

EXTRA!

The possibility of another raise in tuition prices sparks outrage among Cerritos College students, leads to protest.

TALON MARKS

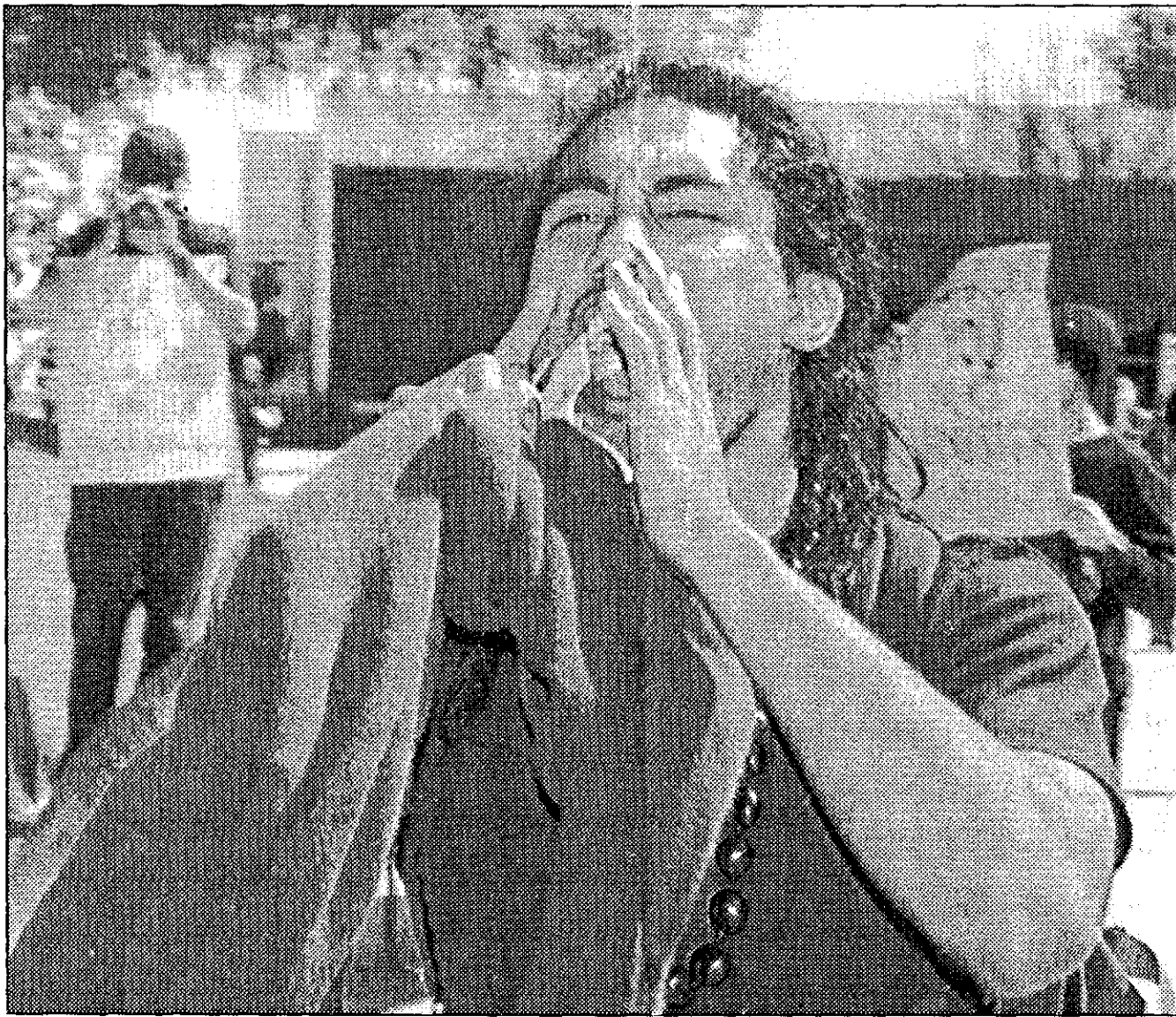
CERRITOS COLLEGE

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Protesting out loud



RYAN EDQUIST/1M

Scream: Simau Tuiali'i, Pacific Island studies major, rallies protest on current financial events that affect students throughout California.

A.I.D.E. members hold 'Die-In' to protest public school system budget cuts

ERICK GALINDO
Editor-in-chief
editor@talonmarks.com

Dead bodies blocked the path through Falcon Square Tuesday.

On behalf of Action in Defense of Education, Cerritos College student organizations, including M.E.Ch.A. and FMLA, held a Die-In.

At the count of 10, members of A.I.D.E. fell to the ground and lay still for 10 minutes, defying police and the blazing sun.

"It's ok, but you need to get these people off the middle and move them to the side," Angel Castillo, Cerritos College police officer, said to Marcela Sadler, peace and conflict major, who stood holding a sign.

According to Simau Tuiali'i the Die-In is supposed to symbolize the death of education in California, as reflected by the current fee increases from \$11 to \$26, and by future

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Protest bothers some, not others

DAVID GOMEZ
News Editor
news@talonmarks.com

Student protesters echoed the words of singer Bob Marley's song titled, "Get Up, Stand Up," as they protested about tuition increases Tuesday.

Campus Police arrived less than 10 minutes later, and the protesters were asked not to block

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FMLA ousts Fitness booth

FMLA student files sexual harassment claim against L.A. Fitness vendor

DIONA CARILLO
Opinion Editor
opinion@talonmarks.com

L.A. Fitness was surprised with a harassment complaint from the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance club and kicked off campus Thursday afternoon.

Many companies have a permit to come on campus to promote, sell and advertise their product, but that's not all they are doing.

While students who attend Cerritos College are assumed to receive much respect from these companies, FMLA can beg to differ.

While tending to their rape awareness presentation in Falcon Square, one of the women in the club was greeted by an employee of L.A. Fitness.

"I called a lady 'little miss lady' and those ladies here (FMLA) got upset. All eight of them were laughing and yelling at me," said Marcus Thomas, L.A. Fitness employee.

Franklin Martin, another L.A. Fitness employee, stated that FMLA started the argument while they just kept quiet.

Martin added that it

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Higher fees, fewer students



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Most students who enroll in a community college do so with the intentions of transferring to a four-year university, such as a Cal State or a University of California, but that may become more difficult in the coming year.

California legislature has made cuts to the public school system in the past.

That resulted in an increase in tuition fees for all college students.

Tuition for community colleges went up from \$11 in 2002 to \$18 in 2003 to \$26 in 2004.

Although the cost of tuition at community colleges is still significantly lower than four-year universities, when the price of a two-year school rises so does the price of a four-year school.

This is terrible news for students who wish to transfer in the near future.

As if those cuts weren't enough, the state is proposing more cuts to the public school system.

This would hike up the price of tuition, cut funding for financial aid, force schools to eliminate programs and reduce the amount of classes offered.

The previous cuts have already forced some Cal State



KRT

and UC campuses to turn students away in the spring in order to keep the cost down.

But as the cost goes up, the eligibility standards for financial aid remain the same, so those who were ineligible before are still not eligible.

Not all students get financial aid, and not all students are approved for the Board of Governors fee waiver, and they

are the ones who are affected the most.

Students who must pay for tuition end up having very little money left to pay for their overpriced textbooks, so some of them end up going through the semester figuring out how to study without having a book of their own.

In order to have a democracy that works, the nation must

have an educated public, but how can that happen if the public cannot afford to go to school?

The rising prices will force some students to postpone getting a higher education, indefinitely.

If knowledge is power and power is everything, then every American has the opportunity to have it all and be equal.

In this case, widening the gap between what students can afford and the actual cost of tuition is a slap in the face of equality, equivalent to the days when it was illegal to teach colored people to read.

Education is a right and should, therefore, be accessible to all, not just to those privileged enough to be able to afford it.

So, if our government can find money to give the rich a tax relief, and if it can find money to fight a war, then it can definitely find money for public schools.

Students need to make their voices heard and make sure that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger gets the message.

Write to the State government and protest the changes; your education depends on it.



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 AC 42 or contact the editor by e-mail at editor@talonmarks.com

FREE SPEECH ZONE?!

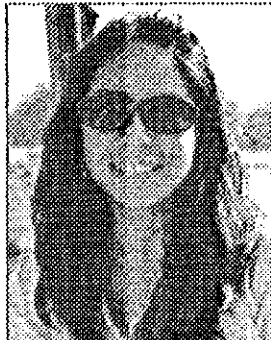
How do you feel about the possibility of a tuition increase?

COMPILED BY: DIONA CARRILLO
PHOTOS BY: SUNEM RIVAS AND WERNER GOMEZ



"It just scares me, because sometimes I have to pay it out of my own pocket."

JAMIE SALAS
psychology major



"I think it's negative. We're here to get an education and not the price. Give us a chance to an education."

KARLA CHAVEZ
criminal law major



"I think if it goes up really high a lot of people won't be going to college because they won't afford it."

REBECCA GODINEZ
sports medicine major



"Noooooo to Tuition increase!"

KEVIN BANKS
undecided major

NEWS

PROTEST: 'Dead' bodies line pathways of Falcon Square

Continued from page 1

hikes and budget cuts.

The bodies remained motionless, with the exception of M.E.Ch.A. member, Bardo Martinez, Latin American studies major, who stood up and spoke to Castillo.

Castillo again reiterated that they should move to the side, but Martinez explained that there were only two minutes left.

The demonstration began with Tuiali'i imitating a siren as he passed through the tables set up outside the library for the Transfer Center's College Fair.

If the siren didn't catch the attention of the many onlookers, then the chants of "No more budget cuts!" must have, as the group quickly gained an audience.

"I was just wondering what was going on," Marco



CHRISTOPHER OLIVARES/TM

Bodies: Members of A.I.D.E. lie down in protest. Their mock dead bodies symbolize the death of education.

Lopez, art history major, said.

"Everyone has an opinion...but I don't have one either way. I don't know what they are talking about."

Some students did have

an opinion however.

"This is very rude...I want to get through," Giuliano Depieria, political science major, said.

He did however agree with the tactics taken.

"At least they are using

their freedom of speech and they are not getting violent, because that is when these things get out of hand."

Despite any disagreements Tuiali'i felt the demonstration went well.

"We just wanted to raise

awareness and we made an impact," he said.

Sadler agreed, "We stopped the normal business."

However, even consenters doubted the impact.

"It's good," said Laura Lopez, broadcast major, "they should take it out to the streets so that people know what's going on."

Business major Luis Villa felt a different approach altogether would be more effective.

"I agree with what they are fighting for, but they need to be more realistic."

"They should meet with the Board of Education."

Tuiali'i felt that even if they didn't make a very big impact they were preparing for an even bigger action.

"This is just to get the word out for the statewide walkout on April 20."

"We are not alone," said Martinez, "the same thing is happening at Cal State Long Beach, UC San Diego and everywhere throughout the state."

"Education is not a privilege, it is a right."

FITNESS: L.A. Fitness gets kicked off campus

Continued from page 1

seemed as though FMLA were telling them they didn't have free speech.

Officer Angel Castillo drove to Falcon Square to revoke L.A. Fitness' permit for the rest of this semester and for the summer, and ordered the employees to exit the campus after receiving

a harassment complaint against L.A. Fitness over his dispatch.

Thomas also mentioned that the FMLA women were saying that they just wanted to be able to walk down the street without having some guy tell them something.

Thomas replied by say-

ing he wasn't doing anything, and that he just wanted to say hello.

This was not the first time L.A. Fitness received student complaints.

Last semester they also had problems when they were calling students on campus fat, Castillo said.

VIEWS: Protest causes mixed reactions

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the sidewalk located in front of Falcon Square.

"You'd think these people would learn their lesson," stated Campus Police Officer Angel Castillo.

Castillo said that although the protesters have the right to protest, they have to follow the law.

"Do I have to paint a picture with a crayon?" Castillo asked. "Is it blatant disrespect, or are these people just pushing to see what happens?"

Others, who were also in the vicinity, didn't share the same view.

James Bell, a recruiter from Springfield College attending the College Fair sponsored by the Transfer Center, felt it was not a disruption, but rather encouraged the students' vocalization of their beliefs.

For a more complete story visit www.talonmarks.com.

Rape victims 'air out laundry'

DIONA CARRILLO
Opinion Editor
opinion@talonmarks.com

"She spoke and it stopped," "Survivors rule," "Stop the violence," "I will not be silent," "I didn't deserve it" and "I am strong" were some of the messages printed on T-shirts displayed on a clothesline in Falcon Square Thursday.

The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, in conjunction with the Sexual Assault Crisis Agency of Long Beach, exposed awareness about rape and violence against women by accepting donations of T-shirts with messages of female victims of violence or rape, and by people who know victims of violence or rape.

Evelin Barragan, S.A.C.A.

prevention education, said, FMLA contacted her to have the presentation.

"The clotheslines project represents women who are 'airing out their dirty laundry' by breaking the silence of women who are victims of violence and rape," Barragan added.

"Students can donate a shirt and print a message on it to share," Aubrey Simons-Araya, FMLA president, said.

The goal of the project is to provide a safe way for women to speak out about abuse and to educate the community about violence against women.

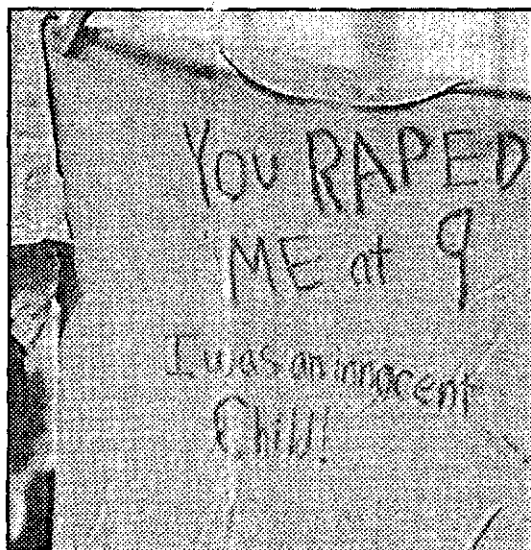
"It is a good way to promote awareness, because it keeps people here to read the shirts and be aware," Esmeralda Laveaga, criminal

justice major, said.

Chris Sequeira, automotive major, said that he believes it gives people who have not been through such trauma a sense of empathy for the victims.

"It's shocking," Danita Kurtz, coordinator of the International students program, said, "because someone out there had to endure this kind of pain."

James Lopez, biology major, said, "It gets me angry, because nobody should have to go through this. It caught my attention because it is straight forward."



WERNER GOMEZ/TM

Shocking: T-shirts with writing such as this one were on display last Thursday during a demonstration.

