



VALLEY LIFE: CONCERT
THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONTINUES THEIR WEEKLY CONCERTS.



SPORTS: VELOZ
PITCHER DANNY VELOZ HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF THE CONFERENCE'S BEST ARMS.

SCOTUS opinion may doom Roe v. Wade

Leaked document implies nine justices already voted on historic case.

MATTHEW ROYER
NEWS EDITOR

A draft opinion leaked from within the U.S. Supreme Court may spell the overturning of Roe v. Wade, the nation's landmark ruling in defense of abortion rights and women's health.

Late Monday afternoon, the country was struck by a report published by Politico which states that the "Supreme Court has voted to overturn abortion rights." A leaked opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito presumes the court has at least a majority of justices in favor of overturning Roe v. Wade and the subsequent 1992 decision of Casey v. Planned Parenthood.

Roe v. Wade was a case decided by the nation's highest court in 1973 and defends a pregnant person's right to choose to terminate their pregnancy without government intervention. Despite many challenges, the case was assumed to be "settled law," as even said by Justice Brett Kavanaugh in his 2018 confirmation hearing.

"If this leaked draft opinion is the final decision and this reporting is accurate, it would be completely inconsistent with what Justice Gorsuch and Justice Kavanaugh said in their hearings," said Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), who voted to confirm both justices.

This movement toward striking down the precedent set by Roe and Casey was kickstarted by Republican-controlled legislatures passing anti-abortion laws in their respective states. In the case in which the Alito opinion originates, Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, Mississippi passed a bill that outright bans abortion after the first 15 weeks of a pregnancy. While lower courts ruled in favor of upholding the historical model, the state took the argument all the way to the Supreme Court, where the case is still technically pending.

On Tuesday morning, Chief Justice John Roberts confirmed the authenticity of the leak, despite the rarity of its nature.

"To the extent this betrayal of the confidences of the court was intended to undermine the integrity of our operations, it will not succeed," said Roberts



AVA ROSATE | VALLEY STAR

RALLY- Abortion rights activists marched from the Los Angeles Federal Courthouse to Pershing Square while chanting "not the court, not the state, women must decide their fate." The organization Rise Up For Abortion Rights is planning to hold more marches in the coming days around the country to protest the overturn of Roe v. Wade.

in a court press release. "The work of the court will not be affected in any way... I have directed the marshal of the court to launch an investigation into the source of the leak."

While the court's immediate focus was on the question of how the opinion ended up in the hands of the press, Democratic politicians like Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) were visibly angry by the developments and public crowds began to gather outside of the Supreme Court. According to The Washington Post, by Tuesday night thousands of Americans had gathered in Washington in support of abortion rights.

Crowds did not just contain themselves within the federal district. Almost every major city in the United States had noted demonstrations, including hundreds gathering in Downtown Los Angeles marching from the federal courthouse to Pershing Square. Police presence was active as the streets were quickly overrun with impassioned citizens demanding bodily autonomy from their government.

"Not the court, not the state,

women must decide their fate," chanted protesters as they made their way through the city."

Activists are quick to note that overturning Roe v. Wade would not restrict the practice of abortions from occurring, just the access to safe abortions in the 24 states in which anti-abortion laws are ready to take effect if finalized by the Supreme Court. Some state and city governments are seeking to strengthen their current abortion laws to become "safe havens" for individuals seeking help.

In Los Angeles, according to the Daily Breeze, the board of supervisors unanimously passed a motion to help craft legislation in Sacramento that would make abortion available to all in California, including out-of-state residents. While in the capital city, Gov. Gavin Newsom, Senate Pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) rapidly worked together to affirm abortion rights and planned efforts to "enshrine the right to choose" into the California state constitution.

"California will not stand



AVA ROSATE | VALLEY STAR

SIGN- The march in Los Angeles that brought hundreds of supporters together was prompted by the leaked Supreme Court draft which stated the possible overturn of Roe v. Wade.

idly by as women across America are stripped of their rights and the progress so many have fought for gets erased," said the governor and legislative leaders in a press release. "We know we can't trust the Supreme Court to protect reproductive rights, so California will build a firewall around this right in our state constitution. Women

will remain protected here."

The final decision from the Supreme Court on Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization is not expected for months.

With contributions from Ava Rosate, Photo Editor

Free community college advances to full vote

Another step has been taken statewide for proponents of free higher education.



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

FREE- Valley College is one of 115 campuses to offer California Promise to eligible students.

MATTHEW ROYER
NEWS EDITOR

After passing the committee stage in the California State Assembly, the extension of the Promise Program will be introduced to the full chamber for debate and vote.

Last month, legislation presented by Assemblymember Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles) and endorsed by the LACCD went up for a vote in the Assembly Higher Education Committee. AB 2266, also known as "Free Community College For All," looks to expand California College Promise to every high school graduate in the state, no matter their financial status or individual educational plan, as previously reported by The Star.

The committee passed the legislation by a vote of 9-0, with three assembly members choos-

ing to abstain from the vote.

"AB 2266 will expand the California College Promise program to provide two years of tuition-free community college to all full-time students, whether they are first-time or returning students," stated a press release distributed by the LACCD. "While Sen. Joe Manchin stalled expanding free higher education federally, California has a chance to take a step forward and lead on this issue."

Over 33 thousand community college students currently take advantage of the program in the state. Started in 2017 through Santiago's previous legislation and extended in 2019 to provide an extra year for eligible students, Promise offers counseling and career opportunities in addition to free tuition.

In Los Angeles, Promise

currently boasts a 75 percent success rate, meaning all but a quarter of students enrolled in the program graduate or transfer. Promise students are predominately people of color coming from low-income households.

"A higher education continues to be the greatest lever for economic and social mobility, especially for first-generation and lower income college attendees," said Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez in a press release. "This forward-looking bill extends the benefits from the very successful College Promise Program model to all full-time, returning students, improving access, equity and college completion."

Monarchs get phished

CASSANDRA NAVA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students of the Los Angeles Community College District were recently targeted with fraudulent emails in another attempt to obtain personal information.

Last Tuesday, students were sent an email claiming they have "exceeded their limit" in storage space, and will subsequently stop receiving incoming messages. To continue utilizing their email, students were solicited to fill out a form which required the password associated with their LACCD portal. The district responded by sending out a mass email to students a couple of hours later, stating that the request for personal information was in fact counterfeit.

"This is a reminder that an email is frequently fraudulent if it says something bad will happen if you don't go to a website right away and provide your email address and password," stated the LACCD message.

On Sunday, students were sent another phishing email offering a remote "VA position" that would pay weekly. To get more information on the "position," students were asked to text a phone number with their name and alternate email address. The district has yet to send an updated warning.

While the district has seen its fair share of false emails, the recent messages could have been mistaken as legitimate due to the return address. In order to access their college portal, LACCD students are given a unique username of their last and first name followed by a series of numbers, and a domain name of student.laccd.edu. Both individuals who sent the messages had a sender address mirroring the pattern of a student's email — and topped it off with the official LACCD banner and logo attached.

"It's not something new," said William Boyer, director of communications and external relations at LACCD. "It's not the first time. It's not going to be the last time. These types of things happen all the time and it's not unique to LACCD."

In an effort to curb cyber security risks, the California Community College system asked for \$100 million in their 2022-2023 budget request to modernize CCCApply, their online admission application. The CCC implies that strengthening their application system will deter individuals from creating false accounts. The request cited findings from Edscoop, which stated that globally, nearly half of all education institutions were targeted by individuals hoping to lure students into ransomware traps.

As online enrollment continues to rise along with additional COVID-19 relief funds in student's accounts, the college system is still in the process of protecting student's data.

Students who have received a suspicious email should notify the LACCD immediately.

Follow up-to-date campus news and events on Twitter @ValleyStarNews
These features and more can be found in full @ www.thevalleystarnews.com

See 'Free' on page 2

Sheriff's department under fire for abuse

Compliance of set rules by Villanueva and department monitors is at a low as accounts of malpractice increase, including 'head shots' and attacks on the free press, despite changes in department policy.

MATTHEW ROYER
NEWS EDITOR

In its sixth year of existence, a panel of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department monitors released its tenth report revealing a "jail culture" in county prisons in which deputies use disciplinary methods outlawed by department policy.

The panel, which was formed in 2016, monitors the Sheriff's Department's ongoing operations of the county's jail systems. While the monitors observed progress towards the beginning of the panel's formation, in its most recent report, the group stated that they were "no longer seeing progression towards professional management of force situations." Force situations refer to the use of physical altercations to manage groups of prisoners or punishment of individuals within the system.

"It has never been more clear what type of leader Alex Villanueva is... [He] has set a tone for corruption and abusive behavior."

- Lt. Sheriff Eric Strong

Monitors began to observe and scrutinize the prison system after the court settlement of Rosa v. Baca, in which the ACLU successfully challenged former County Sheriff Lee Baca's "Cruel and Unusual Punishment" to re-

form the systemic pattern of abuse he allegedly knew was plaguing prisons in the county. This included Men's Central Jail, Twin Towers and the Inmate Reception Center of Los Angeles County.

Since Alex Villanueva took over as sheriff in 2018, the panel has reported to jail management and the courts a plateau of upholding policy and possibly even a downturn in the progress to eliminate the abuse of prisoners. This stagnation includes the use of "head shots"—repeated punches to the skull—which are not being reported in accurate numbers.

The incumbent sheriff has been under fire repeatedly during his term in office and has constantly been accused of running a department that allegedly protects deputy gangs, uses excessive force, denies county COVID-19 protection measures and uses his public office to intimidate his political opponents.

"Villanueva is also a product of this deep-rooted culture," reads a statement on the ACLU website. "When placed in the context of the administrations that preceded him, Villanueva's hostility to oversight, transparency and accountability, and his disinterest in stemming deputy violence and misconduct, including deputy gangs, is no outlier. The current administration is only the most recent illustration of the ways the County's oversight structures come up seriously short and are largely powerless when a sheriff refuses to cooperate voluntarily."

On April 26, Villanueva announced he was investigating an LA Times reporter for publishing a report of a whistleblower who claims the sheriff knew of an abuse incident within the department's prisons and tried to cover it up. While the sheriff later clarified he was only investigating the terms of which the news got out and not reporter

Alene Tchekmedyian, the LA Times condemned the actions of Villanueva as an "outrageous" attempt to "criminalize reporting," according to the Independent.

LA Times executive editor Kevin Merida framed the incident as an attack on the First Amendment and called for a widespread defense of his reporter and others targeted by Villanueva. Eli Vera and sheriff's inspector Matt Huntsman were among others mentioned. The former is challenging the sheriff in June's primary election.

"This is a man whose job as head of the largest sheriff's department in the United States is supposed to be about protecting L.A. County from bad hombres," said Gustavo Arellano, LA Times columnist. "Instead, Villanueva has spent most of his time defending his department with the blus-

ter of a lesser John Wayne character and a skin thinner than tulle."

According to A Tradition of Violence, Knock LA's extensive investigation into the department's fifty year history of deputy gangs and prisons, "the County's jails are ideal breeding grounds for gangs." In some instances, deputies could prove themselves to their fellow colleagues and "earn the ink" (their tattoo) by beating inmates and filing false reports after the fact.

While progress was initially made before Villanueva, the panel has filed with the court their belief and observations that there has been an intentional lack of headway within the deputy-run systems, arguing that changes must be made in agreement with the settlement signed in 2014.

"It has never been more clear what type of leader Alex

Villanueva is," said Lt. Sheriff and candidate for Sheriff Eric Strong in a statement last month. "The sheriff sets the tone for the entire Sheriff's Department. Villanueva has set a tone for corruption and abusive behavior."

THE FACTS

LA County Sheriff is one of the elected positions up in June's primary election and November's general election. Villanueva has filed for reelection.



ABUSE- Men's Central Jail is one of three prisons where abuse of prisoners launched a department-wide investigation and sparked lawsuits.

JOSE CALLEJAS | VALLEY STAR

California's primary election is coming up on June 7

The time has come for the mass midterm election following California's new district lines.

EDWARD SEGAL
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

This year's primary election ballot in California will feature many candidates on the state and national level, ranging from the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to the state's attorney general and governor.

The deadline to complete the in-person ballots is June 7, with an extra week given to those planning to vote by mail. Voters will start receiving their ballots on May 9, with voting centers opening May 28. For those who have not yet done so, the date to register is May 23.

One area of notable change is California's district lines, with this being the first year to vote for many positions based on the restructured map. According to Cal Matters, California lost a congressional representative for the first time in American history, going down from 53

to 52, as the state's population grew slower than other states.

The elimination of a district will give some representatives a tough choice as to which district to run for and will make the results more important for Californians, who now have one less voice in the U.S. Congress and the Electoral College.

"Some candidates are going to have to make a split-second decision about which district to run in," said redistricting expert Dave Wasserman, according to the LA Times. "It could completely alter their message or platform."

In Congressional District 29, home of Valley College, five people are running for the spot in the House of Representatives, including current congressman Tony Cardenas (D). The others running are community organizer Angelica Maria Duenas (D), retired administrator Margarita Maria Caranza (R), artist Rudy Melendez (R) and actor Andy Miranda (R).

About 20 candidates are running for governor, including incumbent Gov. Gavin Newsom. Elections will also be held for the 20 even-numbered districts of the state Senate. Senators in odd-numbered districts will be up for reelection in 2024, with the system structured so half the districts are up for election every two years.

In Senate District 20, the state Senate district of Valley, four candidates are running for the open spot. Businessman Daniel Hertzberg (D), attorney and businesswoman Seydi Alejandra Morales (D), non-profit program director Caroline Menjivar (D) and real estate broker Ely de la Cruz Ayao (R) look to fill the opening, with incumbent Robert Hertzberg (D) running for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Robert has endorsed his son, Daniel, to replace him.

On the national level, Sen. Alex Padilla (D) is up for reelection. In addition, the ballot will be

dominated by candidates from all of California's districts for the House of Representatives, as they are elected every two years.

The other major part of the ballot is the election of all 80 state assembly members, of which two per district are elected to two-year terms. The assembly members are part of California's state legislature and are part of the body responsible for lawmaking.

Other notable decisions to be made by voters through the ballot include choosing one of the five candidates for Attorney General of California, one of the seven individuals running for secretary of state and one of the four candidates for treasurer.

As has been the case since 2010 in California, according to Ballotpedia, "the top two vote-getters, regardless of their partisan affiliations, advance to the general election."



AVA ROSATE | VALLEY STAR
ELECT- Gov. Gavin Newsom is up for reelection after defeating a recall effort last year. Photo from October 2021.

BRIEFS

HEERF funding for students and faculty continues at \$92 million

The LACCD still has \$92 million of Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds to allocate to students and programs of its nine campuses, including Valley College.

On April 13, the LACCD Board of Trustees met to discuss the change in policy. Board Member Andra Hoffman brought up the subject of the remaining HEERF funds. In total, the district still has \$92 million to spend – \$18 million going to students and \$73 million going to institutions. According to Trustee Hoffman, an update was made to the distribution of HEERF funding on March 11, extending the district's responsibilities in distributing the money. The district extended the administering date to one year from Sept. 30, 2021.

"We've asked for reports at every budget and finance committee meeting, as to the plans for the colleges to spend that money," said Hoffman. "I think the intent behind the committee is to make sure that a good chunk of that money goes directly to student support."

It is known that the distribution will be stretched an extra year, though the date for the extension has not yet been set.

HEERF provides funds to institutions for emergency grants given to college students affected by COVID-19. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act – the CARES Act – was signed into law two years ago. In order to receive the additional funds students need to fill out their financial aid application – FAFSA or Dream Act – for the school year.

According to Valley's website, the school has given \$1 thousand each to 6,372 students. President Barry Gribbons notes that Valley has been generous in its allocation, as the campus has spent more than the minimum required to be spent on students.

- NATALIE METCALF
STAFF WRITER

Summer Classes available for students at Valley College

Although students might be thinking about the end of the spring semester, registration has already started for the summer term.

Valley College is offering classes in two five-week sessions, the first beginning on June 13 and the second on July 18. Some classes have already filled, with some students sitting on a wait-list. In order to find open classes, Monarchs need to head to the campus website and find the 2022 summer searchable schedule link.

Students attending in-person classes must follow the Cleared4 requirements.

- VALLEY STAR CONTRIBUTORS

Free From page 1

Two other pieces of LACCD-endorsed legislation passed the committee stage, as Assemblymember Isaac Bryan's (D-Los Angeles) AB 1913 and AB 2425 were both sent through bipartisanly for a total vote. The former establishes a first-of-a-kind Associate's Degree in climate change education, while the latter will provide stipends for formerly incarcerated students who enroll in a state community college.

A date has still not been set for further debate on AB 2266. However, Santiago still has one other LACCD endorsed bill set for committee action, AB 2371, which, if passed, would extend Promise to CSU students statewide.

Promise currently serves six percent of students at Valley College; if passed by both chambers and signed by the governor, 100 percent of students would become covered by the tuition dismissal.

"I hope it passes," said Cynthia Lopez, LAVC Promise's first year experience coordinator. "Promise is designed to help [students] navigate college. This extension will ensure that current and returning students, regardless of status, will reach successful completion of their degrees and educational goals."

the
VALLEY STAR
The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

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Strength United discussed sexual assault statistics and awareness at Valley

Valley’s “Wellness Wednesday” during sexual assault awareness month was stymied by extremely low attendance.

NATALIE METCALF
STAFF WRITER

Valley College’s Student Health Education program welcomed Strength United – a non-profit organization at California State University Northridge – on Wednesday, discussing sexual assault awareness and providing a safe place for students on Zoom. Seven people participated in the workshop, including Student Health Education Coordinator Evelyn Picardo and Associated Student Union Secretary Ani Hakobyan. Valley’s Student Health Center therapist Allison Lopez was scheduled to speak at the workshop and answer questions, but was not in attendance. Andrea Ortiz and Lynn Reed, trainee counselors at Strength United presented at the workshop, making it a point to not say “victim,” when referring to someone who has been sexually assaulted, instead using “survivor” to describe them. “Sexual assault is more of an

umbrella term that talks about any physical or non-physical act that is uninvited, unwelcomed, or unsolicited toward you or toward someone else from another person,” explained Ortiz. Ortiz took the floor, and reviewed sexual harassment statistics throughout the workshop. According to California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, online sexual harassment can occur in intimate relationships. Studies with college students show this often occurs in relationships where the perpetrator is violent or sexually aggressive toward the survivor. According to the Power Point presentation, as of 2019 40 percent of women and 21 percent of men in the United States experience online sexual harassment. Justice Department records indicate 70 percent of stalking victims are women, with 80 percent of the perpetrators being male. “We want to give you all a general idea of what trauma is, the difference between harassment and sexual assault, what consent is – what it looks like and what



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION | NATALIE METCALF

UNITED - April was sexual assault awareness month. Students can contact Valley’s Student Health Center to gain access to health services and counseling. it does not look like,” said Ortiz. Reed and Ortiz discussed rape, with a trigger warning put into place for attendees. According to Strength United’s presentation, out of every 100 rapes, only 46 are reported to police. Only three rapists will spend time in prison, while the 97 other perpetrators may end up walking away without any charges. About three percent of American men experienced an attempted rape or com-

to be victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault. The trainees then explained that when helping a survivor, it is important to listen and to be respectful. **“Sexual assault is a crime of violence. So sexual assault equals violence, regardless if physical violence was used.”** - Andrea Ortiz, Strength United trainee counselor

Picardo discussed Valley’s Student Health Center resources, including a number students can call for behavioral health services and counseling. The number given at the end of the presentation was (818) 763 - 8836. “Sexual assault is a crime of violence,” said Ortiz. “So sexual assault equals violence, regard-

Two piano-vocal duos took the stage in Valley College’s free concert

An exercise in active listening followed an operatic performance of a series of German poems, both of which featured one pianist and one vocalist.

ISAAC DEKTOR
MANAGING EDITOR

While most of the 22 audience members at Valley College’s free show last week did not speak German, there was no loss in translation thanks to an emotive performance from Mezzo-soprano Diana Tash and pianist Wendy Prober. The duo performed all eight poems from “Woman’s Love and Life” by Adelbert von Chamisso as arranged by composer Robert Schumann. Schumann’s music and Chamisso’s lyrics take listeners on a rollercoaster of love and loss. Tash, an accomplished vocalist and operatic performer, carried the audience over the language barrier with her evocative vocal tonations. With both performers well-rehearsed and coordinated down to their outfits – black adorned with red roses – the showcase never lost its momentum. “It’s the arc of a woman’s

life,” said Prober after the show. “Diana and I were saying you can’t sing these when you’re 20.” The lyrics feature a first-person narration about the joy of love and despair of heartbreak. **To the inexpert, watching an opera singer is like seeing a fish walk out onto dry land — the sustained pitch-perfect sounds they make on a single breath seem impossible.** “In this style of vocal literature, it’s really two separate voices coming together,” said Tash. The singer is referring to the characteristic of Prober’s piano playing throughout the show, sometimes slipping away from accompaniment into a leading role. The eighth and final

song of the series ended with a piano solo that leaned into dissonance before resolving. The showcase exposed the musical genre to students who may not be familiar with opera. To the inexpert, watching an opera singer is like seeing a fish walk out onto dry land — the sustained pitch-perfect sounds they make on a single breath seem impossible. The second duo played three arrangements of the same number, “At the River.” Christian Nova, a veteran of Broadway and department chair to Valley’s music department, sang baritone while Frank Garvey, pianist from Ireland who is an active recording musician while serving as a faculty member for Valley, accompanied on the keys. Each version of the song carried a different tone, the first being light and playful, the second heavier and more dramatic. The third version featured a jazzy accompaniment from Garvey on the piano. Using a tablet

instead of sheet music, Garvey’s piano shone through during the third rendition with complex chords and adorning trills. “Listen to the differences in the way I’m singing and also listen for differences in Dr. Garvey’s accompaniment,” Nova told students before the performance began. While the second performance had an emphasis on education and was catered more towards music students, its short duration and talented performers made it enjoyable even for the layperson. Valley’s free concert series is an asset to music lovers and students alike as seasoned performers stop by week after week. Students have three free concerts left to take advantage of this spring semester. The next event will be a House of Blues/Music Forward Industry — Resume Workshop on May 11, before students take the stage for the last two performances on May 18 and 25.



VALLEY STAR | JOSE CALLEJAS



RECITAL (ABOVE) - Pianist Wendy Prober and Mezzo-soprano Diana Tash perform “Woman’s Love and Life” at LAVC’s music recital hall. ACCOMPANIMENT (LEFT) - Pianist and music professor Frank Garvey plays piano for Christian Nova’s various renditions of “Shall We Gather At The River.”

“Minx” cleverly and comically defines feminism in the 1970s

HBOMax’s new comedy series “Minx” draws in audiences with porn, feminism, gangsters and retro music.

NATALIE METCALF
STAFF WRITER

Set in 1971, “Minx” comments on feminists issues such as societal roles and double standards, while also containing comedic elements such as the creation of the first male centerfold. **Lovibond plays the main character powerfully, as her acting matches the tonal shifts in the show. The show carries both comedic and dramatic elements, informing viewers about sexist double standards in porn consumption.**

“Minx” follows Joyce Prigger (Ophelia Lovibond), a journalist and feminist with dreams of creating a political women’s magazine – “The Matriarchy Awakens.” But to Prigger’s dismay, the only one taking her idea seriously is



PHOTO COURTESY OF HBO MAX

EROTIC - Jake Johnson (left) and Ophelia Lovibond (right) star in HBOMax’s original single camera sitcom. porn publisher Doug Renetti (Jake Johnson). Renetti wants to “hide the medicine” of feminism by adding a nude male centerfold to the magazine. “I’ve always found that the best truths are naked ones,” says Joyce after she publishes her first issue of “Minx.” According to Doug and Joyce’s deal, they set out to publish three issues of the nude male magazine. Joyce is a little skeptical and judgemental of Doug’s line of business at first, but along the bumpy road, she learns that she can change her own mind and others with the women’s erotic magazine. Lovibond plays the main character powerfully, as her acting matches the tonal shifts in the show. The show carries both comedic and dramatic elements, informing viewers about sexist double standards in porn consumption. Joyce is stubborn and one of her flaws is her obstinance, often complaining when things do not go her way. The amount of times she decides to back out of the deal can become a little daunting to viewers. Known for his role of Nick Miller in the Fox sitcom “New Girl” (2011-2018), it is no surprise that Johnson’s acting is humorous in his latest endeavor. While his character might want to steal the spotlight, Johnson does not. The ensemble in “Minx” was flawlessly cast and the actors’ chemistry is a wonder to watch. Johnson and Idara Victor – who plays Doug’s secretary

Tina – have winning chemistry throughout the series, convincing audiences to root for them. Episode five – “Relying on the ways of a wayward snake” – is the most comedic of the season. If Joyce and Doug attempt to sell their magazine, they must be on the mafia’s good side, as the Valley’s organized crime provides the trucks to ship the magazine. In the episode, both the writing and the cast are familiar to audiences now knowing the rhythm of the show. Ellen Rapoport is the head writer and producer on the show. Rapoport’s writing is impeccable, as she combines accurate sitcom comedic structure with comments on double standards and inequality in America. “Minx” is a single-camera comedy, which is shot with one camera, unlike a multicamera comedy which is shot on a sound stage with a live audience. The show being filmed in this format works well with the production design. During the series, audiences see parts of New York City and the Valley in the 1970s. Vintage cars, accurate decade home decor and newsroom offices stand out, making the show look classy and timeless. The costumes in the series stand out more than any-

thing. The retro and vintage aesthetic adds a realistic ‘70s vibe to the show. Beth Morgan designed the costumes for the series, from pantsuits to bell bottom jeans, putting Doug and Joyce in an authentic recreation of the Valley in the 1970s. The soundtrack is notably good as well, as each song pumps up the audience and makes them want to watch more. “Venus” by Shocking Blue ends the first episode and emphasizes the theme of empowerment in the series. As of right now, the comedy series has not been picked up for a second season. By the end of the first season, every plot line is wrapped up amusingly yet bittersweet. Viewers of “Minx” will be left wanting more, even as the first season comes to an end. The first episode of the series premiered March 17 on HBOMax, and all 10 episodes are available to stream.

VALLEY’S STARS

★★★★

Worth the watch Available to stream on HBO Max

Turkey must acknowledge Armenian Genocide

There is no place in NATO for a country that will not admit to its past atrocities; Turkey must repent.

EDWARD SEGAL
Valley Life Editor

Germany has recognized the Holocaust and has gone so far as to require it as part of students’ secondary education. Turkey must recognize the atrocities of its past in the killing of over a million Armenians or be kicked out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

If the U.S. allows Turkey to stay in the alliance, it will set the precedent that mass executions in smaller countries are not important enough to warrant punishment to the nation that started them.

The Ottoman Empire began to collapse in the late 19th century. A new regime called the Young Turks seized power and in 1915, forced several hundred thousand Armenians on “death marches” through the Mesopotamian desert without food or water. “Killing squads” working for the new regime



FILE PHOTO BY GENE WICKHAM | VALLEY STAR
Armenia - Hundreds of Armenia supporters fill Wilshire Blvd. in late 2020 following the Nagorno-Karabakh war.

marched through cities and villages and “drowned people in rivers, threw them off cliffs, crucified them and burned them alive,” all to eradicate a group for holding different religious beliefs than them, according to History.com. But Turkey refuses to recognize these atrocities.

The Armenian Genocide does not receive nearly as much attention as it should, with the World War I chapter of history textbooks typically focused on Western European involvement in the war. Similarly, the United States has only recently moved to acknowledge the massacre, previously trying to avoid

going against their NATO allies.

Government officials in Turkey deny the Genocide ever happened, arguing that there was no formal campaign to exterminate Armenians and the deaths should be attributed to World War I. But in an organization like NATO, an alliance that prides itself on defending democracy and liberalism, allowing one of its members to not recognize the Genocide goes against everything it stands for.

The genocide is a crucial aspect of modern history that reflects what can happen when disagreements over a group’s belief system

are taken to the extreme.

For a long time, the United States government avoided the topic of the Armenian Genocide, trying not to aggravate Turkey, one of their NATO allies. But in 2019, both the Senate and House of Representatives voted almost unanimously to recognize the massacre of the early 20th century.

President Joe Biden officially recognized the Genocide in April 2021, emphasizing the importance of learning from horrors such as these, especially in the hate-filled world Americans currently live in. The 46th president took things one step fur-

ther when he announced that April 24 would be Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, finally cementing it in stone.

Despite all this progress towards the recognition of the mass-annihilation of the Armenian race by the Young Turks, the transcontinental country continues to deny an event that saw over a million lives lost, but is still allowed to be part of the biggest alliance in the world.

Armenia has continued to face hardship, most recently going to war against Azerbaijan, which was supported by Turkey. If Turkey continues to downplay the events of the early 20th century, the U.S. should not allow its NATO ally to stay in the alliance. If the U.S. allows Turkey to stay in the alliance, it will set the precedent that mass executions in smaller countries are not important enough to warrant punishment to the nation that started them.

With over 100 years having passed since the events of World War I, hardly any survivors of the Armenian Genocide are left to recall their memories. It is a disservice to them and to the millions who were executed that Turkey continues to be a part of the alliance, and it is high time that they either acknowledge their atrocities of the past or are removed from NATO.

Save the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant

Overblown fears from a few disasters incentivized companies to divest themselves of nuclear assets.

ISAAC DEKTOR
Managing Editor

Nuclear energy has killed fewer people than fossil fuels and leaves a smaller footprint on the environment than renewables, all while having the potential to produce limitless clean energy with minimal waste. Nuclear energy is the way to a greener future.

Ten percent of California’s energy comes from the last remaining nuclear power plant in the state, located on the central coast in San Luis Obispo county. In less than three years, Diablo Canyon will close and fossil fuel will likely take its place.

As 2025 approaches, California moves closer to phasing out nuclear energy completely. Major power plants closed in Humboldt Bay in 1976, Rancho Seco in 1989 and San Onofre in 2013. The idea to close the state’s nuclear facilities was sold using an age-old fear of nuclear catastrophe, but the real reason for divestment was an economic one: PG&E, the company that owns and operates Diablo Canyon, decided not to upgrade the water filtration system and to instead decommission the power plant. California will inevitably compensate for the loss of nuclear energy with fossil fuel, moving the goalposts for the state’s decarbonization goals.

All energy technologies have downsides when they are deployed at a large scale. Coal and fossil fuels emit the most carbon by far, causing pollution that kills 7 million people each year, according to the World Health Organization. The fight against climate change is synonymous with the fight against carbon



PHOTO BY JIM ZIMMERLIN, SPECIAL TO THE STAR
GOATS - Goats graze at dawn outside of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in San Luis Obispo.

emissions, yet California deftly dismantles a clean and scalable alternative to natural gas.

Those in favor of decommissioning the duplicitously named nuclear facility hope that renewables like solar and wind energy will pick up the slack left behind once nuclear and fossil fuels are phased out, but those alternatives have a capacity problem. On a windless night, both solar panels and wind turbines are unable to produce energy, so power must be stored. Because

battery capacity is such a monumental challenge — just ask anyone who has tried to drive a Tesla from Los Angeles to San Francisco — solar and wind require a lot of batteries that must be stored and disposed of.

Critics of Diablo Canyon hang their hats on a catastrophic outcome resulting from the 2011 earthquake and subsequent tsunami that knocked out nuclear reactors in Japan. Diablo Canyon is built near fault lines and is subject to seismic activity,

so some may argue that what happened in Fukushima could happen in San Luis Obispo. However, the nuclear reactors in Fukushima actually survived the initial earthquake and did not melt down until the ensuing tsunami flooded the facility, according to a report by the Congressional Research Service. The event is cited as the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl, but over ten years later, there have not been any signs of severe radiation expo-

sure in the local population.

There is a major blindspot in the green energy movement: the downsides of alternative sources of energy. Imagine a world filled with wind turbines, solar farms and hydroelectric dams. These terraformed sources of energy take away from natural ecosystems. California continues to bulldoze its deserts in order to make space for alternatives.

Renewables have been effective for diluting the amount of carbon people burn, but something else is needed to replace fossil fuels — something that can produce clean energy all of the time so that it can reliably back the grid. That something is obvious, but California decided to phase it out by 2025.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has an opportunity to save Diablo Canyon using federal funds, but the deadline to apply is May 19. California must act quickly in order to salvage its cleanest and most reliable source of energy.

EDITORS’ NOTE

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

VALLEY VIEW | DO YOU THINK ROE V. WADE SHOULD BE OVERTURNED?

TEXT BY ALUA KARATAY AND NATALIE METCALF
PHOTOS BY ADRIAN RAMIREZ AND ISAIAH ZARCO



“I believe that women have the right to choose, in terms of choosing whether an abortion is the right choice for her.”

- WILLIE FORTES,
RETURNING STUDENT GED



“I’m pro-choice. You never know what girls are going through. Let’s say they are raped. Do you think they want to keep that baby? That’s torture to the girl. I think it’s their choice. It’s their decision.”

- SARAH BURGOS,
SECOND-YEAR NURSING MAJOR



“My opinion is that no government should be able to tell anyone what to do with their body, whether it is a vaccine or drugs.”

- GEORGE FLORES,
SECOND-YEAR COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR



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GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

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

Valley College baseball advances to the First Round after comeback win against Southwestern

Freshman center fielder/starting pitcher Jackson Lapiner threw 3.0 scoreless innings and hit a three-run home run in Tuesday’s contest to help lead the Monarchs to a 4-3 victory.



GRAPHIC BY | MATTHEW ROYER
VICTORIOUS- Valley College coach Dave Mallas and the No. 18 seeded Monarchs advanced to face No. 1 Saddleback College Friday and Saturday in the First Round of the CCCAA Southern California Regional.

BENJAMIN ROYER
SPORTS EDITOR

Down 2-0 through five innings, Valley College baseball’s season was down to its final 12 outs. But resiliency struck on Tuesday afternoon and the Monarchs triumphed. Scoring three runs off a home run from freshman center fielder/pitcher Jackson Lapiner and an additional run off an RBI single from freshman shortstop Maddox Latta, No. 18 Valley (27-14) rallied to defeat No. 15 Southwestern College (24-17) by a score of 4-3. Valley has now advanced to take on top-seeded Saddleback College in a best-of-three series in the First Round of the CCCAA Southern California Regional. “There was a lot of energy, it was a long bus ride down,” said Mallas. “We got there with plenty of time to relax and stretch out. Just in batting practice, you could see that some of the guys had nerves kicking in...It was back and forth, but it was great to see after going down 2-0, on the road and in a playoff environment — to see the mental toughness to come back and take the lead.”

Lapiner, who provided the clutch hit the Monarchs needed to advance, also started the contest on the mound, twirling 3.0 scoreless innings while striking out five Jaguars’ batters. As one of the backbones of the team, Lapiner’s presence on the field was something that Mallas and the coaching staff missed last week. Before their final regular season series against West LA College, the left-handed slugger tested positive for COVID-19. Valley’s home run leader missed all three games against West LA but received the go-ahead to return for Monday’s practice and travel to face Southwestern. “It was a weird game,” said Lapiner. “It was pretty slow at first. I started the game and really didn’t have my best stuff. Still felt a little dizzy from COVID-19. I worked my butt off to get through those three innings and put up a zero for my team. Then, Maddox [Latta] gets on base, we bunt him over. I chased a change-up in the dirt and ended up putting a barrel on it and put us up by one. Pretty surreal moment.” The Monarchs and Jaguars both failed to generate offense through the first

4 1/2 innings and when a team finally jumped onto the board, it was not the underdogs wearing green and gold. Southwestern battled against freshman left-hander Josh Eigenbrodt in the bottom of the fifth and flexed their offense as they scored two runs. With two outs and two runners on base, Eigenbrodt hit Jaguars’ third baseman Isaac Almandarez with a pitch. Moments later, the Monarchs’ reliever paid for his mistake. Southwestern infielders Justin Brown and Eddie King hit back-to-back RBI singles to push the hosts ahead 2-0 and pushed the Monarchs closer to elimination. Valley needed to find an answer or else its historic 2022 campaign would come to an abrupt end. Lapiner stepped up to the plate and shifted the tone of the contest. Jaguars’ starting pitcher Andy Canedo left a pitch sinking towards the bottom of the zone and Valley’s 6-foot-1-inch utility capitalized. With a smooth swing, the ball went soaring over the right field wall — sending the Monarchs dugout into hysterics as they claimed a 3-2 lead. Latta added on in the seventh and gave Valley an extra



JOSE CALLEJAS | VALLEY STAR
SLUGGER- Freshman utility Jackson Lapiner poses before practice Monday afternoon.

run heading into the end of the affair. The Western State Conference Player of the Year hit an RBI single, scoring freshman second baseman Manolo Tafolla — who reached on a single — from second. From the sixth to the eighth, freshman right-hander Xavier Dubon did not allow a run, striking out three batters to keep Valley ahead. After Dubon hit a batter to begin the ninth, Mallas chose to switch things up, turning to freshman starting pitcher Danny Veloz out of the bullpen. The righty, who pitched 7.0 scoreless innings against West LA on Friday, closed the contest — securing the Monarchs’ victory. Veloz allowed the Jaguars’ runner who reached during Dubon’s stint to cross home, but stranded the game-tying run at third to end the game. Valley’s 4-3 victory sets up a matchup with Saddleback College on Friday. Despite losing only eight games all season, one of the Bobcats’ defeats were to Southwestern — a team the Monarchs have now taken down. “They’re just another team,” said Lapiner about Friday’s matchup against Saddleback.

Danny Veloz’s season-long journey reaches its peak

Valley’s right-hander has emerged as one of the Western State Conference’s best.

BENJAMIN ROYER
SPORTS EDITOR

Valley College’s coaching staff was not surprised about freshman right-hander Danny Veloz’s performance during their contest on April 23. In fact, coach Dave Mallas expects strong outings each time his surging starter takes the field. “He’s a true competitor,” said Mallas. “We brought him along slowly. He continued to progress and get better every single week. He’s as good as anyone in the state and he proved it Saturday.” After dropping the first two games of the penultimate regular season series against No. 3 ranked Glendale City College, Valley turned to its trusty, new-found starting pitcher to try and pick up a weekend salvaging win. Veloz bulldozed through the Vaqueros’ prolific bats, featuring hitters Joey Craig, Hans Seo and Brandon Nguyen — all of whom held batting averages above .350 and ranked in the top 11 for the Western State Conference South prior to the game. Striking out eight batters through 6.2 innings — the most of any Valley pitcher in a game in 2022 — Veloz did not allow a run until the seventh inning and only allowed five hits during the entirety of his outing. “Being the third starter, I get to see the lineup a little bit in the first two games, so that of course helps,” said Veloz. “I did my best to study Glendale as best as I could. I’m confident in my offspeed [pitches], so I knew if I just landed that for strikes with my fastball it would be just enough. The six scoreless [innings] — man — the energy was there. I fed off of that and it felt amazing.”

Despite allowing three runs, the Monarchs’ starter’s 6.2-inning stint allowed Valley to stay in the game, but they ultimately fell to Glendale — who extended their winning streak to an unprecedented 21 games — by a score of 6-3. The Monarch featured out of the bullpen through the first half of the campaign. He made his first seven appearances late in the game and earned three saves in the process — providing his team a route to victory. But after arm injuries to freshman starting pitchers Josh Kim and Steven Miller derailed the Monarchs’ rotation, Veloz jumped into the mix and became Valley’s most durable option going forward. Since joining the starting

pitching staff alongside freshman pitcher/outfielder Jackson Lapiner and the Monarchs’ only season-long starter in the University of Houston commit, freshman Kyle Ayers, Veloz has started six games — four of which Valley has won. In 15 games across the 2022 season, the 5-foot-11-inch right-hander has battled Southern California’s junior college slate for a 2.59 earned-run average, 53 strikeouts, 18 walks and a team-high five wins. Veloz throws a fastball that touches 90 miles-per-hour, a developing change-up and a wipeout slider that caused numerous swings and misses against Glendale — so many, that during Saturday’s affair, Vaqueros’ coaches asked the umpires to check for pine tar or spider tack on Veloz’s glove. Both substances are used by pitchers across all levels to increase the spin rate on pitches, making the movement increase and become harder to hit. Major League Baseball has cracked down on the usage of “sticky stuff” — issuing suspensions for pitchers caught using either adhesive. However, Veloz was using neither — a testament to his own command — as Glendale looked for reasons why he was so effective. Dynamic pitches and statistics are just a few reasons why San Diego State and Long Beach State recruited Veloz out of high school. He attended the latter in 2020, but never appeared in a contest for the Dirtbags. After the COVID-19 pandemic shortened his freshman campaign, the talented starter left the confines of historic Blair Field and returned to the San Fernando Valley, joining the crew guided by pitching coach Josh Goossen-Brown. “Danny has been great for us all year,” said Goossen-Brown. “He started out of the bullpen and was always a guy we could count on in any situation. I knew going into Saturday’s game that he was going to give us a great performance. He’s a really tough kid... I’m proud of him.”

Cal State Northridge and numerous Division II programs have reached out to the Pacoima native about transferring for the 2023 season, but before questions about Veloz’s future are answered, the 21-year-old pitched once more — earning the Monarchs a place in the postseason and extending his season in green and gold.

Valley diver Anahit Cholakyan qualifies for state championship

Beating Riverside City’s Lorelai Carney, Cholakyan will head to East LA for the state championship.

EDWARD SEGAL
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Edging out Riverside City College’s diver by 0.65 points, Anahit Cholakyan came through as Valley College’s sole survivor for the state championships. Finishing first on both the 1-meter and 3-meter boards for the conference championship from April 21-23, Cholakyan demonstrated her skills above the swimming pool and was rewarded with a trip to the state championship. “I honestly went into it thinking I was going to place second,” said the first-year accounting major. “So I was pretty shocked and excited. I felt accomplished and I hadn’t felt that way in a long time.” Cholakyan finished first on the 1-meter board and second on the 3-meter board for the Southern California competition, but earned first on both for the conference championship. She could not overtake Riverside City College diver Lorelai Carney until the last dive, coming through at the last second with a one-and-a-half somersault with a half twister to beat out Carney’s back one-and-a-half and claim the victory. “Anahit’s twisters are definitely her specialty, but she’s good at all of them,” said coach Nicole Hall. An accounting major with many years of experience in both diving and gymnastics, Cholakyan brings her multitude of skills to the board when diving, which helped her come away with a victory and state



FILE PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER PEREZ | VALLEY STAR
TECHNIQUE- Anahit Cholakyan attempts a dive at the Valley College Swim and Aquatics Center on Sept. 22, 2021. Cholakyan has advanced to compete at the state championships on Thursday and Friday.

“I honestly went into it thinking I was going to place second. So I was pretty shocked and excited. I felt accomplished and I hadn’t felt that way in a long time.”
- Valley diver Anahit Cholakyan

championship qualification. “I did diving for four years before college for a club team and I did gymnastics for 11 years before that,” said

Cholakyan. “The only difference was you don’t land on your feet. You land on your hands.” Mainly coming to Valley to pursue her degree in accounting, Cholakyan decided to join the diving team to reinvigorate her love for the sport and bring her the joy she had when she had practiced before. “I joined diving because I missed the sport and thought it would be fun,” said Cholakyan. “I think it’s a great accomplishment and a fun experience.” From both the one-meter boards and the three-meter boards, competitors must do six dives from five categories, doubling up on one of the categories of their choosing. Within each category, variation in style is allowed. The categories are

forward, backwards, inward, reverse and twister and then they get to double up in one category, so that makes a total of six. Cholakyan doubled up on the twister, sticking to her strength, which ultimately paid off when she overlapped Carney. “Basically, my dives weren’t as hard as hers,” said Cholakyan. “She was doing harder dives, but her form wasn’t as good.” Preparing for the state championship Thursday and Friday at East Los Angeles College, Cholakyan will couple the skills she gained from her lifelong practice of diving and gymnastics with the strategies that paid off for her this time around. “I will just stay calm and take it one dive at a time,” said Cholakyan.



GRIFFIN O’ROURKE | VALLEY STAR
COMPOSURE- Freshman right-hander Danny Veloz gets ready to pitch against Bakersfield College on March 26.



GRIFFIN O’ROURKE | VALLEY STAR
WIND-UP- Freshman righty Danny Veloz throws a pitch against Bakersfield College on March 26.



JOSE CALLEJAS | VALLEY STAR
PROFILE- Freshman pitcher Danny Veloz poses for a photo before practice on Monday.

(L-R) Salina Lorenzo and Johana Gonzalez hold signs advocating action against sexual assault and violence.



Griffin O'Rourke | The Valley Star



Isaiah Zarco | The Valley Star

Denim Day is a national event on the last week of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The No is No T-shirt is a reference to the Yes means Yes consent law in California.



Griffin O'Rourke | The Valley Star

Michelle Morales takes the podium with her son Karcyn looking on, to talk about her experiences with sexual assault at a young age at the Wednesday, April 27 Denim Day Rally held by the Peace Over Violence organization outside the Los Angeles Police Department Headquarters. Morales re-opened the case when she was 25 years old and got her abuser arrested and sentenced to 180 years in prison. Morales is working to become a nurse, helping those who went through the same struggles as her.

No Means No

23rd Annual Denim Day Rally

CASSANDRA NAVA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A sea of denim coated the steps of the Robert F. Deaton Civic Auditorium in downtown Los Angeles on National Denim Day in an event hosted by a nonprofit organization called Peace Over Violence.

Police officers occupied City Hall's South Lawn — where the rally was originally meant to take place — due to a man wielding a knife on the governmental property. The event found a new home directly across City Hall, in a shaded area just outside of the Los Angeles Police Department Headquarters. On the 23rd anniversary of National Denim Day, the first in-person rally in the last two years hosted over 100 people. Patricia "Patti" Giggans established Denim Day in Los Angeles, sparked by a notorious Italian court case

in which a rapist was found not guilty after stating the victim acted out of consent in removing her jeans. To stand with victims of rape and garner attention to sexual abuse, victims and allies participate in the fashion statement on the last Wednesday of April — Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

"Now that we're coming out of the pandemic, we realize that sexual violence is an epidemic," said Giggans, donned in a sweater stating "Believe Survivors." "Because of the pandemic, we are learning more and more what goes on behind closed doors. That's why this is our theme this year: 'There is still no excuse and never an invitation to rape.'"

Giggans, executive director and CEO of the nonprofit, joined Peace Over Violence in 1985 and spearheaded the Denim Day movement in 1999.

For the full story, read our online edition



Isaiah Zarco | The Valley Star



Ava Rosate | The Valley Star



Ava Rosate | The Valley Star

(Left) Founder of Denim Day Patti Giggans, with former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, at the 23rd annual Denim Day outside LAPD headquarters. Villaraigosa is credited as being the first mayor to recognize Denim Day.

(Upper Left) Mike Baylees, president of Peace Over Violence, spoke about the importance of Denim Day during the organization's rally. Baylees's organization supports "the elimination of sexual and domestic violence" as per their website state-

(Above R-L) The City of Los Angeles General Counsel for Public Safety Reuben Wilson, presents Patti Giggans, founder of Denim Day, with a recognition for this year's Denim Day and a certificate celebrating 50 years since the founding of the nonprofit Peace Over Violence organization.