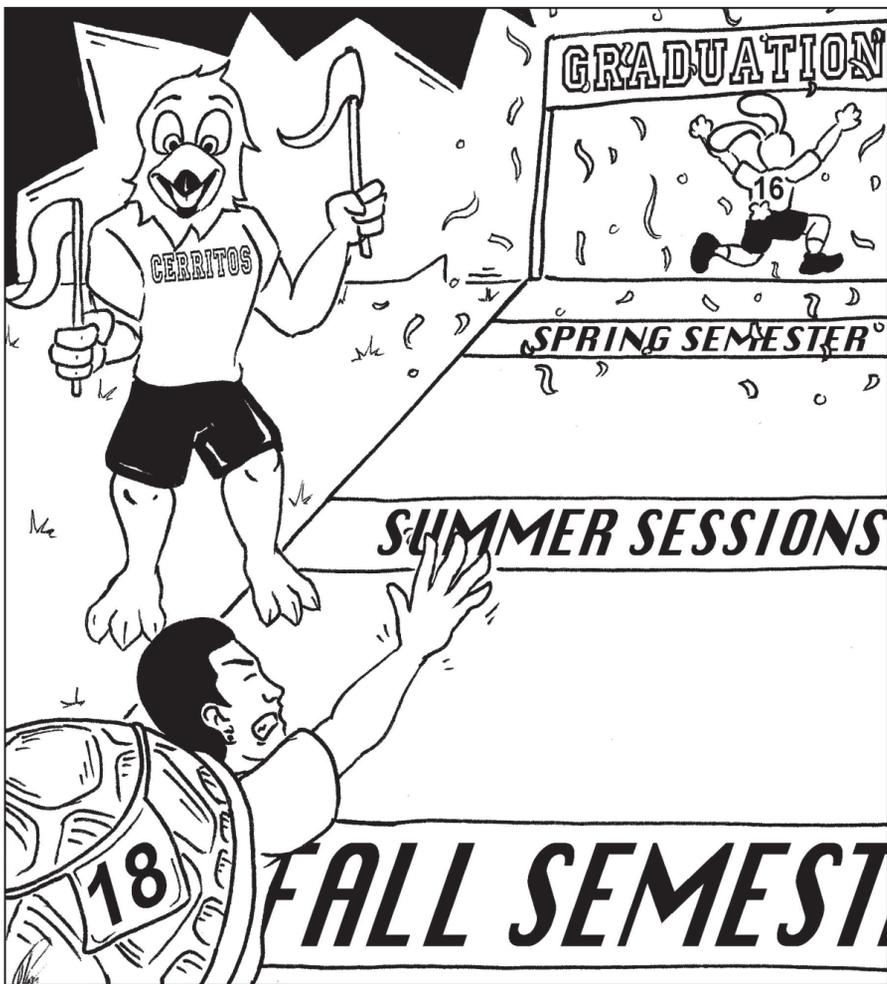


EDITORIAL

# 16-week calendar is good for student success



CARLOS MARQUEZ/TM

The mission of any higher education system should be to provide its students with the best instruction and the opportunity to retain the knowledge gained in the most efficient way possible.

In the end, the ultimate goal for any student-- whether in a four-year institution or community college-- is to graduate and move on to the next chapter in their life.

It is the job of the staff, faculty and administration of those schools to make sure that that goal is achieved.

This job includes the administration deciding the length of the academic calendar the students will have, and for the rest of the faculty and staff to follow suit.

Here at Cerritos College, close to two decades, there has been on and off discussion about changing from the already set 18-week calendar to a 16-week calendar.

Finally, the idea is being pushed forward through the proper channels, and was tentatively approved by the school's Board of Trustees at the March 1 meeting.

A 16-week calendar is an impeccable and highly logical idea that would have immense benefits for the students of the college.

The fact that it has taken this long to be pushed through and for the logistics to be worked out is honestly quite idiotic and has more to do with the school's financial situation than the welfare of the stu-

dents.

It's time for the school to stop pussy-footing around this idea and just roll with it.

The benefits clearly outweigh the disadvantages, which the 2015 ad hoc committee report perfectly states.

The key advantages for the students would be the addition of a winter session and the bringing back of Saturday classes.

The compressed calendar will also add more Friday classes and have the possibility of extending the hours in which classes will be held.

This means that classes will be offered early in the morning, and will end later in the night.

With the additional campus hours, and class times, the school would also have to include more office hours; meaning that the financial aid department, counseling offices and library will also be extending their hours as students who take those classes will also need services.

These benefits alone should grab the board and the district's attention enough to listen, review and push forward the new and improved calendar.

However, the compressed calendar does pose a few inconveniences to some of the programs on campus, more specifically to the Health Occupations programs.

The main problem this calendar poses for the programs is the abil-

ity for its students to fulfill the off-campus lab hours needed for their areas of study.

However, most of the schools in the Cerritos College area have successfully adjusted their programs, or have chosen to keep them on 18-week calendar. Cerritos College should be able to do the same.

Another minor drawback that the calendar poses is for students who find that a longer semester aids them in their retention and success throughout a course.

This problem has already been addressed in a sense because there will already be additional resources on campus.

The already added hours to the success center and counseling departments will be aid those students who may struggle adjusting to the compressed calendar.

Setting cost aside, there is no reason for the school to oppose the idea of a compressed calendar.

Money has been the root of many issues in the world and has ultimately led to many people's downfalls.

Do not let it be the downfall of a student's educational future and success.

Yes, money is great and we need it to function in society; but let's not put the need for it ahead of the student's future.

Help students thrive; because without them, this school wouldn't be where it is today.

- THE ENVELOPE -

## Heteros are better

BENJAMIN GARCIA  
Opinion Editor  
@pieloverable

A Scientific American article from 2014, headlined "How Diversity Makes Us Smarter," says that organizational scientists, psychologists, sociologists, economists and demographers agree that diverse groups are more innovative than homogeneous groups.

Heterogeneous societies are better.

People are acting like the United States of America should be a salad bowl instead of a mixing bowl?

People are acting like the U.S. is a salad bowl by making up reasons as to what makes them the most unique of all snowflakes. We are all the same.

There are those who say that white people are not fully human-- being that white is the absence of color and white skin is the absence of melanin.

None of these "radical activists" have any scientific backing, nor are they prevalent in society, nor are they philosophically relevant.

Unlike skin tone, culture is not a spectrum-- it is a yes or no question.

That is the difference between being proud of skin color and being proud of culture.

There are even those fighting for racial inequality who would say that there is a genocide against their "race" because whatever "race," which their skewed worldview names as their cultural rival, is mixing with their own.

In reality, there is no race gene. This excludes mixed-race people from the radical branches of the civil rights movement, for not being one thing or the other.

Have you ever been told that you're not Mexican enough? What if you were what many of your fellow Latinos so derogatorily call "white-washed."

How would that nuance in a person's experience invalidate that person's identity?

Speaking Spanish does not make a person Latino any more than a Latino who doesn't speak Spanish.

Being a practicing Catholic does not make a person more Latino either.

These things make up a totally different part of someone's identity, separate from ethnicity.

Why is society trying to qualify people's identities as either partially accurate or not at all accurate, erasing mixed people's identities?

As Irving Bartikofsky, a Mexican-Russian and Jew, said to conclude the first ever TEDx Talk at Cerritos College: "You and I can look out the same window and have a different perspective, and that's a good thing."

It's sharing original points of view across race, religion, ethnicity and creed that makes a society stronger.

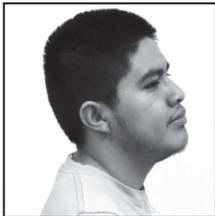
Culture is meant to be shared, and the people who ought to start sharing are mixed race.



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## FREE SPEECH ZONE WHAT GRINDS YOUR GEARS?

LINDSAY HELBERG  
Staff Writer  
@LindsayHelberg



**OZZY GARCIA,**  
COMPUTER SCIENCE  
"When people are disrespectful because they don't know you."



**ARELY LINARES,**  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
"When people get in between a relationship. People need to mind their business. Like when a girl talks to a guy that is taken."



**CHRISTIAN FERNANDEZ,**  
BUSINESS  
"When I am walking by someone and I try to just say 'hi' with a smile and they continue walking by me like I wasn't even there."



**YEIMI MOLINA**  
DENTAL HYGIENIST  
"When I am walking by someone and I try to just say 'hi' with a smile and they continue walking by me like I wasn't even there."

## Desexualize the woman and be damned

DAVID JENKINS  
Staff Writer  
@Mr\_Sniknej

Over the years' feminism has been leaning toward a sex-negative position. I've always wanted to see our culture become one that looks at sex as a positive thing and not one that tries to change it.

We live in a culture where one's sexual preference and its openness to sexuality is considered taboo. That sort of rhetoric of "slut-shaming" and telling others to abstain from fornication is to be expected from the highly religious. The premise of divinity is something that I object, and thus enjoy the pleasures of women in both sexual conduct and in sight.

The latter part of that sentence is where I can see many college educated feminist frown upon and see

it as "problematic." Many believe that to truly live in a sex-positive society the female body must be desexualized.

This line of thinking ends up critiquing particular aspects of our culture such as strip clubs, pornography, and one of the world's oldest lines of work, prostitution (legalize it!).

I recently read a column by a colleague of mine, Karla Enriquez; where she wrote on the not so recent Vanity Fair article about Emma Watson and the backlash it received for showing a bit of the tit.

The outcry against her was to discredit her feminism. Enriquez condemned the backlash, and rightly so.

However, it was her call to action when my objection arose. She says, "women's chests need to be desexualized instead of being shamed

for the way women choose to express themselves through clothing."

The former part of that statement is what I'm objecting to. If the highly religious would have found a way to desexualize any part of a woman, they would have done so a long time ago. Nothing would make them happier than to completely abolish the temptation of the flesh.

But even the religious have an understanding that our lustful characteristics can not be undone. It is innate, in other words... It's within our nature. Their reaction is to shy away from it and label it a "sin" (a divine sickness if you will).

I say nay. Let us embrace our nature and understand that it isn't "problematic" or a "sin," it can not be cured or deconstructed. It is there not just for pleasure but more importantly, reproducing.

Without the lustful and sexual

character of our species the chances of our survival would be close to none. The same could be said for any animal and its preferred sexual characteristics.

This sort of feminist rhetoric makes the exact same mistake the religious do, and that's to fight against nature.

This fight will only lead to self-hatred, especially in men.

I urge my feminist colleagues and those who fight for human rights, not to fall into the same trap the religious fell into.

Don't tell people that their sexual desires are something that can be fought against or unlearned.

Don't become sex-negative.



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TALON MARKS

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