gain. In 2017, his administration rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, a decision that is still being fought over in the courts today. On Gaza, he told donors in May that he would expel pro-Palestinian protestors from the United States for exercising their right to

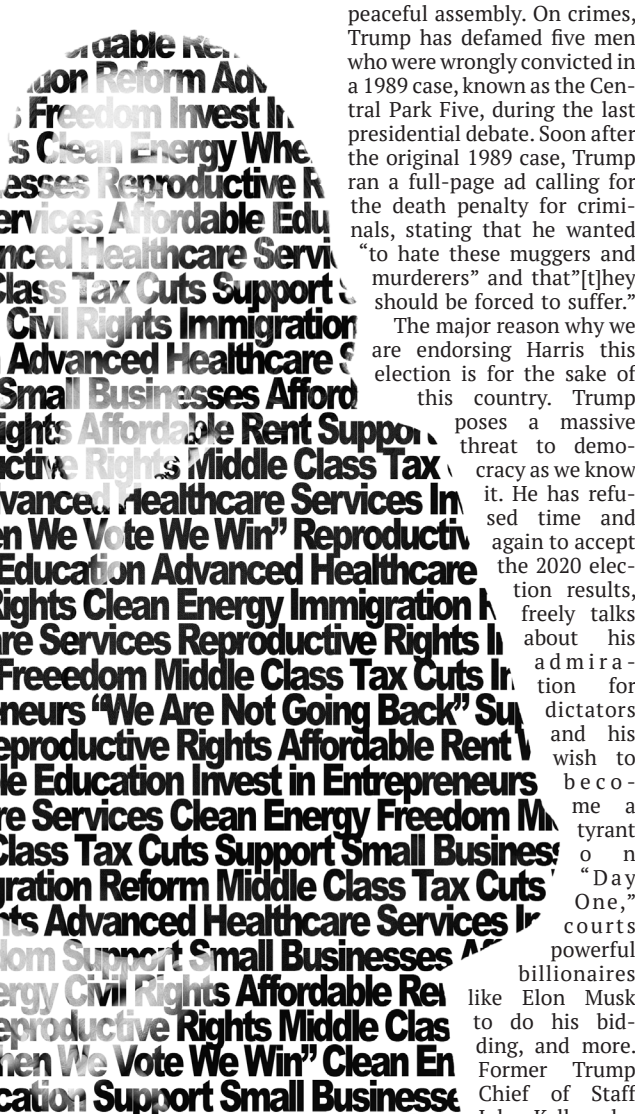


Photo Illustration by Sydne Santiago

peaceful assembly. On crimes, Trump has defamed five men who were wrongly convicted in a 1989 case, known as the Central Park Five, during the last presidential debate. Soon after the original 1989 case, Trump ran a full-page ad calling for the death penalty for criminals, stating that he wanted "to hate these muggers and murderers" and that "[t]hey should be forced to suffer." The major reason why we are endorsing Harris this election is for the sake of this country. Trump poses a massive threat to democracy as we know it. He has refused time and again to accept the 2020 election results, freely talks about his admiration for dictators and his wish to become a tyrant on "Day One," courts powerful billionaires like Elon Musk to do his bidding, and more. Former Trump Chief of Staff John Kelly, who served the lon-

gest in this role, has stated explicitly that Trump meets the definition of a fascist and prefers "the dictator approach to government." Several former members of Trump's cabinet have worked with members of the far-right to write Project 2025, a plan to convert the federal government into a right-wing theocracy. There is no way that anyone that cares for the future of the United States can, in good conscience, vote for Trump. While Harris may not be perfect for everyone, she hasn't made the same dangerous promises and threats as Trump. That alone makes her a better choice for the presidency. Ultimately, the presidential choice comes between a racist, misogynistic felon who put the entirety of democracy at risk, and Harris. While the decision on Nov. 5 may seem straightforward, Harris, if elected, will still face high expectations and scrutiny. The job doesn't end there, however. Voters will need to continue putting pressure on a Harris administration to ensure that they enact the policies she's stating support for on the campaign trail. Harris and her running mate, Tim Walz, have promised to fight for abortion access, lower taxes, and the promise that "we are not going back" to the way things were during the Trump presidency. It's up to Americans to make sure those promises are met once she's in office.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kaia Mann

PHOTO EDITOR

Astrid Cortez

ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Taylor Cowhey

MANAGING EDITOR

Angel Silva

SPORTS EDITOR

Alex Diaz

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

JC Rosa

ONLINE EDITOR

Daimler Koch

COPY EDITOR

Hilary Van Hoose

STAFF WRITERS

Alex Diaz  
Toby Douglas  
Natalie Gazarian  
Hilary Van Hoose  
Daimler Koch  
Sara Lemon  
Kaia Mann  
Sophia Moscoso  
Brian Nemorin  
JC Rosa  
Angel Silva

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Astrid Cortez  
Taylor Cowhey  
Luis Gonzalez  
Sydne Santiago  
Angel Silva  
Daisy Tapia

ADVISORS

Bill Dauber  
Brian Paumier

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Republicans use toxic masculinity to appeal to some male voters

The Democrats have failed to fight Trump for a more authentic form of masculinity on the campaign trail.

Daimler Koch,  
Online Editor

It is universally acknowledged that political parties, in possession of strong presidential candidates, want young voters. In this cycle, however, an interesting trend emerged: young men, in a departure from previous years, are increasingly planning to vote for Trump - not for a lack of trying on his part. Democrats have failed to respond accordingly. Republicans have made many explicit attempts to court young men to vote for their ticket, often by having Trump and vice presidential candidate JD Vance project hypermasculinity to this demographic. Trump, for example, adopted the mantra "fight, fight, fight" after July's assassination attempt, and Vance shamed childless women. Occasionally, they dip into the extremes: Trump brings out Hulk Hogan ripping his T-shirt onstage. His supporters claim that if you vote for Harris, then you're not a true man. That doesn't mean that the Democrats' response is entirely lackluster. Tim Walz, Doug Emhoff, and Barack Obama are great counterexamples to Donald Trump and JD Vance. Tim Walz is the strongest example of a positive masculine role model in national politics in this election. A former football coach and Midwestern dad, he has a down-to-earth charm that serves as an antidote to Trump's seediness and Vance's smugness while at the same time affirming his own strength and comfort in the image he projects. "Nothing better than a Runza," he proudly proclaimed on Instagram, sharing his affinity for the Nebraska



Photo Illustration by Sydne Santiago

sandwich while campaigning in the state. That comes off better than Vance, who tried to awkwardly order doughnuts in Georgia - and failed, of course. "I'm JD Vance. I'm running for vice president," he said at the fateful encounter. A flat and unimpressed "Ok" was the only response he received. Doug Emhoff also projects comfort in his role as second gentleman (and hopefully first gentleman) in his wife Kamala Harris's campaign. His self-deprecating humor at the DNC in August shows that he doesn't take himself too seriously, and does not mind being out

of the spotlight. And Obama has been campaigning for Harris, too, strongly encouraging young Black men to vote for her in a pitstop in Pittsburgh. But it hasn't been enough - at least, not enough to deal with Trump and his forces spreading toxic masculinity. As much as I applaud the Democrats for taking this softer, more authentic approach to masculinity, it clearly has not done much to sway young men this election cycle. Results from Times/Siena polls throughout this year show young men ages 18-29 consistently leaning Republican 53 percent

to 40 percent and towards Trump 55-38, revealed in an article released on Oct. 18. A large part of the issue lies in the Democrats' message towards younger men who are planning to vote in this election. I like Tim Walz as much as the next young Democratic voter, but political candidates like him send far too subtle of a message to young men compared to Trump's attempts, however pathetic they are. While toxic masculinity will speak inherently louder than positive masculinity, there have nonetheless been huge missed opportunities for Ha-

rris, Walz, and the rest of her major supporters to speak out directly to young men, most notably at large events like the DNC. To my knowledge, no Democrat has explicitly said that caring for others and being consistently respectful towards all people does not weaken your masculinity, and are in fact strengths to be celebrated and cherished. In addition, it is the message itself that is drawing young men in. Here I don't entirely blame the Democrats, as their policies support a more diverse base than the Republicans, as they should. That being said, Trump reassures young men that everything is going to be ok. He will stand up to foreign countries trying to undercut American enterprise with lower prices; he will stand up to the immigrants trying to take American jobs; and he will stand up to the bullies in politics ruining America and any chance of peace and prosperity. A surrogate father figure for many young men is what Donald Trump has become, whereas Tim Walz, however charming he is, can't seem to do the same at a similar scale. As a young Democratic male voter who will definitely be voting this election, I hope that, if the Democrats take the White House, they will find a way to cater to this demographic. Many men are lonely and lack a close friend or role model to reach out to; Trump fills this void perfectly, unfortunately. While the Democrats may have failed to reach out to young men this cycle, I wish wholeheartedly that they can learn from this mistake and create a place for them in their campaign, too.

LACCD trustee takes stand against LA Times



Editors Note:

On Oct. 22, Patrick Soon-Shiong, the health startup billionaire who owns the Los Angeles Times, blocked the Times' editorial staff from publishing a presidential endorsement for Kamala Harris. The decision resulted in three editors resigning, including Mariel Garza, editorials editor at the Times.

On Oct. 27, Andra Hoffman, candidate for the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees, sent the following letter to Soon-Shiong, condemning the decision and asking the Times to stop publishing their endorsement for her re-election for the duration of the campaign:

Dear Dr. Soon-Shiong

I write today to renounce the Los Angeles Times' endorsement of my campaign for re-election to the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees and to ask that the Times not include my name as an endorsed candidate for the duration of this campaign.

I take this position and make this request for two reasons:

1. I do not wish to be associated with an entity that lacks the courage to oppose the election of Donald Trump to the presidency. Many of the reasons why he should not be elected appear in a story beginning on page one of today's edition of the Times. Knowing of these issues and the threat Mr. Trump poses, you made the decision to withhold endorsement of his opponent. It is not acceptable that you are willing to let Mr. Trump escape the consequences of his words and actions.

2. I stand in support of those Times editorial boardmembers who have left the paper in protest against this violation of journalistic integrity and with the reporters, columnists, and remaining editorial boardmembers at the Times who are so keenly aware of the evils Donald Trump represents.

I have the utmost respect for the members of the Times editorial board. I've met with them before each of my three campaigns for Community College Trustee. I found them to be knowledgeable, curious and forthright. I have experienced how hard they work and how thorough they are in considering what endorsements to make and I am proud to have been endorsed by the Times after each of those three meetings. Now, however, I feel the work of those boardmembers and the endorsement itself has been tainted.

I hope sometime in the future the Times will take steps to restore the stature of its editorial endorsements and readers can once again trust the endorsement of the Los Angeles Times. But for now, I do not want my name appearing as an endorsed candidate in a paper that chooses to violate its own history and its own process, ignore journalistic integrity, and willingly hand Donald Trump an issue to use against his opponent.

Sincerely,  
Andra Hoffman



SPORTS

Valley squeaks out tough win in overtime against Glendale

The Monarchs used a stingy run defense and held the Vaqueros to 66 yards rushing to grab its second conference win.



Taylor Cowhey for the Valley Star

Receiver Ben Baker looks to gain yards for the Monarchs.



Taylor Cowhey for the Valley Star

Defenseman Tierre Butler sizes up Compton College tacklers as he makes his way towards the end zone.

Alex Diaz,  
Sports Editor

A last-minute score, and overtime touchdown, and a defensive stop helped propel the Valley College football team past Glendale College Saturday 27-26. Valley and Glendale were knotted at 20 apiece at the end of regulation, but the visiting Monarchs struck first in the overtime with a 30-yard run from quarterback Gavin Goulette. The sophomore signal caller dashed toward the end zone, avoiding defenders and powering his way to six points. Kicker Daylen Ortiz delivered the extra point to give the Monarchs a 27-20 lead. "They told me I was running the ball all game," said Goulette. "I just got what I could and got in the end zone." Vaqueros running back DJ Cole electrified the crowd with a 89-yard catch and run on a pass from Glendale quarterback Jackson Askins, which narrowed Valley's lead to 27-26 in overtime. Glendale opted for the two-point conversion and the win, but Valley's defense was up to the task. The wall

of Valley defenders stuffed the Vaquero quarterback preventing him from completing a pass into the end zone. With the win, Valley improved its mark to 3-4 and the loss dropped Glendale to 5-2. "I did not expect the game to go to overtime," said head coach Lester Towns. "But I knew it would be a battle since Glendale is a good team." The Monarchs out-rushed the Vaqueros 206 to 66, while the home team collected 328 yards on the ground to Valley's 125. The Monarchs defense stood out, making pivotal plays that created opportunities for the offense. Opening the first quarter, Glendale took the field, eager to establish their offensive rhythm. At the 14:37 mark, Vaqueros quarterback Askins launched a pass but was intercepted by defensive back and linebacker Tie-

erre Butler. With the momentum shifting, at 5:30, Monarch kicker Ortiz lined up for a 27-yard field goal attempt, sending the ball sailing through the uprights and putting the Monarchs on the scoreboard with a 3-0 lead. In the second quarter, the Mo-

dro Peyé completed the extra point, bringing the score to 7-3. With 14:09 on the clock in the third quarter, defensive back Daelyn Gray raced down the sideline for an impressive 73-yard gain on a second down. Less than a minute later, at 13:16, Valley quarterback Daryus Warren delivered a pass to wide receiver Khamani Jones, catching the 22-yard pass and leaping into the air to snag the ball before it crossed the goal line, securing a touchdown in the end zone. Kicker Ortiz secured the kick attempt, upping the score by 10-7. "It feels great to make contributing plays," said defensive back Gray. "All I want to do is help the team no matter what, just keep going." The Vaqueros answered back three minutes later when wide

receiver Jake Wisener grabbed an 18-yard pass from quarterback Askins for a touchdown. Kicker Peyé converted the extra point, which brought the score to 14-10. At the 8:10 mark, Kicker Ortiz nailed the field goal for the Monarchs, scoring the last points of the quarter and making the score to 14-13. Glendale made their presence known in the final quarter, scoring a touchdown four minutes in. Quarterback Askins delivered a sharp 10-yard pass to wide receiver Jason Sanford Jr., narrowing the gap to 20-14. Peyé's extra point attempt sailed wide, keeping Valley up by six. As the clock ticked to 50 seconds remaining, quarterback Goulette rose to the occasion, launching a 17-yard pass to wide receiver Jeremiah Green. Kicker Ortiz successfully converted the extra point, leveling the score at 20-20 and sending the game into overtime. Valley visits Pierce College on Saturday for its rivalry game at 6 p.m. The two sides will fight for bragging rights and the traditional Victory Bell, which Valley has had its hands on for the last nine years.

"I did not expect the game to go to overtime, but I knew it would be a battle since Glendale is a good team."

Head Coach Lester Towns

The Monarchs look to hang on to bell

Valley has dominated its rivalry against Pierce for the past nine years and aims for another win.

JC Rosa,  
Assistant Sports Editor

In a showdown fueled by tradition and pride, cross-town rivals Valley College football and Pierce College football battle it out every year for the coveted victory bell. The rivalry between Valley and Pierce ignited in 1965 with a nationally televised game that ended in a 26-6 victory for the Monarchs, which has since evolved into a storied battle for tradition and pride. The prized bell, painted in the winning team's colors each year, serves as a symbol of victory and bragging rights. No one is sure about which team has held on to the bell for more years; however, the Brahmas won 14 of the first 21 contests. The victory bell has eluded Pierce since 2015, when Valley earned a decisive 39-7 win to reclaim the coveted bell. "They paint the harness that holds the bell," said Valley's Athletic Director Dave Mallas. "When we first got it, original-

ly it was red. Now it's green." The bell is made up of two bells stacked on top of one another, and they are mounted on a cart similar to those used by bellhops to transport luggage. The bell itself is gold but has some accumulated wear and tear over the 59-year feud. This game is big for both teams, not only because of the rivalry, but because the teams play in the same conference. The two campuses are 11.4 miles apart and the winner of the bell might hold an edge in recruiting for the next year, according to coaches. It is each team's third conference game of the season with the Monarchs at 1-1 in conference play and the Brahmas at 0-2. The Monarchs look to keep their mid-season momentum after an overtime win on the road against Glendale 27-26 on Saturday. "Everybody is excited to make plays; everyone wants to do well," said Head Coach Lester Towns. "We got to go out there and execute."



Griffin O'Rourke for the Valley Star

Former defensive back Dennis Wallace rings the victory bell ahead of 2022 rivalry game.

Women get revenge against Renegades with 1-1 tie

Valley scores its first goal in conference game and uses a stout defense versus Bakersfield College.



Luis Gonzalez the Valley Star

Valley's Desiree Monge battles for the ball in a home contest Tuesday against the Renegades.

Alex Diaz,  
Sports Editor

It had been eight conference games, seven shutouts, and one scoreless draw before Valley women's soccer (3-10-3) scored its first conference goal, leveling out with Bakersfield College (6-7-3), 1-1. The Renegades shut out the Monarchs earlier this month with a 5-0 win, but Valley used new defensive formations Tuesday that stifled Bakersfield's attempts to attack, limiting them to just four shots in the first half. "I think this match was a big confidence builder," said Assistant Coach Stacy Rodwell. "It's something we can take more from than a tie, I hope." Marking the first half, the Monarchs looked competitive offensively and defensively. At 16:36, Valley defender Samantha Valencia connected with forward Taylor Fuller to launch a shot hitting the back of the net. This goal put the Monarchs up 1-0. The Monarch defense held the Renegades on their half of the field for the first 30 min-

utes. However, the visitors tied the game in the 34 minute when Marlenis Andrades headed a corner kick from Alexandra Gallardo into the net, knotting the score at 1-1. "I haven't scored in so long," said forward Taylor Fuller, whose shot in the second half sailed over the crossbar. "It felt good to know I had an important role today." Despite the Renegades' relentless offensive efforts in the second half, recording 15 shots, goalkeeper Nina Diaz's performance produced 13 saves. This match highlighted the Monarchs' ability to control the game from start to finish, keeping a team that had scored five goals against them on Oct. 4 to one goal and earn a tie. "I was excited to play them again," said goalkeeper Nina Diaz. "To have another chance to show them we are not terrible." The Monarchs face West LA College on Friday at home as part of Valley's 75th Anniversary event. The game begins at 4 p.m.

Op-Ed: sports and politics

Alex Diaz,  
Sports Editor

It was 1918, at Fenway Park. Game four of the World Series. The Boston Red Sox were battling the Chicago Cubs. As the seventh inning approached, echoes of "The Star-Spangled Banner" were heard throughout the stadium for the first time in history. When NBC was interviewing San Francisco 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy after the most recent Monday Night Football game, his teammate Nick Bosa jumped in front of the camera wearing a MAGA hat, pointing at it proudly. The intersection of sports and politics has long sparked intense debate among fans and commentators. Some firmly believe that these two domains should remain distinct, arguing that the purity of sports is compromised by political influence. Throughout history however, it is evident that sports and politics have continually intertwined in complex ways. If you hold the perspective that these realms shouldn't overlap, it may be time to reflect on the concept of neutral ground and what it entails. The National Anthem resonates throughout the vast expanse of America; it stirs emotions and unites people. For countless fans, its notes fill the air just before they settle into their ballgame seats. Some view the anthem as a solemn tribute to those who fought and sacrificed for the country, while others interpret it as a reflection of the diverse American experience. In 2020, Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban silently made the decision that the Mavericks would not play the anthem before their home games. This resulted in the anthem being absent from 13 consecutive preseason and regular-season games at the American Airlines Center. In response to the sports publication of The New York Times, The Athletic, the NBA stated, "under the unique circumstances of this season, teams are permitted to run their pregame operations as they see fit." This response came during a pivotal moment in the Black Lives Matter movement, when the league opted not to enforce the traditional rules mandating players stand during the national anthem. Instead, many professional athletes took a knee, using the platform to support the movement such as Eric Reid, former teammate of Colin Kaepernick, Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, the Dallas Cowboys team, and former USA women's soccer winger Megan Rapinoe. This decision not only highlighted the league's awareness of social issues but also underscored the deeper problems of systemic racism that persist in sports and society as a whole. Former quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers Kaepernick gained widespread attention in 2016 when he began kneeling during the anthem, raising awareness about racial injustice and police brutality. After the 2016 season, Kaepernick became a free agent but was not signed by any NFL team, which many believe resulted from his protests and the controversy surrounding them. He has since become an activist, focusing on social justice issues. The kneeling protest has had a lasting impact on not just sports but the world, inspiring many athletes to speak out on social issues. Kaepernick's activism sparked again after the brutal killing of George Floyd in 2020. The action sparked a national conversation and led to support and criticism from various groups, including fans, players, and political figures. Even though sports want to remain unbiased and out of politics, the field enables it in many ways. Athletes often use their platforms to highlight social and political issues, galvanizing public opinion and inspiring broader movements. In addition, sponsorships are considered alongside influencing fans. Companies may support or oppose specific political causes, influencing athlete decisions and public perception. Sporting events can evoke feelings of patriotism. National anthems, flags, and international competitions often coincide with national pride, which can be politically charged. However, another motive is media coverage of sports. Amplifying political messages, particularly when athletes engage in activism, can shift public awareness and provoke discussions on important issues. Suppose politics were not intertwined with sports. No more national anthems to be sung, no more politicians throwing out the first pitch, and no more visits to the White House for sports teams because they won the World Series, the Superbowl, or the NBA Championship. Achieving political neutrality in sports requires completely separating from all political influences, not just the knee. If you believe the above have a place in the realm of sports, then you aren't against politics in sports.