



VALLEY LIFE: COSTUMES
THE FDM IN LOS ANGELES IS DIS-
PLAYING COSTUMES FROM FILMS.



OPINION: DIRECTORS
THIS PAST OSCAR NOMINEES AND
WINNERS WERE MALE-DOMINATED.



PHOTOS AND TEXT BY SOLOMON SMITH
SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN 2022 THE NEW VALLEY ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL CENTER, OR VAAC, WILL BE A 118,000 SQUARE FOOT TWO-STORY FACILITY. LOCATED ON THE NORTH END OF THE VALLEY CAMPUS, THE BUILDING WILL HOUSE A 450 SEAT THEATRE, A 250 SEAT SCREENING ROOM, RADIO TOWER, AMPHITHEATRE AND THE NEW VALLEY STAR NEWSROOM.

Valley welcomes area voters

Valley College will become a Voting Center for the upcoming Primary Election.

SAVANNAH SIMMONS
OPINION EDITOR

In an effort to make voting easier and available for those eligible in LA County, Valley College will become one of the many Vote Centers for the 2020 Presidential Primary Election.

Valley, along with the eight other LA Community Colleges, will all hold Voting Centers

on campus starting this week. Registered students, faculty and staff will be able to vote on campus along with anyone from the public who wishes to choose Valley as their Voting Center. Monarch Hall will serve as the voting site Feb. 29 - March 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and March 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"The District is working directly with Los Angeles

County to make sure each college has a voting center that our students and the public can access," said LACCD Board Vice President Steven Veres. "Every election has issues that are of great concern for students and public education. We cannot stress enough the importance for everybody to cast their ballots. Not only is voting our right and duty, but we must seek to

enable easy access to the ballot for all voters whenever possible."

LA County in years past, polling places were designated for certain neighborhoods and voters but this year is the first of Vote Centers, where voters have the ability to cast a ballot at any center in the county. This new move made by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Dean Logan, is to encourage more

Feds file sanctuary city lawsuit

The lawsuit against California is part of a new resolve against illegal immigration.

AIMEE MARTINEZ
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

In a renewed attempt to crack down on illegal immigration, the Justice Department is suing California over its sanctuary city policies, citing them as unconstitutional.

A statement released Feb. 10 by the Department of Justice announced their suit against the state of California, Governor Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Xavier Becerra over Assembly Bill (AB) 32 - signed in to law October of last year. The bill prohibits the use of all private, for-profit prison and immigration detention facilities. According to the department, the bill would raise the cost of transporting immigration detainees as well as delay feder-

al proceedings as a result of the out of state relocation of prisoners and detainees.

"Unfortunately, in various jurisdictions, so-called 'progressive' politicians are jeopardizing public safety by putting the interests of criminal aliens before those of law-abiding citizens."

- William Barr

"The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), for example, which is

responsible for the housing and transportation of federal prisoners awaiting trial and sentencing, will need to relocate nearly 50 percent of its inmates in the Southern District of California and nearly 30 percent of its total California inmates to out-of-state facilities," the Justice Department's Office of Public Affairs stated.

Attorney General William Barr, at the National Sheriffs' Association Winter Legislative and Technology Conference, announced that the Justice Department would be taking legal action against sanctuary states like California, New York and New Jersey. The administration is challenging the policies of these states as obstructions to federal immigration policy. According to the Trump Administration, these sanctu-

ary policies infringe upon public safety as incarcerated illegal immigrants are being released. During the conference, Barr also stated that jurisdictions cooperative with federal immigration enforcement would be given priority in their discretionary grants programs.

"Unfortunately, in various jurisdictions, so-called 'progressive' politicians are jeopardizing public safety by putting the interests of criminal aliens before those of law-abiding citizens," Barr said. "They have put in place policies and laws designed to thwart the ability of federal officers to take custody of these criminals and thereby help them escape into the communities."

According to the Washington Post, this is the second time the Justice Department has tried to sue California over its immigration laws. The first suit, filed in 2018, was aimed at three laws: AB 45, 103, and Senate Bill 54. These laws prohibit private employers from giving immigration officials access to information for enforcement without a court order. The laws also created a state inspection system for immigration detention facilities and limited what state and local law enforcement can report about certain suspects, as well as which people can be transferred to federal custody.

According to the Washington Post, in 2018, a federal judge dismissed the government's attempt to block the laws saying they were "permissible exercises of California's sovereign power." The decision was later approved in April by an appeals court. This time, the administration is hoping the Supreme Court will hear the lawsuit.

people to get out and vote by making voting simple and less of a hassle.

"This system and model bring to voters an additional 10 consecutive days that allows for voters to go to any location in the county," said Mike Sanchez, a spokesman for the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office. "So if they are on the way to work or dropping kids off at school, or they go to school, or if they're at the grocery store or a movie or the gym, there will be locations nearby."

Valley will be equipped with Ballot Marking Devices instead of the previous ballots voters had to blot with ink. The new devices bring in modern technology with touchscreen tablets that are all wheelchair accessible, have 13 languages available and have a number of assistive features for disabled voters.

Voters who have missed the deadline to register are able to vote in the March Primary Election through Conditional Voter Registration which allows their ballot to count after their eligibility has been verified by the Los Angeles County Registrar.

THE FACTS

According to data from the California Secretary of State, in the 2014 General Election, only 8 percent of registered voters in the 18-24 age group voted.

ON CAMPUS

February 27

Comedian Jackson McQueen will host a comedy show in the Blackbox Theater, located in the Theater Arts Building, at 1:30 p.m. It will feature comics from the Laugh Factory, BET, Comedy Central and VH1.

PASO STEM is holding a Women in STEM Panel in the Campus Center's Fireside Room at 1:30 p.m.

February 29

Women's Softball will play a home game against Ventura College at 10 a.m.

Men's Baseball will play a home game against Compton College at 1 p.m.

The American Guitar Society is presenting celebrated lutenist Ronn McFarlane in a Guitar Series Concert. It will be held in Music Recital Hall 106 at 8 p.m. Tickets to the concert will cost \$10 for students.

Follow up-to-date campus news and events on Twitter @ValleyStarNews

These features and more can be found in full @ www.thevalleystarnews.com

LACCD ramps up drills

GABRIEL ARIZON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In an effort to prepare faculty, staff and students in the event of an active shooter, LACCD is continuing to its training and lockdown drills at all nine campuses.

According to a document from LACCD Safety and Emergency Services Manager William Ramirez, the district is planning active shooter training and several mandatory drills for the spring semester with the purpose of increasing awareness of emergency procedures.

Most of the campuses will have an hour-long active shooter training session for faculty and students conducted by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. The training will discuss options available in that event and how to recognize classroom violence. The first session will take place at Valley College on Feb. 27. It will be in Administration and Career Advancement 2504 at 5:30 p.m. To sign up, register on Eventbrite.

In addition, the district will be conducting monthly lockdown drills. Each drill will be building specific as everyone inside will be told to go into lockdown mode. Sheriff personnel will then inspect the building to check each lockdown was performed correctly. The first of these drills to occur at Valley will be on March 11.

There will also be 15-minute training specifically for classroom situations for students at the request of their professors. To request a session, faculty need to contact Ramirez at ramirew@laccd.edu.

Speaker motivates scholars

SAVANNAH SIMMONS
OPINION EDITOR

Keynote speaker, William Allen Young, spoke at Valley College about motivation, discovering your gifts and developing them through hard work at an event held by the Black Scholars. During the last week of Black History Month, Monarch Hall was filled with club members, students and professors listening to his energetic and powerful speech.

After attending El Camino Community College, Allen went from student speech and debate champion at USC to Hollywood actor in major roles including Brandy's father on "Moesha." His story was only the beginning of what his keynote was meant to do for the students of Valley College.

He left an impact on students after his speech, leaving them to look at themselves and realize what he meant about gaining control of their path and becoming what they want to be.

Students asked questions and shared thanks at the end of Young's keynote which showed how he captivated his audience and got them to grasp what he was saying. Young became a mirror to anyone who was lost by telling the audience that to accomplish their goals, they must be willing to keep pushing for greatness, mediocrity will not be accepted.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | GENE WICKHAM

LAWSUIT- The Justice Department has filed another lawsuit against the Golden State.

“Beyond the Blue” breaks free through art

Valley College is hosting an exhibit from the Prison Arts Collective program that gives a voice to the incarcerated through their drawings and paintings.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR | ROGELIO JOSEPH CAEDO
EXHIBIT- Art pieces made by incarcerated individuals.

AIMEE MARTINEZ
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Valley’s Art Gallery presents the traveling exhibit “Beyond the Blue,” a display of the personal and artistic expressions of individual lives beyond bars.

The art exhibit is part of the Prison Arts Collective (PAC) program in six California state prisons. The program is based in the school San Diego State University of Art and Design at CSU San Bernardino and CSU Fresno. The program uses teach-

ers, students and volunteers to teach art classes to the incarcerated. Various drawings and paintings incorporate themes of alternate materiality, collaboration and partnerships, line as language, dreams, imagination, the surreal and the experience of incarceration. Some of the artwork includes an hourglass with flaming wings, a swan on a rippled lake and a decaying skull with crawling worms.

“Art communicates the pain, the isolation, being a prisoner inside your own mind, being voiceless,” said Next/Up Guardian Scholars Foster Youth program coordinator Alex Ojeda.

At the gallery’s opening, a panel discussion was held with members of the PAC program. Ojeda was one of the panelists whose stories began in prison but found healing through creative outlets. Co-founder of PAC Stan Hunter was 10 years into his sentence at the California Institution for Men when he dis-

covered how to express himself and be more empathetic through painting. The passion he experienced through it inspired him to share it with other prisoners so they could join the transformation.

“I want to tell their stories because it’s our story,” said Hunter.

Wendy Staggs was a former participant in the program at the California Institution for Women. She shared the story of an inmate, in and out of suicide watch, who sat next to her drawing ocean waves. The woman said it was the first time she felt she had left prison. For Staggs, everyone is built for creativity and if they all had the outlet, the world would be a better place.

According to a 2014 Justice Policy Journal, prison arts programs can help inmates’ self-expression and exploration. A Norwegian prison arts evaluation found that the arts helped inmates’ self-development by improving their motivation

as well as their social and life skills. These evaluations have also found that art teaches them to work with focused discipline. Studies have also shown that the artistic process can be a safe catharsis for anger and aggression. In a 2009 Lowenfeld Lecture, artist Olivia Gude said art empowered inmates with a sense of purpose, raised con-

sciousness and the belief that they can make a positive change in their lives.

An auction will be held on March 1 from 2-4 p.m. in the Art Gallery. By auctioning prison artwork and displaying it, inmates can productively reconnect with society before and after their release. The art exhibition ends March 7.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR | ROGELIO JOSEPH CAEDO
ART- Student gazes at the various pieces of art on display.



PAINTING- Students wait at a large table with a canvas in front of them, ready to paint their own Adinkra symbols.

Painting symbols of the past

The Umoja scholarship program connects students with history by painting ancient Dinka symbols.

GENE WICKHAM
STAFF WRITER

With music from Drake and Swae Lee filling the Art Department courtyard, dozens of students came together to participate in Valley College’s Black History Month celebration.

The first event of the year — organized by Elliott Coney, the counselor for the Black Scholars program, and Jeannine Nagy, the Art Gallery director — was sponsored by the Umoja (Swahili for unity) scholarship program. There are four Umoja programs in the LACCD district

and approximately 72 across the state. Also welcoming the students were Sherri Rodriguez, associate dean of special programs, and Alex Ojeda, Guardian Scholars coordinator.

“Basically the event is coordinated by Umoja as well as our student services and our equity

initiative,” Coney said. “This is a program that’s catered to serving the African-American students on our campus.”

Nagy saw the event as an opportunity to provide the event with a venue and a great way to introduce the students to art.

“We want people to [know]

the gallery is there for them and they are part of what we do here,” Nagy said.

“[Adinkra symbols] represent meanings and aphorisms about ideas and concepts for students.”
- Elliott Coney

The students were each given a canvas, several colors of acrylic paint and printouts of various “Adinkra” symbols, which were provided for the students as reference. Encouragement, commitment, strength and friendship are just a few of the ideas Adinkra images illustrate.

“Adinkra symbols go back to the Shanti and Ghanaian people,” Coney explained. “They represent meanings and aphorisms about ideas and concepts for students because [Shanti and Ghanaian] couldn’t fully read, so [they] used images to create meanings.”

Some students attending were curious about the event. Law Enforcement student George Wall came after a family member told him about it.

“It’s pretty cool,” Wall said.

“If I have time, I’ll be there,” he responded.

Coney stressed the creative and social importance of the gathering. “It’s called ‘Trap and Paint’ but basically it’s a Paint and Sip [event],” Coney said. “We’re basically having music, light food and refreshment, and we’re going to be painting a cultural piece of Adinkra symbols that people are going to resonate with.”

At the end of the “Trap and Paint,” students were given the opportunity to donate their work to the Umoja campus center office. The mosaic pieces will be on display in Campus Center 102.

Black History Month events will continue with a comedy show on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 1:30 p.m. in the Theater Arts Building Blackbox Theater. It will be hosted by comedian Jackson McQueen and other comics featured on BET, VH1, Comedy Central and the Laugh Factory. On Friday, Feb. 28, the celebration concludes with a visit to California State Northridge’s Harambee Festival and Conference. The festival will celebrate the cultural legacy of African-Americans and the pursuit of higher education. For more information on remaining events contact Umoja at the Black Scholars Office at 818.947.2600 ext. 4874.

“Clone Wars” upgraded return

The final season of the highly popular show is off to a good start with its premiere episode.

LEXIE MACIAS
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The highly anticipated seventh and final season of “Star Wars: The Clone Wars” premiered Friday on Disney+, surpassing any and all expectations for the show with a great first episode. The introduction of new and intriguing characters, improved animation quality and a riveting new musical score all intertwined seamlessly in this exciting season premiere.

Viewers who have not seen the first six seasons of “Star Wars: The Clone Wars” may be confused if they decide to jump into this episode because of the numerous storylines, characters, battles and planets that have been introduced. But for those interested in watching the final season without having

to view all six prior seasons, Disney+ has released a viewing guide of the 20 most important episodes to watch beforehand, according to Polygon.

The first episode follows clone troopers Captain Rex and Commander Cody into Separatist territory, as they lead a small squad of troops behind enemy lines to recover information from the Cyber Center, a communications tower, on the planet Anaxes. Commander Cody has enlisted the help of Clone Force 99, or the “Bad Batch,” a highly successful “experimental unit of defective clones born with desirable mutations.” Most of the original cast from the previous seasons have returned to voice their characters.

The introduction of the Batch Batch in the first few

minutes draws the viewer in because each defective clone has a unique personality and physical appearance that makes them likable and intriguing. Unlike regular clone troopers, each member of the Bad Batch has a genetic mutation that gives them unique abilities that give them an upper hand in battle. Hunter, the leader of the unit, was born with heightened senses which allow him to feel the electromagnetic frequencies of the Cyber Center anywhere on the planet. Wrecker, the reckless and largest member of the group, was engineered to have enhanced strength and a more muscular body structure. Along with their special abilities, Clone Force 99 work together as such a fluid and cohesive team that droid hordes barely stand a chance against

them in battle on Anaxes.

The highly improved quality of the animation of this season is especially exciting because, after a six-year-long hiatus, the technology behind animation has evolved and changed since 2014. The physical appearances of characters, lighting, landscapes and battle scenes look crisp and eye-catching due to improved animation technology.

The new musical score for the season premiere, the Bad Batch theme, is composed by Kevin Kliner and is played throughout the episode. Many elements of the piece highlight and accentuate the different attributes of the Bad Batch that showcase them as the stars of the episode. The thrilling melodies of the score reflect the unconventional dynamic and nature of



PHOTO COURTESY OF | LUCASFILM
TROOPERS- New faces are introduced in the long-running series.

Clone Force 99 compared to the regular clone troopers that have been in previous seasons. More modern, technical tones appear in the score as well, hinting at the Bad Batch’s use of high-tech methods of warfare that aren’t regularly used in battle. The adventurous theme sets the tone for the action-packed episode

that will center around this new ragtag unit of clone troopers.

The first episode of the final season of “Star Wars: The Clone Wars” proves that the revival of a popular show to conclude it in a satisfying way bodes well for Disney in drawing new viewers and fans of “Star Wars” to their streaming platform.

Exploring Oscar-nominated fashion designs

Diving into Oscar-nominated costumes and design at LA’s Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising Museum.

LEXIE MACIAS
Valley Life Editor

The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising Museum (FIDM) in Los Angeles is holding its 28th Annual Art of Motion Picture Costume Design exhibition displaying costumes and designs from this year’s Oscar-nominated costume designers.

The exhibition offers the public the opportunity to get

up-close-and-personal with the ensembles from films that were nominated for 2020 Best Picture and Best Costume Design, and other awards as well. From the dazzling ensembles in “Rocketman,” to the classic and timeless wardrobe of “Little Women” and the hippy style of 1969 LA in “Once Upon A Time in Hollywood,” this FIDM exhibit has something to offer for film and fashion aficionados of every genre.

Visitors touring the exhibition will learn the important role that costume designers play in

films and movies. Capturing the essence of a time period or era through fashion, outfitting every person in a scene and expressing the personality and qualities of a character through their wardrobe are some of the essential jobs of a costume designer that the exhibition highlighted.

When working on films in specific historical periods, costume designers infuse their designs with personal and modern influences while keeping to the fashion of the time. Some civil liberties are taken by designers in their creations when it

comes to the color, because the color palettes of different eras are more dull and dim in appearance. They would incorporate colors that were brighter, and more eye-catching to the audience. According to a “Dolemite is My Name” featurette, Ruth E. Carter, the costume designer of the film, did this when creating her designs.

Expressing the personality and qualities of a character through wardrobe is another task that costumers have to tackle in a film. The different quirks and characteristics of a character should shine through the different types of apparel they wear. A few costumes from “Jojo Rabbit” were on display, but the ensemble worn by Scarlett Johansson’s character Rosie, stood out because of its lively colors and fun patterns. Mayes C. Rubeo, the costume designer for “Jojo Rabbit,” according to a short featurette in the exhibition, wanted to give Rosie a bright and colorful wardrobe to show the audience how Johansson’s character is the metaphorical beacon of light in her son Jojo’s Nazi-dominated life.

Also included in the exhibition were designs from “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker,” “Captain Marvel” and “Avengers: Endgame.” Even though these were not award-nominated films,



Valley Star | Lexie Macias

STAR WARS- Costumes from the set of “The Rise of Skywalker.”

fashion is integral to bringing to life fascinating creatures from a galaxy far, far, away and outfitting superheroes in unforgettable uniforms. The animated feature “Missing Link” also had concept boards for the costume designs of the film’s characters, as well as figurines of each character in their unique wardrobes.

The 28th Annual Art of Motion Picture Costume Design

exhibition at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising Museum is open until March 21 and is free to the public. The FIDM Museum is north of the Fashion District at 919 S. Grand Avenue in Downtown Los Angeles. For more info visit fidmmuseum.org/exhibitions/ current or call (213)-623-5821 to get in contact with the FIDM Museum.



Valley Star | Lexie Macias

ABBEY- Costumes from the historical drama “Downtown Abbey” are on display in the museum.

A dip into Oreo’s history

How America’s favorite cookie has become a household staple for over 100 years.

CASSANDRA NAVA
Staff Writer

The anatomy of the nation’s most popular cookie is simple: two chocolate cookies bound together by a creamy center, and this combination has been dominating the snack industry since 1912.

“Oreos deserve this title because they’re such a classic staple in American society.”
- Jessica Labonog

Nabisco created Oreos nearly 100 years ago and marketed them as the first sandwich cookie to hit the shelves. However, the Oreo was a knockoff of the popular cookie, Hydrox, which was a black and white sandwich cookie that Oreo copied, right down to the packaging. Oreo soon surpassed their competition with the help of Nabisco’s marketing, leaving Hydrox in

the past. Oreos have implemented changes to their aesthetics since their creation, changing the packaging in the 1970s to a vibrant blue and white. Not long after, the Oreo was labeled as the world’s best selling cookie in 1985, according to the 1985 Guinness Book of World Records, and in 2017, Oreo reached \$710 million in sales.

“Oreos deserve this title because they’re such a classic staple in American society,” said Valley College sophomore Jessica Labonog. “An oreo is a simple cookie that can be eaten anywhere at any time.”

Since 1912, the cookie’s flavor has never changed. It’s always been 71 percent chocolate cookie and 29 percent cream filling. However, Oreo has created many different flavors since their conception. There are over 25 flavors: red velvet, pistachio, lemon, carrot cake and more.

People eat the Oreo in different ways — ripping it apart or eating it whole. Studies show that men eat the cookie by taking bites, and women eat the cookie by twisting it in half.

“It depends on if I have milk,” said Valley freshman Elijah Perez. “If I have milk I can [take a bite and] wash it down. If I don’t have milk I’ll split it open

because the cream is really the best part.”

“The treat has been around for almost 100 years. It was born the same year the South Pole was discovered and the Titanic sank.”
- Fast Company

The price of the standard package sold at grocery stores, which contains three rows of 15 cookies, is usually priced at just under \$3. The runner up for best selling cookies in the United States are Girl Scout Cookies, which sell for \$4 (select flavors are \$5).

In 1993, Nabisco took the lard ingredient out of Oreos, but did not obtain Kosher certification until 1998 according to OU Kosher (the world’s largest kosher certification agency). This title allows consumers to purchase snacks that cater to their dietary needs. The lack of pig lard therefore allows Oreos

to be vegan and vegetarian.

Oreos are typically used in the world of desserts — there are ice cream, pies, cakes and even pizzas that incorporate the cookie into some recipes. In 1997, McDonald’s created the Oreo McFlurry, which is a blend of soft serve ice cream and crushed up Oreos.

One inspiration for the Oreo has surpassed the realm of food altogether, with the recent collaboration with clothing brand Supreme. In their Spring/Summer 2020 collection, Supreme partnered up with Nabisco to create a red double stuf Oreo, but rather than reading “Oreo” on the cookie, the classic Supreme logo was on the center of the cookie. The original price for a pack of three cookies sold for \$8 but has since sold out. However, on eBay, prices for this limited edition Oreo can range from \$15 to upwards of \$70,000.

“The treat has been around for almost 100 years,” according to Fast Company. “It was born the same year the South Pole was discovered and the Titanic sank. It had witnessed a dozen presidencies, endured technological breakthroughs, countless fashion trends and survived diet crazes.”



Photo Courtesy of | Piquesels

COOKIES- Oreos are the best-selling cookie in the world.



Photo Courtesy of | Universal Pictures

ACTRESS- Mackenzie Davis stars in “The Turning.”

“The Turning” ends up nowhere

The film tries desperately to be as high brow as the source material but ends up a mess.

GENE WICKHAM
Staff Writer

More of a psychological study than a ghost story, “The Turning” creates a psychosexual foundation for a tedious maze of undeveloped plot points which fails to pay off.

Henry James’ 1898 novella “The Turn Of The Screw” can be considered a blueprint for supernatural movies, most notably “The Innocents” in 1961 and “The Others” in 2001. The elements from the novel are there to be exploited but the direction “The Turning” takes becomes inconsistent and unclear.

The story follows Kate, a fragile child care worker played by Mackenzie Davis (“The Martian,” “Blade Runner 2049”), who leaves Seattle and her mentally impaired mother to work as a nanny at a remote mansion in Maine.

After meeting the housekeeper, Mrs. Grose, her young ward Flora and Flora’s brother Miles, Kate begins to suspect the sheltered children and creepy house are hiding a supernatural evil.

Mackenzie Davis delivers a generally sympathetic but mundane performance as Kate, a cautious woman with implied mental baggage.

The two younger actors, Finn Wolfhard (“Stranger Things” and “It”) and Brooklyn Prince (“Lego Movie 2” and “Angry Birds 2”), do a commendable job as two sheltered siblings with the dark sexual and supernatural sources given them to work with.

For some reason the timeline revolves around the early 1990s after the suicide of Kurt Cobain Music from his wife, Courtney Love, along with other grunge-alternative rock bands, permeate the film. The film’s

original soundtrack is adequate, but not memorable.

Many of the film’s elements feel incongruous. For example, the film is introduced by a scene where Kate is trying to escape the mansion. Then the story flashes back to Seattle weeks earlier when Kate decides to take the nanny position. However, The story never syncs back with the original opening teaser, leaving viewers to wonder why it was put there in the first place.

Everything on screen is visually appealing from the locations, to the actors, to the dark creepy photography. However, like Disney’s Haunted House, the moments fail to add up to a compelling and clear narrative.

Director Floria Sigismondi exhibits a flair for mood and nuance. As a photographer and music video creator, she has also directed episodes of several notable cable series including “The Handmaid’s Tale” and

“Daredevil”. Her perspective on visuals is her main strength, but sustaining a lengthy dramatic consistency is not one of her strong suits.

The original title from the novel “Turn of the Screw,” is supposed to reflect the tightening pressure the story exudes as the narrative progresses. This modern version leans more to jarring imagery than psychological depth. The flow of the story loses its direction and basically leaves viewers lost and confused.

Prepare to do a little mental work here if you are looking for a compelling ghost story.

Valley’s Stars



Rated PG-13

Not Worth the \$\$\$

Now Playing

Underrepresentation at Oscars

Despite several quality films from female directors, nominations at the Oscars were male-dominated.

SARAH BEST
NEWS EDITOR

It is no secret that the world of film is a male-dominated discipline, but this knowledge was only further exemplified when absurdity held the hand of sexism a bit tighter at the 92nd Academy Awards.

Members of Hollywood are criticizing Natalie Portman who took it upon herself to make the names of eight female directors known at the Academy Awards. Director Lorene Scafaria of “Hustlers” and Greta Gerwig of “Little Women” represent just some of the underrepresented. Going down the left side of Portman’s custom Dior cape read the gold-embroidered last names of all eight women including Mati Diop, Alma Har’el, Marielle Heller, Melina Matsoukas, Celine Sciamma and Lulu Wang.

In a recent post on her Instagram, Portman captioned the photo showcasing her dress, “Honoring these remarkable women last night who



WOMEN- “Little Women” director Greta Gerwig was not nominated for Best Director at the Oscars.

were not recognized for their incredible work: @thumbelulu, #GretaGerwig, @lorenescarfaria, @mariellestileseller, @matidiop, @msmelina, @alma.harel, and @celine_sciamma.”

Portman is the only female director of her production company “Handsomecharlie Films,” which is giving way to both the public’s and Hollywood’s accusation of her hypocrisy. An Oscar-

winning actress herself, she effectively used her influential platform to bring attention to and be the voice of the nearly dozen female film-makers who undeservingly were not given one.

“The industry overall is better in terms of more women working now than a few years ago but it’s still horribly under-represented,” said Valley College’s Department Chair of Media Arts Eric Swelstad, “but the percentage of women working in directing, especially, is upside down.”

The disproportionality of cinema is overwhelming male, not only in the broader aspect of the industry but also within Valley itself. There is one female professor in the entirety of the film department and, although there is a rising number of female cinema students, the ratio remains to be predominantly male. With the lack of recognition given to female directors at this year’s Oscars, it is no wonder why women are inherently being steered away from entering the world of film.

Despite its worldwide gross of \$191.5 million, according to

Box Office Mojo, “Little Women” not being nominated, “was a major slight against that film, against the direction of that film and the creative aspect of it,” according to Swelstad.

Although “Little Women” was nominated for Best Picture, Gerwig was not nominated for Best Director. It is a slap in the face to be nominated for one and not the other. These two categories would theoretically go hand in hand, but it only further exemplifies how discredited female directors are. To help illustrate this point, “Parasite” won Best Picture and Best Director. Instead of encouraging the breaking of the glass ceiling, Hollywood’s inequality is inadvertently instituting the idea of the sticky floor.

This year’s Oscars was undeniably a male affair, but that is not to say that that has to be a permanent characteristic of Hollywood. Instances of blatant sexism like these should not discourage females from pursuing film but should act as the driving force behind wanting to be the change they wish to see in the industry.

Voting is not an obligation

Forcing people to vote is not only unpatriotic, it is idiotic.

GABRIEL BRAUNSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

California voters are heard loud and clear.”

Throughout American history, we have always fought for equal rights to vote. However, California Assemblymember Marc Levine is now trying to make that right into a state-enforced task in an ill-advised bill.

Levine’s Assembly Bill 2070 takes the right of voting and attempts to make it an obligation. This causes a problem since amendments, such as the 15th and 19th, already give citizens the right to vote. AB 2070 would require California residents to cast a ballot (marked or unmarked), and if voters happen to decide to not submit a ballot, then they will face a fine with a price that has yet to be determined.

Other countries in which this bill is based on, like Belgium and Australia, fine people for not voting. In Bolivia, if people cannot prove that they voted, their salary can be withheld at the bank. The problem with basing this bill off of other countries is that their voting days are a holiday, while California’s voting day is on a weekday.

Assemblymember Levine wrongly believes in AB 2070, even going as far as to say, “Democracy is not a spectator sport — it requires the active participation of all its citizens.” He continued to state, “California is a national leader on expanding voting rights to its citizens. Those rights come with a responsibility by registered voters to cast their ballot and make sure that their voice is heard by their government. This is not a time to be complacent at the ballot box. My AB 2070 will ensure that the voices of all

Currently, California has a 56.5 percent voter turnout, according to the World Population Review. By forcing everyone to cast a ballot, we are effectively doubling the number of voters there are and therefore doubling the amount of time it takes. Casting a ballot takes an average of five to 10 minutes and the average wait time in line is six minutes and 36 seconds. Most people don’t have the time to stay up to date with politics and understand what they are voting on. This means that there would be a doubling of the number of people voting, the time it takes to stand in line, and the number of people voting on things purely based on ads and other forms of media.

Ways to combat an overflow of physical ballots would be to try to come up with an online solution or an extension to the number of days in which we can vote. L.A county has already extended the number of voting days to 11 and, while it is in California, it is only one of the 58 counties in the state. The Iowa caucus is an example of an online voting system and, while it didn’t work perfectly but overall it could be a solution if not a step in the right direction.

Currently, there are two things that are certain, first is that how AB 2070 is right now it will not work, and second is that Krispy Kreme’s promotional in which you get a free donut for showing up with an “I voted” sticker will have to up its game.

“Democracy lives on. You get a free doughnut. Everybody wins.” Krispy Kreme said on their Facebook page.



INSTAGRAM | NATALIEPORTMAN
DRESS- Natalie Portman’s dress made a statement at the Oscars.

Acquitted Trump goes on power trip

A petty president evades the consequences of his actions and begins a series of firings.

SOLOMON SMITH
MANAGING EDITOR

After a predetermined acquittal at his impeachment trial, an unbowed President Donald J. Trump delivered a rambling hour-long speech from the East Room of the White House decrying impeachment and promising retribution — last week he started to deliver.

“It was all bullshit,” said Trump.

The statement sums up the tone for his victory celebration while perfectly framing the lesson the president learned — vengeance.

It started with a spectacle, like many of Trump’s stunts. Images of Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman being escorted from the White House in his dress uniform were splashed across the news. His twin brother Lt. Col. Yegny Vindman, who did not testify at the president’s

impeachment, was also subjected to the walk of shame. An unnecessarily vindictive act, setting up what was to come for the rest of the week.

“Trump knows that there is no action that the Republican party will not excuse.”

“Suddenly and with no explanation,” said Yevgeny Vindman’s lawyer, David Pressman, according to a report by CNN, “despite over two decades of loyal service to this country.”

There was an explanation, however, and it was provided by Trump. In a tweet, the president crowed about the firing of Vindman, smeared his reputation and made it clear why.

“[H]e was very insubordi-

nate, reported contents of my ‘perfect’ calls incorrectly..... and was given a horrendous report by his superior,” tweeted Trump, “who publicly stated that Vindman had problems with judgement, adhering to the chain of command and leaking information. In other words, ‘OUT.’”

Trump knows that there is no action that the Republican party will not excuse, and his behavior is getting worse. Even his allies are not beyond retribution. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Gordon Sondland, a former businessman who donated \$1 million to Trump’s election bid according to the Washington Post, testified at the impeachment hearing, earning his ex-communication from government service.

It has not been all stick from the president, however. Like every budding dictator, drunk on his own power, the president has been benevolent to those who prove useful to him. On Feb. 12, federal prosecutors

recommended a sentence of 7-9 years for Roger Stone, a Trump henchman, who was convicted of seven felony counts including; lying under oath and trying to block evidence. Trump being intimately familiar with these things decided this was unfair.

He tweeted, “This is a horrible and very unfair situation. The real crimes were on the other side, as nothing happens to them. Cannot allow this miscarriage of justice!”

The Justice Department decided to fall in line and lower the recommended sentence — within hours — according to CNBC.

Four prosecutors left the case in protest, one of whom lost a promotion over the matter, but Trump was just getting warmed up. Most recently, Trump has decided to pardon several white collar criminals whose crimes are eerily close to those he was accused of. They, in turn, have promised themselves to Trump, accepting what has now become,



FLICKR | DONKEYHOTY
TRUMP- The president spitting vitriol at his opponents.

for this president, the new coin of the realm.

This is only the start. Trump has chased off anyone with a modicum of integrity or backbone and supplanted the Attorney General’s office with a sycophant, William Barr, who

has done everything the president wants without regard to the destructive effects upon the respect and trust of the office. With an acquittal in his pocket, tucked next to the soul of the Republican party, there is nothing holding Trump back now.

VALLEY VIEW | YOU CAN VOTE UP TO 11 DAYS AT ANY VOTING PLACE IN LA COUTNY. DO YOU THINK THAT’S A GOOD IDEA? WHY OR WHY NOT?

TEXT BY SARAH BEST

PHOTOS BY KEVIN ROMERO



“I think it’s good because different people work different times and now everybody can have a chance to go vote.”
- HALIMA SIDDI, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



“I think it’s great because sometimes the one that’s right by your home isn’t the one that you want to go to or has long lines.”
- MIRIAM BERMAN, EXPRESSIVE ART THERAPY



“I think it’s a good idea because people usually have school or work or family stuff to do.”
- ASTRID CORTEZ, PHOTOGRAPHY



“That’s better because people have more time to make the right choices.”
- JULISSA CONTRERAS, COMMUNICATION DISORDERS



“I think it’s a great idea because a lot of people miss out on voting because maybe they don’t know, so this gives them extra time to prepare.”
- SAVANNAH REYNOLDS, UNDECIDED

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.

Baseball and softball season underway

Monarch's baseball and softball season is gearing up.

VICENTE VITELA
SPORTS EDITOR

After barely missing the playoffs last year, Valley College's baseball and softball teams are out to prove that there a legit playoff contender.

Head coach Dave Mallas looks to leave last year's sub 500 record behind him as the team sits at 7-7 so far. This year's team features an even mixture of freshmen and sophomores. However, the Monarchs are loaded with arms as Mallas can call on 16 eligible pitchers to take the mound. On the offensive side, the team can only send six left-handed batters to the plate, which could pose a problem against left handed pitching.

In a little more than a dozen games, the Monarchs offense boasts a .285 batting average, which is better than last year. As a team, Valley ranks eighth in the conference in triples with seven. Additionally, Monarch base runners have stolen 29 stolen bases, which ranks ninth. Old school baseball is the way this offense is run as they have been hit by a pitch 28 times so far this year, 11th in the league, and the team ranks second overall in sacrifice flies with 13. This offense likes to get the runners on, get them over, and get them home.

The pitching staff for the Monarchs has not reached its full potential, as they currently have an ERA just short of 5, which ranks 42nd overall, while averaging 5.5 strikeouts per game. Despite a somewhat high ERA, the staff has kept the opposition to just a .264 batting average, while allowing only four walks a game. On the defensive side, there is definite room for improvement as the team is averaging 2.5 errors a game, and according to the California Community College Athletic Association, has only turned seven double plays this season. Despite its seven losses so far, only one has been by more than four runs, meaning this is a scrappy team, and if teams fail to put them away early, they might be sorry.

Lady Monarchs softball and Head Coach Greg Venger haven't gotten off to the start they would have hoped as they currently have a 4-10 record, and despite the poor record, the Monarchs are still just four games out of second place. The 2020 softball team has undergone a complete facelift as there are only two sophomores on this team compared to 12 freshmen. One quiet new addition to the coaching staff is last year's ace Hannah Moulton, who comes on as the pitching coach replacing Nicole Toven.

The offense for Valley currently features a .319 batting average, a .389 on base percentage, and a .448 slugging percentage. Despite these solid numbers, the team has only been able to score 70 runs (thirty-fourth), while collecting 108 hits (twenty-eighth) as a team. For the Lady Monarchs, they have four players batting over .300, freshmen Citlali Mendez (.333), sophomore Elizabeth Flores (.410), freshmen Tea Carbajal, and Freshmen Valery Ramirez (.463). There are some bright spots on a team that outside of the top four batters are struggling to find their groove at the plate.

For the young Lady Monarchs' pitching staff, they are struggling to find the zone as they currently have a 8.47 ERA which ranks 70th overall and are only holding the opposition to a .361 batting average. The pitching staff has allowed eight home runs thus far and has only struck out 10 batters across 14 games. On the defensive side of the diamond, the team have only turned three double plays so far while committing 32 errors. The season is still early and with 90 percent of the team composed of freshmen, there will certainly be growing pains.

Monarchs basketball still looking for a shot at playoffs

With the end of the basketball season in sight, the Monarchs have a shot at winning regional playoffs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF I DALE BECK

BASKETBALL- Point Guard Brianna Torres and the rest of the Lady Monarchs get ready to play against Mira Costa.

VICENTE VITELA
SPORTS EDITOR

Both the men and women's basketball teams have above .500 records, with the Men at 23-5, and the women at 15-13, meaning both teams have earned a spot in the regional playoff tournament.

For the men, Head Coach Virgil Watson has the Monarchs playing some of the best basketball they have in years, and their 22-5 record is proof of that. This year's team is led by sophomore Micah Cooper, a guard who is averaging about 18 points, two steals, 6.7 rebounds a game. The second unit for the Monarchs is led by sophomore Greg Chew Jr., a forward whose only started in eight games thus far and has been valuable off the bench, averaging 15 points, 7.5 rebounds, 1 block.

A men's team with a sub .500 winning record two of the past three seasons now ranks fourteenth in the state and has only one loss at home so far. Valley is averaging 75.3 points per game, with a 46 percent field goal percentage and 16.5

assists a night. Points at the free throw line are something that the Monarchs love to cash in as they are averaging 20 free throw attempts a game, making about 14 per game. Crashing the boards has really helped out the Monarchs second chance opportunities as they average close to 40 rebounds a game.

The offensive numbers for the Monarchs are very respectable; however, the offense isn't even the tip of the iceberg as the defensive numbers are eye popping. Valley ranks in the top 15 for the state in opponents' 3pt percentage (14th, 30.9 percent), points per game allowed (8th, 65.1), and opponents' field goal percentage (5th, 38.8 percent). This team has quick hands as they average 7.5 steals a game. The defense is clearly the Monarchs' strong suit, and if these numbers continue to improve, this team could find themselves competing for a state title.

The Lady Monarchs have taken a different path thus far. Despite a 15-13 record, they are 9-5 in conference play and still have a shot at winning their third conference title in the last

four years. Head Coach Monica Hang and her staff stumbled out the gate, losing four of their first six games, but have seemed to turn the ship around as they have now won nine of their last 12 games. During this stretch, the team has been relying on their two sophomore forwards, Sophia Hughes, and Janelle Jiron. Each is averaging over 10 points a game and logging at least 25 minutes a night. The anchor of this team, however, could be Rebecca Castillo, a sophomore who is averaging 10.3 points a night, shoots 70 percent from the free-throw line, and logs around 30 minutes a night.

"There is not one leader, we have more of a group effort here," said Coach Hang when asked about a locker room leader.

Live by the three, die by the three, best describes this Monarch offense as they rank third in three-point percentage in the state at 36.1, and what makes this stat more remarkable, is that they are only averaging about 15 three-point attempts per game. This means that they are making the most

of every three-point opportunity. Valley does not like to waste shots as they also have a high field goal percentage (39.5) that ranks 20th in the state. At the free throw line the team ranks 25th overall as they have a 64.6 free throw percentage.

"Each member to show up and produce; get solid defensive stops and make shots," said Coach Hang when asked about what it will take to win her upcoming playoff game.

On the opposite side of the ball, this Lady Monarchs team knows how to play defense. The team ranks seventeenth in the state for opponents field goal percentage at 33.5 percent. They have also limited their opponents points per game to 53.2, which ranks twelfth in the state. One stat that Valley needs to improve on is forced turnovers as both their blocks, and steals a game do not break the top 40. The Lady Monarchs control their own destiny as they are one of the teams on the bubble for the final tournament of the season, but if they were to win the Western State Conference, it would certainly help their bid for the big dance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF I DALE BECK

GAME- Sophia Hughes goes for the hoop.



PHOTO COURTESY OF I DALE BECK

TOP- Rebecca Castillo passing the ball over an opponent.

BOTTOM- Sophia Hughes makes a dramatic catch.



MONARCH STATS

Men's Basketball beat Antelope Valley College on Feb. 21 by a score of 89-74.

Monarch's Baseball lost against Santa Ana 1-3 last Wednesday. They will play them again today.

LADY MONARCHS

Women's Basketball lost against Antelope Valley last Friday by 64-73.

Monarch's Softball beat Santa Monica College Monday by a score of 22-20.

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Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.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.

the VALLEY STAR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

Rest in Peace, Black Mamba

One month ago, NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven others died in a helicopter crash. Basketball fans the world over, and especially Lakers fans, expressed their shock and grief.

Fans paid tribute to Bryant with

painting murals all around Los Angeles, honoring his legend.

*Text by
Gabriel Arizon, Editor-in-Chief
Photos by
Kevin Romero, Staff Writer*

RIGHT- An artist putting the finishing touches on his mural.

BELOW- An R.I.P. message for all nine people who died in the crash.



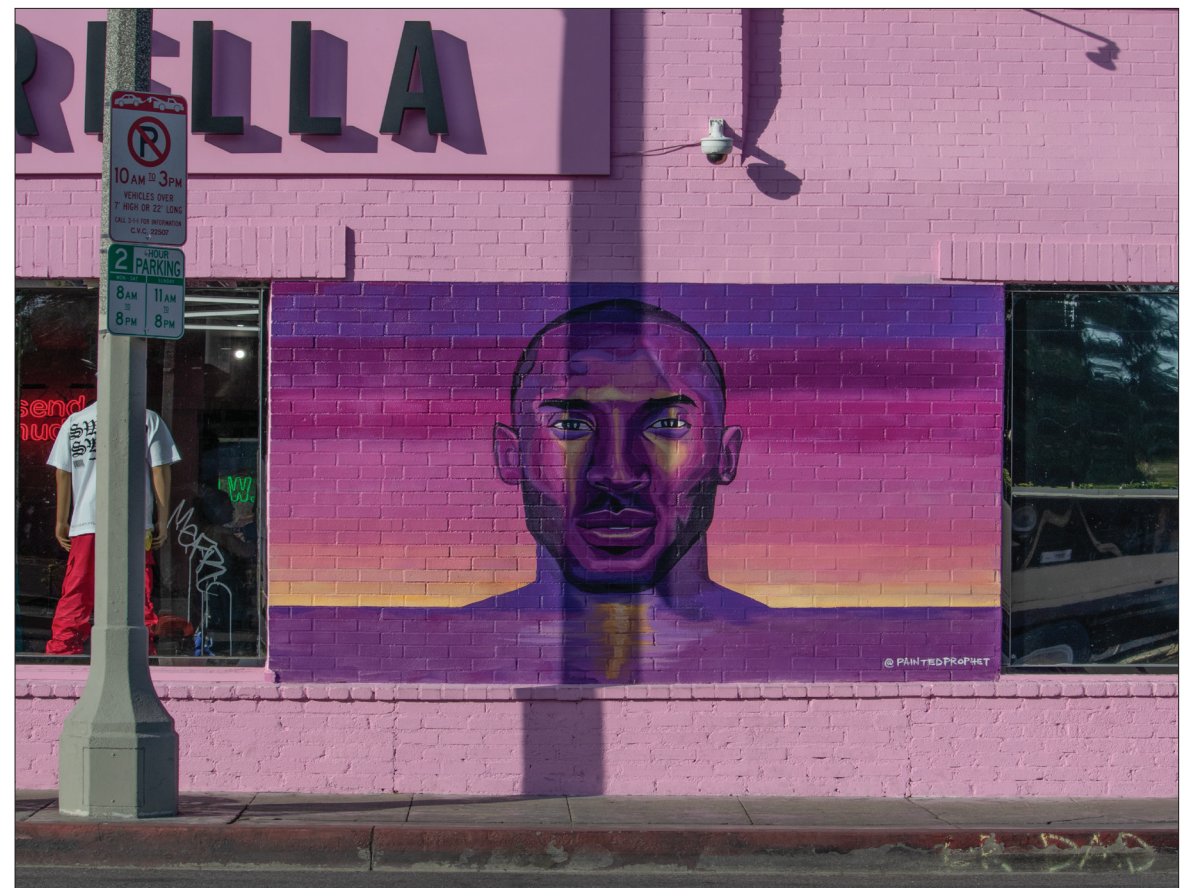
ABOVE- Thank you and R.I.P. messages left by dozens of fans.



ABOVE- A Kobe Bryant fan proudly wearing his jersey as he stands by his painting supplies.



BELOW- A wide, purple-tinted mural of Bryant in front of a store.



ABOVE- A large mural highlighting Bryant's athleticism and basketball skills.

RIGHT- A woman posing in front of a large mural of Bryant.

