



VALLEY LIFE: MARVEL
“WANDAVISION” IS A TOUCHING STORY ABOUT LOVE AND LOSS.



GALLERY: FOOD DRIVE
SYLMAR NONPROFIT HELPS TO HAND OUT FOOD TO THOSE IN NEED.

Homelessness in LA projected to skyrocket

The economic recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will result in a significant increase of homeless both locally and nationally for years to come.

MARCOS FRANCO
NEWS EDITOR

Although the United States rounds the corner of the pandemic, the recession accompanied by COVID-19 is expected to significantly increase the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles over the next four years.

Of the 10.04 million residents living in Los Angeles, roughly 66,000 are homeless, according to NPR, making it the city with the second highest number of unhoused individuals in the country. Despite already being near the epicenter of the crisis, homelessness in Los Angeles is projected to rise upwards of 86 percent over the course of four years, peaking in 2023.

“One long term effect of the recession is the degradation of people’s skills during the time they cannot find employment so they have trouble becoming employed again and some never rejoin the labor force,” said Wesley Oliphant, professor of economics at Valley College. “People tend to fear any uncertainty having to do with employment which means lower earnings for them and lower growth of the economy.”

In 2020, California experienced historically high unemployment rates of 15.5 percent, compared to the previous record of 12.3 percent in 2010, the height of the Great Recession. This

peak of job destruction led to over 643,000 people without stable housing in the United States. The economic decline caused by the pandemic is projected to result in twice the amount of homelessness than the previous recession.

While California already leads the nation in homelessness with more than 150,000 unhoused individuals in the state, the long term effects of the recession is projected to increase by 49 percent, tacking on an additional 131,400 among working-age adults.

According to nonprofit research organization Economic Roundtable, economically-driven homelessness is not a result of total unemployment but instead a loss at the margin of labor. This means those affected will have less leftover profit after expenses have been paid, resulting in more individuals living paycheck to paycheck. For this reason, it is projected that 85 percent of homelessness following the pandemic will be in the form of couch-surfing or living in cars rather than living on the street.

While the financial hitch has been a widespread issue in the United States, the struggle will be emphasized for African Americans and Latinos.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Black and Hispanic groups traditionally have the highest number of people living at or below the poverty line.



HOMELESS- A person sleeping in their car on Burbank Boulevard next to Valley College. Saturday, Feb. 27, Los Angeles, Calif.

Since individuals in this demographic tend to be precariously housed as a result of low-wage earnings, they are at higher risk of long-term homelessness.

In the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), roughly 20 percent of students have faced homelessness in the past year and about two-thirds cannot afford well balanced meals, according

to the California State Assembly Democratic Caucus. While being a college student is challenging enough, not having basic needs met for food and housing makes completing educational goals that much more difficult.

“It’s shameful how many college students in California are struggling with homelessness,” said Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel in a statement published

by the Assembly Democratic Caucus. “This legislation will help keep the doors of opportunity open for our most vulnerable students by enabling them to retain their financial aid, remain enrolled, and graduate with a degree.”

Valley offers aid for students struggling with food and housing insecurities through the Helping Hands Project. This ser-

vice provides students access to resources and referrals such as grants to help them combat food and housing shortage.

Helping Hands is run by volunteers and relies on the help of community donations to continue providing services to students in need. To donate, visit the Foundation website.

LACCD moves to adopt new camera use policy

The policy was drafted partially in response to the issues that have arisen concerning students’ privacy in virtual distance learning environments.

ISAAC DEKTOR
STAFF WRITER

The District Academic Senate has passed a new camera use policy that stipulates live video may be required for synchronous classes in order to demonstrate meeting a course objective as identified in the syllabus.

The policy ensures that LACCD students will be notified about video requirements in advance so that they may choose whether to join a class that will require them to broadcast their face and environment. The policy is pending approval from the Board of Trustees. The DAS and chancellor will establish protocols for disclosing video requirements to students.

The policy mainly address-

es student privacy as opposed to academic dishonesty. Edgar Perez, chair of the Valley Curriculum Committee, explained that this policy should not be confused with proctoring guidelines, which the district will be drafting as a separate policy.

“This was never intended to prevent dishonesty,” Perez said. “This was mostly due because instructors were pushing students to open their cameras and students were in their cars or lived in a tough situation. And so it was mostly due to protect the student’s privacy, not intended to satisfy academic dishonesty.”

The policy is also intended to respect that some students do not have unlimited access to a computer or the internet. Students may also be opposed

to broadcasting their home environment to the entire class.

The president of the Valley College Academic Senate, Chauncey Maddren, said that problems have arisen regarding camera use in virtual distance learning environments.

“There are several issues surrounding the camera use, but one of them, I think the most prominent, is bandwidth,” Maddren said. “If a student of ours is at home with three or four other siblings, all of whom are going to school online and they’re all doing different Zoom sessions, it’s a heavy traffic for the internet.”

The policy does not directly state under what circumstances students will be required to turn their cameras on, giving faculty leeway and authority to decide on a class by class basis.

Additional concerns include the lack of protections of students’ personal identifiers that are displayed on Zoom. Personal identifiers such as names and images are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

The activism project manager at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Lyndsay Oliver, explained to EdSource that there are many ways for students’ privacy rights to be violated in distance learning courses that require cameras to be turned on.

“Maybe you ask a question that someone finds silly and takes a video of you and that gets posted online to social media,” Oliver said. “That’s not being hacked, but that is a way that your privacy could be invaded.”

Valley College’s surplus will help to reopen its campus

Valley’s historic transition from debt to surplus is a much needed boon as reopening physical classes becomes in reach.

ISAAC DEKTOR
STAFF WRITER

Valley College turned its \$5 million debt into a sizable surplus in seven years and will be investing some of the money in an attempt to reopen the campus safely.

According to the budget office’s financial reports, Valley was in debt to the district in 2014 and was deficit spending between \$1 and \$1.5 million every year, putting the college under accreditation review. Valley had to allocate a percentage off the top of its budget each year in order to repay increments of its debt. The district forgave Valley’s debt in 2018 on the basis that the college was able to balance its budget for three consecutive years.

“Valley College is the only college in the district with a significant positive balance.”

- Barry Gribbons

“It took a lot of work, fiscal prudence [and] not using one time money to pay for ongoing expenses,” said Mike Lee, the vice president of administrative services at Valley. “That’s really the key there: the hard work the college has done over the last seven years made us kind of the rockstar of all the nine colleges in the district.”

The current projection for the college’s ending balance for



ILLUSTRATION | VICKIE GUZMAN
FISCAL- Valley College had its debt forgiven by the district after balancing its budget for three consecutive years.

this fiscal year is roughly \$7.8 million.

“Valley College is the only college in the district with a significant positive balance,” said President Barry Gribbons.

Not only has the college eliminated its debt, but it has accumulated a surplus, part of which will be invested in conjunction with federal and state relief into campus accommodations that will allow for in-person classes to resume. Cleaning equipment and plexiglass shields are among the necessities that Valley is procuring.

Some of the surplus will also be used to create marketing strategies to drive up enrollment, which was hit hard even before the pandemic began.

“I’m working with the budget committee to invest some

of the surplus in marketing and advertising to increase our enrollment,” Lee said. “The goal is to maximize enrollment in each class.”

The budget committee is prioritizing the college’s finances in order to optimize Valley’s resources while ensuring that the college does not end up in the same situation that it was in seven years ago.

“Take your own personal finance into consideration: you always want to plan for a rainy day,” Lee said. “So that’s the thing, we need to continue to be vigilant and exercise fiscal prudence and not spend one time money for ongoing expenses, but at the same time invest it strategically and use that money to support student success.”



ILLUSTRATION | VICKIE GUZMAN
WEBCAM- A camera use policy has been passed by the District Academic Senate with the purpose of protecting student privacy.

“Eating Animals” author does not eat animals

Jonathan Safran Foer explained the harmful environmental impacts that come with of the mass consumption of meat.

CASSANDRA NAVA
ONLINE EDITOR

Critically acclaimed author Jonathan Safran Foer spoke to college students and faculty about his book “Eating Animals,” and explained how individual choices can have a significant impact on the environment.

Valley College’s One Book, One College program chose Foer’s 2009 non-fiction “Eating Animals” as the 2020-2021 book of the year. The OBOC program is intended to be applicable to all disciplines in the college while creating a campus-wide dialogue, according to the library’s website. Foer is known for writing novels such as “Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” and “Everything is Illuminated,” but focuses on nonfiction as well.

The event was hosted — and open to many schools throughout the country — by Farm Forward, a nonprofit organization aimed exclusively at ending factory farms. This is relevant to the context of Foer’s book, in which he cites fac-

tory farms as an urgent environmental issue. Foer spoke on his relationship with vegetarianism, and why he sprinkles moderate amounts of meat into his diet.

“I believe that almost all of us are in complete agreement about what matters ... We want to reduce the amount of destruction that we cause, and we want to reduce the amount of violence that we cause.”

- Jonathan Foer

“I became a vegetarian when I was nine, but then I started eating meat again because I liked the way it tasted and smelled

and because that’s what my parents ate,” said Foer. “I stopped and started again. It’s easy to make a decision, to feel persuaded by what you learn about in the world but what’s tricky is to stick with it, especially because it’s a binary; either you do everything or you do nothing.”

Foer went on to explain the divisiveness of meat eating, explaining that some vegetarians and vegans come off as aggressive, which in turn makes those who eat meat more set in their ways. According to the acclaimed author, there is no need to get angry and defensive when talking about these issues, people should exclude themselves from the conversation for the bigger issue at hand: the environment.

“I believe that almost all of us are in almost complete agreement about what matters ... We want to reduce the amount of destruction that we cause, and we want to reduce the amount of violence that we cause,” said Foer. “I don’t think those are controversial values.”

According to PBS, the rise of industrial, inhumane factory

farms are doing more harm than good, and the ease of having a copious amount of meat is in turn harming the environment.

“Livestock farms generate about 70 percent of the nation’s ammonia emissions, plus gases that cause global warming, particularly methane,” stated the PBS article.

Foer believes the identification of being a vegetarian or vegan is what stops people into trying to convert to a more plant-based diet. He believes that an impact can be made through small choices such as not eating meat for a day, or choosing a vegetarian plate at a restaurant instead of one that is almost all animal products. The acclaimed author focused his lecture on the power of small choices, and how once multiplied by many, they will become impactful.

In hopes to inspire others to not be afraid of fitting into the label of vegetarian, Foer stated, “We are far too used to measuring our distances from perfection, which we will never achieve anyway, rather than measuring our distances from doing nothing at all.”



ILLUSTRATION | VICKIE GUZMAN

ANIMALS- Jonathan Safran Foer, author of “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” and “Eating Animals” spoke to students.

Tax professionals offer solace for students surprised by their taxes this year

Valley College is offering help to students confused about their taxes due to changing tax laws and pandemic assistance offered this year.



ILLUSTRATION | AREVIK SAROYA N

TAXES- Valley’s Income Tax Preparation Class aims to help students decode their tax forms and pandemic specific rules.

JACK KELLY
STAFF WRITER

Students at Valley College may see shocking numbers when they file their taxes this year, but there are resources available to potentially ease the pain.

One resource is H. Steven Gordon’s Income Tax Preparation class, which covers Federal and California Income Tax laws for individuals and sole proprietorships. The course was designed for students with little to no experience in taxes, and it focuses on the form most will fill out.

“It is my goal that when the course is completed,” Gordon said, “the students will be able to prepare a simple Form 1040 along with the related Forms and Schedules.”

As the April 15 deadline approaches, most Valley students will need to utilize other ways of filing their taxes. The IRS offers user-friendly websites where U.S. citizens can file for free like Tax-Slayer, TaxAct and OLT, yet many taxpayers still find themselves overwhelmed, confused or downright frustrated by the process.

Jeffrey Thompson, an IRS-enrolled tax preparer, assures those feelings are common, and he un-

derstands. Though he has prepared taxes for six years, he takes 24 hours of required continuing education every year to learn about new tax changes. Sometimes he opts to take up to 30 hours to keep his skills “sharp.”

“If that’s what I need to do,” said Thompson, “then how are normal people expected to know everything about taxes?”

“Taxes aren’t a thing we talk about a lot, and to many people, what I do seems like magic.”

- Jeffrey Thompson

According to Thompson, one area this year “normal people” should understand revolves around unemployment. California is one of 15 states that does not tax unemployment insurance but offers residents the option of withholding federal taxes, allowing those receiving benefits to pay throughout the year. In 2020, however, the state only took taxes from the base unemployment amount and not the \$300

or \$600 weekly pandemic assistance, which was also taxable.

“Imagine you had \$18,000 in unemployment that wasn’t taxed. If you’re in the lowest tax bracket, you will owe \$1,800 on that income,” explained Thompson. “A lot of people might have heart attacks when they see that.”

Unemployed Californians receiving supplemental benefits in 2021 can file a voluntary withholding request with the Employment Development Department to avoid similar surprises next tax season.

Those who were employed in 2020 could also see changes in their taxes due to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) signed into law by former President Donald J. Trump in 2017. Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics, said in a New York Times opinion piece “[the TCJA] is a delayed tax increase dressed up as a tax cut” because, for those earning under \$75,000, taxes will gradually rise from 2021 until 2027.

This year alone, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that individuals who earn between \$20,000 and \$30,000 will owe on average an additional \$365. One major reason cited by the independent tax policy nonprofit Tax Foundation is that the TCJA reduced the Affordable

Care Act’s individual mandate to \$0, effectively removing a tax credit that predominantly benefited low-income individuals.

Valley students have a few options in alleviating a potentially high tax payment. Students who paid tuition last year should receive Form 1098-T, which can make them, or their parents, eligible for an education deduction. Those who paid student loan interest may be eligible for an additional deduction, though that amount may be lower than in previous years according to Consumer Affairs.

Some colleges offer help to their students through IRS programs like Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). Valley does not have such a program, so Gordon recommends that students with additional questions consult a professional tax advisor.

Students may feel stressed as the filing deadline draws nearer, but Thompson reminds them to go easy on themselves for not knowing everything about taxes.

“Taxes aren’t a thing we talk about a lot, and to many people, what I do seems like magic,” Thompson said. “Which is frustrating because I actually do magic, and they are less impressed by that.”

“WandaVision” Review: An allegory for the sitcom housewife

Marvel’s first TV show set within its expansive universe beautifully deconstructs the medium’s funniest tropes into a tragedy.

JACK KELLY
STAFF WRITER

Laugh tracks are not powerful enough to hide Wanda’s grief.

“WandaVision” follows superhero Wanda Maximoff (Elizabeth Olsen) and superhero-synthezoid Vision (Paul Bettany) as they navigate family, neighbors and superpowers in the sleepy New Jersey town of Westview. Their life together seems picture-perfect — cleverly illustrated through famous sitcom canon — until strange happenings disturb their idyllic suburban life. The mysterious figures, strange voices and foreign objects frighten the citizens of Westview, who trace it all back to one person: Wanda.

The newest entry in the Marvel Cinematic Universe bounces delightfully through the history of television sitcoms, deftly switching eras with each episode under the remarkable directing of Matt Shakman. Reprising their MCU roles, Olsen and Bettany slip easily between styles, embracing their characters’ love as the show’s unbreakable sinew.

Olsen’s Wanda shines with beautiful depth compared to her previous MCU films where her story is barely explored. Fans may be surprised to see Bettany again considering his last appear-

ance in the Universe, yet he and Olsen act as if nothing changed, bringing new dimensions to their relationship. It is obvious why the internet is obsessed with Kathryn Hahn as Agnes. She steals every scene she is in, fully embodying the nosy neighbor trope through the show’s best one-liners. (“Forgive me for not stopping by sooner to welcome you to the block. My mother-in-law was in town, so I wasn’t.”)

“WandaVision” blends familiar television tropes into an achingly stunning story about love and loss and what one woman will go through to alleviate her pain.

Every decade “WandaVision” presents an astounding amount of detail, from costume and set design to special effects. In the pilot, set in the 1950s, Wanda’s pots and pans zip through the air on strings as she makes din-

ner, an homage to “Bewitched” and “I Dream of Jeannie.”

The show, however, is more than a tribute to TV history, for it carefully restructures the sitcom housewife trope into one of hidden agony.

Wanda revels in her wifely duties, doting on Vision and their children with great aplomb, but when the sitcom script fractures, her mask drops, revealing her all-consuming pain. Wanda is arguably one of the most powerful characters in the Marvel universe, so her grief is palpable and destructive. Each time her facade falls, her problems become more challenging to hide behind a housewife’s artificial smile, and her world ruptures and cracks — literally.

Marvel fans know the source of her pain. Before “WandaVision” was “Avengers: Infinity War,” when the evil Thanos killed Vision, and “Endgame” when Wanda mourns for him. “WandaVision,” to its benefit, does not immediately explain why Vision is alive. It allows the mystery of the world to unfurl at a rapid pace, including Vision’s own discovery surrounding his existence.

Viewers with little to no knowledge of the MCU should not feel pressured to catch up with canon. “WandaVision” provides the background information necessary to its story, and



PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY

MARVEL- Elizabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany star in the Disney+ exclusive “WandaVision.”

Disney+ offers “Marvel Studios: Legends” for those who want a crash course on the characters’ backstories. Diehard Marvel fans can look forward to new lore and the return of some fan-favorite characters, as well as enough Easter eggs to fill multiple baskets.

“WandaVision” blends familiar television tropes into an ach-

ingly stunning story about love and loss and what one woman will go through to alleviate her pain. In 2021, its timeliness cannot be understated. As the world mourns the loss of millions of people, “WandaVision” asks, “What is grief, if not love persevering?”

VALLEY’S STARS



Rated TV-PG

Worth the Watch

Available on Disney+



VALLEY STAR | SOLOMON O. SMITH
ACTRESS- Piper Reese, at California State University, Northridge. She is an actor and student-journalist who is blancing the need to work with the dangers of in-person auditions and COVID-19 restrictions.

No callback for Zoom auditions

Auditions for the acting industry have been online since last March, but it is time to go back and stand in front of the casting director.

BENJAMIN ROYER
STAFF WRITER

I have been filming my own auditions since early last year, but I would love to have the excitement of driving to an audition and reading my lines once again.

Video call services like Zoom and BlueJeans have become the new normal for actors. Your day could be wide open, but then you get an email from your agent and you have to space out a portion of time to be on a video call for an audition. Frustrations with internet connections and a lack of feedback leave a lot to be desired with online experiences.

“I find Zoom to be the most anxiety provoking. The fact that you can be in the middle of a scene and it just goes off or something,” said Piper Reese, an actress and former student at Valley College, “it’s nerve-wracking.”

Feedback makes the online auditioning process feel like a chore; you send in your audition to casting and wait. When you are standing in front of the casting director, you can get feedback instantly. During online auditioning, the casting director does not get back to you on what you can improve or what you can change.

“If I was a casting director, I would want to give feedback to the actor,” said Walker Satterwhite, a film major at Valley. “You want to see if they can take direction well and it feels like there’s a gap between online and in-person there.”

Contrasting that to in-person auditioning, after you say your lines, the casting director or others in the room will give you notes. Repeating the scene with notes can feel like the make or break moment of the audition. This is missing with online auditions.

If in-person auditions are to return, productions have to think about how to make them safe. Protocols set by Los Angeles County would most likely have to be used. I would have social distancing, mask wearing, face shields for casting directors and large space in the room for casting directors and actors to be apart.

I would feel safe with these measures in place. If there were protocols ready to go today, it would certainly make people think about taking that step towards normal auditions.

“The actor in me says 100 percent ‘let’s do this thing,’” says Satterwhite. “The regular person

in me says, ‘Let’s hold the breaks and find a safe way to do this.’ I’d certainly consider it though.”

Phasing back to in-person auditions is where we could start to bring the audition side of the industry back to normal. Not everyone feels this way.

“I would have trouble with that. I would feel pressured to go jump back in,” Reese said. “I want acting work and I don’t want to miss opportunities, but my brother is high risk and I have to be extra careful.”

She has a good point. The safety of actors should be a top priority. We may differ on the opinion of returning to in person auditions, but this is why productions should have the utmost safety in mind, and protocols in place so everyone has a fair chance to audition. There is an agreement that we must use the strongest protections possible, but maybe, just maybe, we return to in-person and see how it goes. When will actors be ready?

“Tonight, tomorrow, I’m ready,” Satterwhite said. “As long as we can do it safe, let’s get it done.”

Make Moderna (or Pfizer) mandatory

By getting the vaccine, you can help stop the risk of COVID-19.

ANTHONY LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

COVID-19 vaccines should be mandatory, not voluntary in the United States.

The COVID-19 vaccine, aside from wearing a simple face mask and keeping a safe distance, is one of the most effective methods that will help keep you from contracting the coronavirus.

More than 90 million doses have been administered, reaching 17.7 percent of the total U.S. population, according to NPR.

Vaccines, in general, introduce a less harmful part of that germ — something created to look or imitate it — into a person’s body. The body’s immune system creates antibodies that fight that specific germ and help keep the person from getting sick from it. Later, if the person encounters that germ again, their immune system can “recognize” and “remember” how to fight it off. Today, the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine is more of a voluntary, rather than a mandatory, decision.

More than 90 million doses have been administered, reaching 17.7 percent of the total U.S. population, according to NPR. The U.S. is currently administering over 2.2 million shots a day.

Although it is very encouraging to see a positive amount of people getting vaccinated, many Americans are skeptical when it comes to getting the vaccine.

New research shows that the racial group who refuses to obtain the vaccine are those located in wealthy, white areas. ScientificAmerican states, “Black respondents and 37 percent of Hispanic respondents in the AP-NORC poll saying they would commit to getting the vaccine whenever it is available. Considering that Black, Hispanic and Indigenous communities are at the highest risk

of infection and are overrepresented in COVID-19 deaths, this result may look like a curious discrepancy.”

Another reason why you should receive the vaccine is because the virus has a significant impact on the elderly. According to Stat news, “Covid-19 kills an estimated 13.4 percent of patients 80 and older, compared to 1.25 percent of those in their 50s and 0.3 percent of those in their 40s dying.”

Many people are stubborn and selfish, oftentimes they do not take into consideration that their choices might help someone in need. Once you realize that the vaccine is not only important for your health, instead for others, this can minimize the risk of a person (specifically the elderly) from getting COVID-19.

In a recent apnews article, it states that, “Fully vaccinated Americans can gather with other vaccinated people indoors without wearing a mask or social distancing, according to long-awaited guidance from federal health officials.”

When it comes to the vaccines, there are two types available: Pfizer and Moderna. These two vaccines have proven to be effective when it comes to preventing the coronavirus. According to hopkinsmedicine, “Both Pfizer and Moderna report that their vaccines show approximately 95 percent efficacy at preventing both mild and severe symptoms of COVID-19. This level of efficacy appears to apply across age groups, racial and ethnic groups, and both sexes, as reported in the Pfizer trial.”

The side effects that come along with the vaccine include: a sore or red arm, fever, chills, and muscle aches, headache, and feeling tired, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

With certain aspects of life such as theme parks, restaurants, and even movie theaters reopening, it is very crucial for the public to be vaccinated, as this would allow everyone to enjoy fun places that shut down as a result of the pandemic.

At the end of the day, people need to make it a priority to get vaccinated. By doing this, it helps not only yourself, but others to reduce the risk of COVID-19.



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CPAC signifies the death of the “Party of Lincoln”

CPAC arrived in Orlando with one goal: canceling Lincoln and replacing him with their political martyr, Donald J. Trump.

MATTHEW ROYER
STAFF WRITER

A former president walking into a hotel in Orlando is dejectedly not the start of a joke, while it probably should be.

Over the weekend of Feb. 25-28 at the Hyatt Regency in Orlando, the Conservative Political Action Conference met for its yearly gala of grandeur themed, “America, Uncanceled.” The hottest stars of the conservative political world appeared in numbers that would make one think that the pandemic was over in the United States. This is not the case, as the U.S. reached 500,000 lives lost to the virus that same week.

At the conference, the world was shown a golden statue of former President Donald J. Trump, one that looks like something seen outside a Bob’s Big Boy.

For the party of prayer in school, ignoring the Old Testament’s definition of an idol came as a surprise, but for those who have paid attention these last few years, it should only come as an expectation of what occurs within the conservative movement.

Speakers spoke, singers sang — or tried — over the first three days, but the main event was Sunday night when Trump finally took the stage addressing the Grand Old Party for the first time since leaving office.

During his address, the former president spread his usual lies, like how President Joe Biden stole the presidency from him or how he single-handedly produced the vaccines developed by companies such as Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson.

The most dangerous thing that occurred during Trump’s speech was the divisions he once

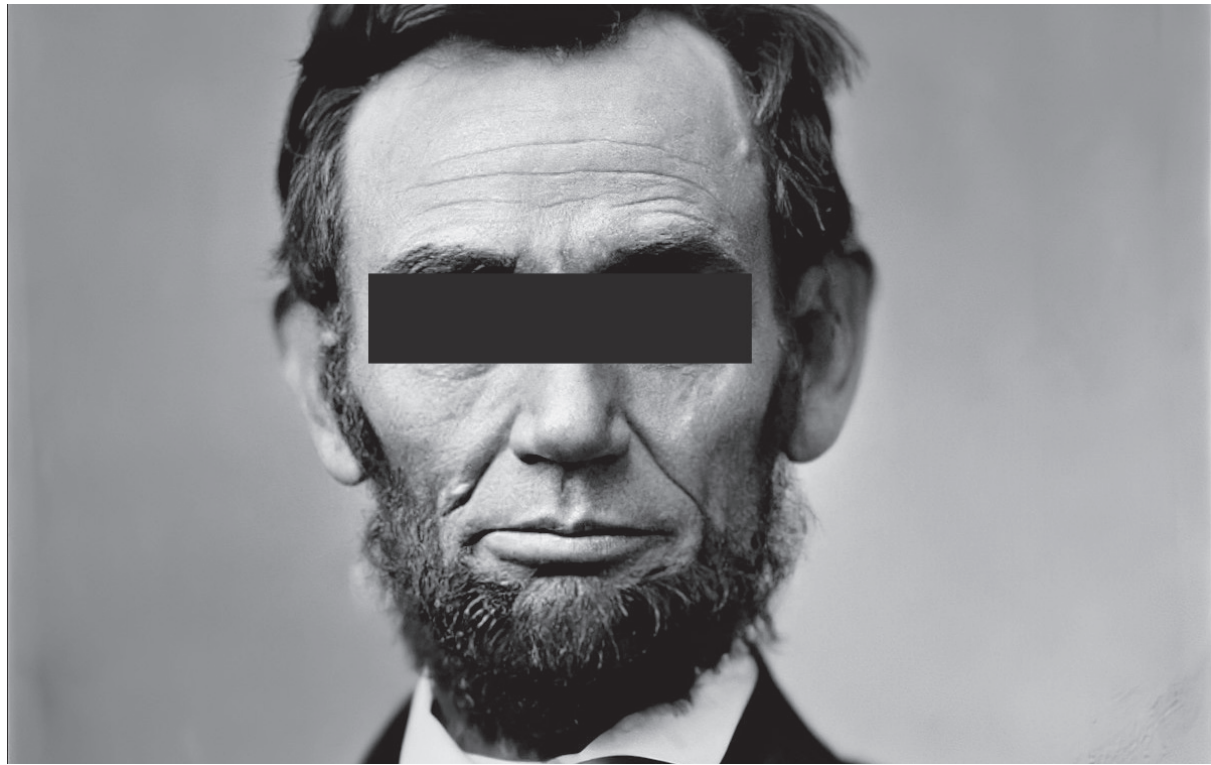
again attempted to form within his party, pushing the party’s agenda even further into extremism, giving credibility to those in the Republican Party such as extremists like Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA). This came at a time in which many are pushing for bipartisanship with the Democratic Party. Arguably, these divisions have already permanently been set in stone, and have been for some while now.

Trump went after his rivals in the GOP in his speech, according to CSPAN’s transcript of the events.

“The Democrats don’t have grandstanders like Mitt Romney, little Ben Sasse, Richard Burr, Bill Cassidy, Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Pat Toomey,” said Trump, as he named more politicians that he had personal grudges against. “And of course, the warmonger, a person that loves seeing our troops fighting, Liz Cheney. How about that?”

The fact is, if Abraham Lincoln was in attendance at CPAC in 2021, he would have been booed too.

The crowd cheered him on, while he bashed those keeping the somewhat respected conservative movement afloat in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives by coming across as sane individuals. He repeated his usual call and response in which he said one of his detractors’ names, allowing for a pause so the crowd could react with a sea of boos.



GRAPHIC | GENE WICKHAM
REPUBLICAN- The party that prided on being the “Party of Lincoln” has lost its way.

Leaving just those who believe in Trump’s doctrine to run the party and its agenda.

Republicans like Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT), Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) and even the more outspoken members of the Republican Party like Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) need to not only take a stand against their party’s leadership but walk out the door as well.

The time has come for a new conservative party, one that at least could resemble the great 16th President of the United States in its values and function. While efforts to mobilize these “anti-Trump Republicans” have been made in the past, as seen with The Lincoln Project,

they struggled to get off the ground and ultimately failed after scandals erupted about sexual harassment allegations of its co-founder John Weaver, according to the Associated Press.

A united front needs to be presented, even if it does mean a split between the conservative wing of the United States’ political spectrum. While this could prevent a conservative from holding the presidency for decades, most importantly it could preserve American democracy in the process preventing Trump and his allies from taking grasp of the highest office in the land once again.



Photos by Jeremy Ruiz | Valley Star

FOOD GIVEAWAY- An array of volunteers from several organizations based in the San Fernando Valley line the sidewalk at Hubert H. Humphrey Recreation Center in Pacoima, California as they sort through, organize and pack fresh produce and other essential goods to be given away to local families as part of the Breaking Bread Food Giveaway held on March 4, 2021.

Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural food giveaway

VOLUNTEERS - Filling boxes with food for needy families during the Breaking Bread Food Giveaway.



Boxes filled with fresh fruits, vegetables, canned goods, ground meat, milk, water and bags of tortilla chips are being given to the first 300 families who arrive at the Breaking Bread Food Giveaway.



Trini Rodriguez, event co-founder, addressing the public at the food giveaway.

Sylmar nonprofit eases northeast Valley food insecurities

Trini Rodriguez is the co-founder of Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural, a non-profit organization based in Sylmar, CA whose aim "is to transform community in the Northeast San Fernando Valley and beyond through ancestral knowledge, the arts, literacy and creative engagement."

She is seen here providing a brief speech about the food drive before she conducts a sage blessing ritual for the food that is to be given away. Standing behind Trini is Jorge Salazar, a representative for Tutciint Youth Empowerment, which is a local youth organization serving the San Fernando Valley and neighboring communities.



Jorge Salazar, left, and Robyn Gomez, right, are volunteers representing Tutciint Youth Empowerment, loading boxes into cars with safe distancing.



Silvio Anguilano is the lead organizer for the Breaking Bread Food Giveaway and is a founding member of People in Action for Community (PAC) in Pacoima.