

# TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

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**Future Falcons:** Grade school students from John Dolland Elementary School were given a tour of Cerritos College during the Falcon Kids event. The event is beneficial for the students, as well as the college.



MARCK PARRA/TM

**Welcome senator:** Lucio Ramirez is sworn in by Vice President Enrique Rodriguez. Ramirez chose to be a senator because he is considering a career in politics.

## Senate swears in Martinez

JOCELYN TORRALBA  
Staff Writer

@JocTorralba

"I wanted to become a senator because I wanted to represent the students like me that are returning students in the senate," said business management and economics major Lucio Ramirez during his speech proposal to be accepted as a serving senate member.

He was welcomed on Feb. 22.

"I also wanted to gain parliamentary experience since I am considering a career in politics down the line," Ramirez said.

Ramirez has been attending Cerritos since 2014 and said that he recently found out about ASCC last semester.

He added that he was definitely nervous and had to ask several members of the Senate for guidance.

He also asked ASCC President Saul Lopez-Pulido for guidance.

Lopez-Pulido said, "Lucio displayed a powerful presentation in his appointment."

He adds that Martinez was adamant about joining Senate and he knew he wanted to get involved.

"He approached me in a timely and professional manner. I think his perspectives and experiences will provide a valuable asset to the Senate and the students."

# Molding the minds of the future

## Elementary school students attend Falcon Kids event

MARCK PARRA

Staff Writer

@marckparra32

"The main purpose of Falcon Kids is to invite students from our surrounding [elementary schools] to the college campus so [...] we can expose them to the idea of college and what our school has to offer," English Professor and iFalcon Club Coordinator, Damon Cagnolatti, said about the Falcon Kids event

The event, held Tuesday, hosted students from John Dolland Elementary School of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District.

A presentation in a lecture hall

kicked off the event and had students hyped up by the school mascot, Franco Falcon.

### College is a reality

Cagnolatti, served as a speaker for the presentation that portrayed campus life in Cerritos College and attending college as a whole.

"We want to make college for these young folks a part of their reality," Cagnolatti stated.

"There are so many kids who grow up in the surrounding environments who never really got the chance to go to college, and we want to change that and do it in a fun way," he said

The lecture hall was buzzing with energy and laughter provided by the young students, who took to the comedy of Franco Falcon and

the rest of the iFalcon team.

Little competitions were held during the presentation.

Cagnolatti and his team split the room into halves to see which side of the room shouted the loudest. The kids loved this exercise because each side was eager to take bragging rights back to their school.

The lecture hall was so loud and alive that passing engineering major, Oscar Hernandez, couldn't fight the urge to enter the room and check what exactly was going on.

### Hearing enthusiasm

"I was just making my way home and I heard a collective laughter of kids," Hernandez continued, "I went inside to check, and sure enough, there [were] a bunch of kids there. It seemed like fun though."

Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs and Assistant Superintendent, Rick Miranda gave the students a speech that continued with the theme of staying in school.

He urged the students present to follow whatever dreams they have and to not to place limits on what they can achieve.

After Miranda's speech, the students were shown a short film on the various events held on campus in an effort to give them a positive perspective on what life is really like on the campus.

The short film followed a tour of the campus, which many of the students couldn't wait to participate in.

They were split with their respective teachers, with an accompanying Cerritos College tour guide.

The students made their way to the Administration Building,

the library, the Student Center, the Fine Arts Building and the Math Computer Information and Science Building. Their tour finished in Falcon Square.

### Possibilities for the future

According to iFalcon Club Vice President Ana Sosa, events such as Falcon Kids are beneficial to the students who attend, but also for Cerritos College.

"I think today's event was very productive for the kids because it can [motivate them] to actually get into the college culture [and] it's also [good] for Cerritos College because it can increase the awareness young students have about our campus when deciding what college to attend in the future."

## 100 attendees expected at upcoming sold out TEDx Talks event at Cerritos

BENJAMIN GARCIA

Opinion Editor

@pieloverable

"We did not anticipate such an enthusiastic response to bringing TEDx to our campus. We did have a marketing scheme in place, but the tickets sold out before we could fully implement advertising," said Director of Bands and Orchestra David Betancourt in regard to Cerritos College selling all 100 seats.

The TEDx Talk that will be taking place on March 9 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

TEDx Talk events are planned and coordinated independently.

According to Betancourt, the TEDx Talk will feature a mix of community members, faculty and classified staff.

Kim Berling, philosophy instructor will be one of the presenters.

"I am going to be talking about teaching altruism and compassion in college and community college level, that's what my whole thing is going to be about. So I'm going to do about first five minutes explaining what altruism, compassion are

and then I'm really going to be talking about my kind of educational philosophy and what I call my "holistic approach," she said.

Cerritos College and Center for Teaching Excellence is the primary event organizer Monique Valencia wanted to showcase as many people as possible, but could only take nine speakers with "around 15 minutes" per presentation.

Betancourt also stated that the idea for a TEDx event at Cerritos was discussed last spring by the CTX Advisory Committee.

Cerritos College President Jose Fierro brought the topic to the advisory board, and had CTX organize the entire event.

The committee has been planning ever since, reading the guidelines, developing a rubric to rate the applicants, marketing strategies for searching for speakers and planning the logistics of the event.

Betancourt added, "It has been a long process. The CTX Advisory Committee has been the driving force for getting this event to Cerritos College. The process is extending."

According to Berling there was a process to apply to speak at the event.

The requirements to apply were to fill out the application and create a YouTube video and upload it.

Once the video was uploaded the applicant would have to wait for a response to see if they got picked or not.

"I was quite shocked, [...] I got an email that I got picked so I joked with them and said 'Well, you must have only got eight applicants if you picked me,' she said.

Berling explained that the event is not for self promotion but to talk about all the positive things she has seen happen to the young people she works with in her Compassion in Action Club.

"I'm definitely going to be talking about what the benefits I've seen in the club and working with the students and the benefits I've seen in young people, like increased self-esteem and awareness of their connection to the rest of the world," she finished.

## I.C.E. raids on undocumented cause unease for Dreamers

JENNY GONZALEZ

News Editor

@jennnnay44

The impact of recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement tactics and President Trump's administration proposals administering strict immigration control has affected several of the Dreamer students on campus.

Dream Club President Luis Guzman said, "I am a dreamer [and] it is very concerning from my perspective as an immigrant, as someone who has been living here for [...] 24 years."

He didn't know he was an immigrant until he was 15 years old.

"I wanted to join the military. I wanted to die for my country, I wanted to give so much," said Guzman.

According to a Los Angeles Times article, I.C.E. says L.A. immigration arrests were planned long in advance, not tied to new crackdown, "The arrests, which officials have described as routine and not part of a crackdown promised by President Donald J. Trump, have sparked fear and anger in im-

migrant communities.

The article also stated, "David Marin, the director of Enforcement and Removal Operations for Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Los Angeles, said the actions taken this week were planned before Trump took office and were comparable to a similar week-long operation taken last summer that resulted in 112 arrests."

Saul Lopez-Pulido, ASCC President, said he feels anxious about the ICE raids, saying, "When someone texts me and tells me [to] watch out [because] I.C.E. is doing raids in Downey, I call home and let [my family members] know their rights [...] and they tell me 'Don't worry Saul'."

"[I feel] like you [can] tell me 'Don't worry' but we see all the time [on the] news that [I.C.E. is] detaining people they don't have to detain and... deport them."

He associated President Trump's executive orders to a game show stating, "My life is a show to him and every week it is 'Let's see what happens to your future now,'" and says that being unsure of his future is unsettling.

Lopez-Pulido created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Fund through ASCC Senate and was approved Feb. 1, creating a legal fund for undocumented students with an initial sum of \$10,000. The fund is meant to help with free lawyer consultations, workshops and financial aid.

He has been working closely with Student Trustee Karen Patron, who is also a DACA recipient.

Patron also fears the risk of deportation stating, "I do not feel safe, [because] I could be here one day and the next day be sentenced for deportation."

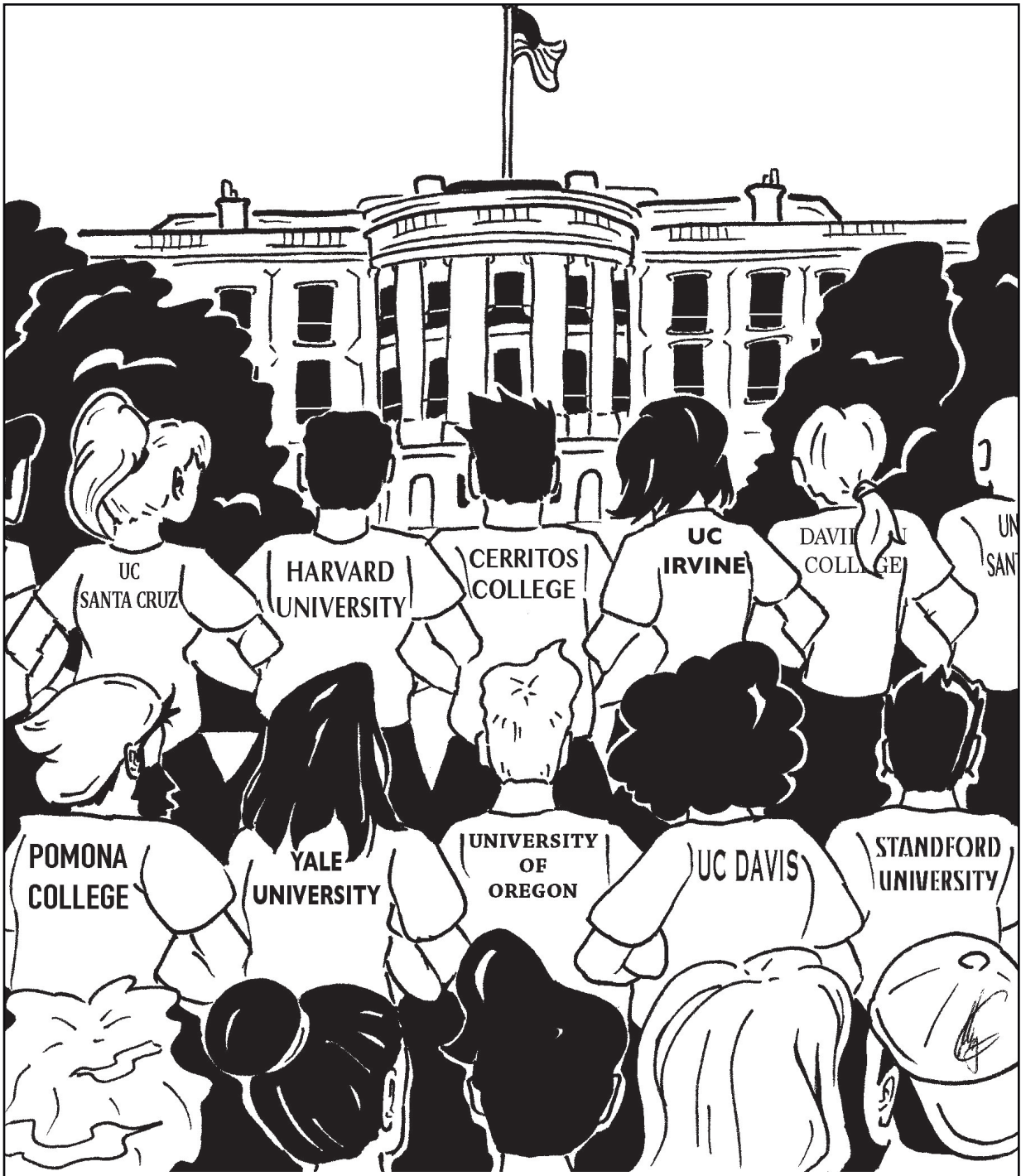
She added that she has discussed her sister's legal guardianship with her family in the event that she is deported with her parents.

Lopez-Pulido, Patron and Guzman would like to offer legal and emotional support for those who are dealing with the fear of deportation.

The DACA fund is a resource students can use, and the Dreamers club can provide emotional support.



EDITORIAL



Call for banning together, against the unjust Trump

“Whilst men are linked together, they easily and speedily communicate the alarm of any evil design [...] When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall, one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle.”

That is a quote from the essay titled, “Thoughts on the Cause of the Present Discontents” by philosopher Edmund Burke.

That essay was written in 1770; 247 years later its message needs to be heard and spread throughout the country.

Men and women have to come together and take a stance against President Donald Trump’s unjust policies on immigration, and the travel ban to seven countries.

On Monday, Jan. 30 University of Chicago President Robert J. Zimmer and University of Chicago Provost Daniel Diermeier wrote an open letter to Trump.

In the beginning the letter states, “As the leaders of one of the country’s great institutions of higher education and research, we are writing to assert in the strongest possible terms the importance to the United States of continuing to welcome immigrants and the talent and energy that they bring to this country.”

The letter continues to “strongly urge” President Trump to reexamine the methods and actions he is taking concerning immigration.

A letter to the president might seem too simplistic to be the cause of any change however it is an official stance against a policy that can harm students in universities across the nation.

If nothing else, it shows that the school is willing to recognize how wrong the policy is and not pretend that what Trump does will not affect its community.

Likewise, another letter mailed to Trump was published in current issue of “The New York Review of Books.”

That letter is dated Thursday, Feb. 2 and is signed by 48 university presidents and chancellors.

Universities such as Columbia University, Boston University, Johns Hopkins University, University of California, Berkeley, Dartmouth College, University of California Davis, University of California Santa Cruz and the University of California Irvine have signed and shown their support for the letter.

It states, “We write as presidents of leading American colleges and universities to urge you to rectify or rescind the recent executive order closing our country’s borders to

immigrants and others from seven majority-Muslim countries and to refugees from throughout the world.

If left in place, the order threatens both American higher education and the defining principles of our country.”

Cerritos College is also a place for higher education.

It is a community whose students are greatly impacted by the recent changes in policies.

The administration, staff, faculty, board of trustees and students have to join together sign petitions and send a collective letter to President Trump, with a stance of support for the immigrant and international students in our community.

They should also take the initiative to unite with other community colleges across the nation to take a stand against the recent executive orders.

The gesture would be more symbolic than literal, however it would show that the nation’s educational system is a united front that cares about the future of its students.

To say “wait it out” and “four years go by fast” is not an option because as Burke said, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

The ‘Good Girls Revolt’ ends

CAROL KEARNS  
Freelancer  
@carolkearnsLA

I could not be more frustrated with the sudden cancellation by of the new streaming series “Good Girls Revolt,” a show inspired by the 1970 landmark anti-discrimination lawsuit against Newsweek magazine.

In this era of Mad Men, “nasty” women and “pussy grabbers,” you would think that a historic period drama filled with office romance, New York fashions, New Year’s orgies and civil rights would be a slam dunk for renewal.

The series is a compelling, fictionalized account drawn from events described in the memoir of veteran journalist Lynn Povich, “The Good Girls Revolt.”

The women “researchers” at Newsweek had equal education and resumes than those of the men with

whom they worked, but the magazine was adamant about not allowing bylines for women

According to sources, the decision to discontinue this compelling and sizzling series right after the cliff-hanger ending of its first season was made by one man, Amazon executive Roy Price.

Price either has no sense of irony or doesn’t care.

The core of the story is the historic lawsuit filed by 46 female “researchers” at Newsweek for the right to be employed as journalists if they met an objective set of standards.

Discrimination against women at work became illegal with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and the lawsuit was filed by civil rights attorney Eleanor Holmes Norton who was five months pregnant at the time.

The memoir was the inspiration for writer and producer Dana Calvo. Calvo’s script captures the flavor of the times and the basic events surrounding the lawsuit.

The attraction of the series is not just its feminist, political theme but also the spotlight it shines on the personal lives of so many people.

Price’s unilateral decision to cancel the series, underscores recent statistics that the movie industry continues to be dominated by white males.

Women are only 20 percent of executives at large media companies, and their numbers are even smaller behind the camera.

Sadly, no other entertainment company has opted to pick up the second season of Good Girls Revolt.

But it is still worth watching the first season on Amazon, if you don’t mind having your heart broken at the end of episode 10.

It’s a little like being teased without climax, but its also one way to let Amazon know that they were wrong.

-THE ENVELOPE-

Explanation: The art of letting go

BENJAMIN GARCIA  
Opinion Editor  
@pieloverable

I see Cerritos College students weighed down with stress and minor trauma, walking around with their knuckles dragging on the floor and circles around their eyes.

This makes me worry that too many of us are carrying around issues that will end up being bad for our mental states.

As millenials we tend to burry our feelings deep down in a place deeper than the memories of our parents ruining our lives.

Rather than burying your feelings deep down and forming a tumor, I have found ways to deal with and let go of the past that you could use in edition to seeing professional help.

1. Put together a support group to help cope with the trauma. Make your favorite professor a member, they will be glad to know that you are taking in their lectures so thoroughly

2. Avoid suicidal thoughts by distracting yourself.

Just register for another math or science class, it’s almost the same thing

3. Illustrate your emotional swings on Snapchat. The extremes of the emotional spectrum (paired with your depressive inability to change your clothes) will make you seem like a cartoon character. If you can’t be happy, you might as well entertain others

4. Take a hot bath, but not too hot otherwise that’s self-harm. You might also want to go for a day at the spa.

5. Try crying. If your parents ask why you cry so much, tell them that you are rehearsing to audition for Generic Improvisational Peep Show auditions will be held Friday, March 10, 2-4 p.m. in the studio theater. That is about the most believable lie or the most sympathizable truth you could tell.

6. Think about becoming a wedding planner or a Catholic if you feel the need to control your everyday experiences

7. Say prayers. Duke University’s Harold G. Koenig, M.D. says, “Studies have shown prayer can prevent people from getting sick — and when they do get sick, prayer can help them get better faster.”

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Compiled by:  
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WHAT ABOUT  
TRUMP WORRIES  
YOU MOST?



Alma Carrera  
Engineering major

“The unwillingness to have people to be able to live their lives.”



David Martinez  
Undecided major

“He’s not fit as a president since he has no past experience.”



Erica Bott  
Psychology major

“How open he is against women and the LGBTQ community.”



Jorge Castanon  
Culinary arts major

“He’s not open to other opinions, he is not open minded and he is very selfish.”



TALON MARKS

TALON MARKS is a First Amendment publication.

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# Dance concert brings new beginnings

BENJAMIN GARCIA  
Opinion Editor  
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Commencements and new beginnings. That's what the Dance Department chair Janet Sanderson thought of when she worked with students who will be transferring out of Cerritos College as well as first time performers as the primary director of the bi-annual Spring Dance Concert.

"This semester we're all working on powerful pieces," said Dance major Rebekah Joy who explained that it will also be Sanderson's last concert before retirement. For someone like Joy who is neither a first time performer nor a soon-to-be transfer student, this circumstance makes the concert more emotional.

According to Joy, Maha Afra's "fun and lively" piece is dedicated to Sanderson to "make her feel honored."

Sanderson commented on the efforts of the dancers saying, "All are working very hard to present an exciting show." The director said she hopes the the Cerritos students and campus community see the great joy and spirit of the dance students in the dance department.

She went on to explain the purpose of the event saying, "through their classes they have acquired an appreciation for technique, the creative process in choreography, group collaboration and performance skills."

Coordinating the event with the Theatre department provides the dance students with the opportunity to perform in a professional theater with a professional production staff."

Joy added that one of the biggest difficulties she faced in rehearsal was the constraint on time because the spring semester is shorter, "we had fewer weeks to practice and clean up our choreography! We're all working incredibly hard!"

Sanderson stated that there are approximately 75 dance class students participating in the Spring Concert which make up several large group numbers, trios, quartets and solos. All groups performing in the show are choreographed by the dance faculty and students as well as a dance student from Cal-State Long Beach who directed the CSULB Salsa Dance Team.

There will be seven dance works in the first act and six in the second.

The program is about two hours in duration and spans across many genres of dance including ballet, modern, Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Latin, African and Middle Eastern dance. The dance students are expected to represent all techniques and levels from beginning through advanced dance classes.

Afraid of "spoiling [Christine Gererna's] piece," Joy only offered that it contrasts greatly from most of the pieces that are usually choreographed for the show -- in addition to stating that Steve Rosa's African-Modern piece is meant to be uplifting and "down to earth." She explained that this piece was inspired by "the idea of [picking] yourself up when you're down." She is excited about performing the African-Modern piece because of the level of difficulty and how beautiful and moving the choreography is.

There is limited seating. General admission is \$15; admission for students, children and seniors is \$12. Parking for the event is in Lot C-1 and C-2. No Children under five years old will be admitted. For more information contact the Dance Department at (560) 860-2451 (Ext. 2861) Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.



COURTESY OF THEATER DEPARTMENT

**Our Lady of 121st:** (From left to right) Valerie Vellejo in the character of Sonia, Angelica Montoya in the character of Norca and Andrea McGee in the character of Inez perform in the play *Our Lady of 121st Street*. McGee's character attempts to hold back Montoya's character back from Vellejo's character during an argument in the play.

## Our Lady of 121st comes with mixed reviews

LIZETTE SAINZ  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

A new play was put on at Cerritos College called, "Our Lady of 121st Street."

On Friday the theater had an estimated capacity for 121 seats available for the audience and only around eight seats were left empty.

The play, directed by Brant Reiter, was set on the day of Sep. 11, 2002, in New York City.

The dark comedy took place around the Ortiz Family Funeral Home.

It was there that the body of Sister Rose, an activist and nun, beloved by the community, was stolen from the viewing room.

Phillip Benton, criminal justice major, said, "It was [an] interesting play, it had a lot of [profanity], it was something I wasn't expecting. I wouldn't see it again."

"The name of the play and the dialogue in the story does not connect, I thought it was going to be related with the nun and how she dies. Everybody had a history with her, but

what [happened] to her? She got lost within the story and the play was more about a love story,"

Benton's daughter, criminal justice major Jenice Dorsey enjoyed the play.

She said, "It was interesting, [the play] didn't have a focal point, but I will see it again for the funny parts. I liked how everyone had a history with the nun, Sister Rose."

Actor Robert Hart who plays Rooftop, a character who faces conflicts in his life, had his family member Raymond Hart attend the play.

"I thought the play was good, I loved it. It was dramatic, but it also had a meaning to it. I liked the ending when they are sitting down around the casket and the actors were coming in and out, that was pretty dynamic, everybody did a great job," Raymond said.

Commissioner of Inter-Club Council Tania Martin said, "It was [a] comical play."

It kind of [seemed] to not have a path, it was supposed to be a funeral of a dead nun and there was something missing in the plot, it was just a bunch of love stories intercon-

nected."

Martin said, "The play starts [as] if it [were] a crime scene where detective Balthazar was going to have to investigate all [of] the people that had some history with the nun and could have killed her, that's was expected."

What was unexpected for Martin was the resolution to the love stories in the play and the lack of background information for the characters in the play.

"I was very dissatisfied, I expected at least at the end Rooftop and Inez would end up together, maybe some more background information toward the character for the audience to fall in love with the characters, because we didn't get to know any of them," Martin concluded.

Theater Department professor Piotrowski Casey played Victor, an old man. In the first scene he appears in he is cursing and shouting out to detective Balthazar, hoping he finds nun Sister Rose's body and the people who stole it.

He said, "It was a great experience, it will

be something he will always remember."

David Yoder, theater major, who plays Gail said, "I loved the play, it was so much fun to rehearse and all characters were hilarious in their own different ways, I loved it each night."

Capone Walker who's a theater major, plays Flip, Gail's boyfriend.

During the play Flip has a relationship argument and hopes to find a solution to make things work out.

Walker said, "My favorite practicing scene was toward the end [in] the second act and I had to kiss Gail and he leaves me. I felt like even it wasn't a major moment, but it shows that everything is not gonna go your way."

Thespian Alumni from Troup 1442 Miles Isidro plays Pinky said, "I learned so much through all the rehearsal, each day we got better and build a bond as a cast, and tonight we showed it by giving our all."

The play will still be available for viewing from Thursday-Saturday, at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

## Mo Fashion: Academy Awards best, worst dressed

COMPILED BY MONIQUE NETHINGTON

Editor-in-Chief  
@sniquee94

### Best dressed at the 2017 Oscars



COURTESY OF MCT

**Halle Berry**  
wearing Versace and Forever Mark Diamonds

Halle Berry has been a quiet one, lately, in the Hollywood scene.

Well, all eyes were on her at the Academy Awards as she stunned in this beautiful Versace gown.

Her styling was impeccable as she chose to show off her curls... And curves!

For this reason she hits number two on my list.



COURTESY OF MCT

**Taraji P. Henson**  
wearing Alberta Ferretti

There is only one reason she is number one, because she can slay bitch!

Henson came out on top in this beautiful gown from Alberta Ferretti.

The dress hugs and excentuates every curve to give her the best hourglass shape on the carpet.

She looks classic, elegant and beautiful. In one word she is timeless.

I would expect nothing less from the queen, Cookie.

### Worst dressed at the 2017 Oscars



COURTESY OF MCT

**Alicia Vikander**  
wearing Louis Vuitton

So like it's not that this dress is bad, but it's not good either.

It just looks like there's a completely lack of effort from her stylist.

The dress itself looks like a over designed prom dress, and it gives her absolutely no shape at all.

Her and make-up are subpar at best. The top-knot she had chosen looks like a messy bun gone wrong.

I think with completely different styling and just a little more tailoring at the waste that it wouldn't have been a complete disaster.

**Dakota Johnson**  
wearing Gucci

Girl get out here with your Oscar Trophy looking dress!

Everything about this is just absolutely henious, that I probably dont need to explain why she is the worst dressed.

Dakota girl fire your stylist, because who ever they are really messed you up.

The shoulders are way too 80s, the rest makes you look like a grandma and have you ever heard of a steamer.

Not to mention it didn't photograph well.

"A" for effort, but maybe next year sweetheart.



COURTESY OF MCT



TalonMark Sports Center

BASEBALL
Mar. 2 at Rio Hondo 2 p.m.
Mar. 4 vs. Rio Hondo noon
Mar. 7 at Mt. San Antonio 2 p.m.
Mar. 9 vs. Mt. San Antonio 2 p.m.
Mar. 11 at Pasadena City noon
City 2:30 p.m.
Mar. 14 vs. Pasadena City 2:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL
Mar. 2 at Rio Hondo 3 p.m.
Mar. 4 vs. Mt. San Jacinto 11 a.m.
Mar. 4 vs. Palomar 2 p.m.
Mar. 6 at Santiago Canyon 3 p.m.
Mar. 7vs. Los Angeles Harbor 3 p.m.

MEN’S TENNIS
Mar. 2 vs. El Camino 2 p.m.
Mar. 10 at Ventura 2 p.m.
Mar. 11 at Santa Barbara 1 p.m.
Mar. 14 vs. Denison (OH) University 11 a.m.
Mar. 16 vs. Mt. San Antonio 2 p.m.
Mar. 18 at Reedley 2 p.m.
Mar. 18 vs. American River @ Fresno 1 p.m.

WOMEN’S TENNIS
Mar. 2 vs. El Camino 2 p.m.
Mar. 10 at Ventura 2 p.m.
Mar. 11 at Santa Barbara noon
Mar. 16 at Rio Hondo 2 p.m.
Mar. 17 at Fresno City 2 p.m.
Mar. 18 at Reedley 2 p.m.
Mar. 21 vs. Fullerton 2 p.m.

MEN’S SWIMMING
Mar. 3 at Long Beach City 12:30 p.m.
Mar. 3 vs. Chaffey @ Long Beach City 12:30 p.m.
Mar. 17 at Mt. San Antonio 12:30 p.m.
Mar. 17 vs. El Camino @ Mt. San Antonio 12:30 p.m.

WOMEN’S SWIMMING
Mar. 3 at Long Beach City 12:30 p.m.
Mar. 3 vs. Chaffey @ Long Beach City 12:30 p.m.
Mar. 10 at Cuesta Invitational 8 a.m.
Mar. 11 at Cuesta Invitational 8 a.m.



**No Regrets:** Basketball head coach Russ May addresses his team during a fourth quarter timeout against sixth seeded Citrus College. The Falcons would lose the game eliminating them from the regional playoffs.

# Falcons soar to playoff defeat

MAX PEREZ  
Sports Editor  
@talonmarksports

The men’s basketball team’s season ended with a 79-67 defeat coming at the hands of Citrus College.

The loss officially marked the end of the Falcons’ season as well as the second straight season the team would be eliminated in the second round of the Southern California Regional playoffs.

Cerritos was unable to obtain control of the game as they never led throughout the contest.

Citrus jumped out to a 10-2 lead early and despite the Falcons’ best efforts they were not able to gain momentum.

The team came within three points in the first half, but that’s the closest the Falcons would come to Citrus the entire game as the opposition ran away with the game in the second half.

Despite the loss head coach Russ May said, “The team has nothing to be ashamed of, [the men] played their asses off, and tonight we lost to a very good team.”

Although the Falcons committed only eight turnovers to Citrus’ 13, they were unable to overcome a tough shooting night, finishing 34 percent from the field and 25 percent from the three-point line.

Despite the early exit, Cerritos players and coaches were proud of what the team was able to

accomplish this season.

The team finished with an overall 21-7 record and won three of the four tournaments it participated in this season.

Cerritos players were also recognized for their individual talent.

Sophomore guard Tyler Payne, Brian Nebo and forward Cristian Perez were all awarded First Team All-South Coast Conference South Division.

Not only was the team able to finish second in the South-Coast Conference, but it was able to do so facing tough odds after starting 0-3.

Perez said, “It was tough, during those three losses we were questioning ourselves and our ability, but we knew once we got that first win everything would fix itself.”

After the first win the team did indeed begin to fix itself and found ways to win.

It also displayed an ability to adjust, as the Falcons successfully defeated every team that beat them earlier in conference play.

The Falcons had four players finish the season averaging double digits in scoring and as a team averaged 46 percent shooting from the field and 34 percent from the three-point line.

Away from the court every member of the team found this year’s team to be special.

May said, “We have a special group of guys that came to practice every day, worked together and got better, I am honored to [have] coached

them.”

Sophomore guard Tyler Payne who has spent four years in this program and said, “They’re the closest group of guys I’ve been with [...] I just want to grieve with them a little bit, cherish all the moments and reminisce.”

Both Payne and Perez represent sophomore players who will no longer be eligible to play for the Falcons, making the game against Citrus their last in a Cerritos jersey.

Although they are leaving the program, May made it clear that he believes the example that the sophomores set for the freshman put in place a solid foundation for next season.

Freshman players Riley Hamilton, Malik Smith, Devan Burrell and Jonathan Guzman will be the sophomores next season leading the team.

Payne said, “The sky is the limit for those guys, they have so much talent and athleticism it’s going to be fun to watch.”

The echoing message from players and coaches was the cohesiveness of this team and how tight it became throughout the season.

Perez said, “I’ve been playing basketball my whole life, I’ve never cared about a season, a team, or a coaching staff as much as this one.”

May agrees with his player and will remember how close the team was.

“It really is a family in how much [the men] cared for each other [...] that’s what it’s all about,” he concluded.

## Young Falcons start slow

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Sophomore decathlete Zachary Munoz had a stand out performance at an impromptu, and rare, match up against Mt. SAC.

Despite Munoz’s performance and other individual standout performances the team would still take home a loss

The meet which took place on Feb 10 saw the Falcons lose 107-46 to the Mounties.

The team will now travel to Cal State LA for its invitational on Friday, March 1.

The meet will extend til Saturday, with throws occurring on Friday at Cerritos College.

Munoz performance had him scoring in a total of three events.

Of the three he would finish first in the javelin, posting a distance of 49.83 meters breaking past his personal record of 48.28 meters.

With this distance Munoz now sits in the number two spot in the South Coast Conference.

He said, “I’m pretty happy about it, getting that big PR under my belt before my actual event starts, I think it’s gonna set me up pretty well.”

Munoz also finished in a scoring position in the 110-meter hurdles and the high-jump. His time for the hurdles was 16.28 seconds earning him a third place finish, later he would post a high-jump height of 1.75 meters putting him in a second place finishing spot.

Also on the list of standout performances were sophomore athletes Jhamani Long, Jayden Loga, Stacy Chukwumezie, Giovanni Rubio, Aladdin Abuhadba; and freshman athletes Christopher Lawry and Jorge Gonzalez.

Gonzalez, who currently sits as the number one shot putter in the conference, threw for 13.82 meters in the shot put. Although short of his current PR of 14.47 meters the throw still earned him a first place finish in the event.

He also finished second in the discus throw with distance of 43.85 meters.

While the men excelled in field events they underperformed on the track having just one athlete finish in scoring position.

Long would be that athlete to score for the team finishing in both the 800 meter and the 1500 meter.

He would finish the 800 meter race with a time of 1:57.45 minutes to take the event and finish first.

His performance in the 1500 meter race would be that of the same caliber; he finished in the third spot with a time 4:10.03 minutes.

Despite the under performance by the men, Munoz still believes the team can push through and compete at state.

“It’s still early in the season and I feel like the guys are gonna figure it out and really pull through at the state meet which is what really matters,” he said.

Director of Track and Field Christopher Richardson commented on how young the team is and how the new athletes are working with the seasoned returners.

He said, “We’ve built around [our top athletes.] So it will be interesting to see how that carries over [into the rest of the season.]”

The team also participated in two non-scoring meets so far this season.

The first being the South Coast Conference Preview and the second Cerritos College Open.

In the former the team walked away with four wins.

The second non-scoring meet the team once again took home four wins.



**The Wind Up:** Sophomore pitcher Kristen Voller goes through her motions as she is about to deliver a pitch against Cypress College. The loss against Cypress marked the second of the season for both the Falcons and Voller.

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## Cerritos offense loses power

Facing off against multiple opponents, the Falcons softball team struggled to find consistency in various aspects of their game.

Cerritos battled against Mt. San Antonio College Thursday, in which a Cerritos homerun tied the game 5-5 before it had to be postponed due to darkness. The match will be continued Wednesday at 3 p.m.

Against Mt. SAC the energy of the game shifted multiple times with Mt. SAC scoring first, then Cerritos answering back to take the lead.

Mt. SAC would then tie the game 2-2 and then take a 5-2 lead heading into the final inning of play.

A three-run home run in the bottom of the seventh by second baseman Kylee Brown tied the game and forced extra innings.

The game will take place at home and will pick up in the top of the eighth inning.

Going into the continuation of the Mt. SAC game the Falcons will

look to enter the matchup with confidence and execute their game plan.

Head Coach Kodee Murray said, “It’s not about jumping in, it’s a zero to zero ball game it’s just starting over, the fact of the matter is either we’re ready to go or we’re not.”

Freshman outfielder Andrea Villalta added, “I think wherever the momentum went, we [Falcons] stayed with [the Mounties] the entire game, I think they thought they had us beat but we came back and stayed in it.”

The Falcons then hosted a doubleheader against Glendale College and Cypress College.

Cerritos dominated Glendale 9-0 ending the game in just five innings behind a strong pitching and offensive performance.

Starting Pitcher Carly Gutierrez struck out nine batters while only allowing two hits and one walk throughout the entire five innings.

The offense was able to rack up 13 hits for nine runs, eight of which came off RBI’s.

The Falcons had a short break before preparing for their next

game against the undefeated Cypress Chargers.

Cypress was able to overcome the pitching of Sophomore Kristen Voller and Gutierrez, scoring a combined eight runs off both pitchers to win the game 8-2.

Villalta said, “I think we came and fought and did what we had to do [...] unfortunately it just wasn’t our game to win.

Murray added, “I feel like we did a really good job we just didn’t get the timely hits when we needed them.”

The Falcons offense was only able to muster four total hits and two runs during the game.

After a three day break, the Falcons traveled to take on Pasadena City College for the second time this season.

The outcome would not be the same, as Pasadena was able to defeat the Falcons 3-2 .

The loss was the second in a row and dropped the Falcons to 8-3.

The Falcons will have until March 7 to fix their issues before they travel to Los Angeles Harbor and start their conference schedule.