

As you all know the students in the Peralta District are currently suffering from a major financial aid crisis. After four weeks into the semester numerous amounts of students still have not been granted their government issued financial aid check. Students are dropping out by the day. After finally catching the problem several weeks into the school year the district tells us that there's a "glitch" in our new 1.3 million dollar investment of Regents Diamond Edition System. The Diamond was proposed by Regent as the solution to Peralta's multi-campus need; Promising that their system would be more efficient and expedite the financial aid process, but instead the system has delayed the process longer than ever before. Why hasn't anyone from the district stepped to the plate to take full responsibility for this irresponsible investment? And if it is a problem with the system, what exactly were Regents truthful intentions of gaining the Peralta District as a customer?

So exactly when was Diamond introduced? Just last week during the ASMC meeting at Merritt I asked vice president Joswe when was this system first proposed to the district, and he replied, "uhh, I think around 2005." In the minutes section of the board meeting of January 16, 2007 under the technology report it states that, "CIO Perkins informed that there is a target for completion of July 2008." Being that the system was first proposed to district over four years ago, and introduced by the district just last year, you would think they had plenty of time to fully test out the program. I also asked vice president Joswe if the system had ever been tested at all and he stated, "The system was tested three weeks before school started, but the system still wasn't working properly, but was implemented anyway." So who decided to implement the system although it wasn't properly working and why wasn't more time spent on testing. This shows a lack of research on Peralta's behalf and just how poor many of their financial investments are.

"Regent was the only solution on the market that could meet our institutions unique multi-campus requirements and fully integrate with our people soft investment, said Gary Perkins, CIO of Peralta District in an article on Regent's website. Was it truly the only solution or was it just the cheapest solution. Peralta's pricing for the Diamond

was greatly discounted because of their agreement to be the prototype district. Perkins also stated that, "we felt very confident going with the Regent given the company's long history in the financial aid market." I guess Regents resume was so impressive that Peralta totally disregarded coming up with a back up system in case of an emergency. Alice Freeman, supervisor of financial aid, went to the district several of times asking them to keep the old system as back up, but each time they refused. I mean its simple logic to have a plan B right?

It was confirmed by the CEO of Regent Enterprises that the district was well aware of Regents beta nature at the time of purchase. Although the district was aware of the problem in the system they still took it upon themselves to invest in the system. Though Peralta made a poor decision, Regent still sold them the system. It is also a fact that Regent is 90 days over their promised date of functionality. What kind of company sells an unfinished product fully aware of the problem, especially a company with 30 years of experience in their field? Everything Regent promised was a lie, because they knew their system couldn't perform what they were advertising yet, the sold the product anyway.

During this transaction neither Peralta nor Regent was thinking of the students. Their only thoughts were cheap advertisement, cheap prices, and cash. I personally hold Regent responsible for all this. They don't care about us or helping our community. Peralta wasn't a customer in Regent's eye, but more of a guinea pig. None of this seems right or legal. Where is our money?

- Vice President of BSU and Senator of ASMC,  
MARQUITA PRICE