

TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

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Complex building has begun

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The construction of the new Health and Wellness Complex building is underway, bringing with it a beneficial future for students.

The new energy-efficient building will be located behind the Student Center and will be the main institution for all athletic and physical education activities.

With the expansion of laboratories, classrooms, office and work spaces, the athletic and physical education programs will have the necessary resources available for students.

On Wednesday, April 5, Cerritos College President Dr. Jose Fierro and other participants held a ground-breaking event to inaugurate the construction of the new building.

"Today we are breaking ground for one of our most advanced facilities that will be completed in June 2020 that will roughly be around 76,00 square feet. This is going to elevate the quality of education that we bring to our students," Fierro stated.

Fierro goes on to mention that the passionate faculty of the Health and Wellness programs deserve to have a complex that will match the level of commitment that is brought to the campus.

Dan Smith, Dean of Health Physical Education and Dance and Athletics, thanked the community who voted to make the construction of this building possible.

"We have always been limited in space in our division for our performances classes. We have been creative in getting the maximum amount of space in out of the

See page 2



PERLA LARA/TM

Karen Patron- ASCC President



PERLA LARA/TM

David Ramirez- ASCC Vice President



PERLA LARA/TM

Raul Avalos- Student Trustee

Avalos elected as student trustee

Patron takes on new role as President

JENNY GONZALEZ
News Editor
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Waking up at 5 a.m., speaking in night and 6:30 a.m. classes, and running back and forth with blistered feet is what Raul Avalos went through during election week.

Separate elections for the presidential candidates and student trustee positions were held on Wednesday and Thursday.

Avalos won 268 of the 537 votes given to the trustees, while Joseph Escandon came in second with 162 votes.

"By Thursday afternoon, my legs were so tired that I wanted to collapse on the floor, but I decided to push through," Avalos said.

This is the first time he ran for a position in student government,

stating, "I want to thank my team because we did it together and I want to thank the students that actually took the time and voted, because they believe, not only on the other candidates, but also in me."

He was faced with lack of student engagement when pitching his campaign.

"Not every student was interested in listening to what I had to say about our campus election."

He expressed that he had to seek advice from former campaigners to implement the same strategies they used.

He had help from 15 campaign members that worked up to the cut-off time at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Student Trustee Karen Patron also went through many obstacles during election week.

She was the head of the committee of Education Without Borders, planning a week-long conference and running a campaign at the same time.

"I was on my phone constantly texting people, [using] Snapchat, Instagram, [...] to promote [the events] but at the same time I was trying to promote myself so that people can vote for me."

She said it was difficult because even though it seemed as if she and Vice President-elect David Ramirez did not have competitors, she had to remind students that write-in candidates are the competitors and they still had to vote.

Patron mentioned the weight of promoting three events at once, two of which were week-long events.

"I had a conference from Monday through Friday, and I also had a campaign to run Monday through Thursday.

"Not only did I have to go out and promote myself, I had to promote the conference but Pizza & Politics as well. I am still Student Trustee, I still have to do my job," she said.

Ramirez also mentioned the dif-

ficult task of trying to manage his classes and the campaign.

"I had a calculus exam [Thursday], [and] I had a physics exam the week before, so I was spending all of my time trying to study and [...] get the senators and people to come out and participate," he said.

ASCC Commissioner of Sustainability Phil Herrera and Vice-President Enrique Rodriguez faced issues with signatures to petition to be on the voting ballot.

"Honestly, upon hearing the election rules, specifically the rules for write-in candidates, I felt that we had little to no chance," Herrera expressed.

He said the 500 signatures he and Rodriguez collected surpassed the 500 minimum at first, but due to some repeated signatures and unclear names or student numbers, the total number fell below the minimum mark.

The promotional options they

had were limited to social media, blank pieces of paper to write their names down and word of mouth.

He mentioned the writ of mandamus dilemma against Rodriguez in March hindered their ability to collect the signatures.

He said that next semester he will consider being a senator instead because in comparison to the presidential campaign, he would only need to collect 75 signatures.

Commissioner of Student Outreach Melanie Walters, who was also running for Student Trustee, received 46 votes.

She said she does not feel bad about the election results because she feels as though the position is "one less thing" she has to worry about.

"It is just [...] stress off my shoulders, but at the same time whatever I said throughout the entire campaign is going to stay true to me in here, and outside of student government," she said.

ASCC hosts Pizza & Politics with Majority Leader Calderon

DAVID JENKINS
Staff Writer
@mr_sniknej

Majority Leader Ian C. Calderon came to Cerritos College for an event titled 'Pizza and Politics on California's Future', hosted by ASCC.

Pizza was served in the beginning on Tuesday, and Calderon began to take questions.

The questions ranged from tuition cost, immigration reform, Trump's administration policies, and trickle-down economics.

Some asked publicly while others wrote down their questions and asked anonymously.

Most time was spent on Calderon answering questions concerning college tuition and President Trump's immigration policy.

However, there was a moment when a question was asked anonymously about taxing churches and religion in order to help pay for college tuition.

A sense of awkwardness and shock filled the room.

He responded respectfully to the question by acknowledging that if a bill as such was put forth, it wouldn't be popular among his constituents.

Calderon liked questions concerning AB540 students and low-income students.

"We protect them to the best of our ability and understanding that these are federal laws and that we are subject to federal laws," he said.

Counselor and UMOJA Coordinator Dr. Shelia Hill attended the event along with her students to understand leadership skills.

She enjoyed the event and states how she believes that the political discussion helped her students involve themselves in real issues.

"I think that student engagement is something that leads to civic engagement, so having that ability for our students to engage in real life issues, discuss real life political projects, [...] leads to students becoming more engaged in our society," Dr. Jill stated.

After the event, students came to Calderon and had one-on-one discussions with him.

One of those students was computer science major Edgar Allan Griss.

"I think this event was pretty settled. [He answered] his questions with honesty.

"With today's politicians that kind of [truthfulness] was very hard to find. I don't like [that] in politics, arguments come and go," he stated.

There were many student leaders that showed up to the discussion such as President of Phi Beta Lambda Lucio Ramirez.

He said, "I thought it was a magnificent opportunity for students to engage, not only with their government officials, but with such a high ranking member.

"It's one thing to talk to a counselor, but it's another to talk to a Majority Leader, [because] he can get things done."

Calderon said he intends to return to Cerritos College for another dialogue.

"Eventually I'm going to come back and we'll do another conversation and continue to get students together," he concluded.



DAVID JENKINS/ TM

Intense topics: Majority Leader Ian Calderon answered questions from students on Tuesday. Topics ranged from immigration policy to the rise of college tuition.



Celebrating scholars: (from left) Judge Peter Espinoza, Cerritos College Counselor MiaSarah Cesena, Probation Officer Jennifer Salverson and students celebrate the scholarship recipients. Nine students were awarded scholarships that ranged from \$250-\$750 dollars.

Court 2 College gives scholarships

Private program celebrates first ceremony, gives scholarships

JENNY GONZALEZ
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Business Administration major Quintin McClallan, recipient of \$750 scholarship from Court to College, credits determination, goals and motivation as important factors to being successful.

C2C held a private ceremony to award scholarships to nine students on April 6.

McClallan learned the importance of acknowledging the difference between short-term and long-term goals in C2C.

The private program is partnered with the court system to direct students to college instead of facing incarceration for non-violent crimes.

McClallan says he was picked up by the police for something he did two years prior to entering the program. He was going to Fuller-

ton College and working full-time and had to miss his finals to get cleared.

“I lost my car, I lost everything. I lost my job, so then they made me come back to school and get my life back on track and it was a disappointment to my family because that is not how I was raised,” he said.

Dean of Counseling Services Dr. Renee DeLong oversees the program and is in “collaboration with [Los Angeles] County Superior Court, the Department of Justice, [and] the Probation Department.”

DeLong said the program supports students through counseling, “counselors who go to court on their behalf,” and progress reports to keep the court system informed how the students are doing.

C2C’s goal is to help the students get a certificate, degree or transfer to a four-year university.

“We have been very successful. We just celebrated our first ever celebration ceremony. I believe [this ceremony] honors the students for working so hard for over a year now,” DeLong said.

The students had to apply for the scholarship, which, ranged from \$250-\$750.

“Many of these students may have been in trouble with the law at one point in their life and they haven’t been given many accolades.

“They haven’t been told that they are worthwhile. So for them to hear that they are highly valued, that they are working hard and they are getting good grades, means the world to them.” DeLong said.

Business Administration major Nicole Rodriguez was the recipient of a \$250 scholarship.

She said “I had to work my ass off of course, but I also had to stay focused and just keep myself motivated and positive.”

She said she learned the importance of going to college and feels good to receive the scholarship.

“I never thought that I would get a scholarship so it felt really good because I didn’t think they recognized this kind of work, coming from a Court to College student, so it was nice,” Rodriguez said.

Peter Espinoza, retired judge of the Superior Court, was a student at Cerritos College in 1971 and said he had a rough transition from high school to college.

“I had a 1.4 GPA, had a lot of law enforcement contact, [and] I lost a lot of friends to prison and drugs. Somehow I survived that experience and I wandered onto the campus and I met a counselor whose name is Marcelino Saucedo,” Espinoza said.

Saucedo is now retired, but became a mentor to Espinoza.

When Espinoza was a judge, he sent people that reminded him of his rough path to Saucedo to enroll them in classes.

“I have been running this program for about 25 years, but it became formalized with a [\$400,000] grant from the administrative office of the court in 2015,” Espinoza said.

He believes that it is important this program exists because “they divert people from the criminal justice system that don’t need to be there.

“They made a bad choice, they made a mistake, and there they

are, charged with a felony, standing before a judge, when where they really need to be is not at jail, not in prison, they need to be in college. Not everybody in jail needs to be there,” Espinoza said.

Psychology major Edward Videz, \$500 scholarship recipient and Automotive Engineering major Leonardo Lechuga, \$250 scholarship recipient both agree that taking advantage of the resources and support offered to them is important.

“If you put your effort into it, you might be heard one day,” Lechuga said.

Superior Court Judge in Los Angeles County Joseph Porras supervises the students in C2C and is “pleasantly surprised” that the success rate of the students in the program is roughly 80-85 percent because he expected low numbers.

“There are certain people that come through the court system that could benefit from getting more education versus immediate incarceration and we identify those people and try to steer them toward something like the Court to College program,” he said.

April Calendar

- Wednesday 12**
- ASCC Senate
- Time: 2 p.m.
 - Place: BK111/112
- Thursday 13**
- 19th Annual Advisory Breakfast
- Time: 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
 - Place: Student Center
- Friday 14**
- ASCC Budget Review
- Time: 12 p.m.- 4 p.m.
 - Place: BK111/112
- Monday 17**
- ASCC Cabinet
- Time: 2 p.m.
 - Place: BK111/112
- Tuesday 18**
- Women’s History Month- The Politics of Gender Equality in Elementary Education (K-12)
- Time: 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.
 - Place: SS 137

- Wednesday 19**
- 2017 Festival of Asian Cultures
- Time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 - Place: Falcon Square Amphitheatre

- ASCC Senate
- Time: 2 p.m.
 - Place: BK111/112

- Thursday 20**
- ASCC Earth Day Event
- Time: 10 a.m.- 9 p.m.
 - Place: Falcon Square/ LC 155

- Monday 24**
- Translating the Trans Community: Tangerine
- Time: 6:30 p.m.- 9 p.m.
 - Place: FA 133

SOURCE: CERRITOS COLLEGE WEBSITE

New building creates resources for students

From page 1

limited area [...] making the best out of our limitations,” Smith mentioned.

Having some of the top physical education and dance programs in the entire state, these programs will have two dance studios and large fitness and weight rooms available for students.

The complex will also offer a designated area of physical education for disabled students that will be a part of the adapted program that is currently offered.

“[Some] of the limitations we have [are] a tiny dance studio, little fitness area, little weight room and so those problems are all going to be solved,” Smith said.

Another limitation these programs currently face are the limited amount of classrooms.

Smith mentioned how ecstatic the faculty is to be able to have multiple classrooms in one area.

“Even though we’re physical education, we offer a really strong physical educations program with lecture courses. It will be nice to have our own classrooms because right now we get assigned anywhere on campus,” Smith expressed.

Student Trustee Karen Patron, who also attended the groundbreaking event, was excited for this commencement of what this could mean for students.

“I think its awesome that we are expanding our services for mental health and food services. We’re going to have a bigger food pantry, so now students who go to the health service center only one time a semester can go more times a semester,” Patron mentioned.

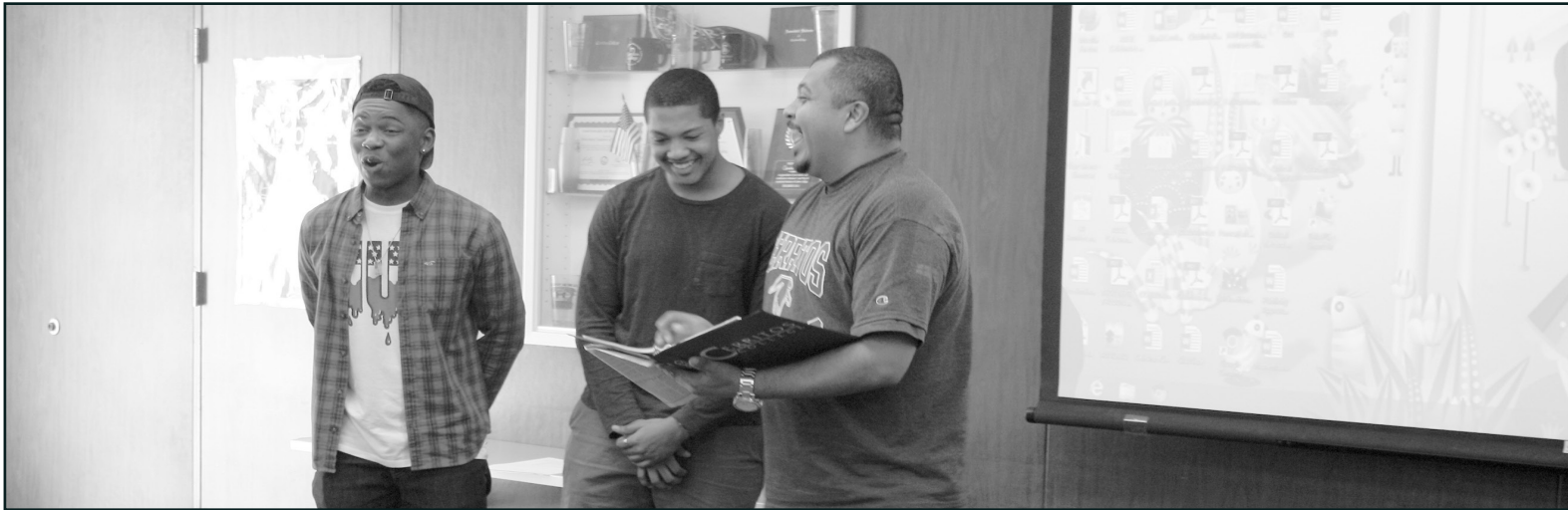
The Food Pantry in the Health Services building, currently only offers students one lunch bag per semester which can be a problem for many students.

Patron plans to work with the Compassion In Action club and professors to expand on the availability of food for students per semester.

“I think the [The Health and Wellness Complex building], really expands the student’s opportunity to be a part, to feel more like this is an institution they want to come to,” Patron concluded.



New building: Members of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Jose Fierro and Dean of Athletics Dan Smith gather at the Health and Wellness Complex site. The new building is set to be complete in June 2020.



New beginnings: Damantc Austin Brown and Jarell McNeal are sworn in by Vice President Enrique Rodriguez. They were sworn in on Wednesday.

Two more senators added to ASCC Senate

JOCELYN TORRALBA
Staff Writer
@JocTorralba

ASCC Senate welcomed Jarell McNeal and Damantc Austin Brown as new senators.

On April 5, McNeal said, “I want to have a voice for people that don’t really have a voice in here, especially for African Americans.

“You [can] count how many are in here with one finger, [so] I just want to represent all of them,” he said.

McNeal is a computer sci-

ence major and recently found out about ASCC Senate only two weeks ago by his friends.

He said he was not nervous and was really confident about the senate’s approval.

This is McNeal’s first year attending Cerritos College, and he says he looks forward to working with other senators in the future, and aims to make a change for students.

He wants students to know he’s an approachable guy.

McNeal mentions that he loves music and is also known as “JD”.

Damantc Austin Brown is a

business and economics major and is also the Interclub Counsel Representative for Alpha Gamma Sigma.

This is Brown’s first semester attending Cerritos and wants to get involved with the school and speak out for students.

“I wanted to become a senator because I really want to become part of the school and [help] students get their voice out as well.

“I believe that the senate has a big impact in Cerritos College,” said Brown.

He recently found out about ASCC early this semester by the

Vice President Enrique Rodriguez.

Brown admitted he was definitely nervous about senate’s approval and hoped he could join.

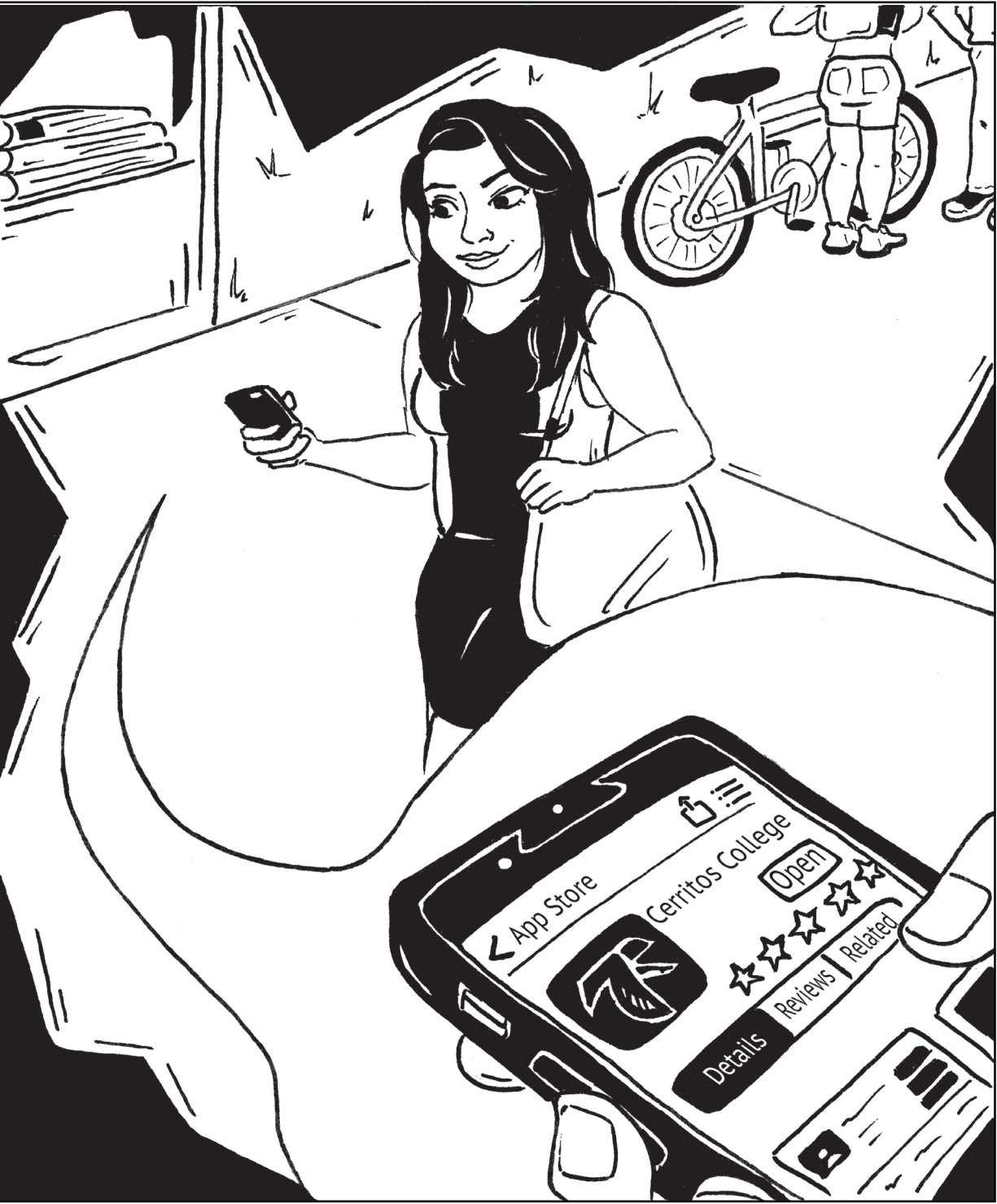
This is Brown’s third Senate meeting he attends.

McNeal and Brown gave a speech stating why they want to be in the senate.

After they were done, none of the other senators opposed their appointment into the senate.

Vice President Enrique Rodriguez swore McNeal and Brown after their speech.

EDITORIAL



CARLOS MARQUEZ/TM

Students demand a MyCerritos app

Imagine if there was a way to do everything you do on Cerritos.edu with your phone, without the errors that occur with the mobile site.

Imagine how much time could you save by not having to fish through this toggle, that drop down menu-- to navigate quickly, to exactly where one need to be.

At this prospect, the student body ought to go to Student Activities and shout the following chant: What do we want? ***A MyCerritos app!*** When do we want it? ***Now!*** Where do we want it? ***On all app stores!*** Why do we want it? ***For easier access to information, resources and services!***

ASCC must designate a greater effort in centralizing and enhancing the culture of Cerritos College.

In this rapidly modernizing society, it is important-- nay, it is ***imperative*** that institutions like Cerritos College follow suit by creating a space where students of "Generation Z" feel welcomed.

The Snapchat filter allows students to show their school pride on the newest social media platform. A MyCerritos app could do so much more for the student body.

Students are being held ***captive*** in ignorance of the happenings of Cerritos College; and not entirely through fault of their own, at that.

With ready access, students could be more successful.

Networking is the most important facet of congeniality, and it is most valuable to the Cerritos College students. That's why there is Phi Beta Lambda, the business club -- for students to learn to "***link up***" like a Tinder date.

This is a commuter school. Students come, attend their classes, have a quick bite to eat at Subway and leave-- that's why it is such a pain to buy a parking permit!

What could change this, is expanding the ability of the individual to have a social life on campus.

We-- who are not involved in extracurriculars-- who have jobs, children and elderly family members to attend to-- who do not have "reliable transportation" simply do not have time to pick up flyers.

Sure there is a mobile site, ***BUT WE WANT AN APP!***

We want an app that pushes notifications of events and workshops; to the phones and other mobile devices of the more than 23,000 students who attend classes here.

This means having a widget to playback and listen to the content produced by our radio station, WPM D.

Yes, this means creating a func-

tion to view the Talon Marks print edition and to read the individual online stories.

It would be beneficial for everyone if there were some way to network.

Canvas is confusing. OrgSync is over complex. There are clubs who do not have social media presence at all. There are students who do not know their GPA.

There are workshops that attract little to no students; not because they are not worthy of the students' time, but because there is currently absolutely no way to reach as much as a plurality of the body.

For all the aforementioned reasons, it would be pragmatic if the student body beseeched the student government for the immediate allocation of time, energy and funds toward producing an app.

The student government ought to do this-- to allow students to enroll and drop classes, view the catalog and schedule, rent books, use library, connect to iFalcon, contact Safe Zone and use Success Center resources; to give students the ability to network; to spread awareness of events and workshops.

In doing so, enhance the culture of Cerritos College and put those parking permits to good use!

- THE ENVELOPE -

Young students must learn to become decent communists

BENJAMIN GARCIA
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@pieloverable

In a communist society, the way citizens treat one another is stressed as one of the most important aspects of equality.

This is why we refer to each other each-- every one of us-- as "***comrades.***"

Naturally it is important in this so-called "democracy" to also use manners.

Ironically enough, the business majors-- who are interested in furthering the transgressions of capitalism-- are taught "people skills."

Granted, people skills is related to politeness which is a bourgeois value; as are hygiene, attractiveness and diction.

But enough about the business majors, the rest of Cerritos College -- a few individuals in particular-- must learn common decency, the communist value and appropriation of "politeness."

When a member of the working class completes a menial task for you, be sure to express gratitude ***profusely.***

The truth is that no one needs to be served.

Appreciate the Culinary Arts students for preparing your food by making eye contact and giving a sincere "thank you," perhaps commenting on how good the food is and what a good job they do.

You could have very well gone to the kitchen and prepared the

food yourself, but you didn't; instead the students take their time and effort to serve you delicious, hot food.

Do similar things with the students at Subway, Burdog and The Bowl.

Being grateful for the service of others is a tenement of communism.

It is noble to thank your comrades for a job well done-- the instructors for passing knowledge on to you, the staff for making the campus as comfortable as possible, the counselors for advising you on where you should take your future, the police for ensuring that the campus is safe and guest speakers for enhancing the culture of Cerritos College.

You must know it is never appropriate to raise your voice in anger. Yelling is not socially healthy. It is not pragmatic. It is not convincing. It is not welcoming. It is not efficient.

When you yell at someone you make an enemy. You turn your peers off. Quite simply, when you act in anger you are decreasing the harmony in a situation; and harmony should be your ultimate goal.

Disharmony leads to fascism.

The easiest way to tell if you're acting with common decency is to evaluate your actions and ask yourself, "How might I have affected my fellow man?"

If you have negatively impacted your comrades, you have betrayed your community.

The debate on bosom v.s. bottom

Nutty for knockers

BIANCA MARTINEZ
College Life Editor
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Tits, tatas, jugs, gazungas, chichis, tetas, boobs, fun bags. These are the words that most of us use to describe breasts.

The breast is a spify structure-- it should be displayed if that is what the individual feels.

There are groups of people that feel that one has no self-respect when they showcase their breasts, wearing solely a bralette as a top-- or a very low-cut blouse.

Contrary to popular opinion, it is ***not*** as simple as just putting

on a "titty blouse" and saying "Hey world, these are my cans."

In some cases, it takes a substantial amount of mental preparation in order to feel comfortable putting yourself and your body out in the public eye.

Especially when you take into consideration that certain individuals feel that they are entitled to stare or cast judgement.

What she does with her own body is her business.

So if she feels comfortable enough to strut out of her abode, with the only thing covering her breasts being nipple tassels, so be it.

It's all above the gams

MARCK PARRA
Staff Writer
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A doll's curvature is no. 1 on the list of favorite features.

There's something to appreciate at the top of a woman's body-- her breasts-- and there's something to appreciate at the bottom of a woman's body-- her caboose.

Certain men are more fond of a woman's breasts, while the other's love big butts-- and they ***cannot*** lie.

They're ritzy, keen, fascinating and hotsy-totsy.

The number of seducing qualities a woman's butt boasts are

daunting. There is no comparison to just admirably gazing at a butt as it struts its way in your direction.

It has its talents, too; it can clap on its own, it can be used as a pillow, and it can produce waves of joy as it jiggles the night away.

The possibilities are truly endless. There's more-- the perkier and bigger a butt is, the more of a delicacy it becomes and the funner things get. Intercourse is better when you have a satisfying bum by your side, too.

Butts are the cat's pajamas.

If you can, save a life today and give a booty some attention.

-FREE SPEECH ZONE-

WHAT HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS THINK OF CERRITOS COLLEGE

COMPILED BY:
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PHOTOS BY:
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@pieloverable



MARIA DIAZ
SOUTH GATE HIGH SCHOOL

"It's a really nice campus. I would like to come here because of the campus and the way it treats the students."



LUIS ZEBEDA
NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL

"It's nice because there are a lot of people from different places. I'm thinking of coming here. It's close to where I'm from."



JESSICA MACHADO
NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL

"It's pretty cool because there are diverse people. I'm thinking about coming here because it's close to home."



STEVEN MAYER
DOWNEY HIGH SCHOOL

"It is a really cool campus, there's a lot of diversity."

TALON MARKS

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2009-2010





The working girl’s advice

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“I need to take time off my major or I just need to quit my job” is all I hear from my classmates in my math class when we turn in our weekly assignments.

Hearing people considering to give up on their dreams just irks me. In this generation we need to work and go to school to make all ends meet. Giving up on your dreams is not the solution, but here is a start:

Commitment

Commitment is the first step, you have to be willing to wholeheartedly commit to your vision. Just like a relationship; there will be ups and down, but you have to be in it for the long run.

Simply ask

There’s been numerous occasions that I’ve had to request time off, reduce my hours, and even take days off.

I work in a very demanding field that usually doesn’t grant those requests, but I’m assuming that’s because no one ever bothered to ask.

They rather not risk being told “no” than to actually ask and go from there.

A quick tip when asking for requests: Never make them feel like it’s a one-sided deal.

For example, when I would take a day off or leave early, I would take on an extra task to balance it out.

Give 100%

Now, just because this isn’t your dream job, that doesn’t mean you can slack off and not get your work done.

Not only is that unfair to your employer, who pays you for your work, but it’s unfair for the customers that you serve.

The fact that I’m efficient at my 9-5 job and I try to go above and beyond, has given me leverage when I ask for these types of requests.

Remain Inspired

Working at a job that doesn’t require creativity makes it easy to forget what inspires you. Whatever it is that inspires you; keep that close.

Work

Don’t stop working. After work, I mentally prepare myself and I prep myself for some more work when I get home.

Spend some time perfecting your craft, researching, and connecting with people in your desired industry. Whatever it is you want to do, work on that continuously.

Don’t Give Up

Juggling school, work and everything else is stressful, but it’s not impossible. If I can do it, there’s no doubt you can do it.

The number one thing that helped me was knowing that it was only temporary and that all the hard work would pay off.

State Conference awards brought home



COURTESY OF ALICIA EDQUIST

Achievements: Talon Marks Advisor Rich Cameron and Lab Tech I in the Fine Arts/Communications Division Alicia Edquist are accompanied by Talon Marks staff and alumni at the JACC state conference on March 31. There the publication recieved awards including an award for Online General Excellence.

Talon Marks brings home four state awards from JACC

ROCIO VALDEZ
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Journalism Association of Community Colleges hosted their 62nd annual State Convention at the Double Tree Hotel in Sacramento from March 30 through April 1.

JACC is a nonprofit that serves students interested in a journalism career with journalism education.

Students get to interact with other students from other colleges, professional reporters, photographers, editors and other journalists.

It’s an event with real life experiences in the journalism industry with on the spot contests and awards.

Many students, faculty, speakers and judges assisted this year and within students from Cerritos College that got to experience their last conference.

Briana Hicks, journalism and psychology major shared her experience, “It was really good, I got a chance to do a different contest this year, so I was able to do news photo and sports photo. The rest of the time I did workshops, one of the workshops that I went to was how to get your first magazine job which is one of the fields that I want to get into,

“I learned how to be a better journalist, I learned what it would take for me to get started with

magazine and being a journalist and how to report on certain topics”.

She encourages students to participate, “even if you’re not a journalism major, you get to see what it’s like for actual people on the field, you get to be around other people which brings out creativity and ideas you want to bring back to your own school”.

Ethan Ortiz, journalism major, shares, “it was a fun experience, I got the opportunity to learn more about journalism and experience of working in the field, there were some fun workshops and exciting contest, it was a good way to network with other journalist”.

Something Ortiz took from this experience was, “being prepared as a journalist, on one of the contest you needed your own flash drive and that’s something I wasn’t prepared for so as a journalist you have to be prepared for everything and anything”.

Terrel Emerson, journalism major, brought awards with him, “I won an honorable mention for sports writing and social media and an on the spot contest, that’s the ultimate test... to be in a room full of journalists and feel inspired and know everyone is competing the top four spots and everybody is so great at what they do but when you get recognize it is a good moment”.

Karla Enriquez, journalism major, “It was a lot of fun, definitely a very quick paste conference, I got to network with people.”

Cerritos College TalonMarks brought back an Editorial award for Online General Excellence.



COURTESY OF PHI BETA LAMBDA

Achievements: Phi Beta Lambda members and officers stand with their awards which were won while competing at the offered events at the State Leadership Conference. The conference was put forth by the initial PBL organization on March 31- April 2 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Garden Grove.

Phi Beta Lambda obtains 10 awards at state leadership conference

BIANCA MARTINEZ
College Life Editor
@talonmarks

The Business Club, better known as Phi Beta Lambda, on campus put their smarts to the test on March 31 to April 2 when they attended a leadership conference held at the Hyatt Regency in Garden Grove.

The Cerritos chapter of PBL is part of a larger student organization which caters to and benefits seeking knowledge or a career in business.

Arthur Hanney, PBL member and theatre major, who attended the conference proved victorious against the other colleges and universities in attendance when he took home a first place award, “I won for Public Speaking, I am really proud of that award because I beat out a big university and we’re a little community college that has a better education than some of the big universities. This was all done through PBL, the national organization. I won top in the state now I get to go to nationals and compete against everybody from all over the United States.”

The conference not only provided a platform for state colleges and universities to compete but to also attend workshops that could prove to be beneficial for any of those interested in starting

or maintaining a business.

Lucio Ramirez, club president for PBL, said, “It was for a leadership conference that all PBL chapters get together, chapters from all over the state. From universities such as UC Berkeley, UCLA, USC, UC Riverside, UC San Diego. We were one of the very few community colleges there, along with Diablo Valley College, and we competed in strategic events such as customer service, management, financial literacies, things like that.”

Jerry Ramos, business and administration professor and co-advisor to PBL, expresses his thoughts and feelings about the club and their accomplishments

“I’m so proud of everyone but of course I’m especially proud of those who walked away with recognition as in awards, this shows that Cerritos College does offer quality education and that we can compete, because at the conference, students competed in a myriad of different events and we competed against students from UC’s, meaning four year students, our students competed against Cal State students, also many from other community colleges and to walk away with awards... It’s a testimony that Cerritos offers quality education but also that our students dug really deep to learn, participate and practice in their field, they can compete. It means a lot.”

Competitive Events Specialist for PBL Kevin Touch states how himself and his fellow club members prepared in anticipation for the conference competitions, “What I do is coordinate with all

the members to make sure that they compete in whatever events that benefits them, whatever is to their advantages, there is a wide range of events so I want them to do the best they can...I prepared for maybe two weeks beforehand and I chose events according to my major.”

Members also viewed the conference as very beneficial and informative.

Steven Espinosa, vice-president of PBL, states “A lot of good information was given during the workshops, we also had some guest speakers who were youtubers, Gaby and Alison.”

Winners of areas of events and those who placed include:

Kevin Touch

Programming Concepts – 1st place

Computer Concepts – 2nd place

Arthur Hanney

Public Speaking – 1st place

Steve Espinoza

Public Speaking – 2nd place

Impromptu Speaking – 2nd place

Enrique Rodriguez

Networking Concepts – 2nd place

Briana Morales

Help Desk – 3rd place

Personal Finance – 3rd place

Michael Mosquera

Help Desk – 4th place

Carlos Diaz-Soto and Jaime Hernandez

Name Tag Competition – 4th place



BIANCA MARTINEZ/TM

High school seniors from 34 high schools located in surrounding districts attended Senior Preview Day. Over 60 Cerritos College clubs and departments were represented at the event.

Campus welcomes high school seniors

BIANCA MARTINEZ
College Life Editor
@talonmarks

Throngs of students from local and surrounding high schools flooded the entirety of Falcon Square Friday as the campus of Cerritos College held its annual Senior Preview Day.

Roughly 70 Booths from a variety of clubs and departments that are available here on campus lined Falcon Square.

Clubs present at the event offered activities for the students to create an enthusiastic, inclusive environment.

The Anxiety Gaming club provided consoles and games at their booth.

Vice President of the club William Mendoza explained the club’s mission for its member. “We like to help people with anxiety problems and mental disorders so, like, whenever they come talk to us and our club we would help them by setting up a therapy session with them.”

Senior high school students such as Carmen Nava said, “My teachers had announced it to us. We were able to sign up and so we can be able to come over here and take a look at the college.”

The woodworking department,

one out of the roughly 30 departments present at the preview, offered a wood turning demonstration while students were able to get further information on career possibilities and options.

Woodworking Manufacturing Technologies Instructor Reuben Foat was there to do such that, “I teach classes on how to use the robot that we have, including the direct numerical control machine, laser cutters and also traditional woodworking classes and cabinet making classes.”

Free lunch was also available to the high school seniors courtesy of Hot Dog on a Stick.

Scan to read full Campus welcomes high school seniors story



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On March 30 in the Social Science Building near the IT Department

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MONIQUE NETHINGTON/TM

Networking: Students walk through the Cerritos College Job Fair on Thursday in front of the library. The fair hosted 52 employers and the chance for students to network for employment opportunities.

Career services facilitates job search for students

BRIANA VELARDE
Online Editor
@breevee_

For students like Walter Garcia, administration of justice major, the job fair gives them a chance to obtain a job and internship information.

He said, “Having the campus provide the fair is really helpful because the school brought the employers to us instead of us having to go to them, being a student often makes it hard.” There were 52 employers in attendance on Thursday, in front of the library.

Students were recommended to bring copies of their resume to be able to network with the different employees.

Some of the employers in attendance were:

- California Science Center
- ChildCare Careers
- City of Long Beach Police Department
- FedEx Ground
- Marines Corp.
- Vector Marketing

Garcia’s interest in getting information was geared toward the City of Long Beach Police Department and the Marine Corps. because of his major.

“I came to talk to the Marines because I want to become a police and I wanted more information on the

police academy that they provide,” he said.

The Marines Corps was a part of the job fair offering general officer rank.

It has recruiters like Cory Erickson, trying to get students interested to join.

“The advice I am giving is the different opportunities we have for [students] like full paid tuition. The Corps is not all about war and combat that is just 17 percent of it and we do, [the Marine Corps] have regular civilian jobs,” he said.

Helping Erickson recruit students was St. Justin Triplett.

Triplett’s advice to students is to make sure that students like Garcia have a future with a set plan.

“I think it is great that the campus is having [the job fair] I was in a student’s exact same shoes when I first enlisted.

“I didn’t have the discipline to attend school and once I talked to a Marine Corps recruiter it changed my life,” he said.

He also mentions that one of the advantages of enlisting is that the Marines Corps offers leadership courses that can help you run your own business efficiently.

The employers weren’t the only ones participating in the job fair.

Celeste Bolanos, biology major, was a volunteer, she was helping assist students with where employers were set up and offered students a list of all the employers.

“I think [the fair] helps build confidence for people who are afraid to go out and look for a job themselves, here at the fair [the students] seem to be more comfortable to get information and seek to get a job,” Bolanos said.

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BRIANA VELARDE/TM

Dreamer: Martha Dubon at home during her gap between classes. She is discussing whether to re-apply for financial aid.

Financial Aid source of fear for student Dreamer Dubon

BRIANA VELARDE
Online Editor
@breevee_

According to the California Student Aid commission, the number of undocumented immigrant students in California applying for college financial aid has dropped more than 40 percent.

The California Dream Act allows undocumented students brought to the United States as children [known as “Dreamers”] become eligible for in-state tuition and forms of financial aid.

As the state’s financial aid deadline is approaching there is fear that California’s Dreamers who are afraid to apply for FAFSA will be unable to launch their careers in college.

Nursing major and Dreamer, Martha Dubon has been attending the college for a year.

Throughout the year Dubon has been receiving financial aid but is afraid to reapply for fall semester.

“Since Trump’s win I have been afraid, not just of applying to financial aid but of just being here on U.S.

[land]. He has said horrible things about the undocumented and has commented on sending us back to our born state,” she said.

Dubon is aware that the financial aid deadline is approaching and has given a lot of thought and research in reapplying.

Students are required to reapply and submit all required forms for financial aid by April 30.

Dubon has also given the thought of just applying for the school’s Board of Governors Fee Waiver to just waive her enrollment fees.

“This topic has been super heavy at home, especially because I am the only child. My mom has been constantly reminding me how I was brought here as a child and the hard working women she has raised me to become.”

Dubon was brought to the U.S. at the age of four when her father passed away in Mexico. Her mom thought it would be ideal to move to the U.S. to offer her a better future.

Although her mom knew it was not going to be easy and many challenges and fears were going to come

their way she did it anyway.

Concha Dubon, Martha’s mom raises concern by stating “It is very hard to see my daughter worried at home. She tries to hide it from me but I see it in her eyes. When I brought her to the U.S. fear is the last thing I ever wanted Martha to face.”

Dubon’s mom does not agree on her just applying for the fee waiver and wants her to apply for financial aid to further her education.

“Martha wants to become a nurse because her father died due to an illness. I would hate to see her give up on everything she has worked for because she has fear in [what] whom we now call our president would do,” Dubon’s mom added.

Actress Gina Rodriguez, is Dubon’s biggest inspiration in life besides her mom.

“I know I should not have any fear and applying to financial aid will help me pursue my career so I have to do it. As Gina would say, I can and I will,” Dubon said.

Rock n’ Roll legends, Tupac join music greats

MAX PEREZ

Sports Editor

@talonmarksports

The Rock and Roll Hall of fame continues its trend of appreciating all music genres with its 32nd annual event honoring not only rock greats Journey, Pearl Jam, Yes, ELO, Joan Baez and Nile Rodgers but hip-hop and rap legend Tupac Shakur.

Rock staples like Journey, Yes, ELO and Pearl Jam were merely waiting in the seemingly infinite and unstructured line the hall has for those who want to be inducted.

Also inducted was Nile Rodgers a founding member of the disco band Chic and a producer who was inducted for musical excellence

Joan Baez a contemporary folk artists, famous for her political and socially aware lyrics in the early 60s was also among those inducted and continues to work in the music business to this day.

The most abstract inductee of the night was the hall’s most recent hip-hop edition to its roster, Tupac.

Tupac follows the likes of N.W.A., Public Enemy, The Beastie Boys, Run-DMC and Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, but will be the first inducted as a solo artist.

After the induction of N.W.A. last year it should be no surprise that the hall would continue to recognize hip-hop, and rap artists.

The hall never truly reveals its selection process, but it makes sense to assume that the recent hip-hop editions are chosen for their mass influence in music and on the social platforms in the country.

Although all previous hip-hop acts were great, Tupac is different, he single handedly carried an entire coast on his back and became a symbol for a generation.

Even though he was talked about like a rap superhero, he still gave the impression of being just another guy from the hood.

He wrote about his struggles and the struggle of others.

Also of his perspective on the world around him-- he spoke about growing up in certain areas and around certain types of people, and he rapped about his convictions and feelings.

The induction of Tupac opens the door for more hip-hop and rap artists and groups to be honored in the hall.

Biggie Smalls is sure to follow, and not far behind will be Nas. A Tribe Called Quest, the Wu-Tang Clan, Jay-Z are among others who deserve to be recognized for their contributions to what has become the lasting and influential genre in history, hip-hop.

The official radio station of Cerritos College, WPMD, plays tracks from those who are entered in the hall.

Casey Piotrowski, head of WPMD, admitted that he isn’t as familiar with some of this years inductees as previous years.

He said. “I’m wondering what the heck they’re doing, it’s not with just the rap and hip-hop artists you’ve got people like Joan Baez whom I love, but she’s a folk singer not a rock artists.”

“If they’re going to open the door up to those people then there are people like The Kingston Trio, they were the trio that mainstreamed folk music [deserve to be in],” he finished.

The inductees this year no doubt had influence in their respective genre, but lately the Hall seems to believe that anything can be “Rock” but if they are going to introduce every genre as rock they also must properly represent the genre.



DENNIS OSORIO/TM

All That Jazz: John Glenn High School jazz on ensemble in its entirety during the Jazz Exchange Concert on Wednesday held in the Student Center. Student solos such as Giselle Gaspar’s Alto Sax Solo delighted the audience.

A night of music and creativity

Music Department, local high schools show cases jazz culture on Cerritos Campus

MARCK PARRA

Staff Writer

@marckparra32

The Cerritos College Music Department and ASCC presented a Jazz Exchange Concert on Wednesday was held at the Student Center to a packed crowd of jazz enthusiasts.

The concert featured a lineup of jazz ensembles from three neighboring high schools-- John Glenn High School, Paramount High School and Bellflower High School; and the Cerritos College Jazz Ensemble.

David Betancourt, director of bands, at Cerritos College, served as the director to the Cerritos College Jazz Ensemble during the show.

“We try to invite other schools to come in all the time,” Betancourt said, “just to create this sort of energy that you saw tonight.

“Plus, they get to hear what we’re doing at the college, and there’s no admission fees, so it’s a win-win for everybody,” Betancourt said.

First on the bill was John Glenn High School of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, who was directed by Frank Anthony Hinojoz.

The students of John Glenn High School performed a plethora of jazz classics including: “A Night in Tunisia,” “On Green Dolphin Street” and “Watermelon Man.”

The latter part of the school’s set included a jazz rendition of Earth, Wind & Fire’s “September” and covers of two songs from the Star Wars universe, “Cantina Band” and “Jedi Rocks.”

Performing next was Paramount High School, who was directed by Angel Carmona.

Paramount added a Latin flair to its set list, performing the songs “La Fiesta” by Chick Corea, “Cubano Chant” by Ray Bryant and “Bellavia” by Chuck Mangione.

It was the band with the shortest set,

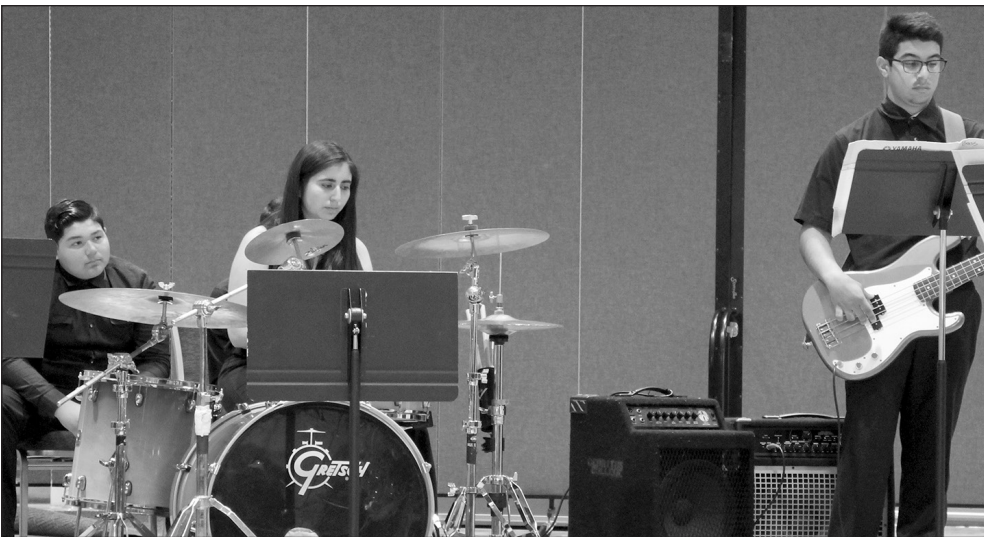
as it only performed the three aforementioned songs.

The last of the high school bands was Bellflower High, who was directed by Cerritos College alumni, Omar Vidaña.

Bellflower’s set was the most commercial out of all of the bands, as it performed jazz interpretations of 70s and 80s classics such as Bon Jovi’s “Living on a Prayer,” Journey’s “Open Arms,” and a joint-medley of Stevie Wonder’s “Superstition” and Kool & the Gang’s “Jungle Boogie.”

According to Vidaña, the set was purposely intended to play out in that specific fashion.

“I love the jazz stuff, and we have our jazz stuff, but we have to make a connection with the people,” Vidaña explains.



DENNIS OSORIO/TM

Music Renditions: John Glenn High School performing jazz favorites during the Jazz Exchange Concert on Wednesday held in the Student Center. Songs varied from “Watermelon Man” to “A Night in Tunisia.”

MO’ Fashion: talk to me baby

Tell your favorite fashion writer everything you miss about the 90s in our TM Poll

MONIQUE NETHINGTON

Editor-in-chief

@sniqueee94

Hey all you 90s babies! LISTEN UP!

It’s time to stop hiding your love of 90s fashion, and embrace the inner mom-jean, jelly bracelet wearing girl in you.

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Baseball

Wed. 12 at Cuseta 3 p.m.
Thurs. 13 at Allan Hancock
noon
Tue. 18 at LA Harbor 2:30
p.m.
Thurs. 20 vs LA Harbor 2:30
p.m.

Softball

Thurs. 13 at Long Beach 3
p.m.
Thurs. 18 at Cypress 3 p.m.
Thurs. 20 vs EC-Compton 3
p.m.
Sat. 22 vs Santiago Canyon 11
a.m.

Track and Field

Fri. 14 Mt. SAC Relays 9 a.m.
Fri. 14 Long Beach State Invi-
tational 9 a.m.
Sat. 15 Mt. SAC Relays 9 a.m.
Sat. 15 Long Beach State Invi-
tational 9 a.m.

Swimming

Thurs. 20 South Coast Con-
ference Championship 9
a.m.
Fri. 21 South Coast Confer-
ence Championship 9 a.m.
Sat. 22 South Coast Confer-
ence Championship 9 a.m.

Tennis

Wed. 26 CCCAA State Cham-
pionship
Thurs. 27 CCCAA State
Championship
Fri. 28 CCCAA State Champi-
onship

Scan to read the full
women's track and
field story



<http://bit.ly/2onxpq7>



Determined: Sophomore Zach Munoz mid-race during the 110 hurdles event Wednesday at the Southern California Decathlon Championships. He would finish with a time of 15.93 seconds in the hurdles.



DAVID JENKINS/TM

Return: Sophomore returns a ball during the final conference meet of the season against College of the Desert March 31. Krasnov finished 14-1 in singles during the season and 13-2 in doubles when pairing with Nikita Katsnelson.

Krasnov enjoying success

MARCK PARRA
Staff Writer
[@marckparra32](https://twitter.com/marckparra32)

How far are you willing to go in pursuit of a career and an education?

In the case of international student athletes, some, if not most, are willing to go to newfound extremes in pursuit of not only an education, but also a dream to one day play in the biggest stage of their respective sports.

For Cerritos College international student athlete Sasha Krasnov, 20, his journey starts in the cold, Eastern-European lands of Ukraine, and now finds himself 6,500 miles away from home to the sunny, warm Southern California city of Norwalk, where he attempts to reach for a career in the sport of his passions, Tennis.

This dream, however, doesn't come without some sort of sacrifice.

From the obvious sacrifice of abandoning one's family and culture, to the struggle of adjusting to life in a new country, a student athlete has to completely reinvent himself in order to get through the many challenging obstacles of daily life as an exchange student.

Aside from the aforementioned sacrifices, there is still a rigorous process of exams and procedures needed to be completed before one is allowed admission into the United States of America as an international student athlete.

According to Krasnov, "[In

order] to attend school in [the] United States, international students must pass a lot of exams, such as the Test For English as a Foreign Language," he says.

The results determine where a student will be placed in the hierarchy of colleges and universities, and is then handed a shortlist of schools willing to accept the student based on the merits of the results.

Krasnov, who is majoring in business administration, says the process is what exactly landed him to the campus of Cerritos College.

"Because my results were not high enough to attend [a] good university," Krasnov begins, "the company which was helping me search for schools asked me if I wanted to go to community college. That's how I found Cerritos College."

But Krasnov is not bashing Cerritos in anyway, it's the complete opposite, really.

Krasnov enjoys being at Cerritos College and praises the friendly staff and faculty found in abundance throughout the campus.

"International student[s] [are] treated really well at Cerritos College," Krasnov adds. "People always ask me where I come from and what language I speak. It's nice to talk to them."

He also adds that despite enjoying his stay at Cerritos, it can be hard for foreign athlete to adjust, and admits he can feel homesick.

"It's not common to see many international students at Cerritos

College, especially from Ukraine," Krasnov states.

Luckily for Krasnov, he is accompanied by a fellow countryman, Nikita Katsnelson, 19, at Cerritos College, who is also his partner on the tennis court.

Their friendship spans over a decade, and the two have been close since they first met.

"We've know each other for 10 years," Katsnelson begins. "Our sisters used to be friends, that's how we got to know each other."

Katsnelson praises the fact that he can speak his native language with a fellow countryman, but also stresses that it wouldn't be the end of the world if the two didn't attend the same school together.

"It is not so important, but it is good because you always can speak in your native language with him," Katsnelson states. "So I guess it has more advantages than disadvantages."



DAVID JENKINS/TM

Champions: Sasha Krasnov and teammate Aleks Trifunovic pose after competing in the singles South Coast Conference Tournament. Krasnov would win the tournament and Trifunovic would get runner-up.

Krasnov and Katsnelson have had many successes, as not only friends, but as tennis partners as well.

Not only was Krasnov awarded this year's South Coast Conference Player of the Year, but he and Katsnelson were doubles champions for the conference.

They have had championship success together including winning the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regional Doubles championship in an off-season.

As double partners, they have also reached the semifinals of the CCCAA State Championships during last season.

Moving forward, Krasnov has inspirations of one day making a name for himself in the world of tennis and if he succeeds, then Cerritos College has had a helping hand in molding Krasnov to the player he will become, and that should be taken with pride.

Baseball took L's, bounced back

MAX PEREZ
Sports Editor
[@talonmarksports](https://twitter.com/talonmarksports)

Cerritos swept last place EC-Compton in a three-game series to double its conference wins.

The victory in Game One of the series on April 4 was the first win for the Falcons since March 11 and snapped the team's nine game losing streak.

The Falcons won every game in the series by at least four runs.

Starting outfielder Rolando Nichols said, "I think sometimes it's easy to go into a game and say 'that team isn't that good' and then you play down to its level, but I feel like for the majority of the series we played our own baseball."

In Game One, the Falcons shut-out the Tartars 4-0 behind pitchers Erick Velasquez and Edgar Velasquez who combined to allow only two hits, three walks and no runs.

Offensively, Cerritos finished with 12 hits, led by Jesus Mercado who finished with three and two RBIs and Jorge Rodriguez who concluded with two hits and one RBI.

Two days later, the Falcons traveled to EC-Compton and left with a 6-2 victory.

Cerritos took an early 3-0 lead in the top of the second due to RBIs by catcher Adam Rubio, Nichols, and a sacrifice bunt by outfielder Micah Hee.

The Falcons would score another three runs in the final two innings to close out the game with a victory.

The Final Game took place Saturday, where the Falcons fell behind, walking in a base runner in the top of the first to go down 1-0.

Nichols said, "Our pitchers did a good job, they got into a couple of jams but they got out of them."

Cerritos would answer back quickly scoring two runs in the bottom of the first to take the lead.

In the next three innings the Falcons would score five runs to lead 7-1.

Head coach Ken Gaylord said, "We had some good execution on offense."

The Tartars would try to fight back scoring one run in the sixth and two in the seventh but would ultimately lose.

Starting pitcher Gil Romero pitched seven innings, allowing four runs and five hits to claim his third win of the season. Relief pitcher Edgar Velasquez, pitched the final two innings allowing no runs, hits or walks with two strikeouts to finish the game.

Offensively Cerritos was led by starting left fielder Rolando Nichols who ended the day with two hits, one run and a game high of three RBIs.

Despite the three victories the Falcons are still fourth in the conference, one win behind Los Angeles Harbor.

The next challenge will be the Allan Hancock tournament held in Santa Maria where Cerritos will play Fresno City College, Cuesta College and Allan Hancock College.

Gaylord said. "We're going up north so that will be a good test, there's some good teams up there."

After the tournament the Falcons will have a three-game series against Los Angeles Harbor and a two-game series against East Los Angeles to end the season.

Nichols concluded. "We're making sure we keep playing hard and not getting big heads because we haven't done what we should have done this year so we need to finish this year strong to set it up for next year."

Munoz finishes third in decathlon

MONIQUE NETHINGTON
Editor-in-Chief
[@sniquee94](https://twitter.com/sniquee94)

Zachary Munoz, sophomore, was the lone athlete to represent the men's track and field team in the Southern California Decathlon Championship.

Munoz said that overall he did okay in the meet, and while there are always things to improve he is exactly where he needs to be.

"I feel like I am sitting in a pretty good spot, and I am ready to compete in the state meet," he said.

By the end of the meet, which took place on April 4 and April 5, Munoz would total 5,998 points, good for a third place overall finish.

Director of Track and Field Christopher Richardson said, "He did exactly what we wanted this past week in our regional championship."

Despite only finishing in third place Munoz had individual event

success through the competition.

He was able to mark the best distance in the long jump with 6.32 meters; he placed second in the discus, javelin and shot put; finally he placed third in the high jump with a height of 1.76 meters.

Prior to his time at Cerritos Munoz competed at Cal State Fullerton where he also competed in the decathlon.

Since his time at Cerritos he has bested his total points for the decathlon by over 400 points. Munoz said that being able to compete against other Division I schools, "Definitely," help both physically and mentally prepare for this season.

Richardson stated that Munoz has matured since his time on the team, and that he has developed into a strong decathlete.

Munoz now qualifies for the CCCAA State Championship, and will represent Cerritos at American River College.

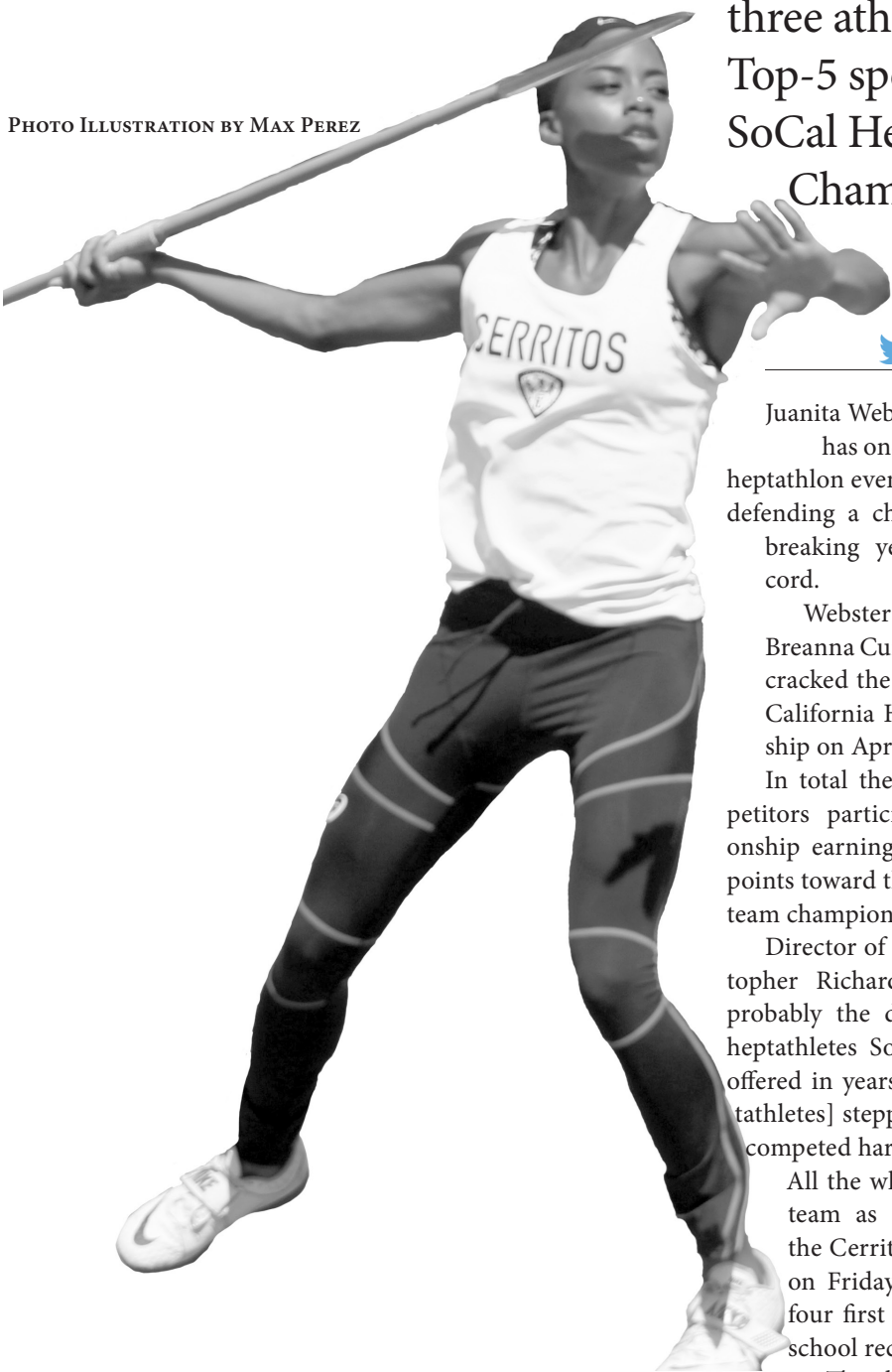
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Webster’s record breaking continues

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MAX PEREZ



Cerritos College has three athletes claim Top-5 spots in the SoCal Heptathlon Championships

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Juanita Webster, sophomore, has once again dominated the heptathlon events for Cerritos College defending a championship title, and breaking yet another school record.

Webster along with teammates Breanna Curry and Michaela Banyi cracked the Top-5 at the Southern California Heptathlon Championship on April 4-5.

In total the team had eight competitors participate in the championship earning it a total of 23 team points toward the Southern California team championship.

Director of Track and Field Christopher Richardson said, “This was probably the deepest talent pool of heptathletes Southern California has offered in years, but our young [heptathletes] stepped up to the plate and competed hard.”

All the while, the women’s track team as a whole competed in the Cerritos College Invitational on Friday where it would have four first place finishes and one school record broken too.

The heptathlon championship began with the 100-meter High Hurdles, where Webster would take the top-spot with a 13.99 seconds fin-

ish giving her an early lead in the meet. Banyi would follow suit finishing fourth place in the event with a time of 15.28 seconds, and Curry finishing fifth with a time 15.57 seconds.

The finishes would set the tempo for the day for the trio finishing in the top-five in at least two individual events each.

Curry said that her main goal for the meet was to earn points for the team so that it can SoCal Regionals, and eventually state.

Banyi would finish the first day just behind Curry in fifth place after scoring a total of 2715 points at the end of the first competition day. She earned a second place finish in shot put with a distance of 10.47 meters and a third place finish in the 800 meters timing out at 2:29.97 minutes.

Webster started off Day 1 with record-breaking performances in the high jump and javelin throw. Her 1.75 meter jump would break past three Falcon alumni athletes for the second best height in the school’s history. While her javelin throw would put in the fourth best spot in the school’s history with a distance of 41.32 meters.

These success, along two more first place performances, would leave her in the top-spot at the end of Day 1.

By the end of Day 2 Curry would finish with a total of 4591 points good for third place, Banyi finished fourth with 4415 points and Webster would finish as the Southern California State Champion with a total of 5471 points breaking the school record of 5399 points which she set in a previous meet.

That total number of points was just shy of Webster’s desired mark of 5500 points, which she expressed was her target number prior to the event starting.

Richardson said, “Juanita is a special young woman who has a bright future in this sport. She is up for any challenge that is placed in front of her which makes her a scary competitor.”

Two days later the team, as a whole, competed at the Cerritos College Invitational. Once again records were broken this time by sophomore athlete Crystal Rodriguez.

Her 48.20 meter performance in the hammer throw earned her third place in the event, and fifth overall in the school’s history. She also would finish first in the discus throw with a distance of 44.47 meters, and had another third place finish this time in the shot put marking a distance of 12.15 meters.

Amber Hart, freshman, would also have Top-5 worthy performances in the event. She finished just two places behind Rodriguez, in fifth, with a distance of 43.08 meters; and third place finish in the discus event with a 40.68 meter throw.

The Falcons’ relay teams also found their footing on the track claiming two of the four first place finishes for the day.

According to Curry the 400-meter relay team needed to work on the fluidity of the hand-offs, but the 1600-meter relay team in which she was the lead leg did well.

“I thought [4x400 meter] did great,” she said. “I was the lead leg, so I really felt that my energy [kickstarted] my other teammates to help them perform really well too.”

Performing first in the day was the team’s 400-meter relay team, which was comprised of Curry; sophomore Lilian Ebanks; freshman Kymberlynn Jackson; and sophomore Meka Story. The relay would take the top-spot posting a time of 46.66 seconds.

The 1600-meter relay team, which included Curry, Webster, Jackson and Story; they would follow up with another first place performance marking a time of 3:52.88 minutes.

Both Jackson and Story would have individual success at the meet. Jackson would compete in the 400-meter race, and finish fourth, posting a time of 58.51 seconds; while Story would finish third in the 200-meter with a time of 25.2 seconds.

Other successes on the day long distance runner Rebecca Harris placed fourth in the 1500-meter race, and a fifth place finish in the 800-meters; Amani Briggs and Banyi tied for fifth in the high jump; Webster placing second in the long jump; Ebanks placed fourth in the triple jump; and Alejandra Guzman placed fifth in the javelin event.

Concluding the day’s successes was Jelani Minix who brought home one of the four first place finishes of the day. She brought home the top spot in the high jump, marking a height of 1.55 meters, and a fifth place finish in the triple jump.

After all the successes Richardson expressed, “I feel the success thus far is a culmination of hard work and the outstanding talent that was recruited to our program.”

The team will now continue to look forward to the postseason meets, which will include:

- South Coast Conference Championships
- SoCal Championships
- CCCAA State Championships
- But first the team will compete, in part, at the Mt. San Antonio Relays and the Cal State Long Beach Invitational, on Saturday.

Cerritos tennis sweeps South Coast Conference Tournament

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Freshmen Petra Such and sophomore Sasha Krasnov were able to claim conference player of the year for both the men and women’s.

With a first place award in her hand she said, “I’m really happy, I finished to succeed. Specifically against Danielle Pastor, I played really well. In the finals we [partner Diviana Bravo] were both very tired and exhausted. I’m satisfied with everything.”

Such defeated Jess Esquivel and Jess Diaz from Rio Hondo in the first two round on the tournament.

She went on to beat teammates Danielle Pastor and Diviana Bravo to become player of the year.

Both the men and women tennis teams had blowout victories during the South Coast Conference Tournament, facing Rio Hondo, Mt. San Antonio College and El Camino.

It came to the point that a few of the doubles matches were postponed and took place Monday instead of Friday, since the teams that

went up against each were both Falcons. The other schools didn’t make it to the end of the conference.

Runner-up for men’s tennis singles tournament, Aleks Trifunovic, also had a great conference.

“I’m very happy that I made it to the finals. I had a very long semi-finals match so I was pretty exhausted for the finals, but I did the best that I could and I just happen to play a better opponent. It’s been a good day,” he said.

From the men’s team the conference champion winner was sophomore Sasha Krasnov.

Krasnov was granted a first-round bye for being the No. 1 seed in the tournament.

In his first round of play, Krasnov defeated Luis Tenada from El Camino, then went on to defeat teammates James Zhang and Aleks Trifunovic to defend his title.

This is the second straight year Krasnov has been crowned the SCC Player of the Year.

Head Coach Alvin Kim obtained for the fourth year in a row, the conference’s Coach of the Year award making it his seventh in his

14 years at Cerritos.

Being that he is the coach for both the men and women’s team. He commented on both.

For the men he said, “[The men’s team] was looking forward to really competitive matches, something to spark them up before play offs start on Tuesday. We saw some really good play even from players who were kind of slumping I felt like they kind of came through and played well.”

As conference ends, state is just around the corner. Kim feels his men are ready for state and will continue to motivate them in the upcoming days.

Kim went on to describe what he expected from the women.

“It was what we thought it would be. There was some tense moments on the women’s side in the end, but what [we] thought was going to happen, happened. In the end things worked out,” he said.

Since the double finals were all Cerritos, the match took place on Monday.

The team of Petra Such and Diviana Bravo defeated Danielle Pastor and Elizabeth Aceves, 8-3, and Sasha Krasnov and Nikita Katsnelson went to end the conference finals by beating the team of Aleks Trifunovic and James Zhang, 8-3.

Both the men and women will begin to get ready for CCCAA State Championship.

He continued “We know the grind that it is and what a battle it is, so even after this [during the week] they’ll run like three miles and go back to the weight room and get things started.”

CCCAA will be a five day event that will begin on Wednesday, April 12 at Ojai.

“We’re ready” Kim concluded.



DAVID JENKINS/ TM

Serving up: Sophomore Sasha Krasnov returning a ball during a singles match Friday. Krasnov would go on to become the conference player of the year for the second season in a row.

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