

# TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

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**Sister act  
rocks out at  
local scenes**

See Arts page 6

## ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

- NEW Features: Sudoku & crossword puzzles
- Movie Review: Black Christmas
- CD Review: My Chemical Romance

See talonmarks.com

**Editorial  
King's dream  
gets lost in  
holiday  
see opinion pg 4**

**Lady Falcons  
go overtime  
against LBC**

See Sports page 7

## Cerritos helps develop leaders

STEVEN MARTIN  
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Approximately 60 students took time out of their winter break to learn leadership skills that can help prepare them for life.

During the Leadership Conference held at the Catamaran Resort Hotel from Jan. 3-5, members of the ASCC and other student clubs attended seminars and workshops that taught them tips on how to not only interact with others but to develop leadership skills.

The seminars were hosted by faculty and staff members at Cerritos. Among the speakers were

- Dr. John Madden
- Marcia Chaney
- Dianne Pirtle
- Wayne Stickney-Smith
- Dr. Bryan Reece

See Conference page 3

## CAP receives \$14,000 from Chrysler

FLOR LIZARRAGA  
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Daimler Chrysler recently donated \$14,000 to the Cerritos College Automotive Program, known as CAP, during the month of December and the program is planning on using the money this semester.

Cerritos College has three different sponsors, which are Ford, General Motors and Chrysler.

Students that are currently enrolled join certain groups and those groups belong to these sponsors, which donate money for its training and provide those groups with internships.



"Daimler Chrysler has been a donor since 1998 and (since then) there's about \$75,000 that they have sponsored us with."

- Steven Richardson, Cerritos College Foundation Executive Director

CAP plans to use the new funds to purchase new equipment and to fund future projects, according to Richardson. Cerritos College is the only college in California that offers CAP training to students who are also provided with paid internships. In most cases students are

See Donation page 3

# Will you end up

## Bankrupt?

**There are plenty of places a bachelor's degree can take you, but not if you can't even pay off your credit card bills.**

ROSALI CASTILLO  
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With the new semester underway, only one thing comes to mind: the cost of classes, cost of books and any other added expenses one may encounter throughout the semester.

Yes, the cost for classes did drop, which alleviates some of the cost, but it's not going to make a big difference.

Books are still expensive and by this time all the used books have been sold, so you're stuck buying the new plastic wrapped books that are still on the bookstore shelf.

For those students that do qualify for financial aid, it covers a portion of it if not all of the cost of books.

But what about the students that don't qualify because their parents make too much or they themselves make too much money to qualify for financial aid?

Most of the time they have to pay for tuition and books with their handy dandy credit card.

But that's not the only reason why one uses a credit card.

"I can't work full time, I work part time so I depend on my credit card," Michelle King, liberal arts major, explained on why she needs to use her credit card.

King just transferred to Cal-State L.A., and she explained how big of a difference the cost for classes and books are in comparison when she used to attend Cerritos College.

She explained that in the Cal-State system they don't charge per unit like community colleges do but they break it down into categories, for instance they charge you a certain specific fee if you're taking six or more units and then there's another category for 12 or more units.

"For six or more units, it cost \$1,028," King explained. She also mentioned that the price of books are more expensive as well.

"It's not a big difference maybe \$150 more or less," King added.

She also mentioned that this semester at CSULA she is taking a Women's Studies class, which she found out that the same exact class is offered at Cerritos.

"I wish I would have known, because I would have taken it there (at Cerritos) instead."

However, the cost of a higher education isn't necessarily the reason why students get into debt.

Vanessa Garcia, biology major, can attest to school not being the reason why she used her credit card.

"I used them for make-up, Target stuff, clothes, digital cameras and unnecessary items that I wish I had receipts for so I could return them all," Garcia confesses.

It's not only the credit card companies that offer credit cards, but retail stores offer store credit cards as well.

"When I go shopping I always end up getting a credit card from the store because they (lure me in) with its 10 percent off," Garcia explained on having so many credit cards.

However, she does feel that one needs to be responsible when applying or accepting a credit card.

Garcia added, "I'm a responsible person so I'm not using (credit cards) now that I don't have a job."

See Debt page 3

## Cabinet recruits for two

NORMA PALACIOS  
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Students looking to get involved in student government will have the opportunity to do so. The ASCC currently has vacancies within its government in addition to looking for a replacement for former ASCC Vice President Alex Armendariz after he reached his limit of service last semester.

According to ASCC President Joe Cobarrubio there are currently two vacancies within Cabinet, 17 within Senate and two in Court.

Cobarrubio said there are three reasons for the vacancies:

- Students have transferred to other universities.
- Students work or take other classes.
- Students were not able to meet the requirement for a 2.0 grade point average or failed a class from the previous semester.

Cobarrubio said that he along with returning members will be recruiting during Club Information Day on Jan. 23 in hopes of finding students who are willing to be involved in student government. "I will be out there



"I hope to have a one-on-one conversation with students about what goes on in student government."

- Joe Cobarrubio, ASCC president

See Cabinet page 3

## Downey landmark gets torn down

NORMA PALACIOS  
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Johnie's Broiler, a 1960s landmark was demolished on Jan. 7 and Downey residents expressed outrage over the event that took away a restaurant that has been used for movies and music video shoots according to the Long Beach Press Telegram.

The restaurant, which opened in 1958, was known as Harvey's Broiler named after Harvey Ortner but the name was changed to Johnie's Broiler in 1966 after Smyrniotis purchased it. Legend has it that the restaurant's sign could only fit one "N," thus the unusual spelling of "Johnie."

The lot was being used as a used car dealership since 2002.

Located at 7447 Firestone Blvd.

See Johnie's page 3

ILLUSTRATION BY:  
ERICK GALINDO,  
WERNER GOMEZ &  
JONATHAN SANCHEZ

Garcia also mentioned that having a credit card is both good and bad.

"They're good because they build your credit but (you need to learn to) keep up with your payments," she suggested.

And her reason for credit cards being bad is that they are addicting and it's "easy money" as well.

Another reason why the credit cards are bad is because the interest



## Senate recruiting for replacements

NORMA PALACIOS  
News Editor  
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Twelve out of 32 Senate seats were filled during the first Senate meeting of the semester last Wednesday.

Also, returning members discussed ways to recruit students to fill the remaining seats.

In addition, ASCC President Joe Cobarrubio must appoint and the Senate approve a candidate who will be replacing former ASCC Vice President Alex Armendariz who stepped down last semester after he maxed out his six semesters of service.

Holly Bogdanovich, director of student activities, said she hopes that those who have returned to the ASCC will encourage other students to pick up an application.

"I hope that (they) will encourage students to volunteer their time to the (ASCC)," she said.

Currently there are two vacancies in Cabinet and one vacancy in Court with the addition to the appointment of the ASCC Chief Justice.

One student who was looking to join Court is Joella Brizuela, sports medicine major.

She said that although she is a newcomer to student government she decided to apply because she hopes to develop leadership skills.

"When I attended the ASCC Leadership Conference on Jan. 3-5 I got the sense that Cerritos has a great faculty and a good spirit."

As for returning members in the Senate, they say that though there was a low turnout for the meeting itself and 17 vacancies will be an effort amongst all the members to encourage students to know why and how student government works.

Senator Ray Gonzalez said that those who have thought about joining student government should do so.

"What he or she will gain is leadership experience," he said, "and during Club Information Day on Jan. 23 there will be information available to those interested."

President Pro-Tem Jorge Ramirez said that he too hoped for new faces, or as he put it, "It's all about recruit, recruit, recruit!"

For Senator Jaime Sandoval it was more than just gaining leadership skills during a student's tenure on student government.

"That person will have to adjust their schedule to be involved with either the Cabinet, Senate or Court."

However, Mario Torres, psychology major, who applied to be in Senate, said that he looks forward to being appointed at Wednesday's Senate meeting.

He said that he too hopes that students will be interested in joining the ASCC. "I'm excited that I will have the opportunity to be a part of student government," he said.

## Students exchange ID's for burgers



Fast food: Dean Acklan, coordinator of student activities watches as an unidentified In-and-Out worker passes a box of burgers and potato chips to a student.

OSCAR CATZIN  
Arts Editor  
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Students were welcomed back to campus on Tuesday night and Thursday morning last week by the In-and-Out truck and the free cheeseburgers given out to those with a yellow sticker and current IDs.

"A beautiful way to start the new semester," is the way Rachel Greer, theater arts major, described the event that was organized by the ASCC.

Tiffany Tolliver, undecided major, agreed that it was a very nice way to welcome the students. "This

is my first year here at Cerritos College and I really enjoy the activities."

Holly Bogdanovich, director of student activities, said that the purpose of these events is not only to welcome the students to a new semester but it's also a way of thanking them for paying for their classes and getting their new student IDs.

Those who didn't have a current ID sticker were sent by Student Activities Clerk Trudy Foster to the Student Center to get a new sticker or take an ID photo.

The new ID's function was not only to get a free cheeseburger with a drink and chips but it is also necessary to check out books at the li-

brary and can also get student discounts at other places, such as the movie theaters.

Mark Hugen, math instructor, said the event was a great idea and added, "Although the lines are really long, the students appreciate it and get to socialize amongst themselves; plus everyone likes free food!"

Sean Escalante, film major, agreed with Hugen, "The free meal is great, the weather is nice, you get to relax and socialize with a lot of people during welcome week. I like it a lot!"

However, food is not the only thing the students enjoyed during these events.

Irma Jimenez, undecided ma-

ior said, "I like the way these events motivate people to come to school. I think they're really cool and the DJ is a good thing to have because everyone enjoys all kinds of music."

At the same time, the Associated Students of Cerritos College were passing out "Show Pride In Our Campus" contracts to get students more involved in the events and activities that take place on campus.

Donna Lee, physical therapy major, said that Cerritos' welcome back day is a lot better than the other campuses she's been to.

Anthony Takij, computer graphic design major said, "It's a nice thing to look forward to every semester for the students."



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# Debt: Being college students can become costly if one isn't spending wisely

Continued from page 1

on the account is always rising. And, if you don't pay more than the minimum or don't pay it off right away you end up paying double for those books or that make-up that you bought.

Experian, the credit-reporting agency, did an analysis for USA TODAY showing that two-thirds of people in their twenties do have some debt and half of them have stopped paying their bills.

And when card holders stop paying their bills for a certain amount of time the lenders or credit card companies sell the debt to collection agencies and that's when the phone calls start.

Carol Sandoval, liberal studies major, believes that the reason so many young adults get into debt is because they spend foolishly and they buy what they want instead of what they need.

Sandoval, like King just recently transferred to a four-year college as well and she does agree that the cost of tuition is a lot more expensive as well, but once again if you qualify for financial aid the tuition is covered for the most part.

She also mentioned that student loans are offered at the universities as well, but the difference between loans and financial aid is that the loans you have to pay back.

Many of the school loans allow students to pay after you graduate from the school, but the amount can continue to rise depending on how many loans you take out per semester.

So by the time college students graduate with whatever type of de-

gree they wanted to earn, they end up being thousands of dollars in debt.

According to end-your-debt.com the average student debt is \$3,000.

But in all reality, who is the bad guy? Is it the credit card companies or the people using the cards?

On one hand the credit card companies do tend to send out approval letters or call houses once a person turns 18 and the companies give them a card without question.

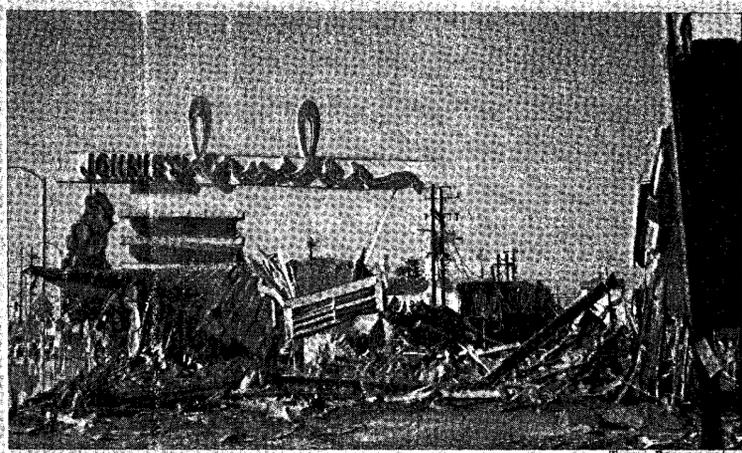
What the companies forget to explain to the cardholders especially the young adults is the annual percentage rate and the fees that one will be charged if the bill is late or if they get a cash advance.

Their defense in these cases is that they send you material to read so you can better understand the way the card works.

But in the young adults defense, these companies know that they won't sit and read the entire booklet that is mailed to them along with the credit card.

However, no one tells these cardholders to use their credit cards when shopping.

Sandoval's advice is to "be realistic and get your priorities straight and spend only what is within your budget."



**Destruction:** This sign is what's left of Johnnie's Broiler in the city of Downey. The historic landmark was torn down on Jan. 7 without notice. Residents express anger toward the demolition and feel it has ruin the city.

## Johnnie's: Angry reaction not only in Downey but here at Cerritos too

Continued from page 1

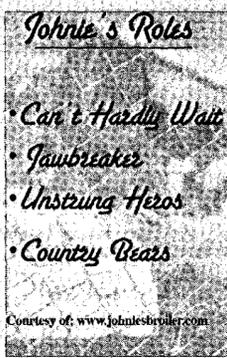
in Downey the restaurant had made a locale for movie sets and music videos.

In addition, the restaurant was also featured in an episode of the television series the X-Files.

Franky Mendoza, mechanics major, said that he was unaware that the restaurant was torn down. "My dad and I used to go there all the time," he said, "but we liked to see the car shows that were held there."

He said now that he is aware that the restaurant is longer at its location he said that he would read up on it.

Michelle Podany, manager of the Elbow Room, said "my sister and I used to go the restaurant all the time," she said because she lived in Belf at the time." She added, "The city should be ashamed."



## Donation: New utilities for better cars

Continued from page 1

guaranteed with a job as soon as they obtain their degree with the company were they have been obtaining their experience, as former Cerritos student Brendon Fimples

said. "I feel great knowing that there are big organizations helping us out and giving us more encouragement," Richardson commented.

Share Odgers, automotive field major, is part of CAP and said he enjoys being part of the program and added, "The \$14,000 will help us buy better equipment and other basic things that we need in the shop."

Cerritos College has created a capital campaign were it has created a unique alliance between the automotive industry, a two year community college and a four year private university that will encourage other industries to do the same as published in a pamphlet that the automotive department is starting to hand out.

Northwood University is the other half to this new proposition, technology said, "It was an interesting experience and a way to meet new people."

One of the more highly regarded speakers among some students was Chaney, who hosted a seminar entitled "True Colors". The seminar was described as a fun and easy method to match your personality and career.

"She told us that whatever good qualities we have, we should nurture them and that way it will

## Cabinet: President hopeful students will join after club info day

Continued from page 1

in Falcon Square," he said, "and hope to have a one-on-one conversation with students about what goes on in student government."

"Most of all, I look forward to meeting new faces within the ASCC," he concluded.

Applications are available in the Student Activities office.

Students have different points of view about being involved in student government.

Brenda Quiroga, undecided major, said that although she wasn't involved in student government while attending Bellflower High School, at least knowing what is going on within the campus is a good idea.

"I would be involved in student government if I didn't have my classes to worry about," she said.

Being a newcomer to Cerritos, Quiroga said that there are no issues that concern her at the moment.

However, Linda Badan, school counseling major, had a different point of view saying that whether someone is involved in student politics or involved in American politics that to her, it's corrupted.

which is a traditional four-year private institution, based in Michigan.

Richardson also mentioned that next semester they are looking forward for the expansion of the automotive department.

He assured that the following years are very promising and some buildings are going to be brought down like the Foundation office where his office is currently located in.

draw people toward us," said Joella Brizuela, sports medicine major.

Jorge Ramirez, president pro tem, also attended the conference and said, "I learned more communication skills (such as) how to have more open discussions with different people."

This had been his second time attending and added that though some of the topics were the same as before, the difference was the speakers.

"I learned how to treat other people and make them feel comfortable," he continued, "but overall, I learned a lot and I got to meet new people."

Another highly regarded speaker among the attendees was Mike Mc. Pherson, health instructor.

"He told us to keep in contact with everyone you meet because you might need them in the future," Alvarez said.

Wayne Stickney-Smith gave examples on how to build a better work environment.

He gave specific examples and information in his seminar entitled "The Art of Possibility-Staying Present to a Perfect Life"

Brizuela favorite seminar was taught by Dr. Madden and was entitled "Finding Leader in You".

She said that she liked it because he was easy to understand.

"One of the things he said was that in order to be a good leader, you have to be a good follower," she said. "Being a leader is not always about being on top, it's about serving and sharing your heart with others."

This semester she has applied to be a member of the ASCC Court and hopes to win.

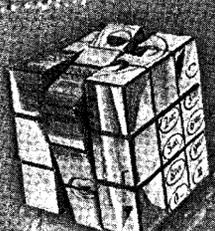
She also added that the conference has helped her grow as a leader and hopes to impart those qualities when she gets the position on the court.

"I've learned to be more of an initiator when dealing with people," she said. "Also to network more with others."

It was her first time going and said she enjoyed the quality of speakers and the teamwork excercises.

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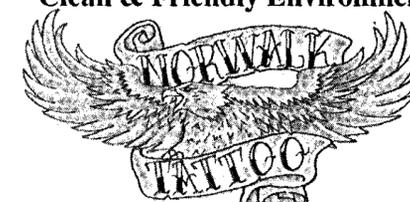
# REPORTING

## Conference: Leadership gets taught by Cerritos faculty

Continued from page 1

Alexander Alvarez, assistant commissioner of information and

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## EDITORIAL

# A universal dream long forgotten

Another holiday in celebration of the great philosopher and teacher Dr. Martin Luther King has passed, but our generation has forgotten about the ideas that he dedicated his life to.

More than 40 years after his famous "I Have A Dream" speech, can we as a society honestly say that we have imparted his dream into our every day life?

While there has been much progress made, such as the ability of racial minorities to own houses and businesses, there is still a dire need for improvement.

There are ways that we as students can keep the dream of Dr. King's alive. But the initiation must start within ourselves. King was proof that one man can change the way people think and see society.

Members of this generation need to look back and reconsider what King's mission was. Part of it was about uniting people of all ethnicities and races for a better society.

It also must start with education. So many people of this current generation are unaware of his legacy. We must teach ourselves and impart his teachings of non-violence, equality for all and living for a cause greater than ourselves into our lives.

On a local level, many things can and have been done. Another of King's vision was equality among different types of people.

One such example was last Nov. when the Students for Social Justice Club sponsored an event that brought together several clubs which was called Spoken Word.

More groups need to follow the example set and congregate with each other often. There are over 20 different clubs, many based on the differences with each other such as the BSU, MEChA and Pacific Islanders Club,

among others. While it is important that we recognize these differences, there is no better way to impart King's teachings than for these groups and others to unite and discuss social issues and initiate change.

Even the student government can play a part. Though the ASCC's current Show Pride In Your Campus campaign is mostly about the up keeping of the campus grounds, what better way to really show campus pride than having unity amongst all races?

A way ASCC can show campus pride is by holding events in which not only all the clubs can participate in but the students as well.

It is true that there are events such as Homecoming where all clubs are invited to participate in building a float and the upcoming Hoe Down Days event that takes place every Spring semester.

Those are great events but events like Spoken Word, where clubs showed up because they wanted to express themselves peacefully and creatively, provide a more unified environment.

We can also keep his dream alive by speaking out against wrong and injustice any and everywhere. Simple things such as demonstrations, letters to congress people can show that this generation is not apathetic and will not sit idle while the world passes us by.

This current generation must never forget the legacy of not only King but of those who were by his side and fought for change.

Once we put King's words into action, we will be able to see his dream come into fruition.



ILLUSTRATION BY AXAYACATL NEVAREZ



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 FA 42 or contact the editor by e-mail at editor@talonmarks.com.

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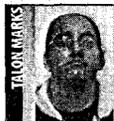


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## Feud brings on higher ratings

Public displays of affection aired on television for the entire world to 'View'



**Norma Palacios**  
News Editor  
news@talonmarks.com

I don't know about you but this feud between Rosie O'Donnell and Donald Trump has gone beyond childish; as a matter of fact these two should be married to each other instead of to the people that they are currently with.

On one side you have Rosie O'Donnell, the former talk-show queen who came out as a lesbian after revealing she was in a relationship with her partner Kellie O'Donnell in 2003.

However, if I remember correctly O'Donnell once said that she would never again host a talk-show.

That all changed once Barbara Walters called and offered her money to fill in the void left by former "View" co-host Meredith Vieira.

Now that she is back on the air, from the first

the time she opens her mouth until the "View" ends it's no wonder she is better off, off camera.

As much as she has gone after Trump for his defense of Miss USA winner Tara Conner's alleged under age drinking incident last year, from the way Trump looks on screen, both should be married at this point.

Or should I say both are madly in love with each other. It sounds crazy, but it's true!

During her tirade about Trump's three failed marriages and infidelity and him coming to the defense of someone who is not perfect by any means O'Donnell can't seriously tell me that she has been perfect all her life.

How could she? Celebrities have pasts that they would like to forget but they can't... doesn't

the name Hugh Grant ring a bell?

I'm sure that he will not forget how much damage control he had to deal with after being caught with a hooker.

How about actor Brad Renfro being arrested by the LAPD after being caught trying to buy drugs from an undercover cop last year?

Every single person who has been or is famous has done something wrong and evidently O'Donnell is too much of an egoist to realize that.

Trump himself hasn't been perfect either, just as O'Donnell mentioned with his three failed marriages, I'm sure there is a reason for her to bring it up.

Don't tell me that she's interested in him. It is a possibility.

Why not? Look at the both of them, successful on television with Trump's sixth season of "The Apprentice" and O'Donnell on the "View" and both have too much money with an ego on the side.

A perfect match. A perfect marriage. Since O'Donnell began to attack Trump and the endless back and forth with Trump threatening to sue O'Donnell for slander I would say that the two of them are already married but I'm just waiting to see who will say, "You're Fired!" first.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK



**CHAVEZ TAKES ON THIRD TERM PRESIDENCY**

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez declared at his inauguration ceremony that socialism, not capitalism, is the economic and social solution for not only Venezuela, but the world.

"Fatherland socialism or death, I swear it; I swear it by Christ, the greatest socialist history."

Chavez ended his inaugural speech with one of Cuba's Fidel Castro's signature phrases

"Socialism or death, we shall prevail."

## How does your financial status affect your college experience?

COMPILED BY: OSCAR CATZIN  
PHOTOS BY: OSCAR CATZIN



**ISABEL DAVILA**  
theater major  
"It has affected me greatly because the more financially stable I am the more classes I can take."



**JOHN CHWEYA**  
psychology major  
"My economic status has been a benefit. I don't have the money but I've been able to get fee waivers and that has helped me a lot."



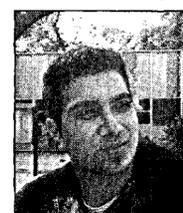
**NICOLE KECKEISEN**  
nursing major  
"My parents make too much money and because of that I don't qualify for financial aid, but I have a job and that helps me to pay for my classes."



**TK MONZON**  
biology major  
"It makes it longer depending on the units that you have to take. If you don't have the money to take the class then you have to wait until you're able to pay for the units."



**YVONNE MIRANDA**  
psychology / philosophy major  
"It doesn't really affect me because my parents pay for my school."



**ZOHAIB MOLVI**  
business major  
"My parents help me out so I don't have any bills. I don't have to pay for rent, I only have to pay for school and whenever I need financial help my dad always loans me money."

# U.S. makes a left turn

Social problems are growing every year, but the Leftists seem to have the answer



poor widens every year, why not seek other ways to solve this problem other than the capitalist route. Capitalism has not reduced poverty, but spread it relentlessly throughout the world. Rather than spreading the wealth, capitalism has actually concentrated wealth in fewer hands.

Trouble seems to be brewing for the U.S., the trans-national corporations and the wealthiest of the World.

The Left is making a long overdue comeback in Latin America.

The thing which amazes and gives hope is the overwhelming support amongst the people of Latin America for the radical changes in their respective countries.

It seems that after 500-plus years of foreign domination, the people as one are rising up and shouting, "Ya basta!"

The slogan that came from Mexico's Subcomandante Marcos, which in English means "That's enough!"

After nearly two decades, it appears the Cuban people will no longer have to defy the U.S. alone.

At the head of the Left pact is Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez; who in the eyes of the U.S. government is the anti-Christ.

Recent allies who have been added to this growing trend are Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, the San-

dinista leader which was ousted out as president in 1990 after 10 years of U.S. backed terrorism against his government.

Bolivia's Evo Morales has taken great revolutionary measures to help the welfare of his people and not a small group of European foreign investors.

After nationalizing Bolivia's energy industry, Morales is now aiming at nationalizing its mining industry. And rightly so, shouldn't the great profits made from these natural resources be used for the Bolivian people?

Rafael Correa of Ecuador is another valuable addition to the growing Leftist block in Latin America.

Correa has vowed to pay Ecuador's \$33 billion debt to the International Monetary Fund and then withdraw from this repressive, capitalist institution.

The IMF is known for supporting military dictatorships in favor of profits and investments into the "Market."

As the gap between rich and

"Invasion of private property," and "everything will be controlled by a few radicals," cry opponents to the Left movement in Latin America.

But "private property" already does not exist for the majority of people, so what do we have to lose?

The Left does not take away property; it merely changes the nature of it, where it becomes social and not excessive.

And everything is already in the hands of a few radicals. In the U.S., the top five-percent individuals own nearly 60 percent of the wealth while the bottom 50-percent own a mere two-percent.

Democracy has many routes. It appears that we Americans have been going down the wrong street for too long.

Maybe we should turn around and join our brothers and sisters in Latin America; they seem to be heading the right way.

# Resolutions are hard to keep

No matter how hard we try keeping our commitments, we just can't do it



contemplate them throughout the next twelve months.

This may actually be the key to success.

The only way a new year's resolution will ever get accomplished is if we commit to do it when we conceive it, not when we give it an allotted time to be completed.

We all have a life, that's for sure, so having time is probably questionable. But besides that, the one thing many of us lack is motivation.

Maybe it's not so much a lack of motivation, but the determination to actually do something about our goals and not just lust about the accomplishment.

We all want the dream job, dream body, dream house and ultimately the dream life.

The only thing holding us back is the fact that we let ourselves think that we have plenty of time to complete it, in this case, 52 weeks.

One major flaw to that is, "next Monday" never comes.

For the New Year, take on your resolutions early, or don't even name them "resolutions" but rather "survival acts" because after all, many of us have threatened to kill ourselves if we don't finally go skydiving this summer.

Just when I started getting used to writing "06" on everything, 2007 slaps me in the face.

The new year has already started and yet again I'm without a reasonable "resolution."

Every year it seems like the days fly by faster than I'm able to recognize what day of the week it is.

Not only that, but I've noticed that each day is exactly like the one before.

That being said, all I'm left with is wondering why I keep telling myself that I'll finally start my exercise plan "next Monday" or that this next peanut butter cup is my last.

If all this sounds a bit too familiar, it's because it's very common for people to commit to a life-goal for the year and not fulfill it.

Actually, it's so common that the media has developed a whole new line of advertising directed at those individuals who lack that much-needed "push."

Anywhere from fitness centers to recreational parks, companies know that the only way they can motivate you to fulfill your "goals" is by showing you images of the results you desire.

What a great marketing technique, right? Just hit us where it hurts and we'll budge.

A few days after the ball dropped, everyone started sharing their "New Year's Resolution" to label what their goal for the year was.

In fact, I even started to ask people myself and I'd hear the common responses: lose weight, get a better job, give up being single, buy a new car and go on a cruise.

Sure these are good resolutions; actually, they're some I've had in mind as well, but how many of us actually ever get them completed?

I have a friend who says that she doesn't believe in making a resolution for the new year because the goals she has in mind are the ones she accomplishes rather than just

# Choosing the veggie life

Do you ever feel like your appetite doesn't have a heart? Ever stop to think about the cruelty animals encounter in order to fill up a person's stomach?

Everyday millions of animals are being murdered in slaughterhouses throughout the country.

Innocent animals have no voice to put an end to this unjust system of mass genocide.

Millions of people always seem to disregard the fact that animals are innocent creatures with no voice to protect them from being caged, drugged and killed.

Eating meat is wrong because it is an unfair system that the government controls without any remorse.

Animals are being mistreated by being placed in small cages in uninhabitable conditions.

Chicken's beaks are being clipped off with no anesthesia and piglets are sliced off and left to bleed.



after extensive research with my biology professor by attending seminars, reading books and watching videos.

It was then that I discovered how the meat got on my plate. I thought it was unfair and had no cravings or desire to ever eat meat again.

Adjusting to the vegetarian lifestyle was very easy and I found that there were numerous alternatives to eating healthy as well as being fair to the animals.

I feel I am now doing my part for the environment. I am not trying to persuade people into changing their habits but merely enlighten them on what they're eating.

I would like people to be more educated on the conditions animals are placed in just so people can have meat on their plates.

I want people to be educated so they can make educated choices.

Meat carries more bacteria and antibiotics that can cause health issues such as heart disease and diabetes.

Multiple medications and steroids are placed into the animals' food which then people consume.

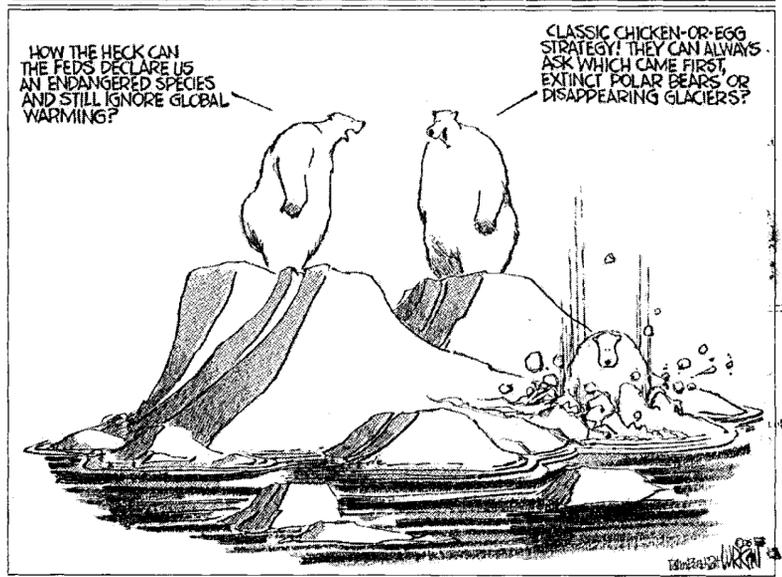
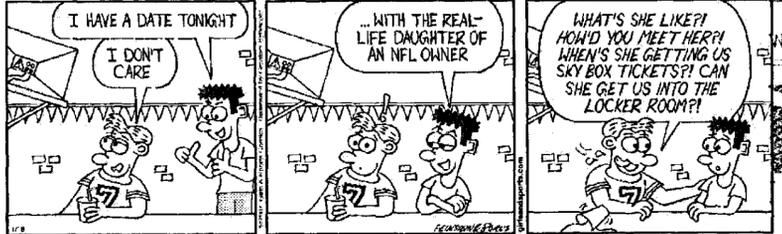
Cows are hung by their feet and are sliced right down the center of their stomachs. Dead chickens are left to rot in cages while other chickens are left to watch.

This way of life is unfair to animals and dangerous for humans.

My sophomore year of high school was the year that changed my eating habits forever.

I chose the vegetarian lifestyle

## GIRLS AND SPORTS



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## Music sounds 'Pristine' in their house

NORMA PALACIOS  
News Editor  
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Creating music among family can sometimes cause sibling rivalry. However, when The Pristines create the music that inspires them both say that sibling rivalry takes a back seat.

Daisy Salas, 19, Long Beach City College student, said that she and her sister have been playing music for seven years that the idea of starting a band was just a thought.

### Humble Beginnings

However, when her sister Jamie, 22, drummer, Cerritos student and psychology major, got a drum set, she was just messing around on the drum set when the elder Salas said, "Want to start a band?" The other said "Why not?"

The younger Salas first learned to play the guitar in the 7th grade.

Music has had an influence on the elder Salas as well. At the age of 10 she played the accordion until the age of 15. However, both said they taught themselves how to play their individual instruments.

### Unique Sound

In trying to describe the music both say that it is hard to explain because there is no way to categorize it. When it comes to the songs that they perform the younger Salas said that she doesn't write anything down.

"I memorize the lyrics even if the lyrics don't make sense," she explained, "and (sometimes when) I'm performing them I add more lyrics to the song."

When the duo performed for the first time both said that there was a question of whether or not they would make it in the music industry.

Despite the comment about them not "making it" in the music industry, the sisters decided to keep their heads up.

Within that first performance, they felt there was a negative perception about the fact that they



**Ahh-capella:** Daisy Salas, lead singer and guitarist for "The Pristines," band comprised of sister duo-team Jamie and Daisy Salas, yells out the lyrics to their newest song without the help of a microphone. The release of their yet to be named summer album will be available around summer 2008, the first of the duo's musical endeavours.

JONATHAN SANCHEZ/TM

were a "chick band" comprised of young women.

"Those in the audience called us 'chicks,'" the elder Salas said, "but there was also a standard that we should have men in the band."

In addition, she explained that those who have come to see them perform were also trying to figure out which band they sounded like.

"Some people would say that we sound like a cross between Bikini Kill and No Doubt," she continued, "but it is more about how the music itself and how (it) inspires you."

### Campus Support

One of the clubs that has supported them is the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance.

Last November the FMLA held a promotional concert for its club that featured Chronic Melancholy

and The Pristines. Aside from performing at Cerritos the duo has previously performed at Cal State Fullerton and Cafe Kashmir in South Gate.

### Upcoming Gigs

Next month they will be performing at the Ir Corral on Feb. 12, the Good Hunt on Feb. 15 and Anarchy Library on Feb. 16.

Currently, the group is hard at work on its yet-to-be titled album due out sometime mid-year.

Friends who have known The Pristines like Jonathan Mota, English major, and who first met them when they went to El Rancho High School said that what they do musically is terrific.

He said that both have a way of interacting with each other and that what's great about The Pristines is that they can inspire but also be who they are.

"For me it's the fact that both Salas' are sisters," he commented, "and the band's (songs) are very good."

Matthew Zabala, English major, agreed. Although some of the music could shock audiences it is the fact that the band can be open that he sees as great.

### Sisterly Love

Nicole Bernal, English major, who has seen the band perform three times says that it is refreshing to see sisters perform because you don't see sisters who get along that often.

To have a club like FMLA be supportive of their music, the sisters are grateful to all the members within the club.

For more information on their upcoming shows visit <http://www.myspace.com/pristines>

## Musical 'Dreams' of success at Globes

ROSALI CASTILLO  
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It has been a few years since an outstanding musical had been made and "Dreamgirls" is by far one of the greatest musicals of our time.

What made this movie really good was not only the very talented cast which included Beyoncé Knowles, Jamie Foxx, Eddie Murphy and Jennifer Hudson but the plot was great as well.

The chemistry the cast had with one another made this movie work.

The movie is loosely based on the rise of Diana Ross and the Supremes.

Effie, played by Hudson (former contestant of "American Idol"), was the lead singer of the group while Knowles, who played Deena, was one of the back up singers along with Anika Noni Rose who played Lorrell.

This film takes place in the 60's and 70's, and it depicts the corruption that took place in order to make it big in the music industry.

The Dreamettes get caught up in this unknowingly when they run into Curtis Taylor played by Foxx, who became their manager.

Taylor arranged for the ladies to sing back up for James "Thunder" Early, whom is played by Murphy. Early was a soul singer and liked to sing what he felt.

When the girls join him on tour, his songs become hits.

Then later, Taylor separates Early and the ladies because The Dreamettes get their own headlining tour.

Taylor also changes the name of the group from The Dreamettes into The Dreams, but along with the name change he makes Deena the lead singer and Effie as a back up singer.

Effie gets upset not only because she is no longer the lead but because her boyfriend/manager Taylor made the decision.

Hudson's breakthrough performance was absolutely amazing. Her voice was so powerful and it was like you could feel what she was singing. You can feel all the emotions that she was going through as she sang each song.

One of my favorite parts is when Effie sings "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going," because her performance was just so powerful. The emotion she puts into this song was just so overwhelming that you can't help but feel her pain.

This movie keeps your attention because the plot takes unexpected turns at times yet remains very strong throughout.

The music was so catchy that it makes you want to go and buy the soundtrack. And when listening to the soundtrack it's almost as if you're watching the movie all over again.

Knowles seemed to manage to get into character very well. Throughout the movie you watch all of the ladies grow and Deena (Knowles) develops into a strong and brave woman.

The scene that shows this the most is when she's in the studio singing "Listen," another powerful song. When singing this song she is confronting her husband/manager on all the wrong he had done to her and her friends.

This movie was nominated for five Golden Globes and three of the five where won on Monday night during the telecast.

Hudson took home "best supporting actress in a comedy or musical" well-deserved. She took the spotlight away from Knowles, unintentionally, but in the movie Effie's presence did over power Deena's in each scene.

Murphy won "best supporting actor in a comedy or musical" and lastly Dreamgirls won for "best musical or comedy." Not only do the reviews show how outstanding this movie is but the awards prove it is worth your money to see.



## Dunbar-Ortiz exposes corruption of Nicaragua in "Blood on the Border"

JOHN ACEVEDO  
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The 1980's was a decade never to be forgotten amongst Nicaraguans or anybody else with any sense of indignation.

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz has been an activist most of her life, mainly fighting for Native American rights and indigenous rights in Latin America.

"Blood on the Border" documents her work in Nicaragua in the 1980's, where the U.S. backed and funded a war against the newly established revolutionary government (headed by the Sandinistas) known as the Contra war; short for contrarevolucionario in Spanish which translates to counter-revolutionary.

This book is perfect for anyone interested in the human toll of this war, not just abstract statistics.

Dunbar-Ortiz traveled to the most remote regions in Nicaragua, seeing U.S. missionaries manipulate indigenous communities to rebel against the Sandinistas.

The most dangerous place she visited was the remote Mosquitia region near the Honduran border.

Here is where she experienced the most outright illegal interven-

tion by the CIA; from sabotage and terror training from U.S. mercenaries to CIA relocations of the Miskitu people to U.S. military bases in Honduras.

According to Dunbar-Ortiz, the CIA made believe the indigenous Miskitu's that the Sandinistas were there just to exploit them and strip them or their land.

The contradicting side of this story was that the Sandinistas had just overthrown a brutal U.S. backed dictator in 1979, Anastasio Somoza.

Somoza had already stripped much of the Miskitu's land and was exploiting their labor according to U.S. corporate needs.

Dunbar-Ortiz also recounts her personal encounter with U.S. backed terrorism at an airport in Mexico City. On one of her trips to Nicaragua, the commercial airliner which was to carry a big delegation of human rights activists to Nicaragua was blown up prior to boarding.

Salvadorian CIA agents were suspected, but Dunbar-Ortiz claims that the case was never further investigated or covered in the mainstream media.

Aside from the many atrocities she experienced, she recounts

her many encounters with top and common Sandinista leaders.

She describes top Sandinista leaders such as Comandante's William Ramirez and Tomas Borge as "young, intelligent and charismatic."

She tells of the streets of Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, filled with jubilant young and old people about the prospect of a better Nicaragua. The Sandinistas, according to Dunbar-Ortiz, were the promise of a new and just government.

In order to win the peoples' hearts, the Sandinistas set forth a huge literacy campaign, reaching every corner of the country. The streets were filled with poets and newly established literacy cafes. The poor and the Sandinista guerrillas joined together to rebuild their neighborhoods, not only the physical appearance, but also the essence of the people.

Dunbar-Ortiz's book is filled with hope, indignation and despair; all the necessary elements that make this memoir an interesting read for any history buff.

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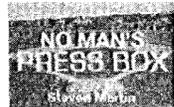
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## Falcons come out on top in O.T.

STEVEN MARTIN  
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In a game that came down to a hard-fought overtime period, five players scored in double figures for the Cerritos College women's basketball team enabling it to defeat division rival Long Beach City College, 84-77 last Friday at The Aviary.

Last year, the Falcons (12-10, 1-0) weren't able to beat the Vikings (10-9) in either game. This time around, the team was able to out-run, out-score and out-defend its opponent.

"It was a really tough battle. Long Beach is a good team and it has a quick backcourt. But this game we were quicker," Cerritos head coach Karen Welliver said.

The two teams will face each other again Feb. 2, this time on Long Beach's campus. After winning its third in a row, the Falcons will try to extend the streak in a travel game against L.A. Harbor College.

For Cerritos, forward Genesis Lewis added 19 points and grabbed a career-high 18 rebounds. Guard LaTrina Payne led the team way with 21 points, five assists and three steals.

About the overall game Lewis said, "We had good intensity and played together as a team."

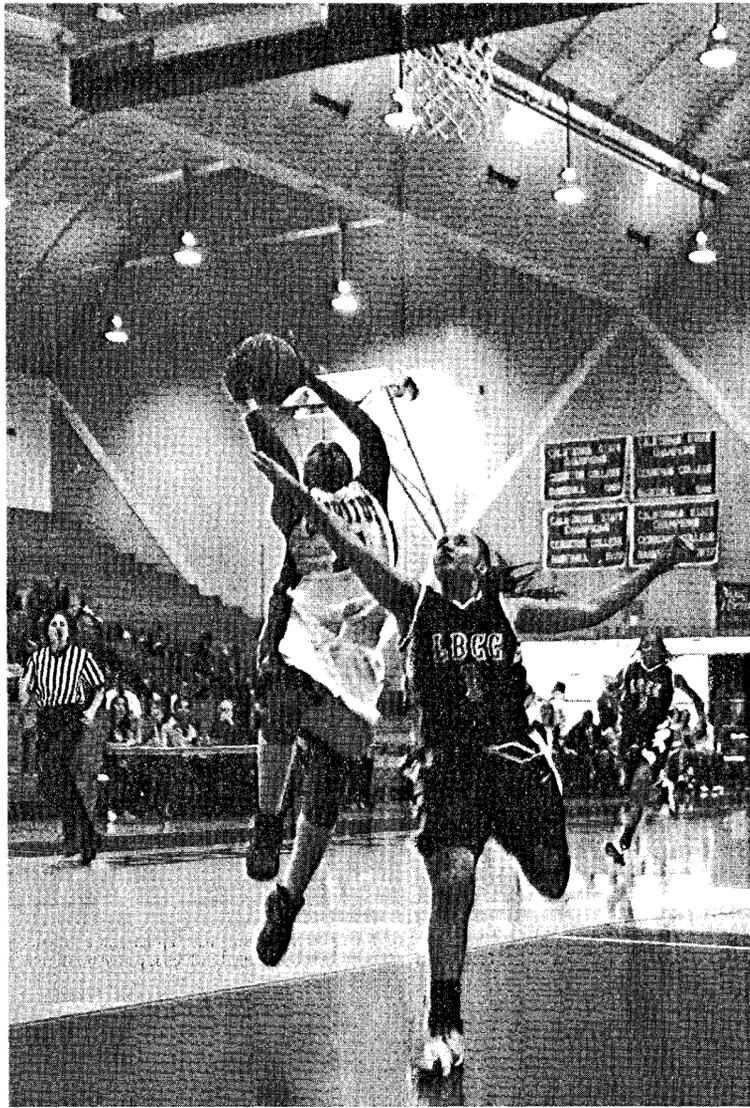
The Falcons led for most of the first half and had a 13-point lead with close to two minutes remaining in the period.

But as the clock ticked away, the Vikings battled back, led by guard Amber Thomas who scored 32 points and added 10 rebounds and five assists. The Vikings took its first lead, 52-50 toward the middle of the second half.

About Thomas, Cerritos forward Jaquita Payne said, "She was a hard one to stop. She may have had good individual numbers, but one person couldn't win it for the whole team."

Both teams traded leads throughout the second half.

During the closing seconds, Lewis paced the ball up court but lost control of it. Two Long Beach players dived for it, but she was able to get the ball to L. Payne who held



Driving Miss Payne: Cerritos guard LaTrina Payne drives past Dijon Franklin of LBCC for two points during last Friday's game. The Falcons won in overtime, 84-77.

RAUL SANDOVAL/TM

on to it until the regulation period expired.

As overtime came, the Falcons were able to keep composure.

"We approached the overtime

period with confidence; we had been in an overtime game already,

so we were prepared for a situation like that," J. Payne said.

Cerritos would strike first in

overtime with L. Payne scoring a three pointer. After the two teams traded points throughout the period, the Vikings started committing

Two free throw shots from forward Shontay Delpit secured the victory for Cerritos.

Players for both teams said that communication was the main difference between winning and losing.

According to Thomas, a lack of communication between players and turning the ball over is what caused the Vikings to lose.

But for the Falcons, communication along with unselfish play is what allowed the team to win.

"This was one of the games where we really stayed together as a team," said forward Tiffany Wilson. "We showed determination by playing together. Everyone shared the ball with each other and looked to the open person."

She contributed 17 points and five assists and J. Payne came off the bench to add 10 points.

Playing in front of a crowd containing fans from both schools gave the players extra motivation.

"The crowd helped out a lot. Most games we play, there aren't enough people (in attendance) to fill up one side (of the bleacher). It was cool to have people support us," Payne said.

Despite the loss, Vikings head coach Trimeka Jackson was pleased with the effort given by the team.

"Anytime you can come from behind and send the game into overtime it can be looked at as a positive. (But) overall, we missed a lot of good opportunities (to win)," she said.

About Cerritos, she added, "(The Falcons) did a great job of being the aggressors, especially during overtime."

"Cerritos is a very good basketball team with very good inside/outside balance. They have 'big guards' that can play on the perimeter as well as inside. Overall, they did everything they needed to do to win."

### Sports Calendar

#### January

19

W. Basketball @ LA Harbor 5:30 pm

M. Basketball @ LA Harbor 7:30 pm

23

M. Tennis vs Southwestern 2:00 pm

W. Tennis @ Irvine Valley 2:00 pm

25

Softball @ Santa Ana (Scrimmage) TBA

26

Baseball vs College of the Canyons 1:00 pm

#### February

M. Track in All Comers Meet (At Cerritos College) 10:00 am

W. Track in All Comers Meet (At Cerritos College) 10:00 am

## Long Beach extends men's basketball slump

TIM DICKERSON  
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An 86-66 loss at the hands of Long Beach City College last Friday night became the Cerritos College basketball team's sixth loss of the season by 20 points or more.

"We just didn't compete as a team. That was the main issue," Coach Gary Cain said, "I know we can play better."

The Falcons (6-15) started the game scoring with ease but had little time to gloat when the Vikings (13-10) bounced back with a couple of three-pointers and some free throw shots.

For a long time, Cerritos stayed right behind Long Beach, leaving them no room to get lazy. However, for the rest of the game, the Falcons would fail to regain the lead.

The gap between both teams' scores became greater and greater as time went on.

Cerritos suffered from quite a few fouls in the first half, which pushed Long Beach into a greater lead with free-throws.

Violations such as traveling and double-dribbling also hurt the team when it would have otherwise scored points.

At halftime, Cerritos still had a chance to bounce back with the score at 36 - 24.

In the second half, the team seemed like it was going to bounce back strong. Scoring some points in the first few minutes, they eventually fell back into their slump.

In the last quarter, it was very likely that Cerritos had lost this one. While Cerritos players messed up on some passes and a slam dunk, Long Beach was stocking up on their three-pointers. At one point, they got four in a row.

Guard Deon Tresvant of LBCC scored eight three-pointers in the second half.

Upon the final minute in the game, the Falcons exploded, scoring eight points. Unfortunately, it was too little, too late as the team went on to lose by 20 points.

Cain says that the next two practices will be more defense-oriented and they will work on making better rebounds.

"We will try to improve with each game [but] anything can happen."

Falcons guard Lawrence Robinson, who contributed 10 points, four rebounds and three assists, left the game on crutches saying he "bumped knees" with another player and couldn't feel his knees afterward.

Forward/guard Matt Richard from Long Beach said, "[We] rebounded (very) well, defended the ball and pressured the guards."

## Soccer awarded for magical season

STEVEN MARTIN  
Managing Editor  
managing@talonmarks.com

Just when the Cerritos College men's soccer team thought its overall season couldn't get any better, the accolades awarded to the team afterward brought on even more excitement.

The heap of praise began on Dec. 9 when the team defeated Taft College by a score of 1-0 at Fresno City College, to win its first state title in school history.

It finished the season with an overall record of 20-3-5 and its championship win placed the team at No. 2 in the country in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America/adidas poll.

As a reward for the team's success, head coach Benny Artiaga was named South Coast Conference Coach of the Year.

He was also named Far Western United States Coach of the Year in the Junior College Division III by the NSCAA/addidas organization and also

"I'm very humbled to receive those awards but honestly I don't feel worthy," Artiaga said. "The players are the ones going out there working and playing."

All that we can do as coaches is to teach them correctly and hope that they apply it."

But despite all of the awards the team has won, Artiaga feels that the



"I'd trade all my accolades for that (national) No. 1 ranking. I felt that we deserved it. We had the edge."

- Coach Benny Artiaga

No. 1 ranking in the country was well deserved by the Falcons.

"I'd trade all of my accolades for that no. 1 ranking," Artiaga said. "I felt that we deserved it, I thought we had the edge. But that doesn't take away from what we accomplished this season."

The Falcons dream season can be attributed to its strong defensive play.

Throughout the season and the playoffs, the team's defense allowed it to win close games.

In the last four playoff games, the team shutout all four opponents and had 10 shutouts in the regular season.

But getting the team to buy into the notion of putting defense first wasn't always easy.

"That was the most difficult part of the season because we have so many good offensive players," he said. "But I told my team that until we start defending, we're just going to be an average team."

Forward Joshua Meyer said, "After we lost the first two games of the rest of the season, (our coaches told us) to clean up our playing by really

connecting defensively and as well offensively."

The defensive style of the team allowed all of the players to contribute defensively.

Many times in soccer, it is the responsibility of certain players to anchor the defense, but for this team, all 12 players on the field made a contribution.

"We were a high-pressed team, effectively, we had a system of pressure coming from the forward, to the mid-middle, to the defense and we were really just disciplined on working that system and pressuring the ball," Meyer said.

The team's defensive play anchored it all the way to the win against Taft College.

"Taft is the type of team where if you give them enough space, they'll score on you," Artiaga said. "(But) we were confident enough defensively to not let them score on us. We went in believing that we were going to bring home the trophy."

Dr. Dan Smith, dean of athletics, notes not only the accomplishments of his soccer team on the field but in the classrooms as well.

"What's most remarkable is academically, he's put his players in positions to go to four-year colleges," he said. "His players not only have great soccer skills, but also great academic accomplishments."

Marcos Pulido, midfielder, was one of the team's leaders and was also selected as an All-American. He also has offers to several Division I colleges including UConn, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Loyola Marymount and UC Irvine.

He said he is leaning toward attending UC Irvine because, "It's close to home and the coach made me feel comfortable with the soccer program."

This year's team is transferring 10 of its 11 second-year players to Division I schools.

"I'm excited about the recruiting coming in."

That's more of an accomplishment than winning state. Universities are coming out and recognizing our student-athletes," Artiaga said. "It's a good thing when you're able to get your students to play at the next level."

\*Additional reporting by Mark Rick

