



OPINION: SEX WORKERS
WORKERS IN THE U.S. SEX INDUSTRY
DESERVE SOME LEGITIMACY.

the VALLEY STAR

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VALLEY LIFE: URINETOWN
THEATRE DEPARTMENT'S NEWST
PLAY IS ABOUT BEING FREE TO PEE

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Valley cancels classes due to virus

SOLOMON SMITH
MANAGING EDITOR

The LACCD announced Wednesday that it will cancel classes Monday and Tuesday in response to the growing concerns over the coronavirus and move the majority of its in-person classes online starting March 18.

The announcement from Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez follows a similar decision made by a chorus of major universities like USC, UCLA, UC Irvine and CSUN to take their classes online. The precautions are based on guidance from the CDC and the World Health Organization, which recommend that citizens stay away from shared spaces and maintain social distances in order to curb the spread of the virus.

“Out of an abundance of caution, the Los Angeles Community College District is making these changes to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff and to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19,” Rodriguez wrote. “We stand united with our higher education colleagues locally and throughout the nation that safety is our top priority as part of our mission to provide excellent educational opportunities for our students. Prudence needs to prevail here.”

Faculty and staff will use the closure dates of March 16 and 17 to prepare for the shift to Canvas and other online formats by attending training sessions at their nearest LACCD campus. In addition, March 16 through April 13 will see the cancellation or postponement of any event that is estimated to draw more than 100 people, but sporting events will be “under review,” according to the chancellor’s press release.

Valley’s Pi Day scheduled for March 12 has been cancelled



Valley College will shutter its doors on March 16 and 17 as faculty and staff prepare to take the majority of in-person classes online.

because the expected turnout would be over the 100-student limit, but the “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate” video game tournament, which is estimated to draw less than 100 people, will continue.

The world-wide spread of the flu-like corona virus has caused public anxiety, emergency quarantines, hoarding and school closures throughout the county.

COVID-19, or coronavirus, is a unique strain of the corona family of viruses, which originated in Wuhan, China, according to the Center for Disease Control. There are seven forms of corona, three of which have the highest mortality for humans. This strain of the virus concerns authorities because it

attacks the upper respiratory tract. It presents with coughing, sneezing, body aches, chills and other flu-like symptoms.

“If you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 ... it is extra important for you to take actions to reduce your risk of getting sick.”

- CDC

“Coronavirus, it’s like a common cold anybody can

get, but these new variations,” said Valley College professor Lawrence Nakamura, who holds a PhD. in virology. “Known as the SARS virus, Severe Acute Respiratory Symptoms, and that’s what they’ve identified these new corona viruses as causing as well.”

The Center for Disease Control has stated that the virus is transmissible from person-to-person but is not sure how, though most of these types of illnesses are transferred through tiny droplets in the air from the infected when they cough or sneeze. The virus can live in these aerosol droplets and on surfaces for hours. For many healthy young adults, the disease is a serious inconvenience,

but for others in the population, the flu can be deadly. The very young and the elderly can be put into life-threatening danger. Those with compromised immune systems (many of whom cannot take the vaccine) can also be seriously threatened, according to the CDC.

“If you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 because of your age or because you have a serious long-term health problem,” states the CDC’s risk assessment webpage, “it is extra important for you to take actions to reduce your risk of getting sick with the disease.”

The best way to deal with the spread of this virus is to use the same best practices and

common sense used when dealing with any contagion; washing hands, disinfecting surfaces, covering the mouth and nose when sneezing and coughing, avoiding places with a large gathering of people and staying away from unknown animals, according to the CDC and the NIH.

“We will continue to monitor the situation with advice from the [CDC] and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.”

- Barry Gribbons

Currently, there is no vaccination or inoculation against COVID-19, but when one is developed, it will likely be delivered the same way flu vaccines are delivered. These strains tend to be difficult to treat because of their rapid evolution and mutation. According to Nakamura, inoculations are difficult for medical researchers to keep up with because they often need an update every one or two years due to mutations in the viruses.

The CDC and National Institute of Health have very little information on the development of a vaccine but most estimates put it a year away.

“We will continue to monitor the situation with advice from the Centers for Disease Control and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health,” said Valley President Barry Gribbons, “and we will look at what other services besides instruction could be moved online.”

Campus reacts to corona closures

Valley students, instructors and staff share their concerns about taking the majority of its in-person classes online. The district is following the recommendations of the CDC and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health as a preventative step.

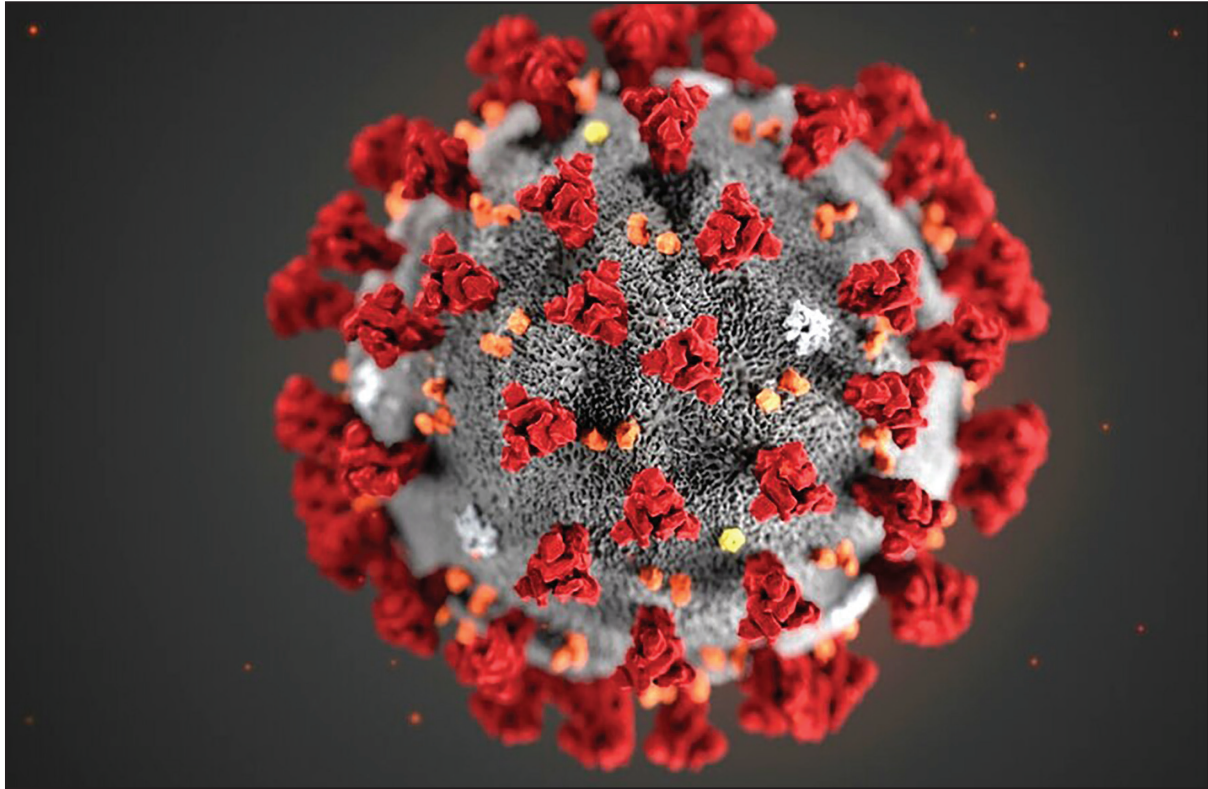


PHOTO COURTESY OF | CDC
CORONA- This image show the coronavirus and its crown-like protrusions, which gives it its latin name.

SAVANNAH SIMMONS
OPINION EDITOR

In light of LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez’s announcement Wednesday that many in-person classes throughout the district will move online due to the coronavirus, Valley is left with ques-

tions about the process.

“I never took online classes, so I have no idea what to expect or what I should do,” said nursing student Elena Sheynis.

All classes at Valley will be canceled March 16 and 17 for faculty and staff to prepare for moving the majority of classes online. Most classes will transition to platforms such as Canvas

or Zoom on March 18, with the exception of some classes that are hands-on labs, performance, adult education or physical education, according to the chancellor’s press release. This phase will be in effect until at least April 13.

“We need face-to-face contact,” said biology Professor Lynn Polasek. “We need the

hands-on experience, particularly in lab classes. Clearly you can’t make it the same and you can’t work with live microbes in an unsafe setting. You need the right protocol and cleanup. We’d have to do more theatrical type things.”

“I never took on-line classes, so I have no idea what to expect or what I should do,”

- Elena Sheynis

Canvas is used by many Valley students who take online or hybrid classes and every student has a Canvas account. According to the press release, LACCD will activate an online learning call center to help students and faculty with specific online education questions or concerns. The call center will be open starting Wednesday, March 18 and will operate from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students and faculty can

call the toll-free number: (844) 695-2223.

Valley will let students know which class will move online no later than Monday, March 16, according to an email sent to students from Valley President Barry Gribbons.

“There will be some exceptions for courses that do not lend well to an online format, especially for career education programs,” according to the press release. “Exceptions and other modifications are under review for hands-on labs, performance classes, adult education classes and physical education/kinesiology courses.”

The district and Valley “will remain open, subject to the direction of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) or the California Department of Public Health,” according to the press release.

“I think about when the fires happened — how we were shut down for a week and we all just figured it out,” said Samantha Jaffarey, costume shop manager of the Theatre Department.

With contributions from Aimee Martinez, Gabe Braunstein, Sarah Best and Cassandra Nava

PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST INFECTION



AVOID CONTACT WITH SICK PEOPLE



STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK



AVOID CONTACT WITH UNFAMILIAR ANIMALS

Valley’s provides students produce

Valley College’s Helping Hands Pantry offers free resources to those in need.

CASSANDRA NAVA
STAFF WRITER

In an initiative to create a hunger free campus, Valley College allows access to fresh fruits and vegetables to students, faculty and members of the community.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Valley’s Helping Hands Food Pantry, located in the Campus Center patio, is open in order to offer resources to students facing food insecurity. The Helping Hands Project is a volunteer-based program that offers support to students who are facing homelessness and in need of food. The produce and snacks in the pantry are not just for students and faculty, but for anyone in need.

“Hunger is a particularly prevalent issue on community college campuses,” according to a 2018 Temple University study displaying hunger levels amongst students at different universities. “The study found that 42 percent of community college students were food insecure. One of the biggest issues for students is affording healthy food, with 46 percent of community college students reporting an inability to pay for balanced meals.”

The produce, given by the local non-profit organization MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity), is chosen by Valley student volunteers who take an empty truck to the donation center and return to campus with food. Some of the produce offered at the pantry are lemons, peas, cabbage, garlic and apples. According to a student volunteer, almost all produce is organic.

“We want to let [those who visit the pantry] know that it’s okay. We want that connection from student to student.”
- Ruth Osorio

Another way the pantry receives food is through donations. Acceptable donations are canned goods, granola bars or microwavable meals. There is a quota on the fresh fruits and vegetables, so each person is only allowed to take a fixed amount, in order to ensure others an

opportunity to benefit from the same resources.

The pantry employs student volunteers in order to create a welcoming environment for other students who are in need. The volunteers are students who help with setting up food, taking identification and general clean-up.

“We want to let them [those who visit the pantry] know that it’s okay,” said Ruth Osorio, a student volunteer who takes identification numbers at the door. “We want that connection from student to student. We all have struggles, and we want to support everyone.”

The identification required depends if the person in need is a student, faculty member or a community member. For most pantry visitors, a state-issued identification number is accepted as well as an employee number from that person’s place of work. For students, their student ID number is required. According to the pantry, the information is never shared with anyone, but is necessary in order to count how many people need these resources.

According to student volunteer Bonita Barungi, the beginning of the semester starts off slow, with about 50 visitors each day. She said that as the semester goes on students learn about the pantry, and at the end of last

semester there were at least 120 people frequenting each day.

Funding for the pantry is given by the state, and there are requirements for obtaining these funds. According to Senate Bill 85, community colleges that label themselves as a “hunger free campus” must provide an employee who can assist students with signing up for CalFresh and must have an on-campus food pantry. CalFresh is a federally funded nutrition program that assists those of low income to buy healthy foods, through the use of EBT cards.

“Our vision is to be a temporary bridge that allows students to successfully complete their educational goals and have access to resources,” states the Valley website. “Through support and commitment, HHP endeavors to be the first program on campus to tackle and reduce incidences of homelessness and food insecurities on campus.”

For more information regarding the pantry and CalFresh, students and faculty can visit the HHP office in room 1101 in the Administration and Career Advancement building.



VALLEY STAR | KEVIN ROMERO
PANTRY- Students line up for food at the Helping Hands pantry.



VALLEY STAR | GABRIEL ARIZON
PLAY- The cast of “Urinetown” in the middle of rehearsing a musical number.

“Urinetown” is a must pee

Valley will present a comedic musical about being free to pee.

GABRIEL ARIZON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Valley College Theater Department travels to a dystopian society where a city’s poorest and wealthiest citizens clash over a person’s right to pee.

Written by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollman, “Urinetown” is a meta, dark comedy musical where, due to an extreme water shortage, every person must pay a tax to use the bathroom. While those in power profit immensely from the fee, the poor must scrounge daily for spare change and wait in incredibly long lines. Those that refuse to pay the tax are taken to the mysterious Urinetown as punishment, never to be seen again. After one young man is inspired to take action, he rallies the poor and motivates them to fight for freedom.

The musical is directed and choreographed by Professor Cathy Susan Pyles, while the music is directed by Professor Patricia Hannifan. The musical stars 28 cast members, including: Joshua Lea, Jessica

Soderquist, Bedjou Jean, Chevy Knight, Danielle Christine Miller, Enver Messano, Ross Bauer, Orion Bahena and Iyanla Alexis. The designs are by the Theater Department Chairperson Jennifer Read and staff member Mark Svastics.

For Pyles, choosing to adapt this play was a no-brainer, partly due to its contemporary theme of corporate greed, but also because it is very character driven.

“Every part in this play is kind of quirky,” Pyles said, “and when I saw the people that I had in my class last fall, I thought, ‘I have a lot of quirky people in this class.’ So I picked it because it had room for a lot of character work.”

The cast has been in rehearsal since before the spring semester began. In the first two weeks, cast members spent three hours every weekday learning just the harmony and the songs. According to Pyles, many of the cast members are novices, so for some this will not only be their first musical, but their first play.

Knight, who is one such newcomer, plays Penelope Pennywise, an authority figure

who oversees one of the public bathrooms where the story takes place. Despite this being her first play, Knight has been enthusiastic about the experience.

“I’m obsessed with every single person that is in this production,” Knight said. “It’s really cool being surrounded by a bunch of different creative people of all ages and backgrounds. I’m just having a blast to be here.”

Soderquist plays Hope Cladwell, the young daughter of the main antagonist and the love interest of the male lead. She has been involved in three previous productions.

“It’s my first time doing a musical and it’s really hard,” Soderquist said. “There’s a lot that goes into it, but ultimately you meet really good people and you just have a lot of fun.”

“Urinetown” opens March 27 and will run on March 28 and April 2 - 4. Each showing will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Horseshoe Theater, with an online ticket price of \$20 and \$25 at the door. To order tickets online, go to www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4535041.

Go see “The Invisible Man”

Domestic violence is front and center in this horror remake that does not disappoint.

LEXIE MACIAS
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Leigh Whannel’s “The Invisible Man” is a fresh take on the original horror film that captures the audience through important modern themes, thrilling music and sound that keeps viewers on the edge of their seats from beginning to end.

“The Invisible Man” follows Cecilia Kass, who inherits the massive fortune of her controlling ex-husband, Adrian Griffin (Oliver Jackson-Cohen), after he commits suicide. When Kass starts experiencing dangerous occurrences and coincidences in her daily life, she suspects her husband’s death was a hoax and that he is still trying to keep his grip on her life. Elizabeth Moss (“The Handmaid’s Tale”) offers an incredible performance as Kass, effortlessly bringing to life a woman who doesn’t stray from the belief that her abuser is somehow still alive and controlling her life.

As a modern retelling of the original “The Invisible Man” by H.G. Wells, the storyline incorporates themes that are prominent in today’s culture, such as domestic abuse and toxic masculinity. The film opens with Kass escaping from her compound-like house and her manipulative-controlling husband. It does a great job illustrating how much power and influence Griffin had over his wife’s life, and the depths he would go to in order to retain that authority.

The constant manipulation, gaslighting, abuse and fear she experiences is an accurate representation of what women face today in toxic relationships and domestic abuse. Griffin is the embodiment of toxic masculinity in today’s culture where men prefer submission and fear the independence of women.

Music and sound are key elements that keep to the horror film genre, adding more depth to the different dynamics and emotions displayed throughout the movie. From the very start of the film, the chilling music composed by Benjamin Wallfisch

sets a dark and eerie tone that emphasizes the fear, paranoia and desperation that Kass is experiencing.

“Overcoming one’s abuser is another important theme that ‘The Invisible Man’ capitalizes on that gives Kass the empowerment she has been denied for so long.”

Certain sounds are juxtaposed with complete silence in key scenes to bring out the emotions of the audience. This is evident when Kass accidentally kicks a metal dog bowl along the tile floor as she attempts to escape her house while her husband is asleep. The amplification of the metal scraping against the

floor is meant to frighten the audience as much as it did Kass in that moment, compromising her chance of escape.

The few twists and turns that take place one after another will leave viewers reeling.

Overcoming one’s abuser is another important theme that “The Invisible Man” capitalizes on that gives Kass the empowerment she has been denied for so long.

“The Invisible Man” is laden with dark and bleak themes, but a victim overcoming their abuser and gaining victory in the end is incredibly moving and inspiring to any audience.

VALLEY’S STARS

★★★★☆

Rated R

Worth the Money

Now Playing



PHOTO COURTESY OF | UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
ACTRESS- Elizabeth Moss stars in “The Invisible Man.”

Decriminalize America’s most provocative profession

Fifty-three countries across the globe have legalized prostitution and sex workers in the U.S. are waiting for the same legitimacy.

SARAH BEST
NEWS EDITOR

Women in the sex industry are pushing for the legalization of their controversial and unconventional 9-5 job while attempting to sever close-minded public stigmas about the validity of their work.

Prostitution, strip dancing, adult film-making and platforms like OnlyFans, where nude photos can be sold, are among just a few of the fields that fall under the umbrella of sex work. Despite society constantly presenting an undeniable hyper-sexualized idea of women in ads, movies and music, distaste and judgment of the legitimacy of the sex industry as a whole is still prevalent.

In an attempt to seize the public’s interest, fast food companies commercialize objectively attractive women in minimal clothing while teasingly eating the promoted product. So why is the concept of selling sex for capital gain widely accepted, but the actual act of selling it is disgraced? Because intolerance and ignorance to anything that derives from traditional values seems to be our country’s brand.

“I think society itself wants

to preserve a certain attitude or a certain value system about family and committed relationships,” explained Valley College professor and sociologist Darby Southgate. “But I think across time we are seeing really dynamic shifts in all of those institutions.”

Progressive countries like Spain, Switzerland, Germany, India, Spain and many in South America are among the 53 that have legalized prostitution according to WorldPopulationView.com. The necessary validity has been brought to working in the sex industry through intention of reducing violent crime and the forcing of trafficking into prostitution by means of a “pimp” has, in turn, become illegal in these legitimizing countries.

However, data suggests that countries with legal prostitution like South Africa are the exception to the statistic, as they have the highest statistic of rape cases in the world per 100,000 people according to WorldPopulationReview.com. Ultimately, the intention of reducing violent crime by means of legalizing prostitution sounds better in theory but does not always transpire accordingly, as

represented by the data.

By contrast, the Netherlands, another country with legal sex work, has experienced a substantial decrease in violent crime numbers — concerning sexual assault specifically — in all cities that have initiated the concept of “trippelzones” (areas specifically designated for street prostitution). The U.S. has purposefully refrained from replicating the same methodologies of their foreign counterparts when it comes to the sex industry in order to uphold outdated and narrow-minded views of sex as a whole.

“Here in America, we were dominated by a Calvinist-Protestant group. When the charters — the pilgrims, as we call them — came in and eradicated indigenous cultures, they supplanted it with very conservative Calvinism, which is a form of Protestantism and a literal interpretation of the Bible,” Southgate commented. “There is still that value system that is inherent in our culture and I think we can see that. We are a really uptight culture.”

The 22-year-old strip dancer from Red Tie Gentlemen’s Club in Van Nuys that goes by the name of “Opal” said, “I know



INSTAGRAM | WEAREDANCERS.USA

SEX- Sex workers in the U.S. are still waiting for legitimacy to be brought to their industry.

girls that work at the ranch houses out there [in Nevada] that get paid to have sex with people. Honestly, I’m all for it. I think California should do it too.”

Misconceptions and judgments flood the industry and the idea of sex in general. The negative connotations that society correlates with both of these concepts are not accurate or encompassing of everyone within it. The U.S. encourages traditional, Christian ideas from the

outside looking in while acting superior to those who potentially make more money in one night than most Americans do in a regular two-week paycheck. Though drugs and crime are an unavoidable component of the complex equation that defines the sex industry, strip dancing specifically proves to be a powerful and positive outlet for self-expression for women like Opal.

“All my life I’ve had to deal with abuse,” Opal disclosed.

“For me to come in here, I’ve kind of found my voice. I can tell you what you’re allowed to do and you have to listen to me, so for me, it was empowering.” In a concluding statement, she remarked, “Strippers are just humans. We’re just normal human beings that have regular lives and they need to stop shaming us.”

TikTok has some big problems

KEVIN ROMERO
STAFF WRITER

Whether someone has a child or just a phone in general, Tik Tok has been floating around the internet at an exponentially growing rate but the popular app also has its fair share of controversy. Even though Tik Tok is the world’s most downloaded phone app, many have stigmatized it as a magnet for pedophiles, causing a new analysis into the program.

Not only does Tik Tok have a lot of adult members who either dance to their favorite music and clips from movies or just want to watch the videos, it also contains a lot of children, preteens and teenagers who are on the app that perform those same things. However, due to their age, it is difficult to see these things happen. The app has settled to pay \$5.7 million, says CNN.com, to determine charges that it illegally collected personal data from children under the age of 13, like names, email addresses and their location. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission commented last Wednesday that the Tik Tok fine is a document for a child privacy case.

The fragility would have allowed attackers to send Tik Tok users messages that carried malicious links. Once users clicked on the links, attackers would have been able to take control of their accounts, including uploading videos or gaining access to private videos. A separate flaw allowed Check Point, the leader in cyber security, researchers to retrieve personal information from Tik Tok user

accounts through the company’s website.

“The vulnerabilities we found were all core to Tik Tok’s systems,” said Oded Vanunu, Check Point’s head of product vulnerability research.

All though the app has gone through a bit of trouble, it also made a new dance for the Coronavirus to remind users to wash their hands called the Wuhan Shake. The dance is mimicked with washing, scrubbing and cleaning each finger in a video that has 2.8 million views.

Vietnamese dancer Quang Dang said, “I think the importance of the song and dance is the RIGHT information that they give to the audience and the viral dance will help spread this.”

TikTok has also had a controversy with Lizzo when the app started deleting some of the grammy winner’s videos that included her in a bathing suit.

“TikTok keeps taking down my videos with me in my bathing suits,” Lizzo said. She then stated that Tik Tok “allows other videos with girls in bathing suits. I wonder why? Tik Tok we need to talk.” Lizzo has been outspoken about body positivity in the past and has been getting millions of views on her videos and support from her fans.

Although the app could be used as a gateway to some quick entertainment and good media coverage, it could also be a place of potential hazardous acts that could leave a real wine stain on the legacy for the popular app.

Lack of MENstruation products

Overly-girly feminine products and the lack thereof that are provided in men’s restrooms is unfair to the transgender community.

SARAH BEST
NEWS EDITOR

Women who have transitioned to men still undergo the same monthly inconvenience of menstruating and the bathroom they choose should not be compromised due to a lack of feminine products provided in men’s restrooms.

The opening of the noisy, plastic package in the privacy of a stall draws unwanted attention from gender-conforming men who don’t fully accept or understand the sensitivity of such circumstances and is even an issue that happens in women’s bathrooms as well. It doesn’t help that tampons and pads are hyper-feminine with their pink wrappers and girly patterns, only adding to the possibility of unnecessary persecution and judgement. And as if the crinkling of the plastic wrapper doesn’t draw enough unwanted attention as it is, men’s restrooms do not house the small trash cans to dispose of the period products, warranting them to be thrown out in trash cans outside of the stall where one’s vulnerability and potential of being harassed is heightened even further.

“Homophobia is powerful and homophobia isn’t just the fear of gay men, it’s the fear of anything that’s outside the norm of hetero normativity,”

explained Valley sociology professor and specialist in gender Sally Raskoff. “Transgender men who would need that [period products] are the ones who understand it the best and most of us are not aware that those people are anywhere, much less here on campus.”

“I see this an equity issue. ... Everybody needs something, but people in disadvantaged groups need more things to be normalized.”
- Sally Raskoff

Conservative journalist Savannah Hernandez paraded around the Women’s March shouting that “Only women can get periods.” She defended her statement as being a biological fact that things like menstruation and pregnancy are struggles exclusively to women. Despite Hernandez’s comment being true in the most narrow-minded micro-sense, the bigger picture is that women who have transitioned to men identify as men and they still menstruate. Saying that only women can get periods is a purposeful and belit-

ling disregard for the transitioned women who now identify as male.

Kenny Ethan Jones has made his mark in this area, according to his Instagram bio, “Made history fronting a period campaign.” Jones, being a trans man himself, is well-rounded on the wants and needs of the transgender community and is constantly advocating for the advancement of their rights while educating others about how to be a “trans-ally.” The British model has brought what is arguably the most initial and impactful amount of attention to what periods are like for trans men and the overall lack of healthcare provided to the entire trans community.

“Having a period already causes me a lot of [gender] dysphoria,” said the 25-year-old London native in an interview with NBC. “But this dysphoria becomes heightened when I have to shop for a product that is labeled as ‘women’s health’ and in most cases, is pretty and pink.”

Given the circumstances of this contemporary and controversial enigma, progressive institutions like Syracuse University and Cornell have already validated such accommodations and are among the few universities nationwide that have implemented pads and tampons in the men’s

restrooms on campus according to TheCollegeFix.com.

Raskoff added, “I see this as an equity issue. They [transgender men] need things. Everybody needs something, but people in disadvantaged groups need more things to be normalized and to have things like bathrooms to feel safe in. So putting women’s products in there isn’t necessarily going to take us a huge way towards safety and acceptance but it’s like a toe in the door.”

Menstrual product companies like Always have taken the feminine symbols off of their packaging in an effort to be more inclusive as they understand that periods are no longer unique to women. Though the overly-feminine packaging of menstrual products is not something that is within Valley’s power to change, putting them in the men’s restrooms is fully within their jurisdiction. The bathroom a Valley student, or any person for that matter, chooses to use should not have to be compromised due to lack of readily available products.

“It seems that that would be the next step in normalizing and accepting transgender people who have always been around and there are transgender men who would need those things,” said Raskoff.

VALLEY VIEW | HOW WORRIED ARE YOU ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS?



“I’m a little indifferent about it. I am worried a little bit, but not as much as everyone has been putting it out to be.”
- CEL SANCHEZ, BIOLOGY



“Well, to be honest, I think it’s kind of exaggerated on the media. I don’t actually really think that it’s going to be something that we should worry about.”
- ANDREW BONILLA, BUSINESS



“I think that the media and everything is making it seem worse than what it is, but I think it’s something that people should ... take care of themselves for.”
- CYNTHIA BONILLA, CHILD DEVELOPMENT



“I am worried because, you know, being sick sucks. I’m actually a child development major, so if I get sick, then kids and older people get compromised.”
- LINDY CASTILLO, SPECIAL EDUCATION



“I’m not worried at all, because I believe all you have to do is wash your hands. I don’t believe in the U.S. government, I think it’s more about a fear tactic.”
- JEVEONTAE PARRISH, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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.

4 SPORTS

Coronavirus puts sporting events in doubt

The coronavirus has had a huge impact across all sports and continues to pose a threat to many games.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS | BRIANREADING

STADIUM- Due to the spread of the coronavirus, NCAA basketball games will exclude fans from attending, limiting attendance to coaches and family members.

VICENTE VITELA
SPORTS EDITOR

The coronavirus has caused many sporting events worldwide to be cancelled entirely or to be played without fans.

In response to concerns over the spread of coronavirus, the NCAA just announced that only staff, players, coaches and limited family will be able to attend championships, which includes the NCAA Tournament — also known as March Madness.

“I have made the decision to conduct our upcoming championship events, including the Division I men’s and women’s basketball tournaments, with only essential staff and limited family attendance,” said NCAA President Mark Emmert in a statement.

March Madness is college basketball’s biggest money maker of the year. In 2018, it generated \$844.3 million in television and marketing rights according to the Associated Press. The coronavirus has forced the Ivy League to cancel

their conference tournaments entirely. Conference tournaments can help a team seal a bid to the big dance, but since it’s been canceled, Yale, who was the regular season champion, will represent the men, and Princeton will represent the women. Several conferences which include the Atlantic 10 have suspended handshakes amid the pandemic and suggest as little contact as possible.

“I ain’t playing if I ain’t got the fans in the crowd. That’s who I play for. I play for my teammates, and I play for the fans. That’s what it’s all about,” said LeBron James to the New York Post after a recent Laker game. In light of the news from the Center of Disease Control and the World Health Organization, James has since changed his mind.

The NCAA’s move follows in the footsteps of many United States sports leagues and countries around the world. In Japan, the baseball league postponed the start of its season, while one of its largest sumo wrestling events took place without fans. In Italy, the government

first banned spectators from games before later suspending all sporting events in the country through April 3. In France and Spain, key soccer matches were slated to be played behind closed doors.

“If that means not having any people in the audience ... so be it. But as a public health official, anything that has large crowds is something that would give a risk to spread.”
- Anthony Fauci

At Valley College, the men’s basketball team reached the state championship tournament for the first time in more than a decade, and due to the

coronavirus pandemic, no fans will be allowed in attendance, just members of the team and game personnel. The coronavirus has affected all sports in some capacity and will continue to do so as more information is released daily.

“If that means not having any people in the audience ... so be it. But as a public health official, anything that has large crowds is something that would give a risk to spread,” said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the U.S. National Institutes of Health according to a usatoday.com article.

As of Wednesday, the NBA’s Golden State Warriors will play games without fans, starting when they host the Brooklyn Nets. This decision came after the San Francisco Health Office started prohibiting groups of 1,000 people at events. The league has also halted any team from signing players from the Chinese Basketball Association, as well as limiting locker room access to team personnel before and after a game. Teams are being instructed to create six-to-eight feet of space between play-

ers and media members when media are available.

For the NHL, whose season ends on April 6, only the San Jose Sharks will play games without fans thus far.

The MLB season has yet to begin, however, as a precaution, the league has also closed locker rooms to the media, and suggested that players interact with fans as little as possible. The Seattle Mariners who are scheduled to play 16 home games before the end of April, could wind up playing at an empty ballpark or a different one entirely amid the huge outbreak in Seattle.

The 2020 Summer Olympics are scheduled to take place in Tokyo from July 24 to August 9, and there has been no word on the games thus far. The International Olympics Committee has reiterated that they are fully committed to the success of the Tokyo games taking place. The flame lighting ceremony that is scheduled to take place in Greece, will take place with no fans in attendance the country has announced.

Monarch’s quest to wear their crown marches on

A thrilling game capped off by a buzzer beater shot would send the Monarchs to the state playoffs and face the number two seed from the northern region.

VICENTE VITELA
SPORTS EDITOR

The Valley College men’s basketball team stormed the court after an 83-81 overtime win over San Diego College that sent the team to the state tournament to face Fresno City College in the first round.

Down 74-69 with 59 seconds to go, time was not on the Monarchs’ side, but that didn’t seem to phase them. A dunk by Greg Chew Jr. brought Valley to within three, and after a three-point attempt by San Diego missed its mark, the Monarchs would rebound and take a quick timeout.

Coming out of the break, Chew Jr. attempted a layup, missed, collected his own rebound and put it back in mak-

ing it a one point game with eight seconds left. Valley would immediately foul on the inbound pass, sending the Knights to the free throw line. San Diego missed the second free throw and Valley grabbed the rebound.

“The San Diego coach told me after the game that he’s never seen a team be able to be down twice in a game and comeback both times.”
- Virgil Watson

“Do whatever’s necessary

because you guys are built for this,” said Head Coach Virgil Watson on what he told his team at halftime.

With six seconds left in the game, and not being able to advance the ball to half court, Valley was forced to do a full court press. After two quick passes, the ball would end up in the hands of Johnnie Coleman, who would charge the glass and make a layup with one second remaining on the clock, tying the game at 75. The Knights weren’t able to advance the ball, and after a hail mary shot did not go in, the game would head to overtime.

“Coleman was the option we wanted to go with, and with the defense out on the wing a lane opened up,” said Coach Watson on the last play of the half.

After almost a minute and a half of missed shots on both

sides, the Monarch’s would send the Knights to the free throw line where they would cash in the two points for a 77-75 lead. A steal by the Monarchs would lead to a fastbreak layup by Ivan Chmyrenko who was also fouled on the play tying the game once again at 77. Chmyrenko would go on to make the free throw, giving Valley its first lead in the game since midway through the second half. The Knights would answer right back with a layup, and after a few minutes of back and forth scoring, the game would be tied at 81 with less than a minute to go.

“The San Diego Coach [Mitch Charlens] told me after the game that he’s never seen a team be able to be down twice in a game and comeback both times,” said Coach Watson.

Valley would have to play lockdown defense as the Knights

would inbound the pass and let the clock run as low as possible and a layup attempt would miss and the Monarchs would rebound with 23 second, eliminating the need for the shot clock. As Valley would let the clock run down to take the last shot the ball was in the hands of Coleman who sent the game to overtime would have a chance to be the hero for the Monarchs once again. Coleman would drive towards the basket and after a spin move and some great ball work, would make the layup as time expired, sending the Monarch’s to the state title tournament, something they haven’t done in a long time.

“We were looking for the best shot available, and with a fake and a move, he was able to lay it in thru traffic,” said Watson of Coleman’s game winning basket.

The Valley Star

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