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CERRITOS COLLEGE

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Bush swears: Four more years

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A massive crowd gathered to observe the ceremony, and millions watched from their homes as George W. Bush was inducted last Thursday, saying he was determined to fulfill the oath to which he had been sworn.

"There is no justice without freedom, and there can be no human rights without liberty," Bush said.

The President was officially introduced to the nation, in the presence of several past leaders, as the 43rd President of the United States, amid the cheers of the crowd following his second inauguration.

In his 22 minute speech, the president mentioned that survival and liberty in America is increasingly dependant on the success it met in other lands, and that the best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world.

His theme was direct: freedom and democracy at

home, and the spread of democracy throughout the world.

The president was optimistic about the nation's future. He urged the youth to believe the evidence before their eyes. He asked them to make choices larger than their wants and selves, so that subsequently, in their days they would add not only to the wealth of the country, but to its character.

He continued with the promise of bringing higher standards to schools, and building a society with wider ownership of homes, businesses, retirement savings, and healthcare.

In addition, President Bush also reminded Americans to abandon racism. "We cannot carry the message of freedom and the baggage of bigotry at the same time," he said.

Yet his message that freedom comes at a price did



Bush

not resound well in the minds of many students, who fervently maintained their stance against both the war and the President.

Ekaterina Patronas, Art major, declared the president to be "War Crazy," and though she did not agree with him, she admitted that he deserved respect. "Why not? He's the President," she said.

Other students failed to agree. Diana Lara, Biology major, said, "I don't like [Bush] at all. He doesn't deserve respect."

Sean Fricke, Journalism major, believed the whole inauguration ceremony to be unnecessary. "I'm totally against Bush," he said. "He did get the vote, but I think it was rigged."

Protestors gathered on Thursday evening, in Los Angeles and other cities throughout the country, to protest the war and the reaffirmation of the President. Many students and faculty supported the idea of the protests.

Janine Mena, Veterinary major, said that people have every right to protest and she would be out there if she could.

Growing up in the 1960's when protests were common occurrences, Val Mitchell, librarian, believes the act is a good way of taking the initiative toward change for something one feels strongly toward.

Others believed protests do not do any good.

Patronas said, "Protestors are wasting time. Who listens to them? Nobody does. Bush is still going to do what he wants."

Debbie Jensen, head women's soccer coach and P.E. teacher, said that although Bush was not her first choice for president, she believes he will do a good job. "I think the job is incredibly difficult."

While Tom Munoz, undeclared major, believed the entire ceremony to be a waste of money, he was happy with the outcome of the elections, which ushered in the inauguration.

Despite all the talk of protest and chaos, the ceremony had no major interruptions from spectators. The closest seats were sold at \$125. The estimated cost of the whole event was over \$40 million.

Freshman killed in drive-by shooting

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Freshman Jeremy Lara was supposed to be one of the Falcons' pitcher this season, but instead of racking up stats on the baseball field, he became a statistic this past Sunday when a drive-by-shooting ended his career and his life. He was 18 years old.

"He had a contagious smile, that's for sure," said his teammate, Brad Schwarzenbach.

"It's a shame that some guy had to ruin a life by (doing) a drive-by shooting and making things very tough on others," said Ken Gaylord, head baseball coach.

His presence on the field will not go unnoticed. According to Schwarzenbach, "He was a hell of a ball player with a good arm."

Lara was well-liked by his teammates and will be missed.

"He was very friendly and we had lots of fun. It has affected our team both physically and emotionally. He was funny as hell and everybody got along with him," Schwarzenbach added.

According to Detective Steve Suzuki of the Deputy Headquarter Bureau, the investigation is being treated as a shooting death.

Lara, along with Carlos Luna, 22, and a 14-year-old male were standing on the corner of Georgia Ave. and Madison St. in the City of Paramount where his family resides.

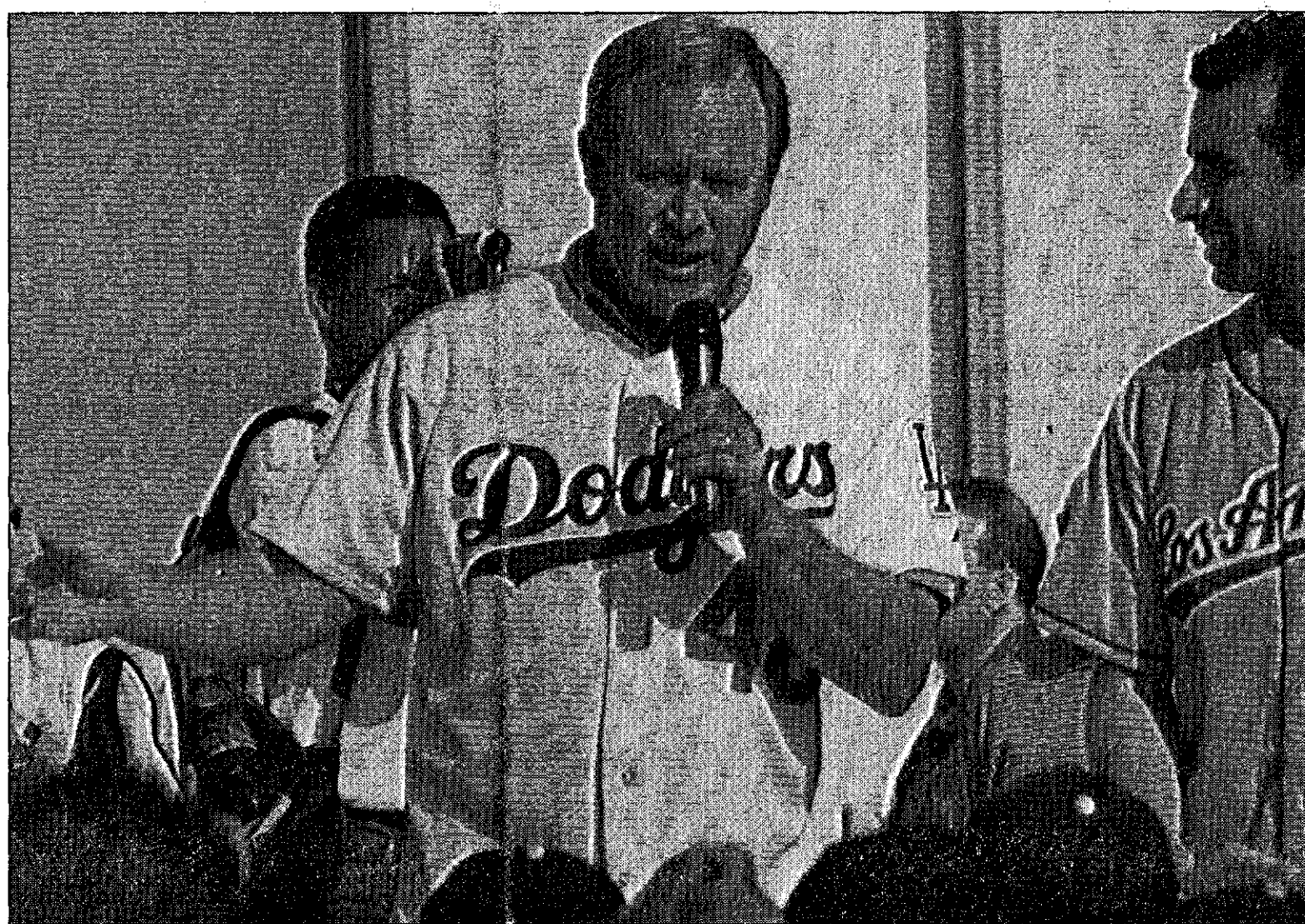
At around 4 p.m. a late model Honda or Toyota drove by and then proceeded to make a U-turn. Shots were fired from the passenger side of the vehicle killing Luna instantly and the 14-year-old was taken to a hospital. There were four individuals in the car.

According to Paramount resident Lalo Avelar nine shots were fired.

"I came out of my house and I saw Jeremy try to get up but he just fell back down," he added.

"(The pain) was just too much (for Lara). The other guy (Luna) took a bullet in the mouth so he was dead on the spot," said Avelar.

See DEATH page 2



CATHY LOZANO/TM

Colborn: Jim Colborn, Dodger pitching coach, speaks to Cerritos College students about staying in school.

Dodger Blue invasion

Dodger Caravan featuring current and old players makes stop at Cerritos Falcon Square on Monday

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Over 20 years he adored, admired and idolized quietly at home, in the stands and in his own way.

Jose Contreras, English major, now 30, realized a life-long dream of meeting the Senior Vice-President of the Dodgers Tom Lasorda when the Dodgers caravan made its way through Cerritos College Monday.

"It was a dream come true, literally," Contreras said. "I have his jersey, his manager's cards and his bobble head dolls; he is Dodger Blue no one is more than him and what he stands for."

Contreras not only had the opportunity to meet and get Lasorda's autograph, but also that of Dodger reliever Eric Gagne.

Joining Gagne and Lasorda at the rally were former Dodgers most valuable players Maury Wills and Steve Garvey, Hall of Fame Spanish broadcaster Jaime Jarrin, pitching coach Jim Colborn and top prospects Delwyn Young and Chuck Tiffany.

Cerritos was the second of four stops Monday to kick off the 2005 Dodger Caravan.

Closer Eric Gagne was the headliner of the event, which continues Feb. 1, takes a week break, and then resumes Feb. 7-8.

The tour is part of the organization's Community Outreach Program, providing fans with an opportunity to meet and interact with caravan members.

The caravan included a traveling video game console trailer and a

table with posters, bags and other Dodger memorabilia.

Fausto Molina, English major, waited for almost an hour before the caravan officially arrived at noon.

He arrived early to see the players and front office greats, and his patience paid off as he was one of the several dozen students who received a wristband making them eligible for the autograph table set up near the book store.

"My favorite is Eric Gagne, but I would have liked to have seen JD Drew," Molina said.

Martinez, a member of the Dodger broadcast team, served as master of ceremonies and helped coordinate the raffle that saw over a dozen Dodger tickets and two signed Gagne shirts, one of which he took off his own back to give away in the raffle, as the disappointed crowd moaned at the first winner of a jersey, Daniel Carrillo, UC Riverside student.

"I heard about this through my friend," Carrillo remarked.

The raffle occurred after the short speeches by Tom Lasorda, Maury Wills and Steve Garvey.

Lasorda really worked-up the crowd as he ignited everyone with Dodger cheers and chants. Lasorda was especially livid over the subject of the newly renamed Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

"They think they are going to take fans away from us, are they?" Lasorda asked loudly as the crowd responded with a concrete no.

Steve Garvey, who spoke about education, alluded to his relationship with the Cerritos College Dean of Athletics Daniel E. Smith from their days on the Michigan State wrestling team.

The crowds represented the large Dodger fan base at the college, from faculty to friends of friends who attend the college.

The final stop of the day was the ESPN Zone in Anaheim, where the largest crowd of the day gathered for a serious autograph session.

Master Plan gets modified

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Dr. Noelia Vela, Cerritos College president, presented the new modifications of the previous "Master Plan" during meetings held last week regarding the modified list for the General Obligation Bond.

"We are looking to have the design look as though it was planned, attractive and inviting," said Vela.

Word of the General Obligation Bond, from which Cerritos College received \$210 million for funding, spread through campus during the Fall semester. In September, the Implementation Committee, which is in charge of deciding where the funding is needed, proposed the "master plan."

Since then, the committee has been working out the kinks of the "master plan" in order to stretch the \$210 million in the most efficient way.

Vela attempted to clear up some of those kinks in the hour-long meeting. "Some have said the college looks 'outdated' and we are looking to attract and retain students."

Ears perked when talk of a parking structure for the college was mentioned. Although some students would be ecstatic about having a parking structure on cam-

See BOND page 2 Cerritos gets Grant

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Cerritos College received a check for \$100,000 from Southland Motor Car Dealers Association during last Wednesday's regular Cerritos College Board of Trustees meeting.

Dr. Ted Edmiston, president of the board, accepted the check from Todd Leutheuser, executive director of the association and board member of the Cerritos College Foundation.

See Grant page 2

Campus clubs recruit new members

Club Info Day gives students the opportunity to become involved

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Club Information Day took place this Tuesday and served as an opportunity for clubs on campus to introduce themselves to students and obtain new members.

There were a large number of clubs and organizations present at this event.

Some of the clubs present were:

- The Political Science Club
- Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA)
- The Puente Club
- M.E.C.H.A
- Chicanos/Latinos for Community Medicine
- Muslim Association (MSA)
- Scholars Honors Club
- Project Hope
- Campus Crusade for Christ
- Latter-Day Saint Student Association (LDSSA)

Puente Club member, Angelina Mancillas, Political Science major, mentioned that the goal for their club is, "To increase the number of under-represented students to

transfer to UC and CSU systems and to have them come back to the community as leaders and mentors."

Aubrey Simons-Araya, Art major and FMLA member, said that "when you join our club you are joining to free women from their oppression."

M.E.Ch.A. member Hulmaro Agustin, Chicano Studies major, discussed that his club was, "Open to all students who feel that they are a minority."

Scholar Honors Club member, Crystal Rushing, declared, "Our goal this semester is to provide our members the information they want and need about transferring and making the most of college while helping them develop a network of friends that can help them later on."

Maria Vallin, nursing major said, "I didn't really have time to go check out the clubs."

Lia Fuller, Law and Criminal Justice major, spoke to different clubs and mentioned that it is great that clubs are doing this because, "It gives us a chance to see different opportunities and outlooks of life."

For more information, or to join a club, visit the ASCC office which is located next to the bookstore.



Styling: Lindsey Martins styles Christina Sandoval's hair during Club Info Day.

PHOTO BY RAYMOND CONCHA/TM

DEATH: Athlete killed in shooting

Continued from page 1

Lara was taken to a nearby hospital where he died.

According to Avelar, "He wasn't a gangster."

"Hell no. He was legit. I heard he had a 95-mph fastball and that the Dodgers were scouting him and that he was going to go

to Florida."

The motive does not seem apparent as far as Avelar was concerned.

According to Avelar, "They were probably just haters. (The shooters) had no reason whatsoever. I heard he was going to buy

his friends cars when he won his first game."

The 14-year-old male was operated on at the St. Francis Medical Center and was released on Tuesday.

GRANT: SMCDA awards Cerritos \$100k

Continued from page 1

The donation will go toward supporting the growth of the Cerritos College Automotive program in alternative fuel studies and for the development of the center.

This money will be used as seed money to fund a world-class automotive training center that will be a training facility for hydrogen and hybrid technology.

This project is a part of the projects list on the \$210 million General Obligation Bond that was passed last March by the District residents.

"We're truly honored to be part of the Cerritos College's development of automotive technology," said Leutheuser.

"The southland dealers chose Cerritos College for this

program because they have one of the best programs in the state for this industry. With the vast majority of the auto technician workforce approaching retirement age, our industry is looking for trained technicians...we feel that this could be the best private-public partnership facility in the country."

Dr. Noelia Vela, President of Cerritos College said, "This will be the nationwide model, hopefully worldwide as well and be the center for transportation technologies."

It's the college's hope that this center will be a resource center for the transportation industry.

"This will be a productive entity for the students and the college to share, grow, see and develop," Leutheuser said.

"We feel that through a partnership between the SMCDA, Cerritos College and other partners, we can create one of the most comprehensive centers for transportation technologies in the nation," Vela said.

BOND: G.O. Bond status updated.

Continued from page 1

pus, it is not happening, but parking is still part of what is planned to be improved for the college.

The committee has proposed to combine the soccer field with the football field, which still meets both of the fields' guidelines, in order to use the space where the soccer field is now for an additional parking lot.

Questions were addressed pertaining to a timeline of when these improvements will be conducted and completed.

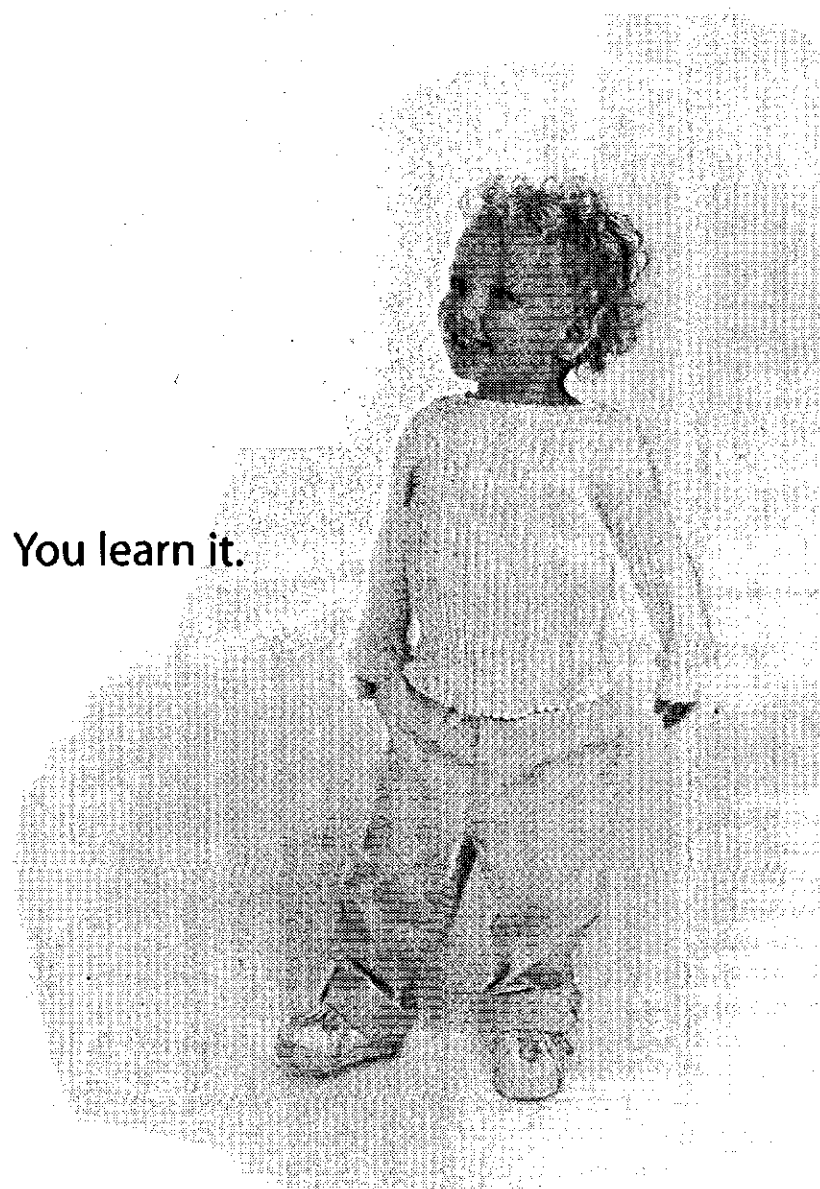
Vela was hesitant to answer for she does not have a solid answer yet, but her guess puts these concepts at 15 to 20 years from now.

The meeting ended with Vela announcing the next steps, which are:

- *to verify campus-wide needs,
- *look at the project scopes,
- *prepare a realistic project budget,
- *conduct a study of logistics
- *prepare a master project schedule.

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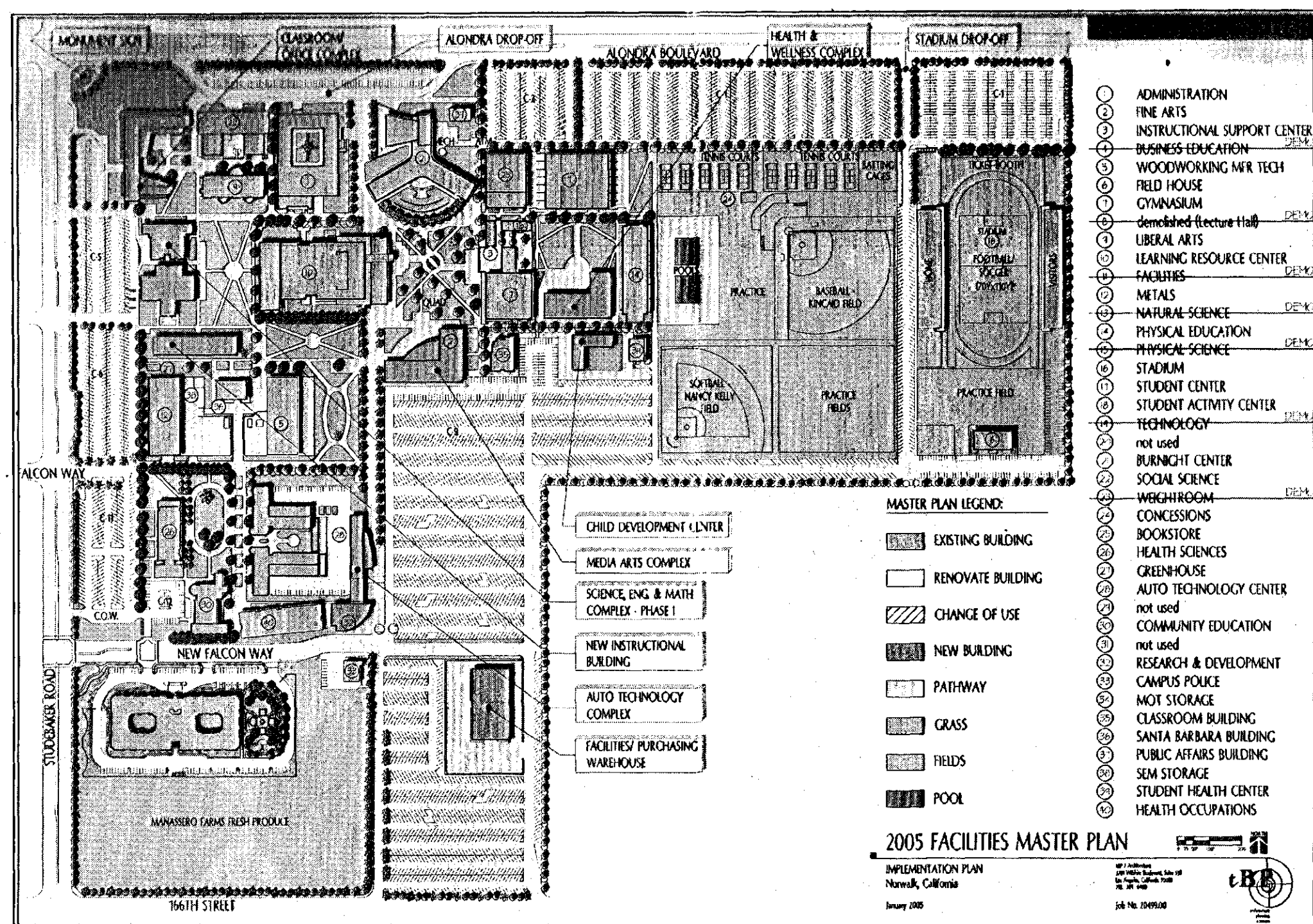
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COMMUNITY



Cerritos College 2005 Facilities Master Plan- updated version that was approved by Board last Wednesday.

COURTESY OF TBP/ARCHITECTURE

Board approves 2005 Master Plan

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At the Cerritos College Board of Trustees meeting last Wednesday, a variety of topics were covered ranging from accepting a check for \$100,000, to G.O. bond presentations, to report on the SEM building. Dr. Ted Edmiston, president of the Board of Trustees, accepted a check for \$100,000 from Todd Leutheuser, executive director of Southland Motor Car Dealers Association and board member of the Cerritos College Foundation.

The donation will go toward supporting the growth of the Cerritos College Automotive program in alternative fuel studies and for the development of the center.

"We feel that through a partnership between the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association, Cerritos College and other partners, we can create one of the most comprehensive centers for transportation technologies in the nation," said Cerritos College President Dr. Noelia Vela. "We are excited about realizing this vision."

Other business included a presentation from Dr. Vela and Deborah Shepley, from TBP/Architecture, on an update of the Master Plan that was being considered for approval so the planning committee could move forward in the next stages of planning.

The meeting also included revising the education and experience area for the Peoplesoft positions and updates about SEM building on campus.

2005 Facilities Master Plan Presentation

The G.O. Bond presentation included showing slides to the board, staff and members of the public.

There was an item on the agenda to approve the updated version of the 2005 Facilities Master Plan. The presentation to the Board was needed so the Board could see the changes made and agree for the committee to continue working on the plan.

The presentation also included a timeline of events starting from the bond being approved to education program analysis.

Studies and Projections for Cerritos College

Shepley also said that some studies are still being conducted, such as the Environmental Impact Report and Hazardous Materials study. Also, a study on

ADA/Accessibility for the college to check if they are complainant with the laws.

The Pool Repair study is finished and the committee decided it would be more cost effective to replace the pool instead of making repairs on it.

One part of the presentation included the development of a Campus Standards Handbook, which would have design guidelines for all architects and performance specifications. This has been a subject long-talked about at prior board meetings.

The Board has shown a desire for cohesiveness in the design of the college. The book will include colors of the buildings, landscaping, hardware, technology and communications. This way, the committee will not have to start over from scratch for each project.

One of the main things Shepley told the Board was to look at developing a campus in accordance with state standards using realistic enrollment projections.

The original projection for the amount of students attending per semester was 30,000. But there has been a reduction in students throughout the years.

Dr. Vela thinks 24,000 is too low of a number to project for the enrollment and 30,000 may be too ambitious. She also said the college has seen a reduction in students because of the recent fee increases over the past year. There was also talk about the college's thoughts on preparing for a second bond measure.

They want to maximize the existing "functional" space and eliminate "non-functional" space. The college is talking more about the idea of building up so they get the most use out of space and avoid over-building which could cause the college not to get any funding for buildings.

She also discussed the establishment of criteria the committee came up with. There are six steps they will look at:

1. Code compliance
2. Efficiency of existing facilities to support instruction
3. Energy efficiency
4. Opportunities for state funding
5. Programmatic need and
6. Safety/security/ access needs.

The board also discussed the boardroom moving out of the Administration building and to a new building labeled the Classroom/Office Complex.

John Moore, board member, stressed his concern to move the boardroom to another location. "It needs to be accessible to the public to attend and I am not sure it

does that in the new location."

He said he would like greater input on the decision about where the boardroom is to be placed.

Bob Verderber, board member, was not pleased that the board had just been shown the look of this plan to be approved, and he questioned about why they had not seen it earlier.

"If I have to approve this without getting a better chance to study it than I am not ready to vote on it and I want to abstain from voting," Verderber said.

Board member, Bob Epple, said, "If we could encourage regular reports on this information."

The Board approved the 2005 Facilities Master Plan 6-1.

Revisions for Peoplesoft positions

Epple also pulled the Peoplesoft item on the agenda to inquire more information before the board was to approve it. The item called for a revision of minimum qualifications for the Peoplesoft Database Administrator position.

The cause for change in the qualifications is that the college had already recruited for the position and was unable to develop a sufficient pool of candidates. There were only two applicants for the position.

They are now asking for approval to put it into the "Education and Experience" area. Seekers of the position will now need a bachelors degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience. They are requiring at least two years of experience and various credentials within the field.

The Board approved the revision 7-0.

Dr. Vela said, "With the approval of this now, we can go back out and recruit again."

Update on SEM Building construction

During the board reports Jo Ann Higdon, interim vice president of Business Services, reported on the Social Science building roof and the SEM complex construction.

She said that the SS building roof has been problematic and the staff was on rain watch duty during the heavy rains. The SS roof is now out on bid.

As for the SEM building, the recent rain caused a significant problem in the schedule and the steel had to be cleaned, but they are a week ahead so it gave them time to recover. There also will be some change orders being put in for the building.

Cerritos displays orchids

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The city of Cerritos Library will be hosting the Second Annual Orchid Show this weekend from Jan. 28 - Jan 30.

The three-day show will consist of talks, demonstrations, entertainment, and a display of paintings and photographs by local artists. There is no cost to attend the show.

The show will be held in the Skyline Room of the library.

The three days are:

- o Friday from 6 - 9 p.m.
- o Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- o Sunday from 1 - 4 p.m.

Harvey Chun and Tony Velardi, local orchid enthusiasts together with the library started the orchid show. The two men are members of the Cymbidium Society of America.

"The primary purpose of the show is to let people know that they can grow cymbidium orchids in Southern California," Chun said.

One thing that is special about this type of orchid is that you do not need a greenhouse to grow them in. All you need is 50 percent shade cloth.

He said growers only need a greenhouse if they are growing more exotic orchids, and Cymbidiums are ideal for Southern California weather.

Last year there were more than 500 people in attendance and this year they hope that number will grow.

There will be no selling of the orchids, photographs or oil paintings, but people will be able to talk to the artists and growers to get more information.

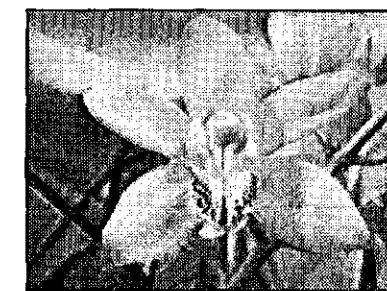
The Cerritos Art Association will have its oil paintings of different orchids on display.

"The unusual thing is Cymbidiums and other orchids bloom during winter here though most people would expect them to bloom in the summer and spring time," Chun said.

There will also be a variety of exotic orchids such as cattleyas, dendrobiums, vanda and other orchid genera in bloom in January.

The library is located on 18025 Bloomfield Avenue in the city of Cerritos.

For more information on the show contact Librarian Padmini Prabhakar at (562) 916-1340 ext. 2458. Also, you can contact Harvey Chun at (562) 926-3565.



Schedule of events

- Friday**
7:30 p.m. - music Piano and Trumpet duet
- Saturday**
11 a.m.- Hula dancing
Noon- 2 p.m.- Talk by a representative from the LA County Public Works on smart gardening and recycling
2:30 p.m.- Piano and trumpet Hawaiian music
3 p.m.- Cymbidium potting demonstration by Tony Velardi
- Sunday**
1:30 p.m.- Cymbidium in a nutshell by Harvey Chun
2 p.m.- Ukulele and Hawaiian and Tahitian dancers

Event Calendar

Cerritos College
Feb. 2: Board of Trustees meeting
@ 6 p.m. in Boardroom

City of Lakewood
Wednesday: Lakewood State of the City address
@ 11:30 a.m. at The Centre at Sycamore Plaza

City of Cerritos
Thursday: City Council meeting
@ 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at Cerritos City Hall
Friday: Sunday 2nd Annual Orchid Show
@ the city of Cerritos Library in the Skyline Room
Friday 6-9 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.
Admission is Free

Feb. 5 - Festival of Friendship
5K Race/Run/Walk 7 a.m.
Entertainment Noon - 4 p.m.
To register for 5K race go online to
<https://registration.millseconds.com>

OPINION

EDITORIAL

A piggy-back ride into Senate

If we can learn anything from our time in history, it better be that elections do matter, but forget the controversial 2000 U.S. election, this past year's highly contested election, the first ever elections in Afghanistan, the lack of elections in Russia, the crazy Ukrainians and even Iraq's dangerous election.

Forget all that because it's the spring semester and while there are school-wide elections for the fall senators and even the president of the ASCC, for this semester, any openings in the senate will be filled by appointment, nullifying the importance of elections here at Cerritos College.

Student senators are elected for a whole year, which means that some sophomore senators will transfer to a four-year senate, miss too many days, will not be academically sound enough and leave their posts at Cerritos open and at the whim of Josh Franco, student body president, and his multi-partisan legislators.

Franco gets to appoint new senators and the senators, who did not leave get to approve them.

So how does your president get the word out? He does so by telling senators during their weekly meetings to recruit. What is to stop any senator from getting 14 friends, from whatever leftist or reactionary club he represents, into the senate and getting all kinds of his proposals passed?



ILLUSTRATION BY: ROBERTO STARNETTA/TM
Nothing is. Not yet.

But wait. The times, they are a changing and in this post 9/11 world, even during the spring semester, we should know that elections

do matter and that the people who represent you may make important decisions.

And if you do not think they are important decisions, then you must not have heard of the all-powerful ASCC Court. According to gocerritos.com, "The court, in addition to settling disputes between students, is charged with the major responsibility of organizing, supervising, operating and judging all student body elections through its elections board."

The solution? Elections every semester.

We do it every time the football team plays its first conference home game and every time that Mr. Cerritos wants to strut his stuff on stage.

Just imagine if Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, of the 39 district, and Loretta Sánchez, of the 47 district, retired, and President Bush was allowed to appoint new representatives to your district.

It is borderline fascism.

But unlike World War II and what the president's inaugural address suggests, we do not need a war to end tyranny here at Falcon Square.

What we need is a change to elections for fall and spring senators. Maybe even an election for president every semester, because even the president can transfer into a four-year college.



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

\$2.4 million reward for violence

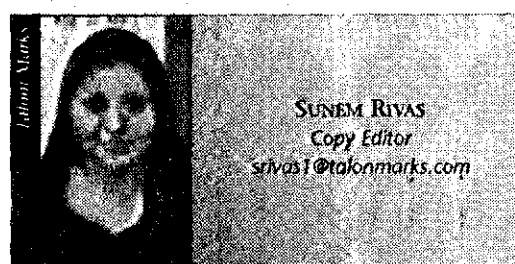
It is no wonder other countries look at the United States and immediately perceive us as violent.

Not only are our television shows and movies overflowing with blood, beatings and weapons, but our own law enforcement is getting away with not only exercising this violence, but receiving monetary rewards for their actions.

Jeremy Morse and Bijan Davish, two Inglewood police officers, were awarded \$2.4 million, after punching and slamming a black 16-year-old against a truck, because they felt being white caused them to receive "unfair discipline."

One of the officers was fired; the other was acquitted after filing a false police report and was suspended for 10 days. It would only seem fair for someone who abuses their job to be punished.

However, the officers accused the city of



racial discrimination and the jury just nodded their heads and handed them \$2.4 million.

I ask myself, if had it been two black officers beating a white, 16-year-old, would the case have ended in the same fortune? Would it have even gotten as far as it did? I really doubt it.

This case was not about mending the damages caused to two police officers. It was about recognizing once again that even in America, where "all men are created equal," discrimination still exists.

It is about recognizing that in today's society, racism does not only exist, it is rewarded.

Playing the book buying blame game

Do not save on books.
Do not buy used ones.
Pay three teachers the gross national income of Costa Rica for one book.

Go directly to communist jail and bow to the book monopoly cop for at least one semester, or until another player rolls three sixes.

The Political Science 100 book monopoly at Cerritos is as disgusting as being the first person out in a six-hour game of Monopoly, that is down to two closely resembling human being freaks, card counting the dice rolls until the final bankrupting Boardwalk roll.

Political Science professor Dennis Falcon, the surliest of the three Poll-Sci Parker brothers on campus (along with Victor Obasohan and Bryan Reece), seems proud to present a fantastic opportunity to spend more on his one-of-a-kind book, as that of his already more expensive than ever community college course (The latter being no fault of his own).

If his pre-conceived leftist rhetoric was not enough added to his randomly fascist way of running his vulgarity encouraged class, he then hits you with the realization of an investment that could set you back farther than a .com stock.

Far from doing as other instructors do and try to keep the same edition of a book



for as long as possible, these three teachers have devised a system in which they change the edition yearly and not since the second edition in 2003, where the books gained about 300 pages of information, has the edition changed in such a manner that the earlier edition would not be comparable in materials.

The biggest problem is not only that the \$110 book changes edition, but that it also has a built in "screw you" system in which it is unusable by anyone more than one semester because the cost comes with can only be electronically registered once and one semester only.

I am of course not going to sit here and tell you not to buy it, that it is not a good book or not tell you a way to get around the system (somewhat).

First, if that is how they feel they can best teach the class, then so be it.

If that is the cost of making such a heavy book, then so be it as well, but there is no reason that they have to put in the one time regis-

tration clause on the CD no matter what they may say or how they explain it.

If they were to put it on the publisher: ask why they don't "facilitate" the use of the website to those who have bought the book in prior semesters and now only need to get into the site. Or ask why Falcon puts course necessary information that you could fail without on the registration protected site.

The bottom line is that it is a thorough book that does come with CDs that help you learn and understand, but there is, in all of this, a factor that makes this a book monopoly (other than the fact that having all three teachers use the book leaves little choice on who to take for poli sci), the CD registration.

Also, only our bookstore carries the latest edition or any edition for that matter.

Solutions: Obviously you can just drop the class and take another instructor that does not use that book (very rare). You can also team up with someone to buy a new copy and an old copy (cheaper than two new copies) and now you can share a log-in and each of you have a book.

I invite them to attempt to explain it and to change their system if they feel there is something wrong.

If not, it is obvious that they are truly exemplifying the most inhumane part of American politics.

What a lesson.

CAMPUS COMMENT

"Do you think the upcoming elections in Iraq will lead to a stable government?"

COMPILED BY: CHRISTINA YU
PHOTOS BY: LAURA SPIKEMAN



"Yes, because the people will be getting together to create rules and set boundaries. Freedom is looking good for them."

SAL ROMAN
animation major



"No, the upcoming elections will only lead to another revolution in Iraq."

EDGAR ARREOLA
fashion design major



"Yes, it will work because there will be structure established, and the elections may even create a system of education an police enforcement for the people."

THERESA AQUINO
nursing major



"I'm not very sure about the elections because it really depends on the candidates that will be running."

MICHEAL ZULUETA
nursing major



"I think that the only possible way a stable government would work is if Americans are willing to reside in Iraq itself and watch over the country."

JESSE LUA
music major



"No, there is way too much violence going on right now to determine anything."

EKATERINI PATRONAS
art major



Contest:

Write a one to two sentence explanatory comment on this photo and email it to online@talonmarks.com. You could win a pair of movie tickets, a \$20 value, and have your caption posted on our online newspaper. For results check the Talon Marks web site at www.talonmarks.com



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Hail to the thief; an ode

Round two has begun; the Neo-cons have won their right to pursue global dominance. With all due respect to the presidential office and what the people of the United States stand for, but horrible times may lie ahead for the United States and the rest of the world.

It is my belief that the leaders of this nation hold no loyalty to this nation or any other nation for that matter. Rather, their only loyalty is to the United Corporations of America and company. From national to foreign, our leaders only seem to be driven by goals that benefit their own interests.

Social Security, a program given to us through the New Deal, one of the greatest programs in American history, may be seeing its last years. Our troops are guarding oil wells in foreign lands, American companies are outsourcing jobs, and the cost of living is rising while the minimum wage remains at a low of \$6 and change.

Excuse me Mr. President if I don't seem too enthusiastic about the fact that you and your Republican party are hijacking our nation's dignity and wealth. This is no excuse for the democrats who have also sold their own codes to



giant industries. Our nation is facing obstacles that no army can give an answer to.

The fact of the matter is we as American citizens have given our loyalty to republicans, democrats, liberal agendas, conservative agendas and every other type of group. In doing so, we have lost sight of the truth and the road which leads to it.

Why do we give our loyalty to these selfish representatives when we should only be giving it to the truth? I am not a Republican, and I am not a Democrat, I am a citizen of this world.

We are all citizens of this world. And as citizens of this world, shouldn't we give our loyalty to the pursuit of peace and equality throughout the world? President Bush once said, "If you're not with us you're against us."

Well, Mr. President, I refuse your option.

I will not be with nor will I be

against you. I am only for the well being of this world.

I have no dreams that one day the United States, which I am a proud citizen of, conquers the world and its riches for the interests of Corporate America.

I have no dreams of spilling blood for oil. I have no dreams of cutting educational funds for war. I have no dreams of torturing people in Guantanamo Bay, or any other nation, especially under false pretenses.

I have no dreams of serving your elitist cause.

Whether it be Bush, Clinton, Kerry, or Gore; we as Americans have lost sight of the true American dream. We have forgotten our history as the nation who despised imperialism and oppression.

Nonetheless, I congratulate you Mr. President.

May you and the elite, which you have proclaimed to be your base, profit from the blood and sweat of the entire world. And a special congratulation to you Mr. Vice President. May the rising stocks of Halliburton exceed the worth of our dying soldiers and innocent people throughout the world.

God bless our troops.



'Vote and die' not just a slogan

"Vote or Die," the slogan being pedaled by the puffiest man in hip hop, Sean Combs, may have been seen as the new generation's political idealism. This may be true here, but across the universe in Iraq where as John Lennon once sang, "Words are flowing out like endless rain into a paper cup."

That is, words are abundant, but mean little in the face of action. The slogan in Iraq would be, "Vote and Die," or at least the actions taken by the insurgent forces seem to deem it so.

Yet as we get over our own wounds from our rinky-dink election troubles, we should just sit back and hope it works out for our comrades in democracy, even if it does mean taking the most drastic of all measures to insure it.

If the Civil Rights Movement was any example, it is that there are some things worth fighting for and, despite disagreements we might have with the despotic president of ours and his war on rulers



that somewhat resemble him in the way he attempts to rule America, in the end we should hope his plan works.

At least the country of Iraq seems to think so.

More than two weeks before Iraq's first free election on Jan. 30, the country is finding that secrecy and security are the cornerstones of freedom.

Names of many candidates haven't been made public and will remain secret until after the election, which goes a long way in illustrating the difficulty of holding an election in the after mist of a war.

Instead of voting for individual candidates in the election, Iraqis will select from a list of 111

political parties, each with its own slate of candidates that can include between 12 and 275 names.

Iraq is also issuing a curfew and a no-driving embargo to protect the polls.

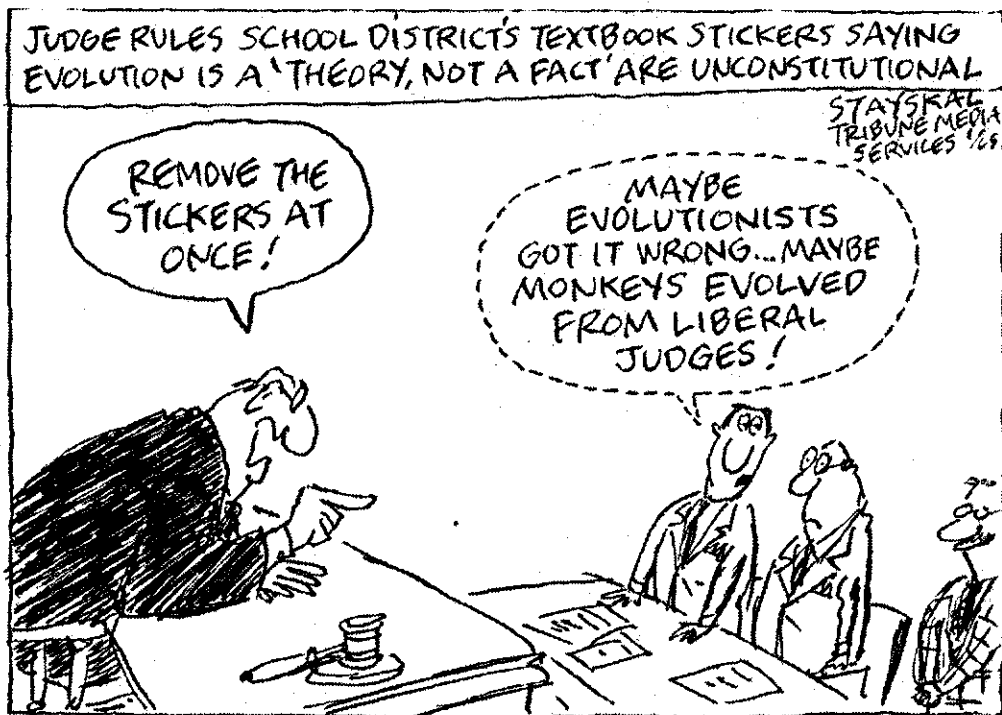
While this may seem extreme, it is seemingly necessary as too many people have died for the cause of democracy in Iraq.

It has become increasingly apparent that the exit plan for Iraq is an emergency exit out the back door of Baghdad: use in case of fire only.

So we are there and Bush is president, and Iraq must at least try to become a democracy; let us support it and hope for the best.

If this was post-WWII Germany, everyone and their Kurdish mom would be supporting the effort.

Why hope for disaster when it was a disaster before and everyone and their Christian mom hated that also?



LAS HURRACAS BY STARENTTA



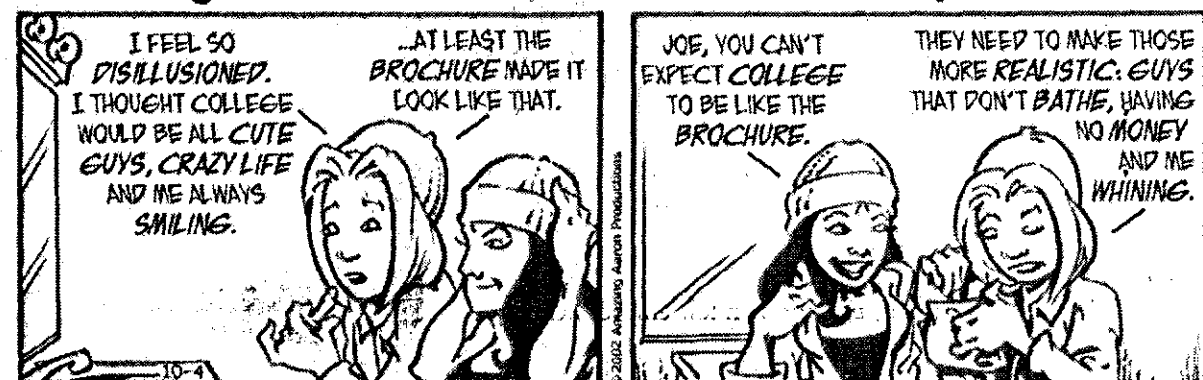
Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



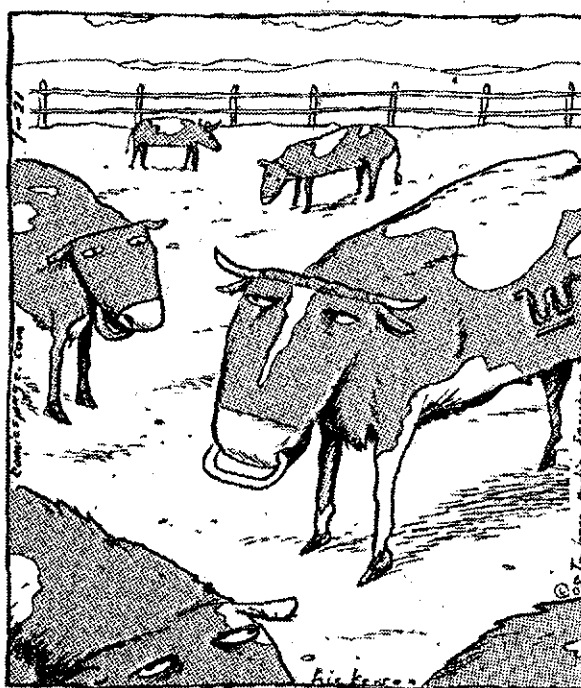
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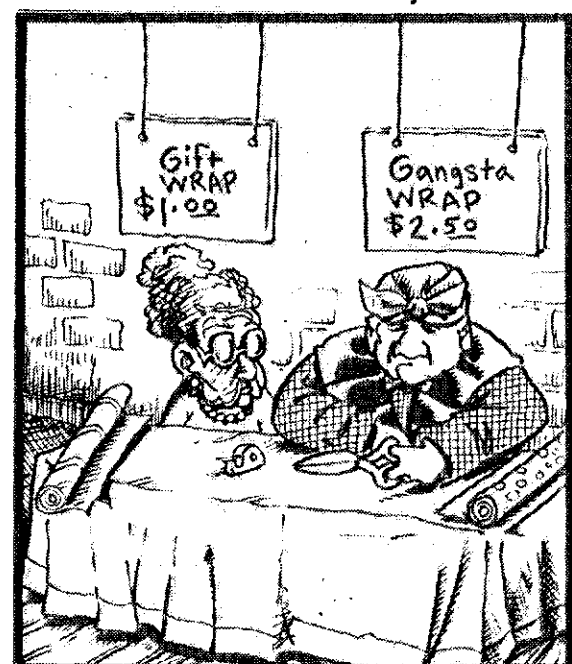
A College Girl Named Joe



R.F.D.



You Are Here



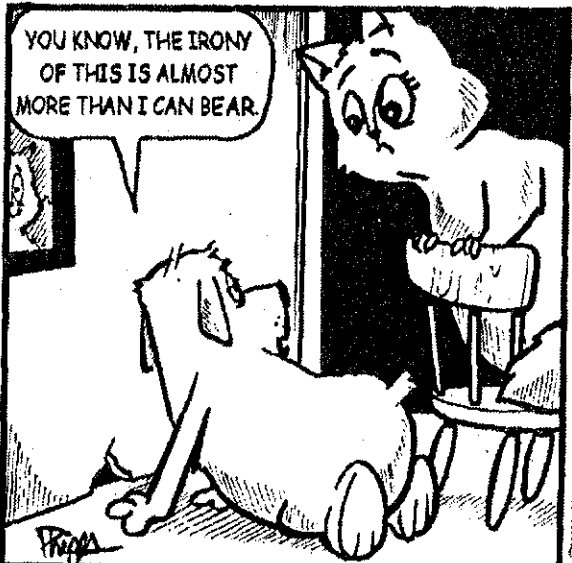
TRIVIA TEST

Answers online at www.talonmarks.com

1. AMERICAN: Which Wild West personality was called "Little Sure Shot"?
2. COMICS: In the comic strip "Brenda Starr," what was the name of her husband?
3. TELEVISION: Who played the title role in TV's "Quincy"?
4. HISTORY: Who became prime minister of Britain in 1937?
5. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "O Pioneers!"?
6. BUSINESS: The term "Seven Sisters" was once used to describe the biggest companies of which industry?
7. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the cape called Land's End?
8. DISCOVERIES: Who is credited with discovering the pain reliever aspirin?
9. MEASUREMENTS: A kilometer is equivalent to what measurement in miles?
10. FAMOUS QUOTES: Who said, "There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance."

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Just Like Cats & Dogs



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Rapper meets local fans

RAYMOND GALLEGOS
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The rap superstar known as The Game did his first Los Angeles area signing at the Wherehouse in Lakewood.

Security was in full force as a sea of fans lined-up outside and around the corner of the Wherehouse last Saturday at noon.

The fans were growing impatient as The Game showed up about an hour late with a large entourage.

But when he did make his appearance, the crowd screamed, yelled and appeared happy.

The first two female fans in front of the line were jumping up and down as he approached.

One of the females in front of the line was Jessica Lopez, a California High School student in Whittier, who said she had been waiting at the Wherehouse since 7 a.m.

Lopez said she waited so long to meet The Game because, "I love the Game. I like the way he raps, I like everything about him, and I can't wait to get my picture taken with him."

A little further back in the line was Alejandra Valencia, a South Gate High School student, who "just wanted to get the Game's autograph."

Others, like Rudy Rodriguez, Paramount resi-

dent said, "I came so my kids could see him."

A Cerritos College student was also in attendance. Raul Flores, liberal arts major said, "Since he's one of my favorite rappers, I had to come down. It was nice to see him down here taking the time to sign autographs."

The fans were taken in 10 at a time to prevent an incident, John Rodriguez, one of the 13 security guards inside said.

In addition to the 13 guards inside, four were outside, not including all of the Game's personal body guards who showed their presence outside and inside the Wherehouse.

Rodriguez also spoke of two undercover, armed, LAPD officers roaming around looking for guys with trench coats or heavy jackets that could

possibly conceal weapons.

After all, The Game was shot five times before he started rapping and his known gang affiliation did not make him any safer.

The Game's safety was well taken care of and everything ran smoothly, according to Rodriguez.

The Game's safety was not only taken care of, but so were his fellow rappers.

The Game has started his own label called, "The Black Wall Street" and many of his artists were at the signing.

One of his artists, Charlie Phillips AKA G-Malone, had a lot to say about The Game.

First Phillips talked about the recent feud between The Game and

Oakland rapper,

Yukmouth.

"Yukmouth is only hating. He just don't like to see a rapper come up so quick, and make so much money. The beef (feud) is too late to squash," he said.

Phillips also spoke on his new label mate Vita, formally signed to Murder Inc.

Phillips said she was a tight rapper, and if it hurts Murder Inc., oh well then.

The Game is supposed to bring the West Coast back to its glory days, like when 2Pac was alive, according to the Game's CD.

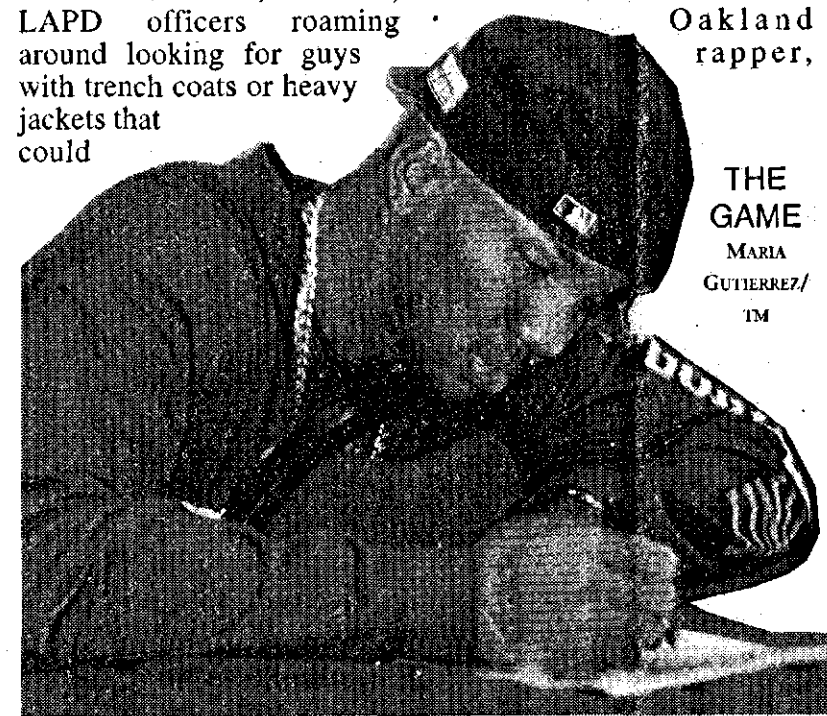
"Yeah, The Game doesn't have any West Coast artists on his CD, but he does intend on working with some," Phillips added.

Sister Latonya Taylor was also present showing her support for her brother.

"I would have never dreamed in a million years this would happen to my brother. Our family has been blessed," Taylor said.

Taylor also spoke of The Game's rap career and life.

"It's always been his dream to become a big rap super star."



THE GAME
MARIA GUTIERREZ/IM

-Want more?-

For a complete review of The Game's new cd, "The Documentary," go to www.talonmarks.com

Future concerts sure to entertain

KENNETH PAKINGAN
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Looking for a concert worth watching? One that won't burn a hole into your wallet? The Cerritos College Music Department will be holding concerts that will be sure to entertain, as well as educate, this Spring.

David Bettancourt, the CCMD Band Director, recommends attending the concerts because they are "free entertainment of good quality" and there is "an emotional experience that comes with a group performing live."

Upcoming concerts for the Spring 2005 semester will hold an array of genres. Thirteen of the 15 concerts are free.

Bettancourt explains that attending the concerts "can be a broadening experience that will open students' eyes to new music and new composers. Students can expand their musical taste."

The first concert for this semester will be the Orchestra Exchange Concert on Feb. 25 located at the student center at 7 p.m.

The orchestra will be

playing classical literature, most of which is recognizable, such as the "Russian Sailors Dance."

This concert has a unique factor to it, as the Cerritos College Music Department has invited other groups to perform with them.

Other upcoming concerts include the Annual Faculty Gala on Feb. 27, the Symphonic Winds Exchange on March 1, and the Jazz and Pop Ensembles Concert on March 5. The Band's and Orchestra Spring Concert on May 20 is the final and highly prepared finale for the spring semester.

Of all the concerts, Kee Chang, the CCMD Student Affairs Assistant, highly recommends going to the Faculty Gala because "it's a presentation of all faculty."

Chang explained that attending concerts can teach a person about discipline.

"Upon observing the band, discipline can be seen through the mature behavior of the students. The band's strict regimen can teach students to be disciplined, organized and orderly, and further apply them to anything," said Chang.

ICE HOT: NEW FAMILY COMEDY NO. 1

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"You got knocked the (funk) out!" This type of phrase won't be heard in Ice Cube's No. 1 movie, "Are We There Yet?"

Cube takes himself out of his previous roles in the Friday trilogy and Boyz-n-The-Hood. He plays Nick Persons, an owner of a sports collectibles shop.

Not seeing Cube in a role of a gangster or someone wielding a weapon, fighting a large snake, made this movie great for the whole family.

Persons (Cube) hates children, and becomes attracted to Suzanne Kingston (Nia Long), who has two children of her own.

Cube makes this movie his own with his comedic timing.

This comedy keeps you laughing with the outrageous things that happen to Nick's Lincoln Navigator.

Long shines with her limited time by being a worried mother of two.

The kids, Lindsey (Aleisha Allen) and Kevin (Philip Daniel Boden), play Long's children who's father canceled their New Year's celebration.

Long had to go to Vancouver, Canada on business, so Cube agreed to take the kids to their mother.

After some mishaps at the airport and the train station, he decided to drive them. This is when the fun begins.

The kids hate every man who isn't their father, so Cube is in for some destruction.

Allen's facial expressions of how she feels about Cube give her depth as a young up and coming child actress. She also played a role in the hit comedy "School of Rock."

Boden's quick wit and sometimes annoying voice added to the anguish of what Cube was put through.

Cube really stands out with his ability to connect with Allen and Boden after they find

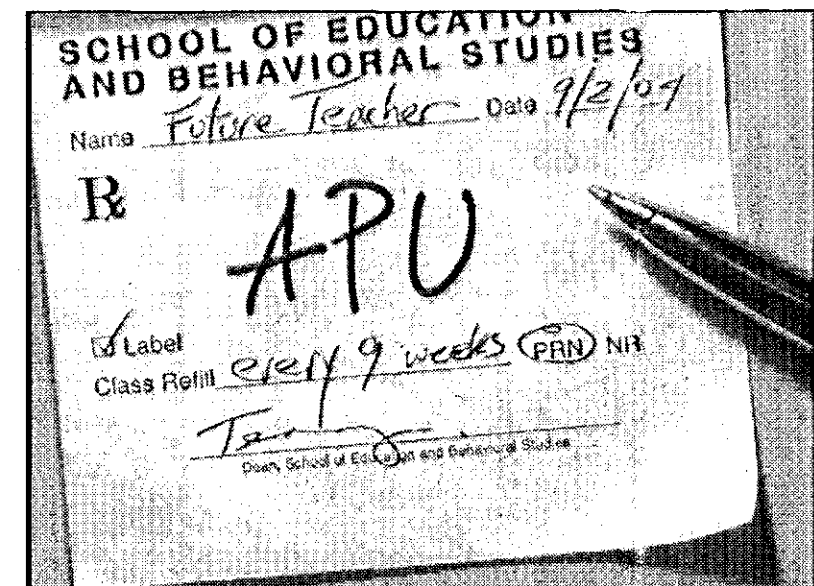
out their dad canceled their celebration because he was spending New Year's with his other family.

This is when Cube was able to relate to the kids because his character, Nick's father left him.

Allen really shined when she sang karaoke to the Aretha Franklin hit "Respect." She stole the screen with her amazing voice and musical talent.



Family Man:
Cube falls for a single mother



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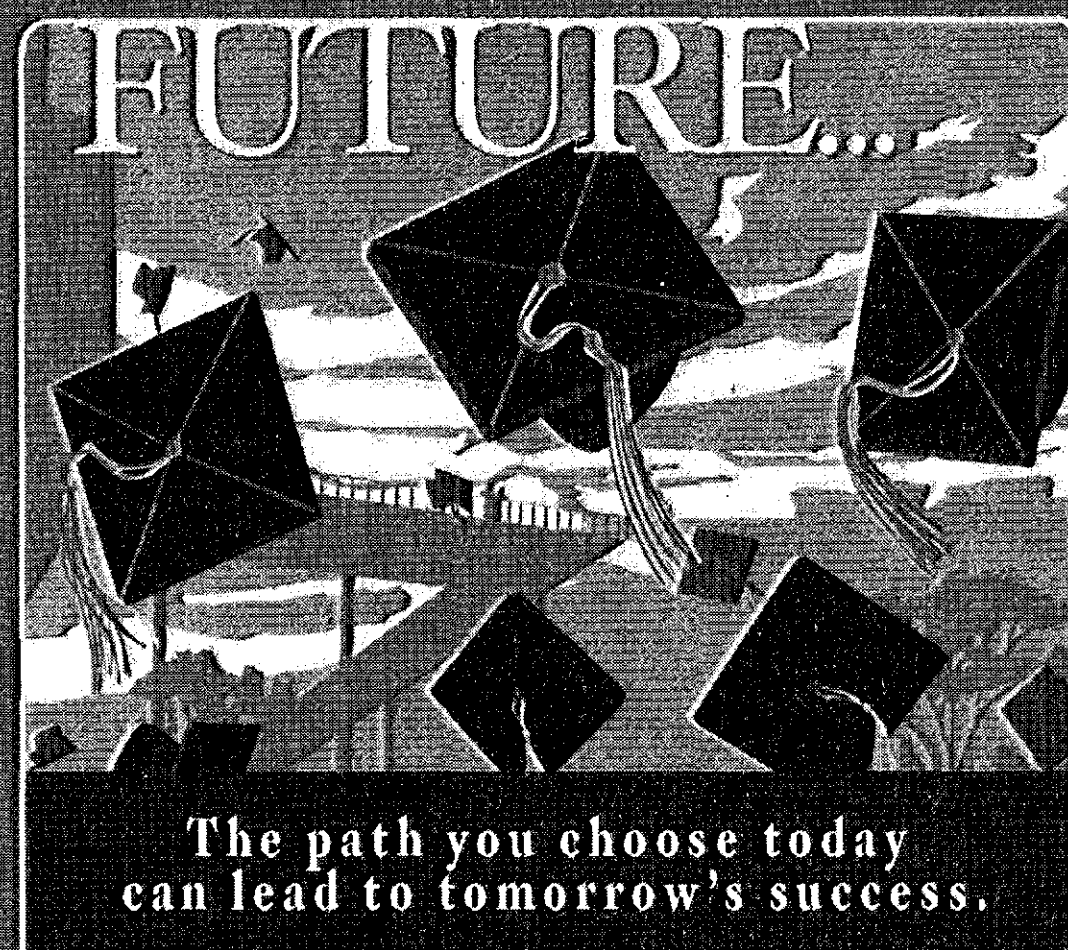
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SPORTS

Fresh start

Falcons baseball team welcomes 16 fresh faces to a squad filled with 10 veterans

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February is right around the corner and that means "America's past-time" is making its way back to Cerritos College.

The Falcons' baseball team opens up its season Feb. 1 at Santa Ana College.

The Falcons went 20-16 last season and 13-11 in the conference. Their last South Coast Conference Championship came in 2000 and the last time they won the State Championship was in 1989.

This year's squad of 26 has 10 returning players. It also has three international players: Mike Styrna, Canada; Tomoya Mizutani, Japan; and Elvyn Bello, Dominican Republic.

All three international players speak highly of their experiences so far, although Mizutani says that American baseball is different from Japanese baseball.

The coaching staff, headed by Ken Gaylord, has gotten a new addition in Sean Severns. Brad Baker, Sergio Garcia, and Frank Rovelo have been coaching under Gaylord for six years.

Although opening day is nearing, Gaylord has not made any decisions on who his starters will be.

Due to rain in early January, the team was not able to practice as much as Gaylord would have liked, and as a result he has not made any final decisions.

Even though he had not seen enough of his team to make up a starting line-up, Gaylord is still able to evaluate what type of team he has.

"Our pitching is pretty good. Our defense is pretty good," Gaylord said. "I think we need to hit a lot better than we have."

This has led him to believe that his team can compete for the conference championship. "Looks to me like it's pretty wide open," Gaylord said.

Michael Benavente, first-year shortstop, thinks that East Los Angeles College will be the Falcons' main competition.

"ELAC is supposed to be good. Last year we tied with them (in the conference). It should be good competition with ELAC," he said.

All of the players are excited about getting the season started and beginning competition.

Scott Patynik, shortstop, said, "I'm just looking forward to starting conference and beating El Camino."

Aside from competition, the athletes are just looking forward to the comradery that comes with being on a team.

Stephen Luyben, pitcher, whose brother Daniel is also on the team, is looking forward to starting the season with this group. "I think we're all a good group of guys and that we bond well," he said.

Gaylord said he would like to get the season started, because he's anxious to see his team's performance in a real game situation.

Changes improve Dodgers

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In baseball's current structure, money rules the day and simply speeds up the process. The Los Angeles Dodgers are certainly no exception.

Dodger fans have been sent reeling this off-season with a bevy of trades and free agent makeovers powerful enough to make ex-General Manager Kevin Malone queasy and "Nip-Tuck" viewers shudder.

However, it does not stop there. Club-owner Frank McCourt has Dodger Stadium also undergoing a facelift.

Chavez Ravine's once-cavernous foul territory will be downsized as new box seats will be constructed closer to the action. Dirt will replace the rubberized warning track encircling the diamond. A state-of-the-art LED scoreboard will be installed along the base of the Loge Level, adding to the "beautification" process of the stadium.

The jerseys will be altered, as players' names will no longer be stitched on the back. Perhaps this is in homage to Tommy Lasorda's belief that the name on the front of the jersey is more important than the name on the back of it.

As it stands now, the team that will take the field on opening day, April 5, will be markedly different from the one assembled just last season.

Gone are heroes Adrian Beltré and Steve Finley. Fan-favorites Shawn Green and Alex Cora have packed their bags and moved along. "Lina Tineo" will no longer be colored a shade of "Dodger Blue."

Yet still, hope springs eternal for a franchise that is coming off its first postseason appearance since 1996. Although a majority of the team's core has been dismantled, it is not as if the cupboard is bare.

Free agent additions J.D. Drew, Jeff Kent, Derek Lowe and Jose Valentin spearhead a group of new Dodgers that will join Eric Gagne, Cesar Izturis, and Odalis Perez. While last year's club was strong enough to take first place in the NL West, there were still definite shortcomings the team had to address in order to improve.

General Manager Paul DePodesta has also re-stocked the farm system, presiding over Baseball America's No. 1-rated minor league talent group.

See DODGERS page 8



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Late rally comes up short

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After San Marcos College cancelled a Saturday doubleheader, the Cerritos College softball team took on Fullerton College in a scrimmage game Monday and lost, 4-3.

No one had any information as to why San Marcos cancelled the game.

This was the softball team's first game since it played against the alumni on Jan. 15.

Cerritos never led in the contest, falling behind in the third inning after Vivian Garcia, catcher for Fullerton, hit a three-run double.

Head coach Kodde Murray was disappointed with her team's play and thought it let a victory get away.

"We just didn't play a very good game today. We kind of beat ourselves," Murray said.

The Falcons were trailing 4-1 in the bottom of the seventh, and scored two runs off of a double to make it 4-3.

The rally ended on a strike out with two runners left on base.

Fullerton's head coach, Lisa Bassi, is always careful when playing against Cerritos, and believes the

Falcons are never out of a game.

"With Cerritos you have to be concerned until the very last out," Bassi said.

"If you give them (the Falcons) an inch, they will take a yard."

The regular season will begin Feb. 1. Cerritos will open-up against Los Angeles Valley.

Rick Murray, the softball team's public address announcer, believes the team will do well when the season starts.

"I think they're looking really good this year," he said.

"The pitcher (Alex Castillo) is doing a good job. She's about the only arm out there."

Bassi also agrees that Cerritos will be a worthy opponent.

"Well, I'll tell you they're conference contenders and they are only going to get better as the season progresses."

Nicole Deel hit a solo home run in the bottom of the fourth inning, giving the Falcons their first hit of the game.

Cerritos didn't get another hit until the seventh inning and left eight runners on base.

The Falcons ended up with four hits, three coming in the seventh and gave up eight.

SPORTS

Lancers
spear
Falcons

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The Pasadena City Lancers remained undefeated after beating the Cerritos College women's basketball team 65-51, at Cerritos last Saturday in a defensive battle that left the Falcons 14-10.

Cerritos head coach Karen Welliver said, "They're (the Lancers) known for their defense, they're known for their trapping and pressure defense."

The Lancers came in with a 19-0 mark and the fans were skeptical that the Falcons could even keep up with them. George Bottema, Cerritos College alumnus said, "We're doing pretty good right now but we can get cold."

Bottema was speaking of a halftime lead that Cerritos had at the break, 26-25. The Falcons were doing well, and like Bottema predicted, they went cold.

In the second half the team relied heavily on Niki Sims, guard, who was hitting shot after shot in the paint with ease, but her other teammates grew cold as they fell to Pasadena's defense.

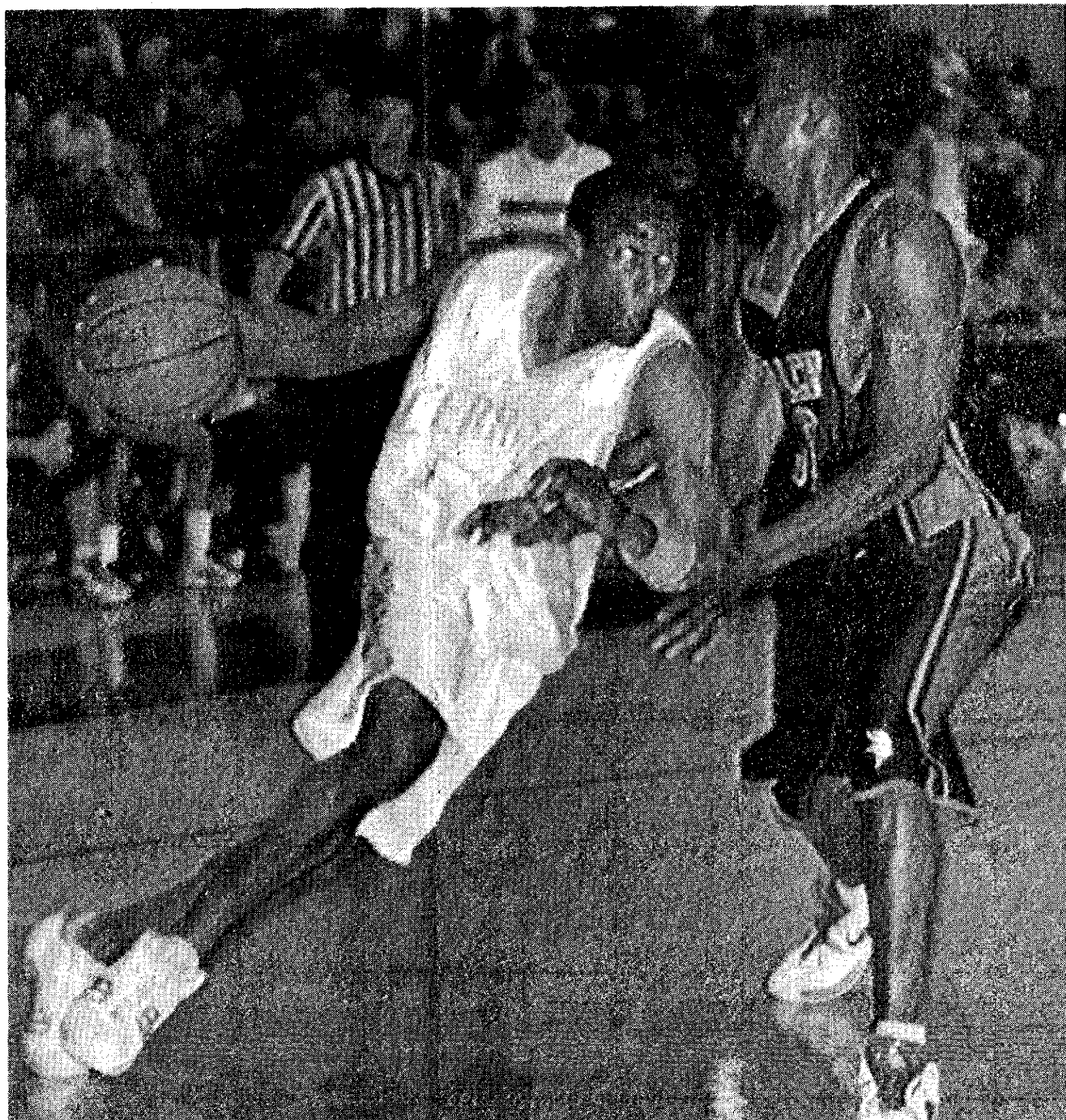
Turnovers were a major part of the Falcons' defeat as well; the ball was turned over all throughout the game, leading to Lancer-fastbreak points. "Our defense was slacking off in the in the second, we just got drained," Sims said.

The man-to-man defense Welliver utilized did not seem to affect the Lancers in the second half. They used a zone and a man-to-man defense on the Falcons which seemed to work.

Welliver said her team is improving, and that it needs to fight harder out on the hardwood and that she only has two sophomores on her squad and it is hard to build such a young team.

Falcons suffer first conference defeat

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MARIA GUTIERREZ/TM

Driving to the hoop: Falcon's forward Stanley Gill cuts through the Long Beach City defense en route to the basket.

After a strong 80-60 victory over LA Southwest last Wednesday, the Falcons hoped to increase their two-game winning streak against Long Beach City last Friday. Despite their efforts, Cerritos suffered a disappointing 80-64 loss at the hands of the Vikings on its home court.

"This is a 'Jekyll-and-Hyde' team," long-time WPMD sportscaster John Potter said. "You never know what kind of team you're gonna get."

Throughout the first half the Falcons struggled to stay close to the Vikings. Little by little, the Vikings widened the gap.

"The defense was very lackadaisical," Potter admitted. "If they want to win against LA Harbor, then they have to step it up."

The Falcons never led and trailed the ever-confident Vikings 38-33 at the end of the first half.

Head coach Gary Cain said, "They weren't trusting each other. The reason we weren't passing the ball is because we weren't able to trust each other with the ball."

Cain summed up Friday night's performance as being inconsistent. "A couple of things we need to work on are our rebounds and getting the shot off."

The Falcons played an aggressive game, but it was not enough to beat the steadfast Vikings.

With 4:30 left in the game, the Falcons made one more push for the victory by cutting the lead to three, but the rush was not enough to take the lead from the Vikings.

The loss takes the Falcons' overall record to 12-11 and 2-1 within the South Coast Conference North Division.

The Falcons continue league play Wednesday at LA Harbor for a 7:30 contest against the Seahawks.

DODGERS:
DePodesta
renovates
playoff team

Continued from page 7

Sometimes change is necessary to improve, no matter the players involved.

"It's a little bit sad, to lose Greenie (Shawn Green) and Alex (Cora). I know Belly (Adrian Beltré) wanted to come back. It's hard for me to see them leave and hard for the fans," closer Eric Gagne said at a recent press conference. "But we had Belly, Green, (Steve) Finley last year and we didn't win."

McCourt is banking on Gagne's leadership abilities to lead the team.

"He's a fierce competitor," McCourt said. "He brings an attitude that you need to win. If I could pick one player who personifies the attitude of the team I own and operate, it's this player right here."

The upside for this roster far outweighs its questions. Los Angeles is home to one of baseball's strongest franchises, and the three million-plus fans that crowd Dodger Stadium consistently each season need no other organization than the Dodgers.

Sorry "Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim," the "Boys in Blue" will do just fine.

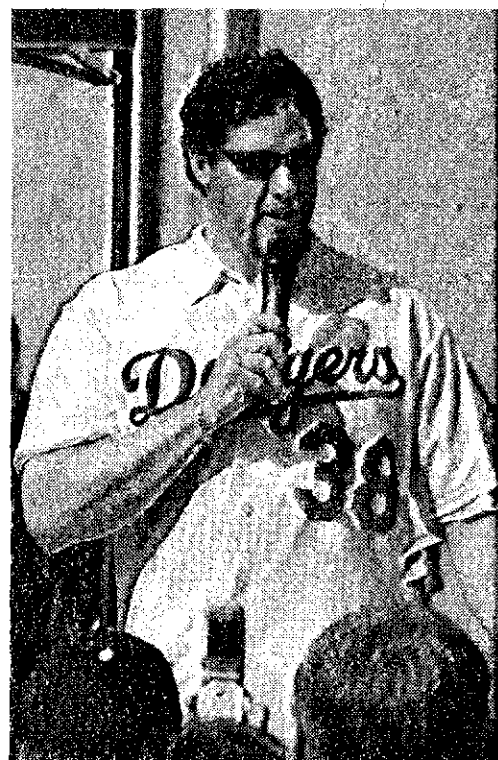
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Inquisitive Dodgers fans filled Falcon Square Monday to take part in a celebration of the organization.

The Dodgers' Caravan visited the campus as part of the tour's southern leg in an attempt to spark interest in the team. Current and former Dodgers players and club representatives were in attendance for an autograph session.

Hall-of-fame inductees Tommy Lasorda and Jaime Jarrin joined all-star closer Eric Gagne in an address to the fans that packed the outside amphitheater.

Former Dodgers Steve Garvey and Maury Wills, minor-leaguers Delwyn Young and Chuck Tiffany, and current pitching coach Jim Colborn were also



Eric Gagne

present.

The Dodgers took first place this past season in the National League West division, advancing to the playoffs only to lose in four games to the St. Louis Cardinals. Following an overhaul of the roster in the offseason, fans have been skeptical of the team's direction under owner Frank McCourt and General Manager Paul DePodesta.

Adrian Beltré, Alex Cora and Shawn Green have all left the club via trades or free agency, leading some to doubt the organization's true intentions.

Mario Soto, history major, was among the worried.

"McCourt and DePodesta seemed to say that no matter how good a season a player might have, if he was expecting a lot of money he may not get it."

Beltré signed with the Seattle Mariners in December of 2005, after having spent his entire career with the Dodgers organization. Fans were disappointed to see him walk from the club following a second-place finish in NL MVP voting.

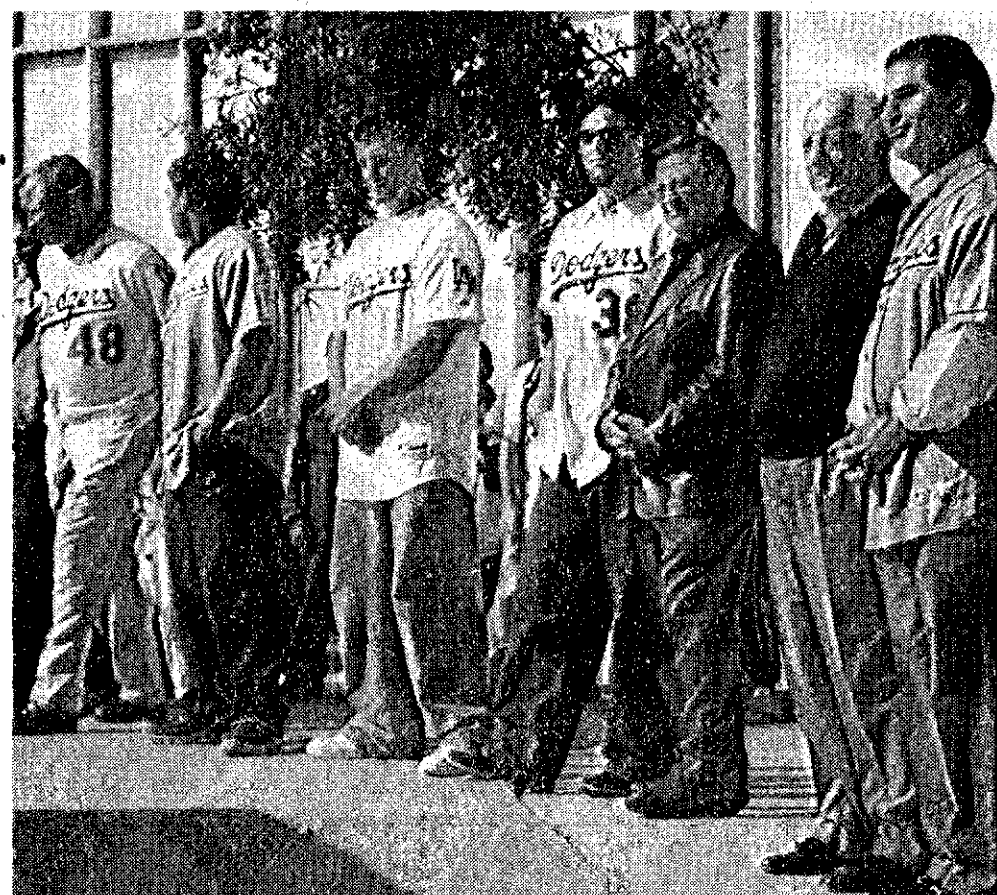
Regardless, Gagne reiterated the team's retcoiling was for the best.

"It is tough losing the guys we did," Gagne said. "But we have the best pitching in the division and pitching is the name of the game."

Outfielder J.D. Drew, infielders Jeff Kent and Jose Valentin, and starting pitcher Derek Lowe were brought in to fill the voids left by the departed players. While the projected starting staff is much stronger, an impeccable defense was the main reason last year's staff was so successful.

"We lost a gold-glove middle infield when Cora left," Soto remarked.

The Los Angeles Dodgers recorded the fewest amount of errors in the NL this past season. Both Cora and Beltré were considered amongst the top defenders at their respective positions.



PHOTOS BY: CATHY LOZANO/TM

"True Blue:" Members of the Dodgers organization address the crowd outside in Falcon Square. LEFT: Eric Gagne speaks to fans about upcoming season.

Lasorda remained confident in the additions, offering, "Drew, Valentin, and Kent will contribute immediately. Pitching will obviously be our strength, which leads me to believe we will repeat as NL West champions."

One major question mark remains to be answered. As a result of Green's trade, the team will look for a new leader in the clubhouse.

"With so many new faces," Lasorda admitted, "it's hard to say who will lead the team."

Gagne more than likely is the one the club will look to, as he has become the Dodgers' most recognizable figure in

quite some time.

"I'm up for it," Gagne exclaimed. "We just need to be successful."

Despite the media's notion that the Dodgers will inevitably lose a portion of their fan base following the controversial moves, many fans will continue to jam Dodger Stadium.

"I will still go as a baseball fan," Soto said.

"The fans mean everything," Gagne said. "The feeling I get when I pitch is amazing. It's the best feeling. Words can't describe it. The fans mean so much."

Dodgers' single game tickets go on sale during the first week of March.