

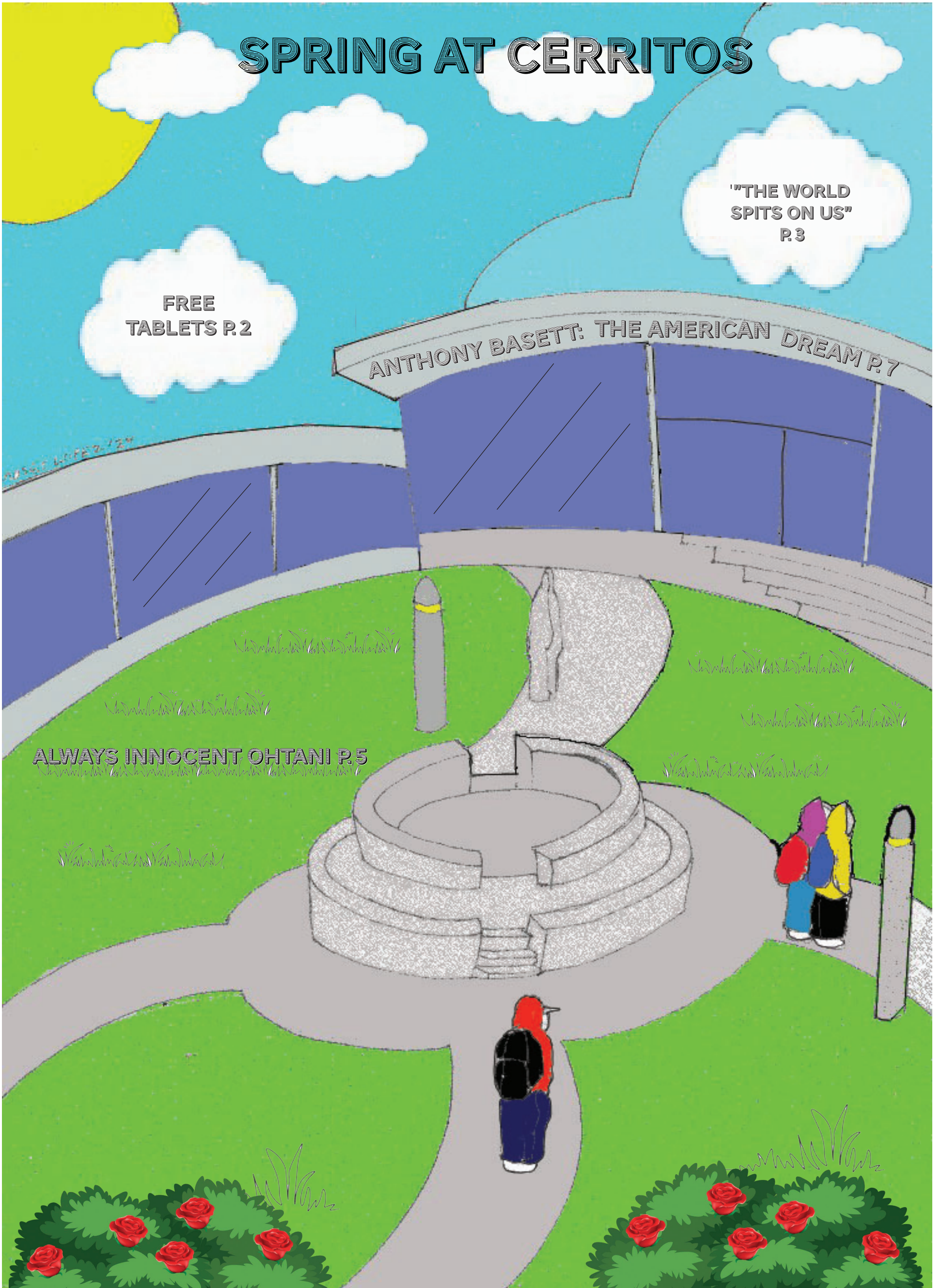
# SPRING AT CERRITOS

FREE  
TABLETS P.2

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EDWARD FERNANDEZ

The line for the Falcon's Nest tablet giveaway on April 10, 2024.

## FALCONS NEST GIVES OUT 600 FREE TABLETS

Edward Fernandez  
Staff Writer

Emanuel Guadarrama  
Co-News Editor

Two-hundred students lined up for free tablets during the Falcon's Nest pop-up market in the Falcon Square on April 10.

Students paid a one-time \$11 activation fee, but the data costs are paid off as long as they continuously use their devices.

The event was a collaboration between the Outreach Program Services of America and the Affordable Connectivity Program as part of a \$14.2 billion initiative to bridge the digital divide.

Cortez Hollis, who works with OPSA, noted that not everyone can afford a laptop or an iPad and in a post-COVID world, that could mean an inability to take notes, do homework, attend class or find work. People are being left behind.

"I have made it my duty with OPSA to make sure we get as many college students connected as possible," Hollis was firm, "Being able to keep connected regardless of where you are increases attendance as well as graduation rates."

Angelica Profumo, the program assistant for the Basic Needs Center, shared that the event was quickly set up in just two weeks after a former social work intern put her in contact with Hollis.

"I reached out to him in time because the program ends in April," Profumo informed.

The ACP, run by the Federal Communications Commission, will exhaust its funding by April or May 2024.

If Congress does not vote to reinstate the ACP, the two-year-old program, which has provided broadband services to 23 million homes, according to Blair Levin of

Brookings, will cease to exist.

"I'm kind of struggling. I don't have a laptop. I don't have a computer," kinesiology major, Paul Lee confessed.

Luckily, his counselor sent him an email informing him about the event.

James Castaneda-Cortez, a biology major, was forwarded a similar email by a friend.

Lee and Castaneda-Cortez, along with many others waited over three hours for the distributions to begin.

Biology and business administration majors respectively, Victoria and Jose Hernandez, were anxious to get their tablets.

"We've been here just for 30 minutes—an hour, I think—so we're probably going to be the last ones to receive them." She realized.

Aside from produce and other types of food, the Falcon's Nest also offers clothing, gas money, housing support, physical support, mental wellness and even emergency aid, she stated.

Hernandez herself received \$500 in emergency aid for a new stove.

To claim a tablet, students scanned a barcode, filled out basic information about themselves, uploaded a photo of their IDs and waited while Profumo, Hollis and a few others unpacked and activated the tablets.

Those with Medi-Cal or EBT cards could cut straight to the front of the line.

Also up for grabs were crates of free fresh produce including radishes, zucchini and lemons.

Several people in line carried bags full of groceries.

The Falcon's Nest will host a food bank distribution on April 24 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. for both students and community members. Profumo also advises that the Falcon's Nest Market is open everyday for students.

## CALIFORNIA: A SLAVE STATE, DISCUSSIONS WITH AUTHOR

Ifeoma Utom  
Co-News Editor

The departments of Black/Africana Studies, Philosophy and History including Falcon Rising hosted a discussion on slavery existing in California on April 9th at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

The event started with the introduction of professor and author Jean Pfaelzer who lead the discussion centering around her book California: A Slave State

Pfaelzer shared the story of California and its forgotten or rather hidden slavery history

In her argument within her book and this discussion she states that California was not and was never a free state continuing their slavery through human trafficking.

As far back as the 1850s, Pfaelzer states how California was deemed a free state however was brought into the union open for slavery to be interpreted by those who were able to make the laws.

"California holds a constitution and in it California writes... slavery will never be tolerated in California but this was an out...because tolerate is not a legal standard" she said.

Pfaelzer mentions how during the California gold rush over 2,000 slaves were brought into California to mine gold for their masters, marching over 3,000 miles from the South all the way to the West.

The discussion look into the Fugitive Slave Law that was passed in the United States claiming that slaves who were brought into the "free state" by their owners had no right to freedom and were legally property still.

"What I had to understand was," Pfaelzer said "if you were enslaved, you were not allowed to

testify in court, you couldn't present your freedom paper and you would be seized."

Pfaelzer wraps up the discussion by reinstating her stance she places in her book and informs the audience exactly what officials are doing to combat this issue.

The discussion concluded at 12:15 p.m. after the questionnaire portion for any posing questions.



IMAGE FROM WWW.LIBERTARIANISM.ORG

Enslaved African American mining for gold during the 1850s California gold rush.

## BLOOD DRIVE HELPS CHANGE OVER 60 LIVES

Shaniah Campbell  
Staff Writer

Due to the high demand for blood locally, the American Red Cross hosted a Blood Drive on April 8th and 9th in the Student Center Stage.

The objective of this blood drive is to allow students and possibly faculty members on campus to donate their blood in order to save another life.

"Well the students are the ones who reach out as far I know. They know about the need for blood — students are able to donate every two months. One unit of blood helps save three lives," said a nurse practitioner.

According to American Red Cross Blood Services, blood donations often help patients with heart surgery and organ transplants and those dealing with chronic diseases like cancer or diabetes. It helps patients of all ages, accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Understanding the need for blood and how beneficial it can be for people suffering with illnesses and life threatening diseases can draw more to the importance of blood donations.

"Since this was a two-day event, the first day we collected 20 units which will be able to save and affect 60 lives," said a nurse practitioner covering the event.

This blood drive is an important way to showcase the importance of giving back to those in need and potentially saving another person's life.

Several students made it their mission to stop by the Student Center Stage to donate blood to the cause.

The cause of donating blood to these people in need can often affect how many people in the community can benefit from it.

The approach to have blood drives on campus is a start of helping change peoples' lives for the better and help bring the community together.

"I think if you meet the requirements to draw blood, you should always try to donate blood so that way you can help save someone's life in the process," said theater major, Corinna Smith.

If you missed the chance to draw blood at Cerritos no worries, you could schedule an appointment at redcrossblood.org and find a blood drive in the Los Angeles Region area like Long Beach, Woodland Hills, and Torrance.



SHANIAH CAMPBELL

Students getting their blood drawn from nurse practitioner, April 9, 2024.

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS:

FALCON GAMES: EMPLOYEES VS STUDENTS KICKBALL GAME

FRIDAY, APRIL 19  
12 P.M. - 4 P.M.  
NANCY KELLY FIELD

GRAD FAIR

TUESDAY, APRIL 23  
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.  
STUDENT CENTER

SPB:

SPRING CARNIVAL  
THURSDAY, APRIL 25  
3 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.  
FALCON SQUARE

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.  
FINANCIAL AID RESOURCE CENTER

FOLLOW OUR INSTAGRAM FOR MORE



# 'THE WORLD SPITS ON US': THE HOME DEPOT MEN OF CERRITOS

**Emanuel Guadarrama**  
Co-News Editor

**Edward Fernandez**  
Staff Writer

Just across the street from Cerritos College in the Home Depot parking lot are dozens of day laborers, men willing to take on just about any task rain or shine for daily, under-the-table pay.

Raul Quintanilla, a man in his 40s and another man wanting to be referred to as "Jose," 59, are apprentices of all kinds of trades. They've been construction workers, movers, assemblers, cleaners, tree-trimmers, painters and on occasion dead pest removal.

"We've done things you can't even imagine," Jose joked.

Their workday starts at 6 a.m. sharp and ends around 7 p.m. with job searches consisting of waiting for someone to roll into the parking lot looking for a specific task to be done. Those who are qualified negotiate pay, those who aren't stand aside.

Currently the market's not doing so well. Three or four days can go by without anyone picking up any work.

Jose stressed that, "You have to be here day-after-day and trust that God will bring you something."

When they are working, pay can vary anywhere from \$25 for a whole day to \$400 for just two hours.

"There was a kid who only got paid \$5 for filling up a pallet with boxes and taking it to the UPS," Jose recounted, "Here in the U.S. it might seem humiliating, but sometimes those \$5 are enough for someone to buy a hotdog from 7/11 and satiate the hunger for that day."

That is when people decide to pay.

Quintanilla recalled that, "Many times we've been on week-long jobs and they'll refuse to pay us a cent. They tell us they'll turn us in to the police."

Nothing can be done.

"When you're working for someone, we can't tell if they're going to pay or not because the ones that don't pay are always so kind. You don't know if they're being kind because that's who they are or because they want to cheat you," Jose noted.

Quintanilla assured that they spread the word of those who are known for not paying workers.

When there's a constant stream of work, the men save their money not for vacations or home improvements, but for the days when they come home empty-handed.

Quintanilla laughed at the idea of retirement, "All we can do is save as much as we can. Our futures

are not secured."

Jose explained raising children has been the most difficult part of life.

"They go to school and work. They're able to help out so that we're able to save some for retirement, but while we still have our health, we work."

He continued, "Our kids don't need our help anymore, we need theirs, but they have their own lives. They didn't ask us to bring them into this world, we won't ask anything of them."

Before he migrated from Mexico around 20 years ago, Jose worked on a ranch raising farm animals. In El Salvador, Quintanilla cultivated maize and beans.

Jobs have been hard to come by in the U.S. as employers check for legal documentation daily and are quick to give the boot when none are provided.

In the parking lot, no such problem arises.

Nevertheless, going from agriculture to day laboring has been hard especially with no help, Quintanilla explained.

"We're not here [the Home Depot parking lot, searching for work] because we want to be here. The system forced us to be here and that same system

views us as the dregs of society," Jose shared. He spoke about how he's been told to go back to Mexico because he was taking jobs from others. He said, "I don't go door-to-door asking for work. People come here looking for workers to do what no one else wants to do. They treat us as if we're alcoholics, drug addicts or thieves. The world spits on us. They call us lazy, but they don't know we have families that depend on us—that we come everyday to fight for them here."

The men said standing around for over 12 hours each day is the worst part of day laboring. Its physically and psychologically exhausting and the pressure of providing for their families along with the uncertainty of tomorrow's prospects are nerve-racking.

Among the shade of the trees of the parking lot, the men share meals. They partake in the only fun men in their positions can, fervent discussions on the latest soccer game.

The optics are never good. They say that standing, waiting for work gives people a negative perception of them that bolsters Latino stereotypes.



EDWARD FERNANDEZ

Jose (left) and Raul Quintanilla (right), day laborers waiting for work in front of the Cerritos Home Depot on April 10, 2024.

## NORWALK BRINGS OUT THE FUN AT KIDS FUN ZONE

**Michael Delgado**  
Editor in Chief

Newmark Merrill Companies held its first weekend of Kids Fun Zone at the Norwalk Town Square on April 13-14 from 1-4 p.m.

Kids across the city of Norwalk were able to participate in many activities like face painting and a mini hoop machine, with the theme being the spring garden.

The event held a raffle where every guest received one ticket and every 20-30 minutes a winner was announced with the prize being a dd's discount gift card.

There was also a section in the venue that was handing out free cups of frozen yogurt from Yogurtland with a coupon that offers a buy one, get one free deal at their shop.



MICHAEL DELGADO

Katie Debray, a local artist who contributed to the event by doing the face painting talks about the overall goal that is being achieved for the kid's fun zone.

"Our main goal is to have fun activities for the kids like face painting

and some other games, but our entertainment always has a learning component to it.

The kids are learning how to plant their own succulent, and they are learning a little bit about worms and the garden and how to grow things," Debray said.

The event had live music which was an activity where kids were able to participate and contribute with the band handing out maracas to the kids so they could play along with them.

All around the venue, you heard many children expressing how this was the best day ever.

Another contributor to the event was Martie Rosenthal who was the presenter of the gardening show expressed the enjoyment she gets

from teaching children new stuff about plants and gardening.

"I want to be able to teach them a few things about gardening, even throw in some fun facts that maybe even the parents didn't know. And open their world to getting into the dirt," Rosenthal said.

She also adds, "I love it when they ask questions, and when they want to get involved, you know when they are lining up to plant something it makes me feel great because it's really rewarding."

This will not be the last kid's fun zone as they are holding three more this summer.

The next one will be held on June 8 in the Norwalk Town Square.



# COMMUNITY

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**  
APRIL 20 @ DON KNABE PARK  
10 AM-2 PM



**DOWNEY SPRING FEST**  
APRIL 21 @ 11022 LA REINA AVE.  
DOWNEY, CA 3 PM-6 PM



**HELLO KITTY & FRIENDS FAMILY MARKET**

APRIL 25 @ 11002 DOWNEY AVE.  
DOWNEY, CA 5 PM-9 PM



**KIDS DAY**  
APRIL 27 @ 2015, BASQUE AVE.  
FULLERTON, CA 10 AM-5 PM



REVIEW

# 'COWBOY CARTER' IS PERFECTION

Beyoncé releases her anticipated Country album "Cowboy Carter." She pays homage to Black artists who came before her by reclaiming the genre itself.

10/10

Shania Campbell  
Staff Writer

Beyoncé's 8th studio album and second part of her trilogy project "Cowboy Carter" is an outstanding album that has lived up to the expectations leading up to its release.

With her 2022 release of "Renaissance" being a Dance album, Cowboy Carter is a Country album which she refers to as a "Beyoncé album" which are genres that were originally created by African-Americans. This is a way of her paying homage to those artists that came before her and reclaiming genres that were once stolen.

The album opens with "AMERICAN REQUIEM" where Beyoncé expresses her idea of what she believes America should be in reality. The song serves as a reminder to be free and liberate yourself from the expectations that people may have of you.

Transitioning into the second track "BLACKBIIRD" originally written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney features four Black Country singers Tanner Adell, Britney Spencer, Tiera Kennedy and Reyna Roberts.

Which is a song that was written about the adversity that African-Americans have faced during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s and also refers to The Little Rock Nine. With the "Take these sunken eyes and learn to see — All your life you were waiting for this moment to be me."

She uses the cover of the song to highlight that this album will bring the forthcoming freedom and liberation that will be displayed within this genre and also co-signing these women who are



Beyoncé's "Cowboy Carter" official album cover.

COLUMBIA RECORDS

overlooked.

During the album there are interludes narrated by famous guitarist Willie Nelson. The interludes are played as the listener is listening to a country radio station that is mentioned as "KNTRY Radio Texas" which transitions into another track on the album.

In the track "JOLENE" Beyoncé puts her own spin on the country

classic written by Dolly Parton. She uses the song to express her feelings about her husband's infidelity and the woman who she refers to as "Becky with the good hair" in her hit song "Sorry" from the Lemonade album. Towards the end of the album with track "THE LINDA MARTELL SHOW" narrated by Linda Martell who came on the country music scene during the 1970s was the first

scene in the 1970s was the first Black woman to have a successful career in Country despite being discriminated against during her career.

The interlude then introduces the song "YA YA" which pays tribute to Black artists like Tina Turner, Little Richard and Ray Charles. The song features a sample from Nancy Sinatra's, "These Boots Are Made for Walkin" and an interpolation of "Good Vibrations" by The Beach Boys.

"YA YA" creates an important understanding of standing in your truth and holding on to faith in the midst of adversity while living in America. Beyoncé continues to pay homage to those who came before her by embodying the experience of their reality during the 1950s and 1960s.

The 27th track album ends with "AMEN" which opens with a gospel filled influence. "We'll be the ones to purify our Fathers' sins — American Requiem. Them old ideas are buried here. Amen."

"Cowboy Carter" is all around a very well-produced album which creates a different experience for the listener sonically. This album is a 10/10, if you're interested in expanding on genres you've never listened to or following through with Beyoncé's trilogy projects. recommend this album.

REVIEW

# 'WE STILL DON'T TRUST YOU' IS A SNOOZE FEST

Michael Delgado  
Editor in Chief

5/10

Metro Boomin and Future released their second album in less than a month called, "We Still Don't Trust You".

This is a sequel to their last project called, "We Don't Trust You", which shook up the Hip-Hop industry.

And with that being said the expectations for this album were high considering what these two just had accomplished with the previous project but this one didn't live up to the expectations.

The album consisted of two sides the first one being 18 tracks and the second having seven with the total of 25 tracks.

The album was rumored to be an R&B album which sounded very interesting because it is a complete shift from what was on "We Don't Trust You" which was straight trap music, simply where Future aka Pluto is in his comfort zone.

And it indeed was an R&B album and it started with a bang with the first song being the title track that feature The Weeknd.

The song starts and you immediately get vibes from a song by The Weeknd because the beat just fits his genre of music.

This was a great way to start the album and the first half was very

consistent but the same cannot be said about the last nine tracks on this album

It started to become an album where every other track just felt ok for the most part, by no means necessary were any of the tracks bad but they didn't hit.

One of the tracks on the album called Red Leather is one of the best on this album which has a surprising feature by J. Cole.

Although it's a highlight it has a huge issue and it's that it is way too long for no reason.

It takes up to four and a half minutes to even get to the Cole feature which is the best part of the song.

It's Future rapping over a beat with a beautiful guitar string, but after a while the beat is overdone because Future raps for what it feels like forever.

Again this album isn't terrible to me it's just boring, which is an insane statement to make considering this is an album by Metro Boomin and Future who are some of the most entertaining artist we have today.

Now there are some highlights like The Weeknd's contribution to this album is needed. Also features from Lil Baby and A\$AP Rocky who took some shots at Drake in his verse. Which has been a consistent theme in



Official album cover for "WE STILL DON'T TRUST YOU."

EPIC RECORDS

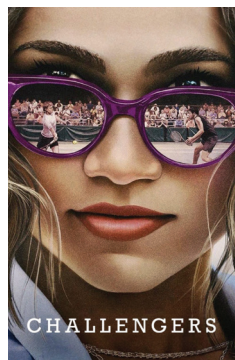
these two albums. But other than the disses towards Drake and the good features from The Weeknd, there's not much to get out of this album.

The first album they put together last month was almost perfect, and this album just doesn't come anywhere

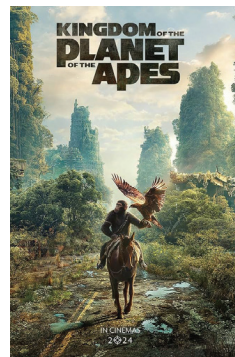
Overall this album gets a 5/10 for me, its not a bad album its just ok.

near close to it in terms of consistency and replay value which is a complete let down. Overall I think this album was ok, not good, and not bad it's just an ok album, it gets a 5/10.

Upcoming movies



In theatres April 26



In theatres May 8



In theatres June 14



In theatres July 26

# SHOHEI OHTANI WAS ALWAYS INNOCENT

Joel Carpio  
Managing Editor



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOEL CARPIO

Shohei Ohtani getting blamed for being in cahoots with former translator, Ipeei Mizuhara.

Many fans said Shohei Ohtani was guilty of gambling on sports like his translator was but that couldn't be further from the truth.

Fans of other teams need to stop hating on a player just because they all hate the team collectively.

Ipeei Mizuhara, Ohtani's former translator, was accused of stealing \$4.5 million from Ohtani to pay off his gambling debts.

The Dodgers and Ohtani found out about the stolen money after game 1 of the Seoul Series in South Korea when Mizuhara said an article was coming out accusing him of theft and that it was true.

Almost immediately after the allegations came out many fans of other teams that aren't the Dodgers started making conspiracy theories accusing Ohtani of being in cahoots with Mizuhara.

Fans asked how Mizuhara had access to Ohtani's money without him knowing, which is one of the dumbest reasons fans gave as to why they think Ohtani and Mizuhara conspired with each other.

It's called theft for a reason, when

theft takes place for the most part the victim isn't going to know it was also recently discovered that Mizuhara changed some settings on Ohtani's bank account so that he wouldn't be notified of transactions to and from his account.

It's unfortunate because it feels like people started theories of Ohtani being involved with Mizuhara only because

they wanted bad to come to him now that he was a Dodger. After all, so many people hate the Dodgers.

A lot of Dodger fans get the sense that had Ohtani still been an Angel these theories wouldn't have been made. After all, so many people hate the Dodgers.

Mizuhara was recently charged and found to have stolen a lot more than

\$4.5 million, but stole more than \$16 million from Ohtani.

Dodger fans knew he was innocent and there was no evidence suggesting otherwise, well Dodger fans were right as Ohtani was found innocent and cooperated completely in the investigation.

Mizuhara is now facing official federal charges of stealing more than \$16 million from Ohtani and is allegedly negotiating a guilty plea with prosecutors.

Similar things happened to former Dodgers starting pitcher, Trevor Bauer, when he was accused of sexual assault and everyone who wasn't a Dodger fan jumped to conclusions saying he did it.

Ohtani was always innocent and the reasons fans were giving as to why he may have done illegal actions with Mizuhara were undoubtedly stupid.

Fans of other teams need to not be judge, jury and executioner while accusing players of malicious things only because they hate the team.

All the dumb little jokes fans made and the accusation of Ohtani gambling and helping Mizuhara can now end with the courts finding no wrongdoing on Ohtani's part and the US Attorney, Martin Estrada claiming Ohtani was certainly the "victim" in this situation.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcome. They may be submitted both online or in person. In all cases, letters must be signed with real names before they will be considered for publications, either online or in print. Campus related issues are given priority. Letters may be edited for length, though online versions tend to include full content, as long as it is not libelous or in poor taste. You may deliver letters to FA 42 or contact the editor by e-mail at editor@talonsmarks.

# J. COLE RUINED HIS RAP REPUTATION WITH AN APOLOGY

Michael Delgado  
Editor in Chief

On April 7, J. Cole decided to do the stupidest thing possible and apologize for a diss track he made on Kendrick Lamar off his latest mixtape called "Might Delete Later".

Cole released a surprise mixtape on April 5, and it had social media buzzing because of the track called "7 Minute Drill" which was a direct response to Lamar's verse off of "Like That" on Metro Boomin's and Future's latest album, "We Don't Trust You" where he dissed both Cole and Drake.

Many fans were waiting for one of the two rappers to respond to Lamars diss, and surprisingly Cole was the first to step up to the plate.

With the diss track not even being out for more than three days, Cole decided to backtrack everything he said on the diss saying that he "regrets" making the song and calling it, "the weakest and lamest" thing he's ever done in his career.

I understand the human side of things, wanting peace amongst his peers is what Cole finds more

important in this situation.

It takes a lot of guts to go up on stage and tell the world that you don't want any problems.

But as a Hip-Hop/Rap, and a huge fan of Cole this pisses me off for so many reasons.

The main reason why this looks ridiculous is because, for the past three years, Cole has been claiming he's the best rapper in the game right now, not a single rapper in this industry wants problems with him on the microphone.

And the minute he gets punched in the mouth by Lamar, the minute Lamar steps up and asks Cole to prove himself to the world why he is the best, he backs out.

In 2021, Cole stated in a song called "Heavens EP", that the fans and media threw the bronze at him in the discussion of who's the best in the big three of Cole, Drake, and Kendrick.

Since then he's been on a mission to prove everyone wrong and that he is the best, but little does Cole know he just threw himself the bronze medal.

Not only that but he threw himself out of the conversation of the big three



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL DELGADO

J. Cole let his fans down for taking back his diss towards Kendrick.

by doing this, because now everything Cole has been saying for the past couple of years holds absolutely zero weight to it.

But Cole might not understand nobody wanted beef between these two, people wanted to see two of the best rappers of this generation go back and forth, bar for bar, to see who is the best and that won't happen.

So the decision he made is respectable, it shows Cole's maturity, and that he doesn't care about the narrative people will have on him for saying this on stage but raps about him being the best are done.

He can no longer claim to be the best because he had the chance to prove it but those conversations are over.

## NAME ONE THING YOU LIKE ABOUT CERRITOS COLLEGE

Compiled by: Susan Romero



**Desibelle Martinez**  
History of Art major

"I like how it has a lot of majors, expanding majors. That's what I really like about that, no one really feels excluded."



**Adrian Verdugo**  
Nursing major

"I like the teachers in Cerritos College. I feel like they're all very professional, very organized, very fair and just. So probably the professors."



**Terrell Loewenson**  
Nursing major

"Honestly I think I like the open space. I kind of like just walking around sometimes in the sun. It gives me a good chance to get my steps in."

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.

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# SPORTS

## UPCOMING GAMES

BASEBALL  
4/18 AT 2 P.M.



VS



4/20 AT NOON



@



4/23 AT 2 P.M.



@



SOFTBALL  
4/18 AT 3 P.M.



@



4/19 AT 1 P.M.



@



4/23 DOUBLE  
HEADER AT NOON  
AND 2 P.M.



@



# CERRITOS CRUSHES COMPTON



20 FINAL 1



Joel Carpio  
Managing Editor

The Falcons handed the Compton Tartars a huge loss on April 4 winning 20-1. Franky Lopez, starting pitcher for Cerritos College was in cruise control the entire outing against Compton as he recorded six innings and gave up zero earned runs.

Cerritos scored in every inning after the first.

The Falcons are currently in sole possession of first place in their conference as they have their eyes on making it to the playoffs with a high seed.

# FALCONS WALK-OFF THE MOUNTIES


5 FINAL/8 4


Michael Delgado  
Editor in Chief

The Cerritos College softball team defeated the Mt. Sac Mounties 5-4 on a walk-off to extend their winning streak on April 9.

The Mounties started with three up and three down in the top of the first and the Falcons put up a run on the scoreboard quickly after first baseman, Nadia Landeros, hit an RBI single to bring right fielder, Jazmine Macias, home.

The Mounties would answer right back in the top of the second inning with a home run to left field by catcher, Morgan Kneubuhler to tie the game at 1-1. Cerritos would take the lead in the third inning, with

two outs designated player, Celeste Carbajal, was able to get the lead back up to one run with an RBI single.

The game up to this point was very slow, both teams were able to hit the ball but failed to bring the runners home. The Falcons added another run to their lead after Mt. Sac threw an error to first base allowing Landeros to walk to home plate.

The Mounties responded in the sixth inning scoring two runs to tie the game again at 3-3.

Both the Falcons and Mounties added nothing to their total scores in the seventh. Cerritos did have an opportunity to win the game with bases loaded but ultimately couldn't capitalize and the game remained a tie.

Mt. Sac would take the lead in the top of the eighth inning after shortstop, Katie Griego, hit a homerun giving them a 4-3 lead. Cerritos was up to bat and the Mounties walked Macias and threw a wild pitch to get her in scoring position.

This led to third baseman, Natalie Basurto hitting an RBI double to tie the game at 4-4 with Basurto in scoring position.

Not too long after, shortstop, Marley Manalo, sealed the game with a walk-off single to give the Falcons a victory over Mt. Sac.

"When Marley came up I knew no matter what happened, she was gonna put something in play for us," head coach Kodee Murray said about the walk-off. The Falcons are currently riding on high momentum winning wise and Manalo talks about how team is clicking at this moment.

"It's all about the chemistry and how well we work together, our team is very strong and when all of us are in a competitive mode we're a hard team to beat," Manalo said.



MICHAEL DELGADO

Cerritos players running up to shortstop, Marley Manalo, after she hit a walk-off single to give them the win against Mt. Sac on April 9, 2024.

# ANTHONY BASSETT: NICARAGUAN DREAMER

# SPORTS

## SCORES

### WOMENS WRESTLING 4/3

 **30**

 **22**

BASEBALL 4/4  
 **20**

 **1**

4/6  
 **3**

 **5**

4/9  
 **0**

 **3**

BEACH VOLLEYBALL 4/12  
 **2**

 **3**

4/12  
 **0**

 **5**

SOFTBALL 4/13  
 **6**

 **7**

**Joel Carpio**  
Managing Editor

Anthony Bassett, infielder for the Cerritos College baseball team left his family and all he knew behind in Nicaragua to chase his dream to play baseball professionally in the United States.

Born and raised in Nicaragua, Bassett said his childhood was fun, an experience he wouldn't replace for anything, but economically things weren't always easy.

Bassetts' parents taught him to value and appreciate his family and what he has despite financial struggles, he said it's made him realize to cherish everything he can have here and the opportunity he has now in the United States.

Growing up playing ball was instilled in him from a young age, his family started teaching him how to play and one day his mom took a day off work to take him to his first practice

Bassett went on to play in the U18 World Baseball Classic for Nicaragua and explained in Spanish his journey getting there.

"In Nicaragua, they're overlooking all the leagues that are there, then a pre section list comes out of the invitees to the practice and slowly they start cutting players," Bassett said, "I've been on team Nicaragua since U10 and then from there I made the U12,



JOEL CARPIO

Infielder, Anthony Bassett in motion as he is fielding a ground ball hit towards third base.



JOEL CARPIO

Infielder, Anthony Bassett, extends his arms for a high five from his teammate while yelling in excitement after sliding home and scoring.

U14, U15 until the U18 team which is when I moved to the U.S."

When he got to represent his country in the U18 WBC he said it was an honor and that it filled him with pride, an experience he described as beautiful having to have played in the tournament and getting to meet players from the big leagues around the world.

He learned a lot in Nicaragua having learned and experienced different ways of playing the game from different coaches.

"I feel very grateful for having played there [Nicaragua] and having learned to play the way I play now," Bassett said, "Coming from there it motivates me more here [U.S.] to know that no one knows me, I want them to know my name.

A lot of sacrifices were made for Bassett to continue chasing his dream of playing baseball at a higher

level, leaving his family behind in Nicaragua was one of the biggest.

Bassett said, "I left my family over there, my mother, my grandparents, all my family that was over there, I haven't seen them in four years, I haven't been able to go back."

The move from Nicaragua to the U.S. was a big and drastic change for Bassett because he only knew the basics of English.

Over time the change grew on him as he played his first college baseball season at Los Angeles Harbor College in 2022 and over the summer he joined the MLB Academy Barons which led him to meet some people who helped him find his way to play for Cerritos College.

"Franky [Lopez] the pitcher and Calix [Armijo] were playing on my team, we became friends and they explained to me what was happening at Cerritos and that Coach Fernley

was going to come, I had heard really good things of him and decided to take the opportunity to play here," said Bassett.

When Bassett came to the United States he wasn't alone, Marlon "Chapi" Oviedo, outfielder for the Falcons a teammate he's known since he was nine came with him to LA Harbor and now Cerritos.

Baseball isn't the only thing Bassett likes to do, in his spare time he enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, catching up with his mother who now lives in the U.S. and playing mini golf.

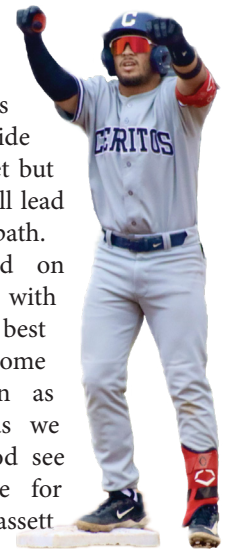
Playing in the MLB is the ultimate dream Bassett is chasing and hopes to one day make it and play for his favorite team the New York Yankees.

"Ever since I was seven years old my dream was to play for the Yankees and to be like Alex Rodriguez. He was the player that inspired me when I was a kid," Bassett said.

Currently, looking to transfer isn't at the top of Bassett's priority list at the moment although he does have an offer from a university to further his playing career, he's focused on enjoying his time at Cerritos right now and having fun with the team and his teammates.

Bassett says he believes he's not ready to decide on his future yet but believes God will lead him to the best path.

"I'm focused on ending the year with the team the best we can, become champions, win as many games as we can and let God see what I deserve for my future," Bassett explained.



## OPINION

# STOP THE ANGEL REESE HATE

**Michael Delgado**  
Editor in Chief

In April of 2023 the LSU women's basketball team defeated Iowa in the NCAA national championship game.

Instead of people remembering the victory from LSU the biggest headline that came out of that day was LSU basketball player Angel Reese taunting Caitlin Clark.

Since that day social media has created this surge of hate towards Reese and it doesn't seem to be ending any time soon.

When Reese decided to taunt Clark some people viewed it as competition, something you see in basketball all the time, trash talking is part of the game whether you like it or not.

There was millions around the world who now absolutely despise Reese for simply taunting Clark during the game.

Over the year the hate has continued, and Reese even opened up about it in her most recent post game press conference after LSU lost to Iowa in the Elite 8 matchup on April 1.

"I've been through so much, I've seen so much. I've been attacked so many times, I'm still a human. All this has happened since I won the national championship, and I haven't been happy since and it sucks," Reese said. It was even getting to the point where she says she received death threats, racist comments, and has been sexualized over the year.

The media did not take this lightly at all, the comment section of this post is full of comments like, "now she wanna play the victim", when in reality she has been the whole time.

People fail to understand she has been attacked by social media for a whole year, for what simply taunting a player?

Yes she talks on the court, yes she has confidence in herself but what's the problem with that?

No matter what anyone says nobody should ever receive death threats or anything in that nature for doing something as simple as taunting on the court, it's disgusting and completely uncalled for.

Social media despises any



"playing the victim"

MICHAEL DELGADO

A photo illustration of Angel Reese getting emotional during her post game press conference after losing to Iowa in the March Madness tournament.

athlete who shows just a little bit of confidence in themselves because they would much rather root for the quiet person who doesn't say anything and just hoops.

When in reality there is absolutely nothing wrong with talking on the court because once again its part of the game!

Over the past couple days again the biggest headline should be Iowa advancing to the Final Four in the March Madness tournament but no.

Since April 1st the biggest talk around social media has been a hate


train towards Angel Reese because LSU lost.

It's sad because it feels like people were waiting for this day to happen, literal human beings more specifically grown ass men praying on a young women's down fall simply so they could talk down about her on social media.

To sum this up a tweet from an account named, 'Stan Ferret' says, "she won a national championship, got a degree, and secured her chosen profession. Let the miserable be miserable, Angel Reese has WON."

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