

Cerritos College stays online for Fall



KIANNA ZNIKA/TM

A sudden change: Olivia Medrano, a Cerritos College student and single mother of two daughters, returned to school to finish her education after 20 years. However, the decision to stay online has proven difficult for her as she isn't familiar with working through a computer.

Sean Davis
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Cerritos College President Dr. Jose Fierro announced preliminary plans for continuing online learning through the Fall 2020 semester, with allowances made for certain in-person lab classes.

At the Board of Trustees meeting on May 6, President Fierro offered three proposed solutions for handling the transition into the summer and fall semester.

First was a return to campus like business as usual, followed by the second option consisting of a rotation schedule for the classes on campus and continuing online lecture classes with some on-campus lab classes.

The third option was agreed upon by the board as the best option for the foreseeable future, and will be applied going forward.

In an email on May 8, Fierro said “the general consensus from the Board and from our group leaders is that we will mostly continue to operate in an online format in the fall semester, with some notable exceptions.”

Lab classes considered incapable in transitioning to an online environment are the exceptions to this decision.

Such classes include physical science courses, in which conducting in person labs makes up a key portion of the curriculum, and without it students would lack the hands on experience needed to apply knowledge into the real world.

These classes will be divided into two groups: Group One, consisting of CTE and Health Occupation labs, while Group Two will be made up of “on-hand” labs such as Chemistry and Physics.

The on-campus lab classes will be phased in beginning with Group One.

These classes will see changes, such as the restriction on class sizes and social distancing practices. They will also continue to feature online lectures, only meeting in-person for lab portions.

The school administration will only allow the on-campus meetings of Group Two “as the fall semester approaches [and] if we find that the health data is favorable.”

The reasoning for the continuation of online teaching is to “maintain a low number of individuals on campus” to “en-

sure adequate PPE and safe sanitization procedures.”

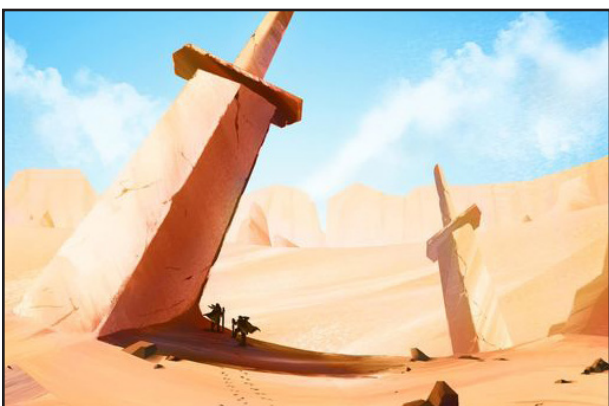
Classes, in addition to a decrease in size, may see “additional procedures such as... health questionnaires and temperature checks.”

This decision to continue online learning was made, according to Fierro, as

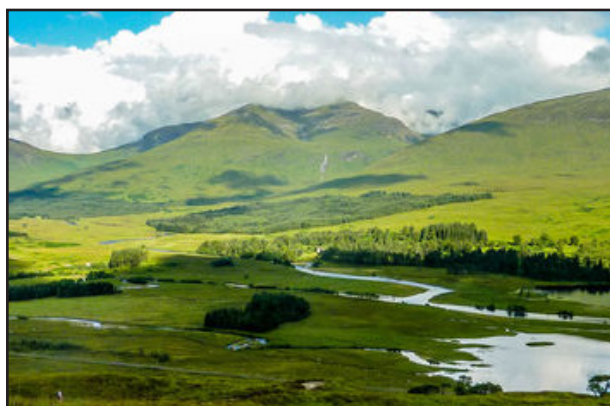
“It is very likely that as we start seeing more people go out and about... the cases of COVID-19 will increase... which could potentially impact our students, faculty, staff [and] administrators.”

“Most of us will continue to do our work remotely... because we want to ensure the continued health of each other and our students,” Fierro said.

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ONLINE: Cerritos continues online learning

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During the May 6 meeting, he said “It is better to take a conservative approach, in this case. It is not a race. It is not about opening first.”

While the Board was overall very supportive of this proposal, some members described potential challenges that may need addressing to facilitate a smooth transition. Concerns included the difficulty of transitioning to online only for some faculty, as not all members have equal ac-

cess to everything they may need going forward.

Faculty Senate President April Bracamontes said that while most faculty members agreed with the decision to remain online, some were struggling with the heavy technological load required to maintain effective online teaching.

Some lack the resources needed, like web cameras and microphones, which are necessary to participate in zoom calls, as without these devices addressing students becomes a chal-

lenge, as having communication outside of just the chat or screen sharing is crucial to a good learning environment.

Others expressed concern for students who lacked the same equipment to work with, as they would be unable to ask questions outside of the chat, where questions often go unnoticed or unanswered.

Other concerns, regarding testing of students and faculty, amongst other individual and group concerns were addressed by Dr. Fierro throughout the du-

ration of the meeting.

“We ordered laser thermometers to begin implementing temperature checks... [and] as we get closer to reopening, we can obviously always explore the possibility of the testing.

You make an appointment... you should be able to get a test at some point,” he said.

While some students and faculty have expressed numerous frustrations with the continued online learning and stay at home procedures that are in place, Board Trustee Zurich Lewis said

that “Opening up, whenever that does happen, is going to happen when it’s the right time not because... it’s what we want to do to look [like] everything is perfectly fine.”

Students and faculty can expect these decisions not to change unless drastic improvements to the pandemic occur. As the fall 2020 semester continues, meetings will be held in order to decide the future of classes, as well as the future of other campus events and all other related academic programs.

Cerritos College brings new multimedia degree to light



KIANNA ZNIKA/TM

New pathway: Cerritos College is introducing a new transfer degree based in Filmmaking, Television, and Electronic Media. The new degree will prepare students for an ever changing media landscape.

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Cerritos College’s newest degree in Film, Television, and Electronic Media will debut in the Fall 2020 semester, preparing students in various elements of multimedia, including social media.

“The new degree in film, television, and electronic media gives Cerritos College students an amazing opportunity to learn about the creative industries from our talented faculty,” Dr.

Gary Pritchard, Dean of Fine Arts and Communications, said.

The degree was approved by the state in February and was publicly announced in a press release on May 11.

The release states, “the new program will prepare students with hands-on skills to produce digital video, podcasts, and webcasts in the era of YouTube, TikTok and other emerging platforms, in addition to film productions, live television, radio programming, and all that pertains to audio and visual content.”

The new Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) degree re-

quires 18 units in major courses and 60 transferable units in general education courses and electives.

Department chair of Mass Communications Christian Brown stated he hopes students will apply, as it is an AS-T guarantees the student admission to the California State University system.

“All the evidence shows it’s a popular degree statewide,” Brown said.

He explained that there are many other schools that offer the degree, such as City College of San Francisco, so he wanted to take charge of building the pro-

gram at Cerritos College.

“Smartphones have re-wired our world,” Brown said. “In Los Angeles County, the epicenter of media industries and technology, we owe it to our students to offer an academic program that trains a new generation of storytellers who will one day produce high-quality entertainment, news and social content on apps and digital-only platforms.”

The degree will offer students a diverse variety of courses, such as film production, history of mass media, and video/audio broadcasting.

With these courses, Brown is confident the students will know

how to produce film and TV segments, write and record audio pieces.

His long term goal is that a new professor will come in to help oversee the degree and perhaps create a separate weekly show that could potentially collaborate with the Talon Marks newspaper.

“So it can be like one big mass media thing. We have the paper, website, podcast, and some type of show,” Brown added, explaining the collaboration will bring all different majors together.

For those interested in the degree, please contact Christian Brown at cbrown@cerritos.edu.

California Community Colleges sue Betsy DeVos over student relief aid restrictions

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California Community Colleges filed a lawsuit against Betsy DeVos' Department of Education over guidelines attached to the \$6 billion fund allocated by Congress in the CARES Act for student relief.

The lawsuit, filed May 12, accuses the Department of Education of applying unconstitutional restrictions on pandemic relief money intended to help students during the Coronavirus outbreak.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra will represent the Board of Governors and Community Colleges, Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley.

The Department of Education guidelines mandate only distributing funds to students who have applied for federal financial aid.

This ruling prevents, among others, undocumented students with DACA (Deferred Action Childhood Arrival) status and students who haven't completed their GED from accessing relief aid.

"The Department of Education ignored the intent of the CARES Act to give local colleges discretion to aid students most affected by the pandemic," Oakley said. "Instead [they have] arbitrarily excluded as many as 800,000 community college students."

800,000 students represent about 40% of the 2 million students enrolled in California



Education Secretary: Betsy DeVos during a briefing on the coronavirus pandemic along with members of the Coronavirus Task Force at the White House in Washington, D.C., on Friday, March 27, 2020.

community colleges.

"Among those harmed are veterans, citizens who have not completed a federal financial aid application, and non-citizens, including those with DACA status... The California Community Colleges serves an estimated 70,000 undocumented students, many of whom have DACA status," Chancellor Oakley stated.

The Department of Education has argued that "there is no persuasive legal support for the proposition that Congress intended the CARES Act to create an entitlement for DACA recipi-

ents and others who are otherwise ineligible for federal public benefits."

California Community Colleges accuse Secretary DeVos of initially taking "the position that this emergency relief is available for all students" but "later [issuing] guidance that took the position that only students eligible for federal financial aid... may receive emergency federal assistance."

The lawsuit states that "on or about April 21, 2020" the Department of Education "drastically changed its interpretation

of the CARES Act without acknowledging its prior position."

This previously established position, according to the suit, was that colleges "have 'significant discretion' on how to allocate Student Assistance to students, and that 'each institution may develop its own system and process... which may include distributing the funds to all students... who demonstrate significant need'"

Chancellor Oakley and the CCC contend that "there is no provision in the CARES Act that sets eligibility requirements or

provides the Secretary of Education with the discretion to do so."

The CARES Act allocated \$14 billion in relief aid to higher education institutions across the country with half set aside for direct student relief.

Cerritos College has received \$12 million in aid from CARES.

Senate VP of Student Services, Dr. Dilcie Perez, had previously stated that the school "plan[s] on using almost \$3.5 million to distribute to almost 9,000 students."

Cerritos College President Jose Fierro has previously called the restrictions mandated by the Department of Education a "problem" and the interpretation of the CARES Act "extremely narrow."

"I do not know if this lawsuit will overturn the current guidelines. However, it is a step in the right direction," he said. "We at Cerritos College found a way to support all of our students, including those who were not included in the CARES Act and we will continue to advocate for ALL of our students."

Marisa Perez, president of the Cerritos College Board of Trustees, stated, "My colleagues and I on the Board of Trustees share the Chancellor's passion for fighting for resources to help all of our students, especially those that come from vulnerable and underrepresented groups."

"We will be closely monitoring this case, and are ready to lend our support to advance this effort if it [is] needed," she added.

Cerritos College disburses \$12 million in aid

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In a Faculty Senate meeting over Zoom, the President and Superintendent of Cerritos College, Dr. Jose Fierro, shared the college's plan to allocate over \$12 million in federal aid to students in need.

The funds are provided as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, that distributed roughly \$14 billion to colleges and universities using a formula based on student enrollment.

The Faculty Senate discussed the various methods that the college will use to disperse the funds, starting with an immediate distribution of emergency aid checks.

To limit the spread of COVID-19, Cerritos College suspended all activities on March 13, transitioning to an online-only learning format as of March 30.

Students have since then been receiving instruction via video-conference program Zoom and Canvas as colleges and institutions across the nation remain closed indefinitely.

"The main obligation of the CARES Act is to keep students engaged and allocate dollars directly to them," Dr. Fierro said.

According to Senate VP of Student Services Dr. Dilcie Perez, the initial disbursement will come in the form of an undisclosed amount with a maximum of \$5000 to all students who qualify.

The senate plans to provide "case-by-case" support.

Perez explained the "Spring 2020 distribution will happen in a week or so. Our goal is to support as many students as possible. So we plan on using almost \$3.5 million to distribute to almost 9,000 students. This represents about 56% of the funding."

Administrators decided that the remaining 33% (about

\$2.2 million) of funds from the CARES Act will go towards another distribution in the Fall semester.

Dean of Student Services Dr. Elizabeth Miller, who joined Cerritos College in 2017, will oversee the emergency aid application process.

The CARES Act does contain limitations due to the efforts of the current Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, who enforced criterion that effectively blocks undocumented and international students from receiving funds.

Dr. Fierro also pointed out that only students that are already eligible for Federal Financial aid or FAFSA can receive the assistance.

By using FAFSA qualification guidelines, the CARES Act is estimated to exclude nearly 1.5 million students from receiving emergency assistance.

"The main problem that we have seen is particularly to undocumented students who

seem to have a higher need at this time," Fierro said. "But this administration has made a point of leaving immigrants out of any type of stimulus dollars from the CARES act."

The Senate raised additional concerns regarding the "vague" phrasing of certain guidelines in an April 21 letter from the Department of Education.

It instructs college and university presidents to use the funds provided only "to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the Coronavirus."

This means that employees that do not teach will not be able to receive aid either.

Dr. Fierro argued that this "interpretation is extremely narrow. The changes to the delivery of instruction involves all faculty and all staff. They make it possible."

The college is reaching out to the District Chancellor Eloy

Oakley and federal partners for further clarification.

In the weeks following the Stay At Home order, Cerritos College has made efforts to provide resources to students such as purchasing and distributing laptops and encouraging students to apply for emergency grants if they have experienced a loss of income.

"The emergency aid provided to students is made possible through resources such as the Cerritos College Foundation funds and Student Equity funds." Dr. Perez explained, who reported the progress of the emergency aid distribution on April 9.

President Fierro commended the Faculty Senate for their continued efforts.

"We are doing well, and I think this is one of the finest moments of Cerritos College," he said. "The way that everyone has come together to support each other and their communities has been exemplary."

COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2020

U.S. Air Force Graphic by Rosario "Charo" Gutierrez

Community Updates : With the extension of the Safer-at-Home order, many people are left without information. TalonMarks continues to provide weekly updates to local communities as of May 18, 2020.

Local community updates for the week of May 18

Edgar Mendoza
Community Editor

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Following an update to the Los Angeles County Safer-at-Home order, residents will continue to practice physical distancing of at least six feet apart and proceed with the regulations previously set to expire on May 15.

This extension has arrived alongside the announcement of more phase two reopenings across the county.

While we are encouraged to stay home whenever possible, numerous cities have slowly begun opening retailers and others have reopened recreational facilities

This list covers all changes for the week of May 18, as we continue to practice safety measures, to ensure we all remain safe and healthy.

All Cities

A new Health Officer Order was issued on May 13 that replaces the previous Health Officer Order (which was set to expire on May 15) and allows for lower-risk businesses and select recreational facilities and beaches to reopen.

All retailers that are not located in an indoor mall or shopping center are able to reopen for curbside, door-side, outside pickup or delivery only.

The public is not allowed to go inside.

Manufacturing and logistic businesses that supply retail businesses may also reopen.

Before retail businesses, manufacturing and logistic businesses reopen, they are required to prepare, implement and post their plan for adhering to directives including distancing and infection control practices that protect both employees and customers.

Beaches can reopen for active recreation including running, walking, swimming and surfing. However, group sports and activities like picnicking and sunbathing are not permitted and parking lots, bike paths, piers, and boardwalks, remain closed to the public as they are considered high risk areas.

This health order has no set end date, and will be changed according to the results of allowing businesses to resume

normal operations. All changes will be covered in future weekly updates.

Bellflower

Select recreational facilities are reopening and the Bellflower Parks & Recreation Department is assessing how this impacts the city's facilities. There will be updates early next week regarding which facilities and other recreational centers may potentially open in the near future.

The Downtown Bellflower parking structure was ceremoniously opened with an official ribbon-cutting event on May 13.

The new four-level parking structure was completed over the past 18 months and features 278 free parking spaces, new landscaping, electric vehicle charging stations and a smart-park system.

The new parking guidance system will utilize smart-sensor technology and cameras to display available parking stalls upon entry.

This feature is convenient and time-saving for visitors shopping downtown and attending events at The Mayne Events Center and SteelCraft, both located across the street from the structure.

Lakewood

In view of the extension of the recent update to health orders, no parking citations will be issued related to residential street sweeping, at least through May 31.

The city is asking residents to still be mindful and move their cars whenever possible.

The city will be hosting a virtual Memorial Day ceremony on May 25. Those interested can visit the event website, or may also view the virtual Memorial Day Ceremony on television at 11 a.m. on Channel 31 on Spectrum Cable and Frontier Communications, or AT&T U-Verse on Channel 99.

The event will include poem reading, a choir, a moment of silence as well as various performances that will recreate Lakewood's long standing tradition.

If you think someone is planning to sell or use illegal fireworks, or know of a location that regularly uses illegal fireworks, call Lakewood City Hall's Illegal Fireworks

Tipline at 562-866-9771, extension 7233 (SAFE) or email Service1@lakewoodcity.org prior to July 4. You can keep your tip confidential.

To report use in progress, residents are encouraged to call their local sheriff.

Cerritos

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the city's moratorium on overnight parking restrictions will be extended through Monday, June 15.

The moratorium on "no parking during street sweeping" will also be extended through the same date.

During this time, citations will not be issued for violating the city's ordinance requiring an overnight parking permit or for parking on a public street during restricted times for street sweeping.

The city is developing a plan to implement the required protocols to reopen the Iron-Wood Nine Golf Course and tennis and pickleball courts, with more updates expected in a few weeks time.

Norwalk

The Norwalk community is invited to participate in a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex on May 21 to help ensure an adequate supply of blood for individuals facing serious illnesses or medical emergencies.

Healthy, eligible individuals are encouraged to donate to avoid potential shortages due to COVID-19.

The blood drive is sponsored by the City of Norwalk and Norwalk Pony Baseball, and will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Sproul Room.

Donors may schedule their appointments online at www.redcrossblood.org using the sponsor code "NorwalkStrong."

Those who register will also receive a free T-shirt for participating.

The City of Norwalk will be hosting a virtual Memorial Day tribute on Monday, May 25.

The event will honor the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

The tribute will include a moment of silence to honor those whose lives have been lost, special messages from all of the

city council members and the ceremonial laying of the wreath, as well as other events intended to fill the gap left by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Memorial Day tribute will air at 11 a.m. on Facebook, Instagram and the local access channel, Charter Channel 3 or Verizon Fios Channel 32.

Paramount

City Council Meetings are now live-streamed and archived on YouTube and Spectrum Cable TV Channel 36.

Members of the public wanting to address the City Council, either during public comments or for a specific agenda item, or both, may do so by the following methods:

E-mail: crequest@paramountcity.com
Teleconference: (562) 220-2225

The city has created a detailed guide on how to participate.

Teleconference participants will be logged in, placed in a queue and called back during the City Council meeting on speakerphone to provide their comments.

Persons speaking are limited to a maximum of three minutes unless an extension is granted.

Please be mindful that the teleconference will be recorded as any other person is recorded when appearing before the City Council, and all other rules of procedure and decorum will apply when addressing the City Council by teleconference.

In regards to COVID-19 policies and regulations, all prior updates are still in effect such as street sweeping, overnight parking and more.

Downey

The city has not issued any city-specific updates or regulation and as such is following the regulations put forth by the state.

All street sweeping, water bill, eviction and otherwise related moratoriums and policies are still in effect.

The Mayor has not yet issued an update; however, they are expected to soon and this section will be updated once they have been issued.

Bellflower unveils New Hope Shelter

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The city of Bellflower has finalized the creation of its new homeless shelter, following a community poll taken to decide the name.

The temporary services shelter, which has been named “New Hope,” will open next month at 8833 Cedar Street in Bellflower.

The facility will include a reception and welcoming area, as well as a common room with a fully-equipped kitchen, a laundry area and restrooms and showers.

The shelter has been stated to have designated sleep areas for couples, women and men as well as a large personal belongings storage area.

For those with pets, the shelter will also have a designated area for them.

Mayor Juan Garza has stated the shelter will be “a tremendous source of pride for our City, to take care of our own, as well as a huge symbol of hope and rebirth for so many in our community.”

The shelter will be equipped to serve up to 50 homeless individuals at a time, and will be managed and operated by Mercy House.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Temporary Assistance: Homelessness has been continually on the rise. To combat this, Bellflower unveiled their plans for a new homeless shelter on May 1, 2020.

Mercy House will provide 24-hour security, supervision, metal detectors and transportation for those staying in the shelter.

The shelter was constructed following a citywide survey conducted in October 2018, which showed that 74% of Bellflower residents felt that homelessness was the most serious problem impacting their community.

Those seeking support and

housing from the new temporary services shelter must first prove that they are from the city of Bellflower.

Those from other cities will not be granted access or assistance from the shelter.

The shelter will be what has been deemed a “low barrier” shelter, with only those referred to the location by the LA County Sheriff, CityNet, or other City-

approved service providers being allowed entry.

Upon arrival at the shelter, the on-site administrator will conduct background checks for felony and warrant systems and check the sex offender registry in order to keep the location safe.

Persons who may show signs of mental illness, but who are able to follow the law and behave within the guidelines set by the

city and service provider may be admitted.

There will be no walk-in or walk-out privileges at the shelter, as they will be transported via vehicles.

Bellflower residents will not be seeing any increased taxes or fees to fund this shelter, as it has been fully funded by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the City of Bellflower.

Norwalk-La Mirada schools set to potentially close

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Following periods of low enrollment, in part due to home and private schooling, the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District has begun looking to consolidate schools, shutting those with low enrollment down permanently, in order to boost overall numbers across the district.

Several schools, including DD Johnson, have been considered for consolidation, with parents and the community coming out in opposition to the closings.

As an anonymous source states, “I feel that closing schools, we do need it. But I feel it’s not the right time right now because of this pandemic. Right now I don’t think it’s the right time to do consolidating of the schools. As a parent, I would ask to wait.”

Some schools such as DD

Johnson have started a petition to stop their school from closing, with over 1,600 people rallying to show their support.

Reasons behind the petition include the fact that DD Johnson is one of few schools to have a dedicated special needs program, which parents believe to have not been taken into account when considering which schools to consolidate.

Josie Aguila, who initially created the petition to save DD Johnson, but has now started a district wide movement, states “it’s not the only school that’s being potentially closed, it’s one in five elementaries.

“The reason is because they are restructuring, and there’s not enough students. They need to close some of the schools and have them go to other ones.”

The schools that will be consolidated will not close until the next academic year, seeing as the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented students from attending classes in person for the foreseeable future.

Ana Galindo, an eight-year resident of Norwalk, stated, “It freaks me out. I feel like we had



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Closures: The decision to consolidate schools came without warning to parents who would be directly involved, or to the general public. Suggestions on which schools to potentially close were taken at a city meeting held on May 7, 2020.

finally built our home there [Johnson]. Everything revolves around their schooling. We decided to come back to norwalk, and everything was based on where they felt comfortable.”

She went on to address her worries as a parent, stating “my main concern is, honestly, because we were there and we like it so much and it’s the only dual school.

“This throws our plan off. What happens now with the

elementary? And my girls are barely starting. And also where we live it would be far to walk to another school and there’s only one car at a home. It’s a longer distance to go to school and having to move the girls around. I don’t think it’s fair. Are we going to jam other school’s classrooms? What are the kids going to take from it? Kids had to be pulled out for individual attention. Going to another school that already has enough students is a main

concern. Big classes with just one teacher.”

Many parents share these concerns, and it remains to be seen just how much of an impact these petitions and meetings will have on the decisions made by the district on school closures.

The final decision in regards to closure is expected to arrive in a matter of a few weeks, and regular updates will follow as more information becomes available.

Bajito y Suavecito: Cinco de Mayo Lowrider cruise

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Nothing compares like an afternoon cruise in a custom 1971 SS Impala.

Sundays in East Los Angeles are known for carne asadas and cruises down the boulevard as the sun sets behind the skyline.

The Cinco de Mayo cruise had almost over 1,000 cars driving throughout the historical area of Downtown Los Angeles and into the popular Whittier Boulevard in East Los Angeles all the way up until 2 a.m!

A community of custom lowriders, motorcycles and bomber cars were all present and ready to show off their chromed-out pieces of art, which dazzled many of the spectators who were caught in the parade of lowriders.

Lowriders can date back all the way to the late 1940's, as Southern California chicanos created a new kind of car style that was playful and showed pride within the Mexican-American community that thrives in Los Angeles.

Ever since then, it has created generations of passed down lowriders and traditional boulevard cruises con la familia.

It's a subculture that has caught many eyes around the world and that inspires many to start a project that could ultimately live through generation after generation.

Many of these cars have had thousands of dollars put into them, which definitely calls for a summer cruise in order to show off those chrome jobs and extremely detailed pinstripes.

Mostly everyone at these car events play oldies, or known here in Los Angeles as Chicano oldies.

These songs can range from classic Motown to doo-wop's to old school 80's which makes the atmosphere even better to be around for other people who love to just take a cruise and admire music and cars.

Hollywood films typically tend to have lowriders associated with gang violence but these cruise are far from even being closely related to gangs.

These cruises are always meant for family and friends to gather around and enjoy each others' company.

Violence is not an option at lowriders cruise; only peace.

Many car clubs attend cruises which allows a lot more of variety of car collections within the lowrider community.

It also gives some inspiration

to future lowrider enthusiasts.

East Los Angeles is always filled with lowriders and custom bomber cars that seems to be a part of the growing subculture.

Younger faces are seen with cars that only their parents or grandparents were seen driving these when they were adolescent teens.

This cruise event took place even with the serious COVID-19 pandemic going on right now that forbids mass gatherings throughout the nation, so some people were a bit skeptical to attend or others might get the wrong idea.

However, people kept their distance and yes, people were wearing masks and gloves as they parked their cars and walked around to check out the other cars that were present.

Many people ended up parking at the Target on Whittier Boulevard just to get a closer look at all the detail that these mesmerizing cars had. This allows many car collectors to ask questions regarding the art work and paint jobs.

Some were so shiny and chromed out that you could see your reflection clear as day.

It's definitely a sight to see as kid, hearing loud music and admiring glistening classic cars.



REBECCA AGUILA/TM

Cruising : The Cinco de Mayo cruise had nearly 1,000 cars driving throughout the historical area of Downtown Los Angeles and into the popular Whittier Boulevard in East Los Angeles all the way until 2 a.m. The event was held May 5, 2020.



COURTESY OF GEORGE M. LOULAKIS

Music from home: George Loulakis, music major, has had to adapt to online learning. He has the necessary equipment at home to practice.

Music Department struggles to harmonize with online-teaching

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“Because of COVID-19 all of my classes that are performance-based were all cancelled so music majors aren’t able to do what they love and what they are going to school for anymore”, Mya Sanchez, a music major, stated.

She expressed that having music classes transferred to Zoom has been difficult since music classes aren’t classes that are able to be taught remotely.

She said she was fortunate to have her own piano at home, but “not having a teacher’s assistance to support you through learning different music pieces has made quality of learning decrease greatly.”

Sanchez mentioned that music students have been doing written assignments just so they can have a grade by the end of the semester.

“I am asked to do written discussion assignments, essays, and playing assignments, so I need to record a piece I learned and turn it in,” she said.

Traditionally in music-performing ensembles, they get together and everything happens in real time.

They create music, have immediate feedback and they collaborate in real time, as explained by David Betancourt, the director of bands and orchestra.

Due to COVID-19, all of that has changed for Cerritos College music students and professors.

“Even with all the great technology that there is right now, there’s not the technology to put music together in real time,” Betancourt said.

Betancourt expressed that he is aware students are going through a lot and every student is taking other classes

and would find it unfair to the students if they were to change everything on the curriculum.

“I think we have to be realistic and contextual and what we offer,” he said.

He shared that he is offering his students different kinds of projects and assignments that really help them focus on what they can do at home on their own.

“There’s not the technology to put music together in real time.”

—David Betancourt

He is also giving out assignments that allows the students to collaborate to keep engaging with one-another.

According to him, he also communicates with them and students have discussion forums so they can talk to each other.

One of the benefits of online learning, according to Betancourt, is that students complete their work asynchronously.

“I do a lot of announcements on Canvas to remind them, ‘Hey don’t forget to do this, Don’t forget to do that,’” he said.

Betancourt shared that he has taught online before for several years.

“I think it’s really important on online learning, just like in face-to-face that you establish those channels of easy communication, a space where they can trust the communication and the consistency of it.”

“But also thinking about all the changes that are happening right now, not to try to do exactly what you used to do face-to-face. I don’t care what

class you’re teaching, if you try to do exactly what you were doing, face-to-face, it’s going to be such a change for the students and we’re here to serve students,” Betancourt said.

The biggest challenge students have been sharing is “discipline and self-motivation to keep a routine and to keep moving forward,” Betancourt said.

To help his students, Betancourt explained he had them establish a Monday through Friday schedule of when they want to get up, go to bed, things they want to get done in the day and how much time will they spend on them.

Musically, they have also established a practice schedule.

Betancourt mentioned that a positive thing from the situation is that they have been getting to know each other more because now they get to talk about other things besides what is in class. They have also been getting more sleep.

The music department currently will keep all of their concerts cancelled, including the students showcase in which the best applied students perform and scholarships are given out.

“We’re still planning to give the scholarship to the students, just that there’s not going to be a showcase or any great way to get them all in the room together,” Betancourt said.

“We’ll find some other way to acknowledge them to give scholarships for the spring term. That’s when we do it just in the spring and give it to them before the spring term is completed.”

George Loulakis, music major, expressed he was lucky to complete his performing assignments before everything was moved online.

Read more at [Talonmarks.com](https://www.talonmarks.com)

Zoinks! 'SCOOB!' leaves fans despondent with cynical plot

REVIEW



Oscar Torres
Staff Writer
@05CART0RR35

SPOILER ALERT!

“SCOOB!” had the promise of being an excellent film but all the issues plaguing it make this a sorry excuse for the franchise.

“SCOOB!” is a 2020 animated film based on Scooby-Doo and is considered an origin story for the characters of Mystery Inc.

The plot of this film revolves around Scooby meeting Shaggy, Velma, Daphne and Fred as they spent years together solving mysteries.

An issue happens between them, which leaves Scooby and Shaggy alone and being attacked by a group of robots led by Dick Dastardly.

The Blue Falcon saves them and tells them that Scooby is the key to the treasure.

Now, Scooby and Shaggy must team up with the Blue Falcon to stop Dick Dastardly from unlocking the key to the underworld while having the rest of the gang looking for their friends.

The plot was generic as many cliches surround the movie, with the group getting separated over an argument, a generic villain who wants the main character to join him and to steal an ancient treasure and with the two best friends arguing over their views of friendship.

The jokes are rarely funny, though. It’s good that there isn’t a single fart joke in the film.

The rest won’t make adults laugh, though the jokes did have some friends call back to the cartoon with the gags being familiar to spot.

The side characters do not work and aren’t appealing to the audience, as nothing functional or appealing happens to them.

The Blue Falcon’s character is the most disliked while watching the movie, as many people did not like the way he acted throughout the whole film.

The voice acting is pretty bad as its delivery for every line of dialogue is either going too fast or just doesn’t sound right.

It’s already bad enough that the studio replaced long-time voice actors from the cartoon with celebrity actors.

It makes it seem like a big corporate marketing gag to get people who are fans of those celebrities into watching the film.

It just feels wrong to throw away people that have been doing this for years, only to use actors that many would recognize for marketing purposes.

The animation was, albeit ,really fantastic as many have never seen how fluent the animation looked in a long time.

The facial expressions looked well made with over a ton of them being nice-looking.

The movement is also really well done as it felt like it takes from the animation from the past cartoons.

The callbacks to previous Hanna Barbara cartoons are a plus as well, giving fans a small taste of their Cinematic Universe with these characters.

Sadly it seems like many aren’t interested in this series to continue as it lacks build-up and moves straight into the team-up aspect, which was something that the Mummy (2017) did, and that failed, leaving that cinematic universe down the drain.

This film is a one out of five stars.

It could have been amazing but it fails to deliver because of its boring plot, unlikable voice actors, and pacing issues.

It’s just one series that should strictly stick to TV cartoons.

Rating



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

'SCOOB!': Film based on the character of the same name. It is supposed to be the start of the Hanna Barbara Cinematic Universe.

Dance students use Zoom to adapt to the rhythm of quarantine

Rocio Valdez
A & E Editor
@talonmarks

COVID-19 has affected performance-based dance classes. It has been quite an adjustment for the dance students to transfer to online classes.

Samuel Macias, dance major, expressed he enjoys being able to dance during these times, stating “the biggest challenge is I’m at home so I find myself lacking motivation to set up my Zoom class and dance.”

Macias expressed that even though he has lost some motivation to get up every day and dance, he is “inspired when my professors just do the best they can to make it as normal as possible is such a crazy time.”

“Ballet requires a bar to use, so not having that makes it hard. The space is a challenge, too, because I am constantly hitting my feet so finding a good space is really hard,” Macias said.

He shared he enjoys still being able to dance and seeing his friends and professors through Zoom.

Daniel Berney, dance professor, mentioned that an advantage he had when it came to accommodating his classes to an online format was that he was already using Canvas to teach dance history and dance appreciation

online.

He mentioned that the ballet class students already had a Canvas folder where they would do quizzes and concert critique.

Berney stated that for a ballet class, the breaking point of exhaustion is about an hour and a half, so his online classes usually runs for that amount of time.

“We’re not in the studio environment where we’re taking a break, getting a drink, putting the bars away, it is just constant,” Berney said.

“The students are working in their living rooms, bedrooms, environments that are not realistic.”
-Daniel Berney

A challenge, according to Berney, is that some dance professors had to go on a fast learning curve to learn how to use Canvas to have a place to put their assignments.

Berney expressed he had to invest in technology to be able to successfully teach through Zoom.

“Out of my own pocket I had to go buy a tripod, an HDMI cable, an iPod because I had to use my phone for the Zoom because my computer wasn’t going to be able to see me completely when

I’m dancing,” he explained.

He mentioned another challenge for himself, as well as for his students, is trying to find a good space to dance at home.

“The students are working in their living rooms, bedrooms, environments that are not realistic,” Berney said.

Berney explained that his ballet class was, for the most part, able to accommodate because it can be relatively taught in place but they have lost a few center combinations since they ran out of space.

“Students seem to be doing the best they can. I don’t have anybody telling me, ‘No I can’t do it because of the environment I’m in’, so that is encouraging,” Berney said.

Not having the adequate dance-friendly flooring has also become worrisome to Berney.

“I do not want them being compromised with their lower extremities so we have to modify the amount of jumping that we would normally do in a class based on the fact that we are in an environment that is not conducive to dance and jump.”

Diana Avalos, communications and dance major, shared that for the most part she hasn’t had difficulties adjusting to her now-online dance classes but expressed it is more challenging to put in the effort to log in because

the timing interferes with her schedule.

She mentioned that the most challenging thing for her is not being in an actual studio.

“For me, being surrounded by people brings me energy and support, so being in my house and trying to do everything in my room gets difficult,” Avalos said.

Avalos shared that her professors have been really understand-

ing, stating “It is really nice to know it is not just you going through that, it is also your professors. One of my professors told us it is okay to be frustrated, mad or whatever we are feeling. It is fine [to] just get up, get a pillow and scream.”

Jasmen Mendoza, English literature and dance major, said “dance class overall being online now is really hard.”

Read more at [Talonmarks.com](https://www.talonmarks.com)



COURTESY OF SAMUEL MACIAS

Dancing through quarantine: Samuel Macias, dance major, has been dancing from home due to COVID-19. He finds a space at his home to take his zoom dance classes.

Meet Pakistani makeup artist, influencer and educator, Ayman Syed

Rocio Valdez
A & E Editor
@talonmarks

Late at night, he takes sips out of his Red Bull to prepare for what is sure to be a long night of work.

He cleans his station and gathers the makeup products he will need to shoot his next tutorial.

He sets up three-point lighting, two umbrella lights and one back light, and a ring light.

He checks his camera. He has enough memory space and the battery is completely charged.

Ready, action, press play.

“Hi cutiepies, welcome back to my channel and for those who do not know who I am, my name is Ayman as in ‘amen,’” he says while putting his palms together in a praying position.

Ayman Syed aka @thekillermonsta is a Pakistani makeup artist, influencer and educator who came to Los Angeles to follow his dream and has been successfully rising as a media influencer in a space where not many Pakistani men thrive.

Syed was born in Pakistan and moved to the United States when he was 11 years old.

He grew up in Kansas but ended up moving to Dallas after he graduated. He now has a bachelor’s degree in fashion and one in communications with a minor in theatre, which he is proud of, but



ROCIO VALDEZ/TM

Blend, blend, blend: Ayman Syed (@thekillermonsta) is a LA based makeup artist, influencer and educator. As an educator he gives makeup master classes, March 12, 2020.

makeup was his calling.

Syed has been in the makeup industry for 10 years. At just 16 years old, he started to play with makeup and when he was 20, he started to do makeup on others.

He started freelancing while he was in college and, in 2014, he was hired at Sephora.

“I knew early on, I was like ‘this is it, I’m going to be somebody I just don’t know how I’m going to do it,’” he said.

“When I became #1 in M.A.C I knew I had something and I needed to go do something about it. That gave me the courage to move out here.”

The biggest accomplishment for Syed

was moving out to LA and all the opportunities that it has brought to him.

“You’ll never have enough money. You’ll never have enough following. You just have to go and get it, and that is what I did. It has been one of the hardest things I’ve ever done but one of the most rewarding,” he added.

Back in Dallas, Syed worked for M.A.C Cosmetics in which he ran 11 counters as a counter manager and his counter became #1 in the country, which means it had the biggest clientele and revenue.

Lady Gaga has been his biggest inspiration.

“Gaga inspires me a lot. My Instagram

@thekillermonsta used to be a fan page, and it is so crazy, it is a full circle now because a week ago I got into the Haus Laboratories influencer team,” he said.

Music is often the source of inspiration to him but he also looks up to Nicole Faulkner (@lipsticknick).

“She is one of my biggest makeup idols. I have been following her footsteps when it comes to makeup,” Syed said.

“Practice makes perfect. I am still learning. It’s been ten years but I still grow every day. It is a constant growth,” he said.

Syed dreams to one day have his own makeup school, adding he wants “to help people be makeup artists.”

“Teaching students makeup is so good because I have 10 years of knowledge since I started makeup before it blew up,” he said.

Being a boy in makeup has had its challenges, he confesses.

“I was the first boy to be hired at the Sephora in 2014, and people protested me outside. It was bad,” Syed said.

He shared he is the first openly-gay person in his family and that was a big deal.

“There is still no makeup artists that are boys in the whole country of Pakistan that are known, so that’s why I do more because there is such a big void in representation,” he said.

“I want kids to look up to me. I didn’t have anybody to look up to that looked like me, so now I want to be that person that I didn’t have growing up.”

First online 2020 Student Art Exhibit goes live this week

Daniel Suarez
Staff Writer
@Daniel235Suarez

Cerritos College student artists have submitted over 130 works to the campus' Art Department in lieu of the first online Student Art Exhibition scheduled to take place at 4:30 on Friday via the gallery's online bookstore at www.blurb.com.

Using ASCC funds, the exhibition is expected to distribute over \$4,000 in awards to participants in seven different categories; from ceramics and 3D design to graphic design and digital illustration.

Each category will award first through fourth place prizes "including a monetary component ranging from \$25 to \$200," says Art Gallery Director/Curator James MacDevitt, "We then invite a professional artist to jury a group of media-specific awards."

The portrait by student artist Phyllis Chumley Martinez depicts a chilling scene of a young child in a red dress attempting to free her father from the overbearing grip of a winged phantom in "Fighting Daddy's Demons."

Martinez is just one of the scores of student artists to be featured in the 2020 online exhibition catalog.

Students from each department are nominated by faculty members both full and part time. There are additional awards given to specific fields including the Demott awards for the studio program and the Cassidy awards for graphic

design.

In the weeks leading up to the event, the Cerritos Art Gallery has previewed dozens of submissions through social media posts on Facebook and Instagram. The works in this year's exhibition are "literally the very best our students are producing in any one year cycle," says MacDevitt.

The catalog will feature works from the nominated student artists including painter Jazmin Flores and digital artist Samuel Roque.

According to the gallery social media, the online-only exhibition format is "pretty much the only thing that's really changed." That being said, there are several limitations that affect how the art is experienced, as MacDevitt points out.

"Many artworks like painting and ceramics have a physicality and materiality that does not translate perfectly to screen-based imagery," he says.

Film and graphic design type mediums are ideal for Zoom conferences, but physical art is potentially inhibited by the students inability to provide the juror a dynamic and up-close perspective.

Additionally, MacDevitt notes that another disadvantage is a lost sense of community.

"Zoom meetings are well and good, but there is nothing like seeing the vast crowd of friends and family that come out to support the student artists during our regular award reception," says MacDevitt.



SAMUEL ROQUE

Adobe photoshop: Digital painting by Samuel Roque. Digital portraits and film translate to Zoom better than other physical mediums.



RPHYLLIS CHUMLEY MARTINEZ

Oil on canvas: "Fighting Daddy's Demons" an oil painting by Phyllis Chumley Martinez. Her work will be on view on Friday in the online catalog on Blurb.

Gordita Eateries: Nashville Fried Chicken



Welcome Gordita Eateries, the one and only food column dedicated to great food. It's time to get out of the constant food cycle and venture into a world of delectable dishes that is to your liking.

Rebecca Aguila
Managing Editor
@rebeccaaguila4

Amongst the ramen dishes and vegan options throughout the metropolitan area of Los Angeles, fried chicken seems to be becoming popular as more pop-out restaurants open throughout the county.

Fried chicken is probably one of the best food creations that has ever existed and happens to be one of my top dishes to eat when you've had a long night out with your friends.

I guess you could say it's the "drunk munchies"?

Anyways, fried chicken is definitely a favorite comfort food that everyone enjoys around the world.

Some like it extra crunchy and some like it with honey drizzled all over it.

However, I love my fried chicken super spicy with loads of ranch dressing just to enhance the buffalo sauce or herbs.

Nashville's Hot Chicken in Hollywood is definitely making me catch a sweat as I tear into those delicious chicken tenders that are tender and moist.

The outside of the chicken tenders are crunchy and will invite you for more of an intense wave of spicy deliciousness throughout your palate.

Many chicken tenders tend to have a soft, floppy crunch on the outside but these tenders delivered an extravagant sensation of crunch and heat.

It's like the Xtreme Hot Cheetos that will leave you wanting more, despite your mouth feeling like it's on fire.

Nashville Hot chicken is located on Highland and Franklin Boulevard so it makes a great place to enjoy some spicy food in the historic and glamorous area of Hollywood.



REBECCA AGUILA/TM

Spicy chicken tenders: The Nashville plate is one of the highly recommended items to get in the menu. This was ordered with Mild Cyrus sauce which is the lowest level of spiciness.

One of the orders to get is the Nashville Plate which features two spicy chicken tenders that are out-of-this-world on top of toasted Texas toast which honestly helps tame the fiery phenomena.

Accompanied with these mouth-watering tendies is a serving of "coleslaw fries" which gives you the best of both worlds.

These fries are thin but crispy, and are topped with a light layer of fresh coleslaw and is then drizzled with Nashville Hot Chicken's "pink sauce."

At first I didn't really like the sound of coleslaw fries until I had them and I've been hooked on them ever since I took that first bite.

It's something you can't really put into words but just rather continue eating to emphasize the amount of flavor and deliciousness these fries give.

In all, I definitely approve of this hot spot because nothing means more to me than chicken that can actually make me sweat, since I grew up eating nothing but hot sauces and salsas all over my food.

Give this place a try and I guarantee you will not be disappointed with the taste and experience of Nashville Hot Chicken off of Highland in Hollywood.

You can follow Nashville Hot Chicken on their Instagram to get a better insight into what other variety of chicken combos they have on their menu.

Monthly Quote

Make
your life a
masterpiece;
imagine no
limitations on
what you can
be, have or do.

-Brian Tracy

Monthly Goals

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Upcoming Events

May 16 - 22
Spring 2020 Final Exams

May 20- LA Regional Food
Bank Drive-Thru
Food Distribution
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

May 12 - 22
Library End of Semester
Students Assistance
All Day

May 13 - Aug 14
NEW First-time Student
Enrollment Guide
with Hyperlinks
All Day

Tuesdays & Wednesdays-
Jobspeaker Online Workshop
Tues. 11 a.m.-noon
Weds. 2-3 p.m.
via Zoom

May 29 - Memorial Day

Online Commencement
Ceremony will begin June 23

The Quaran-Times: Home is where the Horror flicks are

A column dedicated to providing a weekly list of movies, TV shows, podcasts, social media and video games to help you get that dopamine during an unforeseen quarantine.

Edgar Mendoza
Community Editor
@edgarstevenmen1

Some of us have started to go a little mad while others have become zombies living the same day on repeat.

Whether you need a reminder that things could be way worse, or just a jolt and a jumpscare to wake you up, this week's recommendations are for you.

From touching stories of survival to outright screams of terror, we're covering horror and including ratings you at home know if it's safe to watch or play with kids around.

GAMING

Starting with the PlayStation 4, we have "Dead By Daylight", rated M for Mature.

Dead by Daylight is an asymmetrical multiplayer horror game where one player takes on the role of a brutal Killer and the other four play as Survivors.

As a Killer, your goal is to sacrifice as many Survivors as possible. As a Survivor, your goal is to escape and avoid being caught and killed.

Skill is required as any noises can alert the killer and survivors must choose whether to work together and save everyone or fight only for themselves.

For Xbox players, check out "Outlast: Bundle of Terror," a game which aims to show that the most terrifying monsters of all come from the human mind.

In "Outlast" the player assumes the role of journalist Miles Upshur as he navigates a dilapidated hospital overrun by homicidal patients.

The game is played from a first-person perspective and sees Upshur attempt to uncover the secrets the location holds, and the truth about why he was brought there in the first place.

Unlike most games, the player doesn't have a visible health bar on the screen and is unable to attack enemies.

The player must instead rely on stealth tactics such as hiding in lockers, sneaking past enemies, staying in the shadows and hiding behind or under things in order to survive.

The Nintendo Switch also offers a host of horror games, but perhaps none as eerie as "Limbo."

This game is a 2D platformer told entirely in black and white. Its plot and ending have sparked numerous theories and de-

bates, so it's best experienced without any prior knowledge.

The first half sees the gameplay as a classic platformer, while the game's second half features mechanical puzzles and traps using machinery, electromagnets and gravity.

If you're looking for an eerie, creepy tale and visual experience, "Limbo" is the way to go.

TV SHOWS

For those who love classic horror with a modern twist, Netflix offers "Scream: The TV Series," intended for those 17 and older.

"Scream" is a serialized anthology series that follows a group of teenagers being stalked and targeted by a masked serial

killer under the alias of Ghostface.

With all the clever murders and mystery aspects of the original films, this anthology pleases new fans and old fans alike.

Hulu offers up a series with elements of horror, suspense and twisted morals in the form of our first Stephen King entry, "Castle Rock," once again made for mature audiences.

A psychological-horror series set in the Stephen King multiverse, "Castle Rock" combines the mythological scale and intimate character storytelling of King's best-loved works, with beloved characters and tales all combined in a way that leave fans clamoring for more.

If you're looking for something your kids can enjoy, Disney+ has "So Weird."

The series revolves around teenage girl Fiona Phillips encounters eerie occurrences and paranormal experiences while on tour with her mother

adaption of the Stephen King novel, "Pet Sematary," and it is perhaps the most mature intended addition to this list.

"Pet Sematary" follows Dr. Louis Creed, who, after relocating with his wife Rachel and their two young children from Boston to rural Maine, discovers a mysterious burial ground hidden deep in the woods near the family's new home.

For our family-friendly pick, we turn to Disney+ where we find "The Haunted Mansion."

This is a charming, supernatural horror comedy which stars Eddie Murphy and sees a family often separated by work come together to face countless ghosts and ghouls in order to break a curse in, well, a haunted mansion.

ANIME

In this week's anime section we have one of the most iconic shows of all time, "Death Note," aimed at a teen to mature audience.

The story follows Light Yagami, who happens upon a mysterious otherworldly notebook known only as the death note.

This notebook grants the user the supernatural ability to kill anyone whose name is written in its pages.

The series centers around Light's subsequent attempts to use the Death Note to carry out a world-wide massacre of individuals whom he deems morally unworthy of life, as well as the subsequent investigation by countless authorities to find him.

PODCAST

For podcast lovers, there is no better horror than that of "The NoSleep Podcast," which is intended only for mature audiences.

Every tale is delivered with incredible voice acting and ambient sound and lives up to the promise of costing you a few hours of sleep.



CAROLINE MEDINA

MOVIES

On Netflix we have one of the most touching horror movies to be released in recent times, "Train to Busan," rated MA for Mature.

This film sees a workaholic father and his estranged daughter boarding a train to the last safe city in South Korea following a zombie outbreak.

This is more than a zombie horror film; it is an emotional masterpiece.

On Hulu we have the most recent film

Rose Buds: The end of 'Reefer Madness'

"Rose Buds" is a cannabis-friendly column intended for readers 21 years and older. We encourage only legal and responsible enjoyment of all cannabis products.

Kianna Znika
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The fact that cannabis columns like this exist further proves that we are living in a world that's grown more accepting of the plant, as we are now able to openly show our appreciation for it.

It hasn't always been that way, however. In fact, cannabis has had to fight its way through many different obstacles in time that were set up by public fear.

Where did this fear of the beneficial drug come from, though?

The answer: hatred, misunderstanding, and dramatization.

Cannabis wasn't introduced into American Culture until the early 1900s, when Mexican immigrants moved to the United States during the Mexican Revolution.

In fact, that is why it's called "Marijuana" in the first place!

In NPR's "The Mysterious History of Marijuana," Matt Thompson states, "It was only referred to as marijuana because anti-cannabis factions wanted to underscore

the drug's 'Mexican-ness,' meant to play off of anti-immigrant sentiments."

It was during The Great Depression that resentment toward Mexican immigrants grew and with the public's already-negative view toward all intoxicants during the Prohibition period, the "evil weed" was outlawed.

Then came the debut of the infamous "Reefer Madness" in 1936 which added more fuel into the fire of anti-cannabis propaganda.

All events in the film are extremely exaggerated in an effort to show the public all the "crazy, dangerous things" that can happen to poor innocent people if they try cannabis.

Decades later, once cannabis was no longer seen as a psychotic, dangerous threat, the public view shifted: it was then a drug that created "lazy hippies."

Young anti-war advocates enjoyed the recreational, psychedelic effects of the drug and found themselves in a more relaxed and positive state.

During President Richard Nixon's anti-drug efforts, however, cannabis was labeled as a "most restrictive" drug along with heroin and LSD as it was seen to have no medical benefits.

In Time's "A Brief History of Marijuana

Law in America," Scott C. Martin, a history professor, said that Nixon's decision was a reflection of his hostility "toward the counterculture with which he associated marijuana, then scientific, medical or legal opinion."

Years later, in 1986, cannabis is criminalized during the Anti-Drug Abuse Act. Now, there are mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

This history alone paints the full picture of the anti-cannabis view: a scary, lazy hippie criminal person who spends all of their time intoxicating themselves with the "Devil's Lettuce."

If that sounds irrational, that's because it is.

Thankfully, we live in a world now where there is slightly less fear and crime associated with cannabis.

However, the fact that a majority of people still cannot openly take pride in being a "pothead" shows that the fight is not over.

There are still those who see the drug as it was once described before, or associate the drug with a lazy, dirty culture. Again, this is fueled by misunderstanding.

Read more at [Talonmarks.com](https://www.talonmarks.com)



Pets are family, not disposable objects

EDITORIAL

Since the first phase of the pandemic reached Los Angeles, many animal shelters have had a high volume of adoption and fostering applicants as many people needed a way to get through this disheartening time.

The initial stages of the pandemic saw many animals fostered and shelters beginning to be emptied, which was rightly seen as a total win for all furry friends.

With all this time at home and the recent extension to stay-at-home orders, many Angelinos find themselves with a seemingly infinite amount of time to spare, but what happens when all the comfort is stripped away from you within a blink of an eye?

Pets are great for emotional support buddies that will always keep you busy and give you something to look forward to when you get home.

These pets, however, should not be seen as coping mechanisms to manage not being allowed to go outside and do the regular everyday things you did before the stay-at-home order.

There are certainly families who can just no longer afford the expenses of an animal.

Many people who own pets will be faced with the hard decision of taking their family pet into the shelter because they face financial hardships due to the pandemic making it nearly impossible to find a steady, and possibly safe, job able to support their family and their pet.

The pandemic has affected every single person throughout the county but this should not be



FREELANCE ILLUSTRATOR/SOFIA GALLEGOS

the cause to return your family pet to an overcrowded shelter.

Returning an animal will only stress it out and may eventually push it into a depressed state, hoping to reunite with its original owners.

Then again, there are some of those people who just go through life not realizing that these animals have feelings. The unaware may simply use them for cruel, petty and short-term entertainment.

This attitude towards pet stewardship is completely backwards and irresponsible. To brazenly use an animal and "return" it like an inanimate piece of clothing with a receipt is a shocking show of apathy towards sentient life.

These animals create a bond

with their owners and people never truly understand how much a pet can love their owners.

If you are one of those people who has returned a pet because now things are "getting back to normal" or are contemplating doing such a thing, then shame on you, you detestable cretin! How dare you use an innocent animal for your personal emotional well-being without considering the emotions of the animal?

There are those who do not even care to take an animal to a shelter where they can at least receive a modicum of support. Some find it easier to abandon the animal or let the pet wander around in the streets with no food or care.

It is actually a crime in most states to abandon a pet. California Penal Code 597 states, "Every person who inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon the animal, or in any manner abuses any animal... is, for each offense, guilty of a crime punishable pursuant to subdivision."

Taking away the privilege of a pet to have a loving home and abandoning it causes the pet to suffer from mental health conditions like anxiety and depression.

If you think that mammals don't have emotions, you are tragically wrong. Animals experience some of the same emotions we humans do, like sadness, happiness, fear, anger, surprise and disgust.

Gregory Berns, a neuroscientist at Emory University,

does brain scans to study decision-making in humans and he trained dogs to stay still in an MRI scanner while awake.

In Berns study, the scans showed that the caudate nucleus, rich in dopamine, became active in dogs with many of the same things the human caudate activates with, positive emotions.

In "Dogs Are People, Too" Berns states, "The ability to experience positive emotions, like love and attachment, would mean that dogs have a level of sentience comparable to that of a human child."

"If they have emotions like we do, to me that creates an obligation to treat them better," Berns stated in an interview with 60 Minutes.

"When you start looking at their brains and you see that they react the same way in many ways that humans do it causes me to question how we treat dogs and animals in general, specifically as property," Berns says, "Currently under all codes of law something is either property or a human being (a person) and there is not really another category so it made me question where do dogs belong, 'Are they closer to people?', and I see them closer to people."

Berns acknowledges that many of his findings in dogs probably holds true for pretty much any mammal.

Pets are innocent and provide unconditional love to owners and it is the owner's responsibility to provide the best loving environment in return.

Before you adopt, please understand that the pet is your responsibility for the rest of their lifetime.

Utopian dreams: A powerful tool to fight COVID despair

Sean Davis
News Editor
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While the Coronavirus outbreak has been a harsh and depressing nightmare living rent-free (like everyone should be) in everyone's minds, it has provided me ample time to imagine myself in a better place.

My utopia may feature buffalo sauce more prominently than yours, but perhaps you've caught yourself drifting into the greener pastures of your mind during this quarantine.

Utopian thinking is, in my opinion, justifiably mocked as naïve fantasy for bourgeois daydreamers.

I agree that a "perfect" society is oxymoronic and pursuing one is a path saturated with fatal pitfalls and vicious misdeeds. But I fear that the rejection of the

slightest utopian thought pushes the mind towards the ugly alternative: despair, apathy and dystopia.

It'd be the first to tell you the planet's in an impossibly rough spot right now. A pandemic is rampaging across the globe, inaction on climate change is dooming future generations and authoritarians are racing to replace democracies around the world.

Relief is hard-pressed. Twitter is a chaotic nightmare, Facebook is awash with conspiracy nonsense and YouTube keeps showing me the same Arrested Development compilation videos over and over again.

Turning off social media and logging off Netflix may be temporary solutions to planetary-crises-induced anxiety but they

certainly can't solve the source of the problems.

When faced with this worrying state of affairs, I'm often paralyzed and helpless.

The poster child for dystopia, George Orwell, wrote in his novel 1984, "If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face — forever."

Despite this grim prediction by the novel's villain, well before writing 1984, Orwell volunteered to fight fascists in the Spanish Civil War, getting shot in the throat in the process. Even the arch pessimist put his body on the line at some point for his belief in a better world.

The apathy and inaction endemic to Western late-capitalist life suppresses the spark of outrage buried within all of us.

We're told by the powers that

be that ideas like canceling student debt, taxing the obscenely rich and tackling environmental collapse are unachievable, pie in the sky fantasies.

Anyone shouting for systemic change is shamed and labeled a "radical" or "romantic." They're told to live in the "real world."

Suffragettes and "radical" abolitionists faced these same attacks.

Is listening to scientists' warnings and putting planetary health and lives over corporate profits radical? In the great scheme of things, not at all. It's a straight no-brainer.

Perhaps the "free market" ideologues pushing for more coal plants are the radicals.

Seeing the world as it actually exists is what pushes people to activism in the first place. Some-

one who denies the existence of climate change is guilty of not living in the "real world."

All prescriptive visions of the future are based on ideals unlikely to be achieved. It seems to be a matter of choosing one and fighting for it.

I cannot provide solid advice to those afflicted with the same malaise I struggle to manage. It would be dishonest of me to say I'm a proud optimist with ten tips and tricks to make existential angst vanish. I am certainly not as active as I would like to be.

But perhaps I can reassure the closeted many who desperately want the everyday cycle of absurdity to stop that they're not alone.

I, for one, am going to find some very tall trees to sit under and dream a bit more.

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White protestors privileged in the eyes of the law

EDITORIAL

Whether on the steps of the California state capitol or within the walls of the Michigan state-building, the double standard is painfully evident.

Unfortunately during this pandemic, we continue to see more and more cases of excessive force coming to light, proving the racially-motivated inconsistency in the enforcement of laws.

In the U.S., the Coronavirus pandemic has killed more people than any other nation.

Despite this, white protesters and “resisters” are allowed to ignore public health concerns right in front of the police.

When the governor says the beaches are closed, clearly white protesters can simply say “no,” as they played and surfed to their heart’s content, completely tear gas and battery-free.

On May 1, hundreds of Californians gathered at Huntington Beach to protest the governor’s stay at home order and demand that the economy open up again.

Many were without masks, protesters stood close to each, others breaking social distancing rules to show their disagreement with the governor’s orders.

A fight broke out at one of the protests, yet still no arrests or citations were issued by the police.

In the past two weeks, videos have surfaced on social media showing police officers use excessive force towards Black Americans that have been violating social guidelines.

From New York to Los Ange-

les, these images are hardly surprising.

Police didn’t use force when confronted by white protesters clearly breaking social distancing rules.

In New York, police officers have used aggressive force towards Black Americans. An encounter from May 2, caught on video, has been circulating social media.

The video shows an unmasked plainclothes police officer using excessive force and a stun gun towards a group of Black Americans for not following social distancing guidelines.

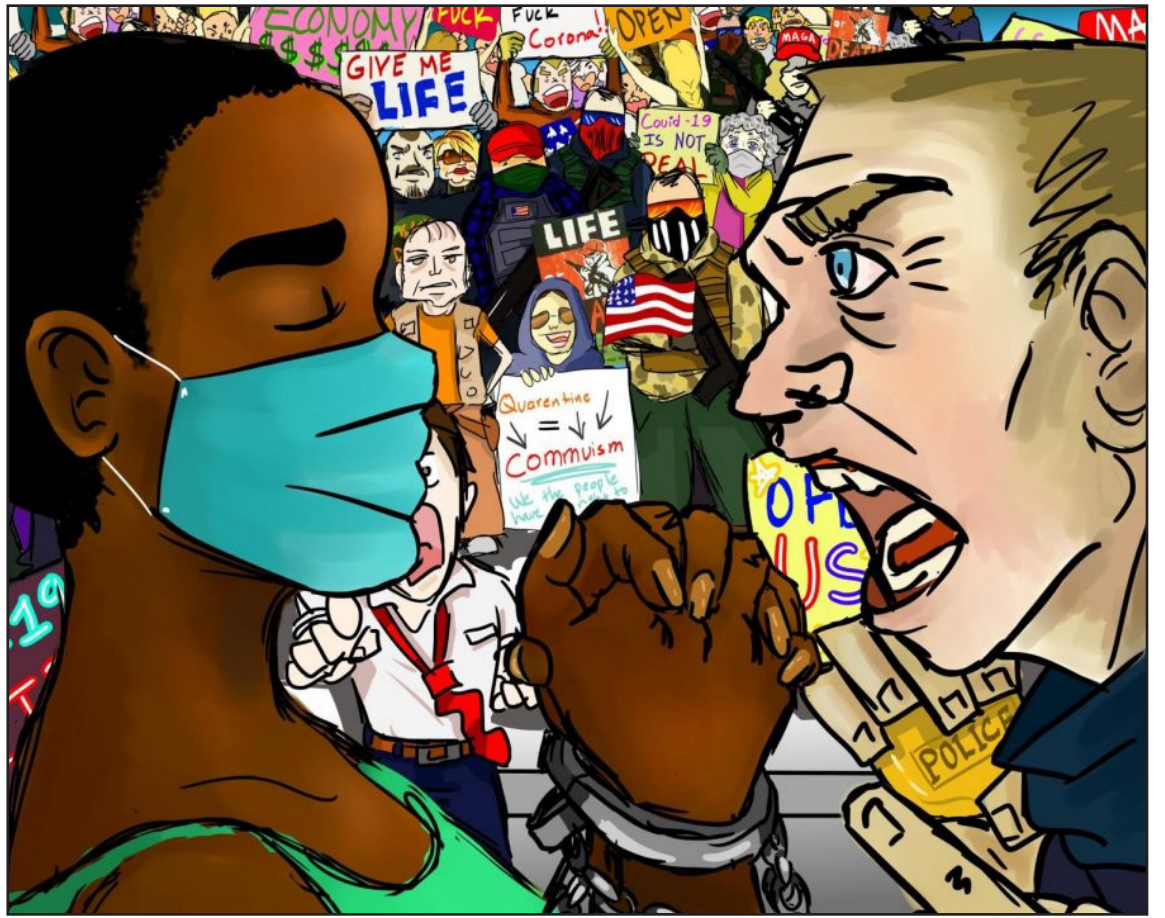
In the video, you can clearly hear the officer tell bystanders to “clear the fucking street off,” verbally assaulting people trying to help the three men being arrested.

When the New York Police Department enforced social distancing guidelines, they arrested 40 violators, 35 of which were black.

Police officers in the United States seem to maintain composure and restraint when faced with white protesters who are violating the stay-at-home order, refusing to wear masks and screaming in their faces.

At the state capitol in Michigan on April 30, a group of white-armed men entered and shouted at lawmakers.

They demanded to be allowed on the floor in a clear display of intimidation and especially white privilege.



FREELANCE ILLUSTRATOR/SOFIA GALLEGOS

If Black Americans protested, armed with guns, the situation would surely escalate and get crazy real fast.

Speaking of white privilege, how is it that two Georgian murderers were able to walk free after stalking an unarmed black jogger and gunning him down in the street?

On Feb 23, 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery was lynched in broad daylight after Gregory and his son Travis McMichael grabbed two guns, hopped in their truck and pursued Arbery, who was simply exercising, before starting the altercation that ended his life.

Following the shooting, a Georgia prosecutor said there was “insufficient probable cause” to arrest the white gunmen.

These murderers were not arrested until after the cell phone video caught by a third pursuer was leaked by Brunswick County attorney, Alan Tucker.

According to the Washing-

ton Post, “county police and three separate district attorneys saw [the video] shortly after the shooting and didn’t seek arrest warrants.”

Meanwhile, these pro-gun, pro-Trump and anti-vax protesters get to endanger authorities and intimidate elected officials without the slightest bit of outcry.

This reality is just daily life for Black Americans in the U.S. who have faced scrutiny and persecution by law enforcement for literal centuries.

The same law enforcement that protects their own, just like the case of Amaud Arbery, where one of his killers, Gregory McMichael, was a retired officer who worked in the same office as the district attorney assigned to the case.

The authorities initially claimed that the McMichaels were making a citizen’s arrest based on a suspicion and then

stood their ground in self-defense after they engaged Arbery.

An innocent, unarmed black civilian was lynched by vigilantes and their actions were deemed lawful.

Protesters and advocates felt that if the video had not leaked and caused outrage, the McMichaels would still be free.

Police shouldn’t be used to enforce social distancing when they use no deescalation tactics and resort to violence when up against people of color because of their biased view of black people being a threat.

Systemic racism and colorism in policing has been a part of the United States since the inception of law enforcement officers.

We need to recognize that we face more than one epidemic in this country and that even if COVID disappeared tomorrow, we would still be losing innocent people daily to a plague rooted deep within American life.

Cerritos professors reflect on the move to online-only teaching

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Asking professor Jeff Ramdass, a psychology and statistics professor, how the transition struck him, he said, “For me it was more disappointment than shock. And the reason for that is ‘oh, everything is going normal and then, after a few minutes or a few hours, it all went away.’”

“I don’t think it was a decision I think anyone was ready for. It wasn’t a decision I was particularly thrilled about. I don’t think it plays to my strengths, if I have any,” he added.

“I started getting an idea that this could happen here, seeing

schools sending students home a week before. So I knew it was possible, I knew it was likely that it would happen here too.”

On how soon he shifted gears to the online environment, Ramdass said “I gave myself a few days to assess the situation. So we got the news on Thursday and I started the transition the following Monday.”

John Haas, a history professor, also commented on the transition to online teaching for him.

“I like interacting with the students, so now not having [the] opportunity to engage with the classes was a little difficult for me,” he said.

Some professors had online components already incorporat-

ed in their teaching plans before the move to online was decided.

“I had a few of my lectures. I film them at home [and they] are on my Vimeo account for my students. This was kind of prior to the move online,” said Haas.

Haas said once he learned that the move was happening, “I thought to myself alright John we’re going to have to really get organized and make everything accessible on Canvas.”

The effects on students have been a noticeable variety.

“It’s a mix. Some students are sad and some are resilient, and some are sad that we aren’t in class learning in person,” Ramdass explained.

Regarding whether or not Haas has seen a fall in the number of students in class, he said, “I think synchronously it has fallen off tremendously. Some times you’ll get eight, 12 or 20 students who are actively participating but I think that has to be qualified with some who catch the lec-



Kianna Znika/TM

Online Teaching: The move to online teaching has provided opportunities and challenges for teacher and student alike.

tures online at any given time.”

With summer sessions quickly approaching, professors are preparing to adjust their summer lesson plans to the new normal.

Ramdass said that he doesn’t anticipate any drop in the performance of students during the summer due to them giving up part of the summer to be present in class and advance their educational careers.

On a personal note, I’d like to give a shout-out to all the faculty and staff who are simultaneously struggling with and overcoming the shift to online teaching.

These educators are dealing with the same hardships we are and they are doing a hell of a job.

We students appreciated your work and know that your efforts are making us better students as a result.

The Environment After COVID-19

Guest Opinion

BRYAN RAMIREZ
CONTRIBUTOR

The tragedy that is the infection of thousands with COVID-19 does not come empty handed. Tracing the domino effect started by COVID-19 eventually leads us to the world around us and the myriad of ways it has changed throughout this horrendous devastation.

Though many see the change in the world around them and the lowering levels of air pollution as a silver lining to a very grim year, it does not come without its own host of negative effects.

Increase of waste pollution for example is one of many harrowing effects this illness has brought with it, as we strive to decimate this terrifying disease, we have been using more one time use plastic in hopes of lessening the chances of infection.

However despite the thinly balanced good and bad the environment is facing as of this moment, I believe this is the most opportune time to revitalize our planet and put into effect new ways to protect the world from further pollution.

More specifically, now is the time for China to act and take advantage of the grim situation to maintain their levels of pollution at this new all-time low, rather than see it shoot back up after the disease dissipates.

As it stands, a study on the air pollution in China concluded that thirty-eight percent of the Chinese populace lives in areas with long term air quality averages deemed “unhealthy” by other country standards.

I hope to give an accurate accounting of the good and the bad effects facing the environment due to COVID-19 as well as what China can do to improve the environment, lessening the strain on the planet as well.

The positive effects that COVID-19 has had on the environment may not be numerous but have been very impactful.

In a time when air pollution has been so distressing and devastating that an estimated 1.6 million people die each year from health issues caused by heavily polluted air even the slightest drop in air pollution is an amazing thing.

This drop comes after mass quarantines took place in several different countries. As more people began quarantining, more factories began to cease operations.

However the drop in air pollution does not just come from the shutdown of factory operations but also from quarantining itself.

As more people remain quarantined at home there are fewer drivers on the road producing less CO₂, something China has benefited greatly from consider-

ing that China is the world’s biggest CO₂ emitter.

Other positive effects come again from the quarantine many are facing. Due to border shutdowns, tourism has come to a nigh complete halt, and although from a financial point of view this may seem disastrous, less tourism means less litter, and of course less litter for an elongated period of time allows the planet

“
...all these positive effects do not come without their necessary evil”
”

to slowly but surely.

Combined with the shutdown of attractions such as amusement parks as well as the cancellation of many festivals and other such gatherings, it would be reasonable to assume from the situation that less people outside of their homes means less litter out in the world.

Sadly all these positive effects do not come without their necessary evil. In our attempt to stop the spread of COVID-19 we have begun creating more waste pollution.

In hopes of lessening the spread of this disease we have all resorted to using plastic bags once again, but now the bulk of the increase comes in fact from medical waste.

Gloves, surgical masks, body bags, and protective equipment have all added to this increase in waste. During this pandemic, while surgical masks have become a must in our arsenal to fight off COVID-19, they have also become the new normal when visiting stores for needed supplies.

If the waste pollution wasn’t bad enough, we are still polluting the air even during this time of quarantine. It is said that cremations result in millions of tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year, and sadly due to COVID-19 deaths, mortuaries and morgues have been running round the clock to keep up with the steady flow of dead reaching their doors.

Worst of all these positive effects we are seeing in the environment as of now are in no means a solution nor are they permanent.

The quarantine is a flood gate waiting to burst and drench the world in pollution once more if nothing is done to better the situation.

The only way we can hope to keep this new reality for our environment is to take advantage of the situation in front of us and find ways to implement new

measures that would help lower the rise of pollution.

It is time that we began to touch on the subject on how China can take this time to implement new measures to help lessen the strain on the environment.

Switching to renewable energy is an excellent plan and would help but I believe the focus should lie on the citizens of China and the factories.

Putting a household limit on vehicles and shutting down the sale of all gas vehicles while making it easier to obtain electric cars and giving citizens of China an incentive to turn in their old gas cars might spark a switch to EVs.

Another idea would be to begin to give rewards to companies and factories for lowering their emissions, again motivating them to help in the fight against pollution.

Despite the grim, fearful reality, we must look at the opportunities that have arisen and take advantage of them. This could in fact be the best chance China gets at lowering its air pollution.

I fear if we wait too long it will truly be too late and the next massive global event we pay witness to will not be as easily dealt with.

We have but one life and our survival is directly connected to that of this planet, if we have any hope of having a future it begins with the changes we make today.

‘F’ your failing grades

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COVID-19 has taken away what could have been a normal spring semester and for any professor to hand out a failing grade without any hesitation is to show how incredibly disconnected we can be as human beings.

It would have to take the most apathetic, cold hearted and out-of-touch “educator” to look between the two options of failing a student or simply dropping them with an “EW”, and still choose the “F.”

Because, yes, these professors are perfectly capable of dropping their students from their computers within the safety and comfort of their own home.

Student advocates and a few faculty members have shown support for allowing all dropped students to receive an “EW” for the Spring 2020 semester.

But some educators, for whatever reason, don’t want that.

The common rule has always been that the student is respon-

sible for dropping out of a class themselves and may be handed a failing grade at the end of the session.

This rule was made prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, before students had worry about unemployment, their own mental and physical health and their own adaptation and survival during a global pandemic that is killing hundreds of thousands of people.

Maybe even some within the student’s own area.

For a lot of students, school is one of the last things on their minds, especially as many consider dropping out altogether.

Sure, a student can click the button that drops them. Professors have the option to drop those students, too. So why not just do it? It may save a student’s academic career.

What does an educator possibly gain from watching their student fail?

Concerns about dropping a student who does not wish to be dropped can be solved with one easy solution:

“All who don’t want to be

dropped must respond to this email within this period of time.”

The students who are willing and able to stay in class, will stay. The ones who don’t respond have made their choice and have clearly shown that school isn’t a priority of their’s right now.

And that is okay.

To be honest, some students have to worry issues like unemployment, basic needs and insecurities before the pandemic and the situation just became a whole lot more difficult for them.

The California Students Higher Education Advocacy Round Table recognizes this and emphasizes the importance of college and university leaders including real students in their decisions that will directly affect them.

“Don’t make student decisions without students,” Valerie Johnson, transfer student affairs officer from the UC Student Association, said.

Students deserve the academic leniency that they are demanding.

It is not the student’s fault that the world is changing drastically around them; it is the school’s responsibility to change its rules and adapt to the new normal.

It is unfair and completely unrealistic to hold students to the same academic standard as before.



Academic Mercy: COVID isn’t the time to punish students but to understand and assist. Tough times aren’t limited to teachers.

Other’s may point out that some students are genuinely earning a failing grade or perhaps that they were failing before the pandemic hit.

It’s been said by professors before: “You have to really try to fail my class.” Again, who cares?

What do you possibly gain from bragging about how students were failing YOUR class prior to the world becoming more difficult around them?

The students aren’t failing. The system is.

COVID-19 has created unique problems for the Spring 2020 semester and must be fixed with unique solutions.

Maybe some “bad” students “lucked” out this semester.

To think that any dangerous, global pandemic is “lucky” is completely beyond words but if I must choose some, I’d say this way of thinking is ignorant and aloof.

This is not a “lucky” situation for anyone involved.

COVID-19 has definitely shined light on who should be working in the field of education and who shouldn’t, but for those who still aspire to teach, look within yourself and ask if you’re doing what you can to encourage student success.

Read more at Talonmarks.com

Quarantine

"Quarantine Blues" is a column dedicated to sports stories and updates from various Falcon Athletes.

Update on the Cerritos College Men's Basketball Team

Robtrell Scott

Staff Writer

@talonmarks

Falcons basketball team showed a lot of future potential last season while holding a record of 20 wins and 10 losses and advancing to the Southern California Regional Final, where they were eliminated by Santiago College with a score of 89 to 67 in March 07.

All of the freshmen players from last season are returning and the team will welcome more youthful energized freshmen to the team next year.

The Falcons have protected their home court very well only losing three games and winning nine, there should be lots of fun and intense competition next season but the Falcons biggest issue is winning on the road.

Even though they won more games on the road with eight wins they still lost six games, this is a key issue that has to be resolved next year in order for the Falcons to become a state champion.

Another issue that can keep the Falcons from winning a state championship next year is the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is a possibility there might not be a season next year but another outcome can be



DERRICK COLEMAN/TM ARCHIVES

Dribbling: Cerroy Chenault freshman guard No. 5, runs an offensive play during the game. The Falcons men's basketball team score a total of 89 points defeating visiting team Los Angeles Harbor with only 65 points on Feb. 7, 2020.

having a later season in the spring rather than the winter and having fewer games.

According to Head Coach Russell May "There is a possibility we can have three weeks of practice before the season where we would do simple basketball

workouts and try to prepare for any type of season as best as we can."

This can be the reality of next year around the world for sports, we can possibly have football in winter, basketball in spring and baseball in the summer.

The Falcons are doing their own individual workouts at home as we know from past articles but far as team workouts coach May said, "There are no workouts because there is no gym, our players doing their own individual workouts at home and

we have sent out numerous of work out videos and inspirational videos."

This season the Falcons have a very tough schedule this upcoming year and many fans want to know what teams the Falcons looking forward to playing next year.

"This year we can't treat any game bigger than the others because it is a tough schedule we play Ventura, San Monica, Citrus, Fresno and of course our rival Long Beach." Coach May said.

Our Falcons have a very big test ahead of them next year with a very twisted path as they try to become champions, coach May said, "our players are very motivated to be successful they have the tools and talents to do well next year."

Coach May further explained about the team's new freshmen and what he expects from them, "they have to produce right away they are great kids with great character to help fill in our areas we are lacking and bring new energy," he said.

No matter what happens this upcoming season coach May and the Falcons gave all students advice for this pandemic they said, "Don't lose sight of the big picture stay dedicated to your personal goals and be the change that turns everything around."

Cerritos women's soccer team anticipates playing next season

Derrick Coleman

Co-Multimedia Editor

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When Cerritos College decided to close the campus because of COVID-19, Cerritos College women's soccer went into action preparing for season.

Cerritos College's women's soccer team was in the middle of their spring training when the quarantine went into effect.

Head Coach Ruben Gonzalez said, "We were in the middle of our spring season and the girls were working really hard and doing a really good job."

Olga Luna Forward Freshman said, "It kind of does suck because we were all like getting in condition."

We have fit already, like it was just motivating us for the next season and then this kind of comes out of nowhere and kind of stuff is in the bag because like, we work so much and so hard for a very long time."

Nadiyah Palomares, defender, added to this and said, "I would have to say [this is] generally

upsetting even though we don't have control over that.

Because it's very easy to not be motivated, especially when you're at home, and that the day goes by.

You just have to find that sort of mentality for yourself to keep doing, and keeping healthy and, doing your workouts.

The women's soccer team then proceeded to say what would happen if they cannot play the first part of the regularly

scheduled season.

Gonzalez said, "My understanding is that we're going to talk to different coaches and associations, maybe push the season back, just to get us ready.

To give us an opportunity to get fit, to start pushing the season back.

Maybe fewer games played, minimum games we have right now that we usually have as a team. The max we can play is 22."



DERRICK COLEMAN/TM



COURTESY OF CERRITOS COLLEGE SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE

Close Up: Olga Luna freshman forward, is preparing for the upcoming season and is very motivated to get back on the field. She's getting ready mentally and physically to return a great player.

The team explained how they are staying motivated and described the kind of physical training being done right now.

Luna said, "What I think about, just like me, preparing now isn't going to be as hard as when we go back into like training, like

when we have to condition, when we have to start waking up early every morning. It's like preparing yourself mentally now before doing it later on."

Read more at [Talonmarks.com](https://www.talonmarks.com)

Blues

Stories are published weekly on Talonmarks.com on Saturday afternoon.

Baseball team reflects on season cut short

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While the Cerritos Baseball team is left without a field to practice on, they have developed other means of staying on top of their game.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed college sports and many players and coaches were unaware of the severity of the changes until they experienced it firsthand.

Cerritos College baseball head coach Vic Butler said, "We started feeling the effects of COVID-19 maybe a week or so before? I think at that time the team they really didn't know the importance of it, I made an announcement on the bus about how they came out with a policy when we played our opponents, we couldn't touch, we couldn't shake hands."

The players have had no access to the on-campus gym and, as such, have had to find other means of staying conditioned.

David Hays, first baseman and relief pitcher, said a goal for him has been to lose weight.

Right now, he is focusing on "cardio-based core workouts" like running a mile every day.

"I want to start increasing the



COURTESY OF ANDY HURTADO

Deadlift: Andy Hurtado, baseball pitcher uses a hex bar to perform deadlifts in his home gym. He is staying in shape during the quarantine for the next season.

value by the next few weeks. I've been dieting, not really too much baseball work, but working on my physical body," Hays said.

Frosh pitcher, Noah Ortega, No.50 said, "It looked like we had a real good shot at us doing

something special this year." "Throughout the season you'll hear a bit about the coronavirus but we never expected it to stop things from happening."

Ortega continued, "It was pretty hard especially with how

good we produced on the field. I just feel like this stopped all [of] our momentum."

Some players have home gyms and have had better means of staying in good physical condition despite being quarantined.

Andy Hurtado, No. 10 Frosh relief pitcher, said, "I have my little gym right here in my house, but I mean, I do the workouts that the trainer from the school gives us and I was blessed to have my buddy who goes to UC Santa Barbara was also a pitcher."

Hurtado said he and his friend have been conditioning together "doing mixtures of long-distance running and interval sprints," just to stay in condition for the next season.

Ortega said that as a pitcher, he doesn't feel the need to pump iron.

Instead, he chooses to go out for runs.

He goes to Apollo Park in Downey to practice his long toss with a teammate or friend.

He also does bodyweight exercises to get the blood going.

Ortega said a goal of his for the 2021 season is to return faster and stronger and he expects the same from his teammates.

"As far as my teammates, we all feel like our 2020 was taken from us so as far as 2021 goes, I feel for the 2021 season we'll all be ready for it," Ortega said. "Living

through this season we'll come in knowing at any moment this can all be taken away at any moment."

The California Community College Athletic Association has announced that because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, players will get extended eligibility to play under the CCCAA.

Butler said, "there are a few players that are targeted to some colleges. Nothing is written in stone as far as those players leaving or coming back.

It is still kind of 50/50 [for the] most part that the majority of the players are going to return."

The Falcons have set their goals for the future seasons, hoping to score a place in higher division sports.

"For me, my expectations will be a perfect world of coming back next year. We're returning players in a state championship," Butler said. "My biggest thing and what will really make me proud is to get all the sophomores to a D [division], one at worse a D two [school] and get some guys drafted."

"I believe that I can do that that I really do on my job as a coach. Not only on the baseball field but in the classroom as well," he added.

The Falcons are unsure when they will be able to play again or have access to their field at Cerritos College.



Off The Field Podcast

"Off The Field" is a podcast dedicated to sports opinions from various writers within

Talon Marks. Podcasts are published weekly on our Spotify account.

What teams have made through playoffs

In this week's podcast, we are discussing the NBA playoffs and the teams' effort to getting there.



MICHAEL LAUGHLIN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

NBA: Looking ahead won't be a concern for Heat's Jae Crowder if NBA season is fast-tracked to playoffs.

Jordan Love

A guest speaker will be speaking with Rob, Derrick and Luis. And today's topic is we're talking about Jordan Love getting drafted to the Green Bay Packers.



DERICK E. HINGLE-USA TODAY SPORTS/THE REPOSITORY

Jordan Love: Oct 5, 2019; Baton Rouge, LA, USA; Utah State Aggies quarterback Jordan Love (10) drops back to pass against the LSU Tigers during the first quarter at Tiger Stadium.

Off The Field

"Off The Field" is a column dedicated to sports opinions from various writers within Talon Marks.

Manny Ramirez is back at it again

Luis Lemus

Co-Sports Editor

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Sports Opinion

One of the biggest names when it comes to baseball might be attempting his third (or is it fourth?) comeback to professional baseball by way of Chinese Taipei.

With a statistics line of 2,574 hits, 555 home runs and a 0.312 batting average over 19 seasons in MLB, soon to be 48-year-old Manny Ramirez seems to be looking to latch onto one of the five teams in the Chinese professional baseball league.

Yes, "Mannywood", as he was better known locally around the Los Angeles area during the 2008 season.

The same Manny who was a free agent the 08-09 offseason, when at a press conference at Camelback Ranch proclaiming "I'm back" to the press.

That same Manny who would do such a feat as he did on July 22, 2009, when he would hit a pinch-hit grand slam on his own bobblehead giveaway night, and after leaving the fans asking for not one but two curtain calls.

That same Manny who sometimes had a head-scratcher of a moment like he did on the July 21 when he was a cut-off man



JOHN WALKER/FRESNO BEE/MCT

Play ball: Sacramento River Cats' Manny Ramirez follows through on a first inning single against the Fresno Grizzlies, Monday, June 11, 2012, in Fresno, California.

in between the cut-off man in a four-player relay to home plate from after the ball bounced off the wall above Johnny Damon in what would result in an inside the park home run for David Newhan.

Chalk it up to just a case of Manny being Manny.

After testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs

for the second time in April 2011 as a member of the Rays, he decided it was best to retire from Major League Baseball.

In the 2013 season, he resurfaced only this time as a member of the Fubon Guardians known at the time as the EDA Rhinos.

Rumor at the time, according to news, reports that he would

try to get on with a team from the Nippon Professional Baseball league.

Now comes word that he may resurface at the young age of 47, soon to be 48 by the end of the month.

He tells the Taiwan Times, "I have been itching to get back in the batter's box and be able to compete again. I also miss being

around teammates and team dinners postgame. I know if I was given the opportunity to come in an organization as a player-coach, it would do great things for the organization and the league."

Can he be the next Julio Franco who debuted in 1992 until retiring in 2008 making two stops of his own foreign stops in Japan and in Korea? Time will tell.



JUSTIN REX/A-J MEDIA

Framing a pitch: Texas Tech's Hunter Dobbins (42) pitches in a nonconference game March 14, 2010 against Stetson at Dan Law Field at Rip Griffin Park. Dobbins is set to compete in the Collegiate Summer Baseball Invitational slated for June 4-6 in his hometown of Bryan, Texas.

Collegiate Baseball Invitational is back

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Sports Opinion

Straight out of Texas comes word that live sports are returning to the country! Albeit in the College arena, but still, sports are back!

This collegiate invitation-only event featuring the best in college baseball, as the four teams are made up of the region's best in a four-team round-robin tournament format.

Ever since the coronavirus wiped out sports from happening, as has been said previously, the country is starving for a little distraction and they got a taste of what they were missing in the form of Korean baseball.

According to the same KTBX article, "The event has been coordinated with local health officials and will include the full quarantining of everyone involved; From the players, coaches, umpires and broadcast team, everyone will be secured in a local hotel for the entirety of the week. All participants will be

tested for Covid-19 upon their arrival, and will be checked daily for any medical conditions."

So at least they're all set up for daily tests. That is a win in itself.

The tournament is set for going on through June 4 to June 6.

Although they will be out in Texas, they move by whatever the orders of the president are. They seem like they are doing the best they can in order for the small tournament to get moving.

Although the game might not be what is called for in this country, especially when

according to the NY times the number of dead is expected to rise sharply as certain states open up.

Let the players have their own showcases from their own backyard or park over a Zoom call for scouts to get a last look at you before they pick on draft night.

Face masks and all, but let the players choose to put themselves in harm's way or play through Zoom at a park.

Throw in one fact that the tournament is going to be pay-per-view and it's clear that it is the CSBI's final attempt to bring cash in with these particular players.



DERRICK COLEMAN/TM

Sports Opinion

Stories are published on Mondays and Wednesdays on Talonmarks.com

Copycat Clippers buy The Forum in Inglewood

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Sports Opinion

Clippers owner Steve Ballmer bought the fabulous Great Western Forum which is located in Inglewood, California for \$400 million from the owner of the New York Knicks James Dolan.

The 16 time NBA champions Los Angeles Lakers use to call the Forum home before they moved to Staples Center in 1999.

Since purchasing the Clippers back in 2014 Steve Ballmer has been a huge thorn in the Lakers fan base side.

During Clipper home games they cover all of the Lakers championship banners and retired jersey numbers with banners of Clipper players' faces.

Then they signed two players that Lakers fans were looking forward to Kahwi Leonard and Paul George.

Both players grew up being Lakers fans in Los Angeles and now the Clippers own sacred grounds where the Lakers won their championships.

Lakers fans wanted the Clippers to move out of Staple Center for along time but no one expected them to move to the Forum.

Ballmer is not planning on demolishing the forum nor is he planning on the Clippers playing their home games there.

Ballmer is planning on building his arena for the Clippers near the Forum.

Ballmer simply bought the Forum to get more land we could see an L.A. Live 2.0 in Inglewood, as we all know that the newly built SoFi Stadium is almost complete.

The next thing we can see being built is new hotels, restaurants and possibly a movie theatre.

The city of Inglewood is going to get a total 360-degree facelift.

The Clippers had its ups and very bad downs in 2013 their ex-owner Donald Sterling was recorded by his ex-girlfriend saying racist remarks.

He was banned from the NBA for life and stripped of ownership of the Clippers.

Ballmer is a very rich billionaire from Detroit, Michigan who use to be the chief executive officer (CEO) of Microsoft. When

he bought the team, he originally wanted to move the team to Seattle, Washington but the NBA forced him to agree to keep the team in Los Angeles.

The Forum holds a very special place into many Los Angeles natives' hearts, the Forum currently holds a lot of concert events such as hip-hop rock country and gospel.

Many Hall of Famers have played at the Forum such as

Wayne Gretzky, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, Lisa Leslie, and Kobe Bryant. The lakers have won six world championships in the Forum from 1972 to 1988.

The Forum was built in 1967 which was at the time the mecca for sports teams in Los Angeles. The teams that called the Forum home were the Lakers, Sparks, and Kings.

With all this legacy the Clippers are a failure franchise

team of Los Angeles being one of only three teams that never won a single championship in Los Angeles along with the Chargers and the new soccer team LAFC.

Even collegiate teams like UCLA and USC have won more championships than these teams but many believe the future of L.A. sports is reserved for the Clippers franchise as they are hopeful of gaining that championship banner.



GINA FERAZZI/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

New Owners: The Forum in Inglewood underwent renovation more than six years ago and reopened as primarily a concert venue under the Madison Square Garden Co. Now a group controlled by the Clippers owner Steve Ballmer has purchased the Forum.

MLB owners and players discuss guidelines for season

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Sports Opinion

This week will be the most important week of the MLB season that has yet to begin.

The ownership of the teams are said to have a teleconference scheduled where they will discuss the parameters of getting a baseball season underway.

As far as we know, there will be a "second round" of spring training and teams will begin playing in their home stadiums in early July.

It sounds like some teams will play out of their spring training facilities for some reason. I'm assuming to keep the teams as close to one another as far as the distance.

Teams are set to play around 80-82 games where divisions are set up in such a way that teams in the "West" division from both leagues will combine to make up said division I.E.

The San Diego Padres would be in the same division as the Seattle Mariners, the Milwaukee Brewers will be with the Detroit Tigers and so on and so forth.

So, to reiterate, the team owners will discuss these and

MLB'S PROPOSAL

AT A GLANCE OF THE UPCOMING 82 GAMES

THREE DIVISIONS:

- West Division
- Central Division
- Eastern Division

All divisions consist of National League and American League teams.

30 TEAMS TOTAL

Of the 30 teams that are competing, only 24 will make it to post-season in October 2020.

KIANNA ZNIKA /TM

more topics and come to some sort of agreement before meeting with the player representatives on Tuesday, May 12, where they hope to come to a final agreement that will finalize the details on the makeup of the 2020 season.

The impending question becomes, does Tony Clark and the MLBPA, the MLB Players Association, accept the terms of the proposal?

Do they accept the offer straight-up or do they somehow renegotiate it to look like something else?

The goal of a negotiation is to come out looking victorious. With that being said, how much wiggle room do players have



CAROLYN COLE/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

No Fans: In this file photo, no fans were allowed to attend the Baltimore Orioles game at Camden Yards in Baltimore on Wednesday, April 29, 2015, due to unrest in the city. Owners of Major League Baseball teams gave the go-ahead to making a proposal to the players' union that could lead to the season starting around the Fourth of July weekend in ballparks without fans.

when they are negotiating not only for their livelihood but the groundskeepers who work their tails off keeping the field properly groomed?

They won't have a seat at the table, so have them in your thinking before making a choice.

This is a one-time thing (hopefully) unless this pandemic continues, in which case

renegotiations would be taking place once again.

With all of this being laid out there and the divisions being clarified as far as "inside sources" go, I'm excited.

Yeah, they took away my plans to attend every opportunity to laugh as the Astros get the beanball but that's because fans will be watching it with joyous

laughter from the comforts of home.

One last item to be excited about is the matchups when the Dodgers faces my second favorite team, the Seattle Mariners.

True, these won't be the same Mariners I grew up with, The kid or Ichiro, but the nostalgia factor will still be in full effect watching them play again.

After 11 years of leading Falcon basketball, Coach Russell May is nowhere near done

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As far back as the sixth grade, Russell May recalls being the student-coach for his basketball team.

Fast forward 11 years later, the coach of the Cerritos men's basketball team May received an award for being one of the most influential coaches in "JUCO" [junior college] Basketball.

"I felt humbled. It's an honor to be recognized for all your hard work. I couldn't do it without my mentors, my assistant coaches, or the players," May said.

May credits his success to his players' belief in him. He believes in them and, in return, his players trust him to put them in the best position to be successful as a team.

He doesn't let the little things bug him, stating "it's not always about the X's and O's, it's about the students."

His coaching success is due to the fact that he always put the players first.

"If we fail as a team, it is my fault. If we win, it's because of the team," May said.

In high school, he loved sports. He played soccer, baseball, basketball and football. It was then when he realized that he loved his coaches and watched their lifestyles.

Being the younger brother of three boys, he always had the drive to be good enough to play with his older brothers. There was always the determination to stand out.

Upon reaching the college level, he played for two seasons as a Falcon.

In his freshman year, the men's basketball team won the conference before losing in the second round of playoffs.

Sophomore year, the Falcons finished second in the conference and though he was injured for most of the second half of the season, he was awarded an honorable mention by the Southern California Conference (SCCA).

He would then transfer to Cal Poly Pomona excelling in basketball and volleyball.

He taught at Los Alamitos High School while coaching the basketball team part-time, and was also coaching at Cerritos

College part-time as well.

He served as a part-time assistant coach at Cerritos under Coach Jack Bogdanovich and under Coach Dean Ackland for six seasons before being handed the head coach position.

His first year as head coach, he was a walk-on.

He worked as a teacher at Los Alamitos High School and would drive over to Cerritos to run the men's basketball program.

The following year he was the full-time head coach of the program.

"It is a huge difference. It allows you to be on campus more and help your players more," May said.

This was the beginning of May's strategy of always putting players first, to work hard to put the best team on the floor and help them get into four-year schools to continue their schooling and basketball career.

May has had the opportunity to coach some very successful players during his years of coaching.

May coached NBA player Landry Fields from freshman year to his senior year of high school at Los Alamitos High School.

Some of his former players played overseas like Anthony



COURTESY OF CERRITOS COLLEGE SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE
Leader: Russell May leads the Cerritos College men's basketball team during his 11th year as head coach. He has led his team to four straight 20-win seasons.

Holliday, a former Falcon basketball player who played for Lusitania in Portugal in the Liga Professional.

Ken Brown, another former Falcon player, went to the Latvian Basketball League in the 2012-2013 season and is now a point

guard in the Greek Basket League.

Coach Russ May has been associated with the Cerritos College basketball program for the past 17 years but he still gives all the credit to his players for "making him look good" in accomplishing so much.

The Angel City Games will go virtual this summer

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"Originally, our organization had plans to hold The Angel City Games presented by The Hartford in June at UCLA and unfortunately due to COVID-19 we had to cancel that live event," Camille Mahlknecht, Angel City Sports program director, said.

"Fortunately, we're able to transfer the live event into a virtual events.

The event will take place over the summer during a four week period. It will consist of both sports and special events along with community activities not only for those with a physical disability but for the greater community," she said.

Upon being asked when the events are set to be held, Mahlknecht said the first week will be from June 22 to June 29.

The second week after will be from July 13-19. The third week will be from August 3-9.

The games will culminate on August 23 through August 30.

The virtual games will consist of nine Paralympic sports, including wheelchair basketball, track and field and wheelchair tennis.

"Perhaps you can try E-sports or workouts- every week. We will have new workouts for any ability level," Mahlknecht added.

"At the beginning of every week, we will have two to three sports and have a Paralympian come in and teach you some elements of the sport or give you the basics and give you tips on how to improve," Mahlknecht added.

"Towards the end of the week [individuals can] test [themselves] on how much you have improved during that week."

Angel City Sports is providing the funding for the first 300



COURTESY OF ANGEL CITY SPORTS FOUNDER

Opening Day: Athletes parade around the running track, inaugurating the 2019 Angel City Games. The games presented by The Hartford were hosted at the University of California Los Angeles from June 20-23, 2019.

people to register and apply for the games.

The organization will provide "free resistance bands and a massage ball" that will help with a lot of the workouts demonstrated in the event.

"The hope is that all athletes can participate whether they do or do not have that equipment," Mahlknecht said.

People can register on the website as a spectator if they only want to observe The Angel City Games and not participate.

"The goal is to have at least six countries participate in the event," Mahlknecht said.

The registration for The Angel City Games will open sometime at the end of the month of May.

The organization hopes to

gain "a sense of community, a sense of belonging and a sense of accomplishment" from hosting the virtual games Mahlknecht stated.

"A lot of people come to The Angel City Games and it feels like home with other people knowing what they are going through, and possibly find new athletes along the way," she said.