

TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

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Repeat offenders: Sophomore goalkeeper Ruby Nichols hoists the CCCAA State Championship above her and her teammates. It is the fifth consecutive season the Cerritos College women's soccer team has earned that honor.

Women's soccer makes history

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The Cerritos Falcons capped off a 23-1-1 season with yet another state championship.

It took 96 minutes to get the first points on the board and it would prove to be more than enough for the Cerritos women's soccer team to call itself state champions once more.

Sunday, the Cerritos Falcons defeated the Diablo Valley Vikings, 2-0, in the California Community College Athletic Association State Championship in a true David vs. Goliath match up.

Head coach Ruben Gonzalez said, "I think we're battle tested. We had a tough game against San Bernardino and we were able to win that in penalty kicks so we were ready."

Cerritos entered the game tied with Long Beach City College for most state championship wins in a row at four. On the other hand, Diablo Valley was playing in its first state championship game after reaching the Final Four for the first time in school history.

Gonzalez felt Diablo Valley's game plan was obvious from the jump.

"[The Vikings] were trying to keep it [tied] at zero as long as they could and get something on a counter or a foul or something like that. I



MVP: Defensive player Dana Jacobs was awarded defensive player of the year after the Falcons 2-0 win over the Diablo Valley Vikings. Jacobs expressed that the title means the most to her.

think we stepped up defensively and played a good game; it was just a matter of time because we had some opportunities we just didn't finish," he said.

Gonzalez mentioned to the team after its win Friday over Folsom Lake, that in order to become state champions two days later the team had to play better.

"We didn't play that much better but we played better. I think it came down to our heart [...] I think we wanted it," he said.

Heading into this game, sophomore midfielder Carolina Jaramillo felt all the pressure was on the team to get to the championship game. She also added once the team got

to the big game, the team would do what it had to do in order to win the state crown again.

Gonzalez admitted that there was some disappointment that set in as his team struggled to get the ball in the net.

The Diablo Valley game plan of keeping the Falcons off the board worked for the first 90 minutes as the game headed into extra time squared away at zero.

That was until freshman midfielder Maria Hernandez broke the tie with an improbable goal that even shocked herself.

She said, "During halftime, [the team] was telling me to dribble and then take the shot because I was

backing off. Then I took it while I was falling, so as I was getting up I saw everyone running to me and I was like 'Oh my god, did I score?'"

Gonzalez felt that goal was exactly what the doctor ordered for his anxious Cerritos team.

"I think the girls knew we needed to come out with a sense of urgency. We knew we would be able to dictate tempo and try and get that goal," he said.

From that point on, the Vikings found themselves in unfamiliar territory as they became the aggressor down trailing on the scoreboard.

Things would only get worse for Diablo Valley.

In the second session of extra time, Jaramillo gave the Falcons a much needed insurance goal in the '118 minute.

"Once we got into overtime, we saw that Diablo Valley was tired and we just wanted to keep working. [Hernandez] was able to come in and score that [first] goal," Jaramillo said via a translator.

From that point on, it was clock watching time for the Falcons. They would only have to watch for a couple more minutes.

And once the referees blew the game dead, the realization of a long awaited fifth straight state championship dream was realized by the entire Cerritos Falcon bench as it erupted in cheers and jubilation.

Jumps to Page 7

Trustee member retires after 20 years of service

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Now that we're approaching the last few weeks in the year, it's time to say goodbye. On Thursday, Cerritos College led a retirement party for board of trustees member Bob Arthur, who has served on the board for 21 years.

Before Arthur's service on the board, he previously worked as a mayor and councilman for the city of Norwalk. "It's really sad but I wish [Arthur] well as he retires. Just like before, I support him on his decision and think what he's doing is right. Sure it's sad, but we should let him be himself on this new decision. He was a very good man because he believed a lot for the school and the people inside it. Wherever he goes now, let him be well," board member Carmen Avalos said.

"I don't think I would've traded any one of those moments for anything else."

— BOB ARTHUR
Retired trustee

20 Years of Service

Arthur acknowledged that his time at the college has been a pretty good run for him.

"A couple of days ago I started reminiscing

about some of the history of what I've done here at Cerritos College. Doing the math and trying to put things into perspective, and over the past decades, over a million students have enrolled here at Cerritos College in the time that I've been on the board.

"Approximately, 900 board of trustee meetings, committee meetings, subcommittee meetings, conferences, department graduations, board retreats, all of these I've attended during my time here on the board, and honestly, I've enjoyed every [single thing]," he stated.

How it Began

Arthur, who addressed the audience, began his speech with expressing thanks to his family.

"Jenny, Debbie, and Robert [Arthur] are all graduates of Cerritos College, and I couldn't be more proud. Thank you to my optimist members that are here, as much as the joking and kidding that came with the comments about being the incoming president of the optimist club of Cerritos I am truly looking forward to it," he said with humor.

Arthur described the beginning of his service on the board of trustees starting off in the year of 1995 when he was presented the opportunity to run. He explained how the prior year he lost his re-election bid to Norwalk City Council.

"It sucks to lose. I had said, 'yeah, I'm done with public service, thank you very much.' That's what I'm thinking. I thanked Pam and Wayne for their thoughts of considering me, that I would be a good trustee [to] represent Cerritos College, and I was a good fit for [the] college. I got home that day and told Sue [Arthur] about it, I think it was the following day I went to the register recorder's office and told them 'yeah,'" he said.

The Final Goodbye

Arthur expressed that he wouldn't trade any single moment for anything else. For his final thoughts, he publicly thanked the people staff and faculty of Cerritos College.

Barbara Samperi, Downey Unified School District member, thanked Arthur for his many years of service.

"I thank Arthur on a lot of things. I thank him for his commitment to the school and the community. I knew him since the time when he helped out a lot back when we used to work for Downey Unified and moved his way up. Also, he really did more than what was necessary. Now that he leaves, I wish him the entire best on the rest of his life," she said.

Joseph Derthick of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce expressed how proud he is of Arthur and how he will miss his colleague.

"Now that's he is retiring, I'll miss him and [the] great times here. I'm absolutely proud and happy for his accomplishments that have been passed down and understand that what he's doing now is for the best. For his time here, he was very much involved in everything that went on because he had a great heart and mind," he said.

Taking a look at this past year at Cerritos College

Negotiations: On *Jan. 25*, Cerritos College Faculty Federation President Solomon Namala addressed the board of trustees regarding the disappointment over the faculty wage negotiations.

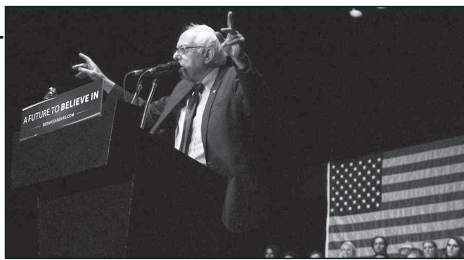
Shooting [Day 1]: An adult male was shot and killed on *Feb. 23* in the College Square parking lot.



KRISTOPHER CARASSCO/TM

Shooting [Day 2]: Hispanic male, suspected of driving a stolen car, was shot by Lieutenant Hernandez on *Feb. 24*. Cerritos College student witness accounted that four or five shots were fired. Hernandez stated that at 1:23 a.m. the suspect died in the hospital due to the result of his injuries.

Berning LA: Senator Bernie Sanders brought his campaign rally to Los Angeles on *March 24*. His supporters completely filled the Wiltern theatre.



KARLA ENRIQUEZ/TM

Islamophobia: On *March 29*, History professor John Haas facilitated an open forum event about islamophobia, which brought in a full room of an attentive audience.

Timeline continued on Page 2

Gender neutral forum votes on restroom signs

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On Nov. 30 the Gender Neutral Restroom Forums held a second open meeting.

Audience members who attended were given the opportunity to vote on the new signs that will be placed on the restrooms.

The forum was led by Dr. Valyncia Raphael with two guest speakers from the Angel Step Up program, Rachel Price and Cindy Tamayo.

The forum began with Raphael explaining the purpose of the forum and providing some information on gender identity and gender expression.

Raphael said, "I thought the turnout was great," Raphael said. "We had a perfect amount of small group discussion, which is really important for the topic."

While the purpose of the forum was to vote on the signs that Cerritos College will use for the gender-neutral bathrooms that will be placed on campus, the guest speakers from Angel Step Up used some time to further educate the audience on gender and sexual identity.

All three speakers gave a speech about the issues before allowing the members of the audience to break into smaller conversations and vote on the matter.

The forum audience contained about 15 people who involved themselves in the conversation.

All the votes from the four forums will be tallied to decide the signs that will be used when the restrooms are placed on campus.

Every place that provides public service is required to have a gender neutral restroom put into place by Mar. 1 next year, but Cerritos hopes to have its signs put

into place close to the start of next semester.

Although the forums did not bring in a huge number of people attendees believed that they accomplished their goal.

Theatre major Isaac Simons-Araya said, "I think the information spreads to the people that are here, there are people that will tell others and explain it, as well as share resources."

Guest speaker Price delivered a personal testimony about her experiences being a member of the LGBTQI community.

She spoke of her experiences being a member of the LGBTQI community during the 1980s and provided insight on what she went through.

She closed out her testimony by handing out advice to those in the audience.

"I understand that times have changed," she said. "The experiences I had shouldn't be [your experiences today], now we're in 2017, we have a lot of help available."

After the speakers delivered their speeches the audience members were broken down into groups and asked to discuss certain topics that included; What can we do to make the campus safe for all Falcons?

Raphael felt that the small group portion of the forum was beneficial.

"I think some of these concepts are things that people haven't talked about ever, so I think having more interactive small conversations really help people process the information," she concluded.



KARLA ENRIQUEZ/TM

Offering Sanctuary: Political science professor Dennis Falcon addressed the audience on Nov. 22, at the 'protected together' candlelight vigil. Falcon said, "We're a bridge, we're like the tip of the sphere, we're the light."

Constructing a sanctuary

KARLA ENRIQUEZ
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"We're a bridge, we're like the tip of the sphere, we're the light."

Political Science Professor Dennis Falcon had a message of hope for the community who attended the Nov. 22 Protected Together Candlelight Vigil.

The DREAM Club along with MEChA de Cerritos College and the Bellflower and Norwalk coalition hosted the vigil in support of Cerritos College becoming a sanctuary school.

Former senator and DREAM Club member Luis Guzman said, "We're having a candlelight vigil

in support of making this school a sanctuary college, we invited people from the community. What it means basically, is we want it to be [a] safe space for all students.

"In light of the elections, students that are undocumented, there's that fear that they might get deported. To be a safe campus, to be a sanctuary campus means that for example if ICE wants to come to the school and they want to get information on students that are undocumented, they won't comply," he said.

College President Dr. Jose Fierro assured students that the school will continue to protect and provide education for all students in a speech that followed

one by Falcon and Guzman.

He said, "We have for many years welcomed all students and ensured that we protect all students and ensure access to education and we're going to continue to do the same as we move forward. We're going to take an additional step forward actively reassuring all the students in our community that we're here to serve them, protect them and provide access to education."

Fierro also asked for unity.

Falcon continued his metaphorical use of lights and bridges to drive the point home that the change students want to see starts with them.

"I tell my students, when you

go home be the light, if your parents have questions about things on the news, talk about it, you're the light, you're the bridge. This kind of event brings us together that's why the candle is symbolic."

"We're going to be the light and the bridge and it doesn't take a million people to light the darkness," Falcon said to the small crowd present including students, professors, administrators and trustees.

Moving forward, Guzman stated that legislation was presented to the board of trustees to make the college a sanctuary school but he will be presenting legislation to senate.

Faculty senate discusses class cancellation policy

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For students who worry about class cancellations due to low enrollment, there may be a solution in the near future.

Class cancellation policy and faculty hiring were the two topics discussed at the Tuesday faculty senate meeting.

The group discussed how the school is currently canceling classes that don't reach 60 percent of the seats filled, which faculty senate expressed concern over.

Faculty Senate President Michelle Lewellen said, "When classes are cancelled for low enrollment, that number now sits at 60 percent, so you have to reach 60 percent of the seats filled in order for the class to

run. The problem that the faculty have with this is that we don't know where 60 percent came from and this really disadvantages high cap classes, which is most of the general education, social science and humanities.

"When you are talking 60 percent of 60, that is 36 students. They're canceling classes with 30 to 34 students in it because you're not hitting that 36 mark in a 60 cap class and that really hurts our students," she said.

Lewellen's expressed concern about how the current procedure not only affect students but also affect faculty.

"Chances are [students are] not going to be able to find another class to get into, a class that meets the same requirement.

"It also disadvantages instructors in that [they] don't know what their schedule

is, don't know if they're going to have a full load, if they're going to have to take classes away from someone or teach a short-term class, like a 12-week or a 9-week, which is not always favorable to an individual faculty.

She added, "We need a process that is a little more solid than we have."

Faculty senate voted to recommend a 50 percent or 15-student cap, whichever is lower.

Lewellen stated she will be pushing for the 15-student cap "unless there is considerable evidence and logical reasoning from administration that we should go higher."

The decision will affect the spring 2017 semester.

Another item the faculty senate dis-

cussed was faculty hiring ranking.

Speech Professor Dr. Angela Hoppe Nagao stated that although there is a hiring procedure, she was concerned with the lack of a written process that has been mutually agreed upon used by divisions for the ranking of new faculty hires.

The speech professor proposed a motion that the faculty senate create a task force to research new full-time faculty ranking procedures used by other colleges in order to create a procedure that the campus mutually agrees on.

Hoppe Nagao said, "California Education Code 87360 (b) specifies that policies for faculty hiring shall be developed and agreed upon jointly by the governing board and the academic senate."

"The faculty senate should no longer agree to the haphazard ranking procedures used by different divisions on this campus," she said.

Another source of concern was whether retention rates play a role in faculty hiring ranking.

Lewellen said, "It doesn't serve students well to be making decisions based on success and completion because that's not always the faculty's responsibility."

At the end of the last faculty senate meeting of the semester, Dr. Solomon Namala announced he was stepping down from president of the Cerritos College Faculty Federation and will be replaced by Political Science Professor Terrance Mullins.

The end is near: The final stories of 2016

Timeline continued from Page 1

Activist Teacher: Sociology professor Diane Pirtle held an activism presentation on **April 5** in honor of Women's History Month. Pirtle shared her activism journey with audience members.



KARLA ENRIQUEZ/TM

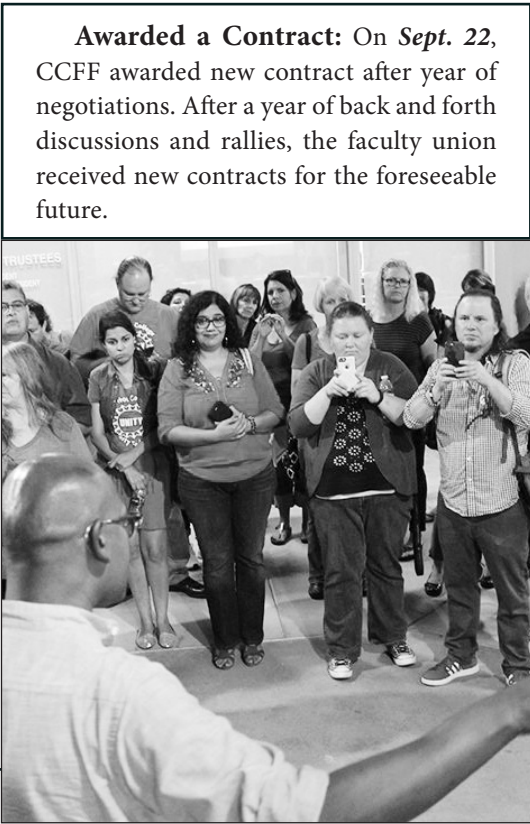
Heated Protest: On **May 6**, Hilary Clinton held a rally at East Los Angeles City College. Clinton supporters stood outside her rally defending her against her protestors.



PERLA LARA/TM

Multiple Firings of Teachers: On **July 28**, five teachers within the child development center were all let go from their job. The five teachers protested the wrongful termination at the board meeting.

Blue Emergency Telephones: Due to the fact that many students were concerned with safety issues, blue emergency telephones were installed on campus and accessible to students **Aug. 30**.



TERREL EMERSON/TM

Awarded a Contract: On **Sept. 22**, CCFE awarded new contract after year of negotiations. After a year of back and forth discussions and rallies, the faculty union received new contracts for the foreseeable future.



CHANTAL ROMERO/TM

Controversial Costume: Controversial costume leads to reported student investigation. During a costume contests on campus, an individual with an ISIS inspired costume was disqualified and soon underwent an ongoing investigation on **Nov. 2**.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms: On **Nov. 15**, Beginning stages being completed for gender neutral bathroom. After months of planning and the demand for gender neutral bathrooms, the school moved forward with a plan to make an all gender bathroom to arrive within the next year.



CARLOS MARQUEZ/TM

American college students dying for more gun control

The United States does not have a gun problem, it has a gun epidemic. It manifests itself in maddening ways including rhetoric in regards to keeping a college campus safe.

In 2015 there was at least one mass shooting on any given day in the US and as many as three shootings. Opponents of gun control have bullets shoved so far into their ears (among other places) to block out the voice of reason.

According to data collected by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, about 92 gun-related deaths occur in a day; about 33% of which are by homicide and a distressing 63% are by suicide.

College campuses are a special case in regards to violence because colleges are meant to be institutions where people of varied beliefs, races, opinions and backgrounds gather, making it an unreasonable location for hate crimes; no matter the reason for crime on campus, it is proven that arms are not remedial.

It is certain that a higher presence of guns on campus would likely cause higher rates of suicide (as if having to take math classes in the morning were not reason enough).

With the facts being so, Talon Marks has elected to take a controversial stance and is coming out of the closet in favor of gun control and restricting gun violence.

It is obvious that if the already vast availability of guns should increase, the amount of danger on campus would increase in response. This is indisputable. If someone sets hundreds of mouse traps in ones hallway, one is likely to step on a mousetrap when one gets up for their midnight poop.

While there is a direct correlation between access to firearms and suicide and homicide rates, about 89 percent of sexual assaults and rapes are committed without any sort of weapon at all. Meaning that illegal firearms are not prominent factors in sexual violence. Arming possible victims is not equalizing.

These possible victims are more likely to commit homicide or suicide. A more effective plan would be more safety briefings and self-defense workshops than whatever silly number we have now; and better publicizing of such events; perhaps having free food there too!

Another viable alternative to arming students and instructors is ASCC actually following through by providing a tram for students who have classes at night.

In the event of mass shootings, police have said time and time again that it would not be helpful for multiple bystanders to pull out concealed weapons and fire at the assailant, especially if their bullets are

not traceable. Keep it in your pants.

What is likely to happen in such an occasion is the police on the scene will confuse the armed bystanders (who likely think this is still the wild west) for the bad guy; it would be safer for all parties involved if bystanders got to safety and let the police do their job.

We need more trained police on campus; and more police protecting safety and not doling out petty fines for parking violations.

Anyone who proposes more guns on campus is uninformed. Please direct them to this editorial.

Anyone who doesn't understand that favoring gun control and owning a gun are not mutually exclusive suffers from cognitive dissonance.

A vocal opponent of gun restriction is the National Rifle Association, a kindly nonprofit that provides firearms to drug cartels and domestic terrorists, which is backed by companies that produce weaponry designed for killing; it also lobbies for less gun restriction, proving once again that the corporate overlords only mean the greatest harm to the American public.

In light of this disease, Talon Marks calls all students, staff and faculty to learn how to defend themselves without a thunder stick and to promote responsible gun regulation.

THE ENVELOPE Rich gays sacking culture

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"Pink capitalism" is a term used to describe the type of materialism which has constructed the gay male ideal- catering heavily to the cisgender, white and upper-middle class members of a community whose rights have been championed for by more oppressed peoples.

The truth is capitalism is not compatible with any sort of genuine equal rights movement because the idea of acquiring a surplus of goods or luxury goods is irrevocably exclusive to the elite and privileged.

Unfortunately for the general public, it is not common knowledge that socialism has been a propelling factor in the gay rights movement since its very beginning.

As early as the beginning of the nineteenth century, Utopian socialist thinkers including Charles Fourier in France and Robert Owen in England asserted that homosexuality must be considered valid in a classless and egalitarian society.

In the United States Bayard Rustin, who can be praised as a communist, draft-dodger and homosexual, assisted in planning the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom alongside Dr. Martin Luther King.

Despite this long shared history of socialism and gay rights, many members of gay community prefer to trade this elevated heritage for the lies of corporate America.

They do not see how the same companies that cater specifically to white, cisgender gays create massive disparity between genders, races and classes.

When gays participate in pink capitalism by giving their business to luxury brands, they perpetuate

the same sort of capitalism that uses discrimination against race, gender and socio-economic minorities as an instrument of white supremacy, misogyny and class-war to make money.

As a result, within gay culture itself there is a large amount of prejudice against queer people of color- but especially trans and black people.

What white gays should be doing is standing for the rights of other queer people and being an ally in fighting the issues of intersectionality.

Instead they steal other cultures like pirate booty- by wearing bhrindis and headresses and by using Ebonics. Every twink with a bottom lip thinks he can get away with such atrocities!

Trump was elected president, to the dismay of many including undocumented immigrants. As a group who is evidently gaining power in the United States, white gays ought to be overwhelmingly vocal about the need for an easier pathway to citizenship and amnesty, especially for Latino and Muslim members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Gays spend more money partying than they do in donations to institutions that would assist in the battle for equal rights for all such as the American Civil Liberties Union.

Obviously white gays are confused as to who they should be allying themselves with, being that the LGBTQ+ right movement was started by poor, black trans women.

They should be standing in alliance with us, their unprivileged brothers and sisters who are not so welcome in the capitalist society. They do not see that they are just cogs in a machine.

Do I want children? No, thanks...

CHANTAL ROMERO
Platforms Editor
@Chantal_Marie

"How many children are you planning to have?" I plan on having none, EVER! By now I am used to the questions that follow my claim to not have any children of my own in my life.

Here's a list of comments or questions that follow my claim:

- Why? (Why is there a need to explain myself?)
- I'm not going to be a grandma?! (So you're ignoring my wants and needs because you want to feel better?)
- So you hate children? (On the contrary, I love children and thoroughly enjoy not having to interact with one 24/7)
- But you would make a great parent! (I'm a perfectionist, so yes chances are that I'd break my back for the child.)
- Having a child makes you a woman! (Don't even.)

The latter is the most hurtful, disrespectful and stupid reason someone can appeal to me for having children.

If claiming that having a child makes you a woman, then what is your take on those who can't physically create another being, does that bring them down a level in womanhood?

At the age of 15, I have known that I don't want children. I am exhausted of explaining why I chose not to have any. I have learned that saying "I'm selfish" ends the discussion. However, I am tired of identifying myself as selfish.

I am not selfish. I am **confident** and clear in my decision. When I think about my future I don't imagine the great American home with the white picket fence and children playing in the yard. My ideal future requires extensive traveling, immersing myself in various cultures and gaining an understanding of other humans in this world.

I am **intelligent** and I know a child wouldn't fit this agenda. Every day I get more discouraged about the future of this world and I con-

sider it unfair to make another human experience a terrible world.

I am **determined** to not settle for what society expects of me because of my gender. I will not settle for anything less of my goals and aspirations. I refuse!

I am **aware** that some people have managed to raise children even with a busy agenda and I respect that. PROPS TO YOU!

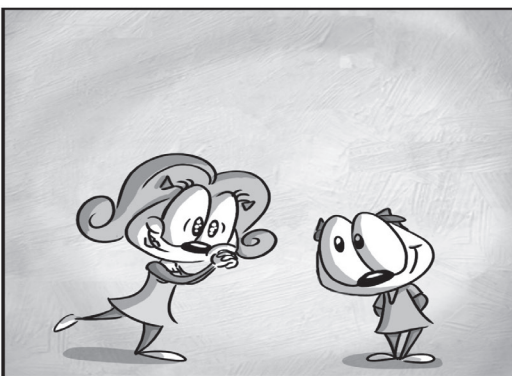
However, I know that when it comes to me I'd be completely overwhelmed and constantly feeling like someone is stopping me from achieving my goals. These negative thoughts shouldn't be projected on a child.

Lastly, for those who claim that I'll someday change my mind let me burst your bubble and say NO. It's not going to happen.

Next time you come across a woman don't just assume that she will have children. Instead of asking when or how many children she's having, ask her about her goals and aspirations. That will allow you to gain insight on what makes her feel worthy.



By: L. A. Bonté



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Finding myself, finding my pansexuality

CHANTAL ROMERO

Platforms Editor

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"As I learned about other gender identities such as non-binary, I realized that I was attracted to people based on things besides gender, that gender didn't hold much stock in the way I felt about people."

This is how Midnight Byrne-Davis, sociology major, recalls her experience as she became aware of her sexuality as pansexual. For Byrne-Davis the journey to find a term that would adequately express her sexual orientation has been challenging. Looking back at her journey she believes that the lack of knowledge was prohibiting her from claiming her true self. Byrne-Davis now identifies as pansexual.

"I believe that I have always been this way, but I always identified as bisexual before I became more educated and was able to find what my sexuality really is," she added.

Byrnedavis recalls a time during her seventh grade when she encountered her first attraction to another female and how it was a difficult time because she didn't know how to come out to her best friend. She believed that her friend would have a negative reaction. However, when Byrne-Davis declared herself bisexual, to her pleasant surprise, her friend didn't seem to be affected by it. Her friend simply asked to whom she felt attracted to and moved on.

At the age of 17, Byrne-Davis came out to her parents and fortunately for her they weren't

bothered by it.

"I am very lucky to be surrounded by people who are accepting."

Although, the people closest to Byrne-Davis have been accepting, some others in her life haven't been the same. In a previous relationship she was dating a male and when she told him that she was bisexual he immediately assumed that now he had to worry about keeping her away from both genders. When the parents of the aforementioned ex-boyfriend became aware of the situation they told him that she was 'just going to cheat.'

"Being referred to as a cheater simply because I'm attracted to more than one gender is unfair," Byrne-Davis stated.

She said "The negativity that I've experienced from things I've read on the internet, about bisexuals 'not being able to make up their minds' or 'being greedy.' For Byrne-Davis and others these claims are hurtful and disrespectful because from her personal account, they simply aren't true.

She has found that these erroneous claims not only come from members outside of the LGBTQ+ community but also from within.

"Many people who identify as gay or lesbian strongly dislike bisexuals and pansexuals" she said.

Through her dating experience she has noticed the difference in how people treat her

simply because of how she identifies herself.

"Recently, it just came to me that pansexual is what I am. Once I made that connection, I wasted no time in coming out again to my parents and to some of my friends. This is definitely who I am. I was very nervous about changing how I identified, worried that others would judge me or say that I couldn't make up my mind," she said. She was worried about the backlash that she would receive from identifying with a different orientation.

"It is in my experience that a lot of lesbian women do not want to date bisexual or pansexual women,

"To people that have a hard time understanding the LGBT community, I just want to say, that this is how we are born. It's not a choice to be gay, to be bisexual, to be transgender. It is just another way of being a human being. We're all people, and deserve to be treated as such, not looked down upon or mistreated. As people we deserve all the rights and courtesies that straight and cisgender people have. If you truly don't understand, let yourself be educated. There is always someone willing to explain things to you in a kind manner," she concluded.

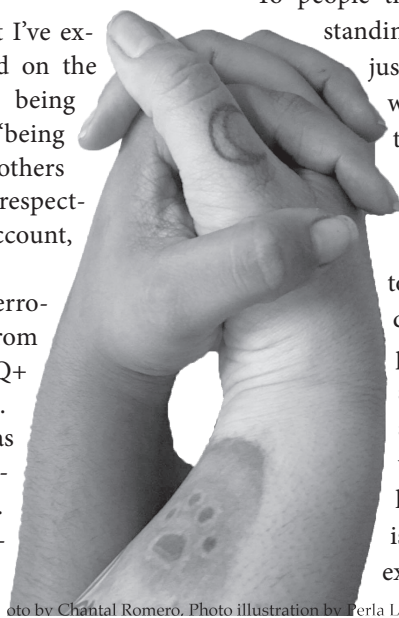


Photo by Chantal Romero. Photo illustration by Perla Lara/TM

Cerritos College clubs provide Friendships, community and growth



Mr. Cerritos PBL: Pictured from left to right: Giovanni Ruiz, Jorge Ramos, Cesar Garcia, Jose Trejo, Gilberto Cuevas. The team celebrate Ruiz's performance as Mr. PBL, where the contestants have to showcase their talents.

Phi Beta Lambda members are dedicated to their club

CHANTAL ROMERO & JENNY GONZALEZ

Platforms and Opinion Editor

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What do you think when you hear Phi Beta Lambda? It is not a fraternity. Phi Beta Lambda is the business club on campus.

Times weren't always smooth for PBL. According to PBL Club Adviser Jerry Ramos, "In the 1990s (1992-1995) California PBL nearly became defunct, yet [...] professor Hy Finkelstein held the spring and fall conferences here [...] until the national PBL site retained the services of Glenn Morris."

These conferences offer the delegates experience life-case scenarios in realistic ways that has them compete in delivering a business pitch.

Ramos said, PBL is the second oldest club at Cerritos College dating back to the 1960's.

The following members were nominated by Ramos for various reasons:

He nominated Cesar Garcia, current PBL president because he "Defines student success and he sees challenges as opportunities to

excel. [He] stands out because has a hunger for success."

Garcia said, "As president, I have a commitment to deliver an experience beyond expectations and needs of our members and officers. The well being of this organization means everything to me. It has changed my life in ways words cannot describe."

Ramos also nominated Raven Gomez. She currently holds the PBL Director of Membership Retention position. He nominated Gomez because, "[She] shines brighter than the brightest star and has a joyful enthusiasm that motivates others to be their best.

Gomez stated, "I appreciate being nominated because I have been giving my all into this club. I have done what I can to build a stronger organization because I honestly care about this club."

Dhanraj Patel was also nominated. He holds the current Events Coordinator position.

Ramos stated, "[Patel] has a 'can do' attitude and has coordinated the most activities this single semester than any predecessors. [He] has a

diplomatic, yet professional powerful presence to "rally" officers & members to come together for fundraising, networking, collaborating with other colleges and bringing awareness to important causes."

Several events were coordinated by Patel including two campus fundraisers for the March of Dimes non-profit. Total funds raised were \$1,024.55. He also helped with ASCC Float building & homecoming in October.

"PBL is like my family and job so that is the reason I am able to put in hard work," Patel said.

Ramos also nominated Melody Garcia who has been a member since fall 2016.

"Melody is on fire [...] in a good way. [She] has embraced PBL from the start of the semester and has participated [in] almost every organized PBL event on and off campus. said Ramos.

Melody said, "I think I would have been nominated because of my attendance to many events that PBL [hosts]. I do try my best to make time [...] I am very social and energetic."



Pokémon catchers: From Left to right, Samuel Schirmer-Grace, Anthony Riestra, and Jovan Orozco, playing Pokémon Sun during the Thursday Anxiety Gaming Club meeting. The club has 15 members that regularly attend the meetings.

Anxiety Gaming Club creates a place to connect

PERLA LARA

College Life Editor

@pslaralara

The Cerritos College Anxiety Gaming Club has just finished its first semester as a club with 250 registered members.

Club members can use the Anxiety Gaming Discord channel to game together.

Club President Abigail Paz said gaming and communicating over the discord channel helps those who don't spend time with family have someone to share the holidays with.

Architecture major Jovan Orozco has been a member of the club since it started.

He described the club as being, "Good and wonderful, you get to know people that play the same video games together. When there's stress with finals or we have a test, we come and play a game."

The club provides events members can participate in.

"We had our Smash Fest so many people came and hung out, played some Smash Bros. We're a family toward each other," he said.

Treated as equal LA LGBTQ Center a place for community

MONYCA CEDILLO

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The LGBT community has been treated with shame and suppression.

Member of the Los Angeles Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center Maria Martinez said, "I was born like this. I am not ashamed, but at first, many people made me feel like I was weird. When I told my friends about being lesbian, I found out that I don't have many true friends."

Martinez suffered bullying from many people that she thought were her friends.

She said, "The person that I thought was my best friend was the one who started bullying me. I was afraid to tell my parents because my family is a really traditional Mexican family. It is very conservative, they are not open-minded to accept me."

After years of suffering bullying from other people, she found out the Los Angeles LGBT Community Center. There she found others who treated her as an equal.

"I am very happy to find this center because they help me to understand that being lesbian is alright. I don't have to pretend to be someone else," she said.

According to the Los Angeles LGBT Center website, "The Los Angeles LGBT Center has cared for, championed, and celebrated LGBT individuals and families in Los Angeles and beyond.

Today the Center's nearly 600 employees provide services that span four broad categories:

Health, Social Services and Housing, Culture and Education, and Leadership and Advocacy."

Luis Rodriguez is also part of the Los Angeles LGBT Community Center.

He said, "when I was little I always felt different. I don't know how to explained, but I wasn't interested in the same things like my brother."

The LGBT community has one battle in common it fights for respect and equal rights.

Both Martinez and Rodriguez agree on one thing, they did not decide to be born like this, but I have decided to fight for my rights and the respect of others.

The center helped both to reconstruct their self-esteem because it was low esteem because of all the bullying that they receive.

The therapy helped them to accept themselves just like they really are.

Martinez agreed saying, "At some point in my life I really felt ashamed of myself because I thought that I was my parents' shame because I was not like my parents want. I try to be like my brother. I started to do the same, but it did not make me happy."

Both Martinez and Rodriguez receive advice from the center staff on how to talk with their families and understand them.

They said that they also gained a new family and they are very happy to be part of the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

Rodriguez expressed, "I am glad to be part of the Los Angeles LGBT Center because now I know who I am, and I have true friends. My parents accepted me exactly like I am because they love me."



COURTESY OF KAREN PATRON

Dreaming for a successful future: Student Trustee Karen Patron sitting on the Cerritos College sign as she poses for the picture. Patron was elected trustee after colleague Victor Villaobos encouraged her to run.

Undocumented and unafraid

DAVID JENKINS
STAFF WRITER
@mr_sniknej

At Cerritos College, there is diversity, not just in ideas but in people. There is a wide-range of people with multi-ethnic background and multi-racial as well.

However, there is the DREAM club. A club comprised of a group of students who lack citizenship and attend Cerritos College.

One of these individuals who is a part of the club is Student Trustee Karen F. Patron.

She was born in the capital of Baja California, Mexicali and came to the United States as a child. She attended Lake-wood High School and upon graduating began to attend Cer-ritos College.

Patron speaks of her childhood here in the United States, she says that she was very open about being undocumented as a child.

Proud and Not Afraid

“I always knew that I was undocumented and as a kid I was never afraid to tell anybody, and my mom being Hispanic, she would say; ‘You can’t tell anybody, if you tell them they’re going to deport us.’ My thing is that I was never shy about it. To me it was always like ‘Yeah. My parents are immigrants.’

“It was like an epic story, my mom came here through a visa with me and my dad crossed the borders with Los Coy-otes, who are known to pass people through the borders. So to me it was like ‘Yeah! My dad did this, he jumped the border.’ As a kid it was like ‘Holy shit.’ So as a kid I was never shy about it and as a student I always got along with people, so people never judged me. We were all Hispanics where I went to school,” she said.

The confidence always seemed to reign in Patron’s life, this can be seen in the leadership role which she has obtained at

Cerritos College.

Campus Senator, Victor Villaobos, who is a colleague of Patron’s and an ally towards the DREAM club also speaks of the confidence that comes from Patron.

“What attracted me to [Patron] or what I found in her that might be a good fit to part of student government as trustee, when I asked her if she wanted to run, [it] was just her confi-dence and who she was [and] the way she spoke.

“I didn’t know her and just speaking to her at one of the nights at the conference I realized that she was someone who knew what she wanted. I saw someone who was confident and wanting to help those around her,” he said.

Life After High School

“I think it was in high school when it was an overwhelm-ing feeling that ‘Holy shit. I’m undocumented and there’s no going back.’ Knowing that I wasn’t going to be able to go to college, knowing that I wouldn’t be able to qualify for finan-cial aid [...] because I wasn’t under the DACA, I was just a student who was undocumented,” she explained.

Patron explained that she was worried about being under the DACA out of fear that something would happen to her. She was skeptical at first about getting guaranteed Social Security and didn’t sign up until she was 17 years of age.

“It was really hard because all my family and friends were all like ‘Oh Karen, I’m going to this college, what college are you going to? Did you already apply? Why aren’t you doing anything Pat-ron? You’re smart. You got the knowledge, you’re involved in all these clubs and you’re not going to college?’ I was like ‘It’s not really an option for me,’ she recalled.

When Patron applied she got accepted into a few colleges, however the process was not easy.

There was a distinction between her process and that of her friends. Being undocumented and her parents knowing very little of the system, she had to fend for herself in planning out her access to school.

“I did apply and I got accepted to Cal State Long Beach, Fullerton, Dominguez, some out-of-state colleges that were looking for me, but I didn’t feel comfortable going there, and then there was community college and I said; ‘Mom, this is what I want’ and she said ‘Whatever you choose I’m going to support you.’

So, my parents weren’t there to guide me through the pro-cess of ‘This is where you go and this is what you do’. All my families’ friends were like, ‘My parents told me to do this and I got to file this.’ My parents were not involved in the process of choosing college and asking those questions for me, so I had to single myself out and say; ‘Ok who do I go to because I’m undocumented, I know I follow a different rule, who do I go to.’ It was very nerve wrecking and at the same time I told myself that I had to do it I have no other choice,” she said.

Patron goes on to say that the reason she chose commu-nity college over Cal State was because she wanted to test out the waters first.

Supporting Patron

She had a very good support system that night, who continue to support her daily. Many of her friends spoke of themselves being an ally not just for Karen Patron, but every other un-documented student at Cerritos College.

As many of her friends define her as self-less and caring for those around her, those very same people care for her right back. Through her confidence and her yearning to help her peers, she and her friends will fight against any sort of trouble that comes their way.

“*I always knew that I was undoc-umented and as a kid I was never afraid to tell any-body.*”

— KAREN PATRON
Student Trustee

Succeeding in the face of adversity



KARLA ENRIQUEZ/TM

New Life: Gerardo Estrada, mechanical engi-neer, tells his story of being a dreamer. Although Estrada has had a difficult time to adjust, he has credited his family for support.

BRIANA HICKS
News Editor
@askCelena

Perseverance is a word that describes me-chanical engineering major Gerardo Estrada.

At eight years old he came to the United States with his parents from Tijuana Baja Cal-ifornia with the dream of a better life.

He and his parents came over legally, us-ing a visa, but never returned to the border peninsula.

“We didn’t have to jump a border or any-thing crazy like that,” he said explaining how he arrived in the United States.

Estrada lists one of his struggles as having to adjust to a new language.

Adjusting to a New Home

“It took a while to adjust, learning Eng-lish, but pretty much my parents brought us to give us a better life and a better future,” he said.

“One of the struggles would be having to take extra English classes, ESL, I had to take like ten. I caught up pretty well with [the lan-guage] it took a year, year and a half. Once I got to seventh or eighth grade I already knew how to speak English.

“When I got to high school [I was put] in ELD once again, I didn’t have an elective, so I had a second English class,” he added.

Another struggle for Estrada was getting to high school and not being able to do the things other high school students were doing such as getting a driver’s license or a job.

“One of my other struggles was thinking I was different from other people. Once I was in high school, I was trying to get my driver’s license but I couldn’t get that because I didn’t have my social security number, that’s when it started hitting me.

“I didn’t even know about the Dream Act. The counselors there were not even aware. One of my counselors was only telling me

about Deferred Action for Childhood Arriv-als, which is a working permit,” he said.

“He wasn’t telling me about the Dream Act, which had passed in June 2012 and the thing is he didn’t know about it, they had to go talk to two career counselors and a coun-selor from Cal State Los Angeles and Domi-guez. They had to contact a lot of universities eventually, they got it.

“They’re busy people too, eventually I passed the deadline for the Dream Act, luck-ily [my counselor] helped me write a letter, like a petition, that’s how I got financial aid to attend Cerritos College,” he added.

Being Viewed as a Threat

“The physics department had a NASA trip to the Neil Armstrong center and they sent me an email through OrgSync. I looked into it, I liked it, so I gave it a try. It didn’t say [any-thing about needing] to be a full time student, engineering major, or physics, or mathemat-ics [major, nor] did it say [anything] about being a U.S. citizen.

“Apparently, I wasn’t allowed to be on the campus [and] I was considered a threat sup-posedly. I didn’t know [that you needed to be a citizen]. One of the things I struggle with is I think some faculty or some staff aren’t aware of [how] we have different needs, or how to handle [situations],” he said.

He continued, “To be honest [being con-sidered a threat] kind of hit me, but not too

much because I’m still trying to try out new things.”

Finding Support in Family, Friends, and School

Estrada acknowledged that he wants to go further and not give up because his family is really supportive of him.

“I feel like most undocumented families come here for their kids to have a better fu-ture. They’re always very supportive. I appre-ciate that, especially my mom, she’s my moti-vation because she does all this stuff,” he said.

DREAM club co-advisor Lynn Wang has become apart of Estrada’s support system.

“Gerardo [Estrada] has been pleasant to work with, he is a critical thinker. He always keeps his promise and take on responsibilities that he can endure. He has helped out for our homecoming float, fundraisers, high school and he actively recruited educators and fellow students during the ‘Educators Coming Out’ day,” she said.

Wang expressed that the DREAM Club serves as a support system for him.

“The club members encourages each oth-er to do well in school. Also, the club advisors can assist him with his educational planning and any financial aid related questions, which can make the educational journey less intimi-dating.”

DREAM Act gives students assistance

BRIANA HICKS
News Editor
@askCelena

Some may know them as illegal immigrants, but in today’s society, they’re known as undocumented students.

Undocumented students are children who came into the coun-try illegally with their family to pursue a better life. Many of these students are unaware that they are here illegally until they try to apply for a job, get a driver’s license, ap-ply to a university or a college, and even apply for financial aid.

When they are made aware that they have no social security num-ber, or remember the lack thereof one, they are left with a limited amount of options for life after high school.

University of Washington Pro-fessor Roberto Gonzalez acknowl-edged that the experiences of un-documented children who belong to the 1.5 first generation immi-grant represent dreams deferred.

“Many of them have been in this country almost their entire lives and attended most of their K-12 education here. They are honor roll students, athletes, class presi-dents, valedictorians, and aspiring teachers, engineers, and doctors. Yet, because of their immigration status, their day-to-day lives are severely restricted and their futures are uncertain.

“They cannot legally drive, vote, or work. Moreover, at any time, these young men and women can be, and sometimes are, deported to countries they barely know. They have high aspirations, yet live on the margins,” he said.

According to USA Today Col-lege, the DREAM Act was estab-lished as a way of creating a journey towards citizenship for undocu-mented children who grew up in the United States, and were brought here by no fault of their own.

“At least 20 states have passed tuition equity policies for immi-grant students [...] The state-level laws provide various benefits for undocumented students, such as access to in-state tuition rates for eligibility for certain scholarships or state financial aid,” the article said.

Although the process varies dif-ferently from state to state.

American Immigration Council expressed undocumented students who have graduated from high school or have received their GED, would be eligible to a conditional lawful permanent resident status:

- If the undocumented stu-dent has been physically present in the United States for at least five years and were younger than 16 when they first entered the coun-try
- The LPR status would be granted on a conditional basis and valid for six years, during which the student would be allowed to work, join school or join military.
- DREAM Act students would not be eligible for federal education grants.

Scan to visit
“Dreamers” Blog



www.talonmarks.com



DAVID JENKINS/TM
Drag On: Estefania Mendoza and Broderick Woods, both members are a part of the Dynamic Dance Club. They were performing “Let’s work it out” that was the fifth performance of the night.

Dynamic Dance Club choreograph end of semester performance

DAVID JENKINS
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The Dynamic Dance club hosted a performance on Tuesday that held around 50 people. Students and staff were able to gaze at a total of 9 performances, including a surprise. There were two acts which took place. Dr. Stephen Johnson, vice president of student services, was an attendee of the event. Dr. Johnson really liked the creativity that came out of the performance. “The creativity was incredible, the energy was so impressive, the participation was great and just the sense of community among all the creative people in the program

and the organization was really impressive,” Dr. Johnson said. He went on to express that it would be hard to chose which of the performance stood out to him. That wasn’t the case with the crowd. After the fifth performance tilted “Lets work it out.” The audience whispered amongst themselves that this was there favorite of the first act. The piece was choreographed by Estefania Mendoza, and it was performed by both her and Broderick Woods. The dance was an awareness piece about violent abuse in relationships. Mendoza was excited about her performance and enjoy the

reception she and her partner received. “As a performer everyone goes up there with excitement, with terror and nervousness, but at the end when you hear everybody clap, thats what all performers, dancers are proud of and feel accomplished,” she said. Mendoza went on to speak that the dance itself took her a long time to choreograph and finally get what she wanted out of it. “It took quite a bit, because we did a lot of stunts, lifts, we had to time everything. And to be honest with you, that one was the most nerve wrecking out of all the performances that I’ve done[...] it took us about a month to actually put everything together,” she

expressed. The event coordinator Broderick Woods was a part of a few performances. He was was a bit nervous but acknowledged that he got a lot of feedback, especially with “Lets work it out.” “It [the dance] came together [...] it was basically about an abusive relationship. What we tried to do was raise that awareness to let people know that ‘hey this is something that is real’ this isn’t just about guys abusing women but also women abusing men.” Next semester the Dynamic Dance Club will have similar performances.

Temporary exhibition space for FAR Bazaar anniversary

BRIANA VELARDE
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At Cerritos College, the Fine Arts building is being prepped for take down. It is scheduled for demolition in February 2017. The new building is set to be ready for students, faculty and staff starting the Spring 2017 semester. Associate Professor of Art History James MacDevitt, is on the board of directors for a non-profit arts advocacy called Foundation for Art Resources. Due to the fact that FAR is a non-profit organization, it functions without a permanent exhibition space. It is also all volunteer and artist run.

The organization is known for big projects from the 1990s called “FAR Bazaar.”

In these events the organization takes over condemned buildings to put on temporary exhibitions. MacDevitt explains that with the upcoming 40th anniversary of FAR they are going to bring back the event on the old Fine Arts building. “Each classroom and faculty office and administrative space will be given over to local professional art collectives, artist-run spaces, and university MFA students to transform the rooms into temporary exhibition space for their members and/or immersive walk-in installations,” he said. The event will be held on January 28 and 29, and is expected to be an all-day event according to MacDevitt.

Besides the art exhibitions there will also be panels. “There will be a food truck festival, a video art screening, and a series of scholarly panels covering topics such as alternative arts groups in LA and the plight of crumbling modernists architecture,” he said.

He is working on confirming the number of groups attending and needs about 50 more spaces to fill. MacDevitt shared art groups that have confirmed to participate in the Bazaar in the old building which include:

- Biomythography
- Monte Vista Projects
- Rough Plays
- Jaus Gallery
- FA4 Collective Slanguage
- Motherboy
- Finishing School
- Ave 50
- South Bay Contemporary
- Improvised Alchemy
- Hinterculture
- Daniel & Tida
- Shed Research
- Tilt: Export
- Fallen Fruit
- Elephant

Lisa Boutin Vitela, art history professor, has been teaching in the Fine Arts building for five years.

She hopes that the FAR Bazaar promotes the art program and art exhibitions provided at Cerritos College.

“I’m looking forward to having many artists from different groups and universities come to Cerritos College. The FAR Bazaar will offer artists a unique opportunity to curate a space within the soon-to-be-demolished FA building. The large scale of the FAR Bazaar is impressive,” she said.

Vitela keeps found memories in the old Fine Arts building.

Memories include the annual student art show and held at the gallery.

“I have enjoyed teaching in my classroom and have many amazing memories there working with students, but the classroom is not in great condition.

“I look forward to teaching in a new, updated setting that will be more conducive to learning and group collaboration,” she said.

Metallica’s latest album Hardwired... To Self Destruct gives all fans something to like

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For a band to last for more than 30 years is impressive, but for a band to still put out a successful No.1 album in the charts after all that time, well that’s legendary. Metallica, one of the most influential heavy metal bands of all time, have accomplished just that with the release of their latest album Hardwired...To Self-Destruct. The two-disc 12-track record released as their latest album showed that the Master of Puppets still can go. A deluxe version, which featured an additional disc and four new songs and 10 live performances of classic tracks was also released and hit No.1 on the iTunes charts almost immediately.

Disc One

The first album featured the six tracks Hardwired, Atlas, Rise!, Now That We’re Dead, Moth Into Flame, Dream No More and Halo on Fire. The opening track delivers a short but strong start to the album, with the lyrics “We’re so fucked, shit out of luck, hardwired to self-destruct.” It was the first single and reminded the world of who Metallica is. Atlas, Rise! is a song that’s reminiscent of 2008’s Death Magnetic, though that’s not a bad thing. A personal favorite, Now That We’re Dead, slows down the momentum but brings the awesome versatility of the band out. From the opening riffs and the thumps of the drums to the me-

thodical lyrics “Now that we’re dead my dear, we can be together, now that we’re dead my dear, we can live forever”, and of course Kirk Hammet’s guitar solo, this song brings the best of Metallica. Moth Into Flame brings back the intensity and is lyrically one of the stronger songs of the record. Dream No More brings Load/ReLoad era Metallica feels with the lyrics and James Hetfield’s empowering vocals. Hammet’s solo only adds on to that. Halo on Fire, a softer, yet still heavy song is just that, a halo that gets set on fire, and by the ending, the catchy rhythmic sound is a good way to end the first disc of the album. “Hello darkness, say goodbye.”

Disc Two

Although not a favorite, it’s a strong opener and a good song to casually groove to, Confusion does what it needs to do to introduce the second disc. ManUnkind brings Fade to Black vibes at the start but quickly becomes its own beast once discussing society’s failure to learn from our mistakes. Here Comes Revenge is a thriller, a song about getting payback is a perfect track for a suspenseful film, the music video fits the theme perfectly as well. One of the heavier tracks, Am I Savage? brings a gritty feel to the album. With strong imagery and dark metaphors, this personifies the self-destruct part of the album. Murder One, is a tribute to the late Motörhead singer Ian “Lemmy”

Kilmister, from the lyrics to the music video, it’s an incredible tribute that doesn’t stray from the rest of the record. The final track of the standard edition, Spit Out the Bone, is without a doubt a cutting edge song, and a powerful way to end Hardwired...To Self-Destruct. The post-apocalyptic feel wraps everything together so well.

Deluxe Disc

Lords of Summer was originally released as a rough cut in 2014, now defined and crisp, it’s a nice additional track for fans. Ronnie Rising Medley follows, this Ronnie James Dio tribute was used in a tribute album for the late singer, now remastered in a Metallica album, fans can hear another great cover the band is known for. In an album where fast-paced tracks thrive, it is nice to hear another cover that slows things down. When a Blind Man Cries does just that. Although it’s not an original, it certainly can be, that’s how good it is. Remember Tomorrow, an Iron Maiden cover, once again shows that the band excels at covers, that’s all that needs to be said. The rest of the songs are live performances of classic Metallica songs, along with the new Hardwired. Overall, Hardwired...To Self-Destruct is an album worth listening to. One that will give fans of different eras pure adrenaline and hope for music in 2016. Keep calm and Ride the Lightning!

Gilmore Girls: A year in the life Netflix revival

JENNY GONZALEZ
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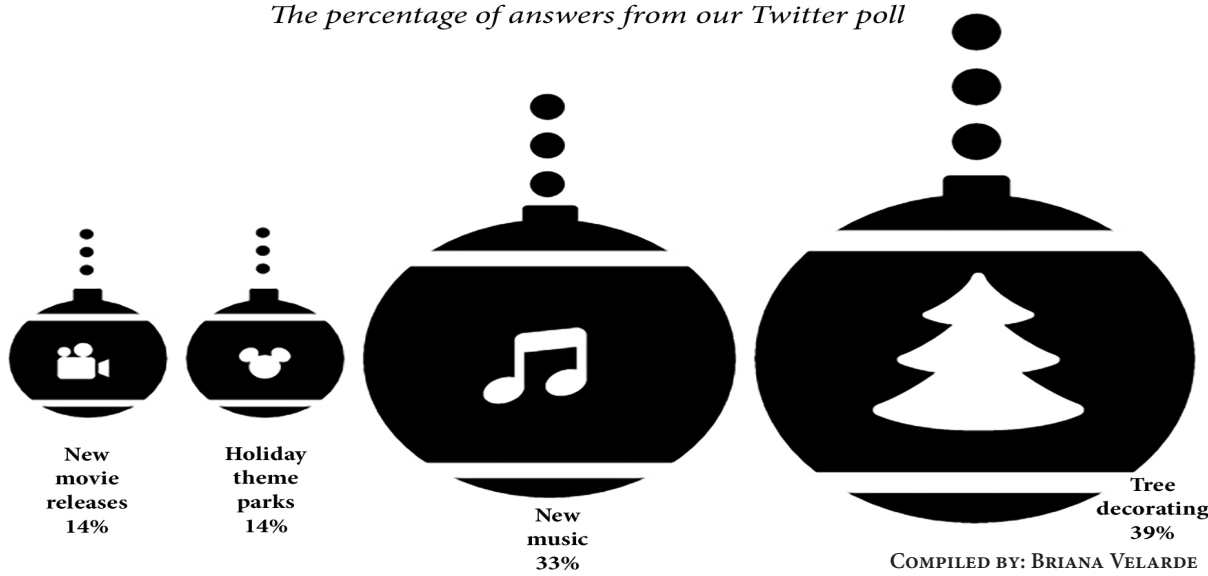
Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life tore my heart to pieces and brought an overflow of tears I am not used to. The opening scene of winter experience was a perfect re introduction to the show fans have not seen since 2007 (if not for the eternal binge-watching sessions that occur almost daily on Netflix) and really brought excitement for the entire 90-minute episode. Winter was especially a harder episode to watch because, as the girls mourn for Edward Hermann (Richard Gilmore character) both on the show and in real life, we see sides to Emily (his wife) we never experience before. She was often the WASP uptight, old-fashioned and conservative wife that belonged to the wealthy and elite class.

Lorelai (his only daughter) is learning how to cope with the death of her father not similar to the way Emily does, which causes more problems between them, on top of the baggage they already carry. As we delve into the issues Rory faces as a journalist and the fact that she has a fling with Logan Huntzberger every time she visits London, we see this shiny golden apple personality that Rory once depicted vanish. It is saddening to know that this glorified character is humanized and is no longer seen as this attainable personality most girls who watch the show hope to achieve. Summer excited my passion for working on a newspaper because, through happenstance she becomes the editor-in-chief for the Stars Hollow Gazette and we get to see the beautiful Jess enter the scene, and drinks aged rum with Rory. He encourages Rory to write about her relationship with her

mother, and gives Rory a sense of direction she didn’t have before. Even if Jess was rude and obnoxious when he was a teenager, he will always hold a special place in my heart for the many ways he loved Rory. Fall is the hardest to watch because you know that after this episode, there aren’t any more, so you must watch critically and savor every word. Tears came when Lorelai and Luke finally decided to get married because in the very first episode of the show Gilmore Girls, you see the love and hate relationship that’s flourished throughout the entire series. Rory’s last four words were so surprising, I almost flung my kindle across the room because of the shock I felt. News of a possible extension to the four-episode series is mandatory. No exceptions.

What do you look forward to the most during Christmas season?

The percentage of answers from our Twitter poll



Artiaga focused on work despite health

TERREL EMERSON
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If there was anything Cerritos College men's soccer head coach Benny Artiaga wanted you to know about this past season, it's that Cerritos Falcons are back.

His team managed to make the Southern California Regional Playoffs despite posting a record of 9-7-5. However, the team did go 5-1-2 in conference play.

The team was bounced in the first round of the playoffs after losing 2-1 to Golden West College.

In addition to the up and down season, Artiaga dealt with one of his most trying seasons of late.

"I had been dealing with this injury for three or four years and the last two seasons it has gotten unbearable," he said.

Artiaga had been dealing with a 13 and a half millimeter herniation/bulge in his back. He said it crippled him.

"My nerve was pinched nine months under excruciating pain and the last month I spent on my back almost to the point of not being able to tend for myself or do any daily activities," he recalled.

Artiaga was forced to miss multiple practices and games throughout the course of the season.

But then things got even worse.

Artiaga said, "At that point, coaching effectively was completely out of the question. Doctors were concerned of permanent nerve damage so surgery was required and unfortunately it happened during our season."

Artiaga's surgery was scheduled for Nov. 11, during a must-win conference game for his men's soccer team.

"Not being there for them was the hardest thing I've had to deal with in a long time. But in retrospect, I should've done it a lot sooner, probably last year. Because the truth of the matter is when you live with this type of pain, it's impossible to do your job with the same enthusiasm and excitement as you have in the past," Artiaga said.

After waking up from surgery, Artiaga said the first thing out of his mouth to his surgeon was whether or not his team was headed to the playoffs.

He was delighted to find out his Falcons defeated the El Camino Warriors and were headed to the So-

Cal Regional Playoffs. In a previous interview, forward Oscar Canela said, "For our coach to be in surgery and miss previous games, [the Falcons] knew we had to give it our full 100 percent. We wanted to get that win for us but mainly for him."

The dream was short-lived as Cerritos was eliminated from the playoffs just eight days later. However, Artiaga still takes pride in what his team was able to do.

Artiaga said, "This season was very special to me and winning the South Coast Conference was important because it took a collective effort. When I went completely down prior to the Mt. San Antonio [match], we were in complete control of the conference, but again it's very difficult when the head coach goes down because you add confusion to a team.

"My assistants did a great job of keeping it together. Chris Lackavich, Jose Esparza, Raul Ruiz and the rest of my staff did a great job of keeping it together. We spoke or texted almost daily."

Furthermore, Artiaga expressed some displeasure with some of the season awards that were handed out.

"Too bad my coaches didn't win Coach of the Year but our conference is notorious for making a mockery of that award as they usually hand out those awards out of pity and to losing programs. But we don't get wrapped up in that though; we focus on winning and transferring out our kids which we have done extremely well for over a decade," he said.

He also even found time to credit his players for the hard work they put into the season.

"The boys did a great job of turning it around and getting back on track to win the conference," he said.

Freshman midfielder/forward Luis Garcia won the conference's Offensive Player of the Year and freshman defender Jose Ponce was runner-up for the Defensive Player of the Year award.

According to Artiaga, "[These] are exciting times for our program as we know we will be a force to be reckoned with. This upcoming season will be like when I first started coaching and had no state titles to my name; I'm going to come back hungry as ever. Next year's team should be as good as we have had in a long, long time."

This was obviously one of the hardest seasons for Artiaga to deal with, but his team was able to personify one of the mantras he lives by daily: Never say die.

Season Recap

Date	Opponent	Result
30-Aug	at Citrus	W, 7-0
2-Sep	vs. Las Positas	L, 2-1
3-Sep	vs. LA Mission	W, 3-2
4-Sep	vs. San Diego Mesa	T, 1-1
9-Sep	vs. Golden West	L, 1-0
13-Sep	vs. Oxnard	T, 2-2
16-Sep	vs. Santa Monica	W, 3-1
20-Sep	vs. Taft	T, 1-1
30-Sep	at El Camino-Compton	W, 5-1
4-Oct	vs. Long Beach City	T, 0-0
7-Oct	vs. LA Harbor	W, 6-3
Date	Opponent	Result
11-Oct	vs. El Camino	W, 5-0
14-Oct	at Mt. San Antonio	L, 1-0
18-Oct	vs. Pasadena City	L, 2-0
21-Oct	at Chaffey	L, 3-1
25-Oct	vs. East LA	W, 3-0
28-Oct	vs. Rio Hondo	L, 2-0
1-Nov	vs. El Camino-Compton	T, 0-0
4-Nov	at Long Beach City	L, 1-0
8-Nov	vs. LA Harbor	W, 4-0
11-Nov	at El Camino	W, 3-2
19-Nov	at Golden West	L, 2-1

SOURCE: CERRITOSFALCONS.COM
INFOGRAPH BY: TERREL EMERSON



DAVID JENKINS/TM

The rich keep getting richer: The Cerritos College wrestling team added another trophy to this case after winning the Southern California Regional Championships. The CCCAA State Championships take place Friday and Saturday.

Wrestling captures SoCal Title

DAVID JENKINS
Staff Writer
@Mr_Sniknej

As the Cerritos Falcons wrestling team obtained the Southern California Champions over the weekend, they look towards the upcoming weekend, in which CCCAA State Championships will take place.

Due to their win, 11 wrestlers from the team will advance to CCCAA.

The 11 being:

- Norberto Buenrostro
- Richard Pocock
- Dylan Moreno
- David Van Weems
- Kevin James
- Wyatt Gerl
- Blake Vasquez
- Bryant Vasquez
- Kennith Kirk
- Isaiah Leyva
- David Zavala

These men will be competing in what is the last wrestling event of the season.

Out of the 11, four had won individual championships over the weekend.

The 124-pound freshmen Norberto Buenrostro has been able to pick himself back up and win a total of four matches.

Buenrostro was nervous in upcoming days of the event. He was stressing over his weight needing to come down.

With a bruised face, he said, "Trying to get my weight down the day before, I was stressing over that. I did my best not to think about it too much. Coach told me 'don't worry about it, just wrestle' and that's what I did. I showed up and competed. I got two falls for my team, I got a major in the semi, and I won a 2-1 position over the No. 1 seat and came out on top. I battled through, never stopped wrestling. Now I [have] to carry

it till next weekend and hopefully win that state title."

Another from the 11 is the 141-pound sophomore Pocock, who was able to capture three victories and obtain an individual championship.

He felt good about the weekend. Being that this is his second season, he did better than last year.

By this time his freshmen year, he was fifth in regionals, now coming out on top with an individual title this year really shows Pocock hard over the past year. He has his teammates to thank.

"One of my weaknesses last year use to be on my feet. I used to not be good and neutral, but now I'm getting a lot better and neutral. It's because of my teammates. We've been all practicing together and they've helped me get better on my feet," he said.

However, he is self-aware that the season is not over and that CCCAA State is just around the corner.

He's confident in his abilities and understands that anything can happen and said that he'll go out and do his best and wrestle.

Another one from the 11 who won an individual championship at Southern regionals is the 157-pound sophomore Moreno.

He won two matches and obtained his individual champion by a coin toss between his teammate James for the first place position. His first by pin fall and the second by defeat.

"My teammate and I flipped a coin for who got first and second, but the other matches leading into it they were intense. We come to do what we had to do. [Head coach Don Garriott] prepared us best he could for it.

"They were matches that we've gone through before throughout the season. I knew that I had to get to the finals, same thing with my teammate [James] we just had to get to the finals and make it easy, put ourselves in the best position for next week for state[...] I'm excited," Moreno

expressed.

Throughout the season, Moreno studied his film matches and picked up flaws and tried to correct them. He did his best to capitalize and correct little mistakes that he saw, and works toward getting better.

He feels confident in himself, and the team and is hopeful that they will become state champions.

Garriott, who is no stranger to championships and bringing them home, has been looking forward to this all year.

Every single time, when his wrestling team would do an outstanding job in past duals or past tournaments he made it clear that those wins meant very little to him simply because they weren't Regionals or State.

What Garriott also seemed to express throughout the season was the conditioning and stamina of his men wasn't up to par.

This time however, he believes he saw what he has been looking for.

"I felt good. We've talked all year about where we needed to get to and this weekend we got there. We were right there. Now, as long as we didn't peak too early we'll be good," Garriot said.

One in particular wrestler that Garriott said has improved throughout the season is 149-pound freshman Gerl.

"I've definitely seen some people put the daily practice [in] and come in with a goal every day. Gerl has really came in and changed some things. He's been really close to some of the top guys and he's slowly closed the gap on those guys and has beaten the No. 1 guy in the state[...] and has been doing a good job," Garriott said.

CCCAA State Championship is going to be on Friday at Victory Valley College.

Women's soccer makes it five straight titles

Continued from Page 1

"Wow. It's been a tough grind. If you would've asked me five years if we could win it five in a row, I would've told you, 'No.' It's tough, it's a lot of work; from the coaching staff to the [players]," Gonzalez said. "It's a cycle, you only have them for two years. So, we'll get back on the bus and enjoy this for a couple of minutes and then we'll start talking about next year."

Over the last five seasons, Cerritos has compiled a remarkable record of 115-4-7.

In the midst of all the championship commotion Jaramillo was seen hunched over with her head in her hands, face full of tears.

"I just felt tired. The emotions

got to me. It's my last game here so winning a championship just kind of caught up to me," Jaramillo said. "I feel very comfortable, my goal when I came here was to win a state championship and I was able to win it two years in a row. I am very thankful to the coaches for giving me the opportunity to play here."

One key contributor for the Falcons win was the stellar play of Defensive Player of the Year Dana Jacobs.

"I think once we realized we were going into overtime; we understood it was now or never, we were leaving everything on the field. We were not trying to take their goalkeeper to penalty kicks and we wanted it. We wanted to make history and prove it was all worth it,"

she said.

After the game, Jacobs was shocked yet pleasantly surprised that she had been awarded the Most Valuable Player award for the state championship game.

Now her freshman season has finished and she has three new titles: Defensive Player of the Year, Most Valuable Player and State Champion. After the game, Jacobs explained which title means the most to her.

"Defensive Player of the Year [means the most to me]. I'm a midfielder but we had some problems early in the season so I had to get pushed back and I'm so thankful for it," she said.

She added that the move has done a lot for her future in soccer.

Five straight state championships is an amazing feat in it of itself, but the win makes good for Gonzalez' sixth state title in the last nine seasons.

Many of his players see Gonzalez as an enigma that's not easily explainable.

Jacobs said, "[Gonzalez] is definitely one of a kind. When people ask me about him, I tell them, 'You can't describe what he's like, you have to experience it.' He's very driven, he knows exactly what he wants and he knows what he deserves and he will stop at nothing to get it."



Building off of last season: Sophomore guard Tyler Payne leads stretches to begin practice. The Cerritos Falcons men's basketball team has already claimed both the Irvine Valley and Mt. San Antonio Tournament crowns.

Men’s basketball claim another tourney

TERREL EMERSON
Online Editor
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Already for the second time this season, the Cerritos College men’s basketball team has won another tournament.

This time the Falcons were able to clinch the Mt. San Antonio Tournament crown following a 79-67 win over the Mounties Sunday.

Head coach Russ May said, “Any time that you can win a tournament it is an indicator that you can be successful in the post season.”

The team is now 7-0 on a neutral court.

“We believe that this team is capable of winning every night if we play right and execute the game plan. We love to compete and it does not matter where it is,” May said.

This tournament win came off the heels of the team dropping its home opener against San Bernardino.

The team’s next chance to defend home court will be Saturday, Dec. 10 against Allan Hancock.

Sophomore guard Brian Nebo said, “This team can be really spe-

cial. We all are buying into what coach May and the rest of the coaching staff is teaching us and taking advantage of every opportunity at hand.”

Nebo led the way for the Falcons with 27 points in the tournament-clinching win over the host college.

“[Nebo] has become much more mature and stable and he has learned to control his emotions on the court. I also believe that he now knows exactly what his game is and has eliminated many bad decisions. I’m very proud of him at this point,” May said.

Nebo was the scoring leader for the Falcons all tournament long averaging 20.6 points per game. He feels his teammates are the ones who deserve the praise for his high scoring output.

“My teammates put me in the right position to score the ball. I’m blessed to be apart of a lot of talented players, but I feel like I got my groove back and I’m excited about the rest of the season,” he said.

The Cerritos offense was clicking, as the Falcons shot an average of 50.9 percent from the floor during the tournament. The team shot over 50 percent in two of the three

games played.

“We have a veteran team that has been in the same system for the last 2 years. Familiarity breeds success as well as lots of watching film and applying it to practice. We also have talented players that can make shots,” May said.

Nebo feels the team is just starting to gel at the right time.

“We all are just getting comfortable and we know our roles for this team to be successful. [We are] aiming to get this state championship,” Nebo said.

The Falcons never attempted more than 57 shots in one game. Instead, the team was looking to be more aggressive and get to the free throw line more frequently.

Nebo said, “We have adjusted to how the referees are calling [things] this season and that’s something that is making our defense scaring night in and night out.”

After the first tournament of the year, Nebo was among multiple players who noticed a difference in the tolerance level of the referees.

According to the team, May informed everyone that referees were going to be calling things a lot tighter this season. In other words, more fouls are going to get called

this season.

“In our two losses [this season] we have been affected by how the game has been officiated too, so we need to adjust to the officiating and use it to our advantage and not foul too much,” he said.

The Falcons shot a total of 88 free throws in the three-game tournament, making 65 of them; that is a team average of 73.8 percent.

One thing that is remaining constant is sophomore guard Tyler Payne is not playing nearly as well statistically as he did last season.

May feels statistics don’t tell the entire story.

He said, “[Payne] may not contribute in the stat sheet every night, but he impacts our program on and off the court every day with his leadership, enthusiasm and work ethic. He sets the tone for our team. The stats will follow.”

Payne averaged 4.6 points per game to go along with 3.3 assists per game during the Mt. SAC tournament.

May insists that the team is not worried about Payne’s performance because everyone knows what he has to do in order to be successful, including him.

56 Falcon athletes earn All-Conference Awards

Sport	Player	Sport	Player
Football	Alex Bush	W. Soccer	Ruby Nichols
Football	Kishawn Holmes	M. Soccer	Luis Garcia
Football	Anthony Cerrillo	M. Soccer	Jose Ponce
Football	PJ Naufahu	M. Soccer	Guy Julien
Football	Elijah Walker	M. Soccer	Edwin Corona
Football	Brandon Ezell	M. Soccer	Ivan Vazquez
Football	Daniel Alanouf	M. Soccer	Ivan Martin Del Campo
Football	Jason Sitala	M. Soccer	Hector Jimenez
Football	Eric Golston	M. Soccer	Adrian Becerra
Football	Elijah Rogers	M. Soccer	Oscar Canela
Football	Jacob Gasser	M. Water Polo	Angel Rojas
Football	Stacy Chukwumezie	M. Water Polo	Jesus Rojas
Football	Nick Mitchell	M. Water Polo	Ever Resendiz
Football	Adrian Saldana	M. Water Polo	Kameron Simmons
Football	John Collins	M. Water Polo	Jeffrey Park
Football	Siupelo Finau	M. Water Polo	Salvador Orozco
Football	Daniel Moore	M. Water Polo	Israel Rodriguez
Football	Tyler Rios	M. Water Polo	Cesar Altamirano
Football	Darien Cornay	M. Water Polo	Matthew Contreras
W. Soccer	Itzel Ballesteros	W. Water Polo	Vanessa Hinojosa
W. Soccer	Dana Jacobs	W. Water Polo	Isabella Sierra
W. Soccer	Maria Hernandez	W. Water Polo	Mikaela Padilla
W. Soccer	Carolina Jaramillo	W. Water Polo	Channon Owens
W. Soccer	Ashli Villalobos	W. Water Polo	Elisa Prohroff
W. Soccer	Amber Whitmore	W. Water Polo	Jenny Parra
W. Soccer	Natalie de Leon	Volleyball	Monica Vega
W. Soccer	Cheyenne De Los Reyes	Volleyball	Jasmine McNeal
W. Soccer	Jill Messersmith	M. Cross Country	Carlos Mendoza

Infograph by: Terrel Emerson

***Wrestling Not Included**
Source: cerritosfalcons.com



The Chatterbox Corner

Chatterbox Corner: Thank you Talon Marks

TERREL EMERSON
Online Editor
@sir_chatterbox

Dear Talon Marks,

I write this as I am finishing up my final production night as a member of Talon Marks the newspaper.

This is one of the most bitter-sweet columns I have ever written and probably will rank as the highest by the time I am done with it.

As a young African-American male in today’s society, our future is usually written before we even get the chance to have a say so in it.

Often times, people of color are either incarcerated or dead by this age. I have lost many friends to senseless killings.

All for what?

The type of neighborhoods that surround us almost leaves us no choice but to follow in the steps of those before us. And the path will eventually lead us to an early demise.

The only way around the stigma that is the “hood” is to do something above and beyond in order to remove yourself from your present situation.

Many people find their way out through sports or music, but what happens to those who either can’t or choose to do neither?

Are they doomed to fall victim to the system?

The answer is no. And Talon Marks will be a huge reason why I won’t.

First Semester

I credit then editor-in-chief Denny Cristales for getting me so involved with the newspaper.

He gave me my first shot and once he read my first story, he told me he knew I could be something special.

The next semester, I chose to join the staff and I received basketball as my permanent beat.

However, I was juggling work and school and could only make it to certain games.

Aside from covering the bare necessities for what I needed for basketball, I sat in the newsroom refusing to venture out of my frequent conversations with the sports editor.

As the semester was drawing to a close, our adviser Rich Cameron approached me and asked me if I knew I wasn’t passing the class because I didn’t have enough stories.

In shock, for the last two weeks of the semester I was forced to scramble and do national sports stories to barely preserve a passing grade.

That Media Awards Night, I did not hear my name called at all and from that point on I vowed to never let it happen again.

Second Semester

Due to my hectic work schedule, then editor-in-chief Sebastian Echeverry threw me into the fire by assigning me the title of Sports Copy Editor, without asking mind you.

To this day, I couldn’t thank Echeverry enough, because Without him trusting me to hold that

position and do the best work I could, made it even more worth it.

By not asking me, he forced me into a position where I had to do something I pride myself against doing: walk away from a challenge.

I took the challenge head on and was very pleased with the work I put into the semester.

More importantly, I was awarded multiple times at Media Awards Night.

Third Semester

Because of the trust put into me the previous semester, I chose to take on the Sports Editor job.

The best advice I received came from the person who held the title the semester before, Cristian Gonzales.

He told me on the eve of the new semester that he trusted that I would do a great job with my new position and, “Don’t go in trying to be the best Sports Editor.”

That was sound advice because I wasn’t really sure what was lying ahead.

It was this semester that I felt I grew the most. I learned to deal with different personalities and work styles.

Furthermore, I had to work without much help so I ended up completing a record 102 stories that semester.

Also, here is where I found the true definition of friends or “squad” should I say.

I truly believe the friendships that were made this semester will stand the test of time.

At Media Awards Night, even Cameron acknowledged that we were one of the tightest groups he’s ever had.

Fourth Semester

Not wanting to come down off the emotional high that the last semester had us on, we came into this semester optimistic.

How fitting that this semester is where I probably learned the most.

I moved up to Online Editor and I truly had to deal with constant adversity however, I held my head up, stuck my chest out and dealt with it.

I was blessed with the opportunity to work for Dodgers Nation for a short period of time to put my skills to the test.

Now that this semester is over in less than two weeks. I can truly say I have felt every emotion possible in this newsroom.

Final Thoughts

As I look back on my time at Talon Marks, I wouldn’t change a thing.

Not any argument, not any mistake, nothing.

I am better person because of it and I now know what it takes to do this job.

I want to thank my squad Briana Hicks, Karla Enriquez, Ethan Ortiz, Briana Velarde, Gustavo Lopez, Bianca Salgado and Kristopher Carrasco.

I would like to thank Alicia Edquist and Rich Cameron for pushing all of us to become not only better journalists but better people.