

TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

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Behind the ballots

National elections are not the only elections happening at the moment. Students on campus have stepped up to run for ASCC president, vice president and student trustee. The candidates tell us their motivation for running while the trustee hopefuls explain how they will deal with the position and their experiences.



Jacob Lirio and vice president Enrique Rueda. Write-in candidates.

“My No. 1 thing is the higher education initiative, [...] so my goal is to analyze 2,000 students, get their GPA, get one problem at Cerritos College [...] we can compartmentalize and take each issue.”



Saul Lopez and vice president Enrique J. Rodriguez. Ballot #1

“My action plan is to facilitate a fundamental change in student government. The changes we bring in student government will help us achieve the creation of many equitable programs.”



Hugo Gonzalez and vice president Victor Gutierrez. Ballot #2

“I am running on school pride. My vice president Victor Gutierrez and I are planning to supplement Cerritos College with more activities and events that students can really identify.”



Joseph Fierro and vice president Ryan Kang. Ballot #3

“I believe in respect that it is appropriate and right that secure methods are taken in regards to a safer campus. [...] I want to be able to work with our Police Chief Tom Gallivan to have our cadets be a resource.”

Student trustee candidates



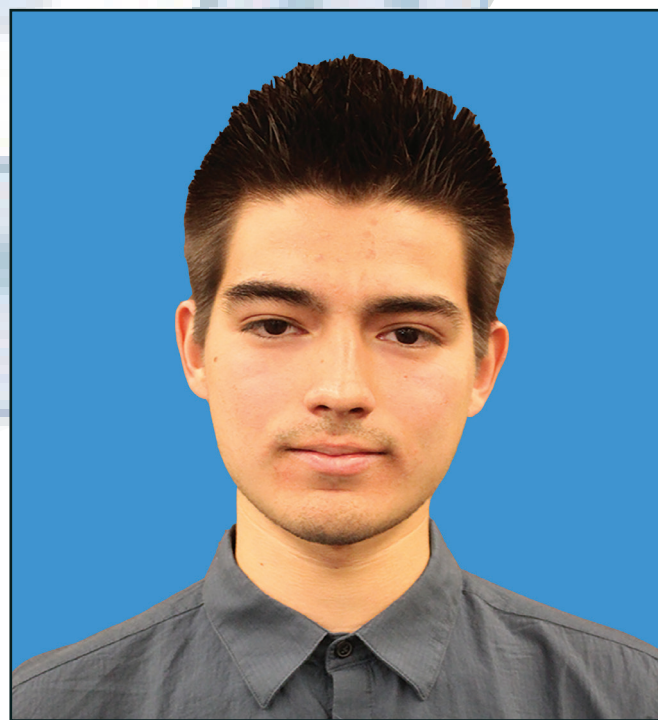
Karen Patron Ballot #1

“I will make appropriate comments when necessary and when the time for action presents itself. I will [...] apply the knowledge using the passions I’ve attained for justice and empowerment. When it comes to discuss or for action, I can promise the board will hear the students’ voice.”



Gloria Sedano Ballot #4

“As a student trustee you need to realize that it’s not within your best interest to be intimidated by people with titles. They’re going to treat you like a child simply because you’re a student. You are there as a representative of the entire student body and your job is to be outspoken on issues.”



Alex Cervantes Ballot #5

“As the student trustee I would do my best to advocate for the students. While I was in student government I was always speaking up for what I thought would be most beneficial for students. [...] It is up to the student trustee to speak up.”

Falcon Kids previews college life

BIANCA SALGADO

Opinion Editor

@BiancaSalgado95

The focus of the initiative presents young students at the elementary school level the concept of going to college.

Dean of Student Services Dr. Gilbert Contreras said, “It is one of the best programs I’ve seen in the community college system that is unique to Cerritos College.”

Initiative Rejected Initially Due to Expense

Commissioners from the previous semester Enrique Rodriguez and Jessica Germata, presented legislation to ASCC Senate on Wednesday, Nov. 25 in regard to the Falcon Kids initiative for a request of funds at a total of \$19,510.

Prior to the presentation the initiative sat on the Oct. 28 agenda of ASCC Senate.

However, financial aid donated \$5,000 in support of the initiative for promotional materials. Rodriguez said he could not get all 30 students finger-printed nor get all the books and crayons, but he did not have to touch the Students’ Branding and Outreach account.

ASCC President Eduardo De La Rosa comments that Falcon Kids “still launched with the financial support of the financial aid office. They donated \$5,000 initially and we got small contributions to help buy materials for the program.”

Voices Behind the Initiative

Rodriguez was the voice behind the initiative since the summer of 2015. He wrote the legislation, helped with fund-raising and asked for ideas from students in which it primarily landed on himself along with a couple of students.

“I’m not going to say I’m the co-founder but I was the guy pushing behind it; I was doing the most pushing - the force behind it you can say,” he said.

The several students who helped Rodriguez by brainstorming and giving ideas.

First Elementary School Visit by Initiative

Student volunteers for the Falcon Kids initiative and Cerritos College faculty visited William A. Orr Elementary School on Mar. 2.

This was the first elementary school visited within the Norwalk/La Mirada Unified School District.

The student volunteers present were President of ASCC Eduardo De La Rosa, Vice-President of ASCC Jessica Germata, Homecoming Queen Alveena Memon, Commissioner for Student Outreach Ilene Ochoa, President of iFalcon Club Kadie Gurley and club member from Dynamic Dance Club Alexis Luna.

Memon and Franco Falcon were the animators during the visit. She was the book reader for the students.

“I read to the children and made the book come alive. For example, I used hand expressions, my voice got a little deeper when a character was angry,” she said.

Continued on page 2



Talon Marks Wins: The Talon Marks spring 2016 staff celebrating their awards at the Marriott in Burbank for the Journalism Association of Community Colleges State Conference. Briana Velarde (far left), Ethan Ortiz (left), Karla Enriquez (middle), and Kristopher Carrasco (far right) each won for their competitions.

EMILY HERMOSILLO/CITRUS CLARION

Talon Marks wins big at conference

MONIQUE NETHINGTON
Campus Life Copy Editor
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Students from the Talon Marks newspaper attended the Journalism Association of Community Colleges State Conference in Burbank, California.

The conference started on March 17.

At the Saturday, March 19 Awards Banquet, Platforms Editor Briana Velarde, Online Editor Kristopher Carrasco and Editor-in-Chief Karla Enriquez took home the on-the-spot video journalism contest, getting second place, while News Editor Ethan Ortiz received an honorable mention in on the spot news writing.

Video Story

"I'm fairly confident in our video editing and our storytelling skills so I wanted us to enter and work hard to bring home an award, since this category means so much to us," said Enriquez.

The task given was to head down to Magnolia Avenue in Burbank, find a story and create a video.

Enriquez expressed, "The most nerve-wracking part was

traveling that mile or so trying to find a compelling story to tell visually."

Velarde explained, "We weren't given instructions but to find a story[...], we found one and edited until 5 a.m."

The trio stumbled upon an eclectic collectable store named Blast from the Past, which featured fandom memorabilia ranging from TV, film, comics and cartoons.

There they interviewed the owners, a husband and wife team, and the store manager, a man from Essex, England, who had little else but the couple when he first arrived in the United States.

They began the editing process at midnight and scanned through three hours of footage in efforts of making the video about two minutes long.

"I kind of manned the computer through out the most part [...]" said Carrasco, "We went through all the footage and wrote down what was the key footage that we were going use."

The editors competed in this same competition at last year's JACC state convention in Sacramento and received an honorable mention.

This year they were determined to win, if not, place in the video journalism category.

"I kind of have this knack for video journalism [...]" It's like my thing and I've been pretty successful," said Carrasco, "Since last year, I noticed we got an award for it, I knew I was doing something correct."

"I noticed a jump in my skill, I'd like to say from last year to this year [...]" I was really determined to do video journalism again and win first place," he said.

Reactions

The team took home second place, but it was still grateful for the award and the experience that it came with.

Carrasco commented, "When our name wasn't called on honorable mentions, I got very relieved because I knew we were going to place [...]" But I felt we had a very strong video and we were very experienced in what we do."

Enriquez added, "To me, it was an amazing feeling to see our names displayed on the screen saying we had won an award for our work."

"At the end of the day I'm ec-

static I was able to work in a team with people I respect and admire, I learn so much from both Carrasco and Velarde daily, so for them to let me participate while I'm still honing my multimedia skills was really cool," she concluded.

Velarde commented, "To win second place with Carrasco and Enriquez was awesome, I loved working with them, we made a great team."

News Writing Competition

On the news writing front, Ortiz, along with about thirty other participants, listened to some of the journalists who covered the San Bernardino shooting that occurred last year.

The assignment was to cover the panel and write a news story.

"We had an hour to do it, so there wasn't much time to prepare," Ortiz said.

His skill for news writing earned him an honorable mention at the convention.

"Getting honorable mention in news writing was awesome. The contest was fast paced, so there was very little time to think, but I'm glad I was able to bring something back," Ortiz noted.

Islamophobia forum fills S201 to capacity

KARLA ENRIQUEZ
Editor-in-Chief
@karlamenriquez

"True Islam condemns terrorism," a pamphlet read as it was passed around a local neighborhood in an effort to stand up for its Muslim occupants.

Executive Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations Hussam Ayloush said, "As a human rights activist, it breaks my heart that you even have to do that. No community should feel like it is being underseeded, that it has to prove its humanity."

On March 24, history professor John Haas facilitated an open forum on Islamophobia where Ayloush spoke to a room full of listeners and attendees had a chance to voice their opinions.

It was presented at the forum that 63 percent of Americans have unfavorable views of Islam while 60 percent admit they don't know about the religion.

A total of 1.6 billion people follow Islam, making it one of the most diverse religions.

Full Capacity

The Science 201 lecture hall was full to its maximum capacity, prompting campus police to deny attendants entry after a quarter to noon.

According to Captain Hans Strand, some students were receiving extra credit for attending the forum, prompting a high turn out which caused him some concern.

Haas stated, "I was thrilled to see the room at maximum capacity. I think this was the largest crowd I have had in that room because people could not get inside."

"On a couple of other occasions I had full houses. I hadn't expected the numbers. I would like to give a shout out to my student Zeinab Aboukhailil for helping me organize the great turnout."

Questions and Misconceptions

At the forum a student took to the microphone and asked if there should be reformation for Islam giving the speaker a chance to address extremist groups.

Ayloush said, "If these terrorists can really make a case that Islam is driving this action, they can't. [...] These terrorists don't have Muslim scholars on their side, what it is is gang members in Europe and Belgium and France, former army officers from the Saddam Hussein army, Assad regime people."

"These are not religious people [...] they're angry or they're mercenaries, whatever the reason, there are many reasons, and they join these groups and commit these crimes."

He continued, "They misquote, take verses from the Quran out of context to justify what they are doing, but if you spend five minutes with them, that is all it takes [...] you can refute their argument."

Ayloush expressed that Muslim scholars condemn extremist groups and in his opinion Islam is the answer to the misappropriation of the religion at the hands of ISIS.

"Every Muslim scholar that I know of, the famous and the less famous, have clearly unequivocally condemned these groups, so if there was a problem of Islam justifying that, I would say yes, but actually, the cure to the horrific twisting of teaching Islam by ISIS is Islam itself. Islam is the cure."

"In my opinion Islam is the antidote to this twisted ideology."

Genesis of the forum

According to Haas, the open forum came about after Dean of Student Services Gilbert Contreras and Student Activities Program Facilitator Amber Dofner approached him to produce the event.

"Our goal was to educate students and faculty about Islam and to make sure that our Muslim students felt safe on our campus during times of backlash against Muslims," the history professor stated.

Contreras stated that overseeing the office of student conduct and grievances brought to his attention that there may be some students who practice the Islamic faith that may not feel welcomed at the college.

"Islamophobia I think was an incredible event and I'm very grateful and thankful to professor Haas for putting together such a meaningful, impactful, timely, and thought provoking conversation about some situations that may be impacting our students."

After some of the concerns were brought to ASCC, Contreras felt it needed to be addressed.

"I think it is important for us to dispel all of the myths to get rid of the ignorance and to talk about what is actually part of the religion."

"Dr. Hass did such an incredible job bringing a speaker who is world renown and well known in Southern California to do exactly that, to educate our students, our faculty, our staff and our community about [...] an important topic."

Haas noted that the event was influenced after the events in Paris, San Bernardino, and Brussels as well as the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria along with ISIS.

Ayloush ended, "When people interact and see and humanize that big boogey-man called Muslim, then they realize it is not really a boogey-man."

Ready for lift off: Falcon Kids

BIANCA SALGADO
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Continued from page 1

March 2 was the birthday of well-known American author, Theodor Seuss Geisel, of the popular children's Dr. Seuss series, so the children were given a copy of Green Eggs and Ham, t-shirts, signed postcards from Franco Falcon and a copy of Paula Pereira's self-published book titled, "How I Learned English: The Story of a Brave Mexican Girl".

After visiting William A. Orr Elementary, Rodriguez now has offers from 12 different schools within the Norwalk/La Mirada Unified School District and now including Little Lake City School District.

"The outcome I heard from not only Cerritos College students who

went [to William A. Orr elementary] but from the elementary students was that it is the best opportunity to see college students and also be amazed by what college offers."

"My daughter has a little plush falcon and she's kept it since I first started here, and she shows it off. Just to get a pencil or a little book from us, they'll brag about these tangible things from a college. And there's nothing better more to brag about than to brag about going to college," he remarked.

The Future of Falcon Kids

Last Wednesday, approximately 50 students from New River Elementary and Foster Road Elementary schools visited for a tour of Cerritos College.

De La Rosa expressed how the initiative "will present volunteer and outreach opportunities and to be able to engage with the commu-

nity and let them know how important college is."

Rodriguez states that with the photos taken, the outcome it brought forth and testimonies received from students and the community, he will use and "maybe bring it up again into senate."

"Before it was a vision – now it's on paper showing what we have done. So hopefully senate can see that. I have a big passion for this. I think that our future is within our community."

"They are elementary students living in our community, not even in a five mile radius, they are most likely going to come to Cerritos College, whether we look at it or not, so might as well have open arms for them. You are welcome to come here – let us be your first choice," he said.

It is currently unknown when the next Falcon Kids event will be held.

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CSULB 2016

Debate displays ambitious goals

KARLA ENRIQUEZ
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Student hopefuls looking to be the next ASCC presidential and trustee candidates for the 2016-2017 school year plead their case as to why students at large should trust them to be their voice on Monday.

BK-111 was home to the 2016 Presidential and Trustee Forum, which saw three presidential and vice presidential candidates as well as three trustee nominees.

Ballot No. 1 saw presidential hopeful Saul Lopez and his vice-presidential counterpart Enrique Rodriguez speaking of the importance of sustainability to their campaign.

Lopez stated, "I know the campus, I know the way to get things done, I understand the climate."

Ballot No. 3 consisted of Joseph Fierro and Ryan Kang, who spoke on tackling safety and security.

Write-in candidates Jacob Lirio and Enrique Rueda spoke of their leadership experience serving their communities and their commitment to help students.

"I want the library to be open longer, so students don't have to rely on outside sources in order to pass their science classes because they are really time consuming," Rueda expressed.

He mentioned police involvement while staying on campus till 2 a.m. studying with classmates.

Fierro expressed his delight to be running and debating with the candidates.

"As far as being worthy of being

president, I think we're all worthy."

He continued, "One thing that I do know is that I will give it everything I have on election day."

"I don't like making promises that I can't keep. I'm a person that [...] puts all my effort into it."

Both Kang and Rodriguez both agreed on having smoking designated areas on campus.

Rodriguez stated, "I just feel like, I don't know which gentleman it was, it is not fair for us to be able to breathe all that stuff."

"There have been times when I have been walking behind somebody and like a chain cloud of smoke and it smells weird."

On the student trustee front, ballot No. 1 consisted of Karen Patron, who would like to open a multicultural center and is an advocate for the increase of courses.

Ballot No. 4 saw Gloria Sedano, who would like to provide students with academic resources such as calculators for underprivileged students taking math classes.

Alex Cervantes campaigned as ballot No. 5, mentioned easier access to counselors among his trustee goals.

"I was the chair of the STEAM Committee, and something I heavily advocated for was the increase of tutoring hours," Cervantes said.

Absent from the debate were candidates Hugo Gonzalez and his vice presidential counterpart Victor Gutierrez.

ASCC elections will take place on Apr. 6 and Apr. 7.

Voting booths will be set up around campus throughout the day.



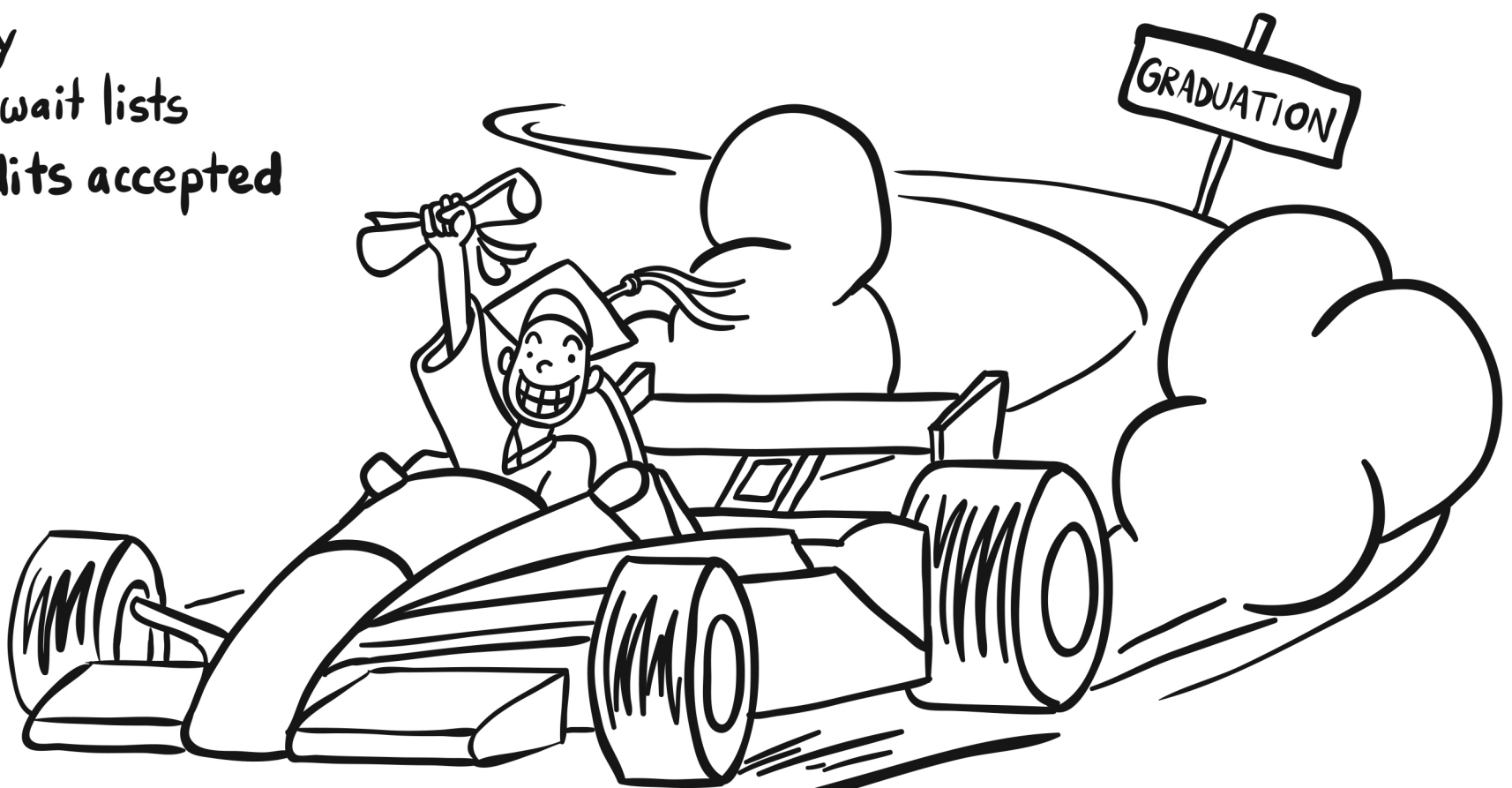
GUSTAVO LOPEZ/ TM

In the running: From Right: Vice presidential candidates Enrique Rueda and Ryan Kang, followed by presidential candidate Joseph Fierro, Enrique Rodriguez and his presidential counterpart Saul Lopez were given the chance to share their goals at the Monday debate. Elections will take place on Apr. 6 and 7.

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Korea comes to Cerritos College



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRIANA HICKS

Students are treated with some of the many aspects of Korean culture

JANEL OLIVER
Staff Writer
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High kids and students on campus intermingled in the student center.

Attendees gathered to catch a glimpse of Korean Culture on March 23.

The event was hosted by ABC School District Clerk Soo Yoo, and Director of Student Program Services, Norma Rodriguez.

Yoo said, “I volunteered to get the Korean community together to put out performances.

“So we got different professional groups and different organizations to donate,” she explained.

The celebration kicked off with an informative film.

The movie gave insight about Korean spirit and culture.

It talked about Korean food, their advances in health care and history of the rich culture.

Members of the Korean Community, ABC School Board members, and Cerritos College Board members were also in attendance.

Dance performers included

Eun Jung Cho, Minjung Kim, Hyoung Lae Lee, Kyung Mi Lee, Eunah Choi, Cerritos Mukungwha Women’s Choir, Sunny Hills High school, Int’l Praise & Motion Mission College and Gahr High School.

Guests were served Korean food such as Dwaengi Bulgui and Japchae.

The Korean women’s group wore traditional Korean Hanbok dresses while they served food.

Cerritos College Board of Trustees, President Dr. Shin Liu said, “I got an overwhelming support from the Korean community.

“They bought the food, helped bring in workers, and the performers,” she exclaimed.

Liu added, “Our students should understand our culture and we should understand theirs.”

The event had several volunteers and donations which helped in putting the event together.

Volunteer, Justine Santos was in charge of preparations.

She said, “To me, this event helps me learn more about the Korean culture.”

Like Santos, guests left the event having experienced a part of Korean culture.

“Our students should understand our culture and we should understand theirs”

— DR. SHIN LIU
Board of Trustees President



Going the *EXTRA* mile

Culinary major Stephanie Ruiz, named Graduate of the Year

MONIQUE NETHINGTON
Campus Life Copy Editor
@talonmarks

The Southern Los Angeles Goodwill Workforce Program has selected, culinary arts student, Stephanie Ruiz for its Graduate of the Year Award.

Goodwill takes 80 percent of retail sales to fund training for its workforce programs.

This program is used to help place individuals into jobs that help in becoming more self-sufficient.

Goodwill has partnered with the Cerritos College Culinary Arts department to help employ currently enrolled students.

Michelle Peters of Goodwill is the workforce coordinator for Cerritos College and teaches life skills classes on campus.

It is here that she was introduced to Ruiz.

Ruiz' dream of becoming a chef was guided and influenced by her parents and their interest in other cultures.

"My parents used to try different things from different cultures,

"[...] I love food, in general and I love learning different

things from cultures," Ruiz said.

She first came to Cerritos to pursue a career in baking, in which she obtained a certificate in 2014.

However, she found it difficult to find work in her chosen field.

Facing challenges such as her speech, lack of job experience and some physical challenges, Ruiz decided to return to Cerritos to obtain a certificate in professional cooking.

Despite these challenges, Ruiz continued to attend these life skill classes and eventually was able to obtain not one, but two jobs.

The first job was obtained through Culinary Staffing Services.

Soon afterward she obtained her second job for Vintage Cerritos as a kitchen assistant.

As proof of her great qualities as an employee, she has quickly moved up from dishwasher to being trained as a prep-cook.

Peters said, "She's dedicated, loves a challenge and she will do whatever it takes to get it done."

Her dedication, tenacity,

and willingness to learn is what makes Ruiz go the extra mile.

Chef Michael Pierini said, "She has really good work ethic, Class has been over for almost an hour [and] she's still here."

Ruiz and 5 other students have been given the chance to work for the Tenaya Lodge, a five diamond resorts outside Yosemite.

"I'm really excited. I never would have imagined that it would happen this fast," Ruiz said, "I thought it would be in one or two years.

"This is the perfect opportunity to get my start," she finished.

With the help of the Goodwill Workforce Program she has learned to obtain knowledge of what future employers want from an employee.

"I'm excited for the program and what Goodwill has to offer," she said.

Ruiz dreams of becoming a chef at some of the most reputable hotels and kitchens in the country.

Peters said, "She learned that with hard work, you can achieve anything that you want to in life."



MONIQUE NETHINGTON/TM
Master of her domain: Stephanie Ruiz smells the aroma of the sauce that she prepares for the dishes going out to the Culinary Kitchen Restaurant. Ruiz was recently awarded "graduate of the year" by the Goodwill Workforce Program.

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Snyder fails to do DC justice

KRISTOPHER CARRASCO
Online Editor
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Movie Review

*Batman v. Superman:
Dawn of Justice*
Starring: Ben Affleck
and Henry Cavill
Director: Zack Snyder

Over Easter weekend, movie theaters were flooded with superhero fever as "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice" finally hit the box office.

Although making \$170 million opening weekend, the movie itself had little to offer other than fancy super hero effects.

No amount of theater applause will make this movie any less mediocre.

The film was supposed to be an introduction to a very anticipated Justice League themed movies, but instead it just makes Batman look worthless.

Let's also not forget how long the movie is, a whopping 2:33:00.

The problem with the movie is that viewers are introduced to so many concepts in such a limited amount of time.

This means that the DC characters don't really get a chance to show the type of people they are without straying away from the main plot (get-

ting Batman and Superman to work together and stop the sudden threat).

Without any spoilers, it's easy to say that what could have been a jaw dropping super hero battle royale, actually turned into two hours of character introductions, relationship development, and irrational nightmares, followed by fancy hero CGI powers.

I'll give credit to the cool Batman training montage.

This doesn't mean that this movie isn't worth watching.

For instance, Jesse Eisenberg gave a perfect performance as Lex Jr.

Also, try not to fall asleep during the introduction.

One of the problems with the movie and the allotted time is having to break down so much of the story line that too much of the main turning points are convenient.

Bruce Wayne and Clark Kent meet under very specific circumstances and to top it off, their problems could've be settled with a simple conversation.

For the sake of fanatics, the movie makes Batman look like a jerk and Superman look like a crybaby.

Wonder Woman, with her lasso of truth, was the saving grace of the characters, but again, was randomly introduced with little to no back story.

If anything, this is just an introduction to a hopefully better Wonder Woman movie.



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EDITORIAL



CARLOS MARQUEZ/TM

Math success initiative puts blame on students

There is nothing like waking up to an email from your math professor saying that class is cancelled; let's face it, math sucks.

Whether the anxiety of word problems, the immense amount of detail it takes, or the teaching styles of a professor, math classes have become a huge obstacle for Cerritos College students.

So much so that the board of trustees has been talking about the trending failures in math classes at Cerritos College.

So far, the college's initiative to fix the poor math success rate is already off to a disappointing start that not only limits the responses of the students, but doesn't even bother to look into a different factor, the math professors.

Last week, many math classes were given survey sheets that were designed to get a bit more insight on the problems that students face when taking a math class.

However, how much can really be interpreted through a three question survey with multiple choice answers?

The questions were:

1. How prepared do you feel for this class?
(1. Not prepared, 2. Adequately, 3. Over prepared)
2. How are the assignments.
(1. Too difficult, 2. Within reason, 3. Too easy)
3. Have you enrolled in any math

class prior (is this your first math class) (1. First placement, 2. Taken prior)

Do these questions really give students the opportunity to express their struggles with the class?

Not only are these very limited questions with limited answers, but this survey was given 9 weeks into the semester.

By this time, most students who struggle with math have already dropped out of the course.

One of the biggest issues is awareness. The average student on campus wont understand how big a problem math actually is at this college.

When the survey was given, a statistics professor gave little to no explanation as to what the survey was for and why it was important.

On top of that, none of the action taken to improve the success rate of students in math has ever bothered to ask about the lack of interest some professors take in their students.

There are several math professors on campus that have some awful reviews on ratemyprofessor.com.

The comments range from difficulty of understanding a professor's accent, to the lack of overall enthusiasm a professor has for teaching.

If a student can't feel comfortable with a professor who is teaching an already intimidating class, how on earth does the school actually expect a student

to even want to succeed in the class.

The Success Center has tutors ready for students with questions, but how useful is this when certain math professors on campus only accept work done in a specific way (e.i no shortcuts, specific formulas and even specific digit modes).

On the other hand, all of the blame cannot be placed on professors.

Although math is a dreaded subject for many, it doesn't mean that students get to just go in fearful of the work and give up.

There needs to be common ground where the students and professors meet.

Being able to relate to one another will strengthen the condition in which students learn and professors teach.

Students should voice their concerns to the board and have a healthy discussion with their fellow professors and the math department to see what changes need to be employed.

A survey with vague questions will not accurately assess what needs to change in order for all parties involved to be successful.

The end goal is graduation and when a good portion of students are not obtaining AA degrees because of math, one would need to analyze and re-evaluate the existing conditions from both sides and the countless ignored variables that go into the learning process.

Millenials don't have time for God

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College campuses have become the most recent common venue in which one can find people aggressively advocating their religious beliefs.

It isn't difficult to spot them as they take over Falcon Square or the main entrance of the Social Science building with yellow signs preaching about how everybody must find God or they go to hell.

Millennials don't care about religion. For those few that do identify as religious they don't consider their religion a priority.

There is a constant pressure on millennials, "Go to college," "Keep good grades," "Get a job," "Go out and make friends," "Find the love of your life," the last thing millennials want to worry about is God.

According to a study by psychology professor Jean M. Twenge from San Diego State University found that the amount of people who don't believe in God doubled since the 1980s.

Based on Twenge's study those within the ages of 18-29 are the great majority of non-believers.

Millennials are to blame for the great decline of religious believers.

Religion and God are simply not a millennials' priority. This doesn't mean that they don't hold values or an ethic code to be a good contributor to society.

Assumptions made on the character of an individual based on the fact that millennials don't attend a weekly service or employ daily prayer only shows ignorance.

Walking around campus and having people constantly yell how, as millennials, we are doomed, is something we don't need with the stress of midterms, papers and finals.

Being a believer or non-believer should be a personal decision not something to be forced to do.

Choosing to be religious is a personal choice and should be treated as such.

Religion, much like sex, should be about consent, no means no, and nobody should get aggressive over your decision, they should simply respect it.

Can you sue someone who posts about you?

MONIQUE NETHINGTON
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Social media has exploded over the last 10 years.

With the invention of Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat people's lives seem to revolve around what they do or don't post online.

Some people don't realize that the Internet is not private and what goes online stays there.

And what you and others' post stays there forever.

There's always a chance of something being put out there that you do not want.

But if it is put out there by someone other than yourself, you should definitely be able to do something about it.

There are laws, varying from state to state, that do subject people to liability if they were to release anything concerning the private life of another.

For example, if an individual shares a video of themselves that is distasteful and the receiver puts

it online with the intent of doing "harm" that is illegal.

The sender had an expectation of privacy and trusted that the other person would keep it to themselves.

This video is now online forever and can do numerous things to this individual's reputation.

Now that it is online it can be searched and shared by whomever stumbles upon it.

Schools and employers now have access to it which can sway their decision on accepting you or hiring you.

Friends, family or even strangers can see it. You have a stigma attached to yourself and become in danger of being judged for something that was only supposed to be between you and one other person.

Some may think, "Well if you never wanted to post it, why would you share it in the first place?"

What about situations where someone does not know they are being photographed or recorded?

Should they be to blame for

their misjudgments?

No, they should not.

It's unfortunate to say but today's youth can be clueless and not realize that actions have consequences.

That leaves room for people to say, "Well serves them right. They need to learn their lesson."

This does not, however, give people the right to post someone's private life online for the world to see.

Bottom line it is the law and a person can, if there is merit, sue someone for posting against them online.

They have every legal right to stand up for themselves and be heard.

A person's life should never be put on display as a joke.

It is wrong for another person to intentionally bring harm emotionally, physically or mentally whether it be online or not.

In the grand scheme of things, be careful what you post because all actions have consequences.

FSZ

FREE SPEECH ZONE

What is the worst April Fools' Day prank you have encountered?

COMPILED BY:
MONYCA CEDILLO

PHOTOGRAPHS BY:
BIANCA SALGADO

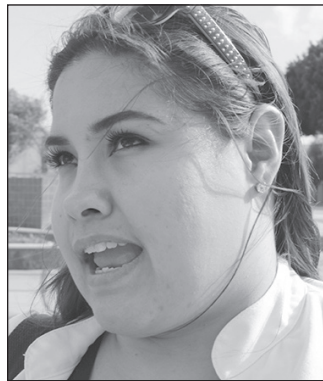


MOISES HERNANDEZ
Business major

"I gathered some balloons and threw it at my middle school."

ALICIA KAMPA
Culinary arts major

"I pranked my daughter by telling her I was going to take her to Disneyland. She's never been there, but I took her to Chuck-e-Cheese instead. She told me 'This is not Disneyland' and she got mad."



JOSELIN REYES
Undecided major

"My sister called me and told me that she was in an accident. I was very worried so I called my mom to ask her if she received a police call. But she said that my sister was fine. That she was at the house, safe and sound."



LEONEL PURTUN
Business major

"I wrote a note saying that I was failing all my classes and I got someone pregnant. I gave the paper to my mom, but at the end I wrote I'm sorry mom it's April Fools' Day."



HUGO GONZALEZ
Architecture major

"In 2010, I told my dad that my girlfriend at the time was going to have a baby. I forgot to tell him that it was April Fools' Day. A week later he asked me about it and I was like, 'What kid?' I was confused but I told him it was a joke."



TRUONG STRONG



MONIQUE NETHINGTON/ TM

Stronger than ever: Once a Division I hopeful, William Truong, cheated death after being deemed paralyzed after breaking his neck performing a backflip on a trampoline. Truong has since recovered and continues to make steps toward full strength everyday.

Athlete escapes near death experience, completes miraculous comeback at Cerritos

MONIQUE NETHINGTON
Campus Life Copy Editor
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First year transfer student at Cerritos College, William Truong, returns two years after an injury to his spinal cord. Truong attended Esperanza High School in Anaheim, California.

He started his athletic career at the school playing football.

It was there that his coach, who was also the throwing coach for the track team, took notice of him and asked him to go out for track.

Unlike football, throwing did not come naturally to him. But through that first year he trained everyday to make himself stronger and eventually became one of the top athletes on each of his teams.

His hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed. When his senior year had come around he earned a full football scholarship to West Point, in New York.

State of Mind

The days leading up to his accident were that of any high school senior about to graduate.

School was pretty much over and everyone was looking forward to the best summer vacation before each went their separate way.

But before he could relax he had one more thing to take care of.

Truong had made his way to the California Interscholastic Federation state championship for track and field.

While preparing for the last meet of his high school career he had a thought.

“That weekend going up to state I was just thinking that if I do something awesome I’m going to pop a backflip, or something, in front the thousands of people watching on tv,” he said.

A few nights before the competition he was trying to learn tricks and flips.

While in the hotel room he was practicing on the bed when he pulled a little “stinger” in his neck.

That, however, did not stop him from wanting to do this amazing trick in front of a live, national audience.

Finally, the day had arrived and he threw the best throw of his life earning him the

third spot in the state competition.

“I was really pumped up,” Truong said, “But then I thought, no let’s chill out [...] If I failed, it would’ve been embarrassing.”

So he opted out of doing the flip that day on a national stage, but the thought of doing a backflip period was still on his mind.

A Motherly Warning

The following night, after state, he went to a friend’s graduation party where he asked one of his friends, who was a gymnast, to teach him how to do a backflip.

He learned all the mechanics and it seemed as though he was ready and about to do it that night.

June 9, 2014 was the day he would finally attempt the backflip.

Just three days before graduation and two days after placing third in state Truong’s life was on the up and up.

Truong was on his way to the beach with a group of friends when they had to backtrack to his friend Jane Clyde’s house to pick up ice.

According to an interview with the OC Register, Truong’s sister, Amanda, recalled what their mother had said to him before he left the house.

“Don’t do anything stupid [...] Don’t do anything stupid, like backflips,” Amanda said.

Call it a coincidence, or mother’s intuition, but when his mother spoke those words there was no way she could’ve expected any of what was to come.

Life-Altering Moment

While everyone else filed into Clyde’s house Truong wandered into the backyard where he stumbled upon her trampoline.

“I went to the trampoline and did two warm up jumps,” he said, “I jumped backwards and I landed vertically [...] On my neck.”

Truong is 6-foot-2 and was 250 pounds at the time. All that weight came down on him and crushed his spinal cord.

“Immediately I knew I was paralyzed... I couldn’t move [...] I couldn’t breathe for like two minutes. I was just lying there and waiting for someone to come out,” he said.

When his friend’s family came outside they almost didn’t take him seriously because

he was notorious for playing pranks like this in the past.

As one of his friends went to help move him something in him snapped and he barked, “Don’t touch me!”

From there he went straight to the hospital where it was determined that he broke his C5 and C6 cervical discs, and damaged the C7, C8 and T1 discs.

His dreams of playing football were all but gone.

Truong told the OC register he said, “I was in complete and total denial [...] I was supposed to do all these great things.

While in the hospital Truong missed the chance to walk in his graduation ceremony.

However his sister, Amanda, sporting her brother’s number 75 jersey stood in his place earning a standing ovation from the crowd as she accepted his diploma on his behalf.

The whole ordeal took the Truong family by surprise. Their burly son they once compared to superman seemed helpless lying in his hospital bed.

“I was essentially like superman [...] literally nothing hurt me,” he said.

When he came into the hospital he weighed exactly 250 pounds. The doctors said that if not for his size and stature there was a good chance he would not have made it through.

Road to Recovery

The recovery process was one that required time and patience.

“I was depressed for a long time and [they] had me on so many different medications that there were only so many moments of clarity.”

Out of the 11 days in the hospital he stated he only had two or three days of complete clarity.

As the days progressed he slowly started to gain mobility back into his body and by the fourth day he was able to start raising his shoulders.

He would do everything he could do in that given day to be able to move again.

“I did what [I was given] to my best ability until I was too fatigued, or I passed out,” he said.

He was soon transferred from the hospital to a rehab facility in Pomona where he learned to do everything like getting out of bed, eating and getting dressed.

A little over a month after the accident, Truong was able to walk on his own again and

was soon discharged from the facility.

His progress could only be described as something like a miracle.

Once released, he immediately went back to powerlifting.

“I wasn’t strong anymore [...] I was just doing the same movements as before so my body could remember what it was doing.”

Even though he had been to other rehab facilities he felt that he made more progress just going back to what he was doing before the accident.

Since his final discharge he has been working on getting back to his normal self.

Although he faces the limitations of Brown-Sequard Syndrome, which leaves one side weaker than the other, he still pushes through to be the best person and athlete he can be.

He has now transferred from Fullerton College to Cerritos College specifically to participate on the track team.

They have given him no limitations as to what he can and can’t do.

Truong pushes through all the pain to exceed at the highest level of competition that he can.

Truong’s mind has been opened and he has learned to be grateful for everything he has.

With the support of all his friends and family he was able to overcome the adversity and come back feeling better than he has ever felt before.

“I told myself that you have to live with yourself for the rest of your life,” he said, “Why do you have to lay here and sulk? When in reality you should be doing your best to get better for the people around you because they don’t want to see you like this.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM TRUONG

Graduation Day: William Truong suffered a broken neck just three days before high school graduation. He received his diploma in the hospital surrounded by freinds and family.

SERVING

UP THE

WINS



Man Power: Sophomore Agustin Lombardi winds up to send this shot of a serve across the net. Lombardi is a team leading 15-1 in singles competition.

MIGUEL MEZA/ TM



PHOTO BY: CERRITOSFALCONS.COM

League of her own: Sophomore Taylor Heath maintains her focus as she reels back to fire a shot back over the net. Heath has followed up an All-South Coast Conference season with a 29-9 overall record.

Men and women’s tennis
are a combined 39-4
and don’t look to be losing momentum

Men’s

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Sports Editor
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Following the season opener, head coach Alvin Kim said he felt his team was better because the roster was deeper this season. Almost three months into the season his team currently holds a 21-3 record. The team suffered an early loss to reigning state champion Irvine Valley in early February. In a span of nine days the team dropped two games in mid-March. Kim doesn't think the slight drop off is too much of a big deal. “The last two losses came versus two NCAA Division III teams,” Kim said. “One of which was ranked No. 6 in the country and the other No. 2 in the country,” he explained. Overall his team’s good outweighs the bad in terms of general success. His team has outscored all opponents 178-33 with 13 shutouts. “I would say that has more to do with the inability of other programs to recruit and develop players. We’re good, but they’re just bad,”

Kim said. Eight of the 11 players that have competed in singles competition have 10-plus wins. One of which is sophomore Agustin Lombardi who is 15-1 on the year. “[Lombardi] has been phenomenal this season, he has stepped up as a leader/team captain and as a player. Much of our success comes from his leadership driving the team,” Kim said. Lombardi is following up on a season in which he finished 20-6 and he is proud of his play so far this season. “It is definitely a lot of mental growth. Last year everything was new but now I can see things more clear. Also, [Kim] helped me to develop some more aspects in my game,” he said. The team is just as dominant in doubles play as it is in singles play. Cerritos has compiled an overall record of 136-37 in doubles competition. Kim has no problem expressing that he has more confidence in the team’s singles competition. The Falcons have one remaining regular season game before setting out on the South Coast Tournament Apr. 7.

Women’s

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The Cerritos women's tennis team's lone loss on the season came to a now 3-9 Whittier College team. “We could have [beat] Whittier if we weren't missing our No. 2 player (discipline),” head coach Alvin Kim said. In the game against Whittier College sophomore standout Anastasia Khomyachenko did not play. Khomyachenko is 14-1 in singles play and 11-4 in doubles. She is not the only standout for Kim and company. Sophomore Taylor Heath has a combined record of 29-9 in both singles and doubles matches. “This season we got a new assistant coach who is really hard on us and makes sure we use every minute of practice to improve our game which has helped me a lot and also the team has become really close which relieves pressure during games and allows me to play at my full potential,” Heath said. Kim is proud of his Heath's success this season. “She's been maturing, making good decisions, [but] she can be even better I think,” Kim admitted. “She's had good growth this year and I've spent four seasons in high school with her as well, winning two

CIF titles,” he added. Heath is coming off a season where she was named to the All-South Coast Conference first team. Despite that one loss in mid February the team hasn't allowed the loss to discourage its' goals for the season. “We stay focused by knowing how important this title will be for us and for our coaches who have never won a conference title on the women's side. So we stay hungry for a win because we know our coaches work really hard for us not to lose,” Heath said. The team has been dominant over the course of the season as it has reeled off 10 shutouts all while commanding a 159-30 points lead over all opponents. “We're deeper than most and our No. 4-6 statistics show it. Jovana Milosevic has only one loss in our division and No. 6 Danielle Pastor is undefeated as well,” Kim said. The South Coast Conference Tournament is just around the corner with one game left in the way. Kim has never captured a conference title with the Cerritos College women's tennis team but with his record standing at 20-1 he feels good about his chances. “The team is getting tired and we drive them pretty hard but the finish line is coming up and I think we'll be okay going into playoffs,” Kim said.

NIGHTS WEEKEND

Are you going with us?

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

TAP & GO!

The TAP card is the best way to get where you're headed. It's simple to use, valid on Long Beach Transit and many other local transit systems, and you can even add our value-minded Student 30-day pass. To get your LBT student discount pass, go to www.lbtransit.com or www.taptogo.net and apply for a College/Vocational TAP card - to the movies, the beach or beyond, taking LBT has never been easier.

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