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Volume 51, No. 10

Falcons lose on home turf

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- Defense Secretary Rumsfeld resigns

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Solution to the energy crisis?

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Skid Row Survivor

CNN's Ron Roberson gives Cerritos students insight on growing up on the streets and making his big break in the news studio.

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CC track gets new shoes

KRISTIN PARKER

Staff Writer

kparker@talonmarks.com

Falcon Stadium continues to undergo a face lift as the Amateur Athletic Foundation gave a \$50,000 grant to Cerritos College last week to help fund the renovation of the college's track and field facility.

The AAF is a private non-profit organization that was endowed with surplus funds from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

The school had to wait six months in order to find out it had received the grant.

Several guidelines had to be met in order for the college to be eligible for the grant.

These guidelines included use of the facility by the community and cost-related criteria, among others.

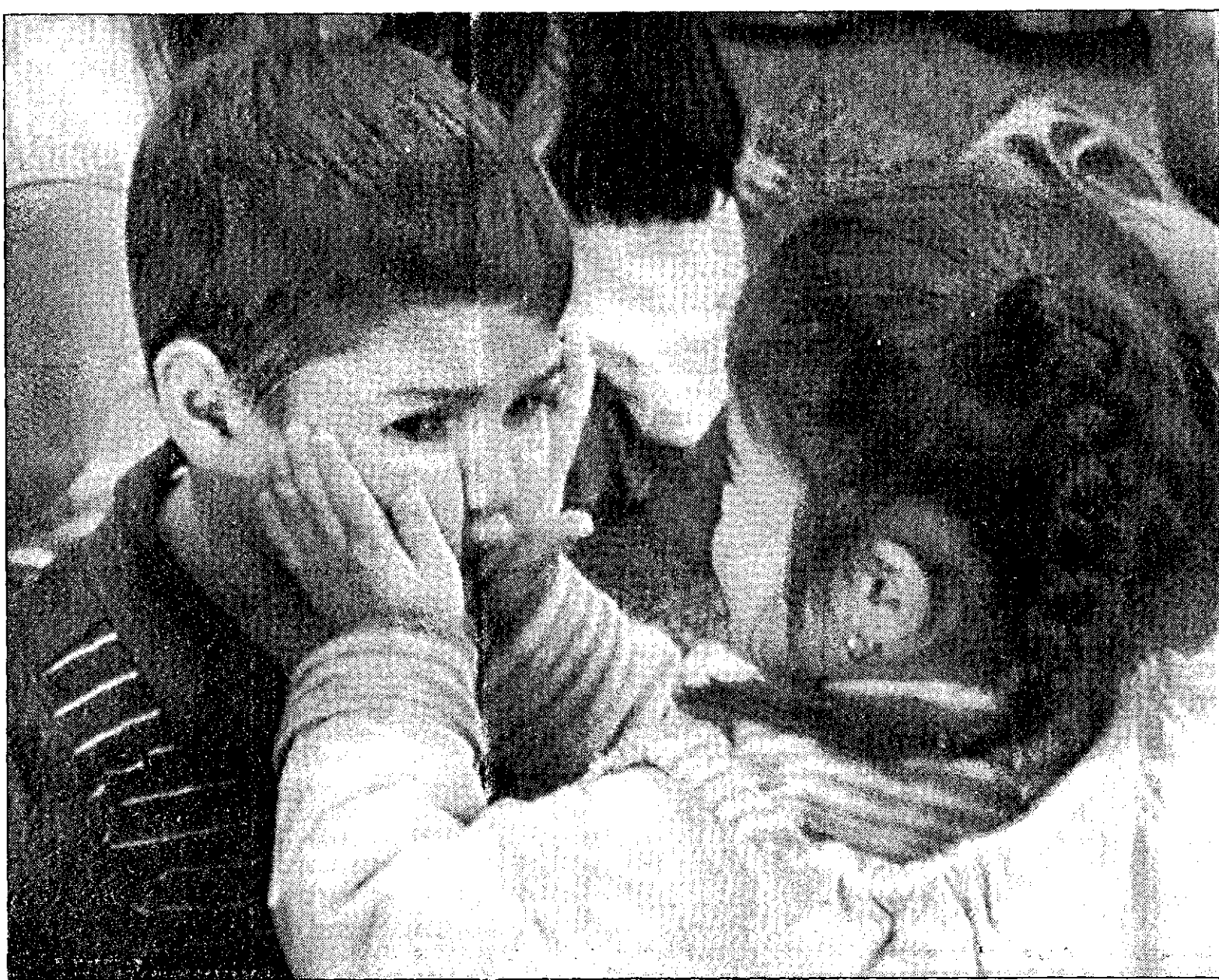
Tabatha Lee, program associate for AAF, said the college met all the criteria needed to qualify for the grant.

"The Board of Directors approved the award based on the fact that a large portion of the funding for the track was already in place and that the facility will be used not only for the college population, but will be open to the community," she said.

Dr. Dan Smith, dean of health, physical education and athletics, said that one of the key stipulations of the grant was that the college had to prove that a large number of youth participants were going to be able to make use of the track as well.

"We have several California

See **Track** page 5



Face time: Two members of the Child Development Center, engage in conversation while their teacher reads to the class. The CDC provides care for children of Cerritos College Students.

The single life: 30 years in the making

While the CDC marks its three-decade run, single parents struggle to be students

ROSALI CASTILLO
NORMA PALACIOS
Online Editor
A&E Editor
editor@talonmarks.com

Like most every other Cerritos College student Crystal Pintado, child development major, wakes up early, gets ready for a long day and drives to school. But then she has an additional step to take.

Pintado is one the many single parents, who drop their children off at the Child Development Center.

As the number of single people outnumber married couples and the amount of single, young parents continues to grow, the CDC provides childcare with priority going to Cerritos College students first.

The childcare center will celebrate 30 years this Friday and in its three decades of service the CDC has never been so busy.

According to www.census.org, 10.4 million American homes are run by a single parent.

And if money is a factor in regards to paying for childcare, CalWorks assists students with payments to the childcare center.

The CDC provides flexible hours and various price ranges. Some children are only there for half a day in the morning because

that's when the children's parent(s) are taking classes, according to Judy Krause, Interim Director of the Child Development Center.

"It's hard to go to school, go to work and be a parent," she added. Yet, Pintado says that there are advantages that come with the disadvantages of being a single parent.

According to Pintado, being a mom provides needed motivation.

The 30-year old mother of two boys ages 2 and 4 said that as she attends school and works she is working toward a better future for the entire family.

"When I began volunteering

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here at the CDC, I had a lot of help," she said, "and I still do with being in the CalWorks, and WIC programs. Coming to Cerritos is not only my school life but also my social life."

She added that she also has received help from her family and emphasized that she contributes within the family with paying rent and paying the bills as well.

On the other side of growing up, there are Cerritos students being raised by a single parent that say that growing up as a kid they saw the struggle that their parent went through to provide them with a better life.

Krystle Cabrea, liberal studies major said that her mother who is

See **CDC** page 3

He's back: Arnold is re-elected in a romp

ERICK GALINDO

Life Editor

egalindo@talonmarks.com

While he's never won an Oscar, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger hasn't lost a gubernatorial election yet.

Much to the chagrin of many Cerritos Students, Schwarzenegger defeated Democrat State Treasurer Phil Angelides in a resounding thumping, Nov. 7, that would have needed nothing short of a Hollywood ending for an Angelides' victory.

Angelides has struggled since the very start of the campaign and was decidedly an underdog throughout.

Omar Robin, business management major, was disappointed at the outcome and felt his vote may have been wasted.

"I'm not too happy because a lot of people didn't vote, but he won and that's legal."

The governor was able to get the endorsement of California Community College Chancellor Mark Drummond despite the fact that

tuition at the CC level jumped from \$11 to \$26 during Schwarzenegger's term, a difference that made some students take fewer classes.

Leah Evangelista, business administration/marketing major, said, "I have had classmates, who would drop (classes) because they couldn't afford to come."

Raquel Guerra, child development major, said, "When I first started to come three years ago, there were more classes, and now, hardly any. If there are more students, there will be more classes."

See **Governor** page 5

THE CATWALK



OSCAR CATZIN/TM

Fashion show: Modeling for Cosmetology's fashion show on Tuesday in the student center, CJ Neal, waits for her turn on the catwalk. Story and additional photos can be found at www.talonmarks.com.

Board fills top spots, Lieutenant Buckowiecki becomes top cop

NORMA PALACIOS
A&E Editor
arts@talonmarks.com

The office of top cop was filled on an interim basis as Lieutenant Richard Buckowiecki got to become his own chief at the Oct. 18 Board of Trustees meeting.

Four other management positions were filled by the appointment of the Board.

"We are very fortunate to attract individuals of such a high caliber," said Cerritos College President Dr. Noelia Vela. "Their unique talents allow us to continue to work toward excellence in everything we do."

The five management positions filled were:

- Interim Chief of Campus Police Richard Bukowiecki
- Director of Research and Planning Dr. Nathan Durdella
- Coordinator of CalWorks Norma C. Rodriguez
- Director of Community Education Patricia Robins Smith
- Director of Public and Governmental Affairs Mark L. Wallace

Bukowiecki had been serving as interim chief and has served as lieutenant for the past 11 years. He has been with the Cerritos campus police since 1988 and he will now be a full-time employee overseeing the college grounds, police reports and investigation follow-up.

Durdella has been at Cerritos for two and a half years and with his hiring as director of research and planning, Durdella said that he was "privileged but there is a dynamic team of students, faculty and staff."

He holds a doctorate in higher education and organizational change from UCLA, where his research projects included evaluation theory, veterans in higher education, and Latin American higher education systems. Durdella also holds a master's degree in education, a master's degree in Latin American studies, and a bachelor's degree in sociology, all from UCLA.

He explained that his department handles data requests and program reviews for each department.

In addition, Durdella explained that there is a "state, and federal student accountability process that finds out how the programs are presented and formatted."

He said he looked forward to a long-term working

See **Board** page 5

Fall Awards coming for Cerritos students

STEVEN MARTIN

News Editor

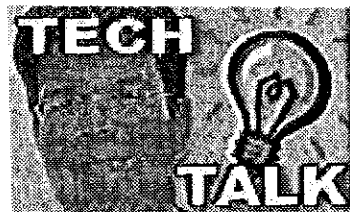
news@talonmarks.com

The applications are in, judgments are being made and some of you will win a "Falcon."

With the end of the fall semester, the ASCC's bi-annual Falcon Awards, given in recognition of students that are involved in school and community activities, will be handed out during the annual Fall Awards Banquet Dec. 8.

Those nominated will receive notification in the mail and can pick up their tickets starting Nov. 27 and must be picked up by Dec. 5.

See **Banquet** page 3



Math, MySpace baffle Senators

NORMA PALACIOS
A&E Editor
arts@talonmarks.com

Senator Alyssa Huerta was appointed as Faculty-Senate Liaison last Wednesday during the ASCC Senate meeting.

Also, concerns over MySpace continued to be addressed and the Senate discussed the confusion over math courses and which classes are semi-independent and lecture.

Huerta replaces former Senate Liaison Natasha Sabouhi who missed two consecutive Senate meetings.

According to ASCC Vice President Alex Armendariz, Sabouhi will not be eligible to run for student office next year.

At the time of her appointment, Sabouhi expressed that she was "excited to be Senate Liaison and I look forward to attending the Faculty Senate meetings."

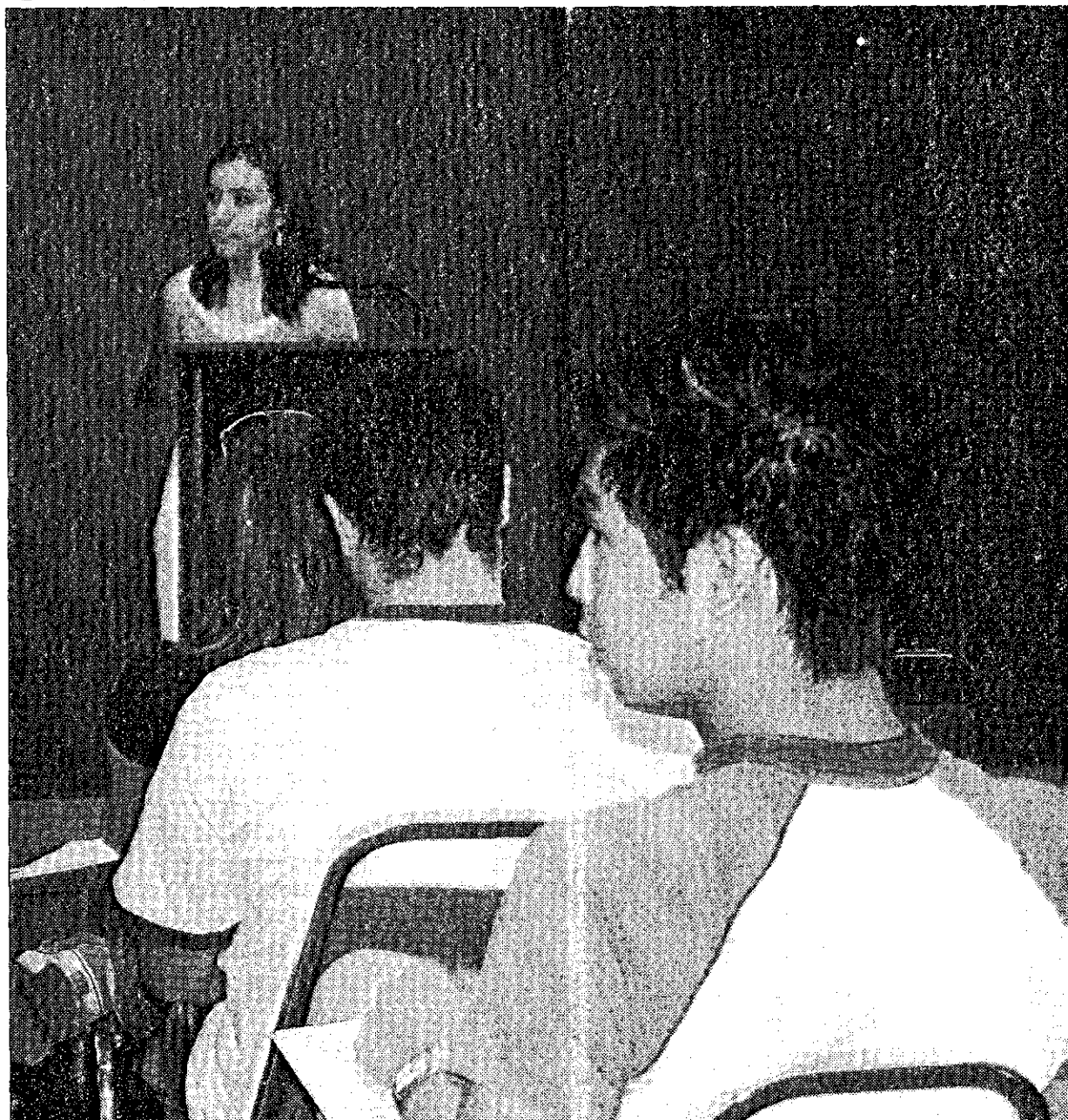
Neither Sabouhi or Huerta could not be reached for comment.

Following the appointment of Huerta, MySpace was once again a point of interest as senators wanted to know what was being done to prevent students from accessing social Web sites such as MySpace and Friendster.

Senator Paul Manuel said that he had seen students accessing not only MySpace, but also YouTube as well as pornographic material.

Senate Clerk Mario San Juan, who works in the computer lab and library, interjected saying, "As of right now, the lab technicians have tried to ask students to not be on MySpace."

"The lab techs only ask students to log off when they have been caught on MySpace," he continued, "and students who are caught ac-



NORMA PALACIOS/TM

Whipped: Ariadna Sanchez, party whip, answers a question regarding her report as senators including Senator Gonzalo Tapia listens during the ASCC Senate meeting last Wednesday.

cessing inappropriate Web sites are not allowed internet access for the rest of the day."

Armendariz commented that Commissioner of Information

Technology Jason Macias was looking into the possibility of filtering the Internet.

On Oct. 30 however Macias said that the possibility of filtering the In-

ternet was "up in the air" because he hadn't gotten confirmation to do so from Dean of the Library and Learning Resource Center John McGinnis.

Cabinet contacts local politicians

NORMA PALACIOS
A&E Editor
arts@talonmarks.com

Michael Barrita, commissioner of external affairs, continued his plans to distribute a list of phone numbers to students so they can contact their elected representative, at the ASCC Cabinet meeting on Monday.

He announced his plan at the previous Cabinet meeting, saying that after the elections he wanted to give students the information so they could have an opportunity to express their concern over some of the changes that would affect California.

At this point, Barrita explained that he is trying to figure out how to give out contact information. He brought an unfinished sample of what the information would provide that will include:

A description of the legislative, executive and judicial branches through the state government. The description of each person titled and their duties as well as a map of the district within California. Lastly, a list of phone numbers of representatives from each district.

During the ASCC Senate meeting last Wednesday Senator Waleed Nueirat and Senator Alyssa Huerta said that they were interested in working with Barrita to distribute the information to students.

Some students felt that Barrita's plan seems like a good idea.

Jose Velasco, criminal justice major, said, that during the Nov. 7 election he did go out and vote and

that he is interested in looking at the information that would be provided for him and other students.

Admittedly, he and Sal De La Torre, criminal justice major, don't know who their elected district representative is.

"I only know who they are in my political science class," Velasco said, "but not by name."

One of the things that were unbeknownst to De la Torre was that college tuition was lowered from \$26 per unit to \$20 per unit that will take effect during the spring semester.

"I only heard about the drop of tuition," he said, "but I didn't know the details."

De La Torre commented that once the information of the district representatives is out, lower tuition fees is something that he would address to those in office. "Not only tuition," he continued, "but another would be the price of books as well."

Velasco said that he too would be interested in knowing about what the government would do.

He added that it was a good thing that the ASCC was looking into making contact information available to all students, "because those in student government represent the students."

Barrita said that he hoped to have the information available in the student activities office and the library.

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Banquet:

Fall awards are just around the corner

Continued from page 1

According to Holly Bogdanovich, director of Student Activities, over 200-300 awards are given out.

She added that there have been 145 applications sent in from students.

"It is a night to honor students and their accomplishments," she said. "We have a nice sit-down dinner. There are advisers there, club members, Board members and instructors. We move along very quickly and smoothly."

"It's not just about the ASCC; any student can apply for awards. They are available to all students."

"People need to learn more about the awards process. There are also club-members and students-at-large who get involved in the community. It's not just about the student government."

The recipients are chosen by a committee which includes members of student government, students-at-large (those not involved in student government) and club members. There are approximately 12-16 students on the selection committee.

There are more awards given in the spring semester, being that it is the end of the year by that time.

Among the awards handed out are service certificates. Certificates are handed to those who participate in the community and other student-sponsored activities.

The Bronze Falcon awards are given to students who excel in two or more activities of service and leadership.

Students also receive awards depending upon their major such as Administration of Justice, Honor Societies, Athletics, Fine Arts, Journalism, Math, Pep Squad, Business and Forensics.

Clubs also receive awards for their service to the community and campus. Athletes also receive awards as well.

The highest awards given are the Gold and Silver Falcon awards. Students receiving these awards are those who are involved in three or more activities and to those who show participation in leadership and service.

CC Adult Center is open to register

EDGAR MEJIA
Contributor
editor@talonmarks.com

The Adult Education department hosted a bilingual orientation last Saturday at the Student Center.

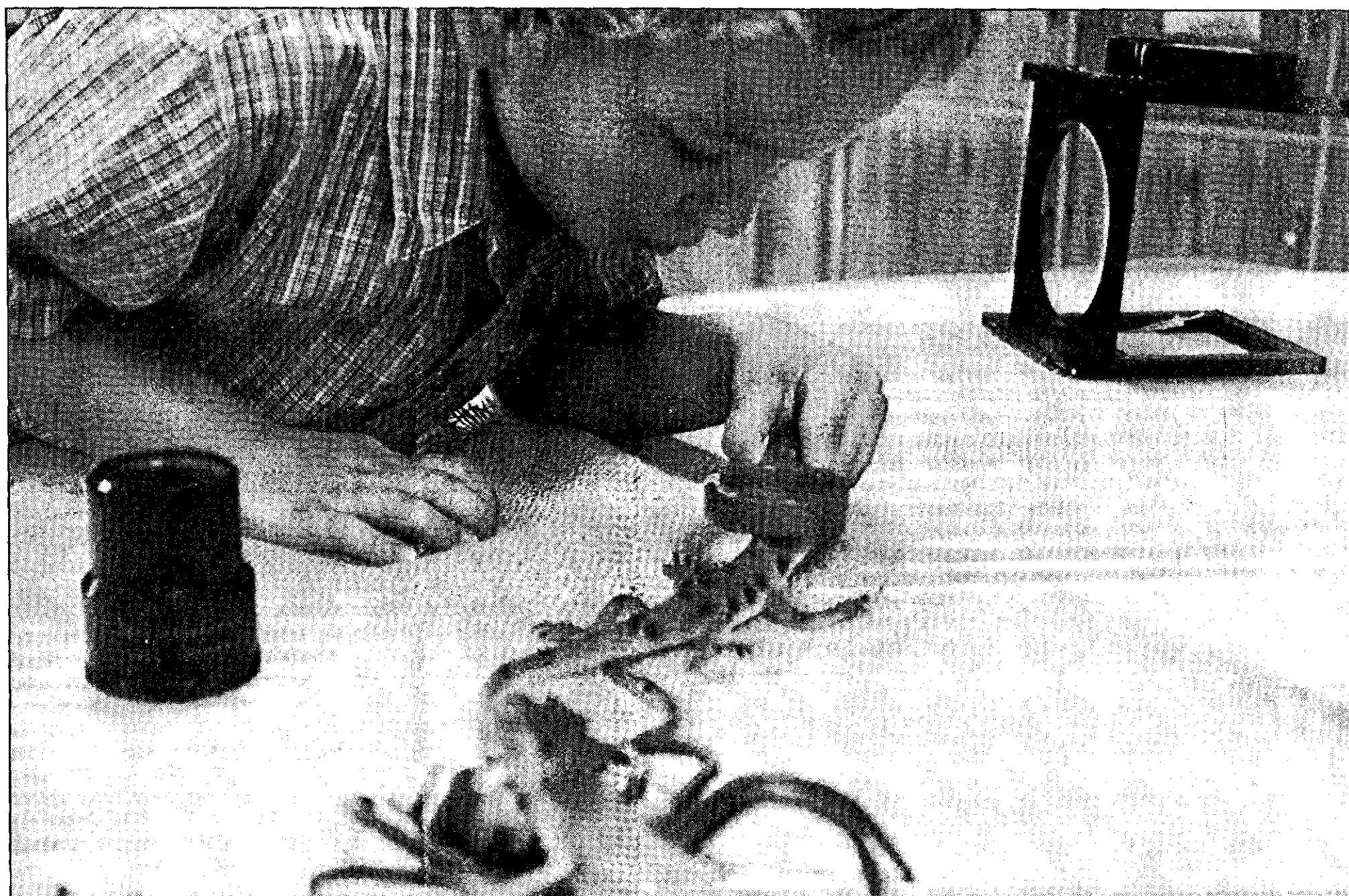
The orientation was merely to provide information to the city of Norwalk and surrounding communities that Cerritos College has open registration for the coming spring 2007 in these specific fields.

"We offered information about vocational training programs as a second language in the areas of Plastics, Welding, Automotive, Machine Tools. As well as Phlebotomy, Electrocardiography, and Medical Laboratory," said Heyley Villatoro, program assistant.

In the bilingual programs students learn in both English and Spanish in hopes to latter on, engage in English classes.

The Adult Education Department wants to incorporate adult students into the labor force, since there are jobs out there in any of these fields.

If you want further information about the spring registration, please be free to contact (562) 860-2451. Ex. 2513 or 2518.



Baby Sherlock: A child inspects the texture of a lizard with a magnifying glass. The lesson in textures is part of the Child Development Center's plan to help children learn to differentiate by touch.

TANYA BERMUDEZ/TM

CDC: Single parents reap benefits of center

Continued from page 1

a single parent has struggled financially to put her through school.

She explained that although her older sister and brother are no longer living at home that one thing that she hopes students understand about having a parent is not only the struggle, "but cherish the moments that each one has with his or her mother or father."

Cabrea said that she sees the struggle her mother has everyday, but she doesn't see her mother as playing the role of mother and father.

For Pintado that is not the case, not only is she playing the role of mother and father, "but I am providing for my children to have

a future."

She continued saying that her mother is a strong woman and that she admires strong women who are single parents and that is where she draws her strength.

Adam Martinez, fine arts major, said that his mother too was a strong person because for a while she raised him when his father was enlisted in the Army.

Martinez added that his uncle is a single parent and that he has gone through depression because of it.

"She is very independent because she doesn't see her mother that often because she works a lot."

Cabrea said that if she was in the position of being a single parent, "I wouldn't

know how to handle it."

Sunny Gomez, undecided major, said it wasn't about knowing how to handle a situation such as being a single parent, "but I hope never to be in that position."

Being in the situation Pintado said that the strength of knowing she could make something of her life comes from her two children Jacob and Steve as well as her family.

She said, "The biggest thing that I'm allowed to do is be the parent to my children, even though when I did become a mom there were arguments as well as tears as to how I was going to take care of them."

The reason why she will be able to reach her goal she put it, "It's not that I don't believe but how can I do it."

However raising kids isn't only a struggle for single parents it's a struggle for families that have both parents as well.

"It's really hard being a student, having a son and continuing to go to school and cooking as well," Daisy Zendejas, liberal studies major and

former Cerritos College student said.

Zendejas is also an Associate teacher for the CDC, which allows her to spend time with her son before she goes to school.

She also mentioned that her husband Mark Zendejas picks their son up after he gets out of work so she can go straight to school right after working at the CDC.

The CDC also allows students working on getting a degree in teaching come in and observe classes, which is required to become teachers.

Also classes here on campus such as CDEC111 requires student to observe classes at various schools and students like Nicole Allen, humanities major, are completing hours of observing classes in the CDC.

"I think they (teachers at CDC) do a really good job."

"It's a lot better than when I went to school and I heard this (CDC) is a really good program," Allen added.

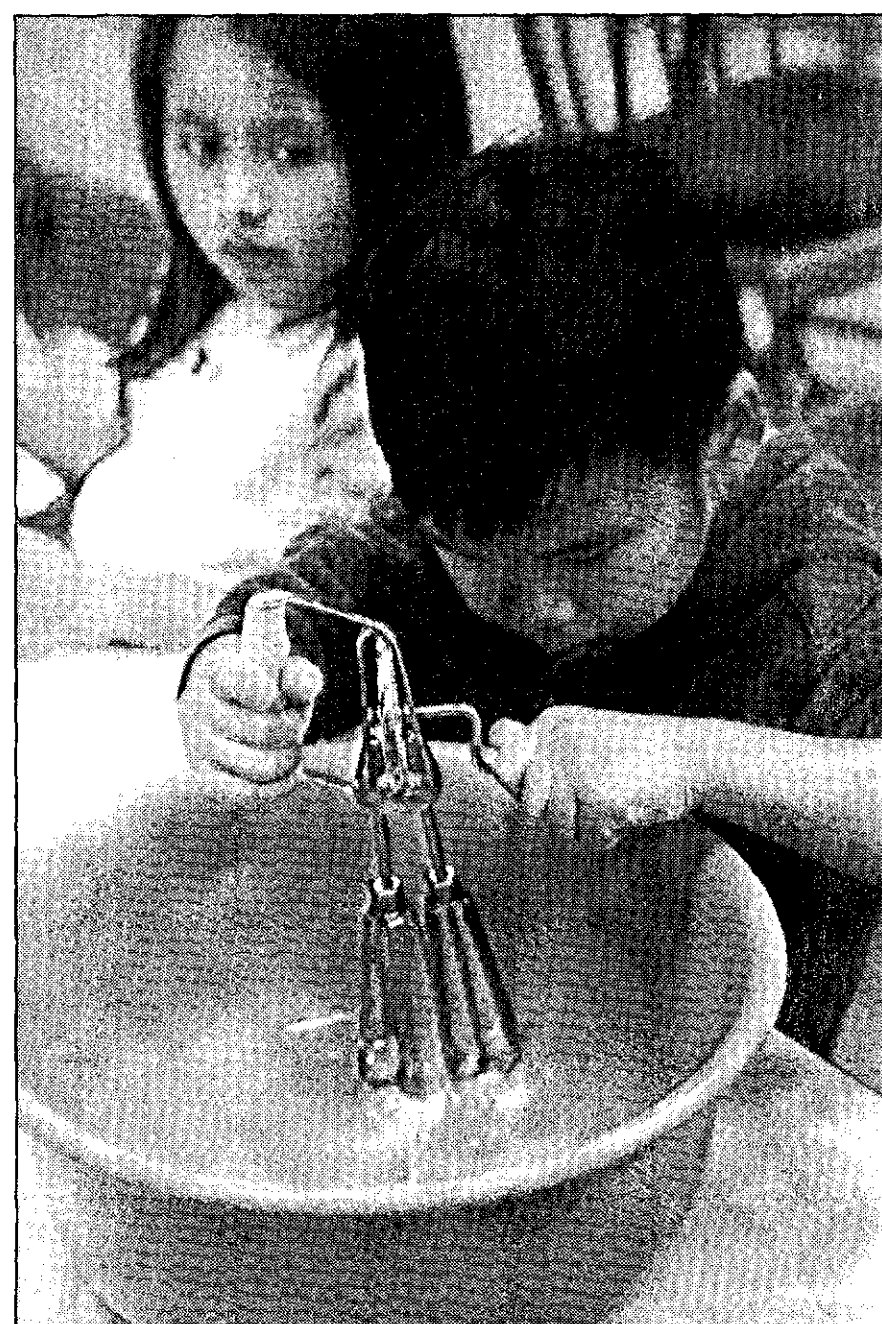
She also expressed how good their ways of teaching the children are.

A reception for the anniversary will take place this Friday in the Student Center.



That's what's cooking: Blue family teacher, Maritza Martinez, helps what CDC calls friends, in making play dough from scratch, while across the room Aaron, blue family, mixes ingredients for apple pie. Students took turns between both tables and shared with fellow friends the complete product.

TANYA BERMUDEZ/TM



MAKING HEADLINE NEWS

JONATHAN SANCHEZ
Copy Editor
jsanchez@talonmarks.com

Once a resident of Skid Row with a lifetime of suffering and nothing to his name, it's not hard to imagine why CNN's Ron Roberson got up on the 10th floor of the Frontier Hotel in LA to commit suicide.

Roberson, CNN Local Edition Headline Anchor, shared his "rags to riches" story during an interview with Gayle Parks on WPMD's "Community Spotlight" talk show, airing on AM 1700 at 11 a.m. every Thursday.

Contemplating a tragic escape, Roberson experienced an epiphany while having his feet hanging from the ledge.

"My life flashed before my eyes and the Lord spoke to me and said, 'You've tried everything else so why not try me?'"

That was all it took for Roberson, a victim of poverty and homelessness, to take a few steps back and save his own life.

As an accredited news anchor that frequently interviews government officials and entertainers (www.cbn.com), Roberson finds that being on television doesn't affect his humble spirit because his roots lie in a life far from newsworthy.

Roberson says that all he ever wanted was to find himself.

Growing up as a child in the foster care system, Roberson always found himself desiring a means out of his emotional pain.

The Addiction

He admits to being, "a few drugs away from being homeless," in his youth and stated that he used recreational and party drugs, all of which lead him to addiction and poverty.

Soon enough, Roberson found his economic stability spiraling down due to his addictions and wound up on Skid Row in Los Angeles, "home" to many of the city's homeless.

"I spent two and a half years on Skid Row and had a long stint there with drugs, but I bounced back," he admits, "and it was like my elephant burial yard."

Dragging along his childhood full of abuse and torture, Roberson found it hard to "fit in."

"I was always the odd man out."



TANYA BERMUDEZ/TM

Mic check: During an interview with Gayle Parks at WPMD, Ron Roberson, CNN anchor, prepares to talk about rags to news anchor story. Roberson, also does international motivational speaking visiting favorite places like Mexico for his missionary work.

He resorted to finding brotherhood in groups such as the Black Panthers, and was desperate for a way to release his emotional traumas.

Roberson ended up trying anything and everything, from Muslim practices and chanting, to synchronized breathing.

"I just really wanted to find me," he says, "and unfortunately I found an escape with drugs."

After his encounter with "a higher power," Roberson inherited a desire to succeed and leave behind the life of failure.

"I knew I was better than that," he says, "so I got a job with May Company working in the basement."

Soon his humble attitude toward

life would propel him up to the position he currently holds with CNN News.

"I volunteered at a cable TV company and was given a broom," he recalls, "but it taught me to be humble."

Not only did he accept the janitorial duties of sweeping the studio but took it a step further and bought glass cleaner and cleaned the windows as well.

While performing his cleaning chores, Roberson would keep a close eye on the camera men and how they handled the studio cameras.

Making it to the Top

In no time Roberson was presented with his "big break."

His first news job was to cover the story of the grand opening of new movie theaters that were being built in the city of Downey.

"I shot from every angle known to mankind," he says while chuckling.

Lucky for Roberson, his desire to do the job right landed him good remarks with the mayor of Downey at the time.

"The mayor told the studio to not send anyone else except me to cover their stories," he said with a wide grin across his face.

As time went on, Roberson became more skillful in the profession, and skyrocketed his career with the offer of a job with CNN News.

Roberson takes no credit for his amazing success, but rather, says, "If I've accomplished anything, it's

from the Lord who saved me from a cocaine stupor."

Missionary Works

Roberson is more recently known for being a motivational speaker and pastor of On Fire Christian Fellowship church.

Finding inspiration in Talpa Jalisco, Mexico, Roberson visits as regularly as he can, going as far as driving an ambulance truck provided by Talpa's sister city Lynwood.

Roberson makes sure to take the time out of his busy schedule to reach back to his humble beginnings and help those who are stuck in situations quite like the ones he lived through.

"I want to go back and help

those on Skid Row," he said, "and give those there hope that they can get out."

Parks, Special Project Director and host of "Community Spotlight" radio show, stated that she brought Roberson on her show to get students to, "have faith and trust that they will succeed in life (like Roberson)."

Even though Roberson's story has a happy ending, Parks said, "I don't want students to think they have to give up and become homeless to get (a better opportunity)."

To that note, Roberson said, "When you find what you want to do, just (branch out), or simply grab a broom."

For more information on the "Community Spotlight" talk show, visit www.cerritos.edu/wpmd.

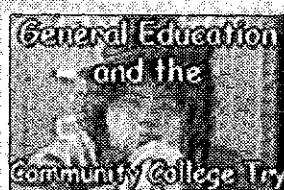
"But hey if I wanted to work for the devil I would have joined the Young Republicans long ago."

- Erick Calado, CE and the Community College Try

Blogs



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GE and the Community College Try



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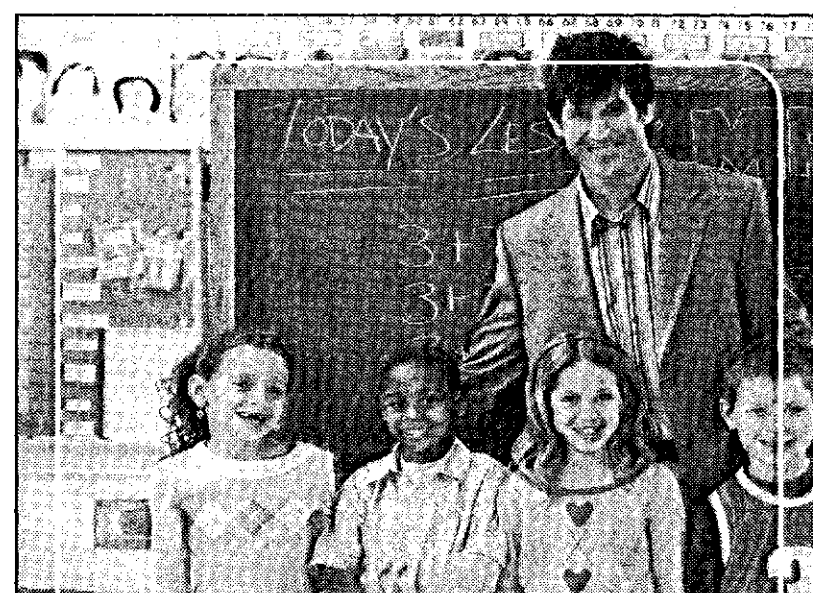
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Track: Finished track brings more talent to the field

Continued from page 1

Interscholastic Federation meets here every year," he said.

"The CIF State meet happens at our stadium every other year, alternating between its Northern California location."

"The Southern California meet happens here annually."

"It's easier to recruit when you're so successful. It's even easier when you're successful and have a great facility."

- Daniel E. Smith, Dean of Health, PE and Athletics

He said that the grant, along with the local bond money, will help Falcon Stadium become one of the top track and field stadiums in the country.

Board: Five empty seats get filled during board meeting

Continued from page 1

relationship with everyone he works with.

Rodriguez will continue with a working relationship with faculty and students, after more than a 22-year career at Cerritos College as the coordinator of CalWorks Services.

Previously she served as a Student Affairs assistant and part-time counselor in the Financial Aid office.

"I was very excited when vice president Stephen Johnson told me I had been hired," she commented.

According to Rodriguez, the CalWorks program is a "federal and state welfare program with social service learning for students to be able to work."

Furthermore, the CalWorks program gives students the opportunity to transfer for the first time.

It also gives students the opportunity to seek work both on and off campus.

Smith, who is the new director of Community Education program, part of the college's Community, Industry and Technology Education unit, held the position of director of Foster and Kinship Care Education

Smith also said that this grant brings Cerritos College one step closer in achieving its goal of renovating the stadium to an up-to-date facility.

"This grant will help our bond money go further," he said.

"It's just a small portion of the money it'll take to get the track done."

Smith said the majority of the money will be coming from the General Obligation Bond measure that was approved back in March 2004.

The G.O. Bond provides \$210 million in funding to update the 50-year-old campus.

Because of the money the grant will provide, Smith said the college will now have "a premier track facility."

Relishing in the fact that the women's track team won the state championship in May, Smith explains why that fact, along with the new track, will help gather interest in the program.

"It's easier to recruit when you're so successful."

"It's even easier when you're successful and have a great facility," he said.



PATRICIA SMITH

since 2002.

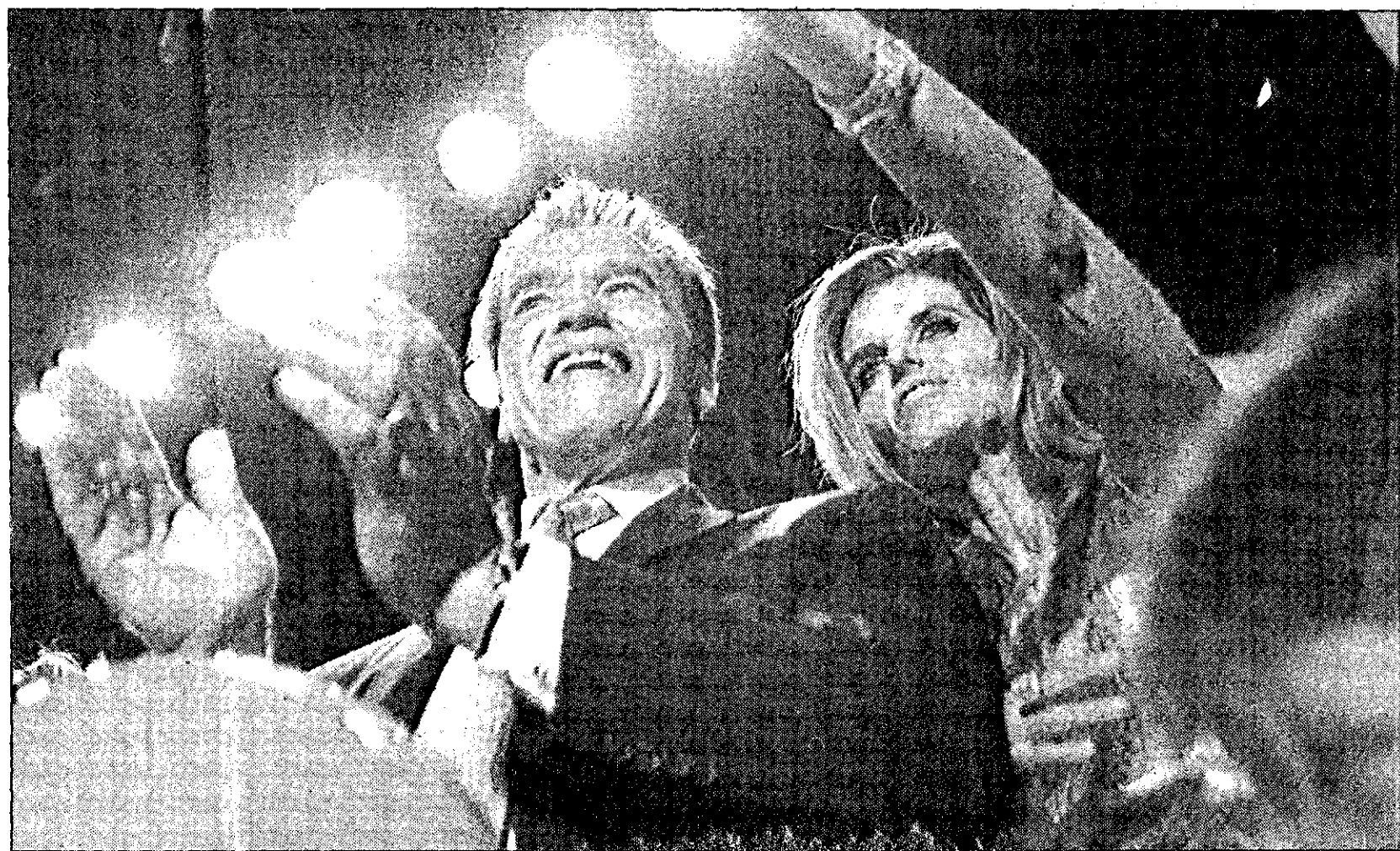
Smith could not be reached for comment by press time.

Wallace is the new director of Public and Governmental Affairs and with more than 25 years of experience.

Prior to joining Cerritos, he worked at Pasadena City College as the California Community College's Chancellor's Office in Sacramento.

Before he was hired he worked as the Public Information Officer and Publications Director for eight years.

Wallace could not be reached for comment. The next board meeting will be today at 6 p.m. in the Cheryl A. Apple board room.



He's back: Governor Schwarzenegger celebrates another victory with California's first lady Maria Shriver after the results showed that he had won on Nov. 7.

Governor: Results fail to satisfy CC

Continued from page 1

In September, the governor announced tuition would drop to \$20 per unit starting in the spring, an announcement that Guerra felt would increase enrollment.

At the time of the announcement Cerritos College President Dr. Noelia Vela said, "We anticipate only positive effects for students and their families as the cost of attendance drops and opportunity to go to college increases."

Declining enrollment throughout the state has been in part attributed to the initial fee increases.

Californians also rejected pleas from movie stars, former President

Bill Clinton and Mr. Environment himself, former Vice President Al Gore, to vote "yes" on Proposition 87.

The massive public works bond package that appeared on the ballot as propositions 1A through 1E, passed creating a massive \$37 billion borrowing spree. The bond's passing is another victory for the governor, who made it his top priority to get the package passed.

"What a fantastic evening," Schwarzenegger said. "You know I love doing sequels."

He survived a tidal wave of Republican losses that gave the Democrats sweeping control of the House

and control of the Senate by one member.

He also managed to survive his Special Election fiasco of last November that had his approval ratings racing to the bottom with President Bush's.

Yet, his approval remains at the bottom among some Cerritos College students.

Erika Rodriguez, psychology major, said, "I wanted to see some change I'm not satisfied because he broke a lot of the promises he did from the beginning."

According to Juan Orozco, medicine major, "if more students would of vote the re-election wouldn't of

happened."

The governor also drew criticism last month from students when he vetoed a bill that would have made illegal immigrants illegible for financial aid.

Schwarzenegger apologized to voters after his special-election debacle, last year.

He also shifted his policies to the center. He hired a Democrat as his chief of staff and cut bipartisan deals to limit global warming.

He also championed boosting the minimum wage and clashed with Bush over sending the National Guard to the Mexican border and environmental issues.

Immigrants tell untold stories

NORMA PALACIOS
A&E Editor
arts@talonmarks.com

Students whose parents migrated to the U.S. can now tell their stories in a play that is being developed for the spring semester by art department chair Robin Huber.

The working title for the play is "Getting Here" and it will feature a cast that will tell the story of parents or students who immigrated to the U.S. in a unique way.

Auditions for the play will be held in January and the play will open in March.

Students can submit story ideas for the upcoming play by visiting www.cerritos.edu/theatre and clicking under the "Getting There" Project.

Huber said that the criteria for submitting the story are:

The story must be first-hand and the story must be true they must be

written in first person and the story can be recorded or written.

There is the option of the story being anonymous with consideration of an immigrant's legal status in the U.S.

Huber explained that the reason why he wanted to feature the issue of immigration is because it has been discussed lately in the news media.

"There are stereotypes as far as immigration is concerned," Huber said, "and I want to show that these people are real."

He added that people don't only immigrate from Mexico, but from other countries as well, and so far there have been responses submitted from faculty but hopes that there will be more stories submitted by students as the opening day approaches.

Students said that they were unaware that a play was being developed, but added that they were

open to the idea of seeing the play.

Michael Zuluzta, psychology major, said that his parents are from China and he said that he was interested in seeing the play because it was important "to see these stories from another person's point of view."

He also said he hopes that by viewing the play that he and others will come away with open minds toward the immigration issue.

Mayra Flores, art major, said that the play itself seems interesting, but if she was going to submit the story about her parents who immigrated from Guatemala, it may not be well received.

She admitted that their story isn't that interesting because her parents didn't have to struggle to migrate.

She stated that her parents immigrated to the U.S. after her grandfather was transferred from his job to California.

New club hopes to bring CC justice

JOHN ACEVEDO
Staff Writer
jacevedo6@talonmarks.com

With the help of students, social justice may be coming to Cerritos College.

Last Thursday morning Social Science Building room 308 hosted the potential Students for Social Justice Club discussing the groundwork to get the club up and going.

In only the second meeting, the club's main concern was fundraising in order to put different events on campus together; including art exhibitions, music performances, screenings and comedy shows.

Adriana Cervantes, cofounder, said the SSJ wants to give students a creative outlet, one where they can express their ideas and concerns about social issues.

"One of our goals is to build leadership and confidence among students, especially within our club," she said.

Among the topics discussed during the meeting were club logo, flyer production and building partnerships with other clubs on campus.

Current events like the revolt in Oaxaca, Mexico, immigration laws in the U.S. and the Donald Rumsfeld resignation were also discussed.

Further information regarding events and meetings will be posted around campus throughout the coming weeks.

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Telephone numbers:
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ext. 2617.
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EDITORIAL

Elected leaders can save Earth

The defeat of intelligence and foresight, as best exemplified by the defeat of Proposition 87 in the Mid-term Election, is not only disheartening, but it puts the pressure back on our elected leaders to lead the fight against global warming.

Proposition 87 would have been a remarkable step toward a cleaner environment. The initiative was going to establish a \$4 billion alternative fuel program, funded by tax of 1.5 percent to 6 percent, on producers of oil extracted in California.

The program was designed to reduce oil and gasoline usage by 25 percent, with research and production incentives for alternative energy, alternative energy vehicles, energy efficient technologies, and for education and training- all steps in reducing the amount of fossil fuels that have polluted the Earth and suffocated its inhabitants.

The problem with this proposition is that its creators attempted to put the decision in the hands of the average California voter.

The average California voter is either uninformed and paranoid or informed solely by TV ads.

Proposition 87 was a tax and our legislators are supposed to do the taxing.

The reason we elect men and women to represent us is because they are supposed to be smarter and wiser than the idiot who drives a Hummer to the liquor across the street from his house.

Lawmakers are supposed to protect that which can't protect itself, such as the environment.

Politicians ended slavery, outlawed Jim Crow, voted to fight Hitler and have created numerous laws designed to protect the fragile and voiceless.

If President Lincoln would have left his decision making to his constituents, then slavery may have survived for years after his tenure.

California's leaders left it up to us and we let our children down.

Proposition 87 was supported by some of the greatest American minds to date.

The majority of the "Yes on 87" campaign was funded by Steve Bing, a real estate developer, film producer, and philanthropist, contributed \$39,058,000. Google cofounder Larry Page gave \$1,000,000.

Other supporters included former President Bill Clinton, former vice-president Al Gore, Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.), Nobel-prize-winning scientist Dr. Mario Molina, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former U.N. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, and Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Most of which were elected or appointed leaders that would have made the right decision.

So we must call on our elected leader, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to fulfill his promise to the environment. We can only hope that his tenure in office will not be marked by broken promises and special-interest partisanship.

If the governor feels that his landslide has given him a ticket to ride this state as he once tried, then he better be willing to explain to the youth why he won't stand up for its future. It's a bit scary considering, Schwarzenegger opposed 87 despite claiming he was trying to lead us toward an energy efficient future.

Global warming hasn't gotten any better. California is seeing record heat waves in the winter and it seems that every world power but the U.S. is actively changing the course for the better.

It's important for the citizens of California to get a voice, but lets face it; the voice has to be intelligent.

While it remains every citizen's duty to fight global warming at home by buying energy efficient light bulbs, keeping the power off when it's not needed and trying to keep travel as environment friendly as possible, it remains Schwarzenegger's and the rest of Sacramento's duty to ensure that California leads the way into a fresher, cleaner future.



ILLUSTRATION BY ARTURO 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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Murder, carnage and apathy in America

Decades after the Holocaust society remains in a violent rut fueled by ignorance

Vetta
Bogdanoff

Staff Writer
vbogdanoff@talonmarks.com

When it comes to lending an ear to the effects of the worst in humanity, the world has not learned its lesson.

The tragedy of the Holocaust occurred more than 70 years ago, and even now, people are in denial that it ever occurred.

According to Aaron Breitbart, senior researcher at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, who spoke on the Holocaust at a teleconference hosted by Cerritos College on Nov. 6, this denial is often out of an idealistic notion of the way they hope the world would be.

It is a dishonor to the people ravaged and torn by the ordeal to disregard it.

The world stayed silent all those years ago, choosing to ignore the silenced victims of genocide.

Nobody wanted to become involved in the "Jewish question."

It resulted in a mass apathy toward the very idea of life itself, as millions were murdered.

Are we any different today?

Have the decades and available education

changed us in the least?

Sadly, the answer is negative.

In reality, unless someone is personally affected by an event in some way, he often has no interest in the matter.

In America in particular we have too much going on, our lives are too full to care about the world around us.

Something heard on the news might create a spark of sympathy and sadness, until a favorite television show begins, and all is forgotten.

Entertainment comes first for America.

If it's not entertaining, it's not worth paying attention.

And yet, it may be this very entertainment, that is responsible, at least in part, for this apathy, as people become so calloused toward the truth, reality, and devastation that is all around us.

It's been said that those who don't learn from history are bound to repeat it.

While the Holocaust is past and we cannot change that, we can make a change in the status

of the world today, and for the future.

Genocide, racism, and hate surround us.

In such light, can we ignore the silent cries of the people of Darfur, where the Sudanese government is terrorizing, starving, and killing its own people?

Can we condemn the U.S. for stepping into Iraq to put an end to the genocide carried out by Saddam Hussein?

The world seems to have forgotten the crimes against humanity that have been going on in our own lifetime.

Hussein's campaigns against the Kurds in the 1980s known as Anfal left 180,000 civilians dead.

America has a history of closing its ears to the pain and suffering resulting from atrocious crimes against humanity, and its pleas for help.

Let us not close our ears again to the cries around us.

It could be as simple as volunteering time, energy and heart, donating money, raising awareness of the truth.

Know your history and learn from it.

Reach out to a neighbor, national and international and become an active member of the global community.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

OH BEHAVE:
SIR ELTON
GETS POLITICAL

Musician Elton John chastised religion in an interview with "The Observer's" special gay edition of "Music Monthly Magazine," which hit the stands in the UK on Saturday.

"Religion promotes the hatred and spite against gays. I would ban religion completely. It turns people into really hateful lemmings."

In that same interview the gay artist addressed issues of violence aimed at the gay community.

"I'm just a performer who plays people some music, but I'm also a gay man. Leave us (gays) alone. We don't want to harm anybody."

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ELECTION RESULTS?

COMPILED BY: OSCAR CATZIN
PHOTOS BY: FLOR LIZARRAGA

ALEX SALAS
business major

"I wasn't happy because I don't like Schwarzenegger, he's racist."

ISABEL DAVILA
performing arts major

"I was disappointed with the results, however I wasn't surprised because organized crime has taken over our political system now more than ever. California has become a blue state."

JAQUEZ HOLMES
culinary arts m.jor

"There could've been better outcomes if everyone would've voted, but I guess they're fine."

JANNET VASQUEZ
education major

"Honestly, I didn't vote, but I'm not happy that Arnold was re-elected. I don't like him because he doesn't like Mexicans."

MILTON GIRON
political science major

"I was satisfied with the results of this election because I knew the outcome would be as it is now."

RICHARD FERNANDEZ
business major

"It was OK that Schwarzenegger was re-elected, because although he's a Republican, he's got a Democratic touch."

Republicans pay for sins

Why the GOP let sins defeat it in the mid-term election



On Nov. 7 the citizens of the United States went to the poles and voted.

The result was disturbing. The Democrats won both houses of Congress: the House of Representatives and even the Senate.

Americans went to the poles in frustration toward the old Congress and "supposedly" voted for change.

This story is reminiscent of a Bible story in the Old Testament, it is the story in the book of Joshua called "The Sin of Akhan."

The story goes that in the days long after the departure the children of Israel were lead by Joshua to the Promised Land.

In the process God told the people to fight the Gentiles who inhabited the land so that they could live in the holy land.

He also told them do not take any of the belongings of those people because they were accursed.

Joshua and the Israelites listened. Everyone except one man named Akhan.

This man did not listen to that one commandment of God.

In one of the battles against the

Gentiles, Akhan went to one of the tents of the people that the Israelites were conquering and took the fine things of those people.

This was very wrong and the Israelites paid for it in a future battle.

When the Israelites went to battle against what they thought was a weak little Gentile city, they were utterly and miserably defeated in a humiliating way.

Akhan went up and repented and confessed the sins he had committed in sight of God. He and his family were forgiven but still had to be put to death.

The Republican party and the children of Israel from that story have something in common.

They are both the good guys in their respective stories and they both were defeated by their enemies because those among them had transgressed in the sight of God.

Within the Republican Party there were also some Akhans.

Some examples are:

- Disgraced, former Evangelical preacher Ted Haggard
- Former Congressman Mark Foley (R-Fl.)

- Former Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-Calif.)
- Former Congressman Bob Ney (R-Oh)

The list goes on and on.

The lesson learned from these two stories is that if you're on the side of the protagonist don't do something morally wrong to screw it up for your team of good guys.

Here's some good advice from Joshua 7:12-13. God was speaking to Joshua saying:

"Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction."

"Get up, Sanctify the people, and say Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow because thus says the Lord God of Israel:

"There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take the accursed thing from among."

So in other words, Republicans need to feel sorry for the scandals that happened.

Fix your mistakes, get God's forgiveness, work hard in the next elections and if victory is attained in the next two elections make sure these screw ups never happen again.



Bill Gates is a virtual god

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Microsoft plays God.

In the past, we all were new to computers. Now we have computers in our homes, in our jobs and we just cannot function without them.

Believe it or not almost all people who have computers use Microsoft Windows, for almost every purpose imaginable.

Microsoft has been monopolizing the operation system software for years. We are talking about a little over a decade now, and it would seem that Microsoft is the only choice for consumers.

I admit that Microsoft was great when Windows 95 had come to the scene, but now we are near the end of 2006, isn't time to have a change?

Now with the new Microsoft Windows Vista very quickly approaching its due date, it seems that the only way is the Microsoft way.

Of course there are many alternatives to the Windows operating

system, but for many those are far too complex for the average user to navigate.

For example there is Microsoft's arch rival, Linux. Linux is a lot similar to Windows.

The only flaw is that in order to even understand half the items that it offers, one must be a computer nerd. Linux has recently made its operating system even more user friendly for its non-geeky customers. The only problem is that it is not very popular.

With that as a major flaw, it would seem that Microsoft gains potential to dominate the software playing field even further.

What does this mean for you?

Well when you buy a new computer, and wonder why windows is so buggy or wonder if it's wide open for attacks from hackers and such, blame that on Microsoft.

Not only do you have to buy a

new PC, but when you do, you must also buy the software to run your new PC or else its going to be a really nice paper weight.

Windows is not cheap! For just the basics it is about \$100. If you also want the latest version of Office, it will cost you \$250.

That is just the software alone, again we should have some more friendly alternative then having a dirty window.

With Linux, the price has always been reasonable at the cost of a simple download. With its free programs built in, they mirror that of Microsoft Office and Adobe Photoshop and has other great free programs.

One possible solution is to just switch, and get an Apple Macintosh. Everyone loves a Mac, right?

The problem with that is the price tag. The price is far too much for most students.

Microsoft has no plans to slow down and it seems that the alternatives are slowing to a stand still.

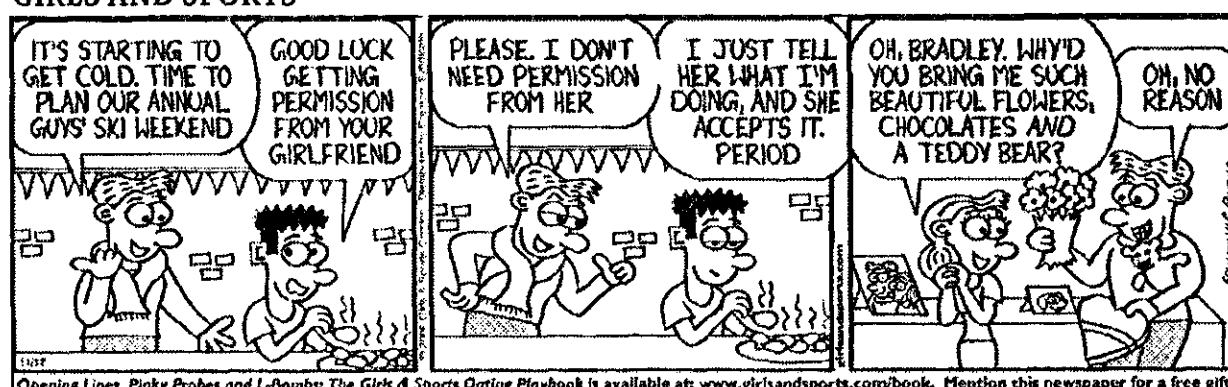
It looks like we are going to have to do this Microsoft's way, and being a slave of Microsoft isn't cheap.

Two Dudes

by Aaron Warner



GIRLS AND SPORTS



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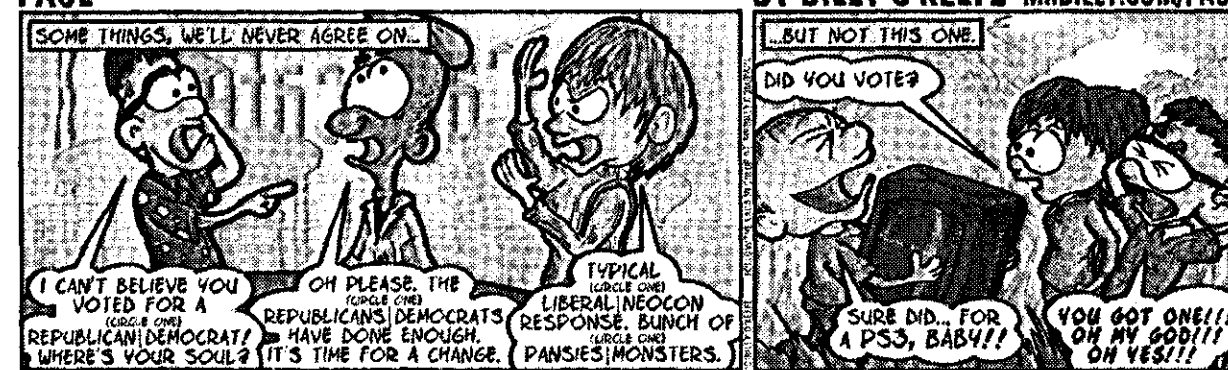
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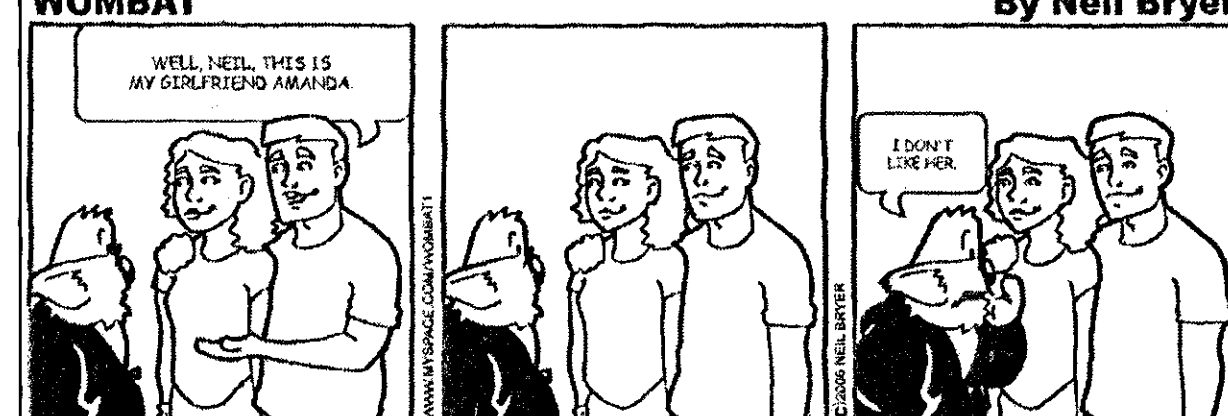


Welcome to Failing Rock National Park by Josh Shalek



WOMBAT

By Neil Bryer



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FMLA concert promotes club with help

NORMA PALACIOS
A&E Editor
arts@talonmarks.com

With the help of the band "The Christines," members of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance held a concert to promote its club last Thursday in Falcon Square.

In addition, the club was also selling items such as condoms, tampon holders and FMLA stickers, as well as giving out copies of the club's zine.

Besides club promotion, Janette Rodriguez, psychology major and FMLA member said, "(It's also) to let students know that they should not be ashamed to carry around a condom or tampon holders."

She added that during the "Dia De Los Muertos" celebration on Nov. 2 the club received positive feedback from students as they walked by and asked questions about the club itself and the items sold.

Thursday's event also got some positive feedback.

Brenda Franco, undecided major, said that it was the first time that she heard of the band "The Christines," "but I like the music because the two (band members)

are chicks."

She added that she would check out the band's MySpace page.

Although the band had a MySpace page Fernando Gomez, psychology major, noted that it seems like everyone has a MySpace page which to him is "creepy."

He went on to say, "but if the band was selling CDs on its web page or other promotional items I'd buy them."

However, Maria Cruz, graphic design major, and Yara Leon, biochemistry major, had two different points of view toward the music that was being played to help promote FMLA.

"What the band is doing is expressing themselves through music," Cruz said, "and there is nothing wrong with that."

Leon said, "The music is alright and the music is original and not only that, but from hearing the music for the first time it seems that the band has potential."

Barbara Mueller, FMLA adviser, commented that the members had talked about holding an event to promote the club.

"I think this event is a great way

for the club to promote itself," she continued, "because it would (give) women interest and probabilities."

"Having this event also is a way to show the talent there is within FMLA."

She concluded that with this first concert event it would be a great starting point for students who want to find out more about FMLA.

Afterward, Daisy Salas, a student from Cal State Long Beach and half of "The Christines," said that despite the hot weather it turned out to be a good show.

"There was positive feedback from the crowd," she said. She also stated that sometimes there would be a crowd that is quiet but that didn't happen during her performance.

Despite there being technical difficulties during the performance, her sister and band mate Jaime Salas, psychology major and FMLA member, said, "You as a performer just have to not stop and keep going."

The duo's mother, Norma Salas, said that she thought both did a great job.



Rocking out loud: (from left) Cal State Long Beach student Daisy Salas collaborates with Amanda Estrada, English major and FMLA member, and her sister Jamie Salas, psychology major and FMLA member during free concert last Thursday in Falcon Square.

Mario game worth it

OSCAR CATZIN
Staff Writer
ocatzin@talonmarks.com

When the original "Mario vs. Donkey Kong" debuted two years ago, players found themselves on a puzzling adventure to rescue the scattered "Mini-Mario" toys.

On Sept. 25 "Mario vs. Donkey Kong: March of the Minis" for Nintendo DS was released and this time around, players are able to take control of the mechanical Marios directly as they rescue the beautiful Pauline from Donkey Kong.

There are more than 80 levels where you have to lead the Mini-Marios that, although small in size, have many abilities to defeat the many dangers that the levels have.

Power-ups such as magnetic boots, fire flowers and the classic Donkey Kong hammer, are there to help the Mini-Marios complete the quest around enemy critters, natural hazards, and fiendish traps.

In addition to the power-ups, players also have the ability to manipulate the environment, such as moving block bridges, opening water valves and spinning platforms and of course, there's no Mario game without warp pipes that can be found in abundance in this new game.

Tapping and sliding the touch screen manipulates the Marios and the environment.

For the most part, the touch commands work well, but the game occasionally misinterprets your gestures.

While minor, these mistakes usually end up costing the player points.

Completing a level is really quite easy.

It is rated E after all, but mastering it can be a bit more difficult.

Just because you can beat a level on your first try, it doesn't mean it won't take you a half-hour or more to earn a perfect score.

At the end of each world, it's time to defeat the big ape DK. Here you'll need to avoid the obstacles that he'll throw at you, while shooting your Mini-Marios out of a cannon in an attempt to nail the ugly, big and crazy monkey.

Orchestra performs Romantic Period

VETTA BOGDANOFF
Staff Writer
vbogdanoff@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College Orchestra exchanged a guest orchestra in order to share the stage with the Cerritos Piano and String Ensemble in the Student Center last Thursday, for the Orchestra Exchange Concert.

Three groups from the Piano and String Ensemble, taught by music instructor Dr. Christine Lopez, performed onstage as part of the class midterm.

Lynn Smith, cellist, said that they were all passing performances.

The groups performed in sequence Allegretto from Trio in D, Op. 22, No. 1 by Muzio Clementi, Allegro Assai from Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F Major by J.S. Bach, and Allegro Assai from Trio No. 6 in B Flat Major by W.A. Mozart.

Faten Bebawi, pianist, said that although she made a mistake she was able to go on, and she felt she

did well.

Following their performances, David Betancourt, music instructor, led the orchestra through its programmatic performance of four romantically themed pieces.

Smith said that programmatic pieces tell a story.

Betancourt said that all the pieces were from the Romantic Period or later.

The large audience was an energizing force for the musicians.

"At moments, everybody was excited by the sheer sound," he said.

He opened the orchestra performance with a bit of history by leading "The Great Steamboat Race."

"The piece depicts a historic event (that took place) on the Mississippi River," he said.

The sound of treading water was achieved throughout the piece by shaking milk jugs filled with water. Commenting on this, Betancourt joked, "It's not easy, believe me."

Some of (the students) had to go home and work out."

Secondly, it performed "Mars," "The Bringer of War," from "The Planets" by Gustav Holst.

He said that during the third piece, Danse Macabre, Op. 40, by Camille Saint-Saens, "All the goblins and all that is evil in the night are about to party at the stroke of mid-

night. You'll hear the party go on till morning, and all will dissipate."

Hwan Lee, music major, found the performance inspiring. "I thought it was great," he said. After hearing the orchestra perform, he said that he may join the class.

The final piece was one written by Jean Sibelius, "Finlandia." Providing a brief commentary, Betan-

court said that it was written for the common people of Finland. Unbeknownst that it was written in defiance against it, the Finnish government accepted it.

New musical experiences were part of the concert for John Paul Medenilla, undecided major, who attended the event to hear a friend perform. "I liked it," he said.

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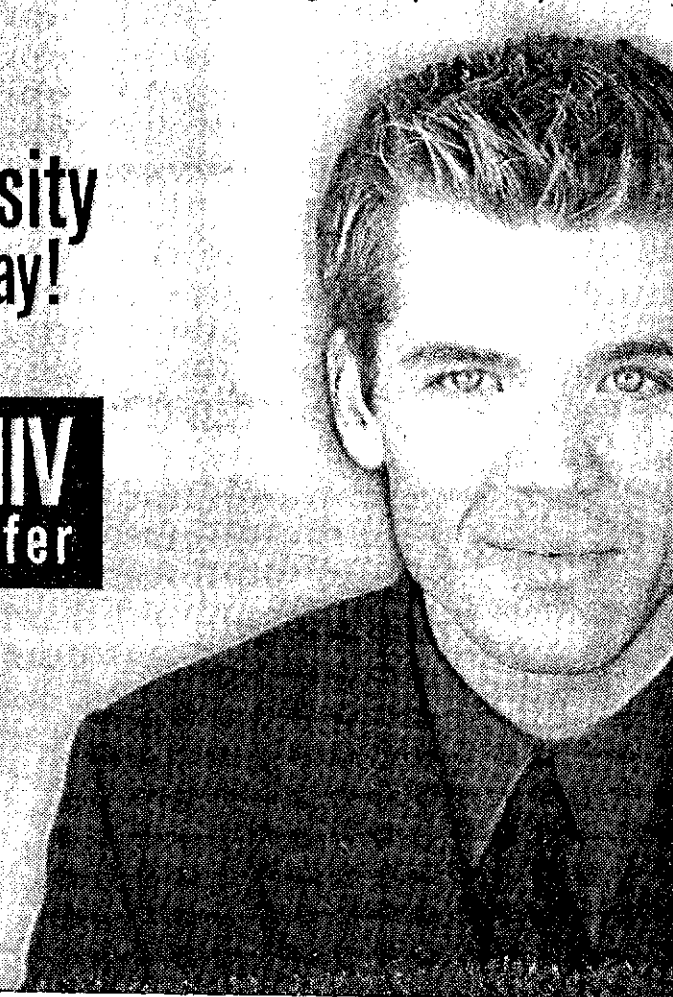
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Young and inconsistent

Basketball team struggles through rebuilding process

STEVEN MARTIN
News Editor
news@talonmarks.com

Adding new players to any team can bring about rejuvenation and youthfulness. But along with those qualities also comes inexperience and inconsistency.

The Cerritos College men's basketball team is going through a rejuvenation of its own as it lost all five of last year's starters due to transfer or ineligibility. Only one player, guard Lawrence Robinson, is back from last year's team.

After barely defeating MiraCosta College 89-87 last Wednesday the team's inconsistency and inexperience caught up to it two days later as it lost to Palomar College 87-76, putting its record at an even 1-1.

Cerritos head coach Gary Cain said about the Palomar game, "We didn't play as hard as we did against MiraCosta, but it's typical of an inexperienced team."

"It's going to take us a couple of games to work things out. We have

been competing, but we're going to have show (a greater) improvement," he said.

Guard Clyde Thomas has led the team in scoring averaging 12.5 points in the past two games.

In the win against the Spartans, the Falcons led for most of the game; in instances leading by as many as 15. But as the second half wound down, the Falcons started to see its lead wind down as well.

But key back-to-back free throws from guard Jerrell Elder and Clyde Thomas during the final 30 seconds of the fourth quarter would save the game for the Falcons.

"MiraCosta played well down the stretch. Defensively, we played horrible," he said. "As (the season) goes on, I have to figure out who should be on the floor in certain situations."

Guard Demetrius Turner said, "We had first-game jitters. We were missing lay-ups and not getting defensive stops."

Turner, a first-year starter is also one of the team's captains. He said he doesn't feel much pressure being asked to be one of the team's leaders.

"Being a captain, my play affects the whole team. When I play well, then the whole team plays

well. But it's not all about scoring points, it's about getting everyone else involved," he said.

Turner led the Falcons with 16 points in the loss against the Comets, scoring 10 in the second-half.

As the sole returning player from last year, Robinson hopes that his experience will bring him more playing time. "I haven't stepped up yet, but I will," he said.

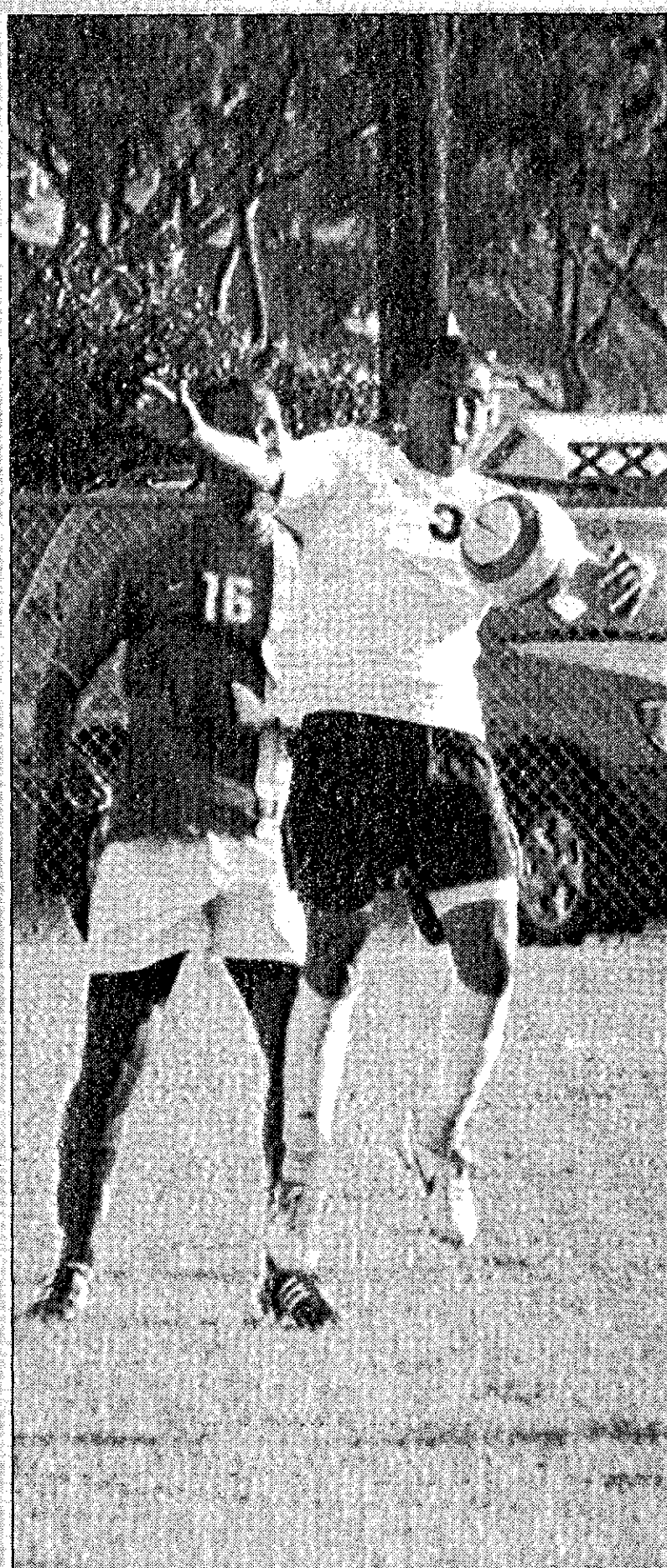
Among the things Cain said that the team needs to improve on is its defense.

"We've been scoring enough points to win, but our defense is our biggest Achilles' heel. We've been giving up too many points," he said.

"Friday, we were out of it," said guard Jerrell Elder. "We played with no enthusiasm. We got into early foul trouble and had a lack of defense."

The Falcons also shot 18-35 from the free throw line and committed 13 turnovers in the loss to Palomar.

One of last year's key players Aaron Thompson, last year's second leading scorer averaging 13.0, is sitting out the season with an injured foot. He has also decided to forego the season to concentrate on his studies.



ROSALI CASTILLO/TM

Flyby: In one of few defensive lapses Friday, an El Camino forward catches a ball with his chest. He would then go on to take a shot on goal. However, the Cerritos College Falcons would win the game, 1-0, and score their 10th shutout of the season.

Falcons advance to playoffs

RAFAEL GUERRERO
Staff Writer
rguerrero6@talonmarks.com

Midfielder Bryan Mejia scored the lone goal for the Falcons as the Cerritos College men's soccer team ended the season Friday with a 1-0 win over El Camino College.

The victory secured the No. 2 ranking in the state for the Falcons and earned them a first round bye in the playoffs.

However, the win was not enough to earn the Falcons a conference title as Long Beach City College won its game against ELAC to secure the South Coast Conference crown.

The Falcons will now have 10 days to rest up and prepare for their march toward Fresno for a shot at the state championship.

Although they do not play their first official playoff game until Tuesday, head coach Benny Arttaga did not want his team to take the final game lightly.

"We treated this game as our first round of the playoffs," he said. "We have to get into the mindset that if we lose, we go home."

Despite having secured a playoff spot, the game was not entirely meaningless to the Falcons. The No. 2 seed in the conference was still undecided heading into Friday's match, with Mt. SAC only two points behind in the standings.

In the 60th minute, Mejia made sure that the Falcons would have the bye that comes with the No. 2 seed.

The freshman midfielder was camping out in the box as the ball sailed through the air. The El Camino defender marking Mejia then fell down and the ball took one bounce and then felt the fury of Mejia's right foot as he emphatically put the Falcons up 1-0. The Falcon defense did the rest as it recorded the 10th shutout of the season.

Women's soccer team finishes on top

Midfielder Rebecca Juarez scored two goals and assisted on four others, as the Cerritos College women's soccer team concluded the regular season with a 6-1 South Coast Conference win at home against El Camino College.

The No. 2-seeded Falcons captured their first conference championship in school history and posted a perfect 12-0-0 mark, while they are 20-1-0 on the year.

The will now open the Southern California Regional Playoffs at home next Saturday against a team to be determined at the seeding meeting, which will take place later on this week.

After a tight first half, with the

Falcons holding a 1-0 lead, they scored their five second half goals in 17 minutes, with a trio of players accounting for all of the goals in the game.

Midfielder Diana Limon gave Cerritos a 1-0 lead in the 42nd minute when she turned in the box and sent the ball into the corner of the net after receiving a pass from Juarez.

Monica Cedillo started the scoring barrage in the 51st minute when she received a pass in the box from Juarez, while Juarez connected with Limon in the 55th minute.

Juarez lifted a high pass to the far corner of the net that landed on Limon's foot, who tapped the ball

into the net past Warrior keeper Emily Rodin.

It was a 4-0 game in the 60th minute when Cedillo headed in a corner kick by Juarez before the Warriors got on the board, as Tiffany Martinez sent a lofting shot that went over the outstretched hands of goalkeeper Elizabeth Sanchez in the 64th minute.

Not more than a minute later, Juarez scored the first of her two goals when she scored the exact same way, by lifting a shot over Rodin's hands, while a hard shot by Juarez from the top of the box off a pass from Cedillo accounted for the sixth Falcon goal.

Cerritos College Sports Information Desk

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PIECING IT ALL TOGETHER

After a long struggle, one single mom, is turning her life around

JONATHAN SANCHEZ
Copy Editor
jsanchez6@talonmarks.com

Turn off alarm clock, diaper change, shower, set up baby bag, dress, get school books, keys and out the door. Not your typical college student morning, but for some however, this is reality.

Veronica Castro, communications major and current Account Technician I for the Financial Aid office, found that amidst the struggles of being a single mother, full-time employee and part-time student, things had to and could be done the old fashioned way- teamwork.

Castro gave birth to her daughter, Yazmin, at the age of 22. Unmarried and single, she found the challenge to be overwhelming.

Fortunate for the single mom, her parents and sister have always lent a helping hand. "My mom and sister have always been there for me," she said.

Castro never imagined she'd survive on her own, "but because of the support it's been a smooth ride."

Even though her life is well settled now, things weren't always wonderful.

Castro lived a happy life in her youth and was in a serious relationship at 17 while still in high school, but her life was flipped upside down when her boyfriend was tragically killed. "I became heavily depressed," she said, and felt she couldn't continue on.

Then at age 22, she found a new love and a fresh start.

Bad Shape

Unfortunately, her relationship took a turn for the worst when she split with the father of her unborn child. Again, she entered a phase of her life that reminded her of her tragic past.

Just when her hope of the fairy-tale life seemed to dim down, Castro found escape by giving birth to her daughter. "My daughter gave me a reason to live. I was able to wake up everyday and go on," she said.

Castro resorted to her parents for help after the birth of Yazmin, in an attempt to juggle her already full schedule. "I consider myself blessed because I was able to still live at home and had 100 percent support from my parents and (staff) at school because of the day care center here," she said, referring to the help she received from both the Cerritos College Child Development Center and financial aid.

Castro qualified to receive aid from support programs such as Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Program (WIC), CalWorks and governmental cash aid.

Struggling to make ends meet, Castro did the best she could to provide for her daughter while still helping her parents. Lucky for her, Yazmin inherited her non-materialistic personality. "I was raised to not be a materialistic person and I've passed that down to my daughter," and states that her daughter doesn't ask for more than necessary even at the tender age of six.

Putting It Together

Even though she's teaching her daughter to not care about wealth and material things, Castro wants to make sure that she gives her daughter a good example by continuing with her college education and earn her degree.

"I plan on coming back in the spring semester to Cerritos (as a student)," she says, "but it's hard to go back to school because now I have to put school in between the (time I spend) with my daughter."

But, Castro has learned how to be skillful at multi-tasking since she works, goes to school and cares for her daughter.

Yet, at times, her duties clash together, so she just conveniently finds a way to make things work. "Sometimes I bring my daughter to work with me because of the time conflict," she stated, "so I just let her draw or color."

Lucky for Castro, Yazmin isn't the ordinary hyperactive child.

See related story on page 1

Baby Steps

Yazmin attended the Child Development Center at Cerritos for a total of three years. There she learned many of the basic skills needed for entering Kindergarten and managed to surpass both the expectations of her teachers and administrators.

Martiza Martinez, teacher of the "Blue family group" at the Center, said, "Yazmin was very mature and she's the type of girl that learned real fast and helped other children. She was very caring, considerate and expressive of her ideas."

Martinez, working hand in hand with Castro, noticed that Yazmin demonstrated a sense of self-assurance and maturity, even though she didn't have the fairy-tale family. "We saw that Yazmin progressed very well," said Martinez, and following her mother's excellent example, Yazmin, "loved to play the role of 'mom' in the play-house (activities)."

The Final Project

Castro also received credit from Martinez for raising such a wonderful child. "Veronica did a very good job with (Yazmin) and was always caring to see her daughter and spend time with her," Martinez states as the reason for Yazmin's excellent progress.

As teamwork does, Castro was known by the Center to always be an assertive parent who didn't hesitate to ask for help. "Veronica was always talking to the teachers and asking for help on how to raise a child as a single mother," Martinez said with a look of admiration, "it was like a teamwork between mother and teacher."

Now, Yazmin is a model student for the Center and was even asked to speak at the Center's 30th anniversary celebration.

The Helpers

Castro, who is extremely proud of her daughter has also had a few things to smile about. Recently reuniting with Yazmin's father, Castro is proud to



JONATHAN SANCHEZ/TM

Mommy knows best: Veronica Castro, communications major and current Account Technician I for the Financial Aid office, plays with her 6-year-old daughter Yazmin. Castro and her daughter struggled, in a single-parent home, but are turning things around.

announce that she no longer feels like she's alone in the struggle as a single mother but an independent woman who will always put family first alongside her restored relationship.

Unlike many single parents think, they're never alone.

According to www.census.org, 10.4 million American homes are run by a single parent.

Such was the case with Miriam Tolso, Program Assistant in the Admissions office here at Cerritos.

Other Successes

Although she was married when she gave birth to her first child, her marriage ended abruptly due to her husband's addiction to alcohol.

She struggled to make ends meet at age 23 and found that her life came to a halt.

Being a single parent, Tolso knows that, "you're restricted with what you can do." She still remembers how she struggled, "I was overwhelmed because ev-

erything felt half-baked with so many irons in the fire because I was not able to focus on one thing."

Tolso, being as resourceful as possible, at one point held two eight hour jobs just to provide for her children.

"It was a really big challenge because I didn't want to deprive them (and had to maintain) a balancing act," she said, "and everything was so hectic that I'd go to bed extremely tired and wake up exhausted."

Having survived the challenge and struggle, Tolso finds life a whole lot more peaceful now that she's raised model citizens despite her situations. "I own my own home and I'm really proud of my children." Tolso proudly states that her daughter is a missionary who helps needy people in other countries.

Despite their situations, both Castro and Tolso found their way out of their situations either alone or with the help of loving helpers and rose above the ashes of their jagged past. Like the old saying, where there's a will, there's a way.

Exposing the Truth About Being Raised Single

Myth: Predominance of the traditional nuclear family.

In the past twenty-five years, the number of single parent families has more than doubled. According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, 59 percent of United States children will live in a single parent home at least once during their minor years. That is a majority. Over 16 million children currently live in single parent homes. Divorce and remarriage are more and more common in families today.

source: www.KeepYourBaby.com

Myth: Single parent families are "broken homes."

A study by University of Michigan of over 6,000 adults had surprisingly positive conclusions for children of divorce.

Statistically it turned out that adult children of divorce were just as likely (43 percent) to be happily married as someone who grew up in a two-parent home. Children of divorces were more than twice as likely to be worried about the health of their marriage.

source: www.KeepYourBaby.com

Myth: Children from single parent families have lower self-esteem.

A study found income level to be the deciding factor related to children's self-esteem.

Because single parent families have often also a low-income household, children's self-esteem is likely to lower, just as in low-income two-parent homes.

Parents need to be especially careful to emphasize to their children that who you are is not based on what you have.

source: www.KeepYourBaby.com