

A group of young people, likely students, are gathered outdoors for a protest or demonstration. In the foreground, a young girl with dark hair, wearing a white KN95 face mask and a green t-shirt with a graphic, holds a white stick high in the air. Behind her, several other young people are visible, some wearing face masks and a green headband. A pink flag with a white female symbol and the word "RIGHTS" is partially visible in the upper left. The background shows green trees and a bright sky.

THE | CORSAIR

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The Fight For Rights Continues

Roe Vs. Wade in Jeopardy After Supreme Court Documents Leaked

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FRONT PAGE

A young activist holds a flag reading "women's rights are human rights" at the Federal building in Los Angeles after leaked Supreme Court documentation to overturn the Federal court case Roe vs. Wade on Tuesday. (Jon Putman | The Corsair)

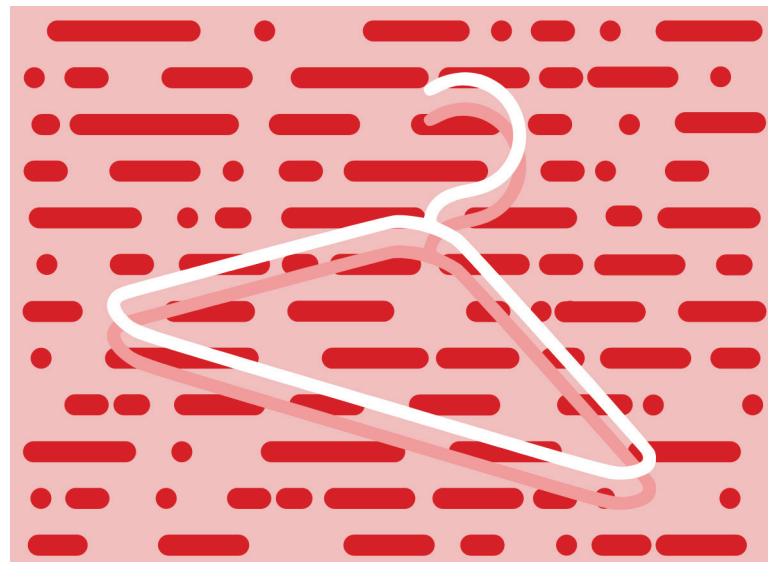


Illustration by Gavin Quinton

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

On the evening of Monday, May 2 I was doing homework when I received an email from the New York times. My heart sank as I read the headline. It read "Breaking News: The Supreme Court has privately voted to strike down Roe v. Wade...." The disappointment I felt that moment seems ever increasing these days, as it appears as if my rights are threatened everyday in this country. But this continual disappointment signifies a lot more than the natural outcomes of politicians located throughout the political spectrum, especially with a political spectrum as skewed to the extreme as America's. It signals to the fact that it is not uncommon for our political institutions to work against its people and their needs.

Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion in 1973, has been under attack by politicians since before it was voted on by the supreme court. But a big reason why it got so close to being overturned in the present day is its conservative majority. Five of the nine judges are ideologically conservative, and three of these justices appointed – Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett– were appointed by President Donald Trump. President Donald Trump, who ran a campaign on calling mexican rapists, talked about sexually assaulting women, and calling for a temporary ban on Muslim Immigration, won in 2016 with 4.1 million less votes than his opponent Hillary Clinton. During his time in office, Trump's approval rate peaked at 45% according to Pew Research.

Regardless of his failure to gain support with the majority of voters, Trump made many concerning decisions with his power. This includes appointing 4,000 people to political positions, including 226 judges in total to our justice system. Three of those appointments, who were his appointments to the supreme court, now oversee how the law of the land is interpreted and exercised. And their latest development is that the right to an abortion is not a guaranteed right by the nation, a decision that will negatively impact millions of people.

Last year, I got the ability to vote. I was excited to finally have a say in laws that affect me and my loved ones, and use my right to help enact laws that I believed could better the lives of my fellow Americans. Instead, I was met with the cruel reality that laws and policies that harm me can be enacted without my say. My rights were fought over up to my 18th birthday and far beyond it. And my adulthood, which was supposed to be a time of newfound freedom, has instead become a stressful state of wondering which of my rights will be up for debate next.

Katheryne Menendez

Editor-in-Chief

L.A. Outraged By Supreme Court Opinion

Sarah Nachimson | Copy Editor

Anna Sophia Moltke | Staff Writer

Jackson Tammariello | News Editor

On May 3, thousands took to the streets in front of the United States Courthouse in Downtown Los Angeles protesting a leaked draft opinion that, according to Politico, indicates the Supreme Court may be poised to overturn the 1973 landmark *Roe v. Wade* case. The original *Roe* decision legalized a woman's right to an abortion nationwide, and the Guttmacher Institute found, as of May 1, 23 states have "trigger laws," or laws that will automatically go into effect after *Roe* is overturned, that would restrict the legal status of abortion.

The 98-page draft, written by Justice Samuel Alito, explains the reasoning for the Court's ruling regarding *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a pending case dealing with whether Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban violated precedent set by *Roe v. Wade*. Writing for the majority opinion, Alito states that both *Roe* and the landmark 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* case should be overruled, arguing that because the Constitution makes no reference to abortion, the right for an abortion is not constitutionally protected. Dr. Briah Fischer, M.D., an OB-GYN in Los Angeles, came to Tuesday's rally as someone who regularly provides abortions to her patients. Some women come to Dr. Fischer for an abortion because it is "medically indicated," meaning the pregnancy is a threat to the woman's life. Others seek abortion simply because they are pregnant at the wrong time. Dr. Fischer views both reasons as equal explanations for seeking reproductive healthcare.

"For me as a medical professional, restricting my ability to provide that care for patients not only is directly in conflict with what I believe is to be as a human right, which is reproductive rights and reproductive justice," she said. "But it also restricts me as a healthcare professional in my ability to do the job that I came to do, which is serve my community."

To some who showed up to protest *Roe*'s overturning, abortion access is an issue they feel passionate about because of personal experience. "I'm a rape survivor myself," said Jane Raagas, a college student from Long Beach, Calif. who attended the May 3 rally in Downtown Los Angeles. "I have friends who are survivors themselves, and they had to go through abortion."

Some attendees, like Chinese-American immigrant Cara Xu, simply attended the rally to show support for what they see as a human right. "If they don't want the children, they will not give the



(Top Left and Right) Demonstrators gather outside the Federal building in downtown Los Angeles after leaked Supreme Court documentation to overturn the Federal court case *Roe vs. Wade* on Tuesday, May 3. (Jon Putman | The Corsair). (Bottom Left) Devon Cobb attends the protest that was organized in reaction to a leaked Supreme Court draft to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, at the US Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles on Tuesday. (Anna Sophia Moltke | The Corsair). (Bottom Right) A woman holds a torch resembling the one held by the Statue of Liberty during the same event. (Anna Sophia Moltke | The Corsair)

children enough love," she said. Eden Carriedo, who had an abortion before choosing to carry her daughter to full term, went to the rally because she felt that her abortion was the best decision for her to safely raise her future child. "I don't think that's anyone's business but mine," she said. Several left-wing political groups organized speakers at their own parts of the rally, such as Rise Up 4 Abortion Rights, Democratic Socialists of America, and Party for Social and Liberation (PSL). Genesis Mora, a member of PSL, shared that her organization protested the potential repeal of *Roe* because they believe that women are one of the most oppressed identities in America. "We understand that the only way to prevent continuous exploitation of marginalized communities, particularly women, is for socialist reorganization

of society," they said.

The protesters on Tuesday gathered in front of the United States Court House, chanting slogans such as "my body my choice" and "we won't go back" until approximately 7:30 p.m.. Speakers at the rally informed attendees of a larger, nationwide pro-choice strike planned for Thursday, May 5. There were no counter protesters at the rally's initial gathering spot. At about 7:30 p.m., the protesters began marching towards Pershing Square in Downtown Los Angeles. Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department and the Department of Homeland Security drove alongside the marching group of protesters.

Julia Wallace, a Santa Monica College (SMC) '04 alum who spoke at the Tuesday rally, addressed SMC students who oppose the overturning of *Roe*. "To actually change things, we're going

to have to power through the fear, turn it into rage and turn it into intentional organization and strategy," she said. "That's what we should be doing, and think of yourselves, SMC students, as actors and participants in history." Although the anonymously leaked majority opinion draft shows plans to possibly overturn *Roe*, the ruling is not final. The Supreme Court has until late June or early July to release rulings for 13 pending Supreme Court cases, including the Mississippi case that challenges *Roe*. Protesters like Carriedo and Eric Weidener, a University of California Los Angeles PhD student, hoped the thousands of Americans showing up to rally for *Roe* would indicate to the Supreme Court that the majority of Americans support *Roe*.

Activists Fill Streets For May Day

Anna Sophia Moltke | Staff Writer

On Sunday, May 1, thousands joined activists, union stewards, and street vendors for the May Day march, commemorating the global celebration also referred to as International Workers Day. The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) organized the march and invited the community to join. “We fight for and honor immigrants, workers, and all who fight to create a just society, fully inclusive of immigrants,” CHIRLA wrote on digital flyers for the event.

The march began at Broadway and Olympic Blvd with speeches by union leaders and activists before leading the crowd to Los Angeles City Hall. In addition to CHIRLA, many other organizations and unions gathered for the march, such as the LA Street Vendors Campaign, Socialist Workers Party, Utility Workers Union of America, Farabundo Martí National Liberation, Workers United, and the Democratic Socialists of America of Los Angeles (DSA-LA).

Bernie Senter, a production worker at a bakery in Montebello, set up a booth of literature, propped on stands, about revolutionary left-wing ideology. Senter is a member of the Socialist Workers Party which he describes as a revolutionary working-class party. “May Day is an important historic occasion for workers to stand up and speak out,” he said. “The hope springs from what I see around me today, not utopian dreams about the future.”

Originating from demands for worker’s rights at the beginnings of labor unions, present-day activists continue to celebrate what the day means to them. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, an international federation of socialist first designed May 1 as a day in support of workers in 1889 to

commemorate the Haymarket Riot in Chicago, where over 200,000 workers went on strike to demand an eight-hour workday.

While walking down Broadway, organizers from DSA-LA held a sign that said ‘Solidarity is Essential.’ Although International Workers Day is not a na-

tional holiday in the United States, activists in the country still annually celebrate the unofficial holiday nationwide by attending marches that promote worker and class solidarity.

Some attendees of the May Day march took a break from walking to support local street vendors. Street vendor Alex Santana set up a shaved ice stand on the corner of Broadway and 7th Street. He moved a steel shaver back and forth across a large block of ice to prepare treats for customers. “It’s a hot day. Shaved ice is perfect on a day like this,” he said.

Advocates at the march, shouting on megaphones and holding home-made signs, argued that street vendors are essential to the Los Angeles community. They provide access to fresh, minimally processed foods and Aguas Frescas (a drink made from fruit, water, and sugar) at low prices in areas that may lack grocery markets.

Despite the decriminalization of street vendors, the L.A. County Department of Public Health, along with the police, still conducts sweeps which can result in fines of up to \$1,000 for the vendors. Members of the crowd at the May Day march carried signs promoting the passing of SB 972, a bill introduced by state senator Lena Gonzalez. The bill aims to create a category for more compact mobile food facilities and update retail food codes, which activists hope will leave street vendors less worried about potential fines or repercussions.



Tleyotl, an Aztec dancer from Mexico who normally performs in Torrance, showed up to support street vendor workers at the May Day March. Broadway & Olympic Blvd in Los Angeles, on Sunday, May 1. (Anna Sophia Moltke | The Corsair)

SMC On Safety In Santa Monica

Dylan Smith | Staff Writer

A safewise.com survey reported on March 8 that Santa Monica is among the least safe cities in Southern California. The survey ranked Santa Monica as 224 out of 230 cities for its property and violent crime rates. Safewise’s survey claimed that according to FBI crime statistics, Santa Monica has a rate of six violent crimes and 42.6 property crimes per 1,000 residents.

Safewise’s survey also claims that, “54% of Californians said they are highly concerned about violent crime happening to them—that’s 13 percentage points higher than the US average.”

Despite these claims, Santa Monica College (SMC) students and staff members disputed the accuracy of the survey. In truth, the crime rate isn’t high in every

corner of Santa Monica, with very few crimes reported at SMC.

According to SMC Chief of Police Johnnie Adams, “The crime rate at SMC is very low, in fact we have taken less than fifteen crime reports since the beginning of the year,” Chief Adams said. “Most of them are minor vandalism and a couple of hit and run reports.”

Chief Adams believes the reason SMC and the surrounding areas are so safe is due to the schools “one thousand, three hundred cameras throughout all of our campuses...,” as well as an “electronic locking system for our doors which automatically locks many of our locations remotely every night.”

In addition to that, Chief Adams stated that the SMC police department does “... concentrated patrols in areas that they feel are important to have high visibility.”

Furthermore, the SMC police depart-

ment has an app called LiveSafe. Chief Adams described the app as “... a force multiplier where our community can use it to call or text an activity so we can respond quickly.”

In terms of student safety, SMC sophomore criminal justice Melany Arguello has reported she feels no threat of danger when walking around Santa Monica or SMC.

“In terms of violence I feel pretty safe,” Arguello said when asked about how she felt about her safety. “During the day there are lots of people around so I’m able to walk around with my jewelry and feel fine.”

“It’s when I get close to Downtown L.A. is when I start to feel uncomfortable,” Arguello said.

Arguello did recall one incident during her freshman year at SMC, where, while walking near the Santa Monica Pier with

an African American friend, they had “the N-word yelled at us by some woman.” The Sophomore went on to explain that “incidents like that haven’t happened since.”

Arguello expressed no fear towards walking around at night, as she makes sure to bring friends with her so she feels more comfortable.

Adams assured students that the SMC Police Department wants to continue to do its best to ensure safety for everyone in and around campus. “At night should students or staff feel unsafe we also offer to escort them to their cars,” Chief Adams said.

SMC highly encourages all individuals to report any incidents of vandalism/sexual misconduct to the SMC or local police as soon as possible by calling the SMC Police Department, (310)-434-4300, for any emergency situations that may happen on campus.

Acing Teachers: Hilariously Truthful Education on "Abbott Elementary"

Sarah Nachimson | Copy Editor

Similarly to sitcoms that preceded ABC's "Abbott Elementary," the show's backdrop is nothing extraordinary. The mockumentary-style comedy finds its story in Philadelphia primary school classrooms filled with teachers like Janine Teagues, played by the show's creator Quinta Brunson.

Crew members from the series look to the teachers from their own lives to inform the personalities of the fictional educators like Janine. Brittani Nicols, a writer and Executive Story Editor on "Abbott Elementary," has a stepmother and cousin who are teachers and inspire her work in the show. "Some storylines. I'm like, 'Oh, does that sound too unrealistic?'" she said. "Then I'll talk to a teacher and they're like, 'No, that happened to me last week.'"

Her stepmother is also an avid fan

of "Abbott Elementary," and texted her friends every week on Tuesdays about the show's first season. "I was there when she watched the pilot episode, and all of her friends were texting each other who each character was," Nicols said. "They had assigned people from their school to the characters in the show."

The response from teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. Many, like Nicols' stepmother, feel seen when watching the show. One such teacher is Olivia Dupre, a Santa Monica College alum who currently works as an administrator at a French-immersion preschool in Los Angeles. "What I love about the show is it reminds you that just one adult can impact your life," Dupre said. "We are important."

Alongside authenticity from the writer's room, the entire cast has once-in-a-lifetime chemistry. Although Brunson built the characters before casting, each actor fits their

roles seamlessly. Melissa Schemmenti, played by Lisa Ann Walter, has a hard South Philly accent and demeanor but a soft spot for her students and colleagues. Jacob Hill, played by Chris Perfecci, is a history teacher who can sometimes be too overenthusiastic about his passion for social justice issues. Gregory "Greg" Eddie, played by Tyler James Williams, is an aspiring principal who steps in to substitute. A shining star in the ensemble is perhaps the most absurd character — the inept Principal Ava Coleman, played by Janelle James.

Even with such a strong ensemble, the show manages to balance every character. Nicols described the strategy as playing with pairings and character dynamics. They also plan out the A-story, or the core plot of each episode, to give each personality equal weight. "We do plan out what we want the A story to be in all of the episodes," she said. "Just doing the math of 'Okay, so this character has an A story here and an A story there. So, at this point down the line, it'll be time for them to have another A story.'"

Brunson, a former content creator for BuzzFeed Video and a star of the Emmy-winning "A Black Lady Sketch Show," shines with her hilarious writing and earnest portrayal of Janine. Brunson's experience in the world of social media virality makes jokes in the show that poke fun at Gen Z phenomena feel authentic, not like something by an out-of-touch writer trying to pander to the younger generation. Another part of the show's relevancy is the younger age of adults in the writer's room. "It also protects us, because we're not trying to talk about anything we don't know about," Nicols said. "All of the little drops of NFTs or TikTok."

Nicols credited the absurdity of today's education system in crisis for some of the more off-the-rails plotlines. In one episode, Janine's student urinates on a classroom rug, and Melissa uses her questionable connections to get all teachers new

carpets from the nearby Eagles stadium construction. In another, Teachers take to TikTok to fill their school supplies wishlists. "I think that our education system right now sort of makes that world ripe for heightened situations," she said.

Although Brunson originally imagined "Abbott Elementary" as an animated series, the short-form

mockumentary sitcom was its form from the first draft to the now-live action show's release. Amid the age of streaming and bingeable seasons, a brilliant weekly half-hour network sitcom is a rare gem. Nicols views that seemingly-antiquated serialized release as an ingredient that contributed to the show's popularity. Seeing a reaction GIF of Greg on Twitter

or an internet meme of Ava on Instagram drew curiosity of first-time viewers.

Intertwined with the comedy, "Abbott Elementary" is also a tribute to the wholesome environment of primary education. Nicols' favorite storyline to write was the "roast" plot, where Jacob's students roast him, so the clueless history teacher heads to Greg for advice. She took inspiration from her own K-12 experience.

"At my school, there wasn't as much bullying as I've heard about from schools that were white," she said. "I went to Black public schools my entire life, before college, and roasting evened the playing field." She described how roasting was a tradition that prevented anyone from ganging up on a single student. Teachers, popular kids, and unpopular kids were all fair game. If someone failed to come up with a response, then others would step in to help. That's exactly what happens in the show — when Jacob can't think of a roast, Greg offers some advice.

Its grittiness, a story of teaching that gives viewers a show which is absurdly hilarious yet strangely heartwarming, is what makes "Abbott Elementary" a winner.

PROTECT THE VULNERABLE

Children, Elderly People, and Pets

Secondhand smoke endangers the health of everyone in its reach, especially children and pets, who lack the ability to change their environment.

Kids face greater risk of :

Middle ear infections

Respiratory infections

Asthma

Babies exposed to secondhand smoke have a higher rate of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)

Elderly people are at risk of :

Chronic respiratory symptoms

Asthma

Heart attacks

Weakened health

Pets are affected in the following ways :

Dogs show more instances of lung and nasal cancer

Cats living in homes with smokers have about 3x the risk of developing lymphoma

Birds develop respiratory problems, such as pneumonia and lung cancer



Santa Monica College Corsairs' Luken Galvan during the Western State Conference Track and Field Finals on the SMC Corsair Field on Friday, April 29, in Santa Monica, Calif. (Marc Federici | The Corsair)



Luken Galvan and Gabriel Schaeffer during the 4 x 400 Meter Relay at the Santa Monica College Corsair Field on Friday, April 29, in Santa Monica, Calif. (Marc Federici | The Corsair)



Santa Monica College Corsairs' Juan Hernandez keeps pace during the middle of the 5K endurance event at the SMC Corsair Field during the Western State Conference Track and Field Finals on Friday, April 29, in Santa Monica, Calif. (Marc Federici | The Corsair)

Western State Track

Celso Robles | Sports Editor

On Friday, March 29, Santa Monica College (SMC) hosted the Western State Conference Track and Field Finals for Track and Field. The WSC Finals is a track and field event for the Western State Conference of the California Community College Athletic Association. All events during the finals are single heat, and the winners advance to the Western State Championship Preliminaries. SMC students competed against teams from Allan Hancock, Antelope Valley, Bakersfield, College of the Canyons, and West LA.

"Today's kind of the best of the best and somebody here once you get to the top," said SMC Women's track coach, Heidi Hoeijer, in her first year on the SMC Women's track team, did not have any doubts about her support her teammates.

The WSC Finals began at 12:00 p.m. with field events and running events. SMC Freshman distance runner Juan Hernandez competed in the 5K event. He finished the 5K in 15:37.20, placing fourth in the WSC Preliminaries on Friday, April 22, at the College of Canyon.

"It was a great experience. I was really proud of myself," Hernandez said. Hernandez has rapidly become a solid contender for regional track and field events. In the Western State Conference Finals, Hernandez posted a time 15:37.20 in fourth place. Hernandez will represent SMC at the Western State Championship Finals.

The day concluded with the men's 4x400, SMC runners Luken Galvan and Gabriel Schaeffer. Successfully qualifying in the 5K, Hernandez is on track to compete in the 2022 at Moorpark College.



Corsair Stadium on Friday, April 29, in Santa Monica, Calif. (Nicholas McCall | The Corsair)



Santa Monica College Corsairs' Gabriel Schaeffer during the Western State Conference Track and Field Finals on the SMC Corsair Field on Friday, April 29, in Santa Monica, Calif. (Marc Federici | The Corsair)

Western State Conference Finals

sted the Western State Conference (WSC) Championship Field meet competition where schools in the Western State Conference (CCCAA) compete for regional qualification. The top six winners in each event advances to the Regional Finals. Other student-athletes from 11 inner-conference rival schools: Azusa, Cuesta, Glendale, Moorpark, Santa Barbara, Ventura and others. "It could be the day might be in the Olympics," said Freshman Malin Hoeijer. He did not qualify to participate in the WSC Finals but was there to watch the running events taking place simultaneously. Hernandez, in his first ever 10,000 meter run several weeks ago during the WSC Finals. Placing second, Hernandez commented on his placement. "I was aiming to qualify in the Men's 5K event during the WSC Finals. I was seven milliseconds (00:00.07) from placing third. I was beaten by Juan Galvan, and Oscar Mendez, Balmore Montes, and Gabriel Mendez. I will participate during the WSC Regional Finals on Friday, May 6,



Santa Monica College Corsairs' Juan Hernandez lies collapsed on the track after completing the men's 5K race during the Western State Conference Track and Field Finals on the SMC Corsair Field on Friday, April 29, in Santa Monica, Calif. (Nicholas McCall | The Corsair)

Walk Through History at Venice Heritage Museum

Sophia Elridissi | Staff Writer

Nestled on the westside of Los Angeles County is one of the most famous and notorious beachside towns in the world. Venice, Calif. is well known for its eclectic boardwalk, unique shops, and its community of artists and musicians. With around three miles of sandy beaches, Venice is a getaway unlike any other for those looking to let loose and feel free. Although there is a fascination and idolization of Venice, not many know the history behind the over 100-year-old city.

In 2018, Venice Heritage Foundation (VHF), an organization began their project of creating a new museum dedicated to the culture and history of Venice, Calif. Since their announcement, VHF has spent the last few years raising money through

events, exhibits, and shows to open the city's first-ever Venice Heritage Museum (VHM). This volunteer-led staff hopes to have VHM established and open within the next two to three years. The museum will have monthly memberships and will be free to enter, with only a suggested donation for admission, so it is accessible to all.

"The Venice Heritage Museum is intended to blend the really important cultural and sub-cultural phenomena that have come out of Venice, from art to design to music," Kristina Hoffman, Board President of VHF, said.

With the support of the community and charitable donations, the VHM plans to restore the 1905 Pacific Electric Red car trolley as the official museum space. In the early 1900s, the trolley served the Los Angeles community as public transport across

the entire region. The Short Line operated for over five decades until the county decommissioned the network of railway cars in the 1950s. This trolley will house different art which will be a mix of shadow boxes, digital displays, and literary archives. Additionally, the museum will partner with the community to collect more photographs and memorabilia for the exhibition. With Venice of American Centennial Park, at 501 S. Venice Blvd in Venice, Calif., as the home for the trolley and museum space, the park will be a hub for the community complete with a garden, sculptures, a corner stage, and an information booth.

"Venice could use more of the positive because we are all too familiar with the negative," Hoffman said. Crime and homelessness in the city has made outsiders associate those

negative issues with Venice. Instead, VHM chooses to focus on the many different eras of Venice to show how the city has developed over the course of time. VHM will guide visitors through the city's major periods since its founding on July 4, 1905, from developer Abbot Kinney's amusement park days to the post-World War II bustle to the current all-embracing city that many call home.

VHM seeks to display all of the community's interesting and inspiring history. "If we don't know where we come from, we don't know where we are," Hoffman said when asked why learning about Venice's past is important. She hopes VHM's presence will be a refreshing addition to the city. It will give Angelenos, as well as all visitors, a chance to walk through the history of the famed beach town.

Dolores Huerta Talks Abortion Advocacy

Sydney Adams-Smith | Staff Writer

Carmen Gonzalez | Culture Editor

Jackson Tammariello | News Editor

In the wake of the leaked U.S. Supreme Court majority opinion draft suggesting that *Roe v. Wade* may be overturned, Santa Monica College's (SMC) Adelante Club hosted guest speaker Dolores Huerta, a decorated civil rights organizer and labor leader, in a virtual meeting yesterday.

Huerta, who a presidential medal of honor recipient and the originator of the phrase "Sí, se puede" stated the significance of the landmark abortion case, and emphasized the importance of reproductive rights. "How many children a woman wants to have or not have, that is her personal business. Nobody should interfere with that, and it's important that we share that with our community," Huerta said.

In the meeting, Huerta talked about the importance of advocating for social justice, especially with regards to securing abortion rights. "I want to share the words of Benito Juarez he was President of Mexico, 'El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz'. Respecting other people's rights is peace," Huerta said.

Huerta also discussed how religion is used to influence legislation that restricts abortion. "A lot of us come from the Catholic religion or Evangelical religions, and unfortunately the Catholics

are using that issue of abortion to affect the political landscape. So, we've got to do whatever we can to educate our community," Huerta continued.

Another activist, Jollene Levid believes conservative politicians are using

religion. I'm gonna say veil because in most religions around the world abortions is not banned like in Judaism and in Muslim countries," Levid said. Levid is the founding chair person and currently a international committee mem-

Jewish Women, in Judaism, abortion is allowed and required if the health of the pregnant person is in jeopardy. In Islam, according to the news publication Aljazeera, a pregnant person's health should be prioritized.

Levid talked about how working class women are hit hardest by restrictions on abortions in many states, and how overturning *Roe v. Wade* would result in greater consequences. She cited her own experience of having an abortion at 24, at a time when she could barely pay rent. "I knew that if I had chosen to birth that I would not be able to pay for what a baby would need," Levid said. "I had the right to a free and safe abortion and so I exercised it. Women are now being barred from experiencing this."

At the age of 32, Levid had to have another abortion. "I was pregnant for 6 months and my baby died. The doctor said 'If you don't get an abortion, you also might die.'" Levid said "If that abortion was not free for me, I would not have been able to afford it. Women are going to die without access to free, safe and accessible abortions."

The leaked majority opinion draft has yet to be voted on by the other Supreme Court Justices but its potential effects are being felt. Huerta urged the virtual meeting attendees to become activists. Levid also advised people feeling upset over this to take a deep breath and start organizing.



An earring reading "Pro Choice" worn by a protestor outside Los Angeles City Hall yesterday, May 4. (Anna Sophia Moltke / The Corsair).

the veil of religion to center privileged and white women in the discussion of abortion "While privileged and probably white women are the ones being centered in this discussion and the debate around abortion with the veil of

ber for AF3IRM, a transnational feminist women's organization.

Although there is difference in opinion with between Jewish and Muslim scholars, both religions allow abortions. According to the National Council of

Softball Season Finished: Losses and Learning Experiences



SMC Corsairs Melea Comay pitching against the Ventura College Pirates at John Adams Middle School. The Corsairs lost 0-17 April 26, in Santa Monica, Calif. (Nicholas McCall | The Corsair)



Santa Monica College Corsairs Jacklyn Neely (21) strikes the ball against Ventura College at John Adams middle school in Santa Monica Calif. on April 26 (Adrian Chan | The Corsair)

Celso Robles | Sports Editor

Santa Monica College's (SMC) Softball team played their final two games last week at home and concluded their spring season. In the team's first season back since 2020, the SMC Corsairs finished with a record of 1-16.

The final two games took place at John Adams Middle School on Tuesday, March 26 and Wednesday, March 27. SMC faced the Ventura College Pirates on Tuesday and the Chaffey College Panthers on Wednesday. SMC dropped both games with respective scores of 17-0 and 8-0. Despite the losses and SMC's overall record, Head Coach Chris Druckman could only be proud of her team.

"I can see that every player has made some growth and at the end of the season that's all you can ask," said Druckman. "That's what we strive for."

The Corsairs faced many obstacles this season, as Druckman noted that the team had a small roster of only 12

players, while other teams had significantly larger rosters. As a result, many players on the team had to learn and play multiple positions through multiple games because of the lack of roster depth and injuries on the team. For some players on the team, playing softball was a relatively new experience.

"Three of my girls have been playing since August," said Druckman. "My pitcher has only been playing two years and that's pretty impressive...you gotta give props where props are due."

She also mentioned that the Corsairs started their season later than other teams did and claimed that this directly held the team back. Their first 10 games were also cancelled, which limited the team's opportunities at in-game experience even more. The Corsairs only played in 16 games this entire season while each of the other teams in their same conference played in at least 35 games.

"We were already behind," said Druckman. "We normally play 40

games so it's a big difference"

Druckman was focused on the positives of the season and ecstatic after Wednesday's game. SMC made some great catches and a couple of double plays while battling a Chaffey College team that is first in their conference with a 28-12 record. Druckman believes the team played their best game of the season against Chaffey and hopes the entire team returns as every player is eligible to play another season.

The season-defining characteristic of the SMC softball team was their positive attitude, as the Corsairs were always loudly supportive of each other for every game, regardless of what inning it was or what the score was. Throughout the season, Druckman recalled multiple instances of opposing fans and coaches, umpires, and even athletic directors of SMC commending the Corsairs' great attitude and sportsmanship.

"It's a common theme with these girls," said Druckman. "They know what

they're up against and they're not making excuses."

Freshman Middle Infielder and Catcher Rafaela Reyes, who played the last three games of the season with a partially-torn ACL, reflected on the season.

"It was a very learning experience for all of us," said Reyes. "We're the best losing team just because we always have a positive mindset."

Freshman Pitcher Rachel Nochebuena, who's only played softball for two years, also reflected on this season.

"I'm feeling a bit sad but kinda relieved at the same time," said Nochebuena. "My body kinda hurts from pitching every single game but it was fun."

Nochebuena mentioned that she wishes for more rest time as she's set to play travel softball soon. She had two final words to share when it was time to leave the softball field:

"Go Corsairs!"

Upcoming Games





MAY 5, 2022

All Day- Swimming & Diving
Santa Monica vs. CCCAA State Championships

MAY 6, 2022

All Day - Swimming & Diving
Santa Monica vs. CCCAA State Championships

All Day - Track & Field
Santa Monica vs. So Cal Prelims
at Moorpark College





MAY 7, 2022

All Day - Swimming & Diving
Santa Monica vs. CCCAA State Championships

TBA - Women's Tennis
Santa Monica vs. TBA at Mt. San Antonio College

Illustration by Gavin Quinton | The Corsair