



STUDENTS LEFT TO SCRAMBLE

Carmelita Islas Mendez

News Editor
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Services for on-campus athletes have been cutback by Cerritos College administrators. This is in response to data they collected leaving student athletes to struggle for services.

The student athlete services included general counseling, tutoring and specialized resources such as National Collegiate Athletic Association specialists. According to the track and field coach as much as \$35,000 were cut from funding.

Track and field coach Christopher Richardson said, “We’re not really serving student athletes the way we should and that is frustrating.

“I think we have a supportive campus as it relates to some of the athletic opportunities that our student athletes have. I am very proud of that but at the same time we also need to foster the academic growth of athletes.”

Research had been conducted by the college to see how many student athletes were attending specialized tutoring hours for student athletes in the Success Center.

The college’s research concluded that not many athletes were attending tutoring hours.

President of Faculty Senate Michelle Lewellen said that as far as she knew hours were not cut back, only moved.

Richardson also said that some student athletes “were devastated and quite a few of them were disappointed and [...] worried.”

Vice President of Academic Affairs Rick Miranda said while



DAVID JENKINS

Athletes struggle for resources: Track team member Juanita Webster and track and field coach Christopher Richardson train for upcoming track meets. Richardson, also a faculty senate member, works to have resources specific for student athletes.

reporting to Faculty Senate that the same resources and services would still be available as long as they are requested.

Miranda said, “It is not a takeover and change it situation. We are still going to have the same services, just with more structure.

The only difference now is that the door is no longer opened for 10 hours a day, but now

[student athletes] contact them [Success Center tutors] and have something more focused.”

Richardson, also a faculty senate member, retorted, “To say that the services are the same is, I don’t agree with it just based on what I have seen on the restructuring.”

Faculty senate member and political science professor Terrence Mullins asked Miranda

where the breakdown in communication came and how Miranda would avoid that breakdown again.

Miranda said, “The breakdown came where we should have gone back to the original creator [Richardson] to let him know of where things were.”

Richardson said, “Their justification on why the resources were dropped, none of that was

communicated with me and that is the hard part.”

Lewellen said of Richardson’s data not being used, “I don’t know, that wasn’t our decision. Academic affairs or Rick Miranda would make that decision.

In regards to the data collected by academic affairs Richardson said, “A lot of what I consider the true narrative was qualitative.



DAVID JENKINS

Tutors for finals: Senator Kawthur Azzam introduced legislation to reduce library hours and have more tutors.

LIBRARY HOURS EXTENDED FOR FINALS WEEK

John Chavez

Staff Writer
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Legislation has just been passed by the Associated Students of Cerritos College that will allow the extension of both library and tutoring hours at the end of the semester.

Extended hours will be in effect during the week before finals and the week of finals, April 7 to April 18.

The plan is to keep the library operating later to allow students to use the library’s facilities and services. The extension will be from 10 p.m. until 1 a.m.

Math, English and ESL have already been confirmed as available tutors.

Additional departments are being decided upon at a later

date in the semester, with eight total plans to be available during the extended hours. A budget for snacks during the extended hours was also provided.

The legislation was passed after a presentation by Senator Kawthur Azzam.

After revisions to money allocation and cost, it passed with no objections. The estimated cost for the additional hours, tutors and snacks is around \$11,500.

The extension was also passed to emulate larger colleges, according to Senator Christopher Rodriguez, who was a supporter of the legislation. He said, “For finals week, we need to study more. Most college libraries are open 24 hours.”

Rodriguez was able to take advantage of the late library hours last semester, saying, “It

helped me out with math and physics, because of the availability.”

The extended library hours were also given to expand the availability of the services offered by the library to more students, according to Azzam,

“Having a quiet space gives them help they need.” The library also gives students the “tools to excel,” said Azzam.

Similar legislation was passed during the previous semester, and this extension was in direct response to that.

Previously, library hours were extended during finals week; the closing time being at 2 a.m.

This semester, the extension was cut back by an hour. According to Rodriguez, this was a result of students leaving earlier than anticipated.

CERRITOS COLLEGE HESITATES WITH CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 320 BECAUSE OF STUDENT HEALTH FEES

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According to the Vice President of Student Services Stephen B. Johnson, he does not see Cerritos College getting involved with the California Senate Bill 320.

SB-320 would be providing post-secondary schools with the “abortion by medication techniques,” or the abortion pill.

The legislation states, “This bill would express findings and declarations of the legislature.

“Relating to the availability of on-campus student health centers at public post-secondary educational institutions in the state.”

Even though this bill prioritizes California universities, other post-secondary educational institutions both public or private will be able to be a part of this program if they choose to.

“Universities by their nature have oriented residential facilities,” said Johnson, “so more often than not the health centers in the locations are oriented to provide more care.

“Our [healthcare centers] are immediate and its certain basic things that we do.

“We’re not in the position to do certain kinds of things that are more like procedures or might involve potential risks,” he said.

Being that Cerritos College is not a 24-hour facility also plays

a factor for the college’s Health and Wellness Center not getting involved with providing abortions by medication techniques.

Another factor is that the Health and Wellness Center is financially supported by student health fees.

The bill states, “The treasurer may additionally provide grants to student health centers at other public and private post-secondary educational institutions.

“This will be to pay for direct costs associated with implementing abortion by medication techniques.”

This will not coincide with how the Health and Wellness Center is funded.

“Our operation is entirely fee based and the students health center operates under student fees.

“That’s the thing with community colleges, so everything over there we have to make decisions and set priorities on what we can do relevant to what the fee provides” said Johnson.

Though the Health and Wellness Center does provide students with information and supplies, it’s not expected to get on board with the legislation.

As well as by being funded by grants if SB-320 were to pass and become legislation.

The bill is still in its infancy, if it were to pass the effects won’t be seen until Jan. 1 2022.

It is still being amended in state senate.

ONLINE

Telescope and observatory to give Cerritos College students a clearer view to the stars



<http://bit.ly/2EX6lcN>

OPINION

Kids should be experiencing their childhood, not sacrificing it

Cerritos should do more to protect its students

Political parties need to come together to solve our gun problem

Page 2

COLLEGE LIFE

‘The Seagull’ swoops into Cerritos College

Bianca Bitches: Do your job and help us out

Pistil is the hero we need in today’s world. Check out their Instagram



<http://bit.ly/2BWfpMz>

Page 3

SPORTS

Women’s basketball has its season cut short with playoff lost

Softball sweeps through the competition, 10-2

Men’s tennis on fire after six straight wins



Page 4

EDITORIAL



RACHEL TULLY/FREELANCE ILLUSTRATOR

CERRITOS GUN SAFETY PLAN?

The Cerritos College campus is a remarkably easy target, campus security is mediocre and there’s nowhere to run for cover or even a nearby emergency pole to reach to alert the police.

Yet, the famous “Run, Hide, Fight” is what we are supposed to use if there is an active shooter, and this clearly still isn’t good enough for us.

As students on this campus, we have very little knowledge of who could be a shooter and what would happen if a shooting were to occur.

Training courses and emergency practice drills should be held every semester or once a school year so new students will be aware on the college’s plan of action and current students get a refresher course.

Cohesive plans and strategies should be implemented among students specifically so they are prepared and won’t panic.

Students deserve better security for their lives. It’s sickening to have to worry about coming

to school and think about are we going home to see another day or will this be the our last day on Earth?

Students on this campus should be ready to know what to do when if a shooter was to walk on this campus and we need more than just the average security we have now.

Safety is a top priority and an active shooter plan for the students would be a great deal of help.

An active shooter safety plan for students could better the chances of losing any students and our survival.

With threats becoming an almost daily occurrence, such as the threat that surfaced Sunday night in Norwalk.

Although the threat was a hoax, it shouldn’t deter us from the fact that the possibility of an school shooting happening is not being addressed with utmost importance and severity.

With emergency lights that are oddly situated around the campus, how would we be able to

alert the police while we’re stuck in a locked room?

Campus police would not know where our exact location is and what building are all the students in.

Students could call 911, however, police officers not familiar with the layout of the campus may have a slower response time reaching those in danger.

Most students are not aware of the college’s 10-digit phone number plus the campus police’s four digit extension, so being able to contact campus police immediately in a case of emergency is not exactly possible.

An, essentially, 14 digit number is not as simple as dialing the three digit number, 911.

Students must have a cohesive plan of action as to not be caught off-guard if such a situation were to occur.

Those who notice anything or anyone acting suspiciously can contact the campus police department at (562)-860-2451 x 2325 they are available at all hours.

POEM FEATURE: FOR THE FEAR OF MY CHILD

For the fear of my child I cried,
I cried hard, I cried with despair,
For all our young ones dying,
Without cause, without fear.

What’s with the guns?

What’s with the harsh words?

Why can’t they just be children
respecting each other,
Or has that never been taught.
We must fight to eradicate the
conflict,
The legacy of our children to be
free,

To walk with their heads held
high,
Without ever having to look
behind.

Our children of today do not
have to live
With the depression of losing
their innocence,
Of never having to inherit the
valor of adulthood,
But to achieve with modesty and
grace,
The innocence of their youth,
and the stability of their child-
hood.

Written by Sandra Sterling

Sandra Sterling is the mother of a Cerritos College student by the name of Emanuel Williams.

After the events of Columbine in 1999, Sterling was filled with a sadness that motivated her to write this poem and get into poetry.

She dedicates this piece to all the schools and students who have experienced school shootings.

KIDS NEED A CHILDHOOD NOT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

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Managing Editor
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We are now living in a society where children feel that they have an obligation to sacrifice their young lives and childhood in order to fight for the lives of others. If this current situation does not read as fubar, then were all fucked, but not as much as the children of this nation.

We are being thrown back into an era where Congress might as well thrust a rifle into the hands of eight year olds rather than Crayolas if gun control is not being regulated.

Posts have already surfaced on social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook about parents recounting interactions with their young children on the subject of school shootings.

Discussions on the posts range from children wanting to buy new shoes to replace their light-up ones in fear that their whimsical shoes would catch the attention of an active shooter to that of high schoolers willing to sacrifice themselves to carry their handicapped teacher out of a classroom if such a situation were to occur.

Children are not adults, they are not allowed to make adult situations yet here these children are sacrificing their under

developed lives for a system that failed them miserably.

The parents of these children don’t want “thoughts and prayers,” they undoubtedly do enough praying over the safety over their children, they don’t need any help in that manner from people like the President of the United States.

If the Republicans do not hear the screams of small children or the wails of their grieving parents whenever they look at an assault rifle or semi-automatic or automatic weapon, then they are without compassion for humanity, for vulnerable children.

Some of these parents are not

asking for a ban of all weapons just those that inhibit the most carnage, such as military grade weapons, which assault rifles fall under the category of.

Don’t get your thinly-veiled opinions into a tizzy, those who are unwavering on their pro-gun stance.

There is something called compromise.

You can keep your damn guns but not those devised for military grade combat purposes.

The average life expectancy of child is going to be at roughly the age of fifteen if nothing is changed about our current gun laws.



GETTY IMAGES

Students protest: Students participate in a protest against gun violence February 21, 2018 outside the White House in Washington, DC. Hundreds of students from a number of Maryland and DC schools walked out of their classrooms and made a trip to the White House to call for gun legislation.

THE POLITICAL BATTLE OF MASS SHOOTINGS

Eunice Barron
Freelance
@talonmarks

The recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida became the tip of the iceberg in the debate on gun control and the problem with mass shooting tragedies throughout the nation.

First of all, how is it possible that a 19-year-old was able to legally buy an AR-15-style rifle?

Is this really a mental illness issue, drugs, bullying or the glorification of violence by using weapons?

Guns have been in existence in our country since its founding, in which we were granted the Second Amendment and ‘til this day have given pride within our culture.

Since the 1999 Columbine High School shooting, public safety has become an issue in

schools throughout the nation in a short amount of time.

The problem with mass shootings is that these weapons are falling in the wrong hands and put us all at risk of another tragedy.

There is definitely something wrong within our society that is fueling more tragedies like this and it must be stopped.

The people and Congress do not seem to have a conversation to find an efficient solution to the problem and how to prevent one from happening.

It becomes a huge argument in which people attack each other and try to point out who is right or wrong and nothing seems to get done.

The left suggests Congress have stricter background checks and gun control laws, they also say that establishing gun free zones in schools or public places

might be a possible solution.

Meanwhile, the right sees this as a “threat” to their Second Amendment right to bear arms and potentially having a limited access to owning a gun.

The most bizarre solution that most people on the right seem to agree on is to have instructors, workers and other people armed and trained in order to “defend and prevent” more harm at the moment of a shooting.

There is nothing wrong with having the right to bear arms and embrace the second amendment but we must focus on the situation that is currently affecting us all.

So relax conservatives, you guys can keep your guns and no one is going to take them away from you.

As for you liberals, establishing stricter gun control laws won’t solve the problem either.

There has to be a solution to prevent more mass shootings and how to prepare for one if it happens.

Schools should be a safe haven for students to learn and to feel safe. Schools should not be a target for a tragedy and weaken us socially.

This should not be a debate on political agendas or to see who is right/wrong.

This issue should be an open conversation to find a solution to this and how we can prevent another tragedy from happening again.

So congress, please do your job and the left/right political parties need to stop attacking each other and work together for the safety of our people.



GETTY IMAGES

Demonstrators demand gun laws: Activists and students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School attend a rally at the Florida State Capitol building to address gun control on February 21, 2018.

‘THE SEAGULL’ DEBUTS AT CERRITOS COLLEGE

Bianca Martinez
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Anton Chekhov’s play, ‘The Seagull’ flew its way into the Cerritos College’s Burnight Studio Theatre on Feb. 23.

Director Brandt Reiter introduced the 20th century onto campus by incorporating contemporary songs that the audience may have found familiar by having the actors perform such songs as “Can’t Help Falling in Love.”

Reiter says, “I think that when people hear Chekhov they think that they’re going to see some kind of outdated, anachronistic performance that has nothing to do with them and Chekhov [...] and I thought for the audience here at the college that it would be important to clue them in.

“They were watching something that while it might take place 125 years ago it’s absolutely contemporary in terms of what the characters think about.

“How they react to each other and that by using contemporary music it will give the audience a subconscious clue that these are people that are the same as them.”

‘The Seagull’ by Russian playwright Chekhov was written in 1893 and takes place in a country estate owned by one of the characters in Russia in 1907.

The play’s main theme is that of unrequited love, each character has an issue with love or life lost within the play.



COURTESY OF JALIL RASHID NORMAN

From Page to Stage: Thomas Cunningham, Konstantin Gavrilovich, and Melissa Ongko, Nina Mikhailovna preparing for opening night. ‘The Seagull’ runs Feb. 23-24 and March 1-4.

Though the play was written 125 years ago, some audience members found that they could relate to the characters’ conflicts.

Jocelyn Rodriguez, anthropology major, was one that did, “It was just really relatable as somebody that’s kind of been in that position of unrequited love, I mean I relate to her, you know, it was enjoyable to watch.”

She also stated that the play was really good and liked the performance for being realistic and believable.

Rodriguez’s only critique was, “There were periods of time where I couldn’t hear what they were saying.

“But I think that was just more of a projection that like, you know, could have been fixed

if they had microphones or if it was like a bigger stage or something like that.”

Thomas Cunningham played the part of Treplov, a character who was referred as Konstantin Gavrilovich.

Cunningham talked about his role, “He’s socially awkward and starving for love. You know ironically enough.

“I think every character in this play, they’re all woven in with some kind of faults that almost all of us have.

“It was frighteningly easy to get into the role of Treplov and I think most people find that to be so as well.”

Reiter shared his reasons for choosing ‘The Seagull,’ “I think Chekhov is the great playwright

of the 19-20th century and that his insight into human consciousness and his sympathy for humanity is really profound.

“I think it offers to the students here a chance to dig into these fully realized characters that seem absolutely real to me on the page.”

Reiter added, “You can always tell in theatre when something isn’t working on stage.

“The entire audience starts to shuffle around and they start to cough and they start to look at the program.

“None of that was going on tonight which meant they were staying with the play.”

The production can be seen onstage from March 1-3 at 8 p.m. and March 4 at 2 p.m.

BIANCA BITCHES: COUNSELORS NEED TO REACH OUT TO THE SOCIALLY ANXIOUS STUDENTS

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The song “Pomp and Circumstance” symbolizes new beginnings and that fact that you are now thrust headlong into adulthood.

But for many of us with social anxiety, that timeless tune resembles sudden death.

Now you alone are responsible for yourself and your academic progress.

You solely have to figure out college enrollment, find your way on campus and schedule the dreaded meeting with a counselor.

Sure, it’s not as bad as it seems, but with those uncomfortable with talking to people face-to-face and one-on-one.

The whole interaction can be deemed overwhelming.

Most of us rather put it off as long as we can rather than make that awkward appointment with the counselor and then rearrange yourself uncomfortably in your seat while you wait.

Then you wait for what seems like an eternity for the counselor to come strolling out and engage you in small talk which for a socially anxious person can be unbearable and unnerving.

They walk you over to their office with their college pennants and whimsical knick-knacks where the counselor indirectly

scolds for not coming to them earlier when you have been student at the college for more than two years.

I don’t want to see adorable baby pictures of your kids, Miss Debra.

I want my academic situation to magically resolve itself so I can remain the hermit that I am.

Going to see the counselor should not be viewed as an inconvenience but as the academic resource that it is.

However, to motivate those who are dissuaded by social anxiety counselors should reach out to those who have been enrolled for some time but haven’t yet made an appointment.

Those too awkward to function would rather respond to an email than schedule an appointment straight off the bat.

Counselors should send courtesy emails in attempt to reach out to students especially those who have dipped in their average grade range.

Silence is never a good thing, I understand it is the job of the student to take initiative handle their academic affairs on their own.

However, counselors are paid and present to help those who are struggling.

If counselors truly love their job as much as they claim, they should consider helping out students who are unable to reach out for it.

Does college life have YOU STRESSED?

Participate in **FREE CLASSES**

Available to Cerritos College students with Current ID
Spring 2018 ~ 2019 sticker.
CC Staff welcomed to participate.

Offered by: **Student Health Services**

1. Zumba Classes - Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers / bring water.
Instructor: Paola Ferruz – Certified

Location: Community Education Building CE-4
Monday & Thursdays 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Tuesday & Wednesday 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

2. Learn Meditation, Mindfulness and Breathing Practices for a Calm, Healthy Body & Mind - Wear comfortable clothing.
Instructor: Laurie Angress – Certified

Location: Gym – Pilates Rm.
Monday – 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Thursday – 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Cerritos College - Student Health Services Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday 8:00 – 4:30
Friday 8:00 – 12:00
(562) 860-2451 ext. 2321

This publication will be made in an accessible alternative format upon requests. Please contact Elizabeth Rodriguez @ Student Health Services (562) 860-2451 ext. 2323

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS HAVE A NEW HERO

Alison Hernandez
Opinion Editor
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The comic ‘Pistil’ was written by Jessica Maison and illustrated by Loni Watson and the premise it presents is already looking to be an interesting one.

Trigger warnings for mentions of murder, drug use, rape and suicide.

The story ‘Pistil’ presents is that of Lita Soledad, a woman, who was forced into sex work by a cartel, turned vigilante superhero who defends other victims of crimes like sexual assault.

Written from Lita’s perspective, Maison was able to create a character representing the voices of many survivors of sexual assault.

Through Lita, Maison is able to express directly to the reader some of the thoughts and feelings someone who was a victim of a sex crime might have.

The story begins when Lita was 14 years old. Her mother was murdered by a cartel who forced her into sex work.

After years of abuse, Lita managed to escape and fled to the U.S.

Lita’s mother was a curandera in Mexico who helped people and told Lita the stories of her ancestors, Las Adelitas.

Her mother taught her everything she knew about plants like

“how the pistil, like a woman, may seem delicate, but that it had great power hidden within, it brought forth life.”

The comic provides an explanation of triggers, giving examples through Lita and her memories as a sex worker.

In the story, Lita hears a phrase that literally triggers bad memories from her time in the brothel in Mexico.

She directly tells the reader that triggers are everywhere for victims and examples of what they can be such as an image, phrase or smell.

Lita also expressed the backlash survivors often face after coming out such as harassment and public shaming.

The comic also explores the haunting reality that no one is ever truly safe from the crime known as sexual assault.

Maison uses this effectively through the use of the secondary character, Mira.

In the comic, Mira is your average 8th grader who’s bad at basketball, has an annoying younger brother and an overprotective father.

While her father wants her to focus on her education, Mira longs for the freedom to have the “typical” teenage life with romance and fun.

Mira would then encounter Pistil for the first time right before her innocence was ripped away from her.

The art of Pistil uses a mix of traditional and digital art.

Watson, also uses incorporates a lot of traditional Mexican imagery to emphasize and embrace Lita’s Mexican roots.

In the sections where Lita reminisces about the past, the pages use gray-scale with pops of bright colors to heighten the importance of these prior events.

When the story is back in the present the pages use monotone colors which helps with the continuation of the plot.

Pistil is a classic vigilante story of redemption modernized with present day situations such as sexual assault.

‘Pistil’ also strays away from using a white male as the crime-fighting hero of the story.

Maison fleshed out a heroine of color that relies on her Hispanic culture and her past to protect others.

Lita’s inner battle with her trauma and her way of coping motivates her to become fearless and strong.

Maison has done an excellent job introducing the characters and the world of ‘Pistil’ in a way that stands out from other super-heroes.

Although ‘Pistil’ was just introduced, both the comic and its superhero has the potential to promote change and support to those that were sexually abused.

This is definitely a series to keep an eye on.

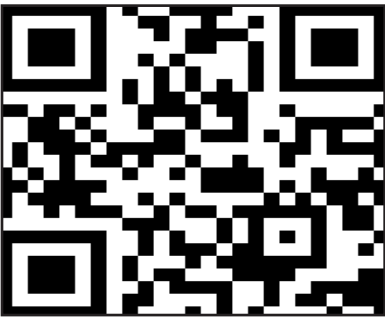
CLUB ACTIVITIES

Child Development Club Meeting

Please join the Child Development Club meeting on Friday, March 2 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. located in

Health Science Building, HS 101.

Campus Clubs can place announcements of events and meetings in Talon Marks print and online edition.
Contact Alicia Edquist x 2617 or ads@talonmarks.com for more information.



Check ‘Pistil’ out here
<http://bit.ly/2EWdDgZ>



Falcons with the dagger: No. 1 Demetrius Thomas, the reigning South Coast Conference Player of the Year, goes hard to the basket. Thomas played 54 minutes in Friday's game, as he totaled 25 points and 14 rebounds, for an MVP worthy showing.

CARLOS RUIZ

WIN IN TRIPLE OVERTIME

Jah-Tosh Baruti

Sports Editor
@press180otosh

With 1.8 seconds left in the third overtime of the game, sophomore guard Riley Hamilton (No. 4) hit a go-ahead three to lift the Falcons, crushing the hearts of Riverside College coaches, players and fans in the process.

"I was trying to just get the ball and be able to make a play, originally it was just to drive to the hoop but they sagged off so I just shot it and I'm glad it went in," Hamilton said of the play that sealed the game for his team.

Hamilton saved the Falcons season twice in the game—with clutch free throws and again with

the game winning three pointer.

Both teams shot poorly throughout—30 percent range on field goals and three-point tries, while shooting an abysmal 50 percent from the charity stripe.

Cerritos College, winner of the South Coast Conference divisional title—jumped out to an early lead of 8-2 and about half way through the first half, the team found itself on the right side of a 12-point lead.

The Falcons were up double digits for most of the first half and maintained a steady control on the game—eventually going into the locker room up six.

Even after playing a team-high 54 minutes, No. 1 Demetrius Thomas still said he felt pretty good.

Thomas was recently named the SCC Player of the Year or "MVP," as he called it for his standout play in the 2017-18 season, after averages of 17 points and eight rebounds—while averaging almost two steals and over a blocked shot per outing.

He undoubtedly had an MVP caliber performance in this game notching 25 points and 14 boards, with most of his damaged being done in the first half.

"In those triple overtimes, I just wasn't as aggressive as I was in the first half," Thomas said.

Although, his team shot poorly from the FT line, he shot a perfect 5-5.

"My coach is always on us about our free throws," Thomas said, "so [I] try to knock them all down and I did it, so I just got to

take my time more—get relaxed and follow through."

The game saw eight ties and 11 lead changes take place over the course of the 55 minutes.

Jonathan Guzman, No. 21 had a double-double and not one from the in-n-out on Alondra, but a double-double that he achieved through racking up a 10 points, 10 rebounds sandwich.

Although, Guzman said he wasn't particularly happy about his performance.

"I feel like I played bad—I could've played a lot better, but I'm glad we won, if it wasn't for Riley, we wouldn't be ecstatic right now," Guzman said.

"This should've never went to three overtimes honestly," Guzman said, "our free throws were really bad."

Kesahun Mack (No. 14) kept the team in the second OT with back to back buckets late.

Mack said, "I was able to make a couple shots—to keep the team within [reach]."

Head coach Russ May said, "You gotta play all the way to the very last buzzer—I'm so proud of our guys for not giving up, because it would have been easy for them to think that the game was lost."

Assistant coach Jordan Littlejohn, said, "That's the heart of a champion, you got to have those experiences."

Cerritos College men's basketball team will play at home versus Santiago Canyon College on Mar. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Southern California Regional Final.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ENDS SEASON IN PLAYOFF LOSS

Carlos Ruiz

Staff Writer
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After winning the first playoff game, the Falcons had its season end after losing in the second round to Palomar College 58-84.

Freshman forward/center No. 33 Miranda Ta'amu reflected on her last game of the season, "I didn't play to my full potential.

"I wish I did, but I had an off game. I let my frustration of not getting any calls get the best of me."

Ta'amu said this season was a rollercoaster, but created many friendships this season that she'll cherish forever.

She averaged six points and five rebounds per game this year.

After an injury, this playoff game was the return of the team's leading scorer, freshman guard No. 24 Serena Rendon.

Rendon was named freshman of the year in the South Coast Conference South Division.

Adding onto that, she was named 3rd Team All-State and is the first freshman to be named All-State in women's basketball since 1999.

Rendon also set a record this season for most three-pointers in a season scoring 96 her first season at Cerritos College.

Rendon said, "Coming in as a freshman I didn't think I'd have a big impact on this team, I definitely doubted myself.

"Over the summer in my head I would say 'I'm not that good for college basketball. These girls are going to be better than me.'

Rendon ended with, "Next season I hope to go undefeated in conference, it's a big goal, but I'm ready to motivate and encourage my teammates to accomplish it."

The Cerritos College women's basketball team ended the 2017-2018 season 18-14, tied for second place in conference and made it to the second round of playoffs.

CERRITOS' MEN'S TENNIS TEAM WINS ITS SIXTH GAME IN A ROW

Carlos Ruiz

Staff Writer
@thecarlosruiz

The Falcons' men's tennis team won its sixth straight game against Cypress College ending a score of 7-2.

The day started with three doubles matches within the game in which Cypress came out on top 2-1.

Although the Falcons were down 2-1, they had six singles matches to play.

Fortunately the squad won all six singles winning the game in its entirety.

Freshman Dario Rico says his singles match performance went very good.

"I was focused on my match and it was a big win for me," he said smiling.

Coming into the games, Rico says the team tries to play aggressive.

Rico said, "I'm a person who plays offensive, but sometimes I like to defend as well."

Rico hopes to improve on his mentality during the games throughout the rest of the season to come.

This being the sixth win for the men's team now, head coach Quinn Calaron said, "I think the

season's going as we planned, we're working hard.

"We still have work to do in doubles, this was the first time since our last loss that we came out in doubles behind.

"It was really good to come through and win all the singles, which was a little bit of a surprise."

Losing two matches in doubles against Cypress, Calaron says maybe they need to go back to the drawing board with mixing and matching personalities.

Calaron said that the team has a pretty good streak. He's hoping they can go undefeated the rest of the year, although it's a long ways away.

He continued, "We need to practice hard and need to work on our doubles after today. We kind of have our philosophy.

"I've kind of spread that with them on progressing to try and peak at the end of the season.

"I don't wanna give away too much, but we kind of have our strategy on how we're gonna go," said the coach.

The Falcons men's tennis team has its next match away against El Camino on Mar. 1.

This game will be a double header and a chance for the team to extend the win streak to seven.



Strike out!: Freshman pitcher Sierra Gerdt played all five innings of the game. Gerdt had 99 pitches and had 53 pitched strikes in the games entirety.

CARLOS RUIZ

FALCONS' SOFTBALL HOLDS ONTO THE WIN AGAINST LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE

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Cerritos College's softball team won its second conference match of the season 10-2 in only five innings due to the mercy rule.

Up against Long Beach City College, the Falcons were scoreless the first inning.

The following four innings, they were capable of scoring 10 runs and had 13 hits at the end of the game.

Head coach Kodee Murray says the team came to play and did a great job against its opponents.

This being the second win in conference, Murray says the Falcons are just taking it one game at a time.

She believes the team has plenty of areas to improve on with so many games to come.

Murray said, "We're hitting the ball consistently as a team now and that's very important.

"We just have to show up and know that we're a team and fight

together. If we continue to do that, we'll get better as the season goes on."

Sophomore infielder No. 33 Rain Vega hit a triple down the left field line in the bottom of the 5th inning, batting in two runners finishing the game.

Vega said, "I told myself that I was just gonna hop on it as quickly as possible. My mindset was just getting in there, see it and hit it."

Vega believes the team did a fantastic job, she continued by saying, "It's easy to just sit back

when you have a couple of runs, but we just kept pushing.

"I'm really proud of my girls all the effort and hard work they put into this game."

Vega ended the game up at bat four times and batted in two runners.

Following the win against Long Beach City College the Falcons had a home game against Riverside on Feb. 24 in which they won 4-2.

The Falcons' softball team has its next conference match away at Compton College on March 1.