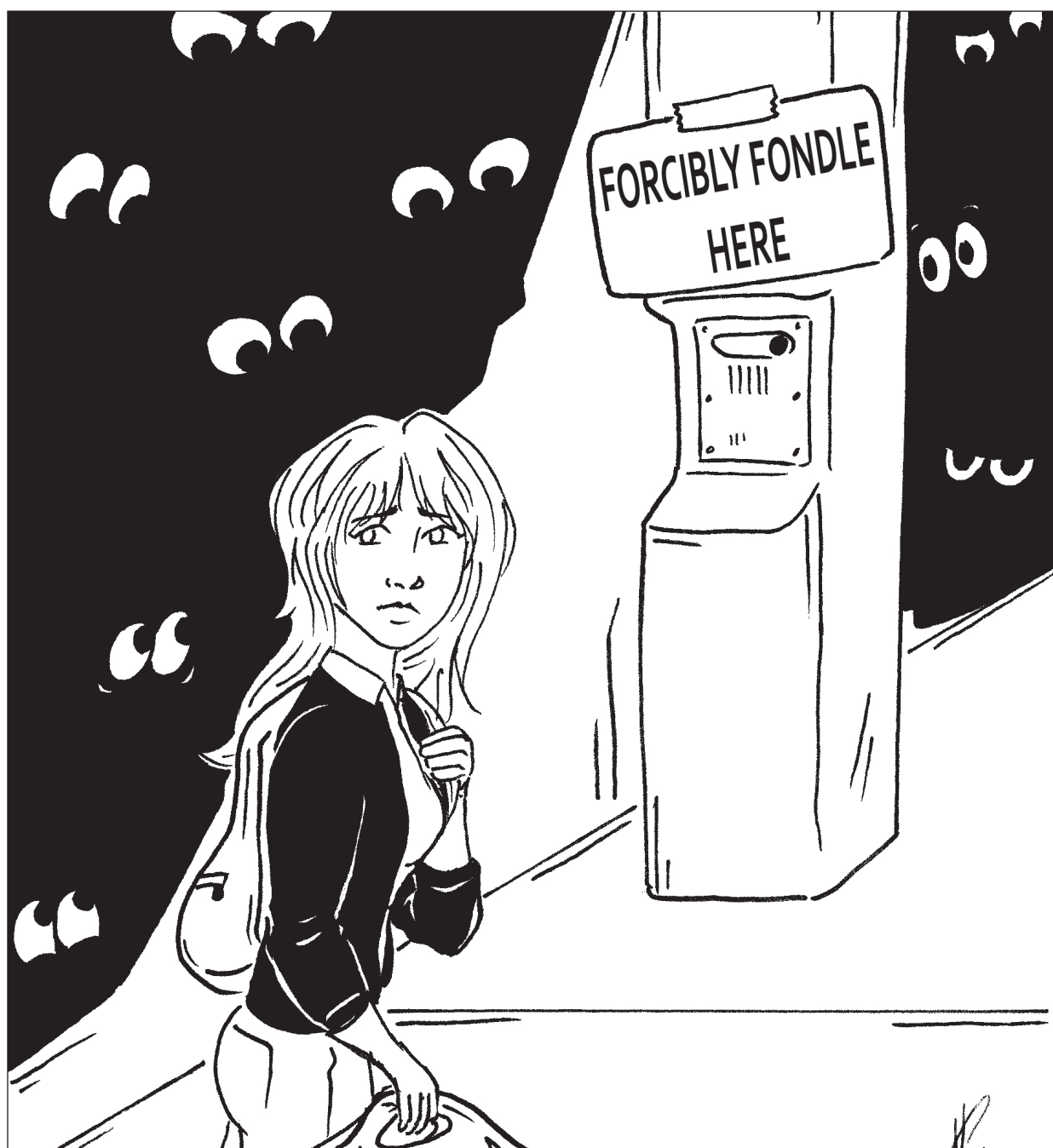


EDITORIAL

I don't touch yours so don't touch mine



CARLOS MARQUEZ/TM

No one ever wakes up in the morning and says "ah, I can't wait to get to school and be assaulted."

So why should we allow the campus of Cerritos College be an accessible setting for such acts?

Individuals attend a school in order to become educated, not molested.

With the recent increase of sexual harassment and fondling incidents, students are on high alert here which is rational due to the low visibility and lighting available on campus.

Students do take the recommended preventive measures such as walking in groups at night and carrying mace but how are they able to defend themselves in high-risk areas such as locker rooms, restrooms and even the school parking lots?

What could be done in order to ensure the decrease in sexual assault incidents? What can the student body do to ensure a safe learning environment?

That is a question students of Cerritos College should be taking into consideration.

What can the student body do to ensure a safe learning environment?

Now, it is not being advocated that students put on a cape and skin tight leather in a feeble attempt to ward off the "bad guys".

Vigilantism is not being advocated.

What is being advocated is that students should use the resources al-

ready available to them.

Use their voices to make a difference, use their voices to invoke such action such as more cadet foot patrol or blue lights by locker rooms, library, the far side of campus and any other high risk areas.

No student, or any individual should fear coming to school, no one should have to worry about his privacy or intimacy being violated, especially in an setting which one should naturally feel safe in.

Students must speak up and voice their concerns, they must bring there concerns to the ears of the campus police and campus president, Dr. Fierro.

It is easy for a voice to be heard if it is amplified.

Sexual assault, harassment, rape and molestation are not matters that should be taken tenderly in their prevention.

Nobody wants to hear that their mother, sister, brother, friend or significant other has become a victim of assault.

Violation can only take a few moments but it leaves a lasting impression, possibly resulting in trauma, depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, unwanted pregnancy or contraction of an sexually transmitted infection.

Half the time victims never come forward because of fear of victim shaming or that they will be attacked again or even killed.

So no one is entirely sure of the number of forced sexual based inci-

dents have occurred on this campus in this semester alone.

Try to envision yourself in that situation, try to envision yourself alone in a secluded area, a stranger is approaching you despite your pleas for him or her to get away from you.

You shout for help but no one can come to your aid because they can't hear you, there is not a campus cadet in sight. The only thing you can hear is his/her voice telling you to shut-up as you are being violated.

Students must rally together and advocate for a safer campus, advocate for more police presence, advocate for more blue lights and especially advocate for brighter lighting.

Voice concerns during President's Hour or Coffee with a Cop, perfect platforms in order to bring light to a rising situation that must be resolved.

Become an advocate for your fellow students, add a touch of compassion to our campus.

Let Cerritos College be known for its outstanding students, not for its penchant for fondling.

Band together, speak out and make Cerritos College a safe and worry-free place for students and faculty to learn and teach safely,

without the fear of being violated, without the fear of becoming a victim, without the fear of becoming just another statistic in the already hefty on-campus crime report.

- THE ENVELOPE -

Join a club today

BENJAMIN GARCIA
Opinion Editor
@pieloverable

It would be excellent if you joined one of the many clubs and donated to their affiliated causes if you have the resources to spare.

If you attend Cerritos College Dr. Jose Fierro's President's Hour you would know that enrollment is down. Perhaps because going to college has diminishing returns.

During a town hall meeting held on March 2, ASCC president Saul Lopez-Pulido said that student involvement with clubs was down.

In a private interview he said that involvement is slowly on the rise again (despite enrollment being down), after all there were apparently "a lot" of clubs participating in the 2017 Falcon Games.

"Nice," Lopez summarized.

The clubs on campus might be experiencing this new, steady increase in student involvement because the clubs on campus, now more than ever, are aligning themselves with the needs and desires of the modern student.

The clubs on campus show a surplus of awareness by doing charitable acts as part of their curriculum, which many would say is an important addition to the college experience.

As its website says, President Franklin Roosevelt's personal struggle with polio led him to create the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis also known as March for Dimes at a time when polio was on the rise.

Phi Beta Lambda is working in cooperation with March for Dimes, an organization that gives funding to premature birth research and saves lives through small donations

from many people.

Another such charitable act was a free suicide prevention certification workshop hosted by Active Minds with guest speaker Becky Fein.

"Changing the conversation about mental health," which is what Fein said was the objective of Active Minds, has increased importance because of the current political climate facilitated by the Trump regime.

These activities are not just good for the community, they are also good for the individual student.

If you have the time, ability and resources to help others, and helping others for the sake of helping others is not enough of a reward for you, charity can also boost your low self-esteem.

Kim Berling talked to me about her students in the Compassion in Action club, saying that, "[Club members] have said they feel a deep level of personal empowerment," and better about themselves; because "there is something about helping others that makes them feel like they are worth while."

What are you waiting for?



MCT



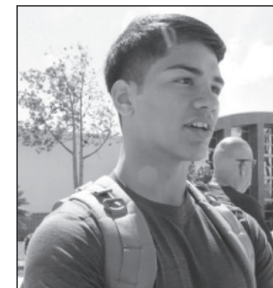
DENNIS OSORIO
Staff Writer
@patosassone

HOW DOES FINANCIAL AID AFFECT YOU?



NATANIA FERNOLL
BIOLOGY MAJOR

"It doesn't really affect me because my parents make enough to pay for me, but I wish I qualified for it."



CARLOS ZAMORA
PHYSICAL THERAPY

"If it wasn't because of FAFSA, I wouldn't come here. My family doesn't have money and since I just got out of high school FAFSA has helped me come here."



VRIDIANA CABRERA
NURSING

"It helps me being in college because my parents don't have the income to provide for me. Without the aid it would be harder for me to be in college."



LUIS ANTONIO LOPEZ
COMPUTER SCIENCE

"I do receive FAFSA, but I only get the fee waiver. I still have to pay for the textbooks which it's still a problem, but still it's better than not getting anything."

The debate on abortive right:

Is it a human right?

ARIELLE MARTINEZ
Free Lance Writer
@moviekidd1223

Abortion is not a new concept, yet the taboo topic of the termination of life has evolved into a political stance instead of a human right. It's a basic human right all people deserve and need.

In the case of others arguing against it with the ideology and belief that self-righteousness: **Your religion does not universally constitute what is right or wrong!**

It is the lack of empathy and proper education that we have not begun to learn to agree on a fundamental human right.

All people deserve the right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. With the anti-choice versus pro-choice abortion rates it all begins with education and how we become informed on our bodies and how they work.

The lack of education on how

to use contraception in our high schools definitely factors into why teenage pregnancy has risen. Simply not telling kids how to protect themselves does not stop them from continuing to have sex.

So lets start with having pro-lifers providing affordable prescribed contraception, teaming up with Planned Parenthood, handing out condoms and giving proper education in schools and middle schools.

Whether you believe life begins at conception or not, having the option to choose on a health decision that can impact your life and everyone around you, having the right to control your body and what happens to it is necessary.

Save Roe, because being pro-life doesn't mean you have to be against pro-choice, it just means we should be protecting women whose lives will carry on future generations. It starts with each other.

Is it a human life?

MICHAEL CUETO
Staff Writer
@donmiguel91

Should abortions be allowed? If meat is murder how much more is killing a baby embryo?

Abortion is not an easy thing to deal with.

There is a lot of sorrow and devastation in the aftermath of an abortion. Is this quick fix the best solution?

Abortions *do* get you out of the responsibility of raising a child, abortions *do* cover up an affair and some feel people have the right to end the early stages of a developing life inside of a womb.

The topic of Jesus is not as popular as the pleasure of sex is in this day and age. How bad is abstinence until marriage?

Easier said than done but will save you several heartaches and mistakes.

Sex is heavily pushed through the media. Men get half naked women in Victoria Secret commercials, women get movies like 'Magic Mike,' pornography is tangible, and this generation's rap music is last generations sex, drugs and rock and roll. Lustful times we are living in.

These things do increase hormones, which increase sexual activity and also the chances of an pregnancy and also abortion.

The truth of the matter is I fight to live under Gods rule. But yes as a Christian, I fall short of the glory of God and I can give in to temptation because the quick fix seems right at the time; but once the conviction of the Holy Spirit kicks in, I have to repent.

Whether you've had an abortion or not it doesn't make you any worse or better than someone else.

From what I believe we all have sin and are in need of a savior.

TALON MARKS
TALON MARKS is a First Amendment publication.
Editorials express the views of the Editorial Board. Other opinions express the view of the author and are not to be considered opinions of the publication's staff, the Editorial Board, the advisers, the Cerritos College Associated Students, the college administration or the Board of Trustees.

Production and printing of TALON MARKS is partially funded by the Associated Students of Cerritos College.
Facilities and academic supervision are provided by the Journalism Program.
Newsroom offices are located in the Fine Arts Building, Room FA245.
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Vol. 61
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