

## TACOS FOR TEACHERS



Community members come together to feed striking LAUSD teachers.

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CARMELITA ISLAS MENDEZ

**Negotiations continue:** The Cerritos College Faculty Federation continues its negotiations with the District despite past tensions that cause a potential filed impasse. The CCFF President Stephanie Rosenblatt and the Union remain hopeful that constructive conversations continue in the new semester.

## Union negotiators remain hopeful despite past tensions

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Cerritos College and the Cerritos College Faculty Federation have been in negotiations for over a year said Stephanie Rosenblatt. Rosenblatt, president of the CCFF, explained that negotiations will continue until the District and Federation reach an agreement.

Before the end of the winter break the negotiation teams

reached an impasse which caused tensions. Rosenblatt said that the winter break served as a “cooling off period” between the District and the CCFF.

On Jan. 7, 2019, the District contacted the Federation to reconvene and begin negotiations that would include salaries, health insurance, work load for full and part time instructors and many other items.

The new proposals on the CCFF’s side includes moving to the Resource Allocation Formula which the District opposes arguing that moving to a different funding formula would be a financial risk for the college.

Rosenblatt said that they are all sharing the possible risks involved with the RAF, but thinks that “it’ll help the Trustees feel like they’re being more fiscally responsible.”

“We have this huge reserve because there were years when the money wasn’t spent.”

Rosenblatt thinks a possible reason the District was initially wary of the RAF was because “the [District] felt that they would be obligated to give money” that would deplete the reserves it currently has.

The RAF has been employed by other institutions; the CCFF says it shows the sustainability

in switching to the new funding formula. The funding formula allocates the financial resources distributed on campus.

Rosenblatt said, “Under RAF, what happens is you start off with the amount of money you’re spending on stuff and any additional revenue that comes in, so like this year we’re going to have between eight and \$11 million more.”

“This would be allocated to the different constituencies on campus in a way that’s responsible. So, it’s sustainable for the college, but it also makes sure that the employees are being provided enough money to maintain their

standard of living or to fix some inequities from the past.”

Gary Pritchard, dean of academic affairs and negotiator on the districts side, emphasized that he could not comment on anything pertaining to the negotiations.

When asked for any comment he said, “No. I really can’t speak about negotiations, it is not my place.”

However, Rosenblatt remains hopeful and says that there is a possibility in adopting the new funding formula.

She said, “It feels like we’re a turning point and it could go pretty well, but we’ll see.”

## Cerritos College alumnae dies while on study abroad trip, community mourns

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Monica Santiago, a Cerritos College alumnae, died in Tainan City, Taiwan while studying abroad and teaching local children to speak English. While at Cerritos, Santiago, 24, participated in programs which included global studies, political science and Chinese.

Her father, Camilo Santiago, said, “Monica loved teaching the children; they had a positive attitude and were open to learning. She would say she was very excited to be there and that her students were very good kids.”

She was close to her students and said that they were her “kids” on a Facebook post sharing her last day teaching English in Tainan. The next day Santiago would die from asthma compli-

cations.

The days following her death, teachers who worked with Santiago expressed to her father that they were conflicted on how to inform her students of her death. Santiago said that his daughter’s students “enjoyed” being in her class and that it made it harder to cope.

Dr. Shin Lui, creator of the Taiwan Experience Education Program, said, “I was very shocked when I learned of her passing through other students and her family because she was so young. She was only 24.

“When you are young you never think this will happen to you. She had a history of asthma and even things like these we have to know them.”

Being the creator of the TEEP and leading study abroad programs Lui said “On new programs we need to pay more attention on the students’ health

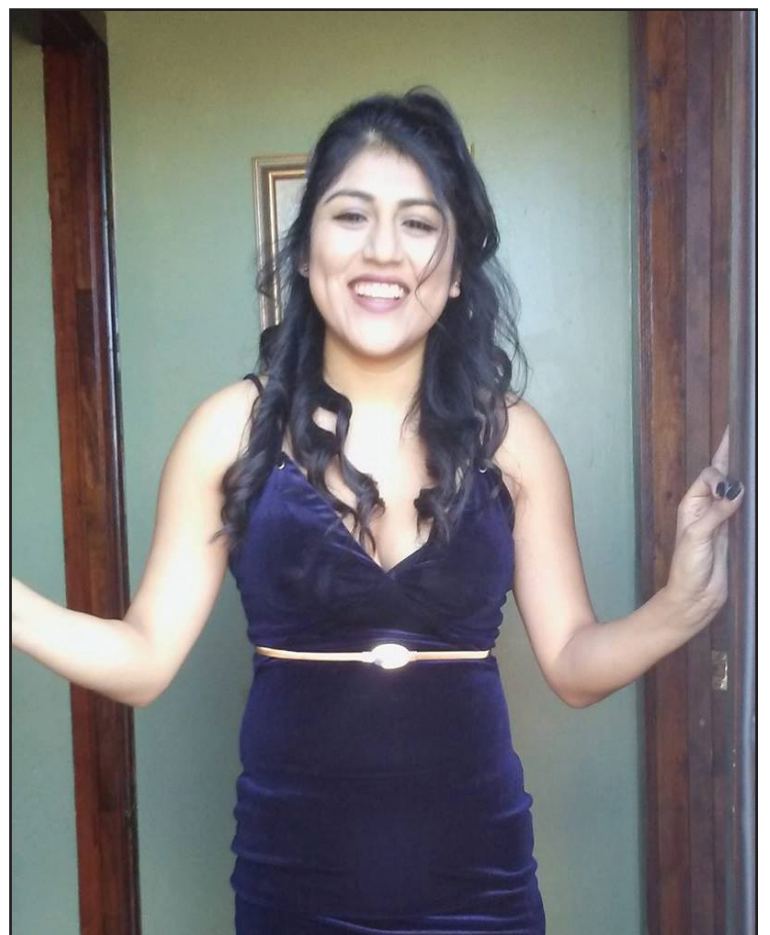
and ask more questions about their medical histories. Still today I feel so sad about Monica’s passing.”

The TEEP was established to take Cerritos College students to Taipei to study abroad. Santiago attended the program in summer 2017 heading to Tainan City with Lui and other Cerritos students.

A GoFundMe page was opened to help the family cover the funeral expenses. Her family, with donations from family, friends and her professors, were able to raise over \$13,000.

A service was held in Tainan City with her body present, but her family could not bring her body into the U.S. due to strict regulation. Once back in the U.S. her family held a service with her ashes present.

Camilo Santiago said that even though her ashes were brought back to hold a final service “it just was not the same.”



COURTESY OF CAMILO SANTIAGO

**Death of alumnae:** Monica Santiago, 24, was on an educational program abroad when she died. She taught English to local children but died in 2018.



## Union and LAUSD reach new deal, week-long striking in the rain pays off



JASMINE MARTINEZ

LAUSD strike: Second grader Marcos Gil joins strikers outside Gates Street Elementary School as cars whizzed by. Protestors made their way to Los Angeles City Hall, joining thousands of others marching for better schools on Jan. 14.

Jasmine Martinez  
Editor-in-Chief  
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The Los Angeles Unified School District and the union reached a tentative negotiation Jan. 22 after strikers marched for days in cold and rainy weather.

Chants of “Beutner, Beutner you’re no good, treat your students like you should” rang through wind and rain as Los Angeles Unified School District teachers and community members rallied in support of better schools on Jan. 14.

Weather conditions did not deter strikers from hours of

marching with picket signs in front of Gates Street Elementary School, before making their way to Los Angeles City Hall to join thousands of others in the march for smaller class sizes, increased staff and reduced standardized testing.

LAUSD students, as young as elementary and middle schoolers, also joined the picket lines.

Erica Gil, parent and past volunteer at Gates brought her children to strike early morning.

“I think if teachers had smaller classes, struggling students will have what they need in terms of attention, in terms of extra help that they can get from the

teacher,” Gil said, “When you’re dealing with 30, 40 kids or 25+ kids, it’s very hard to give attention to [children who need that extra help].”

“[My mom] said we were going to support the teachers so that we can have better rights,” said Marcos Gil, second grader.

He would be happy if so.

As an educator, Martin Renteria believes the students also feel like they deserve better.

“What they’ve offered for one year, you know, we’ll be in the same situation the following year,” Renteria said, “I think we’re done with that kind of treatment from the district.”

## Los Angeles community efforts keep striking teachers’ bellies warm

Jasmine Martinez  
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Coming together in a collective effort, Los Angeles community members took it upon themselves to keep the bellies of striking teachers full and warm with free food and services.

A flood of support came in the form of parents providing home-made meals, a nearby cafe owner offering coffee and pastries out of his own budget and a GoFundMe account that exceeded its initial \$1,000 goal by more than \$40,000.

“Tacos for Teachers,” the fundraising account created by the International Socialist Organization and Democratic Socialists of America, not only meant to feed the estimated 32,000 teachers on strike, but the campaign also brought awareness and as well.

The account reached \$15,000 the week before teachers even went on strike.

Victor Hernandez, organizer for the ISO, showed up in a taco costume and drove around the city, making sure teachers got their tacos. To him, it’s L.A., so tacos made sense.

“The teachers are coming out, they’re not getting paid and they’re sacrificing a lot, so then the best thing we can do is provide them with some warm food and show them that we are out here to support,” Hernandez said, “It’s working class power and that’s what we believe in.”

Tacos El Campeon set up shop outside Lincoln High School the morning of Jan. 18, serving a sea of teachers in red with bright smiles on their faces.

Martha Avila Mendez, co-busi-

ness owner of Tacos El Campeon, said their business would visit as many schools as possible, since her children also attend LAUSD schools.

Owner of Maracas Cafe and Catering, Miguel Contreras, also emphasized the importance of community efforts for a cause. Contreras has been in the business for years and supports LAUSD by providing what he can.

Contreras said, “We take [different schools] coffee or danishes, Mexican bread, soup, whatever they need.”

According to Contreras, the teachers, who are like second parents to the children, have shown much appreciation, not only with their words, but with joyful and happy expressions.

Support has not only been evident on national and business levels, but down to those who can be closest to teachers, the students’ parents.

Luptia Aguilar and Adriana Miranda brought homemade dishes like pozole, tortas, potato tacos and more everyday of the strike last week, rain or shine.

Before teachers made their way to Los Angeles City Hall to march, the two made sure to pack them lunch bags including a sandwich, juice and other snacks.

Jennifer Trochez, LAUSD elementary school teacher, says she and the rest of the teachers are genuinely touched, fortunate and blessed to have the community show up to the picket lines with them.

Negotiations were reached Jan. 22 and teachers will resume teaching classrooms Jan. 23.

Full story on [talonmarks.com](http://talonmarks.com)

## Pansa Llena: Let’s TACO bout Ave 26 Taco Stand

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Co-Online Editor  
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¡Hola a todos!  
I’ll be writing about a dish that dates back to the 18th century in Mexico. It’s a versatile meal that got its name in a very unique way.

That meal is known as the famous taco. Now before I talk about a great taco place in Downtown Los Angeles I will talk about the origin of the taco.

While doing my research I discovered that the word “taco” did not start off as a food item. The word “taco” was used in the silver mines in Mexico

Inside these silver mines people would wrap pieces of paper around gunpowder and insert them into holes to carve faces.

Migrants introduced the taco to the U.S. in the early 1900’s and since then there has been many variations of the famous meal.

Now that I’ve covered the history of the taco I can share one of the best taco spots I’ve found.

One day as I was scrolling through Instagram I saw a family friend post a picture of tacos, I quickly asked where she bought them from and went the next night.

Since then I have not found a spot as good, fast and inexpensive. That place is called Ave 26 Taco Stand it’s located on an empty street in LA and is open everyday.

Driving through the area can be a bit scary since it is located in the back of an alleyway, but once you hear the sound of loud banda music playing you know you’ve reached the stand.

If you’re looking for traditional tacos this is the place to go. All tacos and sodas are \$1 and horchatas are \$2, this stand is cash only so make sure to have cash on you before giving this place a try.

If you don’t live near the LA area you must visit this stand at least once. For starters, the staff is super friendly and welcoming. They guide you through their meat options and have a nice

conversation with you.

Their service is fast, the long lines are intimidating and will make you want to drive away, but trust me you will never wait longer than five minutes.

This stand has no seating areas giving you the full cultural experience. Ditch the traditional hand-out menu and dining area and bring your lawn-chair or sit on top of your car.

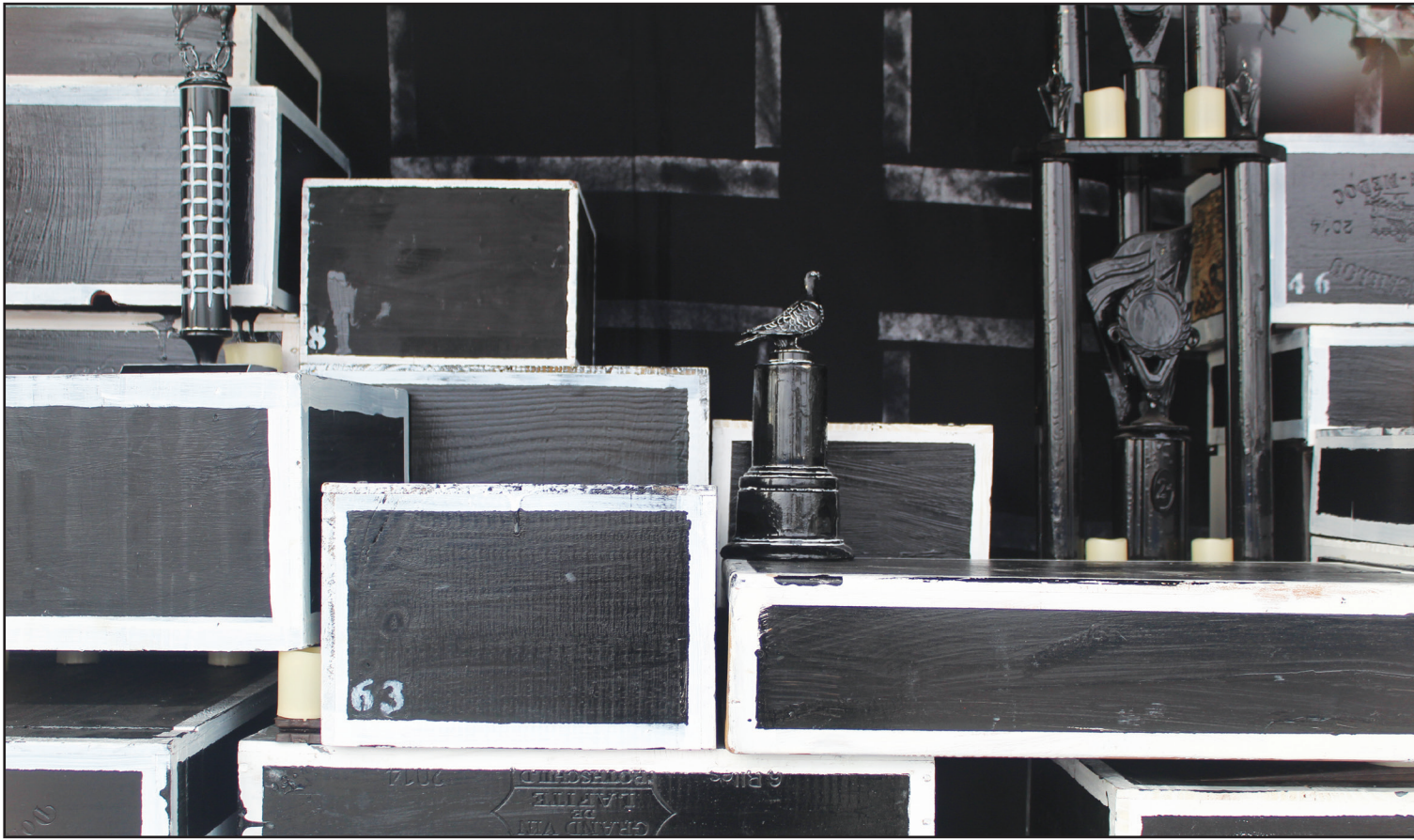


Taco stand brings crowds together in a lot: Two employees having a laugh while serving fresh tacos. They are making sure every guest feels welcomed and leaves with a corazón contento.

Marilyn Parra



# Art display 'Cabinet of Curiosities'



GUADALUPE ZARAGOZA

Artist Karim Shuquem crafted a series of numbered boxes each different from one another and stacked in a non specific formation. The display was held in the window located outside of the Fine Arts Building on Jan. 16, 2019.

**Guadalupe Zaragoza**  
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The Fine Arts building gallery kicked off the new semester with Cabinet of Curiosities, a new window dressing installation by artist Karim Shuquem on Jan. 16.

As a Los Angeles visual and performing artist, Shuquem's black and white themed art comes off as an approach to natural sciences and evolution that is not visible to the human eye.

Neither completed or fixed, the installation included a never ending stack of painted, carved and yet numbered crates. The display was surrounded with candles, European acquired objects and spell-bounding black lights.

Behind the inspiration were individuals who were process-based metaphysics thinkers such as Gregory Cajete, Brian Yazzie

Burkhart, Alfred North Whitehead, Heraclitus and so on.

Imagery was a large contributor in translating the meaning Shuquem wanted to get across. In fact, it rather diffused into several different meanings that the artist wanted the audience to develop as they made their observations.

"I think that when you're an artist, we consider things that we don't usually see in our work and that happens when the crates are stacked. It is impossible to see what is underneath and behind them," Shuquem said.

Shuquem continued, "The classification of human beings and the acquisition of knowledge is the reason why we are here as individuals."

Furthermore, he believes that learning and using the medium in order to find a resolution or to conclude, is the definite analysis of an artist.

Only being in the realm of art for such little time, and engaging in the world of music for over 25 years, Shuquem wanted to explore further out of his comfort zone but also combine his life long passion with his new love for art.

Due to the rainy weather leading to the cancellation of the opening reception, students continued to gather around Shuquem's work for a glimpse.

Without any knowledge of the display, one student assumed that because there were numerous objects, then there were various meanings.

James Boror, ceramics major, said, "The whole display was honestly for our own mind to take its own route of what it could be rather than it being anything specific."

On the other hand, there was a different theory on the reasoning

for the display.

Another student confirmed that the purpose of the set up was to provide a 3-D principle that engages repetition.

Andrina Abresinos, child development major, took the time to view the window gallery.

Abresinos said, "There is obviously a large amount of elements configuring this idea of categorization, such as the many boxes and statues symbolizing someone important."

Since there is quite a unique variation of art representations, there will be an opportunity for an artist to showcase their work.

Within the 30 foot-long window vitrine located outside of the Fine Arts Building, individual installations will only go on for two weeks, with an opening reception every other Monday from 5 to 7 p.m.

## As weak as glass

**Edgar Mendoza**  
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The sequel to both "Unbreakable" and "Split" is passable, but undoubtedly the weakest installment in the trilogy.

It serves as a great standalone film, but when compared to its predecessors it simply does not follow through on the grand picture painted by Shyamalan.

Littered with obvious nods to superhero tropes and cliches, as well as outdated references seemingly intended to resonate with the audience, the film seemingly undoes much of what Shyamalan established for his characters in their respective installments.

Confined to only a few locations, the film does not deliver on the superhero spectacle seemingly promised throughout the previous films and shoves even the protagonists into the backseat for the second half of its runtime.

The mental facility that much of the film takes place in lacks realism, in turn costing Glass the immersive feel carried in "Unbreakable" and "Split."

Though characters such as Casey Cooke, girlfriend to Split's Kevin and Joseph Dunn, son to Unbreakable's David Dunn, help give substance to the thin plot, it is not enough to carry the film for its two-hour runtime.

The climax feels especially underwhelming and reduces the phenomenal acting of James Mcavoy to mere henchmen like status.

The film suffers from stakes that seem painfully low, and although the film opens up the way for an even larger shared universe it fails to feel even remotely as grand as those of Marvel Studios or even DC Comics.

The problem lies herein, Shyamalan provides a new take on superheroes and villains but is hindered by the audience now being flooded with superhero films.

The central theme of a shared delusion is powerful, but not executed to its full potential.

Intended to focus on three characters, it throws it all away in favor of heading in a totally different direction.

The fights, though artistic, seems to be thrown in only as a means of satisfying the promised superhero beatdown hinted at in the trilogy's first installment.

The ending is as expected, a twist, but one that sadly drags the film down even further than its climax did.

Overall the film is solid at the start but grows increasingly flawed as the minutes pass.

For those simply looking for a new angle on superheroes, the film will leave them intrigued, they will not find it here.



CREATIVE COMMONS  
Ariana Grande strutting the red carpet at Billboard's Women in Music. The event occurred on Dec. 6, 2018.

## Ariana Grande's trap twist on a Julie Andrews classic

**Tiara White**  
Staff Writer  
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Following her hit breakup anthem "Thank U, Next", Ariana Grande released her new boujee single "7 Rings" Thurs. night accompanied by a glamorous pink-themed music video.

Showcasing her unique voice in Broadway musicals since she was a kid, it made sense for her to rework the Julie Andrews song "My Favorite Things" from the movie "Sound of Music" even with her new sound.

"7 Rings" isn't about her previous engagement to actor/comedian Pete Davidson.

Grande stated in a tweet prior to the release that she wrote the

song with her best friends after a rough day.

After writing the song she decided to do some retail therapy and bought her friends matching Tiffany Co. engagement rings.

Grande states in a tweet, "7 rings" is a "friendship anthem, a flex." And it shows in her lyrics and visuals directed by Hannah Lux Davis.

The video is shot in an all pink house embellished with diamonds, champagne bottles, and all of Ariana's closest female friends.

Not a single male was in the video, promoting her new era of female power.

The chorus of the song tells a story of how Grande embraces her wealth but also shares her

indulgences with her friends.

Ariana realizes her privilege as a pop-star sensation, and for the first time, flexes on everyone.

Ariana's signature look, the ponytail, has been a topic of commentary and criticism for most of her career.

She makes a statement by keeping her iconic long ponytail the focal point of many scenes in the video.

One noteworthy moment is when Grande lies on her back as her ponytail cascades down a flight of stairs.

The callback to her previous looks excites fans as this highly anticipated single marks the beginning of what seems like a new and improved era for Ariana Grande.



## LA's Cats on Glass gallery gives sheltered cats a purr-pose

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Looking for a "meow-tastic" time? Los Angeles new Cats on Glass gallery presented by Fresh Step Clean Paws provides more than just fun, it gives guest the opportunity to adopt cats for free.

Partnering with Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles, Fresh Step Clean Paws decided to turn a middle-sized warehouse into a playful two-story cat house where guests can play and roam like a cat.

This nine-day event is located in the heart of LA. Admission is free, but guests are recommended to RSVP online.

The gallery wants to give cats a purrr-pose by ensuring every cat is adopted. Fresh Step Clean Paws provided an all glass house where guest can watch cats play and sleep right above their heads.

The glass showcases the clean paws on all cats after using Fresh Steps new low tracking cat litter.

The gallery is divided into

four spaces, the first being the pom pom room where guest can play and take pictures.

A relaxation room named "Meowmaste," provides a dimmed light setting and a four-minute long track of cat purrs that guest can listen to with cat ear shaped headphones.

Lounge areas were placed around the first and second floor, providing guest with bean bag chairs, blankets and chess boards.

Besides the main event one area guest enjoyed the most was the portrait section, where anyone can put on a large cat head.

Ellen Lynca, cat lover who works for a PR firm, helped organize the event and set up all the interactive props.

"All of the props are fun and interactive, we're encouraging people to take pictures and share their experience," says Lynca.

Throughout the gallery, staff members gave out free cat ear headbands.

"With the headbands we want people to take a lot of pictures to post on instagram with the hashtag Cats on Glass," says Lynca.

With every post that has the hashtag "Cats on Glass," Fresh



MARILYN PARRA

Glass House showcasing cats clean paws. The cats had used the Fresh Steps Clean Paws low tracking litter as promotion on Jan. 18, 2019.

Step donates money to spacLA.

Jan. 18 was the first full-day for the gallery and so far 16 adoptions were made.

Tiffany and her partner Frank Xu were one of the many people who adopted a cat.

"I think this whole process is awesome, we've been planning for a really long time to adopt

a cat and when we heard of the gallery we knew it was the perfect chance," Tiffany said.

All adoptions are celebrated with a cheer and applause from all staff. Guest are also given the opportunity to sign their name on the cat picture wall next to the cat they adopted.

When choosing a cat, your

allowed to share some play time with the before filling out any paperwork.

For those not adopting, you can draw a picture to hang on the wall inside the little boutique on the second floor.

At the end of each day, a feline is going home to a family and a family earns a new member.

## Music in Transit: It's a veteran's comeback

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Freelance Writer  
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Artists that conquered and headlined from 2013 to 2016 have finally come out of their hiatus and are probably out of money, let's be honest - have been booking tours all across North America, South America

and Europe, as well as announcing album releases, and it's about damn time!

The inner fangirl in me is no longer content with listening to the same albums over and over again.

Of course you're thinking, "why don't you listen to new bands, new albums, expand your horizons!," but am I really a dedi-

cated fangirl if I find new bands to stan? Uh no!

I'd like something new to cry over. The Strokes, I'm looking at you!

But as new music goes, Vampire Weekend is one of the bands who is stirring up a lot of noise upon their return - and with good reason.

The indie pop band had been following in The Strokes' footsteps and have gone into a rather long hiatus leaving their fans in a six-year dry spell.

But as the saying goes, "good things come to those who wait," VW fans will be receiving a double album, as Ezra Koenig lead singer of VW stated and possibly, - more than likely - a tour.

The new album is 18 tracks long and as VW tradition holds, fans won't know the album title until the full release, but Koenig has hinted the initials being "FOTB," so interpret that as you wish.

Until then, VW will be releasing three two-song drop every month and would most likely be released the album in March.



Artists have been teasing and I mean TEASING fans with new music releases, one of which is Bombay Bicycle Club.

The English band released an inviting 30 second clip stating

their return to the music world and having live shows planned ahead.

The 1975 are scheduled to release an album this year as well. The English pop rock band have captured major attention in the Twitter world and have high expectations from their followers.

Other artists/bands releasing new music this year are:

- Foals
- Tame Impala
- Lana Del Rey
- Childish Gambino
- Hozier
- Of Monsters and Men
- Bastille
- Grimes
- Weezer
- My Bloody Valentine

And that is only a small taste of what is to come in 2019.

One band I am particularly fond of and hopeful they release or even tour near California, are The Strokes.

As they've announced three shows; two festivals in Spain and Governor's Ball in New York, we can't help but HOPE - and pray to the music gods - that the Strokes making a real return to music and aren't remerging to remind us they can't do proper tours.

Although, it's claimed it's their "Global comeback," until they actually perform at venues and go to places other than NYC, S. America and the UK, all we can do is wait and see if they can pull through.

Nonetheless, 2019 is scheduled to bring new albums, tours, merch and best of all, something to look forward to!

### Coming soon to Theaters

*Serenity*  
Jan. 25

*What Men Want*  
Feb. 8

*Happy Death Day 2U*  
Feb. 14

*Alita: Battle Angel*  
Feb. 14

### Coming soon to Netflix

*Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes*  
Jan. 25

*Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Season 4 Part 2*  
Jan. 25

*Ant-Man and the Wasp*  
Jan. 29

*The Incredibles 2*  
Jan. 30



CREATIVE COMMONS

Ezra Koenigdaeri on stage at the pop rock festival. Vampire Weekend performed in front of 20,000 audience members.



# Shutdown endangers the Native community

As if non-Natives haven't been the source of heartless destruction and violence towards Native Americans for centuries, the United States government continues being complicit in depleting these communities of crucial resources during the longest shutdown in history.

Putting the lives of Native Americans in danger with shortages of food, medical needs and attention and funds highlights the uselessness of treaty obligations as federal services.

Natives rely heavily on federal services, what's the purpose of having those when the country's so-called leader and Congress can't get their shit together over a wall?

A wall, unsurprisingly, meant to alienate and dehumanize other minorities.

Let's face it, the border wall at this point is just a monument to Donald Trump's racism and xenophobia, inspiring a stupidly brave wave of "Make America Great Again" supporters to show their true colors.

This "great" America is a whites' only event, with colonizers getting a special invitation, if people did not already get the memo.

The National Association of Food Distribution on Indian Reservations Board was stalled and thousands of Indian Health Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs workers, an article by Citylaps stated at least 2,295 of 4,057, are furloughed and working without pay.

According to the New York Times, some tribes took it upon themselves to use their own



SOFIA GALLEGOS/FREELANCE ILLUSTRATOR

funds in order to survive.

The article by Citylaps also stated that tribal nations engaged in federal contracting found that they would have an estimated financial loss of \$200,000 to \$250,000 per day if the shutdown persists.

The federal government was the source of much of the funding that went into paying the salaries of many members of the Navajo Nation and with the shut

down people who were supporting families made up of anywhere from six to twelve individuals are left without pay.

The difference between jobs like Transportation Security Administration and Native Americans is that the media lacks in reporting on the effects on these communities and reservations.

Isn't journalism meant to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable? Looking at you,

major news media outlets.

It is the government's responsibility to uphold its end of the treaty made with the Native communities of this supposed great nation.

Native communities have suffered and lost enough and should not have to endure anymore suffering at the hands of the government.

Congress needs to make some sort of clause or back up plan

that will ensure that government funding and services will continue to be given to the tribes even in the event of a potential future government shutdown.

It is also the media's responsibility to bring these stories to light, to make the Native community's voice heard, so that the government can be held accountable and made aware that they are failing to uphold the treaty and it needs to make things right.

## Trump's wall may cause a second civil war

Edgar Mendoza  
Staff Writer  
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It's nice to know that our President has fulfilled at least one of his campaign promises, that is, to build his wall.

It may not be the border wall he spoke of but is, in fact, a wall that splits our union into two. It is a wall that keeps our country from running effectively by keeping the people from working together.

On one side you have the Democrats, on the other the Republicans, each waving their colors like two rival teams, hell-bent on getting their way.

We have been drawn into this dispute, choosing a side, and bickering with whoever dares to claim allegiance to the opposition, and the shutdown has made this more obvious than ever before.

Both parties have long since opposed the other, but it is now, in the wake of the longest government shutdown in American history, that we can see it has fallen upon us, the union, to make this country run again.

The opposition between the two parties has overshadowed their initial purpose, to compromise.

There is no longer a right or wrong side, there are only two sides that are both causing near irreversible harm to the people, and we are supporting it.

Our government shutdown over a short term funding bill, and yet we have taken the initial cause, the border wall, and used it as a catalyst to spark debate over countless other matters, when in fact our focus should be on getting those in power to re-open the government, and furthermore, to

work together as our founding fathers intended.

Our country is built on compromise and yet we go outside and argue with a neighbor who can't feed their children simply because of their political affiliation.

We bicker with those who are on the brink of losing everything they have simply because we blame their party for the shutdown.

No political party paid for the nearly insurmountable wall of financial and emotional obstacles that Trump has created, we did.

Payment is not just limited to the money countless families are losing because of this shutdown. In continuing to support one side with no compromise in sight, we have turned a blind eye to the repercussions that come with that divide.

Trump has built his wall between the people, and no matter what side you take you have helped to build it.

We have reached the point where coast guard families must resort to selling personal belongings, even their cars, in order to support their family. A community in Montgomery County, Maryland, had to hold a citywide potluck because families could not afford a simple dinner.

We have paid for our disharmony with our children's cries of hunger, and with the tears of our broken families, and we will continue to pay unless we, the base of this country, can work together to get those in charge to learn from these events.

We must let it be known that we can't and won't tolerate another shutdown like this, because this attempt at helping the people

is only increasing the divide between them.

We cannot be dragged into yet another civil war, because though it may not be fought with guns, it will cost lives. These arguments on the street may very well erupt into brawls.

The shunning of people who support the opposing party may one day soon become separating yourself from them altogether, and in turn, groups separating from groups, and factions forming.

It is up to us to tear down the wall our President has created between us, to stop waving red or blue and to start waving red, white and blue.

We were once one nation, with liberty and justice for all, and you're urged to work together with your fellow Americans to restore that unity.

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

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## Diving into men's swim season



COURTESY OF DARYL PETERSON/CERRITOS SPORTS INFORMATION

**Flying to gold:** Sophomore Steven Garcia taking a breath while swimming 100 butterfly at Cerritos College as a freshman on March 30, 2018. He hopes to swim strong this season and compete in this event in conference.

**Christopher Martinez**  
Sports Editor  
@chris\_reports\_

Cerritos College men's swim team are swimming towards its first meet of the season at the start of February. They look towards this meet as a benchmark to see their strengths and weaknesses.

Over the fall semester most of the swim team belonged to the Cerritos College water polo team and tried its best to stay in shape through winter break where the Falcons did not practice.

Head coach Joe Abing said, "We are working really hard to get back into shape."

Abing continued, "The team put a lot of yards in over the fall on top of being in [water] polo."

He added that this season he mostly wants his team to train and swim the hardest they can to improve not only themselves but

their teammates.

Spring semester has seen the partial opening of the new Health and Wellness building including the weight room where many of the sports teams have been able to train in, Abing and the team are very eager to get in there and start training.

Swim meets are different than a typical sports game where there are three teams competing against each other instead of one on one. If the Falcons lose a meet they actually lose two or could win one and lose the other which is a split win.

After going 2-5 last season averaging split wins for most of their conference meets, the Falcons hope they can improve their record.

Abing mentioned that after this first meet he will have a better understanding as to how well the team can compete.

There are limits to how many of one school's swimmers can compete in an event, typically there are four swimmers per event admitted and three relays sometimes four if permitted to compete.

Abing also mentioned that Freshmen Rodrigo Baca and Joshua Guzman are two strong freshmen and can be utilized in many different events.

"These are two freshmen that are special and can have a major impact at meets," Abing added.

The Falcons will travel down to Palomar College near San Diego for the Palomar Pentathlon.

According to Abing, the Palomar Pentathlon meet is where he will find what areas the team lacks but also its strengths.

The Falcons' first home meet will come on March 1 against rival Mt. San Antonio College and El Camino College at 12:30 p.m.

## Under the Radar: Rain brings hope to a dry snow season

**Christopher Martinez**  
Sports Editor  
@chris\_reports\_

Los Angeles County has just finished adding on 17 inches of rain and added a fresh 25 inches of snow on average among the resorts in the county, allowing for this weekend to be the best time to get out and hit the slopes.

LA County uncommonly enough is home to some of the best ski resorts in the nation along with hosting major competitions from Olympic qualifiers to World Tours.

There are many places to shred fresh powder in the LA area but there are 10 that stand out above all others.

These resorts range from an average of 85 miles, with the closest resort being Mount Baldy also known as Mount San Antonio.

Mount Baldy is the most ideal for Californians who want to have a day full of adventure, whether starting with surfing in the morning or hiking in the LA mountains.

Mount Baldy is less than an hour and a half drive from Santa Monica and less than an hour from the Los Angeles mountains.

It is considered the best region for residents to ski, with a total of 26 trails, 13 of them for advanced skiers and eight for beginners.

A few of other LA County resorts home to great trails are Snow Summit at Big Bear and

Bear Mountain Ski Resort, which both offer different types of trails and terrain features.

Big Bear is more of family park filled with less features and more popular with kids and beginners, while Snow Summit allows for more advanced skiers and snowboarders with terrain features and night skiing.

Both resorts are ran by Big Bear where they are fortunate enough to offer lift tickets which can be used at either resort. They also offer free lift tickets on your birthday as well as great discount packages.

Mountain High within itself is unique, it is a resort within a resort, offering a North resort which is the smallest of the three, which offers an upside down resort with rentals and lodges at the top of the mountain and have to ski down the trail.

The West resort is the largest of the three offering 34 trails and eight lifts. It has different level terrain allowing for beginners and advanced riders to enjoy the same trails.

The final East resort has the longest trails and the best views of the three resorts looking out over the Mojave Desert.

There are 16 different beautiful trails to ride, with not many different terrains meant to enjoy the ride and the view.

Full story on [talonmarks.com](http://talonmarks.com)

### Sports Schedule

#### Men's Basketball

• Wed., Jan. 23 at Long Beach City 5 p.m.

#### Women's Basketball

• Wed., Jan. 23 at Long Beach City 7 p.m.

#### Baseball

• Fri., Jan. 25 vs Santa Ana 2 p.m.

#### Softball

• Sat., Jan. 26 at Palomar 12 p.m.

#### Track and Field

• Sat., Feb. 2 Cerritos All-Comers

#### Swim and Dive

• Fri., Feb. 8 at Palomar Pentathlon 9 p.m.

W: Win L: Loss T: Tie

Italics: Away event Bold: Home event

## Shmackem: Toxic masculinity's play in sports



**Jah-Tosh Baruti**  
Production Editor  
@press1800tosh

Since the age of time men have dominated sports with emotionless ferocity, however, this type of toxic masculinity is actually toxic to sports.

According to Macmillan Dictionary, toxic masculinity can be defined as the "adherence to traditional male gender roles that expect boys and men to show few emotions and assert their dominance."

Toxic masculinity is a phrase that has been popularized recently throughout various media. Although the affects of this in relation to sports is not talked about nearly enough.

Most people only see the Sports Center highlight plays, upsets and championship wins, but the dark side of sports where male athletes are actually bullied by other male athletes doesn't end up in the top 10 or on a convenient two minute YouTube clip.

It's not a coincidence that male

athletes, especially in the NFL are accused of domestic violence nearly every season. This is due to the high levels of toxic masculinity in football, it's a high contact sport, so players are taught not to show emotions on the field or they'll be labeled soft.

In the 2010 movie *The Karate Kid*, Jaden Smith's character Dre Parker is bullied by Zhenwei Wang's character Cheng throughout the movie. In a karate match towards the end of the movie Cheng is instructed by his trainer to intentionally break Dre's leg, which he does.

That's what toxic masculinity does, it forces boys and men to be overtly aggressive in sports, often times to the detriment of their opponents. Also, that the need to

win is more important than what is ethical.

This outdated rhetoric needs to be rewritten like as of yesterday. It's harmful and unfair to the young boys and girls coming up, who feel like they have to put on a tough persona just to fit in their respective sport.

Boys will be boys was the common phrase growing up when playing physical with other boys. When do the boundary lines get crossed?

The problem is there are no boundaries. Boys will boys will be boys until they're men—and then they'll be men who only know how to be boys.

The toxicity of toxic masculinity is a plague that has to be stopped. It's going to take more

professional athletes speaking out about this topic for change to be made.

In a world riddled with Conner McGregor's in every sport, you know the typical cocky wise-cracking egotistical male, who tries to make other men feel inferior—we need more Stephen Curry's, men who are willing to show emotions, who check in their egos at the door, in the midst of testosterone driven competition.

Sports invite a wide range of emotions in, it should be said that it's okay for men to feel those emotions and actively express them in competition. Put the bravado and make machismo aside, the kids are watching.



# Falcons stunned after dropping 3 of 4



CARLOS RUIZ

**BAM!!!:** Freshman center No. 21 Daelyn Bams throwing down the two handed slam over one of the Pasadena City College players. Bams had 13 points and six rebounds in the game against Pasadena City College at Cerritos College on Jan. 18, 2019.

**Jah-Tosh Baruti**  
Production Editor  
@press1800tosh

Falcons men's basketball's 72-68 home loss to Pasadena City College on Friday had a controversial end to it.

With the loss the team is now 13-5 and has dropped three of its last four games.

The controversy was mainly referee inflicted, due to several non-calls and miscues.

Cerritos College had possession of the ball, up two, with 25 seconds remaining, according to head coach Russ May Pasadena City College was trying to intentionally foul to put the Falcons at the line in order to get the ball back. However, the refs called it a

turnover.

That non call led to an And-1 putback for PCC's Jordan Simpson, No. 20 which put the team up three.

On the Falcons' next play, PCC's No. 4 Giovanni Jackson stole the ball and was immediately fouled, he missed the first free throw and the game clock had ran out.

However, after complaints from May, the refs conferred and realized they made a mistake, put three seconds back on the clock and placed Jackson back at the free throw line, he made it and the game was over for the second and final time.

May described the officiating by the referees as "very disap-

pointing."

Ultimately, the game ended strikingly similar to last year's Final Four loss. The team was up by one with an opposing player shooting free throws, the player missed, then the Falcons fouled on a put back after an offensive rebound, putting the opposing team back on the line—and like in both games, the rest is history.

Daelyn Bams, freshman center, No. 21 tallied a season high 13 points—which he scored all in the first half. He also collected six boards for the game.

Bams said lack of "effort" contributed to his drop off in production in the second half. He added that he lost focus and "should've kept the energy [up]."

Also like the Final Four matchup against San Francisco City College, the Falcons had the chance to extend the one point lead at the free throw line but did not capitalize on the opportunities.

Sophomore guard Christian Alvis-Labaddie, No. 12 could have put Cerritos College up four at the free throw line with 35 seconds remaining. He missed the mark on the first shot of a one and one—you have to make the first shot of those type of free throw attempts in order to shoot the second.

Later, sophomore guard Tawon Elston, No. 5 missed the go-ahead free throw attempt, which would have tied it with 8.1

seconds left in the game.

After sinking the first free throw attempt of two, Elston said he didn't do his usual routine on the second and rushed it, which may have caused the miss.

"I gotta step up in those moments," he stated.

Elston led the team with 14 points off the bench. He also filled the box score with four rebounds and three assists.

Cerritos College clinged on to a two-point advantage with just over a minute left in the final half like a toddler to someone's finger.

The Falcons would maintain that two-point lead all the way until the final 22 seconds of the game.

Then the team watched as its beloved lead dwindled point by point over the course of the final seconds, until it was just a recent memory.

Cerritos College was out scored 9-1 by Pasadena City College over the final two minutes and 46 seconds.

It was a back and forth contest, with eight ties and eight lead changes.

The Falcons led for the majority of the 40 minutes, after coming back from a 10-2 deficit in the first three minutes of gameplay.

Following a record breaking 102-50 blowout win at Rio Hondo College on Jan. 11, the Falcons then laid an egg losing by 15 at Los Angeles Trade Tech College, 98-73.

Freshman guard Chance Hunter, No. 13 talked about the difference between getting beat by 15 and losing a close game like Friday's match.

Hunter said, "It hurts more, because we're up one [with 20 seconds left], you think you have it won."

## STARTERS

	MIN	FGM-A	3PM-A	FTM-A	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
<b>01</b> CODY WILKES	30	4-8	2-6	0-0	1	1	0	0	1	10
<b>02</b> JAMAL HECKARD	21	1-5	0-2	2-2	2	3	2	0	5	4
<b>12</b> CHRISTAIN ALVIS-CABADIE	24	2-6	0-0	0-1	3	1	3	0	2	4
<b>13</b> CHANCE HUNTER	31	6-17	0-4	1-1	6	0	0	2	1	13
<b>15</b> DEZMAN MURPHY	19	4-7	0-1	0-1	3	2	1	1	0	8

## RESERVES

	MIN	FGM-A	3PM-A	FTM-A	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
<b>04</b> JEREMIAH GALANG	10	0-1	0-1	0-0	5	1	2	0	1	0
<b>05</b> TAWON ELSTON	17	6-12	1-3	1-2	2	3	0	0	4	14
<b>10</b> DARRYL McMILLON, JR.	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>11</b> JALEN WASHINGTON	18	0-1	0-0	2-2	3	0	0	0	1	2
<b>21</b> DAELYN BAMS	24	5-9	0-0	3-3	6	1	1	1	1	13
<b>32</b> AUSTIN FREEMAN	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	1	0

MIN: Minutes, FGM-A: Field Goals Made - Attempted, 3PM-A: 3 Pointers Made - Attempted, REB: Rebounds, AST: Assists, STL: Steals, BLK: Blocks, TO: Turnover, PTS: Points

CHRISTOPHER MARTINEZ

Full story on [talonmarks.com](http://talonmarks.com)