



SPORTS: PITCHER RELAY
MONARCH COACHES LET THEIR PITCHERS LOOSE TO SEE WHAT THEY COULD DO.



GALLERY: CASUAL CHESS
ASU MADE MOVES AND ORGANIZED FALL'S FIRST CASUAL CHESS TOURNAMENT.

Bill kills remedials

ISAAC DEKTOR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed assembly bill 1705 into law on Friday, a piece of legislation expediting the transfer process for students moving from community colleges to four-year universities by pushing remedial math and English courses further into extinction.

The bill follows up on the mandate of the five year old AB 705, which gave colleges until 2019 to tighten the criteria for students eligibility to enroll in pre-transfer level courses. Proponents of the new bill believe that requiring more students to be enrolled directly into transfer level math and English classes in their first year will accelerate the rate at which students complete degrees and move on to four-year universities. AB 1705 will severely impact the number of remedial courses being offered at the state's community colleges starting next summer, as schools will be required to enroll all U.S. high school graduates directly into transfer-level English and math with few exceptions.

"I am concerned about the freedom of students being able to choose pre-transfer level math and English courses, as colleges will now be required to archive these classes," said Holly Batty, Valley's English department chair. "Though Valley would not require students to take these courses, I believe students should still have the option."

In the three years since the implementation of AB 705, the throughput rate of transfer level English and math in the first year doubled.

"It was not AB 705. The biggest factor was COVID," said Valley College math department chair Mostaha Barakat. "Students switched from in-person to Zoom and instructors had to be super flexible with everything. That is the biggest factor why the success rate shot up – because of the flexibility and the resources that the students had available to them when they were studying online and taking exams online."

While many faculty organizations, including the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, oppose the latest crackdown on remedial classes, there is little support for returning to the pre-AB 705 standards.

"In defense of AB-705 — AB-705 is not bad," said Barakat. "Students had to stay in college for two years before they made it to transfer level. That's not fair to the student, that's not fair to anybody. We had to expedite things and get student throughput up in transfer level."

The legislation also requires that the Chancellor of California Community Colleges publish data online in order to publicly track any effects on student completion in math and English courses.

K-12 student success in math and English declined throughout the pandemic, with six percent less students meeting the state's standard for math from 2018-19 to 2020-21.

"Some students need pre-transfer level," said Barakat. "Some students do not. Students who do not need pretransfer level should go in transfer level right away. For the students who do need pretransfer level, and there's a good quantity, we should keep offering that as an option."

ASU goes to Disneyland

The board unanimously approved a \$7,384 expenditure for 27 students to attend the Anaheim theme park in December.



JEREMY RUIZ | VALLEY STAR

EXECUTIVES- (L-R) ASU Treasurer Diego Enriquez, President Ani Ramazyan and Commissioner of Fine Arts Mia Sanchez convene with fellow commissioners to discuss financial motions, including a \$4,650 allotment for a Halloween carnival. The ASU meets biweekly in the Skybox conference room of the Associated Student Union building of Valley College.

NATALIE METCALF
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The Associated Student Union met on Sept. 23 for an emergency meeting, unanimously passing a \$7,384 trip to Disneyland for later this year.

The budget request was submitted by ASU advisor Monica Flores. The board has already allocated \$158,954 of their total budget for 2022-23, leaving a remaining balance of \$46. The Disneyland trip is scheduled for Dec. 18 and is connected to a leadership workshop series. ASU board members are guaranteed a ticket to the happiest place on earth, as each member is required to attend the workshops for leadership training. The funds were used to purchase park tickets, transportation and food. In total, 30 passes have been purchased for the trip; for 27 students and three chaperones.

"It's open to the public and if people asked about it we'd let them know," said ASU Treasurer Diego Enriquez, in reference to the meeting on Sept. 23. "Our job isn't to advo-

"I think it's a really exciting opportunity for students. You're going to Disneyland and learning all of these leadership skills."

- Mia Sanchez, commissioner of fine arts

cate these meetings unless it's something people want to see."

Flores explained that while emergency meetings do not require a public notice, the board still posted the agenda for the meeting 72 hours before. According to the Brown Act, regular meetings must be announced to the public. Any agency that has a website must include a link to the agenda. Valley's website is currently under construction and

will not be available to students until mid-October. The agenda for the meeting on Sept. 23 was not posted on ASU's Instagram.

Since the board is returning back to campus, all the ASU meetings will be posted downstairs in the student union plaza. Before the pandemic, meetings were also posted on the website rather than on social media.

According to the leadership workshop series flier posted on ASU's Instagram, if students participate in all three meetings they will have an "opportunity to apply" to attend the theme park in December. The first meeting in the series took place on Sept. 16 and the last two seminars are scheduled for Oct. 7 and Nov. 4. Students who apply for the trip must also pay their \$10 associated student organization membership fee.

"I think it's a really exciting opportunity for students," said Mia Sanchez, the commissioner of fine arts. "You're going to Disneyland and learning all of these leadership skills. I think it's really informative as well."

Leftover Disneyland tickets will be available to students in the inter-club council, the

student government board made up of one representative from each chartered club on campus. Their next meeting takes place on Oct. 13 at 1 p.m.

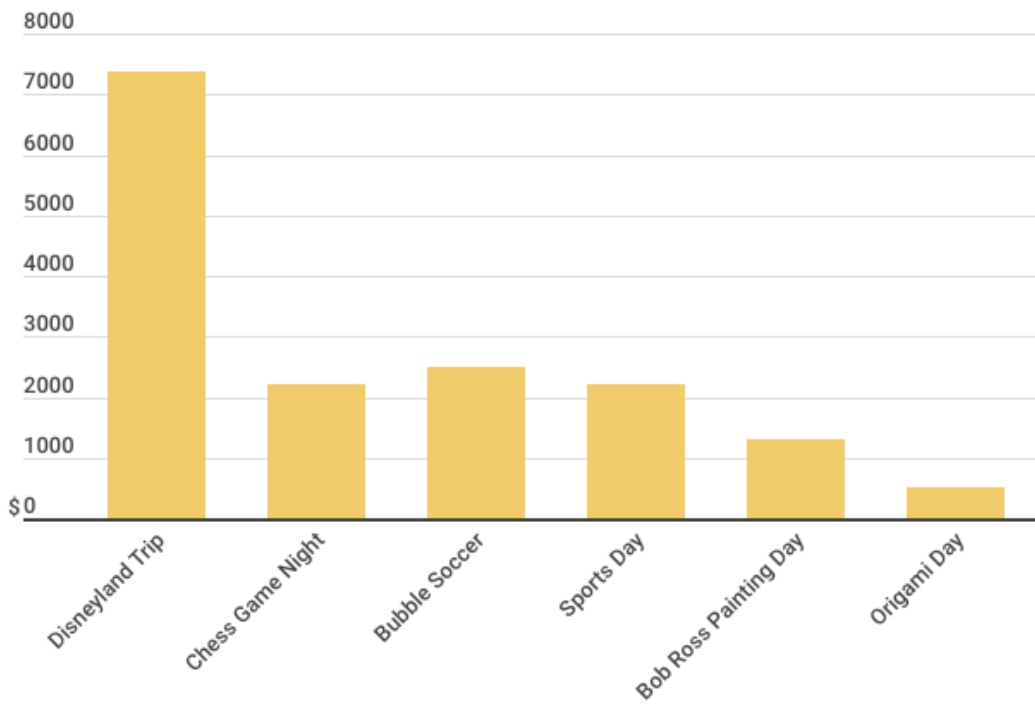
Student union Disneyland trips have precedent. In June of this year, the previous ASU board, including the current president, went to Disneyland. A mandatory leadership workshop occurred in May and was connected to the previous Disneyland trip, much like this semester's workshop meetings.

"It was a last-minute plan," said Flores in reference to the Disneyland trip in June. "We were slowly returning back. It was very last-minute planning but it worked out really well."

The student union advisor is continuing the workshop series this semester and hopes to continue in the Spring semester.

The next finance and executive council meeting will be on Oct. 11 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Monarchs are welcome to attend the meetings, as they are open to the public.

ASU 2022 fall events budget



ISAAC DEKTOR | VALLEY STAR

EARMARKED- The Associated Student Union (ASU) budget breakdown of all planned one day events. While bubble soccer and sports day are funded, Treasurer Diego Enriquez and the ASU must still find affordable insurance in order for the events to go on as planned.

Bond over \$5 billion

CASSANDRA NAVA
MANAGING EDITOR

Los Angeles County residents could pay between up to \$157 yearly if the LACCD's bond measure is approved in November's midterm election.

The district's largest bond measure to date would bring renovations to the nine colleges and be paid by a tax increase, which can vary between \$88 and \$157. However, it could be more on the top end, with some paying more than \$4,000 over the life of the 25 year bond. Six district board of trustee members approved the measure at a July 6 meeting and helped prepare the measure for the Nov. 8 election.

"Students deserve excellent teaching and learning facilities, they deserve high quality experiences, they deserve an opportunity to be involved in student life," said LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez at the meeting. "When the students engage, our students do better."

The sole vote in opposition came from board member Ernest Moreno.

"I know I'm swimming against the tide, but somebody has to be the adult in the room and be cognizant," said Moreno. "Perhaps enrollment will improve to a level of normalcy, but we may not get to the numbers of students we built the district for."

According to Moreno, the colleges are built using master plans, which anticipate growth in student population, therefore assessing the future needs for new buildings and revitalization. In the July meeting, Moreno shared he feared that in renovating the colleges the district would build "ghost towns."

The last district bond, Measure CC, was approved in 2016 at \$3.3 billion. The headcount across the district was 251,530 students. This year, the headcount is less than half of that at 102,045 students district wide.

As of March 2017, Valley College experienced a \$612 million renovation, using about 94 percent of the budget allocated from the first three bond measures. The Allied Health and Sciences building was constructed during this period, while the Campus Center, Parking Lot D and the Gym (Complex 2) underwent renovations. The unfinished Valley Academic and Cultural Center was under construction with an expected completion in 2019. As of 2017, the estimated budget of the VACC at completion was \$105,990,566, with the majority of the funds coming from the 2008 bond measure.

If the \$5.3 billion bond passes, Valley will receive more than \$496 million. The largest portion, \$199.2 million, will go toward renovating pre-1970s buildings while the rest of the money is earmarked for infrastructure, technology, athletic fields, sustainability and other needs.

By asking for more money on top of the \$9.6 billion total received in bond funds and state funds, Moreno fears the district's credibility is at stake.

"In my opinion, the list [of needs] was created not by necessity, but with a top down approach," said Moreno. "The \$5.3 billion is our cap. They built the list by dollars and filled in the needs after. I believe in the investment of education, but there is a point and time to be honest about the needs."

IMPORTANT INFO

Oct. 21

The deadline for LACCD students and employees to begin using multifactor verification has been extended.

Oct. 24

Eight-week late start classes begin.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.thevalleystarnews.com

Follow up-to-date campus news and events on Twitter @ValleyStarNews

LAUSD supplies medication to reverse fentanyl overdose

An initial supply of six hundred kits will be distributed among middle schools and high schools later this month.

SAYEH SAADAT
STAFF WRITER

The superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, Alberto Carvalho, recently announced that the Los Angeles Unified School District, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, will make an anti-overdose medication available to all K-12 schools in the county by mid-October.

The move comes shortly after Melanie Ramos, a fifteen-year-old Bernstein High School student, was found dead in a bathroom due to a fentanyl overdose. The decision was made in response to the epidemic of fentanyl overdoses in Los Angeles. California recorded 4,009 fentanyl related deaths in 2020. According to the CDC, this was a 140.5 percent increase since 2019, when the state recorded 1,675 deaths. Naloxone is an opiate antagonist which is administered either intravenously or as a nasal spray in emergency situations to reverse the respiratory depression caused by overdoses of heroin, morphine, fentanyl or other opioids. Police officers, emergency medical technicians, school nurses and first responders are trained on how to give naloxone to patients.

“We have an urgent crisis on our hands,” said Carvalho. “Research shows that the avail-

ability of naloxone along with overdose education is effective at decreasing overdoses and death, and will save lives. We will do everything in our power to ensure that not another student in our community is a victim to the growing opioid epidemic.”

The Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) was created by the California Department of Health Care Services with the aim of supplying Naloxone to first responders, Emergency Medical Services, universities and other public service agencies. The agency is providing six hundred kits to the LAUSD to be distributed at all 184 high schools and 132 middle schools at no cost.

The LAUSD is also working closely with the health department to develop training and educational materials for communities in Los Angeles County. The appropriate staff, such as nurses, wellness center providers and trained volunteers will be trained to administer naloxone. Training for district staff will begin in early October.

The nation’s second largest school district has also formed a task force to investigate data in order to pinpoint areas of the district that are being disproportionately affected. Schools will continue working closely with the Los Angeles School Police and the LAPD to address safety issues, and is launching peer



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTARY CLUB OF GREATER VAN NUYS

NALOXONE- The Los Angeles Unified School District will partner with the Department of Public Health to provide schools with the medication.

counseling for students and courses on drug use and impact through its Family Academy beginning the first week of October.

In an email from Evelyn Pichardo, the LAVC Student Health Education Coordinator, it was stated that college cam-

puses and universities are not part of the NDP project. “I don’t have any knowledge of fentanyl usage on campus,” Pichardo

said. “While I do Health Education, I haven’t yet done nor coordinated one on drug use.”

Collective bargaining bill finds opposition

Restaurant industry rallies against California fast food workers’ collective bargaining council.



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

BILL- California Assembly Bill 257 will affect fast food restaurants like this McDonald's on Ventura boulevard in Sherman Oaks, by creating a Fast Food Council. The council will help manage the industry with fair wages.

ASHER MILES
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Gavin Newsom recently signed the Fast Food Accountability and Standards Act, a bill that will introduce a California Fast Food Council, a collective bargaining group that could increase the wages of fast food workers by up to almost 40 percent.

Despite opposition from restaurant business associations, the California state senate stood with labor unions by passing AB 257. The bill mandates that a 10-person counsel be established to set an industry-wide minimum wage and help to strengthen safety standards. According to section 2 of the bill, fast food organizations received record-breaking profits since 2020 while their employees have seen their wages stagnate alongside rising inflation.

“There are just things that could be improved on,” said second-year Valley College and McDonald’s employee Michael Potemkin. “I would love our meal break to be paid and to increase the hourly pay to above \$20 an hour.”

The bill that will outline future labor regulations and standards will be the first of its kind in the United States. Currently, there are 550,000 California fast food workers with annual pay less than \$26,000.

Advocates hope that the bill increases the bargaining powers of fast food workers after multiple reported cases of fast food businesses’ misconduct, including wage

theft and overtime pay issues.

“We realize that there are sectors of our economy where we are falling a bit short and one of those areas are fast food workers,” said Gov Gavin Newsom in a video posted to Twitter. “I’m proud on Labor Day that bill [AB 257] and to enshrine it in law.”

The bill, also called the FAST Recovery Act, will orchestrate a council of 10 representa-

“The business lobbyists definitely want to block the passage with the \$1.5 million that they’ve pumped into the opposition.”

- Michael Potemkin, second-year undeclared student

tives; quick service restaurant franchises, franchisees and employees will have two representatives, while the governor’s office, the office of Business and Economic Development, and the California Department of Industrial Relations will each have one. Every representative, except the employee advocates, will be appointed by Newsom.

While advocates hope the bill establishes sector-wide minimum standards for wages, hours, and other working conditions, many California business groups and associations fear higher consumer costs and added layers of bureaucracy.

Jot Condie, president and CEO of the California Restaurant Association, issued a statement urging the state senate to reject the bill.

“Overall, AB 257 is a direct assault on tested, effective governance for which legislators are elected, said Condie “The bill strips existing authority regulating and legislating the restaurant community.”

Since its inception, business advocacy organizations have financed tens of millions into a contending campaign entitled “Stop AB 257.” According to a review of California lobbying disclosures, almost \$1.5 million went to lobbying against the bill fighting for sector-wide standards. The campaign states that the new bill “will drastically increase food prices by as much as 20%.”

“The business lobbyists definitely want to block the passage with the \$1.5 million that they’ve pumped into the opposition,” said the undeclared Potemkin.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.thevalleystarnews.com

Follow up-to-date campus news and events on Twitter @ValleyStarNews

Updated Valley website launches later this month

Valley website feature improved functionality, up-to-date content, a fresh logo, new designs and updated software.

ASHER MILES
STAFF WRITER

After 20 years, Valley College will be showcasing a contemporary logo and a fresh design on the new website, with the school currently partnering with Sensis for the website migration.

Last semester, students voted on a new logo for the college, with the winning choice featured on the new website. The modernized website will provide Monarchs with up-to-date information on modern software, and will also have designated content editors. The latest software will monitor for broken links and the ability for the Valley to follow up with content editors to keep their pages updated. Every college within the LACCD will receive an update and have its web pages migrated by Sensis.

“We have gone through

every web page to make sure that the information is still current,” said President Barry Gribbons. “We found that most of the pages are out of date.”

“The new website will incorporate our new logo and our fresh, vibrant palette of colors with a new tagline.”

- Public Relations Manager Jennifer Borucki

Sensis, a full-service marketing firm will assist with developing and implementing a new college branding strategy, which includes logo development and new software. Valley started working with Sensis this year after previously using a marketing firm called Eldertree. Figures for the development were not disclosed by the Valley, however, \$57,000 was slated to be used for the development of the logo by Eldertree. Sensis is one of Australia’s top marketing and advertising companies and will be migrating the web pages. Sensis is best known for owning the White and Yellow Pages in Australia.

The district allocated \$1.2 million for marketing and branding purposes. Valley received \$145,000 allocated from a grant called California Community College Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative.

The new website will focus on prospective students



PHOTO COURTESY OF VALLEY COLLEGE

UPDATE- The district wide update to the nine college’s website is scheduled to be ready in October.

and will assist the community in finding information for Valley, such as programs or services. The new website will also feature a fresh new look.

According to the Public Relations Manager Jennifer Borucki, the importance of branding and marketing in a virtual medium has significantly increased, and Valley’s existing logo and branding did not respond ap-

propriately to those needs.

“The new website will incorporate our new logo and our fresh, vibrant palette of colors with a new tagline,” said Borucki. “We are incorporating green and gold into the design of the new website.”

Once the validation of the pages have been approved the website will launch. The website is slated to go live later this month.

“Our new college branding,

which includes launching a new logo, tagline, mascot icon and ads, will help us attract more students, highlight amazing academic programs and support services that help our students succeed,” said Borucki. “It will showcase why Valley College is the best community college in the state.”

Narrative vocals engulfed Valley College recital hall

Valley’s free concert series continued with emotional performances, an 1800’s adventure and cross-dressing.

NATALIE METCALF
Valley Life Editor

Baritone and tender tenor vocals could be heard from recital hall M106 on Wednesday, telling narratives of a struggling artist, an expedition from the late 1800s, and a botched surgery.

The third free concert of the semester continued its theme: “Music for Storytelling” with performances by concert organizer Christian Nova, applied music program student Kevin Alvarez and music department faculty member Glenn Carlos, the last of who dressed in drag. Each performance was accompanied by music department professor member Frank Garvey on piano.

“The songs tell a bigger story throughout [the concert],” said Nova. “As opposed to a song that might express an emotional idea or a feeling, these particular songs tell stories.”

Alvarez sang “Why” by Jonathan Larson from the musical biopic “Tik...Tik...Boom!” (2021). The performance was intimate and tender, as the music major honed his skills



ALLYSON ROCAS | Valley Star

BARITONE- Glenn Carlos performs “Cosmetic Surgery, the Saga of Kate” by John Bucchino, while Frank Garvey accompanies him on piano.

from Valley’s program. In the question and answer portion post-concert, Alvarez shared how powerful the song was to him.

“Of all the different musicals I’ve seen, that one just took me into a different world,” said Alvarez. “I saw and felt so much of what was in the story that I couldn’t help but

just fall in love with Jonathan Larson’s stories and music.”

The glamorization of Hollywood life arrived in Carlos’ second half of his performance when singing “Sweet Dreams” by John Bucchino. Two people — a straight woman from a domestically violent relationship and a gay man leaving his sugar

daddy — sit together at a train station on their way to a “better life” in Hollywood. Carlos carried the narration of the two people, playing the narrator.

Lastly, the music professor changed into a blonde wig, red dress, black heels and diamonds for his performance of “Cosmetic Surgery: the Saga

of Kate” by John Wallowitch.

“Once the wig goes on, everything is taken care of,” said Carlos. “You hear these stories and it makes it even funnier. I’ll see somebody now and then — that I know I haven’t seen in a couple of years — and think wow the rest of us have aged a lot and this person either had some work done or they’re well preserved. [The song] is just kind of a joke.”

The next free concert will be on Wednesday, Oct. 12 and will be the first week with a new theme, “Music for Entertainment.” All concert dates can be found on the Valley College website in the calendar.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Oct. 12

Guest artists Steve Goomas and Christian Coutler will be performing in recital hall M106 at 1:30 p.m.

Oct. 19

Music from The Beatles will be performed by Valley music department faculty in recital hall M106 at 1:30 p.m.

Arely Aguilar is ASU’s student life commissioner

The new student life commissioner brings her confidence and passion for student involvement to Valley College.

NATALIE METCALF
Valley Life Editor

With a delightful smile and a down to earth personality, Arely Aguilar takes pride in creating student engagement, which will serve her well in the role of the Associated Student Union’s new student life commissioner.

The second-year Valley College student is family and community orientated, as she is a part of four major organizations on campus. Aguilar is a part of the Puente program, the Transfer Alliance Honors program, the Promise program and the ASU. The business administration major wishes to host an event connecting the Puente Program and the ASU, as both programs have helped her in her academic journey.

“I felt very lonely, the campus felt lonely,” said Aguilar. “There seemed to be little student life here. I thought this

[the position] is perfect because I’m very prideful in what I do.”

When she was eight years old, her parents placed her in the Los Angeles Police Department cadet program. During her six years in the program, Aguilar learned discipline and integrity. The prior cadet would engage in her community activities such as tutoring junior cadets, donating to the community through fundraisers and hosting carnival events. The new student life commissioner takes pride in being an LAPD cadet, as she feels she has benefitted from the program.

“I want people to be more involved,” said Aguilar. “When you’re more involved with the things you do you develop a passion and become prideful. I want students here at Valley to feel pride and passion for coming here.”

As a first-generation college student, the student life commissioner wanted to take advantage of the resources Valley has to



JEREMY RUIZ | Valley Star

STUDENT LIFE - Business Administration major Arely Aguilar hopes to share her openness to new experiences with students on campus as she plans to implement activities that enhance student engagement.

offer. The Puente program stood out significantly, as she navigated through her first year in college. Over the summer, Aguilar

attended a STEM summer conference with the Puente program.

Holly Batty, who leads Puente at Valley providing stu-

dents access to counseling, campus trips and tutoring, has witnessed first-hand the growth of the new commissioner.

“I think she has really acquired a lot of leadership skills through Puente,” said Batty. “Attending the summer conference was really beneficial and inspiring for her. I think she took away a lot of information that motivated her to help other students.”

Academia is significant in Aguilar’s life, as she is taking on 16 units this semester. On top of the busy course load, the transfer student plans on applying to the University of California Riverside. After spending four days at UC Riverside, due to a Puente program trip, Aguilar connected to the student involvement on campus, wanting to bring the same involvement to Valley’s campus.

“I just want to see people succeed with me,” said ASU’s student life commissioner. “There’s always room for everyone to succeed in anything.”

The Dahmer takes the antihero a step too far

Ryan Murphy’s new series asks an unsettling and disturbing question: can a serial killer be forgiven?

ISAAC DEKTOR
Editor in Chief

If a serial killer wrote themselves a TV show, it would be a lot like “Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story.” Underneath a gripping narrative told through visceral filmmaking, unique screenwriting and transcendent performances is the disturbing reality that the Dahmer murders really happened, and the series takes the antihero a step too far.

The limited series begins from Jeffrey Dahmer’s (Evan Peters) perspective on the night that he was finally caught. Viewers are thrust into the Milwaukee apartment infamously marked by the smell of decomposing bodies. Time is disjointed, bodies litter the bedroom and Dahmer cleans a bloody knife. He then goes to a gay bar, Club 219, and hunts for another victim.

The show uses Dahmer’s polarities, a demure young man and the compulsive monster, effectively to create an unsettling antihero. Dahmer is driven by a compulsion, or so the show alleges at times, the origins of which are a mys-



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

CANNIBAL - Evan Peters stars in “Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffery Dahmer Story” created by Ryan Murphy and Ian Brennan. The limited series gruesomely depicts the murders and cannibalism Dahmer committed in his lifetime.

tery. Entire episodes are spent pondering that exact question. Viewers are led to believe that Dahmer had no control, like Camus’ antihero Meursault in the 1942 novella “The Stranger.”

Both Meursault and Dahmer are antiheroes; both are central

characters who lack any heroic traits. Just as Meursault’s murder of a man on a beach was made understandable because he lost control of himself, viewers watch Dahmer completely lose control to his “compulsion.”

Each episode varies themat-

ically, changing in perspective just before Dahmer’s demise. After becoming attuned to the Milwaukee monster, viewers are catapulted back to his childhood and bombarded by rationalizations of his descent into barbarism. Was his father to blame?

Lionel Dahmer (Barry Jenkins), the bumbling man who clearly inspired Dahmer’s eyewear, taught his son how to preserve animal bones in formaldehyde.

Creators Ryan Murphy and Ian Brennan make a friend of dramatic irony throughout the series as they depict the sloppiness of the Milwaukee cannibal. The police officer, who did not give Dahmer a DUI, would have surely discovered the garbage bag containing decapitated body parts in the trunk.

“I never want to see your face again,” says the cop. Dahmer’s own grandma says “I don’t want any strangers dying in my house,” before kicking her grandson out for reasons including a terrible stench coming from the basement. It is through these moments, all the people who should have known (and the few who did know but were ignored), that the series expands outward and really shines.

Changes in character point of view lend a hand in driving the narrative forward. After watching the creators rationalize how Dahmer became the way he was for half of the series, it is a relief to step into the shoes of characters who are traumatized and

forever impacted by the murders. Reverend Jesse Jackson even makes an appearance, albeit only as a vehicle for Glenda Cleveland to recall the years of living next to a serial killer, lamenting inaction by the police.

After scrutinizing the justice system in an attempt to remedy the damage done by humanizing the monster who took 17 lives, the series begins to repeat itself. It exploits Dahmer’s demure temperament and statements of sympathy for everything they are worth, even holding up a jarring comparison to John Wayne Gacy’s last words, “kiss my ass,” before being put to death without ever acknowledging his crimes.

“Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story” is a detailed and nuanced account of a serial killer, though in the end, the monster got the last word.

Valley’s Stars

★★★★☆

Worth the watch.

Available on Netflix

GOP hypocrisy following raid of Mar-a-Lago

Republicans pivot on their stance of the FBI after former President Donald Trump’s estate was raided.

ASHER MILES
STAFF WRITER

Americans are still recovering from the whiplash after watching the GOP sharply pivot from touting “law and order” to pleading “defund the FBI” after the unannounced FBI raid of Former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate. But no one mourns the wicked, and Trump is already looking to wiggle his way out of this one. According to the Department of Justice, Trump secretly transferred more than 100 top secret files from the white house and sequestered them in his \$160 million resort. Violations of the law that are worthy of an indictment are par for the course for Trump. His ill-regard for the Espionage Act, illegal destruction of government records and gathering of classified documents necessitate not only an FBI raid but should lead to criminal charges. If “45” is not indicted for his crimes, then he will be an authority which is above the law. Ever-increasing GOP lawmakers and candidates continue to believe the raid was a “hoax.” Particular supporters sycophantically suggest that the FBI agents involved in the raid should be fired, and the orchestrated plan was a plot to prevent Trump from running for the presidency in 2024. “If you played any role in this raid, you should be gone,” said Don Bongino, the three-

time Congress hopeful and conservative host and commentator on Fox News. “It’s time to clean house. Draining the swamp has to be a top priority for whoever the GOP puts in the White House next.”

Americans must focus on the three facts: that Trump violated the Espionage Act, stole and destroyed classified documents and concealed files from the DOJ.

According to the DOJ, Trump failed to follow the guidelines in Executive Order 13526, the legal process for safeguarding national security information. If indicted, the former president will be found guilty of breaching the Espionage Act, particularly Section 793, which applies to gathering information pertaining to national defense, as nuclear documents were found at the resort. “I don’t think the people of the United States would stand for it,” Trump said on Hugh Hewitt’s conservative talk show. In response to if he were to be indicted Trump said, “I think if it happened, I think you’d have problems in this country the likes of which perhaps we’ve never seen before.” In an attempt to stall, U.S.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DONKEY HOTEY

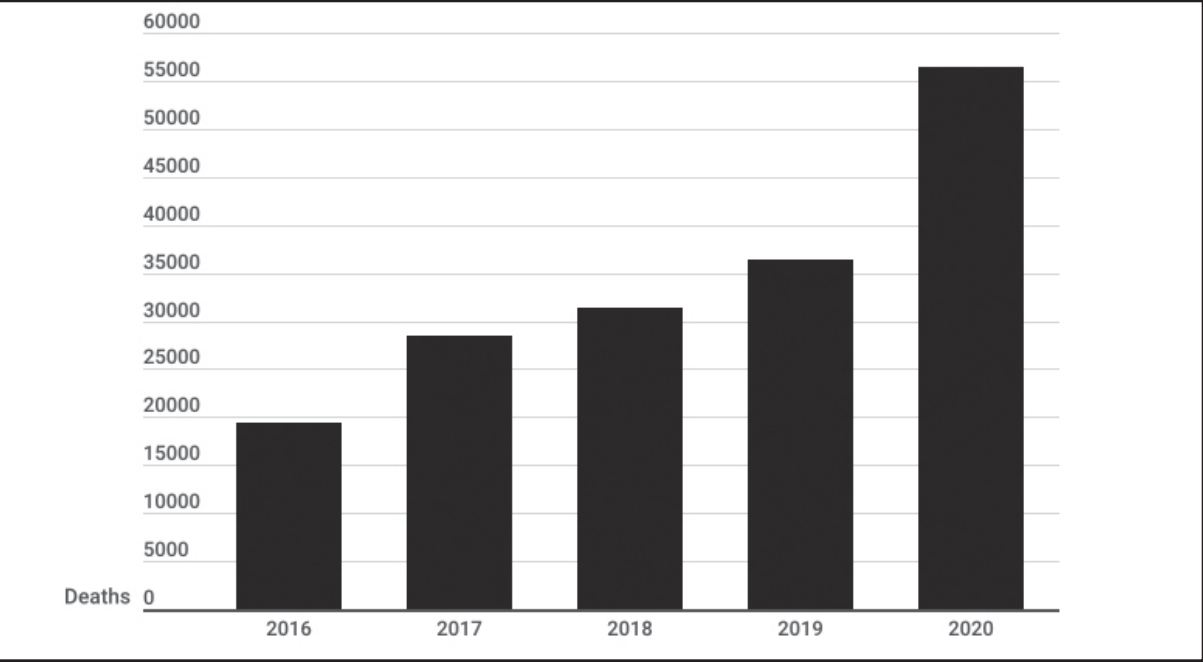
District Judge Aileen Cannon ruled that the DOJ must stop the review of the seized files by appointing Trump-approved “special master” Raymond Dearie. Dearie would have had over 70 days to review the secret files, washing the Mar-a-Lago raid from America’s short-term consciousness. However, Trump’s tactics fell short this time, for the appeals court lifted the hold that prevented the Justice Department from analyzing the documents in the Mar-a-Lago investigation. Former President Trump now joins the four other presidents who have faced FBI investigation, joining the ranks of Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and Jimmy

Carter—all republicans with the exception of the peanut farmer. Trump has touted that the FBI is run by democrats, but forgets to mention the decades-long conservative ideological support of the FBI. A famous example is when the FBI orchestrated a series of illegal and surreptitious programs to disrupt and divide American political groups, such as the Black Panthers, feminist organizations and the anti-war protestors named COINTELPRO. One would only say such a thing if they were ignorant of the FBI assassination of Fred Hampton, the wire tapings of Martin Luther King’s phone calls, and use of psychological warfare. If the FBI was overrun by liberals and leftists,

then they were going against their interests in 2020 when a kidnapping plot of Michigan’s Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, went astray when five of the planners were discovered to be FBI informants and/or undercover FBI agents. The FBI is not a leftist or conservative organization. It’s a status quo organization. Americans must focus on the three facts: that Trump violated the Espionage Act, stole and destroyed classified documents and concealed files from the DOJ. If he were anyone else, he would have been locked up a long time ago. If “Teflon Don” dances through this, then he will officially prove that he can defy the law.

Campuses need to fight against fentanyl

Local governments need to address the rising fentanyl epidemic.



DEATH- The graph illustrates United States fentanyl deaths between the years of 2016-20. The data cited in the graph is from the National Sfet Council.

JASMINE ALEJANDRE
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Seven students at nearby Bernstein High School recently overdosed after they took drugs laced with fentanyl. One of the students, 15-year-old Melanie Ramos, never recovered. Her body was found in a campus restroom hours after her parents reported her missing. After the Sept. 13 death, the

LAUSD authorities announced that an anti-overdose medication will be available to students starting this month, but this move is simply not enough. According to the CDC, fentanyl deaths are on the rise. Overdose death rates increased more than 56 percent from 2019 to 2020. Fentanyl is 50 times more powerful than morphine, and it is used to manage pain for cancer patients. Because this drug is so inexpensive, dealers

buy large amounts at a small cost and make a huge profit from the narcotic. Most of the time, students think they’re buying Xanax or Percocet when they buy pills laced with fentanyl. Authorities reported this was the case with Ramos and her friends. They thought they were buying the common painkiller Percocet. Like many, the teens were mistaken, and the mistake cost Ramos her life. “Fentanyl is the single dead-

liest drug threat that our nation has ever encountered,” according to the Drug Enforcement Agency Website, and it uses several street names such as Apace, China Town, Great Bear, and Poison among others. If the problem with fentanyl is so big, then why are authorities not doing more? Our government and school districts need to do more to fight this drug epidemic. In response to the recent death, the LAUSD announced that an anti-overdose medication, Narcan, will be available on campuses by October. It took too long for the district to take this small step, but it’s not enough. High school and college officials are letting down their students by not addressing this issue. “We need to do better,” said Adaina Brown at an LAUSD safety meeting nine days after the death of Ramos. “We absolutely need to do better because we should not be here today. We should not be mourning the loss of a student.” All campuses need to take better measures to prevent the death of their students. They need to start by educating students about Fentanyl. For starters, students should know what the pill looks like, how to spot an overdose and how and when to administer Narcan. School officials need to create an environment where students feel safe talking about drug use, providing drug coun-

seling. This counseling should be extended to parents, too. The LAUSD can implement daily bag and locker searches. Although it might prove unpopular, daily bag checks will likely save lives. Though most victims who took the fentanyl laced pills survived, the incidents signal a greater problem. Synthetic opioids such as fentanyl make up 67 percent of America’s overdose deaths. The day Ramos passed away, paramedics were alerted to a similar situation in Lexington Park in Cerritos, where two other teenagers potentially overdosed. The huge supply of fentanyl at the ready puts countless lives in danger, especially when students distribute drugs on campus and pills find their way to victims. Students who mistake the opioid, which is 80 to 100 times more powerful than morphine, will suffer grave consequences.

EDITORS NOTE

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administration, faculty, staff or students.

VALLEY VIEW | WHAT KINDS OF SOLUTIONS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED TO PREVENT FENTANYL OVERDOSES?

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY AVA ROSATE



“If people could carry overdose reversers like Narcan, it could be very helpful. People should know how to use it and carry it with them, even if they don’t use drugs. ”

-MARIBEL PARRAS, ART MAJOR



“People are going to do drugs no matter what. I think Los Angeles should implement safe injection sites so if people do overdose, there is immediate help.”

-ANDRES VELASQUEZ, MUSIC MAJOR



“Things like test strips and Narcan should be distributed by local governments and made readily available to the public. People should test their drugs even if they don’t think it contains Fentanyl.”

-EMMETT THOMPSON, PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR



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GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be submitted online at www.thevalleystarnews.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week’s issue.

Victor Valley victorious in battle of the Valleys

Several flags and turnovers left Valley College unable to build offensive momentum in the final minutes of the game.



KEVIN KHACHATRYAN
STAFF WRITER

TACKLE- Monarch Andre Lawson running with the football is tackled by three Rams players struggling to take him down.

The Monarchs held on to the Rams last Saturday, keeping the game within one possession but suffered 120 yards in holding penalties and ultimately lost 34-38. Both Valley College (1-4) and Victor College (2-3) were playing for another in a thrilling exhibition match. In the first three minutes of the game, Rams freshman quarterback Tyler Karen threw a 64 yard pass to receiver Juan Gutierrez after an offside penalty against Valley which resulted in a touchdown. The Monarchs lost crit-

ical yards due to holding calls while the Rams' impressive offense was productive enough to keep a commanding lead and come away with a 38-34 victory. "Our offensive line is beat up," said head coach Lester Towns. "We're getting holding calls because we have a lot of injuries. They're so beat up, what I'm seeing is that the guys are trying, but their having to hold because they can't move." The Monarchs passing game was struggling to get past the Rams secondary. The running game for Valley went full throt-

tle when Running back Michael Clark rushed 41 yards in 6 plays to score a touchdown cutting the deficit to four. Finishing the game with one running touchdown and rushing for 129 yards. Even with the Rams quarterback finishing the game with a whopping five touchdowns, 294 passing yards and a 60 percent completion rate, Valley nearly managed to comeback and win the game. A total of 12 penalties for Victor Valley resulting in 164 rushing yards for the Monarchs played a big role in the game coming down to the wire.

Down by 22 in the 3rd quarter, the Monarchs went on a 18-0 run, scoring three consecutive touchdowns but failing to convert extra point attempts. Holding the Rams scoreless in the fourth, Valley gained momentum to overcome the deficit a little too late, as the clock ran down and the offense had no time to score. Scoring four consecutive touchdowns late in the game and forcing multiple defensive stops looked like the Monarchs turned the table around to sneak away with a close win, but committing 15 penalties and allowing 120



DANIEL PRADO | VALLEY STAR
HAND OFF- Quarterback Dylan Foli handing the ball off to running back Michael Clark.

“We’re gonna take it one game at a time. Half the team is injured right now, what we need is treatment and rest to recover and be energized.”

- Head Coach Lester Towns

yards for the Rams was a big key in why they could not stay on top. The Rams ran the clock down to thirty-six seconds, leaving Valley helpless to the running clock as they had

exhausted all of their timeouts. Valley will now look to recover against second place Antelope Valley College on Oct.15 at 1 p.m at home.

CONFERENCE GAMES

- Oct. 15 vs Antelope Valley
- Oct. 22 @ Santa Barbara
- Oct. 29 @ Moorpark
- Nov. 5 vs Santa Monica
- Nov. 12 @ Pierce

Huskies overpower Monarchs in first fall matchup

In their first scrimmage with a pitcher relay gameplan, the pitching could not hold East Los Angeles College for long.



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR
PITCH- Pitcher Andy Rodriguez in his pitching motion preparing to throw a pitch towards his catcher in hopes for a strike.



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR
SIGN- Pitcher Brandon Garfinkel looking towards the catcher who is relaying signs to him in order to understand what pitch to throw next.

NICHOLAS OROZCO
SPORTS EDITOR

Head coach Dave Mallas let the bullpen loose on Tuesday in Valley College baseball's first fall showing while they were overrun by the Huskies. Valley baseball started their off season play on Tuesday, facing down the Huskies of East Los Angeles College. With an incoming pitching staff, the young arms struggled to keep up under the new spotlight. Valley opted for a pitcher relay strategy. The coaching staff used the scrimmage to assess the abilities of all of their entire roster, including both new and old players. Sophomore Xavier Dubon started for the Monarchs, took the bump and ended with two strikeouts, only letting up one hit. After one inning of work, Dubon's day was done. Sophomore's Andy Rodriguez and Chris Huerta

were next, following Dubon. Both pitched two innings without allowing a run.

“It’s the first time for a lot of them. It’s the first time we get to see them, they probably were excited and really nervous”

- Pitching Coach Josh Goosen Brown

This matchup was scoreless up until the fourth inning. The Monarchs scored first starting it off with a hit, in the following at bat the Huskies pitcher threw a wild pitch moving the runner over. Then a ground ball to short which was bobbled allowing the run to come across. Following up on Huerta was freshman Danny Slaske who came in the sixth inning. Slaske, who only faced four batters before being pulled, walked two batters, hitting one and giving up a hit, while allowing two runs. Sophomore Justin Villanueva came in for relief for Slaske in the sixth inning. Villanueva walked three consecutive batters in which walked in two runs. "If we can't throw strikes, you know we're gonna struggle," said Mallas. "That's the number one thing for pitchers, we're not overpowering guys like we were last year." Following the walks he gave up a hit into center scoring another run. Villanueva pitched into the seventh inning while walking one and giving up a triple, making the score 6-1. In the fifth going into the sixth, coach Mallas took

advantage of off season baseball and made positional changes all across the field. In the bottom of the seventh the Monarchs were able to put up another run following a hit and a series of wild pitches. Freshman Gabriel Levine came into pitch for the eighth inning and gave up two hits and two walks, which walked in another run. Levine was pulled following the walk and freshman Brandon Garfinkel was called. With the bases loaded he got a ground ball. A throwing error from the shortstop allowed the runners to move and bring two runs across. Pitching into the ninth following a hit and a walk with sacrifice hits, another run came across making it 10-1. In the bottom of the ninth, the Monarchs put together a series of hits and had three runners move around the bases, cutting the deficit to five. Going for one more inning, freshman Jose Ave gave up two hits that allowed another runner for the Huskies to score. With their last chance to score in the bottom of the tenth, Valley went scoreless and this matchup went in favor of the Huskies defeating the Monarchs 11-5. The Monarchs will next travel to face the Condors of Oxnard City College on Friday at 2 p.m.

NEXT GAMES

- Oct. 7 @ Oxnard
- Oct. 14 vs Moorpark
- Oct. 18 vs Pierce
- Oct. 21 vs Oxnard
- Oct. 25 @ ELAC
- Oct. 28 vs Pierce

Jonathan Cruz moves his rook piece after the time was up. Games were casual between players as times stretched past the clock.



Joseph Acuna | Valley Star



A paper chess board and pieces bought by the ASU for Chess Game Night. \$2200 was spent on all new chess supplies, including chess clocks for timed matches.

Ash Shafa | Valley Star



Joseph Acuna | Valley Star

(L-R) ASU President Ani Ramazyan, shows ASU advisor Monica Flores the moves to make when cornered during Chess Game Night in the Student Union Plaza on September 28. Ramazyan has competed in chess tournaments like her chess grandmaster father. She plans to continue similar chess events and host a competitive chess tournament on campus this school year.

Monarchs take the Queen

ASU host first ever Chess Game Night with casual head to head games.



Joseph Acuna | Valley Star

(L-R) Edgar Lopez and Jonathan Cruz play chess against each other as other games go on in the background. Over 30 players and spectators filled the Student Union Plaza as people came in from switching classes or eating lunch. Sandwich lunch boxes were provided to players.



Joseph Acuna | Valley Star

Diego Enriquez, ASU treasurer, eyes the board during his set against Valley student Arman Gevorkyan. The Bob Ross Painting Day is the next ASU planned event on October 10.