

**What are Mini Es  
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**Men look to repeat  
as champions**  
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# TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY August 26, 2009

[WWW.TALONMARKS.COM](http://WWW.TALONMARKS.COM)

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## Board votes Lacy as new superintendent

**Linda Lacy's start  
date is now under  
negotiation.**

RICK GOMEZ  
Editor-in-Chief  
[editor@talonmarks.com](mailto:editor@talonmarks.com)

The board of trustees voted to hire Linda Lacy as the next president of Cerritos College on August

12.

Negotiations regarding her starting date will now begin, according to Acting President Bill Farmer.

The current Vice Chancellor of Student Services and Operations at Riverside Community College, Lacy, was one of two finalists in the Cerritos College presidential search.

The other was Mark Zacovic, Interim Vice President of Administrative Services at Pasadena City College.

The presidential search committee conducted site visits on both finalists' respective colleges.

Prior to choosing its top two candidates, Cerritos College held open forums for the five initial finalists, which lasted from June 16

to June 18.

Lacy made it clear that the struggling economy and tight budget would be at the top of her priority list if elected president of the college.

She expressed her optimism, despite the \$14 million budget cut Cerritos will undergo, saying, "If you stop planning and stop dreaming when you don't have any mon-

ey, you will never look forward. You need to imagine."

Aside from the budget, other issues on her priority list are "to spruce up the facilities" and going over the ARCC (Accounting Report for Community Colleges) report.

Farmer will return to his former position as Vice President of Academic Affairs.

He expressed his gratitude as Acting President in a recent email to campus colleagues titled "President's Message."

"It has been a joy to work with all of you this year as Acting President. I have appreciated your support as we successfully tackled the challenges thrown at us," said Farmer.



The waiting game: Students sit in line outside the administration building for hours to meet with a counselor.

MEGAN WINTERS/TM

## Tuition increases, wallets decrease

**Tuition fees  
increase by \$6 and  
UCs stop spring  
enrollments.**

ELIETH KOULZONS  
News Editor  
[news@talonmarks.com](mailto:news@talonmarks.com)

Frustrated, angry, desperate, and worried; these are only some of the many feelings that students at Cerritos College are experiencing due to all the budget cuts and fee increases.

A few weeks before the Fall 2009 semester began, tuition increased to \$26 per unit as opposed to the prior tuition of \$20 per unit.

The student health fee also increased by \$10, therefore making the new health fee \$26 instead of the previous fee of only \$16.

Although these increased fees are affecting students all across the

state of California, some students like anthropology major Jennifer Padilla feel that community colleges are being affected the most.

Because UC universities recently stopped accepting Spring enrollments, those students who were suppose to attend universities are now forced to resort back to the only educational institutions they can either afford or are accepting new enrollments, and that is the community college institutions, said Padilla.

"What's happening now is that community colleges are taking in not only students right out of high school and students who are continuing their education," she said, "but are also now forced to accept those students who were not able to get into UC schools."

See BUDGET Page 2

## Reece appointed new dean of humanities, social science

ELIETH KOULZONS  
News Editor  
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Bryan Reece was named the new Dean of Humanities and Social Science Division over the summer.

Although he feels a little bummed because his office will no longer have a window, the former president of faculty senate feels very honored, optimistic and looks forward to taking on this very important role.

"I'm very excited and optimistic about taking on this position," he said. "I think this is a great division to be working with and I think we could do a lot of great things together."

He plans on focusing on two main goals while in office:

\* first is to provide excellent administrative services to the Humanities and Social Sciences faculty and students and

\* second is he hopes on improving student performance and success.

One way he will go about in doing so is by implementing the iFALCON campaign into

classrooms.

As one of the founders of the Habits of Mind campaign, a campaign established the Fall 2008 semester that promotes studying and healthy learning habits, he hopes to continue promoting iFALCON by partnering with student services in order to help provide students with support and assistance in reading, writing and tips on study skills.

A new method he will also be using is sending out e-mails to students who are majoring in humanities and social sciences.

"I believe it is important to not only establish a form of communication with students, but also maintaining it," he said.

The e-mails' purpose will be to keep students updated and informed of announcements, issues, requirements or opportunities that pertain to them.

As far as communication with the faculty is concerned, he will also be sending out memos to staff members and faculty as well.

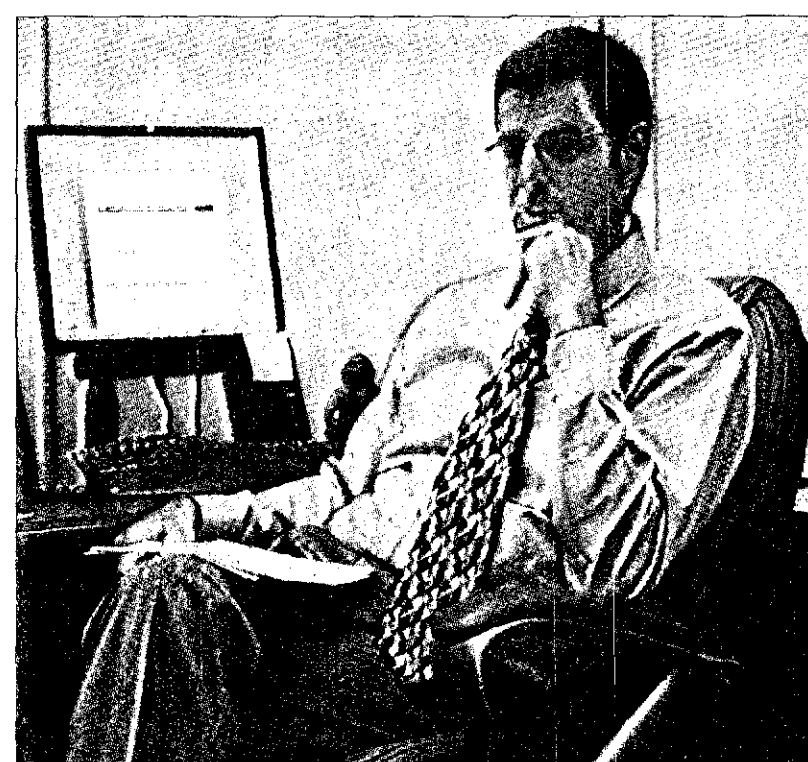
What is most important to Reece is primarily student success.

He states that one of the differences between being Faculty Senate president and dean of humanities and social sciences is that Faculty Senate discusses what you should do to improve student success, and as dean the issue is more of "what are you going to do?"

However, he did state that he will take all the discussions, ideas, suggestions and planning done in Faculty Senate to improve student success, and integrate it into his current role as dean.

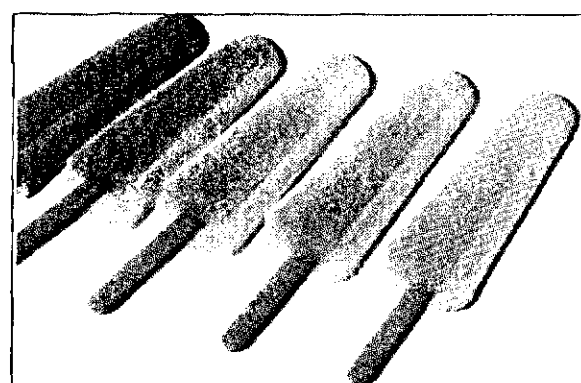
Faculty Senate president was a great job, he said, but he looks forward to the challenges of being the new dean.

He said, "I have been a member of the Cerritos College faculty for 18 years now so I know the faculty pretty well. I look forward to working closely with the division staff because I think that as a team we can make a positive impact on student success."



JUAN RAMOS/TM

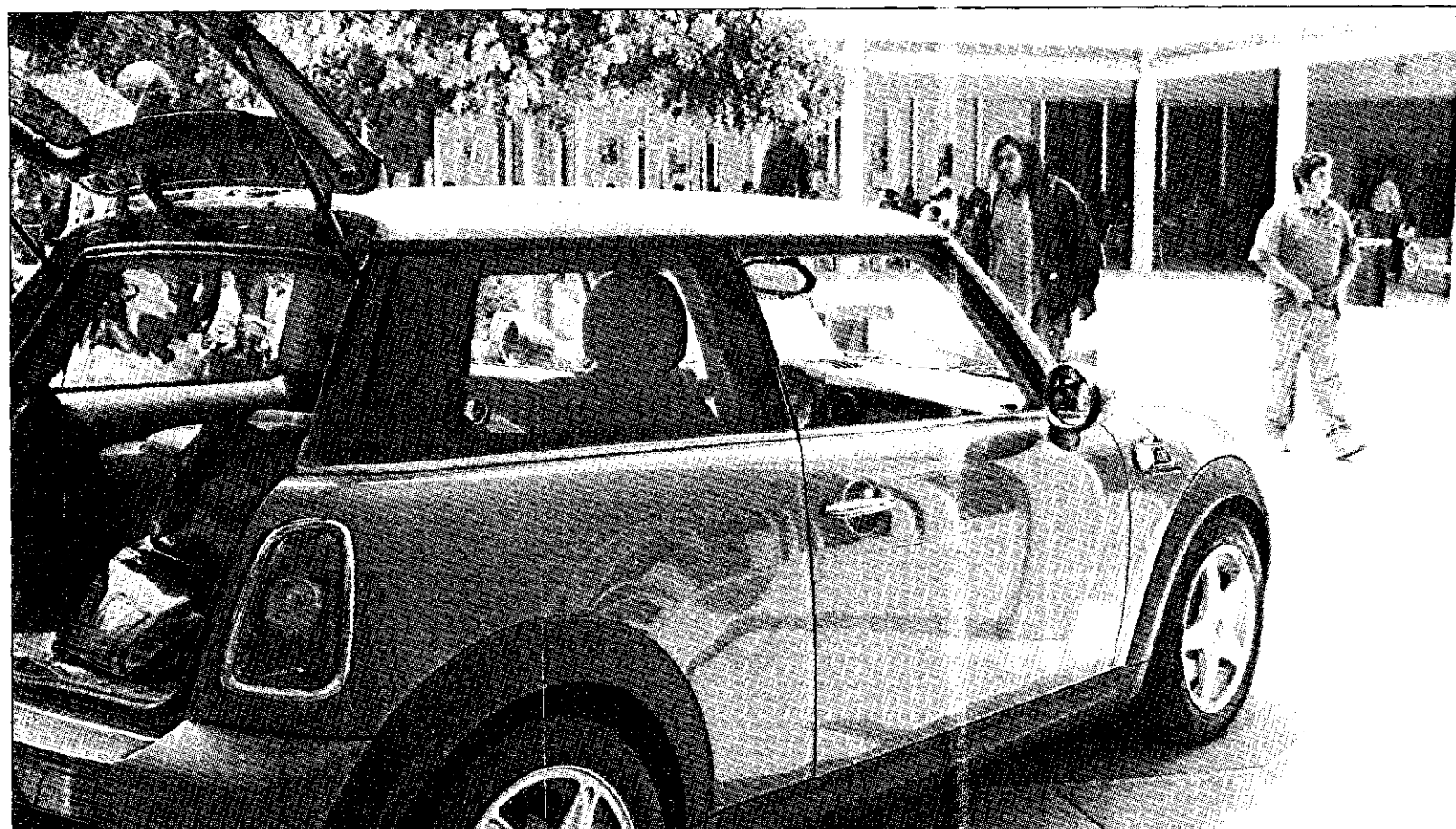
Movin' on up: Bryan Reece will assume the responsibilities of dean of HSS.



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**BMW Mini Coops:** Cerritos College is the only school world-wide to have the opportunity to experiment with the electric mini coops.

SUSAN MUNGUA/TM

## Mini Es invade falcon nest

DANIEL SANDOVAL  
Staff Writer  
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Two new Mini Cooper model electric cars were on display Aug. 19 in the administrative quad at Cerritos College.

BMW gave Cerritos the two cars to provide students and staff opportunities to take test drives and lease the vehicles month-by-month.

Cerritos received these new Mini Coopers because of the close relationship the college and its automotive department has with BMW.

"Cerritos is the only college in the whole world that received them," automotive program facilitator Amna Jara said.

The Dean of Technical Division Steve Berkli said the reason why

Cerritos is the only college world-wide to be given the opportunity to experiment with these mini coops is because of the good relationship it has with BMW.

Another unique Cerritos benefit is the price.

BMW is only charging Cerritos College \$10 a month to lease the vehicles for a year, which is much less than the \$850 a month the average person will pay, Jara added.

This is all part of BMW's attempt to test out its experimental model mini in the U.S. market. It will be releasing 450 of them into select areas.

According to the official BMW Mini Web site, the new Cooper, dubbed the "MINI E," will be exclusively tested in the Los Angeles, New York and New Jersey metropolitan areas.

These test areas were chosen by BMW for a variety of reasons; a main one being that the new Mini is better fit to perform in dense traffic areas where lessees could take full advantage of its 100-120 mile range on a full charge of its lithium battery, according to BMW.

The MINI E's lithium battery fully charges in 50 hours with the provided installed external charging station but a faster dock has been installed in Cerritos to charge it in three hours, said Berkli.

He also stated that the default charging station has an 8-amp and 110-volt capacity whilst the quicker model boasts a 32-amp and 220-volt capacity.

BMW's test trial requires for lessees to report back with information about their perspectives of the car before and after their usual

one-year lease.

However, BMW wants to get the most accurate information it can get about the performance of the MINI E.

Automotive Lab Technician David Roper will be responsible for conducting before and after surveys which include the perception of the car by the driver, mileage during trial, and other details.

One question that is frequently asked by the drivers is if the car is economical, said Berkli.

He explained that to charge the electric car it takes about \$2.50-\$3 worth of electricity to provide about 100 miles. To get 25-30 miles in a regular car takes about \$10-\$12.

So to those who drive long distances, he said, it is economical.

## Budget: Fee increases hassle students

Not to mention the fact that there are so many other people who are going back to school to receive some sort of degree because they can't find jobs anywhere."

Many students are finding themselves extremely frustrated and desperate because of how cramped community colleges, such as Cerritos, are.

Biology major Agustin Ferrer recently turned to Cerritos as his last resort because he was not able to enroll in any classes at ELAC, Cypress and El Camino College.

"I came here in hopes of trying to finish my last two classes before obtaining my Associate's Degree," he said, "and fortunately I was able to enroll in those classes."

After paying his fee of \$116 in cash, because he does not receive financial aid, Ferrer thought he was all set to go on Aug. 17, his first day of school.

He explains, "I got to my first class and found out that I had been dropped because I owed \$40. I did not even know that the unit fee as well as the health fee had increased. Had I known, I would have paid and avoided getting dropped from my classes."

Now, Ferrer admits he will most likely quit school for a while and try to find a job, any job, because he is No. 9 on both wait lists and doubts he will be able to get into the required classes.

Monique Valentine, business major, finds herself very angry and upset that some of her friends were also forced into the same predicament Ferrer was.

Although she is not experiencing the fee increase first-hand because she receives financial aid, she still feels it is unfair to not notify students of the increase and offer them an opportunity to pay and then drop them due to owed money they were not even aware they owed.

As if the \$6 per unit increase was not enough, students now have to deal with the anxiety of paying all

the required fees in a period of seven days before being dropped from their classes.

Students like Penny Chavez wished they had a more extended time period for students to pay their classes.

The business major lives on her own and has a part-time job that barely pays enough for her to afford her rent and utility expenses.

"The day I enrolled and found out about the increases. I had just finished paying all my bills. I had \$7 left in my bank account and had seven days to come up with the \$26 health fee and avoid getting dropped," she said.

She admits the increases as well as the time period given to pay these fees had her worried, anxious, and seriously considering dropping out of school.

"Fortunately," she said, "I borrowed money from a friend who lent me enough to pay for the health fee."

Although most students would like to blame or think the school is to blame, it really isn't the school's fault, said history major Brian Rolas.

"Everybody wants to point fingers and blame Cerritos but it's not the school's fault," he said. "It is a victim of the budget cuts too. It is losing programs and has to cope with the situation the best it can."

Unlike most students, few students believe that the increase will actually help the school.

Business major Martin Muro believes that with these increases students are going to actually attend their classes and take them seriously.

He said, "I would rather pay a few extra bucks and know I will be in a class with serious college students who know to take advantage of the education they are paying for, instead of a bunch of immature people who have nothing to do but come to a college campus and waste everybody's time."

## Getting your money via card

FRANCES PERKINS  
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This Fall 2009 semester, Cerritos College has begun using the Cerritos Falcon Card by Higher One, a financial services company, to give students an easier and convenient way to receive their financial aid throughout the semester.

The Cerritos Falcon Cards started being disbursed the second week of August, following the disbursement of the financial aid award letters.

It is very important that students do not throw this card away

as long as they are Cerritos College students, because all of the financial aid will automatically be wired into the

Falcon Card every semester.

Kimberly Westby, Interim Dean of Student Support Services, said, "It is very important that students update their mailing addresses on their MyCerritos account in order to avoid their Falcon Card being sent to the wrong address."

Jamie Quiroz, financial aid specialist, encourages students to visit the schools Web site and read the newsletter regarding the Cerritos College Falcon Card for instructions

on how to activate the card on www.cerritosfalconcard.com.

Many may ask the question, "Why change from traditional check disbursements to automatic deposits into a Cerritos Falcon Card?"

According to Yvette Tafaya, financial aid specialist, "(It is) to educate students how to spend their money wisely."

Students no longer need to stress about waiting weeks to receive a check in the mail, they can now access their cash balances through online banking 24 hours a day.

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**Order in the troops:** Brad Pitt plays a first lieutenant of Nazi-killing brigade known as the "Basterds" in Quentin Tarantino's newest World War II film.

## Brad Pitt is glorious in 'basterds'

### Movie Review

#### *Inglourious Basterds*

Starring: Brad Pitt  
Director: Quentin Tarantino  
Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★

DANIEL SANDOVAL  
Staff Writer  
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Quentin Tarantino has done it again! With his weaving storylines, unrestrained violence and vintage style, he knocked this one out of the park.

This movie, like most of Tarantino movies, takes on a common genre and adds new twist to it.

Most of the movie takes place in Nazi-occupied France during the 1940s but had a modern vintage feel synonymous with many of Tarantino's works.

The film follows a group of American special operations soldiers called "The Basterds" that has been deployed into Germany since before D-Day to kill as many Nazi as possible.

Right off the bat, the near-perfect casting is apparent when Brad Pitt and writer/director Eli Roth are joined by the likes of Diane Kruger, Mike Myers and Omar Doom.

The shooting and directing are superb; so much

so that the two-hour and 33-minute movie goes by in a flash.

The violence and novelty spectacle even manages to be overshadowed by the witty dialogue and intersecting storylines.

This movie is easily my favorite Tarantino movie I've ever seen in theaters. Not only does this movie keep you guessing, it also delivers some appropriate laugh-attacks.

I highly recommend this and I believe this film will be regarded in the realm of another "Pulp Fiction."

It's no wonder "Inglourious Basterds" has reached the No. 1 spot at the box office.

## Wolfenstein shoots its way up

### Game Review

#### *Wolfenstein*

Platform: Xbox 360, PS3  
Publisher: Activision  
Genre: FPS

KATELYN EICHER  
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The Xbox 360 and Playstation 3 game, Wolfenstein, released Aug. 18, is based on WWII.

This first-person shooter game has to rage war with combat forces, Nazis and supernatural enemies that were born from dark science.

As a player, Wolfenstein enables odd, yet addicting weapons at your disposal to destroy the Nazis.

Upon Aug. 4, Wolfenstein was introduced to Xbox Live and the Playstation Network, opening up more interest in multi-player lovers.

When looked upon, multi-player is not as fun as gameplay.

The online experience of Wolfenstein can be a disappointment; due to brief lag.

You have to play a certain number of matches before you can upgrade abilities and weapons for your character. So more experienced players can defeat you with ease.

The storyline of Wolfenstein is complexed with mission upon mission, then interlinked

missions to boot. Yet the game does keep players entertained with such a feat.

The most interesting part of this game has to be the unusual powers a player can possess. Having an amulet in gameplay will allow certain abilities that are "unearthly."

The amulet allows players to throw up a protective shield, even supercharge your ammunition to create "super-charged bullets."

Only downfall of having such wonderful abilities is the placement of activation. So if it is needed when facing undeniable defeat, do not count on being able to activate it in a split second.

Wolfenstein does allow upgradable weapons, which is also linked with power-ups that you could find in the game.

There is some hidden cash and gold, which would help in unlocking even superior upgrades for your weapon of choice.

Although gameplay has many interesting weapons and abilities, the compass and game map is annoying.

The compass is a little crazy, every little move creates easy confusion, often leaving a person lost in the map.

With only a few points of the game flawed, the game has many good attributes.

Wolfenstein is recommended for the first-person shooter addict.

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## •EDITORIAL•

# Cerritos students gets no love

The increases in tuition and health fees that have been implemented this semester are unjust, insensitive and most of all a result of careless money management in part of the legislative branch of the state of California.

Although most would like to blame the schools, it really is not their fault.

The schools and the students that attend them are all victims of the budget crisis and of the many budget cuts the state of California is experiencing.

Legislation makes a decision, says what is going to be cut and the schools are responsible for coping with the decision and carrying it out in a way that will hurt and affect students the least way possible.

The main problem with this current \$6 fee increase is that it happened in the middle of registration.

So many students, who weren't aware of the increase, paid their original fees and were dropped because they failed to pay the extra \$6 per unit.

Though university students are forced to pay higher tuition and health fees, most would agree that it is community college students who have been hit

the hardest by these budget cuts.

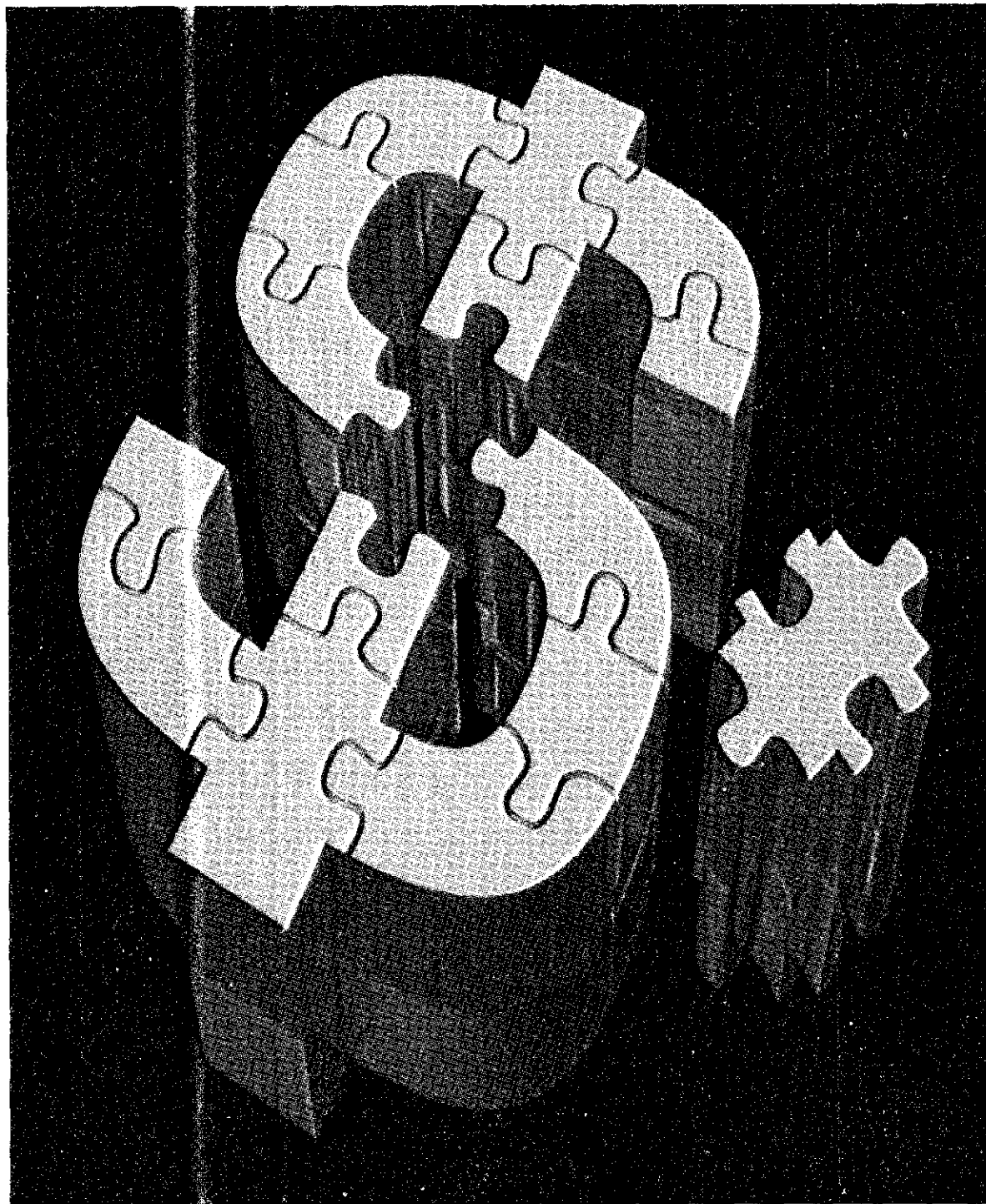
Those students who were not able to get into the UC schools for the Spring are now attempting to continue their education by attending community colleges, therefore making classes more full.

Classes are getting cut, those offered are get cramped, wait lists are becoming full, books are becoming more expensive, and lab fees are also increasing.

These budget cuts, fee increases and drop dates are necessary and inevitable. However, there is a better way of approaching these situations.

Instead of depriving students of their educational opportunities, educational institutions should reconsider not only the way they notify students of when they will be dropped, but also the time limit given to pay all the required fees.

This way if a student is dropped, it is considered primarily his fault for his irresponsibility after given a reasonable amount of time to pay the required fees as well as given several notifications of his drop date.



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).

## IDs are beneficial in the tough times

Student ID Cards can save you money on everyday purchases, get yours now!

Have you used your student ID card lately?

No, not to enjoy free In-N-Out at the Student Welcome Back Day on campus, but to enjoy rewards outside of campus.

If you don't normally carry your student ID card with you, make sure to make it a habit from now on as there hasn't been a better time to be a student.

We are all aware of the fact that students

can purchase discounted movie tickets and now Knott's tickets too at the Student Activities Center, but students can enjoy similar deals at other places too by the power of their student ID card.

Many companies attract students by offering special student discounts and back-to-school promotions.

Apple computer tops the list with their

year-round student discounts and their back-to-school promotion.

A special education discount is available on macbooks, iMac and Apple software.

Students can score a free iPod touch too through the ongoing back-to-school promotion.

Your student ID card can also get you a new hairdo at a special price.

Head back to school in style by visiting any Regis Salon Monday through Thursday and get a 20 percent discount with your student ID card.

And speaking of style, Charlotte Russe is now offering 10 percent off during the back-to-school season if you present your student ID card.

Are you listening, women?

There are a lot of other places out there that offer student discounts, such as movie theaters and local restaurants.

Just make sure to ask and keep your student ID card handy.

We all need to be careful with our money in this time of financial crisis, but that doesn't mean that we should stop spending money on fun and entertainment.

The discounts your student ID card gets may be small, but they add up to significant savings. Who knew being a student was this sweet?



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**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.

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## Free Speech Zone

How did the \$6 per unit fee increase affect you?

COMPILED BY: ELIETH KOULZONS  
PHOTOS BY: JUAN RAMOS

#### MONIQUE VALENTINE

business major

"My financial aid took care of my stuff but I know of people who paid before the increase and then dropped."



#### ANDREW FOWLER

biology major

"My financial aid took care of my fee but I feel bad for those who did not know of the increase and lost their classes."



#### CINDY YOQUIGUA

psych major

"It didn't really affect me because I qualified for a fee waiver and my fee waiver took care of my classes."



#### ADRIANA ORDUNA

nursing major

"I'm pissed off because I had paid all my fees and I was just notified I owe another \$10 for the health fee."



#### FRANCISCO ESCOBAR

civil engine major

"I was not told about the increase until I was actually at the counter paying in cash. I don't get financial aid so it sucks."



#### MARTIN MACIEL

nursing major

"It didn't affect me but I thought it was unfair to those students who didn't know of the fee and were dropped."



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Palomar College Telescope

### Online Poll

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

### How did the \$6 fee increase affect you?

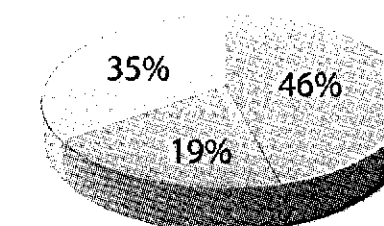
I was dropped  
I couldn't afford it  
I didn't have my financial aid  
It was a minor setback

### Last Week's Poll

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

### How do you plan to spend your summer?

Summer school 46%  
Work 19%  
Party 35%





With fees going up, students are faced with more headaches and it's not looking better.

The financial situation we are in leaves much to be desired to say the least and it seems like everyone's budget is tight.

Cerritos College has been a lot friendlier to out-of-state students that have to pay an out of state fee to attend Cerritos College.

**Da' Juan Henry**  
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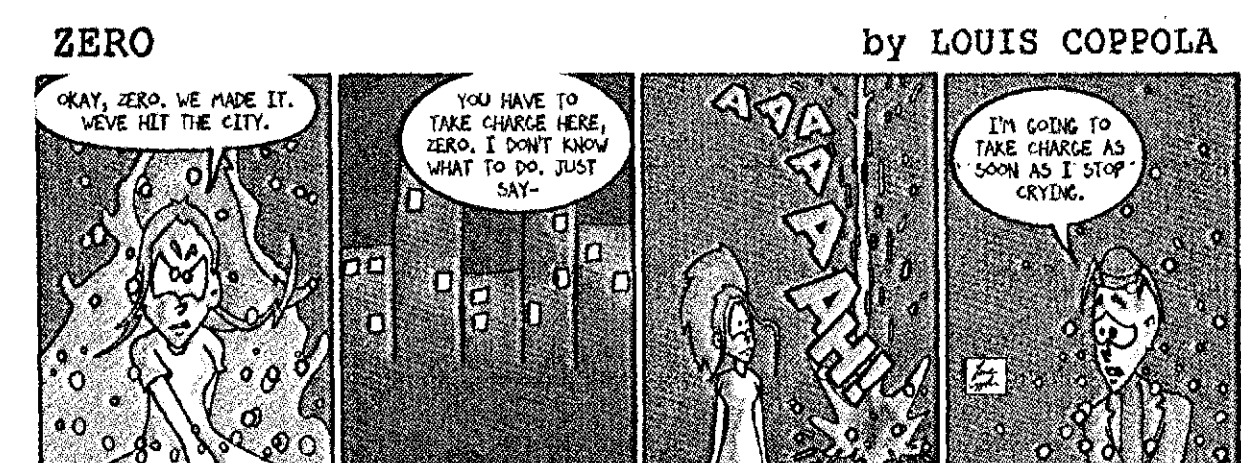
Sometimes these things go unnoticed to students. If this process continues, more people will feel a sharp pain in their wallets as it gets harder to pay for their education.

While America's financial crisis takes its sweet time to get better, students should take comfort in Isaac Newton's Third Law of Physics which states, "for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction."

In this post-Bush era, we have entered the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. The equal reaction is that we are in a large amount of debt.

The equal reaction is that we see the effects at Cerritos College as slowly but surely, this recession is affecting students.

In the meantime, there is nothing much we can do but sign up for financial aid as soon as possible. Even if you don't feel you are eligible do it anyway. Roll with the punches and wonder, "what about us?"



In the past 20 years,  
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dramatic increase in  
obesity in the U.S.

**TALON MARKS**



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In the past 20 years, there has been a dramatic increase in obesity in the United States.

Being overweight isn't just about the good looks, but most important of all, is about the good health.

For some reason, all overweight people have an excuse, whether they:

It is understandable if they are really comfortable with their bodies and are truly healthy.

Dr. William Dietz, the director of the CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, said obesity is a major risk factor for several chronic ailments such as diabetes and heart disease.

Dietz said, "For example, we now see young adults who suffer from heart-disease risk factors and

A harsh fact is that only a small percent realize that obesity is a problem. Even when they realize it is a big problem, only an even smaller percent take action.

About 75 percent of Americans know that the most effective way to combat obesity is through education about the importance of a healthy diet and exercise, but so far, apparently the educational efforts are falling short.

I think that the education is good but we also need to sit an example and encourage others to do the same.

We need to stop teasing and making fun of others and try to help destroy this epidemic because it is getting worse by the day.



# Men's soccer ready to kick off season

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It's hard to imagine that a team that won a state championship last year could enter this season with a chip on its shoulder, but that's just the case with the Cerritos College men's soccer team.

Coming into the new season, the Falcons are ranked No. 2 in the nation, and they are out to prove that they deserve to be No. 1.

"We've been flirting with it," head coach Benny Artiaga said. "Ideally, you'd like to get to that No. 1 spot and secure your place in the entire U.S. as the premier college, and I think we have the caliber of players to do it."

To put it in the terms of midfielder Juan Mejias, "Settling for second is not an option."

Although the program's first ever national title is the ultimate goal this year, both players and coaches know it will not be an easy task.

It makes things especially difficult when every team is looking to knock you down a peg.

"Every team plays you like it's its World Cup. On certain days you can be playing a really good game, but the other team just wants it more," Artiaga said.

"Every game is like a final for (the other team)," Mejia agreed.

This sense of both determination and confidence shared by the coaching staff and players is well justified.

All one has to do is take a look at the 2009 roster to see that, on paper, the Falcons are the favorites to win another state title this year.

Leading the attack is returning All-American Luis Gonzalez.

Gonzalez is looking to improve on last year's season in which he scored 24 goals to go along with his 17 assists and ended the year as the runner up for National Player of the Year.

The talented striker is considered to be one of, if not the top, recruit in the nation coming into this year.

Coach Artiaga commented, "He has offers from Santa Barbara, from Irvine, from Northridge. In fact, I probably couldn't think of a school that doesn't want him."

Gonzalez is only the biggest name on a list of potential stars that make up this year's roster. Most noticeable on offense are fellow captains Timmy Seo and Stephan Mangu.

Both players were on the All-South Coast Conference (SCC) second team a year ago.

Leading the defense will be All-SCC first team member Rene Hernandez.

These leaders make up only a small part of a large group of players that are returning from last year's state championship team.

Artiaga acknowledged, "We have a very solid core."

It's very difficult to say here's my starting 11. I think it's an open competition for freshmen."

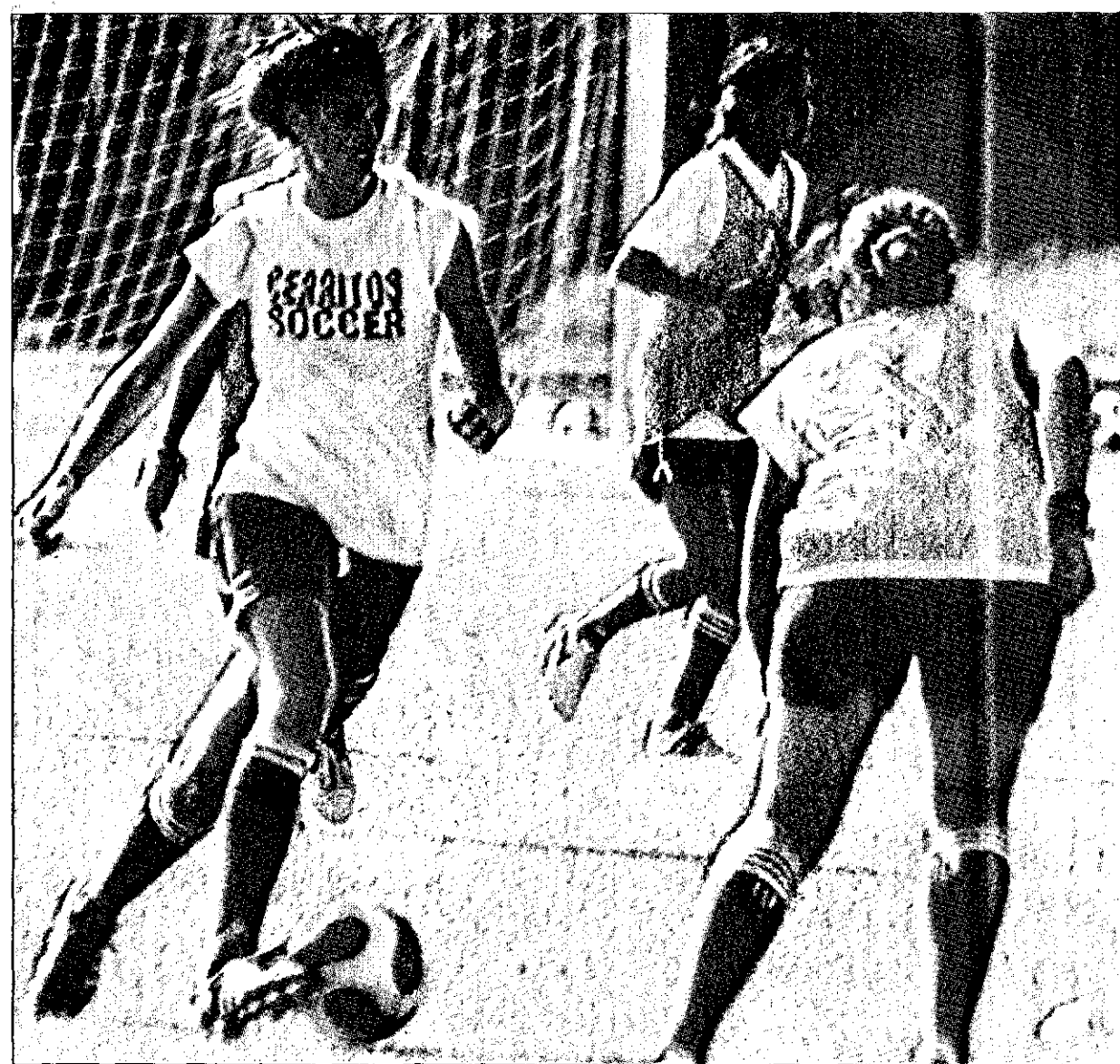
That's good news for players like Eddie Valencia and Herman Rivas who will be competing everyday in practice, with both returners and their fellow freshmen, for the chance to make an immediate impact this year.

The men's team looks to start its title defense on the right foot by playing in the Mt. SAC tournament on next Friday, and then travel to Salinas to participate in the Hartnell tournament on Sep. 4-5, where they will take on the top schools from Northern California.

The team's first home game will be Sep. 11 at 4 p.m. when its hosts Golden West Rustlers.



Men's soccer team: Luis Gonzalez looks to be an impacting force on offense this season. The Cerritos soccer team will start the season as No. 2 in the nation.



Women's soccer practice: Women's soccer team is looking for another undefeated season, as the start the season as No. 1.

## Women's soccer team starts at number 1 in preseason poll

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Last season, the Cerritos women's soccer team went undefeated, 22-0-4, won a second consecutive state title, and earned its first ever national title.

If that weren't enough, they have had one final honor bestowed upon them before the start to the new season.

The Falcons enter the 2009 season ranked as the number one team in the nation for the first time in school history.

According to head coach Ruben Gonzalez, the key to success is hard work and consistency the entire season.

"We just have to work hard everyday and be consistent with what we're doing. They know what's expected of them based on the success we've had."

So far, Gonzalez is definitely impressed with what he's seen at training.

"I think this is probably the hardest working team we've had here at Cerritos. They're all hard workers. We started on July 6, and their work has been very consistent."

The players are working hard individually, not just for a victory, but are competing for playing time.

With only six returners coming back to defend their national title, most positions in the starting 11 are still up for grabs.

Unquestionably, the biggest gap has been left by last year's National Soccer Coaches Association of America Division III Player of the Year, Corina Villegas.

Gonzalez admits that "It's always hard to replace a national player of the year. But we have a sophomore player that transferred in, Nancy Gandillas. I expect a lot from her."

Gandillas will have help trying to fill the offensive hole by captain Ruby Leon.

Gonzalez said, "She's a real talented player. We expect a lot from her as well."

Although goals may be the attractive most part of the beautiful game, it is defense that wins championships.

Taking charge of the defense for the this season will be Miranda Madrid, Morgan Thompson and Justine Tejas.

This trio will be working to try and keep with the high standard set by last year's team, who ended the season with a 0.46 goals allowed per game.

The high standards and expectations are not limited the defense alone.

Although the team is taking things one step at a time, for a team entering the season ranked No. 1 in the country there can only be one ultimate goal: another national title.

"Your first goal is always to win conference. Your second goal is to win a state championship," Gonzalez said.

Though he added, "Anything less than another championship, we feel will be a disappointment."

## Football team going for better year

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Pride, passion and dedication are three words that describes this season's Falcons.

With a fairly new team and one of the best recruitments the team has had, coach Frank Mazzotta is very optimistic for this season.

He said, "They are no different than any other, to win the first game, win the conference, play in the bowl and the ultimate goal is to be state champs."

"With a loss in last season's Golden Empire Bowl in Bakersfield, 38-33, the Falcons are putting in the extra time and work in order to last conditionally throughout the entire season and make a strong push for state playoffs."

Mazzotta's high hopes for this year are backed up by some great players such as a preseason All American Eric Russell.

He stated that the hard work put in and the level of

dedication is higher, as well as more concentration on the coaches' messages and the over all defense is stronger and faster.

A key statistic that stands out is the fact that Cerritos football has not won an overtime game since 2005. So hard practices, recruiting, and getting all of those elements to mesh will be the biggest challenge.

With a stronger defense, it looks as if Cerritos should be a much more difficult team to reach the end zone on, but, as quarterback Chris Morales put it, you can't take any game for granted, not getting to prideful when they win but also not to beat themselves up over a loss and also play as a team, not as individuals.

This is something Mazzotta agrees with as well.

Morales said he has gotten in better shape, faster and stronger, and now being in a leadership role, he wants to lead his team to victory to get himself out there, as a great quarter back and to strengthen the offense, and get Cerritos back to what it used to be.

The Falcons football will open up season play Sep. 5 at Cerritos versus East LA at 7 p.m.



Football team practice: The football team goes over hitting drills to get ready for the first scrimmage on Sept. 5.