



VALLEY LIFE: DANCE
"VALLEY DANCES" TO CLOSE OUT THE HORSHOE THEATER THIS WEEKEND.



SPORTS: FOOTBALL
MONARCHS PREPARE FOR UPCOMING FOOTBALL SEASON.

Abortion protests heat up downtown

Activists showed up in support of abortion rights in response to the leaked SCOTUS opinion.

CASSANDRA NAVA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Fake blood on wire hangers. Profanity-filled messages to government officials. The frustration of thousands of abortion rights activists was palpable amidst the stiff, 90 degree Los Angeles air at a Women's March rally last Saturday.

Across from City Hall, Grand Park's lawn flooded with protesters as Main and Spring streets closed to accommodate the event where thousands gathered. Activists armed themselves with signs displaying phrases like, "abort the court" and "my body, my choice." Ignited by the Supreme Court opinion leaked by Politico earlier this month, people assembled to show their support for the jeopardized Roe v. Wade case.

"We are sending a message to the world today. We are sending a message to the Supreme Court today," said Karen Bass, mayoral candidate and representative for California's 37th congressional district. "We will not allow our country, our state or our city to go backwards. This is the day we continue and strengthen our national movement. This is the day that we share that message with the court."

The volunteer-organized event hosted by the Women's March foundation was just one of hundreds nationwide. People mobilized at over 450 marches on May 14, according to a post on the Women's March official Instagram. Activists in Washington D.C. marched to the Supreme Court, which has had an eight-foot fence acting as a barrier to the building since May 5, just days after the opinion leaked.

If the nearly 50-year-old case is overturned, individual states will have the opportunity to ban abortion. So far, 26 states are certain or likely to ban the medical procedure in concurrence with Roe v. Wade's reversal, according to the Guttmacher Institute. These "trigger laws" will have some exceptions for abortions; rape, incest or a life and death situation for the pregnant woman. Various states will also issue prison sentences to those providing abortions.



JOSE CALLEJAS | VALLEY STAR

VEIL- Emma Walker wears a veil and holds a sign during the Women's March rally at Grand Park across from Los Angeles City Hall.

California, however, has maintained its pro-choice stance, as made evident by Gov. Gavin Newsom's calls to maintain the status of the "reproductive freedom state." Many speakers echoed their gratitude for the state's position, while simultaneously calling attention to women across the nation.

"Wealthy women and well-connected women will have the resources to travel to another state to have an abortion," said city council member Nury Martinez, "While women of color, poor women of color across this country, are going to suffer and are going to die as a consequence. We are so lucky to live in California, but we need to organize in red states."

Of the thousands assembled in the LA rally, four individuals strongly rejected the message of

the speakers. Near the police-enforced barricade just left of the stage, counterprotesters held up signs stating, "abortion is murder." The counter protesters, part of the Official Street Preachers organization, shouted through a megaphone phrases like "baby killers" and "you will burn in hell." According to their website, the group states that abortion is the "fruit of sin" caused by fornication.

Women's March activists soon surrounded the religious group, in an effort to muffle their message. About 15 police officers were on standby, stepping in occasionally to separate the opposing groups.

See "Women's March" on page 6 for more



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

MARCH- Rise Up 4 Abortion Rights protesters march down South Broadway to Pershing Square in downtown Los Angeles.

Ramazyan elected ASU President

The current dual-enrollment student is set to take office in her fourth year at Valley.

MATTHEW ROYER
NEWS EDITOR

While she has not yet walked in high school graduation, Ani Ramazyan has now cemented a path forward, taking a step as the Associated Student Union's new president-elect.

On May 6, after a week of voting, Monarchs selected the dual-enrollment student to lead the ASU over incumbent Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural Affairs Lauren Lucas. With 20 percent separating the two in the polls, Ramazyan will have the opportunity to guide Valley College's student-run organization. The ASU oversees clubs and campus activities and the interests of students on campus and online.

"The election, I hope, convinced more students on campus to get involved," said Ramazyan. "During Club Days, I see members having fun, but one of my main goals is to add to that number. As we are exiting this pandemic period of fewer student activities, I'm hoping to bring new opportunities and events to campus." The political science and



JEREMY RUIZ | VALLEY STAR

CHESS- Ani Ramazyan, a first-year political science and public affairs major, was elected president of Valley College's Associated Student Union. Ramazyan devotes hours honing in her chess skills.

public affairs major attended Grant High School before transferring to Opportunities For Learning Charter School to graduate early. Ramazyan will take classes full-time in the fall. The environment is famil-

iar to the president-elect as she has attended Valley since her freshman year of high school.

A member of multiple Valley organizations and clubs, Ramazyan is now set to take the leap and command the Monarch

student body for the upcoming year. The avid competitor says she is more than ready.

"I am a person of action," she said. "A lot of things I don't say, but I'd rather show my leadership skills through

action instead of my words. When you are leading a group, instead of thinking about what I can get from the experience, I think about what I can give."

The daughter of a professional chess player, competition and respect run through her blood. Whether it is through chess tournaments (Ramazyan is a nationally ranked chess player) or exploring art in her studies and hobby of painting, the ASU's new leader is always learning.

Her drive for leadership comes from the many role models she has in life, such as Barack Obama or her father. Ramazyan draws from the challenges they have faced to prepare herself better.

"I found that political science and public affairs were the right path for me. While chess, for example, can relate to everything in my life," said Ramazyan. "There is a saying that 'chess is a life game.' My father has taught me through chess that I always have to think, not one but two steps ahead."

For the full story, read our online version.

Women of LA

The stories of three prominent women making an impact in the city.

EMILY FAITH GRODIN
STAFF WRITER

On June 7, primary elections will be held to nominate the top two candidates to advance to the general election to become the new mayor of Los Angeles. One name to appear on the ballot is Rep. Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles), who is serving her sixth term representing the 37th Congressional District. This district covers the Fairfax and Venice neighborhoods, where Bass grew up watching the civil rights movement unfold with her father.

The Los Angeles native began her career as a physician's assistant and clinical instructor at the USC Keck School of Medicine. During this time, she witnessed first-hand the effects of drugs and violence on the public. Bass then went on to found Community Coalition, an organization whose purpose is to improve the social and economic state of neighborhoods in South Los Angeles where crime, violence, poverty and addiction exist. These events helped launch her work in community activism.

"Stopping crime before it happens will liberate countless Angelenos from terrible suffering, loss, and anguish," said Bass.

Today the mayoral candidate serves on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs as the chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights. In 2019 and 2020, she served as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. In the coming months, she will continue her campaign with plans of increasing police officers on the force, in an attempt to prevent violent crimes before they happen and housing 15,000 homeless by the end of year one. If elected, she would become the first woman to be elected mayor of Los Angeles.

"Los Angeles is a city where anything is possible," said the lifelong Angeleno, "I believe that we have the resources, the knowledge, the skills to solve any problem we face—we just have to come together."



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CANDIDATE- Los Angeles native Karen Bass is running for mayor in June's election.

See 'Women of LA' on page 2 for more

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Raul Castillo, LAVC Foundation Director, dies at 54

The Valley alumnus returned to the college to revitalize the foundation, funding millions for students.

NICHOLAS OROZCO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

On May 5, Raul Valentino Castillo passed away peacefully in his Burbank home after a long battle with cancer. He was 54.

Castillo was a significant help to Valley College's foundation as he saw through monumental amounts of funds donated to support students and programs.

"The foundation was his baby," said President Barry Gribbons about the passing of Castillo. "He nurtured and supported it. He grew it to an organization that now has — with the Heyman gift — close to \$10 million. That's just an incredible legacy to help support our students with the programs."

"We'll all miss him deeply and appreciate the time that we did have getting to know Raul and calling him a colleague and a friend."

- Valley President
Barry Gribbons

Born in the Philippines on Feb. 14, 1968, he and his family



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTARY CLUB OF GREATER VAN NUYS
LEGACY- Raul Castillo laid groundwork for the LAVC Foundation to raise millions in funds for scholarships and opportunities for students.

later migrated to Echo Park, finally settling in Arleta. A graduate from St. Genevieve High School, he attended Valley, receiving his associate's degree in economics. Following his time in Valley Glen, he went on to attend Cali-

fornia State University, Dominguez Hills, where he received his bachelor's degree in business administration and his master's degree in public administration.

After finishing his education, he returned to Valley to support

students and programs on campus. He returned as executive

"My legacy is that I've been privileged to work at Valley College. After I leave.. I feel that work will continue to be there. That will be built upon what has already been laid."

- Raul Castillo

director of the foundation, where he continued to support students until his passing. He helped the LAVC Foundation receive more than \$8 million, which invested in the students and programs.

"He spent a lot of time and energy supporting the college and the foundation and nurturing different gifts to help support people," said Gribbons. "He just had a tremendous impact."

Before his death, Castillo was a guest star on The Valley College Connection podcast, hosted by Valley professors John Kawai and Scott Weigand. Castillo talked about his life, his

roots and his school experience, as well as when he started at the foundation. When being interviewed for the executive director position, he explained that the foundation was only him, an assistant and student workers.

"I came in with a lot of grand boasts of ideas because I was thinking of Valley College, I was also thinking UCLA and Cal State Dominguez Hills," said the late Castillo. "I quickly realized community college fundraising versus four-year university fundraisings are apples and oranges. Very different."

He wanted to build the foundation from the ground up and be as strong as a foundation at the university level. When he started as executive director, the organization's endowments were close to \$300,000. Now the total reaches \$8 million, and it is still growing.

"If you're talking about my legacy, my legacy is that I've been privileged to work at Valley College," said Castillo in the podcast. "After I leave Valley College, I feel that work will continue to be there. That will be built upon what has already been laid."

He is survived by his stepchildren, parents, sisters, nephew and his wife of 21 years, Marivic Reyes-Castillo.

"We'll all miss him deeply and appreciate the time that we did have getting to know Raul and calling him a colleague and friend," said Gribbons.

Women of LA From Page 1

A Los Angeles native, Nichelle Henderson is the second vice president of the LACCD board of trustees. She is also an educator, an advocate and an active leader in her community.

Henderson began as a K-12 classroom teacher but eventually realized that "[her] passion was to be a great teacher, [her] aspiration was to build great teachers."

She subsequently found her dream job as a faculty advisor and clinical field supervisor with a credentialing program at California State, Los Angeles.

The Chapman University alumna brings to the table a parent's perspective, an "unapologetic Black woman," as she puts it, and a member and leader of several organizations throughout the city. She has worked with the Los Angeles chapter of the California Faculty Association and the Los Angeles African American Women's Political Action Committee, where she facilitated candidate endorsement interviews to provide support to progressive-minded Black candidates fighting for issues impacting Black women.

Henderson's father and his journey to receiving a higher education serve as a reminder to represent the under-represented and empower the powerless in her decision-making.

"Having been born and raised in Los Angeles," said Henderson, "I have seen firsthand the tremendous academic, economic and social needs that the community colleges meet."



PHOTO COURTESY OF LACCD
LA- Nichelle Henderson has served on the board of trustees since 2020.

A 2020 report from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority revealed that 66,436 people in LA county were experiencing homelessness, a 16.1 percent increase from the year before. As a result, efforts have ramped up in the San Fernando Valley to find solutions to the crisis at hand. At the forefront of that effort is Laurie Craft of Hope of the Valley, a non-profit organization whose mission is to find long-term solutions to homelessness, hunger and poverty. Craft serves as the Chief Programs Officer.

"Homelessness is not a failure of the individual, but the system," said Craft. "When we blame the individual, we prohibit progress and perpetuate stigma and bias."

The humanitarian says that in her 12 years in the field, she has never met an individual experiencing homelessness who did not have profound trauma or suffer from a mental health disorder, substance use, physical illness or all three.

"Sometimes it is by helping others that we help ourselves."

- Laurie Craft

Craft became involved in homeless services during a difficult season in her own life; she was desperately trying to come to terms with an insidious addiction to alcohol and going through a painful divorce. When overwhelmed or tempted to give up, she thinks about all the individuals she has seen stabilize, recover and turn their lives around. Despite the challenging nature of the work, she stays in the field because of the great need she sees.

"Sometimes, it is by helping others that we help ourselves," said Craft.

Craft and her team worked to complete the Trebek Center, a 107-bed congregate shelter in Northridge named after the late Jeopardy host. started moving in on May 17.

Valley elects new ASU Executive Board

Monarchs elected Ani Ramazyan as the next ASU president and passed two constitutional amendments.

NATALIE METCALF
STAFF WRITER

With a three percent voter turnout, Ani Ramazyan was elected Valley College's next Associated Student Union President over Lauren Lucas, who currently holds the position of commissioner of ethnic and cultural affairs.

Ramazyan defeated Lucas with a difference of 20 percent. Both unopposed, Mia Sanchez and Diego Enriquez will join the executive council. Sanchez was elected commissioner of fine arts, while Enriquez was elected treasurer. In addition, the ASU's bias and monthly stipend amendments passed by wide margins.

In total, 88 percent of voting students agreed to the stipend increase amendment. Beginning in August, the ASU board members will receive \$250 monthly stipends for fall and spring semesters, as well as \$100 stipends during winter and summer sessions.

The second revision to the ASU constitution is based on voter bias. The voter-bias amendment passed with 283 votes. Next fall, executive council members must withdraw themselves from the voting process if familial or romantic ties exist. Failure to do so will result in grounds for impeachment.

ASU's current commissioner of political affairs, Kai Haaland, pushed the voter-bias amendment in executive council meetings. The amendment passed by a landslide, with only five percent of the student body opposing the measure.

"They [the amendments] are designed to promote ASU involvement for students," said Haaland. "It makes it so that any student who wants to get involved in student politics has a fair shot — regardless of their financial background, who they know, or who they are related to."

With 97 percent of the student body not participating in the voting process, this election's voter turnout doubled. Last year, 1.68 percent of the student body voted in the election. This year displayed a higher voter turnout. According to student life counselor and ASU advisor Monica Flores, the student union was able to promote the election through in-person events, as Haaland was allowed to set up a voting booth late last month.

The newly elected president wishes to have a fully functional



JEREMY RUIZ | VALLEY STAR
BOARD- (L-R) Diego Enriquez, Ani Ramazyan and Mia Sanchez were elected to the ASU's Executive Board.

team behind her by the fall. In addition to recruiting more board members, Ramazyan wants to increase student engagement.

"I'd like to bring more club activities to campus and, if possible, make club meetings in person or hybrid, which also depends on the convenience of club members and officers," explained the ASU's president-elect.

Improvements to Valley's

website are also important to Ramazyan. Next fall, the ASU president will also be taking on the role of vice president until the executive council appoints someone else for the position during the upcoming term, according to section 4B of the ASU constitution.

"I will try to get more students to apply for ASU positions to fill available roles," said the first-year political science major.

"If no one else applies for vice president, I will begin to multitask by holding both positions."

Valley's student union will promote vacant positions this summer. If any candidates are found, the board can start appointing positions in August. The newly elected president and officers will begin their term starting on July 1, including both amendments.

ACA renamed in honor of Max L. Heyman

Valley instituted a scholarship in the former history professor's name and now plans to rename the ACA.

EDWARD SEGAL
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Valley College's ACA building, home of the Valley Foundation, will now be named the Max L. Heyman Administration and Career Advancement building, in honor of the former history teacher who worked at Valley for 32 years.

Heyman's wife, Rosalyn "Roz" Shostak Heyman, passed away on Nov. 22 and in her will, donated \$2 million to the Valley Foundation with the request that the Administration and Career Advancement building be renamed in honor of her late husband.

"We're appreciative of the very generous donation from Roz Heyman in honor of her husband, Max," said Valley President Barry Gribbons. "We look forward to naming ACA after Max."

According to a Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees meeting in April, the Valley Foundation "has been named as a beneficiary in the estate of Rosalyn ('Roz') Shostak Heyman and will receive a \$2.0 million donation."

Facing many challenges due to societal prejudices against women, Heyman suc-



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR
HONOR- The Administration and Career Advancement building will be renamed in honor of former history professor Max Heyman who taught at Valley from the 50s through the 80s.

ceeded in becoming a principal in downtown Los Angeles and turning her school of about 3,300 students around.

"In those days, they didn't want to appoint women, so they made me wait even though I was tops on the list because they really didn't want women to succeed," Heyman told the California Community Foundation. "They gave me the worst school

in the city, which was in the heart of the gang area of LA, and they had school police that walk in pairs, and I walked alone."

She became principal at Berendo Junior High School in 1974 and began what became known as "the golden age of Berendo," according to the school's website. Rosalyn cleaned the school; cleaned graffiti off walls, removed gum from under the desks and

planted flowers all over campus. She then became the superintendent of the LAUSD in 1982.

"I won the American Educators medal a few years later," Rosalyn told the Foundation. "That was the most fun of my life when I was principal of this 3300-kid school of six acres, in the heart of almost downtown LA at Pico and Vermont."

She married Max Heyman,

who taught history at Valley from 1954 until his death in 1986. Sixteen years later, Rosalyn began giving back to Valley.

According to the LACCD agenda, she established the Max L. Heyman Perpetual Scholarship for history in 2002. Three years later, Rosalyn donated \$25,000 for the creation of the Max L. Heyman Endowed Scholarship. Being the selfless person she was in giving back to Valley, Rosalyn supported many events hosted by the Foundation, including the President's Circle and the Legacy Society.

The \$2 million Heyman donated will go towards the Max L. Heyman Perpetual Scholarship for history students. Each year, one scholarship worth \$1,000 is awarded to a standout student majoring in history who has taken at least 12 units in the subject.

Heyman dedicated her life to working with students and helping them succeed. Her charitable acts and creation of scholarships are a continuation of her goals as an educator.

"I want my legacy to help train young people to be future leaders in our country," the philanthropist told the California Community Foundation.

Valley Professor June Edmonds named Guggenheim

Acrylic painting professor at Valley awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship worth about \$50,000 due to her lifetime achievements.

EDWARD SEGAL
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Smooth strokes, concentric circles and abstract portraits are prevalent in June Edmonds' art, but only scratch the surface of the Guggenheim Fellow's creations. Her many public projects and her time spent teaching children and working as a professor represent her dedication to the field and impact within it.

As a result, the Valley acrylic art professor was named Guggenheim Fellow and received tens of thousands of dollars for her artistic talent and contribution to society.

"I'm so appreciative," said Edmonds. "It requires a lot of support to even apply to something like this, as far as letters of support and that kind of thing. It just means a lot that I have the opportunity to go in front of a panel of peers and get that kind of recognition."

Awarding an average of \$45,000 to 175 individuals per year, the Guggenheim Foundation allocates grants to about five percent of applicants, which can be anyone from the United States and Canada.

Applications are reviewed by a group of advisers, made up of previous fellows, before being sent to the Committee of Selection, which decides who to award the money to.

"Self-representation is always counter to some of the narrow thinking that we are always up against. If we're not telling our own stories, then the stories that are being told about us are sort of seen as the truth."

- June Edmonds

Edmonds grew up in Crenshaw, California and spent most of her life in Los Angeles. Choosing a life in art when she was 19, Edmonds spent her undergraduate years at San Diego State University and moved to New York's



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUNE EDMONDS
STORYTELLER (ABOVE) - Oil on canvas self-portrait in studio, 1990.



PAINTER (RIGHT) - Oil on canvas painting of three concentric circles, 2007.

Tyler School of Arts in Temple University for graduate school.

Her love of art began thanks to her mom taking her to exhibits and museums. She flew East to Washington, D.C. at 19 years old and after seeing some exhibits, knew she wanted to pursue art for her career.

The force that drove her came in her teen years at an exhibition in the city of angels called "200 Years of Black American Art." Seeing the art from the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s

inspired Edmonds, as a Black person, to paint others of color.

"Those artists painted Black people, and as a group, their whole portfolio of work was dedicated to that," said Edmonds, mentioning the prevalence of people from the East Coast. "By the time I decided to go into painting, I hadn't seen any people that were specifically from my life, so nothing of Black people from the West Coast. So I was inspired to do that."

A chunk of her portfolio is

dedicated to paintings of concentric circles. Edmonds says she was drawn to the idea of the Adinkra, African symbols addressing a higher power. Portraits and abstract paintings were the Crenshaw native's way of telling her story.

"Self-representation is always counter to some of the narrow thinking that we are always up against," said Edmonds. "If we're not telling our own stories, then the stories that are being told about us are

sort of seen as the truth, and I think it's an important contribution to tell your own story."

In the 1980s — when Edmonds was in her twenties — she found a chance to do her first public project — a Metro station in Long Beach, only a few blocks away from her.

Edmonds went on to do other public works, including portraits at the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, the design for the wrought iron fence at the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and Venetian glass mosaics at the Algin Sutton Recreation Center, something the professor said fascinated her.

Only recently joining Valley's faculty, Edmonds always knew she wanted to teach. After spending years teaching kids at a nonprofit, the artist was referred to a job at LA City College. Last year, the artist came to Valley to teach acrylic painting.

Emphasizing the importance of family and her ambition to keep her passion alive, Edmonds hopes to expand her studio and visit her grandparents' point of origin, the French West Indies.

Throughout her career in art, Edmonds did what she loved and effectively told her story.

"Valley Dances" puts its best foot forward in newest production

The student production prepared for the end-of-semester show that will range in dance styles from tap to ballet.

CASSANDRA NAVA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dancers shuffled onto the main stage, rehearsing for their first live performance in three years, and the final show in the Horseshoe Theater.

"Valley Dances" will premiere on May 19 at 5:30 p.m., and on May 20-21 at 7 p.m. Audiences can expect nine pieces, with a rotating cast of 20 dancers. Audiences will see a range of genres and disciplines, including tap, ballet, contemporary and hip hop — all in just over an hour.

"Don't give anybody less than what you've been giving me in rehearsals. Give them more."

- Professor Maya Zellman

Adjunct professor Maya Zellman choreographed a waacking and street jazz



VALLEY STAR | ADRIAN RAMIREZ
PERFORMERS (ABOVE) - The Valley dance team comes together for their final show in the soon-to-be-torn-down Horseshoe Theater. FLOW (RIGHT) - The dancers hone their moves.

inspired piece to Whitney Houston's, "I'm Your Baby Tonight." Characterized by expressive poses and free flowing arm movements, waacking was popularized in Los Angeles in the '70s by LGBTQ communities. About eight dancers gathered for a Friday evening rehearsal, perfecting the piece for close to two hours.

"I want you guys to be super

proud of what you've done in the semester," said Zellman. "Don't give anybody less than what you've been giving me in rehearsals. Give them more."

For some, the production has been in the works since as early as 2020. Director, producer and full time dance professor Elizabeth Casebolt required solos for her class two years ago. Because the students were



robbed of a live performance, she plans on showing five of the students' video solos in this year's return to the stage, mixing mediums to celebrate the end of dancing in quarantine. Dancer Savanna Scott morphed her 2020 modern dance class final into a solo for the event.

While reaching out to former students to use their record-

ed works, former Monarch Noah Jackson decided to take a more active role in the production — as a guest choreographer. Of the nine scheduled pieces, three are choreographed by current students and one is choreographed by Jackson.

"I think it's important to participate in live performances because of how necessary

and exciting they are," said the upcoming California Institute of the Arts student regarding Valley's upcoming show. "They are the very core and essence of the word "entertainment," and give people that spark of light we all need. I think it's most important for all performance artists, big and small, as we need to be reminded after this pandemic that our passion is not dead and in the past. It's alive and well, and calling our name!"

The first performance in three years is not without precaution. According to Casebolt, in order to rehearse and even perform without masks, students must test for COVID-19 three times a week.

Although the students spent all semester practicing in the North Gym, Casebolt still called the theater "home," as it is the stage that will culminate everyone's hard work.

Tickets can be purchased online and at the door (cash only). Masks are required in the lobby and seating area.

Dave Lopez: 48 years of journalism and on-camera reporting

Lopez was one of the first Hispanic reporters in Los Angeles and has been known for years of human interest and sports stories.

ANNETTE M. LESURE
STAFF WRITER

CBS Reporter Dave Lopez opened up about his nearly 50 years in television in his memoir, "It's a Great Life If You Don't Weaken: Family, Faith, and 48 Years on Television."

The father of two worked as a reporter for 48 years, starting in 1972 until his retirement in 2020, spending 43 years at CBS.

Lopez wrote his most profound story at age 33 after "freeway killer" William G. Bonon confessed to him in a jail cell interview. Lopez later testified to Bonon's confessions of 21 murders and was criticized by fellow journalists for breaking confidentiality, claiming that he jeopardized sources coming forward in the future.

How old were you during your first job as a journalist?

I was 16 years old; I got a job at the Southgate Press. I used to get ten cents an inch for the stories I covered for Parks and Recreation.



ANNETTE M. LESURE | VALLEY STAR
AUTHOR - Dave Lopez talks at his memoir signing about his experience reporting and his new book.

What made you want to write this memoir?

I've wanted to ever since I could remember. I thought I had a good story to tell. I wrote it primarily for my grandkids. I wanted them to know what I did, who I am, and what makes me tick.

When did you switch from writing copy to ad-libbing the news on camera?

One day, [18 years into reporting], I didn't have any time to put together a story, so I said to my cameraman and said,

"Let's try this. Let me just wing it. I know what I want to say; we'll fill in the blanks; let's just get going." So he started the camera, and I just started ad-libbing.

How did you prepare for your interviews?

I never went to a story without having an idea of what I was going to say and how I was going to do it. It would sometimes change if I got on the scene and it was something different than what I thought it was supposed to be. But I never went in guessing. Like a good attorney, you always know the answer to the question you're going to ask. I tried to know exactly how I wanted to front my stories and how I wanted to make them flow.

How did you teach yourself the art of ad-libbing right on the spot?

I used to always mouth out my track before I wrote it down when I was off walking around, and people used to think I was talking to myself.

I wanted to give the idea that I was speaking to one person, not an audience, but to one individual. And I wanted to make sure it was easy to understand and free-flowing.

What advice can you give journalists about writing a story?

I always used to try to do a story with what I call the "snap, crackle, pop effect." You have to make a story move. You cannot be dull and you cannot bore your audience with details that they don't really care about. Make it quick. Make it sound. Make it fast

What newsroom advice can you offer future journalists and reporters?

I learned to never, ever make an excuse as to why you're not going to have a story done.

As a teen, Lopez had no desire to go to college after high school, as he was already working for a newspaper in his chosen career. However, the Vietnam War began drafting 18 to 26-year-olds, and a college deferment pass was the only way to avoid the draft and continue working as a journalist. Lopez immediately enrolled at LACCD after high school in September of 1966 and graduated from ELAC two years later with an associate's degree in journalism. He then attended Cal State LA for two years, where he majored in journalism with a minor in political science.

The prostate cancer survivor, currently book signing for his memoir, says he plans to enjoy his retirement by spending it with his family and traveling through Europe.

Abortion should be legal in the United States

Roe v. Wade must not be overturned, taking into account many women's lack of financial stability.

NATALIE METCALF
STAFF WRITER

The overturning of Roe v. Wade will be a major step back in the long and ever-persevering women's rights movement. Abortion has been a controversial topic for years, as conservatives believe the termination of pregnancy is murder. But the government should not be dictating to women how to control their bodies.

In January of 1973 — almost 50 years ago — Roe v. Wade changed women's history. Now, the influential law is being threatened as ignorance of women's health and lower-income communities has caused the Supreme Court to contemplate reversing the ruling. On May 2, Politico published a leaked draft opinion that showed the Supreme Court's intention to overturn Roe v. Wade. Justice Samuel Alito wrote the initial draft and expressed his concern with the court case. But it is not up to him — or any of the nine Supreme Court Justices — to decide.

A woman's reason to terminate her pregnancy is her

business, not the government's. Having a child is expensive, as there are various factors such as necessary costs and mental readiness that go into taking care of one. If a woman is not mentally or financially ready to raise a child, she should have the right to receive an abortion.

In California, an uncomplicated pregnancy costs between \$5,000 and \$11,000. If the mother requires a cesarean section, the amount will increase by roughly \$3,000 — which only covers the delivery of the baby. Women who are not financially stable enough to have a child would also have to worry about paying for regular doctor check-ups, pregnancy-related tests, prenatal care, ultrasounds, obstetrician and anesthesiologist's fees, as well as hospital care and prescriptions related to pregnancy and recovery from childbirth.

According to Zippia, women in the United States make a median of \$42,238 over the course of a year. In contrast, men have a median of \$54,004 a year. Since women make less money in the United States, they should be given the right to an abortion.

Having a child is a life-changing decision because of how much money, time and effort goes into being pregnant and then being a parent. Instead of drafting opinions to restrict women's rights, the people in government should be focusing on addressing more prevalent issues that plague the population in existence, like the homeless population.

According to World Population Review, California holds the highest homelessness population in the U.S. As of this year, 151,278 people are homeless — 33 percent being families. According to the World Health Organization, 30 women die for every 100,000 unsafe abortions. The women of the homeless population should have the right to receive an abortion, as they will not be able to afford the correct medical care. If the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, women with financial instability will be forced into motherhood or die from unsafe abortion.

The threat to Roe v. Wade will affect women's health, as six to eight percent of women deal with complicated pregnancies — such as diabetes, eating disorders, drinking and smoking



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | THE VALLEY STAR
Handmaid-A group of women hold pro-abortion signs at a protest outside Los Angeles City Hall in protest of a leaked Supreme Court draft opinion.

during pregnancy. According to the University of California San Francisco, some women deal with high-risk pregnancies due to the baby's health or the mother's. If a woman has a medical condition that can harm her health while pregnant, she should be able to receive an abortion.

Roe v. Wade is an important precedent that should continue to be a part of this country. Women have fought long and hard to maintain their rights. The law should be a guaranteed right under federal law, considering lower-income and homeless women will not be able to raise a child financially.

One Way or Another: One question, two opposing viewpoints

Lower the mask and take a breath

The district's decision is a step toward creating an administrative infrastructure for a COVID-19 endemic world.

ISAAC DEKTOR
MANAGING EDITOR

The end of COVID-19 restrictions at Valley College signals a return to normalcy and could reverse enrollment decline. The district's decision to remove masking and vaccination requirements may be scary to some, but it is the logical next step following the science.

On March 18, 2020, Valley closed its campus and rapidly moved nearly all of its courses online. The initial expectations were for a short-term lockdown, as Theater Department costume shop manager Samantha Jaffaray said at the time.

"I think about when the fires happened — how we were shut down for a week and we all just figured it out," said Jaffaray in reference to the 2018 Woolsey fire.

The campus lockdown persisted for three semesters and, upon reopening, the district instituted COVID-19 safety measures consisting of three key guardrails: proof of vaccination, masking and daily symptom self-checks. At the time, these measures were reasonable as the virus was surging, hospitals were overflowing with infected patients and people were generally freaked out — for good reason. However, the science now suggests that mandates of this kind are largely ineffective.

It is without dispute that the COVID-19 vaccination dramatically reduces one's risk of hospitalization. On the other hand, the jury is hung up on what degree vaccines actually reduce

communal spread. An individual's reluctance to get the jab may jeopardize their own health, but the claim that individuals who are not vaccinated threaten the health of those around them significantly more than those who are is without definitive proof.

With all that has been learned about the nascent vaccines as they were administered to over five billion people around the world, the jab, for all intents and purposes, is primarily a means for individual protection. Vaccination rates have stagnated at around 70 percent in California — while stringent mandates in many of the state's institutions remain in place. Lifting mandates could push past the slump as people come to terms with the vaccine, not as a medical treatment foisted upon them, but as a tool to stay healthy as the virus persists.

The science around masking has evolved as well. Surgical masks that most Monarchs sport on campus have proven decently effective at preventing spread, but inadequate for the wearer themselves. At this point, masking should be a matter of individual responsibility. Those who are sick should wear a mask — whether infected with COVID-19 or any other illness. Those who want to protect themselves to boot should be provided with N95s, which have proven effective at protecting those who wear them.

The issue with the district's decision to overhaul all three health safety measures at once stems from the hurried and disorganized way the measures were first implemented.

According to Dean Cecilia Cruz, Valley does not have access to aggregated data from Cleared4 symptom self-check surveys.

If the school did have access to this vital information, then it could keep the daily surveys in place for a transitory semester and compare community spread with and without mandates. If students really were required to complete the surveys and receive a "green pass" every day, then the administration would have concrete data to judge whether the mandates were effective.

Regardless of what could have been, transmission and hospital rates are at a low, as pandemic fatigue reaches its apogee. The district's decision is a step toward restoring a sense of community on campus, which has faltered over the course of the pandemic.

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.

District in the wrong

Masking and vaccinations should remain mandatory.

MATTHEW ROYER
NEWS EDITOR

The LACCD's recent shift in policy disregards the public health of students in a move that compromises the district's options, should the pandemic rage once again.

Earlier this month, the board of trustees voted to rescind policies 2800 and 2900, which deal with mandatory masking and vaccinations. Whether it was the failure to distribute N95 face coverings or the lack of a requiring the second booster, the latest move by the LACCD goes too far in ignoring the safety of students and faculty at Valley College and the district's eight other campuses.

The only way to correctly manage COVID-19 in schools is through the policies that already were in place.

On May 5, the district sent an email to students and faculty announcing the change, calling the move "an important step forward in our recovery phase from the COVID-19 pandemic." While one could argue that the world is in a very different place now than it was when the policies were passed, the virus itself has only grown into an enigma for the scientific community.

As the virus mutated, rein-

fection has become more common. As a result, antibodies for one variant may not work on another until a vaccine is designed to tackle mutations, such as viral vector or whole virus vaccines, which, according to Yahoo, may be on the way soon.

The only way to correctly manage COVID-19 in schools is through the policies that were already in place. The LACCD has closely matched the guidelines set by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, as even the slightest protection against the virus can be the difference between students' health and a lively campus. But as the county itself eased its standards, the board of trustees took action to do the same, opening the opportunity for the virus to strike the campus as cases begin to rise again instead of holding ground and putting the health of students first as the district claims to do.

Despite Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer urging residents of the county to begin masking indoors once again, the district has no plans to change course. The LACCD may be stuck with the new pandemic policies, as reinstatements of 2800 or 2900 may be met with challenges by those who feel the policies infringed on their rights.

This compromising position may not be what the district intends with its decision, but it is one that the LACCD will have to live with as it threw public health to the wayside in favor of the few guidelines that were put in place.

VALLEY VIEW | WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE MANDATE BEING LIFTED?

TEXT BY EDWARD SEGAL
PHOTOS BY JEREMY RUIZ



"My understanding is there's still a lot of cases. We should keep the mask mandate because of transmission. But I'd still be coming back."

- ALAN MORALES,
SECOND-YEAR COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR



"I think it would be very appropriate [to lift the mandates]. At this time the school needs to be amped up and increase enrollment."

- KEYSHAUN OGLESBY, FIRST-YEAR BIOLOGY MAJOR



"There's still so much we don't know [about the virus]. It's still spreading and with the masks off, people will think everything is back to normal, which it's not. I'm iffy on coming back, but I'd wear my mask."

- JULIE RIVAS,
SECOND-YEAR COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR



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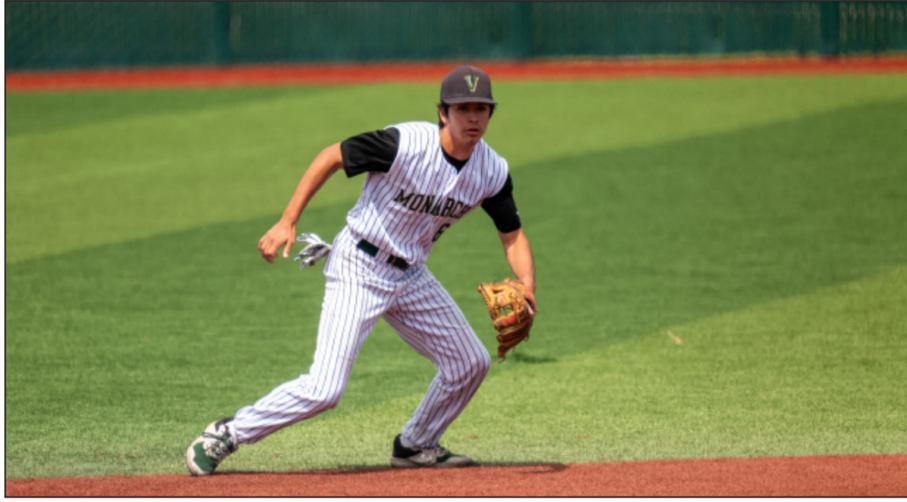
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GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

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.

Valley College baseball is proud, but frustrated about 2022 season's conclusion

The Monarchs' 26 regular season wins were the most since 1989 and marks coach Dave Mallas' highest win total in charge.



JOSE CALLEJAS | VALLEY STAR

HONORED- Valley College freshman shortstop Maddox Latta fields a ball against Glendale College on April 21. Latta was named Western State Conference Player of the Year for his efforts in the regular season.

BENJAMIN ROYER
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite the First Round exit in the CCCAA Southern California Regional, coach Dave Mallas is at peace about how the Monarchs battled in the post-pandemic year. "It was more about starting and completing a full season since we had not done that since 2019," said Mallas, who finished up his 18th year as head coach. "We did it somewhat painlessly with this team. It was one of the more fun groups of the teams that I've had and it was a successful season." Valley College Baseball (27-

16, 11-9 WSC South) advanced from the Play-In Round as the 18-seed to face off against top-seeded Saddleback College in Round One of the postseason, but after being swiftly eliminated as they dropped May 6 and May 7's contests by a score of 9-1 and 16-0 respectively, their rollercoaster season came to an unceremonious close. Success had been hard to come by in recent seasons for Valley baseball. The team had not earned a trip to the playoffs since 2012 and the 26 regular-season wins were the most the Monarchs had earned since 1989. But in 2022, Valley had a better overall record than College of the Canyons and LA

Mission College, the teams tied with the Monarchs for a second-place finish in the Western State Conference South. "It's what-could-have-been, but at the same time, it was fun to watch our offense," said Mallas. "Dorian Asher turned out a great season, Maddox Latta and Jackson Lapiner hit ten home runs and watching Tyler Olivas play defense was awesome. Out infield had three defensive players of the year for our conference." Latta, who won Western State Conference Player of the Year and earned defensive honors, was the cornerstone of the Monarchs infield, manning the shortstop position



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

SWING- Freshman pitcher/outfielder Jackson Lapiner fouls off a pitch against Folsom Lake College on Feb. 12. Lapiner had 10 home runs.

for the majority of the season.

"As a whole, as a team, we were nothing short of outstanding."

- Valley College pitcher/center fielder Jackson Lapiner

Only missing one conference game - the final game of the regular season against West LA - due to a knee injury, Latta set the WSC South aflame, hitting .374 during conference play while tallying six home runs, 25 RBIs and 12 stolen bases. The 6-foot student-athlete showcased his excellence

in the infield as well. He made the most plays at shortstop in the conference and the third-most in the state with 82 and 112 assists respectively. "I really wasn't expecting too much," said Latta. "Just try and go out there and help the team win it - turned out with me getting (Western State Conference) Player of the Year. I truly believe that is just the coaches and the team that surrounded me. They pushed me to be better." Hitting the second-most home runs and the fourth-most RBI in the conference was the aforementioned home run hitting Lapiner, who played a rangy center field and hit cleanup for a large portion of the year. His .308 batting average ranked third among qualified hitters on

the Monarchs and his team-leading 10 home runs sparked comebacks throughout the campaign. A game-winning grand slam on March 3 helped Valley defeat then-No. 14 ranked Irvine Valley and two months later on May 3, the left-handed-hitting slugger's three-run home run allowed the Monarchs to triumph over Southwestern College in the Play-In Round. "About a week before the season started, the coaches really opened their arms out to me and welcomed me," said Lapiner. "(They) worked me right into the lineup after I worked my tail off all fall - on my own. But as a whole, as a team, we were nothing short of outstanding." Replacing Lapiner and Latta - who will likely leave Valley for Division I, four-year opportunities in the Fall - as well as freshman pitcher Kyle Ayers - who could be selected in the MLB Draft or honor his commitment to the University of Houston - will not be easy after the positive impact in 2022. Mallas says his coaching staff is prepared for what is ahead and that the revolving door of community college athletics pushes them to reload every year. "I think generally you have an idea of who's coming back and who's not," said Mallas. "But because of COVID, we just don't know. It is going to be clogged up for the next few years at the community college level as well as the four-year level. We have a lot of kids left who have eligibility."

The Monarchs' Caitlyn Pineda: A home run hitter and aggressive base-stealer

Playing for the Monarchs since 2019, sophomore outfielder Caitlyn Pineda has shined with her bat and her base running.

EDWARD SEGAL
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Down by three in the bottom of the fifth. Runners on second and third, two outs in the frame. A seasoned veteran walked up to the plate. The Monarchs had just earned their first hit of the game against pitcher Sierra Ruvalcaba and Glendale City College. Outfielder Caitlyn Pineda stepped up to the plate, looking to tie the game at four in her third game back after missing a month with a hamstring injury. Looking for her second hit since her return to action, Pineda located the pitch, swung and connected with the barrel of the bat, watching it sail over the center field wall to bring the Monarchs even with the Vaqueros. Pineda was not always a softball player. After joining a little league team at six-years-old, the power-hitter played for a season before taking a hiatus from the

game. Playing mainly soccer as a child, Pineda made her return to the softball diamond at 12-years-old when she joined a team at Granada Hills Little League. "My mom had made me join a softball league in spring of 2013," said Pineda. "Soon, over the years, the best coaches pushed me and made me strive to become the player I am today." Forced to come back to the game by her mother after six years away from the sport, Pineda was drawn to softball in part because it brought her closer to those she loves. "Throughout my whole life I've always been with family," said Pineda. "I played soccer and softball with my cousins even throughout high school. They're the ones who motivated me, encouraged me and competed with me to be my best." When she rejoined little league in 2013, she met her future Valley teammate, Lexus Freire, and formed a strong bond with the fellow outfielder - strong enough that they got matching heart tattoos on their wrists.



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

POWER- Valley College sophomore outfielder Caitlyn Pineda swings as she hits a home run against Glendale College on March 31.

"In little league, we don't realize how the sport is actually teaching us about how to work within a team setting," said Freire. "This has impacted Caitlyn's life because I feel that she has a better understanding of working with oth-

ers, whether that is with softball or in a professional setting like at the vet clinic she works at." The San Fernando Valley native moved from Little League to travel ball to Cleveland High School, which is where she met her teammates - center

fielder Elizabeth Flores and pitcher Amber Basham - who would all come to Valley to play for the Monarchs. Cleveland was also where she met Athletic Director Greg Venger, who moonlights as softball coach for the Monarchs. Her bond with Venger and her teammates from Cleveland convinced her to attend Valley and play for the Monarchs while she brings to the game and her love for her teammates makes her a strong veteran in a group mostly made up of freshmen. "She has become even more of a leader," said Venger "She's older and more mature now so she became the 'momma bear' to a lot of the other girls." With a batting average of .308 in 2019-20 and .231 in 2022, Pineda has made a real difference at bat, hitting three home runs and tallying 31 runs and 12 RBIs in 33 games with Valley. Her impact also extends to the basepaths, where she stole six bases this season while the rest of the Monarchs had only stolen seven combined. "The adrenaline of being safe or out gets me," said the Monarchs' veteran slugger. "I am always about getting dirty on the field - I'm always eager to get that extra base." With her aggressive hitting and baserunning, Pineda manages to keep the opposing pitchers on edge as she slices the bat over the plate and waits for the right moment to advance.

"I am always about getting dirty on the field - I'm always eager to get that extra base."

- Valley College outfielder Caitlyn Pineda

studying veterinary medicine. Three years later, her passion for the game kept her at Valley, despite already earning her associate's degree. Venger says the energy

Football is back on the horizon at Valley College

Valley College has begun to prepare for its next season, practicing four days a week and holding team events.

NICHOLAS OROZCO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Monarchs have a packed slate, allowing the team to prepare for its upcoming football season and coach Lester Towns to take advantage of his first full year of being in charge of the program. Following a taxing season in which the Monarchs finished with a 3-7 record, Valley College football has begun spring practice and is looking to kick into gear and have a more successful campaign in 2022. Hired in August 2019 and with the COVID-19 pandemic shifting schedules in 2020 and 2021, the upcoming season will allow the former University of Alabama assistant to have time to completely construct his team. "The biggest thing for me is that we get a full year of recruiting," said Towns. "It gives us a full year of training and getting the guys ready. It's a true full year for me, which I have been wait-

ing for, for the last couple years." Valley looks to take advantage of the four months ahead before a likely August start to the 2022 campaign. This is a pivotal time for the Monarchs as they welcome freshmen that have entered the program during the offseason. "We keep this going so [new recruits are] joining a positive environment and not joining with any negativity," said strength and conditioning coach John Hassell. Hassell believed in the importance of bringing these players into an environment that is cohesive and holds strong unity between everyone. Throughout 2022, he has been overlooking the weight room, supporting his players and placing the blocks to have his players reciprocate the action. "When they're out there doing drills [last season], they would holler at each other and call each other names," said Hassell. "We don't have any of that this year." The players seem to have built respect for each other ear-

ly on in the training process. During practice, there is little negative attitude throughout instruction and drills. Four-year coaches from around the nation are coming to check out the Monarchs practice. Over the past two weeks, Fresno State, NC Central, New Mexico State, San Diego State and UCLA have visited with Towns and the roster. "It is great, because, over the last year and a half, colleges have been unable to go on community college campuses because of the pandemic," said Athletic Director Dave Mallas. "I think community colleges, as well as four-year coaches, are excited to go out and scout the talent that they are looking for." Towns is ready for what is ahead as he uses formerly inaccessible time to arrange his roster, giving him the opportunity to better the program and make it his own. Now having the shot to



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

GET SET- Valley College football players practice offensive and defensive line drills during a scrimmage at Monarch field on Tuesday.

start fresh with some resources already in place from his first three years, the 44-year-old coach plans on spending more time scouting, training and conditioning his players, as well as gaining the coaching support he needs to sculpt a winning season. A strong advocate of always

having his players primed to compete, Towns looks at every Monarch as a potential x-factor. Even the bench players are a crucial piece to his squad, with substitutes needing to stay attentive in order to enter the contest at any moment. "Next man up," said Towns.



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

CATCH- Valley College players practice wide receiver plays on Tuesday afternoon.



(Right) Pro-life and pro-choice protestors confront each other during Saturday's demonstration.

GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR



JOSE CALLEJAS | VALLEY STAR



(Left) Community organizer Natasha Vanderhoof carries a depiction of a failed coat hanger abortion.

(Center) Protesters gather at the abortion rights rally in front of City Hall.

ISAIAH ZARCO | VALLEY STAR



A sea of protesters fills Grand Park across the street from Los Angeles City Hall Saturday morning in a nationwide response to the leaked Supreme Court draft proposing the overturn of Roe v Wade.

GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

Women's March

From page 1

As protesters shouted over each other, the organized speakers did not stop in sharing their messages.

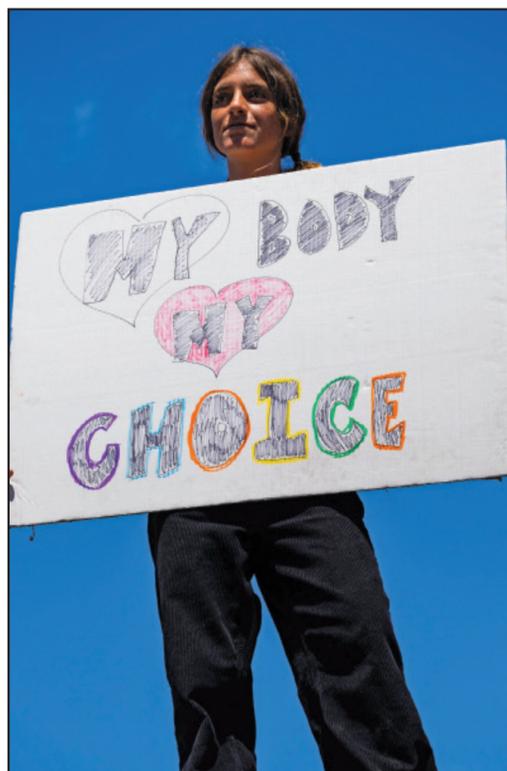
Over calls of murder by the Official Street Preachers, attorney and women's rights activist Gloria Allred spoke on her personal story of abortion. In her graphic retelling of the back alley procedure, she stated that she had to be rushed to the hospital following the life-threatening incident. Allred shared that she was cared for by a pro-

life nurse, who said that she hoped the near-death experience following the abortion taught Allred a lesson.

"It did teach me a lesson, but not the one she wanted me to learn," said the 80-year-old activist in her message to the crowd. "I want you — for me, you, the people you never met before — I want you to vote. Vote as though your lives depend on it — because they do."

For the full story, read our online version.

Text by *Cassandra Nava*



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

Pro-choice advocate Cecilia Conroy climbed on top of a bus shelter with other attendees.



JOSE CALLEJAS | VALLEY STAR

Valley College sociology major Cynthia Jauregui at the abortion rights rally in DTLA.



JOSE CALLEJAS | VALLEY STAR

Pro-choice pins inspired by Rosie the Riveter.