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campaign still in process  
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CERRITOS COLLEGE

# TALON MARKS

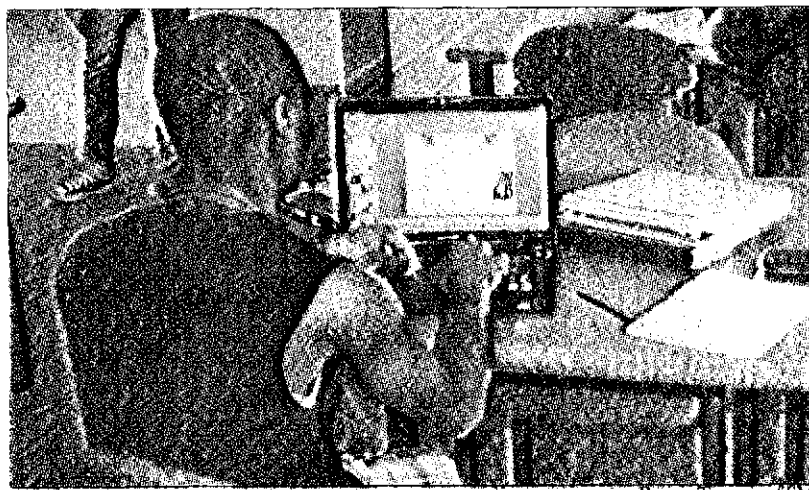
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WEDNESDAY MARCH 10, 2010

VOLUME 54, NO. 17

## Free Wi-Fi available for students, faculty



**Free Wi-Fi:** Students like biology major Benjamin Nwakanma can now use Wi-Fi.

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"Free Wi-Fi is now available in the library and study cubicles, student center and food court and is available during the times that the library and student center are opened," Information Technology Director Lee Krichmar said.

Wi-Fi is going to be available to students at no cost, as long as the student is currently enrolled.

To access the free Wi-Fi, the faculty and students can log in using their faculty information or student I.D. numbers and their passwords.

The steps to access the internet are as follows:  
1. Open your wireless connection in your laptop, PC or MAC.

2. Click on Connect to Cerritos College wireless.

3. Enter your student information and password; faculty members enter your faculty information and password.

4. It will re-direct you to the Cerritos College home page and you can start browsing from there.

Lawrence Alfred Ervin III, Graphic Design major, said, "Offering students the wireless internet through the student center is beneficial

because students like myself can readily access available resources and study outside the computer lab."

According to Krichmar, the Information Technology department is hoping to expand the free Wi-Fi access to students in the future and they are currently searching for funds to support the expansion of this project.

"It is a very smart idea," David Nguyen, English major added, "and students like myself can centralize and organize ideas by using the internet at the student center."

Krichmar also said, "We are very excited to provide this new service to our students!"

## House offers grants

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The nation's largest grant program, the original Pell Grant of \$5000, is increasing in the fall to \$5350 maybe even \$5550 due to the new Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act passed by the House of representatives.

The Pell Grant is considered the foundation of federal aid for lower income students enrolling in a college or university. This grant helps pay for many students' school necessities and tuition.

The Pell Grant can now cover a third of school tuition, fees, or even housing.

President Barack Obama took this as an opportunity to invest in students' future by making education more affordable in hopes of building a future with a skilled workforce to face this economy, and all at no cost to the taxpayers.

"It is a really good thing for students in this rough economy to get a little bit extra money for their books and classes," said Jamie Quiroz, supervisor for the financial aid department.

Ramon Reyes, computer science and technology major said, "This is awesome but the max right now is like \$5000 but it doesn't mean I'm getting it all, but it is still better than no increase at all."

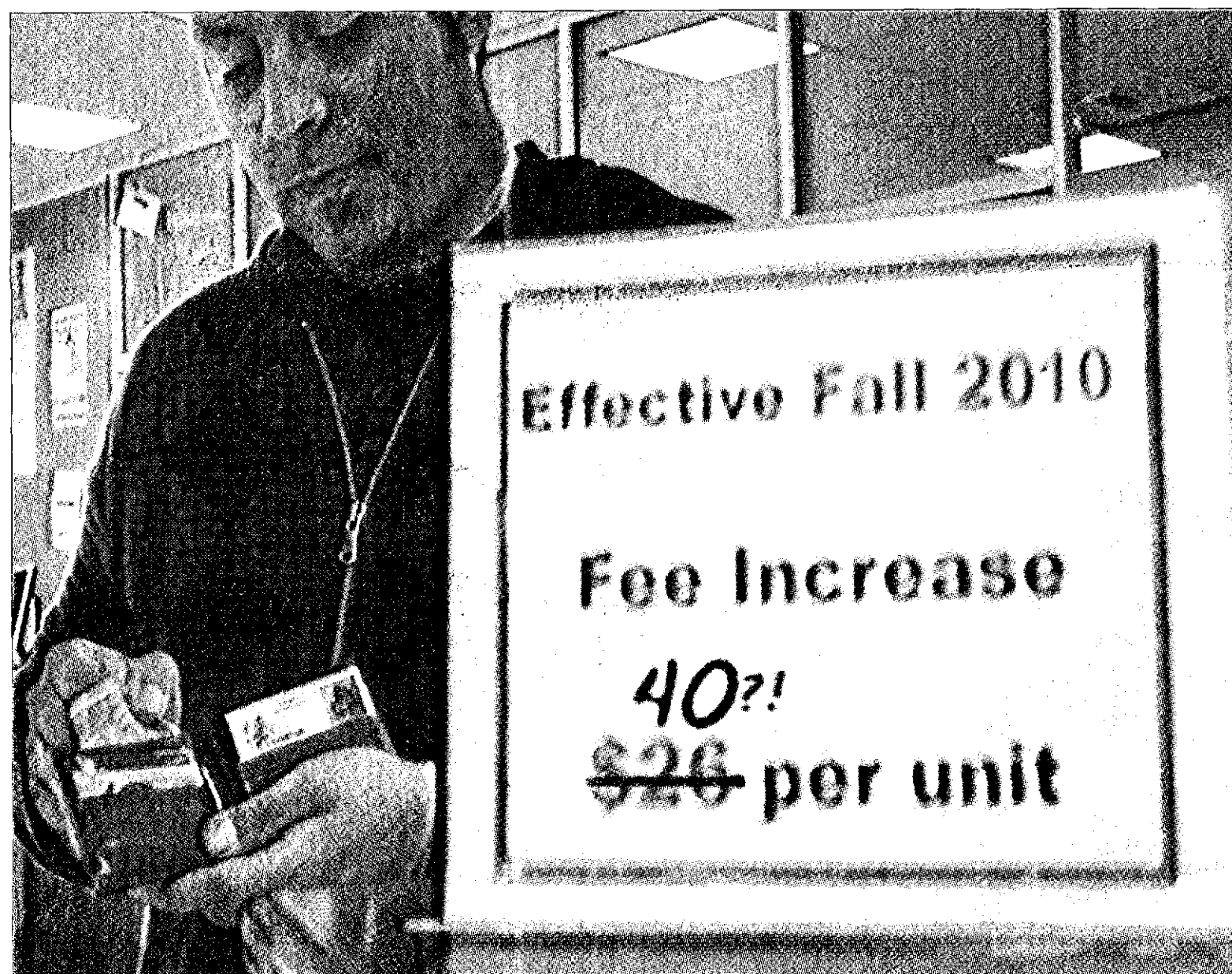
"This increase could really help pay for books. I think this is good change," Erin Johnson, animation major, said.

Although some may be enthusiastic about the increase in funds, others feel that this increase is not necessary.

Amber Myers, undecided major said, "It seems like financial aid students already get more than enough for books and classes and even sometimes have money left over."

To see if you qualify for the Pell Grant or any other type of grant, fill out a FAFSA application. For further assistance you can visit or call the Financial Aid Office at (562) 860-2451 Ext. 2397 or go online to the application itself at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>.

## Per unit fee \$40?



**Proposed increase:** A proposal has been made by the Legislative Analyst's Office for community colleges to raise their per unit fee to \$40 instead of \$26.

## LAO: Tuition hikes 'make sense'

Legislative office proposes per unit fee to increase to \$40 next year

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The Legislative Analyst's Office has proposed a \$14 per unit increase for California's community colleges which would raise tuition fees from the current \$26 per unit to \$40 per unit.

In a webcast released on Feb. 25 by the LAO along with its recommendations for the Governor's 2010-11 budget proposal, Director of Higher Education Steve Boilard stated the cost adjustment would "make sense" because it would "generate about \$150 million in new fee revenue, which would provide funding for about 26,000 more full-time community col-

lege slots and back-fill an allocated \$22 million cut that the Governor had proposed for the community colleges."

According to the report, the fee increase would have "no effect on most students' net costs due to multiple state and federal aid programs," such as the long-standing Board of Governor's Fee Waiver (BOGFW).

Cerritos College Financial Aid Advisors like Juan Mercado will keep an eye out for any change in legislation in order to help students who might find themselves as new BOGFW recipients.

"More students will probably be eligible and will find out when they fill out a FAFSA form," Mercado stated.

The BOGFW is automatically awarded to California community college students whose Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), as determined by filling out BOGFW application or FAFSA, is less than the Cost of Attendance (COA)—an amount determined by the state and directly affected by state-issued tuition fee

hikes.

The LAO estimates that "about 90 percent of CCC students would qualify for either a fee waiver or a full or partial tax offset to their fees [through the federal American Opportunity Tax Credit]."

While there has been no change in the Governor's current 2010-11 budget proposal for higher education which originally did not call for any specific fee increase at California community colleges, word of the possible modification has spread across campuses state-wide and has already caught the attention of Cerritos College faculty.

"We always track legislation," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Bill Farmer, "this proposal is still early in the process so I don't have a secure idea if the state will approve of this."

While Boilard claims "keeping fees low does nothing to help lower-income students"

**See INCREASE Page 2**

## Students will begin recycling program

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With support from President Dr. Linda Lacy and Operations Manager Arcadio Avila, the Rotaract Environmental Club has established a pilot recycling program on campus in collaboration with Green Earth Recycling.

Cardboard bins designated to hold plastic and glass bottles as well as aluminum cans have been placed inside all classrooms and offices within the Physical Science building.

For the first month of the program, communications major and club president Katherine Garcia, with the help of liberal arts major Jennifer Hughes, who is in charge of public relations for the club, will empty the bins themselves in order to gauge the program's progress.

"We need student body and faculty support," Garcia said, "because we can't really start this up until people put trash into its proper place."

After 30 days, what Garcia and Hughes hope is enough time for students and faculty to get in the habit of using the bins, Green Earth Recycling will provide workers to help collect bottles and cans from each classroom.

What interested Avila about the company was that it provides a free pick-up service and has, so far, been able to provide free bins while also returning 20% of the profits to the club.

"Currently, it is limited in staffing and funding and can't hire a specific person to go around and do the work," Avila said.

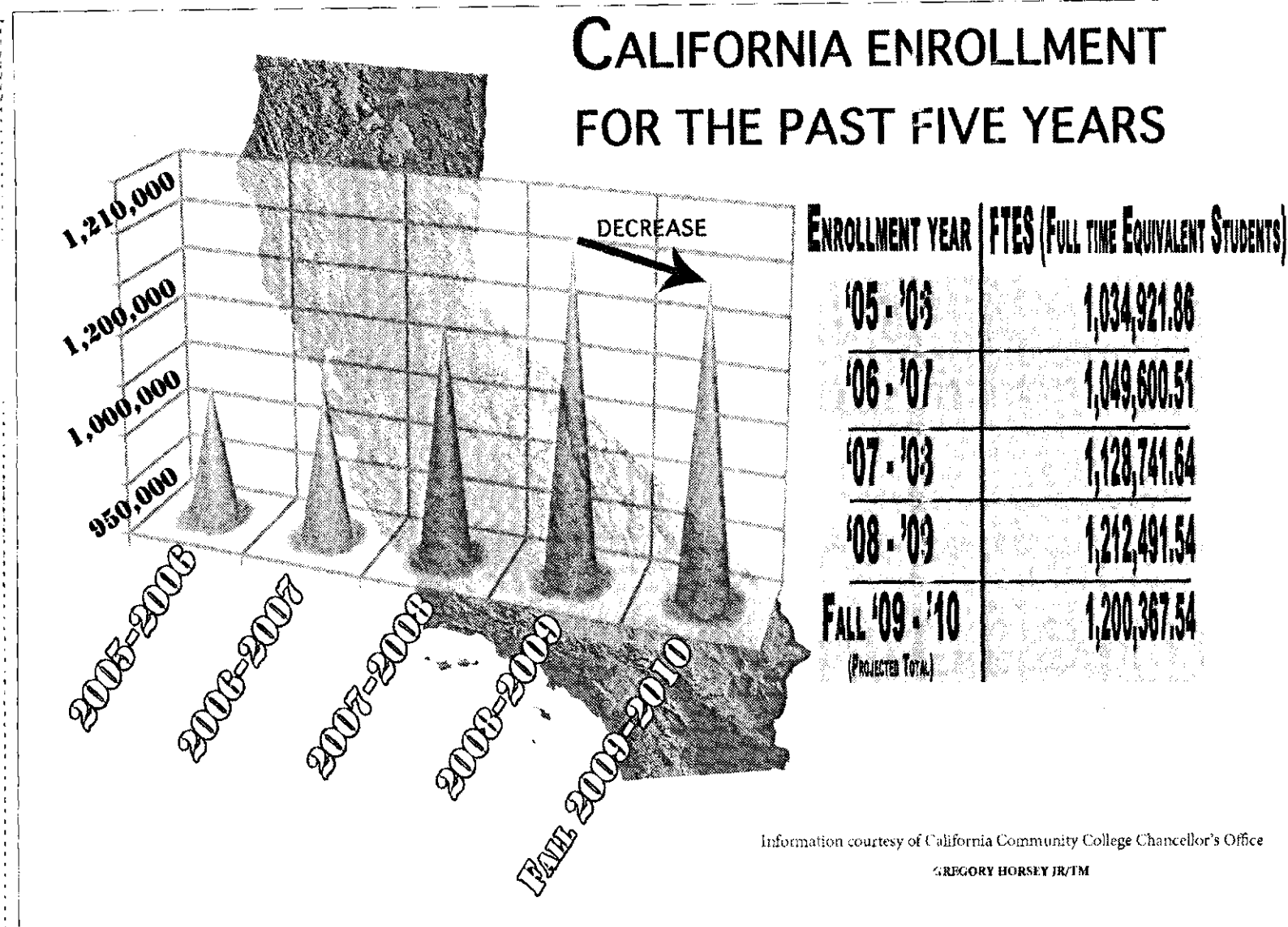
After Green Earth Recycling begins conducting pick-ups, student involvement from those using the bins will still be necessary in maintaining the program's popularity and clean disposal areas. Club members will likely also help in emptying bins.

"We're okay with [Green Earth Recycling] bringing in help, but we can't just let it do all the work," Hughes said.

**See RECYCLING Page 2**



## CALIFORNIA ENROLLMENT FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS



## First decrease in five years

For the first time in five years, California's enrollment projected to drop

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The California community colleges systems is the largest higher educational systems in the US. For the first time in five years the California Community College system has seen a drop in enrollment.

As for local Community Colleges their enrollment has increased and are near their capacity.

Here is an example, our very own Cerritos Community College has doubled its enrollment amount.

Bill Farmer, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Assistant Superintendent, said, "I am happy that we are serving as many students as we are and I am disappointed that we cannot serve all the students who want our classes. But the

state is not paying us for every student that we are serving. We cannot continue to offer classes that we are not getting paid for from the state or else we will be bankrupt."

Farmer continued to speak about the legislator and his own opinion on the status of enrollment here at Cerritos College.

"However, the state does not have a budget yet for next year so we do not know how much the state will allow us to grow. The governor's proposed a budget has two percent growth in it, but we will not know if it will survive the legislators," Farmer continued.

"The legislator are suppose to have the budget in by July 1, but we will know better when [Governor Schwarzenegger] proposes his revised budget in May.

However, he has been late with his budget for several years now. So we will not know what next year will be like. My own personal opinion is that the budget will be similar to this year," Farmer said.

Here, Danna Hall Student Worker for Admissions said, "I feel it's good that students are enrolling into classes daily. However, the classes

may be full and that may cause some students to drop completely."

The shift reverses five years of enrollment growth, which brought the total of enrollment last year to nearly 3 million for California Community Colleges.

Coming from a student's perspective, Kathy Gastelum, business major, said, "I think it is unfair to people that are just coming from high school to get turned away being told that there is no more room for enrollment, so again try in the fall."

Gastelum added, "I had a plan to enroll into some specific classes, but I could not get in because it was too full. I wanted to also take classes toward my major as a backup plan, but I could not do that either. So, now I have to see if I could enroll into those classes next semester."

Stephen Johnson, Vice President of Student Services and Assistant Superintendent, spoke about how he personally feels about the enrollment status.

"The college is working hard to become successful and we try to do our best now and for the near future as well all at the same time," he said.

## Students receive free flash thumb drives

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Web authors can now become Content Management System certified and can receive a free 1 GB USB flash/ thumb drive with the Cerritos College logo printed in it.

"In order to become certified, Web authors must take and pass three quizzes which are open-book and open-note," said Samuel Chavez, of the public affairs office.

There are approximately 30 questions on the test and web au-

thors are allowed to miss up to three questions to pass the quiz.

"It is a great asset for web authors to put on their resume," Chavez said.

Students can take the test all year long Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The first 30 minutes of the quiz is used to review and discuss the quiz, but there is no time limit for the test.

"Each of the quizzes are different," Chavez said, "the first one focuses on CMS, the second one on Edit Lite and the third on Web ac-

cessibility."

Students interested in taking the quizzes receive e-mails from Chavez that take them to links to help them prepare for the quizzes.

Chavez said, "Students who wish to take the test without studying are also welcomed."

"I think it is a great idea for them to offer this, at very least it is a way for students to get a free flash drive. It definitely makes sense for some students who might not be able to afford it otherwise," said nursing major, Arriana Hohner.

The certification is self-paced and Web authors do not have to take all three quizzes within one week.

"I think it is cool that you don't have to take all three quizzes in under a week. I think it will encourage more people to try this out," said undecided major, Jackie Diaz.

Students who wish to take the quizzes can schedule an appointment in the Innovation Center (LC 121).

## William Farmer on the move

ANDREA MORA  
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Cerritos College Vice President of Academic Affairs Bill Farmer is one of the three final candidates in the running for Superintendent/President position at Glendale Community College.

On March 3 Glendale Community College released a news release announcing its final candidates who are running. Farmer's opponents are Dr. Dawn Lindsay, Interim Superintendent/President of Glendale Community College and Dr. Steve Maradian, Vice President/Policy and Research from Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

The winning candidate will be announced on April 19 at the Board Meeting.

## Increase: \$14 unit fee boost may hit as soon as next fall

Continued from Page 1: since the LAO calculates that most students attending California community colleges already receive state-issued financial assistance, Farmer believes that students who currently do not meet the standards of necessity but are struggling to pay for school will likely give up on pursuing a higher education altogether.

"If [this proposal] does go through, it will have a negative impact on students because whenever enrollment fees increase, enrollment decreases," Farmer said.

Students like undecided major Richard Cervantes share Farmer's concern. "There's a reason people attend community colleges and that's because they're not as expensive as UCs. Not everyone has that kind of money so this increase is not fair," Cervantes said.

He, like other local community college students who receive "some, but not much" financial assistance from the state will think twice about attending school if the fee increase goes into effect. "Personally, I will be asking myself if I want to continue at Cerritos," he said.

With the possible fee increase looming over California's community colleges, Farmer wants to remind students they have the right to take an active approach in important decisions which affect their education and future.

Students who wish to have an impact on whether or not next year's budget will reflect the fee hike can "contact legislatures and work through student government lobbying efforts," Farmer said. "There are many groups to connect with and increase the power of the student voice on the issue," he added.

## Cerritos College has new neighbor

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A new Habitat for Humanity ReStore will be opening its doors on Apr. 22 across the street from Cerritos College on Alondra Blvd.

In the meantime, students who are 18 and over and willing to gain volunteer experience could do so. On March 10, students will be allowed to volunteer their time to get the store into shape.

Undecided major Fleur Florian, thinks that building an HFH is important. "As long as there is a contribution made to the poor."

Since the heavy labor has been finished, volunteers will work on light construction tasks such as

stocking shelves, painting, building offices, and cleaning up.

For those who are interested just go to www.habitatla.org to register and sign up. There will be a list of current projects to choose from, find the Norwalk location and sign up. Volunteering is not only for individuals, but for groups, clubs, or organizations as well.

Regina Wyatt, volunteer coordinator for Habitat for Humanity, encourages students to sign up. "It's a lot of fun and a lot of hard work but you feel good because in the end you helped the community, she said."

President of the Architecture and Technology Club Steven Camarena, said that he plans on having the club volunteer time and help out in any way possible to benefit the community and those in need.

In addition, he also said that, "It

will help us out, not only as a club, but as individuals as well, in getting a better understanding in our field of work."

Aside from manual labor students who still want to contribute can make a donation. HFH is still collecting funds for the Haiti relief, and are in works of putting together a relief fund for Chile.

Because HFH is a nonprofit organization, individuals who donate get a tax write-off.

Individuals can also donate material to the ReStore as long as it's in working condition. Items that can be donated are as follows: power tools, doors, windows, light fixtures, furniture, any type of hardware, or anything that would go inside a home.



Neighbors: HFH start final restorations today

Fleur Florian, undecided major, thinks that it's a good idea to donate unused material to people in need. She said that, "My family always donates stuff whenever we can."

For those who are interested in donating material, HFH offers a donation pick up service. Just call Nikki Cordero, donation coordinator, at 310-323-4663 ext. 127 to make an appointment.

The Norwalk HFH ReStore is one of the few stores that have an association with several movie studios and television studios like Sony and Warner Brothers.

This means whenever a movie is finished filming or a TV show is no longer in production the studios donate their unused props to the ReStore which is then sold at a discounted price.

All proceeds go to building new homes for the less fortunate.

## Recycling: New pilot program starts at Cerritos

Continued from Page 1: Even without a student-run recycling program, Cerritos College is currently state-compliant as far as recyclable materials being separated from non-recyclable trash and disposed of properly by a consolidated waste company. "California requires that we divert at least 50 % of our trash into recycling, and we currently exceed that amount," Avila said. He supports the idea of a recycling program because "the state suggests we do more."

Once the program gains popu-

larity and the club is able to fund-raise for a larger effort, the founders hope to establish a permanent campus-wide recycling program, as early as next fall. Bin locations are now being discussed.

"I want the bins outside, where they won't interfere with classrooms," Avila said.

As the program takes its first steps, Garcia is mainly concerned with eliciting the help of the student body and faculty.

"What we need now is for people to participate, show enthusiasm, and to use [the bins]," she said.

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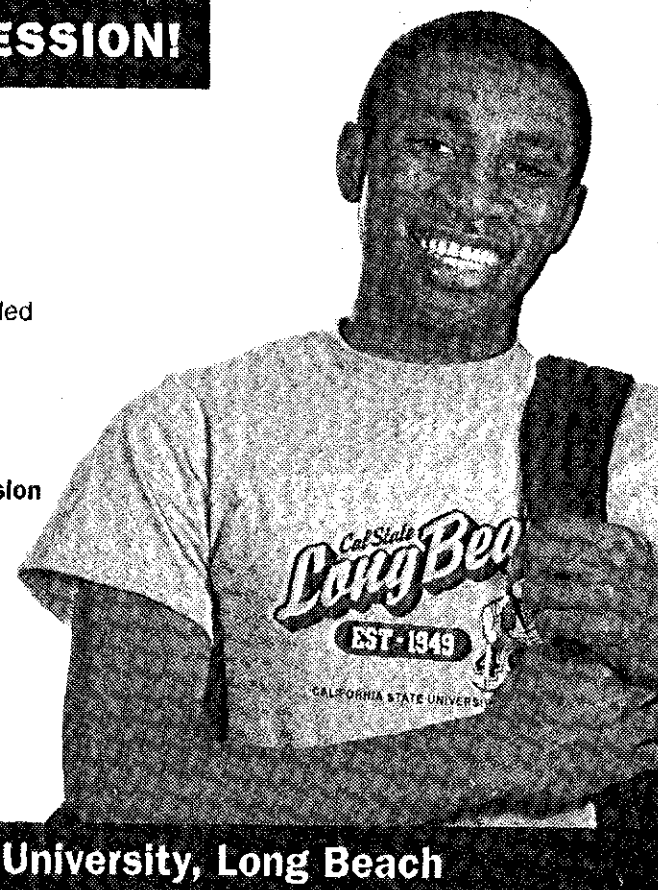
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California State University, Long Beach



## ASCC in search of president

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If you feel that you're just one number among the thousands of students at Cerritos College, the chance for you to stand out has arrived. The Associated Students of Cerritos College (ASCC), is preparing for their presidential elections, which are held in April.

The applications for presidency will be available in the Student Activities Center on March 1 for students that are interested in running for student government.

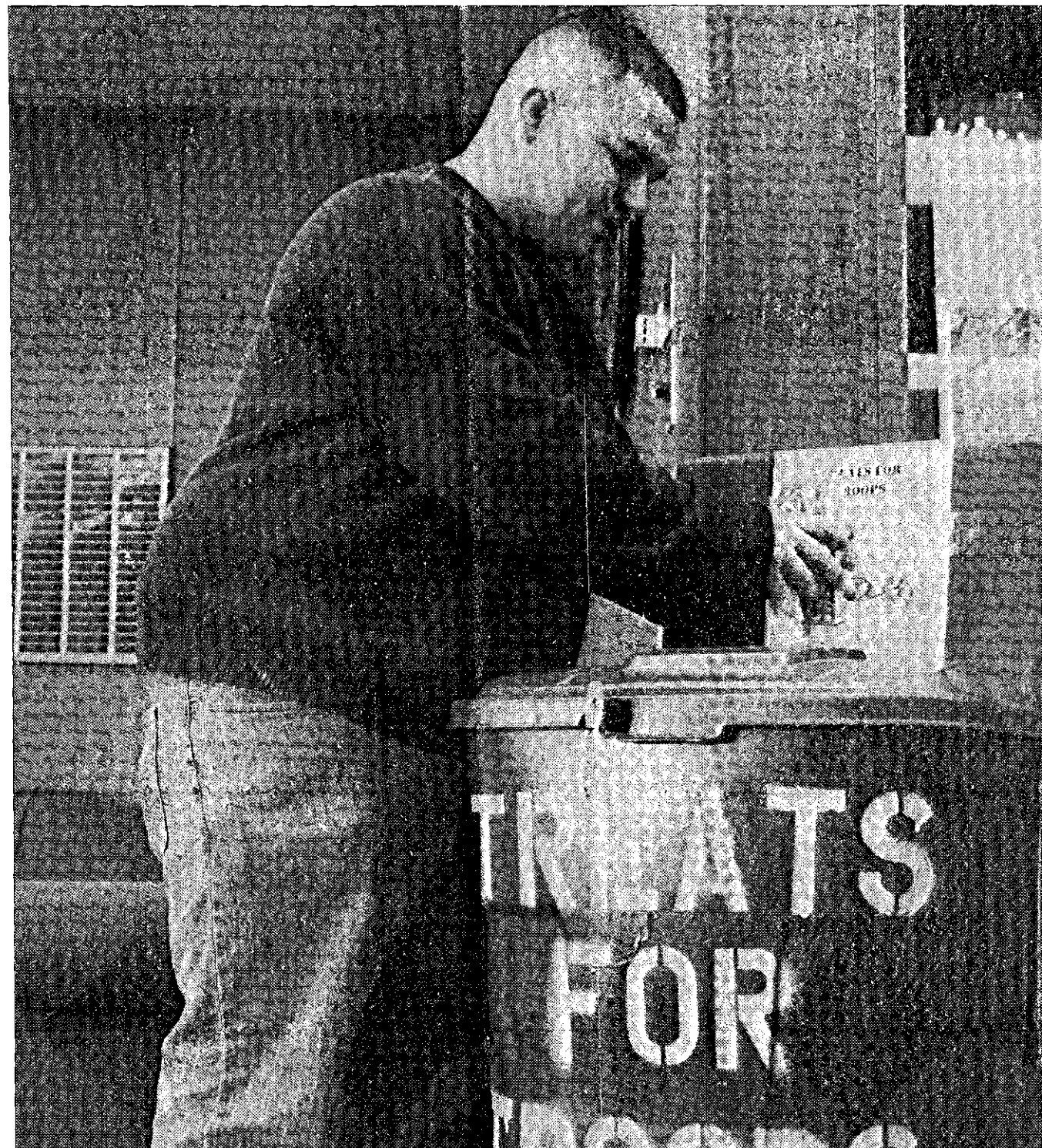
According to the Constitution of the Associated Students of Cerritos College, the president and vice president shall have attained the academic standing of a sophomore by the first full semester of office and shall have an overall 2.25 grade point average on their report card at the time of the election.

Current ASCC president, Oscar Franco, said "Personally I wouldn't run again, it doesn't leave a chance for other students to run. The elections are a great way for students to learn how to choose their leaders. You can go to the public forum and ask questions to the candidates, find out what they stand for."

The applications are due March 19 at 3 p.m. in the Student Activities Center.

## Treats still needed to aid troops

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Treats: President of the Student Veterans club, Felipe Grimaldo, donates goods to the Treats for Troops cause. The campaign continues to collect non-perishable goods for soldiers overseas.

Treats for Troops is a campaign that has been in operation on Cerritos College campus since 2008.

The purpose of the campaign is to give back to troops who are fighting overseas.

"What's entitled is basically to get non-perishable food items," said Felipe Grimaldo, ASCC vice president and student trustee, "used CDs, new CDs, DVDs, basically different toiletries to send out to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan that are serving for our country."

The campaign has two camouflaged bins with yellow lettering entitled "Veterans Club Treats for Troops Campaign." The bins are located in the ASCC building and Admissions building and donations are collected once a month.

The Campaign has previously collected two rooms full of donations that are being stored.

To better distribute the donations, Treats for Troops is currently in transition with collaborating with organization Project Gratitude.

Project Gratitude divides the items on assembly lines and sorts them out, then sends them out to different troops and units more effectively.

Grimaldo encourages not only students, but everyone to get involved.

"We're asking the community, not just only the students, but anyone in the community," stated Grimaldo.

Dale Karr, undecided major, thinks that this is a great way to show our troops support.

"I think it's a good idea to show our support to them, they need some comfort from home, and have to know that we still care," Karr said.

The Treats for Troops Campaign is a year round and is always accepting donations on campus.

For more information contact Felipe Grimaldo at (310) 706-1033 or felipegrimaldojr@yahoo.com.

## Women's History Month

March 16

Panel Discussion on Women in Religion  
11-12 p.m.  
S 201



March 17

WHM Film Series: "North Country"  
2-4pm  
S 201

March 18

Tribute to Women Writers  
Board Room  
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For More Information contact Diane Keenan (562) 860-2451 ext. 2765



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## EDITORIAL

# Another proposed increase

The newest proposed increase in fees is an additional \$14 per unit. This would make the total price \$40 for each unit a student takes. While it is understandable that with budget cuts looming for higher education, something needs to happen to make up the difference, but when is it going to stop?

The current cost for a student to attend Cerritos College is estimated at \$868 per semester for a full-time student (12 units, plus fees and estimated books). At California State University Long Beach, the estimated cost for a full-time student is \$9,426.

With the addition of the proposed increase, estimated costs would be more than a thousand dollars.

While there is quite a difference between the two costs, if the every-other-semester fee increases keep happening, Cerritos College will soon be just as costly as the four-year universities.

If the fees do continue to rise, it is beseeched that administration be transparent as to what exactly the added money is being used for. Students that are constantly paying more for education should know where that money is going.

Joshua Kaanaana, English major, says, "All I want from this school is consistency and if they want to change the price per unit so dramatically, then it is obvious it isn't thinking about its students."

Students aren't welcoming the thought of yet another fee increase after the one in the fall of 2009 when fees were raised \$6. Again, this doesn't sound like a big increase, but if those additional raises continuously appear, our costs will be exponentially greater than they currently are.

It is asked that the administration seriously think about what they are charging their students for an education. And if they consider it imperative to increase fees, be transparent about what exactly the money is being used for.

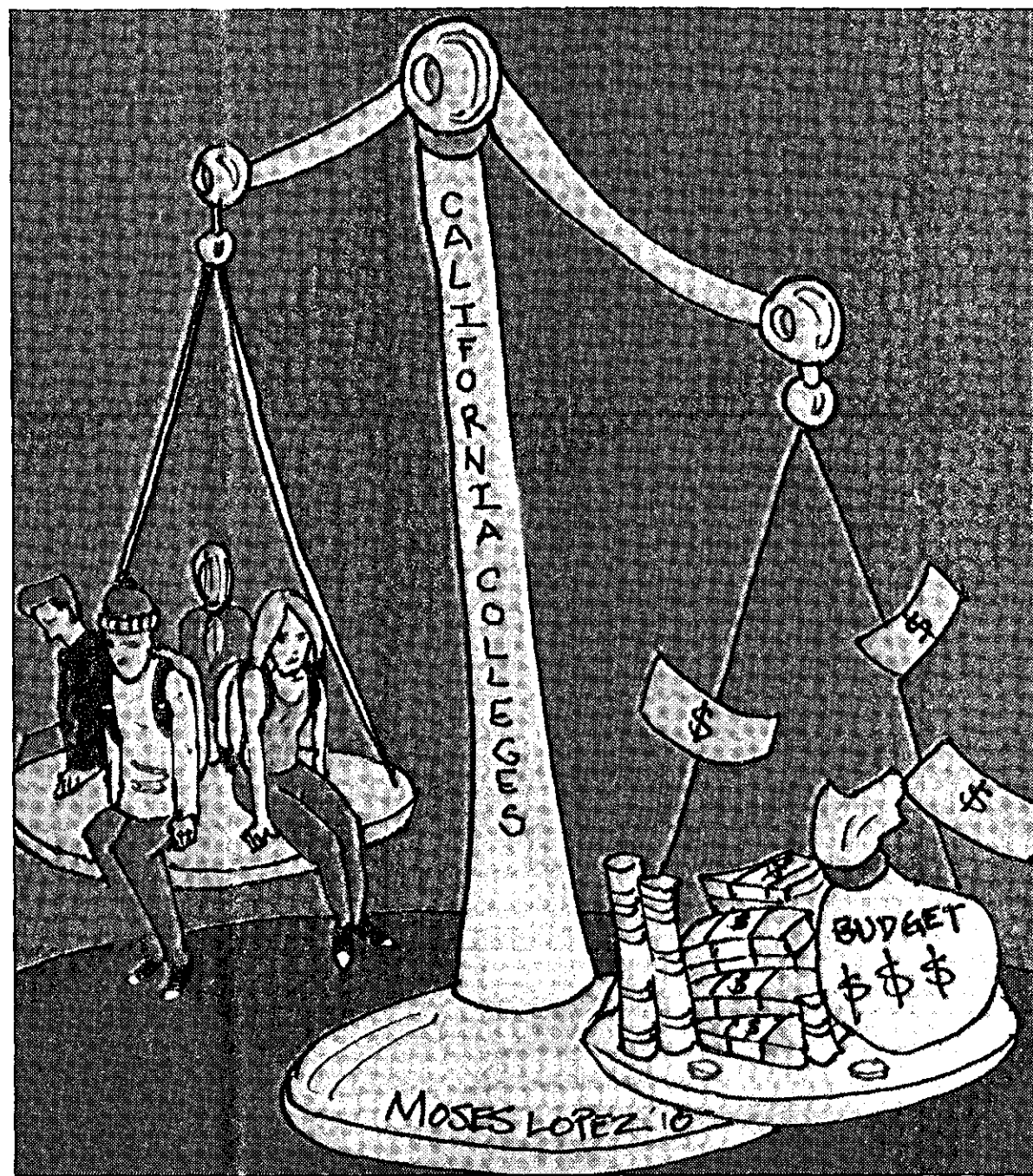


ILLUSTRATION BY MOSES LOPEZ/TM



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](mailto:editor@talonmarks.com).

## Mayweather should beat Mosley for title

"Sugar" Shane Mosley and "Pretty Boy" Floyd Mayweather, Jr. are set to square off on May 1 in the MGM Grand Casino in Las Vegas, Nev. The bout will be for Mosley's welterweight title, which Mayweather will most likely win.

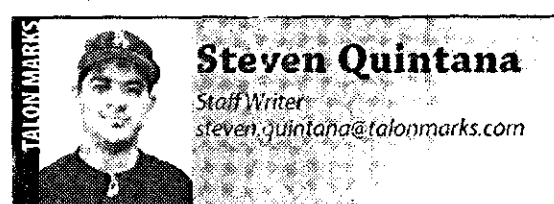
Mosley is going into the fight with a record of 46 wins, five losses, and one no contest; with 39 knockout wins. Mayweather approaches the bout with an undefeated record of 40 wins and 25 knockout victories.

Mosley and Mayweather agreed the terms of random blood and urine testing for the fight, which were the same stipulations Manny Pacquiao didn't agree to in his negotiations with Mayweather a couple of months earlier.

Mosley is a speedy boxer who tends to drop his hands and throw some haymakers which pack a lot of power behind them. This rare combination of fighting styles has helped Mosley against the likes of Ricardo Mayorga, the "Golden Boy" Oscar De La Hoya, and Antonio Margarito.

Though his style has brought him great fame, it has also given him much trouble. When he goes into that brawler-like stance he exposes his face a lot and tends to take punishment from other styles of boxers, or "smart" boxers.

This weakness showed in both of his fights with Vernon Forrest that he lost. In the first fight versus



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Forrest, Mosley thought he saw an opportunity in the second round and went on the attack, but failed to bring his hands up and block and went down, for the first time in his career, from a clearly-landed uppercut.

Aside from his two fights with Forrest, Mosley met defeat at the hands of Winky Wright and from Miguel Cotto. Though he has never been knocked out, Mosley lost by points when it went to the scorecards.

Mayweather, the former pound-for-pound champion, has not lost a fight in his career though there was much controversy in his fight against De La Hoya. He's a straight up boxer with unmatched hand speed.

Mayweather tries not to waste too many punches and waits for the right time to strike. He is a very calculated boxer who breaks you down as each round goes by. If he injures you, he works the part of your body that's injured.

He has taken down the likes of Zab Judah, Jose

Luis Castillo, Ricky Hatton, and Juan Manuel Marquez using these tactics. Though they have been effective for him, they can't work all the time. Most of the times it seems as if he doesn't tire, but he must be exhausted by the sixth round.

If Mosley wants to win he has to keep his hands up and fight smart. He can't swing carelessly and has to wait to attack. Mosley can easily over-power Mayweather and break him down if he works the body in the early rounds then attacks the head around the seventh round. He might even get a knockout win if he times it right.

Mayweather, being the faster of the two fighters, should stay away from Mosley. He should work the jab for a good five rounds. It should be a jab-jab-cross combo then retreat and Mosley will most likely get frustrated and drop the hands and begin throwing the haymakers. When that occurs, Mayweather must stay on his toes, for a clean shot from Mosley will have him tasting the canvas.

Mayweather will take a beating for a good four rounds, but being the smarter fighter, he will catch on to Mosley's game and frustrate him. Mosley won't go down once in the whole match, but will lose to Mayweather when it goes to the scorecards. So after going down in the third round, Mayweather will take home a swollen eye and the split decision title victory.

*"Mayweather, the former pound-for-pound champion, has not lost a fight in his career though there was much controversy in his fight against De La Hoya."*

## What are your thoughts on the newest proposed fee increase?

COMPILED BY: DAVID KAANAANA (CONTRIBUTOR)  
PHOTOS BY: JOSHUA KAANAANA



**KRISTIN PRICE**  
business major  
"Forty dollars? Why? We pay enough. Are they going to pay for our books with the increase?"



**ALEX AGUAYO**  
political science major  
"I think that there are certain times to increase fees. During a recession is not one of them."



**BONNIE LEE**  
undeclared major  
"It's preposterous! I can barely afford the \$26 fee."



**CHRISTINA HEFENER**  
undeclared major  
"It's ridiculous. Why are they building more rooms when they're cutting classes?"



**JASON WARREN JR.**  
graphic design major  
"I think they need to stop construction and worry about our books. It's too expensive."



**MICHAEL REEVES**  
undeclared major  
"It's crap, and I'm bothered, and it's not right because they raised the fee last year."

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Chaffey College  
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### Online Poll

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#### Should the school keep raising its tuition fees?

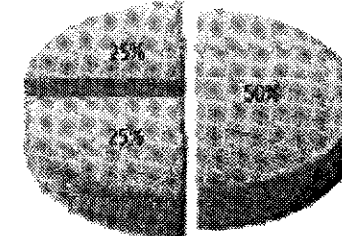
- Yes, it needs the money
- No, it's too expensive as it is
- What fees?
- I don't care, my parents pay for my college

### Last Week's Poll

Vote online at [talonmarks.com](http://talonmarks.com)

#### How do you feel about women obtaining powerful positions?

About time	50%
Doesn't matter	25%
Not sure how I feel	25%
They should at be home cooking & cleaning	0%





# Band is looking to 'Sproose' things up



Members of "Sproose Goose": (left to right) Alex Sandoval, Carlos Lopez, Carlos Garcia, Jose Velasquez.

## Rock band gains fame across southern California

VICTOR DIAZ  
Staff Writer  
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Another local band looks to climb the ranks of the music business.

Sproose Goose is a band that specializes in playing Alternative Rock music. It plays mostly in the surrounding areas of Cerritos College such as Downey, Norwalk, and Long Beach.

According to Erick Galindo, the band's Manager and Cerritos alumnus, the band has been featured in media outlets such as the radio station Star 98.7 and the NBCLA show, "MusicRaw."

The band's members consist of lead singer/lead guitarist Jose

Velasquez, guitarist Carlos Lopez, Alex Sandoval on bass, and Carlos Garcia on drums.

The band has performed at popular venues such as Hollywood's Key Club and the Whiskey-a-go-go. The band has also played at UC San Diego, the LA County Fair, Baja California and parts of Orange County.

Sproose Goose also spends its time contributing to charity whenever it can. The band started a charity program in 2008 entitled, "The Dollar Campaign."

In this campaign, the band donates one dollar of all ticket and merchandise sales toward fighting breast cancer, HIV and climate change, according to the band's web site.

Garcia, the band's drummer, is a former Cerritos student. During his time here, he focused his studies on music, taking classes such as music fundamentals.

According to Garcia, the classes helped him how to read music as well as assist him in his musical timing abilities.

Some of his musical influences include Sting, Chevelle and Neil Peart, drummer for the Prog Rock band Rush.

Sandoval, the band's bassist, sees his experience with the band as more than just something to do in his spare time.

"It's something else. A lot of people play just as a hobby and to enjoy themselves, but we take it really seriously, we take it as a second job," Sandoval said.

Sproose Goose's upcoming projects include incorporating "So Good Records," a record label which would focus on helping other local bands, releasing its second full-length album entitled "Love Pump" and hosting a release party for the album.

## Jazz, Pop bands entertain

VICTOR DIAZ  
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The Cerritos College Music department presented another exchange concert on March 3, this time featuring the Cerritos Jazz Ensemble, Pop/Rock Ensemble and the Carmentia Middle School Jazz Band.

The Carmentia Jazz Band played a four-song set, which included, "Ran Kan Kau," a song composed by the late Tito Puente.

Alan Hallback, the band's director, was able to notice the nervousness and anxiety of his students playing on a college campus. "I think they felt good about it. They get a little nervous when they're playing solos. I think the fact that they were able to get through them is a good confidence builder in the future for them," Hallback said.

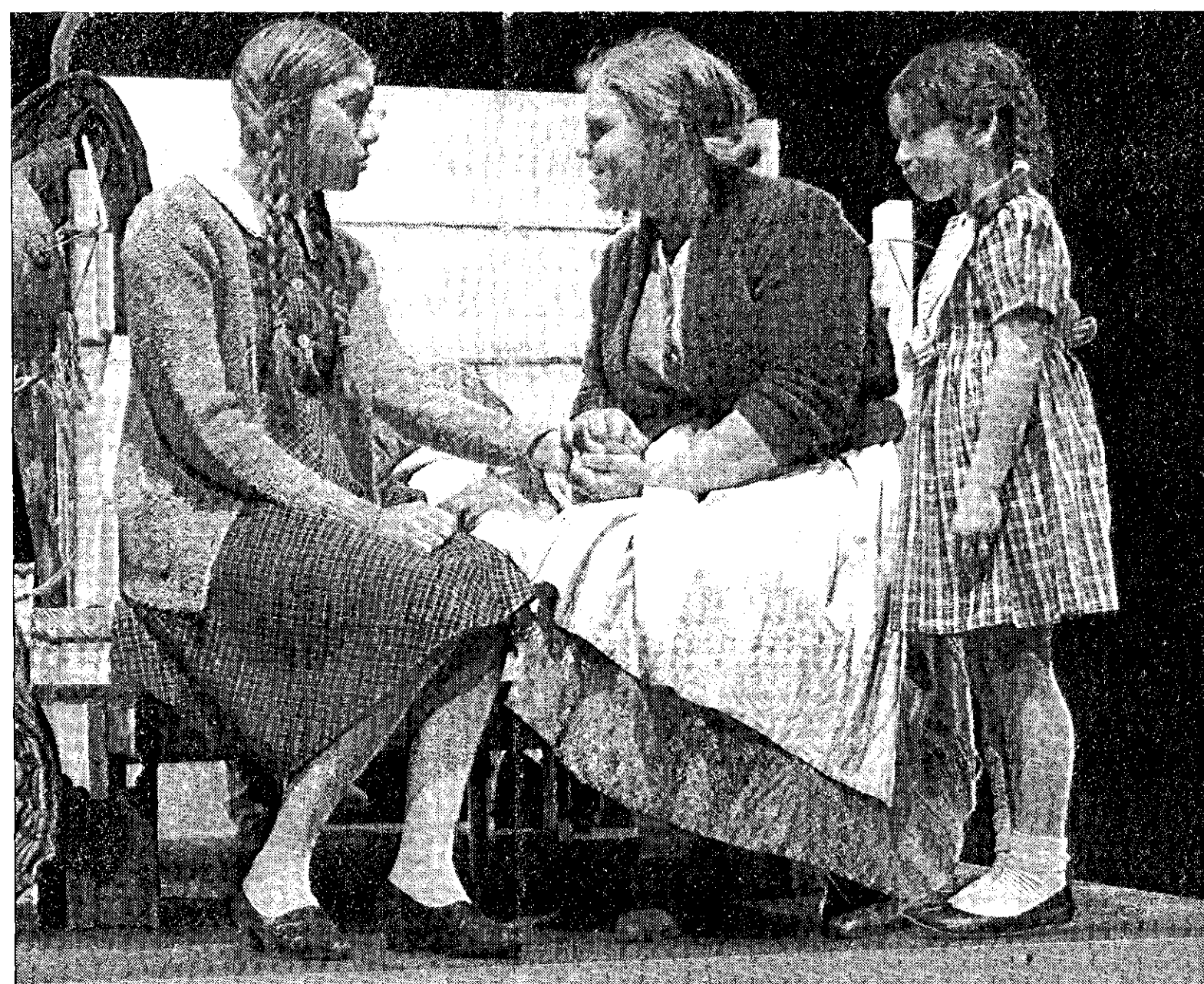
The Cerritos Jazz Ensemble began its set with a song entitled "Deep Freeze," which featured a solo by bassist Rusty Kennedy. With the help of guest vocalist David Page, the ensemble also played "Come Fly With Me," a song made famous by Frank Sinatra. Its rhythm section was also featured in a song entitled, "All The Things You Are."

Trombone player Jon Orloff was pleased by the way the band performed. "We performed well, we didn't make any major mistakes of any sort and it just flowed really well," Orloff said.

The last group that performed on the night was the Cerritos Pop/Rock Ensemble. The group performed a total of eight songs, including James Brown's "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag," which featured a solo by Daniel Mooney on trombone, and Shania Twain's "Man! I feel Like a Woman," which featured all six of the group's female vocalists.

Other songs the group performed included Alanis Morissette's "You Oughta Know," and "Respect," a song which was made famous by Aretha Franklin. The night concluded with "Lady Marmalade," a song featured in the hit movie, "Moulin Rouge." The song featured solos by baritone sax player Steven McEvilly and Guitarist Arturo Martinez.

Students in the audience seemed to have enjoyed the experience. "It was the best show I've ever seen," said Rigoberto Arenas, a student who attended the event. Arenas went on to say, "I gotta say it was a good show."



Take one: (left to right) Flower Munguia (Rose of Sharon) is being comforted by Felicia Buffington (Ma) and Cindy De Leon (Ruthie) after a heart break.

## 'Grapes' ripe for picking

ELIETH KOULZONS  
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If you want to be disappointed, watch the play "Grapes of Wrath" performed by the students of Cerritos.

Set yourself up for disappointment. Buy a \$10 ticket (if you have your student ID with the Spring 2010 blue activity sticker), and go watch the play either Thursday, Friday, or Saturday at 8 p.m. or Monday at 2 p.m.

Choose your poison. Choose what day you want to go watch the play and be disappointed because you are going to wish, better yet demand, that this play be longer.

You are going to be left wanting more; more of the play, more acts, more lighting effects, more sound effects, and especially more acting.

The cast of Grapes of Wrath does an outstanding job in its performance.

Everything from the accent to the emotion portrayal is excellent.

These actors are the very definition of what acting is and should be like.

Students Richard Martinez (Jim Casy), Paul Martinez (Tom Joad), Felicia Buffington (Ma), and Dario Estrella (Pa) go beyond expectations and completely surpass the level of acting that is expected of a college student.

Their performances were amazing and made you believe you were watching a play from a professional acting company.

Those four students are destined for greatness if they decide to pursue their careers as actors.

The play revolves around the classic novel "Grapes of Wrath," written by John Steinbeck.

It takes place during the Great Depression in the 1930s in Oklahoma where dust bowls, created by droughts, forced families to lose their crops, therefore losing their profits, and forcing them to give up their homes to banks.

The play is based on the journey that the Joad family takes from Oklahoma to California in its search of work opportunities and a better life.

The family experiences many tragedies such as death, starvation, betrayal, heartbreak, and is even forced to leave some of its own members behind.

There is absolutely nobody else that can portray the characters and the emotions the family was feeling as well as the actors that did so in this play.

There are two scenes in particular that truly demonstrate how talented these students are.

The scene toward the end of the play where Rose of Sharon is in labor and the men are trying to build a ditch so that the water does not go through and destroy the place where they are living at is full of incomparable acting skills.

While the men are building the ditch, you can feel the anguish, you can feel the anxiety, the need and the urgency to make sure they

do it because they know that if it is not completed, their families will indeed die.

At the same time that is happening, Rose of Sharon, played by Flower Munguia, is in labor.

She is screaming, crying in pain, throwing her head back wishing the labor is over soon.

You could see it in her face, you could hear it in her screams, you could see it in her eyes that she was in terrible pain.

Both things were happening at the same time. You had to go back and forth and back and forth between actions, but in both places the actors went all-out and were determined to show the emotions required for that scene.

They put themselves in that family's shoes. They displayed emotions that were so intense and so real that you would think they had gone through it themselves.

To be able to act out emotions that you have yet to experience, now that's called talent.

There is also a banjo scene where the family participates in a dance with the rest of the folks they are living with.

The actors are so jolly with big smiles on their faces.

You could feel the energy they give off so much that it makes your feet tingle and want to get up and dance.

The play is excellent overall. The actors are beyond amazing and the fact that the it does not lose the genuine feeling of the book, is incredible.

You will definitely wish to see this play.

## Dance goes to nationals

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Dance Department Chair Janet Sanderson selected eight dance students that attended the American Dance Festival in the New England Regional, which took place in Boston, Mass. in February.

Along with 32 other colleges and universities, Cerritos College attended the festival and advanced to the festival Gala in a piece entitled "ESL School Boys at a bus stop in Montreal, Quebec."

Cerritos was chosen to attend nationals as a non-region selection which will be held May 27-29 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

"This is the Super Bowl of dance," first-time competitor Edgar Rodriguez explained, "for a community college to make it with such a diverse group of students and with different skill levels is an honor."

Although the trip seemed doomed from the start with flight delays, room cancellations, and not being able to participate in the workshops, the Cerritos dancers pulled it off.

"We've been rehearsing for this competition since last semester, we've been putting in a lot of work in this especially because we were being judged," fellow dancer, Diana Gonzales said.

Along with Gonzales and Rodriguez the other dancers include: Shaun Fuimaono, Victor Garcia, Steve Rosa, Popy Saradeth, Brian Sholes, and Maleno Van Zitter.

The dance will be presented at the Spring 2010 Dance Concert that will take place March 25-27 in the Burnight Center Theatre.



Hard work pays off: Popy Saradeth (top) along with Edgar Rodriguez (middle) and Brian Sholes (bottom) rehearse for nationals.



# Posada finds music for a getaway

From a struggling childhood, Posada escapes and finds music at Cerritos

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When life throws you a curve ball, you can either learn from it and grow, or let it be an excuse to not do something with your life.

For Archy Posada, life just didn't throw a curve ball; it threw a series of them.

From gang banging to homelessness to drug addiction, his story of struggle and hardships to become a successful college student can inspire anyone to get through college.

Posada was born and raised in Compton, Calif., surrounded by criminal activity that he eventually became a part of.

"In elementary school, I was a pretty good kid who got good grades. I was even on the honor roll," Posada said, "but as I got older, I got involved with gangs, and started doing drugs."

Being born into a family with a history of violence and gangs made it even harder for him to break away from living the life of a gangster.

His only role models as a child were other people who were involved with drug dealing and most of them were members of his own family.

"It was just a cycle of crime and gangbanging among the men, and it was hard to break away from it," he explained. "Everyone in my family has some kind of connection to the streets. So when I got involved it really wasn't a surprise to anyone."

Aside from life on the streets, Posada's life at home wasn't any better. Growing up with an abusive father drove him even more to find a sense of belonging among criminals.

"I was kicked out of the house when I was 16," Posada said. "Growing up, I always had to deal with drama at home, violent threats from

my father, things like that."

Living the life of a criminal was what Posada considered to be his only option at the time.

He learned early on that criminals tended to get money and materialistic items much quicker than those who were actually working toward a good career.

"I saw so many gangsters gain respect from others. They made a lot more money than my teachers did. So I thought 'Why would I want to go to school, when I can have all of that now?'" he said.

So how is it that someone like Posada broke away from a reckless life of crime and violence?

For him, it wasn't a single event that led him to turn his life around.

It took several blows to his mind and spirit in order for him to begin working on obtaining a new life for himself.

"I can't say it was something that clicked into my head overnight. It just came from years of living in anguish that made me realize there had to be something better out there than this."

He enrolled into Cerritos College after graduating early from Dominguez High school in 2001. He was 16 and didn't really have a major in mind yet.

"I enrolled, but I didn't really take it seriously," he said. "Music was always my thing. But at the time, I didn't know you could pursue a career in it. So I kept dropping out and going back to selling drugs."

While selling drugs, Posada often found himself in and out of jail to pay for the crimes he committed.

It took several stints in jail for him to figure out what it was that he really wanted to do.

"Each time I would get sent to jail, I'd say to myself, 'Ok, when I get out I'm going to do things right. I'm going to get through school and do something with my life,' but then I'd end up getting out and screwing up again."

It wasn't until the summer of 2007 that Posada began to take his education at Cerritos College seriously.

Today he is a vocal performance major and is very active in the Music department.

He is currently working with the Music department to organize a scholarship program that will benefit those studying music at Cerritos College.

Faculty members in the Music Department, like Dr. DeMichele, have also seen him grow as a student.

"With his determination and hard work and with the help of his applied music teacher, Archy has made great strides in his voice and has explored Italian, French and English art song repertoire and opera arias," she said. "What also makes Archy special is his encouragement to others in the program. He's always offering a special word of praise or an extra loud applause."

Posada has a few words of advice for other students on campus who may come from backgrounds that are similar to his own.

"I'm still not done struggling. I still go through a lot of stuff ever since I started coming to school. I still have moments where I want to go back to doing what I used to do," he said, "but for other people struggling to get through college, don't ever think you can't do it. You can do what you want to do, and be who you want to be."

Posada is preparing to transfer at the end of the spring semester.

He has already been accepted to a few colleges like Cal State Fullerton, and UC Irvine, but is waiting to hear from one of two schools he really wants to attend, which are San Jose and San Francisco State.



**Music was always my thing. But at the time, I didn't know you could pursue a career in it. So I kept dropping out and going back to selling drugs.**

— Archy Posada  
vocal performance major



**Singing in tune:** Archy Posada sang in a recent concert that was put on by the Music Club to raise funds for Haiti earthquake relief victims. Posada is the treasurer and ICC representative for the Music Club.



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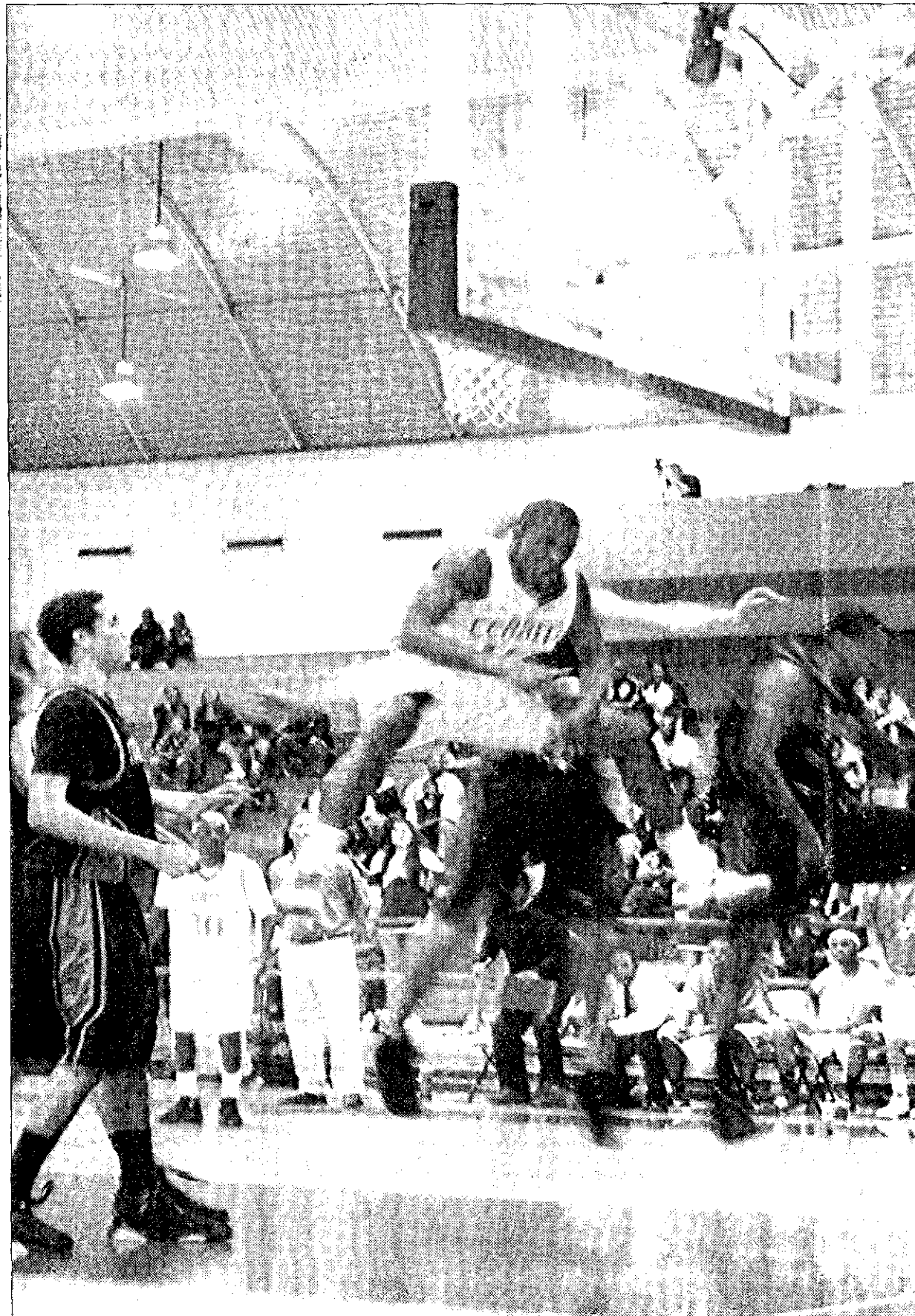
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# Basketball gets coach and player of year



**The Pay Off:** Sophomore forward Marcellus Jackson flying high last season. He has since earned conference player of the year.

STEVEN QUINTANA

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The South Coast South Division Conference player of the year and head coach of the year titles have been awarded to members of the Cerritos College Basketball program.

Head coach Russ May is now coach of the year, while sophomore forward Marcellus Jackson has become player of the year after the end of last season.

"Honestly, I think if you are coach of the year you need to have players of the year, and I was fortunate to have some really good, tough kids that really competed for me," May said.

May led the Falcons to an 18-11 record this year and to a No. 12 seed in the playoffs.

They faced Mt. San Antonio College Feb. 26 in the second round and were bumped out of the post-season in what Jackson called a very winnable game.

"Of course when I look back I would want to change some things but I think we all did good as a team," Jackson said.

There were certain things we could have done better and that's probably the most important part, what cost us the game is the little things," he added.

Jackson was pleased to hear May was announced coach of the year because of the adversities the team faced and how May led them through it.

May was offered the position of head coach after former head coach Jesse Teplitzky resigned as coach after one year. "I'm happy for the opportunity," commented May. "It was a great experience and there were a lot of challenges."

Jackson said, "He came in late and he basically had what he had... a lot of kids wanted to transfer out after the situation with our previous coach but we all just started working with him."

"He worked with us and we just knew it was going to be a good season," he added.

Schools have already been contacting Jackson with offers to join their programs.

"Right now I haven't really made any final decisions, but at first I wanted to leave California but now I'm reconsidering it," Jackson said.

He wants to stay local but can't overlook the offers presented from all over the country.

"If I choose to stay in California, I will most likely go to Pepperdine or Riverside if I decide to leave, then I'm looking at bigger options," he added.

With such a successful season behind him, May prepares for next season with stronger recruiting process and some invaluable returners, like freshman forward Willie Edwards.

"[Edwards] is a first team All-League guy and a very strong and steady influence and skilled," said May, "We're recruiting hard and try to bring in some guys to help build on the tradition."

It is still not sure that May will be returning next year, but there's no competition in sight.

"I definitely want to be back and I'm looking forward to the opportunity and I've applied for the position full-time," said May.

May left his 10-year head-coaching job for the Los Alamitos High School basketball team to take the opportunity to coach the Falcons.

As head coach at Los Alamitos, May led the Griffins to nine league championships as well as two CIF Southern Section championships in 2006, Division I-A, and in 2007, Division I-AA.

Before his time as head coach at Los Alamitos, Coach May was assistant coach for the Cerritos College basketball team under head coaches Jack Bogdanovich and Dean Ackland from 1994-1999.

May spent some time wearing a Falcons jersey as well. His freshman year in 1989 Cerritos won the Conference title and came in second his sophomore year. May also was awarded a South Coast Honorable Mention his sophomore year.

May was considered for the coaching job last year though it was given to Jesse Teplitzky. After Teplitzky left for an assistant coaching job for a professional team in Mexico, May was offered the job.



**At Work:** Russ May planning in preparation for next season.

## Offense strikes out in Cerritos baseball's defeat

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In the bottom of the ninth with the game clearly out of reach third basemen Jacob Mayoral hit a single to right to break up a no-hit bid by Compton College pitcher Martin Villanueva, as the Cerritos College baseball team fell to Compton 8-0 Monday afternoon at Kincaid field.

"I think the rain delay gave Villanueva a chance to get some extra rest and come out today very strong," Compton head coach Shannon Williams. "He was able to hit his spots, get ahead in counts and attack the lefties on Cerritos."

The game was originally scheduled for Saturday but was pushed back because of rain.

The Falcons were also shut out by Mt. SAC on Friday losing 4-0.

"We really just are not very good offensively right now," head coach Jack Brooks said, "we can't win playing like this."

The Falcons are now 1-2 in the South Coast Conference and 5-9 overall.

During Thursday's game against Mt. SAC the Falcons failed to get anything going offensively.

"At this level you have to make adjustments during games to be able to compete," Falcons' assistant coach Anthony Moreno said. "We do not do that and it is something that the players will have to do now moving forward."

This marks the fourth defeat in a row, including being swept for the first time in their history, for the Falcons against the Tartars. Last season was much different, where Cerritos dominated the Tartar baseball team.

Williams said, "We have been able to get baseball players here, in the past we have gotten great athletes but they were not baseball players, it is easy to coach when you have great baseball players,"

The Falcon coaches believe that

this Compton team is a formidable opponent.

"Compton does a lot of things well, it is very fast and athletic, runs a lot on the base paths and plays a very aggressive style of baseball," Moreno said.

The Tartars were aggressive on the base paths against the Falcons stealing five bases and being picked-off three times by Falcons' starting pitcher Chris Villalobos.

Villalobos went 4 and two-thirds giving up six runs and struck out four.

"With the offense going like that, there's definitely pressure, I feel like I have to be perfect every time out," he said.

The bullpen pitched fairly well with 3 runs in three and one-third.

"The bullpen was the lone bright spot in today's game," Brooks said.

## Baseball wins game

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Nick Quezada threw a complete game shutout to lead the Cerritos College baseball to a 4-0 victory over visiting Los Angeles Valley College, last Friday.

The freshman pitcher earned his first victory of the season and his record is now 1-1.

"I was able to hit my spots with my slider and felt like I was just in groove all game," he said.

The Falcons have now won two straight games after losing their previous four-in-a-row and their record is 4-7.

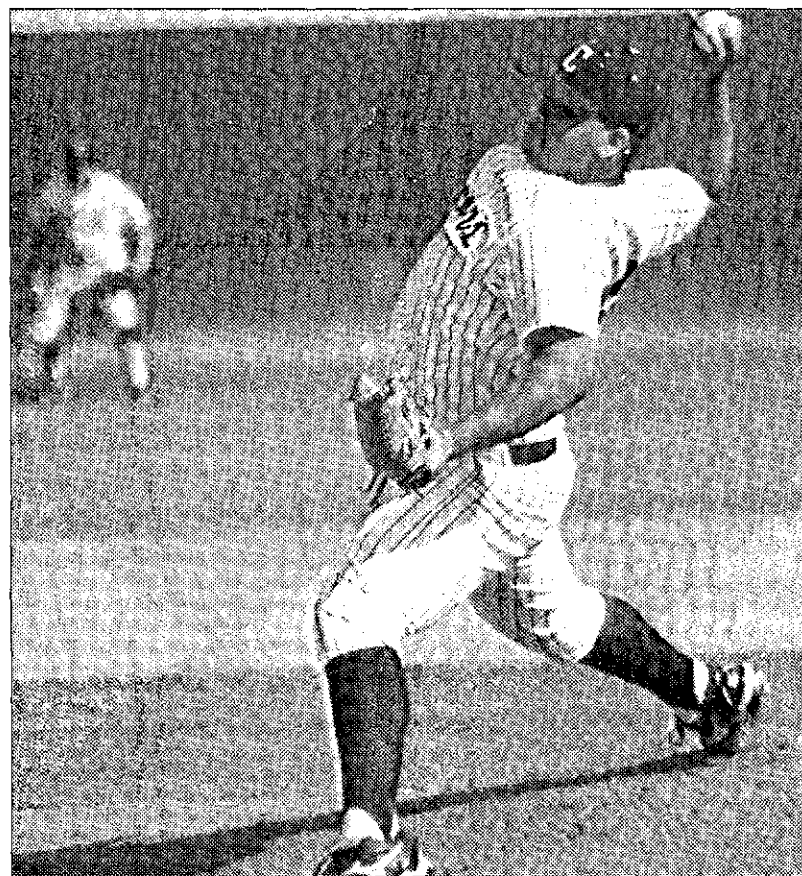
"It is big for us and it is big for Nick because he has been a tough luck loser so far this season," head coach Jack Brooks said.

"Our offense was a little stagnant but that tends to happen when you have a great pitching performance," he said.

The Monarchs were short-handed for Friday's game because of a bench clearing brawl the game before against Mt. SAC and their bench was suspended for running on to the field.

The two have been playing baseball together since the age of 4 and according to Serrano began catching his cousin as freshman in high school.

"I know what he wants to throw and how his ball moves so there definitely a comfort level between us," Serrano said. "I know how his fastball breaks down and in to right-handers and that helps because he is hard to catch because all the movement on his pitches."



**Strong defense:** Chris Villalobos pitched well in last Monday's loss to Compton.

## Work out tip of the week: low impact leg workouts

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This month we've decided to start our athletic tip of the week; it will include things such as workouts, stretches, tips and suggestions. With March being woman's history month, we've decided start our athletic tip series with a workout routine more directed toward the ladies.

Women usually have different problem areas, different fitness goals and have to design their workout programs accordingly.

However anybody can do these workouts. Whether its school, work, kids, or all of the above, most of us here at Cerritos College don't have the time to fit a two-hour gym ses-

sion into our day. So an quick workout you can do at home with little to no equipment is more than ideal. Here is an easy routine you can do to workout your lower body.

Any workout should be started out with a warm-up, an easy 5 minute light jog should be sufficient followed by another 5-10 minute stretch to avoid any injuries.

These exercises could be done with lighter weights of about 10-15 lbs in each hand or no weight at all depending on your strength level.

Do a set of each, one after the other, stretching in between as needed until you are done.

**Calf Raise:** With the dumbbells at your side, stand on the edge of a step or small ledge so that your heels fall off the back and your

toes are holding you up. Slowly lower your heels down as far as they go. Slowly push yourself up using your toes and tense the calf muscles.

Pause at this top position for one second and repeat. Do 5 sets of 12.

**Squats:** Cross your arms holding the weights at your shoulders.

Keep legs a bit wider than shoulder width and your back straight. Squat down to a point where your upper legs are almost parallel with the floor as if sitting in a chair. Pause for a brief second then push back up to standing position. Do 4 sets of 10.

**Lunges:** Stand with your feet together and hold the dumbbells at your side.

Keeping your back straight, slowly step

forward with your left leg so your knee is bent at about a 90-degree angle.

Step your leg back to starting position and repeat with your right leg. To avoid injury, don't let your knees touch the ground. Do 4 sets of 15.

By keeping the reps high you will tone and firm the muscle you already have instead of building new muscle mass. Low weight will prevent an increase in size in the muscle.

The more lean muscle mass you have the more body fat you will burn during the day and even in your sleep.

As your technique gets better you can add some more sets and increase the weight. Make sure to pick up next weeks issue of Talon Marks for our women's upper body workout.



## Falcons win in nailbiter

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Natalie Garcia's game-winning RBI walk helped push the Cerritos College softball team to a 3-2 South Coast Conference victory over Mt. San Antonio College on Tuesday at Nancy Kelly field.

With the bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the seventh inning, Garcia's patience at the plate was rewarded with a four-pitch walk to hand the Falcons the victory.

"I was really nervous," Garcia said.

"It feels good to win because this was a big game in the conference," she added.

The stage for Garcia's game-winning opportunity was set with a lead off walk to sophomore second baseman Lindsey Marquez and a pair of one-out singles from freshman Rochell Romero and sophomore third baseman Brandi Rummel.

The Falcons improved their record to 19-3 on the season and pushed their South Coast Conference record to 6-0 after their victory over the defending state champion Mounties.

"It was intense," said Samantha Garcia, whose single in the fourth inning tied the game at one apiece.

"I think we should have won by a lot more," she added.

"It's really our first close game that we've finished and won," Head Coach Kodee Murray said.

The Falcons' defensive play was once again errorless throughout the game behind the pitching of sophomore Hillary Perez-Ashley.

She pitched a complete game striking out five batters while giving up seven hits to the Mounties, one of which was a homerun, to improve her record to 15-0.

Sophomore leftfielder Devin Salmones didn't want the past to repeat itself as the defending state champs were able to escape Nancy Kelly field with a victory last season.

"It's always a competition between us," said Salmones. "I was just doing my part," she added.

The Falcons will next be visiting Los Angeles Harbor on Thursday at 3 p.m.

## Cerritos alumnus now a Met

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Rod Barajas, former All-American catcher for the Cerritos College baseball team, signed a one-year contract that guarantees him at least \$500,000 with the New York Mets this upcoming season.

His contract doesn't end

there, his salary could increase up to \$900,000 if he makes the 25-man active roster during the regular season, and when including performance bonuses, he can earn up to \$1.1 million depending on how many games he starts as catcher for the Mets.

"Whenever I talked to my agent, the Mets name always came up," Barajas said. "I'm just happy to be here now."

Barajas played for the Cerritos College baseball team in 1994, where he hit four home runs and 33 runs batted in as he was named 1st Team All-South Coast Conference as designated hitter his freshman year.

His second season with the Falcons in 1995 was even better than his first as he belted out nine home runs and 45 runs batted in with a .387 batting average to earn All-American honors and help lead the Falcons to a South Coast Conference championship.

He also showed off his skills with his glove by splitting time at first base and catcher for the Falcons.

Rod is a local who attended and graduated from Santa Fe High School in 1994 where after being ineligible to play baseball for the Chiefs his junior year, he responded with his senior year

by earning 1st Team All-League honors.

"Best catcher that I have ever been around," said Steve Hendry, former high school coach of Barajas, "he's just an all around great baseball player and a good teammate."

Out of the 26 games played in his senior season, Barajas had at least one hit in 25 of them to help lead the Chiefs to a CIF semi-finals appearance.

"Rod could always be counted on to come through in the clutch," said Eric Mallory, former high school teammate of Barajas, "you could always count on him to be a hard-working player."

Mallory most admires Barajas' resilience, for after being overshadowed

by high school teammate Mark Kotsay, future college baseball Golden Spikes Award winner and major leaguer, he still kept his work ethic top notch and never gave up.

Barajas, now at the age of 34, has a major league career batting average of .238 and since 2002, has thrown out at least 33 per cent of would be base stealers.

Last year with Toronto Blue Jays, Barajas had one of his best seasons as he launched 19 home runs, hit career high 71 runs batted in and a .226 batting average in 429 at-bats.

His 71 runs batted in is the most any Mets player had all last season, except for all-star third baseman David Wright. Also, his 19 home runs surpassed the Mets home run leader by seven.

Barajas is also durable behind the plate as he played in at least 104 out of 162 games in four of his last six major league seasons.

In the 2008 and 2009 seasons com-

bined, when catching, his pitchers ERAs were a 3.81, the fourth lowest among major league catchers.

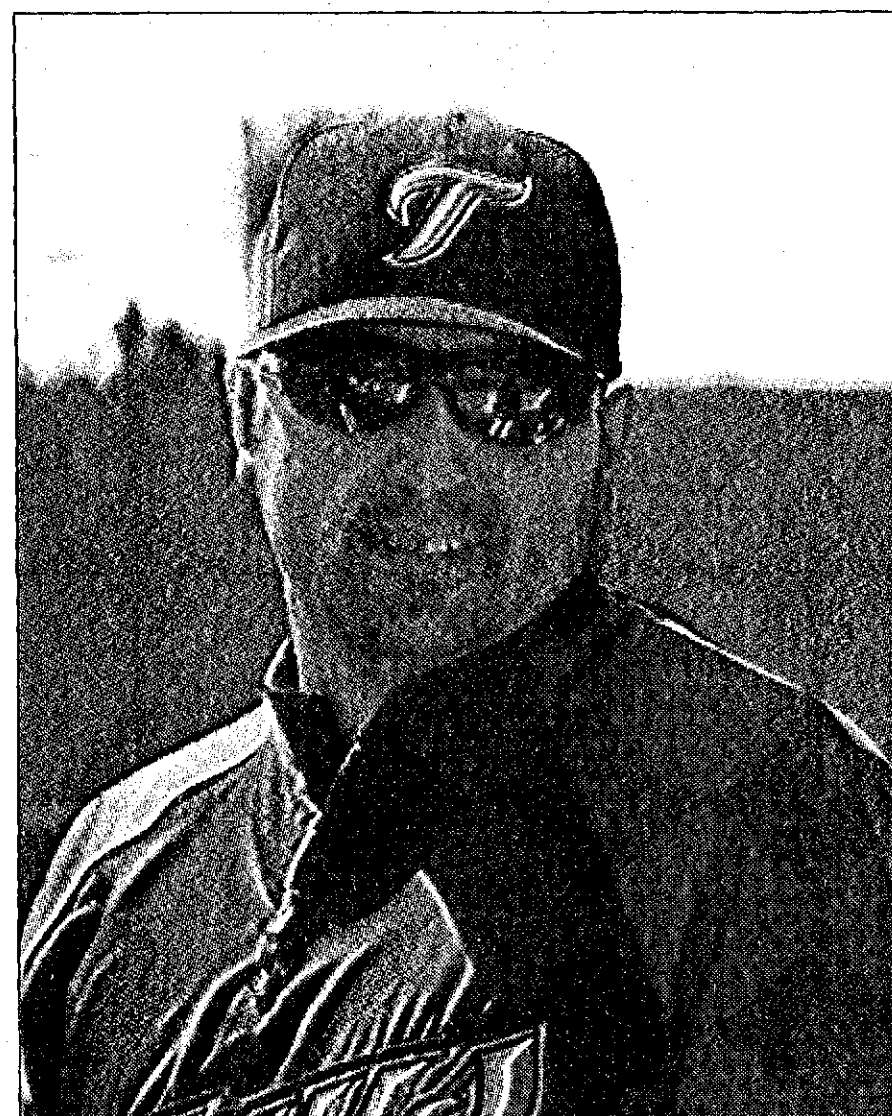
But still neither Barajas nor the Mets got their first choice, for Barajas was wishing for a contract that lasted more than a season, and the Mets would have preferred veteran catcher Bengie Molina, but negotiations fell out when he decided to return to the San Francisco Giants.

Barajas also had the option of signing with his former team the Texas

Rangers as a back up catcher, but the possibility of being an everyday catcher is what swayed him towards the Mets.

Now, with the signing of Barajas, the Mets now have the dilemma of choosing a starting catcher out of six, all of whom played in the major leagues last season.

With the 2010 season just around the corner, Barajas will have opportunities to catch for all-stars Johan Santana and closer Frankie Rodriguez while making a run for the World Series ring.



Mr. Met: Former Cerritos baseball player Rod Barajas recently signed a contract with the New York Mets. Barajas led the Falcons to a South Coast Conference championship in 1995.

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