

Tips to help you go green

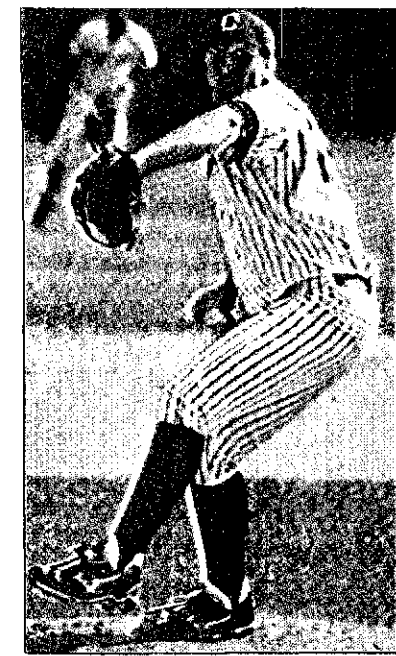
See News page 5

Where is the student leadership?

See Opinion page 6

Baseball team wins four straight

See Sports page 8



Talon Marks

Cerritos College

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WEDNESDAY April 22, 2009

WWW.TALONMARKS.COM

First issue free, additional copies \$1

Volume 53, No. 19

Two arrested in financial aid scam

RICK GOMEZ
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Cerritos College campus police is investigating a financial aid scam involving 30 to 40 people and \$200,000, according to director of Public Affairs Mark Wallace.

Two students, Ronald Dennis Clark, 37, of Long Beach and Shanay Bobbie Beacham, 27, of Hawthorne, were arrested for identity theft and financial aid fraud at Cerritos College so far.

Both were charged with criminal conspiracy, burglary, forgery and grand theft. Clark obtained \$4,556 and Beacham re-

ceived \$13,000 from the scam.

Bill Farmer, president of Cerritos College, said he is deeply disappointed at the situation.

Although there are 30 to 40 names involved, Farmer remains optimistic. "We have to assume that people are innocent before proven guilty."

Wallace said campus police has been investigating the case for two months now.

There were a series of events that led to the big investigation.

"It began when a member of the public arrived at campus police claiming identity theft."

"(The member) was trying to buy a

house and noticed there was a school loan on her credit report," Wallace said.

One month after the complaint and a month into the investigation, campus police was able to find Clark and Beacham.

Campus police was not available for comment due to the ongoing investigation.

Students benefit with money

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The Financial Aid Office for Cerritos has put together a newsletter in hopes to make more students aware of the financial opportunities that are available to them.

A handful of co-workers from the financial aid office that includes Jamie Quiroz, Adriana Leguizmon, Juan Carrillo, Veronica Castro, and Gustavo Romero are responsible for a new newsletter being distributed each quarter or every three months.

At the beginning of April the first issue of the newsletter was printed tackling financial topics from scholarships, a calendar for, statistics, and Website information.

Financial Aid Specialist Quiroz said, "A lot of students are misinformed; when students think of financial aid they think loans."

"They aren't aware that there is money out there that they don't have to pay back."

In a recent e-mail Quiroz received she was informed that there are a total of 23,183 students enrolled for Spring '09 at Cerritos College, 10,332 are receiving some form of aid for aid year 2009.

This means that 44.57% of the total numbers of students are receiving some sort of financial aid.

Students like Isabel Gomez, a nursing major, likes the fact that there is a source being distributed on campus that helps explain where students can get money to pay for school.

FAFSA, short for Free Application for Federal Student Aid is a government funded grant. Depending on your financial situation you could be getting money that does not have to be paid back.

"There are so many myths about financial aid that we want to put to rest. I want to encourage all students to apply for FAFSA; there is free money out there for students if they would just apply," Quiroz said.

This information will also be available on-line. Look up cerritos.edu/finaid and click on the newsletter tab for a quicker and sometimes more accessible version of the newsletter.



Brian Kochems



Tiffany La Shawn Woolfolk



Felipe Grimaldo



Rosa Castaneda



Oscar Franco

TAIYA RICHARDSON
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The fate of Cerritos College lies in the hands of its students this Wednesday and Thursday.

Elections for ASCC president and vice president, as well as student trustee, will be held during these two days from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Whether it may have been due to petitions turned in late or candidates not obtaining enough signatures from student supporters, there is only candidate officially

in the running for ASCC President and one candidate in the running for ASCC Vice President.

Oscar Franco and Rosa Castaneda are the only candidates running for ASCC president and vice president.

The candidates for Student Trustee are: Brian Kochems, Tiffany La Shawn Woolfolk, Felipe Grimaldo and Rosa Castaneda.

Franco hopes to win the presidency so that he may assume his responsibilities as ASCC President and provide the students of Cerritos College with more opportuni-

ties such as scholarships.

"I want to be able to provide students with more academic opportunities and be able to give back to Cerritos College in gratitude of what it has done for me," said Franco.

Castaneda is in the running for not only vice president, but also student trustee.

She is involved with the Scholar's Honors Program amongst other clubs and government positions.

"I want to be the voice of the students of Cerritos College," she said, "the opinions presented at the Board of Trustees meetings by me will voice out and benefit the inter-

ests of students."

All the candidates know the responsibilities that come with each title and how time consuming fulfilling the required duties will be.

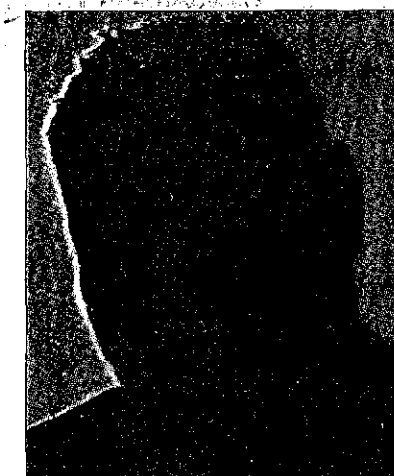
Grimaldo is more than willing to spend his time attending the Board of Trustees meeting as a representative for the students of Cerritos College.

The former marine has learned what it is like to be entrusted administrative responsibilities and also hopes to be given the honor to represent Cerritos College as the Student Trustee.

See ELECTIONS page 3

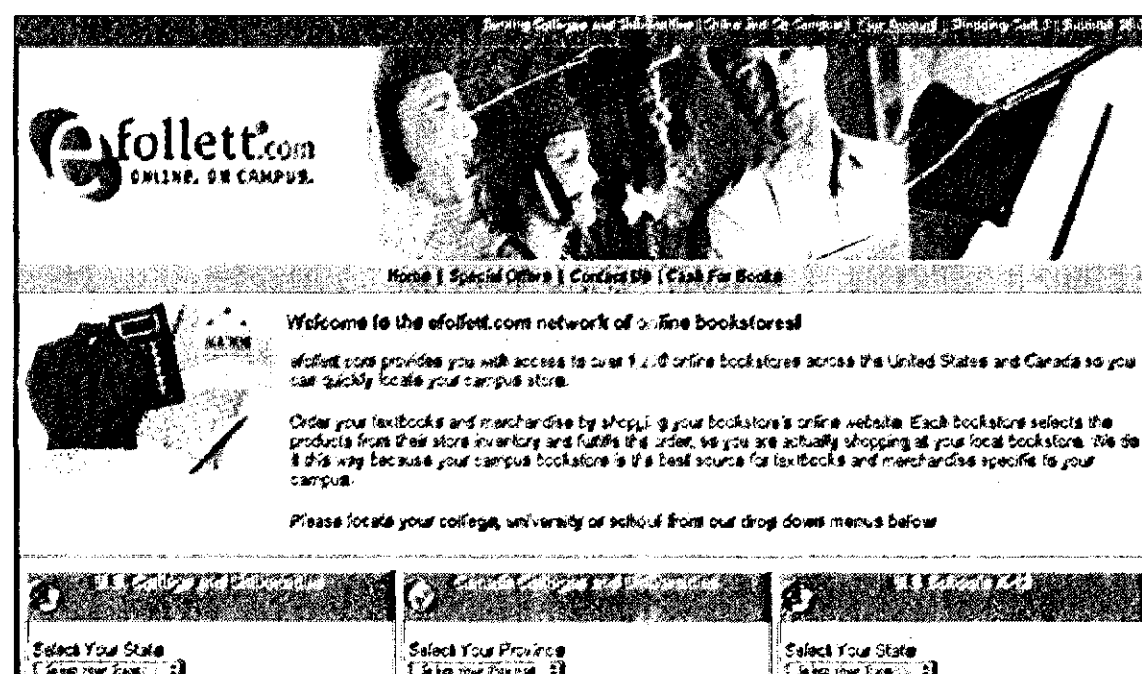
Elections

ASCC trustee, president election to be held Wednesday, Thursday



A student of your choice

Bookstore to offer books online during summer



DAISY GARCIA
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Summer sessions are just around the corner starting May 26.

It would probably be a good time to buy books.

Cerritos College has a convenient way to buy books online for students at its Web site.

At www.cerritos.edu/bkstr.com, according to the bookstore manager, Paul Flovick, students can just go one the school Web site to purchase textbooks directly from the school.

"We had it for the entire eight years we have been here. You can process the order to our store; we can either ship it out to the address or the student can

just pick it up directly from the store," Flovick states.

A student can simply just order the textbooks online, show an ID, and pick up the books at the store; thus, saving time.

"I'd rather them ship to my house since I live far away," says Andrew Salcido, undecided major.

"It's nice to know the option is there for students," shared Eddie Smith, anthropology major.

This is good way for students to save time from the long lines in the beginning of the semester.

"The more students buy books online, the shorter the lines will be during rush week," Flovick says.

ASCC to give \$500

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Cerritos College is offering \$500 iFALCON scholarships to two or three students who have excelled academically.

Applications for the scholarship are made available at the Student Activities Office and the deadline for the submission of the application is next Tuesday.

The iFALCON scholarship recognizes outstanding students who have used some of the habits of mind to exceed in their academic and personal life.

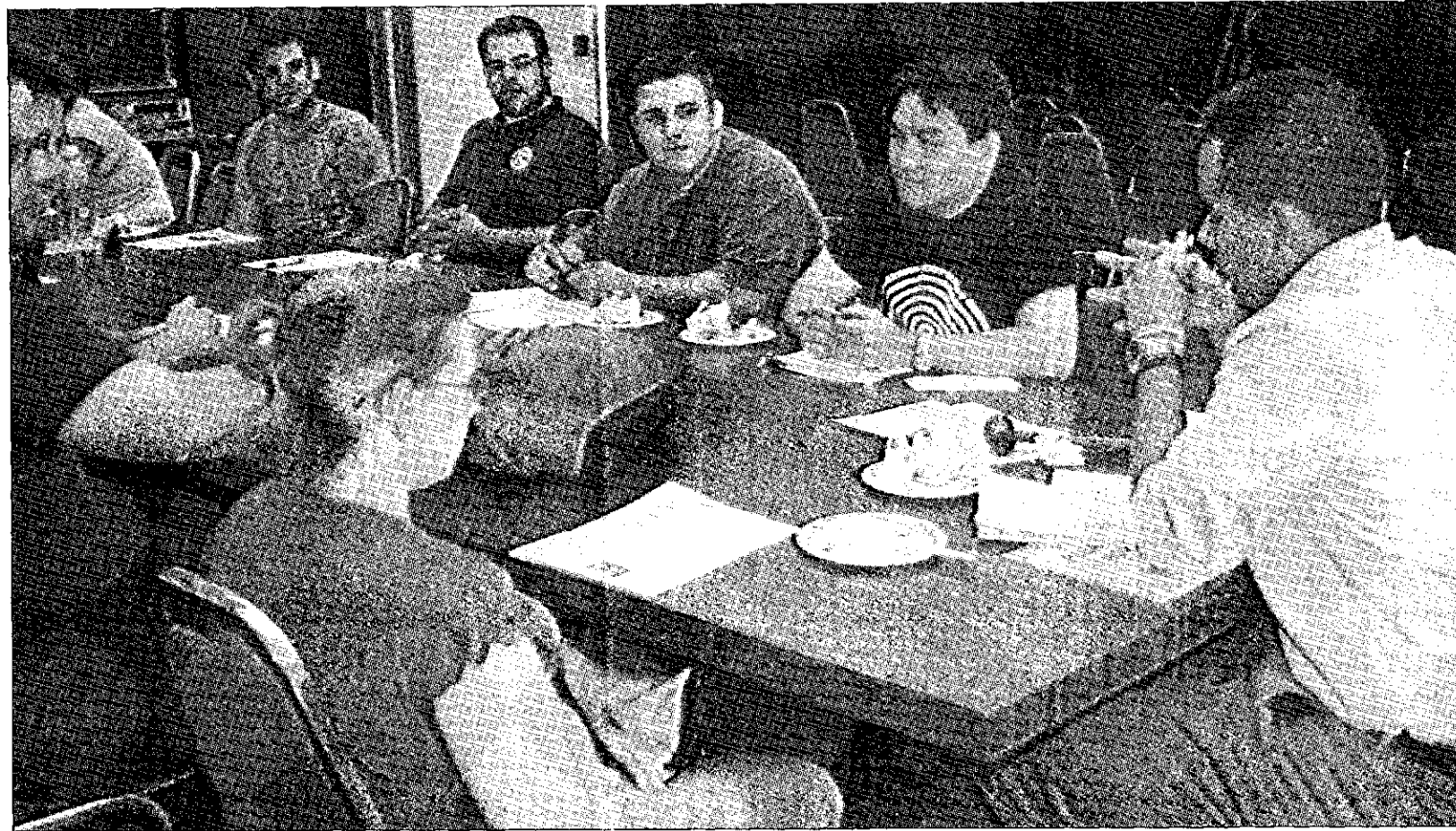
"It obviously promotes the iFALCON campaign and it's a good way to honor students who work hard," Rachel Samarin, scholarship relation specialist, said.

Samarin also added that it's a great idea to get students involved.

Although all students are encouraged to apply, there is a certain criteria that has to be met prior to submission.

The criteria is:

- Must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher,
- Must have at least 12 units completed,
- Must be enrolled in at least 12 units,
- Provide a current transcript and
- In 500 words or less, write a autobiographical statement answering the question, "How has Cerritos College impacted your life and helped you obtain your academic goals."



Cabinet meeting: Cabinet members are informed by ASCC President Michael Barrita on updates of the possible \$2 million Title V grant it might receive.

College might receive \$2M

GUSTAVO RANGEL
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The ASCC Cabinet discussed the final plans for construction on the reflection pool, accreditation meeting, the iFALCON grant and the new computer lab hours, the new ASCC election, all while celebrating Michael Barrita's birthday.

Accreditation will be here on April 29 to de-

cide the credit rating system for the classes. The accreditation team will determine how many credits each class will be.

Oscar Campos declared the new hours of the computer lab will be open until 8 p.m.

The iFALCON grant will be \$2 to \$2.2 million. iFalcon is a campaign enhancing student learning outcome. There have been many fund raisers in the past to help the iFalcon campaign,

such as bake sales, car washes, and others.

The reflection pool will be completed by Spring Awards Nights, all that was need was the fountain which will arrive in one week. The fountain was supposed to be here a week ago, but due to unknown circumstances it never arrived.

ASCC will elect a new president, ballots will be open this Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on campus.

AAWCC will host conference on May 1

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The American Association for women in community colleges will host its annual conference called "Women Hold up the Half the Sky" on May 1 at the Cerritos public library from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The keynote topics are

- Dr. Dana Churchill "Knowledge for your body and

mind."

- Dr. Ted Boehler "Leveraging Technology in the Community College" and
- Jose Rivas "Building a Better Budget"

"I have been attending for five years, they have very inspiring speakers, and it's a great way to network, when I show up people know me by name," said program assistant II Pamela Chambers.

Program Assistant II Miriam

Tolson is an AAWCC board member that represents Cerritos College adds, "I have been attending the conference for the last eight years, now I have the opportunity to volunteer as a committee member."

Megalis Lopez, intermediate typist clerk, said, "This will be my second year attending the conference.

I like it because there are women there that know what it's like to work in a community college."

Deborah Thomas, program assistant II, "The conferences are empowering, it is a day to pump yourself up. It is nice to go to be able to go to a place and see the same people and socialize with them."

Seniors offered previews

GUSTAVO RANGEL
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Senior Preview Day is scheduled to take place on April 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The schedule is:

- 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Welcome Rally,
- 9:40 a.m. to noon tours and presentations and
- Noon to 1 p.m. lunch with live music.

Senior Preview day is where local and non-local high school students come to the campus and are shown around to decide if they would wish to come to Cerritos as a choice after high school.

The presentations will divide the students at random and give them an opportunity to look at one of four options academic vocation, student service, athletics and student activities.

More than 20 schools will attend with more than 1,000 people, with schools such as Downey High, Firebaugh High, Banning High, and Huntington Park High.

"This is to get the prospective students acquainted with our campus, and programs," said Shirley Arceo, coordinator of School Relations. "In two words, it's our open house."

Volunteers will be needed and the benefits of it will be to earn volunteer hours for your club, get a free Senior Preview Day T-shirt and a free lunch.

Club booths will be wanted to present to the upcoming students to ponder, and help them decide a career for their future.

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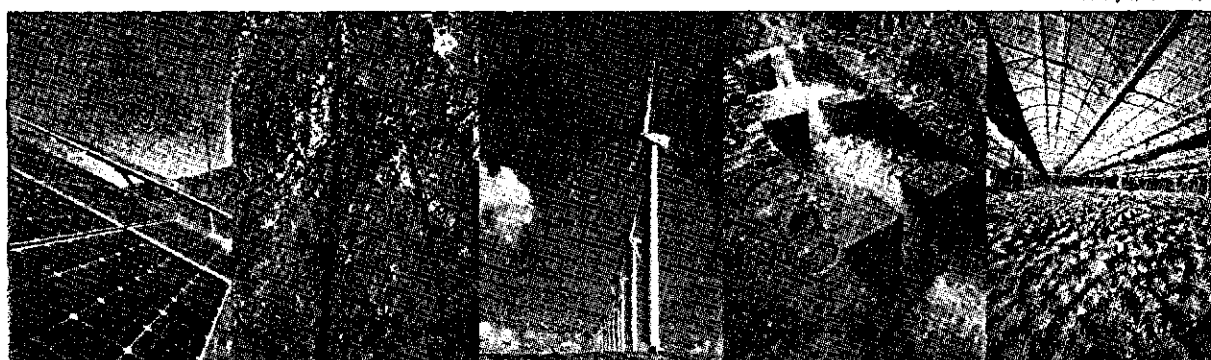
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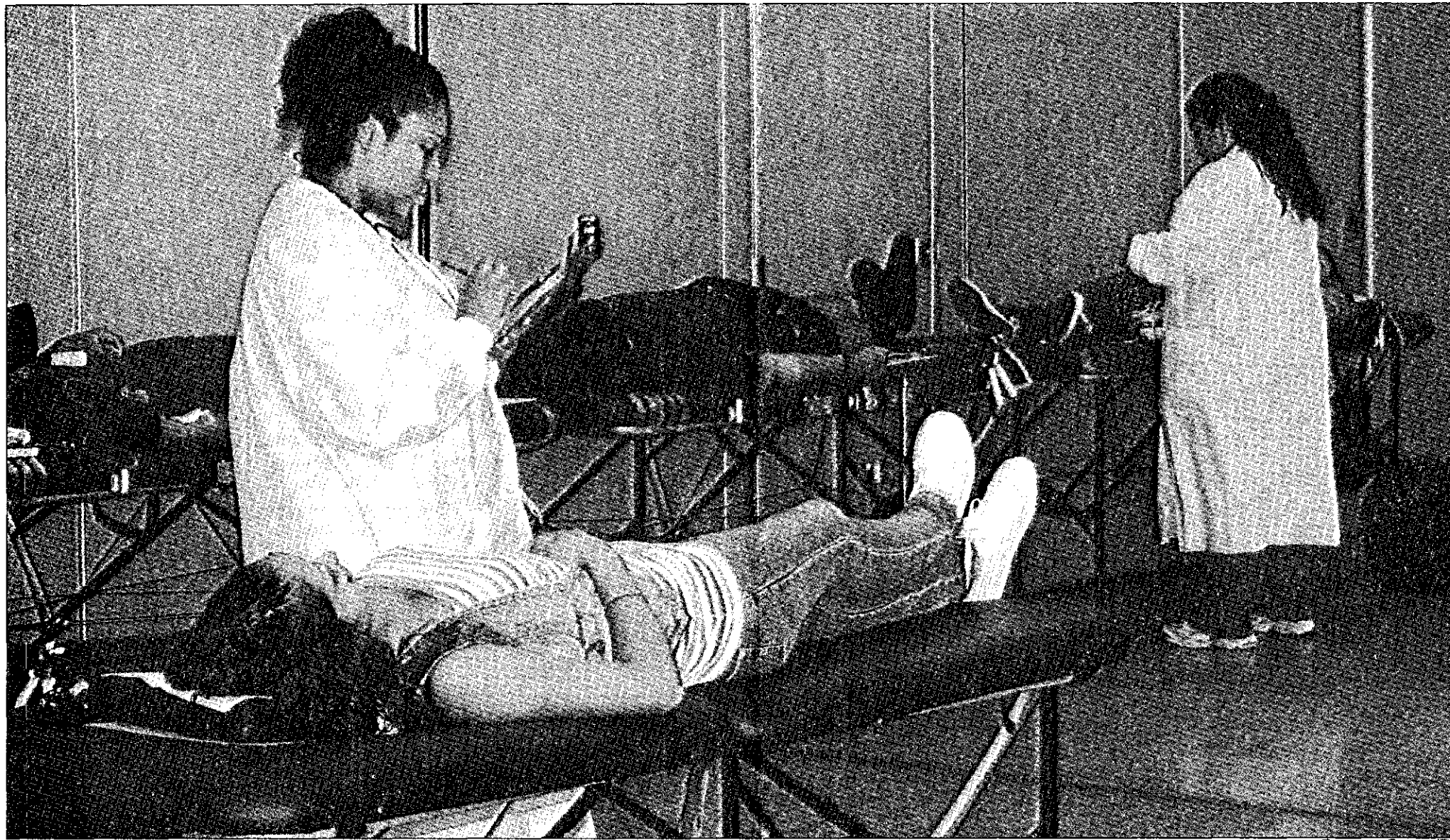
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Blood in, blood out: Red Cross tech prepares donor for the extraction of blood from her arm.

ERNESTO GOMEZ/TM

Emergency workshop underway

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An Emergency Operations Training Workshop for community colleges was held in LC155 last Thursday.

The workshop was hosted from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with representatives from a range of community colleges in the Los Angeles and Orange County area.

The Emergency Management Coordinator of the Coast Community College District was the instructor of the event.

Linda Morin explained the purpose of the workshop is "to prepare faculty in case of disaster... sort of a what-would-you-do."

Schools represented included: Coast Community College, Fullerton College, Golden West, Santa Monica, Mt. San Antonio, North Orange Coast Community District, Saddleback, Rio Hondo, Santa Monica, Santiago and LA Trade Tech.

The workshop ensures California community colleges will be equipped with personnel who are knowledgeable about what to do in case of disaster emergencies.

There are a total of three workshops that must be completed in order to undergo complete training.

Cerritos College saves lives

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Six hundred and forty two lives were saved due to all the blood the students of Cerritos College donated.

The American Red Cross hosted its annual spring blood drive in the Student Center on last Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Senior Field Manager for the Red Cross, Rob Torrez, said that as of Wednesday, 155 pints of blood had been collected.

"One pint of blood saves 3 lives. Cerritos College students have a strong commitment to saving lives by donating blood. We have about 30 blood drives a year just at Cerritos," Torrez said.

By the end of the blood drive, 214 pints of blood were collected; 80 on Tuesday, 82 on Wednesday, and 52 on Thursday.

Students were able to sign up but walk-ins were also welcomed.

Tech Joan Choriego said, "We are here because we are a blood bank and want to help others in need of blood like people who have been in accidents."

Cancer patients have a low count of platelets in their blood and need donated blood to get them said information technology major Mánuela De Leon.

Torrez said that the requirements for donating blood are simple.

Students who donate blood must be 17 years of age, weigh over 110 pounds, have lived in America for the last 3 years and be in overall good health.

If a child is 16, he needs to have a parent's

permission and must be at least 110 pounds.

"However if the donor is sick they cannot donate even if they just have a cold," said De Leon.

She stated, "Blood is being used every second and we need more blood because there is always a shortage."

Although the last day of the blood drive was rather slow and less students were donating, she was still pleased with the turn out.

"Overall, we had a good turn out," she said.

The myth about not being able to donate after getting a tattoo is untrue.

Choriego stated "If you have a tattoo, you would have to wait a year until you will be able to donate."

While waiting in line to donate blood, nursing major and first time donor Brianna Bullington said, "I'm donating because I know

that if I needed it, or if my children needed it, or anyone I love needed it, it'd be available to them.

I know that there's a shortage. I have a rare blood type and it's good to know that I can help save a live just by doing this."

The blood drive is also a contest among the clubs on campus.

The club who donates the most blood will get to have a party and will be awarded the Crystal Drop Award during the spring student services awards ceremony.

Students who missed the blood drive can call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to find another blood drive near them or they can wait for the Summer Warped Tour Blood Drive when students who donate blood can enter for a chance to win passes to the popular music festival, Warped Tour.

Cerritos to welcome President

Elections:
Continued From page 1

Current ASSC President Michael Barrita and Vice President Shola Shodiya will be transferring to different colleges and will therefore be forced to hand over their titles by the end of the semester.

The president must be able to attend every cabinet meeting.

If the president isn't able to attend his scheduled meetings, that will sacrifice his position and he will be demoted from his position of vice president or president.

"Being a part of the ASSC gives you a wonderful life experience," Shodiya said.

Any student with a valid Cerritos College ID will be allowed to vote at the polls from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

There will be one on the Social Science patio, one set up outside of the Student Center and there will also be a station in front of the Health Science building by the end of the semester.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY
ELIETH KOULZONS

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Free 'Love Gloves': L.A. county health employee Phillip Phan, was giving out free condoms and providing the students with information on STDs.

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Health Center provides free testing

DAISY GARCIA
Staff Writer
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"CDC estimates that 19 million new infections occur each year, almost half of them among young people 15 to 21 years of age," quoted Nancy Montgomery, coordinator of Student Health Services, from the Center of Disease Control report.

The Student Health Center is now offering STD testing during its office hours:

- Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tuesday until 8 p.m.
- Friday, the office is closed at noon.

"It's very convenient and acces-

sible here," said Noemi Castro, auto tech major.

According to Montgomery, Cerritos College has a state-approved Family Pact program that can provide free services, including STD tests.

One just needs to be a student with low income.

"Unless we inform the students, it is least likely they will get tested. There is medication for these diseases. The sooner they get tested,

the better," Montgomery shared.

Montgomery further shares that the CDC states that women are at greater risk than men and can result in infertility if left untreated.

Nancy Montgomery

"Unless we inform the students, it is least likely they will get tested."

Student Health will be available to check for all STDs.

It can either be done by a urine or blood test.

"I think it would help give people more opportunity to check themselves," shared Justin Downs, computer sci-

ence major.

Furthermore, the Student Health Center wants more to spread the word about safe sex and the Family Pact program which offers free condoms, free pap smears and cheaper birth control.

According to the Cerritos College web site the Student Health Center has provided the Family Pact program to be available Mondays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. only.

In addition to the free pap smears the Family Pact program will also provide:

- Free pregnancy tests,
- Physicals,
- Counseling for birth,
- Emergency contraceptives and
- Oral Contraceptive pills.

Here's to your health Falcons

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Even with the hot, sizzling sun beating down on Cerritos College, that did not stop the students from checking out and participating in the health fair that occurred Tuesday.

Organizations, special stores, clubs, professors and the local fire department all came out to spread some knowledge on health and safety issues.

The "Round the Fountain" health fair was the first one ever here at Cerritos.

"It has never been done before, it's brand new," said Nancy Montgomery, student health services coordinator.

Montgomery was ecstatic on the outcome of the health fair, and how well it turned out.

"It was unbelievable, I was a bit worried that students were not going to show up, and that we bought all these free gifts for nothing, but I was wrong."

She mentioned that the blood table was the most successful. It provided the students with free blood tests, cholesterol, and glucose tests.

"The line for the blood table was backed up to the student center, the only bad thing was that it was too hot today," Montgomery said.

Another table that had students lined up was one done by Dr. Ni Bueno, HED department chairperson.

Her table was a quick stop to getting information on fat contents of different fast foods, and tips to help one get healthy and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

"One common misconception students had were about carbohydrates. Many students think they

are fattening but that is false. Carbs are low in calories, but what you put on them makes them fattening," Bueno said.

An example she used was pasta. She said the actual pasta is not bad, but the sauce you put on top of it is what makes it an unhealthy meal.

All across the table were fake models of one and five pounds of fat and muscle. There were also test tubes of fat contents that certain fast foods contain. Students came around the table to pick up the models and feel what fat feels like.

"When students have a visual, it's more educational," Bueno said.

Around the corner there was an STD table that had pamphlets and condoms available for any student that was interested.

L.A. County health employee, Phillip Phan was one of volunteers answering questions and giving out the "love gloves".

"We're here to provide information about STDs, and give out some free condoms," Phan said.

He talked about certain type of infections that are curable like Chlamydia and some that are not.

"The student health center provides STD testing that are free and confidential and local health centers that do the same thing," Phan explained.

Another participant came from the Cerritos Mall to help students get knowledge on vitamins.

"I got contacted by the student health center, they wanted me to come down to speak to the students," said Lupe Munoz, Vitamin World store manager.

She was giving out free samples of Vitamin C.

"The number one question that I got today was 'what exactly are vitamins?' and the answer to that is they are essential and one can't get them all from food," Munoz said.

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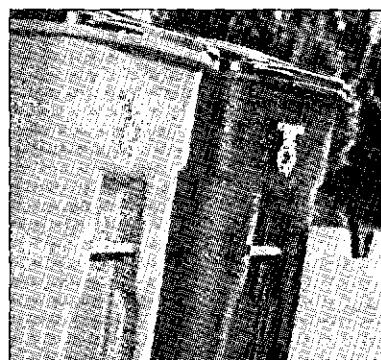
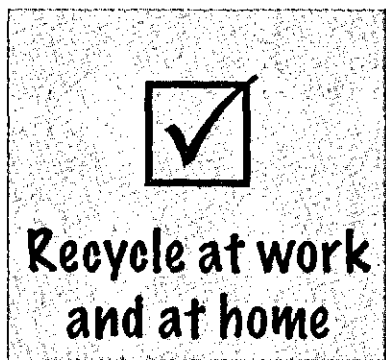
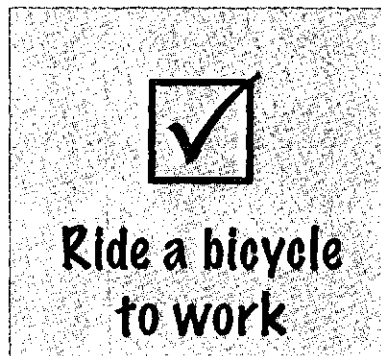
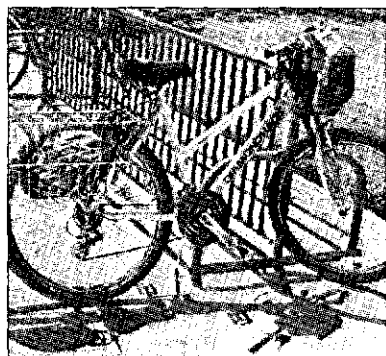
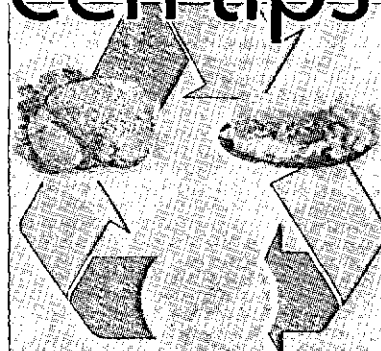


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Earth Day at Cerritos

useful green tips



Students get ready for April 22 to show the Earth some appreciation for Earth Day.

According to EarthDay.net, Earth Day began by Gaylord Nelson, former senator of Wisconsin, proposed the first nationwide environmental protest in the 1970s.

"On April 22, 20 million Americans took to the streets. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values," states the Web site.

Even today, there are students on campus that still show what they

to keep their campus and Earth clean.

"I recycle plastic and aluminum because these things are not biodegradable. I want to start a compost pile for the garden at my house," Vanessa Andre, biology major, shared.

"Recycling is great way to help the earth since it helps reprocess used materials. Plus, it's a good way to earn money. I know the Psychology Club collects soda bottles in the SS building," states Nicole Allen, liberal arts major. Of course, recycling is not the only way to help the Earth.

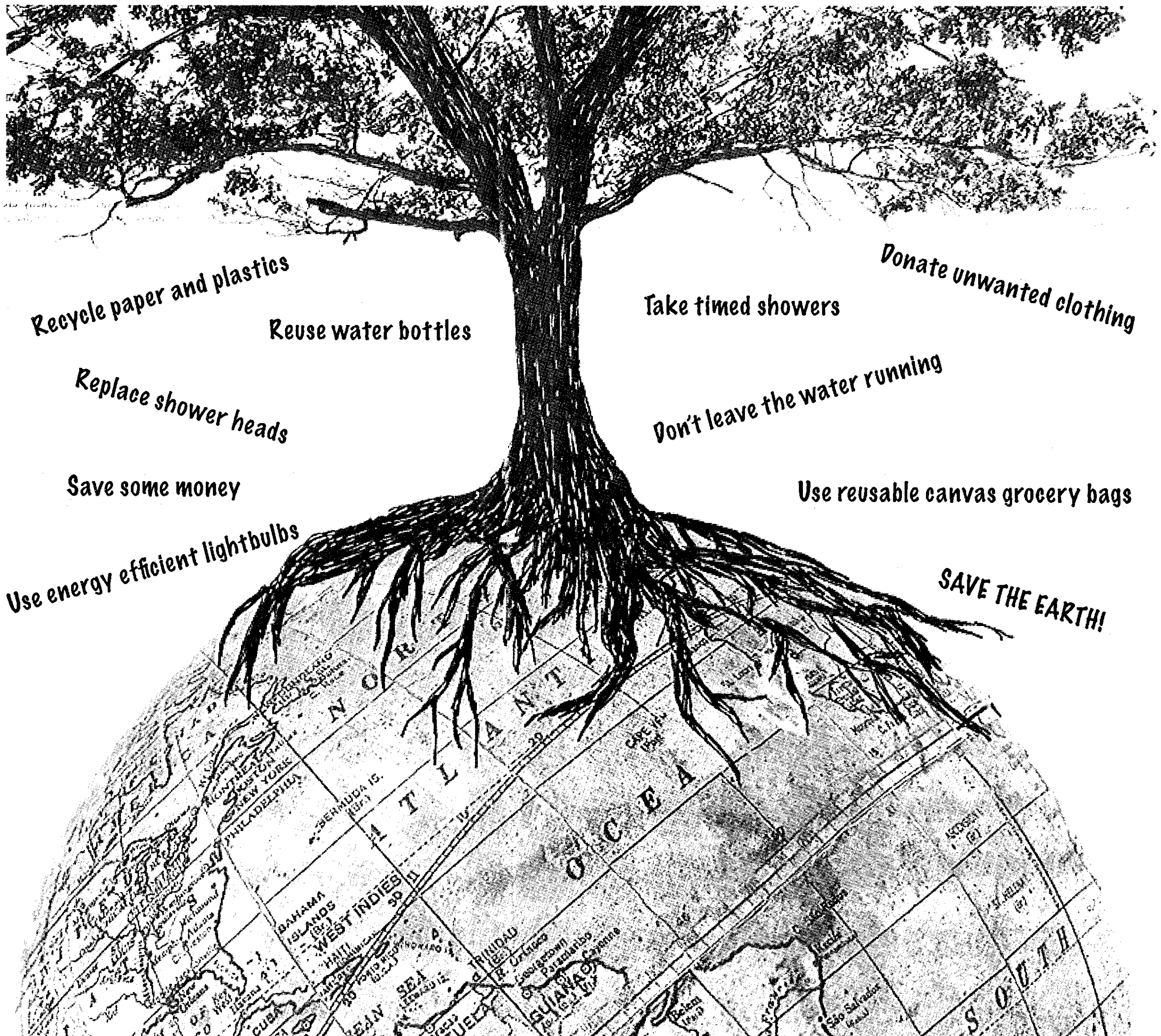
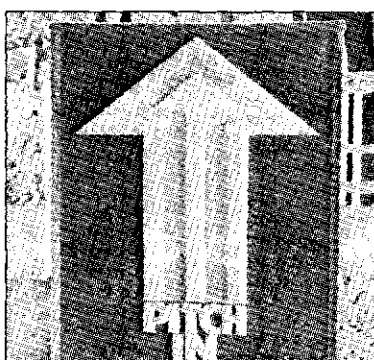
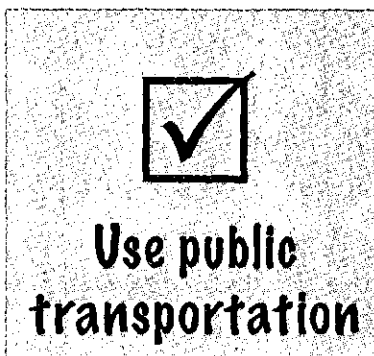
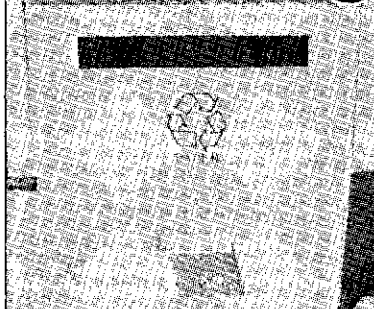
Sometimes, the smallest gesture can help.

"After 1 year, I don't throw trash on the ground or litter; I make sure that I throw it away," says English major Jose Gonzalez.

Nicole Allen

"Recycling is a great way to help the earth... Plus, it's a good way to earn money."

useful green tips



OPINION

•EDITORIAL•

Student leadership needed

It is a sad day at Cerritos College; the student leadership on this campus has virtually disappeared.

With the ASCC presidential elections going on, there is only one group that is officially running for the position.

Current commissioner of student outreach Oscar Franco is qualified and has the making of a great representative of the student body.

But the fact that nobody else has stepped up to fill this very important position is sad.

Maybe the problem is the vote last year to split the ASCC president and student trustee was a bad idea.

Perhaps the student leaders on this campus are gravitating toward the student trustee position, because there are four students running for that.

Maybe none of the would-be candidates received enough signatures on their petitions to officially run.

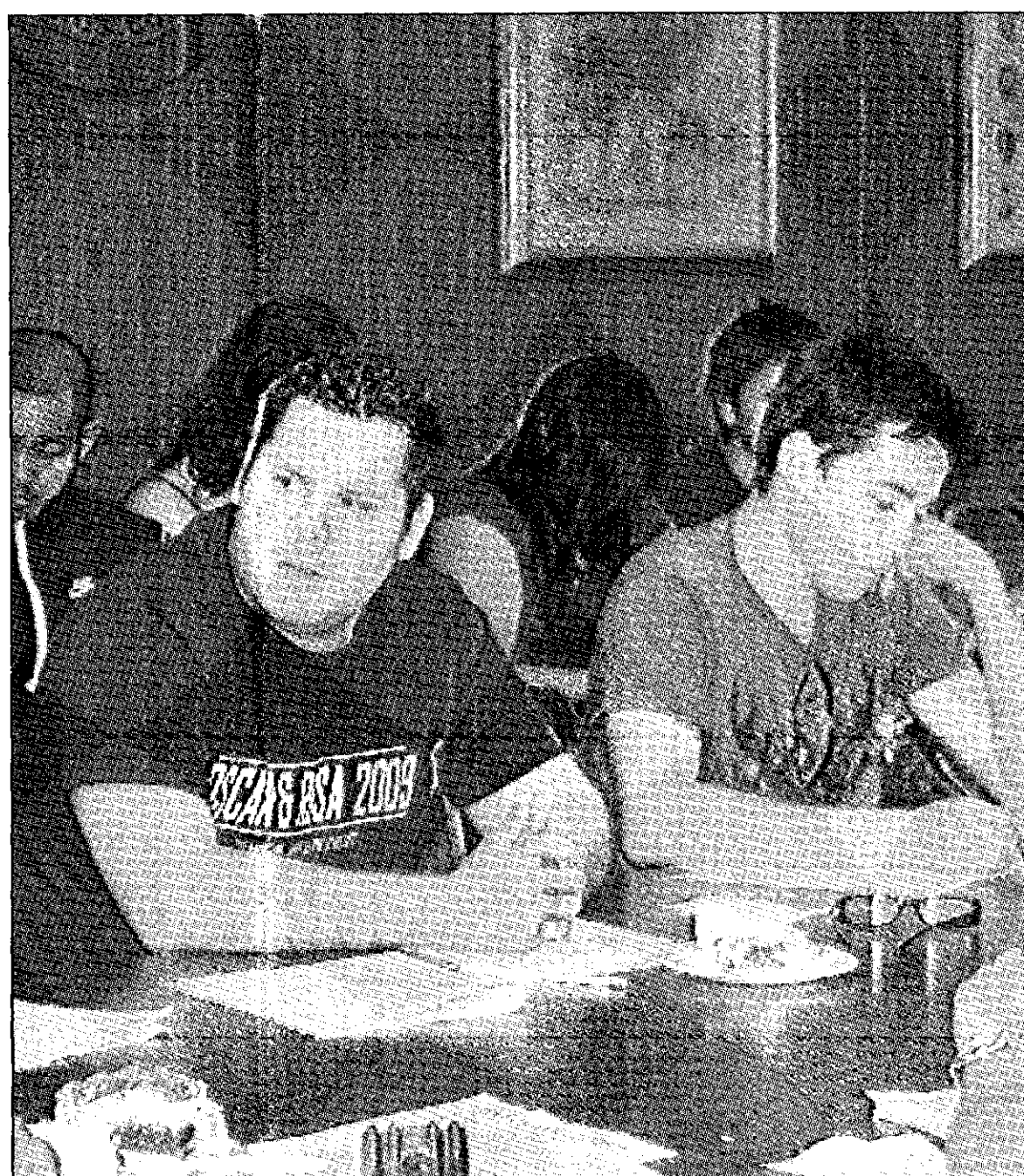
Another possibility can be the fact that in the economical state we're in, students are intimidated to take such a high leadership role.

There are a few other candidates that are running, however they are not officially on the ballot and therefore voters must write in those candidates if they wish to vote for them.

This causes another problem because there is already an issue trying to get students to vote in first place.

Any extra effort that a voter must endure to vote is just another reason why they won't.

Students on campus must step up and take this very important leadership role because without opposing viewpoints, we cannot have a great democracy.



AMBERROSE VALCHO/TM



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

•LETTER TO THE EDITOR•

Vandals plan to attack on April 28 at 9 a.m.

This note has been created in response to an article written with the student ran newspaper known as the Talon Marks concerning vandalism, more importantly the picture used to represent vandalism.

This picture was taken within a woman's bathroom on campus and it must be known that we both found this photo rather hilarious.

The thing that was found hilarious about this is so called "vandalism" problem is that the overwhelming majority of it is simple people writing down quotes onto bathroom stalls.

This campus does not suffer from a vandalism problem so much as an interpretation problem.

That is why I, Lazarus Long and co-signer The Yank have decided to put our collaborative efforts to good uses and begin a campaign of "vandalism" here at Cerritos College.

We are confident that all the possible resources to prevent such a campaign here at Cerritos College put together collectively will fail miserably.

We both will be able to outfox your defensive abilities and outspray your offensive capabilities... if you even have any.

The chances of us being caught are slim and none, and we can boast this openly due to the fact that we have performed specific surgical operations that have been met with great success.

One that you can possibly investigate further could be explained well by the security group here about what occurred on the night of Dec. 10, 2008, as just one person carried that out.

We also know from that night that we have a very uncanny method of skirting around rules, codes, violations and infractions.

Overall object on the campus with the compensation of making the dull walls you see something worthy enough to stop and look at.

We promise not to make racially motivated, hurtful or distasteful statements.

We promise to make positive, subversive and irreverent statements while showing that

graffiti is not merely "vandalism," but a legitimate branch of artistry.

But the main promise that we shall make is that we will use a specialized technique that will allow the removal of our art.

Opening the folder this document is in is an acceptance of terms and allows us to carry out our actions knowing that you understand our terms and conditions.

Violations of this document will result in harsh penalties which will be instituted in a manner we (Lazarus Long and The Yank) agree upon.

-Lazarus Long and the Yank

This is set to begin promptly on April 28 at 9 a.m.

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The Mountaineer
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Bakersfield College
The Renegade Rip
- Smoke your taxes away
Chabot College
The Spectator

Online Poll

Vote online at talonmarks.com

Why don't many people are run for ASCC president?

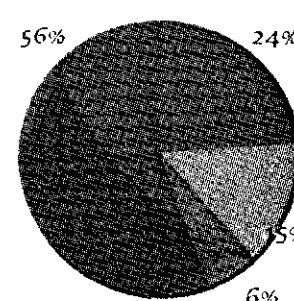
Requirements are too high.
Not enough people are involved.
The ASCC is a joke.

Last Week's Poll

Vote online at talonmarks.com

What was your favorite part of Illoe Down Days?

Game Booths	8%
Mr. Cerritos	15%
Chili Cook-off	6%
I didn't	56%



TALON MARKS



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Editorials express the views of the Executive Editorial Board. Other opinions express the view of the author and are not to be considered opinions of the publication's staff, the Editorial Board, the advisers, the Cerritos College Associated Students, the college administration or the Board of Trustees.

Production and printing of TALON MARKS is partially funded by the Associated Students of Cerritos College.

Facilities and academic supervision are provided by the Department of Journalism. Newsroom offices are located in the Fine Arts Building, Room FA42.

Cerritos College is located at
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Vol. 53
© 2009 Talon Marks

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Free Speech Zone

What do you do to help the environment?

COMPILED BY: ELIETH KOULZONS
PHOTOS BY: ELIETH KOULZONS

BRANDI RUMMELL

comm. major

"I reuse my water bottles and help reduce the fumes in the air by taking the bus to my softball games."



LIZ RAMOS

nursing major

"I unplug appliances that I'm not using such as the microwave. I also try not to waste water."



JACOB PADILLA

undecided major

"I recycle cans and I try to not keep the water running while I brush my teeth."



BRIAN DIAZ

arch. major

"I throw away my trash in trash cans instead of on the floor and I recycle cans."



LAREYSA SMITH

nursing major

"I use the low voltage light bulbs and when they run out, I recycle them."



ASHLEY VENTURA

psychology major

"I turn the water off while I'm brushing my teeth and I try to not keep the light on for too long."



SPORTS

AT A GLANCE

Thursday

Swimming
State Championships @ LBCC All Day

Friday

Track & Field
SCC Championships @ Compton noon
Swimming
State Championships All Day

Saturday

Baseball
@ LBCC 9:00p
Swimming
State Championships @ LBCC All Day

Tuesday

Baseball
vs. LBCC 2:30 p.m.

RESULTS

Last Tue. 4/14

Tennis
Men vs. Riverside L, 5-4

Last Wed. 3/15

Baseball
vs. El Camino W, 14-7

Last Thu. 3/16

Baseball
@ Pasadena City W, 16-8

Softball

@ LBCC W, 9-1

Last Fri. 4/17

Softball
@ LA Harbor W, 13-3

Last Sat. 4/18

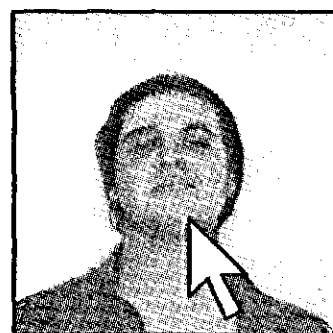
Baseball
vs. Pasadena City W, 15-9

Last Sun. 4/18

Baseball
vs. Oxnard W, 20-8

Mon. 4/20

Tennis
Women @ Cuesta L, 5-1



CLICK ON RICK

Online sports blog
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Softball wins season finale over PCC

SCOTT GARITE
Online Community Editor
onlinecomm@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College softball team won its last regular season game 17-0 against Pasadena City College ending the season as Southern California Conference champions.

Tuesday's game started with Cerritos scoring seven runs in the first inning and ended in the middle of the fifth due to the mercy rule of leading by 15 runs or more

after five innings.

Coach for the softball team Kadee Murray considers this win as a building block for the Falcons and hopes to play this well throughout the post-season.

Murray said, "Most of our team are freshmen and after this game the freshmen have a full season under their belts."

"To us this is the beginning of a second season and we will go out here and execute like we did all season long. They are no longer

freshmen."

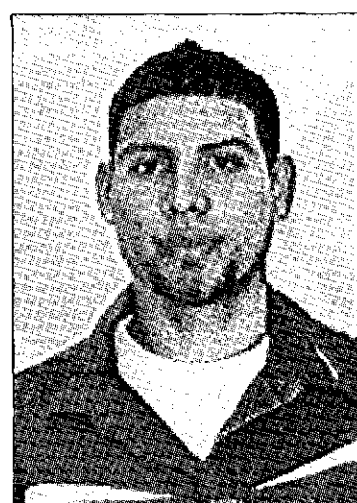
On Friday there will be a meeting held to decide the seeding for regionals. Since the season hasn't ended for all teams Murray is not sure where Cerritos will be seeded, but knows that Cerritos will be either No. 1 or No. 2.

Since Cerritos will be seeded either No. 1 or No. 2 it will host the No. 15 or No. 16 seed. In order to make it to state championship game the softball teams will have to make it through the post-season tournament.

- Sixteen teams will compete in regionals
- Of those 16 teams, the eight winning teams will go on to super-regionals.
- Of those eight teams, the four winning teams will go on to state.
- The top four teams left in Southern California will play the top four teams from Northern California.
- The last two teams left will play for the State Championship title from May 15 to 17.



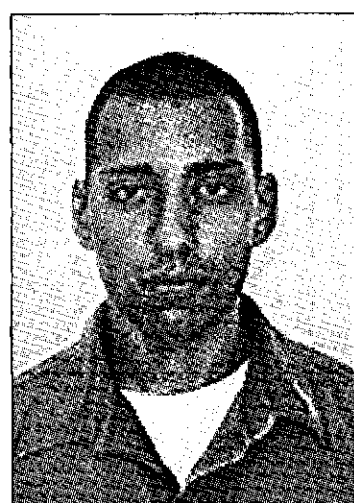
DISHING IT OUT: Pitcher Hillary Perez-Ashley delivers a pitch to a PCC batter.



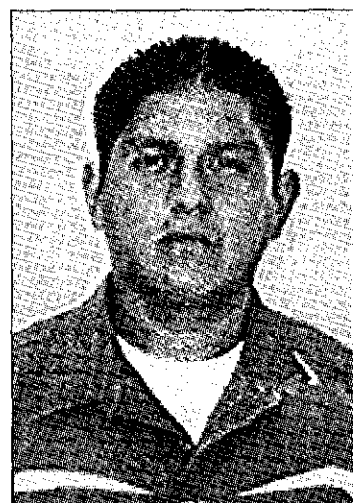
Jonathan Rivas



Alex Munoz



Miguel Vargas



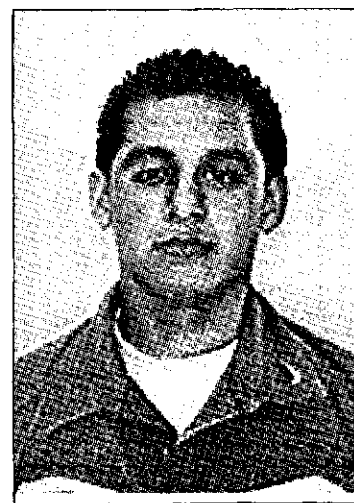
Jhosimar Rivera



Diego Millan



Gerardo Torres



Ricky Reyes



Norm Mariscal

Eight players sign letter of intent

Eight players from the Cerritos College soccer team sign letters of intent.

SOBIKWE RAMSEY
Staff Writer
sobikwe.ramsey@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College men's soccer team has seen a lot of recent success this season by not just its team's players but the coach as well.

The most recent and impressive achievement for the Falcons soccer team was the signings to top four year schools from eight players.

When a program has players signing to top universities and that number of student-athletes is doing so, that not only shows the quality of the program but, "It shows that they put in the work on the field as well as the classroom."

UC Irvine, with the first ranked soccer program in the state, will have two Falcon players in SCC Defender of the Year and All-American Jonathan Rivas who, and Far West Region All-American Alex Munoz.

Defender Norm Mariscal who, first team All-Conference player, will be headed to UC

Riverside. Second Team Conference midfielder Ricky Reyes will be headed to Cal Poly Pomona.

Freshman player Jhosimar Rivera signed to Kansas Wesleyan along with goalkeeper Diego Millan.

Three former Cerritos players in Marco Pulido, Bryan Alvarez, and Humberto Lopez are currently playing at Kansas Wesleyan.

NCAA Division II National Soccer Champions Cal State Dominguez Hills will be adding forward Gerardo Torres and defender Miguel Vargas who has future plans of becoming a lawyer.

The signings of these players is an honor for the Falcon program just in addition to the team's second state title in the last three years and being ranked second in the nation.

Strong coaching was also evident in the Falcons 10-1 run in their last 11 games of the season as well as making sure the school work was concentrated on.

In their champi-

onship game, the Falcons faced off against their rival as it seemed in Mt. San Antonio College and Arriaga felt one of the keys to the victory in that game was the many times the team's played each other previously.

With the many honors received this season within the Falcon soccer program, the signings are definitely the ultimate accolade for Cerritos.

The Falcons will look to defend their state championship title this upcoming season in the fall.

Player	School
Jonathan Rivas	UC Irvine
Alex Munoz	UC Irvine
Norma Mariscal	UC Riverside
Gerardo Torres	Cal State Dominguez Hills
Miguel Vargas	Cal State Dominguez Hills
Ricky Reyes	Cal Poly Pomona
Diego Millan	Kansas Wesleyan
Jhosimar Rivera	Kansas Wesleyan

Source: www.cerritos.edu/hpea

Men go one and done

Scott Garite
Online Community Editor
onlinecomm@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College men's tennis team was knocked out of the playoffs in the first round, losing to conference rival, Riverside College.

The Falcons finished the season with an overall record of 12 wins and five losses.

The Falcons won their first meeting against Riverside earlier in the season, leaving the team feeling confident that it could do it again, but on April 14, fell victim to Riverside the second time around.

The singles matches were split between the two schools.

Nik Bote, Carlos Gomez, and David Sim of Cerritos gave the three wins for Cerritos.

Bote defeated Camillo Almeida of Riverside over three sets 4-6, 6-0, and 6-2.

Gomez defeated Sam Pariani in three sets 4-6, 6-0, 6-4.

Sim topped off the singles win, winning in straight sets 6-1, 6-4.

Men's head coach Alvin Kim felt very confident about winning the meeting before being aware of injuries that plagued the team.

"We took on critical injuries that may cost us this match against Riverside. Regardless, Riverside is the rival team you love to beat, so we're going to try our hardest to do just that," Kim said.

The injuries that Kim is referring to are those of top singles player Doug Edwards and freshman Tim Lee.

While the team wasn't specific on the injuries, it certainly showed on the court that neither was 100 percent.

Edwards, who had won his first meeting against Riverside's defending singles state champion Daniel Coelho, was unable to repeat his victory, losing the No. 1 singles match in straight sets, 6-3 and 7-6.

Lee, however, was unable to make it through his No. 3 singles match.

Lee was behind 1-6, 2-4 before having to retire early.

Kim said, "We brought our No. 6 singles player Matt Jun to come in and play No. 3 doubles with Sim, so the chemistry might not be as strong between these two."

Kim was wrong with that assumption; Jun and Sim put their talents together, winning in straight sets 7-5, 7-5 leaving them with the only doubles win for Cerritos.

Sports Briefs

Women's swimming makes history

Women

After going undefeated in conference meets with a record of 7-0, the Cerritos College women's swimming team topped off SCC competition winning its first conference championship in school history.

Freshman Jenel Lopez broke two school records en route to winning three events.

Men

The Cerritos College men's swimming team finished third at the South Coast Conference Champi-

onships despite failing to win an event.

The Falcons compiled 515 team points behind first place Mt. SAC, 645, and El Camino, 524. Matt Mendoza placed second in the 1650-yard freestyle and third in the 500-yard freestyle.

Baseball

The Cerritos College baseball team is on a four-game winning streak after defeating Oxnard, 20-8, on Sunday.

Since losing to Cuesta on April 9, 21-20, Cerritos has averaged 16 runs per game scored but has also averaged eight runs allowed per game. The Falcons will travel to Long Beach City on Saturday looking to increase their winning streak to five.

Softball

The Falcons finished off the season with a ten-game winning defeating Pasadena City, 17-0, on Tuesday.

Catcher Samantha Vaalu set the school record for most home runs in a season with 14 passing Jessica Navarro who set it in 2007.

Pitcher Hillary Perez-Ashley moved up to sixth place in the school's single-season record list with 24.

Tennis

Women

Despite finishing atop the SCC standings and en-

tering the playoffs with a six-game winning streak, the Cerritos College women's tennis team lost in the first round of the playoffs to Cuesta on Monday, 5-1. The Falcons finished with an overall record of 12-4.

Men

Riverside avenged a loss earlier in the season by defeating the Cerritos College men's tennis team in the first round of the playoffs last Tuesday, 5-4. Cerritos had ended its team season with a record of 12-5.

Track and Field

The Cerritos College men's and women's track and field team competed in the SCC preliminaries on Tuesday. The SCC Championships will be held Friday.

Bats get hot in winning streak



Fresh pitching: Freshman pitcher Skye Severns starts out strong in the first few innings, setting the stage for the next pitcher to lead the team to a win.

SOBUKWE RAMSEY
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The Cerritos College baseball team has experienced recent success in its last four games, staying in the playoff hunt and keeping in arms length of first play in conference play.

Defensive intensity and hot bats have been the main ingredients in the Falcons past week victories.

With convincing wins over Oxnard, Pasadena City twice, and El Camino over the four-game stretch, Cerritos goes to 13-7 in conference play and are only one game behind Long Beach City for first place.

The Falcons will play LBCC Saturday in the cross town rivalry game and will try and take that first place bid in the process.

With only four ball games remaining, Cerritos will need to make a strong finish entering in to the playoffs and have confidence and motivation to do so after their strong last week.

In their 20-8 win over Oxnard, the

Falcons managed to record 24 hits in the game, getting strong contributions from outfielder Jake Mayoral, who had six hits, as well as a Falcon record tying six RBI from third baseman Steve Hernandez.

Cerritos got out to a very hot start against El Camino, jumping out to a 6-0 lead in the first two innings.

It went on to win that game, 14-7, countering every attempt El Camino made at a comeback.

Cerritos did the same against Pasadena City both times it played this past week winning 16-8 on the April 16 and 15-9 on the April 18.

Joe Terry in particular has been on fire in his at bat attempts, getting 13 RBI in the Falcons' last four games.

He is currently in the process of shattering the Falcon season record of 13 triples, as he has 12 now.

"Our team is young and inexperienced but we will make progression as the season does," stated coach Jack Brooks, and they have done just that and hope to make a strong push into the playoffs.

Director receives top award

RICK GOMEZ
Sports Editor
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John Van Gaston was awarded the annual Brass Top award on April 1 at the California Community College Athletic Association convention in Ontario, California.

The Sports Information Director for Cerritos College was nominated and voted by other sports information directors from California.

Van Gaston, in his 23rd year as SID, was humble in receiving his award.

"I'm honored that my peers felt I was worthy of the award. It's hard to see me get it because we all work hard," Van Gaston said.

The Brass Top award recognizes career achievement in sports information.

Not only does Van Gaston provide information of every team at Cerritos, he also worked at the state tournaments last year.

Van Gaston was part of the stat crew for men's and women's basketball and the state's media representative for the wrestling, baseball, men's and women's tennis and men's and women's track and field state championships.

In addition, he also follows former Falcon players who have gone to succeed in professional leagues.

Some notable names are NFL wide receiver T.J. Houshmanzadeh (Seattle Seahawks) and former NFL head coach Joe Gibbs (Washington Redskins).



John Van Gaston

SCC Baseball Standings

Team Name	Conference	Overall
Mt. San Antonio	12-6	24-13
El Camino	11-7	22-14-1
Cerritos	13-7	23-14
Long Beach	14-6	23-15
Compton	11-7	18-17
LA Harbor	9-9	16-18
East LA	10-10	16-22
Pasadena	2-16	7-26
LA City	2-16	4-30

SOURCE: COASPORTS.ORG

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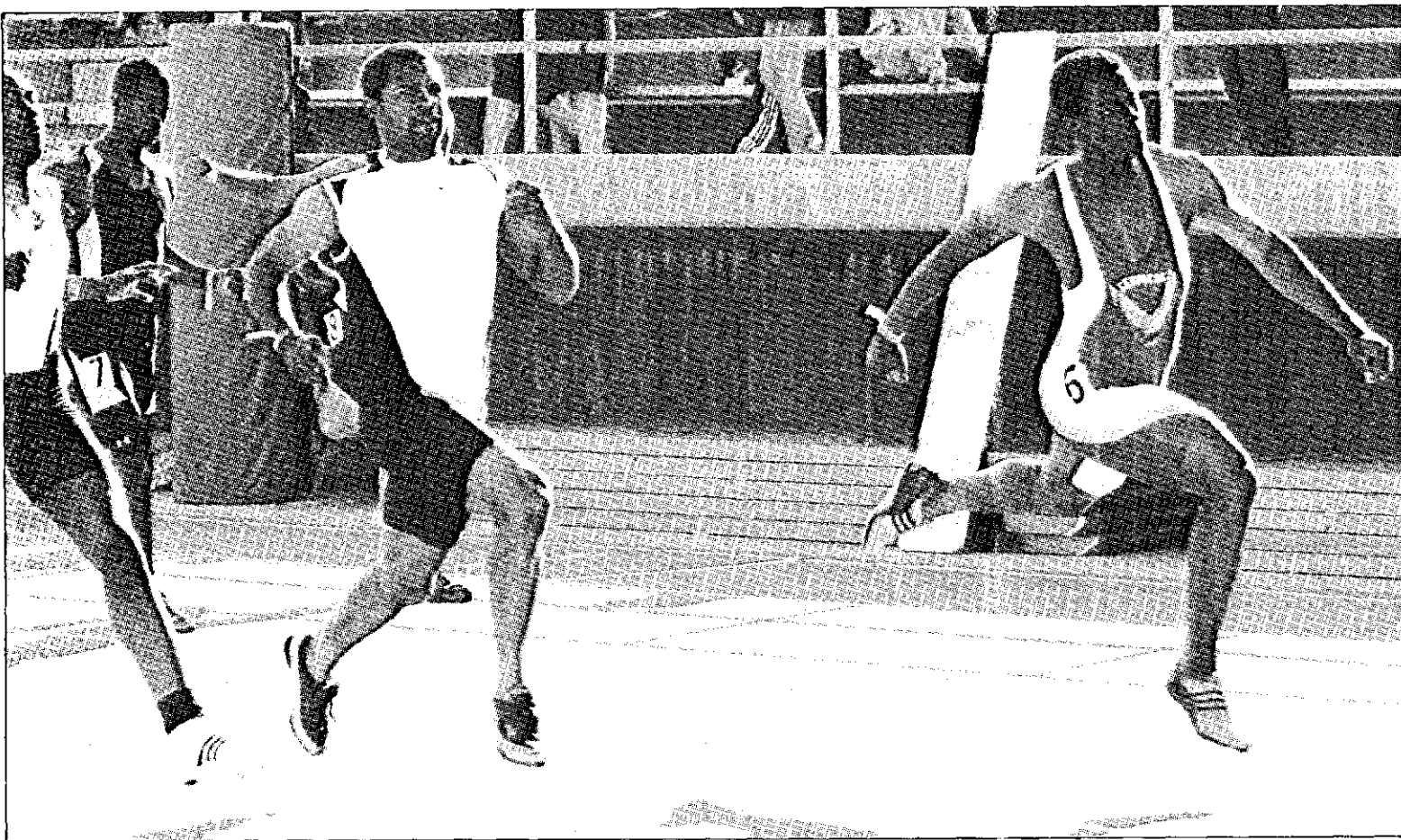


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Running Ahead: Cerritos track freshman William English runs ahead of the pack in the 100 meter dash.

SCOTT GARITE/TM

Track prepares for finals

SCOTT GARITE
Online Community Editor
scott.garite@talonmarks.com

The regular track season has ended for community colleges throughout California, leaving the men's team for Cerritos College in second place and the women's team in first in the state.

The Falcons have geared up for the post-season in which women's head coach Michael Allen compares it to the "Triple Crown" of track and field.

There are three main track meets that Cerritos will face on its way to becoming state champs: South Coast Conference Finals, Southern California Finals and the California State Meet itself, with

preliminaries for each round.

The South Coast Conference Preliminaries were held on Tuesday, and those that qualified are to appear at the South Coast Conference Finals on Friday.

Allen said, "Our goal is to get through this week and go from there."

There are many individual athletes that might strike out and do well in their individual events but unless the team does well overall, there won't be a chance for the team to win state.

Allen explained, "We are on a points system and unless we go out there as a team and put up the points we need we won't meet our goals, not just for state but for

SCC prelims.

"If we can string together a few good finishes then we will be able to make a nice little run at the title."

This is where Allen expects all-star athletes such as Kelsey Caesar, Kristen Joseph and Nick Armstrong for the men's team and Erin Straughter, Jessica Barfield and Marleen Elizalde for the women's team to step up and help lead the Falcons.

Straughter, who is .01 second away from breaking the school record in the 100-meter hurdles and leading the state in the same event, has been preparing for the SCC preliminaries.

"I've been keeping up with

practice, making sure to get enough sleep, drinking lots and lots of water since it starting getting so hot, and I keep envisioning myself winning each race up until each event," Straughter said.

This is a team sport and athletes such as China Fleming who runs the 1500-meter and the 800-meter will be giving it their all to help support the team.

"I'm looking to get my personal best in hopes to qualify for the Southern California Conference Finals," Fleming added. "Because if I do that, not only have I done my best, I will have helped out my team."

Women's tennis loses in first round of postseason game

COURTESY OF THE
SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE

The Cerritos College women's tennis team squared off against Cuesta College in the first round of the Southern California Regional Team Playoffs for the second straight year.

For the Falcons, the end result was the same as last year, as the No. 2-seeded Cougars (13-0) posted a 5-1 win over No. 7-seeded Cerritos, ending their team season at 12-4.

The match was resumed on Monday April 20th after being postponed due to high winds on April 14, which forced the stoppage of the match.

Because Cuesta was able to post five wins in singles play, they secured

the win without having to move on and play doubles.

At the top of the ladder, freshman Samantha Nades held a 4-1 lead in the third set after splitting the first two, 2-6, 6-4 against Chloe Redman.

But Nades dropped the final five games, which turned out to be the clinching win for the Cougars.

The lone winner for the Falcons on the day was freshman Alana Johnson, who posted a 6-2, 6-2 win in the No. 2 position.

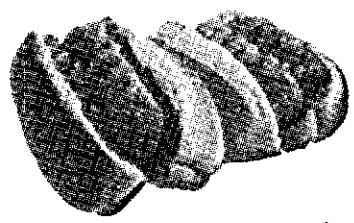
Also extending her opponent to a third set was sophomore Shamariah DeRojas, who eventually fell, 6-2, 4-6, 2-6.

Women's Tennis Singles Box Score

Players	Score
Chloe Redman (CUE) def. Samantha Nades (CERR)	6-2, 4-6, 6-4
Erin McGurty (CUE) def. Gabriela Diaz (CERR)	6-1, 6-0
Whitney Whiting (CUE) def. Christina Nguyen (CERR)	6-0, 6-0
Alana Johnson (CERR) def. Hannah Crampton (CUE)	6-2, 6-2
Laura Haines (CUE) def. Shamariah DeRojas (CERR)	2-6, 6-4, 6-2
Bre Rowan (CUE) def. Cristina Sanchez (CERR)	6-0, 6-1

SOURCE: SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE

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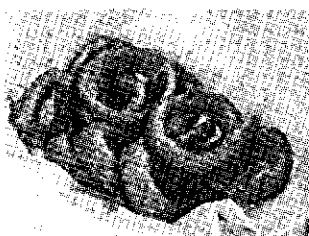
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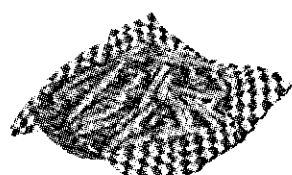
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ARTS

Spanish Open-Mic Reading Is A Hit

CELIA LIRA
Staff Writer
celia.lira@talonmarks.com

Not many people showed up to the Spanish poetry reading at first, but numbers grew by the end.

The poetry reading was an open-mic session and the students were expected and encouraged to participate in the readings, but many students in the audience expressed that they did not know about the open-mic opportunity.

Dr. Niurka Medina-Valin, Spanish professor, said, "Students can come and read anything philosophical, bohemian readings in Latin America, dance and even sing."

The students were able to read their own work or their favorite poets' work; this was a Spanish reading from beginning to end.

The Spanish Department along with the Sociedad de Profesores Hispanos organized the Spanish poetry reading held on April 14 at 11 a.m. in the Teleconference Center.

There will also be a Spanish book fair. The Libreria de Cultura Laitina of Long Beach will provide the books in Spanish for sale.

Walter Fernandez, history professor and coordinator of Sociedad de Profesores Hispanos, said, "We try to make the Spanish poetry reading an annual event; this is where professors and students share interesting Spanish-language poems."

Medina added, "I hope it turns to a yearly activity, we try to organize the event every April because it is the national poetry month."

Froyland Cabuto, Spanish professor, hosted

the hour of poetry readings and Maestro Ricardo Valdez provided ambient music to accompany the readings poems with his acoustic guitar.

Cabuto started the readings with a poem by Federico Garcia Lorca called the "La Casada Infel." He also read some of his own poems from his poetry book called "Detras de la Cruz."

Only three students went on stage to share their own work with the audience, one of the students was Shadia, she read her poem titled "Andamos."

Shadia Haboud, theater major, said, "A friend told me about the Spanish poetry reading. I like to write poetry. I like how events like this one try to maintain the Latin culture and at the same time share the human essence."

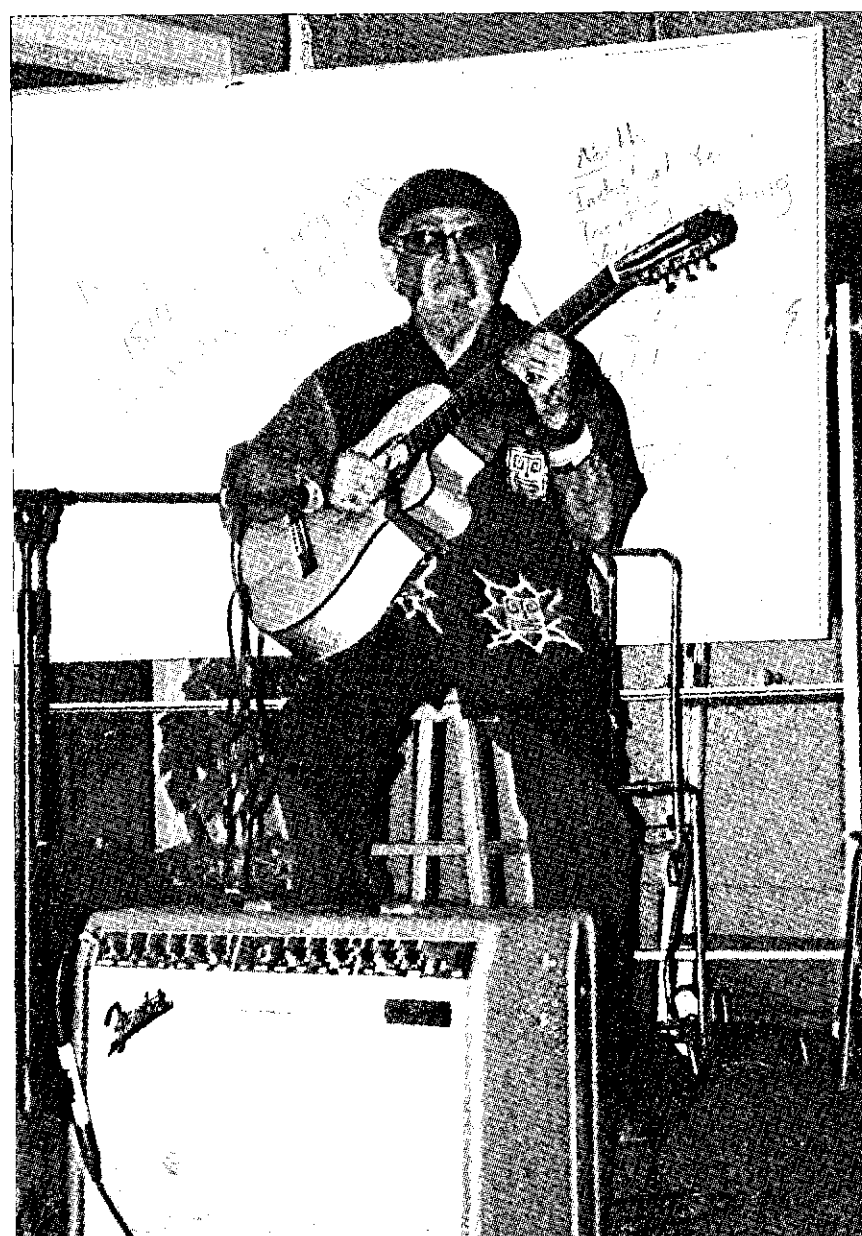
Henrietta Hurtado, EOPS counselor, went on stage and read a poem called, "Por Amor al Arte," she said that she was always suggested to write poetry but never could bring herself to do it until now.

Medina also read many of her own poems; she referred to them as personal poems of love and origin.

Some of the ones she read were, "Luna de Granada," "Alma Gemela" and "Caderas y Miel."

Fernandez encouraged all of the students present to tell their friends and classmates to come to the next reading.

"Here," he said, "students can enjoy the art of poetry, we (faculty) organize this kind of events because we like it, but most importantly for the students. We want to increase the audience and the students to share their art; everybody is invited and welcome, let's fill up the room next time."



ERNESTO GOMEZ/TM

Band Exchange Concert produces excellent results for Cerritos College

DAISY GARCIA
Staff Writer
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Middle school and college students alike were blowing their pipes at the Student Center last Monday at 7 p.m.

With help of Dr. David Betancourt, the director of bands and orchestra, and Alan J. Hallback, high school and middle school music educator, Cerritos was able to host band exchange concert.

change concert.

The concert was free of charge for the public.

"The band exchange concert contains three groups: Cerritos College concert band, North Park Middle School band, and Cerritos College Symphonic Winds," Betancourt said.

According to the director, Cerritos College does its best to go out to invite other groups to perform with it.

"It's a great way to reach out to the community," Betancourt further shared.

"Pretty good, I like the music. It is cool how middle school kids are with college students," Fred Sanchez, John Glen High School student, complimented.

The songs at the concert range from "Farandole from 'L'arlesienne'" to "Mary Had a Little Lamb" to "Colossus of Columbia" and more.

"I thought it was good performance. It is a good way for students to show off," Michael Chavez, anthropology major, states.

Cosmetology awarded prestigious scholarships by the city of Norwalk

CELIA LIRA
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The Cosmetology Department was awarded, for the first time, two \$500 City of Norwalk scholarships on March 12.

Alecea Duran and Bryan Griffith, cosmetology majors, both received a \$500 scholarship presented by the Cerritos College Foundation on its March board meeting.

Duran graduated and is no longer attending Cerritos College.

Griffith said, "I volunteered time to gain experience. Here at school, we don't get that many opportunities to get real world experience. I'm going to use the money that I got from the scholarship for additional training and take private classes to cut hair."

The city of Norwalk granted these two scholarships to thank the department for donating its time, effort and skills at the city of Norwalk Locks of Love hair drive it had in September, 2008.

Pat Novinski, cosmetology instructor and department chair, said, "I think it was fantastic that we got this scholarship, 10 students

from Cerritos College cut hair, and we had about 137 clients that day.

"We wanted to be part of the Norwalk Locks of Love because we wanted to promote our department and it is a very good cause. If it does it again next year, we will be involved again, we would take twice as many students."

The students had to cut and style the donors' hair at the Locks of Love.

They gained experience and skills while helping the community.

"I learned to step it up," said, Henry Tang, business major.

Stephanie Munns, cosmetology major, said, "I would do it again, I was surprised with the turn out. I didn't apply for the scholarship I thought that other people needed it more than I did."

"It was a great experience. It made me faster and I gained confidence," Cindy Alvelo, cosmetology and business major, said. "We had so many clients to work for, we had about 15 people each, and they loved their haircuts."

Novinski said, "It was originally one scholarship but when Gina Cosylian, recreation coordinator for



Make-over: Bryan Griffith smiles as he gives a plastic head a make-over.

SCOTT GARITE/TM

the city of Norwalk, saw all the work we did, she said there will be two scholar-

ships." "I take the students out to do community work be-

cause it is good for the college and students it makes them better citizens."

Cerritos receives 'Company'

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"Company," a musical based on a book by George Furth and originally produced and directed on Broadway by Harold Prince, is being reproduced by the Cerritos College Theater Department in May.

"Company" is about a man named Bobby who can not decide whether or not to marry and is being pressured by those around him into choosing a life of being "sorry-grateful."

With the help of a group of five couples, each dysfunctional in their own manner, Bobby weighs the pros and cons of marriage by observing the lives and experiences of his married friends.

Direction is by Patrick Pearson, vocal direction by Christine Lopez, musical direction by Hector Salazar, and choreography by Imara Quinones.

Tickets will be on sale online soon for May 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 at 8 p.m. and May 10 at 2 p.m. at www.cerritos.edu/theatre or may be purchased between 10 to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Mon to Fri in the box office.

New Releases DVD:

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Arctic Tale
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The Insomniacs
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How Big Can You
Get?
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Daddy
Swing

I Do Not Want
What I Haven't Got
Sinead O'Connor
Pop

Books

City of Thieves
David Benioff
Literature/Fiction

Look Again
Lisa Scottoline
Mystery/Thriller

Just Take My
Heart
Mary Higgins
Clark
Mystery/Thriller

Opening in Theatres April 24

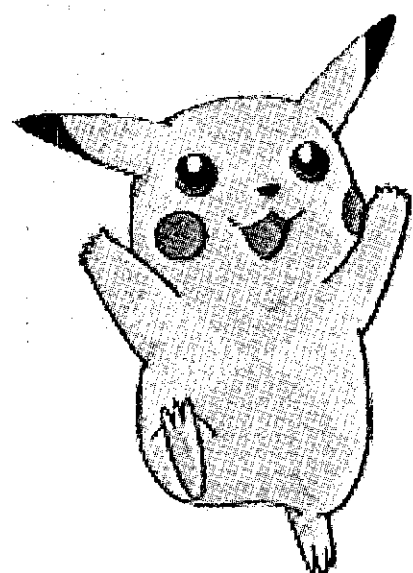
The Soloist
PG-13
Docudrama

Obsessed
PG-13
Thriller

The Informers
R
Drama

Anime invades America

Pokémon continues



GUSTAVO RANGEL
Opinion Editor
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"Pokémon Platinum," based on the Pokémon multimedia series, is a fantastic game for the Nintendo DS.

Much like the other series, this set has two original games and an enhanced remake such as "Yellow," "Crystal," and "Emerald."

The game is single player, but can connect to a Wi-Fi modem.

You have a choice of choosing your character between a boy or girl, and between the three starter Sinnoh-region Pokémon:

- Chimchar (fire type),
- Turtwig (grass type) and
- Piplup (water type).

The game differs from Diamond and Pearl in really only one way, "The Distortion World."

This is such a good version of the Pokémon game series, but I would still prefer the original games.

The graphics are great for one of a handheld game.

Even though the story line is the

Game Review

Pokémon Platinum

Platform: Nintendo DS

Rating: ★★★★★

same of the others, I found this much more difficult.

When you collect all eight badges, defeat the Pokémon League and see all the Sinnoh Pokémon for your Pokédex, you gain access to "Pal Park," which allows you to travel through it and capture all the Pokémon from the Kanto and Johto regions.

Battling Team Galactic was very fun, and I enjoyed it very much.

Wearilessly through a "Wi-Fi Plaza," you can interact with people from across the world, send mail to your friends, play mini games, battle and trade.

I give this game four thumbs up.



MCT

'Dragonball' fans' wish not granted

Movie Review

Dragonball: Evolution

Starring: Justin Chatwin

Director: James Wong

Rating: (None)

GUSTAVO RANGEL
Opinion Editor
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"Dragonball: Evolution," based on the popular Japanese anime and manga, "Dragonball," is the worst movie based on a graphic novel ever made.

For a movie being produced by Fox, it should have been a lot better. It did a great job with the "X-Men" movies.

What was the problem with "Dragonball," and why did they mess up the story line so badly?

The movie centers around the life of a teenage boy named Son Goku (Justin Chatwin) and his journey to collect the seven Dragonballs, and defeat the evil Lord Piccolo (James Marsters) by banishing him with the wish of Shenlong when the Dragonballs have been gathered and the chant has been said.

The errors in this movie were very indiscreet.

First of all, in the original story, Goku never went to

school and was never picked on.

Bulma (Emma Ruscum) had blue hair, and the race of Piccolo was the "Namekians" not "Nemekians."

Many of the main characters were missing such as Tien, Krillin, and all of the anthropomorphic creatures (i.e. Turtle, Oolong and Puar).

I am, however, surprised it got the capsules down pretty good, and the flying vehicles.

Besides that, there was not a single good thing about this movie.

The acting in this movie is horrible, none of the actors portrayed any kind of likeness of their character.

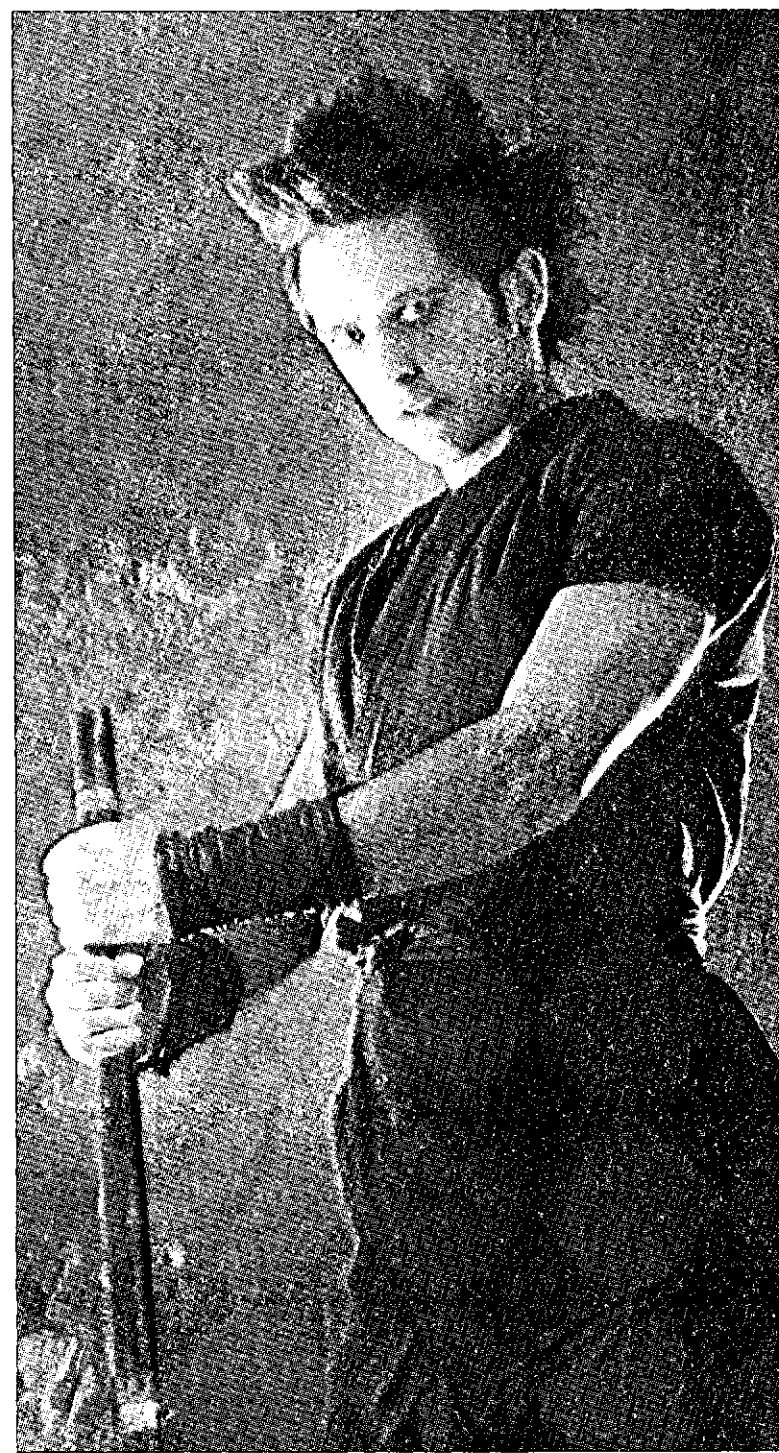
The special effects on the ki blasts, like the Kamehameha, were horrible. They looked Photoshopped.

To have a little comedy in this movie would have been nice, after all it is one of the anime's sub-genres.

But I must admit, if this was named something else, and not based on "Dragonball" or anything relevant to it, this would have been at least half-way decent.

As a Dragonball fan, I found this movie offensive on many levels, I felt deeply offended by the film and after seeing it, I have been saddened.

I give this movie a sincere no thumbs up.



COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

Goku: Justin Chatwin plays the lead in the new "Dragonball" movie.

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AUDIO BRAINTRUST

SPOTLIGHT: Laura Cerna



SCOTT GARITE
Online Community Editor
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For some students, they attend school focused on working towards their future goals.

Cosmetology major Laura Cerna may be going to school for something she loves to do, but her passion is singing.

Cerna is a bilingual vocalist that has been singing for as long as she can remember, looking to take singing more seriously.

She may not have a CD out yet or a band that she performs with but nonetheless, she is determined to follow her heart and make music a much bigger part of her life.

Q&A

Talon Marks: How did you first get involved with music?

Laura Cerna: I've always been singing but when I was in high school, I was in the chorus and realized how much I enjoyed it. I was given a chance to sing solo and fell in love with performing.

TM: What is it that attracts you to music?

LC: I know that overwhelming feeling that I get when a song touches me; I want to share that feeling with others. I want someone to come up to me one day and say, "Your song changed my life."

TM: Are you trying to pursue a serious career in music?

LC: Absolutely. I write lyrics, come up with melodies, and basically write my own songs. I have collaborated with musicians to help produce my songs.

TM: Why go to school for cosmetology and spend your hard money on something separate from music?

LC: Music isn't a guarantee. I love cosmetology, but my passion is for singing and music.

TM: For those who have never heard you sing before, what are your influences?

LC: Mariah Carey was my idol when I was little, but Amy Winehouse and Alicia Keys are more my style. I love R&B, soul and oldies.

TM: What have you done to try and break into the music industry?

LC: I wouldn't say I've broken into the industry, but after performing solo my senior year at the Hispanic Pride Organization assembly, I knew it was for me. I plan on trying out for the next American Idol. My father also supports me; when we went to Mexico, my father and I drove all around stopping at every restaurant performing wherever and whenever possible. It helps that people support me.

TM: If you were in Mexico performing, does that mean you sing in Spanish?

LC: It does but I want to break out in English first and hopefully I will be lucky enough to cross over into the Spanish market.

TM: Anything that you would like to say?

LC: I would love to collaborate with anyone that is passionate about music. It's always fun to bring talents together and see what happens. I am also very open to singing for a band. I just want to do something that will give me the opportunity get on stage and sing, that's the ultimate high.

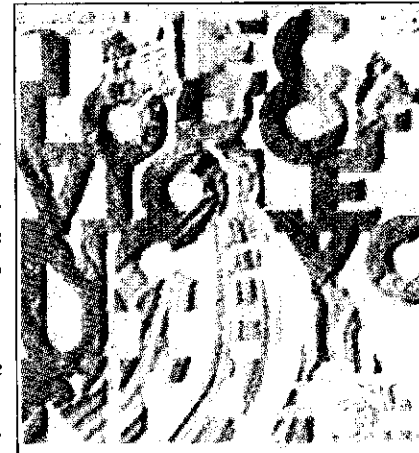
Record Report Card

The Color of Violence "Youthanize"

Travis Richter and Derek Bloom seem to be two musicians that have way too much noise going on in their heads. This is like an unsafe carnival ride that will have you hurling up that six-day-old churro that you ate just before stepping aboard.

The record pulls you in too many directions that leave you sorry that you ate that stale churro.

Grade: C-



Pastor Troy "Feel Me or Kill Me"

I don't feel him nor do I wish to kill him. Pastor Troy's 10th CD release sounds just like what you might expect from an artist with nine albums already under his belt, regurgitated.

If he doesn't put out something fresh soon, you might see this pastor at church more often than on stage.

Grade: C

Silversun Pickups "Swoon"

Crunching guitars that almost squeal in pain, bass hooks that reel you in, drums that take over the beat of your heart, all with the soothing voice of Brian Aubert to tie together to a very well-rounded sophomore effort for the Silversun Pickups.

As SP continues to find its voice, you will be pleasantly surprised to hear how much it has matured.

Grade: B+



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