THE ORANGE GROVE

Oil companies may be crying wolf
By pushing for maximum profit now, they could hurt themselves, and us

It is always easier to prevent a recession than to try to recover from one. That lesson appears to be lost on the large oil companies.

I am a capitalist to the bone, but with these companies reporting record quarterly profit, it’s hard not to consider the possibility that they are exaggerating the risk and difficulty in providing gasoline.

Despite all the dire warnings of never-ending price increases due to interrupted supply and restricted refining capacity, consumers have developed a level of sophistication that has prevented panic buying. Maybe a psychological barrier at the realization of having to pay $3 a gallon is helping in that regard.

Most do not want to remember the oil shocks of the ’70s and the myriad problems spawned by them. We should never return to the days of price regulation, rationing and gas lines. The free market is the only true mechanism for efficiently allocating petroleum product usage.

This lesson appears to be lost on our elected representatives. Whenever some constituency becomes uncomfortable and begins to moan, our public servants begin to serve up immediate short-term fixes for political expediency. Well thought-out, practical solutions are someone else’s problem. The typical response is, “What we need now is to do something symbolic that they can take credit for.” Find villains (corporations) and blame them when the fix doesn’t work.

These companies may be blameless for the actual problem, but they are not too bright. In pursuit of short-term profits, they are sacrificing the long-term health of their companies and the U.S. economy. Isn’t it in everyone’s best interest to keep things humming along at a relatively good pace rather than deal with the peaks and valleys of an economy trying to regain its footing? Maximizing profit can also mean selling more product for a few pennies less and making it up in volume.

The current position of oil is that it drives (pardon the pun) so much more of the overall economy. Economists are already whispering about a slowdown and reduced economic growth due to the increased price of oil and refined products, in large part due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

Trickle-down economics is very real, and spending on everything else will slow to a trickle as the price of fuel climbs. For every additional dollar that consumers spend on gasoline or related products, that’s a dollar less that they can spend on food, clothing, entertainment, etc. When the economy slows, so do tax receipts. Can you already hear the elected officials crying poverty? Consumers are savvy enough when it comes to their own self-interest and will decide what trade-offs they must make with their budgets, including reduced driving.

When the increased costs of transportation filter to all aspects of the economy, fingers will point at the oil companies as the primary cause of a new round of inflation. Does anyone remember the pain of getting inflation under control back in the early ’80s?

Like it or not, consumer spending is what drives this economy. When consumer spending slows, and the economy tips into recession, our self-proclaimed white knights will cry foul, punish so-called profiteers by removing the incentive to produce and demand increased government spending to minimize the pain of the masses. That would do nothing to really solve the problem and everything to prolong the crisis.

The one bright side of all this is the possibility that some previously overlooked genius will come up with alternatives to hydrocarbon-based energy because it would now be economically feasible. This once again would demonstrate the superiority of the marketplace and free enterprise.

The political class needs to keep its socialist ideas and money-grubbing hands off the private sector. Corporate America needs to be willing to take a long run view of their profit motive. The broader economy will take longer to recover than quarterly profits.

Whether it is consumers, corporations or government coffers, the invisible hand of Adam Smith is going to smack somebody.
49er Jaedtke earns honor

From staff reports

Long Beach State freshman Dylan Jaedtke was named the Big West Conference’s Male Athlete of the Week after finishing 10th at the UC Irvine Cross Country Invitational last weekend with a time of 23:07.6 in an extended 7K race.

The 49ers have earned three Athletes of the Week in the past two seasons, as senior Jimmy Grabow earned the award twice last season.

JC MEN’S WATER POLO

Cerritos 18, L.A. Trade Tech 6:
The Falcons jumped out to a 6-3 lead in the first quarter as freshman Fernando Ramirez scored three first-half goals and sophomore Chris Pasos also contributed three goals for Cerritos (4-3, 1-0 SCC).

JC WOMEN’S SOCCER

Cerritos 1, S.D. Mesa 0: The Falcons’ Megan Kozac was pulled down in the box in the 99th minute by Olympian (1-4-2) Natalie O’Hara, which resulted in a game-winning penalty kick by freshman defender Nancy Gutierrez to give Cerritos (5-1-1) a nonconference win.

LBCC 9, Rio Hondo 6:
Sophomore Matlory Osoque led the number-one team in the nation with three goals to help Long Beach City (9-0-1) shut out Rio Hondo in a nonconference game.

JC WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

Cerritos 3, College of the Canyons 1: Sophomore outside hitter Shanelle McMillen recorded eight of her team-high 13 kills in the fourth game to help the Falcons (3-0) to a 30-22, 30-14, 30-32, 30-18 non-conference victory over the Cougars.

Cypress 3, LBCC 1: The Vikings dropped a nonconference match to the visiting Chargers 26-30, 31-29, 23-30, and 28-30.
L.B. City rolls to big victories in water polo

From staff reports

Scott Burns, Miller Stajnac and Jake Kline each scored four goals to help the Long Beach City College men's water polo team post two victories in the Cuesta Tournament on Friday in San Luis Obispo.

Goalie Kevin Kinney totaled 16 saves between the two games for the Vikings, who beat Riversides, 15-4, and Diablo Valley, 14-2.

LBCC (4-0) was further powered by three goals apiece from Pavol Filipovic, Chris Brinigard and Sam O'Hara.

The Vikings will take on Golden West in a semifinal today at 10:15 a.m. and then play in either the third-place game at 2:45 p.m. or the title game at 3:45 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER

Long Beach City 2, Palomar 1
Felipe Ramos and Adam Clayton scored goals to help the Vikings (6-2-1) beat the visiting Comets in a nonconference game.

LBCC goalie Brandon Welsh had seven saves.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Cypress 3, Saddleback 1

Ashley Naval, Yvonne Yavdez and Rendi Layda each scored once to lead the defending state champion Chargers (6-0-1) to victory in their Orange Empire Conference opener.

Goalie Danielle Carter had three saves and Yavdez added an assist.

Cerritos 0, Southwestern 0

Lina Velerz and Yesenia Montenegro scored two goals each to help the visiting Falcons (7-1-1) win in overtime.

Cerritos goalies Elizabeth Sanchez and Micaela Stanovich each had two saves.

Long Beach City 3, Cabrillo 1

Sophomore Brittany Jensen scored in the 16th minute to give the Vikings (9-0-1) a lead they would not relinquish on the way to a nonconference win on the road.

Sophomores Mallory Oliffe and Christina Pauley also scored for LBCC.
Saddleback at Long Beach
City, 8 p.m.

Long Beach City, which has been up on
versus East Lompa in the first two
years, faces perennial power Saddleback
at 8 p.m. at Veterans Stadium in a Mission
Conference crossover game. The Gauchos
(1-1) held the Vikings twice a year ago,
40-10 in the regular season and 45-25 in
the Southern California semifinals.

Similar to LBC, Saddleback runs a
University of Utah-type offense that fea-
tures the quarterback in a shotgun forma-
tion, an enhanced set that creates numerical
advantages and several run choices, includ-
ing the quarterback in the option.

"I think we have a pretty good feel for what
they'll do," LBCC defensive coordinator
Mike McGuire said of Saddleback. "Our
defensive line is really good in practice."

The Vikings average just 216.5 yards
per game, fifth best in Southern California.
It will have to contain sophomore running
back Daniel Gineau, a transfer from Glendale,
who has rushed for 240 yards in two
games.

Offensively, LBCC is led by sophomore
quarterback Alex Aparicio (57 for 60, 523
yards, eight TDs, one interception) and
sophomore receiver Stanley Franklin (13
catches, 176 yards), who is tied for the
state lead with five touchdowns. They could
have a big day against a Gauchos defense
that allows 330.0 passing yards per game.

One area of concern for LBCC coach Jerry
Jasev is the running game, at their
lack of a running game. LBCC has just 129
rushing yards in 65 attempts, an average of
less than 2.0 yards per carry.

"We've got to get the run game going," said
Jasev. "We haven't had the numbers we've
wanted ... We have to get it all put
on the same page."

Corrales at Mt. SAC, 1 p.m.

Corrales (1-1) takes on Mt. SAC (1-1) in
another Mission crossover game. The
Falcons average 458.5 yards per game on
tackle — eighth in the state — and are
led by running back Jeron Johnson. The
sophomore has rushed for 219 yards and
five TDs and averages a whopping 4.5
yards per carry. Sophomore quarterback
Jeff Klein has passed for 493 yards and
two TDs.

The Mustangs, second in the Mission
Conference American Division, are also
up against a defense that allows just
65.5 rushing yards per game.

On defense, Mt. SAC is led by quarterback
Bryan Hiltbrand (31-50-2, 479 yards, 2
TDs).

Compton at Glendale, 7 p.m.

Compton, 0-2 under new coach Angelo
Jackson, opens Western State Conference
South Division play on the road against
Glendale (1-1). The Tartans are led by
Sophomore running back Thomas Powe
(356 yards, three TDs), who will face a
defense that allows just 87.9 rushing yards
per game.

Glendale quarterback Steve Miranda
(54-64-2, 398 yards, three TDs) and wide
receiver Danny Deloney (17 catches, 178
yards, three TDs) could have a big
day against a Compton defense that has
allowed 693 rushing yards in two games.

— David Pelley
Falcons have taken flight

JC men's soccer: Cerritos aspirations to keep success going

By David Felton
Staff writer

It didn't take long for the Cerritos College men's soccer team to find out what the 2005 season would be like. The Falcons, the defending South Coast Conference champions and 2004 state finalists, were beaten 1-0 in their season opener against Golden West and then watched the celebration continue.

"Every team is playing as if it's the World Cup," said first-year head coach Ronny Artega. "I'm sure the Golden West fans are celebrating that win like it just won the World Cup."

That's something Artega and Cerritos will have to get used to. That's what success brings — a ball-eye square planted on your back.

The Falcons enjoyed their most successful season ever a year ago, claiming the SCC title and their first postseason victories in over 20 years. In the state semifinals, Cerritos topped Santa Rosa — then ranked No. 1 in the nation — 2-1 to advance to the title game, where it lost to Santa Ana 3-0.

This year, the Falcons return seven players, including SCC MVP and all-state performer Adrian Gonzales (16 goals, six assists in 2004) and All-SCC second-team forward Eduardo Padilla. First-team goalie Robert Carrillo, who made one incredible save after another in last year's state semifinals, also returns but an injury to his lower back could keep him on the sidelines.

"Adrian and Eduardo compliment each other well," said Artega, a four-year assistant coach who took over the program after Juan Sanchez returned to Mex. San An- tonio. "Adrian is a slasher, he's deadly on one-on-one situations. Our goal is always to get Adrian in one-on-one situations. We feel there's no one in the conference who can guard him."

Artega isn't new to running the Cerritos program. He was interim coach in 2004 and was on Blanchett's staff a year ago.

"There's very big shoes to fill here but it's nothing. I'm not ready to step up to," he said. "I know expectations are high."

A LOOK AT THE AREA'S TEAMS

CERRITOS

COACH: Ronny Artega
2004 FINISH: 16-5-3 (5-3-3 South Coast Conference)

KEY RETURNERS: Adrian Gonzalez, For; Robert Carrillo, GK; Eduardo Padilla, For; Jose Guzman, Def; Armando Pena, GK; Jose Mangal, GK; Carlos Perez, Mid

KEY NEWCOMERS: Marco Pahio, For; Edgar Saldivar, Mid/Def; Humberto Lopez, Mid; Miguel Lopez, GK

2005 OUTLOOK: First-year coach Ronny Artega has strong returning in sophomores Adrian Gonzalez (814-2, all-state), Eduardo Padilla (four goals, four assists) and strong midfield play from sophomores Carlos Perez and freshman Edgar Saldivar and Humberto Lopez. "Our strength is going to come from our midfield," said Artega. "They tied the ball really well and change the rhythm of the game." As All-SCC first-team goalie Robert Carrillo recovers from a back injury, the trio of Armando Pena, Jose Mangal and Miguel Lopez is sharing the load. On defense are sophomores Jose Guzman and freshman Marco Pahio, last season's L.A. City Invitational Player of the Year from South Gate High.

CYPRESS

COACH: Ronny Artega
2004 FINISH: 25-4-1

KEY RETURNERS: Ramiro Guevara, GK; Cody Cornell, Mid; Steven Torres, Def; Abraham Garcia, For; Victor Godinez, Mid; Michael Miranda, Def; Cristy Kim, Mid

KEY NEWCOMERS: Harvey Dullas, For; Kevin Rice, For; Jason Perez, Mid; Marvin Contreras, Mid; Jesse Primo, For; Juan Armas, For; Juan Ramirez, Mid; Erick Heredia, Def; John Macera, Def; Brian De Jesús, Mid; Aaron Tevira, Def; Corey McGuire, For; Luis Mestas, Def; Javier Lopez, For; Vladimir Mendez-Irizar, Mid; Rudy Rios, Def; Jose Mares, For; Jake Buxas, Def; Edgar Mendez, Mid

2005 OUTLOOK: The Chargers have lost two returning starters — 2004 team MVP Brandon Melendez and All-SCC defender Tommy Miller — to season-ending knee surgery and three other sophomores have come down since the season opener. "We're severely bruised back, learning to play with each other," said second-year coach Rod Peltzke.

Sophomore (46 goals, four assists) (Midfield) returns as one of linebackers Cody Cornell and Chris Kim and defender Steven Torres. The Orange Empire Conference features vertical, state champ Santa Ana — "very, very good," said Peltzke — and a host of squads that have improved from last year. "Every team has improved tremendously from last year," said Peltzke.

LONG BEACH CITY

COACH: Paul Crameri (Internship, Patric Noyes)
2004 FINISH: 10-7-2 (2-5-1 SCC)

KEY RETURNERS: Robert Jones, Def; Adam Clayton, For

KEY NEWCOMERS: Felipe Pacheco, For; Max Pacheco, Mid; Hugo Ayal, Mid; Brandon Welch; Oscar Gutierrez, Mid; Domenico Caras, For; William Novak, For

2005 OUTLOOK: The Vikings will be led by a bantam group of freshmen, including Press-Telegram Dream Teamers Helfie Ramos, Alon Pacheco, Hugo Ayal and Brandon Welch. "We've got a solid group of kids," said co-coach Patrick Noyes. "We're real deep at all positions. The defense has been led by forward William Novak, whose nose calls for player of the year. Noyes tops Mt. SAC as the class of the SCC this season and feels the conference is better than a year ago. I'm not sure anyone's going to knock us," he said. "To bottom, I think we're the best conference in Southern California." LBC broke into the NCAA/collegiate national top 25 poll early this season for the first time in school history.
APU left facing season-long, must-win situation

By Robert Morales

Arana Pacific University came into the football season ranked No. 3 in the preseason NAIA top 30 poll. That seemed far enough, considering the Cougars made it to the semifinals of the playoffs last year. Yet two games into the season, APU is in a must-win situation—must win its last seven games to have a legitimate shot at postseason play.

The Cougars, now ranked No. 8 after an 0-3 start, host Willamette University (0-1) of the Northwest Conference tonight. The Buccaneers are also 0-3.

APU is an independent, which means it doesn't have the opportunity to play any of its games on an automatic berth. In 2014, the Cougars won 9-4 and were not selected as an at-large team for the playoffs.

"We have played two very good football teams and we have outplayed as well as we are capable. We have told our team we need to continue to work hard, limit our mistakes and take advantage of our opportunities. We have had opportunities, but we have let some of them slip away," APU head coach Peter Shinko said. "This is where we are. We are really not looking past just this week. We have learned from experience that the playoffs are really out of our hands. The playoffs are a long ways away."

"We have played very good football teams and we have outplayed, but we are capable of playing much better. It's time for our team to step up and play better than we have all season," Shinko said.

APU lost its opener 30-6 at University of San Diego, an NCAA Division I-AA school. The Cougars then lost 27-10 to Occidental College, a Division III school, and 42-14 to three-time defending NAIA champions and top-ranked Carroll College last week.

"I think we are playing at a different level than we have been," Shinko said. "We have played two good football teams and we are still trying to get our feet under ourselves.

"Our defense has been really good as we have only allowed 29 points in those two games. We have held our opponents to under 100 yards in those games," Shinko said.

"Our offense has struggled a bit, but we have put up some big numbers against our last two opponents. We have scored 24 and 12 points against Occidental and Carroll College, respectively."

"Our special teams have been solid, with a punt average of 40.6 and a kickoff average of 37.6. We have had some solid returns on both sides of the ball," Shinko said.

"Our defense has been really good, allowing only 12 points per game against our last two opponents. We have held our opponents to under 100 yards in those games," Shinko said.

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Cerritos welcomes back Drummond

By Samantha Gonzaga
Staff Writer

NORWALK — Much has happened since Cerritos College opened to 197 students in 1966 in classrooms rented from the old Excelsior High School District. Today there are more than 20,000 students taking courses in 18 buildings on a 135-acre Norwalk campus.

Cerritos College’s faculty and staff on Thursday reminisced during a 50th anniversary luncheon in the student center, eating food prepared by students in the culinary arts program and listening to live music performed by the student-faculty band.

“Universities are great, but community college is where lives change,” said Mark Drummond, chancellor of California Community Colleges.

Before he became the head of 109 state community colleges in 72 districts, Drummond taught data processing — then a little-known course — at Cerritos.

Biology professor John Boyle recalled a time when the campus’ science, senior living and communications education buildings didn’t exist.

“Fortunately,” Boyle said, “the great constant for us has been the students. They are why we are here.”

Noelia Vela, less than two years into her post as the college president, said the “foundation of excellence is...one our predecessors established for us.”

Drummond’s speech also looked to the future of the state’s community colleges.

“As times change, we find ways to reach out of our community,” he said.

One plan in the works is a research partnership with USC in tracking the factors that enable underprivileged students to succeed in universities.

The community college system is also expected to expand with the addition of four additional campuses in Moreno Valley, Norco, Lemoore and Woodland. All are undergoing the accreditation process required to enter the system.

Cerritos College was established in June 1965 when residents from the Artesia, Bellflower, Bloomfield, Carson and Norwalk school districts voted in favor of forming a junior college district.

Almost three months later, a ballot measure for a $62 million bond issue to fund it was passed. The college site was acquired in December 1966, but until construction was completed, students took their courses in rented classrooms. The 1967-68 school year, for instance, operated out of Artesia High School.

The 50th anniversary festivities continue on Oct. 21, with a gala and silent auction fundraiser that will benefit a scholarship fund for Cerritos College students. For information, visit www.cerritos.edu/ccf.
Cerritos College celebrating 50th

Education: 1956
classroom rentals, construction, decades of growth recalled.

By Samantha Gonzaga

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Cerritos’ history fills a book

By Jenny Manter

In honor of its 50th anniversary, the city will release a pictorial book that displays the city’s past.

The city of Cerritos is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a book that captures its history. The book, titled “Cerritos’ History Fills a Book,” is a pictorial volume that features images and stories of the city’s past. The book includes historical photographs, interviews with residents, and descriptions of significant events and milestones.

The book is divided into sections, each focusing on different aspects of the city’s history. The first section covers the early days of Cerritos, focusing on the pioneers who settled the area and the challenges they faced. The second section highlights the city’s growth and development over the years, including the construction of new buildings and the expansion of infrastructure.

The book also includes interviews with current and former residents, providing insights into their experiences living in Cerritos. The interviews offer a personal perspective on the city’s history and the changes that have taken place over the past 50 years.

The book is available for purchase at the Cerritos City Library and at local bookstores. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be used to fund future historical projects and to preserve the city’s heritage.

Residents and visitors alike have praised the book, noting its detailed and engaging content. The book has been described as a valuable resource for anyone interested in learning more about the history of Cerritos.

The city of Cerritos is located in Los Angeles County, California. It was incorporated on April 21, 1964, and has a population of approximately 80,000 people. The city is known for its vibrant community and its commitment to preserving its heritage.

For more information about the book or to purchase a copy, please visit the Cerritos City Library website or contact the library directly.
Educator Hits Road to Teach Leno a Lesson

By STUART SILVERSTEIN

During a monologue on NBC's "Tonight Show" in late August, host Jay Leno joked fun at a San Francisco group that offered a one-day program to educate prostitutes about the sex industry.

The program, he said, "will teach women how to become professionals, isn't the purpose of an education so you don't have to do things like prostitution?"

Leno's parting shot, though, was what sent Betty Young, president of Northwest State Community College in Ohio, over the edge. "It's actually less embarrassing than going to a junior college," he joked.

Young tried to get in the last word during a news conference Wednesday at Los Angeles Valley College, after a nine-day, Ohio-California road trip called "The Lessons for Leno National Tour." Traveling much of the way on her 1992 Harley-Davidson Heritage Softtail motorcycle, she was eager to garner helpful publicity for the nation's nearly 1,200 two-year colleges.

The college president didn't get the chance she wanted to ride with Leno, but she did say she had some advice for him. And in a brief interview afterward, Leno said she failed to come away with a promise that the barbs would end, although she found Leno "a little defensive" about her complaints.

ROAD WARRIOR: Betty Young, president of Northwest State Community College in Ohio, hopes on her Harley-Davidson.

Still, Young, who arrived at the Valley College news conference on her Harley as the song "Born to Be Wild" blared on loud speakers, was undeterred.

"What we want is a little more respect for our students and for our colleges because that's where you actually understand what people begin," said Young, who started at a two-year school as a single mother at age 38 and went on to earn doctoral and law degrees.

Leno, she said, has made a number of cracks over the years such as, "Did you go to a real college or a community college?" In an interview, Young, 50, said, "I think he probably didn't even realize how pervasive it was in his routine."

NIC officials declined to comment on the brouhaha, but a personal spokesman for Leno said the comedian had no malintentions. "He's an equal opportunity insulter. That's the whole point," the spokeswoman said.

Young's nine-day adventure started yet another protest over the years by a group that had already been the butt of Leno's jokes — and, occasionally, had turned it into a publicity bonanza. That includes the state of Kentucky, whose governor, Ernie Fletcher, wound up being invited to appear on the show, as well as South Korea, West Virginia and Amtrak, which relented by pulling $2 million in advertising.

The college president was also impressed by NBC's willingness to create a "Lesson for Leno" program.

"We know what we're here for. We're getting an education," said Jesus Riquelme, a 21-year-old journalism student. What Leno "just to say is just jokes and fun, no big deal. I wouldn't take it personally."
College poised for redesign

Rio Hondo sets bond funds in motion

By Tracy Garcia
Staff Writer

WHITTIER — Enrollment is up, more course offerings and programs are scheduled to roll out and construction work will likely hit the Rio Hondo College campus over the next year, officials said Thursday during a State of the College Address.

These are just a few of the things expected to get under way at the 20,000-plus-student Rio Hondo College, which is poised to begin a complete campus redesign funded by a $345 million bond, approved by voters in 2004. But it's not just about the facilities improvements, officials said. More classes, more programs and more access are integral parts of the college’s evolution, college President Rose Marie Joyce said.

"Access and excellence is our mantra," Joyce said. "It’s part of our mission statement, and it’s something we believe in."

Unlike most formal addresses, Joyce shared the microphone with more than a dozen Rio Hondo administrators and staffers at Thursday’s event.

They spoke about upcoming plans in areas ranging from facilities improvements to study-abroad programs and the college’s online class program.

Next spring, officials are planning a four-week immersion to give students more options when it comes to completing a semester’s worth of class, said Voiza Arnold, executive vice president of academic services.

In two weeks, officials will travel to China to work on establishing a study-abroad program there, said Teresa Dreyfus, the college’s vice president of finance and business. The college already offers a study-abroad program in Mexico and will look into ways to include Rio Hondo faculty in these programs as well.

Improvements to nursing, police and fire academies, Virtual College and fabrication programs are also scheduled to take place, officials said — but some of the biggest changes at Rio Hondo next year will be facilities improvements.

“We’re going to actually do two things this year,” said Andy Howard, executive director of planning and development.

“The first thing we’re doing is safety and the curved concrete facade on most of the buildings,” he said. “We’re not able to maintain that and we’ll have a structural engineer come in to correct it.”

Secondly, Howard said, a pedestrian bridge that will stretch from parking lot A to the technology quad will be built this year to combat traffic logjams due to students crossing busy streets.

The campus' first major construction project could get under way as quickly as next spring with a possible groundbreaking on the new Library and Learning Resource Center.

The plans have been submitted to the state, and Rio Hondo can get started as soon as approval comes through, Howard said.

Hurricane Katrina will likely cause a 30 percent spike in construction costs — and that’s on top of a 30 percent cushion that the college had already expected in escalated costs, Dreyfus said.

But officials said they’re still excited to see the renovations get underway.

“We’re not just building buildings because we have the money,” Howard said. “We’re building the buildings that students deserve.”
Chancellor critiques system

Visits to Citrus, Mt. SAC focus on tuition, transfers
By Shirley Hsu, Staff Writer
San Gabriel Valley Tribune

WALNUT -- Community College Chancellor Mark Drummond visited two local community colleges Wednesday, addressing concerns such as funding, faculty ratios and increases in student fees.

"Fees went from $11 to $26 with lightning speed," he said to a crowd of teachers, students and administrators at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut. But he said the increase in financial aid spending and marketing to spread word about available scholarships and aid "counterbalances" the fee increases.

"I don't like the fee at $26. But I still think we're an open-access community college system."

Drummond oversees the 109 campuses in the California community college system, which serves some 2.5 million students.

He visited Mt. SAC and Citrus College in Glendora as part of an effort to tour all the state's community colleges. He is about halfway through the tour, he said.

At both colleges, Drummond emphasized there needs to be a smoother transfer process between community colleges and the Cal State University system.

"It is difficult to transfer efficiently and effectively," he said. Course requirements don't translate, and students end up wasting time, money and valuable space in Cal State schools retaking classes they've already passed at community colleges. California Community Colleges recently entered into a memorandum of understanding with Cal State to facilitate transfers.

At Citrus College, Drummond told the crowd he would like to see a guaranteed admission program, in which students who have a two-year degree from a community college are automatically admitted to a Cal State school, said Citrus Vice President of Student Services Jeanne Hamilton.

"I thought it was a very productive visit," Hamilton said.

Tuesday, Drummond visited Rio Hondo College in Whittier, where he said state legislators need to be
reminded of the importance of community colleges when it comes to public education funding.

"Our job is to remind people that we are the ones giving people like the 28-year-old with a high school diploma the opportunity to do what they want with their lives," Drummond said.

At Mt. SAC, board Vice President Judy Chen Haggerty said she appreciated the chancellor's addressing the issue of full-time faculty member ratios, now required to be 75 percent.

Chen Haggerty said the rule, which sets fines if colleges do not comply, is unaffordable. Drummond told the crowd he would not collect fees until the rule was made more workable.

Funding remains the biggest challenge facing community colleges, she said.

"(University of California schools) are raising their fees, so we are going to get flooded," she said. "This (Mt. SAC) really is UC Walnut," she said.

Staff Writer Debbie Pfeiffer Trunnell contributed to this story. Shirley Hsu can be reached at (626) 962-8811, Ext. 2306, or by e-mail at shirley.hsu@sgvn.com.

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Tour touts college funding

Chancellor laments tensions at Capitol
By Debbie Pfeiffer Truettell, Staff Writer
San Gabriel Valley Tribune

WHITTIER -- Community College Chancellor Mark Drummond, visiting Rio Hondo College on Tuesday, said state legislators need to be reminded of the importance of community colleges when it comes to funding for public education.

"These are difficult times in Sacramento. There are a bunch of people at war up there," Drummond told students and Rio Hondo officials. "Our job is to remind people that we are the ones giving people like the 28-year-old with a high school diploma the opportunity to do what they want with their lives.

"No one else can do that. That is our advantage."

Drummond, who oversees 109 community colleges, visited Rio Hondo as part of his annual tour of community colleges around the state. He gave an update on the state of the community college system and urged students to take an active role in getting their voices and needs heard in Sacramento.

"There's a whole myriad of things we need funds for, from child care to other issues," he said.

Drummond also met administrators of other area community colleges, business representatives who raise money for the Community College Foundation and toured the hilly Rio Hondo campus, including facilities slated for expansion in the college's Master Plan.

"It's great for our community college to get face-to-face contact with the chancellor and hear his vision," said Henry Gee, Rio Hondo's vice president of student and community services.

The chancellor particularly noted the community college system's contributions to the state's pool of qualified nurses.

"Our community colleges now graduate about 5,000 nurses a year, and we are looking at ways to turn out 4,000 more," he said, noting that California needs 10,000 nurses a year. "We are doing that by encouraging students to stay in school by offering counseling when they have life issues like a language barrier and by seeking more funding from the governor."
As for tuition fees, Drummond said he sees no pending increases.

"I don't think anything will happen with student fees in the real short term, and I don't think fees are going to come down," he said. "They can, however, be stopped from going up."

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