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Basic Skills Initiative a go for math

ETHAN ORTIZ

News Editor

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Math has been known to give some students a hard time and now the Cerritos College Math Department has heard the student's voice and implemented more 9-week courses.

The department is looking to make different pathways for all majors to give students the math skills they need.

English professor Frank Mixson who is heavily involved in the initiative spoke about the project.

Mixson said, "The state is encouraging colleges to implement a number of evidence based practices, so we are going about implementing some of those practices."

Mixson went on to say that there would be three pathways:

- 1) STEM majors, the high math pathway
- 2) Social science with stats majors, the middle pathway
- 3) English and literature major areas, the lower pathway

"In those pathways, they are redesigning courses to make them more supportive of student engagement," he said.

In fact for non-STEM majors, the pathways would include less algebra and the stats path would be more statistical reasoning.

This initiative would also help students move along in their math courses by still giving a placement test, but also taking into consideration the student's high school transcripts.

Depending on which one is higher, the student would get to choose the higher of the two if they wanted.

One of the requirements of the pathway is to attend a three hour study group a week for seven out of the nine weeks, where students can also just choose to do homework.

Another plan in the initiative is to help get students through more than one course a semester.

Math Department Chair Angela Conley went over what a compressed schedule would look like.

"Math 60 would be the first nine weeks and Math 80 would be the second nine weeks, in one semester you can bang out two classes," she said.

The classes would be nine week, four days a week, and they are being set up that way due to the student success in those types of courses.

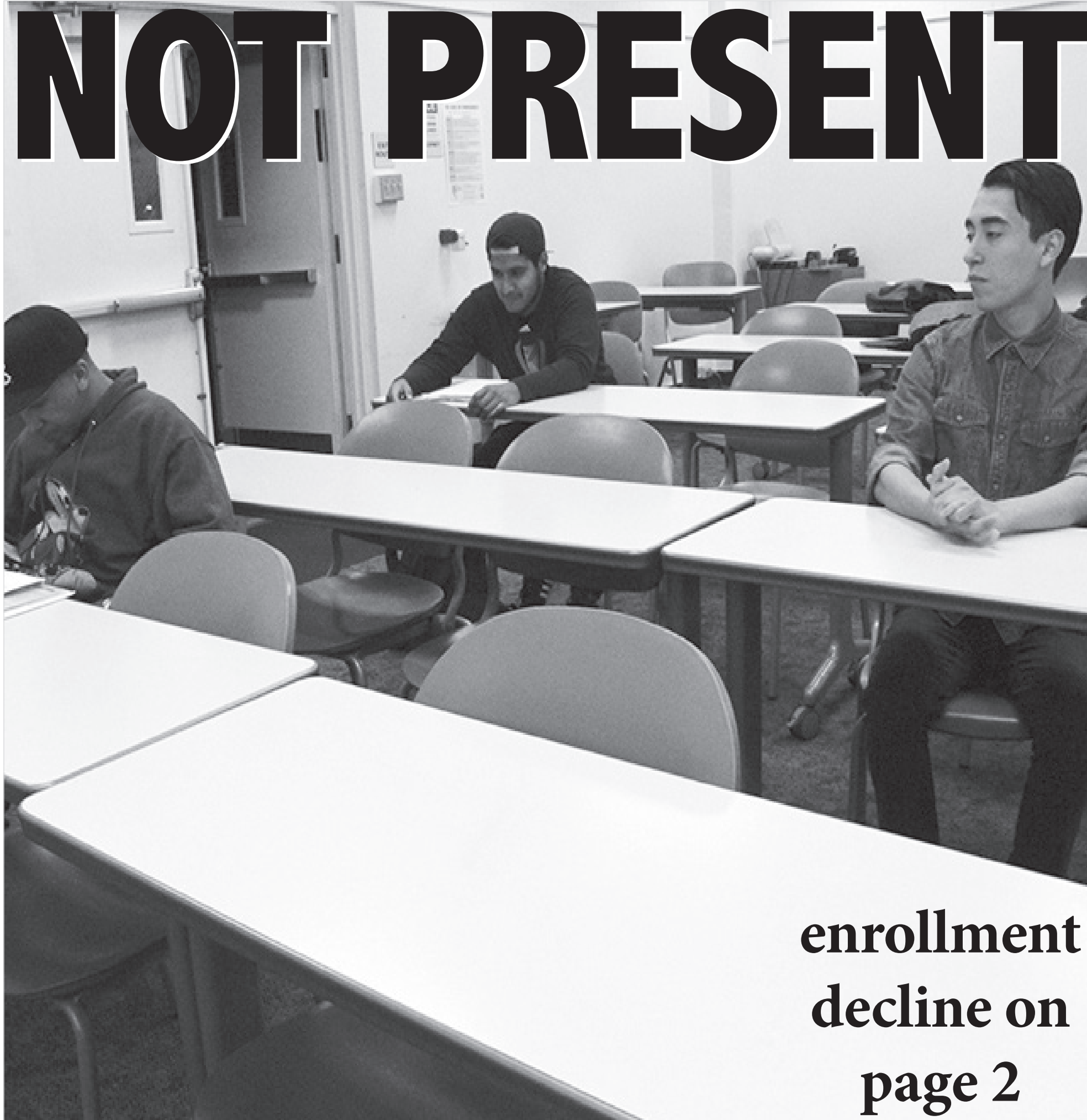
"We have had better student retention in those classes, [...], students have said by taking a four day a week math class, it's made their study habits better," Conley said.

She went on to say that students get more help by having resources available.

The plan is to include Math 40 in the future.

The goal is to get students through their math and English done so they can move on.

NOT PRESENT



enrollment
decline on
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ASCC Presidential race ends in run-offs

KARLA ENRIQUEZ

Editor-In-Chief

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The night grew colder as ASCC presidential and student trustee candidates waited by the Student Activities office as votes were being counted.

At approximately 8 p.m. on April 7 voting ended after candidates campaigned throughout the day despite the rain.

Friends and campaign members joined the candidates as it was announced that the ASCC presidential race would continue next week; there will be a run-off due to the fact that no presidential candidate received 50 percent of the votes plus one.

The race is not over for the top two candidates Joseph Fierro and running mate Ryan Kang and Saul Lopez and Enrique Rodriguez.

The presidential results were as follows:

•Joseph Fierro & Ryan Kang- 242

•Saul Lopez & Enrique Rodriguez-234

•Write in candidates Jacob Lirio & Enrique Rueda-138

•Hugo Gonzalez & Victor Gutierrez-102

The student trustee results were as follows:

•Karen Patron-339

•Gloria Sedano-203

•Alex Cervantes-177

Patron will be serving as student trustee while run-offs to determine the next ASCC president will take place on April 13 and 14.

Fierro stated, "We're going to do the same thing, I was trying to tell my campaigners since the beginning, we're going to play a clean fight, [...] I have a good group of people with me and we were outnumbered but at the same time we worked hard, so our dedication gets us far. "I'm not going to change my values, I'm going to stick to a clean and fair campaign. Congratulations to all the other candidates, we're all winners in my opinion. I don't care who got the most votes."

Rodriguez expressed he is ready to do it all over again. "I'm ready for this hard work."

Approximately 716 and 719 votes were cast for the presidential & trustee race respectively while 33 votes were void for the former and 17 for the latter.



Election Campaigns: Student trustee candidate Karen Patron campaigns to get the most votes for elections. Patron ended up winning with 339 votes.

KARLA ENRIQUEZ/TM

Enrollment is declining slightly

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During fall semester, Cerritos College proudly announced that its enrollment had increased about 2.5 percent.

According to a president's update sent out in January, there has been a decrease of 2 to 5 percent in enrollment just a semester later.

This decrease will have some financial impact on the school ranging in the million dollar scale.

Cerritos College President Dr. Jose Fierro stated, "There have been some changes at the state level, which it will, in one end help us with the number that we need to heed, but in other ways will harm us because it is lower than our funding.

"So we were anticipating to receive funding for 18 thousand students, and right now we will probably receive funding for 17,240."

He added that the school is hoping to getting past that number to collect additional dollars, but the impact could be as high as four to four and half million dollars.

Fierro stated, "It is very interesting as we looked at the different schools around here in fall, we were going up, and we finished [in a considerable place] and by the time we came back it softened, in every one of the schools around here.

Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs Rick Miranda said, "Cerritos College is amongst the last of our neighboring colleges to be experiencing a decline. We have had steady enrollment while our neighboring college experienced dips starting last academic year.

Fierro attributed the decline to the economy and unemployment rates also decreasing.

"The unemployment rates have decreased in our area, which is good for the community but not good for enrollment at the college.

There are solutions being

worked on at the moment according to Fierro.

"We're starting to develop enrollment initiatives that are around weekend colleges and better evening offerings, so we can start targeting those students that work during the day and see if we can continue to offer the education they need because I totally understand if you get a job and you need to make a living, so I'm totally okay with that."

Miranda echoed Fierro's commentary on employment stating enrollment follows employment trends.

"We continued to offer and will continue to offer an equal number of sections for next academic year."

Fierro expressed that this only means the school needs to change the way it operates and adapt with the changes.

"We do quite well in our traditional offerings, but I think there is a little bit of room for us to grow on Friday, Saturday and perhaps even Sundays, we are currently exploring that alternative," he noted.

"Hopefully we can have a plan if not by fall by next spring, but to start offering alternatives for enrollment," Fierro said.

Despite the softening in enrollment he expressed that waiting lists still exist in some of the high demand courses, so there has been an increase in summer classes.

"Our basic skills classes always fill up, a lot of good work reducing the waiting lists, but we still have a lot of people in [them], so we want to help those students to make sure that they are ready for the fall.

"In the case of basic skills, lets say you get people through their basic English and mathematics, they will be college ready for the fall.

Miranda added that enrollment is a priority for both new and continuing students.

"This is evident when examining the efforts in scheduling by all divisions to allow students to continue to progress through their academic goals."



KELLY NAM/TM
Job hunting: Students at the Job Fair hosted at Falcon Square on April 7. Many of the employers offer jobs better suited to the lives of college students, such as flexible hours.

Job fair offers opportunity

KELLY NAM
Staff Writer
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Bustling with students, faculty, employers and various tents, Falcon Square's domain was busy with the Spring Job Fair on April 7.

Approximately 61 employers took part in the fair.

"We sent out an invitation and also get calls to participate in the fair. Its twice a year, one in the fall and spring. We gear the event towards jobs applicable to students such as entry-level.

We open it up to other community members as well as students," Kay Bedesha, job placement technician discussed.

Some students were dressed in professional attire with folders and resumes on-hand, while others stumbled into the event with an open mind.

Taylor-Erin Carter, music major expressed, "I came out of class and didn't know it was here I think its a cool thing we have on campus to be able to walk out of class and have job opportunities."

Some students knew exactly what they were looking for.

"I saw this event online and I came after class to see what is [being] offered."

Katherine Martinez, nursing major stated, "The Downey Parks and Recreational leader position

stood out to me because I want to get involved and help improve the community."

Many of these jobs are geared toward students who are looking to work part-time but possibly make the job a career.

Patricia Harrison, representative from American Home Remodeling stated, "We are looking for someone who can communicate well, has great customer service, willing to be helpful, well mannered, confident and outgoing, its a top attribute we're looking for."

Some companies were geared toward students in a specific field such as education and health.

Laura Chang, HR Specialist from Centralia Elementary School District expressed, "We're looking for an energetic individual in the education side and interested in growing within a school district.

For those interested in the health field, companies such as 24-Hour Home Care was present.

Diana Lee Senior Talent Acquisition coordinator stated, "We are looking for caregivers, CNAs, RNs, and LVNs to help our clients with day-to-day duties such as personal care and medication reminders and any non-medical duties."

For those who didn't make the Job Fair, Career Services has a list of employers and their websites with their links.



BIANCA SALGADO/TM
Staying safe: Maria Martinez and Jazmine Carrizalez read about the 10 most common sexually transmitted infections. Nurse practitioner from the Student Health Clinic, Wendy Lane, gave a sexual health presentation on April 11 in Business Education room 116.

Student Health Clinic raises sexual awareness

BIANCA SALGADO
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On April 11, nurse practitioner from the Student Health Clinic, Wendy Lane, gave a presentation on sexual health to an audience consisting of four female and two male students in the Business Education Building room 116.

"We just want people to be aware, involved and responsible when it comes to sexual health," Lane said.

She is an advocate for individuals to get tested for HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) because "You never know and if you ever had unprotected sex - it only take one time and you can become infected.

"You can have no symptoms for up to 10 years. A lot of times people in the first year think they have the flu, but that's called the acute phase. So they blow it off and they're fine for many years and maybe in those years they have sex with other people," she expressed.

She adds that at the clinic it is \$10 for an HIV testing and everything is kept confidential.

Lane also told the students to think about their partner's status if they were to have unprotected sex because "You should feel comfortable when talking to your sexual partner(s) about these things.

"The same way you talk about what kind of foods you like, you know, when you are ready to get intimate with somebody and have that conversation. When you are having unprotected sex you don't know what your partner is doing."

Erica Singasay, nursing major, expressed how, as students, we should be able to open up and talk about what is going on especially on a topic such as sexual health.

"I just feel the fact that us [students] coming and learning about what's going on is something everyone has to know. People are afraid to open up about what's going on. I'm pretty sure they are the ones who are sexually active but never told anyone of their situation. It is better to actually talk to them - not on a personal level but make it where everyone is actually feeling comfortable about it then they can open up and actually go get tested.

"Because usually and most likely, people who don't open up, don't get tested and take care of it, have something. Definitely want to take care of the problem and prevent it from escalating to a disease," she said.

Students are encouraged to visit the Student Health Clinic as most services offered are staffed from physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses and medical assistants.



Hall of famers: Teresa Velazquez-Ortega looks on with College President Dr. Jose Fierro and Executive Director of the Cerritos College Foundation Steve Richardson, as an introductory video is played before she received her award. The Hall of Fame Awards took place on March 3 at the Double Tree Hotel in Norwalk, California.

Hall of Fame candidates already in selection

TERREL EMERSON
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Hall of famer is not a term to be used loosely and Cerritos College officials are very careful who they give the title to.

Just a little over a month ago Cerritos College held its annual Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony on March 3.

During the ceremony, the institution inducted former Falcons in all categories ranging from academics to sports and all in between.

College President Dr. Jose Fierro said,

“The Cerritos College Hall of Fame Sub-Committees will come to a consensus on which candidates will be forwarded to the Hall of Fame Steering Committee for final selection of the award.

“The Cerritos College Hall of Fame was established to recognize those individuals and corporations who have made outstanding contributions to the excellence to Cerritos College. Thousands of students have benefitted from our honorees’ leadership, dedication and philanthropy to Cerritos College. It is a pleasure to honor and pleasure to acknowledge and celebrate their

achievements as we induct them into our highest honor, our Hall of Fame.

With almost a full year to continue deliberating, the school has a strict criteria in which it uses to select its candidates.

“He or she must be retired. The selection criteria on the nomination form states that the candidate is eligible two or more years after finishing his/her career at the college,” said Fierro.

Athletic Director Dan Clauss is on the committee for athletics along with Sports Information Director John Van Gaston.

“The Athletic Sub-Committee meets to

look over the nominations of the three categories and rank its top five in order using a point system. Five points for first and so on.

“The individual that receives the most points in each of the three categories will be moved forward to the Steering Committee for final approval,” Clauss said.

According to Fierro, the deliberation process usually lasts for two weeks but Clauss admits that the process will last as long as necessary.

This year, inductee Danny Garcia admitted during his acceptance speech that he was not aware Cerritos College had a Hall

of Fame.

That is something that Fierro and Clauss feels will change in the near future because of its rich history.

“I get to be the bearer of good news and I call the inductees to notify them that they have been selected to be honored in our Hall of Fame,” Fierro said.

Clauss added, “It brings the campus together as a family. Employees get the opportunity to learn about the history of the college.


“It honors the people who have made a lasting impact on the college.”

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Circle of Life: Rosa Lucero and her daughter, Giselle Lucero, wait in line to donate blood on Tuesday. The blood drive will end on Thursday.

Blood drive seeks to increase donations for those in need

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According to Blood Drive volunteer Dwayne Walker, few people donate blood and donations need to happen often.

From Tuesday through Thursday, The Red Cross will be at Cerritos College looking for people willing to donate.

Walker stated, “The Red Cross is always in need of blood. They never have the right supply so to speak. They are constantly on the drive because so few people donate.

“Yes, there were a lot of people here, but compared to the blood they need with the accidents that happen [like] some babies need blood, people in accidents of course,

and they need different types of blood and they do various things with the blood like double red cells and they have platelets.”

On an average day, maybe at a college, anywhere between 35-40 students show up each day.

He continued, “There is a reason why they use them, but it’s helpful believe me.”

Walker, who has been volunteering a little over a month stated, “I actually love it. The fact that I’m here saving people’s lives. I love that fact.”

Jaime Moreno, undecided major expressed that he is going to donate, but had to get something to eat so he wouldn’t pass out because he hadn’t eaten since 9 a.m.

“I am donating because I heard that it was good to donate, not only

for the cause... to give to someone else that needs it, but because you help your body replenish new blood cells and that’s pretty cool,” he said.

Elmer Milan, physical therapy major, jokingly expressed that he is donating blood because he lost a bet playing rock, paper scissors and his girlfriend forced him to.

He added that he is also giving blood, “To help out others, and it just takes 30 minutes of my day to help.”

Sharon Morrison, business administration major said after giving blood, “I feel good, I actually feel really good.

“I want to give blood because I want to help others, because I know that if I needed the blood, I’d appreciate those that donated, so it’s a circle of life, if you will.”

Best friends create innovative show



Best Friend Goals: Justyne Becerra and Cassie Saldivar talk about their Disney themed merchandise, as they point out their Disney-styled sneakers. The women created a show all about Disney, to reach their listener's inner kid. The women were born three weeks apart, and have been inseparable ever since.

KARLA ENRIQUEZ
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Cassie Saldivar and Justyne Becerra sit together at the Pennsylvania Hotel in New York, on March 5 for the Intercollegiate Broadcast System Awards.

The trip marked Becerra's first time on a plane, which she was nervous about, coupled with the excitement of being a finalist under the most innovative category for their WPMD show, "Meet Me on Main Street."

Their Disney-themed show captures the joyousness and nostalgia of days spent at Disneyland, providing Disney news and music.

The two could have never imagined that their life long friendship would turn into a shared journey.

Saldivar expressed, "What is nice about doing the show together is that we have that natural chemistry since we have been together for so long, so this has been so easy to do."

Saldivar comes from a family of Disneyland cast members while Becerra's parents happened to own the hair salon in Lakewood, which Saldivar's parents frequented, cementing a childhood friendship.

Their love for Disney dates back to childhood, always having the Anaheim theme park present in their lives.

Saldivar's father has worked at Disneyland for 42 years, attributing that to why she has always been immersed in the culture.

Becerra expressed that she doesn't remember a time where Disney movies were not a part of her life.

"I think I started off with Mickey shorts, we were right next to like a rental movie place, so we had access to a lot of Disney movies and music and we were annual pass holders when I was younger."

The two were sitting on a couch when they expressed to each other that it would be a good idea to have a radio show where they could talk about their shared Disney interest after seeing how much fun their friends had at WPMD.

The show is a different theme each week, but the focus was to remind people of their inner Disney kid.

Becerra stated, "[We] keep them updated with fun facts and events as well as information about what's going on inside the Disney world."

Saldivar chimed in, "It's such a big part of people's childhood. Childhood nostalgia, and a lot of that kind of belief that anything is possible and the magic, 'If you can dream it, you can do it.'"

"With that, we kind of strive to remind people of that part of themselves and really get back to that good 'ol anything is possible mentality that we kind of forget as adults."

Both quoted Walt Disney in their mission to keep the childhood nostalgia alive.

Saldivar expressed, "That was the whole point when he made Disneyland."

She noted that they want to highlight to their listeners just how much Disney is a part of each person's life.

"That's the kind of thing that we think about when we do [the show] even if you're not blatantly into Disney like we are you still wear your Mickey shirt, or bits of merchandise, like a little Mickey somewhere and that's

the kind of thing that we're trying to highlight.

"Those are the people were trying to reach, the people who don't even realize how much it is in their lives," the two said while wearing merchandise with the iconic mouse.

Becerra attributes the popularity of the brand with people of this generation to the movies that were released in the nineties and early two thousands.

"I think that Disney is more popular now because our generation was so immersed in Disney things since we were little, like Hercules and Tarzan, all of the movies that came out then that introduced us to Disneyland and Disney stuff."

She continued that this generation and the last now have Marvel and Star Wars to remind them that Disney is still present.

"People don't realize that it is absolutely everywhere."

"Meet Me on Main Street" was entered into several categories, but were notified during late-fall semester that they were finalists in the most innovative category.

Saldivar expressed, "We didn't think we were going to get nominated at all."

The pair insisted that this project was something they were doing for fun.

Saldivar said, "Meet Me on Main Street was never really, like we never saw it going anywhere[...] But getting nominated, and getting to go [to New York], and seeing the potential that we have kind of gives you that drive to do even better."

"The nomination has really gotten us to help focus, we've been researching more [...] to make it even bigger and better and even taking it even more seriously than we previously were."

Some of the things they would like to implement, depending on the success of the show, is a podcast, a blog, and a social media presence.

Saldivar stated, "As it is presently, we talk a little about whatever the topic is and we play a lot of music, and that got us nominated somehow, and that's pretty much the bare minimum that we could possibly put into it."

Their goal is to bring new fresh ideas adding that the new format may be more talk-based but still have some music.

For Saldivar, one of her favorite shows was during best friends, week in which they played cuts like Toy Story's "You've Got A Friend in Me" and Fox and the Hound's "Best Friend."

"That was nice for us," she continued adding, "We're just lucky with that kind of connection, [...] "It makes just doing this show so easy to do, [...] we can just play off each other."

Staying true to the roots of the park, every show ends with Walt Disney's dedication to the amusement park.

Walt Disney opened a chapter with these words, "Here, age relives fond memories of the past, and here youth may savor the challenge and promise of the future."

Saldivar and Becerra continue his legacy at WPMD.



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Phi Beta Lambda steals award show

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The Bay Area heard the name Cerritos College repeatedly, as the ballroom inside of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Union City was witness to the nine awards Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) obtained.

The State Leadership Conference took place last weekend, culminating in an Awards of Excellence Ceremony.

The winners included:

- Ariel DeLos Santos- Fifth Place in Accounting Principles
- Brian Bray-First place in Computer Concepts
- Aaron Manuel Cruz-Fifth place in Information Management
- Aaron Manuel Cruz-First place in Networking Concepts
- Aaron Manuel Cruz-First place in Help Desk
- Bryan Enriquez, Crystal Brosious and Johanna Hernandez-Second place in Hospitality Management and Fourth place for Public Speaking
- Carlos Diaz-Second place in Name Tag event
- Cerritos College PBL- Second place Sweepstakes Community College Level

Under the advisory of Business Professor Jerry Ramos, the Cerritos College chapter traveled 334 miles to compete and test its knowledge against universities like UCLA, USC, UC San Diego and community colleges like Diablo Valley.

Cruz, who stood under the bright lights of the stage three times, automatically qualifies for nationals given his first place wins.

"It was definitely a lot more than I expected," he stated, noting that this was his first time at a conference.

"I didn't have to do much for each of them because I actually work in the IT field right now, I'm a business assistant's analyst," he stated.

Cruz said that his first place in the performance event for help desk was a scenario where he had to come up with a hypothetical solution to diagnose an issue.

"It started off as we were a contracted help desk company and a world-wide database company had problems with its servers and we came in and basically provided solutions."

Cruz stated that he doesn't know if he'll make it to nationals which will take place this summer in Atlanta, Georgia, citing his work schedule.

Enriquez expressed his excitement for nationals. He saw the stage twice with his team.

Under the hospitality management event, he and his team were tasked with revamping a baseball team.

"We had prompts given to us about 20 minutes before our presentation, the marketing one was about a minor league baseball team [whose brand we had to revamp], create more brand awareness for the team and up the revenue by 20 percent.

"For hospitality management, we had an extended stay hotel and we were trying to create more referral for customers and improve customer service," he said.

He continued, "In the moment we felt like we didn't do as well as we know we could have, but it turns out that we did, we got second place in hospitality management and fourth for marketing."

Enriquez voiced that the club brings support to its members and new experiences.

"PBL means growth, you learn a lot of things, you get to meet people from different walks of life, you experience a lot of things on your own that you may not be able to experience, you get to meet a lot of people in your same major, which you can share knowledge and experiences."

Brosious agreed with Enriquez on both counts stating that the team may have been a little hard of themselves initially, but felt good about their wins.



Winning Big: Aaron Manuel Cruz receiving first place for help desk at Phi Beta Lambda's State Leadership Conference. The conference took place in Union City last weekend. The club won a total of nine awards.

"PBL to me, is about not only forming friendships on campus, but networking with like-minded business people and advancing in my career as a business woman."

"We're like a little family, we're together a lot on campus, we look out for each other and care about each other," she expressed.

Hernandez, who will go to nationals for the second time, beamed as she explained the opportunities the conference has brought to her.

"It's an amazing opportunity, there are so many incredible workshops, a lot more one-on-one, since not everyone gets to go to the competition portion, so we just learn a lot."

"I had never considered being an entrepreneur, I always thought I would work for someone else and just hearing all of these experts, giving you an alternative opinion on why they went into business themselves it allows you to dream bigger."

Hernandez found PBL through Ramos' class, in

which he promoted the club during her first semester at Cerritos.

She expressed that the excitement of being on the brightly lit stage as each finalist was awarded, knowing that with each school that passed the chances of getting a better place existed, was one of the best parts of the conference.

This was evident in each member's face, toothy grins and smiles, each and every time members stood up to retrieve the awarded medals.

Cerritos College prepares students for graduation



Graduation Ready: Bookstore Sales Associate Cindy Munoz, works the bookstore's graduation booth. The booth offered caps, gowns and diploma frames for purchase.

BRIANA HICKS
Campus Life Editor
@askCelena

For the past month, graduates have been preparing to say their final good-byes to Cerritos College.

As a way to celebrate their hard work, the school put together a graduation fair last Wednesday.

But the fair wasn't really a fair at all. There were no celebratory decorations and no one welcoming the upcoming graduates over.

Located at Falcon Square were two table stands.

The first stand, Jostens, offered students class mementos to reward their hard work.

While the other, the Bookstore, offered students fittings for their cap and gown.

According to Cindy Munoz, the Bookstore set up a stand to actually get graduating students who are purchasing their caps and gowns to get the right sizes by trying on the

display items.

The Bookstore's stand also offered graduates customized frames, and flyers with upcoming information.

Munoz stated, "[The frames] are actually for personal choice of students[...]they're customized because they have the Falcon logo on them, and then they have Cerritos College [or] they have the regular ones that are given at commencement."

The celebration fair was overshadowed.

Students campaigned around the stands for the ASCC elections and less than a few feet away from the tables, a Mountain Dew truck drew students in with roaring music coming with the promise of a few samples.

Some students stopped to check out the Jostens stand, but majority of students were mainly focused on picking up their cap and gown.

Yesenia Liera, criminal justice

major, admitted that she was unaware of the fair.

On the other hand, criminal justice and math major Vanessa Acosta said that she did visit the booths for the grad fair.

She expressed that the fair was good, and it was different than what she did in high school.

Liera said that for her it's a big step, "I feel like it's just another accomplishment and just achieving what you want."

Acosta agreed as well, "I'm actually getting two [degrees], criminal justice and next year mathematics."

Regardless of the fair, not being much of a fair, students were still expressing joy about the graduation ceremony.

Any questions regarding graduation ceremony, may be answered during the commencement orientation May 9-13. To sign up visit www.cerritos.edu/commencement



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Editorials express the views of the 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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EDITORIAL



Our votes shouldn't be rushed for your time-sake

When it comes to choosing our leaders, voting plays a very important role in the process.

Let's face it, if most people aren't willing to take the United States presidential elections seriously, why on earth should any student on campus care about the ASCC elections?

The lack of student involvement is disturbing; there should be much more done in order to ensure that the importance of ASCC elections actually reaches the students, thus increasing participation.

The less students know about the student elections, the less likely a student is to vote.

Even if a student were to have voted, a student would be voting little to no experience with the candidates, aside from awkward campus approaches, creating a popularity contest instead of a real election.

For instance, there were many students who didn't hear about the elections until the first day of campaigning.

Candidates don't even get a full week to campaign, which is not only difficult on the hopefuls, but doesn't get the message out effectively enough.

The message being that these future student leaders are going to be in charge of an over 1 million-dollar budget and plenty more.

If there were more days, let's say maybe two weeks, for candidates to campaign outside on campus and in class rooms, there would be more potential to get students to participate.

The short time period of elections leaves out students who have classes once a week or who just aren't conveniently caught in the mix.

The debate forums have been an issue in the election process as well.

The forum gives a chance to showcase to the public what each candidate has to offer, but how can it do that when the forum has been held in a smaller location.

This year the forum was held in BK-111/112, the small room that the average Cerritos College student won't ever go in.

Voting is cool, but mainly when you know who and why you're voting.

There should be a lot more of an initiative to get the average Cerritos College student involved.

There are always pep-rallies and celebrations for countless occasions on campus, so why not go all out with student elections?

Approximately 716 and 719 votes were cast for the presidential & trustee

race respectively.

The voting booth should be packed with students getting ready to cast a vote, but sadly there's only about 30 percent of students that vote.

These numbers are relatively small when compared to the approx. 23,000 students attending Cerritos College.

Sure there were flyers and some students in classrooms, but how effective is this at really getting a campaign across?

This is pretty insulting to both the candidates who put a lot of effort in the elections and the students who don't even know what's going on.

There seems to be this lack of enthusiasm for school spirit that is often ignored and this election has been no different.

Students are being left out of an important discussion because most of them don't even get a chance to choose who to vote for.

Countless students who aren't involved in campus activities don't get an understanding of an election that very well has the possibility of making an impact on their student success.

There seems to be a big issue on the student aspect of the student body elections.

Removal of bathroom privacy

CLAUDIA CAZARES
Staff Writer
@ISpyCeeCee

New York College, Cooper Union has been the first to remove gender designations from restrooms in the United States after a long activist battle to help transgender students feel safe and welcomed in the institution.

The new restroom measure was officially announced campus-wide on March 18 via an email that was sent from College President Bill Mea.

Students at Cooper Union have had an activist battle underway for some time to remove the gendered labeled restrooms.

But was it maybe taken a little too far? Instead of having public restroom designations removed, there could have been something else done that would not upset or make the rest of the students feel awkward.

Students physically removed the gender signs from the bathrooms in one of the campus buildings. To the students' delight, the signs were never replaced ac-

cording to USA Today.

Great activists can take ideas like these and make them a reality.

However there were things that should have been taken into consideration before making a drastic decision.

Activists should have taken everyone's safety instead of solely focusing on the desires of the transgender community.

Public restrooms are really for anyone to use, but they do add a significant amount of privacy for the individual inside.

Many can argue that we all share a bathroom at home, but that is a completely different experience than using a public restroom.

Even though thinking the worst does not help, there are safety matters that should be taken into consideration.

There is a really admirable and brave concept in all of this; students standing up for their ideas.

However, the most important aspect of all this is making sure that every single student feels like they are a part of it, and voices are being heard as well.

Instead of only placing importance in one group and leaving the rest feeling harassed or squared out like in this case.

Nude post empowering, yet questionable

BENJAMIN GARCIA
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What would the American public do without the stellar social commentary of the informed Zayn Malik? One's guess might be that it would carry on and achieve relentless progress in the realm of the feminist movement.

The normal folk on social media must protect the concept of the nude selfies as an outlet for expression of sexuality for any purpose.

On March 7, Kim Kardashian posted a nude photo to Instagram captioned: "#liberated." This act received mixed reactions from fans, critics and fellow celebrities.

It is unclear what Kardashian meant by "liberated."

Freedom from misogynistic body standards, the freedom to demand attention, or to truly reclaim one's body after experiencing sexual assault (in her case, the non-

consensual leaking of the infamous sex tape) it is every feminist's duty to respect her choice as valid.

Comments ranged from body and slut shaming to approval from former foe Amber Rose.

While there is differing rhetoric in support and opposition to the presentation of nude women, several factors associated with the circumstances surrounding such an image allow people to think that naked selfies can indeed be used as a tool for empowerment.

These factors include but are not limited to consent, purpose, and the relationship between the subject and the audience.

Rape is generally defined as illegal (non-consensual) sexual intercourse by means of force.

On a broader scale, sexual assault is any form of unwanted sexual contact or threats.

In regard to sex, consent is chiefly imperative. Therefore, when one posts a nude selfie freely or

gives another the consent to use their image they are actively or inactively giving meaning and power to sexual consent.

This act is then in direct hostility to the culture of rape which has been fostered for centuries by the patriarchy.

All photos posted of oneself on the Internet is done so by some feeling of vanity, and that's perfectly acceptable.

The purpose of the photo in and of itself is irrelevant because nudity is always an appropriate choice; but as allies must always take claims of sexual assault and rape seriously, so too must they believe the individual that claims taking bare photos on Instagram makes one feel empowered.

The woman would ultimately find empowerment and "liberation" from fellow feminists and allies.

The critics are profoundly misinformed.

FSZ
FREE SPEECH ZONE

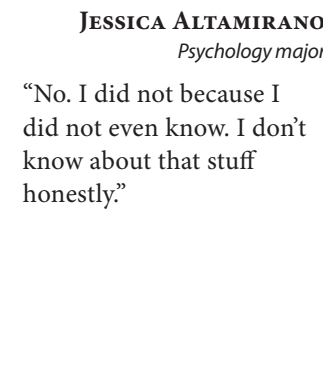
Did you vote during the ASCC elections?

COMPILED BY:
TERREL EMERSON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY:
MONYCA CEDILLO



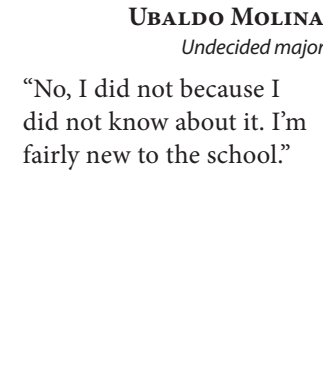
WILLIAM HALLENBECK
Kinesiology major
"Hell no, because the system is a joke."



JESSICA ALTAMIRANO
Psychology major
"No. I did not because I did not even know. I don't know about that stuff honestly."



RANDOLPH LIMA
Criminal justice major
"Yes, for ballot #2 which was Hugo. He's a friend of a friend and I agreed with his platform because it was convincing."



UBALDO MOLINA
Undecided major
"No, I did not because I did not know about it. I'm fairly new to the school."



ELIZABETH MUNOZ
Psychology major
"No, I didn't have my student ID card at the time. Plus I did not know the candidates nor am I up to date with college politics."



Gonzalez has led Cerritos women’s soccer to four straight state titles through dedication

TERREL EMERSON
Sports Editor
@sir_chatterbox

Connecticut basketball head coach Geno Auriemma isn’t the only coach ruling women’s sports at the collegiate level. Enter Cerritos College women’s soccer head coach Ruben Gonzalez. Gonzalez has coached his women to four straight state championships and is looking to add to his already rich legacy. “The way we run our program we start thinking about the next year. I think maybe we should enjoy it a little bit more. When we were on the bus last year after we won the championship, the first thing we talked about was what players we were looking at and what players we had coming in the next season,” he said. “Winning has become the culture and expectation now,” he added. There wasn’t always this expectation on Gonzalez as he did not make the jump to Cerritos College until 2005. Prior to, he was the assistant coach for men’s soccer at Rio Hondo College in 1997. “In 2002, something happened two games into the season and the [women’s soccer] coaches got let go and they asked me if I could take over the program. I said ‘Women’s?’ I’ve coached club and coached girls but never women,” he said. Freshman Natalie deLeon played high school soccer at St. Joseph High School where she was rivals with Gonzalez-led Bishop Amat Memorial High School. “I always thought he was a great coach to begin with and I was excited to play for him. Since he knew of me prior, he knew what I was capable of and pushed me to be an even better player.

“He did that for everyone on the team. He always cared about our team and wanted us to come together as one,” deLeon said. Gonzalez shared that if he hadn’t taken the position, the team would’ve been forced to forfeit its season. Following the 2004, season the position was opened to full-time and he was not allowed to retain his coaching job. At the time he had his bachelor’s degree and was working towards his masters. Gonzalez is a strong believer in when one door closes another one opens. “Juan Sanchez, who is now the Mt. San Antonio coach, was [at Cerritos] and he was my college teammate. He told me the coach here, which was Debbie Jensen, at the time wanted me to come over and talk to her. “So, I came on as a co-head coach in 2005 and she didn’t want to coach anymore so I took over the program in 2006 part-time,” he said. Gonzalez was just hired full-time two seasons ago. During the hiring process at Rio Hondo in 2003, one question that he will never forget is being asked was what was his five-year plan. “I said my five-year plan was in five years to win a championship. 2003,2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, I won a championship. It wasn’t at Rio Hondo but I won a championship,” he said. Gonzalez would repeat as state champion the following year, before failing to win it all for four consecutive years. From the start of the 2012 season, Gonzalez’s approach has secured him a 92-3-6 record and more importantly four straight state titles. “I feel like we can continue to be success-

ful because we know what it takes to do it. As a coaching staff and as a program it’s a culture, when you come in here you expect to win,” he said. Gonzalez has continued to find success despite having a different team every two years. Former player Malia Tilton said, “His coaching style changes every year based on the players. The only things that don’t change are trying to keep us disciplined by having 6 a.m. practices and when we travel, we go to sleep early and wake up early for breakfast because he wants us to be healthy at all times.” He credits his mentor Leonardo Cuellar, former coach for the women’s Mexican national team, for his knowledge and success in the game of soccer. “He was a big influence on me and still is. I talk to him almost once a week. I was blessed also to go in the summer and I hang out with him at his house and just watch [his teams] so, I was able to continue to learn,” Gonzalez said. His team is set to embark on its quest for a five-peat. However, Gonzalez is still looking at his next five-year plan. “To be able to compete for a state championship every year. Five years from now it’s the same thing. If we win it this year that would be a record but every year I want to have our team experience the final four. “Hopefully five years from now we’re celebrating four or five more championships. Anything’s possible if you believe,” a smiling Gonzalez said.



Eyes on the prize: Sophomore quarterback Nick Mitchell admitted that he views his time at Cerritos as a second chance to play the sport he loves. Mitchell transferred out of Oregon State following his freshman season and a redshirt year.

BEAVER *TURNED* FALCON

TERREL EMERSON
Sports Editor
@sir_chatterbox

Usually the purpose of community college is for it to catapult students to the four-year level. It's rare when someone does it backwards.

But that is exactly what sophomore quarterback Nick Mitchell is doing.

"For me, it is not about getting back to the four-year level at this point it is about having success, going out here and working hard with my teammates and getting better and improving on my craft," he said.

"If I do all the things right I'm sure it will just happen but that's not something that I'm focusing on necessarily, I'm focused on the team," he added.

He claimed the reason for leaving Oregon State was the offensive system did not fit his style of play.

It has only been a semester since Mitchell has left Oregon State and came to Cerritos, but he still practices in his bright Beaver orange cleats.

"I just haven't gotten a pair of blue cleats, but they're in the mail right now so I'm waiting to get those," he said with a smile.

Mitchell was a part of the Beaver football team for the last two seasons and even started in five games during his freshman season.

"The speed of the game at that level is pretty high, the talent here is really good as well so I'm just excited to get out there and continue to play," he said.

His new head coach Frank Mazzotta feels Mitchell will bring a level of leadership to this team.



Leader of the flock: Despite it being his first season at Cerritos Mitchell will be looked at as a leader. He sees it as his duty to make his teammates better.

"He's definitely a leader. Anybody who played in the Pac-12 and the Big-12 that's a big deal. He's come in with a lot of confidence right now but he's learning the system," Mazzotta said.

Over the course of his career as a Beaver, he went 51/113 while throwing for 571 yards with three touchdowns and four interceptions.

"It took Jimmy [Walker] a while to get his accuracy right too. This kid isn't accurate right now because he's still learning what to do. That's the tough thing about a freshman, [so] he's truly a freshman to us," Mazzotta said.

Leaving Oregon State was a hard decision in itself for Mitchell but it was even harder leaving his older brother.

"All of my brothers either played college football or are going to play. But my brother was a senior so he just graduated and he's gone. I just felt like going to a community college was the best opportunity for me to improve my craft and get better," Mitchell explained.

He claimed the reason for leaving Oregon State was because he didn't gel with the offense.

Mitchell used his time at Oregon State to learn the pace of the game but is looking at Cerritos as a second chance to play the sport he loves.

"I don't have a problem with anybody there. I'm still close with the coaches and the players but I just made this decision for me," he said.

Mitchell will compete for the starting job for this upcoming football season.

Mazzotta admitted that it will be up to Mitchell to prove to his team-

mates that he is the guy for the job.

Defensive end Miles Henry-Davis calls Mitchell "Golden Boy."

"He just looks like the prototypical All-American quarterback that you see in movies and television shows and his play backs it up," he said.

While many players on the football team are working to get to the four-year level, Mitchell has been there already and is not expecting to be treated any different.

"Nothing against Oregon State but I'm not trying to be the Oregon State guy here. I just want to be a Cerritos guy," Mitchell said.



Million dollar baby: Defensive end Miles Henry-Davis calls Mitchell 'Golden Boy' because he feels he looks like the prototypical All-American quarterback. Mitchell admitted that he is not trying to be the 'Oregon State guy' but rather the 'Cerritos guy.'

Memorable Mamba Moments

What has been your favorite Kobe Bryant moment?

Eric Duenas



"I think my favorite moment has to be when he dunked on Dwight Howard," biology major, Duenas said.

Esmerelda Estrada



"Just the fact that he's the best basketball player," child development major, Estrada said.

Russ May



"I just loved watching him every night cause every night he did something different," men's basketball coach, May said.

Compiled by: Janel Oliver and Toni Reveles
Pictures by: Terrel Emerson and Briana Velarde