



PHOTO BY JUAN MENDOZA

Members from United Healthcare Workers West rally at the Wilshire Theater in Los Angeles on Feb. 18, 2026. The workers are supporting a statewide ballot initiative to impose an emergency tax on billionaires to prevent California's healthcare system from collapsing.

Sanders Wants California's Billionaires to Pay Up

BY JUAN MENDOZA

Community organizers and union labor members in Los Angeles packed the historic Wilshire Theater in Koreatown on Feb. 18, 2026.

Approximately 2,000 people attended the event to hear the independent senator from Vermont speak about the proposed 2026 California Billionaire Tax Act, tax on California's wealthiest residents.

The proposed measure and the official kickoff of a ballot initiative, supported by SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West and United Here, Local 11, to tax the "oligarchy" class in California.

Billionaires' tax contributions will prevent the collapse of California's health care system and ensure that California families receive the health care they need, following recent massive federal funding cuts, according to the initiative.

"Brothers and sisters, we are here today to send a clear and profound message to the billionaire class: Enough is enough," Sanders said. "They cannot have it all. This nation belongs to all of us, not just a handful of billionaires."

Senator Sanders' message resonated warmly with the audience, who cheered for him and expressed gratitude for his leadership and for being the only elected official on stage.

The proposed initiative would impose a one-time 5% excise tax on the net worth of residents with more than \$1 billion in global assets. This would affect approximately 200 people in the state.

Supporters, dressed in their union T-shirts and holding signs such as "Tax the rich," gathered along Wilshire Boulevard hours before the doors opened, eager to gain early entry to the event. Volunteers with click boards circulated a petition for signatures to qualify the California



PHOTO BY JUAN MENDOZA

Senator Sanders joined the SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West union at the Wilshire Theater in Los Angeles, CA, on Feb. 18, 2026. He was the only elected official at the rally supporting the initiative.

SEE "BILLIONAIRE TAX" PAGE 6

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Visiting Scholar Reflects on African Diaspora, Resilience

BY ANGELA JOHNSON

Best-selling author, scholar, cultural critic and ordained Baptist minister, professor Michael Eric Dyson launched City's Black History Month celebration on Feb. 12, with a rousing keynote address that made the audience rap, hum, sing and sway like they were in church on Sunday morning.

Approximately 250 people attended the event, which was hosted in Kinesiology North.

"Our Board of Trustees were excited to have Dr. Dyson," LACC President Amanuel Gebru said. "And this is not his first time here."

Gebru said he wanted this to be about edifying the community.

"It wasn't just really about bringing Dr. Dyson. For me, it was about, I've been here two-and-a-half years, I want to make sure that when we have these Black History Month, Latin History Month and Women's History Month [events] ... it's also about knowledge. Like,



CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Professor Michael Eric Dyson

what can the guests we bring teach our community based on their expertise?"

Vice President of Student Services Olga Diaz, whose purview includes the Racial, Equity and Social Justice Center, says she works

SEE "PROFESSOR DYSON" PAGE 6



PHOTO BY MIKE EDELSTEIN

Shine LA volunteers clean up the area around the intersection of Los Angeles and 4th Streets on the morning of Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026.

Angelenos Clean Up with Shine LA

BY MIKE EDELSTEIN
AND VANESSA KOLB

Community organizations and volunteers joined up in downtown Los Angeles on Feb. 28 to clean up the neighborhood as part of Mayor Karen Bass' Shine LA initiative.

Mayor Bass started the program in April of 2025 as part of her goal to beautify the city and bring Angelenos together in preparation for the major sporting events that will draw the world's attention to Los Angeles over the next two years.

Volunteers assembled for February's Shine event in DTLA, Koreatown, MacArthur Park, Harbor City and Augustus Hawkins Nature Park, where they cleaned up garbage, planted trees, swept sidewalks and painted park tables,

according to a post on the mayor's official Instagram account.

The Collegian spoke with Alfredo Rodriguez, the East Area Representative in the Mayor's Office of Community Engagement. He says that this initiative centers safety and economic recovery.

"We are excited in welcoming the World Cup, and 2028 is coming up for the Olympics," Rodriguez said. "We need to support efforts like this and appreciate the people who have come here today to help clean up downtown."

Shine LA has hosted events in roughly 30 neighborhoods around the city with more than 2,000 volunteers, according to the city government's website. New events are planned for the fourth Saturday of each month.

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EDITORIAL

WHAT IS YOUR MAJOR?

Arts Vs STEM: Some believe that not all majors are created equally.



EVERY FIELD OF STUDY MATTERS

BY ESTRELLA NARANJO

There is ongoing discourse among college students suggesting that some majors are superior to others. Some students argue that humanities degrees typically do not translate into high-paying careers. Students also label those majors as easier areas of study, while claiming STEM-related degrees are more rigorous and valuable.

I believe this argument is false and extremely close-minded. No college

major is inferior, and we should not make others feel ashamed of their academic choices. By saying some majors are pointless to pursue, students fail to consider what those fields have to offer. Everyone has different reasons for choosing a major and not everyone is motivated by the same priorities. Putting others down because they have different perspectives is unnecessary and unfair.

Access to education is already being challenged. Criticizing people for pursuing their passions may discourage them from seeking knowledge

and developing fundamental skills, all because of employment rates or arguments about simplicity.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York reports that majors such as computer science and performing arts both have an unemployment rate of 7%. Journalism and civil engineering each have an unemployment rate of 2.3%. These figures show that within the range of college majors, both STEM and humanities fields vary in post-graduation job opportunities. I believe it is pointless to argue over which major is worthy of praise.

Students should not concern themselves too much with the outcome of a degree. And if they do, they should not shame others for not sharing that same mindset. All fields are important and face their own challenges that require different styles of learning.

Rather than shaming other students, we should encourage them to pursue an education in the field that inspires them. All forms of education offer something essential that benefits society. If you are passionate about your major, do not let others bring you down.

Cities and States Must Hold ICE Accountable

BY MICHAEL EDELSTEIN



Thank you to the thousands of high school students across the Los Angeles area, including those in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Long Beach and Pasadena! They marched to City Hall with signs that read: "ICE Out of L.A." and "Education Not Deportation," and demanded the protection of immigrant families on Jan. 30, 2026.

Overwhelmed with emotion, one student told me she fears for her family and that they love this country and city but are disdain for President Trump and his policies.

Driven by anxiety and anger over mass deportations these demonstrations serve as a crucial, widespread pushback against the Trump administration's immigration policies.

Thousands also converged on downtown Los Angeles, targeting the Federal Metropolitan Detention Center located on

Alameda Street to protest immigration raids and policies. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) issued dispersal orders, used pepper spray and arrested protesters near the Los Angeles Federal Building. Public anger toward the Trump administration's deployment of armed U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Minneapolis and across the country echoed in L.A. The support for Renee Good and Alex Pretti, —two United States citizens killed by ICE— showed the humanity and awareness of Los Angeles students. They marched in nationwide walk-outs to protest the illegal and violent behavior of ICE agents.

The students' presence spoke volumes about the seriousness of the issue and the message being carried throughout Los Angeles is that many citizens are fed up with being harassed by ICE.

Many chanted and held signs as they marched out of classes and into the streets and showed concern for the direction our country is taking. Some of the poignant and heartfelt messages seen across Los Angeles read "Keep Families Together" and "No One is Illegal."

Last month in New York City,

ICE operations and immigration crackdowns prompted high school students to walk out of class on Feb. 13 for an anti-ICE protest in Foley Square, where the demonstration quickly turned violent. Dare to Struggle, an organization that aims to target injustice, urged students to walk out of their classes and off campuses because of ICE operations in the city. From Long Island to Forest Hills in Queens, students answered the call.

Protests have increased as ICE enforcement operations continue across the country. There have been hundreds of people, young and old, protesting in front of Los Angeles City Hall for months. I greatly appreciate the students of Los Angeles and their willingness to continue to use their First Amendment rights to remind everyone how our democracy should work.

To all Californians, register to vote as soon as possible. The 2026 midterm election in November will be vital to our nation. Everyone's participation is key to a functional democracy.

We must demand a system that treats all people with respect, fairness, dignity, and compassion.

Social Media: Empowering, Or Damaging Women's Confidence

BY SHAN HIGGINS

Look at what social media does. Endless feeds of curated bodies, perfect outfits, and edited faces set unattainable beauty standards. When content becomes centered on appearance and perfection, it conditions women to measure their worth by likes, comments, or how closely they match an ideal on a screen. That is not a small cultural shift; it is a formula for insecurity. Research also confirms that exposure to idealized influencer images lowers body satisfaction more than it improves it.

Social media is everywhere — Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat—and for many women it is shaping how we see ourselves. On the surface, social media can feel empowering. There are body positivity accounts, communities where women support each other, and creators talk openly about mental health. But this digital world also pushes a steady stream of idealized, unrealistic images and encourages constant comparison, and that has real consequences for women's mental well-being.

Research shows a clear link between heavy social media use and body image dissatisfaction in young women across cultures. According to the research published

by the American Psychological Association, subjects who decreased their social media use to an average of 88 minutes per day, saw significant improvements in their self-image. Worldwide, this is not an outlier. Platforms designed around curated highlights and filtered glamour make comparison almost unavoidable.

A study produced by the Ballard Research Library, found that 71% of women surveyed felt dissatisfied with their bodies after viewing images of idealized beauty. That means that even when women seek out body-positive or supportive content, the broader social media environment is still dominated by images and messages that make us feel like we do not measure up.

Here is my honest opinion. Social media can empower when it is intentional, but by design it mostly pushes pressure—pressure to be thinner, prettier, and more curated than real. That is not confidence. It is dependency on external validation that can slowly chip away at our self-worth. If we are serious about empowering women, we need to acknowledge how these platforms fuel comparison culture, not just celebrate the occasional positive trend.

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CITY VIEWS

How do you feel about having a new place to eat on campus and what are your thoughts about the food options in the cafeteria?

COMPILED BY
JEREMY CUENCA

PHOTOS BY JEREMY CUENCA



JANE GARDUNO
STUDIO ARTS

I like that we have this cafeteria space, because there wasn't a lot of areas to sit at and eat at, 'cause before, it was just tables outside in front of the food truck, and usually, those were all taken. But here, I have this space. There's outlets, and there's the cafe, which has really, like good food. They're okay, and they're decently cheap too, since the food truck is a bit expensive ... And here, it's, like, cheaper by, like, I don't know, five, six dollars. I didn't even know it. Usually, like, 7 to \$10 is usually what their stuff is. Meanwhile, the food truck, it's like 15 and up. Like, 10 to 15 now. I guess the value menu has, like, \$5 stuff.



EMMANUEL MILLER
RAD TECH

It's really cool that they opened up this place to be able to have other students eat here. I actually think the food options are actually, they're pretty good. You can make anything from what, a salad to getting a pizza, sandwiches. Oh, yeah, there's sushi. It's refrigerated, though. It's, I don't know if the, I don't know if they make it fresh or if they just have it boxed. The prices here are still a little overpriced, but it's a lot better than the food truck. And it's just a convenient place to hang out. It's definitely nice. It has a nice atmosphere.



ZULEYCA GARCIA
CHEMISTRY

I feel very grateful for having a space where I could come and relax, eat, study, hang out with friends. I think this place has been very beneficial for me. The food options are pretty great for starting off, for its recent opening. I think it's really good. It could do better as for the quality of the food, but so far, I'm very impressed. I'm very grateful. It's been such a great addition to the school ... I could stay in campus longer and finish my homework, finish things I need to do, and have access to simple stuff like the student store for snacks and bathrooms are always open for students. I've actually enjoyed it a lot.



MARIA PUYO
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

I think it's very nice to have a new place ... 'cause, like, outside, there wasn't, like, that much tables and then the hot and LA being ... sunny and hot. And also, most of the time, this space is very clean, so that also helps a lot. And like the food, I think is very nice. You have like different options, vegan, vegetarian. You have salads and yeah, I like it a lot. I don't think it's good that it closes so early like around two? Yeah, it needs to be open longer. I think we have class at this time, and then we have just a break, like at 3:45. So, I think it would be better if it's open until like 4 or like 4:30 or like later.



ANTONIO TORRES
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

I actually was pleasantly surprised because I thought it wouldn't be open for like another year ... With the Quad being shut down and everything, there really is like no place to sit, especially because the construction just randomly, they'll put up walls everywhere. So it's kind of annoying. It's nice to have like AC and then on the new screens are nice too. And in terms of the food options, like I do like a lot of them, but I think like what I feel kind of is like weirdly inconsistent is like the pricing ... because things like the pizza, like per slice being like 4 to 5 bucks, I think that's too much.



IMAGE CREATED BY CHATGPT

Bad Bunny Halftime Show Debate Misses the Point

BY JORGE PONCE

When the National Football League (NFL) announced that Bad Bunny would perform at the Super Bowl halftime show, I viewed it the way any fan of football and music would— as another big moment meant to bring entertainment and sports together on the biggest stage in the country. Instead, the announcement quickly turned into political outrage from some conservative commentators and politicians, which felt disconnected from what the halftime show has always represented. As a football fan, I have always understood that the Super Bowl was more than just the game. It was an event built on specta-



cle, culture and music. Over the years, the league has featured artists from different genres and backgrounds to reflect the wide audience that watched the broadcast. From pop icons to hip-hop stars to Latino performers, the halftime show has evolved alongside the fan base. That was why the sudden anger over Bad Bunny felt selective. Latino artists have performed before. Shakira and Jennifer Lopez headlined the 2020 Super Bowl halftime show. Gloria Estefan took the stage at two past Super Bowls, 1992 and 1999. Those performances were celebrated and widely watched, not treated as a cultural crisis. As both a football fan and a music lover, I see Bad Bunny's selection as part of that same tradition rather than a break from it. Bad Bunny, born Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio in Puerto Rico, has become one of the most streamed artists in the world in recent years. From a business

and entertainment standpoint, his appeal is obvious. The NFL has always prioritized ratings and relevance, and Latin music has become a dominant force on global charts. Choosing a global artist who connects with younger and more diverse audiences follows the league's long-standing approach to the halftime show. Critics argued that his music and image were inappropriate for a national audience, but halftime performances are historically edited to meet broadcast standards. The NFL has consistently worked with performers to ensure the show complied with broadcast television guidelines. There is no verified evidence that the league planned to air explicit content during the broadcast. As someone who follows both the sports and music industries, what stood out most was how quickly the conversation shifted away from football. The Super

Bowl itself lasted hours, while the halftime show took only a short portion of the night. Yet the outrage over the performer drowned out conversation about the teams on the field. From my perspective as a fan of both the NFL and music, the backlash was more reflective of the current political climate than the halftime show itself. The league has always blended sports with mainstream culture. The artists change as the audience does. That evolution does not weaken football; it reflects the reality of who is watching the game. In the end, the debate missed the larger point. The Super Bowl remains a celebration of the sport, and the halftime show remains a reflection of what's popular in society at that moment. I saw Bad Bunny's performance not as a controversy, but as another example of the league adapting to the audience it serves.

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LACC: The Key to LA's 15-Minute Future?

BY SEBASTIAN ROMERO

Colombian-French scientist Carlos Moreno, in his book, "The 15 Minute City", talks about Sumak Kawsay — an indigenous word in Quechua from the Los Andes region in South America that means "good living." It's an understanding and perception of the relationship between people, nature, and the cosmos. Moreno says that this principle was an inspiration for the creation of the 15-minute city idea. The 15-minute city is the idea that we can have most of our essential needs, such as work, school, groceries, entertainment, parks, and more, within a short walk, bike, or bus distance. The goal is to reduce car dependency, bring people together, and help the environment. As you may know, Los Angeles is one of the biggest car-dependent cities in the United States, but I believe the concept of the 15-minute city is achievable even in such a big and car-centric city, and LACC can be a great example. As a new student at LACC, I continue to be impressed by how accessible this campus is by public transportation. The school has a heavy rail metro stop — the Vermont/Santa Monica station has an exit right next to the MLK library. Plus, did you know that you can get free Metro rides just by being a student here? This level of access to public transit is something that not even larger universities such as UCLA or CSUN have. Although USC might have the Expo Park/USC metro stop, that line is a light rail train, a much smaller and slower mode of public transportation. As a community college, LACC opens the door to a wide range of people to achieve an education. Having a metro station that gets right into campus brings this opportunity of learning to people who don't drive, either due to disabilities or monetary situations, since having a car is an expensive commodity. LACC can further promote the 15-minute city by creating bike-friendly programs: more bike lanes on campus and bike parking near every building. The LACC community and its surrounding areas could also benefit from knowing more about this idea of a 15-minute city. Could we, the LACC community, embrace Sumak Kawsay and use it to improve the lifestyle of current and future students? I believe that with these advantages that the school has (a metro station, free rides and its location in dense-populated area) LACC could become a leading example of how the 15-minute city idea could help larger communities and schools around Los Angeles County connect with Sumak Kawsay's good living.



HIDDEN FIGURES

BY KELIYAH WILLIAMS

Black history is often framed through the lens of struggle. Conversations tend to focus on slavery and segregation, but Black history is more than pain or summarized timelines. Its impact is ongoing and still shaping the world in ways that are visible and invisible. The work of Black innovators, leaders and thinkers continues to influence how we progress. Figures such as Vicente Guerrero and Gladys West are prime examples of how Black History is not separate from modern life. It helped build it.

Gladys West

More than a century later, Gladys West would transform the modern world in a very different way. Today most people rely on GPS and Google Maps without thinking about how it came to be. Before digital navigation, people used paper maps, city guidebooks, and helpful strangers to find their way around. Born

in 1933 in rural Virginia, Gladys West became a mathematician working for the U.S. Navy. She developed mathematical models that measured the shape of the Earth. Her research became the foundation for the Global Positioning System (GPS), technology that BILLIONS of people rely on every day. From navigating unfamiliar cities, coordinating emergency services, finding lost pets or phones, GPS has become essential to daily life. For years,

West, like so many other Black innovators, remained largely unrecognized outside the scientific and military spheres. As a Black woman in STEM, she worked in spaces where her presence was overlooked, even as her research changed how the world and technology functions. Today, her story highlights the importance of representation and encourages us to reconsider whose knowledge and contributions are valued.

Vicente Guerrero

In 1829, Vicente Guerrero became the first Black president of Mexico. This historic moment carried enormous symbolic and political weight in a country still shaped by colonial hierarchies. Born in 1782 in the region of Acapulco, Guerrero was of Afro-Mestizo and Indigenous heritage and grew up under Spanish colonial rule. He joined the Mexican War of Independence and rose through the ranks as a military leader, helping secure Mexico's freedom in Spain 1821.

During his presidency, he abolished slavery, positioned Mexico as a refuge

for enslaved people escaping the United States. His leadership challenged colonial racial caste systems and reflected a broader vision of freedom that extended beyond national borders. Today, the Mexican state of Guerrero bears his name, honoring his role in shaping the country's identity.

However, his presidency was short-lived. Guerrero was betrayed by his vice president, captured, and executed by firing squad after being lured on an Italian ship. Despite this, the fact remains that the Mexican people elected the first and only Black president in Mexico in the early 19th century. His legacy reminds us that Black leadership and resistance has always been global.



review



PHOTOS BY JEREMY CUENCA AND SEBASTIAN ROMERO
Theatre Academy students perform in seven one-act plays directed and designed by their peers at the Cameo Theatre, Feb. 26-28, 2026. Images: 1. "Yellow Wallpaper" 2, 6. "The Perfect Shirt for All Occasions" 3. "Hello from Bertha" 4. "The Maltese Walter" 5. "The Stronger."

Theatre Academy Students Take the Lead

BY VANESSA KOLB

Enthusiastic spectators lined up to watch Theatre Academy students perform seven student-directed one-act plays on Feb. 26-28 at the Cameo Theatre on campus. Theater students prepared throughout the fall and winter semesters, and their hard work paid off. On opening night, a waitlisted crowd gathered outside the theater, hoping to get a seat at the sold-out show. Inside, the evening began with a piece by Tennessee Williams, the Pulitzer Prize-winning Southern Gothic playwright, "Hello from Bertha," directed by Victoria Davidoff and featuring a performance from April E that set the standard for the night. "She was really great, and really dialed in," said Tony Themoleas, who was there to watch his friend's play.

She wrangled fear, tenderness and even humor out of the play's dark subject matter, as a brothel worker facing her death. "I think she did a great job ... the range of emotions, the motion, in general, she did a great job. So that's several layers of acting, and all of them were great. It was quite a simple scene, but so powerful with the acting, so I was really impressed with that," said Vitali Kozlov, who came to watch his wife perform. Director Donny Dahlman made an impression with a unique, rhythmical take on August Strindberg's "The Stronger." Dahlman gave the play another dimension by having four different actors portray a role usually only occupied by one. The costume design and the actors' imperious delivery made the audience question who exactly was doing the judging in a play that's usually more straightforward. "This became my new favorite, because, if I'm interpreting it right ... I understood how it could be the sides of herself that she felt in

her past relationship, and I very much was like, ooh, this is speaking volumes. So I loved it. Loved it. Every single character, too," said Aminata Williams during the intermission. In "Yellow Wallpaper," director Jasmine White and her design team created a beautifully unsettling harmony between the set, costumes and choreography. The elements of White's piece came together to embody the protagonist's mental distress in this classic feminist critique of 19th century medical patriarchy. "The Perfect Shirt for All Occasions," which was both written and directed by student Joshua Whitehorn, closed out the evening. The energetic cast put American culture's obsession with social media and hype-driven marketing in the spotlight, while drawing consistent laughter from theatregoers. The Theatre Academy's next production will be "The Hasty Heart," written by John Patrick and directed by Louie Piday, showing March 26-28 and April 2-4.



CREDIT: CREATIVE COMMONS
Actors Michael B. Jordan and Delroy Lindo became the target of racial slurs during the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Awards (BAFTA) while presenting an award on Feb. 22, 2026. John Davidson, real life subject of the biopic "I Swear," yelled racial slurs at the two "Sinners" stars.

BAFTA FALLOUT: Intent vs. Impact

An onstage slur involving two actors ignites debate over Tourette syndrome, harm and responsibility.

BY NIRUPAM DHAKAL

At the British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards this year, Michael B. Jordan and Delroy Lindo, stars of the smash hit film "Sinners," took the stage to present the prize for Best Special Visual Effects. In the middle of the moment, a man in the audience shouted a racist slur. Though the actors remained professional and continued speaking, the shock and the harm of the interruption was unmistakable.

The individual was John Davidson, a disability activist living with Tourette syndrome. He had been invited to attend because a film based on his life, "I Swear," was nominated for multiple awards that evening.

In the aftermath, online reactions were intense and deeply divided. Many expressed anger and disappointment that Lindo and Jordan had been subjected to such language, especially during such a celebratory moment for "Sinners," which made history that night. This situation also sparked a difficult conversation about intent versus impact. While the outburst was involuntary, many argued that the harm had already been done and that it was reasonable to expect a public statement acknowledging and apologizing to those affected.

On the other side, people sympathetic toward Davidson urged compassion, pointing to Davidson's condition and the complexities around it. Tourette syndrome is a neurological disorder characterized by involuntary, repetitive movements and vocal sounds known as "tics," according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Davidson has "coprolalia," a relatively rare symptom of Tourette syndrome which causes him to make involuntary outbursts of obscene words, which is what occurred during the BAFTA event. People familiar with his condition argued that he did not need to apologize because his actions were not intentional. They say he did not control what he said and should not be apologetic for his condition.

While I am in full agreement that no one should be expected to apologize for a disability, I do believe there is still room for acknowledging the impact and responding with empathy. In this case, that would mean acknowledging the harm caused and offering a personal apology to Delroy Lindo and Michael B. Jordan for the unintended hurt.

Such an apology would not be about expressing shame over his condition, but rather showing empathy toward those affected. This moment can be used to spread more awareness about coprolalia and Tourette syndrome so that in the future, people are more aware of this condition and can hold space for more nuanced conversations.

That said, my biggest concern in this situation is how the BBC, alongside the BAFTAs, handled the aftermath. Because the ceremony airs on a two-hour delay,



CREDIT: CREATIVE COMMONS
Top to Bottom: Michael B. Jordan and Delroy Lindo.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATE GREEN
John Davidson

there was ample time to remove any harmful or unsavory moments. This raises an unavoidable question: why was the slur not edited out of the broadcast? This decision appears even more troubling when viewed in context. The broadcast reportedly did cut other segments, including one of Akinola Davies Jr., who won "Best Debut," saying the words "Free Palestine" in his winning speech, which raises broader questions about what kind of speech broadcasters deem acceptable to air. There were also reports that another separate instance of a racial slur during the ceremony was removed from the broadcast. The BBC has stated that leaving this moment in was simply an error. However, according to reports, Warner Bros., the production company behind "Sinners," raised concerns immediately, and urged the slur to be cut, yet no action was taken. This inevitably leads to skepticism about whether it was truly just a mistake. Of course it is possible that this was simply an editorial failure, as the BBC maintains. But regardless of intent, the situation has sparked necessary conversations about disability, accountability, media responsibility and empathy. Ultimately, whatever conclusions people reach, the most important takeaway should be a commitment to listening with compassion, nuance, and care for everyone affected.

FROM "SANDERS" PAGE 1



Tom Morello joins the call on Feb. 18, 2026, to support healthcare workers. His performance at the iconic Wiltern Theatre in Koreatown energized the audience and inspired them to keep fighting for a more just world.

PHOTO BY JUAN MENDOZA

Supporters: Billionaire Tax Can Recoup Medi-Cal Funding Losses

Billionaire Tax Act for the November ballot.

“It is time to begin talking about the impact California patients will experience unless we take action to replace the Medi-Cal funding taken from our state by HR 1,” said Zeida Aaron, a social worker at Community Hospital in San Bernardino. “Hospitals and emergency rooms will close, and patients will die. Businesses and workers will see their premiums double.”

Waiting in line was Logan Revolver, a supporter of the proposition to tax the rich in California, who believes it is important for Californians to be class-conscious and to understand that the rich are taking what belongs to the American people.

“We live in the richest country that ever existed in human history, and taxing the rich will trickle down the money,” he said. “There’s no excuse why we shouldn’t have universal healthcare.”

The program featured speeches by union leaders and front-

line healthcare workers, who addressed the audience.

“If we don’t act, hospitals and ERs will close. We will see patients suffer, millions of people will lose the healthcare they rely on,” said Mayra Castañeda, a member of SEIU United Healthcare Workers West.

It could raise approximately \$100 billion over five years, with most of the funds earmarked for health programs, including Medi-Cal, and for keeping hospitals and emergency rooms open, according to proponents of the measure. Another portion will go directly to fund California’s public K-14 education and state food assistance programs.

Before Senator Sanders’ scheduled appearance, Tom Morello, a solo guitarist, took the stage, invigorating the audience with compositions that condemned the reprehensible wealth gap.

The performances highlighted the dichotomy between the liberty of some to choose among upscale dining establishments and

luxurious penthouses, and the harsh reality others face, forced to choose between dumpsters and gutters to survive.

People were fired up, singing along and shouting the lyrics “Power to the People” as Morello’s guitar offered a warm welcome to Senator Bernie Sanders.

Senator Sanders, a longtime advocate for the middle class and the poor, criticized the extreme income inequality ordinary Americans face. “While the average American struggles, few people have had so much wealth and power,” Sanders said. “Do you know what the most significant addiction crisis in America is today?” he asked the audience. “It is the greed of the billionaire class.”

The crowd chanted “shame” as the senator told them that the wealthy received the largest tax breaks in history under Donald Trump. The CEOs of America’s largest corporations saw their wealth increase by \$1.5 trillion last year, according to Sanders.

FROM "VISITING SCHOLAR" PAGE 1

Professor Dyson: 'What Would America Be Without Diversity?'

to ensure the college uplifts and learns from a variety of identities and heritages.

This year, the opportunity to host Dyson for Black History Month “sort of fell into our lap,” Diaz said.

“That ... was funded by LACC District resources. They offered us some money, and we were able to secure Dr. Dyson,” she said. “[We] put together that event to really get high visibility, not just within our campus, but throughout our district ... and even some high schools.”

Dyson framed his speech around the month’s theme, “The Richness and Excellence of Black People and the African Diaspora.”

Dyson says the very idea that Black people can be excellent is intrinsically political.

“When we think about the notion of the richness of the African Diaspora, you are unavoidably engaging in a political conversation ... It has been made political ... because we have to acknowledge that in this country we have been misled by people who accuse Black people of being inherently inferior.”

Dyson says Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies did not come about because Black people wanted to enter the echelons of Caucasian privilege. DEI was a compromise borne from corporate and political resistance to Affirmative Action and Reparations.

“What would America be without diversity?” Dyson said to attendees during his speech.

“What would America be without Cesar Chavez? What would America be without Maxine Hong Kingston? What would America be without Ol’ Dirty Bastard? What would America be without Martin Luther King, Jr. And what would America be without Bad Bunny? Don’t speak no damn English and made ‘em all mad ... And so, you mad at diversity and equity and inclusion. When in truth, without that, this nation wouldn’t be what it is today,” Dyson said.

Dyson is the Distinguished Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies and Centennial Chair at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. He’s taught at Brown, Columbia, DePaul and Georgetown University, where he was a tenured professor of sociology.



PHOTO BY DAVE MARTIN

Professor Michael Eric Dyson speaks to an audience of enthralled LACC students, faculty, administrators and community at Kinesiology North on Feb. 12, 2026.

With 25 books, including seven New York Times best-sellers, Dyson has spent his career studying and educating about the genius of the Black Diaspora. “What the Truth Sounds Like,” “Long Time Coming: Reckoning with Race in America” and “Why I Love Black Women” are among his more noteworthy titles.

Recalling the profound insight of orator, statesman and abolitionist Frederick Douglass, who said “knowledge unfits a man to be a slave,” Dyson said Black people had to understand the political utility of literacy to survive.

“But even when Black folk couldn’t read, we read. You ever been read by a Black woman?” Dyson said, as the audience responded with laughter.

“Because if you’ve had that experience, she got a Ph.D. in your behind! Reading, interpreting, signifying. We couldn’t be like Bad Bunny and speak a different lan-

guage. We had to learn to use different language they understood, but didn’t understand.”

A private rooftop reception welcomed Dyson before the formal program.

President Gebru, Diaz, Trustees Kelsey Iino and Nichelle Henderson, Student Trustee Jasmine Francis, various faculty and friends greeted him with a smile, anecdote or handshake.

Student Trustee Francis presented professor Dyson with a custom LACC Cubs letterman jacket with his name embroidered on it.

After he put the jacket on, Dyson said, “What up Cubs?!” The crowd responded with cheers and applause.

Trustee Francis says the opportunity to have Dr. Dyson on campus is about inspiration.

“To let you know what we go through as a community,” she said. “And then, how we can still outshine that.”



Search for Suspect Continues

BY ISIS MALONE

Sheriffs have no suspect for an attempted robbery that happened on March 2, near Franklin Hall at 7:30 p.m., when a man grabbed a victim’s arm and tried to take their cellphone before running away.

The suspect is described as a Black male, about 30 years old, 6 feet tall, wearing a gray sweatshirt. No property was taken, and no weapon was involved.

If you have additional information, please contact the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department Community College Bureau Headquarters at (323) 669-7555.

If you have an emergency on campus, call the L.A. County Sheriffs at (323) 953-2911.

- **Jan. 9:** A grand theft of auto parts and accessories occurred in Parking Lot 3.
- **Jan. 20:** A non-criminal incident occurred in the counseling department.
- **Jan. 28:** A recording in class incident was reported in the Sci-Tech Building.
- **Feb. 6:** Grand theft auto of a truck, van, or motor home was reported in the 800 block of N. Vermont Ave.
- **Feb. 14:** Rape by force of a female under the age of 18 occurred in the 1600 block of Bellevue Ave.
- **March 2:** A strong-arm robbery incident took place in the 800 block of N. Heliotrope Drive.



Safety Tips

- Travel in pairs or with trusted companions, especially at night or in remote areas.
- If someone is intoxicated or incapacitated, call for a taxi, rideshare or other car service, and make sure a trusted friend safely accompanies the incapacitated friend to their door.
- If you observe a crime in progress, go to a safe location and call 911 or campus sheriff at the numbers above.
- Do not attempt to apprehend any suspects or perpetrators of crime. Your personal safety and the safety of others around you should be your primary concern.

Source: LACCD

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ON ALL PLATFORMS

Hungry Students Flock to Cafeteria, 'Glorious Food'

BY DAVE MARTIN

If you like to eat, and who doesn't, then LACC's new cafeteria could be the place for you.

The cafeteria is located on the first floor of the Student Union Building and offers a variety of food options, from pizza and salads to Chinese and Mexican cuisine and everything in between. The restaurants also offer coffee, tea and energy drinks galore. Students call the cafeteria layout "roomy," and compliment the design. It is a 7,000-square-foot area that offers ample dining options.

It is where people can socialize or simply watch whatever is on the overhead screens.

"It's a space where people can relax before and after their classes," said a student who identified himself only as Chris.

The early reviews from some students who tried out the restaurants during the first two weeks gave a thumbs-up for food quality.

"I think it's great," said a student named Samuele. "I remember. I was here in 2020 when this was a big open space. No cafeteria. Don't get me wrong, having some place to sit down was great, but having some place to sit down and buy food is simply amazing, since we've gone so long without."

The cafeteria is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. On Fridays, the hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SCAN QR CODE

TO HEAR WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE NEW CAFETERIA.



PHOTOS BY DAVE MARTIN

Students line up to eat at the new cafeteria inside the Student Union at the start of the 2026 spring semester. The open area provides a new meeting space for LACC students to dine and to socialize between classes. Cafeteria menu options at its global-themed food bar will change weekly.

TALK BACK TO THE EDITORS

We are interested in what you have to say!
Email us at losangeles.collegian@gmail.com

'Beam Me Up Sulu' Goes Where No Fan Has Gone Before

BY ERIKA RAMIREZ

Dedicated to making a Star Trek fan film, a group of students convinced George Takei to join them in the California forest for the 1985 filming of "Yorktown: A Time to Heal," but then the footage mysteriously vanished. "Beam Me Up, Sulu" captures the 42-year-long journey toward its completion.

The lost film emerges in the documentary, which unveils a history created by fans telling a story of representation, resilience and an ongoing fight for inclusion in the media industry as well as society.

Eugene Roddenberry, son of original Star Trek creator and LACC alumnus Gene Roddenberry, produced the documentary. It's a testament to Gene Roddenberry's lasting sci-fi legacy that his own son brought this documentary to life to reveal what fans have created as an homage to the franchise.

Stan Woo was the LACC student who came up with the idea of "Yorktown."

"'Beam Me Up, Sulu' is the crowning moment of my now 42-year-long journey of producing 'Yorktown: A Time to Heal.' I can remember the moment I came up with the basic plot at LACC, in Ron Pelton's History 13 class," Woo said. "Specifically, his lecture on the infamous Gary Powers incident, when his U2 was shot down over the Soviet Union. Most importantly, 'Beam Me Up, Sulu' immortalized my dad, who was the executive producer."

Star Trek's fanbase brought in a whole community that wanted nothing more than to be included, to be more diverse and to show that a whole project can bring everyone together.

"We were interested in figuring out what it is about Star Trek that makes people care so much — what made these student filmmakers spend 35 years making a fan film,



PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN ROMERO

"It was surreal seeing the marquee with my image lit up at the theater," Stan Woo, the LACC student who came up with the idea of "Yorktown: A Time to Heal," told the Collegian. "The night was unbelievable. Fans from SoCal practically filled the theater. A fan even gave me a Comm Pin, which is the communicator of 'Star Trek: The Next Generation.'"

what made George participate in it, what makes all of the fans so passionate," directors Timour Gregory and Sasha Schneider said in a 2025 interview with [TrekMovie.com](https://www.trekmovie.com). "We found that it really comes back to this idea of 'infinite diversity in infinite combinations' that's been baked into the show from the beginning and resonates now more than ever."

Takei was an important pop culture influence for Asian Americans, especially as a Japanese American who, at a young age, endured forced internment with his family during WWII. This documentary centered his participation because he represented a minority who found fame and adoration despite growing up in an America that negatively caricatured and stereotyped Asian Americans. Takei's success in "Star

Trek: The Original Series" was both promise and proof that everyone could be a part of something big.

The film spans 90 minutes and uses a mixture of footage from the student film, as well as interviews with Takei and other Star Trek stars, including Garrett Wang, Christina Chong, Alexander Siddig and Ian Alexander.

"This documentary is about so much more than a student film I appeared in," Takei said in an interview with [TribecaFilm](https://www.tribecafilm.com). "It's about the importance of diversity and inclusion — something that Star Trek pioneered on television and has excelled at for nearly 60 years. Given the current political climate, we need to see more of that reflected in our popular culture."

"Beam Me Up, Sulu" is streaming on major platforms.

Presented by the Dr. Ronald Levant Psychology Lecture Series

An intimate conversation with distinguished professor and author

DR. JANET SHIBLEY HYDE

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Location: LACC Student Union, 3rd Floor Multi-Purpose Room

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/JHyde2026> or Scan

For more info, contact info@laccfoundation.org

Dr. Janet Shibley Hyde, author of *The Psychology of Gun Violence*, is Professor Emerit of Psychology and Gender & Women's Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. An internationally recognized researcher and recipient of the Association for Psychological Science's Cattell Award, she applies psychological science to addressing gun violence in America.

Gun violence is a pressing public health crisis in America, and understanding its psychological roots is key to driving informed dialogue and meaningful prevention.

LACCFoundation.org (323) 953-4011 info@laccfoundation.org

U.S. Men's Hockey Team Celebrates at White House

Gold Medal Victory Lap came with a "happy meal" during White House visit.

BY JORGE PONCE

Members of the United States Olympic Men's Hockey Team stood inside the White House, gold medals around their necks, days after defeating Canada in overtime to win the 2026 Olympic championship.

The team's dramatic sudden-death goal secured the gold medal in one of the most intense games of the tournament. On Tuesday Feb. 24, 2026, the celebration shifted from the ice to the nation's capital, where the president recognized the players for their achievement and resilience throughout the competition.

They sported navy blue sweaters with USA and the Olympic rings across the front. The players gathered behind the Resolute Desk as President Donald Trump congratulated them on the victory. At one point during the ceremony, Trump briefly placed one of the gold medals around his own neck, drawing smiles and laughter from the players standing nearby.

The moment underscored the celebratory tone of the visit, which honored a team that battled its biggest rival on the sport's grandest stage.

The championship game against Canada lived up to its billing. Both teams traded goals

in regulation, with physical play and strong goaltending keeping the score tight. After neither side could break the tie, the game moved into overtime, where one shot would decide the outcome.

That shot came off a quick rush up the ice. A precise pass set up the winning goal, sending the puck past the Canadian goaltender and igniting an immediate celebration as players jumped over the boards to join the pileup near the net.

"To win gold is special," the team captain Auston Matthews said during the ceremony. "To win it in overtime against Canada makes it unforgettable."

The rivalry between the United States and Canada has defined Olympic hockey for decades. Overtime victories in championship matchups are rare, adding even more weight to the accomplishment.

Several players credited years of development at the youth and collegiate levels for preparing them for the moment. For many student-athletes watching from campuses across the country, the team's journey highlighted the pathway from college hockey to international success.

The White House visit marked a formal conclusion to the Olympic run. Players posed for photos, shook hands, and reflected on the work required to reach the top of the podium.

As the ceremony ended, medals still gleaming under the lights, the team left Washington with the same prize they earned on the ice, Olympic gold secured in overtime against their fiercest rival.



“Unbelievable game by [Connor] Hellebuyck. He was our best player tonight, by a mile. Unbelievable game, unreal game by our team. That’s just a ballsy, gutsy win. That’s American hockey right there.”

Jack Hughes, Team USA 2026 Winter Olympics Hockey forward in the Guardian



Photo Courtesy: Jenn G, CC 2.0

Day Job: Winnipeg Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck in action during a game against the Seattle Kraken in 2024, helped lead the U.S. Men's Olympic Hockey Team to gold during the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milano, Italy.

Above Photo Courtesy: White House.Gov

Members of the U.S. Olympic Hockey Team surround President Donald Trump during a visit to the White House on Feb. 24, 2026.

Lower: President Donald Trump tries on a gold medal from the Winter Olympics overtime hockey victory that ended a 46-year drought for the U.S. Hockey Team on Feb. 24, 2026.