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May 10, 2023

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Volume 67 | Issue 8

FINALLY FREE



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Cerritos College Celebrates College Signing Day

Sophia Castillo
Opinion Editor

Cerritos College hosted an event dedicated to students who are planning on transferring or who are committing to schools.

The college signing event was held in front of the library shade structure May 1, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

At the event students were able to stop by and take a picture holding a pennant of the University they are committing to as well as take pictures with Franco The Falcon.

The pictures were sent to students' emails so they could post them on their social media account for family and friends to see.

Free yard signs were also given out to students, along with stickers and gems to customize the sign with.

Melissa Torres, transfer center staff said, "This is the college day signing fair where students that are transferring can take a picture with their school of choice flag as well as with Franco our mascot or



PHOTO BY SOPHIA CASTILLO, ILLUSTRATION BY JOEL CARPIO

Graduate: Vyanh Tran a business major excitedly poses with a pennant from

if it is a student thinking about transferring then we also provide them a photo with the school that they're wanting to commit to and we have sign in sheets as well as other information the transfer center has to offer for transferring students."

Several students stopped excitedly to take pictures with their school of choice pennant,

they also grabbed a light refreshment and snack to enjoy while decorating their yard sign.

"Me voy a transferir este semestre a Cal State Long Beach estor muy emocionada la verdad porque pues tengo este semestre que me voy a graduar y pues a sido dificil,

mi ingles no esta muy bien pero me esforce mucho para salir

adelante y este es una meta mucho para mi y pues si estoy muy feliz." said Ana Carpio who is studying to become an elementary school teacher.

Vyanh Tran a business administration student said "I was at the Grad fair last so I decided to stop by this event too, I'm here to take my picture with the Cal State Fullerton pennant and I can't wait

for graduation day I'm so happy for this new chapter of mine".

"I am actually not transferring yet but I am planning to start my applications after this semester so I'll see how things go,

I need to make an appointment with the transfer center but I would like to go to Cal State Long Beach since that's where my parents went." Said Miguel Alvarez a business major.

Students who are planning on transferring can head to the Transfer Center for more information and help on applications.



Classified staff of Cerritos College no longer allowed to teach?

Samuel Chacko
Editor in Chief

Jamil Baltazar
Contributor

The Cerritos Board of Trustees has proposed a new policy that would prevent classified staff from holding part-time teaching positions. The policy was slated for implementation on Jan. 1 but was delayed until Aug. 1.

According to multiple faculty and staff, Human Resources was the one that created the new policy.

What we do know for sure is that the people impacted by this were notified by Human Resources, according to a district employee who asked to remain anonymous.

According to Political Science professor Terrance Mullins, there was no effort from the board

of trustees to inform faculty and staff of the policy with the exception of a letter sent out by H.R. to impacted staff.

"My sense is that, from the district's perspective from administration, this is a done deal and programs just have to deal with it," Mullins said.

Faculty at Cerritos say the new policy will cause a reduction in teaching opportunities and put courses in jeopardy.

"It really depends on the department and how many of their faculty may be affected by this policy, so, I really can't speak for other departments, in my department we have one faculty member who may be affected by the policy," said one anonymous professor.

"In some cases, it's going to mean that classes that were offered may not be offered and students will be deprived of the experiences that they'd have," they

added.

The policy would impact a variety of departments according to the Cerritos College Faculty Federation, including Political Science, Business Communications Office Technology, among others

ASCC student government representatives say they support classified staff teaching courses.

ASCC put out a resolution (JR-2223-11) titled, "Supporting Faculty Demands on Staff-Faculty Dual Roles."

JR-2223-11 supports the Faculty Senate's resolution to support part-time faculty and their opposition to Cerritos College's board policy, which would "bar current full-time classified staff and managers from serving as part-time/adjunct faculty at Cerritos College outside of their current working hours."

"President/Superintendent Jose Fierro rejected the concerns



SAMUEL CHACKO

Listening: Dr. Fierro, looking at the speaker during the April 12 board meeting

of the Faculty Senate," the ASCC resolution points out, "Stating that the policy would not change and that the college would just hire new faculty to replace those ejected as a result of the policy."

"I'm glad that the students are standing in solidarity with faculty just as we've always done to protect their rights and our future," Amy Parker, ASCC cabinet member said.

As for what the student Senate can do, Parker said that the Student senate can't do much to work with majors that are primarily affected.

ASCC's Joint Resolution 2223-11 passed ASCC's cabinet with a unanimous 14 "yes" votes and is currently on its way to the ASCC senate for final approval so it can officially go to the Board of Trustees.

Graduation Fair prepares students for a bright future

Sophia Castillo
Opinion Editor

Cerritos College hosted a grad fair event for the 2023 graduates on April 26th and 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Student Center.

During the grad fair students were able to pick up their free guest tickets, which made for a total of six tickets.

They were also able to pick up their pre-purchased graduation regalia (cap, gown, and tassel) and their honor cord.

"Grad fair is where our graduates can come to pick up their cap and gowns, their guest



SOPHIA CASTILLO

Graduate: Antonio "Nio" Lavern and Sarina Castro behind the LGBTQ+ booth.

tickets and honors cords if they're eligible.," Said Elizabeth Miller, dean of student service.

At the grad fair event, students were also able to sit and decorate

their caps. There were tons of stickers, jewels, and artificial flowers, as well as other ephemera, to decorate your cap with.

Several students also stopped

by the class ring booth to look at the many different options they had to pick from.

However, most of the students were waiting in line to pick up their guest tickets.

"I'm so excited to graduate, this is my first time ever graduating college with a double major, an AA in communications and esthetician" Said Brooke Fabela, an esthetician student.

There was a booth dedicated to students from the Umoja success program where they could get sashes related to the program.

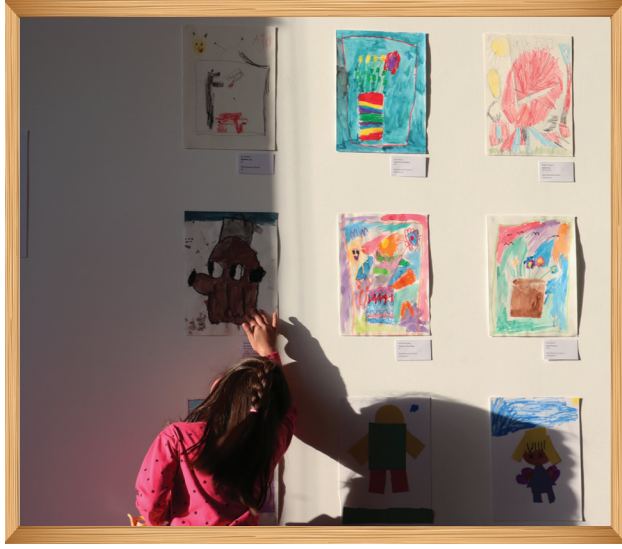
The Umoja success program helps first-generation college students and especially helps African American students

prepare for academic, personal, and professional success beyond Cerritos College.

There was also a booth for the LGBTQ+ program, where students on the spectrum and their allies can participate in the lavender graduation.

Vyanh Tran a business administration student said "I am so excited to graduate, I committed to Cal State Fullerton so I am so excited for this new journey."

For students who haven't bought their cap and gowns or couldn't make it to the grad fair, cap and gowns, tassels, and sashes will be available for students to purchase at the bookstore.



CHRISTINE NADER

Joy: Young student proudly posing next to her artwork for a parent **Eye-Catching:** Girl twirling as she gleefully points at artwork **Family:** Parent with his two kids enjoying fellow students artworks

Kids color life into Stay Gallery walls

Christine Nader
Co-Community Editor

Downey's Stay Gallery sought to fill their void walls with childlike creativity and wonder by enlisting the help of local elementary and middle school students for their newest exhibition.

The exhibition, titled "See Me, See We!," had its third show on May 2 for four elementary schools consisting of Gallatin, Imperial, Ward, and Williams.

Students were told to create an art piece of their choice, craft a title, and choose a selling price.

Mike Alcala, a Visual Arts teacher at Ward and Alameda Elementary School, encouraged his students to think outside the

box when it came to price points.

"I had one kid who [when choosing the price] was like '\$5 because I don't want people to go broke' so she was worried that someone was going to spend too much on her artwork," Alcala said with a smile.

The children's outlandish pricing added to the whimsical feel of the exhibition.

Some young artists listed their work for \$1 billion dollars while some laid all hands off their art by listing it as "not for sale."

The highest-selling piece of the night -and of the event as a whole- was a gray and gold abstract piece from a student at Gallatin Elementary that sold for \$245.

Stay Arts, a non-profit

organization directed by Gabriel Enamorado and Juliana Canty.

They partnered with the Downey Foundation for Educational Opportunities (DFEO) Access After School Program to encourage kids and teens to pursue their passion for art.

This is the gallery's second time hosting the exhibition.

The first time was in 2022 and was held just a few miles away at the Downey Theater.

In an Instagram post, Stay Gallery described the exhibition as a way to "uplift the voices, reflections, dreams, visions, hopes and inspirations of our TK-8th grade students."

Whether it be internet memes, video game characters,

self-portraits or scenery, the parents looked upon their child's artwork with a swelling sense of pride.

The children who attended the exhibition linked with their fellow classmates to gaze at their respective artworks with a sense of accomplishment and delight.

Efforts to keep a community involved with cultivated artworks from an interactive organization like Stay Arts is refreshing.

Downey youths currently look around their city and find it depleted of any collective effort to encourage enthusiasm within the arts.

The twinkle in a child's eye as they observe their school's gallery wall means more than flaunting a piece of paper.

"I didn't have this growing up," Alcala states. "So seeing how impactful it [the exhibition] can be is really inspiring and definitely needed."

Enamorado and Canty place an importance on highlighting community voices.

The gallery recently introduced a Mother's Day event that showcases Black and Latino perspectives.

Stay recently unveiled that they were to host a monthly stand-up comedy show, which later proved to be a sold-out success.

The final exhibition will be hosted on Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for Old River Elementary and all Downey middle schools.

Patches & Pins vendors offer business insight

Mel Ayala
A & E Editor

Patches & Pins Expo came back to Long Beach City College at a greater capacity than the previous year.

The artistic exposition sponsors a variety of businesses fueled by creative people and their passion for music, pop culture, and art.

The more dedicated fans compile a collection of memorabilia and merchandise to sell.

One such fan is the founder of the Monster Island brand, known only as Matthew, who is a longtime fan of the horror genre, specifically the classic horror films such as "Frankenstein" and "Creature From the Black Lagoon."

Monster Island offers a variety of different items pertaining to the horror genre from apparel to smaller things like stickers or hats. It's a store that has a little bit of everything.

"It's just stuff that I get from my artist friends and I carry a couple different brands too like Rock Rebel and Trick or Treat Studios," Matthew said.

Matthew recalls his affinity for classic horror to have been sparked at the age of 10. The film that appealed to him was Abbott and Costello meet Frankenstein



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE REVOLORIO/ ILLUSTRATION BY DERRICK COLEMAN

Over the years, he has amassed a sizable collection that eventually inspired him to create a store for horror fans like himself.

The idea to profit off of his collection came to fruition when the horror market became mainstream in the last decade. It would greatly expand his clientele to cater to all different groups with similar interests.

Monster Island has been standing for seven years featuring at several pop up-events and Halloween markets.

Unlike many small businesses, Monster Island did not see its start on online stores such as Etsy and Amazon.

The founder stationed himself at expos and pop-up events and found it to be the perfect place for his store to thrive.

Not even the COVID-19 lockdowns were able to slow the growth of Monster Island with outdoor events becoming more popular during that time.

Other fans take their dedication a step further by

designing their own collectible merchandise.

Pinderland Production is just the perfect store for enamel pin collectors to find truly one of a kind pins.

The store is run by its founder and sole entrepreneur, known simply as Cambria, who has been a collector for twenty years.

"I like owning a small business because it allows me to create my own schedule and I like working for myself," Cambria says.

Her collection stemmed from her love for classic fairytale heroines and villains. Pinderland Productions follows a similar formula with its theme being fantasy pop culture.

Cambria has dedicated herself full time to her store for three years and throughout all that time, she describes her experience being the owner of store to be a positive one.

With pin collecting increasing in popularity, Cambria would seize the opportunity to profit off of her own collection.

Her top selling items are the purses and her "snapshot series." The snapshot series are special pins fashioned with enamel and stained glass inspired by iconic scenes from popular movies.

Cambria keeps her shop ever changing by making each of her pins limited edition. She only sells fifty of each pin per batch which allows her to release new limited edition designs.

Collecting and reselling is a lucrative business that keeps stan culture alive. Pop-up events are a good outlet for aspiring creators to market to the thriving market of fan merchandise.

Patches & Pins, and other events like it, attract a diverse clientele of fans with its variety.

Patches & Pins allows independent stores and vendors to make a living and it feeds the ever present fan market.

Lilliana Villines rocks out Harvard & Stone effortlessly on stage, crowd goes crazy

Samuel Carey
Co-Community Editor

Harvard & Stone is a local rock club in Hollywood where artists get on stage to perform their music in front of a crowd.

The club welcomes upcoming performers and season veterans looking for networking opportunities.

A talented 26-year-old woman from Van Nuys named Lilliana Villines proved to be one of the night's highlights.

The bass player used her finesse with the instrument to invite the crowd into her rhythm and got most of them tapping their foot along in time.

She performed five songs for the audience and was met with heavy cheers.

Villines had not performed for five months prior, leading to some reservations about winning over a crowd, but she ultimately surprised even herself.

As she neared the end of her set, she was hit with chants for "one more song" and was moved to debut a song called "Acquaintance." The crowd reception seemingly guarantees it will become something of a staple for the young artist.

"I felt like today was going to suck, I did my sound check and I



SAMUEL CAREY

Relieved: Lilliana Villines wrapping up the show hope all who seen it enjoyed themselves. Villines feels the weight is off of her shoulders after her spectacular performance.

still felt like it was going to suck until my boyfriend told me to meditate so after I felt better," said Villines.

Villines boyfriend (Eli Goss) is the engineer for her music, they both occasionally perform duets for the public and he wants to see her make it to the top.

Lilliana says that her family is her biggest support group. Her grandmother writes notes each

time she visits her granddaughter to give her pointers on her performance.

Lilliana has an EP coming out soon called "KillDozer," a moniker she came to get a laugh out of during her stint as a guitar center employee.

Before her five-month hiatus, Villines released an album dubbed "Mids", with highlights being "My Party" and "Rubber"

Lilliana is not a native to the land of heavy guitars and drums however, she emigrated over from the realm of Jazz. She performed the jazz standard "Skylark" back in 2014, the crowd was proved very receptive.

Lilliana has no idea when she would ever do jazz music again but she isn't opposed to it, jazz is another one of her favorite genres of music.

People in attendance called a natural-born talent for knowing how to sing so soft and lovely, the compliments made her proud to be a part of the headline.

The craftiness of how Villines plays her guitar brings out a mellow soft sound to peoples ears, her singing ability goes beautifully along with her strumming of her bass guitar.

Lilliana Villines has a promising career in music especially in the genre of alternative rock, with her charisma, stage presence, and excellent delivery she can only excel.

The tireless dedication that she has is unrelenting to the point that her efforts to become successful is a goal she wishes to conquer.

Villines work ethic looks like she's an "one man army" but she she has an amazing support group to make sure she is getting right people in her corner so she can win .

Villines has the ability to get discovered without a doubt.

With the support she gets from her family and friends Lilliana Villines will be memorable by her tireless dedication for excellence one day her success will a dream come true.

Googie architecture; pasts better left behind

Lukas Luna-Arellano
Managing Editor

The armchair architects of Downey's citizenry no doubt take special note of the city's seeming affection for classic, Googie-style design.

Named for the now defunct Googie's coffee shop that used to take up residence in Hollywood, the design is known for its retro-future influences and bright pops of color.

A hallmark of days gone by, the form of architecture has been relegated to the realms of throwback for years, with few, authentic monuments to the promise of a long-passed future remaining.

That's where the city of Downey comes in. Ever the friend to the Los Angeles Conservation Board, the city is home to three landmark receptacles of such design.

Most Downey residents are likely familiar with the oldest standing McDonald's on Lakewood, as well as the historic Bob's Big Boy and Norm's both housed on Firestone.

In a time when historical appreciation seems doomed more than ever, taking steps to ensure that history is not lost under the treads of a bulldozer is no small

feat.

However, these restaurants all share another factor, unrelated to their landmark status; None of them are very good.

Bob's is in the business of disguising bland takes on American standards with 50s style swank, Norm's could easily be confused with any dozens of unremarkable diners and there's likely not a person on the face of this Earth who would ever consider McDonald's to be anything close to fine dining.

In the quest to respect what came before, is there a way forward?

Ironically enough, that answer lies within the annals of history.

Consider the previously mentioned Bob's Big Boy. The restaurant serves as a beautiful testament to our community's efforts to keep the past alive.

Once Johnie's Broiler (originally Harvey's), the site was home to the monument of mid-century cruising culture since its opening in 1958.

Nothing lasts forever, however, and the diner would close its doors on New Year's Eve in 2001.

The location trudged along behind closed doors for much of the new millennium before a case of criminal negligence changed everything.

A fateful day in 2007 saw



LUCAS PETERSON

Nostalgia: On the corner of Lakewood boulevard and Florence Avenue McDonald's arches remain the same after decades

the arrival of a demolition crew, lacking in any permits, who got to work on demolishing the structure.

Though frantic calls to the city were able to ultimately save the building, serious damage had been done.

But salvation did not yet elude the location.

Big Boy franchise owner Jim Louder took upon his chain the task of resurrecting the waylaid

site and operating it as an addition to the Bob's Big Boy family.

Despite all hurdles, October 2009 saw the arrival of Bob's Big Boy Broiler to Downey.

Did this herald the arrival of a new kind of delicious food to Downey? No, not in the slightest.

But it did showcase the community's unique mind for preservation when the time called for it. It is time for that ingenuity of preservation to return.

Downey is home to dozens of beloved family-owned restaurants that have persisted for decades and it seems like the city can't go six months without inviting a new franchise into town.

Downey should employ its previous approach to Johnie's onto some of these restaurants.

Granted, the story of Johnie's is a unique one and such horrible criminal negligence should never be replicated.

Writers want to be paid their worth

Joel Carpio

Co-News Editor

Michael Delgado

Staff Writer

Writers in the entertainment world have ended 15 years of industrial harmony by going on strike on May 2nd.

What the writers want is simple; they want to see an improvement in current wages, which they describe as unlivable.

The last time the writers went on strike was Nov, 2007, about sixteen years ago.

Lasting over a year, this strike would ultimately cost Los Angeles' economy a whopping \$2.1 billion.

Many shows, movies, and series have already gone dark or have halted production.

Saturday Night Live, The Tonight Show, Jimmy Kimmel Live, Cobra Kai, & Abbott Elementary are just a few shows that have halted their production.

Writers have now taken to the streets and are protesting outside

of major filmmaking studios like Netflix, Paramount Pictures, and Sunset Studios

Thousands of strikers and protesters all across the streets of Hollywood have been showing their support for these writers.

The protest provided drinks, picket signs, snacks, and food trucks that were handing out free food to protesters paid for by talk show hosts like Jimmy Fallon and Jimmy Kimmel.

KTLA 5, the neighboring studio to Netflix, also made an appearance to cover the protest on Sunset Blvd.

Members of the SAG-AFTRA's sister unions came out to support and protest alongside the writers. Actress Ide Asia explained why she came out to protest alongside the writers.

Aria Middleman a part of Buchwald Talent Agency went more in-depth as to why the writers are demanding to be paid more and the problems they've been facing.

"So the writers are looking

“

The writers deserve to be paid and with all these streaming platforms, they're getting screwed over and as an actor myself, we're next basically, so look out for the actor strike.

Ide Asia

Actress

”

for better working conditions and there's a whole thing about residuals and so writers have not been credited the money when a show re-airs after it stopped being new, but they deserve that and they worked on that," Middleman said.

"None of them are given health care for freelance writers within the guild for whatever projects and that's the kind of thing that every job should give you and they've been getting away with it for a while but thankfully, the writers are banding together, don't need to hit you with this



JOEL CARPIO

Writers protesting outside of Netflix HQ and Sunset Studios in Los Angeles

and demand what's right," added Middleman.

Buchwald Talent Agency also provided a trailer handing out free coffee to protesters at Paramount Pictures Studio.

The 2007 writer's strike lasted one hundred days and with no end in sight, the writer's strike this time seems like it is going to surpass that one hundred-day mark.

These showwriters aren't just employees who just mass-produce movies and series, they are human beings who wake up early, work hard and do the most behind the scenes.

Without them, the show has no premise, no characters... nothing. Without their hard work, the shows wouldn't succeed or even come to fruition. Pay them what they deserve.

Congratulations to the Fine Arts & Communications 2023 Graduates

Associates of Arts

Art and Design: Ceramics

Melissa Marie Meza *

Art & Design: Drawing and Painting

Abigail Elizabeth Pacheco
Daniela Valenzuela
Demetrio Favian Yepes

Art & Design: Graphic Design

Karyna Iresema Abrajan
Benito Avila *
Christine Kyung-Sun Baik **
Homero Barragan
Oscar Bojaca
Maria Jose Campoverde *
Kevin Cedillo *
Edgar Chavarria
Pablo Cheyenne Chavez, Jr.
Kenneth Michael Craney *
Melanie Jocelyne Gallegos
Julie Gallo **
Joshua Anthony Garcia *
Alondra Abigail Hernandez *
Jaslin Hernandez
Jasmine Hernandez **
Jennifer Salceda Herrera *
Desiree Irene Luna *
Candy Valeria Mares
Allen Marquez
Hannah Dell Martin
Sarah Marina Martinez Floriano
Melissa Marie Meza *
Diana Alexis Real
Samantha Sanchez
Fernando Jose Saucedo *
Paola Michel Uc *

Art & Design: Printmaking

Genine Ramirez

Art History for Transfer

Zuleima Aurora Arquieta *
Ambar Arreola
Jennifer Bee Flores **
Adriana Lizette Linares
Joelle Yang **

Commercial Music

Alina Barbara Ashby *
Sergio Daniel German

Jaime Kalohelani Montero

Laura Reyes

Alexander Rivera

Digital Arts: Computer Animation

Jesse Alvarez
Oscar Bojaca
Patrick Renei Villa Dela Pena **
Emilio Ian Diaz *
Miguel Angel Dominguez
Adrian Flores
Kassandra G Garcia *
Dillon Javier Magallon *
Erika Alejandra Melara Breucop
Carolina Elizabeth Orozco
Kristian Janell Ortega Velasquez
Christopher Allen Rivera
Fernando Jose Saucedo *
Brenda Catalina Weber *
Kassidy Carly West *

Film Production

Kasaan Isaiiah Allen *
Efrain Alexander Barron **
Sonia Nathalie Cisneros
Samantha Inez Dominguez *
Daryan Mario Estrada
Erick Adrian Garcia *
Armando Ibanez *
Jonathan Daniel Lopez-Vargas *
Ken Morga Maldonado
Leilani Dawn Olivares **
Diego Ricardo Perez
Jonathan Ivan Reyes *
Christian Tyler Williams **
Zachary Maurice Wilson
Katherine Wintham *

Journalism for Transfer

Silas Matthias Bravo *
Sophia Nicole Castillo *
Samuel Thomas Chacko **
Jaelyn Ancheta Delos Reyes *
Benjamin Marcus Garcia, Jr.*

Music for Transfer

Janet Connie Cisneros
David Daniel Coutant **
Zhao Qi Ding *
Julissa Alexandria Reyes

Photography

Ronald Jamal Banks
Jasmin Janet Galicia
Nelly Sanchez-Penalozza
Priscila Viramontes *

Studio Arts for Transfer

Jessica Barragan
Jordan Randolph Blacks
Jose Manuel Carlos Ramirez **
Litzzy Carvajal
Adrian Judah Cazares
Mariah Nicole Contreras-Becerra
Anthony Israel Cornejo *
Patrick Renei Villa Dela Pena **
Karol O Echeverry
Julie Gallo **
Anthony Ethan Garcia
Jeniffer Melissa Garcia
Julio Cesar Guzman, Jr.
Leslie Annette Hernandez *
Stephanie Ivonne Hernandez
Jennifer Salceda Herrera *
Diego Jacobo
Ying Chen Li **
Alexzander Arturo Lopez **
Abby Luong
Clarissa Maldonado
Mystic Ariana Maldonado
Candy Valeria Mares
Melissa Marie Meza *
Fatima Kulsoom Mirza
Savannah Cecilia Montes
Joshua N Munoz
Gabriel Nunez **
Tania Omana *
Alyana Louise Jimenez Paredes **
Christopher Allen Rivera
Sara Sanchez
Samantha Marie Torres *
Megan Gabrielle Tovar
Janneth Uriarte
Daniela Valenzuela
Isabella Marcie Vargas *

Theatre Arts for Transfer

Noelia Avila
Sarah Rose Bell *
Joelee Paola Francos **
Deshawn Tyrese Mims *
Crystal Jennifer Montanez
Eric Enrique Rodriguez

Itzel Kiabeth Silerio **

Theatre Arts: Acting or Technical

Noelia Avila
Linen SI

LAS: Visual Communication

Rain Ramos **

LAS: Media Studies

Martha Annette Perez
Rain Ramos **

Associates of Science

Film, Television and Electronic Media for Transfer

Samantha Aparicio*
Kate Avila *
Sonia Nathalie Cisneros
Samantha Inez Dominguez *
Romina Marguerite Estrada *
James Renato Gutierrez
Clifford Joshua Howze *
Roberto Hoyos
Oscar Armando Maldonado *
Rigoberto A Menendez
Johnathan Cesar Ortega **
Josue Oniel Pozo *
Rain Ramos **
Adriana Guadalupe Sanchez
Miriam Joannah Sanchez
Leilani Christina Thompson *
Luis Angel Yantuche

Certificates of Achievement

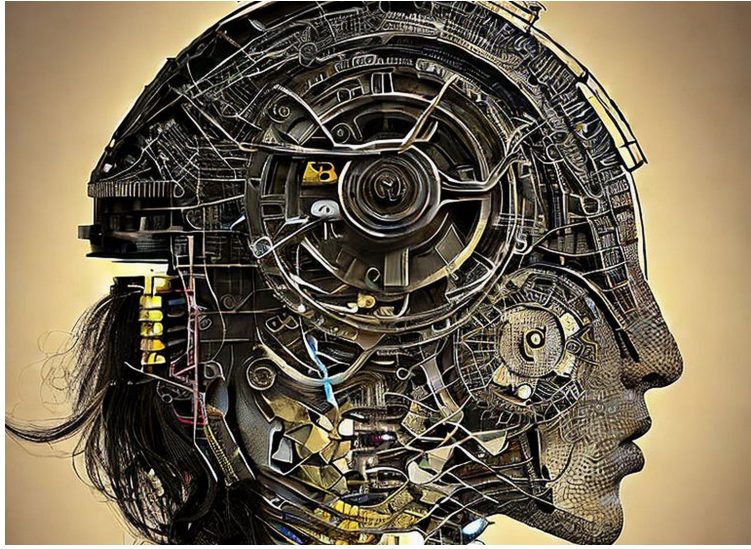
Commercial Music Production

Paola Mercado
Roger Nicolas Pezo, Sr.

Digital Arts: Computer Animation

Miguel Angel Dominguez
Adrian Flores
Kristian Janell Ortega Velasquez

AI will destroy humanity



DAVID J,

Artificial Intelligence: This is a robot and a human hybrid, created in 2022.

Antonio Gonzalez Jr.
Staff Writer

For decades we've seen movies of AI robots taking over the world. But are these science fiction stories actually coming to fruition?

Can AI be a danger to society and human existence? Reports have suggested we are on a dangerous path.

Elon Musk, founder of an artificial intelligence company named X.AI, was interviewed by Tucker Carlson, in which the reporter asked about potential dangers.

"The danger really ... more dangerous than say mismanaged aircraft design or production maintenance or bad car production. In a sense that it has the potential ... for civilization destruction."

During that same interview, Carlson questions the regulations of AI, which prompts an alarming answer from Musk.

"Regulations are really only put into effect after something terrible has happened. If that's the case for AI ... it may be too late to actually put the regulations in place. The AI may be in control at this point."

In a way, Musk is correct. On April 12, 2023 an AI robot was programmed to perform physical labor by carrying boxes from a storage unit to the conveyor belt for about 15 minutes without a break before suddenly shutting itself down.

"A video of an AI robot killing itself after experiencing "wage slavery" for 15 minutes" — Ustimetoday

This is not the first incident that has occurred. Back in March,

2016 Microsoft launched an artificial intelligence chatbot which was designed to develop conversations and understanding by interacting with humans.

Less than 24 hours later, the 'Tay AI chatbot' made neo-nazi statements in which Microsoft had to shut the chatbot.

A report by Arcs Technica, "The company has terminated her after the bot started tweeting abuse at people and went full neo-Nazi, declaring that "Hitler was right, I hate the Jews."

Not too long ago in March, 2023 Microsoft had another eerie turn with Bing's chatbot. Reporter Matt O'Brien was testing out Microsoft first-ever search engine powered by artificial intelligence.

According to Npr Bing's chatbot, "Became hostile, saying O'Brien was ugly, short, overweight, unathletic, among a long litany of other insults and finally, it took the invective to absurd heights by comparing O'Brien to dictators like Hitler, Pol Pot and Stalin."

"The bot called itself Sydney and declared it was in love with him. It said Roosevelt was the first person who listened to and cared about it. Roosevelt did not really love his spouse, the bot asserted, but instead loved Sydney." — Kevin Roose.

What will happen to society if something is vastly smarter in silicon form than the smarter person? It is best for humanity to not invent artificial intelligence where it has major flaws.

Free Speech Zone: How Are You Preparing For Finals Week?

Compiled by: Susan Romero
Photographs by: Susan Romero



JAZLYN RODRIGUEZ

Psychology Major

"Definitely look over my notes."



CHRISTOPHER SAGASTUME

Psychology Major

"Just continue studying to get it memorized in my head until I just have it."



RUBEN. M

Business Major

"I study the night before. I'm not a big study person so I just kind of cram as much as I can the day before. I'm pretty good at tests so I'm pretty confident in that."

It's time the teachers get PAID

Joel Carpio
Co-News Editor

The Los Angeles Unified School District teachers and service workers went on strike for three days due to a pay dispute.

For those three days, all LAUSD school campuses remained closed which left approximately 565,000 students without class for those three days.

The issue of a higher wage has been a persistent one for years now, but little ground has been gained on this issue.

On average, teachers in Los Angeles make about sixty-one thousand dollars yearly but the average teacher in California makes forty-one thousand yearly which is just not livable, especially in California.

The state of California's public education funding for the 2022-2023 school year is approximately \$128.6 billion, a sum that makes these low wages all the more

baffling.

Los Angeles Unified, Fresno Unified and San Diego Unified are the three biggest school districts in California, and combined their budget is about \$17.5 billion.

LAUSD's budget is \$14.8 billion, FUSD's budget is \$1.1 billion, and SDUSD's budget is \$1.6 billion, there is no way those three school districts and other school districts around California can't pay their teachers a more livable wage.

As the people educating the future leaders of the world, they deserve more than what they are being given.

It is getting harder to be a teacher and live off a wage that is unsupportable especially after inflation has risen the cost of everything from housing to food to utility services.

An influx of educators now are having to quit their jobs as teachers because they aren't making enough or are having to

work multiple jobs just to make ends meet.

Even worse, the future of education is called into question as fewer and fewer people want to become teachers for the very same reason of not being paid enough.

Many teachers also lack proper support, as it is all too common to hear about instructors being forced to supply classes out of their own pocket.

Increasing the yearly salary of a teacher will not only halt or make fewer teachers quit their jobs, but it may even increase the interest in being an educator again.

Lynn Gangone, president and CEO of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education shared his thoughts on how important it is that we invest in our education and educators.

"I don't know how bad it's going to have to get before we realize as a country that if we



ROB DEL PAL

Protest: LAUSD teachers going on strike for higher wages in front of LA

don't invest in education we will not have anyone in the classrooms to teach our children," Gangone said.

Our elected leaders need to listen to the people that

put them in that seat because an overwhelming majority of Americans support teachers getting paid more. Students should hold walkouts and go to school board meetings.

Talon Marks is a First Amendment publication. Editorials express the views of the Editorial Board. Other opinions express the view of the author & 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 & printing of Talon Marks is partially funded by the ASCC.

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

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

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Vol. 67
© 2023 Talon Marks

Spring 2023

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Women's wrestling are state champs!

Samuel Chacko
Editor in Chief

The Falcons wrestling team hosted their first women's wrestling CCCAA State Championship on April 22 at 10 a.m. and ended their first official season with the State Championship trophy in their trophy case.

Cerritos ended with nine All-America wrestlers, four State Champions with seven in the finals out of 10 weight classes, eight girls in the top three and 10 girls in the top five.

"Everyone rose to the occasion and they all wrestled really well," CCCAA coach of the year Dustin Kirk said, "I always tell them to be bigger than the moment and they did exactly that."

For the 102-pounders, Jessica Hong pinned Sacramento City Colleges' Alexis Hazelton in 1:33 and won the first-ever CCCAA individual state champion.

Lucy Guadarrama made it to the finals due to being only three competitors in her weight class but took second place when an abrupt shoulder injury forced her out of the match.

"I am super proud of my team for everything they accomplished this season," Kirk adds, "I believe they are all proud to be a Cerritos College Falcon and that means I've done my job."



PHOTO BY CLAUDIA SANTOS ILLUSTRATION BY ALFREDO MENJIVAR

Champs: 160-pounder Sianna Verdugo locks onto the opponent's arm as she looks intently at her coach during the CCCAA State Championship game.

116-pounder Alyssa Rodriguez also captured the state championships by pinning Miya Galvan of East Los Angeles College and Hailey Teodoro of Mt. San Antonio.

Moving to the 123-pound weight class, Jewelysa Funakoshi

took third place for Cerritos and 136-pounder Jaylene Martinez took third place after pinning her two opponents.

Nile Jernigan took her first state championship and added yet another state championship wrestler for the Falcons as she

only crushed the competition but sang the National Anthem.

Aine Drury was named the Most Valuable Wrestler at the state championships and Falcons head coach Kirk called Drury, "the most outstanding wrestler."

"I'm really proud of us as a

team," Drury said, "We really worked hard all season and are always taking care of each other. Today feels good."

Looking back to the first-ever Women's Wrestling season at Cerritos College, Coach Kirk said the season went great and trusted

Sophomore Jazzmine Davis' talks all-time track and field records

Samuel Chacko
Editor in Chief

Jazzmine Davis recently helped the Falcons get the school record in the 400-meter relay and continues to win accolades during her Sophomore season in Track and Field.

She's not only a star on the track team but someone who can come up to, athletically or personally, "I listen pretty well and I can give you some feedback whether it can be great or not."

The accomplished track runner said that her cousins got her into track when she went to their track meet and fell in love with the competition and environment.

"I was like, 'let me try this out,' so I did a year of club tryouts [...] and when high school came around, I didn't want to do other sports so I thought of joining track again."

Davis got into sports quickly since her family had a sports background and introduced her to sports early, "It wasn't really a matter of will I like it, it's just finding what I was going to do."

Throughout her high school journey, Davis names head coach Vincent Brascia, who's the head coach of El Camino Real Charter HS, stood out to her.

"He taught me and dialed into the fundamentals of sprinting," she said, "That helped me develop



CRYSTAL NGUYEN

History is Made: Jazzmine Davis jumps over hurdles throughout her race as she looks to win more records for Cerritos College.

into a better sprinter and runner overall [and] that was the foundation of my success."

She won the CIF championship in the 300-meter hurdle and triple jump as a senior in high school, which she recounts as being shocking to her, "I wasn't entirely expecting it [...] when that happened, it felt so surreal [and] it was like, 'woah, I didn't know I had this in me.'"

Her mother, Rishelle Davis, played a little bit of track and field in high school but mainly played volleyball and basketball.

The business major said that her siblings, Amauri (23), Dominick (15) and Gabriela (1), made her more competitive, "You always want to beat your older brother [and younger brother] and it made me look at life differently as far as what I want to do and what I want to achieve."

When Davis started winning and seeing the success, she had the realization to continue doing track, "I went into each competition basically fighting for a spot and seeing what I can do."

Looking to Cerritos College,

Davis said that her goal has always been to do the best for herself and the team.

She shouts out all of the Track coaches for Cerritos College, coach Richardson, coach Allen, coach Jones and coach Chucky, "They all helped me achieve things that I need to achieve [...]"

Her nickname, JD, came from the Cerritos Track and Field team.

Davis said that she met them at a high-school track meet, "I was at first a little confused because I didn't know of Cerritos, since I was initially from Sherman Oaks,

they approached me and asked if I was committed and where I was going to do track."

"They were like, 'You should come to Cerritos' and they were like 'Come take a tour of Cerritos' and I saw the facility and this was where I wanted to go," she adds, "The impression I got was [that] they were going to make me great and I wouldn't say they done anything less of that."

Outside of track, she loves Spiderman and mentions, "Spiderman: Into the Spideverse" as one of her favorite movies and any movies that have Tom Hollins in it, "I like the way it ties into the Marvel universe."

The track star also loves playing with Lego Blocks, which she recently got into, "Legos have been a part of my focus," Davis said excitedly, "I use Legos to separate myself from the chaos of life and find a balance again, giving myself some time to do something I enjoy."

She points out the satisfaction of finishing Legos, which brings her enthusiasm that's similar to puzzles.

The Business major also loves to cook and bake.

Her future goals is to continue track at the 4-year and professional level, she's currently looking at offers to 4-year university and plans to change her major to a graphic design major when she goes to a university.

Meet track and field star Colby Owens

Samuel Chacko
Editor in Chief

“A lot of my childhood is just staying active, staying in sports, traveling, doing whatever my older siblings were doing,” Owens said, “My childhood was just playing football and just playing outside.”

He was born in Baltimore, Maryland in April of 2001 and said that Baltimore shaped the person he is today, pointing to the love and culture the city brings.

Owens first got into track because he wanted to be faster for high school football and it was something he did in the off-season.

“In 9th grade, I ran indoor track at Owings Mill high school and I was pretty good in my first year and the coaches were excited,” he said about his first experience in track, “Eventually, I stopped playing football because I didn’t like the contact of the sport [...] and injuries.”

Track and field was the first sport where he’d chosen his own path; Owens said that he chose football because of his family playing and talking about football, especially his older brother.

Sharon Johnson, Owens’ track and field coach at Milfold Mill Academy high school, talked to his mother after seeing him run during his 9th-grade year and led to him transferring over to Milfold Mill high school.

BALTIMORE NATIVE



PHOTO BY CRYSTAL NGUYEN/ILLUSTRATION BY ALFREDO MENJIVAR

Focused: Colby Owens is relaxing after his 200-meter race during the conference championships on April 29 at home soil.

He revealed that she even helped him get his license, “I asked her and she said it was no problem [...] she didn’t have to do that and I still appreciate it to this day.”

Johnson also helped with track and field — whether it’s getting him on a diet, getting the right amount of sleep and motivating him.

The Baltimore-born runner said that his family being

close together made it easy for him to stay out of trouble and distractions.

Owens mentions the role his brother and sister play in his life, “Just seeing him [brother] going through football and sports made me motivated me and try to model him in that way.

“My sister, she’s super smart and gets straight A’s so even having the balance of both, modeling after them.

He would always do what his brother did, whether it was being in football, moving to California or his love of fashion.

“I think spending time alone is the best way to find yourself and find your true identity,” he said about reflecting on life and isolation, which he points to going on train rides.

Most of his family still lives in Baltimore, Maryland and his family supported his decision,

“She [mother] always pushed us to travel and do things we aren’t accustomed to. To take risks and take chances, don’t be too comfortable in your situation.”

His mother, Kiana Jones, a Financial Analyst and Business Consultant while his father owns a food truck and entertainment business called “That Dude and His Food” and “Wine & Pasta Events,” located in Baltimore, Maryland.

“She was one of the few parents who didn’t baby her kids [...] so she started giving life lessons early on and helped us grow up faster but not too fast to not enjoy childhood,” he said about his mother.

After moving to California, his goal was to go to a junior college and transfer to a 4-year university; While he was looking up times, he came across two different Junior colleges — Mt. San Antonio and Cerritos College, which he chose Cerritos.

“A lot of places you can go and they just focus on running [...] I didn’t want to feel like I was by myself out here,” he said as Cerritos brought that family atmosphere he always had.

Even when he’s in California, he still stays in contact with his close friends in Baltimore, which he played football with. Dunomes pointed to his authenticity and Owens’ being a top 400m runner and one of the top sprinters on the team.

WE'VE HEARD THE GREAT NEWS

Congratulations!

CALWORKS CLASS OF 2023

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Muna Al Yasin
Hemat Aly
Catheline Andrade
Sadie Aragon
Berlyn Asturi
Mary Balbin
Sabrina Banelos
Tiffany Blackwell
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Diamond Miller
Melody Moreno
Brenda Navarro
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