

## SEARCHING FOR STRIKES



**Sports - Page 7**  
*Falcons are defeated in the sixth inning against Chaffey College.*

Photo Courtesy of Daryl Peterson/Cerritos Sports Information



**News - Page 2**  
*Go Green Task Force is about having a 'holistic approach.'*



**A & E - Page 5**  
*91st Academy Awards honors diversity.*



**Opinion - Page 6**  
*Smollett's fake hate was just unnecessary.*



**Sports - Online**  
*Falcons head into playoffs following win against LA Harbor.*





JASMINE MARTINEZ

**Designated smoking area:** The proposed solution would limit designated smoking areas due to disadvantages and health risks, according to Henry Rios, alcohol and other drugs prevention manager for Norwalk and Hawaiian Gardens. On Feb. 20, the Associated Student of Cerritos College discussed the topic at length.

## Faculty striving for tobacco free campus

Jasmine Martinez  
Editor-in-Chief  
@talonmarks

A resolution was proposed for a smoke and tobacco free Cerritos College campus, prohibiting cigarettes, cigars, and nicotine products such as vapes for a healthier learning environment.

If the resolution passes, students, faculty, staff, etc. will not be able to smoke on campus, including parking lots.

The resolution would not include designated smoking areas.

Henry Rios, alcohol and other drugs prevention manager for Norwalk and Hawaiian Gardens, believes designated smoking areas are more disadvantageous, increasing rates of smoking.

Hillary Mennella, from Cerritos

College's student health services, and Rios said they were awarded an almost \$70,000 grant in September 2018 and want to use it for a "meaningful, thoughtful campaign" that is educational and changes social norms.

Rios and Mennella emphasized that a student task force would be responsible for dealing with smokers on campus, not law enforcement.

"They're going to people and seeing if they're smoking in a certain area, asking them if they need resources, if they're trying to quit, how they feel about it," Rios said.

Heather Johnson, Associated Students of Cerritos College senator, worries about student smokers feeling unwelcome on campus without designated smoking areas, while being aware

of the health risks of smoking.

"It's in our face everyday. We know that this doesn't work for us, yet there is still people who smoke," Johnson said, "So what resources would we have that are available... besides 'quit smoking?'"

As a self-described poor African American, Johnson wants to know how these resources will help students like her.

Mennella acknowledged that there are less resources for those students, in general, within communities.

Rios said that students would not be out to get each other, but work together to help student smokers.

Rios and Mennella's grant expires in 2021 and look forward to town hall meetings where people can discuss the topic.

## Go Green pushes to reintegrate local wildlife

Carmelita Islas Mendez  
News Editor  
@talonmarks

Changes to the Cerritos College campus continues with Go Green Task Force organization and efforts. The club organized an event to plant California native plants on Feb. 22.

The plants are being put into the island on Old Falcon Way and are being supported by excess landscaping funds. According to the Go Green's advisor, Anna Valcarcel, many species are being included to improve local conditions and to positively impacts "local wildlife."

She said that when deciding on which plants to include, the club actively thought of the purpose and use of the garden so that bees, butterflies and birds could be reintroduced into the local environment, all to benefit the ecosystem.

Valcarcel said, "We have California native plants here that have adapted to the amount of precipitation that we naturally get in California. The idea being that we would not have to water them too often and then it would draw in native wildlife."

The choices were also discussed with purchasing and facilities officials, who approved of the Task Force's landscape plans, according to club member Philip Herrera.

He said, "Go green's goal is to bring sustainable awareness and initiatives to the campus."

In addition to benefiting the environment, it would also benefit the college said Valcarcel allowing different departments to use and observe the plants.

She said, "It is all about having a holistic approach."

"If you're getting ready to graduate soon, like I am, and you're thinking 'what am I leaving behind at this school,' this is literally something you can plant and leave behind," Herrera said, "When you come back for a reunion you can see how big your tree has gotten and just be proud that a piece of your hard work here."



CARMELITA ISLAS MENDEZ  
**Going Green:** Club hope efforts bring back local wildlife on Feb. 22.

## College officials redefine non-residents fee, will now include US out-of-state students



SUPPORT PDX/CREATIVE COMMONS

**Out-of-State Students:** Cerritos College Board of Trustees approve calendar item redefining non-residents on Feb. 20.

Carmelita Islas Mendez  
News Editor  
@talonmarks

Fees for non-resident students are set to rise, following the approval from the Cerritos College Board of Trustees.

The non-residents fee formerly only applied to students who are citizens of other countries, but non-residents will now include students from other US states as the calendar item was approved of on Feb. 6.

The approved calendar item suggested that "The Board of Trustees approve the per unit non-resident tuition fee of \$265, and the per unit non-resident student capital outlay fee of \$20 for a total of \$285 for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year and including the 2019 Summer Session."

According to the Vice Presi-

dent of Business Services and Assistant Superintendent, Felipe Lopez, the college increased the fees to "remain competitive," with other LA and Orange County colleges.

The definition of what a non-resident had changed due to a change in state law with the implementation of Assembly Bill 947.

Lopez, in an email response, stated that "AB 947 requires a community college district to charge a nonresident tuition fee to nonresident students, with certain exceptions.

"Existing law requires the fee to be set according to a formula, which Cerritos College complies. The nonresident tuition and capital outlay fee is an annual requirement."

The exceptions would include AB 540, DACA and Dreamers.

## Abilities Expo demonstrates products and services



DERRICK COLEMAN

**Not disabilities:** Cerritos College student, Pearl Netrayana trying a PlayStation Game at the Abilities Expo. The conference was held at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Feb. 23.

**Derrick Coleman**  
Photo Editor  
@derrickmiracl

The Abilities Expo, held on Feb. 22, has been around for nearly over 40 years; the expo is dedicated to educating and improving lives of Americans with disabilities. It has been the nation's foremost event for companies to demonstrate their products and services.

Abilities Expo gave people with disabilities a change to experience the chance to try different things throughout the conference.

People had the chance to try

things like wheelchairs, clothing and sports equipment and had a chance to go to workshops.

One of the exhibits present was the Adaptive Climbing, which is a sport open to all abilities it's not just for experience athletes.

Mark Wellman from NO Limits said, "Climbing has tremendous benefits such as building confidence, increase strength and improving flexibility."

Pearl Netrayana, a student at Cerritos College said, "I've been [coming], for at least four years. It's [an] opportunity to see what's out there for individuals with disabilities and you have access to, organizations that are out there

for individuals with disabilities."

Netrayana said the best part is people get to see cool gadgets. The products are on the expensive side, but at least they are available to be sampled and obtain information she said.

She went to the workshop in regards to find out how they are incorporating games and making them more accessible is pretty interesting.

Every program who serves disabled people in Southern California show have been at the Abilities Expo Conference, it is highly recommended for people with disabilities. Next years conference will be Feb. 21-23, 2020.

# TECH

Talks, Creates, Imagines

*Tech Talks is a new column informing readers of new tech released to the public, comparing products as well as personal thoughts of many products.*

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

The latest Samsung phone on tech nerd's mind, the Galaxy Fold marked high at almost \$2,000. If people have plans on buying this phone. Why?

The phone which was revealed Feb. 20 2019 is set to be released to the public in April of 2019.

There have been phones in past years to offer the same exact fold feature such as the ZTE Axon M dual-screen phone which was released in 2017.

The Axon compared to the Galaxy fold was \$1,730 cheaper priced at \$250 and offered more features such as an extended mode, two apps running at once mode, mirror mode, two 5.2 inch displays making a 10.4 inch tablet compared to "the fold" consisting of the 7.3 inch tablet.

Along with being able to run three apps at once, Samsung seems to be copying some features from older phones

Where Samsung does steal the spotlight from the Axon from is in the camera, offering three cameras on the back, a 16-megapixel, ultra-wide camera, a 12 megapixel wide angle camera, as well as a telephoto camera on the back and a front facing 10-megapixel camera on the front for selfies.

This is the technologically advanced camera system in any smartphone and is considered high quality.

A down side that stood out from the release would be the protection that the phone has and that could be added onto.

Take a minute and think how much protection an iPhone needs. Now, add two screens and even more glass, not an ideal couple.

As of now, the phone is not that bulky but throw a case and most likely a very awkward screen protector and users could be in for a very monstrous phone.

Overall the price is outrageous for a product that has copied features from an older devices, but it is Samsung and they are good at selling products.

Samsung has released four new devices along with the fold at the start of 2019 including the Galaxy s10e with a 5.8 inch screen priced at \$749, s10 with a 6.1 inch screen priced at \$899, s10+ with a 6.4 inch screen priced at \$999, 10s 5G with a 6.4 Inch screen not yet priced.

The Galaxy s10 5G. runs on mostly every network is running on a 4G network and the promise of being able to run 5G is true.

It is not what most people think of being able to run a minimum expectation is for download speeds of 10 gigabytes per second, more than 1000x faster than 4G and enabling an entire HD film to be downloaded in under 10 seconds.

Although this sounds amazing for a phone to perform this fast, it is limited to where they can't travel as far; they are not as good as passing through buildings and will be used in combination with lower frequencies to enable wide area 5G coverage.

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

## Pansa Llena: Los 5 Puntos is Mexcellent!

**Marilyn Parra**  
Co-Online Editor  
@marilynparra18

¡Hola Pansitas! Today I'll be talking about a place in LA that sells almost everything.

Los 5 Puntos in East LA is located on the street of Cesar E. Chavez and serves handmade tacos, burritos, sopes and tortas. Apart from buying a meal, you can go in and shop around.

This place reminds me of a mini pueblo I would go to a lot by my grandma's house. They sell things like chile, meat and any ingredients you might need in the kitchen.

The carnitas were amazing, served in a flour tortilla this one taco made my pansa llena. The tacos at Los 5 Puntos are above average, the ladies working there really pack everything into the tacos, which is never a bad thing.

They have a variety of toppings like pico de gallo, chiles,

nopales or cacti, guacamole and many more. Now the prices here can add up, it's hard to resist not stacking your taco or burrito when a full display is in front of you.

Two tacos can come out to \$8 with all toppings and that is without a drink, but no need to worry, this place offers combo meals at reasonable prices.

Before attending Los 5 Puntos, I had read up on the menu and the carnitas tacos; although I prefer traditional beef tacos, the talk on the restaurant's carnitas made them a must-try. The tacos were not a let down.

Not only were the carnitas amazing, but so was their beef; it was very tender and juicy. The thickness of the tortilla really helps keep your taco sturdy instead of tearing.

Los 5 Puntos carries 11 meat options and serves more than just burritos and tacos. This place has menudo enchiladas and tamales.

This place is certain to cater to any of your cravings.

Besides the food, this place has a great atmosphere making you feel at home. The staff is very helpful and quick. You can also

view the cooks making all the tortillas by hand. The restaurant is located in the center of a five-point area which explains the name, but despite the traffic, the location has a roomy seating area

outside and offers free parking for guest.

Next time you're in East LA, make sure to check out Los 5 Puntos for freshly-made, authentic meals.



**Mex'cellent:** East LA taceria, Los 5 Puntos, offers a variety of toppings to cover up the traditional tacos. On Feb. 25, the eatery offered excellent carnitas that are worth the drive and price, they are a must-try.

MIKE MCCUNE/CREATIVE COMMONS

## Another 'Lil' rapper with a noisy album



R  
E  
V  
I  
E  
W

Guadalupe Zaragoza  
A & E Editor  
@talonmarks

Yet again, another C-list rapper, Lil Pump, shared to the world a terribly written studio album for the young generation as of Feb. 22, exemplifying how the greatness of rap music has practically come to an end.

Entitled "Harverd Dropout," the name definitely sounds similar to Kanye West's album title "College Dropout." This shows how uncreative and non-distinct Lil Pump is.

It's quite obvious that the album revolves around the rumor

that he dropped out of Harvard University. So, his position through out the songs, as every other immature young rapper, is that he doesn't need school and has been better off.

With a grand total of 16 songs, they all share the most odd and random names, with ad libs being played continually throughout each one, such as "Vroom Vroom Vroom," "Nu Uh" and "Eskeetit."

"Eskeetit" and "Gucci Gang" were previous singles that surprisingly became popular among listeners.

When naming songs, it's suggested to be wise since it is the "sneak peak" that will further grasp the attention of fans. However, these titles are completely bogus, as well as the songs which share no passion at all within the lyrics.

Just like every other wannabe

rap artist today, lyricism isn't as important as it use to be with valuable messages to share.

As long as there is a catching beat with the mention of cars, money, drugs and girls, then it's considered as "good" but really isn't.

Most of the tracks on Lil Pump's album, sound the same and share those similar characteristics. One song, for instance, that plays as a great example is ION featuring Smokepurpp.

"Left wrist cost a Bentley coupe. Drop ten Xans in Wonton soup. Your bitch give me top like a drop top coupe," he raps in a verse.

Lil Pump is an artists whose music is exceptionally okay as long as they have a groundbreaking artist featured in a short verse, such as Lil Uzi Vert, Kanye West, YG, Offset and Quavo from the group Migos, Lil Wayne and 2 Chains.

The only songs that would be given a thumbs up are obviously the guest featured ones.

The other songs sound as though they were last minute songs with repeated lyrics which becomes exhausting to hear.

Having said that, he hasn't really switched up his sonic styling or baritone flow from his initial singles or his self-titled album debut of 2017 for his new effort.

According to Hypebeast and Genius, the album was originally suppose to be released on Sept. 14 of last year, but due to certain circumstances, it was pushed further away. This might explain why it seemed so rushed.

As just another young rap follower with idiotic face tattoos, his music isn't worth wasting time to listen to. He is an example that justifies the reason why the hip hop community has awfully been overthrown by pop music.

Lil Pump's sound is only noise that won't last forever and will eventually be overthrown by more dreadful music.

Please bring back the actual sound that defines rap.



SOFIA GALLEGOS/FREELANCE ILLUSTRATOR

'Gucci Gang' rapper debut album: Rumors being that he dropped out of Harvard University, he put it to use in each song on how school is not a priority. 'Harverd Dropout' was released on Feb. 22, 2019.



A Star is Born winners: Best Original Song was "Shallow" from "A Star is Born" by Lady Gaga and Bradley Pitt. They attended the 91st Annual Oscar's Academy Awards Governors Ball at the Dolby

## 'Chef's Table' continues season



R  
E  
V  
I  
E  
W

Carmelita Islas Mendez  
News Editor  
@talonmarks

The latest season of "Chef's Table" was not much different to previous season and that's not a bad thing as each chef and a lone butcher explain their fascination with the culinary arts.

Season six of the Netflix original series was released on Feb. 22 with four new chefs with different food journeys.

Half of the season was dedicated to Southern cuisine and the "elevation" of it by adding modern or fine ingredients to the staples.

Head chef of The Grey, Mashama Bailey, was the first chef to be featured. Her episode was heavily based on her past and roots in Savannah, Georgia and how she had to figure herself out to produce a successful future for herself and her social-workers parents.

Bailey studied the culinary arts in France where she said she fell in love with cooking eventually becoming the head chef in a 1930's segregated bus depot turned restaurant.

Earning a degree in psychology and landing a job in social work made her parents extremely proud, she explained, but was very difficult for her in the field.

## Bianca Bitches: Stop being thirsty



Bianca Martinez  
Freelance Writer  
@biancamart1955

Men and women were not created to be lusted after or put on a scale dictating how sexually attractive they are.

It's not like our parents took inventory of each other's bodies in the talking stages of their relationships to see what their

future children would like.

Your mom didn't walk up to your dad and ask for his shoe size because she wants to ensure that her future son will have a sizeable bulge for others to creep out on when he's out exercising in his sweatpants.

Neither did your dad pull out a measuring tape and asked to measure your mom's tits to see if their daughter would have a nice rack in order to find a partner.

So why are we acting as if we were created only for sexual pleasure?

Call me crazy, but we sure as hell weren't put on this Earth so men and women can assess our bodies as we walk by and shamelessly discuss our do-ability based on our butts, breasts or bulges.

Do we not have respect and common decency how are we not aware by now how disgusting

it is to objectify and sexualize another person?

"She has a little cake, I'd fuck with her."

"But you haven't seen the rest of her body though, bro."

The above conversation is a perfect example of self-entitlement and the shameless public humiliation of another person, yet it is a conversation that we hear take place too often.

Common decency is not a complicated concept.

Oh, you see a shirtless guy weightlifting and the very sight of his glistening abs incites a stirring in your loins that makes you scream at the top your lungs, "Brad, have my baby!"

Well, don't. Keep your mouth shut.

A person's body is none of your business.

Brad doesn't workout everyday for some stranger's sexual

approval.

Yesenia doesn't waist rain on a daily basis to provide easy access for creeps to put their hands around her waist.

Also who gives a crap about what you think of somebody else's body?

It's funny how people who think they are authoritarians on the appearance of others, look like a sack of potatoes.

They are not the slightest bit appetizing because they are all dirty and are starting to sprout mold.

Yeah, no one wants to be "romantically involved" with a shitty sack of potatoes with a narcissus complex.

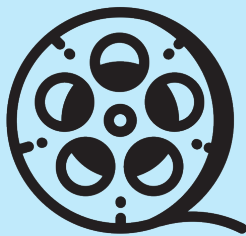
So please, before pulling an asshole move that is commenting on somebody's body or their appearance, take a cold shower, that should quench your thirst.





Lady Gaga (center), Mark Ronson (right), Anthony Rossomando and Andrew Wyatt (left).  
 Photo by Robyn Beck/Getty Images/TNS. Awarded at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, CA on Feb. 24, 2019.

## 2019 Academy Awards honors diversity and inclusiveness



**Eunice Barron**  
 Co-Online Editor  
 @barroneunice

ABC broadcasted the annual 91st Academy Awards, the event was great by honoring women, minorities and celebrating diversity despite it not having a host.

The three hour event was mainly focused on recognizing the hardworking of women in the film industry and people of different ethnicities.

This year's ceremony definitely recognized woman of color in which was one of the most significant highlights of the night such as Hannah Beachler's historical win for Production Design and Ruth E. Carter for Costume Design, both for their work on "Black Panther."

Both became the first African-American women to win in their categories and first to win in a non-acting category since Irene Cara in 1984 for her contribu-

tion for Best Original Song, "Flashdance...What A Feeling."

Marvel Comic's blockbuster hit "Black Panther" won three Academy Awards such as Best Original Score which also included Bleachler and Carter's big wins.

"Black Panther" is the first Marvel film with a predominately black cast and was the second-highest grossing film of 2018.

It proved to be a history-making film which featured its first black superhero in mainstream comics.

Mexico represented Latin American community with the film, "Roma," in a victorious way by winning three awards.

"Roma's" director, Alfonso Cuaron, earned his second director award and proved the impossible for many doubters which this includes the Best Actress nomination to Yalitza Aparicio.

She made history in becoming the first indigenous woman to earn an Oscar nomination and the second Mexican woman to do so after Salma Hayek's nomination for "Frida" in 2003.

Other wins included films such as the Queen bio-pic, "Bohemian Rhapsody" which picked up four

awards.

"Bohemian Rhapsody" star Rami Malek took home the "Best Actor" award for his portrayal of the rock band, Queen's lead singer, Freddie Mercury.

The Academy honored Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse, First Man, If Beale Street Could Talk, and The Favorite with other awards in which proved inclusion wins in mostly all the categories.

This year's Academy Awards gave a satisfaction to the audience and made sure to include all nominees.

The Oscars made a huge progress in comparison to 2015's award ceremony that sparked the backlash of 20 Caucasian actors nominated in the lead and supporting acting categories.

The #OscarsSoWhite trend became viral and a topic of conversation on Twitter that many people accused the Academy on the lack of diversity in their categories.

The 2019 Oscars definitely stepped up their game.

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

## Season six featuring inspiring new chefs

on a friend's recommendation pursued the culinary arts then applying it the her hood.

ne dessert she makes is a melon and habanero thrill; is an ice pop based on a com- treat eaten by children after ing in the hot son.

er cooking style focuses on ition Southern foods such as , gravy and okra with white- cloth-ingredients such as gras.

an Brock, the focus of epi- e four, is an Appalachian chef focuses on southern cooking giving it a modernist's spin.

ven though the series is about king and the distinct cooking s, his obsessive personality his most recent obsession farming and preserving

thern cooking methods and loom ingredients are the n focus of the episode.

rock believes that by focusing preserving the ingredients, create dishes more authentic

in taste and will also preserve the culture behind the dishes.

Episode two was dedicated to Tuscan butcher, Dario Cecchini. His episode pushed the message of appreciating the ingredient as a whole and not just for one piece meaning using the whole cow, pig or animal in question completely.

As a butcher, his restaurants Solociccia, translating to "only meat," focuses on only meat, excluding steak, and using no sauces to avoid the meat from being upstaged.

A guest on his episode explained that it is cooking without the ego and that Cecchini wants every guest to learn to appreciate the snout, tail, eyes, tongue and so forth and to understand that steak is not the only cut to buy.

Episode three's chef in question was Asma Khan and her kitchen, Darjeeling Express,

Khan's kitchen is filled with only women, many of who were nannies, but learned to be profes-

sional chefs.

Khan began her journey to head chef when she left her native India and moved to London, there she realized the lack of connection she felt there and that she missed the familiarity of Indian cuisine.

She eventually became well known in the culinary world for her welcoming and informal attitude and restaurant which welcomes all as Khan believes that God comes in form of a guest.

In addition to having an all-women kitchen, Khan has established the Second Daughters Fund "sends celebration packages for the birth of second daughter and continue to support her through her education."

All in all, the season was the same as previous ones. Each episode is filled with inspiring and heartwarming stories of each person's journey to and in the culinary world as well as finding meaning to the path they have chosen.



BREVILLE USA/CREATIVE COMMONS

**Groundbreaking southern chef:** Sean Brock is an American chef specialized in Southern cuisine. He's the executive chef at Charleston, South Carolina's Husk since its opening in 2010.

## Movie madness: March's new films to watch



GAGE SKIDMORE/CREATIVE COMMONS

**Captain Marvel**  
 (March 8)

Captain Marvel gets caught in the middle of a galactic war between two alien races.



CREATIVE COMMONS

**Hummingbird Project**  
 (March 15)

The pair dream is to build a straight fiber-optic cable line between Kansas and New Jersey, making them millions.



STAR TRIBUNE

**Us**  
 (March 22)

A family of doppelgangers tries to kill the original family.

# Why Angelinos should give a 'dam'



SOFIA GALLEGOS/FREELANCE ILLUSTRATOR

In past years ice caps have begun to resonate back to their liquid state and sea levels are infinitely rising due to climate change.

Climate change is an ever growing threat to life on earth and within coming days we all could see just a case of what is it come in the form of a mega storm.

This mega storm scientists are saying could be rain of biblical proportions which may cause multiple dams to

break leaving many cities in the Los Angeles area flooded.

Affecting more than 1.5 million people to either displaced at the moment or not have a home to come back to.

There could be so much water with in this storm and with the dams breaking for there to create a lake in the Mojave desert.

In recent public hearings, officials have stated that the now 60-year-old Whittier Narrows Dam no longer meets the standard guidelines for safety and could

fail in the event of very large storm, such as the mega storm.

The dam stretches from Montebello to Pico Rivera and crosses both the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo rivers.

If the dam fails flooding could reach as far as; Long Beach 4 feet, Artesia 6 feet, Bell Gardens 4 feet, Bellflower 6 feet, Carson 4 feet, Compton 6 feet, Cypress 4 feet, Downey 8 feet, Hawaiian Gardens 4 feet, La Palma 4 feet, Lakewood 4 feet, Lynwood 8 feet, Montebello 4 feet, Norwalk 4 feet, Paramount 6

feet, Santa Fe Springs 6 feet, Pico Rivera 15 feet.

Pico Rivera being the closest city in the path of the dam could be hit the hardest with upwards from 15-20 feet leaving almost the entire city under water.

Downey next in the path could see up to 10 feet of water.

Scientists have spoken and are calling it the 900-year storm, not that this storm will happen every 900 years but that this storm will be so massive that it can not just happen every three years or so.

It means this storm will be so massive and powerful it can only happen once every 900 years as an exaggeration.

A mega storm looming over many Angelinos heads one may ask themselves, "How can we prepare for the storm?"

There are many different steps and measures in place that many people look over to protect houses and cars but its California and many of these things do not happen, but these things could just save Angelinos from losing everything.

Here are a few examples:

Get flood insurance.

Create a hurricane evacuation plan.

Stock up on supplies such as food and water the necessities.

Check for weather updates.

Some extra few steps to brace for the storm and have somewhat protection and an escape route is to board up windows with plywood, have a full tank of gas and turn off all gasses in the home, get a list of local shelters just in case there is no where else to go.

Just the talks of a mega storm actually hitting causes for concern about global warming and how badly us as humans are hurting and destroying our planet.

Us as humans need to take a stand against our global abuse before the earth decides we are more of a harm than good.

# The 'Empire' star who cried hate!

Quinae Austin  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

Alison Hernandez  
Opinion Editor  
@alisonshnews

"Empire" star Jussie Smollett, is now out on bond just weeks after he reported an alleged assault and claiming it was a hate crime.

The Chicago Police Department investigated and found out that the actor actually orchestrated the assault himself.

Smollett's story started to fall apart when he did an interview on ABC news, during which his mannerisms seemed off and his words came out sounding like lines he'd rehearsed for his next scene.

His attitude even seemed to flare up when interviewers brought up accusations about the

assault being made up.

Something else that stood out was that when asked about his refusal to release his phone to authorities, he claimed he didn't because of private pictures, videos, numbers, etc. contained within the device.

Smollett acknowledges that hate crimes are a serious on going issue in America, and is very passionate about speaking against them especially because he has experienced them first hand as an openly gay, black man.

However, Smollett shouldn't have staged such a racially charged and homophobic hate crime to raise awareness as that can actually do more harm than good.

Stages crimes like this will give people a reason to dismiss future claims of similar crimes because they'll be able to say, "Well what

if it's fake?"

Smollett himself doesn't have to have racial slurs hurled at him, a noose used on him, or bleached poured on him to show that these things can happen.

He could have just as easily have brought attention to these types of crimes by speaking up about actual victims instead.

Furthermore, he decided to stage this assault during black history month.

We could give him the benefit of the doubt this his intention could have been to shed light on the fact that black people have been the most frequent victims too hate crimes.

However, as stated before, there could have been better ways of going about bringing awareness to these issues.

It is important for people to realize incidents like this can

and really do happen, but a lot of people who experience the hate crimes do not report it.

It is imperative to speak out and let it be known that bias motivated incidents and crimes will not be tolerated and always need

to be reported to police enforcement.

You don't have to pull a Jussie Smollett to raise awareness, but change does start with you.

Speak up. Don't let these crimes go unpunished.



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT/MCT

**Disgraced 'Empire' star:** Actor Jussie Smollett paid two brothers he knew \$3,500 to fake the attack in the 300 block of East North Water Street around 2 a.m. Jan. 29, Chicago police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said.

Talon Marks is a First Amendment publication.

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

Production and printing of Talon Marks is partially funded by the Associated Students of Cerritos College.

Newsroom offices are located in the Fine Arts & Communications Building, Room FA245.

Cerritos College is located at 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

Telephone number: (562) 860-2451, ext. 2618

Vol. 63  
© 2019 Talon Marks

Spring 2019

STAFF

Editor-in-Chief Jasmine Martinez  
Managing Editor Carlos Ruiz  
News and Community Editor Carmelita Islas Mendez  
Opinion Editor Alison Hernandez  
Sports Editor Christopher Martinez  
Arts & Entertainment Editor Guadalupe Zaragoza  
Multi Media Editor Cindy Canas  
Co-Online Editor Eunice Barron  
Co-Online Editor Marilyn Parra

Photo Editor Derrick Coleman  
Production Editor Jah-Tosh Baruti

Staff Writers  
Quinae Austin  
Oceana Christopher  
Bianca Hull  
Edgar Mendoza  
Nizar Milbes  
Michael Reza  
Keanu Ruffol  
Randy Tejeda  
Julissa Villalobos

Tiara White  
Kianna Znika

Faculty Adviser  
Christian Brown

Instructional Lab Tech I/Adjunct  
Alicia Edquist

JACC Pacesetter Award  
2009-2010

# Falcons fall to Chaffey College 10-4



COURTESY OF DARYL PETERSON/CERRITOS SPORTS INFORMATION

**Eyes on the prize:** Freshman pitcher No. 2 Skylar Swearingen on the mound against Chaffey College and pitched a total of four innings. Swearingen faced 17 batters, had two strikeouts, allowed three hits and a run at Cerritos College on Feb. 22, 2019.

*The Falcons recently defeated Rio Hondo College 11-2, previously the team lost its home match against Chaffey College 10-4.*

Randy Tejeda  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

The Cerritos College softball team obtained its sixth defeat against Chaffey College 10-4 on Feb. 22.

In the first inning, the Falcons took a 3-0 lead thanks to runs scored by sophomore shortstop No. 9 Tena Spoolstra after sophomore third baseman No. 32 Kayla Hernandez singled from left side.

Sophomore first baseman No. 27 Keira Bolinas scored after right fielder No. 5 Victoria Medina singled down the middle.

Hernandez scored thanks to a fielder's choice from outfielder No. 36, Itzel Soto.

In the second inning, Cerritos added another run thanks to Bolinas after Hernandez doubled to center field. The score was 4-0 in favor of the Falcons.

The top of the third inning saw Chaffey score its first run thanks to No. 9 Tatyana Carvajal, however the Panthers were still behind 4-1 after three innings.

The fourth and fifth innings were both scoreless, which kept Cerritos in the lead 4-1 until the top of the sixth inning.

In the sixth inning, Chaffey would tie the game after a 3-run homer from pitcher No. 20 Veronica Macias.

Third baseman No. 50 Tyani Lowe and second baseman No. 40 Alyssa Diaz also scored for the 4-4 score.

The Panthers were not done yet, Carvajal scored another run after a fielder's choice from No. 8 Brianna Bernal and the Falcons were losing 5-4.

Chaffey College scored another five

runs in the sixth inning. The sixth run was scored by No. 12 Bryana Martinez after a throwing error from Spoolstra.

The seventh run was scored by No. 11 Denise Baire after Diaz was a fielder's choice.

The eighth and ninth run were scored in the same play.

Lowe doubled in the left center while Villegas and Bernal both scored to extend the Panthers lead 9-4. The final run was scored by Diaz.

Head Coach Kodee Murray was not available for comment.

Assistant coach Brendan Ashley, when asked on the team's performance, said, "We started strong in the first and second innings scoring, we played great the first five innings, had 10 defensive plays until the sixth inning."

When questioned on the improvement of the team Ashley, said, "We have to be tough on the plate and better on pitching."

#### The Falcons previous three games:

- Cerritos 1-4 Riverside City
- Cerritos 8-0 Los Angeles Harbor
- Cerritos 10-2 Long Beach City

On Feb. 28 the Falcons host the Tartars of Compton College for a conference matchup at 3 p.m.

Following the conference match, the Falcons will host the Pirates of Ventura College on Mar. 1 at 2 p.m.

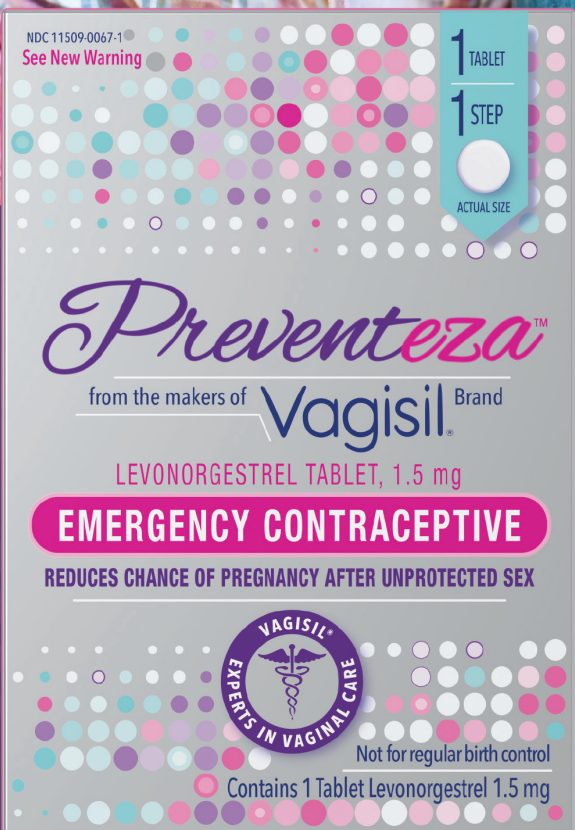


COURTESY OF DARYL PETERSON/CERRITOS SPORTS INFORMATION

**Top:** Freshman outfielder No. 36 Itzel Soto stays focused at the plate to manage a hit. Soto had four at bats, two hits, one RBI in the game. **Bottom:** Sophomore first baseman No. 27 Keira Bolinas keeps calm at the plate taking a swing against Chaffey College at Cerritos College on Feb. 22, 2019.



# When Preventeza™ Emergency Contraceptive is your plan a, you don't need a plan b.



1-in-2 women may need to use emergency contraception. And when that time comes, Preventeza™ Emergency Contraceptive from the makers of Vagisil® is here to help you take control. Use as directed within 72 hours of unprotected sex or birth control failure to help prevent pregnancy before it starts.

Not for regular birth control.

On shelves at your local  
For more information visit [Preventeza.com](http://Preventeza.com)

