Campus Times

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Beverage House Liquor takes over

New store closes at midnight

Sarah Van Buskirk
Editorial Director

Circle K convenience store, on D Street adjacent to the University of La Verne, is under new ownership as of Wednesday and rebranded to Beverage House Liquor, no longer providing a 24-hour convenience store to the La Verne Community.

All Circle K locations that are not connected to gas stations are changing ownership. Similar to the Circle K, now Korner Store, located on 301 East Bonita Ave. in San Dimas, which changed ownership in 2022.

The La Verne store closed on Wednesday, and it reopens on Friday. The new store will be open from 6 a.m. to midnight as Beverage House Liquor– with a new look. A recent informal survey conducted among University of La Verne students and local residents found that 37 out of 43 surveyed are sad to see Circle K go.

Ayesha Faruki, senior kinesiology major, said that specifically during her organic chemistry cramming study session, she and a group of classmates would go to Circle K and get so many snacks at odd times of the night to help them stay up.

"Circle K was the perfect place to refuel in the middle of the night during a study session," Faruki said. "Which is why I think it is so necessary for college students to have that late night option."

The bright Polar Pop signs and welcoming coffee signs were removed as well as any Circle K brand snacks. Larger brands like Takis and Quaker now have bigger displays and a variety of snacks.

"I will miss the 'Sip & Save' deal Circle K has where you pay $10 and get a free drink every day for a month," said John Niccoli, senior social science major.

Niccoli said he would go to Circle K twice a week to get his morning coffee before class, and will miss those college memories.

Circle K branded hot food on rotating racks or cold food in refrigerators will no longer be available. The completely remodeled Beverage House Liquor will have a plethora of drinks as well as an expansion of hard liquor and a walk in beer fridge.

According to former Circle K employees, those who wanted to keep their job at that location or be transferred to another location, went through an interview process with the new owners.

The decision was then up to Beverage House Liquor's management on whether or not the employees stay employed at that location or are transferred to another Circle K location.

George Felton, a former Circle K employee, said the new ownership will bring change to the University.

"I think it is for the better," Felton said "There are plenty of bars around here so it will make it feel more like a natural college environment."

Faruki also said that the Circle K employees were always so welcoming to students and really created a bond with the students.

"From me going in and out, I became friends with them and started talking about our lives," Faruki said. "Then it became if I had a free night they would text me saying come to Circle K."

Faruki said one night she was hanging with one of the former employees on their break and another former employee came to hang out and brought Nerf guns.

"We would have Nerf gun battles in the Circle K parking lot at midnight," Faruki said. "It was so chill because sometimes the La Verne police would drive by and they would just let us have fun."

Many students said that Circle K was a big part of their college experience at the University of La Verne. They will cherish those memories post graduation but some residents have a different point of view.

La Verne resident Kim Noyes said she is not happy about his ownership change.

Noyes has two daughters that go to Bonita High School only nine short blocks away, and said she is not looking forward to the kinds of people it will bring.

"I don't want my daughters hanging out with crazy people at a liquor store," Noyes said.

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Sarah Van Buskirk

Carla Contreras, junior psychology major, shops for a snack at Circle K on Monday. As of Wednesday, the convenience store on D Street is under the new management of Beverage House Liquor. The new store will no longer be open 24 hours and will not have many of the Circle K amenities that were popular with students.

Panel focuses on Zionism's origins

Michael Roccia
Staff Writer

The University of La Verne's Office of Religious and Spiritual Life hosted a Zionism discussion with Jonathan Reed, professor of philosophy and religion, and Jason Neidleman, professor of political science, in the Ludwick Center last week.

Reed and Neidleman hoped to give the 45 people in attendance a better understanding of the topic and its relevance to the current conflicts in the Middle East.

Reed talked first about what Zionism is and how it truly began. Reed explained that he is also an archaeologist, which molds his perspective. In about 15 minutes he presented thousands of years of Middle Eastern history, and he explained that understanding archeology tells a story as well.

"The reason understanding archaeology is important is not because it settles the current situation, but it helps people assess radical claims by both extremes," Reed said. "Things like, 'that other side was never here.' I think archeology and DNA demographics complicates the issue and creates much more of a gray world than a … black and white world."

"The situation in Palestine and Israel is horrific," Reed said. "We're going to live with the consequences of these events for generations… I hope we share different perspectives, and I hope people will attend and think about it."

"My hope is this isn't one single panel," Reed said.

Neidleman talked about the modern Zionism movement that began in the 19th century and how politics played such a crucial role in developing it into what we see today.

With everything going on in the world, he wanted to make sure people, and specifically his students, understand what the movement actually is.

Simply put, Zionism is a movement to recreate a Jewish presence in Israel.

"I was talking to some students before class about Israel, Palestine and I used the term Zionism a few times," Neidleman said. "One of the students raised his hand and asked 'What's Zionism?' I thought, 'wow, okay we should have a panel just to educate people on what this thing is'."

Neidleman said he wanted

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On the Cover

Junior center fielder Ashley Rodriguez pops out to the shortstop in the bottom of the second inning of the Leopards' game against the Chapman Panthers on Friday at Campus West. Rodriguez went 1-for-3 at the plate in the Leopards' 6-2 loss. / photo by Jack Janes

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Passover Seder inspires reflection

Celebration honors freedom

Margaret Contreras
Staff Writer

The University's Passover Seder dinner was held on Wednesday. in the Quay Davis Boardroom, hosted by the office of religious and spiritual life and led by Cantor Paul Buch from Temple Beth Israel.

Students, families and faculty participated in the event with about 50 guests in total.

Guests sat at circular tables covered in white tablecloths.

Each place setting had two cups, one for water and one for wine – or grape juice – for the event.

Buch showed the guests what a traditional Seder plate looks like and explained the symbolism of each of the six items it featured.

The Passover Seder is a Jewish a tradition that dates back thousands of years.

The dinner tells the story of how the Jews were freed from about 400 years of slavery in ancient Egypt.

Each item served during dinner is to remember and teach the next generation about what happened in the past.

Parsley or another type of green is served and dipped in salted water to remember the tears of the Jews during the time they were slaves in Egypt.

The charoset, a fruit-and-nut paste, symbolizes the slaves making the bricks.

Horseradish signifies the bitterness they felt against Egypt.

The hard-boiled egg on the plate represents rebirth.

Three Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, all have great exodus stories as part of their foundations.



Sheridan Lambrook

Caitlin Baltzer, a masters in child life graduate student, recites a blessing over a glass of grape juice at the Passover Seder meal hosted by the University's office of interfaith fellows and the office of religious and spiritual life on Wednesday in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room. The blessing was one of four that take place during a traditional Seder.

"During the dinner (we) talk about issues both in the past and present," Buch said.

"We don't want a passive dinner. We want the people to experience something more."

Between readings from the Haggadah, the book which tells the story of Passover, Buch asked guests to share what they struggle to be free from.

Many guests replied that they want to be free from "anxiety and stress."

"Not all of us are free from slavery, even if we are not in Egypt," Buch said.

Many non-Jews attended to learn about the Seder's rich traditions.

For many, it was their first time experiencing such a dinner.

"This was a wholesome experience," Amnaa Taha, senior political science major, said.

"I didn't realize that it would be so interactive. I thought there was going to be a lecture with dinner."

Adonis Borer, junior psychology major, organized the event this year, and it was their first time doing so.

"I have been attending these ever since I can remember," Borer said.

"ULV has been doing this for so many years that the recipes were already there, that helped. I was very excited to be able to do it."

Some students from the University's child life master's program attended, they said, to gain understanding of the different religions they will encounter in hospitals for their future work.

Erin Brese, a student in the master's program, said the event was an eye-opener.

"I will take what I learned tonight and use it in my tool kit when working with patients and families," Brese said.

"I (value) the importance of diversity, equality and inclusion."

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> 'I will take what I learned tonight and use it in my tool kit.'
> *— Erin Brese, graduate student*

Students not supportive of potential TikTok ban

Jordan Alcasas
Staff Writer

A recent informal survey found that 23 out of 25 University of La Verne students believe the bill that could potentially ban TikTok in the U.S., which was signed into law this week by President Joe Biden, goes too far.

The bill – which was approved by Congress as part of the $95 billion dollar foreign aid package to Ukraine and Israel – will allow the Beijing-based company ByteDance, nine months to sell app.

If the company fails to sell TikTok in that time, the app will be permanently banned from U.S. app stores.

Proponents of the TikTok bill say the app, which gathers users' personal data, is a national security risk.

But most students surveyed seemed focused on TikTok's pros.

The survey, which took place outside of The Spot dining hall, also considered students' TikTok habits.

22 out of the 25 students surveyed said they spend over an hour daily on TikTok.

"I don't think it's that big of a problem," said Oscar Mendoza, a senior business administration major.

"People use it for leisure. It shouldn't be used in a wrongful way, but the positives outweigh the negatives."

Others said the ban will limit users' expression.

"Though I understand the concern…banning the app (limits) peoples' freedom of speech, as well as access to information," said freshman creative writing major Bianca Bernal.

"I don't really care if China has my information," added Tess Adlam, a freshman business administration major.

"I don't think (a ban) is needed. If we're in a war, then maybe, but right now it's not needed."

Not every student agreed with the majority opinion.

Some said they believe that the new law is necessary considering tension between the U.S. and China.

"To the current extent of what is occurring within the nation and other nations, since TikTok was primarily owned by China, it's still considered a huge security risk," Andy Garcia, a senior biology major said.

"I say it's necessary based on the precautions that have to be taken."

Still others said the federal governments should be focused on more pressing issues.

"I don't think that it should be banned, and we're focusing too much on it," said Allison McGill, a freshman kinesiology major.

"There's many more important things going on in the world right now."

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Students pull weeds for Earth Day



Top: Marvhic Guinto, master gardener at the Peace and Carrots Community Garden, a part of the Church of the Brethren in La Verne, teaches University of La Verne students and local residents how to pull weeds to prevent them from returning on Saturday morning. The Ocean Movement Club at ULV partnered with the garden for a civic and community engagement day in celebration of Earth Day.

Bottom left: La Puente resident Pablo Cantano, ULV senior psychology major Lizbeth Mendoza and La Verne resident Willow Bowman pick sweet peas during the Earth Day celebration at the Peace and Carrots Community Garden on Saturday morning. Volunteers who helped clean up the garden at the La Verne Church of the Brethren were encouraged to eat and take home certain ripe fruits and vegetables.

Bottom right: Bill Ripley of Azusa harvests onions during the Earth Day celebration at the Peace and Carrots Community Garden sponsored by the ULV Ocean Movement Club on Saturday morning. Ripley occupies a few beds in the garden and harvested more of his crops on Saturday, such as potatoes.

Bottom: Gaillardia aristata, commonly known as the Great Blanket Flower, grows scattered throughout the Peace and Carrots Community Garden, contrasting the dense green with pops of scarlett and mustard. These native western wildflowers are pollinators to butterfly and bird species. The community garden at the La Verne Church of the Brethren dedicates a bed solely for native wildflowers to promote insect and bird pollination.

Photography by Sarah Van Buskirk







Arts, etc...

Happenings

Masterful Keys

Grammy Award-winning Ukrainian-American pianist Nadia Shpachenko will perform a solo piano recital at Morgan Auditorium from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday.

Students, faculty and the community are welcome with tickets priced at $1.

For more information, contact Nikolai Galvan at **ngalvan@laverne.edu.**

'Asymmetry and Alignment'

The department of art and art history presents a new installation of Oliver Sutter's paintings. These works provide a sense of immediacy in the present moment with splotches and paint strokes protruding off the canvas.

The exhibition is in the West Gallery on the second floor of the Campus Center. Sutter's textured paintings will be available from now until May 24.

Admission is free. For more information, visit **artsci.laverne.edu/art/exhibition**.

'Lost and Found'

In the Ground Floor Gallery in Miller Hall, the photography department presents a group exhibition curated by senior Kim Toth – featuring the work of other University of La Verne students – titled "Lost & Found: Rediscovering the Archive." The exhibit runs through May 24.

For more information email Fred Brashear at **fbrashear@laverne.edu**.

Renaissance Music

The University of La Verne Chamber singers harmonize for an evening of 14th to 17th Century music at 4 p.m. Sunday in the Morgan Auditorium. The singers are led by Michael Ryan, and donations are welcomed to help support the chamber singers for their upcoming European tour.

For more information, visit **artsci.laverne.edu/music/ensembles.**

—Sarah Van Buskirk

Choral Concert honors Music history

by Thatiana Gibbs

photography by Olivia Modarelli



Members of the Joint Music Program of Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Pitzer and Scripps Colleges, led by Charles Kamm, perform Sunday in Scripps College's Garrison Theater to honor music history. The ensemble performed a wide array of European music written prior to 1700.

The Early Music Ensemble concert at Scripps College Sunday honored music history with a choral concert featuring music from before 1700. The concert was held in the Garrison Theater on the Scripps College campus.

The concert featured Bill Alves, composer and professor of humanities at Harvey Mudd and the colleges' early music ensemble director; and Charles Kamm, director of the Claremont Concert Choir and the Claremont Treble Singers.

Musicians included Jonathan Johnson on harpsichord performer and Lynn Burrows on cello, along with about 50 members of the music ensemble, who performed before an audience of about 100.

The ensemble also featured a variety of woodwind instruments.

The theme of the concert included different forms of religious enlightenment.

With pieces that have their origins in the European Middle Ages, Renaissance and early Baroque era, each song exemplified the musical experimentation and development of the time.

"I think there is strength in numbers, I know that the people around me are super talented, I know that they have my back and I will always have theirs," Taylor Levinson, junior computer science major and performer, said.

"It's so nice to be able to perform with people that you love and respect and it was a really great experience."

"This period represents when people are forming different views about religion, how it interacts with the person and with the community at large," Aidan Trulove, senior English major at Scripps College, said.

"Also, art for the sake of art in a way, how can you make something beautiful. I'm looking forward to the variety of instruments as well as the incredible skill of the singers."

> 'Seeing students flourish on stage and learn about music and being inspired by that, it's always really good to see.'
> *—Olivia Kazanjian, designer and guest at the concert*

A number of pieces of secular vocal polyphony were performed. This refers to a style of music that emerged during the Renaissance period, and involves multiple vocalists singing different melodies simultaneously.

"I felt like we were in a different time and place, it's always really fascinating to think about how this is really really old music," Olivia Kazanjian, designer and guest at the concert, said. "So seeing how it's influenced today's music is really interesting. It was everything I expected. Seeing students flourish on stage and learn about music and being inspired by that, it's always really good to see students who are curious about what they are performing, and I felt like that was present on today's stage."

Each composition harbored its own unique flare.

Some pieces evoked sincere and breathy melodies, while others resembled aspects of the living world such as bird sounds.

"The ones distinctly from the Renaissance were my favorite songs," Douglas Ricketson, salesman and guest at the concert, said.

"But the last one, and the conductor, was the most rousing. I think what they're doing is really wonderful because it really connects with the community."

The Joint Music Program of Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Pitzer and Scripps Colleges host an array of concerts and events that are free and open to the public.

Upcoming events will be available for attendance in late April, and can be viewed on their website at **scrippscollege.edu**.

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Writers discuss creative process

Margaret Contreras
Staff Writer

Three senior creative writing students presented their senior projects – two of them read their work and one of them talked about it – on Wednesday in the Howell Board Room. There were 10 people in attendance.

The students, Jefferson Croushore, Jocelyn Hancock and Aniyah Powell, each took 15 minutes to talk about the story they were doing, their inspiration for the story and what they felt they needed to improve on. Hancock and Powell read a clip from their story and Croushore talked about the story.

Croushore, a creative writing major who went first, discussed the influence authors, including Edgar Allen Poe, have had on his writing techniques and influenced how he views himself as a writer.

"Being a writer has changed from how I saw it when I started," Croushore said. "Being a writer is an evolving thing, just like how our lives evolve."

Each of them talked about how they had ideas for different stories.

They all told the audience they would write down their ideas, even in the margin of their notebooks while in other classes. Powell, a senior political science and creative writing major, talked about her story and what inspired her.

The tropes she is using within her writing are love and angst based in a war zone.

"The inspiration I found for these themes was in the book 'Song of Achilles' by Madeline Miller," Powell said. "I also found the inspiration for the war scenes from the movie '1917' (2019) directed by Sam Mendes."

Hancock, a senior creative writing major, was the final student to present her project.

She was open about how she struggled with revising her story.

"I have a hard time revising my stories," Hancock said. "My final revision sometimes ends up looking like my first revision. I am trying to get better at that."

Hancock's research and inspiration for her story came from people being obsessed with celebrities.

She wrote about what happens when one fan finds out the celebrity she is obsessed with has a darker cannibalistic fetish side.

She said she took inspiration from the 2023 HBO series "The Last of Us" and the 2011 Netflix series "Black Mirror."

There were a handful of students there to support their fellow students and friends.

Mallely Caceres, a junior psychology major, attended to support her friend who was presenting her story.

She also knew the other presenters.

"I read Jefferson Croushore's story about a talking cat named Periwinkle," Caceres said.

"I do love the idea about the celebrity story. Especially how they are held to a certain standard."

The creative writing students were asked a series of questions after the presentation. They were asked about the research process for their stories.

"I feel like facts in a [fiction] book are optional unless it is based in a historical period or something along those lines," Croushore said.

The student writers were asked about how they chose a story from all the ideas they had and how they found inspiration for new stories. Most of the time they said inspiration was found in the media.

"I find inspiration in social media, movies, shows and books," Powell said. "Books are a really good inspiration, especially in the genre you want to write in."

The final question the seniors were asked was what they wanted to do after they graduated.

Powell wants to apply for grad school of political science, Croushore wants to start writing his next book and Hancock wants to travel and experience the world outside of school.

They each gave a piece of final advice for students who are in creative writing: They told them to always write down their ideas and to be in a community with other creative writers to help bounce ideas off of each other.

"You are your own harshest critic, don't take yourself too seriously," Croushore said.

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Backyard comedy show highlights comedians

Kelli Makenna Kuttruff
Arts Editor

A hysterical group of comedians and friends gathered for the second backyard Stargazers Comedy show on Friday in Rancho Cucamonga. The producers of popular Covina Comedy show "Basement Dwellers," Alex Durazzo and Greg Sanchez, created this bi-monthly show to perform every other month that they are not producing in Covina.

This unique comedy show is held at an exclusive location in the back yard of one of the comedians.

The cool night was lit only by the fire and the string lights adorning the outdoor walls. Chairs and couches were spread out across the lawn, and the atmosphere was brought to life by the laughter and cheers of about 50 guests.

Durazzo wanted to create this show in addition to Basement Dwellers to have more control of the atmosphere, and the freedom to do things they could not in a traditional space.

"My vision for what I wanted in a comedy show is just to welcome people into my home which is kind of crazy… I mean, what's more intimate than that?" Durazzo said. "In addition to booking good comics and having really funny people on the show, it's about the space that we create. This show is a really funny, laid-back kickback. It feels like going to a bonfire at your friend's house."

Durazzo and Sanchez wanted to produce and host this local show because they used to get booked in expensive shows that were far away, making their friends have to make the drive and the payment to come support their comedy careers. They created this free show as a "love letter" to their friends in appreciation for all the support.

This show created an opportunity for comedians to work out their material alongside their friends who are all in different stages of their comedy career.

Liting Chen is a newer comic, who shined on the outdoor stage in the Stargazers comedy show and left even the most experienced comedians impressed by her quick wit and comedic style.

She met Durazzo and Sanchez at an open mic where she was booked for Stargazers, and her saying yes to their show was simple as she knew they produced comedy shows of such high-quality.

Chen realized that stand up comedy is a welcomed challenge for her, but feels a sense of relief when the crowd laughs at her jokes and simultaneously allows her to laugh at her past.

"I think the most rewarding part of comedy is when people laugh," Chen said. "When I see somebody and they laugh I feel validated by the audience. It feels like they are with me, and that it's a form of connection. When they are laughing, it feels like I'm not alone… like people get me."

Many of these comedians similarly met through different open mics and comedy shows in the local scene, and have formed relationships with each other through performing at and supporting each other's shows.

Comedian Ricky Macias helps host the admired Chatterbox Comedy Night in Covina, and performs with these comedians often.

He is a more experienced comedian and after 11 years of comedy in his repertoire, he realized he did not want to stop comedy.

"The thing I'm most proud of with comedy is that I kept going," Macias said. "Even after 11 years, I'm proud that it's still something that's rewarding and fun to me."

Ending the night with a bang was hilarious comedian KJ Robinson. He feels that being up on stage is the best feeling, as it washes over all of his problems while his only goal is to make people laugh and have a good time.

"As a comic, it's all about love, respect and being professional," Robinson said. "It's about taking care of yourself, taking care of your stage and taking care of the show. So as long as you know those things about me, you know who I am."

To gain access to the show, comedy-fans are invited to text the phone number in Stargazers Comedy's Instagram bio **@stargazerscomedy** to join the guest list. Comedy fans are encouraged and welcomed to experience this unique experience by texting 909-909-6922 for an invite to their next "raid."

The third Stargazers Comedy Show is set to bring laughter back to comedy-lovers in June.

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Beverage House...

Continued from page 2

people to gain an understanding of the historical origins and the present realities they are facing, and to emphasize the humanity in the situation.

He paraphrased a quote from Edward Said, a famous Palestinian writer.

"He said, 'We need to kind of see the world through the perspective of the other'," Neidleman said. "If we do that, we're able to humanize even people that we see as adversaries. And if we don't do that, if we fail to do that, we guarantee that there'll be a cycle of violence and dehumanization. And that's what we're in right now."

Raymond Moreno, a junior philosophy major who attended the Thursday talk, said he learned a lot.

"I think it's pretty important to stay informed about current events in the world," Moreno said. "And so coming to a panel like this is very important in being informed."

Sophomore political science major Rania Kartouch, who also attended, agreed.

"I … found that this way made it fairly easy to understand and so you're able to learn things rather quickly."

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Soprano serenades audience



Chris Rogers

Elissa Johnston sings Sunday in the Morgan Auditorium. Johnston is an opera-trained soprano who has performed with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Los Angeles Master Chorale. She performed with her husband, Grant Gershon, a Grammy-winning conductor and pianist.

Mistakes prove costly in softball's loss

Leopards drop series opener

Jonas Holt
Staff Writer



Jack Janes

La Verne sophomore second baseman Cassandra Zapata receives the throw from graduate student third baseman Taylor Gray to try and get Chapman junior shortstop Grace Fosselman out in a pickle during the Leopards' game against the Panthers on Friday at Campus West. The Leopards lost the series opener to the Chapman Panthers, 6-2.

Six runners left on base and two errors proved costly as the Leopards lost, 6-2, in the opening game of a three-game series against the Chapman Panthers in a Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference matchup at Campus West on Friday afternoon.

"We had one bad inning but it wasn't just one mistake, it was multiple," head coach Tara Anaya said. "We've got to be able to reel it in and dial back in again."

The game commenced with junior pitcher Kirstin Sanchez taking the mound for the Leopards.

The Panthers wasted no time as junior center fielder Miranda Murphy kick-started their offense with a lead-off single up the middle.

A subsequent errant throw by Sanchez allowed junior shortstop Grace Fosselman to reach base, which loaded the bases with no outs.

Despite Sanchez's efforts to contain the damage, the Panthers scored their first run as junior first baseman Jordan Westerfield's sacrifice fly brought Murphy home, giving Chapman an early 1-0 lead.

Sanchez regained her composure, inducing a ground out and a fly out to end the inning.

In the bottom of the first inning, the Leopards faced Panthers' junior left-handed pitcher Jillian Kelly.

> 'We hear a lot from our coaches on how we need to tighten up our defense and we just need to make those adjustments and be better out there.'
> *—Ashley Rodriguez, junior center fielder*

Kelly shut the Leopards out right away with a one-two-three inning and set the tone for the Leopards' struggles at the plate for the afternoon.

The Panthers continued to apply pressure in the top of the second inning, with junior right fielder Samantha Kennedy leading off with a single.

Sophomore second baseman Mia Reyes followed suit with a slap into left field, putting runners on first and second with just one out.

Despite a fly out by Murphy, Sanchez struggled to contain the Panthers' offense, hitting Fosselman with a pitch to load the bases.

A ground ball off the bat of third baseman Illiana Serna resulted in a pair of runs for the Panthers, extending their lead to 3-0.

The Leopards' attempt to catch Fosselman in a pickle backfired when a throw by junior shortstop Erika Garcia sailed over the head of sophomore second baseman Cassandra Zapata, allowing two more runs to score, giving Chapman a 5-0 lead.

Sanchez managed to escape further damage, getting a ground out to end the top half of the inning.

"We hear a lot from our coaches on how we need to tighten up our defense and we just need to make those adjustments and be better out there," junior center fielder Ashley Rodriguez said.

It only took Kelly four pitches to end the second inning for the Panthers.

In the bottom of the third inning, the Leopards finally found some offensive momentum.

Junior designated player Sydney Diaz notched the Leopards' first hit of the game with a single up the middle.

A walk to junior right fielder Angelina Alderete and a subsequent double steal allowed Diaz to score, putting the Leopards on the board at 5-1.

However, the inning concluded with a pop out, leaving the Leopards trailing by four.

"I just think we need to capitalize on the little things and we'll be fine," Sanchez said.

The Panthers added insurance to their lead in the top of the fifth inning thanks to a solo home run to deep left center field by junior designated player Mo Lynch, giving Chapman a 6-1 lead.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, graduate student third baseman Taylor Gray kick-started a promising offensive sequence with the team's fourth hit of the game.

With Gray on first and only one out, Zapata followed suit with a line drive into right field, putting runners on first and second.

Rodriguez's strikeout brought junior catcher Alyssa Campbell to the plate with two outs.

"We can't get down on ourselves when we're down, we have to pick each other up, be loud and have fun in the tough moments" Gray said.

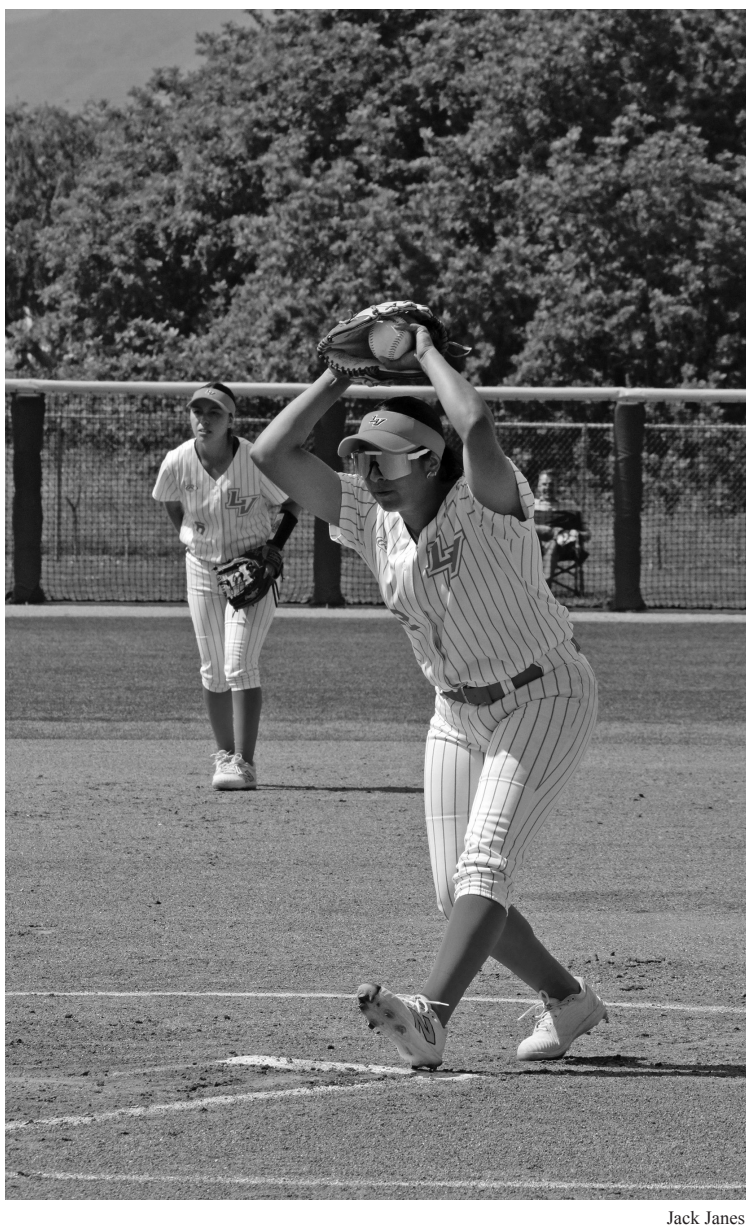
Campbell delivered a single into left field on the first pitch, loading the bases for freshman left fielder Aleiah Kupihea. Kupihea's single into center brought Gray home, narrowing the Panthers' lead to 6-2.

However, a ground out by Garcia ended the inning with the bases loaded.

The Leopards continued to struggle in the final innings, thus giving the Chapman Panthers a hard earned 6-2 victory.

"We've got to be able to attack early when it's there and make the adjustments when needed," Anaya said.

Despite the loss in the opening game of the series against Chapman, the Leopards bounced back and won the first game of the doubleheader by a score of 2-1 on Saturday but lost the second game 7-6 in heartbreaking walk-off fashion by giving up the tying and game-winning runs in the bottom of the seventh inning.



Jack Janes

Junior pitcher Kirstin Sanchez winds up to fire a fastball in the first inning of the Leopards' game against the Chapman Panthers Friday at Campus West. Sanchez pitched all seven innings and gave up four earned runs on nine hits with three strikeouts and a walk in the Leopards' 6-2 loss.

The Leopards are now 12-22 overall on the season and 6-12 in Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play.

Their final series of the season is against the Whittier Poets beginning with senior night at 3 p.m. Friday Campus West and a doubleheader at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday at Whittier.

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Leopards sweep battle of the big cats

Jack Janes
Sports Editor

A grueling three-game series against the Chapman Panthers ended in a dramatic 7-5 win for the No. 10 Leopards in the second game of their doubleheader Saturday to complete a series sweep. According to the University of La Verne Athletics website that goes back to 2006, this is the first time in school history that the Leopards have swept the Panthers.

"We really were resilient today," head coach Scott Winterburn said. "This whole series was, as the cliché says, it was a grind and our guys just hung in there, kept clawing and scratching and we came out on top."

The Leopards took game one of the series on Friday at Hart Park in an extra-innings thriller that had junior outfielder Logan Reese's dramatic three-run home run with a full count and two outs in the top of the 11th inning giving the Leopards the win.

In the first game of the doubleheader, the Leopards' offense was rolling, scoring three runs in the second inning after starting the inning with five straight hits and carrying the momentum into the bottom of the third inning, batting through the order with the first five batters reaching safely and scoring five runs to make it an 8-4 lead.

Junior first baseman Noah Garcia hit a sacrifice fly to scratch another run across in the bottom of the fourth and scored another run in the bottom of the sixth inning with a two-strike double down the left field line to make it 10-7, Leopards.

Junior right-handed pitcher Matthew DesMarets normally starts on the second game of doubleheaders, but today he was called on to shut the door with two outs in the top of the seventh inning. DesMarets got a strikeout to get out of the seventh-inning jam, then pitched a scoreless eighth inning and got the first two outs in the ninth to bring his total to two scoreless innings pitched with six strikeouts.

After DesMarets fell behind in the count to 2-0 after surrendering a four pitch walk, senior right-handed pitcher Austin Klopfenstein came in to close out the game and threw three fastballs right past Panthers junior outfielder Blake Beckley to get the strikeout and secure the 10-7 victory.

Senior left-handed pitcher Chase Pederson started the second game of the doubleheader for the Leopards and went four innings, giving up three earned runs on five hits, four strikeouts and one walk. Pederson got the first two batters out to start the game before giving up a two-out single to graduate student Kai Osaka and then a two-run home run to senior first baseman AJ Anzai to give the Panthers an early 2-0 lead.

The Leopards responded in the bottom of the second inning when the Leopards had bases loaded with one out and graduate student infielder Anthony Salcedo reached on a fielder's choice to score sophomore catcher Nathan Perry from third to cut the lead in half at 2-1 Panthers.

A wild pitch by freshman right-handed pitcher John Folkl with runners on second and third base gave Chapman a run back in the top of the fifth inning to make it 3-1. But Chapman coughed up three runs right back to the Leopards in the bottom of the fifth inning by walking four Leopards batters, committing an error and giving up an RBI single to sophomore shortstop Ryan Vosika. When the dust settled, the Leopards scored three runs in the inning to take a 4-3 lead.

Chapman tied it back up the next inning after a two-out walk to graduate student catcher Trent Turquand led to an RBI single by junior outfielder Brad Lang to make it a 4-4 ballgame.



Jonas Holt

Leopards junior center fielder Jason Givens takes a pitch against the Chapman Panthers in game two of the Saturday doubleheader at Ben Hines Field. Givens finished with one hit and one walk in the Leopards' 7-5 victory that completed the series sweep.

Showing no signs of giving up, the Leopards once again had an answer for the Panthers in the bottom of the seventh inning, when Perry led off the inning with a triple in the right-center field gap and then scored on another Vosika RBI-single to give the Leopards a 5-4 lead.

"I was just jumping on the fastball early in the count because I've been getting to two strikes lately," Vosika said. "I've kind of been struggling and I just wanted to get on (base) early in the count."

Then in the top of the eighth inning, DesMarets was once again called on to shut the door for the Leopards and pitched a scoreless eighth inning, striking out two Panthers batters. In the bottom half of the eighth inning, Chapman hit the first two batters of the inning and hit another to make it bases loaded with one out.

Coming off the bench with bases loaded and one out, sophomore infielder Aidan Salcedo came through for the Leopards with a two-strike double to score two runs to extend the lead to 7-4.

"Just going in there with a calm mindset, just trying to put my bat on the ball and then I got my pitch with two strikes, just tried to turn in on it and stay inside the ball," Salcedo said.

In the top of the ninth inning, freshman infielder Matt Campopiano hit a lead-off home run, but DesMarets retired the next three batters he faced to close out the game and give the Leopards a 7-5 win to complete the series sweep.

"My mentality was that I just want to win, just shut it down, it's a good opponent and I just trusted my teammates," DesMarets said.

Combining both games of the doubleheader, DesMarets threw four innings in relief, giving up one earned run on two hits while striking out eight and walking two.

"We're at that stage of the season where when you have a chance to get a win, you take a risk," Winterburn said. "The impressive thing for me is that Des (DesMarets) hasn't done that for us. He hasn't come out of the pen and closed or really even been in late relief like that, so for him to navigate both games the way he did, I'm really proud of him."

The No. 10 Leopards now look ahead to their three-game series against the Whittier Poets that begins at 3 p.m. Friday at Ben Hines Field with a doubleheader at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday at Whittier.

The No. 10 Leopards are now 22-9-1 overall and 14-4 in Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play.

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Leopard Scoreboard

At the Buzzer

Women's Water Polo, April 20
La Verne – 9
Whittier – 8

Baseball, April 20
Chapman – 7
La Verne – 10

Softball, April 20
La Verne – 2
Chapman – 1

Schedule

Friday
Baseball vs. Whittier, 3 p.m.

Saturday
Baseball @ Whittier, 11 a.m.
Baseball @ Whittier, 2 p.m.
Men's and women's track and field @ SCIAC Track and Field Championships, all day

Sunday
Men's and women's golf @ SCIAC Championship Tournament, all day
Men's and women's track and field @ SCIAC Track and Field Championships, all day

Softball Standings

	SCIAC	Overall
Claremont-M-S	11-3	20-9
Redlands	14-4	28-9
Chapman	11-4	20-10
Cal Lutheran	7-6	10-13
Pomona-Pitzer	7-8	14-17
La Verne	**6-12**	**12-22**
Whittier	3-10	12-16
Occidental	1-14	6-24