

“In times of profound change, the learners inherit the earth.”
- Eric Hoffer

RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE

VIEWPOINTS

VOL. 98, NO. 13
MAY 14, 2020

An Associated Collegiate Press two-time national Pacemaker award-winning newspaper, serving as the voice of the students since 1922.



WWW.VIEWPOINTSONLINE.ORG

Online instruction continues

Lectures to be online in the fall, possibility of in person labs

ERIK GALICIA

NEWS EDITOR

Two weeks after the announcement that the summer term will be completely online, it has been decided remote learning will continue through the fall semester.

“Due to requirements for physical and social distancing, there will be no face-to-face only

sections offered,” Wolde-Ab Isaac, the Riverside Community College District chancellor, said in an email sent April 29. “All lecture classes will be offered online.”

Susan Mills, vice chancellor of Educational Services and Strategic Planning, said this decision is in compliance with orders from the Riverside County Public Health Department.

“The safety of our students,

faculty and staff are the main priority,” Mills said.

According to Mills, there are no plans at this point to allow face-to-face lectures in the fall even though the Riverside County Board of Supervisors voted May 8 to rescind local COVID-19 safety orders.

“It’s clear we’ll still have requirements of social distancing and that’s the main impetus for having lectures online,” she said.

Classes will still be listed on the schedule with set dates and times, which some worry will create the illusion that in-person instruction will be available.

“We need to make sure that we are very clear in our messaging about how fall is going to work,” District Academic Senate President Mark Sellick said during the Riverside City College

See **FALL** on page 2



ANGEL PEÑA | VIEWPOINTS

V. Manuel Perez, Riverisde County District 4 supervisor, wears a mask as he listens to residents speak about COVID-19 restrictions. The Board of Supervisors heard public comments on May 5 and 8 before deciding to against Riverside County public health orders.

County fights restrictions

Board of Supervisors votes against local health orders

LEO CABRAL

MANAGING EDITOR

After days of hearing public testimony, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously during an emergency meeting May 8 to rescind local public health orders.

The proposal put forth by Supervisors V. Manuel Perez and Karen Spiegel put an end to COVID-19 safety orders enacted by Riverside Public Health Officer Cameron Kaiser, canceling mandatory social distancing, face covering, county wide school closures, restrictions on short term lodging facilities and golf course use.

Gov. Gavin Newsom moved California into Stage Two of reopening May 8. Individual

counties can choose to either maintain restrictive measures based on local conditions or move through Stage Two quicker if they meet certain criteria.

The opening of campuses is not intended in Stage Two.

Wolde-Ab Isaac, Riverside Community College District chancellor, said the District will be operating under the governor’s guidelines and believes RCCD will be minimally impacted by health orders being lifted.

According to Isaac, because lectures have a high density of people, they will continue online through the summer and fall terms. Since social distancing can be accommodated in lab settings, Isaac said the District plans to work with the Riverside County public health officer to restructure labs that comply with COVID-19 safety guidelines.

If this is successful, Isaac said there is a possibility to hold all labs on campus, including those that were converted online, such as chemistry, biology and physics labs.

“We are still on our guard,” Isaac said about continuing to uphold social distancing, face coverings and sanitization throughout the District.

As of May 12 there were 5,248 COVID-19 cases and 225 deaths attributed to the virus in the county, according to the Riverside County Public Health website.

“Of course business people want to open their businesses back up because they have money to lose,” MJ Rodriguez, a public commenter who passionately opposed rescission, said at the Board of Supervisors meeting May 5. “But you know what I

have to lose? My parents. My family. My friends. My siblings. My community. And I don’t think it’s fair. You’re putting profit over people.”

A crowd of people, many in favor of lifting restrictions, gathered outside the Riverside County Administrative Center on May 5 and could be heard over the live recording of the meeting.

“The people are asking to go back to work and to go back to normal life,” said Chuck Conder, Riverside’s Ward 4 city council member, adorned in American flag attire.

Chad Bianco, Riverside County sheriff, commented in favor of rescission as well. He said he will continue to refuse enforcing stay-at-home orders and would not “make criminals”

See **COUNTY** on page 2

WHAT’S INSIDE

NEWS



Fall 2020 lectures to be online, some labs possibly on campus

LIFE



Bioluminescent waves seen in So Cal

EDITORIAL



Protesters prolong pandemic

INDEX

NEWS	2
SPORTS	4
LIFE	5
IEWS	7
EDITORIAL	8

NEWS BRIEFS

Excused Withdrawal Deadlines

The Riverside Community College District announced students have until May 15 to request refunds for courses dropped with excused withdrawals. After May 15, students will not be given refunds but can still request excused withdrawals until July 15.

After July 15, students will have one year from the end of spring 2020 to complete an Extenuating Circumstances Petition for an excused withdrawal.

Excused withdrawals attributed to a COVID-19 situation will not impact students' financial aid. Dropping without an excused withdrawal for COVID-19 related reasons may require repayment of any financial aid received for spring 2020.

Pass/No Pass Deadlines

The deadline to elect a Pass/No Pass grading option for spring 2020 courses is July 15. A "Pass" is the equivalent of a C or higher and a "No Pass" is the equivalent of a D or F. Neither is computed into GPA. "No Pass" grades will be counted as attempts without completion and may impact students' financial aid.

Students should contact admissionsriverside@rcc.edu from their district emails to request Pass/No Pass grades for specific courses.

Because the CSU and UC systems have different Pass/No Pass guidelines, students should speak to a counselor before electing these options.

Virtual Commencement

Due to COVID-19 safety restrictions, the 2020 Commencement Ceremony will be held virtually June 12.

Students who received an email with log in instructions from Marching Orders/AdmissionsRiverside must log in and upload photos, quotes and name pronunciations by May 20 to participate in the virtual graduation. There are no exceptions to this deadline.

Graduates have the option of returning next year to walk during commencement.

Caps and gowns are available for purchase at www.bkstr.com/riversideccstore.

If you have information that you want featured in Viewpoints, contact viewpoints.news@gmail.com.



ANGEL PEÑA | VIEWPOINTS

Maskless Riverside County residents, most of them in favor of rescinding pandemic safety orders, wait to comment at the emergency Board of Supervisors meeting May 8. Many in favor of keeping safety orders in place addressed the Board of Supervisors by phone.

County defies health orders

COUNTY from page 1

out of individuals expressing their civil freedoms.

"There cannot be a 'new normal,'" Bianco said. "We are talking about a country formed on the fundamental freedoms of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Any new normal is a direct attack on those basic rights which set us apart and make us the greatest country in

the world."

Many for and against rescinding restrictions pleaded to the Board of Supervisors to "do the right thing."

"What about our health care professionals and workers," asked Irma Flores, a resident of District 2 and business owner in favor of pandemic restrictions. "What a betrayal it would be to them. They are risking their lives day in and day out. How hard is

it for people to wear a mask?"

The Board of Supervisors originally postponed their vote May 5, attempting to align their decision with the governor's guidance but ultimately disagreed with Newsom's update May 7.

In the Resilience Roadmap, the regional variance criteria for counties to progress through stage two require "no more than 1 case per 10,000 people in the last 14 days" and "no COVID-19

death in the past 14 Days."

"That is unattainable by the county of Riverside and, quite frankly, unattainable by any urban county in Southern California," Perez said.

The supervisors expressed a desire to contact surrounding counties to form a coalition that will confront Newsom with what they decide are more reasonable criteria for reopening the economy.

Fall to be mostly online, details not clear

FALL from page 1

Academic Senate meeting May 4.

Because instruction may be planned outside of the scheduled time slots, Sellick urged students to reach out to their potential fall instructors to get clarity on what expectations for logging into class outside of the scheduled time blocks will be like next semester.

"You should all be prepared for those email messages," Sellick told faculty. "(Students) are gonna be shopping, in a sense, for the classes that would best fit what it is they can do."

STEM, CTE and Arts courses with practicum, lab or performance components that are able to abide by social distancing requirements will be offered in a hybrid mode if granted permission by Riverside County.

According to Isaac, many labs, by design, distance students due to the nature of the science being performed. He argued that because of that design, the District could make the case to local health authorities that some

lab settings be allowed in the fall.

Details about how lab courses will function in the fall are still under review and will depend, in part, on state and county guidance. More clarity on this is expected by June.

Isaac said the libraries, writing centers and computer labs may not meet social distancing requirements and are not on the list for reopening at the moment.

The chancellor reported that of around 4,250 responses to an online transition survey sent to students in late March, 60% said they prefer face-to-face instruction and up to 18% said they were considering dropping out of college. Isaac said that although the district is doing better than most, a "small dip" in enrollment has been observed.

"We are trying to increase the support that we provide," Isaac said during the District Academic Senate meeting April 27. "In terms of student services, academic support, tutoring, supplementary instruction, counseling and so on so that we can convince our students to get used to this new norm and stay."



ANGEL PEÑA | VIEWPOINTS

What was once a highly commuted walkway to the South of the A.G. Paul Quadrangle is seen deserted April 28. Pending authorization, lab classes may be on campus in the fall.

The chancellor also announced a temporary lift of the registration hold on students who owe fees in an attempt to encourage attendance during the summer. But students will still be

expected to pay their fees before registering for the fall term.

The District expects to provide more clarity on the fall semester in the coming weeks.

"Stay tuned," Isaac said.

Dance instructor dies of breast cancer

STEPHANIE ARENAS

STAFF REPORTER

Riverside City College dance instructor Sofia Carreras died April 24 after her long battle with breast cancer. Carreras was born March 24, 1964 in Igualada, Spain. At 14, she and her family moved to Sacramento, where she practiced ballet.

In 2002, Carreras accepted a position as a dance instructor at Riverside City College.

“She was an amazing colleague, friend, teacher, and mentor to so many RCC Dance students,” RCC President Gregory Anderson said. “She also had a major impact on legions of dance students throughout Southern California and around the world.”

Carreras was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006 during her pregnancy with her son Sebastian.

Carreras did not let her diagnosis stop her from achieving her dreams. She founded the dance company Intersect Dance Theatre in 2011 alongside her colleague Mark Haines.

“I thought I [wanted] to have a ballet school,” Carreras said in an interview with The Press-Enterprise in 2018. “Well now I’m a Professor of Dance at Riverside City College and I have a dance company, so that’s close enough to a dream come true.”

Carreras resided in Redlands with her husband, son and daughter.

“Her long battle with breast cancer has come to an end,” an RCC Dance Facebook post reads. “But her reach as an artist and educator will live on through all who worked, danced, loved and laughed by her side.”

Carreras is survived by her husband Sebastian, daughter Roya and son Sebastian.

“Future events will honor the legacy of Sofia, and we will announce them as information becomes available,” Anderson said.



IMAGE COURTESY OF RCC DANCE



IMAGE COURTESY OF IVAN HESS

RCCD student trustee chosen

Q & A reveals aspirations to address aid distribution

ERIK GALICIA

NEWS EDITOR

A new Riverside Community College District student trustee with an extensive platform was chosen with 61% of the votes for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Ivan Hess, a Riverside City College student majoring in economics and political science, will assume the role at the end of the spring 2020 semester. In the following interview, Hess details his plans to serve students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q: What do you first hope to accomplish as the Riverside Community College District student trustee?

A: First and foremost, getting CARES Act aid expediently to all students. It is a priority for me to have not just one award for spring 2020 but for another award to come in June (and) for a diagnostic to be conducted upon the allocation process to see why students were ineligible. And giving any leftover resources out in the fall.

Based on the numbers that I can remember, the ineligible proportion of the total applicant pool was almost 50%. I have talked to students, I have talked to (Associated Student Body Officers). Many found it

problematic that the application was published without recourse and opportunity for review by students. Getting a student on the (CARES Act distribution) task force as is supposed to occur with Title V (is) critical.

Based on what Chancellor (Wolde-Ab) Isaac shared, it sounds like the vast majority of aid will not be dispersed during round one of aid distribution. It’s critical to set up a transparent but also responsive timeline that shows when, how and how much aid students are going to get in the future until we dole it all out. The district has a year, according to the (U.S.) Department of Education, but I don’t see why, especially in the midst of these emergency circumstances, we should be waiting a year. People need to eat now.

Q: How can we ensure that international and undocumented students, who have been excluded from federal emergency aid, get some type of help just as soon as the rest of us?

A: This is where we need to take some initiative and serve as a role model district. We look at the examples nationwide, we look at how institutional resources have been leveraged to provide to each of those groups and then we do it. The idea that we’d preclude any

human being in need from aid in these emergency times, that’s abhorrent to me.

There needs to be a conversation started. It’s already occurring amongst the student government. They are crafting their own solution which would provide financial outreach to undocumented, international students and middle class students as well. There has been remarkably little attention given to this issue and no action taken. That’s unacceptable. If there’s a person in need, you reach out and you do what you can.

Q: What else do you hope to accomplish in your first 100 days as student trustee?

A: Ensuring, when we go back to campus, that it’s safe. I think allowing students, staff and faculty to be aware of who will and who will not be on campus is key. I don’t want a decision being out on, say, June 15. So then students know, “Oh yeah, there’s still people dying in Riverside County. There’s still new cases of COVID-19. But I have lab so I guess I have to go to campus.” That would be absolutely unacceptable.

I personally have advocated for the district acquiring personal protective equipment that has been approved by the Riverside County Health Department and

then dispersing that to students, staff and faculty who are required to be on District sites of operation for employment or educational purposes.

Q: Some feel the position of student trustee is more symbolic than effective. Do you think the student trustee should be allowed to vote on board decisions?

A: The student trustee should be given an advisory vote. The student trustee should only be excluded from closed sessions or under exceptional circumstances. In an ideal world, the student trustee should have a full vote if the student trustee is responsible and educated on state and district policy, is ready to exercise prudence in their decision making and embraces not only the role of student advocate, but the fiduciary duty. That’s the fine line that the student trustee has to walk.

I think there are ways to exercise influence through means other than a vote. Some of us recognize how to do that. How to create our own political capital and be heard and exercise effective advocacy and utilize other groups and work through other channels to get done what we need to get done. Political power is not just sitting there and exercising a vote. It is achieved in many ways.



Athletic Director set to retire

ZANE MUDRON
STAFF REPORTER

The first football championship in 30 years isn’t a bad way to go out. If not for the COVID-19 closure, the men’s basketball team seemed poised to make its own run at a title. Riverside City College Athletic Director Jim Wooldridge announced his retirement March 30 after five years at directing traffic at Wheelock Stadium and Gym, the Evans Sports Complex and a state of the art aquatics complex. Wooldridge spoke highly of the administration and the positive direction that it is headed.

“You’re going to see numbers of growth over the years, there is going to be more opportunities for female student-athletes,” he said. “There is a lot of growth left, and I think we’ll see tremendous success in the future.”

“This department carries so much success, not only on the playing fields, the courts, and in the pools but also the academics and with what our coaches are doing,” he said. Year after year, due to the quality of the department as well as the coaching staffs across the sports, more student athletes as well as staff are drawn in from elsewhere.

“Everybody wants to be part of a winner, and that department is a winning department, and it has great people associated with it,” he said.

Wooldridge isn’t looking too far into the future after a 45 year career.

“We’re just going to hit the pause button, and try to decide what we want to do next chapter wise.”

Wooldridge felt it was time to close the book and open another one, after a long successful career in athletics. After a short term as Athletic Director at RCC, he has definitely left a mark on the department and helped it make leaps in the right direction.

“My colleagues, and student-athletes first and foremost, that will be a vacancy in my life that I’ll miss the most.”



ERIK GALICIA | VIEWPOINTS

Riverside City College’s Wheelock Stadium sits empty on May 12 after 8 weeks of the pandemic-induced campus closure.

Athletes stay active during shutdown

Coaches and players hold virtual work outs to stay fit

JAIR RAMIREZ
STAFF REPORTER

Riverside City College athletes have found ways to maintain contact through the pandemic’s campus closure with online workouts, social media and different apps.

“Through Canvas Online we put our workouts and then have them take videos of their workouts,” said Tom Craft, RCC football coach. “We want our players to video their workouts and then send them in to us on canvas because we’re trying to stay in touch with them. It’s really kind of a creative process.”

With many of the city’s parks and fields closed, it has been a challenge for players to practice on their own.

“They don’t have access to

explained how this has affected recruiting in both negative and positive ways. Although not meeting with future athletes and their families is tough, coaches say they have gotten athletes to commit, even ones they did not think they had a chance to sign.

“We have Zoom meetings with our returning players and Zoom meetings with our recruits,” Craft said. “When we have a Zoom meeting with four coaches; it’s like four coaches doing a home visit.

Baseball coach Rudy Arguelles explained how the recruiting process has been difficult.

“We’re a hands on group and we have a hands on approach when we have that opportunity,” Arguelles said.

“Either going out on visits, out on a recruiting trail or when

gyms so we got to try and do the running, push ups, sit ups, get two buckets with a broom handle,” Craft said.

“It’s been good. Our quarterbacks have been trying to go out and throw when they get access to a field — not at RCC obviously — and we had some of our receivers throw with our quarterback.”

The RCC women’s beach volleyball team is communicating via text messaging and Facetime to arrange training.

“We’re having them run three miles three times a week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday,” said Elizabeth Younglove, a beach volleyball associate.

The team switches up its workouts, focusing on agility Tuesdays and Thursdays, Younglove said.

Other RCC coaches

recruits, parents and family come to visit the campus. There’s nothing like having that in person opportunity of communication.”

It is still unclear how the possibility of instruction being online in the fall will affect sports.

Sporting events could be delayed, canceled or continued as planned.

“I think we should first consider everybody’s safety and see where we are in this pandemic,” said Doug Finfrock, RCC Women’s Water Polo coach.

“We’ll have to wait and see what the California Community College Athletic Association decides. If we’re going to push back the season or open it up early, I think there’s a lot of scenarios out there,” said Craft.

Key players signed during quarantine



ANGEL PEÑA | VIEWPOINTS

Sophomore Sadie Arganda played in 27 matches for RCC in 2019, she had 27 service aces at the end of the season.

ZANE MUDRON
STAFF REPORTER

Volleyball Libero Sadie Arganda recently committed to Virginia Wesleyan University.

“I was very nervous, I didn’t know what kind of questions they were going to ask me,” Arganda said. “This was the first time I had met with a four year university, so a little nervous, but everything turned out ok.”

The difference between the junior college level of

competition and division 3 play is a big leap and preparing for it has never been more difficult when forced to shelter in place. But Arganda still trains at home on her own time.

“I’m just doing the workouts our coaches provide us on canvas,” she said. “Which is run three miles three times a week, ab workouts and some yoga stuff as well.”

Arganda said she will miss her coaches the most, as well as her team leaving RCC.



ANGEL PEÑA | VIEWPOINTS

Linebacker Kobe Fitzgerald won the Bob Stangel Defensive MVP award for his performance in the CCCAA championship game on Dec. 14.

ZANE MUDRON
STAFF REPORTER

Kobey Fitzgerald, linebacker for the RCC football team, is one of the plethora of talent the program had in the 2019 season, when the Tigers had an undefeated 13-0 record. Fitzgerald just received his fourth offer from division 1 Mercer University in Macon, GA.

“I’m not nervous,” Fitzgerald said about playing at the next level. “I’m ready for it.”

He said he has a home gym in his garage consisting of equipment

like a squat rack, bench, and other heavy compound equipment where he works out just about everyday to keep his body ready for the next level.

“The level that the coaches keep us at at RCC is higher than you would expect for a school like us, so we were more ready,” he said.

One of the big things that stands out to him when looking at a school is not only the football, but the academics as well. At this point, Fitzgerald is still uncommitted to a school but is fortunate to have a few options available.

‘Blue waves’ appear in SoCal



ANGEL PEÑA | VIEWPOINTS

Bioluminescent waves break on the shores of Carlsbad Beach on May 9. This phenomenon, caused by algae blooms, occurs every few years and can be seen at beaches all around the world. Californians can expect to see these unique waves through the end of May in San Diego County, Orange County and surrounding areas.

Living rooms become dance floors

How social distancing revolutionized dance culture

DANIEL HERNANDEZ

STAFF REPORTER

“We received word from the State and from the County that we can no longer proceed with Beyond Wonderland SoCal next weekend.”

Reading that message from Insomniac was heartbreaking. I had recently begun falling in love with going to music festivals and celebrating dance culture and I was so excited to go to Beyond Wonderland which had incredibly talented DJ’s like Valentino Khan, Dillon Francis and even Shaquille O’Neal set to appear.

A week before the event, California issued guidelines that restricted groups of 50 or more to congregate in one location.

A mandatory stay-at-home order was issued on the same day the event was supposed to begin.

I understood that the cancellation of Beyond Wonderland was necessary to keep the disease from spreading and I was happy to see that Insomniac, the company who hosts these events, agreed with that sentiment.

However, as a young adult who wants nothing more than to spend his time dancing and partying with friends, I was still very heartbroken.

I was heartbroken because I believed that COVID-19 was going to force companies that

host major music events to stop their work for the rest of the year. I was heartbroken because I thought my favorite artists were going to go on hiatus and leave me in isolation without new music to keep my spirits up. I was heartbroken because I thought that social distancing was going to force me to stay away from experiencing the rave culture that I fell in love with. Boy was I wrong.

Social distancing did the complete opposite of my expectations and actually helped dance music and rave culture to evolve for the better.

After postponing Beyond Wonderland, Insomniac announced a virtual Beyond Wonderland livestream, where anybody could tune in and dance from the safety of their own home, free of charge. The livestream included a beautifully decorated Alice in Wonderland themed stage, light and smoke effects and DJ’s playing 30 minutes to one hour sets. It was a major success.

Since that day, Insomniac has hosted similar livestream events

with other companies and big name artists following in their footsteps. Many of these live streams from other companies and artists have even been used as a way to raise money to help those impacted by COVID-19. The most recent being Porter Robinson’s livestream which helped raise money for MusiCare’s COVID-19 relief fund.

These live streams have also had an amazing impact on the artists whose jobs have been halted due to the virus. It has given smaller or lesser known artists a platform in which they could continue to show off their musical talents and gain more fans and it has given bigger artists an opportunity to promote their newest album or songs so fans can continue to support them during this time.

These events have also been a good way to keep people’s spirits high and entertained during this horrible pandemic.

“It is so f-ing important ... to keep people's spirits up and we’re gonna be good. We just need to let this pass and music is

gonna keep our spirits up,” said Pasquale Rotella, the founder and creator of Insomniac, during one of his live stream events.

Not only has these livestreams kept my spirit up, people from all different parts of the world have also been posting how much they enjoy these virtual musical events on social media.

Since many fans have been so receptive to this idea of a virtual rave, I believe that the future of dance festivals is online.

Of course artists and festival companies are still going to be hosting live events in the future but these stay-at-home orders have shown that there is a market for virtual events where people all over the world can enjoy music together and the signs of this transition are already appearing everywhere.

Artists like Galantis are promoting VR concerts, even before the idea of a pandemic existed, DJ’s like Dillon Francis and JSTJR are doing weekly shows on Twitch for all of their fans, artists have hosted raves in Minecraft with enormous stages built out of blocks and Insomniac has announced that they will be hosting a virtual three day EDC Las Vegas this weekend with some of the biggest names in the dance music industry.

I for one am all for it and I can’t wait to hang out with all of you in one of these virtual raves in the future.

Nothin’ but a banda thang

SILDA MARTINEZ

STAFF REPORTER

California legend Snoop Dogg just dipped his toe into banda music by making a collab song with famous group Banda MS. The song, “Que Maldicion,” dropped April 30, giving us all a surprise we were not expecting.

Snoop Dogg is known for switching between genres. He’s gone from bringing the funk to his music to now bringing the Mexican. This collaboration with Banda MS is perhaps the rap banda anthem we didn’t know we needed.

Smooth brass horns and banda beats kick off the melody while soft hip hop beats are lightly heard in the background. The combination adds a very fun, funky twist to both genres of music. Spanglish is thrown in the mix as Snoop Dogg eases a little Spanish between his rhymes. Banda MS leads with the chorus, “la maldición de extrañarte,” which translates to “the curse of missing you.”

It’s no surprise these artists produced a hit, with Banda MS’s strong reputation in Mexcian culture and Snoop Dogg’s legendary reputation in the hip hop industry.

Snoop Dogg is actually no stranger to Mexcian culture. He’s made his interest in banda quite clear in multiple Instagram posts with artists such as Jenni Rivera, the late LBC legend. He’s earned an automatic invite to the carne asada.

Fans from both genres were all over Twitter after the song’s release, making it the talk of the day pretty fast. They were thrilled to see this unexpected crossover.

Leave it to Snoop Dogg to continue surprising his fans with new unexpected music after decades in the music industry. Snoop Dogg is at the point where he can do almost anything he wants and fans will support him. With full reason too.

Snoop Dogg and Banda MS deserve a huge thanks for combing both our playlists of hip hop and banda into one song.

“We just need to let this pass
and music is gonna keep our
spirits up”

- Pasquale Rotella

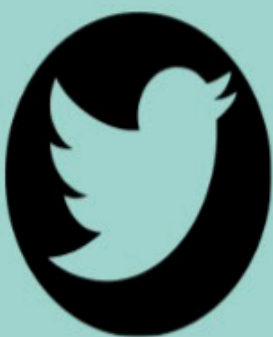
the
VIEWPOINTS
social media



ViewpointsofRCC



rccviewpoints



@RCCViewpoints



@RCCviewpoints



IMAGE COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Newly unemployed deserve help

Workers struggle financially during the pandemic

SILDA MARTINEZ

STAFF REPORTER

While American leaders struggle with deciding when and how to reopen the economy, more than 5.2 million workers have been added to the unemployed list as of April 16. That is truly devastating.

The way many industries and businesses have been handling this crisis has actually been the most infuriating part.

Industries such as hotels, restaurants and mass retailers have gone straight to imposing layoffs. Some have even

completely fired their workers, depriving them of the hope of eventually returning to a job after the pandemic improves. The fact that these industries cut them off so harshly in a time like this is beyond unfair. It is heartless.

During the pandemic, unemployment claims have reached roughly 22 million. This might be the deepest recession we have ever faced.

With sudden mass layoffs, of course, everyone turns to unemployment and other assistance provided by the government, making it extremely difficult for people

to receive their benefits when needed.

Ms. Swonk, a director of unemployment offices in Los Angeles, said in a New York Times interview done on April 16 that multiple unemployment offices are still playing catch-up with thousands of newly filed cases.

With the pandemic sprouting so suddenly, it is completely understandable that some industries and businesses felt pressured to start making cuts. No one was really prepared for such a sudden change of lifestyle. However these industries could have handled the care of their

employees much better.

For example, prior to the pandemic I worked at The Mission Inn Hotel and Spa in downtown Riverside, a family owned hotel. Although I had worked there for a year and a half the hotel fired me as soon as the pandemic worsened, out of the blue with no explanation. They also cut many employees in different departments.

Some employees had worked there for over 20 years and depended on those jobs for the survival of their families but were so easily let go.

This experience made my coworkers and I feel hopeless

and completely disappointed in our employer. During one of the most difficult times the world has faced, our source of income and survival was suddenly gone and our employers did not try to help us as much as they should have.

This has happened to millions of people all over the world. But it has opened our eyes to how much our government really helps us in our time of need. How much these industries and businesses really care for their employees.

It brought out anger. As hard workers we deserve more than this.

GET YOUR SMOKEY ON

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES.

SMOKEYBEAR.COM





EDITORIAL



IMAGE COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Protesters prolong pandemic

Opening prematurely risks thousands of lives

Conspiracy theorists rushed to conclusions last week after the documentary “Plandemic” spread like a virus on YouTube and Facebook.

The documentary makes countless allegations against the legitimacy of the COVID-19 pandemic and government restrictions in place around the world. Pandemic deniers and those screaming “fascism” at public health orders immediately accepted the allegations as truth.

Fans of this documentary are simply victims of politicized misinformation, crying “fake news” at experts and the media, yet failing to question the reliability of sources in a film that features a failed medical researcher and debunked urgent care doctors who posed as epidemiological researchers.

We, the Viewpoints Editorial Board, believe this attempt to

sway the public against reason to be nothing short of cheap propaganda and an insult to factual journalism.

Here are some facts.

Even as California moves through stage 2 of reopening, the California Department of Public Health announced that there were 67,939 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 2,770 deaths from the virus in the state as of May 11. According to data from John Hopkins University, states that have scaled back safety orders have seen sharp increases in cases.

These facts point to the recklessness of impulsive reopenings.

Unfortunately, facts continue to fail to convince millions to stay home and take the precautions necessary to stop the spread of the virus. Furious crowds — more often than not

resembling rallies for President Donald Trump — have protested outside the capitol and across the country, ridiculously calling themselves “oppressed” and demanding stay-at-home orders be lifted.

The reasoning of the anti-stay-at-home community ranges from complete crackpot theory to genuine economic needs. From unreasonable politics to a genuine questioning of information.

Economic frustrations are perfectly valid but these decisions should be guided by science, not emotions or politics. While national percentages of positive tests have decreased from last week’s numbers, that does not indicate complete safety.

Public health officials warn that thousands of lives could be lost due to the premature reopening of states. What might

come of this will not be apparent for weeks and could be much worse than the financial struggles seen today.

A second wave of COVID-19 is a possible consequence. Would going to the nail salon be worth a second, possibly deadlier wave? Most Americans say no, according to a Pew Research Center poll published May 8 that indicates 68% of the country feels states are reopening too soon.

The remaining 32% should suck it up and deal with what is necessary to avoid mass deaths and ensure society makes it out of this pandemic successfully, as some other countries are already proving is possible.

Everyone is worried, struggling and desperate. But the sooner those who have been too delicate to behave responsibly start acting civilized, the sooner the world goes back to normal.

Viewpoints’ editorials represent the majority opinion of and are written by the Viewpoints’ student editorial board.

STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Angel Peña
(951) 222-8488
viewpoints@rcc.edu

MANAGING EDITOR
Leo Cabral
viewpoints.managing@gmail.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER
viewpoints.advertising@gmail.com

JOURNALISM SPECIALIST
Matt Schoenmann
matthew.schoenmann@rcc.edu

FACULTY ADVISERS
Allan Lovelace
Matt Schoenmann

NEWS EDITOR
Erik Galicia
viewpoints.news@gmail.com

SPORTS EDITOR
viewpoints.sports@gmail.com

PHOTO EDITOR
Angel Peña
viewpoints.photo@gmail.com

ONLINE EDITOR
Angel Pena/Leo Cabral
viewpoints.online@gmail.com

OPINIONS EDITOR
viewpoints.opinions@gmail.com

LIFE EDITOR
Saida Maalin
viewpoints.artsentertainment@gmail.com

DESIGN EDITOR
viewpoints.designer@gmail.com

ILLUSTRATOR
Julian Navarro

REPORTERS

Stephanie Arenas	Zane Mudron
Daniel Hernandez	Julian Navarro
Diego Lomeli	Jacob Quezada
Rossana Martinez	Jair Ramirez
Silda Martinez	Jonathan Ramirez

MEMBER:

REACH US:
NEWSROOM PHONE: (951) 222-8488
E-MAIL: viewpoints@rcc.edu



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be kept to 250 words or less and include contact information. Deliver letters to the Viewpoints office in the room behind the Assessment Building. An electronic copy is required. Viewpoints reserves the right to edit letters for space and to reject libelous or obscene letters. Letters to the editor and columns represent the opinions of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the entire Viewpoints staff, Viewpoints faculty advisers, student government, faculty, administration nor the Board of Trustees.

PRINTING SCHEDULE

Copy deadline:	May	20
Photo deadline:	May	20
Ad deadline:	May	20
Next issue:	May	28

Viewpoints is a public forum, First Amendment newspaper. Student editors have authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval.

© 2020 by the Viewpoints staff, Riverside City College, 4800 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA. 92506-0528. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission of the Viewpoints Editor-in-Chief.