Israel-Hamas war enters into next phase

Israel forces launch their biggest incursion into Gaza amid war with Hamas.

DEFENSE FORCES - Israeli forces launched their biggest incursion into Gaza amid war with Hamas.

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SPORTS: Liam shows off a homecoming

Dakota Noot inspires students

Valley Star November 2, 2023

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

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California sues big oil, how will the claim fare?

Attorney General office says oil and gas producers are liable for climate change.

“In the minds of the public and by so doing, delayed action?” said a press release from the State. California has filed a complaint against the oil industry, claiming that the companies caused climate change, and is seeking damages for the harm they have caused. The state says the oil producers created a public nuisance, imperiling natural resources, and acted negligently for failing to warn the public of known harm.

For more than 50 years, Big Oil has been lying to us – covering up the fact that they’ve long known how dangerous the fossil fuels they produce are for our planet,” said a press release from the state. California is taking action to hold big polluters accountable.

The state says its primary goal is to protect the environment and public health. It seeks billions of dollars in fines, damages, and penalties, as well as changes in the practices of the oil industry.

It is time they pay to abate the harm they have caused. It is time they pay to change their business model. It is time they pay to help our communities recover from the harms they have caused. It is time they pay to help our communities recover from the harms they have caused,” said the press release.

The lawsuit is the latest in a series of legal actions taken by states and cities to hold the oil industry accountable for the harm their products cause. It follows similar lawsuits filed by states such as Massachusetts and New York.

The lawsuit could have significant implications for the oil industry. If successful, it could lead to major changes in the way the industry operates, as well as significant financial penalties.

The state says the lawsuit is not just about money, but also about protecting the environment and public health. It seeks changes in the practices of the oil industry, as well as compensation for the harm they have caused.

California is not alone in its efforts to hold the oil industry accountable. Other states and cities have also filed similar lawsuits.

The lawsuit is expected to be a long and complex process, with many legal challenges and court cases to come. But the state is confident in its case, and believes that it will ultimately be successful.

California is a leader in the fight against climate change. It has set ambitious goals to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, and has taken action to reduce its own emissions. The state is also a major producer of fossil fuels, and has a significant stake in the oil industry.

The lawsuit is a key part of California’s efforts to address climate change, and is expected to have far-reaching implications for the oil industry and the future of the planet.
Creativity showcased with wearable art

Valley Star staff hauls in awards at JACC

Former and current members receive 15 awards at the contest held at CSUN.

MAIA RICHAUD  STAFF WRITER

The Valley Star staff returned from the Journalism Association Community Colleges contest, taking home 15 awards including the "General Excellence" award for the Valley Star newspaper and The Crown magazine.

Valley competed against 24 other community colleges in JACC's southern region, with colleges coming from Bakersfield to Chula Vista.

"It's a big stepping stone," said Griffin O'Barne, who won five awards at the Oct. 25 event hosted by CSUN and served as the photo editor for the Valley Star and The Crown last semester. “It shows me that I can do this kind of work.”

O'Barne, current news editor for the CSUN's Daily Sundial, was one individual award, including first place for News Photo and honorable mention for Action Sports Photo and Story Essay. He also won two collective awards, second place with former editor-in-chief Isaac Diktor for Magazine Photo Story Essay, and first place for Magazine Photo Story-Essay with Jeremy Ruiz, the Visual Editor, in the photo editor category.

"I felt very proud of myself and everyone who helped along the way," O'Barne said. "We had a very dedicated staff. Everyone helped each other, it was very teamwork oriented.

The first place award for Magazine Photo Story-Essay with O'Barne and Ruiz is from a story of The Crown being "a group of places at steady pace." The story centers on the FACES program that sends STEM majors on outdoor expeditions to discover the ecosystems of Los Angeles, illustrated by photographs of the expeditions.

Apart from the collective award, Ruiz fourth and fifth place in the "General Excellence" award for the Valley Star newspaper and The Crown magazine.

I like stuff that’s spooky, funny, weird." - Artist Dakota Noot

Dakota Noot hosted a wearable art workshop at the LACC Art Gallery in collaboration with the Rainbow Pride Center and Jenelle Nagy, the gallery's director. This exhibit is part of a series outlining social programs on campuses like Umpqua and the Guardian Scholars.

"Art empowers students to be creative and take risks," said Nagy. "This is a space for them to express themselves and try something new, in a non-judgmental space.

Noot is not a stranger to Valley College. Back in 2023, he hosted an "Art Is Good For You" online workshop when the Art Gallery was still remote because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He had originally done his wearable art through Zoom, and when he was invited back for an exhibition, Nagy encouraged him to give physical form to the same idea, but now in person.

The exhibition walkthrough was scheduled for 15 days in November for students to get a chance to try on the costumes made of cutouts on stands, along with full-body murals.

"A lot of my work is fantastical. I like stuff that’s spooky, funny, weird," said Noot. "That’s what I want to recreate in my art and get that kind of magic.

The artist draws inspiration from his upbringing around farm life and interests in horror movies and mutations, including his personal favorite: Courage the Cowardly Dog. Growing up in a family full of farmers, his work is naturally animal-based and he creates metamorphosized cutouts of colorful farm animals.

The workshop took place at the patio next to the Art Gallery where the artist's work was on display for students to view. At the workshop, Noot showed students wearable art they could craft and even created a few examples to inspire them. The wearable art was made on paper and there were many art supplies, including colored pencils and markers available for participants.

Rainbow Pride Center counselor Natalie Guerrero, created a pair of eyes and a bowtie using crayons. One student, Melissa DiTommaso, had previously attended Noot’s lecture and exhibition and was inspired to create a whole bikini set with hands with long nails. She was overheard joking about having saved a lot of money.

“I saw a flier and thought his work was cool,” said DiTommaso, an animation major. “I went to the opening gallery and liked it and thought it was really fun.”

After creating their wearable pieces, students posed for a photographs with a Papillon and were able to keep the shot. There was coffee, fruit and other snacks available for students to enjoy while they relaxed and let their imaginations guide them.

Valley Life

ASU finance agenda

MILAN RAFAELOV  EDITOR IN CHIEF

The ASU held its bi-weekly meeting on budget amendments on Tuesday, announcing about $340,000 on the day.

The meeting held hopes of filling the full-current council treasurer position. ASU Members reviewed their SkyBox conference room and reviewed its finances.

First was a request to fund a CSU trip for $2,872.90 to feed an estimated 200 students at The National Hunger and Homelessness Research Symposium held by the Student Senate.

A donation of $1,000 was approved to be sent to CARB. The ASU approved a total of $4,650 to help low-income families.

Another request was to buy gifts for around 20 children for the Native American Council.

ASU's Unions, like the ASU, Mountain and Dance-A-Thon, were granted a total of $4,432.

The board interviewed a student about the position of the student treasurer position. The student was asked if he would like to pursue higher education, and he failed a test for judges that failed to give basic examples of qualification for the position.

The ASU did not fill the position, and are looking for more student applicants.

ASU's awards

MAIA RICHAUD  STAFF WRITER

The ASU was first place for LACC Associated Student Organization at the Annual Leadership Institutes Competition from the LACC Leadership Institute. The next contest of student governments is at CSU and CSUB.

Student governments in the Los Angeles Community Colleges District, including Valley College, Pierce College and Los Angeles College, South-West College, represented their respective schools.

Valley College was awarded third place, Los Angeles College and Mission College received second place, and Harbor College was first place and placed out of nine colleges.

The contest was part of the pre-game of the Marshall versus Title IX Training. Many representatives of the ASU were attending the event, such as Valley’s Micaela Ybarra, who was in charge of answering questions at the event.

The ASU held their bi-weekly meeting on budget amendments on Tuesday, announcing about $340,000 on the day.
CAMPUS PRIDE

Pride Flag raised on campus for the second time on Coming Out Day
Students and speakers unite to celebrate and support each other.

JASMINE ALEXANDER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Valley College raised the Pride Flag for the second time in its 74-year history. The Unity Center, along with the LGBTQ Office of the College, raised the flag as part of an event called Coming Out Day. Valley alumni and California State Senator Caroline Menjivar gave a speech on her queer journey and the importance of having safe spaces for the LGBTQ community.

The Unity Center coordinated the ceremony by waving around mini Pride flags, stickers, and pins. Everyone set down, stood, and said, “Gay Pride, Rainbow Pride, Safe space! Everyone is equal! A world without homophobia!”

Valentine Pelayo. Numerous punches and blows of fists make the hair on the back of one's neck stand up.

Valley alum and California State Senator Caroline Menjivar.

KAIA MAN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

In a world of Heartstopper and Red White and Royal Blues, Aitch Alberto’s film Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe is not reinventing the wheel, but does serve as a profoundly sweet and introspective queer story.

Set in 1980s El Paso, Aristotle Mendosa (Max Pelayo) navigates his growing relationship with the eccentric Dante (Reese Gonzales). Aristotle struggles while coming into his own, still in the dark about his incarcerated brother. It’s a tale of finding yourself, accepting yourself, and the people who join you along that ride.

Adapted from the bestselling book of the same name, Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe is a word-for-word remake. She showcased the intensity of coming out of a family and understood our experience very well. Furthermore, she understands the struggles and the weight of three.

Critics lauded the film for its emotional depth and realistic portrayal of the coming-out process. Despite mixed reviews, the film resonated with audiences and solidified its place in the realm of LGBTQ cinema.

While it often lies the backdrop of the smalltown character of the main character, it was a wistful escape. If you want a wistful escape, this is the movie for you if you want a wistful escape.

Queer representation in film adoption by Aitch Alberto

Alberto brings to life bestselling book Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe. While its heavy soundtrack is straight out of your parent's playlist. The changing of seasons is practical left through the screen. While there are times when the dialogue is off-register, the actors are vibrant and bring life to the page. The film, with its bright colors and set designs that left real. Producers, Lina Miranda's influence is felt in the overall tone, and of course, the film's heavy soundtrack.

Although there could only be a few more scenes between Ari and Dante themselves, it is obvious that the film wanted to be greater than just a queer romance, and that is admirable. While it often lies within the subtext, this film celebrates LGBTQ identity while tapping into their fears and challenges the backdrop of the coming-out AIDS epidemic. The performances from all involved were engaging. There is a surprisingly grave, some, yet revealing scenes, involving the mysterious Max Pelayo. Numerous punches and blows of fists make the hair on the back of one's neck stand up.

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WORTH A WATCH

Photo courtesy of Blue Fox Entertainment
Adaption - Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe is a film adaptation of a book written by Benjamin Alire Sáenz. The film stars Max Pelayo and Reese Gonzales.
Israel-Hamas war foots the bill no one can afford

Innocent civilians pay the
cure homeland after the holocaust, much like the Pal
Jewish people ensured persecution, yearning for a se
Both ideologies that dominate their governments were
but Zionists and Hamas now use their dogma to justi
of unfilled promises, leaving a lasting impact on the region.

A year ago, a few days after Israeli-occupied war on Pale
in a time where misinformation and crude collective punishmen
22 day interregnum to

I think they should change it so it's
let them have better access to becoming a

I just don't see why it's such a big deal to
let them have better access to becoming a
to McCarthy on Oct. 7. If anything,

“ It's a good thing to let other people from a

“ I think it's just unfair and I think what we’re doing should stop.”
- MAHATMA GANDHI, DE MARDEN

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to let them have better access to becoming a
to McCarthy on Oct. 7. If anything,

Innocent civilians pay the


POLITICAL: Mike Johnson is new Speaker of the House.

Four tedious rounds of voting results appoint Mike Johnson as the speaker of the House.

After weeks of exhausting votes, all of the eight surviving drivers have finally exited their own cars, as the House Republicans appointed Mike Johnson (R-La) as Speaker of the House. However, Johnson’s religious conservatism may continue to divide a already

In a dramatic fourth round of votes, Mike Johnson, Trump sur-
rogate, was crowned, but not with- out enduring criticism from left wing advocates for his unwav-
aging opposition to LGBTQ+ rights, abortion privileges and his defense of the former President Trump.

Internal party dynamics caused a final flood of preferenc-
eans within the Republican Party since the ouster of Rep. Kevin McCarthy on Oct. 7. If anything, Johnson is a conservative’s con-
verse who may be able to please both wings of the Republican Party to.

Compared to former Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who was willing to

put on new faces to acquaint

ture to McCarthy, while perhaps a troglodyte

While the sluggish Democratic Party could seize

the opportunity of a deeply-
divided opposition, it would be unworkable as expecting Hungry Dumpy to perch com-
fortably on the wall. In other words, things are going to crack.

The 22 day interregnum to find a competent House Speaker is a symptom and proof of the broken House majority — a Republican party that is unwilling to codify for their party’s greater good.

The end, critical issues such as a looming government shut-
down and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were on the line, and the House majority lacked the necessary judgment to make a comprehensive decision. As a result, the House majority could do no more than elect a Speaker who represents their Party's greater good.

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down and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were on the line, and the House majority lacked the necessary judgment to make a comprehensive decision. As a result, the House majority could do no more than elect a Speaker who represents their Party's greater good.
Monarchs ring bell for the ninth-straight time in rivalry match against Brahmas

Valley used a combination of a running and passing game to outscore the Brahmas in a homecoming contest.

The Valley College Monarchs used a strong second half to defeat Pierce College Saturday 46-28 and hang onto the Victory Bell for another year.

Valley (3-4) started slow in its homecoming game as they trailed 6-3 in the first quarter. However, Pierce (3-4) did not have the lead for long. Valley went on a bullish run, outscoring the visitors 21-6 in the second quarter.

The points came on the second and goal when Monarch quarterback Wesley Tshimanga threw a 5-yard floater to wide receiver Keyshawn Parks, making the score 10-6. Tshimanga’s second touchdown pass came at the 5:28 mark in the second quarter. The signal caller connected with receiver Graham Blubaugh on a 39-yard pass in the back of the endzone. The Monarchs took a 24-12 lead into the break.

Offensive Coordinator Nick Walker said, “We just have to be aggressive, put our best foot forward and make sure that we execute. This is a rivalry game; we got to give them everything we’ve got to tire them out.”

The Brahmas returned from the half and cut Valley’s lead to 24-21 by the end of the third. The first points came on a 36-yard field goal by Marcelo Asan-Ortiz. The visitors added six more points when Maquel Henderson went on a 55-yard touchdown run on a fourth and 10, cutting the Monarchs’ lead to 3 points.

Valley answered back in the fourth quarter, out scoring their opponent 22-7. Running back Bryan Massengale helped fuel the fourth-quarter blitz when he ran it in from 1-yard out, and after the extra point from kicker Daylen Ortiz, the Monarchs were up 31-21.

Valley’s Graham Blubaugh added a 20-yard run for another score and the Monarchs converted on a 2-point play, increasing their lead to 39-21 with 6:42 remaining in the game. Jonathan Aguirre finished the scoring on a 1-yard touchdown. Kicker Ortiz’s extra point made the final score 46-28.

Valley's Tshimaga threw for 189 yards, with his longest pass coming on a 44-yard connection to Jason Wagner Jr. The Tshimaga and Wagner Jr. duo combined for 96 yards in the air.

“When in doubt, I know I can find him downfield,” Tshimaga said. “He makes the play whenever his number is called.”

The Victory Bell dates back to the founding of both schools, and the rivalry has fueled the programs. The winner of the game takes the bell home, and Valley has held the prize since 2015 continuing a hot streak.

Coach Lester Towns said his team came out with some fight on Saturday. “It was a rivalry game, and we knew we had to come out and keep fighting if we wanted to win this game,” Towns said. “We knew it was going to be a battle; they have good players, just like we do.”

Valley will visit Santa Monica College Saturday for a 1 p.m. kickoff and will host Pasadena City College in their last home game of the season Nov. 11 at 1 p.m.