

# TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

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## MEChA: protesters' charges dropped



COURTESY OF RYAN EDQUIST  
**Out of court:** Hulmaro Agustin, Bardo Martinez and Carlos Jimenez pose after learning they would not have to appear in court.

**ALICIA EDQUIST & ALI CHAHINE**  
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The Los Angeles District Attorney/Bellflower area office has refused to file a case against three students who were cited last October for disturbing the peace on school grounds after participating in a protest on the war in Iraq.

Bardo Martinez, Hulmaro Agustin and Carlos Jimenez appeared in court on Friday at the Bellflower Courthouse and found out the case against them was dropped.

The case was dropped because of a legal obstacle to prosecution, according to the Rebecca Noblin, deputy in charge at the District Attorney's office.

Jimenez, math major, said, "It's empowering. It motivates us to go out and do it again. We won't be scared to do it again."

The three students went to look for their names on the board at the Bellflower Courthouse, but found it was not there. They next went to the clerk's office, where they were sent to the District Attorney's office to find that the D.A. had never filed the case.

The original citation was for disruptive presence on school grounds under California Penal

Code 626.8 a. It was later amended to a lesser charge of disturbing the peace on schools grounds according to California Penal Code 415.5 (a) (2).

Students were cited on Oct. 14, after student organization, M.E.Ch.A., protested the war in Iraq and other issues. According to campus police, the students were detained for disturbing the peace due to the fact that the protest made its way through the Administration Building and through hallways.

For about a month after the protest, other students began to protest as well.

"Students were able to show their feelings and I think we were justified in our cause for protesting," Martinez, latin american studies major, said. "This has set a precedent for the school and students will be more willing to speak out at school."

At first, Martinez felt powerless, not knowing the laws; however, by seeking legal advice and looking up the California penal code in the college library, he felt more powerful with the knowledge that was researched.

Furthermore, the students now know where they can and can't protest on campus.

See MEChA page 2

## Wave of relief

ASCC sponsors campus-wide fundraiser to donate money for victims of tsunami disaster

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The Associated Students of Cerritos College are holding a fundraiser to help in the tsunami disaster that hit southern Asia.

With an estimated more than 10,000 dead and millions of dollars worth of damage, many fundraisers are being held to help ease the pain of the devastation.

ASCC Chief Justice Vanessa Grine, began the discussion on Tsunami Relief at the ASCC court meeting last Tuesday by introducing the plan.

Through flyers and word-of-mouth, ASCC hopes to raise money for the relief effort.

The official start date of the fundraiser was Jan. 10 and is expected to continue until Jan. 28.

"We don't have a specific amount of money we plan to receive for the drive. We will just be happy with any amount. Every penny counts," said Holly Bogdanovich, director of Student Activities. The drive will help support the victims' needs for food, clothes and aid.

As far as their progress goes, Holly says, "[They're] doing very well so far."

However, Bogdanovich hopes students will "just throw in a penny or a dime." A stated \$2,000 dollars can be made if every student were to donate one cent.

"This project was a group

See RELIEF page 2



RICARDO RAMIREZ/TM

**Collecting funds:** ASCC student senators waste no time in collecting money for the tsunami fundraiser during Welcome Back Day last Thursday.

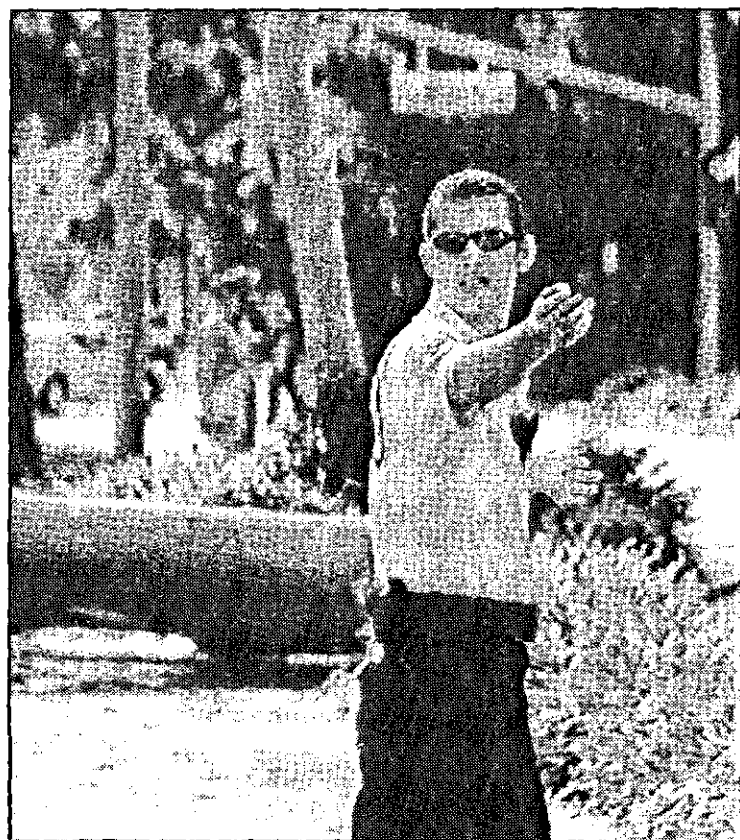
### Major tsunami relief funds

- Prime Minister of India Relief Fund  
www.pminindia.nic.in/relief.html
- UNICEF Asian Earthquake and Tsunami Emergency  
www.support.unicef.org
- United Nations: Tsunami in South Asia  
www.un.org
- International Committee of the Red Cross: Asian Earthquake and Tsunami  
www.icrc.org

### Countries Affected:

- India
- Indonesia
- Maldives
- Myanmar
- Somalia
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand

### TREE-WAY STOP



BENEDICT ORRASE/TM

Louie Gener, Community Services Officer, directs traffic along Old Falcon Way after a tree on the median topples onto northbound Studebaker Road last Tuesday, disabling nearby traffic lights.

## Cerritos gets \$1.25 million

**SUNEM RIVAS**  
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Ever get a feeling that your math instructor is speaking a foreign language and doesn't realize it? You probably are not alone, and Cerritos College has been awarded a \$1.25 million grant to look into ways to fix that.

The grant, designed for Hispanic-serving institutions, was awarded to the Cerritos College science, engineering and math division last November.

The SEM division will receive payments of approximately \$253,000 over a five-year period to be used for the training of full-time and part-time teachers to help students with difficulties in math, according to Norman Fujimoto, SEM instructional dean.

"Most math teachers never had difficulties in math, or they wouldn't be math teachers," Fujimoto said. "We want to train math teachers to better understand

where students are coming from."

The grant was awarded to CC in partnership with California State University Dominguez Hills, where lower level undergraduates as well as transfer students, will benefit from the improved math resources.

Math division deans at both institutions hope to better prepare math students and teachers to be successful at both the community college and university level.

Even though the grant is directed toward Hispanic-serving institutions, there are no restrictions for the way it is used, and it is not limited to the betterment of Hispanics only.

"Although the program will help Latinos and ESL students, in reality the help is for everyone," Fujimoto said.

Earlier this week, a group of select CC committee members met to discuss plans for the five-year project.

Some of the ideas thrown out at the meeting included:

- Possibly hiring Spanish speaking math tutors.
  - Training tutors who will be available in class and after math class.
  - Begin training full-time and part-time teachers at math 20 (the lowest level) and move up each year, implementing what was learned the year before.
  - Hiring a web programmer to create a website for math instructors to refer to.
  - Setting-up seminars and creating materials for teachers.
  - Taking a look at the science department and deciding where it needs monetary aid.
- Sally Sestini, chair of the SEM's mathematics department and project leader, said in a college press release that the grant will provide "opportunities for the faculty to develop and employ new instruction strategies that will increase success rates among Hispanic students in our developmental mathematics courses."

## Speaker visits campus for MLK Day

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Cerritos College was host to a motivational speaker Tuesday to commemorate the efforts of Martin Luther King Jr. Students had the opportunity to listen to Dana La Mon speak in person and free of charge.

He spoke about the vision that King Jr. had, and that in contrast, today's society, in general, doesn't share the same selflessness.

He stated that society today asks the wrong questions, and that instead of responding to a call for defending freedom by asking "What happens to me if I do?" instead, King Jr.'s view should taken, which is, "What will happen to them if I don't?"

His speech in observance of MLK Jr. day left students like Christian Olivas, political science major, inspired and motivated.

Olivas was inspired by everything La Mon said, but was particularly struck by the fact that La Mon is blind.

"It shows that anything is possible, against all odds, as long as you have the vision of what you want to achieve," Olivias stated.

La Mon, who has been blind since age four, has earned the distinction of World Champion and Accredited Speaker from Toastmasters International.

He has presented speeches throughout the US including Honolulu, Hawaii.

He has also given speeches worldwide, including Panning, Malaysia and Johannesburg, Africa; he plans to speak in Indonesia in May.

La Mon says he was inspired to become a motivational speaker by people who heard him compete in speech competitions for Toastmasters.

"[My blindness] is sort of inspirational in the sense that it helps people think 'if he can do it, so can I,'" La Mon commented.

La Mon will be speaking in Lancaster in April. For more details, visit his website DanaLaMon.com, or email him at Dana@DanaLaMon.com.

### Fast Facts: Dana La Mon

He earned the distinction of world Champion in 1992 from Toastmasters International.

In 1993, Toastmasters awarded him the Accredited Speaker designation.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from Yale University and a law degree from the University of Southern California.

He has been a member of the California State Bar since 1981, he began serving as an Administrative Law Judge.

"Unless excellence is the standard under which you begin a task, it cannot be the result of its completion."

-Dana La Mon, The Soul's Mirror: Reflections of the Fullness of Life



# Welcome Back Night & Day celebrated

Students get free In-N-Out burgers for dinner during night festivities.

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Students were welcomed back to the new semester with an In-N-Out style greeting.

Students and college employees lined the pavement of Falcon Square Jan. 11, to receive a traditional welcome package consisting of a free hamburger and chips, provided they had their current school I.D.s.

As the evening progressed, the voices of the students mingled with the top 40 songs played by Cory Newman, DJ Party Pro's, who intermittently encouraged students, from the amphitheater stage, to stop by and receive their free hamburgers.

Members of the debate team circulated among the groups of people, using the event as an opportunity to raise money for the Tsunami Relief Fund.

The college has sponsored the event known as Welcome Night for 17 years, during which In-N-Out has always been a part of.

ASCC member April Lessner, kinesiology major, commented, "They're the only ones with a mobile unit."

According to Lessner, the purpose of the event is to bring students together.

Christian Galvez, political science major, believes that Welcome Night is a fun way to usher in a new semester.

Jose Leon, Financial Aid Federal Works Studies student, said that people love the word "free" and that he would stand in line no matter how long the wait.

Since first instituting the event, Dean Ackland, Director of Student Judicial Affairs/Activities, has concluded that it is a great night that some students will

remember long after they leave the college scene.

He said that students from as far back as 10-years ago have approached him and asked if Cerritos College still hosts Welcome Night.

Every year in March or April, members of the ASCC begin organizing the event by making arrangements to book the In-N-Out mobile unit.

Some students however, while appreciating the school's gesture, deem it somewhat unnecessary.

Max Garcia, computer science major, said, "It just puts us on hold."

Karla Troncozo, nursing major, said, "Why are they going to give us free hamburgers? It's only college."

Despite the drizzle, the In-N-Out crew still handed out approximately 1000 hamburgers during the course of the evening.



**Big bite:** Jaqueline Benavidez, sociology major, takes a bite out of her burger on Welcome Back Night last Tuesday.

Lunch on ASCC for students who came out to the In-N-Out wagon on Welcome Back Day.

RAYMOND GALLEGOS  
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Students were welcomed back last Thursday and treated to free In-N-Out cheeseburgers, chips and soda from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with their current student I.D., thanks to ASCC on Welcome Back Day.

Students waited in a long line, one that sometimes reached the library, to get free In-N-Out cheeseburgers.

Nutrition major, Eddie Rodriguez, was toward the end of the line. Rodriguez said he was happy to wait in line because, "I have to wait an hour for my next class or else I wouldn't have."

Last Tuesday the In-N-Out truck was also present in the evening, serving up free meals to students on campus with valid student I.D.'s.

"It kicks off the semester and gives students and faculty something to look forward to," said Dean Ackland, coordinator of student activities.

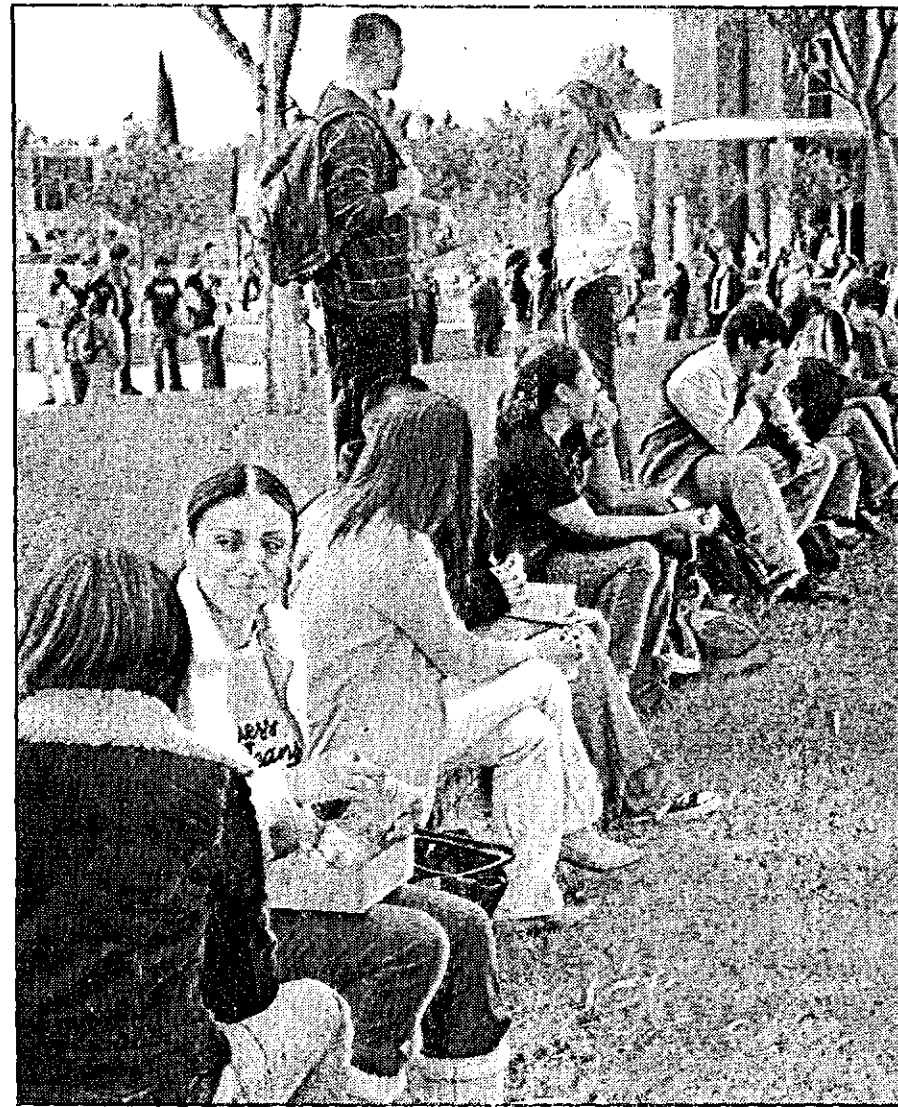
Vanessa Griffin, supervisor of the I.D. center and nursing major, said, "Close to 1,000 [students] registered because of In-N-Out presence."

Bertha Barreto, social work major, said she would have gotten her I.D. even without Welcome Back day.

"You never know what you are going to use it for," she said.

There were many students on the Falcon stage, listening to the music played by D.J., Jonathan Dell. Throughout the event, Dell announced the free cheeseburgers for students who did not know about the event.

Eleven In-N-Out employees helped feed the students. They struggled to



**Picnic:** Students sit on the outdoor stage to enjoy their free In-N-Out meal last Thursday.

keep up with the high demand of the students.

"We've given out between 1,000-1,200 cheeseburgers today," Jessica Casa, In-N-Out worker, said. "It's been crazy but it's cool."

Paulo Amaral, president pro-tem of the senate, saw this as an opportunity to get donations for the Tsunami Relief Fund organized by the student body.

"We already got good donations, from loose change to \$5 bills," Amaral said. "Additional donations could be made in the student activities center."

The Student Health Center also attended Welcome Back Day promoting student health.

An HIV testing truck/faculty also offered free HIV swab tests to all students.

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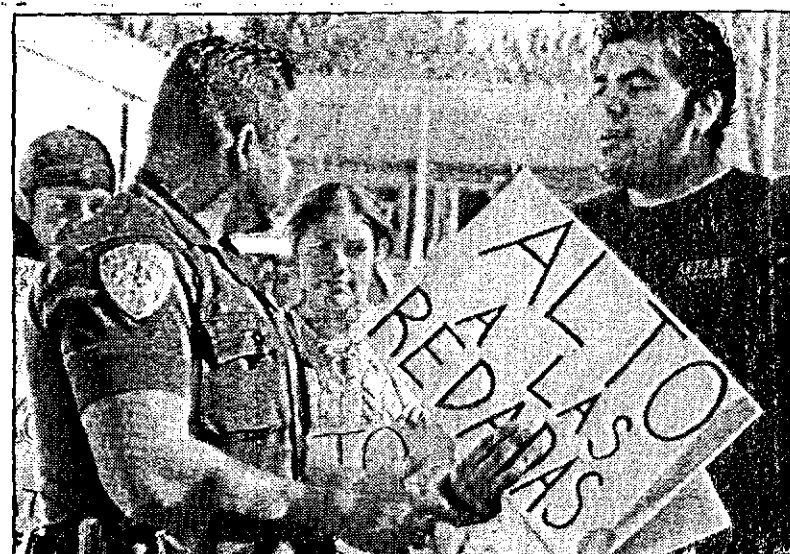
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**Rewind:** Campus police officer confronts Carlos Jimenez before detaining him after last October's on campus demonstration.

**MEChA:**  
Bellflower DA decides not to pursue case

Continued from page 2

Agustin, Chicano studies major, said, "A lot of people have fear about speaking, this shows them that they have the right to speak their minds and have the freedom of speech to protest."

After the protest took place, the students were sent a letter by Patrick Callahan, coordinator of judicial affairs, stating that they were to meet with him last November to talk about the inappropriate nature of such an incident and its possible consequences.

The students were put on disciplinary probation by Cerritos College for the violation of the campus rights and responsibilities

policy that states "Students and student organizations should be free to support causes by orderly means which do not disrupt the regular and essential operation of the college." The probation period will last until the end of the spring 2005 semester.

However, at the courthouse, the students came prepared with a researched defense. Their defense included California Penal Code 415.5 (b), which states, "This section shall not apply to any person who is a registered student of the school, or to any person who is engaged in any otherwise lawful employee concerted activity."

"Out of the whole negative ordeal, we got a lot of positive feedback from others and met a lot of people that supported us," Jimenez said.

Agustin added by saying, "All we wanted to do with the protest was to raise awareness and we did that."

Agustin also gave a special thanks to Officer Castillo who cited the three for bringing awareness of free speech to Cerritos College.

There are still classes available for students to register for the 15-week intrasession, but they will not be open for long. The deadline is Jan. 27 and classes will begin just four days after on Jan. 31.

**RELIEF:**  
ASCC holds fundraiser for tsunami disaster

Continued from page 2

effort. A discussion was brought up in a conference and the attending party and I wanted to do something to help in this tragic event," said Bogdanovich.

"Drives are beneficial for our campus in three ways:

- They create awareness among students and focus on what a society can do for one another;
- They create a sense of togetherness in the atmosphere on campus; and
- They spark involvement among society," said ASCC President Josh Franco.

ASCC wasted no time, as they went through the In-N-Out lines during Welcome Back Night collecting donations.

"This was a tragic and unfortunate event. They don't have much help out there, so if we can help why shouldn't we?" Earl Mercadel said.

The deadline for the fundraiser is Jan. 28 and buckets will be set up around campus for students to donate whatever they can to help the victims of the Tsunami.

Donations can also be made at the Student Activities office, located next to the bookstore. Checks can be made payable to: Relief Drive Fund.

The money collected will be kept in a deposit account, and later donated to an organization that will help the victims of the crisis.

ASCC has not decided which organization to donate the money to, but have planned to search for an organization that will best use the money for the Tsunami Relief.

Besides the campus wide collection, students who are purchasing their textbooks through Follett can also visit the website, [www.efollett.com](http://www.efollett.com) to give donations through the Cerritos College bookstore.



# OPINION

## EDITORIAL

### 'Get educated before you give'

Tragic disasters happen and the time it will take to recover from them is unknown. The Tsunami that happened in Southeast Asia is overwhelming to the countries affected by it and to the countries that want to help in the relief efforts.

After the mishaps about the 9/11 donations not always going toward what people thought they were going to, non-profit groups are now, more than ever, trying to stay as credible as possible, while trying to get donations to help in the relief efforts. Over the past weeks, non-profit organizations have been seen on TV talking about the donation efforts and where the money will be going to help with the relief efforts.

Donating funds to charity is an opportunity to put your money where your mouth is. Actions speak louder than words, but we want you to get informed before giving to a charity. It is important that you know who you are giving to and what the money will go toward. Finding out if the organization is credible is really important.

One way to find out more about the organization you want to contribute to is to do a little research first. Don't respond to an emotional appeal just because it sounds legitimate, because it may or may not be. Also, many organizations' names sound alike so be aware of who you are actually contributing to.

There are a couple of web sites that we suggest looking at before making your decision to donate. The web site called [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) is one of the best to use when wanting to get some background information on charities. The home page right now is dedicated to researching charities that are giving to the Tsunami relief efforts.

Also, the Better Business Bureau web site, [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org), will give you information about charities. This web site offers guidance to donors on making informed decisions through its charity



evaluations. The site has a link on its home page for tsunami relief appeals. By clicking on the link it will take you to charities that are involved with relief efforts. The site evaluates the charities and if they meet the Alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability. The site also gives you information on where certain amounts of money are being spent.

People always want to give back to the community and the world; this is their chance to donate

to a cause that will help millions of people. We ask you to just check into the organizations you want to give to before donating. Make sure the money is going toward the Tsunami relief. You can always call the organization and talk to someone who could give you more information about where you can send your money to go to the relief efforts or the Tsunami victims.

Get educated before you give.



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** are welcome. They may be submitted both online and in person. In all cases, letters must be signed with real names before they will be considered for publication, either online or in print. Campus related issues are given priority. Letters may be edited for length, though online versions tend to include full content, as long as it is not libelous or in poor taste. You may deliver letters to AC 42 or contact the editor by e-mail at [editor@talonmarks.com](mailto:editor@talonmarks.com)

## Over Bob Marley's dead body

One might wonder why there would be any news regarding Bob Marley today. What could possibly be happening besides the usual Bob Marley Fest, or another tribute album being created to honor such a great musician? Actually, it is none of the above.

Today, those looking up news on Bob Marley would find a few articles pertaining to his burial site.

On Jan. 12 an article was published stating that Bob Marley's wife, Rita Marley, was planning to exhume Marley's remains in order to transfer his decaying body over to his homeland in Africa.

One might pause to actually believe this is an honorable thing and that it probably is what he would have wanted, so be it, right? Wrong. What is most interesting about the story is that it was false. Yes, false.

A follow-up to the story, printed Jan. 13, exclaimed that Rita Marley, denied all indications that she had planned to exhume Marley's remains.



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She stated that her words were twisted when she explained that it would be nice to have Marley's remains buried in his hometown, which were his wishes, but no plans have ever been made to make such a transfer.

Marley also sadly reports that the article has made such a beautiful dream of her husband's into something terribly sad.

What was that all about? How could someone's words possibly be so twisted to create a story where someone's decaying body is going to be exhumed and transferred to another burial site?

It has been more than 20 years since Marley's death in 1981, and people actually

expect the world to believe it took that long for Marley's wife to make a final decision on where Bob Marley's remains should lay to rest.

This story not only shows the ignorance and unthoughtfulness of a reporter, but it also denounces Marley's wife's compassion and respect for her buried husband.

If such a request had been made by the singer, one would expect that this decision of where he should be buried would have been made when he first was put to rest.

This just makes me more disappointed in the media today. There is so much going on in the world that is true and that should be exposed, but instead, some media are choosing to print false reports on a person who is no longer with us in the mortal world.

It almost makes a writer such as myself sway away from journalism, but then I realize it is because of reports such as this that it is imperative I become a journalist to report the truth and inform people about what's really going on.

## Environmental apathy, a real threat

Something on campus is missing. Many would agree we need it and most don't even know what it is; despite the fact that it is one of the greatest needs the Earth can ask for.

I have been a student at Cerritos College for a year now and I have just noticed it. Shame on me!

Thanks to professor Ted Stolze, of the philosophy department, and other staff members, it has come to my attention that we have no recycling bins on campus.

It comes as no surprise to me that we have not noticed this problem when our own national administration has denied global warming so that they may pull out of the Kyoto protocol for corporate gain.

I am not suggesting we participate in immediate global change, which is what we should be doing. I only ask that we begin with requesting these bins from our school administration.



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We must let it be known that we care for our school and the Earth which has been so good to us.

Isn't it our duty as civil citizens to make sure we contribute to the well being of our home which in return provides us with every basic need to survive?

A recycling program would also have a positive financial outcome. The money produced from all that is recycled would far outweigh the costs of a recycling program. After all, we are the No. 1 consumers in the world.

Take a close look around campus and count

the number of waste baskets. We probably toss out more trash than most small countries.

Bottles, cans, paper, and so much more that is largely used can be put towards improving our school, earth and ourselves. Our future and the future of generations to come are at stake.

Shouldn't we forget the mighty dollar which sadly drives us all and reorganize our priorities to the way they were intended?

Our greens are turning brown, our icecaps are melting, and our air is growing thicker.

Let us be remembered as the generation who worked to improve the environment, not the ones who carelessly destroyed it.

We have procrastinated too long! Tomorrow will turn into the day after, and the day after will be too late.

Global warming is threatening our existence. If we can't impose a small program such as this, then we have no chance of surviving.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fellow students of Cerritos College, we were arrested in October for spontaneously marching against America's gross violations of human rights in Iraq, police brutality here in L.A., and the institutional disrespect demonstrated to the immigrant population.

Campus police forced us to disperse, but we refused. It is apparent that we were made examples of; that those who break the ideological norm and the status quo can and will be arrested.

The result of their actions only amplified our voice. As a result, our message was carried throughout the school by mediums such as this newspaper. The fact that our case was won demonstrates that we were and are in the right.

Cerritos College students, staff and those in the surrounding communities, should not hesitate to speak up, to amplify your voices by any means. The students are the school and without us education would be useless and unnecessary.

Let us understand that we are in a college of higher learning and we must hold this school's administrators accountable to this school's mission; they must nurture free speech and the 1st Amendment, because repression has no room in this school or any other.

We want to thank our friends, students, student organizations, staff and faculty that have supported us. Special thanks to the campus police for helping us raise awareness and allow-

## CAMPUS COMMENT

"Are you doing anything to help in the Tsunami disaster relief effort?"

COMPILED BY: WERNER GOMEZ  
PHOTOS BY: CATHY LOZANO



"I'm not donating anything."

**CHRISTINA MUNGUIA**  
undecided



"I donated a dollar to the bookstore."

**MARIA VENTURA**  
sociology



"I'll do what I can That's my people, some of them. I'll do what I can to help them out."

**JOE LIOU**  
computer animation/  
cinematography



"I'm just aware of what's going on and how people here are materialistic, while people over there are struggling for food."

**FRANCISCO ARVIZO**  
sociology



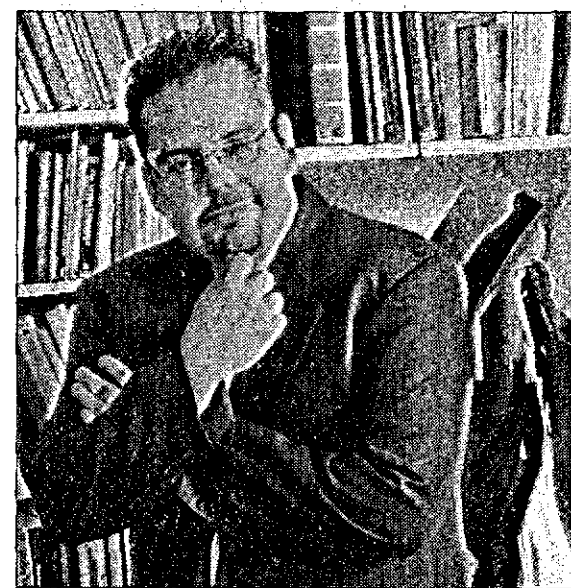
"No, I only have like six quarters in my pocket right now."

**WILLIAM LOTSPPEICH**  
History



"To tell you the truth I haven't done anything myself. I haven't got around to doing something yet."

**VICTOR MENDOZA**  
Medical



Write a caption for this photo and email it to [online@talonmarks.com](mailto:online@talonmarks.com). You could win two movie tickets. For results check [www.talonmarks.com](http://www.talonmarks.com)

ing us to understand their role in protecting our first amendment rights by silencing us.

"They call us violent because we are no longer silent." - Tupac Shakur  
Keep strong people...

Bardo Martinez  
Hulmaro Augustin  
Carlos Jimenez



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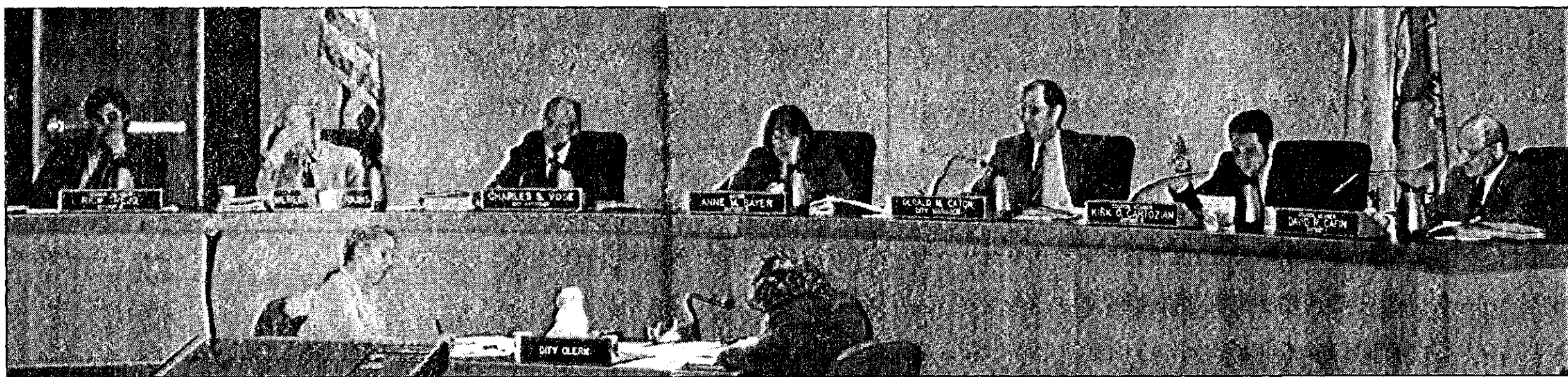
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# COMMUNITY



MARIA GUTIERREZ/TM

**New committee:** Downey City Council had a meeting on Jan. 11 to discuss issues that affect the city and their council members.

## Downey council questions mayor, approves funds

ALICIA EDQUIST  
Community Editor  
community@talonmarks.com

The Downey City Council approved unanimously to have SOS Security Inc.'s services at the city's Downtown parking structure for an annual amount not to exceed \$45,000, last Tuesday at its first meeting of the new year.

Before the council approved the item, David Gafin, new city council member, had some questions about how people will know that there is security in place, and if the council could have signs put up to let others know about the new security.

The question was answered by a staff member of the city who said, "We can put signs up, [say-

ing] that there is security, if the council wishes to do so."

She also said that security will be walking the structure, and will have a golf cart to move around inside the structure.

There will be no electrical surveillance, but the cart will have a scanning system to make sure that each floor is being checked.

Kirk Cartozian, council member, also added that the reason the Council decided to put security in the parking structure is due to vandalism and stolen cars.

One item tied-up a long portion of the meeting where the Council was to approve committee assignments for 2005 that were assigned by Mayor Anne Bayer.

Cartozian added a supplement to the item, stating that he was

unhappy with the committee's assignments given to him by the Mayor. He said that he was being removed from six of the seven committees he had served on.

"I would like some kind of justification as to why I am being removed from some of the committees. Based on the recommendation the Mayor has given, I will be on hardly any committees. That will free up my time. I would like to work," Cartozian said.

The floor opened for discussion and Meredith Perkins, Mayor Pro Tem, commented on the need for unity in the Council.

"I am happy with my assignments, disappointed in some, yes. It is really up to the mayor. I am willing to accept the change. Lastly, I would like to say, I am

happy with the assignments I have," Perkins said.

Gafin said, "I really have no objection, because it is my first time being on the Council. Most duties that you (Cartozian) had were given to me. I have no problem with my assignments, they are the assignments that I was given."

Some Downey residents also spoke on this matter.

One resident commented to the Council that he has been coming to the meetings for the past 25 years and has never heard anyone challenge the mayor's decisions. "I don't know what the big deal is. It's the mayor's job to assign them."

Cartozian responded to the resident's comment by saying "If it is solely the mayor's job, why are we

voting on it then?"

The City Manager, Gerald Caton said it was because the Council has always done it that way.

Mayor Bayer said, "I did take into consideration the special talent. I feel they are the best (for the committees) and benefit the city of Downey best."

Perkins motioned that the Council vote on each of the committees separately.

The vote passed 4-1 with Mayor Bayer voting no.

The Council then approved each item on the list with a little discussion on some of the changes of council members on certain committees.

Cartozian did succeed on getting on the Downey Landing Park

Site subcommittee, which he was not originally on.

The original two people were Trejo and Bayer, and it failed to pass with a 2-3 vote. No votes came from Perkins, Gafin and Cartozian.

Rick Trejo, council member, gave his spot to Cartozian, after saying that he was honored to have him on that committee when he was mayor.

In Council reports, Perkins reported that the Rio Hondo Clubhouse and Parking lot replacement project ended up with a surplus of \$394,000.

The next city council meeting is next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Downey City Hall in Council Chambers.

## MLK compromise by Cerritos council



CATHY LOZANO/TM

**'Not about money':** Jerry J. Anderson, Deputy City Attorney speaks to the City Council. "Earlier it was addressed that it would cost the city \$50,000 to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day a paid holiday. This issue is not about money it's about making a moral choice."

The Cerritos City Council comes to a compromise with the city's union workers over the holiday.

HERSSON PRECIAO  
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Despite the Cerritos City Council's decision at Thursday's meeting to observe the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, only some of the city's employees had the day off.

The City of Cerritos observed the holiday Monday by closing City Hall, the library and the senior and performing arts centers for the first time in over 20 years.

The council voted 4-1 to give management employees the day off, but keep union-represented employees working behind locked doors. Councilman Paul Bowlen cast the sole opposing vote.

This came after a motion, proposed by Councilman John Crawley to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day a fixed holiday for all city employees, failed for lack of a second.

The system set in place before the decision recognized the day as a floating holiday, in which all the offices would open and anyone deciding not to come in would have to use one of their prebargained floating days, which can be used for other reasons, such as paid sick days.

City employees have 12 holidays, nine of which are fixed and three that employees can take any time. One of the three "floating" holidays was designated as Martin Luther King Jr. Day, but could be used any time during the year.

The Mayor's staff and critics of the initial motion said that altering the calendar for union members is a matter that must be decided in negotiations when the current contract expires in June 2006.

"It is what I expected," said Buddy Rodriguez Jr., president of American Federation of State County Municipal Employees, about the result of the meeting.

The union represents several surrounding cities in the county and nationwide.

The decision came about despite several pleas and arguments from citizens, students from the area and union members.

Margaret Saldivar, Cerritos resident, had only this to say about the decision that seemingly disgusted many but surprised few, "I just can't believe it, it does not make much sense."

Cerritos resident Abel Avalos said, "The fact that we as a city wouldn't recognize Martin Luther King Jr. with a holiday is something that's just incomprehensible to me."

The decision will keep the holiday as set until June 2006 when it can be renegotiated.

Cerritos joined 75 of Los Angeles County's 88 cities in observing the holiday.

## Volunteers needed for adult literacy program

ALICIA EDQUIST  
Community Editor  
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The Downey City Library celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Adult Literacy Program last year.

The Adult Literacy Program is in need of volunteers who can make a six-month commitment to help adults learn how to read and write. Volunteers are needed for only one hour and a half a week.

The program was started by a grant from the State of California Literacy Campaign 20 years ago.

Volunteers must complete a total of 13 hours of training. The training will be a series of workshops, which include audio-visual presentations, demonstrations, role-playing, and learning theory.

Training will take place over a period of several days.

The tutor will be matched with an adult learner and will meet at the library for an hour and a half once a week.

## La Mirada helps in tsunami relief

ALICIA EDQUIST  
Community Editor  
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The city of La Mirada and the La Mirada Community Services Foundation are currently accepting donations to assist victims of the recent devastation in Southeast Asia.

Donations can be made at La Mirada's City Hall, Resource Center, Activity Center or Community Gymnasium.

Checks can be made out to the city of La Mirada or La Mirada Community Services Foundation.

If you need tutoring, are over the age of 18 and understand English, there are free one-on-one tutoring sessions available and can contact the Adult Literacy Program for an assessment.

After the assessment, students will meet with a tutor once a week for an hour and a half at the library to learn how to read. The student may determine the day and time they would like to be tutored.

The hours for tutoring are:  
• Monday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
• Friday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
• Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

People who are interested in volunteering or being tutored can reach Claudia Dailey, Literacy Coordinator for the program at (562) 904-7360 ext. 23.

For more information about the program or to fill out a form visit [www.downeylibrary.org](http://www.downeylibrary.org) and click on Adult Literacy.

Funds will be forwarded to the American Red Cross - Rio Hondo Chapter.

For those wishing to donate to the American Red Cross directly, checks can be made out to the American Red Cross International Response Fund.

The Red Cross may be contacted toll free at 1-800-HELP-NOW (435-7669) for credit card donations or questions.

For more information, call the city of La Mirada at (562) 943-0131 or click on the American Red Cross web site [www.americanredcross.org](http://www.americanredcross.org).

## Event Calendar

**Cerritos College**  
Jan. 19 - Board of Trustees meeting  
@ 6 p.m. in Boardroom

**City of Downey**  
Jan. 25 - City Council meeting  
@ 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers  
in Downey City Hall

**City of Bellflower**  
Jan. 24 - City Council meeting  
@ 7 p.m. in Council Chambers  
in Bellflower City Hall

**City of Cerritos**  
Jan. 19 - Community Safety Committee  
@ 7 p.m. at the Cerritos Sheriff's Station  
Jan. 22 - Farmer's Market  
@ 8 a.m. - Noon at Cerritos Towne Center  
Jan. 27 - City Council meeting  
@ 7 p.m. in Council Chambers in Cerritos City Hall  
Jan. 28-30 - 2nd Annual Orchid Show  
@ the city of Cerritos Library

**City of Lakewood**  
Jan. 26 - Lakewood State of the City address  
@ 11:30 a.m. at The Centre at Sycamore Plaza  
Reservations required by Wednesday.  
(562) 866-9771 ext. 3123. Tickets are \$20



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

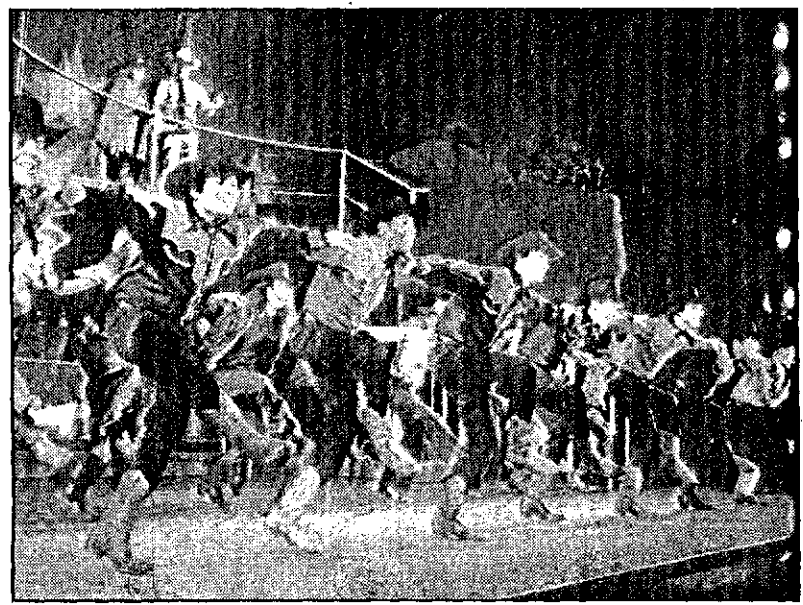


PHOTO COURTESY OF CERRITOS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
Texans celebrate as their governor pays a visit to their town.

## Racy play seductively attracts sell-out crowd

DAVID GOMEZ  
News Editor  
news@talonmarks.com

The theatrical play, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," opened last week to a sell-out crowd. The theater was filled, and according to Joseph Hughes, Cerritos resident, it was "the best performance I've seen in the Cerritos Performing Arts Center."

Whether it was the exceptional acting, or the scantily clad women on the stage, Hughes wasn't the only to approve of the show. Whistles were heard throughout the performance, and several gave the show a standing ovation.

The show is targeted toward a mature audience, since there are a great deal of situational sexual encounters and swearing. There is not any excessive use of foul language, however, nor actual nudity, just plenty of suggestive gestures.

The comedic musical is about two young women who leave their homes to earn their own way of life the easiest way they could.

Thus, they make their way to what is called the "Chicken

Ranch," which is actually a whorehouse where only "high quality," "clean" prostitutes are allowed to work.

This is where the story centers and the battle begins between those who defend the whorehouse, and those who want it shut down. The musical brings together two extreme points of view, and sheds light on the fact that being on either extreme simply doesn't work.

There are those who defend the "Chicken Ranch," who see prostitution as an allowable thing. Then there are the religious extremists, who shudder at the mention of the word whorehouse.

Despite the subject matter of the show, the comedy was tasteful. For those interested in future performances at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, log on to the city of Cerritos web site at [www.ci.cerritos.ca.us](http://www.ci.cerritos.ca.us), and click on the Performing Arts link located at the top of the page.

## A fresh perspective

### Art gallery provides inspiration for students

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A new exhibition titled "PHOTOS: Heather Cantrell, Yoko Kanayama and Santos R. Vasquez" opened to the public Tuesday in the Cerritos College Art Gallery.

A reception with light refreshments and snacks was held from 6-8 p.m., to welcome the three artists who received their high education in Los Angeles-based art schools.

"These are three artists who I know personally and whose work I respect," Andrea Bronte, Art Gallery director said. "I found interesting associations between their works and felt it would be interesting for all three artists to be exhibited at once."

Cantrell holds a master of fine arts degree from the University of California in Los Angeles and a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art.

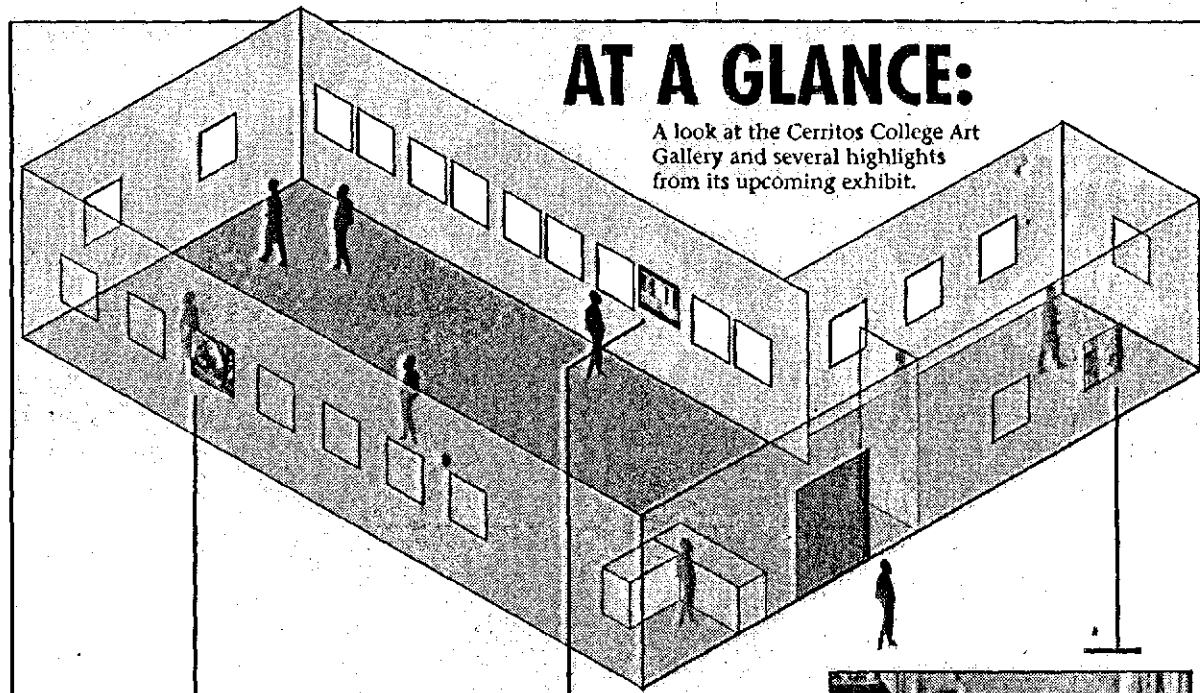
She produced a series of artwork titled "Corpus Battaglia," or "Body of War," where, through photographs of male statues, battle fields and portraits of her mother's four ex-husbands, Cantrell illustrates a comic tragedy.

"Photo classes on campus will greatly be enhanced by being exposed to this work and these images from all over the world," Bronte said.

Kanayama holds a master of fine arts degree from the California Institute of the Arts, a bachelor of fine arts degree and a bachelor in economics and business administration from Otis College of Art.

She created a series of five dip tychs, or two images that are separate but together.

Her project, named "Life is

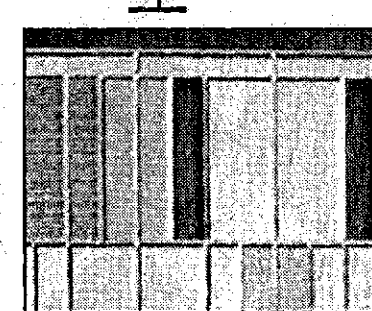


### AT A GLANCE:

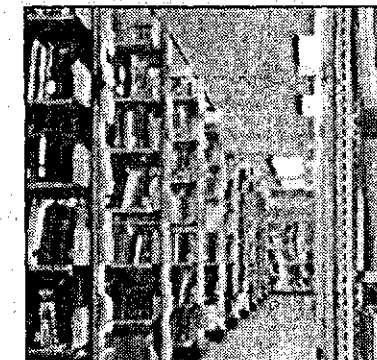
A look at the Cerritos College Art Gallery and several highlights from its upcoming exhibit.



Heather Cantrell  
Founding Fathers, (Will McMillen), 2004  
REPRODUCTIONS COURTESY OF THE ARTIST. ILLUSTRATION BY BENEDICT ORBACE/TM



Yoko Kanayama  
Cerritos (school building / detail), 2004  
REPRODUCTIONS COURTESY OF THE ARTIST. ILLUSTRATION BY BENEDICT ORBACE/TM



Santos R. Vasquez  
Mela, University Research Library (URL), 3rd floor, University of California, Los Angeles, 1997  
REPRODUCTIONS COURTESY OF THE ARTIST. ILLUSTRATION BY BENEDICT ORBACE/TM

Elsewhere, 2005 Cerritos College, illustrates Belgium, Scotland, England, Norwalk and Hiroshima, Japan, five different parts of the world in one project.

"These photos illustrate different places and people that Cerritos students have never seen before," Bronte said. "They are being exposed to someone else's world."

Vasquez, who holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from Otis College of Art and a master of fine arts from UCLA, formed a series of

photos of the interiors of libraries. "The interiors of libraries are where ideas are born," Vasquez said. "I wanted to photograph the physical space where mental activity takes place."

These photos, which feature the UCLA Art Library, the UCLA library, the UCLA periodical section and the New York City Public Library, represent his interest in libraries, information, people and architecture.

"It feels good to present my

work at its best," Vasquez said. "Most of the time, when I am showing it to someone, it's in a box."

The exhibit will continue through Feb. 10 and is free of cost. Visit [www.cerritos.edu/gallery](http://www.cerritos.edu/gallery) or call (562) 860-2451, ext. 2612, for more information and check the Cerritos College web site in the future for news of lectures and presentations by the artists on campus.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.MOVIEPHONE.COM

## Moviegoers left 'In Good Company'

JON GARCIA  
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In an ever changing society, where, plainly put, good acting is hard to come by, good movies are slim to none, good actors appearing in good movies never happens, it's good to know that "In Good Company" makes it once again "worthwhile" to be seen at a theatre.

The highly intelligent, warm dramedy about a young business savvy, 26-year-old Carter Duryea (Tophér Grace), who is brought in to help boost dropping ad sales for a major sports magazine, only to replace veteran ad salesmen, 51-year-old

Dan Foreman (Dennis Quaid), is a heart-warming tale that is sure to hit home.

Grace is a genius at the craft of comical timing, a craft in which he seems to hone better and better as his career moves forward.

His wit, charm and humor provide for an enticing role in which he is well suited to play.

From his insensitive jerk-like remarks, to his un-seemingly innocent inquiries; it's impossible not to love Grace's performance.

If Grace has not already made a name for himself, then this role will surely have people talking.

Grace's performance is not to undermine that of veteran actor Quaid's, who relentlessly tugs on your heart with his performance. He is dealt the rough hand in the movie, having to begin a new career as nothing more than a "wingman" to the new era of business.

The scripts' dry humor and intelligent play by play provides for an enjoyable, yet far from tedious, screen play. It quickly develops into an everyday story that we've all heard a million times, yet are once again eager to hear.

In today's day and age, old ideas are not being reinvented. New movies are simply time consuming products that do any-

thing but inform us of matter we hardly care about.

This film does an excellent job of contrasting the quite interesting, always intriguing, baby boomer generation versus that of generation X.

In the movie, Quaid is an enjoyable, father-like character, and Grace is a memorable, seemingly self centered, yet quite irresistible character.

The movie does a great job of flaunting not only the Quaid we have come to know and love, but also highlighting, Grace's career as a new and upcoming actor that is sure to be around for a while.

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### SOUNDHECK

Top 10 singles of 2004 / Courtesy of Billboard.com

Title	Artist
1 YEAH!	Usher Featuring Lil Jon & Ludacris
2 BURN	Usher
3 IF I AIN'T GOT YOU	Nicki Minaj
4 THIS LOVE	Maroon 5
5 THE WAY YOU MOVE	OutKast
6 THE REASON	Hoobastank
7 I DON'T WANNA KNOW	Marlo Winans Featuring Enya & P. Diddy
8 HEY YAH!	OutKast
9 GOODIES	Clara Featuring Peety Pablo
10 LEARN BACK	Terror Squad

### NEW RELEASES



DVD  
"Macgyver: First Season"  
Starring: Richard Dean Anderson  
January 25



Movie  
"Are We There Yet?"  
Starring: Ice Cube, Nia Long  
January 21



CD  
Chicago: Love Songs  
Featuring: Inspiration, Wishing You Were Here  
January 25



## SPORTS

# Falcons sweep El Camino

Both men's and women's basketball teams notch wins in conference openers

## Softball records first win

WERNER GOMEZ  
Co-Sports Editor  
sports@talonmarks.com

With a well-executed full-court press, the Cerritos College women's basketball team defeated the El Camino College Warriors, 57-44, in its first South Coast Conference game last Friday night.

The win pushed the Falcons one game over .500 to an 11-10 record, and 1-0 in the conference.

Cerritos grabbed the lead early in the first half and never relinquished it, taking complete control of the game.

Head coach Karen Welliver said, "El Camino had just beat Mt. Sac, so we really started positive opening in conference play."

To try and combat its lack of size, Cerritos implemented a full-court press in order to speed up the tempo and disrupt El Camino's half-court offense.

"We wanted to press them, because we knew they were bigger than us," Welliver said.

Eboni Echols, 5'10", was given the assignment of guarding El Camino's 6'3" center and disrupting the opponent's post game.

Assistant coach Matt Zamora said, "(It was a) huge performance from her. Eboni banged around, threw them off of what they wanted to do." Echols ended the night with six rebounds.

Pressing the Warriors from the beginning paid dividends right away as Kelyana Carter got a steal and scored two points to extend an eight-point lead to 10.

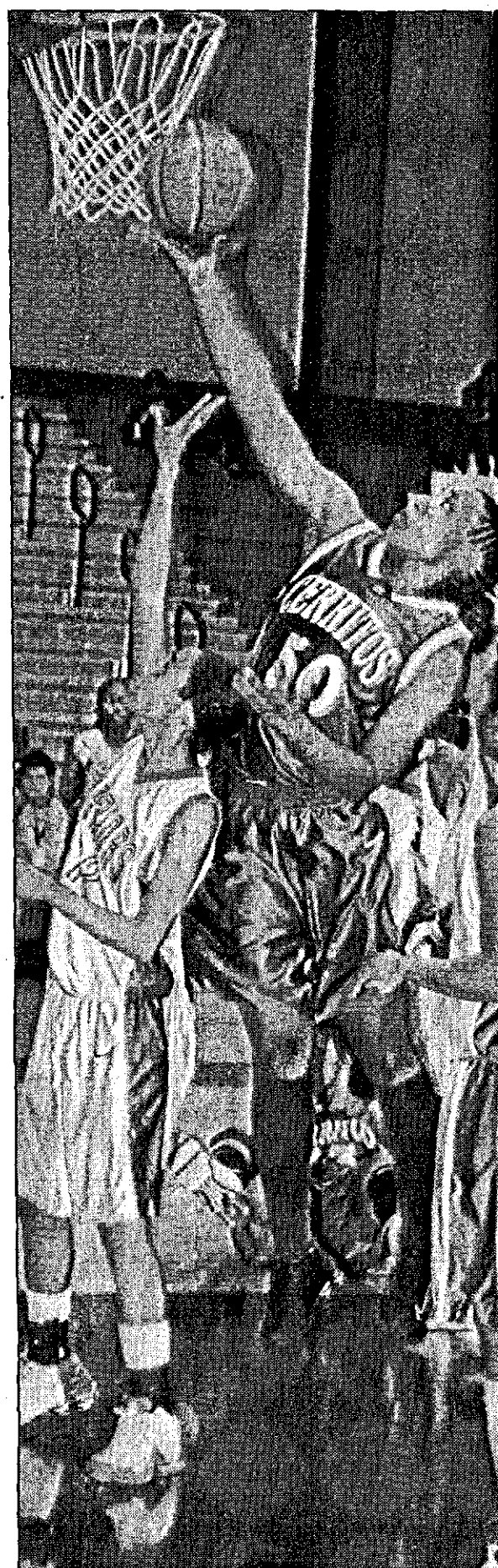
"Once we got up by two digits, I thought we kind of broke their backs," Zamora said.

Niki Sims led Cerritos with 24 points, 16 coming in the first half. She also contributed with five rebounds.

Daisy Benjamin had 16 points, 10 coming in the second half, and 10 rebounds.

Both coaches agreed that El Camino was the early favorite to win the South Coast Conference, but now see things otherwise.

Zamora said, "I think that kind of puts us in the driver's seat (to win the conference)."



**Swooping Up:** Eboni Echols drives down the lane for two points during the Falcons' win over El Camino, 57-44.

WERNER GOMEZ  
Co-Sports Editor  
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With good execution and a balanced offense, the Cerritos College men's basketball team went to El Camino College on Friday and beat the Warriors, 76-66, in its first South Coast Conference game.

Cerritos (11-10) is now a game over .500 for the season and is 1-0 in the conference.

Size and a good inside presence proved to be the determining factor in the victory against the Warriors.

Head coach Gary Cain said, "Our basic strategy was that we needed to go inside on them. Get high percentage shots and get them in foul trouble."

The Falcons had control of the game the whole night, at one point leading by 17.

All five Cerritos starters scored in double figures. Matt Reid led the way with 19 points, scoring seven straight in the second half.

"I thought Matt did an excellent job," Cain said. "Sometimes he doesn't give us the defense we want, but he is our go-to-guy."

El Camino made a few runs to stay within striking distance, but never managed to threaten.

Still, Cain feels there is room for improvement. "We had moments of really good execution, especially defensively. We have to continue to score and not have droughts."

Forward Stanley Gill had 14 points and seven rebounds, while Jaquain Weary and Marques Hamilton each had 11. Hamilton led the team with eight rebounds, Weary had seven.

Sam Hill, point guard, had 10 points, five rebounds, and six assists. Marcus Outland contributed nine points off the bench, all coming from beyond the arc.

The win has given the coaching staff confidence that the team can win the conference, especially since Los Angeles Southwest College lost its game against Los Angeles Harbor on Friday.

Assistant coach Tito Ortiz said, "If we come to play like we're capable, we can beat anyone in the state."

Cain added, "I believe that the conference championship is wide open."



**Jam Session:** Sam Hill hangs on the rim after attempting a dunk during Cerritos' 76-66 win over El Camino.

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rcastillo1@talonmarks.com

It is not too often when a coach comes into a field named after her, but is still considered a visitor. Yet, at Cerritos College, it happens every year.

This past Saturday the Falcons played host to former head coach Nancy Kelly at Nancy Kelly Field for the annual alumni softball game.

Despite having her name on the field, Kelly was unable to leave her mark on the game as her alumni team was shutout and defeated by a score of 9-0.

The head coach for the Falcons was Kadee Murray, and Kelly for the alumni team.

Kelly participates in the game every year. She started the softball program in 1975, and even has a scholarship named in her honor.

Kelly continues to have these alumni games "to keep everybody attached to Cerritos College."

She also believes that having these games is a good way to have the new players interact with past players.

The game is held every year during the spring semester and is started off by the coaches introducing their players.

The alumni had failed to score in the first inning and had subsequent trouble scoring at all.

On the other hand, the Falcons came up and scored four runs in the first inning alone. That was enough to seal the game up, but an additional five runs were tacked on.

The starting pitcher for the Falcons was Alex Castillo. Lisa Marie took the mound for the alumni team.

To be a part of the alumni team, letters are sent to all former players and whoever shows up makes up the alumni team.

Coaches Murray and Kelly invited all the spectators after the game to join the players for a picnic to celebrate the game.

The Falcons' next home game is this Saturday at noon against Cal State San Marcos.

## Leinart's decision provides example

Rare are the instances when NFL-ready players resist monetary temptations in order to stay on campus playing the sport they love for free.

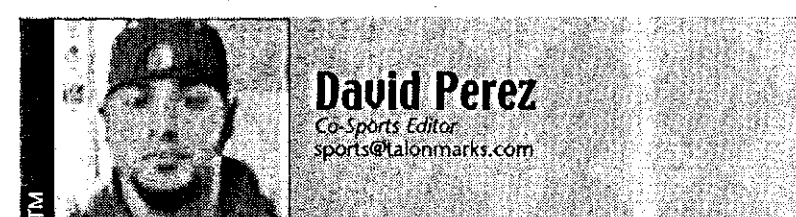
However, Heisman Trophy winner, quarterback Matt Leinart, did just that and more Friday when he announced his intentions to return to USC for his senior season.

After USC's trouncing of the Oklahoma Sooners, 55-19, in the Orange Bowl, scouts wondered aloud if Leinart's stock could get any higher following his five-touch-down performance. ESPN draft-guru Mel Kiper Jr. claimed Leinart would be a strong possibility as the NFL's No. 1 pick come April.

All signs pointed to Leinart's exodus into "The League." Why not? Few college quarterbacks have accomplished what Leinart has done in two seasons as USC's gun-slinger.

A Heisman Trophy, a remarkable 25-1 record as the Trojans' starter, and two consecutive AP national championship titles had most pondering what more Leinart could possibly have left to prove on the college level.

Certainly, no one would have



**David Perez**  
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chastised Leinart had he decided to forego his last season of NCAA eligibility.

Today's take-money-now-ask-questions-later attitude in sports has infected college football quite visibly recently. Money talks for many players, and the chance at fame in the highest level the sport has to offer is a rather daunting opportunity to decline.

There are various reasons why underclassmen leap to the professional ranks early. The threat of injury, their disdain for class work, family pressures, greed and most certainly, cash are all common responses that spur their defections.

But for one reason or another, Leinart did not succumb to those rationales.

"I think college football and this whole atmosphere of being here with my friends and teammates that I have been with for four years

is ultimately more satisfying and will make me happier than any amount of money could make someone happy," Leinart said during his press conference.

USC is on the brink of an unprecedented third-consecutive AP national championship. Following his decision to return, Leinart is the prohibitive favorite to win the Heisman Trophy once again, matching Ohio State's Archie Griffin as the only two-time winner of the trophy.

The opportunity at both records added to Leinart's return.

"Winning. The motivation to come back to work harder and to be with my teammates. That says enough for me. It may not be others, but for me, that's enough."

Leinart will assume pressure, however. Failure to post similar or better numbers this season than his previous two could affect his value.

An injury could also hinder his draft placement—a risk most NFL-prepared underclassmen are not willing to chance.

"I can be hurt tomorrow," Leinart said. "I realize there is a small risk I'm taking, but it doesn't factor into my head."

Losing a shot at an NFL payday lingers in the back of many players' minds and is often times the determining factor in turning pro early.

That said, players like Leinart are truly special and quite rare. Happiness, comfort, and education made his decision to stay at USC that much easier.

The chance to accomplish so much more for the university while putting personal wealth aside provides a great lesson for other players.

Fame is fleeting, while history is remembered. This season for USC means so much more than winning. If successful it can restore integrity to a sport revered by many as pure, almost mythical.

Leinart's test can show others that loyalty and dedication to a program is something to be cherished. The NFL will always be there, but college life will not.

## Campus prepares for 'Dodger Blue' invasion

DAVID PEREZ  
Co-Sports Editor  
sports@talonmarks.com

The Los Angeles Dodgers will be holding a promotional celebration next Monday in the Cerritos College Falcon Square.

Current and former Dodgers players, along with members of the front office and broadcast team, will attend from noon to 2 p.m. to generate interest in the organization.

The Dodger Blue on Wheels

will be making its only stop of the day here on campus. The caravan is to include an inflatable pitching unit and video game consoles in addition to an autograph session.

The Dodgers, who finished first in the National League's West Division with a 93-69 record, have been a part of Los Angeles history since 1958.

The Dodgers' caravan will also include stops in Long Beach and Anaheim as part of the tour's southern leg.

## Yasutomi brings home state title

Wrestler Eugene Yasutomi, 125-lbs, defeated three opponents to capture the individual state title for the Cerritos College Falcons at the state championships held at Palomar College Dec. 11.

The Falcons had five All-Americans at the end of the tournament, while the team placed fifth overall with 75.5 team points. Bakersfield won its second-

straight state title with 163 points, and had four individual state champions. Santa Ana came in second with 114 points, followed by Fresno City (95) and Sierra (89.5).

J.J. Lewis and Ronnie Hopkins each took third place at 149 and 157-lbs, respectively.