

ASCC raises \$1,300 for relief

Senate appoints four new reps
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Men's Basketball Falcons soar over L.A. Harbor 95-78

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Free speech zoned out

OPINION page 4

'Here's Johnny!'

Tribute to former talk show great

See A&E page 7



Free speech policies united

Administrators have formed a committee to centralize 'free speech' policies to make them more accessible

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Students will now be able to find policies affecting their freedom of speech on campus more easily, and from just one source, as opposed to before, when students and visitors didn't have a central place to refer to.

A committee on campus, composed of staff and administration members, has been drafting a collection of policies and procedures in regard to free speech.

Members of the committee

have centralized many policies that were previously scattered in a variety of sources and brought them together into a collection of limitations and rights on free speech on campus.

"Most of what is on this (draft) is not new; only a few exceptions, which apply to the vendors who come on campus, but those still have to be approved by the board," stated Holly Bogdanovich, director of student activities and free speech committee member.

The draft states that "Cerritos College identifies the area known as the 'Falcon Square' as the focal point for discussions and presentations on contemporary issues."

Which means that any group, be it students or not, may use the area as long as it doesn't interfere

See SPEECH page 3

Empty seats within senate

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The Associated Students of Cerritos College Senate faces 10 empty senatorial seats to fill for the spring semester, four of which were filled last week by the Senate.

There are several reasons why ASCC had 10 empty seats this spring.

Saul Romero, ASCC vice president and Senate president explained that the Senate is now finding itself having to fill those seats.

"We had three vacancies from last semester, we had two people transfer, three senators had class conflict issues, one had work con-

lict issues and one was unable to return and serve because of grades."

Senators are elected in the fall and serve one-year terms. If and when seats become available, the senate takes applications, reviews and votes on the appointments.

Approximately 32 seats are available each semester. A candidate for the Senate must have a 2.25 grade point average and be enrolled in a minimum of five units.

"There are always a few that drop out for whatever reason, it is usually school related," Liz Monge, program assistant II, said.

Despite the fact that the 10

See SEATS page 3

Missing: Students

Increase in tuition are a probable cause for the recent decline in student enrollment.



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Although many theories continue to swarm around campus, the cause for low enrollment during the Spring 2005 semester is unknown.

In January of 2004 there were a total of 22,947 students enrolled. This year, as of Jan. 21, the number of students enrolled adds up to 21,582. This means that compared to the previous spring semester enrollment has dropped by 1,365 students.

Although this may mean less parking problems for new or returning students, it can possibly bring far greater trouble for the college community as a whole.

Some administrators and faculty relate this spring's lack of enrollment and returning students to the government's increase in tuition fees.

"Although we try to...encourage (students) to stick around, sometimes there are outside forces that no one can control," said Director of Student Activities Holly Bogdanovich. "The thing we hope students are understanding, though, is that getting a higher education is far more important, no matter how far they need to go to get it."

Bogdanovich also explained that a drop of student enrollment doesn't just affect those involved in a classroom setting, but many

See ENROLLMENT page 3

Council adopts Downey Vision

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The Downey City Council adopted the Downey Vision 2025 for the city last Tuesday after a public hearing.

Downey Vision 2025 is a plan to make changes in the city and follow them over the next 20 years.

It is a comprehensive update of the city's general plan, including an update in the land use diagram and proposed chapters for land use, circulation, conservation, safety, noise, open space, design, economic development, and certifying an environmental impact report.

There are 30 areas for change in the plan and 19 were approved.

It has been a long process for the City Council, Planning Commission and the General Plan Committee appointed by the Council and city staff.

The committee had 30 sessions, five community meetings, two study sessions and two public hearings to look over the plans for the city. Also, a community survey was sent out to get opinions from the community about their likes

See DOWNEY page 3

Winter blood drive returns

Student Health Services sponsors its annual winter blood drive.

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Willing to give up some blood for free? What if it was to save a life? The Student Health Services is holding its annual winter blood drive, next Tuesday and Wednesday.

They will start taking volunteers at 8 a.m. and continue late into the evening, concluding at 8 p.m.

The American Red Cross will be on hand to stick needles in arms and suck the blood out of willing participants.

Students can either sign up by contacting the Student Health Services but the Red Cross representatives will also be accepting walk-ins.

What makes a donor eligible:

- At least 17 years old
- Feel well, not ill with fever, flu, or cold
- Not have HIV/AIDS

- Not have had a tattoo in the last 12 months
- Must be at least 110 pounds
- Not have donated in the last 56 days

Winter is usually the slowest time of the year for blood donations, and it is the most critical time due to the injuries that occur during this time of the year as stated in Talon Marks "Issue No. 12" by Dr. Charles Gale.

Other than next week's blood drive, blood can still be donated by contacting the American Red Cross at visit www.givelife.org or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543).

The blood drive held last November was held over a two-day period.

Students donated a total of 146 units of blood, which was enough to save 438 lives.

The Student Health Services has already collected a total of approximately 445-600 units through willing students who collectively have already saved a total of 1,800 lives.



CHRISTOPHER OLIVARES/TM

Festive meeting: Christina Fernandez, Photography Adviser, and Jeanne Johnson, cosmetology adviser participate in the Club Luncheon, sponsored by the Associated Students of Cerritos College.

Club advisors meet for spring semester

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Spring semester's club activities were discussed over Lasagna and Fettuccini Alfredo Tuesday.

Dean Ackland, supervisor of student activities, led the announcements by welcoming the clubs and having them introduce themselves.

More than 25 clubs had student representatives and advisors on hand to discuss upcoming events such as Hoe Down Days, for which applications for clubs participating in the carnival games are due by next Monday.

The luncheon was designed to bring the clubs together in one place to communicate about the different events on campus.

CRASH COURSE



CARLY LOZANO/TM

The owner of a 2001 Toyota Celica was looking for parking when the owner of a 1998 Toyota Camry backed up into it, crushing the front end of the Celica and damaging and deflating its front tires.

NEWS

Eddie Munster visits WPMD

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Former child star Butch Patrick, best known for his role as Eddie Munster in the 1960s hit television series, "The Munsters," made a brief visit to our campus radio station WPMD Saturday evening.

Patrick, along with his sidekick Ivonna Cadaver, appeared on WPMD's "The Many Moods of Vince Daniels," to promote their show at Macabre Theatre.

The show recently became nationally syndicated, so they are looking to get the word out to more people now that it is available through more channels, Cadaver said.

The show is broadcasted every Saturday at 8 p.m., and each week Cadaver welcomes viewers into her own private dungeon where she engages in defensible debauchery and hosts, some say, campy classic horror movies.

Although Patrick is not part of the show Ivonna hosts, he was the creator of the concept for the show.

"I came up with the idea a long time ago and I'm just happy to see it progressing," Patrick said.

Instead, Patrick hosts his own segment, "Haunted Hollywood," in which he visits haunted locations and discusses the true stories of the stars and scandals.

The hour-long segment on WPMD consisted of Cadaver, Patrick and Daniels discussing the characteristics of the



DIONA CARRILLO/TM
Munster: Ivonna Cadaver and Butch Patrick sit and chat with WPMD Broadcaster Vince Daniels.

Cadaver's show.

At one point during her show at Macabre Theatre, Cadaver has viewers participate in horror movie trivia; prizes are awarded to those who answer correctly.

Some horror trivia were also played out on the segment, but callers weren't as up to date with horror films as those who watch her show might be.

Listeners of the show were encouraged to stop by the college's radio station to view the broadcast and meet Patrick after the show.

This was the second appearance for Patrick and Cadaver on Daniels' radio show at WPMD.

Daniels, during Saturday's show, extended a welcome to both of them for a future third visit when he broadcasts his own TV trivia on WPMD, in which he will have celebrity guests Patrick and Cadaver compete against callers to the station.

After the show, Patrick talked about starting his own high definition television series where he will travel around the world in an RV.

Patrick said that he wants the show to promote RV life on the road and the different RV spots popular worldwide.

He also mentioned talk of another HDTV series in which he

rides a motorcycle around America while viewers watch him partake in his exciting adventures around the world.

In July, Patrick will be heading down to Romania to, "sleep in Dracula's Castle."

Daniels was very pleased that Patrick is willing to continue to take time out of his constant travel to stop by and chat with him on his show.

For more information on show listings of Macabre Theatre or on Many Moods of Vince Daniels, visit www.macabretheatre.com, or Cerritos College's radio station's website at WPMD www.cerritos.edu/wpmd.

Syracuse visitor mentors instructors

Instructors get a chance to better measure students' performance

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Developing supportive peer groups was the main focus of guest speaker Vincent Tito, a distinguished Syracuse University professor, at the staff development day conference held in the Teleconference Center last Thursday.

One of the attending faculty members was Debra Moore, a librarian at the campus library, who also teaches library 100.

"I know this gentleman has a lot of expertise on measuring student excellence. I'm hoping to learn more on how to measure students' outcome and improve their learning," Moore said.

Tito first spoke of the downfalls of the peer groups.

He said that in most cases, when little groups of three or four students are formed in a classroom, one student tends to do all of the work for the group.

"Studying together and becoming involved in learning groups improves the student's involvement, learning and persistence," Tito said of his research findings.

But Tito also encouraged

the faculty at the conference to stress to their students into getting to know each other in the peer groups. To exchange phone numbers, e-mail addresses and talk to each other after class.

This behavior leads to the students not only making friends, but it helps their learning process, Tito explained.

He also said that students who form these close peer groups tend to form study groups that meet outside of the classroom, and learning with a group always makes learning easier.

Tito gave several student testimonies of how the peer groups helped them. Each quote supported his research on peer groups.

Students in shared learning groups passed 76.6 percent of the time compared to non-group learning students whom only passed 55.9 percent of the time, Tito exclaimed.

Many of the faculty in attendance implemented learning groups in their classrooms already, but others did not.

Tito is part of a long-going study called, the Trio Program. The Trio Program is comprised of three departments: talent search, upward bound and special services.

"I've spoken at hundreds of institutes, maybe 500; I have been doing this for a very long time," Tito said.

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NEWS

ASCC appoints four, loses one

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Appointment was the word of the week for ASCC senators and it may be for weeks to come, since only four seats and one cabinet position, of the 10 openings were filled this past Wednesday, with the dislike for the Talonmarks as one of the criteria for being appointed.

That, as well as offensive material in the computer lab, lack of enrollment and the resignation of Vanessa Grine, chief justice, accounted for the majority of the meeting.

After several minutes of questioning, Guillermo Tellez, sociology major; Michael Alvarez, political science major; Marcella Sadler, peace and conflict studies major and Angelica Ornelas, paralegal major, were all appointed unanimously to the senate.

Casha Gatlin, criminal justice major, was appointed to the ASCC cabinet as Commissioner of Student Services; her appointment was also unanimous.

Jerret Henderson, faculty senate liaison, brought to attention the editorial in "issue 14" of the Talon Marks, which he felt took personal shots at the senate, and was poorly written. He urged all senators to read it.

President Pro-Temp Paulo Amaral addressed concerns about his committee to "fix" the paper was disbanded, by stating that it had never disbanded but that the plan they had for the paper was a secret.

Henderson then went on to

question each candidate for senate on their opinion of the newspaper. Tellez commented that he "wanted to give you a high five when you said that [Jarrod's dislike of the editorial]."

After which Henderson said, "He's in."

Senator Josh Lopez also brought to the attention of the student body something that he found personally offensive.

It appears that students have been using the computers in the lab to download pornography and engage in lude acts.

"There was one person who was doing more than watching," he said.

Lopez stood up to his offender. According to him, "I went and informed the front desk and the student was escorted out. I don't think he goes here anymore."

In other matters, Holly Bogdanovich, director of student activities, mentioned that enrollment for night time students is down 14 percent.

Overall, there are 21,613 students 4,136 of which are on probation. This accounts for a total drop of 5.8 percent.

Aside from determining the number of senators for next year's senate, the lack of enrollment does have a direct affect on the senators.

"We get money from I.D. sales. Two thousand missing students means 2,000 IDs we can't sell," Bogdanovich said.

The lack of funds, senators, quality of the school paper and students did not compel Grine to stay on one more semester as chief justice.

It also states under the title "Commission," (section 10.1, page 11) that in addition to gross revenue payments to the school district, "Follett will provide a guaranteed annual income of \$275,000 to District. District shall receive either the guaranteed annual income or the commission, whichever is greater in any contract year."

The contract also states under the same section that "The gross revenue percent payment formula shall supersede the guarantee rates in any year that comparable enrollment drops by over five percent from the prior academic year or technological/competitive changes dramatically impact store sales."

Flovick noted that the bookstore does not create the price for textbooks. Publishers approach instructors with their books. If the instructor chooses to use the book, they inform the school and fill out necessary forms. From there, Follett sells the book at the publishers' prices.

"When I graduated from school in 1987, the cost per unit at community colleges was \$33," Flovick noted, "everybody has a certain way, from the students to the instructors. Publishers also have to make a profit."

Follett, which runs over 700 bookstores in the United States and Canada, recommends purchasing used books on its website, which states that "buying used books saves students 25 percent and more on textbook costs."

Although both sides prove interesting cases, for now, faculty are choosing to focus on how to get student enrollment back up.

"We can't pinpoint one single thing right now," Bogdanovich said, "all we can do for now is maintain what we have and work at it."



Cabinet: ASCC president, Josh Franco discusses the money collected during the month-long Tsunami relief effort. The book store and buckets set throughout campus collected a total of \$1,200.

Relief raises \$3,700

ASCC cabinet discusses Tsunami relief figures

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Did you make a donation for the tsunami relief while you were buying books at the beginning of the semester? If you did, you helped Cerritos College raise more than \$3,700. This was one of the items discussed at Monday's ASCC cabinet meeting.

The bookstore alone collected \$2,529 according to ASCC President Josh Franco.

The remainder of the money was collected in buckets by ASCC students who walked around campus encouraging contribu-

tions. The Operation Outreach program was also discussed.

"It's (operation outreach) a way for students to contact the ASCC" stated Mathematics major, David Shade.

The intention of this program is to inform students how to communicate with their student government.

"It's a way for students to contact the ASCC" stated Shade.

ASCC plans on talking to instructors and fellow classmates, make in-class announcements on activities taking place in the student government and putting up posters that will inform students about the program.

In addition to Operation

Outreach, the cabinet also talked about a new web site informing people of what takes place in different ASCC meetings. The web-site is GoCerritos.com.

The upcoming blood drive was also mentioned. Cabinet members were informed that it will be held next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Students were encouraged to volunteer in the upcoming Hoe Down Days.

Vice-President, Saul Romero also mentioned that the Senate approved four new senators and one new cabinet member.

Along with the new cabinet members' Franco acknowledged that those same cabinet and Senate members will be part of the Outreach program.

Seats: Senate looks to fill empty seats

Continued from page 1

seats represent a third of all senate seats, the number is consistent as 10 senators were appointed last year as well.

The three vacancies that transferred over from the fall semester occurred due to different reasons, including absences and conflicts that prevented the senators from even finishing that term.

The two transfers, according to Romero, are welcomed and congratulated.

"We are here for education first and foremost."

"Those who had scheduling problems came and told me about it, so that is how we knew about four more seats," Romero added.

"I almost had a conflict myself, but I figured a way around it," Romero confessed.

Party whip Alex Armendariz had a similar situation with conflicting classes, but according to him, he fixed it and moved on.

"Being here (a part of the senate) is very important to me," he said.

The senator with grade conflicts was unable to return because the senate has a stringent policy on failing classes.

Downey: City deals with overcrowding

Continued from page 1

and dislikes about the city.

There were only 193 responses out of the 40,000 that were sent out; those received included both positive and negative reactions of the city. The survey mostly looked for changes to the community as a whole and for what the residents felt was most important to improve.

The survey showed that the number one item on the residents' list was the need for more restaurants in the city.

Residents also asked for better shopping areas and regulations for

Chief Justice resigns

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Vanessa Grine, ASCC chief justice, resigned from her position last Tuesday during an ASCC court meeting. Had she stayed, this would have been her sixth consecutive semester serving for ASCC.

"I have seen so much. I've presided for so many meetings. It's a matter of choice," Grine said. "I really reflected on all the past semesters I've experienced, and I've realized what I wanted to get out of it most importantly, I wanted to learn more about myself."

She also added, "We have more applicants than positions available...I'm taking away this experience from someone else."

In Grine's six years of service in the ASCC, she has accomplished many goals. Before her position as Chief Justice, she was an Associate Justice for two semesters. Her achievements include two gold falcon awards, two ASCC scholarships and the president award.

Growth has been part of Grine's objective. "Where do I go from here?" she has asked herself.

Regarding her future plans, Grine said, "I'm going to Cal State Long Beach. I was considering also being part of counsel there. It's been such a positive impact on my life."

"It made my experience in Cerritos College more comfortable," she said.

"She's done so well," Holly Bogdanovich, director of ASCC, commented in the meeting, "and we're all going to miss her very much."

the improvement of the appearance of residential areas, including keeping up with landscaping.

Concern for parking, traffic, crime/gangs and the commercial areas was also noted.

There was discussion in the committee meetings about building a row of restaurant near Stonewood Mall.

Over the past decade, Downey has seen a 15 percent growth in population and an increase in the average size of households in the city.

The population is expected to increase by 6,000 over the next 20 years.

An update on the housing plan is not scheduled until 2007, but with Downey Vision 2025 the city is looking at an overall increase in housing to accommodate the growing city.

ENROLLMENT: fee increase may not be only reason for drops

Continued from page 1
other aspects of student life as well.

Nearing the end of the Fall 2004 semester, ASCC encountered a loss of \$33,000. Bogdanovich said that ASCC's theory was that the shortage may have been caused by the drop in Photo ID card sales.

Bogdanovich stresses that if the income loss continues, programs, clubs, campus events, and maybe even staff members may suffer.

"The school will have to use its money wisely," she said.

The fee increase may be the most logical explanation for low enrollment. Yet others think there may be other reasons why students are choosing to post-pone their education.

"Textbooks are even more expensive now," said nursing major Claudia Lopez, "I understand why the fee's would be a problem, because I have bills too. But the books are what usually kill me." Lopez also confessed that she did not purchase books for some classes because of their price.

According to Paul Flovick, store manager of campus bookstore Follett Higher Education Group, during this semester's first week of classes, Follett made between \$900,000 and \$1 million on book sales alone.

The current contract between Cerritos College and Follett, section 9.2a, page 10 states that, "Follett will charge industry standard, competitive and fair prices..."

SPEECH: Committee to approve policies

Continued from page 1

n't interfere with the learning process taking place on campus any time classes are in session.

Another restriction for groups interested in using the Falcon Square for free speech purposes is that they must reserve the space in advance for a certain amount of time; also, no other group may hold a demonstration or interfere in any way with the group in current use of the space.

Erlinda Martinez, vice-president of student services, said that "students are allowed to demonstrate as long as they demonstrate in a reasonable time, place and manner."

Martinez stated that the purpose of the policies is for students to feel safe on campus.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL



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Is that zone taken? I need to speak

Imagine a place where freedom meant something and your rights were protected allowing you to speak freely when you did not like something. That place used to be the United States. Well it may very well still be, but our campus may not qualify at least not when you are not in the proper zone.

Cerritos College is currently in the process of creating "Free Speech Zones" where the first Amendment will actually apply.

A free speech zone is an area set aside for protesters within which law enforcement supposedly will not interfere, but may arrest them if they venture out of it.

A Free Speech Zone, is not the administration quad where three M.E.Ch.A. students were detained for leading an anti-Bush protest.

The zones may not be so strict, but the potential to be stringent as well.

For example during the Third Reich the only "Free Speech Zone" was in Hitler's head.

But this is America and we have at the core of our freedom the Bill of Rights which is anchored by the most refreshing of all rights the freedom to speak unabridged whether it be in spoken or written form or even as an organized group.

Yet, when President Bush travels around the United States, the Secret Service visits the location ahead of time and orders local police to set up "free speech zones" or "protest zones" where people opposed to Bush are quarantined.

These zones thrive in keeping protesters out of presidential sight and



ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERTO ESTARNETA

outside the view of media covering the event.

So it does not come as a shock that the Cerritos' powers have the audacity to attempt and tell us where we can and can't be free.

This school is, after all, a public school, of the people for the people.

The establishment of these zones is subversive to our constitution and is therefore unfit for any US citizen.

The zones may not be very strin-

gent or even affect you directly, but where is the line.

If we allow them to dictate where we can and cannot speak freely, then we are giving them an inch on the rope that will choke away our free-

dom.

It is better for students to act now then to wait for the zones to go into effect. Go to your ASCC president or to Dr. Vela and have your voices heard while you still can. Organize a petition or even a protest to the anti-protest proposals.

If the three M.E.Ch.A. students were chanting "Go Falcons! Go!" then they would have rest assured gone throughout campus with out so much of a glitch.

It was the fact that their message was a controversial one and the fact that they did not ask for permission to march that led to their detainment.

That is an example of what giving an inch could lead to. The D.A. knew the dangerous in pursuing a free speech case, especially since M.E.Ch.A. was not posing any dangerous. An anti-war protest is not exactly shouting fire in a crowded theater.

If we give in now then what is to stop the school from preventing a student representative from being on its board.

We might even have the "Patriot Act" extended to Falcon Square.

If Cerritos College was America, it would be the equivalent of Bush proposing a law that limited free speech to Texas and only if protesters asked for permission first. If Cerritos College is to remain an essential American institute of learning, then it must remain free and unabridged by badges and doctorate degrees.



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

Creationism is for the birds, not our schools

Do you remember that one law that insures the separation of church and state?

Well, for those who can't seem to remember, the Wikipedia Encyclopedia states, "The separation of church and state is a concept in law whereby the structures of state or national government are kept separate from those of religious institutions."

Although this law does in fact exist for the American people, some either seem to have forgotten it or believe that it needs to be changed.

Freedom of religion is one of our constitutional rights, and by those rights everyone has the right to exercise what they choose to believe.

Religion is something special to anyone who participates in it as a group, cult, individual or whatever it is to them.

But to have religion in schools?

School is not about the teaching of religion. School is about teaching education, or facts some may say.

There are some classes that teach practices of different religions around the world, but as a philosophy of each and not to promote a certain belief.

Schools are controlled by the state, therefore they fall into the category of the law that insures the separation of church and state in



America.

When I heard on a weekly news station that Wisconsin citizens disagree and then saw a headline on the ABC News web site stating, "Wis. City's Schools Allowing Creationism: Wisconsin School District to Allow Theories Other Than Evolution, Including Creationism," printed, I was outraged.

The law does not prohibit religion itself in schools; people are free to pray to God, Allah, Buddha, or whomever they wish to while attending school, but no religion is allowed to actually be taught, the way evolution is taught in schools.

There has always been great controversy between the studies and teachings of evolution and the creationism theory.

There are in fact big differences in the two, one being scientific facts, and the other pure belief; not to say that religion is wrong or even subordinate to evolution, I'm just stating that the two topics of interest are very much different.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"Ali Chahine, you are wrong"

Ali Chahine recently wrote saying, among other things, "Shouldn't we give our loyalty to the pursuit of peace and equality throughout the world?" and also, "I have no dreams that one day the United States... conquers the world."

Everyone reading this article, look around you. Right now, the order of society you see is not caused by some idealistic drive to have peace. It is caused by the enforcement of law.

The kingdom of heaven, as taught by Christ, has not found itself so lodged in our hearts that law enforcement has been replaced by self-government. "Can't we all just get along?" is mere sentimentalism. Without law, we have no society.

Certainly someday "the nations will learn war no more," but it is sentimental idealism that thinks that today is that day.

Review the latest news. You see the European Union unsuccessfully attempting by negotiation to halt Iranian nuclear production. They have "strongly insisted" that Iran stop now. But Iran has simply told them no, even admitting it has enough oil that it doesn't really need nuclear power.

You see, there is no enforcement of law behind the voice that says, "Stop what you're doing!" Now I am not going to go into whether America will attack Iran next, but it proves my point that unless you have enforcement of law, there is no law.

Read up on how many laws of peace the United Nations has passed, and also read up on how those members who pass them even admit that without America backing them up with might, those laws are simply sentimental, symbolic.

The fact is, if America doesn't rule the world, China will. And far better that American democracy, internally self-reparable by the

ent.

The teaching of evolution has never been used as a tactic to get students to believe that creationism is false or that their beliefs are wrong.

Evolution is being taught because it is part of the educational criteria deemed necessary by schools.

But to teach creationism in schools means that religion will in fact be taught to students.

Anyone know of any laws being broken?

The thing is, there is no right or wrong way of thinking when it comes to either evolutionists or creationists; but those trying, and succeeding in some states, to allow creationism or "theories other than evolution," to be taught in schools have really gone a bit over board.

We already have a country whose anthem clearly introduces religion upon people when one of the main verses is "God Bless America."

We already have a President whose decisions of war, marriage among two people and many others is based on what his God believes is right. What more do you want?

Teach your children religion if you wish, or better yet, send them to catechism or whatever religious school you wish, but don't force everyone else to believe in what you do.

This is America, not church.

vote, rule the world than a communist China that is becoming more profit-motivated capitalist than America.

Rather than complain about America's rule of the world, perhaps it is better to improve the morality of that America, so that when it does rule, it will rule justly.

It is not Bush who is to blame for our problems; it is the man who refuses to lift a finger to stop a crime, thus allowing it to happen. It is the society that does not really discipline its criminals, thus allowing their selfish determination to grow.

It is moral relativism that allows immorality to exist. It is the people who refuse to accept that a democratic nation made up of all peoples is the

only nation qualified to rule all peoples. And somebody, by force, will rule.

Jacob Dix
Citizen of Norwalk

CAMPUS COMMENT

Due to the arrests made on campus for protesting last semester, do you believe Students' First Amendment Rights on campus should be more clear?

COMPILED BY: NANCY ACEVES
PHOTOS BY: RAYMOND CONCHA



"Yes, they should get warned so they will not get punished for doing something they didn't know was wrong."

ADRIANA TORRES
Registered Nurse



"No, because there is already a First Amendment right in the U.S. Constitution and it does not limit to where they can protest."

MARC REYES
Photography



"Yes, because if they don't define it people will interpret it in different ways."

JOSHUA LOPEZ
Undecided



"No, I think that more words do not necessarily make it more clear; the Government already defined the First Amendment."

STEVE SWANK
Photography



"Definitely, so it won't happen again; what rights do we have if we can't express them?"

ALFREDO CARRILLO
Undecided

Support our troops

Freedom. It's the yearning of the human soul. It has become such a well-known and valued word in the American language.

Its significance stretches out from the very fibers of time itself, far back into the history of the world.

It's evident in our own history as well. It's the reason the pilgrims left England hundreds of years ago, and the very principle on which this nation was founded.

When the pilgrims first stepped foot on Plymouth Rock in 1620, no doubt they fell to their knees in gratitude to God for delivering them from their persecutors.

Yet they were not completely free, for they remained in servitude to England for another 155 years.

Finally in 1776 the accumulated injustices of a tyrannical ruler caused an outbreak of rebellion, and the American Revolution began.

Eight years later America saw true freedom for the first time since its founding.

Following our nation's history, it's apparent that America's purpose for going to war has always been to attain human dignity and freedom, not only for Americans but for the world.

Yet it was never easily achieved. Freedom has always demanded a price. Perhaps that is the reason we value it so highly today.



Now we face a different kind of war.

It's evident not only outside our borders but in our hearts and minds.

People are torn today; torn between the reality they want to believe, and the reality that is.

Americans are being flooded by anti-war/anti-Bush protesters, who seeing through the eyes of the media and people such as Michael Moore, may think they know what is really going on in the world.

But should they look instead through the eyes of a soldier, they would see a different reality than what is fed to them.

They would see someone who believes in what they are doing for the world and puts their life on the line every day for the glorious cause of freedom.

While protesting is a protected right, I see it as a disservice to our men and women in uniform.

Our troops need to know that we believe in them and are standing behind them in support of what they know to be a great commission; a chance to spread the freedom we often take for granted.

Does it really matter that the reasons for the war have changed numerous times?

Life changes direction all the time and we have the choice of learning to accept it and work with it, or to become disillusioned and hate it.

The war began to bring an end to terrorism.

Then the focus was aimed at the weapons of mass destruction, and now we have a new endeavor which is to bring peace and liberty to a country that is desperately, yet silently, crying out for it.

I would think that Americans would be proud of the fact that when our nation sees a country in need, it takes the initiative to lend a hand.

Instead, people quibble about the many turns the war has taken since it began.

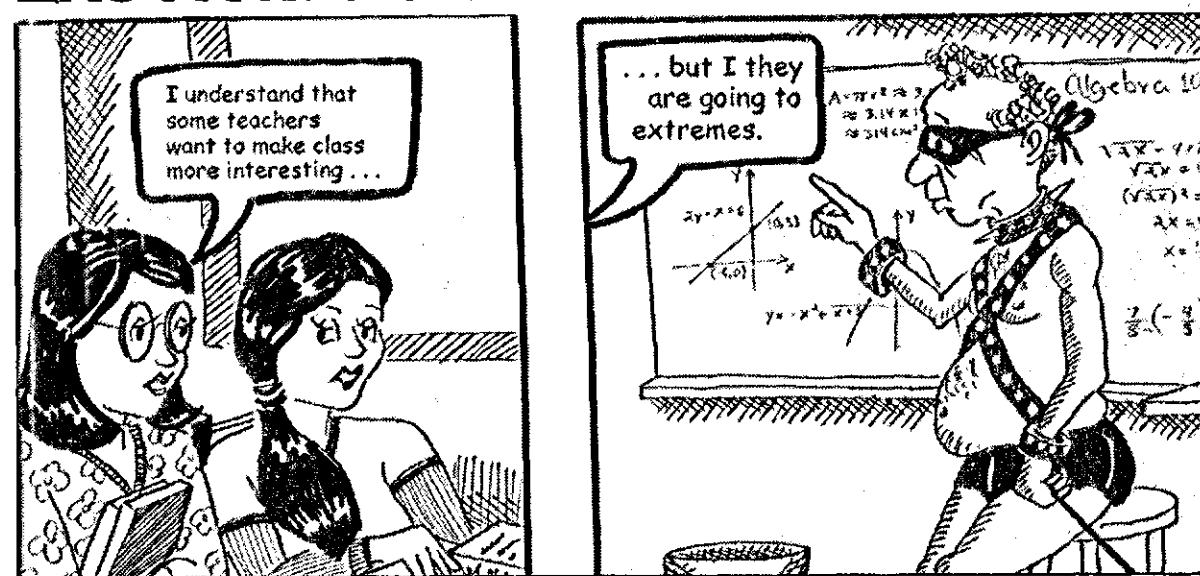
Some argue that the war should have been over a long time ago, but again, they only see a part of the story.

They hear the words, but they don't know the faces of the countless people who live in gratitude to our soldiers for all they have accomplished and for what they continue to do.

Rather than creating endless rhetoric about how the war should be over, America must instead become a backbone of support to our fellow countrymen here and abroad.

When our soldiers look toward home, let them see an entire nation, undivided, standing behind them and supporting their cause; the cause of freedom.

LAS HURRACAS BY STARNETTA



Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



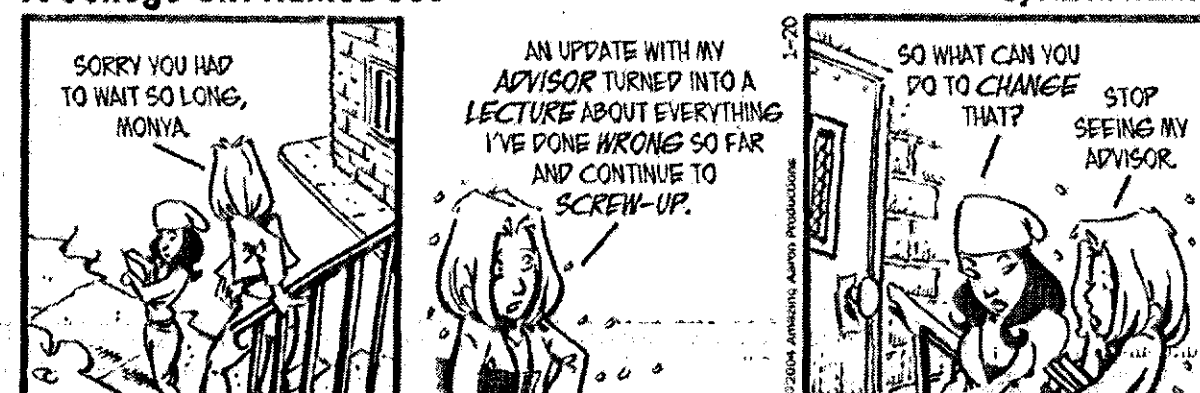
2 Dudes

By Aaron Warner



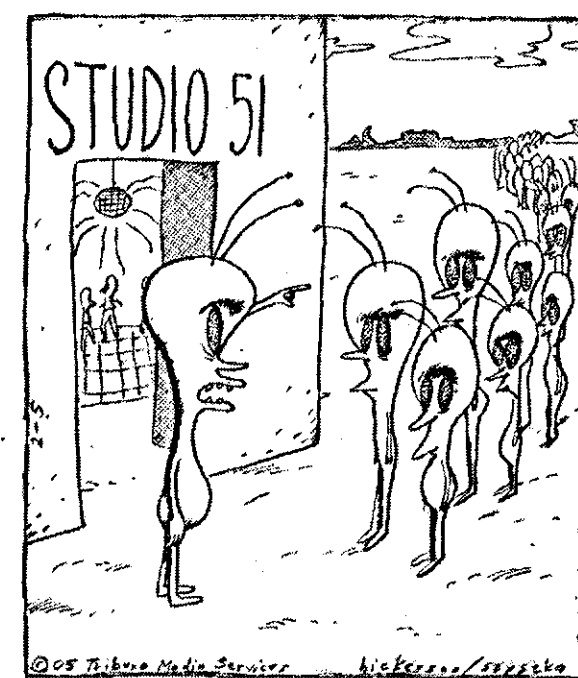
A College Girl Named Joe

By Aaron Warner



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



"Okay, you in the back with the big eyes ... you can go in."

TRIVIA TEST

Answers online at www.talonmarks.com

- By Fiti Rodriguez
- TELEVISION: On TV's "M*A*S*H," what was Radar O'Reilly's job?
 - ENTERTAINERS: What was the first name of the actor/father of Lynn and Vanessa Redgrave?
 - SCIENCE: To what do Kirchhoff's Laws apply?
 - GEOGRAPHY: Vilnius is the capital of what country?
 - LITERATURE: Who wrote the classic "Little House on the Prairie"?
 - MUSIC: The composer Tchaikovsky died and songwriter Cole Porter was born in what year?
 - HISTORY: Who was elected governor of Louisiana in 1928?
 - MOVIES: Who directed the 1951 movie "Strangers on a Train"?
 - ANIMAL KINGDOM: What do you call a group of hens?
 - MONEY: What is the basic monetary unit in Egypt?

You Are Here

By Aaron Warner



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



A child's mind is no game

Is it true that what you put into a child is what comes out? Video games for children have become more than just fun and games.

At a young age, many children are not intellectually inclined to separate fantasy from reality.

Games like "True Crimes" and "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" depict violent crime sprees carried out through the streets of Los Angeles.

Many might say that they are just games, but should a child be exposed to these cruel and barbaric scenes in which they are able to kill police officers and even car-jack and kidnap innocent pedestrians?

Video games first started out with the intention to entertain the mind, but now some of them are used to corrupt the mind.

Children are now able to virtually carry a gun and go to war without even being old enough to



obtain a driving permit. To even say that these games are appropriate for adults would be totally absurd.

Adults, however, are able to make their own decisions and should be able to differentiate reality from fantasy.

Any parent who condones these games to be played by his or her child is self-consciously creating a possible negligent member to society.

The video game field is booming, and is currently making more money than the movie industry; no wonder the movie industry will produce just about anything.

Many of these video games are teaching children that it's alright and even cool to steal cars, shoot cops and run people over for the

sake of having fun.

What happened to the games that were meant to stimulate a child's mind, like "Pac Man"? Classic games like this one are now considered boring to many children.

When introduced to games such as "GTA," no wonder why "Pac Man" may be considered boring!

To showcase to a child that the repugnant behavior in these video games is all right in any way is absolutely disturbing.

One who sees this behavior and feels that it is alright to carry out these crimes in real life does not recognize the outcome of their actions.

When it comes to children there is a fine line between fun and games, and what may eventually contribute to shaping their lives for the worse.

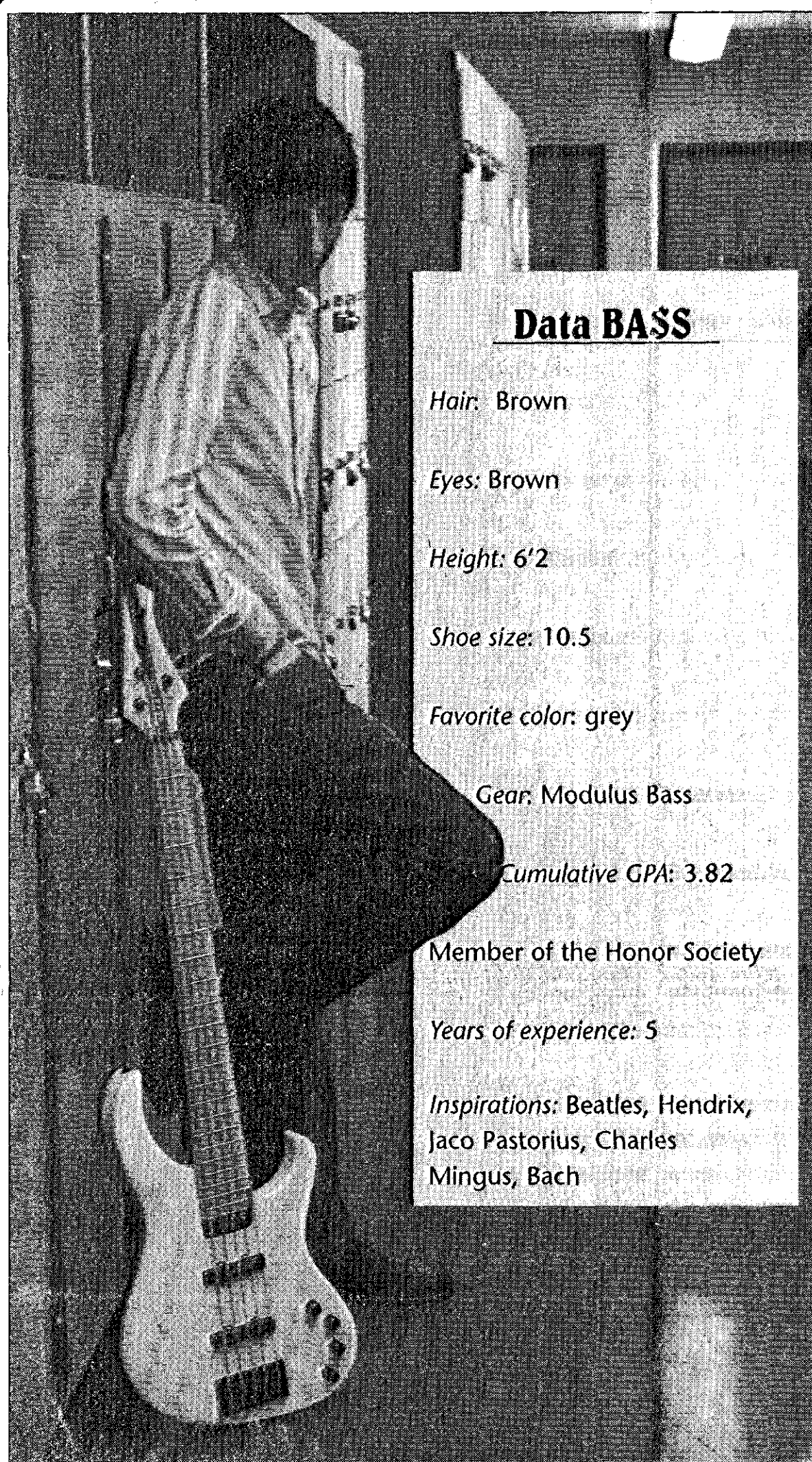
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Band Origins

Bassist aspires to assemble dream jazz, hip hop band

An in-depth look at the creation of Atwater's Assembly

JON GARCIA
A&E Editor
A&E@talanmarks.com



Data BASS

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Height: 6'2

Shoe size: 10.5

Favorite color: grey

Gear: Modulus Bass

Cumulative GPA: 3.82

Member of the Honor Society

Years of experience: 5

Inspirations: Beatles, Hendrix, Jaco Pastorius, Charles Mingus, Bach

CATHY LOZANO/1M
"He is the ideal musician. Although it's time consuming, it's something he wants to do. He passes his strong work ethics on to others," Andres Avendano commented on Atwater's dedication.

For some, college is an environment that encourages growth, continuing education and maturity.

For others, it's a period of self-reflection that allows them to observe their surroundings, while trying to understand who they really are in life.

For 19-year-old Nathan Atwater, it's more.

Atwater, a music major, an aspiring bassist with a dream that constantly inspires him to be something in life, is taking college extremely serious these days.

Setting his goals high, his standards even higher, and his hard work ethics highest, Atwater is chasing a dream that only two years ago did not exist.

Growing up in a homely environment, with a mother and a father, as well as two brothers, Atwater (the middle child of the three) discovered his creative urges yearning to be unleashed at the age of 11, when he started teaching himself to play the keyboard.

Who knew that just eight years later, the boy who once sat with a dusty keyboard, fiddling around with the black and white keys, no goals or aspirations to enter the field of music but with plenty of passion inside, would be well on his way to becoming a great role model for all.

Atwater has managed to keep himself busy this year.

Not only is he in the applied music program on campus, but he is also involved in the ultimate growing experience through a directed studies program.

Directed studies allows students to become interns, so to speak, as they work one-on-one with a professor, while trying to achieve a personal goal.

In Atwater's case, the goal being to successfully start his own jazz band. Atwater's Assembly is what he calls it.

"I have the desire to perform. Our (musicians') exposure to public performance is not as good as it should be. This is a great way to exhibit our talent."

Atwater's drive to succeed in life is not the only thing that makes him so different from other Cerritos College students.

Even while taking 18 units this semester, Atwater has continually maintained a 3.82 GPA for the last three semesters, works a part time job, plays bass in his church's worship team, maintains a well-balanced social life and still finds time to spend with his family.

"I find him to be dedicated and excited about his project," Laura Cendejas, who will be singing soprano in the jazz group said.

"His enthusiasm for the group is one of the reasons I joined. I'm a very busy person, this is not something I do often, but it's different from what I do on a daily basis. It's a great opportunity to expand as an artist and performer."

Understanding that his priorities need to be kept in sight, Atwater, hopes to someday be a music director at a church.

"In many areas of my musical ability, I just cannot compete with others who have been doing it for years. But with practice, studying and application, I believe that I can grow to a higher level than I am at now," Atwater said.

"I know I am quite behind in the game, but I do feel I am growing musically everyday."

Atwater has assembled a group of eight musicians whom he feels are qualified to help see his vision through.

The group consists of two vocalists, one bass player, one guitar player, one pianist, two horn players and a drummer.

"We definitely have potential," drummer Steven Martin said. "Every musician in the group is skilled in their own instrument."

"I'm definitely looking forward to playing some shows. I

feel that it will get my jazz chops up to speed, as well as help me become a better entertainer."

Though the project is a learning experience for Atwater, he is not going through it alone.

All of the group members have expectations and goals to accomplish while playing in the group.

Andres Avendano, the guitarist of the band says "He (Atwater) is the ideal musician. Although it's time consuming, it's something he wants to do. He passes his strong work ethics on to others."

Avendano, who has been playing guitar for five years, feels that the experience will not only be a growing one, but an emotional one that will allow him to become more involved with music.

"Everything fluctuates. Sometimes you're at the top of your game, sometimes your not, but you realize that music is a part of you."

"It's not an instrument you're playing, it's an extension of who you are."

Cendejas also feels strongly about the growing experience.

"It's necessary for every individual to find their own creativity," he said.

"This project will definitely help me in that area," he said.

And, yet still, Atwater says he is really hoping to have a successful group that can play both on and off campus.

"It's a great opportunity for me to work on my communication skills; I'll get a better understanding of how bands operate," he said.

Atwater hopes to accomplish a lot throughout the semester.

His aspirations admired by all, as well as his will to better this world one musical note at a time, Atwater definitely has a game plan that he intends on seeing through.

For more information on upcoming group performances, you can email attwater-assembly@yahoo.com.

Hip hop sounds better Classic

New cd fuses jazz and hip hop

CHRISTINA YU
Staff Writer
cyl1@talanmarks.com

Accompanied by the smooth tones of up and coming jazz artists The Hypknotics, Othello provokes feeling and spirituality with his refreshing lyricism throughout his newly released album Classic.

With today's familiar mainstream music, many people are not aware of the massive underground culture that has been arising in hip hop.

There has been a huge following developing in hip hop throughout the United States, and this culture has spread to countries all around the globe such as Europe, Asia and South America.

This collaboration between Othello and The Hypknotics has allowed them to combine the elements of hip hop and jazz, producing a clever sound combination.

Classic, containing a total of 11 tracks, completes their mission of a successful syndication of hip hop and jazz.

With tracks such as "Organic" and "Right Now," Othello expresses his struggles and outlook on his life and career.

"Peace" is a track that conveys his appreciation for his artistry, using symbolic imagery and his views on our society.

Although most of the tracks are accompanied with the ambiance of jazzy melodies and beats, "Rock Rock" contains a more

upbeat and hip hop feel, which brings rousing energy to the soul.

Othello's lyrics are encouraging, motivating people to get up and be productive in their lives.

His true talent and essence is shown beautifully by his positive and motivating lyrics.

"Classic" is truly an album that people could nod their heads to, and also relax to.

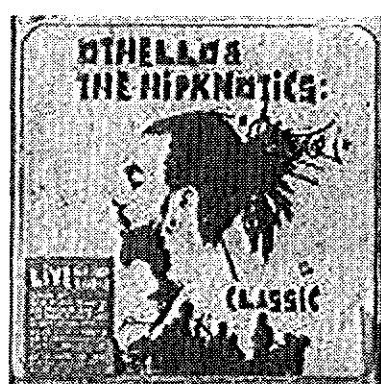
Presently residing in Portland, Othello has been rhyming for 10 years and has just elevated his solo career with this album, "Classic."

He is also a member of another underground hip hop group called Lightheaded.

The Hypknotics, consisting of four members: Dalan on the Fender Rhodes, Mortland on bass, Bisordi on drums and Lothian on sax, have been playing together for about five years now.

Othello and The Hypknotics will be going on a Japan tour along with The Proccussions in early March 2005.

For more information about these artists, go to <http://www.3sixteen.com>.



SOUNDCHECK

Grammy nominees for record of the year

- LET'S GET IT STARTED
The Black Eyed Peas; Will.i.am, producer

- HERE WE GO AGAIN
Ray Charles & Norah Jones; John Burk, producer

- AMERICAN IDIOT
Green Day; Billie Joe Armstrong, Rob Cavallo, Mike Dirnt & Tre Cool, producers

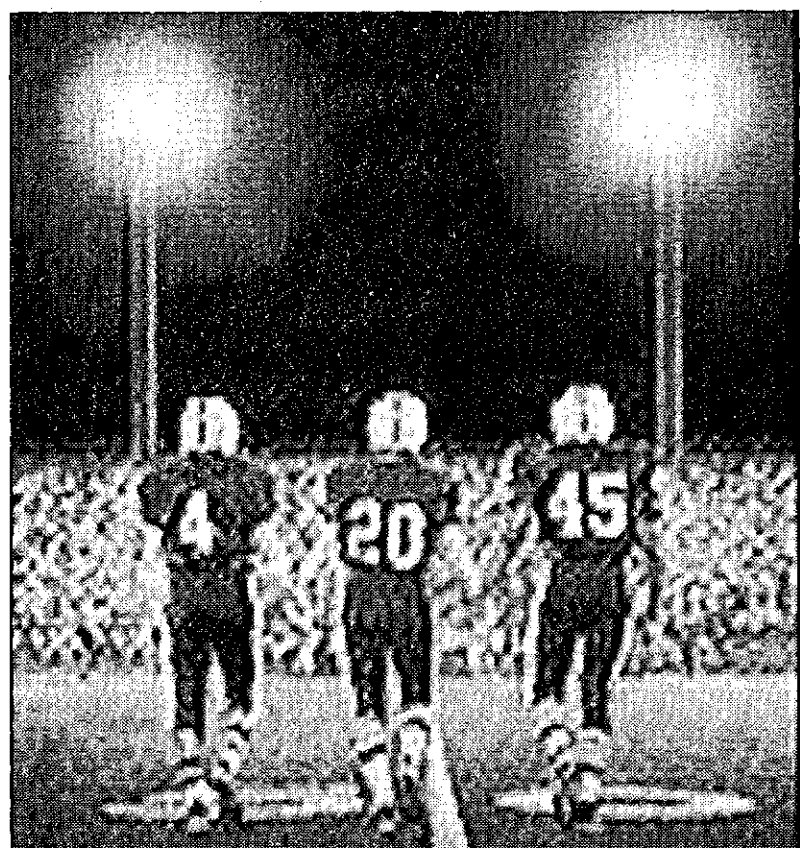
- HEAVEN
Los Lonely Boys; John Porter, producer

- YEAH!!
Usher Featuring Lil Jon & Ludacris; Jonathan "Lil Jon" Smith, producer

SOUNDCHECK

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A true legend laid to rest



Young and old alike appreciate and commemorate the king of late night television, Johnny Carson.

Sunem Rivas
copy editor
srias1@talonmarks.com

Our generation may never know what a true performer looks like again.

The often called "king of late night," the single most powerful performer on television between 1962 and 1992, 79-year-old Johnny Carson, died Jan. 23.

His 30-year domination of late-night television was mainly possible because at the time, most people across the country received only four stations, giving him a possible 25 to 50 percent audience for his "The Tonight show" at any given point.

But Carson did not run by the same luck when he came face to face with the effects of emphysema, the result of years of smoking, a habit acquired by so many in his generation.

"It's like the death of a family member," Craig Breit, professor of theater communications, said. "His humor, his values and upbringing, reflected a lot of middle America during his time on the 'The Tonight show'. A lot of people identified with and could relate to him."

As the host and part writer of "The Tonight show," he was the most popular star of American television.

According to the New York Times, he tucked 10 to 15 mil-

lion Americans to bed with his monologues each night, something our generation may never get to experience first hand, because television now shares an equal spot at entertaining us along with the internet, ipods and video games, etc.

"Before VCRs it was painful. For the first 20 years that he was on the show, if you wanted to see him you had to stay up until 12:30 in the morning," Breit said. "It changed American sleeping patterns. Everyone went to work tired the next morning."

Carson's topics for jokes varied from politicians, to celebrities, to himself.

Although he held no authority, his views were almost always regarded as fact and held so strong with the public, that it affected those who he criticized.

For example, during the Watergate scandal, Richard Nixon found himself on the spotlight when Carson created a monologue just for his actions.

During those three decades, Carson earned millions of dollars for himself and the National Broadcasting Company, all while bringing new talent like Barbra Streisand and Jay Leno into the world of television.

"He gave me a shot on his show and in doing so gave me a career," David Letterman said to CNN. "A night does not go by that I don't ask myself, 'What would Johnny have done?'"

While Carson enjoyed his part as the center of attention in front of the camera, once off the spotlight he was a private, self-described loner who would rather play tennis than attend a party.

"No one got to know him," said comedian Joan Rivers to CNN. "He was very private."

In fact, after retiring from "The Tonight show," Carson could not be convinced to have any special appearances on television.

He wanted to be remembered by what he gave when he was on the show.

"Carson brought the spontaneity that is lacking in network TV today. Everything is so artificial now. If you don't laugh a laugh track will do it for you. Watching him was like watching a trapeze act without a net," Breit said.

Instead, with the advice of Peter Lassally, his executive producer and friend, Carson went behind the scenes, providing lines for David Letterman to perform on his show.

"It gave him great pleasure," Lassally said to CNN. "He'd pick up a paper in the morning and could think of a dozen jokes and had no outlet for them, so I urged him to share them with America."

After 4,531 episodes, Carson said goodbye to television by speaking directly to an estimated 50 million American viewers, but like the private man he always was, left the world in silence with only his family's company.

"There are a lot of people my age who got into professions and borrowed a lot from his style and humor," Breit said. "He was a very influential man."

In his Jan. 23 show, Letterman said, "He has been greatly missed since his retirement. Thank God for videotapes and DVDs."

In this regard, he will always be around."

A DVD worth watching

Enthralling action sequences provide for another enjoyable 'pig skin' classic

DAVID PEREZ
Co-Sports Editor
sports@talonmarks.com

Texas, where football is more of a lifestyle than a game, lays claim to one of high school football's greatest stories.

The 1988 Odessa-Permian Panthers created priceless memories and thrilling moments captured in the movie "Friday Night Lights."

Head coach Gary Gaines (Billy Bob Thornton) leads the small-town Panthers into a season of high expectations in a school rich with a winning tradition.

Boosters, school officials, alumni and townspeople push the coaches and players alike to strive for perfection against all odds. Nothing comes easy for the Panthers as they push for their ultimate goal: a Texas State Championship.

Numerous obstacles and hardships challenge the will of the team, uniting the players beyond the realm of football.

Innovative, cutting-edge camera angles project the high-paced action of life on the "gridiron." Unique player relationships and contrasting personalities make "Friday Night Lights" a tangible, real-world experience.

The DVD further enhances the enthralling story line, offering behind-the-scenes exclusives.

Country-singer-turned-actor Tim McGraw talks about his first acting job and why "Friday Night Lights" peaked his interest.

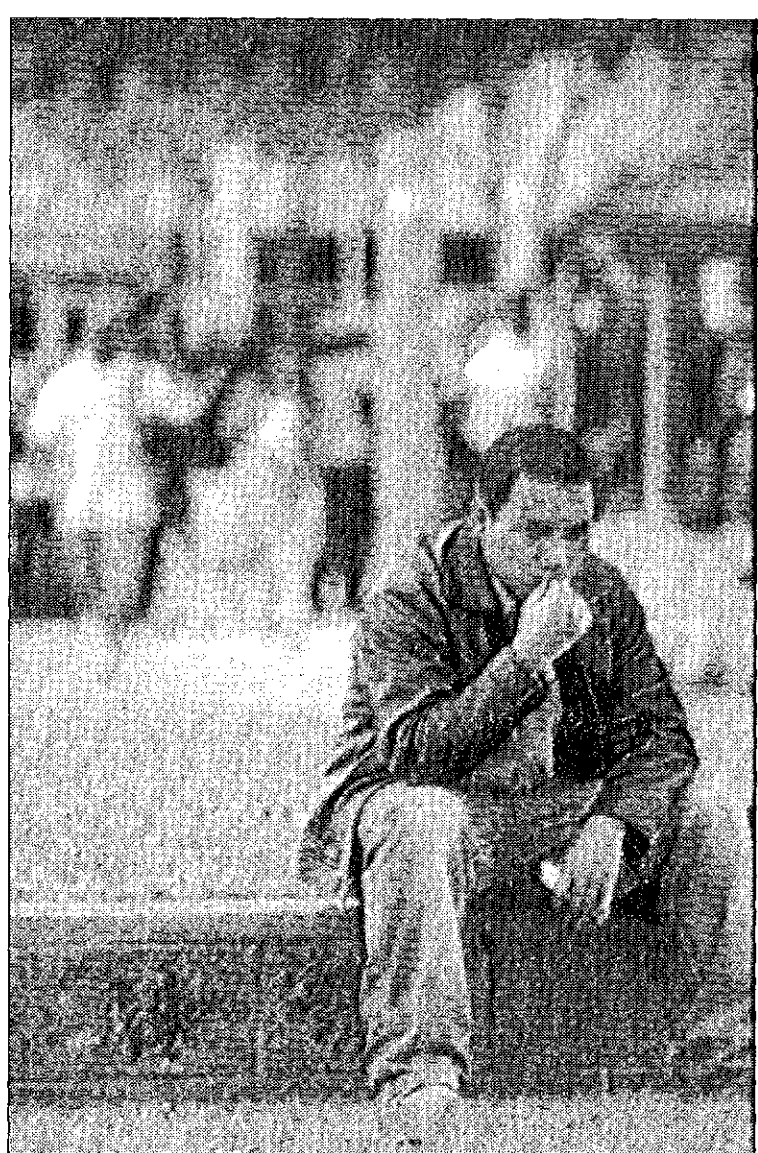
Players from the actual 1988 Panthers team add their perspectives to the season in a DVD-exclusive piece. Also, actors portraying the story are followed during the shoot for an on-set look behind the filming in a segment called "Player Cam."

Amidst the many routine, formulated sports scripts, "Friday Night Lights" serves as a break from the norm and allows viewers an extraordinary inspection into the human aspect of football.

Pigskin Picks:

Looking for other films to add to your football movie collection? Here are some suggestions.

Remember The Titans (1999)
Bryan's Song (1971)
Rudy (1993)
Jerry Maguire (1996)
The Longest Yard (1974)



EXAMPLE: The thinker: I wonder what today will bring me with all the problems that occurred already.

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For results check the Talon Marks web site at www.talonmarks.com

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SPORTS

SUPER BOWL XXXIX

Philadelphia
Eagles
VS.
Sunday
3 p.m.
FOX
New England
Patriots

Owens, Eagles don't stand chance

DAVID PEREZ
Co-Sports Editor
sports@talonmarks.com

Finally, the two most popular picks to make it to Super Bowl XXXIX at the beginning of the season have booked their flights to Jacksonville.

Both teams, however, have gone about achieving this goal in unexpected ways.

Few could have foreseen the New England Patriots running through the AFC with only two losses in the regular season. Injuries to Ty Law, Tyrone Poole and Richard Seymour seemed too extensive to overcome in the NFL's toughest conference.

The Philadelphia Eagles have managed to stay alive minus All-Pro wide receiver Terrell Owens. The club has survived the playoffs with essentially the same team who failed in the three previous NFC Championship games.

Owens, possibly the NFL's most dangerous offensive weapon, proclaims to be ready for the Super Bowl come Sunday. This, after having minimal recovery time for the broken ankle and two torn ligaments he suffered on Dec. 19.

Fat chance. That is not to say that Owens will not suit-up for the biggest game yet of his career. What is certain is that he will not be 100 percent ready.

An injury of this nature takes anywhere from a minimum eight to 10 weeks to recover from. Owens will attempt it just seven weeks after the surgery.

For argument's sake, let us say T.O. was in perfect health coming into this game. It still would not matter.

It would not matter just like Colts' MVP Peyton Manning or the Steelers' rookie-phenom Ben Roethlisberger did not matter to the "Chowder Heads." Both men came into their respective games against the Patriots this postseason as the "giant killers," but walked away just as empty-handed as those before them.

The Patriots are simply the best team out there. They were last year, and have been for two of the previous three years.

Tom Brady is this generation's Joe Montana. An 8-0 playoff record in Brady's young career has him on track to demolish Montana's career accomplishments.

There are lessons to be learned with this Patriots team. Egos do not matter; winning does. Unheralded players like Tedy Bruschi, Larry Izzo, Ted Johnson and Mike Vrabel are what make this team special.

Got an ego? Check it at the door.

This because Patriots' head coach, Bill Belichick demands respect and earns it. The players know they work for the best scheme-coach in the business. Belichick gives his team the best chance to win.

No matter the situation, no matter the skill, the Patriots adapt to their opponents perhaps better than any team before them in NFL history.

Go ahead Philly. Send T.O. out there. Run with Brian Westbrook. Pass with Donovan McNabb. Throw Andy Reid at them (Lord knows there is enough of him to throw around). It will not matter.

The Patriots win "the big one" again, fixating themselves amongst the NFL's greatest dynasties.

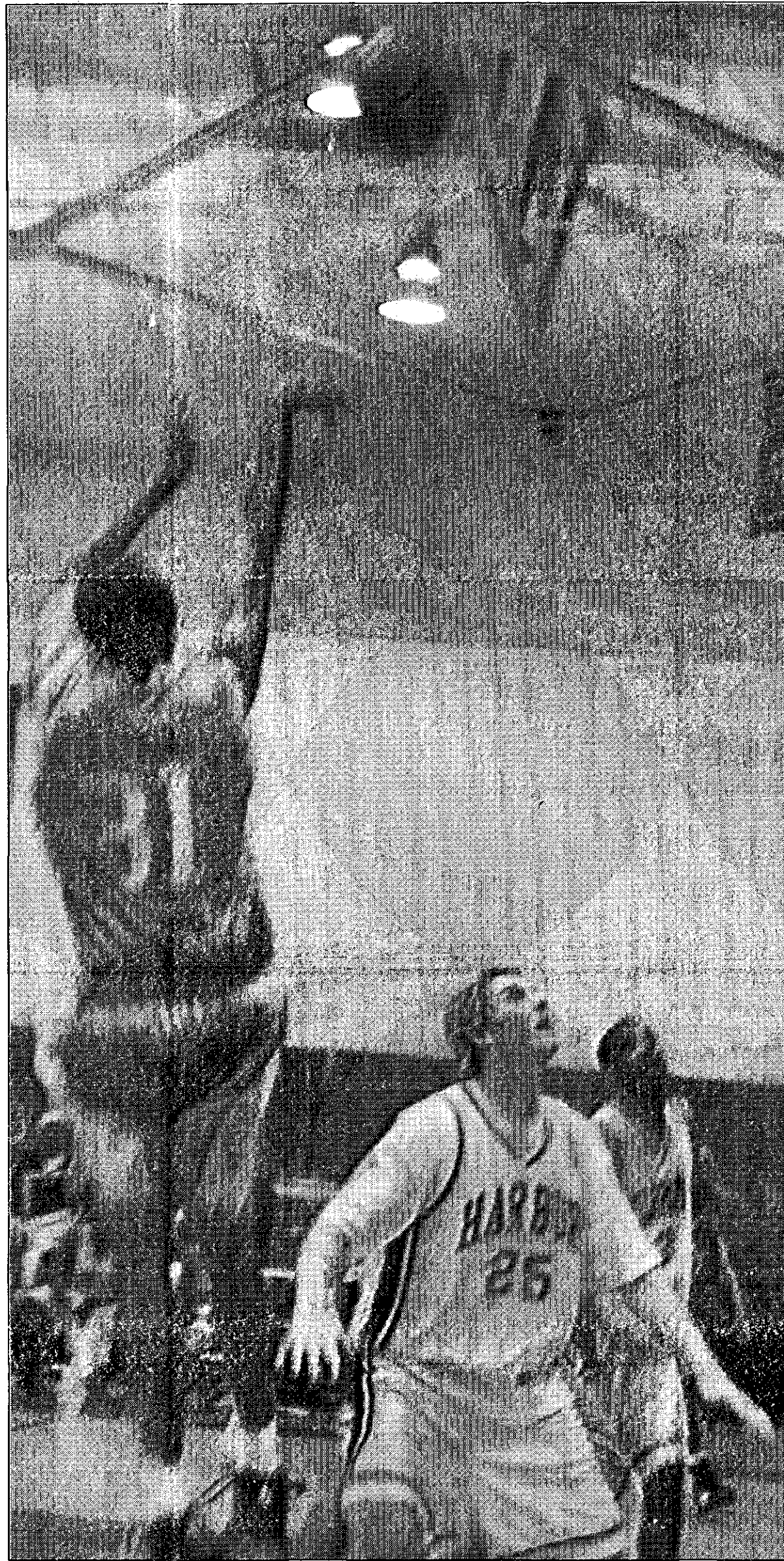
**BOWL
RECORDS**

New England Patriots (2-2)
 XXXVIII New England 32, Carolina Panthers 29
 XXXVI New England 20, St. Louis Rams 17
 XXXI New England 21, Green Bay Packers 35
 XX New England 10, Chicago Bears 46
Philadelphia Eagles (0-1)
 XV Philadelphia 10, Oakland Raiders 27

Sharp-shooting leads to win

Cerritos soars above the Seahawks with a 61 percent shooting performance

WERNER GOMEZ
Co-Sports Editor
sports@talonmarks.com



RICARDO RAMIREZ/TM

Hot Shooting: Matt Reid shoots a three-point basket as the Falcons beat L.A. Harbor, 95-78.

A strong inside presence was the key to the Cerritos men's basketball team's victory last Wednesday over Los Angeles Harbor College, 95-78.

The Falcons who are now 13-11 overall and 3-1 in the conference, put away the Seahawks (14-9, 2-1) with a 70 percent shooting performance off of 19-of-27 field goals in the second half.

Head coach Gary Cain was pleased with the Falcons' execution.

"I really believe the key to our shooting was that the guys executed the offense very well," he said. "Our shot selection was very good."

"We've started to play a lot more consistent. It was one of our best games in the last month," he added.

Assistant coach Tito Ortiz said that the key to the Falcon's stellar shooting was their play at the defensive end of the court.

Cain was very happy with his players' efforts, holding the Seahawks' star player Thurman, who averages 24 points per game, to 10 points.

Center Stanley Gill led the team with 23 points (16 in the first half), nine rebounds, five assists and three blocks.

Cain and Ortiz were pleased with Gill's performance, calling it one of his best games.

"Stanley is really coming around for us. He is scoring the way we need him to," Ortiz said.

The Falcons jumped out to an 11-0 lead to open the game and did not look back.

LA Harbor got within nine points midway through the second half as they went on an 18-6 run, but that was as close as they would get.

Cerritos shot 61 percent (36-of-59) in the game and had 22 assists.

Guard Matt Reid scored 17 points (10 in the first half), seven rebounds and five assists.

Jaquan Weary scored 12 points off of 6-of-7 shooting and four assists, while Leo Thomas and Marcus Outland contributed six points each.

The Falcons' next game is on Friday, giving them an eight-day lay-off between games. Both coaches agree that the lay-off will be beneficial to the team.

"I don't think that it is going to affect us (the Falcons) that much. It gives us an opportunity to make adjustments," Cain said.

Falcons leave Seahawks grounded

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The Cerritos women's basketball team outplayed, out hustled and outscored the LA Harbor Seahawks last Wednesday in league play, 63-43.

The overwhelming victory pushed the Falcons to 14-11 overall, remaining unbeaten in the South Coast Conference at 4-0.

Falcons' head coach Karen Welliver was pleased with the outcome, considering the Falcons are about to embark on the second-half of the conference schedule.

"We wanted to come out and play hard defensively," she said.

"Even though their (the Seahawks') record was sub-par, we knew we had to stay focused and execute."

A balanced scoring attack and sound defense enabled the Falcons to head into the locker room at halftime with a 34-13 lead. Cerritos never looked back.

SOARING IN CONFERENCE Women's basketball team opens league with four straight wins.

1/14 Falcons 57, El Camino 44
1/19 Falcons 66, LASW 53
1/21 Falcons 63, LBCC 54
1/26 Falcons 63, LA Harbor 43

Forward Daisy Benjamin led all Falcon-scorers with 13 points. The efficient effort added to her long stretch of quality games.

"Daisy is tough. She goes hard to the basket and has played great for us all year," Welliver said.

Although Cerritos is in the driver's seat, the schedule will get tougher as teams begin to jostle for playoff seeding.

An undefeated second-half of conference play is no easy task.

Welliver stated, "We have to execute our game plans better. This will be the second time seeing the same teams."

"El Camino has a better overall record and power ranking than us, so we still have something to prove."

The Falcons field a rather young team, as 10 of the 12 players on the roster are just freshmen.

Benjamin and Niki Sims account for the only sophomores.

Despite the lack of experience, Cerritos has managed to make a run for the playoffs.

"We are going to look to them for leadership," Welliver said.

"Both Daisy and Niki are strong players."

Forward Ronnie Clark added 10 points and six rebounds, while Sims contributed six points and seven rebounds in the win over the Seahawks.

Guard Lisette Martinez recorded nine points.

Cerritos plays host to Mt. San Antonio College on Wednesday for a South Coast Conference crossover game, while divisional play resumes Friday against El Camino.

Falcon Forecast

Baseball:
 Ventura @ Palomar Fri, 10 a.m.
 Palomar @ Palomar Sat, 2 p.m.

Men's basketball:
 El Camino @ Cerritos Fri, 7:30 p.m.
 LA Southwest @ LA Southwest Wed, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Women's basketball:
 Mt. San Antonio @ Cerritos Wed, 6:30 p.m.
 El Camino @ Cerritos Fri, 5:30 p.m.
 LA Southwest @ LA Southwest Wed, Feb. 9, 5:30 p.m.

Softball:
 Bakersfield @ Cerritos Sat, noon
 Moorpark @ Moorpark Wed, Feb. 9, 3 p.m.

Men's and women's swimming:
 SCC Relays - Diving Tue, all day
 @ El Camino SCC Relays - Pentathlon Wed, Feb. 9, 3 p.m.
 @ El Camino

Men's tennis:
 Riverside @ Cerritos Thu, 2 p.m.
 Glendale @ Glendale Fri, 2 p.m.

Women's tennis:
 Irvine Valley @ Irvine Valley Thu, 2 p.m.