



VALLEY LIFE: EUPHORIA
ZENDAYA STARS IN THIS DRAMA THAT ADDRESSES MENTAL ILLNESS.



OPINION: RELIGIOUS GROUPS
RELIGIOUS GROUPS HAVE BEEN APPROACHING COLLEGE STUDENTS.

First step towards impeachment

Whistleblower's complaint pushes Speaker Pelosi towards impeachment.

GABRIEL ARIZON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced an official impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump Tuesday, claiming that he broke his oath of office by seeking aid from a foreign power to investigate a political opponent.

The impeachment inquiry stems from a whistleblower's complaint by an intelligence official that alleges Trump pressured Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky during a phone call to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden. A week before the call, the president had acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney hold back \$400 million in military aid for Ukraine, according to the Washington Post.

Trump admitted on Sunday to reporters that he spoke with Zelensky about the Biden family, but said it was about corruption and Hunter's link to a business that was under investigation. Trump denied pressuring Zelensky to investigate the Bidens. According to the New York Post, Ukraine's Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko found no evidence that Hunter committed any wrongdoings.

"The actions of the Trump presidency revealed [the] dishonorable fact of the president's betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of our national security and betrayal of the integrity of our elections," Pelosi said in a statement. "The president must be held accountable. No one is above the law."

Trump, currently at the U.N. where world leaders are meeting to discuss the fight against climate change, fired back on Twitter, calling the move "Witch Hunt garbage." He then tweeted that the complete and unredacted transcript of the phone call would be released on Wednesday.

"You will see it was a very friendly and totally appropriate call," Trump tweeted. "No pressure and, unlike Joe Biden and his son, NO quid pro quo! This is nothing more than a continuation of the Greatest and most Destructive Witch Hunt of all time!"

Impeachment is the process for prosecuting and removing a president (or other federal officials) from office for bribery, treason or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

Once an impeachment inquiry has been announced, the House Judiciary Committee must investigate whether there is sufficient evidence for an impeachment at all. The members of the committee then decide whether to write articles of impeachment and present them to the House. The House has the power to pass those articles, but the Senate decides on removing the president after holding a trial.

Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton are the only presidents to have been impeached — in 1868 and 1998, respectively — but neither was removed from office.

Valley students rally for climate justice

Millions of young people gathered in places around the world to make their voices heard on climate change.

SOLOMON SMITH
MANAGING EDITOR

Valley College Eco Advocates environmental club marched in one of the largest walk-outs in history, adding their voices to millions of students around the world demanding a halt of the world-wide environmental crisis.

At 10:30 a.m., Eddie Kaufman-Morrow, the president of the Eco Advocates Club at Valley, rushed to get to the Redline. He and thousands of other young people in Los Angeles and around the world headed to their local Global Youth Climate Strike, an event organized for one of the most pressing issues for young people around the globe — the environment.

Kaufman and Eco Advocates' Secretary, Melody Ribas, rode the train to Pershing Square where the march would start. For Kaufman-Morrow, this was his first time attending such a large gathering in L.A.

"Today, I wanted to meet other people who are interested in the same things I'm into, like climate issues," said Kaufman-Morrow. "I think the more we keep doing this and the more we fight the [bad] legislations, we will win."

Ribas, 21, intends to be active in the upcoming elections and, like many people her age, the climate is an important issue for her.

"I think everyone's voice counts and the more people who come, the better," said Ribas.

The Los Angeles Walkout is part of the U.S. Youth Climate Strike founded by Isra Hirs, 16; Feliquan Charlemagne, 17; and Karla Stephan, 14. Hirs is the daughter of Congresswoman



PROTEST- Thousands of protesters gathered in Los Angeles to demand change in the ongoing climate crisis affecting the globe.

Ilhan Omar. People trickled in for what seemed an anemic start, but soon after began to show up in droves. Trains packed with bodies wearing Women's movement t-shirts and bearing handmade signs disgorged people of all ages, orientations and racial groups. Schools organized field trips led by teachers with bullhorns, and parents brought their children.

"We have been taking our children to these protests since they were 3 years old," said one parent who preferred not to give her name.

Native peoples were a large part of this L.A. movement and performed blessing and prayers, as well as the opening welcome in the revitalized language of the Tongva, spoken by Tina Orduno Calderon an instructor in the language. They also summed up the message of the day; Yay Vasta, no more.

Speakers urged those in power to start acting on climate

change immediately. Newly-elected California Governor Gavin Newsom was called out by several speakers who say oil drilling continues to increase under his watch. A list of demands was aimed directly at Newsom: a ban on oil drilling increases, a drop in existing oil production in the state and a 275-foot safety buffer between oil fields and communities.

Activists as young as 9 years old spoke to the crowd pushing the message home. Mars Dixon, 9, is a climate activist who spoke passionately to the thousands gathered. Barely as tall as the microphone, he reprimanded adults for the current state of the environment.

"They can't destroy the planet because they want more stuff, it has no way out but harm," said Dixon. "It is time for our leaders to wake up. If I can live in reality at 9 years old, then so should an adult who gets to make decisions about my life."

Children from the only native school in California, Anahuacalmecac Academia Semillas Del Pueblo School, carried a flag to the stage as they performed. Some students spoke to the crowd about the need for change. The science of man-made climate change has, for the most part, been widely accepted. Professor George Leddy, who teaches climate science classes at Valley, is hopeful despite the dire state of the environment.

"[I]n California we're seeing the Trump administration trying to roll back our clean air standards and federally he's rolled back our clean water standards," said Leddy, "but California has really led the way in resisting that ... I think it's up to us in California to maybe lead the resistance in defending the environmental laws, in what has been a process."

Businesses were also on board with the walk out. Burton,

Patagonia and Lush closed their stores for the day. Lush, a popular makeup and skin care brick-and-mortar, voluntarily closed for the day, reducing their carbon footprint for a short time and allowing employees to go to the walkouts.

"Lush kind of shut down their shops today, all 250 in North America, so that we could participate in the global change," said Chris Pow, an employee of Lush.

Leddy admits to not meeting too many "climate deniers" in his classes, but believes in a scientific approach when dealing with it.

"The best we can do is present the overwhelming science of it," said Leddy. "And then people are living it all the time ... I think it's a very vociferous minority that's well funded."

For the full story, read our online version.



PHOTO COURTESY OF | LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

SERVICES- Guardian Scholars is offered on Valley College for students who have been in foster care.

Aid for foster care students

Funds and services are available for single parents and students in foster care.

VALERIE GARCIA
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Valley College is offering special services for former or current foster youth, as well as support for single parents who are receiving cash aid, to help them reach their academic goals.

The NextUp/Guardian Scholars and CARE programs, offered at the Student Services Center, help students that are at a disadvantage by providing guidance, financial aid, counseling and monthly meetings in order to help these students stay on track. Guardian Scholars and NextUp are for former or current foster youth as well as for people that have been a ward of the court, while CARE (Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education) helps those who are

single parents.

Guardian Scholars is more generalized and easier to apply for, as there is no age limit and the amount of time spent in foster care does not affect eligibility. There are three different categories within the program: Guardian Scholars, Guardian Scholars with EOPS and NextUp. Each has specific requirements for eligibility and determines which benefits students will receive. Applicants that provide court documents regarding ward of the court history will also be eligible for the second category.

Some of the benefits of the program include: backpacks, parking permits, food vouchers, counseling, tutoring, textbook vouchers, workshops, priority registration, and field trips to

colleges.

"The workshops help because they teach us life skills that we wouldn't normally have," said Belen Lopez Curiel, a student enrolled in the EOPS and NextUp program, "and the counselors are great because they have experience working with us and are familiar with the types of problems we have."

Students must meet 5 requirements to apply for Guardian Scholars: be educationally challenged, have a low income and be eligible for a fee waiver, enrolled in 12 or more units at Valley, have less than 50 degree applicable units from all colleges attended and be a California resident or meet California Dream Act Requirements. All meet-ups are mandatory to receive credit

towards a stipend that is given at the end of each semester.

"Since Guardian Scholars started in 2014, the number of participants that have graduated or transferred has doubled."

- Alex Ojeda

To be eligible for Next Up, a student must be eligible for EOPS, be enrolled in at least 9 units at Valley, be a current or former foster youth whose dependency was established or continued by the court after turning 16 and be no older than 25 years of age at the beginning of the academic year. The application process is extended for these programs, since it can be difficult to provide some of the proof needed to be eligible.

Alex Ojeda, coordinator of EOPS, NextUp and Guardian Scholars said, "It's hard work, but I call it heart work because you have to have compassion and empathy to work with these students."

"It's like a family here, we are very close and we make sure that we support the foster youth, especially because we know that they struggle and have more barriers to overcome than our regular students," said Carissa Gonzalez, student services assistant for EOPS/NextUp.

The CARE program sup-

ports the unique needs of EOPS students who are single parents. To be eligible for CARE, a student must be eligible for EOPS, a single head of household, must be 18 years of age or older and currently receiving cash aid through CalWorks or TANF for themselves and their children. They offer workshops, additional counseling, educational materials and financial assistance for childcare-related expenses.

Though these services are available, not many students are taking advantage of them.

According to Ojeda, "Last year, there were 400 self-identified former and current foster youth enrolled at Valley, but only about a quarter of these students took advantage of it."

This is unfortunate, especially when it has been proven that these types of services are beneficial and have a positive impact on those who have applied for them.

"Since Guardian Scholars started in 2014, the number of participants that have graduated or transferred has doubled, and we anticipate even more this year," Ojeda said. "We are working very hard to destigmatize some of the preconceived notions people have about those in foster care and, with programs like this, we are starting to see a shift in statistics."

Applications are still being accepted until September 27. Applications can be submitted online through the school website, or at the EOPS Office on the second floor of the Student Services Center. Their office number is (818) 947-2432.



PHOTO COURTESY OF | CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ATTORNEY- Xavier Becerra is leading the charge in the lawsuit.

CA sues over emission standards

The Golden State prepares for litigation against the Trump administration over clean air standards.

GABRIEL ARIZON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

California is fighting back against the Trump administration after it removed the state's right to set its own automobile emissions standards.

This past Friday, the Golden State — along with 22 states, the District of Columbia and the cities of New York and Los Angeles — filed a lawsuit against the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) after a special waiver, that has allowed it to set its own standards for the past 50 years, was revoked. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said in a press release that two other courts have upheld the state's standards and the administration was attempting to justify its viewpoint with previously unsuccessful arguments.

“The Oval Office is really not a place for on-the-job training,” Becerra said. “President Trump should have at least read the instruction manual

he inherited when he assumed the presidency, in particular the chapter on respecting the rule of law.”

The move to axe California's waiver occurred Wednesday through tweets by President Donald Trump, where he said that the decision was to “produce far less expensive cars for the consumer, while at the same time making the cars substantially SAFER.”

However, officials within the EPA raised concerns back in June 2018 that their plan to rollback fuel economy standards from Barack Obama's tenure was “detrimental to safety, rather than beneficial,” according to the Los Angeles Times.

Valley College environmental science professor George Leddy said the motive behind Trump's decision was “dubious” and “his vengeful obsession with undoing everything Obama did.”

“At no time that I can recall did the automakers go running to Washington seeking regulatory relief from emissions standards,” Leddy said. “I am 64

years old and have never seen a ‘president’ this horribly reckless and destructive to the country, its allies and the planet.”

California's exemption goes all the way back to the passage of the Clean Air Act of 1970. The act gave the EPA the authority to set the car emissions standards for the country to follow to avoid each state setting different regulations. However, according to The Conversation, the state was already setting its own standards, developing the first in the nation in 1966, due to the heavy smog that polluted LA.

In response, Congress granted California an exemption; if the state's standards were at least as strict as those of the federal level, it would be granted waivers to apply its own regulations. While other states are not granted the same privilege, they are allowed to follow California's standards. To date, the District of Columbia and 12 states — including Maine, Oregon, Vermont, New Jersey, Delaware, Colorado and Massachusetts — have adopted similar regula-

tions. All the aforementioned states also joined California in its lawsuit.

It remains unclear whether the EPA, which oversees NHTSA, has the right to remove California's waiver, as the agency has never done so before. However, this is far from the first time the state has taken the Trump administration to court. According to the LA Times, California has filed over 49 lawsuits for a variety of issues, at least 24 of which challenged the EPA, Interior Department and other agencies that set fuel and energy efficiency standards. As of May 2019, the Golden State has won 15 of those suits while the other nine are still pending.

“California won't bend to the President's reckless and politically motivated attacks on our clean car waiver,” said Governor Gavin Newsom in the press release. “We'll hold the line in court to defend our children's health, save consumers money at the pump and protect our environment.”

Vaping industry injuries increase

Several individuals have died as a result of e-cigarette related illnesses.

SOLOMON SMITH
MANAGING EDITOR

Eight deaths and over 530 lung related illnesses among e-cigarettes users reported by the Center for Disease Control have prompted a continuing investigation amid fears of more victims.

The CDC, although reporting on the deaths and injuries, has limited specific information on the source of the illness.

“We do not yet know the specific cause of these lung injuries. The investigation has not identified any specific e-cigarette, vaping product (devices, liquids, refill pods, and/or cartridges) or substance that is linked to all cases.”

In response to the rise in reported injuries, the CDC has activated its Emergency Operations Center. The Food and Drug Administration is also investigating in an effort to determine the cause of the deaths.

“While I like the Vaping alternative to Cigarettes, we need to make sure this alternative is SAFE for ALL!”
- Donald Trump

The majority of illnesses have presented as similar to pneumonia leading to hospitalization. Most victims were using vapes inhaling nicotine, THC laden products, or a combination of the two. Daniel Fox, a doctor at WakeMed Hospital in Raleigh, N.C. spoke to NPR about his experience with some of those affected by the mysterious illness. He identified the lung condition as lipoid pneumonia, which is caused by the inhalation of fats or oils into the lungs. This is rarely seen in the young, and the long-term effects

are unclear.

“There is probably at least some irreversible damage that is done every time you have a significant inflammatory reaction within the lung tissue,” said Fox.

Walmart announced that it will no longer be selling the product at its stores and partner store Sam's Club.

“First, as of July 1, 2019, across our entire U.S. business – Walmart and Sam's Club – we are raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products, including all e-cigarettes, to 21,” announced the site. “Secondly, we are in the process of discontinuing the sale of fruit and dessert-flavored electronic nicotine delivery systems.” It should be noted that Walmart will continue to sell other tobacco and nicotine related products like cigarettes, chewing tobacco and nicotine gum and some vape products are still available online. Viacom, CBS and Warner Media have stated that they will no longer air ads for vaping and its



PHOTO COURTESY OF | VAPER CITY
VAPING- The number of deaths and injuries as a result of vaping have been increasing.

related products. With a retailers and advertisers shutting out E-Cigarettes, there is fear the products will have a hard time surviving until the issue is resolved.

Earlier this month President Donald J. Trump was on camera disparaging e-cigarettes.

“Don't Vape we don't like vaping, I don't like vaping,” said

Trump.

Shortly after he reversed himself on Twitter.

“While I like the Vaping alternative to Cigarettes, we need to make sure this alternative is SAFE for ALL! Let's get counterfeits off the market and keep young children from Vaping,” tweeted Trump.

In an interview on Cuomo,

the president of the American Vaping Association, Gregory Conley, defended his organizations products, blaming counterfeit and “contaminated” THC products and touting them as an alternative to smoking.

“I come at this as a consumer advocate for the product, someone who quit smoking using the product,” said Conley.



FLICKR | LLOYD KLEIN
HUFFMAN- The actress is the first to be convicted in the scandal.

Felicity Huffman gets jail time

Boston judge sentences the actress for her involvement in the college admission's scandal.

AIMEE MARTINEZ
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

“Desperate Housewives” star Felicity Huffman has been sentenced to 14 days in jail for paying \$15,000 to an admission consultant who changed her daughter's SAT score.

Huffman was given 12 months of supervised release, 250 hours of community service, and a \$30,000 fine, according to the AP. She pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud, the scheme of depriving the right of honest services from someone else. According to the prosecutor's sentencing memo, \$15,000 ensured the 400 point bump in her daughter's SAT score, while \$75,000 would have ensured a perfect score.

“It's just dripping with privilege,” said Valley College political science professor, Anthony O'Regan. “So many of our kids are below the poverty level. The

odds are so stacked against them in so many ways. The assumption about higher education is that it's supposed to be a meritocracy.”

“I accept the court's decision today without reservation. I broke the law. I have admitted that, and I pleaded guilty to this crime. There are no excuses or justification for my actions.”
- Felicity Huffman

The 56-year old actress first met with William “Rick” Singer in August of 2017. Days later, she contacted a College

Board psychologist and used her daughter's learning disability to extend the exam over multiple days and change the location to a test center in Hollywood, according to his instructions.

After the school insisted on providing their own SAT proctor, she lied to the guidance counselor saying her daughter would be taking the test over the weekend. This enabled proctor Mark Riddell to correct her daughter's answers, where it would be sent to the test center administrator Igor Dvorskiy. Both have been charged for their involvement in the college admission's scandal.

Originally prosecutors had requested one month in prison, a year of supervised release and a fine of \$20,000 after citing house arrest and a fine alone insufficient and void of meaning considering Huffman's income and Hollywood Hills home. Her active involvement to further the scheme made prosecutors conclude that her conduct was

“deliberate” and “manifestly criminal” though they did take into account her remorse and recognition of her wrongdoing.

“I accept the court's decision today without reservation,” Huffman said in a written statement after the verdict of U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani. “I have always been prepared to accept whatever punishment Judge Talwani imposed. I broke the law. I have admitted that, and I pleaded guilty to this crime. There are no excuses or justifications for my actions. Period.”

The payment was directed to the Key Worldwide Foundation (KWF), a false charity created by Singer as part of the “Operation Varsity Blues” admission scandal. Huffman is the first among 52 people charged with their involvement in the conspiracy.

Huffman must report to prison on October 25.

Travel abroad with MaYA

A unique travel program offers Valleys students an opportunity to travel for free.

CESIA LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

Jaquelin Cane, an 18-year-old Valley College student, just went on her first international trip this summer without spending a single dollar and simultaneously opened a door of global opportunities for her future.

“I realized, ‘I don’t have enough money for this’ — that was a really big issue and what stopped me from going to a four-year university, the money,” said the 4.0 student and newly made MaYA ambassador. “Then when I heard about the Promise Program, I thought ‘this is pretty amazing, I’m going to make a lot of people upset that they went to a 4-year when they could’ve gotten two free years of college and a free trip.’”

The studio arts major was one of four students selected to represent Los Angeles on a 10-day trip to Vietnam this past summer. The trip was

comprised of 24 students from schools across the Los Angeles Community College District. Activities involved meeting with the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, partnering with Rustic Pathways to work on a community service project near Muong Village and many other “unforgettable” activities while exploring the northern part of the vibrant country.

Cane’s eyes illuminate reminiscently as she describes her experiences ranging from interactions with students from the university in Hanoi to kayaking and swimming through a waterfall in the dreamy Halong Bay. As far as safety, the students were never concerned because with them were always supervisors and local translators who guided them through busy days of planned activity all whilst strongly encouraging hydration.

Mayor Young Ambassador (MaYA) Initiative is LA’s unique and free international travel program established by Mayor Eric

Garcetti for Promise community college students to connect with the international community as well as introduce the transformational experience of travel to.

“Through AB-19, students [of all ages] that have not had any post secondary education after graduating from high school qualify for free tuition for the first year here at LAVC under the Promise Program,” said Promise coordinator Cynthia Lopez. “These students are eligible to apply and be considered for the MaYA travel program.”

In 2018, the MaYA program provided 50 students the opportunity to travel to Mexico, Egypt and Japan. In the summer of 2019, they sent another 45 students to Vietnam and France.

The LA mayor’s website lists contributors of the program some being: the Mexican, Egyptian, Japanese and French Consulates in LA, American Airlines, Oneworld Alliance, the Hilton Foundation, the Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles and more.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR | JAQUELIN CANE
TRIP- A group of Valley College students traveling through the countryside in Vietnam.

Although the MaYA program is unique to LACCD and Promise programs differ in every city and state that they are offered, the core vision for this project created by the Obama Administration is one of encouraging college attendance and completion without decades of debt following them.

Cane hopes that the possibility of an all-expenses paid, activity-packed international trip will

encourage other Promise students and motivate people who have never attempted college to give it a chance.

“I don’t think a lot of people know about the MaYA program,” she explains, “It was a very easy application, you just have to really want it. Traveling and being immersed in a new culture’s song and dance has been life changing.”

Applications for the next two

trips to Taiwan and Australia happening in January 2020 are open until September 26. The program appears to be quickly growing as plans for trips in even more semesters arise. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good candidate in joining this program and take part in this opportunity go to lamayor.org/mayor’s-young-ambassador-program to find more information and the application.

Euphoria: A look at teen life through a glittery lens

This HBO drama examines the harsh reality of drug addiction and mental illness using a captivating and dreamy aesthetic.

CESIA LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

HBO show “Euphoria” mesmerizes its audience into its glittery and meticulously crafted world with a playful, dreamy quality that includes a variety of traumatic, soul-crushing depictions of addiction, loss, mental illness and abuse, all through an empathetic lens of the modern day youth.

Writer, director and creator of the American series, 34-year-old Sam Levinson (“Assassination Nation”), revealed in interviews that “Euphoria” is extremely personal for him because so much of the story is directly from his life, including his battles with drug addiction.

Former Disney star Zendaya charismatically and heartbreakingly carries the story as Rue, a 17-year-old addict returning from a summer spent in rehab. She highlights her life struggle with severe anxiety and depression as she guides us through the story as a first-person and

omniscient narrator.

The show does an incredible job at responsibly portraying things like drug abuse along with its consequences and accurately represents the obsessive manic highs and the grossest lows of depression without glamorizing these very sensitive topics in a way that so many other dark and chaotic teen dramas fail and dangerously end up romanticizing.

“Euphoria” follows a diverse group of teens navigating the high-anxiety, social media driven world today, making questionable decisions about who to be and how to love. The show provides an idea of how the characters came to be who they are through childhood vignettes — revealing the root of their insecurities and influences in a way that validates them as individuals, empathizes with their experiences and does not try to pack them away in neat archetypal boxes.

One of the most beautiful things about the aesthetically rich show is that it doesn’t rush to pin labels on characters or on



PHOTO COURTESY OF | HBO
SHOW- Zendaya (right) stars as the lead in this HBO drama.

their sexual and gender identities. This can be best seen in Rue’s relationship with her new best friend, Jules. Whimsically played by breakout actress Hunter Schafer, Jules is a transgender girl who is new to town and plays a big role in Rue’s

sobriety. They immediately form a magnetic connection bordering on romance.

Jules’ story doesn’t focus on her being trans; in fact, it’s hardly mentioned in the show. It was refreshing to experience Jules explore her identity and what it

means for her to be a woman, just like any other teenage girl.

It is also no surprise that the show was produced in partnership with A24, known for their emotive cinematography (“Moonlight”, “Lady Bird”), when every episode is so artistically courageous in its crafting, and every scene — whether it be with its kinetic pacing, clever transitions, or dynamic visuals — is meant to make you feel the intensity and simultaneous anxiety that comes with experiencing any emotion in adolescence.

Shows about teens, made by adults, are more often than not palpably disingenuous, but with “Euphoria” you can feel the authenticity behind each character. There are countless interviews with the talentedly cast leads emphasizing how collaborative the filming environment was and being given artistic freedom to develop their characters and weave in bits of themselves.

It is probably for the best that this show, following the lives of Gen-Z teens, is made for adults as there is plenty of

parental shock value to it. It seems like the kind of show you watch after you’ve survived your adolescence, not while you’re still in the heat of it all; although it could definitely be empowering and used as an educational discussion starter for what-not-to-do. If anything, the trigger warnings before each episode should not be taken lightly. It is definitely not a show for the faint of heart or prudishly abashed as the amount of nudity is, well, generous.

Despite all its harrowing depictions, viewers can still find themselves getting lost in the music, the glitter, and in all the iconic outfits and make-up guaranteed to inspire some amazing costume renditions this upcoming Halloween.

The emotion that drives the show feels timelessly relatable and can definitely be triggering at times, but overall is empowering and cathartic to those who have had a chaotic youth.



FLICKR | AL PAVANGKANAN
OBSERVATORY- Many guests clime to the top of Mount Hollywood to see the observatory.

The history of Los Angeles’ greatest viewpoint

This important California landmark has a long and interesting past.

JERRY OUGH
STAFF WRITER

It sits atop what residents in Los Angeles generously refer to as Mount Hollywood in Griffith Park, with its panoramic views of LA from the West to Eastside

and its triple domed, landmark structure visible to an equally wide swath of lowlanders. The famed Griffith Observatory has, except for a major \$93 million renovation from 2002 to 2006, been open to the public since May 14, 1935, for free.

The 3,015 acres of Griffith Park itself was donated to the city of Los Angeles on December 16, 1896, by real estate tycoon Griffith J. Griffith, who said, “It must be made a place of rest and relaxation for the masses, a resort for the rank and file, for

the plain people. I consider it my obligation to make Los Angeles a happy, cleaner, and finer city.”

After Griffith had a chance to look through the 60-inch telescope at nearby Mount Wilson, he gave the City of Los Angeles \$100,000 on December 12, 1912, for the observatory in the park to be owned and operated by the city.

In 1923, four years after Griffith’s death, the planetarium had been invented and it was determined that this new invention more fully honored Griffith’s intent than the originally planned cinematic theater. The Observatory’s planetarium was then only the third to be built in the nation.

Construction for the Griffith Observatory began on June 20, 1933; though the building was designed mostly by scientists, the eventual design was transformed by geological and economic events.

The devastating Long Beach earthquake just a few months earlier in March 1933 convinced the architects to abandon a terracotta exterior in favor of stronger and thicker concrete walls.

Rock bottom prices in

the aftermath of the Great Depression made it possible to buy the finest materials of the day for the Observatory’s interior walls and floors, which made the building breathtakingly beautiful and extremely durable.

It become the most-visited public observatory in the world with 1.5 million visitors a year. In 1973, the first Laserium show in the United States was presented in the Griffith Observatory’s planetarium theater. This instantly popular laser-light program was set initially to classical music and later, in a stroke of marketing genius, to songs from rock artists such as Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin.

Tour guide Brendan said one of his greatest thrills working at the planetarium was, “Interacting with the public and seeing people getting excited about science. That makes my day for sure.”

Upcoming special events at Griffith Observatory include a program called, “All Space Considered” on the first Friday of every month in the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater.

Guests can listen to a panel discussion by the Observatory’s

curatorial staff as they explore some of the most interesting and topical subjects in astronomy and space science. Seats are on a first come, first served basis, and the next presentation is on October 4 at 7:30 p.m.

The Observatory holds free public viewing events for most lunar and solar eclipses and presents programs, marking not only the winter and summer solstices, but also the spring and fall equinoxes.

Whether it’s astounding space photography, a special lecture, a book-signing by a noted astronomer or special programs marking major astronomical or space exploration anniversaries, the Griffith Observatory offers the most unique and fascinating free programs in Southern California.

The Griffith Observatory is open from noon to 10 p.m. on weekdays (it is closed on Mondays) and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends, and more information is available at www.griffithobservatory.com.

4

OPINION

College students easy targets for faith-based groups

Religious organizations pop-up at Valley College, handing out pamphelts and paraphernalia to college students.

SARAH BEST
STAFF WRITER

Freedom of religion is ever-present in our country and progressively becoming more apparent in public schools, despite a lack of religious affiliation from college students.

Religious organizations are taking advantage of the fact that young, naive college students could potentially be questioning their faith and/or looking for a new one. It is disturbing and frankly frightening that congregations are utilizing their divine power to permeate religion into the minds of young adults. In the last 30 years, college freshmen have been increasingly identifying as having no religious affiliation, according to the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey.

Multiple studies from the Pew Research Center showcase that those who have no religious affiliation, commonly referred to as “nones,” know far more about religious practices than those belonging to a designated faith. Meaning, that they are more inclined to stray away from organized religion and less prone to stop and question campus divinities.

Small religious booths along with a few of their representatives can be found frequently in front of the Campus Center. They sit under shady trees with seemingly welcoming faces, banking on one curious person to inquire about their community. Colorful brochures are painted with loaded questions like “Would You Like to Know The Truth?” in addition to preaching gospels of “family” and “community.” Selling righteous claims like these could provoke some degree of intrigue in just about anyone.

“Religious infiltration of any kind in public schools is giving way to a doctrinal plethora of brainwashed followers.”

The misleading aspect that is not to be fooled by, is that they are not all necessarily forcing their religion down your throat, but more so waiting for you to approach them. There are no laws preventing denominations of any kind from proselytizing

on a college campus and it is fully within their right to peacefully assemble and freely exercise their faith under the First Amendment.

However, it is not uncommon to walk down the stairs of the parking structure and have an eager disciple aggressively try to hand you a Bible while coercively trying to preach that you cannot spell church without U. A reason for their pervasive omnipresence? Recruiting more devoted followers and lowering the number of “nones” in collegiate institutions, as with any congregation.

Valley being an open campus means that essentially anyone can come on campus to do or preach what they please, so long as they are not harming anyone. An open campus is an open door for a variety of denominations to incite the superiority of their practice and, in turn, wring the purity of today’s youth. Religious infiltration of any kind in public schools is giving way to a doctrinal plethora of brainwashed followers and a depreciation in a student’s ability to freely think.

There are more options present to students who are in search of a new faith, not just the ones that are seen on campus. A deluge of denominations are readily available, despite the



FLICKR | DAVE SHAVER

RELIGION- Two Jehovah Witnesses ready with pamphelts to tell others about their religion.

select few that are making a perpetual appearance on Valley grounds.

This is not to be misconstrued as an anti-religion message, but more so a reality to be aware of. Everyone should be

able to practice or not practice what they please without other divine interference, especially in school.

All things considered, religious impositions on students and staff alike are posing a detri-

ment to the First Amendment’s prohibition of religious activity in public schools, and is in turn hindering the freedom of religious thought in the Valley community.

One Way or Another: One question, two opposing viewpoints

We don’t need civilian weapons of destruction

We have had enough massacres to spur Congress to take action and ban these weapons of mass murder.

MICKIE SHAW
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The Las Vegas Music festival massacre, 2017, 58 killed; Pulse nightclub massacre, 2016, 49 killed; Sandy Hook elementary school, 2012, 27 killed; Texas First Baptist church, 2017, 26 killed; Walmart Massacre, El Paso, 2019, 22 killed; this list of 182 victims of mass shootings is only a partial list of mass shootings from 2012 to August 2019 that involved semi automatic assault rifles. I cannot list the entire 21 massacres which totaled 221 dead and over 740 injured in the space of this piece. The common denominator of all of these mass shootings is semiautomatic assault rifles were used, including AR-15s and AK-47s.

Semi automatic assault rifles in the civilian world are called modern sporting rifles — a rather benign sounding name for weapons of war. The rifle used in the Pulse nightclub massacre was originally designed for U.S. Special Operations forces. If there is any hope of putting an end to or even slowing down the number of mass shootings with horrifically high body counts, a ban of semi automatic assault style weapons and their large capacity magazines should be made the law of the land.

Joseph Vince, a former special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and

Explosives who now works as a gun crime consultant said in an interview with NPR, “You’re talking, really, a weapon of mass destruction that you’re giving over the counter to anybody.”

The last, and only, time semiautomatic assault weapons were banned was in 1994 with the Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act. The Act banned 20 types of semiautomatic assault weapons, large capacity magazines, various accessories, gun modifications, and gave a definition of what an assault weapon was, but unfortunately the act grandfathered in weapons and LCM magazines that were purchased before the ban was enacted.

This grandfather provision effectively blunted the intended effect of the Act — to reduce the amount of gun violence. However, a study by the National Center for Biotechnology Information found, “Mass-shooting related homicides in the United States were reduced during the years of the federal assault weapons ban of 1994 to 2004.” Mass shootings since the ban ended in 2004 have gone up.

The new 2019 assault weapons ban proposed by congress is similar to the 1994 ban and even has the same loopholes. Weapons and magazines owned before the ban are grandfathered in. The new ban should not grandfather in rifles or LCMs, and a mandatory gun buy back should be enacted by

the federal government. These are weapons of mass destruction and should not be available or sold to just anyone.

A review of mass shootings data (the data was collected by Mother Jones magazine) done by Axio news site revealed since 2017, 12 of 31 mass shootings involved the killers using semiautomatic assault rifles, creating 39 percent of the deaths and 92 percent of the injuries. The U.S. is averaging 3 mass shootings using semiautomatic assault rifles every year since 2012. Since 1999, the year the Columbine High School massacre took place, there have been 115 mass shootings killing 941 people and injuring 1,431. In just over a quarter of the shootings the weapons of choice were semiautomatic rifles. Those attacks alone caused 40 percent of all the deaths and 69 percent of all injuries.

The lethality of assault weapons outfitted with large capacity magazines, the Dayton, Ohio killer who had a drum magazine that held 100 rounds and killed nine people in 32 seconds, is obvious in Axios’ study. Scores of innocent victims are mowed down like blades of grass with these weapons of war.

America needs an assault weapon and large capacity magazine ban. These mass shooting numbers are real people and real lives. Their deaths call out for a major change to this nation’s gun laws.

Banning assault rifles addresses nothing

Banning assault rifles will make some people feel better, but it will not address the root of the problem.

SOLOMON SMITH
MANAGING EDITOR

For some, the silhouette of the AR-15 or M4 represents violence and death. For U.S. sailors, soldiers, airmen and Marines, however, it is a symbol of the tools of the trade and pride of service. Assault rifles (even the term is scary) are not the problem, our culture and our laws are.

Banning assault rifles will make some, who do not understand the problem, feel better but will have a negligible effect upon the number of gun deaths in the country or the issues that lead up to them.

The highest cause of gun deaths in the country are the result of self-inflicted wounds from suicide. The overwhelming majority are committed with handguns. According to an article in the National Institute of Justice, an organization known for its studies on gun violence, the facts are clear about gun violence.

“Most homicides in the United States are committed with firearms,” reads the article, “especially handguns.”

Banning assault rifle is about image, not substance.

As a black man, I am more likely to be killed by a racist cop. For me, the idea that going to a white neighborhood at night to visit a friend means I could be

shot to death (with a pistol) by the local security guard.

The rise in white nationalism and domestic terrorism is pressing for me. This is more in the front of my mind over the worry of mass shootings. Homegrown terrorism is on the rise in the nation. The fear that a parent could lose their child because an officer views them as a threat is much more real than some general fear of an AR-15. For people of color, it is about who is holding that weapon.

“America needs to stop pretending that the type of weapon involved in these crimes has anything to do with the crime itself.”

The suggested ban will lead to more guns in wealthy hands as these laws are often not fairly executed. Phillando Castille was murdered by a police officer in 2016 after telling the officer he had a legal gun in the vehicle. The officer shot him with a pistol.

Gun reform is necessary. We need it and we need it now. It needs to be dealt with in a reasoned way that addresses the roots of the problem; racism, mental health, violent culture

and easy access are big issues but politicians have chosen to give Americans a visual, simplified representation of the problem, the assault rifle, and deal with the symbol rather than the problem it represents.

Magazine size, wait times, background checks, more safety classes, red flag laws, better gun locks and safety mechanisms, registration and regulation, the fair application of the law; all these things could put a significant dent in the issue. The shooter in Odessa, Texas may have been stopped if the loopholes in the already existing laws about background checks were applied, according to an article on BuzzFeed.

“The gunman ... couldn’t pass a firearm background check,” wrote Claudia Koerner of BuzzFeed, “but he purchased a gun in a private party sale that didn’t require any scrutiny of his history.”

America needs to stop pretending that the type of weapon involved in these crimes has anything to do with the crime itself. That fearful silhouette of the M4 is a shadow issue. When the country can face the reality of its failed gun policies and acceptance of violence against all of its people then, maybe, the country can move toward ending gun violence.

VALLEY VIEW | WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE RELIGIOUS GROUPS ON CAMPUS?



“It’s America. If they want to push their religious agenda, they can do it freely. It doesn’t affect people who aren’t religious.”
- RYAN HERNANDEZ, BUSINESS



“I’m open to any religion, belief [and] interest, but it shouldn’t be pressured upon people to have a bible.”
- ANABELLE ZDAWCZYK, UNDECIDED



“Honestly, I think we should be able to open our eyes to different religious groups, because that’s what our nation is built upon.”
- CHRISTIAN SOTO, CRIMINOLOGY



“What I have an issue with ... is that a lot of them are really disrespectful of people’s personal space.”
- ROBERT ARIAS, JOURNALISM



“I don’t mind. I think it’s a good thing. I think they should have a booth.”
- STEPHANIE ALVARENGA, NURSING

TEXT BY AIMEE MARTINEZ AND MICKIE SHAW
PHOTOS BY MICKIE SHAW

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.

A shift in the balance of power

Professional athletes are increasingly gaining the ability to say for who and where they want to play.

VICENTE VITELA
STAFF WRITER

As more pro athletes are able to dictate where, and who they want to play with, the sport is beginning to see a shift in the balance of power between ownership and its players.

This past summer, there were two instances where players used their power and control to get what they wanted. The first being Anthony Davis, formerly of the New Orleans Pelicans. After rumors of his trade request became public Davis was quick to let everyone know that these were not rumors but in fact true, even going as far as telling ownership that he will not sign an extension next offseason and would like to be traded as soon as possible.

“Don’t know how long I’m gonna play this game,” said Davis. “People’s careers are short. I feel like it’s my time to move on.”

To prove how much control he had over the situation he told ownership that he would “prefer” to be traded to only a handful of teams that Davis himself would approve. The following off-season Davis would see his request fulfilled and receive a trade to one of his desired teams, the Los Angeles Lakers. Davis is currently in talks with the Lakers on a possible long term contract, and the team is one of the favorites to win the NBA championship.

This particular off-season didn’t just have the Davis Saga to deal with it there was also the Khawi Leonard/ Paul George situation. After single handedly leading the Raptors to their first championship in franchise history, over the powerhouse Warriors, Leonard would become one of the most sought after free agents. His asking price and desire to play with another big time NBA superstar complicated things for many teams who had him on their signing list.

There were three teams in the running for this finals MVP; the Lakers, a historic franchise with two big time stars and the Raptors who were starless but however with Leonard were able to bring the city of Toronto its first NBA title. Last but not least the Clippers who had no big stars but a large bank account. Ultimately it came down to the Lakers, and Clippers with Leonard telling the Clippers if they get George he will sign with the team. After hearing this less than 24 hours later George was a clipper and within 36 hours of that news, word got out that Leonard had told other teams of his intentions to sign with the Clippers.

“We actually had a list of guys, which was a mistake, but we got lucky. We shouldn’t have had a list, because then he got to choose who he wanted to play with,” said Clippers Head Coach Doc Rivers according to msn.com. “We just showed him guys that we thought would match him and when he saw Paul George’s name he said, ‘I want to play with him.’”

This much like Davis, and Brown was another example of a player telling the ownership what to do in order to meet his needs. When free agency and trades first became available for pro sports it was clear who was dictating which player would join their team and it was their way or the highway, and that ball was firmly in the court of the owners. With these recent payer outbursts one can only wonder has the ball shifted in the hands of the players, and was this a one-time thing, or was it a sign of things to come, we will just have to wait and see.

SPORTS ANALYSIS

Lakers and Clippers: the NBA’s most intense rivalry

LA franchises latch onto the league’s most desirable free agents and set themselves on a collision course.



ILLUSTRATION | SOLOMON SMITH

RIVALRY- The new acquisitions of the Clippers and Lakers will pit the Los Angeles teams against each other for an NBA title run.

JERRY OUGH
STAFF WRITER

Much has been said of the two Los Angeles NBA teams and the off-season free agent acquisitions that turned their fortunes around and transformed themselves into championship contenders.

The Lakers and Clippers now have superstar duos that any team would give their eye teeth to build around, along with solid all-star caliber players that add potent fuel to their competitive fires.

The Clippers picked up a terrific tandem in NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard and perennial all-star Paul George who should perfectly compliment an overachieving group of athletes that managed to hold on to the final playoff spot before being dutifully dispensed in the first round. The Clippers’ prospects

at the beginning of last season were so dim that their inglorious playoff exit was actually considered an admirable achievement considering the unknown and unproven cast of Clipper characters on the court at any given time.

Acquiring two of the most highly coveted free agents in Leonard and George was a wish come true for Clippers fans and one of the best possible off season outcomes for the Clippers front office. And the preseason prospect this year vaults this squad from barely making the playoffs last time to conference championship contenders next time. But giving up some of their most promising and productive players over the past season and off season has left the Clippers with the sensational scoring machine Lou Williams as the only proven player coming off the bench.

The Lakers have seemingly

turned their fortunes around in dramatic fashion. After picking up no less than LeBron James last season and then suffering through one of the most disappointing campaigns in recent memory, the Purple and Gold came roaring out of the summer gate as championship contenders with power forward Anthony Davis, the only player who could compare with the likes of free agents Kawhi Leonard and Kevin Durant. Davis and James are a dynamic duo of epic proportions as well as two of the most versatile athletes in the NBA.

The Lakers also managed to hold on to Kyle Kuzma, one of the franchise’s most surprising, gifted and celebrated young players. They have two veteran 3-point shooters in Jared Dudley and Danny Green, a couple of veteran point guards in Avery Bradley and Rajon Rondo in addition to returning centers JaVale

McGee and Dwight Howard. Mr. Howard didn’t exactly build a devoted L.A. fan base the last time he was here, but he is a formidable defensive force in the paint who can distribute the ball and score if needed. Most importantly, Howard is the center that Davis reportedly wanted and therefore is worth his weight in gold if he simply fulfills the duties of a journeyman big man.

The trash talking and bragging rights have already begun from Lakers and Clippers fans. But keep in mind that, win or lose, Los Angeles will have the most exciting and hotly contested cross-town rivalry in sports and arguably the top rivalry in the NBA this season. NBA fans in L.A. can count their blessings and celebrate the fact that they will see some sensational basketball and some epic sports battles from the Lakers and Clippers at Staples Center and on TV this year.

Monarchs look ready to roll in Fall 2019

With the spring athletics in the rearview mirror, Valley’s fall sports looks to have a great season ahead.

VICENTE VITELA
STAFF WRITER

Valley College’s athletic programs are looking to make this season the year of the Monarch while bringing back some hardware to the campus.

Kicking things off for Valley will be the Lady Monarch’s soccer team who are looking to build off their first playoff appearance in two years. Head Coach Greg Venger will be returning at the helm and will be in the second year of transitioning back from the softball diamond to the soccer field.

“With a smaller roster, we want to stay healthy and find ways to win games, and make the playoffs again,” said Venger when asked about some of the goals he hopes to reach by the end of the season.

On a 16 season roster, there will be only six returnees from last year’s playoff roster, making for a young team. The squad should see the benefits of a favorable schedule as they will play five of six consecutive games at home, where they finished with an 8-4 last season.

“We would like to make it to the conference game, and it’s going to take all 18 players and two coaches to do their job to get there.”

- Jim McMillan

Some key matchups to watch for are the two matches against C.O.C. as these two teams did not



SPECIAL TO THE STAR | DALE BECK

SOCCER- Lady Monarchs are working towards their first playoff appearance in two years (file photo).

face each other last season, and the two games against Antelope Valley College, a team the Monarchs defeated 1-0 early last season. The Lady Monarch’s season is already off and running and sit at a 1-2 record but look to turn things around at home.

“Stay healthy and buy into the system,” said Venger when talking about what it will take to reach the playoffs and make a deep run.

The winningest sports program in the college’s history is the men’s water polo team, which will look to dethrone Golden West as the number one team in California. Head coach Jim McMillan has a plan to do just that.

“Our first goal is to get better, work hard, and play the best we can,” said McMillan.

Last year’s team finished second in state and was ranked team in California. This year’s team will consist of seven sophomore players who are looking

to add a seventh Western State Conference championship to the program. Two key matchups to watch come at the beginning and end of the season in the form of a tournament hosted by Golden West in early September and one in late October.

“We would like to make it to the conference game, and it’s going to take all 18 players and two coaches to do their job to get there,” said McMillan.

The Monarchs Football program will go through yet again another change at the head coaching position as Lester Towns III will look to steer this team in the right direction and return it to its winning ways. Last years team finished with a 7-3 record and went 5-1 in conference play; however, they finished as the number two scoring offense in California a bright spot on what was an underwhelming season.

Towns, a former NFL line-backer, brings experience and a

Super Bowl ring — which he got in 2003 playing for the Carolina Panthers — to campus. After an explosive offensive team last season, this year’s fans can expect improvement on the defensive side of the ball. The 2019 roster will consist of 28 freshmen which may prove beneficial to a new head coach which is looking to implement a new system and re-establish itself as a powerhouse football program.

Last but not least, the Lady Monarchs water polo team, which will be returning more than half of its players, will look to improve on its 16-10 record from last season. This year’s team will be battle tested come playoff time as they will be competing in five tournaments this season. After being bounced out early from last season’s playoffs, head coach Pete Loporchio will look to return the team to its winning ways and 2019 might just be the year that he does it.

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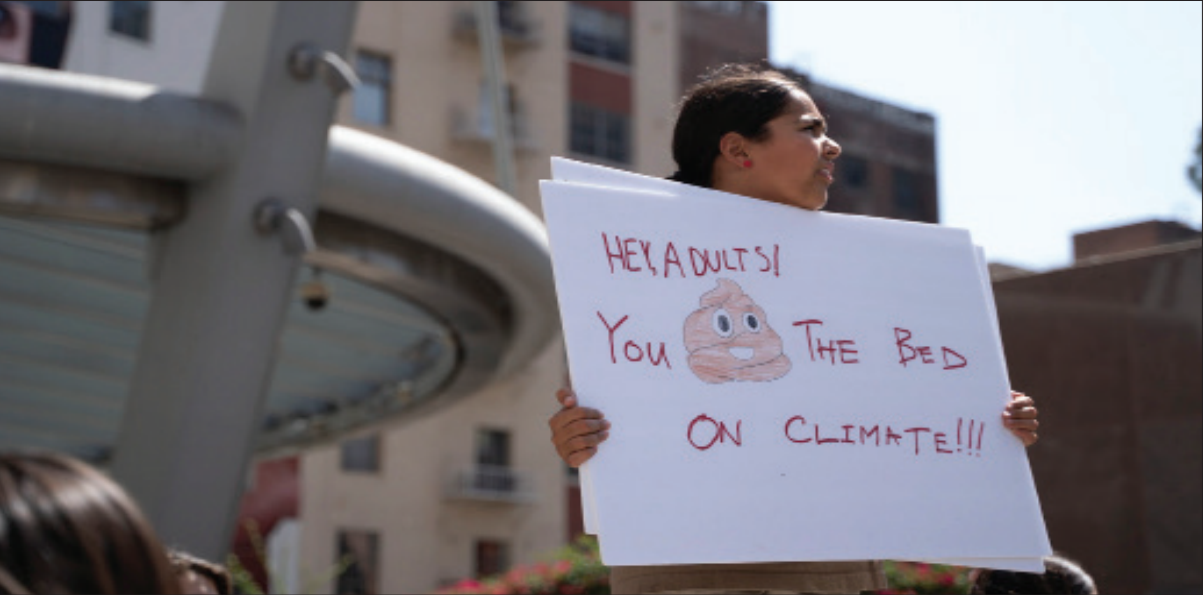
The L.A. Climate March in Photos

The climate walk-out in downtown Los Angeles was headlined by people from all over the state. Most notably present were Native peoples. Native Americans have led the charge for environmental and climate rights for years. At the walk-out, guest speakers , Native groups and one of the

only Native peoples' schools in that state all gave their support. The climate was a week-long event from Septmeber 20-27, which included the U.N. climate summit held in New York.

Text and photos by Solomon Smith, Photo Editor

RIGHT- Protesters write messages about climate change to their leaders on a giant banner. BELOW- Prof. Leddy supports the fight against climate change.



BELOW- Two teen send a message to the president and vice president.



ABOVE- The new next generation of students makes thier voices known in the climate walk-out.



BELOW- Two teen send a message to the president and vice president.



ABOVE- A young Native student performs a ritual at the protest.

RIGHT- Pictures of women who serve as leaders in the community are presented to inspire passersby.

