



KIDS ON BOARD
Plane collapses at summer concert
Page 3 Community



TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

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Internet service offers alternative to buying books

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The start of the fall 2004 semester once again brings returning students face-to-face with paying for new textbooks. Entering freshmen were also in for a rude awakening when purchasing new textbooks from the bookstore for the first time.

Paying for textbooks is one of the greatest economic obstacles college students must face. Specifically, for those who must pay for school out of their own pockets, the inability to pay for required books often times force students to drop the class.

Therefore, many students buy used books from used bookstores or from other students. Used bookstores however may not carry certain books and to find a student selling a specific book means running up and down the halls trying to find a student's posted flyer, hoping that the book hasn't already been sold. Consequently the inability to find a used book can result in missed assignments and a bad start in a class.

Fortunately, technology has provided students a high-tech alternative to book hunting. Online book purchases are becoming more and more common. Many popular web sites offer students used books at very reasonable prices.

One such student, Esteban

See BOOKS, page 2

MAN OF THE HOUR

❖ Board of Trustees appoints Bob Eppe as new board member.

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The Cerritos College Board of Trustees has made their decision about filling the vacant seat left by the passing of Cheryl A. Eppe.

The board appointed Robert Eppe to fill the position on the board at the last meeting on Aug 18.

Cerritos College President, Dr. Noelia Vela, said, "When all was said and done, there were two nominations from the board."

Eppe received the most votes and it was quickly followed to make the vote unanimous.

"The other candidate stepped down at the board meeting once he found out that Eppe was the other candidate," Vela said.

He will be sworn in on Wednesday at the board meeting at 6 p.m. in the Board room.

Eppe will complete the term of his late wife and the term will run until the elections in November 2005.

He is a former Board member, California State Assemblyman and also involved with the Cerritos College Foundation Board.

Eppe is an attorney at law with a

private practice in Bellflower. A 1973 graduate of Cerritos College, he later attended California State University at Dominguez Hills and received his juris doctorate degree from the American College of Law.

There were 15 letters of interest received and considered by the board. Some people that applied were candidates that ran for the board last November.

There were a couple of tools that the board used for looking through the applications for the qualifications that they would like to see in a candidate.

The tools consisted of characteristics, how committed the individual is to student success and the advancement of the college.

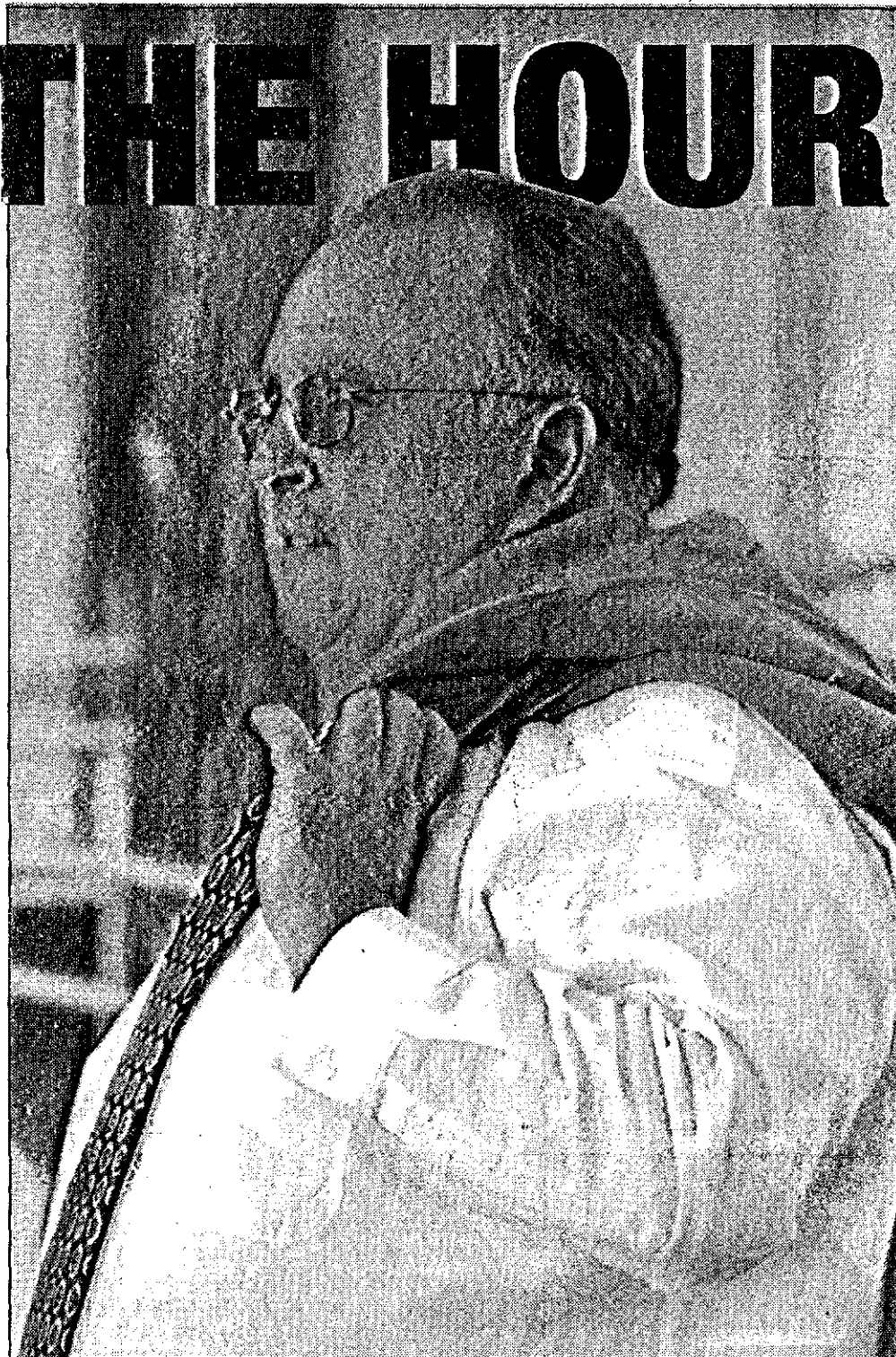
They were looking for a candidate in higher education that is familiar with Cerritos College and the candidate needed to live within the college district.

Dr. Vela, said, "The decision was a really nice decision to make."

She was referring to the qualifications of the applicants made it difficult to find someone that didn't have what the board was looking for.

Before selecting Eppe, the board did have a couple questions when thinking of who to select. The board question is the candidate should be someone from the election in November 2004 that received the next largest number of votes.

See EPPE, page 2



Training center receives grant

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A \$5,000 grant was awarded to the Composites Training Center on Aug. 11 to fund the improvement of online multimedia composites demonstrations.

The Western Chapter of the American Composites Manufacturers Association rewards colleges and universities in the western United States with money for the advancement of their composites program.

The grant will purchase audio-visual equipment and a video camcorder to increase quality of the CTC online demonstrations of processes, applications, materials and equipment used in the class and industry. Terry Price, CTC Program Director, explained.

The site will be a resource for students on and off campus, instructors and professionals, and will increase awareness of the growing use of composites. "Composites are used in boats, aircrafts, cars, and all the plastic in your house. Even your shirt may

be made with composites," Cesar Estrada, Composites, said.

This increase means job positions in organizations like the Federal Aviation Administration, Boeing Space Systems and Lockheed Martin. Establishing your own business like Ivan Workman, Electric Vehicle Technician, who will start an electric car company with profits of \$5 million within the first year.

The CTC program is designed to introduce students into the world of composites and a broad knowledge of professionals in the industry. "I am an inspector with the Department of Defense. In defense, ships and planes are being built with composites. The more I learn, the more I find I need and want to learn," James Nathan III, Composites, said.

Cerritos College is the only public school in California that offers a full degree program in composites and manufacturing with state of art equipment. "This school teaches people everything

See GRANT, page 2

Reminder:

The college will be closed on Monday due to Labor Day.

The price is right

After a 162 percent increase over the past year, California still remains the most affordable state to attend a community college.

TOP FIVE

\$138	VERMONT
\$126	MASSACHUSETTS
\$124	NEW HAMPSHIRE
\$113	NEW YORK
\$110	WISCONSIN

MIDDLE OF THE PACK

\$80	NEW JERSEY
\$78	IDAHO
\$74	CONNECTICUT
\$74	INDIANA
\$70	ILLINOIS

CHEAPEST FIVE

\$48	TEXAS
\$43	HAWAII
\$36	ARIZONA
\$36	OKLAHOMA
\$26	CALIFORNIA

Source: The 2003 College Handbook

Fees increase to \$26 per unit

CHRISTOPHER OLIVARES
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The Chancellor's Office of California Community Colleges, Linda Michalowski, Interim Vice Chancellor, Student Services reports that all 108 community colleges Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the SB-1108 on Aug. 11, the education trailer bill of the 2004-05 state budget and setting with community college enrollment fees to \$26 per unit, effective Fall 2004.

Having all those students who are affected feel no heat due to the help those students with financial aid.

Two students, Amanda Aguilar, Criminal Justice and Aurora Oviédo, Undecided, said, "We feel its wrong. It's just too expensive for us and we pay for our own schooling."

Dr. Erlinda Martinez, Vice President of Student Services/ Assistant Superintendent, said that

See FEES, page 2

College set to adapt new budget by 2005

REBECCA DELANEY
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Coming back to school this semester reminded many students that education comes at a price and with that came another tuition hike.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the proposed budget for all community colleges this past July 31.

With this budget it came the tuition increase from \$18 a unit to \$26 a unit.

Students may be angry at the increase but they shouldn't place blame on the college.

"The money that is collected does not stay with the college. The extra \$8 a unit in excess funds goes back to Sacramento," explained Lola Rizkallah, Director of Fiscal Services.

Unfortunately, regarding the budget situation, community colleges all over California cannot give any information on the budget until they attend a Chancellors meeting next Wednesday, which will not be for another week.

In previous years, the Chancellors meeting usually met at the end of July or early August, but because Gov. Schwarzenegger didn't sign the proposed budget until the end of July, any information regarding the budget is out of the schools control.

After the school president, Dr. Noelia Vela; Jo Ann Hilgdon, Consultant of Business Services; Joanne Sims, Budget Manager; and

Lola Rizkallah, Director of Fiscal Services come back from the meeting, they will take about a week to review the information presented to them.

Shortly after, presentations will be made to the Board of Trustees as well as the Planning and Budget Committee. The budget itself will be up for public viewing at the end of September.

Fortunately, for the Associated Students of Cerritos College student government, budget cut conflicts that have affected other schools statewide, have not felt such slice and dice hurts.

The proposed budget for the 2004-2005 school year is \$850,900, about \$7,000 short from last year's budget.

The reasoning? Well, as the economy changes, prices go up and setting up fun events or traveling to convention spots becomes expensive.

But students shouldn't worry. Even though students have endured yet another tuition hike, the ASCC assures that all funding for student clubs and organizations will not be effected and will stay the same budget wise.

Holly Bogdanovich, Director of Student Activities, explained that all student club accounts have stayed the same. "As the ASCC, we just wanted to keep everyone at an equal budget."

But even with as much money as the ASCC gives, what's a club to

See BUDGET, page 2

Correction

In the last issue of the Talon Marks, there were two factual errors that have come to our attention.

In the news story, Grindel bids farewell to presidency, it was reported that the G.O. bond was passed for \$210 billion instead of \$210 million.

In the story, Mandarin palace closes after expiration of contract, the name of the restaurant is actually Imperial Mandarin Palace and not Mandarin Palace as is reported.

Budget:

September and Cerritos college budget still up in air

Continued from page 1

Holly Bogdanovich, Director of Student Activities, explained that all student club accounts have stayed the same. "As the ASCC, we just wanted to keep everyone at an equal budget."

But even with as much money as the ASCC gives, what's a club to do when there still isn't enough? The ASCC encourages student clubs to fundraise. "Clubs need to get out there and fundraise. There are a lot of things to fundraise. Students sometimes just may not know where to go," says Bogdanovich.

Fundraising can range anywhere from sell-

ing cookies and cupcakes to receiving help from other sources. Other funding can come from the Cerritos College Foundation. Through the foundation, clubs or organizations can receive extra funds that the state could not otherwise provide.

"Student clubs or organizations fill out our request form, get it signed from their advisor and the Director of Student Activities, and then is turn in for foundation review. Depending on when the request is sent in, a review can take up to two months since the board only meets every other month," said Janice Cole, Administrative Secretary of the Cerritos College Foundation.

Sometimes, even with ASCC money and fundraising, some clubs still may be short a few dollars to go to an event such as a yearly confer-

ence. When this happens, student clubs or organizations can come before the student senate and state their proposal. After their request has been made, it will be placed on the agenda as new business and may be referred to the Finance and Budget Committee. After that, the request will then be put on the agenda for old business. When this happens, the Finance and Budget Committee presents a recommendation to the senate to be voted upon.

A proposal is not the only thing the ASCC needs. A few more rules were added to the ASCC Bylaws.

In the spring of 2004, the ASCC budget committee passed a new set of Bylaws stating that clubs that need more money besides the

funding they already have need to raise no less than 20 percent of total expenses in fundraising. Student clubs or organizations that do not have a budget with the ASCC are required to raise no less than 10 percent in fundraising.

Other requirements is that each student must have a total of five units, be a registered Cerritos College student, have a grade point average of at least a 2.0 and be a member of the Associated Students.

Students worried about the ASCC government spending can now put down their worry caps and let out a sigh of relief. As far as the college budget goes, check back in a few weeks and keep your fingers crossed.

Grant: Composite center receives grant

Continued from page 1

everything they are going to need in the job industry, instead of going to a school like the Arts Center that teaches you only one theory," David Sichtenmann, Art and Design, said.

"This is an awesome class because with the composites I can use materials such as resin, saws, machines and everything I need. Also, Price has a wealth of

Fees:

School officials did not increase fees

Continued from page 1

many students receive other types of services to help them through college such as Financial Aid and other support services. The Department of Rehabilitation for disabled students also work to help them with issues of financial needs.

Martinez explained that the way the Peoplesoft program works is to help the needs of students who need financial payment plans. The plan can be effective as early as the fall of 2005.

Books:

Student alternative for book buying

Continued from page 1

One such student, Esteban Rodriguez, freshman, said he, "bought two books off the Internet," and also said, "they were in the good condition." Yet this method has its problems. Sellers at times don't mail books on time and can occasionally not send them at all. 2students.com has solved this issue in a seemingly unorthodox way.

2students.com is a student run web site that is intended to target local community college students. Students add titles of books they want to sell to an online database that other students can search through to find whichever books they may need. The purpose is for students to trade, buy, and sell books with other students on their own campus. However, they can also contact stu-

knowledge I can feed on," Casey Wright, Composites, said.

CTC specializes in training and re-training about the use of composites in areas like automotive and aerial design, repair and engineering, medical, and electrical to name a few. In fact, approximately 80 percent of students in the program are working professionals training to remain competitive in the industry.

Others are people already with

degrees coming back to school in search of new beginnings. John Bassen, Marine Service, wants to gain knowledge in boat repairs. "Now I am looking into what makes a person happy versus doing what you are supposed to be. I am pursuing what I want to do this time."

CTC is open to high school students in partnership with the Southeast Regional Occupational Program. Vinicio Aguayo and Favian Mendoza,

Martinez.

She wants to encourage all students that if they want to make changes or help stop any more increases from the state, "you must be involved in our political system," write a letter to your legislature, get involved with our student government. Student Body President, Josh Franco, is aware of this issue and is willing to help the students.

Evelyn Santillana, Dental Hygiene, said, "I feel that the increase isn't good. It's bad enough being an

international student because I pay too much money now as it increases every year."

Lastly, the fees that the students pay do not stay at Cerritos College but is used to help with California's budget problem.

Even though \$26 a unit seems high from the \$11 a unit many students were used to, California's Community Colleges still pay the least amount of tuition fees compared to the rest of the United States.

When asked if he thought his business would take sales away from college bookstores, Parker said, "I don't think so. Bookstores make most of their money off of new editions of books that aren't available anywhere else." Parker then closed with a final comment in which he said, "Anyway, to me, it's more important to put money back into students' pockets, than into the pockets of the publishers."

In an interview with Cerritos College Bookstore Management, the same question was asked. Cerritos College Bookstore Manager, Paul Hovik response was similar to that of Parker's.

For the full story see
TalonMarks.com

Epple:

Husband gets vacant seat

Continued from page 1

Also, if they should select a person who was female since the board is entirely made up of male members and the late Epple was a woman.

Another topic among others was if they were selecting a candidate that the person makes a commitment not to run in November

of 2005.

Board President Bob Arthur said, "We're honored and grateful that Bob will join the board."

He continued by saying "His own deep devotion to the college and his prior experience on the board will both complement our leadership and continue Cheryl's enthusiasm for wisely governing the college's resources and always seeking students' best interests."

Community:

Plano collapses in concert

Continued from page 3

tume-black shirt, black pants and black sunglasses for "Billy Joel" and colorful clothing for "Elton John", including a glittering lime green shirt covered by a white mohair jacket and silver platform shoes.

In addition to looking like the duo, Riedel and John sounded like them.

"It feels like a real concert," said Norwalk resident David Davenport.

Angel Gonzalez attended the concert with his wife Alma and 6-month-old son.

"Excellent concert!" Gonzalez exclaimed, as he swayed his baby to the music.

"It's our first time here," Alma Gonzalez said. "I'll come back next year because my husband likes it so much!"

Children and families danced while the crowd whistled and clapped to familiar songs.

"It really brings back memories," said Susy Salazar, recreation coordinator, City of Norwalk. "I

know all the songs."

City of Norwalk Vice-Mayor Gordon Steffenhagen was amongst the crowd of approximately 200 concertgoers.

"We've got a good turnout," Steffenhagen said. "This is a family event and positive for the community."

The diverse crowd responded to the piano-driven music offered by "Face to Face" by dancing and singing along to tunes such as "Still Rock-n-Roll to Me" and "Benny and the Jets."

"Summer concerts are a good getaway after work," Matthew Snethen, Norwalk resident, says. "I can relax, kick back and enjoy the music."

"The Summer Concert Series hosts its events all through July and August on Wednesdays for the past few years and welcomes everyone back next year," Salazar said.

Reflecting upon all the summer concerts, City of Norwalk Mayor Cheryl Kelly remembered that the concerts were both different and great.

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Next Issue: Sept. 15

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MUS 117 - Voice II *
8166 9-11:00AM TTH

MUS 118 - Voice III *
8167 9-11:00AM TTH

MUS 119 - Voice IV *
8168 9-11:00AM TTH

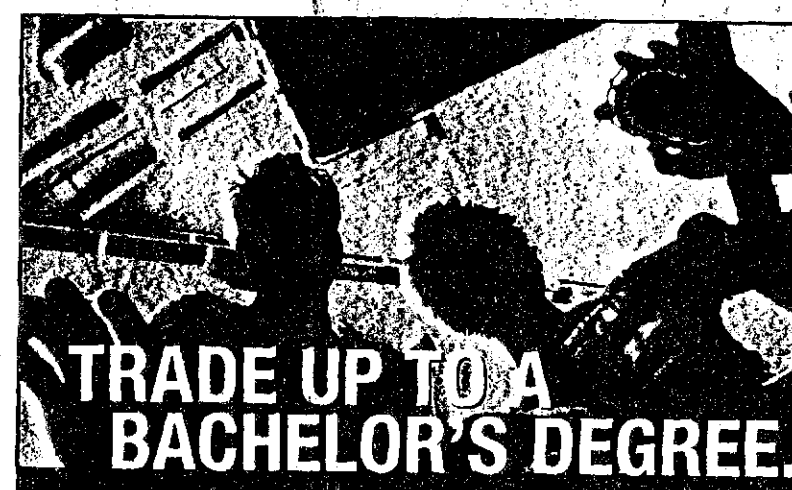
Class is located in BC 51 (music department) and will remain open until Sept. 17

* Look up the prerequisites in fall semester catalog

For more information call Dr. Anna DeMichele at 532-860-2451 ext. 2641

Breaking News

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Downey Country Club open after long wait

RAYMOND GALLEGOS
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Downey welcomed the new Rio Hondo clubhouse with a bang last Saturday.

Many of Downey's elite attended as the Side Steppers played a very up-beat Jazz that put a swing to the golf courses new Clubhouse.

Kirk Cartozian, the Mayor of Downey welcomed the large crowd. "The structure in front took years of planning and construction, and I'm positive the community will enjoy every bit of it," Cartozian said.

When the Mayor proudly asked the large crowd what they thought of the new Clubhouse, the crowd stood and cheered.

Although the opening ceremony was scheduled for 11 a.m., the ribbon to the entrance was not cut until a little past noon by City Councilwoman, Anne M. Bayer. Bayer also led the eager crowd in the pledge of allegiance and gave a few comments. "I went to Cerritos College, I'm a local girl and I will always be," said Bayer.

After the ribbon was cut a plaque was also revealed. The plaque was a dedication from the current city council members to the new Rio Hondo clubhouse.

When first entering the clubhouse, there's a giant lobby with a very tall ceiling made of alder wood with a medium stain, cut in a design similar to the mowed crisscross fairway.

The lobby also features Downey's first public piece of art.

The statue is called "Hole in One at Rio Hondo" and weighs about 800 pounds. It's made of stone and resembles a pillar with a golf club etched into it. Marian Perumean, a Downey resident and Arlene Cartozian, an Art professor at Long Beach State are the statues makers. Cartozian not only stays at Long Beach state she has done two show at Cerritos College as well.

The Banquet hall was very nicely set up for a wedding it looked like, the tables were all set like an elegant restaurant.

In the middle is a 20-foot by 30-foot by 30 dance floor, the wall facing west has ceiling to floor tinted windows over looking the golf course and the patio.

On the patio the Rio Hondo staff was serving cookies, cake, candy, and punch.

The patio featured some very elegant patio furniture along with a beautiful white gazebo for any bride and groom to exchange their vows in fashion.

On the second floor was a very refined bar and grill that also featured the same high rise wooden roofs in the lobby.

Now unlike normal bars there were no barstools, the granite bar was at about waist level with comfortable leather chairs to enjoy a drink in comfort.

What was very impressive is that over the bar were two 60 inch flat screen televisions, and the bar is also surrounded by ceiling to

For more of the story see

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RICARDO RAMIREZ/TM

Piano collapses: Musician and assistant attempt upright piano after it fell with several children on top.

Concert marches on despite 'broken' leg

❖ Children evade harm after piano collapses during summer concert series in the city of Norwalk.

JANINE TORRES
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Children escaped injury after a pianist propped them on top of his partner's piano a few moments into their encore performance during the final summer concert sponsored by the city of Norwalk Aug. 25.

No injuries were reported by any of the people involved.

Concertgoers had been enjoying the Elton John/Billy Joel tribute band "Face to Face" for over an hour when the crowd was invited to come closer to the stage by Michael John (portraying Billy Joel) who then began to place children on top of partner Joey Riedel's (portraying Elton John) and his own piano.

Riedel continued playing "Saturday Night's All right" as the

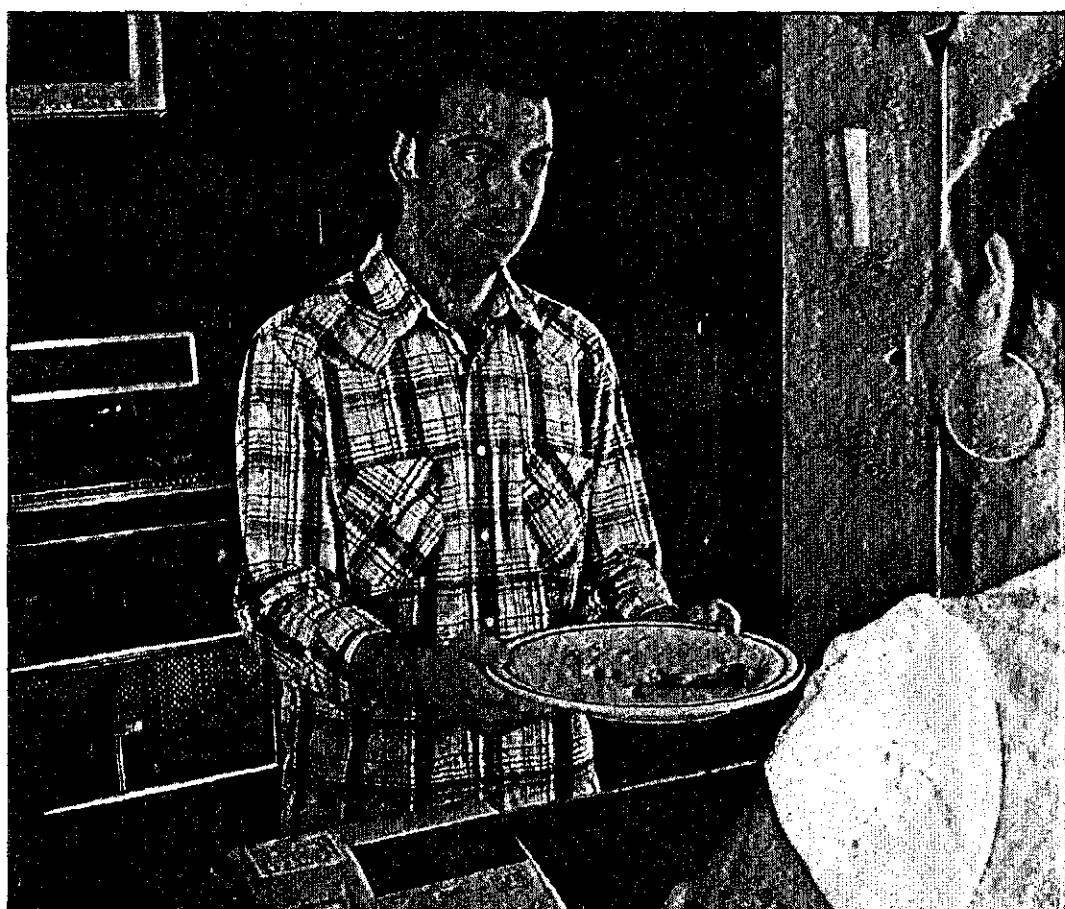
bands assistant scrambled to, upright the piano.

The incident did not diminish the crowd's enjoyment of the evening, which featured popular songs by Elton John and Billy Joel performed by the tribute artists.

Each performer was in costume-black shirt, black pants and

See Piano, page 2

College student tries to return uneaten food for partial refund



Andy Pernsteiner, above, cautiously approaches counter with chicken bone and a few peas.

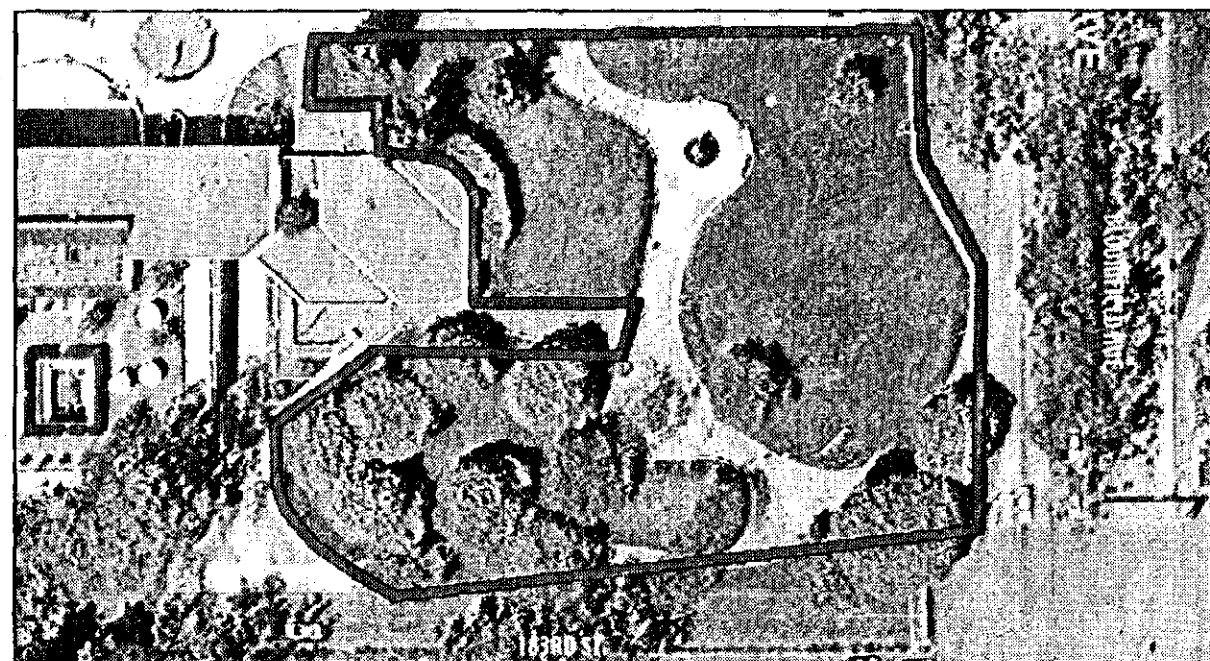
By POLLY BROWN

Checking his dignity at the cash register, college student Andy Pernsteiner recently presented a local diner cashier with a plate of picked-over food, demanding money for the vittles he didn't ingest. The cashier—who wishes to remain anonymous—was flabbergasted by the whole incident. "It was both sick and sad at the same time," she said. Pernsteiner had a different take: "I didn't eat the bone, so why should I pay for it?" Pete Woychick—a childhood friend of Pernsteiner's—said it was monthly fees tacked on to his friend's checking account that drove him to the shameful act. "Andy has been pounded for months by

fees on his checking account. He's pathetic. I never really liked him when we were kids either." Woychick—who says he personally was financially saved by Washington Mutual's Free

Checking—thought his childhood friend needed to get his act together and visit a Washington Mutual Financial Center or go to wamu.com. Then he, too, could sign up for Free

Checking—an account with optional Deluxe services like free online bill pay. "Until Andy decides to get Free Checking," said Woychick, "I'm never eating out with him again. I'm pretty sure I won't return his phone calls either. I might even change my name."



COURTESY OF CITY OF CERRITOS

Proposed site: The outline is where the city of Cerritos plans to erect the Veterans Memorial

Plans for memorial get approved

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The Cerritos City Council decided during their Aug. 26 meeting that a museum and feasible study on possible locations for the exhibit be stopped due to the impact the museum would have on the community.

Such conflicts with a possible museum included noise impact on surrounding neighborhoods, more traffic than there is already, and tucked between surrounding buildings would not have the same exposure than being by itself.

Kathleen Jung Matsumoto, Deputy City Manager, explained that even though there isn't a museum to display artwork, the Cerritos Library currently has a collection of different artwork for the public to view.

In other business, Matsumoto brought old business to the table for the council to review and to consider the Veterans Memorial for the city of Cerritos.

Back in Sept. of 2003, the City Council expressed interest in placing a Veterans Memorial in the city of Cerritos but with a proper report. The report would need to include a location to put the memorial as well as an art piece.

Now in August of 2004, the subject of the Veterans Memorial has come back up again but this time with valid research and ideas for the honorable Mayor and members of the City Council.

The memorial would be a place for Cerritos residents to reflect on the soldiers that served and or gave their life to their country. It would be in an accessible place for the public, allow large groups of people and provide sufficient parking.

If approved, the recommended location for the Veterans Memorial, would be at the Civic Center, on the lawn area fronting the northeast corner of Bloomfield Avenue and 183rd Street, as reported in the City Council staff report.

Examples of figurative artwork that the Fine Arts and Historical Commission has looked into include the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C. and two Jima in Newington, CT.

Cerritos City Council viewed architectural styles including the Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Oklahoma Veterans Memorial to name a few. Matsumoto also presented a detailed explanation to the Encinitas Veteran Memorial.

At the Encinitas memorial, there is a lot of reflection and symbolism.

At this memorial, we want it to reflect appreciation, respect and dignity for the soldiers that fought for their country."

Funding would be about \$3,000; \$1,000 for artwork and \$2,000 for site preparation, engineering, walkways, lighting, etc., including the veterans website, which will have the names of Cerritos residents who have served their country. The website will also have profiles on each individuals military service and will allow the public to send messages if they wish.

Not only did City Council approve, but waves of emotion was felt throughout City Council Chambers as a few present veterans in the audience came to the podium to express their thoughts on the memorial.

Laura Lee, Council member, expressed her emotions on the matter saying, "It's been long overdue. For the people that gave their life for their country, I felt like I knew those people. Putting their name on the memorial can do so much."

City Council meetings in Cerritos are held at the City Council Chambers in City Hall every second and forth Thursday of every month. The next City Council meeting will be next Thursday at 7 p.m.

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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Law threatens voter's rights

The Vermont Legislature has just passed a law that affects state voting rights by setting a precedent that could potentially eliminate all possible flaws in voter turn out ratio.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (not a stranger to political precedents), seems to have fallen in love with the ideas of Vermont's elected leaders.

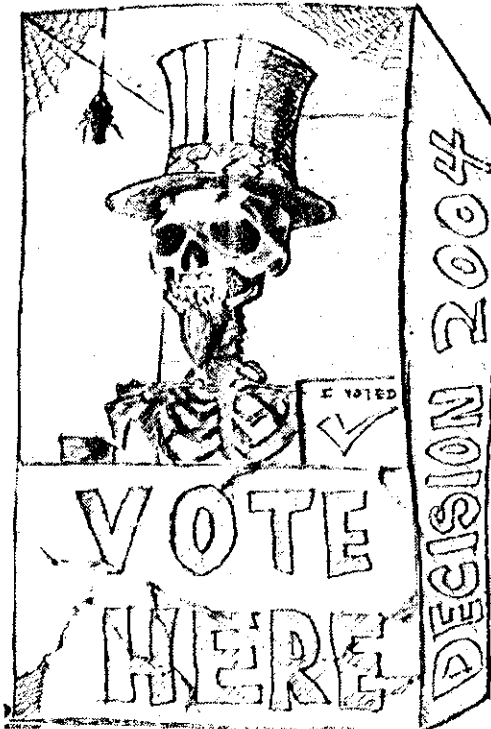
The new law (Article 256 V), is now being called the Vermont Voter Vacancy bill calls for the greatest overhaul in voter rights since the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

It has its principle provisions: a stipulation that any citizen registered to vote in Vermont, who does not intend to vote can give a "notarized letter to a party of their choice forfeiting his or her rights to the above specified party in any local, statewide, or national election that includes but is not limited to presidential primaries and presidential elections."

It essentially assures that no vote will go to waste. It also stipulates that if a voter is not registered or does not give their vote to a specific person, a computer can randomly give their vote to any citizen who wishes to participate in random vote for vote program.

What is even scarier than what is happening in Vermont is what is happening in California. The voter turn out ratio that sparked the unprecedented law is only one third of our minuscule constituents' ratio.

Schwarzenegger is proposing that our legislature take into consideration the events happening in Vermont and has introduced his own version of what could possibly be the California



Voter Castration Act.

The only thing that could be worse than our very own legislature is something very close to conjuring up such a law that you probably do not care.

The law would not be necessary if you voted or at least registered, creating the illusion that you could potentially vote.

Although potentially dangerous in a 1984 eutopic kind of way, the law might be the only

way to motivate the new generation of voters. Gov. Schwarzenegger's new baby might just be what we need to inject some outrage into our youth and prompt us to go out and vote.

Article X (as Arnold is calling it) is not without potential to destroy democracy as we once knew it, but it is full of potential to assure everyone cares about their vote.

If you happen to disagree, with what the law means and think it's a bad idea, than maybe you should go out there and vote. Even before that, you need to register.

If you are reading this, and wondering why you haven't heard of Article X or even Article 256 V, it's ok. You might even be wondering, how it is possible for us to have scooped every major news organization in the country with such fantastic speed?

Well the reason our speed is so fantastic is because this article and the Articles mentioned in it are fantastic figments of our creative imagination created to get you, the lowest turned out voters, to care about your vote.

It means something to be a United States citizen.

It gives you certain undeniable rights. Being able to vote should be at the top of your list. From women's suffrage to civil rights, it is the reasons many people rallied and protested over the years.

It is the reason for at least two constitutional amendments and for a thing called the American Revolution.

Start a trend for pursuant generations: register, rally, vote, be heard and for once just care.



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 editor1@talonmarks.com

Finer points of 'The Da Vinci Code'

◆ Novel stirs up religious ideological hypocrisies

Several days ago, while shopping for a novel I needed for English, I stumbled upon a recent novel titled *The Da Vinci Code*. I remembered hearing many things about this novel from different people who's opinions of the book varied greatly.

Some praised the book while others went so far as to call it blasphemous. Letting my curiosity get the best of me, I decided to purchase the book, and find out for myself what the hype was all about.

Although I have yet to finish the book, I have read enough to ascertain a certain understanding of the overall tone of the book. The author, Dan Brown, seems to snub and even condemn many of the widely accepted Christian practices and double-standards.

Being a Catholic myself, I disagree with some of what the author implies, but other issues he touches upon do make me question the validity of some of the customs.

I choose to focus on Catholicism because it is the religion which I am most familiar with,



yet there are many others that commit crimes equal to these, and even greater.

For those who are unfamiliar with Catholicism, there exists the tradition that a Catholic priest is to remain in celibate in order to prove his devotion to his religion. Yet this belief, as the media has widely exposed, is not one that has yielded positive results.

Many of the abuse scandals I believe could have been avoided if the Church had conceded to change this practice. It leaves me dumbfounded that the Church leaders believe they have the right to deny men of one of the most raw, and natural instincts. The need for procreation.

It is also very astounding to find that in these modern times, there are still those who deny women the same rights as men. How can these people sleep at night knowing that women within the group - although the word

sect would not be out of place here - called Opus Dei forces women to physically hurt themselves as penance for the "Original Sin."

Do these people feel justified by some divine right? Do they honestly feel that their God, who they claim is a God of love, will reward these morbid actions?

However, it seems very likely that the reason these customs do not change is because of political motives within the Church. Money is a strong motivator even for those who say their actions are dictated strictly by the will of their God.

Apparently, the will of the Green is even greater. The fear of losing billions of dollars in donations from those powerful groups that endorse these actions apparently outweighs the moral need to remove certain unorthodox practices.

One can only hope that those who have shut their eyes to these regressive medieval practices wake up and realize the hypocrisy of preaching one thing, and turning around and doing another. This message applies to all religions in general who in some form or another commit injustices, and like cowards hide under the veil of their abusive traditions.

Underground vs. Mainstream: cash over being real

◆ As mainstream sells out, underground rappers have trouble selling anything.

Like anything else mainstream and underground rap present its pros and cons. Generally in the music industry an artist begins in the underground scene (there are some rare exceptions) and then generates enough buzz to catch the attention of someone who has the ability to bring the artist to the mainstream level.

The initial and most prominent con of mainstream rap is the fact that it is heavily influenced by people like: advertisers, corporate CEO's, and record company executives who are most interested in exploiting the artists rather than put something out that expresses the artist.

With this ideology we get rappers like Nelly, Chingy, Cassidy, Fabulous, the Big Tymers, the list goes on. I do not want to hear amateur lyrics put over expensive well sounding beats. I do not want to hear about how rich they are and about their cars and jewelry which I will never possess. And if I wanted to hear about love I would listen to R&B, rap has no place in the bedroom.

Now there are some Mainstream artists that really do express themselves but their rare and hard to find. A pro about mainstream rap is that the wealthy record labels can afford a \$250,000 beat say from a Dr. Dre, a Timbaland, a Kanye West to name a few. And face it, no matter how good the lyrics are if the beat is not



heated, the song suffers. Most mainstream artists are self-centered and feel like their head is going to explode from all the fame and fortune. This makes them lose the ability to write about what comes from their heart, like shame, hurt, and pain to name a few emotions which are the essential cornerstones of raw human emotion.

Some mainstream rappers carry that with them no matter how famous they get. Eminem is a perfect example but he is not the only one, Jadakiss, Nas, Kurupt, and Xzibit to name a few.

The underground listener usually has to have an ear to the street to see what's hot. E-40 my favorite rapper whom is a cross between both levels of rap delivered a line in 1995s, "Wolf Tickets" and it went like this "In order to spit it, you gotta know it, scene it, lived it, been in it [...]" This also goes for most underground listeners, or usually called block listeners, the seedy underbelly of any city produces these people, some call them thugs, gang bangers, whatever you want call them.

I grew up in a varrio (Mexican ghetto) always looking for trouble, and I grew up with Brotha Lynch, C-Bo, E-40, RBL Posse, X-raided, Mac Mall, the list goes

on. Now these artists I have just named are what the public calls "gangster rappers", and all they talk about is murdering and getting high. Which is not the case, a lot of the rappers I named also send a message, not all of them. Now days the underground artists that send a message are Yukmouth, T-Nutty, Razz Kass, X-raided (who raps from prison like Shyne), Mac Mall, and Sly Boogy.

A con about underground rappers is that they try to start beef with mainstream rappers to get publicity. C-Bo and Messy Marv have both called out 50 Cent looking for fame but 50 has not replied because most of America does not know who they are, and why give them the satisfaction. Speaking of 50 Cent he gets Dr.Dre beats along with Eminem beats that have most recently become popular. Another con with the underground is that the artists are constantly trying to find good production, and some do get good production, some get average production that you can listen too but bad production plagues the underground.

It is kind of sad because once a underground producer is picked up by mainstream like Rick Rock, Mike Mosley, or Khayree these underground labels cant shell out the money for their beats. These producers I grew up on are their just as good as the \$250,000 a beat producers I mentioned. The underground always loses a few names, just recently Lil Flip went mainstream, and that new single "Sunshine" he put out is garbage, I switch the station when that comes on. And before when no one ever heard of Lil Flip he would not be making garbage like that. The underground is and always will be superior to mainstream rap.

CAMPUS COMMENT

"Do political ads on TV and radio affect the way you vote?"

COMPILED BY: SUNEM RIVAS
PHOTOS BY: CATHY LOZANO



"Not really because I'm probably not going to vote."

DORIAN CASTILLO
Undecided



"Yes and no because sometimes a person will try to make the other person look bad and what they say is not necessarily true."

CATHERINE AVILA
Communications



"Yeah, of course if you watch them on TV it is going to affect your opinion."

THAO BERGES
Nursing



"In a way they do, but it's really up to us to make the decision based on what we believe is right around our moral beliefs."

LUIS RODRIGUEZ
Automotive Technology



"Yeah because they tell me about the person and what you are voting on."

JUAN GOMEZ
Undecided



"I think they do affect my vote. Mostly if they're negative I would try not to be persuaded by negative ads."

EDDIE ANGEL
Art

Mexico's pride takes silver

As a Person of Mexican descent, I can say that I, along with countless other Mexicans, get very excited to see one of our runners cross the finish line.

It makes us proud to stand up to overcome obstacles and conquer challenges.

On Tuesday president Vicente Fox flew from San Luis Potosi to the Olympic city of Athens just to see the race.

What race? The women's 400 meter relay in which Mexico's best athlete was to compete.

Who is that woman? Oh! Come on, I know.

She is the world champion in the 400 meter race. She is a fastest Mexican woman who many admire. Especially those with Mexican pride.

She won six medals in the Sydney olympics, also won gold in the olympics in Barcelona.

She must be Ana Guevara! That's right; this year in the Olympic games in Athens Ana was the first Mexican woman that made it into the Olympics.

She is the fastest woman in the entire nation.

She is 27 years old, and has run in 29 races all over the world. She currently has the best time in the 400 meter race, which is 48.89 seconds.

This season she crossed the finish line at 49.89 seconds which was not her best but was still strong and fast.

On July 23 she won the gold medal in Paris.

In that same race Tonique



Williams, who won the gold medal in Athens, placed fifth in Paris.

In the Olympic games in Athens, Tonique ran an amazing race and beat Ana with 15 seconds! Beating Ana is no small thing. Ana was prepared to lose, but shooting to win.

Ana Guevara still earned a medal, but this time got the silver. Ana won placed second in the 400 meter race in Athens, but her time was 49.56 seconds.

That was the best time she ran this year. Tonique Williams who won the Olympic gold medal recorded 49.41 seconds. Once again only 15 seconds faster than Ana! Ana almost got it! To be truthful I feel so proud of Ana for her pride, sacrifice, achievement, and success in making it to the Olympics.

Is not an easy goal to reach for the stars. One thing that bothers me is the rumors.

Oh please! I heard rumors from Mexico that Mexicans will never compete at championship levels.

A telegram from Mexico stated the following: "At this point in the Olympics, my greatest hope is that none of our swimmers drown." Okay, in other words does this mean that Mexican athletes have no

ability or talent? Instead of criticizing they should be supportive or be proud.

I understand that Ana did her best who wouldn't try their hardest? Ana was interviewed on television, and she mentioned that she did her best and that it was a tough race, not easy.

She also mentioned that she feels that her country expected more than what she earned.

I know and I believe that every individual wants to win the gold medal. In my opinion, winning a silver medal is better than nothing.

Also, to be involved in the Athens race you must be, the best of the best.

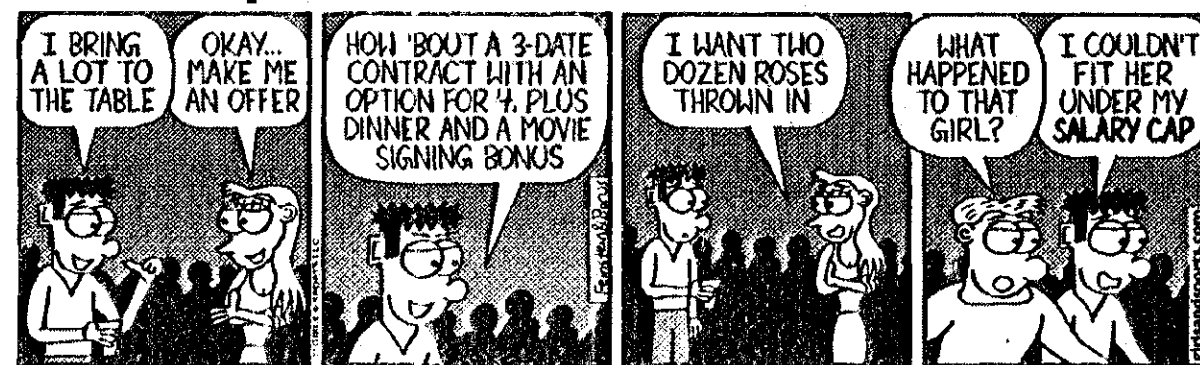
Ana Guevara made history, and she will still make history. She mentioned she is preparing for the 2008 Olympics. By that time she'll be 31 years old.

Mexico will see that she will soon regain her form, and will be in the best shape of her career. Who knows, she may even set a new world record. Only time will tell.

Comics

Become a regular contributor.
Cartoonists contact us for details.

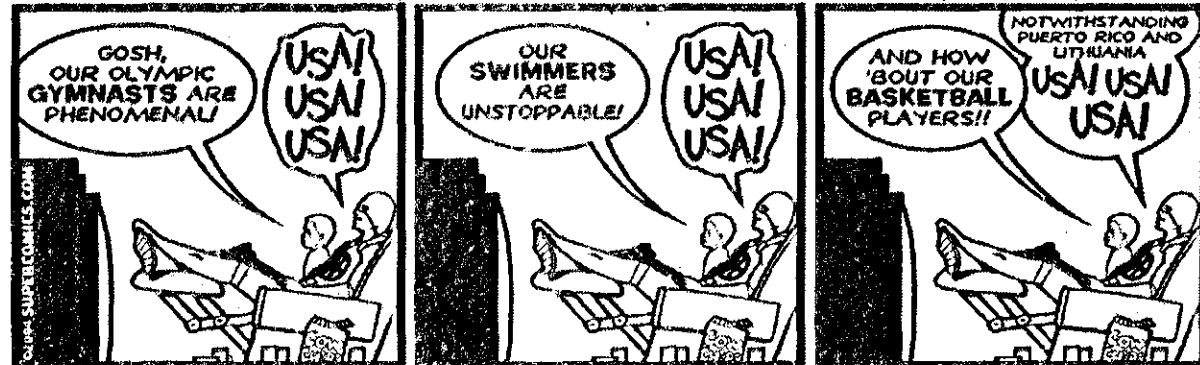
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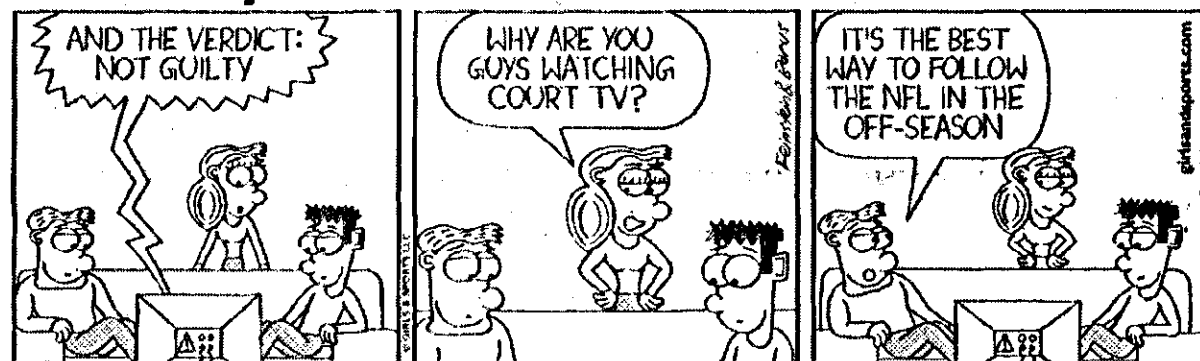
PAUL



CAPTAIN RIBMAN Olympic Golden Showers



Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



DITHERED TWITTS by Stan Waling



"FIVE-STEP" PLAN TO IRAQI SOVEREIGNTY

- YOU PUT YOUR LEFT FOOT IN
 - YOU PUT YOUR LEFT FOOT OUT
 - YOU PUT YOUR LEFT FOOT IN
 - AND YOU SHAKE IT ALL ABOUT
 - YOU DO THE HOKEY POKEY AND TURN YOURSELF AROUND
- ...THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

Behind the DVD conspiracy

Lets face it, we're puppets and DVD's are pulling the strings.

DVD's. We all have them and we all want more.

On a usual day a person would go to their nearest Best Buy or Circuit City and put down about 20 bucks (26 if you go to Suncoast or Scam Goody) for a DVD of a movie you saw in the theaters six months back.

Of course you're satisfied with the purchase you have made.

The ones that are really satisfied though are the studio CEO's in their big downtown offices.

They're practically drooling all over themselves, and the reason is they know that in six months they're going to come out with a special edition, collectors edition, or a directors cut of the same film you just bought. They figure that you're going to put down another 20-30 for it.

This is a trend that's going on right now with DVD's. "Double dipping," as it is known to some people, is when a movie studio releases a DVD, then follows it up 5 months, maybe even a year later with a DVD of the same movie, but with one or two added features, perhaps a lackluster commentary or



deleted scenes that you really don't care about.

The best examples of a double dipping are the comic book movies.

Hellboy was recently released on a two disc DVD that is pretty stacked with special features, but in October the directors cut of the film will be released in a three disc DVD.

How simple could it have been to release the directors cut first and save us the time?

I understand about directors cuts not making it to the big screen, but come on.

How about a little consideration for the fans that want the whole thing up front when it comes to DVDs, and not wait six months.

Spiderman is another example. There's a giftset, deluxe, and superbit edition not to mention

the original.

The biggest cons in the game though are the ones from Miramax Studios.

Kill Bill vol. 1 and 2 have been released on DVD, and hell, I would put up some cash for a Tarantino flick any day of the week, but these DVDs are not that great.

They are the bar bones when it comes to special features, and not only that, the studio at one time planned up to six different editions of this film, I certainly hope its gone down.

We all have our share of DVDs and in the future we'll want to buy more, but our pocketbooks don't share the same love that we have, so when it comes to buying DVDs, be patient, who knows how many versions are going to come out in later months.

MINUTECLINICS, PROVIDING QUICK MEDICAL CARE, WILL BEGIN OPENING IN TARGET STORES



Daughter reveals woodworker's philosophy

❖ Artist merges traditional concepts with contemporary design to bring out the essence of the tree.

JANINE TORRES
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Turning the pages of the latest book by Mira Nakashima, Anthony Fortner, Professor of Woodworking, is eagerly anticipating the upcoming lecture featuring the author/architect in the Student Center on Sept. 13. The Cerritos Student Association of Woodworkers will host the 7 p.m. event.

Nakashima is the daughter of world renowned American woodworker and philosopher, George Nakashima.

"Cerritos College is very lucky to have her," Fortner said, "Woodworkers look up to her father and to have her share his life is something special."

She will be discussing her father's life, work and philosophy about how the woodworker has a responsibility to the tree itself and through the woodworker, the tree is given a second chance at life.

"He sought to express the soul of the tree through his creations," Fortner said.

His daughter is carrying on his legacy through her work as the cre-

ative director of Nakashima Studio, where she produces her father's designs as well as her own work.

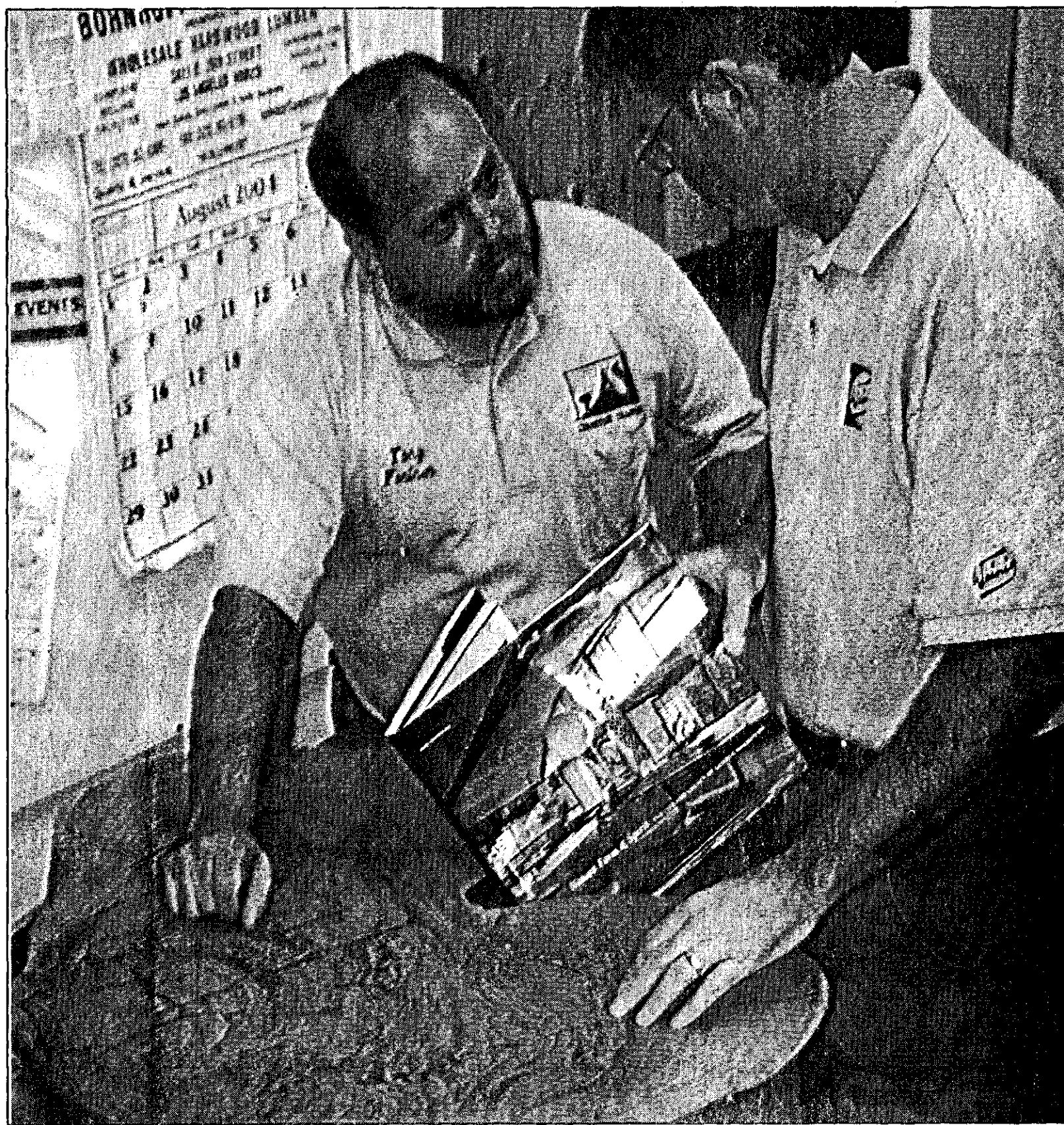
"This is a rare opportunity to meet such an expert," Fortner said. Nakashima graduated from Harvard University and has a master's degree in architecture from Waseda University in Tokyo.

"All artists would benefit from attending this event," Mike Jones, Department Chair, Woodworking/Manufacturing Technology, "I hope she'll share her father's philosophical approach to woodworking."

An exhibition of her late father's work is being shown in various museums. She will be signing her latest book, "Nature Form & Spirit, the Life and Legacy of George Nakashima," after the discussion.

"She follows her father's belief that the tree lives again in the hands of the woodworker," Jones enthused. "Guests will have an eye opening glimpse of an extraordinary life."

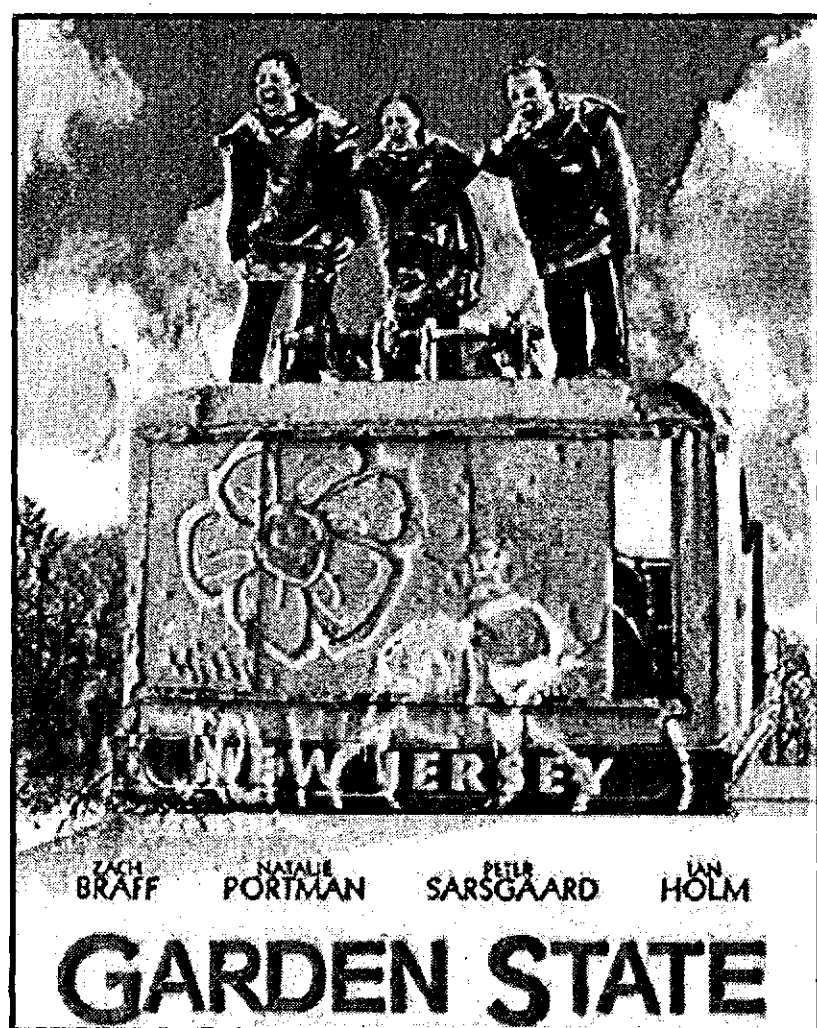
"He sought to express the soul of the tree through his creations."
- Anthony Fortner



Faculty discussion: Anthony Fortner, woodworking professor (Left) and Mike Jones, department chair, woodworking/manufacturing technology (Right) anticipate Nakashima's arrival.

MARIA GUTIERREZ/TM

'Garden State' Oscar material



KARLO GRAZIANO
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This summer has seen a good amount of cinematic junk. Movies like "Catwoman", "Allen vs. Predator", and unfortunately, "The Village", really didn't please the fans that bought the hype.

But every once in a while, there comes that 'diamond in the rough', an unknown movie that surprises the viewers and fills them up with a certain appreciation after seeing it. That movie is "Garden State".

"Garden State" marks the writing and directorial debut of Zach Braff, who many people know from the underrated comedy "Scrubs".

Braff, played by Andrew Largeman (known as Large throughout most of the movie),

a struggling Hollywood actor that has found little success playing a retarded quarterback in a TV movie but makes his living as a waiter at a Vietnamese restaurant.

In brief :: movies

"Garden State"

Zach Braff, Natalie Portman, Peter Saarsgard

dir: Zach Braff

Fox Searchlight

tm rating:

One day, Large is awakened by a phone call from his father (Jon Holm) informing him that his mother is dead and that he must return home to New Jersey for her funeral. He decides to leave everything behind, including his medication for his depression and returns to a life he walked away from for nearly a decade.

Upon his arrival, Large meets up with his old friends Mark (Peter Saarsgard), who now spends his days digging graves in the cemetery where Large's mother is being buried, and Dave, who has scored big

bucks with his "noiseless" invention.

Large also meets a new friend, Sam (Natalie Portman), a compulsive liar that leads a very interesting life. This weird but charming relationship leads Large to slowly disband from depression and reconnects with the people around him.

This movie has a certain charisma to it. It doesn't try to overdose its viewers with a cheesy comedy but there are moments you can't help but chuckle, especially the knight scene.

There are moments in this movie that wouldn't necessarily fit the page with mainstream films. While certain movies center around a romance to try and give you romantic scenes one on top of the other, this movie gives the viewers breaks in the middle.

This movie allows the viewers to get to know the characters and watch the relationship of Sam and Large develop. The relationship ultimately branch-

es off from any sort of romantic comedy tag that would be put on it.

The conversations are attention grabbing and the performances are not flawless but are high quality, especially by Natalie Portman and Peter Saarsgard (who is going to hit it big sooner or later).

In the end, this movie is a gem that will hopefully be seen by a good amount of people, and with a directorial debut like this, Zach Braff could be seeing Oscar gold soon.



Portman.

Nicholas Sparks' newest work a great novel around the bend

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There are certain books that make you cry and books that make you wonder how life is so crazy when survival seems miraculous. Of course, there are also books that make you fall asleep after the first page, but I assure you that this is not one of

them.

Determination and willingness to search for life's meaning is what drives us and makes us who we are. This is one of the many themes of this great novel.

"Where does a story truly begin?" author Nicholas Sparks asks in the first line of his novel, "A Bend in the Road". The book tells a story of a man whose life

quickly and drastically changes when his wife dies from an accidental death.

His life seems to have two lasting purposes, taking care of his son and tracking down his wife's killer. Early in the story, the loneliness that haunts him fades, and the hope of loving again emerges when he meets his son's teacher.

His investigation of the accident

becomes heated as he gets closer and closer to finding the truth, only to find that the truth is much more painful than he expects.

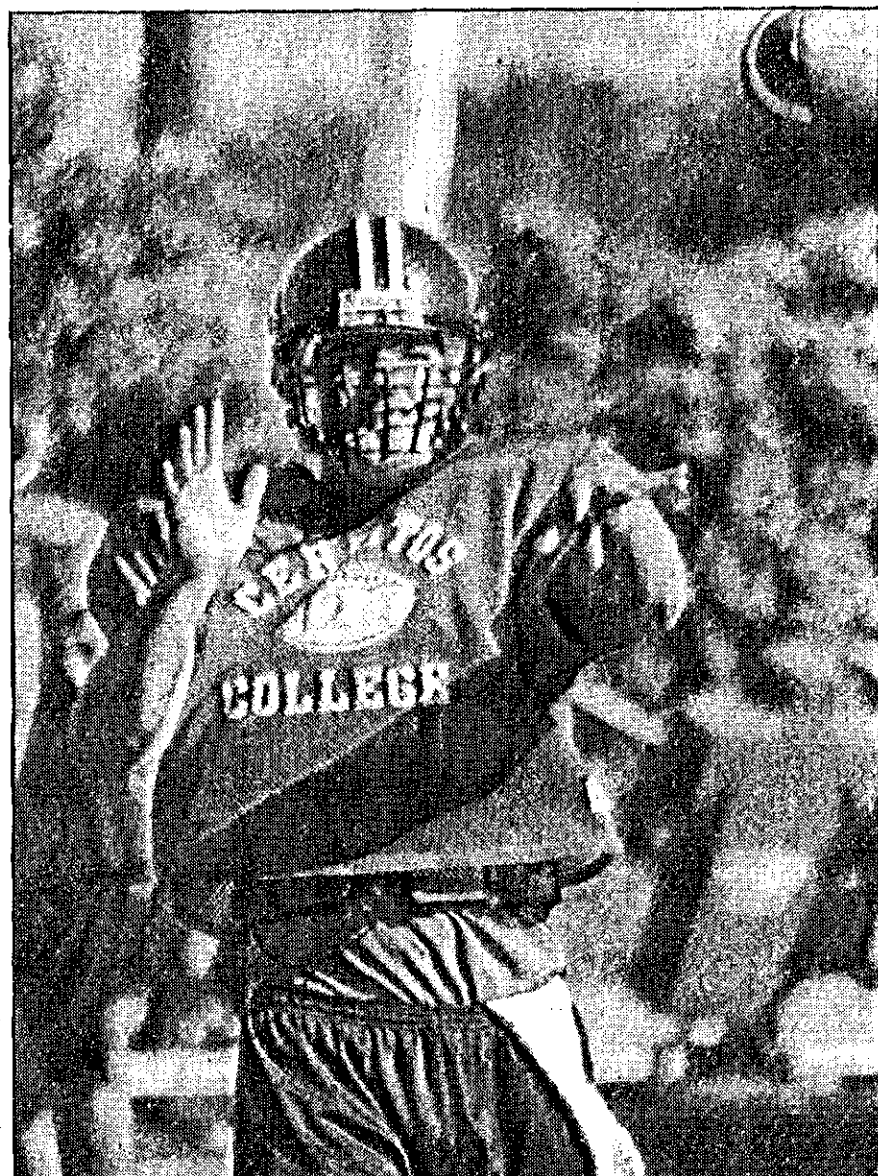
The whole book reads like a movie, in that you can't stop until you finish it. While you follow the investigation, you find yourself feeling what he feels and thinking what he thinks.

Pages of the novel seem to turn themselves the further you get into the story. Sparks brilliantly leads you in one direction and then suddenly pushes you to realize what is really going on. Every little thing you read is a clue what suddenly becomes clear in the end. This is definitely a book that you wouldn't mind reading more than twice.

SPORTS

TALON MARKS, CERRITOS COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 1, 2004 • PAGE 7



Falcon football gets ready to fly

❖ The much anticipated Cerritos football returns

ERICK GALINDO
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Put the reefs and medals away. Go get your pigskin and pork links out, because it's time for Falcon football.

The Falcons are back on the gridiron and are ready to improve on last year's 7-4 season, in which they failed to make the playoffs.

Coming off a victory in last year's Shrine Potato Bowl over Victor Valley, the Falcons are counting on their nine returning starters and some sophomore transfers to anchor the team's comeback toward winning conference.

In the inception year of the playoff system, the Falcons failed to make the playoffs by losing the last game of the regular season.

The Falcons are currently in the final preparation stages for their first game at Chaffey this Saturday at 5 p.m.

The first home game will be on Sept. 11 at 7 p.m.

The Falcons are ran by coach Frank Mazzotta, who has lead the Falcons to their fair share of wins (171-98-6) in his 27th year tenure as Cerritos head coach.

I sat down with Coach Mazzotta in the weight room as the defensive squad had their turn to push weights right before practice.

"It's hard at this level, losing your core group of guys every two... right when you've got something good."

— Frank Mazzotta, head football coach

No stranger to the playoffs, Mazzotta has led the Falcons to three conference championships and 14 post season bowls (victories in eight of the last nine), and last year's failures do not dampen his hope to succeed.

"The Potato Bowl is a very nice bowl game."

We were one win away from being ranked no. 1 [in the playoffs] but wound up completely out of them."

Mazzotta does have 55 returning players. According to Mazzotta, his players have an "exceptional attitude" and an "exceptional talent."

"I don't know if that will equate to wins, but it usually does."

He believes they are very strong and this year's offensive has great expectations especially for Kevin Brown (top left) the starting quarterback, and Daniel Dixon (bottom right), "who just happens to be the best running back around."

"It's hard at this level, losing your core group of guys every two years and then having to start over right when you've got something good going," said Mazzotta.

Mazzotta believes that despite the youth of his players, this year's group can really improve on last year's record.

"Last year I really thought we were good but we lacked preparation. It was the first year of the new format and I don't think we were ready in time for the first game."

The Chaffey game may prove to be a big test for the new Falcons who lost some key starters on defense up the middle.

They have acquired some help on defense though by adding some big defensive help in Jamal James (top right) and Jermaine Henderson.

"It depends on how the first game goes. This time we are really prepared."

Mazzotta really feels that the first game has serious potential to decide how the season will go and has high expectations for the first game.

As the defense dropped their last set and ended their workout with a yell of "DEFENSE!" the coach gave his final view of his new team and why they are so prepared this year.

"I really laid down the law this time real early. I think because of last year; we had some characters... this year, we have some character."

Former wrestling state champ dies

❖ Former Falcons' coach, Stacy Cody passes away

he was a two-time All-American selection.

Cody went on to complete his education at Idaho State University.

He served as an assistant coach at Gahr High.

He also served at Anaheim High and Brethren Christian High before settling in as an assistant coach under Jeff Smith at Cerritos College for many years.

He was an assistant coach when the Falcons won the State Dual Championship in 1992 and State Championships in 1995 and 2002.

His son, Mark, who wrestled for the Falcons from 1992-93.

He was an All-American in 1993 after coming in third in the State Championships at 134 pounds.

He placed fifth in the State Championships as a freshman.

Cody's daughter frequently sang the National Anthem at Cerritos College games.



DANIEL MENA/TM

Falcons get last minute block as Glendale's forwards prepared to take a shot on goal.

Men score victory over Glendale

The Cerritos College men's soccer team kicked off its season in fine fashion, as they defeated a solid Glendale team, 5-1 in a non-conference game played at Cerritos College.

The Falcons (1-0) scored twice in the first half.

They withstood an early second half attack by the Vaqueros and then responded with three more goals to put the game out of reach.

The team will now enter the prestigious Hartnell Tournament over the weekend and play its first game on Friday.

The tournament running through Sunday.

Brown has the playoffs in sight

CHRISTOPHER OLIVARES
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Leadership, hard work, friendship, dedication and heart are

some of the qualities that make a good quarterback.

This year's starting Falcon quarterback is Kevin Brown.

Kevin Brown grew up in the

city of Orange.

After high school, Brown left to New York to attend Fordham University.

He attended for one semester, before he decided to return to California and play for the Falcons.

Brown is in his third semester. That means that this is his final season playing for the Falcons.

This year he has been chosen as a captain for the team which means he will lead the team on the field and in the huddles.

Brown is 20 yrs old and majoring in business education.

He's really unsure of his future plans.

However after Cerritos, he plans to attend the University of Arizona.

"It feels great playing for the falcons, I enjoy hanging out with all the guys on the team there great, the coaches are great also," Brown said.

He believes that being captain this year puts him in a role where

he must mediate between the coaches and the players.

He has to make sure every body is doing their part and showing up to practice.

"My goal in life is to be happy and succeed in what ever; I do in life," Brown said.

"When I came to Cerritos I was the quarterback and has always been."

He said, "I enjoy spending time watching movies, hanging out with friends and family during my down time."

Head Coach Frank Mazzotta talked about Brown, during practice on Monday.

According to his coach, he has good leadership skills to deal with issues.

"Your only good as your quarterback is" Mazzotta said.

He's good at commanding the team on the field and he'll make a good captain.



RAUL MONTES/TM

Starting quarterback Kevin Brown takes a snap from scrimmage.

Women's soccer opens victorious

CATHY LOZANO
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Cerritos College Women's Soccer team brought home a victory of 2-1 versus Mt. San Jacinto on last Friday night.

The Falcons were excited to win their first game of the season.

Despite the fact that they won their first game Coach Jensen believes, "the team played well enough to win the game but did not play at their best."

Fausta Vega and Claudia Botello scored one goal each.

Allison Sarell and Diane Ramirez passed to get an assist goal.

Freshman Marysol Rice is freshmen goalkeeper who blocked three goals.

The Falcons were disappointed on the cancellation of their first home game versus Citrus College.

The game was cancelled because apparently their wasn't enough women on the Citrus College team.

The Falcons go on the road until mid September.

The next home game is not until Sept. 14 who they will be playing against Victor Valley at 3 p.m.

Gold, an athlete's best friend

❖ These olympics were all appeals and crazy stuff

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So what's up with the Olympics having more appeals and protest than any typical Kobe Bryant court case or republican convention?

First the BALCO inspired suspensions of key Olympic figures, Paul Hamm's gold medal controversy, and now crazy Irish priest are running onto the field creating the need for further protest and appeal.

That's right a crazy 57 year old man named Cornelius Horan ran out in a kilt to tackle the leader in the men's marathon (Brazilian Vanderlei de Lima) three miles from the finish line.

Sorry but the fact that you kill does not match your knickers is no longer an acceptable excuse to ruin a beautifully ran race by de Lima.

If anyone has a reason to file a protest it is de Lima who finished bronze and was awarded the Pierre de Coubertin medal in recognition of his sportsmanship by the International Olympic Committee after denying the appeal by Brazil's track federation.

So he didn't finish first and so Hamm was miss-scored and a there's a tremendous amount of pressure on athletes to succeed at these events.

So what? Stop taking steroids and stop protesting everything.

**SUPER
SIZED
CHEW**
(now with more bite)

The Olympics are supposed to be pure and untainted (like baseball once was way back before designated hitters and George Steinbrenner).

Speaking of stuff not being pure and untainted, Donald Trump is back as is his version of the NFL draft.

The Apprentice is back (wow) and the Donald is firing away like any big egomaniac might when put in the position of being an Idiot with power on television.

It's back just in time to replace the greatest collection of athleticism and talent called the Olympics.

Maybe they should make leaving your college early for the pros an Olympic sport, I mean wind surfing made it right?

Maybe there would be a spot for Mike Williams (who's appeal to the NCAA for reinstatement was denied) and Maurice Claret (who lost an appeal by the NFL to deny entrance into the NFL draft).

Seriously folks maybe Carmelo Anthony could get some playing time finally and we

could see LeBron James with out Larry Brown's handcuffs.

So the US won 103 medals including 35 gold medals, 39 silver medals, and 29 bronze medals.

So none of that matters because are basketball team sucks?

Since when does the bronze suck?

Even worse since when did basketball define a nation?

Common yeah our team might have failed miserably but we did have some Olympic success damn it.

Where's the Donald when you need him? To the "dream team" being our key Olympic representative "you're fired."

So a bunch of key track stars and other Olympians got fired or quit for using steroids and the ones who somehow managed to stay on, lost out.

Such as Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou of Greece; Tim Montgomery and Marlon Jones of the US among others.

Maybe they could get jobs protesting on the Brooklyn Bridge or is that a violation of the Patriot Act?

So the Olympics are finally over.

So sad. So sorry.

Quote of the Week
"Technology is a way of organizing the universe so that man doesn't have to experience it."
- Max Frisch

Cerritos family earns silver

❖ Coach Greg Gascon's bro wins medal in Athens

Stephen Abas, brother of Cerritos College assistant wrestling coach Greg Gascon, advanced to the gold medal match of the freestyle wrestling competition at the Olympics this past weekend.

Abas, wrestling in the 55K/121 lbs. classification, was defeated by Russia's Mavlet Batirov in the gold-medal finals, 9-1.

Batirov opened the scoring with a two-point counter crotch lift for a 2-0 lead just 40 seconds into the bout.

He added a single leg takedown for a 3-0 lead. Abas scored his lone point on a fleeing the mat call late in the first period to make it 3-1.

Batirov owned the second period, adding

"I believe he's (Batirov) a really good counter wrestler. I took some pretty good shots at him."
- Stephen Abas

another two-point counter tilt for a 5-1 lead early in the second period.

The Russian athlete added two more takedowns and a one-point gut wrench turn for his final three points and a 9-1 decision.

In 2003, in the World Championships in New York City, Abas had defeated Batirov by a 4-2 margin in the pool competition.

"I feel that this has been a great experience for me," said Abas.

"It's the highest I've placed in a tournament at this level, so I take pride in that. Obviously we all want to

win. It just wasn't my day today. I'll definitely be looking forward to the Olympics in China. I believe he's (Batirov) a really good counter wrestler. I took some pretty good shots at him and I think I could have finished them a little better. But he's pretty good there and was able to throw me over for those points."

Falcons soar over Cuesta

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Shannell McMiller, Faith Malaki, and Kimberly Stolk, sound like the names of killer to you?

Well they are in a way.

McMiller (outside hitter), Malaki (outside hitter), and Stolk (middle blocker) combined for a total of 76 kills to help lead the Falcons to seven victories at the Cuesta Scrimmage pool play.

The pool play was an excellent start to the preseason and Cerritos will be hosting its own scrimmage play on this Wednesday at 2 p.m.

The Cuesta Scrimmage is a preseason volleyball tournament in which the Falcons were defeated only twice, once by Victor Valley and the other to Fresno City. They did manage to defeat: Modesto, Antelope Valley, Cuesta, Ohlone, College of the Canyons, Los Angeles Pierce and Columbia, all by a combined score of 211-140.

In a sport where the purpose is to score 30 points first (needing to win only by two) the Falcons scored at a rate of 1.5 times faster than their losing opponents and won by an average margin of victory of 10.

Also contributing greatly to the victories was freshman Stephanie Crowell who added 81 assists.

Malaki also added six services aces to go with her 31 kills and 43 digs.

Tourney breakdown

OPPONENT	RESULT
W (1-0) Modesto	30-23
W (1-0) Antelope Valley	30-14
W (1-0) Cuesta	30-23
W (1-0) Ohlone	30-11
W (1-0) College of the Canyons	30-23
L (0-1) Victor Valley	26-30
W (1-0) Los Angeles Pierce	31-29
W (1-0) Columbia	30-17
L (0-1) Fresno City	30-32



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