

TimesOC

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020 /// Times Community News publication serving Orange County /// timesoc.com

COMEBACK KIDD

By Ben Brazil

Orange County activist and leader lost a decade in prison but left on a mission to fight for Black voices.

FERIN KIDD is the new Orange County.

As the national movement to **END POLICE BRUTALITY** has progressed, he's emerged as a prominent activist and charismatic community leader, providing a unifying **VOICE FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY** through his organization Black OC.

Traditionally, many contend that Black voices have fallen on deaf ears in **ORANGE COUNTY**. Black people make up about 2% of the population. But, Black activists and leaders like Kidd are emerging as **VANGUARDS OF THE MOVEMENT**. They are young, emboldened and pushing for change.

"PEOPLE ARE READY," Kidd said. "They want to know: what do we do going forward and how do we change this? The reality is the only way we begin to change these things is through **A MORE AGGRESSIVE APPROACH**, beginning with getting out in the streets and protesting.

See **Kidd**, page R6

FERIN KIDD started the activist group Black OC and created the official flag of Black OC called the Unity Flag.

Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer



Hashtag compels accusations of 'toxic' campus culture



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE LAGUNA COLLEGE of Art and Design in Laguna Canyon has drawn some criticism after a hashtag on a recent social media post.

In June, a Black Lives Matter solidarity post from Laguna College of Art and Design was tagged #AllLivesMatter. The subsequent uproar led some students, alumni and staff to share stories of alleged racism and other insensitivities.

BY ADA TSENG, VERA CASTANEDA, LILLY NGUYEN

It started with one social media post.

On June 1, the Laguna College of Art and Design (known as LCAD) released a solidarity statement with the Black Lives Matter movement on its social media. The letter, signed by the school's president Jonathan Burke, looked similar to other posts by universities and companies pledging to stand against racial injustice.

But the hashtag #AllLivesMatter was the sole text on display at the top.

Students quickly noticed that their private arts school had used

the hashtag associated with dismissing Black Lives Matter. They started flooding the comment section with their own experiences at LCAD.

At first, students said someone on the social media team fueled the fire by copy and pasting the same apology to every angry commenter, including the explanation: "When the person who makes our posts entered the #BlackLivesMatter hashtag, inexplicably, the other hashtag autpopulated."

Later, Burke hopped on to apologize in the Instagram comments, which quickly got buried by other replies.

"I want to thank everyone for

speaking out about the various ways this post was mishandled, poorly composed and inappropriately edited by our Social Media Manager," read part of Burke's apology. "I am sorry for the hurt this has caused. What happened does not represent LCAD's values or point of view."

One month later, the dispute has triggered complaints from the student body about a hostile environment created by a mostly white school staff who some say are often insensitive, insulting or emotionally harmful to students of color and those who identify as LGBTQ.

See **Campus**, page R4

We're Open!

5 POINTS CLEANERS • AFFINITY & CO. JEWELERS • AT&T • BANK OF AMERICA • BIG 5 SPORTING GOODS • CHASE BANK • CHICO'S CLOUDMOVER DAY SPA • DISCOVERY SHOP • DUCK DONUTS • GAP, GAPKIDS & BABYGAP • GLITZ NAIL BAR • GLOBAL VISION OPTOMETRY HASHIGO SUSHI • JAVA BAKERY CAFÉ • KAHOTS PET STORE • LEMON THAI CUISINE • LOFT • MARIO'S MEXICAN FOOD & CANTINA OMAHA STEAKS • PIER 1 • PHENIX SALON SUITES • SALON CHAMPAGNE • TILLY'S • TITANIUM TICKETS • TRADER JOE'S • THE UPS STORE VANS • VOGUE WIGS BOUTIQUE • WORLD OF EARTH FOOTWEAR • XA SWEET & SAVORY CAFE • YOGURTLAND • ZUMIEZ



5 POINTS PLAZA

MAIN @ BEACH BLVD • HUNTINGTON BEACH • 5POINTSPLAZA.COM

FREE, EASY PARKING • COMMUNITY FOCUSED





Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

BRETHREN CHRISTIAN relocated to 6931 Edinger Ave. last year after moving from the Gisler Middle School campus

'It's the end of an era'

Brethren Christian High School closes after 73 years

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Schools aren't supposed to close down, Nicole Donahoe said.

But her own was — and only one year after she graduated from Brethren Christian High School in 2019.

Coaches and a parent of a recent graduate of the private Huntington Beach school confirmed Tuesday that they received emails stating that the school would be closing ahead of the 2020-21 school year, with alumni saying that they found out through social media. Leon Green, the head football coach the last two seasons, said that Brethren Christian was closing due to declining enrollment and financial difficulties.

"It financially was too much of a burden and there just was not enough money coming in to keep the doors open," Green said on Wednesday.

"The student body numbers have just dropped too much. The biggest thing was that they didn't want

to close, but to counteract that; they would have had to let go of teachers to supplement the loss of income and that would have compromised education for the students."

The school did not respond to requests for comment on Tuesday and Wednesday. School staff also declined to comment in-person on Wednesday morning.

The school was located

"It's a really bittersweet thing. My freshman year, it was amazing and it was great. My senior year, it felt like it was going to end. We all kind of knew it, but we kind of expected it to happen."

— Nicole Donahoe

2019 graduate from Brethren Christian High School

at the Gisler Middle School campus on 21141 Strathmoor Lane until recently after a long-term lease with the Huntington Beach City School District

ended last year.

The school relocated to 6931 Edinger Ave. just last year, making Donahoe part of the last graduating class of students at the Gisler campus, where Brethren Christian had been located since 2008.

The Gisler property was sold to home developers for \$42 million.

"I don't know anyone who went to a school and then ... you don't go to

as of Tuesday evening by Brethren Christian Supt. Matthew Chavez.

Brethren Christian School was founded in 1947 and it was first located at Seal Beach Brethren Church, before expanding to Long Beach and Paramount, then moving to Cypress and eventually to Huntington Beach.

Donahoe said she heard the news on Instagram on Monday while she was signing up for her college classes this fall semester.

"I don't know. It's such a strange thing and it makes me sad because there's so many memories ... at [Gisler]," Donahoe said, "and then the school moved from that location. There was already that [move] that made me upset and sad."

"Now the school's closing, it just makes it more really, really sad for me," Donahoe said. "It's a really bittersweet thing. My freshman year, it was amazing and it was great. My senior year, it felt like it

See *Brethren*, page R6

After public outcry, Santa Ana increases deportation defense fund by \$100,000

BY BEN BRAZIL

The Santa Ana City Council chose to reduce a planned increase to the city's police budget from \$9 million to about \$3 million after dozens of residents spoke at a contentious council meeting Tuesday night.

The council also decided, as part of its 6-1 approval of the city's new budget, to allocate another \$100,000 to the city's deportation defense fund, a program started in 2017 that allows Santa Ana residents facing potential deportation to secure an attorney they would otherwise not be able to afford.

The fund was set to receive \$100,000 less than the \$200,000 budget it received the prior year after an initial approval of the city's budget at the last council meeting.

Council members Vicente Sarmiento and David Penaloza dissented in that vote.

Sarmiento, the lone dissenter Tuesday night, said he supported some of the moves that city staff made to reduce the increase to the police budget since the last vote. He's also been a strong supporter of the deportation defense fund.

But, he said he was concerned that the police department still could be narrowed down to basic policing functions. One example he gave was the city's quality of life team, which deals with the homeless.

"To me that is something that could be done by a civilianized professional — maybe a mental health worker or social worker, somebody who is trained professionally to address those problems," Sarmiento said. "Too many times, a simple welfare check turns into something else because a person who is autistic, who is approached by somebody in uniform, doesn't know how to re-

spond and may respond differently, and bad things occur."

While voting for a much milder increase to the police budget, council members still voiced support for the city's department.

Councilwoman Nelida Mendoza thanked the police department for agreeing to work with the council on the six-month deferral of police salary raises.

"It makes no sense to defund the police," Mendoza said. "... We cannot do away with our police department. Who is going to respond to the emergencies that our public needs? It makes sense to work with them and to continue providing excellent public safety. There may be some reforms to do and maybe better training, and we can look at that. So, we are listening."

Mayor Pro Tem Juan Villegas similarly backed the police department.

"One of the main complaints I get about officers is 'What took so long [for them] to get there?'" Villegas said. "Well, we don't have the personnel, and Santa Ana is a very active city. Let's not forget about the voice of those people who called and are asking for help and are asking for service. Their voice matters also. We need to maintain the level of service best we can for those residents."

Dozens of residents voiced their anger at the council during the nearly eight-hour meeting. Many were displeased that they had to appear in person to give their public comments, and yet were forced to give their comments from outside the council chamber. Council members could see speakers on a screen in the chamber.

The change to include in-person public comments was made due to

See *Defense*, page R6

Many in O.C. resist masks even as coronavirus cases soar

BY HANNAH FRY AND SARA CARDINE

When Basilico's Pasta e Vino took to social media to proclaim itself a mask-free location amid the coronavirus pandemic in late May, it prompted responses ranging from overwhelming support to stern admonishments from customers who pledged never to dine at the restaurant again.

On Monday, officials at the Huntington Beach establishment had a message for those who have expressed anger about their policy. They updated the restaurant's voicemail greeting, joking that they were "having some fun with the haters."

"As you may know, we have been recently featured in the press and with great appreciation have been receiving an overwhelming show of support by the community and even from across the state and country, so if you're calling to place an order or express support for our position please hold or leave a voicemail," the greeting states. "If you're calling to place a death threat, please press 2 and leave your name, number and address so our cousin Guido and his crew can pay you a visit."

It is not clear whether the restaurant is mandating that diners remove their masks before entering. A man who identified himself as the restaurant manager declined to comment to a Times reporter on Tuesday. Huntington Beach police spokeswoman Angela Bennett said officials have sent the restaurant a letter requesting that they comply with the state's mask order.

But the restaurant's defiance underscores how Orange County remains a battleground where dueling factions of the population debate the necessity of masks. As coronavirus cases have spiked, more officials are urging people to cover their faces when in public. But many are still skeptical.

It's part of a larger debate raging this summer as businesses reopen even as coronavirus surges. The politics of masks are particularly intense among those who don't like the idea of the government telling them what they should wear.

Public health experts have said that wearing a face covering is an



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

LISA AND Todd Smith enjoy drinks on Main Street in Huntington Beach on July 1 as they greet a passerby who says she can't get used to wearing a face mask.

effective way to decrease the spread of the coronavirus. A study published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, concluded that, "wearing of face masks in public corresponds to the most effective means to prevent interhuman transmission."

In early June, Orange County's public health officer resigned after weeks of verbal attacks, including a death threat, over her mandatory mask rule. Her replacement rescinded the rules amid intense pressure from the Board of Supervisors, instead "strongly recommending" that residents wear face coverings when in public.

A week later, Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered all Californians to wear face coverings while in public or high-risk settings, including

shopping, taking public transit or seeking medical care. The order was handed down amid growing concerns that an increase in cases had been caused by residents failing to voluntarily take that precaution.

Last week, Health Care Agency Director Dr. Clayton Chau included a mask requirement in the Orange County's latest order. The order also closed certain business sectors including bars and indoor dining at restaurants amid a troubling uptick in infections and hospitalizations in the county.

On Monday, Orange County for the first time reported more than 1,000 new coronavirus cases in a single day, with young people accounting for the bulk of new infections. The county has the third-highest number of coronavirus

cases among the state's 58 counties and the fourth-most deaths, according to Los Angeles Times data.

Officials say the recent spike was due in part to reports from backlogged test results. The county reported 1,028 additional cases Monday, 1,013 of which were from specimens collected June 20 to July 3; the others were collected before June 19.

The county's positivity rate has also skyrocketed in recent weeks. The positivity rate, which health officials use to gauge whether case numbers are increasing because of more testing or because there's more disease spreading within the community, was listed as 7.95% over a seven-day period in mid-May. As of Friday, the county had a total of 22,650 cu-

mulative cases, and the number of patients with confirmed infections jumped 73% in the last three weeks.

The state has set a desired standard average of 25 positive cases per 100,000 over a 14-day period and a seven-day average positive test rate of 8%.

The surge in new cases and the recent rollback of business reopenings prompted Supervisor Michelle Steele, who had previously questioned the county health officer's decision to mandate masks, to appeal to residents to wear a face covering.

"With cases of COVID-19 in California increasing over the last six weeks, I ask the residents and visitors of Orange County to please

See *Masks*, page R6



One Extraordinary Team St. Jude Medical Center

For more than 60 years, St. Jude has been a place of hope and healing. From generations of new babies to ground-breaking cancer research, we've offered the kind of care that not only saves lives but changes them.

It's also the kind of care that earns national recognition, including being recognized as one of America's Best 100 Hospitals in areas from spine surgery and stroke to critical care. In fact, while many hospitals never earn national honors for quality or safety, our physicians and caregivers have made it almost routine.

By combining their expertise with a passion to serve, they have created nationally respected centers of excellence in neurosciences, digestive health, cancer, orthopedics, maternity, cardiac and rehabilitation, each advancing medicine and offering the latest treatment options available.

What's more, our partnership with St. Jude Heritage Medical Group and St. Jude Affiliated Physicians ensures you and your family have access to the best care available. Whether it is today's most sophisticated cardiac care or a pediatrician you can trust, we're here.

Together, we are ONE EXTRAORDINARY TEAM.

See our team's stories at [Providence.org/oneteam](https://www.providence.org/oneteam)
Call 714-871-3280

St. Jude Medical Center



RECOGNIZED FOR:



American Heart Association
American Stroke Association
CERTIFICATION
Meets standards for
Comprehensive Stroke Center



CAMPUS

Continued from page R1

Part of LCAD's mission on its website states, the school "prepares individuals for careers as creative artists and designers in a culturally and ethnically diverse world." It's located in a city that was historically considered Orange County's only liberal municipality.

"If the school advocates for diversity, everyone who works there should be well aware of the meaning of that hashtag," said fourth-year student Abigail Albano-Payton, who is Black and Filipina. "There's just no excuse."

Albano-Payton said that the post was just "the tip of the iceberg. There are so many issues, a lot of them which have been lingering around for too long" — an opinion echoed by at least 17 students, alumni, employees and former staff that TimesOC spoke to.

LCAD was founded in 1961 and was known then as the Laguna Beach School of Art. The school was previously located on the Festival of Arts grounds before the school purchased and acquired the original 3.4 acres of land in Laguna Canyon, where it is now.

The school offers 11 undergraduate majors, three graduate degrees, nine minors and a post-Baccalaureate program and spans seven sites located throughout both Laguna Canyon and nearby Laguna Beach.

The city of Laguna Beach is 91% white, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. While there is some diversity among the more than 700 full-time students at the college — which, according to the website, breaks down to 48% white, 21% Latino, 16% Asian, 2% Black, with remaining students classified as Native American, Pacific Islander, multiracial, "nonresident alien" or unknown for fall 2019 — the senior staff, professors and board of trustees are mostly white.

TimesOC asked the school for a racial breakdown of faculty and staff, but officials declined.

Out of over 100 professors, Larissa Marantz said she is one of a handful of Black faculty members at the school. She has been a part-time, adjunct professor at LCAD for 12 years. She is also the founder of the OC Art Studio in Orange, where she teaches youth.

She believes the use of the hashtag was an innocent mistake by Communications Manager Michael Stice.

Marantz said Stice, who first started teaching at LCAD 20 years ago, was fired "because they wanted to make it look like they were doing the right thing. They just threw him under the bus. He admitted that it was an error, but people were calling for his head."

She said Stice, who is white, initiated the idea of declaring solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in the first place, as protests in the wake of George Floyd's death popped up in cities all across Orange County.

But then he made the "grievous error," she said, and "all hell broke loose."

Stice did not respond to requests for comment.

Marantz said the real reason for the anger was because people felt like the #AllLivesMatter hashtag, though considered disparaging, aligned with their experiences at the school.

"We are responding to our community's comments, requests and actions as a team, and our desire to make improvements is threaded throughout the various passionate and dedicated members of the school's leadership team, the Equity and Inclusion Council, our support staff and our faculty," Marc Lynchski, the school's director of marketing and communications, said.

School officials, including Burke, refused to comment further.

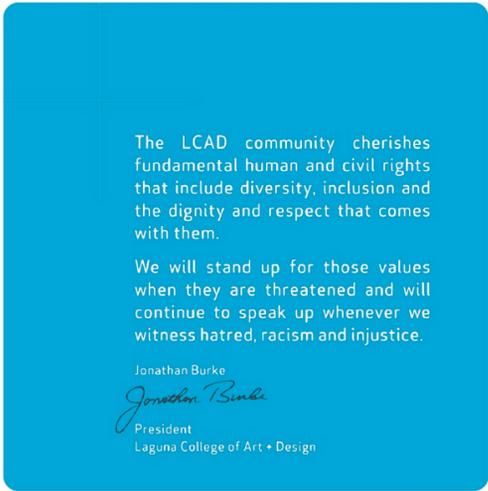
THE PETITION

Regardless of the hashtag's genesis, it united like-minded students to publicly confront their institution.

On June 9, students including Albano-Payton started an online petition titled, "Demand for LCAD



#AllLivesMatter



Courtesy of Abigail Albano-Peyton

A SCREENSHOT of a social media post from Laguna College of Art and Design that was posted on June 1. It was meant to be a message to support Black Lives Matter, but mistakenly used the #AllLivesMatter hashtag often used to discredit the movement.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A MURAL ON a wall at Laguna College of Art and Design in Laguna Canyon.

Board to take online course on Race and Racism."

The goal of the petition was to collect 1,000 signatures. Organizers reached almost 1,500.

The petition describes "inequality at the hands of multiple staff/faculty/board members for their race, gender identity, sexuality [and] culture" it alleges came to light after the #AllLivesMatter post, as well as "LCAD's normalized behavior of silencing, mistreating and dehumanizing students when they use their voices to bring forth issues and problems."

The petition focuses on the need for diversity education for the board of trustees to better understand the younger generation of students who are increasingly diverse in terms of race, gender and sexual orientation in tandem with other campuses across the country.

As an example, Albano-Payton said she wanted to write a paper about the white male painter Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) including the critique that he exploited Tahitian women in his paintings. She said her idea was dismissed, and she said being told that "a white man taking advantage of women of color for profit is not 'exploitative but appreciative' is to justify the exploitation and marginalization of minority groups."

Julia Friedman, another adjunct faculty at the school who gave the assignment to Albano-Payton, said she was "struck by the student's hostility."

Friedman said the assignment was for Albano-Payton to show her understanding of figurative painting and not to speculate on attitudes.

"What I said was that Gauguin was sincere in his appreciation of the islands and their culture, and his use of indigenous models was not a simple instance of 'exploitation' in the way the student was suggesting," Friedman said.

Alex Ferreiras, a fellow LCAD student who, along with Albano-Payton, is forming what is likely the college's first Black Student Union. Ferreiras is the president of the club.

He said that once, after he gave a presentation, his white professor called him "articulate, like he was surprised" — not understanding that "articulate" is considered a disparaging word for a white person to say to a Black person, especially

because there were no other Black people in the class.

Other students described incidents of transphobia.

Phoenix Baldwin, a former LCAD student who left at the end of 2019, described an advisory meeting for the animation department. Names of students were on display and read out loud, to be matched with names of teachers for the upcoming semester.

However, despite the fact that the school regularly uses trans students' preferred names, Dan Boulos, the animation chair, used several trans students' deadnames, the name a person used before transitioning, including Baldwin's, in front of over 100 people.

At first, Baldwin, who is a trans man, attributed this to carelessness, but now he thinks it's a security issue that's often overlooked: "If a transgender student is fully transitioned but being called by their deadname, then they're suddenly outed when they don't want to be."

Two sources who spoke anonymously cited a professor who saw the discomfort of several trans students and their classmates — and filed a complaint in hopes of preventing the error from happening again.

But those sources confirm Boulos publicly deadnamed trans students two more times, as recently as April, and the same professor, who has since been let go, brought the issue to human resources.

Boulos did not respond to requests for comment.

Recent public protests within institutions are not unique to LCAD. Art schools, including Otis College of Art and Design and California Institute of the Arts, received similar comments from students under their Instagram posts in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and have made announcements to address those issues.

Last week, LCAD students started the Instagram account @blackplusatlcad "to air out their grievances about a school that promised an environment of 'Culture and Care.'" It was inspired by other accounts like @black_at usc.

The design uses the school colors and mimics the apologies that the school has made on their social media. But instead, it includes anonymous



Alex Ferreiras

A PETITION FROM students at Laguna College of Art and Design that demands the board of directors take an online course on race and racism has gathered roughly 1,500 signatures.

'NO MATTER WHAT I DO'

"Sometimes I think I scare people, but really I'm vulnerable. Unfortunately no matter what I do, people are going to be intimidated by my actions. I just embrace it now because I know who I am no matter what people perceive me as." —Alex Ferreiras, LCAD student



'TWO PARTS OF ME'

"This is a self portrait of me when I went back to visit my family in the Philippines in 2016. I'm Afro-Filipina, and for a long time I had difficulty with my self identity. It's a portrait of me, a person who passes off more as Black to others, in Bacarra. The reflection in the window is supposed to represent the two parts of me ... I can resonate with it, the insecurity, uncertainty, confusion. I no longer feel that way, but it was a painting that I used to self reflect." —Abigail Albano-Payton, LCAD student



'MYSELF AS A 'PHOENIX''

"I don't often speak publicly about being a trans man, but for as long as I've been online, I've drawn myself as a 'phoenix,' after my chosen name." —Phoenix Baldwin, former LCAD student



also called diversity training "a waste of time and money and an insult to regular, intelligent grown-ups," and said scholarships should be awarded on merit, not racial quota.

Marantz, frustrated, took

to her public Facebook, not naming Maltese, but speaking about how she spent an hour educating a majority non-Black faculty and staff about institution-

See **Campus**, page R5

CAMPUS

Continued from page R4

alized racism, only to have “Karen the white fragility queen” email her about “her suffering.”

Maltese demanded Marantz share her full email publicly, alongside an apology and “a promise to never use [white] racial slurs again.”

“I’m sorry to any BIPOC LGBTQ student who has ever had the misfortune of having you as an instructor,” she wrote in her lengthy “apology letter” on June 27 which was signed by about 60 students, alumni, staff and former staff. Now, over 120 people have signed it.

Ferreiras said it was their way of saying, “If you do something to [Larissa], we will revolt ... she’s such a fantastic teacher and she cares so much about the students.”

He said that part of the reason he wants to speak publicly is that he believes the faculty that support them in bringing these stories of injustice at the school out into the open are putting their jobs on the line.

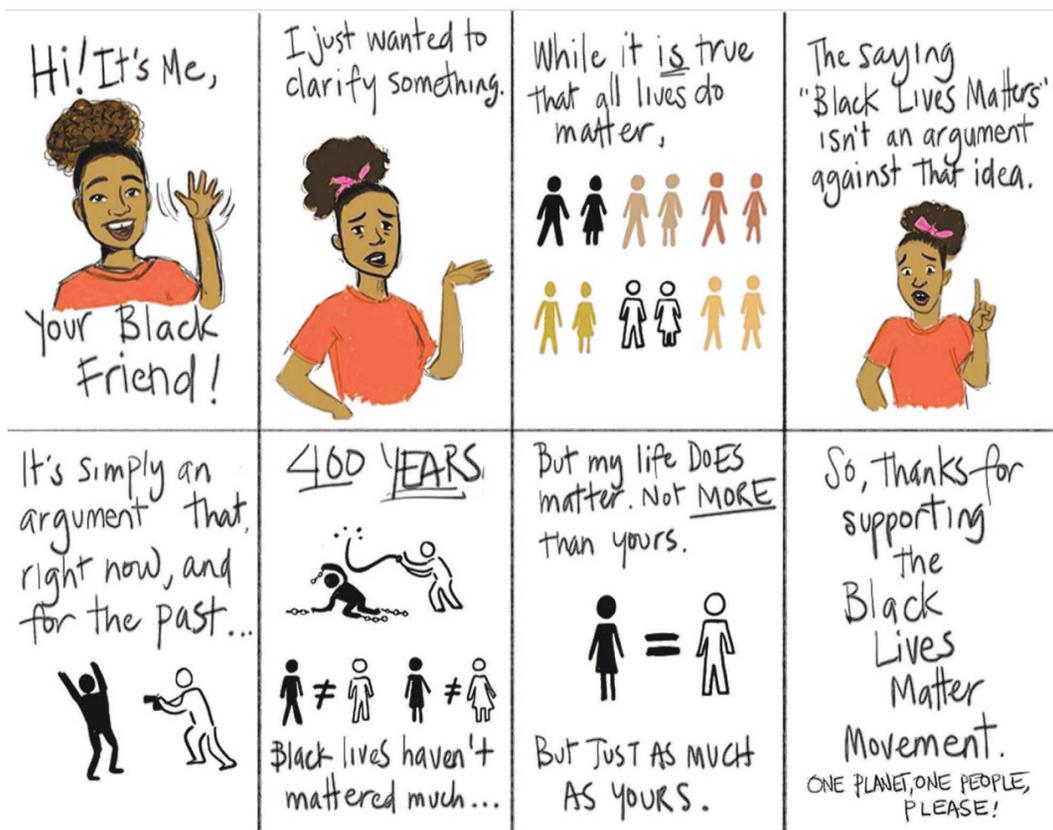
As of press time, Marantz said she has not heard anything from school officials regarding the emails since she made them public.

Maltese, on the other hand, said she was recently let go. In the postscript to her public email, she made what she refers to as a lighthearted comment about dropping masking and social distancing in order to “swap some germs.” Some students were fearful of taking her class, a requirement to graduate, in the fall.

“The only beef I have with the school, which is a fantastic school, is with the cowardice of the administration,” Maltese said.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The school’s website links to a PDF briefly describing their “institutional complaint process.” Complaints about students go to Laura Patrick, while complaints regarding faculty or institutional policy and procedures go to



Illustrations by Larissa Marantz

LARISSA MARANTZ is the only woman of color who teaches at Laguna College of Art and Design. After post mistakenly tagged #alllivesmatter went up on LCAD’s social media, she created a comic of herself explaining why All Lives Matter is an argument against Black Lives Matter.

Helene Garrison, the school’s provost.

But many, including those who attended LCAD in decades prior, also say they never received feedback about complaints brought to administration.

A week before Barack Obama was elected president in 2008, an LCAD animation student wore blackface and posed as Obama for an on-campus Halloween celebration.

Marie Bower, an alumnus who is Native American and white, recalled the student dyeing his reddish-brown hair and eyebrows black and covering his fair skin with brown makeup that was shades darker than Obama’s skin tone. She and a group of classmates had warned him it was blackface a day prior to the party.

He won the costume contest. The blackface photos stayed up on the

school’s Facebook as recently as June 18, according to Bower who shared screenshots with TimesOC, and, at press time, remain posted on LCAD’s alumni Facebook page.

Bower, who was also a student worker in the provost’s office, said she told Garrison and her executive assistant.

“They were like, ‘it’s not blackface. He’s dressed like Obama.’ And that was the end of the conversation. I didn’t know what else to do with that,” Bower said.

In December 2019, Baldwin started a petition in the animation department, which asked for six instructors the students liked, who were having classes taken away from them, to be reinstated. He provided TimesOC with a copy of the text of the petition.

Before setting up a meeting with Burke, Baldwin said he asked 73 students

to sign it, and 70 signed.

Baldwin recalled bringing the petition to Burke, who deflected to Garrison, who then scolded him for not following protocol.

She insisted that he bring the petition directly to the chair, Boulos, despite the fact that Boulos, the one in charge of hiring, was the target of the petition, and it made Baldwin uncomfortable.

A couple of weeks later, Baldwin said there was a second meeting, this time with Baldwin’s mother in attendance. Baldwin said Garrison spent the meeting interrogating the students about which faculty members were behind the petition.

“We’re just over there going, ‘No, we’re here to save teachers,’” he said. “‘You don’t understand. We want to keep teachers, we want to reinstate teachers.’”

A few weeks later, Bald-

win decided to withdraw from the school, which costs approximately \$35,000 a year to attend, without housing or financial aid.

His mother sent Garrison an angry email that Baldwin shared with TimesOC.

“In the meeting, I felt that my child was interrogated, disrespected and dismissed,” the email read. “After what has transpired over the last couple of weeks while my son has endeavored to be heard, I no longer wish to give LCAD our attention or our money ... LCAD will continue to suffer if the situation remains status quo.”

Baldwin said that there have been numerous student petitions over the years that went nowhere and a history of students’ concerns being ignored by administration.

He questioned why

Burke would tell students that, as the president, he can’t do anything.

Burke recently announced his retirement after 40 years of teaching at the school, 10 as president, though he is not scheduled to step down until the end of the year. Burke said that he was stepping down because he felt it was time and to return to his art. There was no mention of any campus strife in his retirement note.

Despite their criticisms — and the push-back from classmates who do not relate to their experiences and wish for them to be less public — Ferreiras and Albano-Payton also speak passionately about fellow students, faculty and staff members who they believe will be instrumental in bringing necessary change to the school they love.

Marantz hopes that LCAD can become a school where students feel like their voices are heard.

“There needs to be a set of guidelines and a pipeline so that when a student comes to a faculty member and says I’ve been harassed, or when a student comes to an administrator and says this teacher is harassing me, that there are steps that can be taken,” Marantz said. “Where accountability can happen and that these people who are causing damage and harm are held accountable.”

“There needs to be checks and balances and there is clearly not.”

Both Albano-Payton and Ferreiras say they are “hopeful but hesitant” about the future of the school.

A fourth-year student, Ferreiras, 25, is older than most of his classmates, and as a 6-foot-1 trans man, he understands that it’s easier for him to speak out.

So he wants to stand up for the people who are younger and smaller than him, who are too scared.

“It’s like, ‘I’m going to leave this school, and we don’t want to leave you in a space that’s toxic and unsafe,’” he said.

dailypilot@latimes.com
Twitter: @TheDailyPilot

Pacific View Memorial Park & Mortuary

NEW DEVELOPMENT
PANORAMIC OCEAN VIEW LOTS
NOW AVAILABLE

- Complimentary In-Park Tour or Online Virtual Tour
- Complimentary Price Quote

0% Financing up to 5 years through July 2020

3500 Pacific View Drive
Corona Del Mar, CA 92625
949-467-3728
FD 1176 COA 507

All of us THANK YOU! To all our Essential Workers our world needs you and we appreciate you!

Pyramid FENCE CO.

- Wood, Vinyl Fencing
- Straight Line Pickets
- Chain Link, Block
- Custom Masonry & Hardscape
- Barbeques, Outdoor Fireplaces
- Concrete, Stone, Patios & Walkways

Family owned and operated for over 50 years licensed, bonded and insured, Free Estimates Residential and commercial work

1111 BAKER STREET UNIT B, COSTA MESA, CA 92626
949-548-4422
WWW.PYRAMIDFENCECO.COM
CA Lic # 595701

KIDD

Continued from page R1

“Getting out and becoming active in the protests, I think that effectively changed the youth culture in Orange County from here forward. We are going to see a much more multi-cultural Orange County. An Orange County that is Black-friendly and empathetic to Black residents.”

When Kidd was released from prison in 2017 after a 10-year bid for armed robbery, he was given \$200 as gate money. Kidd used that meager sum as a corporate filing fee to start Black OC, a business that advocates for the rights of Black residents of Orange County.

As part of Black OC, Kidd mentors at-risk youth in photography and videography. He also works closely with the Heart of JOB Foundation, which mentors youth in the music business. Eventually, Black OC will include an online marketplace for Black artists and businesses to promote, collaborate and network.

Kidd needs funding to further expand the services of Black OC. Currently, it's almost a one-man job, though he has several part-time collaborators.

The group has played an integral role in the local anti-police brutality movement since the death of George Floyd sparked national protests in late May. Kidd has attended many protests, including speaking at a few, and Black OC led its own large protest at Sasser Park in Santa Ana last month.

The morning after Floyd was killed, Kidd flew to Minneapolis to visit the site of his death and film and photograph the protests. That footage will be used for his documentary, “Bang for Change,” which he plans to release this year.

“I woke up and saw George Floyd was murdered,” Kidd said. “I felt called to action like a lot of people felt. I bought a one-way ticket to Minneapolis and went with my camera. I wanted to use my camera the best way I could ... I wanted to bring my camera out there to document the protests from an intimate level. That way I can report what goes on without having to rely on the media.”

Michael Daniel Lynem, a former leader of the Black Panther Party in Orange County in the 1960s, said he and Kidd will be working together in the future on community organizing efforts. Lynem, who is now a pastor in Orange County, spoke at the Sasser Park rally.

Lynem, 73, said Orange County has dramatically changed. He said he has experienced more racism in Orange County than in Kentucky, where he went to school as a child. But now, the county is becoming more progressive.

“I experienced that southern racism under Jim Crow, but it was really in



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

ORGANIZER AND executive director of Black O.C. Ferin Kidd spoke at the Juneteenth Change Makers Vigil, sponsored by Black O.C., at Sasser Park in Santa Ana on June 19. Dozens of attendees stood in the shaded area of the small park holding signs while speakers took turns at the podium. Kidd said that they were out there “To show solidarity with one another.”



Courtesy of Ferin Kidd

FERIN KIDD, left, and Terrance Hawk at Lancaster state prison.

Orange County that I experienced that direct racism,” Lynem said. “It was pretty blatant, and it was where I experienced the most racism on a daily basis. Racial profiling, I believe, was the official policy of the police department.”

Lynem said he believes the racial divide in the country is the worst it's ever been, but he has hope in this generation.

“Ferin and them are the kind of people, that with their direction, that is where the hope is going to come from,” Lynem said. “It's from groups like Black OC.”

Kidd's knowledge and passion for civil rights was fostered in confinement.

In 2006, Kidd was arrested for suspected armed robbery and possession of a firearm after years in and out of trouble for gang-related crimes. He was facing a triple life sentence due to the three-strikes law. He was able to beat some of the charges and was booked into prison on a 12-year sentence, for which he served about 10 years.

“Going into prison, I knew I for sure couldn't return to a life of crime and that I needed to figure something out,” Kidd

said. “I went in there, and I treated prison like it was a school. Some of the older brothers I talked to in the county jail getting ready to go into prison, they said they call the penitentiary a university. They said that ‘you should come out of this situation stronger in mind, body and soul.’”

Kidd, whose father wasn't in his life growing up, said that it was the first time he had access to older Black male role models. He said he listened to their counsel and read the books they gave him.

He educated himself on civil rights. He learned spiritual strength and grounding through practicing Islam.

Kidd spent most of his time at Ironwood State Prison in Blythe. Several years into his sentence, Kidd chose to join the state's inmate firefighter program. He signed up for four years with the program but transferred out after two years.

“It allowed me access to society even in a very limited way,” Kidd said. “It allowed me to do something that was constructive, and I learned a brand new trade and was doing something meaningful. In many ways, it was a positive ex-



Los Angeles Times

INMATE FIREFIGHTERS based at a camp in Azusa fight a Tehachapi wildfire. Ferin Kidd worked as an inmate firefighter until he decided it was too exploitative.

perience. But in other ways, to the conscious person, it was a very exploitative experience. They are outsourcing prisoners as a cheap labor source.”

Kidd said he was paid a dollar an hour. Some days the inmates worked 24 hours straight. Kidd said many of the inmates tolerated abuse from higher-ups because they were scared to go back to prison.

“There's a lot of harassment inmates tolerate,” Kidd said. “It has its pros, but it definitely has its cons. I saw that as very exploitative. It is dangerous work. There are times when we are put in positions that are very questionable and highly dangerous. I had been commanded by my fire captains to go into situations that were clearly dangerous.”

Kidd transferred to Lancaster state prison for the remainder of his sentence. There, he started putting his organizing skills to use.

Kidd realized that the predominately-Black prison lacked basic resources for inmates that are required by state law. So he went to work.

First, Kidd drafted a petition taking umbrage with the sluggish pace of the prison's mail delivery. Mail

was supposed to be delivered within 72 hours, but some inmates had to wait months for their mail.

Kidd unified the prison yard to get behind the petition. That wasn't an easy feat.

“In prison, we are racially divided, so every respective race has their own organization, and inside of the races, you have sub-groups like Bloods and Crips,” Kidd said. “Each organization has its own president or leadership. For me, it was just about going to each racial group and letting them know what the petition was for. I needed to collect signatures from every race. We needed to show this isn't a problem affecting just one group. We need to let them know we all stand united.”

The petition was successful.

From there, Kidd realized that the prison didn't have a law library. Prisons are legally required to have law libraries, so that inmates can study their own cases and rights.

Kidd once again unified the yard toward a common goal. He said the prison initially agreed to open a library, but with only books.

“That wasn't good enough,” Kidd said. “We pushed the issue and let

them know that there will be legal repercussions if there aren't computers.”

Computers were added. Next, Kidd and the inmates were able to petition the prison to open its chapel, which had remained closed due to lack of staffing.

“Inmates have the rights to religious services,” Kidd said. “There was a lot of abuse on the inmate population in that yard.”

Kidd was their advocate. He cared for his fellow inmates, though he kept only a few close friends.

“He was very humble and giving and caring to people who didn't have things,” said Terrance Hawk, Kidd's friend at Lancaster prison. “He would build connections with people who didn't have too much. He would go out of his way to help them. He changed the whole environment in that yard, out of love.”

Kidd met Hawk in 2015 when he arrived in Lancaster.

Hawk, now 25, was a young Black man searching for meaning and direction in his life, much like Kidd when he first entered the prison system.

Kidd mentored Hawk, sharing books on civil rights, Black history and self empowerment.

“We built a bond around civil rights and things we were passionate about,” Hawk said. “I learned so much about Black history and different civil rights activists and revolutionaries. He really helped me become a better version of myself.”

They'd discuss in-depth the “Autobiography of Malcolm X” or the moral tenets of the “Quran.” They practiced Islam together, finding self-growth and spiritual grounding in its pages.

Mostly, they spoke of Black OC and what Kidd would create when he was released.

They discussed what the goals and mission of the organization would be, and how it would better the Black community in Orange County that Kidd grew up in.

“From day one, when Ferin got out, he was on a mission,” Hawk said. “He created Black OC from nothing.”

When Hawk was released from prison a few months after Kidd, Kidd drove from Orange County to pick up Hawk's mother and sisters to take them to the prison. Kidd filmed the entire event to memorialize the release of his close friend.

Hawk is now working closely with Kidd on Black OC.

He said he owes everything to Kidd.

“To this day, I hear his voice in my head when something is going on in my life,” Hawk said. “I hear his voice in my head telling me something he told me back when we were in prison.”

benjamin.brazil@latimes.com
Twitter: @benbrazil

BRETHREN

Continued from page R2

was going to end. We all kind of knew it, but we kind of expected it to happen.”

Like Donahoe, Jack McNally, 25, said he heard about the closure through social media, specifically basketball coach Jeff Jefferson's Instagram. McNally, a 2014 graduate, de-

scribed the news as something that “broke [his] heart.”

“I went there for six years. I went there in junior high, too. Seventh through eighth. I worked at Brethren for three more,” McNally said. “It was tough.”

But McNally said that he felt that “Brethren wasn't really Brethren the last three, four years.”

“It was slowly becoming

something different from the Brethren we knew and loved,” said McNally, who worked as the office coordinator for the school's football team, but now works at Calvary Chapel in Santa Ana. “We were all distanced in the first place, so then, it was almost like we thought it was going to die three years ago, not that it was going to survive three more.”

For him, McNally said

he felt it was only a matter of time.

His father, Pat McNally, who coached football at the high school for six years, said he had a lot of great memories at the school and felt it was disheartening to see small Christian schools close.

“Another victim of today's economy and the challenge of keeping these small schools afloat,” Pat McNally said.

Green called the closure an end of an era.

“There's a lot of good things that the school's been able to do while it was open and just, unfortunately due to the times and everything that's going on, they're not able to push past this hurdle,” said Green, a Brethren Christian alumnus.

Green said he's been in touch with his players, but that he felt there were no

answers to be provided as much as there were questions.

“I knew people whose grandparents had gone to Brethren, whose parents went to Brethren, they've gone to Brethren,” Jack McNally said. “It's tough in that sense that they won't be able to send their kids there, but that's life.”

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lillibirds

DEFENSE

Continued from page R2

technical issues with the city's phone-in public comment system during previous meetings.

“I think that you guys are utilizing the pandemic to silence the voices of your own damn constituents and prevent us from coming in here,” said Abel De La Cruz, of the activist group By Any Means Necessary. “Santa Ana has the highest count of coronavirus in Orange County, and you are using that to shut us up and prevent us from coming here and confronting you.”

Regarding the budget, she said, “You are funding a police force that systematically targets and kills

brown and Black people ... Create a new budget that includes a complete defunding of the police, a complete abolishment of the police and actual protections for immigrants in Santa Ana.”

Many speakers pointed out that Santa Ana's department is one of the most deadly in the state. According to Mapping Police Violence, Santa Ana is the fourth deadliest police department in California.

“People are more comfortable with drug dealers around them than being next to police because of how scared they are — it's not right,” said Anthony Hernandez, who said he was born and raised in Santa Ana.

benjamin.brazil@latimes.com
Twitter: @benbrazil

MASKS

Continued from page R2

wear a face covering when you are in a public place and unable to properly social distance, as well as following hygiene and social distancing guidance,” Steel said in a statement this week.

“This is of the utmost importance to protect your health and the health of others, so that we can return back to normal as quickly as possible.”

While more public officials appear to be embracing the mask requirement, law enforcement throughout much of the county has taken a softer approach than its northerly neighbors. In some Westside cities in Los Angeles County, like Santa Monica, not

wearing a mask could result in a \$300 fine for a first offense.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on Tuesday could not immediately provide data about the number of citations they have issued.

Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes said in a statement that the department has to be practical when considering enforcement of face coverings in the sections of the county where deputies patrol. Officials said the sheriff is not taking an adversarial approach to the governor's orders, but is operating with limited resources.

“With limited exceptions, not wearing a face covering is a violation of the public health order, but it is not a practical application of a criminal law violation,”

Barnes wrote.

“As many other industries are gaining compliance through an education-first approach, deputies will continue to educate the public about the statewide face-covering requirement and will request voluntary compliance.”

Cities with their own police departments in Orange County, including Irvine and Newport Beach, have also found success taking an education-first approach.

While police in Irvine can cite people who refuse to wear face coverings under a city order, officers have not found it to be necessary, said Sgt. Karie Davies.

“People have been receptive to the information that our officers provide. I think some of it is just a matter of clearing up misinforma-

tion,” Davies said. “We're really trying not to give people citations, but if push came to shove and we really had to, we would.”

Newsom on Monday indicated that counties not enforcing the orders could risk losing their share of \$2.5 billion worth of state funds, saying that if officials are “unwilling to do it, then we will redirect those dollars to communities that are.”

“I have great respect for the overwhelming majority of officials in Orange County that want to do the right thing,” Newsom said. “If there's a handful that don't, we'll work through them, around them or we'll work through whatever the problems are.”

hannah.fry@latimes.com
Twitter: @Hannahnfr