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CERRITOS COLLEGE

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THE POWER OF A THANK YOU

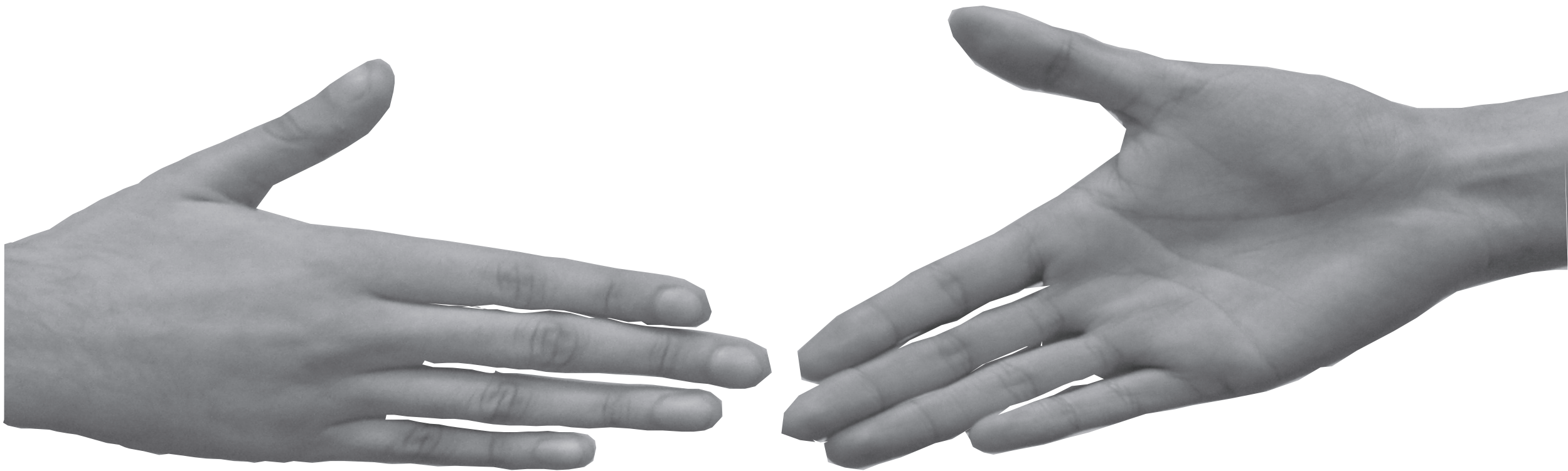


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN ORTIZ
PHOTO BY TERREL EMERSON

Negotiations for part-time and full time faculty wages are continues

ETHAN ORTIZ
News Editor
@EthanEnvy95

Money makes the world go round, and it is no different when discussing faculty wages at Cerritos College.

For a number of months, faculty has been looking to get raises or opportunities to go back to school so they can get a higher education that would ensure a better pay.

At one of the last board of trustees meetings of 2015, Dianne Pirtle, sociology professor, was vocal in making sure that the board was aware of the issues brought up by faculty.

She was present once again and stood by the side of fellow professor Solomon Namala.

In the first board meeting of 2016 professors Mi-

chelle Lewellen and Solomon Namala spoke about the wages and brought charts he made to visually express the different wages the school's faculty can have.

The charts showed that professors would need to take a certain amount of units and essentially more than one degree to get to a higher salary.

For many faculty, going back to school and getting another degree is not an option.

They are not able to go back to school for a number of reasons.

Some of the reasons include not being able to afford going back to school and not having time to go back due to having to teach classes and earn a paycheck.

For psychology professor Michelle Lewellen, much like everyone else, she can't afford to go back to school, and isn't too happy about the current wages.

"I never thought I was going to get rich doing this job, I didn't think I was going to be wealthy, but I did think that I would be able to support myself," she said.

She continued by stating that taking on a regular teaching load is not enough to pay her mortgage and bills on her own.

"When you go to school, which costs money, you

get an advanced degree, which costs money, plus you bring all this knowledge to the school, you should be compensated for doing that.

"With the education I have and the service I have given to Cerritos, I should be able to support myself, by myself," Lewellen stated.

President of Cerritos College Jose Fierro spoke about the current status of the on going negotiations for faculty wages.

"Right now they're getting ten percent, full time faculty, over three years, but we haven't heard back.

"Negotiations are with the faculty federation, [...], there's a group of people that negotiate on behalf of the district and report to me and the board," Fierro said.

He went to discuss the board of trustees and how he felt they were handling the situation.

"The board I believe, has been quite generous on the package, ten percent over three years is a lot of money," he said.

Regarding the charts that Namala presented at the board meeting, Fierro agreed that the numbers were accurate, however felt that the full compensation was missing.

"What isn't fully accurate is that those are the basic salaries, so full time faculty gets the opportunity to teach above and beyond.

"Their salaries have the option to increase about 40% based on what they teach above their base," he stated.

Negotiations are still happening, and for Lewellen, she hopes they end well, not only for her benefit, but the school's.

She stated, "When you look at the nine local colleges, we (Cerritos College), are sitting at number seven, and what that means is that the six schools above us are getting the better faculty.

"So if we put a job announcement out for a geologist, and so does El Camino, if they get both jobs, they are going to go to El Camino, which means we don't get the talent here that we should get, because we are not compensating our faculty for the training and the knowledge they're bringing to Cerritos."

The board of trustees will be meeting on Feb. 3 and will continue the negotiations with the faculty federation.

Fierro is confident that they will work it out.



KARLA ENRIQUEZ/TM
President Jose Fierro presented a new scholarship in the board of trustees meeting. The plan is to help students pay for their college tuition or school books.

Helping students cross the bridge

Dr. Fierro plans new scholarship plan for incoming students

ETHAN ORTIZ
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"President Obama has been saying free community college for all the students, and I agree with that, but I don't agree that it should be free, I agree that you have to earn it by working hard, and if you work hard, it won't cost you," said Cerritos College President Jose Fierro. He presented a new scholarship

initiative that will give students the opportunity to earn a discounted education or a discount on textbooks prior to agreeing with President Obama's idea.

The initiative looks to help about 800 high school graduates with providing them, what he believes are robust services by covering the tuition or books (up to \$200 per term), based on performance.

"We'll give you all you need, we'll help you pick your schedule, and we'll cover the tuition, if you do well in your classes, if you meet with your counselor, [...].

"We want to put support services around the students to make

them successful, rather than just giving them money," he said.

The purpose of the scholarship initiative is to increase graduation rates.

The highest time for students to graduate from Cerritos is six years and Fierro wasn't to pleased with those rates. Only about six or seven people out of 100 graduate from Cerritos in two years, about 15 percent in three years, about 32 percent in four years, and 39 percent in six years.

He also plans to pay a lot of attention to first generation, low income, and underrepresented students to help increase their chances

for success.

The president continued by explaining the importance of a degree.

"That first degree makes a huge difference, if you actually get to the finish line and that associate's degree, their chances of going forward increase, and even if you don't, your income increases significantly, so for me that part is very important," he said.

Dr. Shin Liu, president of the board said, "I agree we should increase the part-time salary, our part-time faculty has office hours, it was one of the very few colleges, but I agree that we should do more."

SPORTS

FULL STORY ON PAGE 6

Cerritos College versus Long Beach City College



Campus Life

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

Children and Franco Falcon enjoy a snowy day



NEWS

FULL STORY ON PAGE 2

Dr. JoAnna Schilling prepares to leave Cerritos



Giving students international experience

BIANCA SALGADO
Opinion Editor
@BiancaSalgado95

Eugenio Rivera, double major in criminal justice and business administration at California State University Fullerton, gave a presentation on the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship on Jan. 29 in Liberal Arts room 103 at 10 a.m.

Amy Perez, anthropology major, said, “I think this is really helpful because there is a lot of people who need the experience from the work study and sometimes it can get really expensive and very competitive.”

Rivera had gone on a Gilman scholar-trip before where he studied in Brazil. He found out about this particular scholarship through the advisers at California State University Fullerton.

He added, “I would tell students to apply and to not let other schools intimidate them and to try to be as informative as possible in their papers, but also proofread,” Rivera said.

He talked about his experience in Brazil, “At first it was weird. Since basically I am able to communicate with people in Spanish or English but in Brazil you did not hear any of those languages. It was a whole new culture to me.”

The Gilman Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered

by the Institute of International Education, diversifies the kinds of students who study and intern abroad and the countries and regions where they go to by awarding over 2,000 scholarships of up to \$5,000.

The program strongly encourages applications from students:

- Attending community colleges
- From diverse ethnic backgrounds
- Going to non-traditional countries
- Participating in credit-bearing internships
- With disabilities
- First-generation college students
- Participating in fields of study underrepresented in education abroad

Students studying a critical need language are automatically considered for the Gilman Critical Need Language Award for a total possible award of \$8,000.

Timothy Juntilla, director of the Scholar Honors’ Program and advisor for the scholarship, said, “Since there are very few awards, don’t just say that you are going to study a language because you want another \$8,000, do it regardless of that. You are happy to study even without that money,” he said.



Saying goodbye: Vice President of Academic Affairs JoAnna Downey-Schilling speaks at a campus forum on campus on Feb. 23. Schilling, who previously served at Rio Hondo College and after almost four-years at Cerritos College will return to the previous institution.

Dr. Schilling to leave Cerritos

KARLA ENRIQUEZ
Editor-in-Chief
@karlamenriquez

After assuming the position of vice president of Academic Affairs at Cerritos College in 2012, the college will bid Dr. JoAnna Schilling a farewell.

She accepted the interim vice president of Academic Affairs position at Rio Hondo and is expected to start on Feb. 16.

Schilling stated, “I worked at Rio Hondo for almost seven years before coming to Cerritos, and have very deep connections at that college.

“They asked me to come back in this temporary position and it will be up to the board, faculty and staff if I stay there on a permanent basis.”

She took the temporary position for personal reasons.

She emphasized that she really loved her almost four years at Cerritos.

“I think the students here are amazing and some of the most hard working, smart and inspirational students I have ever met,” she said.

Schilling praised faculty, staff and managers as professionals and caring individuals who care about each other and the students.

President of the Rio Hondo Board of Trustees Mary Ann Pacheco said, “Since she already has a knowledge of Rio Hondo’s culture, our staff and our students, I believe that she is well-prepared to rejoin the RHC team. I expect that she will feel welcomed and that she will pro-

vide creative and inclusive leadership,” said Pacheco.

Rio Hondo President Teresa Dreyfuss said she expects Schilling to lead the college in preparing accreditation midterm report due in 2017, increase enrollment and lead the Academic Affairs Division to the next level.

Cerritos College President Dr. Jose Fierro said, “I’m obviously bummed that she is leaving. She has been really helpful to me ever since I got to the college, being new to the college and California.

“I have had to rely a lot on the advice of many people here including JoAnna and because of her job I have worked closely with her, so I have had the opportunity to get a lot of her advice,” he said.

Pacheco stated how long Schilling can hold an interim position at Rio Hondo.

“There is a legal limit to how long a position may be designated as interim. It may be as long as two years.

“The college district can designate it as permanent, rather than interim, at any time. Then, the regular hiring process kicks in to fill the permanent position for anyone interested in it,” Pacheco said.

Fierro stated that Cerritos will expedite an interim search.

“[We] will try to continue some of the initiatives that she is putting together because she has done a lot of work in order to organize some of the pathways for programs and student graduation.”

Workshop helps students find their major and career

KARLA ENRIQUEZ
Editor-in-Chief
@karlamenriquez

Thomas Moreno walked into Business Education room 120 and into the Choosing a Major workshop as an undecided major.

Moreno made the decision to attend because a counselor had suggested he visited the event.

Like other college students finding their way, Moreno was looking to explore his options between two different paths.

The workshop was held on Jan. 27 and is one of a series of workshops being hosted by the career services division .

Led by Career Counselor Clara Ross Jones, the workshop had a one-on-one feel, where Jones helped each student take an assessment test to help each student determine which major should be followed.

Jones assured the attendees, “If you are undecided, you are not alone.”

She continued, “Choosing a major doesn’t equal choosing a career.”

The career counselor informed students that about 100 to 125 majors currently exist at Cerritos College and other community colleges.

“I’m nervous to find out my re-

sults,” Moreno told Jones. He was able to get some answers regarding his future career, “I found out I want to be a park naturalist. [It entails] conservation of nature preserves, providing basic information so that [people] don’t harm the ecosystems forming there.

“It was a new finding, I was just running around in the wild, now that there’s a job based on that, I totally feel better. I knew it was either engineering or environmental science.”

Jones expressed that career services help students feel like they are not alone.

“We want to give students a venue to be able to explore [...] and not feel like ‘who’s going to help me with this?’ because sometimes we get students in our office [who say] ‘everyone knows and I don’t know and I feel bad because I don’t know’ and they don’t know, I don’t know,” Jones said through laughter.

“I’m moving through just like you are moving through, it is a process. We want them to feel comfortable and supported in that.”

The counselor added how students with an established major may change their mind upon taking classes needed for their major.

“We get people who [come in

like] ‘I came in doing business and then I took that first accounting and now I’m rethinking business,’ or ‘I thought I wanted to be a psychology major but I took [psychology] 101 and I don’t know if that’s the way I want to go.’”

She explained how some students are truly undecided and don’t have clear definite answers.

“Like the student who was sitting in there, he had a couple things in mind and so he was playing back and forth with a couple of things


So he just wanted to talk that out a little bit and the assessments kind of gave him a little bit more information on both of those, so he can make an educated decision,” Jones said.

The counselor was referring to Moreno, who stated that he would be following up with a counselor.


“They’ll make an appointment with one of the career counselors, we’ll talk about their assessment and we’ll talk about where they want to move from there and what schools have their program.”

Jones added, “Now they feel more invested because they feel like they’ve done the process of exploring who they are, and not only who they are but how that connects with the world of work.”


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Children experience local snow day

Child Development Center’s sixth annual event brings snow for children

BIANCA SALGADO
Opinion Editor
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Robert Adams, father of 2-year-old Aiden and 4-year-old Jacob, remarks, “This is awesome. I don’t think I’ve seen another pre-school doing an event like this.”

Jan. 28, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on the sixth annual Snowy Day at the Child Development Center was held.

The children were given the opportunity to slide down two different sized mountains of snow and experience the thrill, plus participate in social activities

Some activities included hula hoop dancing and building snowmen, whether edible or not, the kids were determined to enjoy the day.

Marlen Murray, associate teacher at the Child Development Center, said, “This is the first year that we have a small and a big slide. The smaller slide is not as steep because we have a lot more 2-year-olds this year, so we decided to get a smaller slide so they can also enjoy it on a safer scale.”

Maria Garcia, mother of 4-year-old, Isabella Sanchez, expressed it was their first time together participating in Snowy Day.

“It has been a really good experience. There is a lot of interaction between the parents and teachers. The center is a really good program.

“From the sledding and other ac-

tivities like these makes her [Isabella] increase in social skills so she is more outgoing and participating a lot,” she said.

Murray explains the curiosity the children had at the center prior to the event.

“Leading up to this we have been talking about snow and how it might feel, how it might look, or what might happen.

“Some of the children have come three years in a row, but we also have children who it’s their first year here and they were so excited,” Murray said with enthusiasm.

She continued, “Some children said, ‘I think they put flour in the snow and that’s why it is white.’ They don’t realize it is going to be wet too. They just know it is going to be cold,” she said.

The event was made a success by the many contributors ranging from parents to teachers to faculty and students.

Murray expresses, “All of the practicum students in the Child Development department sign up to help us out.

“Anyone in a blue apron is a student who is actually learning to be a teacher,” she said.

Maria Mora and Wendy Sanchez, child development majors, volunteered in Snowy Day and remark on their first time experience with the annual event.

“In our Child Development 164 class practicum, we were told what it is was going to be, who was coming, and if you wanted to volunteer for hours you could,” said Mora.

Sanchez said, “I’m sure the kids love it. It definitely brings the teachers and parents together.”



Good luck, Franco: Lucas, 4-year-old, wishes Franco Falcon luck with a high-five as they both prepare to race down the mountain of ice. Ice sledding was one of the many attractions that were part of the Snowy Day event.

BIANCA SALGADO/TM



Dear Religious Leader,

The Cerritos College Board of Trustees makes it a policy to invite individuals to voluntarily offer a prayer before the beginning of its meetings. As the leader of one of the religious congregations with an established presence in the local community, you are eligible to offer this important service at a Board of Trustees meeting in 2016.

To offer an invocation, please visit: <http://www.cerritos.edu/invocation> and complete an online application. Important details are contained in Board Policy 2300 and Administrative Procedure AP 2300 online at <http://www.cerritos.edu/chapter-2>

For questions, contact Cerritos College at 562-860-2451, Ext. 2204



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CARLOS MARQUEZ
New Artists taking over: From left to right, Bryson Tiller, Alessia Cara, and Tory Lanez. New entertainment artists rise to stardom in the music industry with their debut albums.

Cara: Breakout artist of new year

BRIANA HICKS
Campus Life Editor
@askCelena

Aleesia Cara’s debut single, “Here,” streamed over 500,000 times within the first week.

Cara, is an up and coming break out artist of 2016. Her album, “Know it All,” was released Nov. 13, of last year.

The album, “Know It All,” sold 36,000 copies during the release week. This earned her the No.9 spot on the Billboard 200 list.

19-year-old Cara seemingly hit the world by storm with her blues like vocals, and her lyrical rhythm.

According to her website, aleesiacara.com, her song [“Here”] was autobiographical.

She wrote the song for the people who stand in corners at parties,

the wallflowers.

Cara, whose full last name is Caracciolo, came from Brampton, Ontario.

In an interview Cara did with Complex Music, she informed readers, “I was a pretty boring kid. I was always thinking, but I didn’t really say a lot. Then I got into this phase, from maybe fourth to eighth grade, where my personality just did a 180.”

She continued, “There was this period of time where I would be home alone for an hour. I would close myself in a closet and just sing really loud. I loved it.”

Cara admitted that her mom helped her gain confidence by getting her to be comfortable singing around an audience of people listening to her.

Four years before her debut sin-

gle, Cara built up a following with YouTube videos.

Her first video was of her singing Adele’s “One and Only.”

Her videos would gain her a record deal with Def. Jam Records.

When artists debut their first single, it’s usually either about love, drug, sex, or party music. However, Cara took a different approach to gain her recognition in the music industry.

On the other hand, she wrote a song about how parties aren’t really her scene, how she would just rather be doing something simple with her friends and how she doesn’t want to be around people who could care less about her.

She is said to be a conscious pop-star who’s set to subversively top charts and sway hearts and minds.

TALON MARKS
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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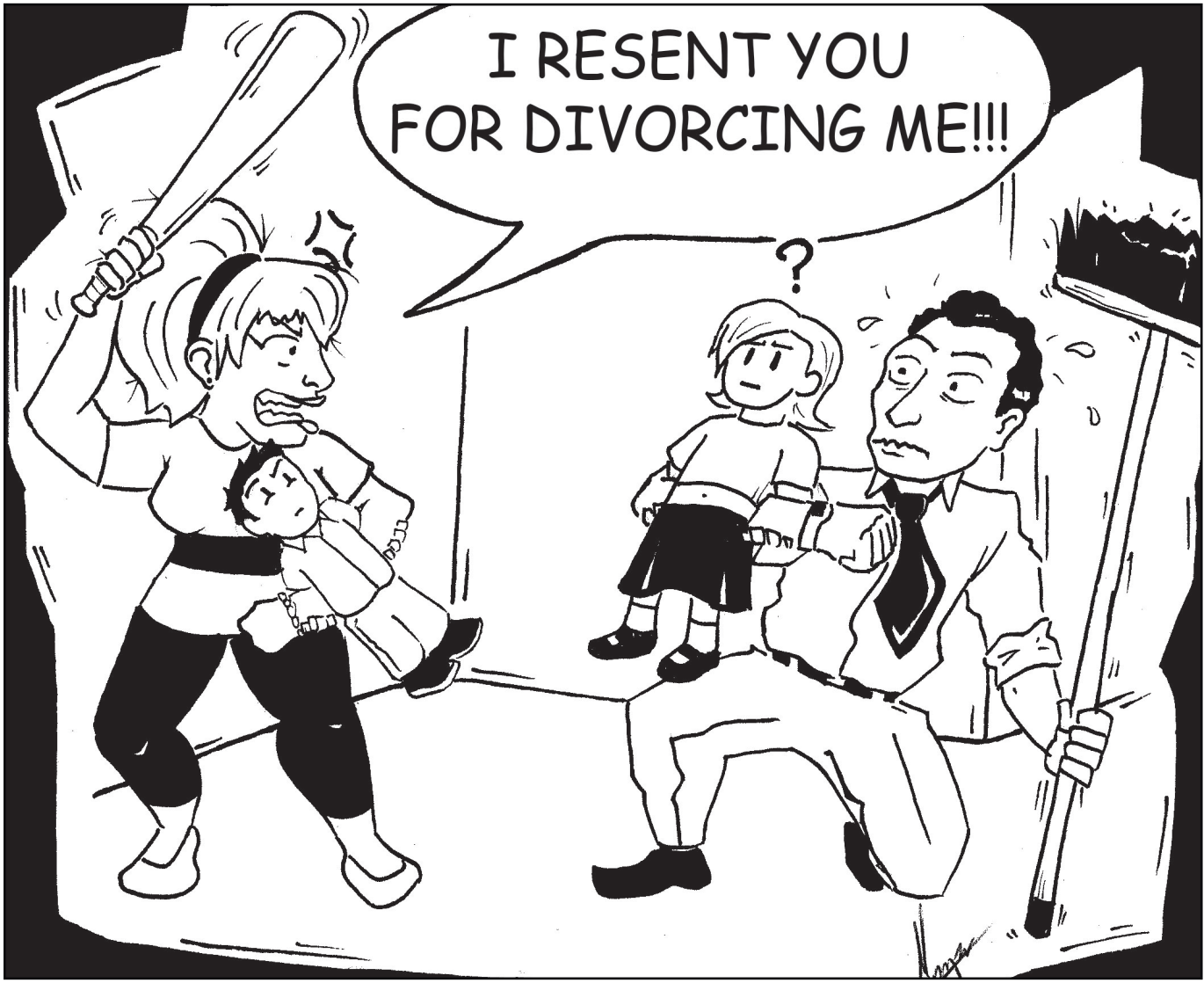
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EDITORIAL



CARLOS MARQUEZ/TM

Your child is not a weapon and your grudge is pointless

Sometimes, some parents simply aren't compatible with one another and it's a mystery as to how they even thought about having a baby in the first place.

Couples sometimes arrive at the decision to go their separate ways.

The separated parents can end on bad terms and often the children are to suffer the consequences.

Lately, the media has been flooded with stories of parents using their children as pawns in some grudge inspired game.

Parents who have issues with each other need to not use children as weapons for their intrapersonal conflicts; the fate of the child depends on it.

Last week, a Texas father was arrested after confiscating his now 15 -year-old daughter's cell phone as a punishment for a rude text over a year and a half ago.

The mother of the child had Ronald Jackson arrested for theft, but he was not charged with anything.

There is nothing wrong with punishing your daughter by confiscating her phone and it's nothing that any parent should get arrested for; it's just ridiculous.

Most of the time, the child doesn't

even know what the real picture is and just suffers from the battle.

It's childish and an overall waste of time to continue an ongoing grudge battle.

The relationships that children experience within the first years of their life directly influence the way a child maintains relationships when growing up.

If a child is put in between parental disputes and has no real primary care taker, the child will develop and anxious and ambivalent relationship and will never understand what a healthy relationship feels like therefore paving the way to a future of failed relationships.

Parents who do this are emotionally destroying the children involved.

The amount of issues being displayed on social media showcasing parents using their children to get back at one another is disturbing.

Another video surfaced over Facebook of a woman choking a child as a way to get her ex boyfriend's attention.

This is both ridiculous and alarming.

In a sense it speaks of our society, that videos of such caliber are made and shared through social media.

Although we look in awe and some go as far as to share these videos and stories as novelty, it's never too late to

start making a change.

What if we decided that enough is enough and we stopped sharing videos where children are knowingly being harmed?

Furthermore, what if parents who have split in a non amicable way made a conscious decision to adopt a healthy way of co-parenting.

Maybe attending therapy together or keeping constant communication where both parents agree on how they are going to raise the child, leaving petty antics aside is ideal.

There are healthier ways of dealing with each other that doesn't damage how your children interact with each other as adults. In engaging in these types of retaliatory behaviors, parents are perpetuating an endless and ultimately vicious cycle.

At some point people have to really stop and look at themselves and question if that's the person they want to be and if that doesn't work they have to ask, "Is this the man or woman I want my child to be? To grow up as?"

Our parents live through us, even when they are gone and we hope to carry the best of them into the future.

Our children will remember the best qualities and how we treated each other when things got rough or didn't work out. It's something parents forget sometimes and need to be reminded of.

Letter to the Editor

I am writing in regards to the article in the latest issue of the Talon Marks regarding the resignation of ASCC former Vice-President Ivan Oyarzabal.

While understanding that the Talon Marks staff is comprised of students, I was disappointed in how unprofessional and tasteless the article was written. It seemingly was on a bias side and on the spectrum of opposition towards Oyarzabal, rather than being factual.

Upon reading this article, I couldn't help but notice how it seemed like an unnecessarily long written personal attack on Oyarzabal. The people interviewed in the article were also one-sided.

It would have been more beneficial to students reading this article about a major shift in their ASCC if people interviewed either ranged from both sides (those who felt strongly against Oyarzabal and those who at least sympathized) or people involved who have an unbiased and professional outlook on the issue.

It also would have been helpful if the writer of the

With all due respect,
Sinead Le

F5Z

FREE SPEECH ZONE

How will you spend your Super Bowl Sunday?

COMPILED BY:
CLAUDIA CAZARES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY:
BIANCA SALGADO

STEPHANIE CASTILLO
Psychology major

"I spend time with my boyfriend. It is just him and I because he is the only one in his family that likes football. I am just there for him, since the Broncos are his team."

URIEL OJEDA
Computer engineering major

"I just watch the Super Bowl because it's the Super Bowl and it is just one of the games to watch. For me at home we don't really watch it, we watch soccer instead. I am a soccer fan. But with work I have co-workers that actually like football, so I mean I get it. I do enjoy watching it."

ORACIO PEREZ
Nursing major

"I used to watch the Super Bowl but it does not catch my attention anymore because it is so boring."

BRANDI FORD
Psychology major

"I'm probably going to Las Vegas because my cousin invited me. Hopefully it is to watch the Super Bowl while I am there."

DEREK SUTTON
Automotive major

"I will be spending time with family and friends. Definitely will have a BBQ. I'll watch the game for sure, I'm a Green Bay Packer fan but unfortunately they did not make it this time around."

Talon Marks Response:
Oyarzabal steps down as ASCC Vice President

EDITORIAL BOARD

In regards to the letter to the editor submitted by Sinead Le,

There have been some concerns brought up over the article we ran on our first print edition titled, "Oyarzabal steps down as vice president" on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

At Talon Marks, we remain committed to bringing the Cerritos College community the latest news and to do so in a timely manner while following our code of ethics.

We also remain committed to covering and writing stories with an impartial lens.

In the short amount of time we had the weekend that Oyarzabal stepped down, we did our due diligence to contact as many sources in order to run the story.

One of the sources contacted was Oyarzabal, who stated he would make a statement off the record, but such statement was never received.

Even if received, we would not be able to run any comments made off the record as per our code of ethics.

ASCC President Eduardo De La Rosa was also contacted for a statement but we did not receive one in time.

Dean of Student Services Dr. Gilbert Contreras was the only person to get back to us in a timely manner therefore his statement appeared on print.

The senators in the article presented their account of how the resignation came about and with that their side of the story.

We ran their quotes, which they carefully pieced together with no intention to harm and ultimately, as a publication, we run what is presented to us.

At no time was the article meant to be a personal attack on anyone involved.

The editorial board maintained a sense of professionalism while publishing the story and will continue to do so as the semester moves forward.

Velazquez-Ortega finishing what she started

TERREL EMERSON
Sports Editor
@sir_chatterbox

A team of any kind is compiled of many different people ranging from players to captains to coaches. Since the year 2000, Teresa Velazquez-Ortega has been the head coach for the Cerritos College volleyball team, but will no longer be leading it next season. Many people may not know how genuine the smile on Velazquez-Ortega's face is. If people knew how she got to where she is now, they would understand without hesitation.

Humble Beginnings

Velazquez-Ortega came to the United States with a degree in dentistry at 30 years old and was working in order to provide for herself. She was then granted with an opportunity to not only return to school to better her future, but to return to the sport she loved most. "After I left Mexico I thought I was leaving volleyball forever," she said. "Then I met Jeanine Prindle." Prindle was the head coach for the Cerritos College volleyball team. "We needed a translator to talk to each other but we 'spoke' volleyball very well," Prindle stated. Velazquez-Ortega jumped at the opportunity and made the most of it. "Once I stepped on the campus I felt at home," she admitted.

Playing Days

From that point on she managed to balance working in the morning, volleyball practice after work and then taking ESL classes after practice. Repeating these steps five days a week became the routine for Velazquez-Ortega. Following her first season in 1989, she got married

in 1990. Teammates and coaches worried that she might get pregnant before her sophomore season. During practice one day Velazquez-Ortega felt sick and at that moment everyone in the gym knew why. "I said I didn't feel good and everybody looked at me like, 'See! Told you, you were pregnant,' and I was like

"What?" she recalled. Sure enough her teammates and her coaches were right. She had gotten pregnant a month before the season was set to start. Velazquez-Ortega did not let that slow her down as she not only started the season right on schedule but completed the season pregnant and all.

She said she could not let herself sit out the season because she had to finish what she started. "It was a new experience for me as a coach but me and the training staff took every precaution to make it a safe experience for her," Prindle stated. What eventually turned into her most memorable moment as a Falcon was facing Pasadena City College in the state tournament's final four.

lented but I subbed her back in the game," she added. Velazquez-Ortega not only returned to the game but also led the charge to not only come back and win the game but ultimately to win three straight games and take the series from Pasadena City. Five months later she gave birth to a healthy baby boy.

Coaching Days

Following her playing days she was offered a job as equipment manager, a position that she still holds today. It was not the only job she was offered as Prindle offered her a position to be assistant coach for the volleyball team. "She has outstanding knowledge and experience as a volleyball player. Equally important she was very good at giving individual coaching," Prindle stated. Velazquez-Ortega was assistant coach until 2000 when she was offered the head coaching job, as she was the successor of her role model Prindle. She admitted that she was honored to take the job and took it in order to again, finish what she started. "I was very pleased that she would be the next coach[...]She was very dedicated and was a loyal coach in the program," she said. Velazquez-Ortega has held onto the position since then, but will not return as head coach next season for personal reasons. However, she will remain the equipment manager. She will go into the Cerritos Hall of Fame as a player selected to Asics All-America Team and a two-time All-State Tournament player. According to Velazquez-Ortega being honored in the Cerritos Hall of Fame means, "All the sacrifices through the years were worth it. In my 29 plus years at Cerritos it's something to be proud of."

Teresa
Velazquez-
Ortega

NIGHTS WEEKEND

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Taylor Ogata/TM
Finishing strong: Khalid Washington (No. 1) shows a soft hand on this layup. Washington had nine points, a rebound, and an assist on the night

Cerritos knows whats at stake versus Long Beach

TERREL EMERSON
Sports Editor
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Following the win Friday against El Camino, head coach Russ May wasted no time in preparing his team for the first place clash with rival Long Beach City.

During the meeting, May mentioned Vikings’ leading scorer Chris Camper, who averages 23.5 points per game.

“I told the team that Camper is capable of putting a team on his back. He is the most dynamic player in the league,” May said.

Freshman guard Brian Nebo has been open to all defensive challenges this season, including telling May during the East LA game that he wanted to guard 6’9” Richard Bivens and held him to only 14 points.

As if this game needed any more storylines, Nebo did not mince words in regards to Camper.

“I’m not worried about Camper, he’s a solid player I’m not going to take that away from him but at the end of the day he’s facing me that night and it’s going to be a battle I’m ready for,” Nebo said.

“Nobody has any concerns about Camper. He’s just like all the other players we faced this year,” he added.

May also told his team that Camper could be a potential triple-double threat because he averages 8.9 rebounds and 3.5 assists.

Camper has a great supporting cast as well because five other play-

ers average 9.2 points or more.

“We just need to play our defense and play it with intensity,” May said.

Freshman guard Tyler Payne, just like Nebo, has welcomed all defensive confrontations with open arms.

“It’s simple we all have to be on the same page defensively and stay within our principles. We are such a long team and when we pressure

the ball it takes [teams] out [of its] game,” Payne said.

Long Beach City is only 12-10 on the year but is 3-0 in conference play.

However, one of its losses came to Mt. San Antonio.

Cerritos defeated Mt. San Antonio by 11 points in early January

“We’ve [always] had confidence and I feel like we are going to be [okay] if we come out strong like we did against Mt. San Antonio. [LBCC] is going to come out ready for us and we are going to do the same,” Nebo said.

He added, “It’ll be a great game to attend, it’ll be fun!”

Confidence is self-given generally as May understands when Cerritos and Long Beach City link up records no longer matter, both teams want to beat each other.

He said, “This is an opportunity to take sole possession of first place.

Records don’t matter when we play Long Beach City.”



Taylor Ogata/TM
You’ve got to be quicker than that: Allyson O’Brien (No. 20) catches Elise Allison (No. 24) of El Camino flat-footed and blows right by her to the rack. O’Brien led the Falcons with 18 points, 13 of them coming in the second half.

Women’s basketball anxious for battle with Long Beach

TERREL EMERSON
Sports Editor
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With a little under two months remaining in the season, perhaps the biggest game of the season happens this Wednesday, when Cerritos travels to face Long Beach City.

Both teams are 3-0 in conference play thusly; the winner of the game will be placed in sole possession of first place.

The Vikings have a 19-4 record and are 4-0 at home and are riding a four-game win streak into the contest.

The play of Long Beach City during conference play has risen to unseen heights.

As a team, it upped its points per game from 68.1 to 87.3 in conference games.

“The significance of [Long Beach City’s] scoring output isn’t vital to our success, but they are a team that runs and will take layups all game if given the opportunity,” head coach Trisha Raniewicz said.

In conference games, the Vikings attempt over 81 field goal attempts per game. Despite the statistics and her coach’s opinion, sophomore guard Clarissa Hernandez doesn’t seem too worried.

“I think if we just play our game it’ll slow them down, especially since we match up pretty evenly with them,” Hernandez said.

Cerritos isn’t 19-4 like Long Beach City, however the four losses of the Vikings mirror the Falcons losses.

Both teams have lost to 23-1

Mt. San Antonio three times and each team loss to 18-6 East LA.

“Personally, I don’t tend to put a significant amount of weight on who our opponent has beat or lost to,” Raniewicz said.

“We are battling for a conference title and this game is all that matters for our team,” she added.

Sophomore forward Ashley Flores generally feels the same as Raniewicz.

“If we are able to pull out this game I think it will say so much about [...]the women’s basketball program as a whole. It will show that we’re fighters and we won’t let any team no matter the stats stand in our way of the title of conference champions,” Flores said.

In order to secure a win the Falcons will have to keep the Vikings off the boards because Long Beach City has a 31.3 rebounding

margin per game in conference play.

“Rebounds are always big and we need to battle on both ends of the floor to win the boards,” Raniewicz said.

Flores, who averages a little under seven rebounds per game, understands the significance of rebounding against a team like Long Beach City.

“I think it’s very crucial that we rebound in this game. More so, I think it is important to put a body into someone first then really crash the boards and get as many rebounds as we can,” Flores said.

The team believes this is the biggest game of the season thus far.

Flores said when she hears the name Long Beach City she thinks, “Bring it!”

Softball looking to regroup after first loss of season

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After suffering a 4-2 loss to Palomar Saturday, the softball team looks to regroup against Citrus this Wednesday.

Sophomore Jenny Collazo feels the loss will only motivate the team.

“I think that after this loss against Palomar, we’re hungry, we have a goal and we are focused so I think we are going to come into this next game ready to get after it,” she said.

Collazo, who was the hero of the Friday game according to her teammates, knocked in the game winning runs with a late sixth inning grand slam.

“We have a goal and we are focused so I think we are going to come into this next game ready to get after it,” she added.

Collazo has a batting average of .444 with an .571 on base percentage, only three games into the season.

Third baseman/pitcher Jenny Navarro feels more optimistic than anything else after suffering the first loss of the early season.

“We learned from our mistakes and will show up and be ready to play on Wednesday,” she said.

She has an earned run average of 4.74 and has allowed one home run so far this season.

Navarro is still assured that everybody on the team is still on track to reach the ultimate goal. The goal is to win the conference title.

“It was a disappointment, but that’s not going to stop us from continuing to work hard everyday at practice and to have a successful year,” she added.

She also has a slugging percentage of .889 and

is looking to improve her percentage from the previous season which was .514.

“I’ve been struggling since fall of last year. I haven’t been working on my hitting since I’ve been focusing on pitching, so I cut down on my hitting,” she said.

The women have a 2-1 record to start the year and are batting .376 with five home runs this season.

The Falcons are looking to get back on track and not let this loss change the direction of the season.

Collazo offered her final analysis prior to the game against Citrus.

“We just need to get back to playing Cerritos softball again and we will be fine,” she said.

Baseball loses home opener while honoring Kincaid

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The Cerritos College men’s baseball team got off to a slow start in Tuesday’s 3-1 loss against the Glendale Vaqueros.

Starting pitcher Jacob Carter, led the Falcons through the first three innings with the score being tied at zero.

The Falcons were able to get runners on base early in the game but were unable to finish, leaving five players left on base at the end

of three innings.

“As a team, we’re good at getting runners on base[...] we just had a problem finishing,” said second baseman Derrick Edwards.

Cerritos made a total of three pitching changes, starting with Sean Kinnicut, midway through the fourth inning

The team then picked up the tempo during the bottom of the fourth inning with two walks putting runners on first and second.

This led the Vaqueros to its first pitching change with center fielder Mark Pena up to bat.

Pena swung and hit a line drive down the middle allowing Edwards to score the first run of the game.

The game continued at a slow pace with both teams getting runners on base, but neither able to score runs.

As the sixth inning began, Cerritos was on the defensive, and made its first mistake.

The errors caused Cerritos to lose the lead as the first error of the game led to Glendale’s first run.

“We didn’t play to our full potential,” closing pitcher Jerald Johnston said.

With a race against the sunset, Glendale went on the defensive inhibiting Cerritos from scoring any runs.

In the final inning, the team dug itself into a hole it could not climb out of by committing two errors which led to Glendale’s final two runs of the game.

Cerritos was unable to get the runs back in the bottom of the ninth inning and the game ended 3-1.

“We could have played better,” Johnston said abruptly.

Men's Swimming Preview

2016 season set to start

With the season set to start Friday, staff writer Toni Reveles showcases the upcoming season. The men's swimming team will open the season traveling to Palomar.

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Talonmarks.com Poll

Who will win Super Bowl 50?

A. Carolina Panthers

B. Denver Broncos

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Women's Swimming Preview

New campaign looms

The women's swim team will open the 2016 season on the road at Palomar. But before the season starts check out Campus Life Editor Briana Hicks preview the season.

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