

Remembering Jeremy Lara

"I lost my idol."
See LIFE page 12



Bleacher Bums

See A&E page 10



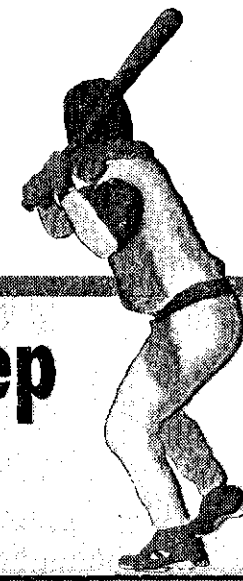
Downey Landing

See COMMUNITY page 8

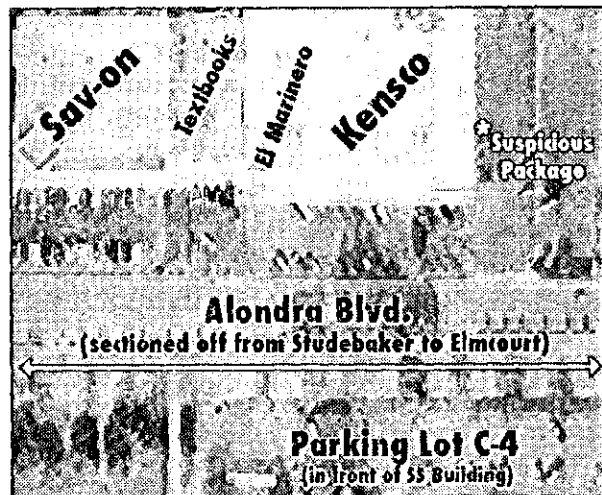
Goin' deep

An update on the diamond

See SPORTS page 11



Bomb's away: package outcome dud



'Bomb' location: A suspicious package was located on the west end of the Kensco store. The bomb squad promptly responded and after two hours the ordeal was finally over when police announced it was a false alarm.

INFOGRAPH BY BENEDICT ORRASE/TM

A call placed to the Sheriff's about a 'suspicious package' gets students' attention and causes an evacuation

DAVID GOMEZ

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Beatriz Luis, undecided major, made her way out of the Social Science building last Friday and saw a bomb squad officer approaching two suitcases in protective gear.

She, as well as other students, was told

by officers that there was a suspicious package in the Kensco store parking lot, and that she must remain behind the police tape which was set up in the northernmost section of the Social Sciences building.

Jesse Mariscal, community services officer, was present to ensure that no one crossed the steps of the SS building where the tape was placed.

"I came out here and saw a bunch of cops. That's when I knew something was up," stated Luis Lopez, computer animation

See related photo-essay on page 4

major.

He was also among the students who were present at the time of the bomb scare.

The police received a call about a suspicious package sometime around 9:45 a.m.

Just over two hours later, the police officers, who had blocked off Alondra Blvd. from Studebaker road to Elmcroft St. and evacuated the homes directly next to the parking lot, stated that there was no bomb, and that it was safe to allow everything to go back to normal.

Although the source of the call was not

See BOMB page 3

Mr. Cerritos gets international

Cerritos College students bear all, but only one gets crowned champion

JONATHAN JORDAN
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Seth Contreras, sponsored by the International Students Association, won the Mr. Cerritos competition last Wednesday, during the Hoe Down Days festivities. The man, who dressed like a

Mariachi, danced all over the stage and wore the Mexican flag on this rear end in the swimsuit competition.

"Just getting out and dancing was a blast."

"I've been dancing all my life," Contreras said.

"Hanging out with the guys is something I'll never forget," he later added.

The event took place after the Chili Cook-Off in the Student Activities Center.

See CONTEST page 3

Women's struggle lacks support

DIONA CARRILLO
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Women's struggles were still struggling for recognition when few people attended the Women's History Month Film Festival on campus Tuesday afternoon.

The film festival was the first event carried out for the 19 annual Woman's History Month celebration. This year's theme is

"Women Change America."

"It is important to celebrate women's history month because it marginalizes the movement, and to also discuss new goals to achieve for the future," Barbara Mueller, English instructor and women's history month committee member, said.

Despite Mueller's remarks on the importance of women's history

See WOMEN page 3

CHOCK FULL OF IRONY



BENEDICT ORRASE/TM

Art Olivares, Culinary Arts major, holds his In-N-Out meal during Hoe Down Days at Falcon Square Thursday. He was one in a group of several Culinary Arts majors standing in line during lunchtime. "In-N-Out is free," Olivares said.

Sanchez speaks

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Congresswoman Linda Sanchez spoke about women's struggles and other topics this past Monday



"The first lesson that I learned when I arrived in Washington D.C. is that congress is not without its own gender-biases and preconceived ideas of what women are capable of."

"Women's history month is important because women have come so far, and after so much struggle, we deserve the opportunity to reflect on our successes before we rejoin the battle."

"I became the first Latina in the history of the United States congress to serve on the Judiciary Committee and the Immigration Sub-Committee."

Women's rights was the topic of the night during Congresswoman Linda Sanchez's (D-CA-39) speech in honor of Women's History Month this past Monday.

Female students were the target audience of Sanchez as she spoke about the prejudices a young Hispanic woman in congress faces.

"Many people in Washington D.C. are pretty surprised that I am a member of Congress," Sanchez commented.

Students who were present each had their own purpose for being there.

Liliana Raigosa, mechanical engineering major, and vice president of FMLA said her main purpose for being present at the speech was because she was a woman.

Raigosa said she has been discriminated against herself for being a woman, which made Sanchez's speech hit much closer to home.

Sanchez spoke about other topics as well, such as the fact that she became the first Latino woman to serve on the Judiciary Committee.

She also serves on the Immigration Sub-Committee.

Sanchez voiced her support for pro-choice legislation and immigrant rights.

Hulmaro Agustin, Chicano studies major, felt the speech was awesome, and was greatly moved that a woman of color held such a position.

"I didn't know much about the INS, and that the police were being

See SPEAKER page 3

Presidential elections nearing

VEITA BOGDANOFF
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Cerritos College once again tackles politics as it prepares for its annual Student Body President Election.

Applications for becoming a candidate will be available in the Student Activities office starting Mar. 7 at 8:30 a.m.

They will be accepted until 4 p.m. on March 31.

Elizabeth Monge, program assistant in Student Activities, said students who should consid-

er running are those who are going to stay at the college for a full year, have a sincere interest in advocating student issues and can get along well with people, as there is great diversity within the college community.



FRANCO

Those hoping to gain the title of Student Body President must obtain 1000 signatures from students who approve of their candidacy.

However, Monge said that it's

important for students to understand that providing a signature is not a vote for the candidate.

Students can sign as many petitions as they like, though they can only sign each petition once.

Upon returning from spring break, the candidates must attend a mandatory orientation on April 5.

Publicity, such as the hanging of posters and flyers, will begin on April 6, when students will embark on the campaign trail.

See ELECTIONS page 3

New bus stop to be constructed

NANCY ACEVES
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Changes will soon begin to take place on campus as the building of a small transit station for the Cerritos on Wheels bus occurs this month.

The construction of this new

See WHEELS page 3

NEWS

Immigrant education gets new plaza



Voila: From left to right: Eric Gutierrez, member of the Cerritos Board of Trustees; Dr. Ted Edmiston, president of the Board of Trustees; Ruben Beltran, consul general de Mexico en Los Angeles; Dr. Noelia Vela, Cerritos College President; and Aurora Martinez, public relations for Constamex at a ribbon cutting for Plaza Comunitaria. The Mexican Consulate in partnership with the Department of Adult Education at Cerritos College is offering the new program to bring literacy to adult immigrants.

ERICK GALINDO
Editor in Chief
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Mexican-American relations improved on campus last Wednesday, as Cerritos College in SAP opened its doors to "immigrant education" during a ribbon cutting.

Dr. Noelia Vela, Cerritos College president, gave speeches in both English and Spanish to commemorate the grand opening of Plaza Comunitaria and its literacy program located on the west side of the Community Education Building.

"The foundation of literacy in ones first language...provides a good foundation for a new language," Vela said in Spanish and later translated parts of her speech.

The Mexican Consulate in partnership with the Department of Adult Education at Cerritos College is offering the new program to bring literacy to adult immigrants as well as promote an atmosphere of strength.

"The purpose of the program is to offer a new concept of education...more education toward literacy to offer support and

allow parents to be examples for their children, while providing self-esteem for themselves," Ruben Beltran, consul general de Mexico en Los Angeles, said in English.

"I will only say a few words in Spanish," he went on, "This project started in Mexico and has grown with thriving support from the community."

The community seems behind it if not in it.

According to Beltran there are four other Plazas in Los Angeles County with an approximated 157 members of the Hispanic community.

Juan Mojarraz, who is a student of the program, said he had relearned a lot of what he had forgotten and encouraged any student to take the courses.

Nick Kremer, the executive dean of the program, said, that it only offers Spanish classes, but left the window open to other immigrants.

"The Mexican government is providing the program."

"If the Chinese government gives us money than we'll start teaching classes in Chinese."



WERNER GOMEZ/TM
Consul: Ruben Beltran, consul general de Mexico en Los Angeles

Plazas

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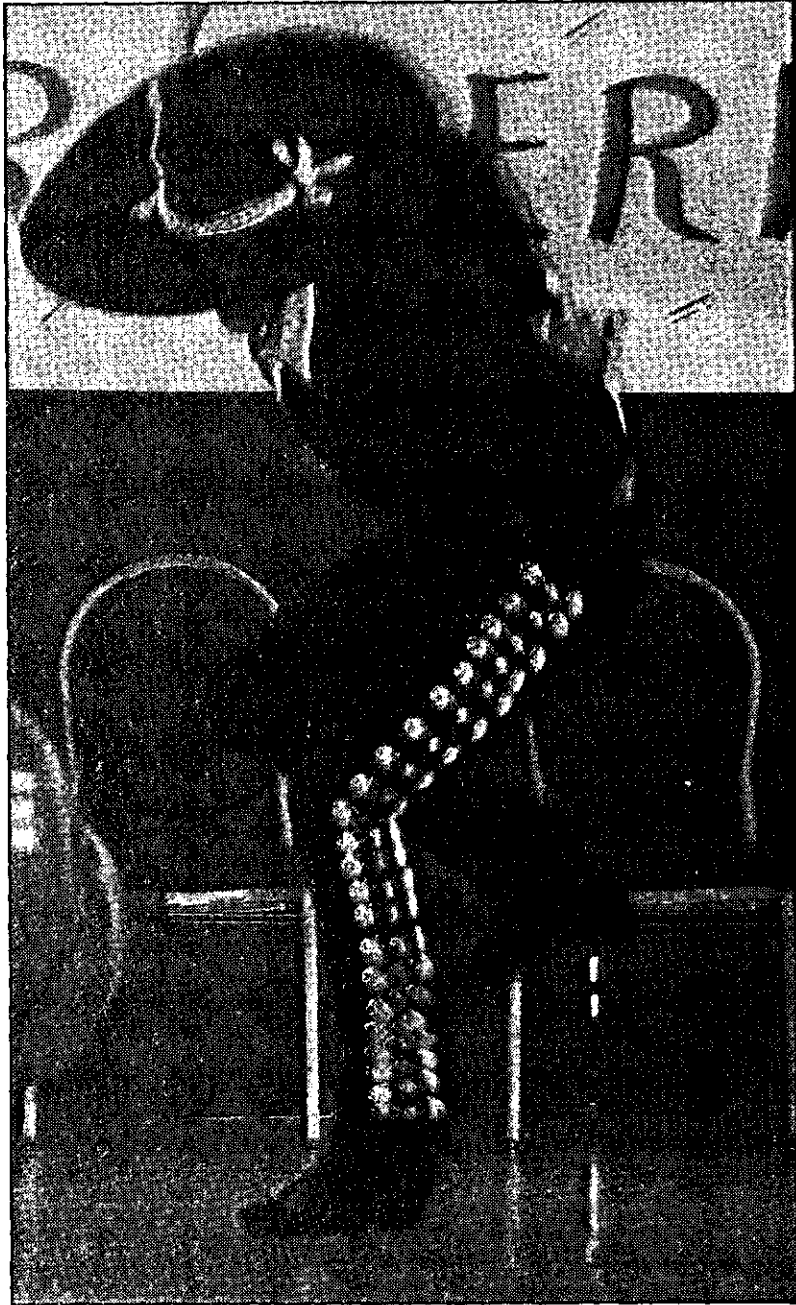
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NEWS



CATHY LOZANO/TM

Mariachi: Contreras came out in a Mariachi outfit stunning the crowd during the talent portion. Many women, along with a few men, were on hand to cheer on their favorites.

CONTEST:

Nine other men fail to defeat dancing Mariachi

Continued from page 1

The other contestants were Paulo Amaral, Rotaract Club; Cristian Galvez, Phi Rho Pi; Moises Gutierrez, independent; Eddie Rodriguez, independent; Isaiah Espiritu, Karbarkada; Dennis Diaz, independent; Filemon Garcia, DSCC; James Pino, Phi Beta Lambda; and Ryan Paragas, CCM.

Many women, along with a few men, were on hand to cheer on their favorites.

Carolyn Cortes, nursing major, was rooting for Espiritu.

Cortes stated that her favorite part of the competition was the performances put on by the contestants.

"The performances were interesting, unique and very cultural."

Then there was the talent portion of the show, followed by the swimsuit competition.

Contreras came out in a Mariachi outfit stunning the crowd during the talent portion.

For losers it was fun despite the outcome of the event.

"I entered to have a good time, not to win," Paragas added after the show.

WHEELS:

Construction of new bus stops hopeful

Continued from page 1

bus stop was arranged by an agreement made in 2004 amongst the Cerritos Community College District and the City of Cerritos. The agreement stated that all of the costs for this new bus stop being built will be covered by the City of Cerritos.

When the construction of the new bus stop is complete, students will no longer have to wait for the bus in lots C-2 and C-3 and

instead will have to wait for the bus on the South side of campus in lot C-11.

When asked what the positive effects that this change will have on students, Robert Riffle, Director of Physical Plant replied, "It will provide a safe location where students can wait for the bus without having to be in a tight congested area."

Riffle explained that this new bus stop will be built in the planter area and therefore should not affect parking in lot C-11.

"Hopefully the construction of the bus stop will begin sometime this week," Riffle added.

The completion of the new COW bus stop is expected to occur towards the end of March or until the beginning of April 2005.

ELECTIONS:

New rule increases signatures to 1,000

Continued from page 1

Monge believes that the most effective part of the process is when candidates take the time to present their positions to other students.

She recalled how, as a student, she enjoyed having candidates come to her classes. "It was nice to have somebody come to class and

speak about what was going on."

Doing so, she said, creates student awareness about the election, and can help get them involved in voting.

However, some students need no encouragement to become involved in college politics.

Ian Van Cong, nursing major, said, "I plan on voting. I'm looking forward to it."

Monge believes that the experience of the presidency provides students with qualities they can take with them into the world. The biggest thing they walk away with, she said, is confidence, knowledge and the ability to work with many types of people, which is important in any position.

BOMB:

Alondra sealed off during bomb scare

Continued from page 1

given to the Talonmarks, John Davis, captain for Engine 115 of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, who was also present at the scene, stated that the initial call may have come from a Kensco employee or shopper.

The fire department was notified about the incident by the Sheriff's Department.

"They requested we stand by in case of a fire or in case someone was injured by an incendiary device," Davis stated.

Sheriff's deputy Randy Spurrier was the first to respond to the call. Yet it was bomb squad deputy Mike Digby who approached the suspicious packages in full protective gear.

According to deputy Digby, they get calls of this nature about everyday, but to those who were in their homes at the time of the incident, the ordeal was anything but routine.

Carol Thomas, Norwalk resident, was in her home when she heard knocking at her door.

"The police told me that I had to evacuate," Thomas stated.

She, as well as her neighbors, were promptly told by police that they had to leave their homes.

Cerritos gets grand education

JONATHAN JORDAN
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Born and raised by his grandparents, Cedrick Bridgeforth was presented with the opportunity to spread the word of how many grandparents raise their grandchildren.

After witnessing Bridgeforth's presentation in the doctoral program, Ni Bueno, health, physical education and athletics instructor, held a presentation entitled, "Parenting 2005: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren."

The presentation was held in the Teleconference Center Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"I felt that this would be a good topic at Cerritos," Bueno said.

She later added, "I hope that they see how this topic may translate into their own lives."

Bridgeforth worked on the project while chasing his doctorate program at Pepperdine University.

"I feel it to be a responsibility to make people aware and educate them about the resources out there for grandparents," Bridgeforth said.

One such resource is a program called Grandma House.

In a video presentation of Grandma House, grandmothers told their stories about how hard it is to raise their grandchildren.

There were several students on hand who were raised by their grandparents.

Kassandra Flippin, child development major, was amongst those students.

"It was nice to see how many other people went through what I went through," she stated.

Bridgeforth said that there are between four and five million children being raised by their grandparents. These are grandparents who have legal custody of their grandchildren in any way.

SPEAKER

Sanchez delivers speech for Women's History

Continued from page 1

assigned INS duties, that was very informative," Agustin stated.

"Today in Congress, reproductive choice is under assault by this administration, the congress and individuals throughout our country. We have men in the highest seats of government who strongly oppose giving women the right to make vital decisions about their own health," Sanchez stated.

Jessica Vasquez, women's studies major, agreed with Sanchez's position on reproductive rights, she stated that she liked the fact that Sanchez was a feminist.

She voiced her opposition to the Bush Administration's focus on abstinence and marital education, but diminished focus on family planning. According to Sanchez, it is important to equally educate about abstinence and family planning.

Violence against women was also a major focus of Sanchez's speech and she discussed her support for classifying such acts as hate crimes.

Sanchez shed light on the Bush Administration's proposal for privatized social security and stated that if the proposal were to pass,

women would have their benefits reduced.

At the conclusion of Sanchez's speech, audience members were able to ask questions.

Among those who seized the opportunity was ASCC President Josh Franco who asked how males could take part in increasing equality and opportunities for women, to whom Sanchez replied that advocacy and being involved were the most influential methods for change.

After the presentation, Sanchez addressed the issues of people in the audience one-on-one.

Laura Stone, exercise science major, told Sanchez about problems with the city of Whittier.

Stone stated that she really agreed with what Sanchez said about people getting involved in what they want done.

Sanchez felt that for the community college student, "involvement and participation in voting (is important)...for young people it's critical to educate themselves about the issues and the candidates and to actually vote."

Loretta Sanchez (D-CA-47), who was to speak as well, was unable to attend since she was attending a United Nations Symposium in New York at the time.

However she left a video message for the audience in which she stated that the global average of women in government is only 10 percent, and in the United States it stands at 14 percent.

Solomon helps bring awareness to campus

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Dr. Numala Solomon was host to an event on California sweatshops last Tuesday.

Invited to speak was lead organizer of garment workers, Joann Lo, who spoke on behalf of the exploited workers in the Los Angeles garment industry.

She brought awareness of the pyramid of power and profit.

Her concern reached far beyond Los Angeles. She also blamed the world trade organization for creating free trade agreements, which create competition for cheaper labor throughout the world.

Lo also stated that "students, who are a major part of the purchasing population, have the ability to provide power to the workers by demanding it from the companies."

Students in the audience showed great interest.

One student asked why these workers don't get legal documents to work; the response by one worker who attended was, "It isn't easy, especially when we can't even get a California license."



MARIA GUTIERREZ/TM

Onlooker: To the left Carlos Jimenez and Maria Perez look at a documentary at the Teleconference Center.

WOMEN:

Importance overshadows attendance

Continued from page 1

ory month, roughly around 15 people attended the film festival and of those 15 people, all of them stated they came in order to receive extra credit for one of their classes, which included English, history, sociology and speech.

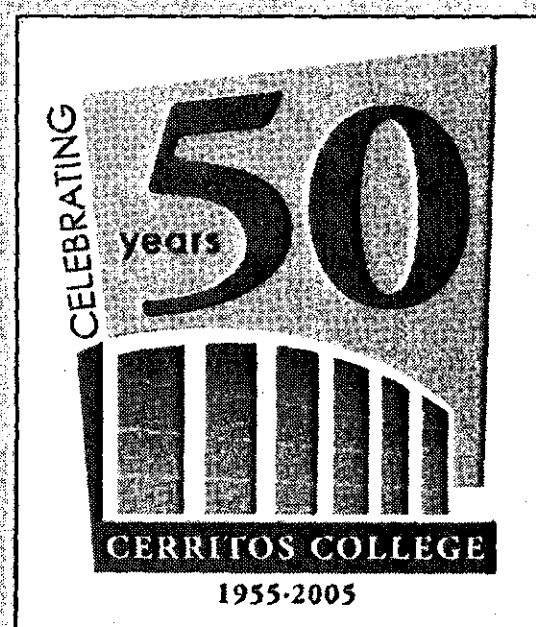
"I honestly came here because I need points for my class," Delia Trujillo, nursing major, said.

Conochita Munoz, liberal science major, said she attended

because she needs extra credit for her class, but that she believes women's history month is a wonderful thing, because it recognizes the struggles women have gone through.

Although the attendance was scarce and the reasoning was provoked, the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance Club, who sponsored the film festival, stands behind the women's movement head strong.

"Women's history month is necessary and important because it allows people to realize what women have gone through and with these events, we hope to bring awareness of the ongoing struggle women are still facing today," Aubrey Simons-Araya, FMLA president, said.



Cerritos prepares for half-century mark

DIONA CARRILLO
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Cerritos College has made its way over the hill to its 50-year anniversary of being an active institution for Los Angeles County and has plans to celebrate it with a handful of events.

"It's important that any organization or institution that has been around for 50 years is celebrated," Megan Richardson, coordinator of public affairs, said.

The 50-year anniversary is being conducted by three committees, Richardson added.

The honorary committee includes people Cerritos College has much respect for and whose names will also help promote the event; the steering committee involves employees and students (of Cerritos College); there are also the sub-committees.

Chi-Chung Keung, director of public relations and marketing for the college, and chairperson of the 50 Anniversary Steering Committee, said, "Our 50 Anniversary Steering Committee has drawn from countless sources to make this a memorable year."

Remarkable changes have occurred in this area during the past 50 years, yet the college's commitment to its stu-

dents and its community was as evident then as it is now."

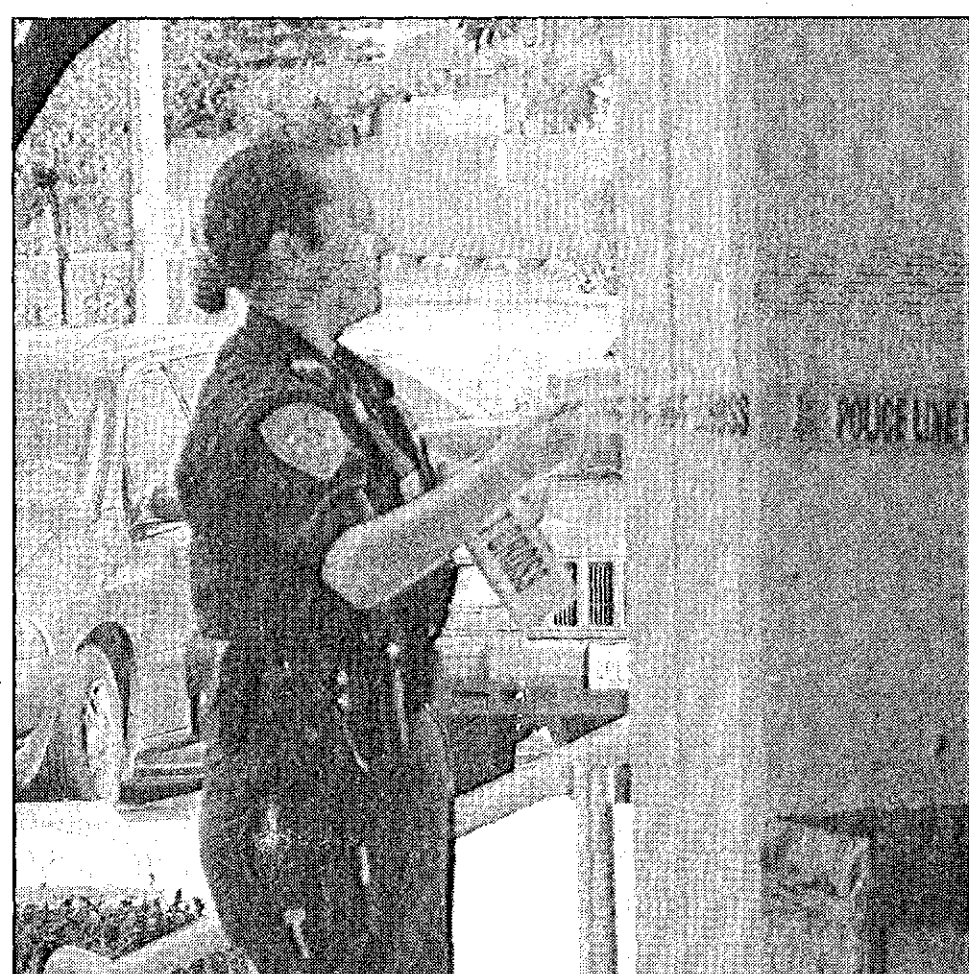
The anniversary committees officially introduced several commemorative elements for its 50 Anniversary Celebration on Mar. 2.

One of the elements includes a web site featuring historic photos and personal reflections of former students and staff.

Celebrations will continue once the fall semester begins in September with a special convocation luncheon, and will end in October with a fund-raising gala dinner and silent auction.

For more info visit the 50-anniversary web site at www.cerritos.edu/50.

NEWS



BOMB SCARE

PHOTOS AND WORDS BY ERICK GALINDO

A potential bomb threatened the south side of Cerritos College as well as buildings across Alondra Boulevard last Friday.

Two suspicious containers were found on the east side of the Kensco store.

After receiving the call at 9:45 a.m., police and firemen closed off Alondra for a two-block radius and

evacuated near-by buildings and homes.

The bomb squad arrived and set up a "rope trick."

Officials declined to elaborate on what a rope trick is, but the trick revealed no danger.

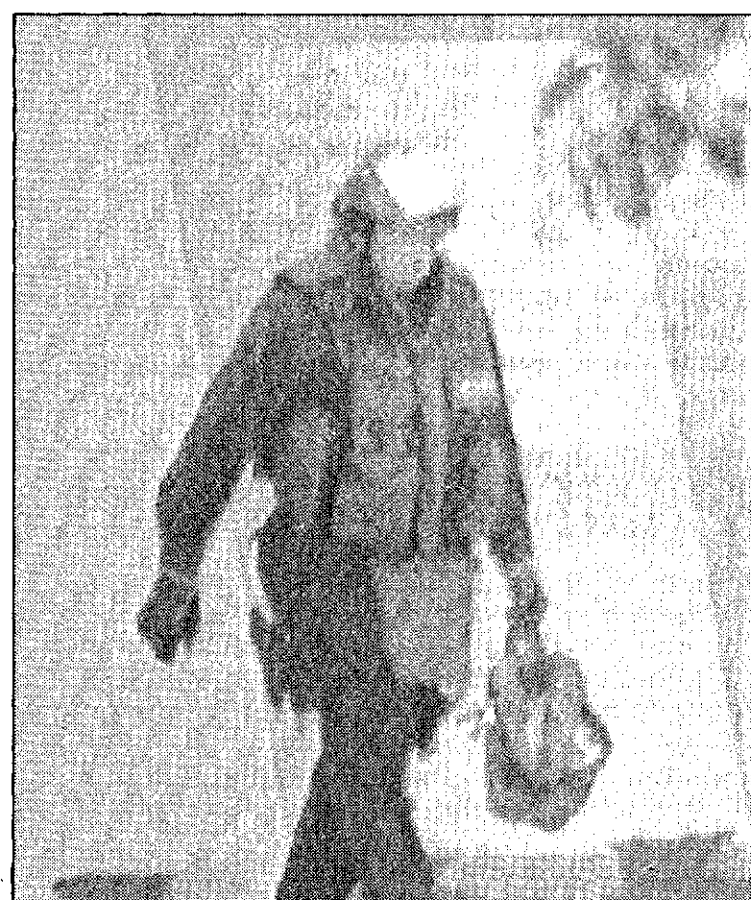
The threat never materialized and officials opened up the street approximately two hours after the initial call.

ABOVE: The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Bomb Squad arrives at the scene, where the local police explain the situation and the location of the potential bomb.

LEFT: Terri Ramirez, Cerritos College police officer, seals off the Social Science Building with caution tape.

BOTTOM LEFT: Bomb squad deputy Mike Digby sets up a rope trick on the suspicious packages.

BELOW: Deputy Randy Spurrier, of the Norwalk Sheriff's station, picks up the packages after finding nothing inside of them.



NEWS

Evening students get activity night

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The nighttime activity was one of several topics discussed during Monday's ASCC Cabinet meeting.

The nighttime activity is an event held by ASCC for students who attend classes in the evening.

The event will take place on April 19 and will start at 5:30 p.m.

This activity is "a way to allow students to meet the ASCC members," Jacqueline Benavide, sociology major, said.

She also mentioned that "it's a way to promote Operation Outreach and the ASCC Presidential election." Another item discussed was the planning of a wireless internet service being installed on the campus.

According to business major David Bronson the results were "One-hundred percent said yes, they would be interested in a wireless internet service."

ASCC President Josh Franco gave updates on the Coceritos.com web site and mentioned the increase of visits and subscribers to the web site.

He also mentioned that the idea for a parking structure will not be followed, but more parking will be added.

'Hoe Down' attracts students

Day one: Chili Cook-Off

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How do you like your chili? Bertha Barreto, social work major, prefers it "not too hot," but found most of the chili made for the Annual Hoe Down Days Chili Cook-Off Contest to be just the opposite.

The contest was held last Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the Student Center.

Eleven participants brought in their homemade chili for judging in three categories: Hottest, Most Unique and Judges' Favorite. The winner of each category received a plaque.

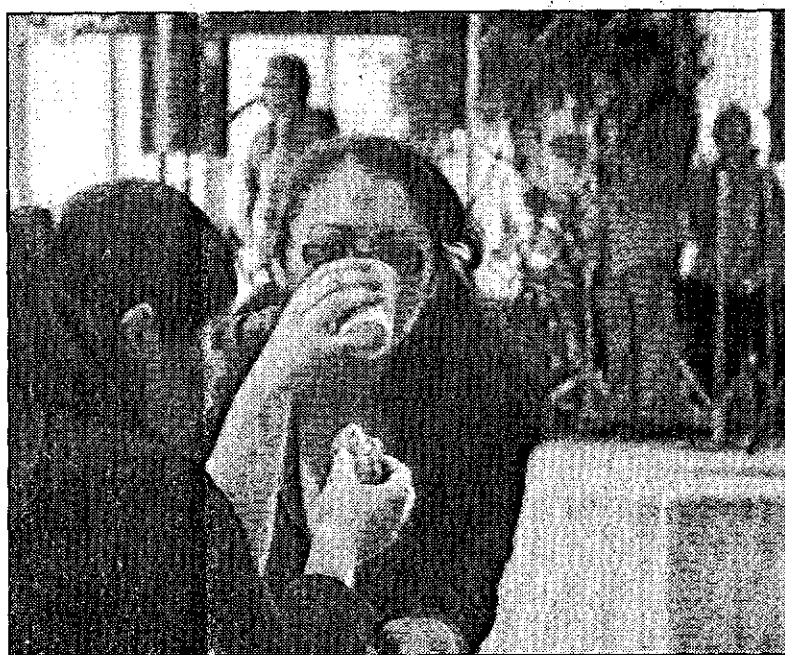
Brenda Scranton, instructional dean of liberal arts and one of the judges of the event, was not too worried about how hot the chili was.

"I was looking for something close to what I cook," Scranton said.

The Most Unique award was given to Subba Freddy Kalain, pharmacy technician club member, who could not attend the event because he had class.

Maria Alvarez, pharmacy technician club treasurer, was there to represent him.

"He is from India and it is his own secret recipe. Instead of beans he uses chicken in his chili. He also adds other secret ingredients that make your mouth burn after you finish eating it," Alvarez said.



BENEDICT ORRASE TM
Tasty: Shirley Hernandez enjoys her burger while Vanessa Wong takes a drink, both pre-med majors were hanging out and listening to the Jim Gibson Band during Thursday's Hoe Down Day event.

Day two: In-N-Out Day

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The line for free In-N-Out cheeseburgers stretched all the way from the bookstore to the library front doors; day two of Hoe Down Days took place in Falcon Square last Thursday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Kimberly Kendrick, nursing major, exclaimed, "It's worth waiting in line...I love In-N-Out."

Other students, like Aldo Renteria, teaching and liberal arts major, just wanted to kill time

between classes.

In addition to the free cheeseburger, chips and soft drink students received with a valid Cerritos College ID, students were also treated to a live jazz/rock band by the name of The Jim Gibson Band.

The Falcon stage was full of students enjoying their free meals, as they listened to the band play.

Viviana Lomell, architect major, enjoyed herself as she listened to the band, "I like it so far."

Gibson has been playing for the Cerritos College Hoe Down Days for about 10 years. "We like coming out here for Hoe Down Days," he said.

Day three: Booth Day

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Booth Day, which was moved from last week due to the possibility of rain, puts each club in a carnival booth in order to raise funds for the individual clubs. They gave out ASCC-provided prizes to the winners of the games.

ASCC student government was soaked as they participated in the dunk tank to help Inter Club Council scholarships.

Some of the clubs running booths included the International Students of America Club, which ran a basketball booth.

Stacy Necato, a member of the club, said that she noticed there were more people this year than last year.

Rotract Club wasn't having the same level of interest for its football tossing game.

Vice President Karla Martinez mentioned that things seemed to be moving slowly, but that the planning for the event was great.

Despite the fact that many clubs recorded high participation in their booths, not everyone was into the festivities.

"I just don't have the time for that kind of stuff; I can throw my money away somewhere else," Mario Silva, undecided major, said as he sat on the other side of the quad finishing classwork.

For a more complete story visit www.talonmarks.com.

New election rules keep court busy

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The ASCC Court prepared for the upcoming presidential election last Tuesday, as it discussed the updated application, elections board and presidential forum.

Before a candidate runs, he or she must complete an application; the newly revised application has raised the petition portion to 1000 signatures.

Holly Bogdanovich, director of student activities, said, "If it falls short of a thousand signatures, you're out."

The new rule applies immediately for this upcoming election.

Regarding the new change, Joe Corbarrubio, ASCC Chief Justice, said, "I think the application is there to see if people want it bad enough. I think the impact of having such a large application will weed out the candidates."

Depending on the results of this upcoming election, the new changes may be repealed.

To help with the upcoming presidential elections, an elections board of three court justices will be created.

These court justices will help candidates with immediate problems and bridge the gap between the candidates and the court justices.

The presidential forum for this election will be held April 14.



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OPINION

EDITORIAL



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SPRING 2005
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Bush's new deal has its ups and downs

There seems to be one issue at the helm of all political discussion these days, but unlike the Michael Jackson case, the outcome of this discussion will affect you.

In the past few months, the most critical domestic issue in the United States has been Social Security.

It is possible that you are sitting there wondering why Social Security reform could even remotely change your daily life of homework and work-work and while the connotation of the program does imply a retired person, it actually depends on younger generations to pay for the current senior citizens.

Social security was created in 1935 by Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration as a response to the market crash in the 1920's. The program is supposed to prevent another massive depression, because the market is always bound to crash.

As an editorial board we feel it is our duty to present both sides of the argument in our best attempt to inform the people we feel we serve and will be most affected by the proposed constitutional change:

PRO

In his State of the Union Address, President Bush stressed his concern on what the Administration believes to be a crisis concerning the program.

His Administration suggests that by the year 2042, Social Security will be bankrupt due to the 77 million baby boomers heading toward retirement.

Accordingly, the administration has proposed privatizing the program by placing tax dollars into individual stock accounts, giving the funds an

opportunity to grow.

The plan proposes a free system in which people can manage their own finances and build on their savings.

The Administration insists that this is the best solution.

There are many critics to Bush's proposed plan to fix the system.

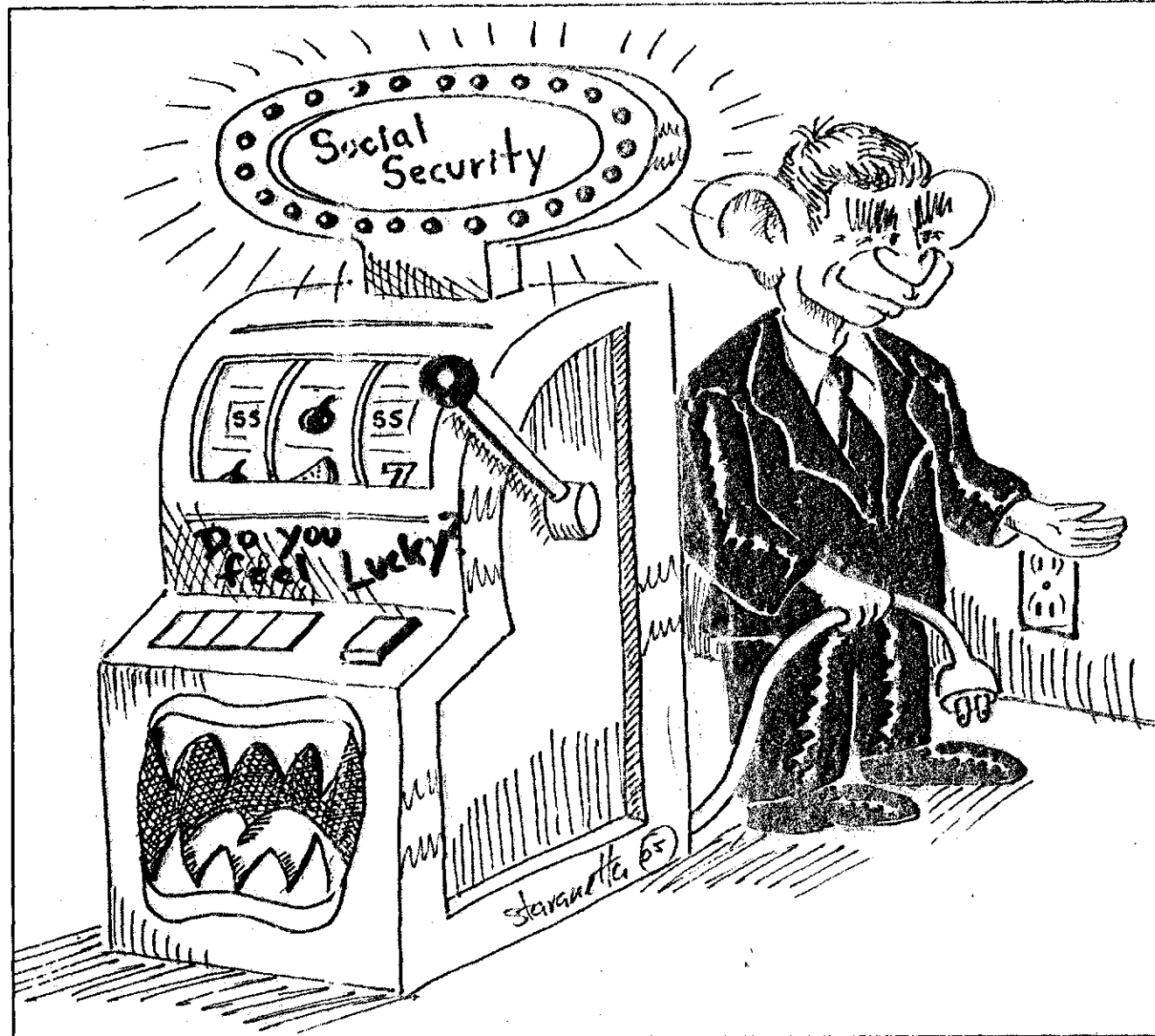


ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERTO ESTANETTA

There are arguments that he has yet to propose a solution for those who lose their money when one of the companies invested in, goes bankrupt.

CON

Critics claim that his plan is an outrageous attempt of destroying the program.

According to the President's opponents he is proposing to solve the crisis by reinstating the same system Social Security is supposed to protect the people from.

Critics also argue that if the Administration was really interested in solving the programs problems, our national minimum wage would increase to accommodate the standard living needs; therefore, our tax dollars would increase and our Social Security funds will receive more funds.

However, it is obvious that the corporations that oppose social programs wouldn't support an increase in minimum wage, or any president that supports it.

Due to the unwillingness of the majority of the nation to accept the plan, the Administration has taken a step back from its attempt of reform; the program's problem has yet to be solved.

These are simply some of the arguments for and against the proposed plan, but the fact remains that this is an important issue and we urge you to get informed and at all times be involved.



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

Stop crying for God's sake!

"Dubya" is in the White House, and Republicans control Congress; under President Bush, the religious right has control of Washington.

Yet, some have the audacity to say that America is being stripped of its religious foundation.

The separation of church and state is to ensure that the state does not endorse any particular religion.

Getting rid of "one nation under God" is not going to infringe on your right to practice your religion freely; no one said you have to stop praying to your God.

Believe it or not, the phrase "one nation under God" is an endorsement of the Judeo-Christian God; it does not refer to just any god in general.

The monument of the Ten Commandments at the steps of the Alabama courthouse is of the Judeo-Christian religion.

When people are sworn into office or sworn in when testifying in court, they swear to God. To include God in all these aspects of secular life is wrong.

It is time for this country to endorse Christianity once and for all (which would be a big mistake) or remove God from all government affairs.

We need to get rid of this ambiguity.

After all, I don't hear anyone complaining



about Allah not being included in the Pledge of Allegiance or monuments to the Koran not being erected at state courthouses. There has been no outcry about that.

But let the nation honor its promise of separating church and state by kicking Jesus out of the courthouse and all of a sudden there would be uproar.

Don't be absurd and cry about your religious freedoms being stripped. No one is stopping you from going to church.

No one is stopping you from kneeling down, putting your hands together and asking God to let you win the lottery.

I don't care if you believe in the Tooth Fairy, the Easter Bunny, Santa Clause or leprechauns.

I just don't want to hear about it. How is this nation losing its religion?

We have a president who wants to change our Constitution in order to keep same sex couples from marrying each other.

A crusade he is at the forefront of, because his Christian God does not like the idea of two men having sex with each other.

And yet the nation is losing its religion.

That same man is trying to put prayer back into public schools.

Yet the nation is losing its religion.

Ever since the peep show at the Super Bowl, the FCC has been censoring broadcast media left and right, which is a serious threat to the First Amendment.

There was a nation-wide lynching of the media, because we all saw where babies feed.

This nation needs to pull the metal rod out of its back side and lighten up.

This is supposed to be a nation of equality, where everyone is represented equally or not at all.

So, if you're going to leave God in the Pledge of Allegiance, then throw Allah and Buddha in there too.

If you're going to place monuments of the Ten Commandments at state courthouses, then put a monument honoring Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and yes, even something special for those Satanists that exist in this country. This nation must cater to every group, because the Constitution says it has to and that is why this nation is supposed to be so great.

So those of you who believe that making the public sector a religiously neutral zone is making this country lose its religion and morals, then maybe those beliefs weren't that strong to begin with.

Letter to the Editor Student government gets big laughs

I find it funny that the Associated Students of Cerritos College even believe that they make as huge an impact on the college as they think.

Honestly, have they done anything for the students this semester, or the last or ever?

Yes, I see the banners "Hoe Down Days" and "Homecoming," but those events are already made for them. All they have to do is sign a piece of paper and that's it. Anybody can do that, even a monkey.

Last fall semester, when ASCC wannabes wanted to be elected for senator, they all put up posters to vote for number 11, 4, 8, 19, etc.; all of them promised to do something for the school, like they will lower students' fees, and create school spirit.

No changes have been made whatsoever.

Back in 2002-2003 the ASCC president dropped out, serving only half the term, and during the 2003-2004 semester when Gracie wanted to run for president, she campaigned for three weeks and then was disqualified because of "unknown reasons;" she failed to meet requirements.

History has shown us that the majority of senators drop out of office or are dropped for not meeting requirements; meaning that they failed a class or two.

So, this brings a great question, what is it that makes them think they are better than everyone else? Is it that preference parking spot?

Is it being confined in a small room once a week, not even arguing, just talking about the

same issues over and over again until the semester is over without accomplishing anything? That is it?

Whether ASCC likes to accept it or not, they are a joke, they are nothing; all they are getting are the titles for their resumes. Next time I see one of ASCC's campaigning posters, I will spit on it, and nobody will care. Hear that ASCC?

Nobody cares, nobody will notice if you are gone.

Just like at a party there's always somebody that nobody notices, that's you ASCC. Have fun choosing, not electing, your senators and president.

Juan
itsinejuan@gmail.com

FREE SPEECH ZONE?!

In regards to the recent hospitalizations of the pope, how do you feel it is affecting the Vatican with the choosing of the next pope?

COMPILED BY: CHRISTINA YU
PHOTOS BY: KAHY LOZANO



"It's really up to God and not about us. He is really just a leader of Catholicism as a whole."

ZEPHANIAH MEL
political science major



"I don't think his illness will affect the Vatican. In case of a death, we will have another era in Catholicism leadership."

PAULO AMARAL
business/political science
economics major



"To be honest, I think the pope's time has come. I heard there were talks about an Honduras pope being appointed in the past, but it never happened."

SAUL REYES
business administration major



"The pope's illness will affect mostly the elderly's faith in Catholicism. Questions and doubts will arise as to what will happen in their leadership."

JESSICA HAMILTON
business major



"I don't think his illness will affect Catholicism too much, but followers who see him as the basis of their faith will be most affected."

LEON GREEN
psychology major

Identifying flying objects

"Hello...is there anybody out there?"

If you're a Pink Floyd fan, then you obviously know those were lyrics from the song "Is There Anybody Out There," which leads me to bring up an interesting question...is there anybody out there?

For decades there have been sightings of UFOs by millions and millions of people.

It is a mystery that only science can solve, and yet the phenomenon remains largely unexamined.

Almost 50 percent of Americans, according to recent polls, and millions of people elsewhere in the world, believe that UFOs are real.

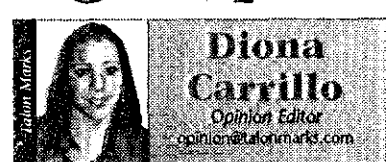
The idea of aliens seems a bit far-fetched and unbelievable to the other 50 percent of people in America, but to honestly believe and argue that we (meaning all life forms on Earth) are the only forms of life in a universe that is full of billions of galaxies is, to me, extremely egocentric.

From the arguments of non-believers such as Dr. Alan Heimlich as far back as 1948, to pilots continually spotting UFOs in the late 1960s, to the start of project blue book, used to get the concept of UFO sightings and lure them out of newspapers and the media by different persuasion tactics, to the controversial discoveries at Roswell, N.M., UFOs and aliens have really caught people's attention.

We watch movies such as "Signs" and "The Forgotten," and think, "wow, what a great movie." But is it just a movie, or could aliens actually exist?

It seems in movies aliens are portrayed as having a mean and evil persona by chasing away families, destroying homes and lives and scaring the hell out of people.

But what has been said about aliens and abductions from people who claim they've been abducted and seen UFOs doesn't really fit in



Diona Carrillo
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with what we are shown aliens are capable of, in movies at least.

Movies about aliens, unless based on true stories, are often over-exaggerated and unrealistic.

Which could only lead to us, the viewers, assuming aliens, UFOs and fiction should all be placed under the same genre.

An even bigger influence on this concept is the TV program X-Files that Fox aired about untold truths regarding the UFO phenomena and the conspiracies behind them.

Just another fiction-based tactic to make us believe the entire concept is based on sensationalism.

Our government is often suspect to cover-ups when the issue of UFOs and aliens are mentioned.

Roswell could be the biggest conspiracy yet, but who knows if we'll ever know...but I sure want to.

When unidentified debris from a flying disk consisting of metals never seen or created by mankind were found at Roswell in July of 1947, most people concluded it was enough evidence to believe that it was not from this earth.

But surprisingly, the very next day a press conference was called. Soon after, a press release denying that any type of flying disk was found explaining that it was only parts of a weather balloon, had a lasting effect on people. So what to believe?

I've come up with my own two senses on the topic. In my mind, "aliens" exist just as much as you and I exist on this earth.

Who knows, maybe some other life form out there is trying to figure out if we actually exist or if our traces of being are fictitious.

Not only do I believe aliens exist, but in my mind if visits from aliens to Earth are happening, and the claims people are making about abductions are true, then it seems as though they are not here to chase families, destroy homes and lives and scare the hell out of people.

If I were to conclude why aliens are visiting, it would be to learn about us just as we are attempting to learn about them.

But, from the evidence that has been found, I would also conclude that these extraterrestrials are a much more intelligent life form than us, and I have to imagine that their intelligence can be billions of years ahead of ours, which makes for an even bigger controversial theory.

But, the facts are in and scientists say that there is no hard evidence that aliens exist, and that there is a slim chance we'll ever find evidence. But to completely rule the idea out and put it away and forget about it would only lessen the chances of knowing if there are other life forms out there.

Most of the reporting on this subject by the mainstream media holds those who claim to have seen UFOs up to ridicule.

Sources who confirm they've been abducted or have seen UFOs are often criticized on personal levels and often called crazy in order to conclude that in no way could those situations they claim to have experienced happened.

Could that be just another cover-up of the truth?

So maybe seeing is believing to some, but believing in possibilities and having the courage and determination to know the absolute truth, even if it turns out that aliens don't exist, is a lot more comforting than being told what to believe.

HELLO,
LAURA?...
YEAH, NO.
NO... I'M
WORKING.
NO!
NO...
YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT.
WAR.



ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERTO ESTARANETTA

We don't need no stinking toilets!

I fell asleep during my 45-minute lunch break. When I sat up off the concrete bench, I saw a man standing up against the wall as if his mom had punished him, and then my eyes focused and I realized he was urinating.

This is what the men's-restroom world has come to. While it is rumored that women have sofas, Jacuzzis and the technology to privatize their social security right in the restroom, men's restrooms are so bad now that we don't have doors, walls, a roof or even a toilet to clog.

While most men's restrooms are not as bad as a wall outside Stonewood Mall, not one is close to being as good as its female counterpart.

Although I've never used The



Erick Galindo
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Whitehouse's facilities, I'm pretty sure that if George Bush sits on a golden toilet, Laura Bush gets to fly to Paris every time she has to go No. 2.

I've been in some crappy restrooms, and I somehow manage to cope, but the restroom outside AC 42 in the Liberal Arts building finally overflowed me with anger.

It has no doors in the stalls and the clincher is, the room is not soundproof.

So, you can hear everything going on in there; all the splashing, dropping, and the various

noises that come from a male restroom whose regulars are also only a few hundred feet away from Taco Bell.

The room is also very small, about the size of one of the women's stalls.

If there are three occupants, it's pretty much violating the fire code. It's like being in a closet with a horse.

Is it too much to ask to be able to pee and not step in another man's stall?

If it is, then whoever it is that is in charge should really, for the sake of every student, soundproof and smell-proof the restroom.

Or at least put some doors on the stalls, before we see men, lining up in Falcon Square, signing their names on the concrete.

Letter to the Editor

One good error deserves another

I am deeply appalled at your newspaper staff.

You guys all come up with weak topics and yet, have a bunch of spelling errors on every issue.

The other schools, even high schools, produce way better papers than yours. In fact, they don't have to do any sleazy advertisements of themselves just to get readers' attention.

I pity you all. Even whoever is running this staff.

I hate bigotry and I sense a lot

of it in your newspapers, especially in the editorial page.

You guys don't even deserve to run your newspaper.

If you guys expect to be successful at producing a newspaper, I suggest either two things:

1. You do something called "team work" and work together and get a new advisor and get rid of those errors, or

2. You relocate to somewhere else, because there's no way you can pull off any more crappy

papers like you've been pulling.

Jeremy Wood
jwood02@yahoo.com

Editor's note

This is the edited version of this letter. The original version had four spelling errors and several grammatical ones. To see the original version visit www.talonsmarks.com

LAS HURRACAS BY STARNETTA

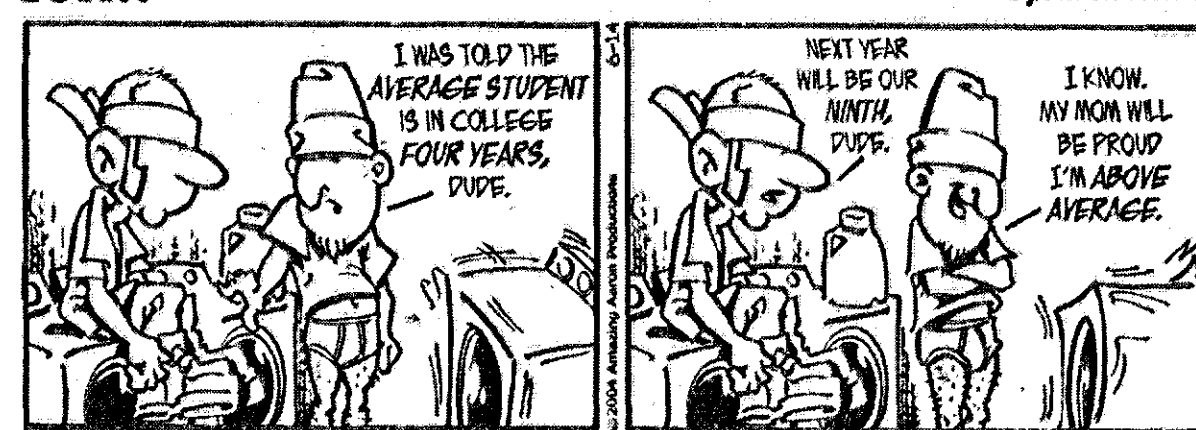


Girls and Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



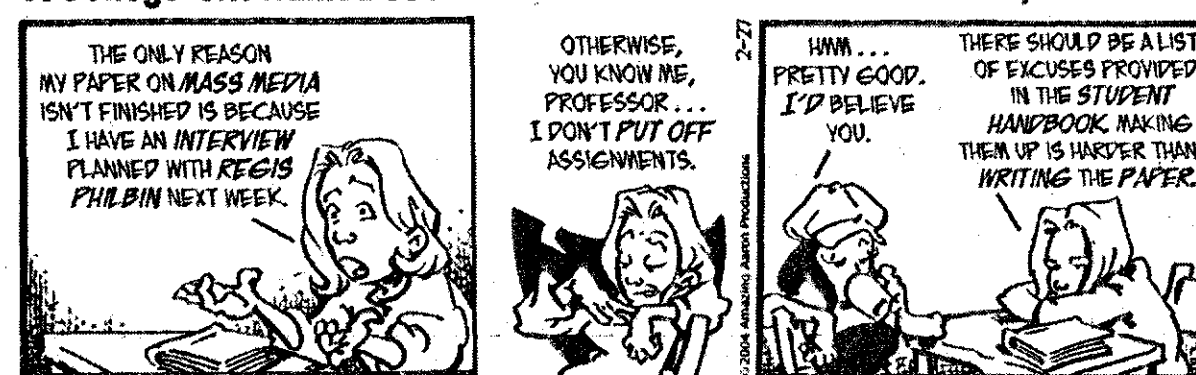
2 Dudes

By Aaron Warner



A College Girl Named Joe

By Aaron Warner



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



You Are Here

By Aaron Warner



For a bear, this was a good day.



TRIVIA TEST

Answers online at www.talonsmarks.com

1. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "War and Remembrance?"
2. HISTORY: Who was the last Norman king of England?
3. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented by the condition called "ailurophobia?"
4. ANCIENT WORLD: Who was Hesiod?
5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where did the dance called the "samba" originate?
6. TELEVISION: On the original episodes of the children's TV show "Blue's Clues," what was the name of the dog Blue's human owner?
7. LANGUAGE: Something that is cutaneous relates to what?
8. MYTHOLOGY: According to legend, who was King Arthur's queen?
9. GEOGRAPHY: The Faroe Islands are a part of which nation?
10. PRESIDENTS: George W. Bush's brother Jeb is governor of which state?

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

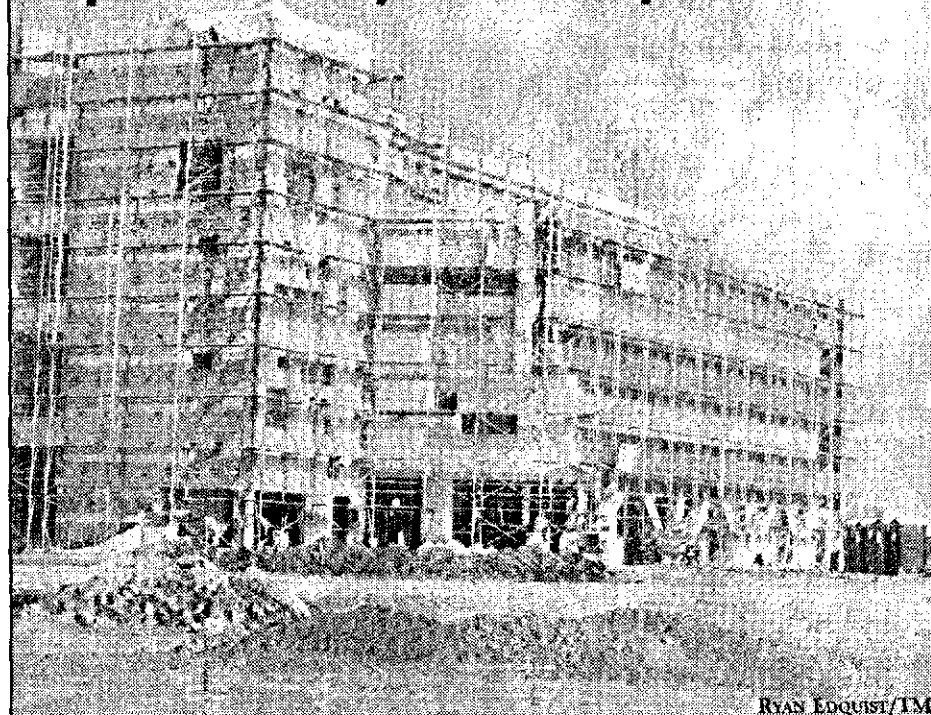
by Dave T. Phipps



COMMUNITY

Make Over!

Nasa/Boeing site being developed to improve the city of Downey



ALICIA EDQUIST
Community Editor
community@talonmarks.com

Downey City Council and residents of Downey were updated on the progress of the Downey Landing, Downey Studios and Kaiser Permanente's new medical office/hospital at a special session before a regular council meeting, held Feb. 22.

The three developers of the site said everything is well at the sites except for the rain over the past couple of weeks, which caused some delay in construction.

Downey Landing will be the major retail area and restaurants which council, along with residents, said the city is in need of.

The site is expecting to have restaurants such as Elephant Bar and Restaurant and Chili's.

Also stores such as Best Buy, Ross Dress for Less, PetsMart, and Bed Bath and Beyond, Michael's, Staples and Bally's fitness are slated to be part of the new Downey Landing development of the former NASA/Boeing property.

Doug Gray, representing Downey Landing site, is hoping that some of the major stores and restaurants will be open by Christmas.

Gray also commented that the developers lost Kohl's and Linens and Things as a part of the retail site and are looking at getting a shoe tenant and having some smaller shops.

He said, "We are confident that we will develop what Downey wants and we are trying to build as fast as we can, also hoping for drier weather."

The council was shown sketches of some of the storefronts and restaurants.

Industrial Realty Group, representing Downey Studios, also presented a good report on their restoration progress and development of property.

Stewart Lichter, representative, said that things appeared to be good with power being installed in the back lot and filming continuing on several major motion pictures and about to begin on two TV pilots.

The TV show 24 will be filming on the lot soon.

It is the developers' hopes to attract more TV series and it is said that if they (the studio) creates the space the industry will come.

The studio has built the world's largest water tank inside the largest sound stage on the lot where Lemony Snicket's was filmed.

Lichter said that with this tank in Southern California they hope it will keep a lot of major water

films in the United States and not go abroad to film.

Downey Studios will be host to wardrobe, dressing rooms, post-production and more.

He also showed the council the murals being painted on the walls of Downey Studios and said rooms for exterior sets are being made.

There is hope that there will be three restaurants going in and around Downey Studios.

The developers have three restaurants interested and one has a proposal, though, at this time, they are waiting until the project gets a little further along.

There is also talk about an inside restaurant with access to see the activities on the lot through windows without access to the lot itself.

Meredith Perkins, mayor pro tem, said, "That he would like to see Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger come down and be invited to take a personal tour of Downey Studios."

The governor has made keep-

ing filmmakers in the Southern California a part of his economic recovery package.

A representative from Kaiser Permanente spoke to the council about the hospital complex that takes up 30 acres of the former NASA/Boeing property.

There will be three structures on the site, two medical buildings and one hospital; the expected completion date for the Kaiser site is 2008.

He also said that over 150 people have been working on the first medical building. It is the developers' hopes to break ground in April of this year on the hospital portion of the complex; it will take about 44 months to complete.

Charles Vose, who is the city's attorney, also was present as the economic director, said, it is the city's hopes that the former NASA/Boeing site will provide countless number of jobs in all three projects and little ones in the works, such as the space museum and park.



Getting Hollywood: Downey Studios is bringing in TV shows along with movies back to California

New Del Taco "ahhs" with 10-foot burrito

HERSSON PRECIADO
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"Wow, no way," Michael Sovereign, social science major, exclaimed when he laid eyes on the 10-foot Macho Burrito being served up last Wednesday during the grand opening celebration of the second Del Taco in Norwalk.

The new Del Taco is located on the corner of Alondra Blvd. and Puma Ave., one block west of the 605-freeway, kitty corner to the southbound 605 at the Alondra Blvd off ramp, only two blocks west of the Cerritos College campus.

The guest list for the event included mayor of the City of Norwalk Cheri Kelley, the president of Del Taco, Ron Petty, and even Dan "the Del Taco product guy."

Petty explained that during the planning of this new location he expressed desire to be as near to the college as possible and to have clear access to the freeway.

According to Petty, those are two things this location offers in addition to another location in the city that is at an entryway to Norwalk.

"We were offered a location over the bridge farther away from the college, but we felt it was best to be closer to the campus and its students," he added.

The event started with the introduction of Mayor Kelley by

Petty who also later introduced Dan.

Dan actually walked through the steps of making the burrito, as the Del Taco staff busily put the 10-foot burrito together layer by layer.

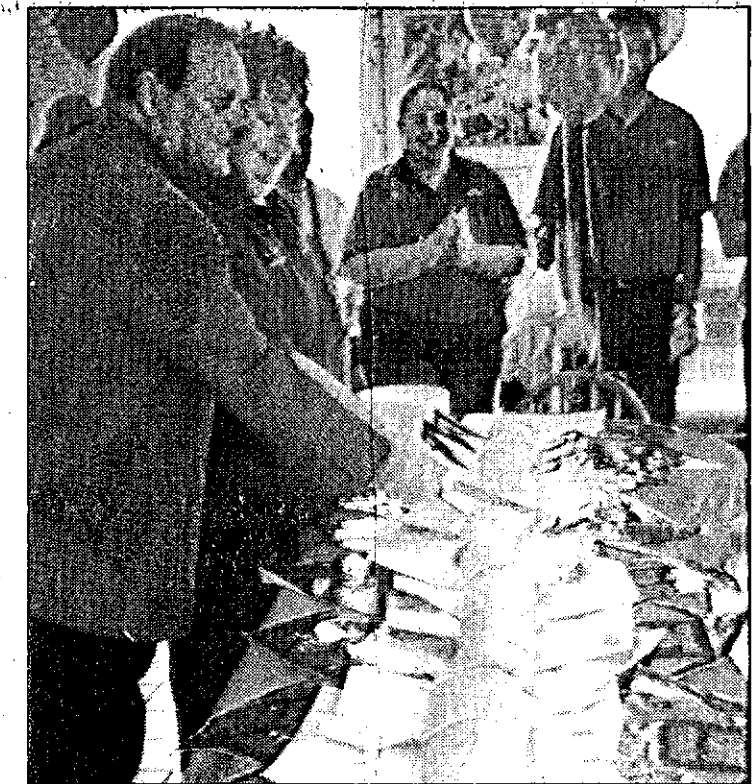
After the burrito was put together, the staff, along with help from Petty, Kelley, Dan and other city officials, rolled the burrito.

Sovereign, who was quite surprised by the largest burrito he had ever seen, was just one of several students who made their way through the sea of Norwalk sheriffs and dignitaries at the restaurant to eat at the establishment during the event.

Erick Abernathy II, robotics engineering major, explained how he ended up at the celebration. "I was driving toward school with my friend and the balloons caught our eye, and we said 'why not?'"

Abernathy and his friend O'Neil Badal, computer graphics major, were snickering and whispering back and forth as they passed by the crowd of celebrants over whether or not that was Dan from the commercials or not, until someone called Dan over and they confirmed their suspicions.

"This is great," Badal said, as he finished his free piece of the massive burrito. After the meal, he was poised to get a picture with Dan after the dozens of employees and Norwalk Sheriffs had their turn.



Monster Burrito: Del Taco President, Ron Petty, along with Norwalk Mayor Cheri Kelley cut a 10-foot burrito.

Essay winners awarded at board meeting

LA TOSHA MARKS
Staff Writer
lmarks1@talonmarks.com

As a part of National Women's History Month at Cerritos College, Barbara Mueller, instructor of English, presented three students who participated and won in the essay contest with \$100 gift certificates at last Wednesday's Cerritos College Board of Trustees meeting.

The Board accepted the mid-term accreditation report.

Every six years, Cerritos College goes through the accreditation process.

The mid-term accreditation report is done by the college during the accreditation period. The college will submit the report on April 1 to the Accrediting Commission for Schools of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Also, at the meeting, the Board denied a personal injury claim filed against it from a plaintiff who

said she injured her leg. The college turned over the claim to the insurance administrator, Keenan and Associates.

Among other items discussed were prerequisite checking, which will be implemented in this summer's registration. This program will now allow automotive students to keep tabs on classes they will take.

Letters for prerequisite checking will be sent out to students who were not enrolled in summer,

fall or spring of 2004 classes.

At the meeting, there was also mention of applications for Student Body president being available at the beginning of this week. Applications are available in the Associated Students of Cerritos College office located next to the bookstore.

The next Board of Trustees meeting is next Wednesday and is held in the Board Room of the Administration Building. It will begin at 6 p.m.

Election Coverage

For Tuesday's election results log on to www.talonmarks.com

Play Review

Want a full review of the play, "Bye Bye Birdie?" Check it out by logging on to www.talonmarks.com

Event Calendar

Cerritos College
March 16 - Cerritos College Board of Trustees meeting @ 6 p.m.

City of Downey
Saturday - Job fair at the Barbara Riley center from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ARC walk - Registration begins @ 8 a.m. near Acapulco Restaurant in Stonewood Mall

City of Cerritos
Friday - Jazz Series Concord Jazz Festival at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m.
Saturday - Farmers Market at the Cerritos Towne Center 8

a.m. - noon.
Sunday - Frank Sinatra, Jr. will perform at the Cerritos Center for Performing Arts at 3 p.m.
March 16 - Cerritos City Council meeting at 7 p.m. - Mayoral Transition

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Art Gallery hosts Burnett Miller collection



COURTESY OF ART GALLERY

KENNETH PACKINGAN
Staff Writer
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The Cerritos College Art Gallery is currently hosting an exhibition called "Selections from the Burnett Miller Collection."

The gallery has been on view since Feb. 28.

The official opening ceremony was on March 2 from 6-8 p.m.

The selections from Burnett Miller will continue to be on display through March 31.

Burnett Miller is an artist who played a key role in the contribution to art history in the 20th century.

Although his name is not well known to the public, he gained much recognition by working with other artists, helping him build his foundation.

Miller brought notoriety to a large number of artists who created several different media such as sculpture, painting, installation and performance art.

Art teacher Andrea Bronte, who is responsible for making the show happen, mentioned, "This is the first exhibit since his [Miller] passing which really shows the depth

and breath of his vision, and him being able to choose interesting work."

Miller received his masters of fine arts degree in Art History from USC in the early eighties.

He then worked a brief term as a director of Marilyn Pearl Gallery in New York and became a curator at the La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art.

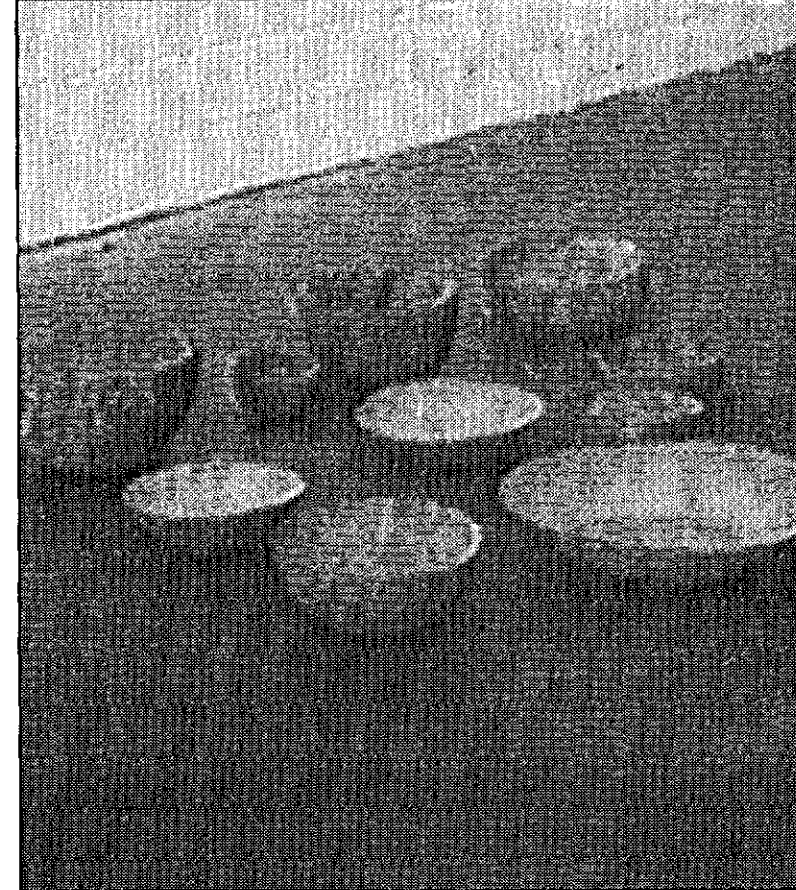
He also opened his own gallery in Los Angeles from 1985 to 1994.

An interesting piece called "Aktion Wein 2," is a bizarre black and white photo of a man's hands holding a fish that is cut open in two.

"The overall feeling I get from this painting is quite interesting," Robert Realon said, nursing major.

The artists featured in the exhibition include: Ian Hamilton Finlay, Fred Fehlau, Serge Spitzer, Anotny Gormley, David Bunn, Miroslav Balka, Skip Arnold, Sarah Seager, Ettore Spalletti, Wolfgang Lab, Arnulf Rainer, Roni Horn, Leon Golub, Rudolf Scharzkogler and Wolfgang Nestler.

Gaining much respect as a visionary in the artist community, Miller had a distinct influence on the national and international art



scene.

Miller passed away in 2001. His collection today is managed by his wife Tara Guizot who has co-curated the work currently exhibited on campus.

Miller's work will be on display until March 31.

For more information regarding Miller, go to: <http://www.cerritos.edu/gallery>.

Soulful lyrics prove to be remedy

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In the age of the singer/songwriter, Jack Johnson brings his most recent collection of songs to the table with his newest studio album, "In Between Dreams."

He's a great musician; he sings well, plays guitar well and composes beautiful lyrics, I just have never really gotten into his stuff too heavy...until now.

I have to admit, I am not a big Johnson fan, but his latest effort did manage to get me humming to his tunes, while bobbing my head in the car to songs that have become quite familiar to my stereo CD player.

"In Between Dreams" surprised me; it's a darn good CD.

From the friendly "Banana Pancakes" track, which is a very light-hearted, fun song, to the soulful thought consuming, "Good

People," which deals with more of a serious matter in Johnson's search to find good people in our everyday society, every song brings a new theme to the CD.

Although I'm not a huge fan, I do know my fair share of Johnson material; and I have to say that he is growing as both a musician and an individual.

Given everyone grows with time, his newest collection of songs seems to be a bit different than the Johnson we know.

For one, although mainly acoustic, there are a lot of band tracks on his newest CD.

But the "new" sound (so to speak), worked for me.

I liked this CD more than any other Johnson album.

The first four tracks are great!

The songs, "Better Together," "Never Know," "Banana Pancakes," and "Good People," start the CD off on such a good note, heck, I would buy the CD for these four

tracks alone.

As always, Johnson's vocals are there for every track.

His soulful lyrics, combined with his smooth voice, provide for yet another great Johnson album.

From the opening guitar lick on track No. 1, to the last syncopated note on track No. 14, the CD takes you on a journey that Johnson envisioned; a vision that he uses so well to connect with his audience on both a mental and spiritual level.

Though not groundbreaking, this CD is a great one to add to your collection of great singer/songwriters.

Dare I say, though some might disagree, this is the best Johnson Album yet.

With each new CD, Johnson tells a story with his lyrics, his music, and his emotion; his newest does not disappoint.

Jazz festival rocks Mayfair High

Both the Jazz and Pop Rock ensembles played at the Mayfair Jazz Festival.

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The Cerritos College jazz and pop/rock bands performed at a competition Saturday at Mayfair High School.

The event included 24 different ensembles from different schools.

The event was sponsored by the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association.

First, the jazz band went on stage, comprised of a large horn section, drums, guitarist and piano.

The jazz band started off with a slow melody, and then went into some "Glenn Miller."

"When you hear it (the song) on a CD, by Glenn Miller, it sounds distorted; we tried to bring this song to you the way it was meant to be heard," David Betanchourt, director of bands and orchestra

at Cerritos College said.

Betanchourt played piano for the jazz band, and the saxophone for the pop/rock band.

"I fill in for the people who don't show," Betanchourt jokingly said.

The pop/rock band started off with an instrumental piece, then the vocalists came out to help out with the remaining four songs.

Alexa Macias, one of the vocalists, first sang "Groove Me;" Theresa Flores, music major, then sang the second song. Iam Van Cong, nursing major, sang "Another Sad Love Song;" finally Macias finished the bands set by singing "1, 2, 3."

"I was nervous, but excited at the same time," Flores said about singing in front of the crowd.

Cong said, "The excitement made me nervous, but I wasn't really nervous; it was a great crowd." And the crowd was, very energetic after hearing only instrumental jazz all morning long, they seemed to like the pop/rock band.

The vocalists did not get all the credit though; the pop/rock band instrument

players received a loud applause too.

But the band members were skeptical about their performances like Mike Meza, music major.

"I think I did alright; it felt better in practice. I couldn't hear anybody else; I think I did mediocre because I couldn't hear any one else."

The cafeteria where the band was playing was small in size, but there were many bands in attendance and there were a lot of bands playing in the gym as well.

Tom Phillips, the director of the event, said that this year's event has grown from the mere 15 bands that played last year, to the now 24 bands playing in the competition.

Yet it was not a competition, because every band got an award for showing up and individual awards, were given out to soloist.

The event started at 8 a.m. and ended at 5 p.m. Between bands the spectators and band members could buy anything from barbeque to a fruit smoothie in the middle of the Mayfair Campus

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTIST

Janković brings class to Cerritos

DAVID GOMEZ
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In the near-darkness of a classroom, only a spotlight illuminates Petar Janković and his guitar.

The small audience sits, hushed by the music produced by the classical guitarist; some sit with their eyes closed, while others watch as his hands and fingers work their way up and down the guitar, picking the strings in rhythmic motion.

Leonard Reed, attorney, who was in the audience, said Janković was fantastic.

"He creates a beautiful sound, it was perfect," Reed stated.

Janković, who has played classical guitar since age 8, played a variety of songs including one titled, "Libra Sonatina," which before playing, he introduced, giving the audience the story behind the song.

"This song was dedicated (by the author) to his heart doctor. The sharp guitar sounds were meant to represent the incisions made on his heart...the author had meant for his song to be played in an otherworldly

style," Janković elaborates.

"Since the author had been clinically dead for a period of time,"

By preceding the song with the story behind it, Janković states that he is able to connect his audience to the music.

"I want to evoke passion and emotion. I communicate through my guitar and to reach out with artistic values," Janković concluded.

That was exactly what he did.

"He made me feel amazing," commented Andres Avendano, music education major. "It's kind of hard to explain how he made me feel, it was just a big rollercoaster of emotions."

"It's like a different way to express yourself, not through regular language, but through music. He inspired me to practice a lot more," Avendano added.

Janković was on tour from San Diego to Santa Barbara. He is currently a faculty member at Indiana University School of Music of Indianapolis and at Franklin College.

He has released two compact discs, one titled "Romantico," the other is untitled.

'Bums' serve bleachers well

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Whether you are familiar with the game of baseball or not, you will truly enjoy this play.

With no intermission and a cast that delivers electrifying performances, the Cerritos College Department of Theatre and ASCC presents Bleacher Bums.

A play by Joe Mantegna and the Organic theatre company, Bleacher Bums, takes us to the bleachers of the Chicago, IL. Wrigley Stadium on a hot day, as spectators of various ages, attitudes and interests collide to biker, wager, and oh yeah, watch the game.

These truly dedicated Cubs fans cheer for their beloved cubbies.

The cast stars Decker (Justin Murphy) who is a generous good-natured guy who is obviously financially well-off to support a few bets.

Richie (Angel Castellanos) is a glib and friendly guy who looks up to Decker.

Marvin (Arnold Sullivan) is a

small-time gambler who keeps an eye out for any participants willing to accept a bet.

Greg (Kevin Mansell) is a blind guy with a great sense of humor, who seems to have a more keen observation of his surroundings than his friends with sight.

Zig (Gilbert Martinez) is a frustrated fan who is pestered by his wife Rose (Barbara Lopez), who is a fun loving woman, who's patience seems to still be intact despite all the money her husband has lost on bets.

Melody (Rebekah Parkinson) who sun bathes as she keeps an eye on the game.

The cheerleader's (Tony Bartolone) love for the cubs seems to rest on a different level than the rest of the crowd, as he is chased by the security guard (Matthew Sanchez) who has seen his share of crazy antics.

This play will keep you laughing as you watch the relationships between the characters escalate, and keep you wondering just why they come back.



RAPHAEL MAGLONZO/TM

Bums: Fans root for Cubs from bleachers; set at Wrigley Field.

David Perez's GAME REVIEW

Game's improvements shut out competition

EA Sports' MVP Baseball 2005 Console: Xbox

Graphics

Without doubt, the MVP franchise remains the most visually appealing baseball video game on the market. The players' faces have been restructured, stadiums have been shaded and the sky-lines are mostly accurate.

Several signature player celebrations have also been inserted, such as Sammy Sosa's hop and Manny Ramirez's bat toss. EA Sports failed to reconstruct the player models, however, leaving some of MLB's biggest stars without accurate body types.

Score: 4.5 out of 5

Gameplay:

MVP plays smooth, with

no noticeable slow-down or nagging animation glitches. New to this year's game is the "Hitter's Eye," a system where players can recognize the pitch type coming out of the pitcher's hand. Several colors differentiate the pitch type and flash on the screen prior to delivery. Double plays run much smoother, as well as outfield cut-offs and bunting situations.

Score: 5 out of 5

Features:

A new "Owner Mode" has been added, a feature akin to Madden 2005's version. As a franchise's owner, the player gets to make the call on ticket prices, concession costs and merchandise

pricing.

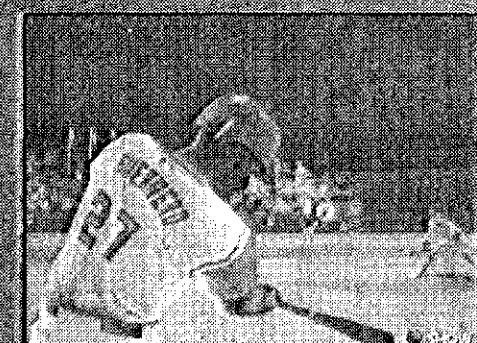
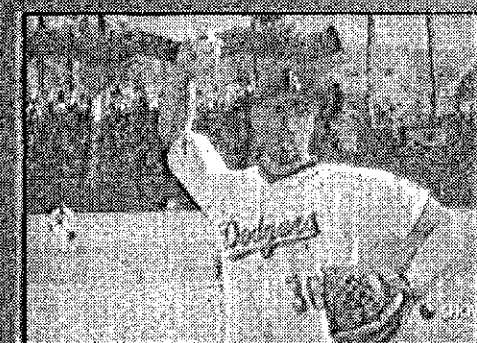
"Mini Games" have also been added, such as hitting and pitching challenges that both teach the game's fundamentals and serve as fun diversions.

Score: 4.5 out of 5

Overall:

The game has a long shelf life due to its deep rosters and "Owner Mode." The graphics are solid and gameplay is extremely clean. While the music featured on MVP Baseball 2005 does hurt the game a little, EA still managed to knock the competition out of the park.

Score: 4.6 out of 5



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Schwarzenbach gets Falcons' third win

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With bases loaded and no outs in the top the 11 inning, the Falcons called on Brad Schwarzenbach to get them out of a jam and to win the game in the bottom half.

The Falcons beat the El Camino College Warriors last Saturday 2-1 in extra innings as Schwarzenbach, who had started the game at catcher, singled in center fielder Dave Balandran from second base in the bottom of the 11 inning to end the game.

"I just wanted to go in there and throw strikes," Schwarzenbach said.

"Just happy that I had the opportunity (to win the game)," he added. "I knew I had the confidence to get it done."

The Falcons are now 7-5 overall and are undefeated since starting conference play at 3-0.

The Falcons were unable to capitalize on the performance of starting pitcher Stephen Luyben (2-2), who went 8 2/3 innings, allowing six hits while striking out seven and giving up one run, a home run to Billy Hernandez in the sixth inning.

"Our bats didn't wake up early enough," Luyben said.

"Brad deserved the win," he added. "He did the job."

Although he was glad to get the win, Schwarzenbach was not pleased that the game went as long as it did.

"It's a job that we should have finished earlier in the game," he said.

The Falcons got on the board

first in the second inning when designated hitter Sal Dorado singled in third baseman Gabe Santos.

Santos doubled to start the inning and was sacrificed to third by Schwarzenbach, to record his first RBI of the season.

Schwarzenbach was brought in to replace pitcher Jerome Fortin who had got into the jam.

The first hitter he faced grounded to second baseman Luyben's brother, Daniel, who threw home where Dorado (replacing Schwarzenbach at catcher) tagged out the runner.

Then the warriors attempted a squeeze bunt, but Dorado jumped on the ball and got the runner coming from third.

The Falcons will now travel to face Los Angeles City College and will look to extend their three-game win streak.

Luyben is excited to start conference play undefeated, and looks for the team to improve.

"It feels awesome," he said. "We were a little shaky in the pre-season."

Leading the way

Batting Average: Bryan Kepner (.415)
Runs: Dave Balandran (11)
Hits: Bryan Kepner (17)
Home Runs: Earl Powell, Gabriel Santos (1)
Runs Batted In: Bryan Kepner (7)
Stolen Bases: Daniel Luyben, Phil Van Doren (4)

SPORTS

Batter Up

Falcons look for big improvement after a tough losing streak

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After starting the season at 6-1, the Cerritos softball team dropped its third-consecutive game last Thursday, 8-2, to Pasadena City College.

The Falcons have been outscored 22-6 in their last three games, dropping their overall record to 6-4 and 0-2 in conference play.

However, those same three defeats have come at the hands of Palomar College, Mt. San Antonio College and the Lancers. Combined, the schools hold a 28-5-1 record and are all ranked in the state's top 10.

Despite the losing streak, Falcons' head coach Kodee Murray remains confident that the recent performances are not indicative of her team's quality.

"We have to look and see that two of those three losses are to the state's top two teams," Murray said.

"The fact of the matter is Palomar is loaded. (Against) Mt. SAC, we beat ourselves. I don't feel that we have really played to our potential at all."

Over the past two games the Falcons have squandered scoring opportunities, having left 18 runners on base.

Murray recognizes that the Falcons haven't produced many clutch hits of late.

"We take ourselves right out of things when we do that. A key hit at anytime makes a difference in those games," Murray said.

In order to get back on the right track, Falcons' shortstop Nicole Deel has assumed a leadership role and hopes to motivate the club.

Deel said, "I lead by playing. I just try to set the example by making the plays, hitting the ball and staying strong for the team."

"They can look and say, 'She can do it, so we can do it too.'"

Deel leads the team in slugging percentage (.758), homeruns (3) and total bases (25). But Murray notices other qualities that Deel provides outside of numbers.

"Nicole has taken this team over," Murray said. "In a leadership role, sometimes you have to say things to help your teammates step their game up."

"In general, a lot of people don't like confrontation. Nicole has completely stepped-up."

Murray believes that the rest of the season will hold more success than recent times.

"We just need to focus on our own game, and if we do, we should have no problem," she said.

Although the game against Mt. SAC ended in a 9-4 defeat on March 1, Deel feels that the game was winnable and that the Falcons can compete with the best.

"If that's the No. 1 team in the state, then I think we can win state," Deel said. "I think that if we have the determination, we can win it."

"I don't think they're better than us. We can beat Mt. SAC."

The Falcons were to host El Camino College on Tuesday before hitting the road Thursday to take on Long Beach City College.

Leading the way

Batting Average: Cynthia Leyva (.515)
Runs: Mayra Oliden (11)
Hits: Cynthia Leyva (17)
Home Runs: Nicole Deel (3)
Runs Batted In: Cynthia Leyva (14)
Stolen Bases: Joanna Navarro (4)
Earned Run Average: Tricia Lee (2.30)
Wins: Alex Castillo, Tricia Lee (3)

Tennis roundup

Men's tennis

Singles:

- Cooper Lee lost 6-4, 2-6, 5-7
- Pat Vivatpattanakul won 6-3, 6-3
- PJ Angaco won 6-3, 6-3
- Matt Bote lost 6-4, 3-6, 2-6
- Tim Chang won 6-2, 6-1
- Glenn Upshaw won 6-0, 6-2

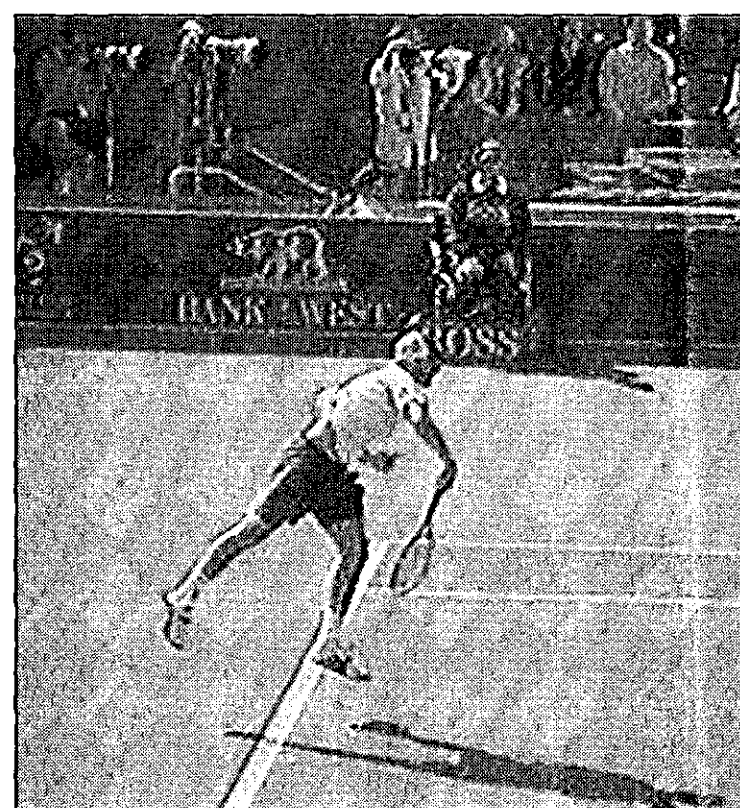
Women's tennis

Singles:

- Mara Petrini won 6-1, 6-0
- Ashley Vachirajongkol 7-5, 6-1
- Kenya Fregoso 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 10-8
- Berenice Ceja won 0-6, 6-4, 6-3

For the story on both matches, visit www.talonmarks.com

CROATIA ACES USA



RAFAEL MAGLONAN/TM

Andy Roddick (above) serves to Mario Ancic from Croatia during Davis Cup play. Roddick defeated Ancic in four sets (4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4) but it was not enough as the U.S. lost to Croatia 1-2 and was eliminated from the Davis Cup tournament.

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Banking on steroids

In a season when Major League Baseball's best player is pursuing its most hallowed record, it turns out that the man chasing the career homerun title is the game's biggest liar as well.

Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants continued to smear his own name Feb. 22 during a climactic press conference at the Giants' spring training facility in Arizona.

Amidst many inquisitive journalists, Bonds spoke harshly about the steroid allegations surrounding him, going as far as to say that steroids do not help baseball players.

"I don't believe steroids can help you, eye-hand coordination, technically hit a baseball; I just don't believe it and that's just my opinion," Bonds said.

Sure, if you limit the effects of steroids to the parameters that Bonds set, you could make a case for his statement being valid.

I, too, agree that steroids probably do not help hand-eye coordination.

But what about steroids' ability to maximize a player's stamina and double a player's strength?

Bonds has testified before a federal grand jury to taking two substances in the middle of the BALCO scandal, the "clear" and the "cream," both of which are steroids.

At 40, Bonds must need a stamina boost in order to keep pace in a game that wears on players half his age.

Steroids have probably aided his longevity.

For a hitter, being able to wait on a pitch longer allows him to read the ball's location, speed and type much easier. Hence, more strength leads to more bat speed, meaning more time to "sit" on a pitch. It is widely recognized that Bonds can wait much longer than the normal hitter can.

Get my drift?

While it is unfair to tag players as steroid-users without hard evidence, Bonds has already admitted to using steroids, albeit "unknowingly."

However, is it reasonable to believe that multi-million dollar athletes don't altogether understand every supplement that goes into their bodies?

Hardly.

An athlete's body is his temple, as it provides for the amount of money and fame he can accrue over his career.

Both clean and tainted players constantly work hard to perform at their physical peak. Now, it is commonplace for players to push their workouts long into the off season to gain the "competitive edge."

Too bad players like Bonds need to push needles to achieve it.

LIFE

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Jeremy Adam Lara's life revolved around three things: family, baseball and winning. His parents describe him as a joker and a trouble maker, but his horseplay was harmless.

"It was only to have fun," said Martha Lara, his mother, describing Jeremy, who was killed Jan. 23 in a drive-by shooting.

And Jeremy was having fun as early as 2-years-old, when one day, Jeremy was nowhere to be found.

His parents searched inside and outside their apartment, but he seemed to have vanished.

They decided to call the police; that is when his father spotted him on top of the refrigerator.

"He was sitting there eating cookies," his mother said. "Until now, we don't know how he got up there."

At 6 years of age, his mother did not know what to do anymore.

"He was too hyper," she said. "They (his brothers and cousins) all were. We had to find a way to keep them entertained."

That is when Jeremy's baseball career began; he and his brother, Giovanni Lara, were named to their league's All-Star team.

"I remember him sitting at the end of the curve where the catcher stands, legs crossed, with his hands on his face, crying," his father recalls.

Jeremy was too small to play. "He told me, 'Just watch daddy, next year I'll be right there playing with them,'" his father said.

His brother quit baseball, but Jeremy remained active with the team until he was 13-years-old.

In elementary school, Jeremy was doing great in school, winning spelling bees and math contests.

"We knew when he was nervous because he would extend his arm and twist his hand," his mom remembers.

In junior high, Jeremy found himself bored in class, but for different reasons than other teens.

"His teacher called us for a conference and we thought, 'My God, what did he do?'" his mother said.

But the news was actually far from what the Laras had in mind. Jeremy was finishing one-hour tests in 20 minutes and doing well.

"The teacher had to give him books and high school level work to keep him entertained, because he would sit in his desk drumming his fingers for the rest of the time," his mother explained.

The school recommended enrolling Jeremy on the "gifted" program, which focused kids on academics after school, but he refused to give up baseball.

His mother recalls repeatedly asking Jeremy to turn off the TV while doing homework. He would reply, "It's easy mom. Test me."

"He loved to play video games," his mother said. "But in three days he would go through an entire game and grow bored with it."

While in high school, Jeremy's popularity grew.

His brother became friends with famous Spanish singer Adán "Chalino" Sanchez, who was killed in March of 2004; since Jeremy and his brother were very close, he



Power player: Lara at age 17. He turned down a full athletic scholarship to the University of Miami to be closer to his family.

too became friends with the singer.

Sanchez introduced them to other famous Spanish singers like Lupillo Rivera and Valentin Elizalde, his favorite singer. The group liked to go to night clubs and mingle with the famous faces of Spanish TV. They even joined Sanchez in a music video.

His senior year, Jeremy was named Mr. GQ and was a prince at his Winter Formal dance.

But his interest in friends did not override his interest in school.

Jeremy was the first male in the history of Paramount High School to receive the Scholars Award in Home Economics.

It also did not take over his

love for baseball.

In 2002, he joined the Long Beach Breakers while playing baseball for his school. There, he met Sal Dorado, who remembers him as a quiet guy but "very social" if you were his friend.

"He didn't like to see anyone sad," Genesis Lara, his sister said.

While playing in Miami, Jeremy was offered a full scholarship to play for the University of Miami, but refused to be far from home.

In 2003, he broke his collarbone while dirt biking in Mexico. The doctors told him to stay off his shoulder for at least six weeks.

His father thought he would

never play again.

"He told me, 'In five weeks I am going to be pitching again,'" his father said. "In three weeks he was already at practice and in five weeks he was pitching again."

By that time, Jeremy's fastball hit 95-mph at only 18-years-old.

In a practice game against Los Ostoneros de Guaimas, Sonora, he struck out "El Camaron" Diaz, a major league player from Mexico.

"That's when I knew he was going to be someone big in life," his father said.

In September of 2004, Jeremy enrolled in Cerritos College and joined the baseball team.

Jeremy went through spring

training, but did not get to play when the season started; his life made a sudden turn.

"That whole week he was acting strange," Dorado said. "On Saturday (Jan. 22), out of nowhere, he started to thank me for being his friend and helping him out."

"I told him, 'you're talking stupid...that's what friends are for.'"

The next day, a group of friends met at a house two blocks from Jeremy's home.

His mother watched him leave from the door saying, "Bye papas, be careful."

"I called him like 15 minutes later and he wasn't answering. (My husband) walked in and I told him

Jeremy wasn't answering. That's when the phone rang," she said.

It was one of Jeremy's friends. His father answered and turned red yelling, "No," said Jeremy's mother.

Jeremy had been the victim of a drive-by shooting. His friend, Carlos Luna, had also been shot.

The family believes the bullet perforated his lungs when it struck his back, causing him to collapse.

They have not asked for the autopsy report; they don't feel ready to hear the results.

Jeremy's friends said he tried to help Luna up, but collapsed after putting his hand to his back.

When the paramedics got there, they didn't know he was injured. His wound did not bleed. Jeremy died at the hospital before his parents could reach him.

The Laras rushed to the hospital, but did not receive any information on Jeremy at the front desk. They were placed in a room until a doctor, hesitant to tell them the news, entered the room.

"I told him to tell me straight out how my son was. That's when he told me Jeremy had just passed away," his father said.

Jeremy's mother ran out of the hospital, crying and yelling.

On the day Jeremy was supposed to be playing his first league game with Cerritos, he was being laid to rest at Cypress Forest lawn.

According to the family, there were more than 300 cars and over 600 people present at his burial.

"Until now, our life has been filled with pain; only God knows when it will stop," his father said. "I lost my idol."

Jeremy's brother has shut down since his death. He doesn't want to be home, he sleeps most of the time and has isolated himself from his family.

"They took a part of my heart; we were always together," he said.

Jeremy's mother says she doesn't know how to feel.

"Sometimes I am confused, other times sad, but mostly I am angry," she said. "We are all going to die some time, but he didn't have to die so young, especially when he had such a bright future ahead of him."

The shooters were caught three days after the incident and are facing criminal charges.

The family now believes Jeremy was not supposed to die that day. One of his friends had received death threats in the form of letters and he was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"He was everything to me," his mother said. "He used to say he was a mama's boy. We were very close."

His family was not the only one who lost with Jeremy's death.

The Breakers retired Jeremy's number (50); their hats will carry his number at the start of the next season.

Jeremy's Falcon uniform still hangs in his locker.

The Dodgers were waiting for Seattle and the Angels to come up with a figure to sign Jeremy to the team; they had been watching him since high school.

But when the Angels looked for Jeremy, he was no longer playing baseball. He had already passed away.

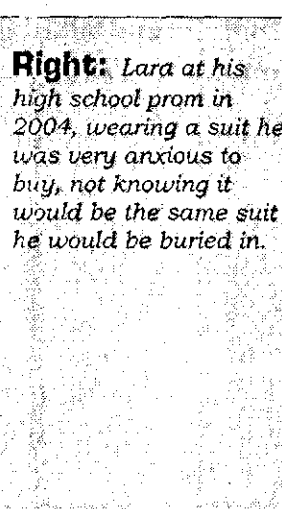
"He loved to win," his dad said. This time, Jeremy lost in the worst way possible.



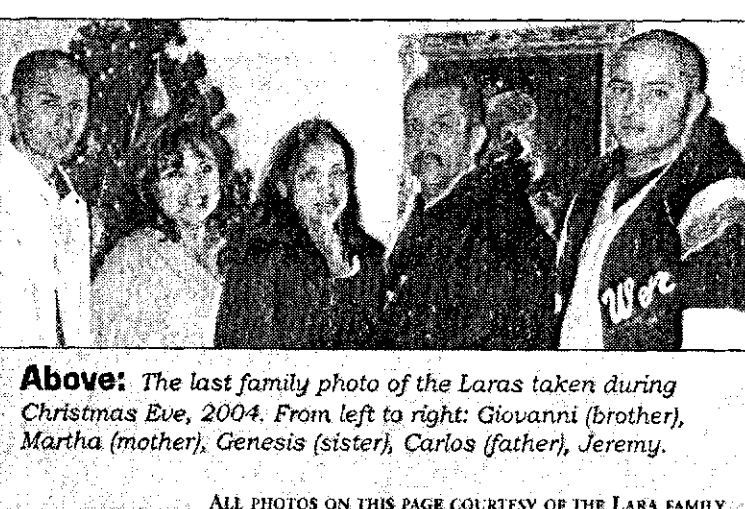
Left: Lara, age 6, at the start of his baseball career.



Right: Giovanni Lara and Jeremy Lara, age 4. The two were very close.



Right: Lara at his high school prom in 2004, wearing a suit he was very anxious to buy, not knowing it would be the same suit he would be buried in.



Above: The last family photo of the Laras taken during Christmas Eve, 2004. From left to right: Giovanni (brother), Martha (mother), Genesis (sister), Carlos (father), Jeremy.

ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE COURTESY OF THE LARA FAMILY