Campus Times

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Book tells University's rich history

Jordan Alcasas
Social Media Editor

Al Clark, emeritus professor of humanities at the University of La Verne, edited the book "An Artful Reframing," which was published earlier this year.

The book, which covers the University's history from its origin and relationship with the Church of the Brethren, was a collaboration among ULV professors and photographers.

Each chapter covers a different aspect of the University's history. The book was created with money from the "Reframing the Institutional Saga" grant offered by Network for Vocation Undergraduate Education, a group within the Council of Independent Colleges, which the book's collaborators applied for.

"There were 10 studies proposed and accepted, and they were presented as lectures two years ago," Clark said. "I worked with those people, I was one of them, to produce essays and then we worked on them to get them to the right guys and so on and so forth."

The project involved a total of 13 collaborators.

Zandra Wagoner, university chaplain, wrote the preface with Jason Neidleman, professor of political science.

Neidleman also wrote the introduction and one of the chapters.

Clark wrote chapter one himself and collaborated on chapter two with Anne Collier, director of the Cultural and Natural History Collections, and Felicia Beardsley, the former director of the museum and an anthropology professor, who died in 2023.

Jon Marshall Hall, professor of humanities, wrote chapter three.

Elaine Padilla, professor of anthropology, wrote chapter four. Benjamin Jenkins, former university archivist, wrote chapter five. Allyson Brantley, associate professor of history, wrote chapter six.

Additionally, faculty members Reneé Lotenero, Jennifer Vanderpool, Ruby Osorio and Dion Johnson all took pictures for the book.

The book tracked striking evidence of growing diversity at the University since its founding in 1891.

It started as a mostly white, mostly Church of the Brethren-oriented school, with a singular religious system that helped to guide it. Over the years however, this has changed substantially.

"The University, even when it was La Verne College, had a certain amount of diversity here," Clark said. "There was a picture that showed the first class at the University, and there were three other people … of Hispanic backgrounds. If we look at the numbers, and I did that the best I could… they weren't focused on ethnicity but on religion."

Clark noted that it wasn't until about 1964 that the idea of a virtually white school had changed at the University.

Despite that, there weren't any statistics until the late 80s, but he created a graph to show the change in ethnic and religious diversity.

"So today we are something like 60 percent of Latino and Hispanic backgrounds," Clark said.

He said that compared to 1968, there was a very low percentage of people of color at the university.

There were still people of color present, but it was a low enough percentage to be difficult to quantify.

Another one of the big takeaways from the book was the values upheld in the Church that matched ULV's mission statement.

ULV's mission statements have always emphasized the importance of community, similar to the church's own goals.

The book also makes the effort to highlight indigenous people who lived in the area around the same time as the church's founding of the University. Chapter four discusses the Tongva people, a group of indigenous people the book sought to highlight.

It's revealed that while incredibly problematic and indicative of the horrible treatment of indigenous people at the time, there was an effort by the Church of the Brethren to try to integrate them into their communities as they lived on indigenous land.

"More towards our time, you see courses that are part of the curriculum that are around indigeneity," Padilla said. "Voices of indigenous people are becoming the ones being heard, and they are the ones becoming more visible and you can see them in ceremonies, events, blessings of the campus, speaker engagements and other things that the indigenous of the area are invited to."



Anthony Eramya

Al Clark, professor of humanities emeritus, edited the book, "An Artful Reframing," about the history of the University of La Verne, featuring the contributions of several faculty members. The book includes the stories of students and faculty who served in civilian public service, whose names are commemorated on a plaque in the Ludwick Center.

"There is still much more to be done. I think it would be nice to see if a Tongva person could offer a seminar in the university setting."

Padilla said that she was brought into the book by collaborators already involved, but every chapter was researched by the writers individually.

The book can now be found in Wilson Library, or purchased at the University bookstore.

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Duncan employs humor in last lecture

Jordan Alcasas
Social Media Editor

Kathy Duncan, professor of management and interim dean of the Castulo De La Rocha College of Health and Community Well-Being, gave her last lecture before her retirement at the end of the academic year. She covered her career trajectory and how her life changed thanks to her time at the University of La Verne.

Before an audience of about 70, including colleagues, friends and former students, the talk took place Tuesday in La Fetra Auditorium.

"I'm finishing my career in academia as the interim dean of the College of Health," Duncan said. "What a great bookend: Beginning in health care and finishing in health care but with a different context."

Duncan broke her career down into two parts. Initially, she was a registered military nurse, after an experience where she ended up picking up a nursing journal and seeing an ad to join military reserves. Later on in life, she chose not to rejoin her unit and instead join a doctoral program, however, she said many of her military experiences have been integral in her life now.

"I learned a lot about leadership in the military," Duncan said. "There is sort of a two-tiered system with officers and noncommissioned officers. Don't tell people how to do their job, tell them what needs to be done. People need jobs done the way they can best do them, not the way you can do them."

After her doctoral program, she was hired at the University, where she stayed proud of her military time even after moving on with her life. Eventually, she met her partner and since then, they will have been together for 36 years come July.

"I won't linger about what it's like to come out at 36 in a Republican cop dad family," Duncan said, joking to her audience.

However, Duncan did elaborate on her experiences as a lesbian in her life. At one point, her partner went away to New York

Continued on page 7

On the Cover

Saxophonist Cory Hogan and percussionist Ron Powell perform a piece together at Morgan Auditorium on Sunday. Their concert, "Unity Through Rhythm," featured various styles of African music. / photo by Vicente Rodriguez

Policy raises free speech concerns

Olivia Russo
News Editor
Jordan Alcasas
Social Media Editor

The University of La Verne administration has shared a draft "Policy on Assembly and Demonstrations," which provides guidelines for the faculty, students and staff at the University if they plan to protest or engage in other political activity on campus.

The proposed policy, however, has raised concerns among faculty who believe it may chill free speech.

The draft of the proposed policy was brought by Chief Student Affairs Officer Juan Regalado to the Faculty Assembly in March.

The proposal comes at a time when demonstrations and protests on college campuses across the nation are under threat, as the Trump Administration is pressuring schools, punishing protestors, and chilling free speech.

ULV does not have an official demonstration policy, but mentions guidelines in course catalogues for keeping the campus community safe.

This specific draft has been in the works for two-to-three years, Regalado said.

According to the draft policy, its "purpose is to ensure that the academic, research, and administrative activities of the University can be carried out in an environment that facilitates the participation of its community members in its educational programs and activities and is safe and free from intimidation or harassment."

Additionally, according to the policy draft, it "complies with local laws and ordinances governing expressive conduct in the towns where ULV properties are located."

"We're getting feedback from students who, at times, felt that some of the groups that were coming to campus to engage in an assembly (or) protest (were) doing it in a way that was not respectful," Regalado said. "So we needed to have a policy that provided guidance on how to be able to have an assembly and put it in a positive manner," Regalado said.

During the March Faculty Assembly meeting, Regalado took questions from faculty members who had concerns about this policy, including Alessandro Morosin, assistant professor of sociology and criminology.

Since the meeting, Morosin has worked with Jennifer Killham, assistant professor of education, to draft a resolution to reject the draft policy as presented.

> 'The initiative to redraft this policy does not appear to come from faculty at all, and yet it affects the whole campus community.'
> *–Alessandro Morosin, assistant professor of sociology*

"We being faculty, we're not being consulted in any meaningful way," Morosin said. "The initiative to redraft this policy does not appear to come from faculty at all, and yet it affects the whole campus community," Morosin said. "So I don't have much faith in the way faculty had been approached because it doesn't seem like faculty was involved in initiating this."

Regalado, in response to the objections that faculty shared at the March meeting, said that he wants to work with all the feedback administration gets, with a specific emphasis on comments from students.

"We've talked to students about the policy for feedback and we've incorporated some of the feedback and some of the objections are … specifically from faculty," Regalado said. "I'm trying to get clarity on their concerns and, frankly, get more feedback, to understand that feedback and incorporate it into policies."

Still Rick Hasse, professor of accounting and finance, said: "This is another one of these examples of the administration passing strategies or resolutions without consulting with anybody."

Inside the new policy are guidelines to make sure the protest is peaceful, including details such as guidance on how signs may or may not be constructed and posted.

"Any signs or placards may only be made of poster board, cardboard, or other similarly soft and lightweight material and may not be attached to a pole or other object that could be used

to inflict harm," the proposed policy reads. "Signs or placards may be carried, worn on the person, or temporarily affixed by tape or string, but may not be tacked, nailed, or affixed to any structure, including trees, buildings, lamp posts, sculptures, and other campus property in a way that may cause damage"

Morosin pointed to the "Safety Procedures" in the proposed policy as concerning.

Inside this section, the policy states that in order to conduct a protest on campus, the organizers must contact the Office of University Scheduling and Events. From there, Campus Safety will be notified and will be present at the scene for the entire duration of the protest.

According to the proposed policy, University administration and Campus Safety will also be able to use their discretion for when to call the police. The policy also makes note that the University is not responsible for the reactions of the police if they do arrive during a demonstration.

"Yes, because the goal is not to have police intervention," Regalado said.

Regalado said that police arrest is not a goal for the University with this new policy, but it is still a possibility and a threat.

Regalado emphasized the importance of having a policy in the first place.

He said that what happens under the policy is not of concern to students unless they are directly in opposition to rules set by the policy.

ULV is not the first college to draft a new demonstration policy, as this is going on at universities across the nation.

In response, the American Civil Liberties Union, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International wrote a letter to universities in October 2024, in regards to police arriving at campus protests.

"Police should not be summoned simply to disperse protesters whose presence has become undesirable to university administrators," the letter stated. "Police presence may both increase tensions and seriously undermine the potential for any resolution grounded in respect for human rights."

"I'm just one professor with an opinion," Morosin said. "But my opinion is that we should follow the American Civil Liberties Union for guidance on such matters and faculty should reject the policy and it should not be implemented. There's really no need for it."

On top of the policy allowing police presence during a protest, the timing in which the policy has been drafted has some questioning the administration's intentions.

"I think this is happening at the moment there's a lot of powerful forces that are working right now, outside of ULV and nationally, to repress all kinds of protest activity in defense of Constitutional rights," Morosin said.

With the potential of the Demonstration Policy's implementation, there has been a fair amount of discussion among students on the topic as well.

Senior communications major and Associated Students of the University of La Verne member Jayleen De La Cruz said the organization has been discussing the proposed policy at their meetings. There is a sense of worry about how it could affect students, she said.

"Speaking for myself, though, I believe ASULV has always valued student voices, and any move to limit free speech or forms of protest could raise serious concerns," De La Cruz said. "Student advocacy is a vital part of campus life, and placing restrictions on it could be viewed as silencing important conversations."

There are also questions raised about the effects this can have on protest and the ability of students to speak up regarding important causes and issues in the world today. The ability to protest and speak freely is a large part of what makes the University such an accepting and open-minded environment.

"I think it introduces deeper implications around safety, power, and trust," De La Cruz said. "Even if the intent is to maintain order, this approach could make students, especially those from marginalized communities, feel unsafe or unheard."

The Demonstration Policy comes at a time when foreign students across the nation have had their Visas revoked because they have been protesting for those in Gaza while they are continuously being attacked by Israel.

"I think the U.S., in … particular for those who are international students, you're in a different lived experience," said Daniel Loera, director of multicultural affairs.

"They are articulating their thinking … and what they believe. But with student protests, there's consciousness around what is right and what is wrong, so people stand up for what they believe to be right."

Regalado said that while recent events on other campuses may mirror what happens at the University of La Verne, they are not necessarily related.

"To say something is happening at Columbia, and across the nation in the East Coast, (they) are very different bodies and very different than what's happening at the University of La Verne. There is an institutional, geographical and a cultural difference that has to be taken into account," Regalado said.

Faculty are currently voting on the resolution to reject the Demonstration Policy will be voted on soon, Morosin said.

Interim University President Risa Dickson and Interim Provost Laura Hartley both declined to comment for this story.

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Facilities to update labs after gas leak

Olivia Russo
News Editor

Early in the morning on April 30, students in Founders Hall and the Mainiero Building were evacuated due to a gas leak, after the fire alarm was pulled. The fire department arrived quickly to resolve the issue.

Currently, the science lab, MA 57, where this leak initially occurred has been shut down for the remainder of the semester.

Since that time, rumors began to circulate as to the cause and dangers of the leak, including that toxic gas had spilled in a lab, and that the leak was caused by deferred maintenance of the buildings' aging pipes.

Andrew Rice, chemistry department manager, explained the situation.

"What they had found out happened was that the nut that compresses (the pipe) just severed itself," Rice said. "The torsion on it just finally made it snap, which is an unusual thing for a metal ring to do... So it wasn't actively leaking at any time before, but it must have been that it was having issues because some people were sensing some smell of it before."

In response to the April 30 incident, the facilities department is conducting an investigation into the lab to understand and prevent future such leaks.

"It doesn't seem to be because of the age of the plumbing," said Christine Broussard, professor of biology and chair of the natural sciences division. "But as a precautionary measure, they are replacing all of the plumbing, all the natural gas plumbing, in that lab. And they are replacing the fittings so that no special tools are required in order to shut the gas off."

The natural gas piping leads to a "demo sink" where users may release gas for their Bunsen burners.

Those sinks are not used as often as others, leading to build up in the pipes and ultimately trapping the gas.

Facilities is also investigating the surrounding rooms that have natural gas piping. Most of the replacements will be installed during the summer break, though some have already begun.

"The room that was shut down is already replacing all of the natural gas plumbing in that room," Broussard said.

Ideally all of the renovations will be completed before the start of the fall 2025 semester, Broussard said.

"This is a very serious issue and we consider it important enough that we spend a lot of time on it," Broussard said.

"I want to reassure our campus community that we're on top of it and that no one was in danger."

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Current fashion trends taking over

Olivia Russo
News Editor



Olivia Russo

Wintana Tsegaye, sophomore legal studies major, welcomes spring with brighter pastel colors and long skirts, something she believes is a common spring trend for this year. Her style features elements from her own culture and lots of accessories.

As the summer approaches students are swapping their coats and sweaters for lighter clothing and brighter colors. However, this spring, students are starting to make their own trends by accessorizing.

Florals, pastels and bright colors have been dominating spring and summer fashion for decades now, and this year spring has been featuring some new ideas like: plaid and polka dots, butter yellow, pastel pink, pleated skirts and oversized jackets.

"I like to wear a lot of color in the spring, because I tend to shy away from color during other seasons," Wintana Tsegaye, sophomore legal studies major, said.

But the trend that seems to be on everyone's mind is accessorizing and personalizing their outfits and anything they seem to be carrying around.

While being in college is a never ending cycle of class and homework, students have found ways to share their personal style even if they may be tightly bound to a classroom.

The concept of accessorizing is not new, but people are starting to make it their own by showing their personality.

Students have chosen to add stickers to their laptops and water bottles to add a little something extra.

"I feel like we're diverging from the generic fashion trends," Charity Davis, sophomore English major, said. "I don't know if that's a good thing or a bad thing, but I'm seeing a shift. Everyone is like a fashion person. They're being more bold and experimental with their fashion choices."

Last year, the tag "Bag Charm" blew up on TikTok, featuring various videos of girls taking their average bags and adding all sorts of accessories.

This trend originally derives from Jane Birkin – who the infamous Hermès bag is named after – and how she used to decorate and use her bag.

It was an extension of herself completed with keychains and even pictures taped to the outside. Since its rise in popularity, more and more people have been drawn to the idea of making not just what they may be wearing tailored to them, but also what they carry around everyday.

"I have a 'Game of Thrones' one on my school bag and I really want to get that cherry charm from Coach for my Coach bag," Nyla Barzaga, sophomore psychology major, said. "I honestly kind of love the charms. I think it's a really good way to personalize bags, because I feel like a lot of people are wearing the same style bags so it gives an opportunity to personalize it a little more for your personality."

With bag charms, students are able to showcase what they love, but also show off their trinkets and souvenirs from various experiences.

"Everything has to be accessorized down from the belt to the anklet to everything,"Tsegaye said. "There's this one thing, the little animal that people are walking around with, I don't know what it is, but it's so cute."

Tsegaye is referring to a popular blind box item, a Labubu, which has become a popular bag attachment for some. Along with the Labubu, others may feel called to a Sonny Angel or a Jellycat. Students, however, do not have to stick with bag accessories, but personalizing outfits with jewelry or other items speaks to how the individual has become the latest spring trend.

Ruthanne Chipeta, sophomore English major, enjoys accessorizing and personalizing because they fit into what she likes to wear.

"Mine are mostly beaded," Chipeta said. "I think I would like a charm bracelet situation, I love a little charm bracelet where I can have a little cute things on them. I love when you can see a girl's personality in their outfits."

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Students get crafty at 'Animal Crossing' event

Erika Oceguera
Staff Writer

The Academic Success Center at the University of La Verne transformed Wilson Library into a cozy, creative space Thursday night for Charms Crossing, an "Animal Crossing"-themed bracelet and necklace-making event designed to help students unwind during finals week.

The event took place May 15 in room 160 of the Wilson Library. About 10 students stopped by throughout the evening to craft personalized jewelry, snack on popcorn and chips, and enjoy a movie playing softly on the large TV at the front of the room. The dimmed lighting and quiet chatter created a calm atmosphere, offering students a rare chance to slow down amid the pressures of exams, papers, and project deadlines.

The event was organized by Annette Ruiz, a senior English major, and Alexia Daniels, a senior political science major, both of whom work for the Academic Success Center. Together, they said they wanted to bring students together in a relaxed environment to encourage creativity and connection.

"We wanted to create something low-key and relaxing where students could take their minds off finals," Ruiz said. "'Animal Crossing' felt like the perfect theme because it's all about community and creativity."

"Animal Crossing," a popular Nintendo game known for its peaceful gameplay and positive messaging, inspired the night's theme. The game centers around building community on an island, customizing characters, and collecting small items similar to the creative spirit of bracelet-making.

A long table in the center of the room was covered with crafting supplies, including six containers of colorful and iridescent beads.

Students also had access to alphabet and number beads, allowing them to personalize their pieces with names, short messages, or meaningful numbers. Stretchy string, scissors and other tools were provided so that everyone had what they needed to complete their creations.

"We kept it simple on purpose,"Daniels said. "Sometimes the best way to relax is just to sit with friends, eat some snacks, and make something."

The Academic Success Center also provided a snack table stocked with popcorn and chips. The movie playing in the background added to the cozy feel of the space, making it easy for students to settle in and enjoy a break from their academic routines. Students worked at their own pace, choosing beads carefully and helping one another tie off their bracelets and necklaces. Some created matching sets with friends, while others made gifts for loved ones.

Senior rhetoric and communications major Alyssa Barron said she appreciated the opportunity to unplug and focus on something simple but satisfying.

"It's small and simple, but it's honestly perfect,"Barron said. "Sometimes the little things like this make the biggest difference when you're stressed out."

Although only a small group of students attended, the room felt lively with conversation, laughter and the occasional rustling of bead containers. The event's intimate size made it easy for students to interact with one another, creating a sense of community among attendees. As the night came to a close, students packed up their finished bracelets and necklaces—small, meaningful reminders of the importance of taking time to care for themselves during stressful times.

The Academic Success Center hosts a variety of workshops, tutoring sessions and student events throughout the semester, all aimed at supporting student success and well-being.

Events like Charms Crossing are part of a larger effort to promote balance between academic achievement and self-care. Ruiz and Daniels, both graduating seniors, said they hope these events continue to grow and serve as safe, welcoming spaces for all students.

"These little moments of connection really do make a difference," Ruiz said.

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HAPPENINGS

Friday Nights Live

The Friday Nights Live concerts will start at 6 p.m. at three outdoor locations in the Claremont Village Friday – at the Claremont Square Public Plaza at 101 N. Indian Hill Blvd., at Shelton Park at the corner of Bonita and Harvard avenues, and in front of Claremont Chamber of Commerce patio at 205 Yale Ave. Admission is free.

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

Flyway at Fox

The Flyway at Fox Rooftop in downtown Pomona will host a hip-hop vs. reggaeton party from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday. You must be 18 years or older to enter. The event is presented by Eightblockent. The Fox is at 301 S. Garey Ave.

For more information, visit the Flyway Instagram at **@flywaynightclub**.

'Mean Girls'

Claremont High School Theatre is putting on a production of "Mean Girls."

The hilarious musical focuses on the life of a modern teenager, the typical high school, and so much more. The show opens May 30 and runs through June 1 at Bridges Auditorium on the Pomona College campus, with matinee and evening performances.

Tickets are $15 for students and $20 for general admission.

For more information, visit **chstheatre.cusd.claremont.edu**.

'SoCal Critters'

The American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona is hosting a new exhibition of ceramic animals by artist Howard Pierce.

The exhibit and event aim to raise awareness of local wildlife and conservation efforts.

The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the exhibit runs until June 29.

Tickets are $5 per person or $15 per group of four.

For more information, visit **amoca.org/events/critters**.

—Zachary Grech

Concert explores African rhythms

by Marina Bravo

photography by Vicente Rodriguez



Dancer Tiana Powell, drummer Nat Scott, saxophonist Cory Hogan and percussionist Ron Powell get the crowd's energy up for their performance at Morgan Auditorium on Sunday. Throughout their set they would engage with the crowd and for their last song they gave each person an instrument to play together.

"Unity Through Rhythm with Ron Powell" immersed the Morgan Auditorium and took guests on a rhythmic musical journey, exploring all kinds of African sounds and instruments, Sunday in Morgan Auditorium.

Powell delivered a passion driven performance with 50 guests in attendance.

The music department hosted the concert, the grand finale of their concert series, Sunday's at the Morgan.

Powell and his band served as a musical guest. He is a percussionist and has traveled and toured with many musical icons, including Madonna, Stevie Wonder, Kenny G and Diana Ross.

Nat Scott on drums, Cory Hogan on saxophone and the University's very own Homero Chavez, adjunct percussion professor, on cajon, were all musical features that accompanied Powell in his storytelling performance.

Tiana Powell, daughter of Ron Powell, and Adam Gourlay, performed expressive dances alongside Powell. Which encouraged guests to get out of their seats and enter the world of rhythm.

She shared how she had grown up around the arts her whole life. Finding something she was passionate about was something she was always allowed to explore.

She found dance and knew it was her way of expressing herself.

"It's something that everybody can relate to so that when you're up there doing it…by just being free," Tiana Powell said. "Whether you look crazy, if you are doing it wholeheartedly, you're inspiring somebody to…try something that they're afraid to do."

Powell also shared how aside from working alongside her father, she also has a dancing show that incorporates the art of fire dance.

Her show is "Burning Desire" and can be found on Instagram.

Powell tapped into various musical genres of many different cultures.

He had various instruments including the xylophone and bongos. But his main instrument was the conga drums.

> 'It wasn't just a performance; it was a shared experience of joy and creativity.'
> *—Grace Zhao, professor of music*

Traveling from Africa to the Caribbean and offering guests a diverse experience.

Powell expressed how his art and performance is so much more than people coming to see him.

He wants to immerse people into his world and bring them along for the journey.

"It's a community thing…," Powell said. "Drumming isn't really about… look at me see what I can do. It's more about everybody participating."

During the end of his performance, Powell invited audience members to come forward and to take an instrument to play along.

He passed out tambourines, maracas and shakers, drums and bongos.

He shared how it's an amazing feeling being able to get people to participate and include them in his show.

Powell shared how he's been drumming and playing instruments since he was 16-years-old.

He had his start back in his mother's kitchen, using her flour and sugar containers and used them as bongos.

"Crystal Blue Persuasion" was the first song he heard with bongos that caught his eye.

"As beautiful as the song was, all I really heard were the bongos," Powell said. "I knew that that's what I wanted…to pursue that style."

Professor of music and music department chair Grace Zhao said she was inspired by Powell's musical performance.

She shared how his deliverance and his passion for his craft was contagious.

"It wasn't just a performance; it was a shared experience of joy and creativity," Zhao said.

Zhao encourages more students next semester to join in the Morgan Auditorium to explore more acts like this one in their concert series.

She reminds everyone the importance of exploring the arts and humanities.

"ULV is a vibrant cultural and arts hub, and we want our students to take full advantage of what's happening right here in their own campus," Zhao said. "You never know what might inspire you."

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Photo exhibit focuses on trauma

Leila El Sabbagh
Sports Editor

Christopher Rogers, a senior photography major, has put his photography exhibit "You're Not Alone" on display in the West Gallery of the Campus Center until May 29.

The exhibit calls attention to different traumatic experiences using just the hand of an anonymous individual with the incident written out on their palm.

"I experienced trauma at a young age, so trauma and mental health has always been a really big thing in my life," Rogers said. "I've come to a big realization that everybody is going to go through a trauma in their life, some worse than others."

Many of the palms raise awareness to different traumas stretching from being trafficked, raped and eating disorders.

Rogers wanted to convey the idea that everyone is going to experience some kind of trauma but that whoever is battling it are not by themselves.

"Although this show kind of seems dark, it's actually a pretty hopeful topic," Rogers said. "It brings up the conversation of realizing everybody has some form of battle that they're going through and we as people can be more understanding of that and more cognizant when we're talking about it."

Incorporating the relatability aspect in his show, Rogers has been able to resonate with many gallery viewers. Some even approach him in appreciation and tears, each person calling attention to a different subject.

"Everybody that I've talked to, they all have something that's stuck out to them because there's some that fall into certain categories," Rogers said "And if you were to categorize them by, let's say, sexual abuse traumas, domestic violence, family loss, you realize that everybody's response to those things are going to, in the long term, be the same."

"It's so bizarre to me too. I didn't realize how impactful it would be until I just watched people start crying at the show. Seeing people just kind of, like, stop and stare at one thing."

With so many hands telling different stories, Rogers wanted to make sure the confidentiality of these individuals were secure.

By holding a tabling event, Rogers was able to advertise for immediate participation.

Creating a safe space and making sure anonymity was priority, Rogers was able to let participants tell the full and honest truth of their trauma taking into consideration any identifiable features like rings, bracelets, tattoos, etcetera.

"The way it was done, there was actually a barrier between me and the people," Rogers said. "Me and that one person, nobody else saw what they wrote. I never saw what they wrote. I don't know whose is who, I don't know their gender, I don't know their story. All I know is that one thing about them."

"It's kind of a cathartic experience to be a part of and that, I feel, makes it stand out more. That human aspect of that's somebody's hand and that's their story. But that's all you see, you don't know who it is. You could be looking at the show and the person next to you is the hand that you're staring at, you have no idea."

Other than the array of hands, Rogers added portraits to the show. Submerging himself in water, he created the illusion of drowning and feeling of anxiety.

Rogers was able to experiment with four different cameras like an underwater film camera and a digital diver camera.

"Those (portraits) were all taken at night in a big pool, and then lit with essentially a flood light and a dive light from across the pool so that you couldn't see the back of the pool, but you could see me," Rogers said. "The idea that I wanted to kind of portray is the idea of drowning and how it corresponds with trauma is the idea that you're calling for help. Nobody can hear you, you feel like you're drowning, but you're not alone."

Rogers shared that it can be a lot when fully immersing himself is a world of trauma.

"It can get pretty heaving when you're sorting them, getting them printed, framing all of it. During this process, I really wanted to get myself kind of in that headspace to brace myself. My entire wall is actually covered with hand prints with contacts I could choose what I wanted for what show."

Rogers also shared that he would like to put this show on in a larger scale, showcasing more hand prints.

Seeing the impact of this show, Rogers wants to make as much of an impact as possible while making sure he's not at the heart of it.



Thatiana Gibbs

Freshmen Roman Jauregui, computer science major, and Meet Patel, business administration major, view self-portraits by senior Chris Rogers at the "You're Not Alone" exhibit in the West Gallery of the Campus Center on May 16. The exhibit, which runs from through May 29, explores adversity through photography.

"I don't believe this show is about me. I didn't want to put a personal statement. I didn't want to guide people's thoughts, you're not having the moment to just look at the work and just let it resonate with you that way," Rogers said.

"I feel like this topic was kind of a risk because it's a social thing that everybody talks about, mental health is one of the big topics that everybody knows," Rogers said. "But nobody talks about it in this context. I feel like the conversation is usually how to get out of the issue asking questions like 'how do we solve it'? Nobody really ever has a great answer other than therapy. Awareness is the biggest key part of it. I really wanted to push that standard of how you show something artistically, but have a massive impact."

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Literary journal highlights creative writers

Talar Sarkissian
Staff Writer

Students and faculty came together to celebrate the launch of the Prism Review, the University of La Verne's student run literary journal.

The event featured readings and the announcement of its 2025 writing contest winners on May 15 in the Ludwick Center Sacred Space.

About 20 people attended the launch party, which was the release of the journal's 27th annual issue.

Students in the creative writing program worked on the publication, selecting, editing and designing the final product.

The student editorial team reviewed submissions then went straight into production which included finalizing layouts and preparing for the release.

Among the writers featured were sophomore creative writing major Adrianna Procida, the winner of the 2025 undergraduate creative writing contest.

In addition to contributing her pieces, Procida also helped organize the event and worked with the art and editorial teams.

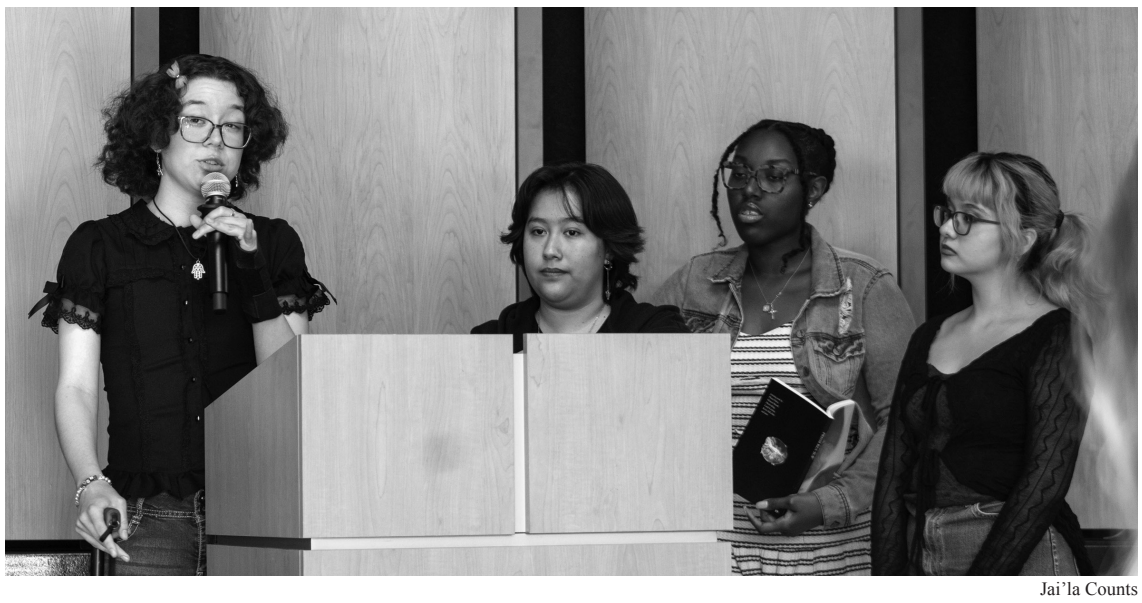
"I mainly worked with the art, helped organize the launch party, and picked pieces," Procida said. "It was really difficult rejecting pieces, there are so many great ones and you can't get a room of 20 people to all agree."

Procida won for her trio of flash fiction pieces: "Bugs Are Most Beautiful When Dead," "You Begged God To Make You a Snail" and "Poor Worm."

Procida told the audience she hadn't expected to win and was honored to share her work. After reading her piece, she explained that her story was inspired by watching small bugs outside her home drying out in the heat. Although she didn't write with a specific message in mind, she said she would welcome any interpretation of her piece.

"It broadened my mind to more possibilities of what literature can be," Procida said. "Some of the work we publish isn't standard. It doesn't hold to real-life limits. It's just telling a story however the author wants to tell it. It made me think more about what unconventional ways I could write."

The staff also recognized outside contributors Dustin King and Emily Carlson with the 2025 Prism Review Staff Award.



Jai'la Counts

Adonis Borer, a junior psychology major, hosts the Prism Review launch party in the Ludwick Center Sacred Space on May 15. Featuring readings from creative writing majors, Arely Hernandez, junior; Janira Hernandez, senior; and Kayla Taylor, sophomore.

King's winning poems included "Sonetos Con Grietas (Sonnets with Cracks)" and "Dispatch from Mexico City," which were read during the event. Carlson's work, called "Wild Horses," was read by another student.

Arely Hernandez, a junior creative writing major, worked on the visual side of the journal. She created hand drawn illustrations, and designed the journal's logo.

"The team helped decide on the theme for the cover," Hernandez said. "We ended up going with a contrast of light and dark. Everyone got to choose pieces they liked."

Although the journal does not currently include comics, editors said they plan to start accepting them in the 28th issue.

Janira Hernandez, a sophomore on the team, offered advice for students who might want to join the Prism Review next year.

"I would say just be prepared to make difficult choices when it comes to choosing pieces," Hernandez said.

"You have to be willing to set aside your opinions and take into consideration what goes into these pieces and how you want this to be a reflection of the Prism Review."

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Ashley Rodriguez takes life head on

Zachary Grech
Calendar Editor

Senior center fielder Ashley Rodriguez was a four-year starter for the La Verne softball team.

Rodriguez had a stellar senior season, where she earned First Team All-Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors.

She finished her softball career with a .411 batting average, a 1.110 OPS, 23 hits, which ranked 47th overall in the conference, and 13 RBIs, which ranked 28th overall.

Rodriguez emphasized that her approach at the plate this year was the major difference for her compared to last season.

"I think just attacking the zone that I wanted, and knowing what to pitch hit rather than allowing the pitcher to dictate the zone for me was the major thing for me this year," Rodriguez said.

This offensive adjustment made Rodriguez stand out as one of the top hitters in the SCIAC this season.

All of this success on the offensive side was nothing short of hard work and dedication from the talented center fielder, who throughout her entire career playing softball has been known for her defensive approach to the game.

"Well, defense has always been my thing. Like these past three years, I've always been known as a strong defender," Rodriguez said. "I think having my offense, especially my hitting, outshine my defense was like a big wow even to me."

Rodriguez wasn't the only one surprised by her impressive season and just her overall impact on the field.

Her fellow teammates Angelina Alderete, right fielder, and Aleiah Kupihea, outfielder and third baseman, saw her daily impact on the team and the constant energy she brought every day.

"She goes above and beyond for her teammates, and she shows it through her hard work and dedication," Alderete said. "Her energy on and off the field is just so fun to be around."

Alderete also recalled one of her fondest memories playing alongside Rodriguez. It was during a home run she hit that allowed Alderete to score a run.

"She had hit a home run, and she had scored me. I just remember her hitting home plate, and she just engulfed me in a hug," Alderete said.

"And it's moments like that where you could feel her absolute love and determination to want to win."

Kupihea's experience with Rodriguez was different since she wasn't able to play with Rodriguez this season because of an injury.

But that didn't stop them from creating a bond and more memories during the season.

One memorable experience that both Kupihea and Rodriguez shared was before every batting appearance for Rodriguez.

"So before she stepped into the batter's box, I'd always do this lucky thing where I would rub her and pray with her," Kupihea said. "So whenever that happened, it would bring Ash good luck for her at the plate. Whenever we did this ritual, she would always end up hitting a home run, or she would just get a clutch hit."

During last season when Kupihea had the chance to step on the field, she remembered the advice Rodriguez gave her, especially on the defensive side of the ball.

"I used to play outfield last year, and she gave me such great advice on how to read a ball and how to track the ball in the air depending on the direction it was going," Kupihea said.

Kupihea also mentioned a memorable catchphrase that Rodriguez would say: "That's Right!" Rodriguez created this saying for the team in support of good hitting. So whenever someone got a nice hit, the whole dugout would say the catchphrase to the hitter.

Rodriguez's impact wasn't just felt by her teammates. Her leadership, work ethic, and presence on the field stood out to the coaching staff as well.

Rodriguez's impact wasn't just felt by her teammates; her leadership, work ethic, and on-field performance also left a lasting impression on the coaching staff.

Head Coach Danielle Kaminaka witnessed firsthand how Rodriguez evolved into not only a top-tier player but also a cornerstone of the team's culture and success.

"She's a hard worker and she is definitely someone who likes to hold others accountable and she always made sure everyone was giving the best effort possible," Kaminaka said.

As a first-year head coach, it was an adjustment for Rodriguez and the rest of the seniors to get used to Kaminaka's coaching style, and how her approach to the game would help her evolve as a player.

"Ashley put a lot of work into her offensive approach this season, knowing that defense is something that she is very confident in, it was an adjustment for her in knowing what I was bringing to the program, which was my experience coaching offense," Kaminaka said. "So she made sure to take everything that I was teaching to heart, and just being open-minded to learning my style of coaching through all the different drills I put her and the rest of the team through."

Kaminaka also highlighted Rodriguez's desire to always grow as a player, and her determination to always want to win and compete at the highest level.

Rodriguez has cemented herself as a player to remember for the La Verne Softball Program, her contagious energy, and her love for her teammates, and the game of softball will certainly be missed on the Campus West Softball Field, because there will always be many centerfielders that will play on that field but there will only be one Ashley "A-Rod" Rodriguez.

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Captain shows greatness with All-SCIAC title

Tati Foor
Staff Writer

Jason Bustos picked up his first golf club in middle school.

Now, the junior has transformed his casual beginning into a promising collegiate career that continues to reach new heights.

Bustos serves as a team captain for the University of La Verne men's golf team, but he began his golf journey back in middle school when his father introduced him to the driving range.

"My dad has been everything for me for starting golf," Bustos said. "He finally signed me up for my first tournament when I was 12. I played really bad, but from there on I got really hooked on the game."

His early passion has evolved into consistent excellence at La Verne. This season, Bustos delivered his most impressive performance at the 2024 Bulldog Fall Invitational, shooting 12 under par across three days.

"I broke the 18-hole scoring record, broke the 36 hold scoring record, and then I tied the 54 hole scoring record," Bustos said.

Bustos' success stems from his unique approach to the game, combining his intelligence with strict attention to detail.

"He remembers every shot he hit," Jay Wing, sophomore golfer said. "He can remember how he felt and what he was thinking for the shot."

Wing explained that golf is a sport that takes a lot of concentration, and Jason excels at being able to concentrate and focus on multiple things simultaneously.

Head coach Nathalie Silva praised his growth during his three years playing on the golf team.

"He's been a great example and leader to the team," Silva said. "He's also a great student, so I think he leads by example, and that's what I appreciate about him."

Graduate assistant coach Kyle Hazlett, who played alongside Bustos before joining the coaching staff, emphasized his work ethic.

"He takes it very seriously and has a lot of aspirations in golf," Hazlett said. "He knows what it takes to be good and is willing to put the work in, which makes him very easily coachable."

Bustos credits the team environment for his development.

"My game has come so much since being part of the team here," Bustos said. "I've learned that golf isn't just a swing, it's also something you work on outside the course. You need to go to the gym, take care of yourself, and eat well just like any other sport."

This season Bustos has seen significant improvement in his short game, specifically his putting.

"Historically I haven't been the best putter," Bustos said. "But this semester I was able to work on putting and chipping, which has led me to start draining some putts."

His consistent performance earned him Second Team All-Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors and the opportunity to represent ULV at the NCAA Division III Championship tournament.

As he prepares for this competition, Bustos remains focused on preparation rather than expectations.

"I don't really have expectations for myself, but I'm going to try my best and work as hard as I can," Bustos said. "My top goal is to get through the cut, and then obviously, after that, win the tournament."

After La Verne, Bustos has his goals set on a professional career.

"After ULV, I'll be playing in mini tour events, qualifiers, and city championships," Bustos said. "My dream goal is to be on the PGA Tour."

Silva said she believes he's ready for that next step.

"His game is mature," Silva said. "He's shown maturity around the greens and with ball striking, and he's hitting the ball pretty far. It's just going to take some experience, but he's ready for the big stage."

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Duncan...

Continued from page 2

for a job opportunity, and they chose to stay together long distance, where they would visit each other and make trips to do things like see Broadway shows.

Duncan also said that during her time at the University, she found it to be a very welcoming environment. Despite this, she emphasized the importance of finding a place to belong, something she had to learn.

"Find the people who want to see it thrive too," Duncan said, referring to the University. "Hang with them, have lunch, email them, talk, call at night and cry, find like minded people. You don't want to ignore the negative people either because they are still hurting, but if you can boost yourself up with the people who are trying to stay positive, it will go a long way."

At the end of the lecture, Duncan took comments from the audience. Most offered kind words towards her and offered a few questions.

"The one thing I always regretted as provost was that we couldn't publish the student host feedback on faculty," Jonathan Reed, professor of philosophy and religion, said. "I had the great privilege of seeing the top 10 percent, and you were always a part of that top 10 percent."

Others commended her work ethic and her capability as a part of administration, given her ability to understand the perspectives of faculty as well.

"I think that is a piece we take for granted," Paul Alvarez, kinesiology professor and longtime colleague of Duncan's, said. "The governance role and the work that needs to be done under different circumstances. It wasn't just, 'Hey let's make a decision,' it was 'How we can make the best decision for the faculty, staff and students.'"

"I appreciated all the wisdom you brought to the many committees, and so thank you for that and what you did for the faculty governance."

Duncan mentioned that in the future, she'll still come back to ULV in between her work with various churches in order to tie up some projects she has going on at the school. Additionally, she may teach a few adjunct classes as well.

Duncan closed her lecture with an expression of gratitude towards the University and those she worked with over the years.

"I want to say thank you for the love and support, for the friendships, for the mentoring, for the coaching," Duncan said. "I want to say thank you for the second career for allowing me to serve this institution for 23 years. Thank you doesn't seem enough but I want to say it. Thank you all."

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Baseball bounced from Super Regional

Leos make Pirates walk plank

Lexi Giacobbe
Staff Writer

The Leopards' magical playoff run ended with a 2-1 loss to Pomona-Pitzer in 10 innings on Sunday, capping off their appearance in the NCAA Super Regional at Ben Hines Field.

The weekend started out strong as the team emerged victorious with a 5-1 win over the Whitworth Pirates on May 16.

The game was marked by efficient hitting, solid defense and strong pitching.

One big standout was senior pitcher Ethan Galindo, who gave up just one earned run in five innings of work and striking out five.

"Ethan does it all, he was a huge standout for us today and being home at the big park definitely can help him," head coach Scott Winterburn said.

Galindo picked up his ninth win of the season.

"It feels really good to have home-field advantage whenever I pitch at home – it always puts me in a great mood," Galindo said.

La Verne's ability to capitalize on key opportunities, paired with a stellar performance from their pitching staff, ensured they maintained control from the first inning onward.

The game started with Whitworth having a scoring opportunity in the top of the first inning.

Junior right fielder Kyle Memarian flew out to right field to begin the game, but grad student left fielder Aidan Morrison struck out swinging for the second out.

Junior third baseman Caleb Gray then doubled to left-center field, placing him in scoring position with two outs.

Unfortunately for the Pirates, junior first baseman Carson Coffield reached on a fielder's choice, and Gray was thrown out at third base to end the threat.

'Ethan does it all. He was a huge standout for us today and being home at the big park definitely can help him.'
—Scott Winterburn, head coach

In the bottom of the first, La Verne quickly showed their offensive firepower.

Junior shortstop Ryan Vosika singled through the right side to lead off the inning, and senior third baseman Jason Givens sacrificed him over to second with a bunt.

Junior catcher Nate Perry followed with a clutch single up the middle, bringing Vosika home and giving La Verne a 1-0 lead.

Senior designated hitter Matt Rice then grounded out to shortstop, advancing Perry to second base, but the rally ended as senior right fielder Logan Reese grounded out to second base, leaving Perry stranded on second.

Despite the early lead, the Leopards were far from finished.

"We did our normal routine," Reese said. "Nothing changed, we kept our same winning mindset and competed every day."

The second inning was another struggle for Whitworth. Senior shortstop Spencer Shipman struck out looking for the first out, and senior designated hitter Brock Molenda popped up to third base for the second out.

Senior second baseman Kevin Corder singled to right field, but was quickly caught stealing on a perfect throw from the catcher to second base. La Verne continued to apply pressure in the bottom of the second inning.

Senior first baseman Noah Garcia struck out swinging to start the inning, but senior left fielder Nolan Anguiano singled to right field and was followed by senior center fielder Benny Vogel's single through the left side, placing runners on first and second.

Junior second baseman Aidan Salcedo then got hit by a pitch, loading the bases for Vosika, who reached on a fielder's choice, advancing the runners.

Vogel scored on the play, and Givens walked to bring in another run.

Perry was hit by a pitch for a third run, and Rice struck out swinging to end the inning with La Verne ahead, 3-0.

"Our team is gritty, we will always battle and focus on every game and out one at a time," Perry said.

La Verne added to their lead in the bottom of the fourth. Vogel struck out swinging to start the inning, but Salcedo doubled to right-center and advanced to third on a single by Vosika.

The bases were quickly loaded as Givens walked, and Perry sacrificed to center field, driving in Salcedo to increase the lead to 4-0. Rice followed with another single, scoring Vosika to push the advantage to 5-0.

Reese flew out to right field to end the inning, but La Verne had already done significant damage.

Whitworth showed signs of life in the fifth inning.

Shipman struck out swinging for the first out, and Molenda singled to right field.

Corder also singled to left field, placing runners on first and second.

However, a wild pitch allowed both runners to advance to second and third, and then a double play off the bat of Garcia, where Molenda was out at third, ended the inning without any runs for Whitworth.

The La Verne defense kept Whitworth at bay throughout the game, and the Pirates were unable to produce any runs after the fifth inning.

Whitworth's last chance came in the top of the ninth. Morrison was hit by a pitch, but Gray flew out to center field, Coffield struck out swinging, and Shipman also struck out swinging to end the game.

La Verne's defense and pitching stayed strong as Whitworth struggled to find offense after the second inning.

In the end, La Verne secured the 5-1 victory, highlighted by solid at-bats and key runs early in the game.

The Leopards followed with a 5-4 loss to McMurry on Saturday when an eighth inning comeback fell just a little short.

This set up a last chance elimination game against Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference rival Pomona-Pitzer on Sunday.

It was a tight, scoreless game until the Sagehens finally broke through for a run in the eighth.

The Leopards tied up the game 1-1 on a Rice double in the bottom of the ninth inning.

But the Sagehens put it away in the 10th inning to win, 2-1 and advance to the national tournament. The Leopards finished their season 35-11 overall and ranked No. 10 nationally.

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Commentary

Fight marks milestone for Palestinian athletes



ANTHONY ERAMYA

Earlier this month the Ultimate Fighting Championship hosted UFC 315 at the Bell Centre in Montreal.

The event was the first in the history of the UFC headlined by a Palestinian world champion.

Belal Muhammad lost his belt to Jack Della Maddalena, but despite the disappointing result, this fight was amazing.

Muhammad is known for his wrestling but Della Maddalena defended six of Muhammad's nine takedowns.

Muhammad is known for being a boring fighter due to his strong wrestling style despite this, he has stayed stand up boxing majority of the fight, it almost felt like he was trying to prove how he can be an entertaining fighter but this cost him the fight.

If Muhammad were to fight his style the whole fight he more than likely would have won.

He applied pressure past round three and in those last three rounds is where he landed all his takedowns.

Despite this, JDM looked amazing in this fight, especially for this being his first title fight of his young career.

This cannot be too surprising as this is Della Maddalena's 18th win in a row but what is surprising is none of his former wins are against anyone anywhere near the level of Muhammad.

I went into this fight rooting for Muhammad and left a huge fan of JDM. Della Madalena showed nothing more than proving he is one of the best boxers in the UFC at just 28 years old.

This also makes JDM the youngest champion currently in the UFC.

Being a Palestinian-American myself I was super excited for this fight, but I am sad it did not go the way of Muhammad. However I do think that is important to highlight those doing great things that are Palestinian-American.

It is so often that the media use this ethnicity to get a reaction, positive or negative, out of their readers, but an ethnicity should not be a trigger word.

Muhammad walked out to "My Blood is Palestine" by Dami Faleestini which was removed from all major streaming platforms in 2023, as tensions between Israel and Palestine started heating up.

This was just a show of strength from Muhammad and it sheds light on the music that empowers all Palestinians.

Even something as simple as walking out with the Palestinian flag is so empowering because that flag evokes so much emotions to people who have not even visited the Middle East.

The flag puts a target on Muhammad's back, which he is willing to bear as being a representation of Palestine in this country.

Recent history shows us that athletes can have a huge influence in how their race is perceived.

We look to Colin Kaepernick kneeling during the national anthem to protest police brutality and racial injustice against African Americans.

This took a lot of bravery from Kaepernick and all he was doing was standing up for what he believed in. Then we pivot to the National Basketball Association during the "bubble season" in 2020.

The NBA players wore shirts saying "I can't breathe" to align with the protests that were taking place in stance for George Floyd.

What is going on between Israel and Palestine is similar to what was going on in 2020 because the left and the right are both using it to push narratives, we also have to keep in mind that both of these social movements happened during an election year.

Despite losing the fight Muhammad showed bravery and strength, he very well could have come out not representing his family's country of origin however it is important for Palestinians to show pride and strength during this time.

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