

# TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

WWW.TALONMARKS.COM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017

VOLUME 61, NO. 20

FIRST ISSUE FREE, ADDITIONAL COPIES \$1



**Files complaints:** Former Cerritos College Board of Trustee member John Paul Drayer at his last official board meeting held April 5. After leaving the board he has made accusations toward board leadership including lack of implementing board policy and a lack of checks and balances within the board.

PERLA LARA/TM

## Board accused of misconduct

Upon resignation  
John Paul Drayer  
files complaints  
against Board of  
Trustee's leadership

MONIQUE NETHINGTON  
Editor-in-Chief  
@sniqueee94

Former Trustee member John Paul Drayer has officially filed complaints, and inquiries, against the Cerritos College Board of Trustee in regard to board leadership and financial discrepancies.

According to Drayer, the lack of implementing board policy in regard to his request of a review

should lower the credit rating of all Cerritos College construction bonds.

"I have been blocked for the last eight months," he said. "So I have filed with the U.S. Department of Education."

He also filed a complaint with the Los Angeles Regional Security and Exchange Commission office.

However, Cerritos College President Dr. Jose Fierro said that those two things are completely unrelated.

He described the process in which the school got its credit rating is the same as how an individual would check his credit score.

Drayer's main concern is that if "[The board] blocks a simple request for an ethics review, is it hindering other things?"

He stated, "This is a major red flag for me. There are no checks and balances."

He also said that he is going to take it to the federal government and the credit rating agencies.

"As investors," he said, "they think [the credit rating] is much higher when it should be much lower because there is a dysfunctional board majority."

Drayer also mentioned if the board is not following its own policies and would not establish a committee.

It was unclear if he was referencing an ethics committee, or if he was mentioning the bond oversight committee.

However, Dr. Fierro was unaware of any complaints being filed

by Drayer.

"By law the school is required to have a bond oversight committee," he said, "The school does have one and they have met this semester."

According to Dr. Fierro, the final audits were presented to the oversight committee and to the board, and were without issue.

"We were given the highest score, [or second highest] that you can give through any agency," he said.

ASCC Commissioner of Sustainability Phil Herrera is the student member that resides on the Bond Oversight Committee.

He stated that he, too, didn't find anything abnormal with how things were run on the committee.

However, Herrera did mention

that at the last meeting the committee did not meet quorum, therefore no decision could be made.

"The mood didn't seem to be as if though they were in a rush to get anything done," he said.

He did say that everything seemed to be on budget and on schedule.

In regard to the complaints filed by Drayer, Dr. Fierro said the school will be fully cooperative.

"We will be notified," he said. "We will provide any documentation necessary in the event of any investigation."

The school will do whatever is required, Dr. Fierro said, to ensure that people see that the school and the board's finances are in check.

## ASCC disregards own bylaws

MONIQUE NETHINGTON  
Editor-in-Chief  
@sniqueee94

In the midst of the recent school's Presidential and Student Trustee elections, questions on whether or not the Election Code in Article III of the ASCC Constitution was followed properly.

According to Program Facilitator Amber Dofner all the candidates followed the guidelines given to them at the election orientation, and did not violate any by-laws stated in the rule book.

"The applications the candidates fill-out on Orgsync, asks for a 200 word statement," she stated,

"This application is mirrored from applications used in the past."

However, stated in Election Code By-law 3.303:

"Each candidate for elective office may also file a resume of not more than 100 words, containing the candidate's qualifications to be turned into Talon Marks, then published within a reasonable period of time prior to the election in question. Candidates shall not misrepresent themselves in said resume."

The application itself states:

"ASCC Presidential/Vice Presidential Candidate's Statement: Create a candidate's statement as to why you desire and qualify to hold this office. Statements shall not exceed 200 words. [Required] No changes or corrections shall be allowed once application is submitted. The information shared will become public record and may be used in press releases from the college. This application will be kept on file in the Office of Student Activities."

The discrepancies, and confusion, comes from the what the proper word count of the candidate's statement should be.

It is unclear whether the candidates were aware of the contradiction between the guidelines and the bylaw.

Chief Justice Rodrigo Quintas argued that because bylaw states the word resume, and not statement then it was not broken.

"All the candidates were given the same 200 words," he said. "I know it says 100 words, and I believe that has also been the common practice in years past."

Quintas said that ASCC has found that 100 words was not enough for the candidates to explain why they were eligible.

He continued to say that even if the bylaw had been broken there's nothing that he or the ASCC court would do.

"[The bylaws] are extremely antiquated there are references here that are older than I have been alive," he said. "In terms of it saying 100 words, and for this election everyone got 200 words it's not like student government fell apart because of it."

Regardless if the bylaws were broken, according to Quintas, because everyone was allotted the same amount of words to express their candidacy nobody was given more of a chance than anyone else.

See page 2

## Brian Ellison, Academic Affairs VP candidate, speaks at forum

KARINA QUIRAN-JUAREZ  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

An open forum was conducted for Brian Ellison, one of three candidates running for the spot of Vice President of Academic Affairs for Cerritos College.

Forum feedback forms were available prior to the start for faculty, staff and students who attended.

Ellison is currently Assistant Superintendent and Vice President of Instruction at Merced College.

He answered three questions asked by Vice President of Student Services and moderator of the forum, Stephen Johnson.

Afterwards, attendees were able to ask questions of their own.

Ellison said for him the forum was a great opportunity to interact and talk about things he is doing or has done elsewhere.

With an understanding of the community college setting, he said that he knows the importance and

role it has in providing those with the opportunity for higher education.

Juan Avila, English Literature major said, "I was referenced by a teacher to check it out. It was very interesting."

To prepare for the role of Vice President of Academic Affairs, Ellison mentioned that he would essentially be moving into a similar position, due to his previous work.

However he stated that it's important to "gain a good understanding prior to arrival" of Cerritos and understand what's going on.

"Getting a sense where the college intends to go," Ellison mentioned is important.

Attendee and research analyst in Institutional Effectiveness Research and Planning, Kahlil Ford liked that they gave people a chance to ask questions.

He stated that Ellison "got really specific and had very practical and good examples to share."

Ellison stated during the forum

that it's important to communicate, set goals and expectations for the team and discuss how they relate to "sustaining a student-centered learning environment"

Javier Reyes, undecided major, mentioned he came to the forum because he wanted to be more informed about what is going on around campus.

Discussing the environment of a community college he emphasized the importance of the small student-to-teacher ratio and how it can benefit students in a number of ways whether it's through studies or transferring to four-year institutions.

He went on to mention that when tasks or goals can become overwhelming for an educational manager, it's important to "prioritize."

With the goals he sets out with his team, he states his task is to secure those goals.

Once Ellison answered the questions in length, the remainder of the



PERLA LARA/TM

**Meet:** Brian Ellison speaking at the first of three open forums for the Cerritos College Vice President of Academic Affairs position held on Monday. Ellison is the current Vice President of Instruction at Merced College; at the forum, he used examples of his work at Merced and humor to answer questions.

forum was open for attendees to participate by submitting questions of their own to be answered.

One question that was asked was in regards to completion rate.

Ellison mentioned that it's important for students to find a connection to the campus whether it's a person or some part of the institution.

Additionally he emphasized the importance of student services, such as counseling, and their impact towards completion rate.

Ellison was asked about online education and where it is headed.

He explained it's important to

reach the students who would benefit.

Above all, he mentioned online courses would "accelerate overtime."

If students have other obligations, are busy and don't have the time to get to campus, then online courses are much more convenient and become a "much better alternative" to reach those students.

When asked why he would want to work at Cerritos College, Ellison mentioned, "It's similar to the student populations I've worked with elsewhere. It seems like a fantastic place to work."



# DREAM Club, OISS gain commissioner representatives

DAVID JENKINS  
Staff Writer  
@mr\_sniknej

Homecoming Queen Megan Kim fulfills one of her campaign promises as ASCC Senate passed legislation allowing two new commissioner positions; one to represent the DREAM Club and one to represent international students.

Kim had been working on the legislation since January and was finally able to get the commissioner legislation passed during last Wednesday's ASCC Senate meeting.

The two commissioner positions will focus on the needs of students who are undocumented from south of the border and elsewhere, with the help of the Office of International Student Services and the DREAM Club.

One commissioner will communicate with OISS and the other will communicate with the DREAM club.

Kim feels that having the two new commissioner positions is a necessity with the current political situation.

"These students feel targeted and are victimized every day, having these representatives will make them feel welcomed here at Cerritos College."

Kim had previously presented this legislation to senate but needed to make some changes.

At first, she was asking for only one commissioner position for both groups, but members of cabinet

suggested she make them separate since both groups have different needs.

"I know it's going to be available for next year, I'm really excited for international and dreamers to finally have a representative," she said.

The main objective of these commissioner positions is to talk to students and to have a connection with ASCC instead of just being part of a club.

ASCC President Saul Lopez-Pulido said commissioner appointees need a 2.5 GPA, five current units and their current semester sticker.



DAVID JENKINS/TM  
**Promise kept:** Homecoming Queen Megan Kim passes out her "New Commissioner position" legislation proposal to other ASCC Senate and to the public last Wednesday. She was able to get a majority vote and have the legislation approved.



DAVID JENKINS/TM

**Ready for flight:** Cerritos College Board of Trustee member Shin Liu and Cerritos College students getting approval to get funded for her students to go to on an ad hoc trip to Taiwan over the summer. The funds were approved Wednesday at ASCC Senate.

# Summer Taiwan trip funded

JOCelyn TORRALBA  
Staff Writer  
@jocytoralba

The Taiwan Experience Education Program will be hosted by Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology located in Tainan, Taiwan.

Ten students from Cerritos will be going on this trip.

The program is sponsored by the Ministry of Education of Taiwan and Tainan City Government.

Twenty students from United States and 20 students from Australia were selected to participate in this study abroad program in Taiwan.

Last Wednesday, ASCC Senate approved funding for the ad hoc trip to Taiwan.

Board of Trustee member Shin Liu said, "The purpose of this program is to provide a cultural and language learning experience for students

from the United States and Australia."

Students will take Chinese culture and language courses at the Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology during the first two weeks.

Then they will spend the next two weeks interacting with Elementary and Junior High students their culture and teach English.

"The program promotes students global awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity," Liu said.

The program will run from June 27 to July 27.

President of Cerritos College Dr. Jose Fierro said, "There are 20 spots, 50 percent are for Cerritos College and the rest are for UCI, Cal Poly Pomona, and Rio Hondo College."

Liu will be traveling in the same flight to make sure students arrive safely and stay with them for the first week during the program.

Dorms will be provided to the students by the university.

ASCC Senate will be funding students plane tickets.

The initial request for the fund is \$13,000.

Monica Santiago, political science and foreign language major, is one of the 10 students that are attending this trip and she is extremely happy.

She's passionate about learning about other cultures, she has been studying Chinese since an early age.

Santiago went to Bangkok last year for another educational program and had to work three jobs to pay for her ticket and expenses on the trip.

"I'm truly grateful that the ASCC Senate passed the funding because this is a big help and opportunity for us. We will be representing Cerritos internationally."

Santiago also said she didn't know about this trip until her Chinese Professor Yiran Zhou encouraged her to apply to the program.

# No consequences for broken bylaws

From page 1

He said, "There is not really a process of punishment for the breaking of bylaws, and even if there were it seems very miniscule."

While Quintas says there is no process for punishing of the bylaws Election Code bylaw 3.8 states what the consequences are for the breaking of bylaws.

Failure to comply with the Elections Code shall result in:

- First offense: The commissioner of public relations shall remind the registrant of the rules and regulations and tell the registrant to correct the problem within two hours, unless told otherwise by the commissioner of public relations.
- Second offense: A \$40 fee

shall be assessed to the registrant. This fee shall be paid within 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.

- Third offense: This will lead to a progressive doubling of the fine, which shall be paid within 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.
- Fourth offense: The Election Board shall take appropriate disciplinary action

Clearly, this is yet another regulatory disregard that faces confusion.

Talon Marks did receive the statements from Dofner, but was unable to publish them due to the excessive length.

Of the five statements received only two stayed under the 100-word count limit.

Dofner responded that because each candidate followed the guide-

lines of the application there will be no consequences, or effect to the results of the elections.

According to Elizabeth Miller, dean of student services, the bylaws overrule anything set in the guideline's given to candidates during the orientation and application process.

She said, "The bylaws trump whatever is in the guidelines."

Quintas commented, as well, the confusion with what the guidelines purpose was.

"They are just there for clarification," he said.

If that is the case, then the election code has been violated contradictory to what Dofner stated.

Also, if the application is "mirrored from applications used in the past," that means Election Code has been continuously broken during past elections.



NORTHWOOD UNIVERSITY

The Business University at Cerritos College

# Earn Your Bachelor's Degree at Cerritos College.



- In-demand business majors available**  
Automotive, Accounting, Management, Health Care Mgmt., Computer Info. Mgt. & more!
- 3 + 1 Program saves time and money**  
3 years community college + 1 year university prices
- Accelerate Degree Completion**  
Each 3+1 program course is just eight weeks long.
- Flexible course options for busy adults**  
Courses are one night per week on campus or online

- Affordability**  
Utilize financial aid, military benefits, professional development dollars (Cerritos employees), Consortium benefits, and more!

**SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT TODAY**  
**562-653-7852**

**Located next to Campus Police**  
Learn more: [www.cerritos.edu/northwood](http://www.cerritos.edu/northwood)  
[www.northwood.edu/adults](http://www.northwood.edu/adults)

Private | Regionally and ACBSP Accredited | Non-Profit

## TM CLASSIFIEDS

### STUDENT HOUSING

#### SIGNAL HILL VIEW CONDO 3BD/3BTH

Gorgeous views in Signal Hill; 3Bath/3Bedroom. Upstairs den w/bath can be used as fourth bedroom. Living quarters downstairs. Bedrooms have private patios. Fireplace and appliances incl. Washer/Dryer  
Email [crobyn@aol.com](mailto:crobyn@aol.com)

[www.talonmarks.com/classifieds](http://www.talonmarks.com/classifieds)

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### STIXA presents Take Back the Night

**Wednesday, April 26, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Falcon Square Amphitheater**

- Come join us to fight against the stigma behind rape culture and sexual assault.
- Speakers will discuss the problems and biases surrounding rape, personal testimonies, and ways to cope while on the road to recovery in order to be able to Take Back the Night.
- There will be a march so please wear comfortable shoes and water will be provided.
- A candlelight vigil after sunset.
- Celebrate Denim Day through arts and crafts.

*This event will on a sensitive topic so please remember to be respectful to all attendees. We hope to see you there.*  
STIXA - Student Title IX Ambassadors



EDITORIAL

# If they don't follow rules, why should the rest of us?

Rules and laws are there for a reason, to protect and guide those who fall under the governing body of such rules and laws.

While growing up people-- or even you-- may say, "rules are meant to be broken;" or the more popular, "bending the rules never hurt anybody."

Regardless of your feelings toward them, everyone at some point has grown up to accept the rules as something that is a part of life.

If you haven't done so-- well reality check, it's time to grow up.

Rules matter at any level, even here at Cerritos College.

It is not fair that some students must follow all of them to a tee, while others disregard them and face no consequences at all.

For example, in the recent ASCC Election Bylaw 3.303 of the Election Code was broken; plain and simple. However, it doesn't seem like anything is going to be done about it.

**This is wrong.  
The rules were broken and something must be done.**

Whether it be consequences as stated in the constitution, or simply a recognition of wrongdoing and consideration of amending the bylaw to better fit with the application.

It is important that this be addressed, and the proper people take accountability for a mistake that was clearly made.

If a rule is broken, even if there was intention of doing so, there should be consequences as clearly stated in the

ASCC blue book.

The Election Code states:

*"Each candidate for elective office may also file a resume of not more than 100 words, containing the candidate's qualifications to be turned into Talon Marks, then published within a reasonable period of time prior to the election in question. Candidates shall not misrepresent themselves in said resume."*

The application itself states:

*"ASCC Presidential/Vice Presidential Candidate's Statement: Create a candidate's statement as to why you desire and qualify to hold this office. Statements shall not exceed 200 words. [Required] No changes or corrections shall be allowed once application is submitted. The information shared will become public record and may be used in press releases from the college. This application will be kept on file in the Office of Student Activities."*

The argument that has been brought forth is that:

1. It says "statement" in the application not "resume"
  2. All the candidates were given an equal amount of words, so there was no unfairness to anyone
- Well to debunk argument No. 1, the application says, "create a candidate's **statement as to why you desire and qualify** to hold this office," that is

a resume.

The definition of a resume, according to the dictionary.com, is "brief **written account of personal, education and professional qualifications and experience**, as that prepared by an applicant for a job."

The application is asking for the same thing a resume would. You can split hairs saying "because the wording is not the same thing," then no rule was broken.

Well numbers don't lie and the bylaw states 100 words, not 200; and to the understanding of Talon Marks, the bylaws are the only thing that are definitive.

The application and guidelines given to the candidates are only there to clarify what is already stated in the constitution.

Now, the candidates may not have known that anything was being broken.

So, one might give them the benefit of the doubt.

However, you would think that someone running for ASCC President or Student Trustee would know what the constitution says.

It is the job of the election committee and the advisors to know all the bylaws, relay them to the candidates properly and be sure they are being followed.

Something needs to be done. These are our student leaders. If they don't have to follow the rules, then why should we?



BENJAMIN GARCIA / TM

## THE DEBATE ON COMMUNISM V.S. CAPITALISM

### Communism, the pragmatic solution

BENJAMIN GARCIA  
Opinion Editor  
@pieloverable

There are many reasons that contribute to communism being the most pragmatic solution to the crises of world poverty, war and climate change.

Adam Smith has been accused of saying that individual ambition serves the common good. What this is often interpreted as, is the notion that whatever is done in greed at the hands of the corporate overlords, is somehow good for the wage slaves. **As if!**

However, the soul of this statement isn't necessarily a fallacy. What is good for the individual is good for the group, provided that the individual strives to work for the common good.

As my dear colleague David Jenkins would say, the left is divided be-

tween the moral high ground and the freedom to choose for yourself.

In the a capitalist democracy versus a communist democracy, the two are at different rankings in regards to importance.

For one person to be rich, another must be poor. No person is worth more than another. No one deserves more than another. No one should have the power to make another starve.

If such a power is given, the greediest people amongst us will use it to bleed people, institutions and the environment until these things are left empty.

This is the simple explanation for why capitalism has failed again and again.

Therefore, it is pragmatic at first to strive for the moral high ground and make personal freedom second banana-- until materialism as a concept is wiped from the human psyche.

After this point, people would understand that they are morally responsible for the well-being of their neighbors and will always choose that which is morally just.

Karl Marx was filled with rage at seeing the surplus that was made and thrown away day after day in capitalist Europe; but this is also precisely what gave him hope.

If corporate America would stop creating false scarcity by throwing out goods that are not sold, the environment and society would experience less of a strain.

If production of luxury goods were halted, and the man-power, time and resources were allocated toward things that were necessary-- we would no doubt have a surplus of things that people actually need.

Giving children clothes; the hungry, food; the homeless, lodging; it is much more valuable than the illusion of personal choice.

### Capitalism, a solution of choice

DAVID JENKINS  
STAFF WRITER  
@Mr\_Sniknej

Today, pretty much every economy in the world is organized along capitalist lines. Just like every system, it is looked upon with frustration, skepticism and a lack of trust.

On college campuses, capitalism has a bad name. Many professors and students confuse self-interest with selfishness; or more importantly fail to distinguish the "equality of opportunity versus the equality of outcome."

Blurring the lines between these concepts allows people to embrace authoritarian positions and misrepresent what capitalism is really about, mainly choice and competition.

Many of my journalist friends and activists whom I discuss such issues with look at capitalism in such an ill way.

They see it as a system that says "me! me! me!" and allows human beings to be exploited in a way as Karl

Marx puts it, "wage slavery."

Does capitalism have problems? Sure. However, it is not made to be perfect like some utopia.

Opinion Editor Benjamin Garcia looks at capitalism with disgust; and within that disgust he points out some criticism that is worth noting.

For example, in a few themes of the "Envelope," he points out the suffering of the working class. I concede to this point, to some extent.

Another point I have a hard time objecting to is that major companies such as Apple, use their wealth to satisfy what are not the essential needs of human beings.

However, I must say that I don't get to decide what consumers need or want. The consumers themselves get to decide what they want, and that's the main position that I put forth in this column.

The idea of the free market is what I consider to be a Liberal position. To freely choose what one might want is a basic function of economic liberation.

Big corporations seem evil to us, and rightly so! However, putting the blame entirely on them lacks self-awareness.

It is our tastes as individuals that is partly to blame, and you know what? That's the beautiful thing!

I get to decide for myself what is better, a PS4 or an Xbox One. I get to decide which late night show is better. I get to decide which restaurant is best, and so do you.

If I may quote the political theorist and Austrian Economist Friedrich Hayek on his understanding of liberty:

"A policy which deliberately adopts COMPETITION, markets and prices as its ordering principles."

Competition is a key aspect of capitalism.

Through competition, ideas are able to thrive and be put into practice.

That which is the best idea or the best product, will out do the rest.

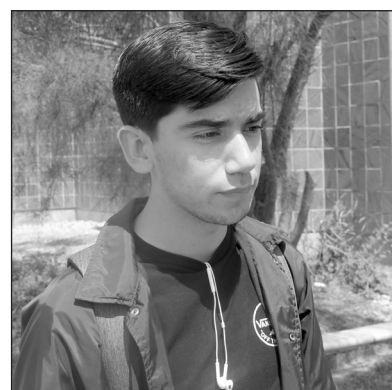
Persevering competition is what real capitalism is all about.

## -FREE SPEECH ZONE-

### WHAT IS THE PREFERRED ANATOMY OF YOUR LI'L CHICKADEE?

COMPILED BY:  
NATASHA MOLINA  
Arts & Entertainment Editor  
@natashamolina93

PHOTOS BY:  
DENNIS OSORIO  
Staff Writer  
@patosassone



SAUL SERAFIN  
BIOLOGY MAJOR

"Their eyes. I don't have a preference [boobs or butt]. When I take interest in them I look at their face."



MARISOL FERNANDEZ  
ARCHITECTURE MAJOR

"If there's chemistry, you can see it in their eyes. I like arms definitely and they have to be muscular."



TRAYVON SPERLING  
UNDECIDED MAJOR

"I look at their smile. I'm black so I like butt. You can't grind with boobs."



DIANA VALLEJO  
HISTORY MAJOR

"A guy's hair is what I like the most. His chest, but not too big because I don't like it big."



TALON MARKS is a First Amendment publication. 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.

Production and printing of TALON MARKS is partially funded by the Associated Students of Cerritos College.

Facilities and academic supervision are provided by the Journalism Program.

Newsroom offices are located in the Fine Arts Building, Room FA245. Cerritos College is located at 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

Telephone numbers: (562) 860-2451, ext. 2617

Spring 2017  
STAFF  
Editor-in-Chief Monique Nethington  
Managing Editor Perla Lara  
Online Editor Briana Velarde  
College Life Editor Bianca Martinez  
Opinion Editor Benjamin Garcia  
A&E Editor Natasha Molina  
Sports Editor Max Perez

Staff Writers  
Michael Cueto  
Jenny Gonzalez  
Lindsay Helberg  
David Jenkins  
Dennis Osorio  
Marck Parra  
Karina Quirain-Juarez  
Lizette Sainz  
Jocelyn Torralba  
Rocio Valdez

Vol. 61  
© 2017 Talon Marks  
Faculty Adviser  
Rich Cameron

Instructional Lab Tech I/Adjunct  
Alicia Edquist

Journalism  
Association of  
Community Colleges

Pacesetter Award  
2009-2010







Baseball

Thurs. 20 at LA Harbor 2:30 p.m.  
Sat. 22 vs LA Harbor 2:30 p.m.  
Tue. 25 vs East LA 2:30 p.m.  
Thurs. 27 at East LA 6 p.m.

Softball

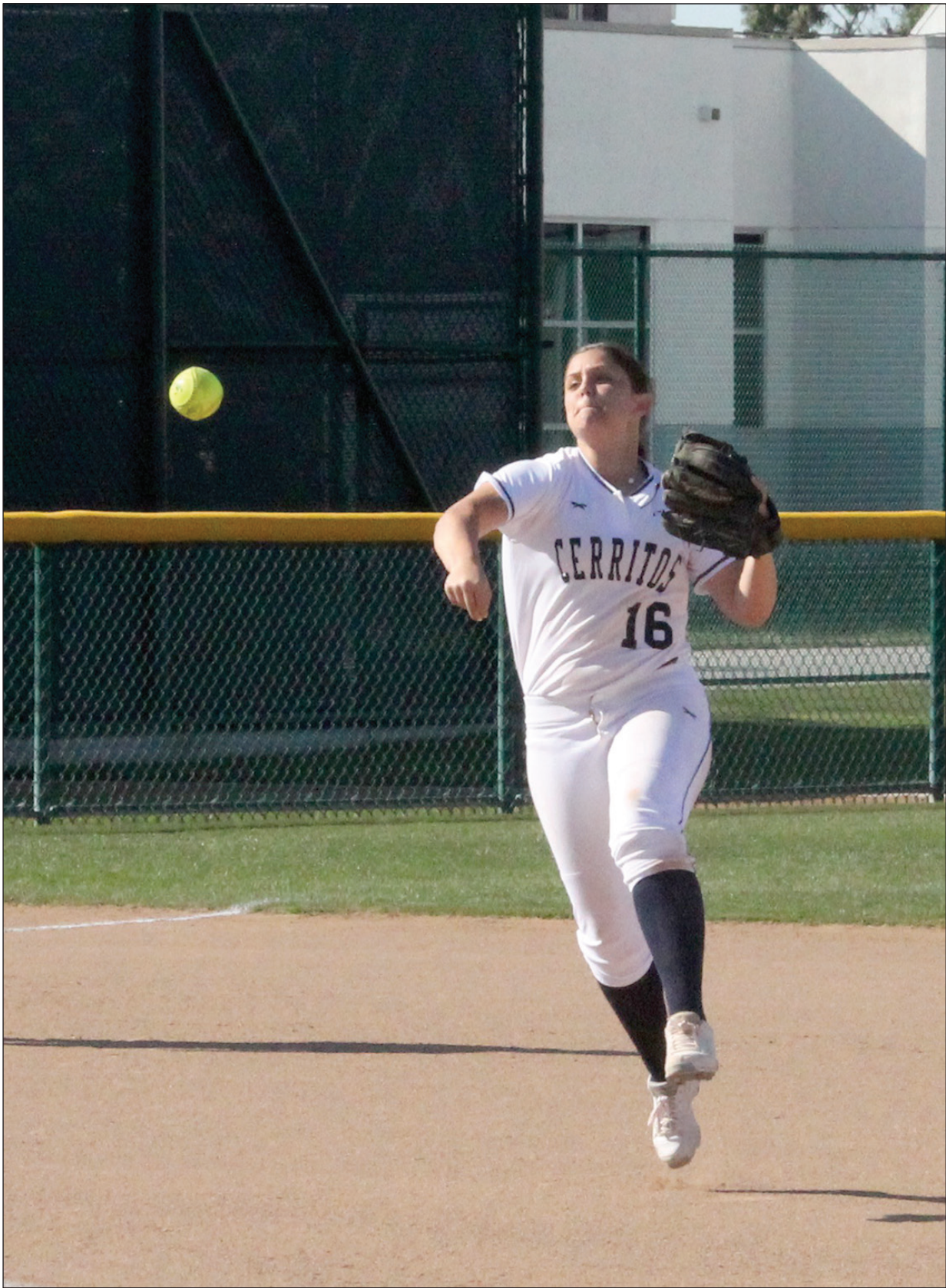
Thurs. 20 vs EC-Compton 3 p.m.  
Sat. 22 vs Santiago Canyon 11 a.m.  
Tue. 25 vs El Camino 3 p.m.

Track and Field

Tue. 25 South Coast Conference Prelims 9 a.m.  
Fri. 28 South Coast Conference Championship 9 a.m.

Swimming

Thurs. 20 South Coast Conference Championship 9 a.m.  
Fri. 21 South Coast Conference Championship 9 a.m.



**Defense:** Sophomore infielder Kylee Brown fires a ball to first base for an out during the Falcons game with LA Harbor earlier this season. Brown has started at first base, second base and shortstop throughout the entire season.

# Softball races to postseason

MAX PEREZ  
Sports Editor  
@Talonmarksports

In the past eight games the Falcons softball team has hit 64 RBIs to help claim second place in the South Coast Conference.

The Falcons have a 7-1 record over the past eight games, two of which were conference games.

Now with three games left in the season, the team is 6-3, second in the conference behind 9-0 El Camino.

The only loss during the eight-game span was to El Camino 8-2.

In the final three games of the season, Cerritos will host EC-Compton Thursday, Santiago Canyon on Saturday and El Camino Tuesday in the season's final game.

Outfielder Ashley Melendez said, "Everyone likes a home game, it brings more confidence to the team."

In a previous match up with El Camino on March 21, the Falcons fell behind 7-0 in the first three innings before the game was postponed due to rain. The game will be concluded immediately before the final game of the season.

The team began its stretch of games with five wins in a row.

Head coach Kodee Murray said, "We're playing more like a team. It becomes about the whole instead of the individual."

The Falcons beat East Los Angeles, Fullerton, College of the Canyons, Riverside and EC-Compton. Cerritos outscored its opponents

43-13 during those five games.

The team then ran into El Camino, who only allowed the Falcons to score two runs, the fewest since March 25 against Grossmont.

Despite the struggles against El Camino this season, the team denies any change in mentality.

Melendez said, "We all think about [revenge] but when it comes down to game time you just have to play, you can't control the outcome."

After the loss the team had five days before its next game against LA Harbor April 11, where the Falcons would score the most runs they have all season with 21.

The Falcons totaled 22 hits, led by infielder Kylee Brown's three hits, two home runs and seven RBIs.

Two days later, the Falcons would match up against rivals Long Beach City.

The team would get revenge, beating the Vikings 5-1 after losing to the team March 28, 14-13.

After the final three games of the season the Falcons will await their playoff seeding.

The seeding selection will be April 29.

Murray said, "We'd like to be seeded one through eight because that gives us a berth in the first round, this is a resilient team, whatever the cards are we're playing."

The Falcons traveled to Cypress College Tuesday, where they were shut out by No. 1 ranked Chargers 6-0.

Cerritos will host fourth place EC-Compton Thursday.

## Title hopes derailed for tennis

MAX PEREZ  
Sports Editor  
@Talonmarksports

Men and women's tennis are on different sides of the spectrum in the Southern California Regional Championships.

The men defeated Orange Coast College in a 5-0 sweep to move on to round two of the regional championships.

On the other hand, the women lost to Santa Monica College 5-3, losing two of the doubles matches and three singles. And with that the Cerritos women's tennis season is now over.

Sophomore Elizabeth Aceves said, "This was a decent season."

She added that some injuries may have gotten to the team's mental preparation.

Head Coach Alvin Kim said, "The women fell short, it will be up to the men to bring a championship

home to Cerritos."

The women finished the season with a 10-6 overall record, and a perfect 4-0 conference record.

Freshman Petra Such finished the season with a 15-3 singles record and a 11-5 doubles record with freshman Diviana Bravo.

Such was also named conference Player of the Year, and paired with partner Bravo, the two won the conference doubles championship.

In total only one player didn't finish the season with a single and double record above .500.

Kim said, "[The women's] season is over, hopefully we'll be angry about it next season."

As for the men, they did not drop a single match to OCC.

Kim singled out the performance of freshman Kwang-Eun Lee for his performance in his double match paired with Marcos Paulo Silvestre.

"He did well posting a 8-0 set at

the No. 2 doubles."

He added, "This is the best team we've had in awhile, we have had a chip on our shoulders from placing second in state last year."

In round two the men played Cypress College, who they beat 6-3 earlier in the season.

Despite the prior victory, the Cypress pair of Maximilien Blancaneaux and Vincent Reynaud accounted for one of the two losses Sasha Krasnov and Nikita Katsnelson suffered all season.

The Falcons hosted the Chargers Tuesday and lost, knocking them out of the Southern California Regional Team Playoffs in the second round.

Kim said, "The goal is to always win a championship, and while other sports celebrate fifth place victories our tennis program is always Top-5 in the state, and to not win anything this season would be considered failure."

## Track and field ready for state

MAX PEREZ  
Sports Editor  
@Talonmarksports

Sophomore Juanita Webster has claimed another top mark in the Cerritos Falcons record books during the Long Beach State Invitational with a time of 13.82 seconds in the 100-meter high hurdles.

This is the latest top mark Webster has broken this season. She also has the top mark in the heptathlon and claims a Top-5 mark in four other events.

In the 100-meter HH, high jump, long jump and triple jump Webster is first in the state to go along with holding top heptathlon score and Top-5 marks in three other events statewide.

Director of Track and Field Christopher Richardson said outside of former athlete Alexis Dalton he's never had an athlete break this many marks.

"We kind of knew it was going

to happen, it was just a matter of time."

He added, "I think [Webster] will get the high jump mark too. So, she'll have the most."

Originally scheduled to compete at the Mt. San Antonio Relays, the team opted to instead attend the Easter Relays held at Santa Barbara City College.

Richardson said, "We found a more competitive opportunity. I think it prepared us better for our conference championships."

The women finished second with 151.5 team points, while the men finished fifth with 53 team points.

The women were led by sophomore Skylin Harbin who finished first in the 100-meter HH with a time of a time of 14.65 seconds and the 400-meter IH at 1:05:44 minutes.

Coming off the Cerritos invitational, where Sophomore Crystal

Rodriguez captured the fifth longest hammer throw in school history she placed first in the discus with a distance of 44.58 meters.

Rodriguez said, "It's not over I have to set new goals to reach and keep improving."

Freshman Amber Hart finished first in the shot put at 12.52 meters.

The men did not have the same success in Santa Barbara, finishing fifth and leaving with no first place finishes.

The highest finish of the day for the men was freshman Jorge Gonzalez's second place finish in the shot put with a distance of 13.82 meters.

Both teams competed in the Long Beach Invitational, but neither team was able to capture a Top-5 finish in any event competing against four-year schools.

The next event for the teams will be the conference championships held at El Camino College Tuesday and Wednesday.



*CSUDH alumnus  
Glenn Matsushima  
created one of the nation's  
most successful prosthetics  
and orthotics companies.*

## Improving lives is my business. And my passion.

Learn how CSUDH Toros use their degrees to make a difference.

**CSUDH.EDU/Alumnus**



**(310) 243-3696**

1000 E. Victoria Street | Carson, CA 90747