

TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

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GRADUATION: MAY 14, 2005

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Star Wars: one last time

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Strong pitching leads to victory

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Puebla festival in new fight

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Cinco de Mayo, the celebration of the Mexican victory over the French, is in a new battle to be remembered by Cerritos College students, who find it to be just the fifth day of May.

"I never really gave it (Cinco De Mayo) much thought. It's just another holiday for me," said Rosario Diaz, undecided major.

The victory, which was at Puebla, Mexico in 1892, and is now celebrated as Cinco de Mayo, is primarily a regional holiday celebrated in the Mexican city and state of Puebla, with some recognition in other parts of Mexico and in U.S. cities with a significant Mexican population.

It is not, as many people think, Mexico's Independence Day, which is actually September 16.

The victory was a glorious moment for Mexican patriots, which at the time helped to develop a needed sense of national unity, and is the cause for the historical date's celebration.

Unfortunately, the victory was short-lived not only for Mexico, (Napoleon attempted to invade it again shortly after the victory) but also is no longer living as an important date in the minds of

See CINCO page 3

Rape victims 'take back night' during demonstration

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"We have the power, we have the right. The streets are ours, take back the night." Those were the words that echoed throughout campus April 26.

Take Back the Night, an event for rape victims, began with a film about campus rapes.

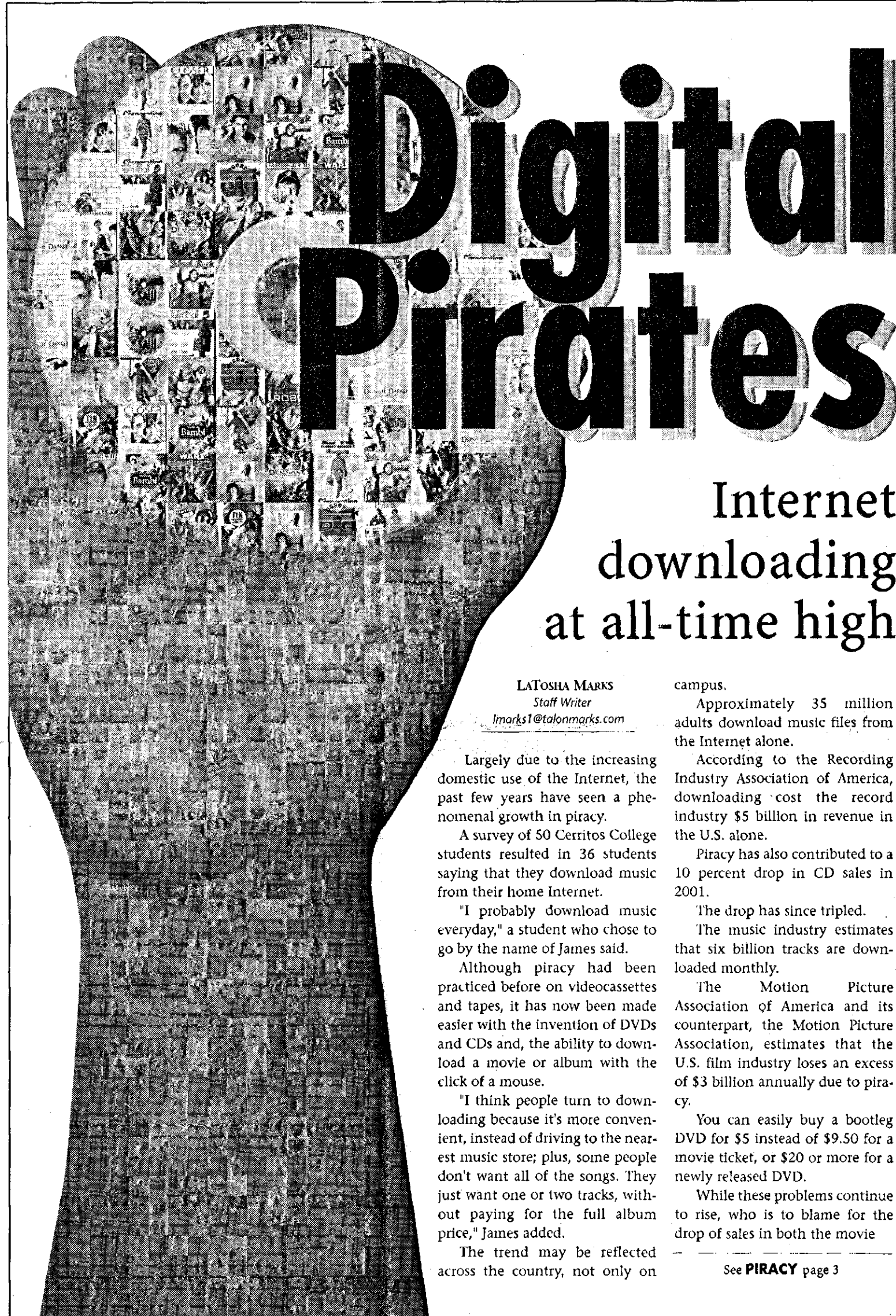
Evelin Barragan, moderator and Sexual Assault Crisis Agency's prevention educator, opened up with a message of hope.

"I hope they (the victims) will take strength and feel supported," she said.

Cerritos College Police Officer John Echeverria spoke about the safety on campus during an open-mic segment.

The open-mic session gave the audience the opportunity to either share an experience or make a comment on the event. Women

See VIGIL page 3



Digital Pirates

Internet downloading at all-time high

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Largely due to the increasing domestic use of the Internet, the past few years have seen a phenomenal growth in piracy.

A survey of 50 Cerritos College students resulted in 36 students saying that they download music from their home Internet.

"I probably download music everyday," a student who chose to go by the name of James said.

Although piracy had been practiced before on videocassettes and tapes, it has now been made easier with the invention of DVDs and CDs and, the ability to download a movie or album with the click of a mouse.

"I think people turn to downloading because it's more convenient, instead of driving to the nearest music store; plus, some people don't want all of the songs. They just want one or two tracks, without paying for the full album price," James added.

The trend may be reflected across the country, not only on

campus.

Approximately 35 million adults download music files from the Internet alone.

According to the Recording Industry Association of America, downloading cost the record industry \$5 billion in revenue in the U.S. alone.

Piracy has also contributed to a 10 percent drop in CD sales in 2001.

The drop has since tripled.

The music industry estimates that six billion tracks are downloaded monthly.

The Motion Picture Association of America and its counterpart, the Motion Picture Association, estimates that the U.S. film industry loses an excess of \$3 billion annually due to piracy.

You can easily buy a bootleg DVD for \$5 instead of \$9.50 for a movie ticket, or \$20 or more for a newly released DVD.

While these problems continue to rise, who is to blame for the drop of sales in both the movie

See PIRACY page 3

Glitches in new web site get fixed

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Students no longer have to be afraid of identity theft on campus, at least not when it comes to using campus-related web sites.

Mycerritos.com, the new student portal, is intended to keep students organized by allowing them to register, make payments, access unofficial transcripts, among other things, according to Paulo Amaral, ASCC president pro-tem.

But a glitch within PeopleSoft, the web site's software, also meant problems for students trying out the new tool by registering for summer classes.

See WEBSITE page 3

Débate: Jesus, God or prophet?

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Zephaniah Mel, evangelism leader of the Campus Crusade for Christ, said, "Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic or God."

In a joint venture last Thursday, the Campus Crusade for Christ and the Muslim Students Association invited two speakers to dialogue their views on who Jesus is.

The two groups held this dialogue to help spread awareness of the different cultures at Cerritos College.

"The purpose was to bring the two religions together to create religious tolerance and understand-

See CRUSADE page 3

Gas prices break students

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Gasoline prices, according to many Cerritos College students, are getting out of control.

"They're too damn high," Jorge Loera Jr., welding major, stated.

Loera is not alone with his statement; many other students agreed that gas prices are unfairly out of control.

Dinesh Vora, business major, declared, "Gas prices are not fair at all; I come from Hollywood all the way to Cerritos College. I am spending \$20 to \$25 on gas every other day."

The rising gas prices have Vora looking for other alternatives to driving.

"I use the train every other day," Vora said.

The crisis at hand

- According to experts, we are about a decade from "Hubbert's peak," the point at which oil reserves will be 50 percent depleted.
- Experts say that gasoline may reach \$5 a gallon within the next few years.
- Technologies like hybrid cars, which run on a combination of gasoline and electricity, may lower the price of oil.
- The government offers tax credits for people who buy hybrids.
- Hydrogen-powered cars could make an even bigger dent in oil demand, but they won't be commercially available for 10 to 20 years.
- The doomsday scenario, outlined recently in the book, *The Long Emergency*, by James Howard Kuntzler, goes like this: gasoline will soon get so expensive that most Americans simply won't be able to afford it.

SOURCE: CNN.COM

But not everyone has the opportunity to save money on gas. Other students, like Jared Solomon, business administration major, confirmed, "I drive to Pasadena from Norwalk everyday

for work. I have no choice; my resources are limited, so I am forced to drive."

Sylvia Guzman, child develop-

See GAS page 3

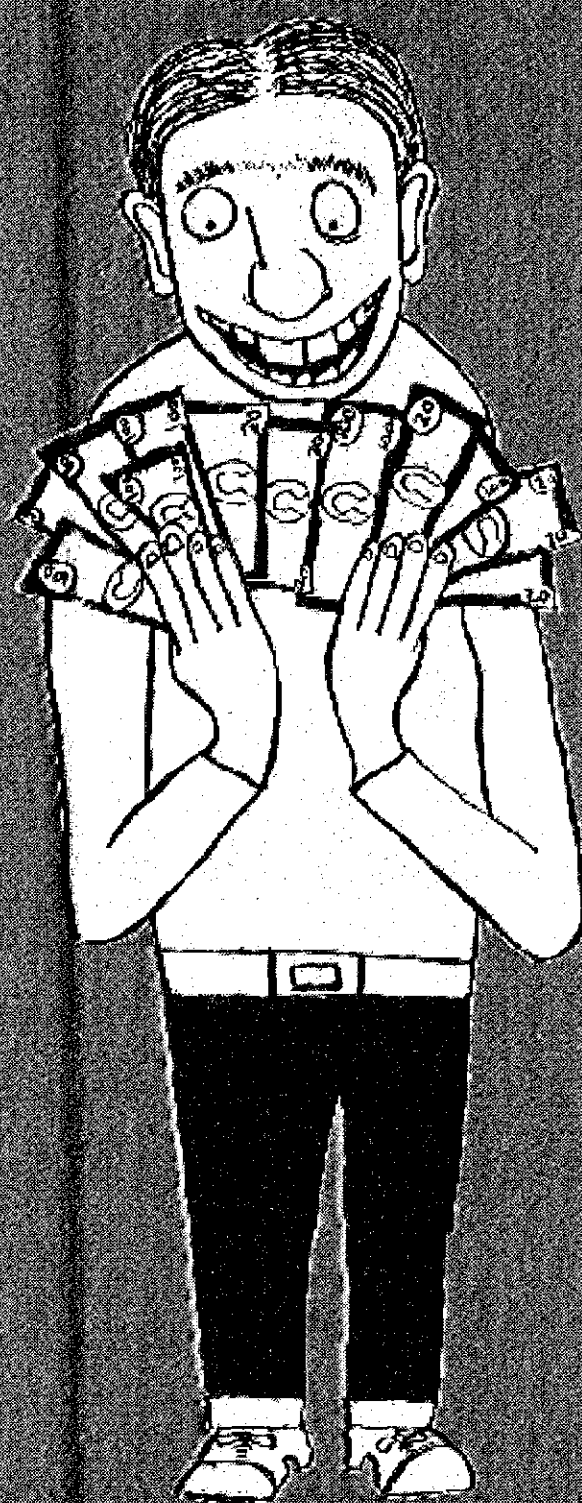
Grapplin' for humanity



Sukhminder Singh, marketing major, (left) videotapes Peter Labib, political science major, and Tak-Shay Patel, criminal justice major as they recreate an ancient myth for their humanities class in front of the Student Center.

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NEWS

PIRACY: Students give their thoughts on legislation regarding ripping

Continued from page 1

and the recording industry?

With the Internet accessible in more homes now than ever, the price issue may not be the only problem.

According to Krystle Stringer, psychology major, "The price is not a problem, because you can buy CDs for like \$10 and DVDs for like \$20. To me that's not a lot of money, because they last forever."

On the other hand, convenience may be a pirate's best motivation.

"People turn to downloading because of laziness," Stringer says. Not all students let their laziness control their spending.

Trenita Turner, psychology major, does not download, despite the fact that she believes it is convenient and inexpensive.

Turner does not download because she believes that it is a problem.

"It is stealing music from the people who make music," she said.

She believes that piracy is in large part because of the money, but agrees that there are other motives.

Stringer says that some people just want certain songs.

"I know there are times when I want to hear certain songs and I don't want to have to switch from CD to CD just to hear the song."

Yet there are some obstacles that may prevent even casual downloaders from downloading only certain songs.

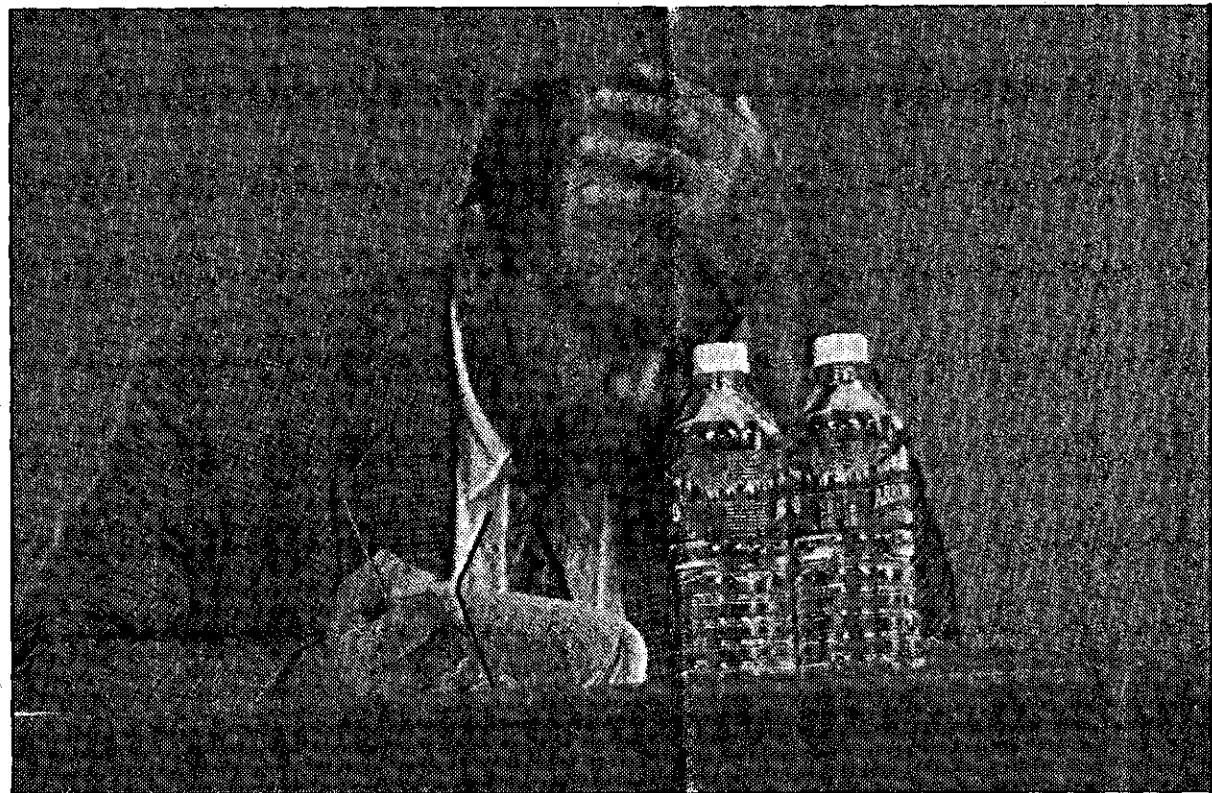
If someone is caught, one can be forced to pay thousands of dollars in royalties or serve up to five years in prison.

Maybe there are other solutions to the problem that may keep the prisons from getting full of Internet pirates.

"They should lower the prices on these items and see how it works," Turner says, "and after the results of that, if it still occurs, then they (those who download) should be penalized."

Although few of the millions who download have been caught, more and more are now being penalized.

"Of course, I worry all the time," says James, "but I always take a chance to download a song and hope that I don't get caught."



JONATHAN JORDAN/TM

Pensive: Aslam Abdullah, editor for the Muslim Observer, ponders his rebuttle during a religious debate on the identity of Christ.

CRUSADE: Campus Crusade for Christ hosts a debate on who Jesus really was

Continued from page 1

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A networking opportunity with Cinco de Mayo flavor will take place Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Student Center, but students are discouraged to attend.

The ninth annual Chamber Mega Mixer, hosted by the Cerritos College Foundation, is a program that allows local chambers of commerce to meet and find ways to help their businesses.

The annual Chamber Mega

ing for our beliefs," Ahmed Waheed, President of MSA, said.

Craig Benton, Bible teacher of the Campus Crusade for Christ, agreed with Waheed.

"We want to enlighten the campus," he said.

The two speakers, Dr. Jon Rittenhouse, a professor from Biola University, and Aslam Abdullah, an editor for the Muslim Observer, spoke about who they believe Jesus

really is, a God or a messiah.

Rittenhouse had four main points he wanted to get across about why Jesus is God.

- Jesus said he was God
- Jesus accepted worship and only a god accepts worship
- Only God can forgive sins and Jesus forgave sins
- Disciples firmly believed that he was God

Student Center gets 'mega' celebration

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Mixer is the only event where all seven chambers of commerce meet; the chambers represented are Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, La Mirada, Paramount, Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs.

Even though the Mega Mixer will take place on school grounds, students are not encouraged to attend the event.

"We encourage more businesses to come; it is not really a campus-wide event," said Janice Cole, Cerritos College Foundation secretary.

"We want to limit it to busi-

nesses. Students usually come in to eat the food and leave, but we will not turn any of them away if they decide to attend."

Some students agree with Cole. Adrijane Hilliard, general education major, said,

"I think it's okay, especially if it's business oriented, because you want to filter out the people who are not there for business, like the munchers."

But others disagree.

"Why have it on campus if it doesn't concern students?"

"It is a marketing skill to have

He talked about how Jesus is God.

"Only God had the right to forgive sins," he said.

Abdullah spoke about who he felt Jesus was.

"He is the word of God; he is the son of God. We believe he is a prophet of God," Abdullah said.

The event was set up to be a dialogue, but toward the end became a little heated between Rittenhouse and Abdullah.

Abdullah was offended by some of the things Rittenhouse said.

Rittenhouse began to criticize the Koran by saying that it is not an accurate portrayal of the events that took place during the life of Jesus.

The two exchanged some words, and that is when the moderator, Dr. John Haas, history professor, decided to end the dialogue.

Benton reflected upon the event.

"It went really well. Iron sharpens iron today, and when iron sharpens iron it gets hot. The iron got a little hot today. I think progress was made," he said.

Mel hopes that everyone who attended the event heard everything that was said.

"I hope people will search for the truth and that there is only one truth," he stated. "We are all responsible to find it."

CINCO: Mexican holiday struggles to maintain its original meaning

Continued from page 1

some of the students at Cerritos College.

Diaz mentioned that her fami-

ly goes to the Cinco de Mayo festivals in Lynwood called the Market Place to see the Mariachis, but that they do not get involved in the celebration.

Caroline Marabilla, biology major, doesn't celebrate Cinco de Mayo at all, but thinks it's a well rounded holiday.

"It's pretty cool; it shows that we don't just celebrate our (American) Independence Day, it's the celebration of la 'Revolucion de Mexico.'"

Celebrating Cinco de Mayo has

become increasingly popular along the U.S.-Mexican border and in parts of the U.S. where there is a high population of people with Mexican heritage.

But the celebration seems to have lost its meaning to some.

According to Juan Orosco, dentistry major, "I celebrate it because people gather up and have fun. It's nothing personal though; we just like to have fun."

Orosco explained that he will celebrate the holiday depending on if his friends want to do some-

thing. "We drink," Orosco said. "I actually went to the Plaza Mexico in Lynwood where it was celebrated this weekend; it was a carnival type thing."

In other cases, some families who are Mexican are oblivious to the holiday here in the U.S.

"Our family doesn't really celebrate it because they're always working, and there really isn't any time to celebrate it," Brenda Trejo, nursing major said.

Another student mentioned

WEB SITE: PeopleSoft fixes issues with Cerritos enroll- ment web site

Continued from page 1

Ariana Silva, psychology major, had problems logging in from home and printing out her summer registration schedule, but was most worried about her student I.D. number being left on the screen after she logged off.

"Either fix the problem or make students aware of it, because a lot of students don't know what is going on and they're walking away from computers with their student I.D. numbers exposed," she said.

Stephanie Murgia, Administrative Dean of Admissions and Records and mycerritos director, said that the problem with logging in from home was fixed and a work order was issued to PeopleSoft to fix the problem with the exposed I.D. numbers.

She said that the problems were not exposed to students because a work order had already been issued and they could've been fixed at any time.

PeopleSoft has completed the work order, but Murgia recommends hitting F5 to refresh your computer after logging off. Also, in order to print summer registration schedules you must go to "View My Schedule" and change the date to your summer session.

Murgia also said that there may be individual cases where students are still having problems because some pieces may have been left out when inputting their data into the system.

In such cases students should make her aware of the problems by calling (562) 860-2451, extension 2102.

that she and her family only celebrates it if they are in Mexico.

"When we are in Mexico, we celebrate it," Mitzi Orosco, computer science major said.

"We decorate the streets with green, white and red (the colors of the Mexican flag) papier mache and we have music."

She mentioned that the celebration in Mexico takes place for the people who fought for its independence.

VIGIL: Women speak at event designed to raise rape awareness

Continued from page 1

studies major, Audrey Silvestre took advantage of the open-mic section to talk about Denim Day.

Silvestre said, "The purpose of Denim Day in Los Angeles is to support a rape case in Italy."

"A woman was wearing jeans and the judge said that the jeans would not have been able to be taken off without consent, and so charges were dropped," she added.

Denim Day was last Wednesday, and Silvestre reminded everyone to wear denim and

support the cause of the day.

Despite the embarrassment that a victim of rape suffers, some women were brave enough to face the audience with their stories.

"People should be able to wear whatever they want," said art major Aubrey Simons in regard to how many perpetrators blame the victim for what he or she was wearing.

Barragan encouraged audience members to share their stories.

Along with the encouragement, she also mentioned that the victim shouldn't blame herself because it's not her fault.

Barragan told the women who shared their story, "Nothing you wore or drank makes it your fault."

After the open-mic session was over, Barragan invited everyone in attendance to join Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance in a candlelight vigil for all of the victims of a sexual crime.



NANCY ACEVES/TM

Pricey: A gas station on Cherry and PCH in Long Beach.

GAS: Rising price of fuel affects the way students get to school

Continued from page 1

ment major who lives in Santa Fe Springs, asserts that near her home gas is \$2.57 per gallon.

De La Cruz, along with other students, agrees that the most she is willing to pay for gas is \$3 per gallon.

There are gas stations selling gasoline for over three dollars. One of those is a Long Beach Shell gas station on Pacific Coast Hwy and Cherry. It sells regular gas at \$3.27 per gallon.

Not all Shell gas stations are selling their gasoline over three dollars.

The Shell gas station on South and Paramount is advertising its regular gas at \$2.47 per gallon.

Graduation time comes to Cerritos

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Graduation time is upon many Cerritos College students. This year's commencement ceremonies will be held May 14 at 5 p.m. at Falcon Stadium.

The graduating class of 2005 will be presented with an alumnus guest speaker.

The guest speaker will be Lorenzo Romar, head coach of the University of Washington basketball.

There is no limit to the amount of guests that any student can invite. Admission is free and the gates will open at 3:30 p.m.

Caps and gowns can be purchased in the bookstore.

For more information contact Nikki Jones at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2471.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of the Talon Marks, the article, "Amaral wins election" stated that last year's election had only eight voters in reality it had 703.

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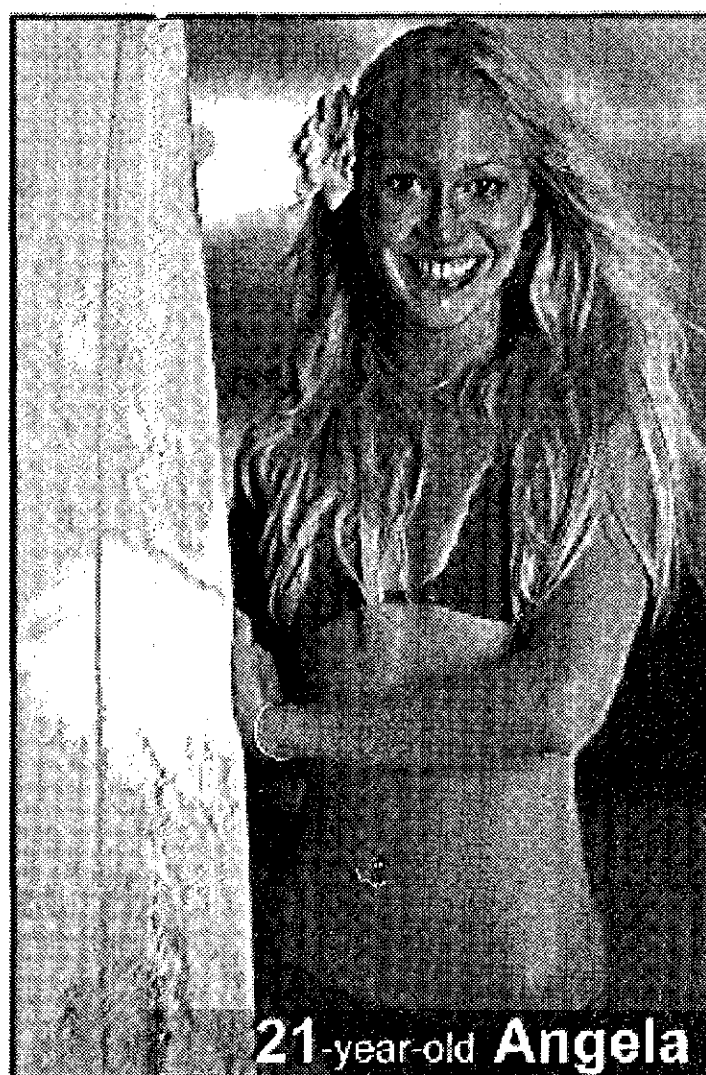
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COMMUNITY

Cook-off successful after schedule change

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The city of Bellflower switched the calendar on its 15th annual Chili Cook-Off and held its celebration April 30, instead of in August, as it has in past years.

Moving the event from spring to summer entailed alerting all of the businesses and vendors who participate by entering their best chili each year.

The event, which stretched through the downtown Bellflower area on Bellflower Boulevard was hosted by the city's Chamber of Commerce.

The winners included Moon Cents, a Bellflower coffee shop that won the \$500 Judges' Choice award for best chili, and the best decorated booth award.

Other winners included Whites Funeral Home with the People's Choice award.

The other four chili cook off participants were Express Appraisal, State Farm, YMCA and Little House, the last two being children's organizations.

The drastic change in dates came about because of several factors, said Mike Chal, Chamber of Commerce president and owner of State Farm insurance in Bellflower.



Chili champ: Nicole Hunsaker, owner of Moon Cents, a coffee shop in Bellflower, and Shannon Milligan, accept the award for best chili at the 15th annual Chili Cook-off in Bellflower.

"We were hoping to spur attendance with the move to April," Chal added.

Chal went on to mention that Chili Booth participation, despite the change, was the same as last year. It had six businesses, with two dropping out due to prior engagements, but two new participants joining in on the festivities.

One of those businesses included Nicole Hunsaker, the owner of Moon Cents.

"I'm so excited; we all worked really hard on this," Hunsaker commented over her company's wins.

The chamber president also felt that crowd participation seemed to be up from last year.

He wasn't the only one who that way.

Six-time attendee and Bellflower resident Michelle Baez, said, "This is actually pretty good, I have been coming for a while and this is a good crowd."

"I don't think moving it affects it in anyway, except its cooler now (than in August)," she added.

Aside from the Chili, there were booths and musical entertainment that kept the public busy.

Business booth attendance also increased through the different techniques the chamber initiated and strengthened this time around, according to Chal.

One method was stepping up advertising for the booths. The Chamber of Commerce put the word out in several trade magazines and newspapers.

One such was Craft Master News, in which George Zakis, representative of Starlite Productions based in Corona, heard of the event.

"This is a very good turn out for events like this," Zakis said. "This is a very well organized event, Bellflower is a good city."

The booths varied from kettle corn to beauty products to real estate.

Businesses attending included

local owners and products from other cities.

One local vendor was third-time participant Uptown Brokers from Bellflower.

Owner Rodney Chweya seemed to welcome the scheduling change noting that it is a lot cooler and pleasant this time of year, and also believed that both booth and onlooker participation was up this year.

The entertainment included Dave Storm and the Thunder Creek Band which played many crowd favorites such as "Friends in Low Places."

93.9 FM KZLA with Shawn Parr from the lunch hour was also there serving as the event's emcee.

Chal felt that the connection with KZLA was also pivotal to the advertising of the event, as Shawn Parr advertised the event for several days before it took place.

"The band is great; I love the atmosphere most of all," said Donna Mills, first time participant from the city of Cerritos.

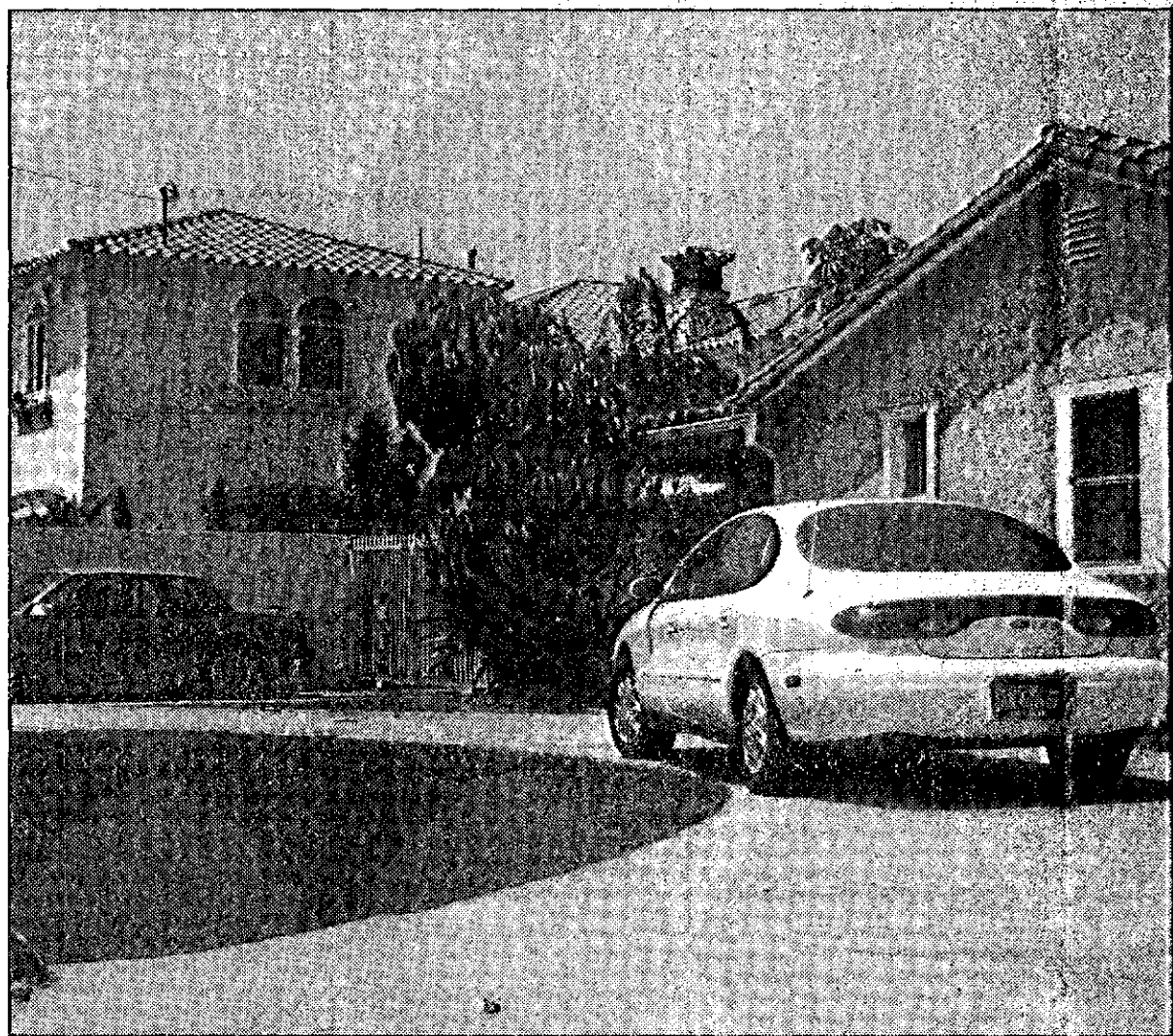
Mills was not alone.

Karl Lassiter, Bellflower resident, felt that the music really rounded the day's activities well.

"Food, browsing, and good music; what a great day," Lassiter said.



Country tunes: Rob Mauer (left) plays bass as the Thunder Creek Band entertains those who attended the 15th annual Chili Cook-off in Bellflower. The country band performed crowd favorites such as "Friends in Low Places."



Oversized: A large house overshadows a smaller one on the corner of Brookshire Avenue and Cherokee Drive. The city of Downey is trying to pass an ordinance to prevent "mansionization," the construction of large houses in areas with single family homes.

Proposed ordinance opens debate among Downey residents

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Downey Council took action on a proposed ordinance after a public hearing had residents and council members wanting revisions made to it last Tuesday.

The ordinance was to control the growing trend of massive "mansion-size" homes in Downey.

The Council sent it back to the Planning Commission for further study, the motion passed 4-0.

Twenty residents showed up to the meeting expressing their views on the new ordinance.

During the public hearing, the City Staff's Ron Yoshiki gave a presentation on the new ordinance.

Yoshiki called the trend "Mansionization" and believes it could be controlled by requirements that would limit the size of second story homes.

The proposed ordinance

would limit the second floor by two-thirds the area of the first floor. Also, second floors can be limited by demanding greater side-yard area setbacks.

The staff recommended adding a paragraph to the building code, that reads: "Reduction of Building and Mass: for detached two-story single family residential units, second story floor area shall not exceed two-thirds of the first floor area (which includes habitable and not habitable square footage). Floor areas shall be determined by measuring from exterior walls of the residence."

After Yoshiki's presentation, residents from the city spoke out on the matter.

Veronica Avalos said, "Downey will not prosper if we are not allowed to build and the tax and fees that go to schools will cease. We will stunt its (Downey) growth. We are no longer allowed to create our dream homes which is what we want."

Some residents urged the council to think about the monetary damages that will incur for the building designers and their clients.

Greg Powell, a building designer and 30-year resident of Downey, was concerned about two projects he has in the works; if the ordinance passes, he will have to redo the projects, and it will be costly to him and the homeowners.

Only one of those present favored the ordinance.

George Redfox, resident of Downey, said, "I am for this resolution and believe that it will help maintain the setback."

Councilman David Gafin said, "None of the people who came in November to complain to the Planning Commission are even here (those who were for the ordinance). For some reason this has changed. We need to get it (a notice) out to the public to get full representation of the public at these meetings."



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OPINION

EDITORIAL

The foundations of a bad deal



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There aren't too many people who would question the ownership of intelligence, but there aren't too many people on the Cerritos College Foundation.

There aren't too many foundations that would turn down a million dollars in profit, but there aren't too many Cerritos College Foundations.

There aren't too many people who would choose not to explain why they question the ownership of intelligence, or why they would turn down such a profit, but there aren't too many Steve Richardsons, or at least let's hope there aren't.

The Cerritos College Foundation director has recently turned down a deal that would have made the school a million dollars and would have guaranteed cheaper prices for every student taking political science, which is pretty much any student taking his general education at Cerritos College.

You may wonder why he turned down this deal, but you aren't going to find out by asking him; his and the Foundation's official stance is a "no comment."

In a miraculous turn of events, political science professors are actually trying to help students by lowering book prices and creating software that doesn't die after one semester.

Dennis Falcon, Bryan Reece and Victor Obasohan, through their knowledge of political science, have managed to create software to supplement an entire year's worth of text, but this time the software will be reusable, making the book resalable.

For that accomplishment alone



ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERTO ESTARANETTA

the professors should get a million dollars themselves.

In this case, as in any case of invention, the professors should be entitled to own their own ideas.

Why Richardson believes otherwise is not entirely a mystery if we infer that he really believes the professors created this software on Cerritos' time and dime, or that he simply

believes that since the professors were getting more money for their ideas, that gave him some ideas of his own; mostly how to squeeze more money out of a deal.

That being said, a deal is a deal, and the deal the Foundation originally had, which was worth a million, should not have been negotiated after the fact.

Worse than that, Richardson decided that the professors' failure to agree to a deal of his liking would end any deal with Longman, which is the company making the cheaper books, by allegedly putting in a bad word to negotiators.

According to Falcon, Richardson has made it clear to Longman's people that the professors do not have

Cerritos' support.

Longman's people are apparently the only people who Richardson is talking books with.

Since we are left with no real argument as to why Richardson would turn down the deal and possibly poison a deal that would give students cheaper prices, we can only speculate as to a few reasons that might top his list of arguments.

- He just likes to renegotiate deals every time he feels more money can be made.
- The Foundation is content with G.O. Bond money, which is renovating the school one building a year.
- He is tired of dealing with political science professors who think they can make money for the school and help students out, while making money on the side. Usually political science professors don't do that and it is freaking Richardson out.
- He believes book prices are fine how they are and, in fact, students don't care about book prices and tuition increases. Richardson doesn't read the paper or wonder what goes on during those protests in Falcon Square.

But these are just inferences since there aren't too many people who can read Richardson's mind.

Maybe there are some other unseen circumstances to Richardson's position on the issue, but we wouldn't be able to see them in a "no comment."

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

The gravitational pull of sex

Sex makes the world go 'round. The reason anything gets done on this planet is because men are trying their hardest to get things done.

What is the reason you ask? Well, the answer is simple, women.

It is because of women that men even bother to do anything.

Buildings have been erected, bridges built and empires have emerged because men are always trying to find a way to impress women.

Subconsciously, every guy is trying to impress a girl almost all the time.

Why else would a man agree to play a sport where he is required to collide at full speed with another guy?

Why else would a man even bother to work except to feed himself?

It isn't the money. Money is just another means to attract women.

Being a tough guy, and a successful one at that, has its spoils. Women.

But you don't have to be the alpha male to



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get some attention. Men who don't have the physical capabilities of these great athletes try to excel in other aspects.

There is a reason why scrawny little geeks seek positions of power. Like former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger once said, "Power is the ultimate aphrodisiac."

If men could get women to fall for them without them having to do anything, then we would all just sit around in our boxers eating Cheetos, while playing video games all day.

Could you imagine guys not having to shower or shave? This would be a dirty, smelly place.

No man would care about deodorant or cologne and we wouldn't have to buy new clothes.

Practically speaking out for example

People need practical applications to everything in life; a simply stated thesis, but not an easily followed one.

People need to have a practical application in order to further understand why things work the way they do.

If people had some sort of "general knowledge" as to what was right, then they would follow it.

People don't know what a "loving relationship" is because they have never seen one work.

People don't know what a "fully functional family" is, because they have never seen such a family, except in rerun episodes of "Leave it to Beaver" and "The Brady Bunch."

Given, to each his own definition as to what a "loving relationship," or "fully functional family," is.

Nevertheless, that side-note straying from the original statement, if someone saw what he thought was a "loving relationship," or a "fully functional family," he would, in turn, have a set of blue prints to follow.



Jon Garcia
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That being said, if people had more everyday practical examples of what they were supposed to be doing and how they were supposed to be doing it, then they too would surely have a great idea of how it was done.

Mind you, the key here being the word "it," for "it" applies to every fashion, every notion, every aspect of life.

To take a broader look at the subject, we'll take a look at a distinct society of people.

Minorities, for instance, grow up in communities where everyone they encounter tells them they cannot be anything in life.

Down, depressed, oppressed, and succumbing to the realization that they, as minorities, have one strike against the stepping up to the plate (mind you, that cliché was a bit uncalled

for), they come home to a realm of undermining, jealous, fellow brothers, who in turn, are also doing their best to state that they will fail.

Enough with the war on words, these words are not meant to make hearts bitter, or minds angry, but merely adhere to the fact that people need examples in life to succeed.

People need to grasp life by the horns (again, with the bittersweet irony), and to do so, they must understand how and why.

It all comes down to a concept, a theory, a thesis that, in turn, governs the way we think, breathe, perceive, and undergo life.

For the practical application in life is not the impractical, unattainable dream that no one ever knows of or hears of, but on the contrary, the very practical, quite attainable dream that enables us to reach for the stars and realize that yes, it can be done.

Guys around the world would be living in absolute bliss. Instead, we wake up in the morning, go to school or work, and try to get ahead in life.

I mean, guys pay for dinner, open doors and all that other stuff, and we don't do it for fun.

Doing it for all women earns us points. What Tony Montana says in the movie "Scarface" is very true, "First you get the money, then you get the power, then you get the women."

Any man in a position of wealth or power can get any woman he wants. How else do you explain Gene Simmons claiming to having slept with over 4,600 women? Have you seen Gene Simmons? I know I'm not pretty, but come on.

This concept would even apply to gay men; every area of talent has its groupies.

If there is one thing men can't resist is the allure of women. Some of us wouldn't admit it, but we would give an arm and a leg for them.

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FREE SPEECH ZONE?!

How do you feel the war in Iraq is affecting gas prices?

COMPILED BY: ROSALI CASTILLO
PHOTOS BY: CHRISTOPHER OLIVARES



"I think it's making gas prices go up even further because of all the controversy going on in the Middle East."

JOE COBARRUBIO
engineering major



"It's not affecting it, we're not importing any oil from them."

LUIS RINCON
auto technology major



"It is affecting it. It's creating higher prices."

CAROLINE MARTINEZ
nursing major



"It is getting it (gas prices) ridiculously expensive."

BIRDIE ROCHA
nursing major



"Gas prices have always fluctuated. I don't think the war is a factor."

HEATHER GARRETT
dance/fashion design major

Major league brothels

Prostitution, the proclaimed "oldest profession," needs to be legalized in order to properly regulate the controversial occupation.

In the proper context, legalization will clean up what most consider an "eyesore."

If a brothel system were to be enacted, the issue of prostitution would be much less intrusive and dangerous among society.

No matter the government's stance on legality and morality, prostitution will remain a source of income for those who choose such a career.

If properly maintained, however, the general well-being of those involved will increase tenfold.

There would be a natural "brothel hierarchy," as is inherent to any profession's pecking order.

A certifiable major league/minor league system would inevitably construct itself.

Just as we need the poor to



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have the rich, demographics and society will classify the good brothels from the bad.

For those who argue that certain prostitutes might not find brothel jobs, just imagine the "No Child Left Behind" program, only with prostitutes as our subjects.

With the ability to run routine drug and STD tests, it needs no mention that brothels will be cleaner than professional sports clubhouses.

Jose Lima and Mike Vick need not apply.

And for those who clamor for more taxes, here is your opportunity. Instead of the sales tax, we shall have the "sex tax."

After all, are we really in the position to prohibit how one

chooses to use her body?

If we legalize it, it can be regulated to a higher extent.

The issue of morality can be debated from one sector to another.

However, religious sentiments aside, the argument that such a system would significantly endanger our status quo is on unstable ground.

Let me make my stance clear. I do not advocate the usage of prostitutes or brothels.

I have never even attended a strip club, nor do I plan to.

But think of the countless unreported cases of rape, drug overdose and murder that come as a result of backlot prostitution.

Hate prostitution all you want. I do.

What is important is to think outside of the box and see that legalization and true regulation will lead to a safer society.

LAS HURRACAS BY ESTARANETTA

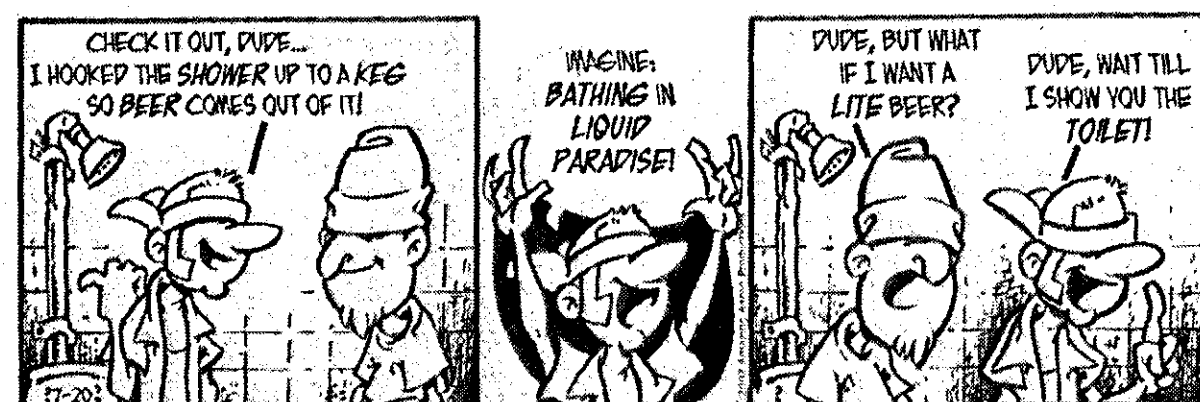


Girls and Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



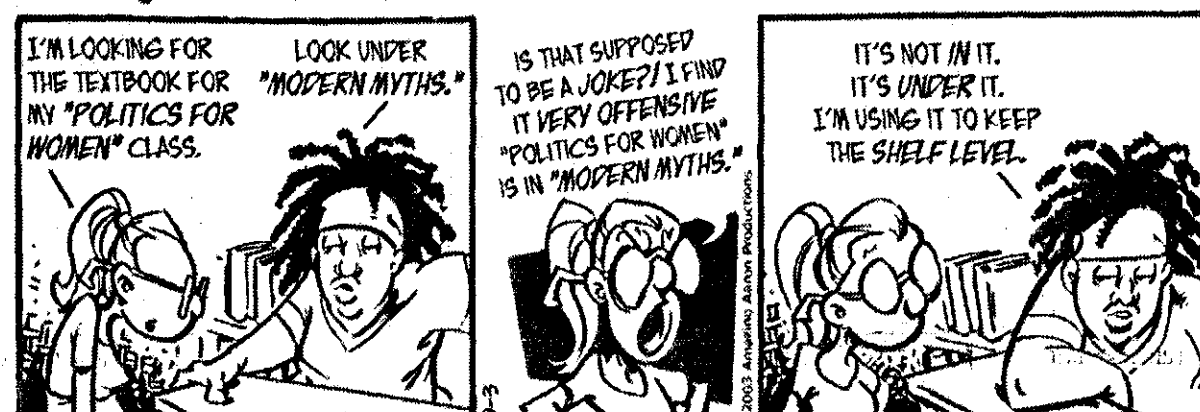
2 Dudes

By Aaron Warner



A College Girl Named Joe

By Aaron Warner



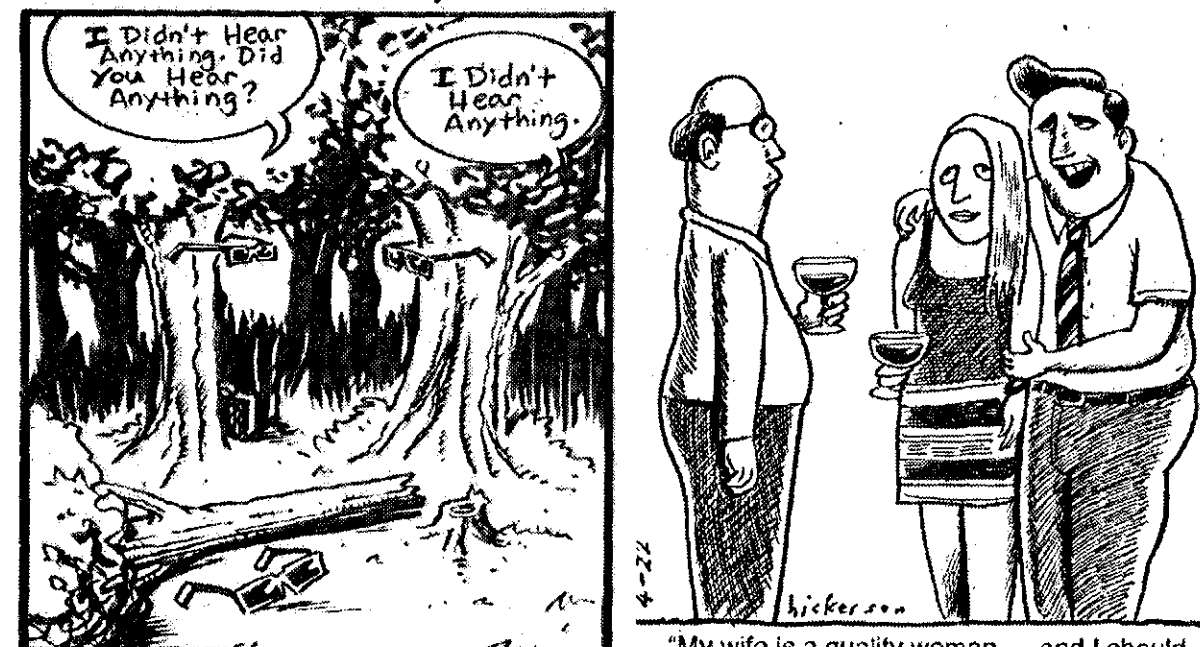
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



You Are Here

By Aaron Warner



Tree Mobsters.

TRIVIA TEST

Answers online at www.talonmarks.com

- By Marge Svenson
1. HISTORY: Who was the first prime minister of India?
 2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Fiorello Henry La Guardia was the three-time mayor of which U.S. city?
 3. ANCIENT WORLD: What was the capital of the region called Lydia?
 4. ANATOMY: Where in the human body is the bone called the incus?
 5. GEOMETRY: How many sides does a hexahedron have?
 6. LANGUAGE: What does "nescient" mean?
 7. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the seaport of Maracaibo?
 8. LITERATURE: What novel includes the characters named Tweedledum and Tweedledee?
 9. INVENTIONS: Brothers Jacques and Joseph Montgolfier were the first successful builders of what?
 10. MYTHOLOGY: What was the name of the enchantress who turned Odysseus and his men into swine?

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Everyone's got a story to tell

When I began my journey at Cerritos College, I knew from the moment I stepped foot inside the Talon Marks that this was where my desire to write would grow.

I have always been interested in the field of journalism, but nothing would have prepared me for what has been the best four years of my life.

Eight semesters; I know, ha-ha, the longest member on staff.

You know you will miss introducing me that way.

My adviser, Rich Cameron, says something at the beginning of every semester that is so true. "If and when you leave here, you will always remember your journalism classes over any other classes you may have taken."

I can definitely say that it has been a privilege to work with a talented group of friends, colleagues and most importantly, family.

The number one thing I fear the most in life is change.

I don't adjust well to it, but I get through it.

I don't want to leave, but being able to be in the class without being enrolled, and still prove to myself that I can take the responsibility of a page and volunteer my time makes me understand my purpose in life, and that is to be a journalist and continue to learn.

I have learned so much from being on staff at the Talon Marks; it is a blessing that I walked in that door and stepped up to the plate.

Everyday is a new experience, and when you get to be with your family it makes the experience pure joy.

Of course, we fight like we are family, but we all know that we have freedom of speech and press and it is okay to have different views.

If I had to put my experience into words it could only be described as tireless, unpaid, long days, passionate, beneficial, frus-



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trating, a learning experience, educational, desire, a love for the job, care, fair and balanced, accurate, respected, talented colleagues, adviser and lab aide.

There is always room to grow, learn and experience in this newspaper and in life.

I love my job here and find it such a blessing that I have been able to experience all the entire program has to offer.

So, as I graduate next week and begin to move on in my journalism experience, I will never forget my journalism class, my friends, the future journalists, my family and, most of all, the publication itself.

Mr. C, I am glad our staff earned you and the publication a General Excellence Award; it would not have happened without your teachings, experience and your sharing with us the experience of going to conferences to expand our growth in writing.

I am going to miss:

- My little purple corner in the room and finding my snacks missing from Becka, Sonja, Benny, Herrson, Chris and, well, basically everyone taking them out of my drawer.
- Pasting up the paper with that darn hot wax machine and, staying at Talon Marks until the paper was done, like at midnight.
- The ancient computers shutting down while trying to put out the paper, or scratching out the whole budget for the paper when 9/11 happened.

To some people this may not

sound like fun, but this is life at Talon Marks, and I would not exchange it for the world.

Yes, it's been a long road, but there is still more road ahead and more stories to cover, because I believe that everyone has a story to tell.

So, I don't do goodbyes, because to me they are forever; so I will say see you later and guarantee I will be back to check up with the staff, Mr. C, Jorge and my family.

Now I want to make one little request, staff and college students always be reminded of me when using spell check because, "spell check is your friend" and its so easy to use.

To my family at Talon Marks and my family and friends at home, thank you for all your love and support through the years.

To Mr. C, thank you for all your support and teachings; you helped me confirm even more that I am to be a journalist.

To Amara, you have been a great friend and have taught me so much about journalism, design and working in the field.

To Jorge, thanks for making me laugh and look at things from another point of view.

To Ryan, Dad and Mom, thanks for waiting up for me after a 14-hour workday and being so supportive.

I could not have asked for a greater experience than the one I was given here at Talon Marks.

To the staff that will be here next semester, continue with your love for the job and grow in every way you can.

Sometimes you are only given a once in a lifetime experience and experience as much as you can.

Believe in yourself and that you can make a difference one story at a time.

Letter to the Editor

Stressing out about mental health

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for the great job (the Talon Marks) is doing on improving the campus in ways that the students can realize and appreciate.

This letter is regarding the programs available for students' health while attending our College.

Stress is my main reason for writing this and I think I have a good suggestion that may interest you to take into consideration.

What I am about to present is for future health fairs held at the Falcon Square.

As you know, such health fairs held on campus typically involve cancer awareness, free HIV tests, blood drives, and so forth.

I believe you should include a

booth for stress awareness and stress management to help new students transferring from high school cope with the transition.

It should also help students, who are graduating and are transferring to a university to help them cope with their transition to the next level.

Life on campus may seem all good and everyone's happy.

After all, who wants to hang out with someone who is uncool and unhappy?

But I've noticed that just like high school, most students can't wait to leave the campus as soon as their classes are done.

Racing their way through the parking lot and through the freeways like they have to be somewhere else; somewhere more

relaxed and less stressful and the sooner they get to that place, the sooner the madness ends.

Finals week is coming and I'm sure there are a lot of stressed out students out there.

I believe the College has a bigger role than just an institution where students get lectured and then tested.

It needs to be a big brother.

I am sure your next health drive will truly be appreciated, but adding a stress booth to help students and make the campus a place that people are not running away from, would make the fair a lot better.

Alexander H. Abad

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Hoggard rides into Burnight Theatre

JON GARCIA
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Let me start off by saying that there will be no formal introduction for me; there will be no ruthless promoting for the Theatre Department; there will be no thumbs up, or thumbs down for me.

That being said, "Man of La Mancha" was an ingenious play that gets a formal five star rating in my book; an informal, yet quite implicit, plug for the Theatre Department, (aimed of course at those who have not yet seen it) as well as a very traditional thumbs up.

Joust in grip, headgear in place, glove in hand and boot strapped on (just one in both cases), Kevin Hoggard rode into Burnight Theatre Saturday night with one vision in mind: to convince others that he was none other than Don Quixote.

Led by the great Hoggard, the play was brilliantly done.

The cast went beyond the call of duty to deliver a very real, passionate, first class performance.

From the opening sequence, that laid all anticipation to rest, to the last bow, that ignited the audience in an uproar of joy, the play was a great adaptation that says the Theatre Department not only worked extremely hard in putting together a well thought-out, ingenious play, but that it has some extremely talented people who will go on to greater things in life.

The actors really portrayed their characters as though they themselves had become the peasants in the play.

The transformation process really worked for both the audience and the actors.

Other unmentioned facts such as the lighting, the set and the costumes also contributed a great deal into making this play great.

As for the music, well besides



Play: The cast of *Man of La Mancha* sing behind bold leader Kevin Hoggard.

COURTESY OF MEDIA RELATIONS

being awesome, it suited the play well.

With every stride, every yelp and every holler, the music accompanied brilliantly, providing viewers with a better sense of believability as well as enjoyability.

Not to overstate the obvious,

but Hoggard really outdid himself this time.

He really had everyone believing that he was this inane knight who dreamt of fighting off dragons and demons, all while trying to ignite the passion with the love of his life, mind you, a woman whom

he has never met.

The name of this woman Aldonza, or Dulcinea, as he calls her.

On that note, Luz Torres, who played Aldonza, did a marvelous job portraying the love interest of Don Quixote.

The chemistry on stage between Quixote and Aldonza was great, not to mention highly believable.

Kudos to the whole cast for doing such a great job.

High five to Hoggard for doing a job likened to that of an Oscar

worthy performance, had this been a movie, of course.

And Lastly, congratulations to the Theatre Department as a whole for putting on a play that was good on so many different levels, that it will surely be talked about for months after its conclusion.

Improv group jazzes up the artistically filled courtyard

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The Art Gallery Courtyard was filled with the sound of music April 26, as the Cerritos College Jazz Improvisation Band performed a selection of songs for the reception and awards ceremony.

Andrea Bronte, Art Gallery director, said, "It's a special event, and we like to commemorate it [with music]."

As the musicians exhibited their abilities on their respective instruments, crowds gathered, revealing their appreciation for the music in applause.

Gary Pritchard, music instructor, said, "Classical musicians prize the value of written notes and interpret from what they've seen, heard and know. The goal of jazz and improvisation is to learn and listen, but then to add your own creativity and spontaneity."

Beginning with a basic outline of the musical scores, the band members did just that, making the music their own.

"It's amazing to watch them perform," Rosemarie Medina, music clerk, said.

As they performed, people came and went, some driven to the event to support friends, others out of a love for the arts.

Richie Kung, art major, who came to view his friend's artwork, said, "This music is really soothing



Band: From left to right: Steve Martin, Jon Garcia, Sadoc Garcia, Daniel Rodriguez.

and relaxing. It's very appropriate for this setting. Jazz is a hard style of music to play, and I respect jazz musicians."

Geydy Salguero, business administration, confirmed Kung's views. "It [the music] goes with the art," he said.

The band, which was asked by Bronte to perform, played for the gallery in a previous semester. "But," said Pritchard. "This was a bigger event."

The smooth sounds rolled through the courtyard as people lined up for the free dinner, which included hot dogs, chips, salads and drinks.

Jessica Ovalle, business major, came for the art, but found both the music and food appealing as well. "I love music. It can get a per-

son through the most difficult times in life. This reminds me of jazz and blues and I love it," she said.

Pritchard commented that the jazz improvisation class is one of his favorite classes to teach.

"I get to hear how the students use their creativity. I just structure the vehicle for their expression," he said.

As the attendees of the event continued drifting into the courtyard, Bronte said that the turnout was larger than expected.

Regarding all the people that showed up for the art event, Ovalle said, "All forms of art, like music and paintings, can bring people of all cultures together. It's beautiful [how it draws people together]. Magnificent."

Gearing up for one final dose of Yoda, Vader and light sabers

Dedication goes a long way in my book.

On May 19, when the clock strikes midnight, dedicated Star Wars fans everywhere will once again be reunited in the realm of love, emotion, envy, wrath, and of course, super jealous loathing from those outsiders who are just not cool enough to dawn a Jedi gown to the premiere showings of the movie.

Heck, I bought my Darth Vader mask over the weekend.

I had to be prepared for the upcoming movie that I have been anticipating for years now.

Yes, when May 19 rolls around, I will be dressed up as the one, the only, Darth Vader.

Would you expect any less from a self-respecting, highly educated, extremely eager Star Wars fan?

I think not!

Now that it has become apparent that anticipation is high, and expectations are much higher, it's time to allow for the rest of the world to take a part in such a joyous, uniting celebration.

People all over America should be lining up in front of local theaters this very moment making sure that they get the appropriate amount of tickets



Jon Garcia
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for the midnight showing of *Revenge of the Sith*.

On that note, let me steal a page from David Letterman's favorite past time (which in my own mind has got me wondering these days as to whether this man has anything better to do than write top 10 lists for everything in life) and give you the top 10 reasons why the world should appreciate the Star Wars phenomena.

• • •

10. Star Wars keeps retail stores in business with all of the costume purchasing us fans do every three years.

9. Star Wars made science fiction cool!

8. Heck, Star Wars made space cool!

7. Star Wars fans everywhere have pledged to beat up all those annoying Trekkies.

6. Star Wars films have proved to be a great babysitter kit, seeing as the original trilogy itself ran for more than six hours!

5. Star Wars teaches proper English; because of Yoda, kids around the globe are now acing their English tests.

4. Without Star Wars, there would be no Indiana Jones; without Indiana Jones, I would have killed myself.

3. Star Wars started a new trend of love making for couples everywhere, as the Chewbacca "grunt" became the new dirty talk.

2. The first three Star Wars films successfully portrayed Mark Hamill on screen as being a straight man.

1. Lastly, the new movies just make the world a better place; admit it, without them, who else would be responsible for putting Natalie Portman on screen for so long?

There you have it; the top 10 reasons why the world should appreciate the Star Wars phenomena. Knock yourself out Dave.

SPORTS

Victory on the wings of Van Doren

Van Doren's outing guides Falcons to victory, moving team into second place

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Despite three errors, pitcher Phillip Van Doren was able to pitch eight-plus strong innings to lead the Cerritos baseball team to a 6-3 win over LA Harbor College last Saturday.

With the win the Falcons are now 21-13 overall and 16-5 in conference, putting them back into second place behind East Los Angeles College and ahead of Mt. SAC.

After playing LA Harbor again this past Tuesday, Cerritos has only two games remaining before the Southern California Regionals start on May 15.

Michael Benavente, shortstop, knows that the pressure is on for the Falcons to finish the season off strong.

"We just need to win every game from now on," he said. "There is no room for mistakes."

If Cerritos continues to win, it can control its own destiny.

Benavente said, "We end up losing one (game) we will have to count on somebody."

"That ELAC game was a setback," he added, referring to the game the Falcons lost on April 23.

Yet with the pressure on, Van

Doren felt good for his start.

"I felt it today," he said. "I couldn't have felt any better."

The three errors his defense committed throughout the game did not bother him.

"It's baseball," he said. "Sometimes it goes your way, sometimes it doesn't."

"Just got to battle through it." Van Doren came out to pitch the ninth inning to get the complete game, but gave up two hits and a run to end his day.

"I wanted to get the complete game," he said. "I got fatigued."

Stephen Luyben was brought in to relieve Van Doren and finish the game. He got three-straight groundball outs to earn his second save of the season.

Van Doren pitched eight-plus innings, giving up three runs (two earned), eight hits, a walk, and struck out four to get his seventh win of the season.

In the bottom of the eighth, the Falcons had nine batters step up to the plate and they managed to get three runners home to give them a four-run lead.

Right fielder Bryan Kepner went two-for-three and drove in two runs. He was also ejected in the eighth for an altercation with the opposing third baseman; but he was allowed to stay in the game.



Slingin' southpaw: Falcons' hurler Phillip Van Doren unfurls heat during last Saturday's victory over LA Harbor College. With the win, the Falcons jumped back into second place in the SCC.

WERNER GOMEZ/TM

Falcons advance to finals

The Cerritos men's track and field team will be advancing six athletes, as well as both of its relay teams, after its performance in the Southern California track and field preliminaries, which were held at Saddleback College last Saturday. The finals will also be held at Saddleback and will take place Saturday, starting at 10 a.m.

Heading the list of those who advanced is Christopher Richardson who will be competing in five events, as well as advancing to the state championships in the decathlon after winning the Southern California championship.

Richardson came in sixth place in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 15.39 and will be joined by teammate Dean Laing, who placed seventh at 15.42.

Richardson also finished in a tie for fifth place in the high jump at 6' 2," while his long jump of 23' 9" put him in second place. He was a ninth place finisher in the discus at 143' 3," with teammate Armando Ramirez right behind him in eleventh place at 141' 1."

Richardson also advanced in the javelin after coming in tenth place at 159' 4" and trailed teammate Ian Crichton, who finished in fourth place in the javelin with a throw of 171' 4."

Ramirez also qualified in the hammer, after coming in fifth with a throw of 151' 5."

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Kinesiology, Exercise Science, Physical Education, Health and Wellness, Preventive Medicine, Pre-Medicine, Pre-Physical Therapy, Pre-Chiropractic, Massage Therapy and Emergency Medical Technician training

What is a Fitness Specialist?

A fitness specialist understands the components of fitness, has a basic understanding of human physiology, anatomy and human movement, and has a basic understanding of how food affects an individual's performance and health. Effective communication of realistic health and fitness goals as well as providing motivation and encouragement to the client are essential for this specialty. A fitness specialist assists individuals with achieving their goals, living healthier lives and recommends specialists when clients seek advice beyond their scope of practice. "The hallmark of ACE certified personal trainers is their ability to work safely and effectively in promoting better health through physical activity for a wide variety of individuals" (Personal Trainer Manual by American Council on Exercise, 1997).

What is an Athletic Trainer Aide?

The athletic trainer aide functions as an aide in a clinical setting or in a high school, college or professional athletic training center. The aide assists the certified athletic trainer or other healthcare professionals in the prevention, care and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. This includes assisting in the assessment and documentation of athletic injuries, acute and chronic injury management, treatment protocols, principles of conditioning and management of return to competitive activity. In addition, effective communications skills with athletes and patients as well as medical professionals are required.

For more information, please contact

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LIFE

BODY ILLUSIONS

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER OLIVARES

HULMARO AGUSTIN
chicano studies major

LOCATION: Upper left arm
MEANING: "It's the center of the Aztec calendar. It signifies the revolution from the Chicānos, which stands for, 'The people of the Earth, a way of living.'"



LOCATION: Back of neck
MEANING: "It means to cherish. Me and my best friend went to get it. She moved away so we got them to symbolize our friendship. We still talk all the time."

ESPERANZA ALVAREZ
undecided major

College students get inked up to express themselves

JONATHAN JORDAN
Life Editor
life@talonmarks.com

Tattoos have become an acceptable way of life within the last decade. They are no longer looked upon as a way to show gang affiliation or for people to think those who have them are unusual.

For some students on campus, tattoos are not just ink on their skin, they are full of meaning.

"It shows the different religions I was looking into, the Egyptians, believing in aliens, and the Ohm, the Hindu idea of God. It signifies everything I went through until I found my true religion," Craig Benton, electronics major, said.

Tattoos can stand for parts of someone's life or they can be something someone did when they were drunk.

Some students get tattoos to characterize themselves.

Christopher Phegley, mathematics major, is in the process of getting the superman symbol tattooed on his left breast.

"(The superman symbol) stands for strength. I have to show strength because I'm the eldest of five children," Phegley stated.

"I have to be strong for them because they look up to me," he

added.

To some, tattoos have already become a part of their lives.

Tattoos are no longer brands for gangs. Nor are they for the outcast who did it for the attention.

They are now a way for people to tell their life story without ever saying a word.

Tattoos can also be a part of their culture. Tattoos named tau lima are ones that are given in the traditional way of the hammer.

Pacific island studies major, Simau Tuiali'i, received one.

"I got it when I was 18 years-old. A man from Samoa came to do it," he explained.

My story

In March of 2004, I was getting my most recent tattoo, only this one went a little differently.

I almost lost my life.

It was 3:30 p.m. and everything was calm until the doors swung open and a man wearing a motorcycle helmet began to open fire.

Moments after the shooter left I stood up and saw my tattoo artist, who was also my friend, "Magic" Mike Esparza, lying on the floor.

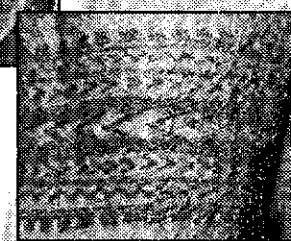
I was seated in front of Esparza and only inches away from him.

My tattoo symbolizes a new beginning in my life. I no longer fear, now living my life to the fullest.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY JONATHAN JORDAN

SIMAU TUALI'I
pacific island studies major

LOCATION: Right forearm
MEANING: "It's called a 'tau lima.' I had a man who came from Samoa do it. This tattoo symbolizes my first step to manhood. I was 18 years-old when I got it."

CRAIG BENTON
electronics major

LOCATION: Upper left arm
MEANING: "It represents where I came from. It shows how confused I was before I found my religion, Christianity."



Farewell Mr. President

The reign of ASCC President Josh Franco is coming to an end, but he leaves a legacy behind.

CHRISTOPHER OLIVARES
Managing Editor
colivares1@talonmarks.com

Leaving behind a legacy that Cerritos College students and faculty alike will miss, ASCC President Josh Franco's year-long reign is coming to an end.

With Cerritos College entering its 50th Anniversary, Franco dedicated the time prior to his election as president to the passage of the \$210 million G.O. Bond for the campus.

But even before he was making waves in the Cerritos student government, Franco was surfing through the grade school government.

Early Politics

"I got involved with student council in the fourth and sixth grade," Franco said. He does admit to being sidetracked by soccer, but only for a couple of years.

"In the seventh grade I wasn't involved in student council. I have played soccer my whole life," he said.

Franco quickly returned to politics.

"In the ninth grade I got involved," he said. "I was the class of 2003's sergeant of arms."

After that, his political stock rose.

"I was my class president the next year and finally in the eleventh grade I ran for Student Body vice president and got in."

The legacy of Franco begins at Cerritos College

Throughout his years as the top student representative, Franco has proposed many new legislations to the Senate,

while working with each branch, successfully passing some.

He leaves behind his office, and more than a footprint in Cerritos' student government.

Franco has made many stepping stones for the advancement of the school and the government itself.

Operation Outreach was one of the most important accomplishments that he successfully completed, as well as the launch of the gocerritos.com web site.

Both were designed to get the Student Body more involved in politics.

According to Franco, ASCC wanted to advance the awareness of the student government, and activities and events that occur for the students.

The goal was to make sure the students could be aware of the decisions being made by their student government.

According to Holly Bogdanovich, director of student activities, Franco was "very successful with all the accomplishments" and he has "given positive light to excite those to come to work."

Other things that he accomplished were the signature increase for the elections of the senate and the president, executive cabinet reformation, the senate committee reformation, the budget committee reformation and changing the bylaws of the ASCC, while adding a new position on the executive cabinet.

Franco's legacy is coming to an end

But after so many accomplishments, Franco is ready to separate from the school where he spent the last two years.

Franco said, "I will be graduating from Cerritos College and transferring to the University of California, Merced."

Franco officially ends his tenure May 14. Paulo Amaral will succeed him starting in the summer session.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER OLIVARES

Accomplishments of the Franco reign

- Successfully supporting the passage of the General Obligation Bond, which will give \$210 million to help make Cerritos College a better campus.

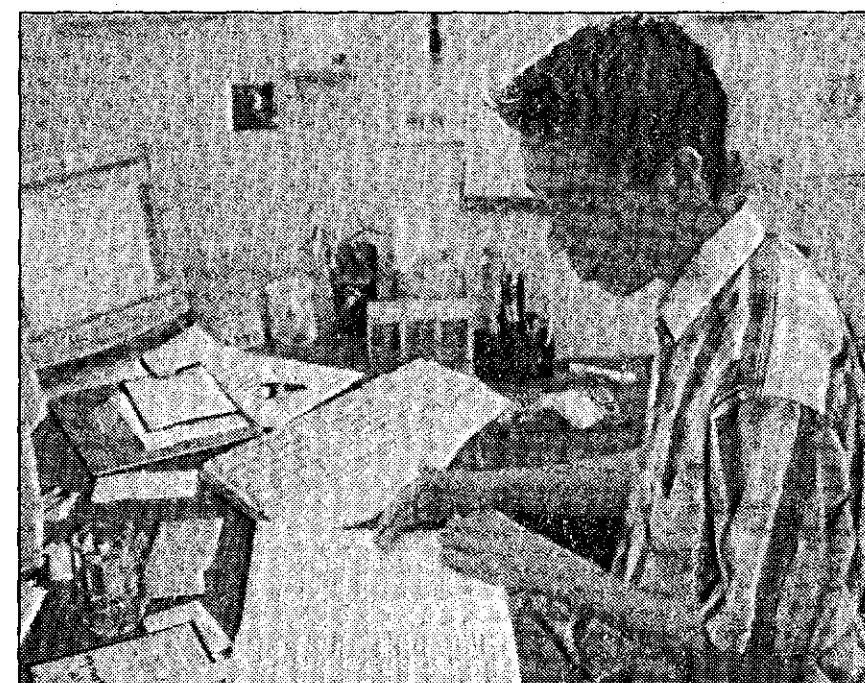
- The gocerritos.com web site is a way for the students to be aware of what activities and events the student government has planned.

- The "In the Loop" newsletter is designed to inform students of updates of the gocerritos.com web site.

- Operation Outreach is a get-go plan that Franco and Saul Romero, ASCC vice president, initiated to have the members of the student government focus their decisions on student input.

- The revisions of several pieces of legislation include the executive cabinet reformation, the signature increase for elections and adding a new position, commissioner of external affairs, to the executive cabinet.

Work is never done: (left) Franco speaks with the President of the Muslim Student Association. (right) Franco will be moving on to UC, Merced while Holly Bogdanovich, director of student activities, will be left behind to work with Paulo Amaral, ASCC president elect.



Paper work: ASCC President Josh Franco reads the ASCC Constitution.