

Celebrating 84 years of Press Photography in Southern California



Just One More, Jr.

DOWNLOADABLE EDITION

October 2020, Volume 84, Issue 3

Check our website at www.ppagla.org for complete monthly contest results and judges comments.



Thomas R Cordova, Long Beach Post

Third Place, General News: Kevin Anderson stands toe to toe with a Long Beach police officer as he sheds a tear during a protest of the death of George Floyd, in Long Beach. For more entries from the Second Quarter Contest, see Page 8.

Facing the danger in protest coverage

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Highlights from retirees Wayne Kelly and Joanna Matos *Pages 2, 3 and 4*

Sharing resources, building community

Dear Friends,

Community is a large part of who we are at PPAGLA — helping each other out, getting through tough times together.

Please enjoy this quarter's newsletter with highlights from members in the field, our wonderful Astrophotography webinar with Raul Roa, and insights from Ringo Chiu on the dangers of covering protests. It is tough out there, for sure.



Amy Gaskin
President

This month's issue features some retiree news, too. Enjoy the interview with Joanna Matos, past president. Joanna was also, for many years, a stalwart committee member on our student scholarship fund.

Our retirees have been the solid foundation of our organization, and have helped shape our group over the years with their wisdom and experience. Wayne Kelly recently contacted us with some

great ideas to build community.

Wayne is a former board member, former LA Times staffer, an educator and a founder of our Student of the Year competition. We are putting his column below, where there would normally be a message from me. Wayne's wisdom and energy seem endless! Thank you, Wayne!

As always, please contact us with any ideas or suggestions!

Amy
AmyPPAGLA@gmail.com

Staying in touch with retirees — help needed

By Wayne Kelly

Generations of photojournalists come and go. Sadly, most of mine have gone.

We covered the police, city hall and county beats and photographed more politicians than we care to remember.

We covered disasters such as fires and earthquakes, gruesome plane and car crashes and enough society events to last a life time.

I imagine many of these types of assignments still comprise a large portion of today's assignment logs.

Many of the men and women who covered these events are now retired, quietly adding to the PPAGLA membership roster a growing number of retirees. That list will surely grow.

There are a handful of us who have been retired for more than 20 years. A few longer. Many of us were close — personally and professionally — during what I like to call "the Golden Age of Photojournalism." But as often happens in later years, old friendships weaken as we drift away in retirement.

So what better way to stay in touch than with a monthly column in JOM? Not only would it be a way to maintain contacts with old friends and colleagues, but it would be a look into the future for many working photojournalists.

How are retired members keeping



Wayne Kelly
Guest columnist

busy? Do they have part-time jobs? Are they involved in personal business ventures? Have they moved away from the L.A. area? What are they doing with their time? Are they engaged in creative projects related to their years in photojournalism? Do they have comments on the current state of photojournalism? And much more.

I am at some disadvantage as a columnist. I explained to PPAGLA President Amy Gaskin that I have been retired for 21 years. For 25 years I was at Cal State Long Beach as a photojournalism educator. So my knowledge of many recent "in the business" retirees is limited and probably requires a younger columnist to properly address those folks.

Keeping track of old colleagues can be a sad and daunting task. For instance, all of the staffers with whom I began my career at the Indianapolis Star from 1954-57 have passed away. When I joined the L.A. Times photo staff in 1957 there were 16 photographers. To my knowledge only Harry Chase (Port Hueneme), Steve Fontanini (Jackson Hole) and myself survive. Yes, there are a surviving number of photos with whom I worked as L.A. Times Family Section Editor, Picture Editor and Chief Photographer during my years at The Times from 1957-71. Occasionally, I hear from Steve Fontanini, but

Harry Chase is off the radar. I have not chatted with Harry in almost 50 years. It is this generation of more than 50 years ago that I have fond recollections.

I believe all of my old friends at the L.A. Mirror are gone, as are most of those from the old L.A. Examiner and Herald Express, later to become the L.A. Herald Examiner. Heck, I am so old that I believe I am the only photographer left who covered the first game when the L.A. Dodgers came to town!

Good memories, so why not help other retirees share experiences and stay in touch? A chatty column would attempt to touch bases with retirees young and old. Working members would have an opportunity to see what might await them in retirement, but could also serve as a sounding board to a successful retirement.

Retirement programs at most publications are probably not as generous as in years past. But hearing stories from some long-time retirees might give insights on how to prepare for those golden years.

Now, it is possible older (and newer) retirees are not interested in communication with old friends. Times have changed and social intercourse has also changed. I would be pleased to hear your ideas on how a proposed retiree column might enrich your life. And of course all suggestions are welcome.

Drop me a note at wfkelly2@verizon.net with your ideas, suggestions and general comments.

Catching up with Joanna Matos

Joanna Matos is a past president and a founding member of our student scholarship fund.

How did you hear about the PPAGLA?

I was a member of the Orange County PRESS Club and my editor Don Clever encouraged me to join PPAGLA. I already knew LA Times photographers Ben Olender, Larry Sharkey and Cliff Otto from when I covered the Ram home football games, USC home football games and the Angels home baseball games. I thought joining was a great idea to learn.

Who did you shoot for, and when?

I worked at the La Habra Daily Star Progress from 1971-77 as the only staff photographer. Then I was at Knott's Berry Farm from 1977-90 as their first permanent media photojournalist.

How long have you been a photojournalist? How did you get started?

19 years. Not counting the two years I was shooting for my high school's annual yearbook.

I've always had the natural instinct to be a part of the news field. In 1971, the La Habra newspaper was looking to fill the position of the photographer, as the current one fled to Canada to avoid Vietnam.

It took one assignment and I was hired.



Joanna Matos

What are your memories of your presidency?

The wonderful support from TV cameraman John Milek, The Times' Joel Lugavere, my kid Rick Meyer and charming funny Delmar Watson and my Board of Directors all.

Awed and honored for Mayor Tom Bradley to come to my president installation at the Biltmore Hotel and present him the 26th annual edition of "Just One More."

Following that, being interviewed by Johnny Grant on Channel 5 TV as taking the helm of what once was all-male organization. I was cool, calm and collected.

Thrilled to fly in twin-engine Beechcraft airplane for an assignment from Ontario airport (10,700 feet elevation) to Sacramento capitol for an award ceremony that Gov. Ronald Reagan is holding to honor California Boy of the Year who was from La Habra.

I was part of the sideline photographers at a USC vs. Notre Dame football game. Quarterback Pat Hayden on 5-yard line couldn't find his receiver and ran off sides, missing Ben Olender and the "Bear" from UPI, Ernie Schwork

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When did you become a member of PPAGLA?

In 1976, I attended a board meeting as a visitor with Cliff Otto, who drove into LA from city of Orange. Bob Duricka was president and welcome me. In 1977, I was a board member; 1978, vice president; 1979, president; 1980, chairman of the board; and 1982, secretary.



Courtesy photo Joanna Matos

Then-Mayor of Los Angeles Tom Bradley is presented a first edition of the Press Photographers Association of Greater Los Angeles' "Just One More," by Joanna Matos, right, who was president of the PPAGLA at the time.

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and even though I had stepped backwards 10 feet, I was broadsided by Hayden. He helped me up and apologized. The Coliseum announcer publicly voiced his opinion saying, "Ladies and gentlemen, that's why women should not be allowed on the field." Apparently, he didn't know I was a working photog just like the guys. Hayden connected on next throw and won the game. After all, it was the 70s.

I can't deny my infamous entry into the all-male Angels baseball players' locker room. On assignment from the Star sports editor to capture Nolan Ryan going for a no-hitter game, Rockwell International was monitoring his fast ball at 104 mph. Gene Autry sent word he was waiting to congratulate Ryan. Following the other newsman to the locker room, I had my battery-operated Nikon camera ready for that one shot. I let my camera click away and shot a 36-frame roll of black and white. When quizzed why did I go there? "I wasn't there to play peek-a-boo, I was doing my job." Angels PR man George Lederer at

the next home game called me from the field to the broadcast booth and presented me with a black satin eye shade as the first woman photojournalist to enter their locker room.

The LA Times jumped on the story and asked my editor if I can be interviewed. The story (at my age of 45) of my journey was featured on front page of LA Times Orange County section, and my photo shooting at the World Football game in Anaheim stadium.

I covered local drug busts, high school football players streaking across school grounds, fashion shows, auto accidents, local (terrible lighting) high school baseball and football, auto racing at the Ontario Speedway.

At Knott's, I shot everything from chicken-eating contests, a highwire aerialist, Michael Jackson wanting free entry to two roller coasters (privately) for his two small boys (one was Sean Lennon), to O.J. Simpson joking around with Knott's gunfighters stuntman and President Gerald Ford conferencing with Russell Knott, an owner.

Fourteen years of photographing the small amusement park details to

the large, e.g., when Charles Schultz turned the dirt shovel to open Camp Snoopy.

What advice do you have for students, etc.?

Today's cameras are very high tech — no comparison to what I worked with 40 years ago. Advice: Know your stuff and don't give up. Listen to the professionals and your parents. Be ambitious. Be devoted.

What's your favorite part of being in the PPAGLA?

Friendships. Being the start of the Scholarship Fund with Rick Meyer. Ages ago, the annual Awards Dinner was held at the Airplane restaurant called the Proud Bird near LAX. I called photogs I knew to ask them to bring a bottle of wine for each table.

Their donations and willingness to help gave Rick Meyer an idea to initiate the beginning of our scholarship fund campaign. His amazing tenacity continues today ... ages later.



Astrophotography with Raul Roa

By Karen Quincy Loberg

Los Angeles Times staff photographer Raul Roa knows a lot about astrophotography. Almost 70 registrants, including two people from India, tuned into his astrophotography workshop hosted by the PPAGLA in August. The Zoom webinar included equipment, preparation, techniques, an awareness of wildlife and a question-and-answer session.

Raul opened with magnificent night shots of the Milky Way, both static and with star trails. To get such clear star images, he emphasized finding a location far from cities to avoid light pollution.

He talked about equipment necessities: DSLR camera controlled manually, as well as a manual fast wide-angle lens set to infinity, a 32-gig or larger card, tripod with a tilt head, lockable cable release, extra batteries and a head lamp capable of red light. The red light will be the only illumination you'll have, and helps keep your eyes acclimated to the darkness. It will also help you see snakes, scorpions and coyotes.

Preparation is key to a successful night shoot. Raul uses apps such as Dark Sky, Planets, Deluxe Moon and others to know where to setup before the sunset and when the moonless nights will be.

He advises arriving early to get familiar with the landscape, important so you can walk avoiding

stumbling spots and get a good idea of where you want to set your tripod. Raul emphasized awareness of one's surroundings. He once saw a photographer at dusk falling from a small cliff while backing away from his tripod. Raul helped the guy out, but said he was pretty scraped up.

Bring layers to wear so as to stay comfortable for the drop in night temperatures. And snacks. You'll be out

*Courtesy Raul Roa*

LA Times photographer Raul Roa provided a number of useful tips about how to take quality photos, as well as advice on preparing for a long night shoot.

there for up to three hours or more in a remote area very likely out of cell service. A full tank of gas is important so you're good to go in an emergency.

Some of the techniques Raul covered were the well-known "500 Rule" in astrophotography; dividing 500 by your focal length to get a ballpark number for the length of your exposure. Then setting your Kelvin level or filter to daylight with the ISO that suits you in your test shots. A lockable cable release is key in astrophotography. You may shoot up to 300

images that you will stack in post processing, if you want a single star trail photograph. Once you have your settings, the cable release will trigger your shutter for the next few hours as you enjoy the night sky.

"There are so many ways to shoot the stars, this is just a starting point of many possibilities," Raul mentioned.

One attendee asked Raul about using the bulb and an intervalometer

as a setting, but Raul prefers his own method because, while a camera's intervalometer can keep settings and pace the exposures, he prefers to do it manually for ease. Your exposure needs to be short enough so that the stars are sharp and not distorted as they could be in bulb.

Another viewer asked what the best time of year is to do astrophotography. March through September is the best time for the positioning of the Milky Way, the later in the year, the more it gets positioned undesirably by the horizon.

There were significant fires going on at the time of the webinar. Raul was asked how that affects his astrophotography. While smoke from fires have a definite negative impact on the ability to capture a crisp image, if you stay up all night, you can shoot some beautiful smoky sunrises.

At the conclusion of the webinar, Raul posted his email, social media accounts and website:

RoaEmail@gmail.com
Twitter & Instagram: @RaulRoa
www.RaulRoa.com



Raul Roa
LA Times staff
photographer

From my side of the camera

I recently learned from my own experiences in the field that covering protests is, in several ways, more dangerous than covering fires.

By Ringo Chiu

Wildfires and protests have always been some of my favorite news events to cover, as I greatly enjoy capturing the dramatic moments showing firefighters battling a fire, and the pure emotion and expression of a protest that tells the story behind each and every event. However, I recently learned from my own experiences in the field that covering protests is, in several ways, more dangerous than covering fires.

Over a month ago, the incident of me being hit in the stomach by a rubber bullet during my coverage of a protest in Tujunga still lingers as a shadow in my mind. Today, I can still feel the sting from the scar the wound left behind.

During the time of my recovery, I realized that the reason covering protests is even more dangerous than covering fires is because fires operate in a more predictable pattern, and do not see my camera as a threat. The same cannot be said whilst putting yourself into the crowd of a protest.

I feel now that I need to worry about my own safety from violent protesters. Never would I have thought that I would also need to protect myself from the police, those that I believed would always protect us during times of chaos. I say these words not to put down the group of men and women who have always put their lives on the line in order to protect our community, but to help give a little insight to other photographers who may have less experience in the field. Although you may have your credentials displayed and carry cameras that show your intent, the risk is far greater than before, as many other photojournalists on the field have also sustained equal or even harsher wounds than I have. Sometimes it feels like, as media covering our community, we can be in danger from every direction when exercising our First Amendment right.

Over the course of my protest coverage this year, I have been hit by five rubber bullets and attacked by protesters. During most of these incidents, I was hit incidentally: The police are using the rubber bullets as a crowd-control method, and it is



Ringo Chiu

Photographer Ringo Chiu's Leica Q camera was hit by a rubber bullet May 30 in the Fairfax District, during a protest over the death of George Floyd.

simply dangerous out there.

Protesters can be very violent. From my experience, they often don't want to be photographed, even though we as media have the right to cover the news. I have been hit and I have seen other photographers attacked by protesters. The rubber bullets have hit me from the guns of both the LAPD and the Sheriff's Department during various protests, including the deaths of George Floyd and Andres Guardado.

Those injuries were mild compared to what happened later. I was even lucky enough the first time to have my camera block a rubber bullet that would have hit my upper body. However,

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er, during my second encounter June 21, I tried to get closer in an attempt to photograph the arrests. An officer pointed his rubber bullet rifle at me and told me to leave the area. I raised my media pass and shouted that I was with the media, but they didn't seem to care and began to fire rubber bullets at me. (No protesters were anywhere near me at the time and I was wearing credentials and had cameras out.) I was shot once again on my right inner thigh, and afterwards I left the scene.

More recently, I was not so lucky. In August, I covered the Pro-Trump demonstration in Tujunga. I was wearing credentials and carrying three cameras.

The police were lined up between the Black Live Matters protesters and the President Trump protesters. I was taking photos of both sides as they began to verbally fight. The tensions were escalating. During this time, the police began trying to separate the two groups by pushing them back against the sidewalk, away from the main road. I was in the crowd with

Now, I'm more cognizant of where the police are.

-Ringo Chiu, PPAGLA member, photojournalist

other photographers taking photos of police and moving in front of them while they engaged the crowd with batons.

Just as I moved to a new position, I was hit in the abdomen by a rubber bullet. In that moment, I felt a surge of hot pain in my body and immediately ran away to safety near a tree. The police were still shooting at the protesters, and a group of protesters stood around me to make sure I was safe and aided me. They gave me first aid treatment before a tactical responder suggested that I may have had one or two ribs broken, so an ambulance was called for me. Unfortunately, the ambulance was not able to make its way through all the chaos, so one of the responders

used their own car to drive me to the hospital. Thankfully, there were no broken bones of any sort, just a very painful wound.

I have all the gear for my protection but it has not been useful to me recently. Sometimes, it draws attention. So it is a balancing act.

After the Lakers won the championship, there was violence again. I didn't feel safe that night, and I had to leave early. When I see police officers with guns, I recognize the danger their rubber bullets pose. I used to be much more aggressive in getting my shots. Now, I'm more cognizant of where the police are. Next time, I may get a large jacket to cover a bullet-proof vest. I am trying to be safe, but not draw more attention to myself.

We are out there in the field making very little money, yet the risks are enormous. There is a lot of competition. Now during the pandemic, with so few assignments for freelancers, more photographers are covering protests than ever before. It's dangerous out there.

Be careful everyone.



Courtesy Ringo Chiu

(Left) Ringo Chiu received medical treatment from after being injured by rubber bullets at a Pro-Trump rally in Tujunga. **(Above)** Chiu also was injured covering a protest over the death of Andres Guardado in Compton.



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Honorable Mention, Feature: Sande Gatherum gets the surprise of a life time for her 80th birthday, a drive-by birthday party from family and friends in Riverside.

Celebrating 2nd quarter contest winners

We are excited to announce our quarterly results from Quarter Two and happy to have the help of our judge, Ellen Jaskol.

For a complete listing of winners and to see Jaskol's note about her judging process, go to PPAGLA.org. Our hope is that pros and students alike will benefit. Enjoy!

By Ellen Jaskol

"Sometimes, it's about seeing a photo that I've never seen before. Sometimes, it's the photo that I've seen before, but done better. Often, it's a photo that I wish I made myself.

And sometimes, it's just a part of history. That one is hard, because so many of these photos are part of this strange present, and will be historic no matter if it places in this contest or not.

I am in awe of the bravery of many of the photographers, putting themselves in harms way to bring the



Ellen Jaskol

COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter truths to us. We don't see what it took for the photographer to be in that place at that moment, or the emotional toll it is taking on the photographer. What a stressful job."

Up until early 2009, I was a newspaper photographer and photo editor at the Rocky Mountain News in Denver for 17 years, where our photo team won two Pulitzer Prizes, and before that I was at the Los Angeles Times, as staff photographer and photo editor, following three photo internships there in 1983-84, and then lots of freelancing for them before finally getting hired.

In 2010 and 2011, I spent some time in Afghanistan and Pakistan, photographing children, teachers, and communities in schools for the Central Asia Institute co-founded by Greg Mortenson, who wrote the book "Three Cups of Tea."

Currently, I have my own photography business, doing mostly corporate work, and I am completely grateful for it.



First Place, Pictorial: Jay L. Clendenin, Los Angeles Times
Bioluminescent waves, a phenomenon associated with a red tide, or an algae bloom filled with dinoflagellates that react with bioluminescence when jostled by the water.



Second Place, General News: Raul Roa, Los Angeles Times
St. Joachim Catholic Church Pastor Father Mike Hanifin makes the sign of the cross for a parishioner during a drive-through confession event at their location in Costa Mesa on May 23.



First Place, Sports Action: Ringo Chiu
Demonstrators play basketball with a hoop mounted on a school bus June 6, during in a protest over the death of George Floyd, who died May 25 after he was restrained by Minneapolis police.



Michael Coons, The Acorn Newspapers
First Place, Feature:
A gopher tries to escape from a crow near Westlake Elementary School in Westlake Village.



Keith Birmingham, Pasadena Star-News/SCNG
First Place, General News: Eric Puestow, of Pasadena, with his 1-1/2-year-old daughter, Simone, holds his fist up as she holds onto his hand during a protest in Pasadena, after the death of George Floyd.



Thomas R Cordova, Long Beach Post
First Place, Portrait: Long Beach local artist Vlad paints on boards on a building at the corner of Broadway Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard in Long Beach on June 22.



Gina Ferazzi, Los Angeles Times
First Place, Entertainment: Kat Bristow, 12, plays the flute while sitting at the piano in the living room of her neighbor, music producer Gabe Roth, as Roth teaches a music class to eight children April 29 in Riverside.



Michael Nelson
Honorable Mention, Pictorial: A grasshopper chews through a Bird of Paradise plant in a garden in Topanga.



Kent Nishimura
Honorable Mention, General News: LAPD Commander Gerald Woodyard takes a knee with clergy members from the Los Angeles area as they participate in a march in downtown Los Angeles to LA City Hall and LAPD Headquarters on June 2.



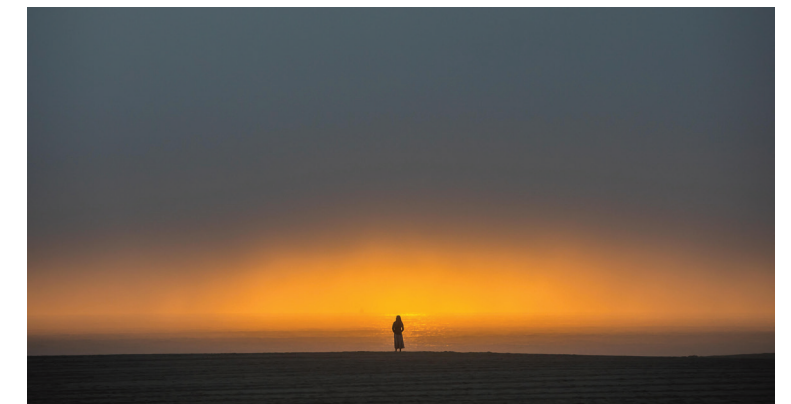
Ringo Chiu
First Place, Spot News: A protester tries to stop others from attacking a police vehicle during a protest over the death of George Floyd in Los Angeles on May 30.



Christina House, Los Angeles Times
Honorable Mention, General News: Pastor J. Edgar Boyd films a "fireside chat" in an empty chapel at First AME church in Los Angeles on April 9.



Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG
Third Place, Sports Action: Oscar Sedano, 11, of Fontana, performs a trick at the Fergusson Skate Park on June 27 in Rialto.



Apu Gomes, AFP
Honorable Mention, Feature: A woman watches the sunset April 26, on a nearly empty Venice Beach, which was closed during a stay-at-home order due to the pandemic.



Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG
Second Place, Sports Feature: A basketball player attempts a layup during a game at Al Guhin Park in San Bernardino on June 24.



Mark J. Terrill, Associated Press
Second Place, Spot News: Los Angeles Police Department Commander Cory Palka, right, talks to another officer as they walk by a police car on fire during a protest over the death of George Floyd on May 30.



Scott Mitchell, SM/Zuma Press
Honorable Mention, Spot News: A protestor waves a donut on a string at members of the LAPD on June 5, during a peaceful protest of the killing of George Floyd.



Jay L. Clendenin, Los Angeles Times
Second Place, Sports Feature: Jennie Reynoso works out in her "Gainz Pod," during Peet Sapsin's "HIIT" class, which stands for high intensity interval training, at Sapsin's Inspire South Bay Fitness, in Redondo Beach, on June 17.



Ringo Chiu
Second Place, Portrait: AP Photo Editor Richard Vogel poses in the window of his home during the COVID-19 crisis in Panorama City on April 21.



Riverside County Sheriff's Department deputies fire tear gas towards protesters after they moved a fence into the street.



Demonstrators retreat as sheriff's deputies fire pepper pellets, after law enforcement announced an unlawful assembly.

First Place, Photo Story

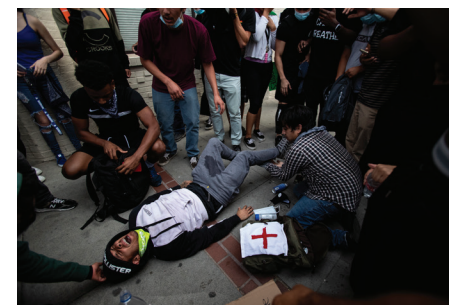
'BLM Protest Turns Violent'

Photos by Gina Ferazzi, LA Times

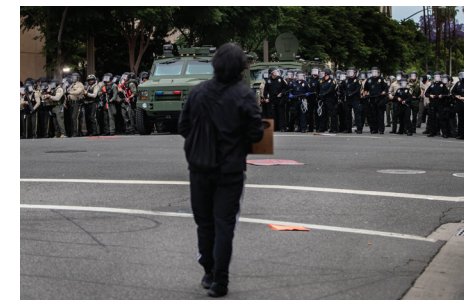
Thousands of protesters marched through the streets of downtown Riverside, during the statewide stay-at-home order June 1, for a demonstration and vigil held over the death of George Floyd in Minnesota.



Demonstrators take cover as deputies from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department fire pepper pellets into the crowd.



(Left) A demonstrator screams in pain after being injured while running from non-lethal rounds fired by sheriff's deputies. (Right) Protesters marched to the Robert Presley Detention Center, where they were met with a road block by law enforcement officers.



A lone protester tries to confront a line of advancing Riverside County Sheriff's Department deputies.



Fireworks thrown by a protester explode at the feet of Riverside Police Department officers during the demonstration.