

Million dollar federal aid scam hits College



VINCENT MEDINA/TM

Money: Cerritos is the victim of a massive financial aid scam that affects most California Community Colleges. The school reported that approximately a million dollars were lost on Sept. 22, 2021.

Lily Marmolejo
News Editor
@talonmarks

Cerritos Community College was amongst the string of California Community Colleges that fell victim to the federal financial aid scam made by fake students admissions.

Cerritos College received about 9,000 applications that have given the admission offices reason to believe that they do not belong to the actual applicant.

The L.A. Times concluded that there were approximately 65,000 fraudulent applications sent to California Community Colleges.

The applications gathered from Cerritos Community College do not correlate with the other community colleges.

“We are looking at a little over a million

dollars at this point in time and we have not reimbursed all the financial aid refunds,” said Dean of Enrollment Services Yvette Tafoya. “students have been asked to verify their identity before they can enroll or receive financial aid.”

The financial aid grants fake applicants received were federal Pell grants, federal student loans and curb funding meant to help students during COVID.

Students must verify their identity. Students will receive a notice that they must respond to within five business days verifying their identification.

There have only been about a dozen cases where a student was accidentally dropped from a course.

Professors began notifying faculty members when trends started to appear in June.

Classes that were affected by the

fraudulent student accounts were classes that required no English or math clearance, humanities and business classes.

“Those were severely impacted,” said Tafoya. “the fraudulent students were taking up seats in classes that could have taken seats from other students but the departments in reality started when they saw a class was full they started adding sections to offer more courses to the students.”

The amount of damage done due to the scam is unknown.

Classes were continuously being offered to supply the increased demand.

No known student has come forward with a complaint.

Professors began notifying faculty members when trends started to appear in June.

Tafoya said hesitantly, “Since June we’ve

dropped a little over 3700 students or withdrawn them from classes and each one was taking three to four classes.”

Common trends would vary weekly in applications but the most common ones were applicants with the same or similar outlook email, IP address, or missing phone number. Accounts also shared the same addresses.

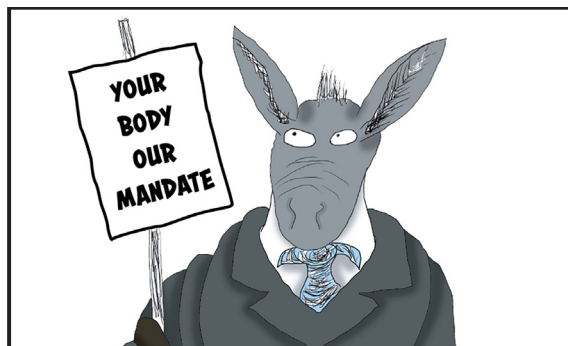
Fraudulent student accounts used stolen identities from all over the country. There were no apparent trends in the identities that were stolen.

As cases continue to arise Tafoya stressed that detecting these fraudulent accounts is difficult and time-consuming. This is the first year anything of this nature has occurred at Cerritos College before.

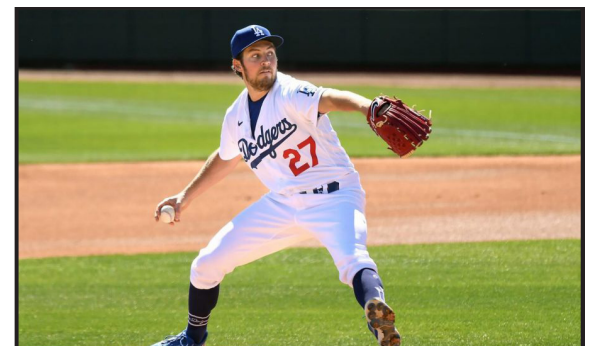
Efforts to prevent this from reoccurring have been made, but detecting fraudulent accounts has been made a priority.



Community pg. 6: COVID Ink



Opinion pg. 10: no forced vaccine



Sports pg. 12 : ghosted by Dodgers

College offers students Moderna vaccine



VINCENT MEDINA/TM

Falcons: Cerritos College is offering the COVID-19 vaccine, Moderna, to students ahead of the college vaccine mandate on Sept. 30, 2021. Daisy Sotis receives her COVID-19 vaccine at Wesley Health Center.

Lily Marmolejo
News Editor
@talonmarks

Cerritos College is offering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and free testing to students who would like to protect themselves from the virus and help prevent the spread of the virus on campus.

"The vaccine is highly effective; the pandemic is not going to end," said Dr. Hillary Mennella, associate dean of student health

at Cerritos College. "There is no reason not to get the vaccine, it is an act of solidarity and it's for public health."

Due to a rise in COVID cases in California, Cerritos College along with other universities in the state have decided to mandate students and staff members to receive the vaccine.

Students and staff members will have to show proof of vaccination on September 30 or subject themselves to weekly

testing.

There are no plans to offer students and staff other types of vaccines.

A large number of Cerritos College students like the idea of having the school encourage students and staff on campus to receive the vaccine.

"I think it's pretty helpful that the school is offering the vaccine, but I feel that if they are offering Moderna, they should offer Pfizer as well," said Cerritos College

student Claudia Reyes. "More students would be inclined since it's FDA approved."

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is the only vaccine approved by the FDA.

Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are currently under emergency authorization, but underwent rigorous testing before being released to the public.

"The Moderna vaccine is the only vaccine being offered by the community," explained Dr. Mennella.

"I think it's really good to help other people get the vaccine. I think it's good for the college students, specifically because it's accessible. If I had not already gotten the vaccine I would get it here," said Cerritos College student Diana Martinez.

The Student Health Center is offering vaccine services by appointment only between the hours of 8 am – 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Evening medical consultation hours are also available via zoom on Wednesdays from 4 pm – 7 pm.

All individuals on campus will be required to wear a mask at all times and practice social distancing.

Having received both doses of the vaccine does not prevent the spread of COVID-19 and it's many variants

29 COVID-19 cases confirmed on campus

Vincent Medina
Managing Editor
@talonmarks

Cerritos College has reported, as of Sept. 9, that 29 COVID-19 cases were found on campus among students and faculty, since the campus reopened to 50% capacity on Aug. 16.

The report comes ahead of the Oct. 1, vaccine mandate for students and staff at the college.

Vice President of Business Services, Felipe Lopez, said the cases are no cause for concern.

"We have had staff here since the start of the pandemic. With the college opening up with more people, we had the expectation of likely identify additional people that tested positive," said Lopez.

The Vice President stated that each case is unrelated to the others.

"They appear to be isolated cases. We are a very large campus with multiple departments, and you can see in the reports that they are scattered all over the place," said Lopez.

COVID cases are reported on the college website.

Fierro elaborates on upcoming mask & vaccine mandate

Fatima Durrani
Staff Writer
@talonmarks

Cerritos College President Jose Fierro took to Instagram live to answer student's and parent's questions on Aug. 31.

Fierro announced that starting Friday, Oct. 1, the vaccine mandate will be implemented at Cerritos College campus. Students who decide not to get vaccinated will be tested weekly and must present proof of a negative test result.

When students arrive on campus, they must check in at a health screening kiosk and prove they have no symptoms. They will receive a QR code displaying proof they are healthy and get a wristband that grants them campus access.

Fierro announced, "If you have no proof of testing, the screen will give you a red bar which means that you will not be allowed on campus."

If the bar displays green, a student is free to come onto campus. This rule applies to everyone on campus, including faculty, staff, students and visitors.

"In my experience, students have done well with the procedures we have set in order to be able to be on campus," Fierro. "I'm very thankful to everyone who has been following the



FATIMA DURRANI/TM

IG Live: President Fierro acknowledges viewers as they join his Instagram live for President's Hour. Students, staff, parents and visitors ask questions regarding any updates Fierro has about Cerritos College on Aug. 31, 2021.

regulations."

Fierro elaborates, "The mask mandates seem to be working. Even though the vaccines are not 100% effective, the vaccinations are doing what they're supposed to be doing, which is preventing you from getting extremely sick."

He explains how the vaccine can definitely bring down the chances of someone being hospitalized or gravely ill which is important.

"It is a matter of creating layers of protection," the president said.

Fierro also informed viewers that the library had to close as a result of the air conditioning

breaking down. He said It is crucial for the air filter to be fully functioning because it helps reduce airborne contaminants including COVID-19.

The president also mentioned that as of now Cerritos College will not be holding any in-person events on campus due to safety precautions. Viewers on Instagram live showed gratitude to Dr. Fierro for the safety protocols he has implemented, such as the check-in kiosk.

"I wish I could take 100% credit for that idea but I can't. It has been a group effort, ...

[Read more on Talonmarks.com](#)

New safety measures as students return to campus

Vincent Medina
Managing Editor
@talonmarks

Cerritos College will reopen to 50% capacity and resume in-person learning on August 16. To ensure student and faculty safety, the board of trustees voted to pass a resolution for safety measures on campus.

Since the end of July, at least 15 cases of COVID-19 were found among students and faculty on campus.

"We have tested students weekly since March, with a very low positivity rate," said Cerritos College President Jose Fierro. "We are still following safety protocols. Each room allows a six-foot distance from all students."

The board of trustees passed a resolution on August 4, that mandates all students and faculty on campus to either show proof of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine or show a weekly negative COVID-19 test.

"We will require proof of vaccination on campus by requiring students to submit a picture of their vaccine card to our health services," said Fierro.

Students will be given instructions on how to upload proof of vaccination to the site Optimum HQ.

Cerritos College campus remains empty a week before school starts on August 9, 2021.

Students are reminded to wear a mask before entering each building and are required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or submit to weekly testing.

When students arrive on campus they must check in at a health pre-screening kiosk to ensure they have no symptoms of COVID-19, or have come in contact with anyone who has the virus. There are currently five on campus, with more expected to arrive.

Students will receive wristbands after their screening, confirming to faculty they are cleared to enter campus. The colors of the wrist band will change each day.

Fierro recommends students arrive on campus 30 – 45 minutes early to check-in and to ensure they get to class on time.

The school has also hired COVID-19 liaisons, who will walk the campus to ensure everyone is following guidelines and safety protocols. The president also stated that maintenance has purchased equipment to help sanitize each room.

"They have a sprayer with an ionizer, then they will go through the room and the chemicals sanitize the room for 24 hours," Fierro said. "It's biodegradable and safe..."

[Read more on Talonmarks.com](#)

Students struggle to check-in & get to class

Lily Marmolejo
News Editor
@talonmarks

Vincent Medina
Managing Editor
@talonmarks

Cerritos College is requiring students to check-in at health screening kiosks before going to class. Each student will receive a wristband at the kiosk, after confirming they show no symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness.

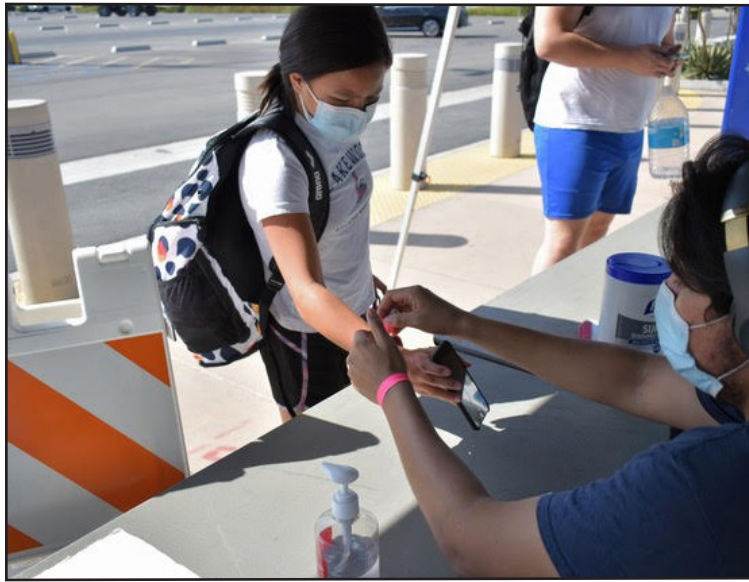
The college posted the new check-in procedures on the school website and sent an email to inform students of the change on August 13.

However, many students were not aware of the check-in procedures until they were informed by their professors or upon arriving to campus.

"I heard about it through my zoom meeting yesterday. Where do I even go?" said James Talam.

Liaisons directed students to screening sites, where health screeners provided them with maps to each kiosk location on campus.

"We've had a lot of students who've needed direction to get a



VINCENT MEDINA/TM

Campus: A Lakewood swim team member checks in at a health screening kiosk before going to the pool. As she checks in, the 29 case of COVID-19 is reported on Cerritos College campus on Sept. 9, 2021.

wristband," said college liaison Parker Rivera. "From there they had trouble finding their classes, so we chauffeured them to their room."

Many students remain confused about the check-in protocol, as there is minimal direction to kiosks on campus.

"So far it has not been a problem because it's not busy, but [health screening] isn't necessary," said Isaiah Soto. "If you feel

healthy, and you know they haven't been exposed you should be able to walk in."

The check-in procedure consists of scanning a QR code and answering a brief questionnaire.

Students must answer if they have a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, fatigue, contact with a COVID-19 positive person and if they traveled outside the region during the last 10 days.



VINCENT MEDINA/TM

Check-in: Meximos Garcia gives a wristband to a student at the library health screening kiosk on Monday, Aug. 16, 2021. The wristband shows that the student is safe to enter campus, and has no COVID-19 symptoms.

Students who are asymptomatic would be able to enter campus and carry the virus onto campus.

Health screeners say more kiosks will be added to campus once more people apply for the job. Starting September 30, students and faculty will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or provide a weekly negative COVID-19 test.

Students on campus shared

different opinions about the upcoming vaccine mandate.

"Masks are still necessary. Mandating the vaccine is the optimal way to do it," said Talam.

"Masks should be optional. At least we get the option to get tested, vaccines shouldn't be required," said Soto.

"There are still so many unknowns. People who are more vulnerable to the virus should get it."

Trustees discuss vaccine mandate, faculty members threaten lawsuits

Vincent Medina
Managing Editor
@talonmarks

The Cerritos College Board of Trustees attempted to compromise on the best way to implement the COVID-19 vaccine mandate during their meeting on Sept. 15.

Trustees disagreed about the best course of action and received backlash for the mandate from the community.

President Jose Fierro explained how the vaccine mandate will work.

According to the adopted policy, starting Oct. 1, the college will implement a partial vaccine mandate. Students and faculty will have the option to show proof of vaccination or show proof of a weekly negative COVID test through the site Optimum HQ.

During the meeting, the board of trustees decided to add a revision to the policy, where full implementation of the vaccine mandate would be set for Jan. 1, 2022.

Under this proposal, the college would remove the weekly testing option starting Dec. 31.

With the removal of the weekly testing accommodation, students and faculty will be required to show proof of vaccination by Jan. 1, 2022.

Staff who do not submit proof of vaccination after 30 days, will be given unpaid leave and subject to disciplinary action.

Fierro did not specify what "disciplinary action" would mean, but suggested it would possibly entail termination at the board's discretion.

The college will allow medical and religious exemptions from the vaccine, but the board was unclear on how they would verify the exemptions.

"We have to have some sort of safety protocol like showing proof of vaccination and proof of a negative test until we can institute a full vaccination policy," said trustee, Mariana Pacheco.

Trustee, Marisa Perez, expressed confusion over the

qualifications for a vaccine exemption and the period of time faculty will have to submit their documentation before being placed on leave.

"I still have a lot of questions. We need to get some legal guidance," said Perez. "This is an issue that is coming across the entire community college system. Some of these legal issues such as liability, I think we need to understand better."

Due to the need for clarification, revisions will be made to the policy and the trustees will bring it back in their next meeting.

"The safety of this campus, the safety of the faculty and students is incredibly important," said Pacheco.

College faculty and members of the public took the opportunity to voice their disdain for the vaccine requirement. While some believed the mandate was an infringement on their freedoms, others spread disproven information about COVID and the effectiveness of the vaccine.

Tenured faculty member Rossitza Petrova threatened the board with lawsuits if they implemented the mandate.

"What are you going to do with us tenured staff if we refuse to get this vaccine? Are you going to fire us? Are you prepared for the lawsuits coming your way," said Petrova.

The staff member went on to

claim she has natural immunity to COVID after contracting the virus during the pandemic.

However, as board member Dr. Sandra Salazar would later point out, people who have contracted COVID can still become infected.

Cerritos College cosmetology instructor, Scarlett Chiros, built upon Petrova's statement.

"You may think we will concede and give in when our income is being threatened, but you are wrong," said Chiros. "Class action lawsuits will follow. We will not go quietly."

Cynthia Rosindes, a mother of two students at Cerritos, opposes the mandate as well, despite her family contracting the virus last year.

She claimed the vaccine is ineffective and helps spread the virus, despite the CDC proving otherwise.

"If the college decides to move forward and mandate this experimental vaccine, and votes to contribute to modern-day segregation," said Rosindes.

"I have decided to enroll my children in other colleges that won't place obstacles in the way of their education and will not discriminate against other students."

Trustee, Zurich Lewis, agreed with the opposition and expressed his fear that students and faculty will leave the college.

"There are many reasons to vaccinate but it should not be something that we, as a board, force upon our students," said Lewis.

The board will bring the vaccine policy back for a second reading, and vote to implement the revisions in their next meeting on Oct. 6.



VINCENT MEDINA/TM

Legislation: Cerritos College Board of Trustees discusses mandating the COVID-19 vaccine for students and faculty on campus. They proposed revisions to the policy during their meeting on Sept. 15, 2021.

Biden endorses Newsom at LBCC

Vincent Medina
Managing Editor
@talonmarks

President Joe Biden and Governor Gavin Newsom rallied at Long Beach City College to stop the California Gubernatorial Recall Election on Sept. 13.

During the rally Trump supporters, recall candidates, proud boys, anti-maskers and anti-vaxxers protested outside claiming the election is rigged before it begins.

President Biden is the most prominent Democrat to support Newsom, as Vice President Kamala Harris and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren came to support the governor earlier in the campaign.

“The eyes of the nation are on California,” said Biden as he spoke to the invite-only rally audience. “The decision you are about to make is going to reverberate around the nation.”

The president continued to discuss recall candidate front-runner Larry Elder, also referring to him as “the closest thing to a Trump clone as I’ve seen in this state.”

“Voting ‘no’ will be protecting California from Trump-Republicans who are trying to block us from beating this pandemic,” said Biden.

“We don’t need politics in this

battle against COVID-19. We need science, we need courage, we need leadership. We need Gavin Newsom,” said the president.

Outside the college, far-right protesters and anti-science activists chanted to remove the governor and shouted disputed information about wearing a mask and the COVID-19 vaccine.

Far-right Gubernatorial candidate Sarah Stevens participated in the protests.

She made it clear that Republicans’ believe that the election is rigged for Newsom, despite the election being the next day.

Elder also said that he detected voter fraud before the election.

Republicans continue to repeat the pattern of claiming an election is rigged when they lose or see the polls are overwhelmingly against them.

“I probably have 50 – 100 text messages that have come in today from my phone, of people saying they went to go vote and as soon as they got there with their ballot, they said it was already registered in the computer and that they had already voted,” said Stevens.

“I have another guy we met at a rally yesterday, who says that he has friends in Mexico and they were getting ballots in Mexico.”

Stevens acknowledged that no election officials have come forward to give credit to her claim.



VINCENT MEDINA /TM

Rally: Trump supporters protest across the street from Long Beach City College. Many claim the election was stolen by Joe Biden, who rallies with Governor Newsom at the college on Sept. 13, 2021.

While the Republican candidate believes that the election was rigged if Newsom won, her attitude changed when considering the scenario of Elder or herself winning the election.

“It’s really hard to know. The only way we are going to know who the winner is, is with a full-blow audit of the state,” said Stevens, taking time to choose her words carefully. “If I win that would be amazing, but I would still want to check to make sure it’s legit.”

Stevens says she would want

an audit to ensure election integrity, but she again changed her attitude when considering an audit if Newsom wins.

The Republican candidate says she and her supporters would order an audit of the election results, but Stevens is confident the audit will show fraud.

“There is no way [the audit] is going to come back clean,” she said. “We already have story after story right now. They’re even using Dominion voting machines.”

The claim that Dominion

voting machines are sources of fraud is said by My Pillow Guy, Mike Lindell. His claim was proven disproven, and now Lindell and other news outlets who spread the claim are being sued for billions of dollars.

After numerous polls showed Newsom in the lead, his victory was confirmed during the evening of September 14 and he will continue being the governor of California.

Republicans plan to fight the election results despite no credible evidence of election rigging.

No religious exemption for COVID-19 vaccine leaders



VINCENT MEDINA /TM

Religion: The Archdiocese of Los Angeles recommends that all eligible people receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The Saint John of God Church holds an indoor Ash Wednesday sermon on Feb. 17, 2021.

Vincent Medina
Managing Editor
@talonmarks

Religious leaders from the Christian, Catholic and Hindu faith stated that their religion does not exempt anyone from taking the COVID-19 vaccine.

As vaccine mandates take

effect in businesses, government agencies, schools and colleges, exemptions are offered for those who cite a religious reason not to immunize themselves from the virus.

However, Hindu priest Archarya Bhriugu Nath Shukla, Christian pastor Danny Gomez and Catholic reverend Brian Nunes, stated that they do not

give vaccine exemptions to their congregation.

Shukla leads the Sanatan Dharma Temple in Norwalk and encourages his congregation to receive the vaccine and seek treatment if they are ill.

“Hindu says to save your life. In our religion, there are no restrictions,” said Shukla. “People who ask for me to write a note,

saying they can’t receive the vaccine, I tell them ‘no.’”

In addition to encouraging the vaccine, the Hindu priest offers the vaccine to the community during the weekend at the temple.

“One infected can lead to lots of infected. It’s your responsibility

“

“Hindu says to save your life. In our religion, there are no restrictions.”

Archarya Bhriugu Nath
Shukla,
Hindu priest

”

to keep yourself, your family, and society safe,” he said. “We need to stop the virus.”

Pastor Gomez helps preside over the Calvary Chapel in Downey. The church received multiple citations for not following safety protocols during the pandemic and was briefly closed.

However, Gomez explained that Christianity does not have any restrictions on taking the vaccine. The church also does not write religious exemptions for their congregation.

“The bible says ‘seek Godly wisdom from above,’” said the pastor. “It’s a personal conviction to receive the vaccine. Everyone should be making the best decision for their health.”

The church continues to resist COVID safety protocols, as masks

are optional during their indoor sermons.

“There is a fine line, though. It has to do with the ingredients in the vaccine,” said Gomez. “If the vaccine uses STEM cells that are acquired from a fetus, then it would cross into our religion.”

Gomez was uninformed about the status of the COVID-19 virus and the vaccine, believing that antibodies protected a person from the virus and that the vaccine is still in emergency approval.

The FDA approved the Pfizer vaccine in August, and the CDC reports that people who survived COVID in the past can be infected again.

Father Brian Nunes is the Archdiocese of Los Angeles’ vicar general and moderator of the curia.

He released a statement addressing the issue of religious exemption.

“The Archdiocese of Los Angeles, in accordance with the Vatican and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), recommends that all members of the Catholic community, who are able to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, should do so,” stated Nunes.

He continued to quote the USCCB, who said taking the vaccine is “an act of charity toward the other members of our community.”

“Being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good,” said the USCCB.

Los Angeles celebrates Kobe Bryant day



PHOTOS BY GUSTAVO OLIVARES-MOLINA/TM

Murals: Businesses supporting the NBA legend. Reggie's Liquor located on 4426 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90037.

Gustavo Olivares-Molina
Community Editor
@talonmarks

The Los Angeles community celebrated Kobe Bryant on August 24, in honor of the basketball star's numbers with the LA Lakers (8 and 24).

Bryant's birthday was celebrated the day before on August 23.

Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven other people died in a helicopter crash on Jan. 26, 2020.

320 murals were created across all of Southern California. An estimate brought by Kobe Mural.com, an official interactive map where visitors can access information to visit public artworks dedicated to the Olympic basketball player and his 13-year old daughter.

Anthony Nash, a vintage car mechanic, was visiting one of the Bryant murals at 1005 W Century Blvd.

He wore a Kobe Bryant rest in peace shirt, a decorative face mask with images of Kobe and Gigi, as well as a LA Lakers hat in honor of him.

Outside the mural was his truck with the number eight, in reference to Mamba.

"He encouraged me to reach a dream I never thought I could

reach," explained Nash. "The best I can be at whatever I do."

The mamba mentality, as Nash described, encouraged him to give his best efforts at his personal goals.

One of his projects was honoring Kobe Bryant with their own personalized 1972 Buick Skylark. Nash hopes his passion for cars can encourage others by spreading awareness with each mural he plans on visiting.

Bryant died one day after Nash's birthday on January 25.

Nash said he was in disbelief after hearing the news that Gianna died with her father.

"I thought I was dreaming," he said. "I'm a grown man, but I cried like a baby for him, and Gigi and everyone else that was on that plane."

"It changed the world. You know, it made a lot of people come together in love," Nash explained the passing of Kobe strengthened his love for his own daughter, "it made a lot of dads hug their daughters."

Nash said that Los Angeles can continue to honor Bryant by establishing more youth programs in the city and teach the Mamba mentality.

"Do the best in everything you do, that way you can never go wrong with that outcome," Nash

said.

At the Staples Center, home of the Los Angeles Lakers and where Kobe Bryant spent his 20-year career, visitors from around the world came to pay their respects.

Troy Jackson described his first time arriving here as overwhelming.

"I can't even capture this," Jackson said.

"Real motivating, inspiring. I'm really just here to capture this moment," Jackson said as he documented his arrival at the Staples Center.

His distinctive yellow and purple sports uniform was a common color worn by supporters who came to pay their respects.

Jackson mentioned he was devastated when the news came out.

"I was a Lakers fan 8 to 24," Jackson said as he explained his lifelong support during Kobe Bryant's career and the impact he felt from his death.

"Very emotional to see he died and the way he died. It's like, there's no coming back," he said.

Jackson suggested Los Angeles could change the name of the Staples Center to, "The Kobe Bryant Center."

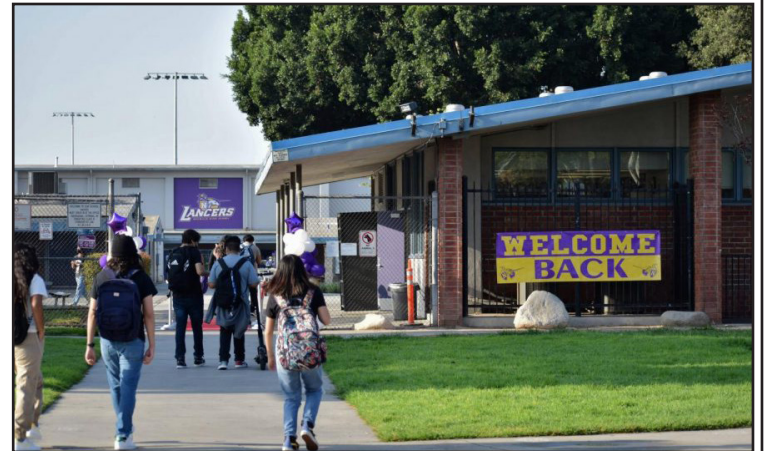
Jackson pointed towards the center of the Staples Center to have a giant statue and emphasized fans would appreciate seeing a visible memorial piece.

"Here in the front of the door. I mean, I'm pretty sure Lakers fans would appreciate that for real, I know I would for sure," Jackson said.

Outside the center, famous athletes like Jerry West, Oscar De La Hoya, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar have their own commemorative statues.

Bryant's message of uplifting the youth was always an example of why loyal fans admired his accomplishments.

Local K-12 students express fear as COVID-19 cases rise



VINCENT MEDINA/TM

Schools: LA County is reporting that COVID-19 cases are rising in K-12 schools. Students return to Norwalk High School and follow safety restrictions such as wearing a face mask and social distancing on Aug. 12, 2021.

Fatima Durrani
Staff Writer
@talonmarks

As schools begin to resume on-campus learning, the COVID-19 Delta variant sparks anxiety within parents, students and staff leaving them worried about school closures.

Districts like Norwalk La Mirada in LA County have a daily 7-day average of about 25 cases.

NLMUSD has created a COVID-19 safety plan to prevent further spread of the disease with policies such as sanitizing, social distancing and working from home (if one is vulnerable).

"Some kids have been sent home because of coughing and sneezing," said Mishal Lateef, a Lexington Junior High School student from Orange County. "I fear that my school will close because COVID-19 is increasing."

Lateef said students at her school do obey mask rules. The student from Lexington Junior High is afraid that there is a chance of closure due to those who refuse safety protocols.

Dr. Mary Sieu, superintendent

of the ABC Unified School District, said she does not fear school closures. She mentioned that students obey safety protocols such as wearing masks indoors and outdoors at all times.

Sieu said that the district lost a lot of students, as about 700 gravitated to online learning.

She expressed how she hopes to see more students change to in-person learning rather than online.

"Sometimes I worry that we might have to revert to virtual learning," Bushra Syed, a student from Segerstrom High School said.

Syed said most students have been complying with the mask rule, but that it's hard to follow social distancing policies during the passing periods.

Sieu noticed that the increase of cases within the ABCUSD has been mostly due to contact with family members and outside sources rather than within the schools.

Compared to the start of September in LA County, cases have leveled out due to students following COVID procedures.



Art: One of several public artworks commemorating the daughter and father duo. Kobe and Gigi mural located on 1005 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90044.



Jerseys: Tourist couple walking north from the Staples Center on Kobe Bryant day. They are crossing the sidewalk together wearing matching Kobe jerseys.

Golden State Tattoo Expo adjusts to COVID



PHOTOS BY GUSTAVO OLIVARES-MOLINA/TM

Tebori: Traditional poke-n-stick tattoo done by Jess Yen. He is a multi-awarded artist by both national and intervention conventions, global fans greeted him on Instagram live on Sept. 19, 2021.



Hallways: lined up with vendors, and over 550 artists present. The 3 day event hosts the best talent in our CA state, photographed on Sept. 17, 2021.



Tattoo: Victor Sepulveda tattooing on his clients forearm. His career spans over 25 years in the tattoo industry taken on Sept. 19, 2021.



Entrance: towards the Pasadena convention center. Located on 300 E. Green St. Pasadena, California the three day event took place on Sept. 17-19, photographed Sept. 17, 2021.

Gustavo Olivares-Molina
Community Editor
@talonmarks

West Coast's biggest tattoo convention reunites one year after COVID-19.

Tattoo celebrities and industry experts gathered to showcase the best talent across the state of California. Influential, big-name artists like Carlos Torresand Nikko Hurtado made appearances along with various key figures in the tattoo community.

The Golden State Tattoo Expo 2021 was expected to return in January, however the mega event was delayed by almost two years due to COVID-19 restrictions. The new dates were held over the weekend Sept.17-19, at 300 E. Green St. Pasadena, California.

Pasadena Convention Center required all artists, employees, vendors and attendees to either be fully vaccinated with visible documentation or show evidence of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours.

The new conditions for hosting large events complied with both state and local requirements. Artists, vendors, and attendees were required to wear a facemask at all times, regardless of vaccination status.

No smoking, vaping, or eating was allowed in the building while moving through the event. Only certain assigned areas for eating and drinking allowed individuals to temporarily remove their masks, along with a few stationary tables for event members.

Designated areas for artists assigned for hygiene, hand sinks located around the perimeter and disposable trash cans were routinely picked up. These practices were already in place prior to COVID-19, as most tattoo artists work with close proximity to their clients.

Facemasks are nothing new

to the tattoo industry, "When I tattoo, I do it out of courtesy because we're in such close proximity," Said Victor Sepulveda, tattoo artist veteran of 25 years that specializes in Chicano art, "everyone is either vaccinated or they are getting COVID tested, so everyone that comes in is supposed to be negative."

Rita Ashley-Battiste, audience coordinator for major events across SoCal reminded everyone, "Please put your masks on, the health inspectors are walking around!"

Battiste already worked for six major events prior to Golden

“

I think everyone should have their own choice, we are Americans, we are America, it should be freedom of choice, whether or not what I do, it should be respected.”

Reese Hilburn
Tattoo Artist

State Expo, the first one being Born-Free, a motorcycle event held in Orange County where nobody wore masks. Battiste mentioned how some artists were not obeying the mask rules the entire weekend and pointed directly at them. "They put so much money into the event, into them, that they can't kick them out." Battiste said. Special privileges were visible, some artists, along with their entourage adamantly defiant towards the facemask requirement.

Battiste was overall happy that her source of income was returning along with more work opportunities, "Good. Good, more paychecks."

Visitors had the opportunity to be tattooed at the convention, as well as compete across various

tattoo categories such as best original design, cover-up, black-and-white, and Asian influence. Live entertainment was provided by Freakshow Deluxe, one of the performers from the crew, Dakota Cooke, known by her stage name, "The Bearded Lady," got tattooed prior to her performance.

Cooke's adrenal glandular disorder allows her to have a high pain tolerance, "I had two tattoos for the past two days, I'm fine."

A self-described Elton John fan, Cooke's forearm had the singer's iconic heart-shaped sunglasses to commemorate her love for the English artist.

"I'm excited to come back. I missed performing, I really did... I was nervous," Cooke said, "I'm really looking forward to being back on stage again."

Cooke's concerns were alleviated with the required COVID safety measurements put in place, "I work for the federal government in Nevada, everyone is vaccinated and I stand with that."

Reese Hilburn, tattoo artist and social media entrepreneur, said that she will be selective and reconsider future tattoo conventions. Her last tattoo convention prior to the pandemic was in Europe.

Vaccination passports are now common in the E.U., with harder travel restrictions such as testing or mandatory quarantining for those who are unvaccinated.

"I refuse to entertain anything like that because I know what's good for my body," Hilburn said, "I think everyone should have their own choice, we are Americans, we are America, it should be freedom of choice, whether or not what I do, it should be respected."

Networking among artists and their peers, financial profits and representing their businesses are some reasons why patrons returned to the Golden State Expo this year.

Two new pieces of artwork on campus

Kara Alexander
A & E Editor
@talonmarks

Cerritos College added a couple new pieces of art to the campus over summer break.

Two new murals are on display for all faculty and students to view in front of the student center. Final touches for the murals were added June 1st.

The artist behind the artwork is Amir Fallah.

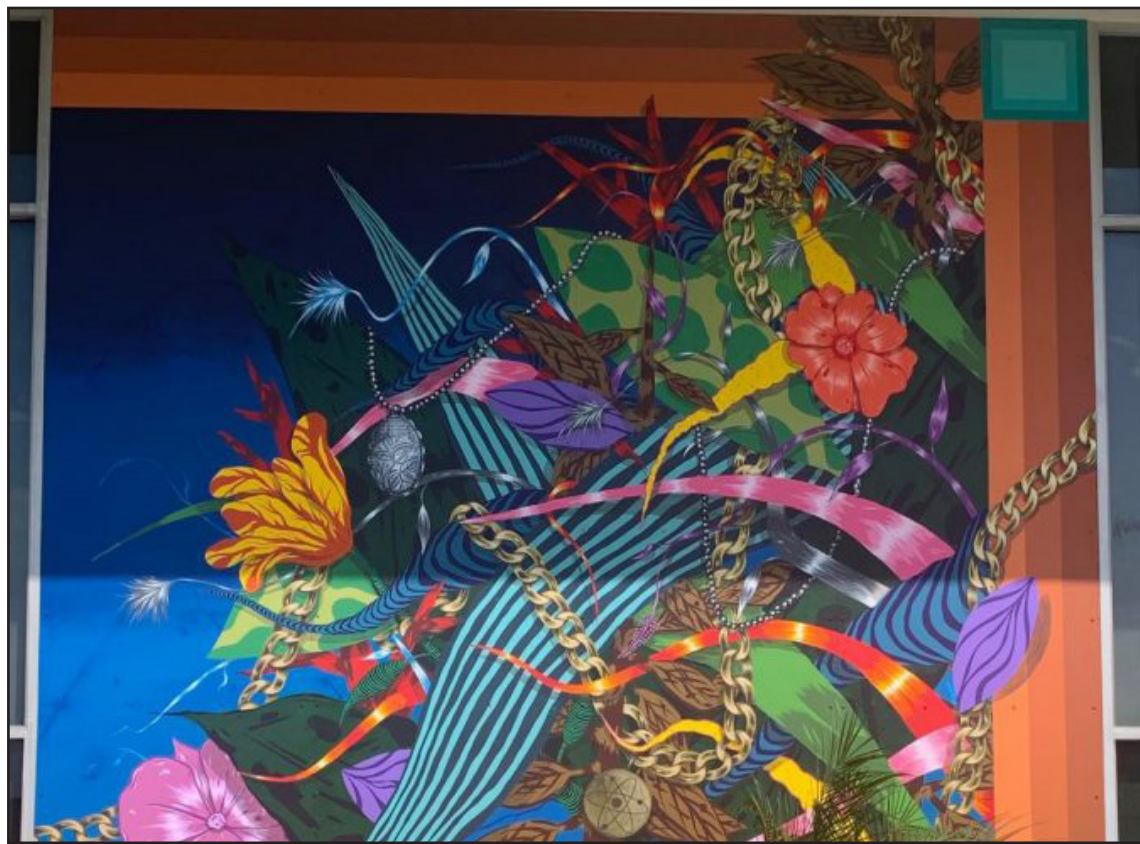
He creates lots of intricate murals in his spare time. Fallah had a clear vision that he was going for when creating this artwork for the College.

The botanical specimens were chosen by the artist to showcase their connections to the regions of the world from which Cerritos College's students originate.

The jewelry that is shown in the murals represents the common family heirlooms and potential sources of financial aid brought by immigrants and refugees as they travel to new places.

Neon streaks of orange and pink foliage. A golden chain expanding out of the canvas, giving it three-dimensional depth. Blue and orange tones contrasting background give the mural a distinct pop flare.

The use of locket within



KARA ALEXANDER/TM

Murals: New artwork on display by Student Center features art work by Amir Fallah. The murals were painted over summer.

both murals contain icons of the many academic disciplines that are taught here on campus, which helps those immigrants as well as their descendants to improve their lives and also better the world.

"The murals bring a brightness to the campus that was not present before," says Robtrell Scott, a

history major at Cerritos College.

"The murals are something nice to stop and admire before heading off to class," says Riley Schorr, a music major at Cerritos College.

Schorr describes the murals as having a lot of great details and bold colors.

"Themes of nature are present

in both pieces," says Jennifer Rodriguez, a Communication major at Cerritos College.

Looking at the murals gives me a feeling of serenity," she states. Students are pleased with the addition of the new murals, and are hopeful they will start to see more artwork just like the murals all around the college campus.

New masterpiece at College Art Gallery

Fatima Durrani
Staff Writer
@talonmarks

Christopher Anthony Velasco is a performance artist and photographer from Los Angeles who holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from UC Santa Barbara.

He is passionate about emphasizing the queer brown body as well as horror and camp aesthetics in his work.

Velasco created a performance art titled "Forbidden Photos of a Doctor Above Suspicion," which represents stages of natural decomposition of anatomy into the two different stages-which are advanced decay and dry remains/bones. Instead of an actual human body, polaroids with saturated and vibrant colors represent the processes.

In this exhibit, there are visible representational and nonrepresentational aspects, as Velasco displayed, that can be viewed on polaroids scattered throughout the scene. In a similar manner that...

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

Christopher Anthony Velasco brings his art to life

Gustavo Olivares-Molina
Community Editor
@talonmarks

Photographer and performance artist Christopher Anthony Velasco features the human body as art in an amazing performance, in the performance window dressing exhibit on campus, creating an abstract operation room.

He conducted surgery on himself with art mediums that incorporate elements of horror and soft gore.

Velasco's presence was intimidating as he wore blood-covered scrubs and lab coat, with bright blotches of red scattered over their entire body head to toe. The costume was appropriate, as a mad scientist, we see the level of commitment Velasco undergoes as a performance artist, ensuring that the horror genre is present when performing.

Polaroid images of various shapes and sizes capture stages of decay, and the image itself is decomposed which leaves room for interpretation.

At times, it resembled human flesh tones or advanced stages of infectious diseases that evoke fears with anyone aware of their own mortality.

Manipulations of photo-sensitive polaroid's allowed Velasco to play the role as a doctor.

Operating with violent attacks on stage and on themselves,

he pushed the boundaries of personal expression by merging photographs of the environment onto himself with cropping, cutting and pasting.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the performance required social distancing outside. Attendees had to wear facemask in order to watch the performance and ensure the safety of other people.

The novelty of this experience was made possible due to the limitations of what performance artists can perform while maintaining the safety of others. Themes of natural decay and decomposition were subtle in the performance but greatly used as visual metaphors for Velasco.

Replicating what the audience saw for both performances gave Velasco's show an underground feeling.

The environment lent itself by allowing pictures to be removed and combined with the performance. The window display gave full expression to objects, which were attached to the visible glass in velcro-like fashion.

Velasco's manic breakdown involving polaroids and stationery supplies moved at a slow burn pace, leaving plenty of time for the artist to experiment in his labroom.

His time on stage proved to be an impact, as the end of the show looked nothing compared to its original condition prior to the performance.



GUSTAVO OLIVARES-MOLINA/TM

Window Dressing: Christopher Anthony Velasco's performance of "Window Dressing" is held at the Fine Arts building. Viewers can see photographs in the performance on Sept. 11, 2021.



FATIMA DURRANI/TM

Gallery: Christopher Anthony Velasco's art titled *Forbidden Photos Of A Doctor Above Suspicion* is displayed in the windows of the Fine Arts building at Cerritos College. This exhibit runs from Aug. 30-Sept. 11 2021.

Nashville-style chicken spot in Lakewood for spice lovers



FATIMA DURRANI/TM

Foodies: Customers walk to the new Dave's Hot Chicken location which opened on Sept. 12. There were busy lines inside the red-lit store with customers eager to try spicy chicken.

Fatima Durrani
Staff Writer
@talonmarks

Offering seven spice levels ranging from no spice to reaper, (where you need to sign a waiver because it's that spicy), Dave's Hot Chicken has officially made its way to Lakewood.

Dave's Hot Chicken offers chicken tenders, sliders, mac n' cheese and fries. They're best known for their spicy, peppery flavor infused into the well-cooked chicken.

The casual fast-food hit

became a sensation at a pop-up in Hollywood back in 2017 and is now expanding their chain throughout the US.

Dave's Hot Chicken is the best place for those who love spicy chicken or want to customize it to their preference.

It definitely doesn't disappoint when it comes to giving customers an enjoyable burn-leaving you full but wanting more.

In fact, if you'd prefer an extreme heat, it's recommended to try out the reaper spice level-which is the highest level of spice.

The reaper spice is served on

fresh, white bread or in a slider, and is so spicy that it pulls tears out of your eyes.

A liability waiver needs to be signed before trying this meat!

All locations offer Halal meat, which is permissible for Muslims in addition to others to eat.

This offers Muslims the chance to experience delicious, filling chicken with the comfort of knowing there's Halal meat.

The chicken tenders and sliders of all spices are recommended for those who love indulging in clean, seasoned meat.

Dave's Hot Chicken started off



FATIMA DURRANI/TM

Menu: With busy lines off Clark Ave. in Lakewood, Dave's Hot Chicken offers a drive thru as well as dine-in option.

with a group of best friends: Dave Kopushyan, Arman Oganeyan, Tommy and Gary Rubenyan.

After putting together just \$900 for a small pop-up shop in Hollywood, their chicken tenders became a hit which led to the expansion of locations opening in places like Lakewood.

Anyone that adores a hot and spicy combination is bound to love the selection at Dave's Hot Chicken.

At Dave's Hot Chicken not only is the food to die for, but the workers treat you with kindness (in most experiences).

With its mouthwatering smell and ambient lighting, the atmosphere both inside and outside of Dave's Hot Chicken can easily reel you in.

The location in Lakewood off Clark Ave. offers a drive-thru service as well as takeout, dine-in and will soon be available on delivery services applications such as Doordash, Postmates and Uber Eats

If you dare to try an aggressive spice or simply want to indulge in a peppery, hot bite-Dave's Hot Chicken would be a great match for you!

Marvel releases Shang-Chi & the Legend of Ten Rings

Fatima Durrani
Staff Writer
@talonmarks

Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings, directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, is an action-packed sci-fi film about a martial arts master who embarks on a journey to confront his past once more and is drawn into an organization called the Ten Rings.

Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings has released multiple trailers to excite Marvel fans who are looking forward to seeing the first Asian Marvel superhero in action.

As a Marvel Cinematic Universe fan myself, I found the idea of Asian representation bringing more opportunities into the film industry for them-which is a huge win for Asian Americans specifically.

This specific MCU film is one of the first Marvel films out of the 25 total films to have a 98% Asian cast.

An almost entirely Asian cast means more representation to show diversity, different ethnic identities and culture.



JASIN BOLAND/MARVEL STUDIOS/TNS

Simu Liu in the Marvel Studios film, "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings."

Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings has scored an impressive score of 93% on Rotten Tomatoes which is nearly a perfect score.

Critics are impressed by the amount of culture infused into this fantasy-packed film. Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings has a plot that connects to first generation Asian Americans as well as immigrant Asian Americans.

Compared to other Marvel

films, Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings is in parallel with most MCU films with incredible CGIs, a strong plot with character development and precise editing.

MCU film Black Panther along with Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings contain diversity within the cast and are tied to the original Marvel comics.

Fans, myself included, are ecstatic to see the diversity within Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings create more progression in

representing Asian Americans.

Black Panther, which is a Marvel fan favorite, ended up making \$1.3 billion worldwide which made it the most successful MCU movie.

When comparing Black Panther to Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings, these films both show high expectations from the audience-which ended up being exceeded positively.

By viewing the multiple trailers for Shang-Chi and the

Legend of Ten Rings, I'm very impressed by the casting, the storyline and details put into the movie.

I found in Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings to have an incredible amount of detail in the plot just by viewing the trailer which drew me into booking tickets to see the show.

Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings also features beautiful, saturated colors as main character Shang-Chi, played by Simu Liu, battles his past on a journey finding himself.

Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings is rated PG-13 for mild to moderate profanity, frightening and intense scenes.

The upcoming movie, which made its debut in theatres on September 3, 2021, has shown Marvel putting its best foot forward by releasing unique trailers months before the premiere date to increase the anticipation.

It worked seeing as opening weekend Shang-Chi and the Legends of Ten Rings made \$83.5 million dollars in the U.S. alone breaking the previous record.

'What if?' brings new twists to classic MCU stories

Vincent Medina
Managing Editor
@talonmarks

Marvel's animated series "What if?" on Disney plus recreates the Marvel Cinematic Universe by altering the stories of fans' favorite heroes.

By going back to phase one, the show creates a sense of nostalgia as fans reminisce about watching these movies for the first time. Then, by changing one aspect of the well-known movie, an entirely new story is born.

Marvel succeeds at changing the story by adding or removing the slightest detail in a way that is not far-fetched or outlandish. They respect the fans by making the change to their beloved heroes believable.

In their first episode, Peggy Carter becomes super-soldier Captain Carter after choosing to stay in the laboratory during the Steve Roger's transformation. In the original Captain America, her decision to go into the viewing booth is a throw-away-line that fans easily overlooked.

The change in events can either happen due to small decisions, like that of Peggy Carter, or from major changes such as Doctor Strange losing Christine Palmer



COURTESY OF MARVEL STUDIOS

Marvel: "What If?" recreates beloved Marvel movies by changing the slightest detail. The show teased their mid-season content Sept. 15, 2021.

his car-accident.

In that story, Strange is drawn to the mystic arts because of Palmer's death, instead of the loose of his hands. However, his loose leads to him destroying their universe in an attempt to save her.

The show also keeps the characters true to who they are, with the same personality and drive.

When T'Challa becomes Star-Lord, he is drawn outside Wakanda by the desire to explore. As the new Star-Lord, he helps people and saves planets, even managing to change Thanos' desire to decimate life in the universe.

While the episode changes the story of the original Black Panther, it stays true to T'Challa's character. It also gives fans

a chance to hear Chadwick Boseman reprise T'Challa in an amazing voice performance.

"What if?" also gives MCU actors a chance to reprise their roles if their character was killed off in an earlier movie.

Performances by Micheal B. Jordan as Killmonger, Clark Gregg as Phil Coulson and Haley Attwell as Peggy Carter to name a few, show how dedicated the

actors are to these characters.

Their willingness to return to the franchise also gives fans the respect they deserve. As many movies franchises make their projects for the money, Marvel makes it clear that "What if?" is for loyal fans of the MCU.

Mid-Season Rating



Life bursting with color, Square Enix's 'True Colors' game review



MATTHEW ESPINOSA/TM

Colors: Emotion, good and bad, are the components of human nature—and shouldn't be ignored. They should be embraced as if they were old friends and dealt with like lessons.

Matthew Espinosa
Staff Writer
@talonmarks

Exploration of the human soul has always been a staple of the Life is Strange franchise, and Square Enix's True Colors addition does so gracefully with the artistic illustration of emotion's natural beauty.

Released on Sept. 9, players meet Alex Chen, a young woman who has grown to not only feel but also visualize others' emotions; whether this "curse" is a result of alternating between orphanages full of broken children abandoned by selfish or financially-pressured parents is for fandom pages to discuss.

Despite wishing to dismiss this ability, it is difficult to not take notice of what types of emotions Alex's long-awaited reunion with her only family: Gabriel Chen, the older brother who has searched for her ever since being separated by the American foster care system.

Bursts of scarlet anger, blue-hued sadness, purple-tinged fear, and joy-fueled yellow are what make the mining town of Haven Springs, in which Gabriel is something of a local leader, stand out against the mountainous landscape of Colorado—and what darkens it after disaster strikes and takes him from Alex.

Rather than being as politically involved as its precursor, True

Colors sets out to establish itself as original while also referring to the first installment in the franchise for advice on an emotionally impactful storyline.

That isn't to say that political elements don't exist in Haven; in fact, emblazoned upon a storefront on the main street of Haven is the Tibetan independence flag, which according to PC Gamer, has conjured a substantial majority of negative reviews by Chinese consumers.

By good fortune, this slight projection instead blends with the flush of color that is Haven, although the game's overarching plot of Typhon, the mysterious mining organization that...

Read more on [Talonmarks.com](#)

'Certified Lover Boy' lives up to the hype

Silas Bravo
Staff Writer
@talonmarks

Drake's long awaited "Certified Lover Boy" finally dropped and people have mixed feelings.

Regardless of what anyone has to say, the album is very good. Drake has many types of fans and his versatility was established to please every single one of those fans on this album.

Whether you are a fan of rapping Drake, singing Drake or even old Drake, this album has something for every Drake fan.

The album's intro "Champagne Poetry" begins with Drake flowing on a beautiful sample from The Beatles.

In the next track "Papi's Home" Drake speaks on his absence from the rap game.

He claims that rappers today are his sons on a beautiful beat with a sample from Montrell Jordan. Nicki Minaj also appears on the track speaking on the rap game.

The third track is another Drake radio hit with "Girls Want Girls" featuring top rapper Lil Baby.

A catchy song with a good hook, do not be surprised to hear this song everywhere. This song is bound to get

played out, especially with the popularity of TikTok.

CLB's fourth track "In the Bible" comes with another catchy hook but is carried by strong features from Lil Durk and Giveon.

The next four songs are all no skips. Drake and Jay Z come together for a timeless production on "Love All".

Drake and Travis Scott never miss. This stays true as they compliment each other's flow on "Fair Trade". The features stay strong on the album with Future and Young Thug coming together on another hilarious radio hit "Way 2 Sexy".

The 8th track and arguably the best song on the album is "TSU".

Led by a legendary beat switch, this song was leaked in the past but we are thankful Drake decided to keep it on the album. Drake's flow is unmatched in this classic.

If you want rapper Drake, "7am on Bridle Path" and "You Only Live Twice" are all good listens.

Drake speaks on old beefs and hearing Drake, Rick Ross and Lil Wayne all on a song together brings back strong memories. Singing Drake can be found all over this album, with masterpieces "Pipe Down", "Get Along Better" and "Fountains".

Drake also brings back his old school poetry style on the outro "The Remorse".

Hey Trustees! Our Bodies, Our Choice

Cerritos College should not mandate vaccines.

Editorial

Vaccination mandates should not be forced upon students or faculty in order to attend or teach classes on campus.

Receiving a vaccine should be the personal choice of our students and faculty and not dictated by the government.

The government says this mandate is an attempt to keep everyone safe from spreading this virus, however, vaccinated or not you're still at risk of getting and spreading the virus.

Cerritos College will be rolling out a soft mandate starting Oct. 1, for vaccination/testing requirements per the board policy, in the coming weeks.

The Board of Trustees' will be voting on Oct. 6th on whether or not to have a vaccine only mandate starting January 2022.

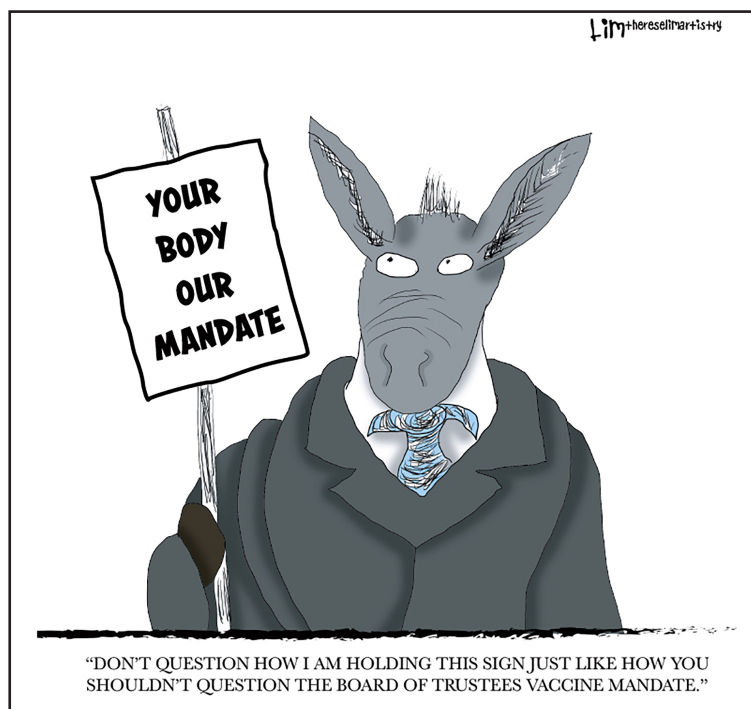
With the mandate students and faculty will be required to submit proof of vaccination January 2022 to return to campus.

Students and faculty at Cerritos will have 30 calendar days, starting January 1, to fulfill this requirement or disciplinary actions will take place.

Failure to comply for faculty members will lead to unpaid leave and further discipline for cause as set forth in education code section 81732.

Failure for students to comply with these requirements will result in students not being allowed to attend on campus classes.

This rollout method has



THERESE LIM/THERESE LIM ARTISTRY

led to some faculty members threatening lawsuits over the presumed termination of tenured faculty that are unvaccinated.

In this day and age, many people tend to be hard headed. People have different opinions about politics and life in general. Everyone has a different background story which is why it's impossible to have only one solution; in specific mandating vaccines, even against their will.

With that being said, the enrollment of schools are dropping in Los Angeles significantly. According to the Orange County Register, nearly 150,000 students in Los Angeles did not return back for the 2020-2021 school year.

Sadly, the number of kids not enrolling in schools are still expected to go up. Mandating

vaccines will not help students or parents deciding to enroll, if they feel pressured by the school.

Approximately 50,000 people die a year to the flu and pneumonia, according to the CDC.

There is a flu vaccine, but it is not mandatory. People in support of a vaccine mandate say that it is about saving lives, but if that was the case, wouldn't we mandate the flu vaccine as well.

If this was about saving lives, wouldn't we mandate the leading cause of death, heart disease.

Healthcare has and always should be a discussion between your doctor and you. The government should never be able to dictate how you take care of yourself.

Politicians, including our current Vice President Kamala

Harris, news anchors, and celebrities said they would not take a vaccine developed under President Donald Trump.

Understandably, those in support of the mandate will say that because it involves the public safety of others, that they should continue with mandate, but why can celebrities and politicians get away with not following the same rules?

Governor Gavin Newsom, was seen inside the French Laundry restaurant mask less and without social distancing during the first lockdown. He was hanging out with lobbyists and ignoring his own COVID-19 protection measures.

On Sept. 18, the yearly Emmy award ceremony was held and the event was held "outdoors" in a tent that as Seth Rogen put it was "hermetically sealed".

Rogen told The Hill that if he was told exactly how they would be holding the ceremony that he would never had come. It did not matter to him that everyone had been vaccinated or a negative test, he did not like being in that small area full of other celebrities in a venue that was just like being inside.

The government made it so that the movie and television industries were exempt from the rules that they say we should now follow.

The ways in which we keep ourselves healthy and safe is by following the COVID-19 guidelines already put in place by the school. It should not be something that is forced upon us.

A negative PCR test should be just enough in order for us to

attend classes on campus.

If unvaccinated students and faculty take the proper precautions in order to keep themselves safe like wearing masks and social distancing, why must the mandate still be forced upon us?

Despite the CDC guidelines, they've contradicted themselves about COVID and the vaccines.

Articles claim that people who receive the vaccination are less likely to die from COVID-19, as well as spread the virus and that symptoms are less severe.

However, this is dependent upon the person and how their body reacts to the virus.

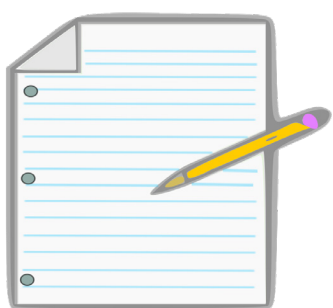
"Researchers estimated that the Pfizer shot was just 39 percent effective against preventing infection in the country in late June and early July, compared with 95 percent from January to early April" according to the New York Times.

In the report it also mentions, "the new estimates are raising concerns both in Israel and elsewhere, including the United States". So why mandate a vaccine when the effectiveness is dropping and not helping the variants.

This vaccine does not seem right in a world that we are supposed to have so much freedom in.

Is this America anymore, or are we just marching to a socialist state that mandates what its' citizenry can or cannot do?

Students and faculty members, if you believe that this is still America and you're against this mandate, contact the Board of Trustees' & let your voice be heard and tell them your opinion.



ISAIAH658/CREATIVE COMMONS

Letters to the Editor

Please feel free to send letters to the editor by email to editor@talonmarks.com or submit them on our website at [Talonmarks.com](https://www.talonmarks.com).

Talon Marks attempts to publish every letter it receives except those judged to be an invasion of privacy, libelous, obscene, or plagiarized. Letters may be edited due to space and clarity.

Trustees must mandate vaccine for everyone

Vincent Medina
Managing Editor
[@talonmarks](https://twitter.com/talonmarks)

The Cerritos College Board of Trustees needs to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine for students and faculty on campus to protect them from being hospitalized or becoming one of the 676,000 people who have died from the virus.

Studies conducted by the CDC and the FDA prove that the vaccine is effective against COVID and the Delta variant.

A mandate is essential at Cerritos College because of the vulnerable students and faculty on campus.

The elderly, people with autoimmune diseases, kidney disease and neurological disorders are likely to die from the virus.

However, if the vulnerable are vaccinated, they will be less likely to succumb to the disease.

Since the college campus reopened for 50% in-person learning in August, 42 cases were found on campus as of September 22.

President Jose Fierro says this was expected and anticipates the college will see more cases on campus throughout the semester.

Mandating the vaccine is crucial to protect everyone on campus so the college does not return to remote learning.

Those who argue against the mandate say that the vaccine is pointless since vaccinated people can still contract COVID.

However, the CDC recently found that fully vaccinated people are eight times less likely to contract the virus and are

25% less likely to die or become hospitalized.

Critics of the mandate also argue that being vaccinated does not stop someone from spreading the virus, but that is not entirely accurate either.

According to an additional study by the CDC, a fully vaccinated person can spread the virus for a less amount of time than an unvaccinated person.

COVID-19 survivors argue that they have developed a natural immunity to the virus and do not need the vaccine. However, their claim was also proven false by the CDC.

After conducting a study in Kentucky among unvaccinated people who previously contracted COVID, the CDC found that they are twice as likely to be reinfected with the virus than

fully vaccinated people.

Anti-mandate supporters also try to use their freedom as Americans to argue against the vaccine requirement.

The supporters are clearly unfamiliar with American history, as vaccine mandates were required throughout history in the U.S.

During the revolutionary war, George Washington required the continental army to be vaccinated against smallpox.

Currently, vaccine mandates are supported by the judicial system, as numerous courts have upheld the mandate.

While the vaccine contains the possibility of adverse side effects, doctors have stated that the same effects would be worse if a person contracted the actual virus.

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

Talon Marks is a First Amendment publication.

Editorials express the views of the Editorial Board. Other opinions express the view of the author and are not to be considered opinions of the publication's staff, the Editorial Board, the advisers, the Cerritos College Associated Students, the college administration or the Board of Trustees.

Production and printing of Talon Marks is partially funded by the Associated Students of Cerritos College.

Newsroom offices are located in the Fine Arts & Communications Building, Room FA245.

Cerritos College is located at 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

Telephone number: (562) 860-2451, ext. 2618

Vol. 66
© 2021 Talon Marks

Fall 2021

STAFF

Editor-in-Chief Jazmin Taha
Managing Editor Vincent Medina
News Editor Lily Marmolejo
Community Editor Gustavo Olivares-Molina
Opinion Editor Robert Yeutter

Co-Sports Editor Isaiah Lonvelin
Co-Sports Editor Matthew Ramirez
Arts & Entertainment Editor Kara Alexander

Staff Writers
Roman Acosta
Silas Bravo
Fatima Durrani
Matthew Espinosa
Antonio Gonzalez Jr.

Faculty Adviser
Christian Brown

Instructional Lab Tech I/Adjunct
Alicia Edquist

Gavin Newsom bad for California



MYUNG J. CHUN/LOS ANGELES TIMES /TNS

Ed Brown, who works at a flag store in Sutter Creek, says he was bothered by Gov. Gavin Newsom's hypocrisy of visiting the French Laundry restaurant during the pandemic while many businesses closed, and is what pushed him to recall the governor. Amador County, per capita, had the most signatures on petitions to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Robert Yeutter
Opinion Editor
@talonmarks

Governor Gavin Newsom is facing a recall election against 46 other candidates on Sept. 14 because of how voters view his performance and handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Newsom has a history of willingness to mislead and deceive residents of California.

Newsom's administration has touted that the state has a 75.7 billion dollar budget surplus, but in all reality, 37.7 billion of that supposed surplus is from federal funding earmarked to be spent on

education.

Additionally, 12 billion dollars in state reserves withdrawals and borrowing are being used to increase spending.

Newsom went on record saying that his administration had achieved fire prevention work on roughly 90,000 acres of land.

According to an investigation by CapRadio and NPR, Gavin Newsom and his administration only did prevention work on around 11,400 acres of land. The difference in work done is a gigantic 690%.

During that same time in 2020, California had a dangerous wildfire season and Newsome

slashed the wildfire fighting budget by \$150 million.

California has a homelessness problem. From the streets of Los Angeles to Newsom's old stomping grounds of San Francisco, Newsome is planning to spend \$12 billion to house homeless in hotels.

Newsom said that the homeless in San Francisco come from Texas. According to PolitiFact, 70% of the homeless lived in San Francisco, 22% of them lived in another California county, and only eight percent, which is way less than what Gavin Newsom said, came from other states.

Newsom, during the recall

election, missed a deadline to be able to include the words, democratic party, next to his name on the recall ballot.

He missed a deadline to request this and ended up suing his own administration and elections chief. The missing of this deadline means that Gavin Newsom would show up with a party designation on the ballot.

Newsom responded to this deadline by saying that he deserves "equal" protections like every other candidate that is running.

Under rules that his administration added, his recall campaign is allowed to raise unlimited funds, while all of the competing campaigns are limited to \$32,400 in donations.

Newsom and his cronies, including the President and Vice-President of the United States and multiple U.S. Senators have continued to call the recall election, the "Republican recall."

This recall election is not just a Republican recall.

According to the Recall Gavin Newsom 2020 Campaign, over 300,000 democrats sign the petition to recall Newsom.

In addition, the petitions were signed by democrats, republicans, and independent voters.

Kevin Paffrath is a democrat running for Gavin Newsom's office and is second in an average in polls by RealClearPolitics.

So much for a so-called Republican recall.

Gavin Newsom instituted

a lockdown of California in an attempt to stop the spread of COVID-19. He also required masks in all public and private places.

With all of those policies, he took a "do as I say, not as I do" stance to his own lockdowns.

Newsom attended a dinner in which all attendees were maskless and not social distancing, even though Newsom had mandated policies in place.

The dinner was at the French Laundry and took place with lobbyists from the medical sector.

He also shut down businesses and wineries but was above his own closures as his winery stayed open.

Newsom shut down public schools and made children go to virtual learning, all the while, his own children went to an open private school that was using remote learning and hybrid classes.

Larry A. Elder is the best choice to bring California back from the lies and deceit of Governor Gavin Newsom.

Elder will focus on bringing equity back to education, lowering taxes, and fixing our drought issues with all options being on the table.

Elder is the best choice to defeat Gavin Newsom and on the 14th, you need to go to the ballot box or return your mail-in ballot and vote Larry Elder.

A vote for Elder is a vote for making California great again.

COVID-19 Survivor encourages Moderna vaccine to students

Gustavo Olivares-Molina
Community Editor
@talonmarks

I was diagnosed with COVID-19 in December 2020.

I am no health expert, but I am aware of how an illness affects my body, for being someone immune-compromised, this was a push back to feeling fragile.

I could only remember being dramatic and requesting that I purchase a Casper mattress because if I were to die in bed at least I want to be comfortable. I slept for about two weeks, or rather was recovering from a sudden state of fatigue, shortness of breath, and sudden lack of muscle energy.

It frustrated me a lot to know

why wasn't I more careful not to get sick. Or at least how could I prevent this unfortunate pattern of sickness to continue.

I was unconscious for two weeks during the recovery process and lost rapid weight because this illness made food a struggle.

I would force myself to make food attractive, eat my favorite meals from UberEats only to reject it with few bites in return, but COVID sucked the life and joy out of it and it worried everyone I love.

I reflect back, but having to remember the passing days in bed, and I remember asking myself "is this the day I stop breathing until my parents take me to the already at-capacity hospitals?"

Not to mention my dad,

head of the household, who is struggling with symptoms himself and having to hear him in my sleep and dreams coughing across the room.

To be honest with you, I was the last family member to catch COVID.

At the time it already made a passing at my household where no social distancing was possible; but I am an essential worker, and have to risk myself again at the convenience of the economy when they think it's safe to reopen.

I trust science and I know my body, that's why I chose the Moderna vaccine when it was made available in the state of California.

I took what I consider a millennial selfie to say how proud



VINCENT MEDINA /TM

COVID: Cerritos College student health services are offering the Moderna vaccine for students. The college will mandate that all students and faculty are fully vaccinated by Sept. 30, 2021

I was to be receiving my first March 6, 2021, and again when the second dose was required.

I will be receiving that additional booster 3rd shoot when available, to prevent the spread and reduce the severity of the illness if I do happen to catch COVID-19 again.

I do not want to overwhelm the healthcare force over my inconvenience.

I don't care how cliché it was for our stereotype of younger millennials to say, "We did it!" but we are in this together as a global health effort.

Any type of positive influence on protecting and promoting the greater hood of society to get vaccinated is a good message for me, because I learned to trust my body and say enough is enough with Covid-19.

California courts ignore the voice of voters on Prop 22

Robert Yeutter
Opinion Editor
@talonmarks

The gig-economy workers in California have so much to worry about with traffic, crime, and gas

prices in California.

Now, add the finding by a California state court that Prop 22 is unconstitutional and its just a never ending nightmare of regulation on an extra source of income for so many residents.

A California superior court, on August 20th, ruled that the ballot proposition voted on by 59% of California voters in the November 2020 election is unconstitutional.

The courts of California once again go against the wishes of a majority of voters. We are in a state that ignores what a majority of the voters want and side with politicians and special interest

groups.

As voters, we should reject interference in majority decisions and demand our state listen to our voice.

The more we allow the government to speak for us, the more they will ignore our voices.

The benefits of the proposition range from the ability to get health insurance, a guaranteed minimum wage per hour, and the

ability for gig-economy workers to remain as independent contractors, which allows them to set their own hours and drive when it works for them.

The legislature is going after the gig-economy because of pressures from the local unions and their desire to remove competition and to change how those companies work.

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

Armando Ibarra Jr. motivated to win

Isaiah Lonvelin
Co-Sports Editor
@talonmarks

Men's soccer captain Armando Ibarra Jr. holds himself to high standards during his final season to get Cerritos College a championship.

Armando is a sophomore forward/midfielder for the men's soccer team, and in his first year with the team in 2019, he was named 2nd Team All-South Coast Conference.

He started playing soccer at the age of five when his dad wanted to get him into sports.

Armando says, "My dad was the one that got me into soccer. I was very shy when I was little, and he thought putting me into soccer would improve my social skills."

He would go on to play for academy teams such as OC Revolution, Pateadores, Los Angeles Futbol Academy and Golden State Academy.

In his time at Downey High School, Armando was a two-time all-league selection and helped his school go to the semifinals as a sophomore.

The biggest motivators that he has are his parents that have supported him throughout his life. Armando goes on to say, "I

think of them because they're the ones that got me into soccer and the ones motivating me to keep going supporting me through this journey that I'm still hopefully trying to achieve."

"God has helped me through this journey which I'm very grateful for and I'm very grateful for as well my past coaches and trainers," Armando adds.

Since then he has developed a strong work ethic that he holds himself accountable as a player and captain.

He starts himself at a pace that will not tire him out before he plays in a competitive game. Even with his diet, he never eats any junk food during the season as he feels that he cheats himself.

"I focus on my health. I make sure during the weekend I do recover with my personal trainer. I do ice baths and I stretch a lot just to get my body back into rhythm."

During the season he was chosen to wear number nine for the team, and he was named captain for the 2021 season.

He tries to learn from what former captain, Kevin Diaz, taught him to be a good leader for the team.

"I'm trying to be a role model to these players the way my



DARYL PETERSON/ SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE

Captain: Armando Ibarra Jr. receiving the ball against his opponent San Diego City College. The Cerritos Men's soccer team would end up winning this game in a close match on Sept. 14, 2021.

captain was a role model to me. But at the end of the day, I'm not going to shy away from that position."

With Armando's season coming to an end, his goal for his team is not just to win a championship, but to be as one.

"I hope to accomplish getting a ring, that's the main objective. But I'm looking to build a family with this year's team. There's nothing more important than family and I think that we have the players and the mindset to build that family and go for this."

Armando's goal for when his tenure is over at Cerritos is to transfer to any D1 school to play soccer. Armando dream school which he would like to play at are UCLA and USC. Then to strive towards his dream to play professional soccer in the MLS.

Five years after Kaepernick kneeling



BRECHT BUG/FLICHER

Billboard: Colin Kaepernick billboard for ad campaign near Madison Square Garden in New York.

Sports Opinion

Matthew Ramirez
Staff Writer
@talonmarks

NFL fans and activists will always remember Aug. 26, 2016, as the day 49ers quarterback, Colin Kaepernick, knelt on the field during the national anthem.

Before the start of the San Francisco 49ers preseason game five years ago, the media displayed Kaepernick taking a knee during the national anthem as a protest against racial inequality in America.

"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick

stated.

At the time, senseless beatings and killings of unarmed people of color seemed like they were happening too often.

Most people protested on the streets and through social media, but Kaepernick chose to use his platform on the field to peacefully protest in his own way.

In doing so, this decision came with nationwide backlash and disgust that such an action was taken.

In 2017, in the off-season, Kaepernick walked away from the 49ers and head into free agency.

Kaepernick went for months without a team approaching him for a deal to play in the NFL, and it was clear that the former 49ers quarterback was exiled from the

league.

Although Kaepernick was out of the NFL, players showed support across the country, and eventually, other athletes were seen kneeling at many games during the national anthem.

In October, 2017, Kaepernick filed a grievance against the NFL, where he accused the NFL owners of colluding against him by keeping him away from football.

After the investigation, the league came to the decision that there was no collusion against Kaepernick.

In 2019, Nike worked with Kaepernick on an ad campaign led by the slogan, "Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything."

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

The Dodgers turns its back too quickly on Bauer

Sports Opinion

Isaiah Lonvelin
Co-Sports Editor
@talonmarks

Reigning Cy Young winner and Los Angeles Dodgers player, Trevor Bauer, should be given a second chance to return to baseball after false sexual allegations were made against him.

Bauer was known as the voice of MLB and has done so much to make baseball entertaining with his on-the-field antics, filming behind the scenes and not being afraid to speak his mind.

On June 29, Pasadena police were looking into a case where Bauer allegedly assaulted a woman.

According to Bleacher Report, the woman said Bauer and her were talking for two months and had met on two separate occasions. Both those times she was said to have been beaten, bruised and lost rendered unconscious.

The Dodgers became aware of the allegations, and the team immediately put him on administrative leave on July 2.

Since July, Bauer administrative leave has been extended seven times during the investigation which is being looked at by police and MLB.

It is heartbreaking to see

a team drop a player like they never existed, as the Dodgers and his teammates wrote him off as soon as the allegations were made against him.

Teammates unfollowed him on all social media platforms and the team took his jersey off websites and team stores to make it seem they did not just pay a \$102 million deal for three years to get him on the team.

The reason that it is heartbreaking is they did not give him a chance to prove his innocence and not give support to the 2020 Cy Young award winner.

The New York Times reported on Aug. 19, a judge dropped a restraining order against Bauer made by the woman, stating that she was in no danger against him.

The restraining order was dropped with evidence showing in the article that the woman and Bauer agreed to the sexual interaction.

New findings have also been rising out of the blue. The-sun reported that the woman had faked her injury photos, and lied about having her skull fractured. These new findings are being revealed, but as it stands Bauer is still under investigation.

Once the investigation is over, he should be allowed to wear his jersey and continue playing baseball.

Falcons stung by Fullerton

Roman Acosta
Staff Writer
@talonmarks

The Cerritos College Falcons football team lost a tough game against the Fullerton College Hornets at Falcon Field on the 20-year anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks.

Coach Dean Grosfeld addressed the anniversary of the deadly terror attack ahead of the game.

"It's crazy it's been 20 years. You look back and all the people who were around back then who heard about it or saw it on live television can all remember where they were at the moment," said Grosfeld.

"I have a great amount of respect for the brave first responders who risked and sacrificed their lives to save others that day. A day that the American people will never forget," said Falcon's wide receiver Bailey Torres.

The Falcons kicked off at 6 p.m. as the crowd's cheers roared throughout the stadium, even with their masks on to COVID-19 safety measures.

It was the first time fans were allowed to attend a football game since the 2019 COVID lockdown



ROMAN ACOSTA/TM

Football: Falcons Wide Receiver Bailey Torres jumps up in an attempt to make the catch. He is in coverage against a Fullerton Defensive back during the game on Sept. 11, 2021.

The game would prove to be a defensive battle as the first points of the game were not scored till the second quarter.

The Hornets put together an 11-play, 65-yard drive which led to a second and goal from the Cerritos 6-yard line.

Fullerton running back Branden Rankins rushed in for the 6-yard Touchdown scoring the first touchdown of the game in the second quarter.

The Falcons would then answer back as Falcons running back Davon Booth ran the ball

to the left pylon and crossed the goal line before being forced out of bounds to score the first touchdown for Cerritos on an offensive drive that consisted of Nine plays for 59-yards to tie the game after the extra point.

The Falcons would then fall

victim to the passing attack on offense and the tremendous run defense put on by Fullerton as the Hornets would go on to beat Cerritos 27-14. Cerritos is now at a 1-1 record after previously beating Pasadena City 22-10. "Offensively they played badly, we had two new starters on the offensive side of the ball. Injuries hurt us, we had three starting offensive linemen out," said Grosfeld.

“Defense was the best team on the field. We have 12 returning guys on the defensive side of the ball which helps.”
Dean Grosfeld
Head football Coach

Wide receiver Bailey Torres caught five passes for 117-yards averaging 23.4 yards per catch with his longest being a 50-yard touchdown reception.

"We beat ourselves and just failed to get it done," said Torres.

Grosfeld hopes for the team to bounce back in their next game against Allan Hancock College on Sept. 18.

NFL pre-season power rankings

Sport Opinion

Silas Bravo
Staff Writer
@talonmarks

The NFL had one of the most wild off-seasons in years, and is the most balanced in the league's history.

Teams who seemed to be a piece away from really contending last year made some noise during free agency.

One team that made sure to make as many roster changes as possible was the New England Patriots.

Alongside the 2020 opt-outs and the new offensive weapons for quarterback Cam Newton, Belichick is bound to return to the postseason.

The Tennessee Titans, who fell in the 2020 Wildcard, added hall of fame wide receiver Julio Jones to pair with star running back Derrick Henry and add in a younger talent, AJ Brown.

The Arizona Cardinals made some similar moves by acquiring wide receiver AJ Green and former three-time Defensive Player of the Year JJ Watt.

If Arizona was not playing in the toughest division of football they would definitely be a playoff

lock this year.

The Cleveland Browns were impressive during last year's playoff run, taking down the Pittsburgh Steelers and losing a nail-biter game to powerhouse Kansas City Chiefs.

With the return of wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr and the additions of defensive lineman Jadeveon Clowney and safety John Johnson, the Browns can make a real run for the championship in 2021.

Despite not making too much noise in free agency, the teams who you should not forget about include the always dangerous Seattle Seahawks, the Lamar Jackson-led Baltimore Ravens and the healthy San Francisco 49ers.

Every one of these teams is poised for the playoffs, and a deep run is well within reach.

Three teams who are certainly looking for a Super Bowl run in 2021 are the Los Angeles Rams, Buffalo Bills and the Green Bay Packers.

Despite quarterback struggles throughout 2020, the Rams finished 10-6 and had the number one defense in the league.

Trading for veteran quarterback Matthew Stafford might push the Rams over the top



ADAM GLANZMAN/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

The Buffalo Bills' Josh Allen (17) and Jon Feliciano (76) celebrate during the second half of a 38-9 win against the New England Patriots at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, on December 28, 2020

in 2021.

Any team led by MVP Aaron Rodgers is a contending team.

The Packers were a win away from the Super Bowl last year and are looking to finish the job this 2021 season.

If there is any team in the AFC that can possibly take down the juggernaut Kansas City Chiefs, it is the Buffalo Bills.

A team that seems to be only getting better and better, Buffalo, led by MVP candidate Josh Allen, will hope to get their first franchise ring in 2021.

Despite the offseason drama, there are two teams who remain on top of the league.

The back to back AFC Champions, Kansas City Chiefs will be attempting to win their

third Super Bowl in a row.

With new additions to the offensive line to protect superstar Patrick Mahomes, the Chiefs are looking tough to bring it in 2021.

The team to beat this year in the NFC is defending 2020 Super Bowl Champions the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

NFL fans are in for an exciting season of football.

Cerritos athletes are back & off the bench



SEAN DAVIS/TM ARCHIVES

Running: Sophomore wide receiver CJ Parks No. 5 had a standout performance, breaking the 50 year old pass reception record with 13 catches. His two touchdown catches help push the Falcons over the finish line Oct. 19, 2019.

Sport Opinion

Matthew Ramirez
Co-Sports Editor
@talonmarks

Isaiah Lonvelin
Co-Sports Editor
@talonmarks

Campus sports are back after a year of non-competitive play, and the Falcons are ready for a successful 2021-2022 season.

Cerritos sports are known to

be a powerhouse, but due to the pandemic athletes were not given the chance to show off their skills for the 2020 season.

The athletes of the school will have a breakout performance coming back to represent Cerritos college and play in competitive games.

Notably during the whole pandemic a new state of the art facility was finished that will help them improve their game.

Then with every great team are experienced coaches that have

helped keep the winning tradition of the Falcons.

A sport that Cerritos fans should be on the look out for is the men's soccer team.

These group of men during the 2019-2020 season had an overall record of 18 wins, three losses, and four ties out of 25 games.

They have had a winning seasons since 2017, and have sent many of their players to four-year colleges were they have been successful too make it to more big clubs around the world.

All in all this team can do damage and are a dangerous team that can win a lot of games.

The players that come into this program are talented on the gridiron, and are exciting to watch under the lights.

The long break should not be a problem for this team as this program works with its athletes to not only make them better players but to have a good work ethic in life.

The football program has sent many of its players to four-year colleges and to the NFL making them one of the top community football program in the world.

Their season was unfortunately canceled, but now should come out for their first game aggressive and looking towards winning a championship for the campus after a year of waiting in anticipation to see if they could play.

Fans of the Cerritos Falcons and alumni have been waiting in anticipation to see sports back on campus.

The pandemic has been hard, but nothing like brining a community back together than the love of sports.

Not only are these two sports are gonna have a impressive comeback, but all the athletic programs ranging from football, tennis, track and field, and water teams.

It is going to be a exciting year for this campus sports, but for the athletes around the campus this is what they been waiting for too get back to what they love doing.

Everyone in the community is supporting their Falcons, and are excited to see the success of this campus for the new seasons.

Dodgers primed for 9th NL West title in a row

Sport Opinion

Robert Yeutter
Opinion Editor
@talonmarks

Starting back in 2013, the Los Angeles Dodgers have won 8 straight National League West divisional titles.

With just two weeks left in the regular season, the Dodgers trail the San Francisco Giants by one game after the Dodgers beat the Cincinnati Reds by a score of 8-5 and the Atlanta Braves tomahawked the Giants by a score of 3-0

Even though the Dodgers trail the Giants, they have the pieces on their team to achieve their ninth straight division title and back-to-back World Series Championships.

In 2020, the Dodgers made a trade with the Boston Red Sox for outfielder Mookie Betts and pitcher David Price. They traded away up and coming talents of outfielder Alex Verdugo, shortstop Jeter Downs, and catcher Connor Wong.

Additionally, the Dodgers made a trade with the Minnesota Twins for right-handed pitcher Brusdar Graterol, outfielder Luke Raley, and draft pick in the 2020.

They traded away right-handed pitcher Kenta Maeda and catcher Jair Camargo.

These two deals set up the Dodgers for the World Series Championship they won in 2020, but it also led to a long-term extension signed by Betts, which will give the Dodgers many chances to win way into the future as well as now.

The Dodgers also made a splash in free agency.

They signed right-handed pitcher Blake Treinen to a two-year contract with an option for the team to pick him up for a third year.

In 2021, the Dodgers made a surprising splash in the free agent market and signed Trevor Bauer, the reigning National League Cy Young award winner.

These players have made their impacts on the Dodgers all year long.

Betts was playing through injuries for most of the current season and has seemed to finally recover from them.

Since returning from injuries and since Sept. 6, Betts is hitting .354/.429/.542 and is leading some of the charge for the Dodgers.

Price sat out the 2020 season because of COVID-19 but played an important part for the Dodgers

as pitchers Clayton Kershaw, Tony Gonsolin, Dustin May and Trevor Bauer all have had time away from the major league club.

Price filled in nicely for all those pitchers and kept the Dodgers in a spot to keep pace in the division.

Treinen is a main cog in the bullpen serving the role of set-up man to Kenley Jansen.

This season has seen Treinen pitch well with a record of 5-5 with an ERA of 2.01 with five saves and 78 strikeouts.

Trevor Bauer, who is currently on the restricted list for sexual assault allegations, pitched like a pitcher coming off a Cy Young award winning season.

Bauer pitched like a star starter with a record of 8-5 with an ERA of 2.59 with a complete game and 137 strikeouts.

Once Bauer went down, the Dodgers went out and got right-handed pitcher Max Scherzer and shortstop Trea Turner at the deadline.

In a deal with the Washington Nationals, the Dodgers got Scherzer and Turner for catcher Keibert Ruiz, right-handed pitcher Josiah Gray, right-handed pitcher Gerardo Carrillo, and outfielder Donovan Casey.

Turner has been a jump-



LUIS SINCO/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

The Los Angeles Dodgers' Matt Scherzer pitches against the Houston Astros in the first inning at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021.

starter at the top of the Dodgers daily lineup.

Turner has played the position the Dodgers needed from him in second base.

Turner, since coming to the Dodgers, has hit .302/.351/.810 with 4 homeruns, 13 runs batted in and 9 stolen bases. Turner currently leads the National League in batting average.

Scherzer has been everything Dodger fans thought he would be.

Scherzer, since coming to the team, has pitched in 9 games and has gone 7-0 with an ERA of 0.78

with 79 strikeouts.

Scherzer has filled the role that Bauer ended up losing when the league extended his suspension through the end of the season.

With 12 games remaining in the season, the Los Angeles Dodgers will look to all their major pieces to keep the winning going and to beat out the San Francisco Giants for good.

Although currently trailing, these pieces the LA Dodgers have are giving massive amounts of hope for a ninth straight title and another World Series championship to fans.