

SOPHIA CASTILLO

Presentation: Amy Parker, the Director of Equity and Diversity for ASCC, points out the different categories that are monitored from the College's website on Jan. 23.

ASCC report reveals 'unethical spying of students

Samuel Chacko
Editor in Chief

The Director of Equity and Diversity for ASCC, Amy Parker, released her report that claims the college is monitoring data from the WiFi and that her due process rights were ignored throughout her investigation.

Throughout the document, the two main people accused in the report were Vice President (VP) of Business Services Felipe Lopez and Director of Information Technology Patrick O'Donnell.

The document claims that VP Lopez and Director O'Donnell violated the California Public Records Act and that the IT Department is monitoring information from the college's public WiFi.

Parker made clear that the monitoring can only happen when on the college's WiFi and when the student is on campus.

Parker reveals that the library's reference and instruction

coordinator gave her screenshots of "categories of websites that were either allowed fully, monitored/ logged or blocked" on Dec. 5.

She explained what the word 'monitor' meant in the Dec. 5 screenshots, "It means that there's an individual entry they can search through saying 'this person visited this category of site on this day.'"

Some of the monitored categories include personal topics like global religion, abortion and "health and wellness."

Lopez gave examples of blocked categories that include "Extremist Groups, Gambling, Pornography and Malicious websites."

The banned categories named by Lopez match the screenshots Parker provided in her report.

However, according to Lopez, "Cerritos contracts a third-party security vendor that monitors all of the logs of our systems for security purposes."

Lopez said that they don't look at what students access; Parker

argues that even if that's the case, it's still a huge issue.

"The fact that Cerritos has the information at all is a problem, and if the vendor is actually looking, that introduces even more problems," Parker said, "that is extremely concerning."

Parker also revealed that she submitted three Public Records requests, sending them to Lopez and O'Donnell, but those requests were declined due to a "security risk."

"A list of the blocked domains or even categories of domains, poses no threat to the college," Parker said.

Talon Marks reached out to O'Donnell and he did not comment but asked us to contact Lopez.

Parker's hope is that there's more transparency and she says she wants some of these harmful policies to stop.

"I recommend that we strive for a greater culture of openness and transparency at Cerritos College," she said.

APIDA unites and holds powerful campus event

Antonio Gonzalez Jr.
Staff Writer

The Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) held a workshop on Wednesday at the Liberal Arts Building, where people discussed the issues of racism and xenophobia amongst Asian people.

Those who attended the workshop spoke out on why these types of issues not only affect Asians, but every minority group.

A few faculty members and students were willing to talk about their personal experiences and why workshops could prevent tragedies from occurring.

Wei Zhou, vice president of academic affairs said, "Today we are talking about anti-asian racism or anti-asian events. But if you think about it, it's still happening in this country."

"And not only anti Asian we've seen, but anti immigrants, anti people of color and people with underprivileged backgrounds," Zhou added.

During the social interaction, a study was brought up on the hate crimes against Asian Americans.

"Hate crimes or hate incidents in the period from January 2021 through early March 2022— from 17 percent among Black adults, to 16 percent among Asian Americans, 15 percent among Native Americans, 14 percent among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and 13 percent among Latinos."

"Because in our minds we categorize people based on their color, race, background and where they're coming from," Zhou points out.

"So that's why workshops like this are important, not only talking about the impact on Asian Americans and other groups as well."

Most recently there was a tragedy by Monterey Park involving a mass shooting amongst the Asian community.

Traci Ukita, counselor at Cerritos College, was asked about her thoughts of the incident and benefiting from a workshop regarding racism, xenophobia, etc.

"They are extra amplified because of the multiple years in a row that we've seen arise in hatred in violence acts against Asians and Asians American," Ukita said.

"So it just amplifies some of the feelings that the community has experienced feeling very unsettled, upset, scared, fearful..."

Ukita continues to express, "... so I think these sorts of workshops/bystanders interventions might help reach out to people before it escalates that much."

"Yet at the same time, when it's an extreme event like that too, I don't know if a bystander intervention is really the training that we receive today going to help when it's escalated to that level."

The CCFE President said, "So this may not be able to prevent it 100 percent, but I think for all of us, not just being Asian."

Flamenco Medina, a political science major, spoke about his family going through a similar experience.

"Growing up my family only spoke Spanish, they didn't know English," Medina said.

"My mother faced [...] faced everything you could think of," the political science major said.

"Discrimination, sexism, hate violence and she was bullied throughout school because she didn't know English and she was Hispanic," Medina explained about his personal experiences.

Cerritos College hosts annual Club rush event

Julio Rodriguez
Co-News Editor

Cerritos College hosted its Club Rush event on Jan. 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Library Shade Structure and Walkaway.

The purpose of the event was to show Cerritos College students what clubs and programs the school had to offer.

Programs such as the Veterans Resource Center, Students Accessibility Services, CARE, etc., give students the assets they need to be successful.

Students interested in taking the next step in their education would be able to find help

through the Learning and Career Pathway, Puente, UMOJA Success Program, and so on.

These programs allow students to learn about the career paths they're making along the way as the programs help them to be able to transfer out.

Regarding the clubs that Cerritos College has to offer, there is a lot to choose from.

Among the clubs that were at the event was the Sociology Club, which specializes in learning about the fundamentals of society and social issues.

Another club at the event was the Adventure Club, which has its members go out on hikes

and nature through the great outdoors.

Speaking with counselor Rosa Carrillo, she explains what she hopes students can get out of the Club Rush event.

"Primarily we're here just to make sure that students know what are some of the resources and the services that are available to them and that we provide so that they can continue their success journey here at Cerritos College," Carrillo said.

Another counselor at the event Mia Sarah Walsh speak on what inspired them to set up the event.

"It humanizes us," Walsh said,



JULIO RODRIGUEZ

Walking: Students are walking around looking at what the clubs and workshops have to offer..

"It provides us the opportunity the space to be able to interact

with students." The event was a success!



Kahoot: Here's three Falcons football players celebrating during the Super Bowl quiz that gives Starbucks gift-cards.

SAMUEL CHACKO

Cerritos starts Football Spirit Week

Samuel Chacko
Editor in Chief

Cerritos College hosted its Spirit week on Feb. 6 where tons of Falcons Football players showed up and were celebrated for their season accomplishments.

Cerritos College hosted its Spirit week on Feb. 6 where tons of Falcons Football players showed up as they got free wings and answered some Super Bowl questions.

The Falcons Football team were celebrated for winning the Western State Bowl Game versus Long Beach City and going 8-3 for the season.

They first posed for some photos with some of the people showing up to support the football team then they ate some wings with the team.

"I feel like Cerritos is a big stomping ground for all the

student athletes where they want to go in the future," Falcons' Mister Bridges (No. 13) Wide Receiver said.

"We have a strong coaching, strong athletes and we have a good chance to go all the way," Bridges said.

The Football team were laughing and having a good time as they pass the football around with each other.

After eating some wings and playing mini-hoop basketball with each other, they played a Super Bowl Quiz on Kahoot and they get Starbucks gift cards for the players who get inside the top three.

Chris De La Cruz, Student Activities Coordinator, explained how he was able to put together Spirit Week, "It was a lot of collaboration with our Athletics program and well as the Cerritos College Foundation."

"We wanted to make sure that we were recognizing all of our students that are involved here on campus that's student athletes and student's that are involved with student organizations and clubs," De La Cruz added.

De La Cruz talked about how he feels about the players showing up, "I really appreciate the football team coming up, came up big, [and] our clubs and organizations will be trickling in as we have more activities throughout the week."

"I hope we get the same showing from the rest of our athletes and students clubs."

De La Cruz said to come out to Spirit Week, "We have events for the rest of the week. Tuesday we're hosting our soccer team, Wednesday we have our wrestling team, Thursday is all our fall sports and Friday we have the big game."



SAMUEL CHACKO

Basketball: Tyron Bates (No. 2) Wide Receiver, Frosh, took some shots on the mini-hoop on Feb. 6 as the College celebrates the Falcons Football team.

Cerritos College is continuing its Spirit Week and on Feb. 7 at 11:30 a.m. at the Library Shade, the Men's Soccer team will be celebrating its accomplishments since they won the South Coast

Conference Champions.

Make sure you check out the flyer for Cerritos College to see the other events their holding and the basketball game on Friday, Feb. 10. 7 p.m.

American Red Cross seeks blood donors at Cerritos



SUSAN ROMERO

Blood donor: Volunteer blood donor taking a mini-physical before donating his blood to the American Red Cross.

Susan Romero
Staff Writer

The American Red Cross organized a blood drive once again with Cerritos College on Jan. 30-31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

which took place at the Student Stage Center/Food Court.

To keep up with the winter shortage, they come to Cerritos College around every two months to encourage any healthy adult to donate blood.

With or without an appointment, anyone who wants to donate can sign up and go through a few simple steps to ensure they meet the requirements to be considered eligible to donate.

First, one will check in at the front desk that is being attended by volunteers and then, scan the QR code to answer a few questions on the website.

Once you registered with an ID and do a mini physical, one is eligible to donate.

If O+, there is the option to do Power Red. It is a machine that allows the donation of red blood cells while adding the plasma back to the body, instead of all aspects of the blood that include the plasma, platelets and red blood cells.

There are also separate

prerequisites for the Power Red machines, so make sure you choose the one that's most comfortable to you.

Team Supervisor Robin Valentine has been working with the Red Cross organization for over 8 years. Valentine claims that during the winter months, there's always a drop in donations.

"In the winter time, a lot of people are out for the season," she said, "so we get most of our blood from high schools."

Apart from having to rely on high schools during winter, there are also some hospitals that simply are hard to reach due to the snow.

Consequently, there isn't enough blood for everyone.

The Red Cross hosts these blood drives so often to encourage not only students, but staff and

locals to donate for a bigger cause.

"The goal is to have a steady supply of blood for people that are in need," Alan Vera said, a Red Cross volunteer.

Vera has been volunteering at the Red Cross for a few years and they have learned that despite proper storage, there is still a limit as to when the blood should be used.

They emphasized that there is always a need for blood and how important it is.

"It's healthy actually," Darrel Hillman said, music major, "we have to reproduce the blood we just donated and it's helpful to others who are in need."

donate once again.

Come join the upcoming blood drive this April 10-11 and help them reach their goal while you can also bring friends along!

The Bellflower Symphony Orchestra produces 'fantastic' performance

Susan Romero
Staff Writer

The Bellflower Symphony Orchestra, with guest conductor Alan Medak, presented their first 2023 Concert Series on Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. at the William and Jane Bristol Civic Theater.

The concert opened up with the Bellflower Orchestra and wrapped it up along with four special guest soloists.

The Bellflower Symphony Orchestra consists of 14 violins, four violas, six cellos, four bass, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four french horns, two trumpets, three trombones, two percussions and one keyboard.

The orchestra played about six composite pieces before intermission, and then played another five after.

These are a few of the composites played: "Star Spangled Banner" composed by F. S. Key, "William Tell Overture" composed by G. Rossini, "Carmen, Habanera" composed by G. Bizet, "Duo des fleurs" composed by L. Delibes and "La Golantrina" composed by L. C. Harnsberger.

The four soloists each had a composite they were singing, but they blew away the audience



SUSAN ROMERO

Singing: The other two soloists Hiroko Yoshinaga and James Salazar singing "Bella figlia dell' amore."

when they all sang, "Bella figlia dell' amore" composed by G. Verdi, together for the last piece.

"The quartet at the end," said Joseph Derthick, violinist, "It's always fun when you get those voices altogether."

Derthick picked up a violin at eight years old and forgot how to put it down. He has been

performing with the Bellflower Symphony since he was in college in 1975 and hasn't left the band since.

James Salazar, a soloist, performed with the Bellflower Orchestra that night for the first time.

"It was great, all the musicians were wonderful, they were top-

notch," Salazar said, "it was great to be under an orchestra again since covid."

Salazar has been singing since he was a little boy in church and as he got older, he joined metal/punk bands, but wanted to pursue more.

He went on to study for 5-7 years and auditioned for various

things and since then, he's been a lead soloist for about 12 years.

The orchestra is filled with a variety of people from our community between different ages and races, bringing us an experience unlike any other.

Even from outside the building, the minute they began rehearsing, you can feel all the emotions they want to emote and so clearly project.

Greta Stanton, a local, was there to see and support her husband, a trombone player.

"I thought it was fantastic, wow there were so many really good ones," Stanton said, "I thought 'Carmen, Habanera' was really great."

She went on to mention that despite the language barrier in some of the songs, she appreciated the conductor's background info on the songs. It helped her better understand.

Regardless of your age, ethnicity, or music knowledge, the shows are here to inspire.

The Bellflower Symphony Orchestra will continue to have two more concerts after this which will take place on April 22nd and Aug. 19th.

If you happen to miss any of the remaining concerts, they will release a new flyer for their concerts in Nov.

Californians don't vote with the Democratic Party; they vote with Newsom

Amy Parker
Contributor

The 2022 general election's ballot measures went exactly as expected; the tribal and gambling initiatives failed, as well as the dialysis and wealth tax measures.

The flavored tobacco ban was upheld, arts funding was increased and abortion was added as a right in the state constitution.

This was fully in line with all of the polling but was it exactly what was expected in such a pure Democratic state as California – wait, what?

This wasn't what the Democrats wanted at all, The California Democratic Party actually supported the dialysis and wealth tax measures; this is a surprise to no one, as both align with their party platform.

So what went on here? Was there some Republican surge on just these specific ballot measures that pushed them over?

Nope, the party distribution didn't have an effect.

Instead, all signs point to one particular individual wielding the power in whether Californians voted for ballot measures this previous general election –

Governor Gavin Newsom.

In terms of ballot measure endorsements, he got everything he wanted; openly contradicting his party not only didn't cost him politically, he won out on his agenda in the end.

This seems strange, given the previous effort to recall Newsom.

Sure, it failed, but it still overall showed that the state had a large distrust of Newsom and his governorship; while they might back him for office, it seems strange that they would follow him instead of the party.

But that recall seems to actually be the drive behind why Californians are backing him.

After all, of the personal attacks against him, and even some flank opposition from within his own party, it appears that California Democrats felt directly tied to him – they began to trust him more than ever, and sought to defend him; Thus why Newsom got what he wanted in these last elections.

Prop 29 was already somewhat likely to fail; although it had stronger backing than ever this cycle, equivalent bills had already failed in 2018 and 2020.

However, Prop 30 was the



AMY PARKER

Waves: Gavin Newsom poses with his family during the San Francisco Pride event in 2015 as he meets with members attending the event.

big switch as most polls had it winning out, from either a very tight split to a landslide.

Yet, it still failed – with almost 58% of the state voting against it. Democrats have always been

extremely passive in their politics as they tend to just sit back, call out to their voters to vote.

City of Downey celebrates fallen astronauts from Columbia Space Shuttle

Lukas Luna-Arellano
Managing Editor

The Columbia Memorial Space Center in Downey commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Challenger disaster on January 28th.

The center was host to a variety of controlled, paired-down experiments for the public to take part in, as well as a presentation by executive director Ben Dickow and Alphastar employee Tina Castillo.

While the center was built to serve a serious purpose, Dickow strives to ensure that visitors are not arrested by the tragedies of the past, but are rather moved to learn from them and apply those lessons to the future.

“The majority of our time here is spent on education, mostly kids, but also adults too,” Dickow said, “A very small part of it is dwelling on the past or anything.”

“We’re using the incredible history and the incredible knowledge base we have here,” the executive director added, “We’ve been able to create these awesome, hands-on programs and take them out to schools and community centers.”

The hour-long presentation on the unfortunate anniversary

proved to be an extension of that mission statement.

Speaker Tina Castillo was clearly troubled by the tragic loss of life, she eagerly engaged in sharing the science she picked up from her time at NASA and related industries with a new generation.

“This is a baton, who wants to pick it up next?” Castillo said.

“Someone will be up here in twenty, thirty years talking about Mars, and that’s fantastic.”

Despite its humble origins in the low-key city of Downey, the Columbia Memorial Space Center’s ambitions remain grand.

Dickow and his team are eager to jumpstart any creative mind that comes through the door, be they scientist or otherwise.

“Our mission is to ignite communities of creative thinkers [and] it’s not important to me if everyone comes in here and becomes a scientist,” Dickow said.

Castillo would ultimately echo his sentiments, feeling that the out-of-the-way nature of the location provided it with a greater deal of accessibility than more well-known hotspots of scientific ingenuity in places like Long Beach or Los Angeles.

“The great thing about a place like this is how accessible it is,”



LUKAS LUNA-ARELLANO

Talk: Executive director Ben Dickow walks visitors through the process of designing a NASA space shuttle.

Castillo said.

Never wavering in their commitment to exposing new generations to the wonders of

scientific thinking, Dickow strove to engage another cadre of kids.

“Every day we’re open and we see a group of kids come in here,

that’s the best part,” the executive director said, “There are other accomplishments, we do big events and stuff like that.”

Know your rights: Cerritos College edition

Amy Parker
Contributor

As the Director of Equity and Diversity of Cerritos College’s student government, the Associated Students of Cerritos College (ASCC), I often work with students to combat violations of their rights and to resolve conflicts between students and faculty/administration that arise.

As such, I’ve also had to become well-versed in the rights of students here at Cerritos College.

Here are some things that you should know and can always do to stand up for yourself here:

Use the Office of Student Conduct and Grievance (OSCG)’s processes.

You have a right under AP 5500 to challenge any unfair, unethical or illegal action taken on by a Cerritos College instructor or administrative member.

This includes disputing the application of certain policies which negatively impact you, as well as disputing your grades in a course.

The process is an extremely flexible option that allows for correcting many different types of wrongs that can occur at the college.

It’s also very much a student-



VINCENT MEDINA/TM ARCHIVES

Campus: Cerritos College is the victim of a massive financial aid scam that affects most California Community Colleges.

led process; the decisions have the binding force of the college, but the meetings are run by the ASCC Chief Justice – who is always a student-appointed member of the students.

Exercise your due process rights. You can never be deprived of any freedom without full due process being undertaken, including a public hearing.

This is a right guaranteed by both the federal and our state

constitutions. Oftentimes, this may have to be done through an OSCG process – but in general, you always have a right to challenge something publicly before it’s allowed to affect you.

Speak truth to power by stating your opinions in public meetings. You have a right to come to any public meeting of a college governance agency – including the Board of Trustees, the various shared governance committees,

and the ASCC branches – and say what’s on your mind.

This is usually done at the beginning of meetings in the “public comments” section.

You also have a right, if you are not able to attend one of these meetings, to submit a written comment which will be read allowed and submitted to the public record.

Ask the Associated Students (ASCC) for help. You can always

come to any ASCC member and ask them for assistance in dealing with an issue on campus.

We’re here to support you and to help you get what you need to be done.

Access public records. This is a right guaranteed by the California Public Records Act and by our state’s constitution, as well as AP 3300.

You can request any document or policy that’s been generated in the standard operations of the college.

As long as there’s not an applicable exception – for instance, you can’t request another student’s personal information or grades.

Appeal unfair decisions to the next level. There’s always someone to go to if the first lines of defense against improper treatment fail. You can always look at organizational charts to determine who the next level up is.

ASCC members can also help you with figuring out who to go to, and connecting you with them. We’re with you every step of the way.

If you have any questions or any comments you have, feel free to reach out to us here at ASCC and we’re gladly help throughout your journey here at Cerritos College!

The Arts of Entertainment: Quitting while you're ahead

Lukas Luna-Arellano
Managing Editor

To chase the approval of outsiders is to doom yourself to the garbage bin of obscurity and this concept can be applied to many things but proves increasingly relevant to the gaming industry.

The allure of Hollywood has drawn the eye of many an industry and this envy is perhaps nowhere more obvious than in gaming.

With seeds planted as far back as 1998's "Metal Gear Solid," a cinematic approach to pixelated storytelling has gained in popularity.

Perhaps it was the side effect of genuine innovation once, but there is little doubt the style has become anything more than trend-chasing in the modern day.

To say this change has done nothing but harm to the industry would be a bald-faced lie.

Some truly exceptional efforts have been taken out of this change, but the potential pitfalls of this approach are plain to see.

Not only does it negate the existence of a big-screen adaptation, it profoundly limits the types of stories gaming can tell.

Consider the Mortal Kombat franchise or really any fighting game.

For a product whose purpose is largely to entertain large groups of friends at get-togethers, the franchise is home to a rich story and lore that could nary exist anywhere but gaming.

Utilizing tutorials, character bios and character endings to



NAUGHTY_DOG

Video-Game: This photo is from the game "The Last of Us" and shows the scene where the Protagonist and Supporting Character, Joel Miller, is grappling.

weave a vast tapestry of story that spans multiple planes of existence inhabited by dozens of living and breathing characters, Mortal Kombat was a narrative marvel that was sure to make fans of other mediums green with envy.

But that was in the distant past, what is it up to now?

Well, after a reboot, the series has adopted a decidedly cinematic storytelling attitude to regale us with the stirring tale of G.I. Joe battling the evil armies of Skeletor.

In the games industry's bid to become an easier lay for

Hollywood, it has completely sanded away any of the shade that might make them worth an adaptation in the first place.

But that doesn't mean Hollywood needs to be relegated to the place where creativity goes to die.

HBO's "The Last Of Us" recently beat the odds and turned out a series that has made fans of the faithful and newcomers alike, but that "cinematic" approach can only bear so much fruit.

Consider the films that shocked the world by seeming to break the infamous video game

adaptation curse: 2020's "Sonic The Hedgehog."

Birthered in the retro womb of the 90s, the source material lacks any of the movie-level flashes of modern-day blockbusters.

But by utilizing the unique storytelling devices of gaming, the franchise was able to create a world that fans would clamber to see on screen.

The same can be said of the upcoming "Super Mario Brothers film."

A redo of the first gaming movie flop, the adaptation's marketing has already capitalized

on bringing the unique video game-style wonder to the big screen.

But where are our modern-day Marios, where are our current-day franchises that offer something wholly unavailable to any other?

Now is the time to quit while we're ahead and get back to crafting stories that will be worth adopting.

Otherwise, the future of gaming on screen is a dark one indeed and Hollywood needs to take note of these type of movie adaptations.

Spoilers: 'That 90s Show' doesn't hit like the original

Julio Rodriguez
Co-News Editor

The recent trends of sequels and spin-offs continue to prevail with the new show on the block being "That 90s Show" on Netflix.

"That 90s Show" is the sequel to "That '70s Show," which originally ran on Fox for eight seasons.

Taking place 15 years after the original series, new and old faces appear in this jumbled mess of a show.

The series revolves around Leia, the daughter of Eric and Donna.

She lives with her grandparents Kitty and Red for the summer.

Along the way, she meets a group of friends who hang out in the iconic basement.

For the brief positives that can be given for this show, the acting is serviceable at best.

Despite some of the shaky acting, the newer actors give off, they play their roles well.

Some of the better jokes the season gave were when Leia imagines herself in the 90210

episode and when Kitty imagines herself as a nurse were quite amusing.

That's pretty much it for the positives as looking at the show on its own, it never justifies its existence.

The show overall suffers from a lack of good pacing.

With the show taking place during the summer of 1995, the storylines within the episodes come off far too condense to be anything worthwhile.

Leia and Jay's relationship is the best example of this because at first, Jay doesn't want to kiss Leia as he doesn't want her to be a simple hookup.

Then Jay has a girlfriend which makes Leia jealous.

It doesn't matter anyway as Jay meets up with Leia after missing her birthday party and they kiss. All of that happens in less than a five-episode span.

What could've likely had been the most compelling plot point in the season ends up being a pisspoor attempt at a non-standing relationship as they break up by the end of the season.



CARSEY-WERNER DISTRIBUTION & NETFLIX

Cast: The new cast of That '90s Show in order: Nate, Nikki, Ozzie, Gwen, Leia, and Jay.

As mentioned before with the show taking place during the summer, there is little time for plot lines to take place. It leaves very little for things to build up or for the comedy to flow naturally.

Like most reboots, "That '90s Show" features a lot of fan service

to the old fans which were bound to expect. Whether it be old characters returning or even the 1969 Oldsmobile Vista Cruiser making an appearance.

The hollowness of it all aside, it's amazing to see a show unashamed of itself having a

character pop out of nowhere like it's natural.

"That '90s Show" gets a score of 3/10 because the pacing is awful and the comedy is bland.

Which made the show unwatchable and uninteresting, in my opinion.

America will never rid itself of assault weapons



BIG-ASHB

Gun laws: Semi-automatic shotguns on display for sale at a gun show.

The United States has a gun problem, one that many have been sounding the alarm on for years now.

One month into the new year and the United States has already had more mass shootings than there are days in 2023 with forty-nine mass shootings and counting.

California was recently hit with two mass shootings in Monterey Park and in Half Moon Bay which killed a combined eighteen people.

In both California mass shootings, the weapon that was used to heinously massacre eighteen people were semi-automatic weapons.

One of the semi-automatic weapons used in the Monterey Park shooting was a MAC-10 pistol, a gun illegal to own

in California, which had a homemade suppressor to silence the shooting.

Victims of the shooting

In 2022, congress passed its first significant gun control bill in nearly 30 years which makes it tougher for younger people to purchase firearms with harsher checks and encourages states to take away guns from people they consider a threat.

Coming off of 2022 the year with the second most mass shootings in the history of the United States, some of the most important gun control bills have stood stagnant and don't even come close to getting put up to a vote.

More often than not the weapon of choice for many mass shooters has been and is becoming a semi-automatic weapon.

Many Americans now are very desensitized now when a mass shooting occurs, oftentimes it feels like it is yet another common occurrence in the United States and that should not be the case.

As more mass shootings continue to occur every day in the U.S., congresses' silence continues to grow louder.

Congress has not budged on some of the most important gun control measures that the majority of the American people support.

The stark realization is that the United States congress won't pass any national gun legislation soon or probably ever.

Many Americans now have to rely on and call on their states to pass stricter gun legislation because congress won't be passing any more significant national gun control bills anytime soon.

'A Natural Woman' causes unjustified backlash from LGBTQ+ community

Samuel Carey
Community Editor

Americans are too sensitive in the present today, people are getting cancelled for things that happened years ago and probably weren't targeted towards a certain group of people.

Music has taken a turn for the worst in terms of classic hit record such as Aretha Franklin's "A Natural Woman" when the LGBTQ+ community got wind of the record being offensive.

The ones who felt deeply targeted were the Trans community saying that the song is insinuating that transgenders can't be real women.

It's been numerous of tweets of the trans people saying, "There is no such thing as a natural woman."

The tweet went on and said, "The song has helped inspire acts of harm against transgender women."

Most people want to make this song political and it doesn't have to be, especially over something that is rather silly for a better lack of a word.

People never want to intentionally offend by someone or a group of others and it's quite ridiculous when people are trying to cancel a song made back in 1968.

When the song was created, people were sure that Aretha wasn't even focused on the gay community because this was her feeling towards a man who made her feel special.

This is troubling because that means if they can attack her for a song that was not related to them

then they can go after anyone's music and try to ban it.

Aretha Franklin was one of the most influential artist of her time, the last thing she needs is a group of people feeling disrespected for a song that they feel they should get rid of for a silly reason.

T.C.M.A (Trans Cultural Mindfulness Alliance) are requesting for the song to be removed from Apple Music & Spotify.

The various group who saw this tweet and thought this statement was dumb had something to say as well.

"OMG get a life & stop trying to cancel everything. How sad and pathetic one's life must be if this is a priority to you. This is a great song! You go Girl!."

"It's a great song and I'm going to listen to it right now because of

What are your thoughts on the campus kiosks?

Compiled By: Emanuel Guadarrama
Photographs by Emanuel Guadarrama

ANDREW REECE

Psychology Major

"I think the idea of it is really good, but it could be executed better if it was done on a computer."



JAMIE BARRAGAN

Physical Therapy Major

"It does take a little bit more time to get here and do that process but it's for the safety of everyone so it's actually great."



MICHAEL CAGE

Business Innovation Major

"Pretty good, make sure everyone is healthy, basically covering the steps that we didn't cover before the pandemic."



AUSTINMINI 1275

Music: This is a photo of Aretha Franklin, the person who made the song "A Natural Woman."

this post. Thanks!"

Aretha Franklin isn't here to defend herself, God rest her soul, but if she was here she would be offended and outraged her self.

The term "Stay in your lane" is a must in the present today because its a ripple effect.

If a person or a group says something that is false and people choose to run with it, is quite detrimental to the opposing individual.

Let the woman rest in peace, she made hits for everyone to enjoy.

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CERRITOS COLLEGE FALCONS BREAK LOSING STREAK VERSUS RIVAL LBCC IN 66-61 VICTORY

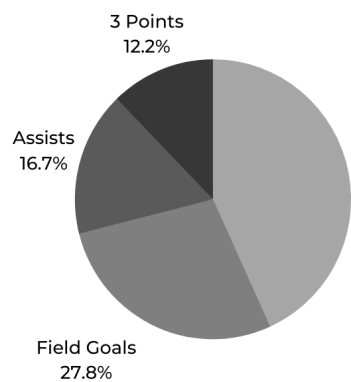
Rogelio Estrada III
Staff Writer

The Falcons (15-7) hosted rival Long Beach City College (12-10) on Friday at 7 p.m. in a back-and-forth game where the Falcons came out with a win 66-61, breaking their two-game losing streak.

At the start of the game, the Falcons got off to a quick start but LBCC was quick to follow with the Falcons leading narrowly at the half by a score of 29-26.

What helped Cerritos get a first-half lead was by playing aggressively and creating fouls, which got them to the free throw line where they made 5-6 (83.3%) compared to LBCC 1-2 (50%) from the line.

In the second half, both teams were trading shot for shot in a hard-fought battle but when the clock struck zero, the Falcons would end up winning with two clutch free throws to ice the game



by Jalen Shores (No.5) Soph Guard.

Shot selections improved drastically for the Falcons going 12-29 (41.4%) from the field in the first half to 14-26 (53.8%) in the second, also having a shooting percentage of 20% from the 3-point line and Head Coach Russ May agreed to say it was much better.

After breaking a two-game losing streak Head Coach Russ May said, "It feels great, especially against your rival."

"We needed that win, we lost a couple of tough ones and I think for our confidence it's very important so I'm proud of the guys today," May added.

What drastically helped the Falcons get the win was destroying their opponent in the rebound battle in the second half 19-9 with most of them coming from the defensive side preventing second-chance opportunities.

Sophomore Guard Jalen Shores (No.5) said, "We played with very good pace, I feel like we shared the ball, we got the ball side to side and got into the paint."

One area the Falcons might need to clean up is their turnovers, they had 13 turnovers in the second half and that can come and bite them in future games when the game is on



ROGELIO ESTRADA III

Dunk: Gorden Boykins (No.0) Soph guard powers over a defender on Friday at 7 p.m.

the line.

Another area that Tao Thomas (No.10) Frosh guard thought the team can improve on is, "Definitely free throws, we missed too many free throws. That's why in practice we make sure we take more free throws and take our time and focus."

One improvement everyone

on the team seems to agree on is bringing a higher energy level into their next game especially facing a tough opponent in their next game.

Head Coach Russ May said he hopes to see more energy and more confidence in their next game against El Camino.

Tao Thomas (No.10) Frosh

guard also spoke on how he plans to transfer the success he had in this game.

"What I'm going to try and do is continue to attack the basket because that's where I get more opportunities for my teammates even when I miss," Thomas said.

The Falcons will try to ride this momentum into their next

Falcons wins nail-biter versus East Los Angeles College 66-60

Alfredo Menjivar
Sports Editor

The Cerritos Women's Basketball team clashed heads with the East Los Angeles Huskies in a 66-60 win which snapped their 2-game losing streak.

The Falcons started the game fast and furious with an early lead as the was taken place on Jan.11 at 5 p.m.

Cerritos let go of the lead for a brief moment and played a very tight-fought game but returned and maintained the game in their favor.

The team's stats were very impressive throughout the game as they went 100% from the free throw line which is very tough to do in any game.

They were also able to score 33 points off of 31 turnovers and went 10-21, (47.6%) for 3-pointers.

Coach Trisha Kozlowski said that there are ten new players on the team and they are a very young team.

"Anytime we can gain experience from tight games

that's just going to get us ready for conference play where we go up against our rivals Long Beach, El Camino and LA Harbor," Kozlowski said.

"I think just composure with the ball, making the right decisions even if teams are trying to speed us up which we did today," the coach added, "We finished the game out and we executed. We have some players really step up and play great for us."

Coach Kozlowski also mentioned that it was a much-earned win and they are a tough, working team.

Guard, Bridgette McIntyre gave her thoughts about how they're turning things around after the previous losses.

"I think we always have positivity, but I think knowing that we've had a tough time with the past games, we locked in this game and told ourselves that weren't going to lose," McIntyre said.

"We have always been doing that but there was a sense of positivity that was uplifting that was really uplifting today for

everyone and I think that's why we won."

McIntyre also leads the team in scoring in this game with 20 points against East LA.

A couple of her teammates were also scoring at will, guard, Damarie Saldivar had 15 points as

well as guard, Ashely Miller who had 12 points.

The Falcons have now won four of the last eight games and sit at 8-10 overall and the team is also 4-2 at home and 2-4 on the road.

This team is playing very well,

almost every game has been a very close game so as long as the team continues to play the way they did against East Los Angeles. Cerritos looks to continue this win as they fight to get over .500 and get in the standings when they take on El Camino on the road on Jan. 18.



DERRICK COLEMAN

Dribble: Cynthia Almanzar (No. 10) Sophomore guard, looks to drive in for a layup during the Nov. 16 game versus Grossmont.

Preview: Falcons blowout Antelope Valley in scrimmage



ALFREDO MENJIVAR

Strike!!!: The pitching stood their ground to hold Antelope Valley to just one run.

Alfredo Menjivar
Sports Editor

Cerritos College steam role over the Antelope Valley Marauders 10-1 on Jan. 21 at 12 p.m.

Regardless of it being a scrimmage game, the Falcons showed no mercy against the Marauders, making sure they don't get any life throughout the game.

The Falcons jumped up early

at the bottom of the first inning with a 2-0 lead then one more run at the bottom of the third.

However, the Marauders got their first run on the board as they scored a home run in the top of the fourth inning as the score

becomes 3-1.

The Falcons wouldn't take their foot off the gas pedal as they earned three more runs at the bottom of the eighth then four more at the bottom of the ninth.

Pitching coach Maxwell Gibbs thought the team played very well and was at its best.

"Expectations are always as high as they could be," Gibbs said.

"Every year we preach to our kids that we want to always shoot for the highest point and win the whole thing.

"I think it just takes one step at a time day-by-day as long as they're sticking to the plan I think the season will go according to plan."

Pitcher, Justin Almeda said they came out with strong energy and the game proved what they can do as a team.

"I think our expectations are to take the road to Fresno and obviously win states," Almeda

said.

"We're going to take it one game at a time, we look forward to win conference this year."

"We know a bunch of teams [are] sleeping on us this year and expect us not to be as good as we usually are but it should be an exciting year for us."

Almeda also mentioned that they have a lot of good depth in their pitching, hitting and defense and have a great team all around.

The Falcons will begin their journey on Jan. 27 against the Hornets at Fullerton College and have their first home opener on Jan. 28 with a rematch against the Hornets.

Everyone get the popcorn, sunflower seeds and peanuts ready because baseball season is back and the Falcons are fired up and ready to play.

The Falcons will be playing Golden West at home on Feb. 7.



ALFREDO MENJIVAR

Celebrate: The dugout gets fired up as they watched their team give it to the Marauders.

Cerritos softball falls 7-2 against Folsom Lake Falcons

Roman Acosta
Contributor

After their original set date to play on Friday, Jan. 27, against Imperial Valley was canceled, Cerritos was rescheduled for a Saturday morning matchup against Folsom Lake in a non-conference game.

The Folsom Lake Falcons played Cerritos on Jan. 28 at Nancy Kelly Field.

Richere Leduc started in the circle for Cerritos alongside familiar faces for the Falcons as seen last season in their historical playoff run.

Cerritos got off to a great start as they retired the side in order to begin the bottom of the first inning and Leduc singled to lead the Falcons off.

Alyssa Sotelo popped in the infield for the first out, Brooklyn Bedolla singled as Leduc advanced to second base.

Freshman Marley Manalo reached first on a fielder's choice and Leduc was forced out at third for the second out.

Miranda Diaz singled to left field, scoring Bedolla from second base as Manalo advanced to second.

Maddy Guillen flew out to center field ending the inning as Cerritos took a one-point lead

against Folsom lake.

Disaster struck for Cerritos in the top of the 2nd inning as a walk and a double put runners in scoring position for Folsom Lake. Cerritos would then make defensive changes as Leduc was relieved from the circle.

Freshman Pitcher, Reanna Carranza entered the circle to pitch for Cerritos in a tough situation with no outs. Cerritos would surrender three unearned runs as well as two defensive errors as Folsom took a 4-1 lead before the Falcons retired the inning.

Jimena Delgado led off the bottom of the second inning as she flew out in the infield. Jazmine Macias homered to center field to bring life for Cerritos as it helped switch momentum for the Falcons.

Alyssa Capps would be walked at the plate, she would then go on to steal second base. Leduc flew out to right field advancing Capps to third base.

Sotelo flew out to the right field to end the inning as the score was 4-2.

Cerritos only surrendered a two-run homer in the top of the third inning as better communication went on amongst the defense to clean up on the errors made in the last inning.



ROMAN ACOSTA

Victory: Freshman outfielder no. 27, Jazmine Macias homered to center field in the bottom of the second inning. Macias rounds the bases on her way to home plate as she is celebrated by her teammates against Folsom Lake on Jan. 28.

Folsom was up 6-2 going into the bottom of the third and Cerritos struggled offensively as Folsom retired the side out in order as Manalo was caught stealing second.

Cerritos surrendered another run before relieving Carranza from the circle and sending their Ace Samantha Islas to pitch. Islas would retire the inning and stay

in to finish the game.

Cerritos failed to score any more runs after struggling to hit in the remaining innings and the Folsom Lake Falcons would go on to win 7-2.

"We're all still learning how to play with each other," Bedolla said regarding the team's chemistry and connection, "we have a lot of freshmen who are getting used to

it."

The Falcons 2022 softball team had additional time to bond and practice due to COVID-19 restrictions suspending the initial 2021 softball season leading to a team with an additional offseason to connect.

The Cerritos Falcons' next home game will be against Palomar on Feb. 3, at 1 p.m.