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CERRITOS COLLEGE

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Students walk for breast cancer

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The eleventh annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk will be held on Tuesday March 22 in the Cerritos College Falcon Square.

Cerritos College students, faculty, staff, family, administrators and community members who are interested in participating in the event can pre register or can register on the day of the event between of 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. .

Ni Bueno, Health Education Department chairperson and athletic coordinator, believes that by holding this event, "Women and men can become aware of how to perform self breast examinations and can increase awareness of lifestyle factors that can increase a person's risk for breast cancer.

"We also like to celebrate the individuals who have survived breast cancer," she said.

Donations raised for this event will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

"Last year over \$600 were raised and donated and the three individuals who raised the highest donations received gifts donated from Student Health Services, Staff Development and the Bookstore," Bueno said.

Though the event partakes in receiving donations, it is not the main focus for hosting the event.

"The purpose of the event is not necessarily about raising money, rather it is to increase awareness and to stress the importance of taking charge of your health," Bueno said.

Students like Jennifer Machado, Dental Hygiene major, agree with the school hosting this event. She believes that, "Many people in the school are or have family members who have struggle with breast cancer."

"It is the school's way of giving back," Machado said.

Psychology major Kiri Leyba will "promote awareness to the youth, since young people always believe that they are never going to get it (breast cancer)."

Bueno hopes that through this event the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk brings the Cerritos College campus and surrounding community together.



COURTESY OF MCT

Tragedy extends to Cerritos

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Dana Ramos was relieved to receive a phone call Friday night from her aunt in Japan until a sense of devastation sunk in as she learned the hardships her family experienced and is still enduring.

The Cerritos College psychology major recalled the night the earthquake hit saying, "I came home and everyone was watching the news, and I was like 'What's going on?' and they were like, 'Oh my gosh! There is this terrible earthquake and everything is flooded!'"

When her aunt called her she told the family that the clinic they owned was lost in the tsunami.

Disaster Strikes

Japan experienced a 9.0 magnitude earthquake with the epicenter located in the Pacific

Ocean, about 80 miles east of Honshu, the largest of Japan's islands.

A direct result from the earthquake was a tsunami.

Hundreds of aftershocks greater than 5.0 are still occurring, and there is concern that if a 7.0 were to strike, it would set off another tsunami.

Even though California is no stranger to earthquakes, Southern California residents don't have to worry about the "Big One" being a 9.0 magnitude quake or it causing a tsunami to crash down on the coast.

Geology Professor Tor Lacy says that Japan has a different topography along their coast than California does.

"Its topography is flatter, allowing for a tsunami to do more damage.

"Also, at least in Southern California, the San Andreas Fault is not the right type of fault to make a tsunami. It's a strike-slip, fault not a dip-slip fault, that caused the Japan tsunami that we just had. That was caused by what we call thrust faults and we don't have that situation off the coast here."

The San Andreas Fault is a strike-slip fault; when the fault moves the fault block slide past each other and a thrust fault, a type of dip-slip fault, is where one side of the fault block moves up and the other side moves down.

Lacy said there is a 97 percent chance that in the next 30 years Southern California can expect an earthquake of the magnitude of 7.5 to 8.0.

But he said, "It [the 'Big One'] can hit any day, it literally can happen tomorrow."

Disaster Looms

The epicenter was 110 miles east-northeast of Fukushima, Japan, where three nuclear reactors have experienced explosions and fires, leading to an evacuation of the area for up to 20 kilometers away from the plant due to radiation exposure.

Ramos' family later discovered that her cousin, Ayano, was somewhere between the Fukushima prefecture and Tokyo.

See A Devastated Japan Page 3

Girmaldo rallies petition signatures to aquire more courses

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ASCC President Felipe Grimaldo is putting together a Writing Campaign, in which he will be collecting signatures for a petition to send to local legislators requesting for Cerritos College to be alleviated from the Full-time Faculty Obligation (FTO) until the school's budget is healthy again.

Director of Public and Governmental Relations Mark Wallace explains what the FTOs are and why they are in place.

"The full-time faculty obligation is a regulation that requires the college to have 70 percent of its courses taught by full-time faculty and the other 25 percent taught by part-time faculty," Wallace said.

Wallace went on to add, "This is to ensure that community

colleges are maintaining the highest quality of teaching."

The issue Cerritos is having is if the college fails to fill those positions with full-time faculty, then [the state] will withhold roughly \$66,000 as a penalty from the money the school gets from the state.

While some schools choose to pay the penalty so they don't have to hire FTO's, Cerritos is not in that position to neither hire nor be penalized hence the campaign to have Cerritos exempt from the regulation.

Grimaldo said that it wouldn't be right to penalize the College if it can't meet the goal.

"Times are getting harder here at Cerritos and right now is not the time to impose a penalty for not being able to hire the required full-time faculty and meet the requirements."

See Petition signatures Page 3



LAURA CHAU/TM

Petition signing: Yeim Bae signs petition that may help students acquire more classes and hire fewer faculty.

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*Be sure to include a band bio

*Top four bands will be chosen to be featured in videos on www.talonmarks.com



Damages: The streets of Japan are in ruins following the earthquake and tsunami that hit the country on March 11. Cerritos College is taking measures to help the Japan relief effort.

COURTESY OF MCT

A devastated Japan: Cerritos gives back

Continued from Page 1:
“They were all really worried that she could be in danger, so they were trying to get her out of there, but all the roads are damaged. There’s no way for her to get out of there.”
“I was just really sad to hear about that, because she’s my cousin. I’m a little nervous, just hoping she’s going to be okay,” Ramos explained.
It was reported Tuesday morning that the Tokyo Metropolitan Government said that radiation levels in Tokyo are 20 times what they are normally.
There are only two operating plants in So-Cal, one being the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in San Luis Obispo County and the other located in San Onofre.
After a warning was issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration concerning the tsunami reaching the West Coast, California’s nuclear generating station in San Onofre continued operations despite Fukushima’s possible meltdown.
According to the Los Angeles Times, the

nuclear-generating station in San Onofre can only withstand a magnitude 7.0 earthquake because when the plant was built over 40 years ago, scientists prepared it for an expected 6.5 magnitude quake.
The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is relatively close to four different fault lines, and estimates have determined that the plant can also handle an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0.
California’s economy would be stunted by an equivalent of the Fukushima disaster, and the loss of both nuclear plants would not only cost the state \$21 billion lost in constructing them, but also nearly 16 percent of its energy would disappear overnight.
Cerritos College Call to Action
Several clubs on campus are planning to fundraise to send aid to Japan.
President of the International Student Association Joseph Silva talks about how the ISA is planning on hosting an event to benefit

the people in Japan.
“It’s a really tragic event that happened. But it’s another opportunity, even though many countries are having disputes, to show that we can come together to help as a country.”
The ISA is asking people to attend its fundraiser on March 24 at Jeepney Asian Grill from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are \$10 and \$12 at the door. All proceeds will go to the earthquake victims in Japan. Members are also asking people to donate blankets, toiletries and canned goods.
Director of Student Activities Holly Bogdanovich said that the ASCC is accepting donations to aid the victims in Japan until Thursday March 31.
Those interested in donating can go to the ASCC office by the bookstore and ask Bogdanovich how to contribute.
All the funds that are collected by ASCC are going to the Red Cross.
Ramos’ aunt said that the American Red Cross has arrived to help.

“She said ‘Oh all there is [are] crackers, that’s all they’re bringing, but it’s better than nothing.’”
President of the Anime Club German Sanchez talked about his club’s connection to the events unfolding in Japan.
“Our club is basically related to anime, which is a Japanese cartoon.”
“Something to help out would be for the best; it’s always good to help out,” Sanchez said.
He hopes that within the next week all the clubs can get together to help out, possibly consulting the Red Cross to get water and food to people in Japan.
Samantha Shepherd, president of the Active Minds Club, talked about raising funds for relief in Japan.
“It’s really important for us, I think, to not only just look at ourselves but how we interact with the community and the world itself. I have a friend who just recently went over there, and he was telling me that it’s really bad.”

Petition signatures: Grimaldo set to deliver petition to legislators

Continued from Page 1:
He has put together a petition with a cover letter written by himself, Holly Bogdanovich, director of Student Activities and Wallace.
He also will be collecting signatures from students and faculty as well as the community, March 15 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and March 17 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. during Hoe Down Days.
One idea Bogdanovich mentioned is to hire adjunct faculty or part-time faculty to fill the needs of the students while not taking even more money from the school that it can’t afford.

Students should want to sign because if the school can get alleviated from the regulation that will allow for part-time faculty to be hired and with the money saved more class sections can be added and students can get more classes..
Even students are helping the campaign become known. Broderick Woods, commissioner of convocation of fine arts says he feels it’s his duty, as a student representative to let this be known.
“Being a part of ASCC, clubs and doing what I do on campus, I feel it’s my obligation and my goal to get the word out there to the students to let students know what’s happening because there are some students that don’t know what’s going on,” Woods said.
If students would like to get involved but can’t make it on the March 15 or 17, they can stop by the Student Activities Office to sign the petition or even volunteer to help carry them and get signatures.

Summer cuts: Cerritos prepares for upcoming cuts to 2011 summer schedule

Continued from Page 1:
15,645 FTES next fiscal year, 1,418 less than the school was able to account for this year.
A FTES, Farmer explains, is a student taking 15 hours of instruction a semester for two semesters.
Two or more students enrolled in 15 combined instructional hours per semester are regarded as one FTES.
The school then adds up the total instructional hours students are enrolled in and divides it by the number of hours that equal one FTES, which are 525 instructional hours a year, to calculate how many FTES are enrolled.
After coming to the conclusion that class offerings would have to be reduced, Farmer and other staff came up with a list of classes that met certain criteria.
Classes included in the schedule for this summer are gateway courses, completion courses, or high-demand, high-capacity courses.
Gateway courses are those considered to be the first course in a program, or basic skills courses that grant

students entrance into a credit transfer or certificate program.
Completion courses are necessary for students to complete a vocational certificate or degree program. Included in this category are career and technical program courses, such as those for the Dental Assisting and Hygiene Program.
High-demand, high-capacity courses are general courses that a large number of students are sure to enroll in. Social science and fine arts courses are likely to make it on the list, Farmer said.
Athletics instructor Debbie Jensen believes that “everybody on campus teaches important classes, so, the conversations are difficult when you use the word ‘cut.’
.”It’s going to be difficult for some teachers to make their mortgage payments, it’s going to be difficult for some teachers to make their car payments.”

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Taking it for the team: Automotive Technology instructor Frank Vega prepares to be dunked after getting hit in the face with a pie at the 32nd annual Hoe Down Days in Falcon Square. He was one of 10 participants that took part. Funds raised will go to help fund scholarships.

JOEY BERUMEN/TM

Hoe Down Days takes over Falcon Square

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The Associated Students of Cerritos College began its 32nd annual Hoe Down Days with 16 carnival booths, seven games, six fundraising booths and a DJ that took over Falcon Square Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every booth was hosted by the clubs of Cerritos College and Student Activities was paying the expenses. "We got the stuff free from ASCC," said EOPS Club president Daniel Fragoso.

Among the 31 different clubs that operated booths, one of the attractions that drew in a large crowd was the dunk tank.

For \$1, contestants could throw three softballs and try to hit a target that in turn sent a volunteer into the dunk tank.

Volunteers consisted of different faculty, staff and students.

"[Students] knew we

were supporting student scholarships so they just came out and had a good time. Of course, they wanted to see me get wet," said Music Department Chair David Betancourt.

The proceeds from the dunk tank went to scholarships.

While the dunk tank drew money for scholarships, it was not the only booth that collected money for charity.

"The money we earned today will be spent for fundraising, helping foster care, and feeding homeless people," said the volunteer in the Veterans Club booth, Tiffany Pifer, a dental hygiene major.

Tracy Maghirang, dentistry major, said, "It is really fun playing and watching; I played many games but didn't win anything. Still, I had fun."

Hoe Down Days events continue Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. with the Chili Cook-off and at 11 a.m. with the Mr. Cerritos contest in the Student Center. Hoe Down Days events conclude Thursday with a free In-N-Out luncheon and DJ at 11 a.m. in Falcon Square.



LAURA CHAU/TM

Clowning around: The Student Veterans Club manned the clown booth (above) where the objective of the game was to knock over clowns with a ball to win a prize.

We have a winner: Students like psychology major Salvador Lara (below) participated in the event by playing carnival games with the proceeds going to various clubs on campus. Students who won received stuffed animals as prizes.

JOEY BERUMEN/TM



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•EDITORIAL•

Fund nothing, cut everything



ILLUSTRATED BY JIMMY EDWARDS-TURNER/TM

Summer school is taking another blow at the chopping block this June, and who could honestly be surprised?

The school doesn't have enough money to continue administering its services efficiently, as well as provide award-winning programs, such as culinary arts.

California has been spending more money on its public services than it has been making in taxes, so tough choices need to be made.

All the wonderful things the state provides us come at the cost of all the people making money here.

If only we had more rich people in this state than poor folks, then this problem would be solved.

Since it makes no sense whatsoever to tax people with more money higher than those with less, we must obviously get rid of some of these expensive services.

Our state-funded education at Cerritos is being hit the hardest, but can't the state cut its beneficence from somewhere else?

Other sectors that could be cut from are the prison system, transportation or the housing market.

Maybe group prison funding with education's and turn every correctional facility into an educational institution.

Convicts can be contracted to perform labor in campus construction or provide security since they are the epitome of cheap muscle.

That could prove to be disadvantageous though, since all prison staff would have to be paid teachers'

wages. Perhaps getting rid of correctional facilities altogether would prove to be more efficient.

The state could draft all convicted criminals and ship them off to whatever country we're currently occupying.

The only qualm with that scenario is the convicted veterans coming back from active duty and receiving priority enrollment here at school.

Or we could replace the shaky housing market with a stronger hotel industry and include dormitories within every school from junior high to graduate level.

Any citizen seeking education won't have to worry about paying rent or the mortgage.

Parents pursuing their education could then spend that housing money on other needs instead.

The only foreseeable problem would be the overwhelming influx of day-care centers around universities and even high schools.

Honestly, the money problems our state has extend further than summer school.

So, how do we spend efficiently without sacrificing the well-being of our people?

The most unexpected solution could be to forsake the monetary system wholly and replace the legal tender we exchange for goods and services.

The bartering method worked well for a few centuries-- maybe a comeback is in order.

Provide public schools with proper priority

The debate between public and private schools is present throughout people's whole lives, from the time they are born until the time they are applying to universities and, finally, when deciding which schools are best for their own children.

The ongoing debate may always live in one's mind, too. When weighing the public schools of normalcy and the private schools of pretentiousness, it is easy to see which school fits the majority of today's youth.

Although public schools have always received a bad reputation, they have been the educational gateway for many of the most intelligent and successful people of today's world, and, by not going to private school, they retained their modesty.

Also, one thing never mentioned by the private-school supporters is that private school teachers are not required to have certificates; all public school teachers must meet those qualifications.

While private schools do have more financial stability to pay for the "best" teachers and staff, there is still a huge percentage of students that don't succeed and possibly get kicked out of the school altogether.

Situations like that waste the parents' money, having paid tuition throughout the students' duration in



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the school, and the students' time just never fitting into the uniform-wearing conformity of private school life.

With the world constantly changing, stubborn private schools still keep rules that are difficult for students of today to abide by.

Public schools also have many rules, but only to keep everyone on campus safe.

Additionally, the abundance of meaningless rules private schools have can drive students crazy. Recently, Brandon Davies, a basketball player for Brigham Young University, was suspended for the season for an "honor code violation" for having sex with his girlfriend.

Mind you, both Davies and his girlfriend are over the age of 18, which makes them adults in the United States, yet he was still suspended thanks to the strict and old-fashioned rules of BYU.

In addition to the difference of rules, there is a difference in values as well.

Public schools do not have the power to control students' lives off campus.

To do so is not only unethical, but in situations like Davies', the question must be asked: what happened to the separation of church and state?

It is absurd for private schools to teach classes based on religious views and have the credit go toward high school diplomas.

Some public school classes do offer religious studies, but they cover many religions from plenty of other countries.

Americans should not be giving their money to these schools that put shackles on their children's bodies and minds.

Wouldn't that money be put to better use paying for the necessities that all of us complain about so much?

Public schools are not perfect, but, with the recession we're in, what is?

Gas prices are shooting through the roof and natural disasters are affecting the whole world, so more money put into public schools can be the missing link between the way things are and what the future could be.

"With the downturn of the economy, public schools are not perfect, but what is?"

Not perplexing that people are popping prescription pills

In the world of people who are able to receive medication for depression, pain, or any medical reason, we have been increasingly crossing the line of abuse.

Prescription drugs such as, Xanax, Valium and Oxycontin are legal in the consumer market, but patients are allowed to take these pills and end up with an addiction.

Dependency is causing so many people to become victims that crave the effects of anti-depressants and painkillers.

People can find any reason to sedate themselves with a pharmaceutical drug, but the most appalling fact is the strain put upon the economy from the abuse that users form.

The reason for the growing chain of prescription-drug users is the non-medical reasons patients take the medication in the first place.

According to a recent study at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the last 10 years, Americans who have tried one prescription drug in a month escalated from 44 percent to 48 percent.

This alarming statistic should alert the United States and the Food and Drug Administration to the



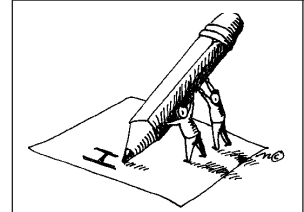
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devastating rate of dependency and spur some action to deter the life-threatening effects of prescription-drug abuse.

The percentage of prescription drug users goes even higher, with a staggering 52 percent of patients who have health insurance. That means patients' healthcare providers will allow them to get prescribed the medication they prefer and enable their addiction.

A recent study by a CDC report shows more than half of Americans use prescription drugs on a daily basis and this includes ages that range from children to adults more than 60 years old.

What is more frightening than our young generations adapting to the usage of prescription pills, is the experimentation that leads most people into a habit that they cannot control.



Did one of us write something that ground your gears? Do you want to congratulate us on the great job we're doing? Whatever the case may be, we would love to hear from you, our readers. Send a **LETTER** to the **EDITOR**. We accept electronic mail at editor@talonmarks.com and boring regular mail at our office in **FA-42**. If you want your letter or e-mail to be printed, you must proudly sign it with your real name. Letters in poor taste will not be printed. This means we don't want any hate speech or conspiracy theories (unless they're hilarious). We only edit your letters for length to print them, but they appear in full online. If the subject of your letter is campus-related, then it will be given priority.



FREE SPEECH ZONE

"Are we prepared for a natural disaster?"

COMPILED BY:
MAYRA MURILLO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY:
ANTHONY HODGE



AMANDA MORENO
psychology major
"I feel our country is ready, but I don't know if we could get the resources out there fast enough."



TYLER RUST
English major
"I believe that we are well prepared for a natural disaster. We have standards because California is on a major fault."



EDGAR RUIZ
sociologist major
"I think that we are not prepared as we should be, looking back at Hurricane Katrina. I don't think we are suited to handle a natural disaster."



CECILIA MONTALVO
architecture major
"I don't think that we are prepared for a natural disaster, for the simple fact that you can't prepare for that."



YARENY CORTES
undeclared
"I don't think we are prepared for a natural disaster. Some people actually go toward the disaster."

Scan to view the FSZ on women's rights



www.talonmarks2.com/videos/sp2011FSZWomensrights.mov

Year of the Rabbit ushered in at the Spring Festival

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The fifth annual Spring Festival marked the first year Cerritos College students were able to take part in the performances.

The main event of the day, which took place on Saturday, was the international fashion show.

International clothing was modeled by community members, including Ju Gentry and his family, who were sporting traditional clothing from the Thai culture.

Restaurant and hotel hospitality major Pritika Hirani was wearing traditional Indian clothing.

"What I wore was what we wear to weddings and other gatherings," Hirani said.

The fashion show was a good experience for international student Ji Hyun Park.

"The fashion show was great. I got to see clothing from different countries and cultures. It was very awesome," Park said.

She also took part in the fashion show in a last-minute change of models, modeling colorful clothing from Mongolia.

Even those who have participated in fashion shows in the past enjoyed being part of this year's event.

"This is my second year in a row as part of the fashion show," art and international business major Aljen Madello said.

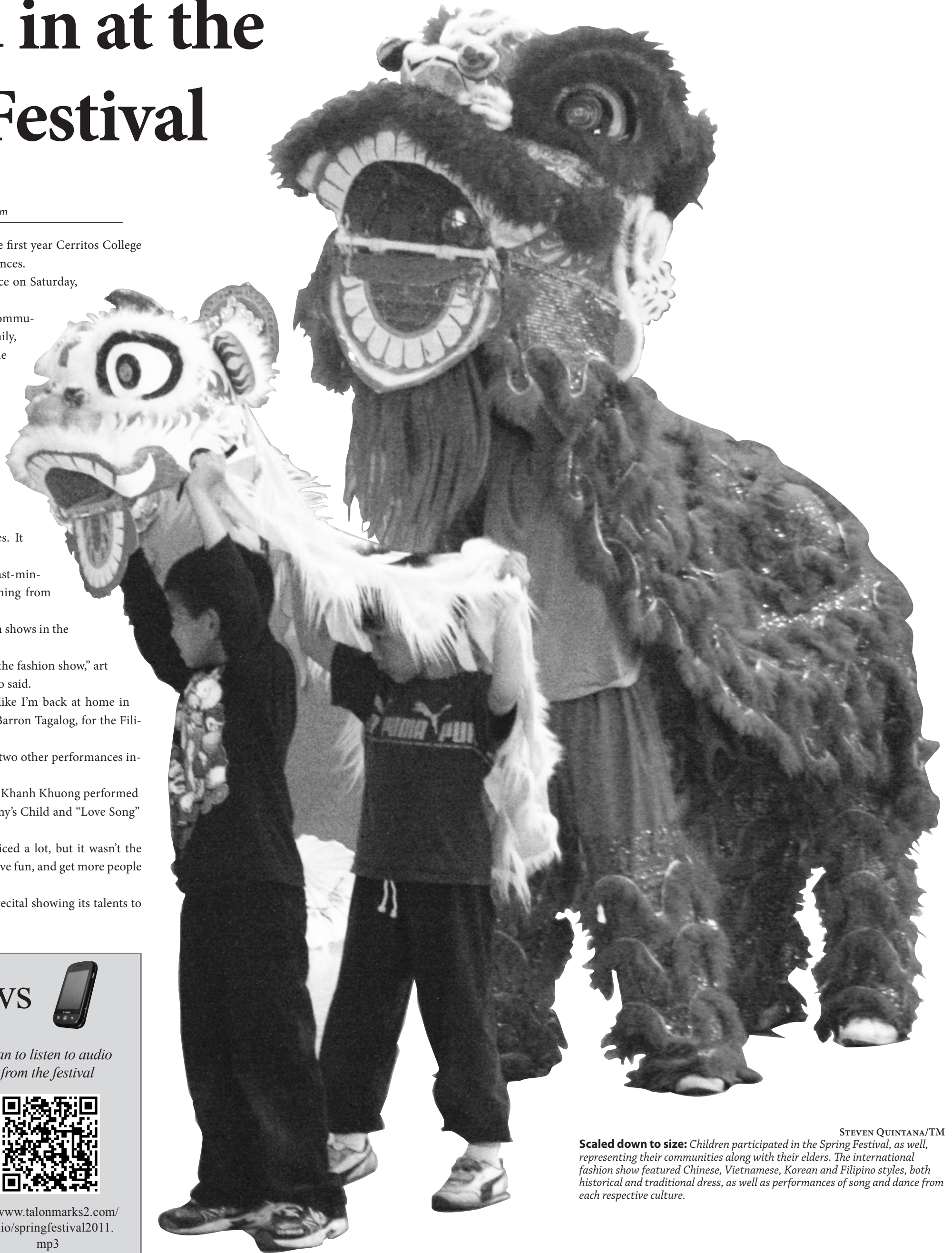
"[Being part of the show] makes me feel like I'm back at home in some sorts. I was wearing the national outfit, Barron Tagalog, for the Filipino men out there."

Cerritos College students also took part in two other performances including a melody of pop songs.

Economics major Ben Basuni and alumnus Khanh Khuong performed three songs, including "Cater to You" by Destiny's Child and "Love Song" by Ne-Yo.

"It was a bit awkward; Khanh and I practiced a lot, but it wasn't the right type of audience. But we wanted to just have fun, and get more people involved," Basuni said.

The Dance Department did a small dance recital showing its talents to the community.



STEVEN QUINTANA/TM
Scaled down to size: Children participated in the Spring Festival, as well, representing their communities along with their elders. The international fashion show featured Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Filipino styles, both historical and traditional dress, as well as performances of song and dance from each respective culture.

Mobile News



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Exhibit gazes through lens at historic moments

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The Press Photographers Association of Greater Los Angeles is celebrating its 75th anniversary with a historical photo exhibit on display aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach Harbor that opened on March 1.

What started as scheduling the PPAGLA Annual Awards dinner inside the Queen's Salon, turned into an invitation from the Queen Mary staff for a three-month-long photo exhibit aboard the ship.

Bob Riha, president of the PPAGLA, said, "Before we had even nailed our first nail on the wall, the Queen Mary people re-approached us and said, 'Hey, would you guys mind extending this until the end of May?'"

Riha said extending the exhibit until the end of May would allow both groups to share a 75th anniversary.

May would mark the 75th year since the maiden voyage of the Queen Mary.

With logistics out of the way, Riha needed physical prints of the images to be prepared for the exhibit.

"It would not have been possible without our sponsors, which are a very important element in our association," Riha said.

The sponsors included Univision, The Queen Mary, Canon, The Port of Long Beach and Samy's Camera.

The gallery is located on the sun deck of the Queen Mary.

It consists of four sections with photograph prints on display, as well as two 42-inch televisions.

One television is showing a video of PPAGLA members, while the other television has a continuous slideshow of entries not displayed on the walls.

Carlos Velasquez, born and raised in Los Angeles, viewed the photographs on display in the gallery on his first time aboard the Queen Mary.

Velasquez said, "To me, it was a little surreal, kind of thinking like past and now pres-

ent coming in, kind of like passing the torch," while he described a picture that stood out to him, of President Obama and former President George W. Bush greeting each other.

"There was some friction; you could tell there was friction between the two men," Velasquez added.

Victoria Escalante and her granddaughter, Jules Bell, both from Santa Clara, Calif., took time to attend the exhibit during their visit.

Escalante expressed a great interest in history from World War II until the present.

"I wanted to see what has been saved and captured, so that myself and other generations can come and view and get a better understanding of our history," she said.

Bell said she was saddened by a photo of Robert Kennedy lying on the ground after being shot.

"I just looked at it really quickly and walked away, but I think it is a good thing to have it in there, so people can remember, and if you don't know it, so people can learn."



COURTESY OF BOB RIHA, JR.
Historic: Nick Ut, a Pulitzer-Prize winning photographer, discusses his work. Ut won the prize for his photo of children fleeing from a napalm attack in South Vietnam.



Birds of a feather: Cerritos College tennis players freshman Jeric Paul Elchico (left) and sophomore Derek Siddiqui in their doubles match against El Camino College on Tuesday. The duo won its match 7-4.

Falcons serve El Camino College

BRANDON RODRIGUEZ
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The Cerritos College men's tennis team (10-2) swept El Camino College, 3-0, in its doubles matches while winning five of the six matches in singles on Tuesday.

The team's undefeated No. 2 singles player and member of the No.1 doubles team, sophomore Jonny Chai, did not finish his singles match and had to be replaced by one of his teammates in the teams doubles match.

Chai said he did not think he was going to finish the singles match to start, but did win one set before retiring during his singles match.

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www.talonmarks2.com/slideshows/berline_tennisgame

"I was trying to hit the ball a little harder than usual and I guess I did not warm up properly, so I strained the middle part of my back," he said.

Also during the doubles match he went on to say that the freshman that came in this year gave the team a big boost.

Seven out of the 11 players on the roster are freshmen or are new to Cerritos College.

Freshmen Jeric Paul Elchico replaced Chai in the doubles match along with the No. 1 player on the team, sophomore Derek Siddiqui.

The duo finished its match 8-5.

After the match, Siddiqui said, "It's pretty tough because [ECC] has a good team, but we pulled it out."

Andrew Turner, a transfer student from Cal State Long Beach, spoke about the competition that ECC team was in.

"I think [ECC] was our toughest competition in conference. [ECC] is going to be the toughest team for a while," Turner said.

Turner went on to say that [ECC] should be tough next year also, because the team is stacked with freshmen.

Turner's doubles teammate, Nick Johnson, was happy about the team's growth from last year and that the team sealed conference on Tuesday.

"I think we have been doing great compared to last year; we are clinching matches that we couldn't last year," Johnson said.

The Falcons have now beaten each team in the SCC twice, and Siddiqui now feels confident that the team will take first in the conference with one more meeting.

"I am not looking forward to that; I am looking forward to the [Ojai Tournament] and state championship because my partner and I are ready to go," he said.

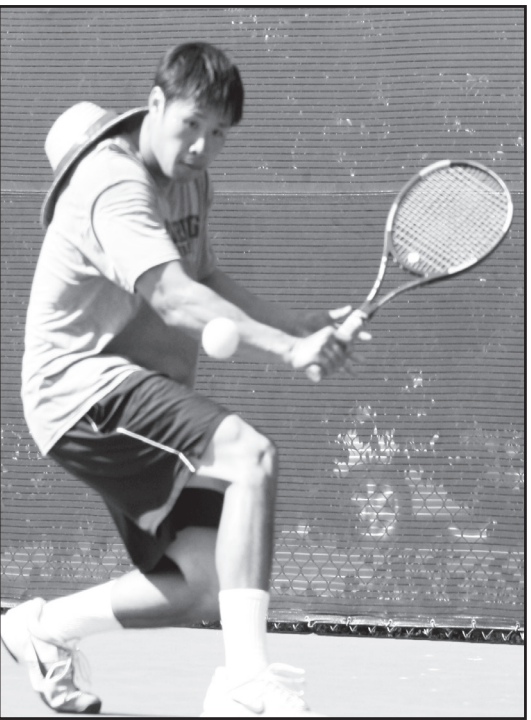
Siddiqui lost in the semi-finals of state last year to the top seeded Mount San Antonio College.

He was the No. 1 ranked player in state at the beginning of the year, and has gone 7-0 this season.

Chai has a 6-1 doubles record, pairing with three different partners.

Cerritos has matches until the SCC Tournament, held at Cerritos on April 5, 7, and 8.

The next match will be at home against Pima College on Thursday.



Eyes on the ball: Cerritos College sophomore Yi Qun Chai returns a service during his singles match against El Camino College. Qun Chai injured his back during the match.



AFTER THE WHISTLE

"Should athletes transfer schools for more playing time?"

COMPILED BY:
STEPHANIE COBLAN
AND
MELISSA MAESTRO



SETH GEORGE
Freshman (Track and Field)
"I may transfer because I don't have that long before I'm not able to run or do anything anymore."



ELIZABETH URIBE
Freshman (Tennis)
"I'd stay because I might get better and actually play, it's not really a better chance for me [to play] if I transfer."



ANGEL SANCHEZ
Freshman (Football)
"I would stay because coaches say everyone has his time, you just have to have patience, and wait until it's your turn to show what you've got".

Athletes shouldn't stay if they don't play



Athletes who make their run through the community college system often spend two to three years participating in their chosen sport, opting to red-shirt during one of their years if they please.

If there has been any concern about athletes leaving Cerritos College for another school, say for example Long Beach City College or Mount San Antonio College, then those who share these sentiments should shape up.

The measure of growth for athletes is not measured by their loyalty to any particular community college; they are not bound by any commitments or contracts in between each school year.

The great thing about the choice of changing schools after freshmen year is that it reflects the purpose of community colleges altogether, so students can figure out exactly what it is they want to focus on.

What works best for students works best for the program.

The option of playing with another school allows players to arrive on a campus ready to play with greater efficiency and focus, bringing with them experience from other programs.

Also to be taken into consideration are the circumstances surrounding a transfer from one community college to another.

Sometimes it may just be unrealistic to stick with a school when there is conflict with the fundamentals of being a successful student.

Let's say that during his freshman year, athlete John Doe attends Cerritos College and plays for the men's water polo team.

In the summer, because of financial conflicts and family issues, Doe moves from Downey to Fullerton.

Doe does not drive a car, so would it not make more sense to transfer to Fullerton City College?

It is up to him, and that's the way it should be.

Former Falcon captures his third Pac-10 Championship

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Former Cerritos College basketball player and current University of Washington basketball head coach Lorenzo Romar captured his second consecutive PAC-10 tournament championship.

The Huskies outlasted the Arizona Wildcats in a 77-75 overtime thriller on Saturday after guard Isaiah Thomas nailed the game-winning three pointer as time expired.

Romar, in his tenth season with the Huskies, has won three PAC-10 tournament championships, a PAC-10 regular season championship, a Conference-USA tournament championship in 2000 while he was at Saint Louis University and a national championship during his stint with UCLA in 1995.


He was a Falcon from 1976-1978 and was an All-League player during his sophomore season.

"For me, it was a turning point in my athletic career. I wasn't someone who was recruited much, someone from the outside looking in didn't have much of a basketball future, but they gave me an opportunity," he said.

The Huskies were deemed the No. 7 seed in the East region of this year's NCAA Tournament and they will take on the region's No. 10 seed, the University of Georgia on Friday.

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