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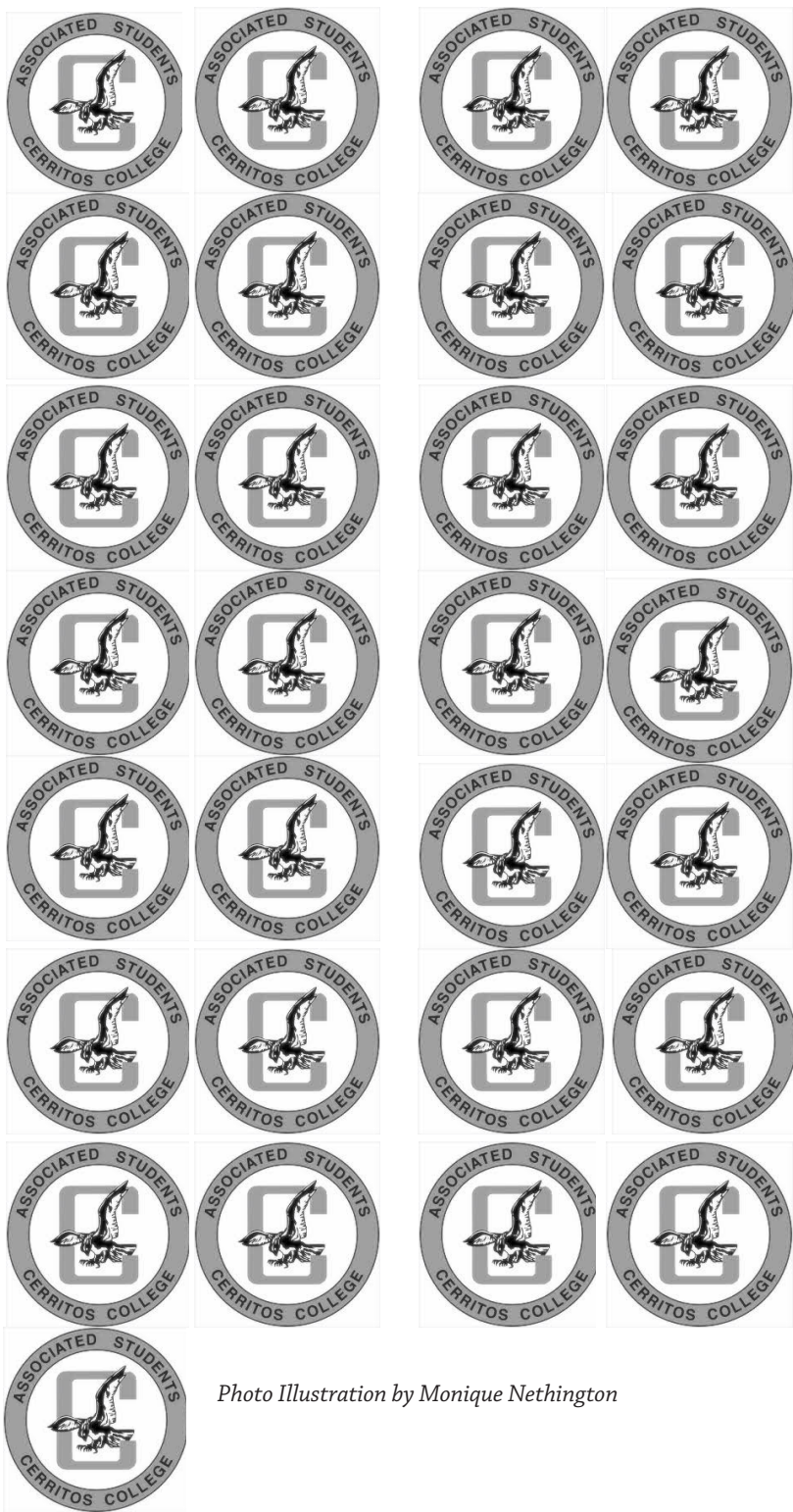


Photo Illustration by Monique Nethington

ASCC Senate stuck at twenty-nine

ETHAN ORTIZ
News Editor
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The first Associated Students of Cerritos College Senate meeting of the 2016 Spring semester brought concerns and dysfunction to the gathering.

On Wednesday, Jan. 13 the student senate expected to have the inaugural meeting of the year, before it was revealed they were not allowed to.

Vice President Ivan Oyarzabal started the unofficial meeting by stating they weren't permitted to move forward due to not meeting quorum.

In order to have a meeting, senate must meet quorum by having a minimum of 30 people in attendance and at least 20 senators present in the meeting.

Not only were there only 29 in attendance, but there wasn't even 20 senators present.

There have been resignations over the break and there was even two resignations the day of the scheduled meeting.

ASCC President Eduardo De La Rosa said, "We've had at least six resignations so far, one of them ten minutes before today's

meeting.

Students are resigning for different reasons, like not having grade checks and issues with work and class scheduling."

He felt timing was not on their side and it was indeed an issue.

Many senators weren't too pleased with the situation and many concerns arose.

There was disdain by that fact that the senators did not know that there would be a meeting because there was no email sent out to them, and not everyone had a grade check or was prepared to meet.

Some felt frustrated that the people in charge did not do enough to get replacements in time.

The senators wanted to make sure the situation was being handled and that they would be able to meet for the next scheduled time.

De La Rosa was confident that the situation was being handled.

"We have applications coming in and we do expect to have a meeting," said De La Rosa.

He revealed that there are four possible candidates in line for senator positions.

The semester started off with 35 members on senate and by the time of the meeting, there were only 29 senators.

It was also revealed that court did not meet quorum leaving more concerns.

In addition, cabinet did not meet.

With all student governments not meeting, many decisions aren't being made, such as discussing budgets and other school related issues.

Without student government, the students would not get a say on what happens to Cerritos.

Chief Justice Trent Coates was also not happy with the situation, but was hopeful that senate would be meeting next week.

"Each member of senate represents 500 students, we are leaving student's voices out, that is over 3,000 plus students not being heard," he said.

Coates also felt there are ways to keep this from happening again.

"We need to recruit more students, tell them what we do, and how we change the community," he said.

Senate is expected to meet again this Wednesday.

Oyarzabal steps down as vice president

KARLA ENRIQUEZ
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Reminiscent of spring 2014, this semester sees yet another ASCC vice president stepping down from his position.

On Thursday, Jan. 14 ASCC Vice President Ivan Oyarzabal submitted his letter of resignation.

Dr. Gilbert Contreras, dean of Student Services said in a statement, "His resignation leaves a huge hole in a key ASCC leadership position, however, we wish Ivan continued success at Cerritos College and beyond.

"Our staff will work closely with ASCC President Eduardo De La Rosa, to provide ASCC with a timely transition to fill the vice president position.

Jessica Germata, commissioner of external affairs, is being considered as the new vice presidential appointee.

Germata would have to be approved by senate at this Wednesday's senate meeting unless De La Rosa issues executive order.

Talon Marks reached out to De La Rosa for comment but did not receive a reply.

Oyarzabal said in a message, "I will make a statement off the record. I'd like to keep the details of my personal life out of the public eye."

The resignation came after a letter expressing dissatisfaction was sent to the ASCC vice president written by Senator Daniel Flores-Resendiz.

Senator Luis Guzman stated, "He put a lot allegations in it and I guess that's what made Ivan want to resign."

Party Whip Gloria Sedano said, "I think the allegations made it pretty clear.

"We understood that Ivan was going through a lot of issues as any [other] college student [...] and the email was meant to remove somebody from a position who couldn't handle doing the job of the presidency and deal with his own personal problems at the same time."

The pressure was noticed by Ivan's peers and colleagues.

Even in the first scheduled senate meeting, clear to the senators that Oyarzabal was simply not prepared

There was concern in the first senate meeting in the semester that the leaders weren't doing

Jumps to page 2:

Silence is golden

Library adds new divider to prevent noise complaints

KARLA ENRIQUEZ
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Students may have noticed a new glass partition in the library compartmentalizing the space.

Changes have been implemented in the library to contain the noise levels.

According to librarian Stephanie Rosenblatt the glass partitions went up the week before schools started.

The installation started shortly after classes ended during winter break.

"The glass wall is meant to be there so we can divide the space into two separate spaces, one for super quiet studying and one for group studying," she stated.

"We requested it because students were complaining that the library was too loud but we still knew that students needed a space to do

group work so we wanted a space that could accommodate both."

"It was approved and we have been waiting this long to get it implemented," she said.

Cerritos College President Dr. Jose Fierro said, "It was a little delayed because we were waiting for approval to put the walls."

Fierro stated that the glass partitions were already in the works when student government raised concerns during fall semester.

"We had the partitions on site we just couldn't install it because it is glass and we needed to make sure we met the specs and we had to ask permission for it," Fierro added.

Many students, including Vanessa Echeverria, undecided major, agree with the Rosenblatt.

"It's quieter on the other side, it does help me focus without all the constant walking in and out."

Nancy Corrales, undecided major however expressed, "I don't really spend a lot of time in here but, maybe, for someone who does it makes a difference.

Fierro expressed that he has been to the library a few times this



GUSTAVO LOPEZ/TM

A place to focus: Zach Sipe, philosophy major, exiting the now closed off main stacks in the library. The divider has been planned for years, but it wasn't until a recent increase in noise complaints that the divider was added.

semester and can already hear a difference.

"Obviously, you see when you come into the building that goes into the library a lot of students gather outside into the corridor and without the wall, the sound bounces a lot until it makes it inside.

"That glass wall definitely stops the sound from moving forward."

Rosenblatt said, "People have said nice things about it so far, I haven't checked the campus' facebook page so far to see if people

hate it.

"The people who have made time to talk to the librarians, everyone said thank you so far."

She continued, "I think the students who wanted it quiet are really happy, I think that students that want to make sure there are lots of places to study as a group, I don't know how they'll feel about but I'm sure they'll let us know."

Fierro said, "Speaking with a few students they have reported that it is a lot quieter, also our librarians are now more effective

with the sound, not that they were not effective before, but because the sound was coming from outside, it was hard to enforce lower noise levels in the library.

"Now, they have they ability to actually isolate sound with the decibel and they go around and I got positive feedback from the students," the president concluded.

The library not only has a new quiet research room, but students may still take full advantage of the regular resources it has to offer.

NEWS

FULL STORY ON PAGE 2

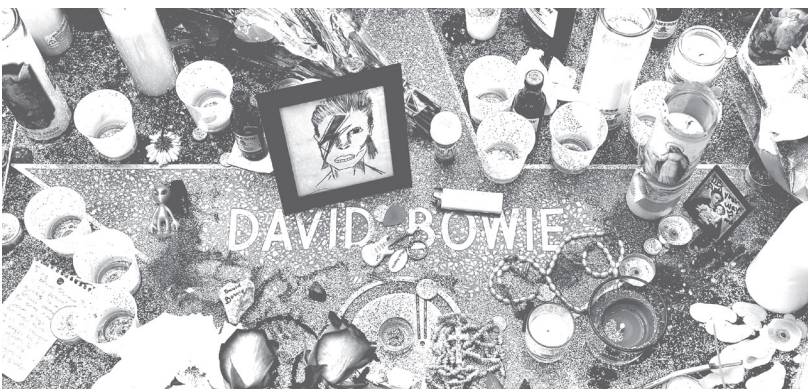
IN-N-OUT and Cerritos College welcome students



CAMPUS LIFE

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

Ziggy Stardust and Professor Snape remembered



SPORTS

FULL STORY ON PAGE 5

Men's Basketball prepares for game against ELAC





ASCC Senate Vice President Ivan Oyarzabal during the Wednesday Nov. 4 senate meeting. On Thursday, Jan. 14 Oyarzabal submitted his letter of resignation. A new Vice President will be appointed at this Wednesday's senate meeting.

Stepping down as vice president

Continued from page 1

for everyone.

One of the allegations in the letter pertained to agendas not being sent out in a “proper manner”, according to Guzman.

“Sometimes we had meetings that were invalid because of that [...] the agendas weren’t sent in a timely fashion.”

Sedano expressed how not sending out the agenda in a timely fashion affected senate meetings.

“There was one time, the third time, that we had an issue with the agenda was because he forgot to add an item, so it wasn’t able to be discussed. It was an item that was tabled for that meeting.

“It was tabled [at the prior meeting] and we were supposed to discuss it and it was not written properly.”

Sedano continued, “Twice before that he didn’t post the agenda on time, one of those being the first meeting of senate (for the fall semester) and we couldn’t have a meeting because of Brown Act violation.”

The Brown Act states that the agenda needs to be posted 72 hours before the meeting.

This made the meetings in which an agenda was lacking in a timely fashion, unofficial.

Guzman stated, “We had a lot of cancelled meetings [...] the first one was cancelled, the last one didn’t count.”

The senator is referring to the last meeting of the fall semester, which was invalid because it took place during “dead week”, the week prior to finals.

“That wasn’t communicated with us, we as senators didn’t know and we went and we voted on a lot of things, legislations,” Guzman said.

Guzman stated, that during the winter break senators were notified that the meeting and legislations passed were invalid and had to be done all over again.

“That frustrated a lot of the senators,” he concluded.

Sedano noted, “To be fair that falls hugely on the part of administration.”

She listed times in the past where senate met during dead week.

“We had two meetings last year, one was a regular senate session and the other was a special meeting and if the student government officers are not aware of this, then administration should probably step in and let them know.

“If it’s invalid it’s invalid, there’s nothing we can do about it.”

Guzman stated, that some senators were confused during meetings, “because sometimes Ivan would change up the rules.”

Sedano attributed this to Oyarzabal being confused and not being very familiar with parliamentary procedure.

She said, “Senators would have to correct him, past officers would have to correct him and a lot of senators were not satisfied with the way he led senate because he wasn’t too knowledgeable on parliamentary procedure and the meetings were confusing.

“People got frustrated with the lack of efficiency, so I don’t think we will see a lot of senators complaining about the action that was being taken.”

Sedano expressed, “We didn’t feel like he was doing his job very efficiently. No personal attacks on the person himself, it was just the work ethic.

Guzman sympathized with Oyarzabal, “I really feel for him, I understand that he’ll get through this because you have to move on from this.

I know he’s into theater, so he has something there for him.”

College welcomes new semester with free burgers

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Hundreds of hungry Cerritos College students lined up on Jan. 13 in Falcon Square to get a free In-N-Out meal, part of the festivities for Welcome Day.

The event coordinated to boost the beginning of the semester, offered a free cheeseburger and Lays potato chip bag to any Cerritos College student with a school ID updated with the latest spring 2016 sticker.

“There was one Jan.14 at night too,” said Amna Jara, the coordinator of Student Activities at Cerritos College.

“This year we are switching up [...] we will do it on the third week with club day,” she continued, reiterating that there are also no drinks with the meal.

“That is not part of our contract, so we can’t. Plus we’re a Pepsi campus,”she concluded.

The line of students waiting to get a free burger was long, most of which tried to stay amused on their phone but morale was boosted with a few hype-man moves from on-hand Cerritos College mascot Franco Falcon.

Alex Acosta, undecided major, with an appetite for burgers said, “I’m hoping to get a burger soon, I’m really hungry.”

“Looks like probably 30 minutes of just standing here,” he continued,

gazing upon the hoards of hungry scholars.

“During the day there are more like a 1000 people, while there’s about 500-750 people at night,” said Jazmine Sanchez, assistant to the Inter Club Council representative.

“Typically there are more older people that are here at night and don’t know about the event going on, so they miss out on the opportunity.”

Elmer Milan, a physical therapy major lending a voluntary hand to the In-N-Out crew stated, “All they need is their current ID, with the sticker.”

The near 70-year-old burger franchise is highly regarded throughout the west coast for its employee-oriented workplace and higher pay wages to workers.

Some students noted the newly placed In-N-Out franchise restaurant location adjacent to the college on Alondra Boulevard, and one even went as far as to dismiss the truck all together.

William Lynn, a geology major, said about waiting in line, “It doesn’t really seem worth the time, you know? ‘Cause I can get it for three dollars across the street.”

Acosta countered, “It’s worth it.”



Demand on the rise: Matthew Botello, current Teacher TRAC participant, explains to incoming students the different teaching pathways that the program offers. The program accepts applications every semester, and there is no limit to how many can join.

Teacher TRAC calls for more educators

CHANTAL ROMERO
Staff Writer
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The Teacher Training Academy, also known as TRAC for short, held their first meeting to introduce new students to the benefits of the program.

The meeting was held on Jan. 13

The meeting was led by Jennifer Gomez who is currently the Urban Teacher Fellowship Coordinator and Student Support Specialist, and former TRAC participant, along with a current Teacher TRAC participant Matthew Botello.

In this informational meeting, students were outlined the basics of the program and how there are spe-

cific pathways that future educators can choose from.

Teacher TRAC counselor Chris Sugiyama said, “The most gratifying part has been to see the student success.

“Things like this are what make this job so gratifying, to know that we are preparing our students well for success,” the counselor added.

Botello stated, “I decided to come to Cerritos specifically because they offered TRAC which was something that I believed would help me gain skills.”

During the meeting there was special emphasis in letting students know that there is a growing need for new teachers, and that future

educators are in a prime position.

After the economic recession many teachers were laid off and many were discouraged to pursue this career, now however there is a need of about 50,000 teachers and it will keep increasing.

“The demand for teachers is on the rise, more money has been allocated to education so there is somewhere to go with this career.

“Teacher TRAC offers different pathways so you don’t have to just be an elementary school teacher, but you can decide to focus on teaching trades,” Sugiyama concluded.

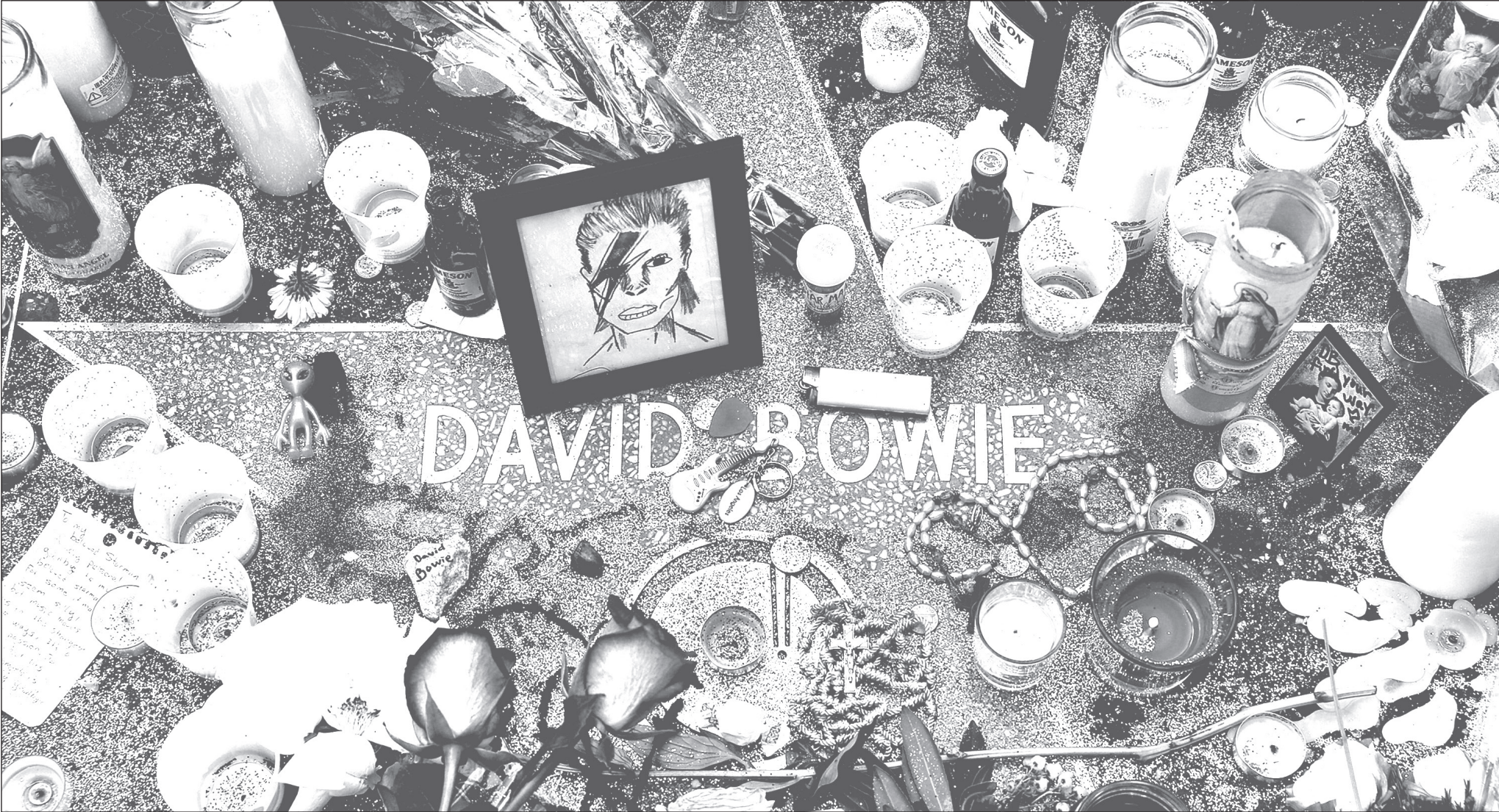
Gomez spoke about her experience after TRAC and found that all the skills that she had gained through the TRAC program really put her at an advantage.

When it came to things like knowing different teaching strategies, feeling confident and comfortable in a classroom, she credits the program for these advantages.

The hands on experience that the program is able to offer to its students through internships and conference opportunities helps.

The Teacher TRAC program accepts applications every semester and there is no limit to the amount of people who can join.

There are set requirements to meet however, if anyone feels unsure about their eligibility the TRAC team is there to help.



With David Bowie music blasting from speakers, fans place memorabilia at a growing memorial for rock star David Bowie at his star on the Walk of Fame on Jan. 11. located on Hollywood Blvd in Hollywood, Calif.

So long Ziggy Stardust and Professor Snape

KARLA ENRIQUEZ
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The Thin White Duke sang his last song on Sunday, Jan. 10 and the actor best known for his role as Professor Snape, Alan Rickman passed away on Thursday, Jan. 14.

The English artist known as David Bowie passed away in Manhattan, New York City, NY, at the age of 69, while Rickman passed away in London, U.K. at age 69.

Both had been battling with cancer.

Bowie became known in the 60s but garnered much attention in the 70s for his brand of pop music and androgyny while Rickman gained notice for his movie roles and distinct voice.

For Bowie, "Space Oddity", his second album put his name on the map while Rickman's portrayal of villain Hans Gruber in "Die Hard"

catapulted him to the forefront in the 80s.

The British musician was known for reinventing his image each time he'd release a new project.

Among his most notorious incarnations is Ziggy Stardust. The other is characterized by the multicolored lightning bolt on his face for the "Aladdin Zane" album cover.

For film buffs, Bowie was known as the Goblin King in the film "The Labyrinth," and Rickman was immortalized as Professor Severus Snape in the Harry Potter series.

Regardless of their form, self-proclaimed students at Cerritos have listed Bowie as an inspiration and hero, whereas millennials hail Rickman as an integral part of their childhood.

Music professor Jim Simmons stated, "So many contemporary artists have borrowed or been influenced by Bowie, way too many

to name.

"Madonna, Peter Gabriel (who was a contemporary of Bowie's), Kiss, even Mick Jagger began wearing makeup after Bowie."

Megan Kim, political science major, also believes Bowie directly impacted other musicians and their style.

"You see Lady Gaga dressed funky or fashion shows [...] and if you think about it David Bowie started that in the 70s.

"He was starting a trend and it trickled down and more people are influenced by that," Kim said.

Simmons believes Bowie's legacy is one of an artist who did not compromise on his vision in order to be successful.

"He was a chameleon in his stage personas, adventurous in his style, and a great showman onstage. He opened a lot of doors as far as androgyny, sci-fi characters and visuals both onstage and in video," he

said.

Simmons acknowledges that Bowie was far ahead of the curve for his time.

"I remember going to see him back in '73. I believe it was the "Aladdin Sane" tour and it was the first time I saw most of the audience wearing either Ziggy or the lightning bolt make up to his show," Simmons said.

According to Simmons, glam rock became cool, so many bands followed after him. Bowie opened the door to many of the styles we have now.

On Rickman, Kim stated, "It's heartbreaking that Alan Rickman passed away because he is my childhood."

Kim expressed that it's Snape, from Harry Potter, and it was heartbreaking that cancer killed them both.

David Padilla, undecided major expressed, "I watched Harry Potter

a few times, I think a lot of people are sad but they'll get over it."

Since the news of both figure's death hit public knowledge, there has been public demonstrations of grief for Rickman. The voices of millennials who grew up watching Harry Potter films are the loudest.



JOHN WALTON/ ZUMA PRESS
Alan Rickman during day two of the Glorious Festival in Chichester, England. Rickman died at age 69,

Remembering Bowie

- Bowie's first No. 1 album was "Blackstar", which he released days before his death.
- Bowie starred in the 1980 Broadway production of "The Elephant Man."
- In 1988, he portrayed Pontius Pilate in Scorsese's "The Last Temptation of Christ."
- "Under Pressure" was never performed live until 1992 at a Freddie Mercury Tribute Concert with The Eurhythmics' Annie Lennox."

Remembering Rickman

- Rickman earned a degree in graphic design from the Royal College of Art.
- He met his lifetime partner Rima Horton in 1965. He secretly married her in 2012.
- He landed his breakout role in 1985 with the starring role of Le Vicomte de Valmont in Les Liaisons Dangereuses.
- Rickman earned a Tony Award nomination for his villainous performance in 1988.
- His first Hollywood role was evil terrorist Hans Gruber in Die Hard.
- J.K. Rowling, author of Harry Potter series, wanted Rickman to specifically play Professor Severus Snape.
- She shared a secret with him about Snape to help him play the professor.



BRIANA HICKS/TM
Student life lacking: Student involvement is at a minimum. Popular hangout spot, "The Hill," shows decrease in student activity this semester.

Student life not found on Campus

BRIANA HICKS
Campus Life Editor
@askCelena

Cerritos College doesn't feel like a school. Instead it feels more like walking into a party with no music.

Each day spent at school is dry like sandpaper and lacking school pride that we all once had.

In this case, most students aren't really involved with the events on campus.

For most students, classes are the only reasons they come to Cerritos.

According to Associated Student of Cerritos College (ASCC) member Ilene Ochoa, they have been trying to break the cycle of students going home after school by trying to get them more involved.

Ochoa expressed that, "We are trying to have more events on campus. We speak for the students, if we don't have that much input, we can't

speak for the students."

One of the ways ASCC tried to get students involved was by hosting the traditional In-n-Out welcome truck.

She continued, "The first week we have In-N-Out, but again like where's the enthusiasm?"

Cerritos College President Jose Fierro added that student engagement in Cerritos College is actually pretty high.

He agreed that for athletic events we could do a better job at motivating students to attend and show their Falcon pride.

Fierro confirmed, "I think we need to be a little more proud of Cerritos. I think pep rallies and pride days are something we should implement."

Julio Gallegos, undecided major, stated "We should make more activities in school because most people just want to transfer out."



KRISTOPHER CARRASCO/TM
Ethical Coffee Tasting: Treasure of the Philosophy Club Joseph (right) Jang pours over a fresh cup coffee as he performs a coffee tasting. Jake Newland (left), vice president of the club, participates with the guests of the event.

Student philosophers teach the ethics of buying coffee

KRISTOPHER CARRASCO
Online Editor
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Whether you're a doctor staying up all night or a college student trying to get a jump-start to your 7 a.m. class, coffee is probably saving your life.

From at-home brewing methods to drive-thrus, coffee is everywhere. However, how often do people really ask themselves, "Where did this coffee come from?"

Well, the Cerritos College Philosophy Club held a presentation

on the ethics of where you buy your coffee impacts the industry.

The club held the presentation on Tuesday in room SS137.

Over a dozen students participated in the discussions of how everyday people as consumers drive the market.

The presentation explained how buying your daily cup of coffee can be a very ethical decision.

Joseph Jang, Philosophy Club treasurer, led the event with passion by using videos and even offering a coffee tasting.

"I felt like a lot of people don't

know about the choice they are making when they're purchasing or even drinking their coffee, so for that reason I felt this would be a good idea," Jang said.

The best coffee comes from all over the world ranging from places like Asia and Central America. The growers who live over in that part of the country suffer economically because of the price.

Those who buy the coffee most affect the farmers who grow coffee.

Jake Newland, vice president of Philosophy Club, is not a philosophy major, but feels like the club is

a place to meet like-minded people.

"I see that philosophy has a lot of practical uses in everything you study. For me, in psychology, there are a lot of ethical concerns and that's where the two disciplines meet," Newland said.

He had never been engaged with coffee as he was during the event and feels that the presentation was very eye opening.

"I would say if you have the means to make the choice to have foreign coffee, then you should try and make the most ethical decision that you can," Newland said.



Head of the huddle: Head Coach Trisha Raniewicz (middle of huddle) draws up a play for her team during a timeout. The Lady Falcons came out of the timeout shooting the lights out from behind the arc.

Steady offense is plan at East LA

TERREL EMERSON
Sports Editor
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The Cerritos College women's basketball team is looking to continue to build momentum after a 67-40 win over Pasadena City College Friday.

However, the road doesn't get any easier for the 14-7 Falcons as the 15-2 Huskies are next in order.

Cerritos will travel to battle East LA, who is 4-2 at home but the Falcons are 4-1 on the road.

"I believe you earn the right to win in practice...If we prepare like we're capable of, I know we will be ready to do battle on Wednesday," head coach Trisha Raniewicz said.

During the last game she went on record to say that no coach would ever turn down fast break layups. The Falcons might be looking to incorporate an up-tempo offense.

The reason for that is because every time sophomore guard Clarissa Hernandez entered the game the tempo was quickened.

"I don't really know what to expect this year, but I know last year we lost in overtime so I know [East LA is] a good

team," Hernandez said.

"I am going to try to come out strong from the beginning. I know they are a fast paced team so I am going to just set the tone on offense and play our game even if that means slowing it down," she added.

Raniewicz feels that while she may encourage a fast pace offense the team must stay within the structure of the game.

"It's a balance of understanding when to run and when to set up and execute. East LA College is a solid team and [it] plays hard, so I do think [it] will push to get back in transition," she explained.

On the contrary, the Falcons want to prevent fast break opportunities for the Huskies. Reason being because East LA averages 13.7 steals per game. Raniewicz is fully aware of the task at hand.

"It's critical to take care of the ball on the road and to not give up turnovers that lead to baskets," she said.

That is not the only tough task emerging for the Falcons with the Huskies awaiting.

East LA have found great success in sharing the ball on the offensive end.

"We definitely need a zone defense that way we can contain

[its] drivers much better," sophomore forward/center Miranda Valentin said.

East LA averages just under 19 assists per game.

Raniewicz had this to say about the Huskies ball movement, "We have done a great job this year switching up defenses so I anticipate doing that in Wednesday's game.

When we move with the [ball] and have a sense of urgency, our zone defense can give opponents trouble."

Offensive is not the only cause for concern for Cerritos as East LA has forced its' opponents to shoot 23.2 percent from three-point territory.

In addition Cerritos only shoots 32 percent from beyond the arc on the year. However, if the last game is any indication of the Falcons' plans for shooting. The plan is to shoot and shoot at will.

Raniewicz understands that a balance must be maintained.

"I would like our team to take high quality shots within our offense. We must attack and not settle for shots that are contested," she said.

"Getting each other easy baskets is always a recipe for success," she added.

Tip-off is at 5 pm at East LA College.

Former Cerritos greats to be honored

On Mar. 3, these three legends will be immortalized in the Cerritos Hall of Fame

TERREL EMERSON
Sports Editor
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Volleyball head coach, Teresa Velazquez-Ortega, will be honored along with two other Cerritos icons.

Former Cerritos basketball head coach, Jack Bogdanovich and former water polo star, Danny Garcia will join the aforementioned Velazquez-Ortega on the Falcons' highest stage.



Head coach Teresa Velazquez-Ortega has a photo showcased in the gym from her playing days. She is now in her 16th season as Volleyball head coach.

Velazquez-Ortega's back story in the Feb. 3 edition of Talon Marks.

Both Bogdanovich and Garcia's stories will be told in the following print editions of the

Relentless Falcons are ready to challenge Huskies



Pounding the paint: Jamal Watson (#33) throws down a two-handed dunk with authority. Watson finished the game tied for the team high in scoring with 16 points.

TERREL EMERSON
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The Cerritos men's basketball team is on a season-high three-game win streak however, possibly its toughest test stands in the way in 16-2 East LA.

To oppose the Falcons winning streak the Huskies are on a five-game win streak of their own.

With the game looming head coach Russ May feels confident that his team will be not only ready for the task at hand, but will invite the oncoming dispute.

"It'll be a good challenge, I think our guys are up for it, we had a good week last week and a good practice [Monday], so you never know," he explained.

The Huskies team will have the luxury of being at home for the contest where it is 4-0 on the year while the Falcons are 4-1 on the road.

Including two straight wins at Mt. San Antonio Friday Jan. 8 and at Pasadena City Friday.

The efficiency of the Huskies offense cannot go unnoticed as they average 84.2 points per game and shoot over 50 percent from the field.

On the other hand their opponents score 70.6 points per game and shoot just under 40 percent from the floor.

May said, "Part of it is if you take good shots on offense it limits their offensive possessions.

[East LA is] a very good fast break team so what we want to do is when we get the chance to score we take good shots, we take care of the basketball then defensively we want to make them operate in the half court,"

The Falcons are aware of the task of keeping the Huskies out of its comfort zone of a high scoring game.

Sophomore forward Jamal Watson said, "It's going to take everyone who steps on the court to be locked in defensively the whole game with consistent intensity.

Especially to start off to take momentum at [the Huskies' home gymnasium]."

Watson will be looking to continue his dominance as he did the last game in a 72-53 win over Pasadena City.

In the game he tied for a team-high 16 points to accompany his eight rebounds and four blocks.

During the game Watson set season-highs for all three of those categories.

Coach May admitted following the game that he hopes Watson can continue his play every game.

The defensive intensity will not only have to be regulated by the frontcourt of the Falcons as the backcourt will have its hands full with a fully loaded Husky backcourt.

The combo of sophomore guard Iziahiah Sweeny and freshman guard Chandler Redix average almost 25 points between themselves.

For the past two games Cerritos has allowed its' competition's star players light it up in the first half only to be shut down in the second half.

May said, "They're very good players but, I think our guys are up for the challenge. We have some pretty good defensive guards."

Adding, "When we have played right our defense has been very good, we're looking forward to the challenge."

Freshman guard Tyler Payne said, "We're all just going to have to be locked in and on the same page that way we can contain them from having a breakout game."

He will not be alone in the constant pressure of guarding the duo. As he will have sophomore guard Jonathan Brown to rely on as well.

Both Sweeny and Redix turn the ball over a combined 4.2 times per game. The Huskies as a whole turn the ball over just under 18 times a game.

Coach May said, "If we play good defense, they'll turn the ball over for us, hopefully. Our job will be to capitalize on that."

The Falcons are hoping to counteract any turnovers made by the Huskies by not turning the ball over themselves.

Brown said, "Its really important that we execute and take care of the ball.

We got into trouble this year when we've been careless with the ball so it's vital we take care of the ball and convert on as many opportunities they give us."

All the talk will cease and the game will be decided at 7 p.m. at East LA College.

UP NEXT:

Men's Basketball:
Tonight at East LA 7 p.m.

Women's Basketball:
Tonight at East LA 5 p.m.



FULL SCHEDULE ONLINE, SCAN QR CODE

Raymon Price awarded Defensive Player of the Year

Cerritos' defensive tackle was honored during the offseason with the "Defensive Player of the Year" Award. Price was quick to say that he was surprised and more so honored to receive the prestigious title however, credited his teammates for his success.



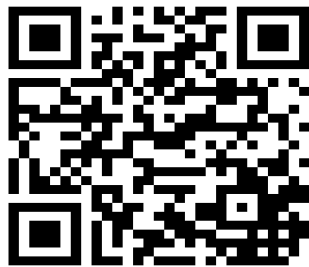
FULL STORY ONLINE, SCAN QR CODE

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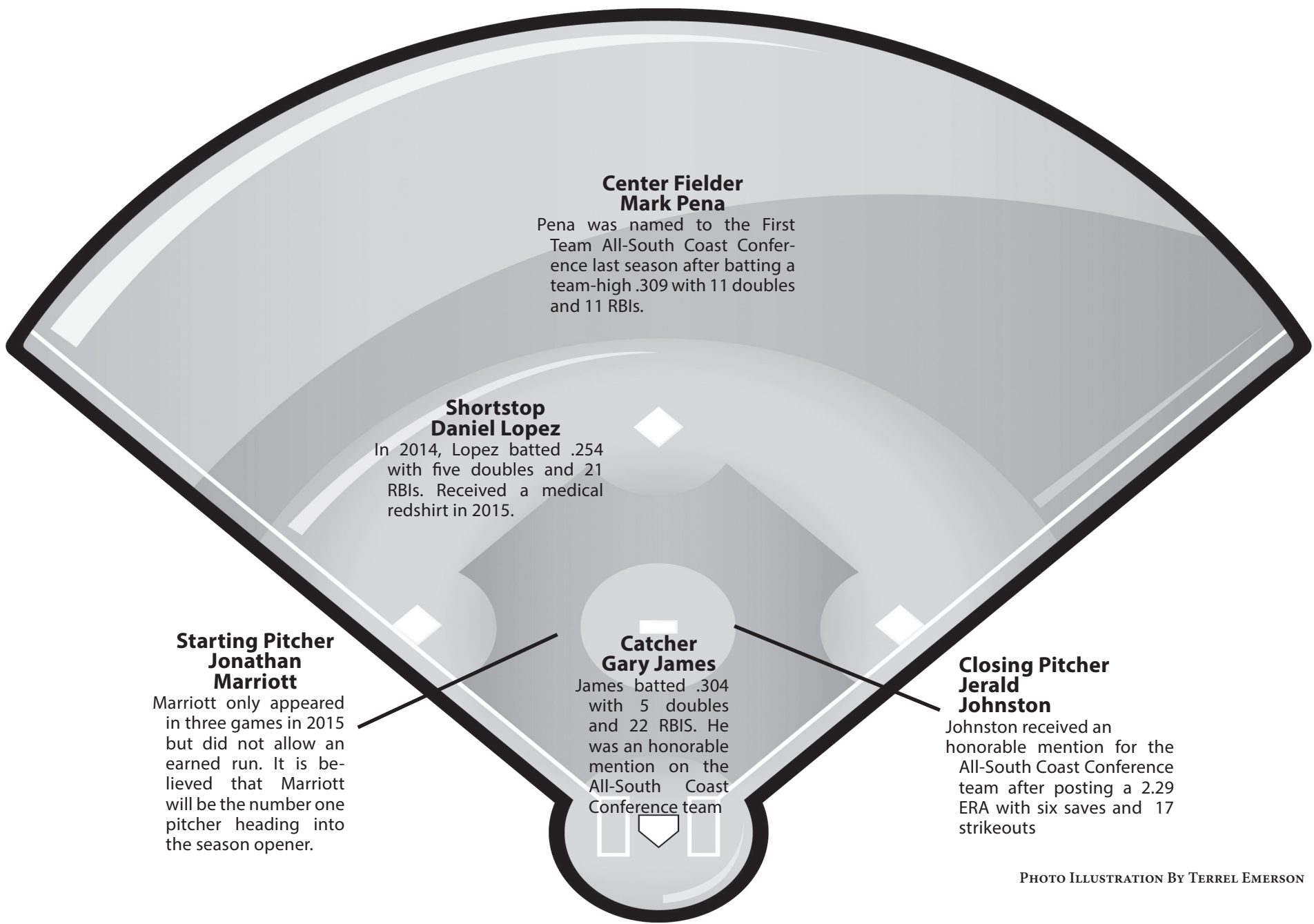
Women's Tennis: Tuesday
vs. Bakersfield

Softball: Wednesday at Saddleback

Men's Tennis: Thursday, Jan. 28 vs. Mt. San Jacinto



FULL SCHEDULE ONLINE, SCAN QR CODE



ON DECK!

Baseball coach gives insight on top players to watch during upcoming season

Ken Gaylord believes that he may have the recipe for a productive season with the pieces that he already had and has since acquired. With almost a perfectly split team amongst freshmen and sophomores Gaylord will look to his “older guys” to take the reigns and lead the Birds to success.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TERREL EMERSON

Cerritos Birds set to take field in 2016

TERREL EMERSON

Sports Editor
@sir_chatterbox

Head coach Ken Gaylord is very optimistic about the makeup of his team prior to it 2016 campaign starting.

However, he is very careful not to put too many eggs in one basket.

Team Chemistry

For Gaylord and staff, the team is devised of 15 freshmen and 14 sophomores.

He feels as though the healthy mix is important however, the luxury of having sophomores cannot be taken for granted.

“We’ve got some older guys that have been around, I’m hoping that will help,” Gaylord said.

The team ended the season 22-15 (14-7 in conference), the year came to an abrupt end as the Birds suffered a crucial 6-2 loss to Riverside in the Regional Round single elimination game.

The players and coaches have since put that game and the season behind them. The team is now focused on continuing to build its chemistry.

Sophomore outfielder Mark Pena said, “We’ve been working together since the summer so we’re getting some good chemistry.”

He is also very aware that there

is only so much the team can grow without having that on the job training so to speak.

“It’s something that has to be worked on during the season,” Pena said.

Batting

The long ball was not apart of the Birds offensive scheme much last year as the team combined for only eight homeruns on the year.

Gaylord insists that it was because of the switch in bats throughout college baseball nationwide.

“I think if you look at the state’s statistics we’re slightly above average,” Gaylord said.

The bats changed from BSR to BB Core.

According to both Pena and sophomore catcher Gary James the new BB Core bats have less of a sweet spot.

A sweet spot is another term for maxium power once contact is made with the baseball.

Despite the change in bats for the team, Gaylord still feels he has multiple players on his team that can drive the ball and even send the ball over the fence.

One player is the aforementioned Mark Pena.

“It’s not mental, it’s just putting a good swing on it, that’s where it counts,” he said.

In addition to Pena, Gaylord credited James with the ability to lift the ball out of the ballpark.

“I agree with it, I had two homeruns in one of our Fall Ball games, and I can drive the ball gap to gap,” James said.

However, if the long ball continues to be an issue for the team Gaylord has no problem implementing a Kansas City Royals style of baseball in running a small-ball type of offense.

A style that won the Royals the World Series title just a little over three months ago.

If it works in the professional ranks maybe it could work in the collegiate ranks right? Gaylord thinks so.

“This year we’ve got better speed so I think we’ll run more,” Gaylord said.

Last season, under the tutelage of Gaylord the team stole 45 bases to only being caught stealing 16 times.

According to Gaylord one thing that hurt the Birds possibly the most on the offensive end was the loss of shortstop Daniel Lopez.

Lopez suffered a significant elbow injury last season in the seventh game and was forced to sit out the remainder of the season.

“Sitting out last year made me really appreciate it more,” Lopez said.

He added that he was excited to start the season and get back on the field for his teammates.

Pitching

Another major reason for the success for Cerritos last season was the great pitching it received throughout the season.

However, both Ryan Arambula and Kyle Carpenter have moved on from the team and now a new No. 1 starting pitcher has to be thrown into the mix.

Gaylord was quiet to give too many details about his final depth chart however, he did give a little insight on his pitching staff.

“Our pitching staff really came on during the half-way point of conference, this season we don’t have an all conference guy coming back. We’ve got four guys right now that are competing...If you ask me from the performance in the fall I would say [sophomore] Jonathan Marriott [will be the number one pitcher],” Gaylord said.

Marriott weighed in on his coach’s comments saying, “I think it’s really nice of him, last year I just worked my ass off, I’m just thankful he gave me the opportunity,” Marriott said.

Gaylord was quick to say that it will still be a team effort in terms of starting pitching mentioning the

names of Adrian Ramirez, Carlos Hernandez, Travis Bonner, Sean Kinnicutt and Valentin Flores-Gomez.

Starting pitching isn’t the only change the team will be forced to endure during the upcoming season. Closing pitcher George Mendoza is no longer a part of the team as Jerald Johnston will have to fill the void this season.

“He did a good job last year and he got some good saves for us,” Gaylord said.

Last year, Johnston actually recorded six saves while Mendoza only had five saves. Johnston was still in shock when he found out he was named an honorable mention on the All-South Coast Conference team.

“I was shocked to be honest. To be named an honorable mention is a blessing in itself. Johnston said. “To not be the biggest guy out there and going out there as a freshman closer and do my job,” he added.

Johnston stands five foot-eight inches and weighs 180 pounds but plays much bigger than that.

Following the big season Johnston is more than ready to get back on the diamond.

“I’m ready. I just want to do anything to help my team succeed,” he said.

The season is set to start Jan. 30 at Mt. San Jacinto at 1 p.m.

New start for women’s tennis

TONI REVELES

Staff Writer

@TonTellsIt

The women’s tennis team is looking to put last season behind them and start fresh.

During the off-season it did lose some of its players due to transfer, but it did gain some good recruits as well.

Head coach Alvin Kim said, “Unfortunately we lost a couple of players that transferred, but we still have a decent women’s team, we’re a little better than last season.”

One addition to the team this season is Valentina Polonyl who is originally from Hungary says she’s not only looking forward to competing this season but also college life.

“I just want to experience the whole college feeling and tournaments.”

She added, “Since I’ve been in the U.S. I feel like I’ve improved a lot.”

Last season, the team had some outstanding talent with Taylor Heath and Anastasia Khomyachenko who were both named first team all-conference in singles competition.

Khomyachenko was the team’s number one ranked with a 19-8 in singles.

Heath said she has improved a lot since last season, “We practiced all winter break and because of that we are way better this season than last.”

She is looking to improve her 17-7 record from last season.

Coach Kim commented on Heath having a better season, “I hope she has a better season being a college athlete is hard because you have to take all these units in two years. She comes from class to the practice court then back to class I hope she does better but we value academics.”

Heath is looking forward to playing Mt. San Antonio this year because, “They have recruited a lot of good players.”

The first game will be Tuesday against Bakersfield.

Softball set to start in one week

TERREL EMERSON

Sports Editor
@sir_chatterbox

The Cerritos softball team will enter play one week from today looking to forget about last season and begin on a new journey this season.

The team had its season shortened as it lost in round two of the playoffs.

It will be traveling to do battle with the Saddleback Gauchos.

The team will be led by sophomore second baseman Jenny Collazo.

She batted .363 last season to go along with seven homeruns, 14 doubles and 12 stolen bases.

Collazo will need the help of her supporting offensive cast.

It will have to be a team effort in order to make up for the loss of Crystal Cano and Krystal Purkey.

Cano finished with a batting

average of .450 while Purkey had a .290 average.

Both Cano and Purkey combined for 23 homeruns, 18 doubles and 96 RBIs.

Also sophomore pitcher Jennifer Navarro will be without fellow starter Ana Pedroza this season.

Pedroza completed nine games en route to a 13-10 record with a 3.85 ERA.

She also recorded 52 strikeouts.

Navarro wasn’t far behind with six complete games and a 13-9 record with a 4.05 ERA and recorded 61 strikeouts.

Combined Pedroza and Navarro counted for 282 total innings pitched.

Meanwhile the team only had 285 total innings pitched in the 2015 season.

Heading into this season we will see how the year will play out for the softball team and head coach Kodee Murray.

Men’s tennis is looking forward to new season

TONI REVELES

Staff Writer
@TonTellsIt

The time has come for the men’s tennis team to kick off its season.

This year’s team is mostly made up of the new recruits, which Cerritos’ coaching staff worked hard to find.

The Falcons will start their season on Jan. 28th against Mt. San Jacinto.

Head coach Alvin Kim said, “We were so close I feel last season [in] trying to get to state finals.”

Last season, Agustín Lombardi was apart of a duo who went onto be named the Conference Doubles Champions.

“We’re traditionally a doubles driven offense historically we have more championships in doubles,” Kim said.

Lombardi expressed he’s looking forward to playing the top teams in the state.

“This season I’m looking forward to trying to beat the top teams, last year we had an okay season,” Lombardi explained.

With being named Conference Champions, Lombardi felt like he could have done better, “Basically, be-

cause we could have done better, we lost a couple of matches that were very important, we lost by a couple of inches, if we were a little bit more focused we could have won.”

Freshman Oleksandr Krasnev is just looking forward to the competition.

“I’m looking forward to competing for state and playing in tournaments,” he said.

Krasnev also said he’s excited because of his team and its potential.

“I think we have a really good team this season and we have all chances to win at state, we just need to work hard and focus on our game.”

Both Lombardi and Krasnev said they are ready for the season to start.

Lombardi added that he has improved during the off season.

Lastly, both Krasnev and Lombardi have teams they are looking forward to playing.

Krasnev wants to play the Ventura Pirates while Lombardi just wants to play the reigning state champion Irvine Valley Lasers.