Campus Times

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Politics impacts teaching

Aryn Plax
Politics Editor

After Donald Trump's unlikely victory in the 2016 election, a student noticed a change among his peers. To him the campus seemed dead, and its student body appeared to experience the six stages of grief.

Fares Abdullah, junior political science major, said that his professors tried to contextualize the election in terms of history and current political institutions, while conversations between students about the election showed increasing polarization.

He was not the only student who thought the campus appeared lifeless immediately post-election.

Senior political science major Jackie Ku said he met the election results with surprise.

Two recent poly-sci alumni reported that within the political science department, the professors had made an effort to include right wing student voices, along with those on the left in conversations about the election.

Professors of political science Richard Gelm and Jason Neidleman differed in their approach. Gelm said he grounded classroom discussions by basing them on hard data. Meanwhile, Neidleman said that he initially struggled with conversations post-election, particularly because the election resulted in the mainstreaming of fringe ideas espoused by Trump.

Nicholas Castellano, a 2018 graduate, said that politically conservative students received dirty looks from their more liberal peers in the classroom, and they felt stereotyped as racists.

January 2019 graduate Mahala Baker said that the concerted effort to include right wing voices made students of color feel marginalized.

Baker also said that there was little effort to evaluate the content being taught post-election. She said it was only after an alleged hate crime against students on campus this spring, that

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Fiesta flight



Ashley Villavicencio

Juliette Lawrence, age 5, of Pomona takes a ride at the Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Fiesta in Claremont. Over 500 people attended the 72nd annual event held last weekend to raise money to benefit OLA programs. The Fiesta also featured Mexican and Vietnamese food as well as carnival style games. **See story on page 7.**

Residents push back against Metro

Gold Line could help city traffic

Jaycie Thierry
Social Media Editor

The Gold Line is expanding its tracks, but not without residential opposition.

To improve traffic congestion, the Metro Goldline Foothill Extension Construction Authority is considering the widening of White Avenue to four lanes; an expansion that could potentially make traffic worse as the construction of the train expansion proceeds.

La Verne residents were vocal about their concerns, in contrast with the city's optimism for the possibility of train travel.

La Verne resident Brittany Murphy values the train coming to La Verne but is not looking forward to its construction.

"I usually have to drive to Azusa to hop on the train," Murphy said. "Residents just need to be kept informed of their plans for expansion, especially if it's going to cause detours in our daily commutes."

The widening of White Avenue and overall construction of the Gold Line is looking to be a short term disturbance for what those in charge of the construction believe to be a long term solution.

Glendora resident Vanessa Powers said she often reads residential concerns about Gold Line's expansion on Nextdoor, a neighborhood watch app.

She is not thrilled about the proposal for White Avenue, especially because of regular family visits to Pomona.

"It's already congested as it is," Powers said. "Economically it's a good idea, but construction would definitely be a nuisance."

Albert Ho, media relations for the Gold Line, said the expansion is something voters have passed twice, between both Measure M in 2016 and Measure R in 2018.

Measure M was a tax that California voters passed, which affirmed funding to improve traffic congestion.

Measure R was a half-cent sales tax for Los Angeles County to finance new transportation projects and programs, and accelerate those already in the pipeline, according to the Metro website; which Ho said is mostly funding the train's expansion.

"The people want it," Ho said. "We're at a point where there's no efficient way to get people around."

The Gold Line currently runs from Los Angeles to Azusa. The 12.3 mile extension of the tracks is looking to pass through Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and then Montclair.

Rene Guerrero, interim public works coordinator for the city of Pomona, voiced the benefits that the Gold Line could bring to their city.

"We think it could bring additional transit-oriented development," Guerrero said. "In turn,

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Three cars vandalized in lot H

Three cars were vanalized in a campus lot earlier this month, Ruben Ibarra, director of safety operations reported last week.

Apparently unlocked at the time, all three cars were in Parking Lot H, beside the Barkley Annex. Two break-ins occured on May 5 and one on May 8.

Ibarra said money and personal property – but not computers or electronics – were stolen.

Ibarra advises students to keep the windows rolled up.

"Do not leave valuables in your vehicle exposed," Ibarra said. "Even a tote bag with clothes in it may not seem valuable to you, but someone else does not know that. Often these crimes are crimes of opportunity. If the door is open, they are going to grab the bag and just leave."

Campus Safety advises all to park in well lighted areas, close all windows and always be aware of your surroundings when approaching your vehicle.

Campus Safety has yet to identify suspects of the car break-ins.

"We thought it would be important to inform the students as a safety precaution," Ibarra said. "I know students are starting to transition to moving back out and putting things in their vehicles. We are just trying to stay ahead of the game and hopefully catch them or they will decide not to come back."

Students are advised to report any suspicious activity or incidents to Campus Safety at 909-448-4950.

—Layla Abbas

Inside The Campus Times



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Rogers encourages student growth

Roughly 30 students and faculty members gathered for Associate Professor of Psychology Rick Rogers' "Almost Last Lecture: Counseling and Its Uses," Tuesday in the Executive Dining Room.

Rogers has worked at the University since 1988 when he started as a part-time as a counselor with Counseling and Psychological Services and as an adjunct professor.

During his lecture Rogers took the audience on a journey through his childhood, his counseling career and his psychological studies.

Rogers had several jobs throughout his life, including working as a farm hand, a delivery driver and a paper boy, he told the audience.

Rogers said it took him some time to figure out that he wanted to pursue an education and career in psychology, he said.

After graduating from Arizona State University in 1974 with degree social welfare, and a minor in psychology, he earned his master's degree in marriage and family counseling.

Soon after, he received his doctorate in counseling and guidance.

Rogers began his career in counseling at Arizona Baptist Children's Services in Phoenix.

Eventually he found himself at ULV where retired chair of the Behavioral Science Division Aghop Der Karabetian hired him as an adjunct professor and director of counseling services.

In 2001 Rogers taught graduate students as a full-time professor.

Der Karabetian, Rogers' longtime friend and colleague, said he always admired Rogers' work ethic.

"He was there when we needed somebody who could help these students get good counseling and improve their mental health," Der Karabetian said.

In retirement from the University, Rogers said he plans to continue his private practice, and attend the Claremont Avenues for Lifelong Learning Program.

"I want my students to keep growing, keep learning, and keep building their skills and confidence," Rogers said.

—Christine D. Insigne

Corrections

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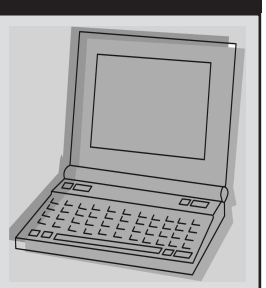

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Molly Garry

Associate Professor of Psychology Rick Rogers spoke Tuesday in the Executive Dining Room. Rogers started as an adjunct professor at the University of La Verne in 1988. Rogers led a research project on student military veterans, which helped efforts to establish a University Office of Veteran Students Success. He also served as director of the Counseling and Psychological Services center.

Proposed law would protect natural hairstyles

Alondra Campos
Staff Writer

A bill being considered by state legislators could help reduce the discrimination in schools and the workplace associated with natural African American hairstyles.

SB-188, proposed by Sen. Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, is known as the Creating a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair, or CROWN, Act.

The measure aims to end the current school and workplace "grooming standards" that target people of color, specifically with regard to hairstyles.

Hair has historically been one of many determining factors of a person's race and is still a proxy today for race, according to the bill.

Discrimination targeting hairstyles associated with a specific race, therefore, is racial discrimination.

Misty Levingston, assistant director of multicultural affairs, said that although the measure is a great effort toward eliminating discrimination in the workplace, it is shocking to think that there needs to be law for hair discrimination to end.

"The fact that we have to make an act to not discriminate is ludicrous," Levingston said.

Levingston said that people of color have had to take additional unnecessary precautions when it comes to applying for a job or attending an interview.

"I have had to contemplate whether or not to take my braids down for an interview," Levingston said. "People of color often ask themselves what they should do about their hair when hair has no bearing on work ethic."

Levingston spoke about a time when she was discriminated for her hair in the workplace.

"At a previous institution I used to work for, I chose to wrap my hair in a cultural headpiece on occasion because I felt like it," Levingston said.

"However, I was told that I appeared unprofessional, even though I was wearing my business attire."

Levingston said that as a silent protest, she wore the same headpiece for a month to her workplace.

"Something so simple as hair can be a barrier to success for people of color," Levingston said. "I hope this act serves as a way for people to regain their justice and remove the unconscious bias that many people have."

Shyonta Glothon, sophomore psychology and theater major, said that it is hard for her to maintain her natural hair when she becomes involved in theatre.

"No one understands how hard it is to straighten natural hair," Glothon said. "I'm not going to spend money on expensive products just to fit someone else's standards."

Glothon shared her experiences with hair discrimination when she auditioned for Disney where she that the directors had very specific requirements as to how she had to handle her natural hair if she were to get a role. Glothon said that the requirements were not easy, since taming natural hair is not an easy process. Glothon eventually denied the offer because she said it was too much to deal with.

Glothon also shared her various encounters with hair discrimination in her workplace, where she said she is constantly pulled aside and told to either change clothing or fix her hair.

"I am always having to take that extra step when I go to work because I don't want to be sent home because my hair 'isn't good enough'," Glothon said. "It's irritating to know that I am always the only one having to take the extra effort of getting ready when my appearance has no interference with how I direct myself to people."

Glothon said she would like to see this act spread into other states in the country to bring awareness to others of the unique difficulties people of color experience on a daily basis.

Currently, New York is in the process of passing similar legislation to the CROWN Act in California.

The Commission of Human Rights in New York is investi-

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Commentary

False accusations are few and far between



JOCELYN ARCEO

Over the course of the year, I have come across several tweets made by outraged users regarding the seemingly prevalent "narrative," as some users have defined it, of false rape accusations. Many of the claims began in February after former Baylor University linebacker Shawn Oakman was found falsely accused of rape.

One tweet, made by Twitter user **@chrissyykat**, stated, "This HAS to stop!! He didn't even get an NFL opportunity because SHE lied. I'm so sick of this narrative." This led me to ask, "what narrative?"

The only narrative present is the one where victims of sexual assault are made to feel as though false reporting is far more common than it actually is, which only then silences victims out of fear.

Unfortunately, the tweet gained immense traction with over 32,000 retweets and 74,000 favorites, meaning too many users agree with the narrative that this user believes is more prevalent than it actually is.

This "narrative" that the user was referencing only happens 2% to 10% of the time. In addition, about 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

College campuses in particular have a running record of victim-blaming and silencing those who come forward.

The 2015 CNN Films documentary, "The Hunting Ground," focuses on the process college students go through when reporting rape on their campus.

Hope Brinn, a student from Swarthmore College featured in the film, recounted her own experience of reporting her assault when a faculty member said, in regards to her alleged rapist, "You don't know what he's going through right now and neither do I. He could be really having a hard time."

Another student, Annie Clark from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, told viewers that when she told an administrator about her rape, the response she got was an analogy that related rape to a football game.

"She looks at me and was like, 'Rape is like a football game, Annie, and if you look back on the game, what would you do differently in that situation?'" Clark said in the film.

As many as 90% of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report their assault, according to the NSVRC. Victim-blaming causes many survivors of sexual assault to feel as though what happened was their fault, contributing massively to the underreporting of this crime.

However, victim-blaming is not the only contributing factor; many victims feel as though they will be seen as liars. Ultimately, they would rather not face the humiliation and further psychological consequences of having to relive their trauma only for it to be dismissed.

What so many fail to realize is that although false reporting has happened in the past, and will continue to happen as often as the false reporting of many other crimes, there is a serious issue with inflating false reports.

The inflation of false reporting has led to an abundance of people across the nation who truly believe that a victim, more often than not, is lying about their sexual assault, especially when an athlete is involved.

With the inflation of these very minimal false reports, many have called for legal action to be taken against those who are found to be lying.

My response to that is: where are the legal consequences for those who actually do commit sexual assault?

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, out of every 1,000 rapes committed, 995 perpetrators will walk free.

Instead of taking action against those who are committing the crime, society has decided to pressure survivors into staying silent. Inflating the rate of false reports is just another scare tactic used to make victims rethink whether or not they should report their assault at all.

Many victims, after hearing the comments made by those around them regarding the so-called "narrative" of false reporting, are terrified to come forward because they feel as though nobody will believe them.

This is a valid fear, considering how sexual assault cases are treated. Christine Blasey Ford, the psychology professor who accused Brett Kavanaugh of attempted rape, had to watch her alleged rapist take a seat in the "highest court in the land."

All in all, this "narrative" of false reporting does not exist. This call to action to try and obtain litigation in regards to those who are found lying is just another way to enforce the ever-so-prevalent rape culture within our society, thus leading to the reason why so many survivors of sexual assault are reluctant to ever share their story.

Do not fall for this falsely inflated fallacy of false reporting. It is doing more harm than good to those who need so desperately to be heard, listened to and believed.

This is not to say that false reporting does not happen at all; it does 2% to 10% of the time.

However, maybe we should all work on doing some initial research before believing the scare tactics deliberately put in place to belittle victims into not reporting.

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Commentary

Burkini model breaks boundaries for women



LAYLA ABBAS

Halima Aden, a Somali-American, made history as the first model to grace the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue cover in a hijab and burkini – a first for the magazine that was founded 65 years ago.

For a Muslim woman to be celebrated on the front cover of Sports Illustrated, representing her identity that has a tendency to be scrutinized, is a pivotal milestone for the entire Muslim community.

"Growing up in the States, I never really felt represented because I never could flip through a magazine and see a girl who was wearing a hijab," Aden said in an interview with Sports Illustrated.

In the interview, Aden described her experience moving to America when she was 7 years old and the culture shock she felt living in St. Louis, Missouri.

"We both know that women are so often perceived to be one way or one thing based on how they look or what they wear," she said. "Whether you feel your most beautiful and confident in a burkini or a bikini, you are worthy."

Aden's appearance on the Sports Illustrated cover shows that beauty is not defined in one manner – beauty is best represented by the woman who chooses to express her true identity, not pressured to abandon her cultural attire to fit societal normality.

Aden gained media attention when she wore a hijab and burkini during the swimsuit competition of the Miss Minnesota USA pageant in 2016.

This was a first for many people to see and Aden described this experience as a culture shock.

Pageantry is an American custom, not found in Somalia, but Aden said she is never afraid to be the first person to accomplish a new feat.

Although this may seem like a superficial accomplishment to most, it is a huge step in the right direction for our society to begin viewing those who dress traditionally as a form of beauty.

A hijab and burkini are still not viewed as normal attire, and even have a history of being banned in countries like France and Belgium.

France, which has an estimated population of 5 million Muslims, banned the body-covering burkini swimwear favored by Muslim women in 2016.

French officials said the ban was a way to control traditions that clash with the French culture and root out extremism, according to an article from the Associated Press in 2016.

This ban contradicted the country's supposed secular identity, that does not discriminate or endorse a specific religion.

It is not out of the norms for countries to place restrictions on traditional garments, citing reasons of extremism and threats to the community.

The issue featuring Aden debuted on newsstands last Wednesday and it is a monumental accomplishment that our society is finally starting to celebrate people of different cultures respectively.

Aden is an unapologetic and brave role model for all women and is proving that in order to gain acceptance from others, changing your identity is not a requirement.

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Metro...

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it could bring new residents and shopping and increase the sales tax for new improvements to the city."

All to which assistant city manager and public works director for the city of La Verne Dan Keesey agrees.

"Bringing rail service through a community fosters economic improvement. People want, not everyone, to be close to transit in order to get to wherever they need to go," Keesey said. "The way things are shaping in Southern California is we're looking for transit city development."

The Gold Line authorities are figuring out what city would best act as a temporary terminus, or train station, rather than just a stop. La Verne and Pomona are both options.

After conducting a report of the construction's environmental impact on parking and traffic, the Gold Line found there would be traffic congestion during peak hours on White Avenue, hence their proposal for widening the street.

At this point, Keesey says it is up to the Gold Line to move forward with their proposal, not the city.

Although discussion and construction is at a standstill, the Gold Line is looking to incorporate public comments into their report to move forward with the plans to expand.

A public meeting with Gold Line authorities is expected to be held in mid-July regarding next steps being taken to continue the train's expansion.

*Jaycie Thierry can be reached at **jaycie.thierry@laverne.edu**.*

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New bill targets legacy admissions

Maydeen Merino
Staff Writer

A bill that aims to curtail colleges' and universities' preferential treatment of legacy admissions has been proposed by Assemblymember Phil Ting, D–San Fransisco, in response to the recent admissions scandal.

If any colleges were to provide special treatment to students who have relationships with alumni, donors or legacies of those institutions, AB-697 would ensure that institutions would be stripped of Cal Grant funds.

"It's hurting our Cal Grant students," said Aram Nadjarian, spokesperson for Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.

"We don't want anything that can jeopardize their ability to access funds, because a lot of Cal Grant students are coming from the poorest background, but also are some of the smartest students."

Cal Grants are awarded to 370,494 students, totaling $2.1 billion per year.

"Non-profit and private colleges generally operate on their own, but the state does provide to students from high school that meet certain GPA and income requirements," said Kevin Cook, associate center director at Public Policy Institution of California.

Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities oppose the bill because it would take away Cal Grants from students.

"What happened was unfortunate with the scandal and it also very limited," Nadjarian said. "It was a couple of schools and a couple of people, not entire systems."

Even though the legislation seems to punish colleges for an individual's mistake, it still provides one way in holding individuals at universities accountable.

"It gives colleges an incentive and an extra reason to make sure there is a very good accountability amongst individuals to not engage in these kind of non equitable practices," said Nicholas Novello, University of La Verne financial aid director.

The University of La Verne does not show preference to students with relationships to alumni, legacies or donors.

"This (legislation) does not actually change anything that we are doing," Novello said. "I want to make sure that we do keep our Cal Grant eligibility because without it, students would lose out on that award, and that award is $9,000 per student."

The California Student Aid Commission, which aims to make higher education available for all California students, identifies any bills that would negatively affect prospective college students, said Bryan Sapp, CSAC spokesperson.

The California Student Aid Commission has not yet taken a position on the bill because the commissioners have not yet able to take a vote.

"Think about the correlation of the student going to school and then leaving to enter the workforce, therefore helping California's economy," Sapp said. "By helping the California's economy, we are thriving as a state and we are providing jobs and resources to a better quality of life, just through the power of education."

AB-697 is part of a larger bill package response to the admission scandal; its other bills aim to phase out the use of the SAT and ACT, reduce fraud in admissions, and introduce regulation of admissions consultants.

The bill is still in assembly.

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Politics...

Continued from page 1

the University made changes to its approach to diversity and the history and political science departments made curriculum changes.

"I think we're only seeing now after the incident that took place, that (alleged) hate crime, that's the only time they've ever taken a concerted effort to change," Baker said. "And after the election, it was no different. They didn't take it upon themselves to maybe think about what they're teaching, the way they're teaching it, nothing changed."

Class Conversations

Immediately after the alleged hate crime against a group of ULV students in March, the University canceled classes. The following week, the University hosted a three-hour series of workshops dedicated to addressing the campus climate.

As for the hate crime itself, the La Verne Police Department and the FBI are still collaborating on an investigation, of which few details have been released to the public.

Students and teachers alike in the political science department said that the secrecy in which the investigation has been shrouded has affected in-class discussions about the alleged hate crime.

However, Ku said that in one of his political science classes, his professor tried to connect the incident with larger social structures.

"We cover it extensively, not only the implications, but also the social structure that would perpetuate an action like this," Ku said. "We still don't know who it is, so we speak of it abstractly. We speak of it abstractly about divisions and social concerns, whether those be socioeconomic, cultural, racial, so forth."

Abdullah said that at best, the conversations were speculative.

"There was not a lot of explanation outside of the threatening messages on social media and then the actual attack," Abdullah said. "A lot of the discussion was 'could it have been an inside job? Could it have been alt-right racists?' Just speculation upon speculation, not actually grounded in fact. I didn't feel like the discussions were very fruitful."

From 2015 to 2016, hate crimes on college campuses increased by 25%, and hate crimes rose by 17% nationally, according to data gathered by the FBI and the U.S. Department of Education as of 2018.

When asked if he thought that the 2016 election contributed to the environment that made hate crimes against students possible, Neidleman simply and emphatically said, "Yes."

> 'I (tried to) talk about it in academic terms, at least in those early days, letting people just sit with the sadness of it. People didn't want it rationalized early on.'
> *—Jason Neidleman, professor of political science*

"What happens is when you have a major political movement and a major political figure, in fact the most important major political figure in the world, legitimizing a set of ideas that had been marginal. They weren't part of a mainstream political discourse, then you have a very prominent political figure (who) mainstreams those ideas. Of course that's going to contribute to the rise of overt racist violence," Neidleman said.

Curriculum Changes

Post election, in political science classes, professors varied in their approach to students' expressions of confusion toward the election.

"The No. 1 question is, 'Can he do this?' 'Can a president do this, can a president do that?' That is probably the most common question I've received," said Gelm.

"All of the sudden, not just in the classroom environment, or here on campus, but people on the outer community. People are ultra-aware, and I get a lot more questions, which is sometimes exhausting!"

Gelm said that, in two courses after the election, he let students express their thoughts on the election and, when it felt appropriate, he would interject with explanations about certain political mechanisms.

"Because the fear that they had, they were looking for answers," Gelm said.

Gelm said that the civility he saw in his classes was due to his basing all of his discussions on hard data.

However, he reported one instance of in-classroom conflict when he and the students analyzed exit poll data after the election.

Among the statistics he cited, he said that approximately 10% to 15% of Trump voters had also voted for Barack Obama, which he said led to an eruption among students.

"In that particular incident, the explosion, resulted in somebody storming out the class," Gelm said.

Neidleman said he felt he mishandled post-election discussion initially.

"I (tried to) talk about it in academic terms, at least in those early days, letting people just sit with the sadness of it," Neidleman said. "People didn't want it rationalized early on."

Subsequently, he decided to try a different tactic.

For about 20 to 30 minutes, students would anonymously write down their thoughts about the election on a piece of paper.

The pieces of paper were collected, and one of the papers was given to each student at random. This way, students could learn about the others' perspectives without outing themselves as belonging to a particular political alignment.

Baker participated in the exercise. She said she received a note that said, 'Let's give this guy a chance' – a sentiment she said she found cowardly.

She said that Trump supporters among the student body did not attend the election results screening hosted by the College Democrats and College Republicans until Trump's victory became apparent.

"That kind of pissed me off because I'm just thinking, 'Your guy won,' and no one was saying anything, and they come to the viewing party to boast, basically being d*cks, and during class, none of them wanted to just keep that same energy," Baker said.

Baker said in a different class, things didn't go as smoothly. She said she was one of a few women of color in a mostly white male group, and she felt the discussions surrounding racism were still dominated by the men.

"I've had to walk out before," Baker said. "When I came back, one black girl in the room is crying because a conservative man called her stupid or told her to shut up, and (the professor) didn't say anything."

Continuing Education

In the aftermath of the alleged hate crime, the Faculty Diversity Committee organized several programs that took place throughout the semester including a seminar on "Decolonizing Your Course Syllabus" and "Diversity and Inclusivity in the Classroom," among others.

Separately, the history and political science department held a forum about curriculum updates.

"They wanted a greater emphasis on the history of minority groups, and in fact one of our faculty members did that, and they were actually very complimentary about the new course that had been put together," Gelm said.

"They were really excited about the new issues. So our department got right on it. They were pleased with the quickness of our response, and they seemed to like the way the faculty member has redone the course. So we got a lot of positive feedback as well."

Allyson Brantley, assistant professor of history, said that diversity in the curriculum was not the primary topic discussed at the forum, and that while the department had been planning for a department-wide forum with the students, the alleged hate crime instilled a sense of immediacy.

Baker said that she felt that Black thinkers like bell hooks, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Marcus Garvey and Frederick Douglass were inserted into the curriculum out of obligation, rather than a genuine desire for their inclusion.

The manner in which white political or historical figures are taught in the classroom, in contrast to non-white political or historical figures, shapes the perception students have about racial communities' voices and opinions, Baker said.

"It sends a message not just to black students, but also to white students: 'The faculty doesn't value them, so why should I value them?'" Baker said.

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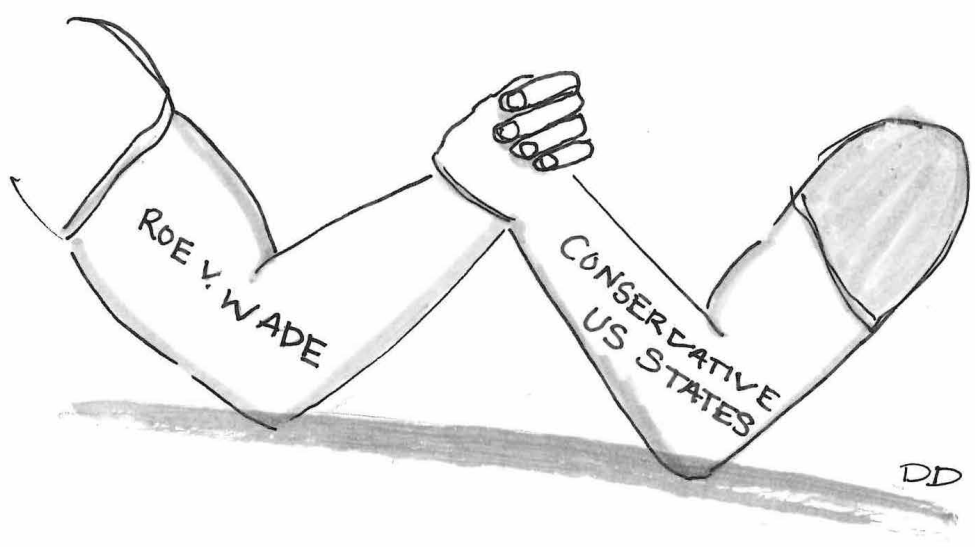
Abortion rights must be protected

Red states are passing bills prohibiting abortion with more extreme provisions than ever before and at an extremely alarming and dangerous rate. States like Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi are basing their arguments on the notion that a women's rights on what to do with her own body, is ultimately not her own decision. The intention here is to infringe on her autonomy, and furthermore incite a legal challenge so that the cases against these laws will be visited by the Supreme Court, with hopes of overturning Roe v. Wade, a landmark case that has historically protected abortion rights.

A law prohibiting abortion as early as six weeks passed in Georgia on May 7. Living Infants Fairness and Equality Act, nicknamed the Heartbeat Bill, allows abortion only in cases where the pregnancy threatens the life of the mother, or in cases of rape. In the latter case, the mother is required to file a police report.

This bill poses two problems: one, many women do not even realize they are pregnant by six weeks. Six weeks is one or two missed periods, which is not an uncommon experience for women who experience irregular menstrual cycles. Two, many women are reluctant to file police reports of rape as it is.

According to statistics from the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, only 23% of rapes and sexual assaults are reported to police, and only 4.6% of reports lead to arrest. These problems in conjunction with each other reveal a profound ignorance of both biology and the experiences of sexual assault survivors.



editorial cartoon by Danielle De Luna

A bill nicknamed the Human Life Protection Act, signed by Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey on Wednesday, makes performing an abortion at any stage a felony punishable by 10 to 99 years or life in prison for the provider.

The bill once had an amendment permitting abortions in cases of rape or incest, but on May 9, that amendment was stripped. The only exception the bill offers is if the pregnancy poses a serious risk to the health of the mother.

Other states that passed similar bills include Mississippi, Kentucky and Ohio, their lawmakers clearly incentivized by both Trump's support and a now majority conservative Supreme Court. It is not beyond these lawmakers that their bills pose an obvious conflict with rulings such as Roe v. Wade; sparking a legal challenge is exactly their plan. In any case, this is a part of a larger phenomenon in which the rights ensured to women under landmark cases like Roe v. Wade are being chipped away through all levels of American government.

Trump has expressed opposition to legal abortion throughout his presidency. In January of 2018, he released a statement urging the Senate to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. Authored by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), the bill would have prohibited abortions past 20 weeks except in cases of rape and incest.

To boot, his Supreme Court nominee of choice was Brett Kavanaugh, who had an established track record of attempting to restrict abortion rights. In doing so, he assured a majority conservative Supreme Court that these lawmakers now will challenge the constitutionality of Roe v. Wade.

Some believe the court will opt instead to slowly chip away at abortion rights through allowing certain restrictions, rather than overturning Roe v. Wade outright. Despite the optimism of such individuals, the potential for a now-majority conservative Supreme Court to chip away at abortion rights in any capacity is cause for alarm. We must collectively protect abortion rights in any way we can, whether this means donating to grassroots organizations, acting as clinic escorts for patients or staying vocal about the damage such restrictions have on the lives of women.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the halls of higher education and here at ULV, we see a learning divide – an equity gap between learners who have access to learning materials and learners who do not because they cannot afford the high cost of textbooks. We believe institutions of higher education need to narrow the learning divide by making learning materials available as free open educational resources (OER). This will bring down the cost of learning materials to all ULV students, regardless of class and income status, or location.

We believe the OER movement is a social justice movement because it grants access, equity and affordability to students of all income classes. Textbook costs to students seeking higher education rise on average 6% per year – this is an educational equity and social justice issue. A social justice stance is cutting ties to expensive textbooks and providing greater access to higher education. We are part of this social justice movement calling for change. We believe the answer is simple: The ULV Wilson Library already has a repository of over 5,000 open access texts that can be used for all classes, from the STEM to the humanities. We can use what we already have.

Open educational resources are teaching and learning texts which are freely available and openly licensed, available for learners to access at no cost – creating equity in access by anyone. "In a survey of more than 2,000 college students from 150 institutions across the country, 65% of respondents reported that they had decided against purchasing their textbooks due to costs" (Center for Public Interest Research, 2014). This means that many students at ULV are not buying the books they need, which limits their learning potential. We also make hard decisions on which courses to take based on the specific cost of textbooks. Many students do not receive financial aid and therefore buy books from their own savings, taking food off the table.

We believe the high cost of textbooks should be of concern not only to ULV students, staff, faculty and administrators, but also to society. Other schools are leading the charge on free OER textbooks that offer the same educational benefits as traditional textbooks. Comparison studies between traditional and OER texts suggest there was general satisfaction with the quality, cost savings, and accessibility with open textbooks (Hilton et al.). OER also provides students with accessible learning materials from the very first day of class. Faculty have reported willingness to use open textbooks to help ease the burden on students but are unsure where to find viable options and would welcome assistance identifying materials for their course. Northern Virginia Community College reports a higher student success rate in courses that used OER.

We the students ask the University of La Verne to commit to vigorously develop, promote and reinforce policies on the use of OER for all classes across campus, as a matter of inclusion, affordability and justice. We believe that the OER movement already speaks to ULV's social justice mandate and that ULV already has what it takes to move in this direction. We believe this movement will not only help reduce student debt-load and drop-out rates, but also increase persistence.

Experienced OER users could serve as models and mentors to those new to OER. ULV librarians can help us identify and access OER texts, facilitating finding, retrieving and sharing of OER. And, ULV instructional designers and administrators can develop and reinforce policies on the use of OER. This could easily be supported as a faculty and staff training.

In the spirit of equitable access and social justice, we thank you for listening.

ULV Students Committed to the OER Social Justice Movement

This letter was signed by 36 University of La Verne undergraduate students.

Letters to the Editor

The Campus Times encourages readers to submit letters to the editors regarding topics covered in the paper. Letters should be no more than 400 words in length and are due by Tuesday at 3 p.m. The Campus Times reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, space and libel. Letters may be sent to **ctimes@laverne.edu**.

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Spring 2019

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Restaurant Review

A quest for La Verne's best tacos

Emily J Sullivan
Staff Writer



Jaysin Brandt

Lily's Tacos at 2855 Foothill Blvd. in La Verne may offer the best chile verde street tacos, carne asada street tacos, shrimp street tacos and hard-shelled shredded chicken tacos in the city. The eatery has been in business for three years.

Today I share with you where to locate the most delicious, delectable, mouth-watering taco in La Verne – in my opinion.

I knew accepting this mission would take its toll. So many tacos, so little time to differentiate among the delicious textures, the perfect amount of crunch, the precise level of spice balanced with flavor.

I started with a scan of Yelp reviews and avoided any with fewer than four stars.

Just southeast of the University of La Verne campus sits a Mexican eatery, with a walk up counter and an outdoor patio. El Merendero Restaurant, located at 1910 Fairplex Dr., has charming mosaic-style tables shaded by red umbrellas that sit outside the restaurant with a traditional indoor establishment just behind the door to the left of the walk-up counter.

I asked the woman at the counter which tacos were their best. She recommended carne asada. I ordered one street style with a generous garnish of onion and cilantro. I also ordered the hard-shell shredded beef, committed to trying at least one soft taco and one hard-shell at each establishment I sampled.

They were delicious – it's hard to find a taco that isn't. The true test is the quality of the meat, perfection of the hard-shell, the ratio of garnish to meat and the flavor of the hot-sauce.

El Merendero Restaurant did not disappoint, it met my standards, but it is not the best taco in La Verne.

Next stop, La Paloma Mexican Restaurant located at 2975 E. Foothill Blvd.

A large retro sign sits atop the entrance of La Paloma, giving the nostalgic feels that a good culinary experience lay ahead.

The family-owned restaurant has been serving up tacos and margaritas to the residents of La Verne since 1966.

I scanned the menu and decided on four different tacos.

A hard-shell ground beef, a soft-shell battered fish, a soft-shell carne asada and a soft-shell potato taco.

The hard-shell ground beef taco reminded me of a better-quality Jack In The Box taco, with that sense that whatever you're eating is indeed tasty but likely stuffed with mystery meat.

The potato taco felt like breakfast, which isn't a bad thing, who doesn't love breakfast?

The carne asada taco fell apart as soon as I picked it up, but was scrumptious.

The soft-shell battered fish taco, garnished with cabbage and a special sauce was my favorite. The batter, which is the most crucial component, was executed with precision.

Sergio's, located at 2091 Foothill Blvd., is tucked into the corner of a shopping center directly north of the ULV campus.

From the exterior it appears like a small hole-in-the-wall but inside is a spacious two-room dining area.

There are life-size cardboard cut-outs of Marilyn Monroe, a beautiful brunette rocking a sombrero and the most interesting man in the world.

Maybe they hold the secret to

Continued on page 8

Maintaining healthy habits is hard for Gen Z

Danielle De Luna
News Editor

An informal survey at the University of La Verne main campus revealed that 12 out of 20 students try to prioritize healthy eating in their day to day lives, though many said this was a difficult task for a college student.

"I usually try to eat healthy, but it's kinda hard living on campus," sophomore psychology major Jessica Quesada said. "They serve some healthy options, but not as much of a variety as the unhealthy options. They have pizza and burgers and other things like that everyday, but not so many appetizing healthy options."

The Spot offers vegetarian and vegan options to students, on top of an array of buffet style servings of pasta, pizza and salad.

However, even students who commute also find it hard to balance healthy meals at school.

"I like to try to eat healthy, but I usually end up eating that way maybe 40% of the time," sophomore business administration major Sharon Hernandez said. "I think the options at the Spot are pretty slim, in comparison to the other stuff they have. They'll have pasta and other things and as far as healthy options it'll be a bland salad or veggie option."

As millennials begin to depart from college culture and Generation Z, also known as the iGeneration, starts to fill university campuses, many wonder how this ever-connected, technology savvy group of young adults will develop in comparison to their predecessors.

Statistics suggest that Generation Z's connectedness makes them more conscious of their dietary choices than previous generations.

The healthy eating, nutrition and weight loss industry was worth $702 billion in 2017, according to the Global Wellness Institute.

The institute also reported a 6.4% growth in the global wellness economy overall – in short, people are investing more money in their health.

However, studies concerning the health status of specifically millennials are scarce.

The most recent batch of statistics regarding their health in relation to obesity rates and disease was the Center of Disease Control's report "Health, United States, 2008 With Special Feature on the Health of Young Adults" from March 2009.

These statistics suggest that although health consciousness is in the forefront of millennials minds, their actions do not reflect a commitment to the lifestyle, with the percentage of obese 18 to 29 year olds rising from 8% in 1980 to 24% in 2004.

Students say that busy schedules and a lack of motivation are the main factors that prevent them from maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

For some, academic stress leads to binging on conveniently packaged junk food, high in sodium and fat.

For others, the fast pace of college life means skipping meals in attempt to keep up with work, classes and assignments.

"I get home really late and I don't have time to eat or prepare dinner, I usually only eat breakfast and lunch," senior history major Caroline Hammond said.

Prioritizing self-care is even more difficult if you lack a positive mindset.

Junior computer science major Kevin Garcia said finding the enthusiasm to take care yourself is hard when your attitude is your biggest obstacle.

"I think it's mostly laziness," Garcia said. "I just can't really motivate myself right now, I'm at a low point. I'd like to do things to be healthier, but I need to get out of this rut."

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Students de-stress ahead of finals

David Gonzalez
LV Life Editor

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, Residential Life held a Mental Health Awareness Day so students could unwind and relax as finals approach.

Students could participate in different DIY activities like making slime and essential oils and creating galaxy jars. Students could also play with therapy dogs, paint and even have a tarot card reading.

Stephen Heggem, residence life coordinator, worked with two other RLCs to organize the event to help destigmatize mental health and teach others how to practice self-care.

He said that he has witnessed students with symptoms of mental illness while working in housing.

"We want to create a space where they [students] feel brave enough and safe enough to talk about that, to get information about that," Heggem said. "If we are going to encourage a sense of belonging part of what helps us achieve that is having dialogues like this where people can feel like, 'I can be myself. I can talk about this stuff. I'm normal.'"

Heggem said that while tarot cards are not specifically related to mental health like depression and anxiety, it can provide clarity when someone is feeling lost or directionless.

"What I find tarot cards, at least in my own experience and those I serve, is it gives language to what we are experiencing," Heggem said. "Sometimes just giving that light to the scenario that you're in, it helps you understand where to go. It's not telling you what to do, but it gives you an idea of a direction."

Kaley Varner, freshman criminology major, said she enjoyed connecting with the therapy dogs and having a tarot card reading.

"Having my tarot read was scary, brutally honest and it made me do a lot of thinking so I'm really excited about my future," Varner said. "I'm not sure I believe in the cards because of my religion, but thinking about it, it relates to me so much.

Alejandra Gonzalez-Cruz, residence life coordinator, said that it is important to have a day to remind people of the importance of taking care of their own well-being.

"We are now in an age where we are more open about talking about mental health," Gonzalez-Cruz said. "We work in housing, so we get to see a lot students under a lot of stress. This is their home for nine months, so if there's any type of grief, we are the ones that see it."

Tiffany De Leon, residential life coordinator, said that the event was not only to have fun, but to also provide students with information about mental health as well.

She said the graffiti wall provided information on stress, anxiety, eating disorders, depression and suicide.

The wall also included apps that help with self care and active hotlines students can call for help.

"We were hoping that students would see some practical data that would hopefully shed some light on some things that they are going through or their friends are going through," De Leon said.

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Fiesta celebrates cultural diversity

Nicolette Rojo
Social Media Editor

Over 500 people came out to the 72nd annual OLA Fiesta for a family day of fun, entertainment and food on Saturday at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Claremont. The event spanned from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., so families could make an entire day of fun for the weekend.

The OLA Fiesta is an annual event that the city hosts to raise money for the church to participate in more activities, including funding school programs. The event was held from Friday through Sunday for Mother's Day.

"OLA Fiesta is a way for our community to get together," said volunteer Melissa Morris. "We all meet in church, but to be able to come out to the community on our own terms and help give back to the church, such as rebuilding it."

Vendors sold a variety of food in different cultures, from traditional Mexican food such as tacos and burritos to Vietnamese plates and treats including boba. Others sold alcohol for the adults, raffle tickets for prizes such as cookies and miniature toy hats and even tickets to enjoy a few carnival style rides.

Desserts such as ice cream and cotton candy were sold at various booths. Paul Lee, volunteer, has ran a cotton candy booth for several years with his wife and continued to sell it to help out the church.

"My wife and I have been running the cotton candy booth for years and we continue to do it not only for the love but also to come out and be around fellow Christians and serve the community," Lee said.

One vendor raised funds by selling cards to play Loteria, a popular game in the Mexican culture that is traditionally played like regular Bingo with the same rules.

Roberto Roman of Loteria Mexicana of Los Angeles chose Loteria due to its popularity and pitched the idea to the church three years ago.

"I pitched Loteria to the priest and I told him it was Mexican Bingo," Roman said. "I told him to give me the green light and I'll take care of the rest. They like this booth, so hopefully it'll stay for years."

Gail D'Souza, a member of the Falconers, a Christian band that performs during Sunday morning mass, enjoys how the event is a wise way to bring the city together and have fun with families for an entire weekend.

"I think it's a great way for them to bring together the community and have events for kids and bringing everyone to celebrate the culture," D'Souza said. "It's doing something fun for the church community."

Many volunteers attend Our Lady of the Assumption Parish every week, so attendees like Morris donate their time for a good cause while having fun with families.

"We've been coming here as a family for the last five years," Morris said. "I was asked at the right time and why not be able to come out and enjoy the time and do something that feels good?"

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Native butterflies dance in garden

Stephanie Joseph
Staff Writer

On Saturday the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden hosted a tour that featured rare and colorful butterflies in their habitat.

The annual tour showcases native butterfly species, giving visitors the chance to witness them in different stages of life.

"I had a really great time. I love visiting places like this and to see these butterflies in all of their stages was really beautiful and interesting to hear about," said Jade Brinzo, junior kinesiology major. "I would definitely come again."

Along with seeing native butterfly species, visitors also got to see the native plants that butterflies depend on to survive.

"All of the colors of the butterflies were gorgeous and so were the plants," said sophomore kinesiology major Brittany Mendez. "The exhibit and the garden was just overall very beautiful to see. I think everyone in the area should take a moment to not only stop by and see the exhibit but the botanic garden as a whole,"

The Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden also brings art exhibits to the garden. It also hosts classes like hikes that teach kids about flora and fauna throughout each month, as well as tours for the public to enjoy.

"This is a really great place to bring family and friends to," said Bryan Parks, Fontana resident. "I did not know about this place before coming today. It gives people a chance to bond while seeing nice exhibits at the same time and with summer right around the corner, it's perfect,"

The California Butterfly Pavilion will be open until Aug. 3.

Admission $3 in addition to the general admission and free to those 2 and under.

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Ashley Villavicencio

Sydney White, 6, a Claremont resident, visits the Butterfly Pavilion Saturday at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont. The Butterfly Pavilion is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily through Aug. 3.

Tacos...

Continued from page 6

the best taco in La Verne.

With the cardboard trio watching, I devour four different types of tacos.

The East L.A. taco is a tiny street taco with enormous flavor. The fish taco comes grilled not battered, the hand made taco comes with grilled chicken, smothered in guacamole and the hard-shell shredded chicken taco comes crisped to golden, crunchy perfection.

Sergio's, while almost winning my La Verne's best taco prize, does not quite make it.

If you're searching for La Verne's second best taco, Sergio's is your destination based on my five eatery sampling.

The best taco in La Verne is hidden north-east of the ULV campus.

Inside a small and bare taco establishment, with only a handful of tables, nearly no inside decor other than some artificial flowers that line the walls and no outdoor seating.

The price of the tacos are low and the size of each taco is tiny, but the value of these tacos are unprecedented.

Lily's Tacos located at 2855 Foothill Blvd. has been there for about three years but its plain, yet fresh aesthetic suggests it may have just dropped from the heavens right as I pulled up.

The chile verde taco is a pork taco smothered with chile verde sauce, garnished with onion and cilantro – street-style.

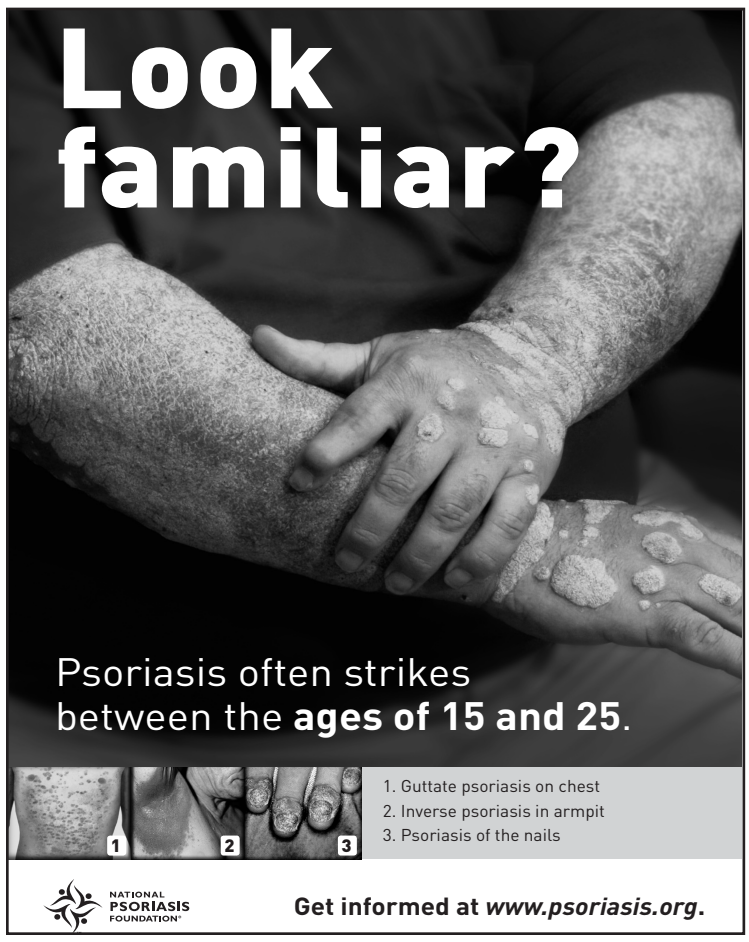
The carne asada taco has steak served cut into tiny little pieces, each high-quality and garnished with onion and cilantro.

The shrimp taco comes with battered shrimp, cabbage, tomatoes and sour cream, it's the best shrimp taco I've ever tasted.

The crispy shredded chicken taco which comes with shredded lettuce, tomatoes and sour cream, is crunchy and tasty, more so with every bite.

Any one of these four different types of tacos could be considered the single best taco in La Verne. I consumed them too fast, sad when they were no more, wishing I had more tacos, just to savor each and every bite.

Emily J. Sullivan can be reached at ***emily.sullivan@laverne.edu****.*



Military swag displayed



Nikky Huynh

Kenneth Bowman, a veteran of the United States Marines, examines an antique pin from Flying Tiger Antiques at the West Coast Historical Militaria Collectors Show on Saturday. The 13th annual event was held at the Fairplex, where over 300 booths displayed various military antiques and collectibles for collectors and dealers.

Arts, etc...

Happenings

Guitar Ensemble

The University of La Verne Guitar Ensemble will perform a recital of duets, trios, and quartets written from the 17th century to the present at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Morgan Auditorium.

Admission is free.

Film Screening

The communications department will host a screening of senior project video productions at 7 p.m. May 25 in La Fetra Lecture Hall.

The screening will feature dramatic films, long-form journalism projects and excerpts from the Foothill Community News show.

Piano Marathon

The music department's piano marathon will feature a full day of piano music from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 26 in the Morgan Auditorium.

This marathon will showcase students from the studios of instructors Marge Chen, Rafael Liebich and Jackie Tu.

Chamber Ensemble

The La Verne Chamber Ensemble, led by Ellen Rondina, will perform at 7 p.m. May 29 in Dailey Theatre. Admission is free.

'Bright Star'

The Candlelight Pavilion in Claremont is featuring Broadway's "Bright Star," which tells a story of love, loss and redemption during the 1920s and 1940s.

The show runs through May 25.

For more information, visit **candlelightpavilion.com.**

Claremont Film Festival

Claremont will host a film festival that honors and appreciates various short films.

The films will be shown at 7 p.m. May 23 at the Laemmle Claremont 5 Theatre.

—Emily J. Sullivan, Jocelyn Arceo, Erica Rae Sanchez

'Displacement Zero' defies Traditional maps

by Natalie Guitérrez

photography by Nikky Huynh

Andrew M. Wenrick, former architect and current conceptual artist, presented his "Displacement Zero" exhibit, showcasing the deconstruction and restructuring of geographical maps at the Claremont Museum of Art this weekend.

Wenrick's exhibit's purpose is to question perceptions of location, space, and create new alternate realities.

The exhibit included over 60 pieces ranging from picture frames to skateboards.

Wenrick's piece "Stars and Stripes," which was made over the span of three years, is composed of 50 picture frames all the same size and each represented a different state.

Wenrick cut out the names of the different cities in each state and reconstructed a distinct type of map in which the density and clutter represent the location and distance of the cities.

Maria Trinidad, junior studio art major at Norco College, said she found it fascinating how Wenrick created a new way to look at the population and busyness of a state.

"I think it's very interesting that they put California and Massachusetts next to each other," Trinidad said. "They are on completely different extremes and Andrew made this super clear with his work."

The picture frame representing California was compressed with very little white space in the outer areas. On the other hand, Massachusetts' frame was much more sparse in white.

Wenrick included a series named "I did…" which incorporated skateboards attached to light bulbs and lines of map networks from real American cities and road systems.



Raoul Cervantes, Claremont resident, examines an art piece of frames depicting U.S. states, made up of cities within that state, at the Claremont Museum of Art. The exhibition "Displacement Zero" opened May 10, presenting the work of Andrew Wenrick, who reconstructed shapes and designs by using cutouts from paper maps. The Art Walk opening reception will start at 6 p.m. June 1.

Shary Omana, psychology major at Citrus College, said out of the whole exhibit, the "I did…" collection caught her eye the most. She said the boards were a very distinct form of art.

The boards were painted matte black, which made the road lines stand out. Three light bulbs were lined right down the middle, some lit up while the others were stuffed with cut out roads and highways from a map.

"It's truly amazing what he did here. He used his background as an architect and his childhood in Claremont to make everything so accurate, precise, and unique," said University of La Verne alumni, Melissa Lach.

Lach said Wenrick was influenced by his nostalgia. He grew up skateboarding in Claremont and using maps while on road trips with his family.

"This exhibit is a lot more youthful compared to ones we've had in the past," Lach said.

Jerry Leon, Claremont resident, said he truly enjoyed Wenrick's exhibit because he also grew up skateboarding with his friends in the community.

"I really like how he put two things, that seem so different, together in one," Leon said. "Who would have thought geography and skateboarding would pair so well."

The exhibit will run through Aug. 25.

The opening reception will take place at the monthly Art Walk from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. June 1.

The museum is open from noon to 4 p.m. every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

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ULV choir puts on their tap shoes

Savannah Dingman
Staff Writer

The University Chorale and Chamber Singers stunned the audience last Friday and Saturday with their sold-out Broadway showcase channeling songs from popular musicals and movies in Dailey Theatre.

Guests listened to the familiar tunes from musicals like "Mamma Mia," "The Greatest Showman," "Jersey Boys" and "Hairspray."

The singers were accompanied by a band with keyboardist Sandra Nam, guitarist Danny Anaya, bassist Sean Barrett and percussionist Peter Garcia II.

Both the chamber and chorale singers have been preparing all semester long for this showcase.

A similar performance was held two years ago that also brought a large audience. Irene Messoloras, assistant professor of music and choral conductor, felt it was time for another Broadway inspired show.

Messoloras said that she puts a great deal of thought into her song-choosing process.

"We wanted a lot of variety and different styles of musical theater," Messoloras said. "I was interested in songs that had a strong female ingénue or a male lead that had a big choral center."

The most important quality was that the songs were fun and entertaining, Messoloras said.

Messoloras wanted to ensure that the songs would not only be interesting for the audience to watch, but also for the musicians to perform.

Messoloras had all 26 of her students dancing in tap shoes, and for most of them it was their first time.

"Trying to do something different really pushes us and makes everyone work harder," Messoloras said.

For many of the chorale and chamber singers, this was their first time combining their singing ability with acting.

"I hadn't done any kind of musical theater since I was 12, so it was intimidating to incorporate the theater aspect into the traditional standing in risers and singing that I'm used to," said Ryan Chaney, a junior kinesiology major.

A chorale singer and recent graduate, Valerie Trujillo, was excited for her solo in the final number, "You Will Be Found" from "Dear Evan Hansen."

"'Dear Evan Hansen' is my favorite musical at the moment," Trujillo said. "It means so much to me, so to be able to portray that emotion and give that to the audience is the best part."

Regardless of Trujillo's enthusiasm, she still had some nerves leading up to her performance.

"Knowing that you have an entire choir depending on you to hold up the song is nerve-racking. You don't want to disappoint them, this is your team," Trujillo said. "But having their support and them helping me through it means a lot."

> 'Trying to do something different really pushes us and makes everyone work harder.'
> *—Irene Messoloras, assistant professor of music*

Audience member and recent graduate, Lynsea Myers, loved the energy in the room. Her favorite song was the opening of the second act, "The Greatest Show" from "The Greatest Showman."

"The Greatest Showman" is an original musical that depicts P.T. Barnum, a man in show business, who overcomes obstacles and discrimination to showcase a fantastic, worldwide performance.

In the song "The Greatest Show," Barnum hands off his business responsibilities to his partner saying, "The show must go on."

"All of the performers seemed like they were having so much fun," Myers said. "It was very interactive, they wanted the crowd to feel like they were in the same world as the characters."

The Chamber Singers are teaming up next with the Mountainside Chorale for the "Bach to Beatles" June 8 and 9 at the Claremont United Church of Christ.

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Claremont catches a glimpse of soul

Hannah Rogers
Staff Writer

Around a hundred people came out to the Claremont Village for another weekly Friday Nights Live concert May 10 to hears bands that performed soft rock, jazz and blues.

The performances included: the soft rock band Soulshine, the duo of singer AnaMaria de la Cruz and guitarist Mark Dzula, the classic rock band Random Spark and the instrumental jazz band Jazz City.

"I love hearing the different bands play each Friday night," Amber Baker, Covina resident, said. "We also enjoy the music with the different people we come to know over the years. I love coming to have a good date night."

Baker said Soulshine was groovy and passionate which made their singing authentic.

"This is one of my favorite places to play because you get to see and meet new people who get to listen to music," Soulshine singer Stacey Roser-Sturgis from Upland said.

"My favorite part of performing is the interaction with the public and I love being able to actually perform and give myself to the audience." Karl Carrasco, Soulshine musician from West Covina, said.

Jazz City played at Shelton Park where families and young children were seen dancing to the instrumental tunes.

"The atmosphere is very cool," Lisa Thomas, Claremont resident, said. "People from all over come to a hangout. Children play around, people dance and the weather is nice."

The free concerts run from 6 to 9 p.m. every Friday through Oct. 25.

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Ariel Torres

Stacey Rosen-Sturgis plays guitar for the soft rock and blues band Soulshine. The performance took palce Friday night in the public plaza at the Claremont Village. The free weekly Friday Nights Live concerts will run through October.

Baseball falters in SCIAC tourney

Nicolette Rojo
Social Media Editor

The La Verne baseball team came out strong against the Occidental Tigers, winning 2-1 in game one of the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Postseason Tournament on Friday, but fell flat on Saturday – falling to Chapman 4-1, then to Cal Lutheran 5-1 in an elimination game.

Occidental ended with a 28-12 overall record and tied with the Leopards for second in SCIAC, but was ranked the third seed due to losing one more conference game than La Verne.

Both teams came into Friday afternoon leading in SCIAC in every offensive category.

However, both teams battled in a pitching duel throughout the game, cooling off both offenses.

The pitching matchup was between La Verne's junior pitcher Cody Norman and Occidental's SCIAC Pitcher of the Year, junior Nolan McCarthy.

Head coach Scott Winterburn said that the game plan going into the game was to rely on the pitching game early on.

"There's no tricks at this time of the year, we've already played them three times," Winterburn said. "It was really to throw a lot of strikes and utilize all of Cody's pitches; keep him in for as long as possible."

Norman picked up his eighth win of the year in his second complete game, striking 13 batters, allowing four hits and two walks.

He emphasized the importance of the catcher and pitcher relationship during the game, which also helps composure.

"Listening to my catcher, he keeps me focused back there," Norman said. "He does a really good job making sure that on the next pitch, I focus on what I need to do every pitch."

After Norman threw a 1-2-3 first inning, senior second baseman Ryan Galan led off with an infield single, stealing second base and extending his season total of 27 stolen bases, which is a SCIAC first.

Two batters later, junior catcher Adam Santa Cruz grounded out to second base to bring home Galan, giving the Leopards a 1-0 lead to close the first.

Norman didn't allow a hit until the third inning, when freshman shortstop Michael Ingram doubled to left field.

Despite Occidental having men on first and third with only one out, Norman retired the next two batters to keep La Verne's lead alive.

For Occidental, McCarthy didn't give up another hit until the fourth inning, when senior designated hitter Ryan Aguilar singled to right field.

Senior left fielder Chris Ligot popped up to second to end the inning, with La Verne still up 1-0.

Neither team would give up a run until the later innings. Despite a strong pitching performance from Norman, Occidental rallied out of a cold streak during the top of the eight inning, when sophomore first baseman Jake Fredrickson hit a two-out home run off a 3-2 pitch to tie the game up at 1-1.

The Leopards also hit a spark in the ninth inning, when senior right fielder and SCIAC Player of the Year Chris Peres led off with a triple down the left field line.

"We needed a lead-off man on base right there and I needed to get a little spark to my team," Peres said. "I saw the pitch out over the middle of the plate and I just tried to put a good swing on it and I got lucky and found a hole."

The Tigers intentionally walked senior pinch hitter Aaron Fong and Ligot to load up the bases.

During the next at bat, senior third baseman Lukas Granado hit the game winning single to right field give La Verne the victory, 2-1.

"Whoever stays composed is going to win that; I tried to stay as composed as possible." Granado said. "I knew he was going to try to come after me, so I tried to play short to the ball."

With the victory, the Leopards hit the road to face Chapman on Saturday in a 4-1 losing effort, forcing the Leopards to play in an elimination game against Cal Lutheran for game three.

The Kingsmen defeated the Leopards 5-1, ending their season with a 30-3 overall record and 16-8 in SCIAC play.

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Senior student athletes are awarded the highest honor

Two athletes stood out this year, earning them the highest award given by the athletic department.

Senior cross country and track and field runner Melissa Cerrillos and senior baseball player Chris Peres both won Athlete of the Year Awards last Tuesday at the Senior Blanket Award Ceremony for four-year student athletes.

The awards are named after Anthony P. and Jesse Iles Scafani, alumni who graduated from La Verne in 1939 and gave $1,000 each to start the Athlete of the Year Award in 1982.

Anthony played football and baseball while his future wife at the time was involved in intramural sports.

Cerillos, who is the third woman in ULV history to qualify for the NCAA National Race in cross country, said she felt honored and was thankful that all her hard work came together from all four years of her career.

"It was really cool how they announced all the accomplishments that I've had because it's a reflection for me to remind myself as a senior to be proud of all that I've done," Cerrillos said.

Cerrillos is waiting on word if she will participate in the 2019 NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships at the Spire Institute in Geneva, Ohio, where she will be competing in the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Despite the fact that she is ranked 15th out of 22 qualifiers, she is hopeful that no one will pass her time in other qualifier meets currently going on around the country.

The national track meet will start May 23.

Peres finished his La Verne baseball career with 127 RBIs, five home runs, 27 doubles and a batting average of .356.

Defensively, he ended with a fielding percentage of .964. Peres was humbled by the high honor of the award, and thanked all who helped on his journey throughout his career leading him to win such a high honor.

"I feel like I won this award because of who helped me get here," Peres said. "All of my coaches, teammates, alumni and Coach Durant helped me to get better as a player and as a man growing here."

Cerillos and Peres, who are both business administration majors, have earned First Team All-SCIAC honors for the majority of their careers in their respective sports while also earning All-West Region honors.

—Dominic Honoré

Athletes ready for Nationals

A select group of Leopards competed in the Occidental Invitational on Friday and Saturday at the Bill Henry Track.

The University's track and field team used this meet as a stepping stone into next weekend at Redlands.

The Leopards are also looking to best themselves and receive a bid to the national championship.

Looking ahead to the Redlands Last Chance meet, the Leopards are starting to hone in on their specialties while also reducing their weaknesses.

Sophomore distance runner Matthew Salas expressed his need to push harder when racing, with the coaching staff also taking the extra step to help him push that much harder.

"I need to take my final 300 or 350 meters faster because when you get to these speeds every single millisecond count, so if I don't speed up for 10 meters it can throw me off completely," Salas said. "Next thing you know I'm the next guy out of Nationals."

Going into the final weeks leading into Nationals, the Leopards are on high alert because at any moment, athlete knocking at the door could knock them out of the top 22 athletes.

Senior Melissa Cerrillos is currently ranked fifteenth in the nation, giving her a bid for nationals in Geneva, Ohio, from May 23-25.

Cerrillos is on edge waiting for each and every athlete to see if they have beaten her, or did they put her in a comfortable seat for Nationals.

The Leopards looking to qualify for Nationals will compete Saturday and Sunday at the Redlands Last Chance Qualifier Meet.

This meet gives them a final opportunity to improve their times and compete in the NCAA Division III National Championship.

—Rex Sample

Black hairstyles...

Continued from page 2

gating seven cases that deal with hair discrimination and can impose a fine of up to $250,000 to anyone who fails to meet the new set of guidelines.

Lela Dooley, undeclared, said the CROWN Act could provide a great opportunity for black women and men to feel comfortable about their natural hair in the workplace.

"First of all, it is 2019, there shouldn't even be any discrimination, especially about someone's hair," Dooley said.

Dooley said the act could also serve as a protective force for people with natural hair that face harassment in the workplace.

"This could be a backup for so many people that have been fired because of their hair since it'll be an actual law," Dooley said. "Now, they could go to court and actually make a case out of it and gain back the job they deserve."

DaJohn Duplessis, president of the Black Student Union, said the act could be seen as a contributing factor to the Black Lives Matter movement.

"This act just enforces the purpose of the Black Lives Matter movement and just shows people that black individuals need to be respected from the top of our heads to the tip of our toes," Duplessis said.

Duplessis said that she does not have any personal stories that deal with hair discrimination due to the preventive measures she has always taken before walking into her workplace.

"I always have to keep many more things in mind about my appearance when going to work than my colleagues," Duplessis said. "It shouldn't be necessary for me to do this but I have to in order to maintain my 'professional appearance'."

Duplessis said that there is a possibility that people could bring ignorant commentary to the act and give it a negative perspective, but that it will still gain support from many individuals who know the frustrations of hair discrimination.

"As long as you are a good worker and do your job correctly, appearance doesn't matter and you should be appreciated and paid for it," Dooley said.

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Curtain closes on softball dynasty

Seniors fall short of four-peat

Dominic Honoré
Staff Writer

It is not often that a team is consistent year after year in winning championships. When a team is so good for so long, the word 'dynasty' comes to mind. The only thing harder than winning a championship is maintaining that level of consistency that got you there in the first place, season after season.

Starting spring of 2016, the La Verne softball team did exactly that over the course of three seasons earning them three consecutive Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships.

However, there is only one group that was there from the beginning.

Seniors Sienna Kendricks, Carly Condon, Rachel Ogata, Michelle DeGuzman and Melissa Garcia are the only ULV athletes who have three championship rings to wear on their fingers.

They were freshmen when the Leopard softball team brought home their first SCIAC championship in 12 years.

Over the course of the next two seasons they developed right alongside the program which brought in two more consecutive championships thereafter.

Former head coach Julie Smith said the three championship teams from 2016-2018 were different than other La Verne softball teams that she has coached.

"I think there was a stronger sense of connection within those three teams," Smith said. "They had chemistry, love for each other and camaraderie in the fact that they were all going for the prize."

However, after the players' junior year, paths would split between the five players.

Four out of the five of the women – Kendricks, Condon, Ogata and DeGuzman – would graduate early.

With DeGuzman taking a job offer following graduation and Garcia set to finish her four-year career and graduate that upcoming spring, the remaining three seniors who formed the Leopards' outfield, had a choice to make.

Ultimately, despite them no longer being full-time students, Kendricks, Condon and Ogata chose to stay for their last season of eligibility in hopes of finishing their careers with a four-peat.

"It meant the world to us to go out and play for that fourth ring because it would have completed our careers the right way," Condon said.

Kendricks was a stud coming out of Bullard High School in Fresno.

She was a four-year player on varsity, earning California Third Team All-State honors her sophomore year, First Team All-CIF her junior and senior years as well as CMAC Player of the Year her senior campaign.

She said she picked La Verne because of the small school feel but also because of the strong sense of pride that she felt within the athletic department when she toured the campus.

> 'It meant the world to us to go out and play for that fourth ring because it would have completed our careers the right way.'
> —*Carly Condon, outfielder*

"The school was small and diverse which was what I was looking for but also the softball program was really good and the field was beautiful." Kendricks said.

Kendricks would go on to start at right outfield all four years of her college career as well as be a leading batter on the team with a batting average of .356, 11 home runs and 87 RBIs.

Defensively, she finished her career with a fielding percentage of .949.

Kendricks earned First Team All-SCIAC three times during her freshmen, junior and senior seasons while earning Second Team All-SCIAC her sophomore season. In her senior year she would go on to earn All-Region honors for the first time in her career, being named to the Second Team All-West Region by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

Condon came out of Santa Monica High School, where she earned Second Team All Ocean League honors her freshmen year and First Team All Ocean League honors her senior year.

She said she chose La Verne because the university really gave the balance of it means to be a true student athlete.

Like Kendricks, Condon started early in her career as a freshman which she said she did not expect.

"Before I actually came to La Verne, I noticed that there were so many girls on the team and I thought I wasn't going to get to play very much," Condon said. "But then I come in and there are only 14 girls."

After an unsuccessful stint at second base for a few games Condon moved back to her natural position at center field where she would go on to start the rest of her career while also contributing heavily at bat.

She finished her career with a batting average of .309 with nine home runs and 80 RBIs. Defensively she went out with a fielding percentage of .961 earning her First Team All-SCIAC twice in her sophomore and junior campaigns.

Rachel Ogata, coming out of Foothill High School in Tustin, played three years on varsity and finished her senior year as a team captain with Second Team All-League honors and a personal coach's award. Because of this she felt like she was ready to be a college athlete.

"When playing travel ball my coach told me all about what to expect and my sister played college softball so she told me how hard I was going to have to work with such a busy schedule," Ogata said. "So, I think I came in prepared."

Ogata was the third member of the Leopards' triple threat in the outfield that started back in 2016.

Although never winning any personal league honors, Ogata would become famous her senior year for her clutch diving catches in the left outfield.

She finished her career with a fielding percentage of .975 defensively while finishing on offense with a batting average of .308 with only one home run and 40 RBIs.

Unfortunately, the seniors' quest for a fourth championship was unsuccessful as the softball team finished their 2019 season with a record of 17-23 overall and 13-15 in SCIAC, finishing in fifth place.



Ashley Villavicencio

Outfielder Carly Condon graduated in January with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She played for the softball team for all four years of her eligibility.

With Smith's resignation following the team's 2018 championship, the Leopards were in a transition phase under former assistant coach Henry Moranchel, who was named interim head coach.

Ending their season just out of the top four, the team was unable to make it to the conference postseason tournament.

However, they did finish the last game of their careers with stellar performances.

In the second game of their final doubleheader against Pomona-Pitzer, all four seniors remaining were responsible for all 10 RBIs in the game.

With their close friend and former teammate DeGuzman watching in the stands, the four teammates led their team to a 10-2 victory.

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