Campus Times

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Inside

Fans celebrate Dodgers' Title – and Fernando p6

En Memoria honors Dia de los Muertos p8

Volleyball continues playoff push p9

Lecture explores employment and AI

Ethan Anderson
Assistant Editor

Annie Bui, a generative AI expert; Dan Munsey, San Bernardino County's fire chief, and Steven Haskins, a public administration innovator, presented a lecture titled "AI and Gen AI in Law and Public Service: Current State and Future Outlook," on Wednesday at the College of Law and Public Service in Ontario before an audience of about 40 people.

Bui shared insight into the differences between AI and Gen AI, or that being GenerativeAI is used to generate virtually anything that comes to mind, based on inputs and prompts.

"We should embrace it AI, educate ourselves, and learn more about it and use it to serve beside our expertise." Bui said.

Munsey uses AI in his expertise at the San Bernardino County Fire Department in numerous ways. They use drones equipped with an object detection model to catch fires and share information directly with the department.

AI is also used to write reports saving hundreds of hours in time, and first responders use AI to predict where stationing first responders would be most effective.

"AI is the future and higher ed needs to explore it and get on the wave." said Kevin Marshall, dean of the College of Law and Public Service.

AI seems to be very effective in supplementing government operations, especially at the local level. However, law practitioners have more concerns with what a legal industry with AI integrated would look like.

"AI will be extremely difficult to apply to a litigation situation," insurance bad faith litigation attorney Randy Curry said. "It would be fantastic if it would make our jobs easier, but there are so many aspects of the law that vary and change."

AI has proven to be effective in day to day operations in saving attorney's time that can be better spent with their clients.

"There are a lot of client based activities that take a lot of time that can then be shortened and then used to build organizational culture; things in law firms that aren't necessarily addressed right now." Haskins said.

Haskins is however concerned with AI's understanding of the complexities of law and how long it will take, if ever, for Artificial Intelligence to get to that point.

"Building the algorithms that require the computers to make good decisions are going to take a long time to build," Haskins said. "AI will get there eventually but it will be misused along the way."

Prior to the lecture, students helped themselves to a charcuterie board, mushroom florentine, chicken skewers, sliders, desserts and beverages. There was also a photo backdrop with text saying "Legal Leos" and "Giving Voice" wrapped around a Leopard head.

People in attendance were dressed business casual, some bringing something to take notes on.

With some time, the speakers said, AI will absolutely redefine the way we go about our everyday lives and work.

It will ultimately be those who understand and know how to harness artificial intelligence the correct, ethical way who will have the most broad career opportunities.

"AI is not going to take over the world like people say," Bui said. "The people who know how to use AI will take over the world."

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Anthony Eramya

Annie Bui, a University of La Verne doctoral student in public administration, speaks on the benefits of AI on Wednesday at the University of La Verne College of Law. Bui's doctoral research is focused on generative AI.

Interfaith dinner fosters insightful conversation

Thatiana Gibbs
Assistant Editor

The Common Ground club and its interfaith fellows hosted an interfaith dialogue dinner Monday at the Hanawalt House Courtyard.

The purpose of Common Ground is to promote diversity on campus, as it pertains to religion. The concept of interfaith is exemplified in religious and spiritual groups of different cultures and traditions, coming together in order to cultivate respectful discourse concerning important topics.

Complete with candle centerpieces and a spread of Indian food, each table served as a meeting place for guests of all backgrounds and acquaintances.

Prior to serving food, the club went over a brief presentation, highlighting what interfaith was, and why it was important to each interfaith fellow.

"I would describe it as insightful," Danny Zheng, instrument technician and attendee said. "A lot of commonalities. I thought there would be a lot more division but I say that people were very much unified and there were similarities in what they believe."

Dinner consisted of vegetable samosas, chicken tikka masala, garlic naan bread, and more.

When taking seats, guests were encouraged to merge tables and foster new connections during the process.

"I feel like knowing someone's faith is good for aiding in connection," Cherie Atalor, sophomore computer science major, said.

A series of five questions guided the night's discussion. To begin each segment, the respective liaison would repeat the question, and begin the exercise by providing their perspective first.

"For me, I don't know what I was expecting, but it did really exceed my expectations in an overwhelmingly good way," Mercy Mgbemere, freshman psychology major said.

"I didn't expect it to be beneficial to me, but I was pleasantly surprised. To other students, I say give events like this a chance."

"What turns you away from your religion/spirituality? And, what affirms it?" and "How does your practice cope with the pain of suffering? What are its traditions of healing?" are examples of prompts that were discussed.

As the dinner went on and relationships established, participants began to be more vulnerable with their peers.

"I think it's a very healthy thing," university chaplain Zandra Wagoner, Common Ground adviser, said. "To gather people together and talk about differences, and to do it in a way that still builds community. In its own way it's building bridges. For me, it's very meaningful. To see people to be able to hold conversations across deep differences and walk away friends."

Marked by the prompt "What makes you excited about life?", the event ended leaving attendees introspective and with a new perspective on the meaning of interfaith.

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On the Cover

Los Angeles County resident Angie Cervantes waves the Mexican flag in victory to celebrate the World Series win for the Los Angeles Dodgers. Many Latino American felt like the Dodgers had made their community feel seen. / photo by Liberty B. Garcia

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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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Commentary

Trump victory jeopardizes our rights

Olivia Russo
Staff Writer

As of Nov. 6, Donald Trump has been elected as president of the U.S., winning both the electoral college and the popular vote, the latter for the first time ever.

Despite winning, he is entirely unfit for any office, let alone the Oval Office.

Trump is a convicted felon, he has been found guilty on 34 counts in relation to influencing the 2016 election by paying hush money to adult film star, Stormy Daniels.

He still has outstanding court dates about falsifying business records, interfering in the 2020 election, specifically in Georgia, and stealing classified documents from the White House.

Despite all of that, Trump was elected once again – with even more people than the last election voting for him.

There is no reason why a convicted felon and one with outstanding cases should be able to run for president.

Other convicted felons cannot get jobs, or are not even allowed to vote.

The felonies are just one portion of the main issue: Trump is being elected for policies he has not implemented in a government he has not worked in.

A lot of reasons that people have voted for Trump, a lot of the consensus being for the supposed policies that, once in office, Trump will enact, specifically due to the economy.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy has suffered, due to the natural supply and demand that comes with economic shifts.

During the pandemic the U.S. suffered an economic contraction, regarded as one of sharpest ones in history. Millions of citizens lost their jobs, and business owners had to shut down. In response, the government sent out stimulus packages to promote spending and keep the economy running, unemployment insurance payment were also extended to millions.

President Joe Biden is currently working under the economy that former president Trump created, while he was working with the economy that former president Obama ran.

In other words, Trump benefited from the good economy under Obama, and Biden was successful in healing the economy that tanked under Trump. Biden presided over tremendous job growth and employment numbers, but also high inflation.

Many people may think that the gas prices will go down once Trump assumes power, which may be true. However, the national average of gas prices are already declining, and inflation has slowed recently.

During the Biden administration, oil production increased and outpaced not just the Trump administration, but Saudi Arabia and Russia's oil production. On top of the new initiatives Biden put into place to shift from fossil fuels to green energy, which also outpaced the effort of the Trump administration.

No matter what price gas ends up at in the next four years, it is not the sole reason to pick a candidate.

When voting, you pick the person who represents what you believe in the most, no matter the party.

Anyone who voted for Trump is supporting much more than lower gas prices. They are supporting everything listed in Project 2025. That's what they stand for. There is no other option. That is what they voted for.

Project 2025 is a 900-page manual that will reconstruct the entire federal government of every level and branch to support and concede with the most conservative agenda.

This project intends to remove abortion access for all, deport immigrants on a massive scale, rip rights from transgender individuals, abolish the Department of Education, and that is not even half of it.

At the end of the day, there are people we are surrounded by who are actively voting against the rights of the people they care about and the people that they spend their time with.

There is a good chance that someone you love will be greatly impacted by this.

A woman may be forced to have a baby her body cannot carry A friend may lose the opportunity to become a legal citizen. A classmate could not be allowed to marry because they are transgender, a sibling could lose their education.

These policies may not affect you, but they do affect someone you know.

Those are the policies that Trump believes. Those are what he stands for, even if he denies it until inauguration. That is his plan.

Voting for Trump means that you stood by those policies. You have to live with that decision and the anguish of the people closest to you for the next four years.

Olivia Russo is a junior journalism major and a staff writer for the Campus Times. She can be reached at ***olivia.russo@laverne.edu***.

Commentary

Menendez brothers deserve clemency



KARINA RODRIGUEZ

I am a strong believer that Erik and Lyle Menendez should be released from prison and living out their lives at home with their families – following their well-known case.

They murdered their parents in 1989.

We know now, based on numerous documentary and dramatized accounts of their story, that there was more to the story than the jury that sent them to prison for life understood at the time of their sentencing.

Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón on Oct. 24, recommended the resentencing of the Menendez brothers.

Nathan Hochman, who beat Gascón in Tuesday's election and spoke to KTLA about the case, saying that if a change in the Menendez's sentence were to be recommended by him, it would be after much research and review.

Hochman takes office on Dec. 2, before the Menendez brothers hearing.

The media, the public and the legal community's interest in revisiting the Menendez case is based on a new and nuanced look at evidence of apparent sexual abuse by their father, Jose Menendez, that was withheld from the jury that convicted the brothers in 1996.

At the time, there was a sense that boys and men essentially could not be sexually abused by other men.

The recent release of a nine-episode Netflix miniseries, "Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story," a dramatization, showed the extent of the abuse that happened in the 1980s, and brought new and nuanced interest to the case.

In the 1996 trial, Lyle and Eric Menendez, who had bought shotguns and murdered their parents as the couple watched TV, were seen as greedy rich kids who wanted their parents' money, so they murdered them in cold blood.

Today, nearly 30 years later, I believe that Erik and Lyle Menendez should be out of prison as soon as possible.

If I were part of the parole board, I would grant them freedom.

They committed the gruesome crime, nobody is denying that. But it was complicated, and they were imperfect defendants, which means they were acting in self defense based on a history of abuse, similar to battered spouse defendants.

If I were Gov. Gavin Newsom, I would pardon the Menendez brothers soon.

They have served 30 years, the case, we now know, was much more complicated.

They have done good works in prison, and they both have families of their own.

I hope they are home for the holidays.

Sexual assault victims should be protected.

Despite being confined within prison walls for more than three decades, Erik and Lyle have made something of their lives.

Lyle earned his bachelor's degree and graduated from an in-prison college program offered by the UC system.

Erik has provided hospice care for inmates, and he also has advocated for prison reform.

They endured incredible hardships. They were harmed by their parents, who should have protected them.

Their childhood trauma led them to commit the vicious murders in 1989, when Lyle was 21, and Eric was 18.

It was out of imperfect self defense. And they have paid for their crime, and have managed against the odds to contribute to society while behind bars.

Both Erik and Lyle are married. Erik has been married to Tammi Ruth Saccoman since 1999 and has a step daughter.

Lyle has been married twice while in prison, in 1996, and to his current wife, Rebecca Sneed, since 2003.

Relatives of the Menendez brothers also support their release.

I strongly believe that they should have never been incarcerated in the 1990s to begin with.

Perhaps if we understood the affects of sexual abuse back then, they would not have been.

Perhaps there would have been a support structure for them, at ages 18 and 21 or before, that would have protected them, and prevented their heinous crimes from ever occurring.

Karina Rodriguez is a sophomore journalism major and a staff writer for the Campus Times. She can be reached at ***karina.rodriguez3@laverne.edu***.



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Happenings

'Mother F***er'

The theater department will present "The Mother F**ker with the Hat," written by Stephen Adley Guirgis and directed by Tobie Windham, on Nov. 14-16, and Nov. 21-24, with shows at 7 p.m. and Saturday matinees at 2 p.m. in the Jane Dibbell Cabaret Theatre.

Admission is $5-$15.

For more information, call 909-448-4386.

'Spectacles'

The Harris Gallery will show "Intimate Spectacles," a two-person exhibition featuring abstract acrylic paintings by Elham Bayati and Lester Monzon, through Dec. 5.

The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Admission is free.

For more information visit **artsci.laverne.edu/art/exhibition/intimate-spectacles.**

Creative Writing

The ULV Creative Writing Program will host a reading by students Arely Hernandez, Hailey Garcia and Adonis Borer at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 12 in the Ludwick Center Sacred Space, followed by a Q&A.

Admission is free.

'Studio Focus'

"Studio Focus Part 2," an installation of student work from Walpa D'Mark's painting classes, is on view 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday through Nov. 21 in the West Gallery the Campus Center. This show highlights student's exploration of color theory and self-expression.

Admission is free.

Art Walk

The next Pomona Art Walk, which will be themed "Downtown Hasta La Muerte" in celebration of Día de los Muertos, will be from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, starting at 197 W. Second St. The monthly event is held every second Saturday of each month.

Admission is free.

—Thatiana Gibbs

Comedy event has Message of empathy

by Emma Gonzalez

photography by Camille C.Nan



Jonathon "Courageous" Clark and Lane Shuler, collectively known as I.N.K., perform at the Campus Activities Board's "Spoken Smiles" event Monday at La Fetra Hall Auditorium. I.N.K are a poetry duo whose live shows and performances incorporate a rapid pace, along with high energy spoken words and plenty of comedic twists. The event also showcased musical performances.

Around 35 students attended the Spoken Smiles comedy and poetry event Monday in La Fetra Hall Auditorium.

The Campus Activities Board hosted the event with slam poetry duo Lane Shuler and Jonathan Clark from I.N.K.

There was a range of musical and theatrical performances.

The poems ranged from lighthearted to more serious in tone. Other performances consisted of an interactive approach.

The main message of these poems was to make the audience feel like they can live better lives while having fun.

The poems were also made with the intent of showing empathy between human beings to alter the perception of the way people view the world around them.

"We think our show is like a roller coaster ride," Clark said. "We're gonna start off high energy and like…'Are you both talking at the same time?' You might cry a little bit, but you're gonna learn some things."

Some moments were interacting and engaging with the students.

The speakers had students text them random words that they freestyled into a rap to bring some humor to the crowd.

"I was picturing just both comedy and poetry in general because right now a lot of people are stressed," said Danika Noriega, a business administration senior who coordinated the event.

"There's some stuff that I told them to make it kind of light, funny, and motivational."

Some of the topics of these poems covered mental health, relationships, and social change. Other poems were more personal, touching on more powerful and sensitive topics such as self harm, suicide, and sexuality.

One poem was called "Swiss Army Girl," based on a true story about a 20-year old-girl named Kayla who committed suicide.

"She was deeply loved by a lot of people and was just a super bright shining light," Lane Shuler, poet, said.

"The way the world moved around her was not kind and was not gentle. And so the message that she needed-that sort of was her mom's thesis statement."

The main objective of these poems were to introduce topics in a way that people may not have considered before by placing themselves in other people's shoes.

"The energy that you give to somebody will often bounce right back off of them and come back to you," Shuler said.

"If we can do enough of that sound in a metal cage, it'll eventually bounce off and we can make this kinder, gentler world."

Another poem was called "Her Light" by Clark. The poem was dedicated to his daughter before she was born.

The story was about how he wanted to protect his little girl from the world.

"The poem made me think about my dad, and I love my dad," Shelby Humphreys, senior psychology major, said.

"Growing up, my dad was always calling me his little girl. As I got older, and when I did more things, he was like, 'You're not my little girl anymore.'"

Comedy and poetry seemed like two completely different topics, yet this duo managed to find a balance between them while still making the poems be intentional.

Whether the intent was to interact more with the audience or tell a message, this duo achieved that goal.

"We tried to take an approach to it that people don't normally take, we have to talk about it in some way, shape or form, but throw some humor in there," Clark said.

"We have to fine tune it with every bit of comedy and make people laugh, make people cry, make people think, like doing all of that in an hour," Shuler said.

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FestivArts features local work

Lillian Barocio
Staff Writer

The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art presented FestivArts on Saturday at the Padua Hills Theatre.

FestivArts, formerly known as the Art Fiesta, included an art showcase, arts and craft demonstrations, creation station activities, a book sale, live music and sale of original works from artists along with festive foods as they celebrated their 20th year.

With over 1,000 visitors and over 50 artists from the area showing their original artwork in the historic building and amid the olive grove, the venue buzzed with the enjoyment of art.

"I like how they integrate nature into the event, all of the trees really add to the aesthetic and the way they have the artists interwoven into nature is really cool," Bira Mason, Claremont resident, said.

The art and craft works included a variety: handmade jewelry, oil paintings, stained glass, ceramics, prints, weavings and woodwork.

"I enjoy making something beautiful that other people can enjoy looking at," said Karen Warner, a painter whose work was featured.

"I am inspired by my Native American art from our reservation, so I explore a lot of motives that are important to our culture. I am inspired by art embroidery and weaving, so those sorts of things come out a lot in my practice," said Brittany Kiertzner, a multimedia artist, who also showed her work at the event.

"This is my first time volunteering here and I am also very active in the art community so I enjoyed being able to teach people how to paint, especially the kids," said Mahalia Crawford, who worked the event.

Arts and crafts demonstrations were presented by local art organizations such as The Arts Area, Benton Museum of Art, CLMA's Project ARTstART, Tierra del Sol and the Ontario Museum of History and Art.

Creation stations offered art activities for kids and families such as quick step by step painting tutorials.

The music stage at the event featured local live performers.

And visitors enjoyed tacos and burritos along with other foods and refreshments, such as pastries, wine and craft beers, served on the terrace with a beautiful hillside view.

FestivArts is sponsored by Ryan Zimmerman and Mason Prophet of Concierge Realty Group, Stark Wealth Management and Wheeler Steffen Sotheby's International Realty.

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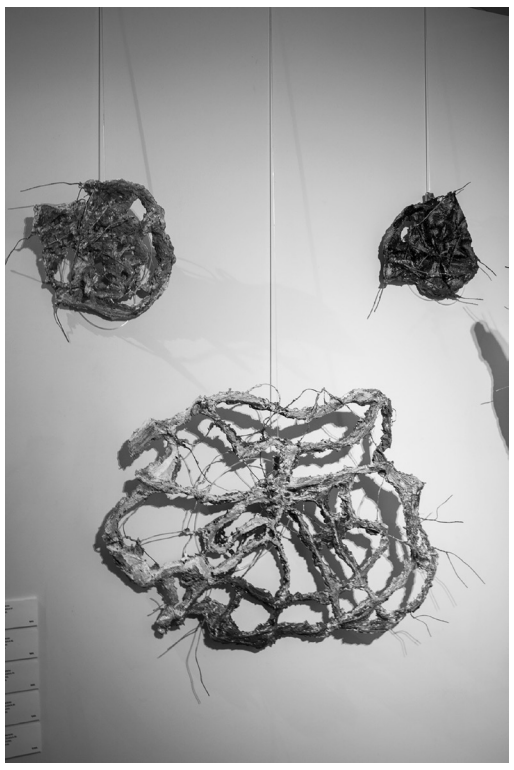
Claremont Art Walk brings fall vibe







Top Left: BruHa is the artist behind the "American Menu" collection at the Claremont Chamber of Commerce for the Claremont Art Walk on Saturday. According to his artist statement, "I am not interested in making art that is difficult to decipher or digest. On the contrary, I believe in directness to deliver a clear experience."

Above: "Evermore" by Brittany Kiertzner is featured at the Ahmad Sharif Art Gallery for the Claremont Art Walk on Saturday. The Claremont Village hosts an art walk on the first Saturday of every month.

Below: Southern California artist Karen Werner presents her painting collection the "Autumn Impressions" at the Whiskey Loves Basil gallery for the Claremont Art Walk on Saturday. Her work will be on display throughout the month of November.

Middle Left: Visitors take in Phil Dike's "Birds Eye View" at the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art for the Claremont Art Walk on Saturday. Dike was Claremont's most accomplished painter of the 20th Century.

photography by
Vicente Rodriguez



Dodgers' parade brings Los Angeles together



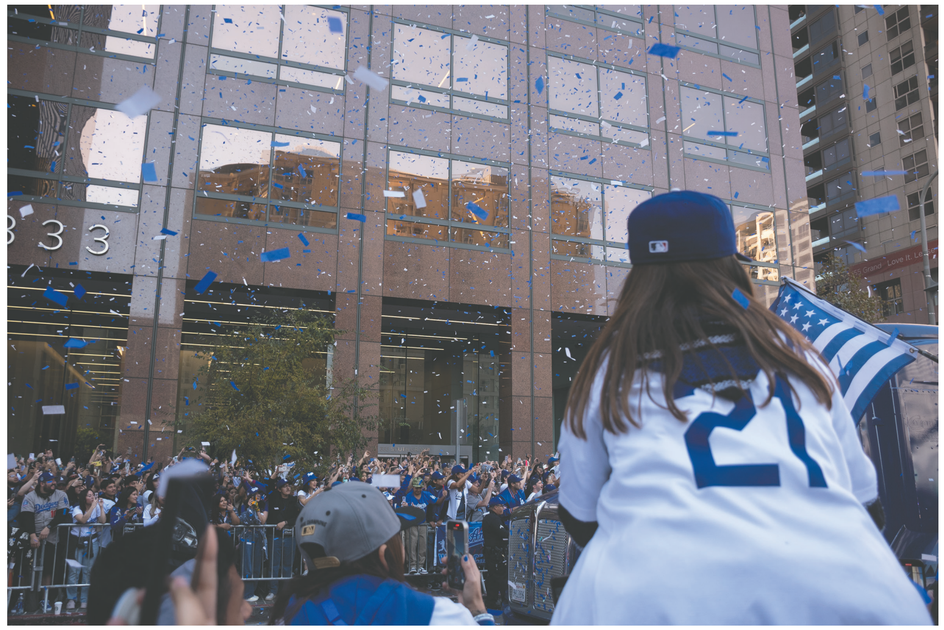




Top: Los Angeles Dodgers players wave back and thank the crowd while they parade through the streets of Los Angeles Nov. 1. They celebrated on top of a double decker bus as it made its way back to Dodger Stadium for a second celebration ceremony.

Above: Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts celebrates the team's World Series win while parading through the streets of downtown Los Angeles Nov. 1. This is the second World Series win for the Dodgers since Roberts became the manager for the team in 2016.

Left: Two children excitedly blow trumpets while waiting to see the Los Angeles Dodgers victory parade Nov. 1 in downtown Los Angeles. The last time the Dodgers won the World Series was in 2020.





Above: The people of Los Angeles gather together Nov. 1 to celebrate the Los Angeles Dodgers win in the World Series. This is the first Dodgers victory parade since 1988, making it the new generation's first Dodgers parade.

Left: Magic Johnson, part owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, waves to the crowd from a double decker bus during the Dodgers Parade Nov. 1 in downtown Los Angeles. Crowds formed to celebrate the team's World Series victory in five games over the New York Yankees.

photography by Liberty B. Garcia

Commentary

Remembrance of a Dodgers legacy



LEILA EL SABBAGH

At 11 a.m. on Nov. 3, Mariachi Plaza was flooded with a wave of Dodger blue.

A 52-foot tall mural of Fernando Valenzuela gazed down on the city of Los Angeles. An ofrenda for El Toro sat just beneath the mural, celebrating his life. The smell of incense was strong throughout First Street.

After the Dodgers won the World Series, the City of Angels was hit with the realization that the legend who was Fernando Valenzuela had left us for the very heavens he admired before every pitch.

No words could describe Valenzuela's impact on Los Angeles.

Due to the demolition of Chavez Ravine, the Dodgers faced backlash and lost supporters in the Latino community.

Valenzuela represented all Latinos and immigrants from Mexico who came to America to change their lives for the better.

Not only did his story give hope to the Mexican people, it gave them courage.

Valenzuela was the bridge between Mexican and baseball culture being welcomed into the city.

Not all his fame and recognition stems from his success on the mound, it stems from his heart.

Born in Navojoa, Sonora, Mexico, Valenzuela quickly rose to Mexico's highest level of baseball, beginning his professional league career with the Guanajuato Tuzos in the Mexican Center League. Valenzuela was drafted by the Dodgers in 1979 and made his MLB debut in 1980.

"I was very fortunate to know Fernando since the first day he came to this country," Spanish language radio broadcaster for the Dodgers Jaime Jarrín said. "I was representing the Dodgers to welcome him to Houston in 1980."

However, it wasn't until his Opening Day debut in 1981, that all of Los Angeles caught a case of Fernandomania.

When I hear Fernandomania, the first person I think of is my grandmother, Bertha Aranda. The person who made me a Dodgers fan.

"I loved him because he was Mexican-American like me and we're both very proud of our heritage," Aranda said.

As he grew, his fame grew. His famous windup as he looked into the sky and kick would captivate viewers. Hitters would be thrown off by his lethal screwball and raw talent.

Since the screwball was not common, Valenzuela brought a revival to the pitch making his pitching style even more unique and hard to hit.

Valenzuela helped the Dodgers win the World Series his rookie year. He is the only player to earn the Cy Young award, Rookie of the Year, and a World Series title in the same season.

Valenzuela continues to be a symbol of pride for many and will inspire Mexican-American baseball/softball players for years to come.

Off the field after retirement, Valenzuela became a familiar voice on the Spanish broadcast of Dodgers games and was set to become the new Spanish voice of the Dodgers.

He also continued to support young athletes in baseball and softball by partnering with the Dodgers Foundation.

Valenzuela has changed the perception of Latinos in the game of baseball and in the world.

He influenced the youth of time, continued to do so throughout his life, and will continue to influence after his death.

"Millions of Dodger fans are able to see a piece of their heritage and themselves within him," lifelong Dodgers fan and sales representative for Los Angeles Angels Brianna Macias said, "He Inspired young men and women to have goals much bigger than themselves and where they come from."

Artist Robert Vargas had been working on a mural of Valenzuela in Boyle Heights.

I was very fortunate to be present during the unveiling of the second third of this mural. The mural features Valenzuela's iconic wind up, going through each motion in three different panels.

"I just wish he was here today," actor Edward James Olmos said. "His birthday was two days ago and Robert was doing this on the day he died."

As I stood on the street watching the blue tarp come down revealing the mural, I felt him with us looking up at the beautiful piece.

Valenzuela's success was a gateway for me personally in my previous softball career, allowing me to confidently express my ethnicity.

I proudly displayed the Lebanese flag because I know that Valenzuela did not just fight for Mexicans, he fought for all minorities in sports.

"I keep very fond and beautiful memories about Fernando," Jarrín said.

Many Dodgers fans relate to these words spoken by Jarrín, Valenzuela created joyful memories for many around the world and his legacy leaves a lasting impact on the baseball community.

Leila El Sabbagh is a sophomore journalism major and a staff writer for the Campus Times. She can be reached at ***leila.elsabbagh@laverne.edu****.*

Fairplex honors Dia de Los Muertos

Stephen Gilson Jr.
Arts Editor



Stephen Gilson Jr.

Multiple different Dia De Los Muertos "calacas," or skeletons, were put on display to showcase the creativity of Mexican and Latinx people during the "En Memoria" celebration held at the Fairplex in Pomona Saturday afternoon. The celebration calls for skulls and skeletons to be painted in bright colors and draped in decorative clothing, and they represent the fact that death should be seen as a joyous celebration of life, not the mourning of a loss. Several of these displays were sprawled out through the Fairplex.

The Fairplex in Pomona opened its doors to all people who chose to celebrate the recent Dia De Los Muertos holiday Saturday evening with its "En Memoria" celebration.

Dia De Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a holiday dedicated to celebrating lost loved ones in Latino culture.

Tradition calls for altars, or "ofrendas" to be constructed in bright colors in order to help the dead find their way to our world.

From there, the dead's favorite foods and drinks are put on the ofrenda as an offering of love. Ofrendas were sprawled all over the grounds at the Fairplex.

The Fairplex also opened its doors for a massive car show, with hundreds of classic cars lining the grounds and Expo Halls, from Chevrolet to Cadillac, classic car enthusiasts were able to have a blast viewing all of the shiny vintage cars.

"The cars are awesome," Monica Rodriguez of Glendora said. "I just randomly got an email, I looked it up and then I bought the tickets. We come to events here [the Fairplex] alot."

Levi's, Nike Cortez's and Pendleton flannels are a staple of old school Chicano fashion. Plenty of those could be seen worn by many of the guests attending the celebration.

The whole event brought pride to many Mexican-American people's hearts after being able to unapologetically celebrate their culture.

"Being a Latina is a blessing," Viviana Perez of La Puente said.

"We're not like other cultures and we like to come together and do a lot. We love to cook and do everything together as a community."

The Fairplex offered its typical food choices for guests at the event. However, with a cooler weather trend, the Fairplex also capitalized on the opportunity to sell cafe de olla, a Mexican coffee made with cinnamon and sugar, to further allow guests to relish in the rich and beautiful Mexican culture.

"This year, it has been a little hard to celebrate Dia De Los Muertos just because we have a lot of personal family things going on," Rodriguez said. "I think coming out and going to events like this is just letting us keep our traditions alive and continue them."

For those who did not don the iconic sugar skull makeup or come dressed in their classic or vintage clothing, a vendor marker was set up to allow guests to buy clothes and other memorabilia to get into the spirit of Dia De Los Muertos.

Guests could also buy handmade jewelry, incense candles and other clothing accessories to take home a piece of the culture.

"Dia De Los Muertos is near and dear to my heart," Elizabeth Zambrano, Victorville resident and Viva Las Calaveras owner said. "It is a beautiful way to honor the people who have passed on and the people we love. I've experienced it (Dia De Los Muertos) in Mexico, but not here in L.A. and I'm glad we can partake in it here."

While the celebration is rather joyous and meant to paint death in a positive light, feelings of sorrow are still very common to experience while celebrating Dia De Los Muertos.

However, that did not stop people from putting those emotions to the side temporarily and focusing on celebrating the legacy of their lost loved ones.

"My grandma's tradition was always doing our little altar," Viviana Aguirre of Glendora said.

"My mom always helped and she taught me and my brother how to do everything, so now we build our altars then we come here and celebrate. It's something we do to remember our family members."

En Memoria provided a cathartic experience for the Mexican community, allowing pain and loss to weld together different families and bring us together to celebrate the lives of those we lost.

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Tacos La Villa restaurant opens near campus

Karina Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Tacos La Villa La Verne opened recently on D Street, walking distance from the University.

The La Verne spot is the newest restaurant to be added to the small family-owned chain, which originated in Bakersfield, California.

Tacos La Villa specializes in Mexican food and has specialty items such as a Hot Cheeto burrito.

It is a woman-owned, veteran-owned business.

It took about month for the restaurant to be open to the public.

Married co-owners Luz Bautista Abad was in the Navy for 22 years, and Alexandra Bautista Abad was in the Navy for eight years.

"It's good to be able to have a dream completed, you know work towards it," Alexandra Bautista Abad said.

"We started one dream in the military and now we're on another, you know," Alexandra Bautista Abad said.

Luz Bautista Abad said that the residents of La Verne have been welcoming towards the new shop.

"Mostly all (nearby businesses) have come here and supported us and welcomed us," Mitsy Solis, a supervisor at the restaurant said.

Despite being a new restaurant, Tacos La Villa already has returning customers.

"We have only been here over two weeks and we already have regulars," Luz Bautista Abad said. "They're coming in every day, so we get their breakfast Chilaquiles and then they come to get their tacos or just a simple bean and cheese burrito."

The restaurant is still being modified, the owners said.

"We're working on getting our liquor license and also putting up more TVs to show the games and have an area for people to come and watch TV," Luz Bautista Abad said.

They also hope to add more seating and decorations and to eventually open Tacos La Villa sites in both Claremont and Upland.

Luz Bautista Abad finds the location of Tacos La Villa to be important to its success as well.

"Why D Street? It is like the best spot in La Verne to have a business," Luz Bautista Abad said.

Both owners have a vision of taking care of the community due to the fact that they worked hard to be granted opportunities in life.

"Both of us, we weren't spoon fed opportunities. We had to achieve it on our own," Luz Bautista Abad said.

Maximum profits are not the goal for the owners, they say. Tacos La Villa offers a 10% discount to students.

There is also a 10% discount for veterans.

"We just want to help out all the veterans, like you know, they're unsung heroes." Luz Bautista Abad said.

So we appreciate their service just by giving them a discount, even as small as it is, you know."

The restaurant features a specialty Flamin' Hot Cheetos menu and a birria menu ranging from $3.99 to $12.99

Breakfast plates, including tortas and burritos range from $10.50 to $12.50.

Tacos La Villa, at 2325 D St., is open from 7 a.m. to midnight daily.

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Women's soccer wraps up season

Stephanie Amaya
Staff Writer



Emily Casillas

Junior forward Megan Llopis lunges her right leg forward and fights for the ball against Caltech sophomore midfielder Misha Yap on Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium. The Leopards took the win, 1-0. The Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference matchup marked the Leopards' final game of the season, bringing their record to 7-7-5 overall and 4-6-3 in conference play.

The women's soccer team won their final game of the 2024 season against the Caltech Beavers 1-0, on Saturday evening at Ortmayer Stadium.

Over 150 people came to see the Leopards put on a tight showdown in the cold, determined to play full out in honor of the senior players.

For the full 90 minutes, the Leopards' defense stumped the Beavers' offense, and were able to capitalize on aggressive play.

"I am very satisfied with the results, I think that the group could have easily realized that they weren't going to make the playoffs and could have shut down, but they didn't," head coach Lauryn Pehanich said.

"Tonight was about making sure that we finished strong, no matter where the results put us."

The Leopards had 18 attempted shots with 13 shots on goal and converted one goal.

The Beavers had seven attempted shots with four shots on the goal.

Abigail Macedo, senior goalkeeper for the Leopards ended her last game with four big saves.

The Leopards finished in sixth place in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference standings with a record of 4-6-3 in conference and 7-7-5 overall.

The Leopards just missed out on making the playoffs.

The key moment in the match was when Leopard senior defender Miranda McGarry scored her last goal from the midfield in the 20th minute.

"I kicked it at the goal and I was surprised by the direction of it. It was just right in the corner of the goal," McGarry said.

"I thought the goalkeeper had a touch on it, but I guess I had put a lot of power behind the ball and it just went through her."

The assist came from junior defender Kylie Klein.

"I saw a lot of space, so I took the opportunity. The plan was for us to drive the ball, but I trust Miranda so much on the outside, so I saw her wide open so I knew she was going to do something great once she got the ball," Klein said.

Throughout the match all the seniors trickled in to play their last moments on the field for La Verne.

"The stand out moment for me was seeing all the seniors being able to get on the field and play with each other was really nice to see for the last time and to show the passion and heart that not only the seniors, but everybody else on the field gave for each other," Macedo said.

"It will be hard to replicate the connection we as a team had next year, especially having such a big senior class," Klein said.

"I feel like the seniors kind of made this culture and we all kind of bought into it and it's going to be hard to see them go."

"I think with 10 (seniors) leaving, it's a big hole to fill," Pehanich said.

"So, finding the older juniors that are understand that they have a role now to fill and kind of continue to push forward with the younger ones, so finding that leadership group is going to be the goal, as well as focusing on some of the technical pieces, I think this year that we were missing a bit."

"However, we were only a few points off from playoffs, so it is really making sure that they understand we are right there and what it takes to get there."

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Volleyball grabs 13th sweep of the season

Jonas Holt
Sports Editor

The No. 15-ranked La Verne volleyball team posted a dominant 3-0 sweep over the Occidental Tigers on Tuesday evening at Frantz Athletic Court.

The win marked their 13th sweep of the season and strengthening their second-place standing in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The Leopards entered the game riding high after a decisive three-set sweep against the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens and wasted no time showing why they're among the top teams in the conference.

In contrast, Occidental arrived seeking its first conference win, holding a record of 3-17 overall and 0-13 in SCIAC play.

Despite their efforts, the Tigers couldn't keep pace with La Verne's well-rounded attack and strategic plays.

The first set saw La Verne control the tempo from the outset. Graduate student libero Kaitlyn Patterson got the Leopards on the board following an Occidental error and from there La Verne never looked back.

The Leopards capitalized on a series of Occidental errors, quickly extending their lead to 14-4.

The team's defense held strong, with sophomore middle blocker Zacky Coaston contributing two solo blocks and one block assist, helping La Verne secure a 25-14 victory in the opening frame.

> 'We're just ready to capitalize on anything and keep this momentum rolling into this final stretch.'
> *– Kaitlyn Patterson, graduate student libero*

"It was just about sticking to the basics and making sure we come out playing at a high level and continue playing at that high level," junior outside hitter Mya Ray said.

Occidental came out stronger in the second set, catching the Leopards off guard with a quick 4-0 run.

La Verne initially struggled, falling behind 9-3, but turned the momentum around with a 12-1 run that put them back in control.

"Sometimes I forget how young our team is, so we just need to find our voice and figure out how to work on our problems," head coach Jeff Hendershot said.

Key contributions came from senior libero Madison Smith, whose two service aces helped build La Verne's lead.

After Occidental briefly rallied to tie the set at 17-17, La Verne surged ahead, finishing with an ace from Patterson to close out the set 25-17.

The Leopards maintained their momentum into the third set, with Patterson once again starting the scoring with an ace.

Though Occidental stayed close in the early stages, La Verne methodically pulled away, extending their lead to 17-11.

With confidence high, the Leopards rotated in some of their less experienced players to give them valuable time on the court.

"We're just ready to capitalize on anything and keep this momentum rolling into this final stretch."

Ray led La Verne's attack with 11 kills and 13 digs, with her sister, freshman middle blocker Mariah Ray, adding six kills and three blocks.

Coaston continued her stellar play, notching six blocks and four kills.

Other notable contributions came from senior outside hitter Allison Whiteman, who recorded four kills, four blocks, three digs and an ace, while sophomore setter Sydne Humphrey led the team with 13 assists.

As the Leopards look ahead to the final two games and the postseason, they are well-positioned to secure the No. 2 seed in the SCIAC Tournament.

Grabing the No. 2 seed would grant them a home-court advantage in the semifinals.

If they advance, they may face the top-seeded Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Athenas

The Athenas sit in first place and lead the conference and represent the likely hurdle for a SCIAC Championship title.

The Leopards are now 19-5 overall and 11-3 in SCIAC play.

The Leopards' next match is at 7 p.m. on Friday at Caltech, and they return home at 6 p.m. Saturday, where they will celebrate their eight seniors and take on Whittier on senior night.

"I'm super excited to celebrate the seniors and it's going to be so emotional for us to celebrate all of them," sophomore setter Malia Capistrano said.

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Leopards have historic senior night

Offense explodes in second half

Ethan Anderson
Assistant Editor

The Leopards had themselves a remarkable senior night on Nov. 1, winning over the Bethesda Lion Angels, 9-1.

There were 75 spectators at Ortmayer Stadium in support of the team and its 10 seniors for their final game of the 2024 season. The seniors made all the difference in this matchup, scoring all nine goals.

Despite the final score, the Leopards came out rather flat in the first half.

"We gave up a goal early and we were kind of sluggish; we needed them (the seniors) to pick us up and get us back in rhythm," head coach Trevor Persson said.

The Lion Angels took advantage and set up freshman forward Daniel Abel to score and take an early lead only three minutes in.

"Our effort was really low, our energy was low, but we are going to lean on our seniors. It's their moment." Persson said.

It was a frustrating half for the Leopards. They entered halftime planning up for a 1-0 deficit. Some halftime decisions were made to keep certain seniors in the game, which certainly paid off.

"We were not gonna start our No. 10 (senior forward Maximilian De Anda) in the second half because he just wasn't doing it. I said to the other staff, Give him his moment and see what he does,'" Persson said.

Regardless of what was said in the Tents at the half, the Leopards and particularly De Anda took it to heart.

The floodgates were opened by De Anda about 15 minutes into the second half, and the veteran Leopards followed, ready to pour it on the Lion Angels.

"The realization at halftime hit, we're not gonna play anymore. It was the last 45 minutes of many of our careers." De Anda said.

De Anda went on to score two more goals in the second half.

Senior defender Angel Loza scored only seven minutes later for his first goal of the season, giving the Leopards the upper-hand, 2-1.

"I'm very ecstatic because I've been wanting a goal," Loza said. "And thankfully I got it on senior night with my friends and family here to watch."

Loza scored again with two minutes remaining in the match.

Only two minutes after that, De Anda finds the back of the net again. Another two minutes went by and the Leopards had possession once again and defender Michael Duran scored for his first goal of the season, making the score 4-1.

"We knew we were on them, just based on our 12 shots to their three, the keeper making some shoe string saves so we knew we were right there." Persson said.

From that point on, the Leopards scored just about every five minutes until the end of the game, with the bench meeting their senior teammates at the corner to celebrate their goals and show some love.

"They had a lot of fun, maybe too much fun at times. We want to make sure we keep it respectful," Persson said.

Forward Adan Villarreal scored twice, and midfielder Ruben Gonzalez scored once. The senior Leopards were putting on a show.

"A bunch of my family and friends came out, and it feels good knowing they've been there since I was a little kid," Gonzalez said. "So it's great to see they stuck with me."

The seniors put an exclamation point at the end of their season and shared a moment with their younger teammates after the game.

"I think they'll remember this game as one of their greatest college memories," Persson said.

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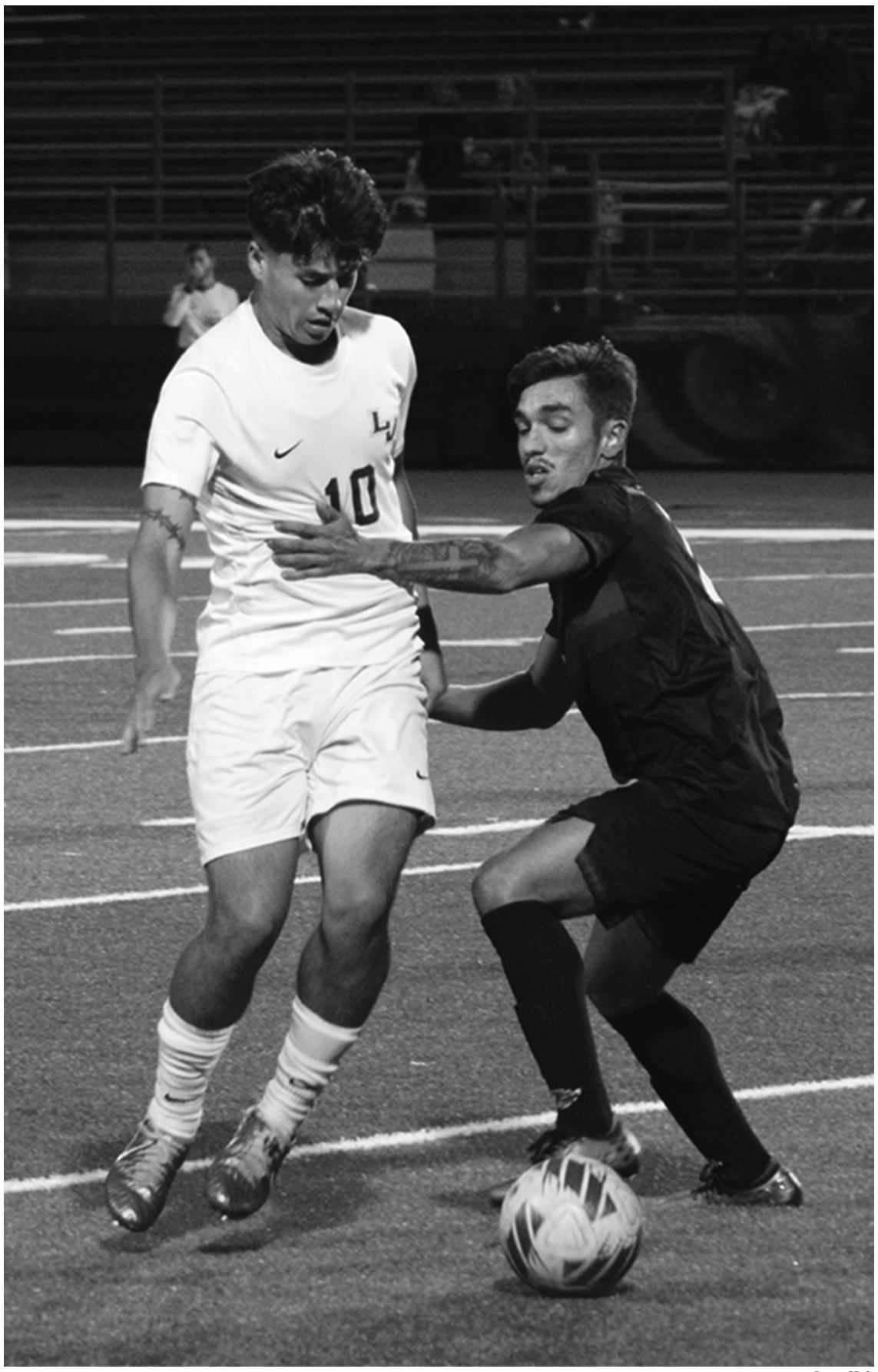

Jonas Holt

Senior forward Maximillian De Anza gets grabbed as he steals the ball and dribbles around Bethesda junior defender Camilo Danilo at Ortmayer Stadium. De Anza had a senior night he will remember forever as he finished with a hat trick and three assists, all in the second half, leading the Leopards to an astounding nine goals to one win over the Bethesda Lion Angels.

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Cross country runners excel in final SCIAC matchup

The cross country teams made a strong showing at the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships in Brea, with both the men's and women's squads delivering standout performances.

For the men, junior Finn McClure led the way with a 17th-place finish, clocking in at 25:46, which earned him All-SCIAC Second Team honors.

His effort helped the Leopards place fifth overall, just nine points shy of a top-four finish. Junior Zyeir Shabete followed in 21st place with a time of 25:50, while sophomore Fernando Cortez Jr. finished 25th in 26:09.

Rounding out the men's scoring, junior Thomas Taniguchi placed 30th, and sophomore Isaac Stockton showed notable improvement, shaving nearly two minutes off his previous course time to finish in 27:08.

The women's team also delivered a solid performance, placing seventh overall. Senior Marissa Hehir led the squad with a time of 23:21, securing 21st place. Junior Ryleigh LaRue followed in 42nd at 24:02, with sophomore Liz Garcia close behind in 58th at 25:09.

Other key performances included junior Peyton Carrera, who placed 66th with a time of 26:02, and sophomore Ashley Kodama in 76th at 26:37.

Sophomore Jenna Schwarz 26:36, sophomore Daisy Sanchez 27:52 and freshman Chloe Chong 28:59 rounded out the team's scoring, with freshman Madison Rios finishing in 30:25.

Both teams now turn their attention to the NCAA West Regionals in Portland, Oregon, on Nov. 16.

The Leopards look to carry the momentum and build on these performances at the NCAA regional level.

—Jonas Holt

Swim and dive hosts first home meet

Justin Ries
Staff Writer

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams held their first home meet of the year on Saturday morning at the La Verne Aquatic Center with a dual meet against Redlands.

La Verne is coming off losses in both the men's and women's sides against Lewis and Clark in Portland, Oregon, on Oct. 18.

The men's team lost, 128-47, and the women's team lost, 103-78.

La Verne's teams are both young going into this year. On the women's side, they have one senior, Lindsey Habegger.

On the men's side, the lone senior is Demetre Figueroa.

"It was really good for our very young team, especially on the women's side," head coach Pat Skehan said.

"We raced really well and got a couple of wins, and we were right there a whole lot of the time, so that will help us down the long run.".

With several of the men's swimmers out due to being in season with water polo, La Verne loses opportunities to earn team points during races since opponents often have more swimmers in the race. Once the water polo season is over, these additional members will help make an impact on the team.

"I felt they went alright for a midseason meet," sophomore swimmer Gabe Graceffa said.

"They are not going to be the fastest but they shouldn't be the slowest and I think it is just another chance to train."

La Verne had strong performances from both programs in this meet.

In the first event, the women's 200 medley relay, La Verne's A team placed second.

The team was composed of sophomore Neve Dagdagan, freshman Jedida Alvarez, sophomore Keilani Greer and anchored by senior Lindsey Habegger.

Habegger later swam the women's 200 freestyle and placed second with a time of 2:07.69.



Chris Rodriguez

Sophomore Neve Dagdagan catches her breath during the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opener against Redlands on Saturday at the La Verne Aquatic Center. Dagdagan finished second in the women's 100 breastroke.

Habegger kept pace with Redlands freshman swimmer Kaile Itow, who went on to win the race, for several of the lengths of the pool, but finished three seconds behind Itow.

Sophomore swimmer Jaden Feliciano swam the men's 200 freestyle.

Although he finished third with a time of 1:53.58, the race was close right up until the end.

Dagdagan competed in the women's 100 backstroke. She was the only swimmer for La Verne to participate in this event and was leading during the race but fell just short at the end with a time of 1:05.06 only .09 seconds behind the first-place finisher.

"I felt OK," sophomore swimmer Neve Dagdagan said.

"I think this week was really hard training-wise, so I was not as confident as I wanted to be, but I knew that they're my events so I knew I would do pretty good in them."

Alvarez was one of three swimmers for La Verne to swim the women's 100 breaststroke.

She was in third after her split but in the second half of the race, she was able to get a strong kick to allow her to come back and take second.



Chris Rodriguez

Freshman Jedida Alvarez competes in the breaststroke against Redlands Saturday at the La Verne Aquatic Center. She was a top performer, earning second place in both the 100 and 200 breaststroke.

The men's 500-yard freestyle was one of the best races of the day. Feliciano was constantly going back and forth with Redlands freshman David Basa for the lead.

In the end, Basa took the win while Feliciano finished 0.26 seconds behind.

"I wasn't feeling too good earlier in the meet. I was kind of in a head space that was negative and before that 500 I just told myself that I was going to get out there and race and have fun," Feliciano said.

"So as things got down to the wire I was just like whatever happens happens. Give it my all and hope for the best."

La Verne will be back at home at 10 a.m. Saturday against Pomona-Pitzer and Occidental.

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Leopard Scoreboard

At the Buzzer

Women's Basketball, Nov. 1
Hope International - 88
La Verne - 54

Men's Soccer, Nov. 1
La Verne - 9
Bethesda - 1

Volleyball, Nov. 1
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps - 3
La Verne - 2

Men's Cross Country, SCIAC Championships, Nov. 2
La Verne - 5th of 8
17th, Finn McClure, 25.46
21st, Zyeir Shabete, 25:50
25th, Fernando Cortez Jr., 26:09.50
30th, Thomas Taniguchi, 26:23

Schedule

Friday
Men's basketball vs. Southern California Leadership University, 5 p.m.
Volleyball @ Caltech, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Men's and women's swimming and diving vs. Pomona Pitzer and Occidental, 10 a.m.
Football vs. Chapman, 1 p.m.
Volleyball vs. Whittier, 6 p.m.

Monday
Men's basketball vs. Linfield, 3 p.m.

Tuesday
Volleyball vs. TBD, SCIAC Tournament, TBD

Volleyball Standings

	Overall	SCIAC
Claremont-M-S	19-4	13-1
La Verne	**19-5**	**11-3**
Whittier	18-7	10-4
Pomona-Pitzer	15-10	10-5
Chapman	12-14	7-8
Cal Lutheran	11-12	6-8
Redlands	9-13	4-10
Caltech	6-17	3-11
Occidental	3-18	0-14

Football loses eighth straight game

Leila El Sabbagh
Staff Writer



Liberty B. Garcia

Junior running back Malcom Perry leaps over Redlands senior linebacker Maximus Susi in an attempt to get closer to scoring on Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium. This play helped edge the Leopards closer in their touchdown, which was made by Perry.

The Leopards fell to the Redlands Bulldogs, 31-21, on Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium.

A rush heavy first possession saw the Bulldogs up 7-0 just one minute into the game.

From there, the Leopards held off the Redlands offense until the five minute mark of the first quarter.

This was where the Bulldogs rushed for their second touchdown of the game, making the score 14-0.

Beginning the second quarter, a sack followed by a forced fumble was recovered by La Verne's senior defensive lineman David Sisneros.

Energy surged throughout Ortmayer Stadium while the Leopards' offense was brought out.

The Leopards were able to pounce on the opportunity and scored their first touchdown, halving the lead to 14-7.

"We were just focusing on the little things," junior running back Malcom Perry said.

"That (sack) was the momentum we needed to keep the game going."

The Leopards were able to hold off the Bulldogs once again after a failed field goal attempt by Redlands.

The Leopards would go into halftime just one score down.

"We felt great, we were pumped up," sophomore linebacker Braeden Varney said,

"We felt like we had the momentum going into that second half."

Going into the second half, the Bulldogs added three points to their score by kicking a field goal on their first possession.

After a 31-yard pass by sophomore quarterback Brian Rudden was caught by sophomore wide receiver Jimmy Rumsey, and the Leopards were able to answer back with a rushing touchdown, making the score 17-14.

However, the celebration did not last long when a touchdown was made after three plays by the Bulldogs.

Another Redlands touchdown was made to wrap up the third quarter, making the score 31-14 Bulldogs.

Senior wide receiver Makena Ramos-Kamaka shared the team's mindset late into the game.

"Knowing that we aren't really contenders for the SCIAC championship, we just wanted to be upsetters and stop Redlands from having a chance to go into SCIAC," Ramos-Kamaka said.

Going into the fourth quarter, the Leopards' drive was cut short after an interception by Redlands junior defensive back Laurence Williams.

However, the La Verne defense was able to shut down any chance the Bulldogs had at scoring another touchdown.

On their next possession Rudden and Rumsey were able to connect.

This gave the Leopards their final touchdown with Redlands remaining on top 31-21.

The Leopards defense shined once more with a sack by senior linebacker De Lante' Moore.

For the Bulldogs' final possession, they tried for one last field goal but were unsuccessful.

In the Leopards' final possession of the game, they were unable to score.

A third down sack by Redlands junior linebacker Jaeden Thorn ended the game with the final score 31-21 Redlands.

"We always find every positive and every negative," sophomore defensive back Kekoa Barnes said.

"Overall positivity keeps us going."

This loss updates the Leopards conference record to 0-6 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and 0-8 overall.

With senior night around the corner, the Leopards are hoping to send their senior teammates into the sunset with a win.

"We're super excited for our seniors," Varney said.

"We played our butts off and I think this momentum going into the next game will help our seniors."

The Leopards will have their final regular season game at 1 p.m. Saturday against the Chapman Panthers at Ortmayer Stadium.

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