



OPINION: GINA CARANO
GINA CARANO LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT WORDS MATTER.



SPORTS: ALL-STATE TEAM
FIVE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYERS RECEIVED A DISTINCT HONOR.

Nursing department helps administer vaccines

Valley College nursing students assisted in administering vaccines at Dodger Stadium, one of the nation's largest COVID-19 vaccination clinics.



NURSE- Yang-mi Dixon, a nursing student at Valley College, decided to begin her training as a nurse after experiencing kindness and compassion after spending a month in the hospital under the care of nurses. Pictured in front of the North Hills Wellness Center.

MARCOS FRANCO
NEWS EDITOR

Students and faculty from the Valley College Nursing Department worked alongside clinicians and fellow nurses to help administer COVID-19 vaccines at Dodger Stadium during the winter break.

Sixteen students volunteered for four weeks under

the supervision of Nursing Program Director Preethamol Puthiakunnel and others where they helped facilitate 10,000 vaccines a day. The operation was organized by the Los Angeles Fire Department in conjunction with the Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE), a nonprofit organization aiming to save lives and strengthen communities affected by a crisis, founded by

film actor Sean Penn. Each student worked two 8-hour shifts a week, arriving at 6:30 a.m. and leaving at 2:30 p.m.

"What really stood out to me was how grateful the public was," said Yang-mi Dixon, a 46-year-old nursing student at Valley. "No one complained about wait times, but rather made sure to tell us how thankful they were that we were out there adminis-

tering vaccines - especially on the days it was raining."

In Los Angeles, lack of adequate staffing has stood in between maximizing vaccine distribution. Since the county requires physicians to commit to 10.5 hour days if they choose to help, resulting in a full day away from patients at the office, there is a high demand for qualified volunteers.

While most students had previous experience in administering intramuscular injections from their time in labs and volunteering in hospitals, those who did not completed a skills lab before arriving on their first day.

"This pandemic has been unprecedented in our lifetimes and serves as profound confirmation of the importance of nurses in caring for those who are not well.."

- Yang-mi Dixon

Prior to volunteering at Dodger Stadium, the same group of students rotated shifts at UCLA's Olive View Medical Center in Sylmar. During their time there, students were not able to receive the vaccines themselves due to lack of supply. However, upon arrival at Dodger Stadium, they were given the first shot of a double dose vaccine and received the second injection last week.

Not only did the Dodger Stadium recently become home of the 2020 World Series Champions, but the ballpark now serves as one of the largest vaccination sites in the nation. Since opening for vaccine distribution on Jan. 15, the stadium has increased the number

of daily vaccines available from 2,500 to 12,000.

The test site was forced to temporarily close last Friday due to lack of Moderna shots, the primary dose of the vaccine, and is expected to reopen on Feb. 16 despite continued supply problems. As a result of the shortage, the majority of shots administered will be the secondary Pfizer doses for those who have already received their first injection.

Dixon, who lost her grandmother to COVID-19 last April, is grateful the vaccine is now being distributed and looks forward to it becoming accessible to anyone who wants it.

"This pandemic has been unprecedented in our lifetimes and serves as profound confirmation of the importance of nurses in caring for those who are not well," said Dixon.

Vaccines

According to Los Angeles County's Department of Public Health, over 1,676,000 vaccinations have been administered as of Feb. 18. However, less than 500,000 have received their second dose.

Republicans acquit Trump a second time

After a short impeachment with large amounts of evidence against former president Donald J. Trump, Senate Republicans voted to acquit.

MATTHEW ROYER
STAFF WRITER

Former president Donald J. Trump was acquitted Tuesday, Feb. 13 despite a majority of the Senate voting in favor of conviction; the vote fell beneath the 67 vote threshold needed to convict.

The vote fell mostly along party lines, with seven Republican senators crossing over for a 57-43 vote in favor of conviction, according to govtrack.us, an independent legislation tracker.

The vote to acquit came quicker than expected. On Feb. 13, impeachment managers sought to call upon witnesses who could give their say on what Trump was doing during the incitement of insurrection. In a brisk turn of events, both the prosecution and defense agreed to a first-hand account of the Jan. 6 insurrection by Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA). Beutler's written statement as posted on her website confirmed the President's discussions with Republican leaders.

"To the patriots who were standing next to the former president as these conversations were happening, or even to the former vice president," said Beutler. "If you have something to add here, now would be the time."

Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) requested that the vote on conviction begin at 3:40 p.m. that day, according to CSPAN's transcript of the events. Shortly thereafter, the vote began and the former president Trump was acquitted.

Prosecutors, led by the House Impeachment Managers,

concluded their case on why former Trump should be convicted by the United States Senate, while the former president's defense team provided the Senate with a case of their own.

The Senate convened as a jury with Patrick Leahy (D-VT) serving as president pro tempore instead of Chief Justice John Roberts. According to SCOTUSblog.com, an independent site that reports on the Supreme Court. Roberts had no comment on the matter. Leahy, however, posted a statement on his website.

"The president pro tempore has historically presided over Senate impeachment trials of non-presidents," said Leahy. "When presiding over an impeachment trial, the president pro tempore takes an additional special oath to do impartial justice according to the Constitution and the laws. It is an oath that I take extraordinarily seriously."

On Jan. 13, seven days before the inauguration of President Joe Biden, the House of Representatives voted to impeach then-President Trump on one count of "Incitement of Insurrection." The basis of the charges stems from his supposed role in the domestic terror incident at the Capitol on Jan. 6. The incident led to the death of five individuals, including one Capitol officer, with at least 15 officers hospitalized, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

The charges claim Trump directed his supporters, through a speech and tweets, to march towards the Capitol during the period in which the House of Representatives and Senate were certifying the election

results of the 2020 Presidential Election. What followed was a riot that broke out between the former president's supporters and Capitol Police, in which the Capitol was breached and lawmakers were put into harm's way. Trump and his allies had previously coined the event, the "Stop the Steal" rally, according to Just Security.

The House of Representatives voted to pass the articles of impeachment along bipartisan lines, according to records from the House Clerk. It did, however, have the most members of a sitting president's party voting with the opposition -- 10 Republicans.

The president's supporters, including some senators like Rand Paul (R-KY) and Marco Rubio (R-FL), have questioned the legality of the trial, hypothesizing that a former President cannot be tried once their term has ended. This hypothesis even went up to a vote in the Senate chambers at the beginning of the trial, subsequently being voted down 57-43, with seven Republican Senators voting with the Democratic Senators, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The impeachment managers, led by Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), made the case that the former president mobilized the crowd.

"We cannot have presidents inciting and mobilizing mob violence against our government and our institutions," said Raskin, according to the Baltimore Sun, "because they refuse to accept the will of the people under the Constitution of the United States."

The case presented on



REPUBLICAN- Donald Trump at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel on Sept. 7, 2016.

Tuesday, Feb. 9 by Raskin, is that a president should be held accountable for "high crimes and misdemeanors," even if they were subsequently leaving office. If not held accountable, there could be a lame-duck period between presidential administrations allowing for a "January exception," a term used by Raskin to explain this possible loophole, according to Newsweek. This flaw could allow a president to commit impeachable offenses without accountability.

While, another impeachment manager, Rep. Stacey Plaskett (D-VI), laid out the House's case using video documentation of the riots on Jan. 6, as shown in a video from PBS, and how the former President's

words and actions directly incited the insurrection.

Trump's lead attorney, David Schoen, pushed back against the charges during his opening statement to the Senate, making the case for acquittal, according to CNN.

"Many Americans see this process for exactly what it is," said Schoen. "A chance by a group of partisan politicians seeking to eliminate Donald Trump from the American political scene."

Some Republican senators were flanked by the press for their different actions taken during the trial. With some senators seen putting their feet up, sleeping, doodling, and reading books during the proceedings

according to The Independent.

Dr. Anthony O'Regan, professor of political science at Valley College, explained what this trial could mean for American democracy. Many experts, like O'Regan, do not believe there are enough votes to convict Trump.

"The argument you're hearing about setting a precedent, there's a lot of caveats," said O'Regan. "There's a consensus from experts on this, I think beyond this trial, cause this trial reflects where we are, that American democracy is being challenged in ways we haven't seen since the Civil War."

For the full story, read our online version.

District celebrates Black History Month with Thea Monyee

Thea Monyee explained to Valley students via Zoom how Black joy can be achieved through sexual liberation and wellness.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARLEYAYO

SPEAKER- Thea Monyee is a licensed therapist and guest speaker who has made appearances on HBO, BET and Fox Soul.

CASSANDRA NAVA
ONLINE EDITOR

Guest speaker Thea Monyee addressed students across the Los Angeles Community College District via Zoom to speak on the importance of joy and pleasure, and what that can look like for Black and marginalized people.

The district kicked off their Black History Month festivities on Feb. 11 with a virtual lecture titled “Pleasure Noir: Pleasure in Black Bodies and Other Marginalized Persons.” Monyee, a licensed therapist, actively works to decolonize marginalized people through pleasure. The wellness activist focuses on changing the narrative of her Black ancestors from suffering to joy.

She teaches people that eroticism is not just limited to the physical aspect of sex, but can be found in daily occurrences.

“We dissociate the idea of pleasure from our ancestors as though they did not experience it,” said Monyee. “The reality of that is that if they did not experience or have some sort of joy or pleasure, we would not be here. It wasn’t just their struggle, their strife or the strength of their resilience that got us here,

it was also their joy that brought us here.”

According to Monyee, the word erotic is defined as “transformational creative energy.” She explained that even a conversation with a stranger can be classified as an erotic exchange, because something inside of the individual changes from the start of that conversation until the end; something was born from it.

“Education, engagement and enlightenment are keys to social justice and racial equality for all.”

- Francisco Rodriguez

The licensed marriage and family therapist, who is currently studying to become a certified sex therapist, has a long list of credentials, including appearances on HBO, The Oprah Winfrey Network and Red Table Talk. She stated that although she is licensed in the same field she is trying to deconstruct, she works on bringing health and wellness

to Black people similar in the way that it was pre-colonization. Monyee wants marginalized groups to have a right to access what they enjoy, without the social pressures of today.

An important topic to Monyee is the hypersexualization of Black women, and how that can guilt them into not acting on their pleasures. She explained that the trope of Black female identity being equivalent to sexual deviation has robbed women of potential experiences.

According to a survey of university students by Contexts, the number of “hookups” that Black women have compared to their white counterparts is significantly less. Monyee explained that Black women are not as sexually liberated, which goes against this false stereotype.

She questioned how society can affect this, asking, “Is it because of that trope that they felt they could not move as freely in their sexuality as their white counterparts?”

After explaining the importance of self-love, the lecture ended with a question and answer portion. Dr. Elliot Coney, Valley UMOJA Black Scholars counselor and coordinator, asked Monyee about the trauma that happens to Black male bodies everyday. Coney explained

that even as a doctor of education, he still feels that he is seen as a threat. Monyee explained that surviving in a white-centered country is a traumatic experience.

“We give Black men a really narrow path of what they have to do,” said Monyee. “But we never stop to say, is that what they really want? Self-care must apply to black men. We message that message into women, but not to men in that same way.”

The district will continue to celebrate Black History Month with virtual events scheduled throughout February. Students can stay tuned with the events by checking the college’s newsletter, Valley Weekly.

Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez addressed students and faculty about the importance of celebrating Black culture this month stating, “Education, engagement and enlightenment are keys to social justice and racial equality for all. As educators, it is our collective responsibility to purposefully serve our higher education community and, at the same time, to challenge it.”

Umoja Black Scholars presents a variety of guests to its scholars

A wide ranging variety of topics were presented to Valley College students through Zoom as part of the Black History Month Celebration.

ANGELIA COYNE
STAFF WRITER

This year, Valley’s Umoja Black Scholars program is fully loaded with events for members that address issues surrounding the Black Lives Matter movements during Black History month.

Event guest Thea Monyee is an artist, therapist and writer who was selected by GoDaddy for her endeavor of “Healing the World Through Joy and Pleasure.”

“My biggest fear is the oppression of people’s creativity,” said Monyee, in an interview with Brandon Baxter. “People have these burning ideas and desires that they are not able to give birth to.”

Monyee’s passion is to educate people about the powerful process of introspection. She encourages individuals to not be reserved in approaching how they feel, but to discover their creative birth, finding the possibilities of their greatness. Monyee’s mindset is reflective of the goals set at Valley’s Umoja program for the black student community on campus.

“Our primary focus is to support African American students in defining their future, motivating them on their path, cultivating their passion, and holding them accountable to their dreams,” the Umoja program mission statement stated.

Author of “Black Future Month: A Visionary Plan to Reshape our Future” and creator of the board game Black Wall Street. Truvel’s game focuses on teaching how to become aware of black culture and their finances.

“Since 2017, Black Wall Street the Board Game has been the best way to learn Black

History and increase financial literacy from home. Based on the legacy of Tulsa’s Black Wall Street; the only way to win is to invest,” says playblackwallstreet.com.

De’Von Truvel, shares his views with the Umoja Black Scholar program, by teaching students to recognize their greatness despite coming from a diasporic background.

De’von Truvel will also be a guest at Valley during Black History month. Truvel will introduce his book, “History of Black Economics: Remember, Relearn, Rebuild.” His book discusses how strengthening black businesses

in places like Tulsa Oklahoma, is on the rise and fairing well, and how students can find a place in those types of businesses.

The Valley Umoja program also addressed current issues. Umoja invited Fahren James from the Black Lives Matter Pasadena chapter to explore the roles of students in community activism and to explore creating coalitions that will thwart the perpetuation white supremacy.

The Black History schedule concluded with the Los Angeles Black College Expo online. Held on Feb.23, guest speaker Dr. Tyrone Howard, Professor of Education at UCLA’s Pritzker Fam-

ily Endowed Chair and Director of the Black Male Institute, presented his book “Why Race and Culture Matters in Schools: Closing the Achievement Gap in America’s Classrooms” to the Umoja Black Scholars students.

More Info

For more information about events by the Black Scholars, visit their page on lavc.edu.

Valley College aides students with grants

Basics Needs and Technology grants will be provided for students who are in need of resources.

ANTHONY LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

Valley College’s basic needs and technology grants lends a helping hand by providing necessary resources for remote learning.

Valley will provide one time technology grants (up to \$500) for students struggling to continue their studies due to financial instability. This grant’s purpose is strictly for students who are in need of a laptop or general hotspot.

According to the college’s website, “Students can apply for these grants, along with a free laptop, by going to the SIS Student portal, Navigating to Key Links & Help Tile, and lastly proceeding to the Scholarship link to the Student Login button.”

There they will fill out a form listing a few questions based on their financial stability. Once the form is completed, an email will be sent to the student’s school email and there they will await confirmation if they have been given a laptop.

The qualifications that need to be met for students to receive these benefits are the student’s home campus, amount of units enrolled in (a maximum of six), and they must demonstrate financial need.

There are a variety of grants known as “Basic Needs Grants” which come in many forms and are made available through Valley. Basic needs grants are intended to assist students with expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus (This can include eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care).

According to the Pew Research Center, “Around one-in-ten teens (12%) said they often or sometimes use public Wi-Fi to do schoolwork because they lack a home internet connection. Again, black and lower-income teens were more likely to do this. Roughly one-in-five black teens (21%) said they use public Wi-Fi to do schoolwork due to a lack of home internet connection, compared with 11% of white teens and 9% of Hispanic teens.”

With the COVID-19 virus in action, this pandemic has led to the massive closure of face-to-face activities of educational institutions in more than 190 countries in order to prevent the spread of the virus.

According to data from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, “By mid-May 2020, more than 1.2 billion students at all levels of education worldwide had stopped having face-to-face classes.”

According to researchers from Penn State University and the University of Connecticut, students with low-socioeconomic status are struggling the most as they do not have the proper resources to support them with their academic work.

When asked about his opinion on limited resources due to universities being shut down, Nathan Brown — a professor of mathematics and leader of the research team at Penn State — stated, “As universities closed, many students entered resource-limited or stressful domestic situations that are not conducive to learning.”

More Info
For more information about scholarships, visit the Valley scholarship page.



ILLUSTRATION | GENE WICKHAM

RELIGION- The Supreme Court has allowed limited indoor services for California churches, but several will not reopen their doors.

Despite Supreme Court ruling, some local places of worship will remain closed

Many of California’s places of worship will continue to hold services online even after the Supreme Court overruled state guidelines, permitting them to reopen under limited capacity.

ISAAC DEKTOR
STAFF WRITER

A San Diego church will be resuming indoor services following the Supreme Court’s decision last Friday to overrule California’s prohibition on indoor services, but some local places of worship will not follow suit.

The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 to overturn the ban on indoor services within places of worship in California’s Tier 1 counties. The tier system, implemented under the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, assigns restrictions to individual counties based on their rate of infection. Los Angeles County is currently in Tier 1, which signifies widespread risk of COVID-19. The court overruled a total ban of indoor services for places of worship in

Tier 1 counties, but maintained Tier 2 restrictions that a maximum 25 percent capacity and a prohibition on singing and chanting be enforced.

The decision was made due to a court case filed by the South Bay United Pentecostal Church against Gov. Gavin Newsom, which claimed that the Blueprint’s Tier 1 restrictions on places of worship were unconstitutional.

In a statement to KPBS News, a pastor at South Bay United, Bishop Arthur Hodges, expressed concerns that the original Tier 1 regulations treated places of worship and secular institutions unequally.

“The Supreme Court of the United States with this ruling reaffirmed that Americans should never be forced to have to choose between obeying God or government,” Hodges said.

While the ruling has made it possible to resume indoor services, many local places of worship chose to keep their doors closed.

The Sherman Oaks Temple B’nai Haym has been conducting services over Zoom and Facebook Live for months and will continue to do so following the Supreme Court’s decision. Rabbi Richard Flom, the spiritual leader at B’nai Haym, expressed his concerns for the community — specifically the older members of his synagogue.

“We’re following the basic Jewish principle which states that saving lives takes precedence over everything else, including worship,” Flom said.

Christ Chapel of the Valley will also follow the guidelines set by state health officials. Reverend Jerrell Walls, founder of the Christ Chapel of the Valley,

said that he will not be resuming in-door services until the county enters Tier 2.

“We need to be wise and concerned for each other’s health,” said Walls.

A county needs less than seven positive tests per 100,000 in order to move into Tier 2.

Eugene Scott, a professor of anthropology at Valley College, thinks that indoor services should remain closed until infection rates drop.

“Faith and spirituality are not vital to overcoming the pandemic,” Scott said. “Science is the prudent path forward. If faith and spirituality get one to adhere to safety protocols, then it is helpful. If faith deters you from following guidelines that protect the entire community, it is not helpful and potentially deadly.”

A student’s right to free speech: rules apply

Like contest giveaways and weight loss testimonials, student’s First Amendment right could end with an asterisk.

JACK KELLY
STAFF WRITER

The First Amendment has a multiplicity of underlying details. The U.S. federal courts have spent decades detangling the messy knot of First Amendment exceptions, including students’ right to freedom of speech. These rights only apply to public students. Private schools follow contract law, so their students’ rights are entirely subject to the institution.

Unfortunately, Valley College does not provide their students’ rights to free speech anywhere on their website or in the student handbook. Before the spring term is fully underway, students should know their free speech rights at Valley College.

“The school district expects students to play their game yet hides the rules, putting students in a bind.”

In the 1969 landmark case *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, three students were suspended after protesting the Vietnam War by wearing black armbands. Because the protest did not impinge on others’ educational rights, the U.S. Supreme Court decided public schools could not prohibit speech or expression, provided it did not substantially



CAMPUS- A lone bystander walks through the free speech area on the Valley College campus, located in front of the Campus Center.

interfere with schoolwork.

The year prior, a lower court determined, in *Esteban v. Central Missouri State College*, that public colleges and universities have the authority to create rules and regulations to discipline for disruptive speech and conduct on campus.

In essence, public schools must allow students to express free speech, but they also have to protect other students’ right to education. A student can wear a “Free Britney” shirt to class, but will likely face consequences for shouting it through a bullhorn.

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) balances these federal rulings and many others in its Standards of Conduct — which is buried on its website. The school district expects students to

play their game yet hides the rules, putting students in a bind.

“I don’t remove posts that are questionable, I remove posts that disrupt my class.”
- Dr. Carole Garrison

LACCD itself has not always perfectly executed their rules. In 2017, a student sued Pierce College for unfairly regulating his rights by

providing a tiny Free Speech Area — a designated location on campus where anyone may exercise their First Amendment rights. As part of the settlement, all LACCD institutions expanded their Free Speech Areas, including Valley.

There are caveats to free speech, and not every action is protected. Disrupting a video conference with offensive or graphic material — or “Zoombombing” — violates the district’s code of conduct and could result in disciplinary measures.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, LACCD and Valley have failed to notify students how their rights apply in the online classroom. Students can still express oppositional views in online discussion forums, but instructors may delete

students’ posts if the conversation goes off-topic, as determined by *McBrearty v. Kappeler* in 2018. The judge cited *Tinker v. Des Moines* in his decision because the student’s posts significantly derailed the professor’s assignment.

The defendant in *McBrearty* was Dr. Carole Garrison, a professor of criminal justice at Eastern Kentucky University. Her deposition succinctly summed up the delicate balance between a student’s right to free speech and the limitations in public education.

“I don’t remove posts that are objectionable,” she said. “I remove posts that disrupt my class.”

Students who believe their freedom of speech has been violated at Valley can contact the office of the ombudsperson.



CARANO- Gina Carano speaking at the 2015 San Diego Comic Con International about “Deadpool.”

Coarse Carano canceled

A well-known celebrity like Gina Carano should know better than to play with forces she does not understand.

SOLOMON O. SMITH
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

The things people write and say stay with them for a long time living on the internet. Comments can be misunderstood, taken out of context or severely judged. Gina Carano forgot about that and, along with her need to troll the trolls, drove her acting career off a cliff.

A short review. For months now Carano has been playing internet chicken with the public on Twitter and Instagram. First was a request for her to post her pronouns, something many see as a way to support the trans and LGBTQ community. Carano could have ignored the request, or simply said no. She posted “boop/bop/beep” instead. Her response was not well received. Fans viewed it as poking fun at the concept of personal pronouns, and the twitverse started a campaign called #FireGinaCarano.

She could have ignored it but she chose to poke the bear — then it got worse. After a number of baiting posts on Instagram, she wrote this bit

of nonsense, which she later deleted.

“Jews were beaten in the streets, not by Nazi soldiers but by their neighbors” wrote Carano, “... even by children... Because history is edited, most people today don’t realize that to get to the point where Nazi soldiers could easily round up thousands of Jews, the government first made their own neighbors hate them simply for being Jews. How is that any different from hating someone for their political views?”

It was stupid and Disney fired her from the hit series, “The Mandalorian,” distancing themselves, and the brand, from Carano with a statement.

“Gina Carano is not currently employed by Lucasfilm and there are no plans for her to be in the future,” read a Lucasfilm statement. “Nevertheless, her social media posts denigrating people based on their cultural and religious identities are abhorrent and unacceptable.”

The debate now rages, at least from her defenders, about free speech but few are discussing what the real problem was for Carano: she disrespect-

ed her fans. Many who hold alt-right wing ideologies (not saying Carano does) confuse being personally unlikeable with opposition to their ideology.

People like Republican Texas senator, Ted Cruz, continuously argue that they are being shut down because their ideas are not mainstream. This is incorrect. They are being shut down because they are trolls. They bait the public with outlandish, odious comments, hoping rabid contrarians will chase them, and when the consequences catch up with them, they whine about it.

Carano trolled herself out of a job. Goading people with outrageous commentary, like her Nazi comments, made her look ignorant and bigotted. She argued with, alienated and disrespected her fan base unnecessarily and losing her job was the result.

The fans made Carano. They pay for her show, they support her endeavors, and what they give they can take away.

The gentrification of thrifting & reselling

The recent backlash about resellers buying excess amounts of clothing from thrift stores is not as problematic as it is made out to be.

MEGAN REYES
STAFF WRITER

The rise of resellers has sparked a gentrification on reselling apps and in thrifting. The idea of people buying secondhand clothing and reselling it for a profit should not be frowned upon.

Many people have started new hobbies and small businesses in order to keep themselves occupied, entertained or just to make some extra cash. Thrifting and reselling on apps such as Depop, Poshmark, Ebay and other second hand retail shops have become very popular due to Youtubers and influencers buying trendy clothing pieces on these sites.

In an article by Retail Leader, “According to San Francisco-based ThredUp — which was founded in 2009 and now claims to be the world’s largest online thrift store — the global resale market will increase at a 39% annual compound growth rate through 2024, reaching \$36 billion. Online sales of secondhand products will increase 69% in 2021 compared with 2019.”

“The main issue many people complain about is how resellers make items more expensive.”

When it comes to thrifting, there are two kinds of people, ones who resell and others who find it a necessity to find clothing items for themselves. Each individual has their own unique preferences and style. Once the consumer has bought the item, it is their decision to either resell or keep it.

The main issue many people complain about is how resellers make items more expensive than what they really cost. As a depop seller, it is important to price the item at a reasonable amount due to the time and labor put into

searching for the item, cleaning/repairing it, listing it with a detailed description and interacting with potential buyers. Otherwise, resellers would be operating at a loss cause.

Another reason why reselling platforms price their items high is because most charge commission and shipping fees, so the price a person pays is not anywhere near what the reseller is getting. Depop, for instance, takes 10 percent of the item sold which includes the shipping costs, and since Paypal is necessary to sell on Depop, they also take about three percent of the fees from the item.

With second hand shops on the rise of fame, there is this false perception of thrift store prices increasing due to the high demand of purchasing vintage/trendy pieces, which is not entirely true.

According to the 2010 and 2020 Goodwill Valuation Guides on their website, Goodwill recommends ranges instead of a flat base price. The upper end of the 2020 range is often three times as much as the 2010 base price.

Treehugger News stated, “Only 20% of clothes donated to thrift stores is actually sold—the rest is thrown away or sold to developing countries, where it puts local textile workers out of jobs.”

The thing is that most thrift stores have a huge excess of clothing, therefore, higher demand is not leading to scarcity, or contributing to the increase of prices. Many will argue that the popularity of thrifting is responsible for the rising prices, but popularity would not directly lead to higher prices without scarcity. The issue is not the popularity, however, but thrift stores taking advantage of the situation and raising prices.

“Many resellers are lower and middle class people operating small businesses, who like myself, use this income to get them through college, stay home with children or an elderly parent, or have a flexible work schedule,” said UCLA college student Jade Lolita. “I hope more people will see the value in it and even try it out for themselves.”

The Valley Star

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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 STAR | SOLOMON O. SMITH

BASKETBALL- Four of the five Valley College Women's basketball in the CCCWBCA Academic All-State Team pictured left to right: Kathleen Phan, Nhi Nguyen, Taylor Vuong and Yunuhen Plata.

Lady Monarchs honored for academic success

The academics of five Valley College Women's Basketball players send them to the Academic All-State Team, which is comprised of a total of 116 players.

BENJAMIN ROYER
STAFF WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic threw a wrench into the plans of student athletes across the country since last spring. However, five Valley College students have proven themselves in both academics and sports.

Sophia Hughes, Nhi Nguyen, Kathleen Phan, Yunuhen Plata and Taylor Vuong were all named to the 2020-2021 Academic All-State Team by the California Community College Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

To qualify for this achievement, student athletes must have competed for a year at their college, earn at least 24 credits and maintain at least a 3.5 GPA in their courses.

“Hopefully by the summer we can practice again, and by fall 2021, everything will be back to normal.”

- Kathleen Phan

The Valley Star reported back in December that there was a postponement of spring sports at Valley, including the basketball season. It is unknown when the season will begin, but the drive to get better on and off the court is still there.

“Our coach, Coach [Monica] Hang, she really thrived on having the student-athlete life, so not only does she want us to succeed on the court, but she also wants us to succeed in school,” Phan said. “She really helped us and helped us help each other, so that we could succeed everywhere.”

Last season, facilities were available to the players on campus. After practice, school was always next to do.

“I was like, I need to be the first one. I need to make sure that my younger brother sees me going to college so he's like, wow, I want to be like my sister.”

- Yunuhen Plata

Vuong chimed in, “After practices and having a long day with film and the weight room, I was physically tired ... I would say that it is great to have supportive teammates around. We all push each other to do well.”

The four discussed how if they need help with a course, they would go to their teammate for guidance. Motivation and drive are large factors for academics as well.

“I think seeing how everyone is on their stuff motivated



BASKETBALL- Valley College Women's basketball players Taylor Vuong (left) and Yunuhen Plata (right) were recipients of the CCCWBCA Academic All-State Team, an academic award given to community college team players.

me to be on mine too,” Nguyen said. “Whether it was in basketball or in school. When you see people run harder or play defense harder, it makes you want to, too. You don't want to disappoint your team.”

“I am a first-generation college student, so none of my older brothers or older cousins ever went to college,” Plata said. “I was like, I need to be the first one. I need to make sure that my younger brother sees me going to college so he's like, wow, I want to be like my sister.”

The team continues to have Zoom workouts and work on their craft without a guaranteed season ahead.

“Hopefully by the summer we can practice again, and by fall 2021, everything will be back to normal,” Phan said.



VALLEY STAR | SOLOMON O. SMITH

PLAYERS- Lady Monarchs basketball players Kathleen Phan (left) and Nhi Nguyen (right) were recipients of the CCCWBCA Academic All-State Team, an academic award given to community college team players.

Controversial pitcher joins Dodgers

The Los Angeles Dodgers signed Trevor Bauer to the highest annual average contract in Major League Baseball history, but his past social media comments leave plenty of questions and concerns.

BENJAMIN ROYER
STAFF WRITER

Trevor Bauer has become the highest-paid player in baseball, but many have criticized the decision as a result of the starting pitcher's history of online harassment and transphobic comments.

Bauer signed a three-year, \$102 million dollar deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers on Feb. 11, giving him a base salary of \$40 million in 2021 and \$45 million in 2022. His contract breaks the ceiling previously set by Bauer's former UCLA teammate, Gerrit Cole, who had signed a contract with the New York Yankees in 2019 with an annual salary of \$36 million. Despite the massive contract, there are mixed emotions on whether or not Bauer will be good for the ballclub.

“All the feedback we got from every organization he was with was not only incredibly

positive in terms of the type of teammate he is, but also in terms of the impact he makes on each organization,” said Andrew Friedman, president of Baseball Operations for the Dodgers. “I feel like he is going to be a tremendous add not just on the field but also in the clubhouse.”

Growing up in Los Angeles, Bauer was raised a Dodger fan, attending games with his dad as a kid eagerly studying the game from the stands. He would later go on to wear the Dodger uniform nearly two decades later. Last season, Bauer became the first Cincinnati Reds player to win the Cy Young Award, the highest award a pitcher can receive.

Whether he is speaking through his merchandise brand “Bauer Outage” or athlete-driven media company “Momentum,” Bauer has always been known for being outspoken. With 423,600 followers on

Twitter, the star pitcher does not hesitate to use his large audience to project his point of view on issues within the baseball community and beyond.

“Everyone makes mistakes in the past. I try to learn from them as quickly as I possibly can. I try to understand other peoples' viewpoint on things and be better in the future.”

- Trevor Bauer

In one instance, Bauer taunted a woman on Twitter, suggesting that she was an alcoholic. He continued to harass the woman even after she stopped respond-

ing to him, and later went on to blame the argument on her.

When referred to as an adult male on Twitter, Bauer mockingly stated that he identified as being a 12-year-old boy, adding that people must empathize with his situation. Bauer has since deleted the tweet, which had received negative publicity for being transphobic.

“We should spread love, compassion, and educate those who say homophobic comments and have archaic attitudes,” said Kimberly Robeson, advisor of the GSA club at Valley. “It's 2021. It's time to be undivided.”

“Everyone makes mistakes in the past,” said Bauer in a quote from The Los Angeles Times. “I try to learn from them as quickly as I possibly can. I try to understand other peoples' viewpoint on things and be better in the future.”



FLICKR | ERIK DROST

BASEBALL- Trevor Bauer playing for the Cleveland Indians in 2017.