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CERRITOS COLLEGE

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CARLOS HOLGUIN/TM

Welcome Week: In-N-Out on campus on the second day of Welcome Week, giving the night time students a chance to get free burgers. Welcome Night takes place so that students with nighttime classes aren't left out during their first week of the semester.

In-N-Out welcomes new and returning students

MARIO JIMENEZ

Staff writer

@Talonmarks

Every semester during Welcome Week Cerritos College invites the In-N-Out truck to give away free meals to students.

This year is no different as students lined up at Fal-

con Square for free burgers. Mechanical engineering major Jesus Ramirez appreciates the free burgers after a long day at school, "I haven't eaten anything all day and it's a free burger so why not?"

Although the burgers are free, the one thing required to get a free meal is the spring 2015 student activities sticker.

Ramirez acknowledges that the lines were pretty

long, but well worth the wait. "People are hungry and coming out of class late and it's a big line but they're free."

ASCC Senator Dayanna Arana explained how this event was made possible, "It's made possible through our ASCC, which is the Associated students of Cerritos College. We work together to provide this for the students so that they feel welcome."

Arana says that Welcome Week events are meant to make students aware of the many resources provided to them by Cerritos College, such as student government, financial aid and career services and etc.

Biology major Hanna Luong said, "I think this is great. A lot of people come and line up and get free burgers."

New program for bike safety

GUSTAVO LOPEZ

Editor-in-Chief

@Gus_Lopez07

In an effort to promote student safety and bike theft prevention, the Cerritos campus police along with ASCC, have put together a bike registration program.

ASCC purchased 40 U-locks while the Bookstore donated 5 of the locks for a raffle.

During the first week of the semester, cadets were on campus handing out registration cards.

The registration program is free to all students. Once a student has filled out a registration card, he is automatically in the raffle which will take place in the first week of February.

"We would like to get every bicycle on campus registered with campus police that way if there's any issues, it's easier for campus police to locate the bike and the owner," said Amna Jara, dean of student activities.

Interim Police Chief Tom Gallivan said, "The bike registration is nothing new, although new to Cerritos."

According to Gallivan the main point of having your bicycle registered is that with the bike's serial number it would be easier to identify a stolen bike.

"If by chance a police officer stops someone riding a bike in Oakland, the officer could turn the bike over, run the serial number and we can locate the owner," he added.

Gallivan encourages students to come in on their own to register their bikes, keep track of the serial number and their locks.

5 things you need to sign up for Scholarships

Quick fact: The amount of money per scholarship varies but the average is \$500, according to the Cerritos Foundation website.

At least two references, with their complete contact info. The recommendation letters must be submitted by March 1, 2015.

The deadline for general applications is February 23, 2015.

If you're applying for community service based scholarship you must provide a recommendation letter from someone who was involved in your community service.

Your unofficial transcripts.

The deadline for general applications is February 23, 2015.

INFOGRAPH BY GUSTAVO LOPEZ

Scholarships help further education

SEBASTIAN ECHEVERRY

News Editor

@C_bass581141

Students can now apply for Spring semester scholarships in a variety of categories including STEM, child development, veteran scholarships, cosmetology and a substantial amount of more fields or backgrounds.

Eduardo Juarez, English major, signed up for a scholarship through the Foundation program.

"The one I am going to apply for is the regular one [Albert Ostroff Scholarship \$500]" said Juarez. "It could benefit me a lot, especially with books, they're so expensive, it would be good for that."

He works and goes to school.

According to Juarez, he came into contact with the Foundation program after winning a scholarship from his high school.

Program Assistant Rachel Samarin is the key person to contact in the Foundation building about information regarding scholarships.

"What students need to do is either go online or pick up one of the flyers to review the scholarships that we have available," Samarin said.

According to Samarin, once a student finds out which scholarship they want to apply for and meet the requirement, usually a specific GPA score or major enrollment, they can access the applications online at www.cerritos.edu/foundation-scholarships.

Requirements for scholarships vary.

"All they have to do on the general information sheet is fill out basic information on contact information as well as their educational

information," said Samarin.

The personal statement section of the application, consist of questions that will mostly be on the topic of educational goals, what makes a student unique and to justify why they should get the scholarship, she added.

"With some scholarships you have to have a minimum GPA or you have to have a minimum number of units that students are enrolled in. Others will have a minimum number of units that students should have completed," Samarin said.

Students are required to have two references available when applying for the scholarships according to Samarin.

"Preferably it is someone in faculty or someone that can really give testament to their ability in the classroom,

"Outside the classroom it can be more with employers former or current," she said.

The reference letters are turned in online.

Executive Director of Foundations Steve Richardson believes they are faced with a difficult obstacle that clouds students minds from scholarships.

"I think what happens with a lot of students is they say to themselves 'oh I'm not going to apply because I won't win anything' but that's really wrong thinking," Richardson said.

According to Richardson there are now an excess of 125 different scholarships to help students in a variety of fields.

"On average now, I think we are seeing in the neighborhood of 600 applicants this semester," Richardson said.

"We would love that number to go up," he added.

NEWS

FULL STORY ON PAGE 2

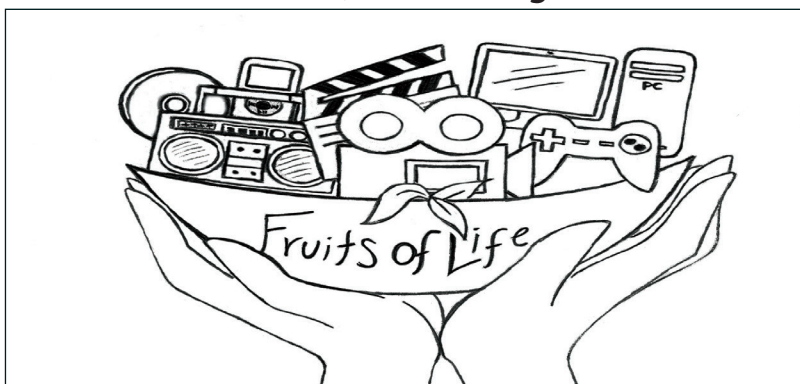
TAP program to offer free bus transportation



ARTS

FULL STORY ON PAGE 4

Students talk movies, music and games for 2015



SPORTS

FULL STORY ON PAGE 6

Falcons take close win at conference game again





SEBASTIAN ECHEVERRY/ TM

Free transportation to school: ASCC is in the process of developing a transportation service that will ultimately be free of charge to students enrolled at Cerritos College. The program will allow students to take the Metro, Norwalk Transit, Cerritos on Wheels and Long Beach Transit bus lines with a prepaid TAP card. The program will follow closely to the Go Rio design used by Rio Hondo College.

ASCC working to find free bus transport

MICHAEL GARCIA
Staff Writer
@MikeGarcia1337

Cerritos College students may be able to ride the local buses to and from school free of charge.

Dean of Student Services Gilbert Contreras discussed a program in the ASCC Cabinet meeting held Jan. 12. He explained the program would allow eligible students to have access to buses free of charge.

“We want to provide students with access to transportation to come to school... We'll be working with the campus to define who gets that access,” said Contreras.

“In the end, I think the bottom line is that students will benefit from having more access to help students come to and from Cerritos College,” he said.

The program would work with the TAP card that local buses use.

A TAP card is a reloadable card that can be used to pay fares on buses and trains.

The partnership with ASCC will work with the Metro, Norwalk Transit, Cerritos on Wheels and Long Beach Transit bus lines.

The meetings discussing the details for the program will begin next week.

The ASCC in association with student athletes and coaches were out at bus stops the morning of Jan. 12, tallying what bus routes students were taking to and from school.

The research also includes what time of day students take the bus and if they come to school every day.

Some students take the local Norwalk, Long Beach and Metro buses to and from school.

“**Not having transportation sometimes stops us from coming to school.**”

— CATALINA SILVA
Administration of Justice major

Others students have to take the buses to the Norwalk Green Line Station, which serves Norwalk.

The Green Line Station is a hub where Metro, Norwalk and Long Beach buses connect to multiple bus lines.

There is also the Green Line train that runs from Norwalk to Redondo Beach and also connects with other trains lines that serve Los Angeles County.

This program would allow students more options on how they can get to school and also promotes public transportation and a cleaner healthier environment.

The ASCC President Miles Aiello is a big supporter of sustainability.

The student population at Cerritos Col-

lege is rising and it can be tough to find a parking spot. The bus pass would give students more options on how to come to school.

It would benefit both students struggling to find parking and students that take multiple buses or trains.

Catalina Silva, administration of justice major, takes the buses to come to and from school on a daily basis.

According to Silva, many students come to school and have to take their classes all on the same day to make the most out of their bus commute.

A free bus pass would help ease the expenses of college.

With all the extra costs and fees, including text books, class registration fees and other miscellaneous expenses, a free pass will keep more money in the pocket of the student utilizing the local transportation.

Silva said that having a free bus pass would make getting an education more accessible to students.

She said, “Not having transportation sometimes stops us from coming to school.”

The program is still early in the works and is planned to be modeled after Rio Hondo College's Go Rio program.

Rio Hondo currently offers its students a “Go Rio” pass.

To be eligible for a pass, a student must be enrolled in at least 12 units throughout the semester.

The school's pass is \$9 and is good for one semester. If a student drops a class, his pass is revoked for the semester.

On the occasion that a student loses his pass, it can be replaced for a \$10 fee.

If all goes well the program should be ready by next year.

The first meeting will be held Jan. 20.

School mascot to get name soon

SEBASTIAN ECHEVERRY
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From Ivy League schools to the professional sporting teams, institutions like that usually tend to have fuzzy characters or inspiring symbols that grasp the attention of the public and give a sense of purpose.

According to the student Cabinet meeting held Jan. 12, Cerritos College will have a symbol in the form of a mascot.

According to Amna Jara, the student activities coordinator, the committee is planning a big unveiling to announce the mascot.

The event to show off the mascot to the school body is Feb. 5 at 11 a.m. in Falcon Square.

“We are hoping to have the mascot suit soon and the unveiling will take place in the first week of February,” Jara said.

“We are going to have a booth out there and people will be able to stop by and recommend the name for him,” she added.

Since the decision for the naming is early on in the semester, Jara said students can approach the booth that will be placed somewhere on campus and write down name possibilities to recommend to the task force naming the mascot.

“I have a task force that is go-

ing to start meeting in the mornings on Fridays and we're going to go through all these names and we are going to narrow them down to the top 10 or so,” she said.

According to Student Senate Pro Temp Aldemar Sanchez, the cost of purchasing the suit from the company Street Characters will cost \$10,000.

“The first \$5,000 wasn't used and as a result it went into reserve,” Sanchez said. “We could have used that money in the future but it would not have been in our budget this semester.”

When he was vice president, ASCC senate passed legislation to allow \$5,000 be payed first-hand last year, then the other \$5,000 this year, according to Sanchez.

“It's more attracting for the crowd to be there, so I think for us to have a mascot will be really great because it adds that feel of a college to this school because a lot of the four years do have their mascots,” Sanchez said.

Eric Mireles, public relations major, believes it will be neat to have a school mascot and it can unite spirit within the student body.

“I think it's good, gives unity for the college,” Mireles said. “You can have rallies at the community college level, it makes you feel more like you're at a university if you have a mascot.”

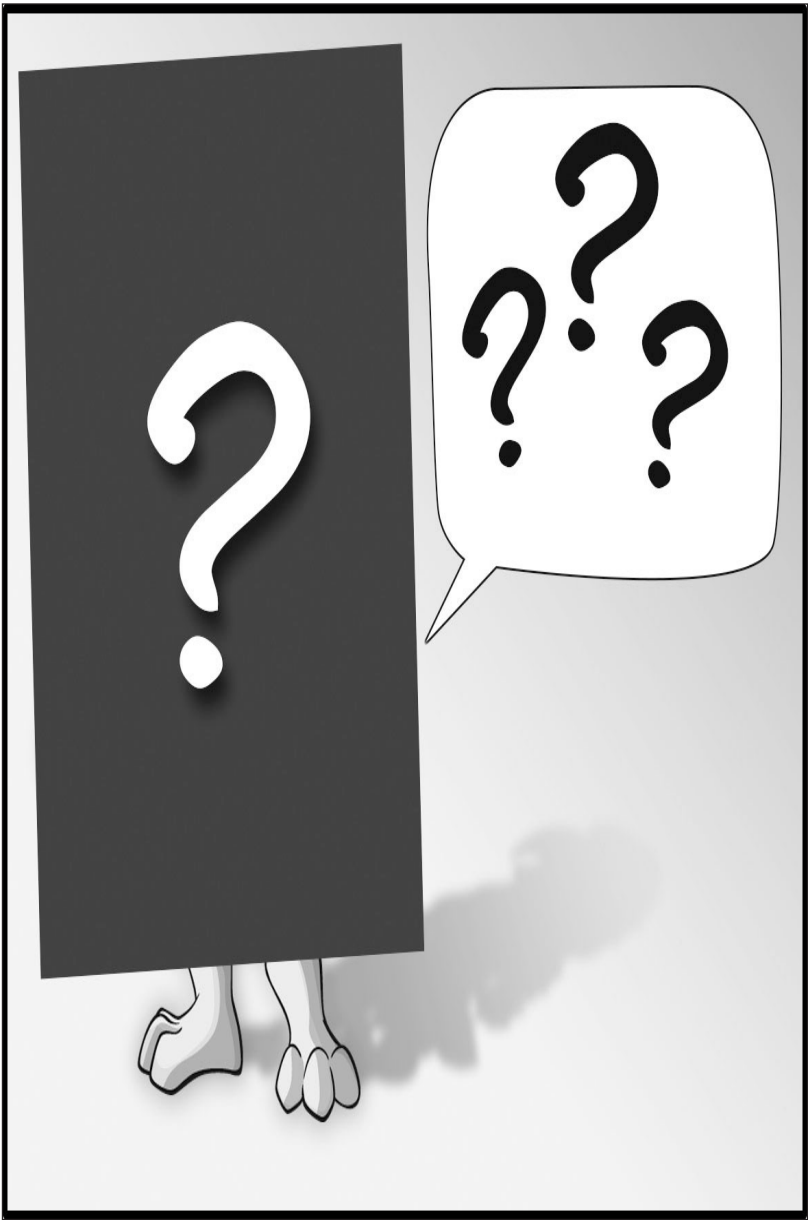


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF AMNA JARA

Under wraps: The full cost of the Cerritos College mascot suit will cost \$10,000 from special projects account. The mascot will be revealed Feb. 5 at 11 a.m. in Falcon Square.

Carl Bengston retires after 40-year career

SEBASTIAN ECHEVERRY
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After 40 years of working in higher education and library services, acting Dean of Academic Success Carl Bengston, retired from work at age 67.

A retirement party was held in the Library Administrations office for Bengston where both his friends and colleagues were able to spend time with him and reminisce old memories working with Cerritos College.

Being Dean of Academic Success, Bengston's job was to lead operations in the library and Learning Resources Center.

“It's been a great job for me, one of the best places I've ever worked,” Bengston said.

“I have really enjoyed working at the community college system, it's a great district.”

Before taking on the endeavor of Cerritos College, Bengston was Dean of Library at CSU Stanislaus in Turlock, Calif.

He also worked at UC Berkley, a small private college and Cerritos College was the first community college he worked at.

“I have loved all the students I've worked with here at Cerritos Col-

lege,” Bengston said.

Bengston decided he had been working too long and his time to leave the work force had come.

“I've been here at Cerritos for six years, but I've had a career in higher education for 40 years,” he said.

President Linda Lacy was also present at the retirement party.

“Carl has been an absolute delight to work with,” Lacy said. “He's a guy that, everything we've asked him to do he'd do it. He was a trooper.”

Whether it was the expanding of the library and its services, or the way certain things in LRC work, Bengston had been at the forefront, according to Lacy.

With Bengston leaving, Shawna Baskette has been selected to fill in his place.

“Officially, the title I will be filling is Dean of Academic Success,” Baskette said.

She has had nine years of experience at the community college level and four years of experience at private schools.

“No more work for me,” Bengston said. “I have many projects to do at home.”

My home is up in Turlock, I've been away for six years working down here, I have family up there I would like to reconnect with.”

Jan. 27

Students can recieve career help

Career Services will have a workshop covering basic concepts and dispelling misconceptions about choosing a major. Workshop held from 11 a.m. to noon.

www.cerritos.edu/career-services

Jan. 28

Student Senate has second meeting of Spring

Previous ASCC Senate meeting held Jan. 14 was limited to only discussions, presentations, and information. Meeting will take place at 2 p.m. in BK 111

more at www.talonmarks.com/news

Jan. 29

Career resources lab opens doors to students

Students are able to have lab time to utilize various computerized resources for career exploration.

Starts 11 a.m. to noon

Feb. 2

Cabinet meetings are mostly held every Monday

Meeting will take place Mon. Students can attend and sit in the public area to witness what the student government is planning for the school.

Meeting held in room Bk111 at 2 p.m.

Feb. 4

Resume critique available for students on Wed.

Career Sevices will allow students to stop by and take away quick tips on their resumes every Wednesday starting Feb. 4.

3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Career Services

Feb. 10

Career Services provides students with resume basics

Workshop covering basics of resume structure and content. The workshop will be hosted by Career Services.

Held Tuesday 11 a.m. to noon



TALON MARKS is a First Amendment publication.

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

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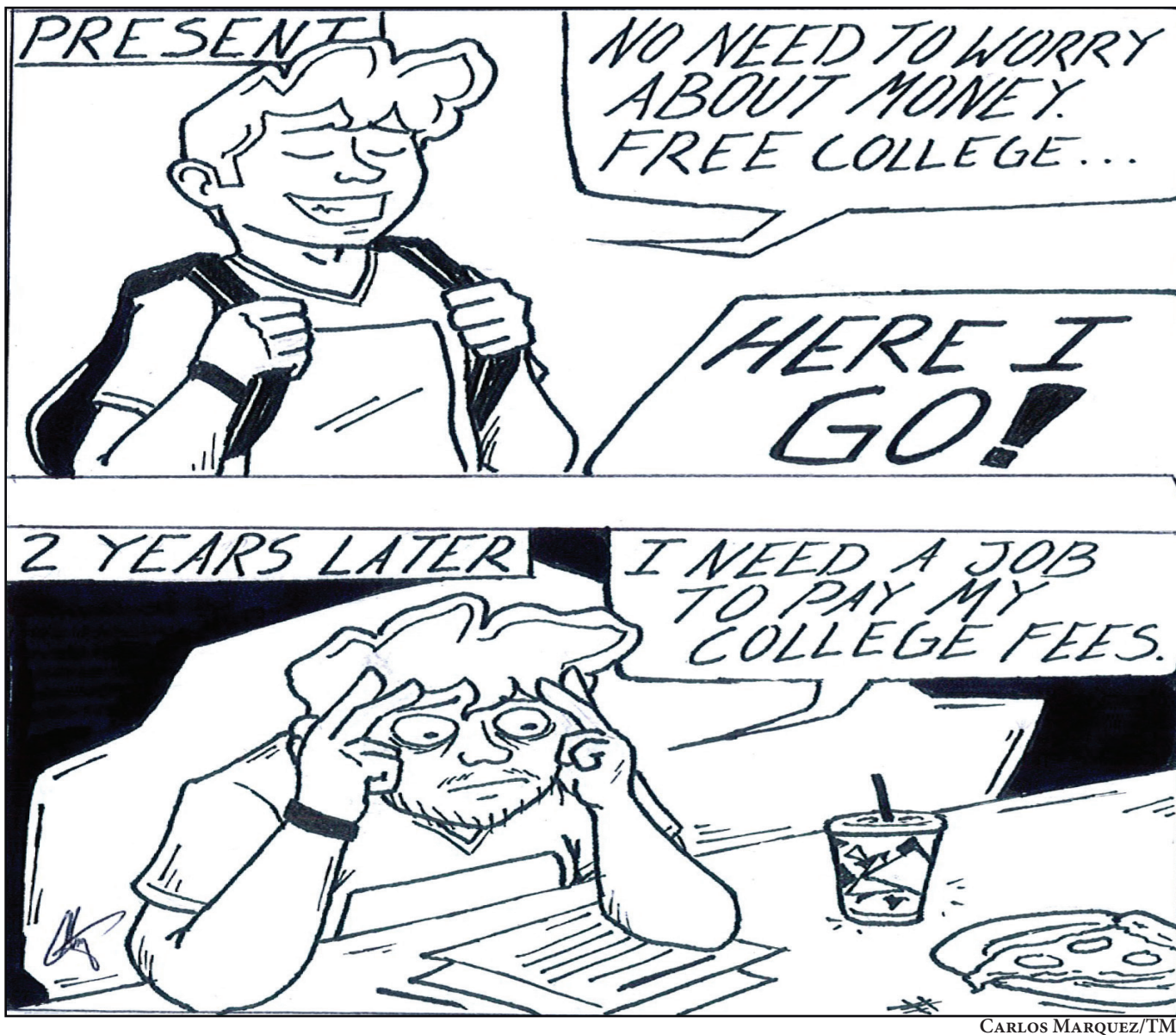
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Alicia Edquist

Journalism Association of Community Colleges

Pacesetter Award 2009-2010



EDITORIAL



The ups and downs of Obama's college proposal

The community college campuses around the country were abuzz with the news of President Obama's proposal of free, 2-year community college. It seemed like this was the best thing to come out of the Obama administration since the Dream Act.

The proposal would cover tuition not only for fresh-out-of-high-school college students, but also for "non-traditional" students like seniors, adults and veterans.

According to Obama, the Federal government would cover two thirds of the costs while states willing to participate would cover the remainder.

This may be an empty promise or it can pave the way for a real, educated society. Either way, both students and adults alike should watch with scrutiny this so-called proposal.

While on the surface this seems like the best and right choice for students around the country, we must also take into account the specifics of the plan and the ripple effect it can have on other things. This also raises many questions for those looking beyond the uncertain horizon of the future.

Will it cover just two years and will you end up paying out of pocket for the rest of your classes? How will financial aid be affected if you do have to pay out of pocket?

Any economics major will have heard the phrase "there's no such thing as a free lunch," meaning that even if it's free to you it's costing someone money somewhere.

So logically, where will the money come from for the state to pay for the remainder of the tuition fees for all its students? State taxes would most likely go up, even if this proposal produces a better skilled workforce, it would still be expensive.

The average cost of tuition for Cerritos students is about \$1,346, according to the Cerritos College website. That's the cost of classes without books, transportation and personal expenses.

Now multiply that by 21,000, which is the amount of students here at Cerritos. Three thirds of that will be paid off by the government but the rest is paid by the state.

This goes back to the core issue with this proposal: the two-year limit.

Most students here at Cerritos know that it is nearly impossible to get those ever-essential GE classes for transfer. The classes fill up quicker than geeks at a Star Wars convention. Some students have been here a semester or two longer just for that one class.

So if students go over that two-year stipend, they get stuck paying out of pocket with whatever financial aid is left

over from budget allocated to the plan.

The effectiveness of this plan hinges on the fact that every student ever will only take two years to complete community college. While most come out of high school thinking we are only going to community college for two years, it is extremely unrealistic.

This plan runs into yet another problem: overcrowding. High school students looking for a cheaper alternative for education will flock to community colleges to get a free education. It would be even harder to sign up for those classes students need.

Despite these possible problems, this is one plan that students should be excited for. It may be that this plan comes to fruition long after most of us are way past the community college years but it should be seen, even in its infancy, as a possible solution for our students.

Not just young students, but our adult and senior students. This plan is a long way from being effective but it is a step in the right direction.

But we must also, as a nation, take caution into plunging ourselves in foolhardy plans without thinking of the consequences. The path to a higher education and an intellectual society is a noble one but we must take caution that in earning our intelligence, we don't bankrupt our society.

Oh my God, boundaries

LAURA BROWN
Staff Writer
@TalonMarks

No one should have his or her First Amendment Rights infringed on by another individual, especially at a public educational institution that is meant to be secular.

Unfortunately, it is happening here at Cerritos College.

On the first day of the semester while walking to class, a young woman stopped me dead in my tracks. I assumed she sought directions, but was caught off guard when she asked me if I was on my way to class because that seemed quite obvious. After answering her I tried to walk away, but she again stepped in front of me, wanting to talk to me about Jesus.

I witnessed several members of this Bible group jumping in front of students, forcing them to stop and listen while they gave their speech about their religion and view on God.

Without taking away freedom of speech and religion and keeping the col-

lege open to the community, should the school set ground rules for promotion of religion on a campus that is supposed to be secular?

My answer is, yes.

The school should monitor these groups and make them aware that they can promote their religion peacefully and respectfully, but cannot force students to listen. If boundary is broken, further action by the school should be taken.

When I get to campus, I am focused on learning and creating a better future for myself. I do not want to be bombarded by people trying to get me to join something.

A secular institution means that it is not affiliated with any religion, so why am I being forced to stop and talk to someone about religion?

Having a table to promote your beliefs is reasonable. Fellow students asking to talk to you about their beliefs is reasonable. However, having these people repeatedly step in front of you to get your attention is unacceptable and should not be tolerated.

'Je suis Charlie' or 'Je suis profit'

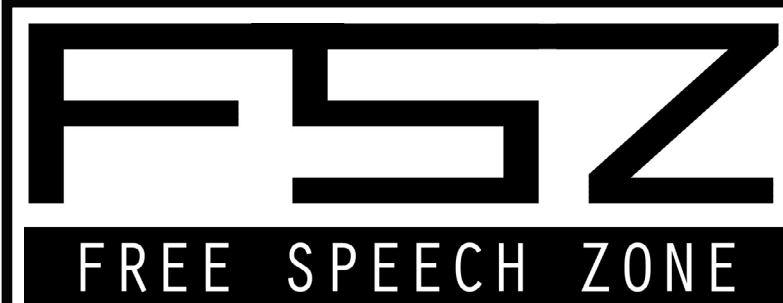
MONICA GALLARDO
Opinion Editor
@radioeggs

Merchandisers are taking the 'Je suis Charlie' slogan way out of proportion, as if they simply slapped a sticker on an ordinary object and decided to sell it for the love of money.

The massacre that took place on January 7 in France is sad and unfortunate. Eleven people were slain and 11 left injured after two masked gunmen slew their rifles throughout the offices of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in retaliation to an offensive cover the magazine published.

Despite this attack, the news magazine continued its weekly publication and sold out seven million copies of the new issue in six languages, compared to their usual French-only 60,000 copies.

Honoring those victims of the massacre in the new issue is ap-



Is Barack Obama's proposal a good idea?

COMPILED BY:
MONICA GALLARDO

PHOTOGRAPHS BY:
SAMANTHA VASQUEZ



BELLA OROZCO
Anthropology major

"I think for those who don't qualify for financial aid, it's good for them, but I'm curious to know where the money would come from because you still have to pay for books."

CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ
Theater major

"I honestly think free education is better, for sure."



CELESTE BOLANOS
Biology major

"[The government] will probably raise taxes, but in the long run, people will have kids that will benefit. I think it's a good investment."



CARLOS MEJIA
Film major

"I think that's good because a lot of students have been here longer, mainly because it's hard to grasp what you're doing in school, so [students] can use those two years for trial and error."



MICHAEL MCKENSIE
EMT major

"It is. I kind of wish it was earlier, only due to the fact that I've been here three years and I had to pay already, but I do think it's a good idea for incoming students."



propriate and expected, but some merchants have turned that slogan into a profit.

Seeing the world come together in support was reassuring and comforting, but all this merch just makes it seem like a massacre for profit.

This event inspired the slogan "Je suis Charlie," meaning "I am Charlie," in an attempt for solidarity among the world and the victims of this attack.

Online sites such as eBay and Amazon are now selling merchandise such as magnets, t-shirts, mugs, messenger bags, posters, you name it, with the commemorative slogan. Even "Je suis Charlie" earrings and iPhone cases are up for sale.

Physical copies of the magazine's latest issue are also being re-sold online, some ranging from a price of \$10, \$60, or even going as high as \$151,711.56, as listed by eBay user lcg1981.

Sadly, this is not new.

The same thing happened during the aftermath of the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. Shirts, beanies, pins, and license plate frames are among those items up for sale with the slogan "Hands up, don't shoot," inspired by those fatalities similar to the Mike Brown case.

Where is the money going? Are the sellers keeping it to buy new material items like clothes and shoes, or are they actually helping the families with funeral expenses?

This event requires us to provide each other with emotional support and understanding, not finding all possible ways to make a quick dollar on this tragedy.

People need to stop exploiting these tragedies and using them to make money. The friends and families of these victims deserve privacy and respect.

What movies, games and music are you looking forward to in 2015?



DIEGO TOBIAS
Chemistry major

“For games well I’m looking forward to ‘The Division’ and the new ‘Minecraft’ game. For movies, I’m just looking forward to ‘Star Wars.’”

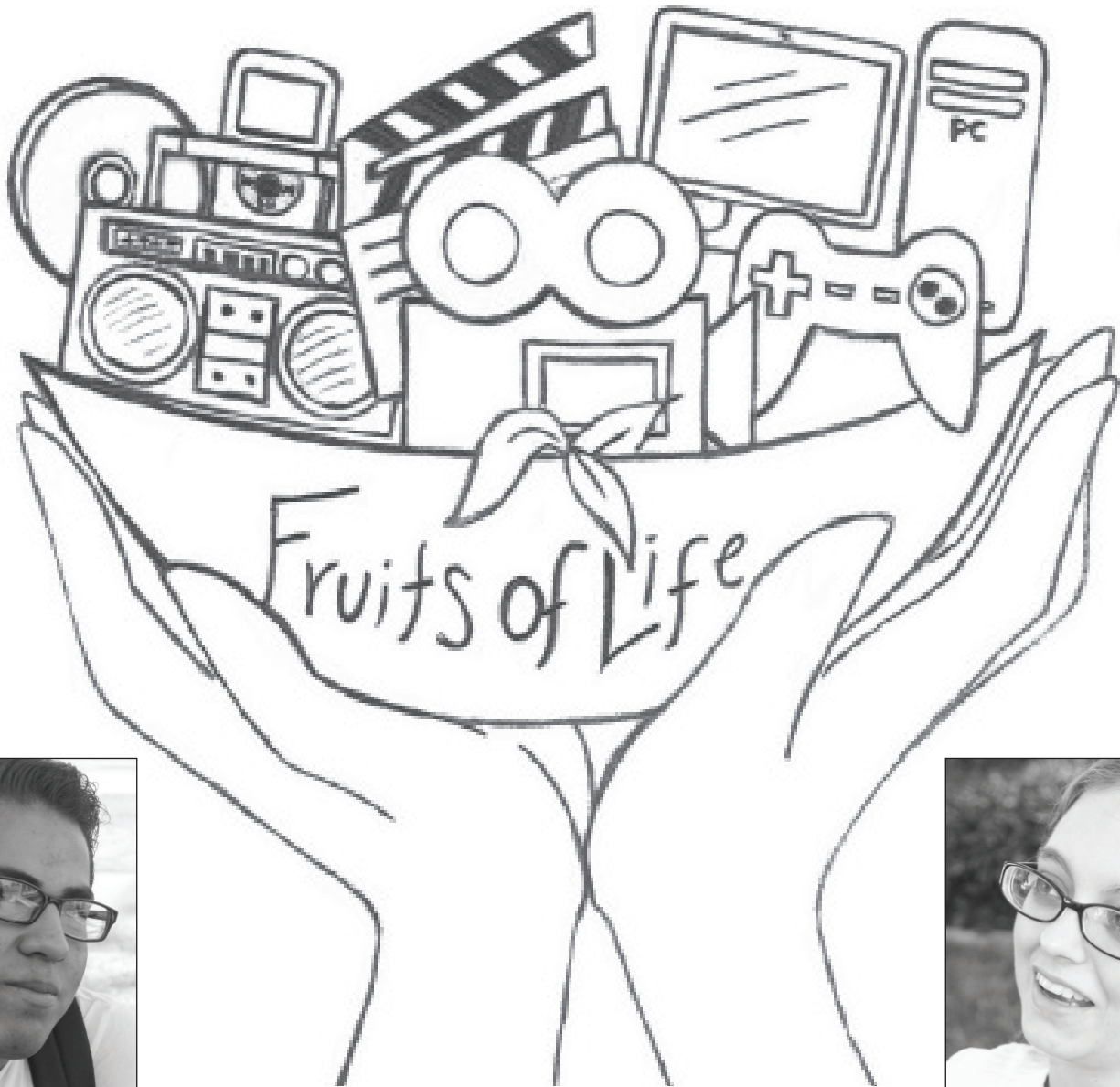


ILLUSTRATION BY NICOLETTE AGUIRRE



JOCELYNE MARTINEZ
Nursing major

“I’m looking forward to ‘50 Shades of Grey’ and ‘The Hunger Games.’ As for music, well anything; it doesn’t really matter.”



MARIA BURIEL
Forensics major

“I’m looking forward to ‘Unfriended’ and ‘Fast and the Furious 7.’ As for music and games nothing really.”



JESUS MARTINEZ
Aerospace Engineering major

“The new ‘Halo’ game and ‘Kingdom Hearts.’ For movies, ‘Avengers: Age of Ultron’ and ‘Ant-man’ and for music anything EDM (Electric Dance Music) or anything that Tiesto or Martin come out with.”



DANIELLE RENEE WILLIAMS
Biology major

“Personally, I like a lot of classic rock, so I’m looking forward to anything by Sabbath and a lot of the older music. For movies, ‘Cinderella’ and ‘The Hunger Games.’”



RICHARD ROJAS
Engineering major

“I’m actually going to EDC (Electric Daisy Carnival) in Vegas in June, so I’m looking forward to that. As far as movies ‘Unbroken’ and ‘American Sniper.’”

PERLA LARA
Staff Writer
@TalonMarks

As the new year begins and the semester starts, students tell us what kind of entertainment they’re looking forward to in 2015. “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay-Part 2” seems to be a popular movie amongst some of the students on campus. As for games and music, there were a couple of unique answers. Electric Dance Music is another popular form of entertainment students are looking forward to this year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLLYWOOD CASTING AND FILM
Behind the scenes: HCandF helps launch the careers and success of filmmakers and actors by providing free studio space and equipment. Above is one of the studio rooms at HCandF.

Free casting space offered at studio in Hollywood

NICOLETTE AGUIRRE
Arts Editor
@Nicolette093

If you’re an independent filmmaker or aspiring actor/actress, then Hollywood Casting and Film (HCandF) is the place for you to get a helping hand.

HCandF is a professional casting studio that provides free casting space along with state-of-the-art sound-proof studio rooms, actor database, professional-grade lighting and camera equipment for filmmakers.

Founded in 2012, HCandF helps launch the careers of filmmakers and actors in the competitive Hollywood market.

“Hollywood Casting and Film helps actors increase the number of auditions they receive for short films, feature films and commercials.

We accomplish this by offering free casting space to filmmakers and then requiring these filmmakers to audition members that subscribe to HCandF,” said Co-founder Vinay Bhagat.

HCandF also offers acting classes and workshops for actors, as well as auditions and a variety of projects to choose from.

Filmmakers interested in taking on this opportunity are more than welcome to create an account with HCandF.

Once filmmakers create an account, they can begin posting film projects. HCandF offers filmmakers the opportunity to give authentic feedback to actors who they feel compelled. Also access to recorded auditions and access to a green screen studio.

Actors can create online profiles, upload demo reels and submit an unlimited number of auditions.

HCandF provides actors a monthly membership,

which include casting notices, the opportunity to view audition videos online that have notes from a professional coach, a one-minute actor’s monologue and a personalized website.

Sunny Vachher, co-founder as well, said, “We help actors get more auditions and we also produce our own short films and exclusively cast our own members in these productions.”

In addition, according to the Hollywood Casting and Film Blog, HCandF has recently partnered up with The National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP) and NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA).

This means that filmmakers and actors will get the opportunity to attend events through out the year that will have workshops, roundtables, Q&As and presentations from industry leaders.

One of the workshops will include presentations from Chuck Vinson, who was the former director of Last Comic Standing and independent film maker Phil Leirness.

Future plans for HCandF include, “Expanding our services to the rest of the nation, meaning that actors will be able to sign-up for services in every city in the U.S. This national launch should be happening in the next two months,” Vinay said.

For more information visit:

- www.hollywoodcastingandfilm.com
- blog.hollywoodcastingandfilm.com

Filmmakers interested in booking a room, email Vinay at:
vinay@hcandf.com

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Sean Fuller/ TM
First home game loss: Jeff Gonzalez, who plays as a forward, is going in hard for a lay-up in Falcon Gymnasium. The other players are getting set to battle it out to see who will get the rebound on the conference game against Long Beach City College on January 16. The Falcons suffer a loss with the final score of 91-78 with a conference record of 2-2.

Falcons suffer deflating loss to Long Beach City

TERREL EMERSON
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Tensions were at an all-time high in the Falcons 91-78 loss to rival Long Beach City. The game got ornery right away, with Head Coach Russ May being issued a warning just a little over 10 minutes into the game. “Lack of consistency. Consistency is all we ask for, a similar foul was called against us on the other end....We just wanted the same thing on our end and we didn’t get those calls,” May said. “I just have to battle for my guys,” he added. May wasn’t the only person who felt the wrath of the referees. Two technical fouls were assessed, one to each team. Sophomore forward Jeff Gonzalez received the technical for Cerritos after Long Beach City’s Davarrus Bryant was seen jaw-jacking at him. “I’d rather leave it on the court,” Gonzalez said.

He finished the game with 21 points. Falcons leading scorer Micah Winn was not on the floor. The reason being was because he was ejected from the Cerritos’ last contest and by California rule for community colleges the player must sit out a game. “Definitely on the defensive end, his toughness and quickness and ability to guard the basketball was missed,” May said. The game would’ve been a lot closer had the Falcons taken advantage at the free throw stripe. Cerritos finished the game shooting 20-35 (57%) from the line, according to the Cerritos athletics website. “When you miss free throws in a tight game it’s morally deflating. We’ve really been working that mental toughness lately, so I get disappointed for the guys because I want them to have that success,” May acknowledged. Freshman guard Jay Merriweather came out strong and finished the game with 20 points shooting 5-of-6 from the three-point line.

“It’s a rivalry game I just wanted to come out and get this win. All those threes mean nothing to me I just want to get the win,” he said. The physicality was there for the Falcons with Sophomore forward Josh Bell posting a double-double with 16 points and 11 boards. Despite closing the gap to five in the closing minutes, Long Beach City went on a 16-6 run. “I’m a captain, so I have to lead by example so the [men] can [follow] my lead. I was trying to tell them it isn’t over till [the clock reads] 0.0. I don’t care if we’re down 20, never put your head down,” Bell said. “I thought our guys did an excellent job of executing the game plan, so we’ll get back at them next time,” May said. The Falcons next game will be on Jan. 21 as they tip-off at home against East Los Angeles.

Falcons win against Long Beach City

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During the first half, the Cerritos women’s basketball team were struggling to keep up with the Long Beach City Vikings. They pulled through with a close win of 52-51. The conference game was off to a rocky start as the Falcons struggled to make a shot, until center Selena Romero broke the slump. “I feel like our nerves kind of got to us a lot, we wanted the game really bad and we were forcing a lot of shots,” Romero said. The Falcons’ struggled to keep up with the Viking’s strong offense, as the Vikings led the first half steadily by less than three points. “We learned from the first half and in the second half we corrected ourselves,” she added. The Falcon’s offense however took many risks with shots and paid off, with 7 minutes left in the first half the teams tied 18-18. “Cass [Carrillo, guard] started out, Verence made some three’s, that got it down to a more manageable number,” said Head coach Karen Welliver. During the the second half, the tide turned as the Falcon’s defense deterred the Viking’s momentum. Aissha Baldwin, forward, scored 12 points during the

second half. “Defensively, coach [Dean] Ackaland did a good job changing defenses depending on their personnel so we did a good job and the women relaxed and we started playing better,” Welliver added. According to Welliver, during half time, it was more about the Falcons telling each other that they could do better, rather than her giving them a pep talk. She attributed the Falcon’s lack of composure during the first half as holding them back. “Personally I felt angry because I knew we could do better than how we were playing,” forward Ashley Flores said. Throughout the second half the Falcons and Vikings were toe-to-toe in points, neither team ahead of the other by more than 5 points. The Vikings were calling timeouts to draw out the last minute but in the end the Falcon’s defense left them behind at 51 points. Guard Kennedy Cooper said, “We came out slow in the first half but we came together and we told ourselves we need to pick this up and win this game.” The Falcons host East Los Angeles on Jan. 21 at 5 p.m.



GUSTAVO LOPEZ/ TM
Win it by a hair: Verence Gomez, who plays as a guard is going in the paint to lay the ball in at Falcon Gymnasium with her teammate Aissha Baldwin, who plays as a forward. The women would go on to win this conference game against Long Beach City 52,51

January 23

Women and Men’s basketball play home games

Women and men host a game at home against Mt. San Antonio for a friendly match.



Women’s 5:00 PM and Men’s 7:00 PM

January 27

Softball and Baseball open season

Baseball and softball open up season at home against Glendale.

Softball 3:00 PM Baseball 2:00 PM

January 27

Men’s Tennis opens season away

Men’s tennis opens season away at Mt. San Jacinto for a friendly match.

Men’s Tennis 1:00 PM

January 28

Women and Men basketball

Women and men’s basketball will go away to play at Los Angeles Trade Tech.

Women’s 7:00 PM and Men’s 5:00 PM

January 29

Softball and Baseball stay home

Softball and baseball play at home against College of the Canyons.

Softball 3:00 PM Baseball 2:00 PM



Line Drive: Falcons Infielder Shane Preston, connects and gets a linedrive basehit to leftfield during a simulated practice game last week at Kincaid Field. Not only are the baseballs flying off the bats of the batters, the pitches are being fired stronger.

Fresh blood brings high expectations

Cerritos College baseball team has many fresh arms to add to rotation

MARIO JIMENEZ
Staff Writer
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With the first game of the season only two weeks away at home against Glendale, the Cerritos Falcons baseball team seems pretty confident going into 2015 despite the high expectations coming off a successful 2014 campaign.

Pitching Coach Ben Gonzalez explains, “The expectations are there and that’s great because that’s where it all starts.”

Last season the Falcons finished at the top the South Coast Conference with a 15-6 conference record and

an overall record of 25-14, which was enough to earn them a trip to the playoffs where they were eliminated at home by Los Angeles Pierce College.

Pitching played a huge part in the Falcon’s run last year and it figures to play a vital role in how far they go this year as well.

“We’re a little young on the mound but we’ve got some good arms so all we need to do is make sure they’re working hard and developing,” said Gonzalez.

Last season the Falcons had a deep rotation led by South Coast Conference Player of the Year Jared Robinson. Robinson went 10-4 with a 2.23 ERA and 63 K’s in 93 innings pitched.

Despite these numbers put up by Robinson, the Falcons couldn’t have done it without two other names worth mentioning. Dylan Algra and Kyle Carpenter, the latter of whom will take on the role of staff ace this season.

“Hopefully we as sophomores can lead by example and we can have a good season.”

— GEORGE MENDOZA
Sophomore pitcher

Algra went 6-5 with a 2.27 ERA and 55 punch outs in 83 1/3 innings pitched, while Carpenter finished his freshmen year with a record of 6-2 to go with team leading 1.94 ERA and 34 K’s in 60 1/3 innings of work.

Robinson and Algra have since moved on, leaving a void in the team that is Carpenter’s to fill.

Gonzalez said, “Carpenter was first team all-conference last year and was our ERA leader so he’s going to step in and take that role that Robinson had last year.”

Carpenter also led the Falcons at the dish last year where he hit .308 in 107 plate appearances.

Despite the many departures and new players on the team, Sophomore pitcher Travis Bonner doesn’t think team chemistry will be an issue. “This year I think we’re going to be good.

“Even though there are a lot of new faces (on the

team) we’ve been here since July and we think we’re going to be alright.”

Bonner isn’t the only returning player expressing optimism. Although he knows the team is young, Sophomore pitcher George Mendoza believes sophomores like himself have to lead by example in order for his team to succeed this season.

“We got a lot of good players. We got a lot of new guys that are going to contribute to our team and hopefully we as sophomores can lead by example and we can have a good season,” Mendoza said.

A huge part of winning is having good team chemistry. There are many ways that the team can build chemistry, but the only way to build it is to spend time with the guys you go to battle with. Mendoza knows this well as he enters into his second season on the diamond for the team.

“We all hangout and we’re friends you know so the chemistry is good and we should be really good,” he added.



Turning two: Falcons shortstop is working on turning a double play. And the rest of the team is working on improving their baserunning.

New Roster keeps Falcons optimistic for Spring season

MONICA GALLARDO
Opinion Editor
@Talonmarks

10 new players have been added to this seasons Cerritos College softball team.

Including pitchers Amanda Frazier and Jennifer Navarro.

Sophomore first baseman Haley Petrucci said, “We’re trying to get them to gel as quickly as possible so we can start off strong.”

Second baseman and outfielder Monique Ramirez, also a sophomore, added, “We’re communicating a little more and since there are a lot of freshmen, we’re just trying to help them out so that they can be on the same page as us.”

The Falcon’s first game of the season is on Jan. 27 against Glendale College at Nancy Kelly Field.

Head coach Kaydee Murray believes that the combined work of the new and returning players will make a strong team throughout the season.

“You have a group of freshmen that don’t know what to expect and sophomores that were chomping at the bit at regionals last year and just fell short a little bit and we’d really like to get back to that place and they’re working hard to do that,” she said.

The Falcons ended their 2014 season with a 33-12 record and fell short at the CCCAA Super Regionals with a late-inning 7-6 loss to Santa Ana College.

Ramirez and Petrucci are looking forward to playing East Los Angeles College, who during the 2014 season defeated the Falcons twice and lost once, with all three

meetings defined by one run.

Murray said, “I think every team that we play is our biggest rival. Every game we play, they’re our rival.”

“They’re the one we want to beat and is there some special team? Not necessarily. I think teams that get caught up in one team and wanting to beat one team wind up losing little games along the way.”

“So we’re trying to focus on that game, that day and them being our biggest nemesis,” she said.

“We have a good group of players, good group of freshmen that came in that will help us. I think we have a good mix of power and speed and some play defense pretty well and hit and pitch pretty well,” Murray said.



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