

## CHINESE CLUB BRINGS KUNG FU TO CAMPUS

Jonathan Diaz  
 Staff Writer

The Chinese Club here at Cerritos hosted a demonstration of Kung Fu in the Dance Studio on April 29, with an attempt to show what real kung fu is really like.

“Many people know kung fu but not the real kung fu,” said Yiran Zhou, associate professor of Chinese, “We really want to promote kung fu culture on campus.”

The start of the demonstration was led by Cerrito’s alumni Timothy Keadhey, who started learning kung fu at 19 years old but it’s not his first martial art.

“I started learning a Brazilian martial art capoeira and used it to audition for the martial art at the University of California Irvine,” Keadhey said, where he also met with another instructor Daniel Mah.

“This summer will be 22 years since I started training,” Mah said.

Both Mah and Keadhey demonstrated many kung fu styles such as the kung fu mantis style which works for close-ranged fighting, dates back to the 16th century and was developed by the outsiders of the Kwangsi province of China, Hakka Chinese.

The Kung Fu demonstration continued with Dr. Garica who started to do tai chi to bring a piece of Chinese culture back home after living in China for 12 years.

“I started in 2007 at the age of 29,” said Dr. Garica, “Something about living in China was that I didn’t know how long I’d be living there... So before I left I wanted to have something about Chinese culture to bring back home.”

Garica demonstrated tai chi, a very popular and ancient style of kung fu that dates back to the T’ang Dynasty

Many people got a taste of how Chinese martial arts work, “Not only are they learning Chinese martial arts but the culture of China and the history,” said Mah.

Many people have their own idea of what Chinese martial arts are but not many people know what real kung fu is, Mah explained.



JONATHAN DIAZ

Kung Fu practitioners, Daniel Mah, Dr. Garcia and Timothy Keadey, teaching their techniques to students, April 29, 2024.

# STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN DIAZ

Humanitarian club set up outside the library with students that attended the event, showing their support for Palestinians, April 30, 2024.

Jonathan Diaz  
 Staff Writer

“We’re not about picking sides, it’s about people getting abused and mistreated,” said president of the Humanitarian Club, Ashely Yim.

In response to the ongoing Israeli and Palestinian conflict, the Humanitarian Club, with the intent to help inform any passing students, hosted a protest near the library, April 30.

“People should hold their own opinion with all the given information,” said Andes Juarez, secretary of the Humanitarian Club.

This is why the Humanitarian Club hosted the protest, not only to show support but also to inform any interested students so that they could form their own final opinion on the issue.

“We educate and take action on any problem that’s affecting human life,” Yim said, “We’re definitely passionate about human issues.”

The Humanitarian Club, which was formed in December 2023, had planned on doing this protest since the start of April, Carlos Vazquez, an inter-club council representative.

The protest went very well with many students showing their support for Palestine in many different ways. Some students held up signs, others waved the flag of Palestine and other students chanted for the liberation of Palestine.

“They were very passionate,” Vazquez said.

## MILITARY BALL HONORS GRADUATING VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

Edward Fernandez  
 Staff Writer

Student veterans from across all branches and their guests met for a night of dinner and dancing during the Spring Military Ball on April 26 in the student center.

Cerritos College president, Dr. Jose Fierro opened festivities, announcing that together with U.S. congresswoman, Michelle Steele, \$1 million was secured to employ student veterans on campus. Employment is found through the school’s new veteran program, the Career Command Center which aims to scale into a nationwide program.

Dr. Fierro stated that student veterans have the work experience, and work ethic, are reliable, and are just plain fun to work with.

Additionally, \$40,000 was raised for the Ben Pendleton Student Veteran Memorial Scholarship.

Juan Bustamante and Damien Garcia, business administration majors; Reimundo Suarez-Tapia, real estate major; Roberto Camberos and Dominique Wooten, administration of justice majors; Luis Jara, psychology major; Allan Sudaria Daus, nursing major; Alexis Pacheco, philosophy major and Noel Rabina, mathematics major were all brought to the stage one-by-



PHOTOS BY EDWARD FERNANDEZ

Attendees of the Military Ball in the student center, April 26, 2024.

one to be celebrated for their upcoming graduation.

Camberos, who deployed to Iraq and Syria as an Army infantryman received a grand total of eight awards ranging from the city of Norwalk level to the congressional level.

“I felt like a celebrity getting recognized,” Camberos said smiling.

Having already started his career as a union electrician, Camberos began his academic career at Cerritos College to build

himself to new heights.

Rabina, who served as an electrician’s mate in the Navy and a power generator specialist and maintenance supervisor in the army Army, said that he was thankful for the support,

“The event was awesome. Being in the military, I’ve been onstage a lot, but it was an honor and a humbling experience meeting so many politicians,” he added.

James Castaneda-Cortes, who was invited to the event noted that

“people don’t recognize veterans enough.”

Ruben Torrez agreed.

“I liked how the veterans got a spotlight tonight,” he said.

Torrez, who served in the Marines as a network administrator and is a member of the student veterans club said that both the club and Cerritos’s Veterans Resource Center are very welcoming organizations. They comprise a small, tight-knit community, yet their impact is immense.

“They like to check up on us,” Torrez said, and for some veterans facing a changed world after having spent years away from home, that can mean the world.

The student veterans club is open to all, veterans, reservists, and individuals with no military experience at all.

Towards the end of the night, attendees swarmed over to the dance floor. Fan favorites such as No Rompas Mi Corazon, the Cha-Cha Slide, and the Cupid Shuffle played with an entire platoon’s worth of people dancing along. Even the culinary arts chefs got in on the action.

Music was provided by Erik Duane, a Marine Corps veteran.

Dr. Fierro thanked the VRC’s partners. The National University, the Downey Kiwanis Club, and the Bellflower Moose Lodge.



# SPRING CARNIVAL BLOOMS FUN AND FESTIVITIES

**Shaniah Campbell**  
Staff Writer

**Ifeoma Utom**  
Co-News Editor

The Student Programming Board successfully hosted the first Cerritos College Spring Carnival fundraising for participating clubs where popcorn, cotton candy, and carnival games ruled right in the center of Falcon Square on April 25.

The festivities started at 3 p.m. and each participating club was stationed at the booths when the crowd rushed in.

Attendees of the carnival were able to enjoy numerous carnival games including face painting, an obstacle course, balloon darts, a fish pond, a ladder crawl and so much more.

The essence of laughter, excitement, cheers, and enjoyment

filled the college campus as guests indulged in their snow cones and cashed in tickets for shiny prizes.

According to Barbara Bispango, Student Programming Board president, this event was one for the books.

“I just want to bring everyone together,” Bispango said, “that’s the point of this and everybody is having so much fun, especially with the prizes.”

Students were able to buy tickets for prizes in case they were too eager to wait in the long lines for the booths and obstacle courses.

Bispango talks about how the purpose of the event was to bring the Falcon community together, hoping to give back to the participating clubs and give students on campus an event that provides them a space to destress for finals.

“It’s a great way for students to meet other students...We’re just giving back to the clubs [and] wanted



PHOTOS BY IFEOMA UTOM

Leaders of ASCC and students at the Spring Carnival April 25, 2024.



IFEOMA UTOM

Students get ready to race during the obstacle course at Spring Carnival April 25, 2024.

to bring everybody together before finals [to] just to destress and have fun!”

Students attending the event enjoyed engaging with other students and taking care of their mental health while also finding a space to enjoy themselves.

“The importance of having events like this on campus is to destress the students. Students may be stressed with things like classes and homework — it’s good to have fun events like this every so often for students to enjoy,” said Volunteer, Alison Gonzalez.

The event ended at 7 p.m., yet guests were still enjoying their evening with music, snacks, and other activities such as the obstacle course with the exception of not wanting the night to end.

With a turnout of approximately 200 attendees, the event was very successful and students overwhelmingly enjoyed their experience at the Spring Carnival.

“I’m very impressed with the turnout of the event. I see students really enjoying themselves and having fun — It’s awesome to see everybody come together,” said Gonzalez.

## FACULTY WINS KICKBALL GAME AGAINST STUDENTS

**Emily Maciel**  
Co-Sports Editor

The employees of Cerritos College were all smiles after an easy 8-4 defeat against the students of the school in a kickball game on April 19.

Director of ICC, Corey Gutierrez, put this event together in hopes of a fun day that included everyone and not just the students.

“It was so I could get everyone involved like not have just students,” Gutierrez said.

The day started at noon and the first 100 people to check in received free food provided by The Steamin’ Burger

Richard Carlos, welding major, said he thought this would be a perfect chance to have some fun while getting to know new people.

The students decided to take the field first to get some practice in and employees followed them after.

Tyler Moran, who works in the Equity Center, received an email and decided to join in on the fun.

She said the best part of



EMILY MACIEL

Employees gathered together raising the trophy after being named winners, April 19, 2024.

the game was, “Meeting everybody and being able to come together and have a good day, have a good game and have fun.”

Around 2 p.m. the teams lined up on the field by their respective dugouts.

The game began and both teams failed to score until the employees got it started in the second inning where they scored six runs.

It wasn’t until the third inning that the student team was able to score four runs.

The employees were able to add a pair of runs to their lead to secure the win over the students.

Theater Arts instructor, Forrest Hartl, said the best moment was hoisting the trophy over the students in victory.

Since the student team had so many players there were a few students who didn’t get to kick, so there was an exhibition round just for fun.

“The best moment was just everyone having fun and catching a few of the balls and scoring two points,” Carlos said.

## 2024 GRAD FAIR



SHANIAH CAMPBELL

LGBTQ+ Program table for Lavender graduation April 23, 2024.

**Shaniah Campbell**  
Staff Writer

**Adrienne Fajardo**  
Staff Writer

The Cerritos College 2024 graduating class gathered in the Student Center on April 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up graduation tickets, take grad photos, and join the alumni association for Grad Fair.

“This is an opportunity for the grads to talk to anyone here with the mini graduations like Undocu leaders and LGBTQ+,” said Justine Santos, who works for student activities on campus.

A decorating station was available for students to participate in decorating their graduation cap.

“I think it’s a great time to celebrate all of these students’ accomplishments while making sure students also know about opportunities and to showcase all of what they have been working towards,” said Counselor of Umoja, Dr. Clara Ross-Jones.

The graduating class received up to 8 guest tickets for the ceremony.

“I feel very appreciated as a grad and it flowed really well,” said Michelle Hawkins, Dental Assisting major.

Any grads who were not able to make it to the grad fair event will have until May 10 to pick up their graduation tickets during office hours from the Student Activities office.

### Upcoming Events:

**Michael Bennett:**  
A Chorus Line

May 3-12  
8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

**Tarot Reading Workshop**

May 13  
2 p.m.

Success Center  
LC 137

**Finals Week**

May 13-17

**Reading Star Charts Workshop**

May 15  
4 p.m.

Success Center  
LC 137

**Commencement Ceremony**

May 17  
6 p.m.

Falcon Stadium

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# DEFYING THE ODDS WITH PIZZA SHOP OWNER PEDRO MARTINEZ

Dillon Laurer  
Staff Writer

“Once you have a goal, you need to work hard to achieve it,” said Pedro Martinez, 42, owner of Pizza USA in Bellflower. He didn’t have an easy road coming to America with not knowing what to expect, let alone owning a business.

Martinez was born in Oaxaca, Mexico where he said times were tough growing up, “We didn’t have a lot of money, Oaxaca is one of the poorer parts of Mexico.” In 2001, when he turned 20 years old he decided that he wanted to migrate to America to try and make more money.

When Martinez arrived in Los Angeles, he had no idea what he wanted to do for work. He barely knew any English and had no work experience in the U.S. One of Martinez’s friends got him a



Pedro Martinez showing off one of his pizza creations in his very own shop, Pizza USA in Bellflower.

job at Tomato Pie, a pizza shop located in Silverlake.

For the first two weeks Martinez said he didn’t like it but soon after, he fell in love with the world of pizza.

Martinez worked at Tomato Pie for six and a half years and that’s when he realized that he wanted to work with pizza.

After a while he started to miss his family and Oaxaca. “It was different moving from Mexico to a big city,” he said. In 2007 he returned home for two years where he met his wife and they had their first child.

During this time Martinez realized that the big city had rubbed off on him and he missed Los Angeles.

In 2009 he returned to the U.S. and Tomato Pie, where his wife and daughter joined him a year later.

In 2017 he got a new job at Purgatory Pizza in Los Angeles. Alex Koons, a delivery driver at Tomato Pie had opened his own shop and Martinez followed, “He was offering me more money and treated me better than the other owner,” Martinez said.

He credits Koons for

elevating his culinary skills and knowledge in the pizza and vegan world.

Martinez was waiting for a chance to open his shop, “To get something you need to invest money, but I didn’t have money, I needed to work hard,” he said.

In 2020 the chance arose for Martinez as Pizza USA was being sold and he jumped on the opportunity.

After buying all of the supplies needed to get it going Martinez said, “I had no money, I thought if I work enough it will work out.”

Martinez had received some help from friend Gustavo Ramos and he opened the doors ready for a great year in February 2020. According to Martinez, that wasn’t the outcome, COVID-19 hit approximately two months later and put him in a bad position.

“It was a tough year, no money, I don’t know how we survived,” Martinez said.

He kept his business going during the tough times working seven days a week for 12 hours a day.

After the business survived through COVID-19, Martinez has been able to keep Pizza USA growing. The menu offers non-vegan as well as vegan options from pizzas, pastas and sandwiches.

Martinez has a new goal in sight and said, “Once this place becomes very steady I want to open a new shop, hard work and perseverance is going to get you there.”

“ It was my dream. I knew I would have my own spot one day, I just didn’t know when.

Pedro Martinez  
Pizza USA owner

## HELLO KITTY & FRIENDS NIGHT MARKET

Laura Bernal  
Staff Writer

Adrienne Fajardo  
Staff Writer



LAURA BERNAL

Guests enjoy lemonade served in Hello Kitty shaped drinkware.

Angel City Market hosted a Hello Kitty Night Market in Downtown Downey on April 25 from 5-9 p.m.

Angel City Market is Los Angeles-based, hosting monthly outdoor pop-up experiences to bring together the community and support small businesses.

Sanrio lovers were invited to a night full of custom Hello Kitty merchandise, themed drinks and special photo ops with Hello Kitty herself.

The market included various vendors from vintage clothing, crochet stuffed animals, trinkets, skin care, jewelry, candles and vinyl records.

Guests were also given a large selection of food and drink options like a hibachi food truck, pupusas, a Belgian fries stand, homemade cheesecakes and cereal-topped coffees.

The market provided small businesses the opportunity to connect with the community and get their business name out there.

Alexandra Alvarez, who has been running her small business, LovexAlex

for three years, said, “I love coming to Downey because this market has definitely opened me up to a new clientele,” Alvarez said, “I’m from the valley so I get to meet new people, new vendors and get the word out about my business.”

Local Bellflower-based business, KaziRokz LLC. sells 100% handcrafted, organic, vegan and cruelty-free skincare that is produced by outsourcing materials from other small businesses.

“This is our second time here at this market and we’re not from Downey so it’s an opportunity for us to introduce what we have to offer to a new community,” said Sheila Jackson, owner of KaziRokz LLC.

People from all over joined together for their love of Hello Kitty.

Julio Ulloa, a Bell Gardens resident, says that he enjoyed the market for the wide range of food options and all of the vendors.

“I tried out a few of the food options, the Belgian fries were good and so was the cheesecake and pizza food truck. I actually really enjoyed being here and making memories with my friends,” Ulloa said.

### FOOD REVIEWS



DULCE CANELLA

★★★★★  
15012 Pioneer Blvd.,  
Norwalk

RUNNING CHICKS

★★★★★  
8855 Apollo Way,  
Downey

ISLAND BODEGA

★★★★★  
11488 South St.,  
Cerritos

THE WIN-DOW

★★★★★  
4600 2nd St., Long  
Beach

SKECHERS FOOD SPOT

★★★★★  
19000 S Vermont  
Ave., Gardena

THAILICIOUS

★★★★★  
18902 Norwalk Blvd.,  
Artesia

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# BEHIND THE WHEEL WITH NOWHERE TO GO OR BE

Edward Fernandez  
Staff Writer

Out of work and options, Kitty Weathers, a student, has been struggling to survive life out of their car for over a year.

The 28-year-old and their dog, Gaia, have called an electric blue car, parked on the outskirts of a Walmart parking lot in Long Beach Towne Center, home.

In their trunk: a DVD player, cutting board, knife, Tupperware, tuna, and season 1 of Charmed. The backseats hold Gaia's food bowls, Gaia's bed, and Kitty's sleeping setup. And in the front seats, "My organized chaos," Kitty joked, "It looks very disorganized, but I know where everything is."

There they keep extra layers, snacks, dog treats, medication, a tablet, and shower gear.

Days consist of taking medication, walking Gaia three to four times a

day, playing mobile games for cash rewards, preparing Gaia's food, listening to podcasts, and grabbing a meal or two for themselves.

A few others call the parking lot their home.

"Walmart lets you sleep in your car," they said, "I used to

do parking lot security at Walmart. Anybody in a car or van without a camper is acceptable."

Generally, Kitty shies away from meeting their neighbors. Many are on drugs, they said.

Of those they have met, most have left in fear of Walmart's repeated purges.

"At one point, they were doing it once a month. The tow truck goes around taking pictures of all the cars. They're like, 'If anybody's still here in an hour then we're towing them.'"

"That's illogical," they argued indignantly, "What about employees and people that're actually shopping?"

Kitty receives \$800 every six weeks from financial aid and \$100 - \$200 a month from their OnlyFans



EDWARD FERNANDEZ  
Kitty Weathers' showing off their limited trunk space in their car with their dog.

account.

In fact, they don't have car insurance and their registration has expired. Problems that could be mitigated if they had access to their college fund.

They claim their parents are withholding financial assistance until Kitty starts to live a more Christian life. Their parents' ace in the hole: Kitty's nine-year-old son, Jasper, for whom they have legal guardianship.

Kitty visits him every weekend.

"Jasper knows; [about Kitty living in their car] he's asked about it. He wants to be with me. He wants me to take him," they said, pain in their voice.

If Kitty had access to that college fund, they say they'd find a place for them and

Jasper.

"I can afford a monthly thing [rent], but I can't afford a deposit and first month. I can put one or the other, not both."

As of now, they're using Walmart's Wi-Fi to complete online courses for their degree and hopes to be a vet someday.

Kitty's plan is to get on disability for mental health issues and multiple other diagnoses. Long Beach Homeless Services came around the parking lot and gave them the information they need to get on the LBHS Section 8 housing list. They just need to verify their homelessness through a social worker.

You can find and help Kitty if you'd like on stonermilf710 on Instagram.

## COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE PRO-PALESTINE PROTESTS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES?

COMPILED BY ANDREW PILANI



LESLIE JUAREZ, ENGLISH MAJOR

"After what happened with USC not letting the valedictorian be the commencement speaker due to wanting speak out...

That just created the spark of fire and I just found that it was wrong and ruined the freedom of speech that America was founded by... There's something wrong with what's going on in Gaza and Palestinians deserve to have a country... I feel like the students should continue to protest because they have the right and the faculty needs to support them. [The faculty] cannot be like, 'We're going to stop graduation,' for example USC, or telling [security] to kick them out; It's morally wrong. I think it's such a good thing to see more younger generation talk about this issue."



EZEKIEL ALVAREZ, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MAJOR

"I'm a Christian, so the Lord tells me to support Israel as a nation... I'm always gonna be for Israel, but about the Palestine protests, I have not [been informed]... And that's probably been my fault because I haven't been too informed about what's going on right now... I should probably look into that more."



MJ IBARRA, COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR

"With everything going on, especially what Israel is doing to them [Palestinians] and especially how college campuses are funding companies that further that, I kind of believe there is reason for protests to be happening on college campuses."

### UPCOMING EVENTS

BBQ WITH SHERIFF'S  
MAY 9 @ ARTESIA PARK  
4 PM



MOTHERS DAY CELEBRATION  
MAY 10 @ AJ PADELFORD PARK  
6 PM - 8 PM



TOUCH A TRUCK  
MAY 18 @ INDEPENDENCE PARK  
10 AM - 1 PM



FARM ANIMALS DAY  
MAY 18 @ 4150 MCGOWEN ST., LONG BEACH, CA,  
11 AM - 7 PM



## BARNYARD BUDDIES BRINGS FAMILY FUN

Emily Maciel  
Co-Sports Editor

More than 40 vendors set up shop at the Creative Babe Market event hosted at Barnyard Buddies in Lakewood on April 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The place was packed with families and friends feeding many animals at the petting zoo and simply taking a stroll down the line of vendors.

As you walk up to the entrance there is a sign-in sheet as well as a section where you can purchase tickets to the pony rides or entry to the petting zoo for \$6 each.

Once you walk into the event you are greeted by many barn animals. Directly to the left of the start of



EMILY MACIEL  
Adults and kids feeding goats as they bend down and jump up to reach them.



EMILY MACIEL  
Vendors at the Creative Babe Market showing off their products to a few customers under umbrellas and canopies.

tables was a business called Pupper Squares hosted by Kenneth Chan and Janice Hui. They sell dog treats unlike any others including dog-safe sushi and s'mores.

The business is a little over a year old and thriving as Chan said, "We've seen a lot of good loyalty from our customers too, they always come back and buy more."

"You can't really find it anywhere else," Chan said, "We make unique and fun dog treats."

Towards the middle of the market was the small business La Tiendita de

Keni by owner Kenia Soto who was selling Mexican-inspired candles and other items.

Soto, like many others during the time of COVID-19, started looking into the craft of candle making and her work took off from there.

Her candles take about 10 days to make and she acquires the food-safe ollas from Guadalajara, Mexico.

"I feel like it's more modern [the olla candles], now we're forgetting our culture and I feel like I'm bringing it back," Soto said, "We don't cook with it [ollas] and I feel like that's incorporating it without using it like we used to."

On the other side of the market was the sister-in-law duo of Sarah Torres and Marissa Torres, creators of small business, Simply Bloomin'.

Their business involves books and succulents, it's fairly new since they just started it up this year.

Sarah Torres said, "We just kind of always loved books and we found that there's not too many good bookstores around here so we need more."

"You really have to just go with the genre or the hints that we give," Marissa Torres said, "It's the whole premise of not judge a book by its cover."

# ART GALLERY AWARD NIGHT

# ARTS



PHOTOS BY SHANIAH CAMPBELL AND IFEOMA UTMOM

Photos from the Art and Design Department award show that showcases the award recipients and John J. DeMott's family who were guest speakers to honor DeMott.

### UPCOMING MOVIES



IN THEATERS MAY 17



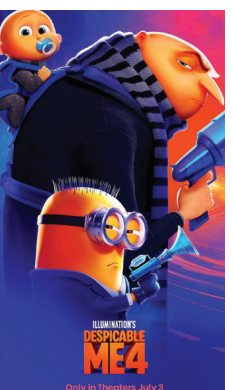
IN THEATERS MAY 24




IN THEATERS JUNE 7



IN THEATERS JUNE 21



IN THEATERS JULY 3




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Shaniah Campbell  
Staff Writer

Ifeoma Utom  
Co-News Editor

The Art and Design Department held its very own annual awards ceremony on April 25 where students received over \$7,000 in awards and scholarships for their art including the John J. DeMott award after the John J. DeMott lobby dedication.

In a separate ceremony held prior to the award ceremony in the front entrance of the Fine Arts building, the waiting lobby was dedicated to former Cerritos College student and artist John J. DeMott.

In attendance at the dedication and awards ceremony was DeMott's family, who has been providing scholarships for art students for over the past 32 years after the passing of DeMott.

The awards ceremony started at 5 p.m. in which each department of the arts gave awards from third to first to the artists that were selected.

"For a lot of these students this is their last major event that happens, besides graduation... so this is an opportunity to highlight their training and their creativity." James MacDevitt, director of art gallery, said. [Art] is a form of expression, it's like a hobby... you don't have to have an artistic skill...its something that can't be replicated... so when it comes to art it is a form of individuality."

The event concluded at 7 p.m. after the John J. DeMott awards were given out to the recipients.



IFEOMA UTMOM

The DeMott Family watching the award show.

# THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY

Tensions continue to rise across the United States as university students set up Gaza solidarity encampments and call for the schools to "divest all economic and academic stakes in Israel."

There would be no universities without the students who attend them and it is shameful that these institutions continue to side against them. This decision will no doubt haunt them and affect not only their reputation, but will play a major factor when incoming students make their final acceptance decisions.

On April 17, Columbia University students began their Gaza solidarity encampment.

Numerous universities across the U.S. and the world are now joining the movement and beginning their own encampments, many giving themselves the title of "The People's University."

Students have highlighted the fact that there are no remaining universities in Gaza, which has made them face the reality that having an access to education is a privilege.

While students protest for their schools to divest from supporting a genocide, they are forced to



MOISES LOPEZ

University students will continue to fight for Palestine.

fight suppression from their own universities.

Few schools have chosen to listen to their students, quickly resulting in an end to the encampments and protests.

However, most schools have chosen to ignore their students' demands and paint them as violent and disruptive.

The reality is quite the opposite. Instead of applauding their students for standing up for what they

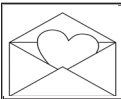
believe in, encouraging them to use their First Amendment rights and protecting them from physical harm, these universities have turned their backs on them, condemned them and called the local police departments – who historically incite violence at peaceful protests – to remove them from the campus.

This resulted in violence against students and faculty and numerous injuries from being thrown down .

What does it say about these universities whose purpose is supposed to be environments for higher learning and open and diverse conversations?

These universities will be remembered as being on the wrong side of history. By refusing to divest, they have blood on their hands.

Our universities and schools are supposed to be settings for open conversations and diverse values. Do not let university administrators silence you. These protests have been seen around the world and have inspired many to start. Palestinians have said the protests are giving them hope. Continue to fight, continue to protest, your voice makes a difference.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcome. They may be submitted both online and in person. In all cases, letters must be signed with real names before they will be considered for publication, 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 245 or contact the editor by e-mail at editor@talonmarks.com

## STOP BROWN ON BROWN HATE

Moises Lopez  
Cartoonist

The conversation of so-called Diaspora wars and inter-ethnic conflicts are an ongoing and prevalent heated topic these days, but calls for unity can be a hot button issue for Latino who are fixed on a label that meets their contrived identity.

As a Latino and Mexican, I see these arguments from many different sides culturally and feel that Latinos aren't alone in these inner conflicts.

Many, however, miss the more sobering perspective that isn't steeped or rooted in any kind of political cultural or international aspect of the intersectional diaspora conversation, but more of the inherent homeland motherland/fatherland dynamic of the Latino's identity.

Most Latinos in general don't recognize themselves as Latino in South America. In South America the Latino prides himself under the label

of his home country more so than that of a unified continent.

A Brazilian is simply from Brazil and speaks Portuguese.

In Argentina, the Argentine prides himself as Argentine, but there's also the case that Argentine people are heavily populated by Germanic folk who escaped the Nuremberg Trials of WWII fled to Argentina and now speak German.

Other South American countries have different dialects of the Catalan Spanish in their native countries and are mixed with their own native language. Catalan Spanish being the more proper Spanish language from Spain that was brought here by Colonization and the Inquisition.

Calling for unity is somewhat of an impossibility for a continent with such overwhelming differences. These countries go to war with each other on soccer fields and relish in their rival's defeat. They accentuate their differences, and have somewhat of a



MOISES LOPEZ

Brown on brown hate has become more prominent within our society.

national pride in the form of a soccer hooligan mentality and consider it an affinity when speaking about their homeland which in Spanish is called "Patria."

I like this disconnected method of thinking to the villainous Borg in Star

Trek trying to assimilate anyone and everyone who show signs of being a threat to their hive collective. In that Sci Fi reality the Borg only view people of note to be a threat or hazard to them and ignore anyone too weak or inferior to be worth assimilating.

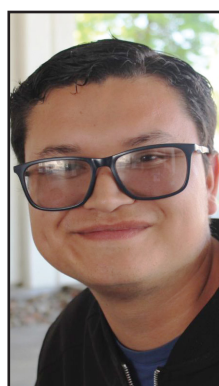
### WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ELEVATORS ON CAMPUS?

Compiled by Andrew Pilani



**Denise Peaslee**  
Assistant coach for women's swimming and water polo

"Well, I've only used one elevator over here [the kinesiology building] and it usually smells gross. It wasn't working for a long period of time which was kind of unfortunate..."



**Corey Gutierrez**  
Communications major

"I think we should have maybe two, cause I know if you're going up or you're going down and then there's only one elevator, like it's real hard to go up right away so you run late to class or you run late to go to your other class."



**Richard Carlos**  
Welding major

"On the few that I have gone on, they're honestly pretty slow... Most of them, I think, are pretty good and I think they should just add more... There are some students who need it more than more than others so I just say bring more."

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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Editors

Editor in Chief  
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Managing Editor  
Joel Carpio

Co-News Editor  
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Co-News Editor  
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OPINION

# OAKLAND FALLS VICTIM TO LAS VEGAS ONCE AGAIN

Jonathan Diaz  
Staff Writer

The Oakland A's are facing a similar fate like former Oakland based teams after the city and the A's failed to reach any type of agreement in a meeting for a new stadium.

This comes after the Golden State Warriors moved to Chase Center in San Francisco in 2019 and the Raiders moved to Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas in 2020 with the A's being the towns only sports team.

Fans are rightfully angry with A's owner John Fisher calling him cheap for not wanting to pay for the team's new stadium alone, despite the fact being worth three billion dollars putting him in the top 10 richest owners in the MLB.

The fans of the Oakland A's had enough with Fisher's cheapness that they came together in protest in hopes that he would sell the team.

During the summer of 2023 the fans hosted a reverse protest by filling up the Oakland Coliseum and protesting by wearing green "sell" shirts, cheering and even staying away after the games ended to throw trash into the field.



JONATHAN DIAZ

The city of Oakland in the distance with the Athletics logo faded in front of it to depict a crumbling franchise.

Fast forward to opening day for the A's where over 13,000 fans protested by organizing a block party outside the stadium.

The block party was organized by Oakland 68 who are die hard fans who

usually sit in right field bleachers.

The Last Dive Bar, an apparel company that focuses on the history of the Oakland Coliseum, was also hosting the block party in the parking lot.

The apparel company sold many

clothing items in support of the protest including shirts, hoodies and even bracelets.

However the bracelets have gotten an A's player in trouble. The Oakland Athletics sent Esteury Ruiz to the minor leagues despite starting the season hot and coming off an amazing rookie year.

Ruiz led the league with 72 hits, 20 doubles and 10 triples, so it was a big surprise when he went down to the minor leagues despite being one of the A's best players.

However it's now been confirmed that 2024 will be the A's last season in Oakland with the team traveling an hour and a half to West Sacramento until 2027 where they're moving to Las Vegas being the second Oakland based team moving to Vegas alongside the Raiders.

Since settling in Oakland in 1968 and having success in the town, it looked like The A's would never move away from Oakland, but sadly that is not the reality to the situation anymore.

PHOTOS BY JOEL CARPIO, EMILY MACIEL AND CERRITOS ATHLETICS

## SPRING STAR ATHLETES



**DEREK VALDEZ**

Freshman pitcher  
12-1 record  
5 complete games  
South Coast  
Conference pitcher  
of the year



**JAZMINE MACIAS**

Sophomore outfielder  
Broke stolen base  
record from 2008,  
currently sitting at 50  
.434 BA, 4 HR, 30 RBI



**ANDREA VILLALTA**

Sophomore 400,  
800, javelin throw  
Took first place in  
javelin throw at Socal  
Prelims, will advance to  
Socal Finals

# SPORTS

### UPCOMING GAMES

SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS  
5/10 AT 2 P.M.



5/11 AT NOON



If a game three  
is needed it will be  
played at Fullerton on  
5/11 at 2 p.m.

# Congratulations Journalism Graduates of 2024!

*Joel Carpio*

*Edward Fernandez*

*Benjamin Garcia Jr.*

*Emanuel Guadarrama*

*Dillon Laurer*



*Emily Maciel*

*Alfredo Menjivar*

*Randy Tejada*

*Ifeoma Utom*

*Robert Yeutter*

UTILIZING THE FIRST AMENDMENT SINCE 1956

# TALON MARKS

# FALCONS MOVING ON



Joel Carpio  
Managing Editor

The Falcons are moving on to the next round of the playoffs as they swept and eliminated the College of Desert Roadrunners 4-1 on May 4.

This is Cerritos College's first playoff baseball win since the Falcons beat Grossmont 5-3 back in 2016 and their first playoff series win since 2011.

College of the Desert struggled with locating their pitches as they gave up nine total walks to Cerritos.

A rocky start wasn't how Cerritos starting pitcher, Franky Lopez wanted the game to start but he found himself in a jam early on.

With the bases loaded in the bottom of the first with only one out the home crowd felt the tension as they turned quiet quickly.

Lopez rallied and was pumped after getting a flyout and a strikeout looking to get out of the jam unscathed as the home crowd got right back into the game cheering and yelling.

This was Lopez's first playoff appearance but he said pressure wasn't even a thought in his mind coming into the game.

He went on to explain what got him through the bottom of the first that let him escape the inning with no damage.

"Honestly it was just building that confidence cause I lost a bit of confidence, I took a deep breath and looked at the team I got, how great they are defensively," Lopez said, "Once I got that second out I knew it was game over from there and that's all I needed."

Lopez would go on to pitch eight innings giving up no earned runs and it was smooth sailing for Cerritos once they took the lead because they never looked back.

Almost every inning the Falcons had men on base and a chance to tack on more runs but the hits

weren't exactly timely as Cerritos only scored one run on a hit.

Things went quiet and the game sped up after the fifth inning because no runs came across home plate.

Falcons relief pitcher, Calix Armijo came in to relieve Lopez and finish the sweep to advance Cerritos into the next rounds of the playoffs.

Despite being out-hit by the Roadrunners the Falcons' patience at the plate proved to be pivotal as the walks played a big role in them getting four runs.

Head coach, Nate Fernley talks about how they took advantage of the walks that were given to them and how passing the baton with walks helped them obtain the win.

"Those two guys throw pretty hard [Roadrunner pitchers, Trevor Stowe and Dylan Van Meeteren] the plan was to be patient because those guys can get a little wild and you're not gonna get tons of hits off guys like that," Fernley said, "I think they did a really good job at just being patient, working pitch count,

getting the bunts, getting on base and finding a way to win."

Cerritos outplayed the Roadrunners defensively and College of the Desert head coach, Sam DiMatteo, iterated how he felt Cerritos just outdid them on defense.

"Defensively that was one of the better defensive teams [Cerritos] that we've come across, when you put that type of pitching together with that type of defense it's very very hard to score runs and you can't give them anything for free," DiMatteo said.

DiMatteo went on to give Fernley kudos for a well-put-together team on Fernley's first year as coach of Cerritos.

"My hats off to them and Nate [Fernley] for a phenomenal team he put together, especially for year one," DiMatteo said, "You just have to give credit where credit is due, they're a good baseball team."

Cerritos continues to play in the next round of the playoffs at home on May 9.



JOEL CARPIO

Photos of different plays and emotions from the series winning game against the College of the Desert Roadrunners for the Falcons on May 4.

## WOMEN'S WRESTLING WIN BACK-TO-BACK AT STATE



Emily Maciel  
Co-Sports Editor

The Cerritos College women's wrestling team has come off back-to-back state championship titles led by head coach, Dustin Kirk, who has been named coach of the year for the second consecutive year.

The women's program is fairly new as it has only been alive for two seasons but it has had great success.

Cerritos came in first place at the 3C2A State Championships held at Sacramento City College leading by almost 50 team points on April 20.

12 people on the team placed at the tournament. Three wrestlers became state champions.

Sophomore 180-pounder, Nile Jernigan, has become the first woman two-time state champion for Cerritos and she explained how she remained humble despite previous success.

She said, "I treated this whole season at zero. I didn't think about last year's wins, struggles, mindset nor state championship. Everything was a reset for me."

Jernigan talked about focusing more on having fun this time around than last season because it boosted her confidence.

She said she can continue to get better every day and there is still work to be done.

"This year's state championship was just to show the four-year schools that I'm Nile Jernigan and I'm here to show y'all what's coming for y'all," she said.

Jernigan then explained how the coaching staff played a huge role in her success.

"There was a down point this year where I was second guessing myself in continuing this sport," she said, "With the help of our head coach Dustin Kirk I was able to regain my love for



CHRIS MORA

The Cerritos College women's wrestling team proudly holding up a one and the State Championship banner after claiming the title for the second consecutive season.

wrestling and win all the way through."

Sophomore 160-pounder, Natalie Resendiz, is another one of the three individual state champions this season after coming in at fourth place last year.

She talked about what it took to get to first place and said, "During the offseason that was my ultimate goal. I made sure I got extra practice when I had the time and made more of an effort considering I couldn't accomplish what I wanted to the first season."

Cerritos was just starting to build their women's team when she thought

about joining the Falcons women's wrestling team and she explained how they only had a handful of girls but enough for them to have their own women's practice.

Resendiz said she was excited yet hesitant because she would be commuting but after talking to teammates and Kirk she decided to join the team.

"I had met one of the girls prior to joining and she talked about how much she enjoyed wrestling there and for coach Dustin. Hearing that made my decision to wrestle at Cerritos a lot easier," said Resendiz.



PHOTO BY DARYL PETERSON

# SPORTS

## SCORES

BASEBALL 4/25

0

8

4/26

5

3

5/3

0

7

5/4

4

1

SOFTBALL 4/25

4

10

5/3

9

8

5/4

8

1