

TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY February 16, 2005

WWW.TALONMARKS.COM

Volume 50, No. 17

Deadline nearing

Register to vote by Feb. 22
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AN EDITORIAL

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Bumming around

New play, tribute to Chicago Cubs fans
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Wanted: new vice president

Vice president of student services, Dr. Erlinda Martinez, is set to take on a new job

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Dr. Erlinda Martinez's long career at Cerritos College draws to a close as she prepares to fill the position of president at Santa Ana College on March 14 leaving her seat as vice president of student services vacant.

In her nearly 10 years at Cerritos, Martinez has been involved with such projects as the One Stop Center, the Master Plan and also helped in the passage of the G.O. Bond.

Martinez said, "I'm grateful for the time at Cerritos and to the people I've worked with."

"Cerritos College taught me a lot. It is a bittersweet moment for me."

The One Stop Center, though not an original idea, was instituted at Cerritos College by Martinez.

The project brought the registration, assessment and financial aid offices into one general area, saving students the time and energy it took to walk around campus to the various locations.

Stephanie Murguia, administrative dean of Admissions and Records, said, "She is very creative and she looks for ways to be sure the college is cutting edge."

She also dubbed the One Stop Center as Martinez's "legacy."

Martinez has been driven in her career by a genuine care and concern for student success.

She said that beyond all she has helped achieve on campus, her most important accomplishment has been her involvement in the hiring of faculty and staff, who was dedicated to putting students first.

Bob Hewlett, director of Disabled Student Services, attested to the concern she has for students. "She is a very intelligent lady with a great heart. She cares very deeply for students with disabilities."

Throughout her career Martinez has planned, overseen, assisted and inspired.

Murguia, who worked alongside Martinez on various projects prior to her own employment by the college, said that the opportunity to work under Martinez's instruction was one of the incentives that led her to accept a job at Cerritos College.

Responding to Martinez's impending departure, Murguia stated, "I'm saddened by her leaving, but ecstatic for her promotion."

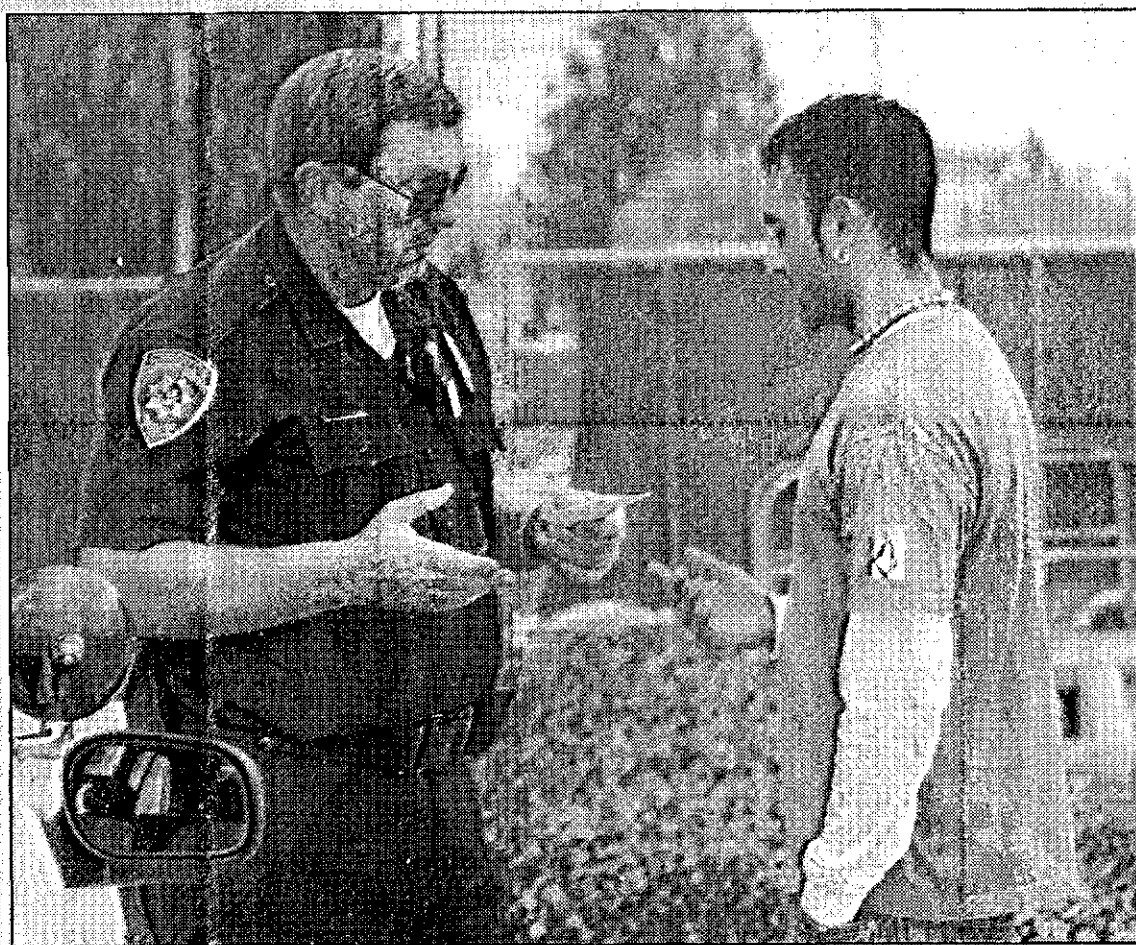
Likewise, Hewlett said, "I'm glad for her career advancement, but it will leave a void at Cerritos."

Over the course of her time as part of the college community, Martinez said she has learned more about planning and constructing facilities, more about technology and more about working with dedicated faculty and staff.

She summed up her experience over the last decade by saying, "It's been one heck of a ride!"



COURTESY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
Martinez: Erlinda
Martinez, vice president of student services.



MARIA GUTIERREZ/TM

CAMPUS POLICE STOP AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS PASSING OUT FLYERS FOR A "FREE MEAL" FEBRUARY 7.

KFC chickens out

Coupons claiming that students would get free KFC, proved to be false

DAVID GÓMEZ
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The number one source of debt for college students are credit cards. Students know this, and credit card vendors do too. So how do these vendors work around that fact?

One word: free. Last week, credit card vendors from Citibank walked through campus handing out coupons good for a "free" two-piece chicken combo from Kentucky Fried Chicken when Cerritos students showed their school I.D.

However, the coupons didn't mention any cred-

it cards or even a bank.

Students were unaware that the person handing out the coupons was a credit card vendor and when they arrived at KFC, they quickly learned that if they wanted their "free" chicken, they had to sign up for a credit card.

"I'm supposed to get one by mail. You gotta pay so I'm going to cancel it. I can't pay for it," stated Brandon Johnson, art major.

Students complained that they were misled and tricked. Johnson was one such student.

"It caught me off guard, they try to get you and they didn't want to give me my chicken, (the employee) said 'no, no, you must pay.'"

Another student, Tiana Southalo, nursing major, also had trouble getting her chicken. She said that the KFC employees were reluctant to accept her coupon.

"That's wrong, don't say one thing and then

See **CHICKEN** page 3

The dean gets new feathers

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Dr. Barry Russell will be trading in his falcon feathers for eagle wings.

The instructional dean of Fine Arts and Communications since 1999, plans to transfer his career to Northern California. He will now be a part of the College of the Siskiyous Eagles as their vice president of instruction.

"I'll miss the students, faculty members, and the staff. I have built very good friendships and great working relationships."

See **RUSSELL** page 3

ASCC reaches out to students

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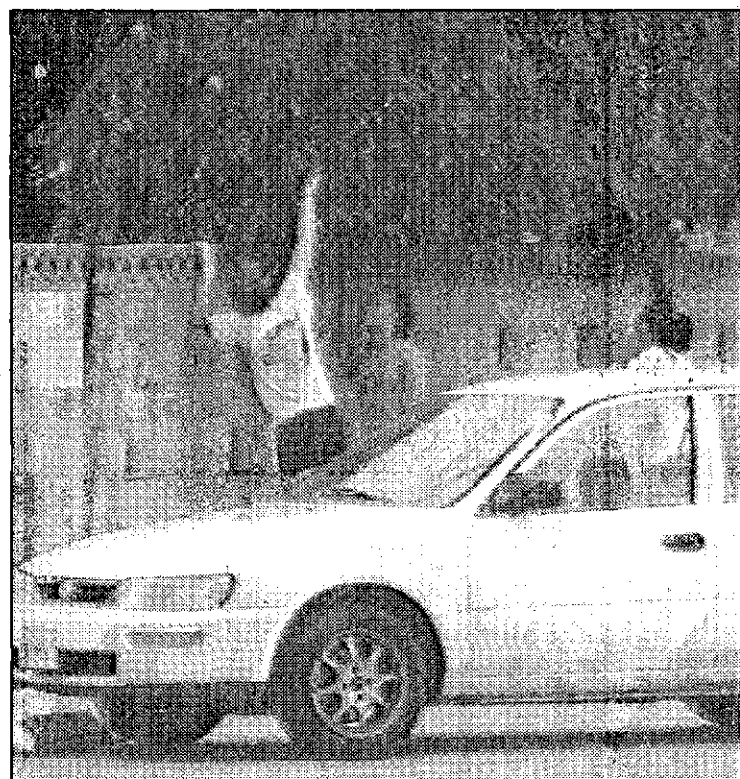
Operation Outreach is a project sponsored by the Associated Students of Cerritos College that would help students communicate with their student government, and learn about their campus.

"Operation Outreach is also designed to advance programs and clubs on campus," Saul Romero, ASCC vice president said.

Josh Franco, student body

See **OUTREACH** page 3

ORANGE-HANDED



BENEDICT ORRASE/TM

As her companions look on, a student picks oranges from a tree that has branches hanging over a wall by Old Falcon Way, Thursday afternoon. Whether the wall was already leaning prior to the incident is unknown.

Safe sex, healthy bodies

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Free condoms, lube and snack samples were being given out at the health fair last Thursday.

Every semester the Student Health Services office at Cerritos College organizes a health fair to inform students of the services available to them.

The Student Health Services office, along with

- Trader Joe's,
- Pioneer Medical Group,
- the American Cancer Society,
- Alpine Village Dental,
- the YMCA,
- Student Insurance,
- Planned Parenthood,
- Su Casa Family Crisis and Support Center,
- Nicotine Anonymous,
- Los Angeles County Sexually Transmitted Disease Program,
- the Asian-American Drug Abuse



SUNEM RIVAS/TM

Healthy treats: Dr. Charles Gale schools three students on safe sex and condoms during the Health Fair held in Falcon Square.

Program, and Alcoholics Anonymous, were at Falcon Square providing students with information regarding their respective organization.

Elizabeth Rodriguez, secretary of Student Health Services, is very concerned about making students aware that they can seek medical attention on campus.

"We're especially out here to inform students of Student Health Services, because a lot (of students) don't know that we're here," she said.

Charles Gale, director of Student Health Services, has been overlooking the event since he started working on campus in 2000 and also gets involved in the school's blood drive.

"The blood drive is about giving back to the community," he said. "This (the health fair) is about finding out about your community."

Gale said that the purpose of the fair is to show students what facilities are available to them, not only at the school, but also in the community.

He also said that every year the event is held, he sees more student turn-out.

Gale also confessed that having

See **HEALTH** page 3

NEWS

Speaker talks about his life

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Author of the book "Breaking the Cycle" and a doctor of psychology, Dr. Eboni Wilson gave a motivational workshop at the Cerritos College Burnight Theatre on Feb. 15.

This was the last event held in celebration of Black History Month this year in the Burnight theater.

Dr. Wilson began his life in what he called a paradox of drugs, prostitution, alcohol, gangs, and starvation. He told of his life growing up in South Central Los Angeles, where he encountered the struggles of the inner city to their fullest extent.

From pumping gas at the station, to begging for change, he was trapped in the inner city cycle, which fed him frustration and anger.

His high school years were spent in various schools, from which he was constantly expelled, and at some points he even found himself in jails.

"I have stolen cars, and I have carried guns," he said.

As his exposure to the world outside of the inner city became more frequent, his attitude toward life began to change.

The opportunity of stepping outside the paradox transformed his negative energy into positive energy.

He took that positive attitude and went from special education courses in high school to achiev-

ing a Ph.D. in psychology.

His purpose to life, he says, is to expose inner city kids to the positive things in life and get them out of the cycle they are born into.

His message was aimed at both inner city kids and their parents.

Dr. Wilson advised parents to expand the realm of the inner city life into a life where education and aspirations are encour-

aged.

He explained how the escape from the cycle of constant struggle was not only possible, but easy, so long as the discipline and dedication were there.

He expressed his life experiences through speech and poetry.

His poetry includes the history of how crack was brought into the ghettos and motivational life experiences.

Growing up, he says, people always worry about the opinions of others.

Dr. Wilson added that to succeed, people must forget criticisms and focus on themselves, otherwise they themselves subject themselves to becoming puppets for others to control.

Dr. Wilson is now a principal at a Philadelphia high school and a motivational speaker.

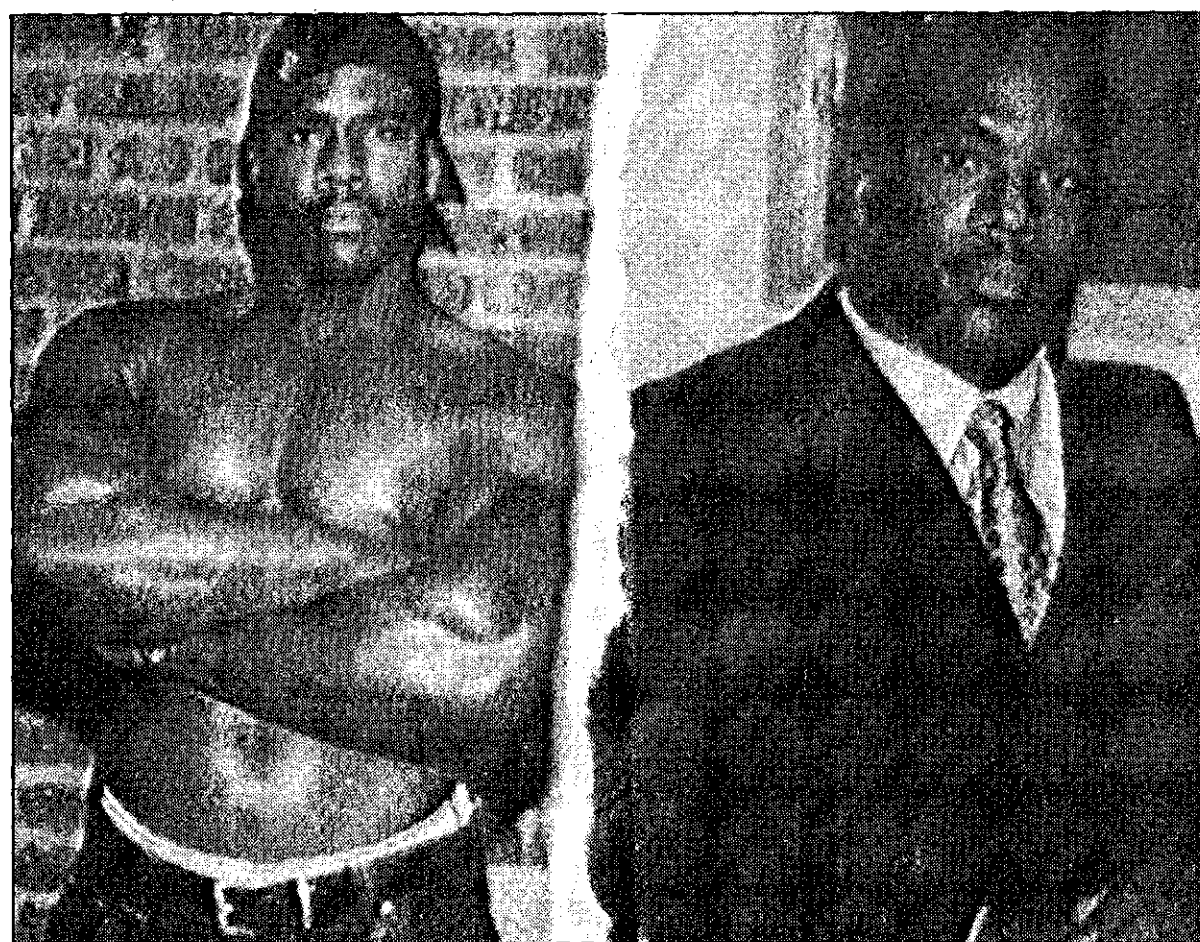


PHOTO FROM THE COVER OF DR. WILSON'S BOOK "BREAKING THE CYCLE"
Before and After: Dr. Eboni Wilson, a motivational speaker and high school principal, was once caught up in a life which he calls a "paradox of negative energy."

New court justice appointed to ASCC

Court prepares to have elections for the new chief justice that is to replace Vanessa Grine, who recently resigned

KENNETH PAKINGAN
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As the ASCC began its meeting, a new court justice sat alongside the table.

Members welcomed Raymond Chavez, mechanical engineering major, discussed the topics of Hoe Down Days, the chief justice election and the publicity code.

Chavez was recently appointed as a court justice to fill-in one of three available positions on the Court Council.

"It's basically to meet new people, to develop new relationships," Chavez said of joining the ASCC court. "It's a way to help and become more involved with the school."

The meeting progressed with a discussion of the upcoming Hoe Down Days.

For the event, all booths have been checked out and the chili cook-off is open.

Joe Corbarrubio, current court pro-tem, will run for the position of chief justice. He was appointed his current position by former chief justice Vanessa Grine.

"I've enjoyed my experiences. I think I'm good for it. I'm going to be here another semester and the best way to learn the job is while Grine is here," Corbarrubio said.

Another item on the agenda was a review of the publicity code.

"The publicity codes have to deal with elections: president, senate and homecoming. It explains how people can campaign," Corbarrubio stated.

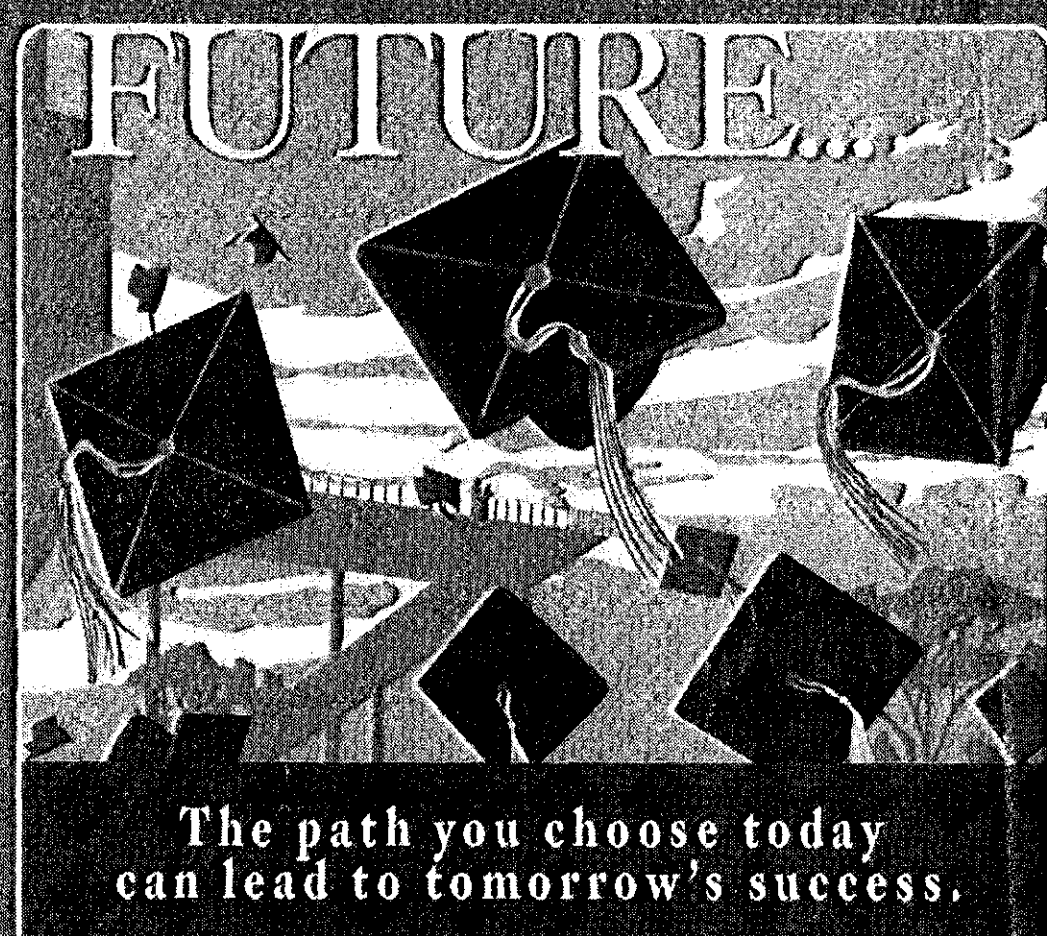
He said, "It's a big thing and makes it fair for everyone. We can't have people campaigning in classrooms with a loudspeaker."

The publicity code refers to the proper way to campaign, concerning such technical aspects as the areas candidates may campaign, where posters can be placed, and the actual magnitude a candidate may campaign.

As Holly Bogdanovich, director of student activities, noted, "they can put up a maximum of five posters with their name or number."

Concerning flyers in the library, Bogdanovich added, "You can't post them, but you can hand them out. Please don't go in and disturb students studying."

The role of ASCC in these situations, Corbarrubio said, is to enforce these codes on students.



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Did you know.....

A look at upcoming important dates and events at Cerritos College. If you have any questions visit the activities office located next to bookstore. If you are a club or organization on campus and have an event that you want published please call (562)-860-2451 ext. 2617 and ask for David Gomez or email him at news@talonmarks.com

February 17

Hoe down days application deadline at Inter-Club Council meeting BK111/112 at 11 a.m.

February 18

Presidential holiday, no school

February 21

Presidential holiday, no school

March 1

Last day to file a "request to graduate" form (available in counseling office)

Hoe Down day one: western booth day 10-1 p.m. at Falcon Square. Activity night 6 p.m. in social science patio

March 2

Hoe Down day two: chili cook-off 10:30 a.m. in student center

Mr. Cerritos contest 11 a.m. in student center

NEWS

CHICKEN:

KFC says little about students' claims of false advertisement

Continued from page 1
change it," added Southalo in response to the reluctance of KFC employees to accept the coupon.

KFC assistant manager, Ayman Rizvan, had little to say about the events. He simply said that the vendors do this as a promotion for local students and that the vendors went from restaurant to restaurant.

Rizvan denied any knowledge of the refusal of employees to honor the coupon.

The coupons weren't changed until students began to complain. As a result the coupon stated that students could get either a free t-shirt or a free meal when they signed up for a credit card.

Yet, neither the ASCC nor campus police had knowledge that the vendors were on campus, much less handing out coupons. Had they known, maybe these students would not have had to have gone through such trouble.

It wasn't until an anonymous student informed the campus police that the vendors were on campus that they were asked to leave.

Derron Jackson, criminal justice, said, "That's kind of messed up; they have no business being on campus. Someone should have let people know. They attracted publicity in a false way. They should be prohibited from advertising on campus."

Other students felt that it was not the fault of the vendor, but of the people who bought into the vendor's gimmick.

"People should understand nothing is free, but that there's always a catch. People simply shouldn't be upset when there is one," commented Denver Brown, business administration major.

However, Brown did feel that the school should enforce its policies and be more aware that the vendors were on campus. He said that the fact that anyone can just walk into campus is a security issue.

Erika Garcia, nursing major, was one of the many students who had no knowledge that the vendors were even on campus.

Even students who did know did not share in their fellow students' outrage at the lack of "free chicken."

"I thought they were just giving out free meals, but I didn't care much. I just threw the coupon out," stated Gina Marquez, undecided major.

OUTREACH:

Franco wants student involvement in ASCC

Continued from page 1
president added, "Operation Outreach will accomplish two major goals. Number one, to show that student government is making an effort to communicate with their campus community and students. Number two, to increase awareness of community."

Franco goes on to say that it was a collaborative effort on all of ASCC to start Operation Outreach. All of the ASCC members will hold an event called, "Meet the ASCC."

They will be passing out flyers about health care, financial aid and scholarships, Romero said.

Log onto www.gocerritos.com for a more detailed look at Operation Outreach.



MARIA GUTIERREZ/TM

War: The conference titled "The Soldiers' War: Every Soldier Has a Story" was held in the Teleconference Center. Jeff Connell, Daisy C. Ordaz and Erin Duane, the soldiers, shared their memories of the war with the disclosure that all of their comments were based on their own opinions and points of view.

'The Soldiers' War' at Cerritos

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Three former Cerritos College students talked about their experiences as soldiers in the war in Iraq and answered questions from the audience Feb. 7.

The conference titled "The Soldiers' War: Every Soldier Has a Story" was held in the Teleconference Center.

John Haas, history professor, host and organizer of the event, said he put it together because everyone has heard of the war as the "President's War," "The War of Blood for Oil," etc., but he felt it would be edifying for us to hear of the war from the soldiers' point of view.

Ardena Clark, member of the Larouche Political Action Committee, said she was glad professor Haas hosted such an event because young people across the country need to have more dialogue with leaders.

The event was broadcast live to International Pacific College in New Zealand and La Guardia College in New York.

Jeff Connell, Daisy C. Ordaz and Erin Duane, the soldiers, shared their memories

of the war with the disclosure that all of their comments were based on their own opinions and points of view.

Connell, who served in Iraq for 14 months as a sergeant, said that "it (the war) is all about sacrifice. I do it for my country and you (the citizens)."

Connell served in the water purification, storage and distribution department where he was in charge of delivering clean, running water to both the soldiers and Iraqis.

He said that it was the best feeling to know he helped families and children have clean drinking water.

Ordaz served for almost eight years in the military as a medic, after serving in Bosnia and Kuwait.

She wanted people to understand that sometimes soldiers make sacrifices that people are not aware of and it really "burns" her when protesters or other people don't understand soldiers.

Ordaz was placed on the 50th Forward Support Battalion, "patching, supporting and healing those on the battle field."

She told a story of how she risked her life and "the job that I love so much" to save two missing soldiers who were going to die under light fire.

Her leaders were mad because it took an hour for her to find them and that was "an hour that they could've been shooting, so I put back the government by \$4 million," she said.

Duane, who served as a civil affairs specialist for nine months in Iraq, gave a slide show presentation of his time there.

The slides ranged from "the only two camels I ever saw in Iraq" to him lying in a gold-plated couch from one of Saddam Hussein's palaces, to pictures of him with children in Iraq, one which "liked to be called 'Jack' after the movie 'Titanic'."

The event also included an open-mic section where audience members, including La Guardia and IPC, were allowed to comment or question the soldiers.

Question topics ranged from why they went to war, their thoughts on the weapons of mass destruction, the chance of a draft and morale of the soldiers after the prison scandal.

The soldiers replied that they did not go to Iraq for oil or weapons of mass destruction.

"Personally, I went to finish the job I started in 1991; I wanted to put an end to the person in power who killed massive

amounts of people there," Duane said, referring to the Gulf War.

Connell went for a similar reason.

"I wanted to help a country in need," he said.

In regard to the prison scandal, Ordaz said that the soldiers "got what they deserved. What went through their mind? Their excuse of following orders is the biggest lie. You do not have to do everything you are told to do."

Connell agreed, saying that the morale of soldiers may have decreased in large part because the media kept "pounding" the subject.

Some of the audience members thanked the soldiers for "fighting for American citizens" and applauded their comments against audience members who defended the media or attacked the soldiers with questions concerning why the war is being fought.

On the other hand, Robert Ramirez, undecided major, said that "I thought it was mostly biased opinions, but I can't really question a soldier for doing his job."

RUSSELL: Fine arts dean leaves for new VP job

Continued from page 1

Russell said.
Steven Portugal, Art Department chair, said, "I'm very sad. We're all very fond of Dr. Russell. He's done an incredible job."

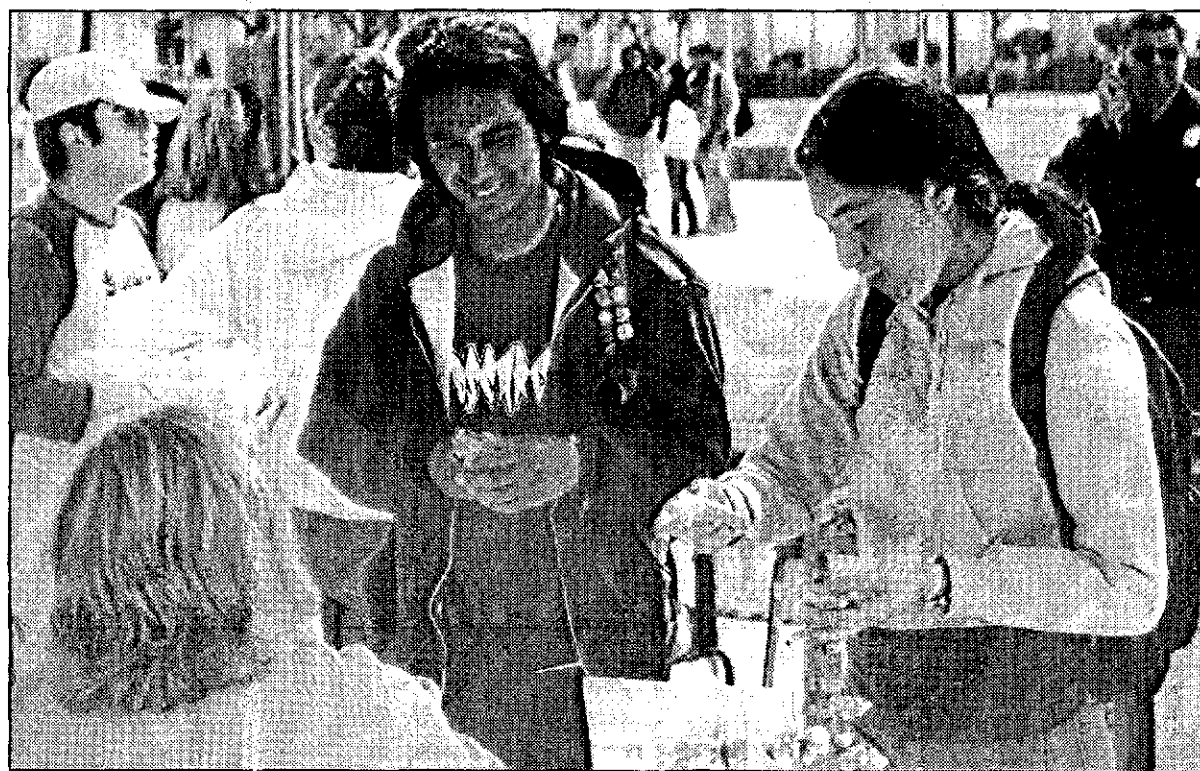
"I've been on campus for 15 years. Since I was hired we've had a lot of temporary deans. He's the first I've had the pleasure to get to know. He has brought the division forward to what it is. He's an incredible person."

Wishing his replacement well, Russell hopes that the person filling his position has fun.

Portugal hopes the person who carries on Russell's work will take the time to get to know the faculty.

Giving the future instructional dean some advice, he said, "Sit and listen to the faculty and get to know us as individuals. Talk to the faculty. We are the greatest assets."

Reiterating the good that Russell has contributed during his years at the college, Portugal said, "I'm sure there are people who can fill his position. It will be difficult. He's the finest administrator I have worked with."



SUNEM RIVAS/TM

Sex: A student picks up a condom during last Thursday's Health Fair. It was held in Falcon Square.

HEALTH:

Student Health Services gets the word out on how to stay healthy and how to have safe sex

Continued from page 1

representatives from Trader Joe's at the event is a good way to attract students.

Ryan Coughlin, manager of Trader Joe's in the city of Cerritos, was giving passers-by free samples of cliff bars, nuts and fruit juices.

"We're sampling some of our items," he said. "Giving people some basic nutritional informa-

tion about some of the products we carry.

"We're basically showing people that stuff that's good for you, can taste good to."

After eating their free samples students could talk to Cheryl Hirtler, marketing manager of Pioneer Medical Group, an organization that works closely with Cerritos College's medical needs.

"We're the medical group the school refers the students to if it can't help them," she said.

Hirtler was at the fair informing students about the organization's after-hours clinics in the area.

Pioneer Medical Group has six offices in the area and accepts student insurance.

Thursday, the Artesia office will be giving those who attend free

bone density screenings, to check people for osteoporosis.

The free screenings will be between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., for more information call (562) 867-8681.

Students could also sign up for an insurance plan at the Student Insurance table.

Kenneth Zwart, vice-president of claims administration for Student Insurance, was there to sign students up for the Student Injury and Sickness Plan.

The policy can be purchased by students who are enrolled in at least six units; it covers a variety of medical expenses.

"We also cover all the students and athletes if they are injured on campus; they are covered through the Blue Cross," Zwart said.

For information on Student

Insurance and its policies, visit www.studentinsuranceagency.com.

Many students were eagerly visiting the LA County STD Program table and picking up free condoms and lubricants.

Philip Phan, health education assistant of the LA County STD Program, has participated in the fair for the last seven years.

"We're here to give out information on sexually transmitted diseases," he said.

He also said that a lot of students stopped by his table to pick up literature and condoms.

People can call the LA County STD Program Hotline, at (800) 758-0880, for information on sexually transmitted diseases, to get free condoms delivered to them by mail and to schedule a free exam.

The American Cancer Society was also there, raising cancer awareness.

Katya Moran, health programs director for ACS, was there to hand out information and recruit volunteers for general work and for ACS's Relay for Life event.

The events will be held at various nearby locations like Pico Rivera, Downey, Lakewood, Santa Fe Springs, La Mirada, Long Beach and Whittier.

The Relay for Life event is a fundraiser for cancer research and also to honor cancer survivors.

Those who wish to participate or want information on dates and locations for the events can call (800) ACS-2345.

"The organization has been on campus for four or five years," Moran said. "I try to come up to make sure that it (the organization) keeps a face out here."

For more information on the various services visit the Student Health Services Center.

COMMUNITY

'Birdie' flies into the Downey Theatre

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Downey Civic Light Opera makes a nest for the musical "Bye Bye Birdie" as it takes flight Thursday night.

The cast has been preparing for months and is ready to shine. The cast of 43 actors and actresses is a talented young group. The show will sure bring laughs and smiles to the audience.

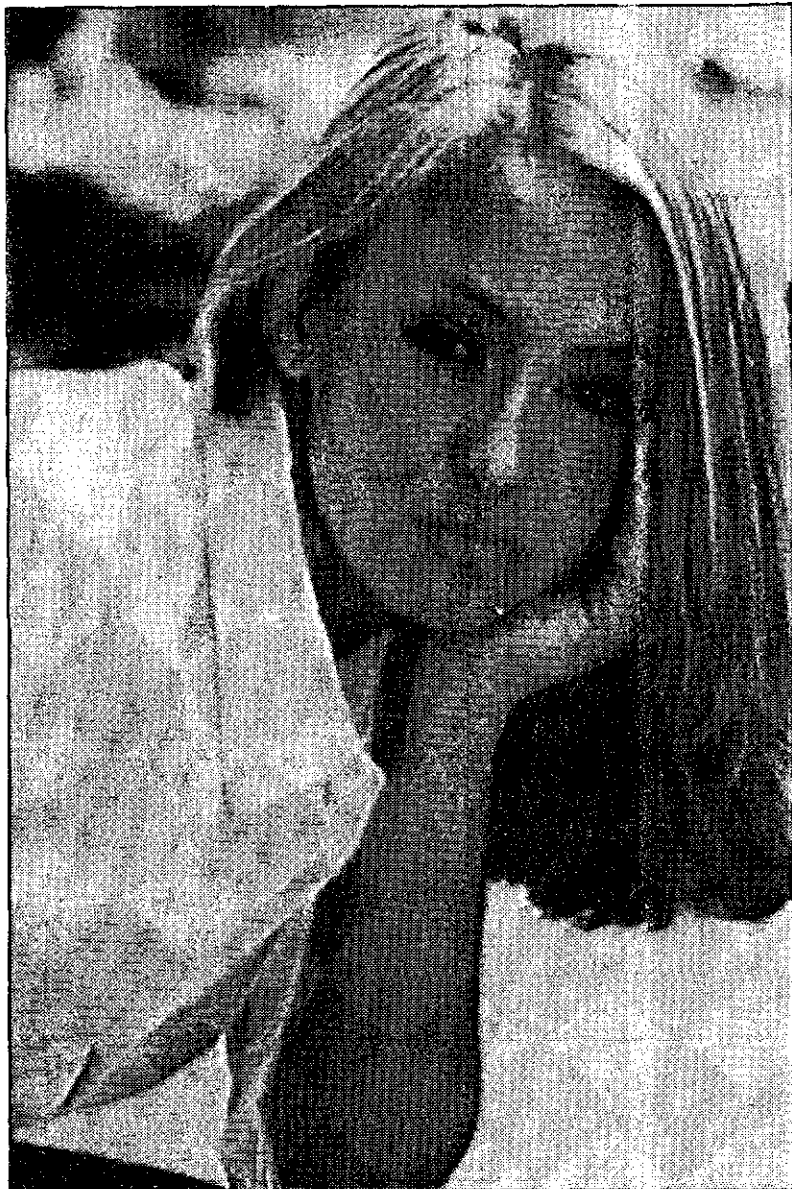
The dress rehearsal for the show only proved that they were ready for opening night. This energetic cast is full of life and the dance choreography is well put together.

Marsha Moode is the executive producer of the show and Jon Engstrom is the director and choreographer.

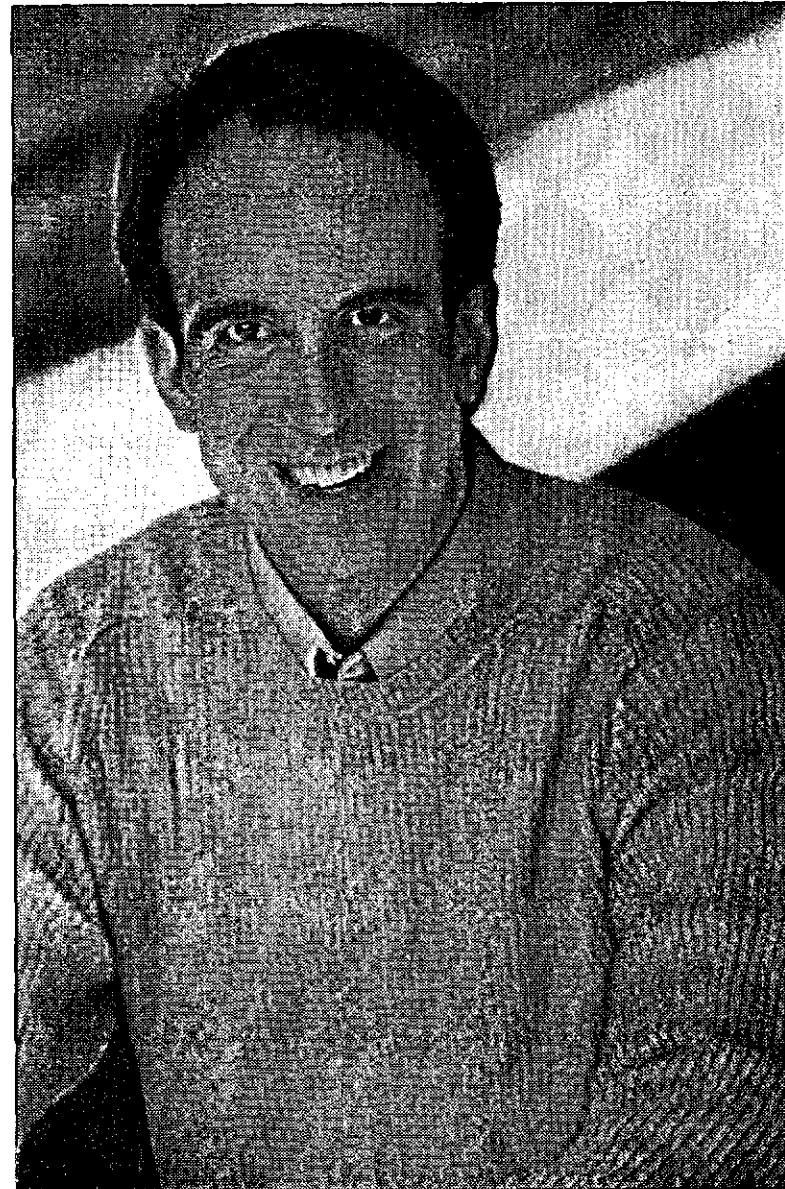
The musical is about a songwriter and aspiring English teacher, Albert Peterson (Dink O'Neal), who is trying to get his famous rock'n'roll star Conrad Birdie, who has been drafted by the Army, to appear on the Ed Sullivan Show.

Albert is convinced he can make his fortune and marry his long-time love interest Rosie (Kristen Beth Williams) if he gets Conrad on the TV show to kiss a high school girl goodbye.

Albert's mother Mae (Brenda Cox), however, will do anything to break him up with Rosie.



Stephanie Wall stars as "Kim MacAfee" and Dink O'Neal stars as "Albert Peterson" in the upcoming musical *Bye Bye Birdie*.



COURTESY OF DOWNEY CIVIC LIGHT OPERA

the bus or even walk to save money for him. She is one of the funniest characters on stage, besides Ursula, who is the best friend of Kim.

The chemistry between Rosie and Albert was passionate yet bold. The actors feed off of each other's energy and work well together on stage.

There is a lot of physical body movement in the musical which involves lots of timing sequences. Rosie has a scene with a song called "Spanish Rose" that involves lots of movement. The cast works real hard not to get injured during the scenes which have lots of physical comedy in them. They take a good amount of time to stretch before performing some of the routines.

The musical features numerous songs such as "What's the matter with kids today," "Bye Bye Birdie," the "Telephone song (Going Steady)," and "We love you, Conrad."

The musical will play at the Downey Theatre from Thursday through March 6. The show is every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. with a Sunday Matinee show at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices are Orchestra \$32 and Balcony \$28.

"Bye Bye Birdie" is playing at the Downey Theatre, located 8345 Firestone Blvd. in Downey. For more information about the musical and for tickets call (562) 923-1714.

Revisions to policy cause controversy

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Residents of Downey spoke out against the proposed revisions to the city's Facility Naming Policy at last Tuesday's meeting. Council members also congratulated the Civilian Emergency Response Team program for their response to the Feb. 6 standoff with a Downey resident.

Mayor Bayer proposed a change in the naming policy that said the person for which the facility is named after be deceased for a minimum of five years.

The item was on the administrative report and was up for discussion; the public could also have a chance to tell the council how it felt about such a decision.

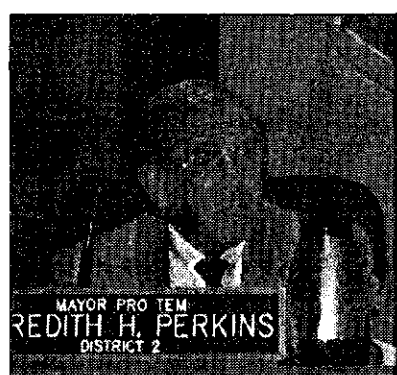
Maria Larken, Downey resident, said, "I am opposed to such an idea. If you are going to honor someone they should be alive so they can enjoy it with their family, then waiting for them to be dead."

Council member, Kirk Cartozian, said he had quite a different view.

"I think it's important that a person be deceased. A lot of it is based upon friendships and relationships," Cartozian said. "It clouds the ability to make that decision with relationships; it's really hard to be objective. It would be less emotional."

Meredith Perkins, Mayor Pro Tem, said that the last three people they named facilities after were alive and was quick to name another after Barbara Riley died.

"Not one time did we wait until they were dead and all received a 5-0 vote. The only reason why this is up is because of



RYAN EDQUIST/TM
the last individual that we were going to name something after," Perkins said.

He also said that he personally would like to consider the policy as it is with no change.

Rick Trejo, council member, said he agreed with Perkins.

"I won't support someone being dead for five years. It's great joy to see a person get the honor." Also, council member, David Gafin said, "I couldn't approve this with a five-year minimum. I think it's a case-by-case basis."

Other criteria included going through an application process for a facility to be named after someone.

Mayor Bayer said that cities which have a naming policy with a condition that the person be deceased for a period of time believe it takes some of the emotion out of the decision-making process.

It is expected that such an application would be two to three pages in length.

The Council voted 3-2 to receive and file the report with council member Cartozian and Gafin voting no.

Also at the meeting, LeeAnn Sears, resident of Downey and a member of the C.E.R.T. program, spoke to the city council about the recent early morning stand-off that escalated into a shoot-out

later in the day Feb. 6, Super Bowl Sunday.

The program had to open the Barbara Riley Community Center for residents who lived in the area where the standoff with the Downey resident took place. They also offered residents food, drinks, and games while watching the Super Bowl game in the center.

The residents were evacuated from their homes on the 9100 block of Stewart and Gray Road due to gunfire from Daniel Balarie, Downey resident, that barricaded himself in his parents' home and would not come out after shooting a friend in the arm. Sears said, "All the people who were there didn't know that such a program existed in their city and were very appreciative that we were there for them during this crisis."

"The C.E.R.T. program can work and this wasn't a big emergency, but if there was, we would fall right in place in being prepared to help residents," Sears said.

She said that being able to get the residents together during the standoff made the residents get to know their neighbors.

Council members congratulated the C.E.R.T. program on a job well done although it was unfortunate the incident had to happen.

Mayor Bayer said, "We have an awesome city that knows how to work together."

At next week's meeting an update will be given by the developers on the NASA site at 6:30 p.m. before the regular council meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Downey City Hall in Council Chambers.

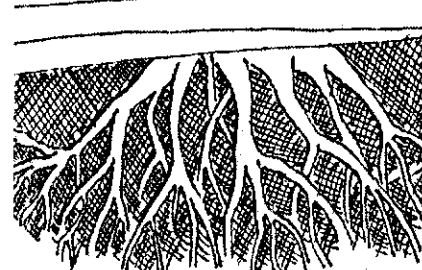
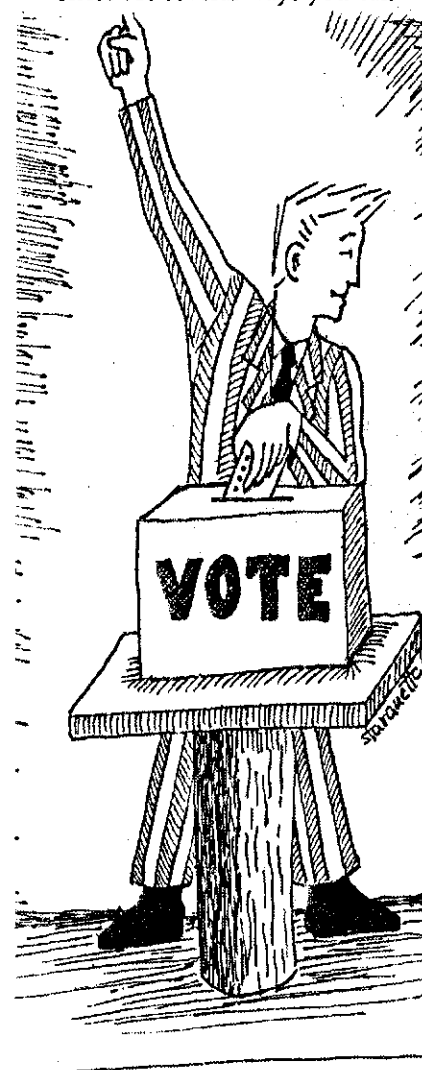
Deadline to register to vote

ALICIA EDQUIST
Community Editor
community@talonmarks.com

The deadline to register to vote for the March 8 election is nearing. Next Tuesday is the last day to register to vote for the upcoming election.

Five cities in the college district area will be having elections on March 8. The cities are Bellflower, Cerritos, Lakewood, La Mirada and Norwalk.

There are several ways you can



ROBERTO ESTARANETA

register to vote such as online or by mail. The Norwalk Registrars' Records office has applications to register to vote.

To be eligible to register to vote you must:

- be a United States Citizen;
- be 18 years of age on or before the day of the election;
- be a resident of the State of California;
- not be in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony;
- not have been judged by a court to be mentally incompetent to register and vote.

In the State of California the deadline to register to vote for an election is 15 days before each local and statewide election day.

Registration forms are available throughout Los Angeles County at most County buildings, city halls, fire stations, libraries, State Motor Vehicle Offices, Public Assistance Offices, and post offices.

Voter information and registration forms can be obtained at the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Norwalk headquarters and all RR/CC district offices.

Registration-by-mail forms may be requested during regular business hours by calling the Election Information Section in Norwalk, or district offices, or the Voter Registration Request Line (800) 481-VOTE (8683). The telephone number is operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk provides registration forms and assistance in six languages other than English in compliance with federal and state laws (Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Korean).

The Norwalk headquarters location and business hours are:

12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk
(562) 466-1310
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday

An online voter registration form is available at the Secretary of State's web site <http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/votereg1.html>.

Voter registration is permanent. You need to re-register if you have moved, changed your name or wish to change your political party affiliation.

Voters who wish to vote by Absentee Ballot must submit a written request for a ballot no later than seven days prior to election day.

If you will be unable to vote in person on election day, promptly complete and sign the application for an absentee voter's ballot and return it to:

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
P.O. Box 30450
Los Angeles, Ca 90030-0450

You may request an application for Permanent Absentee Voter status by calling (562) 466-1323 or by writing the office as well.

A letter request is acceptable if it identifies the election for which a ballot is being requested, contains the voter's name and signature, registered address and the address to which the ballot should be mailed.

The signature of each person asking for an absentee ballot is required and will be compared with the person's signature on file when he/she registered to vote, in order to verify the legitimacy of the application.

Any questions regarding registering to vote can be answered by calling (562) 466-1310 or by visiting the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk web site at <http://regrec.co.la.ca.us/>.

COMMUNITY

Dunaway to speak at B.R.A.V.O. awards

HERSSON PRECIADO
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Film actress Faye Dunaway, best known for her role in "Mommie Dearest," will be the keynote speaker for the City of Bellflower's 11th annual Bellflower Recognizes Acts of Valor and Outstanding Service awards Thursday.

Dunaway will be one of several speakers at the B.R.A.V.O. awards that set out to honor and recognize acts of valor and exceptional service in support of public safety by Sheriff's deputies, firefighters, community volunteers and U.S. Armed Forces.

Award recipients include Sheriff's Deputy Eric Ford for outstanding service, Howard Cole for Community Volunteer of the year and 11 others.

The event that is slated to begin at noon will take place at the Bristol Civic Auditorium.

Other speakers include Sheriff Lee Baca and Los Angeles County Fire Department Chief Mike Freeman.

Dunaway studied at the Theater Department of Boston University and graduated from the University of Florida.

Her first screen role was in 1967 in "The Happening," but in the same year, she got a role in "Bonnie and Clyde," which garnered her an Oscar nomination.

It was in the 1970s that she began to stretch her acting mus-



Keynote speaker: Faye Dunaway is best known for her role in "Mommie Dearest," will speak at the Bellflower B.R.A.V.O. awards. The awards recognize valor in public safety.

cles in such films as "Three Days of the Condor," "Puzzle of a Downfall Child," "Little Big Man," "Chinatown" and "Network," for which she won her Oscar.

She played Joan Crawford in "Mommie Dearest," and an alcoholic in "Barfly."

Dunaway will be speaking on the importance of setting goals and believing in one's self.

The event is free to the public and it will have both live entertainment and a complimentary buffet lunch.

A live video feed will be set up in the upstairs green room for the overflow of late arrivals.

Sanitation district cleans up

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From televisions and computer monitors, to paint and used motor oil, the County of Los Angeles' Department of Public Works and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles took in hundreds of different hazardous waste items during its roundup Saturday in Santa Fe Springs.

The free Countywide Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Roundup, sponsored in cooperation with the cities of Artesia, Bellflower, Carson, Cerritos, Compton, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Norwalk, Paramount and Signal Hill was held at the Rio Hondo Fire Academy Santa Fe Springs training facility.

LA area residents brought motor oil, paint, paint thinner, household and car batteries, along with other materials, during the year-long effort to collect hazardous materials from local homes, according to Martin Zemloc, supervising engineer tech for the Sanitation District of Los Angeles.

The sanitation district contracts the company that does the handling of the materials.

"We contract out the work; we get a different contractor for every event from a pool of companies we work with," Zemloc said.

"This time we used Clean Harbors; next time we will use someone else," Zemloc added about the company used last Saturday.

Those working with the more hazardous and toxic materials worked in a special zone where only those who had over 40 hours of hazmat training were allowed.

"Normally, we will see anywhere around 1,700 cars in one day," Zemloc said.

"We are expecting around 1,200 cars today," Zemloc explained, who realized the rain on the previous night and the gloomy skies in the morning would affect attendance.

One of those 1,200 cars belonged to Peter Meloncamp, a resident of Norwalk, who brought a television and a few containers of oil.

"I heard about it from a neighbor; I had done it a couple months ago, but I had a few things pile up since then," Meloncamp said.

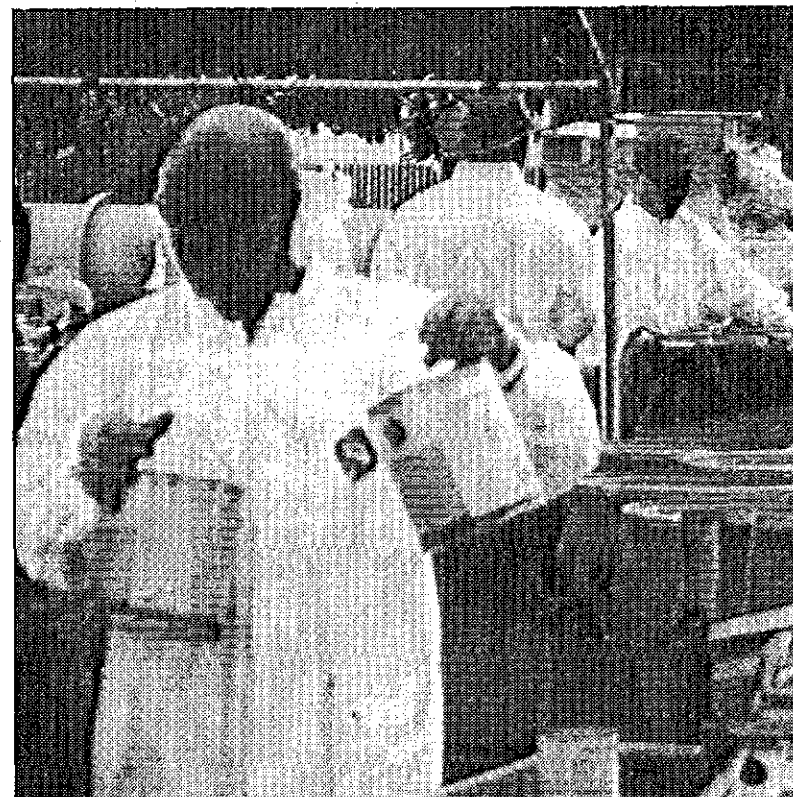
The clean up is held by the district on a weekly basis through the year barring Christmas and a few other weeks, according to Zemloc.

Meloncamp brought his two sons, Jonathon and Michael, along for the ride and to see how to properly dispose of unneeded materials.

"I knew they weren't going to have to get off, so I brought them so they could see all the things that pile up here," Meloncamp said.

The materials not only ranged in textures from heavy solids like televisions to oils, but they also ranged from new, like two to three-year-old televisions to sets that dated back to as far back as the 1950s.

Aside from Clean Harbors,



HERSSON PRECIADO/TM

Waste: Clean Harbors' employees organize hazardous materials during a countywide cleanup in Santa Fe Springs.

there were also some temporary employees hired for the day to move cars through the horseshoe-shaped parking lot and training facility where the event took place.

The event is aimed at answering the serious problem of electronic waste growing in communities.

Many of these products can be reused, refurbished, or recycled, including items such as VCRs, stereos, fax machines, copiers, computer keyboards and cellular telephones, which normally end up in the trash can and make their way to a landfill; roundup workers recycle what they can and properly

ly dispose of that which can't be recycled.

Residents were advised to leave the products in their original container, and then place them in a cardboard box and drive to the site. Once there, the passengers were instructed to stay in their vehicle at all times while in the site.

Despite the fact that the event is for residents only, and businesses are discouraged to come to the event, Zemloc said that he would accept anyone within reason and that they would come anyway, even if the rule was enforced more strictly.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Where's my cluckin' chicken?



The Talon Marks is a First Amendment publication. Editorials express the views of the Editorial Board. Other opinions express the view of the author and are not to be considered opinions of the publications staff, the Editorial Board, the advisers, the Cerritos College Associated Students, the college administration or the Board of Trustees.

Production and printing of the TALON MARKS is partially funded by the Associated Students of Cerritos College.

Facilities and academic supervision are provided by the Department of Journalism.

Newsroom offices are located in the Arts & Crafts Building, Rm AC42. Cerritos College is located at 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650. (562) 860-2451, ext. 2617. FAX (562) 467-5044.

Vol. 50
© 2005 Talon Marks

FALL 2005
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Tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are.

Don't say you are going to do something and then don't.

Keep all your promises.

These are relevant sayings that at some point in your life you must have heard.

If only Kentucky Fried Chicken could have heard these before they set up a partnership that misled students and left many with their feathers ruffled.

Two weeks ago a representative from Citi Cards appeared on campus with a handful of flyers that stated you could get a free two-piece meal or a free shirt from KFC.

The address very clearly noted KFC's location across the street from the college on Studebaker Road.

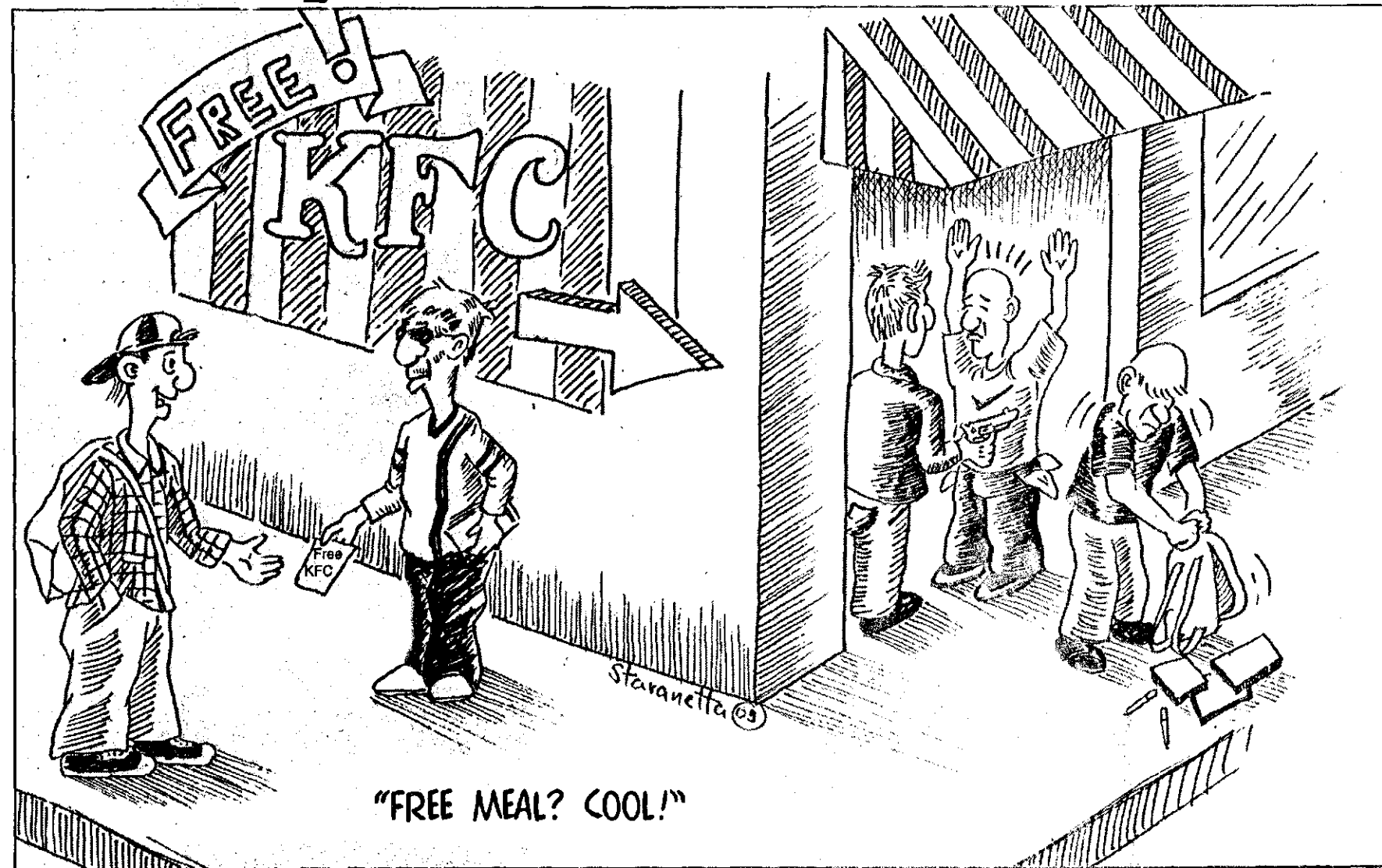
With the information on the flyer no one would assume that the chicken was not going to be given away for free by KFC.

However, KFC turned away student after student from its counter, referring them to the front lawn where they had to sign up for a credit card to be able to collect the free chicken.

The problem lies in several areas, first being that credit card vendors are not allowed on campus by Campus Police. The representative was obviously trying to get around that by passing out flyers on campus and taking the business to KFC.

Second, it is implied that the chicken is free and that it will be KFC chicken.

Unfortunately, half of that is not



true as the cost for signing up for a credit card is often the reduction of your credit score due to a credit check that is performed when applying for it.

This editorial board demands that KFC, due to its bad choice in partners

and hand in false advertising, live up to its promise and give every student at Cerritos College free chicken.

You can't print and pass out anything that says free chicken, KFC, the location's address, a time period for the free chicken, on this campus and

then not honor the coupons.

The form of advertisement they employed was not one of simple posters all over campus. It involved pieces of papers that clearly implied that they were coupons.

KFC made a mistake, it gambled

and it failed. Dozens, if not hundreds, of students were angered by the false pretense they were dragged to KFC for. Worse than that, the partners in deception did it again last week.

Fair is fair and foul is foul and now we demand this fowl be made free.



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

U.S. foreign policies; a tangled web

In the past few years our nation has entered a new era. The phrase used widely is, "the war on terror."

I have no qualms with a war on terror, but I must first question the history and motives of any nation that wages such a war; it's the American in me.

My primary concern is the history of our national government. From the 1980-1990s, we experienced "the war on drugs," where we invaded Central and South America and imposed a "democratic society" that accommodated the interests of our national government.

In Nicaragua, we threatened the nation with sanctions and embargoes, unless they voted for our democratic candidate.

Much was the same throughout most of the region. And, of course, we supported it, because it was a war on drugs. The same drugs brought into our country by the CIA.

As Americans, we even went the extra mile in supporting the cause by out-casting Latin-Americans, because our media constantly drilled the notion that drugs and Latin-Americans were synonymous.

In the years before, (1950-1970s) there was the "war against communism." We invaded various nations.

In Vietnam, we were freeing people from a danger that apparently the citizens of Vietnam didn't even know of.

Communism was a fear that haunted all our citizens.



And of course, we were never hesitant to report any suspicious links to communism, which evidently pinned our citizens against one another, further encouraging our national media to promote the fear of communism that persuaded us to support the war.

It is true, the sixties was a time of change, but we mustn't forget how violent the struggle was.

When JFK hinted that we were going to pull our soldiers out of the massacre, our citizens praised him; while munitions companies opposed this idea, and with their overwhelming influence dealt with it accordingly, so that under Lyndon Johnson we remained at war.

Today, we are imprinting our imperial label in the Middle East, in what is called the "war on terror."

The media posts a terror alert daily as we sit as loyal citizens and support our nation in their pursuit to spread democracy, while American oil industries use our military as muscle to monopolize the world's resources.

Once again, we trade our freedoms for security and just as in the cases before, we outcast Middle Eastern Americans and label them

according to the title of the war, "terrorists."

It is no wonder we are such racists. It is no wonder we have become a paranoid society. It is no wonder we cannot even trust our own neighbors.

As a nation of many races, we all go about our days suspicious of one another. In doing so, we have lost the ability to stand together and regulate our government's actions, therefore losing the core of our democratic society.

We are so fearful of these false threats that are constantly being injected into our society by the media, that we give our full support to save our asses from it.

The case is very simple, our government picks a fight with a nation that has what it wants. However, first as a democracy, it needs our approval.

That is when the media comes into play. A fearful threat is introduced and as humans with natural instincts for survival, we respond by giving our full support to our government which protects us.

Yes, let us trade our freedoms for security. John Lock proposed a reasonable theory stating that governments were formed by man for security reasons. In doing so, some personal freedoms are given up.

If our national government continues to purposely inject these fears, we will soon find that we have no freedoms left.

Music is the soundtrack to our lives

Music has inspired the community so much that it has become more than just a trend, but a culture and a lifestyle.

People who develop a passion for any genre of music become inspired by that music.

Whether the genre be rock, hip hop, jazz or Christian, music can affect the way we dress and the way we live.

Music is not just sound or noise anymore; in addition it has become inspiring with the lyrics and messages of the songs.

The latest hip-hop hit "Hopeful" by the artist known as "Twista" expresses change in one's self and society.



One verse states that "If we could all see it through the eyes of Stevie Wonder," implying that we should look at who we are rather than what we are, just as the great music artist Wonder did. Music is the food to our spirit.

Inspirational lyrics and verses like these help us get involved with our spirit and soul.

Tapping into this part of our being we become dependent, more-or-less, on the music

we pay attention to.

Music can help us with our everyday problems as well.

It helps us to want more, live for more, go to the limit or even helps us in times of depression and stress.

It can also help us get over our personal problems and even remember the best of memories.

Listening to our favorite type of music can help us grow as a person through the way we dress, the way we talk, think and reason. Music today has a great impact on our community. It's great that it has inspired many in society to become happier people.

FREE SPEECH ZONE?!

Do you think Michael Jackson is guilty of the charges against him, and do you think he will be convicted of those charges?

COMPILED BY: SUNEM RIVAS
PHOTOS BY: DIONA CARRILLO



"Maybe he's guilty. Yeah I think he'll be convicted."

Cesar Valenzuela
computer animation major



"I know he won't be convicted. I don't know if he's guilty; I liked him."

JENNY MORALES
administration of justice major



"He'll probably be convicted, but I think he has enough money to where he isn't going to jail."

OCTAVIO GUTIERREZ
administration of justice major



"My last name is Jackson; I think he did it, but I don't think he'll be convicted...money, fame."

GREGORY JACKSON
business major



"I don't care, I don't keep up with the news."

MAHEALANI JOHNSON
nursing major

Separating God from Tom

The separation of church and state; do you know what that means?

Well, one would think Americans would have a clue because so many use it as a shield to avoid contact with any form of religion in the public arena.

America as a nation has become far too sensitive. Everyone is afraid of offending everyone else.

Geniuses that we are, we took the First Amendment and a line from good old Thomas Jefferson, and created a term in which our nation bases nearly everything it does.

The problem is, it's wrong. Jefferson's term "wall of separation" has created much ado about nothing.

It has given a foothold to those who want to remove religion from government.

What the general public thinks it means is not what it means at all.

Most people don't even know where the term came from.

Thomas Jefferson coined the term in a letter he wrote to some clergymen in response to their concern that a national church might be established in America.

Jefferson stated that there is a wall of separation between the church and the state, meaning that as the constitution so clearly



states, the government would not interfere in religion and the lives of people by creating a national "Church of America."

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof (First Amendment, U.S. Constitution)."

Jefferson, unlike many people today, really knew what the First Amendment meant.

The amendment was created not as a way to keep religion out of politics, but to protect the church from the wiles of the state.

From the 10 commandments monument being removed from a courthouse, and the controversy of allowing a nativity scene in front of city hall, to the cross being removed from the Los Angeles seal, the problems continue.

I question the religious freedom I'm supposed to have when I'm looked down upon for wanting to express my belief.

I can't grasp the understanding of the process the nation goes through to decide what is acceptable and what is not.

Every group under the sun is allowed to show themselves to others.

They are acknowledged with parades, television and protection laws.

Yet religion today is considered a closet practice only allowed in church with no place in the real world.

People have distorted the meaning of the First Amendment to fit their individual agendas.

Those who want to remove religion from public view have claimed the First Amendment as "evidence" to support their arguments.

In an effort to separate church and state, they have overstepped the boundaries by "prohibiting the free exercise" of religion.

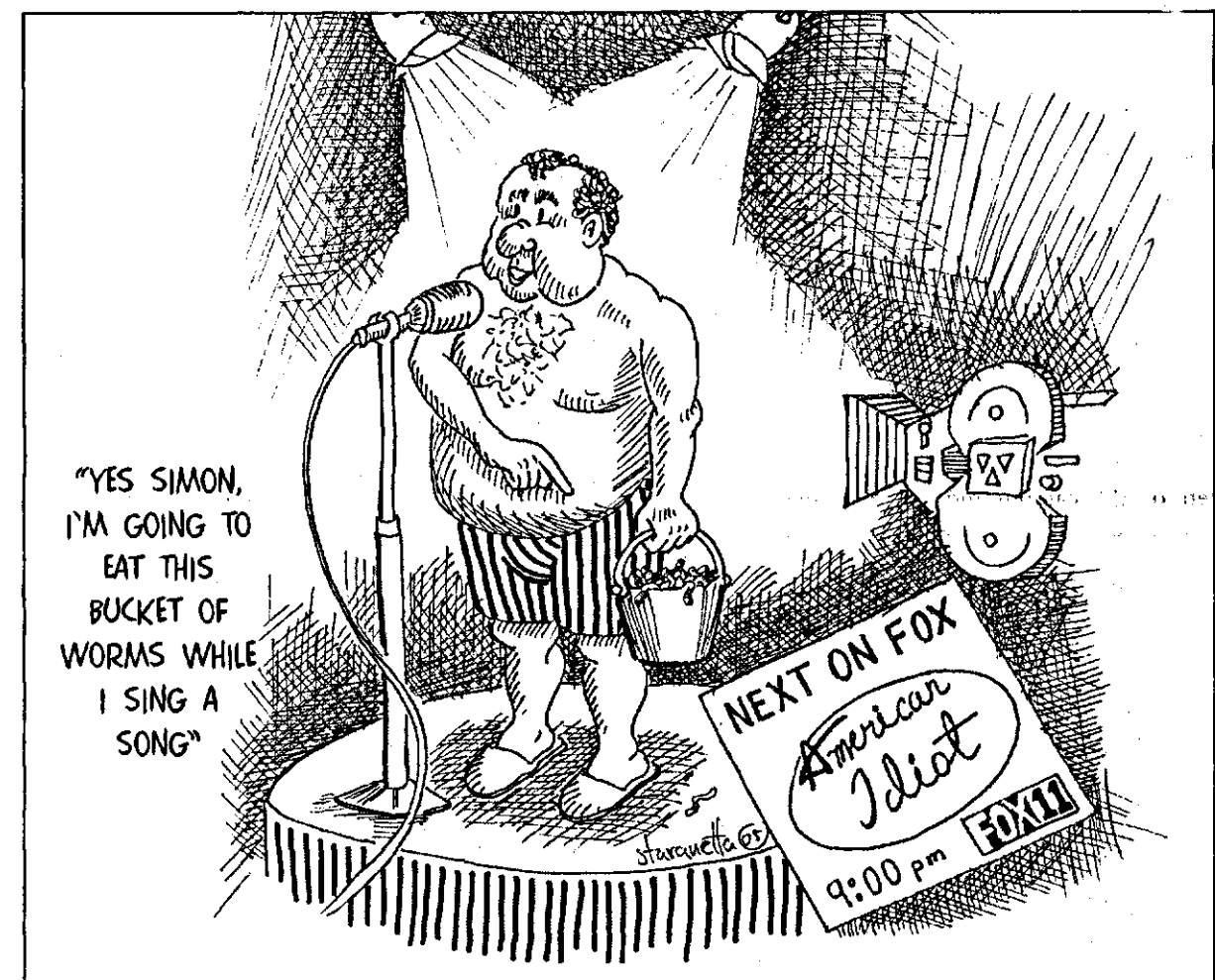
Furthermore, they have, in a way, established their own brand of religion across America.

They have planted an ideology of intolerance in the heart of the country; intolerance for religion that is.

Our founding fathers never meant to see a nation that has become so repulsed by the very mention of religion.

Neither would they have condemned anyone for their views because they believed and practiced the words of the First Amendment.

We say today that we are a tolerant nation, but actions speak louder than words, and it's not looking too hopeful.



Cartoon By: Roberto Estaran

Playing bad cop, worse cop

What is going on with police forces these days?

Just because they are police officers it doesn't give them the right to go and shoot people, especially a young child.

The police department has been in hot water recently and apparently, it is finding flaws in the laws so it can get away with what it is doing.

A recent event of police brutality is the 13-year-old who was shot and killed while driving a car late at night.

Granted, he shouldn't have been out that late and joy-riding in his parents' car, but that's beside the point.

The police officer still didn't have to shoot the kid, and I really doubt the child put the cop in danger; even if he did, that still doesn't give the cop the right to shoot the child several times.

Another example is when a police officer was pounding a



man's head against the cop car. This officer didn't just pound this man's head once but several times.

These incidents went to court and guess what? The officer was the one who got a settlement and went free.

These cops who are hurting and even killing individuals are not only hurting the individual, but they are also hurting the person's family as well.

How do you think the parents and family of the 13-year-old felt about losing their son?

They must feel very unsafe to know that a cop is responsible for taking their son away from them forever.

As the days go by, the head of police department is going to find

some technicality to get this cop out of the hot-seat.

And he will probably remain on the police force as well.

Even though these types of events have recently surfaced, this has been going on for a very long time.

Just because they are cops and they enforce laws doesn't mean they can break the laws.

Police brutality has to stop, because if things don't change within the police department, who can the civilians trust?

Another thing that can happen if things don't change is that the public will become outraged and once again riots will occur.

Cops are here to protect our communities, not to make them more dangerous than some of them already are.

We expect them to catch the bad guy not be the bad guy.

Letter to the Editor

Applauding equal opportunity writers

Dear Editor:
Please thank writer Jonathan Jordan for writing the article about gay marriages.

I constantly go over this topic in my mind as well as with family

and friends, yet not many people share the same ideals.

Reading his article really made me happy.

It was nice to see that someone is up for equal opportunity when

it comes to marriage.

Please pass this on to Mr. Jordan.

Sincerely,
Melissa Witt

LAS HURRACAS BY ESTARANETTA



Girls and Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



2 Dudes

By Aaron Warner



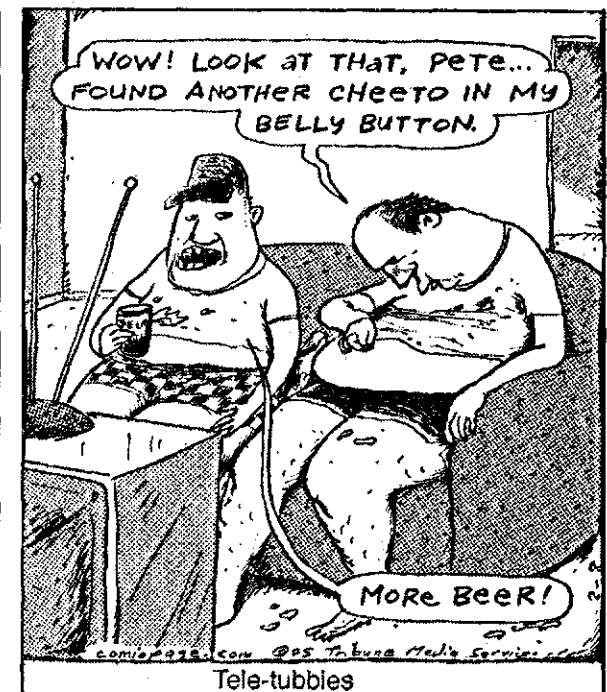
A College Girl Named Joe

By Aaron Warner



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

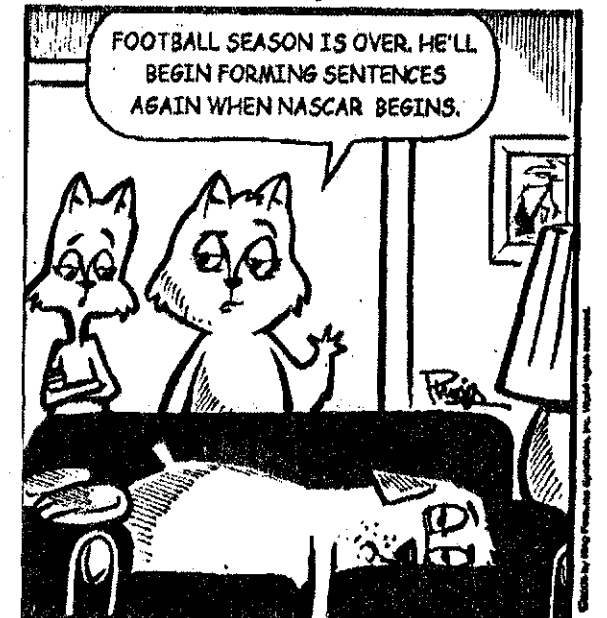


TRIVIA TEST

Answers online at www.talonmarks.com

1. MEASUREMENTS: A pica is equal to what fraction of an inch?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Esther Morris was the first woman to become what in the United States?
3. HISTORY: When was the city of New Orleans founded?
4. GEOGRAPHY: The Khyber Pass defines the border between Afghanistan and what other country?
5. MOVIES: What was the name of the elusive big fish that Norman was always trying to catch in the movie "On Golden Pond?"
6. PRESIDENT: Who was the 18th president of the United States?
7. ANCIENT WORLD: Where was the region known as Ionia?
8. LANGUAGE: What does something that is ferriferous contain?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Stone Diaries?"
10. TELEVISION: On TV's "Dallas," what was J.R.'s last name? (c) 2005 King Features Synd., Inc.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Music department at its finest

JON GARCIA
ASE Editor
arts@talonmarks.com

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, the Cerritos College Burnight Theatre is proud to present Chopin, Mozart, Bach and yes, even contemporary greats, B.B. King and Eric Clapton in concert, as they make their appearance on stage Sunday afternoon for the annual Faculty Gala.

"It's great entertainment," said David Bettancourt, director of Bands and Orchestras.

"We have an extra talented faculty that has spent years honing their skills; I think the community should take advantage of that."

Bettancourt is just one of the many faculty members of the music department who will participate in this year's Faculty Gala.

The Faculty Gala is a once-a-year event in which part-time and full-time faculty come together for an afternoon full of a variety of music.

This year, the 20th Annual Faculty Gala will be held Feb. 27.

The show starts at 2 p.m. and

the cost is just \$5 for students, and \$10 at the door.

"I'll be playing guitar, so it will be a change of pace for me," Dr. Nelson, professor of music said, commenting on the fact that he has opted out of playing violin this year.

"We'll (his group) be playing 'Riding With the King,' 'She Caught the Katy,' and 'The Chicken,'" Nelson said.

All the money raised from this event will go to the school, as well as towards scholarships to deserving music students.

Nelson commented on the fact that there is a lot of great talent here at school, and that there is a definite need to honor those talented students with scholarships.

"We've been very successful in the past," Dr. Christine Lopez, chair of the Music Department said.

"In the classroom, students don't get the full idea of how accomplished our faculty members are as soloists."

Nearly 40 part-time and full-time staff members will be participating in the event.

Some of the songs that will be played during the event include: "Luck be a Lady Tonight," "Vienna," "My City of Dreams," and "Hungarian Rhapsody."

"The concert provides a great opportunity for students to be exposed to different styles of music and to some real talent," Gary Pritchard, professor of musicology said.

In the aforementioned group that Dr. Nelson will be playing in, the talents of Pritchard on the organ, Marin Torres on the bass, Bettancourt on the trumpet, Mark Wein on the guitar and Steve Sykes on the drums will be featured.

Many other faculty members will also be grouped together to perform both duets and accompaniments.

"The community is always very impressed with the high accomplished performers that we have here," Lopez said.

To purchase tickets, or for more information, you can contact Amara Aguilar in the theatre department at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2638, or via email at aaguilar@cerritos.edu.



Professor Gary Pritchard and Dr. David Nelson collaborate in the synth lab.

COURTESY OF MEDIA RELATIONS

'The cure for the common man'



COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES
Smith struts his stuff as a suave love doctor.

Will Smith stars as Hitch, a love doctor who helps lonely men get the woman of their dreams

JONATHAN JORDAN
Life Editor
life@talonmarks.com

Need help impressing the woman of your dreams?

Think it could be done in three dates?

Well, maybe the date doctor, Hitch (Will Smith) can help you out with that.

In the movie "Hitch," Smith plays a man who helps unconfident men get the woman they have always dreamed of.

Playing a suave man who knows how to win over any woman within three dates, Smith's actions lead him to stumble in his own love life.

Sara Melas (played by Eva Mendes) plays the apple of Smith's eye.

She blows off the men she is not interested in with ease.

It is amazing how identical it is to real life scenarios that men go through all the time.

Both actors play their roles strongly, making their presence on screen known.

Mendes once again shows she has a comedic side, as she really emphasizes how women feel when men try to pick up on them.

The facial expressions of Smith's almost elastic face really put the emphasis on how he feels about his clients.

Hitch's main client is Albert Brennaman (Kevin James), who is madly in love with famous heiress, Allegra Cole (Amber Valletta).

James steals the show on sev-

eral occasions with his dancing techniques that put most people to shame.

The plot is good, but at times is a bit repetitive on the joke side.

Things really get topsy-turvy when Hitch finds he's in love.

He goes on a date with Melas, and everything that can go wrong does.

He smacks her in the head with his foot, gets food poisoning and loses his shirt.

Hitch's life really falls apart after Melas finds out that he is the anonymous date doctor.

At this point in the movie, Smith and Mendes really do a good job in showing emotion with heartfelt arguments and make-ups; the onscreen chemistry is definitely a plus.

Overall, "Hitch" is a good date movie, but men beware, this movie can give women many ideas.

Biased Grammys play the favorites game



Jon Garcia
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been nominated for so many awards?

Don't get me wrong, I love the guy and appreciate all he did for music, but he didn't deserve to get the nod on so many Grammys.

Oh, we just have to be "PC" don't we?

We have to base our biased opinions on the fact that someone who dies gets dies on the gold over someone who really deserves it.

Why?

Because he was a "legend," and everyone knows that those are the guys who get the awards.

Everyone else has to pay their dues just like he did before they even think they have the slightest chance of winning.

Ray was a good guy, and had great talent; please don't think I do not recognize that. It's just that with another year where the people who should have won, don't win, I grow more and more disenchanted with the award-giving process which has become so idle, so boring, so cliché that it's not even funny anymore.

Is it really an award anymore if the winner of the outcome is so predictable?

On that note, it's time to step away from the Ray spotlight for a moment, and end this story by taking a look at, by far, the most enchanting quote of the night that came from Kanye West when he won best rap record of the year.

"People keep saying, ooh, what's he going to do, what's going to happen if he don't win...well, I guess we'll never know."

The Ray phenomenom recap

- Record of the year: Ray Charles
- Album of the year: Ray Charles
- Best Engineered Album, non-classical: Ray Charles
- Best Surround Sound Album: Ray Charles
- Pop Collaboration With Vocals: Ray Charles

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SPORTS

Falcons win, despite scare

INSIDE
THE
NUMBERS

20

Overall wins last
season

13

Wins within
conference last
season

3

Total wins after
six games

9

Sophomores on
the team

17

Freshmen on
the team

Ready to rip: Cerritos outfielder Dave Balandran prepares to swing.

RAUL SANDOVAL/TM

DAVID PEREZ
Co-Sports Editor
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The Cerritos College baseball team held on to beat the Mendocino College Eagles last Saturday after nearly blowing an eight-run cushion in the final frame.

Going into the ninth inning, Cerritos held a 9-1 advantage and seemed headed to a strong win.

However, pitcher Eric Retana struggled to finish-off the Eagles and allowed six runs before Jerome Fortin closed the door on the comeback.

Freshmen pitchers Phil Van Doren and Retana had allowed just two total hits before the ninth inning explosion, exercising their will over Mendocino.

Van Doren turned in six solid innings, surrendering his two hits and one run allowed in the first inning. He struck out seven Eagles and walked only two en route to his first victory.

After Mendocino jumped out to the early 1-0 lead, Cerritos answered back in the bottom of the first inning with three runs.

The seventh inning saw three more runs scored by the Falcons, two coming off of Dan Luyben's triple, which pushed the lead to 9-1.

Center fielder Dave Balandran accounted for three of Cerritos' runs in the game, adding two hits to designated hitter Earl Powell's three.

The win left Cerritos with a 2-3 record, while Mendocino fell to 2-4.

Benjamin, Sims
dominate VikingsDAVID PEREZ
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Once again, Daisy Benjamin and Niki Sims lifted the Cerritos College women's basketball team to victory over the Long Beach City College Vikings last Friday, 65-48.

The two sophomores combined for 41 points in the game and helped Cerritos keep pace with El Camino for first place in the South Coast Conference South Division.

Head coach Karen Welliver expected as much from the tandem.

"Well, they're just playing like they can. They're battling," she said.

Benjamin and Sims have accounted for the team's top scorers all season. Both also seem to be locks for this year's All-South Coast Conference first-team.

Cerritos distanced itself from the Vikings heading into halftime with a 29-18 lead. Although Benjamin was slow to find her game at the start, Sims posted 10 points and five rebounds by the end of the half.

The duo would provide for 27 of the Falcons' 36 points in the second half.

At one juncture, Benjamin scored 12 straight points for Cerritos and finished with 18 points in the game.

Sims led all Cerritos scorers with 23 points, while forward

Randi Willis added six points and Ronnie Clark contributed four.

Welliver feels that the team is excelling every game.

"I feel we're getting better and better," Welliver said, "and we're working really hard."

Cerritos won its only other meeting against Long Beach on Jan. 21, 63-54.

At 17-12 overall and 6-1 in the division, Cerritos has only one remaining division game as it plays host to LA Harbor on Wednesday.

Should El Camino and Cerritos finish in a tie for first place, the team with the higher power ranking will be named champion.

Welliver admitted, "They are going to be ahead of us, no matter what."

Eighteen teams get into the playoffs, but the bottom four teams must play a play-in round next Wednesday. Welliver believes her team will find itself as one of the bottom four.

LA Harbor (2-22, 0-6) comes into Wednesday's game having lost nine-straight and 15 of its last 16 games.

The Falcons defeated the Seahawks on Jan. 26, 63-43, in the team's only previous contest this season.

"We're not going to change, just keep refining what we do. Everyone this time of year is more familiar with each other, so we'll just try to do what we do better," Welliver said.

Men's hoops playoff
dreams put on holdRAYMOND GALLEGOS
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Assistant coach Tito Ortiz explained that a sense of urgency was felt as the playoffs seemed like a dream following the Cerritos College men's basketball team's loss to Long Beach City last Friday, 80-68.

With a mark of 14-13 overall and 4-3 in South Coast Conference South Division play, Cerritos is tied with several teams for second place in its division.

Cerritos did stay close with the Vikings in the first half.

The second half was another story. Cerritos fell down by as many as 15 points and never caught up to the Vikings again.

"We did stick to our game plan, but they wanted to win more, they executed," Ortiz said.

"They just wanted it more."

"When they wanted baskets, they got them, and when our key guys wanted baskets, they never

got them."

Baskets were hard to come by as the Vikings made the Falcons commit several turnovers that led to several transition baskets.

Cerritos was not playing man to man defense, and it allowed the Vikings to get the ball whenever they wanted, Ortiz explained.

The Falcons did, however, rebound strongly, but it proved to be too little, too late, Ortiz said.

Guard Matt Reid said, "We have to finish stronger, we have to put two halves together."

The LA Harbor game is now Cerritos' main focus, as it does not control its own destiny.

Ortiz said that a loss to LA Harbor Wednesday would essentially knock Cerritos out of the playoffs.

Reid still believes that the Falcons have a chance for a playoff berth.

"It's not too much pressure; we have got too many sophomores to go home," he said.

There is no 'we' in team, unless you're delusional

WERNER GOMEZ
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While sitting around at the Talon Marks "headquarters," some of the guys and I get into discussions about our favorite sports teams, and something that bothers me always comes up.

It seems that my colleagues believe that they either work or play for the Dodgers.

They also have these delusions about the Lakers, Clippers, Packers, Raiders and the USC Trojans.

How do I know they have these delusions?

Well, they keep saying "we" or "us" when they refer to their favorite teams.

I know they are die-hard fans of these teams and really care about how well they do, but get real.

During the NBA season my day revolves around how the Lakers do. Depending on the outcome of the game, the greatest day of my life could be ruined if they don't win.

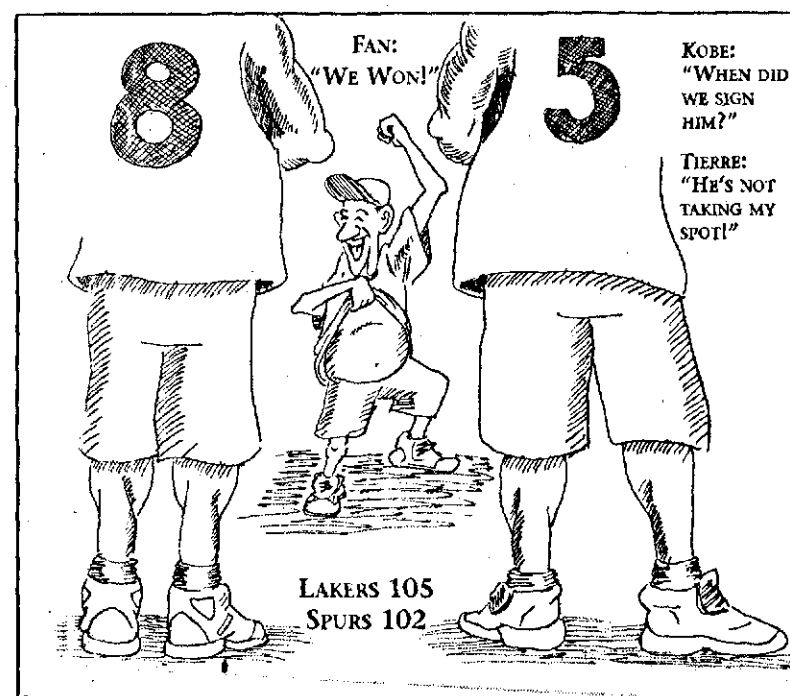


ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERTO STARANETTA

And as much as I love the team, I know I am not a part of the Lakers organization.

It would be as if you, the reader of the Talon Marks, who has nothing to do with either writing the stories or producing the paper, went around saying, "we wrote a good story" and "we put a good paper together."

Well, "you" (the reader) read the paper, "we" (the staff writers and editors) wrote and produced it. Don't get the two confused.

My colleagues watch the games and cheer for the teams, but they do not put on jerseys and play the games, nor do they have any control over what moves the organization makes and the team it puts

together.

Fans want to believe they are a part of the team.

And although "we," as fans, are special to the sporting world, the overwhelming majority of us will never get to know our sports heroes outside of reading their biographies.

Yes, we might meet them and talk to them for a minute or two, but that's not really meeting them.

I don't know about you, but I don't remember having to pitch against Barry Bonds or having to get a hit off of Jason Schmidt.

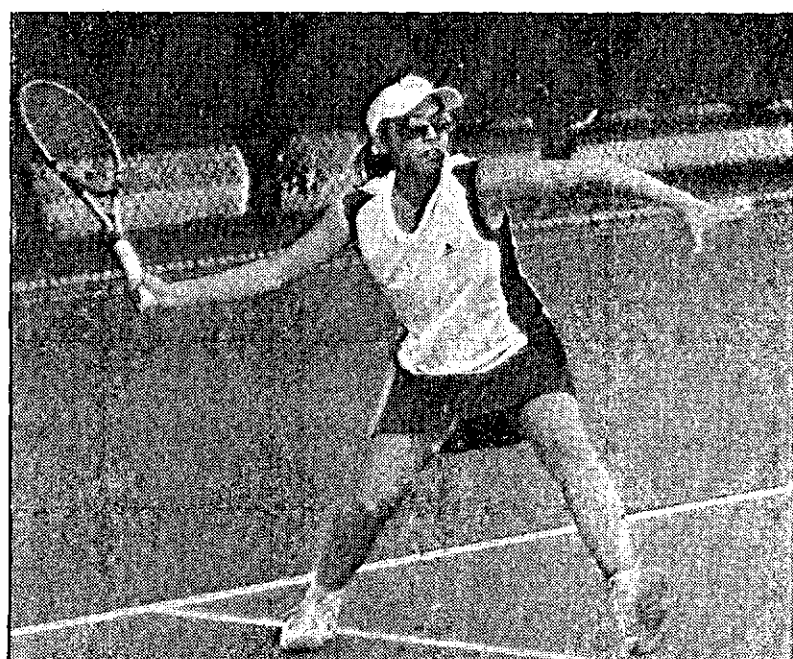
You can take this rule and apply it to the teams here at Cerritos.

"Our" school has some great athletic programs that are perennial winners, but not all of us play on these teams.

"We" don't dedicate the time and work it takes to be a student-athlete or the extra time it takes to be good at it.

We are all too wrapped up in other things to care about what they do away from the actual game.

"We" are not on the team.



CATHY LOZANO/TM

Measuring it up: Ashley Vachirajongkol sets up her forehand.

Falcons impressive in annihilation of Jaguars

WERNER GOMEZ
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The Cerritos College women's tennis team encountered little difficulty while defeating Southwestern College last Thursday, 8-1.

Mara Petrini, No. 1 single, and Berenice Ceja were very excited about their victories against the Jaguars.

"We kicked ass," Petrini said.

Ceja agreed, "It was good."

Both were very confident and pleased with their performances in both singles and doubles matches.

During their three doubles

matches, the Falcons went 2-1, suf-

fering their only loss of the day. The partnership of Petrini and Ashley Vachirajongkol won its match 8-0, while the duo of Ceja and Carla Gonzalez won 8-1.

When singles play started, the Jaguars could not keep up with the Falcons and were seemingly defeated with little resistance.

Virginia Orellana, No. 6 single, expressed her thoughts on what she thought to be an easy victory.

"She (her opponent) wasn't as competitive as I would've thought she was," Orellana said.

Orellana also confessed that her opponent was not at 100 percent.

She said that she took advan-

tage of her opponent's apparent ankle problem.

Despite her opponent's lack of mobility, she was still pleased with the win.

"It felt great kicking her butt," she said.

Orellana swept her opponent and gave up only one point, winning the match 6-1, 6-0.

Cerritos is now 3-1 overall and has a match against Orange Coast College before starting conference play.

"The team is doing really good," said Orellana.

"I'm really glad to have this experience."

Petrini gave up four points,

sweeping her opponent 6-1, 6-3, while Vachirajongkol won in straight sets 6-3, 6-1.

Ceja managed to shut out her counterpart (6-0, 6-0), while Jhenzier Gordon gave up four and won, 6-1, 6-3.

The only obstacle faced by the Falcons during singles play was encountered by Kenya Fregoso, No. 3 in singles.

She lost the first set 3-6, but managed to win the last two 6-2, 6-4.



Spring training preps fans for opening day on March 4

NANCY ACEVES
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The theater is, by tradition, very superstitious, and despite their self-inflicted calls to "break a leg," it's the actors who are usually under the pressure to succeed as well as being willing to do so.

No actor wants to be a bum, especially in the face of an audition, unless it's the cast of the new play being put on by the Theater Department.

"It was fine; we just read through the scripts," said Kevin Mansell, theater arts major.

He confessed that he was not nervous during the auditions. Mansell will be playing the character of Greg, the blind man.

Entertainment is something everyone can enjoy. Now, thanks to the new play "Bleacher Bums," coming in March, students will not have to leave campus to be entertained.

Auditions for the play were held on Jan. 12 and 13, in the Burnight Studio Theatre. A cast has now been chosen and all character positions have now been assigned.

"There were enough people (at the auditions) to get a good cast," Dr. Robin Huber, director of "Bleacher Bums," said of the turnout at the auditions.

The criteria that Huber was looking for in order to assign actors to an appropriate character was their physical presence, voice and how much experience they had.

Huber also mentioned that when casting, it is important to stay open-minded about the actors.

The characters of this play are: Greg, a man who has been blind since birth; Melody, an attractive woman; Zig, a man who is not only a huge baseball fan, but very over-

weight as well; Decker, a successful businessman; Richie, a geeky guy; Marvin, a gambler; Rose, Zig's wife, who is secretly a Cubs fan; the Cheerleader, an energetic Cubs fanatic; the Kid; the Guard; and the Announcer.

"Bleacher Bums" is a play written by members of the Organic Theatre of Chicago. It was written to serve as a tribute to the Chicago Cubs and its fans.

The Theater Department is hoping this play will not only be glorified by baseball fans, but by anyone who values amusing comedy and talent.

Gilbert Martinez, theater arts major, described that, "The audition was different from other auditions. Usually you just read a script with someone else. This time it was everyone reading, just switching roles."

He also added that he is content with his character.

Matt Sanchez, theater arts major, who is playing the role of the Guard, commented that he, "wanted this part because it wasn't a real big part."

He also mentioned that it is a really "nice play," and that he will try to get Jim Rome to come and see it.

Barbara Lopez, theater arts major, mentioned that she was not planning to audition and just attended to watch her friends audition.

She described that she is a "huge baseball fan and couldn't help not auditioning after listening to the lines of the play."

Lopez will be playing the character Rose, Zig's wife. She also stated that she is, "A Dodgers fan, not a Cubs fan, but for the play I will be a Cubs fan."

The performance dates for Bleacher Bums are March 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, at 8 p.m. and March 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 general admission; \$10 students.

For more information contact the Theater Department at (562) 467-5058 or go online to www.cerritos.edu/theatre. Tickets are also available for purchase online.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY BENEDICT ORRISSE, JONATHAN JORDAN, AND NANCY ACEVES

A page from the play book



Angel Castellanos
film theater major
"Richie"

Also Appeared in:

"Jack the Ripper"
Jack
"Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Farm"
Miles Glorioses

Gilbert Martinez
theater arts major
"Zig"

Also appeared in:

"California Payback"
Mayor Brown
"Charley's Aunt"
Charley



Matthew Sanchez
theater arts major
"Guard" & "Announcer"

Also appeared in:

"Little Shop of Whores"
Voice of the plant
"Music Man"
Olin Brick
"Charley's Aunt"
Sir. Frances Chesney



Barbara Lopez
theater arts major

Also appeared in:

"The Laramie Project" (Story of Mathew Shepherd)
Debbie and Sherrie.
"Charley's Aunt"
Amy Spettigue



Bleacher Bums Cast

Greg - Kevin Mansell
Melody - Rebekah Parkinson
Richie - Angel Castellanos
Decker - Justin Murphy
Marvin - Arnold Sullivan
Zig - Gilbert Martinez
Rose - Barbara Lopez
Cheerleader - Tony Bartolone
Announcer/Guard - Matthew Sanchez