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No new full-time faculty hires

Cerritos Complete is now complete

Edgar Mendoza
Staff Writer
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JASMINE MARTINEZ

Faculty hiring decrease: Cerritos College faculty member Hagop Najarian expressed concern over the drop in expected faculty hires. The Board of Trustees listened to other concerned faculty members on Feb. 6 as the agenda item was set to be addressed during that Board meeting.

Jasmine Martinez
Editor in Chief
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Cerritos College expected to hire 27 new full-time faculty members for the fall 2019 semester, but due to enrollment drops, the number was revised to 13, causing concerns among other faculty.

The faculty obligation number was directly affected by a drop of at least 1,000 full-time equivalent students, causing for a decrease in new hires.

Faculty Senate President, April Griffin said, "The FON is a number that is set forward by the chancellor's [office], which is basically the number of full-time faculty we are required to have in order to not be fined."

Vice President of Business Services, Felipe Lopez, said he did not expect enrollment

to drop off so much and is an inconvenient position to be in.

Faculty members from the Fine Arts Department Lisa Boutin-Vitela and Hagop Najarian expressed their concerns for not having a full-time hire for ceramics at a Board of Trustees meeting on Feb. 6.

Najarian felt that the committee he was on was kind of a data-driven process that left out a lot of specifics, including the Fine Arts building.

However, Griffin pointed out using a metric system instead of negotiating for positions is cause for a more objective board.

"It's a health and safety issue, really. We currently have adjunct faculty piecing it together and an adult hourly who is over-worked," Najarian said.

He believes the ceramics division needs professional supervision by a full-time

hire, due the kilns to possible dangerous chemicals.

Boutin-Vitela agrees that hiring more full-time faculty members would benefit the students and staff.

"Fully staffing our faculty will help support student success and completions, and thus benefit the college in light of the new funding formula," she said.

Boutin-Vitela continued by saying with the full-time faculty retirements that occurred last year, many programs are struggling with low morale and heavy workload.

Applicant positions were posted on the Cerritos College website, but then pulled when the number of hires dropped.

Boutin-Vitela hopes that this doesn't happen with future applicants

Lopez said nothing was promised to applicants applying for the positions.

Following in the footsteps of fellow community colleges, Cerritos College will soon announce the changing of Cerritos Complete, a program that offers one-year of free tuition to first-time freshmen, into a two-year program.

Cerritos Complete is open to anyone with a high school diploma, or anyone completing equivalency. The only other entry requirement is that one must be a first-time college student unless they have participated in the Dual Enrollment program.

The program is intended to serve as a fast track for students to get their degree and transfer to a four-year institution.

In addition to free tuition, it offers priority enrollment as well.

Other benefits include step by step assistance and an easy to follow an educational plan tailored just for the student.

These benefits will remain the same, with the only change being the addition of a second year.

For those already enrolled in the program, they need only maintain a 2.0-grade point average, and successfully complete the classes outlined in their educational plan.

If these criteria are met, they will then be offered the second year of Cerritos Complete.

Cerritos Complete member Regina Campbell said, "Getting a second year was a really cool surprise that came almost out of nowhere."

Read full story on talonmarks.com

Staff in an uproar over accumulating trash

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A teacher in the Child Development Center says they and the children have endured pungent smells of trash for weeks while Cerritos College is in the process of getting a new trash compactor.

The location of the trash was moved behind the purchasing facility and near the development center in 2018.

Stacks of cardboard boxes, desks, filing cabinets, trash bins and other items have remained untouched for weeks, getting caught in the recent rain storms.

Items such as the filing cabinets have started to gather rust while miscellaneous mush covers walkways where people throw away trash.

Marlen Murray, child development teacher for 2-year-old

toddlers, said any time there is extreme heat or if the wind blows in their general direction, the smell is condensed in an area where lunch tables are located, where the children eat.

"One thing that is worrisome to us as teachers is that it is so close to where the children are eating and, I mean, that's not good for anybody," she said, "Nobody wants to be smelling those bad smells when they're trying to eat."

Murray knows the children have noticed the smells, recalling her kids yelling out phrases like, "It smells like poop!"

Typically, the company is responsible for picking up the smaller dumpsters, but those bins are currently not being used.

Two bigger dumpsters are almost filled to the brim with the collected trash.

Donnie Hawkins, disposal

custodian for Cerritos College, said he was present when the company quit on the college and thought it unexpected and sudden, but out of the college's control.

"It leaves everybody in a hustle and bustle," he said."

According to Director of Physical Plant and Construction Services, David Moore, it was an annual agreement and replied most custodians and managers did not notice when the company initially quit.

Conversely, a few Cerritos College custodians, who wished to remain anonymous, expressed their frustrations and concerns with the situation early on in the spring 2019 semester.

Prior to the trash build up, Murray said the children had a view of the strawberry field, now, they notice the trash cans and other items and conclude it's the

trash that causes bad smells.

Moore replied via e-mail and said the trash was moved to its current location due to the construction of the Performing Arts Center.

"It's a better spot away from the public," he wrote.



JASMINE MARTINEZ

Trash Issues: Campus custodians have expressed concern over the new college dumping site location. On Feb. 12 officials said that it is to keep trash "away."

'Queering' the Chinese Lunar New Year

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At least 100 LGBTQ Asians, Pacific Islanders and allies marched with high energy and radiant smiles for the annual Lunar New Year Parade on Feb. 9 to further promote visibility and education within the API community.

Blasts of confetti and firecrackers littered the air and the streets of Chinatown as the boisterous crowd joined in on the celebration.

Peace signs were thrown in with exclamations of "queer the new year," which the audience and allies alike responded to kindly.

Asian and Pacific Islanders for LGBTQ Equality LA, an organization meant to empower API communities to achieve LGBTQ, racial and social justice, were one of the largest contingents present.

Deoreena Wong, co-founder of API Equality LA, stressed that Asians exist within the LGBTQ community and wants others to understand that it is not "just a white, western movement."

Grace Lee was a freshman "baby gay" in high school when she learned about API Equality LA and its participation in the parade.

It was the first time she saw openly proud and out, gay and queer Asian people.

"Being gay isn't a white thing," she emphasized, "Being Asian doesn't mean that I'm not gay... intersectionality, we exist, we exist."



JASMINE MARTINEZ

Openly LGBTQ Asians and allies : LGBTQ Asian and Pacific Islanders marched at the annual Lunar New Year Parade in Chinatown to demonstrate pride and support of other Asian and Pacific Islanders in the community. the parade took place on Feb. 9.

She continued, "Whether they like it or not, we're here."

The organization was originally founded in 2005 in response to some of the protests in the Chinese community against marriage equality, Wong said.

Since then, conversations have expanded beyond that topic.

Wong said, "We've gone on beyond marriage equality because

there's so many issues that impact our community, so we've worked on a range of issues-- immigration issues, education issues [and] health issues."

The parade was Shirley Kawasuchi's second with the organization and she feels blessed to have seen the contingent grow from last year.

Previously a volunteer and now

on the fundraising committee, Kawasuchi said, "The parade is really special to me because last year it actually enabled me, or gave me the courage to come out to my family."

Tanya Edmilao, former Cerritos College student and current community organizer, expressed excitement for other organizations and "people from all over"

showing up to march in the parade.

Although a majority of the marchers were younger generations, older community members and parents came in support of their LGBTQ children and family.

Read full story on talonmarks.com

Pansa Llena: Versailles Cuban restaurant is Flan-tastico

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MARILYN PARRA

Cuban Cuisine: Cuban restaurant Versailles offers traditional Cuban dishes to LA. The restaurant has many locations across the county offering local a taste of Cuba.

¡Hola Pansitas!

After hours of driving around LA to look for a restaurant that sells authentic Cuban food I happened to find myself on the busy street of Venice Boulevard. To my left was a huge banner that said "Versailles, Comida Cubana."

The sign was definitely right from the food, staff and music Versailles is the place for authentic Cuban food. Walking in you are greeted by great Cuban music like son, salsa and rumba.

Versailles gives guest a warm welcome with its down-to-earth staff who are ready to assist you, they treat everyone like a friend by having a conversation with you and cracking a couple jokes.

Throughout the restaurant are pictures of Cuba's history and the many celebrities who have attended this well-known restaurant.

With every meal you get a basket of fresh buttered bread. The smell is hard to resist, this restaurant has the most simple yet delicious bread ever.

Since this was my first time trying Cuban food I made sure to ask the waiter for the popular dishes.

I was recommended, ropa vieja, arroz con pollo and croquetas de jamon.

Croquetas de jamon are part of the appetizers. Similar to a traditional potato ball a croqueta is fried bread crumbs that are

stuffed with ham and cheese. These were amazing, you're served four which is just enough and the size is pleasing.

Ropa vieja in English is "old clothes," the dish is a traditional Cuban meal that consist of shredded beef mixed in with a tomato wine sauce. It's served with fried plantains and white rice.

This dish is truly satisfying with just the right portion size it can feed two people, unless you're a pansita like me and prefer the plate to yourself.

If red meat is not your favorite, go for the traditional arroz con pollo, in English, rice and chicken. It comes served in a big bowl with yellow rice and marinated chicken with just the right amount of seasoning. On the side you are also served fried plantains and your choice of beans or more rice.

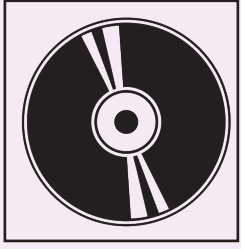
One thing I loved about the place was the versatility, there was a mini bakery and bar inside the restaurant. Whether you're looking to drop in for something quick and sweet, drink or meal this is the place to be at.

If you have a sweet tooth Versailles also serves desserts like, flan, arroz con leche, a tres leches cake and to top it off tropical milkshakes.

Before attending I had heard about this place from multiple family members and friends. They were right when they said Versailles Cuban food is the best, this restaurant promises to make your pansa llena and corozon contento.

They have three locations, but the original restaurant is on Venice Boulevard in Culver City.

'Thank u, next' converts hardships into hits



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Less than six months after Ariana Grande dropped her Grammy winning album "Sweetener," she came back as her most authentic and savage self on Feb. 8 with another non-skippable album full of pure and raw emotion, "thank u, next."

Grande takes her pain and hardships and manifests it into a beautiful, yet relatable to fans.

While "Sweetener" highlights Grande's process of picking herself back up after a rough year, the 12-track LP, "thank u, next" shows the dark and honest sides of relationships and self-discovery.

Following the recent turmoil that Grande had to endure after dealing with a broken-off engagement and unexpected death of her ex-boyfriend and long-time friend, Mac Miller, Grande shows her vulnerable side in "thank u, next."

Grande knows how to turn her rainy days into rainbows with her two back-to-back No. 1 singles "7 rings" and "thank u, next."

Along with the release of the album at midnight, Grande



CREATIVE COMMONS

Ariana Grande's authentic self has returned: Grande's future tour will have a combination of both her *Sweetener* and *Thank U, Next* album. Her performances will hopefully be a success, similar to her *Honeymoon Tour* in 2012.

released another music video for her last and most eye-catching single on the album "break up with your girlfriend, i'm bored".

She referred to this song as a "punchline" of her latest work, showing that music doesn't always have to be taken so literally, but light-heartedly.

The song, which samples 'N Sync's "It Makes Me Ill", centers around Riverdale's Charles Melton and Instagram model Ariel Yasmine who resembles Ariana down to the infamous ponytail and oversized sweaters.

The lyrics and music video has sparked controversy for queer-baiting and homewrecking a relationship, but most viewers missed the whole message of the

video.

Viewing it in a different perspective, "BUWYGIB" can be perceived as a self-love video.

The girlfriend in the video is Ariana, hence the similarities between Ariana and Ariel. She wants her boyfriend to break up with her so she can focus on herself instead, explaining why she kissed her look-a-like at the end of the video.

This pop and R&B-influenced project weaves through a handful of emotions on breakups, makeups and sex with no strings attached.

The album opens up with her third single "imagine," refers to a fantasy type of love, the love that never ends.

Grande describes this song in a tweet as a "simple beautiful love that is now (and forever) unattainable."

One of the most highly-anticipated and teased songs from the album "needy," shows Grande self-reflecting her flaws within her relationships but learning to love and accept them.

"I'm obsessive and I love too hard, good at overthinking with my heart," she softly sings over a soft melody, "You can go ahead and call me selfish, but after all this damage, I can't help it."

Alluding to her love for space, Grande uses the track "NASA" as a means to contradict the "needy" side of her personality, a common trait we can all agree that we

share.

"Baby you know time apart is beneficial, It's like I'm the universe and you'll be N-A-S-A," the lyrics read.

"Thank u, next" has a few upbeat bops to jam out to with friends like "bloodline" and "bad idea" with a usage of heavy instrumentals.

Both songs shows how emotionally unavailable Grande is, with lyrics from "bloodline" that tell a lover that she doesn't want anything more than a "good time."

In "Bad idea" Grande sings about using someone as a distraction of a past love, with no strings attached.

Grande makes listeners feel like they're on top of the world, with no one to owe feelings or time to. An anthem for all of the people who are happily single and taking pride in it.

The song that hit home for most fans was "ghostin," the intimate track that is held over a soft, melodramatic symphony with tons of vocal layering.

This track is presumed to be about her broken relationship with SNL comedian, Pete Davidson and her battles and suffering with losing a loved one, Mac Miller.

Grande softly sings "You've been so understanding, you've been so good, And I'm putting you through more than one ever should"/"Though I wish he were here instead, Don't want that livin' in your head"/"He just comes to visit me when I'm dreaming every now and then."

Read full story on talonmarks.com

How to spend V-Day on a budget

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Valentine's Day is on the 14th and we all know how pricy it can be. Nowadays everyone buys the chocolate heart candy, red roses and stuffed bears, but honestly the quality and price of these cliché items are overpriced and corny.

To help your wallet here are several creative ideas to do on Valentine's day with a loved one or friend.

“
...the quality and price of these cliché items are overpriced and corny.”

1. Baking: A great and inexpensive activity to do with your partner or friend. You can get competitive and have a bake off, or get creative and see what you can make. Any baking mix is under five dollars as well as frosting and toppings. You can enjoy a sweet homemade treat.

2. Movie night: Rather than purchasing a fifteen dollar movie ticket with an overpriced tub of popcorn stay inside and create a

movie list to watch. If you have a projector you can watch movies outside with lawn chairs and blankets. If you don't, you can always watch movies on your TV with some take-out or the sweet treat you bake.

3. Become a tourist: Go to places you've never been to before and walk around. Sight-seeing is always fun when you're with someone you enjoy. Places like LA have free museums and historic areas to check out. If you don't live near the LA area there are nice beaches and caves in the OC area. Never be afraid to go out of your comfort zone and explore new places.

4. Have a picnic: Picnics are a classic date that are not common as they were before. Parks like Exposition Park or TeWinkle Park have great landscape to view and sit on to eat a nice meal. Food for the picnic does not have to be hard, you can simply make heart shaped PB&J's with some fruit on the side.

5. Game night: If you're competitive a game night is perfect when it comes to video games, board games or trivia games. It's a great way to have fun. However, if you don't own board games there are always arcades to go to which usually cost a dollar or two for the machines.

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Grammy Awards salutes women and diversity

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CBS broadcasted the 61st annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 10, which sensationally demonstrated both the celebration of cultural diversity and female empowerment, despite some minor flaws during the event.

The Grammys focused on empowering women by including the Gender-equality theme that stole the show via appearances and nominations of many prominent female artists.

This three hour and 40 minute event featured many over-the-top performances, tributes and special guest appearances by individuals like former First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama.

The Recording Academy voters selected well-deserved Grammy winners and by including new members to be nominated in all nomination categories.

It was exciting to see new Grammy winners such as Cardi B and H.E.R. receiving recognition for their work.

It is no doubt that these winners will bring more new projects in the near future.

Three of the most nostalgic performances of this year's event were the special performances of Diana Ross, Dolly Parton and a tribute to the late Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin.

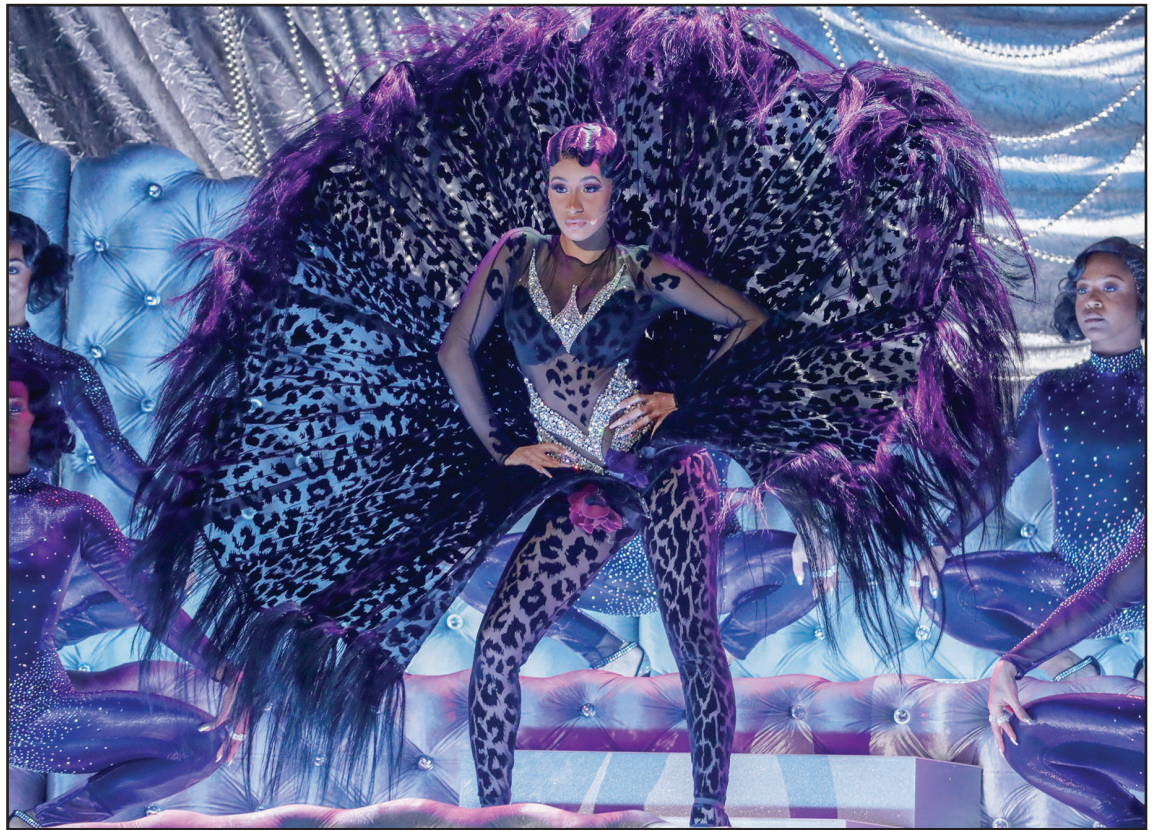
Diana Ross celebrated her 75th birthday early by performing a medley of her Motown hits such as "The Best Years of My Life" and "Reach Out And Touch (Somebody's Hand)."

Dolly Parton was honored by performing some of her well-known songs such as "Jolene" and "9 to 5" alongside her goddaughter Miley Cyrus, Little Big Town, Maren Morris and Katy Perry.

The Queen of Soul was honored with a tribute performance by Fantasia, Yolanda Adams and Andra Day who delivered a powerful performance of Franklin's 1968 song, "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman."

Among other spectacular performances of the night were Lady Gaga's performance of the 2018 hit song "Shallow" from her debut film "A Star Is Born," Camila Cabello's hit "Havana" alongside Ricky Martin, J.Balvin, Young Thug and Cardi B's hit "Money."

The host of the night, Alicia Keys, also delivered a special performance with her hit classics such as "Empire State of Mind"



ROBERT GAUTHIER/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Cardi B's wild performance at Grammy's: Cardi B performs her hit single 'Money' during the 61st Grammy Awards. The event occurred at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Feb. 10, 2019.

and the 15-time Grammy winner debuted her first new song in years, "Raise a Man."

The downfalls of the Grammys was the lack of performers for Motown's 60th Anniversary tribute performed by Jennifer Lopez, Ne-Yo and Motown veteran, Smokey Robinson.

The tribute could have featured

more lead performers of Motown veterans such as Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder and Martha Reeves.

Despite of the lack of performers for a tribute to a historically black music label, Jennifer Lopez performed with much respect and enthusiasm.

Another downfall was the lack of visibility of high-profile artist

such as Taylor Swift, Beyonce, Jay-Z, Kanye West and others.

The Grammy Awards is "music's biggest night" and it should celebrate all artists.

Despite these two downfalls, this year's Grammys improved in comparison to last year's event, which lacked gender inclusivity and cultural diversity.

Vans Warped Tour Is Back

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Fans of all things pop-punk and skateboard-related should be happy to know that Vans Warped Tour is back this year to celebrate its 25th Anniversary, despite the previous year being known as its "last".

This is big news for those who make attending the event a significant part of their summer, especially fans of bands such as Neck Deep and Stick to Your Guns.

The festival will only be held in Mountain View, CA, on July 20, Cleveland, OH, on June 8, and Atlantic City, MI, on June 29.

This is different from the event's usual summer-long cross-country tour.

On Twitter (@VansWarped-Tour), the festival stated these

"are the final dates."

As frustrating as it may seem to travel further than the usual expected venues, Vans Warped Tour will be much bigger than ever before.

There will be more than 50 bands scheduled to attend, more food vendors, and more opportunity for signed merchandise.

This is a huge celebration of the festival that started in 1995, and almost ended in 2018 due to transportation issues and younger crowds.

If one has not attended Vans Warped Tour yet, I genuinely urge them to do so. This is an event that is open to all and is much less expensive than other music festivals such as Coachella.

Pre-sale tickets are available for purchase on Feb. 25.

Lineups and General Admission sales will begin on March 1.

Bianca Bitches: V-Day do's and don'ts



Bianca Martinez
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Individuals are scurrying about to find mediocre presents to give their mates.

Single people are shouting, "I don't need anybody, I love myself" in a drunken, embittered manner in some dingy bar.

Those in the friendzone are rejected yet again because the other person has the balls to

lead them on and not properly explain their intent on a platonic relationship.

Yup, Valentine's Day is upon us.

This hyped-up "holiday" has been the source of depression, heartbreak, overwhelming expectations and empty wallets, but why do we insist on subjecting ourselves to this commercialized masochism?

However, we love the abuse, so to make the pain of this day a little bit easier, this week's column will be a simple survival guide to V-Day.

To start off, I shall address all the single pringles reading this: You do not need another person to feel complete.

There are other things you can do this Valentine's Day besides spending the whole day on Tinder or at some bar.

Why not have a galentine's day? Or a palentine's day, for those who don't identify as a gal.

You know you are going to see all the galentine's day posts anyways, so might as well have a day with the girls, or guys.

No one is ever truly alone when surrounded by a bunch of friends who love and care for you.

Go on a lunch date, go bowling, sing karaoke, simply do something with a group of friends.

If your friends are unavailable, have a self-care day.

You can take a bath, do a mask, binge Netflix, make yourself your favorite meal or treat yourself to new shoes.

Do whatever makes you happy and distracts from the made-up significance of Valentine's Day.

For those in the friendzone: Don't undergo an expensive display of your interest in the other person.

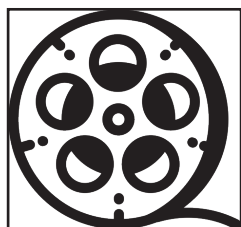
Being cliché never works out.



DERRICK AUSTINSON/CREATIVE COMMONS

Vans Warped Tour Comeback: With many performers, Born of Osiris is one to rock the night. The band played at a previous Warped Tour on July 8, 2012.

Set this Valentine's mood with these romantic films



- Casablanca (1942)
- The Notebook (2004)
- The Titanic (1997)
- Before Sunrise (1995)
- An Affair to Remember (1957)
- Pride and Prejudice (2005)
- Moulin Rouge! (2001)
- Before Sunrise (1995)
- Gone with the Wind (1939)
- Say Anything (1989)
- La La Land (2016)
- Say Anything (1989)
- Sleepless In Seattle (1993)
- Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961)
- Romeo + Juliet (1996)
- While You Were Sleeping (1995)

Peaceful migrants treading on thin ICE



SOFIA GALLEGOS/FREELANCE ILLUSTRATOR

The recent arrest of 21 Savage has brought to light a problem bigger than crossing the border.

According to an article by the New York Times, Savage's lawyers stated that he will be released from custody on Wednesday 13, after having been detained by ICE for more than a week.

ICE, intended to "promote public safety," has now begun to deprive people of their voices.

They have used their resources as a means of intimidation, in order to keep the focus on those crossing in from our southern border.

However, recent events have

shown that the border is not our only pressing concern, and that our immigration system is in desperate need of reform.

Two-time Grammy-nominated rapper 21 Savage was arrested in Atlanta early Superbowl Sunday as it was discovered he had been residing unlawfully under an expired visa.

Only 48 hours prior to Savage being taken into customs, he appeared on The Jimmy Fallon tonight show and performed his song "A LOT".

The entertainer changed his lyrics, proceeding to ridicule the U.S border policies, and implied that President Trump was also to

blame.

Shortly after, without warning, Savage was put in lockdown for 23 hours a day, with no reliable means of contacting his family for more than 10 minutes per day.

In arresting the rapper, ICE has inadvertently shone light on our expired visa problem.

ICE has used the arrest as an intimidation tactic as a warning for anyone who may want to jump on the Savage band wagon.

ICE has made it clear that anyone who tries to stand up to their methods could end up taking a very cold ride.

This plan to scare the people

backfired on ICE, as it only served to expose America's expired visa problem.

The Rapper has been pending citizenship for almost four years, with little to no progress being made.

For someone who is so prominent in the media, it seems strange that the government would all but ignore his request to gain citizenship.

The process most certainly needs to become much more effective, because becoming a US citizen is far too much of a burden.

There are countless requirements; one must submit to a

biometric screening, have lived outside the US for over five years, lived in the state you file for three months and can't leave after filing your case.

These are only a few of the requirements, with many more steps involved that make little sense.

It can sometimes take upwards of five years to become a citizen, leaving families to live every day in fear that ICE could come knocking.

ICE needs to focus more on making the process more efficient, as opposed to using the extensive process to their advantage, in order to arrest those still in the process of obtaining citizenship.

Yes, all of America supports continuing to prevent terrorism and investigating the illegal movement of goods.

But they really need shift some focus away from our southern border, as problems such as expired visas pose just as large of a threat.

ICE cannot continue to use their reach as an intimidation tactic, intended to deprive people of their hopes and dreams.

Especially those such as 21 Savage who merely wants to achieve the American Dream.

During this time Savage has the whole industry on his side, with people like Jay-Z calling it, "An absolute travesty" hiring Alex Spiro to assist.

Savage's lawyers stated on Tuesday 12, that he would be released from custody the following Wednesday 13.

The rapper was granted an expedited hearing which allowed him to be released from custody on a bond.

Charles Kuck, a member of 21 Savage's legal team stated that his next court date with immigration is set for April 11.

Savage's lawyers also stated that he aims to bring attention to other immigration detainees.

Playing the Game: Valentine's Day

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Hallmark played you didn't they? They fed you lies that Valentine's Day equates to love and you really thought that they're taking you on this date because they wanted to spend the rest of their life with you or something. Here's a reality check for you: it's just a date.

While there are many people

out there who are hoping to find "the one" on Valentine's Day, it isn't quite the end all be all you should be hoping for.

So let's be real: it's 2019 and most of us are meeting on dating apps.

While scrolling through, people find someone who looks like a candy-coated snack, thinks "what have I got to lose?" and messages them.

Now you guys are going on this Valentine's date and you're thinking this could actually lead to something, but when was the

last time someone actually found love on Valentine's Day?

Just the thought of this day sets up high expectations, setting the person and ourselves up for failure, and then we are disappointed when the relationship falls short of anything perfect.

Movies like *The Notebook* and *P.S. I Love You* teach you that this is how love should be but realistically relationships should be taken slowly, focusing on getting to know the person before deciding that this could be something serious.

That doesn't mean that Valentine's Day isn't a great excuse to get yourself together and romanticize the idea of love while having a few drinks with a cute person you met.

To think that this could be the one solely because it's Valentine's Day and this person chose you to go on this date with is completely absurd.

Yeah, they could probably like you and this could possibly lead to something. Isn't that the standard with most dates, though?

There's always potential but

that doesn't mean that the potential changes because of a Hallmark holiday.

With all of that being said, Valentine's Day should be treated as another day. It isn't a day that the universe put together so that we may find "the one."

It is another day and it should be treated as such.

So next time you're asked on a date and it's for Valentine's Day, stay cool and remember: Rome wasn't built in a day and your love life won't be either.

It's all about playing the game.

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Falcons fall to rivals 90-85

Derrick Coleman
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The Cerritos College men's basketball team lost against rival Long Beach City College 90-85 at home on Feb. 8.

The Falcons were undefeated in conference up until this game and with this loss, they have fallen into a first place tie.

Falcons' basketball is now 18-6 overall in the season and are now 5-1 in conference.

Head coach Russ May said, "We gave them 90 points, so we didn't do a very good job. Give them credit, they had some good shots. We just didn't make enough plays down the stretch."

Freshman guard No. 13 Chance Hunter finished the game with 20 points, 13 rebounds, two assists and a steal.

Sophomore guard No. 5 Tawon Elston came off the bench with 23 points, six rebounds, two assists, a steal and a single block in the 31 minutes he played.

Sophomore center No. 32 Austin Freeman came into the game, immediately was fouled, went to the free throw line and made both baskets.

He finished the game with 11 rebounds, eight points and two assists.

May said, "Austin's a big man, he's a great athlete. He's been working hard in practice. We got some opportunity for him and he's actually stepped up to the



CARLOS RUIZ

Sky High: Sophomore guard No. 5 Tawon Elston jumped past the Long Beach City College defender to extend the lead in the first half. Elston finished with 23 points against Long Beach City College at Cerritos College on Feb. 8, 2019.

plate."

It was 30-28 with four minutes to go in the first half of the game, Cerritos had many fouls in the last few minutes, but Hunter made a basket to tie the game.

Sophomore guard No. 1 Cody Wilkes had nine points, four rebounds, two steals and a single assist in the game against Long

Beach City College.

May said, "Cody got off to a good start and then they really keyed [in] on him.

"They really wanted to take him away from our team and he still played very well. He made a lot of good plays tonight, and I'm really proud of him."

The Falcons will play their

next conference match away at El Camino College on Feb. 13.

The team previously defeated El Camino College 99-53 on Jan. 25 when the teams first met this season.

After the game against El Camino College, the Falcons will have their final three conference matches of the regular season.

Sports Schedule

Men's Basketball

- Feb. 13, *El Camino* 5 p.m.
- Feb. 15, *Compton* 5 p.m.
- Feb. 20, **Los Angeles Southwest** 5 p.m.

Women's Basketball

- Feb. 13, *El Camino* 7 p.m.
- Feb. 15, *Compton* 7 p.m.
- Feb. 20, **Los Angeles Southwest** 7 p.m.

Baseball

- Feb. 12, **Golden West** 2 p.m.
- Feb. 15, **College of the Canyons** 2 p.m.
- Feb. 19, *Fullerton* 2 p.m.

Softball

- Feb. 12, **Pasadena City** 3 p.m.
- Feb. 14, *Rio Hondo* 3 p.m.
- Feb. 15, *Cypress* 2 p.m.

Track and Field

- Feb. 23, **Cerritos Open** 10 a.m.
- Mar. 1, Beach Opener, *Cal State Long Beach* 12:30 p.m.

Swim and Dive

- Feb. 15, South Coast Conference Pentathlon @ *Chaffey* 12 p.m.

Tennis

- Feb. 12, *Irvine Valley* 2 p.m.
- Feb. 14, *Saddleback* 2 p.m.
- Feb. 19, *Ventura* 2 p.m.

Italics: Away event **Bold:** Home event

Under the Radar: Vonn retires on the podium

Christopher Martinez
Sports Editor
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American Skier and Olympic gold medalist Lindsey Vonn finished the final race of her career Sunday Feb. 10 at the 2019 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in Are, Sweden.

She battled a crash in a run earlier in the week at her final Super Giant Slalom along with her "rib popping out" on Friday Feb. 8 to somehow be able to recover from both of these incidents and still obtain a bronze medal.

Vonn had chosen to skip out on speed events prior to injury to save her body of further harm and to focus on one race.

She was considered an underdog making her way into the starting gate, as she had placed out of the top three on her previous run, she had something to prove.

As Vonn made her way down the course it was as she was back in 2002, at the age of 16 and at her first World Cup in Park City, Utah.

Lindsey finished the course and saw her time knowing it was enough after receiving the news she looked as it was only right

for her to end her career with a medal and a podium spot.

She has completed what most aspire to do in a lifetime, which is winning 85 gold medals in Olympic and Championship series combined and adding one more at the world championship downhill.

Vonn after five days from tearing a ligament and having the wind knocked out of her during a crash which also left her a black eye, she was still able to take the podium.

Throughout her career, she sustained too many would-be career ending injuries, including broken bones, fractures, concussions, losing all the cartilage in her knees and countless knockouts, but still remained on top of the mountain.

The amount of injuries Vonn has suffered in her career have forced her to hand up her skis for good.

She no longer has cartilage and through her race said she could feel her bones rubbing together.

She will retire after 18 years of competitive professional skiing and being known as one of the most decorated U.S. skiers of all time.

Vonn has a total of three

Olympic medals, two at Vancouver in 2010 and one in 2018 at Pyeongchang, China. Along with eight World Championship medals spanning from 2009 to the one won on Sunday.

Along with a total of 148 podium finishes, Lindsey has also been known to be a strong business woman.

Lindsey Vonn will forever be remembered as one of the greatest

American winter sports athletes of all time and for her endeavors after skiing.

Vonn has plans to continue her retirement plan of opening her own beauty business.



INFOGRAPHIC/CHRISTOPHER MARTINEZ

Falcons extend win streak to four

Continuing their winning ways, Falcons women's basketball defeated Long Beach City College by a 19 point margin vying for a chance to tie for the conference title.

Carlos Ruiz
Managing Editor
@thecarlosruiz

The Cerritos College women's basketball team secured its fourth straight double digit win, defeating the Long Beach City College Vikings 74-55 at home on Feb. 8.

With constant pressure throughout all four quarters of play, the Falcons managed to end the game with a 19 point lead over the Vikings extending their win streak to four, they are now 5-1 in conference and 16-10 overall.

"I thought we battled... and that second half we focused on the little things," Head coach Trisha Kozlowski said, "We gave them some easy buckets because we weren't mentally as sharp as we needed to be."

She continued, "And in that second half, we just had a lineup out there that was stopping them and making it really difficult for them."

The Vikings were playing with only five players and had no room for rotations, still managing to get 55 points, it wasn't enough to overcome the Falcons.

Following this win the Falcons now have a chance to tie for first place in the South Coast Conference South Division when they face El Camino College on Feb. 13.

"Whenever you have a team that can do that, you have to just applaud the players, their commitment... they deserve the right to go and play for a conference title because they put the work in," Kozlowski said.

Kozlowski is confident that the team can win this time around against El Camino College saying, "I believe in this team, I believe in what we bring to the table, I believe we can go in there and win and win out. That's my mentality, that's how I prepare them in practice."

Cerritos College ended the first half with 39 points against the Vikings, followed by a 35 point performance in the second half boosting them to win the game.

Kozlowski ended with, "A win is a win, whether it's by 20 or two [points], I can't be [more proud] of this team, it's a testament to their hard work."

Sophomore guard No. 20 Jesenia Rendon led the team with 27 points, five steals, four rebounds and two assists.

The Falcons forced 24 turnovers and managed to score 22 points off of turnovers, the team also had 29 second chance points.

Sophomore guard No. 24 Serena Rendon had 17 points and seven rebounds, while sophomore guard No. 21 Lynette Garcia had 14 points, six steals, three rebounds and two assists.

Garcia said, "My shot was a lot better than it used to be, other than that I need to work on boxing out, but it was a pretty good game for me."

When it comes to playing big rival games, Garcia tries to stay focused on the game plan that was set in practice the day before.

She ended saying, "The past few games we've been winning by a lot and we're at our peak right now and hopefully we just keep going up."

The Falcons previous three games:

- Cerritos 87-39 Compton
- Cerritos 100-41 Los Angeles Southwest
- Cerritos 77-42 Los Angeles Harbor

The Falcons now have only four conference matches left in the 2018-19 season, the team will travel to El Camino College Feb. 13 with a winning streak momentum, Cerritos previously lost against El Camino College 72-61 on Jan. 25.



CARLOS RUIZ

Move Aside: Sophomore guard No. 24 Serena Rendon fighting through the contact to get to the basket. Rendon finished the game with 17 points and seven rebounds in the game at Cerritos College against Long Beach City College on Feb. 8, 2019.



PHOTOS BY CARLOS RUIZ

Left: Freshman forward No. 13 Sarah Hernandez attempts to prevent Long Beach City College from scoring, she had nine rebounds and three steals in the game. **Right:** Sophomore guard No. 20 Jesenia Rendon knocks down two free throws to the Falcons up by eight points against Long Beach City College at Cerritos College on Feb. 8, 2019.



PHOTOS BY CARLOS RUIZ

Left: Freshman guard No. 11 Renisha Billups dishing the ball out to one of her teammates. **Top Right:** Sophomore guard No. 15 Gilian Yamasaki dribbling past a defender eyeing a teammate for a potential pass. **Bottom Right:** Sophomore guard No. 21 Lynette Garcia initiates the play for the Falcons against Long Beach City College on Feb. 8, 2019 at Cerritos College.