

It's been two years in the making

Gym finished after two years of construction

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The Cerritos College Falcon Gymnasium is in its final stages of construction with a projected completion date for late next week, and the opening ceremonies will be held on March 8.

The Cerritos College men's basketball team is scheduled to be the first team to use the gym for its upcoming home game on Friday.

The construction of the gym started in Aug. 2010.

The renovation, which includes a seismic upgrade, that will ensure that the building will be stable in the event of a major earthquake.

The interior of the gym has gone through a face-lift, getting a complete interior renovation. Some changes included refinished floors, restroom facilities, team rooms, general fitness rooms, lobby and a concessions stand.

An elevator has also been installed to provide accessibility to the second floor mezzanine.

David Moore, director of physical plant and construction services, mentioned other new items that can be expected in the gym, "New bleachers have been installed. New championship banners, new trophy cases, new scoreboards, shot clocks and backboards.

"There is also a completely new audio/visual system, and projectors or LCD



PHOTO BY: EDUARDO ALVARADO/TM

Finishing touches: Construction workers work together to finish up the gymnasium. The gym has been in the construction process since Oct. 2010 and is scheduled to open on March 8 at 11 a.m.

TVs in the team rooms and lobby."

The new gym is also ADA compliant for handicap accessibility.

The exterior of the gym also has a new roof that should last 30 years, exterior upgrades, new front signage and canopies.

Substantial completion of the gymnasium is scheduled to be on Friday with all final improvements on the interior and exterior scheduled to be finished by the end of May.

According to Moore the renovation is

set to have cost about \$16.5 million, with the state contributing about \$10.5 million for the renovation.

Hospitality major Asbel Rodriguez said, "I'm really excited to finally see what it's going to look like inside. It seems it's been forever since (it was) started."

Although some students may seem happy that Cerritos College will soon have a gym, others are disturbed that so much funding went toward a gym renovation instead of other parts in campus.

"I'm happy to see that we'll finally have a home gym for sports, but I wish they would have used that money for a parking lot renovation since it always seems to be crowded," advertising major Darlene Espinoza said, "That's what students really need, not a new gym."

The construction of the gym also includes parking renovation scheduled to be ready by the end of May.

Upgrades include brand new parking spaces, landscaping, lighting and bench-

es, and a brand new LCD digital signage structure on Alondra Blvd.

The opening ceremony for the gym is scheduled for March 8 at 11 a.m.

www.talonmarks.com
Scan here to look at a slideshow of the gym



JONATHAN GARZA /TM

Shattered: A broken window and stolen speaker are the evidence of a crime at WPMD, Cerritos College's radio station. The crime is suspected to have happened on Sunday

WPMD loses speaker in theft First crime for Cerritos College in the new year

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During the fall 2012 semester there were four break-ins at Cerritos College and now at the beginning of the spring 2013 semester there was an attempt to break into WPMD, the campus's radio station.

A double window of the radio station was smashed, and a speaker was stolen from above it.

"It happened on Sunday. I was here on Saturday and everything was fine," Radio and Television professor Craig Breit said.

"Campus police has not informed me about anything," he continued.

According to Breit, a work order has been placed to repair the window, but a timetable is unknown.

"You would think that with a broken window some action would be taken," Breit said.

Over the years WPMD has been home to many students.

One of which Gayle Parks, a biblical studies major, she shares the sentiment that it's a home away from home.

"Nobody tells us what goes on around here,"

She added, "What can you do?

"Nobody tells us what goes on around here."

—GAYLE PARKS
Biblical studies major

These things keep happening," Without the speaker in place, the area surrounding WPMD has been silent throughout the opening week of the semester.

"This is the first time something has happened since the station was renovated in 2000.

"CDs have been taken from time-to-time, but nothing to this extent has ever happened," Breit added.

Great expectations for Board of Trustees in the new year

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In the last few months of 2012, Cerritos College looked on in hope for the Cerritos College Board of Trustees election as well as the results on Proposition 30.

With Prop. 30 passing and the acquiring of new board members, the Board of Trustees got to work, trying to get back into the swing of things with new hopes and expectations for the new year.

As over 21,000 Cerritos College students try to re-adapt themselves to college life, the Board of Trustees held its first meeting on Wednesday, spending four hours to get back up to speed. Topics included the school budget and the gym.

The newly elected board members were reacquainted with the school's many departments including the Disabled Student Programs

and Services Division and Student Program Services Department.

The board was pleased to hear the news that as of Jan. 1 students that qualify can now fill out Dream Act waivers.

After the department overviews, financial aid was discussed and it was estimated that it will distribute \$60 million to Cerritos College students for 2013.

Vice President of Student Services/Assistant Superintendent Dr. Stephen B. Johnson said, "This is our season to push because there is a priority filing period between Jan. 1 and April 30. If students file by April 30 the college will disperse to them on the first day of school."

Board member John Paul Drayer said, "We (the board members) are working very hard to balance the budget. We are waiting for proposals to close some gaps, but next year looks even better for us now thanks to Prop. 30."

Students can expect a good year

at Cerritos College financially, as well as finally being able to see the opening of the new gym which will have its ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 8 at 11 a.m.

Vice President of Business Services David El Fattal said, "Hopefully on Sunday or Monday we will be doing final testing on fire alarms. We will be occupying it soon."

The Board of Trustees also presented Financial Aid Specialist Juan Ricardo with the Outstanding Confidential Classified Employee of the Month award.

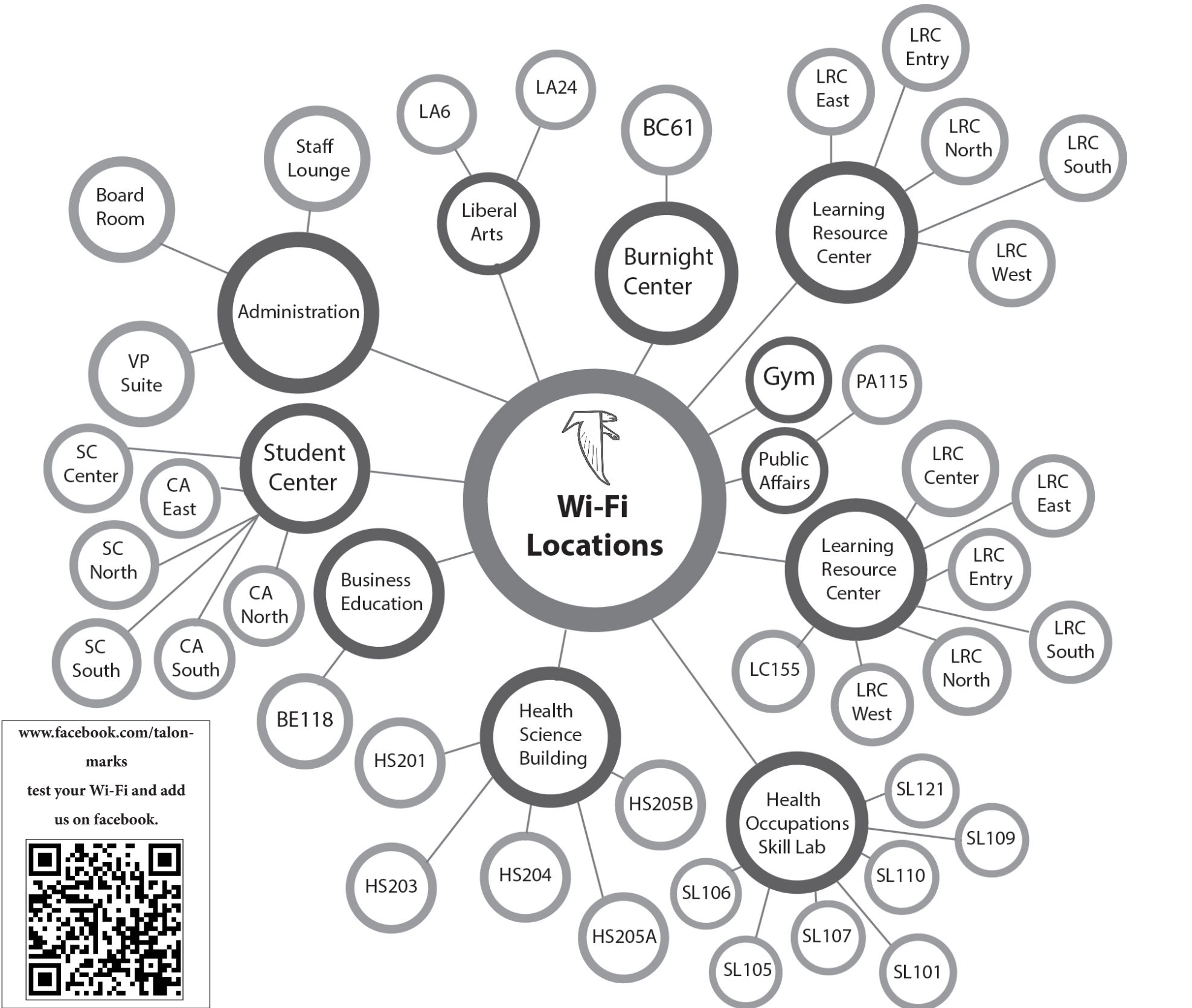
Cerritos College President, Dr. Linda Lacy said, "He (Ricardo) goes above and beyond to make everyone's lives easier in the financial aid office as well as for the students. Cerritos College is proud to have him on stand and thanks him for a job well done."

Ricardo said, "This (award) is not just to me, but also for my department. We work as a team, and this is for all of us."



MICHAEL ARES/TM

Awarded: Cerritos College President Dr. Linda Lacy presenting Financial Aid Specialist Juan Ricardo with the Employee of the Month award at the Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday.



Going wireless: The illustration above shows the multiple locations on the Cerritos College campus that receive Wi-Fi. It also breaks down to a room-by-room description.

ILLUSTRATION BY: EDUARDO ALVARADO

More wireless coverage across Cerritos College

More than 40 free Wi-Fi access points on campus

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Cerritos College expanded its free Wi-Fi campus-wide for all students and staff to increase coverage areas and help provide outdoor study areas.

The Cerritos College campus now has more than 40 access points, allowing the Student Center and library to be less cluttered.

The Falcon Gymnasium, Social Science, Physical Science and Technology Buildings are a few access points that were recently added.

The Wi-Fi is available to students who are currently enrolled, as well as staff and faculty.

According to Vice President of Business Services, David El Fattal, Cerritos College spent \$20,000 to upgrade and expand Wi-Fi on campus.

El Fattal notes that four more outdoor access points are in the works.

"The hill behind Burnight Center, the seating area near the Elbow Room, the seating area on the east side of the Health Science Building and the second floor patio on the north side of the Learning Resource Center," he said.

The four new areas are expected to have Wi-Fi by the end of February.

"In some areas you will see two Wi-Fi options: Cerritos College and Cerritos WPA. Cerritos WPA is always the recom-

mended and more secure option," El Fattal added.

Cerritos College President Dr. Linda Lacy says the goal is to provide connectivity for students, faculty and staff.

"We are expanding the areas with the ultimate goal of the entire campus," she said.

Earth Science and Geology professor Tor Lacy, who teaches in one of buildings that had Wi-Fi added to it, praises the idea.

"The expansion of Wi-Fi access on campus will benefit students if they use it responsibly; meaning it's mostly used to seek out information that can expand the intellect of Cerritos students," he said.

Although Tor does like the fact; he has his doubts because some students will not use it properly during class.

"We are expanding the areas with the ultimate goal of the entire campus."

LINDA LACY
Cerritos College President

"I believe it could be a distraction to students that are not mature and or responsible enough to understand that classrooms are learning environments, and while in the classroom, learning is their job for that period of time," he added.

Many students are also loving the fact that Wi-Fi is now more available throughout the campus.

Administration of justice major, Rebecca Cordova, likes the idea of Wi-Fi being expanded to areas that didn't have it before.

"I think it's great. When I bring my laptop I can work on whatever I need to work on while I wait for class without going to the library," she said.

Cordova admits it's frustrating with little room to study during finals or midterms inside the library.

"Sometimes it gets too packed and hard to find available seats especially when you do group work," Cordova added.

Real estate major Jose Gonzalez believes adding Wi-Fi to more locations can be beneficial to the student body.

"It gives the students who bring laptops the ability to do homework and research for a class whenever they need to; it could really help in the long run," he said.

If help is needed accessing the Wi-Fi students can go to the Library Computer Lab or call 562-860-2451 ext. 2184.

ASCC springs into action for 2013

Club activities and a healthier campus

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As a new year and semester starts up, the Associated Students of Cerritos College is preparing for a full work load.

On top of managing, organizing and financing the various activities at Cerritos College, the ASCC plans on strengthening the bond it has with the students on campus.

"My goal is to get more clubs involved with the ASCC," President Lance Makinano said.

"It's a matter of communication to let the students know we are here for them."

Makinano is not alone, as Vice President Aldo Lopez shared his views on club participation.

As head of Cerritos College's ASCC Senate, Lopez collaborates with 30 other student members who are often involved in clubs themselves.

These senators represent the student body at large and deal with

the big issues on campus.

Tackling issues like gambling and loitering on campus, Lopez and the senate recommend legislation to help students and meet their needs.

"We expect a lot of ideas from students, and we will listen to them," Lopez added.

"With 30 students who are in their own separate clubs, there are a lot of different ideas and points of views available to us."

He wants to create a safer, healthier campus with the start of recycling and getting the vendors that students want.

The ASCC plans on strengthening the bonds between the clubs by throwing the Falcon Games, a tournament hosted in the style of the Olympic Games.

These games, ranging from academic tests along the style of Jeopardy to Video-Game Night, are scheduled to be campus events where the winners can receive scholarships.

"If it goes good, maybe we can get other schools to join," Makinano added.

The bonding continues with

Spring Festival Days, a carnival like event that will be hosted March 12 through 14.

While the theme was not revealed, Makinano did explain how clubs and students will benefit from Spring Festival days.

"Vendors will (let clubs use) different games or booths, like a dunk tank or ring toss, for free. Any money they make will be profit they can use later."

Both Makinano and Lopez look forward to helping students as much as they can this semester as they near the end of their term.

Both are focusing on doing the best job possible for Cerritos College and its students.

Amna Jara, coordinator of student activities, knows that both Makinano and Lopez will live up to the expectations that have been built for them.

"I expect them to be role models for the student body, just like they have been. I want students to know that we are here for them."

Sharing similar views with Makinano and Lopez, Jara feels confident that this semester will help club leaders enhance their leadership skills.

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Happy New Year

From John Paul Drayer M.A.

Cerritos College Board Member Area #3



“Will Wi-Fi on campus benefit students?”

COMPILED BY:
SARAH BAUTISTA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY: SARAH BAUTISTA



ANTHONY RAMIREZ
Kinesiology major

“A lot of people will probably be stuck on their phones now.”

ASHLEY ALVAREZ
Liberal Arts major

“It will be more convenient. Other times you have to go to the library...now you can sit in the hill and get Wi-Fi.”



MARTIN MARTINEZ
Psychology major

“Depends on the person and what their choices are.”

MARLELENA TEJEDA
Liberal Arts major

“It goes both ways, if there is wi-fi in the class they probably won't be concentering in class.”



RAHELSHA PUBOSE
Psychology major

“It's a good thing, they need to put it all over campus.”

ROGER RAMIREZ
Welding major

“It's a good move, they have more access to information in major locations.”



•EDITORIAL•

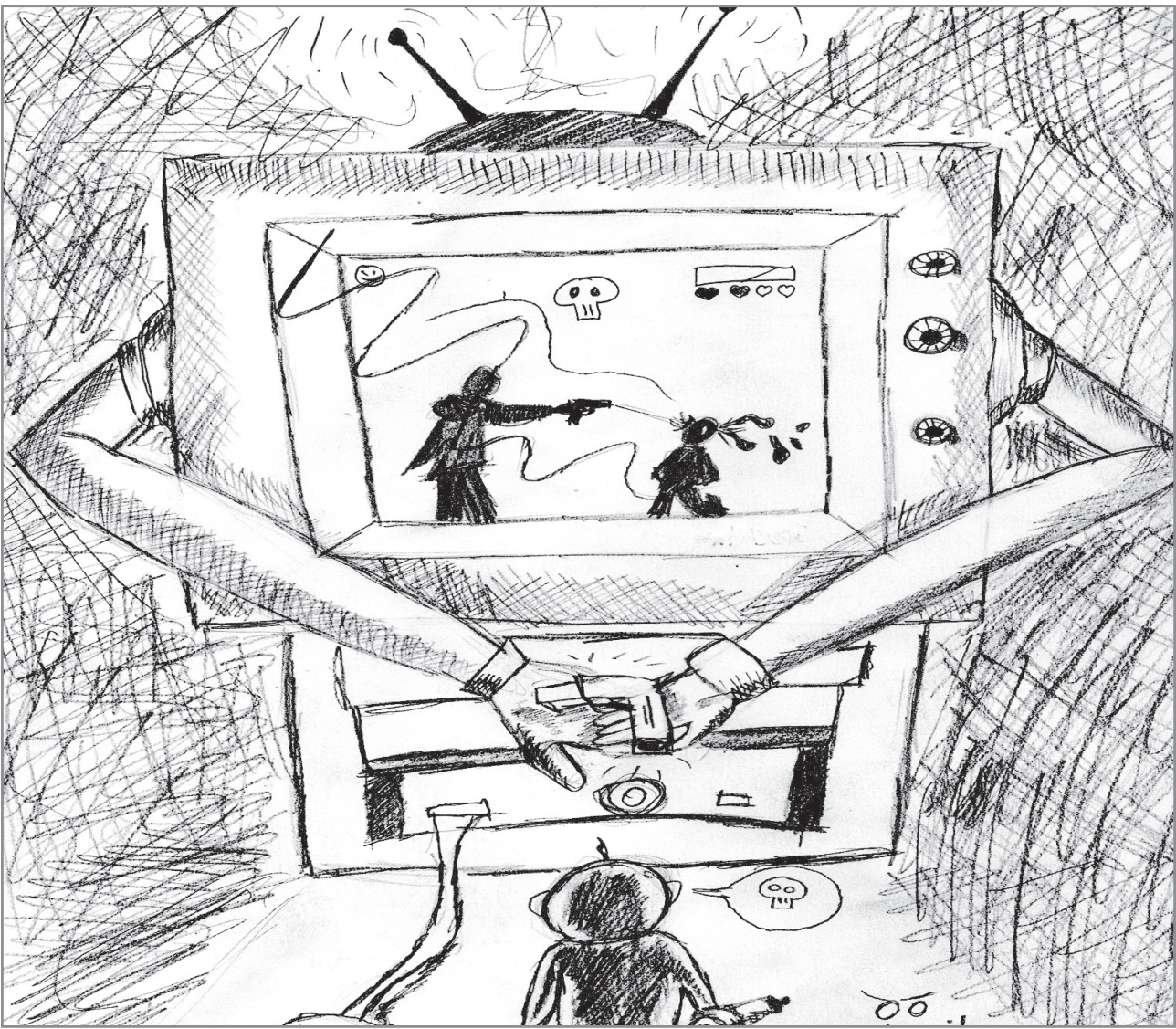


ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE GIVENS/TM

Violence in the media

Every time you watch the news, America seems to be getting more violent.

To relieve the stress from society, some people play sports, read a novel, watch television, and engage social media.

Unfortunately there are people who use violence as a way to release stress.

From harassing people to mass shootings, our nation seems to be surrounded by violence.

It's no secret that violence sells. Our culture views blood, gore, guns and humiliation of others as a form of entertainment.

This may seem normal, but what about to a young child?

It is reported by the “TV Turnoff Network” that by the time children reach the age of 18, they will have witnessed on average 200,000 acts of violence and over 16,000 murders due to media.

“Child Now” also reported in 2001 that the level of violence dur-

ing a typical Saturday morning of cartoons, with 20-25 violent acts per hour, is higher than the level of violence during prime time shows, which have 3-5 acts per hour.

Children can't distinguish what's fact and fantasy. Without guidance of a parent or role model to distinguish the difference, the childrens' sense of reality is warped.

Since children imitate what they see, they might view violence as a casual occurrence and as a way of conflict resolution.

They become desensitized to violence and as time goes on they lose sympathy for their victim.

Although there is no concrete fix to stopping violence in today's society, you can help guide others to realize that what they watch or hear in regard to violence is not always necessarily true.

You can always help out in aiding the younger children in your life by explaining to them the true consequences of violence.

You can point out how unrealistic it is for people in today's world to get away with any kind of violent behavior.

Everyone is highly stressed at one point in his/her life, but you should realize that violence should never be used as a way out, instead call a friend or relative and let them know what you are dealing with.

If you feel that airing things out with a friend may not be the answer then call the United Way Crisis Helpline at 800-233-4357 and remain completely anonymous.

Always have an opened mind and offer a shoulder to cry on for those that need it, listening to them at their most needed time.

After all, Bruce Lee said it best, “Empty your mind, be formless. Shapeless, like water. If you put water into a cup, it becomes the cup. You put water into a bottle and it becomes the bottle. You put it in a teapot, it becomes the teapot. Now, water can flow or it can crash. Be water, my friend.”

Get a head start in the new semester

The spring semester has begun and many students have found it difficult to get their heads back in school after a three-week break.

Students need to organize themselves well and early in the semester in order to be successful.

Doing small things like organizing your backpack, buying a planner and not procrastinating can go a long way for students.

Students procrastinate, especially early on each semester, which ends up hurting them in the last few weeks of school when extra points are needed to achieve an ideal grade.

Social media makes it

easy to become distracted from assignments.

It's not only social media that distracts students. Certain television shows commence new seasons right before the semester begins, which tempts students to bypass their studies.

This affects almost every student at Cerritos College. It's extremely difficult to focus on school when new technology like iPads and laptops are readily available, especially right

after the holidays, because that's when we get these new distractions.

It gives students an excuse not to do their school work.

Using the planner you bought wouldn't be such a bad idea. It can be the key to your success.

Organizing the times you watch television and the times you study your homework can be difference maker in getting that higher grade.

There are also times where we zone out in class or take a nap during the day because of the lack of sleep we get during the se-



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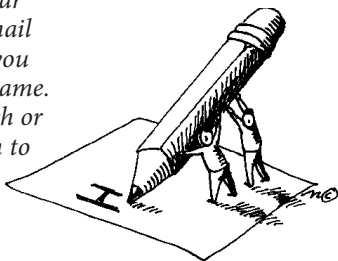


mester. Going to sleep a bit earlier can go a long way to improving your academic performance.

Those times where you would normally nap during the day could be used as time to get your work done rather than sleeping.

Like the saying goes, fail to prepare, prepare to fail.

Did one of us write something that ground your gears? Do you want to congratulate us on the great job we're doing? Whatever the case may be, we would love to hear from you, our readers. Send a **LETTER to the EDITOR**. We accept electronic mail at editor@talonmarks.com and boring regular mail at our office in FA-42. If you want your letter or e-mail to be printed, you must proudly sign it with your real name. Letters in poor taste will not be printed. This means we don't want any hate speech or conspiracy theories (unless they're hilarious). We only edit your letters for length to print them, but they appear in full online. If the subject of your letter is campus-related, then it will be given priority.



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Video games are not the problem



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While it may be true that video games have a high level of violence, these accusations fail to address the problems in our society.

Since the recent school shooting in Connecticut, many topics have come to the forefront of national discussion such as gun control, mental health and the amount of violence in our culture.

One major topic has been the amount of violence in video games and the effect they have on our youth.

While many games are violent, it's insulting to the millions of people across the country, many of which are moms, dads and grandparents who have never hurt anyone in their lives.

It seems that many people are more concerned with leading a witch hunt rather than look for real answers to prevent these kinds of events in the future.

The mayor of Melrose, Mass., Robert Dolan, launched a program that would allow families to turn in violent video games to local businesses or “get out of homework free” coupons.

Mayor Dolan came up with the program after the recent school shooting and hopes to start collecting games on Feb. 1.

Even though young children should not be exposed to violent video games, this only punishes adults by taking away their choice to decide if they want to play a game or not.

We can't protect future generations by treating adults like they are children.

Blaming violence on video games also falls short when we think back over thousands of years of human history full of violence and war.

Like blaming Elvis Presley and rock and roll for the downfall of America's morals, attacking video games is a way to avoid the hard topics and look for the easy fix.

While we shouldn't ban violence in video games, we should examine how often it's used and limit it to certain audiences.

Parents must play a part in supervising what games their children play.

We need to let our politicians know that we will not take the blame for society's problems.

We need to let them know how we feel by contacting our congressmen and women, or voting for politicians who speak for us and want real change.

Using video games as a scapegoat does nothing to address our real problems and only deflects blame away from ourselves.

Society needs to take responsibility and stop pointing fingers.

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Gourmet Eating: The Cerritos College Culinary Arts program offers both students and staff a variety of student-prepared dishes in its student cafe and faculty-only restaurant, The Falcon Room.

Culinary Arts: The Falcon Room

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The Cerritos College Culinary Arts Program is set to reopen its doors this semester to the newest sit-in restaurant style cafe in the Student Center at Cerritos College.

The Falcon Room opened its doors back in Oct. 2012 and is in what used to be a classroom for the Culinary Arts Program.

The project took nearly a year to plan the renovation along with complete construction, the concept and the design of the menu.

Cerritos College President Dr. Linda Lacy was the mastermind behind the concept which allows the campus' faculty and staff a place to relax and communicate in a calming environment with well prepared food.

The Falcon Room is strictly for campus staff

and faculty, as students on campus already have a café ran by culinary arts students where students may order food and eat it in the Student Center.

Michael Pierini who is the chief instructor of the Culinary Arts Program for Cerritos College said, "We have the cafe which is in the Student Center. The objective with that is (to prepare) food a little lighter and quicker where we make everything from scratch."

Pierini added, "The restaurant we just opened last fall is called The Falcon Room and that's available to faculty and staff."

The food, the cafe and the restaurant itself is operated and ran by the culinary arts students under a controlled educational environment.

The student waiting staff and chefs are not paid employees like in other restaurants, but receive educational benefit.

The Falcon Room will allow current culinary arts students to not only learn the basics of food preparation, but also teach them the "in-front of the house" aspect of a restaurant such as being a

host or waiter.

Given the fact that The Falcon Room's food is prepared by students, it gives a hands-on experience for any culinary arts major.

The Falcon Room features similar menu items that are found in the student café such as gourmet sandwiches, soups, salads, and pasta dishes.

"It's nice to know that faculty (members) will now be able to dine in a separate area from students," said culinary arts alumna Iris Herrera, "they need their separate space and it's good to know they have it now."

The cost of the food and operation of the restaurant is all run through the Culinary Arts Program, which funds the needed items that are used throughout the semester.

The Falcon Room and the student cafe inside the Student Center are open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and remain closed on Friday.

Theater Department set to get comical

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The Cerritos College Theater Department will present two productions this spring, "Durang/Durang" opening March 1 and "Drowsy Chaperone" opening May 3 at the Burnight Center.

The performances for "Durang/Durang", a parody of American theater's greatest hits, written by Christopher Durang and directed by Trevor Bishop, will be on March 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9 at 8 p.m. and closing day is scheduled for March 10 at 2 p.m.

Auditions for "Durang/Durang" have already been held, but the auditions for "The Drowsy Chaperone" the musical, will be held on Feb. 11 and 12 at the Burnight Center room BC 17 and call backs will be on the Feb. 13.

"The Drowsy Chaperone", a musical comedy set in the 1920s, will be performed on May 3, 4, 9, 10, and 11 at 8 p.m. and closing day will be on May 12 at 2 p.m. Bradley Lock, a new member of the Theater Department faculty and the costume shop manager, is looking forward to the upcoming productions.

"This is my first year here," Lock said, "I recently graduated from California State Fullerton with a master in costume and scenic design."

"Every single play we learn and experience new and different things," Etta Walton, the theater

production manager, said.

Rose Chapman, a theater arts major who has taking many theater classes and has been on the stage crew for the last two plays, is very excited about being on the crew for the "Durang/Durang" and "The Drowsy Chaperone" this spring semester.

"To Kill a Mocking Bird" was the first play I had ever done and I felt right at home here," Chapman said, "This class gave me the chance to do what I have always wanted to do. I can't wait for the next two plays."

The production "The Drowsy Chaperone" is directed by Patrick Pearson and musical direction by Hector Salazar. It has also won five Tony awards for best book, written by Bob Martin and Don McKellar.

The Faculty Gala, a benefit concert to raise funds for students in the music programs, and the dance concert are other events that will be held at the Burnight Center this spring.

To buy tickets and for more information about the events in the Theater Department, call (562) 467-5058 or go online at www.cerritos.edu/theater.

www.talonmarks.com
Scan here to see more information.



Consumer Electronics Show a hit



The future of electronics: The Consumer Electronics show held in Las Vegas showcased the future of consumer electronics that included wireless display televisions and combat creatures.

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The 2013 Consumer Electronics Show held in Las Vegas satisfied 150,000 people from all over the world with the unveiling of several gadgets from Jan. 8-10.

Clearly, the champion of the show was LG, who revealed an 84-inch 3-D video wall, the first of its kind.

Representatives passed out 3-D glasses, which once put on, brought the images to life.

Two-by-fours threatened to poke viewers, paint brushes forced crowds to take a step back so they might not get stained, and balls bounced right in front of the picture.

It was magnificent. It was true 3-D.

"I put on the 3-D glasses LG provided, and I was blown away at how the objects exploded off the screen," Mario Aguilar of Gizmodo.com said.

On the television front, Samsung came close to LG, but only because of a stellar showcasing of a 110-inch television, considered to be the largest in the world.

But it wasn't just TVs that stole

the show.

You have heard of Wi-Fi. But what about Wi-Di?

The acronym is short for Wireless Display, which allows for the user to marry his tablet with his TV, syncing the activity between the products and displaying the picture on the bigger screen.

Connecting the two is a device that utilizes a Wi-Fi connection.

A range of 20 feet is plenty of room for any casual user or even a teacher, who could greatly benefit from the newfound technology.

Gone are the days when teachers needed projectors, or even laptops to present a lecture to their class.

Here are the times of Wi-Di.

Also arriving swiftly are ultrabooks, which combine the usefulness of a laptop with the portability of a tablet; all at the ease of a flip, literally.

Different Intel processors have been created to suit the different needs of consumers.

"They all have different mechanisms. They're fully loaded with Intel processors," Ben Young of Intel said of the different ultrabooks.

Other things seen on the CES floor included: the world's biggest subwoofer, the Lexus LS 460L featuring Intelligent Transport Sys-

tems, various sound systems that took over the suites of the Venetian hotel, and Combat Creatures.

Combat Creatures is an invention from England that pits robots against each other, each maneuvered by a remote controller.

"This is the closest to owning an army that you will ever get, and it's all controlled at the palm of your hands," Chris Hood of Wow! Stuff, the company that invented the toy said.

He wasn't kidding. The robot was easy to guide through the use of the controller. It felt like playing a PlayStation 3 game sans the monitor.

The convention was definitely worth the trip and it's easy to say that you should get excited to see the many inventions become introduced into the economy in the coming months.

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Calendar of events

Jan. 23

Men's Basketball
at Los Angeles Southwest College
5 p.m.

Women's Basketball
at Pasadena City College
7 p.m.

Jan. 25

Softball
vs. Fullerton City College
3 p.m.

Women's Basketball
at Long Beach City College
5 p.m.

Men's Basketball
vs. Pasadena City College
6 p.m.

Jan. 26

Track and Field
at Northern Arizona University

Softball
at Santa Ana College
12 p.m.

Jan. 28

Softball
at Ventura College
3 p.m.

Jan. 29

Men's and Women's Tennis
vs. Victor Valley College
2 p.m.

Softball
vs. Antelope Valley College
3 p.m.

Jan. 30

Softball
at Santiago Canyon College
3 p.m.

Women's Basketball
at Mt. San Antonio College
5 p.m.

Men's Basketball
at El Camino-Compton Center College
6 p.m.

Jan. 31

Men's Tennis
at Irvine Valley College
2 p.m.

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Coach Gonzalez wins national award



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUBEN GONZALEZ
Success: Coach Ruben Gonzalez holds up award presented by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

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After leading the Cerritos College women's soccer team to a 21-2-2 record that resulted in being voted as the National Champions, head coach Ruben Gonzalez has been named the NSCAA National Coach of the Year.

Gonzalez flew to Indianapolis for the ceremony, which took place on Jan. 18.

"It's a great honor. I couldn't have done it without my coaching staff and the players that have come through the program at Cerritos College. I owe most of the credit to them. That's what makes us look good. The coaches put in the hard work, and the players produce on the field," Gonzalez said.

"Receiving this award is only going to help us," he continued.

With the soccer season completed, the team has celebrated a little bit, but it is headed right back to work on next season.

"We have spring class that the girls come to. As coaches, we are out there recruiting high school games. We get emails and calls

from young ladies that are interested in our program. We go out and evaluate them and we invite them to campus to talk about our program. If they are quality players then hopefully we can convince them to become a part of our program," Gonzalez said.

Freshman forward/midfielder Claudia Lopez said the work ethic of the women's soccer team is rigorous.

"He has been a great coach for me this season," Lopez said.

When asked to rank Gonzalez among all her soccer coaches throughout her career, Lopez's said "Even though sometimes I dislike him for making us run a lot, Gonzalez and all the coaching staff are amazing at what they do. I'd rank them No. 1."

Without a doubt, the team has its sights on next season and defending its crown against the likes of the South Coast Conference along with each other competitor.

Best of all, everybody is working hard to make sure that the another championship is not lost.

"We're excited already. Right after we won the championship we were having dinner with the team

and the coaching staff, and we were already looking forward to the recruiting for the following year. That's the only way to do it to be successful," Gonzalez continued.

"We'll be out on the field next week."

Cerritos College suffered upsetting defeats against Long Beach City College and Pasadena City College during the regular season.

That led to a season-ending six-game winning streak that saw Cerritos College outscore its competition 19-3, including a 2-0 victory over Santiago Canyon College in the State Championship.

With help, the championship would evolve into a National Championship when the NSCAA voted in its final poll, raising the Falcons to their second ever national crown.

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Scan here to hear the interview coach Gonzalez



Re-dedication: Nancy Kelly field re-dedicated before alumni game Jan. 19.

JONATHAN GARZA/TM

Former coach Kelly re-dedicated before alumni game

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An all around victory was the outcome on Saturday, Jan. 19 as the Cerritos College softball team re-dedicated its field to former coach Nancy Kelly.

Kelly was the coach of the softball team for 38 seasons, spanning from 1976-98.

As part of the festivities, a high school game was played between the Mayfair Monsoons and Warren Bears.

The Monsoons, who were victorious 11-2 in the contest, were coached by Erin Brown, class of 2003. Meanwhile the Bears were led by Mary Starkson class of 1980.

Following the event, Kelly and current coach Kodee Murray spoke to the many fans in attendance.

"I'm so proud. There was no field (in 1976). Title IX said that women had to be treated fairly. We always wanted to teach truth and

values and finishing," Kelly said in reference to the evolution of Nancy Kelly Field.

"I just want you to know. 38 years (have past) and look where we are. Look at this!" Kelly said.

In 1978 Kelly led her version of the Falcons to a State Championship; a feat that would be matched 30 years later by Murray.

"Two years ago my dean told me that if this field wasn't done at the same time as the baseball renovation, it would not get done," Murray continued.

"That would have been true if we didn't have the board members that we had. They equaled the playing field between baseball and softball. I'd like to thank Bob Arthur and also Tom Jackson." As the speeches wrapped up, the current members of the Falcons team were unveiled against a squad that included both members of the 2008 and 2013 Falcons.

In what could be a sign of things to come, the modern-day Falcons

took down the alumni, 6-4, but not without a fight.

Charlee Cox, the designated hitter from the 2008 squad, sent a Lily Cornejo pitch over the wall and off the scoreboard for a home run, properly inaugurating the field.

Cornejo pitched in all but one game last season as the softball team finished with a 29-10 record, culminating in a sweep in the Regionals, falling in back-to-back games against Southwestern College.

When asked for a goal for the season, Cornejo said "We want to win our conference."

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Scan here to look at a slideshow from the event



Chemistry is key heading into softball season

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After a record of 29-10 last season, the Cerritos College's softball team looks to push the team chemistry heading toward the 2013 season.

Head coach Kodee Murray sees the chemistry among the team to be a key strength this season.

"We have solid players in every position. We have some real strong additions to our freshman class," she said.

Murray added that the team has more pitching this season which she feels adds to the team's strengths.

She has two returning women on the field this year, which according to her, isn't a new thing to the team considering athletes can only play for two years.

The rest of the team is made up of incoming players, who are working toward building chemistry before the season begins on Friday.

"We have sophomores that transferred in, but really and truly, we are starting off with a brand new squad," Murray said.

One of the new transfers is second basemen Regina Ayala, and although she is new to Cerritos College, she has experience playing softball in Louisiana and noticed changes between the two places.

"It's a lot different with the girls. I got along with both...I like the program and the school, and the girls better here."

Ayala has focused her practice time on hitting, which she feels benefits the team.

"Hitting is a big part of the game, and really to be a good collegiate team you need to hit, so my main focus is always, usually hitting and finding different ways to improve."

Other than hitting, Ayala sees chemistry among her teammates as a strength heading into the first game of the season.

"I feel that since we are all used to each other and know how to play together, we will do pretty well," she said.

Returning first basemen Andrea Arellano has similar thoughts when it comes to the team, but after being on it for a second season, she notices some differences.

Last year the team had only five new women, with this year being on the opposite end. Arellano sees a difference saying Cerritos College is "starting off fresh."

With new players on the team, the incumbents and coaches will need to show them the ropes.

"You have to show everyone how we do things in practice, what we do for warm-ups and games. It was a bit of a struggle this year in the beginning...but I know we're getting better," Arellano said.

Arellano added that it was important to show the new girls what is needed to be done in order to have the team be in sync.

The team opens its season against Fullerton College.

Murray sees Fullerton College as a tough school but still has faith in her team.

"Fullerton is a strong program...(it) has a veteran coach that does a great job so it will be a tough battle for us."

Men's basketball looks to stay atop South Coast Conference

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After picking up its fourth straight win defeating Los Angeles Harbor College, 62-53, the Cerritos College men's basketball team (10-7) will now look to extend its winning streak when they oppose Los Angeles Southwest College (6-11) on Wednesday.

Forward DeAnthony Roberts and guard Anthony Holliday combined for 23 points in the win against L.A. Harbor College on Friday.

Holliday, who was coming off his best performance of the season scoring 31 points against East Los Angeles College, was held to 11 points, three assists and two steals.

"I thought we performed well, we had some things we needed to improve during the game," Holliday said.

The Falcons are now undefeated in conference play and are atop the standings in the South Coast Conference.

Head coach Russ May likes the way the team is progressing thus far

in the season.

"The best thing about our team is that they continue to get better and improve. Our freshman are growing more confident every day and are understanding how important work ethic is," he said.

He continued, "We have a lot to improve on. Our players have big goals as we drive toward the playoffs."

Los Angeles Southwest College, who is currently 2-2 in the conference, looks to extend its winning streak to three games and gain ground on the South Coast Conference leaders.

"Los Angeles Southwest (College) is an athletic and a very capable opponent," said May about the upcoming match up.

Holliday is optimistic his team can perform well against anyone.

"Me and my teammates are confident enough to go out and get the win," he said.

Holliday also added that they don't worry about who the opponent may be.

"We are at that point where it doesn't matter who we play, we feel we can compete with anyone."



New Beginning: The Cerritos College baseball team awaits its season opener on Feb. 1 when it hosts Citrus College.

Baseball looking forward to season

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After a difficult season kept the Cerritos College baseball team behind all its predecessors in 2012, the Falcons are ready to take care of business this season. Head coach Ken Gaylord enters his 21st season with the Falcons, who are coming off a school-worst 7-29 record last season. This came the year after a 24-16 record as the Falcons reached the Super Regionals in 2011. Gaylord has a 518-301-4 record in his career at Cerritos College, which includes 145 of his players that have moved on to four-year universities or have been drafted in the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft held in June of every season. Gaylord is confident with his group of players. “We have a lot of left-handed hitters in our lineup. It’s been a while since we’ve had that,” Gaylord said. That could be an advantage for the Falcons, who will await a difficult South Coast Conference schedule; one that has improved from a year ago.

Most teams are loaded with right-handed pitchers, whose weakness could be the excessive southpaw batters that the Falcons possess. Cerritos College will be ready to attack its rivals, utilizing the power of not just one player, but a whole team that will unite as one. “There is a lot of depth on this team. There isn’t one star player to point out,” Gaylord continued. There are also a bunch of new players, who assistant coach Brad Schwarzenbach cannot wait to see. “I’m very excited for the new group. We hope to bring a lot of intensity and show other teams that we are fearless.” One of these new players is starting freshman, first baseman, Michael Esparza, who will play in his first game after graduating from California High School in Whittier. “I want to help the team win. That’s it. I just want to win,” Esparza said. It’s little things that will come a long way when Cerritos College hosts Citrus College in its first official game of the season at Kincaid Field on Feb. 1.

Swim and diving teams look to get off to good starts

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As the spring sports season approaches, the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams look to get the most out of the 2013 season. The women’s swimming team will prepare for the conference dual meets by participating in the Palomar Invitational and South Coast Conference Pentathlon during the first two weeks of February. Women’s head coach Sergio Macias hopes to get the most of each individual on the team and for his swimmers to achieve their personal best times by being dedicated all season. “Our goal every year is to be competitive as individuals and as a team and hope to show some major improvement by the end of the season while competing for a conference championship,” he said. Macias added that injuries are something he hopes to avoid. “Trying to keep everybody healthy and injury free through the whole season is always an obstacle. Taking more than two consecutive days away from the pool is a major setback,” he added. The men’s swimming team also looks to get off to a good start as it trains every day of the week as the season approaches. Men’s head coach Joe Abing believes that with hard training, all his swimmers should be at their

best. “We would like to all have personal best seasons which means we will need to swim faster then we ever have before,” Abing said. He did note that he doesn’t want to “over train” his team to avoid any practice injuries. Weather may also be an issue as of late. “We are also dealing with flu season and some cold weather. We got in the pool on Monday morning and it was in the 40s outside,” he said. Diving coach Glen Myer is optimistic that his dive team will have a good season while putting his team through two-hour practices, five days a week in preparation for the season. The Cerritos College dive team consists of seven men and two women, all of whom are focused on doing their best this season. “We need to add to our skills list and that will just come with hard work and tenacious focus, never allowing ourselves to miss a practice.” Myer added, “Our toughest obstacle is bringing people with limited or no prior competitive experience into the stressful and unforgiving world of competition.” The first diving competition is Feb. 15 at East Los Angeles College.

Calendar of events

Feb. 1

Baseball vs. Citrus College
2 p.m.
Swim and Diving Palomar Invitational

Feb. 2

Baseball vs. Los Angeles Valley College
10 a.m.
Baseball vs. College of the Canyons
2 p.m.

Swim and Diving Palomar Invitational

Feb. 8

Baseball at College of the Canyons
2 p.m.

NIGHTS WEEKEND

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

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